

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



The Church Women United of Duncan

The Church Women United of Duncan will meet for the World Day of Prayer celebration on Friday, March 7 at the Assumption Catholic Church. The meeting will begin at 9:30am.

The theme for this year's celebration will be "God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding". On the first Friday in March each year many men and women of many faith traditions come together to observe a common day of prayer. Throughout the day peoples of all nations collectively pray for understanding and God's guidance. The WDP motto is "Informed prayer leads to prayerful action".



The March issue of the International Parish Nurse Resource Center's eNotes *Acting Locally Inspiring Globally* publication included this item and I decided to share it with you for the coming Easter season.

"We all hear about the leading causes of death but Rev. Dr. Gary Gunderson and Rev. Larry Prater affiliated with Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare of Memphis, Tennessee have identified several "leading causes of life" in their recent book of the same name. They write:

"It is important to follow our doctor's advice: walk a few thousand steps a day, wash our hands, floss our teeth, eat something green and wear a seat belt. But those things won't make us more alive. The only way any of us can do that is by allowing ourselves to be more *connected*, to seek meaning and *coherence*, to *act* on the choices that lead to life, to extend ourselves in the webs of *blessing*, and to nurture *hope* in all things. In short, the only way is to allow the causes of life (connection, coherence, agency, blessing and hope) to weave *in* us at the very same time they work *through* us. This is the way of life" (p.169-170)

Source: Gunderson, G & Prater, L(2006). *Leading causes of life*. Memphis: Le Bonheur

I truly hope their words will bless you as they did me.

Joanne Flanders
Parish Nurse

Prayer Chain

We are in the process of reviewing our current prayer chain and would like your input. The prayer chain is used to quickly get the word out to as many people as possible when someone needs our prayers. If you are not part of this prayer chain and would like to be, please call Vicky at the church office (255-5769) so she can add your name to the list. However, if you are currently on the list and wish to be removed, please let Vicky know also.

Those currently on the Prayer Chain are: Eloise Hofmann, Scott & Nancy Postlethwaite, Colleen Pollock, Jack Munn, Walter Herrin, Chip Woods, Rosella McQuain, Martha Coker, Peggy Gilchrist, Mike & Jennifer Steil, LaJuan Fleming, Jennifer Johnson, Jo & Dan Flanders, Dennis Wienck, Martha Copland, Robin Caldwell, Sally Barthell, Barbara Murphey, Bonnie Davidson, Linda & Lonnie Helms and Beverly Moody.

Dear Church Family,

In January, Tim and I were on a 3 day spiritual retreat at an Episcopal Monastery in New York (Holy Cross). It is on the Hudson River and on the other side you can see the Roosevelt Mansion & the Vanderbilt Mansion. While the Monastery life is not our calling, it was nice to have the time for individual Bible study & prayer. The Monks are of the Order of Holy Cross and follow St. Benedict's Rule (something I studied in church history this semester). We met four times a day for worship & had a period of silence from 9pm until after breakfast (that's tough).

Our prayers are with you,
Amy & Tim Florence



PRAYER CORNER

*Justin Ezell

*Matthew Fleming – Marines

*Monty Tanner

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

Allen White's mother

Ron Twelves

Imogene Dove

Jerry Bohannan

Everett Morgan

Hope Mason

Mary Ellene Burns

Katie Moody

Gladys Taylor

Bonnie Davidson

Jimmy & Glenna Savage

Bob & Nadine McKee

Jim Kost

Bill Bob Bailey

Jeff Speers

Stephanie Parkhurst

Tom Carey

Hallie Hambrig

* Currently serving our country

REMEMBER IN THEIR SORROW

Condolences to the family of James Clary who died on February 2, 2008. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held at First Presbyterian Church of Duncan on Friday, April 18th at 2pm
And

Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Lindsey Speer and the family of Fred Little upon the death of Fred Little.

And

Sympathy to Dora Kirk upon the death of her nephew and Thelma Wade upon the death of her sister.

Thank You

To the "Care & Nurture" Committee,

Thank you very much for the beautiful prayer blanket made with love and given in honor of the birth of Carson Dane Rogers. I plan to share it with him & wrap him in it with lots of love and prayers!

In Him ~ Kathy Rogers

Thank You

Women's Haven would like to thank you for the Pumpkin Patch donation of \$355.00 and 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

To First Presbyterian Church,

Christians Concerned sincerely thanks you for your gift of \$1230.00 We appreciate your faithful support.

