



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Personnel Committee -----	Page 4
Capital Campaign -----	Page 5
Communications and Missions -----	Page 6
Worship -----	Page 7
Adult Ministries and Fellowship -----	Page 9
Children’s Ministry -----	Page 10
Children’s & Youth Staff -----	Page 11
Youth Ministry -----	Page 12
Stephen Ministry-----	Page 13
Presbyterian Women-----	Page 14
Endowment -----	Page 15
Trustees -----	Page 16
Preschool -----	Page 17
Scouting America-----	Page 18
Deacons -----	Page 21

STAFF FOR ALL OR PART OF 2025

The Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen Pastor/Head of Staff January - August 2025	Dr. Lucia Unrau Organist
Magdalena Vinson Church Administrator all of 2025 Interim Head of Staff September - December 2025	Dr. Christopher Haygood Choir Director
Jenna Campbell Director of Children’s & Youth Ministry January - September 2025 Children’s & Youth Ministry Advisor October - December 2025	Alex Greene Emily Yost AV Technicians
Sharon Bennett Pastoral Care Associate January - May 2025	Elijah Ankrom Youth Ministry Assistant (Jan - Sept 2025) Children’s & Youth Ministry Support (Oct - Dec 2025)
Mary Beth Garoffolo Office/Finance Assistant Retired February 2025	Haley Ankrom (spring 2025) Gracie Eubanks (fall 2025) Youth Ministry Assistants
Rachel Hearn Finance Administrator	Bekah Bowman Children’s Ministry Assistant January - May 2025
Dana Brown Presbyterian Preschool Director	Erin Lawson Childcare Coordinator
	Mallory Kizer Digital Communications Assistant (hired Nov 2025)
	Vickie Foust Building Supervisor

TRANSITION TASK FORCE & TRANSITIONAL PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

In August, before Pastor Diane Jansen-Hemmen left to accept a call in Kansas City, she appointed Jeff Martindale, Paula Kendrick, and Sandy Cohlma to a transition task force. She tasked them with consulting with Pastor Emeritus Gordon Edwards through October to fill the pulpit, to find an interim moderator of session, and to answer questions from congregants about how the church was moving forward. In October, session dissolved the task force and changed it to a transition pastor search committee. Lisa McGaw and Debby Schoenecke joined that committee. As of the end of 2025, that committee was still in the search process.

SESSION AND ITS COMMITTEES/WORKGROUPS

- Adult Ministry & Fellowship Committee
- Children’s Ministry Committee
- Communications & Mission Committee
- Endowment Committee
- Personnel Committee
- Stewardship & Finance Committee
- From Strength To Strength Team
- History Project
- Team Neurodiversity
- Presbyterian Women
- Stephen Ministry
- Worship & Music Committee
- Youth Ministry Committee

SESSION

Two different ministers served as moderator in 2025
Kathy Thomas, Clerk of Session

2025	2026	2027
Ed Arquitt	Dustin Charter	Sandy Cohlma
Cathy Conway	Sue Dearing	Mary Emmet
Dustin Reavis	Billy McCollom	Nate Ingram
David Silver	Lynn Osborn	Jeff Martindale
Barbara Stoecker	Rusty Rex	Tim Schlais
Kathy Thomas	Courtney Savage	Becky Taylor
Noah Taylor (youth)		

BOARD OF DEACONS

Terry Shreve & Debby Schoenecke, Co-Moderators

2025	2026	2027
Holly Chermack	Terri Carver	Casey Billingsley
Ellen Ingram	Ann Houston	Elizabeth Bruce
Terry Shreve	Tami Krehbiel	Dale Ingram
Aaron Stoutzenberger	M.J. Seals	Wayne Martindale
Eric Windhausen	Debby Schoenecke	Suzii Parsons
Reese Campbell (youth)	Danielle Shreve	Jill Stoutzenberger

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

2025 was another year of staff transitions. Mary Beth Garoffolo (Finance & Office Assistant) retired in February, Sharon Bennett (Pastoral Care Associate) resigned in May, Jenna Campbell resigned her full-time position in September and transitioned from Director of Children's & Youth Ministry to Children's & Youth Ministry Advisor through the end of December 2025. Elijah Ankrom stepped into a support role with Children's & Youth Ministry beginning in October, and, as of January 1, 2026, will serve as the Coordinator of Children's & Youth Ministry. 2025 also saw the end of the pastoral call between the Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen and First Presbyterian Church at the end of August.

The committee's work included giving receptions for Mary Beth Garoffolo in February and for Sharon Bennett in May. Extensive research, legal advice and drafting of the 2025 FPC Employee Handbook that commenced with Pastor Diane in November of 2024 continued until it was ready to present to Session. Office staff were provided with the final draft for their review and comments, and some modifications were made. Session approved the new Employee Staff Handbook in July of 2025. Much of the handbook research involved the FPC Pre-School; implementing a shift to biweekly timekeeping and payroll procedures for improved compliance; establishing PTO (paid time off) for staff in lieu of separate categories of paid leave; increasing the number of paid holidays; updating current or adding in statutory benefits such as equal employment opportunity, sexual harassment prevention policies, proper use of FPC computers and electronic communications, etc. In addition, Personnel and Pastor Diane established the need for maintaining employee files with job description, employee's resume, offer letter and other relevant communications that should be kept on file, such as announcements of retirement, resignation, and requests for family medical leave. In May we were directed by Session to review and update the job descriptions for full-time and part-time positions for Session discussion and approval. We completed this assignment in November. We are excited about the future of FPC Stillwater and look forward to serving the FPC congregation, staff, and Session in the new year, along with a new Transitional Pastor we hope will be joining FPC soon thereafter.

