



## Overland Park Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ) 

7600 West 75th Street • Overland Park, KS 66204 • 913.677.4646

### Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:30am - 4:00pm; Friday, 9:30am - 3:00pm

[www.opccdoc.org](http://www.opccdoc.org) • [www.facebook.com/opccdoc](https://www.facebook.com/opccdoc) • @opccdoc (Twitter)

### *Lines from Laura*

The sun is shining this week! It is a wonderful reminder of the amazing hope that God offers *again and again* each year as we move through the seasons. As Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, there is a time for everything under the sun, including a time for growth and new life in the sun.

While there are still many things that may weigh us down — the state of the pandemic, the state of our world, a broken personal relationship, money difficulty, or more; while there are still many things that weigh us down, we see signs of new life as the reminder that God will always (again and again) provide us with new life.

As hope comes in many forms, including beautiful weather, it also comes in the hope of returning to our in-person community again, soon. You will see on the next pages in the notes about Holy Week that we have two options for in-person worship to be held outside in our courtyard with all appropriate COVID precautions. (Please read our covenant about returning to in-person options, here: <http://bit.ly/opccInPerson>) Additionally, know and trust that our COVID-19 Committee and our OPCC Board continue to hold conversation about we can safely return to in-person community, soon. Nicer weather, more knowledge about the virus, and expanding vaccine availability continues to make that a promising reality.

I continue to encourage you to sign up for your vaccine, and offer any help that you might need in securing an appointment for yourself or your household. We have several dedicated volunteers here at OPCC who are willing to help you sign up, and even take you to your appointment if needed! My recommendation and hope solely comes at the understanding of how communities care for one another, and continue to advise you to speak with your health professional about the best options for you. I will demonstrate my care and concern for you by practicing social distancing, wearing a mask, *getting my vaccine as soon as I am able*, and then continuing to social distance and wear masks *in-person* until health officials tell us differently.

*Laura*

You can find details from Johnson County on the vaccination rollout here: <https://www.jocogov.org/covid-19-vaccine> or by calling 913-715-CV19 (2819).

You can find details from Wyandotte County Unified Government here: <https://www.wycokck.org/Health.aspx> and then clicking on the COVID-19 update.



This Lent we hope to provide a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again & again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another — especially when it's hard — by choosing each other over & over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us.

Lent is a season of abstaining from certain or harmful practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits. In this season, we need rituals — both old and new — to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples.

To bring our theme together, and to give it life each week of Sunday worship (10:30am) and on a few extra worship services through Lent, we will focus on this Lenten refrain of "Again & Again." Again & again, God works with us, through us, and despite us, to bring life to the whole world.

Join us this Lent as again & again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time & again, along the way.

- **Sunday, March 7:**  
John 2:13-22 & 1 Corinthians 1:17-25
- **Sunday, March 14:**  
John 3:14-21 & Ephesians 2:1-10
- **Sunday, March 21:**  
John 12:20-33 & Jeremiah 31:31-34
- **Palm Sunday, March 28:**  
John 12:1-19
- **Maundy Thursday, April 1:**  
John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- **Good Friday, April 2:**  
John 19:1-30
- **Easter Sunday, April 4:**  
Mark 16:1-8

## Lenten Prayer Wall

This Lent, we invite you to come to God in prayer again & again, weaving your prayers in with those of our larger community. Woven together, our prayers will form the shape of an ampersand, an ancient symbol that, used here, represents God's holy "and." Visit the prayer wall in person in the sanctuary overflow room, write your prayers on the strips provided, and weave them into the prayer wall anytime throughout the season. Watch our website and our Facebook page for more information about this prayer practice.

No matter how you pray with us, we look forward to praying together as we sing this Lenten refrain, together.

## Communion At Home

In your Lent-at-Home kit you should have received enough communion to carry you through Holy Week worship experiences. If you did not receive enough communion in your kit, or if you simply need more for future at-home worship experiences, please contact the church office, or fill out an order form on our website. You will be notified when communion is ready for you to pick up, for your use from home. <http://www.opccdoc.org/communion.html>

If you did not receive a Lent-at-Home kit, or would like another one, contact the church office and we will make sure to provide you with one, right away!

