



AN OUTREACH TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FAMILY OF FAITH MCC

FEBRUARY 1996

PASTOR'S PEN
By Rev. Nancy Hoervath M.Div.

I read an eye catching sign in front of a church this afternoon. It said, "When in doubt, read God's directions." I chuckled to myself and then thought about how often we are in doubt and don't know how to utilize those directions. So here's my New Year's gift to each of you. May it be a source of guidance, comfort and direction in the New Year.

BIBLE HELPS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Our Situation

Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23

God's Plan

1 Peter 2:24, Acts 4:12

Our Response

John 1:12, Romans 10:13, 1 John 1:9, Acts 2:38, John 14:16-17, Romans 12:1-2, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, Romans 6:11-13

When You Feel Guilt

Romans 8:1, John 8:36, Romans 7:18-25, Isaiah 44:22, Philippians 3:13-14

When You Have Sinned

Psalms 51, 1 John 1:8-9, Proverbs 28:13, 1 John 1:7, Isaiah 1:16-18, Isaiah 43:25, Matthew 6:14-15, 1 John 2:1

When You Face Temptation

James 4:7, James 1:12-15, Matthew 4:1-11, Romans 8:26, Galatians 5:16, 1 Corinthians 10:13, 1 Peter 5:8-9, John 16:33, Philippians 4:13

When You Face Terminal Illness

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, John 14:1-6, Psalm 23, Philippians 1:21

Anger

James 1:19-20, Proverbs 15:1, Colossians 3:8, Proverbs 29:11, Ephesians 4:22-26

(Continued on next page)

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sundays 9:15 Spiritual Gifts Class
11:00 Worship Service
Wednesdays 6:30 Praise & Worship
7:30 Choir Rehearsal
Thursdays 7:30 Codependency Support Group

Board Meetings are open to all and are scheduled for the second Sunday of the Month after morning worship service.

MURDER MYSTERY



HOLLYWOOD, CA - MARCH 1948

You are There! You are a guest of the famous movie producer Martin Landsbury and his lovely wife, Stella Stardom. While you are attending a dinner party with other Hollywood elites, someone is murdered. You and the other guests must solve the mystery of 'who done it' before you can go home.

If you are interested in being placed on the guest list for this fabulous dinner party, contact Susan J. at 835-3666 or leave a message at the church office. The cost for the evening's dinner and entertainment will be \$20 per person. Before dinner, you will gather in the gracious living area and patio to meet all the guests and most probably the victim.

The number of guests is limited, so the earlier you make your reservations, the better. There are parts for 18 men and 17 women. Parts can be changed and you can come as either male or female. Couples will not be placed together, so singles will feel more than welcome. As parts are assigned and carefully written prior to the party, it is important that those who make reservations attend or send a replacement. You will receive your script before the party.

(Continued on next page)

Join us for worship
at 6:30
on Feb. 14th,
followed by a
Valentine's Day
Party at 7:30!

Calling All Kids...

Come one - come all and learn how to light the candles and pass the offering plates. Beginning soon, Sherry will meet with you and then you can participate in the service too, just like your Moms and Dads. The only requirement is that you be at least 3 1/2 years old.

(Pastor's Pen continued)

Bitterness/Criticism

I Corinthians 13, I Peter 2:23, Matthew 6:14-15, Romans 12:14-19, Hebrews 12:14-15

Financial Difficulties

Matthew 6:33, Philippians 4:19, II Corinthians 9:9, Malachi 3:8-10

Stewardship

Proverbs 3:9-10, Luke 6:38, Malachi 3:10, Philippians 4:19, I Timothy 6:17-19, Matthew 6:2-4, I Corinthians 16:2, II Corinthians 9:6-9

Peace

Psalm 37:1-5, Psalm 34:14, Philippians 4:6-7, John 14:27, John 16:33, Isaiah 26:3, Romans 8:6

Prayer

Romans 8:26, Matthew 6:6-11, Matthew 11:24, Matthew 21:22, Matthew 18:19, John 16:24, John 15:7, John 14:13-14, Luke 18:1, Luke 21:36, Luke 11:9-10, Hebrews 4:16, James 4:2-3, Philippians 4:6, Philippians 4:19, I Thessalonians 5:17, Ephesians 6:18, Ephesians 3:12

**God's Blessings Upon
You in 1996!
Pastor Nancy**



Moving?

