

VOL. 66 NUMBER 5 • SUMMER 2024

THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

June Events at FPC and around town

June 15th Picnic

Family fun with bounce house, hotdogs, music, and more! Please join us for this free event on

Sat. June 15, 2024

Southern Woods Park
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs!

VisitStillwater.org/swocommunityunited

JUNE 30, 2024
beginning at 9:30am

Wings of Hope
Humane Society

Prison
MINISTRY

SATURDAY BRUNCH

Summer GiFT:
Potluck
Service
And
Local
Mission

Bring a potluck breakfast item to share. We will worship together and then take part in a variety of mission stations. Come and see how you can serve God through serving others in our community.

PAYNE County
Pride 2024

SAME PRIDE, NEW DATE!

June 22
10am-3pm

Southern Woods Park

JUNE SEASONED ADULTS

REFLECTIONS
ON JUNETEENTH &
REPARATION EFFORTS

MONDAY, JUNE 17
6:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL

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First Presbyterian Church Staff

Bridge Pastor
Amy Rogers
theamyrogers@gmail.com

Assistant Coordinator of
Children & Youth
Haley Brobston
hbrobston@gmail.com

Pastoral Care Associate
Sharon Bennett
sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org

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

Children's Ministry Assistant

Preschool Director
Dana Brown
dana@prespreschool.org

Building Supervisor
Vickie Foust

Staff Travel Dates

- Rebecca te Velde will be out June 26-July 5 and July 17-August 18
- Sharon Bennett will be out July 3-14
- Magdalena Vinson will be out June 25-July 7

Staff Notes

- Mary Beth Garoffolo, Office & Finance Assistant, will be retiring June 30, 2024.
- Rebecca te Velde, Director of Music/Organist, will be retiring September 8, 2024.



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Summer GiFT Set for Sunday, June 30th

This year we have an exciting Summer GiFT planned, and it includes a mission focus! Summer GiFT, specifically, PSaLM: Potluck Service and Local Mission will be held on Sunday, June 30th in Fellowship Hall. The morning will begin at 9:30 am with a potluck breakfast (water, juice and coffee will be provided). Bring your favorite breakfast goodies to share and please include allergy information (nuts, wheat, etc). As brunch finishes, we'll continue with a short worship service before splitting into groups for the various stations set up with mission and outreach projects. Mission projects include: assembling warming and cooling kits for our neighbors experiencing housing insecurity, including kit bags made by our own Second Mile Sewers; learning more about the Kairos Prison Ministry program; making cards for Primrose residents (Christmas in July); decorating bags of dog biscuits for the Humane Society as we learn about the important animal welfare work that goes on there; and baking cookies for our Saturday Brunch guests.

As a lead-up to PSaLM we are collecting new and gently used towels and washcloths for Wings of Hope. Look for the collection basket in the Narthex each Sunday in June including June 30th. Prefer to donate monetarily? We will also accept cash and check donations towards new towels and washcloths. Please write "Wings of Hope" in the check memo line to ensure your donation goes to the correct outreach. Mark the date on your calendar and join us for Summer PSaLM!

A Message from Your Bridge Pastor

The photos speak for themselves: church life has been full these past few weeks! Our May 19 celebration of Pentecost included the naming and claiming of spiritual gifts, beautiful music, the welcoming of our newest member of the church. Sunday School for children and youth wrapped up for the season and our volunteers were honored with brunch. We celebrated the graduations of high school and college seniors, and the choir enjoyed an end-of-year with a wonderful outdoor meal at the Krehbiel home. The final May event was the hosting of the Tri-Presbytery meeting where over 100 pastors and lay leaders gathered for worship, fellowship, and to carry out the work of the greater church. Our Presbyterian Women's group went OVER AND ABOVE to provide meals and hospitality to all who attended. Everything we do is grounded in our love for God and the relationships we are building.

