



AN OUTREACH TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF FAMILY OF FAITH MCC

JANUARY 1996

**PASTOR'S PEN**  
By Rev. Nancy Horvath M.Div.

**MARK 9:41**

Have you ever heard the story of the three magi? They're the kings who were reported to have visited the baby Jesus, bringing Him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Last year I heard, for the first time, the legend of a fourth wise man. It is reported that he too saw the star and was to meet up with the other three. Together they were to cross the desert and seek the child. He had with him, three gifts for the baby Jesus: a ruby, a sapphire and a pearl. All three were priceless because of their size and beauty.

As the story goes, the fourth wise man was on his way to meet the other three when he came across a man lying in a ditch. The man was severely injured and most likely dying. He needed immediate attention. The wise man was the only person around and boy, was he in a dilemma! If he stopped to help he would surely miss the other three who were growing impatient waiting for him. On the other hand, how could he leave this man dying? Suddenly he had an idea. He took the man to an inn and gave up his ruby in order to pay for the man's care.

*(Continued on next page)*

**WEEKLY CALENDAR**

- Sundays 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.*



**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*



*From the Lay Delegate*



**HEARTWINGS VIII**

It is time to start making plans to attend Heartwings VIII again. The theme this year is "Diamonds in the Rough" and it is being co-hosted by Victory Fellowship MCC in Shreveport, Louisiana and MCC with a Vision in Longview, Texas. The dates for the conference are February 16, 17 & 18 and it is being held in Longview, Texas at the Guest Inn.

Heartwings is a special conference for laity presented by the South Central District's Commission on Laity. There will be lots of spiritual fellowship, dancing, Marsha Stevens in concert, and twelve different workshops to choose from. This year's workshop topics include Sunday School Ministry, Health Issues, People of Color, Dealing With Loss, Am I Homophobic?, and many others.

I have worship participant applications and registration forms. Please see me if you are interested.

— Diana H.

(Pastor's Pen continued)

Now he was down to two gifts for the Savior and he had to cross the desert alone. The legend says that it took the man a great deal of time to cross the desert alone, and by the time he got to the stable, the baby Jesus and His parents had fled to Egypt. King Herod had sent a decree that all infant boys were to be murdered because the King was so threatened by the birth of Jesus. In place of Mary, Joseph and the baby, the fourth wise man found another woman and her infant son. They were hiding there in the stable. Suddenly the doors threw open and soldiers burst in and seized the infant boy. They were following Herod's orders! The fourth wise man looked sadly at his sapphire and then without further hesitation he handed it to the soldiers in payment for the return of the infant to his mother.

Can you imagine that mother's joy? And can you imagine how the wise man is now feeling? He had given up his ruby and now his sapphire too. Two out of his three gifts were gone, and he still hadn't found the Christ child.

The legend goes on to say that the fourth wise man searched for more than 30 years to find and catch up with Jesus. He finally found him in Jerusalem one day. Jesus was carrying a cross up a hill in preparation for his execution.

As the wise man started to call out to Jesus, a little girl came by in great terror. Her father had lost all of his money and now the child was to be sold in slavery to pay a debt. Looking at Jesus and looking at the final gift, the pearl, the fourth wise man stopped the child and her father. With the pearl he bought her freedom. (See top of next column)



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

(Pastor's Pen continued)

At that moment, Jesus, on the cross, was hoisted into the air. The fourth wise man was sure that he had failed in his mission to bring his gifts to the Savior of the world. And yet we must look to the scriptures for God's wisdom!

*"If anyone gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, then I tell you, he/she will not lose his/her reward."*

So did the fourth wise man fail? Certainly not! If anything, he teaches us all about the true meaning of God's love and "Goodwill to all".

*I wish you all Goodwill  
in the New Year!*

PASTOR NANCY

### Concerned about Church Finances & the Environment?



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

*"We will have to repent in this generation not merely for the hateful words and actions of the bad people, but for the appalling silence of the good people."*

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Nobel Peace Prize Winner

*"Never be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."*

— Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize Winner

## PROJECT OPEN MIND

*Sponsored by Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG)*

Nancy McDonald, Vice President of the National PFLAG Organization, was at Family of Faith last month to tell our congregation about Project Open Mind, a program sponsored by PFLAG with the purpose of raising the consciousness of our society about issues affecting gays & lesbians and their families & friends. The next step in Project Open Mind is getting people from the Tulsa community to sign a signature ad for the *Tulsa World*. The entire text of the signature ad is printed below. If you are interested in signing this ad, forms are available at the church office. Names will be printed in the *Tulsa World* of all individuals and organizations that endorse the following statement.

