

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

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Oklahoma City, OK 73106


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**Calendar of Events 2009**

- KOE#7 May 1-3  
Bixby UMC, Bixby
- RESTORATIVE JUSTICE CONF May 16  
St. Paul's Cathedral, 127 NW 7th St, OKC  
Keynote Presenter: Rev. Dr. Stan Basler  
Register at [www.episcopaloklahoma.org/events](http://www.episcopaloklahoma.org/events)
- New Day Camp I June 7-12  
Camp Cross Point, Kingston
- New Day Camp Too July 12-17  
Camp Cross Point, Kingston
- Exodus House Tulsa Annual Reunion Sept 7  
2624 E. Newton St., Tulsa 4-6 pm  
All residents, former residents and friends are invited.
- KOW#19 May 29-31  
Mt. St. Mary's Retreat Center, OKC
- 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

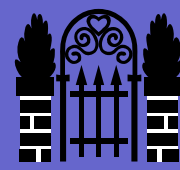
 **GOLFERS—SAVE THIS DATE!**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Golf tournament benefiting Operation Hope is scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2009 in Tulsa, at Meadowbrook Country Club. The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Golf benefit was held in November 2008, and netted approximately \$17,000. to extend this ministry. Operation Hope is a part of the outreach of CJAMM; their office is at Redemption Tulsa. If you would like to be a part of this October event, contact Giles Gere: 918-284-0717.

Contact Lesia Rhoads if you would like a free subscription to "The New Gate" newsletter that is published quarterly. lrhoads@okumc.org

**The Boys of Heaven Mime Dancers**

The Boys of Heaven (BOH) - Gospel Mime Dancers of Penn Ave "Redemption" UMC, Oklahoma City, OK performed an inspiring presentation of Gospel Mime to the song by Marvin Sapp "Never Could Have Made It." The Service was in recognition of Black History Month in which the congregation was blessed with the presence and message of Bishop Hayes. BOH consist of youth that at one time in their life had an incarcerated parent. Instead of going in the wrong direction.....they have decided to change the cycle of their lives by following Jesus and getting others involved in Christian Mime. The group consist of DJ (middle), Anthony (Right), Trey (Left), Equandre (Top Right), Akin (Top Left). If you would like for "The Boys of Heaven" to perform at your next Church Event, if you would like to become a Mime dancer or give donations to help these Boys further their journey in spreading the word of God through Mime. Please feel free to contact Joy Block-Wright at 405-521-0571. You may also contact Penn Ave Redemption UMC at 405-528-0963.



**THE NEW GATE**

**VOLUME 11, ISSUE 1  
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**From the Director...**

It is always a personal joy for me to host our annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. This year Terri White, Commissioner of the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse was the keynote speaker. She delivered a bold message urging Oklahomans to utilize treatment instead of punishment in addressing offenders who suffer from mental illness and addiction. Harry "Bud" Manning was selected as Volunteer of the Year. He has served several times a week at Penn Ave Redemption for several years. He and his wife, Marcia also lead the "I Can" program at two prisons weekly. There were around 120 persons in attendance from all over Oklahoma. We were also able to recognize the United Methodist Men's group at Penn Ave Redemption. They meet two Saturdays a month and perform vital service projects.

In the next few days I will be feverishly writing an academic paper for submission to the Second Annual Restorative Justice Conference in San Antonio. I will attend this event in May and serve on a panel.

There is progress on establishing the Restorative Justice Center. It appears that later this month Saint Paul School of Theology will approve the Restorative Justice Specialty in the Masters of Divinity program. Rev. Rich Stoglin of Arlington, one of the participants in the Criminal Justice Summit in D.C. in November, organized a follow-up meeting of persons from that group in January in Arlington, TX. Out of that has come a broad-based collaboration to work toward the establishment of the Restorative Justice Center.