At Pentecost, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit which energizes our ministries and inspires us to move forward. As we continue to pray for the work of the Pastor Nominating Committee (and trust me, they are working diligently), we celebrate all of the valuable ministries FPC Stillwater supports. Thanks to each of you for the role you play in making FPC Stillwater a welcoming congregation.

See you Sunday!

Faithfully,
Pastor Amy

The GA commissioners from the three Oklahoma presbyteries were commissioned during worship at Tri-Presbytery (right). Tri-Presbytery attendees taking part in the Saturday morning plenary session (below)



A warm welcome to Larrie Dawn Vaverka, our newest member who was welcomed in worship on Pentecost Sunday. Larrie Dawn transferred her membership from Crossings Church in OKC. Welcome, Larrie Dawn!



From the Organ Bench

Summer Music

We will be welcoming several guest organists this summer: Vicki Smith, Michael Bedford, Marjoleine (Marji) Gravley and Mike McCrary are all colleagues from the Tulsa chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), and our very own Brett Carver will play on August 11.

Choral Scholars Jack Moffatt, Noah Pool and Lydia Raines will be serving as cantors and soloists throughout the summer, occasionally also teaming up for duets. Please greet and thank these wonderful musicians when you see them!

te Velde comings and goings

Becky and John traveled to Virginia in May and will head to Seattle and "down under" to Brisbane in July/August on family visits. Becky will also attend the national AGO convention June 30-July 4 in San Francisco, where she and several colleagues will jointly present the organ and choral reading session of Oxford University Press, speaking and performing newly-published pieces.

Chancel Choir

is on break for the summer. Regular Wednesday rehearsals resume on August 21 from 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room (choir room). We welcome anyone who is 7th-grade and older! Neither experience nor church membership is required. The choir family would love to welcome YOU!

The Chancel Choir celebrated a fantastic spring semester of music-making, members' summer birthdays, and the graduation of three Choral Scholars at a beautiful party hosted by Tami and Tim Krehbiel on May 8.



2023-24 Choral Scholars L-R: Vanessa Washburn, Lydia Raines, Ainsley Carmichael, MaryEllen Bush, Noah Pool, Henry Marshall, Jack Moffatt (not pictured: Liz Brockman) at the choir party.

Below: choir members celebrate together at the Krehbiel house



PRESBYTERIAN • YOUTH • GROUP



Presbyterian
Youth Group

For ALL 6th-12th graders Summer Youth Calendar

Join your PYG friends for Taco Tuesdays and other fun summer activities, including Friday Night Live (6/14), a PYGnic and Our Daily Bread Work Day (7/9), and an outdoor movie night (7/26). See the Youth Summer Calendar for full details or contact Haley Brobston at hbrobston@gmail.com

We look forward to July when Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Jenna Campbell, will return and we are grateful for the committed staff and volunteers who have kept programming going this past year.

Youth Parents: mark your calendars now for the Youth Parent Gathering on Thursday, August 22nd at 7:30pm, at the Berry Creek Clubhouse.

FPC Fellowship

JUNE SEASONED ADULTS

REFLECTIONS

ON JUNETEENTH &

**REPARATION
EFFORTS**

**MONDAY, JUNE 17
6:00PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL**

Join us on Monday, June 17th, for Seasoned Adults with a program from Pastoral Care Associate Sharon Bennett. Sharon attended a White Privilege Conference in Tulsa back in April and gained insight on many topics including the efforts of some groups to make reparations to families of those who were enslaved. She will also present a brief history of Juneteenth, which will be celebrated here in Stillwater on Saturday, June 15th, and is recognized federally on June 19th after becoming a federal holiday in 2021.

Reservations for dinner and the program are due by 5:00pm on Friday, June 14th. You can respond to the email from Sharon or call the Church Office at (405) 372-5580 to sign up. The cost for dinner is \$10/person and this month's meal will be catered by Cafe 33.

Fellowship & Family Chili Cookoff & Trivia Night Recap

Fellowship & Family's first annual Chili Cookoff & Trivia Night on April 20th was a big success! The evening's entertainment included a trivia game using the Kahoot! app with Rusty Rex ably serving as game host. The history of Stillwater questions were created by Dale Ingram while Dustin Charter handled the FPC history questions. Team Beckstrom won the trivia game and Cathy Conway won the chili cook-off with her White Bean Chili recipe.

Everyone attending received one ticket to vote for their favorite chili, and additional tickets could be purchased for \$1 if anyone was inclined to up their chances of winning. This event served as a fundraiser and proceeds were donated to the Saturday Brunch. For the record, Cathy's chili won fair and square.



Photos going clockwise: Chili Cookoff & Trivia Participants
Danielle Shreve presenting Cathy Conway with her winning spoon
Chili cooks



Personnel Committee Update

The Personnel Committee would like to advise the congregation of several personnel issues/changes they are currently working on.

- Jenna Campbell, Director of Children & Youth Ministry, has requested a hybrid work schedule from July 1, 2024 through July 31, 2025 due to husband Casey's new Army orders taking him to Italy for a year. She has requested a work schedule that allows her to work full time in Stillwater until around mid-October, then remotely from Italy 15 hours a week for three months (the maximum allowed by her visa restrictions), and then a similar pattern through July 2025. This proposed work schedule was approved at the June 11th Stated Session Meeting.
- Director of Music/Organist Becky te Velde is retiring effective Sunday, September 8, 2024. Session charged Personnel with forming a search committee to fill this position. The search committee members (in alphabetical order) are Brandon Bowman, Brett Carver, Cathy Conway, Mary Emmet, Jack Moffatt, and Dustin Reavis. Please refer names of any interested individuals to one of these committee members. And please watch for information on a retirement celebration for Becky, recognizing her and her 33 years of service to our church.
- Mary Beth Garoffolo has resigned her position of Office and Finance Assistant effective June 30, 2024. This position has been advertised in various outlets and close to 30 individuals have applied as of this writing (Wed June 5). The Personnel Committee has already interviewed two possible candidates but are still looking at new applicants. Please encourage interested individuals to apply as quickly as possible. Mary Beth has graciously offered to help train a new hire before her last day in the office, June 30. Information about the position and how to apply can be found at <https://stillwaterfpc.org/job-openings/>. Please watch for information on plans to recognize Mary Beth and her 11 years of service to FPC Stillwater.

A New Addition to the Stephen Ministry Library

In the southwest corner of our church library on the bottom shelf is a collection of books that have been provided to the congregation by the Stephen Ministry program at FPC. There is a new addition as of late May –**Final Gifts: Understanding the Special Awareness, Needs, and Communications of the Dying** by Maggie Callanan and Patricia Kelley. The authors have been hospice nurses for more than 20 years and have generously shared their own experiences with patients at the end of life.

I was given a copy of this book by Kay Stewart, one of our Stephen Leaders, late last fall as my 93 year old father was dying. I will be forever grateful for the gift of this book. I'm positive it better prepared me for my final conversations with him, some of which were about people who were long gone physically from his life but clearly present in his memory. For example, the day before he died he asked me where Mom had gone, and I asked him if he meant my mom or his mom, and he replied somewhat exasperatingly (which was very unlike him) "my mom." Thanks to Final Gifts, I realized that he was likely seeing his own mother in some way. Later at funeral services I shared this story with a cousin who was happy to hear it, saying she'd experienced the same when her own father died, and didn't realize that it was a "normal" part of dying. Clearly she hadn't had the opportunity to read Final Gifts!

If you are living with someone who is dying, I can't recommend this book enough. It is practical, compassionate, spiritual, and full of a diverse compilation of stories of individuals who are dying.

Linda Good

Looking Ahead

Summer is here and many of us are seeing a change in our routines—at church, at school, at home, in our community, in our work. However, your Stephen Ministers at FPC continue to provide care to hurting individuals in our congregation and community all year long. Your Stephen Leaders are already thinking about 2024 citywide training for new Stephen Ministers which begins October 7. Has the Spirit been nudging you, asking you to consider going through this 20 week training program so you can also care for our friends and neighbors who are going through tough times? Have you heard that still, small voice asking you to step out of your comfort zone and consider if this is a ministry to which you are being called? Perhaps others in our church family have suggested you would be a good Stephen Minister? If so, please talk to one of our Stephen Leaders—Carolyn Caldwell, Kay Stewart and Linda Burks—or with one of our current Stephen Ministers—Anne Belanus, Ava Osborn, Denise Rex, or Debby Schoenecke. You may also wish to check out information about being a Stephen Minister on the [Stephen Ministries website](#)

PW News

In May the women completed the 2023-2024 PW/Horizons Bible Study: **Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke-Acts**. Beginning in September Laura Southard will lead the women in 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. If you would like to participate in the Bible Study please contact Andrea Arquitt (405-612-5383) about ordering a study book. The cost of each book is \$10.00. PW/Circle meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, September – May at 10:00 a.m. in Fellowship Hall.

Beginning in September Amy Hardin will assume the role of PW Moderator. We welcome Amy as the new moderator!!

All women in the church and guests are welcome! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Mary McKinley, PW Moderator (405-377-4367).

Prayer Concerns

Gary Allen
Amanda
Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)
Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)
The Baker Family
Luz Barber (te Velde)
Baker
Debbie Barnes
Betty Bays
Mandy Blackburn
Rose Marie Bligh
Rita Breuninger
Helen Britton
Belinda Bruner
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)
Charity Hitch (Plum)
Carolynne Hopkins
Linda Houck
Sharon Huckeby
Sandy Ives
Patty Jacobs
Paul Dean Jenkins (Nipp)
Brenda Johns (Taylor)
Joey Jones
Ted Joy (Taylor)
Margie Keener
Patty Keys

Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)
Margy Knox
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)
Vic Osteen
Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)
Beverly Perkins
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
Virginia & Olin Rogers (Osborn)
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)
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. 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

The Session is organized into the following areas of responsibility. If you have an interest in serving in a certain area or for a specific event, please reach out to one of the elders assigned to that ministry or contact the Church Office.

Clerk: John Gelder
email: john_gelder@me.com

Treasurer: Cathy Fairbanks
email: cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org

Adult Ministry:
Belinda Bruner (chair)
David Silver

Worship & Music:
Dustin Reavis (chair)
Ken Belanus
Carolyn Gang

Children's Ministry:
Courtney Savage (chair)
Dustin Charter

Youth Ministry:
Rusty Rex (chair)
Belinda Bruner
Corinne Savage

Communications & Mission:
Cathy Conway (co-chair)
Kathy Thomas (co-chair)
Ed Noltensmeyer

Trustee Liaison:
Judy Ferrell

Fellowship & Family:
Donna Koepp (chair)
Dustin Charter

Personnel:
Lisa McGaw (co-chair)
Jenny Bobo
Ed Noltensmeyer
Rusty Rex

Stewardship & Finance:
Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)
Lynn Osborn (co-chair)

UKIRK (University):
John te Velde (chair)
Jenny Bobo

Endowment Liaison:
Donna Koepp

Nominating Committee:
Cathy Conway (chair)

Session Summary

The Stated Session meeting for May took place on Tuesday, May 14th. Ken Belanus opened the meeting with a reflection on the hymn, "The King of Love, My Shepherd Is". Meeting highlights include:

- Session approved the Stewardship Committee’s request for the 2025 Annual Campaign to observe Commitment Sunday on January 26, 2025.
- Approved the request from the Children’s & Youth Committees to collect donations of washcloths and towels for Wings of Hope in connection with Summer GiFT on June 30.
- Accepted the resignation of Rebecca te Velde and voted to name her Organist Emeritus of FPC.
- A new A/V Tech position was approved to support our worship services.
- Personnel shared information about Director of Children & Youth Ministries, Jenna Campbell’s, 2024-25 work schedule proposal. A formal vote will take place at the June Stated Session meeting.
- Elected Elders Kathy Thomas and Belinda Bruner as representatives for the Tri-Presbytery Meeting May 31-June 1.
- The announcement was made that Payne County Pride has been rescheduled for Saturday, June 22.

