

Southern Hills Christian Church (DOC)

# The Sharing Tree

Vol: 29  
Issue: 25  
November 27, 2018



## Hanging of The Greens

One Service, December 2, 10:45 AM

On **Sunday, December 2**, join us we celebrate the first Sunday in Advent with The Hanging of the Greens, a **Single Service of Worship at 10:45 am**. Sunday School will be at 9:30.

### PLEASE WELCOME OUR INTERIM MINISTER

SHCC has called Rev. Dr. Robert E. Crawford to serve as the Interim Minister at Southern Hills Christian Church. Rob holds a B.A. from Phillips University, as well as an M.Div. and a D.Min. from Phillips Theological Seminary. He is currently serving as a leader for a national ministry of the church called Bethany Fellowship, as well as on the Commission of Clergy in Oklahoma and the Phillips Theological Seminary Transitionary and Presidential Search Commission. Rob became an ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) December 31st, 2000. Since then he has served as a congregational minister in Bartlesville, and Nowata, Oklahoma.

Rob's ministry has focused on the importance of Disciples identity and inclusion. Working to develop ecumenical partnerships, as well as advocating for peace and social justice issues are Rob's passions. He was a Disciples Peace Fellowship Intern in 1998, later served on their board, and was privileged to serve

as their moderator for part of that time. His doctoral work has informed his belief that relationship is more important than 'being right,' and that when it comes to pastoral care, presence is more important than words. Rob tries to teach and practice the understanding that 'listening is prayer.' Rob strongly believes that sabbath-keeping, as well as a disciplined prayer life, both of which are part of the ethos developed with the Bethany Fellowship, are critical for the holistic health of people of faith.

Rob is married to Jason Holder. For the past 15 years, they raised their two children Olivia and Eli in Bartlesville, OK. Recently, the kids graduated from high school and began to attend college. Eli is a freshman at Bethany College in Bethany, West Virginia and Olivia is a freshman at O.U. in Norman, OK. Jason and Rob are excited to move back to their hometown area and are looking forward to serving with the good people of Southern Hills Christian Church.

[WWW.SHCCEDMOND.ORG](http://WWW.SHCCEDMOND.ORG)

## FAMILY LIFE MINISTRIES

### CHILDREN

**Wednesday, November 28, 5:30 Fun and Fellowship - ADVENT** We will meet in the Little Kitchen again. We will begin practicing some songs to share at the Christmas Play on December 9.

**Sunday December 2 - Hanging of the Greens**  
Sunday school 9:30, Combined Worship 10:45.  
Worship and Wonder will **NOT** meet. The nursery will be available, but I encourage Kindergarten and First graders to stay in worship if possible.

**Tuesday, December 4, 7:00 CHANGE OF DATE** – Our **Family Life Committee meeting** (Which means everyone!) will move one day later, to allow for the Search committee and other interested parties to meet with Regional Minister Pam Holt about the more involved search process for our settled pastor. We have important plans to discuss! Please attend if you can. Meeting in the Parlor. Childcare will be available.

**Wednesday, December 5, 5:30 Fun and Fellowship – CHRISTMAS PARTY!!** This will be our last Fun and Fellowship for this semester. We will party in the Fellowship Hall. More details to come.

**Sunday, December 9 - Worship and Wonder** will resume during traditional service, meeting the 9th, 16th and 23rd.

### **Sunday, December 9, 10:15 am, Christmas Family Workshop - God Loves You SNOW Much!**

All children and families, nursery through grade school, are invited to share together in some Christmas preparations during the Sunday school hour. Meeting in the Fellowship Hall. **Service Project:** Families are invited to bring **new white socks**, any size, children's or adult's to contribute to **SNOWBALL SOCK MOUNTAIN!!!!** These socks will go to Refuge Fellowship. Did you know – when clothes are donated, socks are the most overlooked items. (Even underwear rates higher!) Plus, it will be fun to build a mountain of socks!



### YOUTH

**Drama Team Rehearsal - We are down to our last two rehearsals:**

- Sunday, December 2 from 4 - 6 pm.
- Saturday, December 8 from 9 am - 12 pm, 12/8 will be a dress/tech rehearsal with lights, microphones and sound. Please try to arrive early so that we may get started promptly.

### **Youth Christmas Play**

Sunday, December 9, 5:00 pm. Plan to enjoy the show, and give holiday greetings over cookies and cocoa!

## DONATION MATCHING FOR REFUGE FELLOWSHIP

A permanent endowment fund established by the Region late last year benefits the work of **Refuge Fellowship-First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Inc.** in Oklahoma City which serves the homeless community of Oklahoma City.

Rev. Noel Gray leads this ministry with the assistance of volunteers from local disciples' churches.

