

the trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

February 2009

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From Dianne's Desk

AN INVITATION TO LIFE

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. Luke 6:37-38

What do these words mean? Is this a guarantee of a happy life if we refrain from judging and condemning while forgiving and giving to others? Yes and no. There are no guarantees in the Christian life and we all know good, faithful people who have been mistreated. Jesus clearly suffered condemnation and judgment from others and we can anticipate that there will be times when we face the same kind of response. But on the other hand, this passage does reflect a more positive way of looking at the world, an attitude and orientation that Jesus urged his followers to embody. Our relationships with others should reflect the relationship we have with God. We have known forgiveness and the generosity of God's heart. We are called to see others through God's eyes, rather than jumping to conclusions and writing people off. This is a new way of being in the world, based not on retaliation and keeping score, but the way of grace, acceptance and generosity.

The last sentence in this passage always stands as a reminder to me that when we invest in life, we usually get back much more. You know the phrase, "you get back what you put into it." We've all experienced exceptions, but by and large this has proved to be true, at least for me. If you spend time, energy, and genuine concern in developing a new friendship, the friend will usually respond in the same way. If you take a class in school and really apply yourself, doing all the reading and attending regularly, you usually get more out of it and often a better grade. If you're diligent and careful in the way you construct a piece of furniture or sew a garment, chances are that the results of your labor will be more beautiful and long-lasting.

It is no different with our spiritual lives. If we stick God on the back burner, and come to worship occasionally, praying only when disaster strikes, then we may well feel like God is distant and inattentive to our needs. On the other hand, if we want a

closer connection with God, a deeper sense of guidance and being "in tune" with the universe, a broader understanding of compassion and grace, we would do well to make time with God a bigger priority in our lives. In a recent sermon I noted that "one hour a week is just not enough because God has so much more to offer us!" I truly believe that is the case. It's not that God is angry when you put your spiritual life at the bottom of the list; no, God is disappointed that you're not there. I've watched the changes in people's lives when they start to really dig into the scriptures for the first time or volunteer for hands-on mission work or begin a daily discipline of intentional prayer and silence. It's awesome and exciting! Unlike the rest of the world, God is faithful and will always welcome us with open arms, helping us in our daily lives and giving the kind of support and peace that only God can give. You can count on it!

Being a Christian starts with worship on Sunday morning, but it is lived out seven days a week. Who is encouraging you in your Christian journey? Have you found a Sunday School class that helps you grow spiritually? Would you be willing to try a Covenant Discipleship Group for the six weeks of Lent? (see article on p. 5) What are you investing in your spiritual development? If you're still breathing, God's not through with you yet! There's so much more to discover and experience of the Great Mystery. Jesus Christ is our guide and the human face of the One who made us. Do you recognize his quiet voice?

Continued on Page 2

Inside this issue

- ▶ February Sermons.....2
- ▶ Administrative Council Schedule ...2
- ▶ Out & About.....2
- ▶ Meet our Members.....3
- ▶ Celebrations.....3
- ▶ Covenant Discipleship.....3
- ▶ Music Ministry.....4
- ▶ Ash Wednesday Services.....5



Continued from Page 1

Rather than giving something up for Lent, I'd much prefer that you consider carefully what you're going to add: a Covenant Discipleship Group, tithing a full 10% for these six weeks, being present in worship and Sunday School every week you're in town, setting aside a specific time and place to read your Bible and be in prayer on a daily basis, spending time in a new way of serving . . . there are many options. God is wanting to form us, from the inside out, in the manner and ways of Christ, but God will not violate our free will in order to accomplish this goal. We have to cooperate. As Jack loves to say, "Christianity is a participation grade." Won't you join me in deciding to increase your participation in the life of Christ? We're working to provide you with more opportunities. Please come.

Blessings, Dianne



FEBRUARY SERMONS

This month we'll be looking at what it means to be a faithful, fruitful church and Christian. We'll be hearing from Luke, the author of Acts, Paul, Matthew and John, as we look at a holistic way of living out our faith.

February 1 Acts 16:11-15 and Philippians 4:2-9

To Be a God-Worshiper

Do you know the story of Lydia and the church at Philippi?

February 8 John 15:1-8 and Ephesians 3:1-12

A Journey to Understanding

What is the mystery of our connection with the vine?

February 15 Matthew 13:31-35 and Ezekiel 17:22-24

Becoming Part of the Cloaked Kingdom

How would you describe the kingdom?

February 22 Acts 2:41-47 and Romans 14:7-13, 19

With Glad and Generous Hearts

How do we stay on the Jesus path?

ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL DINNER MEETINGS

This year Administrative Council meetings will be held on Monday nights, except for the September meeting which will be Sunday at noon. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and the meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m. In an effort to enhance our relationships with each other and to improve communications among our congregation, I am encouraging all members of all of the committees to attend the Ad Council Meetings. Our first meeting will be at 6:00 p.m. on February 9, 2009. Following is a schedule of all of the Ad Council meetings for 2009:

February 9	6:00 p.m.
March 9	
April 13	
May 11	
September 13	(Sunday at noon)
October 12	
November 9	
Charge Conference	(to be determined)

All of our committees have gotten off to a great start and I would like to express my appreciation to all of the committee chairs and their committee members. I hope to see all of you at the Ad Council Meetings.

