

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

First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

August 2012

Vol. 20, No. 8

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
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www.fpccd.org

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

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From our Elders

God is Good, All the Time...and we at First Presbyterian Church Duncanville have firsthand experience of this. Over the past couple of years, we have been witness to his miracles... the difficult pregnancy and birth of Aiden & Beau Gaskins in 2010, Tristan Russell's recovery from a fall in 2011, Lori Glover & Sam Fithian's recoveries from serious infections in 2011 and the incredible protection from injury to Steve & Marna Bayless in their car accident earlier this year. I've also seen this church from the brink of closing the doors, to meeting and exceeding its budget, while providing support to the emergency needs of the church structure and congregation.

Over the past five years, I find myself reading my Bible more, praying more (and at the most unusual times), becoming more confident in praying aloud. Never have I been a witness to the presence of God, as I have been over the past several years. Each year in my daily Bible readings, I can relate better to the miracles that God and Jesus performed.

I also know firsthand of his presence. When I was laid off in August of 2009, I was in shock, but my thoughts immediately went to Ginger's weekly benediction, "You go no place by accident". To this day, I feel like God took me from a job that required long hours, travel and lots of stress, to one that allows me to leave my work at the work. While the job may not be ideal, it has allowed me to spend quality time with my 93 year old mother. With the help of my sister, Susan, we have been able to keep mother in the home environment and spend quality time with her in these last years of her life.

Pastor Ginger encourages & challenges each of us serving as church leaders to find our passion in serving the Lord. We no longer serve as committee chairs, but team leaders in areas that are of interest to us. While we still conduct the business of the church, we are first and foremost spiritual leaders of the flock. If you don't change and grow, you become stagnant. We as a church we must do the same. Our Duncanville dynamics have changed, unfortunately our church dynamics have not. We must each pray that the Lord leads those in the community who are searching for a Christian experience to our doors. We are a loving, caring, praying congregation and welcome all God's children (warts and all, as the saying goes). We know the power of prayer, and with God's help, we can accomplish anything.

What is your passion?...worship, teaching, property, technology, media, music...how will you serve the Lord this year and the coming years? You'll find yourself doing things you never thought you could and talents you never knew you had. Let the leadership team know your passion and how you want to serve the Lord....All the Time, God is Good.

Blessings to each of you.
Anna Murphy, Elder



Words from Worship



Have you noticed the unusual floral arrangements in the sanctuary during the past several months? Gary Malone is responsible. For many years, he provided us with his floral works, then he decided to "retire." While he and his "bride" toured the world, we didn't see much of Gary and Nita. During his absence, Jocelyn Bolles and Anna Murphy provided numerous arrangements to enhance the sanctuary. Well, Gary & Nita are back and so are Gary's arrangements. Thank you, Gary for sharing your talent with us each Sunday.

Personal Testimony

Why the Parable of Growing Seed (Mark4:26-29) Means so Much to Me
Ed Everett, Testimony



Back in March, 1980 my mom was getting ready to have surgery when her sister, Mary, gave her a book to get her mind off the surgery. It's called *Praying Without Ceasing*

The guidelines to an effective prayer life.

1. Make it simple and clear.
2. Be spiritually prepared through a complete attitude of confession.
3. Pray with a visionary eye of faith.
4. Be ready to listen to God and be receptive to His guidance.

It starts like this..... **Lord, make me want to pray**

Mom said to God, Heavenly Father, it is with much humility & meekness I present this Prayer List to you: for Ed-die, "read and study the Bible more; stop going places so much." For Brenda, "settle down and seek after God's will."

At the end of the prayer list she listed one for her.

My mom was the backbone of our family. She was both a mom and a dad. I owe a lot to her. She passed away 12-27-1992; Grant was only three months old. I couldn't understand then why God took her. I understand now, but it was really hard at that time.

Sowing seeds takes time, you must have faith that God will answer them.

Mom sowed some seeds to God. That was 29 years ago. I started reading the daily Bible from the church in 2009. Both Brenda and I have changed because God answered some prayers from my Mom.

God is good, all the time.

Linda and Gary Simons are well known in our church. Gary has shared his music talent with us a number of times. Both of them sing in the choir. Before they began work here at the Dallas Linguistic Center, they worked for SIL in the Pacific area, first in language survey and then in the Solomon Islands as translation advisors. Here in Dallas Gary's role with SIL International is as the Chief Research Officer. Gary explains what that involves:

I've missed a few Sunday services recently because of international travel on CRO business. I thought a good way to give a glimpse of my role in the work of missions would be to tell you about those two trips.

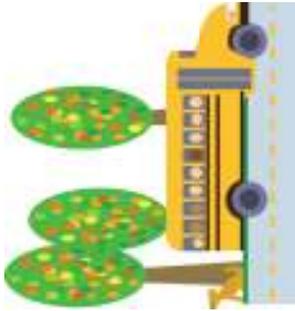
I missed the last Sunday of June (and our baseball night) because of a trip to Madrid, Spain. There I participated in the annual meeting of Technical Committee 37 of ISO, the International Standards Organization. One result of SIL's research into identifying every language on earth has been a system of three-letter codes for uniquely identifying each language. These are published as part of the *Ethnologue* (www.ethnologue.com).

We need these codes because language names are not reliable—they are ambiguous, they change over time, and they vary in translation. Ten years ago, ISO approached us about submitting our three-letter codes to become an international standard. Final adoption occurred in 2007 as ISO 639-3. These codes are now widely used across communities like missions, academics, international development and internet infrastructure. We just got word that they will even be used within the soon-to-be-released Windows 8. SIL continues to be involved as the Registration Authority for processing proposed changes to the standard.

In July I missed two Sundays on a trip to Papua New Guinea. There I participated in a workshop on the topic of "clustering." Traditionally, we used to approach each language with an independent project, but over the last decade we've realized that it would be smarter to build projects of language development and Bible translation around clusters of related languages. Our executive leadership has made the investigation of what has actually been happening in cluster programs a top research priority, so that we can document the best practices that are leading to improved efficiency and effectiveness.

Editors note: Our God is amazing. When the job requires ability to understand the difficulties of many languages, he brings along someone whom he gifts with the ability to do the task. "God does not call the qualified; He qualifies the called."





FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

August 2012

Remember each other in daily prayer.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
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 Doura Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman	10 Deborah Titus David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	11 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner
12 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	13 Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Jamie & Lorraine Cor- dova Jimmy & Jason	14 Mickey & Betty Jes- persen The Buuck's Steve Netniss	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
19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle Billie Cowand	20 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Barbara Notari	21 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig	22 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	23 Bob & Nancy 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 James & Beth Ann Black Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer	30 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza McGinnis, Eric & Erin Mike	31 Reid & Betty Bunger Carol McKinney Lenora Dalton	

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

August 2012

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

August 5	Greeters:	Lori Glover, Burle Murphy
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Dub Guthrie
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
	Tellers:	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
	Communion Servers:	Bill Jackson, Marna Bayless, Leo Skinner Lois Harmon, Darrell Ingram, and Helen Barton
August 12	Greeters:	Jocelyn Bolles, Janet Stahl
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Liturgist:	Adelmo Ruiz
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Lois Harmon
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison
August 19	Greeters:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Liturgist:	Lori Glover
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
August 26	Greeters:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Leo Skinner
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Anna Murphy
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown



**Lord, teach us to
number our days!**

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.

Wendy Jensen—8/5
Kathleen Hartless—8/6
Sydney Russell—8/6
Ruth Yingst—8/15
Brenda Everett—8/17

Donna To—8/18
Eddie Cowand—8/20
Lori Glover—8/23
Eugene Jimmerson—8/23

Jamie Cordova—8/24
Dale Walters—8/28
Scott Hartless—8/29
Boyd Roberts—8/31

Presbyterian Women News

What's been happening for Presbyterian Women?

While we have been working, or relaxing or travelling this summer, a special nation-wide event took place in Orlando, Florida, July 18-22. Church-wide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. This gathering is held once every three years. This year's theme was "River of Hope."

The theme scripture came from
Psalm 46: 4-5

*There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.*

*God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.*



Meanwhile, here in north Texas, our women's fellowship groups look forward to starting a new Bible study in September. As you may recall from last month's newsletter, the Bible Study topic for Presbyterian Women is Dispatches to God's Household, a study of the short books of the Bible often called the General Epistles: 1 and 2 Peter, 1,2, and 3 John, and Jude.

Since our study won't begin until September 13, why not sit down and read these books in the next few weeks? They total 16 chapters!

Ladies Night Out

All women are invited to have dinner out together the evening of Thursday, August 30. It's always fun to get together for a visit, especially when someone else cooks! Watch the bulletin for further notice of place and time.

Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibition Opens in Ft. Worth

Representatives from the state of Israel, Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the state senate and the city of Fort Worth celebrated the opening of the Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible exhibition at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, July 2. The ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the beginning of the six-month exhibition, which runs through **Jan. 13, 2013**.

The 21 Dead Sea Scrolls which are now on display at **Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary** in Fort Worth, Texas will provide the public with a rare opportunity to view in person some of the oldest known pieces of the Old Testament. Ironically, the largest archaeological discovery of the 20th Century was made by shepherds in 1947 who had no idea of the value of what they had discovered.

Cont. on page 8

August 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																												
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SUNDAY SCHEDULE
Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

8 The Epistle

Interesting Facts:

The Dead Sea Scrolls were probably hidden during the First Jewish Revolt against the occupying Romans in A.D. 66 -70, when Qumran was destroyed and abandoned.

At first, few believed the scrolls could be more than a few hundred years old. But Carbon-14 testing and handwriting analysis confirmed some are more than 2,000 years old.

Even taking into consideration the dry climate and the protection provided by caves, the survival of the scrolls for so many centuries is astounding.

Using ink made from iron salts and tree fungus, and parchment made from goatskin, the Dead Sea Scroll scribes had to copy each word painstakingly by hand.

The Copper Scroll, from Cave 3, includes a list of underground hiding places believed by some to hold treasure. Text on the Dead Sea Scroll fragments has actually cleared up some of the differences between other historical biblical manuscripts and our modern translations.

American principles such as freedom, equality and justice can all be traced back to the Bible and Judaism.

Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible is one of the most comprehensive Dead Sea Scrolls exhibitions ever assembled.

At least 12 fragments that were previously hidden in private collections are on public display for the first time ever.

Dead Sea Scrolls & the Bible at Southwestern Seminary

Exhibition Dates: July 2, 2012 – January 13, 2013

Monday – Saturday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Sunday: 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Purchase tickets on line seethescrolls.com or by phone: 877-789-0876