

The Church of the Savior



Part of a stained glass window in the St. Nicolas church in Amsterdam showing the birth of Jesus Christ. Given to the church in 1886 by A.J. Naber and pastor J.H. van Born. Made in France and possibly designed by the then 18 year old Jan Coenraad Bleijs (1868-1952).



Our Vision is to follow God's Direction with open minds and hearts. Our Mission is to nourish the spiritual health of God's people through witness and service.

On The Journey...

A Season of Affirmation and Candles...

By now you know of my love for the writings of Howard Thurman. Thurman was the Dean of the Marsh Chapel at Boston University. He was a large black man with three prominent bumps on his forehead, and a habit of silence so deep that it quieted everyone with whom he came in contact. He was a Christian mystic.

Howard Thurman wrote many things during his long life, but perhaps his greatest written legacy is his book, ***Meditations of the Heart***. It is never too far from me, and is always available when I need spiritual help. In this book, Thurman has a section on Christmas. Here is what he wrote on "The Season of Affirmation:"

*CHRISTMAS is the season of Affirmation.
I affirm my faith in the little graces of life:
The urgency of growth, the strength of
laughter, the vitality of friendship.
I affirm my confidence in the dignity of persons:
Their fortitude in despair, their strength
in weakness, their love in hatred.
I affirm my joy in the experience of living:
The fragrance of nostalgia, the scattered
moments of delight, the exhilaration of danger.
I affirm my need of my fellows:
The offerings of faiths, the gifts of
variety, the quality of difference.
I affirm my hunger for God:
The desire for fulfillment, the ache
for understanding, the sense of peace.
Christmas is my season of affirmation.*

There is also this meditation titled, "Candles for Christmas:"

*I Will Light Candles This Christmas...
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of graces to ease heavy burdens
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all the year long.*

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, may this season also be a time for affirmation and the lighting of the candles of joy, hope, courage, peace, grace and love. Merry Christmas! *Jim*

Newby





December Highlights

- **Christmas Open House & Art Show**
Sun. Dec. 6th 2-4pm Shirley's Home
- **WOC Circle Meeting & Salad Lunch**
Tues. Dec. 8th 10:30am
- **Christmas Cantata**
Sun. Dec. 13th 10:50am
- **Annual Congregational Meeting & Commission Meetings**
Sun. Dec. 13th, 12pm
- **Elder's Meeting**
Tues. Dec. 15th 7pm
- **Red Hat Lunch at El Chico's**
Fri. Dec. 18th 12:30pm
- **Child Care Center Christmas Program**
Fri. Dec. 18th 7:00pm
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**
Thurs. Dec. 24th 7:00p.m.
- **Merry Christmas**
*Fri. Dec. 25th & 28th Office closed
Child Care Center closed 12/25*
- **Happy New Year**
Fri. Jan. 1st Office & Child Care closed

UPCOMING SERMONS

- December 6..... "A Time for Wonder"
 December 13.... CANTATA...No Sermon
 December 20.... "A Time to Rejoice"
 December 27.... Guest Minister
 January 3..... "A Happy New Year"

PRESBYTERIAN URBAN MISSION (PUM)

CHRISTMAS STORE

The PUM Santa Store will be open on Saturday, December 12, 2009. Volunteer shifts are 8:30 am to noon and 11:30 am to 2:30 pm. Groups are welcome to volunteer, but please call first so we can schedule accordingly. We have over 600 kids signed up to receive toys and gifts, so any donation is very much needed and appreciated! For more details or questions, call PUM 946-1556.

Merry

Christmas

CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE & ART SHOW

Shirley Hammil will be hosting a Christmas Open House and Art Show at her home on Sunday, December 6th, from 2-4pm. Come and go at your leisure at 5829 NW 86th Street (the first street north of Hefner School off MacArthur). Everyone is invited to attend! For more information, contact Shirley 405-721-5655.

WOMEN'S CIRCLE MEETING

The Women of the Church will meet on Tuesday, December 8th at 10:30 am in the Community Room. There will be a short business meeting and Bible study. A salad luncheon will be served, along with a good time. All ladies are welcome and invited to attend. Bring your favorite salad to share. Contact Margaret Swanson at 405-620-0355 for more information.

