

**Finding Faith: Know Doubt**  
Phil Brookman

*But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:25).*

His doubt was \_\_\_\_\_.

His doubt was \_\_\_\_\_.

His doubt was \_\_\_\_\_.

*John 11:8,16*

*"My Lord and my God!" Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (John 20:28-29).*



**QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AT HOME OR IN GGROUP**

1. What is an opinion or belief you have held in the past that you later discovered was not true?
2. Or, when was the last time you were wrong about something?
3. Would you rather have Thomas or Judas over for dinner, and why?
4. Thomas has the unfortunate label of "Doubting" nearly always preceding his name. What adjective would the people closest to you put in front of your name if they were to give you a label?
5. What is one question you want to ask God?
6. What is something in your life that has challenged your faith?
7. What is something in your life that has boosted your faith?
8. What do you think are the two or three most important keys to raising children who have faith as adults?
9. Phil talked about three dimensions of doubt. To which did you most relate and why?

Please come back at 5:00 this evening. **Scott Young** will lead worship; **Phil Brookman's** lesson will be "God of the Past, God of the Future."

**FAMILY UPDATES**

*The monthly Prayer List is available at Information Central and on the Greeters' Stations.*

**Baptisms:**

*We rejoice with...*

**Austin Heitmann**, son of **Steve & Katrina Heitmann**, and grandson of **Dennis & Margaret Heitmann**, who was baptized Tuesday, Dec. 24.

**Kenneth Cavalier**, a campus student, who was baptized Sunday, Dec. 29.

**Gracie Donaghey**, daughter of **Carolyn Donahey**, who was baptized Monday, Dec. 30.

**Hospitalized:**

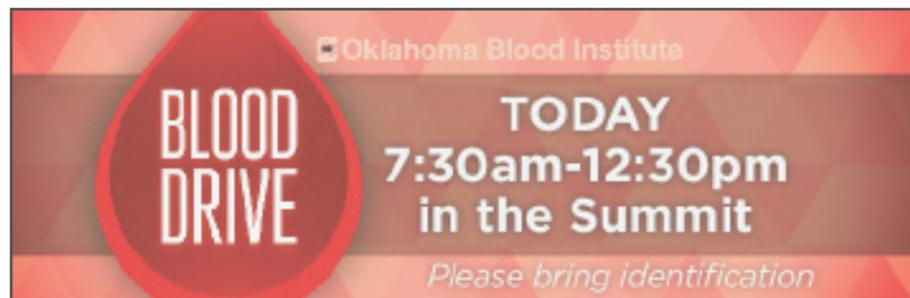
**Cindy Seale** is in St. Anthony, #6168.

**Our Sympathy** is extended to... **Betty Brookman** on the death of her cousin, Carl Brecheen, Thursday, Dec. 19, in Abilene, Texas.

**Showers:**

Bridal Shower for **Rachel Stanley**, fiancée of **Levi Dreiling**, is this afternoon from 2-3:30 in the Parlor. They are registered at Target, Dillard's, and Bed Bath & Beyond.

Bridal Shower for **Katelynn Dickson**, fiancée of **Jeffary Collins**, will be next Sunday, Jan. 12, 2-3:30, in the Parlor. They are registered at Bed Bath & Beyond, and Amazon.



Happy New Year! I hope you had a restful break and are ready to start the year off in a positive way. In fact, if you're reading this, you're already off to a great start. Kudos to you for making it to church on the first Sunday of the new year! Just 51 to go now.

Today I'm starting a brand new series called *Finding Faith*. I've been studying for and praying about this series for months now, and I believe God will bless our study together. I want you to know three of the driving factors behind the series. First, for some, faith comes easy, but for others, faith is hard. So, I want to create a space where we can talk about some of the big questions about God and some of the contemporary challenges levied against Christianity. Second, I've been thinking quite a bit about Jesus' provocative question in the gospel of Luke. "When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on the earth?" I want the answer at Memorial Road to be a resounding YES. Third, in one month (Feb. 8) one of the world's premier authors, Lee Strobel, will be coming to speak to our community in an event called *Facing Doubt*. Our *Finding Faith* series will serve to prime our minds and hearts for this special occasion.

I want to invite you to a churchwide viewing of Lee Strobel's full length movie, *The Case for Christ*. We will gather this coming Saturday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. in S1 to watch it together. We'd love you to bring a snack and be there Saturday night.

One final note, in preparing for this series, it has struck me that many who I think would benefit from hearing it will not be in our pews. So, I want to encourage you to use the digital copies of these lessons, or even just some of the notes you jot down, as tools to engage people who have walked away from God. **-Phil**



**INVITE SOMEONE!**

Invitation cards for Lee Strobel are at all the usual pick-up spots and Information Central.

Be praying for open doors to invite the people in your life whom you'd love to be there with you.



**Christmas Eve Recap**

WOW! Another amazing Christmas Eve Candlelight Service! This has no doubt become a church-favorite event. The place was packed! Almost 2,000 in attendance, and many of those were guests. I'm so thankful that for the past few years MRCC has taken advantage of the opportunity to share the good news of Jesus to our community at a time when the world is already talking about Him. A big "thanks" to **Kiley Hendley** and **Terra Myers** for the photo booths, and to the **Wheeler** and **Karguth** families for the refreshments. May God bless this church as we strive to share the good news of Jesus all year long.

~Scott

**Campinas Update**

God has blessed the Guanabara congregation abundantly. Let me share with you some of the highlights from these last four months. We began a new round of theology courses in August, with three different classes at Guanabara. God gave the increase again; and, through these theology classes, we had 10 baptisms and 3 place membership! We also had a class at Ouro Verde (new church plant) meeting on Wednesday nights from 7-10 p.m. Two were baptized from this theology class!

I was able to go to the northeast of Brazil in November to teach at EBNESR (a preacher training school) in Recife. I taught on the Macedonian Letters to 30 students. I also had the privilege to assist with a "church camp" following the class. It is the same type of event we have in Campinas every year. We began this program last year with the purpose of reaching out to the churches in that part of the country. The church is growing fast and strong in that area. Our theme was the book of Colossians. We had 53 congregations represented from eight different states and two countries (Brazil and Mozambique). It was a great time of fellowship and study.

The Ouro Verde church plant is growing. Beginning this month, members of the Guanabara congregation who live in the Ouro Verde neighborhood will begin worshipping there full time. We will miss these 23 brothers and sisters dearly, but we know that this is needed. Our prayer is that the Ouro Verde congregation can become a light to that area of Campinas (where close to 200,000 people live). Please pray for this special time in our mission work!

Our family is doing well. Robin is enjoying good health. Tyler has decided to stay in Brazil and go to a university here. Laura is a junior at Oklahoma Christian, but was with us for the holidays. We are so thankful to our God for the many blessings He has poured on us.

~Allen Dutton



**MINISTRY UPDATES**

If you'd like to learn more about all of MRCC's ministries and the various ways you can serve in them, please pick up a copy of "Ministry Opportunities" at Ministry Central in the main lobby.

Creation Station is taking a holiday break and will resume Jan. 12.



**Men's Ministry Iron Coffee & Lunch** meet this Thursday, Jan. 9. Times and locations are available at [mrcc.org/men](http://mrcc.org/men).

**Prison Ministry Service Opportunities**

One phrase from the Bible goes, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few." This could be the motto for the Prison Ministry. There are so many people incarcerated, even with hundreds of early releases, but there are so few volunteers. We need both your prayers and your assistance. The work is not glamorous and is often tedious. But the work is a ministry, and parts of it may be tailor-made to suit your giftedness. We need Sunday morning van drivers and cooks for our Sunday meal. We need graders and writers of encouragement notes. We need both women and men who are willing to commit to studying the scriptures and conducting worship services in prison. As you can see, you are needed! If you can assist us, I encourage you to pray about it and come talk to me. ~Jerry Way

**Women's Ministry**

**Annual Women's Brunch:** Join us Saturday, Jan. 25, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. in Fellowship Central for "REAL Friends," featuring speaker **Tina McCormack** and food by Ingrid's Kitchen. Sign up at [mrcc.org/women](http://mrcc.org/women) or in the foyer by Jan. 19. Cost is \$10.

**Winter Small Group Bible Studies:** Wednesday morning studies begin this week, and Tuesday lunch hour studies begin on Jan. 14 and Feb. 4. Details at [mrcc.org/women](http://mrcc.org/women).

**SWAG (Single Women's Activities Group)** will have a brainstorming session next Sunday, Jan. 12, 3:30-4:30 p.m. in A113 to plan for 2020. All single women are invited.

**Body & Soul Fitness** winter session "Strong & Fearless 2020" is Jan. 6 - March 27, 9:15-10:30 a.m., Mondays and/or Fridays in the gym. Cost is \$120 for twice/week and \$65 for once/week. Child care is provided. Discounts apply for new participants. Details at [mrcc.org/women](http://mrcc.org/women).

**Youth & Family Ministry**

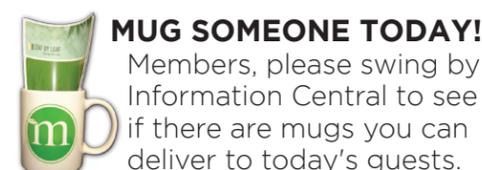
**Combined Class:** Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. in the High School Room. No hangout, dinner, or Cimarron Shuttle.

**6th Grade The Bridge:** Wednesday, Jan. 8, 7 p.m. Father/Son (6th grade room) and Mother/Daughter (Jr. High room) classes begin.

**Winterfest:** Jan. 17-19 for 9th-12th grade students. Cost \$150.



**JULY 27-29, 2020  
COPPER MOUNTAIN, CO  
REGISTRATION WILL OPEN SOON!**



**MUG SOMEONE TODAY!**  
Members, please swing by Information Central to see if there are mugs you can deliver to today's guests.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**January**

- 5** Blood Drive, 7:30 a.m. - noon, Gym
- International Worship, 11 a.m., A105/6
- International Potluck, 12 p.m., S1
- Heartbeat for Hope Day at Johnnie's
- Bridal Shower for Rachel Stanley, fiancée of Levi Dreiling, 2-3:30 p.m., Parlor
- Threads of Compassion, 2 p.m., A123
- LTC Practices Begin
- 7** Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group, 6:30 p.m., A119
- 9** Men's Iron Coffee & Lunch, 6:30 a.m. and 12 noon, Various Locations

- CWBS and Men's Bible Study Resume, 9:30 a.m.
- 12** World Bible School Day at Johnnie's
- Brother's Keeper Group Meetings
- Bridal Shower for Katelynn Dickson, fiancée of Jeffery Collins, 2-3:30 p.m., Parlor
- SWAG (single women) Meeting, 3:30 p.m., A113
- 13** NEST for Widows, 7 p.m., A105/6
- 14** OCWA Monthly Coffee, 10 a.m., Art Gallery at OC (all ladies invited)
- 16** Quilting Connection Group, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (come-and-go), S1



**A TIME FOR OUR GUESTS TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILY AND TAKE THE NEXT STEPS AT MRCC**  
EVERY SUNDAY MORNING AT 9:35 IN THE PARLOR (ROOM A114)

**Elders Available:** **Stafford North** and **Barry Perkins** will be available in the Conference Room for consultation following 5 p.m. worship.

**Worship at Teal Creek**

January 5 | 2 p.m.  
**Edmond Church of Christ**

January 12 | 2 p.m.  
**Edmond Church of Christ**

**Worship at Tealridge Independent Living**

January 5 | 2 p.m.  
**Connected - Jeff Lovett**

January 12 | 2 p.m.  
**Connected - Jeff Lovett**

**Worship at Tealridge Assisted Living**, led in part by **Jay Mack** and the Campus Ministry, is at 4 p.m. every Sunday. Contact [Bill.Luttrell@oc.edu](mailto:Bill.Luttrell@oc.edu) to get involved.

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YouTube.com/memorialroad

Get the MRCC App in your app store today!

**Choose how you give**

- [mrcc.org](http://mrcc.org)
- mrcc app
- text amount to 844.311.2333

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY**

Worship ..... 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Bible Class ..... 9:35 a.m.

First Cup ..... 9:35 a.m.

a time for guests to learn about MRCC

Evening Worship ..... 5:00 p.m.

Capitol Hill ..... 10:00 a.m.

2801 S. Robinson Ave, OKC, OK, 73109

QGroups ..... various times

visit [mrcc.org/QGroups](http://mrcc.org/QGroups) to learn more

**WEDNESDAY**

Early Bird Bible Class ..... 5:15 p.m.

Bible Class | all ages ..... 7:00 p.m.

**Baptisms in 2019.....132**

**Baptisms in 2020.....0**

**Sunday, December 29**

**Bible Class ..... n/a**

**A.M. Worship..... 1652**

P.M. Worship .....n/a

QGroups ..... 70

**P.M. Total..... n/a**

**Wednesday, January 1**

**Bible Class ..... n/a**

Weekly Budget..... \$106,764

Avg Weekly Offering.....\$103,638

YTD Budget Deficit ..... \$162,576

2221 EAST MEMORIAL ROAD  
EDMOND, OK 73013

405.478.0166 | MRCC.ORG

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