

Heritage

Thanks to Dave McManigal for printing the pictures in the right size and to Nancy Cordell for Calligraphy the pictures of our former ministers are almost ready to hang. Be watching in January.

Poinsettias

Those who are able to worship with us this Christmas will tell you that the sanctuary looks beautiful. Thank you to all of you who furnished poinsettias.



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

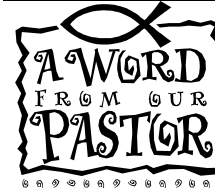
The Open Door

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

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



JANUARY
2010




Happy 2010! As I was (once again) thinking about new years resolutions (and I must admit some of them have been resolutions for many years), I was struck by the fact that they were all so serious and to be honest not much fun. It made me remember something I read last year which seemed to speak about fun but also finding what was important in resolutions. So I would like to share it with you:

I am hereby officially tendering my resignation as an adult. I have decided I would like to accept the responsibilities of a 5-year-old again.

- I want to go to McDonald's and think that it is a four-star restaurant.
- I want to sail sticks across a fresh mud puddle and make ripples in a pond with rocks.
- I want to think M&M's are better than money because you can eat them.
- I want to lie under a big oak tree and watch the ants march up its trunk.
- I want to run a lemonade stand with my friends on a hot summer's day.
- I want to go fishing and care more about catching the minnows along the shore than the big bass in the lake.
- I want to think the world is fair.
- I want to return to a time when life was simple. When all I knew about were colors, multiplication tables and nursery rhymes. When I didn't know what I know now. When all I knew was to be happy because I was blissfully unaware of all the things that should make me worried.
- I want to think that a quarter is worth more than a dollar bill because it is prettier and weighs more.
- I want to think that everyone is honest and good. I want to believe that anything is possible.
- I want to be oblivious to the complexities of life and be overly excited by the little things in life again.
- I want to believe in the power of smiles, hugs, a kind word, truth, dreams, the imagination, the tooth fairy, a kiss that makes a boo-boo go away, making angels in the snow, and that my dad and God are the strongest people in the world.

Maybe this is what Jesus meant when he said you must become like one of these to enter the kingdom: seeking the best and believing the best in people while also finding joy in everyday happenings. May the new year be filled with such joy and hope.

Grace and Peace,
Helen



Christmas Surprise
 After a huge snowstorm, imagine opening your door to find two teenagers asking if they could shovel the snow from your porch and sidewalk. That happened to some of us when Josh Gray and Angel Mills brought shovels and worked hard to make the steps and sidewalks clear and safe. We appreciate our youth!!!!



Presbyterians in the NEWS —

- Bill Neill, Assistant Manager of Miami Cineplex, was pictured with children who won special prizes at the “Santa and a Movie” held at the theater.
- Helen Hutchison was listed with the members of Rotary International.
- Janie Clay was pictured with an article about a special project at her work, Allied Jobs.
- Bill Neill’s house was featured in the Miami Parade of Homes. His house was decorated by Sunkissed Floral.
- Mary Kay McCoy was featured in the article “Why I became a Teacher. She has taught for 19 years.

CHILD’S DAY OUT CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Wednesday December 16 our Child’s Day Out program made good use of our church kitchen.

Seven toddlers rolled, cut out and decorated Christmas cookies. As 2 children at a time prepared cookies they wore child sized aprons that were borrowed from Emily and Rebecca Carden.

It was fun watching as the children concentrated on their “work”. Each child prepared a cookie sheet of cookies. It was fun to see the children excitedly show the cookies to family members. We also enjoyed watching the children generously share the cookies with parents and siblings.

We are thinking that Valentine cookies may be our next cooking project. Child’s Day Out Workers: Barb Reeves, Carol Carden, Nancy Gee, Marcia McManigal and Doris Price.

Coat Racks for Child’s Day Out—Take a walk down the hall toward the nursery and you will see wonderful low coat racks to hold jackets and back packs. We are grateful to Harold Price for making them and hanging them. It is a great addition to our program.

News from Debbie Chase in Malawi- College of Theology

In February we welcomed our first two female students. Their daily presence has changed our lives. We noticed immediately that these women are very serious students. When not in class, they are most often in the library, inspiring our male students to frequent the library more often. In class discussions a woman’s voice has brought fresh insights, new perspectives as we consider the challenging issues of life.

Last semester our first class of nine bachelor degree students completed their studies. They will graduate at the 2010 University of Livingstonia Graduation.

Debbie Chase will be in the US the first part of 2010. She will visit our church the weekend of May 24.

Christmas Basket Detectives—Early November we received the names of those whom the Department of Human Services recommended for special aid at Christmas. But when we distributed the baskets, we didn’t make connection with two families. Brad Williams and Nancy Gee were determined!!!! One address was obviously not correct – it was the address of the swimming pool!! But by removing “1” from the address we found an apartment house and knocked on doors until we connected with the family – they definitely could use some help. On the other name we only had a last name and the address of an apartment house. There were no names on the mail boxes. We knocked on doors of apartments. One man came and barely cracked the door and said he had no idea who lived in the other apartments. At another door a lady said, “I don’t know. I think she used to work at Pizza Inn before she lost the baby.” That cinched it. We weren’t gong to give up!! At another door, the lady said, “She was evicted. I think she is with her dad.” Someone on the porch said he knew where her dad lived but he didn’t know the address. He directed us in vague terms like, “You go to this street and turn left and it will be the 3rd of 4th house on the right.” We went and believe it or not we found it. Her sister was there but she stayed with someone “across from the Goodrich and around the corner 3 houses.” As we struggled with the directions she said she would lead us there – which she did. Finally we connected with someone where she stays part of the time. We felt good about getting the basket to her!! We are considering private investigation in our spare time!!!



