



## We Are the Church!

### Sympathy for:

The family of Bob Greer, who died on September 10, 2011. Bob's service was held at Harvard Avenue Christian Church on Friday, September 16.

Starre Barnard and family at the death of her brother, Terry Schmidt, on September 5, 2011. Services were held in Collinsville, Oklahoma, September 8.

### New Members:

A hearty welcome to Larry, Diedra and Karina Cowan, the newest members of our HACC family. The Cowans joined on Sunday, September 18, 2011. Their postal address is P. O. Box 777, Jenks, OK 74137 and their phone number is 512-923-5070.



A grand total of 1,250 pounds of food donations were sorted and re-packaged at the August 23rd HACC Food Bank Work Party. That is the equivalent of 962 meals for people in need. What a tremendous difference our efforts are making for the 440 partner programs helped by Community Food Bank.

The next work party is scheduled for **Saturday, October 1, from 9:00 am to noon** for anyone who would like to participate. Please call Mary Maddox, 918-494-0992, or go to the Food Bank website [www.cfbeo.org](http://www.cfbeo.org) to download a volunteer application.



*Be Loved. Believe. Become.*

## MUSIC NOTES

This coming Sunday morning, September 25th, our terrific tenor, Todd Maxwell will sing "I Walked Today Where Jesus Walked". Elizabeth Palmieri will bring us a lovely flute solo as a communion meditation and the offertory will feature the Chancel Choir singing the upbeat Bacharach-esque "Go Out With Joy".

The Children's Choir members are preparing a fun and uplifting musical presentation for both services on Sunday, Oct. 2nd and will practice it this coming Sunday afternoon at a special Pizza Picnic in the Park. This year's choir is younger than usual, but quite capable and enthusiastic. I have no doubt that their presence in the upcoming World Communion Sunday services will inspire many smiles and happy feelings.

Rehearsals for "Tapestry of Light" – the Celtic Christmas cantata to be sung by our choir on the annual Christmas concert – will begin very soon, and we're anxiously seeking additional voices to add power and beauty to this exciting holiday event. Those of you who enjoy singing, (And who doesn't?) please consider joining with us for this special presentation. We have professional practice CDs for anyone who needs a little help learning a part, and I'm always available for extra musical tutoring. We have a lot of fun and the Christmas Concert is a wonderfully positive holiday experience for the choir and congregation.

Don't hesitate to call or e-mail if you'd like more information.

Peace and harmony – Susie  
918-519-8258 [susie@susiesings.com](mailto:susie@susiesings.com)

## 2011 Welcome Mat Deadlines

The newsletter deadlines are on Tuesdays at noon. Please e-mail your articles to [hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hacc.betsey@sbcglobal.net), drop them by the church office or fax them to 742-5501. The next deadline is **October 4**. Newsletter deadlines for 2011 are: Tuesdays, at noon: October 4, October 18, November 1, November 15, November 29, and December 13. (Months where publication dates do not skip a week represent months where the schedule has been adjusted to accommodate holidays.)

## *Mini Mission Trip to Tushka, OK*

On April 14, Tushka, Oklahoma was hit by an EF3 tornado which left two people dead and more than 40 injured, while destroying homes, businesses and school buildings. This disaster has been overshadowed in the media by more recent storms, but help is still needed in Atoka County.

HACC's Outreach Team is organizing a **Mini Mission Trip** to Tushka, on **October 13-15**. The specific work to be done isn't known yet, but possibilities include cleaning, meal preparation, debris removal,

replacing windows and doors, hanging sheetrock, building or repairing porches, repairing roofs, etc. No special skills are needed -- anyone can help. We plan to work Thursday through Saturday, October 13-15. You can come help any day or days you are available.

We will be sleeping on air mattresses on the floor in an area church and meals will be provided by our Outreach team. The only cost will be transportation. We will coordinate carpooling to get everyone to Tushka



and back. Call Danny Forthman at 918-230-3899 or e-mail him at [d4thman@yahoo.com](mailto:d4thman@yahoo.com) if you would like to participate.



## *When Normal Doesn't Work*

Much of what society tells us is "normal" isn't really working any more. Society says, "Faith should be convenient." "Busy is the only way." "Money is everything." "Debt is a way of life." Join us for worship in October as Rev. Briley introduces a new stewardship sermon series suggesting an alternative to "normal."

### ***Series: When Normal Doesn't Work***

- October 2 - Faith (Revelation 3:14-22)
- October 9 - Time (Luke 14:16-24)
- October 16 - Money (Luke 18:18-30)

## *Fall Festival*

Fun for the Whole Family

**October 29**

**6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**



**LOOKING FOR US ON THE WEB? We have a new website name -- [www.hacctulsa.org](http://www.hacctulsa.org). (But if you can't remember the new name, you can still find us at [www.harvardavecc.org](http://www.harvardavecc.org), too.)**

**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** -- We'll continue our study of *The Eleven* on September 25, with Mary Maddox facilitating a discussion about Barnabas. On October 2, Dennis and Paulette Pogue will begin our study of a series on The Eagles.

**Challengers** -- After enjoying the great Summer Series, it is good to be together again as we get into our fall classes. We started with John Hopkins who gave us a challenging lesson on "Giving". On Labor Day Weekend, Doc Shannon gave the class a touching presentation on "Remembrance of 9/11". The following Sunday Mike Burton stepped in at the last minute to give us a lesson on "Who Are We and What Do We Want Our Lessons to Be". This Sunday, John Dismukes presented us with a thought provoking and delightful lesson on "Ethics". Many thanks to these wonderful and dear persons for their thought provoking, enjoyable and sometimes down-right funny lessons. You all are very much appreciated.

**Disciples** -- Following the sermon series, Dan discussed the scriptures in Isaiah 58:6-10 and Matthew 6:33. Our Food4Kids delivery to Grimes Elementary begins this week. If you want to help and haven't signed up, call Sally Sitler. Mark your calendar for a cookout on Friday, September 30 at Jim & Glenda Womack's.

**Explorers** -- Interested in learning more about the Explorers? Stop by, we meet in the last classroom on the right in the Education Wing. Or contact Christina Maxwell - cabmaxwell@aol.com.

**Genesis** -- We had a full class on Sunday as we spent time diving deeper into Mark's sermon on Wide open Spaces - Namaste. Thanks to Lyn for leading our discussion of acceptance, tolerance, love and peace. We agreed to be intentional this week about deepening the relationships with those closest to us, as well as being aware of how the Spirit of God in us can honor the Spirit of God in others. Don and Connie will lead us this week in our discussion of Sunday's sermon on Wide Open Spaces - If There Is Nothing Else.

Read Matthew 6:33 and Luke 17:20-21 in preparation and reflect on seeking God first in all things, all ways. We celebrate with Larry and Diedra in their decision to transfer their church membership to HACC. Come join us this week as we gather in prayer, fellowship and study.

**Craft Crowd:**

The C-Crowd will try to finish the Chrismons by the end of September. Then in October they will make Neck Bags for Tulsa's Hospitality House. No special skills are required for either project and they would love to have you join them as they work to be "Jesus' hands" creating projects to help those in need.



**North East Area  
 Assembly of the  
 Christian Church  
 in Oklahoma**

**Saturday, October 8**  
 8:30 am – 4:00 pm

East Side Christian Church  
 1438 South Indianapolis, Tulsa, Oklahoma

Keynote Speaker:

**Rev. R. Wayne Calhoun Sr.**

Minister of Evangelism

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada

Workshop Leaders:

**Rev. Ray Hickman**, Tulsa Metropolitan Ministries

**Rev. Bethany Albrecht**, Harvard Avenue Christian Church, Tulsa

Cost: Adults: \$70 dollars for 10 or \$10 per person  
 Children (age 4-11), Youth grades (6-12)  
 \$30 for 10 or \$5 per person

**Special Programming For Children and Youth**



## Let Me Introduce You to My Friend, Question

I became good friends with “questions” while in seminary. Before then, I seemed to have a better relationship with “answers” than I did with “questions.” Like so many of my classmates, I hoped to leave seminary with all of the answers to life and faith because I knew people would be asking. Seminary expanded my openness to the mystery and value of a good question and we have remained close friends ever since.

Life is a journey and isn’t lived all at once. It is experienced moment to moment and I see that so clearly when I look at my new son, Hayes. Right now, most everything is a mystery to him. But there are moments when something clicks... “This hand is a part of me and helpful as well.” “This crying stuff helps me get supper delivered faster.” Hayes wasn’t born with all of the answers but every moment he experiences brings about new knowledge and understanding. This process continues all of our life. The mysteries grow; the challenges expand; but the process is similar. You live through the questions. You embrace the mystery moment by moment until the truth is revealed.

You are likely sorting through some questions in your life right now. Some mystery probably has you pondering the possibilities and may be leading you on an adventure of discovery. Keep up the quest. Don’t lose hope in the process. If we had all of the answers, we might stop thinking about anything at all. Your friendship with questions may be the one thing that keeps you in the pursuit. That’s a friend worth having.

*“Have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves. Live the questions now. Perhaps then, someday in the future, you will gradually, without even noticing it, live your way into the answer.”* – Rainer Maria Rilke

*Mark Briley*



*Be Loved. Believe. Become.*

### Sunday Services

September 25-- **Wide Open Spaces: A Divine Autopsy**

(John 17:17-26)

Rev. Mark Briley, preaching

Elders -- Communion: Contemporary-Betsy Richert;  
Traditional-Robert Wheeler; Offertory--Rick Langenheim  
Visitation--Kaye Nofziger, Rick Langenheim  
Acolyte--Keaton Grigsby; Contemp. Tech--Colt Stubblefield  
Set Up: Don & Connie Wertz  
Clean Up: Carolyn Buchan, Judy Knott

Attendance:

September 11 -- Contemporary --75 Traditional --155; Total 230

September 18-- Contemporary-- 83; Traditional-- 152; Total--235

October 2 -- **When Normal Doesn't Work: Faith**

(Revelation 3:14-22) -- Rev. Mark Briley, preaching

Elders -- Communion: Contemporary -- Belva Brown Jordan  
Traditional -- Barbara Cargill Offertory-- Alan Crider  
Visitation--Betsy Richert, Polly Bennett  
Acolyte: Sam Robson;  
Set Up: Mike & Sharon Bartlett  
Clean Up: Explorers Class (Christina Maxwell)

### October Deacons

Traditional: John & Linda Hopkins, Melissa Hoffman-Noble, Pat Maxwell, Tonee Jordan

Contemporary: John & Debbie Robson, Mark & Lyn Courtial

October Greeters: Dave Jones, Beverly Strong

## **Wide Open Spaces**

### **Sermon Series – Concludes Sunday**

When speaking of those who follow his way, Jesus says, “I am in them and they are in me.” There is a lot to unpack in that little twenty-three lettered sentence. Join us this Sunday as Rev. Briley concludes a sermon series entitled, **Wide Open Spaces**, looking theologically at the big questions we all have in life. His message, entitled, “A Divine Autopsy,” will consider Jesus’ statement.

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Visit us on our website at [www.hacctulsa.org](http://www.hacctulsa.org)

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Bell Choir Director: Elizabeth Palmieri – [eapalmieri@cox.net](mailto:eapalmieri@cox.net)  
Praise Team Leader: Isaac Herbert – [betterway86@yahoo.com](mailto:betterway86@yahoo.com)

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- September 18 Children’s Choir, 5:30 pm
- September 20 Newsletter deadline, noon
- September 23 Youth Fall Retreat, through Sunday  
First Day of Autumn
- September 25 Life Group Leaders Orientation
- September 25 Children’s Choir Picnic, 12:15 pm
- September 26 Beginning Handbells, 3:45 pm
- September 29 HACC Bridge Players, 10:00 am
- October 1 Food Bank Work Party, 9:00 am



## Our Youth

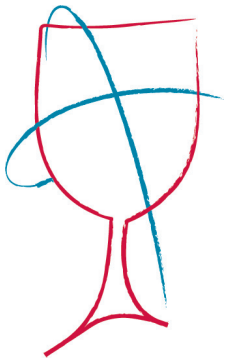
### Fall Retreat

#### September 23rd-25th

This weekend is Fall Retreat at the Tulsa Ozark Club Lodge, and we would love to have you join us. Fall Retreat is one of our best trips of the year, and this year’s will be no exception. The plan is to meet here at the church at 5pm on Friday September 23, go to the lodge at 42747 County Road 510, Eucha, Oklahoma, and escape from the business of the world. We will return to the church mid-afternoon on Sunday. The total cost of the trip is only \$35 which needs to be turned in this Wednesday September 21. As always, if you have any questions, please let me know.

In His Grip, Colt, 918-691-6525  
[hacc.colt@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hacc.colt@sbcglobal.net)





# The Welcome Mat

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

Volume 52

September 21, 2011

Number 22

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#### Sunday Mornings:

9:00 a.m.—Contemporary Worship  
 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, October 4  
 at noon**

Visit us on our website at  
[www.hacctulsa.org](http://www.hacctulsa.org)



**CROP WALK  
 is coming!  
 OCTOBER 2!!**

Stretch those calf muscles! Find those WALKING shoes! October 2 is almost here. If you haven't sponsored a WALKER (or two) by now, look for one this week.

The need is greater than ever for hunger relief, here and worldwide. The money we raise will help teach women in a remote village to start a cottage industry, grow their own vegetables, or raise animals for food and sale. A potable water system will be created in a village, saving children from disease, saving miles of walking each day just to fetch drinking water.

Join your fellow WALKERS, or sponsor one today.



*Fall is coming! Football season is in full swing! It's time to party!* Join your friends on the HACC parking lot on **Sunday, October 9**, for the second annual HACC Tailgate! Last year brought out over 125 friends for the stellar inaugural experience and, with your help, more than 200 will share in the fun this year. The party is shaping up to be better than ever with some exciting new fetures! The night will welcome and feature the live music of Red Wood Rising ([www.redwoodrising.com](http://www.redwoodrising.com)). Backyard Burgers will be on site to provide hamburgers and hot dogs and will partner with Tulsa's most unique phenomenon, Josh's Sno Shack who will be at the party providing snow cones to all in attendance.

A brewing Corn Hole tournament will headline the event with a \$5 entry fee and a trophy prize to the partners who win it all. Large inflatable bouncers will be on hand for the kids! Sign up this Sunday for the tournament or to reserve the prime parking spots if you plan to decorate your trunk with your favorite team colors. Wear your team spirit and know that the most represented team at the event will be celebrated at the end of the night with all gathered to hear their school song! It is going to be a great night of fun and fellowship. Invite your neighbors and friends, sign up this weekend, and join us that night for the many festivities! The party starts at **6:00 pm!**

