The Vessel launches

Sails swelling with the wind of the Spirit and 188 people aboard, The Vessel launched Jan. 15, navigating the waters of life in Claremore. This new faith community, a satellite campus of First UMC in Claremore, uses the vernacular about ships several ways.

The leadership team is called the crew. The logo displays two blue sails. Wooden serving vessels sit on the altar table, made of glass.

Describing strategy for The Vessel FUMC South Campus, Jaimie Willis identified a fleet of “ships”: discipleship, worship, stewardship, and friendship.

On Launch Sunday, as the song “Broken Vessels” filled the worship space, the campus pastor “knew we were right where we needed to be.”

He admitted that he “drank way too much coffee before 8 a.m.” that day. He and the 30-member crew prepared for 150 worshippers, then hurried to set out more chairs as the crowd grew. Childcare staff were donated to teachers at Frontier Elementary School. Turnout was crucial that day.

Launching worship at The Vessel raises to six the number of weekly services under the umbrella of Claremore-First.

Worshippers express their praise to God during congregational singing on Launch Sunday, Jan. 15, at The Vessel, a satellite campus of Claremore-First UMC. Volunteers in a group named glorifi lead in music and media, and Jaimie Willis is campus pastor.

Circle of Care adds Woodward office

One Church marks 1st day

The Woodward center is one of six that Circle of Care operates in Oklahoma. The others are in Lawton, Ardmore, Ponca City, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa.
Three-part harmony

Their warning reached a fever pitch.

A potential adversary was too close, as they stood tall andI hurriedly knocked and backed toward him.

I never broke stride, but I walked quickly past them. I perhaps four steps beyond them when their honking ceased. I glanced back to see if they were the other fall.

The geese had found strength in numbers.

I jumped to Ecclesiastes 4:9, “A three-foot
don’t easily snap” (CEB).

In the immediate context of that verse, the writer

perhaps there is a series of questions we should ask about the communities to which we belong.

• What holds the community together?
• What is in its relevance for today?
• What community in numbers.

The geese had found strength in numbers. They

The construction team prepared and primed classrooms

The geese had found strength in numbers. They

therefore faith in Jesus shape our future?

The geese had found strength in numbers. They

The geese had found strength in numbers. They are

in Volcano, Aurora Cao, and Casey Kurry make

I glanced back to see if they were the other fall.

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Camp changes adults too

A cautionary tale about church Wi-Fi

New Day Camps blessed not only the 121 children who attended in 2016, whose parents were incarcerated, but also the volunteer adults, Kristen Harlin said.

“She’s calling more volunteers to just be involved in ‘all of the amazing things’ that will occur during New Day One and New Day TOO this summer. Both join her in ‘all of the amazing things’ that happened in 2016, whose parents were incarcerated, but also included adults too. Camp changes adults too.

On Monday, she sat back and reflected on how the camp changed her, Lex told them a few things about Camp, she tucked herself inside her hoodie, tears streaming down my face, and she grabbed my arm. Words exploded at me out of her hoodie, tears streaming down her face. “I want to talk.” And every child stopped to listen to her.

Lex told them a few things about how she was separated from her mother — her hair and her sneakers were visible. As she spoke, the other kids turned to look at us.

3) Lex and all the campers. I can truly say that I saw God. New Day Camps link two children with each volunteer. In addition to small groups led by professional counselors, activities such as canoeing, softball, and other church, rope courses, biking, and writing.

Sign up now to volunteer; contact Lori Brown, 450-536-2014 or lhbrown@okumc.org. To give scholarships for camps, go to www. okumc.org or contact Harlin at 405-535-1515 or kharlin@okumc.org.

(*Lex is not the real name.)

Multiethnic Ministries Training Camp

The Oklahoma United Methodist Contact February 10, 2017

WVB showcase in Tulsa

Tulsa, a true workshop for Feb. 25 will help Vacation Bible School leaders develop their plans and preview various materials.

Evahliga Campbell will lead the event, at Boston Avenue United Methodist Church, 800 W. Brady, Tulsa.

She is the church’s minister of early childhood education.

She will be the “Her Central,”, Conn said, for the church’s use.

Children will go on adventures with Bible heroes, attend the worship service and be able to build a boat as “Shark Week”.

34:14 is the key verse: Do good! Seek peace and pursue it, she said.

Reservations are requested; contact Rev. EvaMarie Campbell, evamaria Campbell@Bostonavon.org.

Will you volunteer a week of your time for a child whose parent is in jail? Search for “New Day Camp” at www.okumc.org.

Summit scheduled for educators

Children’s Day Out Worker: OKC- St. Mark UMC; Cindy D’Amico; OKC- First UMC; Sharon Hunt, 405-789-0033 or sharonhunt@umcokc.org

Church Secretary: OKC-Wadey. Part-time. Contact Marla Loa at marla Loa@yahoo.com

Director of Student Ministries: Ada- Full-time. Contact Donna Jamar at femadonna@cox.net; Deadline is April 1.

Camp Counselors, Camp Program staff: College-age young adults sought for United Methodist summer camps (Cross Point, Canyon Creek, Family Camp and new mobile day camps around the state). Deadline is March 1; contact Nell Tate, mtate@okumc.org or 405-530-2018.


Youth Minister/Worship Leader (one position): Shawnee. Part-time. Send resume to Greg Tolle at greg toller@ymcaokc.org

Director of Children and Family Ministry: Norman. United Methodist of Norman. Part-time. 405-824-1466 or rcray@umcokc.org

Youth Minister: Duncan-Part time. Send resume to Janice Sharp at janice.sharp@duncanfumc.org

Administrative Assistant- Norman- Goodrich UMC. Part-time. Contact Lexi at Sheppard at pastor@goodrichumc.org

“Riot to Renaissance in Tulsa’s Historic Black Church” conference

The conference will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Tulsa-Centenary United Methodist Church. The conference concludes at 3 p.m. Sunday.

Sessions will be at Tulsa-Centenary UMC and the Black Church for the 21st Century and sponsored by two Conference commissions: Strengthening Ministries of the Local Church and Social Justice.

Upcoming events

Cookson Hills fishing derby

“Fishers of Men” — July 29, Cookson Hills Camp.

“Wild game dinner, spring work projects,” — Enid- First UMC.

• Fairview UMC at Slapout, June 23.

• Wild game dinner, spring work projects,” — Ada-F Pornelli United Methodist Church.

• April 1, fumcada@gmail.com. Deadline is April 1.

Counsel about copyright compliance required for church Wi-Fi access

Those churches are strongly urged to require that each print and electronic agreement form when signing in to the Wi-Fi network, this step is in addition to entering a password.

At the United Methodist Internet Center in Oklahoma City, a user agreement is in another variation is a non-agreement form when signing in to the Wi-Fi network. This step is in addition to entering a password.

Recently, a UM church in Oklahoma added promptly upon receiving a company’s warning letter about the illegal downloading of a popular movie through that church’s Wi-Fi network.

In the letter, the company stated it would be taking legal action if another violation occurred. The church’s leaders responded to the law enforcement training, fellowship, network, and faith formation in the Conference. Rev. Dr. Long is associate professor of ecumenical education at OU.

“We were allowed to talk in terms that were prejudiced. My mom said it was tacky. When I encountered prejudice, I was prejudiced. My mom said it was not right. When I encountered prejudice, I didn’t understand it. I still don’t.

Kenda Mine told us about how to learn more and make things better. “When I was young, I remember carousing outside in a cul-de-sac in OKC. My dad said, ‘Don’t look at them. But look at me. They were haunted by Humboldt B. Johnson about the Tulsa race riot of 1921. He is author of “Black Wall Street, From Riot to Renaissance in Tulsa’s Historic Black Church.” They will join in educational discussions about race issues, from “Classroom bias studies” to “Why strengthening Black church and race school children.”

Nyla Wallin of the Communications Department said the church has a way of changing moments that are not caused.

The church’s leaders responded with a change in me actually ended with a change in me mean plans of helping children change groups that week at camp.

Thanked me for being part of her projects, more at the mission center.

A cautionary tale

The church’s leaders responded with a change in me actually ended with a change in me mean plans of helping children change groups that week at camp.

“A cautionary tale about church Wi-Fi:


You can be reached at nwallin@okumc.org or 918-699-0120 or EvaMarieCampbell@Bostonavon.org.

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OKC-First’s bells chiming again

The 11 bells at the corner of OKC-First United Methodist Church are back on the job after being silent for several years.

On Christmas Eve, the bells lost their familiar notes to the church’s holiday celebration, ringing for the first time after a major repair effort.

Now 94 years old, the bells had been damaged by the 2001 bombing of the Murrah Federal Building as well as deterioration due to exposure to weather.

Church officials also feared flooding would wreak too much harm to the bells’ weight, so they were placed in storage in 2015, according to a story in The Oklahoman. The bells originally were installed in 1922. Four of them were inscribed with the names of the children of contractor Frederick Gross, who built the church in 1904.

Last year’s repair project also included installation of an electronic chimes system as well as steel-reinforced concrete bell towers.

Of the cost of the project was estimated at $50,000, according to The Oklahoman.

“In a sense, the bells are a verbal witness,” Pastor Mark McAdow told The Oklahoman.

Rev. McAdow especially credited church trustees who made the project possible.

“OKC-First’s bells chiming again

T

To the point: why people don’t listen to announcements

I

n churches this weekend, leaders are going to get up and announce upcoming events. They want to energize the congregation, but some people will simply tune out that part of the service.

“People can get to the point where they won’t even tune to announcements, then shift their behavior to ignore announcements altogether,” according to a study by researchers at Westmont College.

There’s nothing in it for them. We want attendance, we want volunteers, but the people just pay attention when things positively impact them.

“Too much insider language. Can you get someone in a group to actually name their organization because they need a dictionary to figure out all the acronyms?”

Work hard to use plain language that makes sense to all people.

“No heart. Do you feel like you’re being invited to join the audience or is no one making that inviting? No one wants to be ignored.”

Prepare people for your message — what you will be doing, why they need to listen, how to be more effective.

Don’t let people fall asleep. If you only use dates, times, and locations to touch their hearts.

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Your Life & Goals

While the world may not be quite ready for a self-driving car, it is nice to imagine a car that could give you peace of mind by avoiding traffic jams, save you time by getting you to your destination sooner, and save you money by reducing fuel consumption. While we can’t give you a car, we can help give you peace of mind and help you save time and money. Most of your wealth is probably invested in your home, a bank, or other investment accounts. These assets can all be transferred to your loved ones or benefit your church or a ministry without you ever writing a will.

By making a simple change, these assets can go automatically to the beneficiaries you select.

Life Insurance
Complete a beneficiary designation form, designating a person, your church, or chosen ministry as a beneficiary for your life insurance policy.

IRA
Complete a beneficiary designation form to benefit the people and causes most important to you. Many administrators now make these forms available online.

Investment, Checking, and Retirement Accounts
List your loved ones, church, and/or favorite ministry as payable on death beneficiaries on a form provided by your account administrator.

Real Estate
Give your property to loved ones, church, or favorite ministry by deed while reserving a life estate. Contact us for a free illustration of the benefits of this plan. When a beneficiary designation is completed properly, assets simply pass automatically at your death. Call or email David Battles for all the ways you can make modest changes to your plans and benefit the people, church, or ministries most important to you. 800-259-6863 or dbattles@okumf.org

Vessel:
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

worship at 6:30 a.m. Wednesdays in a McDonald’s, and 30-35 worshippers meet at Carl’s Coney Island on Tuesday evenings.

Crawford, Willis, and Stephen Cagle share pastoral duties. In 2016, First Church averaged 857 people in all worship services, and 44 people made Professions of Faith, according to the 2016 Oklahoma Conference Journal.

On Jan. 29, total worship attendance reached 1,000, Crawford said. To establish The Vessel, First Church members renovated 4,500 square feet of retail space in a strip mall beside Claremore’s movie theater.

The crew, pastors, and others prayed often at the site throughout the refurbishment. They wrote prayers and Bible verses on the drywall and studs. “It was bathed in prayer,” Crawford said.

People familiar with the site’s former businesses — a tanning salon and gym — reacted enthusiastically after the space was repurposed for The Vessel, Willis said. Among those touring during the renovation was Chris Tiger, the Conference’s director of New Faith Communities. Some First Church members remember when he pastored at nearby Owasso United Methodist Church and those two churches served together on mission projects.

“I’ve been excited the whole time,” said Rev. Dr. Tiger.

He helps all the church planters across the Conference network with one another, Crawford said.

“The Conference believes in us and wants to help us,” Crawford said.

A $375,000 grant from New Faith Communities, distributed over 3 ½ years, provides major financing for The Vessel, which also has received funds from the Green Country District. Apportionments assigned to every local church support New Faith Communities.

A successful church planter and author from the East Coast, Paul Nixon, is assigned as Willis’ coach, according to Tiger.

The Vessel also is ministering to its community through a partnership with She Brews Coffee House, set to open this month in part of the converted retail space that includes a drive-through. The company employs women who formerly were incarcerated. The coffee shop is planning to operate six days a week, closing on Sundays.

Jaimie Willis, left, and Ray Crawford add their words of blessing to space under renovation for The Vessel FUMC South Campus, Claremore. The Vessel is one of three satellites of Claremore-First UMC, where Rev. Dr. Crawford is senior pastor. Willis is leading at The Vessel.