



# *The Presbyterian Courier*

## *First Presbyterian Church of Ada, Oklahoma*

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*Learning to Love • Growing in God • Serving with Joy*

**Summer 2019**



*It has been a bumper year of roses and other flowers @ FPC!*

### **TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS**

Gayla Cook, extensive procedures at Baylor Health Center; Karsten Thompson, continuing recovery and strengthening from meningitis; Gayle Sullivan, Bruce Weems' sister, health concern; Brenda Clark; Margaret Lillard; Jane Baltimore; the poor of our community.

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## From the Pastor

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven. ~ Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope and trust you are having a good summer. My family and I basically are. There have been many gains, though also many losses. I hope and trust your summer, like ours, has been more gain and peace and happiness, and less loss and ill and sorrow.

Together we share a season, and this one, probably like Ecclesiastes meant, has less to do with the earth's angle to the sun, or a few months of temperature range, and more about the church we love. It could be a longish kind of season. Is it a season of growth and development and adventure to places yet unknown?

I want to recognize and thank the leadership team here at FPC, which has been so faithfully focused on the mission, ministry, and infrastructure of the congregation thus far in this season.

We have adult studies that are seriously

asking the question, "What does God want in our life together, in and for this community?" The answer given seems to be this. If it is the 1<sup>st</sup> century mediterranean apostolic church that is what we will nurture and build. If it is the 10<sup>th</sup> century roman church that is what we will nurture and build. If it is the 16<sup>th</sup> century genevan presbyterian church, that is what we will nurture and build. If it is the 21<sup>st</sup> century oklahoman presbyterian church that God is revealing, piece by piece and moment by moment, that is what we will nurture and build. Praise God! *As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.* ~ Psalm 16:3

We have a finance committee that has set before us the choice of faithfulness in giving. Many are responding in generosity and joy. We have servants who really do care about the less fortunate, and are serving in this community. We have a team that sets up beautiful and

meaningful fellowship events. We worship. We have goals and plans to shine the light of Christ brighter and brighter. There is a lot of communication below about what is going on. In short, and with humility, we are clearly a congregation that has a commitment to faithfulness.

How are you connected with this church? If you are connected, you certainly know that this is a church in a season of discernment, growth, development, and greater light shining. Stay connected and press on! If you are not, getting connected is as easy as speaking a word to a pew-mate, committee chair, teacher, deacon, pastor.

This is the time. This is our time. Generations of the faithful have built and stewarded this good place, and now we are among the generation that builds and stewards this good place. I am having the time of my life, and if you are not, please you and me, let's get together. There is nothing like good work to do, and good ones with whom to work.

Peace and joy be with you in this great season! Yours in Christ,  
Scott

## **Events**

### *Weekly Recurring Events*

#### Wednesday

Bible Study, 6-7pm in the Upper Parlor.

Choir Rehearsal, 7-8pm in the Music Room

*Childcare available*

#### Sunday

Church School for Children and Adults, 9:30am, church school classrooms

Catalyst (parlor); Coffee and Conversation (church school room 2)

*Nursery open and staffed 9:15am-12:15pm*

### *Monthly Recurring Events*

PW Bible Study, second Tuesday, 12-1pm in the WFC parlor.

Breakfast at JD's Café, second Saturday, 8-9am

### *Special Events Coming Up*

Kick-off Breakfast, Children's Church School Resumes, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30am in the WFC Hall

All-Church Property Work Bee, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 9am-3pm



FPC Hosts AHS Homecoming, September 14<sup>th</sup>, evening

Hymn Sing on Sunday September 29<sup>th</sup>, with potluck luncheon to follow

## **Christian Education**

### *Pool Party*

What a grand and special occasion it was Monday evening, July 15<sup>th</sup>, at the Intergenerational All-Church Pool Party at Wintersmith! This increasingly popular annual event features tons of fun, wet, pizza, and cake. It was great that some neighbors were invited too! See you next year!



*Church School Kickoff 2019 – This Sunday!*

**Church School Kickoff Breakfast 2019!**

**For Children and Adults**

**Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>  
9:30am, WFC Hall**

**See you there!**



## **Congregational Life and Membership**

### *Bingo Night!*

Friday evening August 2<sup>nd</sup>..., the joyful exclamations of “Bingo!” were heard in the WFC Hall. What great intergenerational fun! And about \$900 was raised for the campus renovations fund. Look for more Bingo ahead!



## **Deacons Corner**

### *Congregational Support and Ada High School Ministries*

Your commissioned deacons have been at work providing congregational support, and in the community continuing to focus on our “adopted school,” Ada High School. We’ll be serving FCA lunches there in the year ahead, with the first being on October 14<sup>th</sup>, and of course, stocking and maintaining the Room for Students.

