

**Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries
of the Oklahoma United
Methodist Conference**

1501 NW 24th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

405/530-2015-Rev. Dr. Stan Basler, Director

E-mail: sbasler@okumc.org

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

E-mail: lrhoads@okumc.org

Fax—405/525-4164

<http://www.cjamm.org>

Calendar of Events 2010

CJAMM Staff Christmas Party Dec 6
First UMC, OKC 6 pm—8 pm

Looking ahead to 2011

New Day Camp I June 13-17
Camp Cross Point

New Day Camp II July 18-22
Camp Cross Point

REDEMPTION YOUTH OKC



Redemption Youth enjoy their time at Frontier City for the Annual St. Yootz Day. Lots of fun and smiles for a good cause. We support all Youth Service Ministries.



Ice Cream Fundraiser

We have raised money for Youth Events and our next mission is outreach. Redemption Youth plan to sell ice cream to make gifts to take to local nursing homes in November. We are looking forward to helping others as God continues to help us. Look for us in the next article making a difference in our community.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



THE NEW GATE

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 2
AUTUMN 2010



From the Director...

For CJAMM Autumn is always interesting because of our reliance on funding outside the apportionment process. We live with the challenge of finishing the year financially solvent. We failed last year and invaded our modest savings.

We have not been irresponsible. Our expenses are actually lower than this time last year. We unexpectedly lost a significant grant that had been promised. Apportionment receipts are down somewhat. Even funds for New Day Camp are significantly less than needed to pay for camp. The OATR government funding we received the past 3 years has expired. Oklahoma was not chosen for the latest cycle.

We are diligently pursuing the funds to pay for ministry done this year. In addition, we are working on plans to solidify funding sources for future years so as to minimize desperate occasions.

I celebrate the response we had to the plea I made in the last edition. Three individuals have contributed \$1,000 apiece. My wife has contributed \$500. My young adult daughter and husband have paid \$600. I truly believe in what we do and have donated \$1,000 above my usual giving. If you also believe that it is important to do this work in the name of the church and that, indeed, ministry to prisoners, their families and former prisoners done by garden variety disciples is properly the work of the church, I invite you to help ensure no cuts in ministry, please give sacrificially before the new year.

In spite of addressing immediate financial concerns, Redemption Churches in Ardmore, Lawton and Tulsa are doing a reentry program designed by DOC as requested by DOC. A large number of Tulsa volunteers received DOC Victim Impact training. We are hoping to have victim impact classes at all Redemption churches so that offenders can become sensitized to the harm they have done and take responsibility for their futures.

The collaboration with OCU Law School, Project Re-entry is going on again this year. Law students volunteer their time, as do practicing supervising attorneys, to assist Penn Ave Redemption prisoners with reentry legal problems.

Rev. Steve Byrd and New Day design team members are off to a great start for next year. This year deans and design team members for both camps will meet jointly, thereby creating more continuity in the camping experience for children and youth who attend our camps for many years.

Enclosed in this issue is a petition to Congress seeking clergy signatures. It has been endorsed by the UM General Board of Church and Society. It seeks to create a task force to recommend specific criminal justice reform measures. Our nation has 5% of the world's population and 25% of the world's prisoners. Something is wrong in our great country.

I will be teaching for both Saint Paul School of Theology and OCU Law School this spring. I will teach American Criminal Law and Restorative Justice at both schools separately. I will also teach the Prison Ministry Immersion and the Prison Industrial Complex as Systemic Sin at Saint Paul.

We will again plan to do Christmas Eve Communion for persons entering DOC at Lexington and Mabel Bassett. I continue to pray for all our staff and volunteers that "God will help us discern God's will minute to minute as we relate to others, to be effective in ministry, make disciples and create communities of faith.

