

PRESS

FALL 2010 ISSUE • VOL. 49 #4 • AUGUST 27, 2010

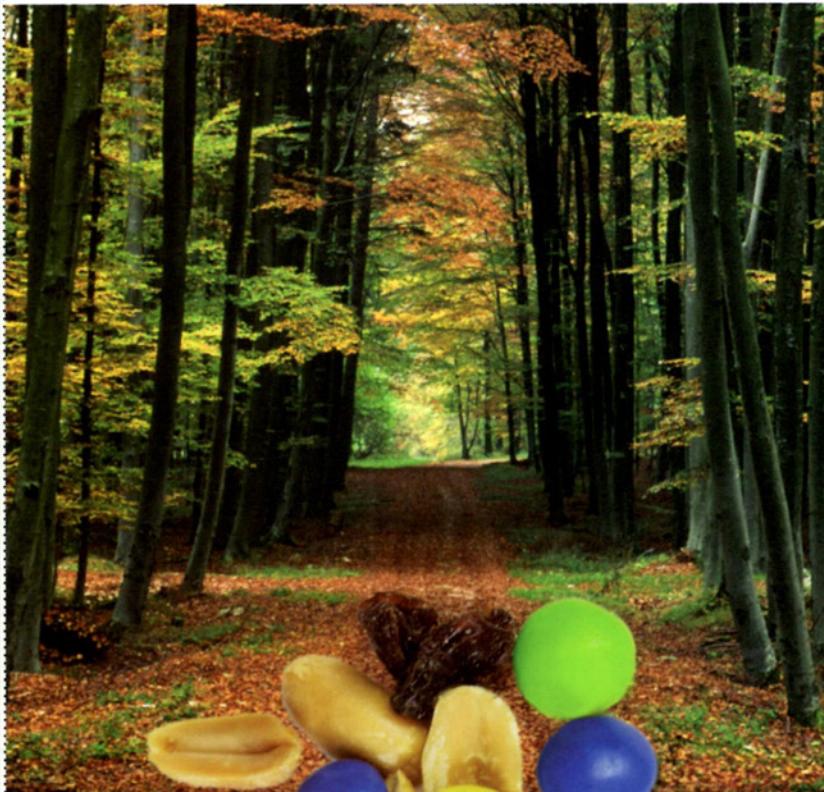


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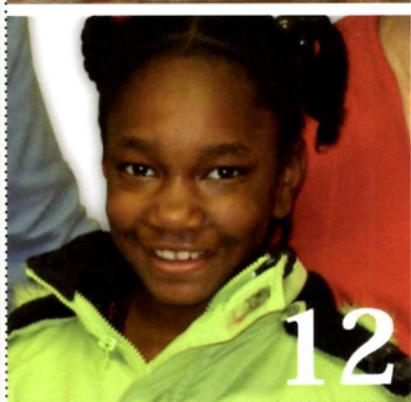
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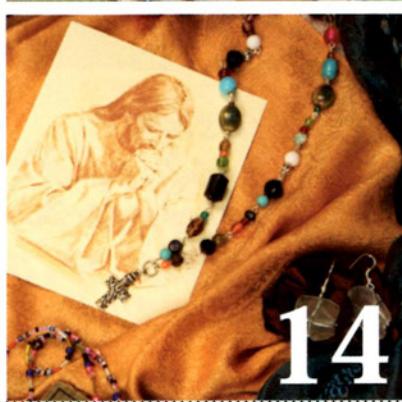
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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1001 South Rankin St.
Edmond, Oklahoma 73034
www.fpcedmond.org

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:30 am - Traditional Worship
9:45 am - Sunday School
11 am - Contemporary Worship

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday, 8am - 5pm

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Plug into the personal blog of
Pastor Mateen Elass as he
shares his musings.

<http://mateenelass.wordpress.com>

From the Senior Pastor's Desk

The summer months have energized and refreshed us, bringing us now to the regular rhythms of school, work and family lives. Even at church, after Labor Day we plunge ahead into an ambitious schedule of activities and ministries. In this edition of the PRES you will find the answers to your questions of how you can be involved in classes, training, service opportunities, and fellowship times which meet your particular interests or needs. But they will only be of use if you get involved. I hope you will act upon the promptings of the Spirit and take advantage of these offerings.

Our primary goal in the coming year at First Pres is to become an externally focused church. By that I mean we will be looking for ways in which we can serve the larger community of Edmond around us, motivated by the love of Jesus. Of course, we will continue to build up our own members and friends with the love and grace of God, but as we find ourselves strengthened we will be encouraged to turn our eyes outward to change the world around us through the power and wisdom of Christ.

In light of this vision, I have decided to preach an extended sermon series on the Gospel of John, entitled Launched by Love. One of the recurring themes of this Gospel is the idea of being sent. John opens with the glorious truth of the Word who became flesh – sent into our world to bring salvation. Perhaps the most famous verse of the Bible confirms early on in this Gospel that Jesus was sent by the Father expressly out of love for this fallen world of human beings. John makes clear that Jesus calls his hearers to become followers whom he subsequently trains and then sends into the world. This culminates with Jesus' confirmation to the disciples after his resurrection:

“As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.” (20:21)

This year we will learn in new ways what it means to be a “sent people,” moved by the love of God and supplied with all the gifts and resources we need to impact Edmond for the glory of God. What that will look like in detail, I can’t tell you now. But I’m betting a year from now we’ll have no shortage of testimonies from neighbors, strangers and new Christians as to how God sent His people into their lives at precisely the right moment with the right words and actions to point them to the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. You won’t want to miss out on this venture. Neither do I!

~Yours in Jesus' Name, Mateen

UGANDA CHURCHPLANTING 2011



**Church Planting, Water Wells, Medical Clinics
Orphanage Visits, School Ministries, Prison Ministries**



Taking the Gospel to Africa

by Tom Landgon

The journey began in 1999, when a small church in Colorado sent funds and missionaries to Mbale, Uganda. Since then the Presbytery of Eastern Uganda has built 82 churches.

The magnitude of the response to the Gospel of Jesus Christ among these farmers and shop keepers is so moving that you can't help but compare yourself to first century missionaries and what they experienced. In 2007, Leo Wideman introduced this mission experience to the First Presbyterian Church of Edmond congregation. He had joined a Texas church trip to do a church plant in 2003 and his Uganda "experience" was so overwhelming that it compelled him to form the FPCE Mission Team, which later partnered with the FPC-Midland, Texas team to found a church in Kanyolo, Uganda. Then in 2008, FPC-OKC joined Edmond for the Presbyterian Church of Bupuchai. In 2009, five churches joined to establish the Presbyterian Church of Mukongoro.

The vision of the Presbytery is to build 200+ churches and is currently training local pastors at the Covenant Bible Institute of Theology (CBIT). These leaders train for 3 years in Mbale where 62 men share a 4 bedroom room house cook for themselves and eat outside. During a church plant the seminary students accompany the "evangelists from America" as interpreters and guides. Their love for Christ and His people is radiant and it is a treat to get to hear them preach.

The First Presbyterian churches of Edmond and OKC have jointly committed to send a church planting team on July 7-21, 2011. The funds raised this Fall will be sent to acquire land and obtain a building permit. In the spring, funds will be sent to build the new church, pastor's house and drill a water well.

Almost as soon as the team arrives on Ugandan soil, the team begin to circulate through the area around the new church and

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Ugandan woman from a village nearby draws water from one of the wells.

meet the people and tell them the good news of Jesus! Each afternoon there will be singing, testimonies, preaching, and the Jesus Movie on the new church grounds. This event is called the “Great Crusade.” Several days during this weeklong canvas there is a free medical clinic in the church. By Sunday, the new church is dedicated and the new pastor installed witnessed by hundreds of new believers.

WATER

Surface water in Africa is not drinkable. Fortunately, in the Eastern Plain of Uganda, subsurface ground water is clean and drinkable. Getting to it is expensive as the volcanic granite must be drilled through to about 175-250 feet to get to the porous water bearing strata. This is done at each church site and is an

invaluable asset that delivers wellness to all those who can walk to it. Africans walk up to about 2.5 miles just to get water, and shop or go to church.

SCHOOLS

Each child in Uganda is eligible to receive a free public school education in English up to the 7th grade. At that point, exams are taken and those who pass are eligible to continue to Secondary School- which is not free.

During the trip, a small group from the team go each day to schools where they sing, dance and share the gospel with a very receptive student body. It is electrifying to have kids singing and dancing all around you to the African Christian music; and to watch scores of kids and teachers fall to their knees and confess Jesus as Lord for the first time.

PRISONS

Not very many people go to prison in Uganda. Once you have been there- you know why. Our team sends 2 people out each day to the prisons with supplies for the prisoners like soap and mats to sit and sleep on and clean water. We take musicians and interpreters and while there we share testimonies and hold a worship service with the prisoners and guards. These men and women are hungry for God’s grace. Most want to know the Love that would send an American from his or her comfort to a Ugandan prison to be with them. No other religion on this earth wants them. When the invitation is given to follow our Risen Savior, all hands are in the air. The Prison Coordinator of the Presbytery tries to link them to churches when they get out.

CLINICS

Malaria, typhoid, cholera, worms, AIDS and new born issues are prevalent among third world populations.

It becomes personal when we invite the neighbors into the church on clinic days.

Many Malaria drugs are distributed and crowd control is necessary to prevent the greedy from coming around for a second helping. Our missionaries do work-ups for the local doctors and nurses. We hope to take our own medical team in 2011 so that the clinic can be open every day that we are in the village. In 2008 we built a free standing area clinic in Bupuchai but to date it is sitting empty for lack of funding. That clinic can have five full time staff and all the drugs it needs for \$1,800 per month, but so far no one has come forward to support it.

ORPHANAGES

Lulwanda Children's School has 90 primary-age residents who come from villages in the Presbytery. It is operated by the Presbytery and supported by donations of churches and individuals in our region. The staff is marvelous and these children are receiving the best education in the country, up to 7th grade. The dream is to expand to serve these children in secondary school. The facility is well built and is on a large piece of ground that could easily hold a secondary school and dorms. One of the objectives of the school surprised us. The goal is not to get adoptive parents for the

children, but to raise up a generation of Christian leaders who will be networked together as family and will go back to the villages to impart what they have learned. These children are the future of Uganda.

EDUCATION

Seven years of free public education in English, then you are on your own to send your children to secondary school either as day students if you live in town or as boarding school students. All ages wear colorful uniforms and walk to school. Most families cannot afford to send all their children to secondary schools. The Muslims offer free education both in secondary years and in University to those students who will convert to Islam.

JOIN OUR TEAM TO TAKE THE GOSPEL TO UGANDA

The next church plant in Uganda will be on July 7-21, 2011. There are 20 spots open on the team for this trip. FPC-Edmond and FPC-OKC have committed seed funds for the plant and a major fund-raising event is coming this fall.

If you are interested in joining this team, contact Tom Langdon at:

(405) 562-5397 or
telangdon@gmail.com

Read the blog from the church plant in Mukongoro:

share-Jesus.blogspot.com

or visit the Eastern Presbytery site:

eamissions.org

Excerpt from Tom's Journal

Monday, June 23 2008

The Crusade that Monday was the biggest thing to ever happen in Bupuchai. It resembled Woodstock (the music), a tent revival without tent, a school playground at recess and a fashion show with all the models having black skin and vivid colored dresses.

There is nothing like it in America. American church women would have made certain that there were refreshments, favors in take home bags, center pieces, a theme, decorations, and greeters. Instead, the stage was in the middle of a gravelly area between the church and the clinic that became very dusty when the children started to dance. There was no water to drink, no decorations, no posters, no theme.

At 4 pm the loud speakers blew out our eardrums as two young men went on the platform to call in the neighborhood. They spoke one in English, one in Lugere, about the coming of music, singing and powerful preaching. They went on for 30 minutes calling in the folks. People started in through the corn fields and along the trails. The women were dressed to kill. They may live in grass roofed huts, but they each have a fine dress, shoes optional. Younger ones had their babies in a back sling made from a silk scarf.

There were children who had not gone back to school after lunch, but had hung close to see what was going to happen. Then the music started. A keyboard was playing and six men and two women begin singing and dancing on the platform four feet above the dusty ground. They use a caller/response method in their songs. The caller sings the verse or phrase and the rest sing the phrase again or a known response. Clapping is the background instrument in their songs.

After the initial singing group, the Dove Choir from the Presbyterian Church in Mbale made up of eight women came to the platform to sing several songs in English and Swahili. It seems each church has a choir like this. The crowd is slowly building; it is 5:15 pm. Since the population is almost entirely farmers, there is no quitting time. Most of the people we have spoken to are here, and many others -especially children. The sun is behind the singers and is hot. Many have crowded up to the area in front of the platform to dance to the music, which all has a steady beat. We found out over the week that it is called "praise music" and the songs which are not danceable are "worship music." They clearly prefer praise music.

At about 5:45 pm, two of the Mzungus give their testimonies. Their stories seemed real and relevant in the US, but after a day of sitting under mango trees on subsistence farms talking about the very basic gospel to people just eager to hear and believe, the stories sound surreal. But they

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have changed them. Just the coming here is a great statement. The message of why they came is very unusual. For in the past there has always been some profit motive behind the Mzungus' visit. These people have not announced that yet and the church people from the area are telling them that before these Mzungus came they sent the money to build the church and clinic for them. **This is very curious.**

At 6 pm, with sundown about an hour away, the preacher steps up to deliver the sermon. The Crusade has been publicized as having Powerful Preaching. All but one of the Mzungu preachers are amateurs, what is powerful is the material. The "I am" statements of Jesus is the preaching theme of the week. Before the preaching started the children were sent into the church to be with some of the women who were not prepared for the over 300 kids. Today, John Becker is using the text from John 6:35-40: "I am the bread of life." His sermon including translation lasted twenty minutes. When he concluded he asked if anyone wanted to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior.

People who heard the message during the day and had demurred began to stream forward to the front of the crowd. The people who were hearing this message for the first time stood in amazement at what they had heard. Some of the local seminary students went to them and spoke to them and they too began to come forward. In a few minutes a crowd was gathered in front and John prayed, the translator prayed, and the new believers prayed that they trusted Jesus to forgive their sins and give them eternal life. We could not tell what in this message struck the deepest chord in them. We knew from our day on the trail that they were quite aware of sin and wanted forgiveness, but it wasn't clear to us how the promise of eternal life fit into their life understanding.

The Mzungus, and Mbale choir singers were whisked to the vans as the standing rule is to get back before dark, and it was now 30 minutes past departure time. As the vans were pulling out the seminary students came rushing over to the vans looking for John Becker, the preacher. The crowd wanted him to come back and tell them more. He left the van and went back up to the platform and prayed for more people who had come forward to accept Christ. It was the first curtain call any of us had ever seen for a preacher.

The long dusty trip back to the hotel was full of chatter about the people met on the trail and their stories, about the Crusade with its new sights and sounds and the beautiful sky that God provided for evening. The vans were surrounded along the first narrow part of the road back by kids shouting and waving Jambo. A buffet dinner was picked at. The debriefing was full of stories and joy. Showers were so needed as we were caked in dust. Then, exhausted "missionaries" dropped into sleep. This was the greatest day in the history of Bupuchai.

-Tom Langdon



UPCOMING SAN COSME MISSION TRIP!

Did you know that the last trip that was made to the San Cosme Pan American Medical Mission Foundation helped finish and dedicate the new Iglesia de Jesus El Buen Pastor (Church of the Good Shepherd) in San Cosme right across the street from the clinic? This was the most exciting event to happen in the village since the completion of the clinic itself.

When the trip was made in February of 2009, the entire village turned out along with members from their sister church, Iglesia de Sinai in Cancun. Preparations took all day with the village women cooking chicken to serve tacos and rice and beans- all you can eat, to all who came to worship! We had a worship band and a sermon by the pastor from Cancun. We even had a choir from Edmond who sang hymns in Spanish, and we served Communion.

Much is happening in San Cosme. In October 2009, we had our first spay and neuter clinic where we helped over 160 dogs and cats. We even sewed up a much loved hunting dog that was cut on his jaw while hunting one afternoon. We were able to find homes for quite a few puppies through a wonderful woman from Isla Mujeres near Cancun. Another clinic is scheduled this October. Last February we took 25 people down and had the medical and dental clinic, construction, choir practice, VBS, Bible Study and generally good times with the villagers. We also introduced the villagers to

their first American children, the Baths, who were quite a hit with the local children. Every night we had a Bible Study when we studied six chapters of Ephesians along with the villagers. At the same time, we had VBS for the children!

Our next trip is scheduled for January 26th through February 2nd of 2011. This will be our regular trip with medical, dental, VBS, Bible Study and construction. If you have a calling or wonder if you would be able to do anything down there please talk to one of the past participants. They will tell you that you will find your gift down there.

Following the regular trip we are planning another spay and neuter clinic in February with a group from Vancouver, Canada. We are also helping young women complete their high school studies because the Mexican government only pays for school through the 8th grade. We are looking into sanitation projects and cottage industry projects for the villagers.

The ideas are only limited by you- God has great plans down there. Find your heart in San Cosme and come down and see what God is doing.

For more information contact:

John Jennings

jjenningsostrl.cox

or visit our website:

www.pammf.org



Women at the Well

Written and Comprised by
Mona Earnest, Sissy Tubb & Gretchen Crane

Since the moment that God created Eve, women have been going to the well to draw water for their families, and to draw strength from the wisdom and experience of other women. Recently a few women began to gather near the "well" of FPCE to capture some of that same sense of community and friendship. Each Friday morning during the summer you will see women from all

around the world, speaking several different languages and embracing many various faiths sitting around the tables in our own Palmer Lounge drinking tea and sharing the joy of budding relationships. They are colorful, vibrant women who are seeking connections with other women. They are offered help with English language skills, given opportunities to learn and teach a craft project, and are gently shown

the love of Christ through the expression of support from several members of our congregation as well as women from other churches and ministries. The laughter and hugs bring such warmth and comfort to these precious visitors that many of them linger well past the ending time. While the women are being blessed upstairs, their children are being given the same tender loving care downstairs in our nursery and kid's



area. It is amazing to see how this ministry has come about, and how it has grown in only a few short weeks. Thus far there have been over 50 women meeting together at the "well."

"Women at the Well is such a mixture of ideas, that not one person can claim that they started it! For me, this idea started taking shape when I was teaching my Bridges course in the Fall. There is a group that meets weekly at UCO called *Conversation Cafe*."

I went with a few people from my class, looking for opportunities for evangelism. I was not surprised to see that the Muslim men were there in great numbers, but no Muslim women (they can't attend social settings with men). I asked the person for Campus Crusade (ones sponsoring Conversation Cafe) about having a cafe for women alone and they said that was not happening anywhere - on any campus.

Simultaneously, Melinda Norton, Cherise Barsaloux and I were getting together for tea every Thursday morning - just to get together and chitchat. It was brought out by Cherise that women in this society are so closed off, that they don't have a place to gather daily, bring children, and just talk. Around March 2010, a woman came to my class through the invitation of Sissy Tubb. Her name is Mary Sue Robbins. She is a professional artist and

offers free painting lessons at Highland Park Baptist Church in Edmond (right by UCO's water tower). Their program is called "Friendship International" and is held weekly, with support from six other Baptist Churches.

This sounded like a perfect opportunity for our church to partner with another existing program, except this program is a national program for Baptists and is open to women who are born internationally only.

A group of us (Sissy Tubb, Melinda Norton, Cherise Barsaloux, Leigh Miller and Robyn Spahr from Santa Fe Presbyterian Church and myself) decided to attend Friendship International to check out how they did their program. We were surprised to find that they had been doing this for 34 years now and had over 50 women of all nationalities in attendance regularly. They did not, however, have a Summer program.

After visiting, our group quickly decided that we could fill in the Summer gap in the Baptist Church program. By the way, "quickly" means that we had a four page proposal ready to go in 24-48 hours and had spoken to key stakeholders in the church, such as the Women's Ministry and Shelly Fryer, Childcare (important factor). I want to point that out because this was clearly the work of the Holy Spirit.



“Women at the Well”

July 2010

Six people cannot work with that much synergy and have one idea so clearly defined.

It was truly amazing. Now, we have Margo Hampton from Community Church, Edmond and also Patti Kleehammer from Bridgeway Church joining our group, doing devotionals and bringing snacks.

Santa Fe Presbyterian hosted the snacks for the first complete month and we are so thankful for that help! We have had one month of Women at the Well, with over 50 women in attendance... maybe half are from our church. The rest are internationals from UCO and from the Friendship International program. Every Friday morning, there are new blessings.



People are engaged and women are inviting their friends to come. On our Facebook page, we have people who are from 3 different countries, checking out what is going on in Edmond, Oklahoma! It's contagious.

I have been asked how we were able to plan and organize all of this so well. My answer again goes to God. He has been inviting women from all over the Oklahoma City area. We have had women agree to give rides to those who cannot drive. This is not the work of a few people. This kind of work can only be accomplished through prayer and the Holy Spirit's urging."

~Mona Earnest

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remains divided by theology and sometimes shared history. Women at the Well has provided Santa Fe Presbyterian Church with a ministry opportunity that we can share with other churches in the community, but perhaps of even greater importance, it is a ministry which allows the two PCUSA churches in Edmond to be come together to share the love of Christ with Internationals in the area. I pray that it is just one opportunity of many in the future.

I think I can speak for Robyn Spahr, as well as for myself, when I say that we have marveled to see how God's hand has been evident throughout the planning and implementation of this ministry. Everything has fallen perfectly into place as we have sought out the direction and mission of this program. We have such an opportunity, partly due to our proximity to the UCO campus, to reach out in friendship, and in the love of Christ to the internationals in our community. There is a real need for women to come together in community and fellowship."

It is as simple as a cup of coffee and a sharing of ourselves. American women, Christian women, need the support of other women in our ever more insulated society. How much more lonely can the journey be for those women in our community who do not speak

S TESTIMONIALS

"The Women's Ministry Prayer Team is thrilled to be able to pray for and support this ministry as it grows. It has been amazing to watch the Holy Spirit in action through the relationships forming among women of all ages and all walks of life."

~Women's Ministry Prayer Team

"Women at the Well has been a blessing to all of us this summer. The women arrive at 9:30, often appearing to be burdened with cares of the week. Soon they are laughing and enjoying the fellowship and snacks. My painting group usually arrives in FEAR as most have never painted before. However, they leave in thirty minutes with their paintings and are overjoyed and surprised that they have unmasked their hidden talent and had fun doing it. I am also overjoyed, as I have been

challenged to find paintings to complete in thirty minutes that look good and satisfy their creative dreams....pure enjoyment!

*~ Mary Sue Robbins
Painting Teacher who works with a Baptist outreach program and with Friends International*

"I see Women at the Well as a unique opportunity, for the churches of our community to come together in a common mission. This sounds like a simple enough proposition, but often the body of Christ

English and may not have an outlet for fellowship? Whatever direction Women at the Well my take in the future, I feel blessed to have been a part of it. I have come full circle from the call I received over twenty years ago to international missions. God is so amazing in His perfect planning and timing. I got to answer the call -and never needed a passport. “

~Leigh Miller

When Meiwha Kim was asked about her thoughts and impressions of Women at the Well (Meiwha is an English teacher in her home country of South Korea and is working on her masters degree at UCO), Meiwha told me that the women who volunteer for Women at the Well every week make the internationals feel comfortable and welcomed.

She feels that the program is very oriented towards the needs of women, and she loves all the different classes. She also loves the lack of structure, rules and flexibility. It frees her to just practice her English in a welcoming environment and she appreciates the opportunity to practice her English with native English speakers. Meiwha particularly enjoys the door prizes every week and all the give-aways!

*~Meiwha Kim,
International Student
from South Korea*

“Women At The Well takes place in the newly renovated Palmer Lounge (formerly the Palmer Room) near the new “Filling Station Café.” We asked Mrs. Martha Palmer how she felt about this new space in our

church being shared with this incredible ministry. Here is her response: “Women At The Well is such a sweet ministry! Reaching out to women to help them improve their English, to make new friends, and to have a special Friday morning sharing the love of Christ. “

*~Martha Palmer
FPCE Member*

“As I look back at the incredible experience that WATW has been for me, I have to say that the most amazing thing that I have experienced is that God's leading in this ministry has been so tangible. Every prayer has been one of thanksgiving for His calling us to this ministry, for His specific guidance, and His provision. All of the program needs have been met through our churches, through individuals, and through groups -often within minutes of our knowing we had a need.

Women who were not part of our planning group and unaware of our discussions have volunteered to do one thing - the very specific thing that we had talked about needing. An international student knocked on the door in the area of the church where we were holding our last planning meeting. She was a week early, but was immediately asked to sit and plan with us. She offered suggestions that helped us in our final planning.

All of this has led us to pray that we can just run fast enough to keep up with God. Oh, and for new tennis shoes. God, women, coffee and tea are a powerful combination.”

*~Sissy Tubb
FPCE Member*



“Women at the Well is such a sweet ministry- reaching out to women to help them improve their English, make new friends and have a special Friday morning sharing the love of Christ.”

"It has been almost ten years since our congregation began partnering with Wildewood Christian Church near 63rd and Kelly in a Whiz Kids program, tutoring students from grades 2-5 from Eisenhower Elementary School in their reading skills."



MAKING A

Difference

IN A CHILD'S FUTURE

-by John Gruel & Ken Rees

Shortly after returning to Edmond, I went on a tour of Oklahoma city's inner city neighborhoods and schools and learned that the single most significant predictor of the need for future prison beds is the reading ability of students. If they are not reading at grade level by 4th grade there is a high probability that they will end up incarcerated in a state prison as adults.

It has been almost ten years since our congregation began partnering with Wildewood Christian Church near 63rd and Kelly in a Whiz Kids program, tutoring students from grades 2-5 from Eisenhower Elementary School in their reading skills. I helped organize the program and served as a coordinator and substitute tutor for a couple of years and then turned it over to the volunteer leaders. The program has continued to volunteer leaders. The program has continued to thrive and has helped hundreds of at risk kids improve their reading skills.

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

We have been tutoring two siblings from a Hispanic household. Their challenge was that English is a 2nd language in their home and, even though they were able to sound out the words pretty well, their comprehension wasn't as good as it needed to be (I can read Spanish pretty well but I don't know what most of it means).

We have seen remarkable progress in our kids. They are making better grades and are both reading above grade level after a few years. This has been one of my most rewarding experiences and a very tangible way of reaching out beyond the walls of our church to minister to our community.

- John Gruel

WORDS FROM KEN, An FPCE Leader of Whizkids Ministry:

"I would encourage any of you to join us in this ministry. If you have any interest, FPCE needs more Whiz Kids volunteers so we can help more inner city students move ahead toward a positive future. If you are feeling a nudge to offer your gifts to Whiz Kids you are invited to attend one of two orientation meetings to be held Thursday, September 16 and Thursday, September 23 at 5:30 pm at Wildewood Christian Church, 6900 N. Kelley just south of Wilshire and east of Broadway Extension."

For more information please call Ken Rees at 210-0828 or Mark Veazey at 850-4644.





JEWELS from the Heart

by Gretchen Crane, Sissy Tubb, Mona Earnest



Mona Earnest (left) and Sissy Tubb (right)

Look around at any gathering of women from FPCE, and you may notice some lovely jewelry. Some might be adorned with decorated domino necklace, a pair of beaded earrings, or a beautiful necklace made of stone. But what you may not know is who created them, or what they were created for. Chances are that they were made by FPCE's own, Mona Earnest. More than just jewelry- each piece has special meaning or a testimonial behind it.

Or perhaps you have been blessed in some way by the amazing work of collage artist, Sissy. Sissy Tubb has a unique way of visually expressing the love of God to others through her custom-made collage pieces. In recent years, her talent has evolved into a ministry that brings both encouragement and comfort to those among us who need a special touch.

*If you have ever wondered how their
ministries came about, here are their stories...*





MONA'S jewelry ministry

“ I first made jewelry for my Journey group at the end of the school year. My group prompted me to make the necklaces and sell them. I didn't pay attention to them at the time because I didn't want to sell anything.”

For details on pieces shown and to view more of Mona's amazing work, visit Mona's on-line shop “Mona's Creations” at:
www.rightnowgirl.etsy.com



“Innocent White Rose”

I first made jewelry for my Journey group at the end of the school year. My group prompted me to make the necklaces and sell them. I didn't pay attention to them at the time because I didn't want to sell anything.” A few months later, I received a newsletter from the Voice of The Martyrs Ministry. I read about a Pakistani family who were thrown into jail simply for owning a clock in their kitchen with a picture of Christ's face on it. It touched me deeply to hear about people around the world who are being persecuted for their faith.

My jewelry is sold primarily via word-of-mouth and 20% of the total sale is donated to Voice of The Martyrs, which is located in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. The proceeds are used to parachute Bibles into restricted countries. Each piece of the jewelry comes with a Bible verse, and some of them are named with a specific scripture reference. My hope is that each piece will be used as a tool for evangelism.

~Mona Earnest

SISSY'S *art ministry*

I love art and crafting. My earliest memory is going to Sunday School for the first time and singing songs about Jesus. I didn't know what the words meant but I knew they were true. God's gift of faith to me was already at work. We also did a spatter painting project that day. I was very excited and I continue to feel that same excitement when I am doing a craft or art project. I have done collages for a long time and love the freedom and opportunity that a blank canvas presents. I love doing collages for my friends that reflect the fun and the love that we share.

I do collages for people that are special to me. Recently, and for the first time, God called me to do a very specific collage for a dear woman who was in a time of great pain. I could go on for pages about the beautiful details, the awesome experience, and the humbling revelations that God brought to me during the process, but I will share only the thing that remains the most vivid portrayal of God's design in the whole thing.

That experience impacted my understanding of my art in a new way, and culminated into my most recent project for the ministry known as Women at the Well. Around the edge of the collage for Women at the Well are delicately printed fingerprints of all of the participants. Represented are women from several different countries, backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures.

The simple beauty of their fingerprints overlapping and creating a border within which is held a shadow of the deeply impacting time we shared reminds of those first spatter paintings that I did so long ago. On the surface one sees ink, or paint, but at second glance I think you can almost see God's face smiling through.

This is why I do the art I do. As I create collages for the people dearest to me, God in turn reminds me of his love for me by inspiring my work, and allowing me to give as freely as he has given to me.

~Sissy Tubb



This black & white collage was intended to provide encouragement & comfort to a friend who was in mourning.



“Fishers of Men”
Made for FPCE Senior Pastor, Mateen Elass



"The Miracle of Friendship"

2010 FALL FORUM

SAT, AUG 28  9AM-12PM

In the Great Hall of the
First Presbyterian Church of Edmond

Featuring International Speaker, Award-winning
Author and FPCE Member Cheri Fuller

Sponsored by the FPCE Women's Ministry

For childcare reservations, call the childcare hotline: 341-3602 x333

Artwork submitted by Sissy Tubb

About Cheri

Featured Speaker for the
Fall Women's Forum 2010

Cheri Fuller is an international speaker and award-winning author of forty two books including her newest, *Mother-Daughter Duet: Getting to the Relationship You Want With Your Adult Daughter*, *The One Year Women's Friendship Devotional*. She has also authored a number of books for moms like: *The Mom You're Meant to Be*, *The One Year Women's Friendship Devotional*, the bestselling *When Mothers Pray*, *A Busy Woman's Guide to Prayers*, *Connect With Your Grandkids* as well as *The One Year Book of Praying Through Bible*. Her books have been translated into many languages and her magazine articles and speaking ministry provide encouragement to women throughout the U.S. and overseas.

A former Oklahoma Mother of the Year, Cheri has been a frequent guest on "Focus on the Family" and other national radio and TV programs. Her articles on prayer, family, marriage, and children have appeared in *Focus on the Family*, *Family Circle*, *ParentLife*, *Guideposts*, *Today's Christian Woman*, *Better Homes & Gardens* and other publications.

Cheri's passion is encouraging women, building families, and inspiring and equipping people to connect with God in their busy life so they can impact their family and their world through prayer. Her ministry, *Redeeming the Family*, and course called "Parenting From Behind Bars" gives hope and purpose to mothers in prison and reconnects them with their children through prayer and encouragement. She and her husband Holmes have three grown children, six lively grandchildren, and live in Edmond, Oklahoma.

Cheri's website, www.cherifuller.com
includes a blog, articles,
free Bible studies & more!



Let's Stop Playing GAMES.

by Senior Pastor, Mateen Elass

There's a dangerous idea afoot in some church circles today: if you've been baptized at some time in your life, if you would like to call yourself a Christian, if you worship God in your own way, then you are part of God's family and belong to the people of God.

It doesn't really matter what you in fact believe about Jesus Christ and his Kingdom; all that matters is that you are a member of the family. As in earthly families, where you may be at opposite ends of the spectrum from other relatives (whom you in other circumstances would never have chosen to associate with) but are nonetheless tied by DNA, so in God's family, the argument goes, you may believe wildly different things about God and life's purposes, but you are nonetheless tied together by water and sounds. If you've ever been dunked or sprinkled or splashed in church (signifying baptism) and if your mouth can make the same sounds to form words like God, Jesus, love, justice, peace, kingdom, Spirit, and so on, even though you might mean something completely different from what the Bible teaches, then you are in. You are family.

If this is what the family of God means, I want out. If there is nothing substantive to belonging to God other than a mindless ritual and a preferred

wordlist empty of meaning, why bother? If God's will and purposes are so vague and insipid, then why not lose yourself in golf or skiing?

Fortunately, being a member of God's family is much more than water and sound. Historically, the Jews have had the best claim to being God's people - it's clear in the Old Testament that God chose Abraham and his descendants through Isaac and Jacob to belong to Him in a unique way. If any individuals could boast of having a claim by birthright to being part of God's family, it would be those of Jewish descent. And yet in the New Testament the apostle Paul (himself a Jew) declares that "not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, and not all are children of Abraham because they are his descendants" (Romans 9:6b-7). He goes on to clarify: "it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are reckoned as descendants" (Romans 9:8). The promise, of course, refers to God's word that Sarah would conceive a son miraculously through union with Abraham, even though she was far beyond child-bearing years, and that through this son's lineage God would ultimately bring the savior of the world. According to Paul, even blood ties linking one to Abraham are not enough to make us right with

God; how much less the splashing of water and mouthing of churchy "code words." What avails for all Jews and all Gentiles is one thing alone - putting our trust fully in the one and only Savior that God has sent into the world, who is accurately described in the Bible, and who is known personally through the activity of the Holy Spirit in the human heart. We are joined to the people of God when we become followers of the Jesus revealed in the New Testament by writers inspired by the Holy Spirit who knew him best. We cannot make up our own Jesus, based on our own biases and interests, and expect that fictitious construction to redeem our lives and world. Only the true Jesus is Savior and Lord. And the true Jesus is characterized by certain traits and teachings, commands and promises that must be understood and believed. There is basic content to the Christian faith, "once for all delivered to the saints" as Jude wrote in his compact epistle. To embrace that content is to believe in the living Lord and so to be a child of the promise, a member of the family of God. To reject that content (and the living Lord to which it points) in favor of a wet head and meaningless drivel disguised as religious words is to engage in self-deception. Sadly, there is so much of this well-meaning deception in the church today. I see it clearly in my

(continued on page 24)



Lift is our Wednesday night worship service for students 6th-12th grade. Join us every Wednesday night as we: Worship with our stellar band; get into the Bible so we grow; love on each other in small groups; grab some grub from The Filling Station and get our groove on in the new youth center! Come and see what the all new LIFT is all about!

Middle School Fall Retreat

If you are in grades 6 through 8, THIS IS FOR YOU! We will be going to Jacobs Ladder Oct 8th-10th for a weekend of insanely crazy, disquietingly filthy, "I can't get this outta my hair" sticky games! Full blown worship... spiritual experience...best camp food ever...team competitions...This is where God meets fun!

Confirmation Class

Every year, our 8th grade students go through confirmation class and upon completion, may join the church. This year, our teacher Jason Eliot, will lead them through Biblical truths that prepare them to understand their decision in following Christ and serving our community of believers. This class will get to do a ropes course, visit a church with different worship styles, visit a Jewish Temple, serve the needy, formulate their own "Statement of Faith," and many more hands-on experiences. This class costs \$100 for the year (scholarships are available.)

ADULT OPPORTUNITIES

PARENTS PRAYING FOR STUDENTS

Wednesday Nights 8-8:30

Adults who want to pray together.

Contact Nancy Alexander at 340-3232

Sunday School Teachers

Contact John Jennings by e-mail:
jjenningsotrl@cox.net

WEDNESDAY SMALL GROUP LEADERS

High School: Contact Bill Crouch by email
bcrouch@fpcedmond.org

Middle School: Contact Brian Wagner by email
bwagner@fpcedmond.org

SNACKS WEDNESDAY NIGHTS / DESSERTS ON WEDNESDAYS FOR SR. LUNCH

Help provide snacks or dessert one time or several times. Contact Christy Ford at 341-3602 ext. #255 or cford@fpcedmond.org

Lead games & group building activities on Wednesday nights

Contact David Dabrowski at 341-3602 ext. #260 or ddabrowski@fpcedmond.org

AUGUST: SERVE!

August 2 Student Ministries Committee Meeting
August 5 Serve God Wednesday Night Activity
August 11 Serve God Wednesday Night Activity
August 20 Pasta PARTY Fundraiser
High School Lock-In
August 25 HS & MS Lift 6:30 – 8pm
August 26 Sr. Lunch

SEPTEMBER

September 1 HS & MS Lift 6:30 – 8pm
Sr. Lunch
September 8 HS & MS Lift 6:30-8pm
Sr. Lunch
September 12 Fall Sunday School Starts
September 13 Student Ministries Committee Meeting
September 15 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch
September 22 See you at the Pole (At each school)
HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch
September 26 Confirmation Ropes Course
September 29 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch

OCTOBER

October 4 Student Ministries Committee Meeting
October 6 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch
October 8 Middle School Retreat Leaves FPCE
October 10 Middle School Retreat Returns to FPCE
October 13 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch
October 20 FALL BREAK – No Lift
October 27 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch

NOVEMBER

November 1 Student Ministries Committee Meeting
November 3 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch
November 10 HS & MS Lift
Sr. Lunch
November 24 THANKSGIVING BREAK- No Lift
November 28 Servant Hood Tree Lighting

IMPORTANT DATES

Middle School Retreat

October 8-9

Register by 9/22 to avoid a late fee

Full payment due 9/29

High School Celebration

(TBD)

Servant Hood Tree

November 28-December 5

Ski Trip to Angel Fire

January 14 – 17, 2011

Register by 11/10 to avoid late fee

Full payment due 12/8

Trip Meeting 1/5/11 at 6 pm

Big Weekend

February 18-19, 2011 (tentative)

Confirmation Class Retreat

May 1, 2011

Senior Sunday Class of 2011

May 8, 2011

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Brian Wagner who is the new Director of Student Ministry at FPCE. Many of you will remember Brian as the Middle School Director here from June 2000 through November of 2002. He and his wife Kim returned to the East Coast for Brian to pursue theological studies. In the meantime, he has served Windham Hills Presbyterian Church in New Hampshire as their Pastor of Student Ministries. He recently completed a Masters degree in Christian Formation from Gordon Conwell and returns to us now to provide overall leadership to our Student Ministries, and as Middle School Director. The following will give you a glimpse into his life as we become reacquainted.



brianwagner

director of student ministries

Name: Brian P. Wagner

Department: Student Ministry

Position: Director of Student Ministries

Marital Status (if married, name of Spouse):

Married; Kimberly Wagner

Children (names/ages): Tyler (5);

Gavin (3)

My "4" Favorite Things

4 places I've lived:

1. Connecticut
2. North Carolina
3. Massachusetts
4. New Hampshire

4 jobs I've had

1. Bagger/cart getter for Bethel Food Market (same place Meg Ryan worked when she was 16.)
2. Boating life guard for Girl Scout camp (don't ask)
3. Middle School Director of FPCE
4. Youth Pastor of Windham Presbyterian Church

4 favorite foods/restaurants

1. Santa Fe Cattle Company (a shame that it closed)
2. Chili's
3. Dunkin Donuts (going to be hard moving away from that)
4. Panera Bread

4 movies I'd watch over and over

1. Toby McTeague
2. Toy Story 2 (not by choice)
3. Shawshank Redemption
4. Bourne Identity

4 favorite TV shows

1. Knight Rider
2. Modern Family
3. Lie to Me
4. Castle

4 favorite vacation spots

1. British Virgin Islands
2. Florida
3. Cape Cod
4. Actually, anywhere there is a beach and salt water

4 favorite recreational activities

1. Hiking
2. Baseball
3. Golf
4. Going to the beach



MUSIC Ministries

- Jim VanHemert

Congratulations to our Talented Students...

Olivia Jirousek (flute) and Claire Wideman (percussion) auditioned and were accepted into the Oklahoma Youth Philharmonia. This is an 80-member introductory full orchestral ensemble consisting of mostly high school students that form string, wind, and percussion sections. These talented young ladies will be in the 8th grade at Central Middle School. The OYP serves as a training ground to the Harrison Academy's flagship ensemble, the Oklahoma Youth Orchestra.

Four of our high school students; Shea Bailey, trumpet, will be a junior at Santa Fe High School; Toby Lamb, double bass, will be a junior at Edmond North High School. Kate Foringer, a photography student, will be a junior at Edmond North High School.

Austin Ratcliff, baritone, will be a senior at Edmond North High School. The Oklahoma Arts Institute is held at Quartz Mountain Arts and Conference Center in Lone Wolf, Oklahoma. This is a private, non-profit organization with a vision to cultivate established and emerging artists and educators through art workshops, immersion and awareness. Since 1977, the Oklahoma Arts Institute has recruited nationally renowned artists to teach a fine arts program for talented Oklahoma youth and a series of continuing education workshops for adults. Oklahoma high school students are selected through a statewide competitive audition process for a two-week, intensive arts academy every summer.

Who said so?

How often have you heard someone (of any age) pose this question? Or, how often have you heard a child say, "You're not the boss of me"? There's no

denying that I've implored you to sing many times and in many different ways. Recently a choir member sent me some material on this subject but before we consider that material, there's an important question to be asked and answered : "Who said so?" or "Who's the boss of you?" If your answer is God, then we can proceed. If God is not your answer then many different questions must be asked and answered. But let's assume, for now, that your immediate answer is God. Most people, particularly those who claim to worship the living God, have some knowledge and respect for the ten commandments and they are, without a doubt, extremely important. But are there other commandments in God's Word? The answer is yes! Throughout the scriptures the word sing is used in the imperative form - command form.

To not want or like to sing is understandable and very evident in many places and venues across our culture, including our Sanctuary. People often remark as to how good they sound when they sing in the shower. And when I look around me when I'm at a stop sign or a red light, I see people of all ages, regardless of gender, singing to whatever is playing on the radio or CD player. Their gusto, abandonment, and joy are infectious and it makes me want to roll down my window and ask what song is making them sing that way. And then there's the newest development with I-Phones that allows you to hum a tune into the phone and it will search for the title or offer several possibilities for the title.

Charles Swindol, in his book DAY BY DAY gently reminds us that neither "pews or pulpits or Bibles or buildings" don't sing but we can. And when we sing God's praise our "melody is broadcasted right into heaven, where God's antenna is always receptive . . . where the soothing strains of your song are always appreciated." Mr. Swindol goes on to write "Never mind how beautiful or pitiful you many sound. You are not auditioning for the choir; you're making melody with your heart. SING OUT!" He concludes by writing "If you listen closely when you're through, you may hear the hosts of heaven shouting for joy. Then again, it might be your neighbor . . . screaming for relief. "Sing loud enough to drown out those defeating thoughts that clamor for attention!"

*May Jesus Christ be praised!
Jim VanHemert, Minister of Music*

Trumpet Recital at the UCO Jazz Lab

Brian Lamb will play a trumpet recital on Tuesday, September 17, 2010, at the UCO Jazz Lab. This recital is being given to benefit the music student scholarship program at the University of Central Oklahoma. There will be an entrance fee with one hundred percent of the proceeds going directly into the music scholarship program. Brian and his family are faithful and active members of our congregation. He has degrees from Baylor University, the University of Notre Dame, and North Texas University. At UCO he is the director of the band program. The UCO Wind Symphony, under his direction, gave a concert in our Sanctuary early this year.



FALL into a new season!

- Linda Birsner

It's time to get out the family master calendar and fill in the schedule for the school year! You can ink these offerings from 1st Prez Kidz in now. This is a great time to gather with your family and decide your priorities for your family this school year. Think ahead to the end of the school year. How old will your kids be? What do you want them to know? What do you want them to accomplish? What will be their shining moments? How will they have grown (maybe physically, mentally, emotionally, but how about spiritually)? And who will have helped get them there?

If you get them to church (because they can't get here on their own), we will do everything we can to partner with you to live out the baptismal vows. We'll

give you scripture memory weekly on Wednesdays and monthly on Sundays. Hide it in their precious hearts now so that they have it for life! We'll have take home papers with activities that you can do together, we'll provide books, cd's and dvd's for kids to nurture their faithwalk and to encourage you to walk with them. We'll provide ways for your family to serve and give.

We will also provide opportunities for fellowship with your family of faith. And that is just some of what you can expect! Set out Great Expectations for your family this year and come and see what God will do! Our great expectation is that our kids will have an incredible desire to live for Christ so that they'll be begging you to come to church and want to bring their friends along!



For 1st - 5th Graders
Sept. 8 - Nov. 17, 2010
10 Weeks: 6:30 pm-7:30 pm

In this season's BLAST, we are going DEEP. "All Bubbleheads on deck!"

The submarine is out of control & diving deep into a hilarious undersea voyage!

Episode 1: The Sub Standard crew learns to trust their maps to avoid the perils of a giant Manatee. Captain Johnny reminds us that to discover truth, we need to test everything against what the Bible says.

Episode 3: Subrina Sub-side urges us to walk with God in prayer. Meanwhile, the sailors are hot on the trail of the mysterious Electric Boogalooga Whale! It's a wild mutiny in Episode Three as Salty the Sea Dog tries to swipe command from Captain Johnny and we learn that a spiritual authority exists.

Episode 4: The crew deals with the loss of a beloved pet and learns that God goes with us everywhere, even during sad times.

Episode 5: The engines accelerate in our grand finale! The sub's propulsion goes out and the crew must figure out a way to escape a watery doom as we learn how to plug into the power of God's word, the Bible. Sailors and scallywags, prepare to submerge in the Word in the wackiest adventure ever!

ZOOM: Fun, Flashbulbs & Photo-Zoids (Part 2 of BLAST)

Is it school pictures? No, but it is the biggest photo contest of the year and we need your help to find the coolest thing on earth to capture! During **Episode 1**, we'll ask does God Exist? Come race along with the Kwestor and Dusty Digs-a-Lot to learn how we can zoom in and discover God for ourselves.

In **Episode 2**, we will rock out with the wild German Professor Van Hallen as he zooms us into the details on what God is like! Sneak into Gelato's secret repair shop as we zoom into the facts on how God acts! Get ready for Dr. Sporkin Beans to use his gigantic "megaphoto to the heavens" as we discover how we can talk to God. Stay tuned for our grand photo finale in **Episode 5** that'll surely make you say "Wow" as we learn to worship God. Grab your cameras, telescopes and magnifying glasses as we zoom into the awesome wonder that is the one and only God! Calling all kids, the contest is on! It is time for you to get AWED by God!

BLAST SCHEDULE

September 8

What is Truth?

I Kings 13:1-21

September 15

How can I experience God?

Genesis 32:4-33:4

September 22

What spiritual authority exists?

Luke 19:28-40

September 29

What happens after we die on earth?

John 11:17-45

September 6

What does the Bible mean to me?

2 Kings 21:19-23:3

October 13

Does God Exist? : Creation

Genesis 1:1-28

October 27

What are the attributes of God?

Gideon goes to battle

Judges 6-8

November 3

What is the character of God?

The prodigal son

Luke 15:11-24

November 10

What is prayer?

Jesus teaches to seek God

Matthew 6:25-34

November 17

What is worship? : Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego

own denomination. I'm sure you see it too.

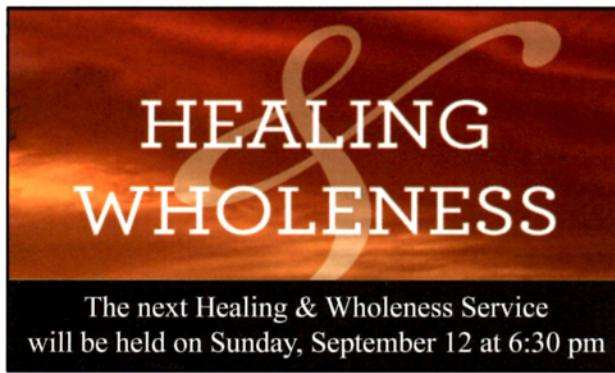
Frankly, I'm tired of it. I long to see our churches across this land lifting up the Jesus revealed in the Bible. I yearn to see church attenders become avid followers and apprentices of this Jesus. I dream of the day when such followers of the living Lord flood into their

neighborhoods and cities to console the hurting, feed the starving, love the lonely, shelter the needy, beautify the run-down, enthuse the despairing, bring the infectious joy of Jesus to the depressed. The world needs so desperately the good news that only God can dispense.

If this vision moves your heart as well, and if you aren't already part of a

church training you as a follower of this Jesus, then let me encourage you to find one, and to become an apprentice committed to seeing the vision of Jesus become a greater reality in your life and in the city of Edmond. Or do you have a better offer?

~Mateen Elass



YEAR TO-DATE RECEIPTS AND EXPENSES COMPARED TO BUDGET AT JUNE 30, 2010

Where we should be

Receipts Budgeted thru June	\$1,185,938
Expenses Budgeted thru June	(1,185,938)
Receipts less Expenses	0

Where we are

Receipts - Actual	\$1,047,004
Expenses - Actual	(1,153,307)
Receipts less Expenses	(106,303)

Budget versus Actual

Receipts/Income	\$138,933
	9.10% Under Budget

Expenses	(32,631)
	3.70% Below Budget

Income less Expenses	(106,302)
	Shortfall through June

Because our receipts during the month of June were \$49,039 less than needed to answer our budgeted needs, our year-to-date deficit more than doubled from \$53,034 at the end of May to \$106,303 at the end of June, even though year to date expenses remain below our budgeted expectations. This really underscores the need for keeping in mind that the life and programs of the Church are constant and, therefore, require diligence in keeping our financial commitments to support the work of the Kingdom through FPCE. We do thank you all for your generosity that permits this Church to work in so many areas toward the accomplishment of our mission. Please feel free to contact us should you have any questions or comments about this report.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE

David Timberlake, Chairman	Rick Roberts, Treasurer
Tim Hopkins	Gary Moore
Steve Kinney	Bob Turner

On Follow Me Sunday, there will be over 30 different ways presented to help one Follow Jesus. Being a true follower of Jesus is critical if we are to be part of a "Community of joyful Christians being equipped as disciples and making disciples for Jesus Christ." Did you know there are over 10 Adult Sunday School classes offered at FPCE? Have you ever wanted a chance to discuss the Sunday Sermon with a group of your brothers and sisters? Any idea how many books and resources are available in our church library? What exactly to Deacons do? Is God calling you to follow by giving time and talent via one of many missions FPCE is involved in? Are you curious about what a Pilgrimage weekend is all about? Have you thought about coming on Wednesday night to the Gathering but just don't know what it's all about? Do you wonder what is available at FPCE for Small Group gatherings? Do you wonder what the kids will be doing in Sunday School this year? How about the Middle School or High School activities?

Good news: coffee & donuts will be available!

We invite everyone to roam the Great Hall on August 29th and check out the many ways Jesus is calling us to FOLLOW ME. Come by anytime between 8 am & 12:30 pm.

See you there!



PASSPORT2PURITY

TO THE PARENTS OF 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

This excellent one-on-one teaching tool is available at the church for parents to use with their pre-teen children. It centers on a retreat for mothers/daughters and fathers/sons and includes all the material for discussing sexuality with your children. (DVD's printed material, etc.) The material is presented from a Christian prospective.

The Marriage and Family Ministry has purchased one copy of this program and will purchase more if needed. Please contact Linda Birsner, Director of Kids' Ministries if you are interested in borrowing this resource to share with your son or daughter.

Martha Turner, Marriage and Family Ministry
mturner@fpcedmond.org



TURNINGpoint

FRIENDS OF TURNING POINT MINISTRIES

Turning Point Ministries recently held their 2nd annual golf tournament. Through your generous help, this fundraiser raised over \$20,000 (after expenses). This is enough to fund another lot to donate to Habitat. Three Turning Point/Habitat homes are being built in July by local volunteer groups. We are grateful for all our volunteers and contributors.

YOU ARE TRULY GREAT IN HEART & LARGE IN NUMBER!

First Presbyterian Church of Edmond, First Methodist Church of Edmond, St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, First Christian Church of Edmond, St. Mary's Episcopal Church, The Young Professionals of the Edmond, Chamber of Commerce, The Edmond Board of Realtors, Charleston's Restaurant, Edmond Women's Club, SEC Productions, Bracken Operating, The City of Edmond, Edmond Electric Cooperation, BKD, Boral Brick, Capitol Abstract & Title, Citizens Bank, Edmond Transfer Station Enterprises, Turner and Company, McAllister, McAllister & McKinnis, Attorneys at Law, Vox Printing, Legacy Cleaners, Nichols Travel, Bass Investment Group, Kennedy Tire & Auto, Ledbetter Insurance Agency, Lewis Orthodontics, Qwest Diagnostics, Swedish Import and Repair, Twelve Oaks Restaurant, Café 501, Dot Wo Chinese Seafood Restaurant, North Oaks Wine and Spirits, Pepe's Mexican Restaurant, Sumo Japanese Steak House, Chuckhouse, Lottinville's, Outback Steakhouse, Pizza Hut, Toyie Slaughter, Nail Consultant, Chaparral Energy, Diagnostics' Lab of Oklahoma, Gallegher Benefits... plus a host of individual donors!

Turning Point recently was awarded a grant from Edmond Women's Club to partially fund playground equipment for the community park at Legacy Station. Our most pressing need is to raise the additional funds needed for playground equipment and to drill water well for irrigation of the landscaping in Legacy Station. The well is necessary to help control homeowner's expenses for yard maintenance. Your financial and volunteer help, new or continued, will allow this ministry to grow and prosper. Turning Point is a 501(c)(3) and donations are tax deductible. All financial contributions are used solely to expand this much needed shelter ministry. Turning Point has no paid employees nor does it pay any administrative fees.

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WEB turningpointoklahoma.org

ON-LINE PHOTOS www.flickr.com/photos/turningpointoklahoma

letter to the Congregation

*A special message from a long-time
FPCE member, Irene Moore:*

To my Dear Church Family:

How can I express in a few words the strong feelings of love and friendship and spiritual nurture Clyde and I received over these many years? When Clyde and I moved here in 1976, worship was held in the Fellowship Hall with folding chairs. We were greeted warmly. Clyde was an elder, and I was later ordained as an elder, sang in the choir, and substituted for the organist.

We watched as steady growth took place and two new sanctuaries were built. Clyde died in 1992. We had prepared Communion together for several years. I baked the small squares of bread.

Thank you for honoring me with an award and naming the Sacristy after me. I am grateful for the dedicated Sunday School teachers, and all the ministers and their messages for the glory of God. And thank you for the Music – my passion for all my life. Thank you, Jim, and the choir, for the inspiration you have given all of us. I have appreciated all the wonderful friendships I have made and enjoyed in Bible studies and Presbyterian Women's Circles.

What beautiful cards and wonderful yellow cards I have received for many years – especially for my 90th & 95th birthdays!

Since I have been a resident in an assisted living facility, you have been gracious and loving to remember me with food, flowers, visits and prayers.

Now I am starting on a new phase in my life journey. I am moving to Sequin, Texas, to be near my only daughter and her husband. I will miss you.

God bless you. Irene Moore, June 2010



PRES

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