



# September

OPEN DOOR 2021

Paul closes his letter to the strife-ridden church in Corinth with these words: *“Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of peace and love will be with you.”*

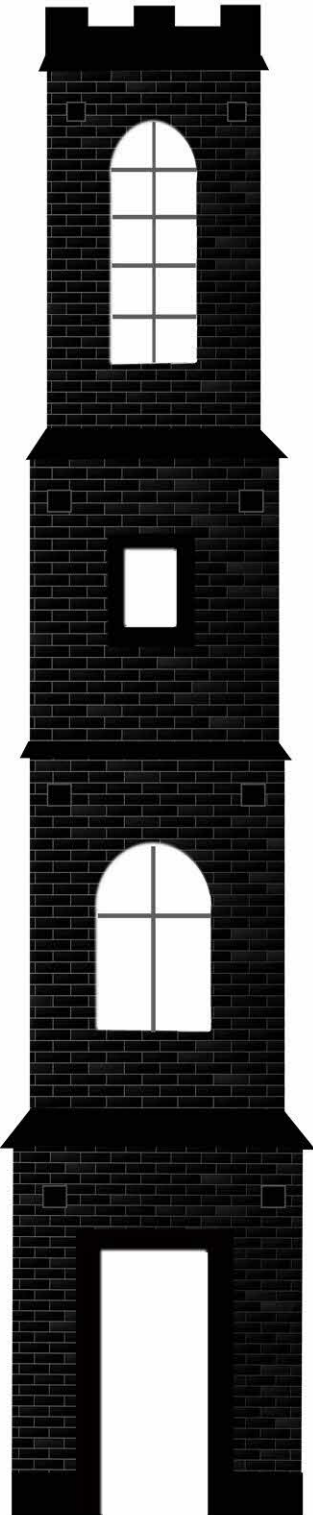
God desires us to live in peace and unity with him, with one another, and with ourselves. God wants us to create and sustain healthy relationships. One of my greatest joys as a father of adult children is watching them live and love with each other. It was great having a week to do that when I took some vacation. I read recently that “God enjoys watching his sons and daughters become effective team players. What a great way to say it!

A wise person proposed these simple four steps to help us all live in harmony and peace:

- 1) Pursue peace with God and with yourself. If you don't have peace within, it will be impossible to extend lasting peace to others.
- 2) Lower your “high” expectations of others. Realize that we're all human and we're all prone to make mistakes.
- 3) Accept that God has wired everyone differently. What works for you may not be true for someone else.
- 4) Embrace, enjoy and benefit from the giftedness of others while putting to use the gifts and talents God has entrusted to you for the building up of His church.

In our families, our church, and our world, let us work diligently to embrace and share the love, mercy, and peace of God.

*Pastor Ray*



## Summer Socials!

In August we were treated to Homemade Ice Cream from the Lomax's and The Fellowship Committee hosted an Indoor Picnic! Lots of fun and good food! Thank you to everyone who come and everyone who prepared the yummys!





**September 5** Is It a Sin to be Poor?

**September 12** Taming the Tongue

**September 19** Faith and Fear

**September 26** How Much Is Enough?



### **Kum Ba Yah aka Kum Ba Zoom**

**We meet every Wednesday on ZOOM for fellowship, study and prayer. 7:00 PM. The link to the Zoom Meeting is sent in the Wednesday eMail each week.**

### **Kum Ba Yah topics:**

**September 1** Wilderness Assumptions #2

**September 8** Wilderness Assumptions #3

**September 15** Wilderness Assumptions #4

**September 22** Wilderness Assumptions #5

**September 29** TBA

### **Adult Sunday School**

**Sundays at 9:30am on Zoom and in Person!**

**September 5** The Story of Susanna

**September 12** The Song of the Three Children

**September 19** Bel and the Dragon

**September 26** The Prayer of Manasseh







We anticipate resuming the backpack program in mid-September having overcome numerous challenges that covid presented to us. God willing, we will continue to provide supplemental nutrition for Roosevelt first thru third graders for another school year. When backpack started five years ago, we were preparing 30 to 40 bags of food items and have seen that number grow to 60 to 70 bags this past year. Covid has been a double whammy for us with church attendance restricted while some parents of school children lost their jobs. The result has been declining income for the program while demand has nearly doubled. I am calling on you readers of The Open Door to help us keep this program going for the children of Roosevelt school. Thanks to our partners who have continued to provide support including the Quapaw tribe, Friends church, Community of Christ church, and Calico Quilters. Finally, I want to thank members of the FPC congregation who have donated their time and support. I look forward to working with you to continue the backpack tradition.

