

GOD'S PEOPLE DOING GOD'S WORK IN GOD'S WORLD

AI – What is that?

You will be seeing the acronym **AI** floating around a lot over the next several months. Just what we all need, you think, another acronym. Yes, it is another acronym, but it is like the seeds we plant in the spring. From the **AI**, we will begin to grow as a church into something God meant for us to be.

AI stands for Appreciative Inquiry. What is that? It is a process we are following to discover the things that make us, as a church, special and unique. Who decides what is special? We all do. Everyone will have an opportunity to contribute to this process.

Part of the Appreciative Inquiry is to discern what has made us alive in the past, special today, and vital in the future. The Appreciative Inquiry team along with the Session will be surveying members in an interview process that should take no more than an hour. Everyone will be asked the same set of questions. Take your time in responding and take time to be complete. Two people will be there for the interview; one will ask the questions and the other will write down your responses. They will be looking for only your responses.

The questions will relate to the past, the present, and the future. Only positive responses will be recorded.

Once all of the data has been recorded and tabulated, the **AI** team will begin exploring common themes and phrases recorded throughout all of the responses. What grows out of these themes and phrases is a picture of who we were, who we are, and who we will be when at our very best. We will take these spring blossoms and turn them into the fruits of our future as we begin to search for a new pastor and the future of First Presbyterian Church.

Be prepared, we are excited to be talking to everyone!

Your Appreciative Inquiry Team

Lonnie Helms Leah Berning Martha Copland
 Bennie Drake Elizabeth Pitts Scott Postlethwaite



CHURCH WOMEN UNITED WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Church Women United of Duncan will gather in the First Presbyterian Church at 9:30 am Friday, March 4 to observe the World Day of Prayer. The theme for the 2011 gathering is "How many loaves have you?" In the aftermath of many natural disasters and war, there are many starving people in the world. We are reminded of the story in Mark 6:30-44 of the gathering of the five loaves and two fish, with which Jesus fed the multitudes.

World Day of Prayer is a movement initiated and carried out by women in more than 170 countries and regions. It is a movement symbolized by an annual day of celebration--the first Friday in March to which **all** people are welcome. It is through the World Day of Prayer, Christians can affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

Submitted by Martha Coker

FINANCIAL UPDATE

The Session wants to financially update the Congregation on a routine basis. The figures below are as of February 15, 2011 and will be updated monthly.

Yearly Income to date: \$29,567.45
 Yearly Expense to date: \$32,900.14



Our Condolences

to:

The family of Glenda Jones who passed away on Friday, January 28, 2011 and
 The family of Beulah Callaway who passed away on Friday, February 4, 2011

PRAYER CORNER

Let us keep our friends and family in our prayers

*Matthew Fleming - Marines
 *Capt. Michael Pruden - Marines
 *Jason Kramer - Army

Rachel Livingston
 Doris Stokes
 Carroll Goss
 Elizabeth Steigleder
 Sam Thompson
 Mary Bennett
 Lu Morgan
 Helen Sue Lowe
 Vicky Benson
 Terry Evans
 Audrey Waggoner

Pat & Colleen Winn
 Bob McKee
 Ron Twelves
 Susie Grantham
 Jessica Jones
 Mary Cearley
 Barbara Black
 Lucille Fleming
 Patye Mason
 Gene Florence
 Quannah Cox
 Will & Sydney Haass

* Currently serving our country

THANK YOU

Dear FPC Church family,
 Thank you all so much for the many prayers during my back surgery and my recovery! Thanks also to Leah Berning & Rev. Tracy Evans for the phone calls. I am recovering at home as the surgery went well. Thank you all so much again! I truly am blessed.
 Tara Harper

THANK YOU

First Presbyterian Church,
 Christians Concerned sincerely thanks you for your gift of \$261.48. Christians Concerned, as a United Way Agency, is a non-profit, volunteer organization dedicated to helping those in need in the Duncan area. Jesus said, "I was hungry, and you gave me food; I was thirsty, and you gave me drink; I was a stranger, and you welcomed me; I was naked, and you gave me clothing; I was sick, and you took care of me. Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."
 Christians Concerned helps others because we believe God calls us to care. We consider it a privilege to do what we can to meet the needs of others in the name of Jesus Christ.
 God bless and keep you,
 Karen Kaley, Secretary

Thank You

Thank You, everyone, for your active support of your church newsletter, Faith-At-Work. Thank You for your generous contribution of articles, photographs, notes and announcements. And thank you for the kind words of both gratitude and encouragement you have shared with Jim and myself. We will always try to honor your support through our continuing effort to bring you a quality newsletter.

