



THE NEW GATE

VOLUME 12, ISSUE 1
SUMMER 2010



From the Director...

The summer is New Day Camp time for CJAMM. Camp I, which serves 8-11 year olds who have an incarcerated parent, was held June 14-18. We served 85 children this year. We had invited 90. The smaller camp allowed us to provide much more individual attention and a more satisfying camp experience. We had 18 youth workers. Many of them were former New Day Campers. Our total staff number was 80. We appreciate volunteers who transported campers from the Tulsa area, Perry UMC, Southern Hills UMC, OKC, Lawton First UMC, Altus First UMC, Grove UMC and Harrah UMC.

New Day Camp Too is July 12-16. We served 41 youth ages 12-14. The total staff will be 39. We are grateful to transportation volunteers from the Tulsa area, Harrah UMC, Wesley UMC, OKC, St. Andrews UMC, Moore First UMC, Wesley UMC Muskogee and Altus First UMC.

The Redlands and Pleasant Hill UMC charge in the McAlester District has donated nearly \$1,000 to New Day. An individual in the Ardmore District has donated \$5,000. Bixby UMC in the Tulsa District donated \$1500. These are only a few examples of generosity. We are still short more than \$30,000 in funding the camps this year and appreciate the gifts necessary to pay for this great ministry experience we have provided.

For the first time this year Redemption Kids groups in OKC and Tulsa had pre-camp parties for Camp I New Day campers and post-camp parties. We are working very hard to retain these children in church.

Kathy Mendez, a volunteer from Edmond New Covenant UMC has obtained a grant for a swimming program for Redemption Kids. The parties for campers included swimming activities. She hopes to create a swim team from children with incarcerated parents.

One of the highlights at Annual Conference was the ordination of Claudia Lovelace as an Elder in Full Connection. Claudia will serve again as camp nurse for New Day Too. Claudia joined Penn Ave UMC while still a prisoner. She presently serves as Director of Skyline Urban Ministry. We are very proud of her.

Ginger Joiner, a Tulsa Exodus House graduate, former employee, graduated from Tulsa Community College this past spring. She served at New Day Camp I as part of an education-related internship. We are proud of her as well.

Two or three Saint Paul School of Theology students have enrolled in the new "Prison Ministry and Restorative Justice" specialization in the Master's program. I will be teaching "Leadership and Administration" in the Course of Study school on the Saint Paul Kansas City campus.

The CJAMM Board retreat is at Cross Point Camp on August 15 and 16th. Our speaker will be Linda Jackson of DOC who is designing the new program for crime victims.

In September, I will be speaking at "The Peace Conference" in Lake Junaluska, N.C. I will present a seminar about children with incarcerated parents.

My wife Janet and I just finished a mission trip to the Kenai peninsula of Alaska. Thanks to the assistance of Rev. Richard Whetsell I was able to talk with inmates at 2 prisons about re-entry and join them in worship. The VIM team worked on a center for homeless men a couple of miles from a prison. Our hope is that this facility will be important in prison re-entry there.

I have written an article requested by *The Christian Citizen Magazine*, an American Baptist publication about Redemption Church. I hope it will be published in the near future. My daily prayer for our ministry staff and volunteers remains that "God will help us discern God's will minute to minute as we relate to others, that we may be effective in ministry, make disciples and create communities of faith.

Shalom,
Stan Basler



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *Tulsa Redemption welcomes Coweta UMC as a Sunday night meal sponsor*
- *Mark your calendars for the Annual Labor Day Reunion at Tulsa Exodus House*
- *OKC Exodus House is thankful to many for their hard work and donations*
- *OKC Redemption Youth invites all to attend "A Musical Blast" and announce upcoming swim team*
- *OHPM announces annual fall fundraiser*
- *CJAMM Board Retreat to be held in August at Cross Point Camp*

TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH



I hope everybody is having a wonderful summer. My prayers are for you and your family this time of year. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all your prayers and support over the last few months for me and my family as we have experienced the loss of my father. There were so many people who filled in for me in my absence -- especially Judy Bradford, Estelle Ray, Jan Boyd and Steve Bear, who preached for one of our services. Our wonderful staff and

regular volunteers took care of everything else. The cards and flowers also helped make a difficult time much less difficult. Once again thanks to each one of you.

We welcome the Coweta United Methodist Church for becoming one of our Sunday night meal sponsors. Bixby UMC will be bringing a music group to participate in worship in August. We appreciate the churches who share their music with us. Call if you have a group who would like to participate in one of these or other ways.