Shalom,
Stan Basler

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Tulsa Redemption	2
Tulsa Exodus House	2
OKC Exodus House	2
OKC Redemption	3
Lawton Redemption	3
OKC Redemption Youth	4
Contact Information	4
Calendar of Events	4

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Tulsa Redemption celebrates new a/c, repaired steeple and many more blessings.*
- *Tulsa Exodus House has successful yearly "reunion" in September.*
- *OKC Exodus House is staff "arrested" for doing good!!*
- *OKC Redemption praises their dedicated UMM and UMW groups.*
- *OHPM Fundraiser was a great success!*
- *New Day Camp 2011 dates announced.*
- *New Day Camp youth are swimming to success.*

SWIMMING TO SUCCESS

Several New Day Camp youth and their siblings are continuing to learn to swim and improve their swimming skills. The group has one more lesson in the second session of swim lessons. The first session began June 13 with several youth joining the fun of swim lessons and pre New Day Camp fun. The second session of swim lessons began August 22 and ends this coming Sunday, October 17. The lessons are part of an initiative by USA Swimming's Make A Splash. More than a half-million children have now taken a swim lesson through the USA Swimming Foundation's Make A Splash initiative. Make a Splash, created in 2007 in response to the fact that drowning is the second-leading cause of accidental death for youth in America, is a national child-focused water safety campaign that aims to provide the opportunity for every child in the nation to learn to swim.

The New Day Camp youth receive lessons at no charge. Instruction is given by USA Certified Swim Coaches with the assistance of USA swimmers of Chesapeake Swim Club. This program is the first and currently only Make A Splash partner in Oklahoma. The goal beyond swim lessons is to allow interested youth the opportunity to be members of Chesapeake Swim Club.

The youth are working extremely hard and want to improve their skills. Parents and guardians of the youth have arranged transportation for all lessons in the second session of swim lessons. When asked what people should know about the program, Alexis stated, "It's FUN!!! You have to work hard, listen and really want it."

Beyond lessons, sponsored by Chesapeake Swim Club, swimmers in the program have received goggles, swim suits, and swim caps donated by Speedo, and pool space provided by the Lighthouse.

You never know where God will lead you. Open your heart and listen. Thanks Stan for the opportunity to be a part of New Day Camp. I had no idea when God called me to be part of New Day Camp in 1997 it would eventually lead to this calling but God did.

—Kathy Mendez, New Day Camp Dean & Swim Team Coach



TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

It's hard to believe that summer is over. It sure was a hot one, but our new air conditioner at Redemption Church has certainly made things cooler! I would like to thank everyone who contributed to make this purchase possible, especially Operation Hope Prison Ministry for their generous contribution. If you drive by St. Luke's Redemption Church, please notice that the steeple has been scraped, repaired and painted. It is especially beautiful at night, shining out over our neighborhood. The work was provided by Mr. Wayne Werner, of Asbury United Methodist Church, Tulsa. Several of the men from Life Gate Homes

assisted him. Paint was provided by two of the Communities from Asbury UMC. The pillars at the entry were also scraped and painted. This was a very large task, and we appreciate it very much. We were very pleased to able to hire a new children's director, Donna Sakariason. She has a wonderful heart for the kids and has made great progress in keeping our Tulsa New Day Campers involved at our Redemption Kids program. We have also been blessed by having **Life Gate Homes** and **His House** join our CJAMM ministry. Bill Bateman, an Exodus House graduate, is the manager at **Life Gate Homes**, and Rhoda Poteet Bear, also an Exodus House

graduate, is managing **His House** for women, located in Claremore. It is truly a blessing to see how our graduates are giving back. As always, I'd like to say thank you to all our wonderful volunteers and supporters. We could not do this without you. Your commitment is contagious! God Bless, Brantley Tillery, Associate Director, CJAMM Tulsa

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

The cooler weather is a reminder that the holiday season is close at hand. Christmas is such a special time here at Exodus House, and it's a joy to watch our residents as well as our volunteers eagerly prepare for its arrival. We'd like to thank everyone who helped make our Reunion an enormous success. Of course, the credit goes to our volunteers and residents who happily donated their time and expertise to insure an enjoyable experience for all. A special, "thanks" goes to Judy Lasiter who continues to amaze us with her uncanny ability to prepare a feast for the ever increasing number of guests who grace

our reunions—this year just over 100. Graduation is a very important event here at Exodus House. It gives us the opportunity to not only honor the resident whose hard work, faith, and diligence has been rewarded with success, but also those who donated their time, sweat, money, love and sometimes tears to help "their" resident succeed. I'm talking about the often unsung heroes: the apartment sponsors. So let's give a big "Hats Off" to the sponsors of our last three graduates: Boston Avenue's Pilgrimage Class, New Haven UMC and First UMC, Tulsa.