Love and Peace, Sally Barthell

Reminder to bring:

Please bring your Campbell Soup Labels, box tops for schools coupons, aluminum pull tabs, empty pill bottles (labels removed) and empty inkjet cartridges to the church office. These items will be used to help others in need.

WHAT'S NEW?

If you have anything that you'd like to share in FAW, please email me at salsroom@jimbarthell.com or you can place it in my church office box or call me at 470-9933.
 Thanks, Sally Barthell

**OFFICERS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA**

ELDERS

<u>Class of 2011</u> Bennie Drake Steve Reasor	<u>Class of 2012</u> Lonnie Helms Rosella McQuain	<u>Class of 2013</u> Jerry Fleming Vicki Zimmerman
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DIACONATE

<u>Class of 2011</u> Mike Grantham Jack Munn	<u>Class of 2012</u> Leah Berning Charlotte Utley	<u>Class of 2013</u> Robin Caldwell LaJuan Fleming
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Treasurer: Linda Helms **Asst. Treasurer:** Jerry Fleming



We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on Sunday, March 6th during worship service

DEADLINE FOR NEXT FAW ENTRY IS

Friday March 25, 2011

Telephone Numbers

Church Office (580) 255-5769
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Website: www.fpcduncan.com

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Reverend Tracy Evans Cell: 736-4170
email: tlevans@fpcduncan.com

Treasurer
Linda Helms 252-4164

Assistant Treasurer
Jerry Fleming 252-9559

Organist/Choir Director
Holli Hill-Le hlpianostudio@yahoo.com

Custodial Engineer
Nancy Postlethwaite 252-6522

Parish Nurse
Jo Flanders

Webmaster
Scott Berning 252-8128

Newsletter "Faith - At - Work"
Sally Barthell 470-9933
email: salsroom@jimbarthell.com



First Presbyterian Church
"FAITH - AT - WORK"



704 West Ash Avenue
Duncan, Oklahoma

Issue 03

March 2011

Let your light shine before others. Matthew 5:16b

Dear Friends,

The grey skies of winter are soon to be a thing of the past. The days are getting a little longer. Daylight Savings Time will occur in a couple of weeks.

The light from the sun is what we receive and use and revel in. The trees bud, the flowers bloom and all nature sings. So, too, the light from the Son is what we receive and use and revel in. We respond to the light and energy of the love of Christ. As we do so, we are called to show forth the light of Christ in our work, our worship, our play and our rest.

At First Presbyterian Church of Duncan, we are exhibiting the light of Christ in so many ways. We are worshiping, studying and sharing in fellowship. We are carrying out mission projects through money and through hands-on giving as we tend to the "least of these."

In this issue of the Faith at Work, you will find an article written by one of the Appreciative Inquiry (AI) team members introducing you to what will be happening this month. You will have your opportunity to speak to what is good and light-bearing about the past and present of the congregation as we look at our strengths as a congregation.

There will be a bit of juxtaposition as we are focusing on the light with AI and yet entering the time of Lent. These forty days plus Sundays are a time of penitence and readying ourselves for the joy of Easter. This time is not intended to direct us away from the light; instead it is a time of recognizing that we do indeed have dark places, and with God's help, we can turn them toward the light.

As we enter the time of Lent, I offer you a poem prayer by Jim Cotter:

Give to each of us a candle of the Spirit, O God,
as we go down into the deeps of our being.
Show us the hidden things, the creatures of our dreams,
the storehouse of forgotten memories and hurts.
Take us down to the spring of life,
and tell each one of us our nature and our name.
Give us freedom to grow in order that we each may become that self,
the seed of which you planted in us at our making.
Out of the deeps we cry to you, O God.

Grace and peace to you,

Tracy

MARCH 2011 ISSUE



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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