

Churches in each new district are listed on pages 6-7.

Boundaries set for new districts

By HOLLY McCRAY

The bishop and Cabinet have mapped out the shape of things to come for the Oklahoma Conference.

They determined boundaries for eight new districts, a key task during this year of transition. At the 2014 Annual Conference in late May, delegates voted by 81 percent to realign from 12 to eight districts, effective June 1, 2015.

In mid-September, Bishop Robert Hayes Jr. announced new boundary lines had been set. A reconfigured Conference map and list of churches in each new district were made available.

As assigned by the *United Methodist Book of Discipline*, the bishop and Cabinet establish district borders. But “this has not been about us putting a dart board on the wall,” said the bishop.

“It’s all about missional purposes. We tried to determine what areas can work together fruitfully.”

During the summer, superintendents invited input by hosting gatherings and listening posts in each of the current districts.

“I want you to know we heard you loudly and clearly,” said Bishop Hayes. “We heard you say that when we assign churches we should do so not just by highway but by affinity.”

Superintendent Greg Tener of OKC-South District said, “People want something that is dramatic and effective in living out the Gospel, in reclaiming the Great Commission.”

Lawton District Superintendent Chris Tiger heard this: Don’t make cosmetic changes; make real changes for the sake of the Church’s mission in the world.

“I think people realize the definition for insanity is doing the

same thing and expecting different results,” he said.

Rev. Tiger senses excitement about Missional Areas, which will connect neighboring UM churches within a district. He has established six temporary ones. Facilitated by a Missional Elder, each group will gather this fall for a worship service and meal.

Twelve transition teams, with both laity and clergy members, also formed in summer. By Oct. 15, transition teams for each new

district should be operating. These groups are determining assets and liabilities, discussing property matters. Legal framework must start by early January.

“John Wesley would be proud of us, in the sense that there’s method to all this,” Hayes commented. “And all along the way, we’ve got to keep communicating with one another.”

“There are no districts being incorporated into another district,” Enid District Superintendent Donna Dodson emphasized. “We’re doing away with all 12 and creating eight new.”

Rev. Tener asked for creative input in naming districts, too. He especially welcomes substitutes for the proposed “Central Area South.”

Boundaries, page 6



Fundraiser to expand foster care services into 4 cities



Find out more about this ministry at www.circleofcare.org.

By HOLLY McCRAY

The Circle of Care’s vision to help more foster children is newly focused on Ardmore, Enid, Shawnee, and Stillwater.

The United Methodist-affiliated agency years to extend its care ministry to meet the great need for foster homes statewide. While this expansion reaches into four cities, the agency hopes other communities soon follow.

Members of the Board of Directors recently issued a special appeal, pledging themselves to match up to \$20,000 in donations.

In response, Circle of Care received the promise of \$69,000 if funds are raised to match that amount. The board’s challenge

was answered by a challenge!

The new goal is to raise \$17,250 in each of the four cities – a total of \$69,000.

Combined with the matching grant, from the Milburn family of Shawnee, the funds will enable COC to hire four recruiters, one for each city, to establish foster care homes there.

President Don Batson is excited about expanding the agency’s foster care support services well beyond the state’s two major urban centers. He noted with gratitude the generous support of COC by churches throughout Oklahoma.

More than 11,000 children entered state custody in 2013, according to the Department of

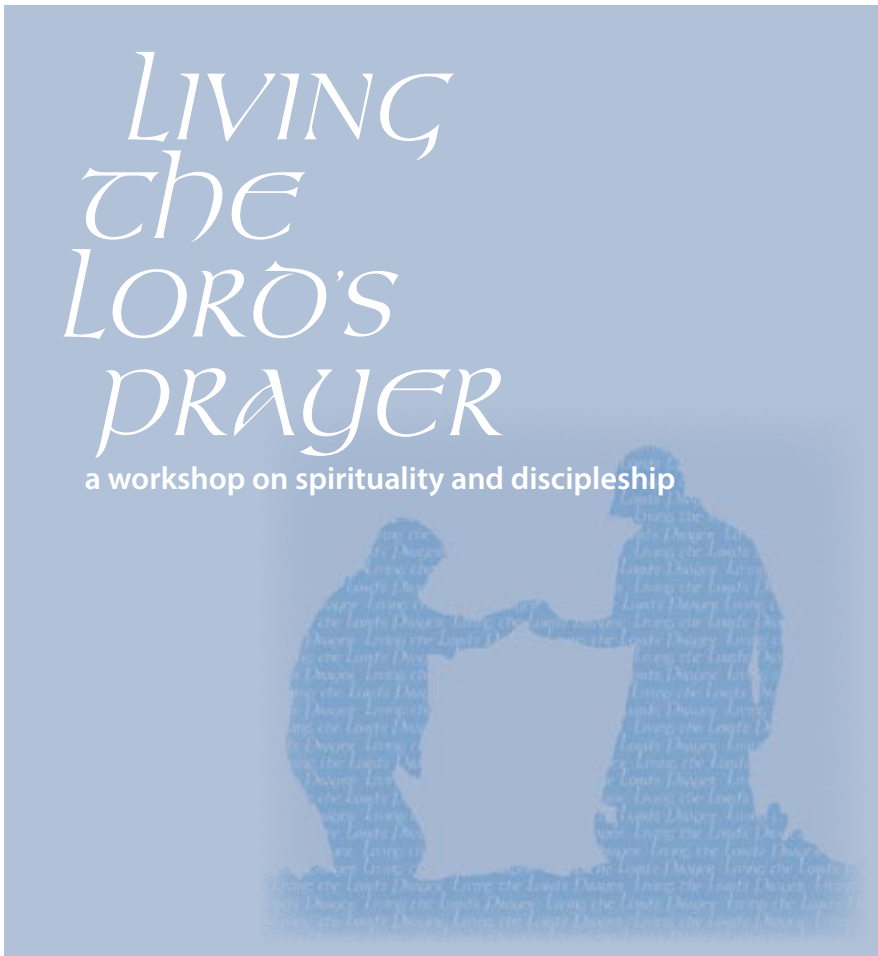
Human Services.

