



## HEARTS and HAMMERS

Although our church is not having its own team this year, the Mission committee encourages you to take part in this worthwhile project. There are Volunteer Registration Forms on the table in the Narthex. The work day is September 20. Even if you don't know until that day that you can help, go to the Civic Center by 8:15 and you will be placed on a team.



## The Open Door

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

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



2008



When I was speaking with the Pastor nominating committee on the phone, they asked what my favorite book of the Bible was. I admit I was surprised, and in fact had not completely thought about it- so after a very vague answer to begin with I said that the Gospel of Luke was my favorite. Luke is known as the gospel of the parables, the vast majority of the parables of Jesus are told in Luke's gospel. He is also the Gospel of the outsiders.

Luke seems to be very conscious of wanting to share the many encounters Jesus had with people who were considered outsiders, whether politically (the Samaritans and the tax collectors) or socially (the shepherds and the lepers). He teaches Jesus' lineage not just to Abraham, as the gospel of Matthew does, but all the way back to Adam to underline God's saving grace for all people.

This is one of the reasons that I am using Luke for my presentation of a Biblical book this year. In order to present Luke in one setting, I have had to leave out some parts, otherwise it would be a four hour endeavor. But I still hope experiencing the gospel in one setting will be a new experience for you and a chance to hear the beginning, much of the middle and the ending of Luke's gospel in one setting. Please come and let others know of this event on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. it will be no more than two hours and will hopefully give you a chance to sit back and just enjoy the story.

Grace and Peace,  
Helen

### Presbyterian Women

Thank you for your generous gift to St Jude Children's Research Hospital and for giving children like Amanda hope. Amanda is 15 and she had a brain tumor. She had surgery and radiation and she and her family are hopeful of her cure. Research at St Jude is very important in the fight for the cure for cancer.



## Presbyterians in the NEWS—



- Lacey Ankenman was on the President's Honor Roll at OSU for the Spring Semester.

### Session News-

**Building and Grounds:** The city has placed some lights along Veterans to assist in lighting up the church parking lot. Please let us know if there are particular areas that still need more light.

**Worship Committee:** Helen will present the Gospel of Luke on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00. The worship committee is looking at lining up liturgists- please look for a sign up if you are willing to help out with the worship services.

**Fellowship Committee:** The pig roast will be on September 21<sup>st</sup> and after dinner the youth will speak and show pictures about the mission trip to San Antonio.

**Christian Education:** Kum ba Yah has started back up and we have changed the format a little. We still have a youth program after school and then a congregational dinner. We will start worship right after the dinner at 6:30 and then have an adult education class and choir (starting September 10) at 7:00.

**Finance Committee:** We still have to watch the budget and our spending for our regular church budget continues to be more than our income. We are lucky that we have some funds in the endowment but these were not meant to be used for general operating expenses. We need to keep a watch on our spending.

### FROM OUR YOUTH DIRECTOR



#### “Out There”

Our Youth Program at First Presbyterian Church continues to develop with the teens becoming more active outside the church walls with the truth and power of the Kingdom of God. During the month of July, the youth group spent their Sunday morning class time praying in several key locations around town, including the High School, Middle School and Elementary School. They also prayed at the new Court House for all the judges, county leaders, civic leaders and justice. In the future they will be praying at the Police station, City Hall, and the Fire stations.

In August the youth were “out there” in San Antonio, Texas, on a week long mission trip that included working in several soup kitchens. This trip was a life-changer with the youth living at an old Mennonite church, eating meals together, worshipping together every evening, giving their lives away during the daytime to serve people less fortunate than themselves. In other words, they experienced a little of the Acts chapter two church! Details of this trip will be presented to the congregation on September 21, after the church BBQ.

Now in late August, the youth are “out there” at the local Ottawa County Fair here in Miami, doing dramas about the saving grace of God, and handing out flyers. The response to these dramas has been very positive, and the youth are becoming more comfortable sharing the good-news message with others.

#### Our Neighborhood School – Washington Elementary

The Principal of Washington School, Vicki Lewis, would appreciate help from adults who really care about children. She needs caring adults to come for one hour each week to spend time with one child listening to them read or helping them on a skill. The teacher would plan the activity. Please consider this mission project. We can make a great difference in the life of a child. Please talk to Nancy Gee about the possibilities.

## MISSION NEWS

Because of the Myers Endowment and generosity of our members, the Mission Committee is blessed to have money to be generous to meet the many needs both in Miami and beyond. The committee voted to supplement the monetary needs of the youth on the Mission Trip to San Antonio with money from mission money supplied by a generous member of our congregation. We contributed to the Community Health Center so they could build steps and a ramp for wheelchairs. Our church is contributing \$1000 to Hearts and Hammers to buy supplies for the projects. The Harbor is purchasing a new building. We are contributing to that

effort. NEO has a program called UPWARD BOUND. It is to give extra help to students who are the first generation to attend college. We are contributing \$1,000 to that worthy project.



