

August 10, 2016
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER
Issue: 16.15



**Whiz Kids Volunteer Recruitment
Begins Sunday, August 21**

**Whiz
Kids**



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UNDIVIDED HEART



Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

That “undivided heart” we discussed in worship a couple of Sundays ago remains an elusive blessing for me, and I would guess for many. However, growing to love God and neighbor with every fiber of our being is the goal and expectation for us as fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. The freedom and power of such focus to effect change in our lives and in the lives of those around us cannot be underestimated.

I have witnessed firsthand the impact of such single-minded intensity, and it came wrapped up in a big bay horse named Dusty. The horse was owned by a young cowboy named J.L. Spurgeon, whom we would hire as a day worker with our Kansas outfit when the workload required an extra hand. J.L. is a gifted cowboy who, I would guess, wore his first set of spurs before he was out of diapers. The afore-mentioned horse, Dusty, was among several he would throw in with our string when the time came. There was no doubt that Dusty was of undivided heart and mind, the problem was his heart was bent toward destruction! A meaner and more cantankerous animal I never met. We had to pen him separate from the other horses, because he would kick them away from the feed trough and bite any critter who took exception to his rules. He had a nasty habit of raking his front hoof across the rider’s shin bone or stomping on his foot when the saddle was going on or off. And, if given the slightest opportunity to catch his rider out of position, Dusty would break loose and buck like a National Finals Saddle Bronc. That animal was death in a horsehair bag, but even with that list of traits and dangers, J.L. would always pick Dusty out of the string when we had serious work to be done. His skilled horsemanship somehow melded with Dusty’s focused fury and the dust would indeed fly.

While I would hope that our hearts are not bent in the direction of Dusty’s, I think there is a lesson to be learned from the power of single-minded focus. We spoke on Sunday of three steps, as drawn from Colossians 3. Each day we should:

1. Clothe ourselves in the wardrobe of compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience.
2. Let the word of God dwell in us richly.
3. Foster an attitude of thankful gratitude as we do everything in the name of Jesus Christ.

Through Christ we have been given the ability to be changed and aid in the transformation of the world around us. Is the path you are walking leading you closer to God with each passing step, or are you unclear as to the destination? I would encourage each of us to take stock of where we are and where we are headed. Prayerfully consider including those three steps into your daily routine and see how God can build focus in a scattered heart.

One more thing... if a man ever tries to sell you a dark bay horse that has a glint in his eye and is named Dusty... pass!

– Randy

“FULLY COMMITTED” New Sermon Series Starts Sunday!

What is faith? Is faith a set of beliefs, or is it something more? What does it really mean to be a fully committed follower of Jesus Christ? Faith is more than what our minds believe; it is what our hearts feel, what our mouths say, and what our hands do. With faith and with God’s help, we can be fully committed.



Whiz Kids Volunteer Recruitment Begins Sunday, August 21

MISSIONS

Theologian Frederick Buechner wrote, "Vocation is where our greatest passion meets the world's greatest need." Shirley Rolston has incredible gifts of administration and organization. Carolyn Hays, a veteran elementary school teacher with 32 years of experience, has the gift of connecting with children. Another member, Kay Morgan, had been dreaming about getting Servant involved in Whiz Kids. The children of Edgemere Elementary School in our inner city needed mentors and the love of Jesus. Six years ago, this dynamic trio's gifts and passions intersected with the needs of the children of Edgemere and Whiz Kids at Church of the Servant was born.

Each week, Whiz Kids volunteers bring forty Oklahoma City children to Wesley UMC to provide mentors, friends, and role models for these disadvantaged children and help them with their reading skills. Mentors work one-on-one with each child. The Whiz Kids survey this year showed that 84% of tutors, 85% of students, and 88% of parents noticed an improvement in the children's reading. Most importantly, all the volunteers from Servant share the love of Jesus Christ with the children and their families.

Shirley had brought her gifts of administration to many projects involving children and education in the past. Carolyn was looking for a way to continue to minister to children after retiring. "Whiz Kids is a way for me to use my talents as an educator to further Kingdom work and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve in this way," Carolyn said.

