

NOVEMBER 10, 2015

Oakbridge

WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Generosity
- Thanksgiving
- Stewardship
- Volunteer
- Holidays

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Opportunities to Give

When we checked the internet calendar just now, we learned that it is 44 days, 10 hours, 34 minutes and 47 seconds till Christmas! When we checked the church calendar, we learned that Advent begins this year on November 29. Advent is a mere 20 days from this Monday, November 9, church newsletter deadline! Who are we and why are we telling you this? We are the ad hoc Committee for Christmas and Benevolence, and we want you to know now about some of the wonderful outreach opportunities that will be available to you through our congregation.

*Beginning Sunday, November 29, in our west foyer and south Narthex will sit a big Christmas Gift Box from which all in the congregation may draw a tag containing the gender, age, and gift preference of some girl, boy, woman or man, who needs a good measure of affection and assistance during this Christmas season. Without your help, these individuals within our community might not otherwise have a gift to open at Christmas. All gifts purchased must be returned by Sunday, December 13.

*On December 6, you may participate in the Education Committee's "Birthday Party for Jesus" by bringing a gift for the Infant Crisis Center and staying for the Birthday Party lunch that follows the second worship service.

*From November 15 until December 6, you may bring to the church any toy for any age which will be taken to Reaching our City for their annual toy store.

*If you are a member of an Adult Sunday School class or the Adult Choir, you may participate by giving a gift to a family that these groups are adopting.

Are all of these suggestions and opportunities overwhelming? Well, do not let them be. You may participate to the extent and as often as your budget will allow. You may also donate your time by working at ROC's toy drive, sorting toys or helping in the toy rooms or in other venues to be identified later in the month.

Details of all these wonderful opportunities will follow in subsequent announcements and OakBridge articles. We just wanted to give you an early heads up of the many ways you may give and serve and offer someone a dose of affection—whether it be a spoonful or a whole cupful.

Grace and Peace,

*Ad hoc Committee for Christmas and Benevolence: Pat Brown (Chair),
Linda Cobb, Hope Lairson, Daniel U'Ren*



Please join WOCC for the
All Church Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday, November 22
12:15pm
A Love Offering will be taken.



NOVEMBER 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
*		*	*	*		
29	30					
*						

11th Veterans Day

Bridge for Fun 1:00pm-4:00pm
 Caring & Sharing Eat Out @ Nina's 5:00pm-6:00pm
 Wednesdays at WOCC 6:00pm-8:00pm

15th Elders Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm

Caring & Sharing Meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm

16th Refuge Fellowship Church 3:00pm-8:30pm

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

18th Wednesdays at WOCC 6:00pm-8:00pm

22nd Worship (one service) 11:00am-12:00pm

All Church Thanksgiving 12:15pm-2:30pm

24th Elders Prayer Breakfast 7:15am-8:15am

25th Church Office Closed —Thanksgiving Holiday

Bridge for Fun 1:00pm-4:00pm

Caring & Sharing Eat Out @ Charleston's 5:00pm-6:00pm

26th Church Office Closed —Thanksgiving Holiday

29th Benevolent Sunday & Hanging of the Greens

Shalee Houchin 11/1

Fern Melton 11/2

Judy Walker 11/2

Alana Millman 11/3

Virginia Johnson 11/4

Mike Starr 11/6

Roy Avants 11/7

Skylar Frank 11/8

Jordan Boyd 11/11

Steve Teter 11/13

Vernon Cook 11/16

Larry McDown 11/16

Tricia Spencer 11/16

Elaine Baty 11/17

Dave Brown 11/17

Matt Schinske 11/19

Amy DeKinder 11/21

Judith Steele 11/21

Ted Nickel 11/22

Payton Scagnetti 11/22

Brody White 11/23

Roy Ruedy 11/27

Darrell Bradley 11/28

Barbara Nelson 11/28

Debby Newell 11/28

Robert Wilkerson 11/28

November Birthdays



The Dreaded “S” Word

It is that time of year that people dread. Not just the Christmas commercials, music and sales arriving as soon as Halloween is over, but the big “S” word is here. Stewardship is a word that can leave people running for the lake, for vacation, or for the hills. Why does stewardship have such stigma attached to it? Someone shared with me, it’s because of growing up in some churches where all you heard was “the church needs money” or “give, give, give”. I agree, hearing things like that puts you off faster than anything.

