



CHURCH OF THE **SERVANT**

ISSUE 18.01 | NEWSLETTER | JANUARY 10, 2018



DRIVE 2018



CHURCH OF THE
SERVANT

DISCOVERING 5 KEY STRATEGIES
THAT ENGAGE THE NEW YEAR WITH A BIBLICAL FOCUS

January 7 - February 11

C U R R E N T S E R I E S



THANK YOU!



Dr. Matthew Mitchell
Senior Minister

Greetings,

I hope you are having a wonderful day as you read this newsletter. As we all jump into 2018, I want to pause and thank everyone who made the past Christmas season such a wonderful celebration and season of Joy. So many wonderful volunteers and staff made the season a reality and a blessing.

To all of the members of the choir, tech teams, video team, orchestra, ensembles, modern worship team, ushers, greeters, parking lot attendants, acolytes, the volunteers who put all the candles together, stuffed the bulletins, packed the children's Christmas bags, watered the poinsettias, decorated the church with Christmas decorations, served hot chocolate, and to all the staff...THANK YOU! I hope I did not miss anyone.

During the month of December, Church of the Servant had close to 10,000 people on property celebrating the birth of the Messiah. I cannot wait to see what great things happen as we prepare for Easter! By the way, depending on when you read this article, there are less than eighty-two days until Easter. Catch your breath! It is going to be busy in the weeks ahead.

I am so thankful for you and the message we are able to share!

Matthew



Celebrating the Mission Work of Our Fish Funds

Each Sunday there is an opportunity in worship where all of us can be a part of giving above and beyond our tithe in the feeding of the fish. The wicker fish baskets that are placed around our worship areas collect the gifts we give to help mission in our local, national and global communities. Your gifts in 2016 made it possible to do great mission work in 2017. In 2017, our church did some wonderful things with our 2016 mission dollars totaling \$28,000 – Car seats at Infant Crisis Services, Rebuilding Together day, Mobile Meals, Hannah's Promise, Whiz Kids, cards for Kenya Trip, Project Transformation, Hefner Middle School "Bless our Schools", supported trips to Rio Bravo, Kenya, and Myanmar (Burma), Criminal Justice Ministries, Cookson Hills Mission, Grace Fellowship, Skyline, Exodus House, Upward Transitions Ministry to the Homeless, Potter's House in Guatemala, hams for 60 Christmas meals and numerous gas cards and food cards for those needing help in the community. The weekly fish offerings go to these projects. Your gifts of \$35,000 in 2017 will help to continue our mission ministries in 2018.



Our special fish appeals in 2017:

- Rise Against Hunger \$39,554
- Clothes for Kids \$20,600
- Hurricane Relief \$38,556
- Vietnam Mission \$27,282

Throughout the year we have four special designated fish offerings that target specific mission projects for the year. Our first special fish appeal of 2018 is January 21 for Rise Against Hunger.

**Hunger doesn't have to exist.
Let's end it together!**

RISE AGAINST HUNGER **Sunday, February 25, 2018**

Church of the Servant has committed to the mission of ending hunger in our lifetime. For the past 9 years, we have hosted a meal-packaging event on a Sunday morning involving over 1,300 volunteers packaging over 151,000 meals within a 5-hour span of time. Since 2010, we have packaged 1,165,152 meals. These meals have been shipped across the globe to agencies that work with school lunch programs. For many children the meal they receive at lunch is the only meal they have all day. This mission is helping children not only survive, but grow and do well at school. Join us again this year for the Rise Against Hunger meal-packaging event on Sunday, February 25.



On Sunday, January 21, a special Fish Appeal will be taken in each of the worship services at Church of the Servant to raise funds for these meals. Each meal costs 29 cents. The goal this year is to package 151,000 meals. We need your help to raise \$43,790.

Consider this:

\$75 will feed 10 children 26 meals.

\$150 will feed 20 children 26 meals.

\$225 will feed 30 children 26 meals.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission of saving lives and ending global hunger!

Be sure to invite your family, friends, and co-workers to participate in Rise Against Hunger on Sunday, February 25. Registration opens on Sunday, January 28. For more information go to: www.ChurchoftheServant.com/events.

Be a volunteer for Hannah's Promise:

A Respite Ministry for Families that Have Children with Special Needs.

On the second Saturday evening of each month, the building is alive with laughter and care as a beautiful ministry takes place. Volunteers come and spend an evening with a child or sibling who has special needs, so that parents, grandparents, and caregivers can have a much-needed evening break.

