

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:

Upcoming Events 2017

CJAMM Board Meeting
 May 17, 2017 10 am—noon
 United Methodist Ministry Ctr

CJAMM Board Appreciation
 May 21, 2017 2 pm service
 Penn Avenue Redemption
 UMC

Aldersgate Redemption UMC
 Lawton Area Dinner
 May 23, 2017 6 pm—8 pm
 First UMC, 2602 NW Ferris
 Ave, Lawton

New Day Camp I
 June 11-16, 2017
 Camp Cross Point
 Ages 8 –11 years

New Day Camp Too
 July 16-21, 2017
 Camp Cross Point
 Ages 12-14 years

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Greetings,

I love how this time of year is focused on all things new. Jesus is alive and spring is sprouting up everywhere. Our programs have sprung into action and are on their way to achieving all the goals we have set for the year.

A special thank you to everyone who has provided a scholarship to a camper for New Day Camp One and Too. We have approximately 81 scholarships secured for camp and are looking for 84 more scholarships for our children. Scholarships are \$250 per child and include meals and lodging. Claremore United Methodist Church has sponsored 19 campers through their church giving this year. St. Luke's Redemption in Tulsa has begun their noisy offering which is how they raise money to send children to camp. I have visited with United Methodist Women, United Methodist Men, congregations, and businesses across the state about camp and they are not only onboard but are also collecting items needed for camp once we get there. Our Waukomis children's group "Kid's in Action" are sewing pillow cases for New Day Camp. New Day Camp is definitely a group effort and we appreciate everyone who is pitching in to make this year a success.

Our youth from ages 15-18 are coming together on April 29, 2017 for a Collegiate Lock In at Wesley United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City. Last year our youth who help with New Day One expressed that they were having difficulties with paperwork to get grants for college and to attend. Our youth are graduates of camp or those who volunteer their time in the summer to help younger children. We have nine colleges coming to speak with children, college registrars to help with paperwork, technology schools to talk to them about possible trades, as well as a tour of Oklahoma City University. Twenty-seven youth have been invited to attend.

Everything is literally in full bloom at the Exodus Houses in Oklahoma City and Tulsa and the Parsonage Sober Living House. A special thank you to all the volunteers and work crews who are helping with projects to keep these programs going this year. The facility managers especially appreciate all of the help. From gardening to repair projects, every volunteer is helping to keep our program functioning.

The Redemption Churches are sharing not only the good news of our Risen King but also have been working to restore relationships with families, implementing new programs, and feeding those who are hungry spiritually and physically.

Kairos Men and Women have been meeting and Flights have been occurring across the state. This year we have had one at Lawton Correctional Facility, Davis Correctional Center in Holdenville (one in medium and one in maximum), Dick Conner Correctional Center in Hominy, Mable Basset Correctional Center in McLoud, and Cimarron Correctional Facility at Cushing. Whether you baked cookies or went inside the prisons, God has used you for amazing work. Thank you for helping us to remember those still inside the prison walls.

Thank you for all of the ways you have found to be apart of CJAMM. Please contact me 405-530-2015 if you are interested in more ways to help.

Blessings,

Kristen Harlin

NEW DAY CAMP 2017



New Day Camp is right around the corner and we will begin calling churches for help transporting the campers to Camp I in June and Camp Too in July. (Dates are on the upper left.) If you already know that YOUR church or someone in your congregation would like to help, please call Lesa Rhoads at (405) 530-2014. It takes a lot of coordinating to arrange for 155 children to get to camp safely. Most of these campers would not be able to attend without transportation provided. Thank you!!

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

In the last article for the New Gate I announced our new Lay Servants who had completed the training. My deepest apologies to Julie Cox! I failed to mention that Julie also completed the training for Lay Servant. Welcome Julie and congratulations! Thank you for your graciousness!

We were blessed beyond measure this past Thursday with Senator Wayne Shaw filling our pulpit. Rev. Dr. Stan was away at Kairos. Senator Shaw graced our church with joy and compassion as he shared Acts 16 and guided us in finding joy in the midst of pain. Senator Shaw has been working with Dr. Joe Wilson in the Oklahoma Prison Chapel Program, which has successfully built five chapels in Oklahoma prisons. The senator has visited and spoken in several of our prisons.

A big hug goes out to Leroy Ball from Church of the Servant Mission Sunday School class. He donated four beautiful crosses from their mission trips to Guatemala. There are three hand-painted, one with the dove. The fourth cross is hand-carved with Jesus. It is very unique. Thank you so much Mr. Ball for your generous sharing of the lovely crosses. We are blessed beyond measure.

Pastor Brad spoke on the ministry of Redemption Church at Clark UMC on February

19th. Our Lay Leader, Theresa Owens gave her Christ-centered testimony; Pastor Brad also spoke at the Crossroads UMW Spiritual Day apart on April 1st. Lori VanDyke, a longtime volunteer gave her Christ filled testimony. Thank you both for sharing what God has done in your life. You both are such inspirations and encouragers to all of us! Thank you Pastor Brad for sharing the ministry!

