

November 30, 2016
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER
Issue: 16.23



CHURCH OF THE **SERVANT**



OUR MISSION:

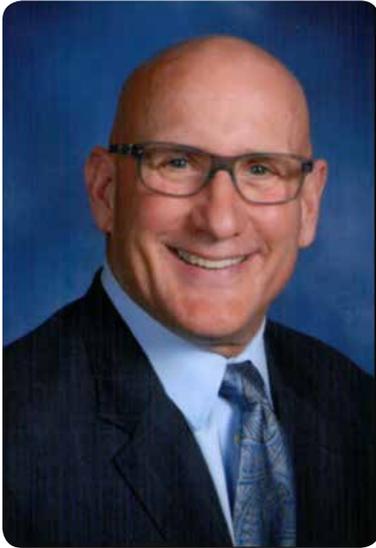
WE EXIST TO LEAD PEOPLE TO BECOME FULLY
COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

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



THE HOPE OF ADVENT

The season of Advent is indeed a season of hope where we are reminded of both the character of God, as well as what his call upon our individual life as a disciple entails. As a part of my devotional life, I have been making my way through N.T. Wright's book *The Day the Revolution Began*. In a manner both powerful and profound, Wright challenges many popular conceptions of Christian life, first and foremost in that the end goal



Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

of Christian life is to transport out of this world to spend eternity in a disembodied spiritual realm called heaven: life as an angel, so to speak, complete with a golden harp and a cloud upon which to recline. Wright's book lays out a much more robust vision of eternity, a glimpse at God and his hopes for our salvation and redemption, and of our eternal vocation within the Kingdom of God. The book is pressing hard on me in this Advent season as I find it to be filled with hope, but also heavy with responsibility as it calls me to come to grips with who God is calling me to be as a disciple – calling me to be as a disciple *today!*

Where this lands hardest is in recognizing the responsibility that each of us shoulders to make real the "hope" of Advent and the arrival of Jesus. Yes, we within the Church have our eyes locked on the horizon waiting for God to break in anew. Yes, we are always looking to the future and to the consummation of God's hopes where his will is done "on earth as it is in heaven." But, that forward look is "only significant insofar as it relates to the immediate life"¹ of the people God has placed around us. How can I lift a burden, heal a broken heart, ease the fear of those around me? How can we individually, and collectively as the Church, learn to be a literal slice of heaven on earth? To be such is the call God has placed upon us and is the vocation of a disciple of Jesus.

As you prepare for Christmas and the celebration of Emmanuel, God with us, ask what changes you might make in this coming year which would allow God's light and love to shine a bit brighter within you. Each of us, by the saving grace of God through Christ, are called to be agents of the Kingdom of Heaven. This Christmas season, may the world recognize us as sons and daughters of the King through our words and our deeds, along with our prayers and our actions.

– Randy

¹Christine E. Pilkington: *The Lectionary Commentary: Theological Exegesis for Sunday's Texts*, Jeremiah 33:14-16

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 \$8,000 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.

MISSIONS

KENYA FISH APPEAL IS THIS SUNDAY!

This Sunday, we will celebrate our long-time partnership with Maua Methodist Hospital of Kenya with a Fish Appeal. Our hope is to raise \$20,000 to buy a tractor, plow, and the means to farm two acres for the Street Children Rescue Center. The Swahili name is Watoto Wa Ahadi – Children of Promise. The center opened in April of this year with 36 children who were living on the street. 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 will be in a setting that will 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. Church of the Servant previously purchased a motor scooter to aid in bringing children to the facility. We also ask for your support and your prayers for the staff of the hospital and its many additional outreach programs.



KENYA NEEDS

Needs for Street Children Rescue Center

1. Electrical wiring for school/office/toilets (\$1,500)
2. Child sponsorship – \$45/child per month
3. Toilets for school, new earthbag house, and dormitory (\$1,500)
4. Sewing machine for clothing repair and skills training - \$250
5. Drip irrigation – \$1,000
6. Acre preparation – manure, seeds, labor (\$2,000)
7. Food for 3 months (\$7,000)
8. More animals (milk cow: \$1,500; pigs: \$500)
9. Office supplies: lockable cabinet, photocopier/printer – (\$1,500)
10. School tables/chairs, office chairs/tables – \$1,500
11. Tractor & plow – \$16,000

Needs for Maua Methodist Hospital

- \$150 pays for a major surgery such as a C-section or a gall bladder removal
- \$150 pays for 7 days of inpatient hospital care
- \$50 pays for a baby to be delivered
- \$25 pays for an outpatient consultation for malaria and the medicine to treat it

Early Childhood Center Needs

- \$100 pays a teacher's salary for a month
- \$10 pays for a child's education for a month (uniforms, lunch, etc.)
- \$8 pays for a pair of rabbits; \$5 for a pair of chickens. The children learn to care for them at school and then take them home to propagate.

