

# Tidings

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH OF TULSA

**“Let us therefore  
approach the throne  
of grace with boldness,  
so that we may receive  
mercy and find grace to  
help in time of need.”**

*Hebrews 4:16*

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# When you do this, remember me

By *Mariesa Worman*

Remembering is an important activity. Jesus instructed the disciples during that last Passover to “remember Him” whenever they observed this meal. Today, we call this remembrance Holy Communion. Communion can be defined as “Intimate communication or the act of sharing or holding in common.” We are blessed at FPC to partake of this sacrament often; and it is a natural expression of His love to “remember” congregants who are unable to physically join us at the table.

Delivering communion to the homebound or hospitalized is something our congregation has done for many years, and those who participate have stories to tell of God’s love as it unfolds in unique moments. **Judith Land**, for example, can speak of a recent opportunity she experienced. As an active deacon, her husband, **Joe**, was assigned to serve **Jan Keene** at Inverness Village and Judith was able to go along. “I have served with Jan in Chancel Choir and several ‘Vacations with a Purpose.’ We’ve also been in a K Group together,” Judith explained. While at Inverness, they bumped into additional Church members, were updated on their lives and learned of another member’s passing just the day before. “When serving home communion,” said Judith, “I look forward to seeing people I may not see often, praying with and for them, and including them in the beauty of remembering the last meal that Jesus had with His disciples before giving His life for our salvation.”

“... it is a natural expression of His love to ‘remember’ congregants who are unable to physically join us at the table.”

— Mariesa Worman

As acting clerk of session, **Gary Mathews** describes it this way, “Being ordained as an elder means serving the congregation as a spiritual leader. One of the best gifts I received was the assignment to deliver home communion to members. While it began as a duty assigned to all elders, the privilege to extend communion elements from the Sanctuary to those in the farthest pew became a spiritual reward because it is Jesus who is actually doing the serving. Whether the individual is alone or with family members, sharing details of the worship service with them, reading scripture, praying, and listening to concerns and life events of the homebound member is extremely rewarding.”

My personal stories of this ministry are similar. Gary Mathews and I usually serve home communion together, but on one Sunday, he had to be out of town. Before exiting my car and going in to serve, I prayed that the Holy Spirit would do His work, regardless of my recipient’s condition.



Rev. Wambugu Gachungi with Dorothy McFadden during home communion in 2016. “The best day of my ministry,” wrote Rev. Wambugu.

Though not asleep, I found her in her bed staring blankly at her hands as she picked at her nail polish. It was overwhelmingly sad as Gary and I had continued to watch a disease steal her mind.

She didn’t acknowledge my presence, my conversation or my touch. I leaned in closer and prayed audibly, asking that she would sense God’s love and that the Holy Spirit would communicate to her in a supernatural way. Still no response.

Wondering whether she would take the elements, I recalled Gary saying that we can simply touch them to their lips if they seem unable to partake. I took a piece of bread from the bag and spoke her name: “This is the body of Christ broken for you.” I touched the bread to her lips, and she opened her mouth and ate it! Then, she looked into my eyes. Thrilled, I took the cup, said the words and helped raise her head. She only drank half, but I’m certain she knew what it was. Prayer answered, praise the Lord!

Desiring to communicate with her more, I placed my hand on her head and was prompted to sing “Jesus Loves Me.” She immediately joined in and I was ecstatic. To see and hear someone who can no longer find their words sing audibly, “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so,” is a gift like no other!

There are many such stories among God’s people. We thank Him for these opportunities, and we remember.



## Awakenings! Learning to love the Lord with our minds

By *Rev. Dr. James Miller*

First Church is a teaching Church. We’re blessed with gifted teachers and an abundance of opportunities to “study and show ourselves approved,” as the great apostle puts it.

In spite of the uncertainty caused by COVID-19, we’re planning a fall semester brimming with engaging and important adult education opportunities.

I’m very much hoping we might be able to come together under more normal circumstances come September. The sheer “togetherness” of the corporate and visible Church is vital for our spiritual health and well-being. So, we’re preparing in hope with that very much in mind.

Every three years I invite the congregation to pick up CS Lewis’ classic work titled, “Mere Christianity,” and to join me in my Pastor’s Class — and this is that year! Lewis’ work will guide our thinking during both the fall and spring semesters (Sunday mornings at 9:30 and Wednesdays at 11:30).

**Wednesday Night Downtown** launches on September 16. Amid the joy of **AWANA** and the return of middle and high school life groups — a number of adult classes are beginning as well.

Our pastoral staff is looking forward to a six-week series on “The Spiritual DNA of First Church.” We’ll be looking at the message on

the FPC electronic marquee that offers this summary of who we are:

**Historic First Church  
Orthodox, Reformed, Evangelical**

In three simple lines the DNA of the congregation known as the First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa is set out for all to consider. Each line invites careful reflection.

I wonder how you’d define them to your friends? More than a few believe that these terms carry unwanted baggage today. Why not jettison them? Why not cut ourselves loose from them?

Your pastors believe there are good and vital reasons to unpack the meaning behind these and celebrate our heritage as Orthodox, Reformed and Evangelical believers.

Immediately following this six-week series, we’ll invite the whole Church (and outside congregations) to join together in a six-week focus on “The Church Amid Racism,” a study that will include conversations with community pastors and peoples of color.

