

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**

October 5, 2016
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER
Issue: 16.19



FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 28

6-8:00PM

**GAMES
FOOD
ENTERTAINMENT**



FAITH IN THE GENERATIONS

One of the great connections I've enjoyed in recent years is with a group sponsored by the Texas Methodist Foundation made up of Large Church Executive Ministers. These men and women are drawn from churches in the Houston area as well as the Dallas-Fort Worth Metro. How this Oklahoman got invited to the dance is a bit of a mystery to me. Over the years we have become dear friends and trusted co-workers and it is rare that a week goes by without an email string discussing a shared difficulty or asking the wisdom of the group on a sticky problem.



Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

We meet three times a year to discuss challenges we face within our individual ministry settings, as well as to discuss broader trends within the United Methodist Church and the culture in which we all do ministry. A keynote speaker occupies one afternoon's session. The the most recent speaker was Greg Smith from the Pew Foundation, which stands at the forefront of demographic trend research in areas of religious trends in America.

First, the good news: as a whole, personal involvement in a religious tradition continues to be a factor in the lives of an overwhelming percentage of Americans. Pew research says, "All told, about two-thirds of U.S. adults (65%) describe themselves as religious (either in addition to being spiritual or not). Nearly one-in-five say they are spiritual but not religious (18%), and about one-in-six say they are neither religious nor spiritual (15%)."

But where the study caught my eye was how participation and the expressed interest curve shifted when different age groups were studied. When adjustments were made tracing involvement of the Greatest Generation, the Baby Boomers, Generation X, Generation Y, and the Millennial Generation, there is almost a 40% drop in those reporting a "High Religious Commitment" when comparing the youngest to the oldest segments of our population. The magnitude of this shift is important to us at Church of the Servant because it speaks to the needs of our congregation and how we can respond to the world around us. This number represents our sons and daughters, our neighbors and our friends, and the faces of untold

families moving into the new housing springing up around our church campus.

How will Church of the Servant answer this need? The solutions to that question are not yet readily apparent, but with time and prayer God will show us how to step into this need.

Deep within the DNA of Church of the Servant is a willingness to respond to cultural changes and adjustments to the world around us in an attempt to present the "Good News" of Jesus Christ in a manner that can be both perceived and understood. This is who we were during our days on Northwest Expressway, and it is who God is calling us to be on North MacArthur. I hope you are as excited as I am to see what this next chapter in our history will hold!

- Randy

SERVE IN 13.2

13.2 is searching for two friendly faces 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.



13.2 Volunteer Nechelle Zoller

MISSIONS

MINISTRY TO OUR NEIGHBORS

After worship on Sunday, September 18, members of our 923 worship community had a beautiful afternoon picnic with the residents of the Forrest Creek Apartments. This is the second year that the 923 worshipping community has hosted this event as a way of connecting in a local neighborhood. In the weeks leading up to the picnic, people brought bags of groceries to share. As we ate lunch and had fellowship, 40 bags of groceries were given to the residents. We ate together, played games, and visited with one another and our neighbors. It was a warm, informal opportunity to share fellowship and invite the residents to some of the upcoming events in the life of the church. Thanks to the Sunday school classes and individuals who helped make it a fun, sharing afternoon.



KENYA MISSION VISIT

On Wednesday, October 12, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Stanley Gitari, Community Outreach Director for Maua Methodist Hospital in Maua, Kenya will be at Servant! We will have a reception followed by a discussion with him in the Courtyard. He will give us an update on the hospital as well as the new residential facility for street children, which opened this past April. The center opened with 32 children who are housed and attend school there. Children from Maua now have a safe place where they are now able to enjoy a healthy diet, receive medical care, emotional support, and a secure roof over their heads while benefitting from a two-year rehabilitation program.

Servant sent a team to Kenya in 2013 and we hope to send another one in 2017. Over the years, our congregation has been very supportive of the efforts of Stanley and his wife, Mary, who are both OCU Nursing graduates and have devoted their lives to helping the people in their community to become well in body and spirit.

