

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

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**Calendar of Events 2011**

**CJAMM Staff Christmas Party Dec 5**

First UMC, OKC 6 pm—8 pm

**Upcoming 2012**

**New Day Camp I** June 24-29  
Camp Cross Point (8-11 yr olds)

**New Day Camp II** July 16-20  
Camp Cross Point (12-14 yr olds)



**THE NEW GATE**

If you would rather receive the *New Gate* via email, please send your email address to [lrhoads@okumc.org](mailto:lrhoads@okumc.org). The next issue will arrive in your In-box as a PDF file.

Thank you.

**Operation Hope Prison Ministry**

Thanks to all for their support of the fall fundraisers! Both the dinner and the golf tournament were big successes. Special thanks to Janet Theis for chairing the fundraising committee!



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**THE NEW GATE**

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**From the Director...**

I have had the pleasure of visiting a couple of our traditional UMCs involved in ministry to local work center prisoners this fall. Bob Shaw and others at the Hobart UMC are bringing men to church every week and he and the pastor, Rev. Kyle Clark are doing ministry on center as well. During the worship service in Madill we honored the volunteers in that congregation who have involved prisoners in the life of that church for many years. That church's ministry has existed uninterrupted for longer (17.5 years) than I have been CJAMM director. I shared the story of these 2 churches at the Sayre UMC this fall. My hope is that church will again begin doing ministry with work center prisoners as they did many years ago.

There is a new private community correction center for women in Enid. Several offenders from OKC and Tulsa facilities have been transferred there. Under the leadership of Rev. Jim Jones and Don Jones, CJAMM board member, several people are taking DOC volunteer training so that female prisoners in Enid can attend Christ UMC on a regular basis. For years New Hope UMC of Enid has involved male prisoners in the life of that church.

In October, I presented a restorative justice workshop in Lyndon, KS. This was a district UMW event in the Kansas East Conference. In September, the General Board of Church and Society, brought me to DC with several other people to advocate for funding for the Second Chance Act. Since then, Congress has restored \$68 million to the funding!

CJAMM will be doing our traditional Christmas Eve Communion at LARC and MBCC A&R area. These are the places where prisoners come from the county jail to enter the DOC system, a very bleak place to spend Christmas. We have done this for many years.

There are now only 2 apartments at Exodus House OKC that have not been adopted by local churches or other groups. I pray that like Tulsa Exodus House, all the apartments will soon be adopted.

This is the time of year when churches are adopting Angel Tree children (incarcerated parent). Angel Tree is the CJAMM source for children to invite to New Day Camps. I am excited when some of our smaller churches accept Angel Tree children. This year the congregations at Bowlegs, Weleetka, Boswell, Colbert and Calera are some examples.

As we approach the new year, I am so grateful to so many people who have contributed so much to the life of this ministry. I ask you to remember in your prayers all of our staff who give so much of themselves. We will have our annual staff Christmas party December 5 at First UMC in OKC. Please remember also the many volunteers who live out their discipleship while making disciples of unchurched people. It is our hope to discern God's will, to be effective in ministry, make disciples and create communities of faith

I am especially grateful that I don't need to report a financial emergency as we approach the end of the year. So many people gave sacrificially a year ago that we were able to finish the year solvent. At the present time, it is clear that New Day Camps will finish this year in the black. The remainder of the ministry will likely do likewise. However, our insurance cost for next year has risen sharply. Therefore, any giving we receive this year will help us deal with these new unplanned expenses.

I look forward to teaching all 3 of my Saint Paul School of Theology courses and the OCU Law course January-Spring of 2012. May God bless you during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

*Shalom, Stan Basler*



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**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST**

- *Tulsa Redemption welcomes new music coordinator*
- *First Torch event held at Tulsa Boys Home*
- *Lawton Redemption now offers six weekly classes*
- *UMW of Penn Avenue Redemption attend the UMW State Annual Meeting in Shawnee*
- *OKC Exodus House welcomes new apartment sponsors*
- *Tulsa Exodus House volunteers attend "Thinking for a Change" training*
- *OPHM grateful for successful fundraisers.*

**Tulsa Exodus House**

We are delighted that Exodus House has filled up in time for the Holidays. It is with joyful anticipation that we approach the Christmas season. Looking back over the past few months, we see that we've accomplished a lot.

