

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—

This year we will be returning to Rome and visiting with Paul and going to the market place. This is a call for all volunteers to sign up and enjoy the fun and fellowship with our friends from the Methodist and Episcopal churches. Sign up sheets will be posted in the fellowship hall. Dates are June 22-25.



The Open Door

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

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



2009



In the church calendar we are still in the Easter season and will be in the Easter season until Pentecost, the last Sunday of May. It seems strange in our fast passed world where we like to quickly move onto something else, to find ourselves in the Easter season for 7 weeks. I mean really, we celebrated the resurrection on Easter Sunday (April 12th) with wonderful food (thank you John Lomax and the men's breakfast), music (thank you Dolly Gray, John Gray, Sandy Ankenman and both the chime and voice choirs) and flowers. Can't we move on? Why do we need 7 Sundays to focus on Easter?

The lectionary readings (the Scripture readings suggested for each Sunday) used for that time of year focus on Jesus' appearance to the disciples (the Gospels) and the disciples seeking to figure out how this new community of believers will function (Acts and the Epistles). When Jesus appears to the disciples he shows them his hands and feet and asks them to touch. He also eats. Thomas however is not there. So when Jesus appears again, he again offers his hands and side. Certainly this is to show the disciples that it is really him, but I think it also is sharing much more. Jesus is sharing his wounds, the places that hurt. He does not skip over the reality of the honor of the crucifixion. He is letting the disciples know that in every sense, things have changed.

In reality, change is very hard- even if it is good. Maybe that is why we need 7 weeks, to remind ourselves of that change and to incorporate it into our being. With the disciples gathering in a locked room because of fear of their situation and the world outside, Jesus comes and acknowledges the change: the hurt which change brings but He also offers a space beyond the wounds and says "peace be with you." Maybe it is God's way of reminding us, no matter the circumstances, and no matter the fear and the wounds, God is with us and God brings light to the most unlikely places. The fear and the hurt and the wounds are not the end of the story. God's continuing redemption is at work, today in our world. As we sit in this Easter season, we acknowledge the wounds and the hurt and then share with ourselves, each other and the world our faith in God's continuing work to love, heal and redeem. Maybe change isn't so bad after all!

Peace be with you. Helen





Presbyterians in the NEWS—

- Meredith MacQueeney was listed on the Will Rogers Middle School Principal's Honor Roll.

- John Lomax was pictured presenting a large check to the United Way in behalf of NEO.

- Nancy Gee was pictured with two recipients of the Robert S. Gee Phoenix Scholarship which is given by the Miami Public Schools Enrichment Foundation.

- Sarah and Lou Mirjanich and Nancy Gee were pictured with the group going out to work on Miami Clean-up Day.

~Church History Update~

Copies of the History Update are still available. A great thanks goes to Pam for the printing and to Dave McManigal for some of the photography. The price is \$10. You can get a copy from Nancy Gee or from Pam in the church office. If you want to order a copy please send \$12 (\$2 is to cover the postage.) With the proceeds we will get pictures of uniform size printed of our ministers, have them framed and hang them for all to enjoy.

Mission

Our congregation contributed \$850.76 to the One Great Hour of Sharing. This will improve the quality of life for many who have so little.

With the funds available from the Myers endowment local mission, our church is contributing \$2,500 to both the Harbor and the Community Crisis Center, which meet great needs in our community.



OUR PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION - On Sunday, April 19th the congregation was invited out to the Ankenman Ranch to enjoy fellowship and a tour of their historic barn. Everyone enjoyed the time together, the chance to get to know more about each other and to catch up on what is going on currently in each others lives.

“Oklahoma Passover”

Carol Carden and Pastor Helen had the tables beautifully laid with all of the necessary foods and props for our Seder. In fact we had begun. Dave Hiebert was aware of the changing cloud patterns and interrupted to say he sighted a tornado. Pastor Helen paused and instructed everyone to proceed to the Men’s Restroom, our safest room. We went in an orderly fashion at the same time as the sirens began the alert to take cover! The Men’s Restroom can hold more than you would think. We stayed until the “All clear” then went back to our Passover celebration. The tornado had “passed over!”

Finding the Matzot

As a part of the Seder, the children search for the matzot which had been hidden during dinner. This year Mickey Mundt found them. That gave her the right to choose where the money contributed would be taken. She chose the Ottawa County Nutrition Coalition.

YOUTH NEWS — The youth will be busy these next few weeks getting all the garage sale material priced and ready. Funds from the garage sale go toward the mission trip to Chicago. In addition to the garage sale, the youth will also be cleaning windows for any interested home owner and all the money goes for the mission trip.

Harold Price gave an excellent presentation to the youth on Sunday, April 19th, regarding the Arch in Picher. The Arch is a drug rehab center that has a high success rate. The youth are donating the Super Bowl Sunday coin donations to the Arch. The youth will also be visiting the Arch in the near future.

