



November 16, 2016
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER
Issue: 16.22

CHURCH OF THE **SERVANT**



OUR MISSION:

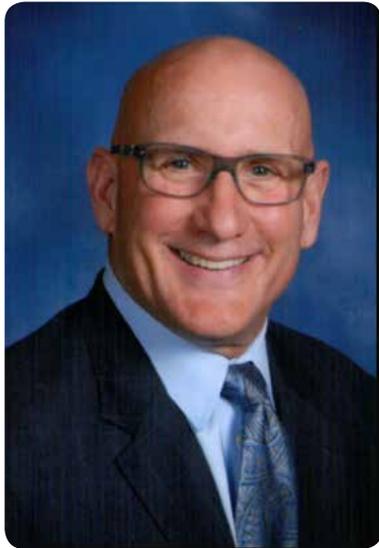
WE EXIST TO LEAD PEOPLE TO BECOME FULLY
COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

SERVICE TIMES || 8:15 • 9:15 • 9:23 • 10:45



BUSY DAYS AS ADVENT APPROACHES

Given the fact the temperature outside is in the low 70s, it is difficult to wrap my mind around the fact that we are in the waning weeks of 2016. However, one quick look at the Church's activity calendar brings that reality into sharp focus. This past week alone, Church of the Servant accommodated the election process, hosting one of the largest voter turnouts in recent memory. Last Saturday, we opened our doors to Earthglow Market (one of our highest traffic days of the year!). And on Sunday afternoon, we had the privilege of remembering our veterans at a special 2:00 p.m. service. Church of the Servant is moving full speed ahead into the Christmas season! As we do, for the sake of your church, there are three specific areas I would ask you to lift up in prayer.



Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

First, on November 6, we launched the Stewardship campaign to support the operating budget for the coming year. As I write this memo, we have collected \$1,979,472 in pledges. As exciting as that number is, our ultimate goal is \$3,700,000 which means we still have a gap of over \$1.7 million to fill. Pray that God will move within our midst and open our hearts and pocketbooks to the ministry needs around us. We are currently experiencing a wonderfully stable period within the financial life of the congregation and have every hope and expectation that trend will continue into the new year.

Secondly, Bishop Nunn and District Superintendent Rockford Johnson — as well as the other members of the Bishop's cabinet of the Oklahoma Annual Conference — have been working with diligence to identify our next ministerial appointment. While there is no announcement pending, we are nearing the time when the pieces should come into place. Pray for wisdom on their part, and pray as well for your existing staff and the person they will tap to fill the role. I continue to trust God knowing a new and bountiful season is just around the corner for Church of the Servant.

Lastly, and most importantly, pray for the spiritual blessing and growth of every man, woman, and child who walks through our doors as we enter this Advent season leading to Christmas. This year, guests will attend our services earnestly seeking a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Pray they will encounter Jesus in the worship, in the music, and in the people who call Church of the Servant home. Stewardship Campaigns and Ministerial Appointments are important, but sharing the "Good News" of Jesus Christ is the sole reason for our existence as a congregation. In the middle of a busy season, may God hold that truth at the very front of our hearts and minds!

Blessings in the name of the risen Jesus Christ,

Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

DISCOVER MEMBERSHIP

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

Have you been attending Church of the Servant for a while and are wondering what the next step is? If so, you should consider signing up for the next Discover Membership Luncheon on Sunday, November 20. This is a one hour gathering of people who want to hear more about the church, have questions about the beliefs of the United Methodist Church, and are considering taking the next step of becoming a member. Rev. Randy Shrauner and Dr. Robyn Goggs host the luncheon at Noon in the Fireplace Lounge in the North Office area. Lunch is provided and children are welcome. To sign up for this month's luncheon go to www.churchoftheservant.com/events or contact Scott Smith at 721-4141 or at ssmith@churchoftheservant.com.



