

Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene

Activities and Announcements 07.19.09

PLEASE BE IN PRAYER THIS WEEK... for the Toronto Mission Trip participants: Mike Laughlin, Karen Laughlin, Alex Fain, McCall Adams, Brian Lawes, Kristin Moyer, Brandon Whiteside, Steve Stark, Allison Wier, Luke Winslow, Alex Laughlin, Hilary James, Parker Fain, Cara Fain, Jean Moore, Sam Hardee, Sam McKenzie, Josh McKenzie, Jeff Duke, Lisa Moore, Jessica Martin and Gabby Trent.

FAMILY ALL CHURCH CLEANING DAY... bring your family and help us clean our church building! There has been a lot of moving around and we need to get the building looking good for the fall semester to start. Join us on August 8th from 9-noon for fellowship and cleaning. There will be pizza and drinks for lunch at noon. Childcare will be provided for nursery aged kids. See Pastor Stephanie Johnson for more details.

YOU OUGHTA BE IN PICTURES... or at least run them. The Media Team needs help in the balcony Sunday mornings. If you are interested in running the slides (Powerpoint and general computer experience required) or the camera (basic camera experience is helpful) during the service, please contact Jason or Amy Ayers at 414-5330 (Jason), 408-9713 (Amy), or amy@ayersnet.net. Additional training will be provided.

THE HOPE BOX PANTRY IS BARE... If you would like to donate food for this ministry, please put it in the kitchen by the atrium. If you don't have time to shop and would like to make a monetary donation, please mark "Hope Box" in the memo.

UPCOMING KIDS SUMMER OF FUN EVENT... Our kids will be going to Central State Park to swim and to Pop's to eat in Arcadia on Friday, July 31st from 11am-4:30pm. Please drop off and pick up your kids at the church. The cost is \$10 per person. Contact Pastor Lisa with any questions and to RSVP at 843-9588.

ATTENTION COLLEGE STUDENTS!... During the summer, our college group (live_well ministries) will continue to meet at the home of Brandon & Ashley Whiteside on Wednesday nights at 8pm, unless otherwise noted. Contact Brandon at brandonw@okcfirstnaz.org for directions and any info! Additionally, college students can meet at Panera Bread at 3321 NW Expressway (just a couple of miles east of the church) on Sundays during the Sunday School hour for breakfast and conversation. Please search for "live_well ministries" on Facebook and "Become a Fan" to receive weekly updates from Brandon.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO BE A PART OF SUMMER KIDS CLUB... First Indian Church of the Nazarene is reaching out to the kids in their neighborhood and offering a fun, educational, and Christ-centered program each Monday and Wednesday from 12-3pm through August 5th. Whether you can help tutor kids or just help to show them God's love, we need you! For more information, please contact Teri Inman at 204-8800 or teriinman@cox.net.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNERS... We will not be having Wednesday night dinners this summer, but we will still have seating, drinks & wireless internet available in the Atrium each Wednesday evening. Please feel free to use the Atrium for meetings, fellowship & socializing!

OKC FIRST IS PROVIDING DINNER... on July 31st for Shiloh Summer Camp (www.shilohcamp.org) and we need your help! We will set-up, cook and serve dinner for about 200 people, starting at 4:30 pm. It's the last day of the camp, so it's an important evening, complete with talent show and closing ceremonies. If you would like to help, please call the church office or contact Pastor Lance. We need lots of people and we need lots of donated food and supplies.

GROCERY DELIVERY DAY... will be this Saturday, July 25th. There is a job for everyone! Please contact Pastor Lance for more information.

INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITIES ARE COMING SOON... to help you develop a stronger friendship with God and with others. DISCIPLE I Bible Study and JustFaith will be offered this fall. Involvement in either of these opportunities will be a major time commitment, but it will change your life. Please mark your interest in the Friendship Folder.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

Saturday, August 22 – New Student Institute (NSI) at Southern Nazarene University. Please contact Pastor Brandon Whiteside if you would like to help.