THE MEETINGS

The annual Congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, December 13th immediately following the service in the sanctuary. Then the various Commissions will meet on Sunday, December 13th at 12:15pm. The Board of Elder's will meet on Tuesday, December 15th at 7pm in the Elder's Room. Contact Dave Webster for more information 405-226-8630.

RED HAT LUNCH

Join the Red Hat Hallelujah Hussies for lunch on Friday, December 18, 2009 at El Chico's on NW Expressway (near Rockwell) at 12:30pm. Everyone please remember to wear your Santa hats! All ladies are invited. Contact Marge Van Wyngarden for information at 843-5400.

CENTER FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

The Center for Spiritual Growth Classes will be on break for the month of December and begin meeting again on Sunday, January 11th at 6:30pm. This bible study led by Jim Newby is for all adults who are interested in attending. This group meets in the Community Room.

BIBLE THRILL

Bible Thrill is a time of bible learning for students in preK through 12th while their parents attend the Center For Spiritual Growth Classes. It is also open to any students who want to at-

tend on January 11th at 6:30pm. This group meets in the Activity Center gym and is led by Richard and Lisa Mencer. Please call 802-8130 if your student needs a ride.

UPWARD BASKETBALL & CHEER

The basketball season is officially here and practice for players and cheerleaders begins the week of December 9th. If you are interested in helping with Upward, please contact David or Georgia Gandall 405-831-8666.



The soccer season ended with their Awards Night on Nov. 17th with Glenn Barber for entertainment. The soccer season video from Awards Night is available for download from our website. Judging from the video it looks like it was a great season and enjoyed by all. Thank



you to the many people who gave of their time and talent to make this a successful season.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

The Worship Commission would like to thank everyone who was able to join them on

Saturday, November 28th at 9am for a festive time of decorating the church. Your time and talents are sincerely appreciated!

The un-decorating party is scheduled for Saturday, January 2nd, 2010. It would be great to have YOU there!

THE LIVING CHRISTMAS TREE

The Living Christmas Tree in the Community Room provides a convenient and meaningful way to send your Christmas cards to your friends and family at the Church of the Savior. Simply put one card of your choice on the tree and make a donation representing the cost of greeting cards and postage to the church. Proceeds will be divided between the UCC Evangelical Children's Home in St. Louis and Goodland Presbyterian Home in Hugo, OK. Please designate "Living Christmas Tree" on your check or envelope. Thank YOU for your generosity! Contact Marge Van Wyngarden for more information or questions 843-5400.

CHRISTMAS CANTATA

Please make plans to join us on Sunday, December 13th for a special time of music during the 10:50am service. The worship choir will present "A Christmas Carol Gallery: Portraits of the Season." The performance will include many traditional and favorite Christmas melodies followed by a time of congregational singing of Christmas hymns.

CHILD CARE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

"You Make Me Move, Jesus"

The Child Care Center Annual Christmas Program will take place on Friday, December 18th at 7:00pm in the sanctuary. Everyone is invited to attend and enjoy sharing the Christmas spirit with our Child Care Center students and their families. Each class sings a group song. We will have some solos, and children playing a Christmas song on their instruments! There will be a slide show and cookies and juice after the program. The program should last about an hour. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. For more information or to help with the program, contact Staci Byrd 721-7070.

SAVE THE DATE!

There are two annual events coming in January that you will be sure to want to save the date. The first one is the Chili/Soup Cook-

Off immediately following church on Sunday, January 17th. Signup now if you are interested in participating. Contact Mary Webster at 728-0520 for questions or more information.

The second event is the Anniversary Dinner on Sunday, January 24th at 6pm with a catered dinner and memorable entertainment. Contact Jean Martindale at 476-7350 for more information or to help.

CHRISTMAS MISSION PROJECT

Please consider giving a Christmas gift that enables families to become self-sufficient. Instead of giving the usual clothing or jewelry, a donation to www.heifer.org in the name of your family member or friend will help fund a gift of livestock to needy families around the world. The gifts are tailored to fit every budget and range from \$10 to \$10,000. Please see the Heifer display board in the foyer for more information or call 1-877-448-6437 to place your Christmas gift order. Thank you for your generosity during this season of giving.



RECOGNITION OF OUR MEMBERS

We would like to recognize Tom Dry for his work with the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association, Inc. Twenty five years ago Tom was a founding member of the Association and helped draft legislation concerning the "Children and Minors-Indian Welfare Act". Tom was a recent honoree at their 2nd Annual Conference celebrating their 25 years of "Moving Forward Together." Congratulations Tom!



