



The Welcome Mat

Harvard Avenue Christian Church *(Disciples of Christ)*
Be loved. Believe. Become.

Volume 53 • February 8, 2012 • Number 4

WHAT'S INSIDE

- Page 2
 - Adult Education
 - Telecare Callers
 - Welcome Mat Deadlines
- Page 3
 - Adult Mission Trip in April
 - Women to Meet at PTS
 - NEATs Mardi Gras
 - 24: A Lenten Journey
- Page 4
 - We Are the Church
 - Food Bank Gifted by Women
 - Craft Crowd
 - Parents' Night Out
- Page 5
 - It's Here!*
 - by Rev. Mark Briley
 - Sunday Services
- Back Page
 - Upcoming Events
 - Youth News

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, February 21
before noon

Visit us on our website at
www.hacctulsa.org

**Congregational Meeting
 and Building Team Presentation**
This Sunday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.

A congregational meeting has been called for Sunday, February 12 at 10:00 am. The purpose of the meeting will be for HACC members to experience a presentation from our Building Team that has worked for over eighteen months to create a Master Plan for our facility and property. A vote will be taken regarding the Master Plan in hopes of beginning the physical work to make this spiritual dream a reality. Don't miss this exciting presentation! *(See Page 5 for more details.)*



Have you ever taken a moment to really consider all that we are and all that we have is a gift from God? What an incredible concept! Our response is to give back. There is no greater joy than being in a position to share our gifts and resources. If we have enough, but others are lacking, we must remind ourselves that God created a world of plenty and that it is up to us to distribute and share what we have – here in our own back yard in Tulsa, in remote villages, and disaster areas on the other side of the world.

On February 19, Harvard Avenue will collect our annual Week of Compassion offering with the goal of \$25,000 to help people here, there, and everywhere. In a time of worldwide uncertainty and fear, along with continuing economic insecurity, this is our opportunity to acknowledge that we do, indeed, have all that we need – and more.

For more than six decades the Disciples of Christ have shared their material resources through the Week of Compassion, bringing glory to God and joy to others around the world. The Week of Compassion pools the resources of many and distributes them through our partner agencies to help those in need. The funds are distributed in response to local disasters as well as community projects like wells, schools, and medical facilities.

Through our sharing may we joyfully transform ourselves as we help transform the world.

For more than six decades the Disciples of Christ have shared their material resources through Week of Compassion . . .

Lynn Fisher, Outreach Team Member

**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 Rick and Abby Langenheim for hosting our Soup and Sides evening January 27 – everyone had a great time! We’re continuing our GPS Study on February 19, with Dave Maddox as our facilitator and welcome anyone who wants to join the discussion.

Challengers -- This past Sunday we had our own Daryl Southard bring us his lesson on “the Gospel One Word at a Time” and his focus for Sunday was Faith. We agreed that if you profess to be a Christian you must have Faith, Hope, and Love. Faith is “the assurance of what we hope for and certainty of what we cannot see”. As a Christian, Faith is our way of life. Many thanks to our faithful Daryl who is always there ready to speak to us about the word of God. Our Super Bowl Party was “super” . . . much fun was had by all and it goes without saying that Russ Vanderslice was again the perennial winner! And, yes, he really does make delicious chili.

Disciples -- Using Lamentations 3:1-9, 20-33, Dan gave a wonderful history lesson about the tragedy in Jerusalem. In the midst of the book on agony and poetry on the subject of unspeakable suffering, we have a sign of hope. The author of Lamentations remembers the God of compassion and the compassion of love. Speaking of love, our class Valentine dinner is Thursday, February 9 at 5:30 pm at Johnny Carino’s. If you would like to sign up to help with the Food for Kids backpacks for Grimes, see Sally Sitler.

Explorers -- The Explorers Class is studying the Gospel of Luke with an emphasis on how Christ answers the question: “What must I do to inherit eternal life?”

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.

Genesis -- We continued our study of John Ortberg’s series on “Living in Jesus Name” with a discussion on the topic of *Everyday Relationships*. Of course the best example of relationship is how Jesus treated people. We can give a lot

to our different relationships but the best quality we can extend in each of them is “love.” Thanks to the Kneppers for facilitating our discussion. Next Sunday we will join the rest of the church to hear from the Building Team about their proposal for our church. You are invited to join us any Sunday in the Education Wing for prayer, study and fellowship.

Telecare Callers Welcomed



Telecare is a calling ministry at Harvard Avenue Christian Church wherein our members are telephoned by lay volunteers to ascertain any concerns or prayer requests which are then relayed to our Elders to be lifted up in prayer. Telecare happens on the third Thursday of each month, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. Four callers are needed for each Telecare event.

Volunteers to are welcomed to serve in the “Call Center” to reach out to our church family. Everything is set up and organized by Rev. Bethany Albrecht so our callers only need to come to the church and make the phone calls. Rev. Albrecht will also be doing a training session for those who volunteer.

If sixteen to twenty people volunteer to call, each person will only need to serve a few times a year. If you are interested or have questions, please call Paulette Knepper at 918-296-9067 or e-mail her at rpknepper@cox.net.

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: February 21; March 6, 20; April 3, 17; May 1, 15, 22; 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.



Adult Mission Trip to Joplin, Missouri

April 15-21, 2012

The Oklahoma Region of the Disciples of Christ is coordinating a mission trip to Joplin, Missouri to help rebuild the tornado damaged areas. Participants will stay at South Joplin Christian Church where showers are available. You will need to bring an air mattress or cot and bedroll.

Each person is asked to pay \$150 for

meals, lodging, etc. at the mission. In addition, each mission partner is asked to raise \$200 for building supplies from friends, family, and church members to help with the construction. The Outreach Team will consider requests for help with the costs.

A deposit of \$50 will hold your space. Checks, applications and medical

forms are due ASAP. This will be a first come registration due to limited space. The remaining balance is due March 25, 2012. Travel to and from will be by sharing rides in personal vehicles.

For information, please contact Danny Forthman, Outreach Team Leader, at d4thman@yahoo.com or (918) 230-3899.

SEEKING GOD! SERVING GOD!

(DISCIPLE WOMEN: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE)



SPEAKER:
REV. LESLIE DOTSON

**DISCIPLES WOMEN
SPRING MEETING
FEBRUARY 24, 2012**

PHILLIPS THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY
901 N. MINGO
9:30 AM

*CATERED LUNCH IS \$8
RSVP BY FEBRUARY 15
TO 918-520-8474*



NEATs Mardi Gras Fundraiser

NEATs is sponsoring a Mardi Gras Pancake Jazz Event on Tuesday, February 21, from noon to 2:00 pm in Peake Hall at Harvard Avenue Christian Church. Everyone invited! There will be plenty of pancakes, sausage, and fruit for you to enjoy for a \$10 donation. Music throughout the event will feature Bill Rowland, Daryl Christopher & Aaron Henderson, Tulsa School of Arts & Sciences Jazz Band, and Barron Ryan. Stop by for lunch and enjoy the food, fun, and jazz! Call **918-743-1303** for more information.



A Lenten Journey

The Lenten season is the most reflective time of year for people following the ways of Jesus. At Harvard Avenue Christian Church we are very intentional about providing special opportunities for all people to consider who they are and where God is guiding their lives. On **Ash Wednesday, February 22**, we will gather for worship at **7:00 pm** in the sanctuary for the traditional launch into the season, accepting the mark of the cross on our foreheads, a reminder of our mortality.

The following five Wednesdays will host our evening Lenten series entitled, "24". The series will cover the final twenty-four hours of Jesus' earthly life, beginning with the Last Supper and taking us to the Cross. A supper

will be offered in Peake Hall each night at 5:30 pm with worship beginning at 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Special music will be offered by our Chancel Choir and The Rising Band. Guest presenters, along with our ministers, will offer reflections each week, breaking the final twenty-four hours of Jesus' life into five segments. The intensity of silence, prayer, and music, surrounding Jesus' journey will open us in incredible ways to the deepening of spirit. Pastor Darlene Martinez will be offering a unique children's version of the series for children ages three to fifth grade. Childcare will also be available for infants and toddlers. Embrace this reflective season to guide your heart into faith like never before.



We Are the Church!

Congratulations:

Whitney King and Adam Dugan were united in marriage on February 4, 2012 in Dripping Springs, Texas. Whitney is the daughter of Leslie King.



New Member Picture:

We didn't get a picture of Ellen Dollarhide on January 22 when she joined HACC, but here it is now. Also, we said she was working on her master's degree, but she is actually completing work on her Ph.D. in Education Policy and Leadership Studies. Ellen is also a research assistant for the Oklahoma Center for Education Policy at OU-Tulsa.

Sympathy for:

The family of Frank Best, who died on January 31, 2012. His services were held Saturday, February 4, at Memorial Park Cemetery. The family has requested that donations in his memory be given to Harvard Avenue Christian Church.

Roger Stark and family at the death of his wife, Virginia Stark, on February 3, 2012. Virginia's service will be held on Saturday, February 11, at 11:00 a.m. at Memorial Baptist Church, 2800 S. Yale.

Saying Thank You:

Thanks to Dan and Jan Forthman, Lynn and Bob Fisher, and Dick and Barbara Wollmershauser who cooked and served a delicious "Super Bowl" meal at the Day Center Sunday, February 5.

As many of you know our daughter, Angie, has been very ill. We want to thank everyone who has reached out to us with love and support. We ask that you remember Angie in your prayers and pray for comfort and strength for her and for us. Our deepest gratitude,

Cathy and Hank Leonard

A Decorating Twist that Helps Those in Need

The women of our church celebrated the holiday season with their annual Christmas luncheon, but this year, instead of the usual holiday centerpieces, individual tables were decorated in a unique and special way. Donated canned goods surrounded by Christmas greenery made each table very festive and helped the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma in "fighting hunger and feeding hope". After the luncheon the canned goods were then delivered to the Food Bank. The church recently received a Thank You letter stating that 418 pounds of food had been donated. We can be very proud of this donation and the Tuesday morning study group who sponsored the luncheon would like to thank each person who helped with this project.

Tuesday Morning Ladies Group

CRAFT CROWD

The CC's latest project is making Ribbon Bracelets to give as gifts! Want to know more? Join them on Tuesday mornings, from 10:00 am to noon, in the Genesis classroom and see what else they're up to.

PARENTS NIGHT OUT, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Parents Night Out is an opportunity for children from 5th grade and under to enjoy an evening of fun and 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: Mike & Sharon Bartlett, Betty Sample
Infant Nursery: Rebekah Margalski and LaDonna Prince
Toddler Room: Anna Hubbard and David Martinez
PK – 5th Grade: Kyle & Faith Simmons, Tasha Brown,





It's Here!

Anticipation is one of God's greatest gifts to our spirits. We anticipate the birth of a child. We anticipate an upcoming vacation. We even anticipate an outing to our favorite restaurant. Anticipation stirs us to a place of readiness and eagerness... to a place of hopefulness. For more than a year, we have anticipated the moment we'll experience together on Sunday morning at 10:00 am. Our Building Team, comprising a broad representation of our congregation, will share the results of their eighteen month labor of love.

Through stories, pictures, and images of the future, we will experience the fruit of their efforts and be given the opportunity to affirm their prayer-filled work. After the presentation by team leaders Tom Maxwell and Greg Entwistle, there will be an opportunity for questions and a call to vote on a concept, one we will strive to breathe into being.

I know the anticipation has been great. We are curious beings and we care deeply about the ministry we share at our church. The Building Team is equally anticipating the joy of sharing fully the dreams for our future and the chance to share more broadly the opportunity each of us will have to carry these dreams forward.

How do we handle this time of anticipation? We pray. We pray for vision and gifts of discernment. We seek God's direction, an outpouring of unity, and humble gratefulness. Then, when the time finally comes, we are ready with souls full of dreams and anticipation to celebrate the opportunities before us. Please partner with me in prayer this week. May we all open our minds and hearts to the next chapter in God's story told through the people of Harvard Avenue Christian Church. God is always ready for the Church to rise up, praise deeply, serve faithfully, and lead boldly. May we be a part of God's hopeful anticipation. The time has come!

Mark Briley

**EACH ONE,
MOVE ONE**



Don't forget to be hospitable by moving up a row and leaving room for our visiting guests on Sunday!

Sunday Services

February 12 -- Where We Are: Life Soundtrack

(Scripture: Psalm 150)

Rev. Mark Briley, preaching

Elders--Communion: The Rising-- Sharon Bartlett

Traditional--Glenda Womack; Offertory--Larry Smith

Visitation--Betsy Richert, Steve Brown

Set Up: Neil & Bendy Gilpin; Clean Up: Pat & Evelia Cline

Rising Tech: Colt Stubblefield

Attendance:

January 29: Rising -- 87; Traditional 150; Total -- 237

February 5: Rising -- 72; Traditional -- 161; Total -- 233

February 19 -- Where We Are: Don't Wait for the Brick

(Scripture: Mark 2:1-12)

Rev. Mark Briley, preaching

Elders--Communion: The Rising-- Susan Hollingsworth

Traditional--Alan Crider; Offertory--Rick Langenheim

Visitation--Rick Langenheim, Bruce Cargill

Set Up: Bob & Kathryn Wheeler

February Deacons:

Traditional: John & Linda Hopkins, Colleen Ayers Griffin &

Robert Griffin, Melissa Hoffman-Noble, Tonee Jordan,

Leslie King, Pat Maxwell;

The Rising: Lyn & Mark Courtial, Yvonne Admire,

Connie Wertz



WHERE WE ARE

*This Sunday's Message -
"Life's Soundtrack"*

Whether you are a "musical" person or not, music plays a critical role in the lives of every human being. For centuries music has been used as a tool of praise and self-expression. It has celebrated political revolutions, created a stir of the deepest human emotions, and been carefully selected by a bride and groom for their first dance as husband and wife. How has music affected your life? Join us on Sunday morning at 9:00 or 11:00 am to consider the role of music in our journey of faith.

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Senior Minister: Rev. Mark P. Briley – hacc.markb@sbcglobal.net
Minister of Pastoral Care & Spirituality: Rev. Bethany J. Albrecht -- hacc.bethany@sbcglobal.net
Director of Children’s Ministries: Darlene Martinez -- hacc.darlene@sbcglobal.net
Director of Youth Ministries: Colt Stubblefield – hacc.coltsbcglobal.net
Communication/Administrative Director: Betsey Owen – hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net
Finance Manager: Benny Chastain – hacc.benny@sbcglobal.net
Director of Music Ministries/Organist: Susie Daugherty – susie@susiesings.com
Music Assistant: Libby Sublett—libby-sublett@utulsa.edu
Chancel Choir Director: Brad Burnham – BradB1007@olp.net
Bell Choir Director: Elizabeth Palmieri – eapalmieri@cox.net
Praise Team Leader: Isaac Herbert – betterway86@yahoo.com

UPCOMING EVENTS	
February 12	CONGREGATIONAL MEETING and BUILDING TEAM PRESENTATION, 10:00 am
February 13	Outreach Team Meeting, 6:00 pm
February 14	Happy St. Valentine’s Day!
February 16	HACC Book Club, 10:00 am
February 19	Week of Compassion begins
February 20	Presidents’ Day (Office is open)
February 21	Newsletter Deadline, before noon NEATs Mardi Gras, 12:00 noon
February 22	Ash Wednesday Service, 7:00 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 **February 21** before noon.



Souper Bowl of Caring – Update:

I would like to thank everyone who donated dollars and canned goods over the last two Sundays. This year through the Souper Bowl of Caring, as a church, we raised 153 cans and \$369 dollars that will go directly to Iron Gate. If you didn’t get a chance to donate we can still use your contributions. I will make a trip to Iron Gate this Thursday to drop off the bulk of our donations, but I will also make a second trip next Tuesday, so it’s not too late. If you didn’t get a chance to drop off your cans/dollars, feel free to swing by the church this week or bring them on Sunday.



Super Bowl Party – Thank You:

I would also like to thank Richard and Paulette Knepper for hosting this year’s youth Super Bowl party. The Kneppers have generously opened up their home to our youth on numerous occasions, for Christmas Parties, Super Bowl parties and countless swim parties. So thank you Kneppers -- you have a beautiful home and we greatly appreciate your generosity and willingness to share it with us.

In His Grip, Colt

918-691-6525

hacc.coltsbcglobal.net