Thanks to the following folks who volunteered for work on Backpack : Janice Johnson, Melinda and John Thiesing, Sarah and John Lomax, Nancy Gee, Betty Lou Ankenman, Kathy Prince, Cindy Holt, Shawn Spencer, Cari Allen, Frank Denny, Pastor Ray, and Jera Rendel.



Thanks to the following folks who volunteered for work on Backpack : Janice Johnson, Melinda and John Thiesing, Sarah and John Lomax, Nancy Gee, Betty Lou Ankenman, Kathy Prince, Cindy Holt, Shawn Spencer, Cari Allen, Frank Denny, Pastor Ray, and Jera Rendel.



The Mission Committee met on August 17, 2021.

The committee present discussed some different places and organization that may benefit from our donations. After discussion they decided to donate from their Local Mission

Funds: \$300.00 to Teachers Toolbox to help with supplying teachers and students with school supplies in the 2021-2022 school year. From their Global Mission Funds: \$500.00 The Presbytery Disaster Assistant for relief in Haiti.

They would like everyone to remember the backpack program will be starting back up in September we expect to pack between 60-70 backpacks a week again this year. That costs the backpack program about \$250.00 a week (\$1000.00 a month). Please think about making a special donation to the backpack program in the coming months! David Foster will give us a "moment for mission" during Sunday worship this week & we will include special envelopes in this week's bulletin!

The Committee will continue to investigate ways our Mission funds can help others both locally and globally. If you have any ideas, we would love to hear from you! Please call a committee member or join in the next meeting!

Thank you everyone for your continued support, we do great things here at First Presbyterian, Miami!

## British Flyers and the Presbyterian Church

Recently a very interesting letter came to our church from James Thomson in England. In clearing his father's estate he found some interesting articles he decided to share. His father was a member of the RAF who came to Miami to get flight training in World War II. Miami was very welcoming to the "British Boys" who stayed in Miami for a period of time and learned to fly. At the end of the training each was awarded his "Wings" and left Miami for flying in the war. Fourteen lost their lives in accidents in training here. Their graves form a special section in our G.A.R. Cemetery.

Mr. Thomson sent to our church a letter from our pastor, the Reverend Harry Curtis, inviting his father to worship. And also he sent a bulletin for March 28, 1943. The bulletin noted that Audrey Bomford, Grandmother of Melinda Theising, was the organist at that time. People have told me that our church was very loving toward these boys. Members invited a cadet or two home for lunch after Sunday worship. Melba Errebo (Cordell) was a teenager and remembers being thrilled when a British boy came to dinner. Sarah Mirjanich was also a teenager. I am sure she likewise was thrilled with a special guest. Melinda Theising was a baby so she has no memory of that period but her mother and grandmother talked about the special lunches. Reverend John Linton, who preceded Dr. Curtis as our pastor, was living in Miami. Although he was retired, he was very gracious to the British boys. Karen Norris, Reverend Linton's preschool granddaughter, can remember sitting on Reverend Linton's lap while he visited the boys.

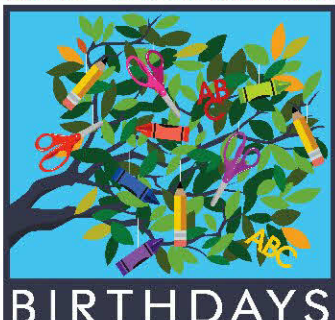
The pictures in the case, which were copied from the Dobson Museum, are interesting. The headquarters for the base was a little north of where Braums is now. There is a picture of the type of plane used as trainers. Please take time to look at pictures that show that part of our history.