A Special  
THANK YOU

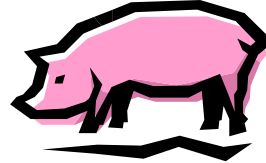
### ART for FUN

The Arts and Humanities Council appreciates being able to use the First Presbyterian Church for Art for Fun. The contribution we are sending is a small way of saying "Thanks."

Marcy Thompson

## ANNUAL PIG ROAST

Can you smell the BBQ?  
The Seybolts will again treat us  
to delicious meat from the grill.



**Sunday, September 21, at 6:00 p.m.**  
Bring your table service and a potluck dish to share.

- Entrée, bread and drinks will be provided.
- The youth will present a program on their mission trip to San Antonio.

## MORE ABOUT OUR CHURCH FAMILIES

### Neeli Gondwe and Michael Chitekwe



Our Church Family

Certainly the newest "family" in our congregation is Mike and Neeli. It was an exciting day when they were married during worship August 10.

Neeli became a member of our church family two years ago when she came to Miami to attend the NEO School of Nursing under the care of our congregation. Mike has been here only a few weeks. He is a graduate student at Pittsburg State University in the field of accounting.

Both grew up in Malawi. They met at church in which they were both active. Mike is the oldest of five children. One sister is working and the other three are attending college or university. Neeli grew up the youngest of five, the first daughter. Each of them had part of their education in boarding school, not the same one.

Neeli is somewhat accustomed to life in the US but Mike still is amazed at some of the differences. First he had to get used to driving on the right side of the road. Our eating habits are very different. They eat most of their meals at home but if they eat out choosing what to order is a challenge to Mike. He is surprised by the extreme heat we had in early August but Neeli told him to just wait. She has endured two really cold winters. Mike said that all money transactions in Malawi use cash but he is somewhat baffled by the frequent use of credit cards in this country.

Their plans are not definite for when they return to Malawi. Neeli said she will wait for the Lord to lead! Of course Neeli will work in the health science field. She is particularly interested in Family Planning. She hopes not only to help others with their physical problems but also to help them have richer lives. She knows better life for children is very important. Mike will work in the field of accounting but he hasn't narrowed his options.

Neeli has enriched our lives since she came and now we welcome Mike and look forward to knowing him better.



2nd— Nancy Niehaus  
 3rd— Sherry Hiebert  
 4th—Dolly Gray  
 5th— Patrick Russell  
 9th— Alexia Leggett  
 15th— Bill Giffhorn  
 17th— Grante Nolte  
 18th— Chris Clay  
 21st— Jessica Hobbs  
 22nd— Carla Grissom  
 26th— Billie Beck

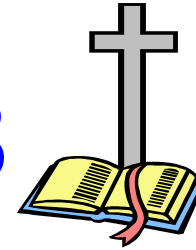
**USHER DUTIES FOR SEPTEMBER**

**Ushers:**  
 Joe May and  
 Victoria Vazquez

**Coffee Host:** Jeraldine Wilcox

**Communion Preparers:**  
 Victoria Vazquez and  
 Diane Martin

# September 2008



**Presentation of Luke**  
 Pastor Rev. Dr. Helen Hutchison  
 will be presenting the book of Luke  
 September 7th, at 5:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 Labor Day!</b> Church Office will be closed	<b>2</b> 10:00—Battle for God Class	<b>3</b> 3:45-Youth Power 6:00- Kum ba yah	<b>4</b> 7:00- Men's Breakfast	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> 9:30-Sunday Class 10:00- Choir 10:30-Worship/Com. <b>5:00-Presentation of Luke!</b>	<b>8</b> 3:45—Drama Class	<b>9</b> 10:00—Battle for God Class 7:00-Fellowship mtg.	<b>10</b> 12:00-Mission Com. 3:45-Youth Power 6:00- Kum ba yah 7:00-Choir practice	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	<b>15</b> 3:45—Drama Class	<b>16</b> 10:00—Battle for God Class 7:00-Session mtg.	<b>17</b> 3:45-Youth Power 6:00- Kum ba yah 7:00- Choir practice	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Hearts & Hammers
<b>21</b> <i>Loose Offering to Deacons</i> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship <b>6:00-Pig Roast</b>	<b>22</b> 3:45—Drama Class	<b>23</b> 10:00—Battle for God Class	<b>24</b> 3:45-Youth Power 6:00- Kum ba yah 7:00-Choir practice	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:30-Sunday School 10:00-Choir 10:30-Worship	<b>29</b> 3:45—Drama Class	<b>30</b> 10:00—Battle for God Class				

