

SERMON NOTES



“Dinner with Heartburn” (Luke 14:1-24)

FAMILY UPDATES

Members with health issues: Ray & Maggie Binkley, Dorothy Brown, LaFerne Caldwell, Kathleen Corns, Ernest Dean, Melva Foreman, Charles & Kathleen Holt, Cristin Martin, Sue Martin, Sherry Meadors, Letha Morris, Glenna Pickel, Michael Robison, Willie Rose, Paul Schellhorn, Cathy Sharpe, Wesley & Ann Thurman, Terry West, Marie Wilson.

Prayer Requests

Sarah Beard: chest pains and further testing to find cause.
Steve and Joanie Brock: neighbor, Tony Hodges, is very ill with an infection that has gone septic.
Dorothy Brown: diagnosed with uterine cancer.
Beckie Null: In preparation for next surgery, will need to heal without full eyesight for six months.
Wendell Scott: for overcoming discouragement and stronger faith.

Prayer Requests for Friends and Family

Kay Imhoff: mother’s terminal cancer is progressing.
Julie Kamalakis: husband, Jason Kamalakis, diagnosed recently with Bell’s Palsy.
Jeff Krosse: wife, Cheryl, for health.

Praise

Mikey Yeary: birth of new great grand baby, Gavin Morgan.

Member Updates

Marie Wilson: staying with daughter. C/O Jodi Lewis, 16602 Cliffrose, Houston, TX 77062.

Sympathy

Our hearts and prayers go out to **Richard Stufflebeam** in the loss of his niece, Dana Stufflebeam, on Nov. 23.
 Our hearts and prayers go out to the **Charlie & Mellissa Sottong Family** in the loss of Charlie’s mother, Ann Sottong.

Visitors:

You are our honored guests. Please complete a visitor’s sheet, located inside the Connection Books that will be passed during our worship service. We would also love to meet you at our Information Desk in the foyer where we can answer any questions you might have. Nursery facilities are available in the east wing of our building, and a cry room/training room with private nursing area is located in the back of the auditorium.



Giving Statements

Internal Revenue Service regulations require contributions must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2018 for them to be considered deductible donations for the 2018 tax year. If your donations were made by check or cash donations made within an envelope with your name upon it, you will receive a statement from the church office shortly after the first of the year. Please wait to file your 2018 income tax return until after you have received this statement if you are claiming charitable contributions. Statements can also be provided upon request reflecting contributions made to that date.

TODAY >

December 2, 2018



Winter ~Sunday & Wednesday Schedule~ Begins December 2 2018



Sunday — 9:15am

Wednesday — 7:00pm

General Adult (Auditorium)
1 Corinthians
 Earl Logan

Auditorium (General)
Angels and Demons
 Robert Prater

General Adult (Room 123)
Living Peace
 Steve Parker

Middle/High School (Youth Room)
 Chris & Michelle Clayton

General Adult (Room 213)
Theology from Ephesians 1
 Charles Clayton

Middle School/High School (Room 211)
 Chris Clayton
 Ty Kirkpatrick

Infants & Toddlers (107)
 Cheala Green
 Kayla Schellhorn

Infants & Toddlers (107)
 Judith Stephens
 Mary Parker
2’s & 3’s (101)
 Tammy Pittman
 Carol Lindsay

2’s & 3’s (101)
 Denise Henderson
 Teresa Logan

Pre-K, K, 1st (104)
 Emily Ratliff
 Amy Russell

Pre-K, K, 1st (104)
 Dean Still,
 Lois Cox

2nd & 3rd, 4th, 5th (217)
 Misti Babitzke, Patty VanTuyl

Sunday Elementary Rotation Classes:

Garden of Creation—218 (Kristy Snider), *Truthful Pursuits*—217 (Dana Brooks), *Cyber Journeys*—212 (Joanie Roberts), *Knowledge Seekers*—128 (Beckie Null).