John Funk, Administrative Council Chair

OUT&ABOUT

The next meeting of the Out & About group will be at 11:30 February 17 in the Youth Activities Room. We will have a potluck lunch followed by a program presented by Kelli Brookshire of the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Office. Deputy Brookshire is the director of the TRIAD program and will talk to us about frauds, scams, identity theft and other issues related to protecting ourselves and our assets.

Attend this program to learn valuable information regarding your personal safety, and don't forget to bring a dish to share as we join for fellowship.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Come to the 8:30 Sunday service and you will almost always be welcomed by Rocky and Edna Niles. The Niles have been faithful members of the CHUM congregation since the mid 1960's. Their 2 children, Barry and Joy were raised in the church. Daughter, Joy Robison and her family continue to be active members. The Niles have been blessed with 10 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Rocky retired from a life career at OG&E while Edna was the CHUM church secretary for a number of years. Edna and Rocky are active members of the Fisherman Class, and Out and About Group and Wednesday night Bible Study.



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- Aaron Gean
- Alan Krone
- Ann Thompson
- Connie Harris
- Earle Marks
- Garen Draper
- Jack Funk
- Jeff Peters
- Jerri Kelly
- Joe Whitaker
- John Chapline
- John Funk
- Jonathan Higgins
- Lauren Walton
- Robert Lasater



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

Jerry & Patrick Kelly

CARE COMMITTEE

The Care Committee is exploring the possibility of providing a tape of the Sunday sermon to anyone who is unable to attend. If you or someone you know might be interested in this service, please contact Dolph Grolock at 277-3794.

BAPTISM

Henry Nathan Sanders was baptized on January 4. Henry is the son of Shawna and Steve Sanders.

CONGRATULATIONS!

WHAT IS A COVENANT DISCIPLESHIP GROUP?

Our top priority for 2009 is to start several Covenant Discipleship groups as a way of strengthening our spiritual lives. This practice is based upon John Wesley's small group system of connecting Christians, the backbone of Methodism in the early days in England. A Covenant Discipleship group consists of five to seven people who want to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through mutual support and accountability. They meet once a week for one hour to share their journeys of faith. Each group writes its own covenant to which the members hold one another accountable. This covenant is based on The General Rule of Discipleship:



To witness to Jesus Christ in the world, and to follow his teachings through acts of compassion, justice, worship, and devotion, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

This encourages a balanced and varied way of living a Christian life. The process of writing your group's covenant is a wonderful way of growing closer to Christ and closer to each other.

We want everyone to consider participating in a Covenant Discipleship Group for the season of Lent. This will give you an opportunity to experience this kind of support and accountability for a six-week period, to find out if this is a spiritual practice you'd like to continue for the future. To find out more and to sign up for a time that fits your schedule, please come to the all-church luncheon following worship on **February 22** in the Fellowship Hall. Groups can meet at any time of day, in people's homes, at the church or in other locations. The only rule is that the meetings are limited to one hour. Find four friends and choose your time for this experiment in spiritual companionship!

LENTEN MUSIC SERIES

by George Massey

2008 CHRISTMAS CANTATA

I received more compliments from our 2008 Christmas Cantata than any other major work in my fifteen years at CHUM. Our success stemmed not only from our gifted Chancel Choir, soloists and Chamber Orchestra, but also from the superb composition, arrangements of the choral settings and a glorious orchestration.

As the major musical presentation of the entire year for the Music Ministry, the planning begins, in January. The December 2009 work is already selected, and as with last year's cantata, it is on loan from the Central Christian Church in Enid.

The sharing saves our Music over \$500, funds that can then supplement our annual Rippetto Endowment for an expanded orchestra and additional soloists. We were also blessed with over \$2,300 given to our **Designated Music Fund**, with the majority of this amount given in memory of Carol Barnes Higgins. These donations of \$50 to \$500 are a wonderful way we can truly enhance our musical forces.

We thank each and every contributor for these very important gifts!

LENTEN MUSIC SERIES

We will present a lovely five-part series of ANTHEMS ON THE CROSS during Lent, plus a three suite composition on Palm Sunday and extending Anthems on Easter Sunday. Both Sundays and we will feature a chamber ensemble for our accompaniment.

CHANCEL CHOIR PLEASE NOTE: Our Dress Rehearsal for Palm and Easter Sundays, will be Wednesday, April 1, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Warm-Ups on Palm and Easter Sunday will be at 10:00 a.m. in the sanctuary.



