

# First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

## The Service for the Lord's Day — January 22, 2023 Third Sunday After Epiphany

A special welcome to those visiting with us today!

We are grateful for your presence with us and hope you find this time of worship to be meaningful.

### We Gather to Worship

#### PRELUDE

*Canzona per Sonare No.3*

Giovanni Gabrieli

Blackwelder Brass

arr. James P. Gray

Connor Tipton, Bruno Zuniga-Hernandez, trumpets; Jose Diaz, horn;

Trey Cole, trombone; Nick Brown, tuba

#### WORDS OF WELCOME, CHURCH LIFE

#### FIRST CHIME

#### INTROIT

*Praise Ye the Lord*

LOBE DEN HERREN

Sanctuary Singers, Blackwelder Brass

arr. W. P. Jones

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP - *Psalm 52:8-9*

Leader: I am like an olive tree flourishing in the house of God;

**People: I trust in God's unfailing love for ever and ever.**

Leader: For what you have done, I will always praise you in the presence of your faithful people.

**People: And I will hope in your name, for your name is good.**

**All: Let us worship God!**

#### \*HYMN 14

*For the Beauty of the Earth*

DIX

#### \*PRAYER OF THE DAY (Unison)

Delores Strider

**God of light and truth, you are beyond our grasp or conceiving. Before the brightness of your presence the angels veil their faces. With lowly reverence and adoring love we acclaim your glory and sing your praise, for you have shown us your truth and love in Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## For the Beauty of the Earth

14

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the glo - ry of the skies,  
 2 For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,  
 4 For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,  
 5 For thy - self, best gift di - vine to the world so free - ly given;

for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies:  
 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight:  
 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 for that great, great love of thine, peace on earth and joy in heaven:

*Refrain*

Lord of all, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

In the course of many revisions, the original eucharistic emphasis of this text has shifted to a hymn of thanksgiving for a wide range of human experience, with a Christological summation. It is set here to the tune that is customary in North America, though not elsewhere.

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)**

**Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. Have mercy on us, O God. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin and renew a right spirit within us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord.** (silent confession)

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE** Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.  
To this peace we are called as members of a single body.  
The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**\*HYMN OF RESPONSE 582** *Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me* GLORY TO GOD (Vasile)  
*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,  
and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,  
and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

## **We Proclaim God's Word**

**DISCOVERY TIME** Children are invited forward for a special message. Cyndi Lockwood  
Children seated on the Chancel steps will be in view of the livestream image;  
those on the floor facing the steps will not.  
Afterwards, a nursery is provided in Room 119 for children four and under.  
Children—5 years old to 4th grade—are invited to attend Children's Church in Room 215.  
Parents may pick up children after worship from those locations.

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**ANTHEM**

*Praise, Praise the Lord*

Jay Althouse

Sanctuary Singers, Blackwelder Brass

*Praise, praise the Lord, all ye people! Praise the Lord who is great and exalted. Praise the Lord; he is Savior and King. We stand before him in wonder. We stand before him and sing. The earth rejoices and then our voices will ring! Praise the Lord from the hill to the valley. Praise the Lord from the sea to the sky. God speaks and all the earth listens; with thanks we humbly reply. Our heart rejoices, and we raise our voices on high. Praise the Lord of the strong and the weary. Praise the Lord of the great and small. The lamb will lie with the lion; they both will follow God's call. And now we sing of him, for he is King of them all.  
Praise the Lord, all ye people!*

## PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 9:1-4 (pg. 638)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SOLO

*Lord, Here Am I*

John Ness Beck

Jennifer Coffman, mezzo-soprano

arr. Craig Courtney

*Master, Thou callest, I gladly obey; only direct me, and I'll find Thy way. Teach me the mission appointed for me, what is my labor, and where it shall be. Master, Thou callest, and this I reply, "Ready and willing, Lord, here am I." Willing, my Savior, to take up the cross; willing to suffer reproaches and loss; willing to follow, if Thou wilt but lead; only support me with grace in my need. Living or dying, I still would be Thine, yet I am mortal while Thou art divine. Pardon, whenever I turn from the right; pity, and bring me again to the light.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:12-23 (pg. 3)

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

*Follow Me*

Rev. John C. McKinnon

## We Respond to God's Word

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty; Maker of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;  
He descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints;  
The forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### \*HYMN 269

*Lead On, O King Eternal*

LANCASHIRE

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONSE

*Hear Our Prayer, O God*

WHELPTON

Sanctuary Singers

### OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*Simple Gifts*

arr. Sterling Procter

Blackwelder Brass

### \*PRESENTATION HYMN

*Doxology*

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below; Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;  
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. Amen.***

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## 269 Lead On, O King Eternal!

1 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal! The day of march has come;  
2 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal, till sin's fierce war shall cease,  
3 Lead on, O King e - ter - nal: we fol - low, not with fears,

hence-forth in fields of con - quest your tents shall be our home.  
and ho - li - ness shall whis - per the sweet a - men of peace;  
for glad-ness breaks like morn - ing wher - e'er your face ap - pears;

Through days of prep - a - ra - tion your grace has made us strong,  
for not with swords' loud clash - ing, nor roll of stir - ring drums;  
your cross is lift - ed o'er us; we jour - ney in its light.

and now, O King e - ter - nal, we lift our bat - tle song.  
with deeds of love and mer - cy the heaven-ly king-dom comes.  
The crown a - waits the con - quest; lead on, O God of might!

Not everything that looks like a battle ends up being one. This text, written for a seminary graduation, works well with its martial tune in the first stanza; but later stanzas turn from such imagery and focus on "deeds of love and mercy" and courage for life's journey.

