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THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

Welcome the Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen as FPC's Pastor/Head of Staff!



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First Presbyterian Church Staff

Pastor

Diane Janssen Hemmen

dianeljh@gmail.com

Director of Children & Youth Ministry

Jenna Campbell

jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org

Pastoral Care Associate

Sharon Bennett

sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org

Senior Church Administrator

Magdalena Vinson

magdalena.vinson@stillwaterfpc.org

Finance/Office Assistant

Mary Beth Garoffolo

marybeth.garoffolo@stillwaterfpc.org

Director of Music/Organist

Rebecca te Velde

rebecca.tevelde@stillwaterfpc.org

Digital & Contemporary Music

Coordinator

Brandon Bowman

Childcare Coordinator

Erin Lawson

childcare@stillwaterfpc.org

UKIRK Assistant

Youth Ministry Assistants

Elijah Ankrom

Haley Brobston

Children's Ministry Assistant

Bekah Bowman

Preschool Director

Dana Brown

dana@prespreschool.org

Building Supervisor

Vickie Foust

Welcome, Diane and Farewell, Amy

Sunday, at our Congregational Meeting, we voted to extend a call to Diane Janssen Hemmen to serve as our minister. Our question and answer time was enjoyed by all and the reception time offered a warm welcome to her following our vote and her acceptance. Diane has started work and you can find her in the office during office hours or on Sunday mornings. Please introduce yourself and say hello!

This coming Sunday, August 11th, we celebrate the work of Amy Rogers. Please join us for worship as Amy preaches and take some time following the service to wish her well!



September 6 - "First Friday Peace Jam" in Fellowship Hall 6 PM Potluck Supper, 7-8:30 PM Music Jam

Kick off September with good food and fun music! This is for all ages - invite friends, bring the kids, and come and go as you like. Maracas, triangles, djembe, tambourines, and a keyboard are provided for anyone to play. Bring some food to share, then play, sing along (words are on the screen), or just listen and tap your feet! You can also just come for the music if you prefer.

Questions? Jim Beckstrom: james@beckstromgroup.com

August 4 Called Congregational Meeting Report

The Acting Clerk declared a quorum present, and Amy Rogers, Bridge Pastor, opened the meeting by introducing Tim Schlais, the chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC).

Tim thanked the members of the PNC including Denise Rex, Ed Arquitt, Casey Campbell, Tammy Wasson, Claire Leffingwell, and Virginia Charter. He then presented the terms of call for Rev. Dr. Diane Janssen Hemmen. At that point, Tim opened a question and answer session for the congregation. Diane answered several questions about her background, her family, and her faith. She stated, "We're all aiming at God" and indicated that we would be doing this together with her leadership. Steve Fairbanks called the question and it was seconded by several congregation members. Amy led us in prayer after which the secret ballots were completed and taken up by trustees and elders.

While the ballots were tallied, Cathy Conway, chair of the Nominating Committee, introduced two members who have agreed to complete unexpired terms ending in 2025 as elders. Barbara Stoecker and Ed Arquitt have both been nominated and accepted. There were no further nominations from the floor. Carolyn Gang moved that we accept the nominees as presented, and Lyle Eastman seconded the motion. A unanimous vote approved the motion.

The ballots for Diane were presented: 96 in favor, 3 opposed, and 3 abstentions. Rusty Rex moved to dissolve the PNC, and Ed Noltensmeyer seconded. The motion carried. Amy Rogers dismissed the meeting with a closing word of prayer.



Christian Parenting Project

FPC is excited to offer free resources for families with children. When you sign up for the Christian Parenting Project, your family will receive:

- Digital resources to support parents, grandparents and caregivers to:
 - grow in faith and spirituality
 - parent children from a place rooted in God's love
 - feel supported and equipped to answer God's call to the ministry of parenting.
- Digital resources that equip families to grow in faith together. Each resource is simple and connected to routines and rituals families are already doing. Help your family experience God's presence together!

Sign up by emailing jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org

Dine with Nine

Dine with Nine is a rotational supper group. Participants include adults of all ages and backgrounds. You are invited and welcome to join us.

