

The Centenary Spirit

Our Connection to God and One Another



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◆ **October 2015** ◆

*From the
Pastor*



Dear Centenary Family:

October must be Oklahoma's most beautiful month with warm to very cool temperatures, falling leaves, blooming mums and the fruit of the late fall garden. It is the time to rest from the feverish productivity of spring and summer and to await the penitential seasons of Thanksgiving and Advent. It is the time for reflection and for hopefulness.

But can we be hopeful, when the world seems to fall apart, with earthquakes, human tragedy, and the seeming destruction of civilization? Can we be thankful when personal lives are wracked with pain, disease, fatigue, tragedy and shame? Yes, we can, proclaims God's church. The Gospel reminds us of the words of Jesus: "These things I have spoken to you that in me you might have peace. In the world you shall have tribulation. But, be of good cheer: I have overcome the world!". And, those who trust in Jesus have become overcomers of the world through our faith. So, today, despite everything else, we can be hopeful and thankful through Him who overcame the world, despite all that goes on around us. In addition, Christ's overcoming life enables us to move beyond our private lives to the social world where great suffering exists. There, when we lift the pain of others in Christ's name, we share in the suffering of God for others in our time and extend God's redeeming love for all people.

I want to thank those many volunteers from Asbury United Methodist Church, Tulsa, and from Centenary who gathered here on September 13 to clean, paint and otherwise care for this great old church. This was Asbury's yearly Sunday Day of Service to local churches and other local organizations in the community. This service is inestimable. It is the fourth time Asbury has helped Centenary over the years and the result has been remarkable: rooms cleaned out, painted and refurbished. Thank you, Asbury UMC and Centenary volunteers for preparing this sacred space for God's mission now and for a future generation.

October is the time in the church when we gather Christmas gifts for Cookson Hills mission, collect winter wear for those in need in the winter, take off for our fall picnic at Fort Gibson on October 18 and enjoy the "Cemetery at Centenary" on Friday, October 30, where we host our Haunted House, and celebrate Christ's victory over evil on the eve of All Saints Day.

Come and continue to be a part of Jesus' new body of people at Centenary. May God bless you with the presence of the Holy Spirit now and forever.



Faithfully, *Pastor Keith*

The Centenary Spirit



HYMN STORY

Eternal Father, Strong to Save
William Whiting (1825-1878)

Eternal Father, Strong to Save, was written by an Englishman, William

Whiting, who was the choirmaster of the Winchester College Chorister's School in Winchester, England.

Winchester is not on the coast and isn't a port city, but the navy has always been important in England's life. *Eternal Father, Strong to Save* was written as a prayer for people traveling on the sea during a time when the ships were made of wood and sailing had to have been especially difficult -- a time when sailing to distant ports meant risking your life.

Verse 1 is addressed to God the Father,
Verse 2 to God the Son,
Verse 3 to God the Holy Spirit, and
Verse 4 to the Trinity.



In its original format, it asked for God's protection only for those traveling on the sea, but other verses were added later asking God's help for those traveling by land or air. It reminds us of the perils that we face throughout life and of our need for God's protection.

The hymn tune to which Whiting's words are sung, is *Melita*, which was written in 1861 by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Dykes, an Anglican priest and church musician also wrote the tunes for the hymns, *Holy, Holy, Holy* and *Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee*.

This great hymn has often been used in state ceremonies. It was sung at the funerals of Presidents Franklin Roosevelt, John F. Kennedy, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and Gerald Ford. It was also performed during a 2002 memorial ceremony in Norfolk, VA, for those who had lost their lives in the bombing of the *USS Cole* in Yemen.

For many people, especially those who have served in the armed forces, this hymn embodies memories of their service, their patriotism and their hopes.

Upcoming Events :

**Blessing
of the
Animals**

Saturday, October 3, 1 p.m.
South Lawn



**Administrative
Council**

Sunday, October 11
lunch provided



Fall Retreat

Sunday, October 18
Bring a dish to share



Cemetery

at

Centenary

6-8 p.m.

Trunk or Treat

lower parking lot



In the happy moments, **Praise God**.
In the difficult moments, **Seek God**. In
the quiet moments,
Trust God, In every
moment, **Thank God**

Philip

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Seminary at Centenary

Suzanne Weslie Southard (Director of Teaching With Technology at Phillips Theological Seminary) began our study of Ecclesiastes with the sermon and continued a more in-depth presentation in Young Hall after the service. Participants enjoyed a light lunch while Susanne explained how to avoid a meaningless life.



▶▶ Centenary UMM ◀◀

The UMM held the second annual **Bill Packard Memorial Pancake Breakfast** September 19 in Young Hall. They shared a morning of good food and good fellowship with approximately 60 folks. **Proceeds from the breakfast will be used to maintain and improve this wonderful building that we call home.**



Fifth Sunday Pot-Luck

The congregation enjoyed a virtual feast for our fifth Sunday luncheon in August. We had the right mix of entrees, veggies, salads, and desserts. For sure no one went hungry!



Birthday Luncheon and Cookson Christmas Gift Drive

Are your birthday decorations ready? Have you chosen your month? Centenary's Birthday Fellowship Luncheon can sneak up on you if you aren't prepared! **Sunday, November 1st** celebrates EVERYONE'S birthdays with a **Pot-Luck Lunch** as well as helping Cookson Hills Mission to replenish their shelves with Christmas gifts. **Sign up in the Narthex to decorate a table or bring a dessert.** But don't forget your gift! All kinds of items are needed to help fill the Cookson Christmas Store. From jumper cables to toddler socks; from fishing poles to hair dryers. All gifts should be **UNWRAPPED** and need to be placed on the specially marked table in Young Hall. 'Sugar-High' here we come!



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October 2015

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
 <p>October is commonly associated with the season of Autumn in the Northern hemisphere and spring in the Southern hemisphere. In the Western world, October is also commonly associated with Halloween (All Hallows Eve), which initiates the season of Allhallowtide. In common years, January starts on the same day of the week as October, but no other month starts on the same day of the week as October in leap years. October ends on the same day of the week as February every year and January in common years only.</p>				1	2	3
						Blessing of the Animals 1:00 p.m. South Lawn
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall		Good Timers 10:00 a.m. Craft Group 1:00 p.m. Worship Committee 6:00 p.m. Melani Hamilton	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey) Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m. Yolanda Crooms Carolyn Henning	Finance Committee 6:00 p.m.		Talon Springer
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall Administrative Council Meeting Room Lunch provided		Trustees 6:00 p.m.	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey) Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	UMW 7:00 p.m. Joan Hisaw Lisa Lundquest	Joy Barkat	Janice Winkler
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Fall Retreat Fort Gibson Joe Chase	Grace Rogers	Finance 6:00 p.m.	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey) Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	Denny Young	Anna Jimison	Mike Patterson Suzanne Johnson
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Outreach 10 a.m. Young Hall		Robby Stillman	Yoga (see Melanie Dewey) Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Choir 6:30 p.m.	Pat North	Cemetery at Centenary 6-8 p.m. Trunk or Treat lower parking lot	 It's time to "Fall Back!" Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday at 2am Justin McCafferty
COMING UP		All Saints Day * Birthday Lunch & Cookson Gifts - Sunday, Nov 1 Hanging of the Greens , Sunday, Nov 22 Thanksgiving , Thursday, Nov 26 * Advent , Sunday, November 29				

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