



# The Centenary Spirit

## Our Connection to God and One Another

July  
2015



July is here, the month named for Julius Caesar, the first Roman Emperor, an ancestor to Octavian, who was Augustus, famous for being the one under whose reign Jesus of Nazareth was born. The early Christian church lived, died and rose again under numerous iterations of the Caesars, who finally determined to join and not fight the church. One of my favorite quotations is from St. Augustine who said that the early church gained their historical victory in time because they “out-thought, out-prayed and out-lived their opposition.” The early Church prayed for the Emperor, where they placed the violent potentate under the governance of the Prince of Peace.



Keith O. McArtor

July is the time in America where we celebrate our Independence from Great Britain in 1776. Then, we declared that “all men are created equal”, even though many human beings were held in slavery. Interestingly, the founder of Methodism, John Wesley, was resistant to the American Revolution, for that and for other reasons. Eventually, however, through a long train of struggles, wars, and blood, equality of all people became a living hope in America. Yet, the sinister evil of racism, the belief that one race of people, Black people, is inferior to another race of people, White people, still persists. Racism is indeed the “original sin” of America. Tragically, it will always be with us.

Like all original sin, racism must be fought always, lest it overcome us. Sometimes, like on Wednesday, June 17, 2015, sin wins a battle, as surely it did when a young white male entered the Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charlestown, South Carolina, and killed nine African Americans, not because they were Christian, but because they were Black. On that day and in that place, sin and evil won a victory, and they did so in a Christian church.

And yet, the traumatized and hurting people of that church, suffering under a regime born partly in racism, won the day. They did so when they appeared at the judicial arraignment of the young man who murdered their loved ones. They called him to repent of his horrible sins, they called him to the Lord, they promised to pray for God’s mercy on his life, and they forgave him. In doing so they, like their ancestors in faith thousands of years ago, “out-thought, out-lived and out-prayed their opponents.” They won the victory. They are the church of Jesus Christ which the very

gates of hell shall never overcome. Despite the evil of mankind, God’s truth marches on, though it does so through the suffering of God’s people.

May you and I be such a church and may we join with other churches as together we declare “in Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.”

Faithfully, *Pastor Keith*



From the Pastor ... 1

Notes from the  
Choir Director ... 2

News Flashes ... 2

Church Picnic ... 3

Vacation Bible  
School ... 4

Calendar ... 5

Means of Grace ... 6



INDEPENDENCE  
*Day*



Philip Comer

## Gospel July and *Blessed Assurance*

We are entering "Gospel July." During the month of July we will focus on singing mostly Gospel songs. Gospel music, as an important form of Christian hymnody, had its beginning in the latter half of the nineteenth century and is associated with well-known names such as Moody, Sankey, Bliss and Frances Jane Crosby (We know her as Fanny Crosby). Crosby, perhaps more than any other writer, however, truly captured the spirit of the American gospel song movement. As one author has written:

*Gospel hymnody has the distinction of being America's most typical contribution to Christian song. Gospel hymnody has been a plough digging up hardened surface of paved minds. Its very obviousness has been its strength. It is the music of the people.*

Robert M. Stevenson-*Patterns of Protestant Church Music*

One of the songs we will be singing in July is *Blessed Assurance*. The words are by Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915); music by Phoebe P. Knapp (1839-1908). Both these women were great contributors to the Christian hymnody of today.

It is estimated that Fanny Crosby wrote more than 8,000 gospel song texts in her lifetime. Her hymns have been and still are being sung more frequently than those of any other gospel hymn writer.

For a considerable period during her life, while under contract to a music publisher, she wrote three new hymns each week. She used over 200 pen names besides her own. Often, the themes for her hymns were suggested by visiting ministers wishing to have a new song on a particular subject. At other times, musician friends would first compose the music and then ask Fanny Crosby for the words. Such was the case for *Blessed Assurance*.

Fanny was a close friend with Mrs. Joseph (Phoebe) Knapp. They were also both members of the same church, the John Street Methodist Episcopal Church in New York. Mrs. Knapp was an organist and married to one of the founders of the New York Life Insurance Company. He had a pipe organ installed in their apartment for his wife. (Neat, right?) Mrs. Knapp also wrote sacred choral and solo works, perhaps the best known of which is the Palm Sunday aria *Open the Gates of the Temple*.

One day Mrs. Knapp played a new melody for the blind poetess and asked, "What does this tune say?" Fanny responded, "Why, that says: 'Blessed Assurance, Jesus is mine.'" We will sing the rest of this hymn during July.

Philip

*We continue to invite you to sing with the choir on Sunday mornings. We practice on Wednesday nights at 6:30 p.m. The choir would love to have you join them. We will only take one break this summer and that will be the last Wednesday of July during the week of Bible School. We typically take a month off during the summer, but last week the choir unanimously voted to continue rehearsing through the whole summer. We love to sing and help lead worship.*



## Upcoming Events:



**Note:** The UMW has

changed their meeting times for the summer. They will meet on the third

Thursday of the month at

7:00 p.m.

through September



## VBS

Monday, July 27 through Friday, July 31

5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.



The biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand.

We listen to reply.



## ❖ ❖ ALL CHURCH PICNIC ❖ ❖

What with record rain the entire month of May and with Ft. Gibson still at 20+ ft. above normal, the annual picnic had to be postponed. We will reschedule as soon as the camp dries out and we can find an open date.



Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Methodists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?"



A cat dies and goes to heaven.

God meets him at the gate and says, 'You have been a good cat all these years. You can have anything you desire, all you have to do is ask.'

Well,' said the cat, 'I lived all my life on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.'

'Say no more,' says God and instantly a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, six mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to heaven.

God meets them at the gate with the same offer he made to the cat.

'All our life,' the mice say, 'we've had to run. Cats, dogs, women with brooms have chased us. If we had roller skates, we wouldn't have to run any more.'

God says he can take care of it and, instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

A week later God checks on the cat, which is asleep on its pillow. God gently nudges him awake and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?'

'Never been happier,' says the cat, stretching and yawning. 'And those meals on wheels you've been sending over are great.'

## ❖ Vacation Bible School ❖



Centenary United Methodist Church  
 631 N. Denver Ave. ♦ Tulsa, OK 74106  
 918.583.6988  
 E-mail: centenarymethodist@att.net  
 Visit us on the web: centenaryumctulsa.org  
 Like us on Facebook:  
 www.facebook.com/CentenaryTulsa

**Contact the Church Office for registration forms, Pick up a form in the Narthex, or go to our website, click on VBS Registration Form, print, fill out and return it to the church office**

# GOD'S LOVE IN ACTION

For children and youth ages Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade  
 Nursery available for children 4 years and under



Monday, July 27 - Friday, July 31  
 5:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.



### Schedule

5:00 - 6:00 pm - supper for children, parents, and staff

6:00 - 8:30 pm - Children's VBS class time, crafts, snacks, and group session

6:00 - 8:30 pm - Youth Class for 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades

### Bible Studies

God calls Moses ♦ Solomon builds the Temple ♦ Four friends help  
 Healing of Bartimaeus ♦ Women find the empty tomb

**Move, Act, Care, Follow, and Share**



For more information on VBS or to volunteer to help, please contact  
 Ronnie Patterson, 918-633-5123 or [drummerswife09@aol.com](mailto:drummerswife09@aol.com)

## July 2015 Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
*** <b>Gospel July</b> ***			1	2	3	4
			Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.			 Philip Comer Refugio Rodriguez
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall	Eat Healthy nutrition class 6:00 p.m.		Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.  Dick Bland Linda Haggard			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall  Kenny Rogers	Eat Healthy nutrition class 6:00 p.m.	Trustees 6 p.m.	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.  Melvin Tenent Sr.	UMW 7:00 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall Audit Committee after church Kenneth Mayo	Eat Healthy nutrition class 6:00 p.m.	Finance 6 p.m.  Newsletter Deadline	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	Logan Bland Ward	Caleb Rogers	Kris Bland
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall	<b>VBS</b> 5:00 - 8:30 PM ALL WEEK  Henry North Paul Cunningham		Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)			

### Asbury's Day of Service:

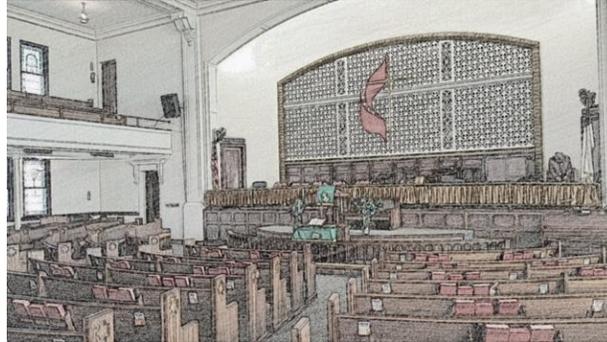
After church, **Sunday, September 13**, Centenary will once again be the recipient of 50+ volunteers from Asbury to help us with cleanup and painting of our building. **Mark your calendars now** to reserve this afternoon for helping. **The last thing we need is for them to be the only ones here!**

**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.



631 N Denver Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74106

Phone:  
918-583-6988

E-Mail:  
[centenarymethodist@att.net](mailto:centenarymethodist@att.net)

We're on the Web!  
See us at:

[centenaryumctulsa.org](http://centenaryumctulsa.org)  
and like us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/CentenaryTulsa](http://www.facebook.com/CentenaryTulsa)

---

Centenary United  
Methodist Church, Inc.  
631 N Denver Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74106