

**FEBRUARY**

**2008**

## The Open Door

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

Pastor: Reverend Dr. Helen Hutchison



If you think that time is moving faster, you may be right! Lent starts on Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup> with Ash Wednesday and Easter is seven weeks later on March 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ok, so it is not that time is moving faster, at least not for this. It is the way that the calendar is set and Easter this year is about as early as it can get. Now before you start to groan- I know that Lent is not the favorite season for many of you- I admit that I am excited about a different approach to the season. Lent is often seen as a very long introspective quiet time when we take stock of ourselves. I have often thought of Lent as the pinochle of the Christian focus on sin and depravity (even though I did not grow up in a church which focused on that). And although I am not devaluing that- there are times when we need to see and talk about humanity at its worst and the way that affects everyone- This year, maybe with Christmas and Lent so close together, I wonder if we might be able to look at things through different lenses.

For this I have turned to the wonderful theologies of our Native American tradition. Most Native American Traditions have no formal concept of Sin as it is named and understood in the Christian tradition, however, there still is an understanding of nature as sometimes, if not often, getting ourselves into trouble. Often this concept of a base nature of one's personality is shown in the stories of Coyote who is sometimes a trickster, sometimes filled with deceit, but always crafty. Coyote is easily tempted and easily lead astray. In Return to Father, Jungian therapist Gregory Max Vogt tells how Coyote cannot resist food, even when he suspects a trap; nor the temptation to find out what is over the next hill, even when he may miss a chance to catch something for dinner for his starving family; nor the opportunity to play a trick on another, though his efforts often backfire. Such efforts often result in his own death, since everyone knows he can be duped and that his resistance to temptation is quite small. This Lenten series we will spend time with the stories of the coyote and how the understanding of this pivotal character in the Native American tradition can help us look at the Christian concept of transgression which is central to the Lenten season. So sit back, listen to the stories and invite the wonderful character of the coyote can speak to us this February and March.

Grace and Peace,  
Helen



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**NOTE FROM AA GROUP -**

1-27-08

Reverend Hutchison, Enclosed with this note is a "widow's penny" donation from the Sunday Night Desire Group of AA. There was a called "group conscious" meeting last Sunday. That's the closest thing we have to a session meeting although we do not have a governing body— just trusted servants and we don't meet regularly thinking that just encourages us to look for problems on which to work. This group conscious was called for a couple of reasons one of which was that we have too much money. We only accumulate enough from member donations to buy supplies and pay expenses. The group voted that, from now on, we will divide any excess money between the AA regional office in Tulsa and the church. We hope to help offset any cost the church incurs by our presence and to contribute to its mission. We want to thank you again for letting us use the space and we want to thank you especially for allowing the children of our members use the Bee Bags. This has allowed some single parents to attend meetings and achieve recovery that they may not have otherwise found.

Sincerely,  
Sunday Night Desire Group of Alcoholics Anonymous



The men's breakfast will meet on February 7th at 7:00 a.m.  
Please come and join in on the food and fellowship.



**Campbell's Soup Labels  
for Goodland Academy**

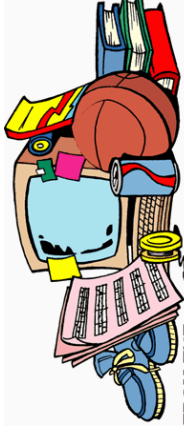
I sent the labels last week and this is the note I received:

"Thank you so much for taking time to save labels for the Academy. We need 1,500,000 for a new 7 passenger minivan. Our current count is 966,132. You really do make a difference in collecting these for us.

David Dearing, CEO"

Please continue saving the labels for me. I will send them again in a few months.

Nancy Gee



**FROM THE  
YOUTH DIRECTOR**

The winter season set us all a bit behind with the ice storm but the youth were still able to make cookies and sweets for some of the church's home bound members and delivered them before Christmas. On December 31st New Year's Eve, the youth from the karate program enjoyed a four hour karate lesson that began with a pizza lunch. It was quite a workout and we hope they got to bed early for their parents.

The kids are now back in school and the after school program is going strong. There are close to 20 kids on Wednesdays in the karate program and in the evening services, thanks to everyone for welcoming them into the church. We still have the adult karate program on Monday's where our older youth attend lessons and it is open to any adult that wishes to participate.

The youth had a great time serving a chili luncheon to the congregation after the annual congregational meeting. This was a fund raising opportunity for the youth and a big thanks to everyone who donated to our program and continue to support the kids. And a very special thanks to everyone who made a pot of chili or a dessert, this church definitely has the best cooks in town!

Youth service Sunday is coming up and we hope everyone can be there to enjoy the service. Michael Whaley is delivering the sermon and there will be special music by the junior choir. The junior choir has been going for some weeks now and the kids have been working hard and having fun learning new songs.

Sensei John Mayes has been teaching the kids karate at church for over a year now. He also owns the Baxter Springs skating rink and is very active in the community by teaching youth karate as well as how they can be safe and make good choices. He is always ready to help out with the kids and model responsible behavior for them. If you get a chance stop in on the karate class and see him in action with the kids, you'll be glad you did.

The end of March the Goodland Boys Home is sending their youth here for yet another fun filled couple of days here at FPC. We are looking forward to a great time.