This ministry has a 17-year history at Servant. Many families have experienced the blessing of this ministry and several families are waiting to get into the program. New volunteers are always needed. Would you consider making this your mission this year by giving the second Saturday evening of each month from 4:30-9:00 p.m. as a gift of time to a family in need? If you are interested in finding out more, or coming to experience the ministry one Saturday, please contact Lola Burgtorf at lburtorf@churchoftheservant.com or 728-4735.

MISSIONS

United Methodist Advance Special Partner... My Heart's Appeal

What is the United Methodist Advance?

The Advance is an official program of The United Methodist Church for voluntary, designated, second-mile giving. Through the Advance, United Methodist annual conferences, districts, local churches, as well as individuals and families, may choose to support mission programs or mission personnel with their financial gifts. Each Advance project has been vetted and approved by Global Ministries and Advance staff.

What is My Heart's Appeal?

My Heart's Appeal (MHA), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization based in Oklahoma City, is continuing to join hands with Dale Rogers Training Center to inform, embrace, and impact the life-giving needs of individuals with disabilities in Oklahoma City and Monrovia, Liberia, West Africa. My Heart's Appeal has a great vision. It began with a special calling to be part of something bigger, more than just getting by and surviving another day. It was a call to do something heroic, to do something extraordinary. It's vision is focused upon those with special educational needs... who had no advocate, but are showing great promise to becoming contributing family members and citizens... when they are given the opportunity in Liberia, West Africa.

You are invited for a heart-warming experience as we review the accomplishments and dream big dreams for the future of My Heart's Appeal at the sixth annual benefit dinner. It will be a time of food, fellowship, inspiring stories and information on the ministry of the last year. There will also be entertainment and drawings throughout the evening.



DATE: Thursday, February 8, 2018

TIME: 6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

LOCATION: United Methodist Church of the Servant

TICKETS: \$30. Purchase tickets at www.myheartsappeal.org by February 5.



DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES

COMING in FEBRUARY

CHRISTIAN MINDFULNESS with Dr. Amy Oden

February 11, 11:00 a.m. // Chapel of the Cross

Talk and techniques related to 'Mindfulness' are the newest "in thing" for business leaders and productivity coaches in the business world. This can be a good thing, but in her recent book, *Right Here, Right Now* (2017), OCU theologian, Dr. Amy Oden, reveals that "The Practice of Christian Mindfulness" is on a different level than productivity technique. Oden underscores that Christian mindfulness is not an end in itself, but rather an awareness that turns us toward God. Amy encourages us to see that God is moving powerfully in the world through spiritual practice and that we as Christians should not shrink from this mindfulness movement. Rather, we should embrace it in our lineage of co-transforming the world with God. Dr. Stephen Gunter will have a conversation with Dr. Oden about her new book. Time will be given for participants to ask questions, and copies of Dr. Oden's book will be available for purchase.



A LENTEN DUET:

SOUL MENDING IN A TORN WORLD

Sundays, February 18 & MARCH 4, 11:00 a.m.

Chapel of the Cross

Dr. Stephen Gunter,

Servant Theologian in Residence

We live in a fractured society in which a sense of well-being is difficult to come by. Our spirits are worn and our souls are torn. Pious platitudes do not get it any more – if they ever did!, and there are reasons why. We have been conditioned to speak about "having a soul," but our Jewish and Christian traditions are built on the premise that we ARE A SOUL. It is a fallacy to assume that body, soul, mind, and spirit are separate entities essentially unrelated to one another. Medical practitioners and counselors are catching up to the foundational biblical premise: "God breathed into us the breath of life, and we became a living soul" (Genesis 2:7). The Apostle Paul admonishes us to not let the world squeeze us into its mold, but to "be transformed by the renewing of our minds" (Rom. 12:12). How are mind and soul connected? Is it a selfish escapism to desire a deep sense of peace when our society is in such turmoil? How can we mend our souls? Can our own soul mending help to heal our fracturing society? Would you be interested in exploring some answers to these and similar questions?



This Lenten Duet will address these concerns:

February 18, 11:00 a.m. – "My World Seems to be Coming Apart"

March 4, 11:00 a.m. – "A Faith that Can Heal and Mend"

Women's Winter Studies Kick off Next Week

It's not too late to register for a group that can help you grow in faith and friendship in the new year. All the classes being offered are listed on the church website at www.churchoftheservant.com/women/classes-studies/. Classes are offered Tuesday, Wednesday morning and evenings, and Friday mornings.