Last fall, we donated money for a motor scooter for use in transporting street children to the residential facility, which is located in a rural area about 16 miles away from the hospital on very rough roads. The short term transportation need was met by the motor scooter; however, the longer term need is a vehicle to take multiple children to the hospital when they are ill.

For more information, call or email Ann Knutson, 323-4292 or annknut@gmail.com.



EARTHGLOW MARKET

Can you smell the chili, beans and cornbread? Are you craving some of that famous chocolate sheet cake?

Join us at the Earthglow Market on Saturday, November 12, 9:00a.m.-3:00 p.m. Home décor, both holiday and everyday, will be available. Jump start your Christmas shopping with hand made gifts, boutique items, repurposed/recycled items, jewelry, soaps, accessories, hand painted items and much more.

Bake sale items will abound with goodies provided by Warm World Preschool moms, the TLC Sunday school class, Earthglow volunteers, and others to satisfy your sweet tooth.

So mark your calendar and plan to eat and shop, and then eat and shop some more! Remember, all proceeds from the Market benefit local missions.

If you are interested in participating as a merchant for the 2016 Market, please contact Lisa at LMTFANS@cox.net.



PROFILE OF FAITHFULNESS

Neither of us had a structured religious upbringing until our teenage years when we were able to make our own decisions. We married in 1960, and attended church when it was convenient. Our two boys, Donnie & James, were born in 1961 and 1964, and we began attending more often, but didn't get very involved. We thought that there were plenty of other people doing that, so we really didn't need to. When our kids got a little older, we started going to church on a regular basis, enrolling them in VBS and Sunday School for the first time.

We moved to Oklahoma City in 1977, and attended St Mark's UMC in Bethany, Council Road Baptist Church, and finally Church of the Servant. We went to church every Sunday, and thought that was all that was necessary to be a good Christian. We loved the Lord, but we didn't serve Him. What was that nudging us? Could it have been the Holy Spirit?

Our son, James, never adjusted to our move to OKC, and soon alcohol and drugs controlled his life. After much time in drug rehab programs, we thought he was finally getting his head on straight. Then on June 8, 1985, James, who was 20 years old at the time, died in a motorcycle accident. Our world turned upside down, and that nudging disappeared. We honestly don't even know if we tried to contact the Church. His funeral was in the Chapel at Baggerly Funeral Home in Edmond, performed by a minister we didn't know. We quit going to Church.

The following year, we moved to Washington, DC, and then back to Houston, Texas, to care for our ailing parents. We were in a spiritual wilderness that lasted 13 very lonely years, and we went through many trials and messes without knowing the unconditional love of Jesus or being part of the Body of Christ.

In early 1998, our granddaughter told us she was pregnant, and we decided to retire and move back to OKC to be near her and our son, Donnie and his wife, Jerrianna. When we first laid eyes on our great-grandson as he was being born on October 13, 1998, that nudging came back more strongly than ever before. Christ was again offering us His Holy Spirit, and we accepted! AND our lives were changed forever! We joined Church of the Servant in early 1999, and made a covenant that we would serve the Church with our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness. We have kept the covenant.

Kipp Neaves took us under her wing and enrolled us in Disciple I Bible Study, our very first. Who could ask for a better teacher and mentor than Bobbie Roe?! Bobbie and Tommy were the Christian role models we had never had before, and what role models they were (and still are!). Through their guidance and encouragement, we finally understood the true feeling of being a Christian and living a Christian life. Kipp also introduced Judie to Sharon Knight, Director of Women's Ministries, and Sharon was very instrumental in showing us how to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

In 2002, the Roes and the Knights sponsored us on the Walk to Emmaus. As we unwrapped the gifts of that special weekend, we grew even closer to the Lord. We finally under-



stood the fullness of His love and what it means to serve Him by serving others. We both remain very active in the Emmaus Community. We have also taken and facilitated Bible Studies and are active in local missions. Our two favorites are Vacation Bible School and Stop Hunger Now. We are both Care Chaplains, and we attend the 9:15 Service in the Celebration Center. We are active members of the Journey of Faith Sunday School family, and we have both served on leadership teams, currently as Lay Delegates to Annual Conference. Judie is on staff as a Care Ministry Associate, where she is passionate about taking church to those unable to attend our services. We hesitate to try to name all of those very special Servant people in our lives for fear we might unintentionally leave someone out! Please consider yourself one of them!

