

VOL. 66 NUMBER 7 · SEPTEMBER 2024

# THE AMBASSADOR

A publication of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF STILLWATER

## From Strength To Strength



This month, First Presbyterian Church enters its second century here at 524 S. Duncan with the Sanctuary space actually turning 100. In order to maintain a functional church space and to continue to serve our congregation and our community in many ways, repairs and upgrades to our facility and HVAC system are needed. Additionally, we wish to bolster an endowment for care of our wonderful campus and expand funding to better support our worship, programming, and outreach. We believe that we have centuries of service and worship ahead of us, welcoming all people as a part of our community so that we move forward one day and one year at a time, utilizing our venerable facilities and the gifts of our time, talents, and funds to extend God's love and grace in this world.

See page 3 for more information, including upcoming important dates for this Capital Campaign!

## This issue:

Farewells  
PAGE 2

From Strength To Strength  
PAGE 3

Interim Music Staff  
PAGE 4

Mary Frye Live & Learn  
Symposium  
PAGE 5

October Seasoned Adults  
PAGE 8

Team Neurodiversity  
PAGE 12



## First Presbyterian Church Staff

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Christopher Haygood

Interim Organist

Paul Pinkosky

Rehearsal Pianist

Alayna Tolbert

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Children's Ministry Assistant

Bekah Bowman

Preschool Director

Dana Brown  
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Building Supervisor

Vickie Foust

## Mid-Week Prayer Shifting Days

Mid-Week Prayer will be shifting from Wednesdays to Thursdays, still at noon via Zoom, starting on September 26th. Mid-Week prayer is an intentional pause for quiet prayer during the day to give rest and renewal. During this time a short devotion or scripture is read, and then we come together in prayer.

Everyone is welcome to join, and you come as you can week to week. If you have any questions, or need the Zoom link please contact Sharon Bennett at [sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org).

## Final Letter from Amy

Dear FPC Friends,

Thank you so much for the lovely "end of the bridge" reception you held on my last Sunday with you. It was so nice to have the opportunity to say good-bye to so many of you, and if we missed that chance, please know that you ALL remain in my heart and my prayers.

My tenure with you was the first time in my life that I have been both welcomed and "benedicted" with DONUTS! Praise be!

I am excited for you that you are now under Diane's leadership.

I will always be grateful for the opportunity to have served in Stillwater, to become more familiar with such a great community, and to have built relationships through the church. You are a church filled with talented people and a big heart for serving others, and I pray that God will continue to bless your efforts to do that in the coming months as years.

Thank you also for the beautiful prayer shawl, the heart-felt cards, and the gift card for the Fair Trade Store. I felt loved and appreciated, and I am grateful that God led me to your midst.

Faithfully,  
Amy

## From Becky

Thank you, dear friends of FPC, for the beautiful reception following my last service on "my" beloved organ bench, and for all of your sweet cards, messages, drawings, and gifts on the occasion of my retirement! Your outpouring love and gratitude has been utterly overwhelming, and I am deeply humbled and grateful beyond words. It is such an honor to now hold the "Emerita" title, and I will be pondering how to live into it through new forms of service to FPC in the future. As I have told the choir, this is not "good-bye", but rather "see you later"! Thank You! ❤️

Love,  
Becky 🙏🏻🙏🏻



# From Strength To Strength



## A few dates you don't want to miss

**The week of September 30th:** The From Strength To Strength campaign information packets will be mailed out to all households

**October 6 - Gratitude Sunday & World Communion Sunday:** Join us as we express our gratitude to God and consider the myriad ways that God has impacted our lives for the better through our church community.

**October 13 - Ministry Sunday:** Come worship in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the life-changing ministries of our church and bear witness to the inspiring stories of individuals and families who have been blessed by God through these ministries.

