

FEBRUARY 10, 2015

Oakbridge

WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Lent
- Pastor's Class
- Valentine's
- Worship
- Disciples in History
- Soup for the Soul

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pastor's Articles	1
Calendar	2
Youth News	3
CWF	3
Prayer Requests	5
Data & Info	7

Minister's Week

This week I am in Texas at the Minister's Week held at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth Texas. I will be available via phone and email while I attend workshops, lectures and worship designed to help ministers refresh and renew themselves. I look forward to learning new things at this annual event.

*Shalom,
Daniel*

A New Season of Preparation

It feels like we just finished Advent as a season of preparation for celebrating the arrival of the baby Jesus, and now it is time for another celebration (though one not as big as Christmas). That celebration has been called Fat Tuesday, Shrove Tuesday and Mardi Gras. The idea of this celebration is to enjoy those last indulgences before fasting begins on Ash Wednesday which falls on February 18th this year. On the day after Fat Tuesday, we remember the tradition of using ashes as a sign of repentance and as a reminder to ourselves to turn to God.

As we approach Lent, I encourage you to come up with something you can either take on as a good habit or give up something meaningful. This is so that at the moments when you are severely tempted to partake (or for taking on a habit you may be tempted to forgo) you turn to God during this temptation. May you then grow closer and more dependent on God during Lent. For Lent is a journey, it is not intended to be an easy journey, but it is a journey to bring us closer to our Rock and Redeemer.

Pastor's Class

As Easter approaches one of the things we offer is a Pastor's Class for anyone interested in baptism. Primarily, this class is for our younger youth who are ready to make that public confession of faith (usually around 5th grade). If there are any children who are ready for baptism, parents please contact Janey so we can get you on the list and schedule dates and times for the class.



Schedule of Events

FEBRUARY 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 *	12 *	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
*	*	*	*			
22	23	24	25 *	26	27	28

} **11th** Audio/Visual Installation
“Resolving Everyday Conflict” Bible Study 7:00pm-8:30pm

} **12th** Audio/Visual Installation

} **15th** Valentine’s Day Dinner
6:00pm-8:00pm

} **16th** Raintree Village Annual Meeting 6:00pm-9:00pm

} **17th** Admin Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm

} **18th** Ash Wednesday
“Resolving Everyday Conflict” Bible Study 7:00pm-8:30pm

} **25th** “Resolving Everyday Conflict” Bible Study 7:00pm-8:30pm

A Little Valentine’s Devotional...

It was her yellow raincoat that caught my attention, and quickly I became increasingly interested in this cute freshman with long, brown hair. Soon I worked up my courage, interrupted Sue as she walked along reading a letter from a guy back home, and awkwardly asked her for a date. To my surprise, she said yes.

More than 4 decades later, Sue and I look back and laugh at our first uncomfortable meeting on that college campus—and marvel how God put a shy guy from Ohio together with a shy girl from Michigan. Through the years, we have faced innumerable crises together as we raised our family. We’ve negotiated parenting four kids, and we’ve struggled mightily with losing one of them. Problems big and small have tested our faith, yet we’ve stuck together. It took commitment from both of us and the grace of God. Today we rejoice in God’s design, spelled out in Genesis 2:24—to leave our parents, to be unified as man and wife, and to become united as one flesh. We cherish this amazing plan that has given us such a wonderful life together.

God’s design for marriage is beautiful. So we pray for married couples to sense how awesome it is to enjoy life together under the blessing of God’s loving guidance.

The last meeting for the WOCC CWF was Tuesday, February 10th at 10:00am in room 114. Sue Gordon, our Worship Chairman, put together a great team of ladies who shared their "Love Story", and we followed them with a short business meeting and potluck luncheon.

February Birthdays include: Rita Walker, Okie Merry, Suzanne Parker, and Danet Trivette. Our Hostesses for our February Meeting were: Marilyn Chalk, Mary Francis Hedrick, and Charlene Newkirk.

All of our lady WOCC friends and neighbors are welcome -- we'd love to see YOU there!

YOUTH SOUNDBITE

During the month of February, the youth will be discussing the theme of love. Love is not always easy. It takes work to be a truly loving person. Loving someone is an intentional action. We have to set our wants and needs aside, in order to put the needs of others first. Now, that is love. This is exactly what Jesus did. He put his needs below the needs of others. He showed us what it truly means to love. We should continue that cycle of love onto others. As Christians, our main goal is to share love with the world. What are the needs you will put aside, so that you can meet the needs of others? How will you show love to others during the month of February?

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself." —Matthew 22:37-39

Upcoming Events:

Feb. 15th —Valentine's Dinner (Youth Arrive at 4:30)

Feb. 22nd — ROCK Sunday Youth 5:00-7:00

Additional Announcement:

Please attend the Youth Valentine's Dinner on February 15th at 6:00pm. There will be great food and lovely company. The dessert auction will bring exciting entertainment as well. Please purchase tickets Sunday before or after worship; tickets will also be available at the event! We look forward to you being with us!

*Peace and Blessings,
Hope Lairson*

Lenten Worship

We are quickly moving toward Lent in the Church Year. Lent is the 40 days prior to Easter beginning with Ash Wednesday. Sundays are not counted because they are considered a Celebration of the Resurrection. During these 40 days, individuals and communities of Faith examine their lives, their mortality and the ways Sin demonstrates itself in their lives. Often Lent has been understood to be a time of giving up of something, sacrificing – so no fair giving up that you don't like anyway! But it is also a time of taking on more spiritual discipline.

We want to create a space that is conducive to worship as well. Our focus will be on the Faces of Jesus. **If you have a picture or sculpture, or other piece of art that inspires or moves you, would you be willing to share it with the congregation?** If so, please bring it to the church office this week or when you come to worship on Sunday so we can have the display arranged by Ash Wednesday. If you need help getting the pieces to the church call the office and we will arrange to help you!

The Worship Committee is suggesting that as a congregation we take on two different practices during this Lenten Season:

1) In both worship services, when we Pray the Lord's Prayer we will be using the words "sins" and "sin against us": "...Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who have sinned against us...." This practice clarifies the translation and will help us focus on the Sin that is present in our lives.

2) The time surrounding the partaking of communion is a very important time in the worship service. Many individuals find this as the one time in the services they concentrate on their individual relationship with God. We want to honor that time. But the very word "Communion" implies that this is not something we do alone. Communion is something that draws us together as a community of faith. So in the 11:00 service, we are asking that you partake of the Bread as the trays are passed. But please hold the cup until all have been served and the minister invites us all to partake together. You might also want to hold the tray for your neighbor, serving them as the emblems are passed.

We hope these two practices will help enhance your worship experiences during Lent.

Mission Moment

Please pray for...

- Chain Reaction Bicycle Ministry
- Refuge Fellowship
- Come Home to the Dome, Rev. Michael Canada
- Food Bank (March 5th)
- Shawnee Adult Mission Trip (April 19th-24th)
- WOCC scattered in mission

Easy Homemade Chocolate Recipe

Ingredients

1 cup coconut oil

1/2 cup raw honey or maple syrup

1 cup raw cacao powder (you can sub or do 1/2 and 1/2 with carob powder if chocolate bothers you)

dash of salt

1 tsp of vanilla

Directions

In a heat resistant Pyrex or other glass bowl or measuring cup, add the coconut oil. Fill a small saucepan with a few inches of water and place the glass measuring cup in it. Heat on stove top until coconut oil is mostly melted (room temp – not hot). UPDATE: please do not skip this step and microwave your oil. You will kill the good antimicrobial properties in the oil and it also won't blend in well with the cocoa powder. If you end up with a watery mess you heated the coconut oil up too hot! While the coconut oil is coming to room temperature, add all the other ingredients to a food processor. Add the coconut oil and blend until combined in the food processor. Place some plastic wrap or parchment paper in a loaf pan to cover the bottom and sides of the pan. Pour the chocolate mixture into the loaf pan and cover with the plastic wrap (gently). Press down or tilt to even out the thickness. I like mine about 1/2 inch thick. UPDATE: I have recently just poured out the chocolate on some parchment paper on a cookie sheet or roasting pan and put the whole thing in the fridge. This avoids the plastic wrap and works just as well. Place the loaf pan with the fudge into the freezer and let it set for about 20 min. Remove and slice into bite sized pieces. I put these in a jar and store in the fridge. I sometimes make a double recipe and store the other half already cut up in the freezer.



“Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.”

