

January 25, 2017
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
Bi-Weekly NEWSLETTER
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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

THROUGH THE HEART OF... AN ARTIST

I have always admired artists, those men and women among us who have the ability to transmit an image from the depths of their heart through their fingertips allowing the rest of us a view of the world from a new or an altered perspective. On Sunday mornings, as we listen to Matt Schinske and Jenny Johnson play the piano, the music we hear exists not on paper, but only in the profound creativity of their imaginations. Take a look sometime at Matt's iPad as he prepares to perform an original piece. All I see are a series of seemingly random scratches and notations. Matt looks at the same and sees beauty to be brought to life through his skilled hands. That skill is indeed a product of countless hours of repetition and practice, but those hours alone cannot account for the gap between his abilities and mine. God has blessed him with a particular set of gifts and graces and Matt works to live into that gifting with his entire heart.



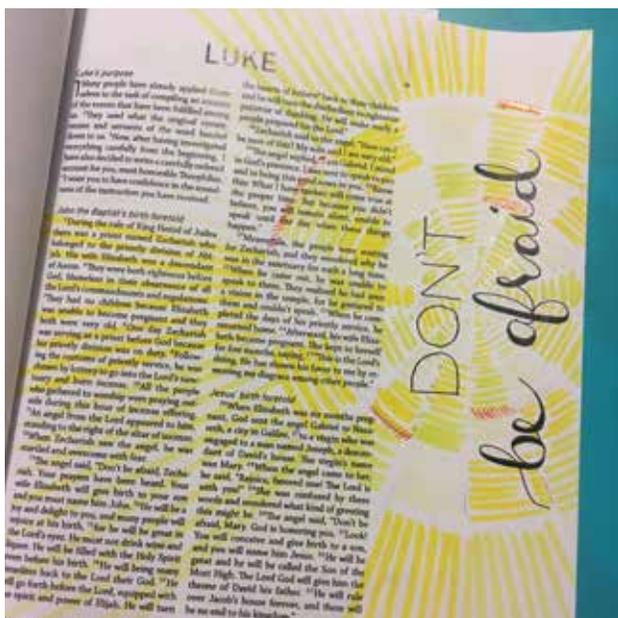
Rev. Randy Shrauner
Executive Minister

Art comes in many forms. Pinned on the wall of my office is an original print from our recent Christmas Eve services. Drawn utilizing an exotic medium – the back of a prayer card and ink from a pen found in the pew – is a detailed rendering of the Celebration Center during that most beautiful service of the year. It is all there, the palm trees, the table set with communion elements, the Advent candles and more. As the artist handed me the card at the conclusion of the service, those with her were needling her for not paying attention during the service, but in truth the drawing indicated intense focus. What to others might appear to be doodling to push back boredom is to miss the point. For an artist to draw, to play, and to create is to think deeply on the subject at hand.

I was blessed to see an Instagram post from our own Martha Stone appear on my feed (see pictures below). Martha, along with many of us, is making her way through the Gospel of Luke. But as a part of her devotions she is illustrating pages within her Bible in an effort to highlight a thought or a passage of particular interest. Bringing the words, as printed flat upon the page, to life gives the opportunity for them to be experienced in a different way, a new way, through the heart of an artist. Such work adds an aspect of beauty to the text providing a means for it to find a home within our souls as well as our intellects.

A profound “thank you” to you artists out there! Exercise the divine gifts God has placed within you and realize that the rest of us are immensely grateful for the splashes of color and dimension you bring into our lives.

– Randy



Drawings by Martha Stone

Fish Appeal for Stop Hunger Now Sunday, February 5

Thirty thousand people lose their lives every single day to starvation. Since 2010, members and friends of Church of the Servant have partnered with Stop Hunger Now to change that statistic, to save lives and to end global hunger! Because of their compassion and commitment to this vision, over \$252,000 has been raised and 1,011,792 meals have been packaged and shipped to feed hungry children all over the world!

On Sunday, February 5, a special Fish Appeal will be taken to raise money for the Stop Hunger Now meal packaging event on Sunday, March 5, where 151,000 meals will be packaged. Each meal costs 29 cents, adding up to \$43,790.00. Church of the Servant has raised this and more each year. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission of saving lives and ending global hunger!



