

From the Pastor's Perspective



David Brooks is one of my favorite writers. He recently wrote in his column about some "research" that he had conducted. He asked

70 adults to write essays about their lives. What had they done well and what would they do differently if given the chance? Mr. Brooks then summarized some of the insights he noticed among essays that maybe we should consider as "life lessons" to adopt for ourselves.

These were not the usual brush your teeth, work hard, and call your mother type lists. These were more along the lines of values worthy of a life's pursuit. Some of the lessons were warnings to steer clear of some of the conventional wisdom of our time. One of these values really jumped out to me! Brooks wrote, "Measure people by their growth rate, not by their talents."

As a culture we often do the very opposite of this. We prefer the young, the pretty, the champion, and the famous. Our media hysteria confers superstar status on people who contribute nothing of lasting value to our civilization. And once famous, we keep following them year after year. Twenty million people follow Ashton Kutcher on Twitter. It begs the question WHY? Mr. Brooks gave this description of what he meant by measuring people by their growth rate:

"The best essays were by people who made steady progress each decade. Regina Titus grew up

shy and sheltered on Long Island. She took demeaning clerical jobs, working with people who treated her poorly. Her first husband died after six months of marriage and her second committed suicide. But she just kept growing. At 56, studying nights and weekends, she obtained a college degree, cum laude, from Marymount Manhattan College. She moved to Wilmington, Del., works as a docent, studies opera, hikes, volunteers and does a thousand other things. She acknowledges, "I did not have the joy of holding my baby in my arms. I did not have a long and happy marriage." But hers is a story of relentless self-expansion."

In the church we sometimes forget about taking the long view of what God might be doing. We get impatient with ourselves. We get disappointed when ministries or programs don't work as well as we had conceived them. But much in the church happens slowly and we can only see it in hindsight. At minister's meetings people ask "how is your church going?" Maybe the better question is "Is your church still going?"
*Grace and Peace,
John*



R.O.C. Christmas Toys Shop Now!!

by Tom Russell,
Outreach Chairman

R.O.C. toy drive is starting now. Please bring your toys for toddlers through age 12 any time between now and Sunday December 11th and place them in the big gift wrapped box at WOCC. You may also give a check for the toy drive made payable to R.O.C. Please check the sign-up sheet at WOCC for information about volunteer dates and times.



Thanksgiving Thanks!!

by Sandra Cook

With very full tummies and big smiles on our faces we would like to THANK the following for their help with our WOCC Family Thanksgiving dinner:

Linda & Robert Frantz, Verona Burke, Pat & Dave Brown, Dixie Ledbetter, Jan Ketola, Carol Allen, Jane Maytubby, Rhea Todd, Ken Whitt, Charlene Newkirk, Kay Jewell, Jerry & Linda Cobb, Cathy Routon, Linda Fortin, Ruth Anne & Kerri McAffrey, Marilyn Chalk, Debby Newell, Summer Powers, Gwen Peard, Fern & Bob Melton, Kari & Taylor Simmons, Jodie & Charlie Conner, Jimmy Ille, Kelli & Rocky Fearing, Jacquie & Larry DeKinder, Dianne Beck, Gloria Davis, Becky Buckley, Kathy Weaver, Dorothy Uhl, Dianne Maier, Bob & Dorothy Ferguson, Margo Thein, Vernon Cook, Duane Wood, Sue Halpain, Jenna Droke, Suzanne Parker, Mary Garrison, Angelina Hill, Judi McDown, Okie Merry, George & Joann Goodner, Mason McDown, Mason and Mikayla Sharp, Jordan, Jesse & Talitha Thomas, Michelle McConnell, Bob and Deana Smith, Tobi Frank and, of course, Lawrence Johnson, our custodian. I think this is more than our original total of 53.

Working, eating, playing, praying, visiting & serving is the true character of this church. Only two members declined helping with the dinner - both were going to be out of town. This Thanksgiving Dinner with family and friends is truly a "Hallmark" occasion. Every one of you is appreciated!