In reading the book, “Not Your Parent’s Offering Plate” there were 654,000 charitable organizations who were soliciting your donations and support and about 370,000 churches in 1996. Fast forward to 2010 and the number of churches has stayed the same but the number of charitable organizations has doubled to 1,280,739! This is like growing up in a small town where there was just one little mom-and-pop type restaurant who got all the business they could handle in town. But today, there is a McDonalds, Burger King, Arby’s, Braums, and a Wendy’s but *no* mom-and-pop restaurant, because giving was spread out to all of these others.

One thing I have learned about charitable organizations is that they are not all alike. Some non-profits require large overheads to keep them going, and so your dollars may not all go to what you expect. According to the 2015 Charity Guide published by the Oklahoma State Charitable Campaign, there are several agencies in Oklahoma all of which vary in how much donations go towards administration costs. I’ve highlighted a few that jumped out at me in the box to the right.

Oklahoma Contemporary	50%
Reaching Our City	37%
American Red Cross	22%
Salvation Army	22%
Girl Scouts	18%
Regional Food Bank	1%
Mobile Meals	1%

What these figures mean is that when you give money to a non-profit such as Mobile Meals or the Regional Food Bank, 99% of what you give goes towards direct services of providing food to the hungry. On the other hand, only 82% of what you pay for those Girl Scout Cookies goes to send girls to camp and other activities. It is important to know where our money is going, and how it is spent to know if it is a good investment.

I like to think that 100% of what you give to the church goes towards making ministry happen at Western Oaks Christian Church. Just look at the number of things that we do, continue to do, and more is yet to come. Because of our dedicated individuals who do Mobile Meals, their agency can have 99% of their offerings go towards providing meals. We also provide meals to the homeless downtown. We visit those who are sick, and we gather for games and fun for Canasta or Bridge. We provide assistance to families in need and gas cards to those in the community. We provide space for groups, and we reach out to our community to demonstrate that God’s love is alive and in an abundance here at Western Oaks. So, as you consider increasing your pledge, please remember your offering makes a difference and it’s what makes ministry possible at Western Oaks!

*Thank you,
Daniel*



New Member Correction— Michelle Jenkins holds estate sales. She is not in real estate.

WOCC Fall Work Day

The Work Day was a great success! The weather was perfect – sunny, but cool and dry (very important for leaf raking). We had a great turnout. Thank you to everyone who was there working hard and getting a lot accomplished. A big shout out to John and Danette Trivette for donating two new flags for the church.



The following folks worked very hard to get all of our jobs done:

John Trivette, Terry Singleton, Bob Smith, Jane Maytubby, George Lunsford, Marlene Word, Charlene Newkirk, Lynda Gervais, Hope Lairson, Justin Gamble, Ken Whitt, Robert Wilkerson, John Pratt, Max Patzack, Daniel, Liam and Aidan U'Ren (who helped Mrs. Cook clean their Sunday School Room on Sunday).

We got a ton of things done: Raked leaves and filled 23 bags, washed windows around sanctuary, organized and cleaned both kitchens, tossed out old food, replaced ceiling tiles, moved desk from choir room to Julia's office, cleaned out leaves from HVAC units, replaced Exit lights, blew and cleaned parking lots.

*Thanks again to everyone!!!
Jane Maytubby, Property Co-Chair*

Refuge Church

Volunteers are needed for the upcoming Refuge Fellowship Church on **November 16!!**

Cook 3:00—5:00, Serve at RFC 5:30—7:45, Cleanup WOCC 8:00—8:30

Reserve your slot now! Contact Charlene Newkirk #830-2281

YOUTH SOUNDBITE

If you have pets, you might notice if they have a jealous tendency towards one another. If I pet one of my dogs, the other two come running for equal love and attention. What are the things to which you run? Do you run toward attention, things you like to do, or do you run to God? My relationship with my dogs is mutual. I show them love and affection, and they show me love back. I think our relationship with God works in a similar manner. When I run toward God with love, I am greeted with love. Don't be jealous of how God is working in other people's lives. Instead, run toward God with love and you will be met with more love than you could ever know.