# We Go in God's Name

\*HYMN 721

*Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore*

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

*Dance*

Wilke Renwick

Blackwelder Brass

The flowers today are given to the glory of God  
and in memory of her husband, James,  
by Delores Strider.

The rosebud on the communion table  
is in celebration of the birth of John Matthew Homan and Jason Michael Homan, born January 17.  
Congratulations to parents Justin and Haley Homan and great-grandmother Bobbie Heimbach!

## Today

### Sunday School | 9:30 a.m.

- Youth Sunday School | Youth Lounge
- Children's Sunday School | Room 213

### Annual Corporate and Ecclesiastical Meeting of the Congregation 9:45 a.m. | Sanctuary

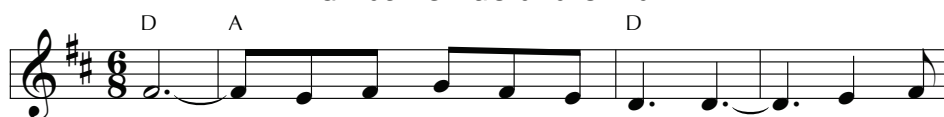
### Sanctuary Worship | 11:00 a.m.

### Winter Coat & Sweatshirt Drive

Partnering with the Homeless Alliance, FPC-OKC is ministering to the city's population experiencing homelessness by providing warm coats and sweatshirts (men's size large and up).

Please bring gently used or new items to church during the month of January. **There are donation tubs in the narthex and Reception Center.** If you prefer to donate money, the Mission Council will be happy to do your shopping for you.

## 721 Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

*Tú has venido a la orilla*

1 Lord, you have come to the lake - shore look - ing  
 2 You know so well my pos - ses - sions; my boat  
 3 You need my hands, full of car - ing, through my  
 4 You, who have fished oth - er o - ceans, ev - er



nei - ther for wealth - y nor wise ones; you on - ly  
 car - ries no gold and no weap - ons; 7 you will  
 la - bors to give oth - ers rest and con - stant  
 longed for by souls who are wait - ing, my lov - ing



asked me to fol - low hum - bly.  
 find there my nets and la - bor.  
 love that keeps on lov - ing.  
 friend, as thus you call me:

*Refrain / Estribillo*

O Lord, with your eyes you have searched me, and while  
 Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos, son - ri -



smil - ing have spo - ken my name; now my  
 en - do has di - cho mi nom - bre, en la a -

This is one of the most popular songs to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious song in Spain. It asks singers to become like the fishermen who left boats and nets to follow Jesus, first as disciples learning his way of love, then as apostles carrying that love to others.

boat's left on the shore-line be - hind me. By your  
 re - na he de - ja - do mi bar - ca, jun - to a

side I will seek oth - er seas.  
 ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.

## SPANISH

- 1 Tú has venido a la orilla,  
 no has buscado ni a sabios, ni a ricos,  
 tan sólo quieres que yo te siga. Estribillo
- 2 Tú sabes bien lo que tengo:  
 en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas,  
 tan solo redes y mi trabajo. Estribillo
- 3 Tú necesitas mis manos,  
 mi cansancio que a otros descansa,  
 amor que quiera seguir amando. Estribillo
- 4 Tú, pescador de otros lagos,  
 ansia eterna de almas que esperan,  
 amigo bueno, que así me llamas. Estribillo



## Upcoming Events

### **KirkNight To-go — Wednesday, January 25 | 5:00-6:00 p.m.**

KirkNight To-go is back in the new year! Junebug Catering's delicious meals will be available for pick-up from 5:00-6:00 p.m. by the ramp behind the kitchen. **To order, call, text, or email Jenn Snow (405-408-3608 or [jenn@junebugcatering.com](mailto:jenn@junebugcatering.com)).**

**Menu:** Orange Chicken, Fried Rice, Steamed Broccoli, Egg Rolls, Matcha Cupcakes

**Family Meal for 4-6:** \$30 | Dessert \$5.00

**Meal for 2:** \$15 | Dessert \$2.50

### **Yoga — Wednesdays | 6:30 p.m.**

Warm up with some yoga on Wednesday evenings! Join us in the Rec Room downstairs.

## **Presbyterian Women**

### **Galentine's Tea — Sunday, February 5 | 12:15 p.m.**

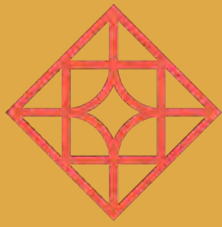
The Presbyterian Women invite all the women of the church to attend a Galentine's Tea! Wear your favorite or fanciest hat (we will have extras available, if needed). The tea will be hosted in the Reception Center. **RSVP by calling the church office (405.525.6584) or online at [tinyurl.com/PWtea2023](https://tinyurl.com/PWtea2023).**

## **Education Opportunity**

### **Student Grant Applications 2023**

The Presbyterian Women of Indian Nations Presbytery offer scholarships to Presbyterian students ages 17-25 doing undergraduate work. To obtain an application and review the eligibility requirements, visit [tinyurl.com/PWgrant2023](https://tinyurl.com/PWgrant2023).

