

December 14, 2016  
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT  
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER  
Issue: 16.24



# CHURCH OF THE **SERVANT**



## OUR MISSION:

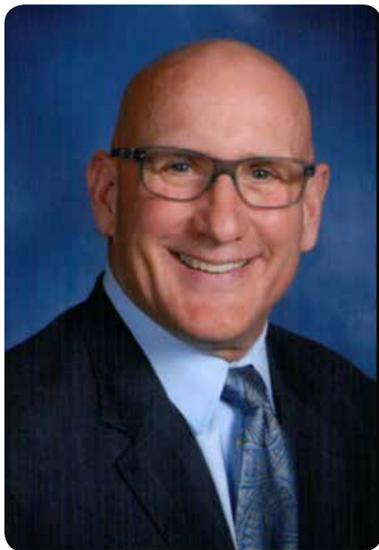
WE EXIST TO LEAD PEOPLE TO BECOME FULLY  
COMMITTED FOLLOWERS OF JESUS CHRIST

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



## YEAR-END REVIEW

This Advent Season has been filled with many exciting worship opportunities. As our staff gathered this Monday morning we continued to celebrate the great success of the “Christmas Song” pageant put on this past weekend by our staff and Music Ministry personnel! The support of the congregation and the community as a whole was overwhelming. The Celebration Center was filled with new faces as guests came to explore the work of your congregation. And of course, the year would not be complete without our upcoming Christmas Eve services to be held at 3:00, 6:00, and 8:00 p.m. on December 24th. Over this past year, working together we have shared the “Good News” of the gospel of Jesus Christ both locally and around the globe. But even as we reach the final days of 2016, we are hard at work planning our ministry efforts for the year to come.



**Rev. Randy Shrauner**  
*Executive Minister*

One of the significant pieces of closing out the year is making sure that the business of the congregation—all the administrative and support operations that make possible the ministry we accomplish together—is in order. The “Prepare the Way” campaign has been a wonderful success to this point as we have reduced the overall indebtedness of the congregation by over six million dollars. At year-end our outstanding indebtedness will be at \$400,000, bringing the finish line of our being debt free as a congregation in sight for the coming year.

It will be important for us to finish out our giving to the operating budget in strong fashion as well. Within the next week we will be sending updated statements on giving for the year. Please compare these statements with your records and make adjustments. New Year’s Day falls on a Sunday this year. As such, the last day our offices will be open and available to receive offerings is Friday, December 30, 2016. Our finance staff will be at the church until 5:00 p.m. that afternoon. If you choose to mail your year-end tithe to the church, IRS regulations require the envelope be postmarked on or before December 31, 2016 in order

for it to be included in your 2016 giving. We are available to help with stock transfers or the giving of assets other than cash as well.

If you have any questions regarding this information, I can be reached at my office by calling (405) 728-4746, or contact Steve Johns in our Finance Office by calling (405) 721-4141.

Thank you for your financial support of Church of the Servant. May a sense of God’s presence be yours through this Christmas season as we celebrate together the birth of Jesus Christ. Merry Christmas.

– Randy

## 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.

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](http://www.churchoftheservant.com/events). Childcare is available.

## EARTHGLOW CHRISTMAS

It's 10 days before Christmas  
And all through the house  
Weary last minute shoppers  
Fume, fuss and grouse.

There are gifts left to purchase  
And they don't have a clue  
What to give to Aunt Mary  
Or sweet baby Sue.

Earthglow has the answers,  
Stop by and you'll see,  
Many marvelous selections  
For under your tree.

There are books just for coloring,  
A giant teddy bear,  
Good things for baking,  
Even bows for the hair.

Doggy goodies, fancy jewelry,  
Or a special coffee mug,  
The ideas abound  
And they'll get you a hug.

Every purchase helps missions  
As it shares Christmas cheer,  
So come shop in Earthglow.  
Christmas almost is here!



## Christmas Grace Blesses Many!

What a wonderful day it was to see all the bicycles and toys come into our church on Sunday, December 4. Gifts were shared through nine agencies and helped 177 family units which included over 500 individuals. 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! A special thank you to the leadership of Susy Wilson and Stan and Sherri Selvedge who coordinated our volunteers and agencies.

