

SERMON NOTES



Finishing Strong (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

- *How do you finish strong?*

1. Our life is not our _____

- 2 Tim. 4:6; Romans 12:1; Luke 9:23-24

2. Our life is not meant to be _____

- 2 Tim. 3:12; 4:7; 2 Cor. 11:25-28
- Psalm 90:10; Philippians 3:13-14

3. Our life will be _____

- 2 Timothy 4:8; Col. 1:21-23;

- *Finish to the _____ of God!*

FAMILY UPDATES

Members with health issues: Larry Addington, Ray Binkley, LaFerne Caldwell, Kathleen Corns, Ernest Dean, Mary-Anne Dye, Juanita Farmer, Charles & Kathleen Holt, Lynn Hoppes, Terry Howard, Barbara Lakey, Sherry Meadors, Carole Medina, Leon Mills, Beckie Null, Glenna Pickel, Boone Roberts, Michael Robison, Willie Rose, Paul Schellhorn, Ann Thurman, Terry West, Mikey Yeary

Prayer Requests

Joanie Brock: mother, Vivian Lambert, complications with cataract surgery
Tammy Brown: healing from pneumonia
Judith Carter: fell and broke hip; at PAM Rehabilitation Hospital Room 2025
Rita Drummond: great grandson, Ryland, upcoming surgeries in December
Kay Imhoff: brother's recovery from surgery
Emily Ratliff: aunt, Tommie Drullinger, blood cancer
Boone Roberts: gastrointestinal health; Mayo Clinic appointment December 17
Shirlene Roberson: pneumonia
Charlotte Schellhorn: sister-in-law, Katrina Holt, hospitalized for necrotic pancreatitis
Judith Stephens: daughter, Sarah, healing from surgery

Please Continue to Pray for Our Missionaries:

Lopez Family - Bogota, Colombia
Carreno Family - Santa Marta, Colombia
Austin Family - Phoenix, Arizona
Saint-Amour Family - Milot, Haiti
Pabillon Family - Talisay, Philippines

Thank You

We want to thank the church for your cards and prayers during the passing of my father and Miracle's grandfather. We were showered with cards. Love, **Darnella and Miracle Dean**

Dear Friends, thank you for your donation of empty medication bottles. Thank you so much for your loving support of the poor. **Diana Diaz on behalf of Neighbor for Neighbor**

Invitations

MoMENTum Men's Conference: Spiritual Transformation January 18, 2020 at Southwest Church of Christ in OKC. For more information see momentum-okc.org



Giving Statements

Internal Revenue Service regulations require contributions must be received or postmarked no later than Dec. 31, 2019 for them to be considered deductible donations for the 2019 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 2019 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 8, 2019



Holiday Mail Station Is Back!

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. Members, please check your letter box frequently to pick up your mail.

O Come Let Us

Adore Him



*Special Christmas Devotional
Wednesday, December 25
From 7pm to 8pm*

Join your church family for a special Christmas devotional in room 123. Wear a Christmas sweater if you have one. We will sing Christmas songs, hear a message from God's holy scriptures, and devote ourselves to fellowship and to the breaking of (ginger) bread and to prayer. Sign up in the foyer with the dessert your family will bring. Coffee and homemade eggnog will be provided.



AMONG FRIENDS with Robert

The Christian education in many churches and homes teaches *the stories* found in scripture. We are introduced to individual stories, or lots of them anyway (there are hundreds of individual stories and smaller episodes in scripture), along with dozens of the main characters.

But too often what we don't know is THE story. The Bible isn't just a collection of great stories (and it is!), it is primarily *a story* that has a beginning, middle, and an end. For instance, it's easy to teach about David who killed Goliath as a wily kid but do we also remember he was the same David who grew up to become King of Israel? Do we remember to tell David's whole story, or just stories about him. Only in seeing the whole story can the single stories about David be transformed from stories about heroes to THE story of God redeeming people. This is not just about David, but the entire Bible: it tells one story, *the story of God's interaction with His people*.

What's truly astonishing about the Bible is not that it is just one story. The most fantastic feature of the Bible is that it proves to be *our story*. We are characters in the ongoing story of God reconciling the world to Himself. We are invited to participate in the greatest story ever lived and join in the unfolding plan of God. Some have likened "God's story" to a play in 6 Acts:

- Act 1: Creation** – God Makes an Amazing World for Humanity
- Act 2: Sin** – Human Rebellion and the Ruin of God's World
- Act 3: Promise** – God's Plan for all Humanity through Israel
- Act 4: Redemption** – God is the Ultimate Deliverer
- Act 5: Church** – A People Called for God's Purposes
- Act 6: Renewal** – God Lives with Humanity Forever

So, how does Scripture function in the Christian life? It invites us in to God's story, to see ourselves and our own lives as the story of the people of God. My story, our story, is God's story! The late New Testament scholar, William Neil, said it this way: "*Choose God's Story as your own. Out of all the ways of understanding who we are and why we are, we choose the Story of how God has been loving and drawing us through Jesus Christ. This story now defines our identity and our way of looking at the world.*" ("God's Story, Our Story", p. 112)

When we see God's story as our own, the Bible begins to read and interpret us. This is the story that reveals us as we truly are, and as we were from the beginning intended to be. Likewise, this story reveals the world as it truly is, and as it is intended to be. In other words, it becomes our guide and source book. It no longer describes the actions and beliefs of people back then. Instead it describes the actions and beliefs of *us today*.

Your story has power! And it needs to be acknowledged, celebrated, and told. God has been present with you since before you were born. Since the time family, vocation, location, faith, conflict, struggle, pain, and joy formed you to be the person of God you are today. Storytelling is a way to deepen and strengthen your own faith. Story-telling (what some call testimonies) can be a spiritual and formative practice for us. But I also believe that your story will strengthen and bless the people who hear it. Faith, and how God meets us in life, is contagious and spreads to others who need faith to see God at work in their own lives.

This is why I'm so excited about our new Winter quarter of adult Bible classes both on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. On Sunday morning all the adult classes are studying "*The Bible in Six Acts*." The Wednesday night study will then complement those classes in what we're calling "*Intermission: Our Place in God's Story*." This Wednesday night class will be a mixture of traditional teaching, member testimonies, and a panel format.

So I hope you are looking forward to hearing stories from some in our faith family about how they have experienced being part of God's great redemptive story! It's an opportunity to learn about what God's been up to over the last couple thousand years, and where we fit into the plan. May you be filled with joy as you enter God's story as your own!

-- 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 2nd-5th grades on 1st and 2nd Sundays of each month. Dismissed prior to the sermon to Rm. 128.



Today's Volunteers — Nursery: **Alice R. and Jackie S.**
 2&3s Bible Hour: **Ashton B., Haley B., and Brandy S.**
 4&5s Bible Hour: **Missy S., Matthias C., and Christian M.**
Sermon Notes for Kids: a sheet for kids to use during the sermon is provided in the Connection Books on the pew or at the back of the auditorium.



Food Pantry:

Our pantry is extremely low on some products. This month we would like **Soup and Tuna**. We are unable to purchase these items at the main Food Bank. Please donate by placing by the food pantry door or in a basket in the kitchen.



Small Groups:

Group Bible Study — Led by **Keenan Meadors**. Sundays at 4pm 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. Write notes of encouragement to members and guests. Bring a dish and stay for a potluck meal at 4:45pm.
Visitation In Person (VIP) — Mondays at 5:00pm. Visits to visitors or friends, relatives, shut-ins, and neighbors of our members.



Security:

Class ~ Louis R. Worship ~ Gene A. and Jason K.



Bible Study:

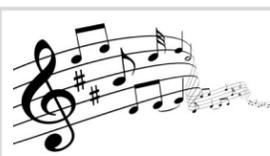
Women's Bible Study — *Walking In the Light Daily*. Thursdays at 9:30am in Room 123.
Men's Bible Study — Saturdays at 9:00am in Room 123.

Miscellaneous:

Martha's Club: January 11 at 9am . Open to all youth girls and women. We will be preparing individual meals (frozen) for our senior members. Please see flyer and sign up to attend in the foyer. This will be a quarterly event. See flyer for items that we need.
Contact Christmas Store: Today is the last day to bring unwrapped toys or give monetary donations to purchase toys for families in need. Put toys in Room 126. See **Julie Kamalakis** if you have any questions.



Christmas Caroling: December 22, 3pm-5pm. This is for anyone who wants to go out and sing Christmas Carols to our shut-ins. Meet in room 122 at the building.



Area Wide End of Year Singing: December 29 at 29th & Yale Church of Christ at 5pm. Join other Tulsa area Churches of Christ for a night to lift up one heart and one voice in praise to God.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 12/22 Christmas Caroling
- 12/29 Tulsa Area End of Year Singing at 29th & Yale
- 12/31 New Year's Eve Party

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/8 Halle Wade
- 12/10 Juanita Farmer
- 12/11 Jean King & Elizabeth Sanders
- 12/12 Remi Mainprize, Debra Rodriguez & Ernest Dean
- 12/14 Shirley Buchanan & Olive Suf-ridge

Sunday Mornings at 9:15am



Crosstown Youth Ministry (6th - 12th Grade)

Sunday Night Live (Tulsa Area Wide:) Today from 4:30pm -7:00pm. Join us for worship, fellowship, and games at Broken Arrow. Bring a White Elephant Gift. Van leaves at 4pm and returns at 7:30pm.
Wed. Night Hangtime: Wednesday nights at 6pm. Bible Class will follow at 7pm. Meal will be provided by **Carrie Clayton** on December 11.
Kick Back at Hacks: Friday, December 13, from 7pm - 10:30pm at the building. Bring \$5 for the cost of supplies; Girls bring a 2 liter of soda and Boys bring a bag of chips or cookies. Bring a friend at no additional cost. We will be building toys for our gift exchange at our Christmas Party.
Christmas Party: December 15 from 5pm-8pm at the home of the Prater's. Soups and Chili will be provided. Parents, see **Maggie Prater** if you would like to help with food.
Martha's Club: January 11 at 9am. Youth girls sign up in the foyer.

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 CROSTOWN 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 1, 2019

Bible Class Total	115
Worship Total	205
Weekly Budget	\$9,500
Contribution	\$8,744
Contribution YTD	\$430,589
Budget YTD	\$456,000
Difference	(\$25,412)

Wednesday, December 4

Bible Class	83
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