

Breaking Patterns

My First Testament professor in seminary, Prof. John Stewart, used to say, “when you pray, do not just pray for things to continue as they have been, do not just pray that God will bring you up to average, do not just pray for the crumbs under the table.” When you pray, pray for God’s fullness. When you pray, pray to be more than average; pray to break the patterns of the past, pray for all that God has to give you. I still remember his words today. He drew a line across the bulletin board. You could hear the shriek of the chalk as he drew. Do not just pray to come up to the line. Pray to go above the line.

There is an old saying: “Beware what you ask for in prayer as you may get it!” Perhaps even before you ask, or as soon as the request leaves your lips. Jesus had to remind Peter that he needed to watch carefully what he said since he had the power to bind or to loose, to impact the lives of others.

“Your Father knows what you need before you ask.” (Matthew 6:8)

And Mark adds: “whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you will receive it, and you will.”

“Why do we have to ask?” you might say. But it is exactly important that we do ask. This “asking” is our acknowledgment of our most important need and why we need it. Our persistence in asking is also important, as is our belief and confidence in what we are asking. And Jesus confirms: “Ask and you shall receive.” Jesus tells the story of the friend of midnight. He knocks. At first the door is not opened. Do not bother me, he says, my family is all in bed, go away and come again tomorrow. Then, because of the persistence (Scripture says, importunity, literally, the importance is related to the urgency), the friend will eventually get up and get his friend what is needed. Then, Jesus breaks the pattern. “How much more will God give his Holy Spirit to those who ask?” And Jesus continues, “What father among you, if his child asks for a fish, will give him a snake?” Or a scorpion? This is true of the good and the bad alike, he says. Hopefully, none of us would give in such a way as to harm our children. Perish the thought. But, again Jesus breaks the pattern. “How much more will God give His Holy Spirit to those who ask?”

But, it is not about the gift. It is not about the gift. The Psalmist asks: “Who have I in heaven but you? O God. There is nothing on earth that I desire other than you. My flesh and my heart may fail, but you are the strength of my heart and my portion forever.” (Psalm 73:25-26) It is not about the gift. The gift, whether received or given, is about God, about our love for God and God’s love for us. When in doubt, ask in love. In the Hebrew language, we find the expression “ahabah na.” The first word derives from the verb “Love” and the second from the verb “pray”. “We might translate it, “I love you, I pray to you.” This is a simple phrase to say, but difficult to live out. Do we love enough to break our patterns? Truly though, we must break our patterns to receive the fullness of our gifts!

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy

Twenty-second Question on Common Reading: 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

The average Protestant church size in America is 89 adults. 85% of all Protestant churches in North America never break the 200-attendance mark.” P. 106

1) In January, WOCC fluctuated attendance between 59 and 77 (for both services); Last October, we fluctuated between 51 and 60. If we continue to grow our attendance by 10 over the next year, we are close to reaching the national average. Might this be significant?

A huge thank you to everyone that purchases chances on the quilts CWF raffles from time to time. The funds are used to purchase fabrics to continue our quilt project for Citizens Caring for Children. One of our quilts is given to each foster child on the first visit to CCC. We hear lots of touching stories about these quilts and what the quilt means to that child. This keeps our hearts and hands busy continuing the work. Thank you for helping us with our work.

Betty Singleton



Dear WOCC, I wanted to thank you for coming to my place to Christmas carol and the sack of goodies. It was just wonderful!!!

I enjoy visits from my WOCC church family.
God Bless You!

Many Thanks, Verona Burke



in
*Loving
Memory*

Duane Wood

January 19, 2025

Rocky Fearing

January 22, 2025

Please remember these families in your prayers.

Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Valentine's Day! Thank you to all of the people making donations for the Blessing Box. You can donate through WOCC online designating "Blessing Box" by check, cash or food (snacks, proteins, vegetables, water).

