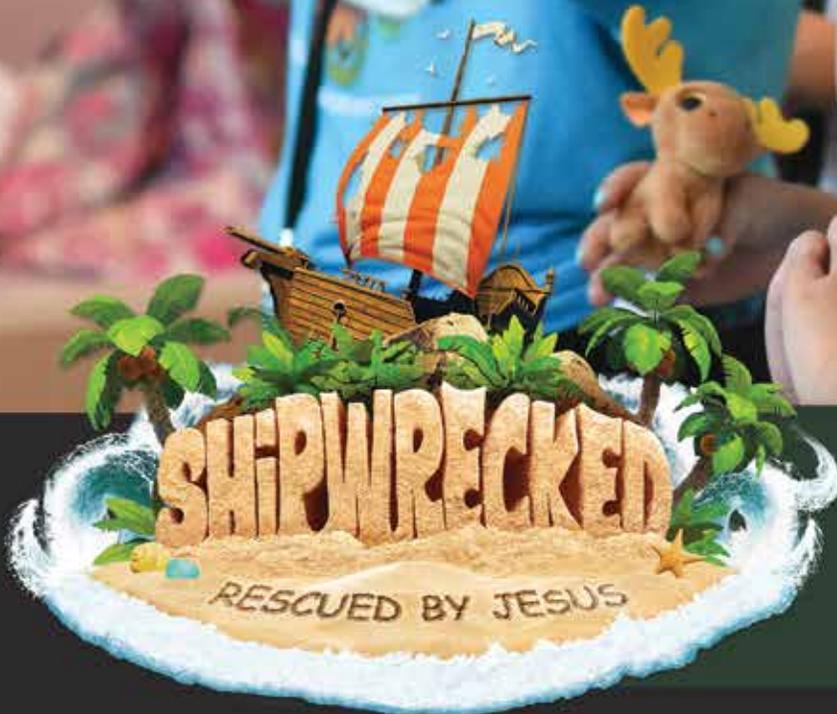




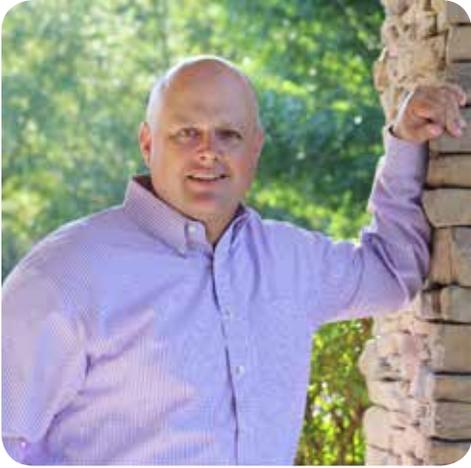
CHURCH OF THE **SERVANT**

ISSUE 18.05 | NEWSLETTER | MAY 2018



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SHIPWRECKED
June 4-7

THE GIFT



Dr. Matthew Mitchell
Senior Minister

Greetings,

This past Sunday our family was able to take a weekend off and journey into parts of Oklahoma we had not yet experienced. Getting away for a little bit is always nice, and exploring new places is something our family loves to enjoy. One of the discoveries that happened for me on Sunday morning was the wonderful gift I received. This gift was not something that could be wrapped and then opened later. For me, this gift was truly priceless.

What was the gift, you ask? “Calm and peacefulness” are what I had received. Merriam-Webster’s Thesaurus defines the opposite of worry as that of “calm and peacefulness”. Many other antonyms are mentioned, but these two perfectly describe how I felt on Sunday morning. In the past, whenever I was away from Church for a vacation or a simple Sunday off, I would worry. Thankfully, Sunday was not one of those days for me. Yesterday, I had peace and trust in our staff and tremendous volunteers that everything would be wonderful at Church of the Servant. I do not want to start listing names, because I fear this newsletter is not near long enough. However, I would like to simply say “thank you” to each and every one of you who made Sunday a reality at Church of the Servant. Not only did you

provide a wonderful day of “calm and peacefulness” for my family, I am certain you did the same for people who came onto the church campus.

Next time you are at the church, let someone who impacts your day in a great way know you are thankful for them! After all, we are always taught to say “thank you” after we receive a gift! I am glad to be back in the office and cannot wait to see each of you soon!

Very thankful for all that happened while away,

Matthew



Pictured Left: Carter, Bailey, Mackenzie, and Harrison.

Pictured Below: Harrison, Bailey, Mackenzie, Amber, and Carter Mitchell.



