



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

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Want to hear a heart-warming story about the true

spirit of Christmas? I just had to share this with you! This letter was sent to the Day School parents from Joan West:

(Dear Parents) "Do you have a minute? I just want to take the time to share with you about some special Angels.

Your child/children noticed today that there were a lot of presents sitting on a table in the gym and asked who they were for and why they were in the gym. I told them that some of the teachers had come up to school today to wrap presents for a family that didn't have much. I explained to the kids that I knew of a family that was having a hard time.

I shared with the kids that the teachers had decided not to spend money this year on each other and have a party, but to make this Christmas wonderful

for this dad and his children. When I first contacted the dad that we wanted to help and needed to know what they could use, he said his children needed uniforms for school.

I invited the School Age children to make a card for the family so that we would send it along with the presents. Many have made

beautiful and sweet cards to send along with the gifts.

To be honest, I have always known that we have a great staff here at New Haven Day School but they have truly amazed me with their generosity toward a family that they don't even know. I forgot to tell you that we are also doing a Blessing Basket which is food and other household supplies. Of course, it won't actually all fit in a basket!

Not only will this family have an

amazing Christmas but I am honored to work with some spectacular women (or should I say Angels) with hearts of gold!

Joan West

How wonderful is that? Not only were the Day School teachers an incredible example of Christ to others by offering

Cindy's Chalkboard

Sharing the Joy of Christ With Others

their gift of time and "party" for another kind of Christmas gift, but these precious children noticed and wanted to do their part in making this a wonderful Christmas for someone in need!

The stories of the blessings of Christmas are all around us! Thank you, Day School teachers and children for reminding us of the joy of this season!

- Pastor Cindy

End of Year Giving

The church office will be open on **December 28-30th** during regular office hours (8:00 am - 5:00 pm) and on **December 31st** until 12:00 noon. We will be able to accept all contributions of tithes and offerings until the close of business at **12:00 pm on December 31st.**

Per IRS guidelines, in order for contributions to be associated with the year 2015, all mailed contributions must be post-marked by December 31st; all other contributions must be received by the church by December 31st before the close of business.

Your gifts and generosity enable the many ministries at New Haven UMC to touch hearts for Christ in this community and throughout the world. Thank you for your faithful giving and support of God's work in and through New Haven UMC! Blessing to you at Christmas!

PLEASE PRAY FOR. . .

Members: Vincent Duiveman; Greg Gotcher, Doyle Boyd; Karen Gibbs; Kerry Beebe; Joleen Taylor in the loss of her mother, Darline Breeze; Laurel Duncan

Friends & Family of New Haven UMC

Mark Nicholson; Linda Gregory's daughter-in-law, Lea; Peppa Smith; Ruth Ann Field; Syble Perry; Betty Barton's daughter-in-law, Connie Barton; Kelly Sartain's father-in-law; Easter Moore; Carolyn Toalson's mother, Valerie; Mary Anne Tyler's uncle, Dick Deibert; Pastor Suzanne's brother; Mark Keifer; Louise Boyd's grandfather; Donna Edmondson's niece, Stacey; Mark Morgan's brother-in-law, Steve Henderson; the homeless; our world, city, country, public servants & leaders.

Covenant Care (prayers & visits appreciated)

Marjorie Stewart, Rosemary Tarr, Dot and Kelly Haynes; Bob Schwartz; Laurie & Mahcoe VanDyke; Dorothy Koons

NEW YEAR'S EVE DINNER AT THE DAY CENTER

New Haven UMC has the opportunity to serve dinner on December 31st at the Day Center for the Homeless. All who want to help should meet at the church at 4:45 pm.

Menu: Frito Chili Pie & Brownies & Ice Cream Bars. You may sign up at the table in the hallway to bring chili, Fritos, grated cheese or brownies. Phil Roberts will bring the ice cream bars to add to the dessert. When you are finished at the Day Center, anyone who would like to make this a New Year's Eve "night out" can plan to go to the Spaghetti Warehouse where Phil has reserved some tables for the group. (Each person will be responsible for the cost of their own meal). What a fun way to spend New Year's Eve!!!

Demonstrate your thankfulness this season!