“If you’re a child removed from your home in Shawnee, but no foster home is available in Shawnee, you go, perhaps, to Tulsa,” said Mike Slack, COC development director. “If you are in school, you are removed from your class, friends, and teacher; if you are in church, from your Sunday School; if you play soccer, from your team.”

Slack said a child entering state custody may not even be allowed to take along a pillow. Law officers carry kid-sized scrubs so children have some clothing.

Foster care brings “such dramatic change,” he said. “If we can

Expansion, page 8



October regional workshops

Using The Lord's Prayer, we will learn about its transforming power. Trevor Hudson will lead us to see where Christ is touching our life, calling us to a deeper relationship with God, ourselves, and our neighbors.

This workshop is for ALL churches. Invite your congregation, friends, and neighbors to come and share a transforming evening with one another.

Rev. Hudson is part of the Pastoral Team at Northfield Methodist Church in Benoni, South Africa, where he has been for 22 years. Against the background of apartheid in the 1980s, he pioneered a ministry called 'Pilgrimage of Pain and Hope.'

- Tuesday, Oct. 14..... Mangum UMC, Clinton District. 5–9 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 15..Fairview UMC (Slapout), Woodward District. 5–9 p.m.
- Thursday, Oct. 16 Lamont UMC, Enid District. 5–9 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct. 26 Adair UMC, Muskogee District. 3–7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Oct. 29 Pauls Valley UMC, Ardmore District. 5–9 p.m.
- Monday, Oct. 27 McAlester-First UMC, McAlester District. 5–9 p.m.
- Tuesday, Oct. 28..... Prague UMC, Stillwater District. 5–9 p.m.

www.okumc.org/SmallMembershipChurch

\$10 per person



OCU offers to teach Bible study at churches

Have leaders, will travel! Students, faculty, and University-Church Relations staff at OCU will travel to your church to lead one-, two-, or three-week Bible lessons for any age group.

Arrangements can be made for Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and even during the week, depending on distance and availability of facilitators.

OCU students also will be developing video curriculum that can be mailed or sent electronically to churches throughout the state.

Would your church like to schedule a class? Does your church have certain topics that you would like to see developed? Contact University-Church Relations, 405-208-5060.



Samantha Erickson, left, and Hannah Frye prepare for a religion class. Both are OCU Bishop Scholars.



New students are greeted by robed faculty in the semester's opening matriculation service.

Youth groups can enjoy 'Reserved Seating for Future Stars'

The University-Church Relations Department at Oklahoma City University invites each church in the Oklahoma Conference to bring a group of prospective students to campus this fall or spring.

"We have amazing student athletes, musicians, and performers who love to showcase their God-given talents and abilities," said Charles Neff, OCU vice president for University-Church Relations.

"Reserved Seating for Future Stars

is our way of inviting United Methodist youths to consider what OCU might have to offer them."

Ten free tickets for an event are available to UM groups on a first-come basis for many of OCU's upcoming athletic, theater, and music theater productions and events. Many are held on Saturday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Additional tickets are available for purchase through the box office.

Arrangements also can be made for a meal on campus and a campus tour.

"We hope that youth groups and Sunday School classes will especially consider taking advantage of this offer," said Dr. Neff, "but we certainly welcome any church group that wants to come and experience OCU."

To reserve your seats, call the University-Church Relations office, 405-208-5060. Also check the department's Web page. Go to www.okcu.edu for more information.





**Strength for the journey:
A collection of ideas and thoughts
from our bishop**

Wonderfully made

"I've concluded that whatever God does, that's the way it's going to be, always. No addition, no subtraction. God's done it and that's it. That's so we'll quit asking questions and simply worship in holy fear. Whatever was, is. Whatever will be, is. That's how it always is with God." (Ecclesiastes 3:14-15, The Message)

By **BISHOP ROBERT HAYES JR.**

Let me begin with a confession: The older I get, the less patience I have with people who want to argue about the existence of God.

What world are they living in? Are they not able to comprehend the magnitude of God's creation?

The phrase "seeing is believing" is based on the wisdom that if people just open their eyes to what is visible in the world, they will understand (see and believe) that the universe didn't just happen.

At its core there is a spirit, a force, a mind, an energy that only can be described as God or Creator. The Gospel of John (1:1-3) reminds us that from the Word all creation was brought into being.

And within this magnificent design there is an order to everything! Night follows day, and day follows night. Cycles of life are hidden in the mysteries of summer, winter, spring, and fall.

In addition, somehow God intricately wove everything together so each living thing is in some way dependent upon another. The evidence grows that if we alter or eliminate one precious thing in God's creation, that action affects all things.

For example, the people responsible for producing the food we eat are gravely concerned these days about the declining number of honeybees.