A series of short videos will guide our discussions, even as we grow friendships amid the questions we share —and the faith that binds us together.

Details on these matters will be forthcoming. I am eager for September to arrive —and look forward to sharing these discussions together.






# Being the hands and feet of Jesus

By Braigen Hubbard

First Church volunteers served food to those in need at Emerson and Grimes Elementary for more than two months.



“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the Messenger who announces peace, who brings good news ...”

— Isaiah 52:7 (NRSV)

Helping Hand Ministry has always been busy. However, as things started shutting down in March, it was clear that lending a helping hand would look vastly different in the face of a pandemic. The offices had to close on March 17, but that did not stop the work being accomplished. Quickly, **Emma Smith**, along with her volunteers, safely organized a drive-through grocery pick up station at the Bernsen Building. The grocery distribution served a total of 948 residents of greater Tulsa by May 26, which translated into 8,532 meals and almost doubles the residents helped before COVID-19 forced the closure.

Volunteer **Phil Marshall** said, “This was an amazing success story that HHM accomplished that really helped residents that were struggling and in desperate need of a helping hand.” On May 26, the offices opened by appointment with new procedures and safety protocols, so volunteers could continue helping those in our community most impacted by the economic hardships brought on by COVID-19.



Jon and Ben Peterson delivering care boxes full of snacks to the ER at St. Francis in May.

Across Tulsa, a total of 51 First Church volunteers, led by **Allison Biggs**, served food with **Hunger Free Oklahoma's Tulsa Kitchen's Unite Project**. Starting on April 15 and ending on June 26, covering eight different Tulsa Public School sites in North, South and East Tulsa, volunteers gave a total of 32 days and approximately 385-man hours to this important ministry. Tulsa Kitchens Unite served a total of 335,000 meals across all their sites. Not only were food insecure families blessed by this provision, but relationships were built between the volunteers working each week.

In May and June, because of the funds allocated by the **8:10 Project Council**, the Church was able to encourage and support the healthcare professionals in our community. The Church's connections to Hillcrest and St. Francis allowed us to bless their ER and ICU workers with quality meals, premium coffee and snacks while also supporting the Tulsa economy by buying locally whenever possible. These small gifts were received with thanks and lifted the spirits of the healthcare heroes hard at work in our community.

Other assistance, mainly in the way of financial support, has continued to be regularly provided by both the 8:10 allocated funds and the Church's mission budget. In June, mission funds were sent to **Petra Kids Ministry** and to the **Kariobangi South Parish** in Nairobi, Kenya. Each gift went towards food for students and families, as livelihoods all over the world have been disrupted by the pandemic. Funds from the 8:10 Building continue to support church members, neighboring churches and the city of Tulsa as a whole.

Relationships with the Lord were also strengthened at **Camp Loughridge** when the board provided scholarships to Emerson students for a week at camp in June. **Sarah Wright, Jenny Hoecker, Marilyn Cox and Patti Richards** volunteered to ride with the students on the bus to implement safety and COVID-19 protocols, and the students were transported by **Keysto Stotz** and backed up by **Danny Russell**, from Emerson to and from Camp Loughridge each day.

“Your actions will ripple throughout their lives and will make a lasting impression for our Lord.”

— Tom Hills

Sarah Wright recalled a camper's reaction after receiving his award at the end of the week. “I am emotional by his words,” she said. “He was looking at his award and reading it over and over and looking at the picture of himself with his tribe. He quietly said, ‘I will treasure this always.’” **Tom Hillis** put it well in his thanks to the volunteers and camp staff, saying, “For the children you served, I am confident that each was exposed to our Savior at a level they had not yet experienced. Without your selfless actions, we would have missed a spectacular opportunity to minister to these angels. Your actions will ripple throughout their lives and will make a lasting impression for our Lord.”

## Giving Stats

### Tulsa Kitchens Unite Project From April 15 to June 26

- Eight Tulsa Public School sites covered
- 32 days (approximately 385-man hours) worked by volunteers
- 335,000 meals served to food insecure families



Bags of food being delivered to families in Kariobangi South Parish in Nairobi, Kenya.



Emerson students enjoyed a week of fun at Camp Loughridge in June, fully paid for by the camp's board and organized by First Church volunteers.



# Connecting First Church in the time of COVID-19

By Michael Grogan

Outwardly focused, inwardly strong. When I think of the First Church mission in 2020, I first think of our all-star TV ministry team. When our world suddenly turned upside down in March and the Church had to close its doors to regular Sunday worship, this ministry never skipped a beat. They are the outstretched arm that kept so many of us connected to the Body of Christ in an uncertain time.

Led by **Doug Crain**, the effort was nothing short of monumental to produce a worship service on the fly meant entirely for a remote audience. “Normally, we try to give our viewers the worship experience as if they were there in person,” said Doug. “But that all changed when no one could be there in person.” As the world seemed to change each day, so did the broadcast we saw at home. It started with bringing down a balcony camera to a more intimate location on the third row, front and center. Doug and his team poured through previous broadcasts to integrate choir anthems and congregational hymns. “To me there was something positive about seeing the way it was before the lockdown and being able to imagine what it will be like when we’re able to get back to normal.”

“Even though you and your family might be alone,  
our hope was that with this style of worship service  
you felt that you weren’t really alone.”

