



The Presbyterian Courier

First Presbyterian Church of Ada, Oklahoma

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Learning to Love • Growing in God • Serving with Joy

Advent 2019



TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

Bruce Weems and family at the passing of his sister, Gayle Sullivan; DLN, employment; Andrea Gregory's sister Becky, recovering from surgery; Joe Don Harrison, stage 4 cancer; Amelia Mount, 3 year old with liver cancer; Gayla Cook, for continuing recovery; Kevin Hood, heart condition and upcoming surgery; Brenda Clark; Margaret Lillard; Jane Baltimore; the poor of our community.

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From the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends,

I look forward to Advent every year, and I suspect you do too.

Why?

Well, has the good fully overtaken the bad; has justice fully overtaken injustice; has the light fully shined in the darkness; is the reign of Christ greater than the reigns of the rulers of this world? And we ourselves, are we fully redeemed (Luke 21:25-28)?

In all of these cases I think not, and I suspect you think not as well.

So, another Advent. Praise God.

Advent means *coming* or *arrival*. It is a season of promise having two meanings—one looking to the past and one looking to the future. We certainly do celebrate Christ's coming into the world; and we also wait with longing for His coming again.

Will it happen? Of course. There seems to be some delay; the early Church thought this would happen very soon. But just as God's promise to send the Son into the world did occur, so God's promise to send the Son into the world will happen again.

I see this promise coming true in part every day. You too? Yes, with each baptism, confirmation, and act of Christian service and love Christ comes yet more into the world. How there is basis for our hope! There is no need to be concerned.

Yet, Advent is a time of grandness. We are grateful for the incremental advancements of Christ, and we hope for something grander.

The Bible writers called this *Parousia*, or Second Coming.

Perhaps *parousia* happens when the Church fully hopes it to happen—when we are not lulled into the same-old same-old realpolitik of the ways of the world. Perhaps *parousia* happens when

the Church celebrates the arrival's evident nearness. Perhaps *parousia* happens when the Church prays this *must* happen, in order for this world and its peoples to have life as God intended at all. Or, in the condensed, prayerful words of scripture, *Jesus says*, "Surely I am coming soon." "Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" ~ Revelation 22:20.

Friends, what a great time of year. This is especially the time of year when, inwardly, the Church can be at peace, in trust. This is especially the time of year when, outwardly, the Church can witness into the darkness of the world.

Advent 2019. We will pray the arrival of Christ, and, of course, be at peace.

Scott

Events

Hanging of the Greens!

This Saturday, November 30th, 10am, in the sanctuary.



Children's Christmas Presentation!

Sunday, December 15th in service.



All-Church Christmas Party!

Sunday, December 15th following service in the WFC Hall. Bring an ornament for exchange! Food, fun, music, fellowship!



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

7pm



Christmas Carol Sing (Hymn Sing)!

December 29th



Weekly Recurring Events

Choir Rehearsal Sunday mornings, 8:45am, and the first Wednesday of the month, 7pm; *Childcare available.*

Church School for All Ages Sundays 9:30am in the church school wing. Adult Studies: *Catalyst* and *Coffee & Conversation.*

Worship Sundays 10:45am

The nursery is open and staffed Sunday mornings.

The New FPC Youth Group meets every Sunday, 2-4pm in the WFC Hall.

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



Monthly Recurring Events

PW Bible Study, second Tuesday of the month, 12-1pm in the WFC Parlor.

Please join us for **Breakfast at JD's Café**. Great food and fellowship the second Saturday of the month at 8:00am.

Events Coming Up



You Are Invited! We would like to announce an upcoming event for Saturday, December 7th, 2019 at 5:30 pm. **Logan and Sara Rothrock will be having a 10-year Vow-Renewal Ceremony** to celebrate 10 years of marriage! We would be honored if you could attend our Vow Renewal Ceremony.