Associate Director Becky Baxter-Crowell has succeeded in again obtaining a Church and Society grant for CJAMM. She is also going to serve as Chair of The Oklahoma Correctional Advisory Committee on Volunteers and Programs. She succeeds me in this capacity.

We offer condolences to Associate Director Brantley Tillery on the passing of his sister and appreciation to the Rev. Virginia Gray for her leadership in his absence and for hosting a DOC training event in Tulsa.

We are very excited with our new dedicated staff at Exodus House OKC. Estelle Turbyfill, Exodus House graduate serves as case manager and Les Lamp is serving as Facilities and Donation Manager. They are both doing excellent work.

I have been serving as Chair of the IMPACT Network of the Oklahoma Conference of Churches. We have a number of denominations represented on the committee. We succeeded in drafting theological statements on 5 issues: Immigration, Environment, Education, Poverty and Criminal Justice. Those will be presented to members of the Oklahoma Legislature. I also served as Keynote Speaker at the Oklahoma Conference of Churches Day at the Legislature. The topic was "Systemic Sin, Today's Challenge for the Church."

On May 16, The ELCA and Episcopal Prison Ministry groups are having a restorative justice event at Saint Paul's Cathedral in OKC. I will be the Keynote Presenter and Bud Welch will be the luncheon speaker. You can register on line at [www.episcopaloklahoma.org/events](http://www.episcopaloklahoma.org/events).

We are excited this year to have speakers in our Annual Conference report who come to the United Methodist Church in some different ways. We expect for speakers to come from traditional local churches. Be sure to be present. The report will be Wednesday, May 27 at 2:00 PM.

I understand that the Adair UMC had a garage sale last weekend to support their prison ministry. I am so proud of that group. For over 7 years they have done ministry 2 Saturday evenings a month at NEOCC in Vinita.

Please continue to join me in prayer for our staff and volunteers at CJAMM that we would discern God's will minute by minute as we relate to others, that we would be effective in ministry and make disciples and create communities of faith.

Shalom,  
Stan



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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- CJAMM Tulsa seen through the eyes of children
- OKC Exodus House receiving a much needed face lift with the direction of new facility manager, Les Lamp
- Operation Hope continues to help many Oklahomans
- Redemption Church OKC upgrades sounds system
- Lawton Redemption celebrates a joyous Resurrection season
- Pictures from the CJAMM 7th Annual Volunteer Luncheon
- Important dates: Restorative Justice Conference, New Day Camp, Tulsa Exodus House Annual Reunion and Golf Tourney

# CJAMM TULSA

Greetings from Tulsa:



I guess one could say since I found out my wife and I are expecting again, I've been thinking about kids. In fact, since we are having a girl, I've been doing some extensive research on bows and ribbons and how to tie them. I hope it's not as complicated as it sounds. The interesting thing is that since I found out we were going to have another child, God has opened the door for C.J.A.M.M. Tulsa to share our ministry with kids. God works in mysterious ways!

It was such a blessing to share our ministry at the Conference Confirmation Retreat at Camp Egan last month. Their interest and enthusiasm was exhilarating. It was also a privilege to share our ministry at the Tulsa Street School. Two of our residents shared their story, and I could tell that a difference was being made. Also the Eighth Graders from Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic School came to the Exodus House for a visit to see how the church is helping ex-offenders, and to ask how they might be a part. It was wonderful to hear them share and ask questions. I would also like to thank you for your prayers

and support for my family over the loss of my sister, Wendy. Even though this has been painful, we have been comforted by your support. Contributions were received for a memorial in her memory. This fund provided banners for Easter and Pentecost, which will really add to the beauty of the Sanctuary. I honestly believe the torch is being passed from one generation to the next-- through the expectation of our new baby, the enthusiasm of the kids at the Confirmation Retreat, and to the Easter Banner in memory of my sister. God's love and hope are present throughout all these experiences. Thanks for being a part of it.  
*God Bless - Brantley Tillery*

## OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Greetings: In the name of our Lord and Savior "Jesus Christ"

We would like to **Welcome Les Lamp as our Facilities Manager.** Les came aboard on March 1, 2009 and he has already made some significant changes in the appearance of Exodus House. Let's give him a great "Thank you" when you see him

Occupancy is high and we have new residents soon to come, several whom are parents who are in reunification plans of getting their children. We have accepted a married couple who have been incarcerated and one of them is already here.

