

Christmas Eve Baptism of Wyatt Thomas Pitts

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

CLERK OF SESSION

Gayle Cox

ELDERS

Beverly Brown
DiAnne Bryant
Josh Kivett
Barbara Namminga
Joe Ward
Jana Winfree
Gaylan Adams
Mary Ann Doolen
Elizabeth Hatcher
Mark Myers
Ardath Osborne
Walter Stumpf
Michelle Evans
John Harris
Rachel Morse
Nancy Myer
Larry Nichols
David Sergent

DEACONS

Kathy Berry
Ronnie Bivens
Diana Kelley
Debbie Pittman
Raymond Poe
Ariel Akers
Brian Broderick
Wesley Howard
Joe Jones
Blaine Moore
Chris Carter
Cornell Gallagher
Amanda Ogden
Kim Pittman-Carisoza
Bret Sholar

“FPC is thriving. It’s an exciting time as the church, our SPARK program, and First Presbyterian School all continue to grow.”

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

2017 has been a very exciting year in the life of First Presbyterian Church. In anticipated and unexpected ways, God has interrupted and entrusted our lives with opportunities to serve our church, the community, and beyond.

It has been a year of anticipated transition as new classes of officers are elected and ordained and installed. It is deeply meaningful to hear the faith journeys of those who recognize an inward sense of calling to particular service in the church at this particular time in their life. Individuals recognized by the congregation as having gifts of leadership and for service to the church who are then affirmed to that service by election of the congregation.

With the new class beginning their work, it is with deep gratitude and appreciation that I thank those completing terms of service. This church is richly blessed with a talented and dedicated membership. Thank you for using your gifts in service of the ministry of FPC.

It is an exciting time as we search for a Church Educator who will be responsible for the program and educational life of the church for all ages. The search for this person is underway and we look forward to finding the right person to help us continue to develop existing programs and discover new opportunities for the faith formation of our members.

It is an exciting time as we continue to grow. This has been a year of great celebration as we welcomed to the world Tyler Lillian Woods, Brooklyn Hall, Chilly McIntosh Akers, and William Shepherd Pitts. We also welcomed to our church family new members Grant Brittan; the Gray family, Matthew, Sarah, Lucia, and Fitz; the Lusby family of Mike, Lisa, Quentin, Ethan, Hannah, Miriam, Rebekah, and Gabriel; the Johnson family of Travis, Emily & Olivia, Jeffrey Leyerle, John Benn, and Veronica Borquaye.

It is an exciting time as our SPARK program and the First Presbyterian School grow. I have experienced first-hand as a parent what gems these programs are. My son, Ian, participated in both. He loved them and they helped prepare him well for kindergarten. I will treasure memories of the daily commute with him. I am grateful for these ministries of the church and for the talent and dedication of the teachers leading these programs.



It is an exciting time as I get to know our children and youth better. From FPS chapel to youth group and KirkNight activities, on all levels we are blessed with a delightful group of children and young people in our congregation. I am inspired by the dedication of their Sunday School teachers and other volunteers who help us fulfill our baptismal promise to them to help raise them in the faith.

It is an exciting time as we wait for the return of the “Godly Men of the Bible” stained glass window located in the west transept of the sanctuary. Repairs from the storm last April are ongoing. The roof work should be underway as you read this and we look forward with joyful anticipation to the day in the late summer or early fall when the window is restored to its full glory and reinstalled.

It is an exciting time as we continue in Christian service together. Mobile Meals, RAT Pack, Reserve the Third, an expanding community garden are just a few of the ways you as a congregation minister to the needs of the church and carry our ministry outside of our walls and into our community and world.

This has been a year full of joy but also one that challenged me personally with an unexpected hospitalization. I will never forget the thoughtful expressions of kindness and support of the congregation during that time and as I recovered to full health.

Two things have remained constant through this year for me: an ever-increasing recognition and appreciation of the depth and breadth of the talent among the people of FPC and an ever deepening of my sense of calling to this church with gratitude to God for the opportunity.

FPC is thriving. With changes and challenges have come opportunities for leadership and service. At every turn, wherever there has been a need, someone has risen to the occasion so that as we grow and welcome new members to our church family, we are also growing deeper in our worship, study, mission, and relationships. I look forward with joyful anticipation to the expected and the unexpected of the coming year as together we faithfully seek to be all that God is calling us to be as First Presbyterian Church Oklahoma City.

John McKinnon

JOHN MCKINNON
Pastor

“... an effort was made to show the congregation the various ways in which they could contribute to the spiritual and financial well-being of the church.”

RESOURCE COUNCIL

The Resource Council is responsible for developing the financial budget for the church. It has three committees that are closely integrated into the overall operation of the Council. The Personnel Committee reviews the organization and operation of the staff of the church. The Stewardship Committee is charged with encouraging the members of the congregation to find the appropriate ways in which they can contribute their time, talent and financial resources to the mission of the church. The Nominating Committee annually recommends a slate of nominees of officers and trustees to the congregation for election.

From a financial standpoint, the year 2017 was a challenging one for the church. Over the past several years, the financial resources of the church have been declining modestly each year, reflecting the difficult economic conditions of our community. At the same time, the expenses of the church have been rising each year. This began creating a growing budget deficit each year with the expenses of the church exceeding the revenue of the church by an ever growing amount. During this period, the church was blessed to receive several significant bequests from the estates of deceased members. These donations were used to cover the budget short-falls. However, it was clear to the Resource Council that this condition was not sustainable. The Resource Council undertook a thorough review of all aspects of the budget to find ways in which it could be brought back into balance. The Council asked all of the entities of the church to look for any savings that could be found in their respective budgets without compromising their missions.

The personnel expense of our church represents approximately one-half of the budget. This ratio is the same for most churches. It became clear that the budget could not be balanced without reducing the personnel of the church. After studying other congregations, it was apparent that the typical church of our size only had one ordained minister. This led to the very difficult decision to recommend to the congregation that we separate our relationship with our Associate Pastor, Matt Meinke. We took that action with great regret and tremendous thanks for his dedicated service for over a decade. Another personnel change involved Christie Peacher's resignation as Director of Children and Youth. Her years of dedication and service are also greatly appreciated.



The Stewardship Committee was particularly active in the fall of the year with our annual stewardship campaign. Through sermons as well as statements by the Council, an effort was made to show the congregation the various ways in which they could contribute to the spiritual and financial well-being of the church.

The Resource Council welcomes 2018 as a year in which we will transition to a balanced budget.

LARRY NICHOLS
Chair, Resource Council



MISSION, EVANGELISM, AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Mission Council is our congregation's "call to action" to identify opportunities for the congregation to be the hands of God, doing His work, and building relationships outside our church walls. One of Mission Council's goals is to increase the congregation's participation in mission work and community service. Another goal is to be visible as a place of Christian faith, welcoming all, and to seek to extend our church family with intention. 2017 was a successful year in these efforts.

A portion of our financial pledges and gifts went beyond our doors to denominational causes and seminaries. Additional mission money was given this year to SPARK, Mobile Meals, Urban Mission, Infant Crisis Services, New Hope Hispanic Center, Urban League of Greater OKC, Dwight Mission, Goodland Academy, and educational efforts in Uganda. During the past 2 years, some mission dollars have been used to develop a Community Garden just south of our building.

Mission Council's program, Reserve the Third, scheduled a monthly mission activity which anyone could join for a Saturday morning of community service. In 2017, we volunteered at Regional Food Bank, Urban Mission, Ronald McDonald House, Neighborhood Services Organization, Infant Crisis Services, and FPC's Community Garden. A favorite recurring Christmas project was preparing 225 food boxes & 225 hygiene bags for Urban Mission. Thanks to all who helped, especially our project leader, Fran Smith.

Many in the congregation participated in Fill a Bag, Feed a Family; and the Cents-ability offering. Purple bags were distributed monthly on the first Sunday, then filled with non-perishable foods for Urban Mission's families, and returned to FPC. The Cents-ability Offering was collected monthly on the fourth Sunday. These monies were divided 50/50 between FPC Youths' "Breakfast for the Break" hunger relief program and our denomination's Hunger Fund.