## Christmas Meals for Local Families –

***Delivery drivers needed on Sunday, December 18. Arrive in the Centrum at 10:45 a.m. for delivery directions.***

Over 200 meals will once again be delivered throughout our local community by dozens of people from our church. Mark your calendar for delivery day on December 18, as this will again be an opportunity to reach people in our neighborhoods. The bags of groceries are coming in. Please try to have yours to the Centrum by Thursday, December 15. Hams will be purchased this week. If you would be willing to deliver a meal on Sunday, please email Susie Cobden at [scobden@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:scobden@churchoftheservant.com) and plan to be in the Centrum at 10:45 a.m. this Sunday morning for directions.



# MISSIONS

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## Thank You for Your Generosity!

The Maua, Kenya Fish Appeal taken in worship, on Sunday, December 4, raised \$25,000 for the hospital and child rescue center. These funds will purchase a tractor and plow for the center as the ministry works to bring homeless and vulnerable children off the streets to give them a safe home and a better life to grow and go back to their families with healing and/or into the world with skills. We are touching lives on the other side of the world in these gifts. Thank you for your generosity. There is a team forming right now to go to Maua Kenya in June/July 2017. If you are interested in more information about being on the team, please contact Ann Knutson at 323-4292.



## Thank You for Your Fish Offering

Each Sunday during our worship services an opportunity to give to the Fish Funds happens during our servant hymn. Your generosity above and beyond your normal giving makes it possible for our mission ministries programs to continue. Whiz Kids, Hannah's Promise, Mobile Meals, Car Seats for Kids, and Operation Christmas Dinner hams are the ongoing ministries that are funded by Fish Funds. The Mission Council also helps to discern how to make these funds available to our own church members for mission trips and special projects. The funds given in 2016 will be the funds available to disperse in 2017. As of the end of November, the Fish Funds given to the weekly offering have been \$34,512. This is a great start for next year! In January's newsletter, we will share how your fish funds were distributed in 2016. Thank you for your faithfulness! If you would to make a special gift to mission before the end of year, remember your fish fund ministry!

# SERVE

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## Be Hospitable this Christmas!

Advent is the season of hospitality! In the middle of busy schedules, with parties, decorating, and gift wrapping, we also make room in our lives to welcome the birth of Jesus, to let Him into our lives. It's also a time to be near family, friends, and even strangers as we all share in this special moment.



If you've never considered it before, this is a great time to join our Hospitality Team. As the holidays bring people back to church, now more than ever the love and the joy of Christ must be on full display throughout our building. With three Christmas Eve services, we need all the help we can to make sure people feel welcome, loved, and seen.

Please consider partnering with God this Christmas season to show grace, love, and warmth through Servant's Hospitality Team. Contact Rev. Michael Carpenter at [mcarpenter@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:mcarpenter@churchoftheservant.com) or (405) 728-4716 about this special opportunity!

# CHRISTMAS

*at Servant*

MORE INFO: [WWW.CHURCHOFTHESERVANT.COM/ADVENT](http://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)\*

## Christmas Day Worship at Servant

This year, Christmas Day falls on a Sunday, so we will offer a combined worship service on December 25 at 11:00 a.m. in the Celebration Center. This will be the only worship service offered that morning. It will be a mixture of people of all ages – from babies to the elderly! It will be great to come together and celebrate with joy the fact that God, in the form of Jesus, came into this world as a human being some 2,000 years ago... and that Jesus is at the very center of our faith today, too! Come and sing some wonderful Christmas carols with us! The service will feature a brief Christmas homily from Rev. Tim Travers. There will even be a special "blessing of the toys." Therefore, if you have kids or grandkids, have them bring a favorite toy or gift they've received as part of their Christmas experience. Even as adults, we give and receive some very meaningful gifts. We will bless these special gifts in a way that will speak to people of any age. Merry Christmas!