We are ready for your kids with **SHIPWRECKED VBS!**

Vacation Bible School is coming to Church of the Servant Monday, June 4 through Thursday, June 7 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each day. Kids from age 4 to those entering 5th grade are invited to take part in this FREE week of fun, and we also need lots of adult volunteers to make this incredible week happen. Registration is free and available online NOW. Go to churchoftheservant.com/events and click on the VBS link. VBS T-Shirts and Music CD's will be available to purchase for \$10 each at the table in the Concourse starting May 6. Sign up and invite your kids, grandkids, nieces and nephews, neighbors, and friends!

Our VBS theme for this year is "SHIPWRECKED: Rescued by Jesus". Kids will see the church transformed into a wild and wacky island as they experience God's love and learn to watch for God in everyday life. At SHIPWRECKED VBS, kids discover that Jesus rescues...always! SHIPWRECKED is filled with incredible Bible-learning experiences allowing kids to see, hear, touch, and even taste! Sciency-Fun Gizmos, team-building games, cool Bible songs, and tasty treats are just a few of the standout activities that help faith flow into real life. SHIPWRECKED is an exciting way for kids to learn about God's love. Each day concludes at the SHIPWRECKED Finale – a celebration that gets all participants involved in living what they've learned. We hope SHIPWRECKED will get everyone thrilled about God in our community.

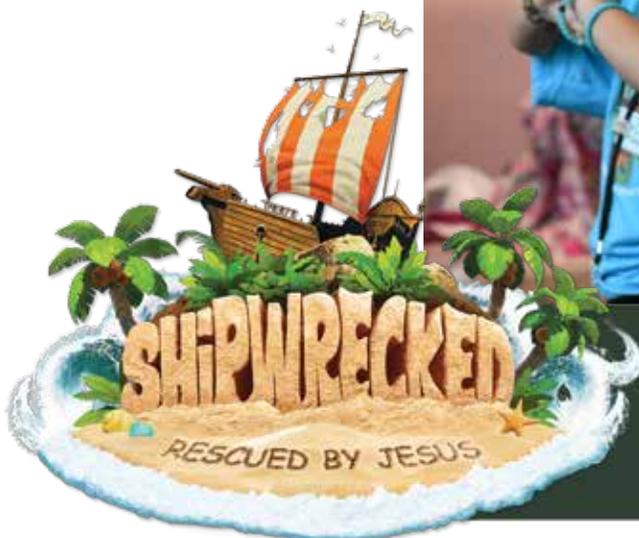
Each year, we wrap up the VBS fun with a family night. This year, we will meet at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 7 for a closing program in the Celebration Center. Following the program we will have an Ice Cream Sundae Party in Community Hall. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us!

Kids will have the opportunity to participate in a mission project during the Vacation Bible School week. Each year, we collect supplies to benefit an organization. This year, we will support Tenaciously Teal – an organization that inspires hope by providing love, community and empowerment to cancer fighters in the midst of treatment. We will be collecting travel-size lotion, pocket-size Kleenex packs, and fuzzy socks/men's socks. They have a goal of distributing 8,000 cancer care packs this year. These donations will help them go a long way toward their goal!

Can you help make an impact on a child's life by volunteering with Vacation Bible School? We need help with a variety of tasks and are sure to have an area that corresponds to your particular talents! Participating in VBS is guaranteed to touch your life as well as that of the children involved.

You can help out even if your children are too young or old to participate in VBS. We can always use teen helpers, and nursery care is available for children of volunteers that are younger than four. Please prayerfully consider how you can help support this tremendous ministry. If you have any questions at all, you may email me at marthastone@gmail.com or call/text (405) 822-7484. Volunteer and child registration is available on www.churchoftheservant.com/events. I hope to see ALL of you at Vacation Bible School this year!

Martha Stone
VBS Director



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
SHIPWRECKED
June 4-7

NEXTGEN

SERVANT HIGH SCHOOL A Leader's Point of View

Amazing things happen when you say “yes.” My New Year’s Resolution was to say “yes” to anything God asked me to do, no matter how big or small. So, when Sang Nguyen asked if I would help him lead a high school confirmation, I said “yes!” I’m so glad I did. I got to know four young people at Servant that I wouldn’t have known well in any other way. Leahla, a college freshman at UCO; Emily, a sophomore at PC Original; Sam, a sophomore at Crossings; and Park, a senior at Deer Creek have all been at Servant for a while, just never in the same place. I got to meet and become friends with these four people who God loves beyond measure and hear how God has worked in their lives. What a gift!