MISSIONS

KENYA MISSION FISH APPEAL

On December 4, we will celebrate our long-time partnership with Maua Methodist Hospital of Kenya with a Fish Appeal. Our hope is to raise enough money to buy a tractor and plow for the Street Children Rescue Center. We ask for your support and your prayers for the staff of the hospital and its many outreach programs.

The Street Children Rescue Center opened in April with 36 children who were living on the street and spending their days sniffing glue. It is a residential facility with a two-year program to rehabilitate, educate, and reunite the children with their families, if possible. The center was purposefully built outside of Maua so that the children would be away from the temptations of the town and in a setting that would enhance their recovery. The farm equipment will increase their food supply, offer training for the older children, and help the center to become more self-sufficient. Any additional funds raised would be used in some of the following areas:

Needs for Street Children Rescue Center

- Electrical wiring for school/office/toilets—\$1,500
- Sewing machine for clothing repair and skills training—\$250
- Toilets for school, new earthbag house, and dormitory—\$1,500
- Drip irrigation—\$1,000
- Acre preparation—manure, seeds, labor—\$2,000
- Food for 3 months—\$7,000
- More animals—milk cow: \$1,500; pigs: \$500
- Office supplies: lockable cabinet, photocopier/printer—\$1,500
- School tables/chairs, office chairs/table—\$1,500
- Tractor and plow—\$16,000



KENYA MISSION TRIP INFORMATIONAL GATHERING

Join us for an informational meeting on Sunday, December 11 at Noon in Community Hall. The mission trip to Kenya is planned for summer 2017. This is a no-commitment meeting, so feel free to come and find out more about projects with our Kenyan partners. This will be a medical and construction trip, so all are welcome. For more information, please contact Ann Knutson at annknut@gmail.com or 323-4292. The Kenya Mission Trip could change your life forever!



OPERATION CHRISTMAS MEAL

This will be the third annual event where we reach out into our community to share a Christmas meal. Beginning Sunday, November 27, we invite you to take a bag to fill with groceries specific to a Christmas meal. A ham will be provided.

We need volunteers to deliver over 250 Christmas meals on Sunday, December 18 after worship. If you know anyone who would benefit from receiving a meal, the Mission Council would love their name and contact information. Past recipients include: Whiz Kids families, local apartment complexes, families in the church, and families or individuals shared with Mission Council, and Skyline Urban Ministries.

There will be a table in the Concourse over the next month where you can pick up a bag to fill, sign up to deliver a meal, or share a name.

MISSIONS

ADVENT IN EARTHGLOW



Advent is a season observed in Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus at Christmas. The term is a version of a Latin word meaning “coming”.

Earthglow is bustling in preparation for Christmas, and some of the really special items featured this year are items that help families experience Advent in various ways. Several types of Advent calendars are available and can be an exciting way for young children to count down the days before Christmas. Beautiful Advent wreaths may be used with candles to symbolize the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar.

Stop by Earthglow today and explore the various ways you can observe the traditions of Advent. You'll also find many treasures for decorating your home for the season, as well as wonderful gift ideas. Remember, your purchases also help local missions.



CHRISTMAS GRACE

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in adopting families this season! There are still a few families left! Please stop by the table this Sunday and pick up a list to bless a family this Christmas. Remember, all gifts are due back by December 4.



FRUIT SALE BENEFITS WHIZ KIDS

The annual fruit sale will benefit Whiz Kids of Oklahoma. Boxes of oranges and grapefruit and mixed boxes of oranges and grapefruit will be available for pre-sale on November 27 and for sale on December 4 at the tables in the Concourse for \$20 per box. Fruit can be picked up on December 4 or picked up in the church office after the sale, December 5-8.

Whiz Kids of Oklahoma is an organization that improves the lives of elementary school students by partnering each child with a caring volunteer tutor. The tutors are there each week to work one-on-one with their student and to build a relationship. The volunteers help primarily with reading. The students are picked up from school, driven to a partnering church, fed a meal, spend time learning, and are driven home. The volunteers become invested in their student, get to know their families, and build lasting relationships.

