



Youth drama club has doubled in size and continues to grow each week. We need more adult volunteers to keep pace with growth.

**POTLUCK PICNIC  
OCTOBER 5, 2008 AT 5:00  
AT TWIN BRIDGES  
Grace Presbyterian Church will join us.**

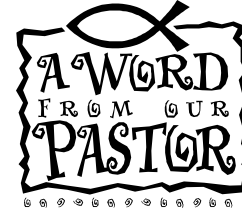
## The Open Door

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

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



2008



This morning I had a long conversation with Bill Neil. Bill came in very upset and concerned that we had a low attendance on Sunday morning and a large attendance on Sunday evening for the pig roast and asked the question why. I told him that I wished I knew. I am glad that the evening of fellowship and the report of the youth about the mission trip was inspiring but it does make me concerned about Sunday worship. I can easily name reasons why: everyone's busy schedules, the football season has started, it was a nice day out and people had the opportunity to do yard work, many churches across this country are dealing with this same difficulty...we can all come up with a multitude of reasons. Indeed, I told Bill that I would be missing worship the last Sunday in September to go to a football game (o.k. it is not just a football game but the Broncos/Chiefs game in Kansas City and although I thought this was a perfect excuse, Bill was not so sure).

But the main point is this: this is your church. We are a faith community that meets in fellowship, delights in caring for each other, revels in study and celebrates in worship. If we are missing the worship part, we are missing a big part of our calling. So I need your help: what are things you would like as part of Sunday worship? How can we, as a church, make the Sunday morning worship time more meaningful for you? I have a few ideas (this is your warning for the first two Sundays in October) but could really use your help. Again, this is your church- if we do not hear your ideas, we can not use them! What a joy if we could harness all of the energy of the Sunday evening pig roast and bring it with us on Sunday morning. Please help.

Grace and Peace,  
Helen





## Presbyterians in the NEWS—

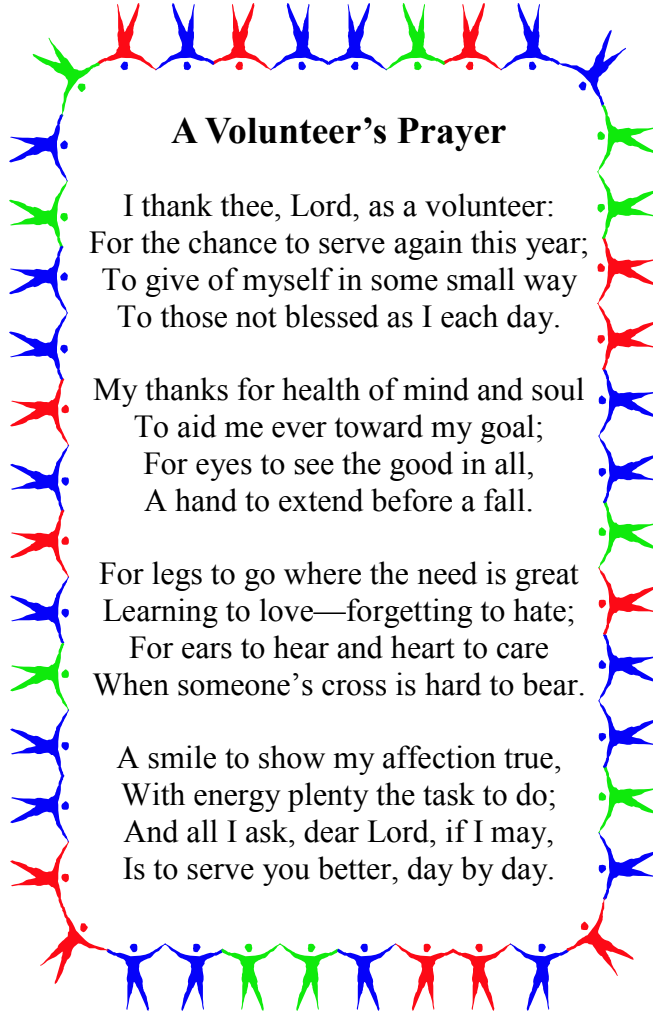
- There was a beautiful picture of a sunflower from the Rendel property on the front page of the Miami News Record.

