



If you are interested in purchasing an Easter Lily to help decorate the sanctuary just call the church office, costs will be \$16.00 each. Orders are due by April 11th.

From: _____

Quantity: _____ In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

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's
Desk*

We have begun working on Vacation Bible School. This year, as I met with people from the Methodist and Episcopal churches, we all looked at the available curriculum and had little to say. There was no curriculum that we found exciting and inspirational, in fact it all seemed like it had been done before. So I shared an idea that I had: what if we spent some time learning about the wonderful Jewish festivals? These are the holidays Jesus would have celebrated as a child and if we restructure Bible School we would be able to make use of

all the land we have and maybe participate in activities that would help children and adults remember the VBS stories. The others agreed, so I have been busy writing some VBS curriculum. In June we will spend three evenings together: each evening focusing on a Jewish Festival. These celebrations are new to most of us so I would like to take some time in the next couple months and introduce you to them.

Sukkot or the Festival of Booths.

Leviticus 23:41-43 You shall keep it as a festival to the LORD seven days in the year; you shall keep it in the seventh month as a statute forever throughout your generations. You shall live in booths for seven days; all that are citizens in Israel shall live in booths, so that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the LORD your God.

Sukkot or "Festival of the Booths" is also known as "Festival of the Ingathering," "Season of Rejoicing," and even "The Festival." The Festival is the longest holiday in the Jewish tradition lasting for 9 days, and is mentioned numerous times in Jewish writings. The length and the number of times it is mentioned has lead many scholars to believe that the Festival was once the most important holiday in Judaism. Sukkot is comparable to the American Thanksgiving and is a harvest festival. Also, as one of three pilgrim festivals (the others being Passover and Shavuot-more about this next month) pilgrimages were made to the Temple with harvest offerings.

Continue on page 2 -



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

The primary observance associated with Sukkot is the building and dwelling in a temporary shelter, or "booth" based on the passage from Leviticus, as a way of remembering the time the Hebrew people spent wandering in the wilderness. In honor of the holiday's historical significance, people dwell in temporary shelters, as our ancestors did in the wilderness. The temporary shelter is referred to as a sukkah (which is the singular form of the plural word "sukkot").

It is perfect for Vacation Bible School. Knowing that building a sukkah may well fit into the common childhood fantasy of building a fort, we will build Sukkah's on the church lawn. The commandment to "dwell" in a sukkah can be fulfilled by simply eating all of one's meals there (OK- so the VBS dinners the next two nights) although there are some who would sleep in the Sukkahs.

As for building the Sukkah, there are only a few rules:

- 1) A sukkah must have at least two and a half walls covered with a material that will not blow away in the wind.
- 2) A sukkah may be any size, so long as it is large enough for you to fulfill the commandment of dwelling in it.
- 3) The roof of the sukkah must be made of material that grew from the ground and was cut off, such as tree branches, corn stalks, bamboo reeds, sticks, or two-by-fours.
- 4) The roof must be left loose, not tied together or tied down and must be sparse enough that the stars can be seen through the covering.

What a beautiful and wonderful way to remember that God is with us, even when sometimes we feel like we are wandering and uncertain about our future. May the joy of building a Sukkah remind us all that no matter where we are, God is with us!
Grace and peace,
Helen

We have begun collecting items for VBS: empty cereal boxes (all sizes), toilet paper rolls, 2 liter pop bottles, any big cardboard boxes, wood pieces, large material or tarps. Please bring into the church office.

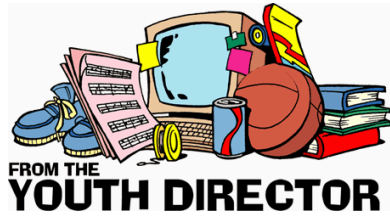
Presbyterians in the NEWS —

- John and Josh Gray were pictured with the Miami High School Band. The picture was taken at a Marching Festival.
- Carmen Rabel was pictured as an attendant for the Miami High School Spring Homecoming.
- Pastor Helen was pictured as part of the cast of the play, The Cemetery Club.
- Abrina Kneeland was listed on the NEO President's Honor Roll.

~~~~~  
**FYI-** Letter from Cathryn Davis— Cathryn Davis, daughter of Harry Curtis, (Pastor at First Pres for 35 years) read in the Open Door that we are saving “Boxtops for Education” for Goodland. She sent some with a note which said, “My best to 1st Church in Miami and all of its special members. I think of it in February when I still celebrate Dad’s birthday on the 8th!!”

