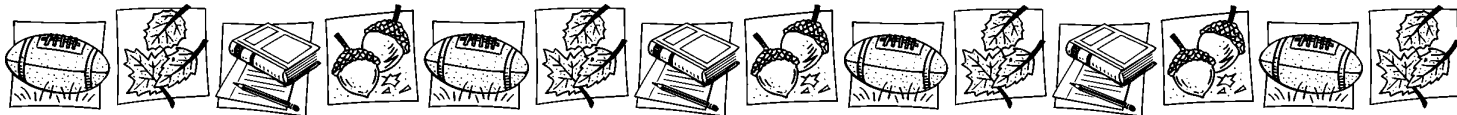


First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE



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

September 2010

Vol. 18 No. 9

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043
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info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

Steve Netniss,
Youth Pastor

Andrew Dittman,
Choir Director

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Susan Seamans,
Accompanist

August brought exciting new beginnings as Andrew Dittman agreed to continue with us as choir director. He and his wife Ashley bring talent, creativity, and energy to the music ministry so they are a true blessing. Steve and Marna Bayless continue to be vibrantly involved in the music ministry—singing in the choir, arranging music, working to make our music available through the new online publishing company, and scheduling a children's Christmas musical. All of this takes effort. Many hands and hearts are necessary to make it happen.

A Word from the Pastor



Then, Steve Netniss began as our new youth pastor, bringing an influx of dreams and enthusiasm for ministering to and through our youth to our community. He will also work on technical needs in order for our service to be available on the internet. His success, too, is dependent upon your support, assistance, and love.

At the same time, Sandy Gaskins, our Administrative Assistant and Bookkeeper, has been hospitalized for the rest of her pregnancy with twins. The babies are due in November. This difficult challenge has made us all realize how much Sandy does for FPCD, as you step into her shoes and volunteer to see that the work of the church carries on.

Thinking of the work of the church, when leadership changes or when some unfortunate circumstance takes someone away, what does the body of Christ do? Who "owns" the ministry of the church? I always turn to the Bible for answers to such questions. The book of Acts is the story of the founding of the church, and amazingly, that's exactly what we are studying for the next 10 months. God is way ahead of us, supplying just the wisdom we need to help us step up to our calling. I just love God!

Acts speaks of the struggle of the earliest believers to figure out who needed to do what. The bottom line was that everyone had a part in ministry; everyone prayed; everyone gave sacrificially; and everyone served willingly. "Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:46-47).

That last line is the goal: adding to our numbers those who are being saved. As we endeavor to become the people God has called us to be and reach out to this community with the gospel, *let us step up well*. We labor to share God's message because that Word is very much a blessing in life. It lifts us up, corrects us graciously and lovingly, and leads us to a positive, hopeful, and blessed end. Why anyone in the church would not want to be involved in sharing that message I do not know. So let's carry on. We will be rewarded.

Faithfully, *Pastor Ginger*

Inside . . .

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WORDS FROM WORSHIP

Words from Worship



Hopefully you've noticed the addition of viewing the Children's Sermon each Sunday as it is projected. This is only one of the talents of our handy-dandy camera. **We're seeking individuals that are interested in assisting in the sound room** with the production of the worship service. If you have interest or knowledge in video recording, please let Sean Russell or Anna Murphy know.

We're also **seeking 2 people to assist with the preparation of communion**. Your time would only be required twice a year. Duties are: purchasing and preparing the elements to be distributed, set-up and clean up. You will be provided with easy to follow instructions as well. Please contact Anna Murphy (almurphy1@att.net) if you can assist with these duties... remember tithing isn't just about money.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR October 23. We will hold our first annual "Fall Fest" - see p. 8 for more info!

DeaConGo Life News

DeaConGo Life News

Thank you to all the wonderful people who have volunteered for Lemonade on the Lawn! Your graciousness has allowed us to enjoy these gatherings just about every Sunday. Give yourselves a big pat on the back!

The DeaConGo Life Team is a terrific group that works closely with the Deacons to provide social fellowship for the entire congregation. In August we held a welcoming reception for Steve Netniss, our new Youth Pastor, and organized the "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" progressive supper. We have few members, but we have been blessed with the wonderful assistance of many volunteers who have helped with these events. Please consider joining us on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall as we discuss and plan upcoming events of the church.

Deacons' Dinner - September 11th at 6:00 pm

A "Build Your Own Taco/Tortilla" dinner in the Fellowship Hall with a "Family Memories" power-point show. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Narthex to indicate the number of people attending the dinner and what you will bring. (The deacons will supply the taco beef/chicken and drinks.)



