

“Shrinking Violets?”

“Do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded...persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what God has promised.” Hebrews 10:35,37

“That person is no shrinking violet!” We often say this when we refer to people who are overly bold or outspoken by nature. The use of this term as a symbol of modesty or shyness comes from the distant past when people observed that violets were able to hide among the leaves until time to open their flowers. In more recent times, people have observed that violets can boldly take over large patches of ground in the garden and be hard to remove from those spaces. In other words, violets are anything but shy. My wife Susan grows violets as her primary hobby, and I am sure she would say that violets flower boldly when they are grown properly, but you must nurture them and wait patiently for them to show off their brilliance. It is well worth the wait.

When the author of Hebrews says, ‘do not throw away your confidence (or boldness),’ it is an encouragement not to shrink back in our faith, but to continue moving forward in persistence to show our faith. This verse is connected to Habakkuk 2:3-4, quoted a few verses later in Heb. 10:38, “if the end seems to tarry, wait for it, it will surely come and not delay. The arrogant cannot endure; the [overly] proud do not have the right spirit to persist. The righteous, however, stay the course because they live by their faith.”

The author seems to want to say more: ‘We are not quitters! When things get tough, we do not give up and walk away. When our confidence is low, we rise to the occasion and renew it. We can continue to rely on our confidence to get us through the shaky times. We are not referring to over-confidence; we must continue to prepare ourselves for what lies ahead. But low self-confidence is not the answer to our troubles. Keeping a low profile does not win the day. Rather, we should be resolved to show our faith every day when called upon to do so. This is what it means to endure patiently.

Let us be bold violets rather than shrinking ones! Look forward to what lies ahead!

Grace & Peace

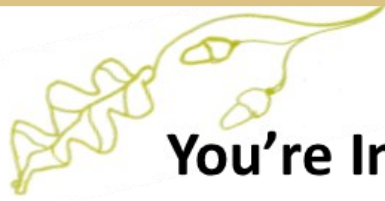
Pastor Randy

Eighth Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Eight:

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*

“Contrary to common yet erroneous beliefs, a non-profit ... may start, own, and/or control a for-profit business. This kind of corporation is referred to as a for-profit subsidiary corporation. ... “If a non-profit can characterize its income-generating businesses as substantially related to its exempt purpose, the net income from such businesses will not be taxed.” P. 212-3

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



You're Invited

Sunday - September 8

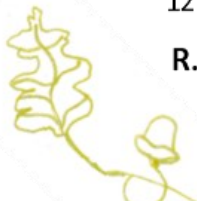


Western Oaks Christian Church
8100 NW 23rd St
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73127

- 10:00 a.m. Meet & Greet
- 11:00 a.m. Celebratory Worship
- 12:30 p.m. Luncheon

R.S.V.P. Catered Lunch by 8/26/24

Email - office@woccdoc.org
Phone - 405-789-8812



Back to School Bash was a smashing success!

We will have more information and pictures in the next OakBridge.

Thanks to Pat & Dave Brown for an amazing job of putting together the 2024 Back to School Bash!



The WOCC Church custodian position is now OPEN

The position requires a minimum of 20 hours of custodial work each week.

If interested or know a reliable person who may be interested, please contact Cindy at office@woccdoc.org or (405) 789-8812 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday - Thursday.



Image by brgfx on Freepik

Ashley	McConnell	8/3
Jack	Graham	8/14
T.J.	Johnson	8/15
Ariel	Isaacson	8/12
Bill	Droke	8/16
Twila	Ballard	8/16
Rhea	Todd	8/18

Verona	Burke	8/18
Richard	Wilkinson	8/20
Andrea	Teter	8/21
Sarah	Orr	8/22
Bob	Melton	8/23
Linda	Fortin	8/26

Blessing Box

Thank you to John Briscoe and Tom Steele for being champions of stuffing the Blessing Box.

The Blessing Box helps to feed children and families in our community. Many times I go to stock the box and think, "We need Vienna sausage" and like magic the next time, there it is!

Thanks you to all the groups and people whose generosity stocks the box.

Gay Teter



ALL CHURCH PROMOTION SUNDAY COMING SOON!!

Sunday, August 11th @ 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



Mission Arlington combined the youth from WOCC and First El Reno. It was a great success!!

Thank you, Jimmy Ille, for taking Adelyn Davis, Bailey Morris-Jacobs, Adele, and Alorah Ross to Arlington. We are grateful for your time and saying yes to working side by side with our WOCC youth and those from First El Reno. Julia was able to pick the girls up from their trip on Friday and hear all their wonderful stories. The youth were divided into four groups to cook for breakfast each day and a couple of the evening meals.

Every morning the groups participated in various activities such as unloading boxes from a truck and then take out the clothes to sort by size. When this was done they repacked the boxes and put them back on the truck to be delivered to another facility. Each afternoon the youth were excited to work with a group of children, playing games, and making crafts together!!

A good time was had at the Texas Ranger indoor baseball game in Arlington, Texas and Six Flag Over Texas!! I am grateful to Tara Dew the associate at First Christian, El Reno for letting our youth finish the mission trip even when I was unable to go to Texas due to my Mom's health issues. This was a wonderful experience to connect to the larger church and for our youth to be exposed to youth in other Disciples churches while doing events that more easily can be done by larger group!!



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, Aug 4 Elder’s Meeting 12:15pm
Sunday, Aug 11 All Church Promotion Breakfast 10:00am
 New Board/Cabinet Leadership Retreat 12:15pm
Sunday, Sept 8 60th Anniversary Celebration

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	Worship campus on TOTAL
7/14/2024	32	38	70
7/21/2024	32	42	74

Giving	General	Blessing Fund
7/14/2024	\$1,450	\$30
7/21/2024	\$3,645	\$0

Upcoming Sermons

Aug 4, 2024 Rev. Jim Ellis
 August 11, 2024
 Sermon Title: “Who forgot the bread?”
 Scripture: John 6:35, 41-51
 Theme: Use of Mt 16:5 question to look at the leadership team’s calling.

August 18, 2024
 Sermon Title: Walking in the Way of Insight
 Scripture: Proverbs 9:1-6
 Theme: Using Daniel’s Gift of Insight to explore new options of service.

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»