



## PUMPKINS ARRIVE OCTOBER FIRST!

Pumpkins Arrive October 1st, which is also the day we begin our pumpkin sales. Please make plans to join us for a fun afternoon of pumpkin unloading. Pizza and bottled water will be provided. As usual,



the Boy Scouts of Troop 79 will be here to lend a helping hand.

If you have not yet signed up for a shift in the pumpkin patch, see Kurt Sampley or Cindy Treadway on Sunday in the Gathering Area to get involved. They will be signing people up before and after services. During the week, you may also call Chuck in the front office (341-0766) to schedule a shift. Shifts are available from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm, 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm, and 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

Funds raised from the sale of pumpkins go to support Habitat for Humanity, Oklahoma Central Christian Camp in Guthrie, SHCC Disciples Men, and SHCC Children and Youth Ministries.

## WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

**Disciple Women's Charity Group** meets Thursday, September 21 at 1:30 pm in the Chapel. They will be working on a project for the Infant Crisis Center.

**WOW Lunch** resumes Wednesday, September 27. Will meet at 12:30 pm for lunch at Jo's Famous Pizza, 900 S. Kelly Ave, Edmond, OK 73003. All ladies are invited.

**Disciple Women's Hope Group** meets Monday, October 2 at 7:00 pm at the home of Marilyn Walters. We will be making "no-sew" blankets for Infant Crisis Center.

## ORVIS RISNER SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

A great big THANK-YOU to everyone who has brought school supplies so far this month for our supply drive! We have already "filled the bus" up once! You all have responded to the call with 35 spiral notebooks, 300 cap erasers, 100 glue sticks, 24 pairs of scissors, 36 packs of crayons, 136 pencils, and more!

If you haven't yet brought your supply donation, never fear! We

are collecting for the entire month of September! Feel free to bring anything on the list, but some items that we need more of are:

- Sharpened pencils (Ticonderoga requested)
- Tissues
- Dry Erase Markers
- Hand Sanitizer
- Pencil bags/boxes
- Playdough
- Pocket Folders
- Highlighters

Again, please feel free to bring any items on the list! If you would like to make a monetary donation, please leave it with Suellen, Chuck, or Amber and mark your checks Orvis Risner in the memo line. Thank-you for all of your generosity, the students and faculty of Orvis are very appreciative! Now, let's see how many more times we can fill the bus!

# FAMILY LIFE

## FUN & FELLOWSHIP

Fun & Fellowship has started back up! We have made a few changes to the program, but we still need your help! We need helpers for Bible Study and for Recreation time. Sign up for one week or more! <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48aaaf28a5f58-funfellowship>

## C.H.A.O.S.

CHAOS, our youth group meetings for 6th-12th graders, is in full swing! We meet Sundays, from 6-8pm in the Youth Room. We do not serve a meal, but do snacks instead! If you would like to provide the snack for our meetings, please contact Amber.

## CAIR-OK BYSTANDER INTERVENTION TRAINING: STEP UP, SPEAK UP, TAKE ACTION

Saturday, September 23rd, 5-8 pm Join CAIR Oklahoma, Surayya Anne Foundation OKC, and our special guest Zahra Billoo, Executive Director of CAIR-SFBA as we teach you how to safely intervene in the event you witness a hate crime or bias incident!

This training will equip you with tools to protect a victim of harassment without escalating a volatile situation. You will learn the principles behind safe

and proactive intervention and have the chance to practice the techniques you learn. We will also discuss some ideas about larger solutions to stop incidents of violence before they start. The training is intended for anyone aged 15+ - no prior training is required.

**Amber will be attending this event. If you have a youth that is interested in attending, please let Amber know by Friday, 22nd.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- 10/01 - Pumpkin Truck #1 (no CHAOS)
- 10/08 - Youth in Pumpkin Patch, 5-7pm shift
- 10/15 - Children's Sabbath
- 10/15 - Pumpkin Truck #2
- 10/25 - Worship in the Patch
- Wednesday 18th: Fun & Fellowship Halloween Costume Party
- Sunday 22nd: (Fall Break Sunday: No CHAOS)
- Wednesday 25th: Worship in the Patch (no Fun & Fellowship)
- Thursday 26th: CHAOS in the Patch (youth work the 5-7 shift)
- Sunday 29th: Trunk-or-Treat (no CHAOS)

## THANK YOU!

Dear Southern Hills,  
I would like to thank you all for your kind and thoughtful wishes and prayers for Dad during his illness. When He came to the dinner a few weeks ago, he was so touched by the kind words and hugs. So were Bob, Karl and I. Thank you for caring for our Dad as much as we do.