And . . . get busy digging out 5-6 photos of your family "way back when," plus a more recent photo! Give them to Tom Harmon or Paul Barton no later than SEPTEMBER 4th. Each family will have an opportunity to tell about their photos and, naturally, there will be comments, questions, etc. from the viewing audience. We guarantee this will be a fun time for everyone. (There may even be prizes for originality, etc...)

See you there!

Austin Street Shelter...



...opened its doors on November 17, 1983, and for over two and a half decades has been an efficiently run, financially sound shelter for the homeless providing emergency care, food, showers, medicines and holistic psychosocial programs to rehabilitate.

The first shelter was created in 1983 when overcrowded mental health institutions left many with no alternative but a life on the streets. Developer Henry C. Beck Jr. and former Dallas Mayor Starke Taylor arranged to lease space at 723 Austin Street in downtown Dallas near Reunion Arena for \$1 per month. The shelter moved to its current location, 2929 Hickory Street in 1992.

Since November 17th, 1983, Austin Street Centre has developed into a "whole person" therapeutic community, evolving from a basic overnight emergency shelter facility (without air conditioning or cots!) to a full "Care Campus," complete with a transitional living facility, substance abuse facility, free-standing chapel and an outdoor playground for our shelter kids.

Supported by volunteers from 120 Dallas-area churches and civic organizations, and funded entirely by individuals and foundations, Austin Street Centre accepts no government funding from any level, and no United Way funding. Since its inception, Austin Street Centre has provided shelter for an average of 425 men, women and children each day - at no cost to the individual. And because we neither solicit nor do we accept government funding from any level, all services are provided at no cost to the taxpayers.

For many years now, we have participated in the Austin Street Centre "sandwich ministry". We provide 30 dozen sandwiches on the 4th Monday of each month...come rain, shine or holiday.

Our faithful deliverers of the sandwiches have been Mickey and Betty Jespersen. Now at the tender age of 81, "Doc" and Betty have decided that driving at night is probably not wise....so, **we're looking for a few good men and women** to team up, to take over their duty.

Very little time is required, about 1½ hours a month. You come to the church, a little before 7:00 pm, pick-up the sandwiches and other items left for the Centre. Drive the items to the Centre, assist in unloading the items and return to your cool/warm, safe home, where you have all the comforts.



There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Please help us continue this worthwhile ministry that has touched so many lives.



Austin Street Shelter

From the
Walterses



From our Missionaries...

Dear Friends at FPCD,

Our family is into a second year of home leave from our work in East Asia. Susan's father passed away in May this year. Dennis' father will soon enter full-time nursing care. These are big changes and it is good for us to be near our parents right now. This time in the US also has been a time for us to refresh ourselves and our skills. As well as that, we are getting some needed expertise with the education of our children.

The work that you sent us to do in East Asia fifteen years ago is progressing well. By the grace of God, there is new life, pushing through to the surface. Though we are living in Dun-canville at this time, we continue to be in touch with things across the ocean. This month, Dennis is in East Asia to connect with people there for a few weeks.

We are humbled by your faithfulness. When we were preparing to go to East Asia as a married couple in 1995, FPCD began sending monthly gifts for our support. Since that time, the church has seen many changes—different pastors, different levels of membership, times of difficulty and prosperity—but your support for us personally and financially has been constant. Thanks for being a part of God's work and of our lives.

Dennis and Susan Walters

Dale, Evelyn, and Andrew Gary



From the
Schaeferes



We are back in Bole, Ghana, where we work on translating God's word into the Safaliba language. Amaaliya, a national translator, is drafting the book of Acts. He uses a digital audio recorder since he can't write while his wrist is in a cast. He and two other translation helpers, Eden and Ibrahim, are doing the exegetical check on the Gospel of Luke.

Literacy classes are also taking place. Participants are enthusiastic about reading and writing Safaliba as well as reading God's word in their language. In Iddi's class there are over 40 people in all age groups, from children about 10 years old to adults in their 50s. The class meets in the evenings, with only a lantern for light; they usually have to use flashlights to see the blackboard. Their prayer is for funds for a gas lantern for the class, which they would know how to maintain.

Our family has been generally well. However please pray that we would stay healthy, especially as the rainy season now beginning always brings many more mosquitoes. One of Paul's projects is to work on the window and porch screens to close up holes that have developed in some of them.

