



a
special
prayer
focus
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FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

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FIRST CONNECTIONS

CONNECTING THE FUMC COMMUNITY

WWW.FUMCTULSA.ORG

1115 South Boulder Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma, 74119 • 918-592-FUMC (3862)

Wednesday Night Alive! begins August 27



Wednesday
Night
Alive!

What is *Wednesday Night Alive*?

WNA is . . .

- a relaxed evening meal with friends and family;
- programs for children, youth and adults;
- a gathering place for First Men and First Women;
- a time to prepare for leading worship;
- a place where body, mind and spirit can all be stretched;
- . . . and so much more!

Thanks to the hundreds who responded to our survey, we're putting some great new ideas into action. Here are some things about *WNA* we think you'll appreciate:

- Our fantastic youth, children and choir programs continue
- Dinner available until 6:30 so you have time to get here from work
- More health-conscious choices on the menu
- A minister-led Bible Study every Wednesday night
- New Wednesday offerings, including First Men, First Women and Christian fitness
- Most class series lasting only five or six weeks
- Most classes designed so that you don't miss out if you skip a session
- A 7:30-8:00 "AfterGlow" in the YFC: Activities for all ages!

Next week we'll show you the full menu of opportunities at *Wednesday Night Alive*. But here are a few of the highlights:

- The Fall 2008 Ministers' Bible Study: the Letter to the Hebrews, taught by the Rev. Greg Boyd
- First Men and First Women, hosted by Wade and Sandi Paschal
- Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace Course
- Praying with the Church: an experience of intercession, hosted by Dr. Jerry Toops
- "Stepping in the Spirit" and "Strength in the Spirit": Christian fitness classes
- "BikeChurch" and "RunChurch": worship experiences for bicyclers and runners
- And lots more!

Please contact us at stacypleasant@fumctulsa.org or 592-3862, ext. 327 if you have any questions. And make plans now to join us on August 27 for

Wednesday Night Alive!

this sunday

8:15 • 9:30 • 10:55 AM
WORSHIP IN THE SANCTUARY
9:30 REGENERATION SERVICE
IN THE YFC

**The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like...
Understanding Faith Through the
Parables**

A Thing Is Worth Just What It Costs
Luke 19:11-27

The parable of the pounds (the Lucan version of the more familiar Parable of the Talents) is one of my favorite parables. In Luke's story, Jesus tells about a king who leaves some servants behind as he goes to have his kingdom conferred. The servants are to invest his money while he is gone. The situation is somewhat tense because a delegation of citizens follows the king urging that his authority be taken away.

You know the story—the king returns and most of the servants have good news about their investments. One servant, however, has merely hidden the money and returns it to the king. Far from being satisfied with this, the king is livid and punishes the servant.

This story is about more than just how we use the talents or abilities God has given us—this story is about what we are willing to risk for God.

Join us Sunday as we learn that a thing is worth just what it costs.



Desire

While I have been off the past couple of weeks, Sandi and I have been re-reading one of our favorite books by John Eldredge, *The Journey of Desire*. Of all of Eldredge's books, this one speaks probably most deeply to me.

The idea of the book is basically this: desire is a good thing. There are, to be sure, corrupt desires. But, the fact that human beings have a sense that something more could be here in life that is not here, or not here yet, is basic to our humanity. All of us as human beings have a sense that life could be better—we hope there is more to life than we have experienced so far. Desire makes us restless and pushes us to search.

Of course, we may try to fulfill our desires the wrong way. Some of us try to kill desire with our addictions, hoping that temporary pleasure will make the yearning go away. Others may try to use work or TV or games to deaden desire. Some of us keep thinking the perfect relationship or the perfect job or the perfect church will finally satisfy that desire—and we keep trying relationship after relationship or job after job thinking the next one will make us happy.

Some religions (Buddhism comes to mind) try to get rid of desire thinking that desire is the problem in life. But, desire tells us that something is possible beyond what we have or even what we can make happen in life.

The apostle Paul tells us that yearning is built into creation itself for God's purpose:

Romans 8:19-21 (MsgB)

The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens.

The fact that we want more tells us the possibility for more exists. And when we finally let go of all our solutions to get more and turn to God, we will find that the great fulfiller of desire loves us and wants to satisfy our hearts.