### The Book of Luke

Helen did her usual fantastic presentation of Luke early in September. We as members of her congregation are so proud. Thanks to Helen for developing this God given talent and thanks also for the hours she spent in preparation. Her reputation has spread – we had many from other churches who attended.

### Awards Given -

During the 2008 Ottawa County Fair awards were given to Abbey Ankenman, Areil Wenzel, Priscilla Wenzel and Dulcinea Wenzel. Abbey placed in 12 entries. Ariel placed in 28 entries, Priscilla placed in 21 entries and Dulcinea won in 29. Altogether these 4 girls won \$301 in premium money.



### A Volunteer's Prayer

I thank thee, Lord, as a volunteer:  
For the chance to serve again this year;  
To give of myself in some small way  
To those not blessed as I each day.

My thanks for health of mind and soul  
To aid me ever toward my goal;  
For eyes to see the good in all,  
A hand to extend before a fall.

For legs to go where the need is great  
Learning to love—forgetting to hate;  
For ears to hear and heart to care  
When someone's cross is hard to bear.

A smile to show my affection true,  
With energy plenty the task to do;  
And all I ask, dear Lord, if I may,  
Is to serve you better, day by day.

## FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR



### Church Youth and Passion-

God designed the human soul to be passionate and committed. When the soul has nothing to be passionate about, nothing to die for, it sinks into restlessness, boredom and passivity. In youth, this can be a recipe for disaster.

God intended our souls to be captivated, consumed and enthralled with Jesus, our Lord. When we have nothing to die for, we really have nothing to live for! God the Father has promised Jesus he will receive a church (bride of Christ) whose spirits are ablaze with affections and adoration for Jesus. It would be an insult for the Father to give Jesus a church that is bored and passive.

If our youth were to really study us, and our passion for Jesus, what conclusions would they arrive at? What kind of a role model do we portray? Do the youth see us consumed with a love for God? Or something else? Do they hear us talking about God and Kingdom many times a day just in a natural totally focused way? Or do they hear us talking politics with great excitement, and yawning when we make statements about the church?

If we wish to introduce the next generation to Christ, are we willing to make changes that will impact the passion of the next generation?



*Pastor Helen will be out of the office the week of October 6th –9th.*



**MISSION NEWS** The Mission Committee met and decided on several ways we can meet needs. The committee voted to pay the pre-registration for the youth trip next summer. By registering early they were able to get their first choice of places to serve. The third week in June the group will go to Chicago to work under the same program which organized the mission work in San Antonio. We will support a mission trip for younger youth to Tulsa in October to the Tulsa

Day Center for Women and Children. The committee voted with the approval of Session to donate \$3,000 from the Myers Local Mission Fund to the Community Disaster Coalition to be used for tornado victims whose needs have not been met by FEMA, Red Cross, and other organizations.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING FOOD FOR THE NUTRITION COALITION!!!!**

### News from Malawi-

*Update from Debbie Chase at the College of Theology*

Our graduation will take place November 7. All 29 of our students (24 from Livingstonia and 5 from Zambia Synod) will graduate with a licentiate of theology. Twenty will proceed to serve congregations. Nine of our graduates will remain for an additional year of study to earn a Bachelor of Theology degree.

The newsletter is on the bulletin board in the fellowship hall. It also contains some interesting pictures.



## Share a Recipe

The youth who are going to the Homeless Shelter for women and children in Tulsa will take healthful food for over 300. To cut the cost and take a really good snack, the youth will prepare individual bags themselves. They need ideas and recipes. Some of you who have worked with young people have good recipes. Please share them with Kim or a member of the Mission Committee.



Our Church Family

## MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

### The Rabels

Chris and Cathy Rabel and their children, Corey and Carmen, are so important to our church. Especially, they are active in Worship, Christian Education, Fellowship and Property and Maintenance. Chris thrills us all when he sings in worship. Carmen serves on the Session and chairs the Worship Committee. Cathy chairs the Christian Education Committee.