That's right, honeybees!

Fruit and vegetable crops are dependent upon honeybees to pollinate their blooms. Yet the number of the bees is declining – extensively in some areas – and agricultural experts don't know why. The losses in this seemingly insignificant insect population have the capacity to disrupt the food supply for all the world's people.

The tiny honeybee!

The physical world is too fragile and our lives too interconnected to every living thing for people to believe humans are self-made entities that evolved on our own.

Like an architect draws up a blueprint, so God has made everything beautiful in its own time. To everything God has given a season, and no one can fathom what God has

done from beginning to end. So mysterious and wonderful are God's ways. Humans cannot fathom the Creator's mind.

And among God's astonishing works are humans, perhaps the greatest of mysteries. You and I!

Anyone with the audacity to stand before a mirror and reject that we are created in God's image is a fool. There is no such thing as a self-made person. Each human being was created with a void within the heart that only can be filled with God!

Atheists, agnostics, and skeptics go to great lengths to fill that gap in other ways. They try science, evolution, and schemes to deny God's existence. But their efforts do not prevail.

A story is told about an agnostic who got lost in the woods. Describing his experience later to a friend, he told how frightened he was and admitted that he kneeled in prayer and asked for God's guidance.

The friend asked, "Did God answer your prayer?"

The man replied, "Oh, no! Before God had a chance to answer, a guide came along and showed me the path."

Coincidence or fate are often the conclusion for those who find it hard to accept that

they live in God's cosmos, unable to comprehend the length, breadth, width, and depth of the Creator of all.

The author of Ecclesiastes captured the very essence of God in these words: "I've concluded that whatever God does, that's the way it's going to be, always. No addition, no subtraction. God's done it and that's it. That's so we'll quit asking questions and simply worship."

The late R.L. Middleton described an Englishman with a beautiful estate on the Yorkshire coast. From its location, people could see a great distance in every direction. One day the man and his young daughter climbed to a summit on the estate.

Intending to teach his daughter a lesson, the man said, "Look up. Look down. Look out. Now turn and look behind you."

He continued, "Dorothy, just so high, so deep, so wide, and so broad is the love of God!"

He was unprepared for her response, for she taught her father a lesson he never forgot. "Daddy," she asked, "if God's love is so high, so wide, so deep, and so broad, then doesn't that mean we are living in the middle of it?"

Yes, Dorothy, we are living in the middle of it!



Bishop Hayes



Actor Morgan Freeman, right, appears in "The Last White Knight," a film by Paul Saltzman, left.

CORR sets workshop to address prejudice

An Emmy Award-winning filmmaker will turn the spotlight on prejudice when he leads a one-day workshop on Saturday, Oct. 4, in Oklahoma City, sponsored by Oklahoma's Commission on Religion & Race.

The program could not be more timely, said CORR Chairperson Rose Marie Leroy, pastor at Stilwell. She particularly noted the ongoing outrage nationwide after a police shooting last month in Ferguson, Mo., and resulting racial unrest in that St. Louis suburb.

Paul Saltzman of Canada, founder of *Moving Beyond Prejudice*, will teach the seminar, drawing from his 2012 documentary film "The Last White Knight."

After directing the documentary "Prom Night in Mississippi," Saltzman established the nonprofit program in 2011 to work with students, youth-at-risk, and community groups. He attended a White House screening of the movie and led discussion with the

audience. He also has presented a TED Talk.

He is known for more than 300 film and TV productions and began his career in 1965.

CORR's goal for the event is "to help people deal with their prejudice about people who are not like themselves," said Rev. Leroy. "If we are going to be the church to everyone and reach new people in new places, we need to be open to people who are not like us."

"We hope this gets the conversation going."

The *Moving Beyond Prejudice* workshop will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in The Great Hall of the McDaniel student center at Oklahoma City University.

Register online at <https://okumc-reg.brapp.com/MovingBeyondPrejudice> or on the day of the event. Cost, \$25, includes lunch.

Passages

NANCY JAYNE MASON, 87, of Tulsa died Aug. 28, 2014. She was the wife of Rev. Bill Mason, retired.

Jayne was born on Jan. 7, 1927, in Muskogee. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma. She and Bill married on July 9, 1958. She was a homemaker.

The Masons retired in 1993, after Rev. Mason led Tulsa-Asbury UMC for 29 years.

Survivors include Rev. Mason; children Peggie Nash, Robin Tanner, Cameron Mason, and Randy Mason; four grandchildren and a great-grandchild.

Service was Sept. 7 at Tulsa-Asbury UMC. Memorial gifts to: Bill Mason Scholarship Program, Asbury UMC.

GERALDINE EGAN, 84, of Santa Fe, N.M., died Aug. 4, 2014. She was the widow of Rev. James Albert Egan, who died in October 1981.

"Jerry" was born on Dec. 3, 1929, in Si-loam Springs, Ark., and grew up in Muskogee. She was an accomplished pianist and organist. On Feb. 2, 1952, she married Rev. Egan.

The family moved from Oklahoma to Chicago in 1963, when Rev. Egan became a staff member at the University of Chicago.

Survivors include daughters Cynthia Wissel, Alison Egan, and Suzanne Egan; six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Memorial gifts to: Doctors Without Borders.

• Betty Lorraine Gardner, 87, of Nichols Hills died Aug. 27. She was the mother of Rev. David Gardner, pastor at Anadarko-First and Verden.

