

ART FOR FUN

Such creativity took place in our Fellowship Hall recently. The Arts and Humanities Council sponsored a week of art for children finishing third, fourth, and fifth grades. There were 25 busy artists at work each morning. The artists giving instructions were Sally Rollins and Melissa Bekemeier. The focus this year was sculpture. The three main projects were mobiles in the style of Alexander Calder, gargoyles modeled from a plastic similar to clay, and a modern sculpture with a wire base. There was a wonderful quiet buzz as the artists were intent in their work. It is good that we can share our facility for a wonderful community project.



*The First Presbyterian Church
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.
Miami, OK 74354*

The Open Door

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As we are getting close to the first of August, preparations for the mission trip to San Antonio have gone into high gear. We will be leaving at 4am on Sunday morning August 3rd and will return late Friday evening the 8th. One question comes forth with regularity as we prepare as a group and a congregation for this new adventure: Why go somewhere else to do mission? Why drive all that way (650 miles) and sleep on a church floor (they did promise us that they had air mattresses) in sleeping bags while there are many opportunities to be in mission and service in our community. Yes, I admit, there are aspects about a mission trip that seem crazy, but there are also many reasons for us to embark on this adventure:

- It is a chance to intentionally put our faith into action. Our goal for the week is to go and serve in whatever form that is. It might be in a fun activity of helping out a low income elementary program, in serving a meal, or even in sorting through donated cloths. Whatever the task, we go to serve knowing that it is in all things: the big and small, the fun and mundane, the glamorous and the tedious that we are challenged to live out what we believe. It is an opportunity to go and serve with care and intention.
- The theme of the program we are working with is “Seeing God in the City.” First of all it recognizes that we are not bringing God to San Antonio (as often is the way the people understand mission) but that we are going to serve recognizing that God is already there. It is a chance to participate in some of the things that God is already doing in the world. What a powerful lesson for all of us to see: that God continues to show up across our communities, nation and world often in the most surprising places and invites us to join in those connections.
- It is an opportunity for us to step back and watch our vision broaden. Often when we get stuck in difficulties or situations in life we need to step back and think outside the box to see solutions. Serving in mission in a community that is different from us allows us to see outside of our own community.
- It is a great way to recognize and value the wonderful gifts, energy and talents of our youth and to recognize that everyone is important and their participation is important.
- It is a chance to learn and experience another community. To see what exciting opportunities and what challenges face a city. It might just help us see and name the exciting opportunities and challenges that face Miami.

It also provides the youth a chance to have some fun together, to experience a new city and yes-if we have time ladies- to do a little shopping!

I am not sure what will happen, but one thing I do know- when we return the youth will certainly have experiences of service and faith to share with you.

Grace and Peace,
Helen



Presbyterians in the NEWS—

Don't forget to check
out our Web page
fpcmiamiok.com

- The Patriotic Concert was a success. Presbyterians helped make it so! Pastor Helen was one of the readers. Dave McManigal sang in the choir. Twila Dickerson was on the arrangements committee and also sang in the choir.
- Some of our members were important in the Little Theater Children's Performance. Those who were part of the cast were: Priscilla Wenzel, Meredith MacQueeney, Ariel Wenzel, Jordan Whaley, and Dulcinea Wenzel. Ron and Mary Susan Whaley were directors and Cheryl Whaley was responsible for lights.
- Abbey Ankenman was featured in an article about her trip to Washington, DC, as a winner of the 2008 Rural Electric Cooperative "Youth Tour." Sixty-nine winners from all over the state saw many interesting sights in DC and Baltimore and hosted a Congressional Summit for the Oklahoma delegation, aides and guests.

OUR HERITAGE

In the Heritage Case this month we decided to feature our children both past and present. We have three interesting children related books. The book, "Pinocchio" was presented to George Beck when he was about 8 or 10 years old by the Presbyterian Sunday School for Perfect Attendance. A Bible is displayed that is inscribed "To the Nursery Department from Dr. Curtis 1957." There is a book of songs used by the Primary Department (published in 1915). There are pictures old (from Sunday School and Vacation Bible School in the 1950's) and some more recent (an Easter Egg Hunt in 2003 and a picture of the children with Santa about 1999). There are interesting little certificates and cards to children from the Nursery Department.

On the table is a book of pictures of our children, some quite old and some more recent. We hope you enjoy these memories.

FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

The Need for Spiritual Grandparents!

First Presbyterian Church on Veterans Blvd. has a full time youth leader. What a wonderful blessing! God truly cares about the next generation, and all of us must share in that care and concern. What are spiritual grandparents? How much impact can a senior have on today's teen? Can you make a difference?

Research shows us no one personality has an advantage when it comes to impacting a youth group. The reason given by the researchers is that in any given youth group of any size, you have a wide variety of youth with various backgrounds and personalities. We often can think it is the super dynamic youth pastor or senior pastor that has the greatest influence upon youth. Not so, say the experts. An introverted personality can step into the youth program as a volunteer and make a huge impact on some of the kids another volunteer can never reach!