In mid-2015, Judie was diagnosed with Stage 4 Renal Cell Carcinoma (Kidney Cancer), and we experienced being cared for by other Christians. We learned how much easier it is to go through the messes in this life surrounded by the Body of Christ. After going through so much without that support, this new feeling is very special to us. God has been ahead of us every step of the way through this new journey we are now on, opening doors to the best medical and spiritual care there is to be had. AND we have felt every prayer you've offered for us.

Through Church of the Servant, God's grace and forgiveness brought us out of that wilderness, and we know that feeling of despair will never be part of our lives again. Our cups are filled to overflowing with His love and His grace, and we give Him all the glory. We went through a lot without trusting Him and without our Servant family, and we fully understand how much it means to have church and family together. So we continue to keep that covenant we made when we joined in early 1999 by sharing our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service, and our witness. Deuteronomy 11:2 says "Remember what you've learned about the Lord through your experience with Him." To quote Max Lucado, "do that and your mess will become your message!" We give thanks for our Brothers and Sisters in Christ, and we know without a doubt that we will never again be alone through such messes in our lives. If you didn't know why Church of the Servant is special to us, now you do!

- Judie & Don Ellis

VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION

Church of the Servant Veteran's Day Celebration is hosted by Major General Rita Aragon (retired) and Rev. Randy Shrauner on Sunday afternoon, November 13, from 2:00-3:30 p.m. All veterans and families are invited to join us for a wonderful afternoon of celebration.

This Veteran's Celebration will begin with a short service in the Chapel to honor the veterans who have gone to stand guard at the gates of heaven, a prayer for those veterans currently in active service, and a prayer of thanksgiving for those veterans discharged who have stood in the gap for us all.

Major General Rita Aragon (retired) will deliver a brief word of thanks, followed by a prayer of peace from Rev. Randy Shrauner. The Boy Scouts of American will be in attendance to bear our flag and play *Taps*.

Refreshments will follow in the Courtyard. Church of the Servant holds all veterans in our hearts and hopes you will join us and allow us to honor you.



*"The Soldiers and Sailors, men and women, are our friends.
They were high school athletes, college students, the kid next door, but they volunteered to serve
and give something bigger than themselves."*

Major General Richard Huck
Commander General
Camp Lejuene, NC

PRIME TIME

We are in for a treat at the next Prime Time meeting, Thursday, October 13, at 10:30 a.m. in Community Hall! We will welcome Katie Barriick, fiddler extraordinaire! Katie has a wide range of experiences in solo and ensemble performance, composition, and studio work. Her works for string quartet have been featured on nationally released albums, highlighted in the Chickasaw Nation's "Profiles of a Nation", and performed internationally by string quartet, ETHEL. She also regularly performs in our services in the Celebration Orchestra!

Following this exciting program, we'll enjoy Autumn Beef Stew, Tossed Salad, Rolls, and Apple Crumb Cake! Program plus meal is \$10; program only is \$2.

Then we'll line up for free flu and pneumonia vaccinations for Medicare participants. Don't forget to bring your Medicare card!

Don't forget to bring your Bingo and other game prizes (\$2-5) for the Prime Time Bingo booth at the Children's Fall Festival on October 28. Please be sure to mark them Boy/Girl/Either.

Be sure to make your reservations by either signing up at the Welcome Center, or calling the church office, 721-4141, no later than 4:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 12. See you at Prime Time on Thursday, October 13!



NEXT GEN

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

We are the members of our Church of the Servant Children's Ministries Leadership Team for 2016-17. Last year, our mission raised \$3,409 to present to Water4, helping to address the world water crisis. This year, our team has chosen to support United Methodist Canyon Camp near Hinton, Oklahoma.