We would like to recognize Mary Jo Walker for 15 years of volunteer service at Mercy Hospital. Mary Jo was recently honored for her service by Mercy Hospital and was awarded the Ruby pin. Congratulations Mary Jo! We are so proud of you both.

Congratulations!



"The ALMOST 12 Days of Christmas"

DECEMBER 2009 CHILDRENS & YOUTH EVENTS:

Richard Mencer has planned a number of fun and seasonal activities for children (preK - 5th grade) and youth (6th -12th grade) as well as parents, to be involved in and spur on the Christmas spirit. Please plan to be a part of "The ALMOST 12 Days of Christmas" events!

Oklahoma City Bombing Museum: Sunday, November 29 we'll meet at the church at 2:00 pm. There is no cost for the museum but you may want to bring \$\$ for food. All youth, children and families are invited.

Journey to Bethlehem!: Come and join the fun as we once again Journey to Bethlehem. We'll leave the church at 7:00 pm on **Saturday, December 5th**. This is for youth, children and families.

Banjo Museum: On **Sunday, December 6th**, the youth will leave the church at 2:00 pm for a visit to the Banjo Museum and then enjoy a boat ride at the downtown canal. There is no cost but bring \$\$ for food.

Revolve Tour: It's back! For a second year in a row, the youth girls will be attending the Revolve Tour on **December 11th and 12th** in Norman. Please see Richard if you are interested in this event.

OK Heritage Museum: All youth, children and families are invited to come with us to the Oklahoma Heritage Museum on **Sunday, December 13th**. We'll leave the church at 2:00. There is no cost. Bring \$\$ for food.

Here We Go a Caroling: Saturday, December 19th, everyone is invited to meet at the church at 5:00. We'll go caroling in the neighborhood and wind down at a members home for some Christmas goodies and hot chocolate!

Museum of Art: Youth, children and families are invited to visit the museum of art. **Sunday, December 20th**, we'll meet at the church at 2:00. There is no cost. Bring \$\$ for food.

Christmas Eve Service: 7:00 pm Christmas Eve, **Thursday, December 24th** here at Church

of the Savior. Everyone is invited to this meaningful candlelight service.

OU Women's Basketball: All youth are invited to attend the OU Women's Basketball game during the winter holiday on **Wednesday, December 30th**. Meet at the church at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$10 for the game and bring \$\$ for food. Please let Richard know if you plan to attend this event so tickets can be purchased ahead of time.



THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY

Beginning with the first Sunday in Advent, Lisa Mencer will be leading a Sunday School class at 9:30am for 6th-12th graders featuring "The Advent Conspiracy." The concept behind the Advent Conspiracy is simple, "Worship fully, spend less, give more, and love all." Christmas can still change the world! Over 340 water wells have been donated this holiday season, giving more than 200,000 people clean drinking water. For more information please visit the Advent Conspiracy website: www.adventconspiracy.org.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class will not meet on Sunday, December 13th as Jim and Liz Newby will be out of town for a family wedding. The class is invited to attend the class led by Lisa Mencer.

On Sunday, December 20th, the class will celebrate the completion of the curriculum and their final class together. Congratulations. The confirmands will be presented to the church on Sunday, January 3rd in the 10:50am service.

SEASON OF ADVENT

Please join us for the season of Advent as celebrate the tradition of the Advent Wreath. Each Sunday a new candle will be lit and we will reflect on the meaning of the candle and its significance at this time of the year: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light!

Our last service in Advent takes place on Christmas Eve on Thursday, December 24th at 7pm. A special offering will given with proceeds

going to the Retired UCC and Presbyterian Clergy.

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Newby's, the church staff and the Child Care Center staff would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. The church office and Child Care Center will be closed on Friday, Dec. 25th & Friday, Jan. 1st to allow the staff to have time with their families. In addition, the church office will be closed on Monday, Dec. 28th.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

It is time again to be thinking about the 2009 Annual Report (to be distributed in March 2010). Please begin preparing your reports for your commission, committee or ministry. The reports are due by January 15th. This is your opportunity to document the events and highlights of 2009 for the years to come as we look forward to **Growing in Faith Together** in the year 2010.

2010 SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

Applications for the 2010 Higher Education Scholarship award are being accepted now. Deadline for submission is February 15, 2010 as the winner will be announced in March 2010. In addition to the \$1000 scholarship from the church, another scholarship is available from the Presbyterian Women of the Indian Nations Presbytery.

A copy of the application form for either scholarship is in available in the church office and on the church website. Please contact Jean Martindale for questions or further information at 405-476-7350.

SING A LITTLE JINGLE

Need some extra money for the holidays? Just sing a little jingle for BC Clark Jewelers. Their famous jingle is available at: www.SingTheBCClarkJingle.com. Maybe you'll be the one who wins a \$100 gift certificate for your video.

And, if you should find yourself at BC Clark, please remember to ask to fill out a **Church Coupon** with your purchase. It must turned in at the time of your purchase in order to qualify for the 3% donation to the Women of the Church at Church of the Savior.



December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:30 SS/ Confirmation 10:50 Worship 12pm Fellow- ship Hour 2pm OKC Bombing Museum	30 9am Mobile Meals 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	1	2 10am Quilters 7pm Choir Rehearsal	3 9am Mobile Meals	4	5 7pm Youth Bible Study & Journey to Bethlehem
6 9:30am SS / Confirmation 10:50am Worship 12pm Fellow- ship Hour 2pm Banjo Museum	7 9am Mobile Meals 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	8 10: 30am Women's Circle Meeting & Salad Lunch	9 10am Quilters 7pm Choir Rehearsal	10 9am Mobile Meals	11 Revolve Tour Girls 6th - 12 grades	12 Revolve Tour Girls 6th - 12 grades
13 9:30am SS 10:50am Worship 12pm Annual Congregational Meeting & Commission Mtgs. 12:15pm 12pm Coffee	14 9am Mobile Meals 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	15 7pm Board of Elders Meets	16 10am Quilters 7pm Choir Rehearsal	17 9am Mobile Meals	18 12pm Newsletter info Due 12:30pm Red Hat Lunch	19 5pm Youth Bible Study & Christmas Caroling
20 9:30am SS / Confirmation 10:50am Worship 12pm Fellowship Hour 2pm Art Museum	21 9am Mobile Meals 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	22	23 10am Quilters 7pm Choir Rehearsal	24 9am Mobile Meals 7pm Christmas Eve Candle- light Service	25 Office Closed Child Care Center Closed Merry Christmas!	26 No Youth Bible Study
27 9:30am SS 10:50am Worship 12pm Fellow- ship Hour	28 Church Office Closed 9am Mobile Meals 9:30am Ladies Bible Study	29	30 10am Quilters 5pm OU Women's Basketball \$10	31 9am Mobile Meals	1 January 2010 Office Closed Child Care Center Closed Happy New Year!	2 No Youth Bible Study

Jim & Liz Newby traveling...



Church of the SAVIOR
5600 NW 63rd Street
Oklahoma City, 73132

Office Hours: 9am - 3pm Monday - Friday

Staff

Senior Pastor:

Rev. Dr. James R. Newby

Children & Youth Coordinator:

Richard Mencer

Choir Director/Organist:

Lou Ann Rice-Manion

Pianist: JonEvah Murray

Treasurer: David Gandall

Office Manager: Lesa Stiger

Dec. Birthdays

BAINTER, Shaun	1
WILLIAMS, Nancy	3
BYRD, Staci	9
GASKIN, Peter	12
ROSSON, Jeff	14
MURPHY, Leonard	18
PETERMAN, Kathy	18
WALKER, Mary Jo	18
STIGER, Josh	20
FARNHAM, Joshua	21
REEVES, Sharon	22
MURRAY, JonEvah	23
PALMER, Francy	28

We Remember...

Elmer Crocker passed away on Thursday, November 19th at Deaconess hospital after a prolonged illness. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Elizabeth and family as they journey through this time of loss and grief. Elmer was a long time member of Church of the Savior, since the union of the two churches in 1977.

We wish to extend our condolences to the family of Billy Rogers in the death of his brother Marvin on Sunday, November 22nd.

Coming in January...

This will be an exciting time in the life of the Church of the Savior as we look forward to the New Year, the future and Growing in Faith Together. Here are a few clues about what is up ahead: a thermometer, a tree, a wall, and a building. With such great clues everyone is sure to figure out exactly the BIG news in January, right?