**The Children's Choir
will sing on Sunday,
December 18 at both
services**



Caring and Sharing

by Betty Sessions

From your absent reporter and facilitator, I have heard nothing but great praise about Rev. Tom Jewell's presentation at our November 20th meeting. Thank you, Rev. Jewell, for sharing your time and ideas with our group. We have been truly blessed during 2011 with members and staff of WOCC speaking to the Caring and Sharing group. We truly appreciate each and every one of you!

The Caring and Sharing group invites all who have suffered the loss of a loved one to come and be a part of our group. We offer friendship, fellowship, love, empathy, a safe place to cry and laugh while letting our grief heal.

Our next get-together will be December 14, 2011, at 5:30PM at the Boomerang Restaurant (just across from Thai Sweet Basil Express on North College in Bethany). This is just a casual dinner to visit and get better acquainted (we sort of like each other and enjoy being together more than one "meeting" per month!)

Our December meeting will be December 18, 2011. A bit of a change-up for us, we are having a Christmas Party! Margo Thein and Bob Ferguson will lead us in Christmas songs, followed by a "silly gift"



CFW News

by Danet Trivette

Our Christmas Party/Brunch will be **Tuesday, December 13th, at 10:30AM** at Jenna Droke's home, 4908 N. W. 31st Terr. OKC (606-4020). Please bring a \$5 - \$10 gift for the gift exchange. All church ladies and guests are invited.

November Meeting - Our hostesses were Rita Walker and myself. Rita's Italian theme decorations along with pizza and salads...and of course desserts were delicious. Sue Gordon lead us in a devotional from the book, "Imagine - God can do more than you ever dreamed of." Scriptures: John 13:13-17; John 14:1-4; and, Revelations 21:22-27.

We have begun planning for a May 5th Luncheon.

Poinsettias were given to WOCC in memory of the ladies that we lost during the last twelve months: Josephine Everett (Dec. 31st), Mary Pfeil (Jan. 8th), and Mary Gamble (Mar. 26th).

Joan Wilkerson's new address: Sterling House, 4101 N. Council, Room 105, Bethany, 73008. Phone: 782-0708.

The next Regional meeting will be January 24th at Wildwood Christian Church, 6900 N. Kelly, OKC.

December Birthdays to celebrate: Kathy Weaver (7th) and Barbara Pratt (11th). Mail or bring your birthday cards.

Coffee Fellowship

by Danet Trivette, Coordinator

Thank you to those who hosted in November: CFW; The Harvest SS Class; Kathy Weaver and Jean Sladek. **Scheduled to date:**

- Dec. 4 CFW
- Dec. 11 Life Lessons SS Class
- Dec. 18 Rejoice & Serve SS Class
- Dec. 25 **NO C.F. TODAY**
- Jan. 1 CFW - New Year's Day
- Jan. 8 The Harvest Class
- Jan. 15 **Need Hosts**
- Jan. 22 **Need Hosts**
- Jan. 29 High School SS Class
- Feb. 5 CFW
- Feb. 12 Life Lessons SS Class (Valentines 14th)
- Feb. 19 Rejoice & Serve SS Class
- Feb. 26 Common Factor SS Class

