

# PRESBYTIDINGS

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Church website: [www.firstpreseldks.org](http://www.firstpreseldks.org)

Sunday Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 am

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OCTOBER 2018

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## COMMUNITY PIZZA DINNER

The following are signed up for the community pizza dinner on Saturday, September 6: Kate Niemann-Food/Help, Billye Odom-Food, Lois Fairman-Cake, Nita Whiteman-Salad & Help, Sharon Decker-Food, Connie Hamlin-Help. Please have food at the church by 5:00 and helpers need to arrive by 4:30.



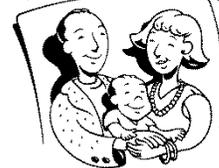
The inspiration for this play is a baby picture of Frances Frazier, found in the church's archives. She was a life-long resident of El Dorado. During the play, stories and memories of Frances will be recounted.

Prior to the performance, there will be a seasonal dinner of pork loin, red potatoes, green beans, tossed salad, and a Halloween dessert to be served in Fellowship Hall. Tickets will be \$20 for adults and \$15 for students and will be sold after worship on October 14<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. You may also stop by the office weekdays after the 14<sup>th</sup> to purchase tickets.

This promises to be a fun and entertaining evening for all!

## PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

## Church Photo Directory



Evangelism/Member Care Committee is working on putting together an "in-house" pictorial directory this fall. We will be taking pictures following worship a couple of Sundays in October. We will also have contact info for you to review to make sure everything is correct. Please be sure to get your picture taken...our directory won't be complete without everyone!

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERINGS

Date	Attendance	Offerings
September 2	75	\$4,751.00
September 9	68	\$1,745.00
September 16	50	\$1,600.50
September 23	82	\$3,513.00
September 30	77	\$3,267.85



## DREAM TEAM PRESENTS A MYSTERY DINNER THEATER

Just in time to celebrate Halloween, the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church will present a mystery dinner theater on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, starting at 6:00 p.m. Members of the community are invited to attend this event.

In the original play entitled "Visions & Verses," the church is confronted by a series of unsettling events. Church members try to either explain the events or unmask the culprits to no avail. Audience members will be given an opportunity to solve the mystery. There are numerous possibilities. Is a church member playing a hoax? Is there an intruder? Or, is the church really haunted?

## PASTOR RUTH REFLECTS

During the month of October, we will be reflecting on the Book of Job during our Sunday morning worship service. Job is one of the Wisdom books. The Wisdom books of the Bible (Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job, Song of Songs) often look to everyday, ordinary things to learn about God's work in our world. Throughout the Proverbs, a collection of sayings, we see a clear connection between actions and consequences. They represent "words to live by." Here are just a couple of examples: "My child, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare they will give you." (Proverbs 3:1-2) "A scoundrel and a villain go around with crooked speech, winking the eyes, shuffling the feet, pointing the fingers, with perverted mind devising evil, continually sowing discord; on such a one calamity will descend suddenly; in a moment, damage beyond repair. (Proverbs 6:12-15)

The books of Ecclesiastes and Job, though, contain more recognition that there are sometimes exceptions to the norm. Obeying the laws of God does not always lead to "length of days and years of life and abundant welfare." Ecclesiastes and Job are books that both struggle with the question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?"

The story of Job (rhymes with probe) begins by telling us that Job lived in the land of Uz (rhymes with ooze), was blameless and upright, feared God and turned away from evil. He has received the blessings of "abundant welfare," to which Proverbs 3:1-2 referred. When sudden calamity strikes, Job's friends assume that he has done something to cause the calamity. (See Proverbs 6:12-15) When they begin to speak, Job begins by cursing the day that he was born. His friends, convinced that Job's situation must be his own fault, work on getting Job to confess his sin.

The speeches of Job and his friends are Hebrew poetry. Job and his friends go back and forth, and at first Job is arguing with his friends. As we get deeper into the book, though, Job speaks more directly to God. He begins to recognize that there are many innocent sufferers in the world—he connects his own suffering to the hardships the poor face every single day. He

begins to recognize that it might not be their own deeds or their lack of faith that led to their suffering. Keeping the commandments does not *always* lead to "length of days and years of life and abundant welfare." Sudden calamity does not reach *only* the "scoundrel and villain."

After all his arguments and struggles, Job has an encounter with God. God speaks to Job in the whirlwind. (Chapter 38) The words, themselves, almost make it sound like God is reprimanding Job. "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" (Job 38:2) When we continue reading the poetry, though, a feeling of awe over the wonders of the natural world is invoked. *That is often what an encounter with God feels like!*

Even through his anger, his frustration, and his disappointment, which Job was not shy about revealing to his friends and to God, God reached out to Job and encountered him in the whirlwind. Job was changed by his encounter with God. He was humbled. He realized he could not possibly know all there was to know about God, but God had cared enough about him to both listen to him and to speak to him. In the epilog, God then reprimands the friends. They had merely repeated the wisdom they had learned over the years, much of which can be found in the Book of Proverbs. But the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, "My wrath is kindled against you and against your two friends; for you have not spoken of me what is right, as my servant Job has."

