

Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community.

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

September 2011

Vol. 19, No. 9

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

Steve Netniss,
Youth Pastor

Andrew Dittman,
Choir Director

Deborah Titus,
Accompanist

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

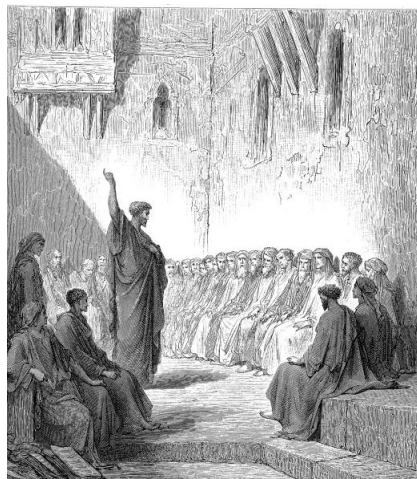
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From our Pastor

The other day I read this in my daily devotions. Luke wrote it. He was in Troas with Paul:

"We met on Sunday to worship and celebrate the Master's Supper. Paul addressed the congregation. Our plan was to leave first thing in the morning, but Paul talked on, way past midnight. We were meeting in a well-lighted upper room. A young man named Eutychus was sitting in an open window. As Paul went on and on, Eutychus fell sound asleep and toppled out the third-story window. When they picked him up, he was dead. Paul went down, stretched himself on him, and hugged him hard. "No more crying," he said. "There's life in him yet." Then Paul got up and served the Master's Supper. And went on telling stories of the faith until dawn! On that note, they left—Paul going one way, the congregation another, leading the boy off alive, and full of life themselves." Acts 20:7-12, *The Message*



Wow, God is still the same as in the Bible! The same power, the same compassion, the same hope. The same willingness to use us – *you and me*, just as He used Paul and the church at Troas when they studied together and shared The Lord's Supper.

Have you told our story? Are you talking about the God who is still doing the same work today? Have you invited someone to join you in worship? Everyone today needs that hope. I know I do, and I can't wait to meet the folks you bring. In the meantime, we study the book of Genesis this fall, talking all about creation, the first people, and even the first rain in the Bible. Many creative plans are in the works. You will enjoy sharing them with your friends and neighbors.

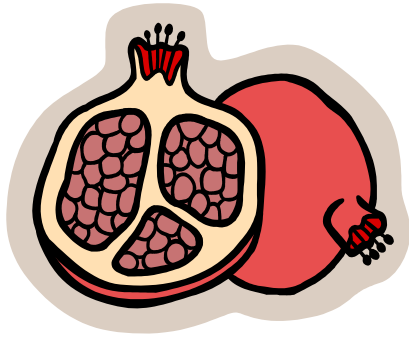
Blessings,
Ginger



Words from Worship

Symbols of our Faith

Pomegranate



Because the pomegranate has an abundance of seeds, the fruit is used to represent hope and future life. It also symbolizes the many believers who are individual members of the universal Christian church.

Bible Quiz

How many animals did God tell Noah to bring into the ark?

- A. Two of each kind
- B. Seven pairs of clean animals and one pair each of unclean animals
- C. Both A and B
- D. None of the above



Answer: C (See Genesis 6:19-20 & 7:2-3)

National Grandparents Day

September 11

The impetus for a National Grandparents Day originated with **Marian McQuade**, a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia. Her primary motivation was to champion the cause of lonely elderly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. President Jimmy Carter, in 1978, proclaimed that **National Grandparents Day** would be celebrated every year on the **first Sunday after Labor Day**.



Lord, teach us to
number our days!

Charlotte Fithian 9/1

Gail Haynes 9/10

Ginger Hertenstein 9/14

Jack Pegues 9/14

Edelmira Ruiz 9/19

Sharon Ingram 9/22

Aiden Gaskins 9/26

Beau Gaskins 9/26

Marlene Skinner 9/26

Margaret Lewis 9/28

Gary Malone 9/30

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or info@fpcd.org. Thank you.

Missions News

News from Niger

"God is doing something here!" Carlos reports that both his translation helpers have repeated this remark in the last few months. Both of them (A & H) recently traveled to the language area to test portions of Genesis. (Expats are not allowed to travel to the area because of security concerns.) They were all apprehensive about the trip: it was to a completely new place, potentially hostile and among strangers.

But God intervened. The people welcomed A and H, listening intently to the Word, even stopping by at all hours to hear it in their language. They were impressed by God's care for them: the biblical stories told of that care and someone valued their language enough to write it down so they could hear what He says to them.

This people group is marginalized, living on the edge of the desert where life is difficult. Food shortages are a constant reality. Physical and spiritual needs are great. Pray with us for wisdom to know how to respond appropriately to their needs.

Our family is doing well. Carlos has begun a PH.D. program in linguistics at the University of Leiden, a renowned center of research on African languages. He is able to stay on the field and continue translation because the program is free and requires little residency time. The study will benefit the language group and help him train future linguists. Caryn is very involved, from cataloguing library books to ethnomusicology to linguistic documentation. She facilitated a Scripture song writing workshop in Niamey and continues to interact with many of the musicians. School here starts in August. Andres will be in 10th grade and Rachelle in 3rd grade. Rachelle is now strong and active as ever after a serious bout with malaria in June.

Thanks for your friendship, prayers and gifts. You play an important role in our work in these ways.



Carlos and Caryn Benitez

Farewell

Eunice V. Pike, 97, a longtime member of our church family, died August 18, 2011 at Central Methodist Hospital. A resident of Grace Presbyterian Village since the mid 1990's., she had been a regular part of our congregation until a few years ago.

Born November 6, 1913 at East Woodstock, Connecticut, Eunice was the youngest of eight children born to Hattie Mae Granniss and Ernest R. Pike. She graduated from Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing in 1936. From there she went through the training program of the group that was to become the Summer Institute of Linguistics (SIL) and followed her brother, noted linguist and scholar Kenneth L. Pike, to Mexico to begin a distinguished career in linguistics and Bible translation.

Eunice and her co-worker Florence Hansen Cowan went to a Mazatec-speaking community and were the first single women to serve with SIL. She traveled all over the world as an SIL consultant specializing in analyzing sound systems and developing alphabets until her retirement in 1998. She authored more than 65 books and articles related to linguistics, her life among the Mazatecs and other subjects. We recommend her *An Uttermost Part*, available in our church library (see p. 7).

Eunice is survived by her sister-in-law, Evelyn G. Pike, and by numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews. The family is very grateful to the FPCD church family for the celebration of Eunice's life in the memorial service and reception on August 23.



Welcome

On Sunday, August 21, **Brandon Cowand** and **Cael Fitzgerald** were welcomed into God's covenant family by baptism, and we affirmed the baptism of **Tristan Russell** which took place on March 20 of this year. Cael and his mother leave us soon to join his father, serving with our military in Alaska. But we can look forward to continuing to enjoy Brandon and Tristan with us. Let us be faithful to our promise to nurture them in Christ's likeness and the Christian faith!



WELCOME & THANKS TO OUR TWO NEW ELDERS!

Steve Bayless



Dr. W.E. "Dub" Guthrie, Jr.

Steve Bayless, musician extraordinaire, is a native Texan and son of a Presbyterian minister (Ed of Oak Cliff Presbyterian). Steve and wife, Marna recently celebrated 50 years of marriage (July 25)! They have been members of First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville for at least 15 years... most of those years, Steve served as Director of Music. The Bayless musical family consists of four married sons and their wives, and seven grandchildren.

Steve and Marna are now "retired", but stay busy with Lions Club, arranging music and singing in the church choir. Steve also conducts an orchestra! In their spare time, they enjoy traveling in their Casita travel trailer as well as working with the Worship Planning Ministry Team and his new-found talent of directing dramatic presentations here at FPCD.

This will be Steve's first time to serve on Session here at First Duncanville, although, he was ordained when he was a member at First Dallas.

Dr. Guthrie, Jr., better known as "Dub", is a native of Oklahoma. He and wife Gwenn became members of 1st Presbyterian Church, Duncanville in February 1982 and were married in the Sanctuary (before it had carpet!), in March 1982. Their three children, Melisa, Carol, and Neal were all baptized here and were active in various programs.

Dub is Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at Love Freeway Animal Hospital in Dallas and Gwenn a Physical Therapist at Scottish Rite Hospital.

Dub was ordained as Elder in 1983 and has served on session before. He has served as Usher for a number of years, enjoys leading in worship as liturgist, participating in FPCD special presentations and working with the Worship Planning Ministry Team.

Remember last fall's **Choir Concert and Storytelling Event?**

Mark your calendar for another one this fall—

OCTOBER 8!



WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

September 2011
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

	September 4	September 11
Greeters:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues	Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
Liturgist:	Dub Guthrie	Leo Skinner
Children's Church:	Sandy Gaskins	Sharon Ingram
Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles	Helen Barton
Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
Communion Servers:	Paul Barton, Brenda Everett, Bob Harrison, Anna Murphy, Jack Pegues, Diane Pegues	



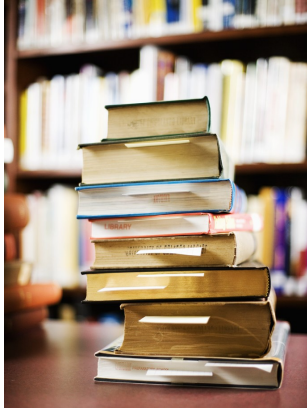
	September 18	September 25
Greeters:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen	Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy
Ushers:	Albert Teel, Bob Moore	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	Helen Barton	Scott Hartless
Children's Church:	Kathleen Hartless	Savannah Baker-Teel
Nursery Volunteer:	Joan Brown	Anna Murphy
Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner



July 2010		July 2011	
4 July	96	3 July	78
11 July	90	10 July	86
18 July	77	17 July	101
25 July	73	24 July	77
		31 July	84



July 2011	
Receipts	Expenditures
\$27,573	\$15,404
YTD income:	*\$135,475
YTD expenditures	\$133,455
Total Annual Budget:	\$218,200
*This includes memorial giving.	
We're ahead in our giving:	\$2,020



What's Going on in our Church Library?

Our library is a work in progress. Eager to make these resources available to our church family, we are still in the midst of processing the books so you can borrow them. But don't wait till we're done—come around and take a look some time, and please feel free to browse or read any of the books while there. You'll find (auto)biographies like Chuck Colson's *Born Again*, fiction, devotional reading, commentaries, missions, theology, Bible study resources, Eunice Pike's *An Uttermost Part*, and more.

If you wish to borrow any material now, please let us know in the notebook that is in the basket on the shelf beneath the clock. Give us the information in the spaces indicated: the date; title of the book or material; your name and phone number. The usual period for borrowing a book is three weeks. When you return the book, please return it to the same basket for re-shelving.

Property Report

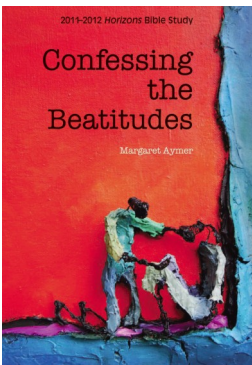
Check out our new-and-improved parking lot! →



Presbyterian Women News

Sarah Fellowship and Agape Fellowship resume Thursday, September 8. Sarah Fellowship meets in the evenings, Agape Fellowship in the daytime. All ladies of the church are welcome. We will be doing the Horizons Bible Study, ***Confessing the Beatitudes*** by Margaret Aymer.

The Beatitudes are some of the most beloved teachings of Jesus, yet they may well be some of the most pointed. In this study, Margaret Aymer, Associate Professor of New Testament and Chair of Biblical Studies at the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, invites us to consider the Beatitudes as they might have been heard when Jesus spoke them—during the time of the Roman Empire. While great in many respects, Rome was a cruel and brutal regime that did not stop short of executing anyone who challenged its authority.



Confessing the Beatitudes is aptly named, as we are invited at the end of each lesson to enter into a process of confession. The ancient practice of confession marks Christians as a people who recognize the truth, learn about the truth, and speak the truth—both about God and about ourselves. Through reading the Accra Confession of 2004, and creating our own confessions, we live out our trust in the grace of God through Jesus Christ, as we move from confession to action.

Agape Fellowship will meet **Thursday, September 8** at **1 pm** at the home of Lois Harmon, 207 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville—972-296-8224.



Sarah Fellowship will meet **Thursday, September 8** at **7:30 pm** at the home of Helen Barton, 6820 Shalloway Dr., Grand Prairie—817-477-2164.

September 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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<div>Pastor Ginger at Company of New Pastors in California</div>																																																																																																	

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR ~ SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may	receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebr. 4:16	 Joined in Prayer		1 Andrew & Ashley Dittman Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Joan Brown	2 Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather Connie Steger	3 Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Sam & Charlotte Fithian
4 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Dick & Nancy Bergman Deborah Titus	5 LABOR DAY Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	6 John Alsop Ruth Yingst Gary & Nita Malone Julia McConnell	7 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Burle Murphy	8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman Rita Brewer	9 Jim & Pam Loyd Paul & Helen Barton Reid Bunger Paul & Claudia Griffith	10 Eddie & Darlene Cowand Christy Cowand Brandon Pat Sparr
11 Albert & Sarah Teel Savannah Gail Haynes Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	12 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal Leo & Marlene Skinner	13 Eunice Pike Robert & Catherine Eagle David Hertenstein Evelyn	14 Nadine AbuMarkhia Ariel & Leah Dave & Jocelyn Bolles Doris Metzger	15 Malcolm Perrault James & Beth Ann Black Jack & Diane Pegues	16 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Bob & Liz Moore	17 Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest Anthony Jennings
18 Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant Steve Netniss	19 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen Winfred Cook	20 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Tom & Lois Harmon Lenora Dalton	21 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Carol Orwig	22 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	23 Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica Donna To Barbara Notari	24 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy, Jason, & Vanessa Allison Jackson
25 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	26 Jim & Janet Stahl Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons	27 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers	28 Billie Cowand Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 Don & Sheri Trask Jim & Andrene Hull Bob & Nancy Harrison Andrew Watts	30 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden, Beau Charles & Laura Tyer	We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us Romans 8:26

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education — 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group — 4:30-6:00 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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10 The Epistle

DeaConGo Life

DEACONS' DINNER & TALENT SHOW

Don't forget the Deacons' Dinner, **SEPTEMBER 17th**, starting at **5:30 PM**. This is for the entire FPCD Family and any guests you want to bring. There will be a signup sheet after mid-August, so be thinking about who you would like to bring to this dinner. BESIDES THIS, there will be.....

The "FPCD's GOT TALENT" Show!



We have a remarkable amount and variety of talent in our congregation, so dust off your top hat / dancing shoes, banjo, musical saw, harmonica, or other musical instrument, brush up that favorite old comedy routine, dramatic monologue, and share in a fun-filled evening!

Please contact Sandy Gaskins, Connie Steger, Edelmira Ruiz, Betty Jespersen or Nancy Bergman regarding participating in this show. There will be a signup sheet for this soon.

WE NEED YOU!