It is such a blessing to be a part of God's village at Redemption UMC! We have the honor and the privilege of walking a few steps with some and miles with a few. God changes lives in such incredible ways! I would like to give a big hug and tell just a few how proud of you we are! Well Done! Robin Wertz, Case Manager and Tony Altizer, Facility Manager of Exodus House OKC; Rob Wright and Tamara Pennypacker Wright ~ Rob has an excellent job and Tamara is fulfilling her dream going to school while working a demanding job at the Crisis Center, all while they raise and support their children; Melissa Shiver has walked through several trials upon her release yet has stood firm in her faith. She has accomplished a wonderful job at the Crisis Center and plans on going to school

for her drug and alcohol license; Lonnie Lino is simply amazing! She is married to a wonderful man who has walked with Lonnie through trials. Lonnie is managing two sober living houses, one for men, one for women. She is doing such a great job of sharing the Christ she has come to know with others. We are so proud of all of you ~ thank you for being such awesome examples of what Christ can do!

We are so thankful for all our amazing volunteers who continue to support this wonderful ministry with their hands, their feet and their talents. Thank you, each of you, for being such a very special part of God's Redemption village!

Many blessings,
Marcia Manning



TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

An early Spring has once again brought our flower beds back to life. Here at Exodus House, we are anxiously awaiting Owasso's First United Church's "Change the World Weekend." This group has become a spring tradition. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude for helping us make our court yard beautiful!

Exodus House/Parsonage House Residents were delighted to represent our program at Christ UMC's "Faith Promise Sunday" This is a yearly event designed to promote mission awareness. We also had the privilege to participate in Boston Avenue UMC's, "Base Camp" which is a mission outreach, with people working on several different projects. Our group helped package dehydrated food for the hungry in depressed areas of the world. In addition, our residents had the opportunity to accompany CJAMM's Executive Director, Kristen Harlin, when she spoke at Boston Avenue's Horizons Sunday School Class.

Each year, Exodus House/Parsonage House residents look forward to serving lunch to Boston Avenue's Confirmation Class and their families. This is the Sunday that the Confirmands join the Church and our residents enjoy being a part of the celebration.

In March, our residents were thrilled to help host our first ever Tulsa CJAMM Benefit Dinner. Kristen Harlin took all the residents shopping to buy fancy duds to wear to the affair. Each resident hosted a table at the banquet and a great time was had by all. The Benefit was so successful that we hope to make it a yearly event.

Congratulations to graduates: Michael Gavin, sponsored by *Asbury's 'Christian Explorers Community'*, Brandyn Pierce, sponsored by *Boston Avenue's 'Pilgrimage Class'* and Jeffery Fritts, sponsored by *'Sand Springs UMC'*.

We thank all the people who donate their time and treasure to keep this program running so successfully. They say, "It takes a Village" and I know that is true. We couldn't do it without you!

We hope to see you at our Labor Day Reunion, Monday, September 4th at 6:00 pm. You can bring a dessert or a salad if you are able, if not just bring yourself. Our address is: 2624 E. Newton St., Tulsa, OK 74110. If you can't make the reunion but would like to visit Exodus House, just give me a call at: 918-231-4013. We would love to show it off! ---Darlene & Michael



Pastor Greg Boyd presenting cross to Jeffery Fritts at his graduation from Tulsa Exodus House

TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

Redemption Blessings:

With summer fast approaching, we plan for more families to worship with us at Tulsa Redemption. Sara Smith will provide child care in our new children’s room. She and Ellis Frazier’s granddaughter Aubrey have already bonded. What a blessing!

But God is not finished! He has blessed us with Heather Duncan, our newest volunteer. Heather assists Janice Shannon in “Thinking for a Change” on Sunday and helps Sherri Kayser, Exodus House, facilitate Women’s CR on Thursdays. Heather is a gifted and compassionate teacher.

Ginger Joiner, a graduate of Exodus House, completed her Masters in Social Work last year. She has returned and now teaches Men’s Victim Impact with Jon Stith. Ginger feels called to give back to this ministry that was so important to her successful reintegration and recovery. God is at work here!

Mark Sperry, Parsonage House, continues his wonderful work in the Sound Booth for worship and in Orientation, but he recognizes talent when he sees it. He has trained Christina Jackson to lead Orientation. They are a great team.



L to R: Amanda, Ginger, Heather & Sherri

Oliver Perry will graduate Exodus House soon, but he has promised to return and continue his leadership in the Men’s CR group. When

Amanda Russell and Jayde Uto arrived at Exodus House, the Spirit was at work. Jayde knew at once she had the gifts to assist in the PowerUp class. Michael Tarman, RSVP PowerUp volunteer, appreciates her help. Amanda not only is in Ed Gaut’s Life Skills class for the credit, but she assists him by keeping the roll current.

