Crown Heights Christian Church

November 2026

1 Chronicles 16:34

"Oh give *thanks* to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Aaron's Alley

I want to begin this newsletter article by saying, "Thank you!"

Thank you for allowing me to spend 31 days reflecting, refreshing, thinking, and resting. Over that time, I spent a decent amount of time alone. After taking my daughter to school, I would go home and either swing a hammer (renovation projects never end, by the way), cleaning, sitting, eating, or whatever. In that time, I found myself alone for quite a bit of the day. One thing I realized during my sabbatical is that I do not sit alone with my thoughts nearly enough.

Don't get me wrong! There are plenty of times that I find myself alone, but I am not often in tune with my being alone. I hope that makes sense. There is isolation, which can easily drive us crazy if we do not have people to be with. That is not as helpful, I have found. This was not the case while I was on sabbatical. I found myself in spaces where I was alone, and much of that time left me thinking and contemplating. As I've said to many, sometimes when I am alone with my thoughts, that is a good thing. At other times, my thoughts can be less than helpful. :)

In that time, I was able to clear my head. I was able to ask God for guidance and direction. I was able to speak my gratitude to the Lord out loud. I cannot tell you how helpful it was to speak my gratitude to God in a space without concern for noise level or embarrassment.

I was stating my thanksgiving for the time to gather my thoughts. I was stating my thanksgiving for my incredible family. I was thanking God for an incredible church that basically said to me, "GO! We got this."

And, from everything I have heard, you had it!!! Thank you! Thank you to the Elders for caring for our people who were in need of a visit, a call, and communion. Thank you to the Property Team for working tirelessly to ensure the building was maintained, and even cleaning up after the basement flooded. Thank you to all who have been involved with renovating the Children's Ministry Nursery rooms. Those rooms look amazing! Thank you for welcoming the guest preachers in my absence. Thank you to the Mission Team who prepared food bags, organized the clothing closet, and kept the pantry stocked. Thank you to the Worship Team for getting Advent sign-ups started already. Thank you to the Christian Education Team for all of your work with Trunk-or-Treat. Thank you to the Wednesday night Rooted volunteers for keeping weekly Youth Meetings going every week.

And a really big thank you goes out to the staff for all of your hard work while I was gone. Pam held down the fort, which included WAY more than she is paid to handle. Thank you to Lynde for organizing our Children's and Youth Sunday school curriculum and volunteers. Thank you to Diana for always being ready to serve, rolling with whatever changes come your way, and being such a reliable and talented presence. Thank you to Daltyn and Kaleb for continuing to do what you do.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again, gratitude makes the heart grow. Gratitude settles the spirit. Gratitude reminds us of God's ever growing love in our lives, even in the darkest of moments.

A few months ago, I preached from Philippians 4. In that message, I spent some time with Philippians 4:6, which reads, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, ***with thanksgiving***, present your requests to God." (emphasis mine)

In that message, I reminded us all, myself included, that gratitude can help lower our anxiety, especially when we pray with a gracious spirit. I pray this month provides a wonderful opportunity to thank God for the moments in your life that bring joy and peace.

Blessings to you,
Pastor Aaron

Children's and Youth News

We are soooo thankful for everyone who helps make our Youth Sunday School Class, our Illuminate Children's Church and for the Nursery a possibility each week! These volunteers are awesome! It goes to show that it really does 'take a village to raise a child,' and we appreciate each villager helping us make our Children's and Youth programming possible.

The only thing we ask is for more willing adults to help make these continue. We are at a risk of having to cancel some of our programs due to needing more volunteers. Would you consider signing up to help these wonderful young people learn and grow in the knowledge and love of Jesus?

Youth Sunday School is from 9:30 - 10:30 Sunday mornings
We need two adults each Sunday

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A9AF2AA2F85-64739058-youth#/

Illuminate is right after the Children's Moment during the worship service
We need two adults each Sunday

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A9AF2AA2F85-65141420-illuminate#/

A Nursery helper is heeded during our worship service
We need one adult each Sunday

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0448A9AF2AA2F85-64732522-nursery#/

Please use the links above to access the Sign Up Genius.