## Open Sanctuary

While the church is closed to most group gatherings, including worship, this is still your church and your sanctuary.

There are still opportunities for you to come sit in the sanctuary or in the prayer chapel if you are seeking a special time with God. Our church building is open 9:30 am–4:00 pm Monday thru Thursday, and 9:30 am–3:00 pm on Fridays.

Please call Eileen in the front office (913) 677-4646 prior to your coming to the church so that she can confirm there is nothing happening in the sanctuary (such as occasional worship recordings), and that there are no additional individuals in the sanctuary. Masks and social distancing will always be required.



The prayers, praise, and reflections of our Lenten theme will Again & Again inspire our worship as we make our way toward Holy Week, March 28 – April 4. Please take note of the continued and new opportunities we have during Holy Week. No matter how we are *together* we hope you will make every effort to be a part of our family of faith during this special time in the church year.

### *Sunday, March 28 ~ Palm Sunday & Processional (John 12:1-19)*

Even virtually we will *again* celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with celebrative shouts of Hosanna! Youth, children, and families are especially invited to join us in our Virtual Palm Sunday Processional. Similar to last year we invite you to send a short video or photo of yourselves waving your palms and shouting Hosanna! You may choose to use the paper palm provided for you in your Lent-at-Home kit, you may choose to wait and use a real palm, or you may choose to use something from your home, a branch or a cloak! No matter how you shout Hosanna! please contact the church office if you have questions of how to submit your video / photo.

### *Monday, March 29–Friday, April 2 ~ Holy Week Prayer Stations*

Uniquely focused Prayer Stations will be set up in the Overflow Room, Sanctuary, and Courtyard, providing a time and space for you to experience God in your life. Prayer Stations offer a simple approach to prayer and spiritual reflection where you can participate at your own pace. These prayer stations are family friendly and a great way to help your entire family travel through Holy Week. Utilize as many or as few as you choose and please plan to visit more than once. Masks continue to be required and we request that you utilize the hand sanitizer that is available around the church.

### *Thursday, April 1 ~ Maundy Thursday (John 13:1-17, 31b-35)*

Though OPCC will not offer an in-person worship service, we will offer virtual and at-home liturgy experiences for Maundy Thursday. Please plan to join us at 6:30pm on Maundy Thursday on Facebook, our website, and our Sermon by Phone to hear the Maundy Thursday meditation. Additionally, we will offer opportunities from our local sister congregations who have Maundy Thursday experiences, as we have invited them to worship with us on Good Friday.

### *Friday, April 2 ~ Good Friday (John 19:1-30)*

Join us at 6:30pm for a special outdoors, socially distanced, Good Friday Worship in the OPCC Courtyard, as we encounter Jesus and this day in a new way. Just as Peter contemplated his commitment to, and betrayal of Jesus, standing by a fire with guards, we too will contemplate our relationship with Jesus, around a fire. Come enjoy our newly restored outdoor fireplace, and an additional firepit, in the large OPCC courtyard as we worship on this sacred day, together. Please plan to enter through the main entrance off Conser Street and follow all necessary COVID precautions.

### *Sunday, April 4 ~ Easter Sunday – He is Risen! (Mark 16:1-8)*

According to Mark, on the first day of the week, the women rise with the sun and buy spices to anoint Jesus' body. They are shocked to find the tomb empty, and leave in fear and terror. Mark's resurrection story is less triumphant than the other Gospel testimonies (as scholars believe the remainder of Mark's gospel was a later addition). Still, in Mark's version, we are reminded that Easter comes to us, again & again, even if we don't know what to make of God's resurrection ways. Again & again, the sun rises. And some days, that is enough.

