

First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

October 2009

Vol. 17 No. 10

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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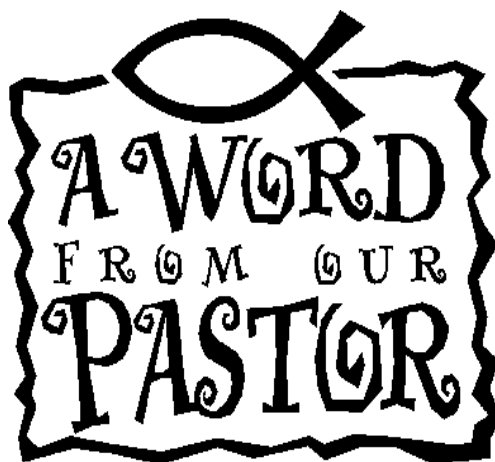
CHURCH STAFF: Rev. Ginger Hertenstein

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director
Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative Assistant/
Bookkeeper
Tom Wylie,
Accompanist/Youth
Minister

*"The Epistle" is a monthly
publication of
First Presbyterian Church,
Duncanville, Texas.*

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It's been a couple of weeks since around 100 of us gathered for tacos and to share our talents, and my toe is still tapping. What a talented bunch! I got a whole new picture as 39 of you sang, danced, recited, and spoofed. It's a pleasure to be surrounded by such gifted people.

Were you impressed with your elders' songwriting abilities? For those who might have missed it, the song was sung to the tune of "I Heard It Through the Grapevine." Here's part of it:

*We heard it in the service . . . come on let's be committed
We heard it through the prayer chain . . . come on let's be committed
Brother, sister, yeah*

*Got to read my Bible
Got to say my prayers
Got to give my money
Let's go out to share
Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah . . .*

Perhaps we should all learn it and make it our fight song, or more appropriately, the theme song of FPCD. Because as we become more and more committed to Bible reading, to prayer, to stewardship, and to conversing about our faith, the more transformation we experience as a congregation. Speaking of conversations, we'll continue to study *Holy Conversations* by Richard Peace along with 1 Corinthians throughout the fall. I invite you to join Sunday School or come to Sunday night small group at 6PM at the Simon's house and talk about the things we're learning. In the meantime, keep singing and keep the faith!

Blessings,
Ginger

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

From the Worship
Team

SYMBOLS of our faith...Symbols of the Twelve Apostles

The twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus to be His special representatives were “*Peter, James the son of Zebedee, John the brother of James, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot.*” Mark 3:16-19 They are frequently represented by symbols.



Matthew was a tax collector before he became one of the appointed twelve disciples. His symbol is usually an object that refers to that Vocation: money bags, coins or purses. In the days of Jesus, tax collectors were among the most hated men in society. The taxes went to support the Romans who had taken over the land of Israel. Some Jews, trying to make the best of things, joined with the Romans and got some of the tax money as their salary. But they were hated by their fellow Jews, and were not even allowed to attend worship. One day, the out-cast Matthew was surprised to hear the teacher, Jesus of Nazareth call him, “Follow me.” Matthew did.

Finance

FINANCE

We made it through August and all the repairs that went with it. The final bills for the air conditioners were paid in early September, totaling \$18,694. So even though we ended the month of August with just over \$21,100 in the bank, most of it was already spent. Total repairs not counting the roof were \$22,330 for which you have given a total of \$7,190. That leaves us with a balance of \$15,140 on the current repairs. The roof must also be fixed and is not included in this figure.

On the lighter side, God continues to bless the church with increased contributions. Through August giving was up over 16% from last year and almost 10% over what was pledged for this year. Well done and keep it up!

Speaking of pledges, this year's annual Stewardship Campaign begins with the hopes and dreams of the Session for significant ministry. We invite all ministry teams to give input on what you hope to accomplish for next year. Stewardship Campaign kicks off in November. Please give your thoughts about next year's planned spending to the responsible (and committed!) Session member.

August financial information:

	<u>Aug 09</u>	<u>Aug 08</u>	<u>Jan-Aug 2009</u>	<u>Jan-Aug 2008</u>
Contributions	13,696	16,916	106,290	96,602
Disbursements	12,146	14,697	117,748	100,592

We currently have an outstanding balance with TXU that is about \$4,500. TXU has been experiencing computer problems & has not billed us since May. They hope to have this problem resolved this month & we will pay the bill as soon as we receive it.

ELDERS TALENT SHOW SONG

COME, LET'S BE COMMITTED

(Sung to the tune of "I Heard It On the Grapevine")

VERSE 1:

I bet you're wondering how we knew
About God's plans to make us new
With some of the things we did before.
You know we won't be doing those no more.
It took us by surprise we must say,
Well, the Lord showed us another way.

REFRAIN:

Don't you know it,
That we heard it in the service
Come on around let's be committed.
And pray we do,
We heard it through the prayer chain.
Come along and sing a song
Let's be committed;

Brother, sister; yeah!
Got to read my Bible,
Got to say my prayers;
Got to give my money,
Let's go out to share;



VERSE 2:

I know a man ain't supposed to cry,
But these tears I can't hold inside.
The Spirit moves my life you see,
Cause God means that much to me.
I have to tell you myself:
That Jesus loves you above all else;

REFRAIN:

Don't you know it,
That we heard it in the service
Come on around let's be committed.
And pray we do,
We heard it through the prayer chain.
Come along and sing a song
Let's be committed;

Brother, sister; yeah!

Got to read my Bible,
Got to say my prayers;
Got to give my money,
Let's go out to share;



VERSE 3:

People say, "Believe half of what you see."
But it's all faith with you and me.
We can't help being enthused,
Cause God will make sure we're
being used.
We know that He won't let us go.
He'll always be there when we need Him
so.

(REPEAT REFRAIN AGAIN)

Bookkeeper's Report

August 2009

Receipts	Expenditures
\$29,696	\$12,146

YTD Receipts	YTD Expenditures
\$122,290	\$117,748

The August income includes \$16,000 from the sale of stock. Actual YTD deficit is \$11,458 if you take out the \$16,000 from sale of stock. This \$16,000 went towards paying off the remaining air conditioner bills in early September. Total Annual Budget is \$173,824.

Church Directory Update

Anna Murphy has a new email & cell phone number. Please make the following changes to your church directory.

almurphy1@att.net Cell 972-977-1172

Elders Talent Show Song

Bookkeeper's Report

Attendance

CHURCH
DIRECTORY
UPDATE

ATTENDANCE

September 2008

7-September-81
14-September-75
21-September-74
28-September-69

September 2009

6-September-95
13-September-80
20-September-74
27-September-Not
Recorded Yet

DeConGo Life

DECONGO LIFE

Whew!!! Busy three or four weeks, that is for sure. About 60 people showed up for the Rangers Double Header which they won both by identical scores of 5 to 2. As stated earlier not everyone could stay until the last out was made but there were two diehards, care to guess who?

The Deacons' Dinner was a huge success. Just about everyone showed up. The best guesstimate was over 100 people attended the dinner and show. The food was, as usual, delicious and the entertainment was just beyond belief! This was the biggest show ever (18 acts) of music, stories, dance, comedy and instruction on plumbing. Wow! We got to end our evening by listening about "the Spider that was Looking for Food." The entire evening was unbelievably entertaining and I refuse to single out any one person or group. Everyone, from planning to execution, food prep to audio, and performing to cleanup did a fantastic job and you may all pat yourselves on the back. This congregation can do anything!!!!



What a great start to the fall season. We look forward to other outstanding events.

FPCD Website

FPCD WEBSITE



Have you been to the church website lately? We have a new look with sliding door images! We invite you to come take a look and enjoy the view at <http://www.fpcd.org/>. Learn all about the Joy of Holy Conversations, or take a gander at Ginger's latest sermon. Then sit back, relax, and enjoy watching our children play the handbells during a recent worship service. Ever play "where's Waldo?" See if you can locate one of our own young adults wielding a sledge hammer and guess who it is.

Additional content to our site is very welcome and appreciated. So, let's get started! Contact a Communications Team member if you have something you'd like added and need assistance in getting it in. Some of our members most adept at this are Dave Liddle, Paul Barton, and Sandy Gaskins.

HOGY

Hands of God Youth (HOGY)

The Hands of God Youth at First Presbyterian Church Duncanville is open to all youth, grades 6-12 and meets Sunday evenings. For more information, please call the church office.

OCT BER Events

<u>When</u>		<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
10/04	4:30-6:30pm	Capture the Flag	FPCD
10/11	4:30-7pm	Stewpot Field Trip	FPC Dallas
10/18	6-8:30pm	Haunted House Night	TBA
10/25	2:30-7pm	Alliance Airshow	Fort Worth

FROM DENNIS & SUSAN WALTERS

(with Dale 12, Evelyn 10, and Andrew Gary 8)

Our family is back in Duncanville after being in East Asia for the last four years. These last years we've often thought of you. On our shelves in our apartment in East Asia, our kids have a photo book which you gave them with pictures of all the kids in Sunday School at First Presby. We also had visits from you through people like Lois Harmon. So you were on our minds.



*From the
Walters*

Our work in East Asia these past years has progressed well. Many good things have happened that we did not do ourselves. You now have many Zee brothers and sisters in East Asia. We know that God is at work. And we know that He chooses to work in response to the prayers of His people---you.

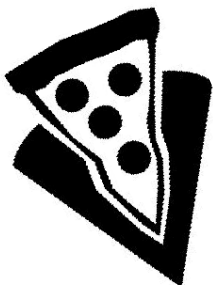
Thank you. Walking into the Sunday service a few weeks ago, we were amazed at how many friends we saw all in one room---people who have known us for 20 years, listened to us, helped us get married, and taught our toddlers. Now we are together again.

We plan on being in Duncanville for one school year and then return to East Asia. Our kids are enjoying having classmates who speak English, eating foods like hamburgers and nachos, and enjoying wonderful things about the U.S. like parks and libraries. Dennis and Susan will continue to work on our Zee language data, take care of medical and other business that we haven't been able to do while overseas, and work with the offices at the International Linguistic Center.

We are currently trying to buy a house here in Duncanville. We have never bought a house and the process is somewhat daunting. We wish to walk in right paths and do what makes God happy.

**PIZZA
BOXES**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: We can all have the opportunity to be with the Walters family for lunch, and learn more about their life and work overseas, on October 18, right after the morning service, in Fellowship Hall. You don't want to miss it, so see you all there!

CHILDREN'S PIZZA BOXES

You may have noticed some pizza boxes on the table going into the sanctuary. These are not in case you get hungry during the sermon! We fill these boxes with fun activities for our children to use during the worship service. The boxes are refilled each month & we need donations of white and color paper (not construction paper) and lots of stickers. If you would like to help you may put your donations in the office marked "for Pizza Boxes." We always welcome new ideas of what our children might like to see in the boxes.

TAKING OUT THE TRASH

Have you sometimes noticed empty trash containers at the church curb? Feel free if you happen to be at church, to roll these back to their storage position. A volunteer takes these to the curb on Mondays but does not make a special trip to return them on Tuesday.....So everyone should feel free to return these when they are empty!



**TAKING
OUT THE
TRASH**

PW MISSIONS & NEWS

PW MISSIONS & NEWS

Our PW Mission emphasis for the coming year will be helping to care for vulnerable children in Kamwenge, Uganda by donating funds for educational needs and school supplies.

Kamwenge Vocational School is a community school in the heart of rural Uganda with a vision to transform this poor community into a self-sustained and responsible one with a high sense of integrity and accountability in a Christian transforming environment.



The school is located on 20 acres of land in the district of Kamwenge, western Uganda. This area has a population of 300,000 people, mostly refugees from neighboring countries, and is considered one of the poorest in Uganda. Parents can not afford to send their children to school and do not understand the importance of education. This illiteracy has increased the cycle of HIV/AIDS and poverty. The Kamwenge School aims to equip individuals with skills for sustainable socio-economic development, a holistic approach of building the Kingdom of God.

How You Can Help! We will be accepting donations toward this cause at our Circle Meetings through the year and also designating a portion of our PW fundraisers toward this project. Our two PW fundraisers are the Spring Plant and Bake Sale and the PW Family Spaghetti Supper and Christmas Auction. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining with us to help these Ugandan families build a better life through education and hopefully to see the love of Jesus Christ through our generosity and concern.



LADIES' NIGHT OUT

Tuesday, October 27, at the Olive Garden in Duncanville!

All ladies are invited to come and enjoy an evening of good food and fellowship.

LET'S PARTY

PW will again be sponsoring the **GRACE PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE BIRTHDAY PARTY** for the residents who have birthdays in October! This includes our own special church friend, Lenora Dalton.

The party this year will take place on **Wednesday, October 28 at 12:30 pm** in the Wellness Center Exercise Room of GPV. We will provide a birthday cake and also a diabetic dessert, as well as some small gifts for the honored guests.



PW NEWS

Our Circle Meetings will resume again in September and our study for the coming year will be from Joshua. We are again using the Horizons Bible Study which is available to us from our National PW Organization.

Enjoy Bible Study and Fellowship with PW

If you do not currently attend a Circle, please consider doing so. The Circles meet in different homes each month and enjoy Bible Study, prayer, good discussions, desserts and fellowship. There is a daytime and an evening Circle. The meeting places, dates and times are printed in the Announcements Section of the weekly Sunday Bulletins, as well as in the monthly Newsletters. This information will be available around the middle of August for the September meetings. If you have any questions about the Circle meetings, please contact Helen Barton or Joan Brown.

**PW
News**



Bronze Sculpture, *Jericho* by Philip Ratner
Used by permission of the Ratner Museum, Baltimore, MD
2009–2010 *Horizons* Bible Study

Joshua

A Journey of Faith by Mary Mikhael

In the nine lessons of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of “holy war,” and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God.

Circle Gatherings for October:

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday, October 1 at 7:30 pm at the home of Katherine Liddle, 415 Falling Leaves Dr., Duncanville, 972-283-6757; we will be studying Lesson 1 in the study books.

Agape Circle: Meeting Thursday afternoon, October 8 at 1:00 pm at the home of Doris Metzger, 115 Crestway Dr., Cedar Hill, 972-291-7770; also studying Lesson 1 in the study books. **Please note the change in meeting time to the afternoon.**



Bring Your Friends!



**It's time for the annual Grace Presbyterian
Craft Sale and Bazaar**



**Friday and Saturday October 9th-
10th , from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
each day on the Cecelia Connection**

**Please come to shop and buy raffle
tickets for the gorgeous Double-size
quilt that is hand made by our
wonderful group of volunteers.**



**Baked Goods may be brought to the Village all
day Thursday, October 8th to the front desk.**

**If there are any questions, please call
Diana Patten at 214-413-4111**



**Fall is in the Air
at Grace!**



October 2009

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

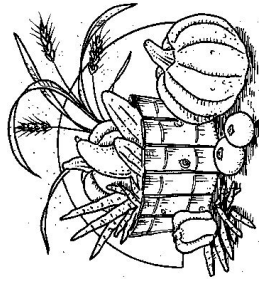
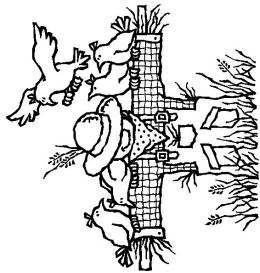
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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

October 2009

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

October 4	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Lori Glover, Janet Stahl Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Darrell Ingram Taylor Glover Helen Barton Sean Russell Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
October 11	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Helen Barton, Bob Moore Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand Dub Guthrie Sandy Gaskins Lori Harmon Sean Russell Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
October 18	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram Albert Teel Leo Skinner Sandy Wylie Gail Haynes Sean Russell Lori Glover, Jocelyn Bolles
October 25	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Helen Barton Sharon Ingram Sharon Ingram Sean Russell Paul Barton, Tom Harmon



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

October 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
4 Joan Brown Tom & Sandy Wylie Thomas, Katie & Abby	5 Jack & Diane Pegues Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	6 Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	7 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	8 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	9 Norris & Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin	10 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman
11 Nadine Doura Ariel & Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman	12 George & Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	14 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal	15 Bill Farish Robert & Catherine Eagle Pat Sparr	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen	17 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Reid Bunger
18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee	19 Tom & Lois Harmon Eunice Pike Christy Cowand Brandon Cowand	20 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica	21 Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	22 Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant	23 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons	24 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers
25 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand Carol Orwig	26 Stan & June West Sara & Matthew Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	27 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Bob & Liz Moore Gail Haynes	30 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather	31 Jim & Andrene Hull Don & Sheri Trask

**SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 24**



**Coming
Soon!**

MOVIE NIGHT

MOVIE NIGHT

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group**

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.
— 6:00-8:00 p.m.



If you think we might not have a record of your birthday and you would like us to include it in the "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact the office (972) 298-3043. Thank you.

BIRTHDAYS!

Diane Pegues—10/3
Lenora Dalton—10/4
Grant Everett—10/9
Burlie Murphy—10/13
Sean Russell—10/14
Doyce Smith—10/15
Jonathan Liddle—10/18
Barbara Notari—10/19
Bob Eagle—10/20
William Yingst—10/20
Taylor Glover—10/21
Sherri Trask—10/23
Brandon Coward—10/24
Mackenzie & Mikaela Harkins—10/24
Edie Burquest—10/30