

MARCH 1, 2016

# Oakbridge

WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

## Sermon Unfolds Through Action

Friday, I was spending a quiet afternoon in my office preparing my sermon for Sunday when something caught my attention. It was a young man on a skateboard trying to jump the curb. It was lunch time, so as I headed out to get lunch I purposefully went by him. Before I could say a word, he called out to me, "do you want me to leave?" I responded, "no, you are welcome here, I only ask that you be careful and don't hurt yourself or tear anything up with the skateboard." His face lit up... maybe in shock. After getting lunch, I came by again as he was cleaning up, and he enthusiastically waived. I invited him to church.

Then a couple hours later, another distraction took me away from my sermon. This time it was six young kids, probably junior high aged. They were playing basketball. After watching them play for awhile, I raided the youth's stash of soda and snacks and put together a cooler to walk out to join them while playing. They got quiet and looked like they were ready to run as they stared at me walking out towards them. I introduced myself and told them I thought they might like a treat or a drink after playing basketball. They all were very polite and courteous in their responses by saying "thank you". I told them they are always welcome here to play or to come to church on Sunday. They again said thank you and as I walked back inside I could hear one of them say "Wow, I thought he was going to run us off."

What does that say when a person's first reaction is that he or she would not be welcomed? This was a good reminder for me that ministry is not about sitting at my desk preparing a sermon; sometimes the sermon takes place through how we treat others.

*Shalom,  
Daniel*

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Member
- CMF
- Easter
- Craft Fair
- Fellowship Dinner

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- The people of Western Oaks Christian Church are "walkin' on water"!





# MARCH 2016

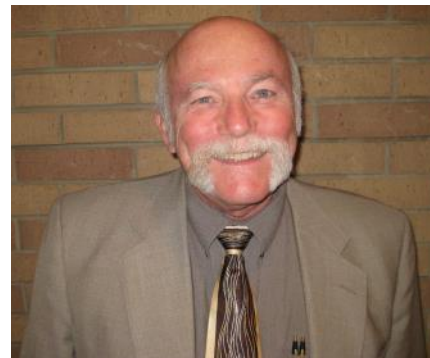
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
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| 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26  |
| *   | *   | *   | *   | *   | *   | *   |
| 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  |     |     |
| *   | *   | *   |     |     |     |     |

- 5** CMF Breakfast 7:30am-8:30am
- 6** Pastor's Class 10:00am-10:45am  
Board Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm  
Education Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm  
Soup for the Soul 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 8** CWF Meeting & Luncheon 10:00am-12:00pm  
Worship Committee Meeting 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 9** Bridge for Fun 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Caring&Sharing @ Gatti Town 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 12** Worship & Wonder Meeting 9:00am-12:00pm
- 13** Daylight Saving Time Begins  
Pastor's Class 10:00am-10:45am  
Cabinet Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm  
Fellowship Dinner 6:00pm-8:00pm  
Soup for the Soul 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 14** OakBridge Articles Due 12:00pm
- 15** Elders Prayer Breakfast 7:15am-8:15am
- 19** Stamp Out Starvation 9:00am-3:00pm
- 20** Palm Sunday  
Caring & Sharing Meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm  
Soup for the Soul 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 21** Refuge Church 3:00pm-7:30pm
- 22** Admin Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm  
Outreach Committee Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm
- 23** Bridge for Fun 1:00pm-4:00pm  
Caring & Sharing @ Charleston's 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 24** Maundy Thursday  
Seder Meal 6:00pm-7:00pm
- 25** Good Friday  
Prayer Vigil 9:00am-3:00pm
- 26** Easter Egg Hunt 11:00am-2:00pm
- 27** Easter Sunday  
Sunrise Service 7:00am-8:00am  
Elders Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm
- 28** OakBridge Article Due 12:00pm
- 29** Elders Prayer Breakfast 7:15am-8:15am

# New WOCC Member

Please welcome one of our new members, Rev. Jim Ellis, who officially became a part of our congregation on April 19, 2015. When asked to give us some information about himself, Jim offered the following clever article for this newsletter. Welcome, Jim, and thank you for giving us this look at who you are.