Groups of 8-10 individuals meet once a month for dinner hosted by a different member of the group. Some groups choose to meet at a restaurant if someone is not able to host at their home. These monthly dinners are usually scheduled for a Friday evening and childcare is provided at the church from 5:45-9:00pm. There are also 1-2 large group gatherings each semester. Dine with Nine for Fall 2024 will kick off on September 14th, at 6:00pm at Stonecloud where local band Code Shirley will be performing!

Look for signup information in the weekly First Things email or on our website at

www.stillwaterfpc.org/fellowship-opportunities.

Worship & Music

Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearsals resume on Wednesday, August 21 from 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room (choir room). Anyone 7th grade and older is welcome! Neither experience nor church membership is required. All you need is the desire to sing and learn and make music together for the glory of God. The choir family would love to welcome YOU! In addition to our Wednesday rehearsals, we meet at 10:15am in the choir loft each Sunday to fine-tune our preparation for singing at the 11am service.

2024 AGO in San Francisco

The biannual national convention of the American Guild of Organists, held in San Francisco June 30-July 4, was attended by over 1,000 organists from the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia. We enjoyed five full days and nights of inspiring and exhilarating concerts, worship services, masterclasses, and workshops. Our opening event was a full Jewish service with a Prelude Recital at Congregation Sherith Israel with the theme "Repairing the World". On the last morning, I attended a very moving sung Morning Prayer service at Grace Cathedral, with its rose window aflame in reflected sunlight. On another morning, I was privileged to speak and perform with several colleagues during the organ and choral reading session presented by Oxford University Press. During the week, there were countless reunions with old friends and new friendships forged on buses, in elevators, on cable cars, during intermissions, and even in the Trader Joe's that was across the street from our hotel! As we moved from one church to the next, it was thrilling to hear breathtaking performances and experience so many incredible organs and sacred spaces. There was also the San Francisco Pride Parade (visible from my room!) and an unforgettable concert of Mahler 3 by the SF Symphony with conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen, capped off with a 20-minute ovation! Thank you, FPC, for your faithful support of professional leave and continuing education!

Open Loft Sunday

Did you know that the choir loft has the best seats in the house? On August 25th, come on up before the Prelude or during the Gathering and experience worship with the choir! No robes or choir music to worry about, but we'll have a hymnal ready for you. You'll simply be singing our normal service music from a different seat! If you like, you may also join the choir at 10:30am to practice the hymn that they'll sing as the anthem. This invitation is for everyone, including children and youth! Children may sit with their parents and then leave at Time with Children and go to Children in Worship. You are not committing to long-term choir membership by taking a seat in the loft on the 25th. But do prepare yourself for a very warm choir family welcome--and you might just find yourself hooked!

For more information: Becky te Velde (405) 762-6212, rebecca.tevelde@stillwaterfpc.org



Photos from top to bottom:
Come visit the choir loft on August 25th for Open Loft Sunday.

Grace Cathedral in San Francisco



From the Organ Bench



As most of you are aware, I will soon retire from my role as Director of Music & Organist, with September 8 as my final Sunday. September 1, also a Sunday, is the exact 33rd anniversary of my first Sunday as FPC organist, which was one month after we arrived in Stillwater with daughter Vera, 5, and son Brent, 2. (Between them, we now have five grandchildren ages 1-4!) This year also marks my 10th as FPC's music director and my 50th as a professional church musician.

Some people say that you aren't what you do. As a musician, especially one in sacred music, I disagree. It simply is not possible to separate my heart, mind or soul from this sanctuary, this organ, this Chancel Choir, or from all of you who have accompanied and supported me on this stretch of life's journey. Although I will be physically absent for a while, please know that my love and my prayers for you, your worship, mission and ministries will remain constant. I am deeply grateful for the honor you have bestowed upon me with the title "Director of Music & Organist Emerita". Thank you, FPC Stillwater!!

Meet Winston!



This is Winston! Winston is a nationally certified ADA autism service dog who belongs to his boy, Henry, and his family. Winston was adopted as a puppy from Stillwater Animal Welfare two years ago and has recently completed his service dog training to accompany Henry and his family anywhere they go. You might see Winston at church in the future with his family. Autism service dogs serve as an emotional anchor for children with autism and provide a sense of security in new or overwhelming environments. They can help their owners experience a decrease in stress, an increase in felt safety, and provide a bridge in connection with others. Since Winston is an autism service dog, his family encourages others to pet him and connect with Henry over their mutual love for dogs. It's a great way to get to know Henry and introduce yourself! Winston recently attended swimming lessons with Henry and watched from the sidelines. His presence helped Henry feel confident, safe, and focused in the water and he was able to pass his swimming test with flying colors. Winston's family is so grateful for him!

