



# THE NEW GATE

VOLUME 11, ISSUE 2  
SUMMER 2009



## From the Director...

I have just returned from an interesting time away. From July 7-19, Janet and I were on a mission trip to Estonia. Among other things I was able to tour Tartu prison in Estonia, visit with some inmates and preach. The chapel was the central spot in the complex and cornerstone for the facility was under the chapel. The chapel was the only building in the facility with no bars on the windows.

I was able to present my paper at the Second Annual Restorative Justice Conference in San Antonio. Attendance was 85 of the 300 total conference participants.

We have completed both New Day Camps. We had 105 children for Camp 1 (ages 8-11) and 66 for Camp Too (ages 12-14). Total staff for Camp 1 was 67 adults and 14 youth aides and for Camp Too 57 adults .

Thanks to the efforts of Associate Director Becky Baxter-Crowell Exodus House OKC received a \$35,000 grant from The INASMUCH Foundation. The grant will also be paid for 2 more years.

CJAMM has been a provider of Access to Recovery funds for ex-prisoners in Tulsa, OKC and soon, Lawton. These funds are provided by voucher to clients so faith-based organizations can receive funds without changing practices or identity. Penn Ave Redemption has been praised verbally as the best faith-provider in the program.

This past Sunday I preached at Quayle UMC in OKC. I talked with a young man who told me that he had been out of prison for a short time. He had attended Ardmore Redemption Church for 19 months. He had entered prison "a broken down Baptist." After his Redemption experience he began attending Quayle, which was near his residence, as soon as he was released.

Saint Paul School of Theology has now officially adopted a specialty in the Master of Divinity curriculum in "Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice." The 3 courses I teach will be the core. The Prison Ministry Immersion will be offered January 8-15 of 2010. Non-seminarians can take the course. Contact me if you are interested.

I preached Sunday July 5 at St. Paul UMC in Muskogee. I am hopeful that we will have a Muskogee Redemption Church before the end of the year.

Rev. Norm Wasson of Sentinel UMC is leading a Disciple Bible Study at the Faith and Character Unit of Oklahoma State Reformatory. It has been deemed as character formative by the appropriate DOC personnel. Disciple continues to be taught by a group of people at Mabel Bassett CC, the women's prison in McLoud.

The Episcopal Church in Oklahoma organized the Parish of St. Patrick several years ago. The concept is that of providing weekly, where possible, denominational services in Oklahoma prisons. One goal is to provide some religious consistency for prisoners who are moved. CJAMM and the Episcopalians have agreed that we will work with them in the St. Patrick ministry in prisons and they will work with CJAMM in re-entry, Redemption Churches and Exodus Houses.

Our annual Board retreat is August 23-24 at Camp Egan this year. The speaker will be the new DOC Deputy Director for Female Offenders, Ms. Laura Pittman.

We also acknowledge the retirement of Deputy Director Debbie Mahaffey, wife of Rev. Mike Mahaffey, pastor of Fletcher UMC. Ms. Mahaffey was a great friend to prison and re-entry ministries and is a CJAMM Board member. Finally we celebrate the ordination of Associate Director Rev. Becky Baxter-Crowell as an elder at Annual Conference and the appointment of Rev. Claudia Lovelace as Director of Skyline Urban Ministries.

—Stan Basler



## Inside this issue:

Tulsa Redemption	2
New Day Camp Too	2
Tulsa Exodus House	2
Lawton Redemption	3
OKC Redemption Kids	3
OKC Exodus House	4
Calendar of Events	4
Tulsa Exodus House	4

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- New Day Camp Too great success and blessings
- Bill Bateman and Jeannine Bezotte attend Tulsa City Council meeting
- Faithbuilders Community from Tulsa Asbury UMC adopt apartment
- Rev. Becky Baxter-Crowell ordained at Annual Conference
- OKC Redemption Kids will attend St. Yootz Day
- OKC Exodus House is blessed with new stairway and welcomes new facility manager, Doyle Hines and wife, Michelle
- Tulsa Exodus House Reunion set for Monday, Sept 7

# CJAMM TULSA

Greetings from Tulsa:



It has been a blessing seeing the love of Christ at work in this ministry. There are so many ways that this takes place. Normally, when we think of CJAMM, we think about showing God's love to

offenders, ex-offenders and their families. This we love to do.

However, there is another side of CJAMM that we often don't consider. One of the wonderful

aspects about being an extension ministry of the United Methodist Church, is that we offer our members an opportunity to fulfill their baptismal vows in many different areas of service. CJAMM is just one of a number of opportunities for United Methodists to share God's love in our world. It is such a blessing to be a part of seeing our church do so many things for so many people. It's a privilege to watch our volunteers draw closer to God as they serve. Jesus was right, it is in giving that

we receive. Sometimes I wonder who gets the most out of this ministry, those we serve or those who are serving!

