

THE VISION

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A Mission Partner with The Church of Saint Giles

3500 South Peoria Ave, Tulsa, Ok 74105 (918) 743-4427

SOUTHMINSTER NEWS

Our connected church – PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA

Southminster is one of nearly 10,000 Presbyterian churches in the United States, PC(USA), and we are connected to each other for prayer and support by the overall organization which goes beyond our local congregation. There are 172 presbyteries (district governing bodies) and ours is Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery. There are 16 synods (regional governing bodies). Ours is the Synod of the Sun located in Irving, Texas and Reverend Judy Fletcher, a previous Southminster copastor with her husband David, is the recently retired moderator of the Synod of the Sun.

The General Assembly, located in Louisville, Kentucky, is the national body. It meets every two years with representatives (commissioners) from each presbytery. It is an open meeting with up to 1000 voting members who consider and vote on many proposed statements (overtures) that are submitted by individual presbyteries. The General Assembly also elects the moderator for a two year term. He or she may be either an ordained pastor or a lay leader. The Book of Order is the procedure manual by which member churches are to conduct all aspects of governance and church life.

Southminster, as a local church in our connected denomination, supports four annual General Assembly mission offerings – One Great Hour of Sharing at Easter, Pentecost Offering after Easter, Peace Offering at the fall World Wide Communion Sunday and the Christmas Joy Offering. Each of these offerings is for a specific General Assembly mission purpose and a portion of the Pentecost and Peace offering is kept by Southminster for a specific local mission decided by the Mission Committee.

What is the National Day of Prayer?

The National Day of Prayer was established as an annual event in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The observance of the National Day of Prayer is founded on the constitutional rights of freedom of speech and freedom of religion and can be celebrated by all Americans.

When is the National Day of Prayer?

The National Day of Prayer will take place on **Thursday, May 7, 2015.**

What is the theme and verse this year?

The 2015 Theme is LORD, HEAR OUR CRY which is based on I KINGS 8: 28: *“Hear the cry and the prayer that your servant is praying in your presence this day.”*

May 3, 2015

Prayer of the Day

God of the glorious garden, giver of grace,
apart from your Word we can do nothing.
Cultivate in us a sense of connection in Christ.
Prune our excess and help us to grow in faith
so that we may bear good fruit for the world;
through Jesus Christ, the true vine. Amen.

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The Prayer Chain Letter

for May will be written by Ruth Mason.

Please contact Ruth
at 918-743-4932.



Come Worship With Us

May 3rd — 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8: 26-40 ; Psalm 22: 25-31 ; 1

John 4: 7-21 ; John 15: 1-8

May 10th —6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10: 44-48 ; Psalm 98 ; 1 John 5: 1-

6 ; John 15: 9-17

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NOTICE: I am going to be working on updating our Southminster mass email listing over the next couple of weeks. If anyone has changed their email address, please let me know and I will update it. If anyone is not on the mass email listing and would like to be, let me know and I will add you. Or if you would like to be deleted let me know and I will delete you. If you have any other personal information that you would like changed or that needs updating, please just let me know and I will take care of it. *Thank you! Marcia*

Volunteer Ushers for 2015!!

I need people that could help for at least one month of the coming year. If you can't do it for a complete month, I can still use you. It is an easy job -- you need to be there at 10:15 on Sunday mornings to pass out bulletins and greet people at the door. You also help at offering , collect the attendance sheets and help count the money from the offering. And as an added bonus you can wear a pin that says **USHER!!** So signed up for your favorite month, before all the spots are filled. Please contact Mike Beatt, at 918 749-0211 or mike.beatt@aa.com. Thank you.

The Fellowship Committee always needs your help with cookies for after Sunday church service. If you are willing to provide them, please list your name and phone number on the cookie sign-up sheet for **cookies and flowers** are now on the "Sign Up" Board on the wall in the hall across from the coffee bar. If you would like to sign-up for flowers for a special occasion, event, or to honor a loved one, contact Carla Gilbert at 918-747-4404, or email crmg@swbell.net.

Newsletter Reminder: The *deadline* for articles in the next newsletter will be **May 18th** and then the official publishing date is **May 24th**. You can send articles to newsletter@southminstertulsa.org.

The Calendar

Sunday, May 3rd

7: 00am-Gym is open!
9: 00am-Youth Sunday (Commons/Classroom)
9: 15am-Sunday School (Classrooms)
10: 30am-Sunday Worship (Sanctuary)
11: 30am-May Luncheon (Dining Hall)
2: 00pm-PBA and Youth Group (Gym)
7: 00pm-Miracles (Dining Hall / Room 201, 204)

Monday, May 4th

5: 30AM-Women's Boot Camp (Community Center)
9: 30am-Al-Anon (Room 200,201,204)
5: 30pm-Brookside Neighborhood Assoc. Meeting (Dining Hall)
6: 00pm-One Heart Meditation Group (Fair Trade Shop)
6: 00pm-Alcoholics Anonymous (Green Room by Commons)
6: 30pm-GamAnon (Commons/Green & Red Rooms)
6: 30pm-Deacon's Meeting (Forbes Parlor)
7: 15pm-Boy Scout Troop (Rooms 207, 209)