Please considering helping fund Whiz Kids by purchasing a box of fruit on November 27 or December 4!

STEWARDSHIP

COMMITMENT CARDS

Commitment Sunday was last Sunday, and it was a great celebration of the continued faithfulness of our church family! Last week, you should have received an estimate of giving Commitment Card in the mail. On a practical level, we ask our members to turn in an estimate of giving card each year so that our Finance Committee is able to set an accurate ministry budget for the coming year. This allows us to make the most of every dollar given to the church. The commitment card is also an opportunity for you to spend time in prayer and reflection, considering what offering you would make to God through our church in the coming year.

If you have not turned in your Commitment Card, simply fill out your card and bring it with you to worship services this Sunday or mail it into the church office. If you do not have a Commitment Card, there will be extra cards in the pews and at the Welcome Center, or you may print the card below.



Name(s) _____ Env # _____

Address _____ City/State/Zip _____

I will support the church with my prayers, my presence, my service, my witness, and the following financial gift...

2016
Commitment

2017
Commitment

\$ _____
Annual

\$ _____
Annual

Choose One:

\$ _____ weekly for 52 weeks

\$ _____ monthly for 12 months

\$ _____ as follows _____

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (NRSV)

If you choose, your pledge could be automatically drafted from your bank account or charged on your card.

Monthly Bank Draft Authorization

I authorize United Methodist Church of the Servant to draft my account during 2017 on the 3rd or 20th of each month in the amount of \$ _____. I have enclosed a voided check which will be used to set up the draft with my bank.

Signature for Bank Draft Authorization

Print Name

Credit/Debit Card Authorization for 2017

VISA MasterCard

Card Number _____

VIN# _____ Exp. Date _____

Please charge \$ _____

on the 15th of each month, each quarter, or

one time on _____
Month/Year

Signature for Credit/Debit Card Authorization

Name on Card (Print)

PROFILE OF FAITHFULNESS

Darlington is a Pre-K through 8th-grade school that is just north of El Reno on Highway 81 in the middle of a wheat field. I have been the Dean of Students and Counselor there for twenty-four years. It is an absolutely amazing place. Our student population is about 95% Native American and our district is 100% free and reduced lunch. Our total school enrollment is 249. We have several different tribes, but the majority of the students are Cheyenne and Arapaho. The Native American students do not live in our district. They come to us by choice. Many of our students are second generation. It is wonderful to see our former students walk in to enroll their little ones. They trust us with their precious jewels. To them, this school is “home”. Their culture is rich and we, as a school, embrace it.

We are a very nontraditional school. We work very closely with the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes to understand the culture and to develop a school culture that will give these students the opportunity to thrive. We have an amazing staff that goes above and beyond to help each student to be a success. We also have an Indian Education Director that works with the teachers to help them understand some of the issues that their students are going through that might be affecting their ability to focus in class. The teachers can then tailor their approach to help the students with academic success. It is the small setting and the relationships that are formed with the students and the parents that make our school such a success. Our philosophy is that success brings about more success. Native American students that come to us from other schools are amazed that they can really be a part of everything. If they want to play basketball, they can. If they want to be a cheerleader, they can. They tell us that when they were at their former schools, they were not understood and often fell through the cracks. They quickly learn that this is a place that they can trust and feel safe.



The majority of our parents teach their children their traditional ways. We have a group of young ladies that travel to schools and conferences to perform the Lord’s Prayer in sign language, wearing their native dress. Many years ago, when my grandfather passed away, one of my former students came and performed it at his funeral. It was a beautiful gift I will never forget.

