

TIDINGS



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF TULSA

VOL. 64, NO. 3 . FALL 2019

“so we,
who are many
are one body,
in Christ...”

(Romans 12:5)

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Exhibit**
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Anniversary!**
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**Fall
Discipleship**
Back Cover

Communities of faith: in Tulsa and abroad in Kenya

BY REV. JAMES ESTES, ASSOCIATE PASTOR

This September as we prepare for a busy season of school, work and extra activities, it's important to stay centered in the relationships that sustain us — with the Lord, with our families and with our church family. Spending time in the Word and in fellowship isn't just a good idea, it is central to embracing the godly contentment the Bible calls us to.

In this season, we're especially thankful for a special part of our church family: The Tulsa International Fellowship (TIF). This gathering of international Christians has truly been a gift of the Holy Spirit to the life and history of First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa over the past 10 years!

As we celebrate the blessing of this ministry within our local church family (see page 12), First Church is also sending a group to Kenya to explore partnership opportunities within our global church family — in a place that many of our members think of as home.

Rev. Wambugu has observed partnerships from the side of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa and has seen both positive and negative partnership practices. For this reason he will be a great asset in discerning possible partnership opportunities that will advance stories of discipleship to Jesus on both sides of the Atlantic.

“Christians everywhere are asking questions about what it means to be God's people called to this place at this time.”

And that is what we are seeking in a partnership—communities seeking to grow in their discipleship to Jesus. The members of First Church, as Christians everywhere, are asking questions about what it means to be God's people called to this place at this time. What is the work for which God has brought us to Tulsa in 2019? The church in Kenya asks the same questions about growing in faithfulness and stepping into their place in time for Christ's sake.

Western Christians three generations ago helped to bring the good news about Jesus to the world. Many of the relationships to indigenous Christians were unfortunately



paternalistic and often included forms of cultural imperialism, where growing in faith often meant conforming to western social norms.

Today, however, the face of global Christianity is changing. The church of the global south (meaning non-western countries) has a vibrant maturity and is even sending missionaries to proclaim God's kingdom and justice in the post-Christian western countries.

Each cultural and linguistic application of the gospel comes with its own strengths and blind spots. It is through studying of the scriptures, praying and serving together that we are able to grow. We serve one another by lending our strength, and sometimes, even identifying each other's blind spots. In this way the church in every place can be enriched by partnerships with fellow Christians far away.

We are excited to see what doors open to us in Kenya and hope that the next time we go, maybe you will join us.

46th Annual Organ Concert
RON PEARSON

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13 AT 4 P.M.

8:10 mission update: a dinner celebration coming soon!

BY DR. JIM MILLER
PHOTO BY LUCAS FORSYTHE
ARTWORK BY MARY LEE WEAVER

“The Joy of the Lord is our Strength!” Nehemiah 8:10

Sometimes you just need to come together to celebrate! And that's exactly what's being planned for this November in Stephenson Hall. The whole church is coming together in celebration of an idea (a vision, really) that the Lord dropped into the heart and mind of this congregation.

The night will focus on the story of how an idea takes root, gains definition, awakens generosity and drives a whole community toward a singular goal for Jesus' sake.

The 8:10 Project is a remarkable, entrepreneurial, mission-driven idea, offered up by Charlie and Peggy Stephenson, endorsed by the Session back in 2015 and embraced by the larger First Church community.

It began with the purchase of the 810 Building on 8th Street, a total renovation of that space and then the leasing of the entire building — for the purpose of generating net income — every penny of which is earmarked for serving the common good of metro Tulsa in Jesus' name.

With significant financial assistance by the Stephenson Family, an entity was set up to purchase the building and complete the renovation. The Session offered to raise the remaining \$2 million needed to drive the project forward and called upon Bob and Beth Pielsticker to serve as co-chairs of that effort.

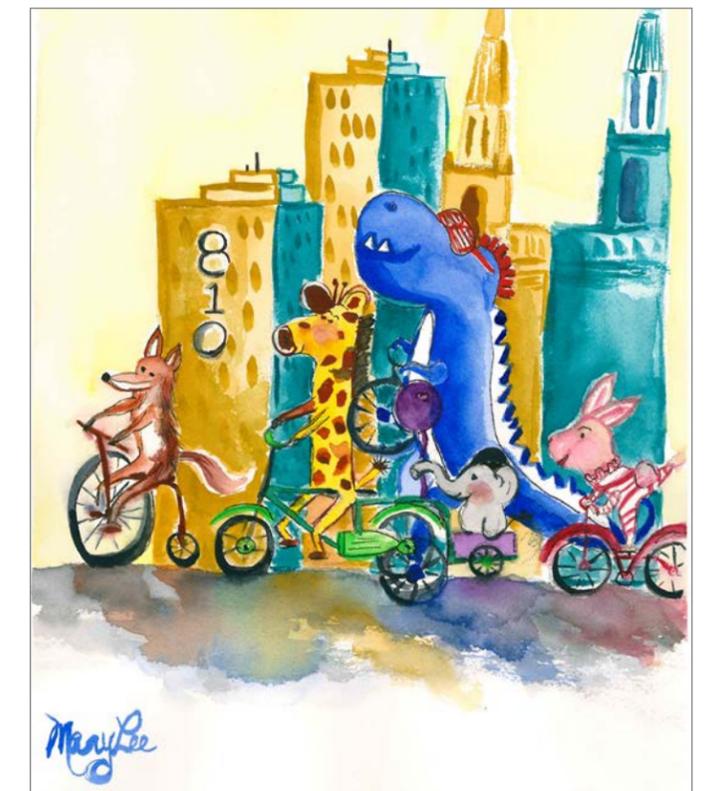
And here we are, almost at the finish line, just about \$90,000 away from unleashing the blessing called the 8:10!

