

# this week

## Sunday, January 22

8:30 a.m. Worship  
 9:00-9:30 a.m. Library Open  
 9:00 a.m. Early Sunday Bible Study Group  
 9:40 a.m. Sunday Bible Study  
 10:45 a.m. Belize Training  
 10:50 a.m. Worship  
 12:00-12:30 p.m. Library Open  
 12:00 p.m. Chili Lunch for Katie Wilkinson, Youth Handbells  
 4:00 p.m. Mixed Ensemble  
 5:00 p.m. Ladies Ensemble, Refugee and International Ministry Meeting  
 6:00 p.m. January Bible Study-Malachi, Bible Drill & Bible Skills  
 6:45 p.m. Quarterly Church Conference

## Monday, January 23

9:00 a.m. Precept *Spiritual Gifts*  
 1:30 p.m. GriefShare, Ladies Handbells  
 6:30 p.m. GriefShare, Adult Handbells  
 7:00 p.m. Precept *Spiritual Gifts*

## Tuesday, January 24

9:30 a.m. Early Learning Program  
 6:15 p.m. GROW O-Team

## Wednesday, January 25

9:00 a.m. MOPS, ELP Kinder Camp  
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Library Open  
 4:15 p.m. Children's Handbells  
 4:30 p.m. Children's Chimes  
 4:45 p.m. Fellowship Dinner  
 5:30 p.m. Children's Choir, Youth Choir, Ladies *Sermon on the Mount*  
 5:45 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer  
 5:45-6:45 p.m. Library Open  
 6:20 p.m. Student Worship  
 6:30 p.m. GA, RA, Mission Friends  
 6:45 p.m. Sanctuary Choir  
 7:30 p.m. Orchestra, Boys Basketball

## Thursday, January 26

9:30 a.m. Early Learning Program, Precept *Isaiah Part 2*  
 10:00 a.m. Adult Game Day, Women's Bible Study *Joy Beyond Agony*  
 6:30 p.m. Bible Art Journaling  
 7:00 p.m. Men's Basketball, Precept *Isaiah Part 2*

## Friday, January 27

9:30 a.m. Early Learning Program

## Saturday, January 28

## WEDNESDAY DINNER

January 25, 2017

*Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetable, roll, salad, dessert and beverage.*

**Adults \$5, children \$3.50, family max \$18.**

Please call the church office, 918-299-0904 to make your reservations by Tuesday at noon.



10310 South Sheridan Road | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133  
 918.299.0904 | [southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org)

Sharing the  
 Good News about  
 Jesus in our  
 community and  
 around the world

# more

**REFUGEE AND INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY MEETING TONIGHT** - Pastor Eric will update on opportunities to minister to international and refugee families here in South Tulsa tonight at 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel. We will discuss lots of great things that have been happening and community connections that are developing with Jenks Public Schools and others. Please pray about joining us!

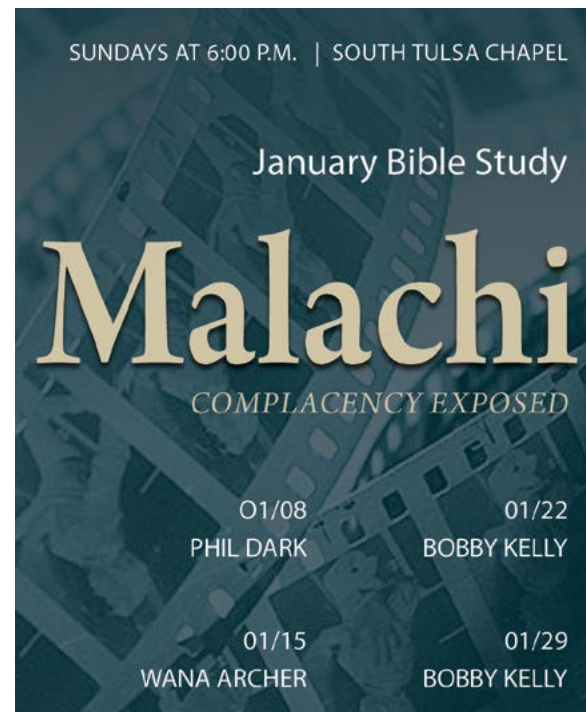
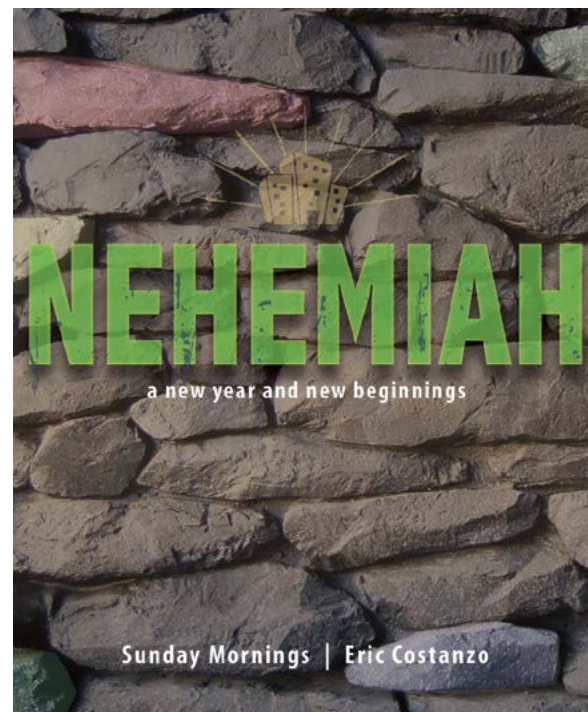
**PARTNER MINISTRY FORUM: FEBRUARY 12** - Join us on Sunday, February 12 at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel as we learn more about our partner ministries and ways that we can be involved. We hope to have the following participating in the forum: the Ministry Center, DaySpring Villa, Hope Pregnancy Center, Baptist Collegiate Ministries, Tulakogee, and Disaster Relief.

**NEHEMIAH WALL OF FOOD FOR THE MINISTRY CENTER** - Please join us throughout the months of January and February as we collect non-refrigerated foods (canned goods, boxed goods, jarred goods, etc.) to build our wall for families served by our Ministry Center as we study Nehemiah on Sunday mornings. Walk down the Jesus hallway each week to see our building progress!

**BIBLE ART JOURNALING WORKSHOP** - Thursday, January 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. Contact Denise Curtiss for more information.

**PRECEPT: ISAIAH PART 2** - Thursdays beginning January 26, at 9:30-11:30 a.m. and 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Choir Room. Workbooks \$20.50. Please complete lesson one prior to first class. Contact Patrick Lovelace at [patricklovelace@cox.net](mailto:patricklovelace@cox.net), 918-286-3226 for more information or to enroll.

*(For more information about upcoming events please go to [southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org))*



# the channel

01.22.17

volume XXVII, no. 3  
[southtulsa.org](http://southtulsa.org)



## 8:30AM Worship

### Stephen Ministry Video

*Your Grace is Enough*  
*Jesus Messiah*

### Welcome

*Abide with Me*  
*Shout to the Lord*

### Greeting One Another

**Scripture Reading** Lauren Granger

**Message** Nehemiah 4:1-9

**Response** *May the Words of My Mouth*

**New Commitments - New Members**

**East Asia Mission Team Commissioning**

**Blessing**

## 10:50AM Worship

### Stephen Ministry Video

*How Great Is Our God, How Great Thou Art*

### Prayer and Welcome

**Wilson Family Dedication**

*We Will Glorify*

**Choral Worship** *Lord of All*

**East Asia Mission Team Commissioning**

**Greeting One Another**

*Be Exalted, O God*

**Scripture Reading** Lauren Granger

**Message** Nehemiah 4:1-9

**Response** *Lord, Here Am I*

**Giving** *Be Thou My Vision* Ladies Ensemble

**New Commitments - New Members**

**Blessing**

# Who Are Your Enemies?

by Dr. Eric Costanzo

Who are your enemies? In my 38 years of life, I've only had a few. Currently, there is no one in my life that I consider a true enemy - at least not on my end. Nevertheless, I've encountered several people who seemed like enemies. Surely you have also.

Nehemiah also seemed to have enemies. Of all the obstacles Nehemiah faced in the first half of the story, none were as formidable as the continual efforts of Sanballat and Tobiah to impede his progress. As these two men continued to gather more supporters for their cause from every corner of the middle east, their animosity and aggression toward Nehemiah and God's people also increased.

As a result, Nehemiah's story continually bounces back and forth between progress and opposition. Things reach a critical point in Chapter 4, when Nehemiah prayed that God would not only remove his opponents, but also deal with them harshly and show them no forgiveness (**Nehemiah 4:4-5**). Nehemiah's prayers seem unforgiving, and they would be easy to misinterpret.

Clarity comes for me by mentioning two words: righteousness and injustice. Nehemiah had prayed, he had sought God's direction, and God provided every single success they had seen. Nehemiah knew without a doubt that he was seeking and accomplishing God's righteousness for Jerusalem and her people.

Sanballat and Tobiah, on the other hand, were seeking selfishness and exploitation - both serious forms of injustice. If Nehemiah was angry, it was a righteous anger. It was anger against those seeking to work against God's purposes.

We, as Christians, can learn a very important lesson here. As followers of Jesus, we truly only have one group of enemies led by the true enemy, and they are not the Sanballats and Tobiahs of this world. As Paul said, our only true enemies are Satan and his underlings.

*"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the*

*authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms" (Ephesians 6:12).*

## A Stephen Minister is:

- A child of God who walks beside a person who is hurting, experiencing a crisis, or struggling with some issue in their life
- A congregation member with the gift of care-giving who has been carefully selected to serve in this role;
- A lay person who has received 50 hours of training in providing emotional and spiritual care;
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages;
- Someone who will "be there" for a care receiver, meeting faithfully for approximately an hour each week, for as long as there is a need.

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please stop by the Stephen Ministry table in the Commons Area today before or after the worship services to find out more information about our upcoming Stephen Ministry training opportunity. Come by, ask questions, pick up additional information about Stephen Ministry, or pick up an application to become a Stephen Minister. Mark your calendar for an informational meeting for potential Stephen Ministers to be held Sunday, January 29 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the Conference Room. Training classes will begin late February.

## Thank You

Dear South Tulsa Baptist Church Family, We just wanted to say thank you for all of your prayers, encouragement, and love. We have been overwhelmed by the outpouring of generosity and support from STBC. We are excited to see what God has in store for this church, and especially the students and families here. Thank you for the lovely welcome reception. We look forward to getting to know you all better as we serve Him together in the coming years. May the Lord receive all of the Glory! Again, thank you for loving our family! ~Blessings from the Wolff Pack - Matt, Shiloh, Preston and Bennett

# Thinking Christian

by Dru Finley

## The Brand

There are certain symbols that speak far louder than the colorful ink that is used to paint them. Symbols are meant to paint a story, to send a message, to be representative of an idea or a group. As they say, a picture is worth a thousand words, and that is certainly the case when we see so many of the symbols in our culture today.

Names are like symbols as well. Our name carries with it a certain reputation. When people hear your name or mine there is often an instantaneous thought of who we are based upon our name and the life that we have lived. Reputations are not given to us, they are earned. As Will Rogers once said, "It takes a lifetime to build a good reputation, but you can lose it in a minute." A reason that we should desire a good reputation is not only due to its value, but for whom our reputation represents.

As a Christian, our name and reputation do not stand on their own. Our Salvation grants us not only entrance into heaven, but a new name! The critical question that should be asked is, when people see you do they see a glimpse of the Savior who has given you life? Remember that God has invested in you a lot of time along with the infinite value His very Son's life, so that you might be seen as a symbol of His Grace and Mercy! Therefore, *"let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (Philippians 1:27)*, and live in such a way that when people see you they see the very representation of Jesus!

*(Read Dru's full article at southtulsa.org or watch the video under the resources tab.)*

## Quarterly Church Conference Tonight at 6:45 p.m.

## Wilkinson Chili Lunch

Join us for our Wilkinson fund raiser! Chili and ice cream lunch TODAY after the 10:50 a.m. service in the Fellowship Hall. All proceeds go to offset the overwhelming cost of Katie Wilkinson's lung transplant.

# Welcome New Member



Josiah Roye, by baptism

## Keyboard Festival

South Tulsa will host the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma Keyboard Festival on Saturday, February 11. About 150 students and their families are involved each year as these students play at different times throughout the morning. Each participant receives a critique of their playing. Volunteers are needed to serve as hosts and to shuttle critique sheets to the festival secretary. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Philip Stephens in the church office.

## I'm a Christian Now!

Children who have recently accepted Christ or are asking questions, are invited to attend "I'm a Christian Now!" class. This class will meet February 5, 12 and 19 during the Bible Study hour. This class will help the children begin to understand what it means to be a Christian, the importance of baptism and the Lord's Supper, their role as church members, how to grow as a Christian and the importance of spending time with God. Contact Connie in the church office today to enroll your child in this class. The class size will be limited to six children.

## Bring A Friend Day

Wednesday, January 25, 5:30-6:30 p.m., boys and girls are encouraged to bring a friend to Children's Choir. They will also spend their wooden nickels at the Direction Shop. Children have received wooden nickels for their attendance, bringing a visitor to choir, being Choir Member of the Week, saying their memory verses or singing the Hymn-of-the-Month. Choir Leaders are also encouraged to wear their *Choosing God's Way* t-shirt.

# last week

## GIVING

Ministry Financial Plan . . . . .	2,091,801
Actual MFP Receipts . . . . .	2,027,734
General Fund . . . . .	60,649
Building Fund . . . . .	700

## SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Adults . . . . .	524
Youth . . . . .	88
Children . . . . .	91
Preschool . . . . .	81
Unclassified . . . . .	10
Total . . . . .	794

## WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES . . . . . 178

*Adult, Youth, Precept*

## THE MINISTRY CENTER

Volunteers . . . . .	25
People Helped . . . . .	250
Salvations . . . . .	1

## WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE

LIVE Views . . . . .	5,157
<i>(U.S. 3,438; International 1,719)</i>	
Retirement Center Ministry . . . . .	128
<i>(12 locations)</i>	
ON DEMAND Views . . . . .	1,433
<i>(U.S. 955; International 478)</i>	

## MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Eric Costanzo, <i>Pastor</i> eric@southtulsa.org	Debbie Steen, <i>Minister to Families with Preschoolers</i> debbie@southtulsa.org
Philip Stephens, <i>Minister of Music</i> philip@southtulsa.org	Mary Ann Stephens, <i>Music Ministry Associate</i> maryann@southtulsa.org
Dave Bender, <i>Minister of Administration &amp; Media</i> dave@southtulsa.org	Karen Pirtle, <i>Student Ministry Associate</i> karen@southtulsa.org
Dru Finley, <i>Minister of Discipleship &amp; Development</i> dru@southtulsa.org	Alice Bones, <i>Director of The Ministry Center</i> alice@ministry-center.org
Matt Wolff, <i>Minister to Families with Students</i> matt@southtulsa.org	ON THE COVER Tina Gross
Connie Faurot, <i>Minister to Families with Children</i> connie@southtulsa.org	