Welcome to our conference family

On May 27, the Oklahoma Conference thanked God for the blessing of clergy growing in leadership. Above from left, gathered at OKC-St. Luke’s, newly ordained elders are: (front) Felecia Hensley, (Linda Harker, who chairs the Board of Ordained Ministry), Nancy McCullough, Anna Marie George, (Bishop Robert Hayes), Tari Carbaugh, Brandon Blacksten, Kathy Morris, Devon Krause; and (back row) Kris Tate, Rudy Freese, Timothy Trujillo Sr., Robert Duran, and Kathy Brown.

Elder Obed Alba, center, was received on Recognition of Orders.

With Rev. Harker and Bishop Hayes are, at center, newly commissioned deacons Andrew Haynes and Thomas Carruthers, left and right.

From left, newly commissioned elders: (front) Judy Conner, Patricia Johnson, Lory Fahle, Shannon Rodenberg, (Bishop Hayes), Stephen Davis, Andrew Haire, Mark Polson; and (back row) Sarah Mitchell-Thornhill, Jennifer Ahrens-Sims, Jon Odom, Robert Harrison (and Rev. Harker).
YOU ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD —
By the glow of cellphone flashlights, Kaily Elizabeth Robison is baptized May 10 by Charla Gwartney at Tulsa-Faith UMC. Electrical power failed in the 9:40 a.m. worship, but the service continued on that stormy weekend. Children sang, and third-graders received Bibles, all witnessed by the 294 worshippers in attendance. Robison is the granddaughter of Susie and Larry Dyer.

Photo by Courtney Fray

Legacy Planning Using a Farm or Ranch — Part 1

Do you own a farm or ranch and are thinking about retirement and the next season of your life? Do you find it difficult to continue running an ongoing farm or ranch operation? Are you interested in exploring the various options available to your family? Do you need cash and retirement income from the sale of your farm or ranch? Would you like to gift your farm or ranch and continue farming or ranching? Would you like to receive retirement income and leave a bequest to your children and grandchildren?

There are significant financial, tax, and estate planning advantages for families who make legacy gifts using farmland or ranchland. Given that the value of land has increased significantly over the past several years, many families have significant net worth. As these families move toward retirement, they often find it necessary to sell part or the entire farm or ranch to generate retirement income.

Legacy planning can be a great component of any family’s plan to sell the farm or ranch. They can offset the potential capital gains tax liability that selling would produce. In addition, they can achieve their personal, financial, estate, and charitable planning goals.

Farms or ranches often include highly appreciated assets with a low cost basis that would produce a large capital gain if sold. Because of the increased income and capital gains tax rates resulting from the American Taxpayer Relief Act, many taxpayers who would have otherwise paid taxes at lower rates in the past will now be subject to the top federal capital gains rate of 23.8% and income tax rate of 39.6%. Also, there will be state income and capital gains taxes.

Therefore, a family contemplating retirement may benefit from a plan with charitable components. Adding charitable components to a family’s retirement and estate plan may avoid the negative effects of taxes normally associated with an outright sale of the farm.

During the next three issues, we will discuss three different planning opportunities that will enable families to achieve their goals. If you are interested in exploring the various opportunities, please contact David Battles, CPA, at 800-259-6863 or dbattles@okumf.org. There is no obligation, and all inquiries are confidential.

The Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation
4201 N Clasen Boulevard, Oklahoma City, OK 73118-2400
WWW.OKUMF.ORG • 800-259-6863

OIMC annual meeting dates back 173 years

On June 4-7, delegates and guests of the Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference are meeting west of Anadarko, at the OIMC’s Southwest Region Center. This is their 173rd Annual Conference session.

Theme is “For Such a Time as This,” referencing Esther 4:14. On June 6, table talks will focus on “Where are we going?” and “How are we going to get there?,” the OIMC Advocate reported.


Worship leaders include Marcus Briggs Cloud and Sam Samuel III, who filled roles in worship at the 2012 General Conference.

On June 5, a 2-mile run/walk will raise funds for youth and young adult teams that carry out mission projects at the Sager Brown Depot, in Baldwin, La., for UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief). Registration is $10 per entry.

The Annual Conference Offerings will support (1) youths and their adult coordinators who will attend Youth 2015, a national United Methodist event, in late June in Orlando, Fla.; and (2) Danilo Diaz Rivas of the Methodist Church in Colombia. He ministers to the indigenous Zenú tribe in Colombia. Rev. Diaz said the Colombian Methodist Church dates only to 1996, and the denomination has about 5,000 members.

Archivist Christina Wolf will attend, displaying historic photos that need identification, and offering to digitize photos or documents for the OIMC Archives.

(from The Advocate, May-June 2015)
Tempting tummies
Camps’ kitchen crews collaborate with chef

By HOLLY McCRAY

Suddenly I was so hungry. Something chocolate was flowing into a baking pan. I smelled roasting pork and saw a chef mixing barbecue sauce. Cooks stirred scalloped potatoes. Bright-green broccoli simmered. Baskets awaited croissant sandwich buns.

Five cooks from Oklahoma Conference’s three camps recently spent two days in hands-on training with Executive Chef Scott Schauer amid the happy hubbub in OKC-St. Luke’s extensive kitchen. Egan’s manager Josh Pulver and Ed Parker, Conference Camps director, also participated.

For both this church and the camps, guests can’t sit at just one table. They feed hundreds of people at once. To succeed, they don’t merely multiply ingredients for a recipe that serves five. And so their time together at St. Luke’s involved commercial-size pots and pans, multiple ovens, walk-in refrigerators, and enough food to satisfy hundreds.

Chef Schauer welcomed Parker’s request to lead the training. The chef holds a hotel/restaurant management degree from the University of Houston. This is his fifth year of service at St. Luke’s Church.

“I want to share my knowledge; it does me no good to keep it to myself,” he said. The event also was a valuable opportunity for the camps’ kitchen staffs to exchange information, he said.

Parker spoke of changes in the camps’ food services and his desire to offer more healthy choices. Physical and spiritual strength go hand-in-hand, he said. Parker enjoys cooking; he and his wife hosted the staff who attended training.

“We are trying to elevate quality for our campers,” Parker said. “It’s important that we serve food that is healthy, looks good, and saves money.”

One food distribution company now will supply all three camps. Parker said that bulk purchasing will reduce expenses.