Graduation is also a time to recognize the crucial importance of those, who through a leap of faith have employed our residents. We are thrilled to be able to bring together, at the graduation party, the special people who made this accomplishment possible. Please come by to see Exodus house, either for a tour or just to visit. Call Jeannine Bezotte: 918-231-4065 or Darlene Lorenz: 918-231-4013 to arrange a visit. Keep us in your prayers. Jeannine & Darlene



In Photo: Judy Lasiter

OKC EXODUS HOUSE



Exodus House Staff: Robin Wertz, Doyle and Michelle Hines as well as fellow church members Jeannie Wintersmith and Teresa Owens

were arrested for doing good!! As part of the MDA fundraiser at Mickey Mantles' to help Jerry's kids we were all arrested and taken to Mickey Mantles' for a gourmet bread and water meal while we all made calls to our fellow friends and church community to help raise our bail. We had a GREAT time and raised over \$1300.00. We want to thank you all for your donations to such a worthy cause!!



We also would like to thank Eugene Lawson, Bud Manning and all

of our Redemption United Methodist Men for their new sponsorship of Apt # 14. They have been over every Saturday for over a month and are completely remodeling the apartment. They are painting, laying tile and new flooring, replacing old appliances and really going all out. We are so thankful for all your work and also for all your help with the remodeling of our community room. We now have the extra space we have desperately needed for our growing community. We have so much fun and fellowship when you are all here!!

Thank you to Choctaw United Methodist Men for the beautiful job you did on Apt. # 7. We are so grateful to Kelly Davis and ALL the men who spent so much time and effort to make the apartment like brand new with the new paint and carpet and the beautiful furniture donated by your Choctaw UMC congregation. A special thanks to Pat Etzkins and all of those from Church of the Servant who helped make Apt # 5 such a welcome for our two mummies and their babies. What a joy for them to be released and bring their 2 yr old and 13 month old home upon their release. The love and appreciation in their eyes when they walked in and the welcome they felt is what our ministries

are all about. We would also like to continue to encourage any Sunday School Classes to sponsor a new resident by taking them out for a meal, buying them an outfit or making a hygiene basket, or giving a gift card when they get here. We also desperately need bus passes for our residents. One of their immediate needs upon being released is to find a job and although we are on a bus line we continue to have a real need to supply them with bus passes. We also encourage your classes to throw towel showers or linen showers (twin & full sheets, pillow cases, pillows and blankets) for the residents. We would like to invite you to come take a tour of Exodus House or we would love to be invited to speak about our program to any of your classes or congregations. We would like to thank all of you who donate to Exodus House: we are so appreciative to you all. We are in real need of good twin mattresses, T.V.s, dressers, end tables, dining room tables as well as any household items and other furniture. For all those who I may have left out Thank You so much all for your continued support, your prayers and your many gifts to us. God Bless You!! —Robin Wertz, Case Manager

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

Our attendance continues to run about 140 inmates each Thursday and each Sunday. We are truly blessed to be able to bring so many of the incarcerated men and women to church and classes. Due to the large numbers we are in need of drivers with CDL's with passenger endorsement to drive the three buses. If you are one, or know someone who is, we would welcome your help in transporting our congregants.

Thank you to Church of the Servant Mission Team who came for a work day in August. They planted mums in our flower beds, painted our library, worked hard filling in holes in the parking lot, and did some work on our Sanctuary door. You blessed us beyond measure! Also, thank you Mary Martha Circle for bringing your love and nurturing through sandwiches, chips, and delicious home-made sweets and tea breads. Your loving, nurturing presence graces our church. Thank you Carol Gifford, Church of the Servant, for your beautiful talent in the afghan you send each month. The recipients are truly thrilled with your precious gift. It is such a thoughtful way to wrap them in God's warmth. A big hug and continued thanks to Kip Neaves and the Choir of Church of the Servant for their support with coffee and cookies. The need for

both is great and you fill it with such love and joy. We appreciate each of you so very much.