**Combined Sunday Services on  
Christmas Day and New Year's Day  
11:00 a.m. in the Celebration Center  
(ONE SERVICE ONLY)**

**Please mark your calendars for the special  
worship time on these two Sundays and JOIN US!**

## Christmas Eve Mission Offering NextGen Ministries Mission Trip and Camp Scholarship Fund for 2017

Did you know last year we had 48 senior high students go on mission trips, 65 middle school students serve in our city on numerous occasions, and 80 children attend camp? Each year some of our Fish Funds are given to help make these experiences happen. In 2017, we want to offer more scholarships for our children and student ministries, as we know these experiences shape them for a lifetime of faithfully following Jesus Christ. Our Christmas Eve offering will go to provide these life-changing experiences for our next generation as they grow through the ministries and experiences of faith here at Church of the Servant and in the community. This special offering will be taken at all three of the Christmas Eve services.

# 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**

This workshop is for men and women. To register for the workshop, email Nancy Harris at [nancyquilter@cox.net](mailto:nancyquilter@cox.net), or Susie Cobden at [scobden@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:scobden@churchoftheservant.com). You can also register online at [www.churchoftheservant.com/events](http://www.churchoftheservant.com/events). 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.

## **PRIME TIME** **January 12, 2017**

Prime Time will welcome Dr. Bob Blackburn, notably called the "face of Oklahoma history." Dr. Blackburn is a native Oklahoman who earned his Ph.D. from Oklahoma State University, and has been executive director of the Oklahoma Historical Society since 1999.

He has authored 18 books on Oklahoma history, delivered well over a thousand lectures, and appears frequently on television. He helped spearhead the effort to fund and construct the Oklahoma History Center, a Smithsonian-quality museum and research facility that opened on statehood day, November 16, 2005.

Dr. Blackburn has spent almost four decades championing Oklahoma's history, and is the guiding force behind the historical society's transformation into a powerful, vital organization that pushes constantly for excellence.



And speaking of history, Prime Time will celebrate our 30th birthday, with a wonderful meal and plenty of birthday cake and ice cream! The program alone is \$2, or with the meal it is \$10. Sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office, 721-4141 no later than 4 p.m. on Wednesday, January 11.

## **WOMEN'S MINISTRIES:**

Developing strong relationships and being in a fun, supportive community is important for women. We need each other! Our Women's Ministry is a place where you can deepen your relationship with Christ and with other women who seek Him. We continually work to offer opportunities that will help "light your path" in your own personal walk with our Lord. As we begin a new year, you are invited to join our Bible studies, special events, and the other service options that we provide. We would be blessed to have you come along with us on our journey of discipleship!

**Winter "Offerings" classes kick off the week of January 9.** We will have classes on Tuesday mornings and during lunch, Wednesday mornings and evenings, and Friday mornings for moms. Nursery is provided on Tuesday mornings, Wednesday evenings, and Friday mornings.

**See the different classes offered and register online at:**  
**[www.churchoftheservant.com/women/classes-studies/](http://www.churchoftheservant.com/women/classes-studies/)**

## FIRST FAMILY WORSHIP – November 16

Children, parents, grandparents, and friends joined together for Servant's first Family Worship Night on November 16. The mission of Next-Gen Ministry is to lead the next generation to become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ. One way to do that is to create opportunities for families to come together to share a spiritual experience – thus, Family Worship Night was designed, executed and now CELEBRATED!

The evening's theme was about how followers of Christ live out their lives with an "attitude of gratitude." In addition to worship, interactive activities for the family were available as well as photo ops.



**SAVE THE DATE – NEXT FAMILY WORSHIP – FEBRUARY 1**

## WOW (Welcome on Wednesday) Is Alive and Well

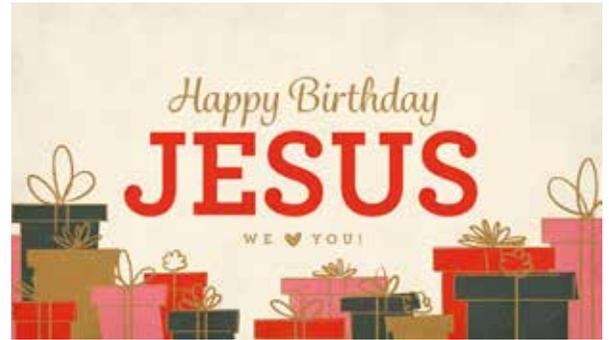
The Children's Ministries area is always alive when our kids are here, and Wednesday nights are no exception. The last thing kids want to do after a day at school is sit through another classroom experience. WOW is not designed to be a classroom experience, but what the kids are experiencing is moving and doing – the Bible point for the evening is told through storytelling, crafts, games, snacks, Bible lessons, music, and more. It's upbeat Bible learning. One of the best parts of WOW is that kids are encouraged to bring friends, and what is even more wonderful – they do! We always encourage our kids to bring friends on Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights and to special events. We can always count on meeting our kids' friends on Wednesday nights.

