

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

# First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

July 2012

Vol. 20, No. 7

## **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  
Sound Room Technician

### **From our Elders**

At the beginning of each session meeting, we have a scripture lesson. We look at what the lesson means to us and how it might apply to us and to the church. In March of this year we studied the account in Numbers of God directing Moses to send 12 spies into Canaan to report on the land and the people. When they returned they all told of what a beautiful, fruitful place it was. Two said although the people were large they could defeat them. The other ten said there was no way they could defeat such giants. The Israelites were ready to return to Egypt. It is hard to believe that after all God had done for them they thought that he would abandon them just before they reached the Promised Land.

We saw a similarity to our church. About 5 years ago we were at a low point. We had lost several members and many remaining were pessimistic about the future. We had enough money to possibly survive two more years. We considered yoking with another church to cut expenses by sharing a pastor. At a congregational meeting, most spoke against this and some suggested we should consider closing the church at that time.

After the meeting we began to make some changes that not everyone was in agreement with. We went through a time without a pastor, then a period of a stated supply. Although we still have a lot of work to do, things are much better today. We have an optimistic congregation, moderate growth, and a better financial situation. We feel that God has brought us through because he has a purpose for our church.

In late 2010, the session approved a budget for 2011 that was going to be difficult to meet. With the help of a \$38,000 grant from Presbytery (Money donated to Presbytery with stipulation it be given to our church.) we met our goal. If we operated as good business people we should have lowered our income portion of the budget for 2012. We felt now was not the time to cut back. If we don't get enough money through Presbytery, God will have to provide it another way. More than one person has asked me what we plan to do if we don't meet our income goals. It might be comforting to some of you if I told you we had a plan for that. But I'm not, because we don't. It may make many uncomfortable that we have a budget that may be difficult to achieve, no plan if we don't achieve it, and are striving to follow God even though we don't know where we are headed. It's good to be uncomfortable. When a difficult task makes us uncomfortable we realize our need to rely on God. When we face a difficult task and rely on God is when we grow both individually and as a group. The advice of one pastor for those facing a difficult task was "Pray like it all depends on God and work like it all depends on you." We ask that you would pray with us and work with us as we strive to fulfill God's purpose.

*Dub Guthrie*

Elder

### *Inside . . .*

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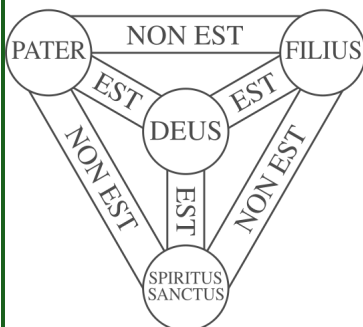
# Words from Worship

We're now in "Trinity", that long season between Pentecost (this year, May 27) and Advent (this year, it starts on December 2) that closes the church year. As Christians we are thoroughly committed to the uniqueness of God: there is only one God, not two or three or thousands—a belief we share with other monotheistic faiths, like Judaism (from which we inherited it) and Islam. But we also recognize that God speaks about Himself in the Bible as a unity characterized by relationship, by diversity—expressed most often with the names Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. There is nothing in the rest of our experience exactly like this complex unity, so even our most helpful analogies inevitably fall short.

When we proclaim our faith together by reciting the Apostle's Creed or the Nicene Creed, we proclaim our faith that God is one, and that He reveals Himself to us in diverse "persons". Since the 6th century Christians have also used the Athanasian Creed, most of which is a more detailed attempt to lay out the nature of our Three-in-One God, and in particular the union of divine and human natures in Jesus. Hammered out in the context of conflicting philosophies and theologies, it uses some terms (like "essence", and even "person") in ways other than our common use of these terms today. But it still states clearly our understanding of what the Bible teaches us about the nature of God:

*...we worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in Unity; Neither confounding the Persons; nor dividing the Essence. For there is one Person of the Father; another of the Son; and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, is all one; the Glory equal, the Majesty coeternal. Such as the Father is; such is the Son; and such is the Holy Ghost. The Father uncreated; the Son uncreated; and the Holy Ghost uncreated. The Father unlimited; the Son unlimited; and the Holy Ghost unlimited. The Father eternal; the Son eternal; and the Holy Ghost eternal. And yet they are not three eternals; but one eternal. As also there are not three uncreated; nor three infinities, but one uncreated; and one infinite. So likewise the Father is Almighty; the Son Almighty; and the Holy Ghost Almighty. And yet they are not three Almighties; but one Almighty. So the Father is God; the Son is God; and the Holy Ghost is God. And yet they are not three Gods; but one God. So likewise the Father is Lord; the Son Lord; and the Holy Ghost Lord. And yet not three Lords; but one Lord.....the whole three Persons are coeternal, and coequal. So that in all things, as aforesaid; the Unity in Trinity, and the Trinity in Unity, is to be worshipped. He therefore that will be saved, let him thus think of the Trinity.*

*Furthermore it is necessary to everlasting salvation; that he also believe faithfully the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. For the right Faith is, that we believe and confess; that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is God and Man; God, of the Essence of the Father; begotten before the worlds; and Man, of the Essence of his Mother, born in the world. Perfect God; and perfect Man, of a reasonable soul and human flesh subsisting. Equal to the Father, as touching his Godhead; and inferior to the Father as touching his Manhood. Who although he is God and Man; yet he is not two, but one Christ. One; not by conversion of the Godhead into flesh; but by assumption of the Manhood by God. One altogether; not by confusion of Essence; but by unity of Person. For as the reasonable soul and flesh is one man; so God and Man is one Christ; Who suffered for our salvation; descended into hell; rose again the third day from the dead. He ascended into heaven, he sits on the right hand of the God the Father Almighty, from whence he will come to judge the living and the dead.*



This visual representation of this teaching, called "the Shield of the Trinity", is based on the Athanasian Creed. The Latin reads: "The Father is God, The Son is God, The Holy Spirit is God; God is the Father, God is the Son, God is the Holy Spirit; ~~The Father~~ is not the Son, The Son is not the Father, The Father is not the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is not the Father, The Son is not the Holy Spirit, The Holy Spirit is not the Son."

(Most of the above is taken from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasian\\_Creed](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athanasian_Creed).)

## Missions News



### *175 years of Presbyterian international missions!*

This year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of international mission work by the Presbyterian Church. Even before that time Presbyterians – since the 1790s – established and supported mission societies. In 1813, the Female Missionary Society supported a traveling missionary, and the Female Domestic Missionary Society was formed three years later at Second Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia. By 1831, the Synod of Pittsburgh formed the Western Foreign Missionary Society. Finally, in 1837—exactly 175 years ago—the General Assembly agreed, at Pittsburgh’s urging, to assume the responsibilities of the society and its 44 missionaries, creating the Board of Foreign Missions.

Missionaries went into the world to preach, teach and heal in places like Brazil, Congo, Egypt, and China. Over the years, Presbyterian missionaries planted churches, built hospitals, and started schools on every continent. The seeds sown by those missionaries have, in many places, developed into self-sustaining churches and institutions now led by local Christians. In fact, more than 94 million Christians around the world came to faith through denominations that were founded or cofounded by Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) mission workers.



In the 1950s and 1960s, as those Presbyterian churches in other nations multiplied and matured, Presbyterians in the United States reshaped the church’s mission policy to work in partnership with national Christian communities and their leaders in what was previously considered “the mission field.”

Today, Presbyterian World Mission continues to send mission workers and support mission programs; nearly 200 mission co-workers in 50 countries are engaged in equally vital ministries of sharing faith and working against poverty and violence. But it is also living with the reality that mission has moved from being a two-way relationship between partner churches to being a three-way relationship among Presbyterian World Mission, global partners, and Presbyterians in the U.S. The intersection between these three groups is something we call a “community of mission practice” in which members of Christ’s Body join to do mission.

In recent decades, a seismic shift in how we understand and practice mission has led to direct involvement of Presbyterians in the U.S. at unprecedented levels. Millions of Americans participate in short-term mission trips each year. Presbyteries, congregations, and independent Presbyterian mission organizations are relating directly to national churches, presbyteries, church institutions, and individual congregations abroad. In the midst of this new chapter of mission history, Presbyterian World Mission believes the Holy Spirit is calling the church to a fuller understanding of partnership.

This information was taken from the internet site at [pcusa.org](http://pcusa.org). There you can find out more about world mission, its work and maps. Or go right to [http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/worldmission/pdfs/better\\_together - 2012 mission yearbook insert.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/worldmission/pdfs/better_together_-_2012_mission_yearbook_insert.pdf) for a good place to begin, with info on our work in Bangladesh, Kenya, Peru, Sudan, Thailand, and other countries. In the future we will also bring you more details.

## Children's Worship Ministries

### Children's Church

Thank you to everyone who has faithfully participated in teaching Children's Church for all these years. This program started about 20 years ago, as a need for our young congregants (ages 4-7 years old) to learn more about our worship together in our Sunday morning service.

As the program grew, we had 2 teachers each week, serving on a rotation of about every 3 months. Over the past couple of years, we have seen our volunteer pool drop to 1 teacher per week, serving on a rotation of every 7 weeks.

We know that families will be on vacations during the summer, so the decision has been made to give our teachers a well-deserved break, and not offer Children's Church during July and August.

Thanks to Teresa Reed, there are well stocked Pizza Boxes with activities, as well as Children's Bulletins prepared each week by Anna Murphy, that can be used by the children during worship service.



During this break, we will also take a look at updating the program.

### NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

We currently have 6 ladies that graciously assist Susan Murphy in the nursery each week during Worship. We currently have 2 active toddlers and will soon add their younger brother, as well as an infant (in the fall). We are seeking additional volunteers to assist. Ideally, we would like to have a pool of 12 volunteers, serving on a rotation of once every 3 months. If you enjoy kicking off your shoes, getting on the floor and playing with toys...this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you.



If you would like to become a part of either of these programs, please contact the church office (972-298-3043) or Anna Murphy (972-977-1172). The future of our church depends on these little ones, come be a part of their lives.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE****July 2012 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE****July 1**

Greeters: Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram  
 Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues  
 Liturgist: Joan Brown  
 Children's Church: No Children's Church  
 Nursery Volunteer: Lois Harmon  
 Tellers: Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner  
 Communion Servers: Paul Barton, Sandy Gaskins, Scott Hartless  
 Edelmira Ruiz, Jack Pegues, and Doris Metzger

**July 8**

Greeters: Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz  
 Ushers: Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand  
 Liturgist: Darrell Ingram  
 Children's Church: No Children's Church  
 Nursery Volunteer: Jocelyn Bolles  
 Tellers: Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

**July 15**

Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson  
 Albert Teel, Irving Kezar  
 Doris Metzger  
 No Children's Church  
 Anna Murphy  
 Paul Barton, Tom Harmon

**July 22**

Greeters: Donna To, Wendy Jensen  
 Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues  
 Liturgist: Dave Bolles  
 Children's Church: No Children's Church  
 Nursery Volunteer: Erin McGinnis  
 Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

**July 29**

Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger  
 Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues  
 Sean Russell  
 No Children's Church  
 Sydney Russell  
 Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

Greeters: Donna To, Wendy Jensen  
 Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues  
 Liturgist: Dave Bolles  
 Children's Church: No Children's Church

# ATTENDANCE

**May 2011**

1 May – 71  
 8 May – 93  
 15 May – 88  
 22 May – 91  
 29 May – 96

**May 2012**

6 May – 87  
 13 May – 123  
 20 May – 107  
 27 May – 103

**May 2012**

**Receipts**  
 \$13,139

**Expenditures**  
 \$18,376

YTD income:  
**YTD expenditures**

\*\$97,189  
**\$93,438**

Total Annual Budget:

\$225,810

\*This includes memorial giving.

YTD income less expenditures **\$3,751**

## Presbyterian Women News

Dispatches to God's Household  
The Bible Study Topic for Presbyterian Women this Fall

The six books of the New Testament often called the General Epistles are the topic of the Bible studies for our Women's Fellowship Groups this fall. These books--1 and 2 Peter, 1-3 John, and Jude--are known as General Epistles because they are addressed to nonspecific groups (with the exception of 2 and 3 John). In contrast are many of the books of the New Testament, such as Romans, 1 and 2 Corinthians, and Galatians, written by the Apostle Paul to specific communities.

The author of this study, Nancy Benson-Nicol, is a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA). Nancy has served as university chaplain at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas, for the past six years. Prior to this Nancy served in congregational ministries in Fayetteville, Arkansas and Ann Arbor, Michigan. She holds a master of divinity degree from Harvard Divinity School.



The author summarizes the central message of these six books: "Through the power of the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ, God calls women and men to live as sisters and brothers, serving one another in truthfulness and love as members of God's household." She continues "This message is so powerful and transformative that I would identify these letters as dispatches--a word that conveys the weight of how important the content of these letters is." Dispatches typically are short, and among the collection of letters in the New Testament, the General Epistles are the shortest in length.

For a stimulating discussion of these six books of the New Testament, and for the fun of being together, we invite each woman in our church to come to a women's fellowship group beginning the second Thursday in September, September 13! Agape Fellowship Group meets at 1 p.m. and Sarah Fellowship Group meets at 7:30 p.m.



Let Joan Brown or Lois Harmon know if you would like to order a study book. The cost will be just under nine dollars.

Meanwhile, enjoy those "lazy hazy days of summer!"

### 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.

Linda Simons –	7/2	J.R. Hartless –	7/14
Bill Jackson –	7/5	Matthew Reed –	7/14
Lois Harmon –	7/8	Savannah Baker-Teel –	7/16
Caleb Liddle –	7/8	Neal Guthrie –	7/19
Peggy Kezar –	7/10	Mickey Jespersen –	7/19
Alan Peralta –	7/10	Nicole Martinez –	7/24
Deborah Titus –	7/11	Larry Lewis –	7/28

# July 2012

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> 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> <i>Independence Day</i> <i>Office Closed</i>	<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	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship ** Food Sunday ** <b>Newsletter Articles Due</b>	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group Pool Party	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
July 15-21 Youth Mission Trip at the Stew Pot, Dallas Admin Sandy Gaskins on vacation						
<b>22</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	<b>23</b> Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
Pastor Steve on Vacation						
<b>29</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion	<b>30</b> Pastor Ginger on Vacation	<b>31</b>	<div>           Jun 2012            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>           Aug 2012            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         </div>			

## 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*

### **NEW ELDERS !**



We thank God for His guidance of our Nominating Committee and voting members in the election of Scott Hartless and Sharon Ingram as our new Elders, to serve on Session for the next three years. And we thank Sharon and Scott for their will-



**Sunday, August 5** - Please plan to stay after church for a church family lunch and baby shower for our musicians **Ashley and Andrew Dittman's baby boy**, due in September!