Four of our volunteers participated in the "Thinking For a Change" training in Tulsa. They are: Diane Pfarr, Marsia Overgard, Karolann Whetsell and Darlene Lorenz. Darlene and Karolann are currently teaching at Redemption; while Diane and Marsia are teaching at Northeast Oklahoma Correctional Center at Vinita. They also facilitate Celebrate Recovery for women each Sunday at Redemption.

We have been honored to have a number of invitations to church groups during the fall which include: Tulsa District UMW, Faith UMC, New Haven UMC and Christ Church, Boston Avenue UMW groups and Sunday School classes from Will Rogers UMC and Boston Avenue UMC. Invitations were also received from the Adair United Methodist Church and the AARP

Foundation of Tulsa. Of course we were happy to oblige them all!



Exodus House is located at 2624 E. Newton St, Tulsa, and Redemption is located at 1839 N. Boston Avenue, Tulsa. We would love for you to come for a tour or visit. Call Brantley Tillery, 918-798-6816 or Darlene Lorenz, 918-231-4013 to tell us when you would like to come, or if you would like a team to come to your church.

Thank you all for your generosity, love, sweat and prayers. You, our volunteers make our mission look easy, but without you, we would not exist.

---Darlene Lorenz

# TULSA REDEMPTION CHURCH

## Greetings from Tulsa!

It's been a blessing to have so many groups volunteering at Redemption and Exodus House this fall. "Downtown for Good" (Boston Avenue UMC) painted at the Exodus House, and worked in our clothing closet at Redemption.

Circle "E" and the Joy Circle were very helpful at Redemption Church. First Methodist and First Baptist of Claremore collected much needed coats for our clients. It was a joy to have the HUGS program from Boston Avenue's Roundtable Class come with hats, scarves and gloves for all when they came to serve dinner in October. Gifts are being provided for the children of our Redemption Clients by Boston Avenue's Confirmation and Maranatha Classes, and

Asbury UMC. Thanks to Giles Gere for coordinating the gifts from Asbury. Finally, we are every thankful for the green min-van that was donated to Exodus House by Mike Miller. Mike is a member of Faith UMC, and a part of the "Men of Faith" group there. It is being put to good use!

We really appreciate our new Music Coordinator, James Mullins and his wife Marilyn, who have added so much to our worship. Billy White is doing a wonderful job as music leader. Jan Boyd and Sue Brothers continue as pianists with James. Welcome to Southern Hills Methodist Church and their team as they give special attention to the Exodus House Residents

each month by bringing a meal for community meeting, hosting graduations for our residents, a Christmas party for residents and their sponsor churches. The QaVah singing group from Bixby UMC will be with us for their quarterly visit, bringing special Christmas music.

Thanks for all you do to make this ministry possible, and may God bless you during your holiday season.

Grace and peace,  
Brantley Tillery



## PARTNERSHIP WORKS!

The Tulsa Exodus House Residents served the Boston Avenue Confirmation Class special dinner this month, and also visited their Sunday School Class. Senior Resident Lenorah Hogue shared with the youth what a joy it was for her to have gifts provided for her grandchildren last year. The class responded enthusiastically in choosing names for gifts this year. The Confirmands later surprised the Exodus House residents with pizza at their community meeting as a thank you for serving them earlier in the month. The youth also sent Thanksgiving treats for Redemption. What a nice partnership!



## Juvenile News from Tulsa

Tulsa Boys Home hosted Kairos Torch #1 November 18-20, 2011. It was a great success. The Administrator of TBH expressed the hope that this would be a "partnership of many years." Sixteen young men completed the weekend and are excited about follow-up activities, which include receiving a mentor from the volunteer pool.



WRINGS (Weekend for Responsibility, Invitation, Neighbors, God and Service) will provide Christmas parties for youth at David L. Moss County Jail (Tulsa) on December 17, led by Mat and Janice Theis. WRINGS is sponsored by Operation Hope Prison Ministry.



