

THE NEW GATE



From the Director:



Greetings in the name of Christ!

I appreciate this opportunity to share a little about what is going in the life of CJAMM and I thank God for each and every one of you who work so hard to make CJAMM the ministry that it is.

What is Happening in the Life of CJAMM

This past annual conference was a time of transition for CJAMM. After nine years of faithful service, Rev. Brantley Tillery has been reappointed from St. Luke's Redemption UMC to Hulen and Walters. We appreciate all that Rev. Tillery has done for us and wish him and his family the best of luck. Our very own Rev. Rick Forthman has been appointed to serve as pastor of St. Luke's Redemption UMC. Rev. Forthman has served in CJAMM for many years and we are excited to have him in this position.

Rev. Brad Rogers was appointed as pastor of Penn Ave. Redemption UMC so I might be able to focus all of my time and energy on serving as director of CJAMM and Rev. Lori Fahle joined our team as the pastor of Aldersgate Redemption UMC. We are excited to have them both aboard.

We also lament the passing of Cyndy Sexson, who served as the Administrative Assistant for St. Luke's Redemption UMC for over 10 years. On Thursday, July 3rd, she lost her battle with a serious infection and went to be with God. We want to continue to lift up Cyndy's family and friends in prayer. We also want to welcome Janice Shannon who has been hired as the new Administrative Assistant for St. Luke's Redemption UMC.

We will also miss Currie Ballard, a longtime member of the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board and friend of the ministry, who passed away this past July. Mr. Ballard was the speaker at last year's CJAMM Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon.

New Day Camp just completed its 20th year. Over 120 volunteers ministered to over 130 children of incarcerated parents. The camps were filled with laughter, fun, worship, learning, rock climbing, swimming, bicycling, and a whole host of other activities. Our staff and volunteers worked hard to make this the best year of New Day Camp yet! If you would like to volunteer with New Day Camp or you know a child of an incarcerated parent, between the ages of 8 and 14 respectively, contact me at aleathers@okumc.org.

We also want to congratulate Adair UMC for their service at the Northeast Oklahoma Correctional Center and being recognized by the Department of Corrections for 15 years of faithful prison ministry. We would also like to thank Oklahoma Body Works for donating paint for our busses as well as the Oklahoma Dental Association for their work with both of our Exodus Houses. We are truly blessed!

How You can Help

The Oklahoma City Exodus House is in need of bicycles! Many people just coming out of prison do not have a driver's license and it can be extremely expensive to get one. That means, for many of our residents, despite a solid work ethic and job opportunities, getting to and from work can be difficult. Also, the bus lines do not go by every work site, so bicycles are often the best alternative. If you have a bicycle you would like to donate, please contact Robin Wertz at exodushouseokc@coxinet.net. OKC Exodus House is also looking for someone to provide child care on Tuesday evenings. Please contact Robin if you are interested.

Penn Ave. Redemption UMC is also in need of more drivers. If you have a valid driver's license we would love to have you join us in transporting inmates to and from worship. Also, if you are interested in driving a bus, we will gladly fund your CDL. If you are interested please me know. Finally, if I have not already been to your church to share a little about CJAMM and how you can be involved, then please give me a holler. I would love to join you and your worshipping community to talk about how we can glorify God's Kingdom together!

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Adam Leathers

Calendar of Events 2014

Tulsa Exodus House Reunion
Sept 1 4 pm
2624 E. Newton, Tulsa
Come try Rev. Rick's famous brisket!!
All invited.



Inside this issue:

Tulsa Exodus House	2
OHPM	2
Lawton Aldersgate	2
OKC Redemption	3
Volunteer Needed	3
Tulsa Redemption	4
Contact Info	4



TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

Tulsa Exodus House is saddened by the loss of our beloved Cyndy Sexson. Cyndy's official title was Administrative Assistant but to us, she was so much more! So, all of us here at Exodus House will continue to strive to make Cyndy proud.

We also had to say a bitter-sweet "Goodbye" to our Director Brantley Tillery. Pastor Brantley has been our rock for the last 9 years and though we are happy for him in his new appointment, we miss him a lot. On a brighter note, we are delighted to welcome Rick and Maggi Forthman to our

family. Rick is our new Pastor at Redemption and Director of Exodus House. He, along with his wife Maggi have, "hit the ground running" as they tackle all the joys and frustrations involved in transitioning out of prison.

