

THE NEW GATE



From the Interim Director:



The arrival of Spring is a time to celebrate change. We embrace this change with open arms – warmer weather, blooming flowers, budding trees and longer days. CJAMM is also seeing lots of change. In 2015, we obtained our own 501(c)3 status, our board became more active in the operation of the ministry and now in 2016 the change continues. Effective February 1, 2016, Rev. Adam Leathers resigned as Executive Director of CJAMM. I am currently serving as Interim Executive Director until the position is filled. The CJAMM Search Committee is in the process of interviewing and choosing the perfect candidate to lead CJAMM into the future. I am grateful to the amazing staff and volunteers who ensure that CJAMM continues operations as normal.

Like most non-profits, CJAMM is facing trying times financially. We continue to search for new funding sources and ideas. We are already in the process of planning our 2nd Annual Fundraiser Dinner scheduled for this Fall. Perhaps you or your church would like to sponsor a table! (Look for further information in the Summer Issue of the New Gate.) Remember small donations make a BIG difference. We won't send you a note pad, greeting cards or a calendar – every penny of your donation goes to the ministry.

We held our 14th Annual Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon on Saturday, March 12th. We honored Steve Bear from Tulsa as our Volunteer of the Year. He has blessed Tulsa ministries with his knowledge of vehicles and his love for our ministry. Although, we have a tough time picking just one volunteer every year since we are blessed with so many! The food was wonderful as usual, and they even let me have the microphone—twice! Brenda Petty, Lawton Redemption blessed us with her amazing voice and piano playing. Thank you to April Sellers White, CJAMM Board Member for her help in emceeding the festivities and Tony Altizer, Exodus House OKC for sharing his story.

We are now in full recruitment for New Day Camp 2016! If you would like to volunteer at either or both camps this summer, please give me a call! Of course there are many volunteer opportunities throughout CJAMM. Believe me, you will not be turned away.

CJAMM has been a major part of my life for many, many years now. It isn't just a job; it is part of my heart. I have witnessed firsthand the changes it makes in people's lives, the dedication and love of our volunteers through both precious time and hard-earned money and have worked with and met many individuals who love this ministry as I do. I ask for your prayers as we search for a new director, as we search for on-going funding and of course, prayers for the lives that we will continue to bless.

In Christ,

Lesa Rhoads



1501 NW 24th Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73106

405/530-2014 -Lesa Rhoads, Interim Director
E-mail: lrhoads@okumc.org
Fax—405/530-2049
www.cjamm.org
Make an online tax-deductible donation!



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Calendar for 2016

**New Day Camp I
Camp Cross Point
June 19-24, 2016**

**New Day Camp Too
Camp Cross Point
July 17-22, 2016**

**Tulsa Exodus House
Labor Day Reunion
September 5, 2016
@ 5:00 pm**

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE



Owasso's First UMC volunteer, John Watt participating in "Change the World Activities."

Spring has come to Oklahoma and Tulsa's Exodus House/Parsonage House residents and staff have been eagerly anticipating its arrival. We are once again being blessed by Owasso's First United Methodist Church "Change the World Activities." Tulsa Exodus House has been given a check for \$250 to buy flowering and ornamental plants. The 8 to 10 hardworking gardeners will then work their magic, turning our courtyard into a brilliant spectacle. Each year our campus appears to be more impressive than the year before.

Owasso's First United Methodist Church also sponsors Exodus House's apartment G, where Troy Collins and his 2 sons reside. Troy is grateful to be able to have his sons with him on weekends and holidays. He hopes to have them full time during the summer break. Meanwhile, Owasso's parishioners have become captivated by the boys, providing them with games and toys as well as scholarships to church camp.

We applaud graduate Windi Dutton along with her sponsor church, Sand Springs UMC and graduate Douglas Cole, Asbury UMC, Christian Explores Community. Both Windi and Douglas continue to volunteer at St. Luke's Redemption Church.

Many thanks to Sand Springs UMC volunteers, who have been tirelessly working to redecorate their apartment in time for a new resident. A special thank you goes out to Mike Stockard who has given the apartment's bathroom a new look. Mike not only bought, but also installed a new sink and vanity.

Exodus House/Parsonage House Facilities Manager, Virginia Walkup was astounded by the gift of a car. The 2000 Saturn donated to Tulsa Exodus House by Chuck Nordean is in pristine condition both inside and out. Needless to say, Virginia was overwhelmed when she found out it was hers.

Steve Bear has blessed Exodus House Tulsa with a beautiful, shiny, white Ford Windstar minivan. Steve has outdone himself this time! The 16 year old vehicle looks and drives like it just came off the lot. As always, we are stunned by Steve's generosity.

We appreciate all of our apartment sponsors and volunteers whose hard work and dedication make this program possible. We also thank those who donate furniture, household items, clothing and money.