—Rev. Rick Forthman

# LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

Redemption in Lawton is doing well. We are averaging 35 inmates on Sunday and 45 on Thursday. We have started a Bible Study class, Cage Your Rage and Life Recovery class. We have started cycling the classes so that new people aren't disrupting the classes by going in after they have been started for a while. The Bible Study class and Music and Choir classes are open all the time for new people. We are offering a total of 6 classes at the moment. The classes are: Thinking for a Change, Computers, Bible Study, Music and Choir, Cage Your Rage, and Life Recovery. We have started a Stakeholders meeting for reentry with mental health and DOC working together with some success. We still have a ways to go. We had a back to school blast where we rented a dunk tank and a bounce house for the surrounding neighborhood. We also had a gospel singing at Lawton Community Correctional Center. We hope to be able to do that again. We celebrated Thanksgiving on Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> with our inmates and families. We served 56 inmates. It was an enjoyable time for all. We are looking forward to new challenges and growth as we continue to reach out to inmates and their families.

# OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

In the last New Gate article we shared about our new ministry to supply hygiene boxes to the indigent offenders in the 8 OKC Community Correctional Centers. We have delivered our first round of boxes successfully! We are excited to be able to help those in need in this way. L..L.. Young, the District Superintendent for the men's facilities, received the boxes for the two facilities. He was thrilled!

We are blessed to have Robin Khoury join us to work with Redemption Kids. She comes with excellent experience. She and Brandy Lee, who has been working with our kids on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings, are developing the Redemption Kids program together. We had a family game time this past Sunday afternoon that was very successful. The parents of the kids joined in with bingo, snacks and prizes. It was great fun for all. We will have our Christmas Party on the 18<sup>th</sup> of December in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner on Thanksgiving Day to the offenders that have become members of Redemption Church, are involved in our choir, UMM, UMW and Wednesday Small groups. We are hopeful that their families will be here

to share a day of true thanksgiving for all our blessings. We are looking forward to a very special day.

Our Christmas Eve Candlelight service will be Thursday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>. Our choir members will bless us with song and skit. If you would like to join us in worship, we would love for you to be here. We also will have services on Christmas morning with a meal following. Again, we will bring the church members, choir, UMM, UMW and Wednesday evening small group participants to worship on Christmas morning. We are looking forward to a very special Christmas season this year!

A huge hug to the OKC South District UMW for all the many blessings you have sent our way. You have blessed us beyond measure with your



kindness, generosity and welcoming spirit. Thank you! Our ladies were given permission to attend the South District Annual meeting in September. We were also given permission to attend the UMW State Annual meeting in Shawnee. This was on a Friday evening and Saturday. We were blessed to be allowed to attend both days. We even had T-shirts made in honor of the occasion. It is wonderful for our ladies to be able to be "normal", as they call it! It is such a joy to be able to take them to district and state events and watch as they grow in Christ. Wow! This is pretty special stuff! Thanks be to God!

With a heart full of gratitude, and knowing that I repeat myself, please know that each of you bless us in so many ways. Those of you who pray for us, come to serve, make donations of, share talents ... volunteer in many different way are so needed and so appreciated. Ministry is not possible without each of you. Thank you! Thank you! You most assuredly bless us and the lives you touch.

With a heart full of gratitude,  
Marcia Manning

# OKC EXODUS HOUSE

Exodus House OKC would like to welcome New Hope UMC as apartment sponsors for Apt. # 10. We are so grateful for all your hard work and for all those who were involved in making the apartment so beautiful. We look forward to seeing the expression on the new resident's faces when they first get here. It is always such a joy to see their reactions when they walk into their apartment and realize that someone took the time and care to personally welcome them. Thank you all for making that possible. New Covenant UMC of Edmond has now adopted a second apartment!

We would also like to thank all of our sponsors for your continuing support and encourage any other churches who are interested in sponsoring an apartment to contact us. We still have two apartments that need sponsors and would love to come speak to any congregations, men or women's groups who might be interested in sponsoring an apartment. 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.

A special thanks to Sherry Miller for inviting Exodus House residents to your house for a pool party and fellowship in

October. We are looking forward to your upcoming Christmas party in December. Thank you for your support and your kindness. We all had a great time!!

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday season and many blessings to all those who faithfully support our ministry.

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

—Doyle Hines,  
Facility Manager  
& Donations



Exodus House & Penn Avenue UMC women enjoying fellowship time at Sherry Miller's home.