We would like to congratulate Exodus House graduates and their sponsors: Rhonda Noland (Boston Avenue UMC, Maranatha Class) and Joe Davis (New Haven UMC). Joe Davis was overjoyed to have his 11 year old son (Little Joe) spend the summer with him. In fact, Little Joe has captivated all of us here at Exodus House!

Once again, we are thrilled to be the beneficiary of *Laredo Petroleum's* generous donation. Nalani Nordean is employed there and she is instrumental in procuring the donation. Each year *Laredo Petroleum* donates a money gift to local charities which are recommended by their employees to be most worthy. This is the second year we have received the grant, and it has been enough to buy a dearly needed storage building. Hats off to *Laredo Petroleum* and Nalani Nordean. Also, a big "thank you" to all of those wonderful people who donated their time, energy & money so that this ministry can thrive!!!

We are proud to say that we will have a full house just in time for our Reunion. What a joy it is for both residents and staff to prepare for our yearly event. This year Rick Forthman (our new pastor) will be preparing the brisket and we can't wait to try it! We hope to see you this Labor Day, September 1, at 4:00 PM. Exodus House is located at 2624 E. Newton St. Tulsa OK 74110.

We don't need a special occasion to show off Exodus House. We are always honored to welcome visitors, just give us a call and let us know when you are coming, 918-231-4013.

---Darlene & Bruce



Joe Davis and son "Little Joe" pose for the camera at Joe's Graduation Party.



Volunteer Al Nordean and resident Curtis Kelly show off the new storage building at the Exodus House.

OPERATION HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

Since the last publishing, there have been two Operation Hope Prison Ministry staff marry. Heather Sisson is now Heather Sisson-White. Mary Leslie is now Mary Hayes. We've also had a Spring and a Summer Play Day. July 9th Play Day brought something different. A huge yellow bus is what transported them to the prison. Rev. Rick Forthman, who took Pastor Brantley Tillery's place, is now an ex-officio OHPM Board Member. He agreed to drive this big bus for us and take the children to see their mom at Eddie Warrior CC in Taft, OK. What a blessing. There are two pictures of children on our way home from Play Day holding their stuffed animal which was donated by Clara Perkins from Boston Ave UMC. The Faithbuilder's Class from Asbury UMC also helps with these donations. Thank you, Michiel Conner and Bob James, for your coordinating with Asbury UMC. OHPM was blessed to have the late Cyndy Sexson for coordinating with Boston Avenue UMC. We all miss Cyndy. Thanks to all who help make this a great day.



LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

Many changes at Aldersgate Redemption UMC this summer! We are happy to welcome Rev. Lory Fahle. Rev. Rick Forthman will be missed but he didn't go far...he is now the pastor at St. Luke's Redemption in Tulsa! Rev. Fahle is not new to prison ministry. She has been involved in CJAMM since 2000. We look forward to the changes that are bound to happen in Lawton.

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH



Pastor Brad Rogers and Family

We are also blessed beyond measure to have Brad Rogers as our new Pastor. Brad is in his last year of seminary at St. Paul's School of Theology at OCU. He has completed Local Pastor Licensing School. Brad is a joy and blessing to all at OKC Redemption. Thank you, Brad for accepting the call!

Welcome to our new DOC volunteers: Mark and Cheryl Fine from Piedmont. We are so thrilled to have four new Lay Servants! Four of our UMMen went through the training in May. With great joy we welcome Bronshae Maloney, Charles McBride, Jorian McNeal and Richard Self. We congratulate Bud Manning on renewing his Advanced Lay Servant certification. Our Lay Servants are serving with enthusiasm and a heart for God that is such a powerful example of the work God is doing in each of them!

We had a beautiful wedding of two young souls who met here at Redemption and married.



Our ministry is saddened at the passing of Ray Gambill. Ray was an encouraging supporter and longtime attendee of Thursday evening worship. Ray loved the music at Redemption Church and always had a wise and encouraging word for all.

We had our first Women's Conference, *You Are...Y*, the second weekend of July. For this first event, we concentrated on bringing the ladies from Kate Barnard Community Correctional Center and those who are so involved in the ministry. We are very excited at how the weekend worked out. There is a whole new attitude in those who attended! One of the participants learned she lost all rights to her children and had planned to escape from Kate Barnard. Had she not participated in the weekend, she would have escaped. She asked for prayer twice and came down for alter call. One of the participants commented: "I've spent 11 months on the yard with these women and never knew them like I do now." Another said: "I never knew I could love a stranger." We are excited to move forward in planning future events!