Servant Women in the Word with Dr. Robyn Goggs

This Bible study on the book of Romans will begin again Tuesday, January 16 at 9:30 a.m. in Community Hall. We will be starting where we left off with Romans 9. This is a Bible study you can join anytime to spend some time growing in the Word each week.

ADULTS

Adult Discipleship Offering Experience of a Lifetime

Walk with the Wesleys

A Methodist Pilgrimage

August 1-10, 2018

Cost of trip: \$3,950

This is inclusive of airfare, all accommodations, traveling transfers, tips and most meals. Led by Dr. Robyn Goggs and Dr. Stephen Gunter. Dr. Goggs and Dr. Gunter will guide the entire itinerary. Rev. Goggs has lived and served as pastor in England. Dr. Gunter has lived in England and guided several Wesley Tours.

Over 10 days, journey through England and discover the roots of the early Church and the ministry of John Wesley. We will begin our tour in Manchester to view some of the most precious John and Charles Wesley documents, then make our way to see Oxford, Bristol, and Epworth – the Old Rectory where John Wesley grew up. We will have walking tours in York and Bath that give us a taste of the ancient history that exists in this beautiful country. The trip will culminate with 3 days in London for seeing sights together and exploring on your own.

There are 40 spots available on this trip. This is a smaller than usual group tour, with the idea of sharing, fellowship and reflection throughout our time. If you have always wanted to take this trip, we hope you will consider taking it with us.

The first deposit of \$500 is due Sunday, February 19 with the full trip being purchased by July. For more details, please contact Dr. Robyn Goggs at rgoggs@churchoftheservant.com.



AMONG MY GOALS FOR 2018: I will visit Earthglow at least once every month in 2018. I will shop in Earthglow for all my greeting cards and as many of my gift items as possible. In doing so, I will be purchasing interesting selections at reasonable costs, and the proceeds from every purchase that I make will be used to help the least, the lost, and the helpless right here in my community.

Now that's a New Year's Resolution that will be easy to keep! Let's all add it to the list of our 2018 "Resolves". Together we can make 2018 a banner year for sales in Earthglow and for proceeds provided to such worthwhile OKC organizations as: Skyline Urban Ministries, Neighborhood Services Organization, Exodus House, Circle of Care, and Redemption Church.

PRIME TIME

**Church of the Servant - Community Hall
Thursday, January 11, 2018, 10:30 a.m.**

Yes, you do know that face! It's our very own Dr. Matt Schinske, who is the great keyboardist we enjoy during Sunday services! And he's coming to help us celebrate Prime Time's 30th Birthday!

Matt was born into a musical family, and began his musical education at the age of 6. Now he holds a bachelor's degree in piano performance and a master's degree in piano performance and pedagogy from OU, where he has completed coursework necessary for doctoral candidacy. In addition, he is a freelance writer, arranger, performer, and recording artist. We promise, you won't be disappointed that you came to Prime Time!



After we enjoy Matt's magic, we can dig into a yummy bowl of ham & beans, cornbread, fried okra, fruit salad, and to celebrate - Birthday Cake and Ice Cream! Program only is \$2; with the meal, it's \$10. Sign up at the Welcome Center or at www.churchoftheservant.com/events. Remember, Prime Time Fellowship is free!

DON'T MISS THE PARTY!

Financial Peace University Begins January 17

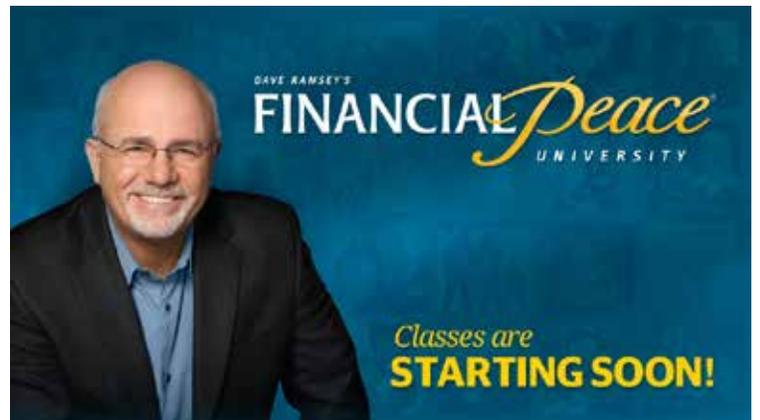
Discussing finances, developing budgets, and creating a financial plan for your life can be difficult if you don't know the steps to take.