Committee members: Cathy Conway (chair), Ed Arquitt, Paula Kendrick, and Jill Stoutzenberger



FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



THANK YOU LORD, for all the blessings you have bestowed upon us! Thankfulness is the word that comes to mind as we look back upon the first year of the From Strength To Strength capital campaign.

FPC endeavored to take on a monumental task of raising \$1,766,922.09 for a capital campaign to do some needed improvements to our facilities, invest in an endowment to provide funding for future facility maintenance and provide funds for mission and programming needs. Who would have thought before the end of one year, we would have received over 55% of the total from the generous gifts of this congregation, bequests from endowments, the children and youth, and even from the FPC preschool. Many listened as we prayed “God, what do You want to do through me?”

THANK YOU LORD, for all the work that has been completed so far. Nearly \$850,000 has been expended to improve FPC facilities, invest in the future and impact the local community and the world. In addition to all of the facility improvements, \$205,000 has been invested in the endowment program. Mission and programming funds have assisted in a few of the projects such as the sound system and AV repair, the re-leathering of the organ, and the training bathroom in the preschool. Other mission and programming support has been to Camino in support of Happy Homes for Ukrainian children affected by the war and support for Saturday Brunch to help those with hunger needs here in Stillwater.



THANK YOU LORD, for this congregation's generosity and watch for updates throughout the three-year effort.

*Campaign chairs: Ava & Lynn Osborn, Becky & Tim Schlais
Horizons Stewardship Consultant Don Smith*

COMMUNICATIONS AND MISSIONS

Our committee stayed busy this year meeting needs in both our community and in the wider church. Julie Bills continues to run the Fair Trade Store, placing orders and scheduling volunteers to provide coffee, chocolate, olive oil, and gifts from around the world so our congregation has an opportunity to support small-scale global artisans.

Steve Fairbanks works with Solar Under the Sun to train volunteers to take their skills to remote areas of the world and provide lighting for rural areas that have no other energy sources. Currently two projects are being considered in Honduras. Steve also secured \$1500.00 in donations for Solar Under the Sun from our local Wal-Mart locations. The next Solar School is scheduled for June 3-7, 2026 in Fort Smith, Arkansas. Anyone interested may attend.

Cathy Conway launched a shower ministry in our Fellowship Hall this summer and continues to oversee the volunteers and the scheduling of those in need of facilities. In the process, our showers have been repaired and updated for any needs that may arise in the future.

Kathy Thomas continues to work with Stillwater Cares teaching Getting Ahead classes. The last two graduations have been held in our Fellowship Hall, and the current class is meeting at First United Methodist Church on Thursday nights and will graduate on March 5, 2026.

Billy McCollom has been co-chairing the committee this year and will take over as chair in the upcoming year. He has provided support and guidance throughout this year in all of the above projects.

This committee provides funding for the radio broadcasts on Sunday morning and newspaper advertising throughout the year. Our committee also helped coordinate Jan Dus's visit to Seasoned Adults in February to share information about Camino's activities in support of those in need in war-torn Ukraine. We are grateful for his continued efforts and for the ways he connects with our congregation to keep us informed.

The following disbursements of mission funds (including the four PC (USA) Special Offerings) were made throughout the year:

- Christmas Joy Offering - \$3034.00 to PC(USA) collected in 2024
- One Great Hour of Sharing Offering - \$3524.19
- Pentecost Offering - \$919.80 to PC(USA); \$613.20 to our local CASA for Kids
- Peace and Global Witness Offering - \$632.75 to PC(USA); \$316.37 to Cimarron Presbytery; \$316.37 to Mission of Hope.
- Camino for Ukraine - Total of \$1300.00
- Happy Home, an orphanage in Ukraine for disadvantaged children - \$2000 from the Capital Campaign funds.
- Mission of Hope - \$5000.00
- Covenant Network of Presbyterians - \$450.00
- Stillwater Cares - \$1900.00
- Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary - \$1000.00
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance - \$125.00 to aid after the Kerrville, TX flooding
- Synod Partnership for Disaster Relief - \$550.00 to aid after Kerrville flooding
- Our Daily Bread-\$750.00

Members: Julie Bills, Cathy Conway, Steve Fairbanks, Billy McCollom, and Kathy Thomas

WORSHIP

In 2025, our congregation continued its journey of faith, navigating a year marked by significant transitions, heartfelt goodbyes, and the exploration of new ways to praise God. While we honored our long-standing traditions, we also took bold steps toward the future of worship at our church.

Transitions in Leadership - This year was once again a season of change for our staff. In August, we said goodbye to Pastor Diane Janssen Hemmen as she moved to serve a new congregation. We are grateful for the optimism and leadership she provided during her time with us. Additionally, at the end of December, we bid a fond farewell to our Choir Director, Dr. Christopher Haygood. We thank Christopher for his dedication to our music ministry and wish him the very best in his next chapter. We also said goodbye to Jenna Campbell as our Director of Children's and Youth Ministry as she accepted an opportunity to grow and serve in Christian Education for the larger church!



Innovation in Worship - A highlight of 2025 was the introduction of music-forward service formats in August and November. These services allowed us to explore new styles and contemporary songs, breathing fresh energy into our worship. We were especially blessed by the immense talent of Dr. Josh Taylor and his family, whose leadership was instrumental in making these new musical experiences so meaningful.

The Sacraments and Service - Communion remained a central pillar of our life together, celebrated on the first Sunday of every month and during select special services. We continued the practice of receiving the Sacrament by intinction. Gluten-free bread remained available to ensure all could participate. We extend our deepest thanks to the congregation members who baked bread, the elders and deacons who served, and our dedicated weekly ushers. Your volunteer service is the heartbeat of our worship experience.

