



Please tear out Poinsettia form and return it to Pam if you would like to order a Poinsettia for the sanctuary. Poinsettias costs will be \$14.00 each. Please have form turned in by December 15th. (One plant with multi-blooms)

From: _____

Quantity: _____ In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____



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

The Open Door

First Presbyterian Church
1410 NE Veterans Blvd.
Miami, Ok. 74354



Pastor: Reverend Dr. Helen Hutchison
Phone: 918-542-3388

FROM THE PASTOR Each year for the December Open Door I have shared a poem from Ann Weems. I share these poems because I think she speaks to how the birth of a child 2000 years ago still impacts and resonates with us today. She speaks on how faith can bring us out of our own particular concerns, as well as the concerns of our communities, our nation and our world, to recognize that God is bigger than all that. Her poems also allow me to stop for a minute in the crazy wonderful chaos of the season, to focus and remember.

Against Our Better Judgment

We told her she couldn't go;
she was too young to stay up that late.
She told us that Baby Jesus would be there
and he was younger than she.

We told him he couldn't go;
he was too old to brave the cold night air.
He told us he'd rather greet heaven from the Christmas Eve Service
than be found slumped by the TV.

So we bundled them up
against the extreme cold
against their own defenselessness
against our better judgment
and they went out with joy.

My prayer is that those of us who think
that we're in charge of the world and the church
will remember that the stable was filled with such as these:
Those who could not be kept from rejoicing.

May your Christmas be filled with rejoicing over the fact that the birth of the holy child 2000 years ago still enters into our lives and brings God's love.

Grace and Peace, Helen



**First Presbyterian Church, Miami
Annual Christmas Dinner
December 14, at 6:00 p.m.**

Please bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

The ham and rolls will be provided.

Remember in an attempt to throw away less, bring your plate, silverware and cup with you.

Presbyterians in the NEWS —



- Lou Mirjanich is Chairman of the Miami Property Maintenance Committee. The new goal of the committee is to make Miami the “crown jewel of Oklahoma.”

- Bill Neill serves on the same committee striving to make Miami the “cleanest city in America.”

- Twila Dickerson, our organist, was pictured presenting a check to the manager of the Coleman Theater from the Patriotic Concert given in June.

- Abrina Kneeland was pictured with the Miami High School Cheerleaders.

- Stephanie Whaley, a senior Theater Major at University of Central Oklahoma, is directing a play to fulfill Thesis requirements for a Bachelor in Fine Arts Degree.



**Gingerbread House Party
At Pastors Helen's
Saturday, December 13th at 3:00 p.m.**



All families are welcome who's kids attend school. Please call if you plan to attend 542-3388 or 542-1388.



Washington School

We have three members helping with students at Washington School. Bill Neill is working with a third grade student and Marcia McManigal and Mike McManigal are assisting the Kindergarten teachers.

Soup Labels and Stamps



Please give Campbell Soup labels (the entire label) and cancelled stamps to Nancy Gee. She will be sending them soon after the first of the year.



Random Acts of Kindness

Are you thinking of ways to give someone a better day or week by some act of kindness in the name of First Presbyterian Church?? Some of the acts already reported to Helen are Banana Bread to the Election Workers, Notes to Volunteer Firemen, small packages of tissue to those leaving Wal Mart, and Brownies for the workers at the Bloodmobile. Together we will make a big difference.

“Going Green”

Since we are recycling bulletins, other paper, and plastic, Chris reports that his bags of trash have gone down from six to two!!!! Keep up the good work. Bring your eating utensils to each church dinner.

Malawi

Debbie Chase from Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery is on the faculty at the College of Theology in the Synod of Livingstonia. After graduation day, November 7, twenty nine new ministers will serve the Synods of Livingstonia and Zambia and the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. After one year they will be ordained. A project underway at the college is the construction of a new facility to house female students. Through our Mission Committee, we sent \$500 this year for this project. Debbie's entire newsletter is on the bulletin board.





First Presbyterian Youth Lead the Way!

Have you ever noticed how easy it is to sit on the side lines? Some very exciting things are happening in our youth group, and the general public is taking notice.

Recently the youth made 325 sandwiches, apples and cookies and traveled to Tulsa Day Center and fed the homeless. Not long after that, was national recycling day, and several youth from our Youth Power 4-H group represented First Presbyterian Church well by working nearly all day in very cold conditions. At that community activity Priscilla Wenzel won first place in the recycling poster contest, and Olivia Fairbanks won second place in her division.

Recently, the Ottawa county 4-H held there Share the Fun entertainment show at the NEO Fine Arts Hall. Again First Presbyterian Youth represented God, church, and Youth Power 4-H well. The large group act from First Presbyterian won second place! Individually, Dulcinea won first place in the junior division with her song, and Priscilla Wenzel won second place with her vocal in the senior division. Priscilla and Dulcinea did a small group act together and won first place.

The youth group has doubled in size since the start of the school year, and "God willing" will continue to grow to a very large group. Mission trips are planned for the future, and Kim has dreams of two week over-seas mission trips for the older teens.

The past few months the drama group has been working hard to prepare an evening of wonderful drama that will be part of the Christmas Dinner at church on December 14th. Be there - or Kim will come looking for you . . . in a bad Canadian attitude . . .

--
In His love,
Pastor Kim



MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH MEMBERS

C.B. Roberts

C. B. (C is for Carson. His dad's middle name was Basil and his dad hated that so he gave C.B. just the "B" part!!) spent his young years in Missouri but he moved here for his Freshman year in High School. Miami has been his home ever since, except for a year in the Navy. That was a year of "seeing the world" or at least the world between here and Japan!

C. B. and Mary Jane were married 45 years before her death in 1995. They had two children. Sarah Jane is retired from Mobile Oil. She now lives in McMullen, Oregon, and works as an advocate for children in the court system. John has retired from being a Forest Ranger. He lives in Tuttle, Oklahoma. He is a consultant to countries who are setting up organizations to manage health issues in a disaster.

C. B. worked for B. F. Goodrich for 35 years. All of his life he has been an "outdoors person." He has enjoyed fishing and hunting especially for quail. He used to keep hunting dogs. He has always had a garden. In his younger days the size of the garden increased each year but in the last few years it has been shrinking; now it is just tomatoes!! C. B. feeds the birds and enjoys watching them. He has enjoyed travel through the years, especially car trips. (He detests flying!!) His favorite place to go has been Yellowstone Park. He has been there four times!!

For the last many years C. B. has enjoyed going and doing with Lucille Vanatta. We in the church have enjoyed being with them together and we are all saddened by Lucille's recent death.

Through the years C. B. has had almost every responsibility in the church. For many years he was Sunday School Superintendent. He has been an Elder, Deacon, and Usher. Now he is a Greeter and he always volunteers in the kitchen. He is our best at making coffee and running the dishwasher. He is always in Sunday School and he is a part of the Tuesday Morning Study.

C. B. is a reader, especially mysteries. What an interesting guy!! What an important member of the church!!

Session Update:

The session is central to the running of the Presbyterian Church. We are lucky to have such a committed group of leaders. Here is an update from the session meeting on November 18

Worship- The worship committee has planned for the advent and Christmas Eve services.

Fellowship– The Thanksgiving congregational dinner is planned for November 23 and the Christmas dinner with a presentation by the Drama club is planned for December 14.

Mission continues to be busy. Here are some things from the past month!

The youth group made and delivered 350 snacks to a shelter for women and children in Tulsa.

Date set for Goodland visit- please mark your calendars for February 7th and 8th to receive our wonderful yearly visitors from the Goodland Academy.

So far the random acts of kindness has included: Thank you note to a local volunteer fire department, banana bread for the election workers at all Miami poling places, brownies for the Red Cross workers at a blood drive, snacks for the Sunday evening AA group, packages of tissue give at Wal-Mart with the beginning of the cold season. Please keep Helen or member of the mission committee updated on your individual attempt to reach out.

Christian Education- There was a wonderful Trunk-er-treat event with the neighboring Mormon Church and there is hope that we will do another activity together.

Finance- We continue to watch the budget. Stewardship letters have been sent out. Please prayerfully consider your pledge for next year. This is the cornerstone of the session's budgeting process for the next year.

