

The OPCC Scene



OVERLAND PARK CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ) 

7600 West 75th Street

Overland Park, KS 66204 • 913.677.4646

www.opccdoc.org • @opccdoc (Twitter) • www.facebook.com/opccdoc

Sharing Christ's Love by
Serving our Neighbors while
Growing as Jesus' Disciples

SUNDAY SERVICES

Traditional Family Worship — 9:30 a.m.

Christian Education for Children and Adults — immediately following Worship

Nursery available at both hours

A New Vision for a New Day

With the addition of Laura (Phillips) to our pastoral staff and the completion of the renovations to our worship space, we have arrived at a significant point in the life and ministry of our faith community, and stand before the most important question of our day. That question is this: what vision of ministry will guide us into the future God has in store for us?

It is a new day in the Church at all levels: in our congregation, our denomination, the Protestant Faith in its many manifestations, and the Church universal. As we are so keenly aware, this new day is not exactly a cakewalk. Gone are the days when all we had to do was hang up a sign, open the doors, and show a little neighborly spirit to get folk and to spare into our fellowship. We have reached a point at which our faith traditions are on the outside looking in on a culture that pays lip service to them, but really has no use for them.

I rehearse this situation not to frighten you, but to underscore the need for a new vision of ministry to guide us into this new day. The old has passed away, and we need to discern the vision God has for vital ministry into the future. And make no mistake, God has such a vision; we must summon the humility and spiritual maturity to discern it, and the spiritual courage to live it.

Over the next few months we will engage fully in a visioning process that will help us discern God's vision for OPCC. We introduced the process before Christmas with a month long study of churches that faced situations similar to ours, and how they decided to address them, and a discussion of how we might learn from their experience as we begin to address our future. Now it's time to shift into high gear with prayer, small group discussions, conversations with the community around us, and the discernment of a new vision for our ministry in this new day. Information on times, schedules, goals, and activities will be publicized in the near future. In the interim, we encourage you to commit to be a part of this important process, and to begin to pray daily for the life and ministry of OPCC. God has great things in store for us, and it's the right time to latch on to that vision and give it arms, legs, minds, and hearts in the days ahead. Look for more information soon.

Bo

Sanctuary Rededication

Sunday, February 23 @ 9:30 AM

We will rededicate our newly renovated worship space during morning worship on February 23. This will be a joyful time of celebration and consecration. We will celebrate the completed project so long anticipated; and we will consecrate ourselves as a faith community to the purpose for which it was undertaken: to share the joy of faith, to grow in our spiritual lives, and to reach out to our community with a heart felt invitation to join us on our spiritual walk.



The Worship & Arts Commission has appropriately chosen to designate this day "Bring a Friend Sunday"; or "Each One Bring One Sunday" ...whatever you want to call it, it will be an opportunity to focus this day on the purpose of our renovation rather than on the space itself; to focus on our commitment to share the joy of faith with more and more people. Please be on the lookout for more information on this wonderful opportunity, and keep the life and ministry of our faith community in prayer.

Update from Your Renovation Committee

HURRAY, the renovation has been completed. A big THANK YOU to everyone who has pledged and continue to give to the **Sowing Seeds** fund which has allowed the renovation to take place **and** the hiring of Laura possible. OPCC needed both of these things to happen so our ministry can continue to lift Jesus up within this community (both internally and externally).

As committee chair, I am asking you to give each of the following a "pat-on-the-back" and/or a "thank you" for the many hours they devoted to the renovation process:

- a) Color/fabric/carpet committee - chaired by Steve Glasscock
Wilma Nickum, Pat Warner, Michelle Reiter, Chris Elliott
- b) Publications/bulletin board updates - Jane Fletcher
- c) Pledges for pews/chairs
Jody Cash, Jan Eilert, Alan Felton, Jane Fletcher, Jan Sprinkle
- d) Candelabra refurbishing - Cal McBride
- e) Refinishing of pulpit and communion table - Wayne Moore, Jim Withers
- f) Renovation committee
Senior Pastor-Bo Crowe, Architect-Roger Claar, Chair-Lee Sprinkle, Bill Anthony, Steve Glasscock, Greg Wienberg



Pledges for pews/chairs are still on-going and we are happy to report that as of this printing, our pledges have reached 260 seats...FANTASTIC!! Since pledges are still coming in, we will wait a few months before making a plaque containing pledger names along with the names of "in memory" or "in honor of" wishes.

