

Blessed NOCC Community What's gotten into us? At last week's Congregational Meeting we approved NOCC's largest budget ever. Anticipated giving for 2019 is slightly up. Thanks to some talented and hardworking volunteers the sanctuary has never looked more beautiful. Many of you are participating in NOCC outreach efforts or undertaking efforts of your own. Our Women's Bible Group donated 17 sleeping bags to Cherith Brook. We had our largest attendance and auction participation to date at the Tall Oaks Gala. Several new singers have joined the choir to present what is looking to be a fabulous Christmas Cantata. The Ukuleles and Bells are getting pieces ready for this week and next. We have a very capable group of folks stepping into leadership this coming year. What's gotten into us? Love? Grace? Joy? Compassion? Vision? Hope? The answer would be YES. I'm walking around in reverent awe these days.

OUR ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING was held last Sunday. Join me in thanking the following persons who were elected to the NOCC Board for 2019 Elzene Gourley, Ramie Beck, Becky Ganaban, Jami Larson, Suzanne Bunnell, Janis Jarrett, Babs Krueger, Kirk Krueger and Jerry Semsch. Elected to three year terms as NOCC Elders-----Courtney Holt, Hal Johnston and Marilyn Graves.

NOCC KIDS AND YOUTH Our annual Kids Talent Show is THIS SUNDAY 6PM! It is so much fun! Friends are welcome. There is still time to sign up. Any and all talents are welcome. Helpers and stage crew are welcome. Artists are welcome. Is there someone who wants to be in it, but doesn't know what to do? Let Sara know. Please fill out the [Talent Show Registration](#) form. This helps us plan and organize the acts.

December 14 is Movie Night from 6 to 8 p.m. We will be watching The Star. All kids age 4 and up are welcome to attend. Drop the kiddos off and have a night out to do some Christmas shopping or a have date night. Donations to help cover the cost of food are welcome (suggested \$5 per child). Surplus will go toward our Heifer International fund.

December 16 is the Christmas Party with our Northland Youth Group. We will meet at Park Hill Christian Church from 5 to 7 p.m. Grades 2 through 12 are invited and friends are welcome.

Please [RSVP](#) for this one so we can plan accordingly. Please contact Sara with any questions

CHURCH CAMP 2019 Dates for another great summer of church camp are posted at talloaks.org

TALL OAKS GALA AT ARROWHEAD Once again, the Tall Oaks Gala this year generated an environment of fellowship, fun, and support for a ministry that embraces our children and community by providing a place to learn, play, rest, share, and grow spiritually. There were 201 table reservations, 8 children in Gala camp, and 19 people attended tours of the stadium. The attendance, silent auction, live auction, raffles, and cash donations yielded a net profit of **\$27,126.00 to Tall Oaks**. A sincere thanks to all at North Oak Christian Church that attended and/or shared in gifting items or cash to further develop this ministry where spiritual renewal, faith development, leadership formation, education and fellowship are fostered in a setting that welcomes all people and celebrates God's creation!" Go to <http://www.talloaks.org/2018-gala-photo-gallery> to see pictures of the event!

CHERITH BROOK-----THE LATEST Cold weather needs: Small undies (men's and women's) Tennis Shoes, Blankets Blankets! Gloves, Hats, Chapstick, Cold Meds, Bike Locks. THE BEES AT CHERITH BROOK had a very good summer! Cherith Brook Honey (it's REALLY good!) is for sale--- possible Christmas gift for yourself or friends! email Eric Garbison to inquire ericgarb@gmail.com UPCOMING WORKDAYS: TOMORROW 9AM TO NOON and February 9 9AM to NOON. To inquire about workdays contact Cherith Brook at cherithbrookkcmo@gmail.com 241-8047

SLEEPY HEAD BEDS---CAN YOU HELP? We are collecting new pillows, used or new sheets & comforters for Twin XL, Full and Queen size beds. Please bring these items to church by Sunday if possible but we can continue to collect items after that date - the needs are ongoing. Thank you! Sleepy Head Beds is a local non-profit providing bedding to thousands of kids and families in need. Contact Amy Hearst with questions. <https://sleepyheadbeds.org/what-we-do/>

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL OFFERING In December we will be receiving the fourth of five special offerings in 2018 to support various ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in North America. Your over and above giving to this cause in December will support the work of the Christian Church of Greater Kansas City. Special envelopes for this offering are located in the entryway.

UKES AND BELLS COMING SOON Our Advent celebrations this month will be graced by our favorite Uke Band STRUM this Sunday December 9 and by NOCC's Jubilation Ringers on Sunday December 16.

CANTATA PLANNED: BRING FRIENDS! The NOCC choir along with a fabulous band, will present a Christmas Cantata Sunday morning December 23 at 1015AM. NOCC members and friends are urged to consider their friends who may not have a church home and who may be especially receptive to an invitation to join you for this service of beautiful music.

CHRISTMAS EVE 7PM AND 11PM NOCC'S annual Christmas Eve Services of Carols and Communion by Candlelight will be held Monday evening December 24 at 7PM. The NOCC Choir and our Jubilation Ringers will be featured. A second service

will be offered at 11PM which is being planned as a quieter and simpler service of communion by candlelight. Child care will be provided for the early service only. The story of the Nativity is perhaps the most familiar to us in all of the Bible. Yet it continues to bring us to a place of awe and humility, speechless in wonder at the ways of our God whose ways are always perfect, and whose love is ever faithful. Come to the manger, and marvel. "My soul magnifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior!"

VITAL CONVERSATIONS RETURNS TO ANTIOCH LIBRARY

December 12th, at 1PM This Vital Conversation will focus on Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most by Marcus J. Borg. We will also participate in an Appreciative Inquiry exploring our own "convictions" with each other. November 28th at 8 a.m. Vital Conversations Coffee at Panera Bread on Englewood. All are welcome. Thanks to Look East for providing hospitality these last few months.

SOWING A SEED--GROWING OUR VISION Thanks to all of you who made a three year pledge to support our efforts to rebuild our parking lot, support youth ministry, and reduce our debt. We are in the final weeks of our pledge period. Your steadfast faithfulness is appreciated! Our campaign prayer: We want what you want God. Open each heart and mind to Christ, our Light. Guide us together by your Holy Spirit, to trust in your will, amen

THE WEEK AHEAD

Sunday 9AM Groups
Sunday 5PM Youth arrive for Talent Show Prep
Sunday 6PM Talent Show
Monday 6PM Troop 900
Monday 630PM Music Ministry at Nunn House
Tuesday 945AM Men's Bible Group
Tuesday 1230PM Women's Bible Group
Tuesday 6PM Pack 900
Wednesday 1PM Vital Conversation
Wednesday 7PM Music Ministry
Thursday 6PM NOCC Board
Thursday 6PM Girl Scouts
Friday 6PM Kids Movie Night
Saturday 9AM Centering Prayer

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday December 23 1015AM NOCC CHOIR PRESENTS CHRISTMAS CANTATA (bring friends)
Sunday February 3 SOUPER BOWL ALL CHURCH SOUP FEST
Saturday February 9 Introduction to Centering Prayer--led by Kevin Kelley

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY APRIL 14 3PM NOCC WELCOMES REZOUND BELL CHOIR IN CONCERT (bring friends)

The Word become flesh. Ultimate Mystery born with a skull you could crush one-handed. Incarnation. It is not tame. It is not touching. It is not beautiful. It is uninhabitable terror. It is unthinkable darkness riven with unbearable light. Agonized laboring led to it, vast upheavals of intergalactic space/time split apart, a wrenching and tearing of the very sinews of reality itself. You can only cover your eyes and shudder before it, before this: "God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God . . . who for us and for our salvation," as the Nicene Creed puts it, "came down from heaven."

Frederick Buechner

In Grace Abounding

Rob

Attachments area