

The Open Door

First Presbyterian Church
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FROM THE PASTOR

We are approaching May. A month with many celebrations, graduations, new beginnings and summer breathers. At a time when we look at accomplishments, I thought it would be fun to share some comments about what people feel are the most important things that they have learned.

- I've learned that I like my teacher because she cries when we sing "Silent night".
Age 6
- I've learned that our dog doesn't want to eat my broccoli either.
Age 7
- I've learned that when I wave to people in the country they stop whatever they are doing and wave back.
Age 9
- I've learned that if you want to cheer yourself up, you should try cheering someone else up.
Age 14
- I've learned that although its hard to admit it, I'm secretly glad my parents are strict with me.
Age 15
- I've learned the silent company is often more healing than words of advise.
Age 24
- I've learned that brushing my child's hair is one of life's greatest pleasures.
Age 26
- I've learned that wherever I go, the world's worst drivers have followed me there.
Age 29
- I've learned that if someone says something unkind about me, I must live so that no one will believe it.
Age 30
- I've learned that there are people who love you dearly but just don't know how to show it.
Age 42
- I've learned that you can make someone's day by simply sending them a little note.
Age 44
- I've learned that the greater a person's sense of guilt, the greater his or her need to cast the blame on others.
Age 46
- I've learned that children and grandparents are natural allies.
Age 47

- I've learned that no matter what happens, or how bad it seems today, life does go on, it will be better tomorrow. Age 48
- I've learned that singing "Amazing Grace" can lift my spirit for hours. Age 49
- I've learned that motel mattresses are better on the side away from the phone. Age 50
- I've learned that you can tell a lot about a man by the way he handles these three things: a rainy day, lost luggage, and tangled Christmas tree lights. Age 52
- I've learned that keeping a vegetable garden is worth a medicine cabinet full of pills. Age 53
- I've learned that regardless of your relationship with your parents, you miss them terribly after they die. Age 55
- I've learned that making a living is not the same thing as making a life. Age 58
- I've learned that if you want to do something positive for your children, work to improve your marriage. Age 61
- I've learned that sometimes life gives you a second chance. Age 62
- I've learned that you shouldn't go through life with a catcher's mitt on both hands. You need to be able to throw something back. Age 64
- I've learned that if you pursue happiness it will elude you. But if you focus on your family, the needs of others, your work, meeting new people and doing the very best you can, happiness will find you. Age 65
- I've learned that whenever I decide something with kindness, I usually make the right decision. Age 66
- I've learned that everyone can use a prayer. Age 72
- I've learned that it pays to believe in miracles. And to tell the truth, I've seen several. Age 75
- I've learned that even when I have pains, I don't have to be one. Age 82
- I've learned that I still have a lot to learn. Age 92

Preachers often get criticized for making religion too much in the head and not connected to daily living. I think these statements of what people have learned, is a great testament on how to live a faith-filled life. May your summer be blessed with such wonderful encounters of the Holy in your lives.

Grace and Peace,
Helen



MISSION MARKET—

March 28th we started a new project in our church foyer. We are calling it "Mission Market". This is a place where we are encouraged to donate as well as purchase items from our church family.

Everyone is welcome to bring in items for sale. These items could be as varied as cupcakes, frozen fish, garden produce, handcrafts, fresh flowers, honey, homemade soup, the possibilities are endless.

You bring your treasures to the Mission Market table on Sunday before church. (non-perishable items could be brought anytime during church business hours)

On Sunday we go to the table to shop. There will be an envelope to collect our donations and all proceeds will go to the Mission Committee. At the Market a display will designate the Mission Program that will be supported that week. We collected \$195.17 from the Market for the Goodland Boys Home.

This is a great way for us as a church family to share our talents while also financially supporting our Church Missions.

For more information about our Mission Market you can call Jera at 540-0938.

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.
Corinthians 12:4-6

Luncheon Reception for Debbie Chase, Malawi Missionary

Our May Fellowship get-together will be a light lunch after worship on Sunday, May 23rd. The congregation is encouraged to bring finger foods, appetizer type foods or desserts. Drinks and table service will be provided. Please join us in welcoming Debbie to our church.





Presbyterians in the NEWS—

- Meredith MacQueeney was pictured on the front page with the Will Rogers Middle school show Choir. They sang at the NEO Town and Gown Dinner.
- Emily Gray was chosen Outstanding Student of the Week by Green Country Weekly.
- Gene Waylan and KUKU were featured in the Business Section of Green Country Weekly.

THE HARBOR

Do you remember all of the things it took to start up your first home or apartment?? A goal of the Harbor is to find employment and homes for the people who live there. When they find a home, the people don't have all of the little household items it takes. Our Mission Committee is collecting items to be taken to The Harbor to help in "setting up housekeeping." Look in your linens to see if you could spare towels or sheets. And look in your kitchen for any extra pans and dishes and other miscellaneous utensils. Bring them to Fellowship Hall and put them on the stage and we will take them to THE HARBOR about May 10.



Thelma's Birthday

Thelma Carey had a wonderful celebration of her 90th birthday in our Fellowship Hall on April 18. Family came from Kansas and other parts of Oklahoma and members of our congregation as well as friends from the community helped celebrate. The youth of the church came and brought a huge birthday card they had made. She became a member of our church in 1929. She spent some years in Europe but she has been active again since the 1960's. Happy Birthday Thelma.



MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

Grace Goodeagle

Grace Goodeagle is very proud of her Ogahpah (We say Quapaw.) heritage. Her paternal grandparents were full blood Quapaws. When the family was relocated to Ottawa County, her grandfather chose "Goodeagle" as his legal name in the English language. Her father, Paul Goodeagle Sr., was a veteran of both World War I and World War II.

Grace was born and grew up in Miami. She had one brother, Paul Jr., who was 15 years older. Paul was an exceptional instrumental musician. He played many instruments including the piano and organ. He was the church organist for our church in the 1950's. He and Grace sometimes played organ/piano duets. As a young teenager she began to come to our church with Paul. She was baptized and became a member when she was in High School. Everywhere Grace has lived, she has sought a Presbyterian Church.

After High School, Grace moved to Colorado to live with her Aunt Clara. She enrolled as a music major but she chose vocal rather than instrumental music. In the 1950's Grace moved to San Francisco where her brother, Paul, was already living. She worked in strong Law Firms for several years learning different aspects of the law. She considered Law School but decided she would rather be a legal support person than a lawyer.

In the 1960's she began working for Gulf Oil Corporation in the Land Department. She handled leases and was a part of the Gulf Speaker's Bureau.

In 1979 she moved to Washington, DC, to be on the Staff of Senator Bill Armstrong. She was a Press Aide. After a few years she began work for a Law Firm which had an Indian Law Section. U. S. President Reagan appointed her to be a member of the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. She traveled a lot for this job.

In the 1980's she moved back to Denver to care for her Aunt Clara and her husband. When her uncle died, she and Aunt Clara moved back to Miami. She became active in tribal matters. Governor Keating appointed her to the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission. She served as Chairman of the Quapaw Tribe from 1994 to 1996.

When her Aunt Clara died, she moved back to Manitou Springs, Colorado. We are happy that she came home to Miami in 2009. She plans to spend time writing about the Quapaw Tribe and the Goodeagle family in particular. Grace has a daughter, Dawn, who is married and has 4 children and lives in Wisconsin. Grace has won many awards through the years. In the 1980's she was listed in the WORLD WHO'S WHO OF WOMEN. Grace said, "Wherever I have been I have tried to be of service. I like to be involved." Now she is working in taking the census. And she is a "Certified Storm Spotter!!!"

Grace is in the Choir, a worker in Child's Day Out, and serves on the Session. We are blessed to have her in our church family.

GOODLAND BOYS VISIT

I hope you were a part of the weekend activities when the boys came from Goodland. If you were around them, you were impressed that they were so well mannered and friendly. The Mission Committee coordinated the weekend. When they came, (There were 18 boys and 3 adults.) Mary Kay McCoy led some activities including our youth. The committee served dinner to about 40 people!! Bill Neill obtained passes for the youth to attend the 3-D movie, HOW TO TRAIN YOUR DRAGON. It was a treat for the boys as well as our youth. John Lomax and the men of the church served a big breakfast. (John said that the boys ate almost as much as our entire congregation at the Easter Breakfast!). The boys and their sponsors led worship. And the Membership/Fellowship Committee prepared lunch for the congregation as well as the boys. Thanks to the many members of our church who helped make the weekend great. And thanks for saving the Campbell's labels. I gave them what we have saved but we will continue to save them. Including almost \$200 from the Mission Market, our church gave \$778.17 to support the wonderful work of Goodland Academy.

SESSION REPORT The session met on April 20th and here are some highlights from the meeting:

Fellowship: May 23rd, Debbie Chase, we will have an appetizer reception after church.

Christian Education: June 21st – 24th VBS. Each church will handle the food for one night of the Snack Supper. We will be responsible for hotdogs, buns, chips and watermelon. We will have information in June how to purchase and bring these donations to VBS.

Finance: We are over budget and we need to watch spending. We did receive the 3rd and final contribution from the people who purchased Curtis Plaza. The session voted to give 15% (the past two years we have given 10%) to mission because of the difficult times and the growing needs for assistance.

Personnel: Will do personnel reviews at the beginning of May.

Gamblers Anonymous: They are getting recognized and really becoming an established group. They have done well in leaving the church better than when they found it and have appreciated the use of the building.

Top Three Goals from 2010: New songs, Pictorial Directory, Mission-Jamie Gray is working on getting a mission trip for the whole congregation to go to Goodland this summer.



If you would like to supply the Communion table with flowers on a particular Sunday just sign up on the flower calendar board that is located on the wall in the narthex. When you sign up you will be reminded a few days before your scheduled time to bring the flowers. Sunkissed Floral has a key to the church and can deliver them on Saturdays. You also can bring your own the morning of worship, rather it be some from your yard or some you have purchased.

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A comment from one of the boys who rides the bus to our church – “I love to come to this church! I can just be myself!!”

## MISSION at Work

Last year, more than \$23,000 was given to global and local missions and thanks to Session which voted to increase this year's Mission fund, we are taking another look at needs in our community. We can then see how we can help meet those needs.

We are making good use of what God has given us. How we are helping? Several church members attended Cursillo, held this year at Dwight Mission. Did you meet some of the Goodland Academy boys, who were here April 10 and 11? On May 23, Debbie Chase will share with us what is happening in Malawi.

More youth are participating in Kum ba yah and playing in the chime choir, visiting homebound members, preparing food for various events and going on trips. We were especially pleased to welcome those who joined the church on Easter Sunday. Child's Day Out has averaged seven youngsters on Wednesday mornings. Using the public school calendar, we will end when schools let out for the summer and resume when school resumes. We furnish food to Harbor for people without homes. Household items were also collected and donated for those starting up new households.

There are more mission activities to share with you and if you want to join in on any of them, let us know.

