

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



SANCTUARY FLOWERS

Thank you to everyone who provided sanctuary flowers in 2007. There are still dates open for flowers in 2008. If you would like to reserve a date to honor someone with flowers, please call Vicky in the Church office at 255-5769 for details.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH



The Women of the Church Council will meet on Wednesday, January 30 at 10:00am in the Church. (Ask Vicky where!) Parlor most likely. Linda Helms felt it necessary to resign from the position of treasurer of the Women of the Church. This was due to some personal responsibilities with her family. Sally Barthell has graciously consented to be the treasurer of the Women of the Church. We appreciate Linda for keeping our finances so accurately and well for a long time. She got the council on it's feet after an unfortunate incident. Thank you, Linda

To review the officers of the council they are as follows:

Moderator	Pat Hale	Mission Offering	Martha Copland
Vice-moderator	Charlotte Utley	Homebound Circle	Charlotte Utley
Secretary	Martha Coker		Martha Copland
Treasurer	Sally Barthell	Telephone	Othella Ewing
Program	Sue Beall	<u>Circle Leaders:</u>	
Decorations	Dora Kirk & Sally Barthell	Circle I	Augusta Slagle
		Circle II	Charlotte Utley

These ladies are doing an outstanding job. Come out to the gatherings and circles to give them support.

Martha Coker, Secretary

The Centennial Celebration Committee

will meet in the parlor on Thursday 1/10/08 at 5:30pm

Used Christmas Cards

Dr. John has family in India who can use the cover picture from you old Christmas Cards, and any leftover scraps of ribbon. Bring them by the church, and we will see that they get where they need to go.

Reminder to come to Neurobics on Thursday mornings and exercise your body and your brain. 9:30am to 10:30am

Remember the Outdoor Ministry "Saturday Volunteers"

Is there a better way to get closer to God and ready for Sunday?
Join your friends on Saturday afternoons and volunteer to help mow the lawn, trim shrubs and general clean up around the church.

Thank You

The Ministerial Association has expressed their appreciation for a warm reception from the First Presbyterian Church the evening of the Community Thanksgiving service. Even though Dr. John was unable to attend the service, everything went very smoothly because of everyone's participation.

Thank you for the fellowship and kindness enjoyed by all during the pie and coffee social following the service.

The Ministerial Association

DEGREENING OF THE CHURCH

Our church is beautiful during the Christmas season and everyone who helped decorate did a great job. It is now time to remove it all and put it all away until next year.

Please join us after worship on Sunday, **January 6** for the degreening of the church. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

PRAYER CORNER

- *Justin Ezell
- *Matthew Fleming – Marines
- *Michael Pruden – Marines
- *Monty Tanner
- Richard Gouin
- Frank Gouin
- Sam Thompson
- Lloyd Taylor
- Darren James
- Jimmy & Rachel Livingston
- Howard & Phyllis Helms
- Dr. Bill McGarey
- Mary Pat Sousa
- Freddy Nell Jones
- Stanley Erlenbush
- Tom Thompson
- Jane (Colleen Winn's sister)
- Mark & Patti
- Allen White's mother
- Ron Twelves
- Imogene Dove
- Jerry Bohannon
- Everett Morgan
- Hope Mason
- Mary Ellene Burns
- Katie Moody
- The Mike Stiel Family
- Curtis Kost, Jr.

* Currently serving our country

CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT LUNCHEON

The council hostesses did a super job on the luncheon. The fellowship hall was decorated beautifully, Sharon Shick gave a delightful book review, and Vicki Zimmerman served a great meal. The food was delicious and well worth \$5.00.

If you missed this gathering, you really missed out on a terrific afternoon. We hope to see you at the next one in April. Check the April FAITH-AT-WORK for the date..... *Martha Coker*

Thank You

Women's Haven would like to thank you for your continued support in helping us stop domestic violence in our community.

It is support such as yours that makes our job much easier. Again, thanks! Respectfully, *The Women's Haven Staff*

Thank You

Martha and Charlie Coker would like to thank our church family for all the PRAYERS, well wishes, help offers and beautiful cards during our recent ordeal.

There was ample time to prepare for this, and we are "almost" to the bottom of our freezer now and time to defrost. We love you all.

Martha and Charlie

Thank You

On December 9, during worship services, Jack and I were honored for our work on the Pumpkin Patch. Thank you for the gold necklace of the Presbyterian seal. I immediately put it on and is the only jewelry I have with that symbol.

Tinker's Dad (Richard), Lonnie, Jack and I picked up pumpkins earlier than in the past (on September 17) and started selling them the next day. We opened early and closed before our projected date, still selling pumpkins for four weeks. That was 13,000 pounds of pumpkins, a bit more than what we ordered. The many hours of volunteering made the Pumpkin Patch work. It took many hands to unload those pumpkins and arrange the pumpkins by size and species (for a lack of a better word). Even going to get the hay was an adventure. The fellowship was precious.