Church of the Servant (Dale & June Krumme's class "**Christ Ways**") has adopted apartment #5 and it is outstanding, they have completely renovated the whole apartment including all kitchen and bathroom fixtures, plus new cabinets. The family who gets to move in #5 will truly be blessed. Come by and ask to see the details in the tile work (love the cross). God bless you all.

**Volunteers**) has adopted apartment #2 and this apartment is getting a total face lift and renovation also, what a team. God bless you all.

We would like to thank you all for all you do for all of us here. There are so many people who donate there time, labor and love and donations, big and small to help us transition back into society. We could not do this without your love and support.

If you are in the area, please come by and visit us; we are very proud of the new changes being made in and around our community.

Due to a major flood of an upstairs apartment onto the offices downstairs; God made it possible for us to file an insurance claim and in the process of the repairs, we are getting a new face lift that has been much needed for a long time. Several members of our church were hired to do the repairs and I'd like to thank them for all they're doing. **Thank you, Doyle Hines, Brian Johnson, Chris Gilbert and their assistants. Great work fellas!!**

**We apologize for any inconveniences**

**in anyone's behalf; we are undergoing construction in our office area and hope to be back in the office soon.**

If you would like to make a donation to Exodus House, here are a few needed items: household items of any kind, bedding, sheets, pillowcases, pillows, towels, toiletries, appliances, electronics, microwaves, TVs, VCRs, telephones, twin beds, mattresses & innersprings, frames and rails. Also, we would like to purchase a box truck for hauling donations and pick ups.

**Our donations pick up will now be on Mondays from 9-2 pm and on Fridays 9-3 pm. Please call Les Lamp at 417-1189 for donations pick up to be scheduled.**

Thank you so much for all you do for the Lord. We are lives that have been changed.

In Christ,  
*Les Lamp & Estelle Turbyfill*

## Operation Hope Extends Outreach

**193 persons** have received assistance through Operation Hope's participation in the Oklahoma Access to Recovery Grant. This is a federal grant open to faith based programs as well as others. It is specifically aimed at preventing persons returning to prison by helping with basic needs of food and shelter, counseling and job assistance. Persons seeking help are assessed for qualification by certified agencies here in Tulsa who determine which services may be provided. We are one of the approved "providers" who open the door to resources in the community. This grant provides money for the services given. Exodus House residents also qualify for participation in this program.

## New teachers trained for "Thinking for a Change" Course

Twelve persons completed the "Thinking for a Change" training hosted by Tulsa Redemption Church March 23-26. Included were Marianne Bateman, Lisa Dellinger, Sheila Haney, Connie Jones, Pat Mills, Theresa Roper and Bruce Williams. We appreciate their commitment to making this course available to those who want to make a change in their lives.



# OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

Our attendance continues to hold which necessitates having three Sunday services. In order to continue to have the three services we are transporting offenders from the eight centers at different times in order for them to be able to attend. This means that we have a continuing need for DOC approved volunteers to assist with transportation. If you have an interest in helping, please contact the church office at 405-528-0963. We are pleased with the number of ex-prisoners who remain at Redemption and assume leadership roles in the church. Many of our current badged volunteers were once in prison and play a significant part in the continuing ministry here at Redemption OKC.

Our UMM group continues to have a vital part in the remodeling and maintenance here at Redemption. Without

their efforts, it would be difficult to keep the needed upgrades and maintenance done.