“You want to be able to provide good food and be able to pay for it,” Schauer agreed. “I want to make sure the money I’m given is used wisely.”

For example, he makes a pulled pork recipe by using pork butt, which costs about $1.75 per pound, instead of brisket, considerably more expensive. That’s one of the dishes he shared with the camps’ kitchen teams.

“When somebody says something about saving money, you’re going to try it,” said Peggy East from Canyon Camp. Chicken enchiladas and “chicken salad with Lawry’s Seasoned Salt” were among her favorite dishes at the training.

Donnie Craig from Camp Egan said, “We got some really good new recipe ideas.” She relished the individual meat loaves they made with barbecue sauce (instead of ketchup or tomato sauce).

“IT was a great idea,” Craig said.

During the two days, the camps crews served alongside the church’s food service staff.

When I visited, they all were preparing for 440 luncheon guests at St. Luke’s. Parker described the remarkable scene as 40 pounds of chicken and 4 gallons of mayonnaise, plus other ingredients, became chicken salad.

But that chocolate mixture had my attention. The cooks were making “chocolate cobbler.” It was delicious, according to both East and Craig, and they will serve it at camp.

So now I’m packing my walking shoes, flashlight, and Bible. “Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.” (Psalm 34:8)
Among the 511 churches in the Oklahoma Conference, 443 of them gave financial support to the denomination’s Advance mission projects and missionaries in 2014. That 78 percent participation in The Advance is the highest among all annual conferences in the South Central Jurisdiction.

The Great Plains and the Rio Texas Conferences each reported 55 percent participation. Oklahoma’s churches gave:

- $446,749 to projects, and
- $147,003 to missionaries.

Total financial support to The Advance was $593,752 from Oklahoma’s churches.

“The Advance is one of our best methods for ensuring that our gifts are processed and received by the projects and missionaries that they’re gifted to in a timely manner and a secure manner as well,” said Becky Harrell. She is the jurisdiction’s mission advocate.

“These projects go through an intense audit every three years. They have to continue to qualify.”

The Advance is a channel for second-mile giving to designated United Methodist mission projects or ministries. The General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) processes these contributions, and 100 percent of each gift goes to the chosen mission.

GBGM matched online donations to Advance projects on Dec. 3, the date for Giving Tuesday, a national initiative for charities.

**OU Chinese Fellowship gains official status**

The OU Chinese Fellowship in Norman was approved as a new Advance project in May. Number is 3022084.

Missionary Fuxia Wang leads this growing fellowship.

Due to its success, it also is a model for outreach to international college students and their families. Rev. Wang and Daniel Dennison, OU Wesley Foundation director, are training other UM groups.

The announcement was made by Karen Distefano, Conference secretary of Global Ministries. Email her at kkririe@aol.com.

GBGM projects and people familiar to many Oklahoma United Methodists were among the beneficiaries.

A few of those: Cookson Hills Center received $18,290, and its director, Meri Whitaker, $13,525; Manos Juntas Mexico (Hands Together Mexico), $22,764; and Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso, Texas, $6,125.

The South Central Jurisdiction consists of 12 annual conferences in eight states. A total of 2,699 churches in the jurisdiction gave $5,898,029 to Advance projects and missionaries in 2014.

## Births

**JONES** – Jordyn Brynn Jones was born May 17, 2015. She is the daughter of Jennifer and Rev. Jeremy Jones, pastor at Warner UMC.

**BLACKSTEN** — Elizabeth “Elsie” Lila Blacksten was born May 9, 2015. She is the daughter of Courtney and Rev. Brandon Blacksten, pastor at Hydro UMC.

## Passages

**FORSMAN** — Rev. Dr. Donald Lee Forsman, 89, of Tulsa, died April 30, 2015. Don served 50 years as a pastor and district superintendent. In Oklahoma he pastored Tulsa-Lake Station, Caddo, Atoka, Wetumka, and Cherokee (1948-1962); he then transferred to New Mexico. In retirement, he served Tulsa-Trinity.

Among survivors are his wife, Ruby, and sons Mike and Ron.

Service was May 4 at Tulsa-Boston Avenue UMC. Memorial gifts to: Boston Avenue Memorial UMC. Part-time. Call 580-338-6501; ask for Pastor Gary or Connie.

**YOU CAN SAVE A CHILD**

Circle of Care is partnering with OKDHS and other nonprofit agencies to find homes for 11,000 Oklahoma children in need of a safe, nurturing home. You, or someone you know, can save a child’s life. Join us!

Circle of Care 1-866-978-2956 Today

# Employment

- **Accounting**: United Methodist Ministry Center, Oklahoma City. Full-time. Accounting degree required. Email resume by June 9 to Brian Bakeman at bbakeman@okumc.org.

- **Contemporary Worship Singers**: OKC-St. Andrew’s UMC. Part-time. Need male and female singers with strong vocal skills. Call Ginny Pass at 692-4242 ext. 102, or email gpass@saokc.org.

- **Children’s Ministry Director**: Piedmont-First UMC. Part-time. Contact Randy Wade at rwade@piedmontumc.org.

- **Custodian**: OKC-Chapel Hill UMC. Part-time, evenings and weekends. Email resume to Brock Peters at brock@mychapelhill.org

- **Summer Spectrum Coordinator**: Norman-McFarlin UMC. Oversees summer elementary childcare program. Send resume to Taylor Concialdi at tconcialdi@okumc.org

- **Youth Director**: Guymon-Victory Memorial UMC. Part-time. Call 580-338-6501; ask for Pastor Gary or Connie.

- **Minister of Pastoral Care**: Sunny Lane UMC in Del City. 15 hours per week. Call 405-677-3347 or send resume to church@sunnylanecune.com

- **Bookkeeper/Treasurer**: Part-time. OKC-Nichols Hills UMC. For more information contact Trevor Smith at 405-842-1486 or visit www.nicholshillsumc.org.

  *(Churches: Submit job openings to Chris Schuetz, CSchuetz@okumc.org, in the Conference Dept. of Communications. There is no cost.)*
THE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN MISSION IS NOW ...

Mission u

What is the connection between what we eat and what we believe? A few years ago, participants in Mission u as well as other United Methodist Women (UMW) programs focused on this very connection.

Today in Broken Arrow, 550 students identified as chronically hungry in 25 different schools receive backpacks full of nutritious food each weekend. It started small; four women from St. Stephen's UMC, Broken Arrow, committing to donate $130 per year so children would not go hungry.