I also have a deep love for the Confirmation process. When I was fifteen, I began my faith journey in a denomination that doesn’t have confirmation. Stepping into youth group with students who had grown up in the church and seemed to know all the answers was intimidating and awkward. I had no idea how to use a Bible, I didn’t know the songs or the stories, or the right words to say. All I knew was that I was experiencing something I wanted to know more about. I eventually learned how to navigate scripture, prayer and church. And I am grateful for the mentors God placed in my life to help me figure it out. Confirmation is just that, a time to help students figure it all out. These four confirmands have been experiencing God’s love and getting to know God. Confirmation helps turn those experiences into a moment of embracing what God is doing for them. Learning more about who God is, what God has done and how to stay connected to Him, creates a framework for our experiences of God. We then embrace the life of faith; taking what we receive as a free gift from God and claiming it as our own, so that we can become who God created us to be.

I love that at Servant we don’t leave children alone to figure it all out on their own. We intentionally provide opportunities to experience and then embrace the love of God. Confirmation is far more than just a class, it’s an opportunity to say “yes” to what God is doing. – Jill Perrin, Leader

A Student's Point of View

High School Confirmation was such a blast! Every week, we got to strengthen our relationship with the Holy Father. Sang and Jill were our teachers for this entire process. We were a group of four that started out really shy, but then became great friends by the end! It was a great learning experience for me and it helped me start a new chapter of my life on the right page. During our sessions we learned how to be the best versions of ourselves and what God has created us for. We learned how to dissect scripture, explore our faith, and multiple ways to engage in prayer. Each class was always fresh, exciting, and a wonderful learning experience. I left each class with a smile on my face. We even got to go have some fun at Escape Room OKC and really got to know each other!

I have grown into a better version of myself during this process and I am so thankful Sang and Jill greeted me and my sister with loving arms. I was not only confirmed through this process, I also was also Baptized. Everyone at Church of the Servant made it a wonderful experience. Through confirmation, I realized we are all one giant loving family and I am so thankful to now officially be a part of it! High School Confirmation is a decision you will not regret. I am so thankful for the High School Confirmation experience. It has given me many memories I’ll cherish for a lifetime! – Leahla, High School Confirmation Student



**L to R: Samantha Power, Emily Barrett,
Leahla Barrett, Jill Perrin, Park Zeigler, and Batman**

BIG DATES

for Servant Students:

- **Move Up Sunday** is May 20. This is the day that we transition all incoming 6th graders to Servant Middle School and incoming 9th graders to Servant High School.
- **Servant High School Move Up Lock In** is June 1-2. This event is for all upcoming 9th graders to out going 12th grade students. This will be a wonderful event as we welcome all 9th grade students! More information and registration can be found online www.churchoftheservant.com/events.
- **Disciple Camp** is May 31 - June 3. This is Servant Middle School's biggest camp of the year and an incredible opportunity to gather alongside other middle school students from Oklahoma United Methodist Churches! This fun-filled week includes: outdoor recreational activities, meaningful worship, small group discussions, and so much more! Register at www.churchoftheservant.com/events.
- **Mission OKC** is June 11-15. Servant High School Summer Mission Trip will take place in OKC! We will stay at St. Marks UMC and partner with local organizations as we serve our community! Register online at www.churchoftheservant.com/events.
- **Dayspring Camp** is July 5-9. This is Servant High School's biggest camp of the year and an incredible opportunity to gather alongside other high school students from Oklahoma United Methodist Churches! This fun-filled week includes outdoor recreational activities, meaningful worship, small group discussions, and so much more! Register online at www.churchoftheservant.com/events.
- **Triple Play** is July 23-25. At this Servant Middle School Summer Mission Trip, we will be working with local organizations! Register online at www.churchoftheservant.com/events.

Parents of High School Seniors!

What a wonderful, yet emotional season, as you prepare to graduate your student from high school and help them transition for college and ultimately adulthood. We have been incredibly blessed to partner with you in ministering to your child over the years.

Our mission in Servant High School is to lead the next generation to become fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. A few of our key strategies are to create shared family experiences and to celebrate milestones in the lives of families. We will have a few opportunities to do both. I have listed some below.

SENIOR DINNER is scheduled for May 9, 6:30-8:00 p.m. This will be a casual evening where we celebrate our Seniors and families with a meal, a devotion, games, pictures, and fun! Send in your RSVP by April 18 by emailing Sang at snguyen@churchoftheservant.com.

SENIOR SUNDAY is Sunday, May 6. It's a wonderful morning to honor our Seniors. We are celebrating our Seniors in the 9:30 Celebration service and the beginning of the 11:00 Centrum service! To participate, students must sign up by May 2nd. They can do so by emailing Sang Nguyen at snguyen@churchoftheservant.com. As part of of service, we would like to show pictures of our Seniors. If participating, can you send one picture of your student in their early years at Servant and one Senior picture (preferable one from their Senior photo-shoot, but a cap and gown picture will work too).



L to R: Preston Seibel, Hillary Neaves, Ethan Renner, Kammy Bene, Rachel Sanders, Jonathan Foster, and Hurst Jones

NEXTGEN

Middle School Confirmation Sunday 2018

On Sunday, April 22, thirty-one 8th grade students were confirmed at Church of the Servant. Of those thirty-one students, seven were also baptized. Each student completed a twelve-week study to explore what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and a member of the United Methodist Church. This experience could not have happened without our adult leaders: Amy Johnson, Todd Neaves, Beth Russ, and Ron Sahmaunt; and our high school leaders: Jonathan Foster, Hillary Neaves, Katie Purvis, Ethan Renner, Rachel Sanders, and Sara Schultheis. Thank you all for the time and love you have invested into the next generation.

If you were able to be at the 9:30 Celebration service, Matthew challenged us all to take the Confirmation bulletin and pray for each student over the course of the next couple of weeks. I again challenge you to do so. Pray for these students as they prepare for high school, pray for them as they continue their walk with Christ, pray for them as they face obstacles and challenges each day. Pray for them. I included their names below with their picture so that you can pray over each name and face. Thank you for helping celebrate and welcome these amazing new members!

9:30 – pictured by water fall

Mackenzie Russ
Nina Bugg
Rachel Neaves
Madeline Tesch
Molly Funderburk
McKenzie Mitchell
Julia Reed
Kathryn Rosenberg
Keegan Koehn
Jayden Snow
Jared Snow
Seth Slane
Henry Berry
Olivia Lazar
Kacie Harper
Avery Baskin



11:00 – pictured on stage

KAidan Kraver, Paxton Seibel, Tyler Amanis, Jozzlyne Sale, Meg Williams, Allyson Musser, Brynn Carpenter, Kamryn Holland, Bella McCourtie, Nicholas Goff, Samuel Clark, Paeton Jones, Caleb Bird, Abby Cosby, Joel Sahmaunt





NEXTGEN

Need Host Homes for KANAKUK CAMPOUT WEEK – July 7 – 12

Host Homes are needed for KAMPOUT Week. The counselors arrive on Saturday, July 7 and need housing through Thursday evening July 12. Camp is actually July 9 – 13.

- A place to sleep for a minimum of 3 staff (same gender) – bed, mattress, couch
- Simple Breakfast – staff leaves their host home every morning around 6:30 a.m.
- Dinner, except Tuesday and Thursday evenings
- Access to a washer/dryer
- Host Homes are not required to offer any transportation – the counselors are picked up and dropped off every day by the Kanakuk Leadership Team.

The Host Families play an important role by supporting, encouraging and extending hospitality to the Kanakuk staff, while they serve the kids in our community. Interested? Contact Cathy Hersom at chersom@churchoftheservant.com or 405-728-4715.

WOW!

Look what our Servant Kids accomplished! Together, they raised over \$1,000 and much awareness for OK Kids Korral!

Our mission team consisted of these 4th and 5th graders: Peyton Disney, Carter Gebb, Greyson Gebb, Brooklyn Glenn, Walker Gregory, Macey McFarlane, Will McFarlane, Deacon McLain, Katherine Russ, Sarah Sahmaunt, Katie Stafford, and Avery Stone. They researched and chose OK Kids Korral as their mission project, then worked together to build a strategy and ways to get the word out.

Each child that brought money to donate (no matter the amount each time) were given a pipe cleaner to make a “link in our chain”. These “links” showed our children that it doesn’t matter how much we give, but what does matter is making it a habit to give to others. The mission team got together on April 25th to link all the chains together and determine whether the girls or boys had more links on their chains. In the end, it was the GIRLS! So our girls on the mission team got to WHIP CREAM the boys!

Thank you all for helping our children learn that it is so good to share with and care for others.