To be more visible in our community, FPC had a booth at Open Streets on NW 23rd in April. This event, sponsored by OKC-County Health Department, promotes active living with ties to neighbors and local businesses. There was information about FPC's programs, along with games for children and/or adults to play together. Thank you, volunteers, especially Barbara & Harold Namminga. Another event to increase our neighborhood visibility was an outdoor worship service in our courtyard. This sparked the idea of a Selfie Station which took place on another Sunday and also on Rally Day. Posting fun pictures from church on social media is a way to welcome visitors and friends to worship and to our programs. FPC posted frequently on Facebook this year and invited interaction with many responses. Keep inviting your friends and neighbors to church!

The Creation Care Team introduced blue recycling boxes for bulletins and office paper. They offered training on the main kitchen's



dishwashers and encouraged all groups to use the church’s plates, glasses, and silverware. This saves money and also greatly reduces our trash. In the Community Garden, spring, summer and fall gardens were harvested, additional plots were built, and the shed was painted. The area has been fenced and a banner attached.

Mission Council created a trifold brochure, highlighting activities and programs with descriptions and pictures. These were distributed to New Member classes & Session, and also placed in the pew racks for Kemp Concerts.

October was the debut of our FPC Mission Fair. Thirteen programs of the church displayed their areas of service and encouraged volunteers to join them. They were: Fill a Bag, Feed a Family; Reserve the Third; Creation Care; RAT Pack; Mobile Meals; Boy Scouts; Presbyterian Women; Stephen Ministers; SPARK (tutors, drivers); Youth/Christian Education (drivers, teachers); Worship (liturgists, ushers, Communion preparation, sound booth, acolytes); Kirk Night; and Music (choir singers, bell ringers). FPC t-shirts were also sold. Our featured guest was Carol Winkler, PCUSA Presbyterian Women’s Moderator. She spoke at a Saturday PW event for Indian Nations Presbytery, held in Watchorn Hall and she preached on Sunday.

An event tent has been purchased and can be used by any FPC group. For the first time, banners were displayed on Western and at the east driveway, advertising our Christmas Eve Services. The “young and young-at-heart” service was attended by many more than expected. And the late night candlelight service drew a large crowd, including some balcony seating.

Throughout the year, you contributed to our denominational offerings:

- One Great Hour of Sharing: sharing resources and changing lives
- Pentecost (40% stays local): supporting young people and at-risk children
- Peacemaking (25% stays local): advocating for peace and justice
- Joy of Christmas: supporting past, present, and future church leaders

Thank you for your ongoing support of FPC and the work of the Mission Council. Please join us as the “boots on the ground” by volunteering your time and by giving generously to the offerings and food drives. Together we can continue doing God’s work in our local community and beyond. We invite you to join our council in 2018. Please let us know of your interest.

Elders: Elizabeth Hatcher, Josh Kivett, Rachel Morse, Barbara Namminga, Nancy Myer, and Walter Stumpf.
 Committee: Sherry Golden, Bret Sholar, and Erica Taylor.

NANCY MYER nsmyer@yahoo.com
 Chair, Mission Council



MUSIC & ARTS

2017 was a great year for the Music and Arts Ministries at First Presbyterian Church. All of our ensembles — the Sanctuary Singers, the Sanctuary Ringers, the Youth Chorale, the Treble Choir, and the Cherub Choir — continued to grow in spirit and musical skill in 2017, and they served the congregation by providing engaging music for Sunday worship.

As ever, John Edwards makes excellent music — from the organ, keyboard and flute — in worship on a weekly basis. His tireless efforts to select pieces appropriate for the scriptures and liturgy provide meaningful musical experiences for the congregation.

In May, we bid farewell to Cora Winstead and Sam Schlievert who were graduated from OCU and moved away to pursue their careers. Each had served as soloists and choir section leaders since 2014, and Cora had been the director of the Treble Choir since 2015. Kelly Holst graciously volunteered to lead the young voices of the Treble Choir beginning in August, and I continued to lead the Youth Chorale and the Sanctuary Ringers. Kimberly Dyckman and Jennifer Seal continued to serve as section leaders and soloists, and they were joined by Rachel Nicholes and Evan Couch. Music in worship was augmented by a number of guest musicians throughout the year, including the Oklahoma Scottish Pipes and Drums and the Blackwelder Brass.