Carolyn and Shirley arrive early every Monday at Servant's partner church, Wesley UMC, to prepare for the children to arrive. Wesley's location in the heart of the city made it a perfect location. Church of the Servant brings volunteers and resources to assist Wesley. "Wesley has been a great partner for us," said Shirley. "Their minister, Rev. Marla Lobo, has been such a help."

Other volunteers arrive to cook a meal for the children and to drive the vans to pick them up from school. Many volunteer once a month. The tutors are there each week to work one-on-one with the child they tutor and to build the relationship. They also take the child home, so they are able to work directly with the family of the child. For many volunteer tutors, the time they spend with the child is just the beginning of a bigger relationship.

Shirley shared a story of a student who holds a special place in the hearts of the volunteers: "When the student began the program, he and his four siblings had been abandoned. Authorities located a relative in Oklahoma City who agreed to care for them. When he first came to Whiz Kids, he was very withdrawn, shy, and scared. Once he became comfortable, his pain moved into anger. He was so hard and had some real behavioral problems. With the help of dedicated tutors and other volunteers, he began to improve. The volunteers would not give up on him, even when it was difficult. Today, he is pursuing his relationship with God and was recently accepted into a college preparatory school. I know that Whiz Kids changed his life!"

Plan to be in worship on August 21 to hear testimonies from Whiz Kids volunteers and to sign up to volunteer. And on Monday, August 22 at 3:00 p.m., join us for an ice cream social to orient new and returning volunteers. To learn more about how you can impact a child's life, contact Shirley Rolston at 850-7675.



Shirley Rolston and Carolyn Hays



MISSIONS

Another Way Your EARTHGLOW Purchases Impact Lives...



“Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” – Hebrews 13:3 (NIV)

Penn Ave Redemption United Methodist Church received a \$3,000 donation from the proceeds of Earthglow’s 2015 sales. As one of the outreach ministries of the United Methodist Church’s Criminal Justice and Mercy Ministries, Penn Ave Redemption Church is a fellowship of prisoners, ex-prisoners, their families, and friends of faith. The church seeks to mold prison-formed faith into the walk of discipleship.

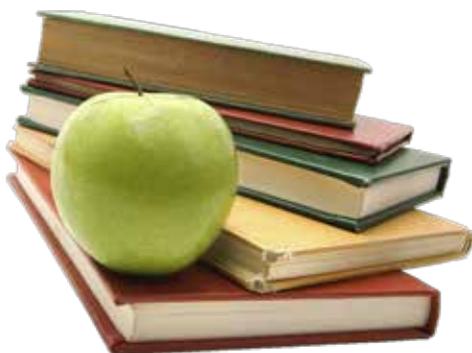
The following is a response in appreciation for Earthglow’s gift that will tell you a bit more about the services offered by this unique church.

“Your most welcome gift will help provide many resources for the men and women Redemption UMC transports to church. At least three times a week, we bring the inmates from the seven correctional facilities around Oklahoma City to church for worship services, classes, UMW and UMMen. UMW and UMMen groups meet weekly.

The ladies are so hungry for God’s Word, so we offer them in-depth Bible Study. We also have different projects around the church in which all can participate. It is so amazing and exciting to watch as they start to grasp God’s Word and understand how His Word applies to their lives.

The UMMen keep the church in great shape, for which we are so thankful. They also have a devotional time that is rich in sharing and learning. One of the most exciting areas to watch our congregants grow is learning to give of themselves. The men have quite a ministry of mowing the yards for several of the elderly people who live next to the church! The men mow the church and keep that lawn mower moving right on around the neighborhood. What a blessing for all! God bless you and thank you so very much for your part in helping us as we help those God brings through Redemption’s doors. We pray they grow in the love and grace of Christ.”