- \* **Join us at 8:00 a.m. in the OPCC main courtyard** for an outdoor, socially distanced "Sunrise" Service! Join us for songs, scripture, and communion as we celebrate the resurrection of the Christ on the morning of the third day! (Please plan to enter through the main entrance off Conser Street and follow all necessary COVID precautions.)
- \* **Join us at 10:30 a.m. online** for a virtual celebration of Christ's resurrection! We will stream our service on Facebook and our website, along with our Sermon by Phone. No matter where you are we can *again & again* celebrate the risen Christ!

Daylight Saving Time begins  
**March 14**



## Virtual Worship Options

We continue to offer our worship experience online, and are always looking for more ways to “bring it home” to you so that you still feel a part of our wider Christian community in the midst of these unprecedented times. Join us on Sundays at 10:30am on Facebook, or on our Worship This Week page on our website, for our worship services. You can also view these services any time after they go live as they are archived in both places. The worship order is available each Sunday on our Worship This Week Page on our website. Please comment, or send an email to let us know you are “with us.” Even if you think “oh, they know we’re watching,” we’re not 100% sure how many watch each week – so a comment on the video, or an email to the front office each week is extremely helpful ([office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org))!

## Worship by Phone

If you do not have a computer, smart phone, or tablet, but still want to worship with us virtually, you can join us over the phone!



Just call **913-299-9002** from your home or cell phone on Sunday morning, or any time throughout the week when you are available, to listen to the scripture, meditation, prayer, and song on your phone! You can even call in as many times as you would like to listen to the service again. The worship service remains up until Saturday night when the audio switches to the new Sunday worship audio. Though there are minor differences accounting for visual vs. auditory worship, the audio is the same music, message, and more each week, continuing to connect us no matter how we worship! If you would like to receive a mailed copy of our worship order so that you can follow along by phone, please contact Eileen in the front office (913-677-4646 or [office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org)) to let her know that you would like a copy of the worship order mailed each week.



## Baptism on Pentecost

After conversation, the decision has been made to offer baptisms to any child, youth, or adult, on Pentecost! While this remains liturgically appropriate to celebrate the Spirit of God moving in our midst, it also allows for the potential to be baptized in person with our church community present. We of course have no guarantees for when we will resume in-person worship, but the prospect of May 23rd is certainly more likely than April 4th. Any child, youth, or adult who is interested in becoming baptized this Pentecost is encouraged to contact Rev. Chuck or Rev. Laura in preparation for this special sacrament. An 8-session preparation will begin around March 28 and we look forward to celebrating these new steps for our siblings in faith! Though it may look and / or feel different right now, a life of faith never stops growing.

## Music Department

### Bell & Chancel Choirs Zoom Chat:

As we continue social distancing, we invite all members of the Chalice Chancel Choir and Reverberations Bell Choir to join us online via Zoom for some reconnection time and an opportunity to share ideas for music in our upcoming online worship videos. Topics for discussion are planned and led by Mary Beth. If you would like to discuss something specific, please contact her before the Zoom meeting. Watch your emails for the invitation/code to join us on Wednesdays, March 10 & 24, 7-8 pm.

### Seeking Musical Talent & Ideas for Music:

If you have a musical talent to offer our congregation or know of someone we should personally invite, please contact Mary Beth Boucher at [marybeth@opccdoc.org](mailto:marybeth@opccdoc.org) or 913.488.7796. Likewise, maybe there is a song that brings you closer to God and you're wishing you could hear it in our services; please also share those ideas with Mary Beth at the email address or phone number listed above.

## Virtual Community at OPCC

Please continue to check out our OPCC Website and Facebook pages for information on how to “be community” even when we aren’t physically in the same space. Nearly everything we are doing virtually is available on our website, [www.opccdoc.org](http://www.opccdoc.org).

## Antiracism Discussion

Please join our Social Justice/Anti-Racism conversation over the book "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents" written by Isabel Wilkerson. On Thursdays, March 25 and April 22, 7:00-8:00 p.m. via Zoom. When the pandemic moves to the point where it is safe for us to be in community again, we will meet and invite all who are interested to join our in-person gatherings for further discussions that will help us be aware and recognize institutional racism.

Contact Peggy Moore with any questions or to get the Zoom ID and passcode.

Here are some movies you may rent or loan from the Jo. Co. Library to help with our awareness and recognition of racism:

*The Best of Enemies, Harriet, Just Mercy, Fences, and Thirteenth.*

## Middlers Sunday CE Class

Please join our ‘Middlers’ Adult Bible Study on Sunday mornings from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. via Zoom as we continue our study from the Feasting on the Word curriculum. All are welcome!

Lessons and class ID and passcode can be sent to you if you will email Peggy Moore at [wpmoore63@gmail.com](mailto:wpmoore63@gmail.com).

## Girlfriends Unlimited

Girlfriends is a Women's Bible Study that meets virtually on Wednesdays from 7- 8pm via Zoom.

We invite you to join us in our current weekly study of the book of Psalms. We are reading through it one chapter each day. We are also reading through the two devotionals of Jesus Calling by Sarah Young and Liberating Love by Sandhya Jha. We share our thoughts on the images and insights that these inspirational devotionals bring to us. All are welcome to join our virtual community! Please email Peggy Moore at [wpmoore63@gmail.com](mailto:wpmoore63@gmail.com) and the class ID and passcode can be sent to you.

## Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group continues to meet over Zoom, on the first Saturdays at 9:00am:

Please [email our church office](#) to find out how to connect with the Men's Fellowship Group.

## Family Life Ministries

Contact Associate Pastor Rev. Chuck Pickrel at [chuck@opccdoc.org](mailto:chuck@opccdoc.org) or ext. 228 for more info about Children and Youth Ministries.

It has been a long year for everyone. The pandemic has affected every aspect of our lives in ways nobody could have predicted. Well, "the end" might finally be in sight. The light at the end of the tunnel comes in the form of steadily decreasing infection numbers, and steadily increasing vaccinations. I am very happy to report that at least some of our favorite summer activities will be happening in person this year! As of right now, Tall Oaks will be open and hosting all in-person camps, and we are openly discussing VBS and Mission trips. It's important to note that none of these activities will look like they did pre-pandemic. We will need to follow some comprehensive safety guidelines so that we can move into a future beyond COVID-19.

This link will take you to the regional website where you can find the dates and information on all camps, as well as the online registration form, and list of COVID procedures. If you are a youth who may be interested in serving on GKC regional youth cabinet, you can find the application to apply there as well: <https://www.kcdisciples.org/gkc-youth-programs--camp.html>

I am happy to answer any questions and/or address any concerns about activities and safety, and I always welcome ideas for programming.

You are loved and valued beyond measure!  
Blessings,  
Chuck

## Virtual Family Faith Formation

OPCC families are invited to continue joining for a time of faith formation by a Zoom gathering on Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Please [email Rev. Chuck](#) to find out how to connect with this Faith Formation for Families opportunity.

## What Does the Food Pantry Need This Month?

**March** – One pound packages of rice or beans and packages of hygiene wipes

Please place your donations in the blue barrel by the Receptionist's Desk. Thank you!

## MORE<sup>2</sup> METRO ORGANIZATION FOR RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY

As part of our Outreach-Mission efforts, we are a partner organization with MORE<sup>2</sup>. However, we are more than just a pastor-led partner, and invite you to join our efforts. Please consider the following events to see how you can be involved:

- Kansas Issues to Action Night – this is where we decide the work that is important to us, where we discuss how we can work towards racial and economic equity in Kansas.
  - March 8, 6:30 – 8:00pm on Zoom (You can log on as early as 6:00 p.m.) ([Click Here to register](#))
- MORE<sup>2</sup> Board Meeting – the leaders of MORE<sup>2</sup> determine the direction of the organization and implement strategic planning to see this important work to fruition. Barb Collins and Judy Snyder are serving OPCC as our two voting representatives to the MORE<sup>2</sup> board, but all members of OPCC are welcome to attend these meetings. Won't you take part in directing this important work?
  - March 30, 6:00 – 7:30pm on Zoom ([Email Rev. Laura to find out more!](#))