The Blessing Box provides meals and snacks to our hungry neighbors. We received notes in the box from our community thanking us for helping their families to get by in difficult times. This Outreach Program is truly appreciated by our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Gay Teter



Interim Report - Mid- February 2025

Roof – We have received a cost estimate from Elliott Roofing regarding the cost of a roof maintenance program. The Administrative Committee will confer with the Property committee to determine to feasibility of the program. When the church has engaged in such a maintenance program in the past, the number and frequency of leaks in the roof has been markedly reduced.

Baptistry – Stanley Plumbing has been working on the baptistry repair. Thus far they have replaced all the ancient pvc pipes, replaced the baptistry inlets and outlets, and built up the pump and heater. They are projected to complete the equipment installation and the required electrical work this week.

Ceiling Tiles – To date we have received approximately \$1800 for ceiling tile replacement and 2/3 of the needed tiles have been purchased. The work to this point has been in the North Storeroom, the youth room (old fellowship hall), the northernmost children's Sunday school room, the youth wind hallway (30% complete). The West narthex, the office, the area around the water fountain, and the west extension of Schwind Hall have been completed.

Offering Collection – The physical passing of offering plates at each worship service is began with this past Sunday's worship services. A big THANK YOU to Deacons, Junior Deacons, Elders, and the Worship organizers and planners.

Senior Pastor Search – The Search Committee has completed a final draft of the Congregational Profile and is in the process of getting the profile published and approved by the Administrative Committee.

Connect@ EMPOWER & Equip

Registration Closes February 24th

\$25 per person:

Adults 19+, includes lunch

\$10 per person:

Youth (10-18), includes lunch

\$10 per person:

Host church volunteer, includes lunch

March 1, 2025
9:15 am – 2:00 pm

Crown Heights Christian Church
4020 N. Western Ave.
Oklahoma City, OK 73118

Fantastic workshops on vital ministry topics for teachers, children's and youth leaders.

Western Oaks Christian Church

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



DATE CHANGE

WOCC

**Youth and Children's
Valentine's Dinner
and**

Dessert Auction

**Sunday, February 23rd
5:00 pm**



**Please see Julie or Tobi if you would like to
donate a dessert or decorate a table
All funds raised go to send our kids to camp
and mission trip**

Upcoming Sermons

Seventh Sunday After Epiphany (Feb 23, 2025) Scripture: Luke 6:27-38

Sermon Title: Shaken and Stirred

Theme: 'Owe nothing, except to love' (Rms. 13:8) Love is to your credit; the love debt.

Transfiguration Sunday (Mar 2, 2025) Scripture: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

Sermon Title: Metamorphosis

Theme: Transfiguring – our changing images borne by hope and grace.

Church Staff
office@woccdoc.org

Upcoming
EVENTS

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

- Thur, Feb 20** Disciples Women’s Fellowship 6:30 pm
- Sun, Feb 23** Week of Compassion Offering
- Sat, Mar 1** Connect @ Empower & Equip 9:15am - 2:00pm
Crown Heights Christian Church
- Sun, Mar 2** Worship Committee Meeting 10 AM
Coffee Fellowship area
- Wed, Mar 5** Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm
- Mar, 3-7** World Day of Prayer
- Sun, Mar 9** Cabinet Meeting 12:15 pm
Fruit of the Spirit - Mini Celebration 12:15 pm
- Sun, Mar 16** Blanket Offering Sunday
- Thur, Mar 20** Disciples Women’s Fellowship Meeting
Disciples’ Men’s Meeting 6:30 pm
First Christian Church, Yukon, Oklahoma
- Sun, Mar 23** Spiritual Enrichment Event – Fellowship 12:30 pm

Attendance	Facebook	YouTube	Online	9:00 am	11:00 am	In House Worship	TOTAL Worship
1/26/25	4	1	5	29	40	69	74
2/2/2025	4	1	5	25	50	75	80

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
1/26/25	\$2,440	\$30
2/2/2025	\$1,920	\$30

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»