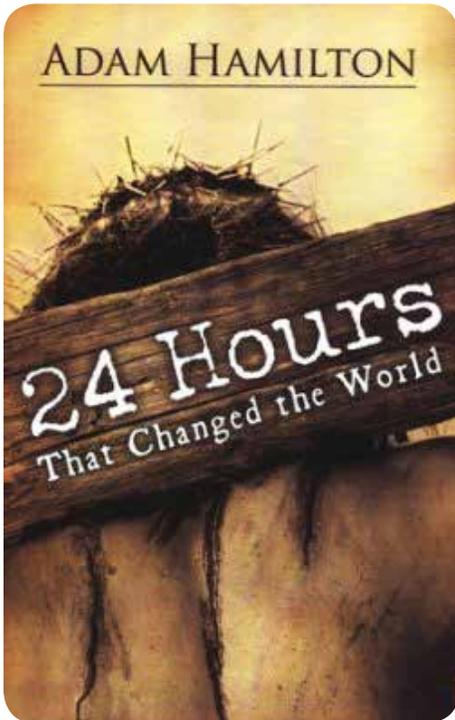
Earthglow is a wonderful place to shop, knowing that as you do so, you are helping others in significant ways.



Bless Our Schools: Hefner Teacher Boxes

What a wonderful response on the Hefner boxes! All 80 boxes have gone out, and this past Sunday packets for the support staff were offered to be filled as well. Please return your boxes and packets by this Sunday, August 14, so they can be delivered on Monday, August 15. A group of volunteers will be meeting Monday August 15th to hand deliver the boxes to the teachers at Hefner. You are invited to be a part of that group! It is so fun to see the teachers reaction to this gift! Please plan to meet at Hefner Middle School at 9:00 a.m. if you would like to help deliver.

BIBLE STUDY



24 Hours That Changed The World

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this study, you will be guided through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life. Each of the 7 sessions is designed to help you experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before. Whether you are a long-time Christian or simply curious about the story of Christ's crucifixion, you will want to join us in retracing the last 24 hours of Jesus' life.

24 Hours That Changed The World is a seven week study taught by John Farr beginning Tuesday, September 6, from 7 to 8:30 p.m. It will be held in the North Adult Room 12. Registration begins Sunday, August 14. Once registered, be sure to purchase the book at a local Christian bookstore or online.

Potluck and Bingo Night to Benefit Hannah's Promise

Ladies, mark your calendars for Friday evening, August 26, 6-9 p.m. for an evening of food, fun, fellowship, and prizes! Bring your favorite potluck crowd pleaser to share, along with a \$10 missions donation. Then settle back for some serious BINGO and a great time visiting with friends, both new and old.

Our mission for this evening will be our own Church of the Servant's Hannah's Promise. Hannah's Promise is a ministry for families in our community who have children with special needs. We have the honor of having Sandy Jensen, the grandmother of Hannah Jensen, for whom the ministry was named, as our speaker and official Bingo caller. Sandy will share Hannah's story and information on how the ministry has made a significant difference to many families within our community.

Game nights have been extremely popular events, and this promises to be a great evening. Women's Ministry is busy collecting various prizes to be awarded to the lucky Bingo winners. Word has it that there will be some awesome prizes! Please take time to register for the evening so that we can have adequate Bingo equipment as well as plenty of prizes. You can sign up online at www.churchoftheservant.com/events, at the Welcome Center on Sunday, or by calling Susie Cobden at 405-728-4711.

WOMEN



WOMEN

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN SEPTEMBER 13

FALL WOMEN'S RETREAT Sept 30 - Oct 2

In the hustle of everyday life, we frequently find it hard to know just how to slow down and talk – one-on-one – with our heavenly Father. In the beautiful, peaceful surroundings of the Arbuckle Mountains, this retreat seeks to help each of us to find new ways to pour out our hearts in real, open conversations with God.

Through soul-stirring worship, reflective Bible study and engaging small group sessions, you will have plenty of opportunities to connect with God, nature and other women in fun and meaningful ways. God wants to enter into a conversational relationship with each one of us. We will be hearing some of the specific questions God asks of us, and discover answers which will draw us into a relationship of deeper sharing and intimacy with God. The resource for our time together will be *Questions GOD Asks Us* by Trevor Hudson.

Under the direction of Dr. Robyn Goggs, Associate Pastor and Director of Women's Ministries, several women of our church will lead a retreat that will bring renewal in your own walk with God and new thoughts on how to communicate with Him. There will be large and small group experiences, and plenty of space to exercise, play, rest, be with others, or to simply be alone as you seek conversations with God.

Cost for this incredible 2-night event is \$199 (or \$225 if you register after September 1). For more information about the retreat, go to www.churchoftheservant.com/events, or contact Susie Cobden at 405-721-4141 or scobden@churchoftheservant.com.



Bible Studies begin the week of September 12. Sharing the Kingdom will begin on September 13 with the study "Breaking Free From Fear," led by Nancy Harris. Childcare is available for most studies.

Many of our fall studies were written and developed by Lisa Harper, who will also be our guest speaker for "The Gifts of Christmas" event on November 18. The fall offerings include:

Sharing the Kingdom

Breaking Free From Fear

Tuesdays, 9:15-10:30 am, Begins September 13, Community Hall

A large-group Bible study that is a favorite among many women as it appeals to the beginning follower as well as the seasoned believer. Join us for an exciting hour in Bible study, discussion, and Christian fellowship.

All of us at one time or another have experienced some sort of fear in our lives, which can keep us in bondage and keep us from living for Christ. Life is filled with all sorts of fears that can assault your mind, trouble your soul, and bring untold stress. But you don't have to remain captive to your fears. In this study you will learn how to confront your circumstances with strength and courage as you live in the fear of the Lord—the fear that conquers every other fear and sets you free to live in faith. Led by Nancy Harris.

Malachi: A Love That Never Lets Go by Lisa Harper

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm. September 14-November 16, North Adult 12

Hebrews: The Nearness of King Jesus by Lisa Harper

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm. September 14-November 16, North Adult 7

Tuesdays, 10:00-11:30 am. September 13-November 15, South Adult 3

The Gospel of Mark: The Jesus We're Aching For

by Lisa Harper

Wednesdays, 9:30-11:00 am Begins September 14, South Adult 1

Friday Moms Group

Believing Jesus: Are You Willing to Risk Everything?

A Journey Through the Book of Acts by Lisa Harper

Fridays, 9:30-11:30 am Begins September 9, Cafe 13.2

S.M.I.L.E. (Servant Moms In our Lord's Embrace)

Sundays, 10:45 am, Ongoing, North Adult 6

God's Handiwork Quilting Class

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am, Youth Area. Ongoing (may join anytime).

Scrapbook, Crafts, and Scriptures

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:30 am, North Adult 7. Ongoing (may join anytime).

Knitting at Noon

Tuesdays at Noon in Cafe 13.2. Ongoing (may join anytime).

For more information about each study, go to www.churchoftheservant.com/women/classes-studies/ or contact Susie Cobden at 721-4141 or scobden@churchoftheservant.com.

AN INVITATION TO MINISTRY

Children's Ministries is where adults have the amazing opportunity to plant seeds of faith in children. There is never a time or season where individuals who love Jesus and love children are not needed in Children's Ministries. Review the opportunities below and pray about where you can find a spot to become involved in this vital ministry.

Sunday School Teachers: Do you remember the adults who were important to you growing up? As a Sunday school teacher, you would have the privilege of being that kind of adult! Sunday school teachers are provided all of the curriculum and supplies they need to present their lesson each week.

Kid's Own Worship (KOW) Leaders: Children need relationships with adults they can trust. As a KOW small group leader, your role is to know and love the children in your small group, to encourage them and have fun, while learning more about Jesus. The morning's activities are led by Dayna Slater, preschool, and Kelli Lay, lower elementary.

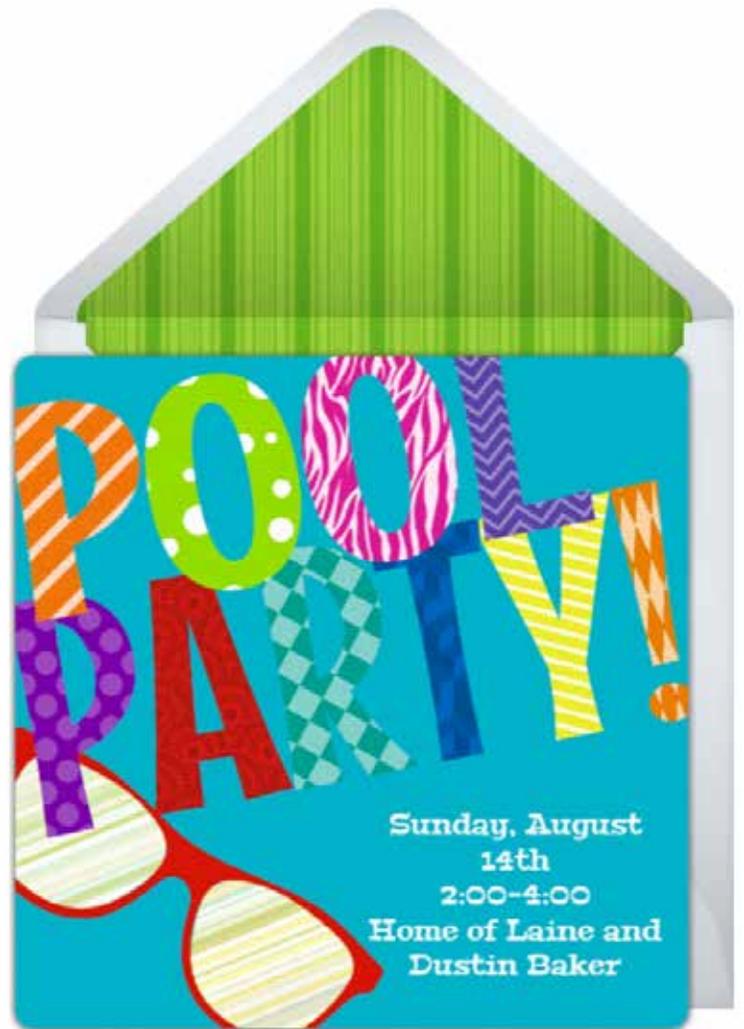
Substitutes for Sunday School and Kid's Own Worship: When an adult who is responsible for leading a group of children on Sundays has to be gone on, it creates a need to have individuals that can take over for that day. Because materials are ready and an outline of the morning activities is available, filling in for another devoted leader is an easy, but important, role.

Sunday Nursery Rockers and Huggers: A very important ministry for the growth of young families in a congregation is the nursery. Parents will not leave their babies and toddlers unless they know their children are in the care of individuals whose priority is to make their children feel safe and secure within a loving environment. Volunteers are needed that are welcoming and love to rock, hug and care for these darlings.

Welcome on Wednesday (WOW): WOW is a mid-week ministry where meaningful relationships between kids and God, kids and kids, and kids and adults are formed. Individuals are needed to guide a small group through the evening's activities. The activities are led by Dayna Slater, preschool, Cathy Hersom, lower elementary, and Cindy Brackenbury, upper elementary. The activities include worship, crafts, game time, and snacks, which all reinforce the Bible point of the evening.

Sunday Greeters: Do you have a desire to always make people feel welcome? Sunday Greeters are a vital arm of our Children's Ministries team. Greeters are the first people a family sees. You will reassure parents that their children will be treated with great care. Responsibilities for greeters include: meeting and welcoming families, checking kids in, answering questions, and helping children connect with their KOW group or Sunday school class.

For additional information, contact Cathy Hersom, Director of Children's Ministries, at chersom@churchoftheservant.com or 728-4715.



Pool Party!!

Children's Ministries is excited to invite you to our annual 4th- & 5th-grade Swim Party! Boys bring something salty to share. Girls bring something sweet to share. The Bakers will supply the drinks.

