

the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

October 2011

Vol. 6 Issue 10

From Dianne's Desk

LET GOD LEAD

Have you ever watched “Dancing with the Stars” on TV? It’s been around for quite a long time now, but I’m usually not home to see it. The dancing is beautiful, sometimes scary and always strenuous. While the performances each week are exciting, I really appreciate getting to see “behind the scenes” as each of the teams are rehearsing for hours on end. While the final waltz may look effortless and flowing, it took a lot of work to get there!

Our stewardship theme this month is simply, “Let God Lead.” God longs to be in relationship with each and every one of us, helping us grow, providing us with guidance, encouragement and love. Unfortunately, we often get too busy to attend to our spiritual life with God. We think we’ve got it all figured out and seldom consult with God about what comes next. Have you ever watched a couple dance where both partners are trying to lead? It’s a disaster, a tug-of-war rather than a great partnership. Sometimes that is the honest picture of our dance with God, until our world crashes in and we know we’re not in control. At that point, our prayers are simply “help!” When times are tough, we know we have to let God lead. Thank goodness, God is always willing to take us back and teach us the steps again.

During the month of October, I want each of us to choose to let God lead, especially in relation to our decision about our financial giving for 2012. Jesus talked about financial issues more than any other topic, so this is clearly an area of life where God has an opinion. How do you go about making major decisions in your life? Is prayer a part of the process? Do you consult with others who might offer you sound guidance? Whose opinion do you value the most? What kind of input does your spouse, your best friend, or your Sunday School class provide? Is Bible study helpful

to you? What kind of practices help you let God lead? I hope you feel closer to God today than you did one year ago. If not, this is a great opportunity to try something new with the support of your church family.

In the Bible, sometimes they would cast lots to determine the right choice. I suppose you could flip a coin, but neither of these methods really help us connect with the God of the universe. Christians have had many different ways of getting closer to God throughout the centuries. Many used to go on a pilgrimage to a holy place—Jerusalem, a monastery, a special mountain, or a cathedral. We may not be able to afford that right now, but we can make a pilgrimage to a place closer to home—a park, a different church, a lake, the outdoor labyrinth at Mercy Hospital, any place where you can be fully attentive to what God’s up to in your life and the world around you. When you return, ask yourself, “How did God touch and change my life through the people and places I encountered? How is God now inviting me to live differently from what I’ve experienced?”

Another practice that helps us grow closer to God is breath prayer. This is a way of listening to your breathing and the heartbeat of God. Find a quiet place where you can dedicate 10-15 minutes to being with God. Get comfortable, take a couple of deep breaths, and simply say, “God, here I am.” Continue to breath slowly and deeply. When you’re ready, close your eyes and repeat these words from Psalm 46, breathing three or four breaths after each phrase:

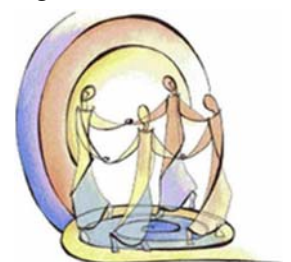
Be still, and know that I am God.

Be still, and know that I am.

Be still, and know.

Be still.

Be.



Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

For the next 5-10 minutes, just breathe and be silent. When random thoughts enter your mind, gently blow them away like a feather and return to being still. As your prayer time concludes, repeat the words from Psalm 46 once more. This kind of prayer typically leaves you with a sense of peace and reassurance, if you continue to practice it day by day. This is a good time to then ask God for guidance for your day or your decision.

Another way to practice the presence of God is to keep a personal journal. You can choose to simply write out your prayers, or you can use your journal to reflect on a scripture that you've read. Where do you connect with this passage? What is God saying to you through these words? Or you might spend time writing your own spiritual biography, paying close attention to all the ways that God has blessed you through the years. Give thanks for the abundance you have received, and ask God how you are to give for the transformation of the world. God has given us so much. We are to be generous givers too.

Blessings, Dianne

WESLEY HEIGHTS YOUTH NEWS

by Elyse Poland

The youth are back in the swing of things. Continuing until the Advent season, we are learning about rock and roll and how it relates to the gospel.

As for activities the month of October:



October 2, 16, & 23

We will hold our regular meetings



October 9

We will not be meeting. Will and I will be on our honeymoon and the youth voted to take the Sunday off.



October 30

We will be going to a haunted house to thoroughly scare ourselves silly before Halloween. We will leave from Crown Heights and cost is up to each youth. Any and all are welcome to join us, but know that it is not for the faint of heart.



GOD LOVES A CHEERFUL GIVER

By Laura Whitaker

2 Corinthians 9:7 (NRSV)

When it comes to communication with and trusting in God, we're pretty good on some levels. Have a sick friend or family member, let's ask God to heal them, protect them or give them peace. Big life decision to make; hey, let's have a little talk with God and ask Him to point us in the right direction. He knows what is best for us after all right? How about when it comes to money, where do we stand then? No, I don't mean asking God to help you get that raise at work that you just know you deserve or asking Him to help you make those house payments on the home you just had to have, I'm talking about that giving money back thing. You know the one where it's just not quite so easy to write that 10% tithe check that they say you should write with a happy heart to the church. After all, haven't they heard times aren't so good right now? Everything cost more, people are out of work, I might not be able to pay my bills, etc. etc. etc. Have you talked to God about that one? And if you have, have you also taken the time to listen to what he had to say about it?

The last two years I have been working on uncluttering our home. Yes, two years, and I'm still working on it. I've

noticed very little progress even though I know how much "stuff" has left our house. The one thing I have noticed is the sadness and regret that I've had knowing the amount of money that I have spent (wasted) over the years on that "stuff". And I can honestly say, "No, I don't think I got my money's worth or a lot of happiness out of any of it." A lot of it has been in closets or spare bedrooms with the doors shut and forgotten about. On the other hand, I can say with all honesty that I've never once felt that way about money that I have given to the church or to charities that I felt led to give to. Not once have I said "Oh, I wish I hadn't given that money to them", or "that sure was wasteful of me." I like "stuff" just as much as the next person, but I guess I've grown a little over the years and have learned that in life "stuff" isn't all it's cracked up to be, but people and the satisfaction of knowing that maybe, just maybe, that donation I made helped someone out or even better yet, gave them hope and the assurance that God is good and He is there for them, is all that it's meant to be. I'm still growing, but thank heavens along with that growth is trust in God, to know that I can never out give Him and He will always take care of me.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Eileen Sally
 Jamie Scott
 John Shane
 Mark Theresa
 Michael Zack
 Ronnie



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

John & Marsha
 Ed & Julie
 Glen & Brigette
 Dennis & DeLene
 Shane & Charlene



SEMINARY LITE

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION FOR THE LAITY

Fall 2011 Courses

- Introduction to the New Testament, Dr. Sharon Betsworth - October 15, 2011
- Introduction to the Old Testament/Hebrew Bible, Dr. Lisa Wolfe - November 12, 2011

All courses will be held on the campus of Oklahoma City University in the Bishop W. Angie Smith Chapel from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with lunch at the OCU cafeteria. The cost per course is \$50 (\$10 reduced rate for OIMC members).

To register or for additional information contact Rachel McClain at OCUevent@spst.edu or (405) 208-5757.



BIBLE CONNECTIONS RESUME

We will resume Bible Connection on October 12. Everyone is invited to our mid-week Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:00 p.m. in the Pyramid classroom. No previous Bible study experience is needed! This is the perfect place to ask questions about the scriptures. Come join us on this journey of faith!

Pastor Dianne Peters

THANK YOU SO MUCH

I have been truly touched by all the wonderful “get well” cards you have sent to me during my recovery time. The Dining Express gift certificate was such a great gift, especially after Jeff went back to work. You just call them up and order what you’d like from one of their partner restaurants, and they do the rest, delivering it right to your door! I am spoiled now, but in a good way. Thank you for your prayers and support!

