



# The Centenary Spirit

## Our Connection to God and One Another

August comes with the “dog days of summer”, the long, very hot days, the choir of cicadas singing in the trees, the languid moments when no one wants to move. But, by the time you read this article, Centenary will have hosted yet another Vacation Bible School; you will find the report and pictures on page four of this volume. Despite the intense heat, children and adults met every night at the church in order to learn the Good Book and to learn the “stories of Jesus”. We had a marvelous time together. Thank you to Ronnie Patterson and her good staff of volunteers and teachers who loved, taught and spent time with the children God entrusted to us this year. Thank you, also, to Randy Martin who cooked tasty food for teachers, families and children every night. And thanks to you, good church, who gave the resources and prayed the prayers to make this a good time for all involved, where we learned the stories of Jesus we “all love to hear”.

During this season, I am preaching through the Torah, the first five books of the Hebrew Scriptures. Presently, I am preaching the Ten Commandments (the Decalogue) which we believe guide us into Christian living. Jesus came that we all may have his life and resurrection power to fulfill the righteous requirements of God’s good instruction. This law is written in our hearts, not in tablets of stone, so that it becomes a joy to obey God’s good Word and to enjoy God’s peaceful blessing as a result.

The Centenary Choir is open for those who might wish to sing. This excellent choir meets every Wednesday night at 6:30 to practice the hymns and anthems for Sunday morning’s worship service. Led by Philip Comer, this group brings the highest quality of inspired music to the church every Lord’s Day. They stimulate and inspire our worship of God every week. In order to be a member of the choir at Centenary, you must love to sing and simply show up at practice. You need not be musically proficient at all. If you wish to serve the Lord in song you can be a member of the Centenary Choir by coming to practice any Wednesday night at 6:30. You will be sincerely welcomed!

Bible Study is every Wednesday night beginning with dinner at 5:30 in Young Hall and then study at 6:30. We usually enjoy 20-30 people every week. We have enjoyable fellowship and lively discussions. We learn, say prayers, have fun and encourage each other to follow Jesus. One of our folks called this “the heartbeat of the church.” We would love to have you on Wednesday nights. There is always plenty of food not only for the body but also for the soul. Please join us!

To do God’s work in the world, and to follow Christ who calls us, the church must worship, preach and teach the Gospel, as well as serving and ministering to others in Jesus’ name. This is how we are all changed, from day to day, into people who are like Him who loved us so much that he laid down his life that we might truly live. God bless you for all the good you do at Centenary United Methodist Church, and stay cool out there!



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**August  
2015**

Faithfully, *Pastor Keith*

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## Hymn Story: I'll Fly Away!

Alfred E. Brumley (1905-1977)

The gospel music we think of was born in the early decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, primarily in the southern part of the United States. Much of gospel music has the theme of “theological escapism.” Much of this expresses itself as this experience on earth being simply a trial to get through on our journey to heaven--our main goal.

This is the primary reason many mainline religions have taken much escapism music out of their hymnals. It has been deleted in favor of adding music that has to do with God’s Will here on earth, and our role in bringing it about.

Alfred E. Brumley was born around rural Spiro, OK and grew up picking cotton in the fields of the family cotton farm. His fortune changed when he enrolled in the Hartford Musical Institute in Hartford, AR in 1926. Although he did not have the financial resources to attend the school, his mentor and head of the school, E.M. Bartlett, allowed him to stay. He finished his studies and eventually bought the Hartford Music Company in 1948.

The Albert E. Brumley website provides the background for I'll Fly Away."

*It was in 1929 that Brumley composed “I'll Fly Away.” He recalled that he was picking cotton and singing the popular song, “If I had the Wings of an Angel.” Brumley was quoted as saying “Actually I was dreaming of flying away from the cotton field when I wrote the song.”*



One cannot deny that singing I'll Fly Away is simply fun. One of the characteristics of those “good old” songs is its enjoyment in singing. This does not mean that every gospel song is fun to sing (although that would be wonderful), but generally those that stand the test of time are fun to sing.

Albert wrote over 800 songs and would become one of the most respected names in the development of twentieth-century southern gospel music.

For over 80 years, “I'll Fly Away” has been one of the most recognized and recorded songs in the world. From the first million selling single in 1949 by the Chuck Wagon Gang to nine Grammy Awards on winning albums and on countless platinum and gold albums, “I'll Fly Away” is a part of the fabric of America.

With over 5,000 licensed recordings, “I'll Fly Away” has been recorded in most languages and genres of music.

Philip

## Upcoming Events :

### Fellowship Luncheon

Sunday, Aug 30

Sign Up Sheets in Narthex



### Asbury

### Day of Service

Sunday September 13 1:30-4:30 p.m.



### Seminary at Centenary

Sunday, September 27

Lunch provided (sign up in Narthex)



### Brady Heights Tour

Sunday September 27  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.



"I THINK JESUS HAD A HORSE. HAVE YOU EVER HEARD OF HIS SERMON ON THE MOUNT?"

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An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. Saint Peter checks his dossier and not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell. It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes rather dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell.

He soon begins to design and build improvements. Shortly thereafter, Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say, the engineer is a pretty popular guy.

One day, God calls Satan and says: "So, how are things in Hell?"

Satan replies: "Hey, things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, and escalators. And there's no telling what this engineer is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaims: "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake - he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me."

"Not a chance," Satan replies: "I like having an engineer on the staff, and I'm keeping him!"

God insists: "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers: "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"



Our Outreach/Witness Committee is collecting school supplies for Emerson during the month of August. This mission program is a Centenary tradition. We started out by adopting Roosevelt Elementary, which then closed a few years ago. Then we adopted Chouteau. Now this year we will be helping Emerson.

**Collection point ... north front pew in the Sanctuary.**

If you would rather donate money, that's fine too. Just indicate on the offering envelope school supplies. Supply lists for students have become so extensive (and expensive) that it is even more important for us to help all we can.

*Items needed include reams of paper, tissue, disinfecting wipes, composition notebooks, Ziplock baggies, folders, pencils, erasers, and on, and on, and on...*

## 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.**

Several churches in the South decided to hold combined services.

The event leader was a Baptist and proud of his denomination.

"How many Baptists are here?" he asked on the first night of the revival?

All except one little old lady raised their hands.

"Lady, what are you?" asked the leader.

"I'm a Methodist," meekly replied the lady.

"Why are you a Methodist?" queried the leader? "Well," replied the little old lady, "my grandparents were Methodists, my mother was a Methodist, and

my late husband was a Methodist."

"Well," retorted the leader, "just supposing all your relatives had been morons, what would that have made you?"

"Oh, I see. A Baptist, I suppose," the lady replied meekly.

# Vacation Bible School

## \*Success\*

The G-Force - God's Love in Action swept over Centenary July 27– 31. With a new theme each evening, CUMC's young people discovered how they could learn



more about God's plan for them and encourage others to follow His path. According to Ronnie Patterson, each night emphasized a new action: move, act, care, follow, serve, and tied in the familiar Bible stories like Moses leading the Israelites out of Egypt or the women spreading the news of the resurrection. Children and teens worked in several different mediums from markers to water colors as they completed craft projects. They enjoyed puppetry which was



used to tell stories, while music energized them to move with enthusiasm. A new element of science experiments added a different kind of fun this year. Closing games emphasizing positivity, fairness, and kindness made for reinforcement of the each evening's lessons. Teens discussed commitment and performed service to church and community. They picked up trash on church property. They wrote cards and notes to CUMC's shut-ins as well as creating gift baskets for them too.



Every child personalized a derby race car which raced on Friday night. The derby winner earned the first chance to hit a target resulting in a bucket of ice water over the head of Pastor Keith McArtor. Before the evening ended, many had a chance to douse the preacher who remained a good sport through it all. Ronnie wanted to thank all of her co-workers for their commitment to making this VBS a Force to be reckoned with!





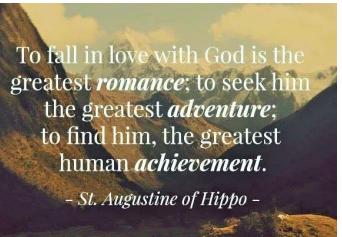
***"Catch the Wave of God's Amazing Love" at next summer's VBS.***

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## 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.



A new entry, a lift, revamped restrooms and all handicapped accessible! It takes a lot of time, money, upkeep, and effort to bring this grand old building into the 21st century. We still have a long way to go, but with your help and God's guidance we will continue to bring Centenary to the place we know it is meant to be.



## UMW

The Methodist Women have been into good works for at least 150 years. Serving the many different segments of the church and community, the Oklahoma Conference of Methodist Women has been reorganizing and recruiting to better carry out its various missions into the 21st century. The many changes will hopefully be approved in October 2015 with our current district being renamed Council Oak. It will contain not only the United Methodist Churches of Tulsa, but also the surrounding areas of Broken Arrow, Jenks, Owasso, Sapulpa,



Skiatook, Oologah, Bristow, et.al. Two of our members have been named officers in the reorganized district: Anna Jimison has been nominated as the new president and Melanie Dewey has been nominated to the Missions Chair. Their new titles and duties will begin as soon as the Conference approves the changes in October. Funds raised by the MW provide assistance to programs on the local /state level and also internationally. These donations contribute to the education and training of women in third world countries. With this help, these women can start small businesses and earn a living, building a better life for themselves as well as their families. On a local level, the Council Oak district supports the Cookson Mission with its various programs, while OKC and surrounding areas work with the Neighborhood Services Organization.



## A VBS Testimony

By Elissa K. Harvill

Feeling quite tired and a little depressed, and not having ANY desire to work at VBS, I reluctantly came to one of the first planning meetings because Nathan (my husband) wanted to take the opportunity to mentor some of the older children. So, I went along and was "volunteered" to lead the story-telling time. (By the way, that is a four night commitment of at least two and a half hours a night.) I was not thrilled, but thought I would figure something out and make it work. I tried to have a good attitude, mainly because I am the lay leader this year, and I wanted to lead by example. My good attitude failed. I had nothing left for motivation but a faint obligation to my word. The first night was terrible [for me]. The kids were fidgety, irreverent, and exhausting. Not only did I not want to come back to VBS, I considered leaving the church. I even told the pastor that I was losing hope in humanity and went home to update my Facebook status to: "I think I just flunked Vacation Bible School." But then something changed my heart. After talking with my Nathan, I heard some of the prayer requests of the older children that were very similar to some of the tough situations Nathan endured as a child. He wanted to be there to give them a brighter vision for their future. I remembered how when I was little and had family problems or other embarrassing issues, it was a comfort to just be around older, more stable – or "normal" people. So, together, we decided to BE "the normal people" for this group of young people. The second night, almost miraculously, was a delightful success. By the fourth night, we were definitely able to understand what was behind a lot of the bad behavior of the first night. The children magically decided to like us, listen and cooperate much better. They even remembered most of the stories and Bible verses we taught them. They definitely had hidden a good deal of it – and us! - in their little hearts; and they were in ours. (I actually even heard myself saying [to Nathan] that if we had the space, I wanted to adopt at least two or three of them!) And, I invited them to come join our Sunday morning Outreach Class, wishing them to be a part of our lives beyond VBS. (This was a complete transformation from the first night.) Never did I expect that VBS, of all opportunities in the church, would be the one to "strangely warm" my formerly tired, cold, and despairing heart. **But it did!**

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## August 2015 Calendar

Sun.	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1
			<p><b>The phrase 'dog days' refers to the sultry days of summer.</b>            The Romans referred to the dog days as <i>diēs caniculae</i> and associated the hot weather with the star Sirius. They considered Sirius to be the "Dog Star" because it is the brightest star in the constellation <i>Canis Major</i> (Large Dog). In Ancient Rome, the Dog Days ran from July 24 through August 24,</p>			
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall  <b>School Donations</b>	Benny Rodriguez		Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	John Dewey		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall  <b>School Donations</b>  <b>Susie Ruby</b>	.	Trustees 6 p.m.	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.		Jon McArtor Jeff Chambers	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall  <b>School Donations</b>  <b>Marie Patterson</b>		Finance 6 p.m.	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	UMW 7:00 p.m.  <b>Newsletter Deadline</b>	Casey Patterson	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall  <b>School Donations</b>			Yoga (see Melanie Dewey)  Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.			
30	31	<b>Coming Up</b> <b>★ Asbury's Day of Service ★</b> After church, Sunday, September 13  <b>★ Seminary at Centenary ★</b> September 27 with Rev. Susanna Southard Preaching & Teaching on Ecclesiastes				
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall  <b>Hymn Sing</b>  <b>Fellowship Luncheon</b>	5th Sunday Hymn Sing Grace UMC 6:00 p.m.  Ron Green					

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

[centenaryumctulsa.org](http://centenaryumctulsa.org)

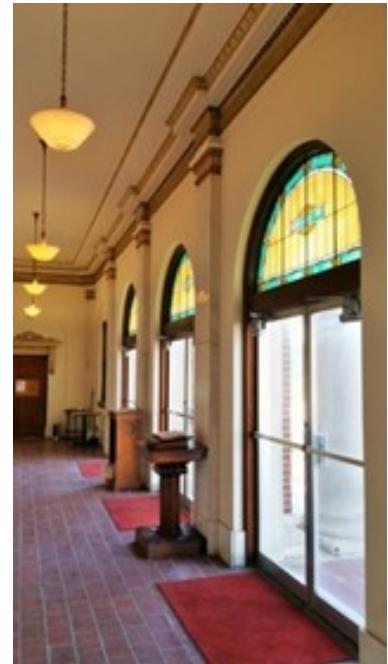
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