Several years ago, Darrel, Kelly and Chandler Hardy from Church of the Servant came out to visit our students. Chandler began talking to our students about a lot of different topics. Our students really looked up to her. They looked forward to her visits. The Hardy family fell in love with our students. They helped us to establish a food bank so that our students have food at home, and they also started a Christmas Project so that each child in our school can come in and pick out a gift for Christmas and take their picture with Santa. They decorate the room to look just like Santa’s workshop including cookies for every student. What a joy it is to see their faces! What a beautiful gift. Our students look forward to this special day every year.

I absolutely love my job. I get to work with an amazing group of students and faculty that truly care about one another. We are a family at Darlington. I know that God is truly in this place. I have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of students that have often been overlooked. I am so thankful that God has placed me here so that I can love and serve.

We have an after-school program called, “Boys & Girls Club,” and they are always looking for people that can provide programs or sponsor programs. If you would like to sponsor students for Christmas or donate to our food bank, contact me at 405-262-0137 to find out more!

My Wednesday Bible study sisters are a “rock” in my life. I can tell you that they are prayer warriors like none I have ever seen. They have not only prayed for me personally, but also for Darlington School and its precious students. This year, our Sunday school class collected and donated school supplies for our students. We have also had several families in our Sunday school class who have adopted families at Darlington for Christmas. Many blessings have flowed from Church of the Servant to Darlington School.

– Gina Musae



THE CHRISTMAS SONG

December 10 & 11 at 7:00 p.m.

This Christmas program is a huge undertaking for the choir and orchestra! The staging and incredible costuming makes it a very special evening! This brand new, fully-staged musical will retell the ageless Christmas story through the eyes of Mary. **The Christmas Song** is a dramatic musical highlighted by the cinematic scoring and vocal arrangements of leading Christian composer, Bradley Knight, complemented by the poignant drama of Heidi Petak. **The Christmas Song** communicates the remarkable story of God's love with this powerful 55-minute presentation. Your family will be filled with the joy of Christmas through this family-friendly production!



WINTER RETREAT

High School Ministry's annual Winter Retreat is December 9-11 at Canyon Camp. Join us for a weekend of fun, worship, discipleship, and growth. We are studying the Apostle Peter and learning more about what it means to advance our faith. This is a great opportunity to not only grow in your faith, but also in your relationships with other students and leaders.

Registrations are due Sunday, November 20, and are available at The Point Student Center. You may also register online at www.churchoftheservant.com/events. The cost is \$100. Please contact Sang Nguyen at sn-uyen@churchoftheservant.com for more information.



TROOP 177

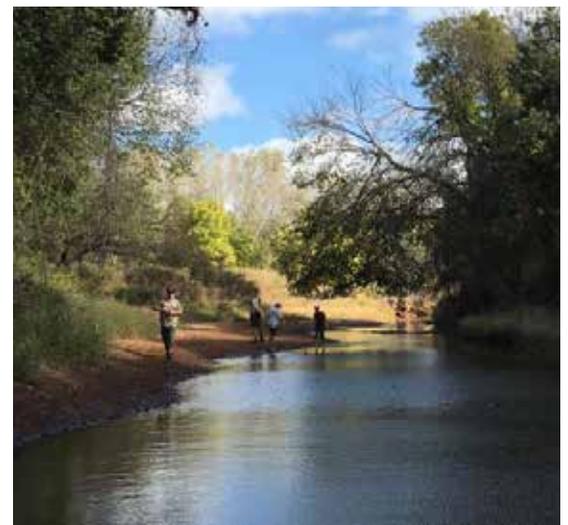
At our meetings, we have been working on advancement. The advancement we have been working on is the beginning ranks. The first four ranks are about taking care of yourself. The last three ranks are about being able to help others, lead others, and life skills. The higher rank boys help the lower rank advance by teaching the E.D.G.E. method. The E.D.G.E. method stands for Educate, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable.

The hiking campout was a very adventurous trip. We went to different stops and rested in a beautiful area. We all really enjoyed it and would be something that I think everyone would enjoy. This was a training hike for a longer hike.