KENYA INFORMATIONAL GATHERING

An informational gathering will be held on Sunday, December 11, at Noon in Community Hall, regarding a mission trip to Kenya in the summer of 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.



CHRISTMAS GRACE

Wow! All of the families have gone out for Christmas Grace! Thank you for choosing to gift a local family this year! Once again, you have shown what it means to be Church of the Servant with hearts for God's people. What a blessing this ministry is for the hundreds of families who will receive gifts this Christmas because of you and your desire to be a blessing to others! Remember to return your gifts by this Sunday, December 4.

MISSIONS

OPERATION CHRISTMAS MEAL



Last Christmas, over 200 meals were coordinated and delivered to our local community. The meals were delivered to local residents in apartments, Whiz Kids' families, and others identified by our congregation members. We are going to do it again this year! Three ways you can be involved:

1. Pick up and fill a grocery bag of food. The Mission Council will be purchasing hams to go with the bags of food.
2. Sign up to deliver meals after worship on Sunday, December 18.
3. Identify a family you know who might be in need this season.

The Mission Council will be coordinating the plans and appreciate all the help others will bring. This is a wonderful opportunity to reach our neighborhoods. Bags can be picked up at the table in the Concourse.

WHIZ KIDS FRUIT SALE

The annual fruit sale will once again benefit Whiz Kids of Oklahoma. Boxes of oranges, boxes of grapefruit, and mixed boxes of oranges and grapefruit will be available for sale on December 4. Look for the tables in the Concourse. The fruit will be \$20 per box and can be picked up on December 4 at the table, or in the church office after the sale from December 5-8. What a healthful snack or gift to share with your family and friends while helping a FANTASTIC cause!

What cause is that? 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 but can help with any schoolwork necessary. 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 and get to know their families and build lasting relationships.

This fabulous organization cannot rely on volunteers and funding. Please considering helping fund Whiz Kids by purchasing a box of fruit this Sunday, December 4!



EARTHGLOW GIFT SHOP

As you begin your decorating – THINK EARTHGLOW. There are beautiful ornaments that tell the Christmas story as presented in the Gospel of Luke. There are sets of carolers that will beautifully adorn your mantle.

As you need a hostess gift – THINK EARTHGLOW. The festive doormats with seasonal inserts make the perfect hostess gift for under \$25. Or make your hostess smile with a set of napkins with catchy phrases like "All Mama Wants Is A Silent Night."

As you choose a gift for a child or grandchild – THINK EARTHGLOW. There are wonderful, reasonably-priced Melissa and Doug items designed to inspire imagination in children of all ages.

As you bundle your packages to take to Grandma's – THINK EARTHGLOW. Grab a festive burlap bag to carry lots of small gifts, or wrap that one big item that doesn't fit in a box.

As you count your blessings this Christmas – THINK EARTHGLOW. Your purchases not only delight your friends and family, the proceeds bless a local mission.



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.

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

6:00 AND 8:00 P.M.*

CHRISTMAS MUSICAL

"THE CHRISTMAS SONG"

DECEMBER 10 & 11 AT 7:00 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)*

Happy Birthday JESUS

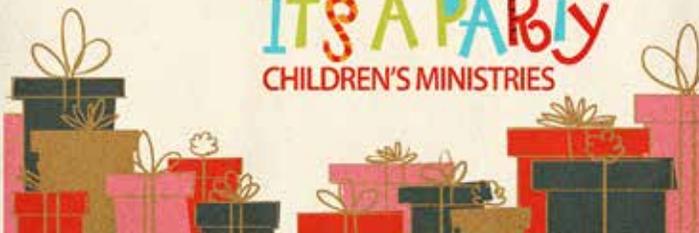
WE ♥ YOU!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18

9:15 - Kids Own Worship and Grapple Lesson
Includes the Christmas Story and Caroling

10:45 - Birthday Cake, Art Projects, and Program:
"The Good News of the Birth of Christ!"

