

From the Pastor's Perspective



It occurred to me today that what really matters in life is if you can sight read on a mountain bike. Let me explain that for you before you scratch your head. In the last three months I have been working closely with the music search committee and the choir. We have been sorting through some fabulous resumes and observing some exciting auditions. On a number of occasions I have sat behind our fine pianist, Matt Schinske, and observed how he sight reads for our guest conductors who are auditioning. It is astonishing, really. The candidates hand Matt a musical score that he has not seen, and say "let's try singing through this once." And then they begin. Somehow Matt reads gobs of little notes and glances up at the director frequently. He gets the tempo right, the notes right, and with no signs of having a nervous breakdown. The director suddenly stops, gives a few pointers to the choir, and then director says, "Measure twenty, Matt, can you give the altos and basses their notes?" and boom they are off again.

As a non-musician it seems almost magical or miraculous. But the truth is that all of us can sight read in some part of our lives. I learned how to sight read a decade ago when some friends taught me how to mountain bike ride. "Mountain" is a bit of a misnomer in Oklahoma, but we do have challenging "trail bike" riding. On Oklahoma mountain bike trails there tend to be more

hair pin turns and narrow passages between trees. There can also be significant bumps, treacherous roots, and low lying branches for the novice rider.

In the mountain biking context "sight reading" means looking ahead on the trail. If you are looking directly down or just in front of your handle bars you are in trouble. The anxiety of what you see will not allow you to prepare for what is ahead. Using time signature parlance, you might say that the present swallows up all possible futures.

Following Jesus also has its kind of sight reading. The challenges and the disappointments of today need not restrain you from embracing a future that has not yet been fully revealed. Sight reading is trusting that your fingers will play the notes that your eyes have already seen. Sight reading is trusting that the path of your bicycle will miss most of the dangerous elements on the trail. Sight reading is trusting that no matter what happens, God's purpose and ends will be achieved. Sight reading is not about perfection, it is about adventure. It is not about guarantees, but about the risks one is willing to take. You see, sight reading is for all of us.

*Grace and Peace,
Pastor John*

**Christmas Eve
Candlelight
Service
Sat. Dec. 24
7:00PM
Childcare
Available**



Thank You!

by Rev. Ursula
Lichtenberger

We are so grateful for those who volunteered to help with Wild Wednesday this fall. As you have been a blessing to us, so may you be blessed. Thank you: Duane Wood, Jean Sladek, Cathy Routon, Toby Frank, Rev. Ursula Lichtenberger, Christine Wagner, Israel Ragle-Tullis, Kristin Atwood, Donna Houchin, Talitha Thomas, Sandra Cook, Angie Boyd, Jordan Boyd, Jessica Wells, Megan Wells, Madison Wells, Khris-tian Boyd, Adrianna Lormand, Shelley Regan, Michelle McConnell, Diane Maier, Marilyn Chalk, and Rev. Kathy Weaver.

Items of Interest

There will be **one worship service** at 11:00AM on December 25

The **church office** will be closed December 26 & 27; and January 2

The **OakBridge** will not be published during the week of December 26

Hooks and Needles will not meet December 26 or 27

Zumba Class will meet as usual during the holidays

Children and adult Wild Wednesdays resume January 11

Calendar Updates

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

January Birthdays

- Donna Miller 1/1
- Rob White 1/2
- Evelyn Matlock 1/3
- Karen Russell 1/4
- Joshua Mars 1/6
- Mary Thorn 1/7
- Tony Pinazza 1/8
- Sue Hale 1/9
- Jeff Newell 1/10
- Mike Merry 1/10
- Rebecca Mueller 1/10
- Angela Wilkinson 1/11
- Pat Orr 1/12
- Samuel Atwood 1/12
- Crystal McAffrey 1/13
- Kerri McAffrey 1/13
- Jan Hulsey 1/13
- Phil Halpain 1/14
- Marci Coppedge 1/15
- Cathy Routon 1/16
- Mike Buckley 1/17
- Jean Sladek 1/18
- Lisa Morrison 1/18
- Daniel Burke 1/21
- Lois Northcutt 1/21
- Rema Emerson 1/21
- Christine Wagner 1/24
- Lisa Whitt 1/24
- Talitha Thomas 1/26
- Ira Meador 1/27
- Alyssa Lusk 1/30
- Kristina Brasher 1/31

Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who donated Christmas decorations! It is sure to bring much needed cheer to our soldiers when they visit the aid station. Sincerely,
The 1/160th Battalion Aid Station



(Pictured left to right; bottom: SSG Fariss, LT Morakot; top: CPL Brinsfield, SPC Jedadiah Tullis (Israel's husband), SPC Lindley, COL Conley, PFC Cheyne.)

Spanish/English Classes

by Rev. Ursula Lichtenberger

Spanish and English as a second language classes are coming to Western Oaks! Angelina Hill will be teaching a regular language class on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights from 5:00 - 9:00PM in rooms 112-113. If you are a native English speaker who wants to learn Spanish or know of someone who wants to learn English as a second language, this is the class for you. For more information please contact Angelina Hill at (405) 882-1782.