There will be wedding cake, punch, and appetizers served at the Westminster Building at the conclusion of the Vow Renewal Ceremony. Logan and I are wholeheartedly requesting that you not buy any presents or gifts for this event, it is a celebration of friendship, family, and most importantly love! With that being said, yes you can buy a present if you'd like, but please know that it is not mandatory and the presence of your attendance is a gift in and of itself! We are blessed beyond measure to have each other, our boys, our family, and our beautiful congregation. Therefore, if your schedule allows, please save the date and help us celebrate another 10 years of friendship, family, and love! ~ Sara Rothrock

As always, all church events including committee meetings are online at fpcada.org/calendar. Click on any event to see more information.

Christian Education

Nursery

Sarah Thompson and Anna Bratcher take care of our young children in the nursery. They lead

activities, stories, and playtime with the children.

Children's Church School

Tami Thompson, Brooke Holman, and Karah Thompson teach the children's church school. They begin with yoga to relax their bodies and minds, Brooke reads a story, and then they do a craft. New curriculum will begin in December.

Youth Group

The youth group is meeting every Sunday afternoon from 2-4pm in Westminster Fellowship Center. They went to the zoo in October and had a lock-in at Westminster Center on November 9th (15 in attendance). Tami, Brooke, and Terry are thinking of doing two lock-ins a year—one in the summer and one in the fall. The youth will present a Christmas Pageant during worship service on December 15th. All youth are invited to participate and will be practicing during Sunday church school time.

Coffee and Conversation



Coffee and Conversation! 9:30am Sundays at FPC

Recent units have included Christian Music, and Harriet Tubman, an extraordinary and exemplary human being. We occasionally check in with leading thinkers, usually via podcast, such as the awesome Rev. Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor who is reaching out with thoughts on inter-religious experience. In the new year it is likely we will be exploring the revelation of God in nature, in the creation. This used to be a larger subject in Christianity but has become smaller—perhaps to the Church's detriment. There is really something to recover here.

We are having a grand time exploring what it means to be a Christian and an active church member in this time and place. Come and have a cup of coffee and enjoy

some facilitated conversation!

Catalyst Class

The Catalyst Class curriculum is *The Present Word*. The lessons this past quarter have explored what it means to live in the grace of God and perceive God's grace all around us. The next quarter's lessons will explore honoring God.

Christian Education is looking forward to an exciting 2020!

Congregational Life and Membership

The Congregational Life Committee has been busy over the last month. Our Fall Festival was a big hit for everyone. The kids had a lot of fun playing carnival games and jumping on two

wonderful inflatables. Of course as always, the food was amazing. Congratulations to returning champ of chili, Terry Holman, and Champion Dessert maker, Brenda Hall. Our next event was another night of Bingo on November 17th. The event was full of fun and excitement. We raised a little over \$400 towards our renovation goals. The committee would like to thank Mel Robertson for being our wonderful MC. The committee plans to do this again in 2020.

The Session and Congregational Life Committee would also like the congregation to know that in the upcoming year we will be welcoming 'Sisters Hand In Hand'. Beginning in January, this group that emotionally supports and encourages widows, will utilize our facilities the first Monday of the month for their dinners. Leigh Gaddis has agreed to be our liaison with Sisters Hand in Hand. We are so excited to offer our wonderful property to this fabulous ministry. We encourage all members to get involved with this group by attending or volunteering.

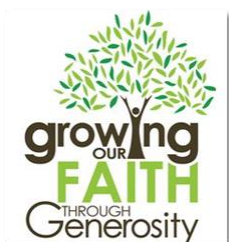


Deacons Corner

Commissioned Deacons: Kelley Dorsey-Miller, Robbie Horne, Ellen Sweatt, Karah Thompson, Cheryl Weems (chairperson), Linda Wells

We will be collecting certain items for the Ada High Student room at the church Christmas party. We will be asking for athletic shoes, hoodies and sweatpants. The shoes can be for elementary age thru high school. Some of the kids "shop" the store for items needed by their younger siblings. Toward the end of January, we will be providing lunch to FCA at Ada High.

Finance



During the last few months, the Finance Committee has been focused on the development and implementation of the church's annual stewardship campaign. We have set a campaign goal of \$126,905, a modest increase of 2.31% over last year and a goal of receiving commitments from 100% of our

worshipping community. While we are continuing to follow up with a few members, campaign pledges stand at \$132,804.00 from 32 giving units as of this time. We hope you join us in helping to reach this goal so we may continue our mission. Thank you for your support and God Bless.

The Finance Committee

Indian Nations Presbytery

Commissioners Report – INP Stated Meeting – October 11 2019

Indian Nations Presbytery conducted a Stated Meeting at Trinity Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City Oklahoma.



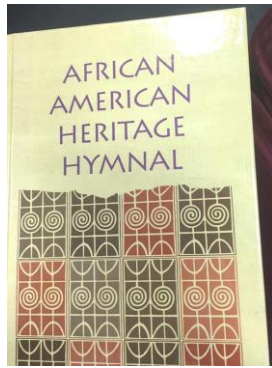
It was a joy to conduct regular business of the Indian Nations Presbytery. We were both honored and excited to install our own Scott White into the position of Presbytery Moderator. Our prayers and support go out to Pastor White who will be a main voice in the Indian Nations Presbytery. Having our Minister as Moderator allows our church to keep our finger on the pulse of Presbytery happenings and allows our church also to have a straight-line voice into the Indian Nations Presbytery.

The general business of the Presbytery was actually overshadowed by the host Church, **Trinity Presbyterian**. Trinity Church is recognized as the first integrated church in Oklahoma City and probably the first in the State. Trinity's civil rights waters run long and deep and we are blessed to have such an historically and important church

within our church family!

I always look forward to seeing Huretta Dobbs at Indian Nations Presbytery Meetings but especially this time at her home church of "Historical" Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCUUSA) in OKC. She is one of the few connections left from the Indian Nations Presbytery to my parents Clyde and Joan Butler who were very active for many years with the Presbytery and still currently active at our home church First Presbyterian Church — at Trinity Presbyterian Church OKC.





Trinity being an intercultural community church was very apparent in our richly spiritual forms of worship and music. We sang from the African American Heritage Hymnal and were treated to a message filled with history and hope!

Trinity has not only has been recognized on the Historical places list, they are continuing to be a relevant voice regarding racism and intercultural ministries. There are several programs they are spearheading including Mathew 25 church registration and being an Intercultural church. Both of these have great potential and are something we are looking into to see if there is interest for First Preaby of Ada to join the ranks of churches participating in these programs.

A wonderful Indian Nations Presbytery called meeting. Indian Nations Presbytery is on the move realizing it Mission Statement and reorganizing. Our Church in Ada is in step with these changes and living, loving and growing into our own mission statement! If you have any questions on our last called meeting or about our church and our relations with Indian Nations please feel free to contact me.

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

Respectfully Submitted, David Butler, Commissioner to the Presbytery

Mission and Evangelism

The Mission and Evangelism Committee extends its greetings to you. Fall usually sees an uptick in mission emergency fund requests and indeed that has happened. Help with gas bills and other emergency services are the most frequent requests. There are families in need so please keep those folks in your prayers and donate to this fund so we may continue our outreach mission.

Many of our mission causes, such as Abba's Tables and Meals on Wheels are lacking volunteer help so we have to reduce our numbers and/or look to coordinating activities with other churches. As an example we are now partnering with the Episcopal Church to cover drivers for Meals on Wheels. We are always seeking more volunteers for church activities so please keep that in mind. The Deacons prepared a meal for the Ada High School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes that was greeted with much appreciation. This type of service to Ada High School will be continued in the future.