Here are some comments being heard on the renovation; "Glad to see the cross back out front", "It is so pretty", "Much brighter", "Love the dorsal design", "Sounds is wonderful", "Love the color of the pews", "Ramp at the door is so helpful", "Thank you for the automatic door". So if you haven't been able to see the sanctuary, sure hope you do soon...and invite a friend!!

Submitted by Lee Sprinkle, Renovation Chair



Bingo Night
January 18
7 pm
Fellowship Hall

Let's play BINGO!

Our first Bingo night was so fun that we are giving you a second chance to join the fun!

Please bring 'regifts' for prizes.

Regifts may be anything you cannot or will not use, but someone else may enjoy it.

Admission is \$7 and includes one bingo card.

Additional cards are \$1 each.

Need a ride?

Contact Lisa Setty at 913-677-4646 ext. 228 and we'll arrange transportation.

Funds raised will go toward the Costa Rica Mission Trip 2014.

Care & Share

The Care and Share Grief Support Group will meet Tuesday, January 28, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Bring a sack lunch and we will make our plans for 2014.

Christian Caregivers

The Christian Caregiver Support Ministry is a safe place to receive helpful guidance and accept your calling to be a caregiver. We invite you to join us in the Fireside Room on Monday afternoons from 1:00–2:30 as we seek to support one another in our sometimes challenging and difficult tasks.

(We will not meet whenever Shawnee Mission Schools are closed due to inclement weather.)

For more information, contact Peggy Moore at wpmoore@wildblue.net or 913-856-3833.

Solo Sidekicks Singles Group

The Solo Sidekicks will not meet in January. Stay tuned for information about our next event.

Mary Martha CWF Circle

will not meet in January or February. Our next meeting will be Thursday, March 13, 2014.

Weaving Our Lives

body, mind, & spirit

Greater Kansas City

Women's Spring Retreat

March 14-15, 2014

Tall Oaks Conference Center

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Laura Phillips

Contact Evelyn Eastwood or Lois Wimpey for more information. We had a great time last year, and so did Marge White and 130 others! Or call the Regional Office, 913-432-1414.

Girlfriends Unlimited

Girlfriends will resume weekly gatherings on Wednesday, January 15, 7:00-8:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will meet weekly on Wednesdays through May 14 then break for the summer. We will be studying and discussing Sarah Young's "Jesus Calling." If you do not have a book, please get in touch with Peggy Moore.

Men's Fellowship Group

The Men's Fellowship Group meets on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room for breakfast, study, and fellowship. All men are invited to join us.

For more information, contact Wayne Moore at 913-856-3833 or Emerson Hartzler at 913-422-1378.

Stephen Ministries Training

Dates for 2014:

Meet in Fireside Room 10:30 a.m. – 12 Noon on these Wednesdays:

February 5

March 5

April 2

May 7 (in the Choir Room)

September 10

October 8

November 5

C . L . A . S . S .

Christian Living and Skills Series

"We teach everyone we can that we know about Him, so that, if possible, we may bring all to their full maturity in Jesus Christ." —Colossians 1:28

Adult Christian Education Class Schedule Sundays 11:00 a.m.-noon

“Fearless”

The class in Room 40 will continue Max Lucado’s video and discussion series called “Fearless” — overcoming fear with the Word of God. Sundays from 11am-noon. All are welcome—please join us.

For more information call Mary Aelmore, 913-631-6328.

“Feasting on the Word”

This Adult Bible Study continues Sunday mornings at 11:00 in Fellowship Hall, and follows the lectionary used in our worship service. All are welcome to join us!

Leader: Peggy Moore

New Sunday Morning Discussion Group!

On Sunday, February 16th at 11:00am, we will begin a new discussion group during the Christian Education hour. We will honor a variety of topics in this discussion group, so some days it might feel like “Sunday School,” while many days it won’t. If you are looking for a group that discusses a variety of topics and how our faith, religion, and spirituality intersects with those topics, from a variety of view-points, then this is the group for you! We will use books, news clippings & stories, movies, the Bible, and your opinions to facilitate this group.

Contact Laura at church with questions; laura@opccdoc.org or 913-677-4646, ext: 222.

From your Outreach Commission

Thanks for Giving!!

