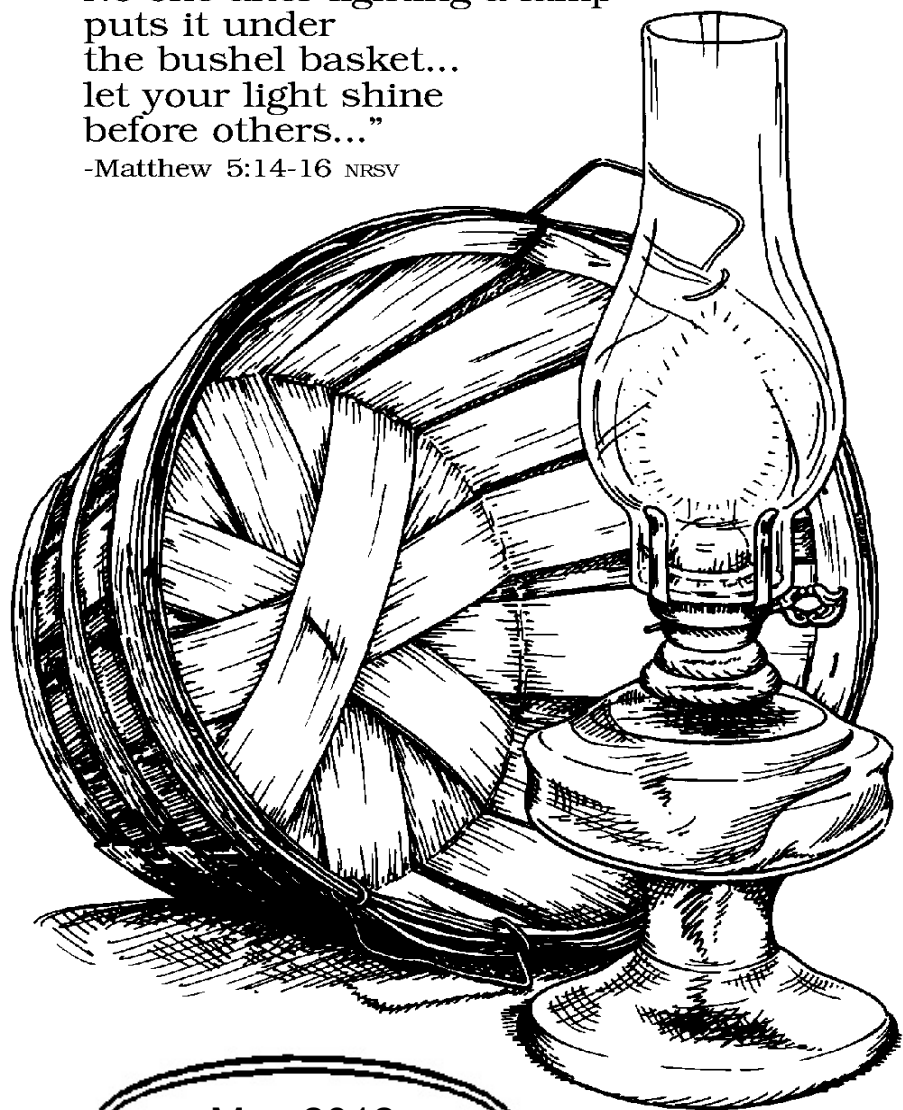


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“You are the light of the world...
No one after lighting a lamp
puts it under
the bushel basket...
let your light shine
before others...”

-Matthew 5:14-16 NRSV



May 2012

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

A spaghetti dinner will be held Sunday, May 6 immediately after worship in the fellowship hall to help raise funds for the landscaping project around the church which David Dittman will be coordinating for his Boy Scout Eagle Project. A dessert auction will be held with the meal. Tickets are \$10.00. Please tell your friends.



Mother's Day is May 13!