## Hi OPCC Family & Friends!

I would like to start off by saying thank you to the staff for the Lenten bags! Even though it was an awfully cold time to get out and get them, it was appreciated. We did have waffles on Fat Tuesday for dinner and I'm anxious to plant my butterfly and see what grows! I would also like to thank Margi Colerick and the Worship & Arts Commission for the Ash Wednesday stations that were set up in the sanctuary. I was able to go over and use them and I hope some others were able to take advantage of that as well. Even during these unusual times, it was very meaningful and a wonderful start into the Lenten season. I also appreciated this commission taking time to place some items in the sanctuary for us to see during the Sunday services that tie right in with Laura's sermon series. As we begin our journey to Jerusalem I share an Irish Blessing with you.



Have a happy St. Patrick's Day "wearing o the green" and a Blessed Easter!

Theresa Krebs  
OPCC Board Chair on behalf of the board

## Property Commission

Pray that the majority of you have already received or are scheduled for a vaccine shot. Looking forward to the time we can all gather together at OPCC. Here are the past month's activities taking place in the property area:

1. Snow removal and salt applications occurred 11 times this past month.
2. The new US flag cannot be put up until our flag pole is repaired (will not lower). We are scheduled for pole repairs in the next 2 weeks, depending on weather.
3. The fireplace chimneys (inside and outside) have their new flue liners. We also had to have some brick repairs done on the Northwest corner of the chimney. After all repairs were completed, Lee cleaned all the tables and counters in the fireside room plus scrubbed the hearth brick.
4. Rubicon, our trash contractor, has sent OPCC a certificate of Customer Appreciation stating that a long leaf pine tree will be planted in our honor within the Florida's Big Shoals State Forest.
5. Knowler Consulting was called to reconnect the security cameras to the new church computers.
6. Spring is just around the corner so our lawn mower has been serviced.

Submitted by Lee Sprinkle, Property Chair

# Prayer List

## Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Raelene Berry
- ♥ Marian Bilyea
- ♥ Pat Brennan (Maurica Campbell's friend)
- ♥ Frances Bruning
- ♥ Tom Bryant
- ♥ Scott Burton
- ♥ Barbara Cash (Jody Cash's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Harper Claar (Roger & Vicki Claar's granddaughter)
- ♥ Roger Collins (Monica Fuentes' son-in-law's cousin)
- ♥ Julie Dean
- ♥ Lorraine Hartnett
- ♥ Carol Huffman (Peggy Fach's sister-in-law)
- ♥ Ruth Fletcher
- ♥ Audrey Lavelly
- ♥ Kenneth McBride (Calvin McBride's brother)
- ♥ Kaylin Moser (Sharon & Calvin McBride's granddaughter)
- ♥ Rhonda Phelps (Roger Claar's sister)
- ♥ Ada Phillips (Teresa Phillips' mother)
- ♥ Randy Phillips (Laura Phillips' father)
- ♥ Barbara Sheldon
- ♥ Earl Sheldon
- ♥ Leslie Smith (Calvin McBride's friend)
- ♥ Billie Warden
- ♥ Joe & Jean Zacher

## Continued Prayers

- ♥ Mary Aelmore
- ♥ Maurica Campbell
- ♥ Nancy Coffman
- ♥ Nancy Corbin
- ♥ Lawana Degraffenreid
- ♥ Gary Eilert (Jan & Ed Eilert's son)
- ♥ Jan Eilert
- ♥ Laurel Elliott
- ♥ June Faltermeier (Nancy Coffman's sister)
- ♥ Pat Frisbie (Maurica Campbell's friend)
- ♥ Pat Gray
- ♥ Donna & Marshall Howard
- ♥ Rowena Hutchinson
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Florene Miele
- ♥ Teresa Phillips
- ♥ Lori Rapoff (Laurel Elliott's daughter)
- ♥ Ann Sandler
- ♥ Sandy Teeple
- ♥ Gordon & Iline Toms
- ♥ Doris Watts