The Work of Our Mission Partnerships:

Car Seats at Infant Crisis Services

Over the last six years, we have continued our car seat ministry by partnering with Infant Crisis Services (ICS) and going to the heart of our city to meet those who need seats for their children. The team here from Servant is part of a bigger team that gathers every other month to fit 70 seats onsite at ICS on a Saturday morning. This past Saturday, we were a part of another great event in the city as 70 seats were purchased through Church of the Servant Fish Funds. If you would be interested in training to be part of this team, please contact Dr. Robyn Goggs at rgoggs@churchoftheservant.com.

My Heart's Appeal Annual Celebration

Leave a legacy for your family and stretch your love all the way to the red roofs of Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa where My Heart's Appeal is developing a vocational center modeled after Dale Rogers Training Center in Oklahoma City.

Join us here on Thursday, February 9, 6:00-8:00 p.m. in Community Hall for the 5th Annual Celebration Dinner. Come hear about the amazing progress and hear special guests share about giving teens and adults with disabilities in Monrovia, Liberia the opportunity to learn life skills and be productive. Tickets for the evening are \$20 and include a delicious dinner buffet by Ted's Escondido. Advance registration will be appreciated. Go to myheartsappeal.org to register and learn more about My Heart's Appeal.



Robyn Goggs, Christi-Lynn Bethea, Ray Newsom, and Miki Farris are part of the Church of the Servant Car Seat Technician Team.

MUSIC

A brand new season has begun! You are invited to become a part of this dynamic worship ministry of our church. We have several openings!

- **Celebration Choir** is open to high school and up. All voices are needed but we have a particular need for male singers. We meet Wednesdays in the Choir rehearsal hall downstairs, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Childcare is provided. Please contact Chuck cweatherford@churchoftheservant.com or 405-550-3016.
- **Worship Orchestra** is open to high school and up. New players are always welcomed. Today, we are looking for string players and a French Horn player. The orchestra meets on Wednesdays in the Celebration Center, 6:15-7:15 p.m. Contact Chuck if you are interested so we can prepare a folder for you: cweatherford@churchoftheservant.com or 405-550-3016.
- **Celebration Ringers Adult Bell Choir** has one open spot. You need to have a fundamental understanding of music to ring in this group. We meet Thursdays 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the bell room (located just off of the main rehearsal hall). Interested? Contact Chuck cweatherford@churchoftheservant.com or 405-550-3016.
- **Coming Soon! Servant Academy of Arts Orchestra** – This group will begin meeting in February, Mondays at 6:30 p.m.. More information to come!



ADULT

Beginning Yoga Class

Be good to yourself; awaken your body, mind and spirit with Yoga. This class will focus on basic Yoga postures including stretching, breathing and relaxation. When you incorporate Yoga into your life, it can help with blood pressure, improve your immune system, mental clarity, flexibility, and reduce stress, to name a few of the benefits. All ages and abilities will be accommodated.

8 week class - \$60

Tuesday Mornings, 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

January 31 – March 21

Contact Jo Fendrych, 808-3082, to enroll or if you need more information. Proceeds donated to Church of the Servant and A Place to Grow, Inc. Scholarships are available.

PRIME TIME Thursday, February 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Prime Time will experience a very special treat at the February 9th meeting, as we welcome the talent of our very own Darci Farmer! Darci, as many of you already know, became a self-taught ventriloquist two years ago at the age of 10. Since then she's been featured on NBC's "Little Big Shots", hosted by Steve Harvey. In July, she attended her first International Ventriloquist Convention in Kentucky, where she was the first child ventriloquist in its 40-year history to share the stage for the evening performance with celebrity ventriloquists. Last month, Darci flew to London, England, where she taped the U.K. version of "Little Big Shots" that is scheduled to air some time next spring. She is a student at Deer Creek Intermediate School and attends Church of the Servant with her parents, Clarke and Misty Farmer and siblings Nick, Dalton and Nate.



We will also have a cold-weather comfort meal of Chicken Alfredo, veggies, salad, and strawberry shortcake. Program alone is \$2.00, with the meal it's \$10.00. You don't want to miss Darci's performance, as well as the good food and Prime Time fellowship! Mark your calendar and be sure to sign up at the Welcome Center or call the church office, 721-4141, to reserve your spot!

PROFILE OF FAITHFULNESS

Our life as a family is filled with answered prayers. Reflecting back over the past 30 years, we are reminded of God's faithfulness and His hand of provision on us. God has made his faithfulness real to us, time after time. Over the years, I have relied on scripture to help us keep our focus. Hebrews 10:23 reminds us to "...hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful."