To continue to assist others outside our community we participated in the Presbyterian-wide Peace and Global Witness Offering. The congregation donated \$498 to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of conflict and injustice across the world. 25% of that offering was used to support the local causes Mathew 25 and Abba's Table. The committee is also planning to provide additional opportunities for help to our neighbors through offerings at the December 15th Christmas Party. We hope you all will join us in that effort. Best wishes for a happy holiday.

Boy Scouts of America

Friends, big news. It is not a lightweight event, it is a heavyweight event that First Presbyterian Church is the new home of local **Boy Scouts of America Troop 4 and Pack 4**. This is the newsletter note that begins to communicate some of the things that that means, and in brief form, some of the recent history leading up to this.

Unit 4 has been, for a very long time, hosted by First Christian Church of Ada. (The official parlance is that First Christian Church of Ada was Charter Organization of Unit 4; now FPC will be Charter Organization.) First Christian Church recently discontinued as an area congregation; Unit 4 was looking for a new home.

In its March 24, 2019 meeting your Session acted to extend an invitation to Unit 4 to consider moving over to FPC.

Unit 4 chose FPC, an agreement was negotiated, and Unit 4 has “moved over and in”.

There is so much to say about this, that maybe we’ll have to do it in installments and in a variety of ways, such as Weekly Events emails and announcements Sunday mornings from the lectern.

But here are a few key data points:

- “Presbyterian” and “Scouting” have long gone together. There is a [website](#) for the National Association of Presbyterian Scouters that you may want to peruse.
- FPC/Ada and Scouting have long gone together. As many of you know there was a troop here “back in the day”.
- The relationship between a troop, a pack, and a charter organization is a close one. Everyone is working together to a common goal and counting on each other.
- We are blessed that our own Logan Rothrock is Cubmaster of Pack 4. We are blessed that Elder Kurt Jackson, longtime scout leader and current member of Session, has agreed to be our chief liaison with Unit 4 (in official parlance, “Charter Organization Representative”). We are blessed that Angus McFarlane continues as Scoutmaster of Troop 4. There is a considerable and impressive leadership team that comes with Unit 4.
- Facility usage goes way up here on campus. More on that in the weeks ahead.
- We will see things like “Scout Sunday,” “Chili Feed,” and who knows, maybe some Cubs camping on the grounds near the fire-pit Saturday evening through Sunday morning. (How awesome is that?)
- Scouting generally does not count on a monetary contribution from the charter organization, and tries to do its own fundraising. Having said that, there will be some expenses. This happening, along with our current stewardship campaign, makes this a great time to consider, extra more prayerfully, your monetary commitment to the church. You will see children and youth growing up well because of it.

- Administrative overhead, of course, goes up. For example, since both FPC and BSA make the highest commitment to conduct and child protection, look for a new round of cross-trainings in that area.
- There are already a number of scouts and cubs in the congregation. There could be more. FPC parents of scouting-age boys, you may want to explore scouting for your children. Contact Kurt or Logan for conversation.
- Being charter organization for a sizeable and historic Oklahoma unit is, sort of, such a big deal, that it really isn't too much that every member and friend of the congregation would consider getting a basic orientation. There are videos for example on YouTube that do this. Type in the search box "Charter Organization Representative Training". These are geared toward that training, but they are really more general and helpful than that.)
- And, of course, there is the [national website](#) for Boy Scouts of America.

Stay tuned, scouting is happening at FPC!

Thank you to all the Mission & Evangelism volunteers!

Compassion Outreach: Buddy Baltimore, Becky Compton, Vestal & Bette Cole, Mike & Carol Cook, Mary Hampton, Robbie Horne, Kurt Jackson, Jerry & Dian Malloy, Bob & Jo Neman, Nancy Thompson.

Abba's Tables: Greta Thompson, Linda Wells, Nancy Thompson, Buddy Baltimore, Cathy Blackburn, Betty Childers, Kurt Jackson, Robbie Horne, Jo Neman, Tami Thompson, Vestal Cole, Bruce Weems, Cheryl Weems

Meals on Wheels: Jerry & Dian Malloy, Nancy & Matt Thompson, Vestal & Bette Cole, Amy Elliott, Bob Neman, Kurt Jackson, Brooke Holman, Billie Redden, Leigh Gaddis, Jack Lambert, Karah Thompson, Mary Hampton, Carol Peshehonoff, Teresa Mayhue, David Horne.