We’re looking forward to coordinating a pot-luck luncheon to follow the upcoming Hymn Sing on Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

As always, if there is a joy or a concern in your household, please let a deacon know. We are here to rejoice with you in your joys, and to support you in your difficulties.

Your commissioned deacons are: Kelley Dorsey-Miller, Robbie Horne, Ellen Sweatt, Karah Thompson, Cheryl Weems (chairperson), Linda Wells

## **Finance**

### *Investment Policy, Investment Manager, and Stewardship Campaign*



Dear Friends,

Exciting things have transpired since the last Courier update. An **investment policy** has been adopted so that the church now has a roadmap to chart its future investments. This policy established a managed fund account with the **Texas Presbyterian Foundation** among other guidelines. Future giving of cash or of stock will be placed in this account for later use by the church. Of some importance to members with an IRA could be the donation of any portion of a **required minimum deduction (RMD)** from such an IRA. Check with your IRA account manager for details.

The session has set November 17<sup>th</sup> as Pledge Dedication Sunday. The committee will be working hard to develop plans to conduct this year's **Stewardship Campaign**. We look forward to working with all our church committees to prepare a budget for 2020 that will be realistic and allow us to serve our congregation and community. Look for more on this year's drive in the coming months. Of course we will be diligent in making certain that we reach the end of this year in the black. With your help and the good Lord looking over our shoulder we will accomplish that result. God bless you and yours!

Bruce Weems, Chair, Finance Committee

## **Indian Nations Presbytery**

Praise the Lord! We have had phenomenal meetings of presbytery this year, in February and June, which were richly filled with worship, learning, fellowshiping, deepening connections with parts of the national church and our allies, and conducting business. Note the order there. Business last. Truly this presbytery has been succeeding in transitioning from a "ministry corporation" to a spiritual body.

In the June meeting the presbytery adopted a new mission statement: "Connecting, sharing, and guiding, we rely on the Triune God to empower and equip us to be a presbytery of faith, hope, love, and witness for the sake of Christ." Tag line: "Connecting, Sharing, and Guiding".

INP adopted new standing rules, and a new structure, to take effect at end of meeting October 11<sup>th</sup>. The Coordinating Council will be larger and built from greater congregational representation. In meeting August 25<sup>th</sup>, the FPC/Ada Session elected Deanna Piercy, Elder, to a two year term on the Coordinating Council.

The Interim Presbytery Pastor job description was approved in June, and a search committee elected and charged.

Scott completes a term as vice-moderator of presbytery this October, and will be installed moderator of presbytery this October for a term of one year.

As a reminder, my reports to Session as presbytery commissioner are posted on our website at [fpcada.org/staying-connected/](http://fpcada.org/staying-connected/).



Respectfully submitted,

David Butler, Commissioner to Indian Nations Presbytery

## **Mission and Evangelism**

Blessings from the Mission and Evangelism Committee. The committee has continued its work in support of our local mission causes. We often look for additional participants for Meals on Wheels and Abbas Table, so if you can see your way to helping just one time it will make a big difference. Try it you may like it! You will see our members presenting a minute for mission on occasion during the Sunday service, as the need requires. We do appreciate your support for these events and requests.

Our congregation will be participating in the Presbyterian-wide Peace and Global Witness Offering so look for information on that in the next month. This is one of the four offerings that the Presbyterian Church (USA) conducts each year. The Peace & Global Witness Offering is received during the Season of Peace, which ends on World Communion Sunday and enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. Our church will participate in this offering Oct 6<sup>th</sup>, World Communion Sunday.

Here are some other community service dates coming up:

FPC serves the Compassion Outreach Meal: Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, and Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>.

FPC serves Meals on Wheels: week of September 23-27, 2019.

FPC prepares and serves the meal at Abba's Tables: the first Thursday of every month.

Bruce Weems,

Chair, Mission and Evangelism Committee



*Among the members of the JoAnn Carpenter Service Team at Abba's Tables, Cheryl Weems coordinator*

**Thank You Recent M&E Volunteers!**

Abba's Tables: Greta Thompson, Linda Wells, Betty Childers, Bill Brooks, Nancy Thompson, Patti Elliott, Kurt Jackson, Cathy Blackburn, Jo Neman, Bruce and Cheryl Weems, Evie Elliott, Scott White, Robbie Horne, Deven Gray, Jaxon Miller, Bette Cole, Vestal Cole.