At the next campout, we will be working on cooking requirements. Cooking is an Eagle Scout required merit badge. For this merit badge, you have to cook at least eight meals according to the food pyramid. Cooking is a life skill that people use all their lives. It is easier to learn life skills earlier.

— Aaron Lawson

NEXTGEN



ADULT

PRIME TIME

Thursday, December 8, 10:00 a.m.
(This is an earlier start time than usual!)

This month, we have so much planned for the Christmas gathering — our Annual Bake Sale & Silent Auction, plus spectacular Christmas music! The auction will be from 10:00 to 10:45 a.m. Come early so you don't miss bidding on all the delicious items! Proceeds of this auction will allow us to be generous in our charitable giving.

Following the auction, Michelle Knight and Dr. Matt Schinske, will gift us with the music of Christmas. Don't miss their magical offering and this gathering of friends as we share Christmas joy!

Enjoy this program and a festive holiday meal for only \$10.00. Program alone will be \$2.00. Register at the Welcome Center, or call the church office, 721-4141, no later than 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 6 to make your reservation.

Deliver your dessert by 9:30 a.m. the day of the program or you can bring them to the office by 4:00 p.m. the day before. Please label your items with your name and a description!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Classes Begin January 11

Discussing finances, developing budgets, and creating a financial plan for your life can be difficult if you don't know the steps to take.

Every year, Church of the Servant offers a 9-week course called, "Financial Peace University" (FPU), that will teach you the financial steps to take! It teaches God's ways of handling money. This is a class that has helped millions of people. They have secured their futures. On average those families have paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in the first 90 days. That is an \$8000 turnaround.

Are you ready to carve out one night a week for 9 weeks to learn the steps to get where you want to be? You can do it! You just need a plan.

Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

FPU will be held at Church of the Servant from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. beginning Wednesday, January 11 through March 8. Tom McGee and Peter Weaver will be leading the 9-week event. For more information and to register, go to www.churchoftheservant.com/events.



CHRISTMAS
at Servant

MORE INFO: WWW.CHURCHOFTHESERVANT.COM/ADVENT

*NURSERY FOR AGES 2 AND UNDER

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24 FAMILY SERVICE 3:00 P.M.	CHRISTMAS MUSICAL "THE CHRISTMAS SONG" DECEMBER 10 & 11 AT 7:00 P.M.*
CANDLELIGHT SERVICE 6:00 AND 8:00 P.M.*	CHRISTMAS DAY DECEMBER 25 AT 11:00 A.M. (1 SERVICE) FAMILY-FRIENDLY SERVICE
	NEW YEAR'S DAY JANUARY 1 AT 11:00 A.M. (1 SERVICE)*

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Susan Barnes as Susan's friend, Fred Ordelheide, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Ed and Cecilia Beckham as Cecilia's sister, Sharon, deals with health issues; and their daughter-in-law, Anna Beckham, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Gary and Darlene Berkovsky as Darlene's aunt, Flossie Hester, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Warren and Sue Collins as their niece, Tammy, recuperates from injuries from an automobile accident.
- ▶ Steve and Barbara Colton as Barbara's father, Jim Belobraydic, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Ben and Sammye Cravens as Sammye deals with health issues from surgery and is hospitalized at Integris Baptist Medical Center.
- ▶ Pete and Cherie Dennis as Cherie's sister, Jo Logan, recuperates from surgery and undergoes treatment.
- ▶ Dennis and Sally Gilstrap as Sally undergoes tests; and their friend, Scott Boyd, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bill Gipperich and Melissa Munroe Gipperich, as their friend, Lisa Fried, undergoes tests.
- ▶ Jim and Coleen Henry as their daughter, Amy Henry, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Tommy, Kelly, and Tayber Klein as Kelly deals with health issues.
- ▶ Jerry and Sally Liles as Sally's brother and sister-in-law, Randy and Joyce Dennis, ask for prayers for Randy, as he recuperates from surgery in Arkansas.
- ▶ John and Flora Lyman as Flora undergoes treatment.
- ▶ Barbara Maillet as Barbara's father, Armand Maillet, deals with health issues in Florida.
- ▶ Bill and Janie Medina as Bill recuperates from surgery.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Derin, Julie, Harrison, and Emily Mott as Julie recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Dick and Susan Muehleisen as Dick recuperates from surgery at Zale Lipshy University Hospital at the University of Texas.
- ▶ Phyllis Narcomey as Phyllis recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Joann Pace as Joann deals with health issues.
- ▶ Tom and Susan Page as Tom recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at Integris Baptist Medical Center.
- ▶ Ben and Sandy Ratzlaff as Ben recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Vince and Marilyn Robison as Vince is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Brad and Lisa Rodgers as their friend, Lisa Marvel, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Ralph and Neoma Shrauner as Neoma recuperates from a procedure.
- ▶ Charles and Nancy Waggoner as Charles recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Rose Welch as Rose's daughter, Nicole, deals with health issues and undergoes tests.
- ▶ Richard and Charlotte Wylie and their son Andy as Charlotte recuperates from surgery and Charlotte's brother, Rocky South, deals with health issues.

