



CHAPEL HILL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Connections

December 2011

Robert E. Rose, Jr., Valerie Jones Steele, Stephen Hale, Suzann Wade, and Doug Burr, pastors

Carols of Christ's Coming

Sunday, December 11, at 8:30 and 11:00am in the Sanctuary
Revelation and Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Chapel Bells and OCU's
Blackwelder Brass tell the story of Christmas in music.
Bring a friend and join in singing carols!

The Joy of Christmas

Children's Christmas Program
Sunday, December 11, 4:00pm, in the Sanctuary
Angel Choir, Carol Choir, Cherubim Choir and Carol Bells
present Christmas music.
Bring your favorite cookies to share after the program.

"A Christmas Miracle:

Jesus - The Most Human of Us All"

RETREAT Worship Service

Sunday, December 11, 6:00pm, in the Family Life Center
Enjoy a time of praise-filled music, experiential prayers,
and a powerful witness to the miracle of Christmas!

Christmas Caroling!

We are going caroling this year! On **Sunday, December 18**, meet at the church
at **2:45pm** to carpool or ride the church van. We will carol at **Quail Ridge Senior
Living at 3:00pm** and at **Statesman Club Independent Living at 4:00pm**.

For **neighborhood caroling** (outdoors),
meet at the church at **6:45pm on Thursday, December 15**.
Come share the spirit of Christmas with our neighbors and friends.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Gather your family for this very special evening filled with the message and
music of Christmas! Holy Communion will be served at all services.

All services will be held in the Sanctuary unless otherwise noted.

4:00pm - A Service for Children & Their Families (Children Participate)

Christmas Story by Suzann Wade

5:30pm - A service of Scripture, Carols and Bells led by Dr. Stephen Hale

7:00pm - Rev. Robert Rose preaching "Welcome Home"

9:00pm - Rev. Valerie Jones Steele preaching "A Strange Way to Save the
World" (Family Life Center)

11:00pm - Dr. Stephen Hale preaching "It Came upon a Midnight Clear!"

Christmas Day Service

We invite you to come casually dressed. Chapel Hill LIVE and Sanctuary worship
will begin at 10:30am. The worship will be filled with singing.

TRADITIONAL SERVICE

8:30 & 11:00 in the Sanctuary
Rev. Robert E. Rose, Jr. Preaching
(unless otherwise noted)

Sunday, November 27
"HOPE Shining in the Darkness"
John 1:1-13

Sunday, December 4
"PEACE for a Troubled Time"
Matthew 1:18-25

Sunday, December 11
"JOY in the Presence of God" Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, December 18
"LOVE Reconciling the Estranged"
Mark 1:1-8

Sunday, December 25
"God Is with Us!" John 1:1-14

CHAPEL HILL LIVE SERVICE

11:00 in the Family Life Center
Rev. Valerie Jones Steele Preaching
(unless otherwise noted)

ADVENT SERIES

"Lord, We Need an Intervention!"

Sunday, November 27
"Hope for the Hopeless" Isaiah 64:1-9

Sunday, December 4
"Comfort for the Comfortless"
Isaiah 40:1-11

Sunday, December 11
"Joy for the Joyless" Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Sunday, December 18
"An Intervention for Redemption"
2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16

Sunday, December 25
"Tent-Pitching in the Dark" John 1:1-14

2717 West Hefner Road • Oklahoma City, OK 73120

Office: (405) 751-0755 • Fax / Care Line: (405) 752-8919

E-mail Address: chapelhill@mychapelhill.org • Web Page Address: www.mychapelhill.org

Rose's Ramblings

Our Purpose: "Growing Christ's Kingdom on Earth."



On August 4, 1979, the doors of the sanctuary opened and the most beautiful woman in the world came walking down the aisle toward me. I will never forget that moment and how I felt. I could not believe that the date of our wedding was finally here. I could not believe that Kathryn was really going to go through with it and marry me. She smiled as she was walking toward me. I could see in her eyes the love that she had for me. I did not deserve her love. I could never do enough or be good enough to earn her love. But, she gave it to me anyway. In gratitude and with great joy, I said "I will." I was and am so blessed!

The Gospel of Matthew begins with the proclamation that the doors have opened and Jesus Christ is walking toward us. We are being invited into a covenant relationship with God. It does not matter if we have doubts about our worthiness. It does not matter if we have reservations about whether or not we deserve it. It does not matter if we think that we have not done enough to have earned

it. God desires to be with us. In gratitude and joy, do we say "I will"?

For some, those feelings and assurances that once were held are no longer being experienced. It is so easy to leave behind the bliss of the wedding or the joy of our beginning relationship with God. No matter how much love or commitment one gives or is willing to give at the wedding, the experience of the marriage will be defined by what we are giving and willing to give years later. Marriage, like most of the rest of life, is more about the follow-through than the initial commitment.

I hope that we celebrate this Thanksgiving and Christmas with gratitude and joy. I hope that we fully enjoy the time we get to spend with family and friends. I hope that we feel once again connected with those we love. I hope that those who have lost loved ones over this past year experience a peace that comforts in the midst of loss. I hope that we experience during this holiday season that feeling of once again being connected with a God who wants to be with us. May the fullness of the presence of God

permeate our lives. May this season be for us a renewed time of gratitude and joy.

