



# CONNECT

CHURCH OF THE SERVANT'S MONTHLY NEWSLETTER





 **Rev. Kyle Anderson**  
Senior Pastor

# Pastor's PERSPECTIVE

## EMBRACING FAITH & COMMUNITY

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Servant Faith Family,

What a joy it was to experience our recent Mission and Ministry Fair alongside all of you! Over 40 Servant missions and ministries were represented, from our Sunday School classes and Bible studies to ministries that support our Kingdom work both within the walls of our church and far beyond.

I'm so thankful for the connections that were made, as many of you found new studies, classes, and service opportunities to participate in. But what really filled me with joy was seeing the conversations, smiles, and sheer excitement I witnessed on many of your faces. To see the fruitfulness and life on display at Church of the Servant was as inspiring for me as I know it was for you.

There were a number of people who stopped by my booth to sign up for Disciple I, but there were also a number of others who just came by to say a simply, "Thank You." While I appreciate the kind words, the appreciation belongs to you! My part was simply to make the invitation and set up some tables. The real work was done by you.

You are the ones who showed up. You told your stories, you volunteered, and you gave shape to the Body of Christ. The fair gave us a glimpse of all God is doing through our church, but each week it is you who are the Kingdom made flesh. So, Thank You! It's an honor to continue to embody that Kingdom alongside each of you and I look forward to doing so again this Sunday.

See you there!

Blessings,

*Pastor Kyle*

## Sunday Worship

### 10:00 AM

Join us for worship this Sunday. We will be gathering together to celebrate and give thanks, to connect with one another, and to seek guidance and inspiration for the week ahead.

Sunday service time is 10:00 AM and includes uplifting music, prayer, and a message that will speak to your heart. Whether you are a long-time member of our community or are joining us for the first time, we welcome you and look forward to seeing you there!





**Huddle Up! Gear up for game day!  
Shop Earthglow for all your tailgating  
and football-season must-haves!**

**STORE HOURS:**  
**TUES - THURS**  
**9 AM - 3 PM**  
**SUNDAYS**  
**(BEFORE & AFTER**  
**SERVICE)**



## MORE THAN SUNDAY MORNING

*An evening of music, stories,  
and connection with your Praise Team*

**Sunday, October 5th, 6:30 PM**  
**In the Centrum**

Join us for a special night where your Praise Team steps out of the Sunday morning spotlight to share more about who they are. **More Than Sunday Morning** is a time to connect on a deeper level—through music, personal stories, and the songs that have shaped us beyond worship. You'll hear the Praise Team perform music they love, including some secular selections from their professional or collegiate backgrounds, and maybe even see them play different instruments or roles than you're used to. Come get to know the hearts, talents, and journeys behind the voices and instruments that lead you in worship each week. The performance is free. An offering will be taken to support the upgrade of equipment in the Celebration Center. Mark your calendar today and plan to join us!

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF  
*Praise*

**SUN  
OCT 5  
6:30PM**

**PRAISE & WORSHIP**  
CHURCH OF THE SERVANT  
14343 N MacArthur Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142  
[ServantOKC.org](http://ServantOKC.org)

# Pastor Sheri's Notes



▶ **Rev. Sheri Lashley**  
Associate Pastor

In 1974, a song was recorded in English, written by Terry Jacks, called "Seasons in the Sun." I was 14 that year and found myself singing in a talent show in Jr High. I loved that song for some reason. I sang it in that talent show, and now, the words have been echoing in my mind:

***"We had joy, we had fun, We had seasons in the sun,  
But the hills that we climbed, Were just seasons out of time."***

As I sit and write this article, my 92-year-old father has gone to be with his Creator and left us only a few days ago. As I have been trying to help my mother care for my dad for the past few months, we have been talking about seasons of time that we go through. For her, it has been a challenging season, yet one that she is glad to have experienced. She said Dad took care of us so very well, and now it's our season to take care of him.

We have many seasons in our lives, and all our lives are different, profoundly different from everyone else's. When my brother had a hemorrhagic stroke and we were at the hospital, the neurosurgeon said, "If you have seen one stroke, you have seen one stroke." If you have seen one life, you have seen one life. Every life is unique, and we experience different seasons; no two people's seasons are the same. If we are blessed enough to be able to care for a family member or a friend during a difficult season of their life, we should give thanks to God for the opportunity to serve.

The person receiving this service is blessed, we are blessed, God is blessed, and the Kingdom is furthered. I pray that we each find our blessing in serving one or more of God's children. I give thanks that I was able to serve my earthly Father, my Mother, and my Eternal Heavenly Father.

Thank you, Lord.

In His Grip,

*Pastor Sheri*

# Thank You

Just a short note to everyone, as my family and I mourn the loss of my Dad, Douglass J Smith. Many of you know that I have been helping care for him and my Mom over the last few months. He was a great man, husband, and Dad, and I have so many wonderful memories.

The outpouring of cards, emails, calls, texts, kindnesses, gifts, and love shown to me is overwhelming. Thank you so much to each and every one of you. I am so grateful.

# HOSPITALITY

The word "hospitality" is a word that can mean so many things! When a person is treated as a guest, especially in the name of Jesus, they know that they have seen Jesus face, and they are wanted and valued. It was once asked of a student of hospitality, would you rather be viewed as a visitor, or a guest? Well, it was answered this way: A visitor shows up, and is treated as an outsider, treated kindly perhaps, but still, as one who is not a part of. A guest is invited, shows up, is escorted to the finest accommodations, and treated as family.

We want to treat all those who come to us, with the greatest of hospitality. We are asking YOU to help!

- 1. We need Valet Drivers.** Yes, we park cars for those who ask. We need drivers to do the parking!
- 2. We need Door Greeters.** There are those who greet our members and guests alike, open the doors, welcome them in; we even give hugs if you want one!

**3. We need Door Ushers.** These individuals stand at the doors to the Celebration Center, hand out the flyers with weekly information on them, count the participants in worship (including children), and escort guests to "Pew Buddies."

**4. We need Pew Buddies.** These are all of you who are in the Celebration Center, who are agreeable to receive guests to sit with them. Pew Buddies work in tandem with Door Ushers.

If you can serve in any of these ways, please contact Patricia Hocker, or the church office. **We will have an organizational meeting on Sunday, September 28, at 1:00 PM in Classroom 12.** Note that you will be put on a rotational schedule and would not have to do these things every week, unless of course, you wanted to be on the list for every week! I pray that so many will be willing to participate in this ministry, so that every guest feels like they are wanted and loved by this church on behalf of the Kingdom.

## Enhancing Our Security Measures

In light of the recent tragic church shooting in Minneapolis, which occurred during a time of prayer, our hearts are heavy with sorrow and concern. Such events remind us of the importance of vigilance and safety within our own community. It's natural to wonder, "What if this happened here at Servant?" While these thoughts may be unsettling, they underscore an urgent issue that cannot be ignored.

Our priority is to ensure the safety and security of our congregation, especially our children. For some time now, we have been making strides in developing a security team dedicated to this cause. At our recent Ministry Fair, we initiated a sign-up for volunteers to help us be more vigilant on Sundays. We are grateful to the ten individuals who have stepped forward, but we are still in need of 14 more volunteers to complete our team.

Your involvement will play a crucial role in maintaining the safety of our congregation and keeping our community secure. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please reach out to Eric Nance at 405-721-4141 or email at [enance@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:enance@churchoftheservant.com). Together, we can create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Are you ready to take this step toward ensuring our community's safety?







# FAMILY MINISTRIES



## SERVANT KIDS

Servant Kids is ready for the new school year! We will begin September by learning about how to trust God. We will learn about Moses, Joshua, and Ruth. Join us at 10:00 on Sunday mornings!

Wednesday night programming resumes on September 3, 6:30-8:00 PM. We will have Bible lessons, games and fun snacks!

We are looking for children grades 2-5 to serve as Acolytes. Children will light the candles in the Celebration Center and assist the Pastors during the service. There will be training that will take place. Children will be scheduled once a month.

We are putting out a sign up for children's choir. The children's choir will sing in service from time to time and will perform in the children's Christmas Pageant on December 7. Please Contact Chris Ward at [cward@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:cward@churchoftheservant.com) if you have any questions or you would like more information on acolytes and choir!



## SERVANT YOUTH

The youth had a great summer of camps and missions! In August, Servant Youth partnered with the Stillwater youth group and spent time working at Urban Mission. We helped on the shopping day and supported 300 families with food for the week!

Youth on Sundays continues at 11:00 AM -12:00 PM for all youth grades 6-12. In September, we will be focused on "What If,"- who is our ultimate authority? Our memory verse is "God's Son was before all else, and by Him everything is held together" (Colossians 1:17).

On September 3, we will resume our Wednesday night youth programming. Join us for fun-filled Wednesday nights where we will worship, have a lesson, play games, eat snacks and fellowship! Youth takes place 6:30-8:00 PM.

We are looking for Acolytes! If your youth is interested in helping out once a month to serve and assist the Pastors in the church service, please let Chris Ward know!

If you have questions, contact Chris Ward at [cward@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:cward@churchoftheservant.com) or 405-614-2333.





## 2025 Booth and Volunteer Registration for Fall Fest is open!

CAN YOU HOST A TRUNK FOR TRUNK-OR-TREAT? Traditional trunk-or-treating is where kids will be walking from booth to booth to get candy and treats! Our event is on October 26 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. We would love for you to host a booth! All skill levels of booth decorators are encouraged to participate! You will have a blast seeing the kids in their costumes and the excitement on their faces as they come to your booth. CAN YOU VOLUNTEER? We have several areas that will need friendly helpers! This includes help with set-up and/or clean-up, monitoring the inflatables, and hospitality greeters.



SCAN HERE







# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The theme of this year's Women's Retreat was inspired by Isaiah 40:31: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength." This powerful verse invited us to release our burdens and embrace the peace that only God can give. Throughout the retreat, we were encouraged to let go of past hurts and step into a fresh season with Him—finding emotional, spiritual, and relational restoration through Spirit-led teaching, quiet reflection, and heartfelt worship.

We were blessed by the messages shared by Darla Bierig, Harli Reeves, and Lauri Buchanan. Through their personal stories and powerful biblical truths, they reminded us of our deep need for spiritual refreshment.

The worship sessions were beautifully led by Rev. Sheri Lashley, with heartfelt support from our wonderful vocalists Kaitlin Mathewson and Lindsay Ballard. Their voices, combined with the powerful songs, brought a deep sense of refreshment and renewal to our souls.

Mary Garrett led us in a creative and meaningful session where we did a paint pour over glass jars, turning them into

beautiful "space jars." Each one was designed to hold scripture verses, affirmations, or prayers focused on renewal and restoration—something we can turn to whenever we need encouragement or a gentle reminder of God's presence.

Patricia Hocker guided us through a meaningful session where we each created our own prayer journal. She then led us in a spiritual exercise using the journals, helping us reflect, connect with God, and deepen our personal prayer life.

We shared lots of fun and fellowship throughout our time together, including a lighthearted session where Cindy Fast showed us how to create delicious hors d'oeuvres served with a delightful banana punch.

Following the days spiritual sessions, we continued to connect through activities like working on a 1,000-piece puzzle, relaxing with some coloring, and—perhaps the highlight of all—laughing and dancing together during line dancing. These special moments helped us bond deeply and grow stronger together as women of faith.





Whether in prayer walks, journaling corners, or quiet devotion time, we found space to listen, reflect, and respond to God's voice. We look forward to next year and pray you will join us.

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to Heather DeShazo for sharing her amazing AV talents, Pam Adams for designing such a beautiful brochure, Wendi Humes for adding her creative touch to the retreat bags, and Sherri Price for the lovely table decorations that brightened up the space. A big thanks also to Pastor Sheri for putting together the fun door prizes — they were such a hit!

**Darla Bierig**

*Women's Ministry Vision Team*







# PRIME TIME

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025

## SEPTEMBER

### PRIME TIME LUNCHEON

Thursday, September 11, 10:30 AM

Community Hall

#### Special Guest: Rev. Kyle Anderson

##### "Lost in Translation"

Join Pastor Kyle for September's Prime Time as he examines both the comical and serious ways we often misunderstand one another. From funny short stories, to misheard hymn lyrics and more, we'll acknowledge there's plenty of times we've all had to say, "Did I hear that correctly?"

Michele Snow will provide us with a yummy meal that includes an entrée, vegetable, salad, bread, beverage, and dessert. The cost for the program and meal is \$15 (\$5 for program only).

[ServantOKC.org/prime-time](http://ServantOKC.org/prime-time)

DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8th!



Rev. Kyle Anderson

## OCTOBER

### PRIME TIME LUNCHEON

Thursday, October 9, 10:30 AM

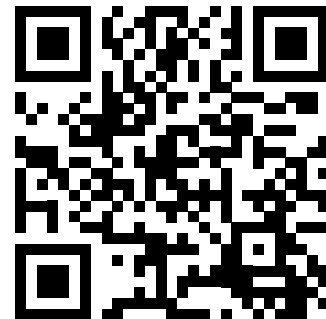
Community Hall



#### Special Guest: Edgar Cruz

##### Edgar Cruz, Guitarist Extraordinaire

A Virtuoso on guitar - Edgar's wizardry on the fretboard leaves listeners in awe, wondering how he does it...it's like he's playing an entire symphony with just his two hands!



#### SAVE THE DATE!

##### NOVEMBER 13 -

Private Group Tour of the First Americans Museum

##### DECEMBER 11 -

Food, fellowship, holiday sing-along and Christmas BINGO!

# MISSIONS



My Heart's Appeal (MHA) journey has taken us through curves, bumps, potholes, detours, accidents, wrong directions, and violent storms. Also, importantly as we traveled along, we met several Good Samaritans and some unlikely friendly people. Best of all, when we drifted uncontrollably in stormy waters and landed on an uncharted territory, cleared our head; we then saw crumbs left by fellow travelers that guided us to the light house. We have now been discovered and strengthened by continued faith; to sustain what was so graciously entrusted us. An opportunity to make a difference in the lives of unforgotten souls.

***Hebrews 13:2 in the Bible says, "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."***

***"It's the way you ride the trail that counts!" -Dale Evans Roger's***

At Church of the Servant, we believe God has called, prepared, and gifted us for this particular time in our history. As such, we serve with a heart for missions, commit to prayer that changes lives, teach a love of the Gospel and build a Christian community starting with each individual. We pray for His clarity and guidance in fulfilling our mission. I believe MHA aligns perfectly with this mission, offering an opportunity to make a meaningful impact in Liberia. MHA is a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting children with intellectual disabilities in Liberia, West Africa. Our mission is to provide access to education, vocational training, and essential resources to empower these children and their families.

We are thankful and looking forward to the upcoming academic year. Through your support, children with intellectual disabilities in Liberia have gained access to education, vocational skills, and a brighter future. Every donation helps create a story of hope and transformation. For more information, see the Program Update PDF by clicking on the red "PROGRAM UPDATE" button.

Lovetie Major M.Ed.

[www.myheartsappeal.org](http://www.myheartsappeal.org)

**PROGRAM UPDATE**





*Lovetie Major M.Ed.*



## BRA BOX

There are so many ministries and missions at Church of the Servant, and It doesn't take much to find one that you can be a part of! But there is one that many might find unusual. It just goes to show that Church of the Servant goes all out when doing things to further the Kingdom for ALL of God's children.

The BRAS (Bras Recycled And Shared) ministry was started in December 2018 by a small group of women within our church. We provide not only bras to women and girls in need, but what comes of this ministry, is also a sense of confidence and self-worth. We collect bras from people who no longer want/need them, sort them by cup size and redistribute to not-for-profit organizations who provide the bras at no charge to their clients/customers. We also collect new, unworn underwear.

Since our first collection/donation, we have distributed just over 15,000 bras to women and girls in Oklahoma City. You will find a box in the alcove nearest EarthGlow market, marked as a collection box for these bras. Of course we are looking for all kinds of bras, and will take new ones, but we also take gently used, or nearly new bras. Tell your friends about our ministry! What an incredible opportunity to help other women and girls in a completely different way!

The following organizations receive bras. 363 (via Homeless Alliance), Bethel Foundation, Catalyst Rehabilitation, City Rescue, Mission House, Joe's Addiction, Palomar, YMCA Passageways, PIVOT, Remerge, The Sanctuary, Second Saturday, SISU, TEEM, WROK/TANF/SNA (via Public Strategies), and Integris Cancer Institute Wellness Center.

For a complete list of the places that also have collection bins, please contact Rev. Sheri Lashley, Lynn Hill, Michele Compton, or call the church office at 405-721-4141.

# CARE MINISTRIES

## GriefShare

Many things cause humans to grieve. Of course, losing someone by death is seemingly the most difficult. We grieve because we have loved. At Church of the Servant, we want to offer a safe place for those who need support through the grieving process, a place to talk, listen, and support one another.

We have begun a support group using the curriculum GriefShare. A GriefShare support group is a safe, welcoming place where people understand the difficult emotions of grief. Through this 13-week group, you'll discover what to expect in the days ahead and what's "normal" in grief. Since there are no neat, orderly stages of grief, you'll learn helpful ways of coping with grief (in all its unpredictability) and gain solid support each step of the way,

"Each week GriefShare group begins with a 30-minute video featuring respected experts on grief-related topics and helpful stories from people who have experienced loss. Their insights will help you manage your emotions, gain clarity, and find answers to your questions as you walk through the grief process."

Mary Garrett, Marge Carmichael, and Rev. Sheri Lashley are facilitating this 13-week course. We meet on Thursdays at 1:30 PM in the Library. You may join the class at any time. When we begin, you can attend the sessions that you missed. If you know someone interested, please contact Vicki Roberds at [vroberds@churchoftheservant.com](mailto:vroberds@churchoftheservant.com) or 405-728-4738.

## Joyful Callers

Church of the Servant once had a thriving, large group of individuals, called Care Chaplains, that served by visiting those that were homebound, nursing home bound, or in the hospital. As time has gone on and many things have changed, we no longer have that group of people that participate in a visitation program. We are getting a group like that started!

Our new group will be called, "Joyful Callers." This group of individuals will receive a one-hour training, will visit those in homes, nursing homes, assisted living centers, and in hospitals. Visits will likely take about 5-10 minutes, and perhaps they will serve Holy Communion after a pastor has consecrated the elements. Rev. Sheri Lashley and Vicki Roberds will lead the short training, and the Joyful Callers will work closely with Vicki on organization of the visitors.

Our first training will be Tuesday, September 16 at 2:00 PM, and the second will be Thursday September 18 at 6:30 PM. Please let Vicki or the church office know if you intend to come, or if you would like further information. This is a much needed ministry at our church, as there is a great membership at our church, and our pastors are few!

## Notewriters

One of the greatest ministries that we have at Church of the Servant, in ministry for and with each other, is our notewriters ministry. Perhaps you have been a recipient of this ministry and have received a sweet card in the mail, telling you that they are praying for you or thinking of you. Each week, our Care Ministries Coordinator, Vicki Roberds speaks to our members and constituents, and gathers prayer concerns and situations of those that ask for prayer. Each week, she sends out a list of those who are to be sent a note letting them know who needs a card or note.

We are always needing more note writers! If this is a ministry that you would like to be a part of, please contact Vicki or the church office, and we will set you up! It is always special to receive snail mail, when it is the size of a card, or a note, invitation, or thank you note! Now you can be on the side of the sender!





# CHURCH OF THE SERVANT **LEADERSHIP TEAM UPDATE**

## *A New Season at Servant*

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the recent Ministry and Mission Fair. What a wonderful event! An event that so effectively demonstrated our Servant value of “Service – Meeting the needs of our fellow children of God.” It was so fun seeing the smiling faces and experiencing the excitement in the Concourse during the event. Thank you all!

The Leadership Team has been busy as we begin to enter into Fall. I read from another United Methodist pastor recently how important it is for all of us to be in church on Sunday mornings at this time of the year when people are coming back from the summer months and school is starting. He mentions how important it is for congregations to establish that excitement that only comes from everyone making a personal commitment to be in attendance on Sunday mornings. How about you? How about you make a commitment to attend each Sunday morning service at 10:00 AM for the next two months? Don't let anything stand in your way; come see your friends, celebrate, worship, and open your heart to your life being changed. I hope each of you will make this commitment as the year begins to wind down.

There are two areas that the Leadership Team has been focusing on this past month that I would like to highlight. As always, we are here to assist with any questions or clarifications that you might have.

### **Listening Post & Strategic Planning**

The Leadership Team has been busy this past month. We recently held our Strategic Planning session and are preparing for our 2026 Goal-Setting as we begin to enter into the fourth quarter of 2025. On Thursday, August 21, we held our third quarter Listening Post where Pastor Kyle shared the Leadership Team's Strategic Aims. Over the next few years, we will have a specific focus on Youth, Family Ministries, and Community & Partnerships. You will see more about this plan over the next few months, but please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Leadership Team should you have any questions.

### **Employee Handbook**

One area that can be considered “in the weeds” is the development of the Employee Handbook. The Personnel Team made up by Ray Bitschie and Steve Puckett spent quite a bit of time establishing policies and documenting procedures that at the end of the day are very important and make it easier for our pastors to do the important work of ministering to the church family and developing our Sunday experiences. Thank you, Ray and Steve!

**Todd Neaves**

*Leadership Team Chairperson*

## **LEADERSHIP TEAM**

*Church of the Servant's Leadership Team governs the congregation's work and ministry. The Leadership Team has scheduled monthly meetings. All Leadership Team meetings are open to the public.*

*For more information about the Leadership Team, go to [ServantOKC.org/leadership-team](https://ServantOKC.org/leadership-team).*

**Church of the Servant**  
14343 North MacArthur Boulevard  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73142-9725



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Oklahoma City, OK 73142

**ServantOKC.org**



CHURCH OF THE  
**SERVANT**  
*A United Methodist Congregation*

WORSHIP TIME  
**SUNDAYS at 10:00 AM**

**CONTACT US**  
14343 N MacArthur Blvd.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73142  
ServantOKC.org  
(405) 721-4141

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YouTube.com/@ServantOKC