Sunday Shepherds: 2nd/3rd, Yellow/Red flag (Debra Rodriguez)
 4th/5th, Green/Orange flag (Judy Ezzell)

Sunday Host: Wanda Dean



AMONG FRIENDS with Robert

“The poor you will always have with you,” Jesus said (Matthew 26:11). This is most certainly true. Our best-laid plans to abolish poverty have fallen woefully short. New York Times journalist Nicholas D. Kristof shines a spotlight on just how short our plans have fallen in his column titled, “Profiting From a Child’s Illiteracy.” His opening paragraphs are bone chilling:

This is what poverty sometimes looks like in America: parents here in Appalachian hill country pulling their children out of literacy classes. Moms and dads fear that if kids learn to read, they are less likely to qualify for a monthly check for having an intellectual disability. Many people in hillside mobile homes here are poor and desperate, and a \$698 monthly check per child from the Supplemental Security Income program goes a long way – and those checks continue until the child turns 18.

A plan that seeks to alleviate poverty in the form of Supplemental Security Income in some instances actually perpetuates it. After all, there is no immediate economic payoff for having a son or daughter learn how to read, only a potential loss. And though a myriad of statistics could be shown concerning how, over the long haul, children who enjoy solid educations early in life enjoy economic and social stability later in life, these parents can’t afford to concern themselves with “the long haul.” They’re just concerned about their next meal. And so these parents are pressed into a self-perpetuating poverty.

“The poor you will always have with you,” Jesus said. This means two things. First, it means that the sinfulness that leads to poverty will always be with us and in us, at least on this side of the Lord’s return. There will always be some people who are lazy and refuse to work, placing themselves in poverty’s grip and on the government’s dole. There will always be some people who are victims of economic injustice. There will always be some people who, because of some tragic circumstances – a devastating illness, a lost job, a natural disaster – find themselves with bills they can’t pay and a family they can’t support. Satan will continue to find delight in impoverishing people.

And yet, Jesus’ words are not only a commentary on human sinfulness, they are also a call to Christian action. For with His words, Jesus opens for us plenty of opportunities to show mercy. After all, there are hungry people for us to feed. There are naked people for us to clothe. There are hopeless people for us to encourage. There are plenty of people to which we can offer a cup of water in Jesus’ name (cf. Mark 9:41). In fact, I love how Mark records Jesus’ statement: “*The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want*” (Mark 14:27).

Jesus says, “You can help.” So let’s get to it! How and who can you help this holiday season? Maybe you can serve at a soup kitchen. Maybe you can help in our church’s Food Pantry or Clothing closet. Maybe you can purchase Christmas toys for the Contact store. Or maybe you can visit someone who is lonely. That’s your mission. That’s your calling. And, as Jesus says, you can carry out that mission “any time you want” – even beyond the holidays.

I hope you will.

-- Robert --



MINISTRY UPDATES



Children’s:

Bible Hour — available for 2&3 year-olds and 4,5&6, year-olds in our east wing. Children will be dismissed prior to the sermon.
Bible Basics — offered to students in grades 2-6 on the 1st & 2nd Sundays of each month. Rm. 128. Dismissed prior to the sermon.



Today’s Volunteers — Nursery: **Dana J. and Charlotte S.**
 2&3s Bible Hour: **Brandy S., Sydney S., and Makenzie F.**
 4&5s Bible Hour: **Carlie O., Jadah M., and Cecilia M.**
Sermon Notes for Kids: a sheet for kids to use during the sermon is provided in the Connection Books on the pew.



Food Pantry:

We can buy food at the Food Bank for \$.49 a pound. Please consider giving monetarily, using the envelopes in the pews, and place in the contribution plate. Paper sacks always needed.



Small Groups:

Group Bible Study — Led by **Keenan Meadors**. Sundays at 4pm (Except 4th Sunday) at the church building.
Life Groups — Connect / Grow / Serve. Contact an Elder, a Minister, or **Chris Clayton** to join a group. On the 4th Sunday all life groups will meet at the building at 5:00pm.



Monday Night for the Master — Mondays from 3:30pm to 6:00pm in Room 123. The water will be on for this time period.

