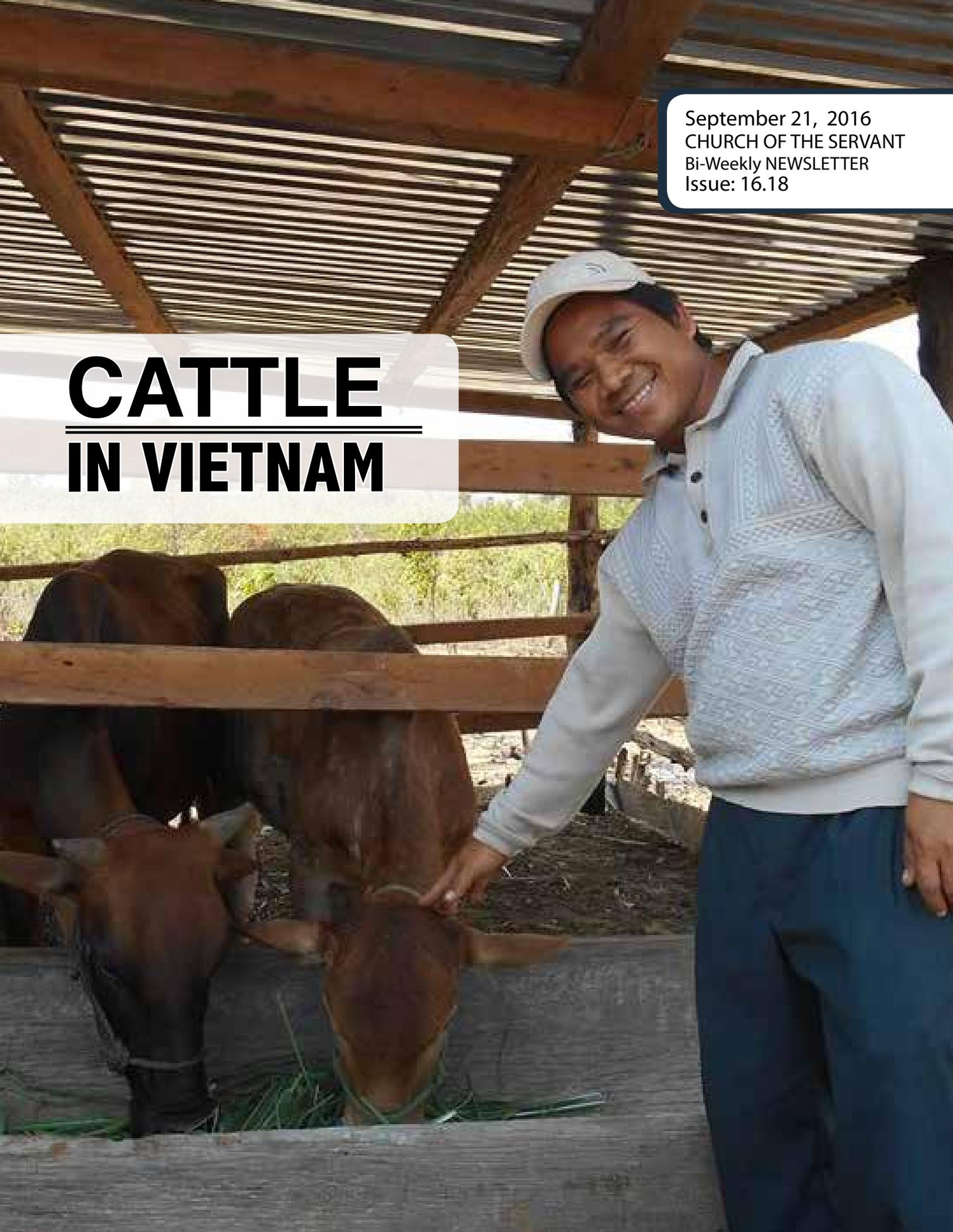


September 21, 2016
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER
Issue: 16.18