~~~~~  
MISSION— One part of our mission is making our facilities available to meet needs of the community. Many of you may not know that Gamblers Anonymous meets in Fellowship Hall on Thursdays and Alcoholics Anonymous on Sundays. Recently we made our Fellowship Hall available for a Quapaw Dinner held after the graveside service of Geoffrey Wilson. At an appropriate time, one of the guests spoke his gratitude for the fact that our church has made it possible for AA to meet in Fellowship Hall. He said that we will never know the difference it has made in his life.

~~~~~  
**Join us on Wednesday nights!!!** - Recently I have heard two people who are a regular part of our worship experience midweek say, “People in our church don’t realize what they are missing by not being a part of the wonderful worship Helen leads every week.” She spends much time and creative thinking to make the time meaningful. Recently she used two parables concerning yeast and leavening. She made bread with yeast and a loaf leaving out the yeast. Comparing the yeast of Jesus with the yeast of the Pharisees. The difference was remarkable. Jesus was making the point that we as Christians can make a big difference. The learning on Wednesday nights is experiential and the inspiration is great. Please join us for a wonderful evening of a simple potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. and worship from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



The youth are starting to prepare for camp, VBS, and their trip to Denver, Colorado. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, they will be hosting an Italian dinner from 6pm to 7:30pm. There will be good food, good music, good dancing, and good fellowship. This dinner was scheduled in February but had to be rescheduled due to many inches of snow! Tickets will be sold at \$5.00. If people can volunteer to bring pop, or some kind of dessert, that will be great. Sign up sheets will be down in fellowship hall. Also, youth Sunday is rescheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>. The youth are looking forward to talking to the congregation! Hope everyone has a safe and fun Spring break! As you are in town and at the grocery store, if you could pick up simple snacks, such as crackers, graham crackers, chips, goldfish, etc. that would be much appreciated. When the kids come from school on Wednesday, they are ravenous and really appreciate the light snack!

---

### Session retreat

In February the session met for a retreat to look over goals for the next year. We settled on 2 goals.

1. repaint the bus and get it serviced,
2. update and use of technology— including a more interactive website and using the technology in the sanctuary.

Our third goal we are in the process of developing and will update you as we figure out how to articulate it. Welcome to the new session members: we are up and running!!!!

---

A big **THANK YOU** goes out to Brent Rendel for clearing the church lot twice when we received snow in February.

---

**Goodland**— Plans are being made for the Goodland boys to spend the weekend with us on April 9th and 10th. Please join us for worship and be inspired by the wonderful group of boys and their mentors. If you save Campbells Soup Labels or Labels for Education, please give them to Nancy Gee before that time. Thanks!



## MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

### Mary Kay McCoy

Mary Kay is one of the most positive, enthusiastic members of our church family. She has been a member since 1982 when her mom (Jeanne Fleming) and her dad (Jeff Haney) bought the Security Bank. Her husband came to work in the bank while she stayed at home with their two young sons, Jeff and James. In 1991, she started teaching Physical Education in the Miami Schools. She has been a positive influence in the lives of many children ever since.

Mary Kay spent her early life in Wyoming, then lived in Dallas and later in Fort Smith, Arkansas, where she graduated from High School. She is a graduate of the University of Arkansas. After her graduation, she was a Flight Attendant for Braniff Airlines for five years.

One of her greatest joys is spending time with her children and grandchildren. Jeff and Amy and their two year old son, Caleb, live in northwest Arkansas. James and Shena and their one year old daughter, Bailea, live in Stillwater. Step daughter, Amanda and her husband Jeremy live in Miami with their children, Brooklyn, Cameron, Chaz, and Chase. For her grandchildren she particularly enjoys creating books with photos. After her children and grandchildren, one great joy is her dog, Milly.

Mary Kay gets and gives much pleasure and love from her teaching. Her goal is not just physical education, she is interested in the whole child. In her job she teaches more than 400 children each year. What a wonderful influence she has.