## PAINTED PUMPKIN AUCTION

OCTOBER 13



### Painted Pumpkin Auction

Bring your coins, dollar bills, and a check or credit card on Sunday morning, October 13th and participate in the Painted Pumpkin Auction! Support our children and youth as they offer their creativity to benefit our From Strength To Strength campaign AND go home with some cute fall decorations! Each pumpkin will have a jar beside it for you to drop in your coins and dollar bills to share your enthusiasm for that child's design. And you'll have the additional opportunity to bid on the pumpkins through a silent auction. How many pumpkins will you be lucky enough to take home with you?

Note: Children & youth, be sure to join us on October 6th to paint pumpkins!  
Children - painting at Pumpkin Palooza; Youth - painting at PYG

## Worship & Music

### Interim Music Staff

Please welcome Interim Choir Director Dr. Christopher Haygood, Organist Paul Pinkosky, and Rehearsal Pianist Alayna Tolbert to FPC!!

**Chris Haygood** is Interim Director of Choral Activities at OSU and a long-time OSU choral faculty member who has also collaborated with FPC in various capacities over the years. (Read his auspicious bio on the Greenwood School of Music website!) Chris comes with a deep love and understanding of sacred choral music, church choirs, and congregational singing, and he has supported our Choral Scholar music ministry by sending students our way. He has expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to lead sacred choral music at FPC, and the Chancel Choir is excited to sing with him!

**Paul Pinkosky** retired only 6 weeks ago from First Christian Church in Tulsa, where he served 35 years as organist, the last 12 as Director of Music and organist. He said that he already misses playing hymns! He will commute on Sundays only, practicing early, rehearsing with the choir, and playing for worship. Paul did not study organ academically, but privately with one of the most revered organists/church musicians in the country, Dr. Thomas Matthews, who was Organist/Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Church in Tulsa. Paul became Tom's associate organist at Trinity, serving there until assuming the position at FCC. Paul has led a double life with a M-F career as a financial analyst, from which he actually is retired.

Also, **Alayna Tolbert**, a sophomore piano performance major and student of Heather Lanners at OSU, has agreed to serve as the choir's rehearsal pianist for Wednesday night rehearsals.

The willingness of these musicians to serve in this interim period allows for the search for a full-time Director of Music/Organist to proceed at its own pace. Thanks be to God!

### Chancel Choir

Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:00-8:15pm in the Westminster Room (choir room). Anyone 7th grade and older is welcome! Neither experience nor church membership is required. All you need is the desire to sing and learn and make music together for the glory of God. The choir family would love to welcome YOU! In addition to our Wednesday rehearsals, we meet at 10:15am in the choir loft each Sunday to fine-tune our preparation for singing at the 11am service. Questions? Please contact Interim Choir Director Chris Haygood at [christopher.haygood@okstate.edu](mailto:christopher.haygood@okstate.edu)



### 2024-2025 Choral Scholars

L-R: Ryan Downing, Chloe Perry, Luke Weatherly, Lydia Raines, Noah Pool, Analisa Gallegos, Jack Moffatt, MaryEllen Bush



Photos from top to bottom:  
Paul Pinkosky - Interim Organist  
Chris Haygood - Interim Choir Director  
Alayna Tolbert - rehearsal pianist



## Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Introduces the Mary Frye Live & Learn Luncheon Symposium.

This event is in honor of founding member Mary Frye who was instrumental in the success of OLLI at Oklahoma State University. The event will take place September 26 at 11:00 a.m. in the FPC Fellowship Hall. The speaker will be Dr. Rebecca Brienen, Associate Dean, OSU College of Arts and Sciences and Professor of Art History speaking on "Harmony and Health: Exploring the Impact of the Arts on Personal and Public Wellbeing". Dr. Brienen has a B.A. in Art History from Wellesley College, an M.A. in Theology from Harvard University and an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Art History from Northwestern University. Tickets to the luncheon are \$50 each and fund the ongoing efforts of OLLI and may be purchased by calling the OLLI Office, (405) 744-5868, Robbin Davis, Director. Please consider joining us for this special event.



### October 4 - "First Friday Peace Jam" in Fellowship Hall 6 PM Potluck Supper 7-8:30 PM Music Jam

This music gathering is for all ages - invite friends, bring the kids, and come and go as you like.

Maracas, triangles, djembe, tambourines, and a keyboard are provided for anyone to play. Bring some food to share, then play, sing along (words are on the screen), or just listen and tap your feet! You can also just come for the music if you prefer.

Questions? Jim Beckstrom: james@beckstromgroup.com

## Peace & Global Witness Offering

On World Communion Sunday, we celebrate that Christ's peace extends throughout all creation. Whenever the church gathers for worship, we are assured of Christ's peace. We celebrate that we are connected, we are loved and we are not alone. We worship together and are fed from Scripture and at Christ's table of peace. Extending the peace of Christ is part of an active, engaged faith - a witness to what it means for us to be the Church, together. 25% of the Offering stays with our congregation to support peacemaking in our community.

OSHER LIFELONG LEARNING INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Dr. Mary Frye  
*Inaugural*  
**LIVE & LEARN**  
OLLI educational series

SEPTEMBER 26, 2024

Featuring  
**Rebecca Brienen, PhD**  
"Harmony and Health: Exploring the Impact of the Arts on Personal and Public Wellbeing."  
Associate Dean for Personnel and Faculty Development  
College of Arts and Sciences

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. \* Lunch @ 11:30 a.m.  
Hello Catering \* \$50 per person  
First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater  
Fellowship Hall  
524 Duncan, Stillwater, OK 74074

For reservations: (405) 744-5868  
or OLLI@OKState.edu  
Deadline, 9/19/2024  
Proceeds to benefit OLLI programs.  
Registration required.  
No shows will be charged.

## SAVE THE DATE!

### Soli Deo Gloria MUSIC

November 17 at 3:00pm in Fellowship Hall

OSU Piano Students of  
Profs. Tom and Heather Lanners  
Reception following





# Children's Ministry

## Children & Worship



Three-year-olds through third graders are invited to Children & Worship each Sunday in the Westminster Room following Time with Children in worship. Children may follow the banner and meet the volunteers at the back of the Sanctuary. This age-appropriate time of worship includes singing and signing, prayer, and seeing and hearing the stories of God. As we respond to God's love, we also have a time for children to offer their coins or talents. Parents may pick up children in the Westminster Room following worship.

## Children's Sunday School

Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. for children 4yrs - 5th grade

### Gathering Time:

- Children are invited to start the Sunday school hour at 9:45am in the Worship Center. We'll gather and sing together before the children go to their classes. Parents can pick up children at 10:45am in the Worship Center.

### Faith Kid-nection Class (Pre-K to Kindergarten):



Join in play, games and songs as we explore God's love together. The class meets in room 122 in the preschool wing, but begins and ends in the Worship Center.

### SpiritLink (1st-5th graders):



SpiritLink is a workshop rotation-model Sunday School in which students learn about a Bible story from different perspectives throughout each unit. Scriptures are explored using various ways of learning: art, science, digital media, storytelling, movies, drama, and cooking!



### SpiritLink Room Highlight:

Thou Art is where we explore Bible stories through art! Children might make a prayer collage, an Advent wreath out of Mod Podge and tissue paper, or a watercolor about baptism!

### SpiritLink Refresh!

SpiritLink spaces received a much needed refresh over the last month! Peek in the Worship Center on Sunday mornings and see the new rug and backdrop that makes this space much more inviting to children during Gathering Time. The rug was purchased with funds from the Sheerar Endowment for children and youth. And many thanks to SpiritLink teachers who have refreshed the SpiritLink rooms and especially to Jenny Broyles, a master organizer, for cleaning out and organizing our closets and teacher resource room, making them more user-friendly!



*Pumpkin Palooza*

SUNDAY **OCT 6** 2:00 P.M.