Parents are invited! Come and get better acquainted with other parents (Sorry, no accommodations for siblings). Please RSVP to cbrackenbury@churchoftheservant.com. Directions and address will be sent to you via email after you RSVP.

Don't forget your towel and church-appropriate swimwear!

TROOP 177

Boundary Waters - Troop 177 - 2016

By Aiden Gerst

Mosquitoes, blisters, heat, and carrying heavy gear may not sound like fun, but sometimes it is.

In July 2016, 16 scouts and 12 adults from Troop 177 went on a high-adventure camping trip to Boundary Waters Canoe Area. This was our first high adventure camp experience as a troop. We had to drive from Oklahoma to Minnesota. It was a long two-day drive. When we got to BWCA, we slept in a cabin at the outfitters. The next day, we began our five-day adventure! Patrol 1 left first in their canoes. Then, after 30 minutes to an hour, patrol 2 left. Finally, patrol 3 was allowed to leave. The first day was the perfect temperature. We felt like we could canoe forever. Each patrol had to find a campsite that evening and cook dinner which was burgers provided by the outfitter. At night or during the day, there are always mosquitos.

Day two at BWCA, we did our first portage – carrying our canoe and gear across land. It is very tiring, especially when it is a long portage. Over the whole trip, we had about 7 portages. Most of the patrols tried to fish during the day while they canoed. That night, we set up camp again and cooked dinner. It was a juicy, tender, delicious, steak – one of the best steaks I've ever had.

The next day, we did three portages and set up camp when we were done. At around 2:30 a.m. on Thursday (which was day four of our high adventure camping), a storm blew in. Patrols 2 and 3 just experienced rain and wind with their campsites getting as wet as a sponge in dish water, but patrol 1 got stuck in the worst part of the storm. They were hit with hail, winds up to 72 mph, and rain. They had to get out of their tents or ham-

mocks while trees were falling down and breaking all around them. They were lucky that no one in their patrol got too seriously injured.

In the morning, we did the longest portage of the trip, plus two more. They were through an area affected by the storm. We had to cut up trees that were fallen and obstructing the path. It looked like a war zone. When we were done we sat up camp for the final time. The next day, we finished the trip by paddling across a large lake with choppy water, as the wind was still fairly strong. After checking out a day early with the outfitter, (who also had lost power and had downed trees), we had a long car ride ahead of us until we got back to Oklahoma.

If I could sum up the experience of this high adventure trip, it was exciting and very tiring, but it was probably the best camping trip I have ever been on.



Merit Badges

By Aiden Gerst

Merit badges are one way a scout learns new skills. Some merit badges are difficult while others are easy. Some take a long time to complete, and others can take 1 to 2 days to finish. The top 3 merit badges completed this year by Troop 177 were: swimming, space exploration, and citizenship in the nation.

Mrs. Yarborough, an adult volunteer in charge of merit badges, shared that some of the unique merit badges our troop completed are game design, archaeology, movie making, kayaking, small boat sailing, and first aid.

There are all kinds of merit badges. One kind includes those which are required to help you get Eagle Scout. To become an Eagle Scout, besides meeting additional requirements, you must complete 21 merit badges. Thirteen are specifically required: Camping, Cooking, Cycling/Hiking/Swimming, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Lifesaving or Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science or Sustainability, Family Life, First Aid, Personal Fitness, and Personal Management.

