

# THE CHURCH & YOU

A Monthly Publication from First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City

## Recognizing New Opportunities

Happy New Year! I hope you and the people you love had a wonderful holiday season. As I reflect on the past year at First Presbyterian I am amazed at how the Spirit is moving among our ministry and shaping us. As SPARK and First Presbyterian School flourish and grow, we are so blessed with our teachers and staff that provide such safe and nurturing experiences for the children they serve. We also were able to welcome El Sistema to our facility. What a blessing our facility is to be able to provide a home for such a rewarding and effective program.

The hiring of Leigh Miller as Director of Christian Education is a wonderful addition to our staff. She brings a wealth of talent to her position and we are very grateful God has led her to us.

The worship, music, mission, ministry, and fellowship of First Presbyterian make us a unique witness to Christ and a force for God's work in our community and our world. Thank each of you for the gifts you bring to the work of this church. I pray we continue to recognize the opportunities God puts before us. God bless you! -*Pastor John McKinnon*



***Wilbur Thorsen**, a member of FPC for over 70 years, was one of the 36 veterans honored here at the church. **Bret Sholar**, left, stopped by the reception to thank our veterans for their service—and to hear some of their experiences.*

## RELATIONSHIPS: The Heart of the Church

Thanks to all who invited friends and neighbors to church these past few months. We had visitors attend our Veterans Day celebration, our worship services, the Messiah concert, and our Christmas Eve services— thank you for making them feel welcome and appreciated!

We've seen an increase in attendance as you have invited family and friends to the celebrations that happen in the life of the church. Please continue to do so, as the majority (over 80%) of people who attend a new church, do so because of a personal invitation.

This month we have opportunities for you to grow deeper in your faith walk, to invite friends to a concert or two, to volunteer with others and even just to relax and have fun with friends!

## THIS MONTH

Nativity Concert and Lunch  
Friday, Jan. 4 at Noon

Bible Presentation Sunday  
Sunday, Jan. 6 11:00 a.m.

Men's Bible Study Resumes  
Mondays at 9 a.m. at Ingrid's

KirkNight Dinner & Program  
Wednesday Evenings

Adult Choir Rehearses  
Wednesdays 7:00 p.m.

Westminster Choir College  
Kemp Concert Here  
Saturday, Jan. 19 7:30 p.m.

Youth Lock-In  
Sunday, Jan. 20 7:30 p.m.

Parent's Night Out  
Saturday, Jan. 26 5:00 p.m.







# Youth Fellowship

January

2

Middle and High School Youth to join all of INP Youth for Ice Skating at Devon and Pizza at Hideaway.

13

Youth Fellowship

20-21

Middle and High School Youth  
INP Youth Lock-in followed by service

27

4th Sunday at Santa Fe Presbyterian

Please follow the FPCOKC

Youth & Children on

Facebook and request to join

our GroupMe group. Contact

Leigh at [leigh@fpcokc.org](mailto:leigh@fpcokc.org)



## Music for the Nativity

Friday, January 4

Noon

Sanctuary Choir Loft

H. Scott Raab, Organist

Mr. Raab is the Canon Musician at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City.

Lunch to follow in Watchorn Hall.

There is no charge for the concert or catered lunch.

*Donations will be received with funds going to the Roger Banks Endowed Scholarship in Organ Technology at the University of Oklahoma. Checks can be made out to the OU Foundation ("Roger Banks" written on the memo line).*

## January 6 Bible Sunday

Bibles will be presented in worship to our church's children who are 3rd-5th graders. Come celebrate this special time in the lives of the children at First Presbyterian Church. Please contact Leigh – [leigh@fpcokc.org](mailto:leigh@fpcokc.org), if you know your child will want to participate and be in church that day. Also, let her know if you have any questions.

## Sunday School

Our PreK-5th grades are continuing the Winter sessions of *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* from the PCUSA Publishing. "Through the stories of Luke, we are introduced to the beginning of Jesus' ministry as he is baptized by John in the Jordan River and then is tempted in the desert for forty days. Jesus announces his ministry quoting Isaiah 61 and people are at first amazed at his words and then angered at what they might mean. Jesus calls people to follow him, continuing to teach about God's upside-down world where the unexpected receive blessings and following God's way to live means loving, forgiving, and giving."

The Middle School and High School Youth will be using the *Bible Project* videos as they continue to dig deeper into how the Bible is one continuous story that points to Jesus.

## Children in Worship/Godly Play

We continue to update the worship bags in the sanctuary. All children (and even the big kids) are encouraged to color and engage with the sermon during worship. All coloring pages or handout are yours, so please take them home to use throughout the week! Leigh would love it if you share some of your in-church artwork with her! "I have a new bulletin board! Please share your art with me!"

Godly Play continues to help children move into the presence of God with the sacred stories of Epiphany and Holy Baptism. We will then experience the Parables of Jesus with the Parables of the Good Shepherd and the Good Samaritan.

## Out 'n' About

On Sunday, January 6th, join is at the OKC Museum Of Art to see an exhibit on Victorian Radicals. We will meet at 1:30 at the museum. Tickets are \$25. (Those that signed up and paid in advance received a price break.) The museum is located at 415 Couch Dr, OKC, 73102.  
-Brian Broderick

## Gratitude

Connie and I want to thank the members of FPC for the many acts of kindness following the death of her mother, Patsy Nutt.  
-John Harris

## Women's Circles

Monthly Bible Study & Fellowship

### Priscilla Circle

January 8th at 10:00 a.m.  
Home of Elaine Buzan

### Phoebe Circle

January 8th at 1:30 p.m.  
Home of Carroll Carter

### Abigail Circle

January 15th at 6:00 p.m.  
Home of Amanda Ogden

## KirkNight Program

Wednesday Dinner at 6:00  
Speakers & Presentations at 6:30  
Jan. 9 & 16: Star of Wonder  
Astronomy & Magi  
Jan. 23 & 30: Pollination Gardens

## First Presbyterian Church

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### FREE KEMP CONCERT **Westminster Choir**

of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ  
**Saturday, January 19 at 7:30 p.m.**  
Doors open at 7:00 p.m.



Setting the standard for choral excellence for 98 years, the Westminster Choir is composed of students at Westminster Choir College, a division of Rider University's Westminster College of the Arts. It has been the chorus-in-residence for the prestigious Spoleto Festival USA since 1977, performing both in concert and as the opera chorus. At the 2014 Spoleto Festival USA was praised by *The New York Times* as "... superb. Meticulously prepared, the chorus was remarkable for its precision, unanimity and power."

### Newcomer's Class Offered in February

Sundays

Feb 2, 10 & 17

9:45 a.m. in room 122

If you would like to learn more  
about the Presbyterian church  
and about this congregation  
at First Presbyterian Church of

OKC, please come! RSVP to  
[office@fpcokc.org](mailto:office@fpcokc.org) or call the  
church office (405-525-6584).