First Presbyterian Church
204 South 'A'
Blackwell, OK 74631
bpresby@4grc.com
<http://blackwellpresbyterian.org>

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First Presbyterian Church
204 S A, Blackwell, OK 74631

CHURCH STAFF

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Secretary	Dorothy Cantwell	580-762-4675
Treasurer	Arnetta Hudson	580-363-2523
Assistant Treasurer	Marie Quance 5oaksfarm@blackwellok.com	580-363-5616
Custodian	Carl Thompson	580-363-2353
Organist	Edward Dixon edwardbdixon@gmail.com	931-278-1105
C.E. Director	Sheri Dittman sdittman@yahoo.com	580-262-2408
Presbyterian Women	Garnet Stanley	580-363-0908

CHURCH OFFICERS

<u>ELDERS</u>	<u>Home</u>	<u>Email</u>
'15	Rorrie Dixon (E & M)	580-628-2264
'15	Jim Gooden (Deacons)	580-363-1737 gooden.charla2@gmail.com
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'15	Lennie DeBoard (Mission)	580-363-2918 momdeboard@yahoo.com
'14	David Corneil (Worship)	580-363-3776 corneil@4grc.com
'14	Fredda Ganer (E & M)	580-363-1273 dganer@4grc.com
'14	Paul Skidmore (Trustees)	580-363-4398 pskid40@hotmail.com
'14	Marie Quance (Mission)	580-363-5616 5oaksfarm@blackwellok.com
'13	Phyllis Glenny (C.E.)	580-363-2893
'13	Leroy Quance (Trustees)	580-363-5616 5oaksfarm@blackwellok.com
'13	Kris Vowel (C.E.)	580-363-5288
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'12	Billie DeBoard (Worship)	580-363-2918 momdeboard@yahoo.com
'12	J. Wayne Hudson (Mission)	580-262-0939 skyrnyderdairy@yahoo.com
'12	Mike Jeffers (Mission)	580-363-1446 mikejeffers41@sbcglobal.net
'12	Mason Kincheloe (Deacons)	580-262-1482 gocards@tonkawaok.net

CLERK OF SESSION: Billie DeBoard 580-363-2918 momdeboard@yahoo.com

2011-2012 Nominating Committee: Elders: Billie DeBoard (chair), and Kris Vowel;
Deacon: Rorrie Dixon; At-large: Charla Gooden, Neta Horton, Cassandra Rudolph, Jenny Whylen



God's New Covenant in Jesus Christ

The Presbyterian Church, USA has a new Book of Order. Much of the terminology was changed, and much of the specificity, top-down commands has been replaced by an openness, that transfers decision making discernment from the top General Assembly level down to the local Presbytery and Session levels. I recently read an article that referred to these changes as moving from a

secular set of rules to a theological set of guidelines for those who believe and trust in the Spirit of God to guide the church to do God's will. In this process, terms like "governing bodies" and "officers" have been replaced with "councils" and "ministers," respectively. Deacons, and elders are no longer officers (a term used for those serving on secular boards), but are ministers, serving in ordered ministries in the church, reflecting the ordination, the call from God that initiates us into a response of faithful discipleship.

The vision of moving from an old, restrictive, secular way of doing things to a more open, discerning, trusting way of discipleship reminds me of God's Word to us in Jeremiah 31:31-34:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 ³¹"The time is coming," declares the LORD, "when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant I made with their forefathers when I took them by the hand to lead them out of Egypt, because they broke my covenant, though I was a husband to them," declares the LORD. ³³"This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time," declares the LORD. "I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people. ³⁴No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."

When I look at the Decalogue, (the 10 Commandments), the foundation of the "Old Covenant," I am reminded of the secular way of doing things. To me, it is as if God, through the "Old Covenant" covenanted with the people in a way familiar to the people, with laws for people to follow – rules just like people make, rules to be obeyed, just like secular laws. God's Old Covenant with the people was much like the secular way of doing things -- doing things "the human way," where we rely on our ability to follow rules, to get by and live with God and one another. It didn't work, because we couldn't follow the rules. We couldn't keep up our end of the bargain. We broke the covenant. We sinned against God and against one another.

God's people, Israel and Judah, suffered greatly for breaking faith with God, violating the Old Covenant of law. They were defeated, scattered, sent into captivity, dominated and oppressed by other nations in the world. In effect, they suffered death. In 2 Corinthians 3:6 the apostle Paul refers to the Old Covenant, as the letter that kills and the New Covenant as the Spirit that gives life, rendering us our preference for the Spirit of the Law (through the love of Jesus) rather than the Letter of the Law (through Moses).

God through Jeremiah makes it clear that the Old Covenant is broken because we have not obeyed it. In response, God promises a New Covenant that is nothing like the old one. Let's take a look at some of the differences between these two covenants God has made with us.

Although the Old Covenant includes God's promise to love, bless and protect the people, there is much emphasis on what the people are to do. The commandments begin with "You will" or "You will not." As summarized in Jeremiah, the New Covenant is entirely about what God will do; *"I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."*³⁴ *No longer will a man teach his neighbor, or a man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' because they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest," declares the LORD. "For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more."*

God will no longer write the law on stone or paper, but put it in our hearts. We will know God's Law, not because we have learned it or had someone teach it to us, but because God has imprinted it on our hearts by the Holy Spirit. In following Jesus' one commandment; "Love one another, as I have loved you, love one another," we automatically follow God's law. Who will lie to, steal from, or murder anyone they truly love as God loves us? Spirit of the Law trumps Letter of the Law every time.

God will be our God and we will be God's people – not because we will it or choose it, but because God wills it and has chosen us. God will forgive our wickedness and remember our sins no more – not because we deserve it, but because God wills it and has chosen to do it out of love by God's grace, through the perfect faithfulness of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In the New Covenant, God has done for us that which we could not do for ourselves under the Old Covenant, what we could never do on our own. In Jesus Christ, God has come to earth – fully God, incarnate in human flesh – fully human. Where we failed to justify ourselves by obeying the Old Covenant, Jesus has perfectly, faithfully, lovingly fulfilled that covenant for us, closing the books on sin and death, replacing it with new life as cleansed by his precious blood, forgiven of our sin forever and always.

At the end of his life on earth, as he prepared for the cross, Jesus lifted up the cup at supper with his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you." When we celebrate the Lord's Supper together, we celebrate that the Jesus has fulfilled the Old Covenant, moving us from the state of sin and death to the state of grace and life under the New Covenant, where God forgives our sin and asks us to do likewise for one another, to love one another as God loves us.

Whereas, the Old Covenant is more like the way the world does things, the New Covenant is definitely the way God does things, the way things are done in the kingdom of God where God's will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Sometimes, we worldly humans cannot comprehend the kind of love that God has for us that we are forgiven and released from the Old Covenant that we could never fulfill. We can't comprehend that kind of love and grace. Instead, sometimes we shrink God down to our size and cling to the Old Covenant, pointing fingers at one another for little things rather than living under the New Covenant, as living beings created in God's image that love and forgive one another as God loves and forgives us.

Although the reality of the New Covenant is now, the universal fulfillment of it is not yet, evidenced by conflict in the world, even between those calling themselves Christians. Through the prophet Jeremiah, God has promised to make sure, "*they will all know me, from the least of them to the greatest.*" Once God has completed this task, when all truly know the wonder, the majesty, and the loving grace of God (and stop trying to earn justification through the Law of the Old Covenant), all the world will live at peace, lovingly forgiving one another as God has lovingly forgiven us, through Jesus Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

In Christ, *Eric*.

Worship for the month of May:

Lectionary passages for the services of worship for the month of May are as follows:

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>First Reading</u>	<u>Second Reading</u>
May 6	Psalm 22:25-31	Acts 8:26-40	John 15:1-8
May 13	Psalm 98	Acts 10:44-48	John 15:9-17
May 20	Psalm 1	Acts 15:15-17 21-26	John 17:6-19
May 27	Psalm 104:24-35	Acts 2:1-21	John 15:26-27, 16:4b-5

Join us each Sunday morning at 10:45 during the Easter season as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. We celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on May 20, and remember the birth of the Church on May 27, the Day of Pentecost. Come, join in sharing God's love, praising God together. He is Risen! Christ is Risen, indeed!

In Christ, *Eric*.

SESSION REPORT

The Session of First Presbyterian Church, Blackwell, held the stated meeting on Wednesday, April 11, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall with Pastor Eric Dittman, moderator, presiding. Kris Vowel Opened the meeting with scripture and prayer. Elders attending were Mike Jeffers, Fredda Ganer, Leroy Quance, Mason Kincheloe, Gloria Randall, Marcy Hudson, J. Wayne Hudson, Paul Skidmore, Rorrie Dixon, Marie Quance, Pastor Eric Dittman, Treasurer Arnetta Hudson, Assistant Clerk of the Session Kris Vowel. Billie DeBoard, Jim Gooden, Lennie DeBoard, David Corneil, and Phyllis Glenny were excused. A quorum was declared.

The Agenda as printed was approved. The minutes of the March 14, 2012 stated session meeting with the addition of adding all the children's names to be baptized was approved.

Clerk's Report:

"Centsible Meals" report was made of \$58.20 collected on April 1, 2012.

Communion Report

Servers on March 18, 2012: J. Wayne Hudson, Marcy Hudson, Lennie DeBoard, and Jim Gooden.

Servers on Maundy Thursday, April 5 were Billie DeBoard, Arnetta Hudson, Marian Darwin, Marcy Hudson, and Marie Quance.

Baptisms on April 8 at 6:00 p.m.: Taliya Tibbetts, Nikolas Penka, Zaccerie Penka, Correen Rudolph-McRae, Jonathan Rudolph-McRae, Ryan Scott Rudolph-Penka.

Report of the Pastor

Teaching: the Minor Prophets - Wednesday nights from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Ended with Malachi on April 11.

Completed Activities for Cimarron Presbytery

March 19 – Session Meeting – Enid

April 3 - Policy Task Force Meeting - Stillwater

Pending Activities for Cimarron Presbytery

April 16 - Session Meeting – Enid

April 18-19 – Board of Pensions Conference – Dallas

April 21 - Train Enid PNC 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

April 22 - Installation Comm. For Rev. Dr. Bruce Taylor - Ponca City 4:00 p.m.

April 24 – Cimarron Presbytery workshop on By-Laws and Operations Manuals/ Policies in compliance with changes in the Book of Order -Dorothy Cantwell will also attend

May 1 – Committee on Ministry

May 8 – Presbytery Meeting

June 30 -July 7 - General Assembly-Pittsburgh

July 10 - Committee on Ministry

September 4 - Committee on Ministry

October 9 - Presbytery Meeting

November 6 - Committee on Ministry

Wedding – Pending Easter Sunday – April 8 6:00 p.m.– Cassandra Rudolph/Ryan Penka. Rehearsal April 7 6:00 p.m.

Also baptism of children: Taliya Tibbetts, Nikolas Penka, Zaccerie Penka, Correen Rudolph-McRae, Jonathan Rudolph-McRae, Ryan Scott Rudolph-Penka
Continuing Education – Scheduled October 15-18, 2012 for Small Church Pastor's Retreat - Mo-Ranch

Committee Reports:

The Christian Education Committee: Kris Vowel, chairman

We may not have any seniors this year.

At the breakfast on April 1 for Kings Kids' parents one family came.

Discussions are underway about church camp.

The Deacons Committee: Jim Gooden, chairman

Mother's Day and Fathers' Day plans are underway. Also being discussed are plans for Share the Harvest and Meals on Wheels.

The Evangelism and Membership committee: Fredda Ganer, chairman

It was reported the Maundy Thursday dinner and service were well attended.

April 29 will be the next breakfast for non-member families.

Mission & Finance Committee: J. Wayne Hudson, chairman

A motion to approve the Financial Report as printed came from the committee and was approved.

Trustees Committee: Paul Skidmore, chairman

Kevin Stanfield plans to start set-up for removal and repair of roof on Monday, April 16, 2012

The light on the North side of the church has been repaired by the city.

Men will start lawn project at the next men's breakfast.

Worship Committee: Billie DeBoard, chairman

It was reported we had 65 in attendance on Easter Sunday and 39 on Maundy Thursday. J. Wayne Hudson and the choir did a great job with the cantata on Easter Sunday.

New Presbyterian Hymnals were discussed. A decision on whether to purchase the new hymnals at a discount must be made by June 2013. The cost will be approximately \$15.00 each.

The committee thanked the Quances for having the Easter Sunrise service at the Quance Farm.

New Business: David Dittman is waiting on approval of his Eagle project to start lawn project.

The next meeting will be May 9, 2012. With no further business to come before the session, the meeting was adjourned. Pastor Dittman gave the closing prayer and all repeated in unison the Lord's Prayer.

Kris Vowel, Assistant Clerk of Session

God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.



PW met on April 11, 2012 at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Five members were present. The meeting was called to order by Moderator Garnet Stanley, who gave the devotions and opening prayer.

The minutes of last month's meeting and the treasurer's report were read and approved. It was reported that \$58.20 was collected on "Centsible Cents" on April 1 to be given to the Associated Charities' food program. Five cards were sent during the last month. Members' birthday offering was given by Charla Gooden.

It was announced that the group would refer to themselves as PW, Presbyterian Women, instead of PWC.

DyAnna Brown gave the Bible study on "Greatly Honored Are the Peacemakers." Refreshments were served by Charla Gooden. The group closed the meeting by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting is May 9 at 1:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Marian Darwin will do the Bible study on "Greatly Honored Are Those Who Have Been Persecuted for the Sake of Justice." Charla Gooden will explain the birthday offering and will have devotions, and Phyllis Glenny will be the hostess.

Charla Gooden, secretary

EASTER LILIES

Given by:

In Thanksgiving For:

The Penkas. Friends and Family

Please add the above to your list of donors or the Easter lilies. Thank you to everyone who donated.

**SERVICE FOR May
GREETERS**

Arnetta Hudson, Phillip Hudson

LAYLEADERS

May 6: Larry Crow
May 13: Arnetta Hudson
May 20: Marcy Hudson
May 27 Charla Gooden

USHER CAPTAIN

Lennie DeBoard

**SERVERS FOR
COMMUNION**

Date: May 20, 2012
Nanci Kincheloe
Melissa Hudson
Paul Skidmore
Mason Kincheloe

Wedding Anniversary

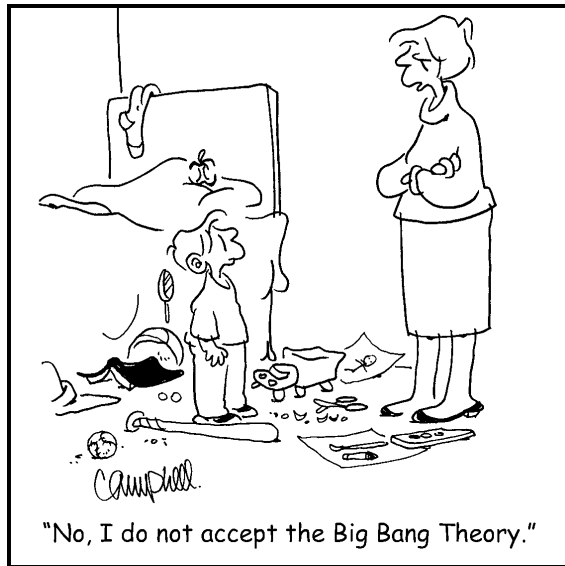
May 15: Kris & Bernard Vowel
May 25: Lexia & Jim Smith
May 27: David & Stacey Corneil

Thank You

Thank you to Betty Fox, Marie Quance, Gloria Randall, Fredda Ganer, and Garnet Stanley for furnishing pies for the annual Bean Feed for the Top of Oklahoma Historical Society on April 20. This is a community activity in which the church was asked to participate. Thank you again for your willingness to help.

The new office computer is still being tweaked trying to get everything to operate normally. One of the things lost when the old computer died was the email files. If you usually receive Friday announcements but haven't the last couple Fridays, please contact the office so your email address can be added back to the list. Also, if you'd like to receive the weekly announcements by email, let us know.

Remember you can always check special events on our website.



May

2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 7:00 pm Committees Rev. Eric Dittman Frank Butler	3	4	5 Hilary Dittman
6 10:00 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship 12:00 pm Spaghetti Dinner Fund Raiser	7 10:00 am Bible Study	8	9 1:00 pm PW 7:00 pm Session	10	11	12 9:00 am Men's Breakfast
13 10:00 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship 	14 10:00 am Bible Study	15 Danny Amos	16 10:00 am Hillcrest Marie Quance Judy Barnett	17	18	19 Jonathan Rudolph-McRae
20 10:00 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Communion Paula Hess	21 10:00 am Bible Study LAMPLIGHTER ARTICLES DUE!	22	23	24 Gina Lenon Leroy Quance	25	26
27 10:00 am Sunday School 10:45 am Worship Pentecost Sunday Lexia Smith	28  OFFICE CLOSED	29 Chuck Morrow	30	31 Bernard Vowel		