



Presbyterian News

The First Presbyterian Church
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John Conley, Interim Pastor
Brenda DeBons, Clerk of Session
Joyce Snow, Organist/Choir Director
Delma Stokes, Youth Director
Joyce Wethington, Church Secretary

June 2011

What Makes the Special Olympics Special?

I was thinking out loud and asking that question. If you have been around the Special Olympics, you realize it is a different competition. You might see one runner stop to pick up a competitor who has fallen and smile as they join hands to cross the finish line together.

The participants enjoy games for the fun of it and everyone is honored for trying. Watching the NBA play-offs allows us to see a high level of athletic ability and a low level of sportsmanship. No one believes he fouled and everyone insists they were fouled on every missed and made shot!

I was thinking of a Special Olympian friend of mine, Tripp Miller. Last year, he celebrated his 49th birthday! His bedroom was covered in U. of Missouri black and gold and he received a dozen new t-shirts and other stuff that he slowly opened before cutting the cake. Though refusing to throw out any of his old t-shirts, he allowed his sister to cut them up and sew them into a handmade, one-of-a-kind bedspread.

Those things are all gone now. Tripp's parents, Don and Patty Miller, went to a make shift morgue in Joplin to identify the son who lived with roommates, attended church, loved God and people without reservations, and was very, very special.

One of his many relatives is his niece, Elizabeth, who at the age of 10 was more like an aunt to him. Holding his hand and leading him to his seat at a church dinner and just taking care of him as little girls often instinctively do. I wonder how she is holding together.

When we help disaster victims, give to causes dear to us, contribute money and labor to care for the weak, provide hope to the lost, and friendship to the lonely, it is sometimes good to have a face to match the need. I don't recognize the pictures of Joplin though I lived there the last two years before moving here in October. But I recognize Tripp, and maybe you can see him too.

Peace,

John



Looking Ahead....

Wednesday, June 1, 7:05 pm ~ Presbyterian Night at
Amarillo Sox Baseball Park Stadium

~ Admission is free.

High School Youth will attend as a group.

Meet at the church at 5:30 pm.

Friday & Saturday, June 3 & 4 ~ 119th Stated
Meeting, Palo Duro Presbytery, First
Church of Pampa

Sunday, June 5, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship

Sunday, June 12, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship

3:30 to 5:30 ~ Brush Arbor Hymn Sing

First Presbyterian, Amarillo

Tuesday, June 14, 5:30 pm ~ Vacation Bible School
Planning Meeting

6:15 pm ~ Stated Session Meeting

Wednesday, June 15 6:30 pm ~ Youth BLAB (Bible
Lesson at Braum's night) Meet at Braum's.

Saturday, June 18, 10 to 3 ~ Elder Preaching Training,
Abilene

Sunday, June 19, 10 am ~ Sunday School
(NO Sunday School for Jr. High
and High School ONLY)

11 am ~ Worship

Sunday, June 19 thru 26th ~ Mission Trip to St. Louis

Sunday, June 26, 10 am ~ Sunday School
(NO Sunday School for Jr. High
and High School ONLY)

11 am ~ Worship

Birthdays

- 4 Louise George
- 7 Clay Rodriguez
- 9 Charlotte Harrison
Linda Smith
Craig Stokes
- 13 Edye Cunningham
Jared Macumber
- 16 Brendi Brown
- 18 Peggy Erwin
LaKrisha Williamson
- 20 Howard Bose
Teresa Palmer
- 22 David Kehoe
Joe Molina
- 27 Ryan Nevius
Randy Sims



Anniversaries

- 2 Jeff & Shona Moore
- 6 William & Harriet Abell
- 12 Shannon & Sherie Landers
- 14 Randy & Sue Sims
- 17 Stan & Jill Williams
- 22 Rupert & Billie Jameson



Prayer Concerns

Let us remember those who are faced with the challenges of surgeries, illness or injuries.

Derek Molina, Betty Whitson and Bruce Smith are recovering from surgeries; Gary Griffin and Billy Brown are recuperating from accidents; Opal Perry and Lenora Morton require care away from home.

Brent Loflin, Brian Smith, Jennifer Boggs, Neva Wilhite, Marie McGuinness, Kyler Wilson, Jordan Grimmis, Lorraine Tomblin, Yolanda Dominguez and Happy Riseling are all dealing with illnesses or other medical problems at this time.

We have friends and family who are affected by the storms and fires including the Marcus Klingsick family.

Let us continue to pray for our church prayer partner, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lubbock and we ask for special blessing and protection for all those who will travel to St. Louis on the mission trip.

Lord, You are the Good Shepherd who gave Your life for the sheep.

Hear our prayer for all who are in need, sorrow or sickness.

Bind up the injured, heal the sick and inspire those whose faith is broken. Amen.

We recently received the following letter from our adopted soldier, Lcpl Omero Porras, a Dumas resident dated March 27, 2011 and received May 3.

Dear Stokes Family and Church Friends,

First and foremost, I want to thank you for supporting us and the rest of the Military that fight for our country.

I want to let you know that your package got to me in good condition. Thank you for everything that was sent. I liked everything and so did the rest of my platoon. I know you might think what you send isn't much compared to what we give, but I want you all to know that it is. It's nice to know that there are people praying for us and supporting us where ever we are. I also want you all to know that I'm doing fine and no ones gotten hurt. We are doing everything possible to make sure everyone gets home in six months. We are also making progress with the locals and helping them stay safe from the Taliban and doing projects to help them from making wells to building schools for the kids. Which is a good thing because it works for us as well as them, letting us know where IED's are which has happened more than once. I want to let you know that it's hard to get mail out of my platoon area because we are the furthest platoon down south in our battalions area of operation. We can only receive and get mail out during re-supply which happens every 2-3 weeks. So I want to apologize for this letter getting there late. Once again, I want to thank you all for everything. I wish everyone the best!



Omero Porras



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The installation and ordination of Jim Lovell and Tennille Cariker, elected to fill the vacancies in the elder class of 2012, will be Sunday, May 15.

- The General Assembly Mission Council provided information about the Big Tent National Presbyterian meeting June 30 through July 2 in Indianapolis, Indiana. There will be nine national conferences under one roof to choose from.
- Information was received from Presbyterian Health, Education and Welfare Association whose ministries include disabilities, AIDS, mental illness, child advocacy, drug, alcohol, and other addictions. There is a brochure describing the ministry of the Association and a contribution form for anyone who is interested.
- The Brush Arbor Meeting will be held June 12, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary and Great Hall of First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo. The Brush Arbor event is an hour of gospel singing with a potluck dinner to follow. Participants are requested to bring their favorite covered dish with a serving spoon.
- First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo is sponsoring a night at the ballpark to watch the Amarillo Sox play on June 1st at 7:05 p.m. at the Sox Stadium. Admission is free and all are welcome.
- Worship service average attendance in April was 124; attendance at the Maundy Thursday service was 42; and attendance at the Good Friday service was 47.
- Worship leader/greeter training was led by Rev. Conley April 27th. 25-30 people attended.
- Session approved the request of Rev. Conley for time off July 8 through July 19 in order to attend his family reunion.
- The Building and Grounds Committee recommended implementation of a building use fee of \$35 and recommended when the use of the building was approved, a church member must be present at the gathering. The policy was approved by Session and will be revised as needed.
- There will be a potluck lunch June 5 after church services to recognize Sunday School teachers for their service. (Cancelled)
- Session approved a bake sale fundraiser to raise travel funds for the Presbyterian Mission of Faith meeting for women in Tulsa this fall.

Palo Duro Presbytery's quarterly meeting is June 3 and 4 in Pampa. Elder Brenda DeBons was elected Commissioner to the meeting; elder Larry Parrish was elected to serve as alternate Commissioner.



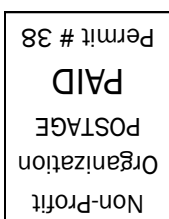
MISSION TRIP 2011

Mission Trip 2011 is set and planned for June 19th -26th to St. Louis, MO. The group plans to leave the church at 6:30 a.m. on Sunday June 19th. They will stay at First & Calvary Presbyterian Church in Springfield, MO. They will arrive in St. Louis on Monday where they will be hosted by Second Presbyterian Church till Saturday. The group will work with several organizations including Doorways; Covenant House Missouri, which serves homeless youth through both emergency/crisis center and a transitional housing program; Shalom House for homeless women; The Bridge, a shelter for the city's homeless and less fortunate trying to get back on their feet; and Second Presbyterian Community Gardens. They will leave St. Louis on Saturday and stay in Oklahoma City at Central Presbyterian Church. They will arrive home on Sunday the 26th. Please keep this group in your prayers as they prepare to spend a week doing the work Christ has prepared for them. Those going are Delma Stokes, Lisa Flood, Doel Cordero, Alfredo Ruiz, Nathan Taylor, Brittney Stokes, Ashley Lance, Kaitlin Sullivan, Marcus Flores, Audry Palmer, Becca Skinner, and Kamree Wackler.

Top Ten Reasons to NOT Trust that you know the date the world will end.

10. A crazy old guy who looks like he should be selling peanuts at the ball park announces the date.
9. When the crazy old guy says it will be in 1994.
8. When the same crazy old guy says it will happen on May 21st.
7. When someone spends \$140,000 of his life savings on advertising because he listened to the same crazy man.
6. The Cubs have not won the World Series.
5. When a Christian announces he or she have the date. (See #'s 4 and 3)
4. "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven , nor the Son of Man, only the Father" Mark 13:32
3. "But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father." Matthew 24:36
2. Aggies and Longhorns are still not talking to each other.
And the number 1 reason you can be assured you do NOT know the date the world is ending...
1. That same crazy old man says he was just 5 months off.

Return Service Requested



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