Meals on Wheels: Bob and Jo Neman, Bruce and Cheryl Weems, Carol Peshehonoff, Deanna Piercy, Tami Thompson, Mary Hampton, Jack Lambert, Billie Redden, Karah Thompson, Kurt Jackson, Don Clark, Vestel and Bette Cole, Nancy & Matt Thompson, Jerry and Dian Maloy, Amy Elliott, Leigh Gaddis, Brooke Holman.

Compassion Outreach: Becky Compton, Mike and Carol Cook, Robbie Horne, Kurt Jackson, Jerry and Dian and Maloy, Kelley Miller, Bob and Jo Neman, Greta Thompson, Karah Thompson, Nancy Thompson, Cheryl Weems.

**Music Department**

Dear Fellow Members and Friends,

Choir season has kicked off for the fall once again, and we will be singing our first anthem on September 8th in service following the Sunday School Kickoff!

We are currently looking to expand our choir membership in all areas! We have three wonderful tenors who could certainly use some bass friends to deepen the men's section, and we could use some soprano voices to help out our altos! Of course, we will welcome any voices!

As of right now, we are meeting on Wednesdays at 7 PM, but we are looking at some different times for rehearsal to accommodate more members with kids' activities, long drives, and other commitments on Wednesday evenings. One idea is to meet on Sunday mornings before Sunday school, but we are open to suggestions.

Please join us this Wednesday night at 7 PM for fellowship, singing, prayer, and discussion about the upcoming year!

In Christ, Johnna Isaacs

**Nominating Committee**

The committee is seeking God's will for nominations for the Session Class of 2022. If you can help us out in that we would be grateful!

Any congregational members who wish to serve a one-year term as commissioned deacons, please let us know.

Finally, we have four vacancies opening up on the Nominating Committee itself. If you'd like to serve in this way, please let us know!



Respectfully submitted,

Cathy Blackburn, Regina Robertson, chairs

## **Presbyterian Women**



There were three of us to attend the *Presbyterian Women Synod of the Sun Gathering* on July 25-27, in Tulsa at the First Presbyterian Church. Jo Neman, Linda Wells and Betty Childers decided to take advantage of the meeting being so close to home and attend the gathering. I cannot begin to tell you of the mixed bag of emotions and blessings we experienced.

First, there were the spiritual blessings that come from worship and association with Christian women. We heard wonderful sermons by Rev. Katie Cummings that encouraged us to realize that we were God's creation and that we 'were enough' to do whatever God wanted and led us to do. This is a lesson that we three will repeat to our local PW!

Secondly, there were the workshops we attended covering topics from disaster assistance, Judaism and Islam faith, justice and peace, and understanding millennials. We were overwhelmed, saddened, and overjoyed as we attended these various workshops. It is a blessings to be reminded that Presbyterian Women are active not only in our denomination, but in the world doing God's work. (If you want to know more about what we learned from these workshops, we will arrange a group meeting for a presentation. Just contact one of us.)

Third, there was the sheer joy of us three being together in this gathering. There was the joy in establishing new friendships and seeing old friends. Jo Eddington, who attended our church as a youngster, is now the chef at First Presbyterian Church in Tulsa. We three from Ada can attest to his success as a chef. The meals we enjoyed were fabulous! We also were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit with Sandra Gearing. What joy! The piano concert given by Donald Ryan was tremendous and a joyful experience.

**Our regular Bible Study** will begin September 10, in Westminster Center parlor, at noon. We will be studying *Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments* by Eugenia Gamble. We extend an invitation to everyone, young or old, men or women, working or retired, leader or follower, member or nonmember, to come join us in this study. If you have questions, please contact Betty Childers, (580)421-3228.

## **Property**

Your property committee has been very hard at work doing maintenance and upkeep, gathering and working property todo lists, and doing long-range planning. I am so grateful for a sizeable and very hard-working committee.

This newsletter could probably be filled with our todo lists alone. We'll communicate that to you in the near future; in the meantime let me spare you and let me simply ask that you attend our upcoming Work Bee to be held Saturday morning, September 14<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 3pm. Here are a couple neat things about it. First, the priority is outdoors. But we have a plan for indoor work in the church building in case of poor weather. Second, we will be able to publish in upcoming Weekly Events emails and as Sunday bulletin inserts specific teams that you can choose from according to your interests. So there will be grounds teams, garden teams, WFC roof team, concrete team, and so forth...you can know what there is to do in advance, and choose your team, according to your interests. Thank you so much, in advance, for your support! We can guarantee you a meaningful and productive 6 hours, and all the calories you could possibly want at lunch time!

In other news, remember that wild storm that passed through Ada early in the morning June 19<sup>th</sup>? We are pleased to report that there was no building damage, but we lost an oak tree which fell over and into a neighbor's yard and we lost a large number of sizeable limbs.