Robert

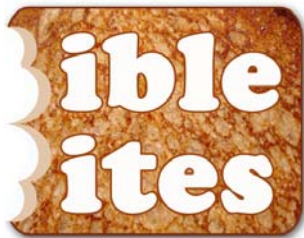
*"His name
shall be
called
Emmanuel"*

*(which means, God with us.)
Matthew 1:23b RSV*

More Opportunities

Bible Bites

Join us for Bible Bites each Wednesday at 9:45 am in the Parlor Kitchen (and once a month in GH 1). Bible Bites is a topical Bible Study for busy people of all ages that is free and open to all. If you come and it is not the most fun you have had in a Bible Study, no worries, Suzann will offer you a full refund on your price for admission. On November 30, we will celebrate with one more week of Thanks focused on the grace and forgiveness of the risen Christ. Then December 7, 14, and 21 we will rejoice in the Message and Messengers of Christmas as well as partake of some especially delicious Christmas treats. We will not meet December 28, but will start again on January 4. So, come join us for great coffee, grace-infused Bible study, tasty treats, tender moments with friends, and the opportunity to let God open your eyes to a new message each week! For more information, contact Suzann Wade at 751-0755 or suzann@mychapelhill.org.



Cancer Support Group

This month, our Cancer Support Group will meet at 6:30pm two weeks in a row on the second and third Tuesdays of December, the 13th and 20th, to celebrate, rejoice, remember, share and prepare prayer beads and cards to share with others facing a journey with cancer.

Our goal as a ministry is to share in the journey and see one another through the challenges living a life with cancer and a life beyond cancer can bring while laughing and growing through it all.



Are You Divorced?

Divorce Care meets **Thursday nights at 6:30pm**. Come join us for a great support group, or refer a friend. We meet in the Conference Room.

Attention Singles!

The Friends in Faith Sunday school class invites other singles to join them for OCU's Vespers musical program, **Saturday afternoon, December 10**. Participants will meet at Chapel Hill's north parking lot at 2:45pm and car pool to Bishop Angie Smith Chapel for the 4:00pm program. Afterwards, the group will be going out to dinner.

Please make your reservation with Joan Bryant (721-6990) by Saturday, December 3. Tickets are \$6 per person. Checks, made payable to "Friends in Faith," will be collected in the Pastors' Offices.

From the Business Office

With 2011 fast approaching an end, we would remind all in our congregation to review their giving for the year to see if you might be able to assist in helping to meet our budget goals for the year. At this time, we are considerably behind in our revenues and could use some extra help in meeting our budget. If you would like more information, please let Robert, me or any member of the Committee on Finance know.

The Committee on Finance will begin preparations for our 2012 budget in November. The process for budget preparations includes utilizing previous years' revenue/expenditure data to determine what ministries can be funded for the upcoming year. Hopefully, this process will be completed prior to the year end and the 2012 budget will be available for approval by the Church Council.

Your Board of Trustees continues to work towards Phase II of our Sanctuary renovations. We plan to initiate Phase II in February, 2012, if finances allow it. Completion is scheduled for just after Easter (if not before). We are extremely hopeful that we can complete this renovation, including new pews, carpeting, chancel area, altar table, pulpit and lectern. The condition of our Sanctuary pews is such that replacement is a necessity. Please know that no

decisions have been made regarding the materials to be used for the Sanctuary renovations, including the carpet to be installed. Should you have any suggestions for the improvements, please let me or any member of your Board of Trustees know. Discussions are ongoing and decisions will be made later in the 4th quarter. You should voice your opinions regarding the renovations of your Sanctuary. Please take part in this exciting renovation of our Sanctuary by letting your Board of Trustees know what you would like to see (and what you wouldn't).

Our facilities are being utilized like never before. At least six days a week we have numerous groups meeting here. This is putting a strain on our Facilities Staff to maintain the cleanliness and order that we have always enjoyed. If you have suggestions or comments regarding our facilities, please let me or any of the members of the Board of Trustees know. We are interested in what our congregation would like to see done.

The Staff of Chapel Hill would like to thank the congregation for their generosity during Staff Appreciation in October. Your gifts and cards were very much appreciated by all of us.

Randy

More Opportunities

'Tis the Season!

Did you have your coffee this morning? Did you have utilities to keep you warm, water to brush your teeth, and food to eat? Do you answer the phone whenever it rings because you don't have to avoid it because you don't have the money to even make a payment arrangement for a medical bill?

I am happy if you answered "yes" to the questions above. But there are many who can't answer "yes." The Lend-A-Hand fund helps members in need until they get on their financial feet, so they, too, can answer positively to the questions above. Unfortunately, this fund is so low we can no longer assist beyond current promises.

Please don't let those less fortunate than yourself lose this lifeline provided through this Lend-A-Hand ministry. They can regain their financial footing, but not without your support to help them during the dark times. Please consider making a donation to the Lend-A Hand fund of Chapel Hill UMC. It's hard for someone to ask for help from their church—it's even harder to say we can't help them. Checks can be made payable to Chapel Hill UMC, and the memo must read "Lend-A-Hand." Thank you for your prayerful support.



Christmas Lighting

We will hold our Seventh Annual Christmas Lighting Day on **Saturday, December 3, at 10:00am**. We invite and encourage everyone to come and help us prepare the outside of our church for the Christmas season. **A breakfast will be served at 9:00am**. Thank you for your participation in this important event. For further information please contact Dallas Gandy (dallasgandy@att.net).

Sanctuary Poinsettias

If you wish to give a poinsettia for the Sanctuary for December 11 through Christmas Eve, please complete this form and return it to the church office with your check (\$10 per plant). **The deadline is Sunday, December 4**. Please print your information, as *clearly as possible*, as you would like it to appear in the December 11 bulletin.

Please use only one form per person / group honored or remembered. More forms are located in the front office & Welcome Center.

Given by _____

_____ In honor of _____

_____ In memory of _____

Share your church with others ...
Bring someone to a Bible study
during the week or church on Sunday!

The Wild Goose Chase

The Celtic Christians called the Holy Spirit "The Wild Goose," because it was untamed, not able to be captured and smarter than any other bird. Hence, this column has to do with chasing the Holy Spirit and joining forces to bring God's Mercy, Grace and Love into reality for those we encounter. Thank you for the opportunity to share in this column the work that God has placed me at Chapel Hill to enable and coach.

Recently one of our members said, "Thanks for giving me a place to serve Christ," right after the second preview service of the new RETREAT evening worship experience had concluded. When she said that it started me thinking, and the next day I was still thinking about what she had said and how it honored, not only God, but testified to her growth in faith and provided a witness to her discipleship. And just as importantly, it was a real positive statement that she felt like she was a part of something that God wanted done.

It's easy to feel like you are left out or like you are on the sidelines. It's easy to feel neglected or not wanted or like you are not appreciated. I know, been there, done that not so long ago. Sometimes when things change and someone new is included or given the place at the head of the table, it makes us feel like we are not wanted. But that is not what God wants us to feel. God wants us to know that the heart of God is large enough to hold every single

person and that God's mercy will provide the grace needed to heal anything, forgive anyone. But it's still hard sometimes to find a heart to serve when someone you do not know or who comes from a background you do not approve of keeps getting allowed to go in front of you. Serving Jesus' mission on this earth is extremely difficult.

1 John 4 says in part: *"God is love. If we keep on loving others, we will stay one in our hearts with God, and he will stay one with us. If we truly love others and live as Christ did in this world, we won't be worried about the day of judgment. A real love for others will chase those worries away."* (CEV)

May you find that your place in this ministry is alongside Jesus, may you find that serving anyone whom God places in your path brings you joy.

Still In One Peace, Still Chasing The Wild Goose,
Stephen

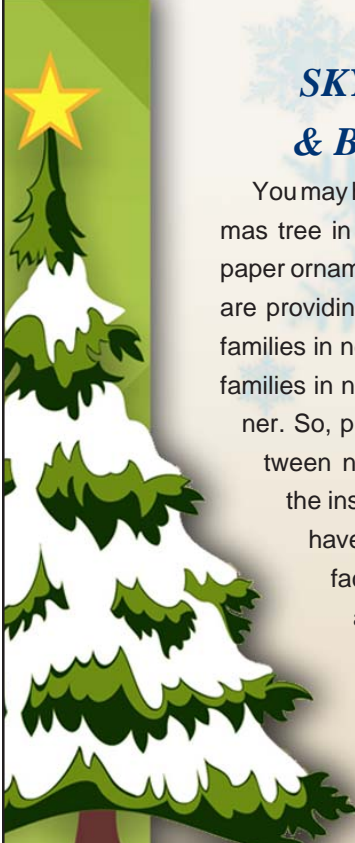
More Opportunities



Students to Serve at Skyline

We have arranged for our students to once again serve Christmas dinner at Skyline Urban Ministries on Sunday, December 11. Please sign up on the sheet in your Sunday School folder to donate food for this event. We will need the following items from you to make this dinner successful: dessert, rolls, stuffing, pasta/potato/green salad, green bean casserole, or donations to purchase these items.

The items need to be brought to the Fellowship Hall kitchen no later than 10:00am on Sunday, December 11, in a disposable container. Checks can be made to "Chapel Hill UMC" with "Youth Skyline Dinner" in the memo.



***SKYLINE GRACE
& BRITVIL HAMS***

You may have already noticed the Christmas tree in the Narthex filled with lots of paper ornaments/envelopes. This year, we are providing Christmas Grace to Skyline families in need and giving our community families in need a ham for Christmas dinner. So, pick an ornament/envelope between now and December 11, follow the instructions on it, and most of all, have FUN putting a smile on a child's face and gratitude in the heart of a Mom or Dad for Christmas. For more info, contact Valerie (valerie@mychapelhill.org) or 751-0755).

Suzann's Holy Spirit Sightings

During this past month of thanks, I am overwhelmed and very grateful for the many ways in which I have been reminded of God's grace!

God's spirit is moving among our youngest children. A mother recently told her young boy that it was Communion Sunday; the mother said he reacted as if it were Christmas morning — he was so excited. I cannot tell you what an honor it is each month to spend time remembering the communion story with our youngest kids and then kneeling with them at the altar to receive the miracle of the sacrament. Their faces delight in the gifts they receive in those moments, and I once again am a child kneeling at the feet of God eager to receive his grace.

I am in awe of the way in which I have seen the Holy Spirit move during Retreat. Who knew a guitar could be such a holy instrument? And what a joy to hear our youth and children celebrate being able to connect with God with their entire family even when everyone is sitting or participating in a different way and a different place.

Our elementary children took a leap of faith and asked the Spirit to guide them as they set out to raise \$1000 to support our church's desire to fund the Backpack for Kids program at both our local

schools. Through the movement of the Spirit and their desire, we have already more than reached their goal. As we continue to collect money through the rest of the month, be watching to see just how much of a difference they were able to make.

I am in awe of the spirit of love and joy our members share with one another. If you want to smell what heaven will be like, just stop by the church on a day Live Wires is meeting and be inspired by the way in which the Holy Spirit can use the love of cooking in one of his beautiful children to bless so many with so much!

This is one of those months when I truly could go on for pages about the places I am seeing the Spirit move. Conversations with old friends that lead to new ministries, meeting lost members and friends we never knew we had and reconnecting, watching so many follow their passions and emerge on the other side empowered and excited to be doing God's work.

Do you want to see how the Spirit is moving in our midst? Just stop and look around. You will be amazed at the surprising places and ways you see the Spirit's light dance among us.

With love, blessings, and many, many thanks!

Suzann Wade, Diaconal Minister

Thank You

Dear Faith Promise at Chapel Hill UMC,

I wanted to write and thank you for your generous gift toward my seminary education! It is so deeply appreciated. What an incredible gift it was, especially at a time when finances are not an easy issue!

I am about six weeks into classes and I am loving it so much! The Lord is speaking to my life by what I am learning in my classes! It is so wonderful. I am taking Clinical Foundations of Counseling, Legal & Ethical Issues, Suicide Prevention/Intervention, and Survey of Genesis through Song of Solomon. They are all great classes. Bible class is awesome... we read and study one or two books of the OT every week. I have read the Scriptures through several times before, but I'm enjoying the faster pace through these O.T. books! We really see the overarching theological themes. How great is our God!!

The counseling program here is also wonderful, and I am learning such wonderfully important skills that will serve me throughout my life, both in and out of my career!

Thank you so much for your part in making this possible! I am forever grateful to you all for your generosity!

Sincerely,
Sonja Noelle Decker

Thank you so much for the packages that Chapel Hill United Methodist Church sent to my team. I cannot tell you enough how much we all appreciate the generosity and support that you have given us. Please extend a thanks to your members for all the magazines, books, DVD movies, treats, and especially for your thoughts and prayers that you sent to us. It is always a very welcome reminder of who and what we are working for while overseas.

Things have been relatively quiet the last few weeks, and we are all hoping that that will continue in the future. A boring day is always a good day.

Thanks again for everything that you have done for us.

Sincerely,
CPT Todd Martin

Please thank the members of Chapel Hill United Methodist Church for their kindness and generosity. I have been blessed to receive two packages from all of you. I took the magazines and made a small library in the command post (CP) for passersby. I think magazines are probably one of the more clever gifts that we have received. Only time will tell which ones remain the favorites, but most of them appear in every office at least once. The DVD movies were an instant hit and are quickly circulating the rooms. As for the food, I'm fairly certain it will all be eaten in the next day or so. I wish you could see the way that soldiers' faces light up when I walk into the CP with a box full of treats.

Most importantly, thank you for your prayers. You prayed for me last time we were in Iraq, and your prayers worked. I believe that your prayers once again will help me return safely a second time.

I hope that God blesses you all and keeps you healthy and safe.

Thank you,
CPT Taylor Hildebrand

News from Summit

Greetings, Mother Church,

Summit begins weekly worship services this next Sunday! Appropriately enough, this will be our Thanksgiving worship service. We have much for which to be grateful! By the time you read this article, we will be into Advent, preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus, and making final arrangements for the public launch of the new church (January 15, 2012).



We stand at the outer rim, viewing the next ridge to ascend, assessing the stages we have climbed so far, and seeing clearly the heights of the next leg of this adventure. It is a point of much trusting, faith, making arrange-

ments to journey together through the holiday season, and ultimately to becoming a new community of faith!

We could not have climbed this high without you! But, we will not reach the next crest without you either...

These next several months are absolutely critical for Summit. We are asking everyone to renew, revive, and/or begin commitments to Chapel Hill's baby church. You are all part of Summit's launch team and we need each of you. We want every person at Chapel Hill to be able to say they helped start Summit!

Over the next few months, here are 8 ways you can make a significant and eternal difference, helping labor to bring Summit into the world —

- 1) Pray.
- 2) Attend Summit worship with friends, family, SS class, etc. Having a critical mass of people in worship is a tremendous help! Plus, bringing friends who don't currently have a church may just change their life and yours forever! (10:40AM, Chisholm Elementary, 33rd St. between Coltrane and Bryant)
- 3) Come to worship early and/or stay late. The logistics of being a mobile church include setting everything up and taking it all back down.
- 4) Join us to knock on doors and hang door hangers. (We mainly do this on Saturdays, but you could do it any time. We have supplies, maps, etc.)
- 5) Tell everyone you know about the wonderful things God is doing at Summit!
- 6) Point people toward the new website — Summitok.org
- 7) Support Summit financially. (We still need to raise \$130,000 for 2012).
- 8) Pray again.

Your vision and passion for the new church has brought us to this place. Now is the time to push, pull, and climb our way to becoming Summit United Methodist Church. I am so grateful for you all! Thank you!

Come climb with us!
Blessings and Peace,
Rev. Dr. W. Allen Buck, Jr.

More Opportunities

Faith doesn't get you around trouble, it gets you through it. The journey is easier when a Stephen Minister walks with you. Stephen Ministry is free and completely confidential. Call Robin at 507-7307 for more information.



The Staff of Chapel Hill would like to thank the congregation for their generosity during Staff Appreciation in October. Your gifts and cards were very much appreciated by all.

Memorials

If you would like to contribute to the memorial fund please contact Randy Rush (751-0755 or randy@mychapelhill.org).

In Memory of Mary Ellen Chiles

Carolyn & Jess Evans
Gerald & Olive Austin

In Memory of Dan Harvey

Becky Harvey

Loads of LOVE

Offer quarters to those at our local laundromats.

**Saturday,
December 3,
from**

8:00am-10:00am.

**Meet at the church
at 7:50am.**



Words of Steele

EARTHQUAKES & EXCITEMENT

No doubt following the recent earthquakes in Oklahoma many hearts and minds wondered if Christ's return was a little more imminent than they may have first believed. With all the buzz and excitement around these strange happenings, how many of you heard end-time discussions and apocalyptic rhetoric?

I scratched my head as I wondered how often the need to tell others about Jesus Christ comes up outside of unexplainable

events. Where is our excitement to share about the love, joy and peace found through such a wonderful Savior?

This Advent season may all of us who are followers of Christ boldly share the very hope that lies within, regardless of earthquakes or life's circumstances. Share Christ this Christmas!

Valerie Jones Steele.

United Methodist Women

UMW Reading Program

Be ready to turn in the number of books you have read this year. Sandy Clapp needs the information after Jan. 1 as soon as possible. If you have not read the minimum 4 books, turn in what you have as you qualify for a participation certificate for what you have done. Thank you all for reading this year. For more information on the Reading Program contact Sandy Clapp 751-7112.

Neighborhood Santa Operation

Thank You to everyone who has contributed to the Neighborhood Services Organization Santa Workshop supplies.

Please continue to bring Campbell's Soup labels for Cookson Hills. Place them in the container located in the Fellowship Hall kitchen.

UMW CIRCLE NEWS

All women are invited to join a circle. You do not need to be a member to join. Please come join us and bring a friend.

Susannah Wesley Circle and Faith Circle will meet together on Tuesday, December 20, at 10:00am in the Parlor. Rev. Robert Rose will give a Christmas message. For more information call Chris Massey (947-0267) or Nancy Nathaniel (751-1213).

Mary Martha Circle will be meeting Tuesday night, December 13, at 6:30pm at the Olive Garden restaurant on Memorial Road. For more information call Mary Lou Cassel (751-1408).



A Golden Christmas!

General Meeting

The United Methodist Women will have a brunch on **Saturday, December 3, at 10:30am!**

Our program will be music provided by the Young Men's Choir from Canterbury Choral Society.

Raul Domingez will be conducting.

This is always a special start for the Christmas celebrations. ALL Women of the church are invited.

Please call the office to let the cooks know how many to prepare for.



Holy Hands will meet on Sunday, Dec. 11, 3:00- 5:00 pm in Fellowship Hall. We will continue working on lap quilts for Vets. Bring your sewing machine if you can. We also need volunteers to iron and tie knots. Anyone can join at any time. Please come and bring a friend. For more information call Sandy Clapp (751-7112).

Thursday Morning Bible Study

Thursday morning Bible study meets on Thursday, December 8, at Audell Hughes' home for study and lunch. Meet in the east parking lot at 9:45am to take "Fred" to Audell's home (3800 Jim Robison Drive in Edmond — 359-2254). We will continue our study of Luke. Anyone can join at any time. Bring your favorite Bible, a smile, and a friend. For more information call Sandy Clapp (751-7112).

Children & Families

December Through the Eyes of a Child

Sundays in December

Live B.I.G. Sunday School
(2's - Kindergarten)
The Story of Bethlehem
"He will be born in Bethlehem" Matthew 2:5

Rotation Sunday School

(1st grade - 5th grade)
"Christmas Messengers"
"But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people!'"
Luke 2:10



The Annual Children's Christmas Program

"The Joys of Christmas"
4:00pm • December 11
Join us in the Sanctuary as the Children's Choirs
present their gift of Christmas Music

Following the choirs' presentation:
Satisfy your sweet tooth at the Cookie Extravaganza
(bring cookies to share)

Have fun in the Children's Nativity Play Area
Create with "hands-on" Christmas Activities
ALSO

Enjoy food and fellowship at the
Snack Supper prior to
6:00 RETREAT
(abbreviated worship service in Family Life Center)



Christmas Eve

4:00 Service for Children and Families
Children participate and listen to a Christmas Story



Giftng our "Shared Space" Friends

With December comes the opportunity of giving in ways that sometimes we never imagine. Giving often becomes even more special knowing that what we give is helping to make someone's wishes come true.

In this case, Chapel Hill's Children's Team would like to give our congregation and the families of Mother's Day Out an opportunity to fulfill the wishes of our Mother's Day Out teachers and staff. During the month of December, you will find a "Christmas Wish Tree" located at the west side Children's Reception Area.

Please feel free to take an ornament and help to make a teacher's dream come true. The gifts can be returned **unwrapped** and placed under the tree. Remember, it's really our children who are the recipients of the gifts.

Questions regarding Children's Ministries at Chapel Hill ...

Marilyn Henderson, Director of Children's Ministries — marilyn@mychapelhill.org or 507-7315
Rana Shelton, Nursery Director and Assistant to Children's Ministries — rana@mychapelhill.org or 507-7314

Student and College Ministries

This Month At A Glance ...

- 4—Refuge 4:30-6:00pm
- 7—Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30
- 11—Skyline dinner 12-3:30pm, Retreat 6-6:45pm
- 14—Christmas Party 6-8pm upstairs
- 18—Refuge 4:30-6:00pm
- 21, 25, 28— No Activities: Christmas Break

For The Parents ...

We had our Fall Retreat in November and had such an amazing weekend! The theme was Revolution and we talked about three types of love: eros, philo, and agape. We talked about how we can be different in this world by showing God's love to others. Here are a few student quotes about the Fall Retreat:

"I always look forward to the retreats every year because they greatly help in my faith journey. On this retreat we learned all about the different kinds of love. I really enjoyed it, because I had never thought of love in more than one way. It was also great to be reminded of God's unconditional love for us, and how we can show love to others."

"The retreats every year make me realize how much I can't live without the youth group. We all bonded so much this past fall retreat and it's always great spending a whole weekend together."

We also had time for fellowship and fun! We participated in games, dance party, and a t-shirt exchange. Retreats are a time of learning, but they are also a time for students to bond with each other. If your student(s) couldn't make it to this one, don't worry! We will have a mid-winter retreat in February at Canyon Camp. Be on the lookout for details about it!



Questions?

kourtney@mychapelhill.org / fernie@mychapelhill.org
or 751-0755

For The Church ...

We have arranged for our students to once again serve Christmas dinner at Skyline Urban Ministries on Sunday, December 11. Please sign up on the sheet in your Sunday School folder to donate food for this event. We will need the following items from you to make this dinner successful: dessert, rolls, stuffing, pasta/potato/green salad, green bean casserole, or donations to purchase these items.

The items need to be brought to the Fellowship Hall kitchen no later than 10:00am on Sunday, December 11, in a disposable container. Checks can be made to "Chapel Hill UMC" with "Youth Skyline Dinner" in the memo.



For The Students ...

We are in a wonderful season of holidays with twinkling lights, hot cocoa, and Christmas music. As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, it's easy to get wrapped up in presents, Santa Claus, and eating lots of good food. This Christmas, how will you remember what the season is truly about, and how will you spread that message to others? We hope that this holiday season you encounter and share the love that Jesus Christ exemplified.

On Sunday, December 11, we will be serving Christmas lunch at Skyline. We will leave church around 12:15 and return around 3:30. Upon returning there is a children's Christmas program and cookie exchange that you are invited to attend. We will have sandwiches, veggies, fruit, chips, etc., toward the end of the cookie exchange and before the "Retreat" worship service. Retreat will be an abbreviated service that night to allow a time to relax, worship and sing at the end of a long day of celebrating, serving, and being together.

WatCH

Wednesdays at Chapel Hill
and Other Classes and
Upcoming Events

Our Fall WatCH was a great time of learning and fellowship. I am confident that this coming Winter WatCH will be even better. I hope that you will prayerfully consider participating in one or more aspects of Winter WatCH as we begin a new year.

Our meal time will once again be held in the Fellowship Hall. The fellowship around the tables was great. Some friends met each Wednesday just to share the meal together. Other Sunday School classes met to extend their fellowship opportunities. Some families ate together catching up on the day. We have plenty of tables and chairs for everyone. We have two different options for the meal. There is the Home-Cooked option for \$7.00 provided by Linda Rush. There is a Fast Food option for \$4.00. If you sign up and pay for all of your meals by January 8, the cost of the Home-Cooked option is only \$5.50 and the cost of the Fast Food option is only \$3.00. We will hold a free meal drawing each week that can be applied to our Fall 2012 WatCH meals. Congratulations to John & Kay Shenk, Gary & Fran Patton and Bill & Jean Webb who each won a free meal during our Winter 2012 WatCH.

Don't forget that there are Meals-To-Go if advance notice is given. Also for those who arrive early there are complimentary appetizers.

We are trying to offer a variety of classes. We have studies offered before and after our Wednesday meals. We also have some studies offered on other days as well. If you are looking for a Bible Study, we have several that meet each week.

For this WatCH, we are offering a silk painting class taught by Carol Lorange. The class is limited to 5 people, so if you are interested, sign up quickly. If you are interested in this type of class, please let Michele Pitt know so we can schedule other similar classes in the future.

For people living with a chronic condition, we are offering a workshop developed by Stanford University called "Live Longer, Live Stronger." If you would like to know more about this, call Robin Dickerson. If you are interested in classes that deal with particular stages and situations in life, please let Michele Pitt know so we can schedule these type of classes in the future.

Confirmation will begin for 6th and 7th graders on January 11. Please be in prayer for our confirmands and those who will be on this discipleship journey with them. Please look over the programming for our children and youth as we enter a new year.

I hope that you will mark your calendar and sign up today.

Robert Rose

CHAPEL HILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2717 West Hefner Road • Oklahoma City, OK 73120 • Office 751-0755 • Fax / Care Line 752-8919
chapelhill@mychapelhill.org • www.mychapelhill.org • Sunday Worship - 8:30 & 11:00am • Sunday School - 9:40am

Adult **WatCH** Classes

You may register for the adult Wednesday classes listed below at the Welcome Center in the Great Hall or by contacting Heather in the church office (507-7305). For the convenience of parents who participate in "WatCH", childcare is available at 6:00pm in the Children's Wing for infants through three years of age. Don't pass up Wednesday Night Suppers - see page 15 (inside back page) for more info! Home-cooked or fast food or just dessert ... you've got options!

Jesus and Controversial Issues

Led by Rev. Robert E. Rose, Jr.

Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:15pm in GH #2

Starting January 18 and ending February 15

Jesus did not avoid controversial issues. We will use a method for addressing controversial issues as we apply it to the controversial issues of our day. On our first week together, we will decide what issues we will discuss.

Jesus and the Movies

Led by Dr. Stephen Hale

Wednesdays from 5:30 to 8:30pm in GH #1

Starting January 11 and ending February 15

These Wednesday Night Classes will be a bit longer than the average WatCH Night Classes. We will gather up our meal and take it with us to watch the movie together and follow with our discussion of the implications of the movie for Christians, as well as the theology that Hollywood is putting forth for our society.

- Jan. 11 Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides
- Jan. 18 Alice In Wonderland (2010)
- Jan. 25 Public Enemies
- Feb. 1 The Bucket List
- Feb. 8 The Prestige
- Feb. 15 Serenity

Smooth as Silk

Led by Carol Lorance

Wednesdays from 6:15-8:15pm in Fellowship Hall #3

Starting January 11 and ending February 1

Silk paintings are the work of ancient oriental artisans. Take this opportunity and be an artist yourself: expressing feeling and color in this unique medium. There will be 3 two-hour classes. The cost of the class is \$100 and includes all supplies (high-grade silks and paints). At the end of the course you will have a lovely piece of art to enjoy or share. Classes are limited to 5 people to ensure individual attention, but additional class times will be offered to meet demand. Leader, Carol Lorance, has a degree in graphic design and her work may be viewed at <http://dragonflysilks.com>, or the 50 Penn Place Art Gallery.

Living the Questions 2.0

Led by Rev. Valerie Steele

Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30pm in Library

Starting January 18 and ending February 15

Do you hesitate to ask questions in Bible study, or Sunday school because others may think you're completely irreverent, irreligious or simply a heretic? Do you wonder how so many Christians throughout the centuries have placed God and even God's acts through Jesus Christ in a neat and tidy box when you still struggle with the validity of the essentials of Christianity? Then, "Living the Questions 2.0" (LtQ2) is for YOU! LtQ2 is an open-minded alternative to studies that attempt to give participants all the answers. Instead, LtQ2 strives to create an environment where participants can interact with one another in exploring what's next for Christianity. DVD-based. Curriculum provided FREE!

Women's Bible Study

Led by Gayle Riggs

Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30pm in GH #3

Starting January 11 and ending February 15

Join Gayle for a great Bible study!

Crises Of Confidence

Facing Christianity Today

Led by Rev. Doug Burr

Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30pm in the Parlor

Starting January 18 and ending February 15

Isn't faith just a "leap in the dark" – how can you claim to know the truth? Are there really sufficient grounds to claim that Jesus is the unique and universal Son of God? What about people in other religions – where do they stand with God? Isn't the Bible unreliable – can you really treat it as truth? Why would a loving God send people to Hell? Is God a Delusion? – Atheism and the Meaning of Life. These are among issues that pose crises of confidence in Christianity today and prompt even believers to have reservations about its trustworthiness. Resources include: **THE REASON FOR GOD: Belief in an Age of Skepticism***by Dr. Timothy Keller; Lesslie Newbigin, **PROPER CONFIDENCE: Faith, Doubt and Certainty in Christian Discipleship** and best-selling author, Dinesh D'Souza's book, **WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT CHRISTIANITY** *Text: discounted for purchase. Enrollment limited – sign up ASAP!

Adult Classes & Events

Beth Moore "Mercy Triumphs" Study on James

James examines concepts such as joy and hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for the rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above...and many more.

There are 8 video sessions with
7 weeks of homework. Participant cost is \$20
(includes member book).

Tuesdays, January 10 – March 28
6:30-8:30pm

Wednesdays, January 11 – March 29
9:00-11:00am

For more information, or to enroll,
please contact Rhonda Williston
(348-8654 or rhondawilliston@att.net).

Valentine Dinner and Dance

Friday, February 10, at 6:30pm

Watch your newsletters and bulletins
for more information!

Get Control!

6-week workshop starting Wednesday, January 11, at 3:30pm, to help you Live Longer, Live Stronger. Workshop developed by Stanford University for persons living with chronic conditions. If you have a caregiver, it is recommended they attend with you. Sign up at the Older Adult table, but anyone with a chronic illness is welcome!

- Develop strategies to deal with negative emotions
- Improve communication with health care providers
- Get tips for eating well, reading labels and making healthy choices
- Learn to manage medications
- Set weekly goals
- Learn tools to help you deal with symptoms, frustrations, and design your own self-management program

For more information please contact
Robin Dickerson (507-7307 or robin@mychapelhill.org).

Make A Joyful Noise

Chapel Hill offers singing and ringing choirs for all ages. Make a joyful noise with us. Contact Ellen Jackson for more information (751-0755 or ellen@mychapelhill.org).

Angel Choir (K-Gr. 2) and **Carol Choir**
(Gr. 3-6) – Sundays during 8:30am service

Cherubim Choir (K-Gr. 5) – Sundays during 11:00am services

Youth Choir (Gr. 6-12) – Sundays, 4:00-5:00pm

Revelation (adults) – Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm;
primarily sings at 8:30am service

Chancel Choir (adults) – Wednesdays, 7:15-8:45pm;
sings weekly at 11:00am service

Carol Bells (Gr. 3-5) – Tuesdays, 4:45-5:30pm

Youth Bells (Gr. 6-12) – Wednesdays, 4:45-5:45pm

Joyful Ringers (adults, intermediate) – Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00pm

Chapel Bells (adults, intermediate-advanced)
Tuesdays, 7:15-8:30pm

Spirit Winds (brass and woodwinds)
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00pm

Confirmation

Confirmation for 6th and 7th Graders

Come take part in Confirmation classes covering everything from Spiritual Gifts to the Trinity, from Methodist beliefs to discipleship and worship!

We will meet every Wednesday
from **January 11 - April 18 at 6:15pm**
(with the exception of Spring Break on March 21).

Confirmation is a program of 17 weeks, where young adults are encouraged to learn about what we as Christians believe. They are allowed to question and explore those beliefs for themselves, and then at the end of the time, they are invited to claim their belief in Christ for themselves and be confirmed as a member of the church on Confirmation Sunday.

If you have any questions about Confirmation, or are interested in being a prayer partner for one of our Confirmands, talk to Suzann Wade, our Diaconal Minister (suzann@mychapelhill.org or 205-9157).

CONFIRMATION KEY DATES

Kick off Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, at 6:15pm

Confirmation Lock In

Friday and Saturday, March 9-10, times TBA

Confirmation Sunday

Sunday, April 22, at the 8:30am Sanctuary Service

Children's Events

WWJD

(Wednesdays With Jesus' Disciples)

Six Weeks Beginning January 11-February 15

Dinner Options/Serving Times

Home-cooked • 5:15 - 6:30

Fast Food • 5:30 - 6:30

Bible Based Stories & Activities

Kindergarten - 5th Grade

(small age-appropriate groups)

6:30 - 7:30pm

Playtime activities - preschool age children
(childcare available for toddlers & infants)



Kids' Ash Wednesday Service

February 22 • 6:30-7:30

Youth Events

Our first semester of 2011-2012 is over and we are anxious to begin a new semester in the new year! Jesus University will continue to use the Known curriculum on Sunday mornings as well as for Sunday evening small groups (Refuge). Wednesday nights are packed with fun, with Common Grounds for Senior High and Elevate for Mid-High. We will have our Mid-Winter Retreat at Canyon Camp on February 24-26 for students in grades 6-12, and we will also have some service opportunities. All of our activities from retreats to Bible studies to worship are great opportunities for students to bring friends and learn more about God and their relationship with Jesus and how that relates to everyday life. For questions or more information, please contact Kourtney Aller or Fernie Rivera, 751-0755.

January

- 4 Fellowship Night: 6:00-8:00pm
- 8 Refuge 5:00-6:00pm
- 11 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm
Confirmation 6:00-7:30pm
- 15 Refuge 5:00-6:00pm
- 18 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm
Confirmation 6:00-7:30pm
- 22 Refuge 5:00-6:00pm
- 25 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm
Confirmation 6:00-7:30pm
- 29 Refuge 5:00-6:00pm

February

- 1 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm
Confirmation 6:00-7:30pm
- 5 Flamingo Bowl, Super Bowl Party, time TBA,
No Refuge
- 8 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm
Confirmation 6:00-7:30pm
- 12 Refuge 5:00-6:00pm
- 15 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm
Confirmation 6:00-7:30pm
- 19 Refuge 5:00-6:00pm
- 22 Ash Wednesday services, no youth activities
- 24-26 Mid-Winter Retreat at Canyon Camp in Hinton, OK
- 29 Common Grounds and Elevate 6:00-7:30pm



WatCH Café News

SIGN UP EARLY & SAVE!