This ministry is blessed and is a blessing! When I get discouraged and think a class will have to close for lack of a teacher or no one is available to serve the next Sunday meal, these blessed people appear. They not only get the job done, but they lift my heart and renew my faith. They are Jesus’ feet and hands at work blessing Redemption. Thank you, one and all!

—Dolores Ritter & Virginia Gray



Sara and Aubrey

OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Greetings:

He is Risen!!! What a time to be grateful for our lives and for our Lord Jesus Christ and His sacrifice for each of us. As we celebrate and reflect on what it is to truly follow Christ. Thank you Brad Rogers and Penn Ave Redemption UMC for the beautiful services throughout Lent and Easter. It was truly a blessing to see and hear my residents talk about how they were each changed by your sermons and their desire to grow in their faith journey and their relationship with God.

We are always busy this time of season with new residents, tours, work groups and new projects. We want to thank Joseph Simpson and his OCU Youth Group who came to work on getting our vegetable garden ready to plant. We will be dedicating the garden as Charlotte’s Garden to honor one of our recent former graduates, Charlotte Eisenhour who passed recently in an auto accident. She loved gardening and she loved the kids. Several donations were given to New Day Camp to support a child through camp because of her love for kids. One of my fondest memories of her was her talking to her watermelons and encouraging them to “grow little baby”. We want to thank her Sponsors Kaitlyn & Matt Philpott and Connect UMC for your love and support and the meal you provided for all the residents for our prayer vigil. We will truly miss Charlotte but will hold her laughter, her smiles and her love for all she met in our hearts.



United Methodist Men’s Group



We also want to thank Sam Powers and First Church of Edmond for bringing his Confirmation Class for a tour. It is always a joy for me to meet them and share our story with them. We also want to thank New Covenant UMC member Jim Neunschwander and his “Growing in Grace Class” for a Tuesday night meal. We loved it and your fellowship with us. Also thanks to New Covenant for their work day to prepare the flower beds for spring planting and Brian Courtney for the materials.

We are so blessed for Apt # 11 Sponsor’s Jim Hill and his UMM group for a complete overhaul and remodel of their apartment and for their entire group of helpers who did the countertops, painting, remodeled bathroom, installed wood floors, tile and so much more. The apartment is gorgeous!!! Our residents are so blessed by all of our Sponsors and their hard work. Some of our other Sponsors are: Yukon UMM, Seminole UMC, Connect UMC, Church of the Servant UMC, New Hope UMC, St. Andrew’s UMC, First Church of Edmond UMC and New Covenant UMC. We want to Thank You for your love for our ministry and invite you to come take a tour of our facility, bring a work group or invite us to do a Speak Out !! We would love to tell you more about us and how you can be a part of our ministry!! God Bless You !!

-----Director Robin Wertz, C.M., CPRSS -----(405)-525-2300

-----Tony Altizer, Facility Manager (Donations) ----- (405)-417-1189



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www.cjamm.org

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!

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LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

Things have been busy around here. We had another van donated to us by First United Methodist Church of Lawton. That has been a real blessing for us and has allowed us to make fewer trips to the Lawton Community Correctional Center to pick up all the men that wish to attend our services.

Then, First United Methodist Church of Lawton stepped up once more and brought in the paint and supplies, as well as a crew to paint two of our classrooms this week. Another classroom and the church office are scheduled to be painted later by this same team. From the Scout troop that meets at Lawton First, a wonderful young man who is going for his Eagle Scout, has requested to build some large cabinets for us as his community service project. We are still awaiting the decision by the director of the Eagle Scout programs as to whether this project will be accepted or not.

Finally, we took on another program to further our close connections with Lawton Community Correctional Center. With all the changes taking place around the state within the Department of Corrections, the person responsible for the Transition/Reentry program was being moved. They asked if we could take over this program, with Rev. Lory Fahle as the coordinator. After much prayer and discussion, it was agreed that this would fit with the ministry we already provide and would simply be an extension of that ministry. Therefore, as of March 1, 2017, we are now coordinating and providing the Transition/Reentry Program for the Lawton Community Correctional Center. Fortunately, most of the excellent facilitators and presenters that were already providing the materials for this program, have remained on board. We have only had to have a couple of new people to cover for some who had to leave us for personal reasons.

So, with the smell of fresh paint hanging in the air, we are enjoying a Spring rich in possibilities.

ALDRSGATE REDEMPTION CHURCH LAWTON AREA DINNER

Where: First United Methodist Church

2602 NW Ferris Avenue, Lawton

When: May 23, 2017

6 pm—8 pm

Soup, Salad and Silent Auction

This is a fundraiser for Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church. All donations will be used for this ministry. Donations can be made online at www.cjamm.org or mail a check payable to

CJAMM, 1501 NW 24th Street, OKC 73106

