



“STRENGTHEN YOUR MARRIAGE” RETREAT

Friday Evening, April 25 (Camp Loughridge)

7:00 - 9:30 pm Registration
Session I: Healthy Relationships

Saturday, April 26 (Camp Loughridge)

9:00 am Gathering
9:30 am Sessions II and III: Healthy Relationships
12:15 pm Lunch
1:45 pm Sessions IV and V: Healthy Relationships
5:00 pm Home

Sunday, April 27

9:30 am Session VI and worship
11:00 am Brunch

Dr. Stephen R. Treat is the Director and CEO of Council for Relationships, the nation's oldest and largest counseling agency. For more information or to sign up for the retreat, contact Sharon Richards (584.4701 or SRichards@firstchurchtulsa.org). Cost is \$100 per couple.

EASTER PRAYER VIGIL BEGINS PALM SUNDAY

The First Church 2008 Prayer Vigil is an unbroken chain of prayer for 24 hours a day beginning Palm Sunday at 1:00 pm and continuing to 7:00 am Easter morning.

Our Prayer Vigil is a time to focus our hearts and minds on the true meaning of Easter. During this quiet time we join others in experiencing the presence of God.

Prayer Vigil participants may choose to pray at home or at the church in the prayer room, sanctuary, chapel, or the new interactive prayer room (204). Prayer intervals are for 30 minutes. Participants may sign up for only one time period, the same time period every day, or for several different time periods during the week.

Since there are 372 half-hour time slots to fill during the week, we encourage First Church members to be a link in the unbroken chain of prayer. Please help us keep the chain strong by your participation.

Prayer Vigil information packets will be available at sign-up tables outside the Chapel, in the Narthex (main building) and in the Great Hall Alcove (Bernsen Center) after each worship service on Sunday, March 9 and 16. Church members who want to participate but are unable to sign up at the church, can contact Paula Peterson at 252-1310 for information and assistance.

-Paula Peterson

NEW INTERACTIVE PRAYER ROOM

As a *Communications* director at a church, it's embarrassing for me to admit the following: It is hard for me to pray. Oftentimes, my prayers sound something like this: "Dear God, thank you so much for all you have done in my life. I am especially thankful for....wait a minute, do I have a Stewardship meeting after work today? I think I do... does Michael know this? Oh I'm sorry, God. Where was I?" I am so consumed with my life that I seldom take time to thank the One who gave me life. This year, First Church is having a 24/7 Easter Prayer Vigil, inviting members to sign up for 30-minute intervals to pray fervently.

You can pray anywhere but this year many members worked together to create an interactive prayer room in the church (room 204) for members like myself--those who might have a hard time staying focused or who would like to use their creative side to experience God in new and different ways. I visited the room a few weeks ago and it was a remarkable experience. My pulse slowed down, my shoulders relaxed, and I felt so grateful to have a place where I could use my creativity to show my love to God. The room is beautifully decorated and includes places to draw, play guitar, and physically interact with the One who blessed you with these gifts.

I realize this room will not cure my interrupted prayers—that is *my* responsibility--but it is a good jump-start for a pure prayer to my Father. I encourage each of you to sign up for 30 minutes during the week and take some time out of your busy life to really talk to God, experience him to the fullest and have an intimate moment with him during Holy Week. People can take away your time, money, and energy, but they cannot take away your relationship with God. I'm eager to see for myself what 30 minutes of solid talk-time with God might do for my well-being. Won't you join me?

-Meredith Haynes



Calendar of Events for March 9 - 29

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| Monday, March 10: | Flannel Shirt Night; 6:30 pm; Will Keith's home |
| Wednesday, March 12: | Lenten Wiseman Series; 12:00 pm; Sanctuary |
| Friday, March 14: | Mission team leaves for Romania |
| Saturday, March 15: | Spring Festival; 10 am; Camp Loughridge |
| Sunday, March 16: | Easter Prayer Vigil begins (lasts through 3/23 at 7:00 am |
| Tuesday, March 18: | Strength for Today; Rm 207; 11:30 am |
| Thursday, March 20: | Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service at 7:30 pm; Sanctuary |
| Friday, March 21: | Good Friday service; 12:00 pm; Sanctuary (Church offices closed) |
| Sunday, March 23: | Easter (see service information below) |
| Tuesday, March 25: | Session Meeting; 5:30 pm; Wiseman Hall |
| Friday, March 28: | Confirmation Retreat (continues through Sunday) Leadership Retreat for Deacons, Elders, Trustees, and Staff (continues through Saturday); Post Oak Lodge |
| Sunday, March 30: | Congregational Meeting; 12:00 pm; Sanctuary |

EASTER SERVICES:

- 6:30 am - Sunrise Service (Camp Loughridge)
- 8:00 am - Sanctuary
- 9:30 am - Great Hall
- 11:00 am - Sanctuary

CELEBRATION OF FAITH Saturday and Sunday evenings, April 5 and 6 with the theme, *Jesus: The Heart of the Gospel*. Dr. Dale Bruner is returning to present expositions from the Gospel of John.