



Poinsettias

Thanks to all who sent poinsettias for the sanctuary during the Christmas season. They, with some other decorations, made the sanctuary look beautiful. Those plants which were not taken home by donors were taken to our homebound members and to some special residents who participate in our monthly Bible Study at Allgood Estates Residential Care.

Heritage Case

The Heritage Case this month has been filled with pictures from Christmases past. Center front is a picture of Pastor Helen with the children at the Children's Christmas Service last year. There have been many pictures of children who are now grown up enjoying the holiday season. Early January the case will have pictures and articles from previous activities of the men and of the women. Are there some you would like to repeat - or do these pictures bring to mind something else you would like to begin????



It is the old standard that the only thing constant is change. And although that can sometimes be scary, it certainly keeps us on our toes and can open the door to surprising potential if we see change as a way for God continuing to show us new possibilities. This has happened to me the past couple of months when Scott and I were talking about starting a confirmation class this January. What we realized in our conversation with each other, with youth, with their parents, and with adults in the church, was that maybe the way we thought of this class needed to change. Although I was a little nervous about it at first, I have become more and more excited at the innovative design we have come up with.

The new class is open to junior and senior high students as well as adults. It is open to people who have had little experience with churches or people who have experience in other religious denominations but want to learn about the Presbyterian Theology or people who would just like a refresher course. It is a chance for those who would like to take some time and talk about basic Christian beliefs. We will address three main questions: Who is God (we will cover the trinity, prayer, worship, and scripture), who is our neighbor (we will cover stewardship, mission and other religious traditions) and what does it mean to be Presbyterian (we will talk about the Presbyterian system and what it means to be a member.)

We will begin on January 27th after church and will meet every Sunday for an hour until Easter. If you wish to join the class please let me know so that I can have material prepared for you. Also if you are considering joining, please try your best to be at all the classes- I promise that you will gain much more from the classes. Those who wish to join the church following the class will join on Easter Sunday March 23.

As this is new, I am not sure exactly where this will go- but I know the Spirit is leading as we gather to study and discuss and seek to speak of our faith. Ok God, let the change come- bring it on! Happy New Year!

Helen



*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

SESSION NEWS—

We are all pleased with the Karate group and agreed to finance it for 6 more months. There are currently 26 youth attending. There are 11 church members and 15 new. We also voted to give \$1000 to the Boys and Girls Club.

The 2008 Budget was discussed. We will meet again on January 15 with new and outgoing session members. Barbara Reeves, church treasurer, will be here to give session further insight into the budget.

Chris Rabel has installed a new outside light by fellowship hall door. We voted to have him put two more at other doors. It really helps.

For those of you who missed Helen's presentation of her Israel trip she will be showing her presentation again on January 13th after worship.



The men's breakfast will meet on January 3rd at 7:00 a.m. Please come and join in on the food and fellowship.

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Many thanks to the congregation for the gifts that were given to us for Christmas. We truly are thankful to be a part of First Presbyterian.



Staff,  
Helen, Scott, Pam, Barbara, Chris, Ron and Kim

## Children's Services Don't Go As Planned !!

The Children's Christmas Service at 4 pm on Christmas Eve was wonderful. Helen told from memory the Christmas story from Luke; familiar songs were sung and Helen had a beautiful message about "On the Road to Bethlehem." As she talked about the journey she picked up pieces along the way. She revealed at the end that it all came together in the stable. She showed a beaded pin art showing the manger scene. Then she gave each child one. The final hymn was "Go Tell It On the Mountain." Toward the end of the first verse there were loud heaves and vomiting. The children who were aware that Nancy Gee's granddaughter, Cori, was vomiting, just stood aghast!! The adults ran for paper towels, cloths, a wastebasket, and disinfectant!! The organist continued playing although no one was singing. (She could not perceive what was happening.) It was a scene which would have won an award on "Funniest Home Videos." By the end of the song, the mess was cleaned up; Cori was rushed out and the other children had their picture made with Helen. We will remember the scene when we sing "Go Tell It On the Mountain" next year!!

## News from Malawi

From Debbie Chase at the College of Theology

Presbyterian Church (USA) Mission Challenge '07 invited every congregation and every member to answer the call to celebrate and further the international mission of the church to nurture life giving partnerships with our sisters and brothers throughout the world. During the month of October 48 PC(USA) missionaries visited congregations in 144 of our denomination's 173 presbyteries to share the good news of world mission and appeal for increased support. Hunter Farrell, the new director of PC(USA) World Mission, reports that Presbyterians have responded with "a renewed passion for world mission in our church today. There is a surge of Presbyterians stepping out in faith to support world mission through prayer, giving and hands-on involvement." It is in sharing our lives that we receive the blessing of the Christ child. There is a saying that "love is not love until you give it away." When we share our lives with our sisters and brothers throughout the world we give and receive the love that redeems. For we are one body, one family, and herein God bestows the blessing! May the extravagant mercy and remarkable love of the Christ child be yours to give to others at his Advent-Christmas season and always!



By Dave Foster

Mission committee members—Dave Foster, Chair—Nancy Gee, Marilyn Stark, Dave McManigal, Abbey Ankenman, Frank Gray, Melinda Watterson and C.B. Roberts.

