

The News

Deeply Rooted in Faith, Choosing to Live in Hope.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SALINA, KS - WWW.FPCSLINA.ORG



The life of faith is a life of questions.

There are certainties, to be sure. As the author of Hebrews points out, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." And of these convictions, Paul captures the most important with his affirmation from Romans, "for I am convinced that nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of god in Christ Jesus our Lord".

Among those things in all of creation that cannot separate us from God's love is our curiosity. We are curious people. We want to understand our world and our lives. This is why one of the first words we learn to speak is "why?". We *should* ask questions. A questioning faith is a growing faith.

First Presbyterian seeks to offer many opportunities to explore faith. But there are many questions we have which do not fit into scheduled programming. Perhaps they are questions that occur to us while listening to a sermon or an adult class. Maybe the question is spawned by something heard or seen on radio, television, or the Internet. Maybe they are just questions we have carried for years but never felt comfortable asking them.

To help address these faithful questions, we are introducing a new feature in the newsletter. Questions of faith is a monthly column in which real questions submitted by real persons can be addressed. Jim, Tom, and Austin will be the primary respondents, but some questions might be best answered by experts from other fields. You may submit your questions in anyway you like, although email is the easiest (jim@fpcslina.org). All published questions will be anonymous unless otherwise specified. Although the questions will be published anonymously, it would be helpful to include your name with your question.

We hope this feature will help enhance our spirit of faithful inquiry at First Presbyterian!

Sympathy is Extended to

to **Connie & Terry Jones**. Connie's father, Jerry Barrett, Texarkana, TX, died December 4.

to the family of Les Wenger, a former member of FPC, who died December 13. Les is survived by his wife, Mary Gary Wenger, of Garfield, Arkansas, their daughter & family, Diane, Wayne & Richelle Heinaur, Apache Junction, AR, and grandson Devin Miller, Birmingham, AL.

My Dearest Church Friends,

Thank you for all the deeply felt and received prayers of support and love you have sent our way over the past 16 months.

With love, Mary Gay Wenger

**Listen to or download
Worship services online!**
www.fpcsalina.org

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Midweek & Nursery Coordinator

Richard Koshgarian

Director of Music

Angie Koshgarian

Organist

Ed Zoch

Daytime Custodian

Tony Griggs

Relief Custodian

Congratulations!

A daughter, Andie Glenna Rhea, was born Dec. 20 to **Jaych Rhea** & Abby McNish, Ottawa. **Martha Rhea** is Andie's grandmother.

Wedding Anniversaries

Bonnie & Jim Packard will celebrate their *58th wedding anniversary on January 20*.

Happy Birthday!

George Adams will celebrate his *98th birthday on December 7*.

Senior Singles**January 15,**

Martinellis ~ 6:00 pm

Meal: \$10.50 - Chopped salad and spaghetti dinner. Bring one or two things made of wood for show and tell.

*RSVP by Jan 12 to Jean Burch
(827-2878)*

A Million Thanks

to **members of the Chancel Choir, Richard Koshgarian, Director, Angie Koshgarian, Organist and instrumentalists**, for the wonderful music they shared with the congregation on December 12th.

to **Eleanor Smith**, for volunteering her Monday mornings to help in the Business Office. Her bright smile starts the week!

to **Marva Lee Doud, Shirley Drawbaugh, Norma Jean Huscher, Edna Lanterman, Mitzie Lewis, Ivy Marsh, Karol Mobley, RaMona Parks, and Ed & Sue Wehrmeister** for their help in preparing the newsletter for mailing. It is a big job and couldn't be done without their help!

to **Marva Lee Doud** and **Norma Jean Huscher** for "straightening up" the sanctuary every Monday morning... especially in extreme cold and heat!

and to **all of you** who help throughout the year: coffee hosts, ushers, greeters, communion preparers and servers, manor bus drivers, flower deliverers, Christian Ed volunteers, Cares and Concerns writers, hospital volunteers, those of you that attend countless committee meetings...there are too many to list! THANK YOU for all you do to make FPC work!