Children & Youth Ministry



Leader Launch for all children's and youth ministry volunteers!

Calling all superhero volunteers! We're sending out the bat signal to gather our children's and youth ministry volunteers to be inspired and equipped for our year ahead in ministry. Enjoy a brunch (even superheroes need food!), be informed about the direction our ministries are headed, and increase your skills for ministry. Plus the chance to win gift cards in several drawings! Child care is available. Register by August 14th using the emailed link.



Families with children 5th grade and under are invited to our Children's Ministry Kickoff for fun, food, and fellowship! Enjoy a taco bar, water games for the kids, and time to fellowship with other parents!

FPC Campers @ Summer Camp!

Five FPC children and youth joined 23 other campers from Oklahoma for a week of fun and faith at summer camp at Ferncliff Camp and Conference Center in Little Rock, AR.





Children & Worship Returns August 25th

Beginning Sunday, August 25, children ages 3 through 3rd grade are invited to come to Children and Worship each Sunday in the Westminster Room following Time with Children in worship. Children who wish to attend may follow the banner; volunteers will be waiting at the back of the Sanctuary. Parents are invited to join anytime.

We love sharing this time of age-appropriate worship with our young children including singing and signing, praying, and seeing and hearing the stories of God. There is also a time for the children to respond to the sacred stories using art, books, puzzles, or working with the stories they have just seen and heard. It is a delight to watch as they retell the stories themselves! As we respond to God's love, we also have a time for children to offer their coins or talents. Parents may pick up children in the Westminster Room following worship.

Parents, please note: On days that communion is celebrated in the Sanctuary, your child will be brought back to the Sanctuary during the singing of the Doxology following the Offering. You may meet them at the back of the Sanctuary or volunteers will assist them in finding their families in the pews. It is important that children experience the sacrament with their families and congregation.

If your family is new to Children and Worship, please pick up a Family Guide in the Westminster Room and be sure to complete the Family Information Form found within the Guide, so that we are aware of any health or allergy issues and have your current contact information. The form may be returned to the Children and Worship volunteers. It is always a joy to worship with our young ones, as Jesus welcomes us all to come unto Him.

Blessings, Carolyn Caldwell, Children and Worship Coordinator

Children's Ministry

Children's Sunday School

Starting August 25 - Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - begins and ends in the Worship Center! For children 4yrs - 5th grade.

Gathering Time:

- All children age four to 5th grade are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45am in the Worship Center. We'll gather and sing together before the Shepherds take the kids to their classrooms. Parents can pick up children at 10:45am in the Worship Center.

Faith Kid-nection (4-5yr olds):



Children Pre-K to Kindergarten age are invited to join in play, games and songs as we explore God's love and grow in faith, using our new DWELL curriculum.

The class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing, but begins and ends in the Worship Center.

Teachers: Melody Reavis, Ella Parsons, Ellen Ingram

SpiritLink (1st-5th graders):



SpiritLink is a workshop rotation-model Sunday School in which students learn about a Bible story or theme from different perspectives throughout each unit. Lessons are told through the year using various ways of learning: art, science, digital media, storytelling, movies, drama, and coking!

Our August/September SpiritLink unit will focus on the story of Abraham and Sarah.

SpiritLink Teachers and Shepherds

Shepherd: Suzii Parsons

- Modern Magi: Dustin & Virginia Charter
- Scrolls & Scribes: Pascha Franklin
- Thou Art: Kim Leffingwell and Shannon Frohock
- On Location: Nicole Frohling
- Burning Bush Theater: Courtney & Eric Savage
- Bread of Life Cafe: Eric Windhausen

PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

Youth Ministry

Youth Sunday School

Starting August 25

Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - Youth Suite

For ALL 6th-12th graders

Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Suite.
A time for connection, fellowship, discipleship,
and living our faith. At PYG, we play, laugh,
pray, study scripture, serve, ask big questions,
and grow as faithful disciples. Join us!

