



# The Illuminator

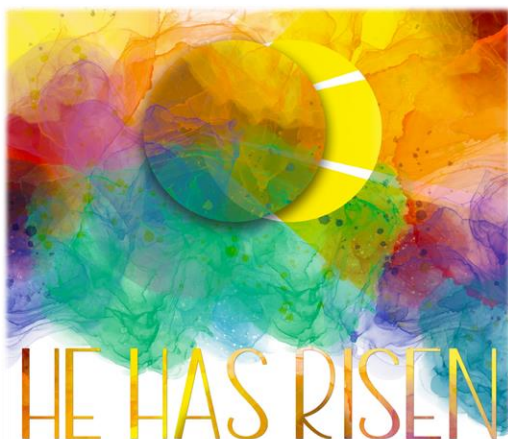
a publication of  
South Grand Lake Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)



May 2022

Mail: Box 387 Langley, Oklahoma 74350 - GPS: 446205 E. 350 Rd., Vinita, OK (918) 782-4463

Issue 5-1



Easter is far more than a one-day celebration! God's transforming love, revealed through the resurrection of Christ, offers a promise of new life. From Easter until Pentecost Sunday (June 5<sup>th</sup> this year), we enter a time in the Christian calendar known as "Eastertide." This season is dedicated to expressing our gratitude and claiming our identity as "Easter People." During this time, we celebrate the promises of a life-giving love that promotes our growth, heals our wounds, and guides us as we strive to follow in the Way of Jesus. This edition of the newsletter features the testimonies of our members who share their journeys through Holy Week and Easter as they prepare to enter this special season.

Dear Church Family,

As your pastors, we offer our deepest gratitude for all you've done from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday to make this holy season meaningful and memorable. Your faithful participation during this time warms our hearts and affirms our belief that SGLCC has a bright future in service to Christ ~ Pastors Gina & Chuck

Thank  
you



## Holy Week Service

Anyone visiting our sanctuary in the late afternoon is captivated by the reflection of our green and crystal stain-glass cross window on the carpet down the center aisle of our worship space. This stunning visual image was in evidence as we gathered on Maundy Thursday for our Holy Week service. After hearing scripture readings of all that took place in the final week of the earthly life of Jesus, all were invited to take a seat at a 12-foot Communion table in the front of the sanctuary and to spend some time in prayer and reflection as they participated in the sacrament. A surprise visit from the centurion at the foot of the cross brought many to tears. We departed the service in silence to the sound of chimes as we draped the cross with bands of black cloth.



We are grateful to Bob Shell who brought his theatrical gifts to a portrayal of the centurion at the foot of the cross. Bob's moving performance gave witness to the life changing power of an encounter with Christ. He describes his experience this way, "The most amazing aspect of getting to portray the Roman centurion during holy week was having God speak to me. I was in the preparation room while the rest of the service took place. I prayed to God to help me do a good job, specifically "please don't let me mess up." I distinctly heard, "After you leave the sanctuary, wait a few minutes, then come back in and ask the congregation, "Are you his disciples?" Like Moses on Mt Horeb (EX 3:11-4:17) I had good reasons why I should NOT do that. Chuck and Gina know nothing about this and I wouldn't want to go back in with the mic on. Each time I heard, that's OK, this is MY plan. After a final bargain with God (that God won), I did return. Many who were there told me it was the most moving part of the "performance" that I had done. Isn't that just like God?"

On Good Friday we held a 12-hour vigil, reading the entire Gospel of Luke from the front doors of the church. We are grateful to Dave and Teena Momper for creating a sacred space for the ritual. A fire bowl, tiki torches, and black drapes graced our front portico. We respond to the call of the Disciples of Christ Mission Statement: **To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8.** Our day concluded with sharing the bread and cup around the fire.



Dave Momper  
Luke 1 & 2



Lynne Kennedy  
Luke 3



Ted Coombes  
Luke 4



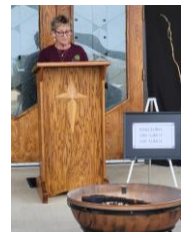
Ellen Wolfe  
Luke 5 & 6



Buddie Massey  
Luke 7 & 8



Jim Sellers  
Luke 9 & 10



Diana Sellers  
Luke 11 & 12



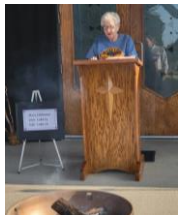
Joyce Wilson  
Luke 13 & 14



Carla Davis  
Luke 15 & 16



Susan Miller  
Luke 17 & 18



Mary Claiborne  
Luke 19 & 20

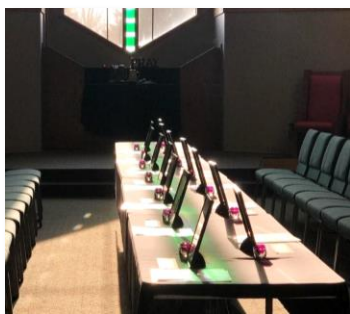


Mary Shell  
Luke 21 & 24



Bob Shell  
Luke 22 & 23

Thank you for  
sharing the  
Good News!



Another meaningful addition to the Good Friday vigil was an opportunity to pray "The Stations of the Cross." A 24-foot table containing 14 prayer stations was positioned in the middle of the sanctuary. On either side were chairs where participants could pause, pray and reflect on the traditional readings and artwork that depict the journey of Jesus from his trial to the crucifixion.

## Easter on the road . . .



Vickey Rose, Steve Jones and Jim Owens spent the Easter weekend in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. They saw the Passion Play, participated in the Passion Parade, and shared their gifts in worship and a special concert. Vickey shared, "It was a wonderful blessing to be included in this concert. We were welcomed by CGMA CEO (Christian Gospel Music Assoc.) and a producer, speaker and many other singers and musicians. We were invited to join the CGMA: A True God Meeting."





## **reflections on our journey to Easter . . . .**

### **Mary Claiborne -**

I try to never take on a task without somewhat being prepared. Being one of the readers of the Gospel of Luke was a blessing. Why? Because I take time to understand what I'm reading so that the words might bless someone who is hearing. It also blesses me to slow down and understand what I am reading. It becomes much more meaningful and real. I have been blest with a wonderful imagination, which makes it very difficult to go through the stations of the cross. I can see it and hear the crowd as if I were there. Seeing my Savior suffer for me is overwhelming. I made this journey with Jesus a couple of years ago and said then, I never want to do that again. But I had to. How could I not, when he had made that walk of suffering for me. As He hung on that cross the agonizing torment He must have suffered mentally, taking on the sins of all mankind. It is an extremely difficult walk for me. I am so sorry He had to suffer so for me.

### **Carla Davis –**

I have participated in a variety of church activities in my 20 years at SGLCC and have received personal spiritual blessings from most of them. I have read scripture quietly to myself, aloud to myself and aloud in classrooms and before the congregation. Reading aloud from the book of Luke from the front doors of our Church on Good Friday was a very special blessing to me. The birds were singing, the sun was shining, the sky so blue and yes wind also. It was meaningful to listen to others read as we sat in a circle around a fire — it spoke to my heart. It was a way of listening that was new to me. The Stations of the Cross were set up in our sanctuary with areas to pray and read about Jesus's journey to his death. Holy Week was a special blessing to me this year. I so appreciate the hours of hard work that went into the preparation of these events.

### **Joyce Wilson –**

I read chapters 13 and 14 from the book of Luke, starting at 3 pm on Good Friday. Reading from the podium outside, with the sunshine, breeze, warmth and smells of an open fire pit, and the content of the scripture all came together to give me one of those Godly Moments of feeling so thankful and so peaceful!

Moving to each of the 14 stations of the cross was an emotional time for me. Each station pictured a vivid scene of Jesus on his way to the cross, a powerful prayer, and a commentary with how we might apply the knowledge to us and the many life situations we face today. A very meaningful experience to me!

### **Ted Coombes –**

It was my honor and privilege to read the fourth chapter of Luke on Good Friday. It was a lovely, breezy day in front of the church, standing before a homemade wood fire in a copper bowl. This chapter deals with the temptation of Jesus by the devil, several miracles of healing and casting out demons, and how He was rejected by the Nazarenes ("No prophet is accepted in his hometown," Jesus wryly observed). This was my second such experience, having read a chapter from Mark just a few years earlier on Good Friday, and I thoroughly enjoyed it.

### **Buddie Massey -**

The Lenten season was very fast for me this year. Until Holy Week. Things began happening!! Memories to last forever!

Maundy Thursday with a centurion who made me want to jump up and follow Jesus!!!

Listening to the reading of the book of Luke in the whipping wind near a fire pit. The smoke wafted around my body signifying my heritage.

I want copies of the prayers by the beautiful stations of the cross.

Sunrise at the Sellers! Great fellowship with new and old pals!

Although I didn't "give up" anything for lent this year—I received a lot!!!!

And then and then —I still serve a risen Savior!!!!

Shane Ailey, Michael Ailey, Rick Atkinson, John Baird, Fran Barton, Tommy Beats, David Booker, Joe Biagiotti, Jill Brausuell, Ted Coombes, Elaine Grabin, Jim Griffith, Bill McCutchen, Jane Ann Mosby, Sarah Pinney, Brigette Ratzlaff, Vickey Rose, Carrie Russell, Ginny Russell, Jerry Saunders, Carolyn Sellers, Gary Sharpe, Susan Stanifer, Alena Thibert, Tony & Dawn Tweedy, Chris Tribble, Diana Williams, Patty Wolfe, Mike Yancy, caregivers, first responders, Armed Forces, national and world leaders, those affected by acts of violence, war, addiction, mental illness and natural disasters.



- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 02 Forb Phillips     | 16 Gloria Ballard  |
| 04 Pat Griffith      | 23 Teena Momper    |
| 08 Buddie Massey     | 23 Luke McCullar   |
| 09 Donna Belt        | 28 Beverly Latimer |
| 12 Meredyth Phillips | 31 Jim Sellers     |
| 15 Dave Momper       |                    |



- 10 Phil & Jenny Wood  
13 Bob & Mary Shell  
26 Randy & Carla Davis



Blood Drive!

May 13<sup>th</sup>

### April Financial Health

Date	General Fund	Quarters	Designated	Total *
04-03	\$3,677.00	\$22.55	\$600.00	\$4,299.55
04-10	\$2,066.00	\$24.11	\$160.00	\$2,250.11
04-17	\$2,839.00	\$15.73	\$810.00	\$3,664.73
04-24	\$1,627.00	\$23.82	\$200.00	\$1,850.82
			<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$12,065.21</b>

### Blessing Quarters

Balance Forward	\$242.92
April	\$86.21
Year to Date (for 2022)	Grand Total \$329.13

### April Attendance

Date	Members	Visitors	Total In-Person	Total Online
04-03	34	7	41	77
04-10	37	9	46	121
04-17	30	21	51	82
04-24	19	5	24	95