• Erand Earl (Lucky) Blacklock, 97, of Dallas died Aug. 26, 2014. She was the mother of Rev. Grayson Lucky, retired.

Saint Paul celebrates Class of 2014

New president arrives; Robinson promoted

By **HOLLY McCRAY**

The new president of Saint Paul School of Theology awarded master's degrees to eight students on Aug. 22 in Smith Chapel at Oklahoma City University.

The commencement ritual honored the fourth and largest group to graduate from the seminary's Oklahoma City program.

The graduates are introduced here.

- Jennifer Ahrens-Sims is chapel coordinator for Saint Paul at OCU. She was Supply Pastor this summer at Mustang UMC. She graduated with honors, specializing in Black Church Studies.

- Derrill Blue continues as senior pastor of Mount Olive AME Zion Church in Waterbury, Conn.

- Arron Grantz continues as pastor of the Morrison and Ripley churches.

- Stephanie Stephens is pastor at Shawnee-St. Mark's UMC. She earned a specialization in Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry.

- Jeff Mildren is co-pastor at OKC-Mayfair Heights. He specialized in Wesleyan Studies.

- Andy Nelms serves as associate minister of discipleship at Edmond-Acts 2 UMC.

- Jeff Ralston is pastoring the Fargo and Gage churches.

- Adam Shahan is associate pastor at Moore-First, leading its modern worship programming. He specialized in Restorative Justice and Prison Ministry.

Four Doctor of Ministry graduates also walked in the ceremony at OCU, although most of their schooling was in Greater Kansas City, Mo., where Saint Paul collaborates with UM Church of the Resurrection.

Their participation highlighted that the Oklahoma City site has been fully accredited to offer all the Saint Paul degree programs.

President H. Sharon Howell also announced the promotion of Elaine Robinson, whose acclaimed leadership has secured success for the Oklahoma City campus in its first six years. Rev. Dr. Robinson was

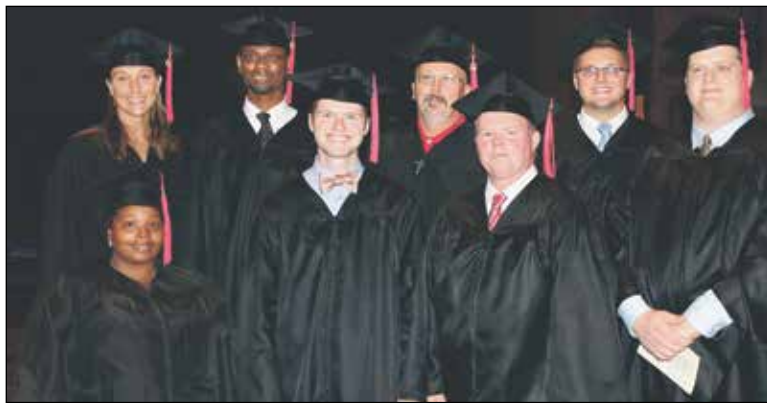


Photo by Heather Chamberlin

From left, members of the Saint Paul at OCU Class of 2014 are: (front) Stephanie Stephens, Andy Nelms, Arron Grantz, and Jeff Mildren; (back) Jennifer Ahrens-Sims, Derrill Blue, Jeff Ralston, and Adam Shahan.

named interim vice president of academic affairs and dean, responsible for the academics on both campuses. She becomes Saint Paul's first vice president based in Oklahoma City.

Both Howell and Robinson said they individually will spend time on both campuses each month.

The president returned to Saint Paul at OCU on Sept. 2 for the Opening Convocation of this academic year. Enrollment is 45 students. In addition to preaching on "Coloring Outside the Lines," she met with Oklahoma Conference and OCU leaders.

She described this seminary in two locations as a "radical collaboration" that continues to unfold. A new curriculum is being implemented this academic year. And OCU offers lodging and meals, which are not available to students in Kansas City, she noted.

"This is a strong Saint Paul campus. I think what we focus on here is growing and expanding," Howell said.

"Laboring together" is a key phrase for this seminary president, "because collaborations are not easy. They require more of the collaborators, more time, energy, give and take. Everyone has to give up something, but I think the greater good grows out of that."



Photo by Holly McCray

In OCU's Smith Chapel, Saint Paul student Laura Glover ties crayons to an altar display during the Eucharist ritual in the Opening Convocation on Sept. 2.

Employment

Music Director: Part-time. Moore-First UMC. Contact Rob Harris, 405-794-6671, pastor.rob@moorechurch.com.

Administrative Assistant: Full-time. Lawton-Centenary UMC. Email resume to centenarypastor@sbcglobal.net or fax to 580-351-0111.

Maintenance Supervisor: Full-time. Canyon Camp. Send resume to David Combs, 31600 Camp Rd., Hinton OK 73047; canyoncamp@okumc.org; or 405-542-6967.

Youth Director: Full-time. Shattuck-First UMC. Housing provided. Contact Rick Trobaugh, revtrobaugh@gmail.com.

Assistant Youth Director: OKC-Chapel Hill. Contact Jon Cunningham, 405-751-0755.

Youth Minister: Part-time. OKC-Sunny Lane UMC. Call 405-677-3347.

Program Director: Full-time. **Administrative Assistant:** Full-time. Circle of Care Pearl's Hope, Tulsa. Details at www.okumc.org/newsdetail/375098. Send resume and cover letter to tod.bryant@circleofcare.org. (No calls, please.)