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our annual Labor Day Reunion, Monday September 5 at 5:00PM. We will have plenty of food and good fellowship. You can bring a salad or a dessert or just yourselves. We are located at: 2624 E. Newton St. Tulsa. If you can't make the reunion but would like a tour of Tulsa Exodus House just call Darlene at 918-231-4013. We would love to see you! ---Darlene & Virginia



Resident, Troy Collins enjoys spending time at Exodus House with his sons, Kyle 12 and Cody 11.

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OKC EXODUS HOUSE



First UMC, OKC Youth Work Group

We would like to thank all of the work groups who came this month and gave of their time and service to help us prepare for our paint day and to get an apartment ready for a new resident. What a blessing you have all been. Special thanks to First UMC Church Downtown and the Youth Work Group they brought over to sand and scrape and set up an apartment. We enjoyed our time together.

We would like to thank Attorney Brady Henderson from ACLU for giving his time and legal services free to our residents. We had a serious time sensitive matter that would have sent a newly released offender back to prison unfairly and he immediately got on the issue and resolved it. He truly was a blessing to us all. So often these issues arise and this one was one I had never handled so I am very grateful as well.

It has been a busy time with lots of Speak Out's for everyone and work groups. We would like to thank Choctaw UMC for inviting Tony and Christopher to speak to their Men's Group. We also had the chance for Tony to Speak at Jones UMC. Steve and I spoke to First Church Edmond. I also want to thank Vicki Taylor and New Covenant UMC for inviting myself and Regina to come eat and speak to their Sunday school class and for all the donations of hygiene supplies, toiletries, household items and laundry supplies for our residents. I also want to thank

Cindy Birdwell for inviting me to speak to her Women's Group and for your donations to us!!

We held a BBQ and paint day on Saturday, March 26th at Exodus House. We were blessed with 40 volunteers!! We are excited to be moving forward in giving our place a beautiful appearance and our next move will be the landscaping!! God has been so good to us and in opening doors and touching hearts to see this dream to completion. We give HIM the glory and also are so grateful to all of you for your continued support and sharing in our dream!!

We also welcome First UMC of Edmond as sponsors for Apt # 14 and look forward to building a strong connection and many memories. We want to thank Rev. Sam Powers for his love for our ministry and our people. We also enjoyed the Confirmation Class and their tour here and the opportunity to show them around and speak about what we do!!

We currently have 13 Residents and 3 children living here as well as 4 children visiting on weekends. We would like to thank Nancy Paulger, Lesa Stiger, St. Andrew's UMC, June & Dale Krumme, New Hope UMC and Mickie Miller for all your help and contributions to our children and their families. You are all such a blessing to them and provide so much that is meaningful to them and to us. We could not provide all that you so freely give to them to make their stay better. We invite anyone interested in taking a tour of Exodus House or anyone who would like us to come speak about our ministry to please give us a call. We would love to share our stories and our mission with you! Special thanks to our sponsors and to 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) 525-2300, Tony Altizer, Facility Manager (Donations) (405)-417-1189



OKC Exodus House's remodeled and freshly painted courtyard

This photo was taken at Penn Avenue Redemption United Methodist Church, Sunday, February 21, 2016. It was a special moment, realizing that the four Communion servers are all Exodus House graduates. Tony Altizer is currently Facility Manager and Robin Wertz is now, and has been for several years, Case Manager at the OKC Exodus House. Estelle Turbyfill graduated over a decade ago. She is an approved DOC volunteer, a former Conference Ministry Center employee and teaches relapse prevention at Penn Ave. Redemption. Over the years she has served as an Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor to many, including a number of Exodus House residents. She has a Commercial Chauffeur's license and transports prisoners to and from church. She is currently employed by Metro Transit of Oklahoma City. She is well over a decade as a "clean and sober" person. Ashley Carter is a more recent Exodus House graduate and is a confirmed member of the church. She attends with her daughter Victoria. All four are church members who completed a confirmation class prior to joining the church.

Only one person remains from the original Penn Ave congregation. Although inmates attend the Sunday afternoon and Thursday evening services, the Sunday morning service is for those who are not incarcerated. Many who attend were once in prison. Some have family members in prison now or in the past. Others attend who feel comfortable in this unique ministry setting. The

Sunday morning service represents significant progress toward a re-start of the traditional Penn Ave church into a non-traditional United Methodist congregation. Rev. Brad Rogers is the pastor who is a Saint Paul School of Theology graduate and a bi-vocational minister with a full time secular job. Although finances are a struggle, the congregation has achieved a level of self-sufficiency. It is a missional church and does not pay apportionments. Former CJAMM Director, Rev. Dr. Stan Basler is the Thursday evening preacher and teaches the confirmation class.

OKC REDEMPTION CHURCH

Please share our joy in congratulating Rob Wright and Tamara Pennypacker Davis on their marriage. Both Rob and Tamara have been members of Redemption for a couple of years. Rob is a graduate of Exodus House. We are delighted to share in their joy!

We welcome our two newest DOC trained volunteers: Tony Altizer and Lori Lopez. We treasure their commitment and love of the ministry.



Rev. Bo Ireland blessing the Wheels

We were blessed by Rev. Bo Ireland and members of his Wayne congregation with gifts for the children at Christmas time. While they were here they had a "Blessing of the Wheels" ceremony. Rev. Bo learned a bit about the driver of each vehicle, then prayed for both the driver and the

vehicle. What a joy! Thank you, Rev. Bo!

Rev. Sam Powers of Edmond First UMC brought his Confirmation Class last month. It blesses us beyond measure to see the hope in the young people in Confirmation. Thank you Rev. Sam for sharing this blessing with us!

In December, Melissa Nelms, the Youth Director of Acts 2 in Edmond brought the youth group for one of their ministry opportunities. The youth group moved our clothing room from one room at one end of the building to two rooms at the other end of the building! They did a fantastic job, and did so with so much fun! Thank you so much Melissa! This has worked out so well!

We have had the joy and honor of welcoming Tom Nix and the Community Choir of Oklahoma City to share worship with us. They bring the beautiful voices and lively, upbeat songs and the entire congregation is rocking out! Thank you, thank you, Tom!

To each of our volunteers who so generously donate their time, energy, talent and caring hearts on Sundays and Thursday

evenings to teach classes, drive/ride buses and vans and share Christ's love with our congregants ~ WOW! ~ each of you is awesome ~ thank you so, so much! It very simply cannot be said enough: thank you for your positive influence, tireless spirit and ever faithful hearts. We so appreciate all you do! You definitely bless us ~ but most importantly you bless those we are called to minister to. God bless each of you! The ministry at OKC Penn Ave Redemption could not happen without each of you. God's blessings, Marcia



Edmond First UMC, Confirmation Class

LAWTON REDEMPTION CHURCH

Well, this has been a time of reviewing what we have accomplished and looking towards the future. We have lost so many people over the last several months, some to death, and, as is normal for all of us, a lot of our offenders have been transferred or have gone home. Naturally, several of us have been going out and speaking to other groups/churches, to try and establish more connections both within and outside the parameters of the United Methodist Church.

Recently, that has proven to bear fruit in that one of the Korean churches has sent both their senior pastor, his wife, and their associate pastor, as a delegation to consider what might be available to the members of their congregation in ways that they might be able to assist us. I am very happy to report that they are excited at the prospects of joining with us in this ministry. They will add their names to the list of churches that will come and serve at least once a month, if not more often, not only in serving a meal to the offenders and their families, but also in looking at ways they can reach out to the Asian community behind the walls and bring them into Redemption Church.

We have also been, as some of you may already know, on a campaign to replace our aging fleet of vans. We have successfully done that and at a nominal cost to us, and all of the vans have less than 75,000 miles on them. First, Lawton Heights United Methodist Church graciously donated their van to us, with the caveat that they would be allowed to "borrow" it back if they needed it. We were more than happy to comply with that request. Second, Cache United Methodist Church donated their van to us as well.

Finally, the Wichitas District, under the leadership and direction of our wonderful District Superintendent, Christ Tiger, raised around \$14,000 by January 1, 2016, which was then doubled by a matching grant that had been established and was set up within the District Kingdom Builders fund. As we were looking for a third and final van to complete the update to our fleet of vans, we were contacted by our District Lay Leader, Paula Volenstine, who informed me that a wonderful gentleman from the Hinton area was moving into an assisted living home. He had instructed his daughter to sell his van, that he had used for hauling materials to customers, with a preference to a church or group that could use it in some type of missional activity. The daughter knew Paula, and Paula knew that we were on the hunt. Thus it came together and we now proudly drive the van that still has the name "Sparky's" on the sides. So, if you see us - wave! —Rev. Lory Fahle

TULSA EXODUS HOUSE DEVELOPS EDUCATION LEADERS

The Education Program at St. Luke's Redemption, Tulsa, is enriched by Exodus House leaders. Thomas Bevan, soon to graduate Exodus House, Windi Dutton and Douglas Cole, graduates, are effective, compassionate facilitators for our Celebrate Recovery Substance Abuse groups. When called upon, Margie Chance, Jerry Harris, and Tom Sesler step into leadership roles in our CR groups. Virginia Walkup, another graduate and current Exodus House Facility Manager, teaches Women's Anger Management. She trained with Kelley Due and when Kelley had to stop teaching on Thursdays, Virginia stepped right in to lead the Cage the Rage Anger Management course. Parsonage men often check to see if they are needed anywhere. Daniel McKinney, Parsonage House Leader, is regularly called upon to substitute for a teacher. Mark Sperry not only helps in Orientation but also explains how important the drug free environment at the Parsonage is to his recovery. We are blessed at Redemption by Exodus House and Parsonage men and women. It is inspiring to see these men and women transitioning into positions of leadership and Christian discipleship in the community. —Dolores Ritter, Education Coordinator



L to R: Tony Altizer, Estelle Turbyfill, Ashley Carter, Robin Wertz