## Presbyterians in the News

- Bernie Barnes and Shirley Bomford were pictured playing Bridge at the Senior Center.
- Lacey Ankenman was listed on the President's Honor Roll at Oklahoma State University.
- Kristal Sommer was listed on the President's Honor Roll at Oklahoma State University.
- Miriam Gausi was pictured in the Presbyterian Sun. She stated that a highlight of her visit to the United States was the visit to the Ankenman Ranch.
- Staphanie Whaley was listed on the President's Honor Roll at Central State University.
- Abbey Ankenman was listed on the Principal's Honor Roll.
- Carmen Rabel was listed on the Faculty Honor Roll.
- Abrina Kneeland was listed on the Faculty Honor Roll.
- Bryson Williams was listed on the Faculty Honor Roll.



## MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS

### The Chris and Sandy Ankenman Family



Chris and Sandy Ankenman moved to Miami only three weeks after they were married in 1981! Sandy lived on a ranch near Gunnison Colorado all of her growing up years. Chris moved to a ranch near Gunnison when he was in grade school. Each of them graduated from Gunnison High School. They were friends practically forever but they did not date until after their graduation from Colorado State University.

Sandy started taking piano lessons when she was 5 years old and continued studying piano all through high school. She began playing the flute in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. She accompanied groups like the Swing Band and the Jazz Band in High School. When she comes upon a difficulty, she considers it a challenge instead of a problem. She believes in lifetime learning and has taught herself to be an expert on the computer. When she first moved to Miami she was a Home Economist with the OSU Extension Office. She was a “stay at home mom” for 18 years and she now is District Technologist with the Miami Public Schools. When needed she still works on the ranch.

Ever since they moved to Miami, Chris has worked with his father, Bill, on the Ankenman Ranch. In the 1980's he was a member of the Oklahoma Ag Leadership Program. The group visited different farms and ranches in Oklahoma, met in Washington, DC, and as a final trip went to Australia. He has served on the OSU State Extension Board. At present he is on the Baxter Springs, Kansas, Coop Board and the Rural Water Board.

Autumn is Director of Communications for Arkansas Cattlemen. Lacey is a Junior at Oklahoma State University majoring in Graphic Design. Abbey is a Junior in High School.

Sandy and Chris have valued a broad education for the girls. Upon graduation from High School each chooses a trip abroad. Sandy and Autumn went to Ireland, England, and France. Lacey and Chris went to Greece and Italy. Abbey can hardly wait. She changes almost weekly as to where choose!!

We are indeed enriched both as friends and as a church to have the Ankenmans as part of our lives.

## Heritage Case

The Topic of our case is “Busy Presbyterians.” Our men and women have done so much in the past. Displayed are cookbooks published through the years – in the 20's, 50's and 70's. There is a picture of four generations – Audrey Bomford, Doris Wilson, Melinda Watterson, and Melissa and Julie Watterson promoting the cookbook from the 70's. There is a quilt block from the Road to Oklahoma quilt that Emma Penny made to get contributions for our Centennial History. There is a program from the first Mother-Daughter Banquet which was organized by Belle Butts. There is a picture of an early Rummage Sale which was a big money maker for the Presbyterian Women. Showing activities of the men are a picture of the bowling team from the 1960's, a program of the Charter Night of the Presbyterian Men's Fellowship from the 1950's, a plaque from the Hearts and Hammers, a shirt worn by the men for the special dinner during our centennial year served by the “Rolling Pin Dodgers.” There is a plaque presented to Hance VanBeber for 30 years service as Clerk of the Session. It is interesting and fun to remember those who have been so important to our church through the years.

## February Birthdays



12th— John Prince  
Steve Charlton  
14th— Sue Giffhorn  
15th— Barbara Reeves  
16th— Bernice Du Vall  
17th— Lucille Vanatta  
25th— Mika Bolton  
26th— Chris Leggett

If you have a birthday that you would like posted in the Open Door just call Pam at the church.



## Usher Assignments for the month:

Ushers: Sarah Lomax and  
Tom Pinson

Communion Preparers:  
Dave Hiebert and  
Betty Lou Ankenman



Coffee Host: Jeraldine Wilcox

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# FEBRUARY 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
8:00 - AA meetings every Sunday evening					1	2
YOUTH SUNDAY 3 9:30-Sunday Class 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship Communion 12:00— Confirmation Class	4 3:45- Karate 6:30- Boy Scout mtg.	5 10:00-Jerusalem Class 7:30-Worship Committee meeting	6  Ash Wednesday 3:45— Karate 6:00- Kum ba yah	7 7:00- Men's Breakfast	8	9
10 9:30-Sunday Class 10:00-Choir 10:30- Worship 12-Confirmation	11 3:45- Karate 6:30- Womens Community Group 6:30- Boy Scout mtg.	12 10:00-Jerusalem Class	13 3:45— Karate 6:00- Kum ba yah	14  4:30- Mission meeting	15	16
17 Loose Offering to Deacons 9:30-Sunday Class 10:00-Choir 10:30- Worship 12-Confirmation	18 3:45- Karate 6:30- Boy Scout mtg.	19 10:00-Jerusalem Class 7:00- Session meeting	20 3:45— Karate 6:00- Kum ba yah	21	22 Open Door Articles Due!	23
24 9:30-Sunday Class 10:00-Choir 10:30- Worship 12-Confirmation	25 3:45- Karate 6:30- Womens Community Group 6:30- Boy Scout mtg.	26 10:00-Jerusalem Class	27 3:45— Karate 6:00- Kum ba yah	28	29	