The Liturgical Year - Our seasonal celebrations provided moments of both joy and reflection: Lent and Easter: We marked the Lenten season with inspirational services on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday as well as Good Friday, waving of palms on Palm Sunday and a joyous Easter morning. Pentecost: The sanctuary was filled with the vibrant energy that has become a hallmark of our Pentecost celebration. Fall Traditions: We observed Reformation Sunday with a focus on our rich history and All Saints Sunday by lighting candles in memory of loved ones.

Advent and Christmas - The year concluded with Advent candles and the beauty of Lessons and Carols. On Christmas Eve, the congregation gathered for a single, unified candlelight service at 7:00 p.m., featuring the choir, children's choir, youth instrumentalists, and the celebration of Communion followed by our traditional candlelight welcoming of the birth of Christ. The First Sunday of Christmas was celebrated with a service of Morning Prayer.

WORSHIP

Looking Ahead

As we look toward 2026, we remain committed to exploring how we can instill even more meaningful worship elements into our life together. Though we have faced the challenges of transition, we enter the new year with a spirit of resilience and an open heart for where the Spirit will lead us next.



Membership

10 new members
12 deaths

As of December, our 2025
membership is 303



Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life."

In Memorium

Karen Culton	Allen Murphy
Pat Jaynes	Beverly Perkins
Margie Keener	Gwen Piersall
Margy Knox	Margaret Redburn
Pauline Kopecky	Beth Selakovich
Dorothy Kraemer	Shirley Tearney

Celebrating Long-Term Members in Years of Membership

Andrew Perkins (45)	Sandy Stuart (49)	Kirk Mittelstet (52)	Rebecca Bair (60)
Betsy Showalter (45)	David Silver (50)	Madelyn Mittelstet (52)	Rita Breuninger (60)
Jim Showalter (45)	Rosetta Silver (50)	Ava Osborn (52)	Rick Dearing (60)
Kay Keys (46)	Cathy Fairbanks (51)	Lynn Osborn (52)	David Smith (60)
Laura Smith (46)	Steve Fairbanks (51)	Marvin Keener (54)	Catsy Gunn (61)
Ted Smith (46)	Beverly Gumm (51)	Andrea Arquitt (55)	Sydney Reding (61)
Dewey Clapp (48)	Bonny Mullen (51)	Ed Arquitt (55)	Maxine Mulvey (63)
Peggy Gibbs (48)	Dick Shawley (51)	Edwin Koeppe (55)	Lynda Williams (65)
Kyle King (48)	Cynthia Shawley (51)	Allen Murphy (56)	Allan McCrary (67)
Denise Rex (48)	Kay Stewart (51)	Janna Murphy (56)	Robert Culton (68)
Rusty Rex (48)	Connie Stiegler (51)	Susie Glasscock (57)	Marilyn Heath (70)
Carol Trapp (48)	Barb Henderson (51)	Cathy Grove (57)	Anne Thomas (70)
Jim Trapp (48)	Bob Henderson (52)	Larry Perkins (57)	Owen Thomas (70)
Kay Gafford (49)	Ken McKinley (52)	Suzanne Coyne (58)	Mary Thomas (77)
Ed Stuart (49)	Mary McKinley (52)	Susan Worthington (60)	

ADULT MINISTRIES AND FELLOWSHIP

Seasoned Adults

After Sharon Bennett's resignation, Seasoned Adults became a volunteer-led program. Because it took a few months for that reality to settle in, meetings were on-again-off-again for part of the year. When meetings did occur, participants met once/month to enjoy a meal and a program together. Programs that took place this year include but are not limited to the following:

Amy Hardin — Stillwater's Early Childhood Coalition; Brett Carver — Wheat; Game Night; Dee Miller — About Face; Jim Showalter — Wildlife Photography in the West.

Seasoned Adults programs will resume in February, 2026.

Adult Sunday School Classes

Feasting on the Word is a Sunday school Bible study based on the year's lectionary. It meets weekly, 9:45-10:45, in the 2nd floor New Library. Denise Rex leads the class.

Faith & Fellowship is a participant-led Sunday school class. It meets weekly, 9:45-10:45, in the Fellowship Hall. Those who attend the class determine what books they want to read/discuss, usually choosing the next study as the ongoing study comes to an end. Books studied this year include but are not limited to the following: *Half Truths* by Adam Hamilton; *Mere Christianity* by C.S. Lewis; *Living Buddha, Living Christ* by Thich Nhat Hanh; and *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America* by Ted Foote and Alex Thornburg (former FPC associate pastor).

There's an opportunity for pre-Sunday-school meditation every week, 9:15-9:40, on the landing just south of the New Library.

Summer Sips

Summer Sips is a coffee & light snacks fellowship time in the Hospitality Area during the Sunday school hour. This committee provided the funds for that program which extended into the fall and will continue in the spring.

Dine With 9 continued to be a cherished fellowship opportunity for those looking to deepen existing relationships at FPC and welcome new connections. In the spring, groups enjoyed their traditional rhythm of gathering once a month to share a meal and meaningful conversation. Groups did not meet during the fall, and **Dine With 9 is currently on hiatus.**

Church-wide Fellowship

12/14/25 - Served Chili Supper during a Night in Bethlehem to our church community. Attendees were entertained by our youth dressed as characters from the living nativity, where they sang Christmas carols, and were invited to enjoy the nativity after the chili supper.

3/29/25 - Adult and Fellowship Committee along with Dine with Nine hosted a family game night in the fellowship hall. Families were to bring their favorite game to share with everyone. Food was byo pizza, cheese tray, dessert etc. The event was well attended with approximately 30 individuals attending.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The Children's Ministry Committee supports First Presbyterian Church's vision and goals by managing the ongoing strategic priorities of the Children's ministry. It meets monthly for planning and approval of events, budgets, programs and the overarching organization of the Children's ministry. The Children's committee reports to Session and communicates the good news of the Children's ministry to the church.