Name: L.J. "Jim" Ellis III  
 Birthdate: June 13, 1947  
 Spouse-Anniversary: Melanie Ellis  
 March 17, 1995  
 Address: 9700 Lakeland Terrace  
 Oklahoma City, OK 73162  
 Phone: 405-306-1396  
 Email: epxomai@cox.net



## Personal History

I grew up in Oklahoma City, graduated from Putnam City High School, Phillips University, and Vanderbilt University; I worked in Oklahoma churches from 1972 to 2008 (not continuously), and served as Chaplain at Phillips for 5 years. The last 19 years of my work life were spent at Oklahoma City Community College where I retired as Director of Testing and Assessment in 2013. Many activities received my time, but one I can still do is play guitar—not very well. Melanie and I married in 1995 which was the best deal of my life. I have learned to work on cars, refurbish houses, and how just to shake my head in the last 21 years.

## Family History

We have six offspring people in our immediate blended family, three girls and three boys. All are on their own. Many days are filled by spending time with one or more of our eight grandchildren and six pets. Our parents have all departed. Melanie has four brothers and sisters. I have two sisters.

## Church History

I am a fourth generation Disciple, and grew up in Putnam City Christian Church. First church was Cashion Christian Church and the last church being Marland United Methodist/Christian Church. I admire the usual suspects: Fred Craddock, Sharon Watkins, Joe Jones, Serene Jones, Robert Simpson, Debi Purviance, Sondra Tilsley. Much of my contribution to the greater church was as camp/conference director (1973-1998, not continuous). My three favorite church activities: fellowship dinners, singing, camp.

Work? See personal history. Now retired—I do not plan to do anything. The regular response to “can you?” is “no.” My hobbies: writing, playing guitar, reading, crossword and Sudoku puzzles, walking, and listening to folks talk. Again, please continue to welcome Jim to WOCC!

# Muslim Day at the Capitol

On Friday I joined several clergy, along with many community members, to form a protective wall at the state capitol. The reason for this wall? To stand between hate and those at whom that hate was directed because of their religious beliefs. The wall’s purpose was not to show approval or to protest. This wall, consisting of clergy and lay persons, was formed to remember the words of Jesus to “love your neighbor”. As I joined Dr. William Tabbernee, Rabbi Vered Harris, other Disciples ministers, Presbyterians, Methodists, and Catholics, I heard the man who had been standing and watching us (bullhorn in hand) begin yelling in my ear. “Don’t you know all you are doing is teaching tolerance?” I thought, at that moment, “he gets it!” Then he resumed, and the yelling became taunting. The yeller warned even the doughnuts we shared as we stood in solidarity would lead us to undesirable places. The person who protested our wall of remembrance, I soon realized, did not “get it” after all. But we remained standing and reminding and remembering, “love your neighbor”.

*Shalom,  
Daniel*

# Caring & Sharing

Margo Thein presented the program for our February meeting. The lesson was 'Moving on With Life After Losing a Loved One'. She emphasized that even though we miss our loved one, we should remember that he or she is in 'The Perfect Place' we are all striving to go in time. While we are still here in 'The Imperfect Place', it is OK to have fun and to laugh again. Don't feel guilty as it is natural and doesn't mean that you didn't care about your loved one, it just means that you are alive and that you need to stay well and reasonably happy to keep going. Laughing is a part of the process that will help keep us healthy, and she reminded us that we do a lot of laughing when we are together.

Our group began June 25, 2006. We still have many of the charter members and even though some have passed away or moved away, many of us are still together and enjoy each other so much and, in the process, have become close friends. We currently have more than 25 who attend the meetings and/or 'the eat out' times. We do stress that everyone is invited to join us for any or all of our activities.

## **Upcoming dates:**

|                       |         |              |               |
|-----------------------|---------|--------------|---------------|
| Wednesday, March 9th  | 5:00 pm | Gatti Town   | 5833 NW Expwy |
| Sunday, March 20th    | 4:00 pm | WOCC         | 8100 NW 23rd  |
| Wednesday, March 23rd | 5:00 pm | Charleston's | 5907 NW Expwy |

# Disciples Men Retreat 2016

## **2016 Annual Oklahoma Disciples Men Retreat**

**April 1& 2 • Central Christian Camp, Guthrie, OK**

Keynote Speaker Rev. Jesse Jackson, Jr., Pastor East Sixth Christian Church, Oklahoma City

Entertainment provided by Southern Hills Christian Church Praise Band, Edmond, OK.

Online registration is available at:

[www.okdisciples.org/news-events/event-registration/](http://www.okdisciples.org/news-events/event-registration/)



# Property Update

We want to thank the following folks for helping clear out the Nursery and Kindergarten prior to the Remediation Process: Jack Graham, Terry Singleton, George Lunsford, and Jane & Lonnie Maytubby. The mold cleanup is completed, and we have received a clean bill of health. Great news! The next step is to complete the reconstruction of drywall in the 2 rooms plus the Janitor's Closet. Afterwards, new flooring will be installed and everything moved back into the rooms.

—Property Committee



# Children Worship & Wonder Starting Soon!

Save the date: **Saturday, March 12th, from 9:00am to noon!!!** We will meet with storytellers and greeters to plan our start date and finalize preparations. We hope to train several greeters who were unable to be at the February 26th and 27th workshop. Thank you for all you do!!

—Julia



# Easter Egg Hunt Is Coming!



The Easter Egg Hunt will be **Saturday, March 26th at 11:00am**. Outside the office you can pick up plastic eggs to stuff with candy for the egg hunts. We are inviting the community again, so if you would like to purchase some eggs and stuff them with candy the Education Committee would appreciate your help!! Please return the filled eggs to a box by our church office. Thanks for your help!

—Education Committee

# Spring Craft Show

Our 7th Annual Craft Show will be **Saturday, April 16th from 9:00am – 3:00pm**. Our church will be *full* of booths inside, and the outside will be busy with many more!!!

We are full inside, but still need **OUTDOOR VENDORS**. Booths are available for \$25.00 for an 8 X 10 (under porch) or 10 X 10 space (outdoors). If you are interested, or know someone who is, please contact Kelli Fearing by e-mail: [getcrafty2012-show@yahoo.com](mailto:getcrafty2012-show@yahoo.com). Please come join us for LOTS of shopping and delicious food!!!

If you would like to post a sign in your yard to promote our upcoming Craft Show, we will have a sign-up sheet soon. We have ordered more signs, and we would love to see them in yards throughout OKC and surrounding cities. We will start distributing signs in April. We ask that you display the sign in your yard from Sunday, April 10th until Saturday, April 15th. Please watch for more information coming soon!!!

# Gratitude is our Attitude

“I want to thank all of you for Taylor Humphrey. Her arm is now as good as ever.” —Bob Humphrey

“We now have a better place to live.” —Millman family

“We want to thank Jerry and Linda Cobb for our sixtieth wedding anniversary party, and the beautiful and unique cake they had created for the event. Jerry, thanks for the great pictures that you took of us. We also want to thank the many people that also helped in any way to make our anniversary so special and for those who joined in the fun to help us to celebrate that day.” —Lyeal & Jean Amos

“Things are coming along. I have the love bear and the quilt watching over me. Thanks for your prayers and support.” —Ken Whitt



“Thank you to all who participated in the Children Worship & Wonder Workshop. We had six people from other churches attend, which gave us insight into how other churches run their program. Thank you Marlene Word, who prepared the meals with the help of many whom she called. Everyone raved about the wonderful food, even in the evaluations people commented on the wonderful food served by our church.

