



# THE SPIRE

News of New Haven United Methodist Church

*“Making Disciples for Jesus Christ in the world,  
by being God’s Love in Action”*

5603 S. New Haven Avenue, Tulsa, OK. 74135 918-743-6491

VOLUME XXVII Number 36

September 7, 2017



Rev. James Graham

Good morning friends,

It is great to be back at New Haven United Methodist Church after a couple of weeks of vacation. I missed my daily conversations and engagement with all of you in your lives. However, it was also good to be able to get away, do some personal reflection, and spend some time in spiritual renewal.

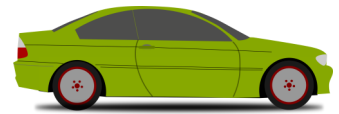
As many of you know, I went to northern Minnesota to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness, 1.5 million acres of protected trees, lakes, and wildlife. I am always in awe of God’s creation when I visit this place. I am reminded of how small my life and troubles really are, and how magnificent God and His creation really is. I try to go to the wilderness each year as a way of retreating from the distractions of this world — news, internet and Facebook, cell phones, etc. This gives me an opportunity to reset my inner compass on God’s plan for my life, as well as to experience the peace that comes with communing with God.

It has been three years since I have been able to go, because of several unexpected life occurrences. I found that I really needed this experience. I had noticed that my patience was growing thin, my mind was cluttered, and my focus was a bit frayed. During my time in the wilderness I was reminded of God’s amazing ability to renew all of creation and me along with it.

Five years ago a terrible fire swept through some of my favorite lakes east of Ely, Minnesota. The fire destroyed camp sites, beautiful old trees, and damaged wildlife in the area. I visited the area directly after the fire and witnessed the devastation. This past week I returned, five years later, and signs of God’s healing was everywhere. Yes, there were still scars, tall dead sticks of trees that had been killed by the fire. However, there was new life everywhere. Wild flowers growing in areas that were formerly shaded by trees, and thousands of new pines and birch trees were poking their heads up about 5-8 feet above the ground. Chipmunks, squirrels, birds and Bald Eagles were everywhere. The earth is healing, and along with that God has begun healing my soul as well. My prayer for you this week is that you will see God’s promise of new creation around you and allow Him to work in you as well.

Grace and peace,

Our new member, Daina Norman, lives at Murdock Villa and would really appreciate a ride to church every Sunday and also for the Grandparents Shower, etc. She can be reached at 918-262-0706. If you can offer any rides, even once a month, please give Daina a call. Thanks so much!



### GREAT NEWS!!!

Beginning this week, you will be hearing the sound of saws and hammers coming from the parlor, parlor kitchen, and bride's room!!! The reconstruction of these very popular rooms is beginning!!!! It won't be long before we will have a beautiful new parlor area available for your use again!

## DINNER AT THE DAY CENTER FOR THE HOMELESS

SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Our next NHUMC opportunity to serve dinner at the Day Center for the Homeless is on Friday, September 22nd. Please sign up in the hallway to volunteer as a chef and/or server. Chefs are asked to bring chicken and noodles (a simple recipe will be provided on the sign-up table) and/or cookies. Please bring these items to the gym kitchen by 4:30 pm. Servers are asked to be at the gym by 4:45 pm to help prepare the food and load the van. We will leave at 5:15 pm and be back by 7:00 pm.



## E.P.I.C.

Bible Scavenger Hunt  
Saturday, September 23  
10:00-11:30 AM  
New Haven UMC GYM

Children of all ages are invited to come with their families to our first **E.P.I.C.** (Exploring Possibilities In Christ) Adventure. Families will follow clues that will take them throughout the church as they explore the Bible and learn together. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the hall outside the sanctuary. Invite your friends and neighbors and plan on joining us for this **E.P.I.C.** adventure! For more information, contact Pastor Robin at [robin.stevens@newhavenumc.org](mailto:robin.stevens@newhavenumc.org).

You are invited to a **Grandparents Baby Shower** in honor of James B. Graham V.  
Saturday, September 9, 2017 at 2:00 p.m.

In the church Fellowship Hall



Ideas could include safety door/knob covers. Kid movies, books, toys and games. Anything a grandparent could use for child care. A Sunday school class might want to pool resources for a Pack & Play.

Hosted by the Staff Parrish Committee

## **UMPTENAGERS ANNUAL PIZZA PLANNING SESSION**

On Tuesday, September 19th at 11:30 am, join Stella and Shirley in the parlor to plan our upcoming events for 2017-2018.

All trip suggestions will be welcomed, discussed, and voted on!

Please mark your calendar, bring your ideas and enjoy a pizza party with us on that date!

Welcome back all you Umpteens!

Sign up sheet will be on the table in the hallway.

## **What is the Walk to Emmaus?**

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all."

The Walk to Emmaus experience begins with a 72-hour short course in Christianity, comprised of fifteen talks by lay and clergy on the themes of God's grace, disciplines of Christian discipleship, and what it means to be the church. The course is wrapped in prayer and meditation, special times of worship and daily celebration of Holy Communion. The "Emmaus community," made up of those who have attended an Emmaus weekend, support the 72-hour experience with a prayer vigil, by preparing and serving meals, and other acts of love and self-giving. The Emmaus Walk typically begins Thursday evening and concludes Sunday evening. Men and women attend separate weekends.