Each holiday season, New Haven UMC anticipates and relies on a seasonal increase in contributions. It is through the donations of every individual and family in the congregation that we are able to carry on our work now and throughout the year.

If you need a convenient way to make recurring contributions or plan to make an additional gift before the end of the year, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options. As the pace of life speeds up around the holidays, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. To set up a recurring giving schedule or to make an end of the year contribution, visit us online www.newhavenumc.org and locate the Online Giving button. Or if it's easier, contact the church office and we will be glad to assist you. Thank you for your generosity and support!

FRACTURED CHRISTMAS SONGS FROM KIDS

- ~ Deck the Halls with Buddy Holly
- ~ We three kings of porridge and tar
- ~ On the first day of Christmas my tulip gave to me. . .
- ~ He's makin' a list, chicken and rice.
- ~ Noel, Noel, Barney's the king of Israel.
- ~ With the jelly toast proclaim
- ~ In the meadow we can build a snowman, Then pretend that he is sparse and brown
- ~ Oh, what fun it is to ride with a one horse, soap and hay.



CHRISTMAS DESANITIZED

By Gene Westveer

Decorations, red, green lights; top fir trees with stars so bright;
Jingle bells rock on silent night. Here comes Santa in his sleigh.

Mistletoe and boughs of holly, Red-nosed reindeer, elves so jolly,
But it seems a bit of folly when it's only Veterans' Day.

As I watch the people flocking to buy stuff to fill up stockings,
Comes a thought that's rather shocking: What's it all for, anyway?

Fair young woman, great with child, trudges on, mile after mile.
Poor, but loving fiance encourages her on their way.
They come to their ancestral town where there's no bed to lay her down,
And little sympathy awaits: The unwed couple..shown the gate!
Seeking refuge from the chill they find a cave up on a hill
that's used in wintertime for sheep. It will do: they'll try to sleep.
They enter in. The odors choke: sheep manure, stale soot and smoke.

There amidst the stench and dung, she gives birth to God's own Son,
Wraps Him up in strips of cloth, lays Him in a rocky trough.
If God was going to come to earth, why choose this foul place for birth?

Not a place of wealth and style, not a place fit for a child.
If He would come, His life to give, was there a worse place He could live?

A cruder place to get His start? I know of one such place:
my heart.

So dress in colorful apparel,
Trim a tree and sing a carol,
Ride the sleigh and hark the herald,
Make those presents look real nice.

As the weather outside freezes,
And the pressure of life squeezes,
Keep your hearts and minds on Jesus,
His tremendous sacrifice.

Born in filth and poverty,
To suffer pain and cruelty,
To be born again in such as me:
There's no Christmas without Christ.





Many thanks for the heartfelt service, love and care provided by the New Haven congregation during the year 2015. There were many opportunities to serve others in the community and live out our mission of being God's love in action!! We are grateful and humbled by your willingness to reach out to those in need.

We are already planning events for next year – be looking for activities for the Happy Children's Home (April 23 gala); Fall Adult Mission Trip to Colorado (September 25 – October 1); Crosses of Love (March 20); and much more.

Please remember our Frito chili pie dinner being served at the **Day Center for the Homeless**. It is scheduled for New Year's Eve, Thursday, December 31. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the hallway to prepare food and/or serve. You may also contact Phil Roberts at 918-671-2055 or phil.roberts@cox.net. Bring food by 4:45 p.m. that day and we will leave at 5:15 p.m. Serving the meal is from 5:45 – 6:45 p.m. We plan to eat together at Spaghetti Warehouse afterwards. Come join us for a time of loving on others and fellowship.

Come and Experience It!

GRATEFUL FOR THESE GIFTS

- ~ Early wake-ups = Children to love.
 - ~ House to clean = Safe place to live.
 - ~ Laundry = Clothes to wear.
 - ~ Dishes to wash = Food to eat.
 - ~ Grocery shopping = Money to provide for us.
 - ~ Toilets to clean = Indoor plumbing.
 - ~ Lots of noise = People in my life.
 - ~ Sore & tired in bed = I'm alive.
 - ~ Be kind to each other = Endless love for all of you.
- Christmas is not a date. It is a state of mind & heart.

