

Church Picnic

A good time was had by all who attended the church picnic at Twin Bridges with members of the Grace Presbyterian church and Archie and Brenda Lawrence.



The weather was picture perfect. We were treated to lots of good food, a violin performance by a young man from Grove and in conclusion singing lead by our church.



The Open Door

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From the Pastor

The past month has been one that is full of dire predictions and concerns; watching the stock market go down and up and down while the two political parties both predict dire consequences if “the other” candidate wins. Both the financial crisis and the election have been watched by the world in knowledge that we are a global economy and global world and what happens here impacts many; while things that happen across the seas impact families here. Not to mention there continues to be violent clashes and conflicts in many places around the world and there is concern over the possibility of Iran developing a nuclear weapon. If ever there was a time when it seemed our country and our world was crying out to experience the love, care and comfort of the divine, it is today. But with this big overriding issue a question comes forward- so what can I do?

And although this beginning paragraph may tempt you to put down this newsletter, say it is too depressing and you do not want to read anymore, I might suggest that this is the perfect time and opportunity for the people in our community, in our nation and in our world to experience the divine. I am going to issue a challenge to the congregation on the first Sunday of November. A challenge for you to think of one talent that you have that you can share once a month for the next six months: maybe your talent is writing notes and you can decide to send a note each month to several teachers to thank them for their dedication to the younger generation, maybe you or a loved one went to the emergency room one night and was helped by the staff, nurses and doctors that were willing to work through the night so you decide to make a CD for them with inspirational songs for them to listen to if the night gets long, maybe you like to cook and can make one casserole a month for a family that is struggling financially or struggling with juggling time, maybe you are good at drawing and can draw a picture for the AA group that meets here on Sunday night which shows the possibility of new life in overcoming

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their addictions, or maybe you can make phone calls and can call one page in the phone book a month to wish them a good day. I am sure there are thousands of other things you could do. Think of a talent you have and think of one way you can share that with one, two or five people in our community. This is mission. What a chance for people who are worried and stressed, who are unsure and scared to realize that God is here and present now. We will have cards for you to take from the church, to hand out to those you reach out to that say you are reaching out in the name of the Presbyterian Church. This is for all ages and all abilities for everyone has something they can share. Please keep track of what you do- we will be looking at the ways the church has reached out to the community in this way around Easter.

As we will begin looking at our church budget and stewardship this month, I encourage us first to look at one way, each of us, can do one thing a month to show one person in Miami that we care. The challenge has been thrown down. Just think if each of us does one thing a month, in one month as a church we will have touched the lives of over 150 people. And what if we do this for six months? Somehow, being able to do one thing a month, makes the rest of the world not seem so scary. "Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God." (2 Corinthians 4:15)

Grace and Peace,
Helen



Heritage Case

This month we are featuring activities of the men of the church. We have a picture of the Bowling Team in the 1960's; a menu from a dinner held about 1940 hosted by the "Rolling Pin Dodgers" and a shirt bearing the words, Rolling Pin Dodger worn by the men who served a dinner during our centennial celebration in 1999. There are items of jewelry with the Presbyterian motif worn by Bob Gee. There are pictures of several Pig Roasts at which the men did the cooking. There is a picture of George Stein, who was the church Santa for many years. The men have done a lot through the years. We appreciate them.

FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR

"Kim, I met your lovely daughters. They are very kind and dedicated to God. What is your secret to child-rearing?"

I dislike that question, mostly because I don't have much of an answer. I guess the safest and most accurate answer I can give is, "The grace of God." Kathy and I give God all the glory and admit we really don't have any secrets of child-rearing. We simply have done the best we could with what we know.

Our daughters were all born into the ministry. We were senior pastors in Canada for a quarter of a century. Our daughters were immersed into God and church even before birth. When they were born, we dedicated them each to God, for God's will to take place and not our personal dreams and hopes. We talk of God constantly, and have several family Bible studies each week - some very brief after meal time. We pray together and discuss spiritual truths as we learn.

Church for our family isn't on Sunday morning - if we feel like it. Church life, is seven days a week for us. We have pastors and missionaries from all over the world come to our ranch for retreats and our daughters are exposed to conversation and commitment levels that mold and shape their relationship with Jesus.

Kathy and I are both first born's, so we rule our family with a rod of iron. When Kathy says, "It's time to wash the dishes," that is what she means. She does not mean, "after I warn you three more times." We believe and follow Biblical child-rearing practices as best we can. We both think 90% of modern psychology should be shoveled out of the barn with the rest of the manure.

If I had to point to one thing only that may have had a strong influence, I would say it is the teaching of the first commandment in a thousand different ways. You shall have no other gods before me. God comes first, before toys, movies, DVD's, parties, concerts, sleeping in until noon, sports, dancing, homework, yard work, school work, or ten thousand other activities. All six of us are, at times, bewildered by how casual many people take Christianity in America. It seems to us that many believers still think they are in charge of their lives. We teach our daughters to the best of our abilities that they have given their lives to God. They now belong to Jesus, and keeping the first commandment first, is job one in this life! But, back to where I started. We give God all thanks and glory for our daughters and how they are living their lives for him.

In His love, Pastor Kim

MISSION NEWS KEEP BRINGING
FOOD FOR THE
NUTRITION COALITION.

We have had very nice Thank You Notes from the following to whom we have made contributions: Community Disaster Recovery Coalition, Hearts and Hammers, NEO for our contribution to the Upward Bound Program, and Presbyterian Youth for paying pre-registration for the Mission Trip to Chicago next summer.

