

DECEMBER 1, 2015

Oakbridge

WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Living Out Our Motto

The November 29th ice storm upended many plans, including the rollout of our Christmas church families and neighborhood families benevolence program. But, we will not be deterred! Thus, the ad hoc Committee on Christmas Benevolence invites you to participate in helping our church families and neighborhood families during this advent season.

Beginning Sunday, December 6 through Sunday, December 13, in our west foyer (after early service) and south Narthex (after second service) will sit a colorful 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 our 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 20 to the space designated in the coffee fellowship area. The tags also contain a letter of the alphabet (designating the family to be helped) and a number (designating the person in that family to be helped). Please leave your gift or gifts in a bag, and it is essential that you staple your tag stub to the bag containing the unwrapped gift. That procedure will allow our committee to match the gifts to the proper persons. If this is confusing, don't worry. We will have attendants at the gift box table to assist and explain everything. And, if your health will not allow you to shop for gifts, we have a bank of volunteer personal shoppers to assist you.

Please also note that you may take more than one tag—as many as your budget and your heart allow. Again, the gifts we bring may be the only ones these families receive at Christmas. You are also invited to bring gift wrapping paper, bows, and ribbons. Some of us may even need to purge our closets of an overabundance of these materials!

As we said in an earlier announcement, you may give and serve and offer someone a dose of affection—whether it be a spoonful or a whole cupful.

Grace and Peace,

Pat Brown (Chair), Linda Cobb, Hope Lairson, Daniel U'Ren

Measuring What Matters

On December 1st, we will mail out letters confirming receipt of Estimate of Giving cards as of November 29th, 2015. If you do not receive a confirmation letter, then we did not receive your Measuring What Matters Estimate of Giving for 2016.

We completely understand that for some of us, our economic situation remains uncertain. If your financial situation changes, you can change your Estimate at any time by contacting the Stewardship Co-Chairs, our Treasurer, or our Pastor. If you can now firm up your Estimated Giving for 2016, please contact one of us or submit your card.

Your giving throughout the year is always confidential. You do not need to make an Estimate of Giving to support the financial needs of Western Oaks, but it helps in our budgeting. Thank you for turning the dreams for ministry into reality by Measuring What Matters.

Respectfully,

Robert Frantz and Andrea Teter, Stewardship Co-Chairs and Ken Whitt, Treasurer

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Giving
- Property
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas
- Volunteer
- Fundraiser

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DECEMBER 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	31		
*	*	*	*	*		

- 3** Education Committee Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 6** Last day to donate to ROC Toy Store
 Birthday Party for Jesus 12:30pm-2:30pm
- 8** Elders Prayer Breakfast 7:15am-8:15am
 CWF Christmas Brunch Program 11:00am-2:00pm
 Admin Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm
- 9** Bridge for Fun 1:00pm-4:00pm
 Caring & Sharing Eat Out @ Nina's 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 10** ROC Toy Store 8:00am-6:00pm
- 11** ROC Toy Store 8:00am-5:00pm
- 12** Roland Fishel Memorial Bell Ringing 10:00am-6:00pm
- 13** Choir Cantata (one service) 11:00am-12:00pm
 Board Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm
 Tasting Party & Matt Schinske Concert 5:00pm-7:00pm
- 14** OakBridge Article Due 12:00pm
- 15** Admin Meeting 7:00pm-8:00pm
- 19** U'Ren Family's Christmas Open House 5:00pm-7:00pm

- 20** Last day to donate to Benevolent Christmas
 Congregational Meeting 11:55pm
 Wedding Shower for Wilkersons 12:15pm-1:15pm
 Caring & Sharing Meeting 4:00pm-5:00pm
- 22** Elders Prayer Breakfast 7:15am-8:15am
- 23** Caring & Sharing Eat Out @ Jim's 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 24** Christmas Eve —Church Office Closed at Noon
 Candlelight Services 6:00pm & 11:30pm
- 27** Elders Meeting 12:15pm-1:15pm
- 28-31** Church Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

All Church Event:
Sunday, December 6th

Make your way to Schwind Hall at 12:30pm for the **Birthday Party for Jesus**. Lunch will have a "Feliz Navidad" theme. Mrs. Claus will read us a story. We will be collecting baby items to donate to the Infant Crisis Center. Everyone is invited, children and adults, to come and enjoy a wonderful time!



Property Updates

There has been a lot going on regarding property 'fixups' at the church. A big thank you to Ed and Mary Garrison, Lonnie and Jane Maytubby, and George Lunsford for getting the former Interns Office ready for our new Associate Minister's arrival. Walls and cabinets are newly painted. New carpet installed – free of charge by a friend of Ed Garrison. Last, but not least, insulation was placed in the ceiling and all new ceiling tiles installed. Looks pretty spiffy! Even got her desk all positioned and ready for the new occupant.

Several folks were involved in doing repairs in the janitor's closet in the Children's Wing. Moldy drywall and the sink were removed. No mold was found, which was good news. The crew will let everything sit for awhile and then go back and install fresh dry wall. Thanks goes to Bob Smith, Jack Graham and Jerry Cobb.

*Thank you,
Jane Maytubby, Property Co-Chair*

Delightful Family Dinner

Thanks, Ken Whitt, for recognizing me after the Family Thanksgiving Dinner, but the credit goes to: Saturday Set-up Crew of Jan Sills and Mandie Howry, Cooper and Molly Davis with Grandpa and Grandma (Terry and Betty Singleton), George and JoAnn Goodner, Judy Walker, Marilyn Chalk and Roy Avants. All who did a great job along with Matt and Robert Wilkerson getting the roasters off the top shelf.

Everything was ready for early Sunday Morning. Delivering 14 de-boned turkeys were: Mary Garrison, Vernon Cook, Gay Teter, Jane Maytubby, Marilyn Chalk, Charlene Majetic, Reeca Young, Pat Brown, Dorothy Uhl, Dianne Maier, Linda Cobb, Jodie Conner, Cathy Routon and Sandra Cook. The "secret recipe" guys (Dave Brown, Vernon Cook and Taylor Simmons) had their dressing ready for the oven, and then turned the little kitchen over to Matt and Robert Wilkerson for the mashed potatoes (3 pots). Pies from the Elders were arriving two by two for Cathy Routon and Judi McDown to cut and later were delivered to the tables by Mikayla Sharp and Mandie Howry. The "groovy gravy" ladies (Mary Garrison, Kari Simmons and Lizzy Millman) had three big pots on the stove...yum yum! You could smell the green beans cooking as Judy Walker and Marilyn Chalk stirred and stirred. Kelli Fearing and Jodie Conner had four roasters heating the dinner rolls after they dished up the cranberry sauce. Three drinking tables were well stocked by Michelle and Ashlee McDonnell with Charlie Conner giving a little help.

A BLESSED FAMILY THANKSGIVING dinner was enjoyed by 165 attendees, 10 take home dinners and 30 meals for Mobile Meals! All this "full tummy feeling" was due to the efforts of all those hard working wonderful volunteers ...our church family.

AND, speaking of wonderful, it's clean-up time! Marilyn Chalk and Judy Walker with their green beans, "hot George" and JoAnn Goodner with soap bubbles, and Okie Merry held down the kitchen sink corner. Others assisting were Cathy Routon, Judi McDown, Charlene and Tony Majetic, Steve Teter with "pitcher puzzle" wizard Gay Teter and her helper Andrea Teter. Yes, I meant pitcher! Also, many others were folding tables, cleaning, wiping, etc., which must be thanked and recognized. Purchasing extra paper goods was Wendy Wilkerson with her crew.

The dinner expenses totaled \$655.44, and we collected \$557.00 in the Love Offering. If you didn't get a chance to add to the Love Offering, you can do so at any time.

It was a joyous day at our Family Thanksgiving Dinner. We are blessed at WOCC to enjoy the fellowship and friendship of so many. See Ken, that's where the credit belongs. Sandra Cook and numerous friends.



Caring & Sharing

The Caring and Sharing Meeting held on Sunday, November 15, had Carla from the Alzheimer's Association providing the program. We were given a pamphlet "Know the 10 Warning Signs as Early Detection Matters". One of the things she pointed out was that we should never approach a patient with "do you remember me?" or "do you know who I am?" We should always introduce ourselves, even if we have known the patient for a very long time. Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline is 800-272-3900. Thank you, Carla, for your informative program. Our next regularly scheduled meeting will be Sunday, December 20th at the Church.

Everyone is invited to join the group for our upcoming 'Eat Out' times together on...

Wednesday, December 9 Nina's 5001 N Portland @ 5:00 pm

Wednesday, December 23 Jim's 63rd & Meridian @ 5:00 pm

CWF

All women of the church: you are invited to attend the Christmas Party at WOCC on December 8th beginning as 11:00am. Please bring a covered dish for the brunch. Our guest speaker will be Rosa McCroskey. If you wish to participate in the Gift Exchange, you will need to bring a \$5 wrapped gift and your Christmas spirit! Afterwards, we will fix plates of Christmas treats for our homebound church members. Any questions, call Marlene Word at 789-6126. See you there!



YOUTH SOUNDBITE

It is the most wonderful time of the year! As we begin the season of Advent, the youth will be selling reindeer yard decorations again. If you would like to send your friends a week of Christmas cheer (or maybe you don't have time to decorate), have some of our reindeer drop by for a visit. We will be distributing and picking up the reindeer on Sunday evenings. If you do not wish to have the deer visit your lawn, you can purchase insurance on a weekly basis. We only have a limited number of slots open for delivery, so please order soon. This year the reindeer can visit one yard, for one week, for \$20. Insurance can be purchased for \$10 per week per yard. We really hope you consider gifting reindeer to someone special this holiday season. The youth will set up a table before and after both worship services for the next couple of weeks. The money we raise will help the youth go on a mission trip in the summer of 2016. We greatly appreciate your support. Here is a picture of the Smiths with their visitors!



Pastor's Article

Advent is a time when we recall the dark and dismal time in history when the world greatly anticipated the arrival of a Savior. This Sunday, we again found darkness and despair as all around us was covered in ice, and we were plunged into darkness with the loss of power. Though the first Sunday of Advent was spent with the Sanctuary cold and dark, I still lit the candle of Hope on the Advent wreath. For even in the cold and dark, we find hope in God. Hope that God will not abandon us. Hope that God's love is eternal. Hope that even this small light of a single candle reminds us of God's light and love is still very present in the darkest and coldest places. May the rest of our Advent season be filled with bright lights, warm wishes, and full of God's love.



*Blessings,
Daniel*



Good friends and good cheer! It is a magical time of year! You are invited to the annual Christmas Open House at Daniel's home. **December 19th from 5:00pm-7:00pm**, come drop by, spend as much time as you like or until 7:00pm.

Prayer Requests

- * For Tina Bayliff's oldest daughter who is suffering from gall stones & may need surgery.
- * Bill Lassiter, John Lassiter's son, had a stroke.
- * Barbara Wofle, Cathy Routon's friend, has various cancers & is under hospice care.
- * Pray for new life at FCC OKC Restoration!
- * Please watch over the people who are less fortunate than ourselves & keep them warm this year.
- * 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.
- * 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

Prayers of Children

My little ones made a PRAYER QUILT, and it is hanging outside the workroom area by the entrance to the Children's wing. These are their own words, and I'm so proud of their prayerful thoughts. There is more going on inside those little minds than we think! *Sandra Cook*



Volunteer Opportunities

What: Salvation Army "Roland Fishel Memorial" Bell Ringing

When: December 12, 10:00am - 6:00pm

Where: Wal-Mart @ NW Expressway and Council

Contact Andrea Teter (#306-5487 or a.teter@hotmail.com) to sign-up.

- **Toys for the ROC** are being collected in drop-off boxes by the Sanctuary and Schwind Hall; the last day will be **December 6th**. We need NEW large gifts (\$20 and up) and NEW small gifts (under \$20) for boys and girls, ages infant to 12 years old. Check out reachingourcity.org and click "toy store" for gift suggestions. If you'd like to volunteer, the Toy Store will be open at ROC on December 10th, 8:00am-6:00pm, and 11th, 8:00am-5:00pm. To sign up to volunteer, call Jennifer Lester at 405 440-9994, ext. 115.

Abby Frank 12/2

Laura Bowman 12/6

Kristin Pratt 12/7

Victoria Millman 12/9

Jessica Wall 12/11

Linda Cobb 12/12

Wendy Wilkerson 12/14

Josh Wilkerson 12/16

Michelle McConnell 12/17

Jennie McAffrey 12/18

Lillian McCaskill 12/18

Lou O'Brien 12/18

Mikayla Sharp 12/18

Charli Meador 12/19

Teale Singleterry 12/19

Dorothy Uhl 12/19

Faith Lairson 12/21

Lacinda Green 12/22

Betty Singleton 12/22

Robert Smith 12/22

Tom Jewell 12/23

Riley Williams 12/26

Alex Wilkinson 12/28

Ryon Jones 12/29

Teri Lormand 12/29

Rocky Fearing 12/30

Eric Gray 12/30

Ian Jones 12/30

Lynda Gervais 12/31

Natalie Williams 12/31

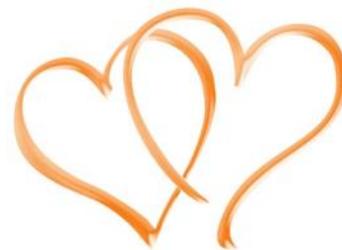
Reeca Young 12/31

December Birthdays

Meet the Newly Weds!

Mr. and Mrs. Josh Wilkerson

Emily and Josh will join us Sunday, December 20th at Coffee Fellowship following the second service. There will be a basket for your cards and a table for gifts. Josh grew up in our church, and we want to extend all our love and blessings to both of them.



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

Please remember, articles must be 500 words or less.




Youth Fundraiser: "Rein-ed On"

Protect Your Lawn from the Herd of Reindeer!!

Insurance Prices:
\$10 per week or \$25 for all 3 weeks

If you would like to send the herd to a friend's lawn who has not purchased insurance the price is:
\$20 per household per week




Date	GIVING	
11/15/15	General	\$6,014
	Blessing Fund	\$686.17
11/22/15	General	\$6,412.26
	Blessing Fund	\$35

Date	ATTENDANCE	
11/15/15	9:00 AM	36
	11:00 AM	101
11/22/15	(one service)	161

*No worship services were held on November 29th due to inclement weather and power outage at church.

Church Staff

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

Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett — Associate Minister (Julia@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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