

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

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

May 2012

Vol. 20 , 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

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Susan Murphy,
Nursery

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From our Elders

Did you ever get asked to go somewhere or do something and have to decline due to a commitment to something happening at the church? Sometimes this will lead to a little teasing about being “holier than thou” or being “sanctimonious” or worse yet being “religious”. How do you respond? In the past I heard myself saying things like “I’m not religious. I mean, I can’t quote chapter and verse of the Bible!” Or worse yet, I would make excuses like “well you know the wife is very active in the church and she has a lot of friends there and wants to participate.” Not very faithful responses, are they! Some people try to avoid being labeled “Religious”.

I said in the past, I oftentimes responded in such a manner--but not any more. Over the past five years I have seen too many wondrous things transpire within FPCD. I have become better equipped to pray silently and out loud. I have learned to become more trusting in the Lord. More trusting in my faith that I will have the answers when asked: why I have to go to church or choir practice? I try now to speak of my commitment to the Lord and his work. I tell my friends how much I enjoy the fellowship of the congregation. How much I really do enjoy singing, in spite of my limited talent. I now use this time to share the feeling of calmness I experience when leading the congregation as the Liturgist. I tell them how much closer I feel to all of you when participating in serving Communion. Now I use this opportunity to invite them to worship with me. To see and hear first hand what makes our congregation and church so special. The music program, the story telling, the children’s time and the wonderful messages Ginger shares with us each Sunday.

It has taken me a while but I have learned to turn teasing into a time of Evangelism. And while I have had only limited success I will continue to “Connect with God and share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the community”.

God Bless,

Dave Bolles
Elder



Words from Worship

Acts 1:3 tells us, “During the forty days after his crucifixion, he appeared to the apostles from time to time, and he proved to them in many ways that he was actually alive. And he talked to them about the Kingdom of God.”

Counting Easter Sunday as Day 1, we count 40 to get to **Ascension Day, Thursday, May 10**. Then 10 more days brings us to **Pentecost Sunday, May 20**. Most of us are more familiar with the significance for us of **Pentecost**, when God’s Spirit was given to his people and displayed his power through an amazing multilingual proclamation of the Good News about the risen Jesus. What about Jesus’ **ascension**?*



Jesus’ ascension gives us **hope**:

- as his resurrection set the pattern for our eventual resurrection, so his glorification after obedient emptying and humbling set the pattern for our eventual glorification.
- his departure was not an abandonment: not only has he sent his Spirit to us, but he has also promised to be with us always.
- he values us so highly that he has given us the privilege—and commandment—to carry out the job he began, of discipling all nations to follow him.
- for us to become like him and lead others to become like him (discipling), he has given us abundant resources:
 - o the Holy Spirit of God himself
 - o gifts for building us up and maturing us
 - o his present work as our sympathetic, understanding high priest
- we have confidence as we come to God in prayer in all our needs
- we have confidence that he will come again for us, and that all the things that trouble his creation in which we now live—poverty, corruption, pollution, injustice of all kinds—will finally be set right, and all will acknowledge his supreme authority, wisdom, justice and love.

Meanwhile, we have much to go through—like our example, we have to learn obedience through the things which we suffer—whether bereavement, illness, academic challenges, hunger, financial stress,...Amidst all this, let us hold on to the message of **hope** given us in Jesus’ ascending to his father, our father.

George Huttar

*Besides Acts 1:1-12, see Luke 24:50-53, Matthew 28:16-20, John 14:15-31. John 16:7, Hebrews 2:5-8, Ephesians 4:7-16, Hebrews 4:14-16.

BIRTHDAYS

Lord, teach us to number our days!

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.

Sam Fithian—5/5
Steve Bayless—5/7
Sarah Teel—5/9
Lucy Russell—5/13
Marna Bayless—5/22
Andrew Walters—5/22
Winifred Cook—5/27
Catherine Eagle—5/28
Alexander Gaskins—5/31

Missions News

From the Liddles

Dear FPCD Family,



Viele Grüße aus Deutschland! (Greetings from Germany!) We've been here for eight months and are feeling at home in Niederdresselndorf. Our apartment is located "downtown," as David jokes, not far from the main intersection of the village. But we look out on tree-covered hills, and in less than 5 minutes we can be on hiking trails that lead into them. We feel blessed to be living in a place we would gladly come to on vacation. We miss you all, and our other Texas friends, but not the Texas climate or landscape!

David enjoys his work fixing computers, managing networks and generally keeping technology functioning well for Wycliffe's "Europe Area." His office is a mile and a half away, in the next village along this scenic valley. His workplace, though, extends from Finland to South Africa, and Portugal to Central Asia. Please pray for wisdom in his current project – choosing a new phone system for the local office.



The boys are doing wonderfully in German elementary school. Thank you for your prayers for them. They are both speaking the language almost like little locals and happily engaged in schoolwork, sports, and of course lots of play. The highlight of their recent experience, though, was a family vacation to Legoland in Bavaria. Even David called it "a dream come true."

Now that we are well settled, I (Katherine) have recently taken on the job of Prayer Coordinator for Wycliffe Europe Area. My primary responsibility is gathering prayer requests from all over the continent and writing them up for publication on Wycliffe's World Prayer Network. Go to www.wycliffe.net and click on the 'Prayer' tab to see examples of the kind of thing I'm doing. And while you're there, take 5 minutes to read and pray for Bible translation around the world!

Love,

Katherine, David, Jonathan & Caleb
Liddle



From Our Youth



Highschooler Madison Douglas writes,

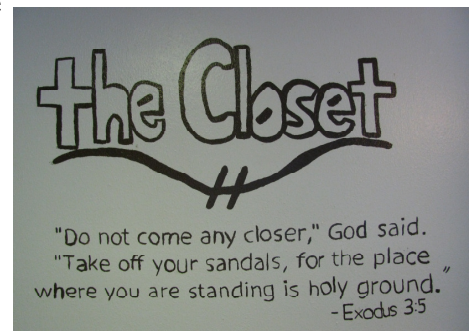
"The FPCD youth group recently finished redecorating their youth room, aka 'The Closet.'* The theme for the renovations was 'Creation, Fall, Recreation.' This motif was chosen because it is one of the recurring messages during Wednesday night youth. The biblical theme was interpreted into three different pictures. Creation was illustrated as a pair of hands holding a growing plant. These hands can represent any person who is following God, or God's hands. As we all know, not everything could stay perfect and everything started to go wrong. The youth group drew a tree being struck by lightning to represent this madness. Recreation came in place of all the bad and things began to come back together. Instead of drawing Jesus dying on the cross, they drew a beautiful tree with a cross carved into its trunk. The sun is shining on the tree, representing the beautiful nature of the world being better than ever. From being very patriotic to a great and inspirational theme from the Bible, the new youth room can now represent the whole story of the Bible."



*Steve Netniss sez, "I bet you are wondering how we got the name, 'the Closet.' Initially we chose the name because it is laid back, hip and youth friendly. One of our students (Lucy Russell) came up with the name and it stuck - but it has become so much more than just a cool name. In the book of Exodus a man named Moses is in a desert in the middle of nowhere. In Moses' day God was thought to dwell primarily in temples. Huge temples were built to honor deities because that was the only place the gods felt worthy to make their presence known. But the God of Moses did something interesting: he appeared to Moses in the form of a burning bush in the middle of nowhere... a desert of all places.

"In Exodus 3:5 we hear God say to Moses, "take off your sandals for this is holy ground." We at the youth group acknowledge that somewhere as feeble and plain as a closet can be holy ground.

(continued on p. 5)



WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**May 2012 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE**

	May 6	May 13
Greeters:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues	Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
Liturgist:	Adelmo Ruiz	Dub Guthrie
Children's Church:	Anna Murphy	Sharon Ingram
Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand	Lois Harmon
Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
Communion Servers:	Dave Bolles, Lori Glover, Steve Bayless, Anna Murphy, Dub Guthrie, & Diane Pegues	

	May 20	May 27
Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
Ushers:	Albert Teel, Bob Moore	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	Lori Glover	Leo Skinner
Children's Church:	Teresa Reed	Kathleen Hartless
Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles	Anna Murphy
Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

(continued from p. 4)

"That God, yes, even God could choose to make himself known in our little youth room at our weekly meetings.

"Highschoolers tend to graduate high school and never come back to church again. They think church was something they had to do because of their parents and that God wasn't interested in what would happen to them next. Having a group name like, "The Closet" and basing that name in a biblical idea will help the students not only while they are in high school but even after they graduate and are sitting in university classes which many would consider unholy ground. Please stop in and we would love to tell you more about our youth group. We are currently in need of male and female leaders who want to serve jr. high and high school aged students. Please reach out to our youth—you can start by contacting me.

"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."

*Grace & Peace,**Pastor Steve*

Presbyterian Women News

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GROUPS IN MAY—We're continuing our study of the Beatitudes. Come and be blessed.

Thursday, May 10 is the day you are invited to come to one of these groups.

Agape Women's Fellowship will meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Lois Harmon, 207 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville.

Sara Women's Fellowship will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jocelyn Bolles, 619 Athenia Way, Duncanville.

Here's a recent posting about Sureste Theological Seminary (see February newsletter, p. 6), which our Presbyterian Women are making their special mission project in 2012.—supported through, among other things, our April 29 Plant and Bake Sale:

The Presbyterian Church is growing very rapidly in Tabasco, Mexico. The population of the state of Tabasco is predominantly Protestant. The entire country is about 70% Catholic. Currently, there are about 1,000 churches in the Tabasco Synod area; however, they only have about 200 trained pastors to serve these churches. Many pastors are responsible for 10 to 12 churches.

Sureste Theological Seminary in Villahermosa, Tabasco is helping to train young men and women from the villages. After they are trained, they return to their homes as pastors and evangelists. Graduates from the seminary are filling many open positions. The Outreach Foundation was one of the initiators of this important, multi-year project.



In the year 2000, the seminary moved from a small site within the city of Villahermosa to the new site. This enabled the seminary to increase enrollment from 25 to the current student body of 75. Contributions through The Outreach Foundation enabled the seminary to complete the first stage of construction which included: a large chapel that will seat 1,500; three housing units for the president of the seminary, the administrator, and a guest house; a large water cistern, storage building, and two large two story dormitory buildings....

Because of the limited facilities, many qualified students previously had to be turned away. There is now a great need for scholarships and other forms of financial aid so that the seminary can expand the student body.

http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=212:sureste-presbyterian-theological-seminary



March 2011

6 March – 83
13 March – 74
20 March – 83
27 March – 93

Average - 83

March 2012

4 March – 88
11 March – 91
18 March – 80
25 March – 84

Average - 86



March 2012

Receipts

\$28,104

YTD income:

YTD expenditures

Total Annual Budget:

*This includes memorial giving.

YTD income less expenditures

Expenditures

\$17,512

***\$ 63,996**

\$ 59,058


\$225,810

\$4,938



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

May 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
		1 Andrew & Ashley Dittman Winfred Cook Charles & Laura Tyer	2 Paul & Helen Barton Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton Ruth Yingst	4 Joan Brown Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Liam Schuster	5 Don & Sheri Trask Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan
6 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	7 Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn	8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	9 Nadine Markhia Leah & Ariel Dick & Nancy Bergman Carol McKinney	10 Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau, & Blake Malcolm Perrault	11 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Miguel & Fanny Peñaloza	12 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal
13 Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Bob & Liz Moore	14 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netmiss Anthony Jennings	15 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	16 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Reid & Betty Bunger	17 ASCENSION DAY Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon Mike Bacon	18 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Barbara Notari	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle The Schaefers
20 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Allison Jackson	21 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Deborah Titus	22 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	23 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand	24 Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Gary & Linda Simons Rachel	25 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	26 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes
27 PENTECOST Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 James & Beth Ann Black Larry & Margaret Lewis	30 Eric & Erin McGinnis, Michael Andrew Watts	31 Jaime & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy & Jason, Darius & Deanna Monsegue		

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

8 The Epistle

GILMONT SUMMER CAMP

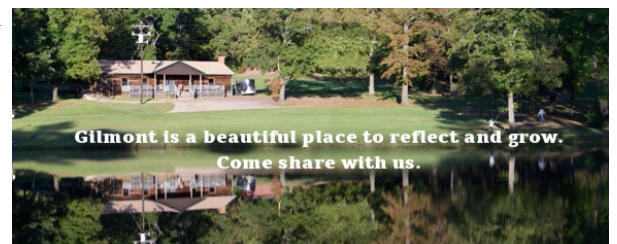
As you know from our April 15 morning worship and from our April newsletter, six of our youngsters, and their sponsor Sean Russell, participated in KidQuake at Camp Gilmont, April 20-22. Here's more about this summer's opportunities at Gilmont, from the camp's office:

"Summer will be here before you know it! We are preparing some great fun for children and youth in the beautiful forest of East Texas at Gilmont. Send a child, who will then...experience spiritual growth, share in community, explore a special place in nature, and share God's love by serving others.

"Each year we select a theme to guide activities, Bible study and small group conversations. Jesus used story-telling to teach his disciples –and campers– about what it means to live in God's kingdom. These stories are called parables. Together we will look to the Master Storyteller, Jesus himself, to discover a new parable each day at camp and to seek out the lesson to be learned through these sacred stories.

"Make a difference in the life of a child, grandchild, or scholarship a child from your community. Gilmont Summer Camp – a place to learn, serve and grow in relationship with Christ and in a community.

"Visit www.campgilmont.org SUMMER CAMP or call [903-797-6400](tel:903-797-6400) to find out more, scholarship a camper, or register."



May 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																										
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6 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 12:00 PM Community Church Picnic - Armstrong Park 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Confirmation Class	7 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	8	9 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 1:00 PM Agape Women's Study 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Study <i>Ascension Day</i>	11	12																																										
13 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Confirmation Class	14	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 6:30 PM Session Meeting	18	19																																										
20 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Confirmation Class ** Food Sunday ** <i>Pentecost Sunday</i>	21 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting	22	23 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26																																										
27 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Confirmation Class Graduate reception	28 <i>Memorial Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i> Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre	29	30 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	31	<div> <div>Jun 2012</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>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> </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
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From our Deacons

Although the Deacons will be on summer hiatus as far as our frequency of meetings goes, we want you to know we are always "in house" for your needs and concerns. Please contact your Deacon if you or someone you know has an illness, is in the hospital or desires prayer. If you are unsure whom to call, please contact the office (972-298-3043) and talk to Sandy Gaskins. Thank you and

The DeCongo Life Team wants to remind everyone that it is Springtime and that's **Ranger Baseball** time. Start planning now for the forthcoming ticket sale for a June ? date to be announced. It will be a Wednesday night, dollar hot dog night and the tickets will be \$11.00.



Lemonade-on-the-Lawn



Lemonade-on-the-Lawn is back in business beginning Sunday, April 29. You can help by signing up to bring items such as cookies, brownies, ice, etc., or by helping with set-up, serving and/or clean-up. Supplies of lemonade mix, plates, cups, etc., are provided. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. This year, once a month we will celebrate birthdays of the month, beginning in May, by having a special treat.

Thanks for your support.

It's **graduation** time! On **Sunday, May 27**, we'll be recognizing our high school and college graduates with a **reception** in Fellowship Hall **after morning worship**. Be there—support our grads! (And stick with them in prayer, from now through graduation and beyond.)



Moving Pictures (where have they been moved to?)

We are missing two framed, scenic prints (10" X 14" perhaps?) which hung in the entranceway to the ladies' room in Fellowship Hall. They may have been taken down (to keep them from being knocked off the wall) when something was either removed from or placed into the attic. If you know where they are, please let us know and we'll put them back in place. Thank you.