CATTLE

IN VIETNAM





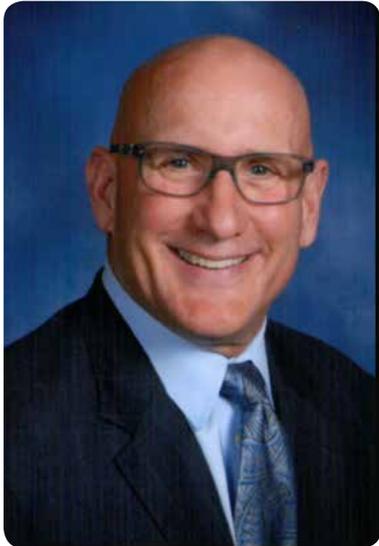
LOOKING TOWARD A BRIGHT FUTURE

As we make our way through September, we find we have much good news to report! First, on the financial side, as a congregation we find ourselves in exceedingly solid shape as we head into the fall months. Our giving, particularly over the past sixty days, has been much stronger than our budget projections would have indicated. When coupled with tight cost control, these efforts have allowed us to build a strong operating budget

surplus, which we pray will continue through the remainder of fiscal 2016. Taking a longer view of our financial situation, we are thrilled to watch as month-by-month the balance on our building note continues to shrink dramatically. By the end of September, we expect to roll under the \$700 thousand mark as to our total indebtedness! Our hope (and our plan as we begin formulating our 2017 budget) is to be debt free at some point in late 2017. Being free of this burden will allow us to direct significant resources to the mission and ministries of Church of the Servant, and we look forward to that day with a great sense of anticipation. All this is possible only through the great faithfulness of you, our members! Thank you for the sacrifices you make which allow the ministries of the congregation to thrive.

The process to fill our open pastoral position is in high gear as well. Bishop Nunn has made the transition into the episcopal office and is now living into that demanding role. During his first week in office, the Bishop met at length with Church of the Servant's Pastor Parish Relations Committee (PPRC). Leading up to this meeting, the PPRC had worked with our staff as well as the Administrative Council to complete a "Pastoral Profile" defining three key areas:

1. Who are we as a congregation?
2. What is the demographic makeup of the mission field around us?
3. What specific pastoral skills are necessary to bring those two together?



Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

As the PPRC met with Bishop Nunn and our District Superintendent Rockford Johnson, this report was passed from our hands to theirs, along with a wide ranging discussion as to our hopes and dreams for Church of the Servant. The responsibility is now theirs. While any estimate as to how long this process might take is simply a guess, we can be assured the Bishop and the Oklahoma Annual Conference are pressing the issue with all due haste. I would expect—and again, this is merely an estimate—an appointment to be made within the next 45-60 days, with that appointment taking effect around the first of the year. As a staff, we are planned and prepared for the remainder of 2016 and look forward to all the coming months will hold.

Church of the Servant is alive and well! Our worship services are vibrant, our NextGen Ministries have a renewed sense of focus, purpose and direction, and our missional efforts continue to reach into both our local context and around the world for the sake of Jesus Christ. My request of you is that you continue in your faithful support of Servant. Pray for our future, asking God that together we might gain a glimpse of the exciting days to come in service to him. I cannot wait to see what God has waiting for us around the bend!

—Randy

If you've never experienced the Walk to Emmaus, now is your chance to attend and deepen your faith. The primary goal of Walk to Emmaus is to help build leaders for our local churches. The Pioneer Country Emmaus Fall Walks are coming soon. The Men's Walk has been postponed, but the Women's Walk is October 10-13. This 72-hour event will be held at First UMC, downtown OKC, and attendees spend the entire time there. Sleeping accommodations and all meals are provided. If you are interested in attending the Walk, sponsoring someone on the Walk, or want more information, please contact Judie Ellis at jjellis@churchoftheservant.com. Applications are available at pioneercountryemmaus.com.



VIETNAM CATTLE PROJECT

Our daily routine is filled with hundreds of decisions to be made. Most, when viewed over the long term, are inconsequential. But not all of our choices disappear in the rear view mirror as life marches forward. Some have the ability to change the trajectory of the world around us—a world in which Jesus Christ is at work.

One year ago Church of the Servant made the decision to step into a mission intended to elevate the long-term economic stability of a group of Methodist Ministers and their families in Vietnam. As a congregation we collected almost \$50,000 to be distributed for the purchase of cattle across that country: from the Mekong Delta region in the far South, to the Lam Dong district in the Central Highlands, to the mountains of the far North along the Chinese border. This economic partnership between Church of the Servant and our Vietnamese brothers and sisters with Servant providing seedstock and the Vietnamese churches providing the labor and all other inputs, is designed to provide these pastors a means of renewable, sustainable, financial support. This support is an anchor for their work allowing them to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ while providing a means to feed and care for their families.