In Christian Love,  
Susan Glass

Dear Southern Hills,  
Thank you for keeping Tam Gray in your Prayers. She is Dad's (Don Hirsch) caregiver. Her surgery went well. Cancer was found, but the doctors feel that a recurrence are slim. She felt certain that the prayers of Southern Hills helped her recovery. She would like you to know that she appreciated all the thoughts and prayers. She is doing very well.

In Christian Love,  
for Tam Gray, Susan Glass

## FEEDING THE HUNGRY

All of us know that it's hard to walk into any event at SHCC without something to eat being served. We enjoy this, of course, but the last few months SHCC members have been busy helping to feed the less fortunate also. First, in July two SUV loads of food and hygiene supplies were collected for HOPE Center. Then, in August many hands worked to

prepare and serve a meal to over 75 people at Refuge Fellowship. Finally, last week a hardy group of members went to volunteer at the Regional Food Bank, filling bags with food for their Backpacks for Kids program. The outreach committee would like to thank all of you for sharing what you have so generously!



# ON THE PATH

On September 10th, we began our annual stewardship drive at Southern Hills Christian Church, where I serve as a minister. The theme for this year's stewardship campaign is Your Gifts in Action: Changing Lives, Changing the Community, Changing the World. Every week we will hear from an agency that Southern Hills partners with, volunteers at, and shares resources with. Each Sunday we will explore how our weekly tithe and gifts are more than transactional, but are instead, transformational giving.

In order to get us thinking about giving, everyone was sent home with a list of questions relating to generosity and gratitude. It is my hope that these questions will serve as a starting place for personal reflection, prayer, and discernment; as you decide how you will share your gifts in service of God's Kingdom. I wanted to spend some time sharing with you my own responses to the questions.

**What is your earliest family memory of giving and volunteering?** My earliest family memory of giving took place in the fifth pew, on the north side of the sanctuary, at First Christian Church in Frederick, OK. That was "our pew." It was where my grandparents sat every Sunday, right behind Tony and Mary Massad. Every Sunday, my Granny Pearl would open her purse for two reasons. One was to give my brother and I a piece of candy, in hopes of keeping us quiet, and two, to give us each a couple of coins or a dollar bill to place in the offering plate. I also remember watching her hurriedly writing a check for the offering plate. She would do her best to muffle the sound of the check being ripped out of the checkbook during the Elder's offering meditation. I can remember my fingers, sticky from the candy, grasping the money, waiting for the offering plate to come by. When I dropped the money in the offering plate, I felt I was part of something bigger than me. My memories of family volunteering took place in the same church. My mom was the church secretary. I remember she would have my brother and I help fold newsletters and Sunday bulletins. When there was a church dinner or funeral, my brother and I helped set up the chairs and the tables. At the dinners, we walked around the room helping carry people's trash to the trash can. The church was a second home for us, and we were expected to participate as we would in our own family at home.

**Who have been some of your heroes and role models that reflect a generous life?** I am so lucky to have an amazing family. My family has taught me the importance of generosity. My parents, even when we didn't have much, were quick to help neighbors who were in need. From taking an immigrant who worked with my dad on the farm to the social security office, to paying for the same man's wife's dialysis, to welcoming anyone to their table, my parents taught my brothers and me what it meant to truly love neighbor.

**To what people and places do you feel a sense of gratitude?** I feel a deep sense of gratitude when I am able to get out in nature. While I was on my recent sabbatical, I remember feeling a deep sense of peace as I took in the beautiful views driving into Sedona, AZ. I was able to take a deep breath, I felt the presence of the Holy. During my trip, I stopped often to hike. I would sit for the longest time watching birds jump from limb to limb on trails. I watched lizards sunning on rocks. I sat in silence and prayed as I walked. All around me was the beauty and simplicity of God's creation. As I drove into Sedona, I came across a song contained the words to Wendell Berry's Poem, "The Peace of the Wildthings." Two lines resonated deeply with me, "I come into the peace of wild things who do not tax their lives with forethought of grief," and "I rest in the grace of the world, and am free." I have a deep gratitude for the peace of the wild things and the grace of the world.

