

JANUARY 2, 2017

Oakbridge

405.789.8812
WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Please join together with a big WOCC welcome to the Brown family. Russ and Linda Brown placed their memberships here on November 27, 2016

Russ and Linda were married on October 14, 1989, and two years later, Russ adopted Linda's adopted daughter, Sheila. Sheila died in 2014 after battling leukemia. They have two grandchildren, Jay and Abby. Russ and Linda also help with child care for their great niece, Josephine, who often accompanies them to church.

Both Russ and Linda grew up in the church and have continued their church lives as adults. Russ was previously a member of the United Methodist Church, but he became a Disciple in 1994. In addition to becoming a Disciple, Russ received his Commission as a Disciples of Christ Minister in 2005.

Russ graduated Waurika High School and UCO and has been a Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselor since 1984. Linda graduated PC West and OCU and has enjoyed a career in teaching. She taught first in public school (Shawnee, Mustang, and PC West), and is now at Mount St. Mary Catholic High where she teaches Speech, Drama, and Music Theatre.

As his favorite church activities, Russ lists Sunday School and Pot Luck Dinners. (You are a lucky man, Russ. We at WOCC are great at throwing Pot Luck Dinners.) His hobbies are reading, cooking and music. Linda enjoys reading and gardening.

We are blessed to have this lovely family as a part of our congregation, and we again welcome them. We will also have to remember to especially remember and celebrate their birthdays since those dates are back-to-back the day after Christmas!

Address: 5913 Fox Run Way, Oklahoma City, OK 73142

E-mail: Russ: russ@okcsos.com

Linda: lindabrown1014@yahoo.com

Phone 405-720-3124 – Home

405-401-6131 – Linda cell

405-625-2559 – Russ cell

Anniversary: October 14, 1989

Dates of Birth: Russ: December 27

Linda: December 26



Moments in the year

I have heard several people saying they are glad to see 2016 in the past and the beginning of the new year. The change of the years for many people is a time of reflection, looking back on the year that was and trying to decide how their life was reflected through that year. This often leads many of us to make resolutions, “I am never going to do that again” or “I wish I would have done things differently” or “How can I make this year better?” or especially “I want to change this in my life.” As we are making our resolutions, take a minute to also reflect on your spiritual life. Consider your commitment and dedication to God and how you can better help the church to be a symbol of hope to the community around us?

With that in mind, I was thinking about time in general. What is a year? It is 12 months, or 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525600 minutes, or 31,536,000 seconds! No matter how we look at time in a year many of us will say there is not enough. But with 525,600 minutes, maybe we can make a few of those moments really matter. Spending time with a loved one and letting them know they are important. Spend a minute reaching out to someone who you are distanced from. Take a moment to help a friend. Utilize a moment to learn something new. With a few of those other minutes, read the Bible, go to church, feed the hungry, and help those in need. My wish for you this new year is that you can make each of those moments in your year a time of growth, a moment to be cherished and a moment filled with happiness.

Happy New Year!

*Shalom,
Daniel*

JYF Meeting Sunday January 8th.

The Junior Youth Fellowship will meet immediately following the second service on Sunday January 8th. We will enjoy lunch, a lesson, fellowship and fun. Parents can pick up their children at 2:00 pm. If you need more information, contact Julia.

Date	ATTENDANCE	
12/18/16	11:00 AM	73
12/25/16	9 AM	53
1/1/17	11 AM	133



Whiz Kids Christmas Surprise

What a surprise our Whiz Kids received on Christmas! Every single Whiz Kid student received a **Brand. New. Bicycle!** Each student also received a helmet to wear while riding their new bike. Waste Connections, Inc. generously donated 80 bicycles to Whiz Kids students across the

metro. The bicycles were delivered on a large trailer and hand picked for each student! Thank you Whiz Kids and Waste Connections, Inc. for making this Christmas special!

Date	GIVING	
12/18	General	\$15,725.20
	Blessing Fund	\$50.00
12/25	General	\$1,750.00
	Blessing Fund	\$ -
1/1	General	\$5,194.23
	Blessing Fund	\$110.00

I want to thank everyone who has sent cards, visited, called and gave gifts.

You are all special and your prayers are appreciated. I've enjoyed the people at the church very much and many canasta games over the years.

Thanks so much,
Dianne Maier



On behalf of all the staff I want to express our deep gratitude for the monetary staff gifts received this year. Those gifts are a very nice added bonus at Christmas time that brightens our lives and helps us to enjoy the season. Thank you for your gifts to us, your church staff.

With gratitude,
Daniel and the staff of Western Oaks.



Thank you for making this Christmas season wonderful. Mark, Aanika, Matthew, David and I would like to thank you for the monetary gift as well as the gifts of community and fun we've shared this season. Our first year together has been made more special because of your fellowship, sharing and involvement. I look forward to another year of continuing growth and excitement.

Julia

Thank you, two heartfelt words that simply do not convey the depth of gratitude I have for Western Oaks Christian Church and the extent to which the church has gone this Christmas Season to provide for needy families and ensure they had a joyous holiday. I know it felt like a great deal from the benevolence gifts, reindeer for the youth, bell ringers for Salvation Army, and even Tom Russell's toy drive for the ROC. I greatly appreciate your commitment to helping those in need.

Gratefully yours,
Daniel



Scripture

You were taught to put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

-Ephesians 4:22-24



Church Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Daniel U'Ren
Daniel@woccdoc.org

Associate Minister: Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett
Julia@woccdoc.org

Interim Youth Director: Hope Lairson

Administrative Assistant: Mari Riera
Office@woccdoc.org

Music Director: Dr. Ronald Manning
ronald_manning@att.net

Pianist: Rosa McCroskey

Volunteer Organist: Verona Burke

Praise Band Leader: Todd Newell

Praise Band Members:
Brett Hawk, Hope Lairson, Jeff Newell, and
Rosanne Rowe

Sound Technician: Vincent Pinazza

Custodian: Lawrence Johnson

Nursery Attendants: Aanika Gillett and
Kiersten Hamill

Upcoming Events

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|-----------|---|
| 8-Jan. | Elders Meeting after Church |
| 9-Jan | Whiz Kids @ 3 p.m. |
| 10-Jan | CWF luncheon @ 10 a.m.
Canasta @ 1 p.m.
Caring & Sharing Eat-Out @ Nina's @ 5 p.m. |
| 11-Jan | Bridge @ 1 p.m.
Choir Rehearsal @ 7 p.m. |
| Jan 13-15 | Youth Midwinter Retreat |
| 15-Jan | Committee meeting after Church
Caring & Sharing meeting @ 4 p.m.
Cabinet meeting @ 6 p.m. |
| 16-Jan | Whiz Kids @ 3 p.m. |
| 17-Jan | Admin meeting @ 7 p.m. |

"Loving God, Serving our Neighbor"

8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127
405.789.8812

