



First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

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

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

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director

Sami Froncek
Accompanist

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Susan Murphy
Nursery

From Youth Pastor Netniss

Life is messy. There are break-ups, breakdowns, illness, accidents, mistakes, and a whole slew of other aches. In times of struggle I tend to become disillusioned or detached. It is easy to float off into outer space by listening to music, drinking too much wine, or numbing the pain in some other way. The reason why I mention this is because the Christmas season is around the corner, and I am always reminded that God is not indifferent to the pain of the world.

Instead of detaching from the broken world...God (in Christ) moved into the neighborhood. God sat in the pew (Luke 4:16). He had his heart broken (Matthew 23:37). He wept (John 11:35), and embraced the full pain of death by being crucified on a Roman Cross. In a similar vein, our congregation didn't detach or become disillusioned about the aches in Duncanville. Rather, we stepped up in a community effort by raising over \$50,000 to support those who live in low-income housing during our Festival of Hope. FPCD celebrated and enacted Christmas in the month of October and now we will REALLY celebrate Christmas together in December!

It has been a great year at FPCD but we aren't done yet. We are going to finish strong and move closer to our Savior's image as our beliefs become real through our actions. I believe 2014 will be even better. We are on a journey both as a community and individually. I invite you to join us for our many events this Advent season. Christmas is such an easy time to invite a friend or family member to church so let's not let this opportunity pass us by!

"The power that framed man chose one man from among men, and gave Him power to reconcile all with all."

Steve



Inside . . .

2 – Worship, Advent
3 – Mission News
4 – Prayer Calendar
5 – Church Calendar
6 – Worship Volunteer
Schedule—December
7 – Worship Volunteer
Schedule—January,
Finances, Birthdays



Advent Activities

Sunday, December 22 - Choir Cantata during worship service

Sunday, December 22 – PW Silent Auction continues through noon on Sunday, December 21
Your participation by attending, providing auction items and purchasing said items helps support the PW Missions throughout the world and also FPCD.

Sunday, December 22-

6:00, 7:00 & 8:00 pm-Christmas on the Lawn (formerly known as Live Nativity (contact Steve Netniss if you'd like to assist)

Hot Chocolate, cookies & fellowship after each performance

Tuesday-December 24 Christmas Eve- 6:30 p.m.— Candle light service.

A Christmas Prayer

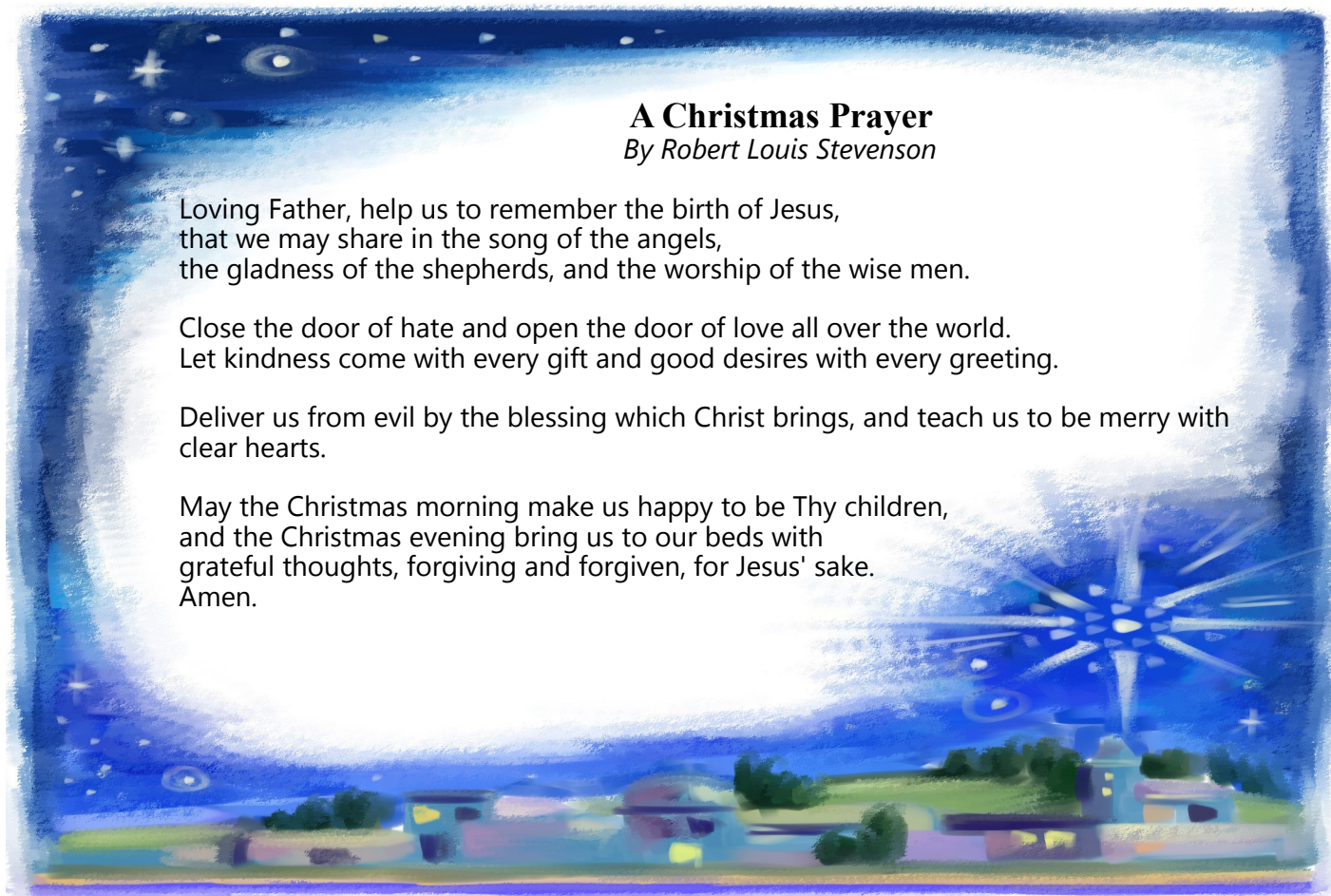
By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with
clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children,
and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with
grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake.
Amen.



Mission News

Recent news from the Schaefer's lets us know recent events in their lives and some prayer requests we need to be aware of.

November 14, 2013

Holiday greetings to all of you! We hope and pray that each of you is doing well and that as Christmas comes God will be near to you and you will see his dear presence and blessings in your life.

Our news is sad and happy at the same time. Jen's grandfather, whose health has been declining over the last year fell a few weeks back, declined quickly and passed away on October 31st. We were all able to be with him during his last few days. The two weeks in September when Jen was with him (caring for him during her uncle and aunt's break) were special times. We are very sad because we miss him so much, but are very happy for him as now he is whole again. The last days of sickness, the memorial service and burial at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio all went well. Both Jen's dad and uncle (his two sons) held up quite well during that time, but please keep them--and all of us--in your prayers especially over the next weeks and months as his absence is more keenly felt as various events come to pass (reading of the will, Thanksgiving and Christmas, etc.).

This event also delays our return to Ghana. Our preparations for leaving (Jen's school work, buying the next years' school books for the kids, packing, etc.) had to be put on hold. We need to be here with Jen's dad through Christmas; we will delay our return until mid-January.

However, there are several aspects of our work in Ghana that need attention before the end of the year, so I (Paul) am making a quick trip there over these next two weeks. I will see all of the Safaliba translation and literacy team-members, greet the family of Amaaliya to remember his passing in June, equip some of the translators with more functional computers, and do some translation checking. Please keep me and our family in your prayers over the next two to three weeks as I travel to Ghana and back and as they remain here. Each of the kids has expressed their desire to go back too.

Thank you to all of you who have been praying. We could feel your prayers and appreciate them more than you will ever know. Please continue to keep us in your prayers during this on-going transition time of Paul (briefly) in Ghana, as well as trying to help family members through the grieving process and getting all of us ready to go back to Ghana.

Thanks so much for partnering with us! Prayers and blessings on you and your families,

Paul and Jen
Caleb, Micah, Josiah and Sarah



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

2013

Remember each other in daily prayer.

The Epistle 4

Epistle 5

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal Carol Orvig The Buuck's	2 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Vanessa, Valerie, Jimmy & Jason	3 Burdle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	4 Darrell & Sharon Ingnum Tom & Lois Harmon	5 Eric & Erin McGinnis Ashlee & Michael Gary & Linda Simons Rachel	6 Nadine Dawn Ariel, Leah, Aeris & Benjamin Gary & Nita Malone	7 Winifred Cook Andrew Watts Josue & Alan Peralta
8 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andres & Rachelle Morgan Hall Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	9 Donna To Carol McKinney Dudley Austin Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene	10 John Alsop Bob Moore Jim & Andrene Hull	11 Eddie & Darlene Coyaud Barbara Notari Eugene & Armelia Jumperson	12 Paul & Claudia Griffith Adelma & Edelmita Ruiz Boyd Roberts	13 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Mickey & Betty Jespersen Albert & Sara Teel	14 Miguel & Fanny Pantloza George & Mary Hunter Pat Spurr
15 Evelyn Pike The Schaefer's Bill & Vangie Jackson Connie Steger Roy & Wendy Jensen	16 Jim & Pam Lloyd Christy Coward Brandon Nicole Martinez Sheri Trask	17 Dick & Nancy Bergman Jack & Diane Pegues Leo & Marlene Skinner	18 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Ben & Blake Paul & Helen Barton	19 David Hertenstein Evelyn Jim & Janet Stahl Julia McConnell	20 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Julia McConnell	21 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Wanda Shipman
22 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Charles Tyer	23 Steve & Marna Bayless Don & Edie Burquest Ruth Yingst	24 Irving & Peggy Kezar Angel, Brandon, Cyleigh, Devon, & Elyssa	25 Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Sam & Charlotte Fithian Steve Nemiss	26 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Billie Coward	27 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Doris Metzger	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew
29 Larry & Margaret Lewis Malcolm Perrault	30 Joan Brown Bob Harrison Keith & Gail Haynes	31				

December 2013

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 9:15 AM Sunday School	2 Christmas Angel Gifts Due 5:15 PM Diaconia Meeting	3	4 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Advent Storytelling Series 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	6	7 1:00 PM Choir Performance at Oak Franklin 6:00 PM Christmas Auction & Spaghetti Dinner hosted by PW
Admin Sandy Gaskins on Vacation						
8 10:30 AM Worship & Carols 9:15 AM Sunday School	9	10	11 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Advent Storytelling Series 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Children's Christmas Musical Rehearsal 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 7:30 PM Berea Women's Fellowship	13	14 11:45 AM - 2:15 PM Children's Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal w/ lunch
15 Staff Gifts Due 9:45 AM Final Rehearsal for Christmas Musical 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship and "Beneath the Shining Star" Children's Christmas Musical	16	17	18 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Choir Christmas Party at The Bayless'	19 6:30 PM Session/Deacon Party at Oak Gathies	20	21
22 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 - 9:00 pm Christmas on the Lawn 9:15 AM Sunday School	23 The Sandwich Project ----- Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless.	24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 <i>Christmas Day Office Closed</i>	26	27	28
				Pastor Ginger on Vacation Admin Sandy Gaskins on Vacation		
29 <i>Roberto Polanco Sunday</i> 10:30 AM Worship Christmas Carol Sing	30	31 <i>New Year's Eve</i>	<div> <div> Nov 2003 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 </div> <div> Jan 2004 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 31 </div> </div>			
Pastor Ginger on Vacation Admin Sandy Gaskins on Vacation						

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2013

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

December 1	Greeters:	Vanessa Cordova, Jason Cordova
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
	Communion Servers:	Steve Bayless, Marna Bayless, Adelmo Ruiz, Nancy Bergman, Irving Kezar, Sandy Gaskins
December 8	Greeters:	Janet Stahl, Jocelyn Bolles
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers:	Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner
December 15	Greeters:	Jaime & Lorraine Cordova
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Nursery Volunteer:	Anna Murphy
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Brenda Everett
December 22	Greeters:	Billie Cowand, Leo Skinner
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Erin McGinnis
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
December 24	Communion Servers:	Dub Guthrie
December 29	Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
	Ushers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

January 2014

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

January 5	Greeters:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Valerie Cordova
	Tellers:	Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner
	Communion Servers:	Steve Bayless, Erin McGinnis, Jack Pegues, Sharon Ingram, Darrell Ingram, Doris Metzger
January 12	Greeters:	Wendy Jensen, Donna To
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Brenda Everett
January 19	Greeters:	Darlene Cowand, Anna Murphy
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
January 26	Greeters:	Eddie Cowand, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Anna Murphy
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

December 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.

Darrell Ingram December 4	Darlene Cowand December 25
Eddie Everett December 21	Joan Brown December 26
Valerie Cordova December 22	Lucy Russell December 26
Dean Hertenstein December 22	Janet Stahl December 28
Betty Jespersen December 24	



	Receipts	Expenditures
October 2013	\$35,123	\$20,704
YTD 2013	\$230,025	\$210,311
Total Annual Budget:		\$240,342

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 — 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group — 6:00 p.m.