Children's Sunday School: Sunday mornings with our children begin at 9:45 with Gathering Time in the Worship Center. During our Weekly News activity, we share snacks and celebrate what is happening in the children's lives outside of Sunday School. This also allows everyone to look at the week ahead and share prayer requests.

Faith Kidnection (age 4 through Pre-K): Uses the Dwell Play curriculum, published by Faith Alive Resources. These lessons are geared towards our younger learners who enjoy creative storytelling and playtime.

SpiritLink (1st through 5th grade): Explored Bible stories through art, cooking, science, technology, drama and video lessons. Spring stories included The Lord's Prayer, The Banquet with Simon and Doubting Thomas. Fall stories included The Good Samaritan, Creation and Baby Moses.



Milestones

We invited our 3rd through 5th graders to participate in a Communion Milestone in February. The children learned about the Sacrament of Communion and what the elements represent while baking bread and stomping grapes. In October, our 3rd graders were presented with a Bible with their monogram and a special letter from a friend in the congregation. The following two Sundays included a Bible exploration class with parents, and also allowed 4th and 5th graders to join for a refresher in Bible education.

Fellowship

In July, we were excited to host our first Children's fellowship event — a pool party! FPC children and their families, as well as our Presbyterian Preschool friends, were invited to swim and enjoy hot dogs and popsicles together.

October found our children, their families, and Presbyterian Preschool families in the courtyard for an Outrageous October evening. We painted pumpkins, roasted marshmallows, played fall games and watched an outdoor movie to celebrate the season and enjoy time together.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH STAFF

Volunteers

Children's Ministry is supported by 25-30 volunteers across all our programs and activities. In May, we thanked our volunteers with a cupcake reception. As the new school year began in August, we equipped and trained our volunteers at the Leader Launch. As a reminder: each person working with our children and youth are subject to a background check and youth protection training.



Children's Committee: Courtney Savage (Chair), Haley Ankrom (Fall), Amy Hardin (Spring), Melody Reavis, Denise Rex (Fall), Eric Windhausen

Youth Committee: Rusty Rex (Chair), Mike Melancon, Kelly Nipp, Tim Riley, Corinne Savage, Eric Savage, Becky Taylor, Josh Taylor

Staff:

- Jenna Campbell, Director of Children's and Youth Ministry (through 30 September 2025, and then served part-time as Children's & Youth Ministry Advisor)
- Elijah Ankrom, Youth Ministry Assistant
- Haley Ankrom, Youth Ministry Assistant (January to May)
- Gracie Eubanks, Youth Ministry Assistant (August to December)
- Bekah Bowman, Children's Ministry Assistant (January to May)
- Erin Lawson, Childcare Coordinator



YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Sunday - Youth led worship at FPC on Youth Sunday in early February based on the “Echo the Story- God’s story, Our Story” theme they had spent the fall semester studying. We had a large number of our youth participate in the planning of this service. Reese Campbell and Noah Taylor provided the sermon for the congregation as the rest of the youth presented the scripture and provided leadership for the rest of the service.

Haley and Jenna Leaving, Gracie Starting - In the beginning of May, we had our annual tears and cheers event where we celebrated the welcoming of our upcoming sixth graders and congratulated and said goodbye to our outgoing seniors in the youth program. We also said goodbye to Haley Ankrom and Jenna Campbell. Haley stepped down as a youth ministry assistant at the end of the 2025 school year after serving in the role for the previous five years. Jenna stepped down as the Director of Children’s and Youth Ministry in September 2025 after serving in the role for the previous eight and a half years. In the fall we welcomed Gracie Eubanks as the newest member of the youth ministry team as she took over the youth ministry assistant title.

Triennium - Over the summer we had five FPC youth attend Presbyterian Youth Triennium where they met and worshiped with thousands of youth from across the nation in Louisville, Kentucky.

Summer activities - We had many events over the summer including Taco Tuesdays where youth would meet up for lunch and share in fellowship. Along with that a group also went to Our Daily Bread and volunteered.

Pay it Forward - In September both the youth and children participated in the second Pay it Forward Challenge where we had 23 children and youth participate. They were given \$200 to put towards “Being the Neighbor” and making a difference in their neighborhood. Some of these challenges have been completed and some are still ongoing.

Youth Retreat - At the end of September we had our youth retreat at Camp Loughridge where we had 13 youth and 5 adult volunteers attend. Over the weekend we did some group building, shared in fellowship, and had a great time. Activities included roasting marshmallows at the campfire, Bible studies, and participating in the high ropes course.

Night in Bethlehem - FPC presented our annual Night in Bethlehem chili supper, carol sing, and living nativity. This event has been a FPC staple for over 30 years. This year 17 youth participated in the living nativity where we welcomed well over 100 people from both the FPC congregation and the community.

Attendance is Up - Across all of these events over the past year, we have seen our youth participation increase to new highs. Youth participation is the highest attendance we have seen in the past 8 years.

Sunday School (Spring 2026):

6th -7th grade: study of the New and Old Testament using Colaborate and ReForm Ancestors from Augsburg Fortress Publishing

8th - 9th grade: Faith and Sexuality (Spring), Confirmation (Fall)

10th -12th grade: Curriculum derived from the interests and insights of the youth participating.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



Stephen Ministry at First Presbyterian Church continued to provide confidential, one-on-one spiritual and emotional care to persons experiencing life challenges within our church

and the Stillwater community. Our Stephen Ministers meet regularly with their care receivers who are experiencing grief, loss of a loved one, relationship issues, relocation, chronic illness, health concerns, and other life challenges. We have made referrals to other Stephen Ministry congregations and are grateful for their support.