### AS TULSANS AND AS AMERICANS:

WE RECOGNIZE that many members of our community face hate speech directed at them on a daily basis because of their sexual orientation;

WE KNOW that the climate of hatred created by such hate speech all too often encourages acts of physical violence;

WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED about hatred in Northeastern Oklahoma, where in the last few years numerous men and women have been injured, and several murdered, because of their sexual orientation; and

WE ARE ALARMED that a disproportionately high number of teens choose suicide rather than face the daily hatred that is aimed at them because of their sexual orientation.

PFLAG, an organization of parents, families & friends of the women and men who are the targets of this hatred, is asking all Tulsans to stand with it against the HATRED, HATE SPEECH and VIOLENCE directed at our loved ones and fellow citizens solely on the basis of their sexual orientation. REMEMBER SILENCE is COMPLICITY!

We join PFLAG in calling on all Tulsans, all Americans,

- to recognize the strong link between hate speech, teen suicide, and violent physical attacks on men and women in our community.
- to take responsibility for the consequences of our own words and to call on our friends, families, neighbors, colleagues and leaders to work to dismantle this climate of hatred.

## RIGHTS OF PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS

*The following is excerpted from the statement from the Advisory Committee of People with AIDS delivered at the Second National AIDS Forum in June of 1983.*

### PEOPLE WITH HIV/AIDS HAVE THE RIGHT:

1. To as full and satisfying sexual and emotional lives as anyone else;
2. To quality medical treatment and quality social service provision without discrimination, diagnosis, economic status or race;
3. To full explanations of all medical procedures and risks, to choose or refuse their treatment modalities, to refuse to participate in research without jeopardizing their treatment, and to make informed decisions about their lives;
4. To privacy, to confidentiality of medical records, to human respect and to choose who their significant others are;
5. To live and to die in dignity.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."*

--- Jeremiah 29:11

## OUTWITTED

You drew a circle that shut me out -  
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.  
But Love and I had the wit to win:  
We drew a circle that took you in.

--EDWIN MARKHAM

## Prayer List



### REQUESTS:

Pat (still recovering)  
Diana & Barb (still recovering)  
Tony (still recovering)  
Carol who has AIDS  
Suki's sister who is in pain  
MCC of Greater Tulsa's pastoral search  
The upcoming Community Center  
People Living With AIDS  
The families of  
Roxanne Ellis & Michelle Abdill  
(Lesbian Activists killed in Oregon)

### ANSWERED PRAYERS

Pat is home from the hospital!  
Diana is home from the hospital!  
Tony is going back to work soon!

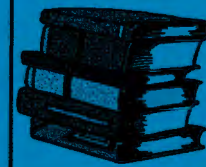
*If You Believe,  
You Will Receive  
Whatever You Ask  
For In Prayer.*

**MATTHEW 21:22**

### Don't Forget ...

The first in a series of winter workshops begins this month. Workshops cost \$5 and scholarships are available. There are a total of three workshops which will be presented by Reclaim & Recovery Workshops. The first workshop, *It's Never Too Late to Have a Happy Childhood*, will be held on January 14 from 9 am to 3 pm.

*"This is the beginning of a new day. God has given me this day to use as I will. I can waste it -- or use it for good, but what I do today is important -- because I am exchanging a day of my life for it. When tomorrow comes, this day will be gone forever, leaving in its place something that I have traded for it. I want it to be gain -- not loss; good -- not evil; success -- not failure -- in order that I shall not regret the price that I have paid for it."*



## GAY/LESBIAN CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

### **Amazing Grace.**

Malcolm Boyd & Nancy L. Wilson, eds.  
Crossings, 1991.

### **Coming Out to God: Prayers for Lesbians and Gay Men, Their Families and Friends.**

Chris Glaser. Westminster/John Knox Press, 1991.

### **Don't be Afraid Anymore: the Story of Reverend Troy Perry and the Metropolitan Community Churches.**

Troy D. Perry with Thomas L.P. Swicegood. St. Martin's Press, 1990.

### **Gay Theology without Apology.**

Gary David Comstock. Pilgrim Press, 1993.

### **Living in Sin: A Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality.**

John Shelby Spong. Harper San Francisco, 1990.

### **Our Tribe: Queer Folks, God, Jesus, and the Bible**

Rev. Nancy Wilson. Harper San Francisco, 1995.