Please advise the church of your new address so you can continue to receive the newsletter. You can reach us at 622-1441.

OUTREACH

You may have heard about it... homes, here in Tulsa, without telephones over the holidays. Why? Because a homeless person set a fire under a bridge to keep warm, and then laid down over the PVC pipes covering the wires. During the night the wires caught fire. The person was burned beyond recognition. The phone lines were severely damaged. This person wasn't trying to vandalize the phone company or anyone's holiday. Just trying to stay warm. We all know that there are many people living on the streets. I don't believe that it's mine to judge why they are there. I do believe that it's my responsibility, as a Christian, to reach out. Will you join me? Beginning January 1st we will begin accepting socks and sleeping bags at the church. The bags can be new or used (if they are in very good condition). We request that the socks be new. Our goal over the next 12 months is to bring in 200 sleeping bags and 400 pairs of socks. Then beginning December 1st (or sooner if the weather drops earlier) we will begin to disperse sleeping bags, with 2 pair of socks in each one, to people living on the streets. Here are 3 ways you can help:

- 1) Donate a sleeping bag(s) and socks
- 2) Help us find a place to adequately store them
- 3) Help us come up with a catchy name for this program (send your suggestions in to the church office and the congregation will vote on one)

"I tell you the truth, whatever you did for the least of these brothers (and sisters) of mine, you did for me."
Jesus -- Matthew 25:40



**CALLING ALL
SOPRANOS,
ALTOS, TENORS,
AND BASSES . . .**

THE CHOIR NEEDS YOU!

Choir practices are on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm following Praise & Worship Service. Come and help us make a joyful noise unto our God

MURDER MYSTERY CONT.

This murder mystery evening will be used as a fund raiser for Family of Faith. Half (\$10) of the \$20 per person fee will be used to offset expenses of dinner, planning and other costs incurred in production. The remaining half of the fee will go to Family of Faith. This is an excellent opportunity for food, fellowship, and FUN.

The date for the Murder Mystery Dinner at Family of Faith has not been set yet, but will be in March. The date will be announced at church services and in the next Spirit Voice.

--Submitted by Susan J.

From the Lay Delegate

Now that the holiday rush is over, it is time we start taking some time for ourselves -- time for spiritual renewal. For some, that is peace and solitude in our special place away from the hustle and bustle of the world. For others, it is just spending time fellowshiping and gathering with friends. For yet others, it is attending Heartwings or other conferences.

If you're one of those people who likes Heartwings, it's not too late to register to attend. I already know of several people who are planning to attend and there are rumors of car-pooling opportunities. If you are one of those people who like conferences, the South Central District Conference is in May and it will be held in Austin, Texas. Dr. Mel White, UFMCC Minister of Justice, will be there along with our liaison elder, Rev. Elder Nancy Wilson. Start planning now to attend. You will be hearing more about district conference soon.

However it is you find your spiritual renewal, may God bless you!

-- Submitted by Diana H.,
Lay Delegate.

REMINDER
Heartwings is Feb. 16-18

**Concerned about
Church Finances
& the Environment?**



You CAN Help.
Recycle your aluminum cans for Family of Faith MCC with a "CAN Do" attitude.

WHEN OPPORTUNITY KNOCKS...

Looking for that right ministry for you? How about prayerfully considering one of the following:

CAREGIVER'S TEAM

Initial Meeting Feb. 5th 7:00pm

Assist with others who are in need of special care. This includes an intensive training program with the pastor.

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Initial Meeting Feb. 12th 7:00pm

Be willing to teach others the principles of Stewardship by writing newsletter articles, helping with Stewardship month, organizing Ministry Sunday and Recognition Sunday.

FUNDRAISING TEAM

Initial Meeting Feb. 26th 7:00pm

Assist in the planning and execution of fund raising possibilities. We are currently in need of a sound system, a paid keyboardist, and the funds to send two delegates to Australia in '97. Creative? Hard working? We need you!

WORSHIP TRAINING

1st Sessn.. February 25th 1:00-5:00pm

Learn why we do what we do; Service Coordinating, Communion serving, Acolyting, Ushering, Reading--Be a part of the Team!

