



First Presbyterian Church

APRIL 2015

Sunday Regular Schedule

9:15am Disciples Class
 9:30am Sunday School Class
 10:30am Fellowship
 10:45am Worship Service

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2 Maundy Thursday 6:30pm Service 	3 Good Friday	4
5 Easter Sunday 	6 Office Closed Easter Holiday	7 7:00am Men's Bible Study	8 5:30pm Worship Meeting 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	9 6:30pm Hospice Service	10 9am-5pm Toy Shop Rummage Sale	11 9am-Noon Toy Shop Rummage Sale
12	13	14 6:30pm Session Meeting	15 Noon Birthday Lunch at El Palacio 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	16	17	18
19 Youth Food Harvest "Peanut Butter & Jelly"	20	21	22 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	23	24 F-A-W Deadline	25
26	27	28	29 6:00pm Bell Choir 7:00pm Choir	30 Noon Presbyterian Women Birthday Luncheon		

Youth Food Harvest

The "Food or Item of the Month" is
"PEANUT BUTTER AND JELLY"

Each month will have a new food or item. Please bring your donation to the church on the **third Sunday of each month** to be delivered to Christians Concerned.

Weekly Volunteers

Usher: Nancy Grantham
Liturgist: Bruce Vineyard
Presby-Cab: Nancy Grantham
Hospital Visitor: Nancy Grantham



A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DUNCAN, OKLAHOMA

Dear Friends in Christ,

With great appreciation I write to thank you for your support of our new ministry over these past 12 months. The increase in salary is a symbol of the positive relationship we have developed and a cause for much rejoicing on my part for your acceptance of Bruce and I in your midst. We enjoy the friendships we have developed here and love to worship with you in this place every Sunday. Thank you.

The move from one presbytery to another has been both challenging and delightful. While Grace Presbytery was my “church home” for almost 35 years, Indian Nations has been for both of us a new kind of church family. Teaching elders in the PCUSA are members of the presbytery rather than local congregation. Bruce, a ruling elder, is a member of FPC but active in the life of Indian Nations. From time to time I become homesick even for the larger presbytery. The picture above was taken at the most recent stated meeting of that presbytery in Dallas. In that pic I find lots of faces I can identify including the One we all recognize. I find it interesting that every person is looking in a different direction, immersed in a pre-meeting moment of visiting. Except the One who seems to be seeing each person in the sanctuary, each immersed in renewing their relationships and THE relationship. Jesus welcomes all from the stained glass.

Jesus as the Head of the Church invites and nurtures each one of us, whether in the bounds of this or another presbytery. At the meetings of all of our presbyteries, our relationships are perhaps being tested with the voting on the Amendments to the Book of Order passed down to the presbyteries for ratification from the 2014 GA meeting. Our General Presbyter, Rev. Aaron Carland, wisely advised us who minister in this presbytery to love one another and be gracious even in disagreement. Amendment 14-F concerning changing the language of marriage from “one woman and one man” to “two persons” was voted last Saturday and passed as it has across the denomination. Where legal civilly, teaching elders may now conduct same sex marriages with the concurrence of their sessions. Individual choice and local option remains the “rule of law” for Presbyterians. We enjoy freedom of conscience meaning no one can force teaching elders or sessions to marry or not marry a couple.

The news media has already reported on this change in our way of conducting weddings. I urge each Presbyterian to remember we are charged with keeping pure and unified our communities of faith, especially we who have been called to ordered ministries such as elders and deacons. One of our ordination vows reminds us to be friends to one another. As Lent concludes and Eastertide is begun, let us enter a season of prayer for our relationships across the denomination and with Jesus, our Risen Lord. Pray for the people with whom we worship and serve, and for the restored vigor of this congregation. Jesus is both watchful and welcoming. May you be blessed in your service with Him.

Rev. Kathy Vineyard