PYG Sponsors for 2024-2025

Kelly Nipp Tim Riley
Rusty Rex Becky Taylor

August

25 - Youth Fall Kickoff - 5:00 - 7:00 pm

September

1 - No PYG (Happy Labor Day!)
8 - PYG (5:00 -6:30 pm)
15 - PYG (5:00 -6:30pm)
21 - Interfaith Tour (OKC) 1:00-5:00pm
28 - Oklahoma Youth Connect (OKC)
10:00am-3:00pm



6th-12th graders are invited to kick off the
school year with some Olympyg fun!

Opening Ceremony: 5:00pm

Closing Ceremony: 7:00pm

@ the Olympic Stadium (aka FPC Courtyard)

Gathering Time:

- Youth Sunday school begins at 9:45am all together in the Youth Suite for fellowship and snacks before splitting up into age groups for more focused discussion and study.

Middle School (grades 6-7; Youth Suite Blue Rm):

- Colaborate and Reform Ancestors - Students will study the ancestors of the New Testament using 'so what?' questions that will help them engage with the New Testament story.
- Teachers: Elijah Ankrom and Dale Ingram

Junior High (grades 8-10, Youth Suite Orange Rm)

- The Greatest Commandment - explore what it means to Love God, Love Self, and Love Others, as we discuss relationships, faith and human sexuality.
- Teachers: Amy Hardin, Brenda & Kelly Nipp

Senior High (grades 11-12, Youth Suite):

- 3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future-Finding faithful answers to life and faith's big questions around identity, belonging, and purpose.
- Teachers: Haley Brobston and Josh Taylor



THURSDAY, AUGUST 22ND @ 7:30 P.M.

YOUTH PARENT GATHERING

3312 W. Cypress Mill



Parents of 6th-12th graders - Come for fellowship and connection with other youth parents as we talk about the year ahead in youth ministry. Snacks, wine, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served.

Adult Ministry & Fellowship

August Seasoned Adults

Join us on Monday, August 19th at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall for a Summer Game & Ice Cream Night! Bring your favorite board or card game to share and play. Dinner will be light summer fare from Cafe 33, followed by a 'build your own sundae bar' for dessert.

The cost for dinner is \$10 and you may sign up by responding to the Seasoned Adult's email or by calling the church office and speaking with Sharon Bennett. The RSVP deadline is 5:00pm on Friday, August 16th.

You may pay online, or at the event via check or cash (please bring correct change!)

Questions? Please contact Sharon Bennett at sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org.

Join Us for a Game Night and Ice Cream!

Bring your Favorite Board or Card Game to Share!

Build your own delicious sundae treats!
Ice cream and toppings Provided!

Seasoned Adults Program
Monday, August 19th
5:30 pm Fellowship Hall



PW News

Save the Date for the Fall Women's Retreat!

Mark your calendars for a Fall Women's Retreat to be held at St. Francis of the Woods on October 25th-26th. More details will be coming soon. Please contact Sharon Bennett, Pastoral Care Associate, if you have any questions.



PW/CIRCLE will meet Wednesday, September 11 at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall at which time Laura Southard will lead the group in Lesson One: Environmental Justice from the 2024-2025 PW/HORIZONS BIBLE STUDY: Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation by Patricia K. Tull. We will learn about ecological systems, the challenges we face in this time of accelerated climate change, and the possibilities available to address or counter the impact of human-made stress on our environment. Further, we will explore theological questions that point us to act and engage, in small and large ways.

PW/Circle meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September - May. All women and friends are invited to attend.

For more information you may call Amy Hardin, Moderator (502-381-1446) or Mary McKinley, Past Moderator (405-269-1020).

Behind the Walls: A Trustees' Update

Trustees continue to work on multiple issues which have been outlined in previous Ambassador articles in addition to the projects below.

- Heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) remains a major focus. Cyntergy, a Tulsa based engineering firm, is engineering efficiency, reliability and potential capital upgrades to our HVAC system. Their work product will put us in a position to contract and execute necessary work and improvements in a timely manner.
- Stillwater's city water quality is such that, if left untreated, can cause corrosion and scaling in HVAC systems. To address those issues, we recently installed a chemical treatment system and entered into a chemical treatment maintenance agreement to ensure continuous quality and to minimize the damage that corrosion can cause.
- Our HVAC control system was obsolete and has been replaced. A new system using an updated computer and software enables more sophisticated control. It will help us improve energy efficiency and reduce loads on our equipment. Two of our members spent several hours identifying the zones and areas heated and cooled by our 19 air handlers. The system is now programmed to heat and cool the zones and areas of the building according to the times of their usage. Manual operation is still available to accommodate unscheduled usage.
- Our Scouts BSA Troop 888 (young women) sponsored by our church have also been active. They recently got down on hands and knees to dust and clean baseboards in the main building and the Fellowship Hall. Not sure how many linear feet of baseboards we have, but I'm sure it felt like about 50 miles. Not an easy job but they completed a long-needed task. Pass on a 'thank you' when you see them.
- Finally, the preschool has installed some new toy sets in the north playground for the little ones and a re-routed sidewalk has been poured. And, speaking of sidewalks, the city of Stillwater removed a damaged section of sidewalk adjacent to our electric sign on 6th Street. It's adjacent to the area where one of our members has been pulling out shrubs. Our goal is to clear this area and return it to grass.

Dedicated Prayer Room at FPC

But as for you, when you pray, go into your inner room, close your door, and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you. Matthew 6:6 (NASB)

The Garret Room, the room off of the north side of the balcony, has been set up as a private prayer room. In the prayer room you will find prayer books, suggested prayer practices, journals, coloring pencils, and a simple altar. This space is open to those who are seeking a quiet private place to pray and simply breathe. The prayer room is also open for the use of Stephen Ministry Caregiving and for Spiritual Direction. To learn more about the Stephen Ministry program, please contact Carolyn Caldwell at carcaldwell@sbcglobal.net

For more information about Spiritual Direction, please contact Sharon Bennett, Pastoral Care Associate and Spiritual Director at sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org. Sharon will also gladly answer any general questions you may have.

The Garrett room may be reserved through the church office.





City-Wide Stephen Ministry Training begins October 7

Stephen Ministry is an important way we as a congregation carry out our mission to share God's love, specifically, with those going through difficult times in life. A trained Stephen Minister from our congregation can be matched with someone experiencing life challenges to listen to them and walk with them providing spiritual and emotional support. It is life-giving and life-changing ministry for both the care receiver AND the Stephen Minister.

Trained Stephen Ministers are matched with someone who has requested the care of a Stephen Minister for confidential weekly 1-hour visits where Stephen Ministers listen, reflect, encourage, and pray together. It is that simple and that profound.

To meet the needs we have, **we need Stephen Ministers!** We especially need to train male Stephen Ministers. We need people with gifts of caring, compassion, patience, and faith who are willing to participate in 50-hours of training in caring and listening skills.

Stephen Ministry Training begins October 7, 2024. We will join with other Stephen Ministry congregations in Stillwater on Monday evenings from 6:30-9:00 p.m. to learn together how to best be a Christian friend to someone who needs support.

Please prayerfully consider this calling. If you would like to learn more about Stephen Ministry training, please contact Kay Stewart at 405-747-5913 or kay.stewart1806@gmail.com

Welcoming Children to God's Family - Growing Family Baskets

The FPC Board of Deacons welcomed 10 new children to God's family over the last year.

"Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me does not welcome me, but him who sent me." Mark 9:37

- Mason and Shelbi Myers welcomed Mav William on November 9, 2023.
- Josh and Brooke Ketch welcomed Kendall Jayne on November 16, 2023.
- Christien and Nicole Sager welcomed Sutton Nicole on November 21, 2023.
- Dan and Shannon Brooks welcomed Emmabelle Iris CatseyAnn on October 12 2023. (Paula Kendrick's grandchild).
- Kameron and Brooke Claybaker welcomed Hayden "Chase" on January 22, 2024.
- Darren and Chasity Cassel welcomed Damien on February 13, 2024.
- Jackson and Molly Murphy welcomed Daisy May on April 10, 2024.
- Kelsey and Matt Brown welcomed Bennett Lane on April 10, 2024, (Dana Brown's grandchild).
- Annie and Austin Luis welcomed Lucy Kate on May 4, 2024.
- Bryce and Karissa Killingsworth welcomed June Ellis on June 11, 2024.