**What are the one or two life experiences that have shaped who you are today?** I think the experience that has most shaped me into the person I am today would have to be living with a chronic illness. I am a person who lives with asthma, the severe form that is triggered by anything and everything. When I was six years old I quit breathing. As I got older, I was told that I would more than likely be in a wheelchair and on oxygen by the time I reached my twenties. I wrestled a lot with faith during these difficult times. My questions of faith sent me on the journey toward seminary. Bishop Yvette Flunder states in a video for the Living the Questions "It seems the further along I get, the less I know." She goes on to say, "I can tell you one thing, I have more peace than I have ever had in my life. I am more secure even though I am filled with more questions. I am more at ease in my relationship with God, and I am going to tell you something else, I am not ashamed and I am not afraid." Her words struck a chord with me. All my life, I have wrestled with questions around faith. Even though many of my questions have not been answered, I have come to a place of peace. My questions and my journey with illness have shaped my ministry.

**What is precious to you?** My family. They know me, not just as a minister, but as a daughter and a friend. I am thankful for the grace and love they give me.

**What values do you want to pass on to your family and friends?** I think I would hope to pass on the value of love. I know it is the Miss America answer, right next to world peace, but true love in community is hard work and something we all should be striving to work toward.

You may download the Spiritual Gift questionnaire here: <http://www.spiritgivingifts.com/SGGQuestionnaire2008.pdf>

Jenny

# RECONCILIATION SPECIAL OFFERING

## **Everyone Has A Story.**

Then the disciples came and asked him, 'Why do you tell stories?' He replied: to create readiness, to nudge the people toward receptive insight. (Matthew 13:10,13).

When I was growing up, I did not know many people who did not look like me or pray like me. I did not understand all the fuss about "bussing" that I heard about on television. I wondered "Why didn't kids want to ride the bus to school? Why were people so angry?"

Looking back, I realize that I grew up not having to think much about race or national origin or religious pluralism. In my school, there were a very few African Americans and there was one Jewish family in the entire school district. I assumed that I was normal and that my story was the same for everyone.

One day, my grandmother, whose national heritage was German, shared with me that in the summertime her skin would tan so dark that there were restaurants where she was not allowed to enter. She told me that the owners believed she was a Negro. This was in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the 30s, 40s and 50s when she was working in a segregated section of the city. Before she told me her story, I never knew my grandmother experienced discrimination because of how she looked.

While there are no longer "whites only" restaurants, there are certainly places where different faces and faiths are not welcome. I remember when I moved to Chicago and a friend from Washington, DC visited me. While we were on the city bus talking and laughing, people were staring at us. It took me some time to realize that they were not staring because we were loud, but because I was White and she was brown.

I have never been discriminated against because of the color my skin. That is not my story. I have, however, seen the effects of discrimination on people who I know and love. This is why I am compelled to be a part of the movement to change hearts, minds and systems that diminish the human spirit. When we take time to share our stories we realize we are more alike than we are different. This is why I support the work of the Reconciliation Ministry. Your giving to Reconciliation Ministry funds programs that provide

the knowledge, relationships and tools to end discriminatory practices that break the heart of God. When we work to be reconciled one to another and each to God, we are the living story of Christ.

I pray you will give to Reconciliation Ministry and share your story.

Rev. Jennifer Kottler, M.Div. MSM

Can I hear your story? How did your view change upon hearing of others who had their eyes opened by stories of the effects of discrimination? We are informed by the news and media, the stories of friends and relatives, our own perspectives. When we hear these stories, how do we keep our hearts open to hear the word of God? Are you open to the stories and perspectives of those of different ethnicities or from different faith traditions?

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Recent events have reignited the conversation about human brokenness evidenced in the sin of racism and perpetuated in our institutional structures and systems. Your generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry is transforming lives and strengthening Christ's witness in the world showing that we love one another, even as Christ continues to love us!

We will receive Reconciliation Special Offering September 24 and October 1. Please use the Reconciliation offering envelope in the pew pockets, put "Reconciliation" in the memo line of your check, or give online, selecting Reconciliation from the list of funds.

