



The Illuminator

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



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

Issue 5-1

The Pastor's Ponderings ...

When I was a child, Sundays followed a familiar and cherished rhythm. We would begin the day at church, then head to my maternal grandparents' home for lunch. Later in the day, we'd gather again—this time at my paternal grandparents' house for the evening meal. One Sunday afternoon, as we drove between those visits, a semi-truck plowed into our car. One of the first people to arrive at the scene was a man from our church—a reminder that church was more than a place we went; it was a community that showed up when it mattered most.

It was in the basement of that Disciples church that I first attended Sunday School, and in its sanctuary I was baptized. Years later, after moving to Oklahoma and having children of my own, it was the Disciples church in Pryor where they were dedicated to God's care. When my father passed away, it was again the church that showed up—bringing food and comfort to our family in our grief.

When I married Charles—my driver, my soul mate—it was colleagues from church camp who officiated. Later, it was the Disciples church in Sand Springs that sponsored and supported my ordination into Christian ministry. That same church cared for me when my son fell ill and was hospitalized.

Since Chuck and I began serving at South Grand Lake, you have continued that legacy of love and support. You sponsored and celebrated Chuck's ordination. You've grieved with us in the loss of loved ones—Chuck's parents, his brother, and the spouses of two of our children. You've rejoiced with us as grandchildren arrived and filled our lives with joy. And in these last three years, you've faithfully prayed for me and been with us through the long journey of healing the wound on my heel.

These are just a few highlights of how deeply church has shaped my life. Imagine the stories we would collect if each person shared their own—the stories of lives touched by this ministry across time: past, present, and future.

I am filled with anticipation as we celebrate 25 years of chartered ministry and move into our 26th year. I believe there are awe-inspiring opportunities ahead! To live into that future—to keep making God's love real in the world—it takes all kinds of resources. It takes time. It takes talents and skills. It takes money.

At SGLCC, two committees help us organize and channel our gifts. The Nominating Committee is ready to receive your suggestions for next year's leadership. The Stewardship and Finance Committee is working on the 2026 budget—a document that tells the story of how our faith and our finances are intertwined. As we each consider how to participate in the spiritual and transformational practice of giving, may our souls guide our generosity—and may our giving, in turn, express the deep truth of our souls.

25
Anniversary Concert
October 12th
"Through the Years"
featuring the amazing talent of
COBE

On the calendar ...

- Sep. 14 – Elders Prayer Circle
- Sep. 15 – Elders Study Time
- Sep. 17 – The Chosen Bible Study Resumes
- Sep. 20 – Executive Committee @ 10 am
- Sep. 21 – Lasagna Linger Longer Lunch
- Oct. 3/4 Women's Retreat
Camp Christian
- Oct. 07 – Tai Chi Classes Begin
- Oct. 12 – COBE in Concert, 2-4 pm

Please see nomination form
included with this issue.

Blessing of the Backpacks



What great fun to have 11 youngsters in church to enjoy a puppet show celebrating the beginning of a new school year! The festivities continued in the Community Hall as our young guests held an impromptu balloon fest after lunch.

Each child received a medallion for their backpacks that reads ...

You are Brave,
You are Loved,
You are Kind,
You are Smart,
You are Amazing,
You are Strong,
You are Enough,
You are Unique!



Oklahoma Disciples Women's Fall Retreat 2025

Finding God in the Midst

....of learning
....of serving
....of prayer and worship
....of balancing life

*I love those who love me,
and those who seek me find me.
Proverbs 8:17 (NIV)*

Camp Christian
Chouteau, OK 74337
October 3-4, 2025

- Break-out sessions
- Great Fellowship
- Missionary Moments
- Praise and prayers
- Labyrinth
- Inspiring Presenters
- Worship
- Good food



The Dough is Rising ...



Thanks to all who donated a record of \$280 last month to buy bread for the Blue House. We appreciate Ron M. for his faithfulness in overseeing the purchase and delivery of the loaves!



Coming in October ...



Tai Chi

Moving For Better Balance

Class Schedule

Tuesdays & Thursdays
Runs from Oct. 7 - Dec. 18, 2025
10 a.m. - 11 a.m.
South Grand Lake Christian Church
446205 E 350 Rd
Vinita, OK

Classes are offered at no-cost.
Call today to guarantee your spot!

Benefits

- Reduce the risk and fear of falling.
- Improve balance and posture.
- Promote blood flow, muscular strength, mobility and flexibility.
- Increase energy levels.
- Lower high blood pressure.
- Relieve stress.

For more information contact:
Chrissy Swift, Tai Chi Instructor
chrissys@health.ok.gov
918-825-4224



Prayer List

Janie Andrew, Don Baird, Donna Belt, Ted Coombes, Calvin Cross, Roby French, Forrest Graham, Karen Hendrix, Gina Jackson, Sherrie Matney, Jack & Buddie Massey, Pat McMurray, Raymond Pattison, Kathy Piery, Mary Shell, Alena Theibert, Hudson Thrapp, Brenda Yazel, caregivers, first responders, Armed Forces, national and world leaders, those affected by acts of violence, addiction, mental illness and natural disasters.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

SEPTEMBER

05 Chris W.
05 Kay M.
13 Wendy S.
15 Jean T.
22 Ryan L.
27 Bobby L.
27 Merleen R.

OCTOBER

07 Shari B.
11 Debbie J.
12 Kathy L.
12 Pat M.
18 Carla D.
27 Ellen W.
29 Lois W.



LINGER LONGER for LASAGNA!

Hope you will make plans to join us for lunch after worship on Sept. 21st as Jim & Diana prepare their luscious lasagna. Your salads & desserts will add greatly to our fare.

Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

04 Kay & Pat M.
04 Chris & Christy W.
04 Bob & Beverly L.
05 John & Shari B.
08 Tony & Lynda H.
09 Forb & Meredyth P.
12 Chuck & Gina J.
24 Rex W. & Clint C.

OCTOBER

09 Matt & Jennifer H.
15 Ronnie & Shirley H.
27 Bill & Joyce W.
31 Tamara & Cord V.

Thanks
FOR YOUR GENEROSITY
YOUR GIVING HELPS THE CHURCH EFFECTIVELY DO THE MINISTRY

Date	General Fund	Quarters	Designated	Total
07/31/25	\$9,513.07	\$60.27	\$1,794.00	\$11,367.34
08/31/25	\$12,184.23	\$129.28	\$1,042.34	\$13,355.85

BLESSING QUARTERS

Balance Forward	\$373.80
July and August	\$189.55
Year To Date (for 2025)	Grand Total \$563.35

AUGUST ATTENDANCE

Date	Members	Visitors	Total
08-03	20	4	34
08-10	25	8	33
08-17	25	22	47
08-23	21	1	22
08-31	17	7	24