Canyon Camp is a place that many of you, your family members, or your friends may have visited. We have KIDZ CAMP there every July, and our youth go there for Confirmation retreat. Our church has many connections to Canyon Camp! Many of our other Methodist churches also attend Canyon Camp. Canyon Camp is available to United Methodist groups as well as non-United Methodist non-profit groups.

Our goal in helping Canyon Camp is to fulfill some of their specific needs, so that the camp is even better equipped to share the beauty of the camp and God's glory with others.

Canyon Camp provided us a list of some of the things that would be beneficial. We have chosen to work on providing mattresses for the bunk beds in the cabins (\$200 each) and air conditioning and heating units for the cabins (\$700 each).

We would love to do even more, but that depends on all of us giving generously. Our prayer is that together we can provide funding for these things to the camp, benefitting many who go there looking for God's love.

Please join us in bringing a donation each time you come to church and putting it in our mission collection containers that will be in the Children's areas. Thank you!



Pictured: Our 2016-17 team members- Greyson Gebb, Will McFarlane, Xander Stone, Macey McFarlane, Caroline Flurry, Katherine Russ, Brooklyn Glenn, Anna Traynor, Alyssa Caywood, Isabella Beard.



FALL FESTIVAL HELP WANTED!

Stop by the Fall Festival table in the Concourse this Sunday and sign up to lend a hand! This year's festival takes place on Friday, October 28, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

We are expecting more than 1,000 visitors, including many first-time guests to our church. Whether you are a Sunday School class interested in manning a game booth, a family or couple seeking a fun volunteer opportunity, or an individual who can bake or serve on the night of the festival, we need YOU to help make this year's festival fun for kids of all ages! We could use baked goods for the cake walk, help with setup, cleanup, and especially help with running games.

This annual event is a great, no-pressure way to introduce new folks to our church and wonderful Children's Ministries programs! Please be thinking about who you could invite this year.

Contact Erin Page at 405-740-1208 or erinepage@gmail.com for more information about volunteer opportunities.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 177 UPDATE

We recently celebrated our third eagle scout, Michael Vallejo. Eagle is the highest award in scouting. He is a founding member of the troop. He is a member of the order of the arrow (that is the national honor society for Boy Scouts). Michael now attends Texas A & M University. He has earned the mile swim. Michael participated in the national Scout jamboree from 2013. The national Scout jamboree is a meeting of all the scouts in the nation. Michael has held many positions as a scout, such as assistant senior patrol leader, scribe assistant, chaplain's aide, bugler, and, more recently, junior assistant scoutmaster. He is also a national merit scholar. He was named academic All State by the Oklahoma foundation for excellence.

This month, we had a court of honor, which recognizes all of the advancement and merit badges earned in the past six months. We had over 100 merit badges earned at summer camp, which was a new record for the troop. There were 30 boys that went to summer camp. We also had quite a few people achieve rank advancement.

In preparation for the next campout, we have been working on pioneering. Pioneering involves tying knots, so we have been working on knots like the clove hitch. We also use the clove hitch in lashings. Lashings are tying two poles together using rope. We have used lashings in the past to build the tower at church.



WOMEN

WOMEN'S RETREAT

Church of the Servant's second annual fall women's retreat saw 59 women gathered for fun, fellowship and spiritual renewal at the Chickasaw Retreat Center in the Arbuckle Mountains near Sulphur. The theme for worship and our breakout sessions was "Deepening the Conversation with God" which included ideas and exercises for a life of prayer. There were also creative opportunities, like learning to write your own blessing and painting a prayer mural. The weekend culminated on Saturday evening with big gathering in the great living room and a closing worship of celebration on Sunday morning.

Worship was centered on *Questions God Asks Us* by author Trevor Hudson. The women who attended for the first time found themselves mesmerized by the beautiful surroundings. Those who returned said it felt so good to be back and enjoy the comfortable space as they had been looking forward to it all year. It is a great weekend each fall for women to relax and connect with God and others in a gorgeous, comfortable setting. Thank you to all who prepared and led during the weekend.



