

PRESBYTIDINGS

400 W Central, El Dorado, Kansas, (316) 321-3790; E-Mail: officefpceld@gmail.com

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Church website: www.firstpreseldks.org

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

MAY 2018



COMMUNITY PIZZA DINNER

The following are signed up for the May 5th community pizza dinner: Jennifer Penner-Dessert/Help if needed, Cinda Darwin-Casserole, Sharon Decker, Deviled eggs, Kendra Wilkinson-Vegetable dish, Sharon McClure-Banana bread, Billye Odom-Lasagne, Lois Fairman-Dessert, Nita Whiteman-Salad/help, Dorothy Miller-Help, Max Hubbell-Help. Thank you all!

VBS MAY 29- JUNE 1!



Take a walk on the wild side where weird is wonderful and unconditional love meets never-ending truth at this year's VBS. Children age 4 through 5th grade (2017-2018) are all welcome.

Through their adventures your children will learn that **Jesus loves them even when: they are feeling left out, they are different, they don't understand, they do wrong, and they are afraid.** We will have a great time with lively singing, creative crafts, exciting games, and great Bible stories – all the things that make VBS so much fun for children.

VBS 2018 will be May 29 to June 1! We are going to try something new this year and hold an evening VBS! Each evening will begin with a simple meal at 6:00. Parents will be invited to stay to eat with their children and also to join us for the opening worship. We will conclude VBS at 8:30 p.m. each night.

We will need lots of adult and youth volunteers!! If you are able to help, please fill out a volunteer form and put it in the offering plate or leave it in the deacon's area. If you are

only available part of the week, please note that on the form.

Registration forms are available and supply donation sign-ups will be available soon. Contact Tresa Garcia (316-323-9045 or garciatresa@gmail.com) with any questions.



GRADUATE RECOGNITION

Rachel Evans, daughter of Monica Evans and great granddaughter of Mary Hearn, graduating from El Dorado High School. Rachel is going to Cowley College after she graduates to pursue nursing and get an associates in health sciences. After Cowley she plans on attending a university that hasn't been decided yet to pursue audiology.

Garrett Smith, son of Roger and Debbie Smith, is graduating from Butler Community College.

Jared Haury, son of Larry & Dana Haury, will be graduating from Kansas State University on Saturday, May 12th, 2018, with a degree in Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness. He will begin a career in Ag Lending at Citizens State Bank in June.

Tara Varner, daughter of Calvin & Carla Varner and granddaughter of Pat Varner, will graduate from Butler Community College this spring with an associate's degree in Agriculture Business. She plans to complete her degree at Fort Hays State University.

Other high school graduates who are former members or have had connections to our church are: Caleb Clites, Kaden Clites, Channing Kimble, Jillian McCaig and Tatum Lafferty.

Congratulations and best wishes to all of our graduates!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR MOWING



A sign-up sheet has been placed on the bulletin board for volunteers to help with mowing/weed-eating the church grounds. If you are willing to help, please sign your name, phone number & email address. Jon Dunbar will make up a schedule with the rotation of volunteers and send it out to you. Thank you for helping make our church property look more attractive and appealing!



SUMMER SOFTBALL LEAGUE

It is time to start thinking about summer Church Coed Softball! If you're high school age or older (or even way older), you can play! We've had a lot of fun the past two years we've been back in the league and are looking forward to another season. Games usually begin around June 1st and they are played on Friday nights out at the El Dorado Lake Ball Diamonds. There is an end-of-the-season tournament that is usually played the Saturday following the end of the regular season. We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.

YOUTH NEWS

Boy, I'll tell you what, the school year sure did fly by. I can hardly believe it's almost May, and it's time for graduation, again. Most of the students I've seen this year are not seniors and will not be graduating. I am extremely proud of the graduate we do have. Rachel Evans has done such a great job helping the Sweet and Sweat Youth Auction be successful, since I've been at the church. Rachel and her mom, Monica, bake so many items for the auction. They alone helped generate a substantial amount of revenue for the youth program. I am very excited to see what Rachel decides to do



after graduation, and I know she will be successful.

The youth ministry is getting geared up for another Urban Plunge (mission trip) this summer. The youth are heading to Omaha, NE to work with several Christian ministries in an urban environment. I'm looking forward to the trip! We are also looking forward to hosting another competitive community gaming tournament in the summer months. It's been great to connect with young people in the El Dorado area. As the summer months wind down, my plan is to send an email or text message to every person who's attended the tournament and let them know we have a youth program that meets on Wednesdays and Sundays. I'm hoping that by letting them know we do more than play games, which we *have* already done, we'll see some of those kids come to group, and they'll find out we have a lot of fun stuff we offer to students in the community.

Finally, as the school year is coming to a close, it's easy for me to reflect on where we're at in the youth program, numerically speaking. So far, I've been here for about a year and a half. When I began, we had a great group of kids to begin with. They're awesome, and I'm glad to have met them and look forward to watching what God does in their lives. As time went on, we saw at least twice the amount of students we started with coming to group. As mentioned above, we've, also, made attempts to connect with students by hosting the community gaming tournaments. There have been quite a few new people come through the doors of the Youth House in my year and a half here. Honestly, this is a crazy, turbulent time for these kids, and they're really busy. In my life, one of the practical consequences of that reality is that kids come in and out of any youth program. It's fun to see them come, and sad to see them go. When the summer comes to an end, I'm planning on making contact with every student or young person who's come to group or the competitive video game tournament. I'm really going to show my excitement for our youth program. I hope that you will do the same and do what you can to encourage growth in the youth department of the church. Thank you, and have a wonderful day.

-John Simon

PASTOR RUTH REFLECTS

Love God; Nurture People;
Make Disciples

“Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” Matthew 22:36-40



In March, I discussed the first part of our mission statement—“Love God.” As we discussed, the Greek language has several words, each with somewhat different meanings, that are expressed with the English word “love.” In this case, the Greek word is *agape*, a word which describes God’s unconditional and steadfast love. We are to love God with the same love with which God loves us. This gives us a lifetime of growth to shoot for. As we will see, though, loving God is not just a goal, it is also a promise.

Since loving God is a part of our mission statement, we want to consider whether we are meeting that part of our mission. From the March newsletter, we had these questions to consider: “Are we really loving God? Are we, as a congregation, showing love for God? How do we help others learn to love God? What can we do to improve in love of God?”

These questions bring us to the second part of our mission statement: Nurture People. We really can’t measure love for God, partly because we think of love as a feeling. Even if we think of love for God as action, though, what actions should we measure? Amount of time spent in prayer? Or Bible study? Something else?

When Jesus said that the second commandment is like the first, he gave us a way to see if we are truly coming to love God with all our heart, soul and mind. Of course, it’s still not like a measurement in engineering or carpentry, which can be fairly precise and well-understood by others. Nonetheless, if we look at our actions regarding other people, we do get some measure of our love for God. To answer the questions above, the actions we need to measure are the

love, nurture and support we provide to other people—our neighbors.

Nurturing people grows out of a love for God. Love for God is evident when we love and nurture people. And according to God’s amazing way of doing things, God is able to use our service to transform us from the inside out. Service to others is a means through which we, ourselves, also experience God’s grace and love.

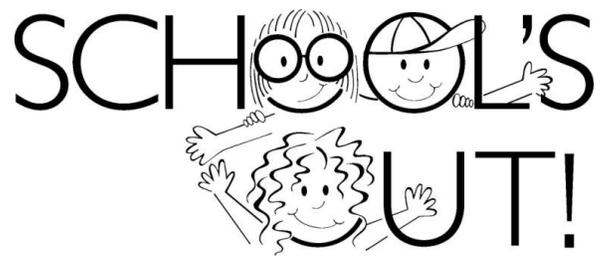
One of the key things that I have learned over the years, is that it is God’s grace, or love, that helps us to fulfill God’s commandments. The growing ability to fulfill the commandments is termed “sanctification.” In the *Larger Catechism (Book of Confessions 7.185)* we learn that sanctification is a work of God’s grace. Those who are chosen “more and more die unto sin, and rise into newness of life.” God gives the command, and God also gives the strength to fulfill the command, because we aren’t strong enough or good enough to do so on our own.

The end result? The command becomes a promise! As we continue to grow in Christ, we will love God, we will become less selfish and self-centered and we will love grow in love for others. Rather than a goal to strive for, it’s more of a promise to look forward to. Love God. Nurture People. The two are not separate, but are one.

ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Date	Attendance	Offerings
April 1	100	\$1,929.82
April 8	64	\$2,932.00
April 15	72	\$1,758.59
April 22	71	\$4,648.80
April 29	61	\$4,120.10

Thank you for your faithful giving and don’t forget the \$2 challenge!





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Eleven members of PW Circle met April 12, 2018 with Pat Varner and Barbara Hubbell serving as hostesses. Cards for various members of the congregation were passed around for the group to sign. Moderator Nita Whiteman asked for joys and concerns. Pastor Ruth Waite offered up our prayers. One special joy for our church was that Pastor Ruth has been approved to do sacraments and to moderate our session.

Pat Varner gave the treasurer's report. The money we voted last month for the National Church Wide Gathering and for "Thrive! Butler" has been paid. Pat will talk about the Birthday Offering on April 15th and it will be collected in church April 22nd. This offering and the Blanket Sunday money will be sent out in June.

The next order of business was a sign-up sheet for the "Thrive! Butler" meals. Nita informed us that she had provided a meal for July 3rd. We will wait till next fall to sign up for the Oct 3 and Feb 5 meetings. The meals should feed 7 and should be delivered in disposable containers to the Methodist Church Fellowship Hall by 5:30 pm.

We were reminded again to bring food or cash to Nita or Pat for the April 21st Spring Gathering in Sterling. The last order of business was to accept Ruby Shoemaker's resignation as secretary for PW. We thanked her for her service. A motion was made and seconded for Connie Hamlin to be the new secretary. The motion passed.

Patty Goedecke led the study of Session 6: "Esther—Letting God Be in Control". The book of Esther shows us God's divine guidance and care over our lives. Although we may question certain circumstances in our lives, we must have faith that God is in control, working through both the good and the difficult times and we must have the courage to follow His guidance.

Others attending in addition to those named above: Judy McCully, Joyce Fulmer, and Dorothy Miller.

The next meeting will be at 10:00 May 10th. Ruby Shoemaker, Connie Hamlin and Lois

Fairman will be hostesses. We will be studying Session 7.

Submitted by *Connie Hamlin*

TUGGS LOGBOOK APRIL 22, 2018



TUGGS met on April 22, 2018 at the church for pizza and mud pie for Earth Day with Watch 3 (Stackley, Goedecke, Varner, Miller, and Voth) in charge. There were 18 people in attendance.

Justin Kneisel the district conservationist presented the program on soil health. He recommended the no till method which includes more earth worms and better moisture. After three years of not tilling, there is better health of soil. Growing wheat and soy beans helps mellow out the ground. Cover crops are grown in between and not harvested or the cover crop can be grown at the same time as the major crop. To improve the soil you need to grow carbon producing crops and watch the nitrates when grazing cattle. There is a 10% moisture in the Flinthills.

Dorothy Miller shared the birthdays and anniversaries for April, and "Happy Birthday" was sung to Billye Odom since it was her birthday.

Martin Goedecke led the devotions from "Living Love". It is important to have a patient spirit in the midst of stress. You can grow closer to others and calm those around you.

TUGGS will meet at 6:00 on June 3 at the North Main Park for a picnic with Watch 1 (Sweney, McCully Odom, Hutchinson, Kaufmann) with Nita Whiteman as watch chairman in charge. Chicken and sides will be served.



VISITORS

- April 1: Jake Hamilton, Kelly & Margo Alexander
- April 8: Vincent Ralls
- April 15: Jim & Jeanne Zorn, Kelly & Margo Alexander & nieces & nephew
- April 22: Kelly Alexander & family
- April 29: Jim & Jeanne Zorn



THANK YOU NOTES

From Neil Benson:
To all my friends in the Presbyterian Church,

A happy highlight occurred this week when, acting for the Easter bunny, Dalinda Hamilton delivered a pretty and Bountiful Easter basket!! Thank you for your caring thoughts! I've had so many ups and downs health-wise lately, and it really does help to keep me in the ups column to know you are thinking of me. Thank you again!

Lovingly,
Neil Benson

From the Stackleys:

Thank you wonderful people for the Easter basket Jamie and Dwight Downs delivered to us. I am getting better but Arlan still needs a little more practice in cooking.

God bless all of you. Thanks for the prayers. I need them.

Always,
Mary & Arlan Stackley

ACTIVITIES FOR MAY



- Tues, May 1, 4:30 pm-Finance Committee, 6:00 pm-Girl Scouts
- Wed, May 2, 6:30 pm-Mustard Seeds & Middle School
- Thurs, May 3, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers
- Sat, May 5, 5:30 pm-Community Pizza Dinner
- Sun, May 6, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir Practice, & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High
- Mon, May 7, 6:30 pm-Worship & Music
- Tues, May 8, 9:00 am-PSK meeting, 6:30 pm-Dream Team
- Wed, May 9, 6:30 pm-Trustees, Mustard Seeds & Middle School
- Thurs, May 10, 10:00 am-PW Circle, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers
- Sun, May 13, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir practice & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship
- Tues, May 15, 6:00 pm-Girl Scouts
- Wed, May 16, 6:30 pm-Middle School

Thurs, May 17, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-Session

Fri, May 18, 12:00 pm-DAR

Sun, May 20, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir practice & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship

Thurs, May 24, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

Sun, May 27, 9:30 am-Sunday School, Choir practice & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship

Mon, May 28: Church office closed for Memorial Day

Thurs, May 31, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers

BIRTHDAYS



4 – Karen Gruver

5 – Vicki Coash, Karen Hamilton

8 - Patty Goedecke, Judy McCully

9 – Melissa Mitchell

13 – Shannon Sehie

19 – Francia Bird

21 - Gerry Hamlin

22 – Rob Taylor

26 - Debbie Smith, Kevin Miller

30 - Amy Varner



ANNIVERSARIES

7 – Steve & Kim Jensen

10 – David & Pam Bryson

