



# *The Presbyterian Courier*

## *First Presbyterian Church of Ada, Oklahoma*

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### **To Witness for God in the World**

#### *Season of Pentecost – July 2018*



#### **TO REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS**

Jeremy Pippenger and Kelley Miller and family; Margaret Barton; Jane Baltimore; Gayla Cook; Avery Anderson; the poor of our community; the family of Jeff Crosby

*The church expresses its sympathy and Christian love to daughter Teresa Mayhue, grandson Mason Mayhue, and the whole family of Willene and Bob Hobson, who died June 1<sup>st</sup> and June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018.*

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**From the Pastor**

*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. ~ Galatians 5:22*

Dear Members and Friends,

The south-central climate certainly has won me over. Things grow so well. In 2018 spring came so beautifully, with plenty of sun and rain. The trees flowered, the grass grew, vegetables shot up and flowers bloomed. I have been eating Oklahoma cucumber and Texas watermelon lately—outstanding!

Sure, spring and summer mean plenty of yardwork, both at home and at church. But how bad is it to spend time with the magnificent and productive land? You become part of the continuing and living story expressed in Genesis 2:15: *The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.* The best things never change.

Paul related the familiar and natural image of botanical fruit to the human...to the child of God. When the person welcomes the Spirit of God and cooperates with the Spirit of God there is growth, and manifestation of good things, like fruit. In the human these fruits are qualities like *kindness*.

How much I see the fruits of the Spirit in you! Whether in your prayer meetings or your studies in the Word, whether at your community service or your car washes and receptions, joy and love are growing in you.

Enjoy your early summer newsletter. May it give a sense of where we've been, where we are, and where we're going. May our lives be yet more productive of the fruits of unbounded goodness and value, like faithfulness and gentleness, and may the glory be God's!

Scott

## Events

### Recurring Events - Sundays

<b>Church School for Adults</b>	9:30am
<b>Worship Service</b>	10:45am
<i>Nursery open and staffed throughout</i>	



### Recurring Events - Mondays

<b>Yoga Fellowship</b>	6:00-6:45pm
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## Coming up this Summer

**All Ages Pool Party**, this Saturday, July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm, at Wintersmith Park Pool

**Hymn Sing**, Sunday, July 29<sup>th</sup>, in the sanctuary, 10:45am, potluck to follow hosted by the Deacons

**Session meeting**, Sunday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 12noon, WFC office conference room

**Abba's Tables**, FPC next serves the meal August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Prep Shift 3-5pm, Serve and Cleanup Shift 5-7pm.

**Ada High School Beautification Day**, August 4<sup>th</sup>, 8am-12noon.

**Mama T's Homeless Shelter open house**, August 10<sup>th</sup>, 5:00-7:30pm, 222 E 12<sup>th</sup> Street

All church events including committee meetings are online at [fpcada.org/calendar](http://fpcada.org/calendar). Click on any event to see more information.

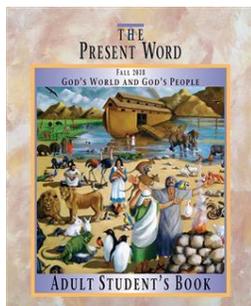
## Christian Education

*Pool Party this Saturday July 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30-8:30pm, Wintersmith Park Pool*

We invite all ages to church fun and fellowship at the pool! Let your neighbors, friends, and co-workers know this is the time and place to be. Yes, there will be food!



The Children's Church School year will begin Sunday, September 9<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for teachers for the K-3 class.



### Adult Study

We invite all adults to continue in study in either of our two wonderful adult church school classes: **Catalyst**, and **Coffee and Conversation!** Catalyst is doing lessons in *The Present Word*, and Coffee and

Conversation is exploring the call of God on the 21<sup>st</sup> century Church. See you there!

As always, we want to recognize the extraordinary giftedness, kindness, and commitment of **the Rev. Buddy Baltimore, who led another year of wonderful Wednesday evening Bible Study**. Thank you, Buddy! This class is in summer recess, and begins again Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

~ Becky Compton and Teresa Mayhue

## **Congregational Life and Membership**

### *Receptions and Showers*

Well, the church has really been active “being the church” during our recent, special times of celebration, and support of families. The committee has offered receptions for David and Robbie Horne, for Justin and Johnna Isaacs, and for the families of John Jaques, Sandra Harrison, and Willene and Bob Hobson. There are so many members who have stepped forward with extraordinary service—thank you all!—and we especially want to recognize Greta Thompson, Karah Thompson, Brooke Holman, Tami Thompson, Cheryl Weems, and Miriam White. Thank you!

### *Soccer on the Lawn*

What a wonderful event June 10<sup>th</sup>, the intergenerational Soccer on the Lawn! Thank you Anthony White for providing the proper soccer goals.

### *Car Wash Fundraiser*

Also, what a wonderful event July 7<sup>th</sup>, the intergenerational Church Car Wash! It was a great success, with the church getting a chance to meet and visit with many of our neighbors, and receiving over \$575 in donations. Thank you Cheryl Weems for providing lunch for the volunteers.

### *Pippenger/Miller House Fire*

We also want to thank the congregation for its support of Jeremy and Kelley in this extremely difficult and stressful time. Their current needs are for **boxes**, to use to move household items into storage during repairs. These boxes should be flat or flattened if possible, and can be delivered during office hours to the Westminster Fellowship Center. There is also a possibility that we will organize a **work bee** to help them move out, and move back in. Thank you!

~ David Butler, Amy Mayhue, Regina Robertson

## **Deacons Corner**

The Annual Ada High School Beautification Day is coming up August 4<sup>th</sup> from 8am-12noon. The congregation has been very generous in its support and we hope to see you again this year.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Jeremy and Kelley are very grateful for your support at this time consequent to their house fire. Their current need is for boxes for moving the contents of their home into a storage unit for repairs on the house. If you can donate boxes please bring them to the WFC hall during office hours.

We look forward to the next potluck that we will host/facilitate, this one following the Hymn Sing July 29<sup>th</sup>. The hymn sing in the sanctuary; potluck in the WFC fellowship hall, of course.

The deacons and session members are doing a round of household visitation. Our goal is to be in every household of the church in 2018. We look forward to seeing you and sitting with you!

Deacons: our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, at 6pm, in the church parlor.

~ Betty Childers.

*Our commissioned deacons are: Bill Brooks, Betty Childers (chairperson), Kelley Dorsey-Miller, Jeremy Pippenger, Karah Thompson, Junior Vargas, Cheryl Weems, Linda Wells, Miriam White*

## Finance Committee

### *Funding Our Ministry Campaign*

The Finance Committee would like to express that the campaign was successful beyond our hopes. The congregation saw their way to provide over \$25,000 to support our ongoing mission projects. The Finance Committee would like to thank everyone. It's great to belong to a church that places an emphasis on helping others. God bless you all.

### *Current Finances*

We certainly are celebrating that due to the generosity of the congregation, and ever-careful management of expenses by the staff and session, whereas we entered the year with a \$28,557 deficit budget, which would be a loss of \$11,898 through May, the actual loss through May was only \$1,012. Congregation, we thank you. Keep up your good work funding our ministry.

~ Matt Sweatt, Bruce Weems

## Financial Report

	May 2018	YTD	Year Budget	% of Year Budget
<b>Income</b>	\$14,612	\$80,151	\$179,394	44.7%
<b>Expenses</b>	\$16,266	\$81,163	\$207,951	39.0%
<b>Net</b>	\$(1,654)	\$(1,012)	\$(28,557)	3.5%

<b>Assets</b>	<b>May 2018</b>	<b>April 2018</b>	<b>Change</b>
	\$95,250	\$97,067	\$(1,817)

## **Mission and Evangelism**

First Presbyterian Church has been active in the community! We want to recognize the many who have been generously at work for the well-being of their neighbors.

### *Abba's Tables*

Linda Wells, Greta Thompson, Cathy Blackburn, Nancy Thompson, Emily Clifton, Bill Brooks, Kurt Jackson, Vestal & Bette Cole, Penny McCain (Vestal's daughter), Ashton London, Robbie Horne, Jaxson Miller, Bruce & Cheryl Weems, Betty Childers, Carol Peshehonoff, Jo Neman, Mary Jean Mayhue, Patti Elliott, Miriam White, Tami Thompson, Scott White

### *Meals on Wheels*

Bob & Jo Neman, Karah Thompson, Carol Peshehonoff, Carolyn Rauch, Jack Lambert, Billie Redden, Kurt Jackson, Don Clark, Vestal & Bette Cole, Nancy & Matt Thompson, Jerry & Dian Maloy, Jackie Savage, Bruce Weems, Deanna Piercy, Tami Thompson, Mary Hampton

### *Compassion Outreach*

Buddy and Jane Baltimore, Robbie Horne, Vestal & Bette Cole, Becky Compton, Mary Hampton, Kurt Jackson, Dian & Jerry Maloy, Bob & Jo Neman, Deanna Piercy, Greta Thompson, Karah Thompson, Nancy Thompson, Cheryl Weems

### *FPC Mission Emergency Fund*

Bill Brooks and Scott White have been meeting with our neighbors having particular, urgent needs, and their listening ears and this fund help our neighbors in times of crisis. The balance of this fund by the way has dropped to \$146.56; donations are accepted at any time, just mark "Mission Emergency Fund" or "Urgent Needs Fund" on your check or envelope.

### *Mama T's Homeless Shelter Open House*



*Bread and Blessings*

We look forward to the Open House on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 5pm, and the opening on Monday, August 13<sup>th</sup>! The committee and the session approved a grant Scott wrote for Mama T's to Indian Nations Presbytery, and we are hopeful this important local ministry will gain regional visibility...certainly within the presbytery.

Thank you for support of the FPC outreach missions.

~ Bruce Weems

## Music Department

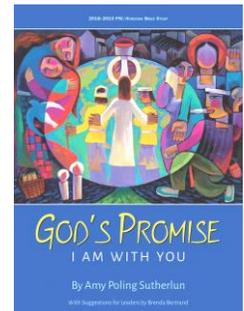
## Nominating Committee

Congratulations to Tami Thompson, who was nominated in congregational meeting June 10<sup>th</sup>, and elected by the congregation to fill a vacancy in the Session class of 2019.

## Presbyterian Women Organization

### *Horizons Bible Study*

The monthly Bible Study continues after Labor Day; we meet on the second Tuesday of the month at 12noon in the WFC parlor. There are nine excellent lessons in the new *Horizons Bible Study*, “*Trending Faith, Timeless Faith*”. We hope to see you there!



## Presbytery of Indian Nations

Indian Nations is a dynamic, interesting, and missional presbytery, and I am enjoying being FPC/Ada’s commissioner.

**My reports** of recent stated meetings are on our congregational website, here: [fpcada.org/staying-connected](http://fpcada.org/staying-connected). I hope you’ll take a moment to peruse these and stay informed.

Speaking of missional, there are some mission dollars available at the presbytery level for congregations doing important community outreach. To take advantage of this opportunity, Scott White wrote a **grant request** on behalf of *Mama T’s Homeless Shelter* to the presbytery for a considerable amount of startup funding, and for 10% of first year operations. This was unanimously approved by both the Mission and Evangelism Committee and the Session, and the grant application was delivered to the presbytery on May 28<sup>th</sup>. We will keep you informed how this goes.

In other big news, the next stated meeting of Indian Nations Presbytery will be **hosted by FPC/Ada** on Friday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, from roughly 9am to 2pm. Plans are underway to be a great hosting site, and I thank you in advance for your support!

~ David Butler, Commissioner

## **Property**

*Then God said, "Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it." And it was so. ~ Genesis 1:11*



### *Church Vegetable Garden*

We are grateful that the children of the church came out and blessed the garden and planted seeds in the worship service children's time on April 15<sup>th</sup>, and also that a special fund has been created by the session to receive contributions for this mission. The vegetables grown are donated to Abba's Tables. Thank you for your support!

### *Property Work Bee*

It was a wonderful and very productive day May 5<sup>th</sup> when many members came out for property work bee. We got many items done on our todo list. We will have an additional work bee this fall. Thank you!

~ Terry Holman

## **Session News**

To bring you up to date on some recent session happenings:

- The Session set its committees as: *Christian Education, Congregational Life and Membership, Finance, Mission and Evangelism, Personnel, Property, Steering, and Worship.*
- The Session approved the resignation of Carolyn Rauch.
- The Session has joined the Commissioned Deacons in a home visitation ministry, with the goal that each household is visited in the year 2018.
- An oil and gas lease in Hughes County, FPC/Ada having rights, was approved and executed.
- Members have been invited to participate in our ministries through committee membership.
- Committee meetings have been scheduled at different times through the month. All committee meeting times are posted on the church website, [fpcada.org/calendar](http://fpcada.org/calendar).
- The Session approved a congregational bylaws update, commended it to the congregation, and called a congregational meeting for April 22<sup>nd</sup> for the congregation to consider the matter. The congregation adopted those bylaws with minor adjustments in that meeting. Our previous bylaws were 1956.
- Terry Holman was elected president of the congregation, and Bruce Weems vice president, consequent to the adoption of the new congregational bylaws.
- On Worship Committee recommendation, when a month has 5 Sundays, the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday will be a Hymn Sing service.