The next men's event will be Thursday, October 26 through Sunday, October 29. The next women's event will be Thursday, November 9 through Sunday, November 12. Both events are being held at Harvard Avenue Christian Church, 5502 S. Harvard Ave. in Tulsa. If you are interested in attending an Emmaus Walk, or have questions about this event, please contact one of the following people: Pastor James Graham, Peter Havlik, Patrick Grafton, David Toalson, Nicole Grafton, Donita Gray, Carolyn Toalson.

## Opportunities of the Week

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

#### In-Service Sunday

- 8:45 am Contemporary Worship  
9:45 am Connection Groups  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
4:00 pm Pack 67/Gym  
4:00 pm Cub Scouts/210  
5:00 pm Footprints/Gym  
6:00 pm Jr. High Bible Study  
6:00 pm Youth Fellowship Dinner  
7:00 pm Sr. High Bible Study

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

- 6:00 pm Writer's Group/185

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

- 7:00 pm Boy Scouts/Gym  
7:30 pm AA/185, 206, 210

### WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

- 6:00 pm Youth Group  
6:00 pm One Spirit Choir  
6:30 pm Trustees  
7:00 pm ACOA/210

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

- 10:00 am Susanna Circle/161  
6:00 pm Praise Band  
7:15 pm Yoga/Gym

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

- 7:30 pm AA/Gym

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

#### In-Service Sunday

- 8:45 am Contemporary Worship  
9:45 am Connection Groups  
11:00 am Traditional Worship  
4:00 pm Disciple I-IV Reunion  
5:00 pm Footprints/Gym  
6:00 pm Jr. High Bible Study  
6:00 pm Youth Fellowship Dinner  
7:00 pm Sr. High Bible Study

### New Haven Staff Members

Rev. James B. Graham	Senior Pastor
Cynthia Edelman	Business Manager
Stephen Merrick	Music Director
Patrick Grafton	Youth Director
Rev. Robin Stevens	Interim Children's Director
Pat Bates	Office Clerical Asst.
Ann Martin	Financial Secretary
Cindy Taylor	Day School Director
Brittany Fox	Nursery Director
Teresa Roberts	Organist
Rev. Suzanne Davis	Retired Deacon
Rev. Jeanette Boyd	Retired Deacon
Joan West	After School Care
Oscar Sturgeon	Custodian

## September Birthdays

1. Ovella Followell
2. Danny Hall
3. Doyle Boyd  
Susan Savage
4. Rich Foster
5. Christopher Boyd
6. Liz DeWitt
8. Don Gregory
9. Greg Pape  
Dallas Quinalty  
Ace Quinalty  
Alexander Hensley
12. Sylvia Hensley  
Amanda Russell
15. Carolyn Toalson
19. Linda Parmele
20. Cohen Grafton
23. David Johnson
28. Wayne Love  
Jan Sellers
29. Jack Cearing



### PLEASE PRAY FOR. . .

Carol Morgan  
Claretha Gotcher  
Sarah Duiveman  
Pat Bates  
Danny Hall & Family  
Rev. Suzanne Davis & Family

### Friends & Family of New Haven

Mark Nicholson; Peppa Smith; Linda Gregory's daughter-in-law, Lea; Mary Ann Cunningham's brother, Bob; Betty Hodge's son, Brian; Pam Rowley; Joe Sanders; the homeless; our world, city, country, public servants and leaders.

### **Covenant Care (prayers and visits appreciated)**

Ovella Followell  
Rosemary Tarr  
Dot and Kelly Haynes  
Dorothy Koons  
Max Nightingale  
Carson and Helen Russell  
Betty Barton

## ATTENDANCE

### September 3, 2017

#### WORSHIP SERVICES

8:45 am: 52  
11:00 am: 117  
Total: 169

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Adults: 50  
Youth: 6  
Children: 17

### ADULT CONNECTION GROUPS

*Come join us at 9:45 am!*

**Room 185: Discovery Class**  
Bible Study

**Gym: Fellowship Class**  
Adult Bible Study Curriculum

**Room 209: New Friendship Class**  
"The Lives of Great Christians" by William Cook

**Room 103 Interlude Class**  
"The Faith of a Mockingbird" by Matt Rawle

**Room 206: New Haven 206**  
Connection Group "The Wired Word"

**Room 161: Roundtable** "Christianity's Family Tree" by Adam Hamilton

You may email articles for the Spire (no later than Sunday evenings, please.) Sending your article on a "Word" document as an attachment works best. Please email your article to [pat.bates@newhavenumc.org](mailto:pat.bates@newhavenumc.org). Please note "Spire Newsletter" on the subject line. While we make every effort to include your request, we reserve the right to edit or delete articles due to space availability.

# I LOVE MY CHURCH

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
<http://newhavenumc.org>



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