IT'S A PARTY
CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



PROFILE OF FAITHFULNESS

Kara Mitchell is using her talent for art to bring joy to others. She recently illustrated a children's book, fulfilling a dream she'd had for many years.

"This project – *The Little Old Man, the Little Old Woman, and the Little Red Hen* – has been a great experience. Children's book illustration has been something I've dreamed of doing as long as I can remember. I am a member of an organization called SCBWI (Society of Children's Book Authors and Illustrators). Our regional chapter had a critique about a year ago and the publisher saw my work. She had already signed the author, David Roper, and was looking for the right illustrator. I didn't even meet David until after I was finished," she explained.

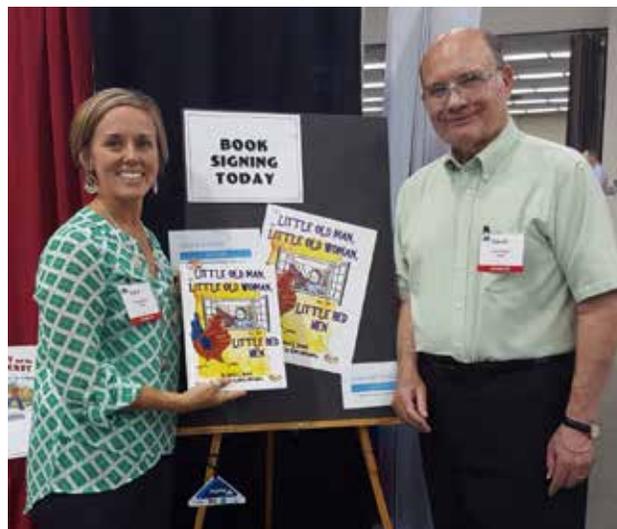
Her next project is with the same publisher, Doodle and Peck. The author is our former minister, Dr. Matt Judkins. The story is about Bigfoot and camping in southeastern Oklahoma. Kara said, "It's going well so far and it's an honor to work with a great friend."

Kara said that she doesn't know how one becomes an artist. She's always drawn. "I see things in terms of images to create, record, and share. My parents are creative and always encouraged my own creative endeavors. That freedom (short of painting my room all three primary colors) definitely influenced my path. I was an art major in college, but had fallen out of the practice of art. When our youngest was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes almost two years ago, I started drawing again. I draw everyday now and it's a kind of meditation," she said.

Chuck Weatherford was one of the first at Servant to really recognize ways that Kara could share her gifts. She's developed several graphics for choir and other music ministries. She has also created some t-shirt designs over the years for different ministries at Servant. Her gifts extend to music, and she sings in the Celebration Choir and in SYNERGY.

Kara doesn't like to use the word "talent" to describe herself. She says that creativity is a gift from God. "Like a muse, He has gifted me the spark, interest, and, most importantly, the experiences to make things. Do I think I have a responsibility to share it? Absolutely! It's a perk that it feels good to do so."

Congratulations, Kara!



Kara Mitchell and David Roper

ADULT

INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY WORKSHOP

Start Reading the Bible in a New Way in the New Year

Wednesday, January 18, 2017, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m

LEADER: Nancy Harris

COST OF WORKSHOP AND LUNCH: \$15

DEADLINE TO SIGN UP FOR THIS CLASS IS JANUARY 11, 2017

To register for this class, email Nancy Harris at nancyquilter@cox.net, or Susie Cobden at scobden@churchoftheservant.com. You will be glad you did!

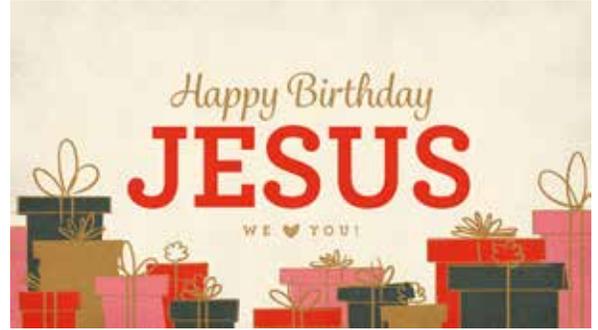
What is Inductive Bible Study? God's Word is your guidebook for all of life, and inductive study gives you the key to understanding that guide. Inductive study, a method that brings you directly to the Word of God apart from another's understanding or interpretation of the text, involves three skills: (1) Observation teaches you to see precisely what the passage says. It is the basis for accurate interpretation and correct application. Observation answers the question: What does the passage say? (2) Interpretation answers the question: What does the passage mean? (3) Application answers the question: What truths can I put into practice, and what changes should I make in my life? When you know what God says, what He means, and how to put His truths into practice, you will be equipped for every circumstance of life. Ultimately, the goal of personal Bible study is a transformed life and a deep and abiding relationship with Jesus Christ.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JESUS PARTY December 18

