

The Season of Many Colors

Fall is the season of colors! Many in the Southern states rarely see more than one season and would love to experience more variety in their environment. We are so blessed to have so many different smells and color shades surrounding us in the Fall. When I lived in Smith Center, Kansas, I participated in the annual Gardner Wellness Center Walk on Old Settler's Day in September. I miss some of those fundraising walks through the eastern fields of corn and soybeans, the characteristic smells and sights of the morning dew on both sides of the road.

Have you ever thought of your religious faith as having the quality of many colors? In the Bible, the "coat-of-many-colors" (Kethoneth-passim) is an ornate, long-sleeved, robe of diverse colors usually worn by royalty. Consider that Tamar (2 Sam. 13:18), like Joseph (Gen. 37:3) before her, wore such a robe (it was a long tradition dating back to ancient times for the King's daughters to wear such a robe of royalty). Joseph's brothers took exception to the robe Jacob had given Joseph because they believed it conveyed 'dominion' upon him, while Jacob simply believed that the robe conveyed something quite different, that it conveyed 'the faith of his old age,' his seasoned faith, upon him. Genesis speaks of God having created all humans in the image of God, in other words, as a type of royalty over the planet.

Today, the perennial plant known as Joseph's Coat, has foliage with warm shades of reds, pinks, yellows, coppers, shades of purples and greens. Might we think of our own 'seasoned' faith as reflecting a breadth of different colors? Perhaps, each color might reflect a different seasoning or fragrance of our faith. Black might symbolize concealment or emptiness; Grey, a lack of commitment; Brown, a feeling of being stuck in the mid; Red, representing appetite and craving; Orange, cheerful optimism; Dark Blue, the color of the sky, indicating the beginning of resolution; Green, the renewal of life; Violet speaking of the circle of life, forever repeating itself with new frequencies; Gold reflecting wisdom and Silver echoing a spirit of compassion. Our faith has a rainbow of colors attached to it from the experience of life. So, this Fall 2024, take in all the Fall colors that surround you, and consider how you have grown through these colors with increasing strength and love. These colors form a healing narrative for us like the poetry of the soul. They paint our picture with the colors of divine love.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Randy

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?

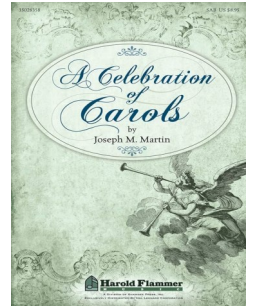
A sign-up list will be placed in the foyers outside Schwind Hall and the Sanctuary for those who would like to donate a loaf. Your talents are greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Jim Ellis

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

Sarah and I recently attended the 100th Anniversary Celebration of the Church I grew up in South Oklahoma City. The church we were married in. The church where I was first given the opportunity to lead the singing. The church where I first conducted a choir. The church where I first rang and directed a Bell Choir. The church where I was allowed to grow. The list goes on and on...It was wonderful to reconnect with family and friends and worship together. Like all churches, this congregation has seen a great transformation over the years for various reasons. This special place once had a choir with over 100 members. Along with a Bell Choir of over 20 members, which I directed from my college years through my fifth year of teaching, before we moved to Ponca City. Unfortunately, presently both of these groups are no longer singing or ringing, which is heartbreaking. However, I don't share this story for sad memories, but rather for the reminder of the joy we find in the Western Oaks Music Ministry! How grateful I am, and how fortunate we are to have both of these groups flourishing within our church! **This does not happen by chance. This cannot happen without the amazing dedication of YOU, the people.**

With the changing of seasons, we are all awarded new opportunities, and I would like to personally invite you to be a part of the "**Christmas Choir**". You may love Christmas music, and love to sing, but are unable to join us for the whole year for various reasons. **No worries, please come and join the fun!** We meet at 7:00 on Wednesday evenings in the Choir Room. All are welcome, and there is a place for you! You may be concerned about the time commitment, and we will adjust our Rehearsal Schedule to accommodate our guests so we rehearse the Christmas Music first, before moving on to our normal Anthems we are also preparing simultaneously. This year's annual Lessons and Carols service is entitled, "A Celebration of Carols" by Joseph M. Martin. It will include familiar carols, meaningful narration, and Scripture. Please join us on Sunday, December 8 at 11:00 AM in the Sanctuary for this beautiful tradition.



**Welcome Fall – Peace and Joy,
Andrew Orr, Director of Music**



Dave Brown and Zach from Topco Co. install the new countertop and sink for the Coffee Bar on Wed., Sept. 18.



Bob and Fern Melton fixed some covers for the playground equipment this past week. A Big Thank You to Bob and Fern for getting this done!

Benevolent Fund Offering - September's 5th Sunday, September 29

The loose offerings from the 5th Sunday of a month goes to support the WOCC Benevolent Fund. Pick up a cup and write a blessing daily on 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.

Kindest Regards, Stewardship Committee



60th Anniversary Sunday in review.....

“We came all the way from Durant for this weekend. Wouldn’t have missed it for the world! What a great worship and now this luncheon – amazing.”