We are proud of our graduates and volunteers who recently had the privilege of speaking at a Tulsa City Council meeting regarding potential fair housing issues. Bill Bateman and Jeannine Bezotte shared how their lives have been changed by the opportunity to be a part of a group like Exodus House. They were applauded by the large group in attendance. Volunteer Darrel May also spoke.

*God Bless - Brantley*

## NEW DAY CAMP TOO 2009

GREAT NEW CHANGES AT NEW DAY TOO AND GREAT BLESSINGS AS A RESULT!

This year at New Day Too the design team implemented several new programs and workshops in response to adult volunteer and camper responses on end-of-camp surveys. Many of the small group leaders in the past two years have reported that they were not comfortable leading Bible study once each day and complained of an inability to keep the campers' attention. Obviously, next to worship this is the most important component of the camp. Therefore, the design team specifically recruited college-aged youth leaders to lead one Bible study session for all the boys and their group leaders and a like one for the girls. After the 20-30 minute Bible study the campers broke out into their small group meeting areas with their leaders and did a follow up game, or writing, or craft to support the Bible lesson just taught. The reviews of this were amazing.

All these new programs and workshops have been a great addition to the camp, but possibly the most dramatic was this year's addition of a forty-five minute session at the Prayer Labyrinth recently constructed at Cross Point Camp behind

the tabernacle. As the small groups approached the labyrinth the campers began to ask if it was a maze, why they were out there, what its purpose was. The leader of this session explained to the campers that a maze has wrong turns, different paths, dead ends, and is a race to a finish or a prize. A labyrinth, however, has one path and it ends in the center always. In the center she placed a cross made out of white rocks. She promised them that if they kept their eyes on their path in front of them only (no looking backward, or forward or to the sides), and went forward slowly, but deliberately, quietly using their inner voice God gave them to talk to him, that they would all end up in the middle where the cross is. She told them to listen to the annual cicadas chirping in the hot afternoon heat and to know that each of them would be dead in two or three days; to think about how they make as much noise as possible while they live, but they are still soon gone. As they each entered the labyrinth they each said aloud "God let me be still." They were spaced by the session leader about 30 paces apart. As they reached the end, the group leader met them at the inner circle with the cross, and they circled the cross slowly looking down at it having been asked

before they started to just think about how much Jesus loves them while they did this. Then as they left the labyrinth where they had started, one by one they each said aloud "God be with me." The session leader reported that not one time did these 11-14 year olds talk, giggle, trample others or act inappropriately in any way. They were reverent, serious and blessed by the hand of God as they walked. Each group, each camper and each small group leader was touched and felt God's presence. When finished, many of the campers said "We ended up where you promised, just like God promises us heaven." We got dizzy and we worried we were getting lost if we looked sideways or back, but when we looked down at our own path and kept going we could always see where to go like how God shows us where to go when we pray." "If I got off my path I could step right back on, like how God always forgives us if we have a truly sorry heart he'll let us back on the path of being a Christian." "It was nice to be so quiet." It was a truly blessed experience that God gave these children at the labyrinth when he met with them there that hot July week.



# TULSA EXODUS HOUSE

We welcome the Faithbuilders Community from Asbury UMC as new sponsors of Apartment "C". They have installed a new air conditioning/heating unit, and are finishing new flooring for the bathroom and kitchen. It will be a lovely home for a new resident and we appreciate the enthusiasm and care they bring.

A special thank you also is in order to volunteer Charlie Lord, owner of the "Just Fence It" Company in Pryor. He recently donated labor and most of the supplies to install a beautiful new fence and gates at

Exodus House. His wife, Rev. Mary Lord, is a resource to Exodus House women who have been in her classes and worship at Eddie Warrior and Jess Dunn facilities. Mary serves as a Deacon at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Tulsa.

We appreciate all of our Exodus House Apartment sponsors. Their support and love mean so much to our residents. Come meet them at the Labor Day Reunion, and see the improvements that the churches have made this facility since last year!

Jeannine Bezotte—Case Manager

## OKLAHOMA ACCESS TO RECOVERY

Worley Holmes, Operation Hope Board Member/Volunteer, is working with client advocacy. We have 5 people who are trained and qualified to see clients for this program. OATR came to Tulsa in October 2008, and the vouchers are primarily active for a 6 month period. This program is made possible through the Oklahoma Mental Health Association. Operation Hope has seen 233 clients through the OATR program as of July 2009.



—Mary Leslie, Administrative Manager, OHPM

# LAWTON ALDERSGATE REDEMPTION CHURCH

*Grace and Peace from the members, volunteers, and prisoners of Aldersgate Redemption United Methodist Church.*

In August, Bob Wiseman presented awards to four young fathers that completed Fatherhood and Parenting class at Aldersgate Redemption Church. These young fathers were also victims of generational parentlessness, but hope to build new relationships with their children. The class is eye opening and profound for men, as they learn their own needs and the needs of their children for nurture. Every year, Bob and Jim Martin receive many Father's Day phone calls from former prisoners who consider Bob and Jim to be loving fathers to them while they were incarcerated.