# September 2021

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## SEPTEMBER



Nancy Niehaus ... 9/2

Sherry Hiebert ... 9/3

Jack Liwai ... 9/6

Maika Liwai ... 9/11

William Giffhorn ... 9/15

Eugene Waylan ... 9/18

Davina Aguilar - Avila ... 9/21

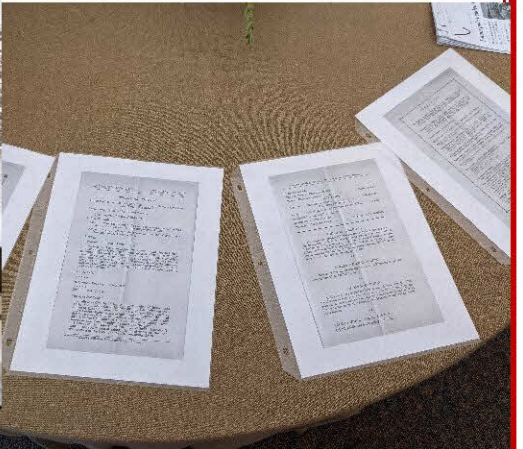
Ileana Aguilar - Avila ... 9/21

Kim Good ... 9/22

*Should your name be here?  
Please let the office know your birth date so we can include you!*



### The Heritage Case in the Narthex!





## Servers in the Lord's House

	Usher	Coffee Host
<b>September 5</b>	Deanna Duvall	Open
<b>September 12</b>	Deanna Duvall	Open
<b>September 19</b>	Melissa Bekemeier	Open
<b>September 26</b>	Open	Open
<b>October 3</b>	Melissa Bekemeier	Open

Please call the office or talk to Pastor Ray to sign up for servers slots!

## Backpack Helper Schedule

<b>Thursday, 9/23</b>		
<b>Wednesday, 9/29</b>		
<b>Thursday, 10/7</b>		
<b>Thursday, 10/14</b>	No backpacks	No Backpacks



## The First Presbyterian Church of Miami Choir

**Singers!** We are exploring the idea of starting a choir for Sunday worship services.

We are planning to begin in September, starting with only one or two Sundays a month.

Let Pastor Ray or Celeste Rector know if you are interested or have any questions.





# September 2021 Daily Lectionary

These Scripture readings are from the two-year daily lectionary of the Presbyterian Book of Common Worship.

## Old Testament

## Epistle

## Gospel

### [Year One]

09/01/2021	1 Kings 9:24-10:13	James 3:1-12	Mark 15:1-11
09/02/2021	1 Kings 11:1-13	James 3:13-4:12	Mark 15:12-21
09/03/2021	1 Kings 11:26-43	James 4:13-5:6	Mark 15:22-32
09/04/2021	1 Kings 12:1-20	James 5:7-20	Mark 15:33-39
09/05/2021	1 Kings 12:21-33	Acts 4:18-31	John 10:31-42
09/06/2021	1 Kings 13:1-10	Phil. 1:1-11	Mark 15:40-47
09/07/2021	1 Kings 16:23-34	Phil. 1:12-30	Mark 16:1-8 (9-20)
09/08/2021	Evening: Pss. 1; 33	1 Kings 17:1-24	Phil. 2:1-11
09/09/2021	1 Kings 18:1-19	Phil. 2:12-30	Matt. 2:13-23
09/10/2021	1 Kings 18:20-40	Phil. 3:1-16	Matt. 3:1-12
09/11/2021	1 Kings 18:41-19:8	Phil. 3:17-4:7	Matt. 3:13-17
09/12/2021	1 Kings 19:8-21	Acts 5:34-42	John 11:45-57
09/13/2021	1 Kings 21:1-16	1 Cor. 1:1-19	Matt. 4:1-11
09/14/2021	1 Kings 21:17-29	1 Cor. 1:20-31	Matt. 4:12-17
09/15/2021	1 Kings 22:1-28	1 Cor. 2:1-13	Matt. 4:18-25
09/16/2021	1 Kings 22:29-45	1 Cor. 2:14-3:15	Matt. 5:1-10
09/17/2021	2 Kings 1:2-17	1 Cor. 3:16-23	Matt. 5:11-16
09/18/2021	2 Kings 2:1-18	1 Cor. 4:1-7	Matt. 5:17-20
09/19/2021	2 Kings 4:8-37	Acts 9:10-31	Luke 3:7-18
09/20/2021	2 Kings 5:1-19	1 Cor. 4:8-21	Matt. 5:21-26
09/21/2021	2 Kings 5:19-27	1 Cor. 5:1-8	Matt. 5:27-37
09/22/2021	2 Kings 6:1-23	1 Cor. 5:9-6:11	Matt. 5:38-48
09/23/2021	Evening: Pss. 81; 116	2 Kings 9:1-16	1 Cor. 6:12-20
09/24/2021	2 Kings 9:17-37	1 Cor. 7:1-9	Matt. 6:7-15
09/25/2021	2 Kings 11:1-20a	1 Cor. 7:10-24	Matt. 6:19-24
09/26/2021	2 Kings 17:1-18	Acts 9:36-43	Luke 5:1-11
09/27/2021	2 Kings 17:24-41	1 Cor. 7:25-31	Matt. 6:25-34
09/28/2021	2 Chron. 29:1- 3;30:1,10-27	1 Cor. 7:32-40	Matt. 7:1-12
09/29/2021	2 Kings 18:9-25	1 Cor. 8:1-13	Matt. 7:13-21
09/30/2021	2 Kings 18:28-37	1 Cor. 9:1-15	Matt. 7:22-29



## A Letter from Kevin Wadleigh, Johnnie Wadleigh's son, to Nancy Gee -

•FOREVER FRIENDS•

It was great hearing from you. We saw Mom this morning and read her your letter. For the last year she hasn't been very responsive. She knows us and answers questions but doesn't initiate conversations. We're allowed to visit any day now which is a big improvement over the last year.

Our daughter and her husband have a 4 year old daughter and 2 year old son and we visit them in the Phoenix area every 6-8 weeks. Our son works for a defense contractor near us, and we see him most weekends.

We've been members of FPC Richardson for over 30 years. I retired 6 years ago and spend at least one day a week at church working on facilities/landscape/computer related things. Most of the last year the church was closed for in-person services, but the grass didn't seem to realize that. Laurie is the assistant to the financial administrator and spends a lot of time there too.

We like to travel a lot and Covid caused us to cancel several booked trips which then got replaced by hiking trips around the southwest. We're enjoying being able to fly again. Looks like we'll need to get a booster shot in a couple of months, but that's when we normally get the annual flu shot, so it's just one more shot.

Tell the kids I said hi and stay safe.

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A note from Neeli Chitekwe

I think of you often and you are in my prayers. You are my church family. I am grateful for all you have done for me. I am working toward certification as a Nurse Practitioner. I had COVID but I am full recovered. -  
Neeli Chitekwe



•FOREVER FRIENDS•

## Presbytery News

We met via Zoom on August 24. Committee reports and approvals were made, including a report and video on the Pastors Backpacking Retreat in Colorado. Welcomes were extended to pastors who have moved to Oklahoma. Pastor Ray was appointed to serve as a Moderator for the Session at Grace, Grove. Two church properties were sold and the EOP is finalizing the sale of Dwight Mission. Forms for serving on a Presbytery Committee are available.

Synod of the Sun Sunday is August 29.

Grace, Commissioner  
Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery



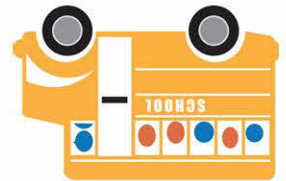


## Dear heavenly Father

Open my eyes, Creator of the universe, that I may see your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; open my ears, that I may hear what the heavens are telling me about your glory, which transcends all material bounds and yet deigns to reside with human beings.

May I ever marvel at your tender care for us, and give you thanks and praise forever. Amen.

—Prayer suggested by Psalms 8 & 19



September

*The First Presbyterian Church  
1410 N.E. Veterans Blvd.  
Miami, OK 74354*