OUR CELEBRATION

- ▶ Roger and Marilyn Bailey at the birth of their great granddaughter, Vera Elizabeth Jorjadze. The proud parents are Bibi and Abby Jorjadze. The proud brother is Alexander Jorjadze.

OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ Garrett and Brandy Barnett and Family at the death of Garrett's mother, Mary Barnett.
- ▶ Janie Cunningham and Family at the death of Janie's husband, Frank Cunningham.
- ▶ Dorothy Erickson and Family at the death of Dorothy's husband, Roger Erickson.
- ▶ David and Diane Folks and Family at the death of Diane's father, George Keelen.
- ▶ Dick and Donnie Jennings, Jonathan, Tamra and Sara Jennings and Family at the death of Dick's and Donnie's grandson; Jonathan's, and Tamra's son and Sara's brother, Zachary Jennings.
- ▶ Barbara Maillet and Family at the death of Barbara's stepfather, Dale Grace.
- ▶ Dick and Susan Muehleisen, Larry and Cheryl Shirley and Family at the death of Dick's and Cheryl's father, Herman Muehleisen.
- ▶ Bill and Mary White and Family at the death of Mary's uncle, Glenn Jackson.

SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

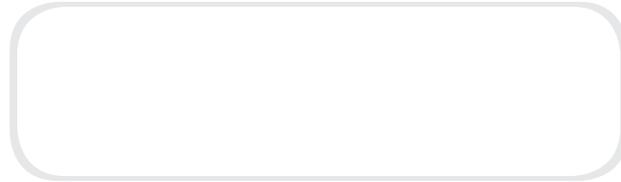
**Full Breakfast - \$6;
Lunch - \$9; Kid's Plate - \$3.50**

- ▶ 11/20 — Thanksgiving Feast
- ▶ 11/27 — Closed for the Holiday
- ▶ 12/4 — Meat Loaf, Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, Rolls & Dessert.
- ▶ 12/11 — Chicken Parmesan w/ Creamy Alfredo, Saute Veggies, Salad, Rolls & Dessert.

POINSETTIA SALES BEGIN!

Poinsettia sales will begin Sunday, November 27, and continue through Sunday, December 11. Please stop by the Welcome Center and place your order with Becky. You may also order by calling the church office or emailing Becky at bkittrell@churchoftheservant.com. Poinsettias are \$20 each.

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



The
Gifts of
CHRISTMAS

November
18 2016

6:30-9:00pm

SPECIAL GUEST:
LISA HARPER

AUTHOR | SPEAKER | BIBLE SCHOLAR

PURCHASE TICKETS AT WWW.CHURCHOFTHESEVANT.COM/EVENTS