Autumn Highlights

Thursday, September 8
Next Man Up Fellowship Night, 6:30 pm at "The Barn" – Contact Mark Southard for more information about NextManUp events (MSouthard@southernhillscc.org)
The HACC Disciples Women kick off the season at 1:00 pm in the Library (Room 108). All women are invited to participate. For information contact Lynn Fisher (lynn@hacctulsa.org)
The Gospel of John Study, Thursdays through November 17 at 6:00 pm. Get details from Jessica Dyer (jessica@hacctulsa.org)

Friday, September 9
First Parents Night Out for 2016-17, from 6:00 to 10:00 pm at the church. Contact Darlene to sign up your children (darlene@hacctulsa.org)

Thursday, September 15
HACC Book Club resumes meeting at 11:00 am in the Library (Room 108). Join the discussion on The Zookeeper's Daughter by Diane Ackermann

Monday, September 19
Million Father March! Over 600 cities across America are hosting marches to encourage fathers to volunteer and be engaged in their children's schools. Key Elementary has asked NextManUp to create a High Five Line to welcome students and their fathers at 7:00 am (MSouthard@southernhillscc.org)

Thursday, September 22
Be Here! If you would like to learn more about HACC along with other visitors, this is for you! For information contact Courtney Richards (courtney@hacctulsa.org) for more information.

Sunday, September 25
CROP Walk – annual campaign to help feed the hungry around the world Meet at 2:00 pm at Boston Avenue Church. Sign up to walk or sponsor. See CROP poster in the commons for more information.

And, those are just the highlights in September! October brings a Tulsa Area Disciples event at the Tulsa State Fair, Fall Movie Night, Family Fall Festival and more!
GO! CROP WALK TIME IS HERE!

By now everyone should have heard “CROP WALK IS HERE!!!” But, have you picked up a WALKER’S packet? Dave Jones and I have plenty to share. If you can’t find us, send me an email and I will deliver one personally. **Want to WALK, but hate fund raising?** Raise Sponsor dollars on line. It’s easy with the instructions on the CROP WALK web site. **Not WALKing? Be a SPONSOR.** Find any WALKER and support their efforts to help defeat hunger here, and around the world.

Our efforts have made a difference to thousands of lives. Safe, reliable water, special seeds, training and tools help more efficient agriculture. More food means better health, more income, a chance to afford education, and more. Working together, we impact the lives of countless people we will never meet. No thank you notes will arrive. Just know children will eat better than ever, go to school with the energy to learn, and improve other lives in their countries.

*Alan Crider acrider2@cox.net*
Congratulations & Welcome:
William Boyd Gilpin was born on August 31, 2016 to Taylor & Kacey Gilpin. Neil & Bendy are the proud grandparents and Jo Ann Gilpin is his great grandmother. William was named after his late great grandfather, Bill Gilpin.

Sympathy for:
Priscilla Davidson and family at the death of her husband Kenneth Davidson on August 27, 2016. His services were held at Harvard Ave CC on August 31.

New Group Forming for 20 Somethings
A new season is upon us which always comes with the buzz of “Maybe it’s time to get connected.” If you’re a 20 Something wondering about connection, a new group is forming and will launch on Sunday, September 18th at 10:00 AM (Room 211).
Nobody will be carded so consider the group 20’s-ish. Whether you’ve started college, just finished, or finding your way into your first career, find a place of support with this new group. Show up on Day 1 or contact J. or Jessica Dyer at jessica@hacctulsa.org for more info. Also, if you’re not a 20-Something but know one, love one, or meet one this week, please spread the news and invite them to connect with this new opportunity for faith and fellowship.

Giving is more than a responsibility ---
it is a privilege; more than an act of obedience ---
it is evidence of our faith.
William Arthur Ward, American educator

Even if I give the whole of my worth to Him,
He will find a way to give back to me much more than I gave.
Charles Haddon Spurgeon, English Baptist preacher
**Believe!**

**WHO:** HACC Families with children ages 3 months – 5th Grade. Middle School siblings are welcome to attend as helpers with prior notice to Pastor Darlene.

**COST:** $15 per child/$25 per family

**WHAT:** A chance for a regular ‘date night’ for parents, and a fun evening of dinner and fellowship for the children!

**WHY:** To provide a safe, fun place for the kids to fellowship together each month. There are at least fourteen elementary schools represented by our kids 5th grade and under, the result being very few social opportunities for them to build community with each other. Also, it is vital to support parents by giving them a regular chance to spend quality time together.

**HOW:** Each PNO requires 16 staff and volunteers: 4 Kitchen & Registration Helpers, 2 Infant Nursery Helpers, 2 Toddler Nursery, and 8 Elementary Child Helpers. Each family who participates in PNO is expected to volunteer for one event per year. Supportive member volunteers fill in the remaining slots. Please sign up at the Children’s Welcome Center, or at the first PNO.

**WHEN:** The second Friday of every month, September through May, 6:00-10:00 pm

- September 9
- October 14
- November 11
- December 9
- January 13
- February 10
- March 10
- April 14
- May 12

**EVENING AGENDA FOR KIDS:** Dinner from 6-6:45ish, fellowship activities 6:45-8:30, movie 8:30-10:00pm

---

**Zumba at HACC**

Perfect for everybody and every body! Zumba is designed to bring people together to sweat it on. Zumba takes the "work" out of workout, by mixing low-intensity and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance fitness party. Kris Farnsworth, licensed Zumba instructor, leads our HACC classes.

No experience necessary -- wear standard "workout wear" with basic sneakers and bring a bottle of water! Class is $4 per person. Zumba Classes meet each Tuesday, from 5:30-6:30 pm in the Family Life Center.

*(And, if Zumba doesn’t appeal to you, we always have Tuesday & Thursday Yoga (6:30, 8:30 & 10:00 am) Fit for Life (10:00 am) and Pickleball (11:15 am & 6:30 pm on Tuesdays & 11:15 am Thursdays)*)
Believe!

Disciples Women to Meet
The HACC Disciples Women will kick off their new schedule with a meeting on **Thursday, September 8**, at **1:00 pm** in the Library (Room 108). All women of the church are invited to participate in the fellowship and mission projects of the Disciples women. For more information contact Lynn Fisher at lynn@hacctulsa.org or 918-742-5509.

September is here along with two new **Next Man Up** events. All men are invited to participate in these events.

**September 8 – NMU Fellowship Night @ the Barn!** The Cacys are opening their incredible gathering space for all men to gather for a night of food, fellowship, and gaming. This will serve as a Pep Rally of sorts to launch us well into the Fall season! *(Sign up sheet at the Peake Commons Welcome Center)*

**September 19 – Million Father March!** Over 600 cities across America are hosting such a march to encourage fathers to volunteer and be engaged in their children’s schools. Key Elementary has asked NMU to participate by creating a **High Five Line** to welcome students and their fathers on the 19th at 7:00 am.

Stay tuned for other plans currently in the works! To ask questions or join the movement, contact NMU leader, Mark Southard, at MSouthard@southernhillscc.org. **Will you be the next man up?**

**NEW!! Study of the Gospel of John: That You May Know**
Gail Knox, founder of Word Within International and teacher extraordinaire, will be teaching a 2 part class on the Gospel of John. This study will dive into John’s gospel, what it says, what it means and what it means to you. Workbooks will be made available at the first session. Invite a friend. Open to the public.

Thursdays, September 8 through November 17
No Childcare. Cost $20, checks made available to WWI.
6:00–7:30 pm

Sync Our Church Directory to Your Mobile Device
Now you can sync our church directory directly to your Apple, Android or Kindle Fire device with a FREE app!

Search for other members, and then email, call or text – right from the directory app.

1. Go to your device's App Store.
2. Search for Instant Church Directory.
3. Enter your email as it's listed in our church directory.
4. Enter the assigned device password into the app to begin synching.

If you have a listing and an e-mail address in our online photo directory, you can access the directory information anytime by downloading the Instant Church Directory app for your mobile device. If you aren’t listed in the directory, but are part of the HACC family, and would like to be in the directory (or on our e-mail list), please e-mail your information (and a picture would be fabulous) and we will include you in the directory. E-mail that info to betsey@hacctulsa.org.
New(ish) Wineskins

Neither do people pour new wine into old wineskins. If they do, the skins will burst; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins, and both are preserved.

(Mt 9:17)

“It is an exciting season in the life of Harvard Avenue Christian Church.” I say that to people all the time. We continue to see new families in worship every week – even through the summer which “everyone knows” is “when things slow down”. As you’ve heard me say: HACC didn’t get the memo.

Thing is, the season has lasted a while – which is both incredibly great and a little challenging. How do we keep finding meaning, beyond a flash of initial we’re-glad-you’re-here excitement? How do we keep our ongoing community … ongoing? How do we connect more deeply, in ways that are genuine and meaningful, not just tried and true?

One is to consider our ‘front door’. Not just the literal one (which is why we’ve staffed up our Greeters, and Welcome Center hosts, and why Deacons are ministers of hospitality, not just worship bulletin hander-outers) … but the virtual one as well.

More and more people (I’m sure there’s a statistic on this, but I’m just going to go with ‘more and more’) are finding us through our website. Either because they drive by and see us and look us up; or someone they know mentions us and they look us up; or they’re looking for churches in their neighborhood and they look us up; or … something.

So our virtual front door has had a little sprucing up. Visit www.hacctulsa.org and you’ll find a new ‘front page’, links to our story, information for newcomers, the Act Now section (which you see in your bulletin every week), links to our social media (about to be way more active, too!), and the latest sermons all right there with a click. (Enormous gratitude to Sonya Fernandez-Goen and her team for working with us and teaching us so much!)

Click further and you’ll find Ministries, Ways to Serve, and Connect right at your fingertips. Information on Sunday School classes, children, youth, outreach, health and fitness, music, resources for prayer and bible study, upcoming events, and the spiritual gifts inventory. There. There. There.

So. It looks kind of the same, but also a lot different. Spend some time at this virtual front door and see what YOU might find inside. We can’t just put new wine in old wineskins … we must constantly look to new ways, new faces, new opportunities, and new meaning. Our God is always doing a new thing … what a joy to be along for the ride!

---

Harvard Avenue Christian Church, 5502 S. Harvard, Tulsa, OK 74135 -- 918-742-5509 -- www.hacctulsa.org
Going Home

Sometimes you need a taste of home. Life flies by at the pace of a hummingbird’s flapping wings and before you can regain your balance you realize your soul needs a boost from home. With an active family of five, every day consists of five busy schedules going in about thirteen different directions. The math might seem impossible and science may prove otherwise, but it sure seems true. With an unheard of free twenty-four hours post worship last Sunday and into the Labor Day holiday, our family made the spontaneous decision to go home. Yes, we would be in the car on the road as long as we’d actually be there for a visit but… sometimes you just need to go home.

The welcome party was there when we finally pulled in Sunday night. Carrie’s brothers and their families, her grinning mother and heck, even a few neighbors who wondered why so many people we gathering, were out to embrace our little family. The cousins squealed and immediately engaged the rituals of their time together. There was a spread of food, new stories flowing that interwove with the stories that always get told when the family gathers, and some soothing crooner music playing on the radio.

The morning came quickly and a fresh breeze swept through the screen door as a gourmet breakfast was being prepped by the family known for their culinary flair. The newest member of the family, now four months old, was the circus entertainment as he had learned to roll from his back to his stomach and back again. We talked faith and jobs (and POLITICS!) and forthcoming surgery on grandma’s trick thumb. Grandma Anderson’s classic ham and cheese sandwiches were whipped together for a quick lunch before we loaded up to make the drive home where homework and laundry and haircuts and work generously awaited our return.

Before we left, I snapped this picture of my wife, her three brothers, and her mother. I can’t remember the last time we’ve taken a picture of the five of them. There is one hanging in our home from almost nine years ago. It’s just a static image snapped with a smart phone. You can’t hear the stories or the laughter or the tears by looking at it but you can see the joy of what it means to go home. Sometimes, you just need to go home.

Take your Back-to-HACC picture for the Directory

It’s back-to-school season and students are already bringing home order forms for their school pictures. The last HACC Pictorial Directory was done in 2013. Have you added a new person to your family since that time? Has your newborn grown into a budding youngster? Has life changed, or your hairstyle, and you’d simply like to update your picture for our online directory? Here’s your chance.

Our online directory is easily adapted and new members are added readily once they join the church. The same can occur for existing members. If you’d like to update your picture, you can do so on two Sunday mornings in September. Before The Rising, between services, and after Traditional worship on September 18th or 25th, you can gather in the Upper Commons (overlooking the prayer garden) to get your picture taken. We will not be printing photos or taking orders. It will consist of taking one simple photo and then getting on with your morning.

Thanks for helping keep us up to date! It is a big help as our growing community of faith tries to learn and welcome new faces and friends to the life of our church. Who’s ready to smile?
Welcome Mat Deadline

Please e-mail your articles to betsey@hacctulsa.org, drop them by the church office or fax them to 918-742-5501. The next article deadline is September 20 before noon.

Sign up for the Flower Calendar!

Thanks to all who give flower arrangements for Sunday morning worship. For $75, you can celebrate a special occasion or honor a loved one, with flowers professionally arranged and delivered weekly. You can select your week on the "flower calendar" with Betsey Owen (918-742-5509; betsey@hacctulsa.org. (If you take the flowers home with you, please return the vase to the church within the week. Thank you.)

We also have a "Flower" notebook in the front office and you can sign up for any Sunday of the year.

Sunday Attendance
August 28: Rising – 178; Traditional – 212; Total – 390
September 4: Rising – 125; Traditional – 170; Total – 295

The Welcome Mat Schedule for 2016
The Welcome Mat is published twice a month. Article deadlines for 2016 are: September 20; October 4, 18; November 1, 15; December 6, 20. E-mail articles to betsey@hacctulsa.org by noon on those Tuesdays.

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS
Sept. 8 Disciples Women Meeting, 1 pm
Sept. 9 Parents' Night Out, 6 - 10 pm
Sept. 13 Contruyendo Puentes, 6:30 pm
Sept. 14 Enneagram Class, 6:30 pm
Sept. 15 HACC Book Club, 11 am
Sept. 16 Middle School Lock-In, 8 pm to 8 am
Sept. 18 Bruce Barkhauer: Faith & Giving, 2:30 pm
    Children's Ministry Banquet, 6:00 pm
Sept. 19 Million Father March/High Five Line at Key Elementary, 7:00 am
Sept. 20 Newsletter deadline, noon
    Contruyendo Puentes, 6:30 pm
Sept. 21 Enneagram Class, 6:30 pm
Sept. 22 Be Here, 6:30 pm