



CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Be sure to mark your calendars for two special worship services on Sunday, December 18th.

In the 9:00 am service we will celebrate the season with our Christmas Cantata, "Invitation to a Miracle," by Joseph M. Martin. We will have approximately 30 people singing the wonderful news of the Christmas story.

At the 11:15 am service, the Praise team will share seasonal favorites including "Christmas Eve, Sarajevo" and "God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman."

We hope you will plan to come enjoy these musical gifts of the season!

UNIFIED SERVICES

In addition to being Christmas Day, Sunday December 25th is Sweater Sunday. There will be a single, Unified Service at 10:45 am. Come sing some carols with us in your favorite Christmas sweater, or whatever casual attire you prefer. Sunday School classes will not meet.

On Sunday, January 1st, we will again have a single, Unified Service at 10:45. Pastor Jean Scott Gauldin will be preaching this day. Sunday School classes will not meet.

ADVENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Upcoming Events for Season of Advent:

- 12/18: Christmas Cantata - 9:00 am
- 12/18: Special Music service - 11:15 am
- 12/19: Blue Christmas Service - 7:00 pm
- 12/22: Advent Coloring Day - 10:00 am - 1:00 pm
- 12/24: Traditional Christmas Eve Worship - 6:00 pm
- 12/24: Reflective Christmas Eve Worship - 11:00 pm
- 12/25: Sweater Sunday Unified Worship - 10:45 am
- 1/08: Epiphany Party and Chili Cook-Off - 5:30 pm

THANK YOU, SOUTHERN HILLS!

Final figures are in for this year's Alternative Christmas. Again, SHCC, thank you for your generosity!

Cards and Donations for 16 Non-profit Agencies	\$4,035
Fair Trade Gift Items	\$1,574
Jamaica Mission Brunch	\$306
DW Bake Sale for Disciple Mission Fund	\$250

IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER

If bad weather on a Sunday morning threatens cancellation of the worship services, a decision will be made by 7:30 am and the word will go out in several ways. Information on church closings will be reported on the local news stations. The information will also be posted on the SHCC website

and Facebook page. If bad weather is in the forecast, look to one of these sources to see if we will have services as scheduled. If it is determined that worship will occur as scheduled, please use your own good judgment about attending, taking into account the weather conditions and your own mobility.



ADVENT COLORING DAY

As Christmas draws closer, the frenzy of shopping, to-do lists, and activities increase. When Christmas arrives, we often find ourselves worn out and ready to get back to a normal routine. If we get to Christmas and are so exhausted from *getting ready* for Christmas,



then we haven't really done the work of Advent. Advent is a time of joyful anticipation, waiting and preparing for the arrival of the Christ Child. Meditation is one way that we can enrich our Advent journey. We would like to invite you to join us for an active

meditation, or moving meditation. Active meditation is very easy to practice. You simply chose a simple movement like, drawing, walking or even coloring to give you stronger focus. The repetitive motions act as a constant reminder to shift your attention back to the meditation.

Come and take a break from the busyness of the holidays to join us as we meditate on the Advent season and the coming of the Christ child.

Advent Coloring Day
All Ages Welcome
SHCC Gathering Area
Thursday, December 22nd
10 am – 1:00 pm (Come and Go)

There will be coloring pages, crayons, markers, and colored pencils. You are also welcome to bring your own supplies. We will also have some cookies, cider, and hot chocolate to share. Come rest, renew, and COLOR!

Liturgists are needed for January and February. There is a sign up sheet in the Gathering Area near the front office window.

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY EVENTS

Thank-you to everyone who helped with our Drama Team's performance of **"Stories of Christmas"** as it was a great success! The Team worked hard all semester leading up to their show, and they did wonderfully! Janna Carr directed the show for the 9th year running, and Kara and Morgan Gregory were prop-masters extraordinaire! Chuck Marshall, as always, was our go-to guy for all things sound and tech. Thank-you to families for supporting their aspiring thespians and to our congregation for their love and support.

Our Angel Choir also performed, and they put on quite the show! Thank-you to Laura Petersen and Kara Gregory for their love and patience in leading the littles this year, and thank-you to Carolyn Lamiell

and Kat Marcha for their help and support each week in music class!

There are several **Advent and Christmas dates** that we would love to have our children and youth attend this year!