The Kemp Concert Series continued to provide engaging concerts for the congregation and the general public. The Kemp Children's Choir under the direction of Lisa Cochrane and accompanist Marianne Kokojan provided excellent choral music education to the community, and the Kemp Concert Choir under my direction welcomed many singers from the city into our ministry. The Friends of Music group gave great assistance to the running of the Kemp series as well as the music program as a whole.

It continues to be a delight to witness the joy that this congregation takes from music in praise of God. I am blessed to work with such a skilled and dedicated team, leading amateur and professional musicians alongside a congregation that praises God with every breath and sound!

DR. WARREN PUFFER JONES

Director of Music & Arts



BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This year has been another very busy time for the Board of Trustees. The April windstorm caused significant damage to our roof structure and the Sanctuary's West Transept window along with minor damage to the South Sanctuary window. We have been working closely with Lippert Brothers, Willet Hauser Architectural Glass, Renaissance Roofing, Old World Stone and Al Slattery Masonry. We are making progress and the repair to the roof should be completed the first quarter of 2018 at a current estimated cost of around \$260,000. Engineering is being completed for the repair of the window and the replacement of the various horizontal and vertical limestone moldings. The timetable looks like completion will be late summer or early fall of 2018 at a currently estimated cost around \$800,000. The insurance company has been working well with these contractors and our insurance program was renewed this fall with a slight increase in premium.

A quick rundown on other projects include:

- Replacing a large amount of our lighting with LED bulbs.

- Replacing an ice maker and purchasing a new refrigerator for the kitchen.

- Replacing the preschool classroom signs, painting the school's doors and the hallway and stairwells.

- We've purchased and installed three 65 inch TVs for signage.

- To assist with new security procedures, we've installed 48 new surveillance cameras, purchased eight two-way radios to be used by our office staff and the security officers. Our security officers are now in uniforms and are armed. Wireless security alarm buttons will be strategically located throughout the facility which will alert the 911 center. New security procedures are being completed.

- New sanctuary pew upholstery will be completed early in 2018 thanks to generous donations.

- In September the church partnered with Junebug Catering to begin providing food service for the church. Junebug provides KirkNight meals and up to one other meal per month for the cost of food in exchange for using the church kitchen to prepare meals delivered for their clients. We are grateful to Jen Snow and her staff for the wonderful meals she has been preparing.

WAYNE OSMOND

Chair, Board of Trustees



CLERK OF SESSION

During my fourteenth term as Clerk of Session:

- Attended and recorded the Minutes of all Stated Meetings of Session and moderated one meeting;
- Attended and recorded the Minutes of all Special Meetings of Session;
- Attended and recorded the Minutes of all Meetings of the Congregation;
- Wrote, distributed and, following approval, provided Minutes of above meetings for the permanent record of the church;
- Compiled/filed by the deadline the Annual Report to Presbytery/General Assembly and the Clerk's Annual Questionnaire;
- Provided permanent church files containing Minutes of Session and Congregational Meetings for 2017 for required review to Stated Clerk of Indian Nations Presbytery; received "no exceptions taken" letter;
- Handled correspondence, research, membership, Certificates of Transfer and Baptismal records, and Certificates of Ordination and Installation for Elders and Deacons;
- Maintained Church Register containing records of: births, deaths, marriages, membership and baptized rolls, service records of elders, deacons, and trustees, and recorded same on individual membership cards;
- Participated in baptism and ordination/installation services.
- Participated in officer training.