Travel is a favorite pastime. Her favorite two places to go are Alaska and to the beach!!

As a church family, we love it when Mary Kay brings her positive attitude and her creative ideas into our activities. She was Christian Education Director before she started teaching. And she was on the Session when the church burned. She was one of the diligent board members who brought us through the grieving, planning and move into our new church. If you take a responsibility in the church, just hope that Mary Kay is working with you!!!



1st—Greg Hiebert  
 7th—Josh Gray  
 Jamie Gray  
 8th—Rosemary Russell  
 Sally Whalen  
 10th— John Wilcox  
 12th— Sue Mudrick  
 13th—Frankie Gray  
 20th—Nickey Hiebert  
 21st—Emily Gray  
 23rd—Victoria Vazquez  
 24th—Courtney Clay  
 28th—Dorothea Tebeck  
 31st—Fred Niehaus

**Usher Duties  
 for March**

**Ushers:** Eddie Hartnitt and  
 Dave Foster

**Communion Preparer:**  
 Eddie Hartnitt

**Communion Servers:**  
 Max Martin, Marcia McManigal,  
 Melinda Watterson and John Gray

**Ash Wednesday is March 9th  
 and is the beginning of Lent  
 we will have the imposition of  
 ashes as a part of the  
 Wednesday evening service.**

# MARCH 2011



| Sun                                                                                               | Mon                                                                                                         | Tue                                                                                       | Wed                                                                                            | Thu                                                                                                                                   | Fri | Sat                                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| AA group meets every Sunday at 8:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall.                                  |                                                                                                             | 1 10:00-Tuesday morning class<br>6:30-Worship Com. Mtg.<br>7:00-Mission Committee meeting | 2 8:30 Childs Day Out<br>3:45-Jr. High Group<br>5:15- Chime<br>6:00-Wed. Worship<br>7:00-Choir | 3 5:30-Sr. High Group<br>7:00-Gamblers Anonymous                                                                                      | 4   | 5                                                                   |
| 6 9:30-Class & Choir<br>10:30-Worship/<br>Communion                                               | 7                                                                                                           | 8 10:00-Tuesday morning class                                                             | 9 8:30 Childs Day Out<br>3:45-Jr. High Group<br>5:15- Chime<br>6:00-Wed. Worship<br>7:00-Choir | 10 5:30-Sr. High Group<br>7:00-Gamblers Anonymous                                                                                     | 11  | 12 Don't forget to turn your clocks up an hour before going to bed! |
| 13 9:30-Class & Choir<br>10:30-Worship<br><u>1st Sunday of LENT!</u>                              | 14                                                                                                          | 15 10:00-Tuesday morning class                                                            | 16 5:15- Chime<br>6:00-Wed. Worship<br>7:00-Choir                                              | 17 <br>5:30-Sr. High Group<br>7:00-Gamblers Anon. | 18  | 19                                                                  |
| 20 SPRING BEGINS!<br>9:30-Class & Choir<br>10:30-Worship<br><u>Loose offering goes to Deacons</u> | 21 <br>7:00-Session mtg. | 22 10:00-Tuesday morning class                                                            | 23 8:30 Childs Day<br>3:45-Jr. High Group<br>5:15- Chime<br>6:00-Wed. Worship<br>7:00-Choir    | 24 5:30-Sr. High Group<br>7:00-Gamblers Anonymous                                                                                     | 25  | 26 6:00-Italian Dinner<br>Youth Fundraiser                          |
| 27 <u>Youth Sunday</u><br>9:30-Class & Choir<br>10:30-Worship                                     | 28                                                                                                          | 29 10:00-Tuesday morning class                                                            | 30 8:30 Childs Day<br>3:45-Jr. High Group<br>5:15- Chime<br>6:00-Wed. Worship<br>7:00-Choir    | 31 5:30-Sr. High Group<br>7:00-Gamblers Anonymous                                                                                     |     | <i>Spring Up an Hour<br/>This Month</i>                             |

