



The annual choir Christmas party was hosted by Pat Hale this year. A fun time was enjoyed by all with plenty of food provided by the members. Thank you Pat for opening your lovely home for all of us to enjoy.



O Holy Night

What an amazing evening! The Christmas Eve service at First Presbyterian Church was wonderful. The program was enjoyed by all and over 80 people attended this evening of singing God's praises and Scripture readings. God's presence was felt throughout the church as we read and sang about the birth of Christ. Thanks to Jenna, Susan and all who joined together to make this a very special evening.

"I Choose" Syndrome

Vicki Zimmerman

I told my Sunday School class that my love for my church and church family is unconditional. My Sunday School class will tell you that I am big on choices. I choose to be happy. I choose to love those around me without restrictions. I choose to not worry about things I cannot change or do not have control over. The Lord has to help me with that one sometimes. If someone does not believe the same way as I do or feel differently about things then I do, that is more than okay. We are an eclectic group of people that are sensational, unique and compassionate. I choose to be positive - frowning makes wrinkles. And last - the Lord has shown me the alternative, and I choose to make the most of my life that He has given me. I hope the "I choose" syndrome is contagious. Wouldn't that be a wonderful way to start our new year?

Happy January Birthday!

Let's Pray Prayers of Joy for These People on Their Special Day!



- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 01/06 Jenna Bentley | 01/26 Bonnie Davidson |
| 01/10 Chris Caldwell | 01/27 Caleb Martin |
| 01/16 Ron Powell | 01/27 Becky Stephenson |
| 01/17 Shannon Archer | 01/28 Robert Rice |
| 01/23 Susan Duell | 01/28 Jennifer Steil |



If we missed your Birthday, please let us know.



A lunch honoring January Birthdays will be held at **El Palacio** at noon on Wednesday, January 21st. Please call in your reservation to the church office.



George Copland and Bennie Drake were one hand to celebrate their December Birthdays at the well attended December Birthday Luncheon at El Palacio



Please plan to attend the next Birthday Luncheon on January 21st at El Palacio Mexican Restaurant. Make your reservation through the church office.

UPDATE FROM AMY

Dear Church Family,

It was so nice having a chance to be "home" again on the 21st. I was in Oklahoma to attend the Committee on Preparation for Ministry's annual retreat, but the highlight of my time in Oklahoma was being able to be the liturgist for the service on that Sunday. When I got up in the chancel I thought back on the years I had spent there as a choir member and a liturgist. When I got up to speak and looked out on the many friends in the congregation I truly felt at home.

I also now feel at home in New Jersey. The plan for my return trip was I would fly into Philadelphia at midnight then drive to Princeton and spend the night before going on to Stillwater. Being in my own bed in Princeton was something I was craving as I found myself stranded in Chicago after missing my connecting flight. After a night in the O'Hare Airport, I flew out at 6:15 the next morning. I was only able to stop in and get the mail in Princeton before going to my other home where Tim and Rachel were eagerly awaiting my return. When I drove into town, and everything was coated in snow, I felt at home again. Tim had a roaring fire in the fireplace and Rachel had wrapped Christmas gifts and placed them under the tree.

I was fortunate to be able to spend my Christmas break visiting all my "homes." Although I didn't see everyone I had hoped to see, I was able to spend an early Christmas with my parents and brother as well as my daughter, Rebecca, and her boyfriend, Jason. On Christmas Day I was with Tim, and my other two daughters: Rachel and Joey. I worshiped with my Oklahoma family on the 21st and then had a lovely Christmas Eve service with my New Jersey family. I believe this month has proven to me that home really is where the heart is which means that home is sometimes in more than one place. I feel very blessed.

Blessings to you all,

Amy

Change Notice

The annual joint meeting of Session and Diaconate will be held on January 20th at 6:30pm.



The church was decorated beautifully for Christmas. Thank You all for coming together to make it happen. Also a big Thank You for those who gathered to undecorate the church and pack everything up for next year.



DEADLINE FOR NEXT

FAW ENTRY IS

JANUARY 23RD

Please email your articles for **FAITH-AT-WORK** to salsroom@jimbarthell.com, place them in my church office box or call me at 470-9933. Deadline is January 23rd for the February issue. Thanks, Sally Barthell



The beginning of the new calendar year is a great time to change your life and improve your health. The future is filled with uncertainties, but each of us has the ability to control our behaviors and our health. Research indicates that keeping New Years' Resolutions is easier for some than others.

