

## People of the Wind

On the grounds of the Kansas State Capitol in Topeka is a memorial to the Kansa Tribe of Native Americans whom the Spaniards found living in the Kansas River Valley in the early 1700s. The memorial explains that the word “Kansa” translates to “People of the Wind.” The phrase is poetic, in my mind, as I think about the strong winds I have experienced over the years while living in Kansas (and Oklahoma as well). These winds, and the people who navigated through them over multiple generations, provide the backdrop to the varied events in the history of aviation in this region, and to the importance of aviation in our industrial expansion. Yes, we too are ‘people of the wind,’ inheriting the legacy of those who came before us. There are windmills across mid-America, both past and present, that are a tribute to how our pioneers navigated the prairie winds to provide for their families. Our local area firefighters are required to ‘tame’ that same wind to fight and put out the many wildfires that threaten our lives and livelihoods.

In fact, as communities of faith, we might choose to call ourselves ‘people of the wind.’ We are, after all, ‘people of the Spirit,’ the Body of Christ held together by the work of the Holy Spirit. To be ‘born of the Spirit’ is to be ‘born of the wind’ which blows where it chooses, not giving us any hints ‘where it comes from or where it goes.’ (John 3:8). To be ‘born from above (or born again)’ is to be born of the God who ‘rides on the wings of the wind.’ (Ps. 104:3). A scholar named J.B. Phillips once posed a question to us: ‘Is your God too small?’ We limit God by nailing down the power of God to our own preconceived notions. If the wind analogy tells us anything, it tells us that we cannot control the size of God, or limit God’s power or choices in creation. God creates however God wants; God chooses what God chooses with a larger viewpoint than ours.. To be ‘people of the wind’ is to understand that God is unlimited in power and in grace, and to be stewards of the mystery (1 Cor. 4:1-7) behind the coming and going of the wind. To be ‘people of the wind’ is to recognize the invisible with our faith and the impossible with our hope.

God be with you and your family this month as we celebrate our independence and our inheritance as ‘people of the wind.’

Grace & Peace

Pastor Randy Hill

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Seventh Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Seven:

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*

“Churches can no longer afford ... acquiescence when it comes to money needlessly squandered. Sure, give away free coffee; but develop a plan to recoup the costs....

“There are certain things a church is already doing and for which it is already paying that can otherwise generate income. ... opportunities are many times disguised as problems.”

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- 1) Does this apply to us?
- 2) How can we adapt this information for our own setting?

## July Transition Update

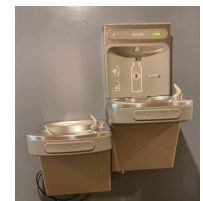
**Good News!** The Senior Minister Search Committee has scheduled their first meeting with Randy Kuss, the Interim Regional Minister. Rev. Kuss will provide an orientation to the Search and Call process to the committee. This initial meeting will take place after the second service on August 4<sup>th</sup> at 12:15 pm in Schwind Hall. The Search and Call orientation meeting is open to all of the congregation. Just so you know, subsequent Search Committee meetings will not be open and all proceedings will be confidential.



**Painting** The interim time provides an opportunity to prepare the way for the future. In this case, it provides the impetus to repair walls where needed and spread fresh paint. The office workroom was first to receive treatment as holes of various sizes were spackled or plastered, fresh paint applied, and a new employee bulletin board was installed. The hall outside the office, around the NEW water fountain, and past the bathrooms and janitor closet were also painted. The hall painting project will continue for the next few weeks.



**Water** The new bi-level water fountains were installed. Bring your favorite water bottle and try out the bottle filling station.



**The coffee is almost ready** Dave Brown (with helpers Taylor Simmons, Steve Teter, and Bob Melton), is working to get the coffee bar installed. The woodwork has been stained and finished, the plumbing has been roughed in, and the coffee making equipment is arriving this week. Once the countertop arrives and the final plumbing and wiring is completed, this long-awaited project will be finished. In addition to making coffee by the cup, the commercial-grade coffeemaker will provide coffee in 2.5 liter pump air pots that can be easily transported to meeting rooms or events throughout the building. It is not too early to start thinking about taking home the many coffee makers (8? maybe 10?) that are stashed and taking up much needed space in cupboards and closets around the church.



Dave Brown and Steve Teter working on the Coffee Bar Project. A number of WOCC volunteers are helping out with the project with staining, electrical work, plumbing, and other tasks needed to install it. A Big Thank you to all the volunteers helping to make this dream a reality!

**More to come. Stay tuned...**

## ALL CHURCH PROMOTION SUNDAY COMING SOON!!

Sunday, August 11<sup>th</sup> @ 10a.m.



All are invited to promotion Sunday Breakfast.  
The Life Lessons Sunday School class has graciously offered to serve yummy pancakes to everyone!!



Western Oaks Christian Church

# CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



**Let's go to the splash pad!!**    **Change of Date:** Tuesday, July 30th

Meet: 10:30 a.m. at Western Oaks Christian Church

We will caravan to Little River Park in Moore, Ok to the huge Splash pad and amazing playground. Please bring a lunch and drinks. The church will provide the coolers. All are invited! We will come back to the church in the early afternoon.



## MISSION TRIP NEXT WEEK

Please pray and send good wishes for our youth and sponsors going to Arlington, Texas for the **Mission Trip** with First Christian, El Reno! They will leave on Sunday, July 21st and return home Friday, July 26th.

Sponsors: Jimmy Ille and Julia Jordan Gillett

Youth: Adelyn Davis   Bailey Jacobs- Morris   Ryan Lewis   Adele Ross   Alorah Ross

I am grateful for all the caring comments for Aanika as she recuperates from the scope of her right knee and wanted everyone to see the wonderful family gathering to celebrate my Mom, Katherine Jordan's 98 &  $\frac{3}{4}$  birthday over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend!! Everyone enjoyed getting together. It has been years since we had this much of our extended family together and there is always the possibility for more people!!

However, the celebration was dampened by my Mom's fall on Saturday evening. Thankfully, my brother, Dr. Kerry Jordan assessed the situation and found nothing was broken. However, Mom has severe bruising that has caused severe muscle spasms. I realize once again how important family is as everyone worked together to make sure my Mom was comfortable and then on Sunday making sure my van was packed and Mom could safely get into the van. God's blessings come at times we least expect them in the form of love of so many.



I feel the same sentiments for everyone at Western Oaks Christian Church. May we all find blessings during this time of interim as we are better together!!

Blessings,  
Julia

**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**

**Saturday, July 27** Back to School Event 10:00am  
 Western Oaks Middle School

**Tuesday, July 30** Kids Splash Pad Event 10:00am

**Sunday, Aug 11** All Church Promotion Breakfast 10:00am

**Sunday, Sept 8** 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	Worship campus on TOTAL
6/30/2024	26	52	78
7/7/2024	23	37	60

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
6/30/2024	\$2,300	\$60
7/7/2024	\$3,905	\$0

### Upcoming Sermons

July 21, 2024 Rev. Randy Hill  
 Sermon Title: Redeem Your Time Scripture: Mark 6:30-34; 53-56  
 Theme: Where preparation meets opportunity, our time is redeemed in the search for what is yet unknown.

July 28, 2024 Rev. Dr. Tom Jewell  
 Sermon Title: Red Rover, Red Rover Scripture: I Samuel 16:1-13a

Aug 4, 2024 Rev. Julia Jordan Gillette

*“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”*



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