Our Stephen Ministers have met once a month for supervision and continuing education. Continuing education has focused on studying the topics of death and dying and boundaries. In May, longtime Stephen Leader Carolyn Caldwell retired from Stephen Ministry after decades of service as a Stephen Minister. Ann Belanus resigned as a Stephen Minister in July. We give thanks for their dedicated service.

Debby Schoenecke completed Stephen Ministry Leader Training and was commissioned as a new Stephen Leader in June. With Carolyn Caldwell's retirement and Debby Schoenecke becoming a new Stephen Leader the following changes in roles and responsibilities of the Stephen Minister Leaders are currently: Kay Stewart, Supervision Team Leader and Training Coordinator, Linda Burks, Supervision Coordinator/Facilitator and Referral Coordinator, and Debby Schoenecke, Supervision Record Keeper and Stephen Leader.

City-wide Stephen Ministry Training was not held this past year. In July, following a Sunday service, church members interested in becoming a Stephen Minister or learning more about the ministry were invited to a short questions and answers conversation. Janet Waugh expressed a commitment to become a Stephen Minister and has joined us for continuing education in preparation for her training. We encourage those interested in being trained as a Stephen Minister to prayerfully consider joining our next city-wide training class.

On November 15, 2025, five of our Stephen Ministers attended the "50 Years of Caring" Stephen Ministries 50th Anniversary Celebration and Learning Event at the New Covent Church in Edmond, OK. The celebration looked back at the history of Stephen Ministries, revisited key moments and the impact this ministry has had on people's lives since 1975. The program included a vision to build a more caring world.

The Transition Team of First Presbyterian Church asked the Stephen Ministers to fill the role of pastoral care until a Transitions Pastor is obtained. Stephen Ministers have served on a rotating "on call" basis from October 2025 through January 2026. A dedicated phone line for confidential messages for emergencies, hospitalization, or death notifications is listed on the web site. Stephen Ministers are available for compassionate care during this challenging time of transition in our church.

2025 Stephen Ministers and Leaders: Mary Emmet, Ava Osborn, Denise Rex, Debbie Schoenecke, Kay Stewart, Linda Burks

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

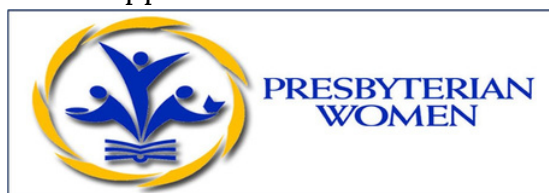
Presbyterian Women (PW) met in the Fellowship Hall on the second Wednesday of the month during January – June (February was canceled due to weather) and September – December for Bible Study and fellowship. Laura Southard once again led our studies this year which are developed by the national Presbyterian Women of the PC(USA). In June, we completed “Let Justice Roll Down: God’s Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation”; in September, we began our study “Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ” which will conclude in May 2026.

In January, PW provided flowers for the communion table in remembrance of the women of the church who died in 2025. In May, PW provided potato salad for the meal feeding the volunteers at Special Olympics held annually at OSU. PW collected donations at various times throughout the year for Thank Offering, Birthday Offering and Least Coin Offering which are annual projects.

PW also hosted receptions for funerals as requested during the year and provided cookies for the MLK celebration.

By using accumulated PW funds generated from the Allene Brown PW Endowment, the women of the church were able to purchase silverware and kitchen supplies for the Saturday Brunch. During 2025, PW made the following donations for the support of mission and ministry of PW:

Churchwide PW: \$400
Synod of the Sun PW: \$200
Birthday Offering: \$855
Thank Offering: \$1210
Least Coin: \$215.90



Our Second Mile Sewers, headed by Barb Henderson and Rosetta Silver, continued their work making bibs and walker bags for eldercare places in Stillwater, sewing fleece hats to distribute to Saturday Brunch guests and to stock the Little Free Pantry, making and filling toiletry bags with essentials such as toothpaste and toothbrushes, travel-size shampoo and soap, and chapstick for our unhoused or otherwise in need neighbors. We also have several members who specialize in knitting or crocheting prayer shawls for anyone who is in need of the comfort these shawls provide.

PW Officers: Amy Hardin, Moderator (Jan.–Nov.) Lisa McGaw, Moderator (Dec.); Mary McKinley, Past Moderator; Debby Schoenecke, Recording Secretary; Andrea Arquitt, Treasurer; Rosetta Silver, Hospitality; Holly Chermack, Corresponding Secretary.

ENDOWMENT

The Endowment Committee oversaw the management of the endowment funds. Funds are invested with New Covenant Trust Company, a division of the Presbyterian Foundation, and are invested consistent with the social witness principles adopted by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church USA. The total market value of the endowment funds on September 31, 2025, was \$2,563,075. In addition to earnings received on our investments, over \$159,715 in gifts were received and added to the following unrestricted and restricted endowment accounts to include: Perpetual Pledges, Darlow Scholarship, Go fourth Joy offering, Murphy Preschool, Trustee Special Maintenance, Murphy Endowment and K. Clapp Deacon's Accounts.