I am thrilled to report the ongoing success of this effort. Over the course of these last months the second generation of cattle is being born! The male cattle will be sold at market, with the female cattle being retained for breeding purposes and distributed to new ministers and their families. This cycle of support and sustainability will allow the gospel to be proclaimed to people who have never before heard the name of Jesus, all this as a result of your decision to give to this mission project.

Thank you for your willingness to open your heart to our Vietnamese churches and their work. Your choice to do so is indeed changing lives for all eternity to come.

Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister



SERVE AT 13.2 COFFEE SHOP

13.2 Coffee Shop is searching for some friendly faces to work one Monday night a month, October-April, 6:00-8:00 p.m. serving the men's BSF group. We also need two volunteers to open the coffee shop one Sunday per month, 7:20-9:30 a.m. Please contact Dana Israel at 918-914-0630 or Dana.m.israel@gmail.com.



SATELLITE SUNDAY SCHOOL



What if you lived in an assisted living center and were unable to drive or get a ride to church? What would you do to experience God's love with others? While there may be several viable options to meet this need, Church of The Servant conducts "satellite Sunday Schools" at The Mansion at The Waterford. Volunteer

Sunday school teachers go each week to share joys and concerns with a group of residents, sing a hymn or two, and present a Sunday school lesson. They also offer Holy Communion once a month.

The Sunday School at The Mansion began as an outreach ministry by students of Disciple Bible Study groups. Early coordinators included Phyllis Narcomy and Charlene Richardson. Mary White now serves as coordinator. Current volunteers are Margaret Hudson, Sue Ann Burton, and Linda Simmons. Sunday School lesson materials and resources are available through

Adult Education Ministries. Lessons focus primarily on living the Christian life.

Volunteer teachers are needed. Commitment includes going to The Mansion on one Sunday a month at 9:30 a.m. and presenting a 30-40 minute lesson. Staying for hymn singing and fellowship is optional.

Currently, there are 6 to 10 attendees. Sometimes that includes residents from the Memory Care unit. The group has been praying for more of their fellow residents to attend and they constantly invite others.

If you have a heart for people and can talk about how Jesus is working in your life, please consider sharing what you have learned with those in our community who love to hear God's word. Contact Mary White at marywhite@swbell.net, 722-9178, or at the church office for more information.



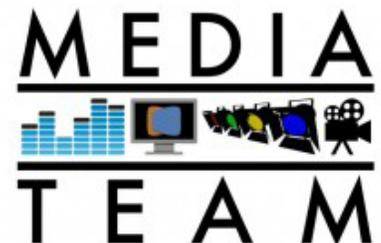
MOBILE MEALS

Mobile Meals needs two drivers for Wednesdays, delivering meals once a month. This is an opportunity to bless seniors in our community by delivering meals for a couple of hours a month.

The elderly population in Oklahoma City is among its most vulnerable. The mission of Mobile Meals is to provide nutritional support so seniors can stay in their homes.

Mobile Meals serves those who are homebound and isolated, have chronic health issues, those who cannot cook or shop for themselves, or are recovering or rehabilitating from accident, illness or surgery.

Contact Cherie Dennis at cheriedennis@hotmail.com, 721-2045, or 641-5418 for more information.



Church of the Servant's Media Ministry wants YOU to be a part of our team! Many positions available:

- Camera Operator
- Soundboard Operator
- Video Director
- Lighting Designer/Technician
- Live Stream Chat Room Host
- Videographer
- Photographer

For more information on how you can get involved, contact Heather DeShazo at hdesazo@churchoftheservant.com

ADULT

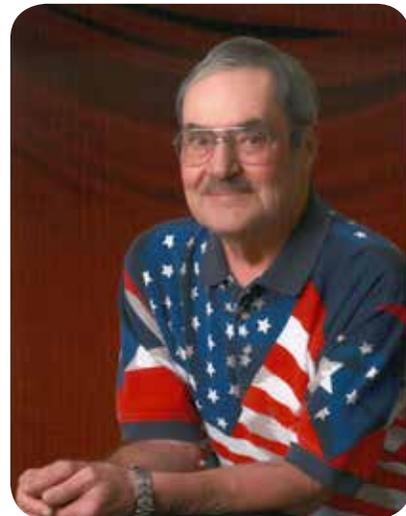
TEACHER OF THE WORD

John Farr and his wife, C.K., have invested their lives in Church of the Servant since becoming members in 1989. John recalls that Tom McGee initially got them involved, recruiting them to be greeters. Linda Brinkworth then asked the couple to begin a new Sunday School class. C.K. was also a member of the staff for many years.

John began taking Disciple 1 Bible study from Art King. John recalls that most everyone in class wanted to do Disciples 2 and Art only wanted to do Disciple 1. John volunteered to lead Disciple 2. "Actually, I was called, but I didn't know that at the time," he said.

Leading that class began a lifetime of using his God-given talent for teaching. He has led Disciple Bible studies 1, 2, 3, and 4, Christian Believer, and Jesus in the Gospels. He's also led studies by other authors from Beth Moore and William Barclay to Max Lucado and C.S. Lewis. He is currently teaching *24 Hours That Changed The World* by Adam Hamilton, and plans to teach a study on Christ's Last Words From the Cross.

"I get all the help and inspiration I need to lead the classes from God. I can't do the classes without His help. Plus, there's always something new to learn, especially when you look at familiar passages from different sets of eyes. It's always fun," he said.



LIFE IN COMMUNITY

One of our core values at Church of the Servant is living life in community. Community can take the form of a Bible study, a community group with friends, or a Sunday school class. These groups are designed to provide mutual support, a place for accountability, and a place to study God's word together. You will have opportunities to serve and worship together. Going through the seasons of life with a small group will enrich your spiritual life in ways nothing else can.

Now is the perfect time to join a Sunday school class, start a community group, or join a Bible study. Contact Scott Smith at ssmith@churchoftheservant.com or the church office for more information.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Church of the Servant's annual Fall Festival is on Friday, October 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m. We need YOU to make this event a success again this year! This FREE family-friendly event is the perfect opportunity to invite your friends, family and neighbors to visit our church, and all the proceeds benefit our Children's Ministries.

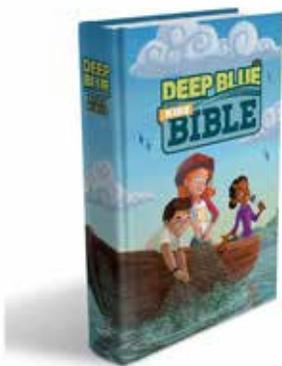
We need Sunday School classes, groups and individuals to volunteer for Festival set-up, clean-up, games, booths and more. In addition, we need donations of baked goods and candy.

Contact Erin Page at 740-1208 or erinepage@gmail.com for volunteer opportunities, or visit the Fall Festival table in the concourse on Sundays, October 2 and 9. Thank you for your continued support of the Fall Festival!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS SERVE THE COMMUNITY

Middle School Ministry will be serving our community on October 8, 9:00 a.m. - Noon at Urban Ministries. As a NextGen Ministry, we exist to help children and students to Know and Love God, Trust and Accept Jesus, Grow in their Faith, and Serve God and People. We believe by serving others we are accepting our call to be the hands and feet of Christ in our community. Please register your 6th-8th grade student for this awesome opportunity! Registration forms available at The Point Student Center.



THIRD GRADE BIBLES

Please plan to join us September 25 as we present our third graders with a Bible during the 10:45 church service. Parents of our third graders should have received information via email and regular mail about reserving a space for this beautiful milestone. If you have a third grader and have not received a letter, please contact Cindy Brackenbury, Elementary Coordinator, at cbrackenbury@churchoftheservant.com. We don't want to leave anyone out!



WOMEN

WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

In the hustle of everyday life, we frequently find it hard to know how to slow down and talk 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 hear 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 in 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. For more information about the retreat, go to www.churchoftheservant.com/events, or contact Susie Cobden at 405-721-4141 or scobden@churchoftheservant.com. It is not too late to register!



WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES LAUNCH



The fall season for Women's Bible studies has begun, but it's not too late to join. Sharing the Kingdom started on Tuesday, 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.

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

Lisa Harper
Friday, November 18
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
14343 N MacArthur Blvd, OKC
TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON
www.ChurchoftheServant.com/Events

used by women's groups nationwide. She brings her unique style of wit and wisdom of the Bible in a way that intersects deeply with the lives of women.

Lisa will be sharing how the gift of God's promise can shape our hearts and lives as we approach the holiday season.

Invite the women in your life to come with you for this evening. We will begin the evening with a dessert and coffee bar. The cost of the evening is \$25 and includes a thoughtful take home remembrance of the evening. Mark your calendar and watch, as tickets will be available soon at www.churchoftheservant.com/events.