Cleanup costs were considerable. We appreciate all your offerings, which as you know go to our missions and ministries and also to various expenses, planned and otherwise, in the property budget.

~ David Horne, chairperson

## **Session News**

I am very pleased to report that your Session has been hard at work coordinating the mission and ministry of the congregation, and its infrastructure needs.

- Our committee purposes and job descriptions are updated and clear.
- As you no doubt know if you are on committee, they have been hard at work.
- Finances are reasonably solid for this point in the year, and as always, are being managed carefully.
- We have adopted a new *Manual of Administrative Operations*. This is a large “nut that has been cracked”, that Scott intends to share with other congregations via the projected Indian Nations Presbytery *Congregational Support Network*.
- We are of course deeply saddened and aggrieved that proceeds from the second summer garage sale were stolen out of the Presbyterian Women closet. We simply pray that this person finds forgiveness and peace and deep repentance for stealing from the church. In response the Session has adopted a policy to deposit cash moneys after events with our bank in their night depository. Thank you, Laureen, for crafting that procedure for us.
- As you know the Session adopted a Strategic Plan in meeting August 25<sup>th</sup>. This will guide much of the mission, ministry, and congregational development in the years ahead. The Session is very grateful to the hard-working Steering Committee for gathering your inputs and clearly presenting them.
- We are pleased with our growing cooperation with the presbytery. You may know that our pastor, the Rev. Scott M. White, has been serving in the last year as vice-moderator of presbytery, as transition task force member, and on the presbytery council, the Mission Strategy Group. In October he will be installed moderator of presbytery for a term of one year. His duties as transition task force member and on the council will continue. We can expect him to be worshipping with an Indian Nations Presbytery congregation and visiting with those sessions about once a month in the year ahead. Please pray for Scott as those additional forms of leadership and service will no doubt take a toll.
- We elected Elder Deanna Piercy to serve a two-year term on the INP Coordinating Council (the successor group to the Mission Strategy Group).

As always, we wish for good communication between the members and friends and the Session. Please contact me with any questions or concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Teresa Mayhue, Clerk of Session

*Elders Installed on Session*

Class of 2020	Class of 2021
Cathy Blackburn, Worship, Nominating	David Butler, Property, Steering, Presbytery Commissioner
Amy Mayhue, Congregational Life and Membership	David Horne, Property, Personnel
Regina Robertson, Congregational Life and Membership, Nominating	Kurt Jackson, Mission and Evangelism, Worship
Matt Sweatt, Personnel, Finance, Worship	Teresa Mayhue, Clerk of Session, Christian Education
Bruce Weems, Mission and Evangelism, Finance	Tami Thompson, Christian Education, Mission and Evangelism

**Steering Committee***Strategic Plan*

Your steering committee has been hard at work this spring and summer gathering your inputs, sifting through them, and praying over them. After several meetings and Saturday morning mini-retreats we succeeded in crafting a plan and moving it to the Session for adoption. This would guide much of the mission, ministry, and congregational development in the years ahead.

I am delighted to report that in meeting August 25<sup>th</sup> the Session, after a considerable amount of in-depth discussion, unanimously adopted the *Strategic Plan - July 31, 2019*. It will be a living document. You will hear much about it in the months ahead.

For now, here are the seven things to know—our mission, vision, and goals.

Mission Statement: Learning to Love • Growing in God • Serving with Joy

Vision Statement: To be a community of people bound by Love, Joy, and Growth in the Lord – where all God’s children are welcomed

Goal 1: Increase Presence within Community

Goal 2: Develop a Youth Program

Goal 3: Develop a Facility Ministry

Goal 4: Develop More Disciplined & Inclusive Services / Programs

Goal 5: Increase Attendance & Membership

Copies of the whole plan were emailed to you in the last Weekly Events email, and printed copies are available in the narthex.

As Scott said in sermon August 25<sup>th</sup>, it won't be just the already-very-hard-working Session that works on these goals, but all of us. Let's get to work!

~David Butler, chairperson

## **Treasurer's Report**

### *Summer Slumber – Not!*

There is a historical cycle to contributions coming into the church. Giving is pretty good the first of the year but tapers off as the year progresses. Then it picks up the last two months of the year. Hopefully, the pickup at the end is enough to overcome the deficit incurred through the summer.

Surprisingly, giving in June and July has been high enough to overcome the expenses during those months. We're still in arrears for the year but there was no summer slumber this year. Hopefully, that bodes well for the run at the end of the year.