Attention all children 3 years – 5th grade! Join us in Children’s Ministries for the biggest birthday party of the year.

This celebration will begin at 9:15 during Kids Own Worship and Grapple and will continue into the 10:45 Sunday school hour. The morning activities will focus on “The Good New of Christmas”.

Families should make plans so that their children can be in Children’s Ministries all morning.



THANK YOU!

The church was filled with the sights and sounds of a carnival midway on October 28 for our annual Fall Festival. Kids of all ages played fun games, had their faces painted, jumped in the moon bounces, petted therapy dogs, met their favorite movie characters like Elsa and Batman, and were amazed by the clowns’ balloon animals. A delicious hot dog supper, popcorn, cotton candy and a wonderful bake sale filled hungry tummies. The new raffle of family-oriented prizes was a big hit and allowed us to tally the number of attendees and capture contact information of our guests. We had more than 120 first-time families attend, and our wonderful hospitality team has already reached out to them to invite them back to enjoy our Children’s and Family Ministries.

The Fall Festival would not be possible without the support and volunteer efforts of so many in our church. Sunday school groups, Bible study groups, Student Ministries, Warm World, Starbright, Celebration Choir, Women’s Ministries, Servant A-paw-stles, Girl and Boy Scouts, and so many more all pitched in to make this event a tremendous success. Our Children’s Ministries and facilities staff spent many hours preparing to make the Fall Festival a wonderful evening for our guests. So, whether you filled goody bags for the event, donated goods or funds, helped promote the event, invited friends or family to attend, made goodies for the cake walk or bake sale, volunteered at the event, or helped clean up afterward, THANK YOU for your service!

Not only did you make a fun, free event possible for so many families in our community, you also provided a positive, welcoming impression for our first-time guests. Through the hot dog supper, cotton candy, popcorn and bake sale, your efforts grossed more than \$1,200, and the proceeds from the Fall Festival will support our Children’s Ministries. Attendees also brought critical donations of diapers, wipes, and other baby essentials for the families served by Infant Crisis Services.

WOW! What a wonderful night of fellowship, and what an incredible example of our church community coming together to serve! THANK YOU!

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 desserts 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!



Gifts of Christmas Women's Event Huge Success to Kickoff the Season!

International author and Christian women's speaker, Lisa Harper had us in stitches with laughter and deeply reflecting on the gift of hope this season. Spending the evening with her was like reminiscing with an old friend. Over 260 women shared festive fellowship, worship and inspiration. What a great evening for our second annual event. Mark your calendars for our New Year, New You event, which will be a potluck and mission evening on Sunday, January 15. Let's start the new year in service!

BELLS AT THE PHILHARMONIC DECEMBER 1 AT 6:30 P.M.

On December 1 at 6:30 p.m., Church of the Servant's Celebration Handbell Choir will present favorite Christmas carols at the Civic Center Music Hall, prior to and at intermission of the opening night of the Oklahoma City Philharmonic's Christmas Show, featuring Kelly O'Hara.

**POPS 2 | The Christmas Show
Starring Kelli O'Hara // December
1-3, 2016**

Oklahoma's Tony Award winner Kelli O'Hara, fresh from Broadway's *The King and I*, stars in OKC's original, fully-staged Christmas extravaganza. Bring the entire family to welcome Santa and his tap-dancing kickline, the Philharmonic Pops Chorale and Maestro Joel Levine and the entire Philharmonic. To purchase tickets, go to www.okcphil.org/16-17-season.