Continued on page 5

Nominating- Thank you to Bill Giffhorn and the nominating committee of Judy Abel, Dave Hiebert, Jera Rendel. They have a full slate and are ready to report to the congregation.

Personnel - is preparing for the yearly personnel reviews.

The session has called a congregational meeting on December 7th following the worship service to receive a report from the nominating committee naming officers for 2009-2011. The slate of officers from the nominating committee:


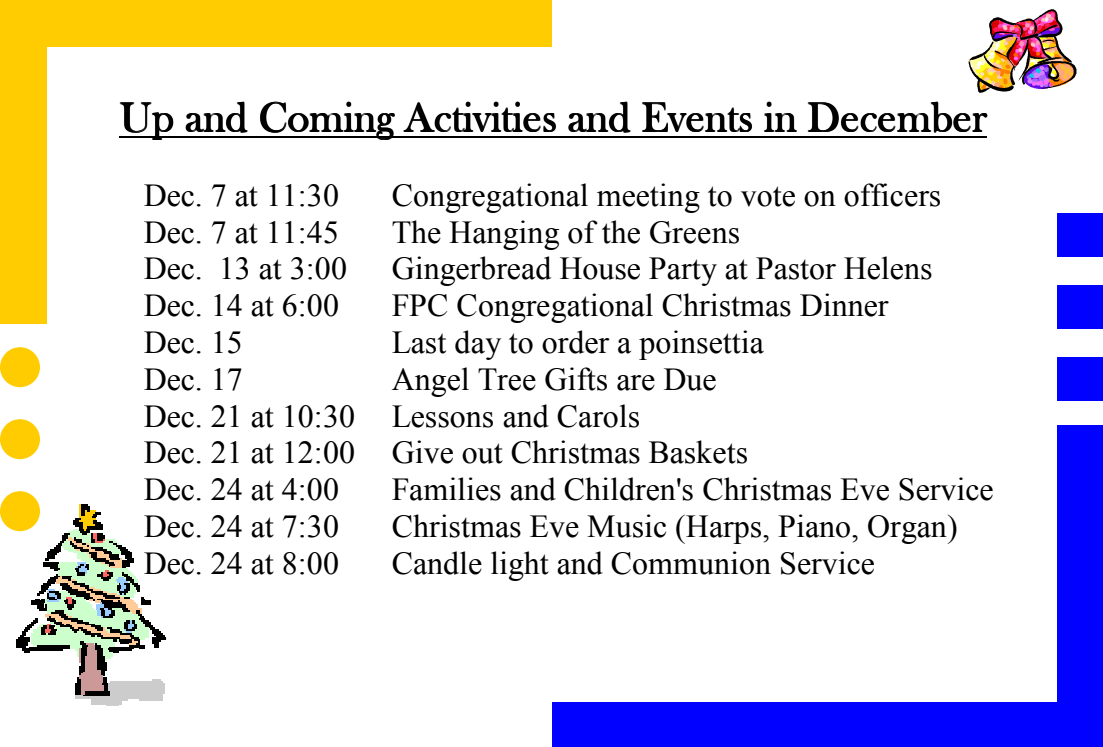
Elders: Carol Carden, Max Martin, Bill Neill, Jera Rendel

Youth Elder: Emily Gray

Deacons: Betty Jo Dean, Nancy Gee

Ushers: Janie Clay, Mary Kay McCoy, Kathy Prince, C.B. Roberts

Up and Coming Activities and Events in December



Dec. 7 at 11:30	Congregational meeting to vote on officers
Dec. 7 at 11:45	The Hanging of the Greens
Dec. 13 at 3:00	Gingerbread House Party at Pastor Helens
Dec. 14 at 6:00	FPC Congregational Christmas Dinner
Dec. 15	Last day to order a poinsettia
Dec. 17	Angel Tree Gifts are Due
Dec. 21 at 10:30	Lessons and Carols
Dec. 21 at 12:00	Give out Christmas Baskets
Dec. 24 at 4:00	Families and Children's Christmas Eve Service
Dec. 24 at 7:30	Christmas Eve Music (Harps, Piano, Organ)
Dec. 24 at 8:00	Candle light and Communion Service