December Birthdays

- 12/2 Abby Frank
- 12/4 Dorleen Gosnell
- 12/5 A.J. Powers
- 12/6 Tori Vascellaro
- 12/7 Kathy Weaver
- 12/11 Barbara Pratt
- 12/12 Linda Cobb
- 12/13 Debra Gosnell
- 12/13 Jess Langford
- 12/14 Gladys Rocha
- 12/14 Janet Preston
- 12/14 Wendy Wilkerson
- 12/16 Josh Wilkerson
- 12/17 Michelle McConnell
- 12/18 Jennie McAffrey
- 12/18 Lillian McCaskill
- 12/18 Lou O'Brien
- 12/18 Mikayla Sharp
- 12/19 Charli Meador
- 12/19 Dorothy Uhl
- 12/19 Teal Singletery
- 12/20 Jewell Bray
- 12/21 Faith Lairson
- 12/22 Betty Singleton
- 12/22 Bob Smith
- 12/23 Tom Jewell
- 12/26 Jessica Wells
- 12/26 Mary Ellen Covington
- 12/28 Alex Wilkinson
- 12/28 Guy Covington
- 12/29 Teri Lormand
- 12/30 Eric Gray
- 12/30 Ian Jones
- 12/30 Rocky Fearing
- 12/31 Lynda Gervais
- 12/31 Reeca Young



CMF News

by John Trivette

Christian Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast on Saturday, December 3rd, at 7:30AM at the Olde Orchard Restaurant, 7339 N.W. 23rd Street. Come and bring a guest. For more information, contact Vernon Cook at 840-5758 or myself at 782-0994. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Dear Church Family,
 Thank you for supporting
 my Boy Scout Pack (399)
 by buying my popcorn.
 You really helped!
 Love,
 Erich Wagner*

Calendar Updates

Keep up with "real time" church calendar updates at <http://woccdoc.org/call.html>

DATE	ATTENDANCE	GIVING
11/20/11	9:00AM -0-	General \$4,939.27
	11:00AM 222	Capital \$519.00
11/27/11	9:00AM 58	General \$4,052.27
	11:00AM 132	Capital \$752.00

Western Oaks Christian, 2012 proposed calendar, Childrens Ministry, Youth Calendar

Dec 2011 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
Advent Begins 7pm - Lessons 8pm - Testing	10am - Alanon-112 12pm - OakBridge 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	8:45am - Elders' 9:30am - OMF-112 1pm - Canasta-	9am - Mobile 7pm - Chancel	Poinsettia Pick 10:30am - Eumba 6:30pm - Eumba	Church Office	7:30am - OMF-Olds 5pm - Church of
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
12:15pm - Board 2pm - Piano 2:30pm - Youth	10am - Alanon-112 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	9:30am - OMF-112 1pm - Canasta- 7pm - Administrat	9am - Mobile 7pm - Chancel	10:30am - Eumba 6:30pm - Eumba	Church Office	5pm - Church of
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No Elders' 12pm - Youth	Check files 10am - Alanon-112 12pm - OakBridge 1pm - Staff-119 2:04pm - (untitled) 3:30pm - Hooks	Election 8:45am - Elders' 10am - OMF 1pm - Canasta- 6:30pm - Bunco	9am - Mobile 1pm - Bridge for 7pm - Chancel	10:30am - Eumba 6:30pm - Eumba	Church Office 9am - Head Start	5pm - Church of
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Congregational 2pm - Set up 2:30pm - Youth 4pm - Caring and 5pm - Children's	10am - Alanon-112 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	9:30am - OMF-112 1pm - Canasta-	9am - Mobile 7pm - Chancel	10:30am - Eumba 6:30pm - Eumba	Church Office	5pm - Church of 7pm - Chr.Evs Sec.
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
11:00 AM Service Christmas Day	Church Office 10am - Alanon-112	Church Office No Elders' Prayer	9am - Mobile		Church Office	5pm - Church of



Youth Christmas Fundraiser
Home Made Holiday Snacks

\$3 a bag
Chocolate Covered Pretzels

Reindeer Chow **Winter Mix**

Great for Office Gifts, Parties, and Stocking Stuffers!

Available after Church
Dec. 4th, 11th, & 18th

Reaching Our City Needs
December, 2011

*To help the poor
is to honor God
Proverbs 14:30*

Cake mix, ramen noodles,
hand soap, jello, and holiday
dinner items

Wish List: toothpaste,
shampoo, deodorant, razors,
dish soap, powder laundry
soap, and large diapers (sizes
3-4-5).