

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

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

October 2012

Vol. 20, No. 10

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043
fax: (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.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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School—two gifts!

From our Elders

The wilderness experience of Israel was a giant object lesson in religious living.

God was the Headmaster; Moses, the teacher; the wilderness, the school. The curriculum was experience centered. The pupils lived their lessons.

One of the lessons to be learned was to follow God's leadership. And the method was the cloud and fire. Numbers 9:15-23 is a picture of living by God's direction.

The cloud by day and the fire by night first appeared as the Hebrews were leaving Egypt (Exodus 13:21, 22). Traveling unfamiliar territory, they followed the fire much as mariners follow a star.

But in time, God was able to make spiritual application of these spiritual symbols. Israel came to see God in the fire or cloud, and to recognize His command in the movement of the pillar. Then, "at the commandment of the Lord, they journeyed."

It must have been difficult, sometimes, to "rest." The promised land lay before them and there was work to be done. Yet, "they also serve who only stand and wait" – and this school of experience was teaching Israel the truth long before it was penned by one who learned it, also by experience, in a later generation.

It was equally hard, at times, to pull up stakes and leave a favored spot. Ties must have become established when they remained months, sometimes even a year or more, at one place. But when God spoke, it was "not theirs to reason why, theirs but to do or die" – and they journeyed.

And "though the wrong seem oft so strong, God IS the ruler yet." He still moves before us, to lead.

Unless we watch, we may miss His form. It was an easy thing to allow the cloud or fire to get out of sight, if an Israelite failed to keep his eye on the tabernacle (physical symbol of God's presence). And "God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform."

May we, with Israel, fix our eyes on God and give heed to His leading. Let us rest, at the commandment of the Lord; and at His command, let us journey.

(This article was written by Edward S. Bayless 72 years ago and appeared in the Gatesville Messenger and Star Forum. It seems appropriate today as we continue to seek God's leadership in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community.)

Steve Bayless - Elder



October Women's Fellowship Groups



The new Presbyterian Women's Bible Study was well-received by the women who came to our fellowship groups in September. As you have heard, we are studying together the General Epistles: 1st and 2nd Peter, 1-3 John and Jude.



You are invited to come to either of these fellowship groups on Thursday, October 11.

Agape Fellowship meets at **1 p.m.** at the home of **Connie Steger**, 960 N. Cedar Hill Road, Cedar Hill.

Sarah Fellowship meets at **7:30 p.m.** at the home of **Nancy Bergman**, 1063 Fairmeadows Circle, Duncanville.

Grace Presbyterian Village Annual Bake Sale and Bazaar

October 19-20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

550 East Ann Arbor Ave, Dallas 75216

Why are we telling about this?

It's fun, you might win a beautiful hand-made quilt, and all proceeds from this volunteer-sponsored event will benefit the Caring Fund at Grace Presbyterian Village! This fund allows the Village to continue to provide, on a completely confidential basis, exceptional services to many residents even though their financial resources have been depleted. For more information about this fund, please see www.prescs.org/foundation.

Our church's Presbyterian Women is again supporting this fund by selling Quilt Raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt hand-made by Friends of Grace Craft Volunteers. These tickets are 1 for a \$1 or 6 for \$5 and can be purchased from PW Board members Joan



August 2012

Receipts

\$16,564

Expenditures

\$21,2156

YTD income: * \$165,830

YTD expenditures \$155,813

Total Annual Budget: \$225,810

*This includes memorial giving.

Brown, Helen Barton, Jocelyn Bolles, and Lois Harmon. You can also purchase these tickets from Sandy in the church office.

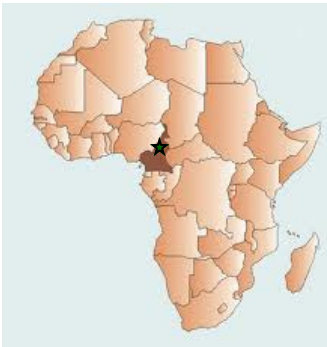
Why not come to the Bazaar Friday or Saturday? October 19-20. It's not far away!

Missions News

a? e? i? o? u? ~ What a big difference the right vowel can make!

A missionary story came across my (Doris Metzger, Missions Editor) computer recently that is so good it needs to be shared. From a Wycliffe translator, it gives insight into the language work that underlies effective Bible translation:

Lee Bramlett was confident that God had left His mark on the Hdi culture somewhere, but though he searched, he could not find it. Where was the footprint of God in the history or daily life of these Cameroonian people? What clue had He planted to let the Hdi know Who He was and how He wanted to relate to them?



Then one night in a dream, God prompted Lee to look again at the Hdi word for love. Lee and his wife, Tammi, had learned that verbs in Hdi consistently end in one of three vowels. For almost every verb, they could find forms ending in **i**, **a**, and **u**. But when it came to the word for love, they could only find **i** and **a**. Why no **u**?

Lee asked the Hdi translation committee, which included the most influential leaders in the community, “Could you ‘**dvi**’ your wife?” “Yes,” they said. That would mean that the wife had been loved but the love was gone.

“Could you ‘**dva**’ your wife?” “Yes,” they said. That kind of love depended on the wife’s actions. She would be loved as long as she remained faithful and cared for her husband well.

“Could you ‘**dvu**’ your wife?” Everyone laughed. “Of course not! If you said that, you would have to keep loving your wife no matter what she did, even if she never got you water, never made you meals. Even if she committed adultery, you would be compelled to just keep on loving her. No, we would never say ‘**dvu**.’ It just doesn’t exist.”

Lee sat quietly for a while, thinking about John 3:16, and then he asked, “Could God ‘**dvu**’ people?”

There was complete silence for three or four minutes; then tears started to trickle down the weathered faces of these elderly men. Finally they responded. “Do you know what this would mean? This would mean that God kept loving us over and over, millennia after millennia, while all that time we rejected His great love. He is compelled to love us, even though we have sinned more than any people.”

One simple vowel and the meaning was changed from “I love you based on what you do and who you are,” to “I love you, based on Who I am. I love you because of Me and NOT because of you.”

God had encoded the story of His unconditional love right into their language. For centuries, the little word was there—unused but available, grammatically correct and quite understandable. When the word was finally spoken, it called into question their entire belief system. If God was like that, and not a mean and scary spirit, did they need the spirits of the ancestors to intercede for them? Did they need sorcery to relate to the spirits? Many decided the answer was no, and the number of Christ-followers quickly grew from a few hundred to several thousand.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer expressed the same truth this way: “The reason for God’s love of man or woman lies not in man or woman, but only in God himself.”

**...and so did the Apostle John:
“... for God is love.” (1 John 4:8, 16)**

Why not stop reading now and thank God for His amazing ‘**dvu**’ love for you?



Giving Day! DonorBridge reports, "We are thrilled to announce that in 2012 we nearly tripled the number of donations from last year!

Thanks to 26,500 generous people like you, we raised over \$14.4 MILLION for 900+ local nonprofits through 37,000 individual donations, challenge funds and prizes. **This has broken all records for individual donations and total money raised in a single giving day event.** North Texas Giving Day donations surpassed last year by 35%, or an increase of \$3.7 million, while the volume of donations made this year increased by 180%. Additionally, 300 more nonprofits benefited this year than last."

Austin Street Center received more than \$16,000 on Giving Day! (We don't have a report yet on Duncanville Outreach Ministry.)

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

October 2012

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

October 7



Greeters:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	TBD
Children's Church:	No Children's Church
Nursery Volunteer:	Anna Murphy
Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
Communion Servers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Brenda Everett, Dub Guthrie Anna Murphy, George Huttar, & Diane Pegues

October 14

Greeters:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
Liturgist:	TBD
Children's Church:	No Children's Church
Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
Tellers:	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

October 21

Greeters:	Janet Stahl, Jocelyn Bolles
Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
Liturgist:	TBD
Children's Church:	No Children's Church
Nursery Volunteer:	Erin McGinnis
Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

October 28

Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	TBD
Children's Church:	No Children's Church
Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon

From Our Youth—From “the Closet”

Our Youth Group is happy to announce that we have begun a new teaching series. The students were given a theological survey and a topic was chosen in an area where the students showed a lot of interest. We have begun a series on Eschatology or End Times. I don't imagine many youth groups in America teaching this sort of series but we have very intelligent students who have good questions. The goal of the series is to not only teach the students what the Bible says regarding the future but to also teach them how to think through different theological themes or ideas. The main point I hope the students walk away with from this series is that the way we live our lives today matters. I'm excited to dive into topics many people run from like: Heaven, Hell, Judgment Day, and the Resurrection.

The youth group attendance has been consistent and encouraging. We have 5 girls who are totally committed and hardly ever miss a week. We also have a new male student named Keanu and last week we had 3 boys come back. The most encouraging thing is that students who come tend to come back. It is actually quite exciting to be working with students who really want to learn more about the Lord Jesus Christ and also follow him. God has blessed this youth group tremendously and it is a joy for me to lead on a weekly basis.

The Youth Group has also signed up to serve at the Bridge once a month on Wednesdays. This will begin in the month of October. Also, this month and next month we will have two guest speakers come. I have asked two of my dearest female friends from Dallas Seminary to speak to our students about their relationship with Jesus. Earlier in the month Pastor Ginger shared her testimony and the students were impacted.

Thank you for keeping up with the youth group. Please feel free to ask more questions if you have them. We are an open group and love connecting with all people.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Steve



As we gather around the Lords' Table on October 7, we do so as always as part of the worldwide body of Christ. But one Sunday a year we recognize, with many churches in many denominations around the world, as "World Communion Sunday"—an opportunity to reflect on our multiethnic heritage and to thank God for, and pray for, our Christian sisters and brothers around the world, worshiping in many languages, in many cultures, and often in danger of reprisal for gathering to worship our risen Savior and Lord, whose name is above all names.



Wanda Shipman	October 1	Jonathan Liddle	October 18
Diane Pegues	October 3	Barbara Notari	October 19
Lenora Dalton	October 4	Robert Eagle	October 20
Grant Everett	October 9	Taylor Glover	October 21
Allen Shipman	October 9	Andres Benitez	October 22
Burle Murphy	October 13	Sherri Trask	October 23
Sean Russell	October 14		

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.

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

October 2012

Remember each other in daily prayer.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
	1 Andrew & Ashley Dittman John Winifred Cook	2 Paul & Helen Barton Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Larry & Margaret Lewis	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 Doura Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman	10 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 Jessen The Buuck's Steve Netniss	15 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	16 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee The Schaeffers	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 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 Burle 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	31 Carol McKinney Lenora Dalton Boyd Roberts Connie Steger			

October 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1 4:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	2	3 6:30 PM -7:15 PM Prayer Gathering 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	5	6																																																																																											
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion <i>World Communion Sunday</i>	8	9	10 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM -7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11	12	13																																																																																											
14 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Football, Food, and Friends in the Fellowship Hall	15 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18	19	20																																																																																											
21 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship ** Food Sunday **	22 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre Shelter	23	24 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	25 6:30 PM Session Meeting	26	27 <div> 5:00 PM Carnival and Fall Fest w/ Biblical Storytelling & Choir Concert </div>																																																																																											
28 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	29	30	31 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<div> Sep 2012 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div> Nov 2012 <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2 3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td></tr> </table> </div>			S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1 2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
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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
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

8 The Epistle

BIG AND NEW GIFTS TO TWO SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES!

Teachers in the Younger Children's Sunday School Class, across from the Nursery, and the 5th and 6th Grade Class, off the Fellowship Hall, are delighted with some big gifts given them in September!

There is a new 4' x 6' white board on a wall in the Younger Children's room. Marna Bayless reports that the children love to write on this board. In their study of the creation story from Genesis, the children were asked to write the names of special people, important to them, that they were thankful that God created. Linda Simons, who will soon be leading this class, is eager to get to use the board with the kids.

The 5th and 6th Grade Classroom has a handsome new 4' x 6' cork bulletin board. Lois Harmon reports that this board is getting a lot of use! No longer do posters fall off the wall. Posters and the students' creations and work are posted on the bulletin board.

Who do we thank for these big additions? We thank the *Presbyterian Women* of our church who had the funds because of support for our Plant and Bake Sale and we thank a skillful friend who carefully figured and worked to put up the boards:

Larry Lewis! The children and teachers *thank you very much.*

We invite everyone to come to see these two gifts in the classrooms!