GAYLE M. COX
Clerk of Session
Secretary of Congregation



DEACONS

The Board of Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City worked diligently during the past year to serve and care for its members. Having three teams of Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship, the Board looked for ways to make connections among the congregation. The main focus of the Board is to help our church members realize that they are cared about as a part of the Body of Christ and for each member to understand that they have a place within that Body. The Shepherding Program started its third year with each of the fifteen members of the Board assigned a portion of the congregation to shepherd. This was done through visiting with each other at church, sending birthday cards, making phone calls, and sharing information about members with each other for a church prayer list. The Hospitality Team, chaired by Amanda Ogden, greeted members and guests at services and provided refreshments in the Reception Room each Sunday. Visitors were provided with gift bags, the team provided Mother's and Father's Day gifts to the men and women of the congregation, cleaned church pews and kept the Deacon's supply room stocked and organized. This year we also helped the youth with the Super Bowl of Caring on Feb. 5. The Fellowship Team, chaired by Brian Broderick, organized and hosted the annual Easter Brunch, a Back to School cookout, and a New Members Lunch followed by a church talent show. Deacons also assisted with a couple of other pot-luck dinners that were given throughout the year. They hosted Out and About trips to a Dodgers Baseball game and also to lunch and mini golf in Bricktown. Fellowship was also responsible for organizing Supper Shuffle. The Care Team's focus was looking out for the care of our members. Aerial Akers and Bret Sholar chaired this team. They participated in and led Eucharistic Visitation to our members who are shut-ins, visits to members who are homebound, and hospitalized members. We spent time sending cards and notes to members in times of grief, rejoicing, and remembrance as well as providing help with meals for families and visiting those in the hospital and shut-ins. Deacons also served on various committees during the year in order to keep us up-to-date with what other groups are doing within the church. Blaine served on the worship committee, Chris and Cornell were a part of the Creation Care Team, and Bret served on the mission committee.

The Deacons help supply money for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund and we were able to give each of our six high school seniors \$500 to be used for their future educational endeavors. We purchased a projector for church-wide use and paid the annual license fee for Movie Nights that are provided by the Builders' Class.

On behalf of the Board of Deacons, it has been an honor to serve and care for our church family. We as a board are excited about what we accomplished in 2017 and look forward to helping fulfill both the vision and mission statements of FPC OKC in 2018. Again, all that we do as Deacons could not be done without the help and monetary contributions made by the congregation as we are not part of the church budget. Without your generosity, we would be very limited in what we could do, so thank you for your support.

BLAINE MOORE
Moderator



WORSHIP

The Book of Order describes Presbyterian worship as a rich heritage of traditions and a diversity of cultures. Furthermore, it acknowledges a tension in our worship: between form and freedom, order and spontaneity. While understanding our role to do all things in an orderly way, The Worship Committee remained open to creative and new ideas. With prayer, and guidance from the Holy Spirit, we navigated through the inherent tensions of Presbyterian worship.

Worship Committee members and primary responsibilities:

- Staff: Rev. John McKinnon (Pastor), Dr. Warren Puffer Jones (Director of Music & Arts), John L. Edwards (Organist);
- Currently serving elders: Jana Winfree (communion, ushers, Holy Easter Vigil), Mary Ann Doolen (ushers), John Harris (8:30 service coordinator);
- Other members: Jean Nelson (chancel, candles), Brooke Kivett and Lisa Lusby (acolyte coordinators), Krista Myers (chancel, special decorations, Lily Cross, Hanging of the Greens coordinator), Raymond Poe (sound coordinator, along with Mickie Smith, Alan Nelson, Blaine Moore, and Quentin Lusby), Janet Eselin and Lolieta Miller (wedding co-coordinators) and Kova McLean (flowers).

On behalf of the Worship Committee, I'd like to thank David Ligon (head usher for the 11:00 service), Fran Smith (trusty 8:30 service leader), Jim Borgstadt, Nancy Myer, Bert Orza, and Mark Myers (faithful choir communion servers), Jim and Shari Boughman (bakers of bread cubes) and Jack Lancaster (facilities manager). Also, I am grateful for everyone who shared their talents for the betterment of worship as liturgists, servers, greeters, ushers, editors, baptismal hosts, decorators, acolytes, choir members of all ages, soloists, bell ringers, drummers, pipers, and other artists. I'm inspired by all those who prayed at the Holy Easter Vigil.

Through the seasons of the church, the chapel and the sanctuary were transformed with liturgical colors, symbols and flowers. Expressive music was chosen to complement the message. We celebrated the Holy Sacraments of the Lord's Supper and Baptism. Offerings were collected, scriptures were read and prayers were offered. At the end of each service, graceful acolytes carried the light into the world. Clearly, Presbyterian worship is enriched by the efforts of many.