Our language helper Amaaliya is recovering from his wrist injury that required a cast. That injury is healing well but another is giving him headaches. Please pray for him, that he will soon feel well again and able to continue helping with the translation.

Thanks for praying,
Paul and Jen Schaefer

with Caleb, Micah, Josiah, and Sarah

(June 24, 2010)

Presbyterian Women's News

The 2010-2011 Presbyterian Women Bible Study

Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today

This year's Bible Study for Presbyterian Women is written by a Lutheran! Barbara Rossing is a Lutheran pastor and Professor of New Testament at the Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago.



She has recorded a free web-exclusive video to introduce you to this Bible study on Revelation. Visit www.pcusa.org/horizons to watch her give an overview of the study and to let her share with you her hopes for you and your circle as you study the hope-filled book of Revelation.

Here are some of the principles that she says guide the study she has written:

1. Always keep in mind the historical context.
2. Recognize that a range of possible interpretations of Revelation are in play, but that it's not "anything goes."
3. Take the opportunity to look beyond the literal approach.
4. Embrace the message of hope instead of fear.

Agape and Sarah Circles will be reading and discussing this study beginning in September. You are invited to visit a Circle and "dip your toe" into this fascinating study!

Sarah Circle: Meets Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Brown, 810 Rock Canyon Drive, Duncanville.

Agape Circle: Meets Thursday, September 16, at 1 p.m. at the home of Lois Harmon, 207 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville.

ATTENDANCE

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT

July 2010

July 2009	July 2010
5-Jul-82	4-Jul-96
12-Jul-60	11-Jul-90
19-Jul-58+	18-Jul-77
26-Jul-90	25-Jul-73

Receipts	Expenditures
*\$14,413	\$19,680
YTD income:	\$124,680
YTD expenditures:	\$129,345
YTD deficit:	<\$4,665>
Total Annual Budget:	\$203,100

* This includes memorial giving.

PW
NEWS

Attendance

**Bookkeeper's
Report**

H_{ands} O_f G_{od} Y_{outh} HAPPENINGS

HOGY
Happenings

Every Sunday in September:

HOGY Sunday School class—9:15

HOGY Youth Group—4:30

Once again, thanks to everyone who helped out with the Summer Visiting Youth Program. While the youth from Idaho Falls have a bigger church and more members, they were overheard saying that our church service was more fun!!



Welcome,
Steve!

Looks like Steve has already heard
about the church roof problems!

*If you'd like to prepare a snack supper for the
HOGY, just sign up on the sheet on the Youth
room door. Thanks, we appreciate all you do for
us.*

Steve sez,....

Greetings, JPCLD!

I was born and raised in the small town of Turlock, right in the middle of California, about halfway between San Francisco and Fresno. My parents immigrated to the United States in 1980 and I was born the following year. My family is ...

Hopefully you've had a chance to meet our new Youth Pastor, Steve Netniss. *[See next page!]* He arrived in North Texas in the wee hours of Sunday, August 15 and reported for duty for Sunday School that morning and then again that afternoon for HOGY meeting. All those who attended had fun learning about Steve, and about each other.

We'd like to thank those of you who attended the recent ice cream bar that followed the progressive dinner coordinated by DeaConGo Life. Funds raised by the youth will go towards next summer's Mission Trip (hopefully to Idaho to work on a Native American Reservation).

Meet our new Youth Pastor

...of Assyrian descent, so I grew up in a tight-knit community. Many people believe the Assyrians of the Bible have long since been extinct. However, the Babylonians did not totally destroy the Assyrians but instead scattered them among the nations so that they no longer had their own land. The Assyrians preserved their language and culture in small pockets and are still scattered among the nations. Being Assyrian is one part of my story but the bigger and more significant part of my story has been my relationship with Jesus Christ. Assyrians are mainly Eastern Orthodox or Roman Catholic but I became a Protestant through a non-denominational evangelism booth at a local fair. It was through that booth that I first became aware of Christ's pursuit of me. From there I began attending church regularly and also became a leader at the Jr. High Youth Group. Many years later I felt called to full-time vocational ministry and so I began pursuing a Master's degree in theology from Dallas Seminary. I completed that degree about a year ago and now I am here with FPCD! I'm happy to be here and I look forward to getting to know this congregation.