A Long Way Gone

Memoirs of a Boy Soldier

Book Study

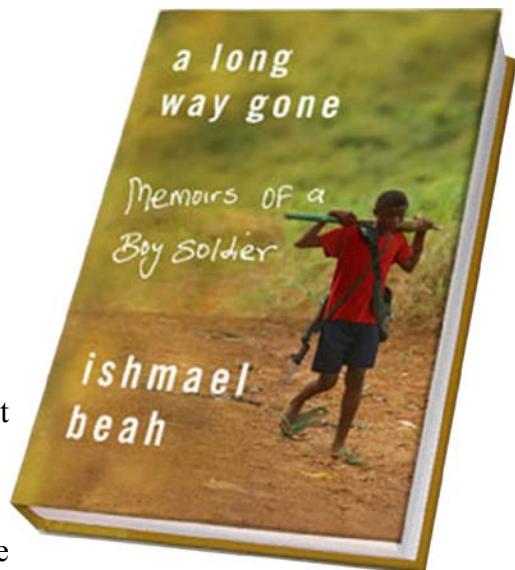
facilitated by Sydney Soderberg

“Everyone in the world should read this book . . . We should read it to learn about the world and about what it means to be human.”

- Carolyn See, The Washington Post

“A breathtaking and unself-pitying account of how a gentle spirit survives a childhood from which all the innocence has suddenly been sucked out. It’s a truly riveting memoir.”

- Belinda Luscombe, Time



Come along as we explore how wars are fought now: by children traumatized, hopped-up on drugs, and wielding AK-47s. Children have become the soldiers of choice in many third world nations. In the more than fifty violent conflicts going on worldwide, it is estimated that there are some 300,000 child soldiers. Ishmael Beah was one of them.

We'll look at the war in the African nation of Sierra Leone through the eyes of a 13-year-old child. How are children made to kill and then stop and resume a more "normal" life? It won't be an easy journey, but if you're willing to look at the world as it is rather than how we want it to be, then please join me in reading and talking about a book whose message will stay with you for a very long time.

Session One:

Sunday, Jan 9th after church OR Tuesday, Jan 11 from 12-12:55. We'll look at the geographic, cultural and political context of the book.

Session Two:

Sunday, Jan 16th after church OR Tuesday, Jan 18 from 12-12:55.

Glen Stovall, a child therapist from Wellspring Psychotherapy, will join our discussion to help us understand how it's possible to cross the boundary that makes us human. Can one descend into the very depths of darkness and find a way out? How are children able to live with such loss and barbarity? Can such deep emotional wounds ever heal?

Session Three:

Sunday, Jan 23rd following church OR Tuesday, Jan 25th from 12-12:55.

In this session we'll focus on whether this is a story of depravity or hope; of grace or God forgotten.

Read more about the book at <http://www.alongwaygone.com/index.html>

Books or CD's can be purchased online at Amazon, Booksense or Barnes & Noble.

Faith Matters: 1st Floor Conference Room, Sundays at 9:00 am

This class helps to remind us that faith does matter! It meets in the Conference Room Sunday mornings at 9:00 am (the January session begins Sunday, January 9) and explores a variety of subjects. The nursery is available. Keep up to date by visiting the web site (www.fpcsalina.org/ministries/adult) for information on Faith Matters classes and much more!

Church Wide Mission Night:

On December 8th, **75** people from the FPC family gathered to assemble First Aid Kits for people around the world impacted by natural disasters. People of all ages enjoyed a chili supper, provided by the Social Justice and Mission Committee, and then rolled up their sleeves and assembled roughly **200 kits**.

130 of these kits will be sent internationally, while the remaining kits will be donated to local agencies to assist Salina area families in need. This evening was a great example of how this congregation is committed to God's mission in the world!

Year End Benevolence Report:

The mission statement of this congregation states that "We believe we are called to grow in our commitment to justice, compassion and love. In the same way that Jesus came to serve we look outward to offer help and hope to the world." One significant way that FPC lives out this statement is through the benevolence giving of the Social Justice and Mission committee. Locally, nationally, and internationally we have given to people and organizations in order to provide for basic unmet needs of individuals. Below is a list of ways that your generosity has touched lives here in Salina and around the world.