## Military Prayer List

- ✦ Jamie Crowe (Bo & Chris Crowe's son)
- ✦ Cameron McDonough (Cathy Wilson's son)
- ✦ SSG Edward Pinkelman, Jr. (Ed & Kathy Pinkelman's son)

## Coronavirus Prayer List

- ♥ The Bayer family
- ♥ Vicki Dercher (Executive Director of IHN)
- ♥ Garden Terrace
- ♥ Kristin Klontz (Lois Wimpey's niece)
- ♥ Lakeview Community
- ♥ Bryan & Mandy Maleta (Kellie Bivens' friends)
- ♥ Villa St. Francis Care Center

## Condolences

- ♥ to Shirley McGee and Tim McGee on the death of their daughter and sister, Tonya Booker, on February 2.  
<https://obituaries.neptunesociety.com/obituaries/kansas-city-mo/tonya-booker-10042037>
- ♥ to Marian Bilyea and family on the death of her husband, Rick Everist, on February 3.  
<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/richard-everist-obituary?pid=197657856>
- ♥ to the family of Jim Holloway on his death on February 16.  
<https://kccremation.com/ObituaryDetails.aspx?id=24948>
- ♥ to the family of Norma Money on her death on February 16.  
<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/kansas-city-mo/norma-money-10060739>

*To add or remove persons from this or any of the prayer lists, please contact Michelle Reiter at ext. 223 or [michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org)*

## Thank You

With heartfelt gratitude, our family thanks the OPCC faith community for your prayers, cards and kindness after the passing of our mom/grandma, Margo Brown. Also, many thanks for the cards and attention given to her over the last several years. It always brought her a smile and we appreciate your thoughtfulness and love.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer, Peter, Graham & Ian Lee  
and the Brown Family

## OPCC Directory

Updated OPCC pictorial directories will soon be available!  
Beginning the week of March 15, your OPCC pictorial directory can be picked up at the church office during regular business hours (Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Friday 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.). If you would like a pictorial directory but are physically unable to come grab yours from the church, please contact the church office and a group of volunteers from The Girlfriends have offered to start delivering directories the following week. A huge thank you to Terri Bookless for completing this long overdue task!



## OPCC Coronavirus Fund

In the early days of the pandemic, the federal government issued stimulus checks to help individuals and families. For many it was not enough. In response, we established a Coronavirus Fund so those who had stable incomes and no immediate need, who might view the payment as a “windfall” might have a way to help those less fortunate. Through your generous response we were able to provide almost \$26,000 to help our neighbors.

The Coronavirus has not disappeared. Its effects remain disruptive enough that the federal government is issuing a second stimulus payment. OPCC remains ready to help. If you are in a position to share all or part of your second stimulus check or other funds to those in need because of the virus, you can make contributions online at the OPCC website or by mail, designating them for the OPCC Coronavirus Fund.

Anyone who would like to apply for assistance from this fund, either for themselves or for someone else who needs it, should call the church office at 913-677-4646 or send an e-mail to [office@opccdoc.org](mailto:office@opccdoc.org). Just ask for a Coronavirus Fund Application and you'll receive a return phone call.

### Your OPCC Staff

**913-677-4646**

[info@opccdoc.org](mailto:info@opccdoc.org)

(general church e-mail address)

Senior Pastor ..... Laura Phillips  
[laura@opccdoc.org](mailto:laura@opccdoc.org) ext. 222

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Music Director ..... Mary Beth Boucher  
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Communications Coordinator/  
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Receptionist ..... Eileen McIntyre  
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Building & Grounds ..... Lee Sprinkle  
[lee@opccdoc.org](mailto:lee@opccdoc.org) ext. 237

### Your 2020-2021 OPCC Board of Directors

Theresa Krebs ..... Chair  
David Collins ..... Vice Chair  
Terri Bookless ..... Secretary  
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Sue Elliott ..... Leadership Development

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**Help us reduce paper and postage costs!**

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list or to receive this publication by e-mail, please contact Michelle Reiter at 913-677-4646, ext. 223, or [michelle@opccdoc.org](mailto:michelle@opccdoc.org)