

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

# First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

May 2011

Vol. 19, No. 5

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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### **CHURCH STAFF:**

**Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,**  
Pastor

**Sandy Gaskins,**  
Administrative  
Assistant/Bookkeeper

**Steve Netniss,**  
Youth Pastor

**Andrew Dittman,**  
Choir Director

**Deborah Titus,**  
Accompanist

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Each week staff members of the church review the activities and services of the past week. We ask ourselves what went really well. As we talked about the services the week after Holy Week, all of us were awed at what God accomplished at FPCD. God has been so good to us! Nearly 100% of you participated in making the events of Lent and Holy Week a success. That means whether you took an active role or came and enjoyed the various events, as individuals and as a church we were 100% blessed. Certainly I was blessed by each and every one of you.

Not only were we blessed, but we reached out and blessed the community. Many of you invited guests and they came and heard the good news as portrayed through your vision and talents. I was in awe standing outside around the cross on Maundy Thursday evening, knowing that you were the ones who sang about the story; you enacted the story; you built the cross; and you planted the beautiful flowers. You created the posters and flyers; operated the lights and sound; and filled the sanctuary with enthusiasm. The organ, piano, and string instruments magnificently led us in worship each service, as did the beautiful PowerPoint art.

All these things worked to portray a story of love and destiny as our Lord committed Himself to giving the awesome gift of life to His children. We don't always understand how the cross works, we just trust in God's plan. We lean on God's faithfulness. We know God is good – all the time. Overall, the services vividly portrayed the great depth of His love for us.

As my family and I arrived early Sunday morning in the dark, while we were a ways off, we could see the tower with its big cross, all lit up. As tears came to my eyes it meant to me a symbol of what we have become. Each of you is truly a light to others around you, reflecting the light of Christ within you. You fan that light into flames when you draw close to God. You did that during The Conversation and each week as you participated in prayer, Sunday School, enjoyed wonderful meals served by loving hands, partook in communion, and worshiped. The light cannot be overcome. Let us walk in that light together and continue to let it shine brightly.

Blessings,

Ginger



# Words from Worship

Thank you to everyone for participating in our Lenten and Easter activities:

Ash Wednesday services  
Lenten study dinners  
Palm Sunday activities  
Maundy Thursday Drama  
Good Friday Prayer Vigil & Service  
Easter Sunday activities

Activities don't just happen, it takes planning and participation from many. As always, we had many hands making the work light. We appreciate all your hard work.

(Easter season began on Easter Sunday and continues for forty days, ending with Ascension Day on Thursday, June 2—and ten days later, on Sunday June 12, seven weeks after Easter Sunday, it's Pentecost.—"the Church's Birthday"!)

## Symbols of our Faith

A leaning cross like an "X" is called St. Andrew's Cross. Tradition says the apostle Andrew died on this form of cross, requesting that he be crucified on a cross unlike that of his Lord. This cross is the national cross of Scotland.



## Bible Quiz

After the Resurrection, two of Jesus' friends went into the temple in Jerusalem to pray. Before entering the house of worship, they saw a crippled man begging for money from those passing by. Peter had not worked for a while, and his purse was empty. Nevertheless, he felt sorry for the man and said to him, "I have no silver or gold, but what I have, I give you..." (Acts 3:6 NRSV).

Peter also spoke one of the lines below. What did he say (the answer is in the verse just quoted)?—

- A. "Take this bread and eat it."
- B. "In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk."
- C. "I can't offer you healing, but I will pray for you in the temple."



## BIRTHDAYS

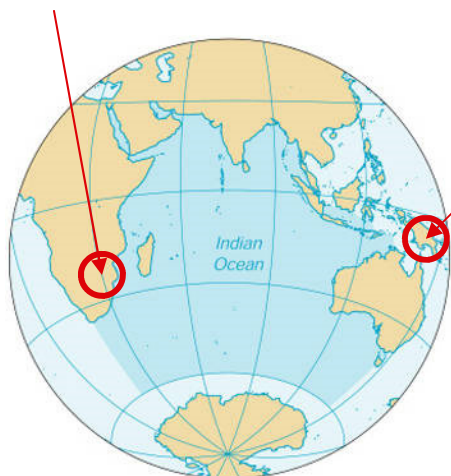
Lord, teach us to number our days!

Sam Fithian—5/5  
Steve Bayless—5/7  
Sarah Teel—5/9  
Lucy Russell—5/13  
Marna Bayless—5/22  
Andrew Walters—5/22  
Catherine Eagle—5/28  
Alexander Gaskins—5/31

If you think we might not have a record of your birthday and you would like us to include it in the "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact the office (972) 298-3043. Thank you.

## Missions News

Our missionary friends – Jim and Janet Stahl – have been off again to far parts of the world to train groups in Biblical story telling—they have just returned from Johannesburg, South Africa where they were training groups that want to learn to tell Biblical stories well. Before they left, we appreciated Jan's sharing a story during a recent worship service .



Their previous trip included stops in Australia and Papua New Guinea. Not only are they leading workshops where Christians are learning to tell stories, but they are showing new staff how to train other groups using this method so even more communities will be reached. A professional film crew visited and recorded several interviews and scenes to relate

what oral Bible storytelling looks like in PNG. And an audio recording crew came to record the stories throughout the workshop time.

Jan told us how Rufus, one of the storytellers, was awakened in the middle of the night by his nephew who asked that he re-tell his story to his friends. When Rufus came to tell the story he found sixty-nine friends of his nephew waiting. They listened and many of them, his nephew as well, started to attend church.

At times it is the students who minister to the missionaries. Here is a portion of Stahls' last newsletter:

"Once in Papua New Guinea the group was telling the story of Jesus' trial before Pilate from Mark 15. The story teller Meya remarked that what struck him when telling this story was that Jesus was very capable of defending himself orally, but chose to remain silent, showing that he chose to accept what was laid before him. That idea had struck me, Jim, when I heard Meya tell the story. We had recently been reading Frederick Buechner's book *Telling the Truth*, in which he talks about Jesus stating the truth in silence. Hearing this story told orally spoke to us of the impact of Jesus' silence. Faced with silence, Buechner says, compels the listener to look deeper for the truth.



"This is amazing work! Thanks for your prayers and support that make it possible for us to do it."

Jim & Janet

## From Our Youth

The Youth Group would like to welcome Darrin to our church! Please welcome him and show him how much of a loving church we are.

We are gearing up for our July Mission trip with Tom Wylie's group. His group will be coming from Idaho and we will need to make arrangements for their transportation and sleeping bags (that way they don't have to bring their own sleeping bags).

This year the students and leaders took Lent extra seriously. The goal was to die to things which aren't providing life so that we could REALLY live. We begin Youth by talking about how we are struggling through Lent. We talk about how well we have done without having what we each chose to give up.

In April we went to the movies and watched "Soul Surfer", a film the Youth Group and leaders found very uplifting, inspirational and moving. It tells the story of a girl who loses an arm in a shark attack, but still accomplishes her dream of becoming a Pro-Surfer. Oftentimes it is easy even for students to feel like they are at a disadvantage for one reason or another. The beautiful thing about this movie is that it reminded us that God is bigger than our circumstances.

We appreciate all the volunteers we have had over the past few weeks! If you have not volunteered yet, we would love to have you. George Huttar and Savannah Teel have been joining us more often and that has been WONDERFUL! More male volunteers are needed, but we will have anyone who is willing to come! If you would like to be a volunteer for our Youth, please contact Steve Netniss.

Once Resurrection day is over, we will be full-steam ahead for a wet summer. We are hoping to have a pool party every week throughout the summer. This will only be possible if the congregation allows us to use their home/pool. Please let us know if you have a pool and would be up for giving us a place to have amazing fellowship.

*Allison Jackson & Steve Netniss*



### March 2010

7 March – 87  
14 March – 77  
21 March – 71  
28 March – 90

### March 2011

6 March – 83  
\*9 March – 43  
13 March – 74  
20 March – 83  
27 March – 93  
\*Ash Wednesday

### March 2011

**Receipts**  
\$13,454

YTD income:  
YTD expenditures  
Total Annual Budget:  
\*This includes memorial giving.

Deficit

**Expenditures**  
\$17,599

\*\$49,315  
\$70,115  
\$218,200

**\$20,800**

## Presbyterian Women News

**PW Circle Gatherings** are on Thursday, May 12. We continue through the 2010-1022 *Horizons Bible study, Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*. Newcomers are always welcome!

Agape Circle will meet at **1 p.m.** at the home of Mary Huttar, 206 Merribrook Trail, Duncanville. We will be studying lesson 8.

Sarah Circle will meet at **7:30 p.m.** at the home of Joan Brown, 810 Rock Canyon Drive, Duncanville (with Nancy Bergman as co-hostess). We will be studying lesson 9.

**May 1—Plant & Bake Sale!**

### WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

May 2011 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

	<b>May 1</b>	<b>May 8</b>
Greeters:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson	Donna To, Wendy Jensen
Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues	Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
Liturgist:	Tom Harmon	Joan Brown
Children's Church:	Sandy Gaskins	Sharon Ingram
Nursery Volunteer:	Joan Brown	Anna Murphy
Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
Communion Servers:	Jack Pegues, Helen Barton, Leo Skinner Jocelyn Bolles, Darrell Ingram, Mary Huttar	

	<b>May 15</b>	<b>May 22</b>
Greeters:	Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy	Mickey & Betty Jespersen
Ushers:	Albert Teel, Bob Moore	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	Darrell Ingram	Doris Metzger
Children's Church:	Kathleen Hartless	Savannah Baker-Teel
Nursery Volunteer:	Gail Haynes	Sydney Russell
Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon

#### May 29

Greeters:	Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary
Ushers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	Dave Bolles
Children's Church:	Margaret Lewis
Nursery Volunteer:	Susan & Evelyn Walters
Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown



May 2011						
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 12:00 PM Community Church Planting - Armstrong Park 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study PW Spring Bide & Plant Sale	<b>2</b> 4:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>12</b> 1:00 PM Agape Circle 7:30 PM Sarah Circle	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study <b>FOOD SUNDAY</b> Newsletter Deadline	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 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 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Session/Leadership Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	<b>30</b> <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> <b>Office Closed</b>	<b>31</b>	<div> <div>           Apr 2011            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>           Jun 2011            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>			

Preschool & Elementary Christian Education, continued from p. 8



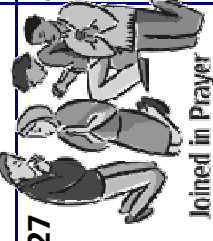
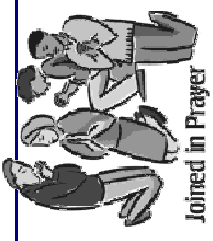


### Caterpillar and Butterfly sightings



The class was first introduced to our caterpillars on March 27. With the help of friends of the church, Wanda and J Rubrecht, we were able to secure about eight very young, very hungry Question Mark caterpillars and three older ones. The older ones quickly entered the pupa stage where they stayed about two weeks. On April 10th the class released the older butterflies out in the playground area. That Sunday was also the Sunday that the children practiced bells and played, "Seek Ye First" during the Worship service with the choir.

# FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR ~ MAY 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
<b>1</b> Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	<b>2</b> Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Lenora Dalton	<b>3</b> Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs, Colvin & Georgia Burle Murphy	<b>4</b> Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	<b>5</b> Jim & Pam Loyd Paul & Helen Barton Reid Bunger	<b>6</b> Eddie & Darlene Cowand Christy Cowand Brandon Pat Sparr	<b>7</b> Albert & Sarah Teel Savannah Bob & Liz Moore Gail Haynes
<b>8</b> Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal Leo & Marlene Skinner	<b>9</b> Eunice Pike Robert & Catherine Eagle David Hertenstein Evelyn	<b>10</b> Nadine AbuMarkhia Ariel & Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman Darrin Williams	<b>11</b> Malcolm Perrault James & Beth Ann Black Jack & Diane Pegues Anthony Jennings	<b>12</b> Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	<b>13</b> Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	<b>14</b> Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant Steve Netniss John Alsop
<b>15</b> Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen Winfred Cook	<b>16</b> David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Tom & Lois Harmon	<b>17</b> Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee	<b>18</b> Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Bob & Nancy Harrison	<b>19</b> Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica	<b>20</b> Stan & June West Sara & Matthew Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Ruth Yingst	<b>21</b> Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless Donna To
<b>22</b> Jim & Janet Stahl Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons	<b>23</b> Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers	<b>24</b> Carol Orwig Billie Cowand Doris Metzger Joan Brown	<b>25</b> Don & Sheri Trask Jim & Andrene Hull	<b>26</b> David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden, Beau	<b>27</b> Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	<b>28</b> Andrew & Ashley Dittman Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie
<b>29</b> Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather	<b>30</b> Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Connie Steger					
						

## SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education  
Worship Service  
Youth Group  
— 9:15 a.m.  
— 10:30 a.m.  
— 4:30-6:00 p.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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*8 The Epistle*

## **Pre-school and Elementary Christian Education**

In March & April the children learned about the Parable of the Seeds, led by Diane Pegues, the Story of Jesus and Peter walking on water, led by Linda Simons, and the Palm Sunday entry into Jerusalem, taught by Connie Steger. You can see some of the children's work on the bulletin board by the church office.

On April 17th with Connie Steger's help, the children experienced the events of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem on the first Palm Sunday. They entered the sanctuary waving palm branches as the choir sang. The younger class led by Marna Bayless and Susan Murphy sang, played a game, made a graham cracker creation and watched a video of the Palm Sunday story. The pre-schoolers also were part of the Palm Sunday Procession. We released three more butterflies (**see p. 6**).



On April 24, the children celebrated Easter with an Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Deacons and had activities in the classroom supportive of the Easter story. They met and petted "Honey" an Italian breed of floppy-eared rabbit.

**Coming up:** Plans are being made to have Mothers and Grandmothers join their children and play the bells on Mother's Day, May 8th.

*...more on p. 6*