Reimold Mission Fund and International Mission - \$25,532.18

Angel Covers
Fellow Man International of Honduras
Church World Service - CROP Walk
Heifer International

Support of Local Agencies - \$18,568.86

Ashby House
CAPS
The Castle Project
DVACK
Emergency Aid Food Bank
Salina Child Care Assoc.
Salina Family Health Care Center
Sunflower Adult Day Center
Central Kansas Foundation

Emergency Requests - \$5,802.77

These funds are given on an as needed basis to individuals and families that are referred to FPC through a number of local social service agencies. One particular family came to FPC in need of money to pay for gas so that they could pay their bills and continue to be able to get around town to search for work. FPC gave this family a \$25 gas card. The husband of this family returned to our offices a week later to proudly report that he had found work and was very appreciative of the church's help at a difficult time. These funds have also been used to keep families in their homes who struggle to pay rent and to keep heat and electricity on when families fall behind.

Christmas Offerings Update!

This Christmas, FPC contributed to both Heifer International and the Christmas Joy Offering. As of today, a total of \$2,593.70, short of a goal of \$5,000, has been contributed to Heifer International (www.heifer.org) and \$1,159.75 has been contributed to Christmas Joy (<http://gamac.pcusa.org/ministries/specialofferings/christmas-joy-offering/>)

There's still time! If you'd like to contribute to either of these offerings, you may still do so! Please mail your check to the church office before January 7!.

MID & SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUPS:



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Here are a few events and dates that you will want to circle on your calendar:

January 5:

Wednesday youth groups resume!

Confirmation Class:

January 16th

The 2011 Youth Confirmation Class begins! This 12-week faith exploration class will be an exciting opportunity for students to learn more about their faith and the reformed tradition. During this class students will hear from FPC adults, go on two retreats, and be challenged to articulate their faith both individually and communally. In the midst of all of this learning, we will also find time to have lots of fun. **Registration forms are available in the Church office and the registration deadline is January 9th.**

Mid-High Mission Trip to Lawrence:

January 16-17

The Mid-High students will have a opportunity to dive, head first, into the city of Lawrence, KS to serve and care for people in need. This two-day mission trip will take students out of their familiar surroundings here in Salina to see the needs of men and women in Lawrence. Cost for this trip is \$25 per student. All students in grades 6-8 are welcomed and encouraged to join us.

Senior High Summer Mission Trip:

Chicago, IL - Save the date: July 31 – Aug 6

These are the dates of this summer's Sr. High Urban Mission Trip to Chicago, IL. During our week in Chicago we will serve in a variety of area shelters, soup kitchens, and children's programs. Space is limited to the first 11 students that sign up for this trip. Registration will open in February with a deadline of April 3rd.

Schedule:

5:00 - 6:20 P.M. MID-HIGH STUDENTS (Bring a sack dinner)

7:00 - 8:30 P.M. SENIOR HIGH STUDENTS

Hello Parents and Students,

I don't know about you but January is always an exciting time for me. When I flip the calendar page, I see a whole year in front of me with so much potential.

In the past six months I have enjoyed getting to know you all and acclimating to this warm community. It is an honor to get to work with each of you on a weekly basis and I look forward to more and more exciting ministry in 2011.

This coming year will include great weekly programs, mission trips, fun late night events, and much more. (look to the right for some of these events!)

I hope that you will join me in getting excited for the great things that God will be doing in and through all of us this year at FPC!

Austin

Looking Ahead @ Children's Christian Ed:

SUNDAYS

SUNDAY SCHOOL (resumes January 9!)

Children and youth grades K-5th are invited to attend this music and game oriented church school class where learning the Books of the Bible and Bible trivia are the highlights. The class meets in the **downstairs parlor on Sundays at 9:00 am.** This class is led by Deb Shetlar.

SUNDAY ENRICHMENT (resumes January 9!)

Children in kindergarten through 3rd grade are welcome to join in Bible study and crafts **immediately following Children's Time during worship.** Located in the third floor classroom, please see the calendar for dates. This class is led by volunteers, contact Deb if you are interested in leading a class! deb@fpcsalina.org

WWW.FPCSALINA.ORG

for more information about Children's CE @ FPC!