Neeli and Mike are doing well. They are very busy in school. This month we are giving to our 4-H group, the Harbor, The Ark in Picher (a shelter for homeless men who need transportation to their work), and to the Church of Christ who suffered a fire in the summer. They are rebuilding in the same place.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS-----On October 22, early in the day, members of the Mission committee reached out to the community in an unusual way. Helen had shared the idea,

which was a great one. Representing our church, and therefore you, we gave away gas at the station nearest our church. We did not advertise. When someone pulled up to the pump, a member of the committee told them that we as Presbyterians are giving gas, up to \$25. The people were so surprised. They said things like, "You've got to be kidding!" or "That's awesome!" or "No way!" or "Really neat!" One man said, "This is the answer to my prayers." One lady said, "I don't need gas but I want to give you a hug because this is so sweet." One said, "My husband's work has been cut one week a month. It is really hard." We filled 23 tanks. We are blessed with mission money to share. God works through people. Let's continue to do God's work.

Hearts and Hammers

Our church was represented by Barbara Reeves. Thanks Barbara!! Next year we hope to have an entire team.

Retirement

Brent Rendel is retiring from the Navy Reserve after twenty-one years of service.

Eve's Apples

We still have a few of the wonderful cookbooks, EVE'S APPLES. They can be purchased from the Heritage Committee for \$5.00. Please see Betty Dean, Nancy Gee, or Melba Cordell.



MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES



Bill Neill

Bill has been a member of our church only a few years and in that time he has enriched the congregation. He not only attends worship regularly, he works the sound system. He is a Deacon and willing and eager to meet needs that arise. He is a mentor for a Washington School third grader. Each week he works with the boy to help him catch up with his classmates. The student is very attached to Bill. He told the others in his class, "You had better be good or Bill will get you!"

Bill was born in Oklahoma City but he spent his growing up years in Ponca City where he was active in the First Presbyterian Church. He was always interested in sports, both as a participant and as a fan. He played on the Church Basketball League. He attended Park College in Parkville, Missouri; then he was in the Navy for 2 ½ years, serving in the Hospital Corps. Since 1964 he has been involved with the movie business. He worked for California Pacific Theaters for 2 ½ years then spent the rest of his career in Honolulu, Hawaii. One highlight was accompanying the crew from Warner Brothers who made the original Woodstock film.

He began work for SONY in 1987 and lived in Honolulu for 26 years. After retirement, he decided to come back to Oklahoma and chose Miami. He helped develop the deal which brought the CINEPLEX to Miami. He helps run the theater on the weekends.

Bill still enjoys sports and the outdoors, even yard work!! He collects classic movies and especially likes spending time with his dog, Indy, which he has had for 11 years.

Bill enriches our church, especially studies including discussion. His comments enliven the discussion!!! He adds strength and devotion to our congregation.





Presbyterians in the NEWS—

- The Youth Power 4-H Club (sponsored by our church and led by Kathy Wenzel) was pictured. The members pictured were Job Rendel, Katrina Krisinski, Jacob Gray, Elia Rendel, Olivia Fairbanks, Dulcinea Wenzel, Destiny Krisinski, Priscilla Wenzel, John Gray, Michael Whaley, and Josh Gray.
- Ariel Wenzel was pictured with those competing for NEO Homecoming Queen.
- Abrina Kneeland was in the cast of HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL.
- Jack and Ida Pyle wrote a nice letter to the Editor thanking Hearts and Hammers for the help they received.

Bible Study

Presbyterian Women present a Bible Study at Allgood's in Commerce the first Tuesday each month. This is an assisted living facility; the people are alert and so happy to have us come. Our study for the year is the book of Luke. As a special event November 4, Helen will give from memory a portion of the book of Luke. We meet at 2 pm and we would welcome all who would come.

Tuesday Morning Study

The word has gotten around that Helen is such a remarkable teacher! Besides members of our congregation, there is one from the Episcopal Church, two from the Baptist, one from the Christian, and four from the Methodist! We are studying Karen Armstrong's book, THE BATTEL FOR GOD. We meet every Tuesday at 10 am. Please join us for a wonderful study.

Session News:

- The upcoming presbytery meeting is on Tuesday, December 2nd in Sand Springs and will include voting on the amendments that came from the General Assembly this past summer. Please talk with Helen if you would like more information.
- The nominating committee is up and running. Please prayerfully consider serving as an elder, deacon or usher.
- We continue to watch the finance and spending. The session did approve a budget deficit for this year and although we have spent less than the budgeted amount it is still less than our income. The session is striving for a balanced budget for 2009.
- The session and the committees have started working on the budget for 2009. Although the committees are working hard to watch expenses and keep costs down, the staff has not received a raise in over three years and the session agreed that giving the staff a 5% raise is a priority.
- The worship committee is preparing for advent and Christmas Eve services and has set December 7th after worship as the time to decorate the church for Christmas.
- The fellowship committee has set three more dinners: Wednesday October 29th for a Trunk-er-treat, November 23rd for the congregational thanksgiving dinner and December 14th for the congregational Christmas dinner.
- Mission asked for the following to be approved from the endowment mission funds: \$100 for the 4-H group that meets at the church on Wednesdays, \$1,000 to the Harbor to use as they relocate, \$500 for the ARK program in Picher to pay for gas to transport residents to jobs, \$500 for the gas giveaway on October 22, \$500 for the Church of Christ to support them in their rebuild efforts after their sanctuary fire.