As with many families, God has brought us through health scares and ER visits. He comforted us in the loss of our parents, particularly in coming to terms with the deaths of each of our mothers in recent years. In times like these, our prayers may not feel as if they are answered, but we learned to place our trust in God's plan for their lives.

Most recently, our prayers were answered as Kent was selected as Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs at Oklahoma City University. We love being part of the OCU community, where Kent has worked for the past 10+ years, and we are thrilled that our son, Keaton, is now a student there. We are grateful to God for answering our prayers to continue building our life here in OKC, and as members of Church of the Servant.

Many answered prayers also marked our return to Oklahoma from the New Orleans area, after Hurricane Katrina. Kent was among the one-third of Tulane University faculty who were laid off in the aftermath of the hurricane. Soon after, he was called and offered his position back at Tulane Health Sciences Center. We decided to take a few days to pray about it before replying, and then decided to turn it down and hope to find an opportunity somewhere else. Several months went by without any prospects, and then a teaching oppor-



LtoR: Kent, Keaton, and Lauri Buchanan
Picture Courtesy of: Dawn Gilstrap

tunity opened up at OCU. Kent began his tenure at OCU, and I was hired as the Director of Women's Ministries at Church of the Servant. Both were great blessings to us and for our family.

Our son, Keaton, is another reminder of answered prayers. When we were ready to have children, we had no idea that it would be such a lengthy and difficult journey for us. For several years, we hoped and prayed for a child. Eight years later, we were blessed with our son Keaton, our miracle. That experience taught us about waiting expectantly upon the Lord for our prayers to be answered.

The people of this church have been a great encouragement to my family and me since the first time we walked in the door. The "Two by Two" Sunday school class made us feel right at home, and we have made lifelong friends there. Two years ago, we felt led to step into

leadership for the "Seasons" adult Sunday school class, where we have made more great friendships. Countless others in our church have made an impact on our spiritual development. Servant is a very special place that we hold close to our hearts.

Over the years, we have learned that prayer is so much more than asking God to fulfill our requests as if we were putting coins into a vending machine, expecting Him to "dispense" His blessings to us. It's so much deeper and richer than that. Our prayers have given us a relationship with God. And as we pray, we get to know our heavenly Father, and hopefully we will become more like His Son. I can't think of anything better than that.

— Lauri Buchanan

STUDENTS

High School Pancake Breakfast

Pancake Breakfast is one of my favorite things to do at Servant. And it isn't the delicious pancakes and orange juice, or even the money that's raised (though that is a close second); but its the beauty of watching the church come together. Watching students interact with older members of the church, through service and prayer – it is a beautiful image of the Church coming together. Thank you so much for being a congregation that believes in their youth. We are able to keep mission trip costs down through your contributions, but more importantly we were able to share a beautiful moment as a church. Thank you.

I just want to send a special thanks to the adults for their willingness to serve: Mike Gentry, Amy Hammons, Karla O'Hara, Stacey Brim, Rebecca Valentine, Dave Hammons, Patrick O'Hara, Missy Loftis, Sharon Bumbgardner, Jo Ellyn Bible.

Sang Nguyen
High School Youth Pastor



WOMEN

A Sisterhood of Widowhood

Kindred Community is the name of an ever-growing and loving group of women who have lost their husbands through death. Losing your spouse can be one of the most isolating experiences a person can encounter. Walking into a room with a group of women who have all experienced this tremendous grief somehow ushers in a warm comfort. Not a word needs to be shared; there is a common thread of understanding... perhaps the Holy Spirit connects our hearts in ways that are needed to help us find our footing and even joy on this journey, creating a Kindred Community.

Church of the Servant will host a Kindred Community lunch on Saturday, February 18, at 11:00 a.m. in Community Hall. Whether this is a fairly new chapter in your journey or you

have been widowed for a long time, please consider joining us for a delicious homemade lunch lovingly prepared just for you. We will be blessed by gathering together, enjoying a wonderful lunch and listening to our speaker, Lisa Boone, lead us through a beautiful gift she has specially prepared for our time together on February 18. It will be marvelous - something you do not want to miss!

Please RSVP at your earliest convenience so that we can prepare for you. Contact Sherri Price, 405-748-3111 or sherriprice@cox.net with any questions, to RSVP or to volunteer to help serve during the lunch. Please feel free to invite friends who are also widowed to come with you!

