



9001 N 145 E Ave, Owasso, OK 74055

### Our Staff

Scott A. Carlson.....Senior Pastor  
Kevin Laufer.....Minister to Families & Senior Adults  
Matthew Flindt.....Minister of Educ./Bus. Admin.  
Ryland Russell.....Minister of Worship & Media Arts  
Jeremy Goggans.....Minister to Youth  
Debra Stephens.....Director of Childhood Ministries  
Debbie Dalaeli.....Executive Ministry Assistant  
Jana Oder.....Weekday Preschool Director

### Return Service Requested

### Sympathy

To Mike & Dixie Maxwell in the passing of Mike's mother. To the Fritts family and friends in the passing of Keith Fritts. To Dan Holden and family in the passing of Dan's mom, Goodie.

### Donations

A donation was made to the Benevolence Fund in memory of Jean Hudson by Sam and Barbara Whisenhunt.

### Church Office Holiday Hours

In December the church office will only be open 8am-12noon on **December 22nd, 27th-30th** and will be closed on **Friday, December 23rd, Monday, December 26th and Monday, January 2nd**. Reminder, any 2016 designated offerings need to be postmarked by **December 31st** or in the church office by **December 30th at 12noon**.

### Prayer Requests

Every weekday morning, the staff holds a prayer time at 9am. We also have a Prayer Chain email list. If you would like to add a prayer request or would like to be included on the list, contact the office.

### Help Wanted

The office needs a volunteer with IT/Computer knowledge, see Matt Flindt. There are several spots open to help on rotation or even to teach in nursery up to children's church, see Tonya Cowan or Debra Stephens for more information including dates and times.

### Dates at a Glance:

- **Dec. 21st:** No Wednesday Activities
- **Dec. 24th:** Candlelight Service, 5pm
- **Dec. 25th:** Candlelight Service, 10:45am
- **Dec. 28th:** No Wednesday Activities
- **Jan. 1st:** Normal Service Schedule  
Dr. Larry Wilson, special guest speaker
- **Jan. 2nd:** Church Office Closed
- **Jan. 4th:** Normal Wednesday Schedule
- **Jan. 8th:** Donations due for Dayspring, Matt Flindt will be preaching both services, John Carter's Dinosaurs Class, 6pm
- **Jan. 14th:** Men's Breakfast
- **Jan. 15th:** Ryland Russell preaching, PRCO Baby Bottle Drive begins
- **Jan. 21st:** Women's Luncheon, 12noon
- **Jan. 22nd:** Counselor Bowden McElroy will be speaking in both services
- **Jan. 29th:** Evangelist Chad Higgins will be speaking in both worship services
- **Feb. 1st:** Pastor Scott returns!

The next issue will be published on Thursday, January 26th, 2017



# CENTRAL CONNECTION

<http://cbcowasso.org/e-news>

Central Baptist Church, Owasso, OK

December 15th, 2016

## Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and GCK Missions Project For St. Jude

Matthew 28:19-20 says "go make disciples of all nations", this is the heart behind the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. Currently we support over 5,000 international missionaries by supporting the cooperative program and a portion of our budget is designated to the LMCO. 100% of the LMCO goes to the support of missionaries. Our Missions Committee set a December goal of \$22,000. To date, we have received \$3,917.05. You can designate on your offering LMCO or use one of the specially designated Lottie Moon envelopes or even text it in to CBCOWASSO LOTTIE to 73256. Thank you Central for being a church that helps support Missionaries around the world! The "Lottie Moon Post Office" is open in the main (west) foyer. This allows you to give and receive holiday cards for members of our church. There is a suggested donation of 25cents per card that will go towards the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering (you can leave in the lock boxes by the doors). This is your last weekend to drop off cards! All cards will need to be picked up Christmas weekend or they will be donated to GCK's St Jude January missions project. In January our preschool will be collecting all your used holiday cards (and any leftover unused cards too). St. Jude's will repurpose the artwork to make new cards and stationary for a fundraiser. There will be a collection box outside of Miss Jana's office (the entrance to the kids wing) after the new year!



### Candlelight Services

This year we are offering two candlelight services, Saturday evening on Christmas Eve at **5pm** or Sunday morning on Christmas Day at **10:45am**. We invite you to pick a service to attend with your family for a time of carols, fellowship and "Rev Kev", Kevin Laufer retelling the Christmas story. There will not be childcare during either service as we would like families to attend together.

### Winter Weather Notice

In the event of bad weather, if you download the Central app you will be notified of any service cancelations, make sure notifications are turned on. Otherwise, please check our Central Facebook page or call the church office for a service cancellation message on our voice mail. If you would be available to help shovel the sidewalk after a snow, see Matt Flindt.

### Wednesday Schedule Change

\*We will not have any Wednesday activities on **December 21st or 28th**, we will resume our Wednesday night schedule on **January 4th**.

### Kat & Jamison Commissioned January 1st

CBC will be commissioning Kat and Jamison Hoelscher as missionaries to Southeast Asia on **January 1st** in the morning worship services. Kat's parents, Mike & Cindy Hunter, are hosting a going away party at their home from **3-5pm**.

### Baby Bottle Drive

Start saving up your pocket change! We will start up the Baby Bottle Drive for the Pregnancy Resource Center of Owasso on "Sanctity of Life Sunday", **January 15th**. PRCO will be here to hand out empty baby bottles for you to return on February 5th filled with change. 100% of the funds received will go directly to PRCO to help them support new parents with education and supplies. Thank you Central for supporting such a wonderful organization!

### Operation Christmas Child

Thank you so much Central and to our GCK Preschoolers! We were able to fill 195 shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child!

The next issue will be published on Thursday, January 26th, 2017

It is hard to believe 2016 is almost over! Because it was a presidential election year our focus could have easily been on politics and secular issues and not on kingdom issues. With all the changes going on around us and the economic slump that Oklahoma is currently going through, Central took steps to remain focused on our calling.

The Strategic Planning team created a working document leading us to three areas that Central needs to focus on; Evangelism, Discipleship and Loving Relationships. We are currently working with ministry teams and small groups to make sure we are being intentional in all three areas. We have already seen our baptisms more than double over the last Sunday School year, going from 12 to over 30 baptisms. We contribute this increase in baptisms to both times our church participated in a time of prayer and fasting. Our discipleship comes in many forms but we continue to see more and more of our members and others going through our Freedom classes. The tools learned in the ABC's for Life Change and Life Hurts/God Heals material are making changes in the lives of individuals and families. As we all know, healthy families can only lead to a healthy church. We always had a steady diet of ongoing bible studies through the Women's and Men's Ministries as well as individuals like John Carter leading out on the biblical view on issues dealing with the flood, dinosaurs, and the human body. Our women's ministry even hosted the "Cry Out" simulcast that was open for anyone in our community.

Our Wednesday evenings are about building community and we are still focused on Student Takeover as we reach the children and teens of Owasso. An added bonus was bringing back the teachings from Leon Shade for our adults as he tackled one book of the Bible after another.

No year would be complete without summer camps and VBS. We experienced many of our children and teens making major decisions at camp and coming back with a renewed commitment to their spiritual walk. We had one of our highest attended Vacation Bible Schools in years. With the theme centered around "Diving Deep", the underwater decorations made for a fun time for all who participated. We are still experiencing children making decisions as we baptize three more this Sunday. VBS always plays a role in allowing the children to experience and see God's love at work.

Ministry and Missions are a vital part of who Central is. What we are involved in is too numerous to list here. You can count on our food pantry, local emergency utility assistance or mugs filled with items needed for residents in the nursing homes. Not only did the youth do John 3:16 daycamp in Tulsa but they again visited Watered Gardens shelter in Joplin and handed out socks and food for the homeless in Tulsa. Our men are ministering in the community by assisting many of our homebound. Our missions team is always looking to see how we can support entities like Mission Owasso, Pregnancy Resource Center of Owasso and individuals like our own Kevin Estep and now Kat and Jamison Hoelscher who serve on the mission field.

Pastor Scott went to Israel this past spring and as a church we have gleaned a lot from his personal experience. As a bonus he brought three different individuals to speak to us on different subjects that challenged us as Christians. We are hoping to send a group from our church to Israel in the near future. Last but not least Central Baptist is finally out of debt. Starting with the purchase of this land and several million dollars in construction loans for two phases of our facility, followed by the purchase of 3.5 acres of land we finally are debt free.

We closed out the year with another spectacular Christmas program that brought smiles and laughter for all ages and as only Ryland can do brought home the true message of the Christmas season. God has been so good to us in 2016. As we continue to pray for Pastor Scott on his sabbatical we are looking forward to him returning to us with a refreshed and a renewed spirit to lead us into 2017.

*-Bro. Matt Flindt*

## Offerings and Budget

The church voted to approve the 2017 budget by a vote of 165 to 4 with 154 committed to be faithful stewards of everything God has entrusted to us. Your faithful giving in 2016 has allowed us to pay off the land loan debt, make capital improvements and so much more. Copies of the budget presented in the November Business Meeting and approved by the December vote are still available in the sign holders in each of the foyers.

We are a little behind on budget offerings for 2016. You can check your giving-to-date online if you have "Access ACS" or call Debbie Dalaeli in the office before **December 22nd** to see if you need to make any catch up contributions to the budget before the end of the year that you planned to give but may have missed. All donations for 2016 must be received in the church office during office hours (8-12noon) on **December 30th** or be postmarked by **December 31st**. Contributions statements for 2016 will be available for pickup at the church in late January and then mailed by **January 31st**.

## Dayspring Villa

DaySpring Villa is Oklahoma's first faith-based, certified shelter for domestic violence victims and adult victims of human sex trafficking. The Missions Committee would like to invite you to participate in collections for Dayspring Villa Women's and Children's Shelter. There will be a cart in the South Foyer for you to place items which will be collected until **January 8th** and then will be delivered to DaySpring. They are in need of sugar, Styrofoam bowls, small dessert plates, plastic spoons, paper towels, large containers of Kool-Aid and boys underwear size 5 and 6. Thank you for your generosity!

## Uncovering The Truth About Dinosaurs

Since their fossil discoveries over 150 years ago, dinosaurs have captured our imagination. What were they and when did they live? How did they die and are there any alive today? Secular science says they evolved from reptiles millions of years ago and an asteroid caused them to go extinct. But what does the Bible say? Join us starting **January 8th, 6pm** in the Fellowship Hall North for a four-part series to answer all these questions. Come watch the DVD-driven series followed by discussion by John Carter. This class will cover "Digging into Dinosaurs", "Dinosaurs and Dragons", "Dinosaurs and the Flood" and "The Hard Truth" (Evolution and Fossil Dating). No childcare will be available. Sign up in the Ministry Hallway or online through the CBC calendar.

## Men's Breakfast

Guys! Save the honey-do list for another day! The Men's Ministry is hosting a breakfast on **January 14th!** Childcare will not be available at this event. More details to come!

## Women's Ministry Luncheon

Join us for a reveal party for the women participating in Sisterhood! Save the date, **Saturday, January 21st, 12noon-2pm** for lunch in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Whether incognito or in fellowship, bring a small gift or baked item for your 'sister'. We will reveal the names of the secret sisters and pick new sisters for 2017. In order to include everyone, please RSVP by **January 8th** to Tracy Heil at 918-373-4137. Sorry, childcare will not be available at this luncheon.

## Pastor's Discovery Class

This class will be open to guests, prospective members and anyone wanting to know more about CBC, what we believe, and where we are going as a church. This class is required for church membership. You must preregister at least one week in advance and read class materials prior to the class. Register for a class, arrange to pick up materials and reserve childcare (if needed). Email to Debbie.Dalaeli@cbcowasso.org for more information. A light meal will be served during this class. The next class date will be announced after Pastor Scott returns from Sabbatical.

## Thank You From GCK!

GCK would like to say a huge thank you to the Sunday School classes that made or brought cookies for their Christmas performance reception. And we would like to thank GCK for helping stock up our community food pantry with all the pasta sauce they collected in December!

## New At The Library

The following books from the Prophecy Conference are now available for checkout through the library: Isaiah 53 Explained; The Gospel According to Isaiah 53; The Isis Crisis; Israel's Holy Days in Type and Prophecy; God's Man in Babylon; The Fall Feasts of Israel; Understanding the Arab-Israeli Conflict; The People, the Land and the Future of Israel; The Real Kosher Jesus; and The Heart of the Apostle.

## Spring Freedom Groups

Everyone has something holding them back. We are all broken, held captive by something and we need freedom. That is what Freedom Groups are about. In the spring we will be offering several Freedom Groups: "Lifechange for Every Christian", "Life Change For Couples", "Boundaries", and "Learning To Tell Myself The Truth". Childcare will be made available to those that request it at sign-up. Email freedomgroups@cbcowasso.org to learn more about any of these classes or to inquire about being a co-facilitator.