- Sunday, 18th: Cantata and Music Sunday in both worship services
- Monday, 19th: Blue Christmas - This is a lovely worship experience for any who are experiencing a difficult time this Christmas season
- Thursday, 22nd: Advent Coloring Day! This will be a time of fun and relaxation for people of all ages!
- Saturday, 24th: Our two Christmas Eve services
- Sunday, 25th: Sweater Sunday! (Combined worship, no Sunday school)

AMBER BROOKS
343-4195 (CELL); 341-0766 (OFFICE)
AMBER@SOUTHERNHILLSCHRISTIAN.ORG

WE HOPE TO SEE YOU ALL THROUGHOUT THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Blue Christmas Service

Monday, December 19th, 7:00 pm

A special introspective worship service for those who are looking for a break from the "busyness" of the season. This service is also for those who find the holidays difficult due to loss and sadness. This service gives worshipers a chance to find a quiet place to reflect, meditate, and worship. A reception will follow in the Gathering area.

EPIPHANY PARTY & CHILI COOK-OFF

Mark your calendars now for the 5th Annual Epiphany Party & Chili Cook-off. It's time to start fine-tuning your new (or old) chili recipes in preparation for the time-honored, tradition of the Chili Cook-off. Do you have what it takes to join the elite ranks of past winners **Roger Hellwege** (2013), **Rolly Cowperthwaite** (2014), **Brent McClain** (2015) and defending champion, **Barbara Mahoney** (2016)?



Come Join us on January 8th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for an evening of fun, food and festivities. Cook and compete, or just come to eat!

Were you the lucky recipient of a Dirty Santa gift? Do you have Christmas gifts that you plan to [regift](#)? If you would like to donate items for game/door prizes, contact the front office.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Christ Caring for People through People

You ask, "What is Stephen Ministry?" It is a way our congregation can provide high-quality care and outreach to hurting people in the congregation and community. We are congregational members who have gone through 50 hours of training to provide one-to-one, Christ - centered care. Each minister is matched with a hurting person - men are paired with men, women with women - and meets weekly with that person to listen, care, pray, and encourage.

Stephen Ministers care for those dealing with grief, divorce, job loss, hospitalization, financial struggles, loneliness, convalescence, terminal illness, and many other life difficulties.

If you fit into one of these categories, please contact Jenny or Sandy Jehle and it will kept in the strictest of confidence. We are here to be of assistance to all.

BOOKS CLOSING ON DECEMBER 27TH!

Due to the holidays and vacation days, the church books will close by noon on December 27th this year. The church office is closed on December 26, but anything received by noon on the 27th will be included on your 2016 record of giving. This deadline gives time to run giving reports so that you will receive them in a timely fashion. Any gifts received

after that date will be credited to 2017 giving. I apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Please call me if you have questions or concerns.

Suellen Caywood
Office Administrator
405-341-0766

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE



6:00 pm Traditional Service - 11:00 pm Reflective Service

DISCIPLE WOMEN

Activities for December:

- **Disciple Women Fidelity Group** - Tuesday, December 20th - Luncheon at 11:00 am at Vintage Garden's Clubhouse. We will make gift bags.

STAFF CHRISTMAS BONUS

Christmas is on its way and now is the time to think about Christmas bonuses for our wonderful staff. If you would like to contribute to that fund, put your gift in the offering plate and note that it is for the Staff Christmas Bonus. Gifts may be made through Sunday, December 18th. Let's show our staff how very much we appreciate them and all the work they do throughout the year!

Myrna Ranney
Leadership Council Moderator

CARE PACKAGE

Susie Park's son Randy, is currently on his fourth tour in Iraq. The Park/Milner family has been gathering items together for a care package to send to Randy and his fellow soldiers in Iraq. If you would like to help

with the \$36.00 postage cost to mail the package, please contact Susie at 657-2387 or see her on Sunday at church.

2016 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas offering is an opportunity to support regional ministries through the work of the Christian Church in Oklahoma. Our regional staff and volunteer board work to support and encourage clergy and congregations in our state, provide educational and leadership resources, help congregations searching for a new pastor, and provide pastoral care in times of crisis. SHCC adults and youth have participated in regional camps, retreats and conferences, the yearly International Affairs Seminar and the Leadership Training School. A number of our members have served on the regional staff, the regional board or a



regional committee at one time or another. This offering will be received on Sunday, December 18, and will help further our ministries in Oklahoma and beyond.

LEADERSHIP COUNCIL NEWS

Your 2016 Leadership Council wishes to thank you all for your support this year and for your participation in the various ministries, fellowship, learning, and service opportunities that have been offered here at SHCC. It is good that we work and socialize and study together. We know that you will continue to be supportive of the new Council in their work in 2017.