The CJAMM mission is to serve Jesus Christ through developing Christian relationships with people behind prison walls, helping them to break generational cycles of prison, addiction, and parental abandonment with the love and support of the Church. Some time ago, our director envisioned a statewide fatherhood ministry to men in prison. In Stan's vision, CJAMM would train and send nurturing Christian men to mentor and train fathers behind prison walls to

become loving parents and build good relationships with their children. In his vision, men that took the training would get an opportunity to spend time with their children and develop a loving relationship that would carry over into life after reentry. Stan's vision was funded by the Petree Committee at the UMC Foundation.

Fatherhood Initiative has become a statewide priority and mission of OK DHS and OK DOC. CJAMM volunteers have begun to train and will be deployed into Oklahoma prisons to teach and nurture fathers in prison. Recently I spoke at a Fatherhood workshop sponsored by FaithLinks, the faithbased initiative of OKDHS, about the CJAMM vision and the need for volunteers to work on the front lines of Kingdom Mission. There is a lot of hope for a better life for future generations of God's people as the Church lives it's Kingdom call. If you feel a tug at your heart for the fatherlessness in our prisons and in OK communities all across the state, call me at 580-512-7843—God is sending servants into our prisons that will answer God's call to serve.

The volunteers and members celebrated the

marriage of David and Lanaia Martell. Many thanks to Jim Martin for his steadfast commitment to the Martells as he worked with LCCC case managers and counseled David and Lanaia. Many thanks to our volunteers that decorated and made the wedding a beautiful Spirit filled ceremony.

On a personal note, after 10 years of schooling, education, boards, and lots of prayer, I was ordained at annual conference with Stan standing up with me as my father in the faith. I am very thankful for his influence in my life. The volunteers, prisoners and members gave me a special robe that was designed and tailored especially for me by Dee Dee's Robes in Duncan by Rev. Brenda Petty. What a blessing and an honor to serve in CJAMM in the Oklahoma Annual Conference of the UMC.

Many thanks and blessings to the faithful volunteers that serve the least, the last and the lost at Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church.

—Becky Baxter-Crowell

## OKC REDEMPTION KIDS

Here at Redemption Church, OKC we keep the children involved in positive projects that will increase their self esteem and sense of self worth. We have held several fundraisers this month in efforts to attend the YSF featured St. Yootz Day. The fundraisers have been fun and uplifting. Please continue to pray for the children that have incarcerated parents.



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

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## Calendar of Events 2009

Exodus House Tulsa Annual Reunion	Sept 7
2624 E. Newton St., Tulsa	4—6 pm
COJC#10	Aug 28-30
Central OK Juvenile Ctr, Tecumseh	
DCF#8	Sep 17-20
Davis Correctional Facility, Holdenville	
DCCC#21	Oct 1-4
Dick Connor Correctional Ctr, Hominy	
MBCC #29	Oct 15-18
Mabel Bassett Correctional Ctr, McLoud	
CCF#12	Nov 6-8
Cimarron Correctional Facility	
JCCC#16	Nov 12-15
James Crabtree Correctional Ctr, Helena	

**PLEASE COME JOIN US FOR  
THE EXODUS HOUSE TULSA  
REUNION**

**LABOR DAY—MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2009**

**4 pm—6 pm**

**2624 E. NEWTON STREET,  
TULSA, OK**

**RSVP: (918) 231-4065—  
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## EXODUS HOUSE OKC

Exodus House has a complete new face lift—thanks to so many people. In the chaos of a water flood from an upstairs apartment onto the offices below, God used the opportunity to show us how HE could turn something bad into something good. With the aid of insurance and denominational grants, our facility is looking great. The old metal stairs that were rusted and collapsing have been removed. New wooden stairs and wooden rails have replaced the old. Please come by and let us show you our newly decorated offices and beautiful courtyard.



Our facility manager, Les Lamp, has resigned. I would like to take this time to thank Les for all his hard work and pray his health will continue to improve. We want to welcome Doyle Hines and his wife Michelle. Doyle is our new Facility Manager. Doyle and his wife are both ex-offenders. They are also active at Redemption Church. We welcome them as a husband and wife team here at Exodus House.

First Church of Edmond donated 10 mattresses & inner springs with frames. Thanks to Joe Gorman and his team for making that happen.

All of our apartments are occupied and spoken for through applications, we have several more mothers due to come with children, which will increase our number of children.



Exodus House Residents—April 1, 2009

We want to thank everyone who donates to Exodus House; we are so appreciative. We are in need of **good couches and chairs** for several apartments and we will soon have two residents graduating and we will need to refurnish their apartments. As you already know, it takes a lot of items to refurnish an apartment.

Besides our dire need of good furniture, we are in need of **twin sheet sets**, and **blankets, shower curtains** are much needed.

—Estelle Turbyfill, Case Manager

(405) 409-5921