



December

First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

From Pastor Ginger Hertenstein

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

Matthew Lee,
Choir Director

Jeff Thorpe
Youth Director

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Susan Murphy
Nursery

Why God? Often you hear conversation surrounding that question. It might be "Why, God?" as if asking why did this or that happen; perhaps in response to that common, unanswered query regarding an adverse circumstance. Or, it might be "Why God?" as in *why should I think about the need for God?* The season of Advent poses this question to us, and as we ponder its answer, hopefully each of us can respond with a well-reasoned argument about "Why God!" that is, "Here's why I believe God is valuable and vital to the good life."

Advent, by its definition means coming, arrival, official visit. In ancient Greek culture the *parousia* of a ruler meant preparing flattering speeches, improving the streets, golden wreaths, giving money, making things magnificent. People anticipated this very special event because it was a ray of hope for those in need. People waited, but not idly, because of the great honor of their king's visitation. As Christians waiting for our King, we know we are to do exactly the same. Are you prepared?

To begin, it seems best to consider just who our king is. Paul tells us He is "the image of God, who cannot be seen," and that God was pleased to fully

dwell in our King so that we can see what He is like. Our King is all powerful; having created this world for us, he continues to hold it together. He also holds the church together. He makes us secure before God and presents you to God—together, whole, and holy so that you have complete peace with God. It's a gift, and who would not want to cling to a wonderful gift like that? We learn more and more about this gift as we remain actively steadfast and not shifting from the hope He promises.

Why God? How about if you write out a little something and we post it on our FPCD Facebook? That could be our gift to Him this year, and our answers to the question "Why God!" Many people need that ray of hope, and you are just the person to share it!

Happy Advent,

Pastor Ginger



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An Update from Paul and Jennifer Schaefer

Dear friends,

Since we returned to Ghana we seen two major advances: setting up a Safaliba reading program for public schools in Mandari, and the recording of gospel songs in the traditional Safaliba musical styles. Along with this, work on Bible translation and Safaliba literacy classes continues.

God arranged a meeting with an American professor of Bilingual Education who had worked in Ghana. He came to Mandari to meet with the teachers in the Mandari schools and we did some example lessons in the classrooms using Safaliba to teach reading. The teachers became convinced that Safaliba would benefit the children.

Such a reading program requires materials and training, so Paul has been working with Eden and others to create a set of child-oriented reading books which the teachers use to teach 1st graders how to read and write Safaliba. The book for the first school term has been completed, and printed. Please pray as Paul meets with the teachers to introduce the book, plan for its use and for the success of this literacy effort. If all Safaliba children actually learn to read Safaliba in school, then not only will they do better in learning English and going further in their education, but they will also be able to read the translated Scriptures.

Another major milestone has been the performance and recording of songs based on the scriptures, sung in the traditional Safaliba music style and performed with their traditional horns and drums. One of the barriers to evangelization of the Safaliba people has been that the churches rarely use traditional music styles and never use traditional instruments, creating the impression that Christianity is only for those who are ready to learn a foreign style of music. Music has a powerful effect, and when people realize that they can worship God with their own music it can almost be as revolutionary as worshiping in their own language.

Again God brought together key people for this project. A young pastor, David, was urged by one of the older Safaliba Christians to write songs using the traditional style. But the results still sounded foreign. Then Eden and David listened to a cassette of scripture songs which had been recorded for a neighboring language group many years ago. Paul asked Eden to play the music for Eden's father (a village elder and renowned singer in the traditional style as well as the chief drummer of Mandari). He also explained that we would like to use the Safaliba Scriptures to compose songs using their traditional music style and instruments.

About a week later, unexpectedly, the group (mostly older Safaliba men) said we should come and hear a rehearsal. It was amazing. There were about 10 people, playing horns (real antelope's horns), drums and other percussion instruments. Eden's father started singing a song about Jesus. These older men were not Christian, but the music was beautiful and a small crowd gathered to enjoy it. Eden then went through some scriptures that we had translated. A couple of weeks later at the recording studio at the Wycliffe office in Tamale we recorded an hour of Safaliba Christian music. On the day of recording we had the opportunity to talk with these older Safaliba musicians about Jesus and what it means to be a Christian. It was the first time these older people have been able to ask questions about Christianity and realize that it is not all about foreign music and customs. Since we returned to Mandari these men have continued to meet and are eager to continue to compose songs based on the Scriptures.

Paul has now edited the sound recordings and set them up to be played on the Saber Audio Players used for playing recorded scriptures. The songs can also be stored and played on many of the mobile phones that people have. Please pray that these songs would draw people to God.

Thank you for all your prayers and encouragement. Just as each member of the body is needed for the building up of the body, so this translation task is a group, joint effort. Thank you for your part in all of this!

In Christ,
Paul and Jen, Caleb, Micah, Josiah and Sarah





Cook's Corner

This month, Edelmira Ruiz shares with us her delicious recipe for Colombian Chicken Pie. The Ruiz's love this dish and it is a Sunday favorite. Enjoy!

Colombian Chicken Pie

This recipe is for 12 persons but you can make in half.

4 chicken breasts
6 cups mozzarella cheese grated
10 small eggs or 8 large eggs
1 tsp of capers
1 cup of peppers, $\frac{1}{2}$ red and $\frac{1}{2}$ green
 $\frac{1}{2}$ stalk of celery
1 cup of chopped mushrooms
Garlic, thyme, bay leaves, salt and pepper to taste.

Cook chicken breasts with the spices in 4 cups of water, remove the chicken from the water where it cooked and set apart. Save the remaining water.

When the chicken is cool you start to shred it in small pieces. Then in a bowl beat the eggs, add the mozzarella cheese, the peppers, the shredded breasts, capers chopped, the celery.

Strained the broth where the chicken was cooked and take 1 cup and dissolve 2 tablespoons of flour. Mix everything well and then put it in a large pyrex baking dish.

Preheat the oven 350 F. Bake the pie covered with aluminum foil for 20 minutes, then remove the foil and bake it for other 25 minutes until is done and golden.

I baked and leave it overnight, the next day I warm it and it tastes better.

Enjoy it !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Edelmira Ruiz

Children's Christmas Program

Our children will present a Christmas musical entitled *Away in a Manger*, A Simple Christmas Musical for Kids by Rhonda Frazier on Sunday, December 14, during the worship service.

Songs include *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, *Silent Night!* *Holy Night!*, *Away in a Manger*, *Angels We Have Heard on High*, *Good Christian Men Rejoice*, and many others.

Please join us and support our youth!

A Christmas Celebration

The First Presbyterian Church Choir joined by the Duncanville Community Choir will present *A Christmas Celebration* on **Sunday, December 21, at 4 pm**, in the FPCD sanctuary, under the direction of Matthew Lee.

This free event will be a fun filled evening packed with a variety of sacred and secular music.

Childcare is available during the performance, and refreshments will be served afterwards in the Fellowship Hall.

PW Women

Sarah Circle will meet December 11 at 7:30 in the home of Marna Bayless 836 Glen Oaks Boulevard, Dallas.

Agape Women's Circle will meet on Thursday December 11 at 11:30 am for lunch at Bakery on the Hill in Uptown Village Shopping Center. After lunch we will take our personally selected desserts to the home of Billie Cowand. Bring an uplifting or humorous poem, verse, or Bible reading to share, if you like.



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR December 2014

Remember each other in daily prayer.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal Bill & Vangie Jackson	2 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Vanessa, Valerie, Jimmy & Jason	3 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dorothy Cleary Ruth Yingst	4 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	5 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah, Aeris & Benjamin	6 Charles Tyer Jim & Pam Loyd Wanda Shipman
7 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	8 Mignel & Fanny Penaloza Susan Murphy Anna Murphy	9 John Alsop Joan Brown Julia McConnell	10 Winifred Cook Larry & Margaret Lewis	11 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Sam & Charlotte Fithian	12 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Leo & Marlene Skinner	13 Gary & Linda Simons Albert & Sara Teel Dick & Nancy Bergman
14 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee	15 David Hertenstein Evelyn Eddie & Darlene Cowand	16 Steve Netmiss Dave & Jocelyn Bolles Pat Sparr	17 Eric & Erin McGinnis Ashlee & Michael Mickey & Betty Jespersen	18 Paul & Jen Schaefer Caleb, Micah, Josiah, & Sarah	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen The Bunck's George & Mary Huttar	20 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Jack & Diane Pegues
21 Billie Cowand Gary & Nita Malone Barbara Notari	22 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	23 Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Morgan Hall	24 Irving & Peggy Kezar Angel, Brandon, Cyleigh, Devon, & Elyssa	25 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Paul & Helen Barton	26 Connie Steger Keith & Gail Haynes Dudley Austin	27 Doris Metzger Carol McKinney Tom & Lois Harmon
28 Steve & Marna Bayless Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant	29 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	30 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	31 Bob Harrison Darrell & Sharon Ingram			

December 2014

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	1 5:15 PM Deacons Meeting	2 2:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group	3 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Children's Musical Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	5	6 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM Children's Musical Rehearsal 1:00 PM Choir Performance at Ben Franklin 6:00 PM Christmas Auction & Spaghetti Dinner hosted by PW																																																																																											
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 6:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Rehearsal	8	9	10 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Children's Musical Rehearsal 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 11:30 AM Agape Women's Fellowship @ Restaurant TBA 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	12	13 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Children's Musical Dress Rehearsal																																																																																											
14 8:45 AM Final Rehearsal for Christmas Musical 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Christmas Musical 6:00 PM FBC Community Christmas Celebration	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM Choir Christmas Party at The Bayless'	18 6:30 PM Session/Deacon Party	19	20																																																																																											
21 4:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Concert 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	22 The Sandwich Project ----- Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless 6:00 - 9:00 pm Christmas on the Lawn	23	24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Christmas Day Office Closed	26 Office Closed Admin Sandy Gaskins on Vacation	27																																																																																											
28 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Help Support Duncanville Outreach — Bring non-parishable items to donate	29	30	31 New Year's Eve	<div> <div>Nov 2014</div> <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> <div>Jan 2015</div> <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>31</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	31
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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2014

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

December 7

Greeters: Eddie Cowand, Doris Metzger
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Nursery Volunteer: Sydney Russell
Tellers: Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner
Communion Servers: Scott Hartless, Lori Glover, Irving Kezar
Sandy Gaskins, Sean Russell, Edelmira Ruiz

December 14

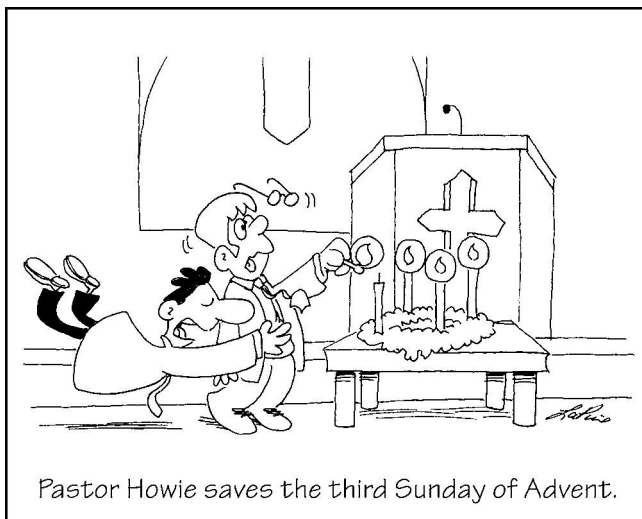
Greeters: Jocelyn Bolles, Janet Stahl
Ushers: Eddie Cowand, Dub Guthrie
Nursery Volunteer: Darlene Cowand
Tellers: Lori Glover, Brenda Everett

December 21

Greeters: Vanessa Cordova, Jason Cordova
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Nursery Volunteer: Jocelyn Bolles
Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

December 28

Greeters: Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Nursery Volunteer: Anna Murphy
Tellers: Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis



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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.

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



	Receipts	Expenditures
October 2014	\$ 21,379	\$ 19,566
Year-to-Date	\$187,310	\$180,394
2014 Total Annual Budget:		\$243,607
Budget per month		\$ 20,301