



First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

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

November 2012

Vol. 20, No. 11

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
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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

Susan Murphy,
Nursery

Inside . . .

- 2 – Worship, Advent
Sm Grp Study
- 3 – PW News, Finance,
Birthdays
- 4 – Stewardship
- 5 – Mission News,
Volunteer Schedule
- 6 – Prayer Calendar
- 7 – Event Calendar
- 8 – Thanksgiving

From the Clerk of Session

As we approach the latter part of 2012, I have been given the opportunity to say a few words as your clerk of session. Most of you see me more often in the kitchen or behind a pitcher of lemonade but I'm equally at home with pen in hand to record the monthly minutes of the session meetings, our annual congregational meetings or other meetings as called. According to our Book of Order, official meetings of the church, whether of the session or of the congregation, need to follow a specific order and incorporate specific information, and the minutes provide, in addition to the business at hand, the record that we are following the rules. As Presbyterians, we are very orderly!

Session meeting minutes and congregational minutes as well are approved at the next regularly scheduled meeting of session and then annually by Grace Presbytery. Session clerks from nearby churches meet annually to review each other's minutes. We have a scorecard to follow, so to speak, and once all is in order, approval is received on behalf of the Presbytery.

An annual statistical report is prepared not only for the congregational but also for submission to the Presbyterian Church USA.

On occasion, I represent FPCD as elder commissioner, at one of the quarterly meetings of Grace Presbytery. FPCD has two representatives (commissioners) based on our church size, with voting privileges at Presbytery meetings. In addition, Pastor Ginger has voting privileges as a teaching elder. We will listen to and vote upon the issues that come before Presbytery, and it is important for us to be represented at each meeting. Commissioners are elected by the session and anyone who has served as an elder is eligible to represent our congregation. There are times when active session members are not available to attend, and we may call upon one of you to attend in our place. Remember that I know who you are!

Beyond the nitty gritty of clerical detail is the privilege I have of serving with your session and pastor as they work to discern God's direction for our church. It isn't easy and though a great deal of thought and prayer go into decisions that are made, the right direction isn't always inherently clear. God, we want to say, where are you? Are we doing this right? But with your prayers and encouragement and God's guidance, we keep trying. As part of this plan and though I am not serving as a ruling elder but rather as clerk, I was included when each member of session was asked to write down a wish we had for the church. Now you know where my wish took me, right back to the kitchen!

My wish is to invite anyone and everyone to the Thanksgiving Supper on Sunday, November 18. Yes, you're right, we have made an attempt at that in the past. Not good enough. This year you'll see articles in the paper with invites to all. You'll see notices in neighborhood stores. We might ask you to distribute a few invites as well. The sign will say, "y'all come, y' hear". What if they all come? Wow! Wouldn't that be great! What if don't come? Well, we won't think that way. You won't have to fix any more than you usually do (which is way more than we ever need anyway); and if they all come, then we might need to invoke "family holdback". Now that's a problem we should have.

Thanksgiving Blessings, Jocelyn Bolles

Words from Worship



Advent begins, Sunday, December 2, 2012. We are **decorating** the Church on Saturday, December 1 from 9:00-Noon. If you would like to come participate, we'd love to have you. If you can't come on Saturday, but can sometime during the week leading up to this, let Anna Murphy know. (972) 977-1172

ALSO...

If you are interested in assisting with a **LIVE NATIVITY** during Advent, please Anna Murphy know as soon as possible. Actors, a narrator, greeters, prop builders and a planning team are needed.



Advent Small Group Study

Let's get together to see the story of Jesus' birth with fresh eyes.

Darrell and Sharon Ingram are hosting a five-week small group study in their home at 1111 Meadow Ridge, Duncanville Sunday evenings from 6:00 pm—8:00 pm beginning November 11. The study takes an in depth look at the stories surrounding Jesus' birth from the gospels of Matthew and Luke. Refreshments from 6:00—6:30 pm preceding a ten minute video showing us firsthand the places involved, and which also provides historical information and details of the geographical and cultural settings. After "actually walking" the roads of the Holy Land, the small group will discuss Adam Hamilton's book, *The Journey - Walking the Road to Bethlehem*.

Dates:

November 11—Chapter 1 - Mary of Nazareth
November 18—Chapter 2 - Joseph of Bethlehem
November 25—no study
December 2—Chapter 3 - Mary's visit to Elizabeth
December 9—Chapter 4 - From Nazareth to Bethlehem
December 16—Chapter 5 - The Manger



If you would like to order the book, please let Sharon know by November 3, ddicpa@aol.com or 972-298-9894. The small, hardback book costs \$24.95. To go along with this study, we can also order *The Journey: A Season of Reflections*, a twenty-eight day study in preparation for the Advent season for \$11.99.

Presbyterian Women News

Women's Fellowship Groups for November:

The new Presbyterian Women's Bible Study was well-received by the women who came to the fellowship groups in September. Both groups are studying the General Epistles: 1st and 2nd Peter, 1-3 John and Jude. All ladies of the church are welcome to attend either of these gatherings!



Sarah Fellowship: Meeting Thursday, November 8 at 7:30 pm at the home of Helen Barton, 6820 Shalloway Dr., Grand Prairie.

Agape Fellowship: Meeting Thursday, November 8 at 1:00 at the home of Connie Steger, 960 N. Cedar Hill Rd., Cedar Hill.



PW CHRISTMAS AUCTION AND SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, December 1, 6:00 pm

Dinner is provided by PW. Enjoy spaghetti and meat balls, salad, bread, and dessert. Following dinner is the Christmas Auction. Everyone is invited to participate in the auction. Please donate any new or like-new item, craft, or something homemade (food, floral, decorative) for the auction. Or, just plan to come and shop for Christmas gifts & enjoy a great evening of good food and fun with your church family. Items for the auction may be left in the church office. Sign up in the Narthex!



September 2012

Receipts	Expenditures
\$15,437	\$17,946

YTD income:	* \$181,267
YTD expenditures	\$173,758
Total Annual Budget:	\$225,810

*This includes memorial giving.

BIRTHDAYS

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.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mary Huttar—11/3 | Armelia Jimmerson—11/11 |
| Albert Teel—11/3 | Elyssa Mullican—11/11 |
| Steve Netniss—11/5 | Charlie Glover—11/15 |
| Teresa Reed—11/6 | Rylee Reed—11/16 |
| Dave Bolles—11/9 | Angel Mullican—11/17 |
| Dub Guthrie—11/9 | Rachelle Benitez—11/25 |
| David Hertenstein—11/10 | Bob Moore—11/28 |

Stewardship Sundays

November 18 & 25



What's your investment in FPCD?

The LORD made the heavens! Honor and majesty surround him; strength and beauty fill his sanctuary.
Bring your offering and come into his courts. Worship the LORD in all his holy splendor.
Tell all the nations, "The LORD reigns!"

Psalm 96, excerpts

Missions News

Some of the missionary families that we support are moving, so this month our column will bring you up to date with what is happening to two of them.

The Benitez—Carlos, Caryn, AJ and Rachelle: The last two months have been a bit chaotic with packing, un-packing and adjusting to a new way of life in the USA. Settling in Waxhaw, North Carolina for their year of “home assignment,” Andres (AJ) started 11th grade in Parkwood High School. He is on the cross-country team and has made friends among the kids in his youth group. He hopes to return to graduate with his friends in Niger next year. Rachelle is homeschooled in 4th grade by Caryn.

Even as they settle in, they are concerned for their friends in Niger. Floods in August devastated the Bible school, Sahel Academy campuses and left some Nigerien families and colleagues without homes or livelihoods. They request our prayer for wisdom for those in leadership to know how to cope in this situation. The following internet site will help you with that task: <http://www.sim.org/index.php/content/niger-river-floods-niamey>.

The Buucks—Brian, Anja, Damaris, Jonah, Talitha, Keilah and Emanuel Caleb: Emanuel joined the family on March 29. They have spent most of the year in Minnesota where Brian continued classes at ACTS Bible College, and Anja homeschooled the older three children and kept things going at home. The children were involved in piano lessons, horseback riding lessons, soccer and AWANA, a church youth program. Summer was a time for visits with grandparents, VBS and camp. They bought a house in Minnesota to be their home base when they are in the US. They settled into it in June.

In August they began a three-month trip to Mexico, settling into a house in Tuxtepec, Oaxaca. They made preparations for the first Bible training seminar in late October for pastors in the villages surrounding the city. Returning to the work of translation and literacy among the Chinantec people is one of their goals. They are praising God for the help, and support they have received, and for health and protection. They are asking prayer for a reliable internet connection that enables them to keep in touch with ministry partners and enables Brian to continue his German-English translation work that provides financial support.

The complete letters (some with pictures) from all our missionaries are posted on the mission bulletin board in the CE wing. There you can keep updated on what is happening in their corners of the world.

NOVEMBER WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

November 4

Greeters: Donna To, Wendy Jensen
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Liturgist: Tom Harmon
Nursery: Valerie Cordova
Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

November 18

Greeters: Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
Ushers: Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
Liturgist: Joan Brown
Nursery: Jocelyn Bolles
Tellers: Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

November 11

Greeters: Anna Murphy, Lori Glover
Ushers: Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
Liturgist: Darrell Ingram
Nursery: Lois Harmon
Tellers: Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
Communion: Scott Hartless, Joan Brown, Irving Kezar, Diane Pegues, Steve Bayless, & Lori Glover

November 25

Greeters: Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Liturgist: Dave Bolles
Nursery: Anna Murphy
Tellers: Lori Glover, Bob Harrison



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

November 2012

Remember each other in daily prayer.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
4 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Sam & Charlotte Fithian	5 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	6 Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	7 Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn	8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	9 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman	10 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake
11 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Don & Edie Burquest	12 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	13 Pat Sparr Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy, Vanessa, Valerie & Jason	14 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netmiss	15 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	16 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee The Schaefers	17 Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon Andrew Watts
18 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Connie Steger Boyd Roberts	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle Billie Cowand	20 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Barbara Notari	21 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Carol McKinney	22 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	23 Bob Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand Irving & Peggy Kezar	24 Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Bill & Vangie Jackson
25 Steve & Marna Bayless Gary & Linda Simons Rachel	26 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	27 Burlie Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer Joan Brown Deborah Titus	30 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza McGinnis, Eric & Erin Mike	

November 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																														
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4 9:15 AM "The Basic's" 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Pastor Ginger on Vacation	5 4:30 PM Deacons Meeting 6:30 PM Nomination Committee 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting * Fall Back * Set clocks back one hour	6 7:30 PM Property Team Meeting	7 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:15 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Prayer Gathering 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8	9	10																																																																																														
11 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion	12	13	14 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:15 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 6:30 PM Session Meeting Newsletter Articles Due	16	17																																																																																														
18 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Thanksgiving Dinner and Ellis Junction Jazz Orchestra ** Food Sunday ** <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	19	20	21 6:15 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 <i>Office Closed Thanksgiving Day</i>	23	24																																																																																														
25 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship <i>Stewardship Sunday</i>	26 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre Shelter	27	28 6:00 PM Youth Group 6:15 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29	30																																																																																															

Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.
— 4:30-6:00 p.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312
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www.fpcd.org

THINGS WE ARE THANKFUL FOR



Think Tank—Back to Church Month
Choir—Fall Fest
Worship Planning Team—All worship events
Storytellers—Jim & Janet Stahl, Dub Guthrie, Grant Everett
Liturgist—Weekly worship leadership
Congo Life—GREAT food & lemonade on the lawn
Property—Beautiful building & grounds
Christian Education—Sunday School Teachers
Stewardship—Giving exceeding the budget
Deacons & Friends—Loving care
Staff—Putting their hearts into passionate ministry
Volunteers—Devoting their time to serving the church
Children—Filling the church with laughter and love



THANK YOU CHURCH!