

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



August 2011

Vol. 19, No. 8

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

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Accompanist

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

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From our Pastor

This summer we have been exploring what it means to be a disciple. In ancient times, people considered the cost before becoming a believer by studying what it means to belong, believe, and behave as a Christian. Sometimes their study took months, and it would culminate in baptism. For those believers it was often a life and death commitment.

Belonging, believing, and behaving connote both benefits and obligations. To be a Christian means incredible benefits. We believe in a God who overflows with love for us; who is with us faithfully. Our God is not a “fair-weather” fan who cuts us off when we fail. No way. He sticks with us like glue, training us, teaching us, helping us to grow in maturity, courage, and faith.

We understand that faith means, as the Heidelberg Catechism states: “I belong – body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ . . . that he protects me so well that without the will of my Father in heaven not a hair can fall from my head.” And, “Jesus Christ gives me the Holy Spirit and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.” (Q. 1) These are strong promises; worthy of commitment.

Our allegiance to Christ, if not life-threatening, should certainly be life-affecting. I like to see commitment (“behaving”) as freeing. I am freed from sin, free from the delusion of a materialist and self-obsessed culture, and free of the power of the evil one. Jesus Christ truly wants us to be all we can be – the unique person that He lovingly made. I can’t think of better people to be sur-

rounded by as we learn to be devoted together. Thank you for your growing commitment. It surely says volumes to others around you, who will surely be drawn to Christ because of you.



Blessings,
Ginger

Words from Worship

Symbols of our Faith

The Bible often uses seeds as symbols of faith or of God's Word. In the Old Testament, seeds also refer to offspring. Jesus said people who believe in him can perform mighty deeds with "faith the size of a mustard seed" (Luke 17:6, NRSV). Many of Jesus' teachings use seed imagery; for example, in the parable of the four soils, he said the seed, God's Word, can grow only when people hear it, "hold it fast in an honest and good heart, and bear fruit with patient endurance (Luke 8:15, NRSV).



Bible Quiz



Many people travel for leisure during the summer. In Bible days, travel was most often done out of necessity. Scripture records many notable journeys. Match the people in the left-hand column with their travels in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| A. Abraham & Sarah | 1. Traveled to visit cousin Elizabeth |
| B. Mary, Jesus' mother | 2. Traveled from Haran to Canaan |
| C. Joseph, Mary & Jesus | 3. Took missionary journeys to Turkey, Macedonia and more |
| D. Apostle Paul | 4. Traveled to Egypt to flee from King Herod |

Answers: A. 2; B. 1; C. 4; D. 3



Lord, teach us to number
our days!

Wendy Jensen 8/5
Kathleen Hartless 8/6
Sydney Russell 8/6
Ruth Yingst 8/15
Brenda Everett 8/17
Donna To 8/18
Eddie Cowand 8/20

Lori Glover 8/23
Eugene Jimmerson 8/23
Dale Walters 8/28
Scott Hartless 8/29
Doris Metzger 8/29
Boyd Roberts 8/31

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. Thank you.

Missions

Meet the Simonses

Gary and Linda Simons have been attending FPCD for about two years. You have seen them in the Sunday school classes. They are members of Wycliffe Bible Translators family includes three adult children: Anvid married to Sarah, Rachel, whom several of you know, and two arrived).



been attending FPCD for about two years. Linda also teaches in the children's choir. Linda also teaches in the children's choir. Linda also teaches in the children's choir.

Gary serves as SIL International's Chief Research Officer. He explains his job like this:

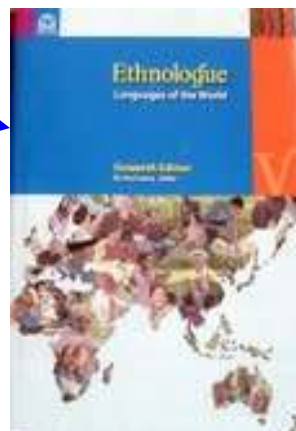
We read in Daniel 7 and Revelation 7 that Christ's Kingdom is to include people from every tribe and nation and language. Our organization believes that foundational to establishing the kingdom within any language group is having God's Word in its own language. And foundational to the work of producing the Scriptures in a language that has never had them is the research that goes into understanding the language and culture, developing a writing system, and developing the terminology for talking about Bible times and spiritual concepts. In my role as Chief Research Officer, I am overseeing our research into the situation of all 6,900 known languages of the world (as reported to the world at www.ethnologue.com), monitoring the research performance in our approximately 1,500 active Bible translation projects, and helping to launch research projects (focused on methodology) which will improve the effectiveness of our Bible translation projects."

Linda tells their abbreviated story:

Gary and I both decided, at the age of 16, that we wanted to be missionaries when we grew up. In fact, Gary claims to never have had a "real job" in his entire life!

We did our early field work in the Solomon Islands, a small island nation north of Australia and east of Papua New Guinea. We first did language survey work there, and then worked as translation advisors for a group of languages on the island of Malaita. A unique aspect of our early work was that we were the first to use a "field computer." If you ever visit Gary's office at the International Linguistics Center, ask him to show you the personal computer that was built almost before there were personal computers.

Currently, I work half time as an administrative assistant in Gary's office. I also read to Gary, who is legally blind due to a hereditary, juvenile form of macular degeneration called Stargart's disease.



From Our Youth

Did you know there has been a weekly confirmation class at FPCD over the last month? The course is called **"Bible Blast"** and it is geared toward teaching 5th graders and above about the basics of Christianity. During this class we examine issues such as: Worldviews, Monotheism, Deity of Christ, End Times and so much more. Obviously the terms we use for the class are a lot simpler and easier to understand for the students. The class is from 12 noon until 12:45 on Sundays. We usually have lunch directly after our meeting. **Please be praying for our 3 students** who have committed to completing this 8-week course. They will each have to memorize 5 Bible verses as well as the Apostles Creed in order to pass. Thank you for your support!



The Youth Group's decision to serve **hot-dogs, chips and water** at this year's **4th of July** choir concert created a wonderful opportunity for our congregation to serve and connect with the Duncanville community. The event went off without a hitch and the entire experience was better than what we had hoped for. We served well over 250 hot dogs, 300 bags of chips and way more water bottles than we could keep track of. The great thing was that many who came for the free food ended up staying for the concert as well. We were able to make connections with people who were interested in attending FPCD and had questions. My favorite part about the event was that we gave away the food and water with no questions asked. We had no agenda but only to serve the community around us. In this we were reminded of God's gracious sending of His Son Jesus. He was sent for our sake with no hidden agenda. Praise God!



This event was a team event but it wouldn't have been possible without the hard-work of Anna Murphy. She was exceptionally involved in the planning, execution and conclusion of this event. Others who helped were JR Hartless, Peggy Kezar, Anthony Jennings, Albert Teel, and the many who brought ice chests, ice and water. We hope to have a repeat performance next year. **Grace & Peace!**

Our **Dallas Mission Trip** with the Idaho Falls group went by super fast but very fun and inspirational. We would like to **thank** everyone who helped make this trip comfortable and possible for our students.

On the Mission Trip we did a lot of activities with low-income kids and people who are homeless. The first foundation we worked with was **"ELM"**—English Language Ministry. ELM provides English classes for mothers who need to learn the language; while they attended class we did crafts and games with their children. The second foundation we worked with was **Vogel Alcove**, a day care for kids who live in shelters with their parents. The parents drop their kid off at this free day care while the parent goes to work, looks for a job, or goes to interviews. The third place we went to was **Grace Presbyterian Village**, the nursing home where some of our own church family live, where we got to visit with the elderly. We also got acquainted with The Stewpot and The Bridge. **The Stewpot** is a place homeless people can go to for medical and dental care and supplies. **The Bridge** is where we served the homeless food. We also helped with the **day camp** that First Presbyterian Church Dallas hosts every summer to low-income kids.



This week was very exciting for all the leaders and students involved. All the students were inspired by all of our activities with the Dallas Mission Trip.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

August 2011
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

August 7

Greeters: Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary
 Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
 Liturgist: Darrell Ingram
 Children's Church:: Helen Barton
 Nursery Volunteer: Joan Brown
 Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
 Communion Servers: Scott Hartless, Marna Bayless,
 George Huttar, Helen Barton,
 Bob Moore, and Jocelyn Bolles

**August 14**

Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
 Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
 Doris Metzger
 Gail Haynes
 Anna Murphy
 Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

August 21

Greeters: Helen Barton, Bob Moore
 Ushers: Albert Teel, Bob Moore
 Liturgist: Dave Bolles
 Children's Church: Lori Glover
 Nursery Volunteer: Gail Haynes
 Tellers: Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

August 28

Lori Glover, Bob Harrison
 Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
 Lori Glover
 Anna Murphy
 Sydney Russell
 Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

ATTENDANCE

June 2010

6 June 78
 13 June 94
 20 June 85
 27 June 78

June 2011

5 June 86
 12 June 88
 19 June 88
 26 June 81

**June 2011****Receipts**

\$13,449

Expenditures

\$18,465

YTD income: *\$108,902

YTD expenditures \$118,262

Total Annual Budget: \$218,200

*This includes memorial giving.

Deficit <\$9,360>

Thanks, Bobby!

During Morning Worship on June 26 we got the surprise announcement: fajitas for all after the service, courtesy of Bobby and Teresa Reed! Why? They said it was to welcome Ginger back from her



study trip to England—but it was for all of us an expression of the support and love that is more and more a feature of our church family. And the fajitas and sides were delicious!



Our cheerful,
skilled, hard-
working chef!

DEACONS' DINNER & TALENT SHOW

Mark your calendars NOW for the Deacons' Dinner, **SEPTEMBER 17th**, starting at **5:30 PM**. This is for the entire FPCD Family and any guests you want to bring. There will be a signup sheet after mid-August, so be thinking about who you would like to bring to this dinner. BESIDES THIS, there will be.....

BACK ! BY POPULAR DEMAND !!

The "FPCD's GOT TALENT" Show!

We have a remarkable amount and variety of talent in our congregation, so dust off your top hat / dancing shoes, banjo, musical saw, harmonica, or other musical instrument, brush up that favorite old comedy routine, dramatic monologue, and share in a fun-filled evening!

Please contact Sandy Gaskins, Connie Steger, Edelmira Ruiz, Betty Jespersen or Nancy Bergman regarding participating in this show. There will be a signup sheet for this soon.

WE NEED YOU!

PROPERTY REPORT



23 people came out on our Church Work Day on Saturday, June 4 and accomplished many tasks that needed to be done in the church buildings and on the church property. Jocelyn Bolles organized a hot dog lunch for all who came to help. We would like to **thank** everyone again who took time out of their busy weekend to clean, mow, etc at our church home.



We appreciate the thought BUT... in order to keep our church neat and free of clutter, we are asking that you do **NOT** bring or leave items at the church unless they have been requested. This includes items such as TV's, electronic equipment, computers, books, furniture, etc. **We greatly appreciate your cooperation!!**



Presbyterian Women News

Sarah Circle and Agape Circle groups will resume Thursday, September 8. The meeting places will be announced at a later time. Sarah Circle meets in the evenings and Agape Circle meets in the daytime and all ladies of the church are welcome. We will be doing the Horizons Bible Study of the Beatitudes beginning in September.

Ladies' Night Out—Tuesday, August 30, at 7 pm at the Olive Garden in Duncanville!
Mark your calendars now and plan on a fun and relaxing evening of good food and fellowship!

August 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 	2	3 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 	4 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Young Adult Small Group	5	6
			Pastor Ginger Vacation till Aug. 8			
7 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Bible Blast Confirmation Class 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Small Group Study	8 6:30 PM Leadership Team Meeting 	9	10 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 	11 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting 	12	13
	Steve Netniss at Evangelism Conference with PC (USA)				Steve N. on Vacation till Aug. 15	
14 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 12:00 PM Bible Blast Confirmation Class 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Small Group Study	15 Newsletter Deadline 	16	17 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 	18 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Young Adult Small Group 6:30 PM Session Meeting 	19	20
21 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Bible Blast Confirmation Class 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Small Group Study FOOD SUNDAY	22 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre 	23	24 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 	25 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM Young Adult Small Group	26	27
				Pastor Ginger at New Fellowship Conference in MN		
28 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Bible Blast Confirmation Class 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Small Group Study	29 6:30 PM Leadership Team Meeting 	30 7:00 PM PW Ladies' Night Out @ Olive Garden	31 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal 	<div> Jul 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 31 </div> <div> Sep 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>		

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR ~ AUGUST

Rejoice
in the
blessings
of
God.

The Epistle 9

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit itself intercedes for us Romans 8:26	1 Andrew & Ashley Dittman Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie	2 Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather Connie Steger	3 Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Sam & Charlotte Fithian	4 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Dick & Nancy Bergman Deborah Titus	5 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	6 John Alsop Ruth Yingst Gary & Nita Malone Julia McConnell
7 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Burle Murphy	8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman Rita Brewer	9 Jim & Pam Loyd Paul & Helen Barton Reid Bunger Paul & Claudia Griffith	10 Eddie & Darlene Cowand Christy Cowand Brandon Pat Sparr	11 Albert & Sarah Teel Savannah Gail Haynes Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	12 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal Leo & Marlene Skinner	13 Eunice Pike Robert & Catherine Eagle David Hertenstein Evelyn
14 Nadine AbuMarkhia Ariel & Leah Adrian Alcala Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	15 Malcolm Perrault James & Beth Ann Black Jack & Diane Pegues	16 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Bob & Liz Moore	17 Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest Anthony Jennings	18 Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant Steve Netniss	19 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen Winfred Cook	20 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Tom & Lois Harmon Lenora Dalton
21 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee	22 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	23 Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica Donna To	24 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy, Jason, & Vanessa	25 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	26 Jim & Janet Stahl Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons	27 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers
28 Carol Orwig Billie Cowand Doris Metzger Joan Brown Allison Jackson	29 Don & Sheri Trask Jim & Andrene Hull Bob & Nancy Harrison Andrew Watts	30 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden, Beau Charles & Laura Tyer	31 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew Barbara Notari			

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.
— 4:30-6:00 p.m.

Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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10 The Epistle

Christian Education

Junior High (middle school): Our new class, taught by George & Mary Huttar, started on Pentecost Sunday, June 26. Week by week we're continuing to watch the Holy Spirit work as the Church grows in numbers, in courage to talk about Jesus, and in reaching out through prayer, financial sharing, and miracles in Jesus' name, by his Spirit—all in the book of Acts. Come see their art work celebrating Pentecost on the bulletin board next to the office.



Students entering **grades 2 through 6** spent many Sundays learning about Paul's travels spreading the Good News. They showed Paul's Missionary Journeys by directing string on a large handsome map of the Mediterranean World, constructed by their teacher Linda Simons. Other Sundays, with Lois Harmon as their teacher, they acted out the shipwreck Paul experienced on his way to Rome. Because he trusted God's messages to him, Paul was not afraid. The children also learned a "rap" made from the names of the books of the New Testament. Often in class, these students read stories about Paul from their Bibles. Diane Pegues and Linda Simons are leading this elementary school level class in late July and August.

Pre-School Class--Developing Now!

Marna Bayless with help from Susan Murphy has been gathering with this class each Sunday starting in June. We have had activities around Psalm 23, imagining what it was like for David to be a shepherd. We hid a stuffed sheep and searched for it in the room. We talked about how God protects us. More recently we heard about Joseph and his colorful coat and made our own coat of many colors. Class begins at 9:30 each Sunday morning where we sing songs, do finger plays, create things, introduce a Bible story and have a prayer. We have room for more pre-school and kindergarten age youngsters. . . . the more the merrier. If we could recruit all our children this age, we would have a class of six or more. Please **invite your young family and friends to participate** in our pre-school Sunday School class.