Tuesday, May 5th

5: 00pm-Crow Creek Community Meeting (Forbes Parlor)
5: 30pm-Tulsa Fencing (Dining Hall)
6: 00pm-PBA & Youth Group (Gym)
6: 30pm - Tulsa Fencing (Gym)

Wednesday, May 6th

5: 30AM-Women's Boot Camp (Community Center)
6: 30pm-Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7: 00pm-Miracles (Dining Hall/Room 201, 204)

Thursday, May 7th

9: 00am-Presbytery Lectionary Study (Upstairs)
9: 00am-Senior Center Computer Class (Library)
11: 30am-Lunch Bunch Lunch (Dining Hall)
5: 30pm-Tulsa Fencing (Dining Hall)
6: 30pm-PBA and Youth Group (Gym)
6: 30pm -Tulsa Fencing (Gym)
6: 30pm-Tulsa Ukulele Club-Hanh Nguyen (Forbes Parlor)

Friday, May 8th

5: 30AM-Women's Boot Camp (Community Center)
6: 00pm-Friday Fun Night (Gym)

Saturday, May 9th

8: 30am-All Pres-B-ball (Gym)
9: 00am-Miracles (Room 201)
10: 00am-Co-Dependents Anonymous (Commons)
10: 00am-Bridges of Faith B-Ball (Gym)
4: 00pm-St. Giles Worship (Dining Hall)
6: 00pm-OK Swing Dance (Gym)



The Church of Saint Giles meets in the Dining Hall at 4:00pm every Saturday.

Sunday, May 10th — Happy Mother's Day!

7: 00am-Gym is open!
9: 00am-Youth Sunday (Commons/Classroom)
9: 15am-Sunday School (Classrooms)
10: 30am-Worship (Sanctuary)
11: 30am-Fellowship Time (Forbes Parlor)
2: 00pm-PBA and Youth Group (Gym)
7: 00pm-Miracles (Dining Hall/Rooms 201, 204)

Monday, May 11th

5: 30AM-Women's Boot Camp (Community Center)
9: 30am-Al-Anon (Rooms 200, 201, 204)
6: 00pm-One Heart Meditation Group (Fair Trade Shop)
6: 00pm-Worship Committee Meeting (Choir Room)
6: 00pm-Alcoholics Anonymous (Green Room)
6: 30pm-GamAnon (Commons / Green & Red Rooms)
6: 30pm-A& P Meeting (Study)
7: 15pm-Boy Scout Troop (Room 207, 209)

Tuesday, May 12th

12: 00pm-Finance Committee Meeting (Forbes Parlor)
5: 30pm-Tulsa Fencing Club (Dining Hall)
6: 00pm-PBA & Youth Group (Gym)
6: 30pm - Tulsa Fencing Club (Gym)

Wednesday, May 13th

5: 30AM-Women's Boot Camp (Community Center)
2: 00pm-Full Moon Café' (Kitchen)
6: 30pm-Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)
7: 00pm-Miracles (Dining Hall/Room 201, 204)

Thursday, May 14th

9: 00am-Presbytery Lectionary Study Meeting (Upstairs)
9: 00am-Senior Center Computer Classes (Library)
5: 30pm-Tulsa Fencing (Dining Hall)
6: 30pm-PBA and Youth Group (Gym)
6: 30pm -Tulsa Fencing (Gym)
6: 30pmTulsa Ukulele Club-Hanh Nguyen (Forbes Parlor)

Friday, May 15th

5: 30AM-Women's Boot Camp (Community Center)
3: 00pm-Full Moon Café' (Kitchen)
6: 00pm-Friday Fun Night (Gym)

Saturday, May 16th

6: 00am-Full Moon Café' (Kitchen)
8: 30am-All Pres-B-Ball (Gym)
9: 00am-Miracles (Room 201)
10: 00am-Co-Dependents Anonymous (Commons)
10: 00am-Bridges of Faith B-Ball (Gym)
4: 00pm-St. Giles Worship (Dining Hall)
6: 00pm-OK Swing Dance (Gym)

The Vision
Southminster Presbyterian Church
The Church of Saint Giles
3500 South Peoria Avenue
Tulsa OK 74105-2522

Southminster Presbyterian

Music Ministry: John Brobston, Adult Director; Allen Cox, Assistant Adult Director; Betty Kirk, Organist

Program Director: Rev. Bill Webb

Youth Ministry Assistant: Eric Hudgens

Child Care: Apryll Kannard, Heather Swanson and Beth Bozarth

Business Administrator: Marcia Miller (mmiller@southminstertulsa.org)

Maintenance Technician: Chris Zizzi

Newsletter: Jennifer Reese, Publisher (newsletter@southminstertulsa.org)

Church of Saint Giles

Pastor: Rev. Bill Webb (st.giles@cox.net)

Congregational Chairperson: Don Heffington (DHeffington@cox.net)

Treasurer: David E. Wulf (david.wulf@sbcglobal.net)

Church Office: 918-743-4427

Church Fax: 918-743-0811

Church Office Hours: 8: 30 am - 4: 30 pm

Senior Citizen Center Office: Jamey Henderson

918-749-2623

www.southminstertulsa.org

Sunday School

9: 15—10: 15am

Worship Services:

10: 30am Sunday &

4: 00pm Saturday

Powdered Milk By Ellen Johnsen

Let me introduce you to Jorge. Jorge was a young boy who lived in a small Portuguese village where I lived. Jorge's parents were very poor. When Jorge was born they didn't have money to buy milk for him. His mother would beg people for bread, and then she would soak it in water and some wine and feed it to baby Jorge.

Jorge didn't grow properly; his bones were very weak, and his frail and deformed legs couldn't hold him up to walk. To get around he used his hands and arms, pulling his legs behind him. I remember so well watching Jorge as he went about the city's cobblestone streets using his hands as feet, headed toward his favorite place to sit and beg around the open marketplace.

One day I decided to make a house visit (I was about 14 years old). Jorge's mother met me at the door and recognized me as the American girl in town. Suddenly she became very excited and invited me in to see what she had in the small cupboard. When she opened the doors I was in shock! "It came from America!" she exclaimed with pride and excitement. "It came from America!" she kept repeating. The shelves were packed with boxes labeled, "Care" from America, and they were all filled with powdered milk. After WWII, the American government sent many care packages with food to the poor in Europe. "But why haven't you used this milk for Jorge and your family?" I asked. "But milk comes from cows! Powder is no good!" she exclaimed.

Regardless of all my efforts to explain how the powder was rich in calcium and vitamins that Jorge so desperately needed, she was not moved, and she could not accept this strange and foreign concept. "Milk comes from cows," she repeated with emphasis. Jorge's mother had kept all these boxes with powdered milk for years just so she could show them off to other people so they could see what she had received from America. Sometimes our own pride blinds us and we too find it hard to continue in our walk...and during those times we ask, "But where is God?" And God, just as the powdered milk, was there the whole time. (I was raised by missionary parents in Portugal. At the time it was a third world country.)

Session Meeting Highlights on April 27, 2015

- Next two Pot Luck Sundays will be May 3 and June 14.
- Board of Deacons is ready to launch their Helping Hands Ministry. Watch for publicity about this new ministry.
- The Sue Shamburg Sunday School class is now meeting in the small classroom in the newly renovated east wing.
- Gaylyn Wattman and Marianna Vesely are working to coordinate the furnishings in the new small parlor Bride's Room in the east wing. They will be looking for a love seat and/or sofa, chairs, table, lamps, pictures.
- The Mission/Evangelism committee is looking for a few good people to assist with the Feed My Sheep bags, Friday Fun Night, and the Day Center meals.
- Greg Myers, Chair of the Nominating Committee, is seeking a Deacon who will serve for the next 18 months. Call him to volunteer to be a candidate.
- A Mission Statement was approved to be sent to Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery.
- Session approved an Interim Pastor whose name will be submitted to Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery.
- Next Session meeting will be Monday, May 18. This is one week early because of the Memorial Day holiday.

Three benefits

The Ascension of Jesus Christ marked the end of Christ's earthly existence and the beginning of a new period of time, one in which Christ's relationship with the Church is not restricted by the boundaries of time and space. Christ is now available to all people all of the time through the work of the Holy Spirit.

According to Calvin, we can appropriate three "benefits" of Christ's Ascension for our faith:

- Through Ascension-faith we experience Christ "transfusing us with his power." Calvin envisions Jesus as high and lifted up, seated at the right hand of God, where he "lavishes spiritual riches" upon "his own people."
- Ascension-faith experiences Christ as a "constant advocate and intercessor" who "prepares a way and access for us to the Father's throne." Through the eyes of his own faith, Calvin imagines Christ as a kind of holy distraction for God who "turns the Father's eyes to his own righteousness to avert his gaze from our sins." He sees Christ persuading the Father's heart to look with favor on us so that we do not have to dread our own eventual entrance into the heavenly throne room.
- Most important, Ascension-faith discovers that Christ's Ascension "has opened the way into the Heavenly Kingdom, which had been closed through Adam." The Ascension is nothing short of the inauguration of the Kingdom of God, a new age in which faithful Christians find that they have access, through Christ, to God's ultimate reality and purposes.

What do Presbyterians believe about the Ascension?

The Ascension — *a promise of great things to come*

By John S. McClure

Reprinted from the May 2002 issue of Presbyterians Today

Ascension Day on May 14, 2015

Early writings

The Apostles' Creed says: "On the third day (Jesus) arose from the dead, he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty."

"(Christ) received from us the earnest of the flesh," Tertullian wrote, "and has carried it with Him into heaven as a pledge of that complete entirety which is one day to be restored to it. Be not disquieted, O flesh and blood, with any care; in Christ you have acquired both heaven and the kingdom of God" (On the Resurrection of the Flesh).

And John Calvin, in his Institutes of the Christian Religion, asserted that "Christ left us in such a way that his presence might be more useful to us — a presence that had been confined in a humble abode of flesh so long as he sojourned on earth ... As his body was raised up above all the heavens, so his power and energy were diffused and spread beyond all the bounds of heaven and earth."

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/ascension/>