Operation Hope Prison Ministry Director: Full-time. Tulsa location. Send resume to operationhope@ohpm.org/

Director of Youth Ministries: Full-time. McAlester-First UMC. Contact Matt Judkins, mbjudkins@gmail.com.

Pianist: Part-time. Pawnee-First UMC. Contact Susan Ross, pawskeumc@sbcglobal.net or 918-762-3997.

Youth Director: Part-time. Madill UMC. Contact Brett Thomasson, 580-795-3732.

Youth Director: Part-time. OKC-Putnam City UMC. Contact Pastor Bob Kanary, bobkanary@sbcglobal.net.

(Submit job openings for this list to nwallin@okumc.org. There is no charge.)

Briefly

Covenant Bible Study kits available for loan

The newly published *Covenant Bible Study* is available for loan to your church through the Small Church Commission and Discipleship Ministries of the Small Membership Church.

Covenant is a 24-week, in-depth group study. It consists of three 8-week modules, each dealing with a different aspect of what covenant means: Creating, Living and Trusting. Bishop Hayes has recommended this study.

The two small-church ministries offer it on loan to a church for up to 28 weeks.

Several kits are available for checkout. Contact Megan DeCastro at the United Methodist Ministry Center, 405-530-2199, mdecastro@okumc.org.

Nonprofits can learn about fundraising

On Oct. 30, Oklahoma Methodist Manor is bringing Jerry Panas to Tulsa for a seminar on charity fundraising.

Panas is a well-known consultant in the area of philanthropy for nonprofits. He is described as an excellent trainer and coach. He has been engaged by the Manor to conduct training for its board members.

As a service to other charities, the Manor invites key staff and board members from other nonprofits to attend. Cost for the one-day seminar is \$100 and includes lunch.

Contact Charlene Fabian, vice president of development, Oklahoma Methodist Manor, cfabian@ommtulsa.org, 918-346-6639.

State women's meeting at Ada

The 41st Annual Meeting is Oct. 3-4 at Ada-First UMC for Oklahoma Conference United Methodist Women.

Keynote speaker on Saturday is Judy Benson of Frederick, a past UMW president and lay leader for the Conference. She has led Oklahoma's General Conference delegation and is on denomination boards. She chairs the Oklahoma Conference corporation.

Three interest groups are planned:

- UMW "Visioning Class," with Ann (Needham) Bower, a former national officer;
- "Positive Results of Mixing Generations," by Mark Ellis, director, Area Agency on Aging in southern Oklahoma; and
- "Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Issues," led by Janet Winters, director, Ada's Family Crisis Center.

District officer training also will be part of Saturday's agenda. Entertainment will fill Friday evening.

Register by Sept. 26 to be included in the meal count. Sign-up is \$15; Coe Ann Patton of Tulsa is registrar.

<http://www.okumcministries.org/UMW/programs.html>

Appointment

Nicholas Lee, new, to Ada-First as director of student ministries (Ardmore District), effective Aug. 1.



Photo by Randy McGuire

Football players enjoy a pre-game meal at OKC-Lakeside UMC.

Church makes big play

OKC-Lakeside Church scored the first opportunity to feed Capitol Hill High School's football team on a game day this fall.

Coaches found players were competing without eating because they had neither transportation to go home and eat nor funds to buy food before games. Among Capitol Hill's 1,046 students, 92 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunches, according to data reported to the government.

Coaches turned to outside groups, asking for volunteers to offer pre-game meals, and Lakeside UMC was their first contact. Rhonda McGuire is a counselor at Capitol Hill, and her husband, Randy McGuire, is

Lakeside's pastor.

"The congregation rallied around this event," said Rev. McGuire. "I think every family from this church provided food or helped serve."

On Sept. 5, the team was bused to Lakeside Church to eat, and then to Star Spencer High School's football field. Some church members attended the game. Two church families provided boxed chicken for the players after the contest.

The student athletes expressed their thanks with words and hugs. A church member heard one player say, "No one has ever done this much for us before."

Kids help kids through VBS project at Nichols Hills

When Vacation Bible School leaders looked for a mission project for the one-day program at OKC-Nichols Hills Church in July, they thought of North Highland Elementary School.

The project they chose gave VBS children a hands-on opportunity to help other children.

The church has been partnering with the school, located just a few miles away, providing tutoring, classroom supplies, teacher events, and more.

North Highland is designated as a Priority School by the State Department of Education; it rated an "F" school report card score.

The principal told Nichols Hills UMC leaders that many of the students do not bring the supplies they need to school. So the church's Missions Committee and VBS leadership collaborated to provide those items to all the first- and second-graders at North Highland.

Youngsters participating in the one-day VBS walked along an assembly line, filling colorful backpacks with all the supplies.

Youth helpers and adult church members also took part. When all the packs were filled, the children carried them to the church sanctuary.

The following Sunday, a backpack

blessing was offered in worship. North Highland Principal Anita Jones and Assistant Principal Evelyn attended.

After the service, Nichols Hills UMC children and youths helped load the packs into cars.

The backpacks were distributed to students at the elementary school on Registration Day.

The Nichols Hills congregation donated more than \$2,200 to purchase the packs and supplies (folders, pencils, crayons, scissors, writing paper, glue sticks, pencil boxes, tissue, hand sanitizer) for 150 children.



Gracie Buxton, left, and her sister Kneely pack school supplies at OKC-Nichols Hills for students at a nearby elementary. Adult volunteer is Kay Musser.

Legacy Planning Using Real Estate – Part 3

Mary, age 82, and her husband, Charles, bought their home more than 40 years ago. Charles passed away five years ago, and under the terms of a buyout agreement, Mary will receive \$500,000 of capital gains income this year.

Her certified public accountant informs Mary that the capital gains tax will be in excess of \$90,000. They discuss gifting her home to her church, through a charitable bequest. However, a bequest will not provide a current income tax benefit.

Then the accountant tells Mary that she can transfer her home to her church and retain the use of the home for her lifetime. In addition, she will receive substantial current income tax savings. Mary, of course, will be responsible for maintenance, taxes, and insurance on her home.

The appraised value of Mary's home is \$400,000. She will receive a charitable income tax deduction of \$296,450 for the present value of the remainder interest in the property gifted to her church.

Mary is very pleased with this choice. She wants to make this special gift to her church, and she also receives an income tax benefit that will offset the capital gains tax on the buyout of her family's business. See *Summary of Benefits*, at right.

Contact David Battles, CPA, at 800-259-6863 or dbattles@okumf.org to learn more about how you could benefit from a gift of real estate.

Please note: The names and images are representative of a typical donor.



©josunshine / 123RF Stock Photo

Summary of Benefits

Value of Property Deeded	\$400,000
Charitable Deduction for the Remainder Interest	\$296,450
Current Year Tax Savings	\$97,829

The donor retains the use of the home or farm for life and deeds the remainder interest in the property to a qualified charity. The donor is responsible for maintenance, taxes, and insurance on the property.



THE OKLAHOMA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION
4201 N Classen Blvd • Oklahoma City, OK 73118
800-259-6863 • www.okumf.org



Boundaries:

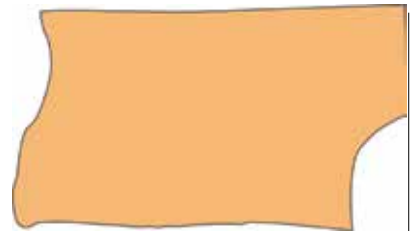
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The bishop said he and the Cabinet “leaned into” the Holy Spirit’s guidance as they worked. “Without that, we would be lost.”

And he thanked all the people within the districts who are discussing property and finances, continuing to advance the transition work, spending the hours “to make sure we get it right. This is a labor of love.”

Find a new video of Bishop Hayes speaking about the district boundaries at www.okumc.org/OKVideo.

Northern Prairie



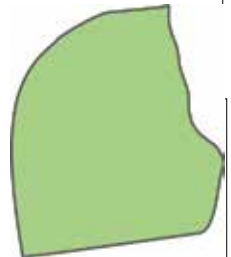
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|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|
| Billings | Hitchcock | |
| Blackburn | Hominy | |
| Blackwell | Hunter | |
| Braman | Jefferson | |
| Canton | Jet | Ponca City-Albright |
| Cleveland | Kaw City | Ponca City-Asbury |
| Covington | Kremlin | Ponca City-First |
| Cushing | Lamont | Ponca City-St. Paul’s |
| Drummond | Lost Creek | Pond Creek |
| Drumright | Loyal | Prairie Chapel |
| Eden Chapel | Lucien | Prairie Valley |
| Enid-Bethany | Manchester | Ringwood |
| Enid-Christ | Maramec | Ripley |
| Enid-First | Marland | Shidler |
| Enid-New Hope | Medford | Skedee |
| Enid-Peace Korean | Morrison | Stillwater-First |
| Enid-Willow View | Mulhall | Stillwater-Highland |
| Fairfax | Nardin | Park |
| Fairview-First | Newkirk | Tonkawa |
| Foraker | Okeene | Wakita |
| Garber | Orlando | Waukomis |
| Glencoe | Pawhuska | Yale |
| Grainola | Pawnee | |
| Helena | Perkins | |
| Hennessey | Perry | |

Cimarron



- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Aline | Fairview (at Slapout) | Morning Star |
| Alva-First | Fargo | Mutual |
| Arapaho | Fay | Quinlan |
| Arnett | Felt | Rosston |
| Baker | Forgan | Sayre |
| Beaver | Freedom | Seiling |
| Boise City | Fort Supply | Sharon |
| Buffalo | Gage | Shattuck |
| Canute | Gate | Texhoma |
| Capron | Goodwell | Thomas |
| Carmen | Guymon-Victory | Turpin |
| Catesby | Hammon | Tyrone |
| Chapel Hill (Custer County) | Hardesty | Union Center |
| Cherokee | Hooker | Vici |
| Cheyenne | Hydro | Vida en Abundancia |
| Cheyenne Valley | Independence | Waynoka |
| Cleo Springs | Kenton | Weatherford |
| Clinton | Keyes | Woodward-New |
| Custer City | Laverne | Horizon |
| Dacoma | Leedy | Woodward-First |
| Elk City | Lenora | Woodworth-Faith |
| Erick | Marella | |
| | Mooreland | |