JANA WINFREE

Chair, Worship Committee



NURTURE

We would like to thank all who help make special events, youth mission trips, Sunday School lessons, KirkNight food and programming, and fellowship and education opportunities meaningful and nurturing to God's kingdom in 2017. The Nurture Committee would also like to extend its gratitude to Matt Meinke and Christie Peacher for sharing their spiritual gifts and talents with us. As the year comes to an end, we realize there is much to be joyous about and to celebrate! Our future is bright. We look forward to your continued support of education and faith formation experiences in 2018.

Adult education and formation continued to meet and flourish this year. The Disciple II group successfully ended their curriculum in June. The Young Adult Group merged with the new Builders Group this summer. The Evergreens, New Beginnings, and The Builders Sunday School classes consistently meet every Sunday. Thursday noon Bible Study, Monday Morning Men's Group, and the Art Guild provided fellowship opportunities throughout the week. KirkNight offered adult classes this year in addition to planned family game nights. This fall, we welcomed Jenn Snow and her catering company, Junebug Catering, to serve us at KirkNight and other church fellowship events.

Youth and Children's Sunday School programming and choir practice met Sunday mornings. Youth group moved from Wednesday evening to Sunday after church. Sean Smith served as the Youth Intern and did a wonderful job with leading classes, building relationships and giving the children's message during worship. The youth travelled to Montreat and Santa Fe Community Farm this year for mission trips. They ended the year helping Urban Mission take down its Santa Store and get restocked for the new year. Vacation Bible School's theme was "Our Jewish Roots," where participants ate and learned about Jewish foods, made crafts like oil lamps for Hanukkah, and immersed themselves into the stories of Moses, Esther and Judah and Maccabee. Rally Day reined in the new Sunday School season with a Rodeo Round-Up theme. ADVENTure kicked off the advent season with children's classes, pictures with Santa, decorating cookies, singing and advent wreath making.

Session Members: Ardath Osborne, Michelle Evans, David Sergent; Other members: Bert Orza, Cyndi Stumpf, Lolieta Miller.

ARDATH OSBORNE
Chair, Nurture Committee



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL

First Presbyterian School (FPS) is entering its eighteenth year of operation and it continues to attract young families to our church facility. Mother's Day Out is offered for children age 6 months through 2 years and our Preschool program is for 3 and 4 year-olds.

In August we moved the classroom for our youngest children to what used to be our school office in order to accommodate more children. This move wasn't without challenges but we currently meet all DHS requirements and things are going very well.

We currently have 106 children enrolled which is up from 85 families this time last year. We have waiting lists for most classes and continue to have weekly inquiries about our Mother's Day Out and Preschool programs. Of those 106 children, 39 of them represent new families to our school. Our school has a great reputation in the community and we have a supportive group of parents. Our teaching staff has remained fairly consistent and that is something we work very hard to maintain. Currently we have 14 teachers, 2 teaching assistants and 4 substitutes who help us deliver a great program each day.

Our tuition income has increased due to our increased enrollment, which has allowed us to make additional equipment purchases for classrooms. We also had a very successful Garage Sale this year and made over \$2000 which allowed us to purchase an additional Bye-Bye Buggy for our Guppy Class.

We love to see church members in the building between 9:00am and 2:30pm Monday through Thursday. This is the best way to see everything that is happening with the school. If you are here you will definitely hear us and you will find teachers and children in 6 classrooms on the first floor and in 4 classrooms upstairs as well as the recreation room for PE class and indoor recess. When you come, be prepared to see active play, smiles, and the joy of children.

ANGIE DORAN LANIE PITTS
Director Assistant Director



SPARK

2017 has been a good year for the SPARK Program. For this we give all thanks and glory to God for he makes all things possible. This year we were blessed with an exceptional staff, who are dedicated to this program and who enjoy working with our kiddos day in and day out. They take pride in their work, and are very encouraging to one another. We have also been blessed with a great group of volunteers serving as tutors and board members who've given their time and talents to help build up our children to be the best they can be. Their love and kindness shines through every day and our children and their families benefit greatly.

At the beginning of 2017 we had 34 children enrolled in our before/after school program. Over the year some kids have gone and new ones have come, but we are excited to say that we are ending the year with 38 children enrolled! Throughout the school year we were able to continue offering opportunities for the kids to experience the arts and sciences every week through planned activities, projects, and experiments. Our kiddos have loved getting to meet with their tutors every week to get help with homework, read books together, or play games. We are so fortunate to be able to offer tutoring with some amazing volunteers!

We love summer break at SPARK. This year was so much fun! Our theme was "Passport to Adventure!" We got to travel the world each week by learning about different countries and their histories. We took some exciting field trips to awesome places like the Mabee Gerrer Museum in Shawnee, OK to see their mummies, the University of Oklahoma to look at priceless art at the Fred Jones Jr. Museum and interesting artifacts at the Sam Noble Museum, and we even went bowling at Heritage Lanes! We ran, laughed, played a lot, made neat arts and crafts, learned new games and hobbies, and even went swimming at Will Rogers Pool! Kids and staff had a blast!

This year we were lucky enough to receive some very generous donations from Ross Stores, Inc., the Nix Foundation, Presbyterian Women, and various church groups here at FPC. We are beyond grateful for every cent given. In 2018 we are hoping to continue reaching new families to increase our enrollment, we aim to operate within our budget, get at least two staff members licensed to drive the bus, and continue to invest in the lives of each child who comes through our doors!

TISH HARRISON

Director



BOY SCOUTS

The Scouts of FPC had an exciting and productive year, a very special year for the scouts and for the church. 2017 marks the 100th anniversary of Troop 15 being sponsored by First Presbyterian. We have the honor of being the oldest troop in the Baden-Powell District, and possibly the oldest in the entire Last Frontier Council. To celebrate this extremely momentous occasion, we took a major trip, deemed the Centennial Desert Tour, and explored the Colorado Plateau, including the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest, Grand Canyon, Zion National Park, Bryce National Park, Arches National Park, Sand Dunes National Park, and the Kiowa National Grasslands. Along the way we hiked, camped, and rafted in the most beautiful part of our land. Over 20 participated.

In addition, during the year we went to the Space Expo in Tulsa, rode the Flyer to Pauls Valley to the Action Figure Museum and Lake Longmire, went to the Pawnee Bill Ranch, and Alabaster Caverns, Diamond H Scout Ranch, earned Aviation Merit Badge, and did service projects at Martin Nature Park and the Wichita Wildlife Reservation.

Advancement proceeded on schedule with 2 more Eagles making the total for the 100 years 152. Our finances have never been better thanks to our treasurer Bryson Pogson. Bryson is also a jet pilot and flight instructor with over 7000 hours in the air, and took the entire troop flying for Aviation Merit Badge.

The success of Troop 15 is due to the support of First Presbyterian Church, which has aided us many times with financial help, vans, and a fabulous meeting place. The church, coupled with a large and talented adult cadre led by Scoutmaster Spencer Matheny, has pushed this troop beyond the norm for any scout troop. Our more than monthly campouts and hikes, led by Bill Hensley, and establishment of a high adventure patrol called Extreme 15, put us far above the average Boy Scout troop.

35 boys ages 11-17 and their adult sponsors want to thank the church and several very generous individuals in the congregation for their continued support of a program which moves boys to men while teaching leadership, responsibility, duty to God and others, self-reliance and brotherhood. Please see our redesigned display area between the Tuscan Cafe and Youth Lounge in the basement.

JOHN HARRIS

Assistant Scoutmaster



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The Presbyterian Women's theme this year has been "the greatest of these is love." This is demonstrated on a continuing basis through the actions of the Bereavement Committee, the ongoing support of Mobile Meals, and donations to needs of the church at large. Here are some additional ways we demonstrated love:

Over \$11,800 donated to both local and international mission projects.

A donation was made to the kitchen in the amount of \$323.10 for soup bowls.

Presbyterian Women supported First Presbyterian School by donating cupcakes, icing and sprinkles for their Grandparent's Day, and by contributing to their decorations fund for Western Week.

Dorothy Hays organized and produced the yearly PW directory.

Presbyterian month was celebrated during October's worship. Services included readings about women of the Bible (led by Krista Myers, Bert Orza, and Lisa Lusby). Lisa Lusby sang a beautiful song about Lydia during worship. We were also fortunate to have included hymns written by Elaine Chard and Helen Kemp. The women of the church joined together to sing Puffer Jones' arrangement of the Mizpah Benediction. Numerous women participated in worship in meaningful ways.

PW hosted the Indian Nations Presbytery for a well-attended meeting and luncheon which featured Carol Winkler, National Moderator of Presbyterian Women.

November's annual fund raising event was extremely successful — we made and sold jars of cheese spread.

JUDY GLASPEY
Moderator, PW



MOBILE MEALS

This year saw a reduction in number of recipients. As of the end of the year, we have 28 recipients on our list and have served 2,365 meals. The people who are currently participating in food preparation and delivery include: Elaine Buzan, Nita Cadenhead, Gayle Cox, Mary Ann Doolen, Mary Fitzhugh, Carren MacLemore, Nancy Myer, Diane Nola, David Poole, Jan Robinson, and Walter & Cyndi Stumpf - all working in meal preparation. We continue to look forward to Sheila Lindell's return to the kitchen after an extended recovery period from hip surgery. Ronnie Bivens, Kay Brown, Betty Bruce, Scott Buxton, Roberta Carter, Bud and Kova McLean, Lolieta Miller, Krista Myers, Walter Stumpf, and Brian Upp are drivers who deliver the meals. The delivery of the meals is very important because these folks have actual contact with the recipients, making sure they are all right. We believe this contact is equally important to the meal. There are other assignments in this mission as well - such as scheduling cooks and drivers, preparing boxes to be filled with the meals, buying food, and keeping records - that's my job right now. We continue to strive to provide meals that are not only nutritious and delicious, but are pleasing to the eye (and nose) as well - together with your prayer for our recipients. Sometimes we have special cards to send with the meals, handmade by children of the church, SPARK, Carren MacLemore, Elizabeth Montgomery, or Elaine Buzan.

This mission is coordinated through the office of Oklahoma County Mobile Meals. To qualify to receive meals one must be 1) over 60 years of age, 2) unable to prepare his/her own meals or have no one who can do that for them, and 3) must apply through the OK County office at 600-6735. Each entity supplying meals (there are 55) is assigned recipients by this office. We have two routes each Monday and Friday. Thanks to all who so generously volunteer their time and to those who see to it that we are funded including individuals, Presbyterian Women, and the OKC Community Foundation. We recently received not only the OKCCF annual grant but an additional amount which was distributed from the Alberta Ogden Fund; this is the second year we have received a distribution from this fund. Alberta was a long-time volunteer in Mobile Meals and member of FPC. Her grandson, Douglas Matheny, set up the fund in her honor and memory. Half of any distribution from this fund goes to MM and the other half to the Kemp Concert Series. Many participate in other ways - saving and contributing large paper bags with handles or plastic grocery sacks, food items from individuals and the Ministry Council, and numerous useful items. This mission truly is the hands and feet of our Lord, Jesus Christ, in the midst of our neighbors. Come to the Tuscan Cafe on Monday or Friday morning (9:00 - 11:00), have a cup of coffee, and see what is happening on your behalf in the name of Jesus!

GAYLE COX

Co-Coordinator (with Sheila Lindell)

Notes

2017

226

HYMNS SUNG

12,410

FACEBOOK
FANS

32 YARDS

OF NEW DIRT ADDED
TO OUR COMMUNITY GARDEN

LISTED AS ONE OF
THE TOP TEN OKLAHOMA
CHURCHES ON YELP AT

#4

60

GUESTS
ATTENDED
OUR FIRST FAMILY
MOVIE NIGHT

140

THANKSGIVING EVE
MEALS ENJOYED HERE

6

WEDDINGS

935

ATTENDED
CHRISTMAS EVE
SERVICES

WELCOMED

19

NEW MEMBERS

PEOPLE FROM

44

COUNTRIES
FOLLOW US
ON FACEBOOK

2,365

HOT LUNCHES
DELIVERED BY
MOBILE MEALS

103,684

FOUND US ON
GOOGLE

2,170

INDIVIDUALS
ASKED GOOGLE
FOR DIRECTIONS TO FPC

80

FAMILIES
SERVED BY OUR
SPARK PROGRAM

4

BABIES
BORN

156

JARS OF
CHEESE SPREAD
SOLD BY PW

173

VOLUNTEERS
HELPED AT
RESERVE THE 3RD
EVENTS