Thank you!

Lynde Nash

Mission Report

Mission Team is welcoming voters from two precincts… The runoff saw 1200 people come through our doors. More are expected for the general election, and they will be welcomed with smiles, beverages, and goodies. Do you know of any other polling place that does this???

The cornucopia will be going out in the Fellowship Hall. Although the weather remains warm, it can't last forever. This is a reminder that we need blankets, socks, gloves, hats, and scarves for our neighbors. Thank you so much for always remembering them during pack the pantry.

For Thanksgiving, instead of skipping a Mobile Meals delivery, all of the churches really pour it on…our Mobile Meals folks will get a full meal, and CHCC will have provided the pies.

Your Mission Team budget will also be spent on blessing boxes consisting of food that does not need to be cooked, in case of power outages, as well as hats and gloves for those folks, also.

Looking towards December, our poinsettia display this year goes to benefit the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. You will see request forms in the ***November 22nd, 29th and December 6th bulletins***. Help us decorate the sanctuary with gorgeous silk poinsettias this December, honoring people who have made your life full of blessings!

Pack the Pantry

It's Pack the Pantry time again next week, and while we can't fill the shelves with turkeys, we can certainly help our neighbors with cranberry sauce, dressing, canned vegetables, gravy, and box desserts. We are doing well keeping our homeless friends provided with food (nearly 600 blessing bags have gone out in 13 months...woohoo!), and we need more help supporting our neighbors who run out of money long before they run out of month. Pasta & sauce, peanut butter & jelly, canned soup & canned meat, boxed meals… You know the drill.
Don't forget gloves and socks… Fingers and toes are the first to notice the cold.
Thank you CHCC…You are a prayer in motion!

Sing With Us for the Christmas Cantata

The Chancel Choir invites you to join us for our Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 13 at 10:45 AM at Crown Heights Christian Church. We will present Handel's Messiah, Part 1, including the Hallelujah Chorus, with orchestra. It is one of the highlights of our year, and singing this music together is a wonderful way to celebrate the season.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 PM and Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:30 AM. Practice tracks are available, with recordings of your individual part to help you learn the music, so you can work on your part at home between rehearsals.

If you love to sing, we would love to have you with us. Come join us at our next rehearsal.

CONCERT NEWS

Oklahoma Chamber Symphony: Mother Road
The Oklahoma Chamber Symphony celebrates the centennial of Route 66 with Mother Road on Saturday, November 7 at 7:00 PM at First Church OKC. The program features the world premiere of South Carolina composer Nolan Stolz's *Route 66 Suite*, composed specifically for the centennial, alongside *Through a Thousand Hands* by our composer in residence, Hamed Erfani. Both composers will be in attendance. Admission is free.

Oklahoma Community Orchestra: From this Land
The Oklahoma Community Orchestra presents From this Land on Tuesday, November 17 at 7:30 PM at Baugh Auditorium, Oklahoma Christian University, Edmond. The program is shaped by Native American influences. It opens with Jack Kilpatrick's *Sonatina, "Souvenir of the Ozarks."* Kilpatrick was an Indigenous composer from Oklahoma whose music was lost to history and recently rediscovered at OU, and Music Director Kaleb Benda recreated the score for this performance. The program also features Connor Chee's *Bassoon Concerto*, performed by Dr. Jacqueline Wilson, and closes with Dvorak's *Symphony No. 9, "From the New World."*

https://crownheights.church/connect/calendar-of-events

Congregational Meeting - Dec. 6th at 10:35 in the sanctuary for approval of the 2027 budget

Giving Thanks Potluck - immediately following worship November 29th



Fannie Flagg a Redbird Christmas will be the December book. We will meet December 6th at 4:30 in the library, right after the Children's Christmas Program!

-January 3, 2027 at 5:00 The Filling Station by Vanessa Miller

-February 7 at 5:00 Whistler by Ann Patchett

We always meet in the library and park in the lot at Western and 39th by the church office.

