

October 2011

TOWER TALK

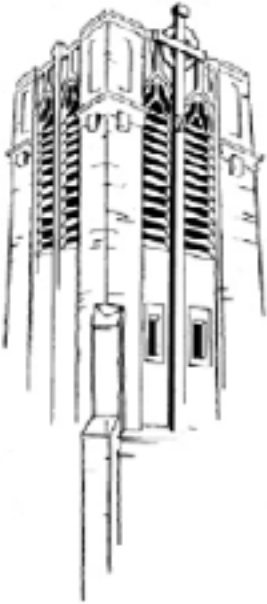
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

803 CENTRAL AVENUE ~ DODGE CITY, KS

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*There is no season when such
pleasant and sunny spots may
be lighted on, and produce
such pleasant an effect on the
feelings, as now in October.*

- Nathaniel Hawthorne





We would like to thank the following people who have served communion over the past year:

Serving the congregation: Erma Alger, John Alger, Penny Alger, Jacque Barngrover, Margaret Butcher, Roger DeVoss, Sue DeVoss, Frank Evans, Corey Garcia, Terry Garcia, Jean Honnold, Gary Johnson, Betty Koepke, Mia Korbelik, Sheila Maxwell, Ken McConnell, Nan McConnell, Walt Price, Troy Robinson, David Salsbury, Lynn Skaggs, Jerry Whitaker, Duane Winter, Ben Zimmerman

Serving the choir: Erma Alger, Cindy Day, Jill Gibson, Bob Hostetler, Connie Jobe, Connie Milford, Mike Milford

Serving the shut-ins: Jerry Gumm, Bill Pennington, Carrie Jane Rucker



Stewardship IS:

- Our response to God, and the love and gifts, he has graciously given us.
- Using the gifts God has given us, to do the work God is calling us to do.
- Being empowered by the Holy Spirit, committing ourselves to conscious, purposeful, service to Jesus Christ with our time, talents, and money.
- A joyful act of giving for the sake of God's world.

*Our stewardship campaign will soon begin.
Your pledge card will be arriving soon.
Prayerfully consider your pledge for 2012!*

Numana Church Campaign

Numana-Share the Bounty is once again planning a meal packaging event. It will be November 5th at the Dodge City Civic Center from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Share the Bounty hopes to raise \$78,000 to purchase rice, soy, beans, and vitamins to fill a 40 foot shipping crate - 260,000 meals to be sent to starving children. 1,200 volunteers are needed to pack meals.

By united Southwest Kansas Churches this project will be a blessing to the area! Join them October 27th - 11:00 am to 7:00 pm for a Chili & Soup Lunch & Dinner at the National Guard Armory. There will also be a Cookies by the Dozen Sale.

Volunteers may register for the packing event by contacting the church office at 620-227-7101 or www.dcsarethebounty.eventbrite.com.

For more information you may contact Norma Henton at 620-225-2532.

Funds may be sent to: Share the Bounty
11046 W. Highway 56
Dodge City KS 67801



Church Income & Expenses		Friendship Feast Income & Expenses	
YTD Income	\$ 100,514.95	2010 Carry Over	\$ 10,023.35
YTD Mineral Funds	\$ 10,051.81	YTD Income	\$ 17,434.66
YTD Trust Fund	\$ 22,000.00	YTD Expenses	<u>\$(43,864.35)</u>
<u>YTD Expenses</u>	<u>\$(172,258.95)</u>	TOTAL	<u>\$(16,406.34)</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$ (39,692.19)</u>		

Message from Regina:

October is one of my favorite months because one begins to see fall arrive. The leaves begin to change and the cooler mornings lay in stark contrast to the hot summer mornings. Pumpkin patches and scarecrows remind us to be whimsical and don't take life so serious. The decorations of fall create an image of God's bounty that is a reminder of God's love. From our hectic, fast paced summer, I think October is a month that helps us slow down and enjoy the festival signs of fall. May God's blessings shower down upon you as you pause to enjoy the crisp, cool days ahead and enjoy the changing of the seasons!

In Christ's Service, *Regina*



Hear Ye, Hear Ye, News About the Church!

It is good to have the Tower Talk back to inform members of the goings on at the church. Hopefully, committees will be inspired to put items of interest in this publication. Please send Bonnie any articles that you might feel would be of some interest to the members of the church. Let's bring some inspiration to our members!

As a congregation, we have had many meetings about the state of our church, and there is no magic bullet that will solve our issues. The financial status is not going in a positive direction. There has not been any new interest in existing programs. Our attendance in worship has been low, which has discouraged many of our faithful.

We continue to rely on our trust fund. The church is not relying on the interest of the trust fund but it is liquidating its principal. Once the stock is liquidated to help the operating budget, the stock is gone - never to earn money for us again. From the time we know that we need money from the trust money,

it takes forty-eight hours to liquidate stock so the money can be used. So far this year, due to low income to meet its obligations, including payroll, the church has had to pull \$22,000 dollars out of its trust.

The donations to Friendship Feast are extremely low compared to other years. The money necessary for this ministry exceeds the donations. As of the end of September, our deficit is \$16,406.34 for Friendship Feast. Two years ago, Friendship Feast had a large deficit and we sent letters to the community churches and Presbyterian churches in southwest Kansas, and our deficit disappeared. This year the response to our letter asking for funds was low.

There has been a brainstorming meeting to come up with fundraisers that could help reduce the deficit we currently have. Lois, our Kitchen Manager, has made some adjustments to the number of courses served. We are hoping that we will be able to have this ministry running in the black by the end of the year. We have looked into applying for grants, but it is hard to get grants for operating budgets. If our trust fund must be used to correct the deficit for this year, the church will have to discern the future of Friendship Feast. Unfortunately, due to the economy, we are not the only non-profit organization that is making such hard decisions.

Although our building is charming, it continues to cost us money to maintain it. After the hurricane winds on April 15th, we filed a claim on our roof. The good news is the insurance claim paid a good portion of replacing our roof on the west side. However, the claim did not result in enough money to fix our small flat roof, fixing the storm damage on the east side, and replacing our shed that blew apart. Recently, the air conditioner for the chancel area of the sanctuary stopped working and cannot be repaired. Since the weather continues to be hot, the chancel area remains quite warm for instruments and choir members.

October is National
Breast Cancer
Awareness Month



The best protection
is early detection



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 9:30 am Sunday School 10 am Early Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Svc 2:45 pm Elderly Services	31 HALLOWEEN					1
2 9:30 am Sunday School 10 am Early Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Svc 1:30 pm Worship & Hospitality	3 6 pm Boy Scouts	4 7 pm Al-Anon	5 5:45 pm Midweek 7 pm Choir	6	7	8
9 9:30 am Sunday School 10 am Early Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	10 6 pm Boy Scouts	11 6 pm Admin 7 pm Al-Anon	12 5:45 pm Midweek 7 pm Choir	13 6:30 pm Deacons	14 OFFICE CLOSED	15
16 9:30 am Sunday School 10 am Early Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Svc 1:30 pm C.E. Cmte Mtg	17 6 pm Boy Scouts	18 7 pm Al-Anon	19 5:45 pm Midweek 7 pm Choir	20 6:30 pm Session	21	22
23 9:30 am Sunday School 10 am Early Fellowship 10:30 am Worship Service	24 <i>United Nations Day</i> 6 pm Boy Scouts	25 7 pm Al-Anon	26 5:45 pm Midweek 7 pm Choir	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29

Why Do Smart Churches Make Dumb Decisions?

The following is an excerpt from the October 2011 newsletter “The Parish Paper”:

By inventing the phonograph, young Thomas Edison launched a major change in how and when we listen to music. And his light bulb changed our world by lighting the nights.

But Edison’s high IQ didn’t prevent him from making a bad decision. After building his fame with light bulbs that used direct current, Edison couldn’t imagine a world in which alternating current ruled. So he opposed the new and far superior AC technology which (a) can be inexpensively fed through wires over vast distances and (b) can power both tiny light bulbs and giant machines.

By rejecting alternating current, Edison paved the way for his star employee, Nikola Tesla, to spread the use of electric power across the world. Decades after AC proved itself as the world’s best commercial current, Edison kept arguing that his DC idea was better!

Edison fell into a cognitive trap--a rigid mind-set that can block smart people from seeing the importance of new facts--and thus, blocks the addressing of new circumstances.

For that same reason, highly intelligent church members sometimes make unwise decisions that undermine their church’s future.

By learning how to recognize those thought traps, we reduce their destructive power over us and our church.

1. In the cognitive trap of “info-avoidance,” people actively disregard information that they prefer not to hear. In one congregation, an obsession with positive-thinking caused the governing board to automatically discard new ideas that could have fixed major problems. Influential church members repeatedly said to one another, “Our church is wonderful and we don’t need to change anything.” Thus, the governing board (a) obsessively avoided hearing unpleasant information about the declining worship attendance, (b) labeled people who delivered that information as “negative thinkers,” and (c) tranquilized itself with the false hope that “things will get better if we stay positive.” Last year, that congregation closed its doors.

With many church members, fear is a “cognitive killer”. Their fear of failure paralyzes constructive thought and action. As if in a bad dream, they want to scream but no sound comes; they want to run, but they can’t move. The result: Several years of slow death, until the church becomes terminally ill and no type of action can save it from closing.

2. In the cognitive trap of “static cling,” people refuse to recognize that a fundamental change is under way. In a center-city congregation, the ethnic composition of people living in a seven-block radius of its front door changed. In a suburban congregation established fifty-five years ago, the driving distance from homes of new community residents is no longer ten minutes; now it is twenty-five minutes - too inconvenient a distance for most young parents to drive their youngsters to youth activities. A rural county has lost 50 percent of its population since 1960. Thirty years ago, most of a church’s worshipers were farmers; now most of them are commuters.

When demographics change, the cognitive trap of “static cling” often blocks churches from fine-tuning their ministries in ways that connect with the spiritual needs of a new population base.

3. In the cognitive trap of “fearing to appear weak,” churches continue to use methods that attracted numerous attendees four decades ago. Some churches are striving to avoid the appearance of “entertaining people” or “catering to modernity in order to attract members.” Other such churches--locked into old habits--refuse to fine-tune their worship, buy a keyboard, sing praise songs, or install projection screens.

In some such churches the pastor drives with one foot on the brakes. In other such churches the rigid mind-set of two or three long-term members--quoting “give me that old-time religion; it’s good enough for me”--blocks their congregation from decisions that attract and retain significant numbers of age-eighteen to forty-four young adults. In still other such churches pastor and people form a conspiracy to “stand by our faith”--and many of their decisions bar the church doors against most younger and new people.

Such churches tend to excuse their future blocking behavior by blaming the people who don’t attend their worship service or participate in their 1950’s-style ministries. “People are just not as committed as they used to be!” they exclaim with sadness that feels a bit like thinly veiled arrogance. By portraying themselves as loyal to God in ways that “less spiritual people” cannot achieve, such churches give themselves an anesthetic that keeps them from feeling their inflexible mind-set.

4. The cognitive trap of “cause-fusion” takes a variety of forms. A few such churches blame their declining worship attendance on “so many people staying home to watch worship on TV”--not realizing that research proved their theory false two decades ago. In other such churches, a “mono-casual myopia” blames declining worship attendance on one single cause--failing to see that in most cases declining worship attendance results from a combination of five to seven causes.

5. In the cognitive trap of “one-dimension obsession,” people believe that only one thing is important. Some of them say, “What we need is great preaching!” Other say, “If we just had a better building!”

Actor Nicholas Cage played Ben Gates, central figure in the movie *National Treasure*. Cage asks his partner, “What is one step this side of crazy?”

His partner replies, “Obsessed?”

Cage says, “No, passionate!”

People who are crazy, or obsessed, or passionate about effectiveness in *only one* of their church’s ministries seldom build long-lasting congregations.

6. In the cognitive trap of “mirror imaging,” people think other people think like they think. In a congregation whose members’ median age is sixty-five, most of the worshipers assume that today’s young-adult parents want the same type of worship and Christian education methods for their children that they wanted as young-adult parents. When that mirror-imaging theory proves untrue, many of the older worshipers don’t get it--and in some cases blame today’s young adults for faulty thinking and low spiritual commitment.

7. In the cognitive trap that believes “expertise equals sound decisions,” people value education over effectiveness. In one such church, a highly educated, classically trained, music director (a) has never worked with youth and (b) defines excellence in church choirs as “performance quality”--with no emphasis whatsoever on “developing a spirit of warm fellowship among choir members.”

The belief that knowledge is more important than achievement leads many churches to weak results in various ministries. Expertise in a field does not always equal (a) the ability to work with people so that they feel like a world-class team and (b) sound judgment regarding strategy and policies that meet the spiritual needs of worshipers. Expertise doesn’t always generate wisdom; sometimes it generates rigidity.

8. In the cognitive trap of “cure-allism,” people dogmatically believe that successful method works the same way in every church. When worshipers say, “If we do what Rick Warren’s Saddleback Community Church in California does, maybe we can become a great church, too!” they are often participating in the “cure-allism” delusion.

Churches do not automatically become effective by imitating great churches elsewhere. Effective churches become open-minded enough to (a) learn the spiritual needs of parents, youth, and children in their surrounding community and (b) learn how to provide worship, programs, and caring that meets those needs.

Please help one another stay aware of the various invisible, self-destructive cognitive traps that block our congregation’s future effectiveness!



- 10/3 Conner Morse
- 10/5 Anita Khokhar
- 10/6 Don Ubel
- 10/6 Doris Zimmerman
- 10/8 Betty Koepke
- 10/14 Jack Honnold
- 10/15 Dee Carlson
- 10/17 Cindy Allen
- 10/18 Bernice Anderson
- 10/18 Nasim Inayat
- 10/21 Brian Bailey
- 10/21 John Koepke
- 10/23 Ryan Johnson
- 10/25 Rifat Khokhar
- 10/27 Jamie Carlson
- 10/28 Taryn Arbogast
- 10/29 Troy Robinson
- 10/30 Jerry Clark-Laneer



Elderly Services are October 30th starting at Good Samaritan. Everyone is invited to join us. We begin at 2:45 pm.

Transportation Driver for October - Duane Winter



- 10/19 Rod & Ann Torrey
- 10/20 Brian & Susan Severin
- 10/28 J. Milton & Lynn Skaggs

First Presbyterian Church
 803 Central Avenue
 Dodge City, KS 67801

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 Dodge City, KS



Mission Statement

As Presbyterians in Dodge City, we are called as a faithful people to share the teachings of Jesus Christ, to understand God's purpose for each of us, to nurture each other and to seek new ways of compassionate service to all.

First Presbyterian Ministers in Leadership
 Pastor.....Rev. Regina M. Maas
 Organist & Choir Director.....Bonnie Meanor
 Kitchen Manager.....Lois Swonger
 Kitchen Assistant.....Eric Baird
 Custodian.....Leon Baird

Information and articles need to be turned in to the church office by noon on the third Monday of each month.

Ministers Serving as Officers

Board of Elders

<u>2011</u>	Terry Garcia	<u>2012</u>	Sue DeVoss	<u>2013</u>	Erma Alger
	Connie Jobe		Jill Gibson		Loren Barngrover
	Connie Milford		Jerry Whitaker		Roger DeVoss

Board of Deacons

<u>2011</u>	John Alger	<u>2012</u>	Laura Burris	<u>2013</u>	Chalene Bryan
	Dee Carlson		Jim Maas		Betty Koepke
	Enid Gumm		Carrie Jane Rucker		Sally Ubel
	Sheila Maxwell		Pam Whitaker		Duane Winter