Session, families and many other parties were supported by the Endowment Resources during 2024. 7% of restricted funds and 8% of unrestricted funds of the 3-year average market value on September 30 each year were made available to support the church, consistent with the restrictions established for the restricted accounts. Support increased from 4% due to the request from Session in light of financial necessity this year. Session requested support from endowment for 2026 was 4%,

Support provided during 2024 included:

- Long-term maintenance of the FPC facilities from the Unrestricted Endowment and the Bullen CM&I Restricted Endowment
- Pledges to the unified church budget from the Perpetual Pledges Endowment
- Presbyterian Woman luncheons, new oven for the Fellowship Hall kitchen from the A Brown PW Endowment
- Christmas Joy Offering and the Giving Tree from the Goforth Joy Offering Endowment and the Joy Smith Giving Tree Endowment
- Bethel Cemetery for cemetery maintenance
- The Sio Deo Gloria Music Concert Series from the Joy Smith Music Endowment
- Deacon's crisis assistance from the K. Clapp Deacon's Endowment
- Support for the Presbyterian Preschool Program from the Grumm Preschool, C. Murphy and Darlow Endowments
- The Children and Youth Programs from the Sheerar Child/Youth Endowment
- Support for the Stephen Ministry Program from the Stephen Ministry Endowment
- Medical Debt Relief from the Medical Debt Relief Endowment

Committee Members: David Conway (Chair), Tim Krehbiel (Vice Chair), Donna Koeppe, Lynn Osborn, Tim Riley and Tammy Wasson

TRUSTEES

The Trustee committee would like to thank the congregation for a successful capital campaign and allowing this committee to be the stewards of First Presbyterian Church building and grounds. The Trustees were involved with the capital campaign projects throughout the year. Some of the capital campaign projects were the sound system and audio/visual improvements in the sanctuary and Fellowship Hall, HVAC renovation by B&L Heating and Air Conditioning, Alerton software and sensor additions by Northwest Controls, cleaning and sealing of the joints in the parking lot and vacated alley, and renovations in the Preschool wing by McKee Construction.



The Trustees with the help of the Elders are responsible for counting and delivering the offerings to the bank after the church services. The Trustees were able to install a keypad lock on south door of the Fellowship Hall, added a heat tape to the water lines above the ceiling in the Preschool, and repaired the outdoor hydrants for better water flow in the courtyard and playground area.

The Trustees initiated a joint meeting with the finance committee, capital campaign committee, session, and deacons to discuss the status of the capital projects with the capital campaign, priorities for future projects, as well as the future funding the Long Term Capital Needs dedicated account.

The Trustees would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time and efforts at the church in 2025.



The Trustees would like to thank everyone who participated in the Spring workday in the butterfly garden and landscape beds.

The Trustees provided a project for the “Oklahoma State University into the Streets” program in April. A group of students dusted and polished the pews in the sanctuary.

The 2025 Board of Trustee members were William Cole, Chair, Tammy Wasson, Vice-Chair, Larry Caldwell, Secretary, Jim Showalter, Jim Beckstrom, and Ted Kniering.

PRESCHOOL

2025 was a good year at Presbyterian Preschool. This year our community had more two-year-olds than three-year-olds, so we have one class of 1-year olds, two classes of 2-year-olds, one class of 3-year-olds and one class of pre-K students (4-year-olds). We are serving 94 children from 82 different families at our school. Presbyterian's teachers love on the children in their classrooms as they are their own. They are the hands and feet of Jesus to these families at our school. This year we have 17 teachers plus one director on staff.

Brooke Ketch, Dayle Winslow, Christiane Boles, Kate Wells, Lori Rossier, Jadyn Barefoot, Brayden Bruner, Candace Gunkel, Amanda Sanders-Vann, Jaclyn McClary, Carmen Fox, Emily Berry, Donna Stallings, Cathy Meberg, Erin Lawson, Samantha Beckstrom, and Dana Brown, Director.



The summer of 2025 was so exciting because we did a lot of remodeling and updating of the building. With the last of the Covid money, matching funds and more from the church, we were able to update old cabinet doors, redo the adult bathroom vanity, add shelves to the ladybug room and kitchen area, build a new changing station in the ducky room, build a new poster storage, totally update the kitchen and put in new sinks and faucets in every classroom. We were able to add 2 dishwashers to our school wing to help keep the germs in check. The trustees also financed adding a new potty to the cricket bathroom. It looks so great down here. If you haven't had a chance to come by and take a look, please do so. Someone could show you around anytime! Mr. Cole also built shelves inside the storage closets in the Multipurpose Room.

One fun way we like to connect with the community is by having the children's librarian from the Stillwater Public Library come and read to us once a month. Sarah Staufer has been doing this for a couple of years and the children love it. We also welcome any other community participation, We would love for you to come and show off a special skill you have or talk about your vocation!

PACK 3842

Pack 3842 had an exciting and successful year as we continued to serve nearly 50 Cub Scouts from Kindergarten through 5th Grade. Meeting weekly on Monday evenings at the church, our Scouts spent most weeks in Den Meetings working on age-appropriate skills and adventures, while monthly Pack Meetings brought everyone together for big activities, achievements, and community-building fun.

Our spring months were packed with energy and creativity. Scouts designed and raced cars in the Pinewood Derby, celebrated Scouting's birthday at our Blue and Gold Banquet, and congratulated two Arrow of Light Scouts as they crossed over to Troops 820 and 818. The Pack explored Camp Stapley during an overnight campout, toured Fire Station 1 - complete with trying out the fire hose - and enjoyed a fishing trip at Boomer Lake, where one Scout even caught a fish! We wrapped up the school year by testing engineering skills during our annual Egg Drop from the church roof.

Summer adventures took us all across Stillwater. Scouts toured the Stillwater Airport, rode bikes around Boomer Lake, engineered boats for our Rainwater Regatta, cracked open geodes during a visit to the OSU Geology Department, and cooled off at the Boomer Lake splash pad. These activities helped keep our Pack connected and active even when school was out.

The fall season rounded out our year with learning, service, and celebration. A return visit to OSU Geology let Scouts dive deeper into rock studies, and our Fall Campout at Camp Stapley featured skits, hiking, and an extra night outdoors for Webelos and AOLs.

For Veteran's Day, our Pack proudly led the flag ceremony at Will Rogers Elementary, followed by a special visit from Mr. Mitch Fezer about his military service. We joined other local units in the Stillwater Parade of Lights and closed the year with a festive Christmas Party alongside Troops 888 and 820, complete with games, a buffet, and a visit from Scouter Claus. Thank you for sponsoring Pack 3842 and making us part of your service to the community!



