

# Oklahoma City First Church of the Nazarene

Activities and Announcements 08.02.09

**THANK YOU...** to David Kratz and Adam's Window Tinting for your donation of window tinting in the west hall. Thank you for supporting your church family!

**YOU'RE INVITED TO A BABY SHOWER...** for Rodney and Becky Bell to celebrate their bundle of joy from Taiwan, Carson Nathaniel, TOMORROW NIGHT from 6:30-8pm in the Parlor. They are registered at Target and are in need of 12-18 month fall clothing.

**HAVE A DELICIOUS BURGER AND SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH...** On the first Sunday of every month, Johnnie's Grill on Northwest Expressway between Rockwell & MacArthur has agreed to donate 10% of each purchase to our church- simply tell them that you are there in honor of OKC First Church when you go to pay at the counter. Each month's proceeds will go to support a different OKC First Church Ministry area.

**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](mailto:amy@ayersnet.net). Additional training will be provided.

**UPCOMING KIDS SUMMER OF FUN EVENT...** Our kids will be going to see the Oklahoma Children's Theatre production of *Aladdin* on Friday, August 7th from 9am-12:35. Please drop off and pick up your kids at the church. The cost is \$5 for kids and \$7 for adults. Contact Pastor Lisa with any questions and to RSVP at 843-9588.

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

**CELEBRATION COMMUNITY SERVICE...** Please make plans to attend this service on Sunday, August 30 at 6pm as we worship with Luz y Vida. We will also be celebrating our 5th graders as they graduate into middle school and will be having baptisms. If you are interested in getting baptized, please make a note in the friendship folder or contact the church office at 843-9588 and a pastor will contact you.

**6th ANNUAL SINGLES MINISTRY CONFERENCE...** hosted by Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, Friday, September 25th and Saturday, September 26th at the Embassy Suites located at 1815 S. Meridian in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. This theme this year is: "Single But Pressing Toward The Mark." (Phil 3:14). Registration is \$125.00 per person (two per room) or \$185.00 per person (one per room). The deadline for payment is August 30. For more information please contact, Teresa Hill at Fairview Baptist at [teeteehill@hotmail.com](mailto:teeteehill@hotmail.com).

**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!

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

**Wednesday, August 19** – Children's Department Worker Training. If you volunteer in any area of the children's department, please plan on attending this training. See Pastor Lisa Sanders for more information.

**Saturday, August 22** – New Student Institute (NSI) at Southern Nazarene University. OKC First Church always has a presence during this time of meeting new students to SNU and Oklahoma City. Please contact Pastor Brandon Whiteside if you would like to help.

**Saturday, August 29** – Grocery Delivery day.

**Tuesday, September 1** – Literacy classes begin again! If you would be interested in helping with this ministry, please contact Paula Meder or write "Literacy" in the Friendship Folder.

**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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## Why I am a member of a church (specifically OKC First Church of the Nazarene)

I happened to be part of a meeting recently in which an individual simply asked, "What are the benefits of becoming a church member? I come to OKC First regularly and participate in everything I can. So what does membership give me that I don't already have?"

Now, I'm not a theologian nor a religious zealot. But I am a Christian and I have been a member at OKC First Nazarene for a few decades. These questions made me think (which is always a good thing) and helped me solidify my own reasons for being a church member. I'd like to share some of my thoughts and would welcome your responses as well (you can e-mail me at paulameder@gmail.com).

**I am not ashamed to identify myself with OKC First Nazarene.** Quite simply, I really love my church. I want to let my friends and acquaintances know that I belong here!

**I willingly place myself under the protection and discipline of other Christians through our governing body.** It seems we don't want to talk about it very much, but we have a built in accountability system within the local church. We elect people to the church board and church offices, just as we do politically as a nation. Matthew 18:15-17 provides a healthy way to address sin, but it's done within the protection of a church system, not as individuals. I appreciate the way our church governs. I vote for the member of the church board and after the elections are through, I trust them to make the right decisions after deliberation and prayer.

**I am part of a stronger effort to reach others for Christ.** Although it's true that I can initiate my own campaign to reach the lost for Christ, it makes a lot more sense to join with others who have that same mission. In the past few years, OKC First Church has increased tremendously its efforts to reach others around its own community, around the city, and in other countries. Our Zambia initiative makes it possible for me, as an individual, to make an impact to reach others in another country.

**I have a greater opportunity to use my God-given gifts.** I am a member of OKC First Church and the church has allowed me countless opportunities to use my gifts. In fact, the church helped me to define my gifts. I Corinthians 12:1-11 discuss in length

spiritual gifts – they are highlighted as active gifts within the church. God doesn't intend for the church to be occupied by spectators only. Spiritual gifts are meant to be "spent" through the ministries provided in a local church.

**I agree that there is a reality in describing "the body of Christ."** After being a member of OKC First Church through the highs and lows of my life, I understand that the body of Christ is a reality. It moves and breathes and grows as it ministers to me in my need and as I join in to minister to others. The body of Christ ministered to me as I attempted to give care to my mother the last five years of her life. Could I have taken care of her without the help of the body of Christ at OKC First Nazarene? The answer is a resounding "no". I was surrounded in prayer and love, and I want to be identified with such a body of believers for the rest of my life. The body of Christ is a living reality.

**I participate in a more balanced ministry.** OKC First Church stresses that it's about three major things: friendship with God, friendship with others and open friendship for the sake of the world. In my opinion, that's a really balanced ministry and I definitely want to be a part of it. Not only do I want to be a part of it – I want to be associated with this type of ministry one hundred percent.

If I believe that a Christian's responsibility is to love, I need the avenues to learn how to love better through Sunday School classes and worship services, through accountability within small groups (such as Disciple bible study), and through practical and compassionate ways (such as work and witness trips, hosting literacy classes and contributing through the Hope Box). Those are just some of the areas I've personally chosen, but thankfully there are so many possibilities at OKC First Church. I simply could not do as much if I was not a member.

As you can tell, I'm kind of partial to this church and I have invested my life in the rhythms of its ministries. For me, church membership is a necessity and not an option.

Paula Meder