



# First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

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

## *From Session*

### ***Take Time to be a Blessing!***

It's that time of year for me when things start getting extremely busy. After school rehearsals, building sets for upcoming shows, "busing" kids to and from practices, getting this article turned in on time. I could go on and on. I'm sure many of you could add to my list. With January in our rear view mirror there seems to be no slowing down in February. As things continue to speed up I can't help but think of the newsletter articles my former pastor, Chuck Miller, would write for his church in Kingsville. He could relate God's Word to the smallest everyday thing that many of us in our haste tend to overlook. So, as we take care of our responsibilities at work and home, in our ever more fast paced lives, remember to take time and pause for a few moments to recognize God's blessings around us. Who knows, you may see an opportunity to be that small blessing for someone else.



*Your elder,*  
  
*Sean Russell*

### **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

#### ***Inside . . .***

2 – News from Worship  
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Finances

Thank you to all who purchased Poinsettia for Advent. Troop 493 sold 200 plants, allowing scouts to raise \$950.00 for their upcoming scouting activities (monthly campouts or summer camp). Don't forget, Scouting for Food is in February. Watch for scouts to be out collecting non-perishable food items to benefit DOM.

We appreciate your support  
Scouts and Leaders  
Troop 493



### **Volunteers needed**



As most of you know, we have 3-4 little ones in our nursery most every Sunday. While we do have a paid staff person, with 4 children under the age of 4, the nursery can be a pretty active place....especially when we have infants and active toddlers. Currently there are only 5 volunteers to assist our attendant during the worship hour.

To allow our volunteers to participate in worship services more frequently, we'd like to add more volunteers to the roster. It's a fun way to get to know our little ones and see them grow and develop. We are an equal opportunity staff, women and men both allowed. We do request youth be at least 16.

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact Anna Murphy or Sandy Gaskins



## 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. They write:*

Thank-you for praying for us and our family, and for the Safaliba Bible translation work. Our news is sad and happy at the same time. Jen's grandfather, whose health had been declining over the last year fell, declined quickly and passed away on October 31. We were all able to be with him during his last few days. They 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.

Because we have been in the States longer than expected, Paul went back to Ghana in November. While he was gone, Jennifer had some serious gall-bladder symptoms. She had been having these off and on for a couple of months. Additional tests in December showed that her gall-bladder was not functioning well and the doctor advised that she have it removed before we return to Ghana. This outpatient surgery was scheduled for Monday morning, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Please keep Jen in your prayers as she recovers. We plan, if there are no complications, to return to Ghana in February.

Checking scripture for publication was Paul's focus while he was in Ghana. Philippians, Titus, and Philemon were all checked and published as scripture booklets. We reprinted Joseph (Genesis 37-50) which had gone out of print and was requested by the literacy classes. We thank God that our remaining Safaliba co-workers are all well, though we all feel the loss of Amaaliya (our senior translator who passed away in June). Paul also set up computers for two of the Safaliba translators, Pastor Nicholas Awusi and Eden Kosiaku. It has been very convenient to be able to keep in touch with Eden by email, and as Nicholas practices more computer skills this will also be helpful to the work. Paul was in Tamale much of the time he was in Ghana but he was also able to make several trips to Mandari. It was good to visit with all our Safaliba co-workers, including Elisha Dari, still recovering from a serious motorcycle accident in late 2012. Praise God he can now walk without crutches! It was also good to visit with the literacy teachers in Mandari and see where they have started some new classes.

Also please pray for Sarah who broke her arm; she is doing fine with a pretty pink cast, which comes off on February 13th. Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we prepare to return to Ghana in February. Thanks so much for your prayers and partnering with us! We also pray for you.

*Paul and Jen*

*Caleb, Micah, Josiah and Sarah*

Translating the Bible for the Safaliba people of Northern Ghana



Putting together the Titus and Philemon booklet after it was checked and approved for publication; we had collated the pages for the booklets, and in this picture Pastor Nicholas is stapling the completed booklets.



One of the literacy teachers is the sister of the late translator Amaaliya, and she had started a new learning group and they had constructed a blackboard on a house wall for her to use in teaching the class.



Philippians booklet, together with a calendar we printed featuring pictures of the literacy classes in the villages of Gbenfu and Nsunua; the Safaliba people go by a lunar calendar, so our calendar marks each new moon and names the Safaliba month for each "moon" in addition to the normal western calendar (this helps them to know how to plan because there are a number of local activities which follow the lunar months still).

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## FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR 2014

Remember each other in daily prayer.

### The Epistle 4

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



# February 2014

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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2 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	3 5:15 PM Deacons Meeting	4 2:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group	5 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 7:00 PM Community Leaders Conversation Group	7	8																																																																																											
9 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	10	11 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	12 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 7:00 PM Community Leaders Conversation Group 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	14 	15 Newsletter Articles Due 6:30 PM Valentine Dinner—Youth Fundraiser																																																																																											
16 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck	17 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting	18	19 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20 7:00 PM Community Leaders Conversation Group	21	22																																																																																											
23 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Help Support Duncanville Outreach Bring non-parishable items to donate	24 The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless 6:30 PM Session Meeting	25	26 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	27 7:00 PM Community Leaders Conversation Group	28 Presbytery Meeting—Binnerri Presbyterian, Richardson																																																																																												

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

**February 2014**

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

February 2	Greeters:	Vanessa Cordova, Jason Cordova
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Erin McGinnis
	Tellers:	Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner
	Communion Servers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Jocelyn Bolles, Dub Guthrie, Brenda Everett, Leo Skinner, Nancy Bergman
February 9	Greeters:	Jocelyn Bolles, Janet Stahl
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Brenda Everett
February 16	Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Nursery Volunteer:	Valerie Cordova
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
February 23	Greeters:	Billie Cowand, Leo Skinner
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
January 26	Greeters:	Eddie Cowand, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Nursery Volunteer:	Anna Murphy
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis



### *Ladies Circle News*



Ladies of the Agape Circle will meet on Thursday February 13 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Vangie Jackson will lead us in our continuing study of Exodus and Deuteronomy, and Billie will provide refreshments. All ladies and their friends are welcome to join us.



Sarah Circle will meet on Thursday, February 13 at 7:30 pm in the home of Diane Pegues, 302 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville.



*Connie and Joan*



## *Youth News*

As you might know, our Youth Group is hosting a Valentine's Day Dinner and a Movie Fundraiser event on February 15th at 6:30pm! We know you'll love it, and we'd love for you to attend. This year tickets are being sold to the event through our Youth Students. Our students will sell the tickets after the services on Sundays and will have a booth set up for you all to purchase tickets. Feel free to donate to this event if this is something you would like to contribute to. It is through this fundraiser that we are able to take our students on a trip to downtown Dallas for a Mission trip where they learn more about our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Youth Group schedule is all but planned for much of the 2014 year. We look forward to once again attending Planet Wisdom in February as well as the Stewpot in Downtown Dallas during the summer. During the month of January and February, we will be doing a study on the Bible. We'll be exploring the nature of the Bible, how to read the Bible, and then we'll trace some exciting topics.

Sincerely,

*Youth Pastor Steve*

## February 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](mailto:info@fpcd.org). Thank you.

Carol McKinney February 4  
 Christy Cowand February 6  
 Triston Russell February 8  
 Helen Barton February 10  
 Billie Cowand February 10  
 Ann Reed February 11  
 Paul Griffith February 12  
 Leo Skinner February 15  
 Claudia Griffith February 16  
 Erin McGinnis February 21  
 Susan Walters February 22  
 Nadine Daum February 23  
 Morgan Hall February 24  
 Gary Simons February 26  
 Madison Douglas February 27



	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
December 2013	\$14,108	\$27,750
YTD 2013	\$256,465	\$257,811
2013 Total Annual Budget:		\$243,607

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group  
 — 6:00 p.m.