Sometimes we wonder how we can effectively serve Jesus right here in metro Tulsa. This 8:10 Project is one response. It invites the question: “Lord, when was it that we saw you



hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison?” — and encourages us to listen to the reply: “as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me.” (Matthew 25)

A reason to celebrate, indeed! We hope you will join us in early November for a special dinner event. Keep an eye out for exact time and date information coming soon.



ON AUGUST 31, WHEELS FOR MISSION HOSTED A “BIG RIDE” FUNDRAISER, CYCLING FROM TULSA TO SKIATOOK. PROCEEDS WENT DIRECTLY TO THE REMAINING BALANCE ON THE 8:10 BUILDING.

100 years of Loughridge

BY BREANA MCINTOSH
PHOTOS COURTESY OF
CAMP LOUGHRIDGE



a beautiful small piece of land. The venue encouraged the YWCA girls to explore nature, identify various trees or flowers and walk through trails. Sometimes at night, they would even lay their blankets out on the tennis courts and look up at the stars.

Other youth and church groups heard about the lodge and began to spend their weekends there as well. Within just one year of the lodge's existence, Parthenia became the only camp available for young people who lived near Tulsa. Parthenia Camp continued to provide a place for young groups to meet for many years — even to this day.

In 1959, the First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa decided to purchase the camp. The church changed the name of the camp from "Parthenia" to "Loughridge" in memory of Reverend Robert M. Loughridge, one of the very first Christian missionaries to come to Tulsa.

Since the camp continued to grow and become more successful over the years, Camp Loughridge officially became an independent not-for-profit corporation in 1995.

Now that the camp is well established and fully staffed, proclaiming the gospel is the camp's mission and priority, just as it is for First Church. The camp continues the heritage of the YWCA and First Church by serving young people and the greater community of Tulsa for the sake of furthering Christ's Kingdom.

You can learn more about Camp Loughridge's ongoing ministries and programs, including summer day camps, retreats, events and more at camloughridge.org or by calling 918-446-4194.

The history of Camp Loughridge follows closely with the rise and growth of Tulsa. The ties between First Presbyterian Church and the camp are also historically strong. The ministry of Camp Loughridge would not exist without the church, and they are alike in their mission to proclaim and live out the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Camp Loughridge began not as a camp at all, but as a place called Parthenia Park. The name "Parthenia" was a Creek Indian name meaning friendship. The park developed into the official meeting place for Young Women's Christian Association in Tulsa, and the "Friendship Lodge" was built in 1919 as a place for the YWCA to meet.

The Friendship Lodge was an essential part in establishing the vision of developing the land into a camp. Young girls now had a place to meet and a place to stay the night on



Finding healing and hope through God's plans for marriage

BY JUDY KANYEKI

One of my favorite scriptures in the Bible is Jeremiah 29:11. It has been my life verse, and I have seen God's good plan in my life over and over again ... but there was a time when I was not sure if this verse applied to my marriage.

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 19:11

May 27, 2006, was one of my most joyous days. It was the day I walked down the aisle and vowed to love Mr. Kanyeki for as long as I lived. What I did not know on that day, is that as I walked down the aisle, there was a big target sign on our backs. When we signed our marriage certificate, we did not realize that we had just declared war with the Enemy.

Our first few years were rough. We were terrible at communication. It got to a point that I was not sure if I had made the right decision, and I remember crying out to God and asking Him if this was the good plan He had for my marriage. His answer was "no!"

He showed us that we were trying to do marriage Hollywood style. We had not really invited God into our marriage. He was just waiting for the invitation, and once we gave it, He started revealing what He had in store for us.

The lessons came in the form of Bible based-classes and seminars, books and videos. I went on a quest to discover what it meant to have a Christ-centered marriage. One of the very first lessons I learned was that my spouse was not my enemy. I actually had a real Enemy who was determined to see my marriage fail. That realization gave me a new resolve. We suited up and got ready for war.

The last 10 years have been nothing short of amazing. Through the ups and downs, we have seen Christ transforming us to be more like Him. I am so grateful for couples who have allowed God to use them to equip and encourage other couples through the journey toward a sacred marriage.

Proverbs 27:17 reminds us that, "as iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." My prayer in regards to my marriage is that when I get to Heaven, Jesus will have a smile on His face and be able to declare, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Want to learn more about the tools and resources God has provided for a healthy Christian marriage? You're invited to attend, "In It For the Long Haul: Marriage Lessons from the Heart," a new class offered during Wednesday Night Downtown (see back cover).