MISSION

Clothes 4 Kids Special Fish Appeal Sunday, May 13

For many years, Church of the Servant has partnered with Skyline Urban Ministry to provide two pairs of pants, two shirts, shoes, socks, and underwear to children in need for the upcoming school year. Approximately 89% of children in the Oklahoma City School District are eligible for free or reduced school lunches due to incomes at or below poverty. All Oklahoma City Public Schools require children to wear uniforms, but no financial assistance is offered for the uniforms through the state. It can be a financial burden on families that are already struggling to make ends meet. It is such a blessing to be able to serve these children so that they can attend the first day of school wearing clothes and shoes that are just as shiny and new as the clothes that all the other children are wearing. Skyline begins fitting uniforms the first week in July. How can you help with this project? \$120 will put a child in uniforms for the 2018-2019 school year. Or any amount – \$60, \$85, \$100 – will go towards helping a child have a uniform. Thank you all so much for your support and for helping those in need in our community.

Kenya Dream Team

We hope that a number of people will pray and consider joining our February, 2019 team. Our mission work includes hammering and sawing (without power tools) to build the AIDS house. We also work around the hospital and provide a morning devotion which includes music. Sharing songs and music at the home building site and the schools we visit would also be wonderful. Consequently, singers, musicians and construction people would be a blessing to our team.

Finally, every mission team needs worker bees – those individuals who are willing to do most anything with a smile and loving heart. Contact Jaci Finch at jacf@cox.net or Ann Knutson at annknut@



Attention Current 5th, 6th, 7th graders and Parents/ Grandparents!

Join us this summer on a Mission Adventure to Heifer Ranch in Perryville, Arkansas!

Heifer International has a well-known catalogue that comes at Christmas time, but did you know that they also provide mission experiences for young people? The Mission Adventure focuses on the core components of an introduction to Heifer International, service learning, educational activities, and taking action. This is obtained through a variety of experiential activities such as: team-building development, educational sessions, overnight village experience, and hands-on service projects in our Garden, Maintenance and Live-stock Departments. All are designed to increase the group's understanding of the global hunger and poverty issues that Heifer International encounters in the field. By experiencing these activities, not only will the group grow and develop together, they will also gain a greater understanding of how Heifer creates lasting change in communities around the world.

Trip dates are Sunday, July 8 to Friday, July 13. The cost is \$425 per person. Scholarships and fundraising opportunities are available. For more information, contact Robyn Goggs at rgoggs@churchoftheservant.com or Ann Knutson at annknut@gmail.com or Ann's cell, 405-323-4292.

Sunday, May 13 All morning in Community Hall Make a Difference, Save a life, Give Blood!

Blood is the most precious gift that anyone can give to another person — the gift of life. A decision to donate your blood can save a life. On Sunday, May 13, give a gift of love to a stranger by giving blood. Our church faithfully continues to hold quarterly blood drives in partnership with the Oklahoma Blood Institute. Would you consider becoming a part of our team of donors here at Servant? Stop by Community Hall on Sunday, May 13, and in a few moments, you can help save lives. It is a simple quarterly, Sunday-morning commitment that truly makes a huge impact! Register on Sundays by Community Hall or online at www.churchoftheservant.com/events.

SUMMER POPS CONCERT

“Music from the Movies”

May 6, 6:00 p.m.

Join us for a wonderful night of “Music from the Movies”, featuring music from the new movie version of “Les Miserables” by the Celebration Choir and Worship Orchestra and selections from “The Greatest Showman” performed by SYNERGY (vocal ensemble).

In addition to the choral selections, the Worship Orchestra, Celebration Ringers, and the Bronze youth handbell choir will play various pop selections from the movies, such as: “Eleanor Rigby”, “Dancing Queen”, “I’m a Believer”, and “Love Will Keep Us Together”, just to name a few.

Throughout the day, we will offer a silent auction by the Bronze youth handbell choir and the members of Music Ministries traveling to Ireland next year. Admission is FREE; an offering will be taken at the concert to support Music Ministry traveling expenses and the intern program.

PRIME TIME

To close out the season, Prime Time is excited to bring back the talented Mr. June Carter to entertain and inspire us on Thursday, May 10 at 10:30 a.m. in Community Hall. You may remember when he sang here at Church of the Servant for a Sunday morning worship service. It was such a treat!

June is an energetic and talented baritone vocal soloist. He has a rich, alluring voice that makes any song sound great. He has led worship services with his unique brand of music at dozens of churches in Oklahoma and surrounding states.

