

## Boredom Busters for Summer Fun, Fellowship, Learning and More

### Tri-Presbytery Meeting

June 8–9, 2007

Central Presbyterian Church,  
Oklahoma City

Make plans now to join us for our biennial meetin  
with all three Oklahoma presbyteries.

Our theme this year will be:

*New Times, New Vision, New Spirit*

Keynote speaker: **Bob Clary**  
Nationally recognized consultant on  
congregational and institutional transformation.  
More information will be mailed  
to each congregation.  
congregation.

### Dwight Mission!

Summer camp registration is underway! Join us this summer as we explore the concept of **Peace** in our world through Bible study, prayer, play, worship, and all the activities and fun that make Dwight Mission a classic summer camp tradition. Plan now to make Dwight Mission a part of your summer schedule. Information is available online ([www.dwightmission.org](http://www.dwightmission.org)) and in the local congregations. Family Camp and the Leadership camps fill up fast! If online registration is closed for a particular session, we might still have some spots available—just call the office and ask for Allison or Matt.

### Dwight Mission 2007 Program Director

In February, Dwight Mission welcomed a new face to our staff. **Matt Riley** moved to Dwight from Ohio just in time to participate in both

the Confirmation Retreat and the Spring Break Mission Trip. Having grown up at Joseph Badger Meadows (another Presbyterian camp), where his parents are the directors, Matt attended Geneva College in Pennsylvania where he graduated with a degree in Student



Ministry. During this time of staff transition at Dwight, Matt is a great match for our needs for 2007 summer camp. Having never been to Oklahoma before, Matt is enjoying warmer weather, new people, new food, and new additions to his vocabulary (including “y’all”). Most of all, he is looking forward to summer camp—come help us welcome Matt to Oklahoma this summer!

## More Summer Ideas from the Resource Center

Summer attendance is often challenging, so here are some ideas for your congregations that can be stand-alone or multi-session learning events:

\* *We Believe All-Church curriculum: “God’s Word: Making All Things New”*. Topics include “Brand New Earth”, “Brand New Way of Being” and more. Mission stories from around the world are also included. To order: [www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org) or (800) 524-2612.

\* *The Thoughtful Christian* has short studies on such topics as Contemporary Issues, Popular Culture, Bible Study & Theology, Christian Living and Spirituality. Lessons can be e-mailed to class members. For more information, see [www.TheThoughtfulChristian.Com](http://www.TheThoughtfulChristian.Com)

\* Many Bible stories involve food, so explore the foods that our Bible characters ate. An interesting book is “The Good Book Cookbook” by Naomi Goodman, Robert Marcus and Susan Woolhandler.

\* Learn about spiritual disciplines. Walk a labyrinth, create a prayer journal. “*Like a Garden—A Biblical Spirituality of Growth*”, by Sara Covin Juengst is a good resource.

\* Do a church-wide mission project, such as Heifer International’s “Read to Feed”, or “Gift of the Heart” kits through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. [www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh/htm..](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/goh/htm..)

## Acts 16:5 Initiative brings “sprouts of growth in faith” in Local Congregations

Not everyone can currently quote Acts 16:5, but with the next couple of years everyone in Eastern Oklahoma Presbytery will know it by heart!

“*The churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.*” (Acts 16:5, NIV)

The Rev. Dr. E. Stanley Ott is making that verse famous with his “Acts 16:5 Initiative.” He created this initiative to help congregations live instead of die. He was asked by the Developing Congregations and Evangelism Committee to spend two days in our presbytery in February helping more than 125 of us “develop a defining vision.” Fifteen Sessions in Eastern Oklahoma have consequently voted to lead their congregations in this process for the next two years.



Rev. Ann Brizendine, pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Muskogee, says new ministries are already developing through this initiative. “We have begun to build ramps for people in our community, for the elderly and handicapped in Muskogee. DHS and Muskogee Regional Medical Center have referred people to us.” Another program in development is a specialized clothes closet for women in Muskogee who complete training programs or are preparing for an interview. “Mary’s Closet” will provide an outfit for no cost, so these women can begin a new life. “I am beginning to see new sprouts of growth in faith in my congregation.”

Transforming congregations is vital to the future of our denomination. The Rev. Cliff Kirkpatrick, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, recently said he believes we are on the brink of a revitalization. Initiatives like Acts 16:5 will help revitalize our own congregations and our Presbytery.

## Unique Partnership Provides Walking Track to Community

First Presbyterian Church, Durant, recently completed a walking track.

The track is on a lot adjacent to the church, and their neighbor, the Choctaw Nation, provided funding, says Rev. Nancy Taylor, pastor of First Presbyterian.

“Last January at our annual church officer retreat, we set as a goal to do something that would be an outreach to the community,” Taylor said.

Several church members are Choctaw Nation employees, and Taylor said they suggested approaching Chief Greg Pyle. “We had several

meetings with Chief Pyle and he enthusiastically endorsed the project and provided money. This was one of his dreams, too.”

Many people walk, and that part of town was lacking in good sidewalks, which spurred the track idea.

The Choctaw Nation paid for the concrete and the labor and the church is responsible for the landscaping. The track does not interfere with existing sports teams that utilize the area.

Future plans include a gazebo, picnic tables and benches, and lighting so people can walk at night.