~ Tom Hampton, Interim Treasurer

### *YTD through July Finances*

<b>Assets</b>	<b>July 2019</b>	<b>June 2019</b>	<b>Change</b>
	\$157,962	\$144,245	\$13,717

	<b>July 2019</b>	<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Receipts</b>	\$19,098	\$98,426	\$212,000	46.4%
<b>Expenses</b>	\$17,243	\$116,334	\$212,000	54.9%

## **Worship**

Our next Hymn Sing Sunday will be September 29<sup>th</sup>! Please email your favorites in to the church office. The Deacons will host a pot-luck lunch in the WFC Hall following service.

Thank you for all you do to make our services special.

Our "worship committee member of the month" finds liturgists, children's time leaders, acolytes, greeters, and ushers. If you are interested in serving in any of these ways please let me know, and I will forward your interests to committee.

~ Cathy Blackburn, chairperson



*Sunday Worship Attendance*

June 2 – 69

June 9 – 52

June 23 – 50

June 30 – 47

July 7 – 53

July 14 – 52

July 21 – 50

July 28 – 45

August 4 – 49

August 11 – 60

August 18 – 44

August 25 – 57

*Flower Calendar*

Sept 8 – Open

Sept 15- Open

Sept 22 –Open

Sept 29 – Open

Oct 6 – Open

Oct 13 – given by BJ & Tami Thompson

Oct 20 – Open

Oct 27 – Open

Nov 3 – Open

Nov 10 – given by Mel & Regina Robertson

Nov 17 – given by BJ & Tami Thompson

Nov 24 – given by Mel & Regina Robertson

Dec 1, Dec 8, Dec 15, Dec 22, Dec 25, Dec 29 –

Advent Flowers

**Birthdays**

*Happy Birthday!*



September 1 – LiLi Butler

September 2 – Donna Britt

September 3 – Matt Sweatt

September 4 – Junior Vargas

September 6 – Aedan Rothrock

September 7 – Larry Compton

September 11 – Celtan Rothrock

September 12 – Patti Elliott

September 19 – Bud Morgan

September 23 – Ed Perkins

September 25 – Amy Mayhue, William Rauch,  
Cara Sue Waters

September 27 – Erica Vargas

September 29 – Logan Rothrock

September 30 – Don Clark, Joe Peshehonoff

October 1- Vestel Cole, Cheryl Weems

October 9 – Charles Mayhue

October 12 – Sarah Thompson, Teresa White

October 15 – Bette Cole

October 19 – Theo Peshehonoff

October 22 – Joan Butler, McKinleigh Cowart,  
Elizabeth Elliott

October 25 – Cathy Blackburn, Graydon  
Cantrell

**Wedding Anniversaries**

September 4 – Kurt & Pamela Jackson

September 5 – Theo and Carol Peshehonoff

September 10 – Derrick and Joanna Gray

October 10 - Clyde and Joan Butler



## **Congratulations**



Congratulations to Halle! Halle Renee Goodwin graduated from Ada High School in May and started ECU in August. She is the daughter of Brian and Shelley Goodwin and granddaughter of Bruce and Brenda Hall.

Congratulations to Anthony!  
Anthony James

White graduated from Ada Junior High School this last May. He is now a sophomore at Ada High School, where he is concentrating on academics, cross country, and soccer. Way to go, Anthony!



## **Thank Yous!**

We thank the Rev. Dr. Bill Galbraith for leading us in worship June 2<sup>nd</sup>, and the Rev. Claud (Buddy) Baltimore for leading us in worship July 7<sup>th</sup>.

We thank Mel Robertson for his expert calling at Bingo Night; Bobby Winters for repairs on the Senior Care Center (the first FPC fellowship hall); Terry Holman for his superb leadership in our recent strategic planning process; David, Will, Paul, and Jared Vogt for their excellent mowing of the grounds, which included some volunteer hours; and “Anonymous” for a substantial donation to the campus capital improvements fund.

To our church Family,

We want to say **Thank You** for all your thoughts, prayers, hugs and uplifting support as we faced the loss of Bette’s son Jimmy Perkey on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019. We love and appreciate all of you.

Vestel & Bette Cole

**First Presbyterian Church**

**301 East Kings Road**

**Ada, Oklahoma 74820**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Summer 2019**

**The Presbyterian Courier**



**First Presbyterian Church Staff**

Laureen Griffin, Administrative Assistant

Bonita Blackburn, Organist/Pianist

Johnna Isaacs, Music Director

Tom Hampton, Interim Treasurer

Anna Bratcher, Sarah Thompson, Nursery  
Caregivers

Karah Thompson, Custodian

Scott M. White, Pastor