

The Calling

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April 24, 2009

First United Methodist Church

501 West Main, Ardmore, Oklahoma 73401

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Carolyn Arends, in a recent article in *Christianity Today* shares her struggle with how to be an effective and faithful witness for Christ. I thought it appropriate as we consider what it means to live as faithful disciples "Beyond the Cross." And in anticipation of our Mission festival. "People come to the Christian faith via many different highways, but the eventual crossroad is always an encounter with Jesus. I wonder if my attempts to keep my witness non-threatening and accessible sometimes end up shielding the unchurched people around me from their own crossroad. Jesus can certainly meet them without my assistance. But I would rather be a help than a hindrance.

I was definitely a hindrance in Mexico. My husband, Mark, is a public high school counselor. A few years ago, a group of 11th graders asked him to coordinate a humanitarian trip. He contacted one of our favorite Christian organizations, and they agreed to facilitate an excursion to Mexico to build a playground in an impoverished area. Mark was careful to explain that the students participating were unchurched; should there be even a whiff of proselytizing, parents—and the school board—would feel betrayed.

Upon arrival, we discovered that the arranged accommodations at a local Rotary Club house had fallen through. Instead, we would be sleeping on the cement floor of a church basement in downtown Juárez, one of the most dangerous cities in Mexico. Mark could already imagine the parent phone calls he'd receive when word trickled home. Weary, we set up sleeping bags and tried to ignore the exposed wiring, hole-ridden walls, and scurry of cockroaches.

In the morning, we drove to the site of our project. Jaws dropped and eyes welled as we observed the abject poverty around us. But we also experienced the sweet rush of doing something worthwhile. At the end of the day, we returned to our cement floor feeling good.

All was well until the nausea hit. ... by morning, there were clusters of miserable people draped on every available garbage can. Mark held his head and imagined a new wave of parent phone calls. Mostly he threw up.

Around 9 A.M., the two local women who were preparing our food arrived on the scene and surveyed the carnage. Despite the language barrier, their distress and concern were unmistakable. They had followed all the guidelines for cooking for foreigners, and we were still sick. Eventually, one of the women approached the only teacher who could speak Spanish and asked for permission to pray for us. Too ill to object, the teacher nodded yes.

As soon as the woman began to pray, I knew we were in trouble. I thought, *Maybe everyone is so ill they won't mind the praying.* But my hopes for a low-impact prayer faded quickly as the woman became increasingly emotional. She prayed for five minutes. Ten. Maybe more.

...continued...

Gracias Padre, Gracias Jesús, Gracias Espíritu Santo, she wept, over and over. I began a prayer of my own. *Please make her stop. I don't want Mark to get fired. I don't want these kids to be put off of religion.*

When she was finally done, I took a deep breath and forced myself to raise my flushed face, dreading the reactions I knew were inevitable. Things were not as I expected.

There was not a dry eye in the room. Students were hushed, visibly moved. "That was beautiful," whispered one teacher. Several people nodded. To them, the prayer had been not unwelcome proselytizing, but a heart cry—passionate, desperate, and utterly authentic.

I was ashamed, of course, and humbled. The Holy Spirit had been moving, and I, one of the few mature believers in the room, had missed it...."

Blessings,
Darrell

Goodbye



Farewell Gathering for Darrell & Bonnie

Sunday

May 31st

9:30am

Fellowship Hall

Refreshments will be served and a basket will be provided for cards and letters.

Let's all reserve that time to show

Darrell & Bonnie our appreciation for their service to our church, say goodbye and wish them well.

If you have questions please contact Janie Courtney.



...continued...

The Lectionary Readings for April 26th

Acts 3:12-19

Psalm 4

I John 3:1-7

Luke 24:36b-48

Televised at 10:55am
Cable One, Channel 7

Broadcast at 11:00am
KVSO AM 1240

8:30 AM
McClure Chapel

10:55 AM
Sanctuary

11:00 AM
Colvert Ministry Center

Sunday's Music

This Sunday is **The Third Sunday of Easter.**

In both 8:30 and 10:55 worship services John Emery, organist, will play "**Alleluia**" by W. A. Mozart, arranged for organ by Gary Davidson

In the 8:30 worship service Rebecca Funderburg, a tenth grade band student will play "**Fantasia for B flat Clarinet**" (Opus 73, No. 1) by Robert Schumann, edited by H. Voxman. Rebecca has been studying clarinet in school and privately for many years.

In the 10:55 worship service the Sanctuary Choir will sing "**Walk in the Light**" by Joseph Martin. This anthem, another choir favorite, is composed with a J. Paul Williams relevant, contemporary text. The anthem is copyright © 1998 by Timespann and Lorenz Publishing Company. Also in worship this Sunday, at 11:00 Epic, the *Sunday Morning Live Early Elementary Singers* will sing "**Mighty to Save,**" an energetic song by Chris Tomlin. The accompaniment will be live guitar with Chris Hopper playing.

Please read these texts from Sunday's music.

Walk in the Light

Walk in the light of His love,
walk in the light of his Word,
Walk in the light as He is in the light,
walk in the light of the Lord.

Do not walk in darkness searching for a way.
Do not walk in darkness, turn and face the day;
See the dawn is breaking, come and celebrate.

Jesus is the Light of the World:
Walk in the light of the Lord!

Shalom, *Bab*

Stephen Ministry

LOVE COVERS



"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." I Peter 4:8

Contact Louise Daniels (226-5524) or Rev. Dan Patman (223-5390, ext.308) for more information about Stephen Ministry.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, April 26

8:30 am Worship / McClure Chapel
9:30 am Sunday Morning Live
9:45 am Sunday School
10:55 am Worship / Sanctuary
11:00 am EPIC Worship / CMC
4:30 pm Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:00 pm Confirmation Class
6:00 pm Jr. & Sr. High Youth

Monday, April 27

7:45 am Preschool
9:00 am Children's Day Out
9:30 am Body Recall
1:00 pm Clothes Closet Opens
5:30 pm Handbell Rehearsal
6:00 pm Stephen Ministry Training
6:30 pm Who Stole My Church

Tuesday, April 28

7:45 am Preschool
10:00 am Sanctuary Guild
10:30 am Mom's Praying
6:00 pm Finance Ministry
6:00 pm Evangelism Ministry
7:00 pm Church Council

Wednesday, April 29

7:30 am Intercessory Prayer
7:45 am Preschool
9:00 am Children's Day Out
9:00 am Clothes Closet Opens
9:30 am Body Recall
5:00 pm Faithweavers
5:30 pm Prayer Ambassadors
6:15 pm Worship / CMC
7:00 pm Celebrate Recovery
7:00 pm Mid-Week Youth
7:15 pm Sanctuary Choir

Thursday, April 30

7:45 am Preschool
9:00 am Precept Bible Study

Friday, May 1

Mission Festival
7:45 am Preschool
9:30 am Body Recall
6:30 pm Mission Festival Pot Luck Dinner / Worship

Saturday, May 2

7:00 am Mission Festival Breakfast / Work Day
12:00 pm Mission Festival Lunch

Dates to Remember:

May 7 Senior Banquet
May 10 Mother's Day / Senior Sunday
May 14 Confirmation Banquet
May 17 Confirmation Sunday
May 25 Memorial Day / Church Closed
June 1-5 Youth District Camp
June 21-26 Sr. High Mission Trip
June 22-26 Vacation Bible School
June 29 Children's Summertime Ministry Begins

X.Y.Z. Ministry Extra Years of Fest

Thanks to some wonderful caring volunteers, your X.Y.Z. Ministry Council is now organized, eager and ready to serve.

Nurture Team – will be visiting our homebound and care-facility residents; contacting new members (age 55+); providing sacraments for home-bound and care-facility residents; conducting a telephone calling ministry (*TEAM LEADERS: Bettie Black (223-9477) & Carolyn Graysneck (223-6558)*)

Outreach Team

(Team A) – will do home repairs, maintenance and/or advise; lawn mowing, moving heavy items, minor plumbing/carpentry (*TEAM LEADER: Tom Weaver (226-4084)*)

(Team B) – organizing Christmas kits for homebound and full-care residents (*Friendly Neighbors–Terry Sharp–226-1888*)

(Team C) – Relief for caregivers; house-sitting; help with selecting a nursing home; help with medical forms and tax forms; housekeeping assistance (*TEAM LEADER – Carolyn Yeager – (490-1222)*)

Transportation Team – Provide rides to church services, doctor's offices, grocery / drug store and hospital; shop for homebound; provide weekly shopping trips to Wal-Mart. (*TEAM LEADER: Pat Padberg (223-6199)*)

Please contact these Team Leaders if you would like further information or require any of these services.