In His love,
Pastor Kim

Jessica Venard – A Winner

Jessica Venard, 10 year old granddaughter of Bood and Judy Abel, is certainly a winner in the Hoop Shoot sponsored by the Elks Club. She has won the Local contest in Stillwater, the District, the State, and the Regional. She is competing in the National Contest in Springfield, Massachusetts. She plays basketball program in the Upward Program in Stillwater.



One big project of the Deacons is buying shoes for children who need them. The school Social Worker calls and a Deacon meets

the Social Worker and the child and buys shoes and socks. Recently we have bought for six children.

On Easter some people who purchased lilies didn't choose to take them home. Deacons took them to a nursing home. One we took to Thelma Carey, our member who lives there. Then we asked to be taken to residents who don't often have visitors. We visited five of those people. Before we went into one room, the nurse said, "She gets a telephone call occasionally but she never has a visitor." She was

so pleased to have the visit and the lily. It brightened the day for the others also.

News from Debbie Chase in Malawi

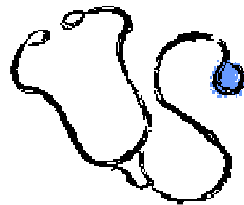
The School of Theology finally opened February 10. The long delay was from lack of funds. The school began its year with much rejoicing. Twenty first year students will begin in July. Most of the students are male but there are two females.

Debbie will be in the US early in 2010 and we hope she can visit our church. Read more from Debbie's letter on the bulletin board.



Anganile Gondwe

Three years ago Neeli came to Miami under our care to become a nurse. The first year she took pre-nursing classes and the last two years she has been in Nursing School at NEO. May 7 she will become a Registered Nurse. We are very proud of Neeli. There will be a "Pinning Ceremony" at the Fine Arts Building at 2 in the afternoon, May 7, followed by a Reception in the Student Activity Center. I hope a large number of our members will attend to show our pride and support.



MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

David Foster

David Foster was the second of five sons in his family. His early years were spent in Joplin but he moved to Miami when he was thirteen. His grandfather was a Methodist minister and Dave was active in the Methodist Church, especially in the Methodist Youth Fellowship, in his growing up years. He played basketball and baseball in Miami High School and graduated from MHS in 1960. The next two years he attended NEO, where he also played baseball. A Chemistry professor, Frank Cunningham, became his mentor and opened the door for his life work. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 1964 with a B. S. in Chemistry after which he began a forty year career as a chemist. He developed a specialty as an analytical chemist in the environmental field. In that time, he worked in several different places including jobs in Colorado, Florida, and California. Of the ten worst superfund sites in California, he worked in six!! David came back to Miami in 1980 because of a job opportunity with Eagle Picher.

When he came back to Miami, he visited various churches to find the one in which he felt comfortable. We are fortunate he found our Presbyterian Church to be the most welcoming and to be the one for him! He became a Deacon. Beginning in 1984 his work took him to other communities. In each place he was active in a Presbyterian Church. He taught Sunday School in Redondo Beach, California, and sang in the choir at Westminster Presbyterian in Sacramento, California.

He moved back to Miami in 2000 to care for his mother who had breast cancer. He has been very active in our church, serving as Usher and Elder and singing in the Choir. He is employed by Therma Fisher Scientific as an analytical chemist. Among his interests are golf, fishing, and reading. He is such an asset to our church.



Congratulations to Neeli Gondwe, LaShell Thomas, Abrina Kneeland and Abbey Ankenman. We will celebrate their achievement on Sunday, May 17 after worship.



May 2009



3rd—Mary Newkirk
9th—David Stark
10th—Matt Whalen
11th—Lou Mirjanich
12th—Gayle Waylan
13th—Al Newkirk
14th—Tom Pinson
15th—Phillip Carden
17th—Carol Carden and David Hemmingson
18th—Abbey Ankenman
19th—Charlie Russell
22nd—Kolin Williams and Isaac Rendel
28th—Jerrell Davis and Jessica Bolton
30th—Arlene Seybolt and Sally Willard

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 7:00—Youth Yard Sale
3 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship/Com.	4	5 10:00- Tuesday morning class 2:00-Bible Study at Allgoods	6 4:30-Youth Power 5:15-Chime Choir 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00-Choir	7 7:00- Men's Breakfast 2:00—Neeli's Graduation	8	9
10 Mother's Day 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	11	12 10:00- Tuesday morning class	13 12:00- Mission Committee meeting 4:30-Youth Power 5:15-Chime Choir 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00-Choir	14	15	16
Loose Offering to Deacons 17 Graduation Sunday 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship 11:30-Mission Trip mtg.	18	19 10:00- Tuesday am class 7:00-Session meeting	20 4:30-Youth Power 5:15-Chime Choir 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00-Choir	21	22	23
24 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	25 Office Closed MEMORIAL DAY	26 10:00- Tuesday morning class	27 5:15-Chime Choir 7:00-Choir	28	29	30
31 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship						