

## Church gets landscaping makeover

by: BILL SHERMAN World Religion Writer  
Friday, April 23, 2010  
4/23/2010 6:37:09 AM

The Rev. Weldon Tisdale got his hands dirty Thursday helping with a complete landscaping makeover at Friendship Church, where he is senior pastor.

The church was one of several hundred churches, schools and parks selected for a free makeover on Earth Day by the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET), a national lawn and landscape association.

"What they're doing here is way beyond what we were considering," Tisdale said.

"They're taking a day out of their schedule for us when they could be somewhere else making money. It's truly a tremendous blessing, a show of love and care."

Randal Wise, owner of Greenkeeper's Landscapes, organized the local PLANET Day of Service project.

He said Friendship Church, 1709 N. Madison Ave., was selected from among several Tulsa candidates.

"We thought we could make the most impact here for the time we had," he said. "And we were really impressed with the attitude of the folks here."

Women in the church prepared soup and sandwiches for the 11 professional landscapers, who worked from 7:30 a.m. until about 4 p.m.

"It was hearty. It was great," Wise said.

The work crews, assisted by volunteers from the church, transplanted some shrubs, ripped out other shrubs and added new shrubs and trees. They trimmed hedges, planted flowers in concrete pots and mulched.

Arbor Masters Tree Service trimmed trees around the parking lot and in the church playground.

Owner Chuck Ulrich said he brought his crew to the project because, "It's the right thing to do. God's been good to me, and I just like to help people out."

William Lenard, Big Star Outdoors, repaired the church's sprinkler system.

Wise estimated that the entire project was worth about \$1,500 to \$2,000 in labor and materials.

He said it was an appropriate Earth Day project.

"We're really pleased to be able to do this," Wise said. "We're about beautifying landscapes."

The national landscape association launched the project on Earth Day last year with more than 2,000 volunteers working on 280 projects in 43 states and Canada, donating \$400,000 in labor and materials.

---

**Bill Sherman 581-8398**  
bill.sherman@tulsaworld.com

**Associate Images:**



**Jerimie Alger, a Greenkeeper's Landscape employee, trims shrubs Thursday in front of Friendship Church during an Earth Day project sponsored by the Professional Landcare Network. SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World**

Copyright © 2010, World Publishing Co. All rights reserved

[Return to Story](#)