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June 20, 2014

Amarillo, TX

Friends & Neighbors

Whoever oppresses a poor man insults his Maker, but he who is generous to the needy honors him. -- Proverbs 14:31



by LuLu Cowan, Deacon

Many families are trying to obtain the education and skills necessary to acquire a living wage job and move out of poverty. However, the barriers they face repeatedly seem insurmountable, and based on their own resources, the challenge is often too great for neighbors to tackle alone. With the Friends & Neighbors program, these families no longer have to face their challenges alone. This mentoring program instills HOPE and INSPIRATION in our Neighbors living in poverty, as FPC members (Friends) interested in this program are connected to families living in poverty (Neighbors).

It is often difficult for Neighbors to be dependable and efficient when they may or may not have phone service, transportation, housing, childcare, food, or other resources. Often they are living from crisis to crisis. Neighbors may be accustomed to being disappointed and in the beginning may not expect you to understand or care about their situation. As Friends continue to reach out, focus on what is “right” and “special” about their Neighbor, and provide tools to identify strengths to build on, trust can be established. Trust is key! After trust is built, Friends can help their Neighbors:

1. Identify and prioritize **goals** – educational, professional, financial, personal, and spiritual.
2. Identify and prioritize **obstacles** - can be a tangled web that takes insight, patience, determination, resources, and connections to remove.
3. Identify and prioritize **opportunities** - many resources are available, but change often. Being a part of an organized mentoring program helps stay up-to-date on what resources are available and most appropriate for the situation.

If you are interested in being a part of the Friends and Neighbors program either as a Friend or as a Resource Volunteer in your specific area of expertise, please contact Will or Anita (373-4242). Resource Volunteers do not take calls directly from Neighbors, but will help a Friend steer their Neighbor on the right path toward reaching their goals. Specific areas that Neighbors may need assistance are eye glasses, dental care, education, job interviews, legal consultation, car repair, maneuvering through complex systems like housing, medical, or educational bureaucracies, and many others.

“Y’ALL COME SING!”

The Gospel Choir Is Singing On

Come sing with the summer gospel choir in **the service of your choice on a Sunday-by-Sunday basis**. On those Sundays you want to sing, just show up in the choir room on the third floor to rehearse 30 minutes before the service you attend. **Choral training and experience are not required**. All you need is the desire to sing! For more information, please call Joyce Ladd (350-5219).

Can YOU Invest 4 HOURS in Kids Ministry Next School Year?



Cindy Rhoten, Director of Children's Ministries

As we continue toward the goal to be a more intergenerational church, learning and growing from people of all ages, the First Pres Kids Ministry Team asks you to prayerfully consider volunteering during Sunday School or Wednesday Night programs for one hour per week for one month in one of the following ways:

Elementary Sunday School

Teachers - One 4-week rotation, teaching the same lesson 4 times to the 4 different age groups – 1st - 5th grades. Shepherds – may shepherd one 4-week rotation, one semester, or one year with the same age group.

Wednesday Night Programs

(1st – 3rd grades) begins at 6:45 and lasts until 8:00 p.m. (4th & 5th grades) small group meets for Praise and Worship with Big City, then breaks into their own age-appropriate small group 7:15 – 8:00 p.m.

Thirty-two adults are needed to fill the fall 2014 semester during Sunday School. This provides two adults in each rotation classroom — a teacher and a Shepherd who greets the kids, prays with them, loves, and nurtures them. The Shepherd also assists the teacher and children with projects and activities as needed.

One Teacher will teach only ONE LESSON four times, adapting as needed for different ages.

Volunteers will serve four Sundays and attend the Sunday School class of your choice the rest of the semester.

If you have never taught children, we challenge you to teach ONE four-week rotation.

We'll make you a promise: You will come with the intention of being a blessing, but you will soon find out you are the one who is blessed. And there's a bonus: The rewards for both you and the children are both present and eternal!

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace (1 Peter 4:10)

Please contact Cindy Rhoten (350-5212 or cindyr@firstpres.com), or Tamala McKenzie at 350-5211 or (tamalam@firstpres.com) for more information or to let us know you're answering the Holy Spirit's call!

27 Missionaries Look to Honduras -- July 19-26

A missionary team of 27 intergenerational volunteers is going to build a school and minister in the area around the school in Honduras. Kim Talley, leader, says one spot is still available. Contact Kim (kimt@firstpres.com) for more information. Please pray for the

following missionaries scheduled to go to Honduras -- Alyssa Davis, Ashton Brandt, Blake Milum, Dominic Pinis, Evan Darnell, Jake Chappell, Jordan Henderson, Kim Talley, Krystal Robles, Mackenzie Sternberg, Shalan Westmoreland, Shannon Osburn, Whitney Britton, Whitney Hart, Samantha Haley, Steven Russell, Chad Erb, Jo Ann Wilson, Dick Doyle, Orlando Bustos, Taylor Dodson, Christian Farren, Travis Gilliland, Grant Phifer, Abby Rhynehart, Cal Smith, Paige Strickland, and Taylor Willis.



Mom, Can I Ask Jesus into My Heart?



After I picked Emma up from VBS last week, I noticed she was rather quiet. On the way home she piped up from the back seat, "Mom, can I ask Jesus into my heart?" My chest swelled with pride, but I wondered if she knew what this meant - - after all she is only six years old. I told her that I thought that this was wonderful and we would talk and pray about this with Daddy when he got home from work. That afternoon when Arnie walked through the door, Emma pounced with her proud announcement. Arnie and I sat

down with her and asked her what she felt like it meant to ask Jesus into her heart. She answered with confidence, and there was not a doubt this little girl was ready. So as a family we held hands and prayed as Emma asked Jesus to be her Savior and take residence in her sweet little heart.

Emma has been raised in a Christian home, and I have always felt that Jesus has always been in her heart. I was surprised when she felt she verbally needed to ask the Lord to live within her. We are thankful that through our church family every generation in our family has realized the need to have Jesus in our heart. Thank you, all VBS staff and volunteers, for helping our little princess see what it means to belong to Jesus.

Blessings,
Melanie Padilla

2014 Financial Results

Year-to-date as of May 31, 2014

	Gifts & Offerings
Actual Results	\$ 993,306
Budgeted/Expected	<u>989,045</u>
Actual Over/ (Under) Budget	\$ 4,261

Your gift is needed to continue kingdom work!

“Refurbishing” Capital Campaign Gifts

138 Families have completed their pledge,
34 families to go

Our “Refurbishing” Capital Campaign

was completed in May.

Thank you for your commitment and generosity!

If you have any questions, please contact a member of your Finance Committee, an Elder, the Business Office (373-4242), or lisad@firstpres.com.

Women: Hear Sharon Hargrave's Retreat Talks

The Women's Bible Study that meets on Monday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 is listening to and discussing Sharon Hargrave's presentations from the recent 2014 Women's Retreat. Join them at the Northwest Library Monday evening, June 23, June 30, and July 7. A set of CDs is also available for \$12. For more information or to buy the CD set, contact Joyce Ladd (350-5219 or joycel@firstpres.com).

GAP -- College/Young Adults Reading *The Story*

Have you ever wanted to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation but felt a little intimidated by a book with all that thin paper and small type -- all 66 books? This summer GAP is continuing in their goal to read *The Story*, a compilation of the scriptures in chronological order that reads like a novel. Overcome your intimidation and join the GAP group in the Westminster Room, 9:45 - 10:45 Sunday mornings.

FREE Night at the Ballpark July 6

What a great opportunity for the whole congregation to enjoy being together -- FREE night at the Amarillo Sox game! It's going to be a big event for A&O youth, so make it a church family thing. See you at the ballpark at 6:00 p.m.

Family Camp Scheduled August 8-10

El Porvenir Christian Camp in New Mexico will be the site of family camp 2014. Registration is open at firstpres.com. Watch for further details coming soon.

4AMARILLO Sponsored Events Coming

Week of Service -- July 7 - 10

First Pres will be partnering with the downtown churches to hold Vacation Bible Schools at Margaret Wills Elementary and San Jacinto Elementary. Come help tell a story, play games, feed kids, and more! Volunteers are also needed to help us with park clean up, working in the High Plains Food Bank Garden, and with set up/break down for VBS. Sign up at firstpres.com/4amarillo.

Willow Creek Leadership Summit -- August 14 - 15

Amarillo's four large downtown churches will be hosting the annual Willow Creek Leadership Summit at Polk Street United Methodist Church this year. Hundreds attend the popular event that originates from the Willow Creek Church near Chicago. Register at psumc.com/gls2014. Contact Murray Gossett (373-4242) for details.

NUFFS Trek to China July 10

NUFFS will meet in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m., July 10, to hear Jan and Charley Hargrave share stories and slides from their recent trip to China. A catered lunch (\$6.00) will be served at noon. Guests are always welcome. Lunch reservations MUST be made by noon on Monday, July 7. Call Cal Smith at 655-3204. Pictured is Jan Hargrave making friends with a Chinese woman.



5 or 6 Spots Open for "Vacation in Denver with a Purpose" Starting Wednesday!

Serving others in the name of Jesus Christ is what our Savior modeled and calls us to do. (Mark 10:45) Join a First Pres group to experience a "Vacation with a Purpose" and serve some of Denver's under-resourced people:

- At the Action Center – a place that meets people's needs through clothing, food, shelter, and in other ways helps stabilize and support clients in transition;
- At World Vision's warehouse where we will help assemble supplies for world-wide relief; and,
- Visiting one of our missionaries, Mary Margaret Hagen, who serves families in poverty through Mile High Ministries.

All it costs is your time, food, and gas! We will be staying at a local church. Call Murray Gossett (373-4242) with questions or to sign up. **There's still time!**

Text JOINAOYOUTH to 40650 for A&O Updates, Events and Happenings! Weekly

Taco Tuesday -- Noon -- Taco Villa on Georgia

Park Thursdays -- 4:00 p.m. -- Olsen Park

Big Events

June 27 – Swimming -- 2:00 - 5:00 p.m. -- Southwest Pool

July 6 – Amarillo Sox Game – 6:00 p.m. – Whole congregation is invited – it's not a First Pres night, but a FREE night, and we'd love to have First Pres there in a BIG way!

July 7 – 4Amarillo Serve week – sign up to serve at www.firstpres.com

July 16 – Palo Duro Canyon – 9:00 a.m. - Noon (Lunch in the canyon)

July 24 – Starz Jump Night – 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. – \$8.00 (no park this Thursday afternoon)

August 1 – 9:00 p.m. -- Drive-in Movie Night

August 8-10 – Family Camp – sign up at www.firstpres.com

August 13 – Laser Tag -- 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. -- Extreme Laser Tag – \$20

CORRECTION: Jeannie Mendoza was not named as a graduate of the Friends and Neighbors GED program in the May issue of The Chimes. We regret the omission.

Memorials

In Memory of

Joyce Goehring

Given by

Johnnie Gresham

Kathy and Stan Morris

Joy Nicholson

Gay and Jerry Shelby

Kay Stargel

Myrtle Suffield

Dr. and Mrs. Skip Wilson

Kit Walvoord

Given by

Elizabeth McClellan

Joy Nicholson

Cindy and Jim Smith

**The Chimes Will Not Be Published in July.
Please Watch for the Next Issue in August!**

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