- On recommendation of the Mission and Evangelism Committee, the Session approved a grant request for Mama T’s Homeless Shelter written by Scott White, for a substantial amount of startup funding, and for 10% of the first year of operations.
- The Session approved a prayer service for Oklahoma education, to take place Sunday evening April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- On recommendation of the Finance Committee, the Session approved a Funding Our Ministry campaign to take place in May, with results being communicated to the congregation at the close of the worship service May 20<sup>th</sup>.
- At Scott’s request, Scott’s first sabbatical (clergy renewal leave) was moved from 2019 to 2021.
- We thank Don Clark for his considerable efforts, working with an organ tech and an electrician, to get the sanctuary organ repaired.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me with any questions.

~ Teresa Mayhue, Clerk of Session

**Elders Installed on Session**

*Class of 2019*

**David Butler**, *Congregational Life and Membership, Steering, Property, Commissioner to Presbytery*

**Becky Compton**, *Christian Education*

**Terry Holman**, *Property, Steering*

**Teresa Mayhue**, *Christian Education, Clerk of Session, Alt. Commissioner to Presbytery*

**Vacant**

*Class of 2020*

**Cathy Blackburn**, *Worship, Nominating*

**Amy Mayhue**, *Congregational Life and Membership, Steering*

**Regina Robertson**, *Congregational Life and Membership, Personnel, Nominating*

**Matt Sweatt**, *Worship, Finance, Personnel*

**Bruce Weems**, *Mission and Evangelism, Worship, Finance*

Elder of the Month for July: Matt Sweatt

Elder of the Month for August: David Butler

**Worship**

The Worship Committee is hard at work to help make our worship meaningful and uplifting. Our job of recruiting members of the congregation to serve as Liturgist, Greeting and Offering, Children’s Time, Sound Techs and Acolytes is made so much easier by those of you who joyfully respond with such enthusiasm in accepting these responsibilities. Just to keep you informed as to who will likely be asking you to serve in the future, here is a list of your Worship

Committee’s Person of the Month for the months of July (Bruce Weems) and August (Tim Elliott). Please contact them if there is a place of service where you would like to volunteer.

We are celebrating a wonderful informal service in the fellowship hall April 15<sup>th</sup>, with potluck luncheon following offered by the Worship Committee; a hymn sing in the fellowship hall April 29<sup>th</sup>, with potluck offered by the Commissioned Deacons; and we are all looking forward to our next hymn sing July 29<sup>th</sup> in the sanctuary, with potluck to follow in the WFC hall hosted by the Deacons.

~ Cathy Blackburn

*Flowers for the Worship Service*

A beautiful bouquet of fresh flowers—what a wonderful way to celebrate, honor, and remember!



*July*

15<sup>th</sup> – Greta Thompson

22<sup>nd</sup> – open

29<sup>th</sup> – open

*August*

5<sup>th</sup> – Hampton

12<sup>th</sup> – Cathy Blackburn in memory of Joe Tom Blackburn

19<sup>th</sup> – open

26<sup>th</sup> – open

*September*

2<sup>nd</sup> – open

9<sup>th</sup> – in honor of the anniversary of Cletis & Judy from BJ, Tami, Sarah, and Isaac

16<sup>th</sup> – Kristina Glick Birthday from Thompson Family

23<sup>rd</sup> – open

30<sup>th</sup> – open

*October*

7 – Butler

14 – Sarah Janene Thompson's 17th birthday

21 – open

28 – open

*Worship attendance – May, June, July to date*

May 6 <sup>th</sup>	54	10 <sup>th</sup>	54
13 <sup>th</sup>	80	17 <sup>th</sup>	46
20 <sup>th</sup>	59	24 <sup>th</sup>	55
27 <sup>th</sup>	44	July 1 <sup>st</sup>	59
June 3 <sup>rd</sup>	44	8 <sup>th</sup>	53



### Birthdays

Happy Birthdays! To:

**July**

Andrea Gregory July 1  
 Jerry Maloy July 8  
 Brooke Holman July 9  
 Bob Neman July 10  
 Blake Cantrell July 10  
 Grace Pottebaum July 10  
 Kate Pottebaum July 10  
 William Hayden July 25  
 Linda Wells July 25  
 Leigh Gaddis July 26  
 Roman Walls July 28  
 Evangeline Elliott July 28  
 Monica Haney July 29  
 Suzanne Mayhue July 31

Jean Lyon Aug. 4  
 Terry Holman Aug. 5  
 Yasminda Choate Aug. 7  
 Robert Richmond Jr Aug 9  
 Jo Neman Aug.10  
 Parker Thomas Aug. 13  
 Ruth Smith Aug. 14  
 Gayla Cook Aug. 15  
 Elizabeth Holman Aug. 16  
 Joe Trail Aug. 16  
 Jeremy Pippenger Aug. 18  
 Broc Hayes Aug. 19  
 Carolyn Rauch Aug. 21  
 Adam Hampton Aug. 23  
 Dagan Gray Aug. 24  
 Susan Paddack Aug. 25  
 Elizabeth Acree Aug 26  
 Deanna Piercy Aug. 27

**August**

Debbie Thompson Aug. 1  
 Jim Carlin Aug. 2

### Wedding Anniversaries

Happy Anniversaries! To:

**July**

Don & Brenda Clark July 3  
 Richard & Suzanne Mayhue July 14  
 Jerry & Dian Maloy July 24  
 Charles & Teresa Mayhue July 28

**August**

Bob & Jo Neman Aug. 1  
 Adam & Ashley Hampton Aug. 1  
 Steve & Jill Acree Aug. 8  
 Rick & Kay Shaw Aug. 8  
 Gary & Susan Paddack Aug. 9  
 Larry & Becky Compton Aug. 12



Roger & Leigh Gaddis

Aug. 13

Doug & Susan Haney

Aug. 14

## **Thank Yous!**

Thank you to Kay Shaw, who did such a great job as Wedding Coordinator for David and Robbie Horne; Thank you to Amy West Mayhue, who did such a great job as Wedding Coordinator for Justin and Johnna Isaacs. Thank you to Karah Thompson and Brooke Holman, who decorated the fellowship hall more beautifully than it has ever been!

*A note from Nancy Thompson, read in service February 11<sup>th</sup>, one week after the Annual Congregation Meeting 2018*

I missed an important opportunity during last week's annual congregational meeting and I am hoping this is an appropriate time to amend that situation. Certainly I am one who appreciates the time-honored Presbyterian way of doing everything "decently and in order", but that doesn't mean meeting without expressing feelings. There was, in the agenda, a built-in time for sharing and Jane and Kelley briefly took advantage of that, but I needed to say what was on my heart and I simply was not able to do it.

The annual report was filled with facts reminding us of a busy and challenging 2017. But it was also filled with faithful, dedicated people who daily give time, energy, and heartfelt prayers to make our church what it is. And I needed to say thank you. Thank you to Scott and to an amazing staff. Thank you to those who served faithfully on the Session and their always involved committee members. Thank you to our caring Deacons. Thank you to passionate Sunday school teachers and children's choir leaders, who are preparing elders and deacons of the future. Thank you to Tom. Thanks to Joanna, Bonita, and the choir who every week sing what I decide is my very favorite anthem. Thank you, Karah and others who maintain our wonderful facility, this year with great concern. And oh my, thanks so much to astounding grounds keepers, especially during summer months. Thank you PW for a Bible Study encouraging us to delve into the Book of Confessions!

Knowing that I've left out many is always the challenge. The Thompson family has been recipients of more than our share of love and support; what do people do who don't have a church family? Maybe this just the beginning for all of us to say how much the people, who make up our church, mean to us.

~ Nancy Thompson

## **Volunteers in Christ Always Needed**

Here are some opportunities to serve:

*July 2018*

*The Presbyterian Courier*

on a committee (Christian Education, Congregational Life and Membership, Finance, Mission and Evangelism, Personnel, Property, Steering, Worship);

teach a church school class: nursery through adult.

in the Sunday morning worship service (acolyte, greeter, usher, liturgist, choir member, children's message).

*Just let the church office know and we will connect you with the right team.*



*The garden is coming in!*

**First Presbyterian Church**

**301 East Kings Road**

**Ada, Oklahoma 74820**

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**July 2018**

**The Presbyterian Courier**



**First Presbyterian Church Staff**

Lauren Stathes, Administrative Assistant

Bonita Blackburn, Organist/Pianist

Johnna Compton, Music Director

*Vacant*, Director of Youth and Family  
Ministries

Tom Hampton, Interim Treasurer

Sarah Thompson, Nursery Caregiver

Karah Thompson, Custodian

Scott White, Pastor