



# The Centenary Spirit

Our Connection to God and One Another

April  
2015



Dear Centenary Family,

By the time you read this, Spring will be upon us as well as Holy Week, the first of April falling one day before Maundy Thursday. Our service for that day will be at 6:30 and we will have a service of

candlelight and communion as we remember the night that Jesus was betrayed into the hands of his enemies. From ancient times, the litany of the Eucharist, indeed the beginning of the Gospel story, opens with those haunting and chilling words “on the night that he was betrayed.” What does



Keith O. McArtor

it mean for us that our redemption story begins with the betrayal of the Son of Man?

As we approach holy week, Good Friday and the Easter vigil on holy Saturday before Easter, we are called to consider yet again “the hour of darkness” that overwhelmed Jesus of Nazareth and took his good life. We are called to reflect upon the fact that “this darkness” is still with us and that it refers to our sins, indeed the sins of the whole world. God calls us to everyday to pray, as the Book of Common Prayer puts it “*remember not, Lord, our offenses, nor the offences of our forefathers; neither take thou vengeance of our sins: spare us, good Lord, spare thy people, whom thou hast redeemed with thy precious blood, and be not angry with us forever. Spare us, good Lord.*”

But, God has given his promise in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, that “*if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*” I John 1:9. God does this because of the mystery of faith: *Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.* Because the Father raised up his Son from the dead on Easter day, God will forgive us and bring us new life in him, *raised to walk in newness of life*, if we will confess, believe, repent and receive.

*Wrapt in the silence of the tomb, the Great Redeemer lay, till the revolving skies had brought the third, the appointed day. Hell and the grave combined their force to hold our Lord in vain; Sudden, the Conqueror arose, and burst their feeble chains! (Isaac Watts)*

May the Lord break your feeble chains this Easter by the power of Jesus’ resurrection and new life. *Behold, Jesus said, I make all things new!*

Faithfully, *Pastor Keith*



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Philip Comer

## Native American Ministries Sunday April 19, 2015

Through the efforts of Ronnie Patterson, we will be blessed to have the Cherokee National Youth Choir join us in worship on this Sunday.

The choir performs traditional Cherokee songs in the Cherokee language. The choir is made up of 30 young Cherokees from northeastern Oklahoma communities. Members are middle and high school youth in 6th-12th grades. The students compete in rigorous auditions every year for inclusion in the group. CNYC was formed as a way to keep youth involved in the Cherokee language and culture. Choir members function as goodwill ambassadors, demonstrating that Cherokee language and culture continue to thrive in modern society. Founded in 2000, the group has recorded 11 CDs and has performed with such legendary artists as Foreigner, Dolly Parton, Vince Gill, Roy Clark, Kenny Rogers and the Oak Ridge Boys. The Youth Choir acts as ambassadors for the Cherokee Nation, their beautiful voices showing the strength of the Cherokee Nation and its culture more than 160 years after the Cherokees' forced removal from their eastern homelands.



The goal of the CNYC is to increase awareness of Cherokee culture both within the Cherokee Nation as well as among the dominant culture.

The Cherokee National Youth Choir is funded solely by the Cherokee Nation.

The choir is directed by Mary Kay Henderson. Kathy Sierra is the Language Program Assistant.



Please invite your friends and family to join us for worship. What an honor and blessing to hear this young choir.

Philip

### Upcoming Events:

**Maundy Thursday  
Service April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
6:30 p.m.**



**Egg Dye &  
Shut-In  
Baskets  
April 4<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m**



**Easter  
Pot-Luck  
Breakfast  
and  
Egg Hunt  
April 5<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 a.m.**



**UMW**

**District Earth  
Day**

**Sat, Apr 11, 9-11**



**Administrative  
Council**

**Sun, Apr 19 after church**

**News Flashes ...**

## Native American Ministries Sunday

April 19, 2015

On Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Native American Ministries Sunday by incorporating traditional Native American music into

### REMEMBER YOUR CHURCH

#### *When Planning Your Estate*

One of our most important acts of stewardship is the final distribution of our life's accumulation. How we share our estate speaks volumes about our values and our concerns for our loved ones.

**As Christians we need to be good stewards of that which God has provided us, and this means completing a written estate plan.**

our regular worship service. Joining us will be the Cherokee National Youth Choir, directed by Mary Kay Henderson. They will perform songs during the service, then join us for a traditional Native American luncheon following the service. Plan on attending this very special event.

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon: with great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

With even greater emphasis he said, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river."

And then finally, he said, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river." He sat down.

The leader then stood very cautiously and announced with a smile, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn 365, "Shall We Gather at the River."