The worst thing in life is not to be unfulfilled, but not to want anything at all. As long as we have desire, we have the possibility of allowing God's grace to fill our lives.

In His Service,

Dr. R. Wade Paschal, Jr.



Sermon Notes

8:15, 9:30 and 10:55 am Services

August 10, 2008

The Kingdom of Heaven Is Like... Understanding Faith Through the Parables

“The Preparation of the Heart”

Parable of the Sower

Luke 8:4–15

- I. The Lesson of the Soils
 - A. The Path: the soil that doesn't receive
 - B. The Rocks: the soil that won't take roots
 - C. The Thorns: the soil that crowds out the growth
 - D. The Good Soil: the soil ready to receive the seed

- II. Applying the Lesson
 - A. What will keep my heart open?
 - B. What will drive my roots deep into God's love?
 - C. What will keep my life focused on God's best?

Is there more to life than this?

Let's discuss it over dinner.



Alpha Kickoff Dinner

Thursday, August 28

Alpha is an opportunity to explore the Christian faith over ten thought-provoking weekly sessions. It's relaxed, low-key, friendly and fun. Childcare is available by request. To make your reservation, or for more info, visit us online at www.fumctulsa.org or phone 592-FUMC (3862), ext. 118.

missions

30 Days

Muslim Prayer Focus

September 1–30, 2008

The world is aware of the rise of Islamic passions. Unfortunately for many the response is fear, and that is not heaven's response. We have the opportunity through the *30 Days Muslim Prayer Focus* to tune into God's heart for all people. This focused prayer effort is set for the month of Ramadan (the Islamic holy month of fasting).



Each year a new prayer guide is published by World Christian. The booklet contains daily readings and prayer points that focus on various topics, people groups and geographical areas of the Islamic World. The booklets are available free of charge and located in the 24-7 Prayer Room. Please join us in this concerted effort of prayer and be a part of the largest ongoing international call to Christians to pray for the world!

Kelly Junk
Elizabeth Hughes

family news

Sanctuary Flowers

Flowers placed on the altar for the August 10 services were given by the Leifeste family in celebration of Lauren's 13th birthday on August 8 and Julia and David's 25th anniversary on July 30.

Birth Announcements

Congratulations to Terrance and Felicia Howlett in the birth of their daughter, Adalyn Grace Howlett, August 2, 2008. Adalyn's grandparents are George and Deborah Robertson.

Congratulations to Kenny and Carrie Duncan in the birth of their daughter, Sophie Mae Duncan, August 4, 2008.

Congratulations to Chris and Ginger Day in the birth of their son, Gunnison Cooper Day, August 5, 2008. Gunnison joins his brothers, Conner and Griffin. His grandparents are Jed and Lesli Day and Doug and the late Karen Keffer; his great-grandmother is Dorothy Funkhauser.

Congratulations to Lt. Sean and Nina Wolfe in the birth of their son, Connor Malcolm Wolfe, August 6, 2008. Connor's grandmother is Laura Wolfe.

Weddings

Congratulations to Christin McMahon and Noah Richardson who were united in marriage on August 9, 2008.

Congratulations to Sara Junk and Ryan Vaughn who were united in marriage on August 9, 2008.

Our Sympathy

Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Dossler (Tonnie) and their children: Merric, Gates and Alex in the death of Joan Lewis, mother and grandmother, July 22, 2008.

Our sympathy to Elmer Purviance in the death of Ethel Purviance, sister-in-law, July 25, 2008.

Our sympathy to David Bridges, Davy Bridges and Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Murrin (Jo Lynn) in the death of Mary Jo Bridges, wife and mother, July 29, 2008.

Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Lyndle Ellis (Mary) in the death of Lora Thornton, mother, July 31, 2008.

Our sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Jim Redyke (Donna) in the death of Ramona Brennan, mother, August 1, 2008.

healing ministries

REST! SLOW DOWN! LISTEN TO GOD!

Are these some of your personal goals that you would like some help and encouragement in learning how to do? Join Beth Toops and others in a 12-week study utilizing the book written by Mike Evans, founder of Wholeness Ministries, entitled: *Why Not Waste Time with God?*

God is moving in our lives and He wants to spend time with us. Imagine that—the Creator of the universe wants to spend time with US! Come join us—let's slow down and spend some time with Him—to see Him and to hear Him and to just "hang out" with Him. Let's WASTE some time with God together.

Dr. Don Williams in the preface of the book writes:

"This book is . . . for those willing to have a fresh self-encounter and a fresh God-encounter. . . . We all 'waste' time on lesser things. Mike gives us a grace-based invitation to 'waste' time on God and reap the personal and eternal benefits."

The books will be for sale on the upper concourse for \$14 on Sunday, August 24 and August 31. We'll meet on Sunday mornings from 8:00 – 9:15 from

yfc

FAMILY FUN NIGHT BACK TO SCHOOL FIESTA!

Ready to jump back into school? Bring a friend and come to the Family Fun Night Back to School Fiesta. Everyone is invited to the Youth and Family Center from 6:00-9:00 pm on Friday, August 22. We'll have skating, a Jupiter Jump, scooters, piñatas, crafts, tacos and burritos from Taco Bueno and snacks. Tacos and burritos are 75 cents each; drinks and snacks are free.

For more information, call 592-3862, ext. 308. Cost is by donation.



infant baptism

SEPTEMBER INFANT BAPTISM

Dr. Wade Paschal has chosen Sunday, September 21 at both the 9:30 and 10:55 am Sanctuary Services for Infant Baptism. We need your information by September 12. Please email or call Kathleen Bryant at kathleenbryant@fumctulsa.org or call 592-3862, ext. 208 to make arrangements.



new members



We want to welcome
Jeff Albertson and Jessica Bush
to our
First United Methodist
Church family.

honorariums & memorials

HONORARIUMS

Mike and Carla Aldrich – *Far-Sighted Campaign* – from Dorothy Hix

MEMORIALS

Paul Hill – *Far-Sighted Campaign* – from Charles and Judy Stephenson

Paul Hill – *Far-Sighted Campaign* – from Teresa Roney

Mary Jo Bridges – Memorial Fund – from Irma Losey

Dixie Belcher – Healing Prayer Ministry – from Donald J. Orahood

Lillian Drake – Memorial Fund – from John and Margaret Eyberg

Lillian Drake – Library Fund – from Bob and Barbara Cooley

3rd GRADE BIBLE SUNDAY

children's ministries



calling all 3rd graders!

Just a reminder to be in Thomas Hall no later than 9:00 am on Sunday, August 17. You will receive your Bible from Dr. Paschal in the 9:30 am Sanctuary Service. Any questions, call Coach at 850-6578.

August 17-23, 2008

first family calendar

SUNDAY

7:30 AM Sunday Morning Prayers-Parlor

8:15/9:30/10:55 AM Worship Services-Sanctuary

8:15/9:30/10:55 AM Nursery-Infants & Toddlers-Children's Bldg

9:00 AM Coffee Bar-MSLC Alcove

9:30/10:55 AM Sunday School

9:30 AM Launch!-Thomas Hall

9:30 AM Preschool Launch Pad-CB200A

10:50 AM Camp Jesus-Thomas Hall

11:00 AM Healing Prayer Time-4th Flr Gym

1:30 PM Sk8 Church-YFC Gym

5:00 PM Bible Blast Orientation-Heir Force Rm

MONDAY

9:00 AM 20/20 Sr. Strength & Stretch-YFC Aerobics Rm

11:45 AM Cardio on the Go Fitness-YFC Aerobics Rm

12:00 PM Executive Committee Mtg-Parlor

5:15 PM Finance Committee Mtg-YFC 201

5:30 PM Living Well Yoga-YFC Aerobics Rm

6:15 PM Community Night Basketball-YFC Gym

TUESDAY

6:00 AM AM Basketball-YFC Gym

9:00 AM Cross-Training Fitness-YFC Aerobics Rm

5:45 PM Rock Solid Fitness-YFC Aerobics Rm

6:00 PM Celebrate Recovery Dinner-Parker Hall

6:00 PM Medical/Dental Clinic-200 W. 46th St. N.

