

this week

Sunday, December 17

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
 10:50 a.m. Worship
 12:00-12:30 p.m. Library Open
 4:00 p.m. Mixed Ensemble
 4:30 p.m. Ladies Ensemble
 5:00 p.m. Students Rhema Light Tour
 5:15 p.m. Ladies Handbells
 6:00 p.m. Festival of Lessons and Carols
 7:00 p.m. Advisory Council

Monday, December 18

8:30 a.m. Ladies Exercise Class
 1:30 p.m. GriefShare
 6:30 p.m. GriefShare

Tuesday, December 19

Wednesday, December 20

8:30 a.m. Ladies Exercise Class
 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Library Open
 10:00 a.m. Belize Mission Trip Training Day

Thursday, December 21

7:30 p.m. Men's Basketball

Friday, December 22

8:30 a.m. Ladies Exercise Class

Saturday, December 23

NO WEDNESDAY DINNER

December 20 or December 27

Precept Bible Studies

Beginning in January

2 Timothy - A Study in Discipleship will be on Mondays at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. beginning January 8 (13 lessons), workbook \$29.

2 Peter - How to be Kept From Falling will be on Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. beginning January 4 (8 lessons), workbook \$18. Both books are available in the church office.

Contact Patrick Lovelace at patrick-lovelace@cox.net, 918-286-3226 for more information or to enroll.

southtulsa
BAPTIST CHURCH

10310 South Sheridan Road | Tulsa, Oklahoma 74133
 918.299.0904 | southtulsa.org

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

more

2017 GIVING - For your contributions to South Tulsa to be deductible in 2017, they must be received in the church office on December 31 no later than 1:00 p.m. There are no evening services scheduled that day. Mailed gifts, as well as online payments at southtulsa.org/give-now, must be dated no later than 12/31/17.

GIVE STOCK INSTEAD OF CASH - Rather than writing checks this year, instead consider giving appreciated stock you've owned for more than a year. You minimize your tax consequences, you enjoy a charitable deduction for the value of the gifted stock, and the charity can sell it without owing capital gains tax. You can then use the cash you were previously going to give to charity to purchase new stock with a new cost basis. Stock must be received by noon, 12/29/17 for 2017 contribution credit.

SUNDAY MORNINGS OF DECEMBER - All five Sundays will follow our regular schedule: 8:30 Worship, 9:40 Bible Study and 10:50 Worship.

CHRISTMAS DINNER THEATER - Available to watch online for 30 days! You may view the video in the drama section of southtulsa.org. Also, Doug Brush is creating a CD of photos and music from the Christmas Dinner Theater productions. Watch the Channel for more details.

BIBLE ART JOURNALING WORKSHOP - This is a great time to start Bible Journaling. Join us on Thursday, January 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in room B123. Please contact Denise Curtiss for information at denise77@cox.net.

(For more information about upcoming events please go to southtulsa.org)



This is what we were created for.

DAVID PLATT, IMB PRESIDENT



LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING*

imb.org/lmco

OUR GOAL: \$100,000



the channel

12.17.17

volume XXVII, no. 50
southtulsa.org



8:30AM Worship

Your Grace Is Enough
Angels We Have Heard on High
Prayer and Welcome Matt Wolff
Baptism Charles Harmon
O Come All Ye Faithful
Lighting of Advent Candle Smith Family
Faith Story Rebecca Lee
Greeting One Another
Scripture Reading David and Teresa Powell
Message Luke 2:8-39, Matthew 2:1-2, 10-12
Response *10,000 Reasons*
New Commitments - New Members
Blessing

10:50AM Worship

Baptism Cal Jones
Message in Song Mixed Ensemble
Come and See the Newborn King
Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come
Lighting of Advent Candle
 Weiss Family, Alice Bones
Prayer and Welcome
Greeting One Another *I Have Seen the Light*
Family Dedication Henry and Libby Williams
Faith Story Rebecca Lee
Choral Worship
Sleep Little Lion, Sleep Little Lamb
 Emmanuel
Giving *O Holy Night* Adult Handbell Choir
Scripture Reading David and Teresa Powell
Message Luke 2:8-39, Matthew 2:1-2, 10-12
Response *O Little Town of Bethlehem*
New Commitments - New Members
Blessing - Called Church Conference



Be the Shepherds

Dave Bender

I am discovering one of the joys of grand-parenthood is being with the grand-kids, especially during the holidays. One of our daughters has developed a routine of taking the kids for pictures with Santa Claus at North Pole City in OKC. We had to stay close to the 1-year-old and 3-year-old as there were thousands of Christmas decorations. This store has several nativity scenes, but I noticed something - almost all their nativity scenes did not have shepherds. They had baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, angels, wise men, even sheep; but no shepherds. I was pleased that this Santa sat with the children about to get their picture taken, and told them the story of the first Christmas and the Reason for the Season. Thankfully, he did not leave out the shepherds.

As the family in our 2017 Christmas Dinner Theater, *A Perfect Christmas*, shared - we are called to "be the shepherds," to not miss Jesus and to share the message of Christ with others.

Our Pastor's message this Sunday is from Luke 2 and Matthew 2, and the passage from Luke emphasizes this point:

"They hurried off and found both Mary and Joseph, and the baby who was lying in the manger. After seeing them, they reported the message they were told about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them." (Luke 2:16-18)

We are still sharing the message of the shepherds today. Our Christmas Dinner Theater and the passage today reminds us to share the Good News about Jesus with others. Consider inviting your friends, neighbors, and work associates to join us as we do our best to "be the shepherds" at our family-oriented Christmas Eve Service at 5:00 p.m. next Sunday night. I hope to see you there with your "sheep."



A New Day at South Tulsa

Church Debt Elimination - Beginning with Easter 2017, we put into action a plan to pay off our current debt (beginning at around \$1,850,000) in 18 months or less. This will free up some \$38,950 monthly in our church budget to go towards missions, ministry programs, and church family needs.

As of December 10, A New Day at South Tulsa has resulted in pledges of over \$348,000 and non-pledged giving is over \$360,000. The \$486,000 received so far was applied to our loan principle, currently valued under \$1.1 million. We closed on our donated house and with these proceeds (over \$500,000), pledged gifts plus budgeted debt payments, we are on target to pay off debt by the end of 2018 or before. And, over 50 church families and community members have completed financial stewardship training.



Festival of Lessons and Carols

Join us this evening in the Chapel, 6:00 p.m., for a service of lessons and carols. "Lessons" simply mean scripture readings. These scripture readings will relate to the Christmas story which will be interspersed with singing of familiar Christmas carols. The Ladies Handbell Choir will ring and it will be a festive evening of worship.

Recycling Bags

The Ruth's Open Door class would like to recycle your plastic grocery sacks. They are making mats and pillows for the homeless in Tulsa and to take to Guatemala. Approximately 600 bags are needed to make each mat and every bit is used. Your sacks can be delivered to their classroom off the gym, D172/173.

Lottie Moon Christmas Offering

We are Johnny and Shannon, and we live in Asia. We were asked to write something really short about the importance of the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, and we are so happy to do that. We live in a city of around 12 million people, but we work with people that are in over a dozen different towns that make a crescent around our city. Each people and town have a distinct language and are devout in their Buddhist beliefs, and the closest one of these towns is 5-6 hours away. We are so thankful to be able to travel out to our people at least once a month, and it's largely because of the LMCO that we're able to do so. LMCO is unique in how it pools money from many individuals to help so many of us live overseas and work with people who have little or no access to the Bible and Gospel. LMCO is what has provided our apartment, our car, and our grocery money for the past 11 years of living here - it's even provided our travel budget. We are so thankful for each individual who has given what they're able to give to support us and to love on people half a world away through their giving!!! We love South Tulsa and just want to wish everyone Merry Christmas!

The Lottie Moon Christmas Card box is available in the Commons through January 7. Help the GA's collect money for LMCO by exchanging cards with the church family and putting the "postage" in the mailbox.

Children's Choir

Leadership Planning Meeting
Sunday, January 7, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Leaders, please bring your families and eat lunch in Fellowship Hall following the 10:50 a.m. worship service. After lunch, all leadership will move to D-268/269 for a brief meeting to receive your spring literature. Teachers will then go to individual choir rooms to plan for the first night of choir, January 10. Preschool child care will be available by reservation only. Come and find out about the exciting plans for 2018!

Welcome Rebecca Lee

It is a blessing for me to recommend Rebecca Lee as South Tulsa's Minister to Families with Children. I have known Rebecca since she was in 1st grade. Rebecca was always involved as a child in all the programs at South Tulsa. When she graduated into youth, that involvement with the children continued as a helper and teacher with such activities as Kids Kamp, Day Camp, VBS and SMAK. I asked Rebecca to serve as Children's Ministry Intern after she graduated from High School. She served as Children's Ministry Intern for four summers. Rebecca worked well with everyone in the office. She was always responsible, prepared and creative with all tasks that she was given. The children loved her. I am thankful that God has called her into children's ministry and that she is willing to share her talents with South Tulsa Baptist. ~Connie Faurot



We will vote to call Rebecca as our Minister to Families with Children directly after our 10:50 a.m. worship service today.

Honoring Kaye Cole

Kaye Cole, our staff pianist for over 33 years, has announced her retirement effective December 24. Kaye has blessed South Tulsa with her remarkable talent and ability. Her husband, Jim, has volunteered in the sound booth for these many years as well. They both have been a strategic part of our worship services.

The church would like to honor Kaye for her years of service by blessing her with a love offering on Sunday morning, December 24. If you would like to contribute, please designate your offering to "Kaye Cole."

Thank You

Thank you so much for your expressions of love at my mother's home-going. Your prayers, calls, texts, and cards were such a comfort. We are blessed and thankful to be a part of this church family. ~ Janice & Murphy Herrington

last week

GIVING

Ministry Financial Plan 1,724,443
Actual MFP Receipts 1,508,474
General Fund 85,866
A New Day at South Tulsa 6,025
Lottie Moon to date 30,328

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

Adults 528
Students 82
Children 96
Preschool 85
Unclassified 10
Total 801

WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES 383

THE MINISTRY CENTER

Volunteers 25
People Helped 239
Medical Clinic 7
Salvations 1

WORSHIP SERVICE ONLINE

LIVE Views 4,542
(U.S. 2,939; 12 Retirement Centers with 133; International 877)
ON DEMAND Views. 1,328
(U.S. 885; International 443)

NEW MEMBERS

Charles Harmon by baptism
Evelyn Harmon by letter

MINISTRY STAFF

Dr. Eric Costanzo, Pastor
eric@southtulsa.org
Debbie Steen, Minister to Families with Preschoolers
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Philip Stephens, Minister of Music
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Dave Bender, Minister of Administration & Media
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Alice Bones, Director of The Ministry Center
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Matt Wolff, Minister to Families with Students
matt@southtulsa.org
Connie Faurot, Minister to Families with Children
connie@southtulsa.org
ON THE COVER
Michelle Lee and the Adult Choir