We received donations of \$643.02 exceeding our goal of \$500 for the Christmas Joy Offering. The generosity of our congregation never ceases to amaze me. I would like to thank all the wonderful folks who served with me as mission committee members this year. Thanks also to many people from the congregation who contributed their time and talents to our efforts. The following is a list of projects the mission committee worked on during 2007:

- Goodland Boys visit
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Boys & Girls Club support
- FPC Youth Karate support
- Washington School Supplies
- Neeli admitted to NEO nursing program
- Curtis Plaza playground set erected
- Hearts and Hammers project & lunch
- Miami Flood Recovery effort
- Malawi visitor hosted
- Christmas Joy Offering

Finally thanks to Pastor Helen for her generous support of the committee's efforts and to Pam for granting me many extensions on the "Open Door" deadline.

### Presbyterians in the News

- Bryson Williams was pictured with the Miami Wardogs Wrestling Team.
- Michael Whaley was on of the "Herdmans" in the Miami Little Theater production of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever."
- The Carden family was featured as the Holy Family in the picture of the Christmas pageant in the Presbyterian Church in 1985.

## MORE ABOUT OUR MEMBERS



### TOM PINSON

If there is work being done by our members at the church, you can bet that Tom Pinson is a part of it. He ushers, opens the doors as worship ends, counts the offering, makes coffee, and helps clean up in the kitchen after our dinners!!!!

Tom was born in Carthage Missouri, but his family moved to Tulsa when he was two years old. He spent all of his growing up years there. He had one sister who was twelve years older. She was a mother figure to him. They were always close.

Tom attended college in Chicago and graduated with a Degree in Podiatry. While he was in Chicago, he met Florence. They were married soon after he received his degree. They lived several places before moving to Miami in 1961. Tom had an office in the First National Bank building. He also made house calls!! After about ten years, he closed his office and practiced some other places before moving back to Miami. In the 1970's he was on staff of a hospital in Chicago. After he moved back to Miami, he was a consultant at Eastern State Hospital in Vinita before retiring.

Tom has always enjoyed travel and sports, especially football, as a spectator. Fishing has been a favorite pastime. In fact his custom was to fish on Sunday mornings with a friend. He began attending our church when Bill Butts was the pastor at the invitation of Lou Mirjanich! Soon after he joined he became a Deacon. He has been a very devoted member ever since.

One thing about Tom that is very impressive is that he has given 66 pints of blood to the Red Cross. Think about it. That is more than eight gallons!!!!

Florence died a few years ago. Tom lived alone near our old church for a few years then made an arrangement to move to Baptist Village. He enjoys a full and happy life there.

We are so fortunate to have Tom as a member.





## This Month's Birthdays

- 1st—Tom Bomford
- 5th—Kyle Sommer
- 12th—Angel Russell
- 15th—Mary Freeman and Ron Forkum
- 19th—Bernice Barnes
- 20th—Laura Whalen and Michael Whaley
- 21st—Logan Zabel
- 22nd—Helen Hutchison and Scott Ferris
- 24th—Bob Linton
- 28th—Becca Bolton
- 29th—Chris Rabel



# January 2008



| Sun                                                                                                             | Mon                                                                       | Tue                                                                                                                                          | Wed                                                              | Thu                                       | Fri       | Sat                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AA meetings every Sunday at 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.                                                   |                                                                           | Church Office Closed!  <b>1</b><br><i>Happy New Year!</i> | <b>2</b>                                                         | 7:00-Men's Breakfast <b>3</b>             | <b>4</b>  | <b>5</b>                                                                            |
| 9:30- Sunday School<br>10:00 -Choir<br>10:30-Worship <b>6</b>                                                   | 3:45- Karate<br>7:00-Boy scouts <b>7</b>                                  | 10:00- Jerusalem Class <b>8</b>                                                                                                              | 3:45-Karate<br>5:00-Childrens choir<br>6:00-Kum ba yah <b>9</b>  | 4:30- Mission Committee meeting <b>10</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>12</b>                                                                           |
| 9:30- Sunday School<br>10:00 -Choir<br>10:30-Worship<br>11:30-Usher mig.<br>12:00-Israel presentation <b>13</b> | 3:45- Karate<br>6:30- Womens Community Group<br>7:00-Boy scouts <b>14</b> | 10:00- Jerusalem Class<br>7:00-Session meeting <b>15</b>                                                                                     | 3:45-Karate<br>5:00-Childrens choir<br>6:00-Kum ba yah <b>16</b> | <b>17</b>                                 | <b>18</b> | <b>19</b>                                                                           |
| 9:30- Sunday School<br>10:00 -Choir<br>10:30-Worship<br>11:30-Congregational Meeting & Luncheon <b>20</b>       | OFFICE CLOSED holiday<br>3:45- Karate<br>7:00-Boy scouts <b>21</b>        | 10:00- Jerusalem Class <b>22</b>                                                                                                             | 3:45-Karate<br>5:00-Childrens choir<br>6:00-Kum ba yah <b>23</b> | <b>24</b>                                 | <b>25</b> | <b>26</b>                                                                           |
| 9:30- Sunday School<br>10:00 -Choir<br>10:30-Worship<br>11:45- Confirmation class begins!! <b>27</b>            | 3:45- Karate<br>6:30- Womens Community Group<br>7:00-Boy scouts <b>28</b> | 10:00- Jerusalem Class <b>29</b>                                                                                                             | 3:45-Karate<br>5:00-Childrens choir<br>6:00-Kum ba yah <b>30</b> | <b>31</b>                                 |           |  |