NextGen Family Worship Night Wednesday, February 1

On Wednesday, February 1, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m., NextGen Ministries will host our second Family Worship Night. Our mission in NextGen is to combine the influences of the Church and the Family to lead the next generation to become fully committed followers of Christ. One way we do that is by creating opportunities for families to come together for a shared spiritual experience. Family Worship Night is one of those opportunities. This great night is designed specifically for families with kids from preschool to 5th grade and will include interactive family activities and a kid/parent-friendly worship service. Mark your calendar and make plans to take part in this amazing experience!



Troop 177

For the past few months, we have talked about how to prepare for cold-weather camping. We have learned about layering, which is very important. First, you start with a base layer such as thermal underwear, and then thin t-shirts or pants. Lastly, you put on light jacket with a heavy one on top. You can also layer sleeping bags.

This week, we have our Senior Patrol Leader election. This will decide who will run our troop for the next six months. Our four candidates are: Camden McDowell, Ibrahim Matar, Matthew Dye, and Jantz Branden. Then, it is up to the newly elected Senior Patrol Leader to choose who will be on his leadership team.

We have a merit badge college coming up. Besides summer camp, this is where we earn most of our merit badges. We need merit badges to advance in scouting. Eagle requires a total of twenty-one merit badges, and some merit badges (such as communications) are required. This year most of the merit badges are Eagle required.

— Aaron Lawson



***Suite 45 WOW kids
built snowmen! We
always need a plan to
build a good snowman,
but we know that
GOD ALWAYS HAS
A PLAN FOR US
to build our lives!***



ATTENTION ALL KIDS WHO LOVE TO SING!

The Kids Musical Project will be performing an original musical on Palm Sunday afternoon, before the annual Easter Egg hunt. Parents, please save these dates on your calendar (March 5, 19, 26, April 2, 8, and 9). Sunday rehearsals will begin after morning services, 12-1:30 p.m., and we will be providing pizza for the kids who attend. All kids in grades K-5 are available to participate. Registration information will follow soon. Please contact Paul Gebb with any questions, pgebb@churchoftheservant.com.

Social Media Devotions



The Sea of Galilee. A Tax Collector's booth. The Garden of Gethsemane. These images help draw us into the Bible. At Church of the Servant, we want you to deepen your walk with Christ and with Scripture, and we want to help you do it! All through this current series, "The Story of Jesus," as we walk together step by step through the Gospel of Luke, we will be putting out short devotions on our social media accounts.

Every Tuesday and Friday morning, check Servant's Facebook and Instagram account for that day's Scripture, a powerful image, and a brief, inspirational devotion that will engage you with "The Story of Jesus." There, you can follow along with the reading plan, start your morning in God's Word, and ready yourself to experience Jesus that day. Here, you can claim your own discipleship and comment with your thoughts and prayers!

As always, these social media posts will be great to share with your friends in and out of church alike. Tell your friends to follow us, share these devotions, and let God's Word be a blessing to others. As we commit to let God's Word shape our lives this season, let us allow it to shape our social media presence, as well!

So, be on the lookout for these devotions, and let them be a blessing to you these weeks. If you aren't following us, go to "Church of the Servant" on Facebook and @servantchurch on Instagram and follow us!

Cabin Fever Cures

The hustle/bustle of the holiday season is now behind us, and after a few days at home awaiting the dreaded ice storm, many of us are now suffering from cabin fever. Here are a few suggestions to help combat the mid-winter doldrums.

- Take a nice long walk, and what better place to do that than the hallowed halls of Church of the Servant, where you can also stop by Earthglow.
- Stroll out to 13.2 Coffee Shop on a Tuesday afternoon and you'll find lots of friends "tending to their knitting" as they create beautiful handmade items to share. It's a great place to learn a new skill or practice an old one.
- Plan to bring your latest craft idea and share a day in Community Hall on the third Thursday of each month with fellow crafters. You can knit, crochet, color, scrapbook, make jewelry, etc. And while at the church, you can also shop in Earthglow.
- While in Earthglow, pick out a treasure for your kiddos from the great selection of Melissa and Doug products – guaranteed to keep them entertained during those inside days.
- Grab an adult coloring book and some colored pencils for your own cold-weather entertainment. There are also mugs for coloring – even color-your-own socks.
- Pick up a jar or two of cookie mix. You won't be nearly as stir-crazy when you get home if you have something warm fresh from the oven, and these products (along with all other Christmas items) are now 75% off.
- Try a mug and cake mix combo and make yourself an individual dessert to creatively chase away the winter blues.