The next Session Meetings are scheduled for June 11 and July 9 at 5:30 pm in the Multipurpose Room. Guests are always welcome!

MAY 2024 INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

	MAY	YEAR TO DATE	% OF BUDGET
Giving	\$33,186	\$289,092	46%
Other Income	\$5,324	\$39,970	60%
Total Income	\$38,510	\$329,062	48%
Expenditures	\$54,338	\$288,812	40%
Net	\$(15,828)	\$40,250	--



Scout Updates

- Pack 3842 held their Annual Egg Drop with the help of Stillwater Fire Department. The scouts designed their own egg protective device that was dropped from the Stillwater Fire Truck! Several cub scouts assisted the American Legion in placing flags for Memorial Day. Cub Scout Day Camp was held at Camp Stapley where they learned Scout skills and completed several STEM activities. Cub Scouts drop to two activities per month for the summer. Our first outing was a tour of the City of Stillwater Wastewater Treatment Plant. Our next outing will be to visit the OSU Botanical Gardens. 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. Summer is a great time to get to know the Pack.
- April and May were busy months for Troop 820. In May Saxon Shepard completed his Eagle requirements and is now our newest Eagle scout. In April we had two scouts complete their Order of the Arrow Ordeal and had three members attend the OA Conclave at Slippery Falls near Tishomingo. In May our scouts camped at Roman Nose State Park, assisted the American Legion with Memorial Day flag placement at Fairlawn Cemetery, performed a flag ceremony for the re-opening of the Oklahoma Community Credit Union, and assisted with the district Cub Scout Day Camp. This year for summer camp we are attending our council's camp at Will Rogers Scout Reservation for the first time in nearly a decade.



Behind the Walls: A Trustees' Update

Trustee leadership has been actively engaged in securing the services of an engineering company to move forward with the upgrade of our HVAC system. Cyntergy Engineering from Tulsa has been contracted to design and prepare construction drawings enabling us to hire a contractor that can modify and install equipment ensuring FPC will have a reliable system that heats and cools our spaces for years to come. We plan to advertise a construction contract this fall so that the new system will be installed and operational next spring.

- An upgraded HVAC controller system is now in place that will improve control of the 19 air handlers we operate to ensure heated/cooled air is available when and where it's needed.
- A new camera has been installed in the sanctuary that will significantly improve what viewers at home will see. Coordination of audio has also been improved. (Currently Aspen Custom Electronics is working with Sony to troubleshoot some software issues inside the camera. We hope to have everything back up and running in the next week and we appreciate your patience and understanding.)
- Following our work day on April 27, we removed most of the shrubbery on the south face of the Westminster Room (choir room and office spaces). That space and a couple others will be replanted with grass to simplify upkeep and irrigation.

So much of what needs to be done is dependent on funding. Annual giving and the Capital Campaign is at the heart of ensuring we have a safe and secure facility that will allow us to expand our outreach to the community and our congregation. Your prayers and support are very much appreciated by all the Trustees.

The Summer 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

SUMMER 2024



June 15th
Picnic

Family fun with bounce house, hotdogs, music, and more! Please join us for this free event on

Sat. June 15, 2024

Southern Woods Park
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Bring a blanket and/or lawn chairs!

VisitStillwater.org/swocommunityunited



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Southern Woods Park

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for Payne County Pride Festival!