Our UMM work faithfully and tirelessly to keep our Church building in good order. Their efforts produce a well kept, comfortable place to worship and fellowship. Thank you! Their community outreach for the last couple of months has been to rejuvenate an apartment at Exodus House. I understand it is really fresh and colorful!

Our UMW continues to grow. We are thankful the Department of Corrections approves us to participate in District events. We attended the South Oklahoma City District UMW Annual Meeting at Moore First United Methodist Church. This included a tour of the Carolyn Williams Center. Our ladies had a great time meeting others from the district and learning more about UMW. They are eager to prepare Christmas goodies for the young men who participate in this program. Our ladies are continuing their projects for Child Sharere. They made 150 sun visors and decorated 150 Frisbees for the Child Share summer picnic. It is truly a joy to know how

much our ladies are blessed by these projects. We want to express our thankfulness for some of our incarcerated men who so quietly and faithfully work their way through their time at Redemption. They serve our gracious Lord and the church faithfully by cleaning the fellowship hall and kitchen, keeping the trash cans emptied, the hallways picked up, the soda cans emptied before they go to the recycle bin. Their servant's heart is such an awesome example for all of us. Thank you good and faithful servants!

Our paramours for our Sanctuary are well loved and used. If there is a church that has some unused ones they would like to share, please contact the church office at 405-528-0963.

Daily I thank God for continuing to serve in such an exciting ministry and place. I am so thankful for each and every volunteer who serves at Redemption. Each of you blesses our church beyond measure. Thank you! —Marcia Manning

LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

God is with us—yesterday, today, and forever!

A little over five years ago, I was teaching the Gospel of Matthew Bible study that I had written for the Board of Ordained Ministry to my first group of offender as a new Redemption pastor—10 men who had proclaimed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and were hoping to find Him in the Lawton Redemption Church. During that class, we lifted up prayers for a better relationship with the Department of Corrections and with our community. We prayed for a Southwest District-wide reentry program and God's blessing on our efforts to help discharging men find their way back home. We prayed that our people would find healing and salvation in Christ, and recovery support to help end the cycles of addiction, violence, and generational parentlessness. I remember the assurance that God spoke to my

heart that those prayers were God's invitation to grace—we would see all these things God intended for our people, just be faithful.

God is faithful. October 3, Mr. Jim Martin, Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church volunteer, began instruction in the first class for The 100 Hour Transition Program for the offenders of Lawton Community Corrections—a program that will train offenders in post-prison life skills, help prisoners commit and fulfill one-year employment commitment, and help place discharging offenders in housing after prison. Rev. Anita Alford, Transitional Coordinator for ODOC, developed and implemented the program and will partner with Redemption Church in helping us to develop the program locally. For offenders that succeed in the program, local jobs that pay a living wage are a reality. It's

grace. Redemption Church said "See you later" to Rev. Dr. Kip and Beth Wright who were appointed to the Bristow UMC. Kip and Beth were devoted seasoned God-journey travelers who became great DOC volunteers, bringing the breath of blessed life to all of our people for three years. They are missed!

We wish to thank all of the churches that brought meals, clothes, and donated finances or time to the Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church. If God has spoken to your heart about serving the "least of these" through class-room teaching, in some areas of life skills, please call me at 580-512-7843. Blessings abound in discipleship and service.

Many blessings, Pastor Becky

NEWS FLASH - OHPM FUNDRAISER

The Operation Hope Fundraiser, held October 8, was a huge success, with 350 guests attending. Janet Theis, Chairperson of the Fundraiser, said that from early indications, it was financially successful as well. Thanks to all who contributed to the success of the evening. Watch for full details in the next issue of New Gate.



OHPM Fundraiser Chairperson, Janet Theis, looking very happy as she sees a full house at the Fundraiser dinner!