



the
trumpet



CROWN HEIGHTS United Methodist Church

Lead Pastor: Rev. Trina Bose North

December 2017/January 2018 Vol. 13 Issue 9

Christ Comes to Us by Rev. Trina Bose North



"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned."

Isaiah 9:2

These familiar words by the prophet Isaiah are found in the Old Testament. We read this verse each year during Advent because we believe the light came in the birth of Christ. Through Christ, the darkness dawned into a new day, and the people experienced the light.

This is why we light candles during Advent. Each week, we light a candle for the hope, peace, love, and joy of Christ coming into the world. Just as the light breaks through the darkness, so do hope, peace, joy, and love break through and fill us with Christ.

Our world stands in need, but we are a people who believe Christ came to earth in flesh and brings God to us. In Philippians, Paul talked about the peace of God, which surpasses understanding, coming to each of us. We have experienced moments when God's peace has washed over us, in ways beyond our own making, in ways which surpass our understanding. This is a moment of Christ coming to us.

A woman sat alone in a hospital room, recovering from a bad car accident. Through the window, the sun shined on to the floor. The light caught the woman's eye and filled her with warmth. She felt the presence of God in that simple reminder. This is a moment of Christ coming to us.

This is what we celebrate at Christmas. We celebrate all the times Christ comes into our lives, filling us with hope, peace, joy, and love. This is who Christ is. Every time we touch upon these qualities, we experience Christ. This is why to celebrate—Christ comes to us! Again and again!

This Advent we will sing the song "Star Child," by Shirley Murray. It is in *The Faith We Sing*. The chorus sings this beautiful prayer:

"This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!"

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

| | |
|----------------|--|
| December 3 | Trustees Meeting at noon |
| December 7 | Thursday Whiz Kids Dinner |
| December 10 | Children's Christmas Program at the 11am Worship Service |
| December 13 | Ladies' Day Out at 11am |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service at 7pm |
| December 26-30 | Mission Trip to Sunflower, MS |
| December 31 | New Year's Eve Worship at 10am |
| January 10 | Ladies' Day Out at 11am |

Please put the church on your Christmas card list. We will show off your cards and pictures on a bulletin board.



E-Giving

Come the first of the New Year, we will be adding an online option of giving. We are pleased to offer this option for our congregation's convenience. Through the webpage, members will be able to make one time donations or set up monthly giving.

Just to let you all know how it works—

there is a 2.75% fee for all credit and debit card transactions, and there is a 1% fee for all transfers of money from personal banking accounts. (To transfer money from your account, we will ask you to fill out a form.)

We appreciate any gift, of course. But if it is possible for you to transfer funds, the church would benefit even more!

Thank you.

Advent Worship Schedule

| | | |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------|
| December 3 | "Prepare the Way" | Advent 1 |
| The Hope of Christ | | Mark 1:1-8 |
| December 10 | "God is Faithful" | Advent 2 |
| The Peace of Christ | | I Corinthians 1:3-9 |
| Children's Play— <i>Christ Comes to Us</i> | | |
| December 17 | "Selfless Love" | Advent 3 |
| The Love of Christ | | Matthew 1:18-25 |
| December 24 | "I Wish Joy Was All Joy!" | Advent 4 |
| The Joy of Christ | | Luke 1:26-38 |
| December 24 | Christmas Eve Service | |
| The Light of the World | | 7:00 pm |
| | "Christ Has Come" | John 1:1-14 |
| December 31 | One Worship Service | |
| First Sunday of Christmas | | 10:00 am |
| | "Christ Came" | Matthew 2:13-23 |

December Mission Team

December 26-30, 2017 to Sunflower, Mississippi

Five years ago, Rev. Veronica Pritchard was appointed to a tiny church in Sunflower, MS. She was there to close the doors; they were just too small. But when she arrived, Veronica saw the needs of the poor community surrounding the church and got to work instead. She helped transform her church into a center where mission teams come to work on the homes in their area. Veronica says, "Delta Grace is a year-round mission hub that provides beds, showers, kitchen facilities, and mission opportunities for mission teams. Teams work on homes of many who have lost hope and do not know what tomorrow brings. Our purpose is to match mission teams with mission work within an hour's drive. Our prayer is that the volunteers will transform the lives of those they serve and in turn have their lives transformed." Check out their website at deltagrace.org.