Remember, your Earthglow purchases will not only chase away cabin fever, they also support local missions.

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Bert and Peggy Akins as Peggy deals with health issues.
- ▶ Betty Bohan as Betty recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Mike and Cindy Brecheen as Cindy's mother, Gail Bright, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Patsy Brock as Patsy recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Ben and Lois Clarkson as Ben deals with health issues.
- ▶ Bill and Sandra Clemons as Sandra recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Max and Debbie Colclasure as their son, Damon Colclasure, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Dale and Elaine Cox as Elaine's mother, Neoma Maroon, recuperates from surgery and is a resident at St. Ann's Nursing Home.
- ▶ Barbara Eskridge as Barbara's nephew, Wilson Todd Magbee, deals with health issues and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Teri Green as Teri deals with health issues and faces outpatient surgery at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Nick and Vonda Hail as Nick deals with health issues and is hospitalized at Integris Baptist Medical Center.
- ▶ Ron and Sharon Hendricks as Sharon deals with health issues and faces outpatient surgery.
- ▶ Mark and Linda Hill as Linda recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Rick and Shirley Jackson as their friend's daughter, Morgan Rohwer, deals with health issues.
- ▶ Linda Jordan as Linda deals with health issues.
- ▶ Elizabeth Large as Elizabeth deals with health issues.
- ▶ Robert and Debbie McCord as Debbie deals with health issues.
- ▶ Ed and Susan Mitchell as Ed's sister, Ena Porch, recuperates from surgery.

OUR PRAYERS CONTINUED

- ▶ Denene Neufeld as Denene's great nephew, Parker Weddle, deals with health issues.
- ▶ John Schille and Jimi Hadley as Jimi recuperates from surgery.
- ▶ Troy, Amy, and Rachel Weber as Troy deals with health issues.

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.

OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ Gary and Darlene Berkovsky and Family at the death of Gary's mother, Rosalie Berkovsky.
- ▶ Joyce Gaige and Family at the death of Joyce's sister, Winifred France.
- ▶ Sally Noakes and Family at the death of Sally's cousin's son, Micah Steeleman.
- ▶ Kimberly Stephens-Shoush and Skyler Stephens and Marina Stephens and Family at the death of Kimberly's husband and Skyler's and Marina's stepfather, Matthew C. Shoush.

SUNDAYS IN THE KITCHEN

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

- ▶ 1/29 – Catfish & More!
- ▶ 2/05 – Spaghetti & Meatballs, Veggies, Garlic Bread, Salad & Dessert.



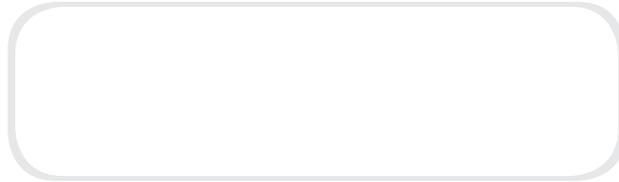
Walk to
EMMAUS
THE UPPER ROOM[®]

ABOUT EMMAUS

The Walk to Emmaus is a spiritual renewal program intended to strengthen the local church through the development of Christian disciples and leaders. The program's approach seriously considers the model of Christ's servanthood and encourages Christ's disciples to act in ways appropriate to being "a servant of all." The event spans 72 hours, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday and ending at about 6:30 p.m. on Sunday. The application fee is \$100.00, with all meals provided. This fee may be split with \$50.00 attached to the application and the balance at check-in on Thursday. We accept cash and personal checks.

Spring 2017 Emmaus Walks are scheduled, and the teams are in training. Men's Walk #143 will be held at Oak Park Retreat Center in Perkins, OK, March 9 - 12, 2017. Women's Walk #144 will be at the same location March 23 - 26, 2017. Please pray about who you want to sponsor, and tell them what your Emmaus Walk meant to you. We need sponsors to bring us Pilgrims. We need applications so we can hold the Walks! Please don't wait until the last minute to get your applications to Judie Ellis. We need them as soon as possible for planning purposes. Contact Judie at 405-250-1333 or jellis@churchoftheservant.com if you have any questions.

CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
14343 N MacArthur Blvd
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SAVE THE DATE

Family Worship Night is February 1, 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Centrum! Plan to come and bring your family and friends. Family Worship Night is a service designed for families to experience worship together. NextGen Ministries seeks to combine the influences of the Church and the Family to lead the Next Generation to become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ.