"I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me." – Proverbs 8:17

Upcoming Events:

- Nov. 11th- Wednesday at Western Oaks 6-8 pm
- Nov. 15th- ROCK Sunday Youth 5-7pm
- Nov. 18th- Wednesday at Western Oaks 6-8pm
- Nov. 22nd- ROCK Sunday Youth 5-7 pm
- Nov. 29th- No Youth (Thanksgiving)

*Peace and Blessings,
Hope Lairson
Interim Youth Director*

I was taking Aidan and Liam to Home Depot on Saturday. It is something that has become a fun outing for the boys and I to go there the first Saturday of the month and build a project. This week, we built jets out of wood. The boys get to learn to pound nails and paint their creations. However, this being the first Saturday of November, we were surprised walking in to see all the Christmas decorations. Aidan turned to me and said, "Dad, Look at all the Christmas stuff!" I replied, "yes, Aidan, they have a lot." "But Dad, we shouldn't go to stores who do Christmas too early; they are skipping other holidays!" Oh, the wisdom of children. I stood quiet for a moment taking in the fact that my seven year old could see what was wrong. The unfairness in his eyes that businesses commercialize holidays in such a way to distract from the real meaning. It made me wonder what would happen if we avoided the stores who do Christmas advertisements before December. Oh yeah, there wouldn't be anywhere left to shop. This holiday season, though, please keep in mind Veterans Day on November 11th, Thanksgiving, and then Advent. Yes, Advent may be a season leading up to Christmas, but the Christmas season actually begins December 25th. May all of your holidays be holy this year.



Prayer Requests

- * Dustin Keffer, Elaine Baty's friend, is in OU ICU Trauma Center.
- * Sandra Russell, Tom & Karen Russell's sister-in-law, has heart problems & is in the hospital in Houston.
- * Taylor Humphrey, Bob Humphrey's granddaughter
- * Darlene Singleton
- * Tori Millman's grandmother had a heart attack.
- * Tim Jackson, the Hills' friend, is in ICU at South Integris.
- * Greg Morse, Linda Cobb's nephew, had surgery but recovery will be difficult.
- * Stella Sims, friend & employee of Ken Whitt, received a kidney. Pray for healing & no rejection.
- * Pat Gentis
- * Dorleen Gosnell, Cythnia Hill's mom
- * Pray for Shawn Hensley, Tom Russell's brother-in-law. He had emergency surgery for brain tumor.
- * David Dixon, Goodners' friend, will continue dialysis.
- * Dennis Spencer, Karen Russell's brother, had a stroke.
- * LaRue Ingram is still having a lot of back pain.
- * Sharon Roemer, Martha Buchanan's friend, has multiple cancers.
- * Lloyd Gosnell, Cynthia Hill's cousin, has cancer.
- * Renee Williams, Martha Buchanan's friend, has cancer.
- * Joan Stamman, Jan Sills' cousin, has colon cancer.
- * Sharon Lutke, friend of Jan Ketola, has cancer.
- * Dick & Lura Cayton
- * Danny Cartmill, Marlene Word's nephew, has pancreatic cancer.
- * Dorothy Ferguson is undergoing chemo.
- * Millman family
- * Bill Parker is undergoing chemo.
- * Lou O'Brien



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

—Philippians 4:6



Psalm 95:2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!

November 5 is National donut day.
 November 11 is Veteran's Day.
 November is Child Safety Month.
 November is also Peanut Butter Lover's month!
 November 26, 1789 - The first American holiday occurred, proclaimed by President George Washington to be Thanksgiving Day, a day of prayer and public thanksgiving in gratitude for the successful establishment of the new American republic.



Nov. 13 is "World Kindness Day" this year do a random act of kindness for someone.

Thanksgiving & Turkeys Trivia:

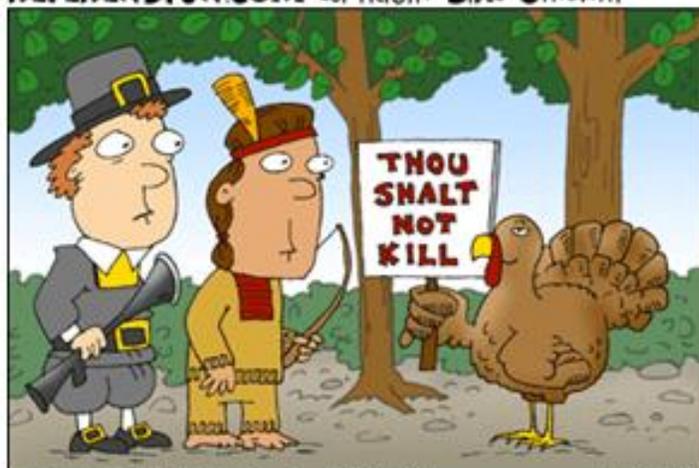
Pilgrims eating the first Thanksgiving dinner didn't have forks, they used spoons, knives and fingers. Did you know turkeys spend the night in trees? They fly to their roosts around sunset. How fast can a turkey run? A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 20 miles per hour. Now that is some fast food! Do you know what our national bird is? That is right, the bald eagle. But, Benjamin Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey. We celebrate Thanksgiving in November, but Canada celebrates Thanksgiving in October!

Thanksgiving is not just time to eat a big turkey dinner with your family, but it's also a time to be thankful. How many times can you say thank you to someone today? What are you thankful for? I am thankful for the church, for God, for my family, for friends and I am thankful that I know you!

Thanksgiving Riddles

1. Why was the turkey the drummer in the band?
2. Why did the Pilgrims want to sail to America in the spring?
3. What does a turkey in space say?
4. Can a turkey jump higher than the Empire State Building?
5. Why did the police arrest the turkey?

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Thanks to Jay Benfield (See Exodus 20:1-21)

11-25-2004

Riddle Answers

1. He had the drumsticks 2. because April showers bring May flowers 3. Hubble, Hubble 4. Yes - a building can't jump at all 5. They suspected it of fowl play

It's Time to Think about Advent!

Poinsettias :

Even though it is still before Thanksgiving, we need to begin to prepare for Advent which begins the Sunday after Thanksgiving. Please let the office know, by November 23, how many poinsettias you would like to order. Also, we need to know if they are being given in Memory or Honor of someone. Thank you for helping to make WOCC beautiful for Advent.

Decorations:

We will be decorating the church for Advent the week beginning Monday, November 23 finishing with a Work Day on Saturday, November 28, beginning at 9:00am. Lunch will be provided on the 28th.



Articles for the next OakBridge will be due Monday, **Nov. 30, at noon**

Please remember, articles must be 500 words or less.

Gratitude is our Attitude

“WOCC Church Family,

I want to thank my entire Church family for the beautiful flowers I received on your behalf. I enjoy all that I do to assist with the Outreach and Educational (VBS) projects that were put in my path during our 2015 church journey. It is with the support from those committees, Pastor Daniel, Janey, the CWF ladies and all our volunteers that make our programs so successful and meaningful. Thanks again, with the Love of Christ which makes all things possible.” —Lacinda Green

“Thank you, God, that Cindy Kesterson’s home in Macomb, OK is weathered in for winter.” —Tom Russell

“We are grateful that we have purchased a vehicle, and now we just need to get a starter and battery to tow it home.” —Millman family

“To the Members of WOCC,

Thanks for the many prayers and beautiful cards that you sent during the death of my father, Leslie S. Johnson, Sr. Your acts of kindness will always be remembered.” —Lawrence Johnson & family

Date	GIVING	
11/1/15	General	\$7,810.93
	Blessing Fund	\$3,560
11/8/15	General	\$4,965.70
	Blessing Fund	\$1,365

Date	ATTENDANCE	
11/1/15	9:00 AM	72
	11:00 AM	97
11/8/15	9:00 AM	45
	11:00 AM	82

Church Staff

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

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

Hope Lairson — Interim Youth Director

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

Rosa McCroskey — Pianist

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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