Green Country



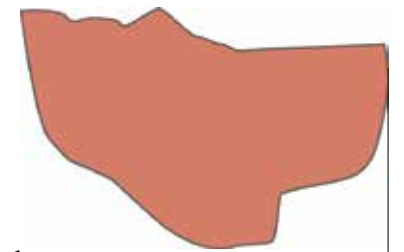
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|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Bixby | Porter | |
| Bristow | Sand Springs | |
| Broken Arrow, | Sapulpa | |
| Abiding Harvest | Skiatook | Tulsa-Sheridan Ave. |
| Broken Arrow, First | Tulsa-Aldersgate | Tulsa-Southern Hills |
| Broken Arrow, Heritage | Tulsa-Asbury | Tulsa-St. James |
| Broken Arrow, | Tulsa-Boston Ave. | Tulsa-St. Luke’s |
| St. Stephen’s | Tulsa-Centenary | Redemption |
| Catoosa-Disciple | Tulsa-Christ | Tulsa-St. Mark’s |
| Collinsville- | Tulsa-Epworth | Tulsa-St. Matthew’s |
| Meadowcreek | Tulsa-Faith | Tulsa-St. Paul’s |
| Coweta | Tulsa-First | Tulsa-Trinity |
| Haskell | Tulsa-Grace | Tulsa-University |
| Inola | Tulsa-Harrison | Tulsa-Wesley |
| Jenks | Tulsa-Korean | Tulsa-West |
| Kellyville | Tulsa-Lake | Tulsa-Will Rogers |
| Leonard | Tulsa-Memorial Drive | Turley |
| Living Water | Tulsa-New Haven | Verdigris |
| Mannford | Tulsa-Nueva | |
| Oologah | Esperanza | |
| Owasso | Tulsa-Rose Hill | |

Central Area North



- | | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Arlington | Edmond Chinese | Guthrie-West | OKC-Church of | OKC-Putnam City | Red Rock |
| Calumet | International | Harrah | the Servant | OKC-Quail Springs | Spencer |
| Cashion | Edmond-Connect | Jones | OKC-Crown Heights | OKC-Quayle | Stroud |
| Chandler | Edmond-First | Kingfisher | OKC-Douglas Blvd. | OKC-St. Mark’s | Watonga |
| Choctaw | Edmond-New Covenant | Luther | OKC-Grace | OKC-St. Matthew | Wellston |
| Crescent | Edmond-Summit | McLoud | OKC-Lakeside | OKC-Village | Yukon-First |
| Crescent- | El Reno-Ellison Ave. | Meeker | OKC-Leland Clegg | OKC-Wesley | Yukon-Good Shepherd |
| Mount Vernon | El Reno-Wesley | Mount Zion | OKC-Mayfair Heights | OKC-Wickline | |
| Dale | Geary | Nicoma Park | OKC-New Hope | Piedmont | |
| Edmond-Acts 2 | Guthrie-First | OKC-Chapel Hill | OKC-Nichols Hills | Prague | |

Central Area South



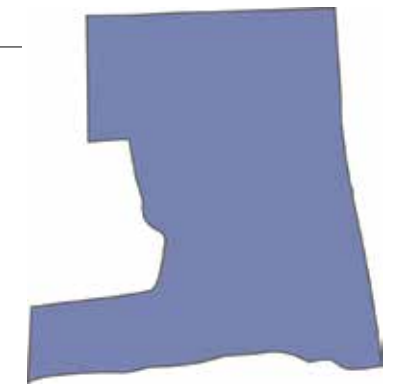
Alex	Minco	Norman- St. Stephen's	OKC-Penn Ave Redemption	Pocasset	
Blanchard	Moore-CrossTimbers			Purcell- Bowman Chapel	Tuttle
Chickasha-Epworth	Moore-First	OKC-Capitol Hill	OKC-Selecman		Union City
Cogar	Moore-New Life	OKC-Christ	OKC-South Lee	Purcell-Trinity	Wanette
Elmore City	Mustang	OKC-Clark	OKC-Southern Hills	Seminole	Washington
Franklin	Newcastle	OKC-Cornerstone	OKC-St. Andrew's	Shawnee-Bethel Acres	Wayne
Friendship	Ninnekah	OKC-Epworth	OKC-St. John's	Shawnee-St. Mark's	Wheatland
Konawa	Noble	OKC-First	OKC-St. Luke's	Shawnee-St. Paul's	Whitehead
Lexington	Norman-Bridgeview	OKC-Korean First	OKC-Sunny Lane	Shawnee-Trinity	Wynnewood
Lindsay	Norman-Goodrich	OKC-Lambuth	Paoli	Shawnee-Wesley	
Maysville	Norman-McFarlin	OKC-Linwood	Pauls Valley	Tecumseh	

Kiamichi



Ada-Asbury	Gerty	Quinton
Ada-First	Heavener	Redland
Alderson	Heavener- Hispanic	Rocky Point
Allen		Soper
Antlers	Hodgen	Spiro
Ardmore-Asbury	Holdenville	Springer
Ardmore-First	Howe	Stigler
Ardmore-Warren	Hugo-First	Stratford
Atoka	Hugo-Pauls Chapel	Stuart
Bokoshe	Hugo-Wesley	Sulphur
Boswell	Idabel	Talihina
Bowlegs	Keota	Thackerville
Broken Bow	Kingston	Tishomingo
Calera	Kiowa	Tuskahoma
Calvin	Krebs-Grace	Valliant
Cameron	Lighthouse	Wetumka
Canadian	Lone Grove	Wewoka
Clarita	Madill	Wilberton
Coalgate	Mannsville	Wilson
Colbert	Marietta	Wister
Davis	McAlester	Wright City
Dow	McCurtain	
Durant	Mill Creek	
Eagletown	New Zion	
Edgewood	Pittsburg	
Eufaula	Pleasant Hill	
Fitzhugh	Pocola	
Fort Towson	Pontotoc	
Gene Autry	Poteau	