Thank you, OPCC friends. Your giving to the six 2013 special offerings was **139%** of 2012 gifts! This figure includes Week of Compassion, Easter (funding for General Ministries), Pentecost (New Church ministry), Reconciliation (anti-racism), Thanksgiving (Disciples higher education), and Christmas (Regional ministry). In addition, you responded to the Oklahoma tornadoes by filling cleanup buckets and giving **\$770.85** designated for Church World Service!

Did you know that at least **130 people** contributed countless hours of service through Outreach ministries? OPCC Food Pantry, BackSnacks, IHN, CrossLines Food Kitchen and its sack lunch program, Salvation Army Family Lodge, and Together Center all benefited from the time of these generous folks. And we know that there are many more folks who give pantry items, clothing, meals, and other forms of service. Thank you for serving as the hands and feet of Christ! Contact any of these volunteers to learn more about how YOU can help.

Together Center Closed

For many years, OPCC has helped to support the Together Center, at 10th and Forest. The Regional Board voted in December to close the building in which Together Center and First Christian of KCMO had operated. This decision was made because of a long list of deferred maintenance resulting in city citations that would have required funding from the Region. Together Center is not operating at this time. First Christian and the center have not yet announced whether they will continue meeting elsewhere, or close. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Are you planning to use
your Christmas cash gifts to
get something special?
Why not use Scrip cards?
In that way you stretch your
gift to include OPCC.
What a blessing that would be!

Your 2014 Giving Envelopes are now
available on the library counter at church.
If you do not have a box of giving envelopes
there with your name on it and you would like
one, contact Michelle Reiter in the church
office at 913-677-4646, x223,
or michelle@opccdoc.org.

 **Stewardship Green Moment**
by Jody Cash

Easy things To Do To Go Green In 2014

1. To save hundreds of gallons of water, turn off water while shaving, washing your hair, brushing your teeth, and washing dishes.
2. When you run your washer or dishwasher, make sure you have a full load. This helps conserve water.
3. You can also save energy by keeping your house well insulated and by using a programmable thermostat.
4. Another energy and money saver is to use energy efficient light bulbs.
5. Do not buy bottled water. Buy an at-home filtering pitcher and store water in a reusable container (one made of glass, aluminum, or recycled plastic). It takes 1.5 million barrels of oil per year to make bottles for bottled water. Also, you will save money by not buying the bottled water (approximately a \$1400 savings per year).
6. Brew your own Fair Trade coffee. Use a travel mug to put it in—thus reducing the waste from cardboard cups and carrying sleeves. Choose a Fair Trade blend that supports farmers. Use a French press instead of a traditional brewer in order to save electricity.
7. Take reusable bags to the store. By not using plastic bags, you reduce your carbon footprint.
8. Reduce the number of paper towels you use. Buy a few cotton cloths and cloth napkins. These can be put in the wash numerous times and will help reduce the current 3,000 tons of paper towels put in landfills every day!
9. If possible, use a bike for short trips (trips of 2 miles or less). This is a great way to increase your fitness level, reduce your carbon footprint, and save money on gas and car maintenance.
10. Be a vegetarian on weekends. You can reduce your carbon footprint by 1/3 of a ton a year by not eating meat 2 days a week. Eat fruit, salads, vegetable sandwiches, and vegetarian pizza, for example.
11. Convert magazine and newspaper subscriptions to electronic subscriptions. Also, read e-books to help cut down on paper usage.
12. Take fewer baths and take quick showers—that greatly reduces the amount of water used. A “typical bath” uses 30-70 gallons of water and an 8 minute shower uses 17 gallons of water.
13. Use a power strip so that you can shut off your computer, TV, radio, etc. at night. This saves on the use of phantom electricity.
14. Shop at local farmers’ markets. This helps the environment and the farmers. Plus, you get fresher food at a cheaper price by doing this.

The bottom line is for 2014, reuse, recycle, and reduce energy consumption.
Happy New Year!