Studies also show the full time youth worker can only reach *deeply* a limited number of youth. Jesus himself only worked closely with twelve people! So what does this all mean? It means there is plenty of room for all of us to impact the youth of the church. Spiritual grandparents are vital to the health and future of the congregation. Today's youth often come from single parent homes. Many have parents who do not attend church or rarely attend church, and these youth need encouragement and love. Lots of love. Mountains of love! Just think, many of you are the only spiritual grandparents any of these youth will ever have! Your love, your experience, your wisdom, your acceptance of them, your lessons learned the hard way, all are needed by these young people. You do matter. You can make a difference. As the youth group grows, we will need more volunteers with a heart for children. Step up to the plate. Let heaven hear your voice saying, "I want to help our youth." Let Jesus hear your voice, "Send me, Lord, to help Kim and Kathy with the youth group."

In His Love,

Pastor Kim

MISSION NEWS!

Please drive by the new Community Clinic that is across the street west from where our old church was. A real need was a wheelchair ramp to enable handicapped patients to enter. With our local mission money from the Myers Endowment we paid for the ramp and steps on the south side of the building. Dr. Clark Osborn, one of the doctors at the clinic, expressed his heartfelt thanks for this needed addition to the building which had been donated.

The Mission Committee is trying to think of ways we could enable better learning at our neighborhood school, Washington School. Perhaps this could include a commitment of time to listen to children read or other support needed by the teachers. What do you think???

CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please note in your church directory the following address changes:

Thelma Carey
P.O. Box 912
Quapaw, OK 74363

Lucille Vanatta
Osborne Care & Rehab
2530 Elm N.E.
Miami, OK 74354

Presentation of Luke

Pastor Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison
will be presenting the book of Luke
September 7th, at 5:00 p.m.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women Group, when it disbanded, had money in the bank. A meeting was held July 13 after church to decide which mission project they would like to contribute this money to. The following contributions were decided upon with the prayer that our money can make a difference.

\$400 Local — The Harbor/ Because of the damage from the flood the Harbor has had to move. They are in the process of obtaining and fixing up Zac's Treehouse.

\$400 National— St. Jude's Cancer Research for Children.

\$400 International— North Eastern Presbyterian Women. /This will be forwarded to Malawi to purchase mosquito netting for the prevention of the spread of malaria.



Our Church Family

MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES The Cardens

When we find out about our members we learn what interesting lives they have had. Carol and Pat Carden are good examples!! Carol is the third of five children. She was born in Japan when her dad was in the military but moved to the states before she can remember. Her dad, Jeff Haney, was a School Administrator and later in banking. The family moved many times when the children were growing up. Pat has an identical twin brother. His family lived in El Paso, Texas, all of his growing up years.

Carol taught several different grades in different cities then went to Germany to teach in a Department of Defense school for children. Pat was a helicopter pilot in Germany. They met and dated for three years before getting married back in the US.

In 1984, Pat and Carol came to Miami for Pat to join Carol's dad in the Security Bank. The next years were eventful. Steven, Philip and the twins, Becca and Emily were all born in four years!! Later it was decided for Pat to go back in the military to get more years for benefits and retirement. The family moved to Santa Fe where they lived until 1997.

Back in Miami Pat became a Medical Flight Pilot, a career which he has continued until the present time. Carol has taught some of the years since they have been back. She has taught at several different levels, her last assignment was Kindergarten at Rockdale.

Now the children are grown. In August Steven will graduate from Tulsa Welding School. Philip has just begun a career in Sports Marketing at the University of Georgia. Becca and Emily are both at the University of Arkansas. Becca is pursuing a degree in Kinesiology and Emily is working toward a degree in Social Welfare.

The family has always enjoyed sports related activities. And they enjoy travel. Carol is a substitute teacher and spends time with arts and crafts and also does quite a lot of reading. Pat spends his spare time golfing and with photography.

The Cardens are one of the most interesting and caring families in our congregation!!

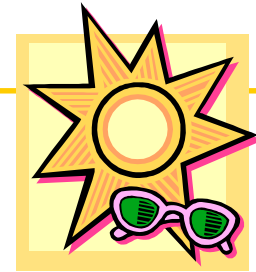


3rd - Betty Dean
and John Gray
4th—John Lomax
5th—Kathy Prince
and Truman Pitman
6th—Martha Elliott
11th—Bryson Williams
13th— Max Martin
16th— Jordan Zabel
21st— Autumn Ankenman
25th— Pris Fullerton and
Kaitlyn Mallatt
28th— Marion Zajic
29th— Ashlin Ferris

**USHER DUTIES FOR
AUGUST**

Ushers: Harold Price and
Jeraldine Wilcox
Coffee Host:
Betty Lou Ankenman
Communion Preparers:
Harold Price, Dave Hiebert and
Sherry Hiebert

AUGUST 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4:00 p.m. -Pack up bus for mission trip
4:00 a.m. bus leaves for San Antonio Mission trip						
3 Jim to Preach	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:30- Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship/Com.	YOUTH MISSION TRIP to San Antonio, Texas				10:00- p.m. bus returns	
10 9:30- Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	11	12 10:00-Tuesday morning class 3:35- Drama class 6:00-Worship Com. Mtg. 7:00-Fellowship Com. Mtg	13	14	15	16
17 9:30- S. School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship 6:00-Fellowship Dinner	18	19 10:00-Tuesday morning class 3:35- Drama class 7:00-Session mtg.	20	21 6:00-Kum ba yah	22	23
24 9:30- Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	25	26 10:00-Tuesday morning class 3:35- Drama class	27 6:00-Kum ba yah	28	29	30
31 9:30- Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	Presentation of Luke Pastor Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison will be presenting the book of Luke September 7th, at 5:00 p.m.					