WHEN THE WEATHER OUTSIDE IS FRIGHTFUL

We heard multiple reports of people slipping and falling on the ice this past week. We're grateful that no one was seriously injured! For future reference, **if the Oklahoma City Public Schools close due to weather, we will not be having any evening groups or meetings that day.** In all likelihood, the church office will be closed as well. If you're unsure about whether an activity is cancelled, call the church office at 524-8428, where there will be a message posted.

Barring the most severe winter weather, (for example, an ongoing blizzard with a foot of snow or glare ice on every surface), we do not cancel worship services on Sundays. In the rare circumstance where cancellation would occur, the pastor would contact the three local TV stations. We trust that you will use your best judgment in determining whether or not you can safely come to church on any given Sunday. We will certainly understand if you choose to stay home for safety reasons.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Charlotte Peaver who is receiving Hospice Care.

Ed Durrell & Paige Selby on the hospitalization of Ed's father

Mary Joe Kessler & family on the passing of Judge Bill Kessler

Mary Katherine Munson on the passing of her brother

Larry & Gail Foster on Larry's recent open heart surgery

Dennis & DeLene Moore on the passing of DeLene's Auntie Mame

TWO ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES: February 25

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent, the 40 days (plus Sundays) leading up to Easter. It is a time of starting over, looking carefully at our lives and recommitting to our walk in faith. Crown Heights is part of a newly established ministry network of churches and synagogues in our area. As such, we are hosting a simple ecumenical Ash Wednesday service at 12:15 p.m. on February 25th, particularly for those who work in our area of Oklahoma City.

If you work at Chesapeake or in the capitol complex or other nearby businesses, please help spread the word. The service will be about 30 minutes long. That evening we will be having our own Ash Wednesday service at **6:30 p.m.**, which will include the ancient tradition of Anglican prayer beads. The service will include the imposition of ashes on your forehead or hand, as a symbol of our commitment to Christ. Children often respond very positively to this tactile experience of worship, and child care will be provided for the very youngest. Plan now to start your Lent off right by attending one of our Ash Wednesday gatherings.



WELCOME REV. MARY LUE EASTMOND TO OUR STAFF!

We are delighted to announce that the Reverend Mary Lue Eastmond has agreed to serve as our Director of Children's Ministries, pending approval by our Administrative Council.

Mary Lue comes to us from the Oklahoma Conference office of the United Methodist Church, where she has served since 1992. Her specialties include children's ministries, teacher training, and Christian education for all ages. She is excited to move into our part-time ministry position so that she can be more available to help with her eight grandchildren in Norman. Rev. Eastmond is an ordained deacon and a certified Minister of Christian Education, having completed her Masters degree in Christian Education from OCU in 1991. She's been involved in camping ministry and curriculum development, as well as doing consultations with local churches in need of assistance with their Christian education programs.


We are extremely fortunate to add someone of Mary Lue's training and experience to our staff. Be watching for more information about opportunities to meet and get acquainted with Mary Lue.

BEST WISHES TO MYKA!

Our children were saddened to say goodbye to Miss Myka as our Nursery Coordinator and Children's Ministries Director. Myka Plunkett has helped to care for our children and helped them tap into their creative and dramatic energies for the last couple of years. She has moved to Florida where she is hoping to be hired at Disney World in a musical theatre position. We wish Myka all the best and will miss her enthusiasm and tender heart for little ones. Kassie Carroll is now filling in as our Nursery Coordinator as well as continuing as a child care worker. Mary Lue Eastmond will be taking on the Children's Ministries Director role in the coming weeks.



February 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 4:00 pm Youth	2 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm NA Meeting	3	4 6:30 pm Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal	5 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 8:00 pm Bible Connections	6	7
8 9:30 am Finance Mtg. 4:00 pm Youth	9 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:00 pm Ad Council Dinner and Meeting 6:30 pm NA Meeting	10 Eat at Johnnies	11 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Bible Connections	12 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	13	14 
15 4:00 pm Youth	16 9:00 am Mobile Meals 6:30 pm NA Meeting	17	18 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 8:00 pm Bible Connections	19 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	20	21
22 Covenant Disciples Luncheon	23 9:00 am Mobile Meals 7:00 pm Ministry Team	24	25 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:15 pm Community Serv. 6:30 pm CHUM Service 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm NA Meeting	26 3:00 pm Whiz Kids 6:30 pm NA Meeting	27	28 6:00 pm Wedding

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

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CHURCH STAFF

Dianne Kovacs Peters, Senior Pastor
Jack Terrell-Wilkes, Minister of Missional Life

Stacy Gilbert Coombe	Administrative Assistant
Libby Campbell	Accounting Secretary
Sergio Estrada	Custodian
George Massey	Director of Music
Mariann Searle	Organist
Ryan Steer	Music Intern
Haley Pierce	Music Intern
Tyler Kirk	Director of Youth Ministries
Matt Bergman	Director of Children's Arts
Kassie Carroll	Nursery Coordinator
Justin Larman	Nursery Assistant
Collin Andrulonis	Nursery Assistant

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