Bennie Drake is quite a wheeler/dealer. Wayne Miller demonstrated the wood carving but came back other days to visit. We enjoyed the company of our church friends that stopped by just to visit as it made the time pass faster and just *being there* shows your support of the Pumpkin Patch.

Again, a big thank you for your wonderful gift. I will wear it with pride.

Vicki Zimmerman

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

ELDERS

<u>Class of 2008</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>
Robin Caldwell	Martha Coker	Jenna Bentley
Dennis Wienck	Dan Flanders	Peggy Gilchrist
Margo Jones	Beverly Moody	Steve Reasor

DIACONATE

<u>Class of 2008</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>
Diana Cunningham	Mary Ann Kaminski	Jim Barthell
Scott Postlethwaite	Vicki Zimmerman	Sally Barthell
Helen Sue Lowe	LaJuan Fleming	Bennie Drake
		Mike Grantham

TRUSTEES

<u>Class of 2008</u>	<u>Class of 2009</u>	<u>Class of 2010</u>
Carroll Goss	Don Moody	Martha Copland
Pat Hale	Charles Coker	Wayne Miller

Treasurer: Bill McQuain Asst. Treasurer: Jerry Fleming

DEADLINE FOR NEXT FAW ENTRY JANUARY 25TH



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PASTOR

Dr. John P. McGarey 475-0052

Office Manager

Vicky Benson 252-2585

Treasurer

Bill McQuain 255-1327

Assistant Treasurer

Jerry Fleming 252-9559

Organist/Choir Director

Susan Duell 252-3088

Custodial Engineer

Nancy Postlethwaite 252-6522

Parish Nurse

Jo Flanders 255-7198

Webmaster

Lynn Wienck 252-4471

Newsletter "Faith- At- Work"

Sally Barthell 470-9933



First Presbyterian Church
"FAITH - AT - WORK"

704 West Ash Street
Duncan, Oklahoma



Issue 1

Volume 19

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From the Pastor's Desk:

Ah, another year is ending, and a new one is on the horizon. It dawned on me the other day that in 2008, I will celebrate my 60th birthday. When I was young, I wondered if I would ever live to be that old. Now, as that day approaches, I am beginning to see the wisdom in the idea I read somewhere that our lives are like a roll of toilet paper – they seem to go faster, the closer you get to the end. It's not that I think I am nearing the end of my life, it's just that I realize that the number of people who are older than me is diminishing over time. At the last family reunion I attended, we lined up around the dining hall from oldest to youngest. If you imagine the room to be like the face of a clock, the oldest and youngest were up at the 12 O'Clock hour. I expected when the exercise began, that I would be somewhere near the middle – about 6 O'Clock. But once we were all arranged, I was somewhere around 10 O'Clock. Who knows – if we do it again, I may be closer to the 11 O'Clock hour next time. Somehow, time marches on.

I received a call the other day from a colleague in Kansas, asking if I would visit one of his church members who moved here and is living in the Chisholm Trail Assisted Living Residence. So I went to visit her. As it turns out, the day I went, she was celebrating her 108th birthday. We had a delightful visit, but for two reasons, she just wasn't at her best that day. One reason was because she had been running a fever, and had been stuck in bed for almost a week. She wanted me to pray that she would be up and out of bed and back to her normal routine soon. The second reason she wasn't at her best was because she literally had outlived all her family and friends that she had known in her childhood. She was the oldest person in her family, and at her residence, and almost anywhere else. But at the same time that she felt lonely, she also felt blessed. After all, she had been able to see some amazing changes in this world from the time when she was young.

Isn't it amazing how close our blessings and our discouragements are to each other? When my sister passed away last month, my wife assisted with the service, and she began her comments with these words:

This is a bittersweet time.
It is bitter because we loved her so.
It is sweet because we loved her so.
and she loved us.
Life completed, loved completely.

Want another example? Consider rain. Last year, we complained because we didn't have enough. This year we complained because we have had too much. It doesn't seem to take much for rain to discourage us. But when it comes at the right times and in the right amounts, isn't rain a wonderful blessing?

Or consider our homes. It seems like there is always something going wrong with them. A water pipe breaks, or a gas line leaks, or the roof let's rain seep through, or an appliance needs repair, or the trees need trimming. Just trying to keep up with it all can be overwhelming sometimes. But when you run across someone who doesn't have a home, it puts the whole process in perspective, doesn't it? Suddenly, the discouraging thing becomes an obvious blessing.

Or consider the cross. What started out as a cruel and painful method of execution became a blessing beyond measure, and all because of a savior name Jesus. He was born in a lowly manger, and died on a despicable cross, and in so doing, turned every discouragement in our lives into a blessing of one sort or another. As we enter this new year, may the discouragements that life brings turn into blessings beyond measure. And may we look back at this time next year, and be able to say that 2008 was a great year.

Blessings, Dr. John

JANUARY ISSUE



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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First Presbyterian Church

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