

Hope Unitarian Church
8432 S. Sheridan Rd
Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133-4137
(918) 481-0999
hopeUU@hopeuu.org

PERIODICAL
POSTAGE

TO:

Sundays At Hope

Sundays, December 4 & December 11, 2011

Adult Religious Education - 10-10:45 am - Sanctuary (Great Hall)

Religious Education for Children and Youth - see inside

Worship 11-11:55 am - Sanctuary (Great Hall)

Sunday, December 4

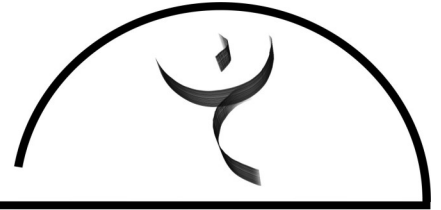
“The Final Stage of Faith is Forgiveness”

Mr. Randy Lewis

Sunday, December 11

Rev. Jim Eller

For more information about Hope, please visit our website: www.hopeuu.org



Hope Unitarian Church

November 29, 2011
Volume 17 No. 20

Elizabeth Cartmell Ladd

Minister

Jackie Portman

Director of Religious Education

Susan Swatek

Music Director

Maggie Scott

Secretary/ Editor

Hope's Vision

Seeking Truth, Sharing Love
Within - Among - Beyond

Hope's Mission

Supporting the free and responsible
search for truth and meaning;
Teaching the history and traditions of
Unitarianism;
Promoting and defending freedom of
thought;
Celebrating life's passages;
Serving the larger community with
justice and compassion.

Hope's Values

Reason - Integrity - Tolerance

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Office Hours

The Wayside Pulpit

The vision must be followed by the
venture. It is not enough to stare up
the steps—we must step up the stairs.
~ Vance Havner

From the Minister

Spiritual Companions,

I am overwhelmed with gratitude and joy! Since my first week preaching here, six weeks ago, I have felt at home. I have felt a kinship with you all. I have felt drawn to working with you. These feelings have just grown stronger. It is such an honor to serve as your minister.

My first order of business is to get to know you all. I found the “meet and greets” that we held before the congregational meeting to be a great chance to begin this process. I have yet to get a chance to really talk with many of you, though. What I found most helpful in those evenings was the chance to hear some of your ideas for where Hope is heading and how I can support our mission. Together, the board and I will be setting some specific goals for the next eight months and I would love your input. Consulting ministry is a collaborative process and you are all a part of the success of our ministry.

Given the nature of ministry, some of my work will happen away from the church. I may be off visiting with members who are ill or advocating for social justice in our communities. I encourage you all to make an appointment when you wish to see me. The best way to reach me is to send me an email at Elizabeth@hopeuu.org or to call the church. I will also hold fairly regular office hours, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays 10-3. I will most likely be in the office much more than these hours, but these are the times that I commit to being available should you need to drop by for a chat.

There is an energy here at Hope that is undeniable. It was building before I came on the scene and it has been intoxicating watching it grow. With this promise and commitment, so much is possible. I am eager to see how our ministries will unfold together. I am grateful to be journeying with you.

Blessings,

Elizabeth

P.S. Please remember to always wear your nametag! I will do my best to learn all of your names as quickly as I can. It's also just good practice, as it helps to make other newcomers feel more welcome as part of our church family.

Brown Bag Lunch and Discussion Group

Every Tuesday
from 11.30 am to 1 pm

The Lunch Bunch

Wednesday, December 14
at 11.30 am.

Bistro at Seville—see Focus for more information

Generosity Committee Plate Collections

The recipients for forthcoming Sunday plate collections are:

December 4
Guest at Your Table

December 11
Christmas Outreach Program

Amounts raised for previous recipients:

November 13
RSVP
\$101.85

November 20
Meals on Wheels
\$309.80

November 27
Christmas Outreach Program
\$380.00

Attendance numbers

November 13— 101
November 20—106
November 27—101

Music Notes



The Christmas season is upon us. This Sunday the choir will sing "Still, Still, Still." This Austrian carol music has been arranged by Norman Luboff, with lyrics by Marilyn Keith and Alan Bergman. It is a beautiful lullaby.

On December 11, we'll all enjoy "Merry Christmas, Mozart." Jay Althouse put this humorous piece together using Wolfie's melodies and Christmas carol words. You should recognize everything in it.

*Once again we come to the holiday season,
a deeply religious time
that all of us observe in our own way,
by going to the mall of our choice. ~Anon*

Susan S. Swatek, Director of Music

**Adult Religious Education
Sundays at 10 am in the Sanctuary**

December 4, "What is OKRCRC ?"

Guest speaker Kelly Jennings.

December is the month when OKRCRC solicits donations as their annual ad runs in The Tulsa World on or about January 22nd, which is the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade. Jane Brumley will be accepting donations on Sunday and OKRCRC will be a Generosity Plate recipient in early January.

Presenter Jane Brumley

December 11, "Sacred City on the Mississippi," From the series "Roots of Religion" a video and discussion of a prehistoric site near St. Louis on the east side of the Mississippi River in present-day Illinois is presented. The social ties that held Cahokian society together seem to have been mainly religious with a focus on the sun as a deity. "Woodhenges" were built on a flat-topped pyramid to track the movement of heavenly bodies.

Presenter: Alton K. Schultz

Notes from the Office

Minister's Office

Lets help our new minister, Elizabeth Cartmell Ladd, by clearing out all the "stuff" that has accumulated in her office and return the room to its former glory! If you or your committee have items in there—please claim them and remove them.

Focus

Maggie Scott will be on vacation (second attempt!) December 26 through January 1. Back in the office January 2. **The next Focus will therefore be a 3 week edition** covering the three Sundays of December 18, December 25 and January 1.

Hanging of the Greens, Dec 2, 7:00 pm

'Tis the season to celebrate as we decorate Hope for the holidays. We have greens to hang, poinsettias to arrange, a tree to decorate, and banners to hang! Bring a snack or dessert, and we will provide eggnog and cider! Families welcome!

December Lunch Bunch

Reservations have been made at The Bistro at Seville (101st & Yale) for our December get-together and we have a private room. Our event will be on Wednesday, December 14th, which is a week earlier than usual due to the Christmas holidays. We will also have our gift exchange (maximum \$10.00) as we've done in the past. Come join us at 11:30 am for this fun event!

Violin Group Recital

Eric Ryan Johnson and Julia Harris invite the members and friends of Hope to their students' violin group recital **Saturday, December 3, 2011 at 1:15** in the Great Hall. They have been enjoying their monthly group lessons this Fall at Hope. Ages range from preschool to retired adults.

Notes from Within and Among

Carol Kamp is at Kindred Hospital, a long term acute care facility at 3219 S. 79th E. Ave. #106, behind Drysdale's on Memorial. Visitors/cards welcomed.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thanksgiving Dinner was a success. Thanks to the following who helped: Jan Mattinson, Susan Swatek, Tom Swatek, Tana Van Cleave, Jerry Van Cleave, Nancy Sahler, Sue Wheeler, Ken Blenkarn, Marcia Schaefer, Sherrill Womeldorff, Dianne Bostic, Diane Blanks, Brad Blanks, Rick & Mary Gardner, Christine McClure, Larry Cochran, Sid Martin, Sean Quinlan, Gigi Gregg, Elizabeth Cartmell Ladd and everyone else who pitched in to help.

Barb Edson, Chair

Focus Schedule

Deadline	Publish Date	Covers Sundays of
Mon, Dec 12	Tues, Dec 13	Dec 18, Dec 25, Jan 1
Mon, Jan 2	Tues, Jan 3	Jan 8, Jan 15

For full schedule of Focus dates please see the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall (beside the kitchen).

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Key Men

When no one is at the church, the building is locked and the security system is on. A committee of key men have keys and security clearance to open and close the building for church events. Each takes a one-week turn of duty.

Nov 28-Dec 4

Rick Portman, 918-250-9447

Dec 5- Dec 11

Sherrill Womeldorff, 918-492-1751

Dec 12-18

Matt Luria, 918-406-5434

Policy for function organizers

1. First, determine if someone - attending your function can open the building;
2. Find out if church will be open/closed for another event same time as yours;
3. If no one is available and you need entry, contact above - volunteer Key Man a few days in - advance of your event.

At Your Service

Sunday, Dec 4

Head Usher Alton Schultz
Building Opener Rick Portman

Sunday, Dec 11

Head Usher Rick Portman
Building Opener Sherrill Womeldorff

Focus Deadline

Submissions to the Focus should be sent to hopeuu@hopeuu.org are due by 9 am on the **Monday** before publication. Submissions are subject to editing for length and - content.

***Next Focus will be published
Tuesday, December 13***

Deadline Dec 12, 9 am

Generosity Committee Sunday Plate Recipients

Sunday, December 4—Guest at Your Table

To mark the end of the Guest at Your Table campaign, This program will be the recipient on Dec 4. See below for more information.

Sunday, November 11—Christmas Outreach—see below

Hope's Christmas Outreach Tree

Youth Services has over 325 homeless or struggling teens who need help. For our Christmas Outreach this year we are helping 10 of the teens this holiday season. Hope's Outreach Tree is now up in the Fellowship Hall covered with stars and bells, listing items on the wish list of the ten teens. Please take a star or bell and purchase the item listed. Bring it back and place it in the gift bag for that teen. *Please do not wrap the gift.* We are happy to receive cash donations and to do the shopping for you. This program will also be the recipient of the Generosity plate on December 11.

The deadline for bringing gifts back is **December 11th** as we will be delivering them to Youth Services that week.

Please call if you have any questions. Thanks for your support of the Outreach Committee.

Mike Clugston, Chair

Mary Newman and Maggie Scott
918-895-1398 918-250-2161



Guest at Your Table

It's not too late to pick up a Guest at Your Table box or envelope to donate to UUSC efforts in protecting human rights in the United States and around the world. Stop by our table on Sundays to obtain information in the "Stories of Hope" booklets on how your donation affects the lives of others.

Guest at Your Table campaign ends on Sunday, December 4. Please leave your donation boxes or envelopes in the Guest at Your Table box in Fellowship Hall or hand to us on Sunday, Dec 4 or Dec 11. Please make your checks payable to Hope Unitarian Church. Thank you for welcoming a guest at your table

Joan Scheulen & Jean Coffey

Feed the Homeless

Thanks to everyone who helped with the meal for the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless this month. Keith Hamilton for shopping; Mary Johnson, who was a big help with the Friday cooking; Maureen Gilliland, Rich Jackson, Julia Harris, Elke Johnson, Mary Newman and Mike Clugston for the Saturday cooking and preparations.; Elizabeth Gwin, Terry Vinsant, Joan Scheulen, Jean Coffey, Cindy Dolak & Lily, Marion and Patricia Buercklin for serving the meal at the Day Center.

Blankets for the Homeless

Thank you for the wonderful response to our blanket drive. The box was overflowing and Mike Clugston took all the blankets to the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless. We have put the box back in the Fellowship Hall and welcome more donations.



Religious Education for Children and Youth

The RE teachers would like to extend a warm welcome to Elizabeth Cartmell Ladd, our new minister. Elizabeth believes that religious education is vital to a healthy congregation - she and I have a lot to discuss!

Congratulations to the children and youth who helped to create the Hope Youth Christmas Tree currently displayed at the Philbrook Festival of Trees.

Music Program News - The Orff group will participate in the Sing Noel celebration. Please be on time (9:30 Sundays) to practice the songs for this performance. On Saturday, Dec 16, there will be a special rehearsal from 10:00 am to 11:00 am at the church. Contact Samantha Portman (scporman@gmail.com) for more information.

December Schedule:

December 2	Hanging of the Greens - 7:00 pm Potluck, families welcome
December 4	Music Practice - 9:30 Crafting a Faith - 10:00 Story for All Ages at 11:00 RE classes at 11:15
December 11	Music Practice - 9:30 Crafting a Faith - 10:00 RE Classes - 11:00 Lunch With Santa - 12:00
December 18	Music Practice - 9:30 Crafting a Faith - 10:00 Sing Noel in Sanctuary - 11:00
December 25	Church Closed - Merry Christmas to all!
January 1	No Children's RE
January 6	Overnight Lock-In for Grades 3 - 12 Theme - Classic Disney Animated Films

YF Schedule for December

Chaperones will be needed for the following events:

November 28	Rhema Lights - Bring: money for concessions
December 7	Target Shopping (Outreach Project) - Bring: \$5 to contribute to gifts
December 14	Winterfest (BOK) - Bring: \$ 8 to ice skate or ride Ferris wheel and carousel \$5 for concession stand food/beverage

Lunch With Santa - December 11 - 12:00 pm

We invite the congregation to stay for a hearty lunch provided by chief elf Jerry Van Cleave and his team. After lunch, Santa will drop by bearing gifts for all the children and youth. Donations will be accepted at the door to cover cost. Please see Tana Van Cleave to sign up in advance.