Presbyterian Women Organization



The Presbyterian Women are, as always, active and visible here at FPC. We are a local group within a national assembly of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery Church (USA) that has been around for about 30 years. The second Tuesday of every month from 12-1pm a group of about 8 of us gather to study the Bible. The 2019-2020 theme is 'Love Carved in Stone –A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments'. We are delighted to have a couple of ladies from other local churches who come study with us. All are welcomed to join the bible study at any point during the year.

We also continue to be active in several FPC outreaches: Abba's Tables, Compassion Outreach and Meals on Wheels. And whenever there is a cooked meal served at an FPC function you can be sure

we're in charge of the kitchen and getting it done! Recently we had a great time being involved with the annual Fall Fest party.

Also, as is PW tradition we always host a shower for "first" babies and recently we did just that to celebrate Sarah Carlsson (Margaret Barton's daughter) and welcome her soon to arrive bundle of joy. It was a wonderful time of fellowship and festivity. We can't wait to meet baby Carlsson in person.

Property

The Property Committee held a Work Bee in Saturday, November 16th. Fifteen volunteers worked from 9am to 3pm accomplishing several important projects.

Closets and space in the WFC were reorganized to make room for FPC's newly adopted programs including Cub Scout Pack 4, Scout Troop 4 and Sisters Hand In Hand. Hall closets in the Main Building were repurposed to store a multitude of costumes used in our church celebrations.

Other projects included wall repair and painting in the WFC, cleaning WFC roof gutters, clearing invasive trees on the property and old growth from the garden, and installing a return vent in the Dungeon.

Special Thanks for the time, effort and talent of those members who participated!

~ David Horne, Chairperson

Session News

October and November, 2019

- WELCOME to **Boy Scouts of America Unit 4**: Troop 4 Scoutmaster Angus McFarland, and Cub Scouts Pack 4, Cubmaster Logan Rothrock, to FPC! This is their new home. Kurt Jackson will be the liaison between FPC and the Scouts.
- We also WELCOME **Sisters Hand-in-Hand** to use our Westminster Center as their permanent home on the first Monday evening of the month. Churches take turns preparing food and providing their own volunteers. We will be storing their dishes, tablecloths, etc. Leigh Gaddis will be the liaison between FPC and Sisters Hand-in-Hand. Both of these groups will enable us to share our facilities for two very deserving causes.
- There was a **Congregational Meeting** on October 13 to elect Cathy Blackburn, Mindy Choate, Amy Elliott, Terry Holman, and Regina Robertson to Session as Class of 2022.
- The Property Committee has been working hard prioritizing **maintenance projects, capital improvements, and critical maintenance projects**. Terry Holman devised a

priority attributes point system and compiled three lists organizing these projects by priority. This will make it much easier to visualize the order in which projects need to be tackled.

- The Property Committee has also had **two work bees** in the last three months. They were well attended and accomplished many repairs, yard work, and re-organization of storage areas. This is hard work, and everyone who was able to participate is greatly appreciated.
- The Steering Committee spent many hours developing the **Strategic Plan**. This plan will provide vision, focus, action items, accountability, and a model for continuous improvement in the expected outcomes of the programs and service of FPC over the next three to five-year period. At this time all the committees are determining their goals and tactics stated in the plan. This will show the committees areas they are responsible for implementing.
- The Finance Committee completed this year's **pledge drive** on November 17. They are contacting people who have not yet turned in pledges in order to determine FPC budget for 2020.

~ 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

The Steering Committee has been very engaged in church life. Being the newest committee of the Session, the Steering Committee has conducted a survey and created a new mission statement and a strategic plan for the church with your input.

We have been coordinating with all committees to assign different goals of the strategic plan to those committees assigned with accomplishing those goals.

The Steering Committee will continue to provide input for the Session. We will focus on preserving our history and moving into the future as we move into 2020. Thank you to everyone for your continued support and your inspired ideas! It is excited to be a part of FPC and we are honored to continue to hear your ideas and present them to session!

David Butler, Steering Committee Chair

Treasurer's Report

YTD through October Finances

Assets	October 2019	September 2019	Change	
	\$145,782	\$151,267	(\$5,485)	
	October 2019	YTD	Budget	% of Budget
Receipts	\$15,337	\$140,588	\$212,000	66.3%
Expenses	\$18,977	\$170,007	\$212,000	80.2%
Difference	(\$3,639)	(\$29,418)		

Worship

The Worship Committee is working on Advent services that will be joyous and meaningful as we celebrate the coming of Christ this season. The purchase of poinsettias to adorn our sanctuary will begin Sunday, November 24. Please plan to pay for each poinsettia at the time you order. The flowers will be delivered and set up by December 15. November 24 is also the day we plan to encourage and train all current and prospective Acolytes who wish to serve in the coming year.

Hanging of the Greens: Please join us in the tradition of decorating the church for the season on Saturday, November 30th at 10am.

As we plan for Advent, there will be two Wednesday evening services, December 4th and 18th at 6:15 pm. The children's Christmas program will be December 15th, the Third Sunday of Advent.

This special service will be followed by the All-Church Christmas Party held in WFC. This will be a special celebration day for our church family.

We will end the year with a musical send off, with a "Fifth Sunday Sing", December 29th. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord!

Sunday Worship Attendance

September 1 – 56

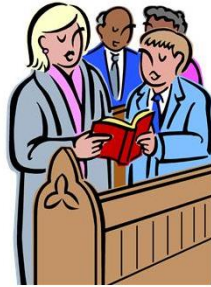
September 8 – 79

September 15 – 57

September 22 – 63

September 29 – 58

October 6 – 57



October 13 – 75

October 20 – 29

October 27 – 53

November 3 – 53

November 10 – 65

November 17 – 56

Youth Group

OKC Zoo Trip October 20th, 2019



FPC Lock-In November 9th-10th, 2019



Birthdays



Happy Birthday!

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

November 2 – Ellen Sweatt

November 3 – Chandler Walls

November 5 – Mason Mayhue, Mel Robertson

November 6 – Amy Elliott

November 11 – Samuel Peaden

November 13 – Robbie Horn

November 21 – Amelia Choate, Joann Gray, Zoe
Rockey

November 24 – Roy Lillard, Sullivan Taylor

November 27 – Carol Peshehonoff

November 30 – Todd Robson

December 3 – Betty Park

December 5 – Susan Haney, Dian Maloy

December 6 – Timothy Butler

December 8 – Lindsey Holman, Bruce Weems

December 9 – Kai Hampton

December 16 – Claire Pottebaum, Elliott White

December 19 – Karah Thompson

December 21 – Jacob Holman

December 22 – Seanna Bottoms-Miller, Bruce
Hall

Wedding Anniversaries

November 5 – Terry & Brooke Holman

November 6 – Tim & Amy Elliott

November 12 – Mark & Debbie Thompson

November 25 – BJ & Tami Thompson

December 9 – Logan & Sara Rothrock

December 14 – Bill & Donna Britt

December 27 – Tom & Mary Hampton



Congratulations!

Ed and Lorene Perkins are blessed with a new grandson, Turing Geng Perkins. He was named for Alan Turing, the British mathematician. Geng is his mother's maiden name. He was born on November 16th in Auburn, Alabama, and weighed 9 pounds 4 ounces and was 21.5 inches long. Turing's dad, Edmon, and mom, Ying, are delighted with Turing and nervously navigating his first days of life.

First Presbyterian Church

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Advent 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