— Doug Crain

Crowd-sourcing parts of the service also became a life-giving element of the weekly broadcast. Whether it was children wishing their moms a “Happy Mother’s Day” or reading Scripture, the First Church family came together, virtually-speaking, during this isolating period of time. Doug said, “Even though you and your family might be alone, our hope was that with

this style of worship service you felt that you weren’t really alone.” It was Doug and his team who compiled and edited it for our shared experience each Sunday.

The shutdown was surreal on many fronts, including within the empty sanctuary. “It was very odd at the beginning. This great, beautiful sanctuary that we all love was sort of ... dry,” Doug remarked. “It became a big room with a primary purpose of being a television studio. Ron’s main organ console was rolled out front for all to see and Scripture readings took place in otherwise unused sections of the sanctuary for broadcast purposes.”

Now that modified, in-person services have resumed, the broadcast team continues to bring a blended (combined traditional and contemporary) service to the broader congregation with a more concerted focus on including those of us who remain outside the sanctuary each Sunday.



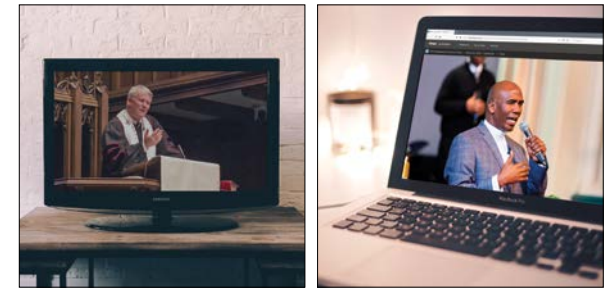
Members of the television crew in the 4th floor control room.

Broadcasts are more dynamic than ever, uniquely shining Christ’s light to our Body in all corners of our city and truly our world. Jump into the Facebook feed on a Sunday morning and you’ll find loved ones joining from as far away as the East Coast and even Europe, showcasing how First Church is deeply connected to the global Church in a way unlike ever before.

The creativity was collaborative among the skeleton in-person staff, Church communications leaders and the all-volunteer broadcast team, which had shrunk due to the shutdown. For Doug, it was a family affair with both his wife **Jane** and son **Adam** helping run the cameras on various Sundays. **Michael Vickery, Tiffany Pickerel, Scott Roney** and **Thomas Burke** also were key to making sure Sunday worship services and even the Pastor’s Class on Wednesdays were there for all to see. Even in the face of the occasional tech “gremlin,” this stalwart team adapted to the “new normal” and allowed each of us to stay connected on a number of different platforms. The next time you step inside the Church for worship, be sure to share your gratitude with any member of this intrepid team.

Well-beyond this pandemic, the broadcast team will  
continue to bring the Gospel message to the elderly,  
home-bound and hospitalized.

Well-beyond this pandemic, the broadcast team will continue to bring the Gospel message to the elderly, home-bound and hospitalized. It will connect all of us with an ability to remotely worship whenever we cannot be physically present. We praise God for the gift of technology and the gifts bestowed on this particular team, to bring us together even when we are apart, for whatever reason.



The Sunday morning TV Ministry team: From left to right: Adam Crain, Thomas Burke, Tiffany Pickerel, Doug Crain, Caleb Waldie and Jeff Waldie.



# When I survey the wondrous cross

by Joan Williams Hoar, Elder



When I survey the wondrous cross,  
On which the Prince of Glory died,  
My richest gains I count but loss,  
And pour contempt on all my pride.

This beautiful hymn, written by Isaac Watts (1674-1748), speaks to the importance of the cross to Christians. At First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, almost 100 images and symbols of the cross call our attention to the important reminder of our faith.

As we approach First Church from any direction, we view the crosses atop the two steeples, given by **Marshall** and **Anna Milligan's** children and grandchildren. As Anna described the surprise donation the children said, "We often struggle with how to show our appreciation and we now believe we have found something that will be truly meaningful to you. Not only does this gift show our love for you, to us, it represents your dedication and significant involvement in First Presbyterian Church. We hope that when you see the crosses, not only will you think of your love for the Church, you will also think of our love and appreciation for you."


"We hope that when you see the crosses, not only will you think of your love for the Church, you will also think of our love and appreciation for you."  
— Milligan family

Entering the sanctuary, the architecture draws our eyes upward. The "hanging" cross is the gift of the Esser family in memory of husband and father, **Walter Esser**. **Dr. William Wiseman** said of the cross, "It is a powerful witness to our Lord who gives us the strength and courage to live each day by His grace." **Sherye Esser Halliburton** continued, "It is that powerful witness silently present in the Sanctuary that does bless me with memories of my parents and their gifts of love, time and talents to First Presbyterian beginning in 1942.

"It is a powerful witness to our Lord who gives us the strength and courage to live each day by His grace."  
— Dr. William Wiseman

The Kerr Chapel cross, made and given by **George Coe**, is appropriately located in the Chapel named for the **Dr. Charles Kerr** family. It is crafted from walnut and bears an inscribed dedication to wife, **Nancy G. Coe**, mother of **Janie Long** and **Mary Anne Marberry**. Janie said, "When I am in the Chapel, I like to go forward to put my hands on the cross and remember my parents. Mary Anne noted, "I do love that cross. When I walk into the Chapel, I always immediately look for it and smile."