Prayer List

Prayers of Concern

- ♥ Abby Anderson (Eric & Laura Sprinkle's niece)
- ♥ Betty Burton
- ♥ Bryan Byrd (Judy Nickum's son-in-law's father)
- ♥ Haley Elliott
- ♥ Jim Foley
- ♥ Carole Ingram
- ♥ Theresa Krebs
- ♥ Bob Marangelli (Wilma Townsend's son-in-law)
- ♥ Ann Martin
- ♥ Everett & Ina Fern McBride
- ♥ Faye McBride (Calvin McBride's sister-in-law)
- ♥ William Pittman and his sister Delene (friends of Billie Warden)
- ♥ Kelsey Poston (Tom Nelson's granddaughter)
- ♥ Josh Townsend (Wilma Townsend's grandson)
- ♥ Elizabeth Withers

Continued Prayers

- ♥ Linda Anthony
- ♥ Frances Beattie
- ♥ Margaret Bogle
- ♥ Martha Brockman
- ♥ Margo Brown
- ♥ Frances Bruning
- ♥ Lylia Bryant
- ♥ John Cobb
- ♥ Phyllis & Harvey Cooke
- ♥ Glenn (Bud) Eastwood
- ♥ Corwin Elliott
- ♥ Dave & Hazel Ginter
- ♥ Marlene & Gordon Harkness
- ♥ Lee Horton
- ♥ Wilma Huffman
- ♥ Bob & Sue Jenkins
- ♥ Dan Jenkins
- ♥ Sandy Jewers
- ♥ Dorothy Jimerson
- ♥ Mary Johnson
- ♥ Lila Jones (Chris Crowe's mother)
- ♥ Audrey & Lloyd Lavelly
- ♥ Marie Lear
- ♥ Hazel McCullough
- ♥ Shirley McGee
- ♥ Bruce McNaghten
- ♥ Tony & Florene Miele
- ♥ Wilma Nickum
- ♥ Bob Prince
- ♥ Mary Rayburn
- ♥ Belva Snell
- ♥ Dale Warden
- ♥ Miriam Warren
- ♥ Esther West

Condolences

- ♥ to Jim & Sally Withers and family on the death of Pollyanna (Toodie) Withers on December 24.

December Gifts

- A gift has been given from Wilma Townsend to the Dorothy Allen memorial.
- A gift has been given from Wilma Townsend to the Carl Kawa memorial.
- A gift has been given from Doris Hamilton to the Carl Kawa memorial.
- A gift has been given from Wilma Townsend to the Marge Foley memorial.
- A gift has been given from Evelyn Eastwood to the Marge Foley memorial.
- A gift has been given from Don & Marilyn Hamner to the Marge Foley memorial.
- A gift has been given from Dale & Gloria Knisley to the Marge Foley memorial.
- A gift has been given to the Food Pantry from Marijane Green in honor of Sgt. Stephen Green

Thank You

Dear Church Family,
we would like to thank you for all of your love and care while my mom has been convalescing. Your visits, cards, and expressions of concern have been so heartwarming, it brings tears to my eyes. No wonder I love this church community so much! Thank you!

Chris Crowe
on behalf of Lila Jones

I want to thank my friends at Overland Park Christian for the cards, visits, telephone calls, and communion during my recent accident. I'm improving more each day. I hope to see you soon. God's love to all of you.

Mary Johnson

Military Prayer List

- ✦ Stephan Aelmore (grandson of Mary Aelmore), US Navy, South Carolina
- ✦ Dustin Doree (grandson of Betty Craney), US Army, Seattle, WA
- ✦ Tiffany Doree (granddaughter of Betty Craney), US Navy, San Diego, CA
- ✦ LT Scot Engman (nephew of Monica Gfoeller McCarthy and Lawrence McCarthy), USAF, Elmendorf, Alaska
- ✦ SGT Stephen James Green (son of Marijane Green), US Marine Corps
- ✦ SPC Edward Pinkelman, Jr. (son of Ed & Kathy Pinkelman), US Army, Italy

To add persons to this list, please forward information to Michelle Reiter at michelle@opccdoc.org or 913-677-4646, x223.

The Doubting Side of Faith

Did you grow up with an affinity for the church, but now Christianity looks weary and threadbare, full of negative baggage? Do you feel like the church *could* be doing some good, but it's hard to see because of the negative you hear about "church" in general? Would you like to dive deeper into some very important topics of the day, but don't want to get caught up in single-issue arguments that fail to address some of the real issues surrounding the church? If you or someone you know needs a safe space to discuss some of your questions and doubts about the church and your faith, this is the place for you. We are continuing a discussion group for young adults and like-minded individuals, again at Homer's Coffee House (7126 W. 80th St.) on Monday, January 13 at 6:30pm. No RSVP necessary! You can go to Laura with questions, laura@opccdoc.org or ext:222 at church.

Your OPCC Staff

913-677-4646

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Your 2013-14OPCC Board of Directors

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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