

JUNE 16, 2015

Oakbridge

WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

What a fun week of learning, creativity, fun, and excitement for our WOCC members and surrounding neighbors as we all experienced God's Love at the **G-Force Adventure Park** where we learned to *Move! Act! Care! Follow! and Share!*

Our 2015 G-Force Adventure Park would not have been possible without our VBS Navigators (children participants), Adult VBS Participants, and ALL our Pathfinders (group leaders). We are grateful to each of you!!!

Thanks to our Zone Coordinators and Leaders: Assembly Zone – our “3 Mr. Smiths” (Rev. Tom Jewel, Rev. Daniel U’Ren, and Vincent Pinazza- sound manager) & “Ms. Kay” Jewel. Registration Zone – Charlene Newkirk and team, Greeter – Mary Francis Hedrick, Attendance & Sticker Zone – Max Patzack, Snack/Meal Zone – Marlene Word and team, Craft Zone - Virginia Johnson and team, Science Zone – Richard Wilkinson and team, Recreation Zone – Josh Wilkerson and Emily Sadler, Storytelling & Scripture Zone – Wendy Wilkerson. Additionally, we had a Nursery Zone – Samantha VanOsdol and Kiersten Hamill, Youth VBS Zone – Hope Lairson, Adult VBS Zone - Parker and Marion Cross

Thanks to our

- Photographers – Donna Nevel and Kelli Fearing
- Adventure Park Decorating Team- the dynamic duo of Jimmy & Dianne Ille
- Mission Coordinators – Jenna Droke, Charles Mohr, and Hope Lairson
- Youth — stepping up for anything needed at the spur of a moment
- Seth Nevel — “on-scene-data-entry” of registrations
- Wendy Wilkinson—provided alternative options & our proverbial “bell ringer” keeping us on schedule
- Marlene Word, Duane Wood, Charlsa Franz, and Heath Hawkins for assisting me personally through this entire enjoyable experience. Your assistance was greatly appreciated!
- Church Members — ALL those who donated Supplies/Food to the 2015 VBS; it minimized our expenses and made serving meals possible. Also, those who prayed for VBS and our participants/volunteers during the past week; prayers made everything possible!

Specials Thanks to our “behind the scenes” workers: Talitha Thomas for sharing past VBS experiences and knowledge with me when needed, Cathy Routon for handling our background checks with professionalism, and Janey Merry, well, for *anything* needed or asked for while still doing her Administrative Assistant duties for our church.

Specials Thanks to Rev. Daniel for asking me to serve in the position, not setting limits on our Planning Committee, and for serving our entire VBS G-Force Team with poise and grace. You really are a “Super Dan” to create a wonderful and enjoyable experience for all the approximate 110 registered VBS Participants and Volunteers.

Now, I can say that the G-Force “dream” and “vision” have been successfully fulfilled. Each of you hold a special place in my heart for making it happen. You are greatly appreciated!!!

Wishing YOU many blessings in return,
Lacinda Green
2015 VBS Director

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- VBS
- Appreciation
- Photos
- Planning for the Future

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JUNE 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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28	29	30				
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Schedule of Events

14th—19th Chi Rho Camp @ Texoma Camp

15th—19th Junior Camp @ Central Camp

18th Book Study @ Daniel's House 7:00pm-8:00pm

21st Father's Day

22nd—26th CYF Conference @ Central Camp

23rd Elders Prayer Breakfast 7:15am-8:15am

24th Bridge for Fun 1:00pm-4:00pm

25th Book Study @ Daniel's House 7:00pm-8:00pm

28th WOCC Cabinet Retreat 12:00pm-5:00pm

VBS Appreciation

I would like to express my appreciation to the wonderful people who assisted me in the kitchen for VBS: Betty Singleton, Judy Walker, Charlene Newkirk, Judi McDown, Jodie Conner, Cassidy, Katelynn, Matt, Cody, Wendy and Robert Wilkerson. Cookies were baked by the Patzacks, cupcakes by Jean Sladek, and cake by Duane Wood. A BIG THANKS to the wonderful church members who responded so graciously to our "Wanted" poster and provided the groceries that made it possible to have 500 meals served. THANKS SO VERY MUCH to our VBS Director, Lacinda Green, and her great group of leaders. And don't ever forget G-Man Pastor Dan!

A GREAT TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!
Marlene Word

Cokesbury's **G-FORCE** VBS 2015



VBS Recovery

I heard several times this weekend, “well, we survived another VBS!” We sure did have a great time at Vacation Bible School, however, the amount of work that goes into a program like this is exhausting. I woke up this morning wanting to just stay under the covers and go back to sleep. But I know so many others feel just as tired, if not more. Lacinda Green did an amazing job as VBS Director. She had a vision of what she wanted VBS to be, and sometimes a few of us were going crazy to get the vision. But in the end, it was about making an awesome event for the participants.



We had 106 children, youth and adults registered for VBS, plus about 10 more volunteers who did not fill out a registration form but helped in some capacity to make VBS a success. This was amazing. Thank you to everyone: cooks, teachers, crafty individuals, those who “geeked out” with hands-on-activities, and everyone else who gave your time and energy to make VBS a marvelous experience for everyone.

Well done!
—Daniel

Prayer Requests

- * Dennis Spencer, Karen Russell’s brother, had a stroke last week.
- * Lisa Sloan’s granddaughter, Nicole, will be having surgery this week.
- * Christine Wagner will have knee replacement surgery this week.
- * Paula Schonauer, a friend of Nance Cunningham, has a teenage daughter, Joey, who has been diagnosed with stage 4 Hodgkin's Lymphoma.
- * Pray for Rev. Michael Canada & the new church.
- * Rev. Dr. Kathy McCallie, asst. professor at PTS, lost her partner, Betsy Brown.
- * Rev. Johnny Means, Jan Ketola’s co-worker’s father, had open heart surgery.
- * George & Alvin Lawson, friends of the Lunsfords, both have cancer.
- * Beverly Parker had a hip replaced.
- * LaRue Ingram is still having a lot of back pain.
- * Eric Lasseter, Mike & Karen Starr’s son-in-law, has stage 4 melanoma.
- * Chris Hedrick’s grandson, Tate Davis, was born blue & has many problems.
- * The people of Nepal
- * Sharon Roemer, Martha Buchanan’s friend in California, has been diagnosed with multiple cancers.
- * Lloyd Gosnell, Cynthia Hill’s cousin, has cancer.
- * Paul Gosnell, Cynthia Hill’s cousin, had surgery.
- * Renee Williams, friend of Martha Buchanan, is devastated by cancer diagnosis.
- * Joan Stamman, Jan Sills’ cousin, has stage 4 colon cancer.
- * Jimmy Sills has a perforated ulcer.
- * Sharon Lutke, friend of Jan Ketola, dealing with recurrence of cancer.
- * Greg Morse, Linda Cobb’s nephew
- * Dick & Lura Cayton
- * 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.
- * Lou O’Brien

Disciples in History

Two great movies, "Braveheart" and "Ben Hur", derived from great books and historical figures have one thing in common that might surprise you. They are connected to a historical member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Lew Wallace was a direct descendent of Sir William Wallace of whom the movie Braveheart was based upon and was also the author of the novel Ben Hur. However, the mother of Ben Hur was modeled after the greatest hero in Lew's life, his stepmother, Zerelda Wallace.

Zerelda was raised in a home that loved education, and they spent long hours deliberating over questions concerning everything from religion to science and politics. It was said that she kept her hair short just so the time normally spent taking care of her hair could be spent reading instead. In fact, her intelligence was so revered by her husband David Wallace, the governor of Indiana, that everything he wrote was submitted to her for approval and criticism.

While her husband was governor, she presented to him a petition for temperance signed by 10,000 women, to which he replied "Madam, your plea might just as well have been signed by 10,000 mice." This sparked the furnace under Zerelda to fight for temperance from that point forward.

The Temperance Organization discovered a great opportunity, a chance to speak to legislature, concerning the repeal of the Baxter Temperance Law. Zerelda was the appointed spokesperson for this event, something she almost looked forward to doing. In her heart, she felt that she could appeal to these men with logic and prove that this cause was just and honorable, and they would support it. She discovered, though, the error in this line of thinking. The response was similar to her husband's a long time ago with the petition. The men of the legislature did not see the logic in her argument; all they could see was a woman standing before them. A woman who would have gotten just as far by saying nothing at all. Amidst the jeering, a senator spoke out to inform her that they must vote in accordance with what the people they represent want, which apparently did not include the thoughts of women. Zerelda later talked to the man one-on-one and thanked the senator for making her into a woman suffragist.



Zerelda Wallace
(1817-1908)

Wallace became a temperance leader first in the Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, when in 1883 she refused communion at Central Christian Church because of her convictions about alcohol use and abuse. Her refusal eventually led to the use of grape juice rather than wine at communion celebrated during each worship service of the Disciples of Christ. Lew Wallace said this of his stepmother, "The world has been as unable to resist her as I was. In every state in the union, there are good people who speak of her as Mother Wallace, sweet tongued apostle of temperance reform."

Zerelda was one of the first in this country to begin the battle of temperance (and later women's suffrage alongside of Susan B. Anthony and Frances E. Willard) and open the doors to the civil rights movement that would follow. She was a leader to not only women, but she also inspired many men. She remained humble throughout life in her walk with God, so that she could better impact the movement of which she felt so strongly. She is known for speaking out against injustice and encouraging others to share in her love for kindness and justice.

Gratitude is our Attitude

"Thanks to all for VBS! My daughter had a blast!" —Christine Wagner

"Thanks to our VBS Leaders and staff of WOCC for a great week." —Parker & Marion Cross

"We wish to thank God for the many blessings our family has received." —Millman family

Juggling a Busy Life

It amazes me sometimes at how much we try to cram into our lives. When I map out the hours in my week, and see how much is going on and how little time I have with my family, I am baffled! Then, I look at others with even more going on with taking their kids here and there; it is no wonder we sometimes find it hard to squeeze some time for God and church. We all have busy lives, so sometimes it is difficult to want to take on an added responsibility such as an officer position at the church. Wendy Wilkerson took on the job of forming the Nominating Committee, and she deserves a huge pat on the shoulder and a vacation! She has tirelessly worked towards getting the slate of officers together which is not an easy task by any measure. I thank her for all her work and dedication to the church; she will make a wonderful Board Chair for this coming year. I am also thankful to everyone who said “yes” to serving as a committee chair for the coming year.

Looking forward to an awesome year!
—Daniel

No Slowing Down



I am quickly learning that maybe there is not a slow season here at Western Oaks! We are constantly on the go and looking for what the future might bring. That is good, maybe a little exhausting at times, but good that we are striving towards a better future. In 2014, we celebrated 50 years of ministry, and we were reminded of great moments at WOCC. I was reminded by my brief ride in the 2014 Mustang that we were driving off towards the future. Now it is time to get “Back to the Future” and focus on what we can make happen down the road.

Now, I am not expecting to ride in a DeLorean, unless it has a flux capacitor, but on **Sunday, June 28th**, I am asking both newly-elected committee chairs and current committee chairs to attend this **Planning Retreat**. This is an opportunity for the current committee chairs to pass along what was done as well as ideas regarding what did not work well to the incoming chairs. But this is also an opportunity to do some long-range planning. I would like each committee to create a long-range plan for what they want to accomplish this coming year. So you might want to invite some of your committee members to be there as well.

Lunch is being provided for this important planning retreat, and I hope to share with you at this meeting a vision to help guide us into the coming year and beyond. As I queried several people on a theme for this event, Hope pointed out that the movie “Back to the Future” had them traveling to the year 2015 when they went into the future. The idea that we can look back at all the things that have worked well in the past and now look to our future to see what we need to do to make them happen is part of what I want us to be discussing.

See you in the Future!
—Daniel



Articles for the next OakBridge will be due Monday, June 29, at noon

Please remember, articles must be 500 words or less.

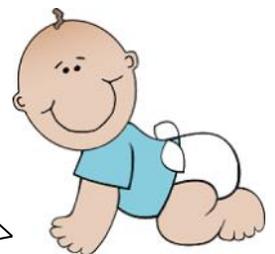
YOUTH SOUNDBITE

Each year, the Youth participate in a Mission Event. During years ending with an even number, we travel to different places to serve in various ways. We have gone to Houston and Joplin. During odd-numbered years, we usually stay local to help our community. This summer, we will be staying local, but have a theme of "Around the World". It is very important to think globally. Our actions and behavior do not only affect us as individuals, but everyone around us. That can include strangers on the other side of the globe. As followers of God, we are supposed to think more about others than ourselves. The Mission Event this year will have a global focus from home. We will be learning about different cultures and how people in different countries live. We will understand how to better help others by learning their needs and customs. To prepare for our mission this year, I want you to start by asking yourselves the following questions: How can our actions here, help others around the world? What does it mean to participate in mission work? How can I be the change I want to see in the world?

"Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the people!"
 —Psalm 96:3

*Peace and Blessings,
 Hope Lairson
 Interim Youth Director*

"We celebrated the birth of our 1st great grandchild, Addison David Collins, born to granddaughter Megan Watts & Jeremy Collins on April 29, 2015. He weighed in at 4.5 lbs due to being 8 weeks premature; he had to stay at the hospital for awhile. He is now at home with his mother and daddy and doing well. "
 —Suzanne & Bill Parker



Date	ATTENDANCE	
6/7/15	9:00 AM	59
	11:00 AM	96
6/14/15	(1 service)	133

Date	GIVING	
6/7/15	General	\$6,520.84
	Capital	\$510
6/14/15	General	\$5,165.96
	Capital	\$335

Church Staff

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

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

Hope Lairson — Youth Interim 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



«City»

«Address»

«Name»

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

Loving God, Serving Our Neighbors