

SERMON NOTES



FAMILY UPDATES

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

Prayer Requests

Dorothy Brown: diagnosed with uterine cancer, surgery will be scheduled after some further tests have been done.
Ann Shoefstall: recently hospitalized, health issues.

Prayer Requests for Friends and Family

Joanie Brock: cousin, Wanda Baker, facing struggles since she moved to Tulsa and health issues.
Kenna Fields: sister, Helen Cannefax, surgery on vocal cords, Dr. John Cox for cancer, and friend, Wanda Wiley, surgery.
Helen Troy: (former member) moved to long term specialized intensive care at another hospital.

Thank You

Thanks for praying and sending me all of the beautiful cards and letters. I am working to get stronger everyday and hope to be back with you all soon!
Much Love, **Marie Wilson**
Thank you so very much for the arrangement of lilies and pink roses. They were beautiful. You all have meant so very much to our mother over the years. She enjoyed the many cards she received from you when she was no longer able to attend services. Thank you so much for remembering her. With Love, The family of **Dessie Rock**

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 23, 2018



Join us!
7pm until Midnight!
Fellowship with your Church Family!

There will be some planned group events for all ages (Selfie Scavenger Hunt, craft table, Bunko, and Minute to Win It, and other games). There will be **PRIZES!** Bring your favorite games and finger foods and hang out in the Activity Center. A sign up sheet available in the foyer.

If your kiddos want to help out for Service Challenge with LTC, please call **Kristy Snider**.





AMONG FRIENDS with Robert

“And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ, the Lord” (Luke 2:8-11).

Let’s imagine for a moment that this most famous of all birth announcements and the birth of Jesus Christ happened not 2,000 years ago but instead took place just last night. What sort of media coverage do you suppose the story would receive? How would the news headlines read? Would they be positive or negative? Would it be met with jubilation or cynicism? The news would certainly be trending on Twitter, your Facebook feed would be filling up with grainy phone video of glowing hillsides recorded by eyewitnesses, the internet would be blowing up with opinion pieces, and the talk radio shows would be inundated with calls from believers, sceptics, and deniers alike. You would then turn on your television to see the appropriately serious news anchors of all the major news networks sitting at their news desks, nodding to the breathless reporter who has just concluded their interview with a shepherd from “live on the scene at Bethlehem” and then turn to their assembled panel of supposed experts for discussion and banter.

You have to wonder what conclusion would be drawn by the viewing audience. Could an incredible story about angelic messengers, a virgin birth and the coming of a long-awaited savior possibly be a factual event? Or would it simply be dismissed as just another story on an ever-increasing pile of “Fake News”?

Of course in today’s increasingly hostile political climate there is a constant battle being waged over what is or isn’t fake news. The net result for the general public left trying to discern truth from falsehood is that it becomes increasingly skeptical and doubtful of almost everything and everyone. In short – we just don’t know what or who we can believe anymore.

Now before we overly lament the sad state of affairs today, it helps to be reminded that this is far from a new phenomenon. In fact, first century Israel was in a far more politically volatile climate than our own. Between the iron fist of Roman occupation, the maniacal King Herod, the violent Jewish Zealots, and the ruling Jewish religious class—there were plenty of competing voices telling the people what to believe. It’s no surprise that the first century Jews were often just as skeptical and cynical about what they were told as we are today. Of course, having a skeptical mindset in these circumstances is entirely understandable, but the downside of it is that people can become so distrustful of everything and everyone that they often end up rejecting the truth even when it’s right in their face.

That is exactly what happened to Israel with the arrival of their long awaited Messiah. For though they had been looking and waiting for Him for thousands of years, John 1:10-11 tells us: “He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.”

Now while it’s incredibly easy to criticize Israel for the fatal mistake of rejecting their own Messiah – we must also ask ourselves—is our nation guilty of making the same fatal mistake right now? Do we still recognize the Savior of the world and believe that the supernatural birth of Jesus Christ was a factual event? Or in our skepticism and cynicism and intellectual arrogance have we relegated the most important event in history into the category of “Fake News”? If so, we need to examine our thinking, tune out all the other clamoring voices and listen again to the only completely reliable source of truth which is the Word of God. And God’s Word tells us that though Israel missed their Savior, we don’t have to make the same mistake. “Yet to all who received him, to those who believed on his name, he gave the right to become children of God.” (John 1:12)

From our family to yours, have a Merry Christmas! -- 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: **Alice R. and Judith C.**

2&3s Bible Hour: **No Bible Hour TODAY.**

4&5s Bible Hour: **No Bible Hour TODAY.**

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 Dec 24 & Dec. 30) 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. **Will not meet 12/24 or 12/31.**

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. **Will not meet 12/24 or 12/31.**



Security:

Class ~ **Louis R. Worship** ~ **James H. and Barry C.**

Women’s:

Women’s Bible Study — Walking In the Light Daily. **Will not meet again till January 3.**



Miscellaneous:

Holiday Mail Station: Members, please pick up your mail.

Combined 4th Sunday Life Group: Tonight at 5pm.

Bible Hour Volunteers: New schedules are being formed for new year. Please let **Misti** and **Emily** know if you would like to join team &/or inform us of week-ends you will be out of town for January-March.

Supplies for new Haiti Preaching School Students: We are collecting donations to supply bed lines, pillows, and towels to the next round of students to the Cap Haitian, Haiti School of Preaching. We have been able to do this in the past and have had association with the Haiti School of Preaching dating back to 2001 and earlier. There will be 12 students. We are looking to raise about \$800 (about \$65 per student) to cover the cost of the supplies, shipping, and customs. Items will be ordered together online and shipped directly. Please give donations to **Steve** or **Mary Parker**.

Wednesday, December 26: No Bible Classes. We will all worship together in the Auditorium.

Church Office Closed: December 24-December 29. If you need to speak to a Minister or Elder, please contact them directly.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/25 Merry Christmas! Church office will be closed Dec. 24-Dec. 28.
- 12/30 Area-Wide End of Year Service at Crosstown.
- 12/31 New Years Eve Party

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/23 Dave Durand, Ann Thurman
- 12/24 Eve Beard, Pat Wells
- 12/26 Amy Russell
- 12/29 Julie Wade
- 1/4 Worley Holmes, Christian Wright
- 1/5 Charlotte Schellhorn



LTC student forms are due. We will begin forming teams and getting coaches based on interests of our students. See foyer for additional forms

Student Movement (6th - 12th Grade)

Wed. Night Hang Outs ~ Wednesday nights at 6pm. Bible Class will follow at 7pm. Meal provided by **Sandy Angelo** on Jan. 2. Snacks provided by **Maggie Prater** on Jan. 16. Pizza provided by **April Meadors** on Jan. 30.
Tulsa Area-Wide Devotional: January 13. “Experiencing the Cross” at Glenpool CoC. Van leaves at 4:00pm and returns at 7:30pm.
Save the Dates: Church Camp (June 2-8); Mission Trip (June 16-22); and VBS (July 14-17)



Water has been restored!

Our waterlines have been replaced coming into our building. Thank you for being understanding during this major project. A pat on the back to **Tom Schellhorn** and **Chuck Clayton** for turning the water off and on for several weeks and meeting with contractors.

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, December 16, 2018

Bible Class Total	147
Worship Total	220
Weekly Budget	\$9,300
Contribution	\$9,187
Contribution YTD	\$440,833
Budget YTD	\$465,000
Difference	(\$24,167)

Wednesday, December 19

Bible Class	N/A
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