

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:

Greetings in the name of Christ! Even on the day of his birth, the world didn't seem to have room for Jesus. *"She gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."* (Luke 2:7)

This is the time of year when we gather with family and friends to share stories and laughter and to rejoice in the season. However, this Christmas, many children of incarcerated parents will not be rejoicing. They will instead be worried that they may not see their parents again, they will be embarrassed that their friends might find out about their life situation, and they will be serving as caretakers for younger siblings even though they may be only eight years old. They are the ignored victims of crime - children of incarcerated parents. Like our Lord at his birth, they have been forgotten. However, there is good news- you don't just have to be sad about it; you can do something about it!

I invite you to prayerfully consider making an end-of-the-year contribution to CJAMM to support our New Day Camps, our Exodus Houses, and our Redemption Churches. CJAMM, along with all of the Annual Conference's Extension Ministries, has had a reduction of apportionments that we receive. That means, it is only by your generosity that we are able to accomplish the wonderful ministry that we do.

As you read the stories in this newsletter, I invite you to reflect upon how God is calling you to be in ministry with those who are in prison and their families. Hebrews 13:3 tells us to "Remember those in prison as if you were in prison with them." Perhaps God is calling you to serve as an adult leader at New Day Camp. Maybe you are called to visit our friends at the Exodus House. Perhaps you are being called to drive a van of prison inmates to a Redemption Church so they can worship in a holy place. There are so many different ways to "remember those who are in prison as if you were in prison with them." This holiday season, listen to God's voice and be in ministry with those whom our Lord called "the least of these." May the spirit of God and the season be with you and your family.

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Adam Leathers



Calendar of Events 2015

CJAMM Staff Christmas Celebration
First UMC, OKC
Dec 7, 6 pm-8 pm

Looking Ahead to 2016

New Day Camp I
Camp Cross Point
June 19-24, 2016

New Day Camp Too
Camp Cross Point
July 17-22, 2016

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OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

A warm hug to Kipp and Norman Neaves and the Celebration Choir from Church of the Servant for their unwavering faithfulness in bring the “oh so needed” coffee and cookies each month. Words fall short in conveying our gratitude and appreciation for your continued love and support to our hungry congregants! Thank you so much! Another warm hug to Tammie Cobble, Cups of Love Ministry at Newcastle UMC. She continues to bring the much needed hygiene kits as well as seeks other needs to be met. Thank you so very



much for your caring hearts and filling the needs so quickly and so generously. Please share our joy in congratulating five new Lay Servants at Redemption Church. Tony Altizer, Exodus House Facilities Manager, Theresa Owens and Monica Garcia, UMW, completed the Basic Lay Servant Training. Timothy Elliott and Marcia Manning completed their first Advanced Lay Servant Course. Richard Giles shared the teaching of the Basic Lay Servant Training. He is an excellent instructor!

We completed our 2nd Annual Redemption You Are Women's Conference the last weekend of October. The ladies laughed, cried, shared, learned and had several Ah ha! moments! What an absolute joy it is to walk with those who God brings to Redemption Church as we all grow together in Him.

To each of our volunteers who so generously donate their time, energy, talent

and caring hearts on Sundays and Thursday evenings to teach classes, drive/ride buses and vans and share Christ's love with our congregants ~ WOW! ~ each of you is awesome ~ thank you so, so much! It very simply cannot be said enough: thank you for your positive influence, tireless spirit and ever faithful hearts. We so appreciate all you do! You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are called to minister to. God bless each of you! The ministry at OKC Penn Ave Redemption could not happen without each of you.

God's blessings, *Marcia*



LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

The Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church has gone through a series of highs and lows. The lows have included the deaths of two of our volunteers, Mr. William Richardson and most recently, his daughter, Nancy Callanan. We pray for the family members and for all of those who have been impacted by this loss.

The other lows have been due to the difficulties in keeping some of our older vans running. We finally had to give up all hope for the old “blue” van that has been used by several others before it got here. Between needing an entire transmission and other work, the cost to attempt to repair it would far exceed either what we could reasonably afford or what it was worth. But, that leads us to some of our high points.

First, and foremost, we found out just exactly how much support we have within the Wichitas District for this ministry. Cameron Campus Ministry and Lawton St. Paul's both immediately came to our rescue and allowed us the use of their vans. This allowed us some serious breathing room.

Then came the call from Lawton Heights UMC, which was the church that sent me out into ministry, my “home church.” They had a van, 1999 Dodge, with only 58,000 miles on it that they voted to donate to us, with the caveat that we allow them to use it the 3 or 4 times a year that they would need it. We had no problem in agreeing to that request. So, we now have a well-maintained, one-owner Dodge van that runs great!

Recently, I also received a phone call from our District Superintendent, Chris Tiger that another church was going to vote on donating their current van to us as well. In speaking to Chris about this, I learned that the trustees had already voted in favor of this decision, they are awaiting the vote of the Administrative Board. So, we may have a second new (to us) van before the end of the year! Hallelujah!

Finally, a huge praise report from the guys here. This summer we had the privilege of having one of the missionaries supported by the General Board, come and speak to the guys here. Her name is Mary Escobar, and her impact on the lives of children and their families in Paraguay is tremendous. The guys were so amazed by her that they wanted to know if there was some way they could help support her ministry. We have enough who want to participate that we will be signing a covenant with Mary Escobar to support her through our own efforts here. Granted, it won't be a large sum of money, but Mary was more touched by the fact that these men wanted to be a part of her ministry.

In God's Service,
Lory Fahle, Senior Pastor



TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

This writing finds me now five months into my ministry here at St. Luke's Redemption Church and I am truly enjoying it. The team of volunteers that I work with are simply some of the best people around and serving with them is a joy. I have just finished a sermon series on Gary Chapman's book: "Anger: Taming a Powerful Emotion". We talked about how to handle our anger in the significant relationships of our lives and how to use anger positively to help us grow in maturity.

We have been blessed to have several guest preachers over the past few months who have helped to add variety to our Sunday night worship experience. I'd like to thank Rev. C.D. Baker from Mt. Olive Baptist Church in Sapulpa, Ok., Pastor Scott Gordon of Calvary Baptist Church, Pastor Debra Moore, Revs. Ken and Judy Smith from FUMC Leonard, Brother Steve Bear and Rev. Adam Leathers for preaching and keeping things fresh for our congregation. Many thanks, you are appreciated.

On the weekend of October 29th-November 1st, I was able to participate in my first KAIROS experience at the Cimarron Correctional Facility in Cushing, Oklahoma. What a blessing to interact with the inmates and watch their lives impacted by the love of Christ. I look forward to participating in this great event again in the spring God willing.

Well, that's it for now.
 God bless you all.
Greg Boyd

Tulsa Redemption welcomes two new churches to our list of supporters. Fort Gibson UMC as agreed to work with Wagoner First UMC in providing a Sunday evening meal at Redemption in January. Thirty Southern Hills Baptist Church youth brought treats October 26 for all worshippers, assisted with food for dinner. They want Redemption to be a major mission for their group, and will participate in a number of ways, including helping provide meals and brightening special days with treats or contact. We look forward to partnering with these groups, and appreciate their interest in this ministry.



Southern Hills Baptist Youth, and their Minister of Youth, Zack Workin.

Roundtable Class brings Annual HUGS Gifts

A big thank you to the Roundtable Class, Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, for once again faithfully appearing on the 4th Sunday of October with a wonderful meal, and also bringing hats, gloves and scarves for all residents and clients! All of the clients we transport from prisons are allowed to attend worship, and are expected to find jobs, many of which are outside, or with equipment requiring gloves. Most ride buses to and from jobs, including waiting in the weather transferring from one bus to another.

The class collects these items for several weeks and brings them to Redemption where they are placed on the "HUGS" tree. Worshippers file by the tree and altar rail to select their items. We appreciate very much receiving these gifts.

Claremore Churches help keep Redemption Clients warm!

First United Methodist Church, and First Baptist Church in Claremore join together in a "Coat Drive" for Tulsa Redemption each year. They will be delivering the first group of coats soon and will continue as new clients come to our facilities. Our residents are especially grateful for these gifts. We appreciate the sock caps that a Sunday School Class in First Methodist Claremore has been knitting and crocheting for our clients. They will be arriving soon as well.



Lee Egdorf adds gloves from Roundtable Class to the "Hugs" tree. Scarves and hats are placed on the Altar.

Education News

Marsha Johnson, grief relief specialist and chaplain for the Tulsa police/fire department, facilitated a Grief Relief class in October. Through this class, our people developed tools for grief recovery and self-care. Requests are already coming in for a repeat of the class. Pastor Greg Boyd is presenting an eight weeks class on "Boundaries", an understanding necessary for successful reentry. Special thanks go to James Mullins for incorporating so many outstanding guest speakers in his Life Skills classes. We thank God every day for all the gifted volunteer teachers who carry the love of Jesus Christ to our people.

Dolores Ritter
 Education Coordinator



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Make an online tax-deductible donation!



If you would like to save CJAMM postage, you can receive the *New Gate* via email. Just send an email to lrhoads@okumc.org. Thank you!

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Autumn at Exodus House is a wonderful time to reflect on this past summer. What a terrific summer it has been! Our Labor Day Reunion was a resounding success! We greatly appreciate all those who (as always) worked so hard to make our flower beds beautiful. Many thanks to Brad Beasley and Marty Howerton with *Faith UMC*. Brad travels all over the country doing competitive barbequing, so it was a real privilege to have him prepare our meal. Marty, who is the key sponsor for *Faith UMC's* apartment, orchestrated the event. We thank Al & Nalani Nordean and Lloyd & Paula Applegate for serving the meal and everyone who contributed their own special salads, casseroles and desserts, making the occasion truly extraordinary! There were over 130 people served and a great time was had by all!



Pastor Greg and Graduate Renee McGrit show off Renee's Graduation certificate

Congratulations to graduates; Jason Snow, Christ UMC, Renee McGrit, Owasso's 1st UMC and Markwen Johnson, New Haven UMC. Graduation is our opportunity to honor both resident and sponsor for all the hard work required to succeed in this program. We are so proud!

We are happy to announce that the Parsonage House has a new house leader. Although we will miss former House Leader Robert Guoladdle, we salute him on his decision to strike out on his own. Daniel McKinny, who had been a resident, has stepped up to the plate and is off to a great start.

As we approach the holidays, we are once again anticipating a full house. Our residents are a blessing throughout the year, but even more so at Christmas! They are a reminder of what Christmas is all about. There is no better gift for us than the joy reflected in their eyes.

As usual, we invite you to visit Exodus House Tulsa. Just give me a call at (918) 231-4013 to let me know when you are coming. You are always welcome and we are always delighted to show off Exodus House!

---Darlene & Virginia

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Exodus House Graduate, Darren White (front) and Faith UMC's apartment sponsor, Marty Howerton (rear) carry in a box of goodies for our Labor Day Reunion



Parsonage House Leader Daniel McKinny (center) and residents Marcus Marnne (left) and Joe Morgan (right)