**WINTER SESSION OF WOW STARTS JANUARY 11** and registration is required for new attendees. Registration forms are available on the church website and at the Welcome Counter in the children's area. If children participated in the fall they do not need to re-register – we are looking forward to seeing them in January.

January Bible Points include:

"We Can Find Jesus" – Matthew 2:1-12; "God Watches Over Us" – Matthew 2:13-23; "Jesus is God's Son" – Matthew 3:13-17.

# CHILDREN



## 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.



**Rev. Randy shared a message with the WOW kids in November about how GOD TAKES CARE OF US.**

# ADULT

## High School Thunder Night

All 9th - 12th grade students are welcome to join us for the OKC THUNDER Night, Wednesday, January 11 from 6:30 - end of game. We will meet at the Chesapeake Arena at the North entrance. You can pick up a form at The Point Student Center. Registrations are due on January 8.

## High School Confirmation

High School Confirmation is a special experience in which students will join together with other high school students and caring adults to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of the United Methodist Church. The purpose of Confirmation is twofold. First, it allows the "confirmands" to claim their faith in Christ as their own and publicly profess that faith during a High School Confirmation Service. For those who have been baptized, they will confirm their baptism. For those who have not been baptized, they will be baptized during the service. Second, Confirmation allows the confirmands a chance to take the membership vows and become full members in the United Methodist Church of the Servant.

If your student has not completed Confirmation and is interested, you can pick up a registration form at The Point Student Center.

## Pancake Breakfast January 22

Our church-wide Pancake Breakfast with Silent Auction is January 22. Join us for a morning of delicious food, fantastic service, and support the High School Spring Break Mission Trip! We will serve pancakes from 7:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. High School Ministries needs several more baskets for our Silent Auction. If you, your Sunday school class, or some other group would like to donate a basket, please contact Sang Nguyen at 728-4754. Your help is greatly appreciated!



HIGH SCHOOL  
SMALL GROUPS  
THUNDER NIGHT  
JAN 11, 2017  
6:30PM - END OF GAME  
\$15

MEET AT THE NORTH  
ENTRANCE OF  
THE ARENA (ACROSS THE  
STREET FROM THE COX  
CENTER AT 6:30)



# OUR LIFE TOGETHER

## OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Mike and Pam Adams as their friend's daughter, Linda Johnson, deals with health issues and recuperates at Epworth Skilled Nursing Community.
- ▶ Roger and Evalyn Baldwin as Evalyn recuperates from an illness.
- ▶ Ed and Cecilia Beckham as Cecilia's sister, Sharon Taylor, recuperates from surgery in Lubbock, Texas.
- ▶ Jerry Black as Jerry recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Dan and Cathy Bush as Dan deals with health issues and faces a procedure.
- ▶ Lewis and Joni Case as Lewis deals with health issues and undergoes tests.
- ▶ Kevin and Keri Chessmore, as Kevin's grandmother, Hazel Chessmore, deals with health issues and recuperates from surgery at Epworth Skilled Nursing Community.
- ▶ Marty and Dottie Christensen, as their daughter, Terri Shipp, was recently hospitalized at Cancer Treatment Center at Tulsa.
- ▶ Harold and Jean Coleman as Jean deals with health issues and faces surgery at St. Anthony Bone & Joint Hospital.
- ▶ Jim Cross and Roberta Carrier-Cross as Jim recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ D.A. Heggie, as D.A. recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Cecil and Carolyn Jones as their friend, Ann Gonzalez, deals with health issues and is under hospice care.
- ▶ Elizabeth Large as Elizabeth's brother, Steve Large, recuperates from surgery at the OU Medical Center Edmond.
- ▶ Jimi Marrs as her son, Tim Marrs, recuperates from surgery in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- ▶ Allen and Marilyn McGlasson as their sister-in-law, Phyllis McGlasson, deals with health issues and recuperates from surgery.

## OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Janice Moore and Jinna Cota as Janice deals with health issues and Jinna ask for our prayers.
- ▶ Leah Segress and Shele Cook, as their cousin, Margaret Averett, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Monica Seibel as Monica's mother, Caroline White, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Will and Michele Snow as their friend, Jack Mercer, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Martha Snyder as Martha recuperates from an illness.
- ▶ Jim and Cheryl Wheelbarger as Jim deals with health issues and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Bob and Susy Wilson as Bob deals with health issues and is hospitalized at Integris Baptist Medical Center.

## CELEBRATING

- ▶ Congratulations to Conner McGinnis upon being named to the All Big Twelve Conference Football Team this year, one of only a few on this year's team to have a perfect 4.0 grade point average. A graduate of Heritage Hall, Conner is the son of Don and Stacy McGinnis and a life-long member of our church family. He is one of the quarterbacks at OU and currently is the holder for the place kicker on field goals and extra points.

## VOLUNTEER FOR CARE MINISTRIES

Are you interested in volunteering for our Care Ministries? Perhaps you have a knack for encouraging others with words of comfort and care. Maybe you like sending cards and letters to people when they face difficult times. Perhaps you even feel a calling to go and visit people on behalf of our church, so that you can pray with them and let them know God loves them. If you'd like to help support people during important times of their lives (like when they are hospitalized, having surgery, or experiencing grief in the family), we'd love to hear from you! There are various opportunities for you to serve in Care Ministries here at Church of the Servant. You can write notes and cards to our members, pray for them, or even become trained as a lay Care Chaplain. For more information, please call Vicki Roberds at (405) 728-4738 or email her at vroberds@churchoftheservant.com.

## OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ Martin, Elene and Carter Christensen and Family at the death of Martin's mother, Deborah Granger-Christensen.
- ▶ Donnie and Shellene Guerra and Family at the death of their nephew, Ken Roesch.
- ▶ Gregg, Stephanie, Braden and Riley Henson and Family at the death of Stephanie's grandmother, Barbara Brewer.
- ▶ Dick and Donnie Jennings and Family, at the death of Donnie's mother, Mildred Edmonson.
- ▶ Leo Mix and Family at the death of Leo's wife, Leota M. Mix.
- ▶ Don and Evelyn Norris, Claude and Sherry Husbands and Family at the death of Don's brother and Sherry's uncle, Dwight Norris in North Carolina.
- ▶ Family and Friends at the death of Tom Oden.

## SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

**Full Breakfast - \$6;**

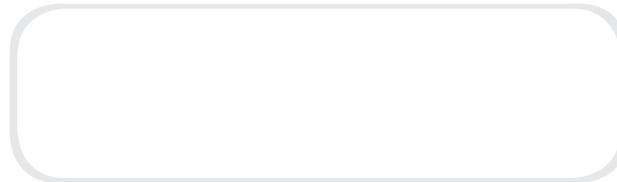
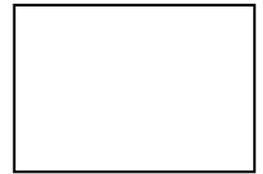
**Lunch - \$9; Kid's Plate - \$3.50**

- ▶ 12/18 – Christmas Feast!
- ▶ 12/25 – CLOSED for the holiday.

## 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



DECEMBER 18 AT 7PM  
CELEBRATION CENTER

***MERRY JINGLE-FEST***  
*Sunday, December 18 at 7pm*

*Join us for a not-so-serious evening of popular Christmas music, featuring:*  
*Worship Orchestra playing "Trans Siberian Orchestra" arrangements, our two Bell Choirs playing the familiar carols of the season, and SYNERGY singing "Pentatonix" arrangements of your favorite Christmas Carols.*

*This is going to be a fun, fast-paced evening everyone in the family will enjoy!*

*Nursery available for ages 2 & under.*