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 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 \$25 and it includes a thoughtful take home remembrance of the evening. Tickets are available at www.churchoftheservant.com/events and at the table in the Concourse.



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Lola Burgtorf as Lola's sister, Kris Taylor, recuperates from outpatient surgery.
- ▶ Lewis and Joni Case as their daughter-in-law, Stephanie Case, deals with health issues.
- ▶ George and Deanna Davis as Deanna recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Leon and Debbie Gold as their friend, Mike Holzhauser, recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Daniel and Connie Hawbaker as their niece's husband, Mark Pohlman, deals with health issues.
- ▶ D.A. Heggie as D.A. deals with health issues.
- ▶ Barbara Holland as Barbara faces surgery at the Spine Hospital.
- ▶ Cecil and Carolyn Jones as Cecil recuperates from a procedure.
- ▶ Joe and Mary Ann Legako as Joe recuperates from a procedure.
- ▶ John and Flora Lyman as Flora recuperates from outpatient surgery.
- ▶ Thomas and Tabatha Maassen, as Tabatha's mother, Inez Rogers, is on hospice in Wichita Falls, TX.
- ▶ Norman and Kipp Neaves as Kipp deals with health issues; their nephew's wife, Kristin, deals with health issues; and their friend, Kennedy, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Denene Neufeld as Denene deals with health issues.
- ▶ Vicki Roberds, as her father, Jim Butler, is hospitalized at St. Mary's Hospital in Enid.
- ▶ Randy and Jenny Shrauner, as Randy's mother, Neoma Shrauner, recovers from surgery in La Veta, Colorado.
- ▶ Doug and Ella Sprung, as their granddaughter, Madison Sprung, faces surgery.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Colby, Martha, Xander and Avery Stone as Colby deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bill and Mary White as Mary's father, Clint Fuhrmann, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Richard and Charlotte Wylie as Charlotte recuperates from surgery.

OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ J.R. and Lorene Wolf and Family at the death of Lorene's friend, Fae Halbrook.

CELEBRATING MEMORIES

- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Hannah's Promise in memory of Ruth Allen by Joseph and Melissa Rossa
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Music Ministries in memory of Winona Madison by Max and Paula Hire
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Care Ministries in memory of Barbara Hensley by Jim and Suzie Fentress
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Care Ministries in memory of Laurie Pettijohn by Jim Cross and Roberta Carrier-Cross
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Music Ministries in memory of Charlie Johnson by Joyce Gaige
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Care Ministries in memory of j. robb bartlett by Jack and Darla Norton
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Music Ministries in memory of j. robb bartlett by Doris J. Cline
- ▶ A contribution has been made to Church of the Servant Care Ministries in memory of Sandy Trudgeon by James and Susan Pleasant

SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

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

- ▶ 10/9--Chicken Fried Chicken served with Cream Gravy, Mashers, Veggies, Rolls, Salad & Dessert.
- ▶ 10/16--Autumn Stew served with Cornbread, Rolls, Salad & Dessert.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP

If you've experienced the loss of a loved one, you might benefit from attending our Grief Support Group.

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.

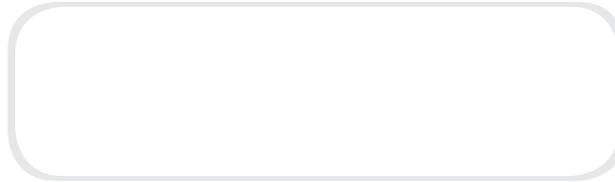
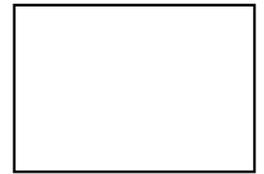
Whether you have recently experienced the death of a loved one, or if you have been on a grief journey for a long time, we hope you'll consider joining the group.

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.

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.

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



Earthglow Market

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 9AM-3PM



CHURCH OF THE

SERVANT

CHURCHOFTHESERVANT.COM

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free admission

**GIFTS, HOME DECOR, HOLIDAY ITEMS,
BAKED GOODS, CAFE, PROCEEDS GO TO MISSIONS**