Every year Church of the Servant offers a 9-week course called Financial Peace University (FPU) that will teach you the financial steps to take! It teaches God's ways of handling money. This is a class which millions of people have taken. They have taken worries off their shoulders and put on confidence. They have rewritten and secured their futures. On average those families have paid off \$5,300 in debt and saved \$2,700 in the first 90 days. That is an \$8,000 turnaround!

Are you ready to carve out 9 weeks in your schedule to learn the steps to get where you want to be? You can do it! You just need a plan.

Through video teaching, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

FPU will be held at Church of the Servant from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on Wednesdays, January 17 through March 14. Tom McGee and Peter Weaver will be instructing the 9-week event.



For more information and to register, go to: www.ChurchoftheServant.com/events.

NEXTGEN

SERVANT KIDS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Servant Kids Wednesday night sessions will resume on January 17. If your child was registered for the fall session, they do not need to re-register. If your child did not participate in the fall, we WELCOME them to join us NOW. Registration forms are available at the Welcome Counter in the Children's area. Kids Wednesday Nights meets from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. 1st through 5th graders check in at the Centrum and are picked up downstairs. Preschoolers check in downstairs. Contact Cathy Hersom at chersom@churchoftheservant.com or 405-721-4141 with any questions.



Kanakuk KampOut will be held at Church of the Servant on July 9 – 13, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. KampOut! is a ministry of Kanakuk, a non-denominational Christian summer camp ministry dedicated to developing dynamic Christian leaders through life-changing experiences, Godly relationships, and spiritual training. Kanakuk created KampOut! as a way to partner with the local church to impact the community by reaching families with the Kanakuk experience – all for the sake of the Gospel.

Kanakuk describes KampOut! as a “one-week high energy, non-stop excitement, traveling Christian day camp experience!” Camp fee is \$250. Register at kanakuk/kampout, starting mid-January.

Every KampOut! Kamper will see and hear that God is a loving Father and wonderful Creator who loves them and desires for them to love others. Kids will have a blast flying down our zipline, scaling the climbing wall, bouncing in the incredible inflatables, and laughing at our crazy skits!

Church of the Servant is hosting KampOut! again because we want to offer as many opportunities as we can to reach our community for Christ. We know that families in and around our community are often looking for summer activities that provide a safe and fun experience for their kids. We believe that KampOut!



will provide this opportunity for families while sharing with them the Gospel of Jesus Christ! Plus, our mission at Servant is to combine the influences of the family and the church to lead the next generation to become fully committed followers of Christ. We know that KampOut! is another opportunity for us to lead our kids to become committed followers of Christ.

More information about Kanakuk and KampOut! is available at kanakuk.com or kanakuk/kampout.

Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troop 177 helped to run the Hannah's Promise Christmas Event on Saturday morning, December 16. The children enjoyed crafts, games, cookie decorating, LEGO building, Santa's visits and carols. Thanks to our great troops for their service and leadership!

Picture by: David O'Brien



OUR LIFE TOGETHER

OUR PRAYERS

- ▶ Rita Aragon as her son-in-law, Greg Smith, recuperates from surgery and undergoes treatment.
- ▶ Sandy and Kathryn Cashion as their daughter-in-law, Pam Cashion, recuperates from surgery in Dallas.
- ▶ Doris Cline as Doris recuperates from an illness.
- ▶ Randy and Gayle Dekker as Randy deals with health issues and is hospitalized at Integris Baptist Medical Center.
- ▶ Mary Lou Dickson and Sandy Dickson as Mary Lou deals with health issues and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Walt and Barbara Kendall as Barbara faces surgery OU Medical Center in Edmond.
- ▶ Jo Ann Pace as JoAnn recuperates from an illness and is hospitalized at Integris Baptist Medical Center.
- ▶ Lizette Stephens as Lizette recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Eric, Jeanna, and Amelia Stewart as Jeanna recuperates from surgery and is hospitalized at Mercy Health Center.
- ▶ Harvey and Judy Weathers as both Harvey and Judy deal with health issues.
- ▶ Frank and Carol Williams as Carol deals with health issues and is hospitalized at OU Medical Center.

IN THE KITCHEN

Jan 14 – Pot Roast over Baked Potatoes, served with Salad and Dessert.

Jan 21 – Indian Tacos and Dessert.

