

THE CHURCH & YOU

July 2019



Back-to-School Brunch **Sunday, July 14 | 10:45 a.m.**

We ask that you please join us for this annual event to collect school supplies for Urban Mission's school supply drive. This will be a time of fellowship and great food as we bring in items to donate.

As a slight correction to what was stated in the June Newsletter, there is no need to bring a breakfast dish to the Back-to-School Brunch. A delicious and free meal will be catered for all to enjoy leisurely in Watchorn Hall or taken to Sunday LIFT class!

Suggested school supplies: colored pencils, crayons, #2 pencils, wide-ruled notebook paper, Kleenex, backpacks and binders. Cash donations are also accepted.

A message from Urban Mission:

"Last year, parents spent an average of \$941 on school supplies for a middle school student. Our Backpack Program stands in the gap for food insecure families, ensuring that students of any age have the ability to go to school with everything they need to succeed."

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF OKC

This Month:

Sunday, July 7

Patriotic Miniconcert

Make your way to the choir loft following Sunday worship service to hear Linda Bosteels, John L. Edwards and Dr. Warren Puffer Jones play a medley of timeless American tunes featuring the flute, piccolo, organ and piano.

Saturday, July 20

Reserve the 3rd | 9:00 a.m.–Noon

See details on page five.

Builders' Annual Pool Party | 4:00 p.m.

Gather the kids and come swim! Current members of the Builders Group and those interested in joining are invited to attend. To RSVP and receive directions, contact Lacey Howard (ldhoward22@gmail.com).

Tuesday, July 30

Presbyterian Women's Summer Book Club | 6:00 p.m.

See details on page five.

The Pastor's Perspective

Presbyterian Outdoor Ministry by Pastor John McKinnon

Why has the Presbyterian Church made significant investments in 150+ camps in the United States and Canada? Because church camp is joyful fun! It is a sacred place. It is intensely relational, and positive role models abound! As an integral part of First Presbyterian's year-round faith formation efforts, church camp is different from Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. Campers and leaders live, work, play and worship together from early morning until late into the evening. They grow together through shared experiences in God's amazing creation and form an intentional community. They hear faith stories in new places and new ways and find opportunities to share their own. The activities are fun, challenging and filled with opportunities to grow as part of a Christian community.

Camp New Hope, Presbyterian Point, Camp Fincastle, Camp Albemarle, Camp Hanover, Bluestone Camp and Dwight Mission are the camps where I have either worked or volunteered. These are the places where God has consistently revealed Godself to me in powerful ways through nature and in relationships built with campers, staff and their families.

Dwight Mission has nurtured generations in the faith as a camp since the Synod of Oklahoma purchased the property in 1951. Sixty-eight camping seasons later, our own 10-year-old Lucia Gray attended for her second summer in a row. I asked her about her week.

↪ **Lucia, how was your week at camp and what did you do?** Great. There are lots of activities like swimming, arts and crafts (I learned how to make bracelets!), morning watch when we think about stuff and morning celebration when we do a bunch of energizers, and there is a challenge course.



What is your favorite thing to do at camp? Swim!

How was your camp counselor? She was really funny and nice.

Did you make some new friends? Yep. This year I did not take a friend with me, but I met Baily, Sophia and Anabelle. We are good friends now.

Was anything different this summer compared to last? Yes, it was easier for me to look up the stories in the Bible this year.

What was the best thing about camp this summer? We got to swim in the creek!

Sarah (Lucia's mom), what do you think about Dwight? It really helped Lucia grow in her confidence. Last year when I dropped her off she wanted me to linger. This year I couldn't get out the door fast enough for her!



Lucia's anklet made during camp. ↪

I am so grateful to Lexi Hurley, David Sargent, Sean Smith, Sophia Smith and Taylor Whittington—members of our church serving on summer staff this year. May God bless the seeds of faith planted in the children they minister to this summer.

Reserve the 3rd

Saturday, July 20 | 9:00 a.m.–Noon

This month's volunteer activity will take place at Urban Mission. Activities may include unboxing food, organizing and stocking shelves, categorizing items and removing food boxes from pallets and stacking them in their designated areas.

This outing is open to anyone over the age of four, so gather your family, bring the neighbors or come by yourself and meet new folks. The morning will be dedicated to serving our community.

Those interested often go to lunch together afterward. For questions or to RSVP, please contact Roane Pittman at johnpittmanmd@pnfmc.com.

Presbyterian Women's Summer Book Club

Tuesday, July 30 | 6:00 p.m. at Mama Roja Mexican Kitchen

The Presbyterian Women (PW) are hosting a special summer book club this month, and you don't have to be a part of PW to attend. The book of discussion is "Present Over Perfect: Leaving Behind Frantic for a Simpler, More Soulful Way of Living," by Shauna Niequist. If this is something you're interested in, contact Cyndi Stumpf (cyndi0507@gmail.com) or find the event on the Presbyterian Women FPC Facebook page to RSVP.



First Presbyterian School Summer Camp

Session One, So Much Fun

We had an excellent first week of summer camp, and I hope you all enjoyed the out-of-this-world craft projects hanging about in the hallway that our students created to help kick off Space Week. A highlight for the students was being able to experience an exciting spacewalk complete with an imaginary rocket ship ride. This week really started the summer off with a blast!



Week two we learned about all things garden. We talked about fresh fruit and food prep by peeling and cutting to creating our own fruit-salad snack. We also had a good time during water play pretending to be seeds who need lots of water and sunshine to grow.

In our third week, we enjoyed learning about all kinds of animals during our Animal Camp Week—we even had a special visit from Extreme Animals. So fun! Did I mention we also somehow managed to tie-dye 122 shirts during the week? Our teachers are AMAZING. It's hard to believe we're at the halfway mark. Thank you for your continued support of First Presbyterian School and our summer camp program.



Recap & Kudos: ReNew Vacation Bible School

From Christian Education Director Leigh Miller

Where to start? ReNew Vacation Bible School (VBS) was such a success. We all had so much fun!



If you sent your children, thank you for sharing them with us! Not only did VBS feature four days of singing, dancing, playing games, gardening and making crafts, but children were able to learn about the powerful Parable of the Sower. We spent the week exploring the parable and diving deeper into the meaning that it has for us—our faith in Jesus Christ, sharing that faith with others and our call to care for all of God’s creation.

The success of a program like this is dependent upon the volunteers who come out to teach and lead the children, and we had a wonderful team.

A big shout out and many thanks go to:

- Shepherd leaders Amanda Ogden, Lacey Howard and Wes Howard who guided our kids through the learning stations;
- Darci McKinnon and Nita Cadenhead who helped with registration;
- Angie Sholar who took great care of our pre-K kiddos, teaching and guiding them through the Parable of the Sower;
- Elaine Buzan and Debbie Pittman who prepared and taught our Self Site, as well as helped participants see how the themes of the parable applied to their lives;
- Sherry Golden, Elizabeth Hatcher and Lisa Turner who prepared space in the Community Garden for our kids to explore seeds and roots to connect the parable to their faith and the community;
- Pastor John McKinnon who led the adult study class;
- Jenn Snow and her staff for preparing dinner every night (it was excellent);
- Erica Taylor and Amy and Dean Sergent who led the World Site—an activity where kids experienced fun science and experiments and were encouraged to try new things;
- and our youth volunteers: Aidan McKinnon, Emily Bakhtiari, Lillian and Max Keith and Caroline Rogers who helped with recreation, energizers and leading the younger kids.



Your hard work and dedication are genuinely appreciated, and I can’t wait to see both our volunteers and children back for next summer’s VBS!

Sincerely,

Leigh Miller



2019 Graduate Recognition | CONGRATULATIONS!

Zachary Black [High School]

Zachary Black, son of Brandon and Elizabeth Black, grandson of John and Elaine Buzan, was graduated from Mount Saint Mary Catholic High School this past May. During high school, he played basketball and was on the golf team. Zach received a \$4,500 renewable grant per year from the Chickasaw Nation. He will attend the University of Oklahoma in the fall and plans to major in Business and Pre-Law. Way to go, Zach!



An Update on the Window Repairs

From Facilities Coordinator Jack Lancaster

The window repair project has seen a lot of progress this past month. All the stone was removed from the south window, and an inspection from the engineering company should be completed by the end of the month. That means, by the Fourth of July holiday, the scaffolding at the main Sanctuary entry should be gone until it's time to install



the new stone. On the west window, the new stone has arrived, and installation is underway. It's a very tedious and time-consuming task as it must be precise. This process should take at least a month—possibly longer. Once that is finished, the stained-glass company will take final measurements to refabricate our window's glass. We're excited to see so many moving parts in action. Things are progressing and now it's possible to see the progress being made!

July Birthdays

Happy birthday to all!

01: Jakob Bakhtiari
02: Chloe' Flanagan,
Frances Roach
03: Betty Bourn, Larry Kerr,
A. Francine Smith
05: Chad Backus, Elizabeth
Garrett, Daniel MacLemore
06: Asa Brittan, Kenneth Brown,
Katherine McCraw,
Larry Nichols
08: Brian Broderick, Berkley
Bunch, Rebekah Lusby,
Walter Winfree

09: Emily Etherton
10: Randall Etherton
11: James Borgstadt,
Kathleen Romans
12: Claudia Borquaye, Sheila
Lindell, Rebecca Walden
14: Carolyn Papineau,
Brandon Tyler
16: Alan Nelson, Mia Winfree
20: Katherine Collins,
David Pittman
21: Paula Hirschler,
John McKinnon

22: Terrill Good
23: Gabriel Lusby, Debra
Vermilyea, Dr. Warren
Puffer Jones
24: Kathryn Horn
25: Zane Black
26: Barbara Namminga,
Harold Namminga,
Becky Osmond
28: William Robinson
29: Caroline Kahoe
31: Tina Atwood,
Catherine Davenport

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All are welcome! First Presbyterian Church is affiliated with The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School for all ages: 9:40 a.m.

For more information, please contact the church

office at (405) 525-6584

or email office@fpcokc.org.

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Gratitude & Good News Urban Mission Golf Scramble

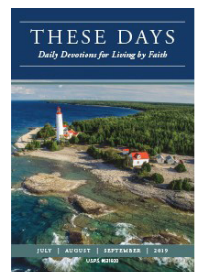
We would like to congratulate Urban Mission for hosting a successful fundraiser! Their June Golf Scramble raised more than \$5,700. Proceeds will benefit the Mission's many programs including its Food and Resource Center, Urban Mission S.P.A.R.K., the Back-to-School Program and the Santa Store.

A huge thanks is in order for FPC-OKC members Richard Hatcher and Eric Turner who both sit on the Urban Mission Board of Directors. With Bill Walden's expertise and guidance, the pair helped organize the Golf Scramble, raised donations and found teams to compete. We're also very thankful for the 13 FPC-OKC members who were able to participate in the event and all those who contributed via sponsorship.

The efforts of everyone involved truly helped contribute to serving Oklahomans in need.

"These Days" Daily Devotions for Living by Faith

Strengthen your faith with "These Days," an inspiring and uplifting daily devotional! Each issue of "These Days" features scripture suggestions, thought-provoking daily reflections written by clergy and lay leaders, inspiring prayers and colorful artwork on the outside covers with poems, prayers and songs pertinent to the issue's theme.



Pick up your free copy in the church office. It's open Sundays beginning 30 minutes before worship service up to 30 minutes after the Sanctuary worship service. Business hours are Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.