Thank you to Kristin Atwood, Jeff Nevel, Wendy Wilkerson, Andrea Teter and Gay Teter for agreeing to be storytellers. I am also thankful for Kelli Fearing, Aanika Gillett, Lacinda Green, Fern Melton and Marlene Word for saying yes to be greeters. We are also grateful to have such a wonderful room with so many of the stories available to use as we re-ignite the Children Worship & Wonder program. Let me know if you might be interested in helping.” —Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett

## Prayer Requests

- \* Shirley Kitchens is in Mercy hospital.
- \* Joni Burch’s niece, Cami in Enid, is dealing with reoccurrence of cancer.
- \* Noland Harvey, T.J. Johnson’s brother-in-law, has an unknown infection causing heart problems.
- \* Pray for Stamp Out Starvation here at WOCC on March 19.
- \* Pray for “Restoration at the Dome” at FCC OKC launching Easter Sunday.
- \* Lori Slentz, Kelli Fearing’s sister, is in the hospital for a blood clot in her leg & lung.
- \* Carolyn Jenkins, friend of the Griffins
- \* Cheyenne & Kristin Pursley’s baby was born 13 weeks early & is in Mercy NICU until March; she’s on nasal oxygen & got to put on clothes for the 1st time.
- \* Prayers for the baby, Rianna Marie McKinley
- \* Bob Humphrey’s sister, Mary Jane
- \* Larry Digby, Martha Buchanan’s son, is experiencing serious mental health problems & won’t accept help.
- \* April Gregory, the Wilkersons’ friend, is going through chemo.
- \* Heather Keaton, Christine Wagner’s friend, for recovery from brain cancer surgery.
- \* Danny O’Kert, friend of the Hills
- \* Bill Lassiter, John Lassiter’s son, had a stroke.
- \* Dorleen Gosnell, Cythnia Hill’s mom
- \* David Dixon, the Goodners’ friend, will continue dialysis.
- \* Lloyd Gosnell, Cynthia Hill’s cousin, has cancer.
- \* Joan Stamman, Jan Sills’ cousin, has colon cancer.
- \* Dick & Lura Cayton
- \* Danny Cartmill, Marlene Word’s nephew, has pancreatic cancer.
- \* Lou O’Brien

# Announcements

Wedding Shower for Robert Early & Rebecca Whiteman

April 17, 2016

12:00pm in Coffee Fellowship Area

They are registered at Williams Sonoma and Bed, Bath, & Beyond.

Help us congratulate Robert, grandson to Rhea Todd and son to Lisa & Bob Early, and his fiancé as they prepare to take this big step.



*Save the Date*

We will be traveling downtown to the **Refuge Fellowship Church on March 21**. Please sign up now by contacting me. We will begin cooking about 3:00 and will leave the church at 4:50 to set up in the church at 5:30. We need your help! Look forward to hearing from you. Thanks for volunteering! —Charlene Majetic #830-2281



Articles for the next OakBridge will be due Monday, **March 14, at noon**

*Please remember, articles must be 500 words or less.*

## CHICKEN FEET FELLOWSHIP DINNER

**SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 6:00PM**



Please join us for a fun game of *Chicken Feet* following a dinner of fried chicken provided by the Fellowship Committee, but we would like for you to bring a salad or dessert.

So that we can get to know each other better, please bring a sample of your *hobby* to share with the other members. We will have tables set up for your display, pictures, items, etc. Join in the Fun!

| Date    | ATTENDANCE |     |
|---------|------------|-----|
| 2/21/16 | 9:00 AM    | 47  |
|         | 11:00 AM   | 100 |
| 2/28/16 | 9:00 AM    | 52  |
|         | 11:00 AM   | 97  |

| Date    | GIVING        |            |
|---------|---------------|------------|
| 2/21/16 | General       | \$4,565    |
|         | Blessing Fund | \$60       |
| 2/28/16 | General       | \$8,836.89 |
|         | Blessing Fund | \$397.60   |

## Church Staff

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

Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett — Associate Minister (Julia@woccdoc.org)

Hope Lairson — Interim Youth Director

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

Dr. Ronald Manning — Music Director (ronald\_manning@att.net)

Rosa McCroskey — Pianist

Verona Burke — Organist

Todd Newell — Praise Band Leader

Rosanne Rowe, Steve Powers, Hope Lairson, Jeff Newell & Brett Hawk — Praise Band Members

Vincent Pinazza — Sound Technician

Lawrence Johnson — Custodian

Samantha VanOsdol — Nursery Supervisor

Cynthia Mize & Kiersten Hamill — Nursery Attendants

Loving God and Serving Our Neighbor



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Western Oaks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
8100 NW 23rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73127

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