Jan 28 – Chicken Enchilada Soup or Sub Sandwiches with chips, served with Salad and Dessert.

The Kitchen is located just inside Community Hall. Join us on Sundays for hot breakfast or lunch!

OUR SYMPATHY

- ▶ Erlene Belling and Family at the death of Erlene's husband, William R. Howard, Jr.
- ▶ Judy Henry and Family at the death of Judy's husband, Bob Henry.
Beverly Kirkhuff and Family at the death of Beverly's husband, John Kip Kirkhuff.
- ▶ Chris, Laura, Keegan, and Arianna Koehn and Family at the death of Laura's mother, Judith Barton Dennis.
- ▶ Elizabeth Large and Family at the death of Elizabeth's brother, Steve Large.
- ▶ Family and Friends at the death of Norma Martinez.
- ▶ Joe McCourry and Family at the death of Joe's mother, Sue McCourry.
- ▶ Kathlyn Reynolds, Kristen Reynolds, and Family at the death of Kristen's mother, Leta Hulsbak.
- ▶ Ed and Dorothy Tebow and Family at the death of Ed's sister, Patricia Tebow-Harris-Wilson.

Grief Support Group Beginning February 4

Have you experienced the loss of a loved one? Do you crave interaction and sharing with others who have also experienced the death of someone they care about? If so, perhaps you would benefit from our Grief Support Group here at Church of the Servant. Sometimes just realizing that we are not alone can be such an encouragement as we experience grief.

The group will meet on Sundays, 3:00-4:30 p.m., February 4 through May 6. Each session will include a helpful video and plenty of time for discussion and sharing. We utilize the Grief Share curriculum, and each participant will receive a complimentary workbook. Register by contacting Vicki Roberds at 728-4738 or vroberds@churchoftheservant.com.

DRIVE 2018

DISCOVERING 5 KEY STRATEGIES

That Engage the New Year with a Biblical Focus

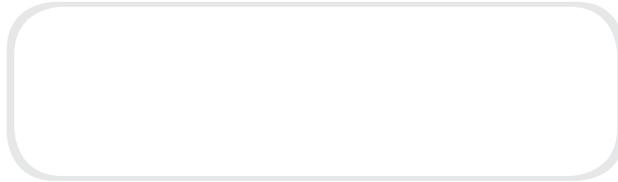
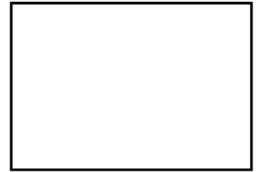
Tired of resolutions that fall short? Stressed? Confused? Longing to connect with family, friends and God? Ready to change, but need something more than a list on the back of a napkin? We all are.

How about a new focus, a Godly focus for 2018? But first ask, what is DRIVING you? Often our resolutions are all about us and not about what God wants for us. What if you had 5 key biblical strategies to help you look at 2018 in a whole new light?

Join us Sunday morning in all four services as we discover how we can DRIVE 2018 with a biblical focus instead of the New Year driving us!

CELEBRATING

- ▶ Rob and Cindy Brackenbury at the birth of their nephew, Jace Thomas Harmon. The proud parents are Scott and Kim Harmon. The proud brothers are Jackson Harmon and Landon Harmon.
- ▶ Kendall and Lauren Riley are the proud parents of a daughter, Olivia Noelle Riley. The proud sister is Ava Riley. The proud grandparents are Mike and Cindy Brecheen. The proud uncle is Ben Brecheen. The proud great-grandmother is Gail Bright.
- ▶ Rose Welch and Nicole Welch are the proud grandmother and aunt of Julian Welch Garrido. The proud parents are Alvaro and Amber Garrido of Spain. The proud brother is Mario Garrido.



SPECIAL FISH APPEAL – JANUARY 21

Each week, we receive gifts that help raise funds for missions. Five times a year, we have a focused Fish Appeal which helps raise funds for specific mission partnerships. The Fish baskets, located in the front and/or back of each worship center, are used to collect these gifts. You are invited to bring your gifts to the Fish during the last song of service each week.

On Sunday, January 21, we will have a special Fish Appeal to raise money for “Rise Against Hunger” meals. Each meal costs 29 cents. Our goal is to raise \$43,790. Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission of saving lives and ending global hunger!

Rise Against Hunger is a 5-hour event involving over 1300 volunteers that will package 151,000 meals. It’s not just an event Church of the Servant does each year. It is a mission we have committed to for the past 9 years to help feed children all over the world!