TROOP 820

Troop 820 had a terrific year with numerous scouts achieving rank advancement. We continue to maintain a vigorous outdoor program with 11 camps a year and frequent community service activities. This year's annual Ouachita Trek took place in Arkansas on the Buffalo River Trail. Backpacking utilizes different scout skills than on normal weekend camps. These include navigation, trail cooking, gear selection, packing and coping with weather. When limited to the gear that can be carried in a backpack, skills and methods for coping with cold weather becomes critical.

In February, the troop held a modified shakedown hike at Boomer Lake, due to snowy conditions and low temperatures, to prepare for the Ouachita trek. We also participated in the council's Klondike Derby at Williams Scout Reservation. At Klondike the scouts raced carts they had built while demonstrating scout skills at different stations. In April we camped at the Will Rogers Scout Reservation with new scouts who had crossed over from Cub Scouts. In May we travelled to Black Mesa State Park along with Troop 888 over Memorial Day weekend. The scouts enjoyed a drastic change in scenery as they hiked Black Mesa and star gazed. Our July day trip was to the Stafford Air & Space Museum in Weatherford and the Oklahoma Railroad Museum in Oklahoma City. Other camps over the autumn months included camping at Lake McMurtry, Camp Stapley for Spook O Ree, and Will Rogers again for the December camp.

For summer camp this year, our scouts decided to attend camp at Kerr Scout Reservation at Slippery Falls. Our scouts researched several alternatives before finally deciding on Kerr. In July 2025 we had a crew of scouts hike 9 days at Philmont where they totaled just over 50 miles. This was the first time any of the scouts had attended Philmont. They experienced and overcame obstacles that they never had before and built a bond that only an activity of this magnitude can accomplish.



In August, we attended a Ponca Tribal Pow Wow that provided a unique opportunity to observe traditional American Indian ceremonies and dances in a way most had never seen before. In September, we travelled to Broken Bow to float the Mountain Fork River below Broken Bow Lake.

Over the past several years, we have become heavily involved in the Order of the Arrow once again. We have grown to have 13 youth and adult OA members. Our OA activities include Spring and Fall Fellowships and, more recently, we have had scouts attend Regional Conclave. This year's conclave was at Camp Rockefeller in Arkansas.

Troop 820 prides itself on being servant leaders and providing service to the community. We volunteered at the Oklahoma Special Olympics Summer Games. We also volunteered at Relay for Life and placed wreaths for Wreaths Across America. Other service activities included helping with Backpack Buddies, assisting the Friends of the Stillwater Library with their spring and fall book sales, and cleaning up the city's pollinator beds.



In 2025, Cimarron Council merged with Last Frontier Council. This merger should give our scouts more opportunities and better support going forward. Likewise the Ema 'O Mahpe Lodge merged with Ma-Nu to create the Southern Prairie Lodge. Troop 820 currently has 24 active scouts and 25 registered leaders. We have high participation in camp outs and community service activities. Our scouts have an exciting time learning new skills and making friendships that will last a lifetime.

TROOP 888

From displaying spooky decorations to selling aromatic popcorn, Troop 888 has been very active during 2025. Since the beginning of the year, some notable events that we participated in include camping at the Black Mesa and Robbers Cave State Parks, hiking at Keystone Ancient Forest, and volunteering at the public library, as well as Relay for Life. Toward the end of October, we attended the annual Spook-O-Ree event at Camp Stapley, where scouts helped with planning activities for Cub Scout Packs as well as setting up the “spook trail”, where some eerie surprises awaited. Charlotte Jenson, one of our scouts, described the weekend to be “a haunting but remarkably fun experience”. Furthermore, we are excited to announce that a total of three members of our troop were inducted into the Order of the Arrow! Lexie and Emelie, two youth members, have worked extremely hard for this honor, and we couldn’t be more proud of them. Our scoutmaster, Elisabeth Szabo, is now also a part of this order.



The dedication and effort that she puts into our troop is unmatched, and we couldn’t be more thankful for her. Finally, we would like to show our utmost gratitude for the First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater; our meetings would not be possible without you guys. Thank you so much!

REGULAR COMMUNITY USE OF FPC SPACE

Many local groups use space at FPC for their weekly or monthly meetings, helping make our facilities truly part of the wider community.

AA

AlAnon

Daughters of the American Revolution

Depression and Bi-polar Support Alliance

Grief Groups

National Alliance for the Mentally Ill

NA

OSU Parkinson’s Exercise Group, Loud Crowd, and Nutrition Program

Resilience Payne County Board

Seventh Day Adventist Spanish Congregation

Stillwater Cares Community Conversations

Temporary Parish Office for St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church

Victim’s Impact Panel

Scout Troops 820 and 888 and Cub Pack 3842

DEACONS

Mission of Hope - The Deacons continued offering monthly Life Skills Classes to clients at Mission of Hope. Current Deacons, Preston Bobo, Ellen Ingram, Sharon Bennett, Brenda Nipp, OSU Cooperative Extension Office Personnel and other volunteers led the classes. The goal is to teach, train and foster relationships between our members and those experiencing homelessness.

Our Daily Bread - Volunteers spent two Saturdays in 2025 at Our Daily Bread, providing assistance to shoppers and helping restock shelves. Deacons donated \$2000 from our benevolence funds (two months early) due to a funding shortfall to support Our Daily Bread's mission of feeding those who are hungry – an important, loving, component of our Matthew 25 mission.

Little Free Pantry/Red Pantry -The free pantry continues to be stocked by members and visited regularly by members of our community.