River Valley



Adair	Grove	Coffeyville
Avant	Henryetta	Spavinaw
Bartlesville-East Cross	Hulbert	Stilwell
Bartlesville-First	Jay	Sycamore Chapel
Bartlesville-Grace	Ketchum	Tahlequah
Epworth	Lenapah	Vian
Bartlesville-Oak Park	Locust Grove	Vinita
Beggs	Miami	Wagoner
Bethel	Morris	Warner
Big Cabin	Mounds	Welch
Braggs	Muldrow	Westville
Checotah	Muskogee-First	Woodall
Chelsea-Epworth	Muskogee-Spencer	Wyandotte
Chelsea-Memorial	Muskogee-St Paul	
Chouteau	Muskogee-Trinity	
Claremore-First	Nowata	
Claremore- St. Andrew's	Ochelata	
Cleora	Okay	
Cookson	Okemah	
Copan	Okmulgee	
Delaware	Oktaha	
Depew	Otterbein	
Dewey	Pryor	
Fairland	Quapaw	
Foyil	Salina	
Fort Gibson	Sallisaw	
Gore	Schulter	
	South	

Wichitas



Alfalfa	Cordell	Frederick	Lawton-Aldersgate Redemption	Manitou	
Altus-First	Courtney	Fort Cobb	Lawton-Bethel	Marlow	
Altus-Grace	Cyril	Gould	Lawton-Centenary	Mountain View	
Altus-Highland Heights	Duke	Gracemont	Lawton-First	Randlett	
Anadarko-First	Duncan-First	Grandfield	Lawton Heights	Ringling	
Anadarko-St. Paul	Duncan-St. Paul's	Granite	Lawton-New Church	Rush Springs	
Apache	Duncan-Stephens	Healdton	Lawton-New Light	Ryan	Verden
Blair	Duncan-Wesley	Highland	Lawton-St. Paul's	Sentinel	Walters
Bridgeport	Eakly	Hinton	Lawton-Wesley Chapel	Snyder	Waurika
Cache	Eldorado	Hobart	Lone Wolf	Sterling	Willow
Carnegie	Elgin	Hollis	Lookeba	Temple	
Cement	Elmer	Hulen	Mangum	Tipton	
Comanche	Fletcher	Indianapolis		Velma	

Circle of Care Foster mom wraps 150 in her love

Laura* has been a professional foster parent for 28 years. During these years, she has always had at least one child in her home. At times, she's had as many as 12.

All told, Laura has fostered about 150 kids. And she's not afraid of taking the tough kids and sibling groups. In recognition of her service, she was named Washington County's Foster Parent of the Year in 2010.

The children drive Laura's generosity. "I love the kids, and there are always lots of kids in need."

Circle of Care's Child SHARE program delivers fuel for their journey.

Child SHARE supports foster parents by providing goods such as car seats, clothes, welcome baskets, and occasional tickets to community events. Just as important is the emotional and spiritual support of the network.

"There are always times when you need prayer," Laura shares.



Interested in foster parenting? Call Circle of Care toll-free, 866-978-2956,

One mantra that she teaches her kids: You're braver than you think. It is a saying she repeats when her kids need to deal with seemingly small things, like how to handle bugs in the house. She also repeats it for bigger things, like going to get a shot at the doctor's.

The end result is mental strength that gives her children the courage to face their fears.

For one of her children, Laura explains, that meant going into his bedroom alone because "bad things happened in the bedroom."

It was an accomplishment when the boy went into his upstairs bedroom by

himself. He was proud and yelled down to her, "I'm in the bedroom, I'm all by myself, and I'm OK!"

In early 2014, Laura was caring for three children by birth and nine more from guardianship, adoption, or in the process of being adopted.

"These are incredible kids who need someone to take a chance on them."

In addition to inspiring her foster kids, Laura's mantra applies to prospective foster parents: You're braver than you think.

*(Excerpted, Circle of Care Special Appeal 2014. * = Substitute name.)*

Expansion:

Continued from page 1

keep kids in their local community, they can maintain some ties. It's so important."

Money raised through the appeal will fill a funding gap, Slack explained.

COC has a DHS contract to provide foster care support services across the state. COC can recruit, train, and walk with new foster parents through state certification. These steps can take several months.

However, state funds do not cover the agency's costs until 12 to 15 foster homes are operating in a community.

The matching grant gifts will close that funding gap.

"The United Methodist Church, through the generosity of people like the Milburn family, is really leading in the state in the recruitment of foster homes," Slack said.

Circle of Care's foster care services also extend beyond that step.

The Child SHARE program continues to reach out through a host of resources, holds holiday parties, maintains clothing co-ops, and more. Church members also volunteer their help with these.

"Through the support of local congregations, we wrap these families and these kids in love and support and compassion, which they need because they've been in traumatic situations," Slack said.

Find more: www.circleofcare.org.



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Save a Child**

**Become a
Foster
Parent**

**Call
1-866-978-
2956
Today**



Circle of Care is partnering with OKDHS and other non-profit agencies to find homes for 11,000 Oklahoma children in need of a safe, nurturing home. You, or someone you know, can save a child's life. Join us!