Blessings,  
Gayle Hurst

# COMMUNITY EVENTS

## **CAIR-OK Bystander Intervention Training: Step Up, Speak Up, Take Action** **Saturday, September 23, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm**

Since November of 2016, the American Muslim community has seen an increase in the number of bias incidents and hate crimes. Here in Oklahoma, we have witnessed Islamophobic harassment and discrimination. These incidents can be scary, but can we afford to stand by while our neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family are attacked? *How do we act as allies to protect our communities and dismantle the systematic biases that allow hate incidents to happen?*

Join CAIR Oklahoma, Surayya Anne Foundation OKC, and our special guest Zahra Billoo, Executive Director of CAIR-SFBA as we teach you how to safely intervene in the event you witness a hate crime or bias incident!



Zahra Billoo

- This training will equip you with tools to protect a victim of harassment without escalating a volatile situation. You will learn the principles behind safe and proactive intervention and have the chance to practice the techniques you learn. We will also discuss some ideas about larger solutions to stop incidents of violence before they start. The training is intended for anyone aged 15+ - no prior training is required.
- It can be uncomfortable to challenge social norms and intervene in a situation in the moment, but learning how to make our community safer is an important lesson for all of us. This training will involve light to moderate physical movement, interaction in small groups, and role-playing scenarios. We are happy to provide any accommodations to make this training accessible to all.
- Registration is FREE here: <https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07eeicc3i447957302&oseq=&c=&ch=>

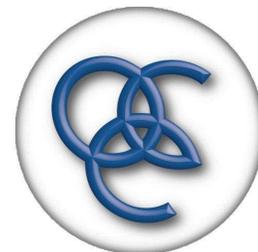
## **BTQ (Big Theological Questions) at the Patriarch September 25th**

Our Monday Night Fellowship group meets from 6-8pm on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month, at the Patriarch in Edmond. We share in fellowship and discuss everything from theology to current events to whatever else is pressing on our hearts and minds.

We are a group that is diverse in thought, theology, political ideology, background, and age, but are always open to listen to each other's thoughts and ideas. Childcare is available, please contact Amber with questions regarding care.

## **Oklahoma Conference of Churches 1st Fall 2017 Evening of Listening: "What's up in the Middle East? Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the US"**

This event, happening on Thursday, September 28th, from 6:30-8:00pm will be held at St. Paul's Cathedral, 127 NW 7th St, OKC, 73102. This is a free event with special guest speaker Dr. Mateo Farzaneh of Northeastern Illinois University.



# INTERFAITH YOUTH TOUR

On Sunday, the 17th we took 6 youth, 2 college students, and 5 adults on the Interfaith Youth Tour. We visited three different houses of worship with people from all walks of life and faith paths. It was a wonderful time of interfaith education and community fellowship, which is so very important for people of all ages, especially in today's society. Our first stop was **The Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church**, where we heard



about the architecture and the stories of the stained glass from their Education and Youth Director, **Faith Reilly**. **Father John R. Metzinger** spoke to us and answered questions about Catholicism and their customs. Then, we were honored to hear from **Arch Bishop Paul Coakley**, who explained the vestments that the Bishops wear and what they symbolized. He spoke about the love of God and how the Catholic practices help them to connect with that love in their congregation and the community.

Secondly we visited **Temple B'Nai Israel**, where **Rabbi Vered Harris** spoke to us. She was very warm and welcoming, walking us through ten aspects of Reformed Judaism, and the customs, culture, beliefs, and practices of her faith. We stood with respect and awe when she opened the Temple's Ark and we were able to view their scrolls draped in their golden clothe.



One of our students asked about the Eternal Light on top of the Ark and learned that every Temple has one that they never turn off or put out, to remind them that God's love is always with them.

After that, we concluded our tour at **The Islamic Society of Greater Oklahoma City** and heard from **Imam Imad Enchassi** and **Assistant Imam and Youth Director Haris Ali**. Again, we learned about the clothing that Imams wear and saw their Mosque, decorated simply, yet beautifully. Imam Haris spoke to us about the difficulties our Muslim brothers and sister face every day due to misconceptions that are very much alive in our society. We were reminded that Islam is a beautiful, peaceful, and loving religion, and the students were able to ask many great questions which the Imams answered with care and humor. This particular Mosque has just opened up a health clinic and food pantry, which is open to, and serves, the entire community, not just Muslims, but any and all that need help.



It was an amazing day! The theme that recurred at each stop we made, was that no matter how we practice our own individual beliefs, or how different our houses of worship might be, we are all God's children. We all should seek to love our neighbors and our community, regardless of faith tradition, or lack thereof. It is a lesson we need to be taught over and over again, and many thanks to The Oklahoma Conference of Churches for putting on and organizing this wonderful event.