Every dollar, up to \$50,000, donated to the Refuge Fellowship -First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Endowment Fund this year will be matched by the Oklahoma Disciples Foundation.

Donations may be mailed to Oklahoma Disciples

Foundation at 301 NW 36th Street, Oklahoma City, Ok. 73118. Please make check payable to ODF and indicate **Refuge Fellowship Endowment** in the memo line. Donations may also be made on the Foundation's website at:

<http://www.ok.dfdn.org>

From the donate page, select Refuge Fellowship-First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Endowment Fund from the dropdown fund menu.

Donations must be made before the end of the year for funds to be matched. Envelopes are in the pew pockets in the Sanctuary.

## UNLOCKED DOORS

If you have a key to the church and are unlocking doors for meetings outside of business hours, **PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE**, be sure you lock the doors correctly when you leave the building. **This is a safety issue** for the staff. Church and CDC staff are regularly arriving in the morning to find unlocked doors. This isn't what we mean when we say we

are open to all! The custodial staff does not come through the building seven nights a week, so do not assume someone else will lock up after you. If you are unsure whether you are locking up correctly, we will be glad to give you a quick tutorial. Contact Chuck at 341-0766 with any questions.

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!



Please welcome Rev. Kati Houts and Melanie Fraim to our Church Family! Melanie and Kati came forward during the 9:00 service on November 4, to place their membership with Southern Hills.

Rev. Katie Houts is the sister of Janella Tears. She retired from Metropolitan Community Church of El Paso, where she was the Senior Minister.

Melanie was also very active at MCC of El Paso, serving as Eucharist Minister, singing in the choir, and participating in service reading scripture.

Both ladies have jumped right in here at SHHC, attending the Future Focus Sunday School class. Melanie is also singing with the Choir.

Please make Kati and Melanie feel welcome among us as church family!

## SAVE THE DATE - BRIGHT BLUE CHRISTMAS



Does the Christmas season get you down? All the shopping, the traffic, standing in long lines to check out. Not knowing what to buy for Aunt Mary and Uncle Herb because, "They have everything." The surprise dinner guests you didn't know your kids were bringing home from college along with their mountain of laundry for mom to do? Or maybe there will be an empty chair at the table this year. Whatever the reason, if you are down and really not excited about the "Holidays", come spend the evening with us at Southern Hills. Let's celebrate the real reason for Christmas. December 13th at 7:00 pm in the Chapel. It is our prayer that we will see you there.



# COMMUNITY AND OUTREACH

## REPORT ON THE WEEKEND BREAKFAST - November 18, 2018

We have been serving breakfast to anyone who is hungry on Saturday mornings since September 1. We have served a total of 223 visitors so far. This does not count the meals served to our volunteers. Our visitors eat the hot meal and take with them a bag of 2 sandwiches, fruit and cookies. In other words we give them enough food the day.

We have had a variety of visitors; a few families with school age children, older adults and middle aged men. We have had one man who comes regularly tell us that he is homeless.

We have tried several different menus and are continuing to try new things. Favorites with the visitors are sausage gravy over biscuits with scrambled eggs and hash brown potatoes. We try to serve two or more high protein foods and make most things from scratch, but we do use a mix for pancakes and biscuits. We serve generous portions so we rarely have requests for seconds. We do serve seconds and some of our visitors have a bowl of cold cereal and milk in addition to their hot breakfast. Our cost for each breakfast plus the take home sack of sandwiches is around \$3.00 depending on the menu. This does not include beverages or the donated cookies. We have been blessed from time to time with donations of sausage, ham and bread which has kept our costs down.

Several items have been added to the Church kitchen since we started in September. Electric griddles, a waffle maker and some utensils were purchased. A mixer, several large pots and pans and casserole dishes have been donated. We serve on plates, not paper and use the flatware in the kitchen not plastic ware. We wash our dishes and recycle everything that can be recycled. Updating our kitchen with commercial appliances is a long term goal of ours. That would provide more storage and make it more energy efficient. A commercial upright freezer is at the top of the want list right now.

We have had a wonderful response to the call for volunteers from SHCC members. We also have had volunteers from a meditation group do the prep work twice and Boy Scout Troop 77 worked in all the positions one Saturday. The SHCC Youth did the prep work on Friday, November 16, and then greeted visitors, cooked and served the meal the next morning, November 17. Since this is a community service, we welcome individual volunteers and groups from our community. At this time, we have counted nearly 90 volunteers who have helped. One special volunteer comes nearly every week, gets a cup of coffee and sits down with the visitors and just talks with them and listens to them.

Thanks to everyone for your support of this ministry.

Georgia Shaw

## MATS FOR THE HOMELESS - ONE YEAR LATER

In November 2017, I felt led to start a service project at Southern Hills. It was to make "Sleeping Mats for the Homeless." We repurpose plastic shopping bags, creating mats that offer protection from the elements for our homeless friends. Plastic yarn (Called PLARN) is made by cutting and joining strips, and then crocheting 6'x3' mats.

Following are a few interesting facts:

Completed and delivered 22 mats to Refuge Fellowship (Church in downtown OKC)

- Held over 70 workshops to produce the PLARN.
- Had over 40 "regular" workers, and countless occasional helpers to work on the project.
- Between 13,000 and 15,000 bags were donated, sorted, cut, joined and made into PLARN.
- Over 1,300 hours were spend in the completion of the 22 mats (start to finish).
- Persons aged 7 to 101 worked on the project.

Additionally, the project has caught attention of persons beyond our church community, and the effort has spread. A local Meditation Group joins us each month to lend a hand. An Intergenerational Party was held with about 20 persons coming to SHCC to learn about and assist with the project. A workshop was presented in Texas to teach others how to PLARN. The Middle School in Jones, Oklahoma, held a drive to collect plastic bags, and they have donated 17,000 bags for our future mats. A Retirement Center In Yukon was instructed in how to make the mats.

Thanks to all the volunteers who have generously devoted time to help those in need. If you would like to join us, we meet most Monday nights at 6:00 pm at SHCC. We have been blessed richly as we seek to bless others in Christ's name.

Beth Gerardy

## ARE YOU A FOLLOWER OF JESUS?

We often think of ourselves as followers of Jesus, but what does that mean? When Jesus called Peter, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him, they physically left what they were doing to be with Him. The disciples had tangible evidence: They could see His direction with their eyes and hear His words with their ears. But how do we follow Jesus today? There are four important ways that show us how to follow Christ.

The disciples heard Jesus' voice. Today Christ speaks through His Word, giving us directions and guidance through commands and prohibitions, spiritual principles, and biblical examples. And, within us we have the Holy Spirit, who directs us and corrects us when we go astray. You know that funny feeling you get in your "gut" that quietly says uh-uh.

They obeyed with out delay. Once they heard the Lord's command, they immediately dropped everything and complied. Following Jesus requires that we not only do what He says, but also when and how He says to do it.

They left everything behind. Wow! The disciples left



*Christ caring for people through people*

# STEPHEN MINISTRY

the comfort of their homes and the security of a regular paycheck. Other believers might be called to give up something completely different.

Finally, they pursued the higher purpose Christ offered to them. Instead of simply making a living, Christ promised them a life with eternal purpose: becoming fishers of men for the kingdom of God. Being a Christ follower is not merely an identification with Him, it is a commitment of obedience that demands leaving behind anything that gets in the way of living fully for Him.

May you have a blessed week and His marvelous peace. See you Sunday,

Sandy Jehle, Stephens Leader

## CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Be sure to mark your calendars for two special worship services on **Sunday, December 16th**. We'll celebrate the season with our Christmas Cantata in Traditional Service and continue with special seasonal music in the Contemporary Service. We hope you will plan to come enjoy these musical gifts of the season! Services will follow the regular Sunday schedule of 9:00 am Traditional Service, 10:15 am Sunday School, and 11:15 am Contemporary Service.

## ADVENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Upcoming Events for Season of Advent:

- 12/02: Hanging of the Greens - 10:45 am
- 12/09: Christmas Family Workshop - 10:15 am
- 12/09: Youth Christmas Play & Reception - 6:00 pm
- 12/16: Christmas Cantata - 9:00 am
- 12/16: Special Music service - 11:15 am
- 12/13: Blue Christmas Gathering - 7:00 pm
- 12/24: Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:30 pm
- 12/30: Sweater Sunday Unified Worship - 10:45 am
- 1/06: Epiphany Party and Chili Cook-Off - 5:30 pm

## LCDA TOY DRIVE



Southern Hills will once again participate in the Christmas Toy Drive for the Latino Community Development Agency, where Dr. Renery Espana is employed. The agency is planning a Christmas party

for 300 children from infancy to 12 years of age. Unwrapped toys should be placed in the box in the Gathering Area. The deadline for donations is December 16.

**Southern Hills Christian Church**  
 3207 South Boulevard  
 Edmond, OK 73013  
 405-341-0766  
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# December 2018

**Location Key:**

BK Boka Keene  
 BV Bradford Village  
 C Chapel  
 CR Conference Room  
 P Parlor

S Sanctuary  
 YR Youth Room  
 GA Gathering Area  
 FH Fellowship Hall  
 TR Toddler Room  
 WW Worship & Wonder

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 7:30 - 8:15 Free Breakfast
<b>2 Hanging of the Greens</b> 9:30a Sunday School 10:45 Worship Service 12:30p Elder's Meeting 3:30 Communion Service (BV) 4:00 Drama Team Rehearsal (S)	<b>3</b> 9:00a Tai Chi (GA) 6:00p Plarn Workshop (BK)	<b>4 Newsletter Published</b> 7:00p Family Life Cmte. (P)	<b>5</b> 10:00a Bible Study (BK) 11:00a Overeater's Anon (C) 5:30p Fun & Fellowship (LK) 5:30 Praise Team (S) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 2:00p Break- fast food prep	<b>8</b> 7:30 - 8:15 Free Breakfast 9 am - 12 pm Youth Play Dress Rehearsal
<b>9</b> 9:00a Traditional Worship (S) 9:15 Worship & Wonder 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemp Worship (S) 3:30 Communion Service (BV) <b>5:00 Youth Christmas Play (S)</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00a Tai Chi (GA) 12:00p WOW Book Club 6:00 Big Theological Questions (The Patriarch) 6:00 Plarn Workshop (BK)	<b>11 Newsletter Deadline</b> 7:00p Outreach Mtg. (C) 7:00 Breakfast Cmte. (BK)	<b>12</b> 10:00a Bible Study (BK) 11:00 Overeater's Anon (C) 5:30 Praise Team (S) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>13</b> 6:00p Girl Scouts (P)	<b>14</b> 2:00p Break- fast food prep	<b>15</b> 7:30 - 8:15 Free Breakfast
<b>16</b> 9:00a Christmas Cantata (S) 9:15 Worship & Wonder 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Special Music Svc. (S) 3:30 Communion Service (BV)	<b>17</b> 9:00a Tai Chi (GA) 6:00p Plarn Workshop (BK)	<b>18 Newsletter Published</b> 12:30p DW Fidelity/Charity (lunch out, Location TBD) 7:00 Caregiver's Support (P)	<b>19</b> 10:00a Bible Study (BK) 11:00 Overeater's Anon (C) 5:30 Praise Team (S) 7:00 Choir Rehearsal (S)	<b>20</b> 7:00p Blue Christmas Gathering (C)	<b>21</b> 2:00p Break- fast food prep 7:00 Cub scout Lock-in	<b>22</b> 7:30 - 8:15 Free Breakfast
<b>23</b> 9:00a Traditional Worship (S) 9:15 Worship & Wonder 10:15 Sunday School 11:15 Contemp Worship (S) 3:30 Communion Service (BV)	<b>24 Christmas Eve Church Office Closed</b> 5:30p Candlelight Service	<b>25 Merry Christmas! Church Office Closed</b>	<b>26 Church Office Closed</b>	<b>27</b> 6:00p Girl Scouts (P) 7:00 Stephen Ministers (P)	<b>28</b> 2:00p Break- fast food prep	<b>29</b> 7:30 - 8:15 Free Breakfast
<b>30 Sweater Sunday</b> 10:45 Worship Service 3:30 Communion Service (BV)	<b>31 New Year's Eve Church Office Closed</b>	<b>Jan. 1 - New Year's Day Church Office Closed</b>				

# Southern Hills Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



*Spirituality  
Koinonia  
Serving Others  
Worship*

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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

## Office Hours

Monday - Thursday, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm



## IMPORTANT DATES

- 11/28 - WOW Lunch - 12:30 at Blue Moon
- 12/02 - Hanging of the Greens - **One service at 10:45**
- 12/09 - Youth Christmas Play - 5:00 pm in the Sanctuary
- 12/13 - Blue Christmas Gathering - 7:00 pm in the Chapel
- 12/16 - Christmas Cantata at 9:00 am
- 12/16 - Special Contemporary Music Service at 11:15 am
- 12/24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - 5:30 pm
- 12/30 - Sweater Sunday service - **10:45**, No Sunday School.

## ATTENDANCE

Sunday School 11/18	68
9:00 AM Traditional 11/18	103
11:15 AM Contemp. 11/18	48
3:30 PM Bradford 11/18	14
<b>Total Worship 11/18</b>	<b>165</b>

Sunday School 11/25	71
9:00 AM Traditional 11/25	103
11:15 AM Contemp. 11/25	25
3:30 PM Bradford 11/25	14
<b>Total Worship 11/25</b>	<b>132</b>

## SHCC STAFF

Bridge Minister:  
Interim Minister of Family Life:  
Family Life Intern:  
Director of Traditional Music:  
Interim Director Choir and Bells:  
Interim Director of Contemporary Music:  
Director of Communications & Technology:  
Church Office Coordinator:  
Child Development Center Director:

Rick Connelly  
Allison Longman  
Morgan Gregory  
Bryant Rains  
Lacie Bowlware  
Ben Bowlware  
Chuck Marshall  
John Greer  
Suzanne Ray

## PRAYERS

Marie Byrkit; Susie Park; Elsie Knight;  
Alice Smith; Joe Jones; Verna Manning;  
Paul Murray and family; Bob Hoemann