Saturday Brunch & Food Orders - In 2025, Terri Carver and Eric Windenhausen have continued to take the food ordering system to a new level which has streamlined our brunch costs by regularly buying low priced, nutritious, food from the Regional Food Bank. Eric W. worked with the other brunch team leaders to plan menus around the food bank orders. We were able to serve meals to around 2621 patrons this year. We are very blessed as a church to have the Team Leaders and All Other Volunteers that have helped feed the hungry in 2025. You are a wonderful, loving, dedicated group that shows through actions our goal to be a Matthew 25 church!

Hospital and Homebound Contacts and Visitation - Holly Chermack and Ava Osborn sent Valentines, get well, sympathy, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Cards. Those who are homebound, sick, or who lost a family member in 2025 were visited or contacted regularly for fellowship and prayer.

Flower Distribution - We delivered Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias to our members.

Soup Ministry - We, deacons, made soup at home, some vegetarian and some with meat, to freeze and make ready for an instant-need-soup delivery for those in need. This ministry began operation in April of this year, 2025.

Month	Trays Served	To-Go	Kids Bags	Total	Est. Served
Jan	176	84	15	275	184
Feb	176	74	15	265	178
Mar	245	123	32	400	268
Apr	169	106	17	292	196
May	235	111	33	379	254
Jun	145	142	18	269	180
Jul	194	81	33	308	206
Aug	258	86	42	386	259
Sep	190	94	18	302	202
Oct	182	93	23	298	200
Nov	245	131	22	398	267
Dec	218	87	35	340	228
Total	2,433	1,212	303	3,912	2,621

DEACONS

Sock Ministry - This year, the Sock Ministry distributed approximately 1325 pairs of socks. Socks are purchased from our Deacon fund, through the Salvation Army with gifts from Bombas. Warm, dry, and comfortable feet are essential to a person's well-being. This Sock Benefit is a loving ministry that helps fulfill our Matthew 25 calling to clothe those who are in need.

School Supplies - In 2025, deacons provided 14 Notebook/iPad holders to the school counselors to further distribute to the Stillwater Middle School students who were in need.

Memorial Service Receptions - This year, the Deacons provided a family meal and/or reception for memorial/funeral services for the families of Margy Knox, Gwen Piersall, Shirley Tearney and Dorothy Cramer.

Bipolar Support Group Meal - Each month deacons provide a Bread, Salad, Dessert and a Clean up Helper to assist Betsy Showalter's protein dish for the members of the Bipolar Support Group. There are usually 5 or 6 attendees served each month. This ministry helps connect these individuals to our community.

Giving Tree - The targeted number of gift cards this year was 150. With church members purchasing gift cards to be donated, \$900 in cash contributions designated for the tree, and only \$40 from the deacon discretionary benevolence account - the 150 gift cards were achieved and donated to 5 local agencies for distribution. We are so thankful to the church staff and church members for being so generous about helping others.

Stillwater Pioneer Pantry - Casey Billingsley reported that no pantry items were needed in 2025.

Extended Homebound Communion - Deacons, Elders and other volunteers were busy in 2025 providing communion to our members in hospitals, residential care facilities, and in their homes. We mailed large print bulletins to members who needed them.

Growing Families Baskets - In this 2025 year, our Deacon group welcomed 12 babies to First Presbyterian Pre-School. Holly Chermack assembled and gave new family baskets to them. Included in the Basket: a soft blanket; a framed, personalized poem; items from the Fair Trade store; the Splash! Newsletter for parents; a hand-carved plaque with the child's name and date of birth engraved in it.

Month	# of Socks
Jan	133
Feb	110
Mar	132
Apr	106
May	136
Jun	121
Jul	64
Aug	90
Sep	126
Oct	88
Nov	125
Dec	94
Total	1,325



2025 BUDGET SUMMARY

2025 Budget Summary

2025 Budget 2025 Actual

Income

Congregational Giving	607,237	610,433
Other Income	171,221	175,554
Income Totals:	<u>\$ 778,458</u>	<u>\$ 785,987</u>

Expenses

Personnel-Pastor	130,286	89,934
Personnel-Director Children & Youth	56,946	42,076
Personnel-Church Administrator	48,960	55,841
Personnel-Office & Finc. Asst.	30,544	36,656
Personnel-Pastoral Care Associate	21,800	8,805
Personnel-Music Staff	36,400	35,785
Personnel-Music Support	12,000	17,950
Personnel-University Support	1,900	0.00
Personnel-Children Ministry Support	9,621	6,732
Personnel-Youth Ministry Support	10,000	10,916
Personnel-Other Part-time Staff	11,000	14,452
Personnel-Common Expenses	24,536	24,482
Total Personnel Expenses	<u>393,993</u>	<u>343,626</u>
Stewardship, Finance & Session	20,330	34,091
Communications & Mission	38,479	38,517
Worship & Music	12,850	17,255
University Ministry	1,800	632
Children Ministry	3,720	2,353
Youth Ministry	5,200	4,426
Fellowship Ministry	1,200	567
Adult Ministry	2,750	2,329
Common Ed Ministry	2,700	1,543
Office	31,626	38,443
Deacon's	19,810	18,429
Trustee's	244,000	237,236

Expense Totals:	<u>778,458</u>	<u>\$ 739,447</u>
-----------------	----------------	-------------------

Income minus Expense	\$0.00	\$ 46,540
----------------------	--------	-----------

LIFE AT FPC IN 2025





Grace For All

Created by Causley Productions

First Presbyterian Church Celebrates the Love and Grace of God by:

Growing through Bible Study, Prayer, and Worship,
Reaching Out to Serve,
Accepting questions,
Connecting people to Jesus Christ, One Another, and the World, and
Embracing All.

We gratefully respond as a part of the holy universal Church.
Thanks be to God!

We are a congregation of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

524 S. DUNCAN STREET
STILLWATER, OK 74074
405-372-5580
WWW.STILLWATERFPC.ORG