WEDNESDAYS

January 5: Classes resume!
A Mother for Israel
(pg 98, FSB)

January 12: David & Goliath
(pg 109-FSB, pg 156-BN)

January 19: Two Brave Women
(pg 102-FSB, pg 132-BN)

January 26: Woman at the Well
(pg 182-FSB)

Read with us! Each child registered in FPC's Children's classes receives a Bible so that you can read at home! FSB is the Family Story Bible and is for 1st graders and above, BN is Bible Now! and is for Cherubs. Contact Deb if you do not have one of these Bibles for your student!

Midweek Messengers



A BIG thank you goes out to the wonderful volunteers and the parents and friends who came to support FPC's first, second and third graders at the Midweek Christmas Pageant on Dec 5!

JANUARY

1 Jeneé Barth
 1 Amy Blackim
 2 Amber Renfro
 5 Verna Skelton
 6 Roger Struble
 8 Todd Davidson
 8 Ella Payne
 9 Derek Berg
 12 Bob Hahn
 12 Tom Wilson
 13 Mary Exline
 14 Katelyn Rupe
 16 Portia Bakker
 16 Mary Anne Weiner
 17 Kadyn Cobb
 20 Sara Johnston
 20 Charley Weathers
 21 Evan Bishop

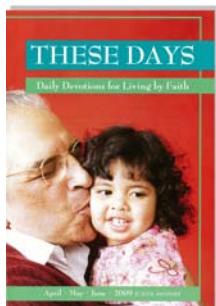


happy birthdays!

21 Alvin Spellman
 22 Cooper Cobb
 23 Tom Fredrickson
 23 Darald Hough
 23 Ann Neumann
 23 Alexandra Rayl
 24 Dean Boone
 24 Rob Exline
 24 Darlene Harris
 24 Nathan Miller
 24 Bob Salem
 25 Kyle Murphy
 25 Veronica Norris
 25 Helen Smutz
 26 Nancy McComb
 26 Sissy Morrison
 26 Tom Winkler
 27 Rebecca Hough
 27 Bonnie Packard
 28 Kate Williams

Daily Devotions

A lot of you have been asking for a daily devotion, here are three resources that are especially good and offer something for everyone...a printed devotional, a web-based one and a podcast. What are you waiting for? Contact Sally at the church if you have questions on how to access any of these materials, 825-0226.



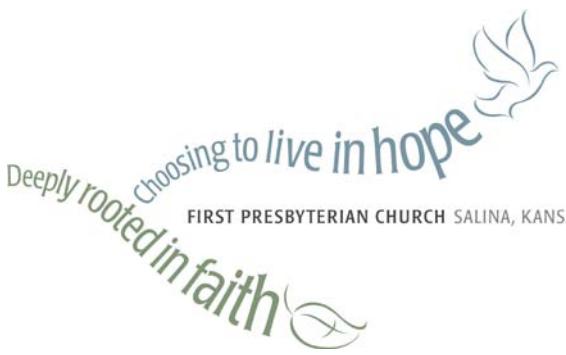
These Days is a devotional that is printed quarterly and can be found on the information table in the hallway on the first floor.



d365 is a web-based devotional sponsored in part by the PCUSA. Visit the site every day to "pause, listen, think, pray and go!"
www.d365.org



Hear the Word is a daily lectionary series available on iTunes. Go to the PCUSA website for more information on how to subscribe!
<http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/devotions/hear-word/>



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LEAD PASTOR/HEAD OF STAFF: JIM HAWLEY
DISCIPLESHIP & CONGREGATIONAL CARE PASTOR: TOM REID
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUTH & MISSION: AUSTIN ASHENBRENNER
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The next newsletter will be mailed January 27.

The Sunday service is broadcast each week at 10:15 a.m. on KINA, 910 AM.

If there is something you would like included in *The News*, email sally@fpcsalina.org

Dear Friends,

The months of January and February will be a time of learning, resting, thinking, and renewal for me; on “sabbatical” away from the church.

Being a husband and a father, I’m not able to be away from Salina all that time, but I will be away from my responsibilities at First Presbyterian.

I will spend this time away focusing on the best way to do my new work as FPC’s Discipleship and Congregational Care Pastor.

I will be in and out of town, reading (see pile of books), reflecting, planning; using this time to prepare for the new work I am now called to do.

Thank you for the opportunity to have time away from the church! Thank you to Jim, Austin, Mary, and all the staff for the work they do. Mary Andersen will coordinate pastoral care during the time I’m away -- please call Jim or Austin if you have a pastoral emergency. I look forward to returning to the church in March, excited and ready to serve God and FPC in my new responsibilities. Take care.



Grace and peace, Tom

JANUARY

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

308 S 8th Street, Salina, KS 67401 785-825-0226 www.fpcsalina.org



FPC is Closed
Thursday, Dec 30 and
Friday, Dec 31 for New Year's!



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 10:15 AM Worship	3 1:30 PM CE Staff Meeting 2:00 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	4 10:30 AM Cares & Concerns Meets 7:00 PM Grief Support	5 3:30 PM Personnel Mtg 3:30 PM Wednesday Programs 5:00 PM Mid-High Youth Meet 6:30 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Senior-High Youth Meet 7:00 PM Choir Practice	6 4:00 PM Budget Mtg	7	1 8
9 ORDINATION & INSTALLATION 9:00 AM Faith Matters 9:00 AM Sunday School (k-5th) 9:00 AM "Reel" Faith (6th-12th) 9:30 AM Blood Pressure Checks 10:15 AM Worship † Enrichment 11:20 PM Book Study 11:30 AM Blood Pressure Checks	10 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 4:30 PM Hospitality & Outreach 5:30 PM Session Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	11 10:30 AM Cares & Concerns Meets 12:00 PM Book Study 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	12 3:30 PM Wednesday Programs 4:00 PM Social Justice & Mission 5:00 PM Mid-High Youth Meet 6:30 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Senior-High Youth Meet 7:00 PM Choir Practice	13	14	15
16 MID-HIGH MISSION TRIP TO LAWRENCE 9:00 AM Faith Matters 9:00 AM Sunday School (k-5th) 9:00 AM "Reel" Faith (6th-12th) 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:15 AM Worship † Enrichment 11:20 PM Book Study	17 (see the youth page for more info!) 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	18 10:30 AM Cares & Concerns Meets 12:00 PM Book Study 5:15 PM League of Women Voters 5:30 PM Deacons Mtg 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Grief Support	19 3:30 PM Wednesday Programs 5:00 PM Mid-High Youth Meet 6:30 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Senior-High Youth Meet 7:00 PM Choir Practice	20	21	22 12:00 PM Presbytery of Northern Kansas Meeting
23 9:00 AM Faith Matters 9:00 AM Sunday School (k-5th) 9:00 AM "Reel" Faith (6th-12th) 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:15 AM Worship † Enrichment 11:20 PM Book Study	24 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	25 10:30 PM Cares & Concerns Meets 12:00 PM Book Study 7:00 PM Cub Scouts	26 12:00 PM Salina Child Care Mtg 3:30 PM Wednesday Programs 5:00 PM Mid-High Youth Meet 6:30 PM WORSHIP 7:00 PM Senior-High Youth Meet 7:00 PM Choir Practice	27 10:30 AM The News is mailed 12:00 PM Trustees Mtg	28 5:00 PM Boy Scouts Chili Supper	29 7:00 PM Confirmation Class Retreat
30 ANNUAL MEETING! 9:00 AM Faith Matters 9:00 AM Sunday School (k-5th) 9:00 AM "Reel" Faith (6th-12th) 9:00 AM Confirmation Class 10:15 AM Worship † Enrichment 11:20 AM Annual Meeting	31 1:15 PM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM Boy Scouts	Looking Ahead to February... Sunday, Feb 6: Scout Sunday! Sunday, Feb 6: Souper Bowl of Caring Thursday, Feb 25: Jim Hawley's Birthday (sssssh!)				

