

## The Edge of Space

Have you ever heard it said, ‘the closer you get to your goals, the longer it takes to achieve them?’ Legend has it that the famous test pilot, Chuck Yeager, at one point in one of his many flights, got so close to the “edge of space” (50 – 62 miles above the earth) that he could see it and almost touch it. Others would reach the edge of space and attain what he could not, even though the boundaries for success kept changing. That seems to be so true for the various projects we have on the “to do” list at Western Oaks Christian Church, such as the coffee bar project or the roofing project or the deep cleaning project, or nagging technology issues that never seem to go away. Hopefully, in the best sense of these projects, as we read this article, we are on the cusp of success, if not there already! Success is just around the corner! Let’s not nix the success by declaring it done.

We can often see the result at the end of the tunnel, but as we proceed, more and more obstacles arise to block us from reaching that tunnel’s edge. It was true of our childcare development center in Smith County, Kansas, as we sought to hire a qualified director. So, so close, but yet so far. One might think that some invisible force was trying to provoke us into giving up on our vision of what is possible in a small town. Negative intensity as we get closer to success often prevents us from achieving our human goals. Those who are the first in their family to graduate from college often share the desire of running up to the goal line but not crossing it, for fear of being forever separated from their family. It speaks volumes that many have objected to calling the current First Lady, “Dr. Jill,” even though she has certainly earned it. The question is, ‘will we be, like Moses, unable to enter into the promised land of our change? Will others inherit the change we cannot achieve?’

At the beginning of the church (Pentecost), Luke recorded in Acts 2:47, “And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were being saved.” We should notice in this verse, that it does not say “those who were saved,” but “those who were being saved.” In my opinion, this is not a trivial distinction. In 1993, Herbert Anderson put forth his proposal that our divorce rate would be significantly reduced if we think of ourselves as “becoming married,” rather than “being married.” And yet, speaking proleptically, we are NOT as ones half-graced, half-forgiven, half-saved. Yes, today, we can claim the fullness of that which we seek while on the way to it.

Be patient and allow grace to work its wonderful power!

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Randy

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## World Communion Sunday October 6 REQUEST for BREAD

This year could bread makers bake a loaf of bread to use as the communion bread that day?

A sign-up list will be placed in the foyers outside Schwind Hall and the Sanctuary for those who would like to donate a loaf. Your talents are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Jim Ellis

**Tenth Discussion 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*

Afterword, First question: [One study in 2013] indicated that up to one-half of all jobs in the U.S. United States are at risk of being fully automated in the next twenty years. ... Instead of helping people develop a new hermeneutic of life and ultimate meaning in this technological age, we perpetuate insufficient theology that leaves people feeling helpless and without hope.” P. 238

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

Join us for an  
**All - Church Fellowship**  
**PAINT PARTY!**

**SUNDAY, SEPT. 29 at 12:15**  
**In the Youth Room**

Paint your own MASTERPIECE as you fellowship with friends, and enjoy tasty snacks. Kelli and Fern will lead in the “ART OF LETTING GO” utilizing different techniques in Layered Painting and Mixed Media Art.

**For ALL AGES & Artistic Talents!**

All Art supplies and snacks will be provided  
**YOU BRING THE CREATIVITY AND IMAGINATION!**  
\*An apron or old shirt is recommended to cover clothing.

<b>MENU:</b>	
NACHOS	CHEESE
CHILI SAUCE	SALSA
PIZZA ROLLS	COOKIES
LEMONADE	WATER

**HOSTED BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP**

September is creeping in and hopefully bringing some cooler weather!

September 17 - Business Meeting at Whipped at 10:00 am. Pastor Randy will be our guest speaker.

Mark your calendars and plan to attend.

Betty Singleton

*Dianne & Bobby's*

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**50TH ANNIVERSARY**

CELEBRATION ON

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 28TH  
2 PM - 4 PM

WESTERN OAKS CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
8100 NW 23RD ST. OKC

KINDLY RSVP TO JASON BECK  
BY SEPTEMBER 25TH:  
JBECK1@GMAIL.COM  
OR (773) 562-9093

**Benevolent Fund Offering - September’s 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

The loose offerings from the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of a month goes to support the WOCC Benevolent Fund. For the month of September, you are asked to think of and write a blessing daily on the back of the card that comes with your cup. Place your extra change in the cup to share your blessings with others. How quickly will your cup overflow? Please keep the cup as a reminder of our many blessings.

**Psalms 23:5**

My cup brims with blessings (MSG)	My cup runneth over (KJV)
You fill my cup to overflowing (NCV)	My cup overflows (NASB)

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday offerings may be placed in the offering boxes on September 29<sup>th</sup>.

Kindest Regards,  
Stewardship Committee





## Interfaith Youth Tour

September 22 - Sunday 1 to 5pm

Five youth and two sponsors attending this event. We will leave the church around 12:30p.m. This will be an opportunity to learn about other religions and have the ability to ask questions.

## Let's Go to the Pumpkin Patch



**October 19**

Saturday

Place is to be announced!

### YOUTH MEETING

COMING September 15<sup>TH</sup>

Junior and Senior High School Students

Food, fun, fellowship and study.

Join us from 12:30p.m. to 2:30p.m.

Tobi Frank is providing pizza for this meeting!



**October 26**

**Saturday**

3 to 5p.m.

What game will you have for your trunk this year?

## Special Thanks from PC Schools

Thank you to everyone who provided, cooked, and served food for all the teachers and staff at Putnam City West High School. It was all delicious

Mrs. Weeks

Western Oaks Christian Church,

Thank you so much for the Back to School Bash. We are beyond blessed to have a partnership with you all. I know that took a lot of time and resources and it is very much appreciated!

Western Oaks Middle School

**Church Staff**  
[office@woccdoc.org](mailto: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, Sept 29** Benevolent Sunday  
Reconciliation Offering  
Fellowship Canvas Paint Party  
12:30 – 2:30 pm

Attendance	9:00 am	11:00 am	TOTAL Worship	Giving	General	Blessing Fund
8/18/2024	21	45	66	8/18/2024	\$3,402	\$30
8/25/2024	21	40	61	8/25/2024	\$1,655	\$60

### Upcoming Sermons

September 15th, 2024  
Sermon Title: Rudderless  
Scripture: James 3:1-12  
Theme: Living in the Neutral Zone of Transition

September 22, 2024  
Sermon Title: Trees Planted by Streams  
Scripture: Psalm 1  
Theme: Making a theological and biblical case for empathy.

*“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”*



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Oklahoma City OK 73127

«Name»

«Address»

«City»