Sometimes we have a tendency to blame others for what has happened to them. We may not do that to individuals if we know their whole situation, but if we don't know the circumstances, we lump people together. We might assume that the poor are lazy or don't have faith, for example—or that an unattended child has irresponsible parents. Job can help us to have compassion. Job can help us relate our own suffering to the suffering that others undergo. Calamity is not always traceable to bad deeds or to bad attitudes. If we, ourselves, are angry with God, perhaps we should follow his example and let it out while we still stay in contact with God. Apparently, God can handle our anger while reprimanding our smugness and certainty of His ways.

LET'S GO ON  
A HAYRIDE



## HAYRIDE & WEINER ROAST FUN!

TUGGS and the Family Life Committee are hosting a Hayrack Ride and Hotdog Roast Sunday November 4<sup>th</sup>!

Everyone is invited! We will be meeting at Calvin and Carla Varner's (1252 NW Diamond Road, Towanda) at 5:00. Hotdogs, sides, drinks & s'mores will be provided. Cost for TUGGS members will be \$4.00 per person. All other families are asked to bring a bag of chips if able.

TUGGS members please sign up in the church office. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs. Don't miss this relaxing evening of fun and fellowship!

in **YOUTH**  
**Action** →

## YOUTH NEWS

Many of our students were very busy this month! The Kansas State Fair ran from September 7<sup>th</sup> through September 16<sup>th</sup>, and some of our kids worked very hard as they prepared all year long for this momentous event. From what I've heard, things went great for students of the church who participate in 4-H. Because students are so busy at the fair, I didn't get the chance to see them much in September, so I'm looking forward to hearing about their endeavors.

We want to reach more kids in El Dorado!! Because of that, we're getting ready to host another community gaming tournament. Once again, we're hoping to reach a group of kids in the community. I'm also hoping that by doing these things on a regular basis, students will come to see that we are here week in and week out and will be more inclined to join the youth group. We've also thought about attempting to do other types of community outreach events. While we are far from committing, I noticed Life Church in Wichita, KS hosts a dodgeball tournament. I've never been to one, but they have registration forms and teams need to be signed up early and all the rest. At this point, it's just an idea, but who knows what we might come up with or accomplish if we put our minds to it.

Biblically, we're still trying to get to all of our lessons pertaining to arguments for the existence of God, trusting the Bible, and rejoicing in God. The Bible is one of my favorite pursuits, so I'm always excited to talk about God, the Bible, theology, and deal with life through these things. I've learned a few things since my conversion when I was twenty, and I'm anxious to share with students. Finally, we have some fun stuff coming up in October, one being the Hayrack Ride out at Calvin Varner's. As always, all youth are encouraged to participate, and I'm looking forward to it!

*-John Simon*

## TUGGS

TUGGS met on September 23, 2018 at the church for barbeque pulled pork sandwich and Antique Road Show with Watch 3 (Stackley, Goedecke, Varner, Miller, and Voth) in charge. There were 20 people in attendance.

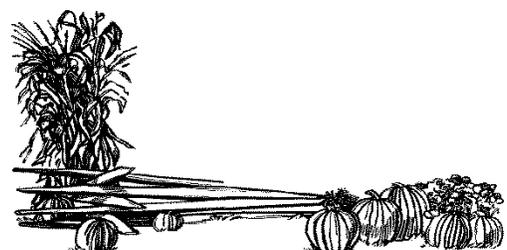


Members showed and told about their antiques which included toys, books, a rocker, a pottery salt bowl, daguerreotype pictures, a glass basket, a glass dish, school bells, sock darning, lunch box, railroad watch, school slate, and a horse shoe and horse shoeing tools.

Dorothy Miller shared the birthdays and anniversaries for September and announced the next meeting.

Larry McCully led the devotions. He told us that the word courteous is a word that comes from a Greek word meaning friend and mind. He said that we should think of everyone as a friend and have the joy of God as a friend.

TUGGS will meet at 5:00 on November 4 for a hay rack ride and wiener roast at Varner's with Family Life Group. Watch 1 (Sweney, McCully Odom, Hutchinson, Kaufmann) with Nita Whiteman as watch chairman is in charge.



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women met September 13, 2018 with Mary Baker and Pat Varner serving as hostesses. Birthday cards for members of the congregation were signed by the group and members expressed their joys and concerns. Moderator Nita Whiteman offered up our prayers. Nita then reminded the group that we needed people to sign up to provide two more meals for Thrive, Butler! Mary Baker and Cinda Darwin signed up to feed eight at the October 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting. We still need someone to provide a meal for 16 on November 27<sup>th</sup>! Anyone from the congregation can help out with this mission.



PWSK will have two Fall Gatherings. On September 25<sup>th</sup> a meeting will be in Winfield. Anyone who wishes may donate personal hygiene items for their Blessing Box. The other gathering will be in Newton on October 6<sup>th</sup>. The items being collected are for the Safe Home Shelter and include bath and kitchen towels, shampoo, conditioner, Pull-Ups, baby diapers, baby wipes and other personal items.

Pat Varner gave the treasurer's report and Connie Hamlin read the thank you notes the group had received.

Mary Baker then led the study of Session 3: "Shulamite Woman-We had God at Hello..." This was a very interesting study of the Song of Songs. Through the love story of Shulamite and Solomon we can hear the voice of God. Solomon's praise reflects the heart and words of God toward his beloved people and the Shulamite woman's words can likewise become a reflection of our praise back to God. The book of the Bible is all about how God loves us just the way we are.

Others attending in addition to those named above: Billye Odom and her caregiver, Ruby Shoemaker, Lois Fairman, Dorothy Kaufmann, Barbara Hubbell, Judy McCluskey and Judy McCully.

The next meeting will be at 10:00 October 11<sup>th</sup> with hostesses Barbara Hubbell and Nita Whiteman. Lesson: "Delilah-How Can We Guard Ourselves Against Negative Influences?"

Submitted by *Connie Hamlin*

## BIRTHDAYS

2 – Craig Hamilton  
5 – Shirley Hutchinson  
7 – Roger Smith  
9 - Linda Clark  
10 - Connie Hamlin  
11 –Roy Voth  
17 – Cherri Ogle  
18 – Peggy Bourbon  
21 - Jared Haury  
24 - Martin Goedecke  
25 - Jeff Varner  
26 –Faith Stackley  
27 – Hannah Haury  
30 – Sharon Waugh  
31 - Ruby Shoemaker



## ANNIVERSARIES

15 –Virgil & Anale Biby  
22 – Jeremy & Melissa Mitchell  
23 – Robert & Jan Taylor

## VISITORS



September 2: Kelly Duggan, Nichole Briley, Gladys Mort, Scott & Kari Vang  
September 9: Gladys Mort  
September 16: Kari &

Annie Talbert, Gladys Mort  
September 23: Gladys Mort  
September 30: Jollipes, Cathy & Steve Fairbanks, Gladys Mort, Ann Sweney's brother, Don

By the way, we had a number of guests in worship September 30. It would really be helpful to visitors if more of our members would wear their nametags!





## HEALING SERVICE OCT 21

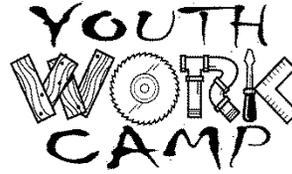
Pastor Ruth and the Worship & Music Committee are planning a healing service for Sunday, October 21<sup>st</sup> during regular worship. The congregation will be able to come forward to receive prayers of healing from Pastor Ruth and several elders.



## OCTOBER ACTIVITIES

Tues, Oct 2, 4:30 pm-Finance Committee, 6:00 pm-Girl Scouts, 6:30 pm-Play practice  
Wed, Oct 3, 6:30 pm-Middle School, Mustard Seeds  
Thurs, Oct 4, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers  
Sat, Oct 6, 5:30 pm-Community Pizza Dinner  
Sun, Oct 7, 9:15 am-Choir practice, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 12:00 pm-Evangelism/Member Care, 5:00 pm-Sr High  
Tues, Oct 9, 6:30 pm-Play practice  
Wed, Oct 10, 6:30 pm-Trustees, Mustard Seeds & Middle School  
Thurs, Oct 11, 10:00 am-PW Circle, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers  
Sun, Oct 14, 9:15 am-Choir practice, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High  
Tues, Oct 16, 6:00 pm-Girl Scouts, 6:30 pm-Play practice  
Wed, Oct 17, 6:30 pm-Mustard Seeds & Middle School  
Thurs, Oct 18, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:00 pm-Session & Deacons  
Fri, Oct 19, 12:00 pm-DAR  
Sun, Oct 21, 9:15 am-Choir practice, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship, 5:00 pm-Sr High  
Tues, Oct 23, 6:30 pm-Play practice  
Wed, Oct 24, 6:30 pm-Mustard Seeds & Middle School  
Thurs, Oct 25, 4:30 pm-Evangelism/Member Care, 5:30 pm-Weight Watchers, 6:30 pm-Dress rehearsal for play

Sat, Oct 27, 6:00 pm-Mystery Dinner Theater  
Sun, Oct 28, 9:15 am-Choir practice, 9:30 am-Sunday School & Youth Stampede, 10:30 am-Worship  
Wed, Oct 31, 6:30 pm-Mustard Seeds & Middle School



## WMWOODS WORK WEEKEND

Just Follow the Map....TREASURE!  
The PSK Youth Council's Westminster Woods Work Weekend!! November 16-18, 2018. A great event has been planned for you! The cost per person will be \$40 and a t-shirt will be included for the attendees. Come worship, work and fellowship as the youth find their TREASURE!  
Contact Geri Doll for registration information. [doll@firstchurchwichita.org](mailto:doll@firstchurchwichita.org)

*You are invited to Closing Worship at Bethel Presbyterian Church on World Wide Communion Sunday, October 7, 2018, at 10:00 a.m. A fellowship dinner will follow. This is a time for worship, fellowship and celebration of the life of Bethel Presbyterian Church.*

FYI: This is Jay Ayers's church in Wichita that is closing.