While certain individuals can simply make a decision to change and then do it, about 70% of people are not able to change or maintain resolutions that they make. The research on long term health behavior change is rather complex: exercise facilities are jam-packed the first week or two of January but the numbers steadily drop until the end of the month. It's much wiser to change one thing at a time. The thought is to repeat the change at least seven times and the change will more likely be permanent. You might begin with eating a piece of fruit for an afternoon snack or take a ten minute walk after dinner three times a week. Last, but definitely not least, you might improve your relationship with God—seems like the most important thing you could work on. Happy New Year!

Joanne Flanders, Parish Nurse

~ Count Your Blessings ~

Count your blessings instead of your crosses;
Your gains instead of your losses;
Count your joys instead of your woes;
Your friends instead of your foes.
Count your smiles instead of your tears;
Your courage instead of your fears.
Count your full years instead of your lean;
Your kind deeds instead of your mean.
Count your health instead of your wealth;
Count on God – instead of yourself.

A Bit of Humor!

A private school teacher asked her students to bring something religious with them to school the next day. The next day when it came time to share, the first student said, "My family is Catholic so I brought a crucifix". The teacher praised the student for a good job. The next student said, "My family is Jewish so I brought a Star of David." The teacher praised him as well. But the teacher was speechless when the third student reverently announced, "My family is Presbyterian so I brought a casserole."

*A Word About
The Front Page Photo*

The green grass of spring lies dormant under a blanket of icy snow. The trees are leafless. A picnic table, the center of family life and outings in the summer is now covered in sterile, lifeless white. As far as anyone can see, there are no footprints in the snow to confirm that life even exists. Still, there is the dawning – an assurance of God's compassion – new every morning.

SIGN IN PLEASE

In order to better serve our congregation it is important that you, as a member of the congregation or a visitor, **sign the Welcome Register** each time you attend **Sunday Worship Service**.

You will find the Welcome Register on the center aisle side of your pew. Please sign it and pass it down the pew for others to sign; then return it to the aisle seat.

Thank you for your cooperation

Reminder to bring:

Campbell Soup Labels, box tops for schools coupons, empty pill bottles (labels removed) and empty ink jet cartridges to the church office.

LET US REMEMBER

Heartland

415 N. Chisholm Trail Pkwy.

Joe Griffith

Duncan Care Center 700 Palm

Estella Trapp

Alterra Sterling House

915 W. Plato

Wylla Leonard

Chisholm Trail Retirement Ctr.

625 N. Chisholm Trail Pkwy

Lavina Hofmann Ted Legg

Country Club Care

1904 Hwy 81

Beulah Calloway

Carroll McClellan

Wilkins Nursing Center

1205 S. 4th

Ben Hill

Update from Diane Wingert

My name is Diane Wingert and long ago (8 plus years ago!) was an active member of First Presbyterian Church. I love receiving the Faith-At-Work!!! It keeps me informed of my church family who are more than 6 hours away!!! Anyway, the reason I am writing is because I absolutely love reading the section of "Update From Amy"...I would like to personally tell her I like her "Blog". Amy was a member when I was a member there...I totally remember her and her girls...her mother Rosella and that gigantic dog that would sit in front of the window of her mother's tack store. Update from Amy is what I look forward to reading first!!!!

Keep up the good work...
Diane Wingert

Diane.Wingert@sbcglobal.net
11711 Canyon Mist Lane
Tomball, Texas 77377

I received the above email from Diane and thought I should share it with other members who may remember her. Sally Barthell

*University of Oklahoma President David L. Boren
and*

*The OU Board of Regents
are proud to announce*

*Corey Matthew Helms
as a candidate for the degree of
Bachelor of Arts*

*in
Sociology*

College of Arts and Sciences Convocation

Half past ten in the morning

Saturday, the Twentieth of December,

Two Thousand Eight

Lloyd Noble Center

2900 South Jenkins Avenue, Norman, Oklahoma



University of Oklahoma Commencement

Seven o'clock in the evening

Friday, the fifteenth of May,

Two Thousand Nine

The Gaylord Family – Oklahoma Memorial Stadium

180 West Brooke Street

Norman, Oklahoma

Food Collection Outreach

As an extension of the Children's Food Harvest where food is collected during church service monthly and then presented to Christians Concerned for distribution, **there will be a concentrated and joint outreach effort for food collection** during the first quarter of 2009 – at a time of year when needs are great. On behalf of this outreach, phone calls would be made to church members to encourage and remind them to bring food on children's Food Harvest Sunday. A member of the church would then deliver the food to the Christians Concerned storage area.



This small mission provides us with the opportunity to give unselfishly to those in need without expectation of thanks. As part of the good news of the Gospel, we are called to meet the needs of others transparently – not preaching the Gospel, but living the Gospel.

Please prayerfully consider this request and strive to support this effort.