6:30 PM Youth at Heart Teens-YFC Gym

7:00 PM Celebrate Recovery Worship-Sanctuary

7:00 PM Sk8 Church -YFC 104

WEDNESDAY

9:00 AM 20/20 Sr. Strength & Stretch-YFC Aerobics Rm

9:30 AM Prayer Card Ministry-YFC Craft Rm

11:45 AM Cardio on the Go Fitness-YFC Aerobics Rm

5:45 PM Sanctuary Singers Rehearsal-Choir Rm

7:00 PM Cathedral Choir Rehearsal-Choir Rm

8:00 PM Regeneration Band Rehearsal-Thomas Hall

THURSDAY

6:00 AM AM Basketball-YFC Gym

9:00 AM Cross-Training Fitness-YFC Aerobics Rm

6:00 PM Rock Solid Fitness-YFC Aerobics Rm

6:30 PM Early Learning Academy Open House-Nursery Reception

6:30 PM Home School Back to School Party-YFC Gym, Game Rm, Food Ct

FRIDAY

9:00 AM 20/20 Sr. Strength & Stretch-YFC Aerobics Rm

6:00 PM Family Fun Night Fiesta-YFC Gym, Food Ct, Game Rm, Courtyard

SATURDAY

children's ministries



Elementary Kid's Camp Jesus-Summer 2008

This is a rough overview of our summer. Themes and Bible stories will not change, but some activities and special speakers may be added. Campfire time refers to the 9:30 hour and Cabin time, 10:45-12:00.

Sunday, August 17: Focus on Encouragement
Campfire Time: John and Morgan Cunningham
Cabin Time: Appreciation Circles
Bible Story: Paul and Barnabas, Acts 12-16

Sunday, August 24: Focus on Strength
Campfire Time: KWAAM! Sunday
Bible Story: David and Goliath, 1 Samuel 17:1-52

Sunday, August 31: Focus on Making Healthy Choices
Campfire Time: Making Healthy Choices Seminar
Bible Story: Timothy joins Paul and Silas, Acts 16:1-5, 1 Timothy 4



A Parent's Most Needed Answers

What is Bible Biz? Bible Biz is an inductive Bible study course that goes through an entire book of the Bible verse by verse. Through the *NIV Study Bible* and personal devotional, the student is able to learn how to use his/her own Bible for study. They will learn how to use the concordance, maps, charts, and commentaries included in the Bible. Bible Biz teaches the student how to study the word.

Exactly what age would benefit from the Bible Biz program? Bible Biz is a program designed for 5th grade through high school. It can then be divided up by lessons and quizzes to make it more age appropriate (5th- 6th graders, 7th-8th and 9th-12th separated into groups).

What book of the Bible is currently being studied? The book of Matthew will be the study for the next two years.

What is the calendar set up for Bible Biz? Bible Biz is utilized within the school calendar, from September through the end of April. At FUMC it follows the Wednesday Night schedule from 5:15 pm to 6:30 pm. A dinner of pizza, pop and brownies is available for \$2.00 during Biz.

Does Bible Biz have extensive memory and questions to learn each week? Bible Biz is designed to include the students at both extremes. It will teach the student that does no weekly Bible study or the student that dives in each day to God's word. No student will feel behind or excluded because they did not do their devotional through the week. Memory is optional for Bible Biz. There is a set memory schedule programmed into the weekly devotionals for those students who want that challenge

Does this program exclude those that don't study and don't do memory? No, No, No. This answer is repeated to emphasize that Bible Biz is designed to meet the needs of the church for all young people—those that have discipline and those that are learning. This course of study does not exclude those that are just beginning to ruminate in God's word. Through the weekly lessons and videos, the student begins to place line upon line and precept upon precept.

How can I learn more about Biz? Come to Bible Biz on Wednesday, August 27 at 5:15 pm in MSLC 231.

How much parent involvement does Bible Biz take? A parent of a Bizzer is asked to come ONCE a semester to help with Biz—yes, you read it right—just one entire Biz per semester.

First Connections

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youth ministries



ADULT YOUTH VOLUNTEERS—Firsties Ministry Team Training: Sunday, August 17 from 12:15-2:00 pm in YFC 101. Come for lunch, vision for the fall, and a fun time together!

6TH GRADERS CONFIRMATION FALL RETREAT: Friday and Saturday, August 22-23 at Shepherd's Fold Ranch. Cost is \$35. RSVP to noemiasher@fumctulsa.org or 592-3862, ext 300 by Sunday, August 17.

college ministries



EMERGE: MORE THAN A MINISTRY. A REVOLUTION.

BACK TO SCHOOL COOKOUT! Sunday, August 17 at 6:30 pm. End the summer right by hanging out with us at Brad's house for a cookout before heading back to school. Questions? Contact Brad at bradmiles@fumctulsa.org.