



Southern Hills Christian Church (DOC)

The Sharing Tree

Vol: 29

Issue: 8

April 10, 2018



A WORD FROM THE VISION TASK FORCE

Grace and peace from our Lord Christ Jesus! As you probably know, our SHCC congregation voted 87 - 27 to approve the 2018 proposed budget at the congregational meeting on April 8th. This was a critical first step in recovering our financial health. The feelings expressed on all sides of the conversation were deep and personal. We hope everyone felt they had a chance to express their opinions and thoughts and that the conversation was treated with the respect and dignity it deserved.

As was mentioned at the congregational meeting, Step 2 in this process includes working on a budget for 2019. We have many questions regarding income and expenses and will seek your input regarding what you think the priorities should be and what you are willing to support. To that end, we will work with the Leadership Council on how to best solicit your thoughts and ideas.

Part of this year's overall strategy includes reorganizing the front office positions, hiring a new office employee (as Suellen will retire on May 31), considering new office hours, and replacing our children's and youth minister due to Amber's resignation effective April 29th. The Personnel

Committee, Leadership Council, Staff, and others have vital roles to play in these changes.

We also need to begin the process of clarifying who we are and where we want to go as a congregation. This is vital as we map out our communication strategy, design new programs or update existing programs, and live into our future.

And, again, we want to hear from you! In the coming weeks we will have a Suggestion Box available in the gathering area for you to place your comments and ideas and will soon have Task Force members available to come to your Sunday School class to answer questions. You can always reach the Vision Task Force at taskforce@southernhillschristian.org.

We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities for us to communicate and dialog with one another. This is the way our community will stay strong, vibrant, and connected! May God continue to bless our congregation and strengthen us through these next steps!

Vision Task Force

AMBER'S LETTER OF RESIGNATION (EXCERPT)

"I so very appreciate the opportunities I have been given during my time with Southern Hills, the continuing education experiences, as well as the professional guidance and support. I have loved working with the youth and the children, helping the young adult class, and walking with our young people these past five years. They have truly been a blessing in my life, and have changed me in ways I cannot express. It is with a heavy heart that I remove myself from our church staff. The people of Southern Hills have become my family, and although I believe that

moving on is the right choice for the church, and for myself, I will shed more than a few tears over my exit."

"I wish Southern Hills and the leadership and staff thereof the best of success in the future. My family will not be leaving Southern Hills as members, and we look forward to being a part of the church in different fashions in the future."

Very sincerely, and with all my love,
Amber Brooks

WWW.SHCCEDMOND.ORG

ON THE PATH

Church isn't always easy. There are often challenges we face as a church that can seem insurmountable. This past Sunday, the task force presented suggestions that were approved by the leadership for our 2018 budget. Honestly, at first glance, some of the challenges presented by the budget seemed insurmountable. The budget contained difficult cuts, including reductions in some staff salaries. Together we wrestled and prayed over the budget and eventually passed the proposed budget for 2018.

Through the discussions surrounding the budget, we modeled beautifully the request from Pauline letter to the Ephesians to live a life rooted in peace. Ephesians 4: 1-3 reads, "I therefore beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace." All opinions, ideas and thoughts shared on the budget were shared out of love and concern for the church. It is clear, that you love the church and you are willing to work for the unity of the church. Though we may not all agree on the budget, we are willing to listen with grace and gentleness to one another.

I acknowledge that there is a lot of fear surrounding our budget and even our future as a church together. I too, have shared some of that fear and anxiety. 2 Timothy 1: 7 reminds us, "God gave a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control." It is easy for us to be tempted to be led by fear, but that is not what God intends for us. We have a choice to live as a people caught in scarcity or as a people living in the abundance of God. Through our fifty years, as a congregation, we have been blessed by abundance that goes far beyond budgets and dollars. We have baptized countless youth and adults. We have celebrated with families at births and at weddings.

We have held the hands of those struggling with illness and walking through grief. We have watched our Child Development Center grow and become a place where parents want to bring their children because of the caliber of care provided. We have served meals to the hungry. We have clothed those struggling in poverty. We have gone on mission trips abroad and in our own back yard. We have given space for young and old to bring their questions about faith in a non-judgmental setting. We have dedicated babies and promised to help them grow in the faith. We have welcomed the LGBTQIA+ community when they have been hurt by other churches. And this is just the short list. Love has been given abundantly to Southern Hills and by Southern Hills.

Every week during Lent, we recalled that the dark is not as dark to God. Nothing can overcome the light of God. In this Easter season, we are called to embody that reality. I am confident that God still has work for Southern Hills to do in God's Kingdom as Eastered people in a fragmented world.

As we look to the future and attend to the here and now, it is my prayer that we would continue to work to be a vibrant church that welcomes all to Christ's table, while being a place where people can grow in their faith. Our church has been entrusted with many resources and our call is to use these gifts well and responsibly. I ask that you would pray for the task force as they continue to look at ways of developing a sustainable budget for Southern Hills in 2019. Please pray for the church and our church leaders as we discern who we are and who we hope to be in the years coming.

Jenny

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina or Divine Reading is a contemplative way of reading, meditating and praying over the scriptures. The Lectio Divina group that met during Lent has decided to continue meeting on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 6:00 p.m. If you were unable to join us for one of the six sessions during Lent, you are welcome to come and experience this contemplative way of reading the scriptures. Each time we meet we will look at a scripture that will be used on the following Sunday. We hope you can join us!

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILY



Fun & Fellowship

We only have a few weeks left of Fun and Fellowship. If your child has a Spring birthday, we are still doing our Birthday Bank for Heifer International. Each child brings coins or dollars in the amount of their age and puts in our bank (for example: if your child is turning 7 they would bring 7 dollars, 7 pennies, or any other combination of any denomination). This is by no means a requirement, but if your child would like to do this around their birthday but doesn't have the money/change, just let Amber know so we can have some for them to put into the bank!

Children's Sunday School

We have had some great teachers and helpers step-up and teach our JourneyLand Sunday school class (5 years olds-2nd grade), but we have space for more! We need helpers for May. We ask that if you have a child in the program that you would invest some of your time in helping in Sunday School. Our curriculum is very user friendly! If you are interested, please contact Amber with any questions, or if you may sign-up by going to our online sign-up: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d48aaaf28a5f58-spring>

CHAOS

CHAOS is meeting every Sunday, from 6-8 pm in the Youth Room. All 6th-12th graders are welcome to come join us!

2018 Summer Camp

Yes, you read that right! Summer camp information is out! Registration opened on March 7th! All of the registration info is online this year!

To register your student and for dates of camp, please go to <https://docgeneralassembly.regfox.com/ok-region-2018-summer-camp>

To receive the discount rate, you must register by and have your fees turned in to the church by Sunday, April 22nd. SHCC will pay for half of ONE camp for each active youth or child. A complete list of the discounted rates and Camp Information Packets are available in the colored file folder outside of Amber's office.

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

EASTER BAPTISMS

On Easter Sunday 6 youth took the next step in their journey of faith through the waters of baptism. The youth and their Friends in Faith (FiF) are: Brayden Somers and FiF, Karl Hirsch; Kaden Austin and FiF, Russ Wagner-Bark; Kaedyn Carr and FiF, Jill Hill; Juliana Cummings and FiF, Mary Hirsch; Maddox Puig and FiF, Darrin Hill; Kalia Brown and FiF, Janeé Austin. Please congratulate these youth when you see them!

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Do you know a graduating senior? Someone who is graduating from high school? College? Cooking classes? Or something else? We would love to recognize them! Please let Amber know who your graduate is and their graduating info or accolades so that we can acknowledge and celebrate their achievement!

COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY

Georgia Shaw is spearheading a new program at SHCC to provide weekend breakfasts to the food insecure population of Edmond. Such a program would supplement the Breakfast on Boulevard program of FCC Edmond, which provides weekday meals. As part of the process, she is researching the need for food assistance for people in Edmond. The results of Georgia's research will be published here through a series of several Sharing Tree articles.

The following information gives us some understanding of the numbers of people in our town who need help and would benefit from the weekend breakfast program.

Edmond Child Nutrition Services

Georgia spoke with Don Lindsay from the Child Nutrition Services here in Edmond. He is in charge of the free school breakfast and lunch programs.

At this time there are 25,000 students enrolled in Edmond Public Schools, from pre-kindergarten through grade 12. One fourth of these children qualify for the free meals. The schools in Edmond that use the most free meals with the highest usage first are Sunset, Ida Freeman, Orvis Risner, Will Rogers and Charles Haskell. We talked a bit about Orvis Risner since that is SHCC's neighborhood school. Orvis Risner has an enrollment of 600, and 48% of those

children are receiving the free meals. To qualify for the program, a family of four must have a yearly income of \$45,510 or less. This gives us an idea of the income levels in our neighborhood.

Point in Time Screening

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development mandates all communities receiving federal funds through McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants conduct a Point in Time (PIT) Count. Each community is required to individually plan and carry out their PIT on a single day during the last 10 days in January every other year. Oklahoma City conducts the count annually. It was last done Jan. 26, 2017. This one-day count is only a snapshot and is not a complete analysis of the issues surrounding homelessness. 1,368 people were identified as homeless in Oklahoma City. It is estimated that a community's actual number is four to five times its one-night census, in this case between 5,472 to 6,840 people.

Edmond also did a Point in Time Screening in January, 2017. Theirs is a much shorter report, but the important point is that 20 people were found to be homeless in Edmond at that time.

Both reports are online and give valuable information about homelessness in our area.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLY & LEADERSHIP TRAINING SCHOOL

Regional Assembly and Leadership Training school Regional Assembly and LTS have been combined into one event this year. If you are planning to attend the Regional Assembly on **April 28** at New Covenant Christian Church, please let Chuck know as we seek to identify those who may participate as "Voting Lay

Delegates." Names of voting delegates are due to the region by **April 16**. Please enroll in Leadership Training School by **April 13** for the early bird rate of \$40. After 4/13 the rate is \$50. For information visit <https://okdisciples.org/ra-2018/>

SLEEPING MATS FOR THE HOMELESS

Many people are now involved in preparing sleeping mats for homeless persons. If you would like to help, we still need clean plastic shopping bags which you may drop off at the church. You may also like to attend one of the "Plarn Workshops" scheduled on the church calendar (Bring your own scissors, please).

Once finished, the mats are distributed to homeless persons to provide comfort and warmth to those sleeping outside. **Plarn Workshops are scheduled every Monday night at 6:30 in Boka Keene.** See the calendar included with this newsletter for all the dates and times.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TLC CARDS ARE HERE

TLC Gift Cards are available. See Georgia Shaw on Sunday mornings in the Gathering Area to get yours. The price is \$20. Proceeds from the sale of the TLC Cards will support the Weekend Breakfast Program, which is currently in the planning stages. See the "Food for the Hungry" article on the next page for more info. Watch for a table in the Gathering Area beginning the Sunday after Easter.

DISCIPLES MEN

March Meeting

For the Disciples Men meeting in March we once again met with Georgia Shaw who is planning a weekend breakfast program here at SHCC, similar to the weekend program, "Breakfast on Boulevard," at FCC Edmond.

Regional Disciples Men

The Central Area Disciples Men gathering will be held April 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Regional Minister Pam Holt. Please RSVP by Monday, April 9th to Rev. Keith Spaulding (472-7441) or Westpoint Christian Church at 818-9199.

April Meeting

Disciple Men Meetings for April are scheduled for Tuesday, April 10 at 6:00 pm, and Saturday, April 21 at 9:00 am. Locations and activities to be announced.

DISCIPLE WOMEN'S ACTIVITIES

Disciple Women's Charity Group

meets Thursday, April 19, at 1:30 in the Chapel. The scheduled activity is making snacks for Refuge Fellowship.

Disciple Women's Fidelity Group

will meet April 17, at 10:00 am. Location and program, to be announced.

Disciple Women's Hope Group

will next meet for a salad supper on June 4, 6:30 pm at the home of Patsy Drab.

THE PEOPLE

The People is a new LGBTQIA+ support group (allies are welcome) that I have started. I have noticed that our community is in need of more gathering spaces for LGBTQIA+ members and allies. We will meet every

Monday evening from 6:30- 8:30 PM. The age group is 18+ for now, but a teenage group is coming soon. Hope to see you there!

Iris Traughber-Hill

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP

We invite you to be a part of our Caregiver's Support Group at Southern Hills Christian Church. We meet every third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Parlor/Conference room. The group includes Stephen

Ministers and Leaders in a "Care and Share" experience, emphasizing a listening ear to provide whatever support you need.

Our next gathering will be at 7 pm, April 17. We hope you will join us.

There are no requirements for attendance. Come by and check out the group.

Blessings,
Your Stephen Ministry team

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- There will be a meeting of Georgia Shaw's Weekend Breakfast Planning Committee Tuesday, April 17 at 7:00 pm in Boka Keene. See "Food for the Hungry" article Community and Outreach section for more info.
- The next meeting of the Outreach Committee will be Thursday, April 19 at 7:00 pm in Boka Keene

Southern Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



*Spirituality
Koinonia
Serving Others
Worship*

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Website: www.shccedmond.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

- 4/17 - DW Fidelity Group - 10 am - Location TBA
- 4/17 - Caregiver's Support Group - 7:00 pm in the Parlor
- 4/17 Weekend Breakfast planning - 7:00 pm in Boka Keene
- 4/19 - DW Charity Group- 1:30 pm in the Chapel
- 4/19 - Outreach Committee Mtg - 7:00 pm in Boka Keene
- 4/22 - Elder's Meeting - 12:30 pm in the Conference Room
- 4/22 - Vision Task Force - 12:30 pm in Boka Keene
- 4/22 - Leadership Council - 4:00 pm in the Chapel
- 4/24 - Lectio Divina - 6:00 pm in the Chapel

SHCC STAFF

Senior Minister:	Rev. Jenny Wynn
Interim Dir. Children's Ministries:	Amber Brooks
Director of Youth Ministries:	Amber Brooks
Choir Director:	Andrea Hanson
Interim Contemp. Music Directors:	Ben & Lacie Bowlware
Business Administrator:	Suellen Caywood
Dir. of Communications & Tech:	Chuck Marshall
CDC Director:	Carolyn Lamiell

ATTENDANCE

Sunday School 4/01	46
9:00 AM Easter Svc. 4/01	143
11:15 AM Easter Svc. 4/01	88
Total Worship 4/01	231
Sunday school/Meeting	80
Combined Worship 4/08	38

PRAYERS

Mona Baird; Cathy Rains; Alice Smith;
Nolan & Barbara Pierce; Keaton Barron;
Donald Moll; Betty Marcha; Shirley
Bibb; Susie Park; Daphne Johnson; Rick
Brewster; Barb Livingston; Ron Whitaker;
Kirk Holiman; Jim Bob Remple; Don
Wiard