Thank you, Kyla McNabb, Cross Timbers UMC, for the toys, coloring books and crayons you donated to us. Kyla accepted new items to be donated to a ministry instead of gifts for her children for their birthday party. Heart felt thank you to Church of the Servant for the most generous donation from the EarthGlow Shop. We so appreciate your kindness!

Thirteen of our volunteers were trained by the Department of

Corrections to teach Victim's Impact, a program that is approved for 30 days earned credit. This program takes 13 weeks to complete, and is for two hours each week. It is an in-depth program helping one understand how their crimes/attitudes/behaviors affect family, friends and community. We have graduated 16 men and 7 women from our first class. This is a wonderful accomplishment. We are continuing to host the AoRP Second Chance Network monthly meeting the second Thursday afternoon of each month.

We have a quantity of folding chairs that we would love to pass on to a church or ministry in need. We also have several pianos and an organ that could use a good home. For more details, please call the church office at 405-528-0963.

We are still filling hygiene sacks/boxes for those incarcerated at the seven community correctional/halfway centers around Oklahoma City. If you would like to help with these please call the church office.

Our volunteers are so faithful and generous in giving of their time, talents and love. We so appreciate all you do. I say this often and will continue to tell you: THANK YOU for your faithfulness, commitment, your heart and your presence! We would not be able to provide the level of ministry we do if it were not for YOU. You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are here to minister to. God bless each of you.

With a grateful heart, *Marcia Manning*

*****VOLUNTEER NEEDED*****

Chaplain Slim Crabtree, John H. Lilley Correctional Center has put out a plea for one or two volunteers for the expansion of a particular class at their facility. Besides Oklahoma Department of Correction badging, "Thinking for a Change" requires a one-time, two-day leader training. The format requires four hours per day, one day per week, for twelve weeks and then begins again with a new group of men. Minimal commitment is one cycle of twelve weeks. Hopefully, the volunteer will become so comfortable and committed to the program as to continue to volunteer for several cycles.

New space in the JLCC activity building has recently become available for the program expansion, so that a new volunteer may be able to **choose their preferred day and time**. The prison is located on US 62, twelve miles east of Prague and seventeen miles west of Okemah.

Fifteen years ago, Rev. Sharon Capron became a Lilley volunteer when she heard the chaplain's request for a UM worship service leader announced at a lay speaker's training session. Perhaps there is someone out there waiting for just such an open door. If you are interested, please call the CJAMM office at (405) 530-2014.



1501 NW 24th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

405/530-2015-Rev. Adam Leathers, Director

E-mail: aleathers@okumc.org

405/530-2014 -Lesia Rhoads, Asst. Director-Admin

E-mail: lrhoads@okumc.org

Fax—405/530-2049

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!

TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

Greetings from Tulsa!!

It has been a busy time in Tulsa this summer, getting acquainted with the staff, the many volunteers, as well as the DOC clients from the facilities in the Tulsa Area.

We grieve the loss of a special friend, staff member and volunteer from our ministry. Cyndy Sexson served as Administrative Assistant for over 10 years, and succumbed to illness in early July. She is greatly missed, but will be remembered for her love and service to this ministry.

I want to share a tribute in the Tulsa District United Methodist Women Newsletter. Thanks to Judy Turner, Tulsa District UMW president, for this celebration of her life.

“Women Who Make It Happen:

She worked as if she were not sick. Ministering to incarcerated men, women, and youth was her passion for many years. She was proud to be the Administrative Assistant at Tulsa St. Luke’s UMC. She was a member of Boston Avenue United Methodist Church and a CJAMM volunteer. She worked with juveniles in Kairos Torch, and more recently with youth at the David L. Moss County Jail in Tulsa, a program sponsored by Operation Hope Prison Ministry. She had also served on Kairos Outside teams. Cyndy loved learning, and looked forward to workshops that would help her learn and serve more effectively in the prison ministry she loved so much. She passed into her new life this month (July). Well done, good and faithful servant, Cyndy.”

The Administrative Assistant position has been filled by Janice Shannon, an active volunteer in both Exodus House and St. Luke’s Redemption Church. She is a member of Southern Hills UMC. She comes well qualified to this position, and will continue volunteering in the Tulsa ministry. More about Janice in the next issue of *New Gate*.

God bless you,

Rick Forthman

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
PERMIT NO. 1045

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Cyndy Sexson
July 23, 1947—July 3, 2014