

hope **one** God
 Lord Spirit body
 faith **family**
 baptism hope

December 8, 2013

12932 S. Elwood Ave. • Glenpool OK, 74033

Tending the Church Garden

ELDERS

Carl Burrus
 Jesse Byers
 Bobby Hill
 Bill Path

MINISTER

Benjamin Williams

PRISON MINISTER

Bill Hamrick

DEACONS

Matt Caldwell,
 ASSOCIATE MINISTER,
 YOUTH & EDUCATION

Robert Hill,
 WORSHIP

Keith Riggs,
 OUTREACH

Bruce Rothell,
 MISSIONS

SECRETARY

Karen Brown

This is perhaps my favorite analogy of the plight of modern churches that have taken two, opposing approaches to tending the “church garden”:

We could put it like this. “Experience” is what grows by itself in the garden. “Authority” is what happens when the gardener wants to affirm the goodness of the genuine flowers and vegetables by uprooting the weeds in order to let beauty and fruitfulness triumph over chaos, thorns, and thistles. An over-authoritarian church, paying no attention to experience, solves the problem by paving the garden with concrete. An over-experiential church solves the (real or imagined) problem of concrete (rigid and “judgmental” forms of faith) by letting anything and everything grow unchecked, sometimes labeling concrete as “law” and so celebrating any and every weed as “grace.” (N.T. Wright)

Modernism had the tendency to crave perfection in everything at any cost, a task only complete when the garden is made of concrete. Post-modernism has responded with a warm embrace of essentially every experience, a garden that cannot be weeded for fear of excluding even one budding flower. Neither makes for much of a garden.

Scripture requires church leaders to practice delicate balance and careful discernment. Not everything is bad. Not everything is good. Some things that look good are bad. Some things that look bad are good.

Above all, the church garden is supposed to please God, not us. We are servants tending His garden, as Adam long ago. Gardening requires gentleness and determination. To be a gardener is to be “wise as serpents, and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). Jesus is the perfect gardener, both gentle and severe. It goes without saying, but I’ll say it: we would do well to imitate him more fully.

Behold my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; **a bruised reed he will not break**, and a faintly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be discouraged till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his law. (Isaiah 42:1-4)

He answered, “**Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be rooted up.** Let them alone; they are blind guides. And if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” (Matthew 15:13-14)

SUNDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 9:30 am
 Morning Worship Assembly 10:30 am
 Evening Worship & Classes 5:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Classes for All Ages 7:00 pm

by Benjamin J. Williams

CHEERFUL MESSAGES

Below are the most current addresses of Jacob and Jenna. They would like to hear from us - maybe we could send them a Christmas card? These are also posted on the bulletin board.

JACOB LITTLEBEAR

RCT Littlebear, Jacob
2nd BN S. CO. PLT 2129
40002 Midway Ave
San Diego, CA 92140.

JENNA SULLIVAN

Pvt. Sullivan, Jenna J.
SOI / MCT
M. Co., KILO PLT.
PSC Box 20161
Camp LeJeune, NC 28542



CHRISTMAS PARTY

The youth are invited to a Christmas Party at Ben & Selene's home after services this evening.

- * Girls are to bring dessert; Boys bring pop
- * Everyone bring a favorite candy - wrapped. Spend no more than \$5.00
- * Kids will be back at the building by 7:45 for parents to pick them up
- * Questions see Matt Caldwell



Sunday, December 8th

Elder's and Deacon's meeting 3:30

Sunday, December 8th

Youth Christmas Party at the Williams' home

Wednesday, December 25th

Services are cancelled; have a Merry Christmas!

Wednesday, January 1st

Wednesday services moved to Tuesday - our young men will conduct our services; Lock-in 8 pm - 7 am

Sunday, January 12th

Chili Cook-off after evening services

IN NEED OF OUR PRAYERS

- Sherri Carr had a stroke, she is in room 723 at St John's hospital. The family has requested NO visitors at this time. She tires easily, and becomes frustrated when she cannot talk. The doctors have said no surgery needed and the body will absorb the fluid on the brain in about 4-8 weeks which will reduce the swelling and hopefully her speech will return. Recovery will be a long ordeal.
- Barbara Vaughan's son, Scott and family were in a car wreck over the Thanksgiving holiday. They were bruised up and he hurt his shoulder; they are home and doing ok.
- Henry Lack, as he deals with health issues.
- Lainey Eichler has pneumonia and an impacted ear which she may need surgery on. As you recall Lainey has no immune system, she can't make the antibodies she needs to fight off any infection. It becomes very hard for her to go anywhere, especially during cold & flu season.
- Susie O'Neal's son, John Griffith, was in St Francis South with cellulitis in his foot and on extensive iv antibiotics. His spirits are really low and could use some encouragement. If you wish to send a card mail it to Mike & Susie O'Neal's address.
- Jeannene Thomas has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will begin radiation treatments.
- Dean Scherman is on antibiotics for pneumonia.
- Dolores Scherman in room 361 at the Select Specialty Hosp. in the Kaiser building near Hillcrest. SHORT visits would be appreciated.
- Barbara Vaughan as she struggles with health problems.

PRAYERS CONTINUED

- **Our friends and family:** Dan & Edna Jones; Shelia Byers (cancer); Suzanne Stamps; Sue Gilbert (Leasa's mother); Linda Patterson (stroke); Dolores Scherman; Temper & Megan Parker (CMT neuropathy); Karn Madding (cerebral palsy & infection); many others.
- **Service men and women:** Jenna Sullivan; Jacob Littlebear.
- All those traveling.

MEETING

Elder's and Deacon's meeting today at 3:30.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS

There are church directory additions on a small table in the foyer.

PHONE CALL

Did you get a phone call two weeks ago letting you know that services were cancelled Sunday evening? If you didn't, please contact the office and give us the phone number you would like to be contacted at.

WOULDN'T IT BE NICE....

- * If, when I made a "to-do" list, I could remember where I put it!
- * If the world were as peaceful as my garden.
- * If "Oh, My God" were only used a a cry for help.
- * If each of us drew upon all our talents and used them as God had intended.
- * If I told God often that I loved Him.
- * If we remember to thank God for answered prayers.
- * If I remembered only the important things & forgot to worry about the incidentals.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Angela Growns, Dec 8

Scott Lack, Dec 11

Jerry Morgan, Dec 12

Henry Lack, Dec 12

Kimber Perry, Dec 14

Steven Wetzel, Dec 14

Keith Riggs, Dec 15

Randy & Karen Brown, Dec 16

Ryan Pulliam, Dec 18

Ben Williams, Dec 18

Selene Williams, Dec 20

Lenora Hamrick, Dec 22

Eddie & Deb Whitchurch, Dec 22

Kaci Martinez, Dec 23

Susan Yeager, Dec 25

GLENPOOL church of Christ

12932 S. Elwood Ave
PO Box 145 / Glenpool, OK 74033
Office Phone: (918) 291-2211
office@glenpoolchurchofchrist.com
www.glenpoolchurchofchrist.com

Attendance: Last Week

Sunday Bible Classes
Sunday AM Worship
Sunday PM Worship
Wednesday Bible Classes

Contribution

114 Sunday Contribution \$4,400.26
142 Budget \$4,041.00
80 Over Budget \$5,254.81
76 Building Fund \$242,528.36

Men To Serve

Sunday Morning

Song Leader Randy Brown
Opening Prayer Larry Growns
Closing Prayer Steve Wetzel
Scripture Reading Ryan Edwards
Lord's Table Randy Crawford
Dalton Path
Chris Patterson
Steve Rucquoy

Ushers

Keith Riggs
Wes Wadkins

Greeter

Johnny Riggs

Lock Building

Jim Yeager; Bob Simmons

Sunday Evening

Song Leader Matt Caldwell
Opening Prayer Harry Reeve
Closing Prayer Sonny Pulliam
Lord's Table Randy Crawford
Dalton Path

Wednesday Evening

Opening Prayer Ryan McCafferty
Closing Prayer Keith Riggs
Song Leader Bobby Hill

Communion Preparation

12/1 Selene Williams
12/8 Lilia Rothell
12/15 Bayla Burrus
12/22 Becky Byers
12/29 Debbie Whitchurch

Next Quarterly Ladies Meeting

Sunday,
3:30 pm

EAT THIS BOOK READINGS

12/8 Ezk 47-48; Ps 128; Heb 4-6
12/9 Dan 1; Ps 129; Heb 7-8
12/10 Dan 2-3; Ps 130; Heb 9
12/11 Dan 4-5; Ps 131; Heb 10
12/12 Dan 6-7; Ps 132; Heb 11
12/13 Dan 8-9; Ps 133; Heb 12-13
12/14 Dan 10-12; Ps 134; Jas 1-2



IN
SEARCH
OF THE LORD'S WAY®

"These were more noble...they searched the scriptures daily..." (Acts 17:11)

Sundays at 7:30 a.m. KWHB
TV47 or Cable Channel 7

Search Programs:

Dec 8 - The Origin of Life
Dec 15 - This Mind In You
Dec 22 - Because of Jesus
Dec 29 - Hope

Sunday Morning Sermon

Angels We Have Heard
Hebrews 1:5-6

Sunday Evening Class

America's Christian Heritage
Bruce Rothell