Knitters at Noon on Tuesday

It's getting cold outside! Come and sit by the fireplace in 13:2 Coffee Shop with the knitting group. This is a group of women from our church and community who work on their own projects and on group projects, like baby hats for all newborns in our congregation. If you have ever wanted to knit, this is the place to be! Beginners to experts are welcome; there will always be someone there to teach newbies. This is a vibrant group of women making beautiful things together! Just come and join in any Tuesday.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Ed and Cecilia Beckham as Cecilia's brother-in-law and sister, John and Patty, ask for our prayers as John deals with health issues.
- ▶ Dan and Cathy Bush as Dan deals with health issues.
- ▶ Paul and Millie Fernald as Paul deals with health issues.
- ▶ Leon and Debbie Gold as Debbie recuperates from surgery; and Debbie's cousin, Steven Turner, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bob and Jacklynn Haynes as Jacklynn deals with health issues.
- ▶ Ron and Sharon Hendricks as Ron's cousin and wife, Rick and Julie Sumrall, both deal with health issues.
- ▶ Kevin and Jennifer Higgs as Jennifer recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ John and Vickie Lacy as John recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Elizabeth Large as Elizabeth's brother, Steve Large, deals with health issues and faces surgery at OU Med.
- ▶ Joe and Pam Lovell as Pam's cousin, Linda Sublett, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bob and Barbara Neil as Bob deals with health issues.
- ▶ Rhett and Nicole Pigg as Rhett's father, Roy Pigg, recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Gordan Pugh and Lee and Juli Hudson as Gordan deals with health issues.
- ▶ Johnny and Donna Powell as Johnny recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Joe and Shirley Rolston, as Joe recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Tom and Kathleen Sumpter as Tom deals with health issues and faces surgery at Integris Baptist Medical Center of Edmond.
- ▶ Tom and Elaine Swanson as Tom recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Jim and Jo Wheeler, as Jim was recently hospitalized.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Chaille Burgtorf and Lola Burgtorf and Family, at the death of Chaille's grandson and Lola's great-grandson, infant Jace Kallen Humphries.
- ▶ Gale Derryberry and Family at the death of Gale's husband, Larry Derryberry.
- ▶ Steve, Kathy, Cole, Ryan, and Trevor Mansell and Family at the death of Steve's father, Kathy's father-in-law, and Cole's, Ryan's and Trevor's grandfather, Bob Mansell.
- ▶ Marilyn Robison and Family at the death of Marilyn's husband, Vince Robison.
- ▶ Dan and Linda Trammell and Family at the death of Dan's and Linda's daughter, Kinlee Farris.

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.

COMMITMENT CARD

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. Thank you for your continued faithfulness!

POINSETTIAS ON SALE

Stop by the table in the Concourse and place your order with Sarah Krivy. You may also order by calling the church office or emailing Sarah at skrivy@churchoftheservant.com. Poinsettias are \$20 each.



OUR CELEBRATION

- ▶ Chaille Burgtorf and Lola Burgtorf and Family, at the birth of Chaille's granddaughter and Lola's great-granddaughter, Kennedy Jayde Humphries. Proud parents are Blaine and Kendall Humphries.
- ▶ Matt and Megan Cross at the birth of their daughter, Erica Christine Cross. Proud brother is Patrick Ryan Cross. Proud grandparents are James and Cathy Maxwell.
- ▶ Matt and Laurel Newsom at the birth of their son, Owen Raymond Newsom. Proud brother is Braden Newsom. Proud grandparents are Ray and Patty Newsom. Proud uncle, aunt and cousin are Tommy, Kelly and Tayber Klein.

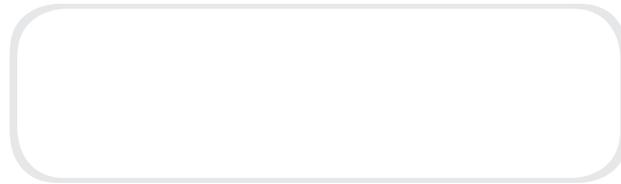
SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

Full Breakfast - \$6;

Lunch - \$9; Kid's Plate - \$3.50

- ▶ 12/4 – Meat Loaf, Potatoes, Veggies, Salad, Rolls & Dessert.
- ▶ 12/11 – Chicken Parmesan w/ Creamy Alfredo, Sautéed Veggies, Salad, Rolls & Dessert.
- ▶ 12/18 – Christmas Feast!

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



A King is Born

The Christmas Song
December 10 & 11 at 7:00 p.m.

This brand new fully-staged musical will retell the ageless Christmas story through the eyes of Mary. The Christmas Song is a musical that 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.

Presented by: Music Ministries