I'd also like to express my thanks to all the fine folks in Locust Grove. As many of you know, my wife, Cydni, is now the pastor of the United Methodist Church there and we'd like to thank them for all the work they did on the parsonage and the warm welcome to town. May God bless you this summer!

Brantley Tillery, Tulsa
918/798-6816

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE



Coweta First UMC Youth

Summer, once again, has come to Exodus House Tulsa, and our campus never looked better. We are overwhelmed by the dedication exhibited by our residents, who worked tirelessly to make their home a showplace. Of course, they did get a hand from youth groups representing Coweta First UMC, Boston Ave UMC, Claremore First UMC and Muskogee First UMC. They helped spiffy up our vehicles as well as our grounds. Their combined efforts have generated a lot of compliments in the neighborhood. For many residents, Exodus House has provided the first home they have ever had all to themselves. It sure is heart warming to hear the pride in their voices as they give family, friends and neighbors a tour of their new home.



Tulsa Exodus House Courtyard

The end of Summer will bring our Labor Day Reunion at the Tulsa Exodus House! It is hard to believe this will be my third year as case manager here at Exodus House, and I am still amazed by all the wonderful volunteers and staff that support this ministry. This year the Reunion will be September 6th, 4 to 6 pm. Exodus House is located at 2624 E. Newton Street here in Tulsa. Please RSVP to Jeannine at (918) 231-4065 or Darlene at (918) 231-4013 and call if you need directions. —**Jeannine Bezotte and Darlene Lorenz-Williams God bless you!**

OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Exodus House OKC has undergone some great changes and we owe special thanks to so many for all these changes, their time and their genuine love for our ministry.

First we would like to thank First United Methodist Church Downtown and all the volunteers who came in June. What a great gift it was for us. Not only did they bring a large crew of people but they accomplished so much. We have a beautifully landscaped courtyard, with ground cover, flowers and roses as well as landscaping our outside grounds. They remodeled our laundry room which has been in great need of a facelift. Also they painted our stairs, trim and installed storm doors for each apartment and some electrical work.

We also would like to thank our Redemption United Methodist Men for their help with tile and carpeting Apt #13. Rewiring and electrical work as well as becoming sponsors for Apt # 14 and a special thanks to Eugene Lawson for sponsoring several new residents.

We would like to also thank Margaret Harlan

for donating her 1998 Chevy Astro van to our ministry. We are currently operating at nearly full capacity and it is a wonderful and well used addition to us here at Exodus House.

We would like to thank Earthglow book store and Church of the Servant for their generous donation to us. You are such a blessing to us in so many ways.

Thank you to Choctaw UMC and Ada UMC for inviting us to speak about Exodus House and to Piedmont and Moore confirmation classes for touring our facility and your hygiene baskets. What a wonderful house warming present for our new residents.

We now have five sponsored apartments and our desire is to have more sponsors this year. 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, food basket or giving a gift card when they get here. Also special thanks to some of our new resident sponsors: Sherri Miller, Teresa Owens, Cheryl

Griegs and Eugene and Sherri Lawson.

We would like to thank all of you who donate to Exodus House: we are so appreciative to you all. We are in need of good twin mattresses, twin sheets, pillows, T.V.s, dressers, end tables, dining room tables as well as any household items and other furniture.



OKC Exodus House Residents

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

(405) 409-5921

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

We are excited to welcome our new volunteers to OKC Redemption: Bonnie Cregan, Jeanie Wintersmith, Amy Warren, David Nole, LaKeesha McCormick, Phyllis Honious and Harrietta Williams, Judy Horne, Sherry Miller and Mark Hayes. Each one brings their special gifts and talents to our ministry.

Judy Horne, Mark Hayes and Harrietta Williams, Certified Lay Speakers, have joined our ministry teaching classes on Thursday evening. Judy plays the keyboard with our band, while Mark and Harrietta are teaching Bible Studies. Harrietta and Phyllis are currently sharing about the Bad Girls of the Bible and Mark is ready to share about the Bad Boys of the Bible. Our congregants are having a wonderful time learning and sharing and growing. Jonathan Burch is also conducting a Covenant Discipleship class for some of the men. A huge hug of thanks to each of you.

We have been blessed to have Rev. Claudia Lovelace from Skyline Urban Ministries, Rev. Cecelia Brooks from the Langston Wesley Foundation and Charles Kaupke of the Cowboy Church fill our pulpit while Rev. Steve and Rev. Stan were at New Day Camp. Lay Speakers Mark Hayes, Harrietta Williams and Judy Horne and Rev. Marvin Nelson filled our pulpit while Steve and Stan were away during New Day Camp Too. Thank you for sharing God's Word with us!