Thanks from the Staff

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, Pam, Barbara, Jamie, Chris, Ron and Kim

Mission

We received a Thank You letter from the Vera Lloyd Home in Arkansas. We sent \$500 to them to help with their program to assist families who are struggling. Being in a stable environment makes the difference of being able to lead a fulfilling life.

The committee voted to send \$300 to the Backpack Snack Attack Program in the Miami Schools. Through this program easy to prepare food is sent home on the weekend with children who might otherwise go hungry until they came back to school on Monday.

We voted to send \$1000 to assist Debbie Chase in her work in Malawi. She is the Dean and lecturer at the University of Livingstonia, College of Theology. \$300 will be used for her salary and \$700 will be used for the training of ministers at the University. The Mission Committee is giving (in the name of the church) \$500 to the Education Trust being set up by our session and \$500 to The Ark, a living place for men who work but would otherwise be homeless.

The committee is hopeful that members of the congregation will be generous concerning the Christmas Joy Offering. (Update we collected a total of \$1,163!)

Mission Committee—To support the World Mission of the Presbyterian Church please consider using the Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study as part of your daily devotions. This wonderful resource dates back to 1892 and gives relevant information on the world-wide mission ministry supported by the prayers and gifts of Presbyterians. This small book can be viewed and purchased through the church office.

Jeanne Fleming

Child's Day Out

The favorite snack item for the children ages one to three is Baked Lightly Salted Sweet Peas (called Snapea Crisps) from the health food store!!!! Isn't that hard to believe!



Our Church Family

More About Our Members

Abrina Kneeland

One of our members said, "Why don't you write about Abrina Kneeland. She is so friendly and caring." I thought, "That is a good idea!"

Abrina has grown up in Miami. She attended Rockdale Elementary School. Her best friend in seventh grade was LaShell Thomas. She began coming to worship and church activities with LaShell and her mother, Shelly. Soon ours became her church family. She has been active in the Youth Group for several years. She is a very important member of Kum Ba Yah.

Abrina has two brothers, one younger and one older. Nathan, the older one, is a student at the University of Minnesota studying Nuclear Chemical Engineering and working for the 3M Company. Tyler is a Sophomore in High School and Reece is in the third grade.

Abrina was involved in many activities during High School. She was in dance and chorus; she was a cheerleader; she was a Baseball Manager and a member of Key Club. She graduated from High School in 2009. She is now attending NEO. She lives in Dobson Hall and she is majoring in Education. She intends to do mission work. Her Minor will be Spanish. She had two years of Spanish in High School and she is taking more at NEO. Amazing accomplishment – Abrina carried 19 hours as a Freshman and made all A's!!!!

She works at the First National Bank. With work and her requirements at school, she has very little free time. If possible she likes to read romantic novels. She also loves to shop!!!

Deacons

After worship on December 20 it was easy to feel God's love at "First Pres." The Deacons and other members were giving out the Christmas baskets. This year we provided 29 generous boxes of food and wrapped gifts to 52 children. The Youth of the church were a part of the distribution. Everyone felt good about what we were doing. Those receiving were grateful. Thanks to all of the members who shopped for and wrapped the gifts for the children.



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
 24th—Bob Linton
 28th—Becca Bolton
 29th—Chris Rabel

**Usher Responsibilities
 for January**

Ushers: Harold Price and
 Jeraldine Wilcox

Coffee Host:
 Harold Price



January 2010



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Church Office Closed	2
3 9:30-Sunday School 9:30-Choir 10:30-Worship/Com. Lessons & Carols	4	5 10:00 -Tuesday morning class	6 8:15- CDO 3:45-Youth prog 5:15 Chime Choir 6:00-Cong. Dinner 6:30- Worship	7 7:00- Men's Breakfast	8	9
10 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship 6:00-HS Bible Study	11 4:00—Exercise Class	12 10:00 -Tuesday morning class 7:00-Session mtg.	13 8:15- CDO 3:45-Youth prog 5:15 Chime Choir 6:00-Cong. Dinner 6:30- Worship	14	15	16
17 9:30-Sun. Class 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship 11:30— Cong. Annual mtg 12:00-Congregational Lunch	18 4:00- Exercise Class	19 10:00 -Tuesday morning class	20 8:15- CDO 3:45-Youth prog 5:15 Chime Choir 6:00-Cong. Dinner 6:30- Worship	21	22	23
24 9:30-Sunday class 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship 6:00-HS Bible Study	25 4:00- Exercise Class	26 10:00 -Tuesday morning class	27 8:15- CDO 3:45-Youth prog 5:15 Chime Choir 6:00-Cong. Dinner 6:30- Worship	28	29	30
31 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship 6:00-HS Bible Study						