There are several places you can earn merit badges, such as: at a merit badge college, a scout camp, and at home or a place near home with a merit badge counselor. Whether an easy or difficult badge to earn, either way, you will learn something new.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Mike and Pam Adams as Pam's mother, Barbara Seagrove, deals with health issues and is hospitalized in Tennessee.
- ▶ Lorraine Aken as Lorraine deals with health issues.
- ▶ Ellen Bennett as Ellen deals with health issues and faces surgery.
- ▶ Bill, Lisa, and Jessica Boone as Lisa's father, Lee Henry, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Delbert and Colleen Carman as their daughter, Caroleen Carman, deals with health issues and faces surgery at McBride Orthopedic Hospital.
- ▶ Roger and Priscilla Cude as Roger's mother, Patricia "Pat" Cude deals with health issues and is hospitalized at the OK Heart Hospital.
- ▶ Jim and Suzie Fentriss as Jim recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Doug and Jaci Finch as Doug recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ David and Mona Hedrick as they ask for prayers for their niece, Shelby Reed and Shelby's infant son, John Reed, as John deals with health issues.
- ▶ Boyce and Janice Hill as Janice deals with health issues.
- ▶ Keith and Beth Huddleston as Beth recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Cecil and Carolyn Jones as Cecil deals with health issues.
- ▶ David, Sarah and Jackson Krivy as Sarah's father, Larry Seward, is hospitalized in Little Rock, Arkansas.
- ▶ Margie Malone as Margie recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at Bone & Joint Hospital.
- ▶ Melissa Marshall as Melissa recuperates from injuries from a fall.
- ▶ John and Jennifer Miller as John deals with health issues.
- ▶ Camilla Riley as Camilla deals with health issues.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Randy and Jenny Shrauner as Randy recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Harry Stults as Harry deals with health issues.

OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ Ray and Cris Bitsche and Family at the death of Cris' father, Art Schmidt.
- ▶ Linda Foster and Family at the death of Linda's husband, j robb bartlett.
- ▶ Barry and Charlotte Hough and Family at the death of Charlotte's mother, Bessie Pendley.
- ▶ John Schille and Jimi Hadley and Family at the death of John's brother, George Schille.
- ▶ Ralph and Neoma Shrauner and Randy and Jenny Shrauner and Family at the death of the Neoma's brother and Randy's uncle, Wayne Woolfolk.
- ▶ Tull and Pat Tully and Family at the death of Pat's sister, Dona Mae Crouch McDaniel.

CARE MINISTRIES

When a family is faced with an illness or crisis, it is sometimes difficult to remember to inform Care Ministries of that special situation. As a church family, all of us can help. If you know of a member who would benefit from our specialized care or our prayers through Care Ministries, call Care Ministries at 728-4738 or 312-4634.

CELEBRATING MEMORIES

- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Scouting Program in honor of Mitchell Dye on obtaining the Rank of Eagle Scout by Pete Gelvin.
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Music Ministries in memory of Winona Madison by Doris J. Cline.
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Music Ministries in memory of Winona Madison by Susan Dage.

SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

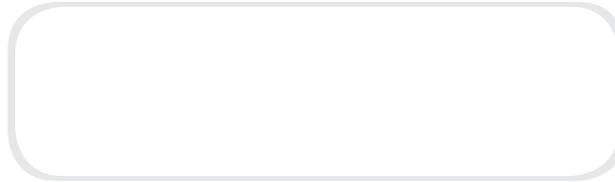
**Full Breakfast - \$6;
Lunch - \$9; Kid's Plate - \$3.50**

- ▶ 8/14 – Indian Tacos, Dessert.
- ▶ 8/21 – Meat Loaf, Mashers, Green Beans, Salad, Rolls, Dessert.
- ▶ 8/28 – Spaghetti & Meatballs Squash Zucchini Medley, Salad, Garlic Toast, and Dessert.

PRIME TIME

It's almost time for a new season of Prime Time! Our first meeting will be Thursday, September 8 at 10:30 a.m. in Community Hall, so mark your calendar now! For our first meeting, we will bring you an exciting collaborative ministry program, featuring our own ministers and church staff. You will hear affirmations of hope and joy through the spoken word and music. Come and enjoy this meaningful program, a yummy meal, catch up with old friends, and make some new friends to kick off this new season of Prime Time! Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office, 721-4141 to reserve your spot!

CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
14343 N MacArthur Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-9725



CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES

GIRLS night **OUT!**

Bingo and Potluck

FRIDAY AUGUST
26 TH 2016
6:00-9:00 PM

REGISTER ONLINE!
[WWW.CHURCHOFTHESERVANT.COM/
EVENTS](http://WWW.CHURCHOFTHESERVANT.COM/EVENTS)