



The Welcome Mat

Harvard Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Be loved. Believe. Become.

Happy New Year!

Volume 53

January 4, 2012

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Sunday Mornings:

9:00 a.m.—The Rising

10:00 a.m.—Sunday School

11:00 a.m.—Traditional Worship

Office Hours:

8:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m. -- Monday
through Thursday

8:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. Friday

Next Welcome Mat Deadline:

Tuesday, January 17, 2011

before noon

Visit us on our website at
www.hacctulsa.org



RE-MIND & RE-NEW CONFERENCE

January 17 & 18, 2012

Phillips Theological Seminary

Renewal in North American Christianity

We've heard much for decades now about climate change in North American Christianity. Mainline decline. The rise of evangelicalism. Mushrooming mega-churches and disappearing mid-sized congregations. Persons claim to be spiritual but not religious. Post-Christian and post Christendom

North America. A remarkable increase in the de-churched and of persons who check "none" regarding religion. But we also see significant renewal movements. Missional church. Emerging/emergent church. The new monasticism.

This year, the Re-Mind & Re-New Conference is designed to focus on renewal in Christianity and to raise serious and provocative questions about the relationship between Christianity, culture, and congregations. Presentations will be given by Craig Van Gelder, Nadia Bolz-Weber, Chris Haw, and Diana Butler Bass. Worship will be led by Emily Bowen, George Young and José Morales.

Tuesday Evening Presentation

Tuesday evening's presentation by Diana Butler Bass will be at Harvard Avenue Christian Church and is free and open to the public.

Registration

A fee of \$90 includes the program, coffee breaks, the dinner on Tuesday evening, and lunch on Wednesday. Only 200 spots are available. Registrations received after January 9, 2012 will be accepted, but the Tuesday night dinner and Wednesday lunch will only be included on an as available basis.

Questions?

Contact Melanie Tipton via e-mail at melanie.tipton@ptstulsa.edu or by phone, 918-270-6405. To register or find more information about presenters and view the complete schedule, please visit www.ptstulsa.edu/remindrenew.

Would You Like to Be on the HACC Host Team?

We will need a small group to help host the Tuesday evening catered dinner. If you would like to help, please contact Bethany Albrecht, 918-742-5509, or e-mail hacc.bethany@sbcglobal.net.



ADULT EDUCATION

- Alpha & Omega/Seekers -- Education Wing (North Side)**
- Challengers -- Peake Hall**
- Disciples -- Classroom open to Library (Main hall)**
- Explorers -- Education Wing (South End)**
- Genesis -- Education Wing - 2nd classroom (South side)**

Alpha & Omega/Seekers -- Thanks to everyone for your help serving dinner at the Day Center on New Year’s Day. We’ll be back in our classroom this Sunday to make plans for the New Year.

Challengers -- Our last class of 2011 was led by our class president, Mike Burton, Extraordinaire. He told of how much HACC has meant to his and Judy’s life. He then talked of the importance of each member of the class expressing their thoughts and wishes for the future of HACC for both next year and 5 years beyond. He passed out a 3x5 card to each member of the class to fill out and return. His belief is that big ideas can be expressed in a few words. A super committee to coordinate these ideas was approved. The committee consists of: Dr. Bob Lynch, Doc Shannon, Charlie Bennett, Nancy Wells and Sylvia Goen. So don’t forget to fill out your card! You can bring it to class this Sunday or drop it by the church office. It is so exciting to think what the future can hold for HACC!

Disciples -- The Disciples class wishes everyone a happy and healthy 2012.

Explorers -- Happy New Year! Welcome to the world, Drayton David Jones, born December 29, 2011 to class members Jamie and Dave Jones. If you are interested in information about the Explorers Class, please e-mail Tara Goll at tadesigns@cox.net or Christina Maxwell at cabmaxwell@aol.com. Hope to see everyone Sunday!

Genesis -- Happy New Year to All! We will be meeting together in class this Sunday after a 2 week break for the holidays. It will be a great time of fellowship as we reconnect and make plans for the coming year. We will begin a new study series on January 15 using the curriculum and DVD from John Ortberg, “Your Spiritual Life”. We are keeping Barbara Cargill and her family in our thoughts and prayers as they grieve the loss of her Mom, Aidren Nix, in Midland, Texas. See you Sunday for a joyful time of prayer and conversation.



**PARENTS NIGHT OUT,
FRIDAY, JANUARY 13**

Parents Night Out is an opportunity for children from 5th grade and under to enjoy an evening of fun fellowship while their parents enjoy an evening out! The event runs from 6:00 pm – 10:00 pm and the cost for the evening is \$10 per child or \$15 per family and includes dinner for the kids. Volunteers and Staff for this month’s event are:

- Kitchen: Kathryn Wheeler and Judy Burton
- Infant Nursery: Rebekah Margalski and LaDonna Prince
- Toddler Room: Jan Smith and Paulette Knepper
- PK – 5th Grade: Connor & Ashley Briggs, Kyle Simmons, Darlene Martinez

**CHILDREN WORSHIP & WONDER
TRAINING, January 20-21, 2012**

Be part of a vibrant and growing Children’s Ministry! We are planning to expand our Children’s Worship in 2012. It would be tremendously helpful to have two worship centers, one for ages 3 years – Kindergarten, and one for 1st – 3rd graders. We already own story materials for two worship centers, but we need a few more trained storytellers.

To make training convenient, we will be the host church for a Children Worship & Wonder training event on January 20-21 at the new training facility housed at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa! The registration fee will be taken care of for anyone from our church who wants to be trained. For more information, or to register for the training, please contact Darlene Martinez at hacc.darlene@sbcglobal.net.



2012 Ministry Leadership Team

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Moderator: | Paulette Pogue |
| Vice Moderator: | Bill Richert |
| Secretary: | Jenna Buell |
| Treasurer: | Lisa Rhynes |
| Education: | Carolyn McClure |
| Stewardship: | Mike Bartlett |
| Property: | Clint Briggs |
| Church Growth: | Gary Goen |
| Personnel: | John Hopkins |
| Membership: | Paulette Knepper |
| Worship: | Kathryn Wheeler |
| Outreach: | Danny Forthman |



World Outreach

“Thank You” to the Explorers Class for delivering all of the Christmas Eve donations for Emergency Infant Services. In addition to all of the items placed under the tree, we also collected \$1,626.00, matched by an additional \$400 from the Outreach budget. Also, the Craft Crowd made 80 Bibs, Burps and Blankets along with 30 fleece hats. Your thoughtfulness will enable some of the children in our community to have a “fresh start” for the New Year.

The Outreach Team will meet next Monday, January 9, at 6:00 pm. Please let Team Leader Dan Forthman know if you will be unable to attend.

Disciples Women:

Our January meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Thursday, January 12, in the Disciples Classroom with Jane Bauchmoyer as our hostess. Bonney Clark will lead us in our study - “God’s Presence Opens Our Eyes”. Mark your calendar and plan to join us this year.

Craft Crowd:

The Craft Crowd is kicking off the New Year with a planning session at 9:30 am, Tuesday, January 10. Bring an idea or an outreach project for us to add to the calendar and plan to stay to share “soup and treats”. All are welcome.



One of the HACC Life Groups takes an excursion to Utica Square to see Santa Claus in 2011. Life Groups are forming now for 2012. If you are interested in being in a Life Group, sign up on Sunday morning or e-mail hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net.



A new year always raises new hopes in our minds whether we ever vocalize them as “resolutions” or not. One hope often expressed is to connect more deeply with friends, church, and God. A perfect opportunity for you to do those three things is here! HACC’s next Life Group Season will launch the week of January 15. This six week commitment will allow you to engage your faith and a small group of people from our church in a deeper way. Groups will meet at various times and locations during the week so you should be able to find a time to accommodate your schedule. If you are interested in leading/hosting a group, feel free to form your own group. Leaders/Hosts will be supplied weekly with a GPS Guide (Grow. Pray. Study.) created by Rev. Briley or Rev. Albrecht and based on the previous Sunday’s message. This series will be grounded in a sermon series entitled, “Where We Are”. The six topics included are based on questions raised by each of our adult Sunday School classes and our youth. You may sign up on Sunday morning before or after worship or by sending an email to Betsey Owen at hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net. Seize the opportunity. Get involved. Your participation will be a blessing to others and you will be blessed by the participation of others as well.

ODDS AND ENDS

Missing any of your dishes? How about a sack full of red cardinals? Once again, the HACC kitchen has an odd assortment of left behind items. Please check the kitchen for your missing items and take them home with you. Thanks.