PAINT A PUMPKIN  
S'MORES  
HAY RIDES  
FARM ANIMALS

PUMPKIN CHUNKIN'  
40' SLIDE  
CORN BOX  
PLAYGROUND

**OH MY GOURD PUMPKIN PATCH**  
9212 E. GLENCOE RD.  
GLENCOE, OK

Come enjoy fall fun with your FPC family! Tell them you're with FPC to get the \$7/person deal (drink, hayride, pumpkin chunkin', and s'mores). Children will paint pumpkins for our Painted Pumpkin Auction on October 13!



Presbyterian Youth Group

# Youth Ministry

## Youth Sunday School

Every Sunday from 9:45-10:45am - Youth Suite

### For ALL 6th-12th graders

Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm in the Youth Suite. A time for connection, fellowship, discipleship, and living our faith.

Note: Sr. High Small Group (10th-12th graders) meets on Wednesdays from 7:45-8:30am at Aspen Coffee (Fountain Square)

### September

- 15 PYG (5:00-6:30pm)
- 22 Interfaith Tour (OKC) (10:45a-6:15p)
- 28 Oklahoma Youth Connect (OKC) (10:00a-3:00p)
- 29 No PYG

### October

- 6 PYG (5:00-6:30pm)
- 13 PYG (5:00-6:30pm)
- 20 No PYG (Fall Break)
- 27 PYG (5:00-6:30pm)

November - All Sundays - PYG (5:00-6:30pm)

### Gathering Time:

- Youth Sunday school begins at 9:45am all together in the Youth Suite for fellowship and snacks before splitting up into age groups for more focused discussion and study.

### Middle School (grades 6-7; Youth Suite Blue Rm):

- Colaborate and Reform Ancestors - Students will study the ancestors of the New Testament using 'so what?' questions that will help them engage with the New Testament story.

### Junior High (grades 8-10, Youth Suite Orange Rm):

- The Greatest Commandment - explore what it means to Love God, Love Self, and Love Others, as we discuss relationships, faith and human sexuality.

### Senior High (grades 11-12, Youth Suite):

- 3 Big Questions That Shape Your Future-Finding faithful answers to life and faith's big questions around identity, belonging, and purpose.

Grow in understanding and appreciation for other faith traditions during the Interfaith Youth Tour on Sept. 22. We'll leave FPC at 10:45am and return by 6:15pm.

OKLAHOMA YOUTH
6th-12th graders

**SATURDAY, SEPT. 28**  
8:40 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

SERVE. CONNECT. HAVE FUN.

- 8:40a
10:00a - 12:30p

Meet at FPC Parking Lot (Drive to OKC)  
Serve at The Urban Mission
- 12:30 - 3:00p

Lunch and fun with Oklahoma youth at First Presbyterian Church, OKC
- 3:00-7:00p
8:00p

Fun in Bricktown with FPC youth  
Back at FPC Parking Lot

**Register by Mon. Sept. 23**

Join Presbyterian youth from across the state for service and fun! Registration fee of \$20 covers mini-golf and ice cream.



## Adult Ministry & Fellowship

### October Seasoned Adults

Join us on Monday, October 21st at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall to celebrate Native American Heritage Month. Our speaker will be Dr. Hugh Foley. Dr. Hugh Foley is a professor at Rogers State University and will discuss the fascinating history of Muscogee (Creek) Hymns, a musical form that combines Scottish, African-American, and Native musical traditions. He has lectured widely on the subject and was a primary figure in the Sterlin Harjo film, *This May Be the Last Time* (2014).

The cost for dinner is \$10 and you may sign up by responding to the Seasoned Adult's email or by calling the church office and speaking with Sharon Bennett. The RSVP deadline is 5:00pm on Friday, October 18th. You may pay online, or at the event via check or cash (correct change only).

Questions? Please contact Sharon Bennett at [sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org).