REASONS WHY MY CHILDREN DO NOT NEED MORE TOYS

- ~ They started off as babies who found my Tupperware drawer much more fascinating than their toy box.
- ~ The days I change the paper towel roll in the kitchen bring great excitement as they claim their new sword or telescope.
- ~ Their current toys are only exciting when I either reorganize them/put them neatly away or when I start my garage sale pile.
- ~ Who needs toys when jumping on my bed like the five little monkeys brings tears of laughter?
- ~ They are content to look at the clouds and find shapes - most recently Caleb claimed he saw Thomas the Engine. Really, just shouted it out while in the car.

Director of Children's Ministry Part-Time Opening

Do you, or someone you know, have a heart for God's precious children and are seeking a part-time position in children's ministry? New Haven UMC is currently accepting applications for a 20 hour work week position on staff for someone with a love and passion for children and experience in ministry. Candidates must have:

- College degree and/or training in Christian Education/Education.
- Previous experience in Children's ministry.
- Ability to listen effectively and to communicate clearly, both orally and in written form.
- Leadership skills with children and parents of children.
- Quality administrative and organizational skills.
- Basic ability to use computer software such as Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Outlook.
- Commitment to biblical Christian principles and teachings, both professionally and personally.
- Successful completion of background check administered by the church.

For those interested in the position, please contact Pastor Cindy in the church office, or send a resume to: cindy.havlik@newhavenumc.org. A full job description for the position is available in the church office.

Opportunities of the Week December 27~ January 3

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 27

8:45 am Contemporary Worship &
Children's Church
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Children's Church

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28

6:00 pm Writers Group/185

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29

7:00 pm Boy Scouts/Gym
7:30 pm AA/ 185,205,209,210

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30

6:00 pm Youth Group
7:00 pm One Spirit Choir
7:00 pm ACOA/206

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31

Church Office Closes at Noon
4:45 pm Dinner at the Day Center

FRIDAY, JANUARY 1 HAPPY NEW YEAR!

7:30 pm AA/Gym

SATURDAY, JANUARY 2

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3

8:45 am Contemporary Worship &
Children's Church
9:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Children's Church
5:00 pm Disciple IV/Parlor
5:00 pm Liturgical Dance/Sanctuary
5:00 pm Jr. High Bible Study
6:00 pm Youth Fellowship Dinner
7:00 pm Sr. High Bible Study

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

21. Cathy Amos
Kelly Sartain
Bob Schwartz
24. Mark Williams
Linda Joyce
25. JESUS!
Christene O'Toole
26. Peppa Smith
30. Meghan Lamkin

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

3. Dale Edmond
4. Bob Walker
Tiffany Sherwin
6. Lewis Cappellari
10. Kay Garwood
11. Ron Unterschuetz
12. Helen Russell
Rose Unterschuetz
13. David Toalson
Rachel Pape
16. Joan Beebe
Sarah Duiveman
19. Stephen Merrick
20. Derek Lamkin
21. Dwayne Boyd
24. Adele Gruber
28. Jude Smith
29. Mike Riffin
30. Bayleigh Boles

ATTENDANCE

December 20th

8:45—96

11:00—129

Total: 225

Sunday School: 60

**Adult Sunday School
Come join us at 9:45 am!**

Room 185: Discovery Class
Galatians

Room 209: Fellowship Class
Advent Study: "While We Wait" by
Mary Lou Redding.

Room 210: New Friendship Class
Biblical Archaeology of Jerusalem
and Northern Kingdom

Parlor: Christian Living Class
Adult Bible Study Curriculum

Room 161 Interlude Class
"The Call: The Life and Message of
the Apostle, Paul".

Room 205: Journeys Class
"The Will of God"



Christmas

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. 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

New Haven Staff Members

Rev. Cindy Havlik	Senior Pastor
Rev. Suzanne Davis	Associate Pastor
Stephen Merrick	Music Director
Patrick Grafton	Youth Director
Pat Bates	Adm. Assistant
Ann Martin	Financial Secretary
Jennifer Payton	Business Manager
Mary Ann Cunningham	Nursery Director
Teresa Roberts	Organist
Rev. Jeanette Boyd	Retired Deacon
Kacie Kendrick	Day School Dir.
Joan West	After School Care
Oscar Sturgeon	Custodian

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