We Are the Church!

New Members:

We are delighted to welcome Pat and Marilyn Trout as the newest members of



Harvard Avenue Christian Church (*and the last members for 2011*). Pat and Marilyn live at 4221 S. Owasso, Tulsa, OK

Sympathy for:

Rick Young and family at the death of his father, Robert Young, on December 25, 2011. Mr. Young was 96 years old when he died. He lived in Florida.

Barbara Cargill and family at the death of her mother, Adren Nix, on December 29, 2011. Mrs. Nix's services were held in Lamesa, Texas on January 3, 2012.

Congratulations:



Drayton David Jones was born December 29, 2011 to Jamie and Dave Jones at 8 lbs. 4 oz and 19.5 inches long. Bill and Betsy Richert are Drayton's proud grandparents and Brogen is his big brother.

Libby Sublett was named Teacher of the Year at Chouteau Elementary School, Tulsa Public Schools. Libby has been the Music Assistant to Susie Daugherty since 2007 here at HACC.



Leadership Training School 2012 ... twenty years of Planting Hope and Growing Faith

Come and bring your congregational leaders, pastoral leaders, staff, all who are interested in seeking personal enrichment, enhanced leadership skills and motivation for their personal faith journey. Two 1 1/4 hour sessions will offer exciting classes on **Saturday, February 4** at First Christian Church in Oklahoma City.

Rev. Dr. Richard Hamm, former General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada will give the keynote address during opening worship at 9:00 a.m. Dr. Hamm will also teach two classes and speak at 1:00 p.m. at a luncheon at Northwest Christian Church. Reservations for the lunch must be made by January 23.

Childcare is provided for children, infants through 5th grade. For more information, visit the Regional Church website www.okdisciples.org or call 405-528-3577.

An Angel Tree Thank You

The annual Angel Tree project to benefit Grimes Elementary School was once again a huge success. In the fall teachers and other school employees sent "wishes" for supplies to be used by teachers and students at the school. Sixty-eight angels bearing these wishes were placed on the tree at Thanksgiving.

The angels bearing the requests disappeared from the tree quickly with shiny red apples left in their place. Through the generosity of the Harvard Avenue congregation, all 68 wishes were granted this year with several extra surprise gifts for Grimes also placed under the tree. The Outreach Team thanks you for supporting this worthwhile school project.

A continuing project to help Grimes Elementary earn supplies and equipment involves saving Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education coupons. These are found on many commonly used products in our homes. Collection jars for the coupons are located in the main hallway on a table opposite the drinking fountains. Lists of items which bear these coupons are available there also. Please lend a helping hand by saving coupons for Grimes.

NEW HOME FOR OASIS
5525 E. 51st Suite, 400, Tulsa, OK 74135
918-749-6969 www.oasisads.org
Volunteers are always needed to help at this Disciple supported ministry to Older Adults.



To Resolve or Not to Resolve

It is inevitable. Like death and taxes, you cannot avoid the idea of the New Year's Resolution. Even if you despise the pressure or the failures you have experienced in the past entertaining the concept, it will find you. Whether someone asks you, television commentators present it to you, or that voice in your head says, "Will you or won't you?" it seems unavoidable. So have you? Have you resolved to do something more in 2012? Something less? Something new? Something different? While the gimmicky side of this notion can get under our skin, there is value in making goals and creating ways to achieve them. I read a quote over the holiday break that has me thinking about goals for this year. It reads like this...

"This is the true joy of life, the being used up for a purpose recognized by yourself as a mighty one; being a force of nature instead of a feverish, selfish little clot of ailments and grievances, complaining that the world will not devote itself to making you happy." - G.Shaw

The day one realizes that the world does not exist for "me" but I for the world is a powerful revelation. Being "used up" for a "mighty purpose" is a true joy of life. That is resolve worthy for me this year. God has given us this day to rejoice, be glad and make a difference. I believe in the call of God. I believe our small, humble gathering of the faithful at 55th and Harvard in Tulsa, Oklahoma are here together at this time for a mighty purpose. There is joy in our fellowship. There is love in our support of one another. There is compassion in our gifts to help those in need. I also believe there is passion in our "mighty purpose". I'm resolving to journey on toward that call in 2012; soaking in the joy of each moment and experience while pressing us to be open to that mighty purpose God reveals a little more every time we believe, every time we search, every time we are bold enough to say "yes".

If you have been able to avoid the "resolution" bug this year, I'm sorry to spoil your impressive feat. I've released it for your consideration once again. I hope you'll embrace it. I hope I'll see you on Sunday and you'll smile and I'll know you're in. Here's to 2012! God love us. God use us. God lead us into the panoramic picture you are painting even still. Amen.

Mark Briley

Sunday Services

January 8 -- Famous First Words (Genesis 1:1-5)

Rev. Mark Briley, preaching

Elders -- Communion: The Rising -- Ed Crockett

Traditional- ; Offertory--Robert Lynch

Visitation--Kaye Nofziger; Belva Brown Jordan

Set Up: Bob & Kathryn Wheeler; Clean Up: Mark & Lyn Courtial

Attendance:

December 18--Rising--85; Traditional--192; Total--277

December 24 -- 5:00 pm--309; 7:00 pm--98; Total--407

January 15 -- Where We Are

Rev. Mark Briley, preaching

Elders--Communion: The Rising--

Traditional--Glenda Womack; Offertory--Dan Forthman

Visitation--Robert Lynch, Robert Wheeler

Set Up: Bill & Betsy Richert; Clean Up: Larry & Susan Hollingsworth

January Deacons -- Traditional: Dave & Jamie Jones, Sara & Garrett

Widowski, Bill Richert, Cindy & Phil King

The Rising -- Lance & Tara Goll; Stephanie & Clint Briggs

Next Sunday's Message - "Famous First Words"

2012 is here and the possibilities are without limit! If you are ready to dig deep this year, engaging your spirit in new ways, get a jump start this Sunday by joining us for worship at 9:00 or 11:00 am. The return to our regular schedule will bring joy as we reconnect in Sunday School and make room for our spirits to re-engage in our familiar styles of worship. Rev. Mark Briley will offer a message entitled, "Famous First Words" based on the lectionary text for Sunday found in Genesis 1:1-5. Invite a neighbor, family member or friend. Resolve to challenge your faith, expand your mind, and soften your heart that you might serve God with the best of who you are. See you Sunday!

2012 Welcome Mat Schedule

The Welcome Mat will be published twice a month in 2012, with the exception of some months with holidays. Deadlines are Tuesdays before noon are as follows: January 3, 17, 24; February 7, 21; March 6, 20; April 3, 17; May 1, 15; June 5, 19; July 10, 24; August 7, 21; September 4, 18; October 2, 16, 30; November 13, 27; December 11, 18. Please e-mail articles to hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net.

The WELCOME MAT (USPS 736-590) is published bi-weekly, except in Mar, June, and Nov., by Harvard Ave Christian Church at 5502 S Harvard, Ave. Tulsa, OK 74135-3859. Periodicals postage paid at Tulsa, OK.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The WELCOME MAT, 5502 S Harvard Ave., Tulsa, OK 74135-3859

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Bell Choir Director: Elizabeth Palmieri – epalmieri@cox.net
Praise Team Leader: Isaac Herbert – betterway86@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS	
January 8	Regular Sunday schedule resumes 9:00 am -- The Rising 10:00 am -- Sunday School 11:00 am -- Traditional Worship
January 11	NEATs Gathering, 10:30 am Rising Deacon’s Mtg., 6:30 pm
January 12	Traditional Deacon’s Mtg., 6:30 pm
January 13	Parents’ Night Out, 6:00-10:00 pm
January 15	The Open Door, 10:00 am
January 16	Martin L. King Jr. Day (Office Open)
January 17	PTS Re-Mind & Re-New Dinner at HACC, 5:30 pm

Welcome Mat Deadline

Please e-mail your articles to hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net, drop them by the church office or fax them to 742-5501. The next deadline is **January 17 before noon**.



Ski Trip

We arrived home Monday night after a wonderful time on the slopes and in fellowship. Thank you to all the parents and sponsors who helped make this Ski Trip such a success. Thank you also to all those who kept us in your prayers. We were happy to have no mishaps.

Happy New Year!

We are looking forward to the new year with the youth as we continue our ministry together. Be sure to mark your calendars for Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm and Sunday mornings at 10:00 am. Plus, watch your e-mails and the newsletter for upcoming special Youth events.