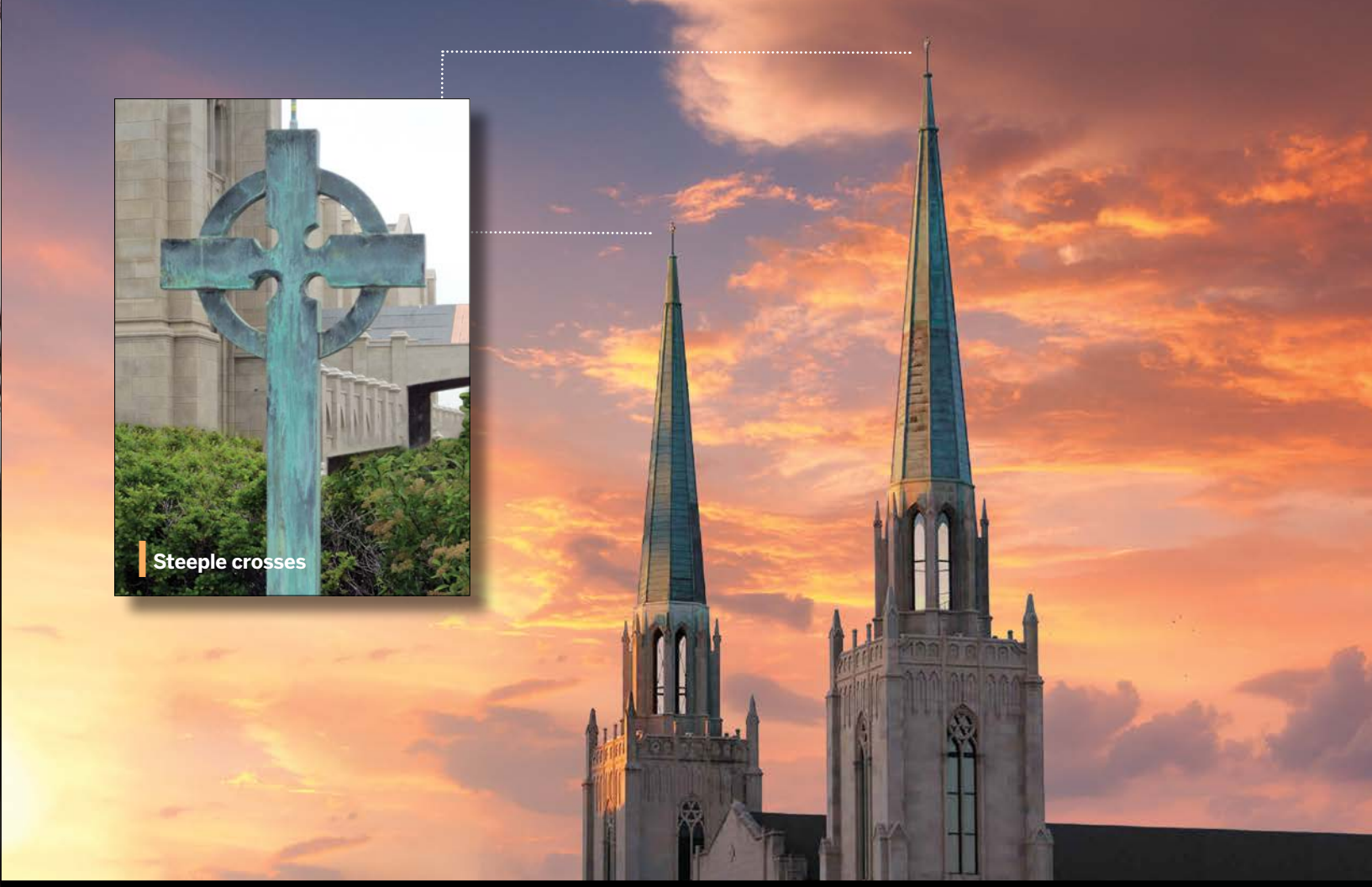
I challenge you to locate one of the numerous crosses, make it special to you, and be reminded of the divine love.



Watch future issues of Tidings for more stories on crosses located throughout the Church from Joan Hoar.



Steeple crosses



Sanctuary cross



Kerr Chapel cross



FPC staff meeting on Zoom

# Update from the Personnel Committee

By Kim Jones

A lot has happened since the last update from the Personnel Committee. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the committee has been working diligently to develop a staff structure for the future and we are happy to report the process to get there has begun.

First and foremost, Jim plans to stay as head of staff for the foreseeable future. He has no plans to leave and, in his words, "Will stay as long as we want him." Yet every strong leader must be supported by a strong team, which is where we have placed our initial focus.

In interviews with the pastors and staff leadership, it became apparent that several activities needed to be removed from associate pastor duties and reassigned to allow for better focus in key ministry areas. One of the areas identified is in university ministries. We are excited to introduce the new role of director of university ministries and even more excited to announce that **Julia Metcalf** has accepted the position. Many of you already know Julia from her vocal contributions to First Church while she was attending college.