June has been a frequent guest artist and producer at the Oklahoma Gospel Opry and has the distinction of being a former male vocalist of the year with that organization. He is frequently asked to sing “The Star Spangled Banner” at official ceremonies at Tinker Air Force Base.

After this special morning, we’ll enjoy a lunch of pulled pork, potato salad, baked beans...and cobbler for dessert! Sure sounds like a picnic to me! Program alone is \$2, or add lunch for a total of \$10. Of course, the fellowship is always free! You know you want to come! Sign up online at churchoftheservant.com/events or any time at the Welcome Center.



Sunday School Class MONACHE (mon-a-key)

For the past thirteen years, Monache has grown into a class that loves doing life together – whether it is a mission project at church, the Food Bank, Skyline, getting together for a movie night, or several of our annual social gatherings – Monache is open to all (primarily made up of those in their mid-forties to mid-fifties, who are single, divorced or married). We are a family-friendly class; all of our classes and social gatherings are for the whole family – kids are always welcome. Currently, Monache is studying **The Story**, by Randy Frazee. We are grounded in God’s Word in our study and we will often follow the sermon series. We invite you to join us Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the South Conference Room for a fun lesson and fellowship with a dynamic group of people. For more information, contact Eric Nance at 405-416-3791.

ADULTS



Your Earthglow Shopping Helps Neighborhood Services Organization

One of the beneficiaries of Earthglow's 2017 profits was Neighborhood Services Organization (NSO), so we wanted to share a bit of information about this incredible organization. With the mission statement of "Transforming lives and encouraging independence through safe, healthy homes, dental care, and nutrition," NSO served more than 100,000 local people in need during 2017 through a number of very specialized programs.

NSO's housing programs serve mothers and their children, chronically homeless adults with mental illnesses, young men that have aged out of foster care with nowhere else to go, and pregnant women and their babies. Some clients need shelter for a few days or weeks. Some need a home and resources for a year or two while they work toward independence. Some need one-time help to avoid falling into the cycle of homelessness. Others need a safe, permanent home in a caring community.

Last year, NSO's low-cost dental clinic, located at 431 SW 11th Street, provided more than 8,700 procedures including 1,500 preventative procedures, helping patients regain their smiles, their health and their confidence. The dental clinic facility, underwritten by the Delta Dental of Oklahoma Foundation, is state-of-the-art and provides a full range of acute and preventative procedures at a fraction of the cost of private dental care.

Many folks in our congregation volunteer with NSO and help through financial and physical contributions. Earthglow is proud to be recognized again this year as a one of the NSO Good Samaritan Society Members. Should you want to learn more about ways you can help this outstanding organization, you are invited to attend one of their monthly Good Samaritan luncheons (visit nsookc.org/good-samaritan).

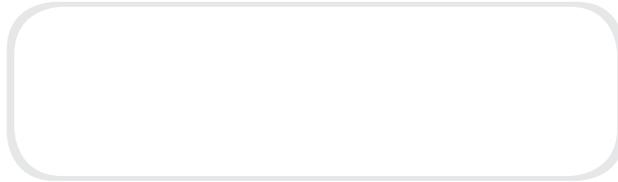
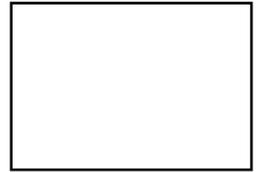
What a pleasure it was members of the Earthglow Board to deliver the 2017 checks to several of our local recipients. As you can see from the attached picture, Stacey Ninness, President/CEO of NSO, was literally jumping for joy when she received the NSO gift – so much so she went and grabbed her bunny ears to celebrate with us!

Remember, all proceeds from your shopping in Earthglow are shared with local missions such as NSO. Come in and shop often! The shop has been beautifully redecorated and is stocked with a many new items including cards and gifts appropriate for celebrating Graduation, Mother's Day, and Father's Day.



L to R: Elaine Frizzell, Vicki Gilstrap, Kipp Neaves, Donna Armstrong, Stacey Ninness, Judy Cooper, Lisa Fansher, and Margy Milewski.

CHURCH OF THE SERVANT
14343 N MacArthur Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73142-9725



SUMMER
POPS!
MAY 6 **6:00 p.m.**
"Music from the Movies"

THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

Les Misérables

FEATURING:
Celebration Choir
Worship Orchestra
SYNERGY Ensemble
Handbell Choirs