

The

MESSENGER

November 2011



Word from the Pastor

I just drove into Tulsa this morning (Monday, October 31) from a week of study leave at **Christ in the Desert Monastery** (Benedictine), which is located at the end of a 13-mile gravel road that winds through the Chama River canyon, not far from Ghost Ranch, New Mexico. I had an extended stay there nine years ago.

There was no electricity in the guest rooms (but each small room did have a gas heater), and there was no internet or cell phone service. A week without any TV, computers, phones, newspapers, or any other distractions does wonders for one's soul – it sure did mine.

The Benedictine monks (about 22 live at the monastery) live a balanced life divided between worship, manual labor, and time spent in learning and reflection. I found it to be just the balance I needed as well. Concerning worship, there are 7 services each day (called The Liturgy of the Hours), some as short as 15 minutes. There is Mass each morning as well. Much to my own surprise, I ended up attending 35 of services – including three of the ones that started at 4:00 am. I also got a lot of exercise hiking and taking photographs. The book I brought to read was **Gathering Those Driven Away: A Theology of Incarnation**, by Wendy Farley. It's a very insightful consideration of Christology from the perspective of those on the margins, including those who have felt excluded from the church.

My week at the monastery was one of the most renewing and spiritual experiences of my life. I kept a journal throughout my time there in order to record some of my thoughts and reflections. I plan on sharing some of them with you in the coming weeks. Here are just a couple.

I'm not sure yet why I decided to come here this year, but I think is has something to do with re-connecting with spirituality, which is certainly different for me than it once was since I continue to move even further to the progressive side of the theological spectrum.

I've been reflecting more on reverence. And while I'm convinced that God doesn't 'need' our reverence (because I don't believe God is a needy God), I'm more convinced of our need to be reverent, for in showing reverence we admit our need to be humble and recognize that we aren't the center of the universe. I better recognize the gift of centering our lives in God that is afforded through the act of being reverent.

Blessings,

Rev. Todd Freeman

Christ in the Desert Monastery
Abiquiu, New Mexico
www.christdesert.org

College Hill Presbyterian Church

Mission Statement

- *Build an inclusive community of faith*
- *Receive and openly share the love of God*
- *Reach out with a compassionate voice for peace and justice*

Sundays

9:30 a.m. – Church School
for all ages

11:00 a.m. – Worship in English
11:00 a.m. – Worship in Spanish

Join us for coffee, juice,
cookies and conversation in
the Fellowship Hall before
Church School and after the
Service.

712 S. Columbia Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74104
918-592-5800

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collegehill@sbcglobal.net
www.collegehilltulsa.org

In Memoriam

The Rev. James R. Struthers
former pastor of College Hill
1953-1959

The Rev. David R. Caldwell
former pastor of College Hill
1982-1994

Phyllis Hope Allen
February 24, 1925 - September 27, 2011



New Member Welcome

Meredith Howard

Donna Richardson



Please join us **Saturday, November 5** from **9:00 a.m. to noon** for fun, fellowship, Fall cleaning, yard work and minor repairs at the church. Painting inside is also a possibility -- especially if the weather is bad outside. A **light breakfast** will be provided. There will be both **inside and outside jobs** (weather permitting) available. Please **bring** your own **work gloves**, if possible. If you plan on doing yard work **hand tools** would be appreciated, but we will have extras. One project we plan on tackling is replacing the pickets and cross pieces on the air conditioner fence along Columbia Ave. If you plan on being at workday and have **cordless drills** and/or **cordless saws** for the fence project, please let Jim Campbell know. For questions please contact **Jim Campbell** (918 277-8804) or jjm@campbellsintulsa.com.

Children's Play November 13

The **children** of the church will perform in a **Thanksgiving Play** during our **Potluck Luncheon** November 13th. The play was **written** by **Nancy Foote**.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 6

A **Congregational Meeting** will be held after worship to **vote** on the **elder nominees** for next year.

Elder Nominees:

3-year term: _____ **2-year Term:** _____ **1-year Term:** _____

Mark Miller Dana Livingston Bill Major
Gary Watts
Rebecca Howard
Judith Nole

Potluck Luncheon

We will have a **potluck luncheon** in Fellowship Hall after **Commitment Sunday** worship on **November 13**. **Bring a dish** to share and enjoy fellowship with your church family.

2012 Stewardship Campaign Has Arrived!



In **October**, you received a letter from members of the congregation, **Barry Hensley and Terry Baxter** regarding the supportive relationships fostered through the mission of our congregation and the importance of supporting the ministry programs of **College Hill**. A Minute for Stewardship was offered by **Mike and Tanya Patterson** on October 30th. In early November, you will receive a letter from the

Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team regarding the **2012 Stewardship Campaign**, which will include the proposed 2012 budget and a pledge card.

As the Stewardship Campaign draws to a close, you are requested to carefully consider a financial commitment to College Hill Presbyterian Church for 2012.

- ❖ **November 6, 2011 - Stewardship Emphasis Sunday**
- ❖ **November 13, 2011 - Commitment Sunday & Potluck Luncheon**
(pledge cards to be collected during Service of Worship)



You are invited to a joyful celebration of the

***100th Anniversary of
College Hill Presbyterian Church***

featuring a dinner on

*Saturday, February 25, 2012
at 6:30 pm*

*At the Campbell Hotel
2636 E. 11th Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*There will be a reception after worship at noon
on Sunday, February 26th, 2012*

*Please keep this date open.
You will be receiving an invitation at a later date.*

Centennial



Celebration:

1912-2012

According to a February 2, 1962 Tulsa Tribune article (on the eve of our 50th Anniversary): "**College Hill Church Owes Formation to Slow Trolley**" – Apparently in 1912 students at Henry Kendall College (now the University of Tulsa) were reluctant to trek into town 2 ½ miles over unpaved and often muddy roads – or via street cars that were long between connections and "constantly jumping the tracks"-- in order to attend the First Presbyterian Church (quoting Mrs. Miles G. Simmons –daughter of Dr. Ralph J. Lamb, who organized College Hill Presbyterian on February 23, 1912).



**College Hill Hosts
OCCJ Youth Tour November 13th**

College Hill is honored to be one of the houses of worship selected for the **30th Annual Youth Interfaith Tour**, sponsored by The **Oklahoma Center for Community and Justice (OCCJ)**. Youth will visit College Hill to learn about Presbyterian faith traditions and the uniqueness of our church. The **Operation Understanding 2011 Tour** will be held on **November 13th** from 12:30 – 5:00 pm. Their **tour at College Hill** will be from **4:15 - 5:00 pm**.

**Coffee, Tea, Chocolate and Cocoa
Sales Start in November!**

On the **1st** and **3rd Sundays** each month **Outreach & Mission** will be selling **Coffee, Tea, Chocolate Bars** and **Cocoa** from **Equal Exchange**.

Equal Exchange uses co-ops of small farmers that produce organic products for sale at "Fair Trade" prices. This allows the farmers in these coops to get a better price for their goods than selling them to the various "cartels".

Outreach & Mission is going to use this as a vehicle to help **Just Hope, Inc.** to begin a new micro bank in Nicaragua. The **Rev. Leslie Penrose** came and spoke to us about her work and the lives they are changing.

In order to help fund the micro bank, we will add a slight amount to the price of the coffees, etc.

If there are any questions, please contact **Dewey Echols** at 918-378-5770.



**Advent Activity Night
Sunday, November 27**

Our annual **Advent Activity Night** will be held at **5:30 pm** in Fellowship Hall. Plan to attend to enjoy **fellowship, games, crafts** and **snacks**.

Susan West will help out with basket weaving and **Tanya Patterson** with Christmas ornaments. Tanya needs **small plastic lids** from chip containers, oatmeal boxes, and/or small coffee cans, etc., and **old Christmas cards with pictures of Angels**. The **children** will also bake & decorate **Christmas cookies**.



November

3 - Maise Stagner-Speer	15 - Margarita Bustos
3 - Malinda Lafave	15 - Tracy Kelly
8 - Paul Hartman	18 - Matt Schone
9 - Elizabeth Turnbull	18 - Adrienne Williams
9 - Sara McCullough	23 - Polly Kelly
10 - Christy Lyke	26 - Todd Redding
10 - Noe Solorzano	27 - Leslie Chestnut
11 - Vicki Jordan	28 - Dawn Brown
12 - Gretchen Hannefield	29 - Troy Ford
12 - Francisco Valencia	29 - Jamie McCullough
13 - Sally Gammie	29 - Gay Miller
14 - Rebecca Howard	30 - Gabrielle Porter

Birthdays names and dates are now listed in the newsletter calendar

Luncheon Club

Cathy Elliott provided our program in October and we enjoyed her presentation on the "student back-pack" program of the **Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma**. Thank you Cathy!

Luncheon Club meets the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Fellowship Hall. Church family and friends are invited to join us for fun/fellowship, good food and interesting programs!

Congregational Life Ministry Team Gives Thanks

Check out our new fridge in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. We appreciate **Charlotte Bronston** and **Tanya Patterson's** time and hard work in selecting the **new refrigerator**.

Thank you to **David Moser** and everyone who helped with the Halloween Trunk-or-Treat project.

We really appreciate **Susan West** and **Gretchen Hannefield** for coordinating the **Small Group Dinners**.



College Hills's Hispanic Fellowship recently donated their time and talents by serving a meal at the **Day Center for the Homeless**.

Brats or Hots...

Depending on the weather **Saturday, November 26**, we will either grill bratwurst sausages or serve hot dogs with kraut at the **Day Center for the Homeless**. See **Caroline Johnson** to **sign up** to help cook, bring food or donate money after church in November.

Chancel Choir



The **Chancel Choir** at **College Hill Presbyterian Church** continues rehearsal Wednesday evenings at 6:45, and we welcome all that would like to be a part! The Chancel Choir sings for Sunday services with a warm-up at 10:30 a.m. followed by singing in the service at 11 a.m.

Chancel Choir will sing a work entitled "**He Comes at Christmastide**" - a set of seven beautiful Advent and Christmas carols, during the Sunday morning service on **December 4th**.

Church Pictorial Directory



Photo sessions by **Olan Mills** will be held in **Fellowship Hall** on **Friday, December 2nd from 2:00 - 9:20 pm** and on **Saturday, the 3rd from 9:30 am - 5:10 pm** for our upcoming pictorial directory. Your **photos** will also be available for **purchase** in time for **Christmas** gift giving! Sign up sheets will be provided soon.

- ❖ New contemporary poses
- ❖ Reduced prices on portrait packages
- ❖ Make our church directory complete with your family!

FREE \$25 Portrait Gift Certificate, no purchase necessary. And FREE Church Pictorial Directory*

For participating families

*Online, printed or both, depending on which option church chooses

- ❖ Nuevas y modernas fotografías
- ❖ Precio reducido en paquetes de retratos
- ❖ Complete el directorio de nuestra iglesia con una fotografía de su familia

Certificado de regalo de \$25 para retratos gratis, sin necesidad de efectuar una compra. Y un directorio fotográfico* de su iglesia gratis para cada familia que participe.

*Puede ser en línea o impreso, según la opción que elija la iglesia



Highlights of the October Session Meeting

Clerk's Report:

- ❖ Reported that the Stated Clerk of the Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery, Dana Bailey, has resigned and we have received an application and job description for the position in case we know someone who would be interested in this paid position.
- ❖ Received a letter from Rev. Ann Shell LaMar from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church expressing their deep appreciation for the use of our facilities and our hospitality for Ann Utter Evanson's memorial service.
- ❖ Session renewed the Contract for **Commissioned Lay Pastor** for **Pat Lucy, January 1, 2012 through January 1, 2015.**

Pastor's Report:

- ❖ **Rev. Freeman** will be on **Study Leave October 24 to October 30** at Christ in the Desert Monastery, NM so will be out on Sunday, October 30, Reformation Sunday.
- ❖ **Rev. Freeman** will be clergy co-chair for Phillips Theological Seminary's 25th Anniversary Campaign.

New Business:

- ❖ The Session accepted **Donna Richardson** into the Active Membership of College Hill Presbyterian Church:
- ❖ The Session accepted the proposed 2012 budget.
- ❖ Session approved to spend less than \$500 from the Designated Music Fund on covers for foam, music stands and to refinish the organ bench.

Old Business:

- ❖ **Visioning Task Force Report: Strengths:** **Bill Major** continued with the results of the *US Congregational Life Survey* taken in March by 80 respondents. He discussed the Strengths portion of the survey and next month will discuss the Visioning Process Recommendations.
- ❖ **100th Anniversary Celebration:** **Wyneth Roulet** reported the dates for taking pictures with **Olan Mills** for our pictorial directory are **Friday, December 2, 2:00 p.m. to 9:20 p.m. and Saturday, December 3, 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Any pictures ordered will be ready for Christmas. Pictures from our Celebration will be added to the directory so it won't be published until around April 2012.
- ❖ **Organ Project Update:** **Pastor Todd** reported that the organ project is complete except for refinishing the organ bench. There is about \$4,300 left in the Organ Fund.

Highlights of Ministry Team Reports

Building & Grounds: **Jim Campbell** reported our next **Work Day is Saturday, November 5, 9:00 a.m. to noon.** They have recently installed carpet and lighting in the big second floor classroom.

Christian Education: **Todd Redding** reported that all church school classes are experiencing excellent attendance and participation. **Pastor Todd** reported 35-40 people are attending the adult education class. **Todd R.** expressed deep thanks to **Building & Grounds, Gini Fox** and the **Preschool Sub-Committee** led by **Nancy Gammie** for their hard work in developing the second floor big classroom. He also thanked **Mark & Margaret Watson** for their help in trouble-shooting some difficulties with 2 of the new computers with the Hewlett-Packard warranty department. **Todd R.** said **Caroline Johnson** will soon begin working with the children for Advent/Christmas choir performances.

Congregational Life: **Wyneth Roulet** reported that the new refrigerator for the Fellowship Hall kitchen was delivered September 22. Our cost, \$629, included delivery and removal of old refrigerator. She thanked **Tanya Patterson** and **Charlotte Bronston** for the many hours of shopping and **Pastor Todd** who assisted with "out with the old and in with the new" via the kitchen back door stairs. The next big event is the **Trunk & Treat on Monday, October 31st** in the church parking lot, at **7:00 p.m.**

Evangelism & Communication: **Mark Watson** reported that there have been several new visitors lately.

Finance & Stewardship: **Bob Lucy** discussed key dates for the **Stewardship Campaign** with **Commitment Sunday on November 13th,** with a potluck luncheon after worship.

Hispanic Ministry: **John Gammie** reported that almost all of the Hispanic fellowship participated in providing the Day Center meal on September 24. He said the worship attendance has been fluctuating recently, but some people had returned who had not been attending recently. **Monica Rodriguez** is exploring, with **Angelica Solorzano**, creating a women's group. The Wednesday night Bible study group is not meeting at this time. **Ellen Beverly's** English classes will start meeting on Sundays immediately after worship.








Nominating: **Dena Schone** reported that they should be finished recruiting Ruling Elders for the Class of 2014 before November 6.

Outreach & Mission: **Dewey Echols** reported that micro banking coffee sales started October 9 and that Leslie Penrose was well-received at her presentation after church that day.

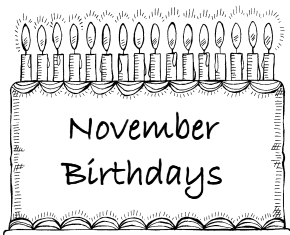
Worship & Music: Session approved to serve Communion on January 8, 2012. **Bill Nole** reported there has been significant discussion concerning worship services during the Advent season and into the new year since Christmas and New Year's Day occur on Sundays this year. They are working with Christian Education to incorporate the children of the church into worship as part of the celebration of Christmas. The Adult Choir will provide special music during the worship service on **December 4, 2011.** **Bill** also mentioned that the church we were negotiating with to purchase a set of chimes has declined our offer. He reported that **Rev. Harold Hill** will write a sermon which **Bill** will deliver on **October 30** when **Todd** will be gone on Study Leave. He also reported that choir members will now join the rest of the congregation downstairs during communion.



November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 5:45 Music Staff Mtg. 6:45 Chancel Choir	3 <i>Session Reports Due</i>	4 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	5 Church Work Day  9 am - noon
6 Stewardship Emphasis Sunday ~Communion Sunday ~ Congregational Meeting 9:30 Church School - All Ages 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Service of Worship, Eng; Sp. 12:00 Evangelism & Communication 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	7	8 12:00 Finance & Stewardship 7:00 Session	9 9:00 INCOG 5:30 Bell Choir 6:45 Chancel Choir	10 6:00 KWI Board Mtg.	11 Veterans Day  6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	12
13 ~Commitment Sunday 12:00 Potluck Luncheon 4:15 OCCJ Youth Tour at College Hill 4:00 Youth Group Mtg. 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	14	15	16 5:30 Bell Choir 6:30 Building & Grounds 6:45 Chancel Choir	17  12:00 Luncheon Club	18 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	19
20 12:00 Outreach & Mission 12:00 Hispanic Steering Committee 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	21 	22	23 <i>Office Closed</i> 9:00 INCOG 5:30 Bell Choir 5:45 6:30 Chancel Choir	24  Thanksgiving Day Office Closed	25 6:30 Hispanic Prayer Group	26  Day Center Meal
27 ~Communion Sunday 12:00 Congregational Life 4:00 Youth Group Mtg. 5:30 Advent Activity Night 6:00 Yoga/Meditation	28	29	30			

*"If you have much, give of your wealth; if you have little, give of your heart."
~ Arabic Proverb*



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The Quiet Corner Mantra

She stood at the corner of 71st and Riverside holding up a handmade sign. As cars approached the traffic light, she would thrust her creation over the curb. Her right hand flitted over each letter. Then her hand underlined the crudely worded message. She then used her pointer finger to delicately trace the image she had pasted to the flimsy poster board. When there were no cars stopped at the light, she spun around flashing her message to all who would look in her direction. She was relentless. She never stopped. She did not have a chair nearby to sit. There was no water bottle by her side.

The sign proclaimed her life's philosophy in four words. She most definitely wanted to share this with the part of the world that drove past her. She had condensed her world view to four words. It was no doubt a message that brought her peace and comfort. It was her simple mantra for bliss. "His Pain. Your Gain."

Advent is the liturgical period of beginnings. For one who tries to practice a contemplative life, it is a season determined to derail any inner peace. It is the time for turkeys to be thawed, parties to be planned, gift lists to be assembled. Images of the upcoming holidays intrude during times snatched away for reflection and meditation. Dancing sugar plums and men in strange red suits are not conducive to mindfulness in the present moment.

Perhaps this is the time to reflect on your personal philosophy and to craft your personal mantra which brings inner peace. Pare your beliefs to a very Zen-like four words. These would be words, upon meditation, initiate a stream of bliss and confidence. Some might want to start with a formal statement of spirituality or with an ancient creed, then chip away the words, as Michelangelo chipped away the extraneous marble to reveal a figure of beauty.

Write the result in your spirit and take your words wherever you go.

- Peg Gotthold

Tales of a Sojourner*

She could have tried out for Annie in the stage show. Wild and curly red hair, freckles and an earnest look on her face. That morning, I was asking my group what they knew about the slave trade. "I know," she said. "When I was 14, my parents were mad at me and I just ran. It was dark and some guy, about 50, asked me if I needed a ride somewhere. I needed a ride but I didn't have a clue where I was going. So, when he offered me a place to stay until I could decide what to do, it seemed like a good deal. One thing led to another and it wasn't long before I was part of Tulsa's slave trade."

She was proud that she was on her own now – got to keep all the money she earned – and she liked the highs of alcohol and drugs. She was 27 now and had learned the hard way how to stay safe on the streets. She had been in jail often, and expected to be out in a couple of days; but, there she was next week. She was excited because she had "found Jesus and cleaned up her act." She had been in touch with a wonderful man in Texas who offered her a place to make a fresh start. He was gentle and kind and a Christian. She would be out in a couple of days and she was heading to Texas with Jesus. She was sure that Jesus and this 50 year old new friend would turn her life around.

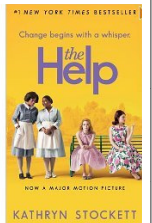
May God wrap healing wings around this woman/child and keep her safe. May someone, somewhere, pull her from the trap she almost certainly is going into – again. And all of us be aware that this story is universal – around the world – and that the United States is a major player in the international slave trade.

*a sojourner is one who stays at a place for a short time.

Pat Lucy, Commissioned Lay Pastor

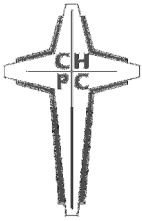


November/December Book Club: The Help by Kathryn Stockett



The Help by Kathryn Stockett has received a lot of attention lately. First the book became extremely popular, and has been at the top of lists for book club choices. Then the movie debuted at the end of the summer, which only catapulted the book further into the public conscious. Critics, readers, and viewers have mostly hailed Stockett's fictional story set in troubled Jackson, Mississippi, during the civil rights era as compassionate, delightful, and full of well fleshed-out characters. However, both the book and movie have also had their share of negative criticism, mostly aimed at stereotypes and clichés. Certainly it's worth the read, if anything to participate in a lively discussion at book club! As the book is longer than our usual book club standard, and as it is holiday season, we are combining the months of November and December into one book club meeting.

The Help by Kathryn Stockett is available at Steve's Sundry Books. Book club will meet for lunch and discussion on Sunday, December 11th, in the library immediately following worship service.



**College Hill
Presbyterian Church**

712 S. Columbia
Tulsa, OK 74104



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Fall Back
Daylight Saving Time ends **Sunday,
November 6th.** Be sure to set your clocks
back one hour Saturday night.