Saturday, August 29 – Grocery Delivery day.

Sunday, August 30 – Celebration Community Service at 6pm with Luz y Vida.

Sunday, September 6 – All Church Labor Day Dinner after AM Service.

Zambia Vending Machines: outside the Green Room South entrance.

Designated smoking area: outside the South doors of the South hall. Celebrate Recovery Information Board: in the hallway across from the Parlor.

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The Church at Rome and the Church on NW Expressway

I am kind of partial to Pastor Jon's present sermon series on the Book of Romans titled "Built and Rebuilt." Last week's sermon spoke directly to me on several areas, and I figure that's pretty good for a woman to admit at my age.

Pastor Jon mentioned that the Apostle Paul wrote Romans in a manner of someone unfolding a map stage by stage so that each new piece offers a fresh vision and a sense of having been contained within what had gone before. What a sentence! Did you know that this absolutely describes OKC First Church of the Nazarene?

Our church is rapidly approaching a significant milestone – we'll be 100 years old next year. The more I learn about the history of our church, the more I understand the framework of our present church. We have been blessed with a long list of colorful personalities who indelibly marked our history with stories of originality, zeal and compassion. From having a "singing" pastor on the radio, to having a "boy-catcher" ministry, to buying obscure property on NW Expressway, to building our present sanctuary, I envision that there must have been a cloud of witnesses, former members of OKC First Church, who cheered each positive step forward.

We are at another crossroad as we approach yet another new piece of OKC First Church history. This fall we plan to embark on a building program for a Family Life Center. I've participated in a few planning meetings and although I have been amazed at the blueprints, I am more in awe of God's timing in assembling just the right people to unfold the next part of OKC First's history map.

The concept of "built and rebuilt" intrigues me. We are presently a "built" church, but yet you and I have caught a divine excitement that we are also a church being rebuilt. I know of a story in which a young family stopped going to OKC First a few years ago because they felt unwelcomed. Well, they recently returned and remarked that "something" has changed within our walls. Could it be that we are being rebuilt? A fresh vision must have an understanding of what has come before. God is taking the brokenness of our people through ministries like Celebration Recovery

and giving us new vision. A fresh air is circulating in our midst.

Pastor Jon mentioned that Paul's desire was to unify Gentile and Jewish Christians for life and mission. Maybe, just maybe, OKC First Church fits that framework as well. I pray that unity falls like a blanket over our church in the months to come. Pray with me that our unity ignites an even greater desire to spread the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- Paula Meder

Global Ministry Requests

All Saints Church Fire

Early on Sunday morning, July 12, a fire gutted the All Saints Church of the Nazarene in Antigua. No injuries were reported and the congregation worshiped together that same morning under tents despite the fire. Vacation Bible School was going to be held as planned this week under those same tents. The cause of the fire is being investigated. Pray for Pastor Jocelyn Martin and church members as they rebuild their building that was originally erected with Alabaster funds in 1975.

Three Angels

The JESUS Film team showed the JESUS Film in Nepal. A viewer by the name of Kumar shared, "I lived a wrong life, beating my wife and refusing to allow my children to go to school. I often visited the wine shop after work. I was raised in a specific set of religious beliefs. By watching the JESUS Film, my eyes were opened to see the truth. My heart melted as I received the love of Christ and I accepted Him as my Savior. From that day, I realized my responsibility as a father and husband. I stopped going to the places I used to go and quarrelling has been replaced by peace in my family. The three JESUS Film team members are like angels to me."

Timor-Leste (Formerly East Timor)

Please pray for pastors and national leaders in Timor-Leste as they take the Good News into resistant areas. After a religious leader traveled to a town and spoke out against the Church of the Nazarene, a local radio station interviewed one of our pastors. The pastor had a chance to explain that we are teaching from the Bible, praying for the sick, and telling people how Jesus wants them to live. A few days later a couple in the area accepted Jesus as Lord of their lives—praise the Lord. Pray for these new believers.

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