Jerry and Anne McCoy are delighted to offer this series on marriage for those who are "in it for the long haul." Both would agree that the relationship they enjoy is the fruit of life in Christ and MANY purposeful choices.



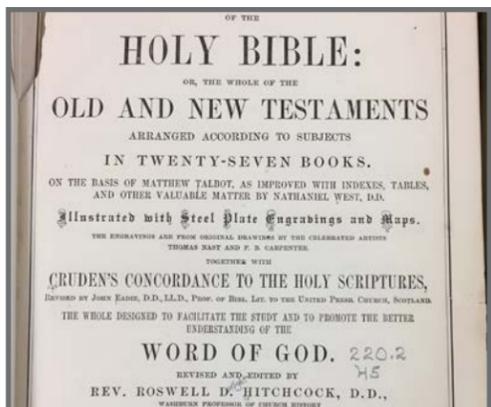
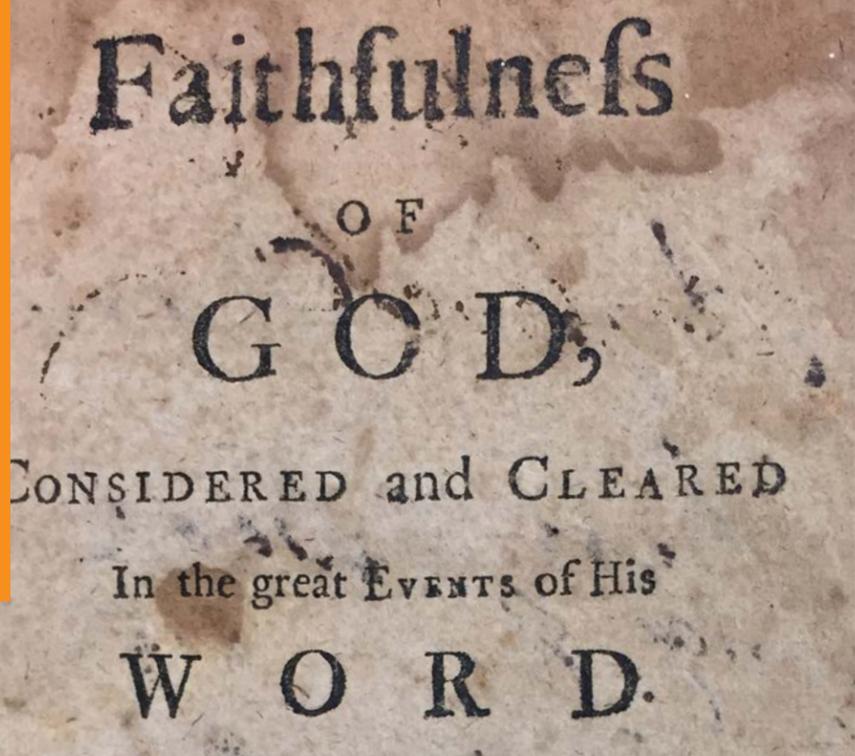
Twelfth Annual Helping Golf Hand Tournament

Friday, October 11, 2018
8:00 a.m. LaFortune Golf Course

To learn more, register or sponsor visit the church calendar at firstchurchtulsa.org or contact Rachael Kamaru at (918) 301-1039, or Joe Land at (918) 232-1306.

Experiencing the Bible “Through Time and Space”

BY MARK BROWN



Years, and lots of candlewick. In all, some 40 items spanning five centuries will be on display, in acrylic boxes, protective cases and on poster board. Many of the books are brittle, the leather cracking, the leaves loose and autumnally orange and crispy at the edges.

While not all the Bibles in the show date to antiquity, as a body they represent the early church struggle to, shall we say, get the Word out. There are Bibles in Vietnamese and French, Turkish and Japanese, Spanish and Tahitian and several mission Bibles printed in Cherokee, Choctaw and Creek, on the first printing press in state history.

In space and on trial, the keepers of the flame of Holy Scripture are a conduit through which the Word, and the faith that propels it, have passed.

“... the keepers of the flame of Holy Scripture are a conduit through which the Word, and the faith that propels it, have passed.”

“How I see it,” said FPC archivist Vicky Wilcoxon, “it’s God talking to me, and me talking to God.”

The display begins on Reformation Sunday in the First Church atrium. Here are just a few of the treasures you will find in four exhibitions that will be shown throughout the year:

The oldest: A 1613 edition of the King James Version, two years after its first printing, featuring 34 pages of steel-engraved holy lineage. “The Genealogies recorded in the

Sacred Scriptures, according to every Family and Tribe,” reads the title page. The last page of John’s Revelation is handwritten and taped into the endpaper.

The newest: Japanese artist Makoto Fujimura’s The Four Holy Gospels, printed in 2011 at the 400th anniversary of the original King James. Using ancient techniques, Fujimura considers his organic pigments, “broken and pulverized,” as offered prayers. “Where Caravaggio painted to save his soul, Mako paints to reveal his soul.” said Holbrook Lawson, who’s organizing a Fujimura exhibition for First Church.

The largest: The “Self-Interpreting” Bible of Scottish Secessionist John Brown of Haddington, printed in the mid-1800s and measuring 12” x 16” by nearly 5 inches. Brown, a renowned linguist — and shepherd — who taught himself while tending his flocks, literally. No less than Robert Burns wrote up Brown in verse:

*For now I’m grown sae cursed douce,
I pray an’ ponder butt the house;
My shins, my lane, I there sit roastin’
Perusing Bunyan, Brown, an’ Boston.*

The smallest: The legendary Lunar Bible, a 1.25-inch square piece of microfilm manufactured by National Cash Register and read under a microscope. Carried to the moon onboard the Apollo 14 mission, the item is on loan from collector

Carol Mersch, who spent five years “abandoning friends, dogging Apollo astronauts, digging into archives and finally hiring a private detective to track down the supposedly ‘dead’ NASA chaplain Reverend John Stout to uncover ‘the rest of the story.’”

“The legendary Lunar Bible, a 1.25-inch square piece of microfilm ... [was] carried to the moon onboard the Apollo 14 mission ...”

The lengthiest: The Washburn College Bible, commissioned by Chicago retailer Marshall Field and a one-time Book of the Month Club offering. Designed by Bradbury Thompson and illustrated with 66 master depictions of the Biblical narrative, its typographic features are a translation in and of itself. At 1800 pages, it covers three volumes.

You can experience “The Book: The Bible Through Time and Space” on display at First Church from October 27, 2019 through Advent, 2020.

Little Lambs

**Join us for Little Lambs!
A program for families beginning
Monday, September 9
10:00 a.m. in Wiseman Hall**

**Each week we’ll share
songs, prayer, fellowship and tea
while showing our little ones
what it means to worship together!**

At First Church, gospel communities called “K Groups” meet all around Tulsa. This fall, many of them will be examining the acclaimed book, *Life on the Vine: Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit* by Philip D. Kenneson. It’s the perfect chance to join a K Group as we explore what each fruit means in its biblical context and how we can cultivate them today in modern culture.

“Every generation in every culture must take up the hard work of discerning the opportunities for and the obstacles to embodying the gospel faithfully in that place and time.”

To get connected with a K Group, contact Phillip Bowman 918-630-1786 or pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org or visit firstchurchtulsa.org.

Walking alongside a new generation of disciples

BY SARAH SAVAGE
PHOTOS BY PAUL MCENTIRE



I remember when my children were young and getting to church was an event. Since I have been in ministry the entire time our children have been roaming freely on the earth, Sunday morning duties have always fallen to my diligent husband, Jim (who is a saint, by the way).

My whole clan would show up for Sunday school and church looking like a pack of wild penguins waddling in the door following their dad. Sometimes they came to church looking dapper and wonderful in the matching outfits that I had so thoughtfully laid out the night before. Other times they would burst through the Children's Ministry doors in sweats and t-shirts, in spite of the matching outfits still laying on the chair at home. Occasionally they had eaten breakfast and occasionally I was very grateful for the ever-present goldfish crackers available during each service hour!

The thing that I remember the most, though, are the loving, joyful and God-called souls who served each week and poured themselves into our children. They happily took them from us each Sunday morning and taught them that God always loves them, that God has a plan for them, and that they are so worthy that God sent His Son just for them. They showed them—and everyone else—that their eternal future mattered. I can't count the hours that went into the stories, crafts, songs, games and activities but I know that my children are followers of Christ because of all of it.

My children are older now and the days of goldfish, matching outfits and crafts are behind them. But I know as I watch



them leave to serve at Bible camp, lead a Bible study or hear them pray for a hurting friend, that this is the result of each person who answered the call of God on their lives to teach, care for and pray for the Savage children on Sundays, Wednesdays and other times throughout the year.

Children are on a spiritual journey led by God—just like us. Their journey is influenced by the people around them—just like us. When we serve in church we are answering the call to lead and point one another to Christ and our impact is eternal.

First Church is blessed to have many adults who are dedicated to pouring into the children of our church family. Children's Ministry is the conduit through which you can influence the next generation of faithful people.

Children are on a spiritual journey ... influenced by the people around them.

As I look at the numbers of children on our class roles, I see that we are growing—and that is a great thing. Please join us in serving in Children's Ministry as our children worship with us, eat with us and learn with us through Sunday School, worship, Awana, VBS, Fall/Spring Festival and all the other times we are together. We need you and they need you. Join with God in the work he is doing in the lives of the children at this church.

Our children need people like you! To learn more about how your time and talents can help the next generation, contact Sarah Savage, director of children's ministry, at 918-301-1006 (ssavage@firstchurchtulsa.org).



Confirmation: diving deeper into faith

BY STEVE WILSON

As a family of faith, we are called to nurture children to grow in their love, faith and service to our Lord, Jesus Christ. We promise to do this very thing whenever we baptize a child.

Ideally, we seek to echo the same faith, principles and practices a child sees and hears every day in the lives of their parents, family and friends. We take seriously Christ's call to make disciples and intentionally pour into the lives of our children with the hope that they will publicly claim this faith as their own and live it out fully as part of the Body of Christ.

Confirmation is an important milestone on the path of discipleship. It provides an opportunity for ninth graders to explore what we as Presbyterians believe and get answers to their questions about God, faith and life. Confirmation is not an attempt to make spiritual clones to be the future church. We seek to cultivate a deeper understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ and how that is lived out in their lives.

On Wednesday evenings during the school year the confirmation class meets for 90 minutes and explores different aspects of our faith, discussing tenets and doctrines and examining how they actually shape our understanding of God and how we live. We have lessons covering a wide range of topics like the Bible, the Trinity, the Gospel, sacraments, grace, temptation, spiritual gifts, spiritual disciplines, faith, science and Church history. After each lesson we break into small groups, called Life Groups, and discuss what these really mean for us.

This is all facilitated by a dedicated group of leaders who are gifted at engaging youth where they are and helping them unpack all the many facets of our faith. Ultimately we hope

each student will decide to claim this faith as their own and embrace God's desire for them to live in relationship with him.

Confirmation meets on Wednesday evenings from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Bernsen Community Life Center, August 28 through the last week of April. Please be in prayer for all of the youth and leaders who will be participating this year.

Awana Clubs
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
6:00-7:30 P.M.
3 YEAR OLDS THROUGH 4TH GRADE
LEARN MORE & SIGN UP AT FIRSTCHURCH TULSA.ORG /AWANA

Habitat for Humanity: meet the family

STORY AND PHOTOS COURTESY OF H4H



In 2008, Tung Pi and Cing Man made the fateful decision to leave their native Myanmar (Burma) to seek a better life for their family. As members of the Zomi Christian minority, they were under constant threat of persecution, including forced labor, abuse from the police and confiscation of food and property.

“As members of the Zomi Christian minority, they were under constant threat of persecution ... in 2016 they received word that they would come to the United States — a dream come true.”

Tung escaped to Thailand and then to Malaysia, where he began the arduous process of seeking refugee status. In 2013, he was finally able to bring Cing to join him. They welcomed their son Peter in 2015, and in 2016 they received word that they would come to the United States — a dream come true.

The family had heard about the large, thriving Burmese community in Tulsa, and with the help of this community, they were soon welcomed to their new home. Tung found work as a technician at Whirlpool, and they rented a small apartment in a community where other Burmese refugees live.

The Pi family says the language barrier has been their biggest hurdle, but that is a small price to pay for the safety and stability they enjoy today.

“I feel safe wherever I go,” says Tung. “We don’t struggle for food. I know if I work hard, I will get paid and can succeed.”

The family is looking forward to getting out of their cramped apartment and building a life in a home that they will own. They also welcomed a new daughter Anna in July, so having plenty of room for the children to grow and play is even more important.

Tung says he’s also looking forward to having a yard where he can grow squash, peppers and other vegetables.

...

This year’s Habitat for Humanity house will be built by First Presbyterian Church in partnership with First Baptist and First Baptist Church North Tulsa.

The initial wall-rising is scheduled for September 7, and the build is scheduled to finish on November 30.

GET INVOLVED IN HABITAT!

To help fund this project or volunteer your time, contact Rachel Kamaru, ministry assistant to mission, at 918-301-1039.



International Justice Mission: fighting slavery in the 21st century

BY REV. JAMES ESTES

Human trafficking is a challenging subject for a number of reasons. Part of the challenge is the subject matter. The human soul resists looking into the horrific realities of abuse, assault, manipulation and exploitation. We don’t want to think about children being abducted or purchased, then made to work 14 hours a day in a factory or brothel, an ore mine or fishing boat. It’s easier to just look away.

Another reason human trafficking can be a challenging subject is the scale. In the world today there are 40 million slaves, more than ever before in human history. Of these slaves, one in four is a child. These 40 million slaves represent \$150 billion dollars annually. These numbers are staggering to the mind. How do we even begin to imagine making a difference in this kind of monumental injustice?

This year we will again host Freedom Sunday in partnership with the International Justice Mission (IJM) on September 22. Together with thousands of congregations and hundreds of thousands of Christians we will join to pray, to give and to speak out against the blight of human trafficking.

Also we can celebrate the tremendous work being done to free and care for slaves in places like India, Ghana and the Philippines. We can gather to bless the great work God is doing through IJM and its partners and to pray for God’s justice against evil to grow into a tidal wave of freedom.

Through the unrelenting efforts of legal professionals, advocates and volunteers, IJM is helping to protect more than 21 million people from violence in 18 communities around the world ...

23,000+ people relieved from oppression.

13,000+ officers and officials trained since 2012.

800+ convictions against slave owners, rapists and other criminals.

Thank you, First Church, for not looking away from this difficult subject, but for instead leaning into being a part of God’s great emancipation in the earth. Since we hosted Freedom Sunday last year, many of you have given in support of International Justice Mission. Thank you for your support of IJM and your advocacy and prayer for those in the world who still wait to be free.

Join the fight! The numbers may seem daunting, but when we combine our efforts and resources, the global Body of Christ can do amazing things ...

PRAY for those affected by slavery and those working to stop it.

LEARN about this terrible issue and help educate others who don’t know.

SUPPORT programs like IJM online or by giving in worship on Freedom Sunday, September 22 at First Church.



Thursday, October 10

11:30 in Stephenson Hall



“Growing Community”

Peggy Simmons, President and COO of PSO

“Authentic leaders understand the value of growing community and seek to bring people together to help the community thrive.”

Reserve your optional buffet lunch (\$8) at firstchurchtulsa.org or call 918-301-1039.

TIF: celebrating 10 years of God's faithfulness

BY RACHAEL KAMARU
PHOTOS BY NELSON KIRAGU



Anniversary is a time for reflection and an occasion for thanksgiving for God's steadfast love, kindness and faithfulness. Looking back, we see God's faithfulness in a community that was started without a strategic plan. It was the working of the Holy Spirit calling a few people together for fellowship.

In summer 2009, First Church Session allowed Tulsa International Fellowship (TIF) to hold its first worship service on the second floor (Lewis Hall) of the Bernsen Community Life Center. The first meeting had less than 20 people, but it marked an inspiring mission to reach out to the international community around Tulsa and beyond

Throughout the years, TIF has experienced a steady growth, establishing itself as a worshipping community with inclusiveness and diversity in the Body of Christ.

Today it's a sub-community within First Church, uniquely equipped to serve the needs of international immigrants, but its also deeply ingrained as a part of the larger church family. TIF worshipers are officially members of FPC, participating in church life and leadership, bringing an invaluable diversity of cultural perspective to this local expression of the global church.

This year, on Sunday, June 2, 2019, TIF celebrated its 10 year anniversary with over 200 members from different nations. The celebration spanned three days, starting with a beautiful night of worship on Friday, followed by a day of service and giving back to the community on Saturday, finally

culminating in a celebration on Sunday, bringing together men, women and children from all around the world. The theme for the weekend was "The Power of Invitation."

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

As a community of internationals, we have truly experienced God's faithfulness. What started out as a small house fellowship, grew into a worship service where many have found a home away from home. TIF is more than just a worship service, it is a family. For many members, TIF has been a place of belonging in a foreign country where everything is new and strange, this community offers a familiar space.

Reflecting over the past 10 years, we have witnessed the Holy Spirit at work, creating a community with a vision and mission to accomplish the great commission (Matthew 28). TIF community has walked alongside members who have faced adverse circumstances and likewise life's most joyful moments.

Many things have changed over time; however, one thing remains constant within the TIF community: it exists to love God and love people — and where there's TIF, there will always be "swallowship" (fellowship with food)!

First Family Retreat: Stories to be Told

STAFF REPORT

The First Family Retreat is coming up soon from September 27-19! Why should you go? What can you expect? Read on to find the answer to these and other FAQs about this big event!

Where is the retreat? - The retreat is at New Life Ranch - Frontier Cove, near Adair. Note that this is a second location for New Life, different from the Flint Valley site near Colcord, which they still run as well. The address for Frontier Cove is 6253 E 440 Road, Adair, OK. Please be mindful to use this direct address rather than the results given from a search, which will likely bring you to the wrong location in Grove, OK. The camp is just over an hour drive from downtown Tulsa.

How will we spend our time during the retreat?

Worship – Drs. Miller and Moore, along with Eric and the worship team will lead us in praise and worship time.

Play – There are so many fun things to do at Frontier Cove: hike, fish, canoe, laser tag, play games in the arcade, go-carts, plinking, rope playground, trail rides and pony rides and much more!

Fellowship – We will dine as a church family, make smore's by the campfire, sing some favorite songs and get to know each other throughout the weekend. It is a joy to spend time together, intergenerationally, as a community of faith.

Learn - The pastors will provide inspirational messages that will equip, encourage and stretch us as disciples. We'll engage in discussion groups to grow together as the body of Christ.

Be still – Frontier Cove has some beautiful areas overlooking Lake Hudson. You may want to take a walk or sit by the lake and enjoy God's amazing display of nature at sunset.

What is the lodging like? - You have two options. The cabins have dorm-like bunk beds (twin mattresses, with waterproof covering), are air conditioned and have large bathrooms. All you need to do is bring your own bedding and towels. The hotel rooms have beds and are fully outfitted with bedding and towels; the cost is an additional \$25 per night.

There are plenty of cabins to allow attendees to group together, and every effort will be taken to accommodate families with small children that may need a little more privacy. Likewise, we'd encourage other groups, like K

groups or a women's Bible study group to share a cabin. Specific requests can be sent to jenni.dollahon@gmail.com and anyone without a specific request will be assigned to separate men's and women's cabins.

I see that fishing and trail biking are activities on the list of potential things to do in our free time. Does the camp provide the resources, or should I bring my own? - There is a wonderful place to fish off a dock so bring your own fishing pole and tackle. And yes, bring your own bicycle if you want to explore the camp on wheels.

Will my kids have some activities on their own? - Yes! Although we want to encourage families to spend this weekend together, during parts of the worship time or during speaker talks, the children will adjourn for their own activities.

I have dietary limitations. Is the camp able to accommodate this or should I bring some food with me? - There will be options available at meals for differing tastes. However, out of an abundance of caution, it is recommended that if you have a severe food allergy that you bring your own food to ensure your safety.

We hope you'll join us September 27-29 for our First Church Family Retreat! Learn more and sign up online at the firstchurchtulsa.org calendar page or call Courtney Miller at 918-301-1019.

FIRST CHURCH RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 27-29
FRONTIER COVE
This year's theme:
STORIES TO BE TOLD
ACTIVITIES

Worship	Fellowship	Music
Ropes Course	Sports	Canoeing
Hiking	Trail & Pony Rides	Outdoor Games
Carousel Rides	Indoor Games	Fishing

Find out more at firstchurchtulsa.org/Retreat

Meet our newest members

This summer, we welcomed eight new members into the life of First Church. When you see one of these individuals, be sure to extend a welcome and good cheer!

The **Inquirer's Class** is an opportunity to learn more about membership at First Church, the Presbyterian denomination and the Christian faith. It is also a time to meet the pastors, ask lots of questions and get to know other newcomers!

READY FOR THE NEXT STEPS?

Join us for our next Inquirer's Class, Sundays in October.

For more information, contact Patricia Hall, director of new member outreach, at 918-301-1028 or phall@firstchurchtulsa.org.



Elaine Andrew Jolena Foust Rita Helwege George Mathu & Caroline Ndiritu Bailey Newman Eliza Wade Sherman Wade

Parish Register

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

June 2, 2019, Miss Janet Mya Adanna Ozueh, daughter of Roselyne and Solomon Ozueh
 June 16, 2019, Mr. Ethan Kayesa Kisangi, son of Judith Kavere and Albert Kisangi
 June 16, 2019, Mr. Patton Roy Schaefer, son of Dayton and Matt Schaefer
 July 21, 2019, Mr. Baylor Wayne Jacobs, son of Bailey Newman and Wyatt Jacobs
 July 21, 2019, Mrs. Bailey Newman

WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE RESURRECTION

William Wynne Allen, a member since 1998, died on May 6, 2019
 Carol A. Dunning, a member since 1975, died on June 14, 2019
 Dr. George Caldwell, a member since 1989, died on June 14, 2019
 Mary Ella Coe, a member since 1968, died on July 2, 2019
 Judge William A Goffe, a member since 1992, died on July 8, 2019
 Kay Cowan Ward, a member since 2006, died on July 13, 2019
 Betty Ann Trinka, a member since 2002, died on July 13, 2019
 Margaret L. Templeton, a member since 2001, died on July 15, 2019

THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE

Tom Brady & Laura Beth Marshall were married on June 14, 2019
 Blake Gerow & Carley Mitchell were married on June 29, 2019
 Jeff Roblyer & Sofi Roblyer were married on July 5, 2019
 Eli Wilson & Robin Waldie were married on July 6, 2019
 Mark Rhoa & Laura Swain were married on July 13, 2019

STAY IN TOUCH!

Sign up to have the bi-monthly e-newsletter delivered to your inbox by visiting firstchurchtulsa.org/e-newsletter.

You can read past issues of Tidings online at firstchurchtulsa.org/tidings. Also, if you would like to write, take photographs or offer artistic or editorial assistance for Tidings, please contact the director of communications (918-301-1032).

WE'RE SOCIAL

Follow us on Facebook at FirstChurchTulsa. (Also, some individual Sunday school classes and children's groups have their own pages/groups.)

PASTORAL CARE - WHO TO CALL

Do you (or someone you know) need prayer? Would you like to report a death or request a hospital visit? Also, if you have a birth announcement or change in marital status, please contact Bev Carter at 918-301-1029 or bcarter@firstchurchtulsa.org.

If you have an emergency or time-sensitive information, please call 918-584-4701. If it is after-hours or on the weekend, the voicemail system can connect you to the on-call pastor.

COME AND WORSHIP WITH US

WORSHIP TIMES

First Church members gather together in worship. Traditional services are at 8:00 a.m. in the Chapel and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary; contemporary worship is at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in Stephenson Hall; and TIF (international worship) is at 11:00 a.m. in the Bernsen Community Life Center.

9:30 A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR

Adult and children's classes meet during a dedicated Sunday school hour.

TELEVISED BROADCASTS AND ONLINE LIVE STREAMING

Can't make it to a worship service? Home-bound members and prospective visitors regularly take advantage of these resources. (For a list of channels and times, visit firstchurchtulsa.org/media)

Please update your info.

We need your help! Within the past five years, have you or a family member:

- Moved?
- Changed phone numbers?
- Switched e-mail addresses?
- Married?
- Welcomed new children?
- Had a family member pass away?



Please fill out the friendship pads in the pews on Sunday

OR contact Kathy Wilson at (918) 301-1017, kwilson@firstchurchtulsa.org

September 8 is

Breakfast on Boston



No Sunday school classes on September 8. All worship services at regular times.

BREAKFAST
9:30 am

Please purchase breakfast by September 4 online or by calling 918-584-4701.

LIVE MUSIC · PONY RIDES · FACE PAINTING · PHOTO BOOTH

Dive into “Discipleship” this fall ...

Just open up a Sunday bulletin and you will see that part of the First Church vision is to create disciples of Jesus Christ who are “inwardly strong,” but how do we pursue this ideal? This fall, we encourage you to dive into one of many groups and classes that are all designed to help us better know and love Jesus Christ our Lord — and grow stronger as a community of faith!

PASTOR’S STUDY: “THE REASON FOR THE HOPE”

As a Christian in 21st century America, you know what it’s like to face serious questions about your faith. Are you equipped to respond faithfully and helpfully to those who ask questions? Led by Dr. Jim Miller. (Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in Miller Library, starting Sept. 22, OR Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m. in Room E-104, starting Sept. 25. Wednesday lunch available w/ reservation.)

MONDAY SCHOOL: “FOUR GOSPELS, ONE CHRIST”

We have four accounts of Jesus Christ’s life in the New Testament. Someone tried to combine them in the century after the New Testament events, but the early church determined the four Gospels should be kept intact. Why? Led by Dr. Adren C Autry. (Mondays at 11:30 for lunch and lesson from 12-1 p.m. Please reserve lunch by Friday at noon, 918-301-1018, dpoints@firstchurchtulsa.org.)

PRECEPTS BIBLE STUDY: 1 PETER

First Peter acknowledges that the only grace worth having is found in Jesus. This message is needed and fitting: hope in the Lord, no matter how trying the times may be. This is a study with hands on preparation at home followed by weekly group discussion and biweekly teaching videos. Led by Denise Rounds. (Tuesdays at 9:30 in room E100.)

DOWNTOWN THEOLOGICAL ROUNDTABLE

This new K Group, or small group, is modeled after J.R.R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis’ “Inklings” group at Oxford. The Roundtable will go in-depth with thoughtful discussion on books that are important to our theological upbringings and heritage, beginning with Hatch’s Democratization of American Christianity. Led by Dr. Ryan Moore and Phillip Bowman. (Begins Wednesday Sept. 11th from 11:30-12:30 in Kirkland Library. To reserve lunch, email pbowman@firstchurchtulsa.org.)

IGNATION SPIRITUAL EXERCISES GROUPS

Get ready for a spiritual journey like no other. Learn the process, experience the prayer and find out what you can expect from the upcoming Ignatian Spiritual Exercises this fall. (Join us on Saturday, September 21 for continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m., followed by an informational meeting from 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. in Room E104. To register or for more information, contact Duff Points at 918-584-4701 or Ken Cox or 918-260-7167.)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DOWNTOWN

Wednesday Nights mark a vibrant time of fellowship and spiritual growth at First Church. We hope you will join us for an optional church dinner at 5:15 p.m. followed by AWANA for kids and several unique adult offerings from 6:15 p.m.-7:30 p.m.

Dinner is \$7 adults, \$4 children, \$18 max per family. No reservation required. Payment is taken at the door.

Please register for all classes with Duff Points (see below).

CHANCEL CHOIR

Weekly rehearsals and fellowship. Interested in joining the choir? Contact Ron Pearson at 918-301-1013. (Choir Room)

“IN IT FOR THE LONG HAUL: MARRIAGE LESSONS FROM THE HEART”

Jerry and Anne McCoy are delighted to offer this series on marriage for those who are “in it for the long haul.” Both would agree that the relationship they enjoy is the fruit of life in Christ and MANY purposeful choices. (Room E104)

“RETIRING FAITHFULLY”

God created humanity in God’s image — to be creators and cultivators of the earth. The first third of our life is spent learning how to do that. The second third of our life is consumed with those efforts. Does our calling to work end when we exit the workplace? Come explore what “a theology of work” looks like in the third third of life (aka retirement). Led by Rev. Rebecca Morad. (Room E101)

“THE PARABLES”

Together, we will examine those parables of Jesus that are both well known and not as well known. By studying their Hebrew background and Sitz im Leben, the parables will come alive and their meaning will become clear. Led by Dr. Mark Hall, an English Professor at Oral Roberts University for over 30 years. (Room E100)

“FINDING YOUR FORM AND FAITH IN CLAY”

Learn to create small ceramic forms inspired by nature and faith using simple hand building techniques to create several finished works. Led by studio artist Whitney Forsyth, who served as an associate professor of art at the University of Tulsa for 17 years. There is a \$15 materials fee for this class. (Location TBD)

Don’t know where to start? Ready to dive in? Contact Duff Points, executive director of ministries at First Church, at 918-584-4701 or dpoints@firstchurchtulsa.org. We’re here to help connect you to the perfect class for your schedule and interests!