Tickets At The Door:

Home-cooked Option

\$7.00 per person

Includes salad bar and choice of dessert

Fast Food Option

\$4.00 per person

Includes choice of dessert

Early Discount:

**Sign up and pay for meals no later than Sunday, January 8,
and only pay \$5.50 per Home-cooked or \$3.00 per Fast Food meal!**

TO-GO MEALS ARE AVAILABLE

To-Go meals will be available with the same discounts as to the left. Please let us know in advance if you will need your meal in a to-go box.

WEEKLY DRAWING FOR FREE DINNER!

Each week a winner will be selected to enjoy a free meal at the next WatCH series. Winners of the Fall WatCH drawings are eligible for one free meal each for Winter WatCH:

John and Kay Shenk

Gary and Fran Patton

Bill and Jean Webb

~ WEEKLY MENUS ~

**AMAZING GRAZING (complimentary appetizers) Starts at 5:00pm • Come early and schmooze over munchies!
Home-cooked Meals Begin at 5:15pm • Fast Food Meals Begin at 5:30pm**

JANUARY 11

Home-cooked Option

Bacon-Wrapped Meatloaf

Green Beans Casserole

Salad Bar & Bread

Fast Food Option

Pizza: Cheese, Pepperoni, or Sausage

Dessert Bar

JANUARY 18

Home-cooked Option

Baked Potato Bar

Salad Bar & Bread

Fast Food Option

Subway Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese

Dessert Bar

JANUARY 25

Home-cooked Option

Cheesy Baked Spaghetti

Salad Bar & Bread

Fast Food Option

Chick-fil-A Nuggets

Dessert Bar

FEBRUARY 1

Home-cooked Option

Yum-Yum Chicken

Salad Bar & Bread

Fast Food Option

Pizza: Cheese, Pepperoni, or Sausage

Dessert Bar

FEBRUARY 8

Home-cooked Option

Frito Chili Pie Bar

Salad Bar & Bread

Fast Food Option

Subway Ham & Cheese or Turkey & Cheese

Dessert Bar

FEBRUARY 15

Home-cooked Option

Pulled Pork

Potato Casserole

Salad Bar & Bread

Fast Food Option

Chick-fil-A Nuggets

Dessert Bar

**You may register for the dinners at the Welcome Center in the Great Hall
or by contacting Heather in the church office (507-7305).**

LIGHTEN UP

For Goodness Sake recipes are lightened up with reduced fat products and nutritious ingredients such as ground turkey, whole grains, non-fat Greek yogurt, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Local and organic foods are incorporated when available. If you have special dietary needs, food allergies, or an eating lifestyle with vegetarian preferences, please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you.



CHAPEL HILL

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2717 West Hefner Road
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

Dated Material Enclosed

Ministry Staff

Bishop Robert E. Hayes, Jr., Resident Bishop
Rev. Daniel W. Pulver, District Superintendent
Rev. Robert E. Rose, Jr., Senior Minister
Rev. Valerie Jones Steele, Associate Minister
Rev. Dr. Stephen Hale, Associate Minister
Suzann Wade, Diaconal Minister
Rev. Doug Burr, Associate Minister (Part-Time)

Program Staff

Kourtney Aller, Director of Student Ministries
Robin Dickerson, Older Adult Min. Dir. & Pastoral Care Coordinator
Randi Von Ellefson, Choir Director
Brandi Elwood, Director of MDO & Preschool
Marilyn Henderson, Director of Children's Ministries
Ellen Jackson, Organist / Handbell Director
Ryan Line, AV / IT Tech
Michele Pitt, Front Office Manager
Fernie Rivera, Assistant Director of Student Ministries
Rana Shelton, Nursery Director & Children's Assistant

Administrative Staff

Shari Detwiler, Staff Accountant
Heather McCornack, Finance Assistant
Randy Rush, Chief Financial & Administrative Officer
Tanya Smith, Director of Media/IT
Ashlee Stapp, Church Secretary

Facility Staff

Steve Richardson, Director of Facilities
Cody David • Gregory Depland • Bruce Lawson
Rudy Pearson • Brian Tabberer

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Friday Night Flicks

Dec. 16 at 7:30pm
in Fellowship Hall



"I am not a natural evangelist. I have never found it easy to talk to my friends about Jesus Christ. Some people are completely natural evangelists; they find it the easiest thing in the world."

— Nicky Gumbel, Senior Pastor, Holy Trinity Brompton
Alpha Director

I really relate to this thought expressed by Mr. Gumbel. For you see, I am not comfortable with spreading the word of Christ to non-Christians. I love taking Bible study courses and thrive on Christian education. In fact, I took the Alpha Course several years ago here at Chapel Hill. I considered it a refresher course and enjoyed it.

I want to lead people to Christ, but "verbal" evangelizing is not one of my talents. And, that is why I am so enthusiastic about the Alpha Course. The Alpha Course is a most engaging way of passing on the basics of Christianity in a comfortable non-threatening environment. Alpha provides a format for guests or members to develop a sense of community via small groups which allow one to renew or develop a relationship with Jesus Christ. The Alpha Course is a proven evangelistic tool.

Perhaps you are comfortable with telling people about Christ, or perhaps you are like me. Either way, please consider becoming a part of the Winter 2012 Alpha Team. We have a variety of needs and a fantastic program to offer. For more information, look for brochures at the Welcome Center. Or contact Tamera Rubenstein, Rev. Dr. Stephen Hale or me.

Marsha Ramée
Alpha Team Member