Crown Heights UMC is looking into forming a mission team to go to Sunflower, Mississippi. We will leave Tuesday December 26, returning Saturday December 30, 2017. We will drive to Mississippi and stay in the Delta Grace dorms. We will do light construction work for three days before returning home. The cost person is \$325. All ages are welcome.

Eleven people have signed up so far: Trina, Justin, Carter, and Nathan North, Janet Basler, Sue Feller, Jim Rust, Aaron Gean, Dylan Dodson, and Bill & Reese Todd. We have room for a few more people. Please consider joining us!

Saturday, December 2, from 9:30 – 11:30, there will be a team meeting at Reese Todd's house. Hope you can join us.

Payment schedule - 2nd payment \$175 due 12/3
Total \$325.00



Finance Update

From Finance:

The Committee is especially appreciative of the church's response to our apportionment giving this year. We continue to work toward our goal while realizing that we have had several unexpected challenges financially during the past year. Thank you to all who have turned in a financial commitment to Libby during our Stewardship Drive. We are beginning to plan for 2018 and appreciate your financial support!
Colleen for the Committee

Throughout the month of December our church invites you to participate in our special Christmas offering. The money collected will go toward our Apportionments and help United Methodist ministries in Oklahoma and around the world. Thank you for all your generosity.

New Administrative Structure

Within all our church committees, we have been discussing a new, simplified structure of governance for our church. Currently we have 4 committees (Administrative, Trustees, Finance, and Staff-Parish Relations), each making the decisions within their area. We moving toward a single-board model, where representatives from each area sit at one table and deal with the big things that come up affecting all areas of the church, like the budget and discerning our church vision. We will call the single-board the Ministry Resource Team. The Ministry Resource Team will have 13 members on it (12 church members and the clergy).

The three representatives for an area may still utilize members to complete the work assigned to them. Especially those currently on Trustees and Finance, be prepared that you may be asked to continue to contribute in certain ways.

The reason we are moving toward this streamlined structure is so we can more efficiently make the decisions of our church and free more people to do the work of the church.

We are moving forward for the Ministry Resource Team to fall into place in January of 2018.

Ministry Resource Team - 2018

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------|
| Trustees | Jared Pickens | 2018 |
| | Mary Brooks | 2019 |
| | Lane Neal | 2020 |
| Finance | Robert Hicks | 2018 |
| | Bill McKnight | 2019 |
| | Lee Endicott | 2020 |
| SPRC | Nancy Anthony | 2018 |
| | Sue Brown | 2019 |
| | Jay Acquaviva | 2020 |
| Church | Janet Basler | 2018 |
| | Spencer Kusi | 2019 |
| | Julie Williams | 2020 |

Holiday Bags

A Big Thank You!

Thank you Church for shopping for Holiday meals donated to Skyline Urban Ministries. Our Church collected 75 bags, each containing a meal (minus the meat) for a family of six. The Skyline driver said, "These bags are a great donation. They will be gone by the end of the day."



Poinsettias 2017

We are now taking orders for the Christmas poinsettias that will beautify our sanctuary. Purchase one or more to honor or remember relatives and friends.

The plants this year are \$12.00 each. Please complete the form below. You may put your order form and check in the offering plate. (Please mark your check "poinsettias")

The information below will be listed in the bulletin. We welcome you to take flowers home following the services on Christmas Eve. Deadline for your order is December 10th.

This is a fundraiser for our church. We will buy poinsettias for our sanctuary and also decorate for Christmas with the extra money.



Christmas 2017

Please print the information as you would like it to appear in the bulletin.

Yes, I would like to give _____ Poinsettias.

Given by: _____

☐ In Memory of: _____

☐ In honor of: _____

☐ Other: _____

☐ To the glory of God.

Gift Cards for Arts Academy, Whiz Kids, and Our Kids

Each and every week, Crown Heights UMC is blessed to have so many children participate in the ministries of our church. On Sunday mornings, our kids come for breakfast and Sunday School. On Wednesday afternoons, we fill this building with 50 budding artists for Arts Academy. And on Thursday afternoons, Whiz Kids from Putnam Heights Elementary School come to read with their individual tutor. These children fill the building with love and energy. They make us laugh and fill each week with adventure!

Many of our children live in or near poverty. Many of our children are from refugee families. Many of our children's parents do not speak English. Many of our children need a little extra help during the holidays. Last year, one of our kids came to us and ask for a Christmas gift-- a new uniform for school. Of all the things this child could have asked for, we were struck with the practicality of his needs.

This year, we would like to gift the kids in our programing with a \$25 gift card before Christmas. We want them to buy something frivolous for themselves or something practical that they need or something for someone they love-- whatever they want!

If you might consider giving us one \$25 Walmart gift card (or two or three!), we will get these gifts to kids who need them.

Thank you for sharing the joy of Christmas with the kids of who call this church home!

"It's a Wrap" at Arts Academy 2017 by Janet Basler

Our wonderful first semester of Arts Academy this school year has come to an end. The teachers who are predominately high school musicians and artists need time to focus on their semester finals at school, so November 29th was our last meeting together until after the Christmas break.

Each Wednesday this year became more melodious and exciting as pianos began playing 'real' songs, guitars started strumming more and more chords, the drum became evenly rhythmic, and the stringed instruments moved from scratchy sounds to smooth melodies. Clay morphed in young hands from lumps

to animals, cups, and medallions. Young performers worked together to master new dance steps and tunes. The new crocheting group has woven themselves into a fun group of young people working side by side as they each create something very special and complicated.

Teachers have been extremely conscientious this year, committing each week to be with their students with new plans, and an enthusiasm that brings the students back after a week of practicing at home. We've had fewer students give up this year than ever before!

Even the snacks took exciting shape as warm s'mores emerged from the kitchen one night, and ice cream on another. A larger cadre of adults has developed to care for all these young teachers and students. More van drivers and riders are available now. George Clevenger and Anita Roesler have joined Charlotte Trobaugh each week monitoring the kids, snacks, vans, & whatever needs their attention. Elizabeth Richards and Stephanie Coles joined Jamie Gross as adult teachers this year. Trina moved from teaching last year to Bible Story person, van driver, and substitute teacher. As always Bruce, Taffy, Aaron, and Charlotte continue to be the backbone of the whole show.

It's been a fantastic first semester, which makes it even more exciting to anticipate what all can 'come into being' next semester as the teachers and students prepare for their 'SHOWCASE OF TALENT' in April. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue to work with these young people. And if you'd like to see it all in action, we are there on Wednesdays from 4:30-5:30 pm, beginning again in January.



Christmas Begins with Whiz Kids Family Dinner

by Janet Basler

December 7th will be the evening that for many of us begins our traditional Holiday Season at Crown Heights. The Christmas Dinner for the Whiz Kids, their tutors and families is a great 'goose bumpy' way to get into the holiday spirit of celebrating God's Son coming to earth.

We graduated a large portion of our Whiz Kids to middle school last year, so we are enjoying younger students this year. They come with wide eyes, and expectations of fun and new friends. They aren't disappointed as they get to know their tutors, eat Charlene and Tom's great food, play reading games, and read new and exciting stories.

The Whiz Kids and their tutors have worked so hard this year to begin the long journey into learning through reading and relationships. They've bonded with each other, building the trust necessary to work on shoring up reading skills. It is the beginning of a new lifelong process of learning and enjoying all God has in store for each of them.

To celebrate their relationships and new beginnings, Brigitte and Glen Gean are gearing up to host the dinner again this year. It promises to be an exciting time with all the new families joining us for the first time. If you'd like to be a part of this celebration on December 6th in preparation, and/or December 7th for the big event, call Janet and you can position yourself to be where Christmas begins this year.



Whiz Kids Christmas Dinner

by Brigitte Gean

December 7th at 5:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Did you know that we serve about 165 meals for the Whiz Kids Dinner? It takes an army to pull it off, that's why we need everyone to come help. We need people to set up, Prepare, Serve and Clean up – even if it is only for an hour or two – **WE NEED YOU!!!** Please come volunteer to help make these children and their families feel special.

Set Up and Decorate Tables

Wednesday – time TBA – (probably 4-6 pm)

Meal Preparation

Wednesday 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Thursday 11:00 am – 5:00 pm

Serve Families 5:00 – 6:30 pm

Clean Up 6:30 -8:00 pm (or until finished)

Call Brigitte if you have questions or would like to volunteer.

The Upper Room is a daily devotional. Our church has copies available in the back of the sanctuary and the anteroom for our members. The January/February edition is available now. Consider taking on this discipline for the New Year.