I have an apartment in downtown Dallas and have been able to reconnect with some of my old friends from Seminary. I love music and my favorite band is U2. I love Middle Eastern food and welcome Dolma anytime. I love reading and am trying to build the biggest library in the history of world...well sort of. I am also an avid sports watcher and especially love the Super Bowl Champion New Orleans Saints. I'd love to catch Monday Night Football with any of you. My favorite theologians are Tom Wright and Walter Brueggemann. One of my favorite books is *Surrender to Love* by David Benner. I believe that students are faced with a major challenge because of the popular world-view they experience all around them. Students are constantly being bombarded with messages that are predominantly discouraging and unhelpful. Yet these messages are passed off as true and real. My view is that the Church is the only organism who can provide an interpretation of life which is objective and hopeful. Besides doing that, she also creates an environment where this interpretation can be shared, experienced and lived out. I believe that students need a relationship with the Risen Christ which is far more compelling than anything else. The Christian life is the outgrowth of a worldview which is driven by God's Spirit through His Word to the glory of the Father. The Holy Scriptures remind and guide our discussion of God's Master plan for the world. The Scriptures encapsulate the message of God's redemptive love which is relevant to any and every situation. The Message of the Bible is the true interpretation of the world around us.

I am single but wish to be married at some point in hopes of raising a family. Feel free to drop by my office any time and say hello.

Steve



Fall Fest



Property News

Property News

A building renovation fund has been started with a gift of \$2000. This gift has been designated toward making the Fellowship Hall restrooms handicap accessible. The estimate that we have received to update the restrooms is \$16,685—so we have received more than 10% so far!



As mentioned last month, we had a celebration at the church in July to rejoice in the improvements that we have made in the office area, library, and Christian Education wing. We also talked about the things that remain to be done in the Fellowship Hall and adjoining areas, such as making the restrooms handicap accessible, new folding chairs, new storage closet for tables and chairs, and new flooring and paint in the Fellowship Hall, in the classrooms off the Fellowship Hall, and in the kitchen.

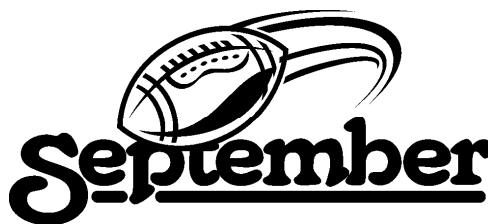
We all want our church to be a place that will draw people, make them comfortable, meet their needs, and in so doing, reflect the love of God to all. As Pastor Ginger has told us many times in her sermons, God is present and powerful. Once we are connected to God, all things are possible. We hope you will prayerfully consider contributing to this most important endeavor in the coming months. Together we can accomplish amazing things!

Birthdays

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.

Charlotte Fithian—9/1
Danielle Reed—9/4
Gail Haynes—9/10
George Coward, Sr.—9/11
Ginger Hertenstein—9/14
Jack Pegues—9/14



Edelmira Ruiz—9/19
Sharon Ingram—9/22
Hailey Reed—9/26
Marlene Skinner—9/26
Margaret Lewis—9/28

September 2010

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

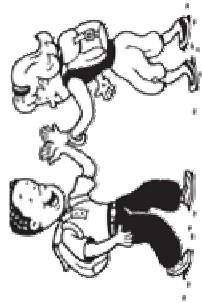
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5 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 4:30 PM -6:00 PM Youth Group 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	6 Labor Day OFFICE CLOSED	7 4:30 PM Deacons Meeting	8 6:45 PM Finance Team Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	9 7:30 PM Sarah Circle	10	11 9:00 AM Presbytery Meeting in Tyler 6:00 PM Deacons Dinner & Memories Night																																																																																											
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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

September 2010

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

September 5	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Helen Barton, Bob Moore Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Tom Harmon Savannah Baker-Teel Helen Barton Sean Russell Mickey Jespersen, Bob Harrison
September 12	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand Helen Barton Margaret Lewis Joan Brown Sean Russell Lori Glover, Leo Skinner
September 19	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Lori Glover, Jocelyn Bolles Albert Teel, Bob Moore Darrell Ingram Helen Barton Gail Haynes Sean Russell Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
September 26	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Joan Brown Gail Haynes Anna Murphy Sean Russell Teresa Reed, Joan Brown



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

September 2010

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

What's Happening in Children's Sunday School?

Elementary Sunday School--for at least a few more weeks the lower and upper elementary Sunday school classes are meeting together. It is fun to see the older kids help the younger ones with re-telling the Bible stories we are studying and the verses we are memorizing. The Sunday school lessons are presented in 3-week units where we cover the same material in different ways for three weeks. We are using the larger classroom across from the nursery. Stop by and see our *Ficus sycomorus* to which we are adding figs, leaves, and a wee little man!

Linda Simons



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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