Recently, because of a grant from the denomination, we have been able to upgrade our sound system. It had a great effect on the quality of our music program and continues to be a vital part of our worship experience.

Thank you's to a mission team from Church of the Servant who cleaned up our flower beds and pruned our shrubs. Thank you to Mary Martha Circle from Chapel Hill for their delicious meal. Since it has become necessary to feed a meal on Sunday, we have been blessed with food donations that have helped. We appreciate those donations from Love Ling Ministries, Skyline, OKC Compassion and Resurrection Life Ministries.

We are pleased with the development of our on-going faith-based 12-Step programs that have provided more opportunities as part of our Thursday night programming.

We believe that these programs are making a difference in the lives of the folks that struggle with recovery from addiction and criminogenic thinking.

We continue to value and appreciate your prayers and support for the ministry here at Redemption Church in Oklahoma City. Our current needs are: volunteers for supervision and transportation, groups to provide snacks and meals on Thursdays or Sundays, donations of clothing for our ministry, and paper products and coffee.

Respectfully,  
Steve Byrd

## LAWTON ALDERSGATE REDEMPTION CHURCH

*Resurrection greetings from Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church.*



The Lawton Fort Sill Community and Maj. Gen. Peter Vanjgel honored Lawton Aldersgate Redemption Church volunteer Corina Barden and her family as the Fort Sill Family of the Year. The Barden family was honored for their work with Redemption church: "praying and offering encouragement to inmates; offering hope in a time of despair." Gen. Vangiel honored the Barden family for reflecting the "Army spirit and the kind of giving attitude that all soldiers and families have." Cori Barden also reflects the giving spirit of our volunteers, serving as SPRC chair, leading Redemption Kids and the morning children's ministry. She also offers spiritual direction and mentoring, and prepares meals for the prisoners. Congratulations to her and the Barden family.

Holy Week is always a powerful time for Lawton Aldersgate Redemption church members as we make the journey to the cross with Jesus. Raymond Campbell led our yearly Seder Passover meal on Palm Passion Sunday. As I watched Raymond give his time and love to serve his brothers in prison, I remembered his participation in the meal and other Holy Week traditions wearing inmate grays. Watching him lead a celebration for one year out of prison reminded all of us just how powerful the journey with Christ is and how able God is to transform our lives. Raymond's life was changed through a lot of different relationships with our church including a lot of time spent with Marcia and Bud Manning. Through ordinary simple ways, teaching, meal sharing, worship, clothing, God works with our people in life changing ways.

Easter Sunday, the Redemption Choir sang its fourth annual Easter cantata. Watching our inmates worship Jesus Christ and be the church is very powerful. Many thanks to Rev. Brenda Petty and Rev. Lory Fahle for their leadership.

The Centenary United Methodist Church hosted Redemption Church and the men from LCCC and Walters for the Crystal Darkness television event. Many thanks to Bill Todd, Philis Griffin, Howard Kuchta, Mike Morgan and many others for the hospitality and grace shown to our men. The men who attended were overwhelmed at the gracious outpouring of love we found there.

Thank you to Joe Bacon and The Lawton Kiwanis Club for the community opportunity to talk about CJAMM. Kiwanians Joe Bacon and L.B. Scott are faithful supporters of our ministry and I am extremely grateful. Thanks to Lawton Heights United Methodist Church for the opportunity to speak at the Lenten Series Luncheon during Holy Week. Thank you to the Calumet UMC and the Red Rock UMC for hosting me and our praise team for Sunday worship. Many Blessings in this season of Resurrection! —Pastor Becky

## CJAMM 7TH ANNUAL VOLUNTEER LUCHEON



L to R: Cyndy Sexson, Virginia Gray, Sallie Felton, Pat Mills



L to R: Stan Basler, Bud & Marcia Manning



L to R: Dina Hopkins & Stan Basler



Serving line—Catered by Larry Brannon & Staff



Guest Speaker: Terri White, Commissioner, OK Dept of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services