



Women in God's Service

"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

I Peter 4:10

Melissa Goodnight Gillin



Hi,
Melissa!
It's good
to know
you!

"Those lazy days of summer" - not at the Gillin house! The alarm sounds at 5:45 a.m. and Melissa Gillin and daughters Emily and Anna are at the church building by 7:30 a.m. for summer's "Fifty Days." Melissa is director for the program, not a position she had made plans for. Last year she was a kitchen volunteer but wanted to work more directly with the children this year. So she volunteered to be at the

building to receive the children and to be back again to help when their parents came to pick them up. In the in between time she planned to work on organizing her Kids Kare program for the fall session. This all changed when Colleen Detherage ask her to step in as the summer program director after original plans failed to materialize. "This wasn't what I planned but it has been wonderful," Melissa says.

She knew she faced a challenge in finding substitute volunteers but to her surprise, she says, all show up to fill their commitments. She notes that the congregation has given wonderful support, especially the many teen volunteers. She is glad that this has introduced her to a whole new segment of the church body. "I've really, really enjoyed getting to know the junior and senior high kids," she emphasizes. She and the host of volunteers have enrolled nearly 170 children of upcoming kindergarten through fifth graders.

Melissa's morning is spent maintaining order in the student body through breakfast, lunch, devotionals and classes in reading, math, Bible and P.E. Martial arts, gymnastics and traditional games and exercise make up the physical education classes. Special classes of choir, sign language, aeronautics, art and science are each offered once a week.

Discipline has been strengthened this year and reportedly has worked well with fewer problems. Melissa praises Jeanne Mason, a public school councilor, for her ideas to better control the students. The children are issued bracelets this year and a child who gets three or more marks on the bracelet is not allowed back the next day. No one wants three marks, everyone wants to come back.

Melissa Goodnight was born in Seminole and was graduated from Coweta High School in 1992. Her parents are Judy and Lonnie Goodnight of Coweta. She was employed at Blue Bell for 12 years. There her co-workers became amused when a certain young man from another department kept coming in to make copies. After a time Melissa says that she took the initiative and gave the young man a call. That call led to her marriage to Greg Gillin. "I have been so blest to have met Greg and the Gillin family," Melissa says. This association led her to Christ. She was baptized by Geames Wooten in April of 2000 before the birth of Emily. The blessings flow both ways as 10-year-old Emily and Anna, age six, are pretty much the pride of the Gillin family, Grandmother Frances and aunts, Becky and Lori. Another blessing coming through the family association that gives Melissa cause for rejoicing is that her mother Judy put on Christ in baptism in recent years.

Blue Bell is special to Melissa too. "We had Blue Bell dating, a Blue Bell marriage and Blue Bell babies," she says proudly. She retired while pregnant with Anna but Greg remains a dedicated Blue Bell company man.

Melissa was a Girl Scout leader for four years and was the volunteer coordinator at Rhoades Elementary for a year.

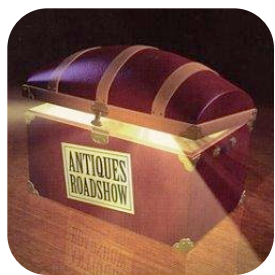
She enjoys spending time with her daughters and loves outdoor activities - gardening, camping, canoeing, and kayaking.

Melissa likes cooking and baking, especially experimenting with foods. Greg often teases her about never preparing the same food in the same way twice. Mexican is a favorite food for her but The Broken Egg is her top pick of places to eat.

The family managed to find time for a week of camping this summer and has hopes of a weekend outing before school starts.

One activity that Melissa and her girls always find time for is Canasta games with the women in Greg's family, one of their very favorite things to do.

Roberta Parker



AUGUST 27, 7:00 p.m. - SAVE THIS DATE!!!

You are invited to attend the first *BACOC Antiques and Heirlooms Tea Party*. The tea party will be our very own *Antiques Roadshow*. Please bring a tea cup or mug

for yourself and an heirloom, keepsake or antique you would like to share. Hopefully, our treasures will provide many interesting stories from the near, and/or recent, past. A simple "feast" will be provided and will be accompanied by tea and scones. There may even be an antique "unofficial" appraiser or two available to put a value to your special item. So, ladies, mark your calendar now and don't miss the fun. More information later on this very special event.



If you are interested in helping with the medical expenses for Gage Dixon, a contribution can be made through the BACOC or to the

Gage Dixon Support Fund:

AVB/Attn: Downtown Branch

P.O. Box 130

Broken Arrow, OK 74013-9924



Tuesday evening, August 3, will be the first in a series of 10 in-depth bibles studies on Esther authored by Beth Moore. The class will start promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will end promptly at 8:30 p.m. It will consist of a video session and a discussion session. After each Tues. evening study

there will be 5 homework sessions to be completed in preparation for the next weekly study/discussion. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend the study each Tuesday evening at the home of Karen Burnett. You'll be glad you took advantage of this opportunity to do an in-dept study of God's word.