

Unity in our Diversity

We live in a rich and diverse world that is constantly changing. Change affects all areas of our lives. It touches us in our homes, work places, hospitals, schools, and churches; it tests our relationships and shapes our desires. Even changes on the other side of the world eventually touches us in ways we cannot imagine. The basic activities of life are shifting all around us, and we are being pushed in directions we never intended to go. We live in a global world yet find ourselves isolated and disconnected from neighbors.

These shifts have set many people on spiritual journeys, in search of solid ground. But here too, change complicates matters, for now a dazzling array of religious and therapeutic options is available. It is hard to know what is of value, and harder still to settle into a steady way. So great is the need for insight that people look for it in many places—sometimes, in many places all at once. What will it be? Eastern meditation or Western psychotherapy, twelve-step groups or self-help books, spiritual retreats or private prayer? Some invest in spiritual journeys that are private and inward-looking, only to find that the very forces that prompted the journey also work against finding a nourishment that is rich and enduring.

The fact is that inward journeys are not enough to meet our need. Our lives are tangled up with everyone else's in ways beyond our knowing, "caught," as Martin Luther King Jr. put it, "in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied to a single garment of destiny." The simplest economics teaches this truth about life in

the global village. So does the science of clean air and wholesome food. And so do the desires of our hearts: who wants to eat a feast alone, while others starve? And who does not hunger, if not for food, then for health or family and friend? We need the support of loving, cooperative communities of faith.

The Apostle Paul teaches us that through Christ, we belong to God and become brothers and sisters to one another, sharing Christ's love for all people. As disciples we know that we are not made to be alone. Yet today, we too, are uncertain about the shape of our way of life. With the ordinary things we do each day changing all around us, even we who have belonged to the church all our lives wonder how to do these things well— how to do them, in Christian terms, *faithfully*.

The body of Christ has explored the contours of a faithful way of life over the centuries, and it continues to do so all around the world today. This community, like everyone in it, is flawed, and there has been much stumbling and sinning along the way. But the church has also gathered wisdom and skill as this people has tried to understand and live in response to the mysterious grace of God in creation, the redemptive presence of Christ, and the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit. There is tremendous diversity within the Church, but it is the search to walk aright in each new time and place that unites us all. This Lent please join us as we explore the way of the Cross.

Pastor Jerry



PRAYER CHAIN

Marilee Story is writing the Prayer Chain Letter for February. If you have a request or an update, please call Marilee at 742-6936

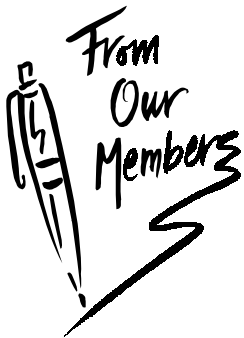
REMINDER...

PLEASE call the Pastor or church office to notify us of any hospitalizations.

The Cab Fare Fund provides transportation to and from Southminster church activities. If you would like to make a contribution, please make checks payable to Southminster with a notation for the Cab Fare Fund.

If you would like to receive the Vision Online, please email Wendy at wreynolds@southminstertulsa.org
VISION LINK

Want to look up an old Vision or look up a forgotten detail? Go to www.southminstertulsa.org, click on *News & Calendars* and pick a date! It's that simple!



We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and concern for little Parker Grace Brobston, our granddaughter, and her family, PJ, Michelle and Haley. Parker and Michelle experienced some blood count problems during the first week, but both are home and doing well. The blood counts will be watched closely for six months or so.

John and Sara Brobston

Dear Southminster Family—
Thank you so much for your attention during my recovery for recent foot surgery. I am continuing to improve due, in part I am sure, to your many prayers, cards, calls, food and encouragement. Your support is greatly appreciated!!

Peggy Tracy

FEBRUARY 25



EVENTS...



Recruits will meet Friday, February 20 at 7pm at the home of Ken and Peggy Tracy. Call for food assignments.

Inquirers— Karen Stephenson is planning a Chili Cook-off this month. Watch for details.

Mariners met on Friday the 13th and learned of the mystery host.

PW CIRCLES THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

10am - Covenant --Library
1:00pm - Faith --Lois Reynolds
1:30pm - Rainbow --Forbes Parlor

Southminster Saturday —February 21 at 6pm in Fellowship Hall. This special monthly service will be an exploration of spirituality through music. The band “Too Muddy to Plow” will offer music for meditation, praise, reflection and participation. Please plan to attend, invite a friend and make a joyful noise!

THE SESSION HAS BEEN REORGANIZED INTO 5 COMMITTEES, WITH THE 12 ELDERS ASSIGNED AS FOLLOWS:

Worship	Jean MacCannell Lou Ann Newman
CE & Fellowship	Elaine Shirley Joan Myers Elizabeth Martin
Finance & Administration	Pam Deatherage Marlee Jacobs Bill Lohrey
Mission & Stewardship	Mike Beatt Charles Stephenson
Evangelism	Don Best Jerry Goodman



Feed-My-Sheep: The non-perishable food for Neighbor for Neighbor was a huge success. It took two carloads to get everything out there. There were at least 60 bags full. This month, as you probably know by now, is for the Day Center for the Homeless. Their "wish list" covers a wide field so I'm sure there are things on it that you will be able to pick up without much difficulty. I hope this will be as successful.

5th Thursday at EIS. January had 5 Thursdays in the month, and as is the custom of many women here, 9:30am found us down at E.I.S. sorting out clothes. Besides the regulars we had several newcomers join us; Jane Trumbo and Sue Shephard. The regulars that could make it this month were Martha Barr, Maxine Beatt, Jeanne Fowler, Libby Parrish, Marilee Story, and Kathy Wright.



Denomination: Sudan is our focus today. Sudanese Christians have suffered much through many years of a violent civil war. "Throughout all of this suffering time," write mission co-workers Barry Almy and the Rev. Elizabeth McCormick, "they have been able to sing God's praises and be joyful for that which they have. The year 2003 has ushered in a year of prayerful hope for peace in a country that has not had peace in over forty years." The moderator of the 214 General Assembly (2002), the Rev. Fahed Labeeb Abu-Akel, traveled to Sudan—a first for a PC(USA) moderator. As an Arabic-speaking Palestinian American who was born a refugee in a war-torn land, he made quite an impact on both church and national leaders.

Presbytery: First Church, Claremore; Kulli Tuklo Church, Watson; First Church, Tulsa, Kairos Ministry.

World: A world without terrorism.

Have Internet Access? You can check out National news, headlines and updates from PCUSA at www.pcusa.org

One example....

NEW ORLEANS — The Presbyterian Committee on the [Self-Development of People](#) (SDOP) has approved grants totaling \$400,980 to 24 self-help projects in the United States and around the world.

The money is from the One Great Hour of Sharing offering.

The national SDOP enables members and non-members of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to form partnerships with oppressed and disadvantaged people in order to help them achieve self-sufficiency. (A list followed of each project and the amount approved)

PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Have you checked out the moving bus on the wall near Cottrell Hall? Well, in case you haven't seen it, here is an update.

On the "Pastoral Search Checklist" **Southminster has accomplished.**

- 1) Committee on Ministry Liaison meets with the Session to overview this phase of the pastoral nominating process.
- 2) Committee on Ministry Liaison meets with the congregation's Nominating committee to give guidance in the selection of a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- 3) Session calls a congregational meeting
- 4) Pastor Nominating committee is commissioned during a Sunday morning worship service.
- 5) Committee on Ministry Liaison attends first meeting of the PNC. Committee officers are elected, Liaison trains the PNC.
- 6) PNC prepares the Church Information Form for approval by the Session.



Currently in progress

- 1) Session reviews and approves the Church Information Form.

Next on our journey will be advertising the position and beginning to receive and read Personal Information Forms.

Something different In today's internet world the Church Information Forms are now prepared and available online.

THE VISION

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
3500 SOUTH PEORIA
TULSA, OK 74105-2522

Sunday, February 15

9:00am Coffee
9:55am Announcements
10:00am Worship
11:00am Church School
3:45pm Youth
6:00pm Tintinnabulators
7:15pm Celebration Ringers
VISION DEADLINE

Monday, February 16

6:00pm SPY Kids Bible Study
7:00pm Youth Bible Study

Wednesday, February 18

6:45am Men's Prayer Group
5:30pm Prepare Night Shelter Meal
6:00 pm PNC Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 19

5:30pm Serve Shelter Meal

Friday, February 20

7:00pm Recruits @ Tracy

Saturday, February 21

6:00pm Southminster Saturday Worship

Sunday, February 22

9:00am Coffee
9:55am Announcements
10:00am Worship
11:00am Church School
3:45pm Youth
6:00pm Tintinnabulators
7:15pm Celebration Ringers

Monday, February 23

6:00pm SPY Kids Bible Study
7:00pm Youth Bible Study
7:00pm Session

Ash Wednesday, February 25

6:45am Men's Prayer Group
6:00 pm PNC Meeting
7:00pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, February 26

PWC (Women Circles)
10am - Library
1:00pm - Lois Reynolds
1:30pm - Forbes Parlor

Sunday, February 29

9:00am Coffee
9:55am Announcements
10:00am Worship
11:00am Church School
3:45pm Youth
6:00pm Tintinnabulators
7:15pm Celebration Ringers

SOUTHMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3500 SOUTH PEORIA
TULSA, OK 74105-2522

Head of Staff: Pastor Jerry Peltz--jpeltz@southminstertulsa.org

Music Ministry

John Brobston, Adult
Allen Cox, Assistant Director
Krisha Hunnicutt, Children & Youth
Betty Kirk, Organist

Mission Outreach Coordinator

Libby Parrish

Children's Ministry

Christie Peacher and Krisha Hunnicutt

Youth Ministry

Christie Peacher-- cpeacher@southminstertulsa.org

Office Staff

Wendy Reynolds, Administrative Secretary
wreynolds@southminstertulsa.org
Leslie Nelson, Business Administrator
lnelson@southminstertulsa.org
Darren O'Guin, Sexton

Vision Karen Hiller / Lou Anderson

Church Office 743-4427
E-mail info@southminstertulsa.org

Church Fax 743-0811

Senior Citizen Center 749-2623

To e-mail information to the Vision
newsletter@southminstertulsa.org
website: www.southminstertulsa.org

Church office hours: 8:30 a.m.- 4:30 p.m.

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Malawi! We hope you and your family have entered the New Year well. At the **Livingstonia Theological College** we never cease to be amazed at the outpouring of God's blessings amidst great adversity as we look back over the past year and now enter into our second year as a Theological College.

Looking Back at 2003

Looking back over the past year we see the great improvement in our students' academic performance and the increase in their maturity. It was a rigorous, intense year. We packed ten months of studies (the complete first year of theological training) into seven months! It was rough and demanding for both students and tutors. Following seven months of study the students spent the month of December doing practical work at various congregations throughout the Synod.

The year ended as it began with the meager resources gleaned from the contributions of local congregations. Often during the year our full time staff waited patiently for their monthly salaries, delays in payment up to a week or two, while we looked for funds from where we did not always know. Somehow with the help of Synod Officials funds were found and salaries paid. Our part-time lecturers taught faithfully all year, receiving only one month's pay.

Our students receive monthly allowances (about \$20 per month for married students and \$15 for single students) to care for their families back home and to cover their own living expenses at the college. At the end of January students had not yet received December or January allowances to care for their families. 20 of our 25 students are married and between them they have 41 children. They worry about their families as they strive to trust the Lord, no doubt wondering should they be making this sacrifice to train to be a minister, a sacrifice that seems to put their families in jeopardy.

Entering 2004

As we entered 2004 we wondered could we afford to open Livingstonia Theological College for a second year of academic training. Our students had finished well their first year, several doing bachelor level work and a few showing graduate performance potential. We had begun the first year with next to nothing, and it seemed as though this was also how the second year was destined to begin.

Following a month of practical work and an extremely brief holiday with their families, the students returned to the college on 10th January 2004 to begin their second year. One student was delayed due to the death of his three-year old son. Another student's father died during the holiday. During the second week of classes the brother of one of our students died. We share their sorrow as we also continue to share the journey of faith, hope and love.

Walking with God * A Journey of Faith

This is the rainy season in Malawi (our summertime), everything is green and new life is springing forth. As we began the New Year, life at the college seemed to mirror the natural realm, as amidst the rain of tears of sorrow signs of new life began to appear.

- Rev. Robert Rasmussen of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) arrived to serve as full time lecturer, teaching Old Testament and Missiology.
- Word came that the Church of Scotland and Global Education of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) have made commitments of financial support. These are the first funds to be received from partner churches.
- Next week part-time lecturers will receive their pay in arrears and students their allowances for December and January. Thanks be to God.
- Rev. Robin Quinn of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland will arrive this month to serve as a part-time lecturer.
- Rev. Quinn has received funds to purchase textbooks for the students. To date the students have only a Theology textbook. Hopefully in the next two to three months they will also have Church History, New Testament, Old Testament, Missiology, Pastoral Care, and African Traditional Religion textbooks and a Greek New Testament.

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“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1:5). This is the light we have received at Livingstonia Theological College, the light of Christ shining through the encouragement, love and support of God’s faithful people.

I am grateful for the privilege and honor of serving as Dean of Studies and Lecturer of Systematic Theology and Christian Ethics at Livingstonia Theological College.

Keep the Livingstonia Theological College and the people of Malawi in your prayers.

- The college needs bicycles for the students’ practical work, books for the library, more textbooks for students, a copy machine, a computer printer, bookshelves, learning materials such as biblical maps and financial resources to see us through the year.
- Death from HIV/AIDS and malaria and economic hardship remain the order of the day.
- Preparations for the Presidential Election in May are consuming much time, energy and resources. Of the many candidates a reputable, viable candidate is yet to surface. Voters are confused and apathy abounds.

With you in the Spirit of our Lord,

Debbie

Rev. Debbie Chase