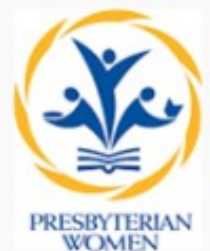
### Reawaken: Women's Fall Retreat

Friday, 10/24 @ 4pm - Saturday, 10/25 @ 4pm

In the midst of the sea-changes of life, you are invited to "come away to a quiet place" enjoy the community of other women for time of rest and spiritual renewal. Rev. Amy Rogers will lead us in this 24-hour retreat as we explore the theme of "reawakening" - to ourselves, to each other, to nature, and to the presence of God. St. Francis of the Woods offers a beautiful setting to connect with nature and Spirit. We will spend time in guided conversation, engaging a hands-on creative project, enjoying the nature trails and the labyrinth, and simply be-ing. We hope you join us as we reawaken our weary spirits in this dedicated time of spiritual renewal. This retreat will be held at St. Francis of the Woods located in Coyle Oklahoma. We have limited space for overnight stays, but commuters are welcome to join also. Meals and snacks will be provided. Please contact Sharon Bennett, Pastoral Care Associate and Spiritual Director at [sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:sharon.bennett@stillwaterfpc.org) if you have any questions or to register.

### Faith on Tap

Join us for this monthly fellowship gathering where we discuss topics that are pertinent to our faith. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 7:30pm at Stonecloud Taproom. Won't you join us?



### PW News

Presbyterian Women have started the 2024-2025 Bible study called "Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation" by Patricia K. Tull. Our first lesson took place on Wednesday, September 11 with a vibrant discussion of environmental justice and Bible verses that address such injustice. It's not too late to join this study. We will meet in Fellowship Hall on the second Wednesday of the month at 9:15am for fellowship and 10:00am for our next lesson on land justice.

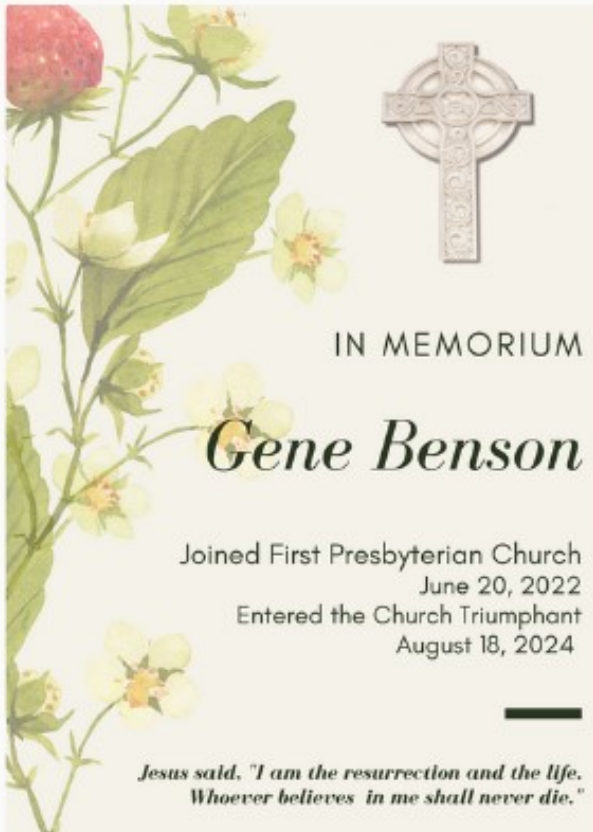


## Behind the Walls: A Trustees' Update

- Trustees continue to seek cost effective modifications of our HVAC system. Ever mindful of our budget and our upcoming capital campaign, we are actively exploring options that could be implemented over a longer period of time to ensure we'll have adequate heating and cooling. We're working hard on recommendations for Session soon.
- Many of you may have noticed that the yards and shrubbery around our church are looking better this year. Hick's Lawn and Garden is under contract and we're pleased with their mowing and shrub trimming. Our irrigation system suffered a break recently, but that has been fixed. And the unsightly shrubs on the south side of the Westminster (choir) Room) have been replaced with sod. A well deserved shout-out to Jim Beckstrom for his work on this project. And to Brett and Terri Carver for their efforts to trim shrubs and pull weeds and litter out of the garden area outside the south wall of the sanctuary. And another shout-out to Danielle and Terry Shreve for their work in maintaining the butterfly garden.
- A new restaurant-grade dishwasher will soon be installed in the Hospitality Area. You may recall our old one failed after many years of service. This new one should serve us well going forward.

If you have questions about this ambitious agenda, please let us know.

Dennis Ferrell, Trustee Chair





## Prayer Concerns

Gary Allen  
 Amanda  
 Nick Amidon  
 Shea Arnett (N. Thomas)  
 Christopher Aupperle (Aupperle)  
 The Baker Family  
 Luz Barber (te Velde)  
 Baker  
 David Baker  
 Debbie Barnes  
 Betty Bays  
 Mandy Blackburn  
 Rose Marie Bligh  
 Rita Breuninger  
 Helen Britton  
 Bruce Broyles  
 Belinda Bruner  
 Tyler Butler (Arquitt)  
 Wayne Cartwright (Koepp)  
 Paula Cavett (te Velde)  
 Nancy Chapa (Fagan)  
 Allison Christy (Breuninger)  
 Abby Clapp (Clapp)  
 Darlene Collyar (Silver)  
 Andee and Kannon Cooper (Hrachovec)  
 Emberlee Davidson (Redburn)  
 Heather Davidson  
 Sara Davies  
 Matthew Durham (Shawley)  
 Lori Fagan  
 Mike Flowers  
 Lauren Glynn (Stewart)  
 Keith Good  
 McKenna Grimes  
 Justin Hacket (Osborn)  
 Halana (Leffingwell)  
 Ben Harris (Wilkinson/Frohock)  
 Kendall Harvey (Shaw)  
 Charla Hilger (Roscoe)  
 Carolynne Hopkins  
 Linda Houck  
 Sharon Huckleby  
 Patty Jacobs  
 Paul Dean Jenkins (Nipp)  
 Brenda Johns (Taylor)  
 Joey Jones

Ted Joy (Taylor)  
 Margie Keener  
 Patty Keys  
 Mary Jane Kirchenbauer (Breuninger)  
 Margy Knox  
 Donna Koepp  
 Pauline Kopecky  
 Dorothy Kraemer  
 Karen Krehbiel (Breuninger)  
 Heather Lanners  
 Roger Lantz  
 Hank Lett  
 Tracie Lively  
 Cheryl Lowther  
 Alyssa Matal (Krehbiel)  
 Larry McDonald  
 Stephanie McMillan (Taylor)  
 Philip Meadows  
 Tresa Miller (Miller)  
 Jean Moore (Stangl)  
 Anne Mullen (Mullen)  
 Nora Nagaruk (Stangl)  
 Michelle Nicholson  
 Pricilia Nkem  
 Margaret O'Loughlin  
 Marek Omast II (Schlais)  
 Drew Osborn (Osborn)  
 Our Service Men & Women (Kraemer)  
 Frances Phillips (Taylor)  
 Jean Potts (Bills)  
 Daniel Powell  
 Paul Quarles (Bobo)  
 Tim Rains (Silver)  
 Charlotte Razook  
 Lisa Reavis (Stewart)  
 Larry & Margaret Redburn (McCarley)  
 Jack Reeves  
 Dylon Reimers (Dearinger)  
 Sara Roberts (Osborn)  
 Terry Robinson  
 David Schmidly (Shaw)  
 Karen Shippey (Swim)  
 Jeffrey Silver  
 David Smith (Cooper)  
 Ted Smith  
 Perry Sneed (Johnson)  
 Jamie Stephens

Christine Stone (Fairbanks/Cornelius)  
 The Stuart Family  
 Phyllis Taylor & Helen Brake  
 Teresa te Velde (te Velde)  
 Bonnie Tripp  
 Tyler  
 Upendo Kids (Shawley)  
 Nettie Vick  
 Emily Walker (Walker)  
 Darrell Warren (Silver)  
 Ann Watkins  
 Jim West  
 Lynda Williams  
 Scott Williams

## MILITARY MEMBERS

Members & family members of our church family who have been deployed in service to our country:

- Jordan Buterbaugh, Marines (Case)
- Col. Casey Campbell (Army)
- Col. Charley Fairbanks (Army)
- Justin Fowler, Navy (Fowler)
- Col. James 'grata' Greenwald, Air Force
- Matt Krehbiel
- 1st Lt. Eric Murphy, Army (Fairbanks)
- Miles Smith, Recruit Division Commander, Dept. of the Navy (Schlais)
- SGT Bryn JT Williams, Army (Williams)



## Session Organization

## Session Summary

**Clerk:** Kathy Thomas  
email: ktbooks2003@gmail.com

**Treasurer:** Cathy Fairbanks  
email: cathy.fairbanks@stillwaterfpc.org

**Adult Ministry:**  
Belinda Bruner (chair)  
David Silver

**Children's Ministry:**  
Courtney Savage (chair)  
Dustin Charter

**Communications & Mission:**  
Cathy Conway (co-chair)  
Kathy Thomas (co-chair)  
Ed Noltensmeyer

**Fellowship & Family:**  
Donna Koeppel (chair)  
Dustin Charter

**Stewardship & Finance:**  
Tim Krehbiel (co-chair)  
Lynn Osborn (co-chair)

**UKIRK (University):**  
John te Velde (chair)

**Worship & Music:**  
Dustin Reavis (chair)  
Ken Belanus  
Carolyn Gang

**Youth Ministry:**  
Rusty Rex (chair)  
Belinda Bruner  
Corinne Savage

**Trustee Liaison:**  
Judy Ferrell

**Personnel:**  
Cathy Conway (chair)  
Ed Arquitt  
Ed Noltensmeyer

**Endowment Liaison:**  
Donna Koeppel

**Nominating Committee:**  
Cathy Conway (chair)

Having a quorum present, the September 10 meeting of Session began with a wonderful opening thought from Ephesians 4:32 and prayer. Minutes of past meetings in August and a brief consent agenda were approved, and reports from the Trustees, the Deacons, and the Treasurer were received. *As of August 31, 2024, our revenue is \$4,135.31 ahead of meeting our budgeted expenses.* However, with the quarter's end this month, several anticipated, larger expenses will occur and that small surplus will be utilized. Session took two formal actions: the first was to receive the August Membership update; the second was to approve the dedication of a gift from the Plaxico estate to the capital campaign, with a tenth of its total being designated to our growing perpetual pledge account. Updates regarding our upcoming capital campaign and our search for our next Director of Music/Organist were also received.

Noteworthy dates: (1) Cimarron Presbytery meets October 8, during the day before (2) Session that evening at 5:30 p.m., and two commissioners will be elected by electronic vote after additional elders are also given the opportunity to serve/attend. (3) Our called congregational meeting to elect officers, trustees, and the next Nominating Committee will be September 22, following worship.

## AUGUST 2024 INCOME/EXPENSE REPORT

	AUGUST	YEAR TO DATE	% OF BUDGET
Giving	\$52,317	\$423,010	68%
Other Income	\$3,948	\$53,509	80%
Total Income	\$56,365	\$476,519	69%
Expenditures	\$64,161	\$472,384	66%
Net	\$(7,897)	\$4,135	--



## Scout Updates

- **Pack 3842** wrapped up the summer with a trip to the Insect Adventure Tour at the OSU Botanical Gardens. They learned fun facts about scorpions, spiders, and even got to hold a millipede. Finally, we visited the Boomer Lake Splash Pad where the scouts took a break from the heat. On Enrollment Verification Day, we had signup tables located at both Highland Park and Will Rogers Elementary. Our scouts did a great job talking to other children and sharing their experiences. With the school year starting back up, we'll be moving back to our regular meeting schedules and will be hosting an Open House night as an opportunity to meet new families and potentially recruit new cub scouts! If you know of any boy or girl in grades K-5 who may be interested in Cub Scouting, please contact Brandon Spencer at pack3842@gmail.com. Fall is a great time to get to know the Pack.
- For our August camp, **Troop 820** camped at Pawnee Bill Ranch in Pawnee. We also participated in the Payne County Relay for Life. Upcoming activities include camping and hiking at Lake McMurry in September, Spook O Ree at Will Rogers Scout Reservation in October, and Order of the Arrow Fall Fellowship also in October. We would like to thank the First Presbyterian Church family for supporting our troop and allowing us to help fund our activities by providing OSU football parking to the public on game days.
- **Scouts BSA Troop 888 by Emelie Klein, Troop Historian.** Troop 888 has had lots of fun this past month! The troop served our community by helping with the Relay For Life of Payne County. Stillwater scouts had 2 recruiting booths at the Stillwater Middle School and Junior High School, and Troop 888 was well represented. We were able to recruit some new scouts and got a lot of people interested in joining! Troop 888 also had a lock-in at the FPC in August. We first went to one of our scout's house for pizza and swimming. For the rest of the weekend, we worked on the camping merit badge, and had some great team building. Finally, the troop sold parking spots at the FPC for the OSU football game. We appreciate the FPC for allowing us to use their parking lot to raise money for our troop. Popcorn selling season has kicked off, and we had a successful booth at Lowe's. Troop members are looking forward to a fun filled fall season! If you'd like to keep up with Troop 888's scouting journey, feel free to visit our Facebook page: BSA Troop 888 Stillwater OK. If you know a girl aged 11-17 who is interested in joining us, please contact our Scoutmaster Melissa Huber at troop888gbsa@gmail.com.



The September Ambassador  
First Presbyterian Church  
524 S. Duncan St.  
Stillwater, OK 74074  
405-372-5580  
www.stillwaterfpc.org

## ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

### Worship at First Presbyterian

#### Sunday Worship Schedule

9:45 am Sunday School for all ages

11:00 am Worship Service

(in person, on KSPI 93.7, and streamed on  
Facebook/Youtube)

#### Midweek Prayer

Thursdays 12:00pm via Zoom

THE AMBASSADOR

SEPTEMBER 2024

# Embracing Neurodiversity at FPC

The Spirit is moving at FPC! As a church, we seek to be a welcoming and intentionally inclusive community of faith. We desire for this to be true for the neurodivergent among us as well. We are starting a journey of being more intentional in recognizing and supporting neurodiversity, as well as making appropriate accommodations for those who are neurodivergent to ensure we are supporting and honoring the unique needs of individuals while valuing their unique gifts.

Do you have a heart for those who are neurodivergent? Our Neurodiversity Team is meeting to pray and plan for how FPC might be more welcoming to the neurodivergent, that we would truly "let the little children come to Jesus." One of the focuses for this team is the implementation of our Wonder of Worship grant from Columbia Theological Seminary (read more in the accompanying article!).

If you are interested in being part of this exciting ministry, please contact Jenna Campbell at [jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org](mailto:jenna.campbell@stillwaterfpc.org).

## FPC Awarded a Wonder of Worship Grant

FPC has been awarded a \$1,000 Wonder of Worship grant from Columbia Theological Seminary funded by the Lilly Endowment. The grant's purpose is to enhance the engagement of children in corporate worship, striving for a more intergenerational practice of worship for all ages and abilities. FPC's particular grant emphasis is on an attentiveness to families with children who may have sensory issues that make it difficult to be in worship.

We are dreaming about a "liturgical library" that enables all children to choose items to help them engage in worship, rather than the worship bags we have now that prescribes for them what they will use. Perhaps they will choose ribbon wands to move with the music, prayer labyrinths to trace with their fingers, or noise cancelling headphones to help lessen overwhelming sounds. Our dreams are bigger and broader than that.

Be on the lookout for these additions this year and be ready to help us provide an atmosphere of welcome for neurodivergent adults and children in worship.

