



# The Courier..

Blessings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

When I was in seminary, I had the opportunity to work with the youth at the First Presbyterian Church, Englewood, New Jersey. This congregation had an interesting history. It was built by Wall Street bankers in the 1800's. It had a sanctuary that could seat 1500 people. There were two education wings and two gyms. Then after WWII, the Wall Street bankers and other corporate executives started to migrate to Connecticut. So, there was a constant loss of membership over the next few decades.

Still, there were a few wealthy families in the church, who did not move. Many members told me that during the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's, the church really struggled with its budget. Every month there were bills that went unpaid. Then in December of each year, the treasurer was looking at thousands of dollars of unpaid bills. And each December the same thing happened, a couple of wealthy members came in and met with the treasurer. They looked at all the unpaid bills. Then they wrote checks to cover the full amount, so at the end of each year the church books balanced and all the bills were paid.

I have known of other churches where members step up to cover the shortfall. There are a few members, who are financially secure, and who step up to fill the gap in giving. Obviously, most members cannot do this, but there are a few members who have this ability.

This year our congregation is facing a major budget shortfall. By the end of the year, the shortfall will probably be approaching \$50,000. Now coming into the year, the session was aware of this shortfall. Yet the Session stepped out in faith, believing this is the direction God was calling us to go, so the decision was made to move forward with our ministry plans.

A major part of our budget shortfall is due to the hiring of Emily, our youth director we share with St. Luke's Episcopal Church. It was the belief of the session that we needed to move forward with this joint ministry venture and we needed to support our youth ministry in this way.

When Emily first started working here, there was only a handful of youth coming to the youth group. I think she started out with about six or seven youth. At the last youth group meeting at our church, there were 16 youth here, and a couple of youth, who regularly come, were not in attendance. I am excited about the growth we are seeing in our youth ministry. I think the session made the right decision to move forward in faith and support our youth ministry, but it has not come without a cost.

I honestly believe we have a bright future in ministry. I think we will continue to grow in our youth ministry. I am excited about the possibilities we have for the future. But again, there is a cost. And we all know we cannot continue our ministries with a major budget shortfall. So, I am asking those who have the financial ability to prayerfully consider stepping up to the plate and help cover this years budget shortfall. Would you please pray about it? Would you pray about our future youth ministry? Would you pray about the future of our congregation? Would you ask God to show you what He wants you to do?

I want to thank everyone for all their contributions and support. Your offerings and pledges are going to the work of God's kingdom in our congregation, our community, and the world. I greatly appreciate all you have done. Thank you for all you do!

Grace and Peace,  
Pastor David



Calling all Presbyterians



# Bring a Guest Sunday

On Sunday, November 1st  
the Mission and Evangelism Committee  
is encouraging all members to come to  
church and bring a guest.



After Worship Service a wonderful  
meal will be provided for all.

We hope you can make every effort to  
attend. It will be a wonderful Fall day  
filled with friendship and fun.



Please Join Us.  
It will be a special day for all.



## World Communion Sunday Sunday, October 4th

The Peacemaking Offering was created in 1980 to support the efforts of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to live out a deeper commitment to peacemaking as part of our faithfulness to God. One of four special offerings designated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly, the Peacemaking Offering is scheduled for World Communion Sunday, October 4.

Each congregation can use 25 percent of the Offering it receives for local ministries of peacemaking within the church and its community. Twenty-five percent is used by presbyteries and synods, and 50 percent is used by the General Assembly ministries through the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program. The 217th General Assmebly encouraged the congregations to consider directing a portion or all of their 25 percent of the Peacemaking Offering as a faithful Christian response to the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

To contribute to this special offering, use one of the Peacemaking Offering envelopes provided or write "Peacemaking" on your check memo line.

**Session Meeting September 27th, 2009**

1. Motion made, seconded, and carried to approve the congregational meeting, set for electing elders on Oct. 25th.
2. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the following:
  - A. Fall Festival, October 21st - Chili Contest.
  - B. New Sunday School Curriculum (Live Big by Cokesbury)
  - C. Use the Peacemaking Offering as start-up money for an afterschool tutoring program.

➔ **This Sunday, October 4th** ➔

**Open invitation for  
Small Group Gatherings**

**On the first Sunday of each month, immediately after Worship Service for coffee, cookies and conversation with the Pastor. The discussion can be on any topic.**



**Meals on Wheels**

**Week of  
October 12th- 16th, 2009**

**If you are interested in becoming a driver, please call the church office at 332.3073. It's a great way to make a difference in the lives of others.**

**Birthdays**

- 1 Vestel Cole
- 1 Cheryl Weems
- 3 Logan Elliott
- 7 Connie Ragland
- 9 Charles Mayhue
- 10 Jim Robbins
- 12 Sarah Thompson
- 15 Jim Barlow
- 15 Bette Cole
- 16 John McCann
- 22 Kay Shaw
- 22 Elizabeth Elliott
- 22 Joan Butler
- 25 Cathy Blackburn
- 26 David McCann
- 31 George Smith

**October 2009**

**Anniversaries**

- 10 Clyde & Joan Butler

*If we have missed your birthday or anniversary, please call the church office 332.3073.*



**Reminder  
Book Club**

**The First Book Club meets, Sunday, October 11th at noon.**

**We will meet at St. Luke's Church in the green room (right off the fellowship hall). The club will rotate each month between St. Luke's and FPC.**

**We will be discussing the book, The Shack. There will be a potluck lunch, so bring your favorite dish. Hope to see you there! Everyone welcome.**

	<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>
<b><u>Worship</u></b>	September 6	49
	September 13	60
<b><u>Attendance</u></b>	September 20	70
	September 27	74

**Operations**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Operations</u>	<u>Other</u>
9/1/ - 9/30/09	\$9,815.59	\$6,988.47
	<b>Total: \$16,804.06</b>	

**TREASURER TOM HAMPTON'S REPORT**

	<u>August</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Income	\$18,912.94	\$123,003.29
Expenses	<u>\$23,994.44</u>	<u>\$165,388.36</u>
August Net Inc.	\$-5,081.50	End Bal. \$-42,385.07

**Balances of All Funds as of 8/31/09**

Operation Fund	\$-10,282.20
Special Funds	\$110,243.96
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$99,961.76</b>



**On September 5th, Mel Robertson's cousin, Stephen Lester, his wife and two of their children, were killed in a plane crash in Tulsa.**

*"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."*  
John 11:24-26

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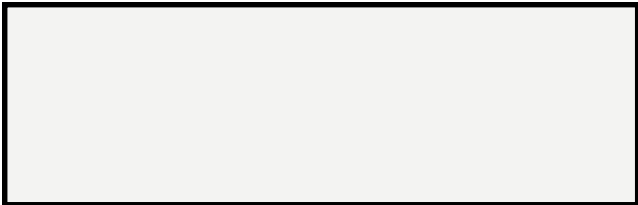
### First Presbyterian Church

301 E. KINGS RD.  
PO BOX 56  
ADA OK 74821-0056  
WWW.FPCADA.COM

#### Church Staff

Pastor.....David McCann  
Youth Director.....Emily Hoskins  
Choir Director.....Johnna Compton  
Organist.....Bonita Blackburn  
Administrative Assistant.....Lisa Bratcher  
Treasurer.....Tom Hampton  
Custodian.....Karah Thompson

**Church Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday  
8:30 am - 3:30 pm  
**Staff meetings**  
Wed. afternoons at 3:30 pm  
Closed for lunch 12:00 - 1:00 pm



## Savories to Fall Fun

The Congregational Life Committee will sponsor the Fall Festival on Wednesday, October 21st, 2009 from 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. Dinner this year will be a chili contest, so whip up your best batch and bring it to share. The church will provide salad, fritos, crackers, cheese, onions, and mustard. Dessert will be in the cake walk game. The rules for the chili contest are simple. The prizes may be crummy but the fame and fortune associated with winning this prestigious contest is stunning. The judges, who will be announced later, will be open to bribery with the ill gotten gains going to the budget of this committee.

Dinner is from 5:30 - 6:00 pm with games and prizes to follow. Costumes are optional.

If you will volunteer to help with the games, we will get you through the dinner line first. All you have to do is help the children play the games and have fun. To volunteer call Mary Hampton at 332.5465 or e-mail at mchadaok@yahoo.com.



Join us  
for **Wednesday Night Live**  
**every other Wednesday**

WNL meets every other Wednesday until the end of November. We are meeting to coincide with the Youth Group. In December we will meet every Wednesday due to Advent Services.

#### Meeting dates in October include:

**Wednesday, October 7th**

**Wednesday, October 21st**

We hope you can join us! Bring your favorite potluck dish to the WFC for food, fellowship and fun! Everyone welcome.

Bring a friend. See you there!!



**For Happenings in  
October 2009**

**See Calendar Insert**

For Youth Group  
Activities in October  
See the Presby-Palian Insert