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. God bless and keep you, Christians Concerned

Thank You

Presbyterian Women,

Thank you so much for your kind donation. It is donations from individuals and groups like yours that keep the Mission running. May God Bless, Roger Latham, Duncan Rescue Mission

Thank You

Thank you Presbyterian Women for your pledge to Indian Nations Presbyterian Women.
The Coordinating Team of INPW

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

ELDERS

| | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| <u>Class of 2008</u> | <u>Class of 2009</u> | <u>Class of 2010</u> |
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| Dennis Wienck | Dan Flanders | Peggy Gilchrist |
| Margo Jones | Beverly Moody | Steve Reasor |

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| Scott Postlethwaite | Vicki Zimmerman | Sally Barthell |
| Helen Sue Lowe | LaJuan Fleming | Bennie Drake |
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| Carroll Goss | Don Moody | Martha Copland |
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Treasurer: Bill McQuain Asst. Treasurer: Jerry Fleming



*Sunday Mornings are for Friends
Be a Friend ~ Bring a Friend*



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Jerry Fleming 252-9559

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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 3

Volume 19

March 2008

From the Pastor's Desk:

Every year Easter falls somewhere in the five week period between March 21st, and April 24th. This year Easter is on March 23rd which is about as early as it can possibly be. We are planning an Easter Sunrise Service, a special Easter Sunday School class, our traditional Easter social time, and our Easter morning worship service. We hope you will plan to join us.

Easter is a special time that we set aside each year to celebrate the resurrection of our savior, Jesus. It has become filled with tradition and with memorable moments for so many of us. And yet the main emphasis of the season is not tradition or familiarity or comfort or maintaining the status quo. The main emphasis of Easter is change for the better. Jesus changed on Easter. The disciples changed on Easter. The entire world changed because of Easter. And every year, the church and all its people are encouraged to grow, which is another way of speaking of our need to change for the better.

It seems everywhere I turn these days, I encounter someone who has discovered a new way of describing the fact that the Western Christian Church is and always has been changing. By way of example, I attended a presentation sponsored by Indian Nations Presbytery this past week where the speaker made that same point in a new way. He presented the perspective of a man named Wall, who said that historically, the church is now entering its sixth cultural change. In essence, here's his point.

Originally, Christianity was rooted in a Jewish cultural world. But within a generation or two, it had been absorbed by the gentile world beyond Israel, and become the religion of the Roman Empire. By the sixth century, Rome had been conquered, and the dark ages had begun, and our form of Western Christianity had become a religion centered in the cultural life of central Europe, and maintained by a religious elite. This continued through the middle ages, until the time of the Protestant Reformation and the concurrent cultural Enlightenment of the early 1600's, when the printing press made reading popular, and Bibles became available to everyone for their own reading pleasure, and Christianity became the religion of the literate masses of people throughout Europe. Presbyterians emerged during this time in and around Geneva, Switzerland. But, due to the expanding influence of European colonialism, by 1750 Christianity had spread, and Presbyterians had moved from central Europe, and become a part of the culture of Scotland and America. It was during this time that the Westminster Divines wrote the Westminster Confession and the Longer and Shorter Catechisms that many of our members were taught as children. And then, in the 1950's the sixth shift began, moving the cultural center of Christianity in general, and Presbyterianism in particular, away from our culture and toward the cultures of other countries around the globe.

The result of all this is that we face change as a denomination and as a congregation. We are not the same people we were 100 years ago when we were founded on this plot of land. And we need to redefine ourselves for a new day. Those who monitor such things may have noticed that the denomination is working to streamline its constitution. And the presbytery has already re-written its committee structure and its way of doing business. And at the local level, you will hear more in the next few months about the effort the session has endorsed to help us find a vision of who we are and who God is calling us to be in the future. We expect the result of all our efforts will be a common perspective or lens through which we as a congregation can view the world, and a common goal or direction toward which we can focus our energies.

Easter, a time of growth and change, is right around the corner. Let's take advantage of this God-given opportunity to change for the better, and to change together. The result will be exciting, empowering, energizing, and reconciling for us as a part of the family of God. Perhaps then the hymn will come true in us – They will know we are Christians by our love. And perhaps the old, old story will come alive anew in our hearts this Easter, and throughout the year.

Blessings,
Dr. John

MARCH ISSUE



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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First Presbyterian Church

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