Visitation In Person (VIP) — Mondays at 5:30pm. Short visits to visitors or friends, relatives, & neighbors of our members. Visits are an opportunity to bring encouragement, pray with them, and invite them to services and activities. Please sign up to donate cookies. For more information see, **James or Kristy Snider**.



Security:

Class ~ Louis R. Worship ~ Scott H. and Scott F.



Women’s:

Women’s Bible Study — Walking In the Light Daily. Will not meet again till January 3.
Women’s Exercise Group — Meets Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 9am in the Activity Center.

Miscellaneous:

Cocoa with the Creator: “O Holy Night” Ladies only. Dec. 8 from 2-4pm at Crosstown. Bring a mug to exchange.
LTC Collaboration Meeting: Dec. 9 immediately following morning worship. We will start with a potluck meal before meeting. Please bring a dish to share.
Holiday Mail Station: You may drop off your Christmas cards, addressed to members only, at the box tree located in the foyer (near the restrooms). Please place mail alphabetically according to last name. Member, please check your letter box weekly to pick up your mail.



Christmas Background Photos: will be offered for a donation to Contact CoC.

TODAY till 2pm in room 121. You will receive a digital copy of your image to use any way you like. Background pictured.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/8 Ladies Cocoa with the Creator
- 12/9 LTC Collaboration Meeting
- 12/25 Merry Christmas! Church office will be closed Dec. 24-Dec. 28.
- 12/30 Area-Wide End of Year Service at Crosstown.

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/2 Gracie Sottong
- 12/3 Cayden Addington
- 12/4 Rita Drummond
- 12/6 Wanda Dean & Richard Stufflebeam
- 12/8 Halle Wade

Toy Drive for Contact Church of Christ’s Christmas Store:

Take tags from tree located in foyer, purchase items listed, and return them unwrapped by Dec. 9; give a monetary donation to purchase items needed; and/or volunteer to help set up or serve at the store. See **Julie Kamalakis** if you have any questions.

Christmas Background Photos: will be offered for a donation to Contact CoC on Dec. 1 from 11am—2pm and Dec. 2 from after services till 2pm in 10 minute intervals. You will receive a digital copy of your image to use any way you like. Please text or call Julie Kamalakis at 443-983-1520 to schedule.

Student Movement (6th - 12th Grade)

Wed. Night Hang Outs ~ Wednesday nights at 6pm. Bible Class will follow at 7pm. Dec. 5 pizza will be provided by **Sandy Angelo**.

Tulsa Area-Wide Devotional: Dec. 9 “An Experience in Advent” at BA CoC. Bring 2 pair of any type of new socks (fuzzy, cute, sport, etc). Van leaves at 4:00pm and returns at 7:30pm.

Youth Christmas Mystery Dinner at the Dresser Mansion: “Who Stole the Silver Bells” Dec. 16 at 5pm—7pm Please look up character list on our website, Facebook page, or youth room bulletin board and RSVP with your top 3 choices to Misti Babitzke @ 918-289-743. See **Maggie Prater** if you can help with food preparation.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Sunday
 Bible Class 9:15 am
 Worship 10:15 am
Wednesday
 Bible Class 7:00 pm

CONTACT US VIA EMAIL
 > info@crosstownfamily.org

GIVE TO CROSSTOWN ONLINE
 > www.crosstownfamily.org/donate

PLEASE VISIT US ONLINE
 > www.crosstownfamily.org

- WHERE YOU WILL FIND**
- Info on events & ministries
 - Our roster of elders & staff
 - Sermon audio & other resources

CHURCH INFORMATION

3400 East Admiral Place
 Tulsa, OK 74115-8227
 Phone: 918-834-1395

CHURCH STATS

Sunday, November 25

Bible Class Total	129
Worship Total	220
Weekly Budget	\$9,300
Contribution	\$7,892
Contribution YTD	\$411,626
Budget YTD	\$437,100
Difference	(\$25,474)

Wednesday, November 28

Bible Class	102
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