—Philippians 4:6

Prayer Requests

- * Greg Morse, Linda Cobb's nephew
- * Waddle family (Dylan, Leah, & children) lost their 5-yr-old daughter/sister, Emersyn
- * Michael Mercy, nephew of Bill & Suzanne Parker, is battling cancer
- * Safety & wisdom for all the families in the Middle East
- * Dick & Lura Cayton
- * Willie Evans, friend of Martha Buchanan, is coping with terminal cancer.
- * Scot Gordon, B.R. & Sue Gordon's nephew, is in the hospital in Denton, TX.
- * Debra Sweezy, Judy Walker's sister, is in very critical health.
- * Danny Cartmill (Marlene Word's nephew) has pancreatic cancer & decreasing in health.
- * Dorothy Ferguson undergoing chemotherapy treatments.
- * Millman family
- * Bill Parker's cancer is in remission, & he will have a maintenance of chemo every 2 months.
- * Alvin Lawson (friend of the Lunsfords)
- * Lou O'Brian

Disciples in History

A drummer boy marching alongside Union soldiers, the beat of his drum giving step to their feet, and a beat they could feel in their hearts was the beginning of how Preston Taylor would become a leader. Born in 1849 to slave parents, he began his march to adulthood as a drummer boy in the Union Army during the Civil War. As an adult, he became a minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) but also continued to be a voice for people who were overlooked or cast aside. After the Civil War ended and the reconstruction began, he noticed how African Americans were being excluded from these projects. So, he secured a contract to build several sections of the Big Sandy Railway in Virginia and became an influential businessman. Through his hard work and leadership in Disciples' ministry, he bought land and created Nashville's second oldest black cemetery as well more land in the early 1900's for the purpose of building recreational parks for African Americans. The park was elaborate with fountains, gardens, shows, baseball parks and more to give a safe, enjoyable place for blacks to go.



Preston Taylor (1849-1931)

In addition to his many ventures of changing the way society views and treats minorities, he was also a very successful businessman. One such business he started was "One Cent Savings and Trust Company Bank", a bank that was established for minorities. The name of the bank would later be changed in the 1920's to one you might be more familiar with, "Citizens Savings Bank". But more importantly he was a voice in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) compelling the church and others to take seriously the commitment to seeking justice, loving kindness and walking humbly with God. His life and efforts encouraged sharing that experience with everyone regardless of who they were.



From the Hebrew אֶחָדֵינוּ (hahkh-nah-saht oh-re-kheem) to the Greek Φιλοξενία (Philoxenia) we have several themes of Hospitality found in the Bible and this Lent we will take a journey through the issues of hospitality and how this theme impacts us in our everyday faith and what it means in the church today. Allow us to share our hospitality with you, share in a cup of soup and hear a wonderful speaker lead us in a discussion of hospitality on Sundays in Lent at 6:00 pm.

Dates of Soup for the Soul:

Feb. 22 Rev. Daniel U'Ren
 Mar. 1 Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell
 Mar. 8 Rev. Parker Cross
 Mar. 15 CWF Potluck
 Mar. 22 Rev. Lura Cayton
 Mar. 29 Rev. Dick Cayton



Articles for the next OakBridge will be due Monday, **February 23, at noon.**

Please remember, articles must be 500 words or less.

Easter Lilies

Pricing & order forms will soon be available!



Mrs. Cook's Sunday School class made a giant valentine to wish everyone a Happy Valentine's Day! Come see their sweet message on the bulletin board by the entrance to the Children's Wing.

Date	GIVING	
2/1/15	General	\$8,302.40
	Capital	\$465
2/8/15	General	\$5,041.88
	Capital	\$580

Date	ATTENDANCE	
2/1/15	9:00 AM	55
	11:00 AM	109
2/8/15	6:00 PM	52
	11:30 PM	102

Church Staff

Rev. Daniel U'Ren — Senior Minister (Daniel@woccdoc.org)

Janey Merry — Administrative Assistant (Janey@woccdoc.org)

Dr. Ronald Manning — Music Director (ronald_manning@att.net)

Dr. Matt Schinske — Pianist

Todd Newell — Praise Band Leader

Darren Heath, Rosanne Rowe, Steve Powers, Hope Lairson, & Jeff Newell — Praise Band Members

Vincent Pinazza — Sound Technician

Lawrence Johnson — Custodian

Samantha VanOsdol — Nursery Supervisor

Hope Lairson — Youth Interim Director

Loving God and Serving Our Neighbor