*This list of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, & Transgendered Christian Resources was compiled from the Internet.*



# TREASURER'S REPORT

NOVEMBER, 1995

TOTAL INCOME	5462.29
TOTAL EXPENSES	3552.30
BALANCE	1909.99

### DESIGNATED FUND BALANCES as of 12/10/95

BUILDING FUND	1400.00
CONFERENCE FUND	1040.61
MUSIC FUND	115.00

### TITHES: BUDGET vs. ACTUAL

BUDGET	3956.04
ACTUAL	5462.29

This is the first time we have included the Treasurer's Report in the *Family of Faith Spirit Voice*. We do this because we want the members of Family of Faith to be aware of the financial status of the church at all times. Because the deadline for the newsletter is the 10th of each month, figures shown are for the month prior to the deadline.

**REMINDER:** Weekly Tithes are posted on the attendance board and complete financial reports are posted on the bulletin board. Financial reports are also available on request to any member of Family of Faith.

— Submitted by Nancy M., Treasurer

## NEW NEWSLETTER TEAM

The Family of Faith Spirit Voice is now being compiled and formatted by a newsletter team. The entire congregation (members and friends of Family of Faith MCC) are invited to submit newsletter ideas, articles, etc. by putting them in the newsletter box located in the Board Office by the 10th of each month. The newsletters will be addressed, stuffed, and sorted at a Newsletter Party (a shameless attempt to get volunteers . . . calling work a party, bah!) on the third Monday of each month. You're invited to participate in this exciting outreach ministry!

— Julie Barrett

## Family Recipe

### CHICKEN CACCIATORE

2 lbs.	Chicken Parts	1 tsp.	oregano (crushed)
2 tbsp.	Shortening	1/4 tsp.	salt
1/4 cup	Dry Red Wine	1/2 cup	chopped onions
1/4 cup	Water	1/2	medium green pepper (strips)
2 lg.	cloves garlic, minced		
1 Can	(10 3/4 oz.) Campbell's Tomato Soup.		

In skillet, brown chicken in shortening, pour off fat. Add remaining ingredients and cover. Cook over low heat 45 minutes. Stir occasionally. Uncover and cook until sauce thickens to desired consistency. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

From the Kitchen of Topsy Turvey

# YOUTH

I had the privilege of working with young adults and youth this past June at General Conference in Atlanta. I met young adults from all over the world: from Oklahoma, New York, and Wisconsin to New Zealand. We were able to share some very personal stories about what it's like to grow up gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or questioning in the 1990's. Since then I have been wondering how we, at Family of Faith, can begin an outreach to the young adult community in Tulsa, OK. We will be having a preliminary meeting on January 9 to discuss what Young Adult Ministry can mean to Family of Faith. If you are interested in Young Adult Outreach or if you're not sure, plan to come to this meeting from 7:00 -8:00 pm. Let's develop a ministry plan together. If you have questions, you can leave messages at the church office 622-1441.

— Kharma

## SPECIAL THANKS

- To Kathleen & Marvita et. al. for decorating the church!
- To Sherry et. al. for their work on the children's Christmas party!
- To Barb et. al. for their work on the Silent Auction!
- To Kharma and the choir for their work on the Christmas Cantata!
- To everyone who donated items to the Silent Auction!
- To everyone who purchased items and services at the Silent Auction!
- To the Newsletter Team for putting together such an uplifting Newsletter!
- To Neal for the poinsettia's!
- To Zee for the new paraments!
- To the 20 folks who went Christmas carolling

# JANUARY

## FAMILY OF FAITH MCC



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed.	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> HAPPY NEW YEAR	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>4</b> Co-Dependency Support Group 7:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:15 am - Adult Sunday School 11:00 am Worship	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Young Adult Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 pm Open To All	<b>10</b> Deadline for Newsletter Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>11</b> Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Reclaim & Recovery It's Never Too Late to Have a Happy Childhood Workshop 9:00 - 3:00
<b>14</b> 9:15 am -Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship	<b>15</b> Martin Luther King Jr.'s B'Day Newsletter Mailing 7:00 pm	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>18</b> Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:15 am -Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - Worship BOD Meeting Following Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	<b>25</b> Codependency Support Group 7:30 pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:15 am Adult Sunday School 11:00 am - "Let It Go" Worship Svc.	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Praise & Prayer 6:30 pm Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm			

FAMILY OF FAITH MCC  
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED