

MCPHER NOTES

A NEWSLETTER OF THE MCPHERSON FREE METHODIST CHURCH

February and March 2012

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FREEDOM FOCUS 2012

It happened again...I heard this disturbing phrase...human trafficking. Only this time it wasn't referencing some far-away nation. It was in my backyard of Wichita. Channel 3, KSN News, Thursday February 2, documented stories of powerless individuals victimized by those who used their vulnerability against them, robbing them of dignity and worth for monetary gain.

It's a story that's hard to fathom. Some dismiss this epidemic as a trumped up, politically-tilted cause. But the facts do not lie, and they are facts we dare not ignore or dismiss. At no other time in recorded history are there as many slaves in existence as there are today.

February 26 is **FREEDOM SUNDAY (Part 1)**, and we are



Linda Adams

privileged to host **DR. LINDA ADAMS** as our guest speaker. Linda is Director of International Child Care Ministries (ICCM), the child sponsorship program of the Free Methodist Church currently serving over 20,000 children in 30 countries. Linda began leading ICCM in 2008 after 17 years as a Free Methodist pastor. She is a graduate of Spring Arbor College and Asbury Theological Seminary, earning her D. Min. in 2000.

Linda will share with us this year's denominational focus for Freedom Sunday – *Stand for Children* – a challenge to respond

specifically to the needs of the nation of India where more children are trafficked than anywhere else in the world. She will also have information on specific children from Thailand's Lahu Project (2011 Advent Conspiracy focus) who are still in need of sponsors.

March 18 is **FREEDOM SUNDAY (Part 2)**, with **REV. KEVIN AUSTIN**



Kevin Austin

joining us for a weekend of focused interaction, preaching and teaching on the global "Not For Sale" movement and its integration with the denomination and the local church. Kevin is a Free Methodist U.S. missionary and serves as the Director of the Abolitionist Faith Community, overseeing Freedom Sunday, Freedom Shabbat, and the faith community network of "Not For Sale." Kevin is an ordained Free Methodist pastor and for many years was a missionary in Thailand. He writes:

Liberation does not necessarily mean freedom. Freedom is not easy. Ending slavery is not the end, it's the means to the end. Once liberated, God did not leave his people in Egypt, but brought them into a new future. Similarly, we cannot just end modern-day slavery and think the job is done. The work of God—and our work with God—is to live in the new future God has created for us and then to create new futures for others.

First, our work with God in creating new futures is holistic. God wants to set us all free—physically, emotionally, spiritually. Not just individuals, but God's plan includes families, societies, and nations.

Second, our work with God is hope-infused. We are not caught up in the misery of the issues, but celebrate the good things God is doing through us in helping others be free.

Third, our work with God includes others. We recognize that we have key solutions, but we work with everyone to bring about effective change. Some of these people will not be followers of Christ. This gives us opportunity to work for freedom in multiple ways.

Dawn Young, a member of the MFMC family, is helping to coordinate the various components of the Freedom Focus 2012, not only these February/March opportunities, but a long-term awareness



Dawn Young

and response to the issues surrounding human trafficking and ways in which we as individuals, as families, and as the church can respond. She shares some of her story and her passion for this ministry on Sunday, February 12.

Deborah Somerville
Senior Pastor
dsomerville@macfmc.org



Photo by Kenney Photography



P. Thomas Mayse
Pastor of Adult
Christian Education
and Visitation

ADULT MINISTRY

Dallas Burgeson
Associate Pastor of
Worship and
Discipleship



SENIOR ADULTS

In January and February 2012 the Adult Ministries Team is concentrating on Senior Adult and Home-bound ministries. A small team has joined Pastor Tom Mayse in addressing this opportunity in our community. Karen and Tom have been calling on numbers of our people. They are being joined by Pastor Everett Hind and Sondra Walker in developing a plan to systematically call on our Seniors.

Pastor Everett Hind and wife Verna have recently moved to McPherson. He is a retired Free Methodist pastor from Minnesota. He was also a superintendent of the Minn-I-Kota Conference. The Hinds are the parents of Deb Bailey and Carmon Penner. Everett is volunteering his time in visitation. He has many years of experience in Nursing Home chaplaincy. We welcome him to our Senior Adult Team.

Sondra Walker has worked at The Cedars for several years. She joins our team to help us become better organized. Senior adults are a passion of Sondra's.

The Senior adult team is actively seeking persons willing to help by visiting seniors. We will be represented at the Opportunity Fair on March 11. Drop by and talk with us about becoming a volunteer!

OPPORTUNITIES FAIR MARCH 11 2012

Come and find out:

- How to plug in
- Where your help is needed
- The range of ministries to choose from

Representatives from the various ministries will be present to answer questions.

WORSHIP NOTES

As I reflect on the All Worship Arts meeting on January 22 I am very excited about the future of Worship Arts here at the church. Though attendance was somewhat small we sensed some of the directions the Lord might be leading us together as we listened to one another. I will speak to these areas after I have opportunity in the coming weeks to meet with individuals who desire to help get things off the ground.

In the meeting we also discussed three broad hopes for Worship Arts. These hopes are:

- 1) **Broader Participation:** taking greater ownership in worship and listening to God together,
- 2) **Missional Orientation:** remembering the Church is a city on a hill and that neither worship nor the arts are restricted to what happens in this building, and
- 3) **Discipleship Foundation:** recognizing that all we do creatively together is worth doing only if it comes from a place of abiding in Christ.

If you are were unable to attend the forum on the January 22, stop by the church Monday through Thursday to speak with me about the ways you would like to participate and to hear about the directions we are already seeing God moving!

Music with a Mission at the McPherson Community Building

Sunday February 19
2:00 pm—8:00 pm

Do not miss this entertaining and educational opportunity to learn about the mission of McPherson County Feeds the Starving—you will be able to try a sample of the Numana soup that YOU can help package to send overseas April 28.

Featuring local musical talent of all ages. Freewill donations will be accepted; there will also be a bake sale and walking tacos available for purchase.



Jan O'Dell
Children's
Ministry Director

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Zach Fleming
Pastor of Student
Ministries



CHILDRENS EVENTS

TEDDY BEAR BREAKFAST

Teddy Bear Breakfast will take place on February 18 for kids age three through Kindergarten. Meet at the church in room 226! Call Jan at 242-6775 to RSVP.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is **February 22**. To connect with this day, grades 1-5 will join the adults in the Sanctuary for part of the evening, then will make pretzel prayer chains, with the pretzel in the form of praying hands.

SKATING PARTY

On **March 14**, students grade 1-5 will meet at the church at **5:30 p.m.** for pizza and leave at 6:00 for **Skateland** in Hutchinson. The skating session is from 6:30 to 7:30 and kids will be back to the church at 8pm. Signed permission forms are required for each child.

Any parents interested in driving for this event, please call Jan at 242-6755.

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

3rd—5th graders and parents are invited for a movie and pizza in the Youth Area on **Friday, March 30**. Pizza at 6:00 and Veggie Tales movie, *Robin Good & His Not-So Merry Men* to follow at 6:30 pm. Please RSVP.

PLAYDATES:

February 16 and 17; March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29.

PLAYDATE FIELD TRIPS:

On **February 16** kids will tour Dr. Cotton's office for Dental Health Month.

March 15, children will go bumper bowling! Meet at Jan's at 9:15; the group will bowl, then return by 11:00 am.

MARKETPLACE

Marketplace, the weekly gathering for kids in grades 1—5, meets at 6:30 on Wednesday nights. From February 8 to March 7, Marketplace will focus on **The Great Commandment**. From March 28 to April 18 the focus will be **Palm Sunday**.

STUDENT PROFILES



Name: Allison Craig
Parents: Mike & Dianne Craig
Grade: Junior (High School)
School: Homeschooled
Activities: *Bible Quizzing, Babysitting, work, hang out with friends, REMIX, piano*

What God has been teaching me lately: "God has been teaching me that I can't do things by myself. That I need to rely on Him every day instead of trying to do everything in my own strength."

Name: Morgan Howard
Parent: Susan Howard
Grade: Seventh
School: McPherson Middle School



Activities: *Basketball, Band, JOLT!*

What God has been teaching me lately: "God has been teaching me that to have true power, one must become a servant."

COURAGEOUS

You are invited to a free showing of *Courageous* (PG-13), the new film from the creators of *Fireproof*.

Friday, March 2 at 7 p.m.
Greer Auditorium at Central Christian College

As a follow-up to the movie, a Tuesday night **men's Bible study** will begin on March 13 (7:00 pm) and run for 8 weeks. Contact the church office for more details!



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

February 22, 2012
Sanctuary, 6:30 p.m.

Join us as children, teens and adults gather for this very special service of worship and the imposition of ashes as we mark the beginning of Lent, the start of the 40-day observance leading up to Easter (not including Sundays). Lent is a time of preparation for the resurrection of Jesus that follows his earthly ministry leading to his passion and death. It is a season that is often accompanied by fasting, repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

Marked By a Cross

Marked by a cross,
 Cherished and forgiven
 We are traveling home.

Called to be holy,
 Called to be happy,
 We are traveling home.

Across deserts,
 Over mountains
 We are traveling home.

God in our hearts,
 God in our lives
 We are traveling home.



--by Ruth Burgess

FEBRUARY

12	12:00 pm	Youth Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
13	4:30 pm	Outreach McPherson Mtg (The Well)
15	7:35 pm	Finance Team Meeting (_____)
16	9:00 am	Play Dates at Jan's Resume (308 N Elm)
17-20		Great Plains Winter Retreat (Colorado)
18	9:30 am	Teddy Bear Breakfast, 3's—K (Room 226)
22	7:35 pm	BOA Meeting (Dining Room)
24	6:00 pm	Quizzing Game Night (Youth Area)
25	TBA	"Little Sister" TWIGS night (Minneapolis)
27, 28	7:00 pm	Cupcake Club (check posters for location)

MARCH

1	7:00 pm	Missions Committee Meeting (Parlor)
2	7:00 pm	<i>Courageous</i> Movie Night (Greer @ CCC)
7	7:35 pm	Pastor's Cabinet Meeting (Deb's Office)
10	6:00 pm	TWIGS Mystery Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
11	10:00 am 12:00 pm	Opportunity Fair (Lobby) Youth Dinner (Fellowship Hall)
12	4:40 pm	Outreach McPherson Mtg (The Well)
14	5:30 pm 8:15 pm	Skating Party, Grades 1—5 (Hutchinson) Trustees' Meeting (Dining Room)
16-18		Quiz Meet in Greenville, IL
21	7:35 pm	Finance Team Meeting (Deb's Office)
26, 27	7:00 pm	Cupcake Club (check posters for location)
28	7:35 pm	BOA Meeting (Dining Room)
30	6:00 pm	Movie Night, Grades 3—5 (Youth Area)
31	1:00 pm	Project Haiti Sewing Party (Location TBA)

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUN	9:15 am 10:30 am 7:00 pm	Sunday School (Various Locations) Worship Service (Sanctuary) REMIX (Youth Area)
MON	6:00 pm	Financial Peace Univ. (Dining Rm)
TUE	6:30 am 1:00 pm 7:00 pm	Sr. High Prayer Group (601 S Ash) Staff Meeting <i>Courageous</i> Men's Study (begins 3/18)
WED	5:15 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm 7:35 pm	Bible Quiz Practice (Youth Area) Teach us to Pray (Parlor) Marketplace (Children's SS Rooms) JOLT! (Youth Area) Worship Band Practice (Sanctuary)
THU	8:00 am 9:00 am 6:30 pm	TOPS (Taking off Pounds Sensibly) Play Dates at Jan's (308 N Elm) Women's Bible Study (Dining Rm)
SAT	7:00 am	Men's Prayer Group (Dining Rm)

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