New parents receive Growing Family Baskets. If you would like to sew a flannel receiving blanket or burp cloth, knit or crochet a baby blanket, donate a stuffed toy from the Fair Trade Store, or donate new baby/child clothes to add to our Stash Box, please let Holly Chermack (hchermack@gmx.com) or Debby Schoenecke (debbyschoenecke49@gmail.com) know. We want to help FPC welcome new children into God's family. Thank you to all who are donating items and offering assistance with the Growing Family Baskets, including Second Mile Sewing, Ken Belanus, Magdalena Vinson, Sharon Bennett, and Stan Waugh for suggesting we add the preschool families.

Prayer Concerns

Gary Allen
Amanda
Nick Amidon
Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)
The Baker Family
Luz Barber (te Velde)
Baker
David Baker
Debbie Barnes
Betty Bays
Mandy Blackburn
Rose Marie Bligh
Rita Breuninger
Helen Britton
Bruce Broyles
Belinda Bruner
Tyler Butler (Arquitt)
Wayne Cartwright (Koepp)
Paula Cavett (te Velde)
Nancy Chapa (Fagan)
Allison Christy (Breuninger)
Abby Clapp (Clapp)
Darlene Collyar (Silver)
Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)
Emberlee Davidson (Redburn)
Heather Davidson
Sara Davies
Matthew Durham (Shawley)
Lori Fagan
Mike Flowers
Lauren Glynn (Stewart)
Keith Good
McKenna Grimes
Halana (Leffingwell)
Ben Harris (Wilkinson/Frohock)
Kendall Harvey (Shaw)
Charla Hilger (Roscoe)
Carolynne Hopkins
Linda Houck
Sharon Huckeby
Patty Jacobs
Paul Dean Jenkins (Nipp)
Brenda Johns (Taylor)
Joey Jones

Ted Joy (Taylor)
Margie Keener
Patty Keys
Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)
Margy Knox
Donna Koepp
Pauline Kopecky
Dorothy Kraemer
Karen Krehbiel (Breuninger)
Heather Lanners
Roger Lantz
Hank Lett
Tracie Lively
Cheryl Lowther
Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)
Larry McDonald
Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)
Philip Meadows
Tresa Miller (Miller)
Jean Moore (Stangl)
Anne Mullen (Mullen)
Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)
Chancey Nickerson (Campbell)
Michelle Nicholson
Pricilia Nkem
Margaret O'Loughlin
Marek Omast II (Schlais)
Drew Osborn (Osborn)
Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
Frances Phillips (Taylor)
Jean Potts (Bills)
Daniel Powell
Paul Quarles (Bobo)
Tim Rains (Silver)
Charlotte Razook
Lisa Reavis (Stewart)
Larry & Margaret Redburn (McCarley)
Jack Reeves
Dylon Reimers (Dearing)
Sara Roberts (Osborn)
Terry Robinson
David Schmidly (Shaw)
Karen Shippey (Swim)
Jeffrey Silver
David Smith (Cooper)
Ted Smith
Perry Sneed (Johnson)

Jamie Stephens
Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)
The Stuart Family
Phyllis Taylor & Helen Brake
Teresa te Velde (te Velde)
Bonnie Tripp
Tyler
Upendo Kids (Shawley)
Nettie Vick
Emily Walker (Walker)
Darrell Warren (Silver)
Ann Watkins
Jim West
Lynda Williams
Scott Williams

MILITARY MEMBERS

Members & family members of our church family who have been deployed in service to our country:

- Jordan Buterbaugh, Marines (Case)
- Col. Casey Campbell (Army)
- Col. Charley Fairbanks (Army)
- Justin Fowler, Navy (Fowler)
- Col. James 'grata' Greenwald, Air Force
- Matt Krehbiel
- 1st Lt. Eric Murphy, Army (Fairbanks)
- Miles Smith, Recruit Division
Commander, Dept. of the Navy (Schlais)
- SGT Bryn JT Williams, Army (Williams)



Session Organization

Clerk: John Gelder

email: john_gelder@me.com

Treasurer: Cathy Fairbanks

email: cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org

Adult Ministry:

Belinda Bruner (chair)

David Silver

Children's Ministry:

Courtney Savage (chair)

Dustin Charter

Communications & Mission:

Cathy Conway (co-chair)

Kathy Thomas (co-chair)

Ed Noltensmeyer

Fellowship & Family:

Donna Koeppe (chair)

Dustin Charter

Stewardship & Finance:

Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)

Lynn Osborn (co-chair)

UKIRK (University):

John te Velde (chair)

Worship & Music:

Dustin Reavis (chair)

Ken Belanus

Carolyn Gang

Youth Ministry:

Rusty Rex (chair)

Belinda Bruner

Corinne Savage

Trustee Liaison:

Judy Ferrell

Personnel:

Cathy Conway (chair)

Ed Arquitt

Ed Noltensmeyer

Endowment Liaison:

Donna Koeppe

Nominating Committee:

Cathy Conway (chair)

Session Summary

The Stated Session meeting for July took place on Tuesday, July 9th. Cathy Conway shared a devotional and prayer.

Meeting highlights include:

- The meeting began on a high note as we received two new members! Justin Worley and Sam Cypert were unanimously voted into membership.
- Treasurer Cathy Fairbanks reported that a generous gift was received by the Plaxico family. She also reported that while May receipts were down, June was up and the budget is balanced at this time. Session voted to delay the purchase of replacing the dishwasher in the Hospitality area to avoid paying loan interest.
- Cathy Conway reported that the search committee for the Organist/Director of Music has met twice and is reviewing the job description. Committee members are Dustin Reavis, Chair, Mary Emmett, Cathy Conway, Brandon Bowman, Brett Carver, and Jack Moffatt.
- An electronic Session vote to approve the new members of the Personnel Committee was ratified. Those members are Cathy Conway- chair, Ed Arquitt, Ed Noltensmeyer, Jill Stoutzenberger, and Paula Kendrick.
- Session approved giving Rev. Dr. Gordon Edwards the title of Pastor Emeritus. An announcement will be made in worship on July 14 when Gordon will be filling the pulpit.
- Session approved the hybrid work contract for Jenna Campbell.
- Session set a Called Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 4 for the purpose of electing two elders to complete vacated terms through 2025 and to vote to call the new pastor candidate.
- The meeting adjourned with prayer.

The next Stated Session meeting is Tuesday, August 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose room. Guests are always welcome.

JULY 2024 INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

	JULY	YEAR TO DATE	% OF BUDGET
Giving	\$42,324	\$370,693	59.5%
Other Income	\$4,550	\$49,562	74%
Total Income	\$46,873	\$420,255	61%
Expenditures	\$51,786	\$408,223	57%
Net	\$(4,913)	\$12,032	--



Scout Updates

- Pack 3842** has been enjoying their summer break! The scouts took a trip to the OSU Botanical Gardens. They worked the water pump together, enjoyed learning about the animals and plants, and cleaned up the chess board. Several cub scouts also participated in the Rainutter Regatta racing event. They built their own boats out of pool noodles, wooden skewers, and construction paper. They raced along the water tracks by blowing air through a straw. Our next outings will include a tour of the Insect Adventure area of the OSU Botanical Gardens and a trip to the Boomer Lake splash pad. If you know of any boy or girl in grades K-5 who may be interested in Cub Scouting, please contact Brandon Spencer at pack3842@gmail.com.
- In the month of June, **Troop 820** attended summer camp at Will Rogers Scout Reservation in Cleveland. While there, the scouts had a terrific time and earned a lot of merit badges. For July, our scouts usually take a day trip to Tulsa or Oklahoma City in lieu of camping. This year they opted to go to the OKC Science Museum and Zoo where they had fun and learned about science through hands-on experiences. Also in July, 820 provided service for the Altrusa Backpack Buddies. Upcoming activities include community service at Relay for Life, camping at Pawnee Bill Ranch, and several Order of the Arrow activities. Everyone had a good summer and we are ready to get back to our normal activities in the fall.
- Scouts BSA Troop 888 by Emelie Klein, Troop Historian.** Troop 888 has been busy for the last few months! In April, we had our meetings at the YMCA pool to work on water rescues, safe swimming, and prepare for our swim test. For our campout, we planned to work on our canoeing skills at Lake McMurtry. After camping Friday night, we switched to a lock-in due to a forecast of severe weather. During that time, we helped with the church's garden work day. Although we briefly sheltered in the basement during a tornado warning, we all still had a good time! Also, members of Troop 888 helped with the flag ceremony for the Eagle Court of Honor recognizing Hannah Szabo. In May, we helped with the FPC bake sale, and we raised money for new equipment, camping fees, and more. We also went canoeing and swimming at Lake McMurtry. In June, we went to summer camp at Cris Dobbins in Colorado for the second year in a row. We had a lot of fun, learned many things, and earned a variety of merit badges. Before we arrived there, we camped at the United States Air Force Academy and visited Garden of the Gods to explore and have fun. In July, we had a lock-in at FPC. We helped with the community brunch and dusted the church. If you'd like to keep up with Troop 888's scouting journey, feel free to visit our Facebook page: BSA Troop 888 Stillwater OK. If you know a girl aged 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact our Scoutmaster Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.