We so appreciate the churches and other organizations who make donations financially, and of food, coffee and cookies. We are also

blessed by the donation of beautiful hand-made crocheted throws. We have been receiving one blanket a month and they are being passed on to the new residents at Exodus House.

Our United Methodist Men's group continues to serve our community by doing projects for those who are in need of help. The group has built a ramp and deck for a man who needed wheelchair access to his home, they have done a variety of projects for a young couple getting into their first home, and they have laid new carpet in our churches' foyer – including designing a cross at the threshold entrance to our Fellowship Hall. Beautiful!!!

Our United Methodist Women's group had a delightful time at the South OKC District's Day Apart at Southern Hills UMC. We are continuing to find ways to help and support the children of CHILDSHARE. We had a wonderful time at our July meeting making fudge and peanut butter rice krispie treats for a fund raiser on July 4th. Both of these groups continue to grow and thrive as we learn to be the church for our community and world.

We continue to stand in awe of God's defining moments in our church. We are fulfilling the dream as we grow in number

of former prisoners who are making Redemption OKC their home church. Many of them are also becoming DOC badged volunteers. Below you will find a picture of just a few of these wonderful partners in ministry.



It is an honor and privilege to be a part of such a special and wonderful ministry. Thank you to our precious volunteers and supporters for their dedication and hard work. Thanks to Wayne and Peggy for sharing their love of the land and the fruit of their fields with the church. The vegetables you are growing and sharing are such a special treat for all of us.

Grace and Peace,
Marcia Manning

OKC REDEMPTION YOUTH



R to L: Abbey and Allee

These ladies are gearing up their music for a Praise Dance that they will be performing at the "Musical Blast" to be held on Sunday, August 1, 2010 at 10:30 AM at Penn Avenue Redemption UMC, 1320 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City. Come join us!!

OKC Redemption Youth would like to thank Kathy Mendez for coordination of the Salvation Swim Parties that were held at the Light House Fitness Center in Oklahoma City. The children had a fantastic time at the swim party and they are looking forward to the swim team that Kathy will be organizing in the future. Her volunteers are wonderful, helpful and patient. This program will benefit the children in multiple positive ways. Our Hat's off to **Kathy Mendez**. This program will benefit the children in multiple positive ways. ..



Youth swimmers

Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries
of the Oklahoma United

1501 NW 24th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

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

E-mail: sbasler@okumc.org

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

E-mail: lrhoads@okumc.org

<http://www.cjamm.org>

Calendar of Events 2010

A Musical Blast	Aug 1
Penn Avenue Redemption UMC, 1320 N. Penn, OKC	10:30 am
CJAMM Board Retreat	Aug 15-16
Camp Cross Point	5 pm—3 pm
Exodus House Tulsa Reunion	Sept 6
2624 E. Newton, Tulsa	4 pm—6 pm
Operation Hope Annual Fundraiser	Oct 8
Asbury UMC, Tulsa	6 pm

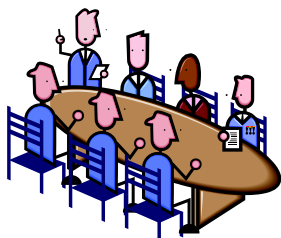


CJAMM Annual Board Retreat/ Ministry Report

**Sunday, August 15 at 5:00 pm
through
Monday, August 16 at 3:00 pm**

Cross Point Camp, Kingston, OK

**Guest Speaker: Linda Jackson,
OK Department of Corrections**



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OPERATION HOPE PRISON MINISTRY

OHPM has been busy net working with agencies in the best interest of our clients. OHPM has partnered with Tulsa Community Voice Mail which is based at the Tulsa Day Center for the homeless. From this, our clients can be given a voice mail at our office. This will assist them in job searches and many other benefits such as weather alerts, job openings, and civic events. As in this picture, Coweta UMC youth came as a work team. They made cards and packaged Spirit Bracelets on behalf of the Oklahoma UMC Conference that were given to the youth at the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference of the UMC. OHPM wants to announce some needs. AT&T will put a new SIM card in a donated, used AT&T phone which only requires minutes to be purchased and no contract required. So, take time to get rid of personal info on your old AT&T phones and donate them for our very needy clients. Older model televisions are donated but are lacking converter boxes. By now, there are probably many upgraded new TVs in homes and the converter boxes have been set aside. We can use them. OHPM has its Annual Fall Fundraiser coming up. Mark your calendars for October 8th. It will be held at the Asbury UMC in Tulsa. For more info, please contact Operation Hope Prison Ministry office at 918-599-0663.



Coweta UMC Youth and Mary Leslie

Mary Leslie, Administrative Manager