This second year of our journey of living into our Ministry Covenant and governing by consensus has been a good one for Southern Hills in many ways. We continue to do well in living out our four core values of worship, service to others, deepening spirituality, and koinonia. We have had meaningful worship—traditional, contemporary, unified, and special services. We have continued to serve others in a myriad of ways. Our various Sunday school classes

and other learning opportunities helped keep us growing in our faith. We have gotten to know each other better through the Connections Groups and Dinners for 8.

We have begun and completed a number of property projects (see earlier Leadership Council News or the Council minutes for details), the latest of which is the result of an ad hoc committee that studied, cleaned up, and made recommendations about our current storage space. That committee has recommended installing: 1) a lift for getting boxes and tubs in and out of the attic; and 2) new, safer attic stairs. The Memorials, Bequests, and Endowment Committee has okayed the use of some of Squire and Ida MaeLuttrell's bequest for this project and the profits from the 50th Anniversary Cookbook will go toward that expense as

well.

We would remind you that as we begin 2017, the Leadership Council meetings will continue to be open to anyone who would like to attend. And, until we can have the minutes available on the website, they will continue to be available in the church office. You are welcome to read the minutes any time the office is open.

If you have suggestions or concerns regarding the Council and its work, beginning January 1, you may contact Darrin Hill, Moderator, or Pat Fennell, Vice Moderator.

Best wishes to all of you and your families for a Christmas season and a New Year grounded in the love and peace of God and the joy and hope of Jesus.

The 2016 Leadership Council

HO! HO! HO!

One Christmas, Joe and Peter built a skating rink in the middle of a field. A shepherd leading his flock decided to take a shortcut across the rink. The sheep, however, were afraid of the ice and wouldn't cross it. Desperate, the shepherd began tugging them to the other side. 'Look at that,' remarked Peter to Joe, 'That guy is trying to pull the wool over our ice!'

Maria went to the Post Office to buy stamps for her Christmas cards.

'What denomination?' asked the clerk.

'Oh! Good heavens! Have we come to this?' said Maria, 'Well give me 50 Methodist and 50 Presbyterian ones please.'

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St Peter and Saint Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father John was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing

away the figures when he noticed the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father John turned towards the vicarage in order to call the police. But as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father John walked up to Harry and said, 'Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?'

Harry replied honestly, 'I took him from the church, Father John.'

'And why did you take him?'

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, 'Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.'

Southern Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



*Spirituality
Koinonia
Serving Others
Worship*

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Website: www.southernhillschristian.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Service Times

Sunday 9:00 am - Traditional Service

Sunday 10:15 am - Sunday School

Sunday 11:15 am - Contemporary Service

Sunday 3:30 pm - Communion at Bradford Village

IMPORTANT DATES

- 12/18: Christmas Cantata - 9:00 am
- 12/18: Special Music service - 11:15 am
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- 12/24: Traditional Christmas Eve Worship - 6:00 pm
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SHCC STAFF

Senior Minister:	Rev. Jenny Wynn
Minister of Congregational Care:	Pastor Jean Scott Gaudin
Interim Dir. Children's Ministries:	Amber Brooks
Director of Youth Ministries:	Amber Brooks
Choir Director:	Andrea Hanson
Contemp. Worship Music Dir:	Jeanise Morton
Business Administrator:	Suellen Caywood
Dir. of Communications & Tech:	Chuck Marshall
Accompanist:	Bryant Rains
Nursery Coordinator:	Valerie White
CDC Director:	Carolyn Lamiell

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School 12/04	86
9:00 AM Worship 12/04	125
11:15 AM Worship 12/04	42
Total Worship 12/04	167
Sunday School 12/11	71
9:00 AM Worship 12/11	132
11:15 AM Worship 12/11	43
Total Worship 12/11	177

PRAYERS

Please hold in your prayers:

Dorothy Messenger; Mona Baird; Barb Livingston; Valerie White; Kelly Johnson and daughter Breanna Swanson; John Wallace; Bryant Rains' sister, Stephany; Alice Smith; Herb Wootten; Maureen Stickle; Kim Brown and her in-laws; Randy Park; Jeanne Parson; Carmen Larger; John Huntman; Gail MacClain; Howard & Nancy Wise; Ed Huston; Jane Collier; Lynda Deibel; Russ & Carolyn Wagner Bark; Ann & Dennie Hall; Ginger Walker; Denise Hill; Dave Whelan; Jo Kirtley