“I took my confirmation (baptism) classes right in this room. Jerry Johnson was my pastor.”

“We were the first couple to be married in Schwind Hall.”

These are just a few of the comments heard throughout the day on September 8, 2024, when Western Oaks Christian Church celebrated its Sixtieth Anniversary.

By the time Meet and Greet began at 10 that morning, the narthex and gathering area were already overflowing with members & former members, guests, and visitors alike enjoying gracious hospitality provided by Charlene Majetic, Fern and Bob Melton. For some, it was their first time back in decades; for others, it was an opportunity to renew friendships from years gone by.



At 11, worship began with greetings from the Chair of the Congregation, Bob Melton and our Associate Regional Minister, the Rev. Michael Davidson. Bob also invited former members of the staff present to offer their greetings. Among those speaking were Summer Powers, Jan Hulsey, and Francis Oney – the very first music director at the church!

For this special worship, elements of both our contemporary worship and our traditional worship were offered together – a truly blended worship featuring the praise band and the chancel choir, along with the bells of praise and a flute duet. In fact, our current music director, Andrew Orr, sat in on percussion for the praise band music, while praise band leader, Ben Frantz, reciprocated when the choir sang an anthem.



When it came time for the Proclamation, six current members of the church came to the Pulpit. Our charter member, **Suzanne Parker**, began by sharing that twenty-two families joined on that first Sunday, February 9, 1964. She talked about ‘the little house on the prairie’ church. **Kay Lehman** told of her involvement in nearly every aspect of the church’s music program over the decades. Additionally, Kay said she hopes the church will continue to build on the many things we do in the community, working with our community neighbors.

Jack Graham gave us a demonstration of how the pulpit floor could be raised or lowered to accommodate the Rev. Jerry Johnson, who used a wheelchair. "After Jerry Johnson left, we were interviewing an interim minister and I told him, 'You have to be careful with that elevator because it is tied into a time clock and at 12 o'clock it goes clear to the basement!' "Jack also reminded us all how the church comes together when personal tragedy strikes saying, "this family, this church, came to me and put their hand on my shoulder, saying 'Jack Graham, we love you'." **Sandra Cook** shared how her family had been extended when they joined the church. She taught Sunday School in the Primary Department for thirty-three years! The architect of the current sanctuary, **Dave Brown**, beautifully described how what we have worshiped for the past 41 years came to be and did so within his allotted time! He was given the task of "creating a shelter for worship that was open and inviting to the outside world and, at the same time, the glass walls remind us that we live in this same outside world." **Virginia Johnson** affirmed Dave's design when she said, "the ability to view the sky during worship is a plus for me, an artist." Ginny talked about how this church has welcomed her with open arms. All six speakers certainly gave witness to how the membership of this congregation is like "oaks of righteousness" (Isaiah 61:3c). With great thankfulness and heart-felt emotion it was clear that these men and women are deeply rooted in their faith. (Colossians 2:7)

A near-capacity congregation of 207 then came forward to the Lord's Table to receive Communion.....a Disciples tradition from the very beginning of the church. [Worship and the Anniversary Video can be viewed on YouTube: Western Oaks Christian Church, OKC, OK](#)



Following worship, a delicious luncheon catered by Running Wild was held in Schwind Hall and church school classrooms. The menu included herb roasted pork loin or orange glazed chicken along with twice baked potato casserole and grilled mixed vegetables. Complimenting this was an array of salads prepared by the Salad Ladies! Assorted rolls and anniversary cake also accompanied the luncheon. Here the visiting continued as a video highlighting the congregations sixty years was presented in Schwind Hall.

Speaking of Running Wild, that could well describe the work of the 60th Anniversary Planning Committee. Not so much the wild part, but the running part, for sure. Appointed in May, under the superb direction of Lynda Gervais, the Committee spent the entire summer planning for the event. Countless hours were given to preparing the worship, the video, conducting interviews, inviting former members and guests, selecting the menu, putting together the Anniversary Booklet, and making sure every element of meet and greet, the worship, and the luncheon worked together to present an appropriate celebration.



The week before September 8, most of the Planning Committee members spent every day at the church getting ready, including preparing for the luncheon, which was served on glass plates, with guests dining at fashionably decorated tableclothed tables with silverware and napkins in place. Many remarked that they appreciated the up-scale atmosphere of the luncheon. A special historical trivia, "Sixty-ish Diamonds in the Rough!", prepared by Jim Ellis and Kay Jewell, completed the program booklet and challenged all! (Answers will be shared in a future issue of The Oakbridge)

Thanks to the following who made the 60th Anniversary Sunday a rousing success:

Worship Participants

Dave Brown

Sandra Cook

Pastor Nance Cunningham

Rev. Jim Ellis

Tobi Frank

Bella Gabriel

Rev. Julia Jordan Gillett

Jack Graham

Rev. Randy Hill

Jimmy Ille

Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Jewell

Virginia Johnson

Kay Lehman

Rosa McCroskey

Bob Melton

Andrew Orr

Suzanne Parker

Jacob Sills

Andrea Teter

Acolytes

Charlotte Gabriel

Genova Wage

A/V Technicians

Tobi Bessinger

Aspen Svec

Chancel Choir

Soprano: Gretchen Dolive

Lynda Gervais

Nita Twyman

Alto: Kara Cornell

Kay Jewell

Sarah Orr

Gay Teter

Tenor: Henry Dolive

David Jewell

Bass: Jim Ellis

Randy Hill

Adam Jewell

Tom Jewell

Praise Band

Ben Frantz

Natalie Griffin

Andrew Orr

Bells of Praise

Henry Dolive, Jenna Droke,

Lissa Foster, Randy Hill,

Kay Jewell, Nita Twyman

Deacons

Lissa Foster, Charlie Connor

Roslyn Boyd

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks to all those who contributed to this 60th Anniversary Celebration, especially.....

The Salad Ladies:

Jenna Droke Pat Brown Linda Cobb Gay Teter Linda Patzack Kari Simmons
Jan Sills Sandra Cook Fern Melton Lissa Foster Sandra Spillman Okie Merry
Donna Nevel Kay Jewell Suzanne Parker Charlene Majetic Virginia Johnson
Cindy Cannon, administrative assistance.

Kelli Fearing, photographer for the day.

Jimmy Ille, for “set-up” throughout the building.

Virginia Johnson, Artist in Residence, who designed the booklet cover.

Running Wild Catering, for the delicious luncheon.

Sasha Wage, Alorah and Adele Ross, Lynda Gervais, Julia Gillette, Sandra Cook,
Roslyn Boyd, Tom Jewell, Andrew Orr, and Judi McDown - tables and chairs teardown
and kitchen cleanup

Jenna Droke, Kay Jewell, Okie Merry, and Linda Patzack – dish washers and dryers
extraordinaire!

Melissa Duclos Lueninghoener – special assistant to Committee Chair & communion
chalice bearer!

THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Lynda Gervais, Chair

Jenna Droke – Luncheon

Jim Ellis – Historical Trivia & Worship

Kay Jewell – Historical Trivia & Luncheon

Tom Jewell – Worship, Booklet Editor

Charlene Majetic – Meet & Greet

Bob Melton – Meet & Greet

Fern Melton – Meet & Greet

Okie Merry – Luncheon

Andrew Orr – Music, Tech, & Worship

Twelfth Discussion Question on Common Reading: Chapter Eight, Third question:

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

John Dickerson: “over the next fifteen years, the American church will lose approximately 70 percent of its
income from people sixty-five and older who are dying at a rate of one thousand people per day.” P. 222

- 1) Does this apply to us?
- 2) What are the reasons for worship and giving that might attract younger families and youth?

Let's Go to the Pumpkin Patch



October 20

Saturday

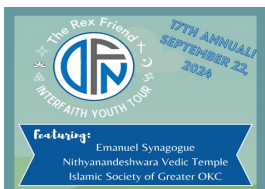
Place is to be announced!

Western Oaks Christian Church

**CHILDREN'S
MINISTRIES**



Interfaith Youth Tour



We want to thank Jan Sills and Tammy for going with us on the Interfaith Youth Tour. The event was very well done and we were given a sheet that gave a short explanation of each faith which included questions that we could use in our car as we drove to the next site.

We visited Emanuel Synagogue where Rabbi Jacobson and some of the youth explained their beliefs, showed us a Torah and explained what the eternal flame. Our young people were impressed with the knowledge the youth at Emanuel Synagogue had in their explanation of high holy days and what it



means to be Jewish and go to school.



Islamic Society of the Greater OKC area where Imam Imad Enchassi and the youth person gave explanation of the five pillars of faith as well as the relationship they have to Abraham, Hagar and Sarah.

Finally we traveled to the Nithyanandeshwara Vedic Temple – a Hindu temple where they explained the meaning of each of their gods. The youth found it interesting that in each setting God was mentioned with different names according to language.



There were at least 8 Disciples of Christ church represented as well as UCC, Jewish young people as well as other denominations. An estimate of at least 200 youth and sponsors attended this event. Our youth were very respectful of others and had questions to ask as we traveled. The event is one to help us understand we may have difference, we also have some beliefs that are parallel such as loving one another and serving our neighbors in need.



October 26 Saturday 3- 5p.m.

Please bring candy beginning
Sunday, October 6th

What game will you have for your trunk this year?

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, 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
9-1-2024	24	37	61	9-1-2024	\$5,925	\$0
9-8-2024	combined		207	9-8-2024	\$4,007	\$60

Upcoming Sermons

September 29, 2024
 Sermon Title: The Proverbial Cup of Water
 Scripture: Mark 9:38-50
 Theme: Reconciliation Sunday, reaching out to restore relationships

October 6, 2024
 Sermon Title: Thinking Globally, Acting Locally
 Scripture: Psalm 8
 Theme: World Communion Sunday, sharing bread with the world/neighbor

“Loving God, Serving our Neighbors”



8100 NW 23rd Street
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«Name»

«Address»

«City»