Thank You!

Thank you so much for showering Baby H with such love, grace and DIAPERS!

We are so very grateful to be a part of such an amazing congregation and can't wait to raise our family at Crown Heights United Methodist Church!



Love, Robert & Kyle

A Letter from John Amick

Dear Members of Crown Heights,

It was great to get to church on Veteran's Day Sunday and I enjoyed having the opportunity to see each of you. I think you were able to see that it is a major operation to get me there, not only for me, but for several others as well, and this is the reason I will not be able to come very often. The note I received from several of you was also a source of great pleasure to me.

I love you all.

Sincerely,
John M. Amick



Girl Scout Troop 584

by Jamie Cross

Girl Scout troop #584 has been BUSY! In October we had a great time camping out (and camping in due to weather) and celebrating Shon's birthday! In November, we had a magical time at the Wizards on Western festival. Thank you to our supportive church family for lending us your camping supplies - we could not do all our fun activities without your help.



Our Girl Scout Troup is looking for a few adults who might be willing to volunteer. If you can help once a month or occasionally, please let Jamie know.

Youth Activities

by Madison Rubino

Youth will meet on December 17th right after Church. We will celebrate Christmas together!

Below are pictures from our Youth Meeting on November 26th. We had pizza and played games.



Merry Christmas!



Movie Night – December & January by Elizabeth

This December, CHUM Movie Night prepares for the holidays with...

BATCHELOR MOTHER (1939)

starring Ginger Rogers and David Niven

Saturday, December 9 @ 6:00pm

A small act of kindness gets department store salesgirl Ginger Rogers into all kinds of trouble, and although their hearts are in the right place, everyone who tries to help only seems to make matters worse. Co-starring David Niven and featuring a cameo by Donald Duck, this Depression-era screwball comedy is howling holiday fun.

As usual, this screening will feature an introduction by me and is appropriate for ages 10+. Drinks and popcorn are provided. Other pot-luck movie snacks are welcome.

"I'm afraid I can't go out with you tonight. I sort of feel like I'm going to have a headache."

In January, CHUM Movie Night enjoys more screwball comedy, namely...

JOY OF LIVING (1938)

starring Irene Dunne and Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

Saturday, January 20 @ 6:00pm

On the surface, musical comedy star Irene Dunne seems to have it all, but behind the scenes, her parasitic family is driving her to distraction. Featuring a young Lucille Ball and another cameo by Donald Duck, the cult of celebrity is literally on trial in this merry mad-dash of a movie.

As usual, this screening will feature an introduction by me and is appropriate for ages 8+. Drinks and popcorn are provided. Other pot-luck movie snacks are welcome.

"Calling all cars! Calling all cars!"

RSVPs are helpful, but not required.

Volunteer in the Archives by Elizabeth

Volunteer in the Archives - Tuesdays at 4:30pm (starting Jan. 2, 2018)

Did you know CHUMC's 90th birthday is just around the corner in 2019?

In anticipation of pulling some fun stuff from our history for the celebration, the church archives needs a little TLC. The plan is to organize things a little at a time (one hour a week) over the next year. Thus, everyone is invited to come volunteer in the CHUMC Archives!

Tuesdays in 2018, 4:30-5:30 pm
Fishermen Classroom

There are projects for all ages and skill sets. We'll be organizing decades of old newsletters, photographs, scrapbooks and other records, looking for historical tidbits to use in the birthday celebration as we go. If you can identify people in old photos, great! Even if you don't know anything about church history, you can still help put things in date order, etc.

Mark Tuesdays at 4:30pm on your calendar and come when you can. Every little bit helps!

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Tues - Thurs afternoons
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Monthly Highlights



These 12 Holiday Bags were put together by the Freshmen Religion majors at Oklahoma City University. In their orientation class, they need to complete a service project — they chose raising money through bake sales and shopping our list. We couldn't be more delighted! Thank you, Freshmen Religion majors!

Maybe you noticed, the Sanctuary doors were in desperate need of some attention! Tom Krone and the guys at Krone Construction refinished our doors beautifully. We truly thank you for this gift to our church.



On November 8, our Ladies' Day Out group went to the Paseo District and ate at Empire Pizza and Roxy's Ice Cream. Our next lunch is December 13 at 11am. Plan on joining us!