What prompted this outpouring of love and mission? A lesson about how people could offer love and help to others in the name of Christ that ended with a question about who might be hungry in their community.

“When we explored this question, we discovered a population of chronically hungry children in our public school system that we never knew existed,” said Dr. Doris Smith, one of the program’s initial organizers and donors.

“As our women thought and prayed about what response we could make, individual women committed to support a child for a school year.”

Smith is a longtime educator from Tulsa and previously worked for Circle of Care.

LONG HISTORY OF INVOLVEMENT

This kind of action is not uncommon for Methodist women. In a 2011 Circuit Rider article, UM executive Andris Salter wrote about the six women who joined together in Boston over 145 years ago with just a few pennies to organize for mission.

“When the women saw the dire need of women in other countries, they saved their money to send female missionaries to work with these women. These women understood that they could not do the work alone, so they organized to meet the need, becoming the first UMW.”

Today, that work continues all around the world, and is often inspired by learning opportunities called Mission u that take place in every United Methodist conference.

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

Three years ago, the School of Christian Mission was rebranded with the tagline, “Learning together for the transformation of the world.”

In a recent interview, former UMW Conference President Kathy Caldron reflected on the importance of her own learning experiences at the yearly mission education event.

“Mission education helps to expand my concepts of mission and broadens my understanding of response to social issues. Over the years I have learned more about life and issues in other countries, global economics, people with disabilities, other religions, and books of the Bible.”

Each year, three studies are offered to participants. The spiritual growth study focuses on the interaction of one’s interior spiritual life and the world in which they live.

The geographic study highlights a particular country, exploring the faith, culture, and mission connections in the featured location.

The special interest study focuses on areas of interest to those in the church. While this year’s focus is on disability awareness, past studies have broached such topics as globalization, poverty, Native American relations, and public education.

All studies are offered in the spirit of Nelson Mandela’s mantra, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

LEARNING TOGETHER

This insert contains all information needed to get registered for this year’s session of Mission u. Women and men, children and youth, pastor and lay persons are all eligible and encouraged to participate. Scholarships are available, with preference given to first time participants.

CEUs are available for pastors and advanced course credit is available for Certified Lay Servants who fully participate in the weekend session.

The most important part of learning together happens when participants can make real changes in the world.

When asked how learning together has transformed Caldron’s life, she was quick to answer: “I promote recycling and conservation of resources. It motivated me to establish a local retreat away from our church. I have begun to notice areas of improvement for accessibility.”

Together, the world can be changed and it begins with each of us. Join us this summer as we learn together to transform the world.

LOCATION
Oklahoma City University
2501 N. Blackwelder, Oklahoma City

DATES
Weekend:
Friday, July 17 through Sunday, July 19
Registration..............................3 p.m. (begins)
Supper.................................5 p.m. (school begins)
One Day Plus:
Sunday, July 19 and Monday, July 20
Registration..............................3 p.m. (begins)
School.................................6:30 p.m. (begins)

LEADERSHIP
Rev. Derek Belase, dean
derekbelase@yahoo.com | 405-714-1554
Jo Ellen Reed, assistant dean
jreed@sunnylaneumc.com | 405-455-1913
Flo Conklin, registrar
flojconk@sbcglobal.net | 918-967-2407

SPONSORS
Oklahoma Conference
United Methodist Women and
The Mission and Service Ministry Team

CONTINUING EDUCATION
LAY SPEAKERS
Participation counts for an advanced course

PASTOR
1 CEU credit is awarded for participation in the weekend school; 0.8 hours awarded for participation in the One Day Plus school

SCHOLARSHIPS
We are happy to announce that scholarships will be available for youth, children, and adults, with preference to first-time attendees.

• 4 – Full scholarships for youth
• 4 – Full scholarships for children
• 4 – ½ Scholarships for adults
• 2 – ½ Scholarships for commuters

For scholarship information contact: Flo Conklin, flojconk@sbcglobal.net | 918-967-2407

SPIRITUAL GROWTH STUDY—Created for Happiness: Understanding Your Life in God

GEOGRAPHIC STUDY—Latin America: People and Faith

SPECIAL INTEREST STUDY—The Church and People with Disabilities

Oklahoma Conference, United Methodist Women, www.okumc.org/UMW

A NOTE FROM THE DEAN

By now, you are probably familiar with the mission statement of The United Methodist Church. Our church is to be about disciple-making for world transformation. How do we do that? There are many avenues through which this happens. One of those avenues is to be educated about the ever-changing nature of the world in which we live.

The task of Mission u is “learning together for the transformation of the world.” You are especially invited to participate in this unique learning experience at our Oklahoma City University, where you can go away equipped to change the world. Each year, an untold number of people are impacted by this historic educational opportunity.

This year we will focus on our relationship with global ministries as well as deaconsesses and home missionaries. Many special guests will be a part of our program, meaning you will not want to miss out on any of the excitement. If you have been saying for years that you were going to participate in Mission u, this is your year! Now is the time to get registered. See you in OKC very soon.

Rev. Derek Belase

Learning Together for the Transformation of the World

When study leads to action, lives are changed.
MISSION PREACHER

Our weekend preacher is Rev. H. Sharon Howell, president of Saint Paul School of Theology. As a member of the Kansas East (now Great Plains) Conference, she retired in December 2012 after serving seven years as president of Scarritt-Bennett Center in Nashville, Tennessee. She also served as a staff member at Saint Paul, seven years as district superintendent, as well as senior pastor of First UMC in Lawrence. She was a member of and served a term as president of the General Commission on the Status and Role of Women in The United Methodist Church. Upon her return to Kansas, First UMC in Lawrence celebrated her retirement with a Pastor Emerita honor.

Sharon is passionate about Saint Paul School of Theology and names her time at Saint Paul as a life-shaping experience. Upon accepting the position, Howell said, “My 18 months of retirement have given me time for reflection, reading, and renewal. Only Saint Paul School of Theology could call me out of retirement. I am humbled to be asked to provide transitional leadership as the interim president while the work of the Presidential Search Committee continues. I am grateful for the invitation from the Board of Trustees and share their commitment to a vital and vibrant future for Saint Paul.”

As a longtime supporter of Schools of Mission, we are pleased to welcome her to Oklahoma as she proclaims the word of God for us.

FUTURE STUDIES

2016: The Bible and Human Sexuality * Latin America * Climate Justice
2017: A Covenantal Community * The Missionary Conferences of the UMC * Climate Justice
2018: Seeking Health and Wholeness * The Missionary Conferences of the UMC * What about our money?

MISSION PROJECT

This year’s mission project is putting together school supply packets. The packets will be donated to Skyline Urban Ministry in Oklahoma City and Restore Hope in Tulsa. The packaging of packets will take place on Saturday afternoon. Items do not have to meet UMCOR standards as they will be distributed locally. Please bring any of the following items with you to Mission u.

You will find collection boxes near the registration area.

- Blunt scissors
- Packaged pencils
- Paper, spiral notebooks, 8½” x 11”
- 2½-inch eraser
- 24-count crayon boxes
- 30-centimeter ruler, hard or flexible

LATIN AMERICA: PEOPLE & FAITH

We are in the Americas. In a certain sense this mission study is about us. We share the same corner of the world, we are neighbors, we are interconnected, but really the study is about another America – Latin America, a concept created in the economic and political realm. The definition and list of countries that form the region change depending on the intended goal. Most of this study will be focused on the Portuguese- and Spanish-speaking countries and the Caribbean Islands, like Cuba, but when relevant to the theme, the English- and French-speaking Caribbean Islands (like Haiti) are included.

GREG TOLLE

As the son of a minister, Rev. Dr. Greg Tolle experienced his call to ministry while in college at Oklahoma City University. Greg answered the call first by serving on church staffs as a youth minister for nine years. Following ordination, he served as senior minister at the United Methodist churches in Snyder, Mountain Park, Heaver, Durant, and Caddo before being appointed to Duncan in 2011. Greg served on the Board of Ordained Ministry for eight years and currently chairs for the Commission on Equitable Compensation.

Greg earned his Bachelor of Arts in Religion from OCU, his Master of Divinity from Texas Christian University, and his Doctor of Ministry from Drew Theological School.

Greg is the author of four books, three of a series: “Lectionary Tales for the Pulpit” (Series IV, Cycle A; Series V, Cycle C; and Series IV, Cycle B) and “Experiencing Easter,” all published by CSS Publishing.

Greg is married to Hadley, who is a librarian for Duncan Public Schools, and they are the proud parents of Spencer, who attends East Central University, and Bridget, who attends Duncan High School.

JULIE TAYLOR

As the executive for Spiritual Growth, Julie Taylor’s responsibilities include relating to spiritual growth work at all levels of the organization, fostering spiritual and theological foundations for the work of United Methodist Women (UMW), assisting with leadership training, and helping to produce the spiritual growth studies each year. Julie first came to the organization of UMW in 2000 as the Executive for Child and Family Advocacy.

She received her master’s degree in Christian Spiritual Formation and Leadership from Spring Arbor University, Michigan, and has a bachelor’s degree in Christian Education from Asbury University, Kentucky. She is professionally certified in Christian Education through The United Methodist Church and affiliated with the New York Annual Conference.

From 1991 to 2000, Julie was director of Harvest of Hope, a Christian hunger education retreat program of the Society of St. Andrew. Originally from Eclectic, Alabama, Julie currently lives in New York City and works at the Interchurch Center on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

JOHN “RUSTY” WILLIAMS

Rev. John D. “Rusty” Williams is a native of Oklahoma. He grew up between Greenleaf and Tenkiller Lakes. He attended Northeastern Oklahoma State University, Tulsa University, and Phillips Graduate Seminary. He married Shirley Goss, and they have two children. His hobbies are cooking and gardening.

Rusty taught Spanish at Broken Arrow High School before entering ordained ministry. When he was a child he traveled in Mexico and developed a fascination for Latin America.

He has made multiple mission trips to Mexico and Bolivia. He has also made trips to El Salvador, Costa Rica, Honduras, and Uruguay.

PAT HOERTH

Pat Hoerth is a United Methodist deaconess, serving at Turtle Rock Farm: A Center for Spirituality, Sustainability and Healing. There, in north central Oklahoma on a centennial farm on the Great Plains, she leads retreats that help guests connect with creation and learn ways to live more sustainably with the great web of life. She also leads workshops and retreats to help people experience the city in nature, and supports the work of an urban farm in Oklahoma City.

Studies

LATIN AMERICA: PEOPLE & FAITH

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The United Methodist Church. Upon her return
MISSION OFFERING

With an emphasis on two of this year’s mission studies – Latin America and Disabilities – this year’s mission offering will benefit ADVANCE project #3021601, which focuses on restoring dignity and training handicapped teenagers and young people from low-income households in Uruguay.

The Methodist Church has worked for 85 years giving attention to youth and adults with disabilities in the periphery of Montevideo Hill. It has been adapting to changes and needs in society. Currently the Institute of Good Will serves 100 young people with biological and social disabilities. Education is provided by recognizing their particular characteristics and valuing the potential of each student. Students are trained in occupations such as carpentry, tailoring, cooking, crafts, and cosmetics so they can compete in the job market.

THE CHURCH AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

This study is designed to increase awareness of issues around disability awareness by discussing attitudinal and architectural barriers encountered by individuals with disabilities. The study covers ways to enhance full participation of people with vision and hearing loss, as well as people with mobility loss as well as helping participants engage in advocacy to help the church become more welcoming and accessible to those with disabilities. The church is incomplete unless the gifts of all are nurtured and put to use.

YOUTH AND CHILDREN’S STUDIES

Weekend school only
Topic – Latin America

Children’s Leader
TAMARA FERREBEE

Tamara moved to Newalla in 2010. She and her husband, Don, have three active boys, Tony, Travis, and Nathan, and stay very active in the boys’ activities. Tamara became the church secretary at Harrah UMC in September 2012 and now also serves as the youth director.

Youth Leader
HANNAH PHILLIPS

Hannah is a full-time youth director and part-time nerd. She’s passionate about a lot of things (1990s Marvel and DC comics, pasta, Star Wars) but she’s overwhelmingly overjoyed about doing ministry in different ways. She grew up without a church family, but all that changed when her dad bribed her into going to a local United Methodist youth group. She was intrigued enough to keep going back to hear more about Jesus, loving all people, and something called ministry and all that it encompasses. Those messages impacted her life in ways she never imagined (like going to Bolivia for missions, deciding to actively live her life more like Christ’s, and hearing and accepting the call to youth ministry). Now all she wants to do is impact lives with those same messages that so radically changed hers.
Oklahoma Conference MISSION u

Adult Registration Form

Weekend School Friday - Sunday, July 17-19, 2015

Studies - Mark your 1st and 2nd choice:
The Pursuit of Happiness ____________________________
The Church and People with Disabilities __________________

Female □  Male □  Couple □

Name ___________________  Preferred Name ______________

Address ______________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ___________Zip _____________

Email __________________  Phone ( ___ ) ______________

Church ___________________ District ______________________

Laity □ Clergy □ 1st Time Attendee □

Number of years attended __________________________

Emergency Contact ___________________ Relationship ______________

Contact Phone ( ___ ) ___________________

Please indicate status: CEU □ (must attend all classes for credit)

Special needs __________________________________________________________________________

Price includes a book for registrations received by June 1, 2015.

Weekend School
Adult full package includes tuition, housing and meals...$135.00
Commuter package with meals (not staying on campus) ......... 105.00
Commuter package without meals....................................... 65.00

Meal tickets available for purchase at registration desk

\[\text{Amount Enclosed $} \text{________} \]

One Day Plus School
Adult full package includes tuition, housing and meals...........$80.00
Commuter package with lunch (not staying on campus) ......... 55.00

\[\text{Amount Enclosed $} \text{________} \]

Housing will be in 2- and 4-bedroom suites with full-size beds.

Child Registration Form

Study—Latin America

July 17-19, 2015—Weekend only
Children’s School—first through sixth grades

Male □  Female □

Name __________________________ Relation to child ______________

Date of Birth ____/____/_____  Grade in Fall 2015 ______________

Address ______________________________________________________

City __________________________ State ___________Zip _____________

Child / full package per child ........................................... $85.00
Commuter package with meals ........................................... 45.00
Commuter package without meals ...................................... 25.00

WHAT TO BRING:

Bring Bible, notebook, pen & pencils, flashlight, casual clothing, jacket or sweater, swimsuit, comfortable walking shoes, rain apparel, twin-size bed linens, pillows, blankets, towels & wash clothes, and personal hygiene items. Leave your cellphones at home—bring an alarm clock!

To whom it may concern:
The undersigned does hereby give permission for my child ____________________________ to attend and participate in activities sponsored by the MISSION u on July 17-19, 2015.

We (I) authorize an adult, in whose care the minor has been entrusted, to consent to any x-ray examination, anesthetic, medical, surgical or dental diagnosis or treatment and hospital care, to be rendered to the minor under general or special supervision and on the advice of any physician or dentist licensed under the provision of the Medical Practice Act on the medical staff of a licensed hospital, whether such diagnosis or treatment is rendered at the office of said physician or at said hospital.

The undersigned shall be liable and agree (s) to pay all costs and expenses incurred in connection with such medical and dental services rendered to the aforementioned child pursuant to the authorization. Should it be necessary for our (my) child to return home due to medical reasons, or otherwise, the undersigned shall assume all transportation costs.

The undersigned does hereby give permission for our (my) child to ride in any vehicle designated by the adult in whose care the minor has been entrusted while attending and participating in activities sponsored by the MISSION u. I consent to the use of my child’s image or voice in photographs, audio and/or video recordings taken during the course of the event for the purpose of promoting MISSION u.

Parents must read and sign the permission slip below!

First Name ___________________  Last Name ____________

Parent’s cell ( _____ ) __________  Parent’s work phone ( _____ ) __________

To whom it may concern:

The undersigned does hereby give permission for my child ____________________________ to attend and participate in activities sponsored by the MISSION u on July 17-19, 2015.

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Parent Consent Form (print)

To whom it may concern:
The undersigned does hereby give permission for my child ____________________________ to attend and participate in activities sponsored by the MISSION u on July 17-19, 2015.

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Oklahoma Conference

2015 clergy appointments

(Boldface words signify clergy and parish changes implemented in May.)

CIMARRON DISTRICT
Superintendent Charlie Graves

Aline/Cleo Springs..................Rachel Parrott
Alva..................................Terry N. Martindale
Arapaho.........................Dean Brookshier
Arnett.........................Rusty Husted
Beaver..............................L. Don Griffin
Boise City/Kenton..............Cynthia Robertson Riedel
Buffalo/Fort Supply.............Phillip Davis
Canute................................Timothy P. Israel
Capron................................Clare Struebing
Carmen/Dacoma...................John Bizzell
Chapel Hill (Custer County).....Wendie Jenkins-Wilson
Cherokee............................Robert Duran
Cheyenne...........................Alex B.J. Costea
Clinton..............................Roland A. Youngberg
Custer City/Independence.....Gregory A. Keith
Elk City.............................Terry D. Koehn
Associate.........................Devon B. Krause
Erick................................Jack Atkinson
Fairview (at Slapout)/Catesby..Mike Mahaffey
Fargo/Gage........................Jeff Ralston
Fay..................................Larry B. Harlan
Felt ..................................Charles Wiggins
Forgan/Gate.........................Jeff Mildren
Freedom/Quinlan.................Scott Ware
Goodwell, Centenary/OPSU Campus
Associate.........................Ann Marie George
Guymon, Victory Memorial.....Gary Holdeman
Associate.........................Tino Espinoza
Hardy..................................Lee George
Hooker/Tyrone.....................Craig Denslow
Hydro..................................Brandon Blackston
Keyes/Marella.....................Dwight Odell
Laverne/Rosston.................Roger E. Parker
Leedey/Hammon..................Robert “Chuck” Gilbert
Mooreland.........................Larry Masoner
Morning Star........................Jacki Banks
Sayre..................................Marvin Stuckey
Seiling................................Norm Wasson
Sharon/Mutual.....................Debbie Kerr
Shattuck..............................Rick Trobaugh
Texhoma..............................Mike Enright
Thomas...............................Warren “Kip” Heathley, Jr
Turpin/Baker.........................Todd Bergman
Union Center.......................Herb Bridgewater
Vici/Lenora.........................Don Whitman
Vida en Abundancia..............David Guajardo
Waynoka/Cheyenne Valley........Barbara Fyffe
Weatherford........................Lynn E. Brack
Woodward............................Charles Baumann
Woodward, First..................Shannon Davis
Woodward, New Horizon.........Becky Pierson

EXTENSION MINISTRIES
Wesley Foundation, NWOSU...........Deb Corr
Wesley Foundation, SWOSU...Elizabeth Horton-Ware

COUNCIL OAK DISTRICT
Superintendent Dan Peil

Avant........................................Linda Grounds
Bixby............................Daniel W. Pulver
Bristow First .....................Matt Thompson
Bristow First .....................Katharine Hill
Broken Arrow, Abiding Harvest...Chris Buskirk
Broken Arrow, First...............Larry G. Varvel
Associate............................Deseree Sharp
Broken Arrow, Heritage........Scott M. Rodgers
Broken Arrow, St. Stephen’s......Kirtley E. Moelling
Catcossa, Disciple...............Kurt G. Glassco
Collinsville, Meadowcreek.....Brian K. Mangan
Cowa....................................Sara Pugh-Montgomery
Depew...............................Cheryl Peters
Glenpool Living Water...........Heather W. Nygard Scherer
Haskell/Porter.....................Paul S. Vickery
Jenks......................................Rudy Freese
Kelvyn.................................Dick Woodford
Leonard.........................Kenneth A. Smith
Mannford.......................David Rowley
Oologah..............................Jennifer Long
Owasso.....................Charles W. Horton
Associate............................James Cinocca
Associate............................D. T. “Tad” Boatman
Sand Springs.......................Donald A. Tabberer
Sapulpa..............................G. Allen Schneider
Skiatook.............................Susan Whitley
Tulsa......................................Lisa Hines
Verdigis.............................Mark T. Whiteley
Tulsa-Aldersgate/Rose Hill......Patricia Johnson
Tulsa-Ashbury..........Tom Harrison Jr.
Associate...........................Richard D. Read
Associate...........................Guy Ames III
Associate...........................Gloria McGee-Denton
Associate...........................Todd Miller Craig
Associate...........................Charles Ryser Jr.
Associate...........................James Lenderman
Associate...........................Jon Odom
Tulsa-Boston Avenue.............David Wiggs
Associate............................William Tankersley III
Associate............................Guy Crowell
Tulsa-Epworth.....................Richard Bland
Tulsa-Faith............................Charla Gwiney
Associate............................Erma Pregler
Associate............................James Lambert
Tulsa-First..........................R. Wade Paschal
Associate...........................Connie J. Cole Jeske
Associate...........................Mark Polson
Tulsa-Lake............................Aaron Tiger
Tulsa-Memorial Drive............Temple Diehl
Tulsa-New Haven...................Cynthia Havlik
Associate...........................Suzanne Davis
Tulsa-Nueva Esperanza........Daniel Llanos-Jimenez
Tulsa-St. James.....................Gary Harber
Associate...........................Josue Araujo
Tulsa-St. Luke’s Redemption II....Gregory Boyd
Tulsa-St. Mark’s.....................Barry Hayes
Tulsa-St. Matthew’s/Missional Communities....Thomas Hoffmann
Associate...........................Jose Estrada
Tulsa-St. Paul’s.....................Tyla Gibbens
Associate............................Michelle Daigle
Tulsa-Sheridan Avenue...........Mark Mann
Tulsa-Southern Hills............Tom McElroy
Tulsa-University..................M. Nathan Mattox
Tulsa-Wesley.........................David Fields
Tulsa-Will Rogers..................Robert Johns

EXTENSION MINISTRIES
Cancer Treatment Centers of America, Chaplain
Associate............................Shelly Owen
Oklahoma Methodist Manor, Executive Director
Associate............................Steve Dickie
Oklahoma Methodist Manor, Chaplain
Associate............................Charles Spears Jr.
Hopedale, Upper Room, GBOD
Associate............................Thomas Albin

CROSSROADS DISTRICT
Superintendent Rockford Johnson

Calumet/Red Rock......................Tiffany Nagel
Cashion...............................C. Allen Carson
Chotaw...............................Andy James
Crescent...............................Richard Cato
Crescent, Mount Vernon........C.T., Jr.
Dale......................................Russel Currie
Edmond, Acts 2........................J. Mark Foster
Edmond, Associate...............Andy Nelms
Edmond Chinese International...Puong Ong Lao
Edmond, Connect.......................Adam Ricks
Edmond, First.........................Samuel T. Powers
El Reno, Ellison Ave..............Tony Caro
El Reno, Wesley.....................Barry Bennett
Geary..................................Timothy Ashcraft
Guthrie, First.......................Robert Rose
Guthrie, West.........................John Puni
Harrah.................................Randy Little
Harper.................................Robert Foos
Kingfisher Methodist Manch....................Patrick McPherson
Luther/Wellston.....................Paul Calkin
GREEN COUNTRY DISTRICT
Superintendent Emery Mason

Adair ....................................................Dylan Ward
Bartlesville, East Cross .........................Jeffrey Burress
Bartlesville, First .................................Chad Perkins
Bartlesville, Oak Park .........................Donald Jones
Beegs/Mounds ....................................Richard Brasher
Bethel ..................................................Richard Ryan
Big Cabin ..........................................Scott Worley
Braggs/Woodall .....................................Cher Devore
Checotah ..............................................Wayne Loftin
Associate ............................................John Hart
Cheyenne, Euphora .........................Darrell D. Cox
Cheyenne, Memorial .........................David Sanders
Chouteau .............................................Connie Taylor
Claremore, First .................................Ray Crawford
Associate .............................................Janelle Braammer
Claremore, St. Andrew’s/Foyil .............Steve Posey
Cookson ...............................................Joe Clark
Copenhagen .........................................Warren Peck
Dewey .................................................Dale Durnell
Fairland ..............................................Shannon Rodenberg
Fort Gibson ........................................Barry Collins
Gore ....................................................Bill Buttram
Grace Point UMC (Cleora & Ketchum) ...
Associate ............................Tracy W. Jenkins
Grover ..................................................Randy Hamill
Henryetta ............................................Kyle Kiner
Hulbert ...............................................John Crogan
Inola ...................................................Michael Shepherd
Jay/Quapaw ..........................................Furun Jackson
Locust Grove .......................................Mathew Franks
Miami ..................................................Mark Rickman
Morris ...................................................Judy Conner
Muldrow Roland Trinity ......................Craig Clark
Muskogee, First .................................Jack Kemper
Muskogee, Spencer/Trinity ..................Thomas Corrigan
Muskogee, St. Paul ..............................David Burrell
Associate .............................Adam Brinson
Muskogee .............................................Jinx Barber
Nowata/Delaware ......................Jeffrey Rickman
Ochelata ............................................Theodore Hoffman
Oklahoma City ..................Randy Jones
Oklahoma City ......................................Immediate
Okmulgee, St. Paul .......................Robert Kerby
Oklmulgee ............................................Brian Matthews
Oklahoma City ..................Benjamin Otterbein
Pryor ..................................................Terry Fox
Quapaw ...............................................Fred Fox
Robbins ..............................................Benjamin Fox
Rogers ...............................................Dale Fox
Sand Springs .......................................Barry Fox
Seminole .............................................Mago Fox
Shawnee .............................................John Fox
Stillwater ............................................Alfred Fox
Tulsa ....................................................Rex Fox
Wagoner .............................................Barry Fox
Wheatland ..........................................Bill Fox
Wynnewood .........................................Fred Fox

HEARTLAND DISTRICT
Superintendent Greg Tener

Alex/Ninnekah .................................Sue Lykins
Blanchard ...........................................Travis Hopper
Chickasha, Euph .....................................Scott Keneda
Associate ............................Ashley Green-Young
Elmore City .........................................Caroline Lovett
Franklin ..............................................Trish Harris
Lexington ............................................Ted Craig
Lindsay ...............................................Ron King
Maysville .............................................Mike Deviney

Minco/Friendship .............................Mike DeMoss
Moore, Cross Timbers .........................James Hunt
Moore, First .......................................Robert Harris
Associate .............................Ashton Hartung
Moore, New Life .........................Kathy Brown
Mustang .............................................Donna Dodson
Newcastle .........................................David Cressman
Noble .................................................Bill Stovall
Norman, Bridgeview .......................Sheri Laslley
Norman, Goodrich .........................Jim Shepherd
Norman, McFarlin .........................Linda Harker
Associate .............................Shyloe O’Neal
Oklahoma City ..................Tino Nicaragua
Associate .............................Harrilte Leigh Kemp
Norman, St. Stephen’s ......................Jennie Himes
Associate .............................Jeni Markham Clewell
Paoli .....................................................Michael G. Laird
Pauls Valley .......................................Mark Watson
Pocasset ..........................................TBS
Purcell, Bowman Chapel .................Cleo Bryan
Purcell, Trinity .....................................James Kim
Seminole .............................................Gary Wilburn
Shawnee, Bethel .............................Daniel Fletcher
Shawnee, St. Marks/Meeker ..........Aarron Granz
Shawnee, St. Paul ..............................Chris Tate
Shawnee, Wesley ...............................Ben Williams
Tecumseh ...........................................Josh Langille-Hoppe
Tuttle ..................................................Steve Brant
Union City/Cogar .........................George Rowe
Washington .........................................Ernest Jackson
Wayne ..............................................Bo Ireland
Wheatland ..........................................Tara Fosso
Whitebread .........................................Dennis Yates
Wynnewood/Stratford ....................Jack Terrell-Wilkes
OKC-Capitol Hill ...............................Diana Northcutt
Associate ..............................Bob Brooke
Associate .............................................Obed Alba
Associate .........................................Claudia Lovelace
OK-Che-O-Chee ......................The Christmas Experience
Associate .........................................Sanae Van de Capelle
Associate .............................................Linda Truitt
OKC-Clark .....................................Estell Ray
OKC-Cornerstone .............................Brad Humphrey
Associate .............................................Chris Syms
OKC-First .............................................Mark McAdow
OKC-Korean First .........................Joon No Um
OKC-Lambuth ..................................Larry Jacobson
OKC-LifeWay ......................................Dean Taylor
OKC-Peachtree/Reedmont ......................Tito Alvarado
OKC-St. Andrew’s ...............................D.A. Bennett
Associate ............................................David B. Johnson
OKC-St. Luke’s .......................Robert E. Long
Associate .............................................Wendy M. Lambert
Associate .............................................Phil Greenwald
Associate .............................................Keith King
Associate .............................................Andrea Haynes
Associate .............................................David Poteet
Associate .............................................Jenifer Jones
Associate .............................................Josh Attaway
OKC-The Salt ........................................TBS
The Salt ...........................................TBS
Tulsa ....................................................Elaine Parrent
OKC-Selectman ..................................Pan Cottrill
OKC-Southern Hills .........................Connie Gibson
OKC-Sunny Lane .................................Margo Vestal

EXTENSION MINISTRIES
Candler School of Theology, Asst. Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies ..........Kevin Watson
Clergy & Congregational Development, Director .............................................Charles Nordean
Conference Treasurer ......................Brian Bakeman
Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries, Director .....................................................Adam Leathers
Discipleship Ministries and Conference Youth Coordinator, Director ...............Diana Northcutt

GENERAL BOARD OF GLOBAL MINISTRIES:
Philippines .............................................Marsha G. Alexander
Office of Mission, Missionary/Coordinator for Hispanic/Latino Ministry ......................Carlos Ramirez

EXTENSION MINISTRIES
Center for Therapy and Wellness ........Curtis Nigh
Criminal Justice & Mercy Ministries, Director .....................................................Candler School of Theology, Asst. Professor of Wesleyan and Methodist Studies
Emotional & Spiritual Care, Oklahoma Conference of Churches, Director ........Mary Gaudreau
Epworth Villa, Chaplain .................Lisa Crone
Mercy Health Center, Pastoral Care Dept., Edmond-First UMC ....................Beverly Powell
Office of Missions, Director .......Jerome Basset
OCU, Vice President for Church Relations/Dean of Chapel ...........................................Richard Norman
Oklahoma United Methodist Foundation, Director of Conference & Church Relations .... Darrell Cates
Skyline Urban Ministry, Associate ...........................................Rebecca Morton
VIM Disaster Response & Domestic Missions, Coordinator ...........................................Richard Norman
Wesley Foundation, Langston University, Campus Minister ............................................Cecelia R. Brooks
LAKE COUNTRY DISTRICT
Superintendent Larry Bauman

NORTHERN PRAIRIE DISTRICT
Superintendent Tish Malloy

EXTENSION MINISTRIES

WICHITAS DISTRICT
Superintendent Chris Tiger

EXTENSION MINISTRIES

MISSION INTERPRETER IN RESIDENCE, WESTERN JURIS.

Glen Rowley

University of Oklahoma, Chinese Fellowship.

Fuxia Wang

Good Shepherd Hospice

John T. Gober

OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY:

William School of Religion, Director

Sharon Betsworth

College of Arts, Dean

Mark Davies

Professor of Religious Educ.

Leslie Long

Director of Religious Life

Rodney Newman

Saint Paul School of Theology, Dean

Eilene Robinson

Skyline Urban Ministry

Deb Ingram

University of Oklahoma, Norman, Campus Minister

Daniel Dennison

USAFC Chaplain, San Angelo, TX

Martin Barnes

Wesley Theological Seminary

Carol Cook Moore

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Daniel Dennison

USAFC Chaplain, San Angelo, TX

Martin Barnes

Wesley Theological Seminary

Carol Cook Moore
A marathon effort

Relay team runs to promote Wellness Plan

By HOLLY McCRAY

Intent to finish strong, Adam Leathers pounded past his teammates without seeing them as he ran the anchor leg April 26 in the Oklahoma City Memorial Marathon Relay. They had sprinted from the crowd to join him, so that all five members of the Oklahoma Conference Wellness team crossed the finish line together.

“Waist Management” ran the 42 kilometers in 4 hours 29 minutes. They placed No. 348 in the ranking of 769 relay teams.

Rev. Leathers covered the 10K anchor leg in just over 50 minutes, only seconds short of his personal goal.

Running and walking a 5K portion, Lesa Rhoads averaged 11 minutes 17 seconds per kilometer. “Respectable,” she commented. “Our goal was just to finish.”

They did more than that. Their efforts call all members of the Oklahoma Conference to take steps toward better physical health.

The five agreed in January to enter the relay. They already participated in the Amazing Pace walking program, part of the Conference’s ongoing Wellness Plan. They all worked at the United Methodist Ministry Center, making it easy to encourage each other while training.

“I usually don’t run unless a ball’s involved,” Rhoads said. But “I love to be outside,” and her son is a personal trainer. With a friend, she ran the annual event’s half-marathon about five years ago.

“There’s such an energy down there; it makes you want to be part of it,” Rhoads said. “It’s heartwarming to see the crowd react when they see (runners) in the military or firefighters. The whole way, people applaud for you.”

Leathers said, “I really like competing.” Born and raised in Colorado, he was a sprinter in high school.

An enthusiastic rock-climber for about 10 years, he competed in a challenge last fall on Arkansas cliffs. He raised funds for Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries (CJAMM), the Conference ministry that he directs.

“I like the idea of pushing myself symbolically,” Leathers said. Running the marathon, he was excited to recognize other United Methodists, including clergyman Michael Dye.

Jeremy Basset declared, “I am not a runner.” But he did begin swimming more than three years ago, highly motivated after major heart surgery and a diabetes diagnosis.

“I determined nobody’s going to cut me open again,” said the Conference director of the Office of Mission.

Last fall, he added running and entered a fundraiser for Volunteers In Mission.

To prepare for his 5K leg of the Memorial Marathon, Basset trained using the Couch to 5K® running plan.

He laughed when recalling the costumes on some runners. One man wore a suit and tie! But each time Basset passed a firefighter, “you just have to greet them, have to acknowledge that,” he said. He lightly touched each firefighter’s shoulder and said, “Thank you for what you do; God bless you.”

In relay order, these five represented the Conference in the marathon: 10K, Andrea Reid, who is a member of OKC-New Hope UMC and a former Camps assistant; 5K, Rhoads, CJAMM assistant director; 12K, Carlos Ramirez, Office of Mission associate director; Basset, 5K, and Leathers, 10K.

11 graduate from OCU School of Religion

OCU’s Wimberly School of Religion celebrates the May graduation of 11 students who majored in Religion. We rejoice for the accomplishments of these fine young people and commend them on their continued journeys.

• FRYE — Hannah Frye will enter the Counseling Psychology graduate program at the University of Central Oklahoma this fall. She will continue working as director of Youth Ministries at St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church in Norman. “Preaching at the Chapel service as a senior was one of the most meaningful experiences I’ve had at OCU,” Hannah wrote. “All of my professors and mentors were there to support and encourage me. I would not be the person I am today without the education and guidance the Wimberly School of Religion has given me.”

• LAIRSON — During her sophomore year, Hope Lairson started working at Western Oaks Christian Church as a youth intern. She will continue there as director of Youth Ministries. Hope said she is blessed to have been a part of the OCU community. “These individuals are not only my professors but (also) my mentors,” she said. “They truly care about their students. They inspire me to take care of others as they have taken care of me.” Studying in Amsterdam one summer also taught her a lot about herself and the world, she added.

• LUGAR — Will Lugar plans to spend a year reading and writing, and then he will explore graduate programs in ethical philosophy. He voiced special appreciation for the many hours that Dr. John Starkey spent talking with him and sharing viewpoints.

• HEWES — Matthew Hewes will continue his studies at Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU, pursuing a Master of Divinity degree as well as ordination as a United Methodist Elder. Among his college experiences, the one with the most profound impact on Matthew was the New Testament Greek class with Dr. Sharon Betsworth.

• ERNST — Thad Ernst is moving to Cordova, Tenn., just east of Memphis, to be the youth minister at Covenant United Methodist Church. He spoke highly of Dr. Leslie Long for her constant support.

• GASSNER — Caitie Gassner plans to attend Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, D.C., then return to serve in the Oklahoma Conference. Caitie enjoyed the “Methods of Biblical Analysis” class, where she learned the similarities and differences among the Gospels.

• ERICKSON — Samantha Erickson will take a year off from school, with plans to enter a physical therapy degree program in 2016.

• SMITH — After participating in the World University Games this summer, Leigh Smith will continue her studies at OCU, working on two minor degrees while competing on the OCU women’s rowing team.

• KARBER — Grace Karber will fill a leadership position at a summer camp, then seek employment as a director of Youth Ministries at a local church.

• HIRSCH — Katie Hirsch is taking a year off before beginning graduate school.

• PATRICK — Matthew Patrick will attend Saint Paul School of Theology at OCU. He was named one of the seminary’s inaugural Saint Paul Fellows. As part of the Fellows Program, Matthew has been appointed as a local pastor to OKC-Nichols Hills UMC.