



# First Presbyterian Church

## EPISTLE

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

### *From Your Session*

#### **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

**Jeffrey Thorpe**  
Youth Director

**Nyadia Thorpe,**  
Choir Director

**Brittany Tucker,**  
Accompanist

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**  
Nursery

### **Have You Been Blessed Lately?**

Have you been blessed lately? God is in the blessing business and He wants to bless you! The Bible tells us we can be and are blessed when we serve others and care for the weak. At the Last Supper, Jesus washed the disciples' feet as an example for them to follow in serving others and humbling themselves. And He told them that they, and by extension, we, will be blessed when we do that. King David said that we will be blessed when we have "regard for the weak" (Sharon's translation - help those who need our help). Do you want to be blessed?

with certain people at certain times for a purpose. He wants us to bless others so He can bless us.

If God has put some act of service on your heart, then go, perform that service and bless someone! If you don't know how or where you can serve, then look at our church's wish list in this newsletter or look around your neighborhood and community. Pray about how you can serve and then do it. Be a blessing to others and be blessed.

If we are to be the hands and feet of Jesus here on earth, we better get serving. Don't miss your chance to serve and be blessed!

If you see or sense a need, don't just talk about it, go out and meet that need. If you see someone in need or some service that needs to be performed, don't wait for someone else to take care of it, do it and you will be blessed. God places us in situations and circumstances

Your fellow servant,

*Sharon Ingram*



#### *Inside . . .*

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- 9 - March Birthdays, Finances

### 2015 Volunteer Opportunities & Wish List

#### **Various Ministries**

Teach or assist with Sunday School  
Nursery volunteer (looking for 3-4 volunteers)  
Prepare & Serve Youth Dinners  
Serve as Youth advisor (assist Youth Director)  
Assist with preparing Conversation with God dinners  
Usher (4 teams to serve 1 time a month-looking for at least 3 volunteers)

#### **Website**

Sound room assistance (talk with Sean Russell)  
Lemonade on the Lawn team (Jocelyn Bolles)  
Take non-perishable foods items to DOM monthly  
Communion preparer (looking for 1-2 persons)

#### **Assist with plays** (Lent & Advent)

**Festival of Hope** (initial planning meeting tentatively scheduled for mid-April)

**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** (more info coming)

#### **Church work room (office)**

Donate a locking 4 drawer cabinet or purchase & replace locks for current ones  
Replace Administrative Assistant's chair

#### **Youth Director/Music Director Office**

Assist Jeff & Nyadia

**Library** - Contact Doris Metzger for any needs/wants

#### **Middle/High School Sunday School room**

Remove television & wall bracket or purchase & install VCR/DVD

#### **Intermediate (grade 5 & 6) Sunday School room**

Affix 2 partial ceiling tiles  
Contact Linda Simons for any additional needs/wants

#### **Elementary Class**

Replace bathroom floor tile  
Contact Diane Pegues & Margaret Lewis for additional needs/wants

#### **Primary Class**

Organize closet  
Replace bathroom floor tile  
Contact Marna Bayless for additional needs & wants

#### **Nursery**

Ask Nursery staff (Ana) if she has any needs/wants - with property team approval  
Repair or replace audio hook up from sanctuary (so services can be heard in nursery)

#### **The "Closet"-Youth activity room**

Organize TV Trolley-hook up TV up to antenna  
Create display panels for pictures & teaching items  
Contact Jeff Thorpe or Lori Glover for other needs/wants

**Playground** - Update equipment

#### **Kitchen**

Organize & label kitchen cabinets/drawers  
Purchase new kitchen cook ware (pots & pans), pitchers, serving trays coffee urns  
Purchase new trash can  
Clean out coffee pot (so that it runs faster)-needs to be done every other month  
Sharpen larger knives  
Contact Jocelyn Bolles or Deacons for wish list of specific items  
Organize coffee trolley & purchase holders for coffee condiments  
Replace large cold beverage containers

#### **Sanctuary**

Repair outside doors (so both can be opened)  
Paint baseboards in Narthex bathroom  
Refinish small table in Narthex

#### **Signage-with approval of Property Team**

Create or purchase signage for all rooms  
Design & Build directional layout of church-post near parking lot  
Purchase or build outdoor 2 directional signs for Sanctuary & 1 for Nursery

#### **Fellowship Hall**

Replace broken tables (3-4 small round)

#### **Items to be replaced**

All weather Door mats-8  
Class room trash cans-8  
Check & Replace light burned out bulbs monthly  
Small wall clocks for each room (Sunday School & office)-9 total  
Replace bathroom trash cans (with lids)  
Purchase & install toilet paper dispensers in all bathrooms to accommodate large rolls-6

#### **Grounds/exterior**

Contact Dean Hertenstein or Eric McGinnis for specific needs  
Water flower beds (check with Jocelyn Bolles for schedule)

#### **Attics**

Re-box & organize items being stored in both attics  
Repair light fixture in attic in kitchen

#### **Other**

Wash all trash cans (inside ones & outside ones) monthly

We are now on the other side of the world from you, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. You prayed for the Lord's leading and provision; we experienced His working all the way! A lot of things had to work out "just right" in order for us to arrive in time for the new school year: visas, renters for our house, enough financial partnership, airline tickets. We had a few difficulties along the way (visa documents temporarily lost, car troubles, last minute home repairs needed). Separations were difficult, too. Carlos and Rachelle left the USA ahead of Caryn, so that they could arrive in Thailand in time for school, and Caryn stayed to help AJ settle into Liberty University here. Through your giving, prayer and encouragement, the three of us are in Thailand, learning a new way of life, and AJ is adjusting to college life in Virginia.

In our new world, something as simple as grocery shopping wasn't easy at first. Driving was on the left as were the car's controls. Once there, products are only labeled in Thai. Is that picture of shampoo or conditioner? Is that brown liquid coffee or cocoa? Supermarkets are ultra-modern, two story buildings with every fruit and vegetable available. The meat selection is vast as well. We do skip the flattened pig heads!

The first months, Carlos and Caryn focused on language and culture learning. There was a lot to learn. Now Carlos has started work on his dissertation at Payap University. Caryn's latest project is making the script for Bible stories in a language in south Thailand. Rachelle bikes to and from Grace International School every day. She has great teachers and keeps busy in a lot of activities: basketball, cross-country, band and Bible study. She is learning Thai at school and has made friends with several classmates. It looks like it is going to be a good school year. AJ is learning to navigate through life on his own at college. He is officially a Sophomore now. Because of his AP classes, he will be a Junior next year, but will still be taking some prerequisites. He's glad for friends and family nearby for those times away from study.

In Niger over 60 churches were burned in mid-January; pastor's homes were also ransacked and burned. We are still processing it emotionally. Just thinking about it is painful. Niger was our home, our adopted country for many years and we weep with our brothers and sisters who have been deeply affected by these events. Every time I see a picture in the news of people who stirred up violence, I scan it closely to see if there is a picture of someone I know. Our heart goes out not only to the victims, but also to the perpetrators; many were jobless young men without much education or future. May God have mercy on them and give them a future and a hope in Christ! We always felt that we had a limited window of time in which to establish the work we were sent to do. We also had a sense that the church in Niger was poised to grow, but that it would be through persecution. We're especially thankful for the privilege of being able to continue the work in Niger from Chiang Mai.

### *Carlos and Caryn Benitez*

You can keep updated on the Benitez Blog that they add to regularly. Find it at: <http://ccbenitezen.blogspot.com/>





### ***Cook's Corner***

Here's a recipe I swiped from my daughter Natalie. This is one of our favorites that she makes for us when we visit. Hope you enjoy.

#### **Natalie's Short-Cut Chicken Tortilla Soup**

I've seen variations of this recipe using different vegetables, or little use of veggies, but I liked this one the best. But if my mama has taught me anything it's to tailor a recipe to your needs/wants so do what you want to it! Here are the no-frills shortcuts I take....

1 tablespoon or so of olive oil  
Frozen Birds-Eye recipe-Ready chopped onion & garlic (1 cup, more if you like)  
Frozen Birds-Eye Recipe-Ready fajita pepper mix (1 bag)  
Frozen Birds-Eye Recipe-Ready chopped zucchini (optional)  
4 cups Swanson Mexican Tortilla Flavor-infused Broth  
1 can tomatoes, 28 ounce with juice  
1/4 cup tomato paste  
3/4 pound shredded cooked chicken  
(I use 4 chicken breasts in one container of chicken stock, thawed and cook in crockpot night before on low 6-8 hours, or same day on high 3-4 hours, then shred and add to soup mix; or, shred a cooked store-bought rotisserie chicken which is also typically about the same price as 4 uncooked breasts, either way takes about 5 minutes of your time)

1 cup frozen corn  
1 can black beans  
salt and pepper to taste (optional)

Sauté the frozen veggies in stock pot/ soup pot over medium heat (about 10 minutes).  
Add the chicken stock, canned tomatoes with juice, tomato paste, canned beans. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes. Stir in chicken and simmer until heated through. Top with whatever - tortilla chips, broken in pieces, avocado, cheese, cilantro, etc. Total time takes about 30 minutes. Yum yum!

Borrowed from ***Natalie Everett***



## **Easter is Upon Us!**

**Please bring your egg and  
candy donations for Easter  
to the church office no  
later than March 18!**



### ***Reminder: Conversation with God***

Join us in Conversation with God on Wednesdays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25. We'll begin with dinner at 6:00 pm, and then a Lenten study from 6:30 to 7:20 pm.



*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*

## FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

# March 2015

Remember each other in daily prayer.



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



# March 2015

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																													
<b>1</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Rehearsal	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:00 PM - 7:20 PM Dinner & Conversation with God — Lenten Series 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM Stated Presbyterian Meeting - NorthPark Presbyterian Church																																																																													
<b>8</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Rehearsal	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM - 7:20 PM Dinner & Conversation with God — Lenten Series 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering - Location TBD 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>																																																																													
<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Newsletter Articles Due	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Rehearsal	<b>17</b> 2:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group	<b>18</b> 6:00 PM - 7:20 PM Dinner & Conversation with God — Lenten Series 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>																																																																													
<b>22</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Rehearsal The Sandwich Project ----- Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 6:00 PM - 7:20 PM Dinner & Conversation with God — Lenten Series 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering - Location TBD 6:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>																																																																													
<b>29</b> <i>Palm Sunday</i> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Help Support Duncanville Outreach — Bring non-parishable items to donate	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Duncanville Community Chorus Rehearsal	<b>31</b>	<div> <div>Feb 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>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> </table> </div> <div> <div>Apr 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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</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	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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## WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2015  
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

### MARCH 1

Greeters: Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz  
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues  
Nursery Volunteer: Sydney Russell  
Tellers: Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner  
Communion Servers: Jaime Cordova, Doris Metzger,  
Dave Bolles, Jocelyn Bolles,  
Dick Bergman, Brenda Everett

### MARCH 8

Greeters: Billie Cowand, Leo Skinner  
Ushers: Eddie Cowand, Dub Guthrie  
Nursery Volunteer: Darlene Cowand  
Tellers: Lori Glover, Brenda Everett

### MARCH 15

Greeters: Jaime & Lorraine Cordova  
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues  
Nursery Volunteer: Jocelyn Bolles  
Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

### MARCH 22

Greeters: Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson  
Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues  
Nursery Volunteer: Anna Murphy  
Tellers: Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

### MARCH 29

Greeters: Wendy Jensen, Donna To  
Ushers: Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues  
Nursery Volunteer: Susan Murphy  
Tellers: Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner



**YOUTH GROUP** — 6:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE**

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

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**543 EAST FREEMAN STREET**  
**DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116**  
**(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312**  
**info@fpd.org**  
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## March 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@fpd.org. Thank you.

Evelyn Pike, March 1	Vangie Jackson, March 12
Bobby Reed, March 2	Pat Sparr, March 12
George Huttar, March 3	Jossue Peralta, March 14
Dennis Walters, March 3	Dudley Austin, March 17
Jimmy Cordova, March 4	Dick Bergman, March 23
David Gaskins, March 5	Evelyn Hertenstein, March 24
Irving Kezar, March 5	Christopher Eugene Davis, March 25
Paul Barton, March 8	Tom Harmon, March 27
Nancy Bergman, March 9	Erin McGinnis, March 29
Blake Gaskins, March 9	Michael McGinnis, March 29
Roy Jensen, March 10	Carol Orwig, March 31



### 2015 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
January 2015	\$11,861	\$20,208