Summer GiFT Recap

Summer GiFT looked very different this year! The event theme was PSALM: Potluck Service and Local Mission. Sunday, June 30th we gathered together for a shared brunch meal followed by an abbreviated worship led by Rev. Amy Rogers. After worship people were invited to choose a mission station to begin their local service journey. We were thrilled to partner with the following agencies:

- Wings of Hope Family Crisis Center - FPC collected towel and monetary donations to provide to the center
- Stillwater Humane Society - Jacqui Savage baked dog biscuits to donate when dogs are adopted, and participants decorated bags to package them
- FPC 2nd Mile Sewing - 2nd Mile Sewers helped folks string shoelaces through bags they had sewn that will hold items to provide Warming and Cooling Kits to members of our community in need
- Warming and Cooling Kits - various toiletries and useful items were assembled in 2nd Mile Sewing bags to be distributed to people in need attending FPC Saturday Brunch
- Saturday Brunch - the Fellowship Hall kitchen received a much needed scrubbing and clean up thanks to several hard working friends! We also had the opportunity to bake several dozen cookies to be distributed with the Saturday Brunch meal.
- The Kairos Prison Ministry at Mabel Bassett Correctional Center. We designed disposable placemats to provide the facility in hopes of brightening their meal times together
- Primrose Retirement Community - Primrose is celebrating Christmas in July this summer! Participants decorated Christmas cards and attached candy canes for distribution to residents of the retirement community

Thank you VERY much to those who helped to plan, organize, set up, run the event, and clean up!

Summer GiFT Committee: Bridge Pastor Rev. Amy Rogers, Pastoral Care Associate Sharon Bennett, Coordinator of Children and Youth Ministry Leigh Miller, Children and Youth Ministry Assistant Haley Brobston, Sr. Church Administrator Magdalena Vinson, Youth Committee Rep. Mike Melancon, Family and Fellowship Rep. Dustin Charter, Children's Ministry Rep. Courtney Savage

Volunteers: Jacqui Savage, The Charter Family, The Eric Savage Family, Eric Windhausen, Cindy Melancon, Sarah Bennett, Laura Bennett, Elijah Ankrom, 2nd Mile Sewing, Terry and Danielle Shreve



The August Ambassador
First Presbyterian Church
524 S. Duncan St.
Stillwater, OK 74074
405-372-5580
www.stillwaterfpc.org

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Worship at First Presbyterian

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:45 am Faith & Fellowship Class

11:00 am Hybrid Worship Service

Midweek Prayer

Wednesdays 12:10pm via Zoom

THE AMBASSADOR

AUGUST 2024

Back-to-School Blessings For the 2024-2025 school year

As classes start on August 15th for Stillwater Public Schools and our Presbyterian Preschool and on August 19th for OSU, please keep all of our students, teachers, administrators, and support staff in your prayers as they begin another year of learning and growing. A special prayer to those starting new adventures this fall, whether it be heading off to kindergarten or moving across the country for their first year of college or taking a brand new teaching position. May the coming year bring new friends, new experiences, and a new thirst for learning.

Major calendar dates for August:

- Leader Launch on Sunday, August 18th, at 9:15am in Fellowship Hall for all Children & Youth Ministry Volunteers
- Youth Parent Gathering on Thursday, August 22nd, at 7:30pm at 3312 W. Cypress Mill
- Children's Ministry Kickoff on Saturday, August 24th, at 5:30pm at FPC.
- Sunday School Classes and Children & Worship begin on Sunday, August 25th
- PYG Kickoff on Sunday, August 25th, 5:00-7:00pm

