



# First Presbyterian Church

## EPISTLE

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

### *From your Pastor, Dr. 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. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,**  
Pastor

**Sandy Gaskins,**  
Admin Asst/Bookkeeper

**Vanessa Cordova**  
Interim Youth Director

**Nyadia Thorpe,**  
Choir Director

**Brittany Tucker,**  
Accompanist

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz & Tricia Reiman**  
Nursery

This fall's Conversation with God was all about prayer. We looked at Scriptures involving prayers when in trouble, prayers of gratitude, what we can pray about (anything), and how to allow prayer to decrease our anxiety. When it comes right down to it, prayer is a major part of the Christian faith.

Prayer reflects intimacy and love. Think of the very best, most rewarding relationship you have. Isn't that good relationship one in which you can be totally honest, and you feel safe doing so? We may not even agree with that person all the time—but we can talk about it. God gives us the opportunity to have that kind of relationship with Him through prayer.

We can talk to God because we are God's beloved. So the door is open at all times. When something is overwhelming you, lay it out to God. If you want to take on a new challenge, ask God for help. If you are struggling with something sinful, ask God to give you victory. If you need to forgive, ask Jesus to show you how. If God seems too big, talk to Jesus or the Holy Spirit. Sit in your favorite room. Envision Jesus there, like the man in the picture in my office.

Tell Him what is on your mind and feel the love and attention that the Father, Son, and Spirit wish to lavish upon you. You belong to Jesus as a marriage partner. Lean on the loyalty God has toward you. Be loyal back.

At this very special time of year, God's love is tangibly expressed so that we can see it most clearly. Let that expression of God's best gift (Jesus) motivate you to gratitude and trust. You are not going through a single day alone. There is nothing in your life that is too big for your loving heavenly Father and His faithful Messiah to handle. Prayer will change you. So get going! Unpack the best gift. It belongs to you.

Merry Christmas!

*Pastor Ginger*



#### *Inside . . .*

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### *Mission News*

November 2015, little city in East Asia

Dear friends at FPCD,

We hope that this finds you well and rejoicing in all of God's daily goodnesses. Thank you for your faithful and continued partnership with us over the years. God has been active in the "Zee" mountains around us as well as in our own hearts.

The Zee church continues to grow, now reaching out to people around them and telling them stories about God. Our kids too are deepening and growing up. They are all in high school now (homeschooled): Dale is a senior, Eva, a junior and Andrew Gary, a freshman. We are thankful for so many things. Here are some:

- A box of apples from a friendly neighbor
- The easy camaraderie of Dale and his dad, trouble shooting computer problems over the dinner table
- The sunrise from behind the mountains out our windows
- Energy and interesting work to do
- Gary's kindness towards his mother
- Dennis thoughtfully remembering to pick up eggs we need
- A visa granted for another year
- Evelyn playing piano to accompany our family devotions
- Sitting under good teaching by a Zee brother Sunday mornings
- God's presence with me so that I am never alone

Please remember the Zee, that the church leaders would continue to walk uprightly, humbly and care for the flock under them. Ask too for endurance and confidence as the Zee believers choose to live according to God's values which often are in opposition to the culture around them. An especially challenging aspect is marriage patterns. And pray for our family as well. Ask that Dale and Eva would have peaceful hearts to hear God's voice as they choose a new road ahead away from us (College? GAP year? Work? Where?), and that Dennis and I would have grace as we shepherd our kids into adulthood, knowing that they don't belong to us but are in Father's hands.

Under the Mercy,

*Dennis and Susan Walters*



*Pictures of our family taken from the roof of our building.*



# Celebrate CHRISTMAS

December 4, 2015—Duncanville's Christmas Parade, 7:00 pm  
 December 5, 2015—FPCD Choir preforms at Ben Franklin, 1:00 pm  
 December 13, 2015—Christmas Cantata & Children's Program  
 "The Silence and the Sound", 10:30 am  
 December 20, 2015—Christmas on the Lawn, 6:00-8:00 pm  
 December 24, 2015—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30 pm

## Christmas on the Lawn

December 20, 6:00 & 7:00 pm



First Presbyterian Church, 543 E. Freeman St., Duncanville, TX

Enjoy hot chocolate & fellowship, watch and listen to the story of the Nativity!

### Duncanville Outreach Ministry (DOM) Fundraiser Results

As our fundraising efforts for Duncanville Outreach Ministry came to a close on November 15, Pastor Ginger happily shared with us that we received almost \$60,000 for the DOM. Anita Davis later shared with us that that number rose to a little over \$70,000.

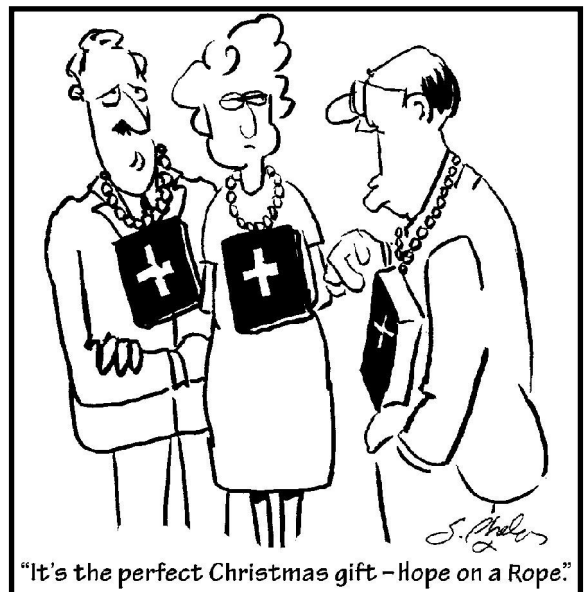
Here is an excerpt from Pastor Ginger's update:

"I can't help but remember our Community Conversations; about how Nehemiah's rebuilding his city included caring about the needs of the poor. You have rallied to the call! Your generous care will be felt throughout this community, especially during this holiday season. What a blessing for our citizens who are in need.

Thank you to everyone who gave, and to Anita Davis who joined me in this effort. I applaud her desire to "feed people" (and so much more!), and her skill at carrying it out. Your support makes it possible."



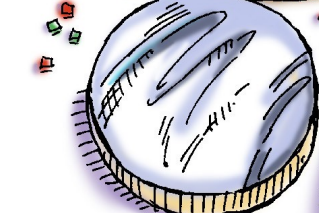
God is good, all the time!

I MAY NOT BE A "WISE MAN," BUT AT  
 LEAST I NEVER GOT SO LOST I HAD TO ASK  
 HEROD FOR DIRECTIONS.





1



Makes about 40 reindeer cookies.

# FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

December

2015

REMEMBER EACH OTHER IN DAILY PRAYER

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



# December 2015

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<div> <div>Nov 2015</div> <table> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr> <td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr> <td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr> <td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></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						<b>1</b> 6:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>2</b> 11:00 AM Agape Women's Fellowship @ Connie Steger's 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>3</b> 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM City of Duncanville Parade & Christmas Tree Lighting	<b>5</b> 1:00 PM Choir Performance at Ben Franklin 6:00 PM Christmas Auction & Spaghetti Dinner hosted by PW							
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<b>6</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion	<b>7</b> 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering - Location TBD 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Stated Presbyterian Meeting - St. Stephens Ft. Worth 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>																																																	
<b>13</b> 2:00 PM Christmas Cantata Performance at Grace Pres Village 4:00 PM FPCD Choir Christmas Party 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Christmas Cantata "The Silence & the Sound"	<b>14</b> 1:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group	<b>15</b> Newsletter Articles Due	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM Session/Deacon Christmas Party	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>																																																	
<b>20</b> 6:00 PM Christmas on the Lawn 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Service	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Office Closed	<b>26</b>																																																	
<b>27</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>28</b> <div>The Sandwich Project</div> <div>Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve	<div> <div>Jan 2016</div> <table> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></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	31						
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		Admin Sandy Gaskins on Vacation																																																					



## **WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**December 2015**

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

### DECEMBER 6

Greeters: Eddie Cowand, Doris Metzger  
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Albert Teel  
Nursery Overseer: Anna Murphy  
Tellers: Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner  
Communion Servers: Adelmo Ruiz, Erin McGinnis  
Jack Pegues, Doris Metzger  
Leo Skinner, Jocelyn Bolles

### DECEMBER 13

Greeters: Vanessa Cordova, Jason Cordova  
Ushers: Eddie Cowand, Dub Guthrie  
Nursery Overseer: Susan Murphy  
Tellers: Lori Glover, Brenda Everett

### DECEMBER 20

Greeters: Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz  
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues  
Nursery Overseer: Erin McGinnis  
Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

### DECEMBER 27

Greeters: Billie Cowand, Leo Skinner  
Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues  
Nursery Overseer: Darlene Cowand  
Tellers: Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

Merry  
Christmas



— 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

## WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

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

## 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

## 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	



## 2015 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
October	\$13,197	\$22,837
Jan - Oct 2015	\$190,696	\$186,929