Dianne Peters

**CHOIR DATES FOR FALL
 by George Massey**

Please note our Wednesday and Sunday service times. We're trying to help by those handy email reminders (Thanks, Stacy!!) We need you at as many rehearsals and Sundays as you can come!!

WEDNESDAY REHEARSALS

October 5 & 19
 November 2, 16 & 30
 December 7
 December 10 *Saturday*

SUNDAYS

October 9 & 23
 November 6* & 20
 December 4
 December 18 *Caroling*

** time change*

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our Youth Director, Elyse Poland and Will Heise, who will be getting married on October 8th.

We wish you every happiness!



GROWING OUR CHURCH**By Janet Basler**

Ever have guilty thoughts or hesitation about inviting someone to church on Sunday Morning? Even knowing that worshipping God gives me joy, I know I have found it difficult to invite someone to share that joy with me.

But inviting someone to go work at a service opportunity with me is a whole other thing.

Will a church grow as its ministries meet the needs of God's children around it?

Joy Robison may have discovered this recently at her job. Knowing the shortage of Mobile Meal drivers we have each month, while talking with a friend who works with her, Joy asked if she would like to take one Monday a month and drive for Mobile Meals with her. After establishing that it would take about 1½ hours from their lunch times that week, the friend said that sounded neat, and they signed up to drive for Mobile Meals, once a month.

Joy's friend became one of our community of faith in service to our God.

Charlene Jones has a friend who has worked in the Arts Academy and Spero project because Charlene asked her to help her with some things in each one. She too is part of our community of faith in ministry.

Our church has got so many things going, that the opportunities for inviting someone to join us in our serving are tremendous. There are about 40 church members currently working in the following ministries of our church with many more from groups outside our congregation working in them also.

Here is a list of areas you could ask your friends, family, co-workers, and neighbors to come with you and help.

MONTHLY -

Mobile Meals - Monday mornings for one month

- drive or cook for Mobile Meals

Books for Liberia - Times can be arranged

- move books from tables & floors to boxes of 35 pounds each with labels on them for transporting

Spero Project - Second Thursday each month – 5:30 p.m.

- sack groceries, listen to prayer concerns and pray with single parents, baby-sit babies, work with children, help prepare or clean up a meal, serve a meal.

WEEKLY -

Whiz Kids - Thursday afternoons

- help wash glasses so we can quit using paper and plastic goods, copy worksheets and notes to go home, straighten book shelves (these 2 could be done at other times), tutor a child, or substitute for tutors.

Arts Academy - Semi-Annually - Tuesday evenings

- copy music for kids to take home for practice, clean up donut crumbs, help clean up art rooms, walk (monitor) the halls for safety of children.

Habitat for Humanity - October 8

- do light construction work on an unfinished house in the OKC area with the new homeowners and other groups.

Whiz Kids Family Christmas Dinner – December 1

- help prepare, serve, and/or clean up a dinner for about 150 people. Dinner starts at 5 pm and is over by 6:30 pm. Preparations are the evening before and during the day on Thursday, December 1.

Arts Academy Year End Showtime - November 29 & May 8

- help prepare food, serve, and/or clean up a reception for the Arts Academy kids, teachers, and families to show off what they've learned thru the year. Also put together the 'program' for the event with exhibits, video, performances by kids, certificates, etc.

Rummage Sale – October 1

- gather and arrange articles for display, price items, help shoppers. Set-up on Thursday & Friday.

Which one of your friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors could you ask to help you do one of these ministries? Our church could grow as we involve others to help our ministries meet the needs of God's children around us. Call the church office for information on volunteering with your friends for any of these ministry opportunities

WHIZ KIDS AND ARTS ACADEMY UPDATES

by Janet Basler

The Whiz Kids and Arts Academy are going full swing now. There are 26 Whiz Kids meeting with their own personal tutors each Thursday afternoon. They have settled into the routine of eating Charlene’s wonderful snacks, actively participating in a fascinating Bible lesson with Ms. Joy, and reading, reading, and reading some more with their tutors. Even the trip home with their tutors provides a fun time for the kids as they talk about their families and friends. Everything is smiles while we work each week. What a great thing for everyone involved!!!