"Each stage of life offers each of us new opportunities to respond to God's call" (Author Unknown)

Sanctuary Guild

The Sanctuary Guild invites you to help provide fresh flowers for worship each Sunday. Flowers may be donated in honor of a loved one or in celebration of a special occasion such as a birthday or anniversary. Each arrangement costs \$55. For more information or to schedule flowers for a specific Sunday, call Pat Castellow at 223-5390, x 303.



FOCUS ON FOLKS

In the Hospital, or recently dismissed:

Thetis Davidson
Sharon Parker
Ora Rist

Sunday School Greeters for April:

Main Building - **CHESTER DENNIS & CORA CARLOCK**
Colvert Ministry Center - **HOPE** class

Sympathy: Our thoughts and prayers are with the family of Eileen Diss. Eileen passed away on April 9th. Services were held on April 15th in Salem, IL.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with Rocky Antencio and his family with the passing of his sister. Services were held last week in Las Vegas.

Memorials:

In memory of **Louise Watkins** a contribution to the Communion Fund has been received from:
Hank & Becky Kittrell

In memory of **Dina Woodside** a contribution to the Memorial Fund has been received from:
Roy and Lou Butler

SR. HIGH MISSION TRIP TO DURANGO, CO.



The Senior High Youth (incoming freshman to graduated seniors) are going to Durango, Colorado for a mission trip! Each day will include rappelling, hiking, river rafting. Additionally, one day will be spent working with Habitat for

Humanity on house for a local family!

We will leave very early Monday, June 22 & return very early, Saturday, June 27.

The total cost of the trip is \$309.00 per student, plus the cost of meals during travel to/from Durango. Scholarships are available, so don't let money be a reason why you don't go.

Information and forms are available on our website: fumcardmore.com under the youth section.



April 29, 2009 Prayer Ambassadors

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes to you. Then you will be my witnesses to testify about me in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:8

1. Our Jerusalem—Ardmore

- All Worship services –Pray we focus on making disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world
- Mission Festival Weekend: May 1-3 Changing Lives: Together We Can
 - a. Pray for great participation in the May 2nd workday projects
 - b. Pray for greater congregational awareness and understanding of Faith Promise
 - c. Pray for the speakers—both lay and special guest speakers
 - d. Pray for a large increase in the numbers of children who participate in the special mission activities on May 2nd
 - e. Pray for strong personal faith promise commitments
- Clothes Closet—pray for volunteers and those they serve

2. Our Judea—Oklahoma

- Campus Ministries—pray for campus ministers and students, staff and faculty as they finish the semester and face finals

3. Our Samaria—North America

- Upper Room Prayer Center—volunteers in Nashville, Tennessee pray 24/7 for the needs of others
- Pray for our country, our President, leaders and that we will humble ourselves before God and learn and practice righteousness in all our ways.

4. To the Ends of the Earth

- Mike and Sharol Shutts—Missionary Aviation Fellowship serving in Losotho, Africa

5. Persecuted Church

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints." Eph. 6:18

- Colombia—Four people belonging to the same church on the southwest side of Colombia have been murdered recently. Please pray for their grieving families and for protection for other believers.

2009 Mission Festival Work Day

Proposed Projects

May 2, 2009

DeB and Marilyn Edwards need leaders for the following work-day projects. If you are willing to help, please call DeB at 223-5469 as soon as possible. Volunteer forms will be in the church bulletin.

Ardmore Village -

1. cut down/trim trees
2. put out sod in shaded areas
3. chip-up wood (from cut trees)
4. caulk & paint around patio doors and windows... have 54 newly-installed patio doors and several newly-installed windows.
5. bricks & beds around base of trees need straightening and attention

Gloria Ainsworth - Wash chairs, spread pea-gravel, & remove paint from concrete.

Habitat For Humanity - Possible projects not defined yet.

Mercy House Repair playground equipment

YWCA GRACE Day Center Assemble Health Kits

UMCOR KITS - Assemble Baby Layette & Sewing Kits

Springer Methodist Church - Paint some walls inside

Lone Grove Methodist Church - Assist demolition and installation of new door

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Ardmore, Oklahoma
Permit No. 183



Loaves &
Fishes

April

Green Peas

14-16 oz. cans

Or you may donate money
to the emergency fund

Address Service Requested