Cathy grew up in Pryor, the middle child of five children. Family travel is an important childhood memory. Her father worked for American Airlines which enabled the family to take wonderful vacations such as to Acapulco, Disney World and Disneyland. They often took family car trips to western Kansas to see her aunts, uncles and cousins. Chris grew up in Miami, the youngest of three children. During Chris' childhood, his family lived right next door to his grandparents, Weimer and Maxine Denney. They were very influential in his growing up years.

Chris and Cathy met while she was attending NEO. (Literally they met while "dragging Main!!!") They were married three years later. By that time Chris was working at the Coop. Cathy had finished NEO and had begun school at OSU. After a while, she returned because it was too hard to be away from Chris!!!

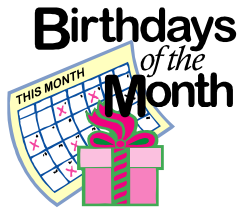
Corey was born in 1989 and Carmen in 1993, near the time Cathy received her degree in Education from NSU. In 1994, Cathy began her teaching career in Vinita. She has taught first grade, has been a Reading Resource Person, and at the present time she teaches second grade. Corey has graduated from High School and Carmen is a Sophomore.

Chris has many memories of growing up in our church. An early incident, so early it is hardly in his memory, was an event when he was a toddler. His mother, Phillis, went to the nursery to get him but he was not to be found. Everyone searched and the police were called. Eventually Chris was found IN THE NURSERY behind a wall of large blocks he had built!! He also remembers fondly the weekly class led by the Reverend Don Kruithof which was called "Catechism". He remembers that parents furnished treats – his mother always brought "Horseshoes" from the bakery.

Chris worked for the Afton/Green Country Coop for 24 years. Three years ago he began the Four Seasons Lawn Care. Corey graduated from High School this spring. Carmen is active with the youth and was an important participant in the youth mission trip to San Antonio.

The Rabels are VERY IMPORTANT MEMBERS of our church family.





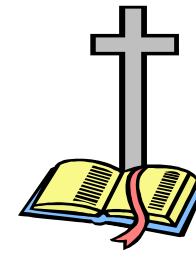
2nd—Don Trolinger and Kristal Sommer  
 3rd—Jeff Stevens  
 7th—Dorothy Davis  
 8th—Lisa Hemmingson  
 9th—Krystal Blevins  
 10th—Nolan Newkirk  
 11th—Lyssa Turner and  
 Melissa Bekemeier  
 15th—Karissa Whalen  
 16th—Linda Elmburg  
 22nd—James Stevens  
 24th—Meredith MacQueeney  
 and Frank Gray  
 26th—Warren Wilbur  
 27th—Cy Elmburg  
 28th—Pat Carden  
 29th—Bill Ankenman

**USHER DUTIES FOR OCTOBER**

**Ushers:** Dave Hiebert and Sarah Lomax  
**Coffee Host:** Sarah Lomax  
**Communion Preparers:** Sarah Lomax and Harold Price

**POTLUCK PICNIC**  
**October 5, 2008 at 5:00**  
 At Twin Bridges park  
 with Grace Presbyterian Church

# October 2008



October 29, 6:00 p.m.  
 at the First Presbyterian  
 Church—Parking Lot  
 (All adults— bring goodies  
 to pass out to the children.)



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 3:45-Youth Power 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00- Choir	2 7:00- Men's Breakfast	3	4
5 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship/Com. 5:00- Church Picnic	6 3:45-Drama Class	7	8 3:45-Youth Power 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00- Choir	9 12:00-Mission Committee meeting	10	11
12 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	13 3:45-Drama Class 6:30-Community Women's Bible Study	14 9:30- Tuesday group movie Luther 5:30-Worship Committee mtg.	15 3:45-Youth Power 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00- Choir	16	17	18
19 <i>Loose Offering to Deacons</i> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	20 3:45-Drama Class	21 10:00- Tuesday morning class 7:00-Session mtg.	22 3:45-Youth Power 6:00-Kum ba yah 7:00- Choir	23	24	25
26 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	27 3:45-Drama Class 6:30-Community Women's Bible Study	28 10:00- Tuesday morning class	29 3:45-Youth Power 6:00-Kum ba yah & Trunk and Treat 7:00- Choir	30	31 <b>Happy Halloween</b>	