AROUND the Fellowship



As of May 1, 1995 the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community churches includes: 88 Chartered churches, 105 Commissioned churches and 95 New or Special Works for a total of 288 church bodies in 14 countries. International inclusive membership (including active members and adherents) is approximately 35,000. This is an estimated number based upon church attendance data and other information.

PRAYER LIST



REQUESTS:

The family of Pat B.

Carol who has AIDS

MCC of Greater Tulsa's pastoral search

The upcoming Community Center

Tiffany, Sassie, Duck & Family

People Living With AIDS

All of those struggling with the flu

Jeffrey Nytch our liaison from the District Committee

Rev. Ed Paul our District Coordinator

Rev. Troy Perry as he seeks Capital Gifts for the new Fellowship offices

(Continued from prev. column)

Confirmed active voting membership of church bodies in the USA (as reported to the Board of Pensions and/or administrative offices) in 1994 is 15,581. By comparison, with 14,664 in 1992, this represents a membership growth of 6.25% during the past 2 years and a 23.5% membership growth since 1990 when there were 12,616 active voting members. Membership reported to the administrative offices for districts outside the USA in 1994 is: Eastern Canada, 638; Western Canada, 55; European, 550; Australia, 191; and World Church Extension (New Zealand, 50; Argentina, 25; Mexico, 150; Dominican Republic, 250; Philippines, 25; Nigeria, 927).

"Yes Virginia, we are a small part of a much larger denomination!"

OKLAHOMA WILDCATS SOCCER

Gay, Lesbian, Bi-, Trans- & Friends
Now actively recruiting players - both learners & experienced - for practice & scrimmages on Saturdays. Call Jerry C. at 582-3212 for details.

AS A NEW YEAR DAWNS



Submitted by Kevin S.

When we look toward the beginning of a new year, it can fill us with unbridled joy or unmitigated sadness. Sometimes, we feel a combination of both.

For some people, the new year coming so soon after the holiday season can feel like a double whammy. They may feel especially alienated because everyone else seems so cheerful and full of hope.

However, what these people fail to realize many times is that they are not alone. How many of us can say that the holiday season and the coming of the new year have consistently been a time of high spirits for us? Haven't we each had times when the act of putting up the Christmas tree or ringing in the new year seemed too much of an effort?

The reasons that some of us may find these times of the year especially difficult are varied. For some, the new year may remind us of things we have not accomplished. For others, it may be the stress of returning home to a highly dysfunctional family of origin. Maybe we are reminded of those who have died, and will not be with us to enjoy the dawn of the new year. And perhaps we are dealing with a relationship that adds to our stress level, or we are struggling to end a relationship with a significant other.

Memories are often our source of greatest cheer and greatest sorrow. How true that is as we try to put away the old, and look toward the new. We may find ourselves looking back at the past year and all the mistakes we believe we made. We may be reminded of difficult times of December and January. We may mourn those no longer here to celebrate with us.

Some of us mourn that we are beginning a new year without a relationship with a significant other in our lives.

The keys to working through these feelings are simple, and yet complex. Here are some Survival Guidelines for the new year:

1. Identify what you are feeling and if possible try to pinpoint what is triggering it.

(Continued on next page)

POT LUCK DINNER
1ST SUNDAY EACH MONTH

TREASURER'S REPORT



DECEMBER, 1995

TOTAL INCOME	6502.12
TOTAL EXPENSES	4013.68
BALANCE	2488.44

DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES as of 01/10/96

BUILDING FUND	1400.00
CONFERENCE FUND	1081.53
MUSIC FUND	202.00
SOUND SYSTEM FUND	90.00

TITHES: BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

BUDGET	3956.04
ACTUAL	4621.93

Another month has passed and we've exceeded the budget again! Thanks goes out to those who have taken their tithe pledges seriously and to those who gave given of their time & talents. Our latest fundraiser was a great success. Thanks to the 'Mastermind', Barb, and to all of you who helped.

— Submitted by Nancy M., Treasurer



For Young Adults 18 - 30

Beginning Friday, March 1 from 8:00pm - Midnight, Family of Faith will be hosting Safe Haven for Young Adults 18-30. Safe Haven will be a social group for gay, lesbian, bi-, and trans- young adults. The initial meeting of Safe Haven will include Movies & Pizza. Safe Haven will meet at the church on the first Friday of each month (with occasional 'outings').

Safe Haven isn't programming intensive, but is simply a way of reaching out to the '20-something community of Tulsa that often gets 'lost' in the shuffle.

For more information about Safe Haven, call the church office at 622-1441.

Family Recipe

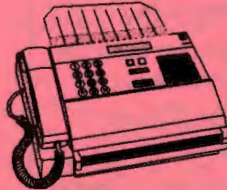
SOUR CREAM CHICKEN ENCHILADAS

Boil 3-4 chicken breasts, 1/4 cup Margarine, 3/4 of 10 oz can chicken broth. Melt margarine, add flour. Cook 1 min stirring constantly. Add chicken broth and 3/4 cup water and simmer altogether. Stir in an 8oz carton of sour cream and 2 cans of green chiles. Pour 1/2 sour cream mixture into a dish. Fill tortillas with 3/4 cup chopped chicken and 3/4 cup Monterey Jack Cheese. Seam side down pour remaining cream sauce over top. Bake for 20 minutes at 425 degrees. Sprinkle top with 1 1/4 cup cheese. Bake 5 min more.

From the Kitchen of Sheila

Special Thanks...

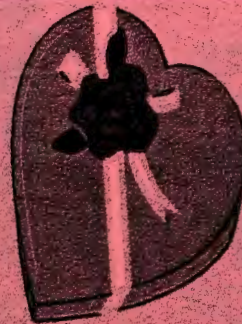
Family of Faith would like to Thank all of you who have responded to our 'Wish List' with your generosity. We now have a new fax & a new computer. -- God Bless You All!



A NEW YEAR Continued.

2. If you don't know why you feel so blue, then talk to someone—a close friend, a pastor, or a therapist. Depending on the kind of issues you are struggling with, you might consider a support group. There are grief support groups, codependency support groups, and many others available. Just ask your pastor or therapist if you need help finding one right for you.
3. Look at what you can learn from what you are experiencing. Just as physical pain can alert us to trouble in our lives, emotional pain can serve the same purpose. The only way most people know they have a ruptured appendix is if they experience pain. The ability to feel pain can actually alert them to a problem, and with a doctor's help save their lives. Now, I am not advising a life of martyrdom and brow beating, but I do believe that we can learn from our pain so as not to repeat it. Our sadness may be alerting us to try some new behaviors or stop some old ones. We may have some unfinished business with the past that we can work through with help.
4. Put away unrealistic expectations about the holiday season and the new year. If the only people who allowed themselves the permission to celebrate this time of year were those who considered themselves perfect with a perfect past year, then I don't suppose there would be much celebrating going on. The holiday season and new year with their emphasis on tradition, family and friends are likely to bring bittersweet memories for us all. In memory of a dead friend, we might buy a new ornament that reminds us of him or her or plant a tree on New Years Day. If you had an abusive childhood, you might donate time or money to organizations that treat abused children. The bottom line is don't feel that you have to stick to the idealized version of the season.
5. Lastly, set some goals and then list how you will meet them in the new year. One reason so many resolutions fail is that people fail to devise a plan to help them meet their goals. Commit yourself to a new course of action.
6. One more time for emphasis—share and talk with others. People of different religions and background may vary on what this time of year means, but most of them whether Jewish or Christian, whether gay or straight, whether liberal or conservative, whether Asian or Black or White or Indian, agree that communion with those we love is important. And to paraphrase the ending of "It's A Wonderful Life," anyone who has a friend should consider himself or herself rich.

FEBRUARY



FAMILY OF FAITH MCC

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Co-Dependency Support Group 7:30 pm	2	3
4 9:15 am - Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship POTLUCK	5 Care-giver's Meeting 7:00 pm	6 Young Adult Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 pm Open To All	7 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8 Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm	9	10 Deadline for Newsletter Articles
11 9:15 am -Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship Board Meeting 1:00	12 Stewardship Meeting 7:00 pm	13	♥ 14 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Valentine's Party 7:30 pm	15 Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm	16 Heartwings Begins through 18th	17 Forgiveness Workshop 9 - 3pm \$5.00 Reclaim & Recvry
18 9:15 am -Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 1-4:00 Worship Training	19 President's Day	20	21 Newsletter Mailing 5:30 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir - 7:30 pm	22 Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm	23	24
25 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship 1-4:00 Worship Training	26 Fundraising Team Meeting 7:00 pm	27	28 Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	29 Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm		

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED