First Presbyterian Church **EPISTLE**

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

September 2009 Vol. 17 No. 9

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman Street
Duncanville, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043
fax: (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

CHURCH STAFF: Rev. Ginger Hertenstein

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director
Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative Assistant/
Bookkeeper
Tom Wylie,
Accompanist/Youth
Minister

"The Epistle" is a monthly publication of First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas.

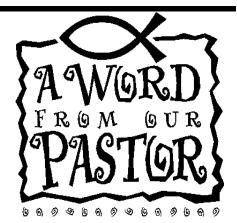
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This month saw the demise of two air conditioners (the one that cools the offices, and then the one that cools the sanctuary), a leak in the kitchen that ruined the countertop and one cabinet, a broken faucet that had to be replaced in the kitchen, and a leaking dishwasher that required repair. All of that cost a whopping \$21,700. Sheesh!



But as I thought of the burdens of the repairs something else came to mind. The yard has never looked better, and the flower beds are full of flowers. In the last year many rooms have received a fresh coat of paint. Much needed repairs have been made to lighting and things look "glowing!" The new kitchen countertop <u>is</u> beautiful and that cool air feels great. This house of God is loved. It has certainly received loving attention and that is good.

When I prepare for guests, I try to clean things up around the house and make everything look really nice and welcoming. Perhaps we are doing the same – preparing for guests. Maybe God has been helping us get ready. Perhaps we'll feel just a little proud to invite them because our Father's House looks its best.

Since we are at it, shall we press on with getting the building in tip top shape? Everything done expresses that you care deeply for this church and its role in the community. I am looking forward to the doors that open to us next. I am certain they will be doors that openly invite guests with great hope and joy.

In the meantime, it's joyful to worship with you!

See you Sunday! Ginger

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

SYMBOLS of our faith...Symbols of the Twelve Apostles

From the Worship Team

The twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus to be His special representatives were "Peter, James the son of Zebedee, John the brother of James, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot." Mark 3:16-19 They are frequently represented by symbols.



James the Greater, or James the Elder, was apparently very close to Jesus as indicted by the mention of the first three disciples "Peter, James and John." The scallop shell is the symbol of pilgrimage and James is symbolized by three scallop shells showing his great spirit and missionary zeal. According to legend James made pilgrimages to establish the Christian faith in Spain and his body was returned to Spain after his death. Spaniards regard James as their patron saint. He was the first of the twelve disciples to be martyred, dying by the sword at the hands of

Herod Agrippa. His shield shows a scallop (or cockle) shell, a symbol of pilgrimage by sea, and the sword of martyrdom. Sometimes three shells are shown without a sword.

Finance

FINANCE

The month of August came with a surprise for First Presby Duncanville, when it became evident that not only was it awfully hot outside it seemed equally warm inside the church. Alas, our last old air conditioner had bit the dust and the necessary replacement was going to cost close to \$14,000. Combine this with a planned wedding that weekend and there was no alternative to scratching our heads and deciding that the purchase of a new air conditioner was the only choice.



This unplanned expense comes on top of a expected budget shortfall for the year of about \$25,000. Last winter if you will remember the church decided that in order to meet the needs of the congregation, we needed to commit to the shortage in order to insure the ongoing relationship with our staff and a needed youth director. We felt and continue to feel that these decisions were the right ones to meet the needs of our current as well as future congregation. While a \$25,000 shortfall seems large when viewed without some perspective let me add this information. The average giving unite (family) gives approximately \$3,000 per year, meaning that we need to grow the church by about eight families or close to 18%. Paul Barton informs me that we currently have about 45 giving units at the church. Another way to address the shortfall could be done by additional giving that could be accomplished by an additional giving of as little as \$46 per month by each family.

Certainly, we feel confident the First Presby will address this situation by some combination of the above or other opportunities, depending on Christ's answer for our needs. Please be in prayer for our church as we address this need. Also, remember should you have a chance to visit with anyone who might be interested in visiting our church invite them to join us an worship God with us.

Bookkeeper's Report

July 2009

Expenditures Receipts \$12,320 \$14,917

YTD Receipts YTD Expenditures \$92,594 \$105,603

Deficit \$13,008 Total Annual Budget \$173,824

August 2009 August 2008

3-August-Not recorded 10-August-69 17-August-82 24-August-63

31-August-78

2-August-82 9-August-92 16-August-79 23-August-Not Yet Recorded 30–August–Not Yet Recorded

Bookkeeper's Report

Attendance

Deacon's

Dinner

Show

DEACONS' DINNER & TALENT SHOW

September 12th, 6:00 pm

If you attended the Deacons' Dinner last September, you probably remember the uproarious good time we had! Once again we are going to have a Mexican Fiesta feast & a Piñata for the children. This year, we are planning a TALENT SHOW following the dinner. The Deacons will provide the meat for the Tacos/Tortillas but request that ya'll plan to bring the fillings. So we may know how many are coming & what items are being brought please fill out the sign up sheet on the Kiosk in the Narthex.



Talent

Thank you's

Talent Show Contestants Needed!

We have a remarkable amount and variety of talent in our congregation, so dust off your top hat/dancing shoes, guitar or other musical instrument, brush up that favorite old comedy routine, etc. and share in a fun-filled evening! Please contact Nancy Bergman, Mary Huttar, Betty Jespersen, Sean Russell, Sandy Gaskins or Gail Haynes regarding participating in this show. WE NEED YOU!

> Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm followed by the Talent Show. Please mark your calendars **now** and plan to attend!

Thank You's

Larry & Margaret Lewis would like to extend their sincerest thanks fo hospital visits, cards, prayers, well-wishes & food during Larry's recent knee replacement surgery.

Dear Church family, We appriciate all the letters, cards, prayers & well-wishes you have given us this past month. It meant so much!

Albert & Sarah Teel

Decongo Life

DECONGO LIFE

End of August and back to school days are upon us already. Where did the summer go? While we didn't write an article in last month's Newsletter, the DeaConGo Team no the less stayed busy. With the Ranger "rain-out" adjustments were made to pick another night and the consensus was to go to the double header commencing at 4:45 on September 1st. Of the original 90 tickets sold and distributed, 60 have been exchanged and reissued, so we should have a good crowd again. Of course not all will sit through 6 hours of baseball. Come when you can and enjoy.



We hosted three receptions this summer; the "Hello/Goodbye", New Member Welcoming and just recently the Youth Mission return. We also were involved with the Baptism of Caleb Liddle hosted by the Hartless', a blessed event indeed. Lemonade on the Lawn continues to be a big attraction after worship and we have had a tremendous response

with volunteers to provide the cookies and the help with setup & cleanup. This assistance is greatly appreciated and has allowed this function to thrive almost every weekend.

Upcoming of course is the Deacon's dinner on the 12th of September in which everyone is invited to participate. I speak specifically to the Talent Show. Sign up, you need not be a professional, only have a willingness to have a fun. Poetry readings, Singers, Instrument players and anything else you care to spotlight as a "talent". Someone mentioned "dog walking" but I think they were kidding. Be sure and attend and bring the family and friends, it is shaping up to be great night.

PW MISSIONS

Fall will bring more activities. Stay tuned!

PW MISSIONS

Our PW Mission emphasis for the coming year will be helping to care for vulnerable children in Kamwenge, Uganda by donating funds for educational needs and school supplies.

Kamwenge Vocational School is a community school in the heart of rural Uganda with a vision to transform this poor community into a self-sustained and responsible one with a high sense of integrity and accountability in a Christian transforming environment.



The school is located on 20 acres of land in the district of Kamwenge, western Uganda. This area has a population of 300,000 people, mostly refugees from neighboring countries, and is considered one of the poorest in Uganda. Parents can not afford to send their children to school and do not understand the importance of education. This illiteracy has increased the cycle of HIV/AIDS and poverty. The Kamwenge School aims to equip individuals with skills for sustainable socio-economic development, a holistic approach of building the Kingdom of God.

How You Can Help! We will be accepting donations toward this cause at our Circle Meetings through the year and also designating a portion of our PW fundraisers toward this project. Our two PW fundraisers are the Spring Plant and Bake Sale and the PW Family Spaghetti Supper and Christmas Auction. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining with us to help these Ugandan families build a better life through education and hopefully to see the love of Jesus Christ through our generosity and concern.

PW NEWS

Our Circle Meetings will resume again in September and our study for the coming year will be from Joshua. We are again using the Horizons Bible Study which is available to us from our National PW Organization.

Enjoy Bible Study and Fellowship with PW

If you do not currently attend a Circle, please consider doing so. The Circles meet in different homes each month and enjoy Bible Study, prayer, good discussions, desserts and fellowship. There is a daytime and an evening Circle. The meeting places, dates and times are printed in the Announcements Section of the weekly Sunday Bulletins, as well as in the monthly Newsletters. This information will be available around the middle of August for the September meetings. If you have any questions about the Circle meetings, please contact Helen Barton or Joan Brown.



Joshua A Journey of Faith by Mary Mikhael

In the nine lessons of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of "holy war," and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God.

Bronze Sculpture, *Jericho* by Philip Ratner Used by permission of the Ratner Museum, Baltimore, MD 2009–2010 *Horizons* Bible Study

Circle Gatherings for September:

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday, Sept. 3 at 7:30 pm at the home of Joan Brown, 810 Rock Canyon Drive, Duncanville, 972-298-9836.

Agape Circle: Meeting Friday, Sept. 11 at the home of Catherine Eagle, 115 Willowbrook, Duncanville, 972-298-2303.

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PW News

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE September 2009 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

September 6 Greeters: Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy

Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues

Liturgist: Mickey Jespersen
Children's Church: Margaret Lewis
Nursery Volunteer: Katherine Liddle
Tech Team: Sean Russell

Tellers: Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

September 13 Greeters: Mickey & Betty Jespersen

Ushers: Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand

Liturgist: Janet Stahl
Children's Church: Helen Barton
Nursery Volunteer: Anna Murphy
Tech Team: Sean Russell

Tellers: Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

September 20 Greeters: Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary

Ushers: Albert Teel
Liturgist: Lori Glover
Children's Church: Gail Haynes
Nursery Volunteer: Sharon Ingram
Tech Team: Sean Russell

Tellers: Lori Glover, Jocelyn Bolles

September 27 Greeters: Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger

Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues

Liturgist: Dave Bolles
Children's Church: Taylor Glover
Nursery Volunteer: Jocelyn Bolles
Tech Team: Sean Russell

Tellers: Paul Barton, Tom Harmon

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR September 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
						1 Del & Dorothy Anderson
						Bryan & winned Cook
2	8	4	S			; «
Paul & Helen	Lenora Dalton	Joan Brown	Jack & Diane	& Margaret	Lucy	Paul & Claudia
Barton	Carlos & Caryn	Tom & Sandy	Pegues	Lewis	Russell	Griffith
Bill & Ruth	Benitez	Wylie	David & Katherine Boyd Roberts		Lucy, Sydney,	Dean & Ginger
Yıngst Doris Metzger	Andrés & Rachelle	Thomas, Katie & Abby	Liddle Caleb, Jonathan	Connie Steger	Logan, Weston & Tristan	Hertenstein
6	10	11	12	13	14	15
Norris & Carol	Dorothy Cleary	Nadine Doura	George & Billie	Eugene & Armelia Kent & Lori	Kent & Lori	Bill Farish
McKinney	T.J. & Eugene	Ariel & Leah	Cowand	Jimmerson	Glover	Robert & Catherine
Ryan & Marjorie	Dudley Austin	Dick & Nancy	David & Sandy	Leo & Marlene	Taylor & Charlie Eagle	Eagle
Ochs	Allen & Wanda	Bergman	Gaskins	Skinner	Eunice Pike	Pat Sparr
Colvin	Shipman		Alexander		Jackie Walke	
16	17	18	19	20		22
Kevin & Tonya	Scott & Kathleen	Bobby & Teresa	Tom & Lois	Gary & Nita	Roy & Wendy	Eddie & Brenda
Jespersen	Hartless	Reed	Harmon		Jensen	Everett
Mickey & Betty	J.R.	Matthew &	Dub & Gwen	Darrell & Sharon	Don & Edie	Jocelyn, Natalie,
Jespersen	Reid Bunger	Rylee	Guthrie	Ingram	Burquest	& Grant
Rachel Simons		Jim & Andrene Hull	Melisa, Carol, & Neal	Jay & Jessica	Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Jim & Janet Stahl	Evelyn Pike	Bob & Nancy	Stan & June West Irving & Peggy	Irving & Peggy	Dennis & Susan	Albert & Sara Teel
Donna To	George & Mary	Harrison	Sara & Matthew Kezar	Kezar	Walters	Savannah
Gary & Linda	Huttar	Eddie & Darlene	Adelmo & Edel-	Steve & Marna	Dale, Evelyn,	Bob & Liz Moore
Simons	Teresa Rodriques	Cowand	mira Ruiz	Bayless	& Andrew	Gail Haynes
30	31					
Susan Murphy	Burle Murphy					
Anna Murphy	Don & Sheri Trask					
Nicholas &	The Schaefers					
Heather	Carol Orwig					

.m.s 21:9 — .m.s 06:01 — .m.q 00:8-00:0 — Christian Education Worship Service Youth Group

SOUDAY SCHEDULE

KELURN SERVICE REQUESTED

WWW.fpcd.org 6972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312 info@fpcd.org info@fpcd.org CHURET info@fpcd.org

BIRTHDAYS!

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.



Gail Haynes—9/10
George Cowand Sr.—9/11
Norris McKinney—9/12
Ginger Hertenstein—9/14
Jack Pegues—9/14
Edelmira Ruiz—9/19
Sharon Ingram—9/22
Marlene Skinner—9/26
Margaret Lewis—9/28
Gary Malone—9/30

PW NEWS continued

Dr. Mary Mikhael, author of our upcoming PW Bible Study, JOSHUA—A Journey of Faith, will be speaking about the study on Tuesday, September 15 at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Worth.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us to join together with other churches to hear a powerful speaker. Dr. Mikhael is an elder in the Presbyterian Church in Beirut, Lebanon. She is an associate professor of Christian education at the Near East School of Theology. Mary is deeply concerned about women's issues, most particularly the role of women in Christian ministry and as decision-makers in society. The presentation will begin at 10:30 in the Great Hall with lunch following the presentation. Lunch reservations are required and are \$7.00 per person. The reservation deadline is September 8; please contact Lois Harmon or Joan Brown if you are interested in attending and possibly carpooling. We hope you will want to take this opportunity to meet, be inspired by, and learn from this internationally-known Presbyterian Woman.

September 2009

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 PM -7:15 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	3 6:30 PM Worship Meeting	4	5
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Youth	7	8	9 6:45 PM Finance 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10	11	12 6:00 PM Deacons' Dinner & Talent Show
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Youth	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 PM Session	18 Sandy Gaskins	19
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Youth	21	22	23 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26 ACT 2009 at Canyon Creek PC Richardson
27 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Bible Study 6:00 PM -8:00 PM Youth	28 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre	29	30 8:00 PM Bible Study 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	Aug 2009 5 M T W T 2 3 4 5 6 9 10 11 12 13 16 17 18 19 20 23 24 25 26 27 30 31	F S M 1 7 8 4 5 1 14 15 11 12 0 21 22 18 19	Oct 2009 T W T F S 1 2 3 6 7 8 9 10 1 13 14 15 16 17 2 20 21 22 23 24 2 27 28 29 30 31

HOGY

Hands of God Youth (HOGY)

HOGY

The Hands of God Youth at First Presbyterian Church Duncanville is open to all youth, grades 6-12 and meets on Sunday evenings. For more information, please call the church office.

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
September 6	Stupid Games Night	FPCD
September 13	Mystery Night	FPCD
September 20	Bowling Night	Alley Cats, Arlington
September 27	Mission Field Trip	FPCD