**The deadline to apply is Friday, March 31.**



First Presbyterian Church  
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

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2022

Annual  
Report

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# Officers of First Presbyterian Church

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## **MODERATOR**

Rev. John C. McKinnon

## **CLERK OF SESSION**

Barbara Charlet

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## **ELDERS**

### **Class of 2023**

Rachel Boggess  
Mary Ann Doolen  
Larry Nichols  
Jim Tack  
Steve Whaylen

### **Class of 2024**

Jim Boughman  
Paula Denner  
John Harris  
Amanda Ogden  
Richard Riggs

### **Class of 2025**

Gary Bryant  
Becky Osmond  
Angie Sholar  
Erica Taylor  
Jana Winfree

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## **DEACONS**

### **Class of 2023**

Lacey Howard  
Travis Johnson  
Scott Wilson  
John Woodard

### **Class of 2024**

John Ellis  
Holly Guadiana  
Seth Keeton  
Blaine Moore

### **Class of 2025**

Sam Borquaye  
Elizabeth Hatcher  
Barbara Namminga  
Bert Orza

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## **TRUSTEES**

### **Class of 2023**

Don Carter  
Brad Davenport  
Eric Foster  
Harold Namminga

### **Class of 2024**

Dan MacLemore  
Bret Sholar  
Richard Hatcher

### **Class of 2025**

Wayne Osmond  
Susan Perry-LeGrand  
Jan Robinson

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**AD HOC:** Ron Grace, Alan Nelson, Bill Robinson, Jim Tack

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## **ENDOWMENT FUND TRUSTEES**

### **Class of 2023**

Sam Dykeman, Treasurer  
Janet Eselin

### **Class of 2024**

Ken Brown, President  
Bud McLean, Vice President

### **Class of 2025**

Madelaine Hawkins  
Eric Turner

# Greetings from the Pastor

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## *What lies ahead..*

My commute to work this morning was glorious. It was a dark overcast morning with a very distinctive circle of low grey clouds sitting right on top of the metro. But the circle was defined and if you looked east, the most brilliant purple, red, and orange colors were breaking over the horizon. My Creator God was getting ready to do amazing things with another day of life in God's world.

I look back on 2022 with much gratitude for the myriad ways First Presbyterian followed the Spirit's leading in mission, ministry, and worship. The pages that follow tell another chapter of God's continuing relationship with the life of this congregation.

I'm blessed and grateful to be surrounded by dedicated staff and talented members that freely give their gifts to the glory of God and the ministry of the church. It's inspiring to witness God's loving and active presence in our lives. I am grateful that we are blessed with financial resources that allowed us not to be crippled by the need to undergo a major building repair. I'm more keenly aware of my gratitude for those who have gone before us. Their forethought and generosity allow our congregation to use our campus to its fullest potential.

However, even in places of gratitude the Christian is not to linger. Isaiah 43:18-19 reads, "Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Faithful living is about looking forward to what lies beyond the horizon of our life's experience with confident joy. The ultimate expression of this is in our dying. Just as we know that the horizon is not the end of the world, only the limit of our human vision; so too, physical death is not the end of our life with God through Christ, merely the limit of our human experience.

That same thought carries for each new day. That is what living a redeemed life is about, seizing each new day as an opportunity to discover what God has planned for you. There are still paths to be made in the wilderness. There are still parched wastelands of life where people long for streams of grace to flow.

As we say goodbye to 2022 and thank you to God for new members, baptisms, weddings, and the salvation of our friends who we have joyfully and painfully returned to God's care, let us turn to Jeremiah as we discover what lies just over the horizon of 2023.

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* -Jeremiah 29:11

Will 2023 be a wonderful year? Absolutely. Will 2023 be a difficult year? Of course! But as we negotiate the blessings, wilderness, and wastelands, we do it secure in the knowledge that God has a plan for you. You have hope. You have a future. And not just a future, but a glorious future won for you by a God who loves almost beyond comprehension. It is with this confidence and joy that we look forward to what lies ahead in 2023. Let the adventure of the next horizon begin! God bless us and grant that all we read about next year in this report be glimpses of your glory.

Pastor John

# Clerk of Session

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The primary duties of the Clerk are to record and preserve the minutes of Session meetings, maintain Church membership rolls, and provide informational extracts to other Church governing bodies upon request.

In addition, the Clerk is responsible for correspondence related to Certificates of Transfer and Baptismal records, as well as assisting with the Installation of Elders and Deacons.

The Clerk is also responsible for maintaining records of births, deaths, marriages, membership, baptisms, and service records of Elders, Deacons, and Trustees.

In 2022:

- Completed the 2021 Annual Statistical Report to Presbytery/General Assembly.
- Attended and recorded the minutes of 11 monthly Session meetings. No meeting was convened in July.
- Attended and recorded minutes of two Congregational Meetings:
  - February 27 - for the purpose of sharing the 2021 Necrology Report, distribution of the Annual Report, presentation of the 2022 Budget, and to approve any changes to the Pastoral compensation package and terms of call.
  - October 23 – for the purpose of receiving and acting upon the report of the Nominating Committee for electing officers: Elders, Deacons, Trustees, and the 2024 Nominating Committee.
- Distributed minutes to Session members, and following approval, filed minutes for the permanent record of the Church.
- Participated in 9 baptism services
- Participated in services in which 12 new members were received into the life of First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City.

Barbara Charlet  
Clerk of Session

# Director of Music and Arts

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After the complexities of the pandemic years of 2020 and 2021, 2022 proved to be a more typical year for the Music and Arts Ministries at First Presbyterian Church as we continued to give glory to God through our music!

All our ensembles—the Sanctuary Singers, the Sanctuary Ringers, and the Treble Choir—continued to grow in spirit and musical skill in 2022, and they served the congregation by providing engaging music for worship services throughout the year.

As ever, John Edwards makes excellent music 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. Cady Lewis led the Treble Choir, teaching our young members the joy of singing while learning new musical skills.



I am very grateful to the soloists who have been the backbone of our music program during this pandemic. Cady Lewis and Jennifer Coffman are excellent leaders for the choir and sing beautifully in worship. Noah Morgan left FPC-OKC in May of 2022 to pursue other opportunities as he completes his education at OCU. Mitchell Gage, who had led the bass section since the fall of 2019, suffered a stroke in March, and we continue to pray for him as he travels the long path of recovery with his family in Iowa. We are so grateful to both Noah and Mitchell for sharing their gifts of music with us.

Several members have played instruments in worship, including Linda Bosteels, Gary Bryant, Dorothy Hays, and Hannah and Miriam Lusby. The Blackwelder Brass augmented our worship in the spring and fall, and the Oklahoma Scottish Pipes and Drums joined us for Homecoming Sunday and Reformation Sunday.



The Kemp Concert Series continued its return to normal operations with two live, in-person concerts in 2022: a performance of the Beethoven Mass in C by the Kemp Concert Choir in May (rescheduled from its original date of May 2020) and a delightful concert by the Vienna Boys Choir in November.

It continues to be a delight to witness the joy that this congregation takes from music in praise of God, whether we are together in person or in spirit through livestream. 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!

Warren Puffer Jones  
Director of Music & Arts



# Deacons

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The theme for the Deacons in 2022 was *Fellowship*, and we looked for ways to do that together as a congregation. With three regular meals that we've sponsored for many years, we were able to gather at Easter with our annual brunch, our Back-to-School Lunch to gather school supplies, and our New Member Lunch to celebrate those joining FPC-OKC since 2019. The Free Little Pantry across the street from the church also received a monthly donation.

During 2022, the Deacons were finally able to get back to normal activities for the majority of the year. We started having coffee and cookies in the Reception Center in January—it was suspended for the next two months because of the pandemic, but we were able to resume in April.

On Mother's Day, the women in the congregation were given roses and the men of the church received a Braum's gift card on Father's Day. Our two high school graduating seniors were each presented with \$500. We sent birthday cards to members and organized Lunch/Supper Shuffle groups twice during the year.

We attended Session meetings to keep the Elders up to date on our activities and once a month we shared those items with the congregation during worship. Each Deacon reached out to four FPC-OKC members by either visiting, calling, and/or writing notes. We were able to take communion four times to members in their homes. As one person stated, "This is a ministry to those members who can no longer be with us in worship." An Out & About trip to a Dodger's baseball game was fun for members, and we continue to have a prayer list and prayer chain for joys, sorrows, and healing.

On the last two Sundays of December, we handed out Christmas gifts to members. Each received a 100-piece jigsaw puzzle of the Chancel Window, also known as the Witness Window. We delivered puzzles to those who were unable to be in church those Sundays.

Thanks to Scott Wilson, moderator; Blaine Moore, vice-moderator; and Seth Keeton, secretary, for leading the Diaconate this past year. We also thank Lacey Howard, Travis Johnson, John Woodard, and Scott for their three years of service on the Board as well as Bert Orza for her one year of service. We look forward to having Bill Hancock, Wes Howard, Amy Martin, and Jamie Slade join the Board in 2023. Other members serving are Blaine as moderator; Elizabeth Hatcher, vice moderator; Holly Guadiana, secretary; and John Ellis, Seth Keeton, Sam Borquaye, Barbara Namminga, and John Woodard (filling an unexpired 2-year term). Rev. John McKinnon's leadership has been invaluable.

The Deacons are funded entirely by your donations, so we continue to be appreciative of your support. We will continue our job of reaching out to the members of this congregation with the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the will of God!

Blaine Moore  
Vice-Moderator





# Worship Committee

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Listed below are the active members for the year 2022:

- Rev. John McKinnon (Pastor)
- Dr. Warren Puffer Jones (Director of Music)
- John L. Edwards (Organist)
- Erica Burden Taylor (Chair), John Harris and Jana Winfree (Active Elders)
- Jean Nelson (Chancel and Candles)
- George Kamp and Sam Scobey (Audio/Video/Livestream)
- Kova McLean (Flowers)

2022 brought the most “normal” worship experience FPC-OKC has had in the past two years as we welcomed back all in-person services. We were also able to commence our communion schedule and begin our Easter vigil again.

A special thank you to John McKinnon, Puffer Jones, and John Edwards; how blessed we are, as a church, to have three individuals so devoted to our congregation.

Per usual, Jack and Matt Lancaster gave of their time and physical selves to help worship in any way possible; I continue to owe all of our beautiful Christmas decorations to them.

I give many thanks, as well, to Jana, Jean, and John for their wise guidance, advice, and willingness to serve the church in so many ways. We are grateful, as well, for George and Sam, two young adults who bless us with their talents (Sunday mornings!) so that those who cannot be with us in body, might be with us in spirit.

Along with my friends, I look forward to the coming year with great hope and joy.

In Christ's love,

Erica Burden Taylor  
Chairperson



# Nurture Committee

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In 2022, the Nurture Committee was hard at work with programs to foster Christian spirituality among First Presbyterian members, young and old. The year marked a gradual loosening of Covid restrictions, and the committee's strategies reflected a continuing sensitivity to the safety of members and guests.

Under the Nurture umbrella there are several organizations that conduct activities in the building during the week. These include SPARK, First Presbyterian School, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, and El Sistema. These programs provide a wonderful use of our facilities for thoughtful and constructive programs.

The Nurture Committee oversees and supports a number of ongoing church programs. Those include the nursery, youth, and children's ministries, adult Sunday school classes, and KirkNight. This year adult Sunday School opportunities included the Evergreen, Builders, New Beginnings, and Pastor's classes. The year also saw the return of KirkNight, structured as "KirkNight To-go," and offered an opportunity for members to pick up meals prepared by Junebug Catering each Wednesday.

In addition to these ongoing activities, the Nurture Committee sponsored a number of one-time events in 2022. These included the distribution of yard signs to church members for both Lent and Advent; providing gifts to confirmands Max Keith and Caroline Kivett and high school graduates Miriam Lusby and Robert Cochran; a very successful Fall Festival (under the great leadership of Erica Taylor); ADVENTure; and Rally Day. A special event in 2022 was the Homecoming lunch where a number of current and former FPC-OKC members we had not recently seen joined us for a homecoming celebration.



A special outreach of the church in 2022 was the sponsorship of a work/study trip undertaken by a group of high school youth from McKinney, Texas. This trip was organized primarily by John McKinnon. It included time for work at The Urban Mission and for a study of domestic terrorism (including a trip to the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial and Museum), with time left for fun and fellowship (including a pool party at the home of Mark and Mary Ann Doolen). We hope this outreach can be continued and expanded in future years!

A special word of appreciation goes to Cyndi Lockwood. Cyndi has done an outstanding job of organizing quality Christian education programs for our youth of all ages and played an instrumental role in a number of events involving our youth, including the Easter Egg Hunt and ADVENTure.

We anticipate that in 2023 we will be able to take a few more steps in the return to normalcy. The Nurture Committee stands ready to provide interesting, creative, and challenging opportunities for the congregation's spiritual growth.

Richard Riggs  
Moderator

## Children & Youth Ministry

2022 marked the year that we were back to full-time meeting in person for Sunday School and during worship after the children's sermon.

Sadly, we had to say goodbye to Sean Smith as he ventured west to continue his studies in drama and acting. He was a huge asset to our program and is greatly missed. We wish him the best!



Our biggest undertaking was hosting a full-fledged Bible School for six Sundays, beginning in July and continuing through August. It was a *Monumental* adventure with a southwest theme and taught monumental ideas about God. Kids participated in singing favorite Bible School songs, teamwork building games, science experiments, eating desert-themed snacks, and collecting desert toy figurines to remind them of their adventures. We had over 20 children attend this “monumental” event. While the kids met, their parents enjoyed a breakfast fellowship time together. We look forward to repeating this program in 2023.



The desire for a Bible School curriculum with a central theme supported by Bible stories and practical, real-life examples in our children's lives prompted a hunt for a new Sunday School curriculum. An all-digital one was found called *Dig In, Foundations of Faith*. It has been used since the Sunday after Rally Day with positive success.



Other Sunday School events included: Family Board Game Night, Donut Valentine's Day Zoom Breakfast with Pastor John, enjoying our new church playground, planting resurrection gardens, the return of the Easter Egg Hunt, a Halloween party at the Taylor's, a star-themed ADVENTure evening complete with a very noisy, but popular, hammering to make a constellation tool, and making gingerbread houses.



Phew, all that required many helping hands. Thank you to Katie Davenport (who volunteers weekly), Debbie Pittman, Jack Ogden, Emily Johnson, Amanda Ogden, John Ellis, Elaine Buzan, Nita Cadenhead, Susan Mullins, Siobhan Morava, Brooke Kivett, Caroline Kivett, Lanie Wallace, Catherine Duncan, and anyone we may have missed. Thank you!

Cyndi Lockwood  
Children's Ministry Assistant



# SPARK - Support Program of Art and Reading for Kids!

2022 was a wonderful year for the SPARK Program. Many great things happened. Last spring, we had around 40 children enrolled in after school care. I am excited to say we are ending the year with over 60 children enrolled, which is significant as our licensed capacity is 60 children per day!

In the Fall of 2022, we were able to bring back before school care and have been caring for and transporting a group of 17 children to seven schools. Before school child care is a needed service in our area and we are happy to provide it. For after school care, we've been able to transport and care for children attending ten schools in our area, and we were able to start a partnership with the new charter school, Western Gateway, in the Wheeler District! We hope to increase our presence there and provide more child care for families in the years to come.

Our staff have been working hard to further themselves professionally and educationally. Our staff are blessed to all be able to qualify for a scholarship to Oklahoma City Community College to pursue a Certificate of Mastery in Child Development or an Associates in Child Development!



In 2022, we had two teachers take the plunge and begin courses. Two more teachers have committed to start college at OCCC in 2023. How amazing is that? We're so proud of our teachers and can't wait for our children to reap the benefits as each teacher learns and grows through the Scholars for Excellence in Child Care scholarship program. Each teacher has also been working hard to advance in their careers through training opportunities, applying for certificates of achievement through the Center for Early Childhood Professional Development, and striving to get higher Professional Development Ladder levels through the CECPD as well. We have an amazing group of teachers who genuinely love working with our children, and we are lucky to have them.







SPARK has been a 2 out of 3-Star facility through Oklahoma's quality rating and improvement system, Reaching for the Stars, since 2004. In 2022, the state announced they were revamping the whole program and would be adding two additional star levels. We decided to go big or go home. We are excited to announce that SPARK achieved the highest star level and was awarded 5 stars!

In addition to our state subsidy contract to provide child care for families who qualify for state assistance and our tribal contract with the Caddo Nation for native children, we were granted a contract with the Delaware Nation in 2022 and we're working on getting a contract with the Kickapoo Nation in 2023.

2023 will be our 39th year serving our community and I have a feeling it is going to be spectacular!

We would like to thank everyone who has given to our program with your gifts and talents over the past year. You have helped make SPARK a place where parents know their children are loved and well cared for and where school-age children can thrive.

Tish Harrison  
SPARK Director





# Boy Scouts

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Troop 15 stayed busy in 2022. Over 80% of our Scouts achieved rank advancement during the year, and every Scout earned several Merit Badges. We currently have five Scouts that are working toward their Eagle Scout rank.

The Troop camped in every corner of the state as part of our outdoors program. A highlight was our annual ThanksCamp the week before Thanksgiving, during which the Scouts cooked a full Thanksgiving meal for the entire Troop family. ThanksCamp was also a new event as the Troop camped with First Presbyterian Cub Scout Pack 469 for the first time. We had a total of 42 Scouts and parents for that camp.

We attended a new summer camp, Wehinahpay Mountain Camp in SE New Mexico, at 8000 feet altitude. Our Scouts earned more than 40 Merit Badges and participated in a host of other activities, including rock climbing, welding, fishing, shooting sports, and gardening. The Troop also participated in several service projects, including Cub Scout Octoberfest and Cub Scout Winter Days.

The Troop has 15 adult leaders. Three of our Eagle Scouts spent the summer as staff members at Scouting Seabase, a high adventure site located in the Caribbean that is focused on ocean activities. Our Committee Chair is Troop 15 Eagle Scout Stephen Harris, and our Scoutmaster is Bill Hensley. Our Troop Committee helps execute the program that is developed by the Scouts each year. Our adult volunteers include Treasurer, Advancement Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Outdoors Program Chair. The Troop is 23 Scouts strong as we enter 2023. The Troop is planning our summer camp at Buffalo Bill Scout Ranch in Wyoming, including three days at Yellowstone National Park.

Scouting remains strong at First Presbyterian Church, and the Scouts and adult leaders recognize First Presbyterian for the steadfast support of the Scouting program of Troop 15, YEA!

Bill Hensley  
Scoutmaster, Scouts BSA Troop 15



# First Presbyterian School

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In 2022, First Presbyterian School set many goals for our program. Our top five goals were to grow our program to pre-pandemic levels, improve our classrooms, stabilize our staffing issues, increase our enrollment, and add new programs to our curriculum. During 2022, First Presbyterian School accomplished many of the goals we set for ourselves with the help of our amazing staff, families, and grant money from the state.

In late spring, we were able to welcome our families back into the building. This act alone has helped bring back the connection between our families and teachers. While it can be loud during drop-off and pick-up, children's laughter is a joyous sound.

FPS applied for and received grant money from the state of Oklahoma, and we used those funds in 2022 to focus on improvements to our classrooms. This summer we were able to have all the classrooms, cabinets, and windows painted. We also had new blinds installed in all of the rooms.

In addition to the cosmetic changes, we were also able to finalize the creation of our new Zen Zone, which is a tranquil place for individual students or entire classes to focus on breathing and other de-stimulating strategies to help strengthen emotional regulation.

Along with adding Zen Zone activities, we have revamped our specials programs. Now our preschool students receive physical exercise, art, library, dramatic play, and STEM each week. These programs allow our students to learn many skills through play and hands-on experiments. Without even realizing it, they are learning conflict resolution and creative problem solving all while having fun with their friends.

In August, we reopened the baby room. We began the 2022-23 school year with six sweet children from the age of six months to one year old. FPS now has seven classes serving children from six months to five years old.

Currently, we have strong, dedicated, and dependable staff. During this economic time, we are grateful for our amazing staff.

In 2023, we plan to update and enrich all our programs, playground, and continue to grow our enrollment. First Presbyterian School would like to thank the congregation for its continued support of our program. We are proud to partner with First Presbyterian Church for our 23rd year and look forward to many more to come!

Lanie Denner  
Director





# Mission Council

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First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City is actively involved in mission work in our local community, as well as regionally and internationally. One fourth of our budget went to Indian Nations Presbytery, along with portions of our special offerings. We continue to financially support Jesus House, Goodland Academy, Cornell Gallagher's Free Little Pantry, and The Urban Mission. In 2022, we increased our support and connection with Hope House of Guthrie and Pivot in OKC. We also added Norman Care-A-Vans and Innocence Project to the local charities we support.

Our monthly purple bag donations alternated between The Urban Mission and the Afghan refugees. Our Christmas food boxes and hygiene bags went to 330 families this year. Over 40 volunteers were on hand to help with assembling and filling the boxes.

FPC-OKC has continued to support the Afghan refugees settling in Oklahoma, including financial support for setting up apartments, assistance with household items, purchasing books for the summer reading program, computers, and winter clothing.

FPC-OKC participates in all four annual PCUSA Special Offerings. Thank you for your help in funding these worthwhile causes.

- |                             |           |                            |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------------------|
| • Joy Offering (2021)       | \$1270.00 |                            |
| • One Great Hour of Sharing | \$2311.19 |                            |
| • Pentecost Offering        | \$1710.00 | (40% to SPARK)             |
| • Peace Offering            | \$513.50  | (25% to Innocence Project) |

The Christmas Joy Offering for 2022 will be reported in the 2023 budget year.

Mission Council participated in the Fall Festival in several ways. The Creation Care Team provided numerous activities in the Community Garden, including demonstrations of types of squash, squash baking, pasta craft, story time, pumpkin patch activities, and much more. Several of our supported organizations had tables at the festival, including Innocence Project, The Urban Mission, and Norman Care-A-Vans.

Reserve the Third volunteer activities included sorting and boxing food at The Urban Mission, setting up apartments for two Afghan families, cleaning up the Community Garden for spring planting, OKC Litter Blitz, and planting three trees in the playground area.

The Creation Care Team recognized Earth Day by distributing reusable produce bags to the congregation. The Community Garden included 10 gardeners and 20 plots, successfully growing vegetables, wildflowers, and pollinator plants.

Jim Tack  
Moderator





# Board of Trustees

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The Board of Trustees is responsible for oversight of the church property and facilities—a task at times daunting due to the challenge of an aging building, but tempered by its beauty.

Physical Plant: All other projects were overshadowed by the need to replace the over twenty-year-old air chiller (air-conditioning system). Although very expensive, Trustees and Session agreed there was no other reasonable option. Temporary equipment was rented to enable worship and all programs to operate during the hot weather. The order was placed and the unit manufactured. Its arrival for installation is anticipated in the next few weeks. Beautiful new carpet has been installed in the Chapel thanks to a generous gift from a congregant couple. The Chancel lighting has been replaced—a long overdue project and not an easy task because a ramp had to be built to allow the use of a lift to reach the ceiling. Due to prior installation issues, the carpet in the Sanctuary has been replaced for the second time (at no cost) which allowed for some changes to further enhance the sound of music. Thanks to the Creation Care Team, three new trees were planted adjacent to the playground. Maintenance projects were numerous and are eternal, but in 2022 included various stairwell painting projects, dealing with standing water issues in the courtyard, eliminating issues with kitchen drainage, and the removal of several dead trees.



Building Use: As the community emerged from Covid restrictions, building use increased significantly. In addition to worship services, programs including SPARK, El Sistema, First Presbyterian School, and Boy and Girl Scouts moved full speed ahead. Richard Hatcher served as liaison to Boy Scouts. Joyfully, many old friends including Triad, the Kemp Concert Series, TACTUS, the Society of Strings, and OCU Vespers returned. For the first time, FPC-OKC was the location for filming a scene in a movie. Trustees conducted a transportation survey with vehicle users and continued to review and revise safety and use procedures for both internal and external groups.

Administrative: Annual contracts with tenants Junebug Catering, Indian Nations Presbytery, First Presbyterian School, and El Sistema were updated and renewed. All tenants received a rent increase this year. Legal guidance pertaining to all usage was provided. An ad hoc committee to determine the desire and feasibility of a FPC-OKC Columbarium was established with Eric Foster as chair and additional members Kay Brown, Fran Smith, Jamie Slade, and Richard Hatcher. This committee's work will continue into the new year. Trustees also forwarded nominations to the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees for Session approval.

Thanks to Trustees Harold Namminga, Wayne Osmond, Bret Sholar, Don Carter, Dan MacLemore, Susan Perry-LeGrand, Richard Hatcher, Brad Davenport, and Eric Foster for their diligence and enthusiasm and to Jack Lancaster, Facilities Manager, for his dedication.

Jan Robinson  
Chair

# Presbyterian Women

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PW's theme for 2022 was: "Women with a Purpose."

As Presbyterian Women, we've been able to spend more time being purposeful with our Sabbath habits (this year's Bible study focus) as well as our actions. We're volunteering our time with organizations that are close to our hearts as well as spending more time enjoying our blessings.

We want to express our sincere gratitude to our congregation for its continued support of our fundraising efforts, which help us support the mission of the worldwide Church.

Below are some of our activities this year:

- Provided financial support to:
  - Spark - \$700
  - FPS - \$700
  - The Urban Mission - \$700
  - Goodland Academy - \$500
  - Mobile Meals - \$2,200
- We hosted a Cookies & Cocoa event for the congregation in December
- In September, we celebrated PW Month. We honored the Woman of the Year, Erica Taylor, at our luncheon as well as handed out our new PW Directory. Each Sunday in September, we shared information from the pulpit about PW.
- We also raised funds selling Christmas cookie mixes. Thank you to everyone who helped make this fundraiser our most successful!
- Several circles also completed mission work on their own, including collecting socks for the homeless and making Blossom Bundles to be distributed to people who menstruate.
- Priscilla, Phoebe, and Abigail Circles have continued to meet in person for Bible study and fellowship.

Emily Johnson  
Moderator



# Mobile Meals

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As of the end of the year, we have 27 recipients on our two routes and have served 2,655 meals in 2022. FPC-OKC is one of 55 (or more) providers in the metropolitan area. This year we participated with Messiah Lutheran and others to provide Thanksgiving Day meals.

The people who are currently participating in food preparation include: Rachel Boggess, Gayle Cox, Nita Cadenhead, Lynn Cupit, Mary Ann Doolen, Linda Herider, Carren MacLemore, Damon Martin, Nancy Myer, Bert Orza, David Poole\*, and Aurora Quezada\*. Drivers/deliverers include: Hank Birkner\*, Rachel Boggess, Kay Brown, Scott Buxton, Linda and son James Robert Herider, Kari Maxwell and dad Roger Scott\* and wife Candy\*, Lolieta Miller, Blaine Moore, Bert Orza, Wayne Osmond, Aurora Quezada\*, Richard Riggs, and Brian Upp. “On-call” or substitute drivers include Barbara Charlet. Delivery of the meals is very important because these folks have actual contact with the recipients, making sure they are all right. This contact and friendship really are equally important to the meal. (\*not an FPC-OKC member)

There are other requirements to make this mission work—such as preparing boxes to be filled with the meals, planning menus, buying food and supplies, scheduling cooks and drivers/deliverers, and keeping records—that’s my job right now.

What happens when building closures occur on Mondays or Fridays? On the previous meal day, we include a bag of meal and snack items. For instance, in 2022 the building was closed on Memorial Day; Labor Day; Friday, November 25; and Monday, December 26.

While we have been affected by availability of some items from time to time as well as the increase in prices, so far we have been able to continue to provide nutritious, delicious, and pleasing-to-the-sight meals!

We are truly grateful for those who cook, drive/deliver, and provide funds for the continuation of this important ministry. Some have gone “above and beyond” what the ministry asks. We can certainly use more volunteers and invite anyone to visit us on a Monday or Friday morning for a cup of coffee and maybe a pastry to see just what is involved. Come to “Gayle’s Kitchen” in the basement between 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Our normal coffee time is 10:00 a.m.—things are cooking by that time and we can take a break!

Gayle Cox  
Coordinator

# RAT Pack

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The Repair, Alteration, and Transformation (RAT) Pack has completed its 26th year of volunteer service to the church. This group is sanctioned and approved by the Board of Trustees and endorsed by the Session. Once again, illness and virus protocol has greatly impacted participation and activities. We had limited activities this year.

Still, we were able to complete several projects:

- Cleaned by vacuuming cold air return vents in the basement and the first and second floors.
- Cleaned Sanctuary balcony audio room.
- Repaired a few pews, including pew cushions in the Sanctuary.
- Removed trash from window wells in the basement and cleaned windows.
- The basement room for stored artificial flowers (flower room) was cleaned with many old, dilapidated flower arrangements discarded. Removed trash from the room and swept the floor.
- The RAT Pack tool and storage room was cleaned of trash, and outdated paints and supplies were discarded.
- Cleaned the basement window well and north staircase to the mechanical room from the playground.
- Assisted with placing/removing banners in Sanctuary.
- Repaired two piano benches, one from the bell choir rehearsal room and one from the choir rehearsal room.
- John Ellis constructed and installed a new food distribution cabinet for Cornell Gallagher's Free Little Pantry.



RAT Pack is only meeting periodically as projects become available. Please contact John Ellis, Steve Whaylen, or Harold Namminga to learn if they will be meeting Monday mornings from 8:30-10:30 a.m. We always have coffee and donuts at 10:00 a.m.

John Ellis, Harold Namminga, and Steve Whaylen



# Resource Council

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The Resource Council is responsible for developing and monitoring the budget of the church. It also reviews the organization and operation of the staff of the church. The church began and ended the year in a very strong financial position.

2022 was a positive year with one major exception, the loss of our air-conditioning equipment. All of our sources of revenue exceeded our budget. Our members continued to support the church with meaningful tithes and offerings of \$643,946. These donations were larger than our budget. Over the years, members have donated oil and gas leases to the church. Because of higher oil and gas prices, revenues from these leases were also higher than our budget. The church rents space in our building to various organizations. This revenue source was also higher than our budget. Finally, distributions from our endowment significantly exceeded past distributions. Our very large endowment of over \$15 million provides our church with financial support that is both remarkable and sustainable.

On the expense side, the cost of the personnel of our church, like most churches, is about one-half of the total budget. Those expenses this year were slightly below our budget. The other expenses were all also as anticipated with one large exception. Just before summer, our air-conditioning equipment failed. Because of the age of the unit, it was more economical in the long run to buy new equipment rather than making repairs to the old unit. Because new units were not immediately available, it was necessary to rent temporary units to get us through the hot summer months. We also had to provide security for these units. The total cost of the new equipment, renting the temporary units, and providing security was \$587,000.

Fortunately, for several years the church has maintained a meaningful position in cash and short-term investments. These funds have been used to fund part of the yearly operating deficit. They have occasionally been replenished by bequests and other non-recurring events. We started this year with a balance of \$968,000. To pay for the air-conditioning unit, we utilized these funds and drew the balance down to a year-end-total of \$424,000. While this is much lower than it has been in the past, it is still a comfortable amount.

In our endowment, most of the funds have restrictions that only allow interest and earnings to be distributed, but not the principal amount. However, there are three funds that allow for the principal to be withdrawn if requested by the Session. To supplement our cash balance, the Session has requested that \$200,000 be withdrawn from the endowment in 2023. Those funds can always be returned to the endowment if they are not needed.

In summary, because of the generosity of many members of our church over the decades, we sustained a major financial surprise in 2022 and are still in a strong financial position.

Larry Nichols  
Chair

# Statement of Financial Position

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## First Presbyterian Church Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2022

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### Assets

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Current Assets	
Cash In Bank (NBC)	
Operating	154,059
Money Market	270,223
Total Cash In Bank	424,282
Pastor's Discretionary	6,908
Endowment	15,660,905
Total Current Assets	16,092,095
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>16,092,095</b>

### Liabilities & Net Assets

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Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	502
Payroll Taxes Payable	11,028
Preschool Payable	103,218
PW Payable	9,036
Total Current Liabilities	123,784
Net Assets	
Church General Fund	126,714
Donor Designated Accounts	155,744
Pastor's Discretionary	6,908
Kemp	18,040
Endowment	15,660,905
Total Permanently Restricted	15,968,311
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>16,092,095</b>

# Statement of Activities

**Statement of Activities**  
**First Presbyterian Church**  
**Year-End 12/31/2122**

	Actual Year-to-Date	Annual Budget
<b>Revenues</b>		
TITHES & OFFERINGS	643,946	600,000
OIL AND GAS	223,363	175,000
RENTAL	101,557	73,175
ENDOWMENT	435,454	450,000
SPARK	266,211	194,750
MISCELLANEOUS	4,646	5,000
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>1,675,177</b>	<b>1,497,925</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
<b><u>MISSION COUNCIL</u></b>	<b>50,639</b>	<b>55,000</b>
<b><u>SPARK</u></b>	<b>267,769</b>	<b>202,122</b>
<b><u>NURTURE COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b>13,372</b>	<b>35,000</b>
<b><u>WORSHIP COMMITTEE</u></b>	<b>26,562</b>	<b>10,000</b>
<b><u>RESOURCE COUNCIL</u></b>		
<b>PERSONNEL COMMITTEE</b>		
Personnel	602,866	628,079
Office Operations	204,528	144,100
<b>Total RESOURCE COUNCIL</b>	<b>807,394</b>	<b>772,179</b>
<b><u>TRUSTEES</u></b>	<b>834,129</b>	<b>438,000</b>
<b><u>OTHER</u></b>		
Endowment reimbursements	1,000	0
<b>Total OTHER</b>	<b>1,000</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2,000,865</b>	<b>1,512,301</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>(325,688)</b>	<b>(14,376)</b>



# Church Life





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First Presbyterian Church of Oklahoma City  
1001 NW 25th St., OKC, OK 73106  
405-525-6584 | [fpcokc.org](http://fpcokc.org)

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