55 children signed up for private art and music lessons this year, and 25 high school and college artists and musicians volunteered their time to give the lessons. So we have about

80 students who are VERY HAPPY every Tuesday evening at the church. We first hear the squeals of delight as they arrive. After hearing a book read about artists or God’s creation each week, the squeals from the children turn into squeals from the instruments as the lessons begin. When they finish their lessons they each get a donut and the parents coming to pick up many of the kids smile as they tell how their child practices during the week, or does more art work. With Betty Langer’s help in calling the night before to remind those who have missed, most of the children are coming each week, and the lessons are progressing beautifully.

Want to be a part of one of these ministries? There are always needs you could help meet.

OCTOBER SERMONS

Join us in worship at 8:30 or 11:00 as we follow God’s lead into a new chapter for Crown Heights.

- October 2 **For God So Loved the World** Acts 10:34-44 and Isaiah 56:1-7
World Communion Sunday
 All are invited to gather around Christ’s table, as we celebrate the depth of God’s love for the entire world.
- October 9 **Where Is Your Heart?** Luke 12:32-34 and Jeremiah 31:10-13
 God has blessed us in countless ways, transforming our struggles into a dance of joy! How will we demonstrate our gratitude?
- October 16 **What Belongs to God?** Matthew 22:15-22 and Deuteronomy 26:1-11
 From a Christian perspective, there is no such thing as a “self-made man” or woman! God created all that is. How will we honor our Maker?
- October 23 **What is Written in Your Heart?** II Corinthians 3:2-6 and Jeremiah 31:31-34
 God invites us into a new covenant through the gift of Jesus Christ. When we look within, we discover that the Holy Spirit is at work helping us to become more and more like Jesus.
- October 30 *Laity Sunday*



TRUNK OR TREAT

by Susie Wallace

Trunk or Treat at Crown Heights set for **October 29**. The Classen SAS Key Club students will host a Trunk or Treat in our church parking lot 5:30-7:00 p.m., Saturday, October 29. They are specifically inviting the kids from Putnam Heights Elementary, including our Whiz Kids and Arts Academy students, but the Trunk or Treat will of course be open to all neighborhood children as well. This is a joint effort, so we would like CHUM members to come and decorate their trunks and bring candy to hand out. If you

would like to participate, please plan on being set up to hand out candy in the west parking lot by 5:30 p.m. that evening.

Be as creative as you like in decorating your trunk. Some participants like to choose a theme, dress in costumes, and even provide a simple carnival-type game for the kids to play, but you can do as much or as little as you like.

If you have questions, contact Susie Wallace.



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CHURCH STAFF

Dianne Rohrer Peters, Senior Pastor

Stacy Gilbert Coombe	Administrative Assistant
Libby Campbell	Accounting Secretary
Mario Estrada	Custodian
George Massey	Director of Music
Mariann Searle	Organist
Vahn Phollurxa	Music Assistant
Elyse Poland	Director of Youth Ministries
Bailey Maxwell	Nursery Coordinator
Justin Larman	Nursery Assistant
Leah Coleman	Nursery Assistant
Taylor Handy	Nursery Assistant

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We're on the web! www.crownheightsumc.org



October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 16th Sunday after Pentecost World Communion 4:00 pm Youth Wesley	3 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	4 5:30 pm Arts Academy	5 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	6 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	7	8 Habitat for Humanity
9 17th Sunday after Pentecost 12:30 pm Finance Mtg. NO Youth	10 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	11 5:30 pm Arts Academy	12	13 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 5:30 pm Spero Project 6:30 pm NA Meeting	14	15 6:00 pm Wedding
16 18th Sunday after Pentecost 12:00 pm Ad Council 4:00 pm Youth Wesley	17 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	18 NO Arts Academy	19 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	20 NO Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	21	22
23 19th Sunday after Pentecost 4:00 pm Youth CHUM	24 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	25 NO Arts Academy	26	27 NO Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	28	29 Trunk Or Treat
30 20th Sunday after Pentecost 4:00 pm Youth Halloween	31 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting					