

Eternal Realities

In a recent “Alice in Wonderland” movie, we encounter a fabulous and mysterious machine known as the Chronosphere which is a metallic globe inside the Grand Clock which powers all Time. During the movie, the Grand Clock begins to slowly power down when the Chronosphere is removed, coming dangerously close to stopping completely and ‘freezing Time’ forever. Alice and her friends rescue the Grand Clock before this can happen and they are able to ‘unfreeze Time,’ thereby saving the world as we know it. One of the legends of St. Nicholas places his home at the geographic North Pole, hidden from all forms of radar and scanning, complete with toy factory and reindeer barns. If you ever travel there, however, you must first believe before you can see. Both Wonderland and North Pole Village are what I call ‘eternal realities,’ because they lead us to what is beyond our experience and understanding.

In advanced mathematics, students work with multi-dimensional vectors which they can only imagine but never represent on paper. These 4th and 5th (and larger) dimensions are beyond our seeing, but not beyond our calculations. And the strange thing for those who study these advanced mathematical vectors, is that ‘1 + 1’ may not equal ‘2’ in vector calculation. In order to work with these ‘extended’ mathematical vectors, we must first believe that they represent something beyond our seeing and hearing. Perhaps the Apostle Paul had one of these vectors in mind when he assigns “Paradise” to a ‘third heaven.’ (2 Cor. 12:1-4). Paul describes it as a place that no words can describe and like nothing we have ever seen before.

Christmas is not so much a time to ‘suspend belief’ as it is a time to ‘engage belief.’ It is a season where we seek what is ‘really real’ and dispel what is ‘falsely real.’ When we believe, we can indeed see what we could not see before. When we believe, we can indeed hear what we could not hear before. It reminds me of the song we sing at Christmastide, ‘Do you see what I see?’ ‘Do you hear what I hear?’ (A child sleeping in the night shall bring us goodness and light.) Or another of my favorite Christmas songs, ‘When a child is born, a rosy hue settles all around and you’re on solid ground, but ‘for a spell or two, no one seems forlorn.’ The eternal reality of the Child in the manger, the One who is God-with-us, changes us inside-out and bottom-side-up, in ways we can no longer ignore. This includes the compassion and love we find in the stories of St. Nicholas as well as the courage and faith we find in the stories of Alice. Our visions and insights find their reality in Christ Jesus, the most real of all that is real. And so, we proclaim together, “Jesus is Lord!” and “Jesus is the reason for our season!”

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy

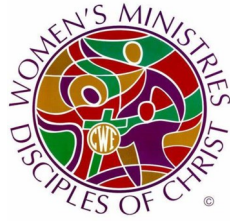
Seventeenth Question on Common Reading: Chapter Four: Mark Deymaz (w/Harry Li) *The Coming Revolution in Church Economics: Why Tithes and Offerings Are No Longer Enough, and What You Can Do About it*

“Increasingly popular is the term “co-vocational” Co-vocational pastors embrace a calling to serve God in the church and in the marketplace.” P. 111

1) Should WOCC embrace a co-vocational pastor or minister? 2) Why or Why not? If so, how would this work?



Sign up now for Salvation Army Kettle Brigade December 14.
Charlene Majetic

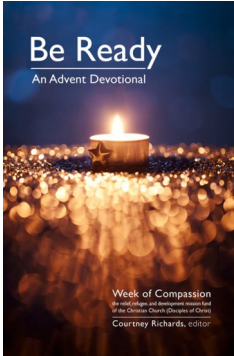


DWF Paint & Create Party
December 8, 12:30 p.m.

Funds to be used for new ceiling tiles and other WOCC building repairs.

God's love *visible*

2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING
Supporting the ministries of the Oklahoma Region.
100% of your gift stays in our Region.



Please pick up an Advent Devotional in the narthex. The Title is: "Be Ready: An Advent Devotional", Courtney Richards is editor. Contributors work in some capacity for The Week of Compassion Mission Fund. This devotional supports the Week of Compassion.
Pastor Randy

December Dates for CWF

Tuesday, December 10th we will meet in the Parlor to prepare the Homebound Christmas sacks.

Tuesday, December 17th is our Christmas Celebration at Jenna's home. We will gather at our usual 10:00 am time, visit, eat, & enjoy our time together.

We will NOT meet to quilt on the 24th or 31st. Our next Tuesday quilting day will be January 7, 2025.

BIRTHDAYS IN DECEMBER



Abby	Frank	12/2	Betty	Singleton	12/22
Natalie	Griffin	12/3	Montana	Pursley	12/22
Darla	Ures	12/4	Tom	Jewell	12/23
Linda	Cobb	12/12	Alex	Wilkinson	12/28
Michelle	McConnell	12/17	Rocky	Fearing	12/30
Charli	Meador	12/19	Lynda	Gervais	12/31
Faith	Lairson	12/21	Reeca	Young	12/31
Bob	Smith	12/22			

Western Oaks Christian Church
gratefully acknowledges the following memorial gifts.



The Common Factor SS Class
In memory of
Loyd D. Healy, Jr
Debbie Rodriguez
Jack Graham's brother
George Goodner



Current Directory information

Need a current address? Do you have an old directory?

You can look up the latest updated info on the ShelbyNext app, Cindy can help you set that up.

Or if you would like a printed copy, Cindy can email or print a copy for you.

You are always welcome to call Cindy any time for new changes.



Job Opening:
Church Nursery Attendant

Western Oaks Christian Church is accepting applications to fill the nursery attendant position. We are seeking a nurturing, caring, and patient caregiver to work with toddlers and infants Sundays, 8:30 - 12:30, during both worship services and the Sunday School hour.

Interviewing candidates will be subject to a background check. Send resumes to:

Western Oaks Christian Church
8100 NW 23rd St, OKC, OK 73127

Or email office@woccdoc.org

Youth Christmas Party

December 21

11:30 am



Western Oaks Christian Church



Sunday, December 8 is Play Practice for all participants following the Coffee Fellowship at 12:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal

Saturday, December 14, 10 a.m.

Sunday, December 15, All children should be at the church by 10 am Please meet in the 2nd & 3rd classes.



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The Best Christmas Present

Coming Sunday, December 15th during the 11a.m. worship.

The Christmas party for our children with lunch, cupcake decorating, crafts, and games followed by a special guest! Santa will come and we will end with some Christmas karaoke songs to end the day!



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Gifts at Christmas

God gave



Jesus

The magi gave



gold, frankincense, and myrrh

Draw a gift someone has given you.

Draw a gift you can give someone else.

Church Staff
office@woccdoc.org



Interim Minister: Pastor Randy Hill
Associate Minister: Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett
Music Director: Andrew Orr
Pianist: Rosa McCroskey
Praise Band Leader: Ben Frantz
Praise Band: Natalie Griffin and Zach Jones
Nursery Attendant: Skylar Frank
Admin Assistant: Cindy Cannon
Sound Technician: Tobi Bessinger

Sunday, Dec 8 Lessons & Carols Cantata 11:00am service only
 DWF Paint and Create Party 12:30pm

Saturday, Dec 14 Salvation Army Kettle Brigade

Sunday, Dec 15 Children’s Christmas Program 11:00am
 Children’s Christmas Party 12:15pm
 All Church Christmas Caroling 3:00pm
 Christmas Offering

Saturday, Dec 22 Youth Christmas Party 11:30am
 Christmas Offering

Tuesday, Dec 24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 6:00pm

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL Worship
11-10-2024	22	42	64
11-17-2024	25	50	75

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
11-10-2024	\$3,136	\$0
11-17-2024	\$2,965	\$30

Upcoming Sermons

Advent Homilies:

December 8, 2024 (9 am) Scripture: Malachi 3:1-4 Sermon Title: Speaking Peace
 Theme: The message of Malachi represents a vision of serious peace in an age of challenging darkness.

December 15, 2024 (9 am) Scripture: Isaiah 35:1-10 Sermon Title: Joyful Rose
 Theme: May we always believe it possible that joy will overtake our hearts and overflow our minds.

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
 Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»