★ **Note** ★

The  
**Administrative  
Council meeting**  
will follow the Native  
**American luncheon.**

Since this is our Regular Quarterly Meeting, we would like a report from all committee chairmen. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please submit a brief written report to be included with the agenda and other paper reports to Yolanda Crooms

[ycrooms50@att.net](mailto:ycrooms50@att.net). This is an open meeting. So all interested members are encouraged to attend. We welcome your input.

## TOWN HALL MEETING

and Pot-Luck Luncheon held Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> abounded with new ideas and spirited discussion. Led by Pastor McArtor, the group begin thinking outside the box about ways to use our new webpage along with the possibility of organizing and promoting an all denominational sunrise service in Owen Park for next Easter. Meetings like this are extremely important in keeping Centenary growing and evolving into the church YOU want!



## Landscaping gets underway...

Under the direction and leadership of Master Gardner Henry North, plans for landscaping our new entry and lawn have begun.



The UMM spread mulch on the new beds to prevent erosion until we can determine the appropriate plants/shrubs to use. Henry has been collecting input from the congregation and will formulate an overall plan shortly. Keep an eye out as changes will probably occur on a weekly basis.

NOT ONCE DOES THE BIBLE SAY, "WORRY ABOUT IT," "STRESS OVER IT," OR, "FIGURE IT OUT." BUT OVER AND OVER IT CLEARLY SAYS, "TRUST GOD."

**The Farmer Brown Bean Dinner** was a hit once again despite the rain! From the very young to the very old the bean dinner once again kindled new friendships and renewed old ones. A BIG THANKS goes out to the entire congregation as most of the congregation had a hand in either the preparation, selling, serving, eating, or clean-up. Ron and Susan Green did a fabulous job organizing and overseeing the dinner.



overseeing the dinner.

**THANKS TO ALL !!!!**



April 2015 Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
			1	2	3	4
			Yoga Class 10:30 a.m.  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.  Laura McLane	<b>Maundy Thursday Service</b> 6:30 p.m.		Dye Easter Eggs & fill Shut-In Baskets 10:00 a.m.  Sandy Curington Max Knight
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<b>Easter Pot-Luck Breakfast and Egg Hunt</b> 9:00 a.m.	<b>Eat Healthy</b> nutrition class 6:00 p.m.	<b>Good Timers</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Craft Group</b> 1:30 p.m. <b>Worship Committee</b> 6:00 p.m.	Yoga Class 10:30 a.m.  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	.   Sandra Crisp		<b>District Earth Day</b> 9:30-11:30 a.m. Sponsored by the UMW, but open to all  David Richards
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>Outreach</b> 10 a.m. Young Hall	<b>Eat Healthy</b> nutrition class 6:00 p.m.	<b>Trustees</b> 6 p.m.	Yoga Class 10:30 a.m.  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	<b>UMW</b> 10 a.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<b>Outreach</b> 10 a.m. <b>Native American Sunday</b> Cherokee National Youth Choir & lunch  <b>Administrative Council Meeting</b> Following lunch	<b>Eat Healthy</b> nutrition class 6:00 p.m.	<b>Finance</b> 6 p.m.	Yoga Class 10:30 a.m.  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>			
26	27	28	29	30		
<b>Outreach</b> 10 a.m. Young Hall		Justin Carpenter	Yoga Class 10:30 a.m.  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	Tina Knight Don Conner		

**Coming Up**

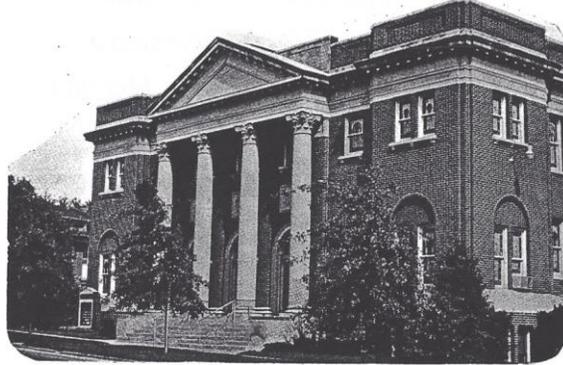
**Seminary at Centenary**  
 Sunday May 10<sup>th</sup>  
 with Dr. Gary Peluso, President of  
 Phillips Theological Seminary

**Pentecost**  
 Reception  
 Sunday May 24<sup>th</sup>  
 In the Narthex

**Coming Up**

## Means of Grace

In an effort to get the Newsletter printed and to the congregation prior to the 1<sup>st</sup> of each month, the Means of Grace will now be printed on a separate sheet of paper and available in the Narthex as soon as possible after the end of each month. Email subscribers will be sent a copy at the same time.



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