THE GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS

The second annual women's event, The Gifts of Christmas, is coming Friday, November 18, 6:30-9:00 p.m. Before the hustle and bustle of the holidays, come for an engaging evening of fellowship, worship, and inspiring words brought to us by international women's speaker Lisa Harper. Lisa is based in Nashville, TN and is known for the years she spent traveling and speaking with Women of Faith. Most recently, she is changing lives through the many Bible studies she has written that are

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Gary and Darlene Berkovsky as Darlene's sister, Laura Hensley, recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Jackie Brown as Jackie recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Faye Brownlee as Faye deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bill and Sandra Clemons as Bill recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Jay and Nancy Collins as Jay faces surgery at St. Anthony Bone & Joint Hospital.
- ▶ Steve and Barbara Colton as Barbara's friend, Rita Snow, undergoes treatment.
- ▶ David and Judi Crutchfield as Judi recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Matthew and Edna Daniel as Edna deals with health issues.
- ▶ Jim and Suzie Fentriss as Suzie deals with health issues.
- ▶ Rick and Dixie Grosshans as Rick deals with health issues.
- ▶ Rhonda Haumpo as Rhonda recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Don and Becky Jacks as Becky's mother, Rozella Bowman, is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Rick and Shirley Jackson and Donna Drewry, as Shirley and Donna both recuperate from injuries sustained from falling off their horse; and as Donna recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at the OU Medical Center Presbyterian Hospital.
- ▶ Jim and Janice Lisko as Jim recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Bill and Janie Medina as Bill recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Phyllis Mosher as Phyllis' son, Kevin Mosher, recuperates from injuries from a motorcycle accident.
- ▶ Monica, Preston, Peyton, and Paxton Seibel as Preston and Peyton both deal with health issues.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Dana Sewell as Dana recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Ellen Simmons as Ellen recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Laurie Simpson and Joey Simpson as Laurie deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bob and Nancy Smith as Bob recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Charlene Trimble as Charlene's sister, Sharon Honeycutt, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bob and Susy Wilson as Bob deals with health issues.

OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ Jerry Black and Family at the death of Jerry's father, Ray D. Black.
- ▶ Sean, Kimberli, Kyle, and Mianna Brownlee and Family at the death of Kimberli's father, Dennis Harding.
- ▶ Connie Gray and Family at the death of Connie's daughter, Laurie Pettijohn.
- ▶ Jim and Coleen Henry and Family at the death of Jim's sister, Carol McKay.
- ▶ Kevin, Andrea, Riley, Asher, and Annie Miller and Family at the death of Kevin's mother, Margaret Jacque Miller.
- ▶ Brenda, Reagan and Thomas Perry and Family at the death of Brenda's former husband and Reagan's and Thomas' father, Dale Perry.

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.

SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

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

- ▶ 9/25—Grilled Pork Chops, Caramelized Onions, Garlic Mashers, Greens, Whole Green Beans, Rolls, Salad, and Dessert.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

If you've experienced the loss of a loved one, you might benefit from attending our Grief Support Group. One of the most helpful things to realize, as we walk the journey of grief, is that we are not alone. We can choose to engage in what it means to have mutual Christian support, even as we heal in our grief.

We will meet each Sunday, 1:30-3:00 p.m. through October 30 in the Library, which is in the office area just behind the waterfall.

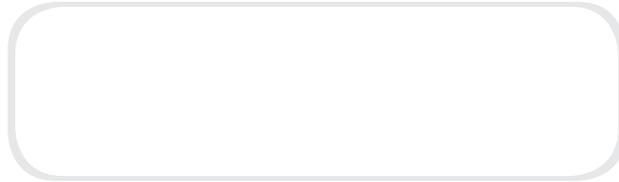
Each session will include watching a helpful video, as well as plenty of time for discussion and sharing. Come and be part of a group of people who will encourage and build up one another in the faith, which makes such a difference as we grieve.

Whether you have recently experienced the death of a loved one, or if you have been on a grief journey for a long time, we hope you'll consider joining the group.

We utilize the Grief Share curriculum, and each participant will receive a complimentary workbook. Register by contacting Vicki Roberds at 728-4738 or vroberds@churchoftheservant.com.



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



FALL FESTIVAL

CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES

OCTOBER 28

**GAMES
FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT**

6-8:00PM

**DRESS UP IN YOUR FAVORITE
SEASONAL COSTUME!**