Zumba Classes are on Thursdays in the Youth/Community Room 101 at 10:30AM and 6:30PM. Cost is \$5 per person per session paid to the teacher, Shavon Cox.

Introducing the New Youth Council



by Israel Ragle-Tullis, Youth Director

In October, the youth group elected six of their peers to sit on a Western Oaks Christian Church Youth Council. The Youth Council is comprised of Jordan Thomas, Cole Harrison, Mason Mc-down, Maddi Lance, Judge Thomas, and Sam Atwood; adult sponsors are Tamara Cornelison and Kristin Atwood. The Youth Council will help make decisions on summer mission trips, fundraising, and possible youth activities. New elections will be held every year at the beginning of the fall semester. Good luck to the Youth Council as they plan this coming year's youth ministries!

DATE	ATTENDANCE	GIVING
12/4/11	9:00AM 59	General \$11,907.27
	11:00AM 135	Capital \$1,687.00
12/11/11	9:00AM 86	General \$4,273.27
	11:00AM 135	Capital \$220.00

Wild Wednesday Returns January 11, 2012!

Adults may participate in Wild Wednesday classes for free. If they choose to eat, the cost of the meal is \$5 per person.

The cost for children and youth to participate in Wild Wednesdays is \$40 per semester per person. Meals are included. To ask about available scholarships, please contact Rev. Ursula Lichtenberger.

ADULT

WILD WEDNESDAYS

6:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30-7:00 p.m. assist with meal clean-up

7:00-8:15 p.m. Class Options or Chancel Choir *(see insert for details on this year's classes)*

CHILDREN'S

WILD WEDNESDAYS

6:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30-7:00 p.m. Games

7:00-8:15 p.m. Children's Class *(please look at insert for details about this year's classes.)*

8:15 until pickup Quiet Time *(for the children of Chancel Choir members only)*

A nursery is available for children not yet in pre-school.



Dinner will be served in Schwind Hall. Please see insert for details. Scholarships are available. Please call Ursula Lichtenberger at (405) 789-8812 with questions.



YOUTH

WILD WEDNESDAYS

6:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner

6:30-8:15 p.m. Weekly Rotation *(see insert for this year's rotation schedule)*

Every year the youth activities follow a Four-Themed Rotation:

Fun Night: an evening of fellowship and fun through games and outings.

Spirituality Night: an evening dedicated to spiritual growth.

Movie Night: a night at the movies, while exploring the "God Talk" within the films.

Service Project Night: a night to give back through work with the church and community.

Spring 2012 Adult Class Options Jan. 11th-March 7th

Discovery 1, The Basics (r114)	An in-depth look at the beliefs, ethos, life and character of Western Oaks Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is a great introductory course for the new Christian, or someone considering Church membership.
Interfaith Studies (r117)	A study centered on the differences and similarities found between the world's major faiths.
The Book of Revelation (r112&113)	An in-depth study of the message found in the book of Revelation and its meaning for each of us.

Spring 2012 Children's Class: Entourage Kids, Jan. 11th-Mar. 7th

Lights! Camera! Action! Join Julie Simpson and the cast and crew of Treasure Hunters 7 as we get to know our friend, Jesus. Through the stories and examples found in the Bible, the children will also learn how to choose good friends and how to be a good friend.



Hooks & Needles

Knit and Crochet Club

Monday, Youth/Community Room, 3:30-5:30p.m.

Anyone who crochets or knits, or would like to learn how is invited, no charge!

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).

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Years Day	2 Church Office 10am - Alanon- 1pm - Staff-119	3 9:30am - CWF- 1pm - Canasta-	4 9am - Mobile 7pm - Chancel	5 10:30am - Zumba 6:30pm - Zumba	6 Church Office Season of	7 7:30am - CMF- 5pm - Church of
8 12:15pm - Elders- 2:30pm - Youth-	9 10am - Alanon- 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	10 6:45am - Elders' 1pm - Canasta-	11 9am - Mobile 6pm - Wild 7pm - Chancel	12 10:30am - Zumba 6:30pm - Zumba	13 Church Office	14 5pm - Church of
15 10am - Discover 2:30pm - Youth-	16 10am - Alanon- 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	17 9:30am - CWF- 1pm - Canasta- 7pm - Administrat	18 9am - Mobile 10am - CWF 6pm - Wild 7pm - Chancel	19 10:30am - Zumba 6:30pm - Zumba	20 Church Office	21 5pm - Church of
22 12:15pm - Cabinet 2:30pm - Youth-	23 10am - Alanon- 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	24 6:45am - Elders' 9:30am - CWF- 1pm - Canasta-	25 9am - Mobile 6pm - Wild 7pm - Chancel	26 10:30am - Zumba 6:30pm - Zumba	27 Church Office	28 5pm - Church of
29 2:30pm - Youth-	30 10am - Alanon- 1pm - Staff-119 3:30pm - Hooks	31 9:30am - CWF- 1pm - Canasta-	1 9am - Mobile 6pm - Wild 7pm - Chancel	2 10:30am - Zumba 6:30pm - Zumba	3 Church Office	4 7:30am - CMF- 5pm - Church of