First Church's new director of university ministries, Julia Metcalf

**"While earning my degree, I loved the courses in spiritual formation, particularly dealing with Christian mysticism and spiritual practices. Christian mysticism is essentially the knowledge, tools and practices we gain from early Christians or "mystics" as they were called at the time such as Julian of Norwich, St Francis of Assisi, Thomas Aquinas and others."**

—Julia Metcalf

Julia earned a Master of Divinity from Princeton in May 2020. While working towards her degree, she worked as a pastoral intern with a focus on children's ministry at First Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, New Jersey; as a sacred sector intern with a focus on policy equipping papers with The Center for Public Justice in Washington, D.C.; and as a pastoral intern with a focus on youth and young adults at the American Church in

Paris (ACP). It was during her time at ACP that she found her passion for working with young adults. She is presently a candidate for ordination in the PC(USA) and will be seeking ordination in the coming year.

In addition to the director of university ministries role, we are currently in the process to identify, select, and integrate a theologian in residence into our pastoral staff. This role, which is done on a temporary (usually 24 months) contractual basis, is used nationally by many Presbyterian churches. We expect this role to provide theological and Christian education as well as another strong theologian in the pulpit on Sundays. Jim has been contacted by many of his national peers with outstanding candidates that are interested in a theologian in residence opportunity. We expect to interview candidates this summer.

Lastly, an update on our existing staff of 50. Like many of you, the COVID-19 pandemic required our staff to navigate a new and different way to work. Seemingly overnight, they were challenged with finding a way to provide meaningful worship opportunities while accommodating COVID-19 restrictions. They exceeded the challenge by providing a full slate of opportunities utilizing on-line streaming programs most available to our congregants. The flexibility of having the choice of worship from home or worship in-person has been well received.

To thank our staff for this work, and the work they do every week, the Personnel Committee recognized each of them in June with a small token of appreciation and a living vine for their garden. Special recognition was given to those celebrating five-year anniversary milestones, most significant of which was **Tonye Briscoe** who celebrated 35 years of service to First Church. Incredible!

We are grateful for our dedicated staff and ask for you to include them in your prayers of thanksgiving. We also ask for your continued prayers of wisdom as we build a foundation for the future.



**"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 29:11 (NRSV)

## Without blinders

By Mark Brown

According to Bureau of Labor statistics, the average American worker tends to leave a job every four years, which means **Tonye Briscoe** is eight jobs behind. Tonye started her job at First Church in 1985, the year of New Coke and Back to the Future. "Nov. 5, 1985," she said. "One month after the Church's 100th anniversary."

Tonye came on board seven years ahead of **Jim Miller** (she missed the venerable **William Wiseman** by a year). She's seen a lot come and go in the last 35 years, but **Ron Pearson** isn't one of them.

"We have a running joke between us," said Ron, whose tenure dates to 1974. "However long she's around, she will never catch me!"

In addition to managing the staff benefits program, Tonye provides administrative support for the various standing committees; maintains the master calendar, for staff and members but also outside rentals, such as weddings; tracks staff PTO; orders office supplies, and keeps the supply lines moving on copiers, phones and IT support. She issues parking permits and records church columbarium niches.

"If something comes up," Ron said, "... the standard phrase is, 'Check with Tonye.'"

But not all of her good work is outlined in the job description. Her boss, **Bruce Blackman**, said "A caring heart and listening ears," are her best assets. And, like Tonye, not visible to most First Church members.

"Behind the scenes," Bruce said. "Phone calls from members who are widowed, seeking advice or just to talk. The majority are unrelated to church business."

"No matter what position we hold –preaching, teaching, singing, volunteering, cleaning the building – we are all a part of the body of Christ," Tonye said. "When one of us is going through a trial, everyone steps up to give their support and care."



Tonye Briscoe, longtime First Church administrator, offers staff support and more.

Maybe not something a Presbyterian Church might look for in its Pentecostal benefits coordinator, but why not?

"We learn from what Jim calls another corner of the kingdom," Ron said. "A hymn that's sung, or a different perspective. There's an advantage to having someone like that, for the diversity. You can get blinders on."

Out of professional respect, or perhaps fear of running her off, nobody tries to turn Tonye into a Presbyterian. "No," she said, "but I do get requests from members to be put on my prayer list."

### The Details: Tonye Briscoe

**Pronounced:** Tony (the "e" is silent)  
**Title:** Facilities & Benefits Coordinator  
**Home:** Kellyville  
Member: Westside Free Will Baptist Church, Sapulpa  
**Line:** "The crazy thing is, I was raised Southern Baptist, married a Pentecostal, and our Free Will Baptist pastor was Pentecostal until he passed away five years ago. And I work in a Presbyterian Church!"

## Interns & graduates



### First Church Interns

In 2020, First Church welcomed three student interns to the staff including: **J.P. Schemmer**, Heather Davis intern; **Natalie Bair** and **Caroline Lawson**, Ignite interns.



### Senior class of 2020

Congratulations to our high school seniors at First Church. Shown include **Brian McSweeney**, **Caroline Lawson**, **Helen Fullerton**, **Jack Bird**, **Luke Fravel**, **Natalie Bair**, **Pami Lakatos**, **Tristan Ball** and **Will Savage**. Also graduating include **Gordon Paiva**, **Grant Govrik**, **Jack Jenkins**, **Luke Griffin**, **Rachel Atwood** and **Sean Free**.



Classes begin September 16, 2020 at 6:15 p.m.  
And, join us for dinner at 5:15 p.m. Check the web  
calendar for updates. [FirstChurchTulsa.org/events](https://www.firstchurchtulsa.org/events)



## Wednesday Night Downtown

Wednesday nights are a vibrant time of fellowship and spiritual growth at First Church. We hope that you will join us for an optional church dinner followed by **AWANA** for children, **Pathfinders** for youth and several adult offerings.

### Dr. Miller's Class – The Spiritual DNA of First Church

**Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Room to be announced**

In this six-week course, we'll be looking at the meaning behind our heritage as Orthodox, Reformed and Evangelical believers. This class will be followed by another six-week course on The Church Amid Racism when we talk with community pastors and people of color.

### Seeker's Bible Study: The Gospel of John

**Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Room E103**

**Pastor Wambugu Gachungi** leads an in-depth, verse-by-verse study of the book of John. Come enjoy praying together, studying scripture, and engaging in lively questions and discussions. All are welcome.

### Financial Peace University

**Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Room to be announced**

This life-changing class—taught by Dave Ramsey and his team on video—will help you achieve your financial goals by showing you how to eliminate debt, save for the future, and give like never before. Led by **Judith Land**, the cost for this course is \$129 per person/couple. Learn more and register at [daveramsey.com/fpu](https://daveramsey.com/fpu). Limited scholarships available.

### Theology of Parenthood

**Wednesdays, 6:15 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. – Room to be announced**

Join **Rev. Dan Hutchinson**, **Sarah Savage** and guest speakers as we talk about aspects of our faith, how these aspects influence our homes and family life, and how to teach these to our children.

### Special Event

#### Ignatian Spiritual Exercises

**Saturday, September 19, 9:30 a.m. – E104**

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 groups** this fall. Join us Saturday, September 19 for continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m., followed by an informational meeting from 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in room E104. To register or for more information, contact **Duff Points** at 918-301-1018.

# Discipleship programming

As a Church we are encouraged to equip disciples of Jesus Christ. This fall, we encourage you to participate in one of our many groups who meet throughout the week. The classes are designed to help us better know Jesus Christ and grow stronger as a community of Faith. For questions about adult programming, call Hannah Elliott at 918-301-1019 or email her at [helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:helliott@firstchurchtulsa.org).

**Sunday School and Pastor's Study classes start the week of August 23, 2020.**  
Check the web calendar for updates.

### Children and Youth Classes

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

Sunday School for all children (infant to grade four) **reopened on August 23** and continues throughout the semester. All Pathfinder (grades five through eight) and Exodus (grades nine through 12) students are also meeting for Sunday School and fellowship each week. The Powerhouse opens at 9:20 a.m. on Sundays. Read more about safety protocols on our website at [FirstChurchTulsa.org](https://www.firstchurchtulsa.org).

### Adult Sunday School

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m.**

We currently have Sunday School classes gathering and studying on site each week and others that are meeting via Zoom. These discipleship offerings are subject to change as the pandemic situation improves. Please check our web event calendar for updated information.

### Pastor's Study

**Sundays at 9:30 a.m. – Miller Library**

**Wednesdays 11:30 a.m. – Stephenson Hall and [Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa](https://www.livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa)**

This fall, **Dr. Jim Miller** will lead a four-week study of John Bunyan's "The Pilgrim's Progress." This will be followed by a study of a C.S. Lewis favorite, "Mere Christianity."



**Adult classes start the week of September 14, 2020.**  
Check the web calendar for updates.

### Monday School

**Mondays, 12:00 p.m. – Kirkland Library**

**Dr. Arden Autry** will continue his study on Revelation. This study provides an overview of the entire book, followed by examples of how Revelation has been interpreted in different eras of the Church.

### Precepts

**Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m. – Room E100**

Philippians - How to have joy in any circumstance. This study is led by **Denise Rounds**.

### Downtown Theological Roundtable

**Wednesdays, 11:30 a.m. - Courtyard**

The goal is to gather weekly and go in-depth with thoughtful discussion on the books important to our theological upbringings and heritage. Led by **Rev. Dan Hutchinson** and **Phillip Bowman**.

### K Groups

**Various days and times for each group**

K Groups are small groups are gatherings that meet throughout the year all around Tulsa, in homes, coffee shops, or at Church. We meet and discuss topics from a book relating to sermon topics. Watch E-News and our website event calendar for updates. If you're interested in participating in a K Group, contact **Phillip Bowman** at [pbowman@FirstChurchTulsa.org](mailto:pbowman@FirstChurchTulsa.org).

# Parish Register

## The Sacrament of Baptism

**Thomas Eddings Martinson**, son of **Jeff** and **Roxanne Martinson**, baptized on June 21, 2020

## With Gratitude for the Resurrection

**William Ayers**, a member since 1995, died April 19, 2020  
**Robbie Burke**, a member since 1983, died May 22, 2020  
**Vivienne Edwards**, a member since 1944, died June 27, 2020  
**William Grant, Jr.**, a member since 2002, died May 23, 2020  
**Ruthie Huffman**, a member since 1935, died June 26, 2020  
**Jan Johnson**, a member since 1966, died May 27, 2020  
**Jerry Langenkamp**, a member since 1998, died April 15, 2020  
**Ellen Ryan**, a member since 1975, died June 2, 2020  
**E. Marie Scribner**, a member since 1978, died May 5, 2020

## The Celebration of Christian Marriage

**Sean Wheeler** and **Andrea Bohne** were married on June 20, 2020

## Pastoral care

Do you need prayer? Would you like to inform us of someone in the hospital or a birth, marriage or death? Please contact **Bev Carter** at [bcarter@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:bcarter@firstchurchtulsa.org) or 918-301-1029. For after-hours emergencies, call the main Church number at 918-584-4701.

## Ready for the next steps to membership?

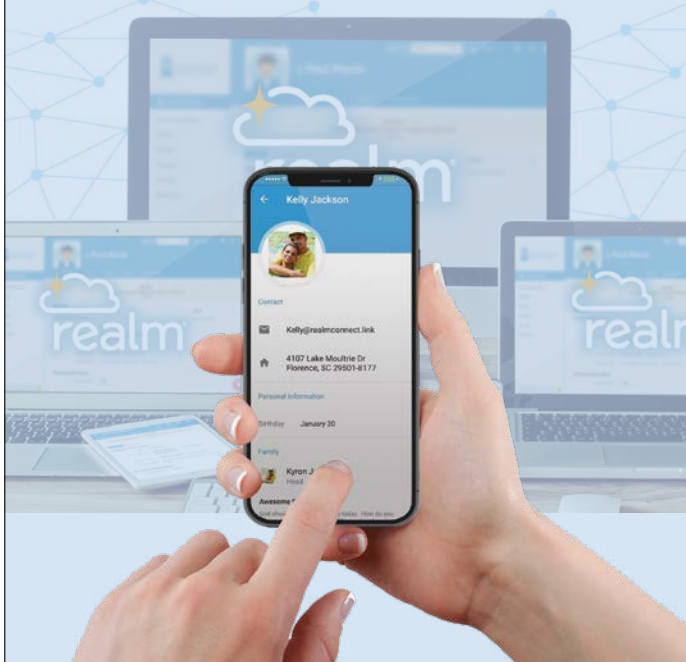
Join us for our next Inquirers Class. For more information, contact **Patricia Hall**, director of new member outreach at 918-301-1028 or email [phall@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:phall@firstchurchtulsa.org).

## Meet our newest employee



Michael Vickery,  
Audio Visual Manager

## Introducing Realm Online Directory



Connecting with others online has become extremely important and First Church has a new digital tool to make that easier than ever.

In early March, First Presbyterian moved from our previous database program to Realm, which is a cloud-based app that can be accessed from any Internet-enabled device. The staff has worked to clean up and organize the data within this new platform so it can be easily used by pastors, staff and congregants.

After a few trial runs with small test groups, Realm was launched to the entire congregation on July 25, 2020. Church members can now log on anytime from anywhere to update their information, upload their profile pictures, check their giving histories, indicate personal interests and skills and easily connect to other members and groups with direct messaging.

While we will still have a paper directory, this program will also serve as an online directory that will be updated in real time by staff and congregants. Group leaders will be able to track attendance, communicate with their group, manage events and update the group's roster with their personal smart device. If you have questions, please email [contactus@firstchurchtulsa.org](mailto:contactus@firstchurchtulsa.org) or reach out to staff members **Braigen Hubbard** or **Kathy Wilson** by calling the Church at 918-584-4701.

Learn more on our website at:  
[Firstchurchtulsa.org/realm](http://Firstchurchtulsa.org/realm)

## Worship

We are open for Sunday worship and welcome you to attend. If you would like to continue viewing from home, two of our services are broadcast online and traditional worship is broadcast on television. For an updated worship schedule, check our website at: [FirstChurchTulsa.org/Events](http://FirstChurchTulsa.org/Events)

**8:30 a.m. – Contemporary Worship**, Sundays, Stephenson Hall

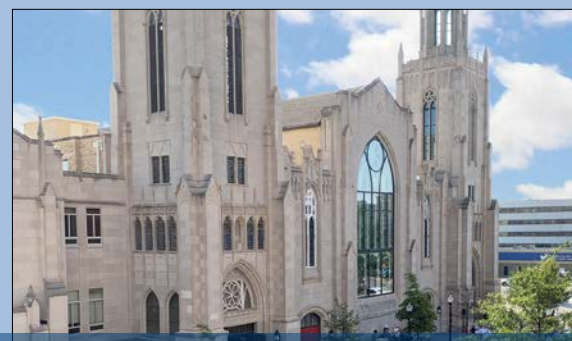
**11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship**, Sundays, Sanctuary  
[Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa](http://Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa)  
[Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa](http://Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa)  
 Cox Cable Ch. 3 at 11 a.m., 5 p.m. and 10 p.m.

**11:00 a.m. – Tulsa International Fellowship Worship**, Sundays, Great Hall  
[Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa](http://Livestream.com/FirstChurchTulsa)  
[Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa](http://Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa)

**5:00 p.m. – Summer Vespers**  
 Sundays through September 6, Camp Loughridge K-Dome

## 10:10 Pastor's Message videos and more

In 2020, we developed a wonderful archive of Pastor's Messages and worship services on Facebook Live. Link over to watch past broadcasts at [Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa/videos](http://Facebook.com/FirstChurchTulsa/videos)



## XX BUMPERS XX on Boston

**Sunday, September 13**

An event for the times that we are in, you won't want to miss this! Sunday, September 13 from 9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. For more information, check our website calendar or you can sign up online at [bit.ly/BumpersonBoston](http://bit.ly/BumpersonBoston).



## Event Updates

For all the latest news on **AWANA**, special events and more, visit our website calendar at [FirstChurchTulsa.org/Events](http://FirstChurchTulsa.org/Events) and read the semi-monthly E-News.

## Stay in the know, read E-News

Would you like the bi-monthly E-News delivered to your inbox? Sign up at [bit.ly/FPC-News](http://bit.ly/FPC-News). Our newsletter includes all the latest updates on worship, events and activities in and around First Church Tulsa.



## Social media

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn.



**Tidings: The Holy Spirit at work in and through the members of the First Presbyterian Church**

**Tidings** is a quarterly publication of First Presbyterian Church of Tulsa, 709 South Boston Avenue, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74119.

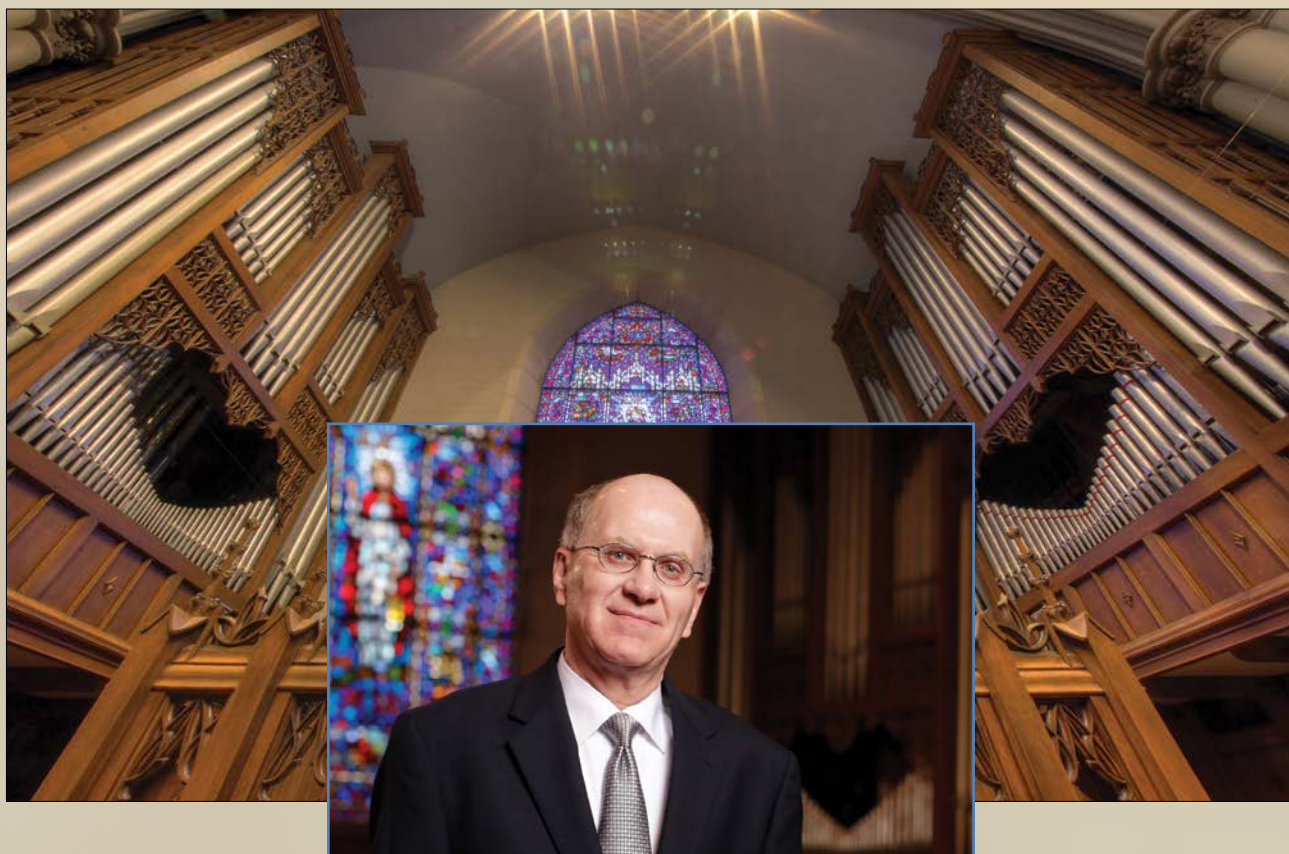
Read past issues of Tidings on our website at [FirstChurchTulsa.org/tidings](http://FirstChurchTulsa.org/tidings). If you would like to write an article or take photos for the magazine, please contact Louann Buhlinger at [lbuhlinger@FirstChurchTulsa.org](mailto:lbuhlinger@FirstChurchTulsa.org) or call 918-301-1032.

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# *Beautiful Music*

## **Ron Pearson's 47th Annual Organ Concert Sunday, October 11 at 4 p.m.**

The 47th Annual Organ Concert led by First Church director of music ministries and organist, **Ron Pearson**, is set for Sunday, October 11 at 4 p.m.

This year's program will include two organ concertos with The University of Tulsa Symphony Orchestra. Concertos by G. F. Handel and Josef Rheinberger will be included, along with solo organ works by Joseph Bonnet, Gabriel Pierne, and J. S. Bach.

A reception will follow in the Atrium.