

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



**September 2012**

**Vol. 20, No. 9**

**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043  
fax: (972) 298-5312  
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

**Deborah Titus,**  
Accompanist

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Susan Murphy,**  
Nursery

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**From our Elders**

*More Blessings than You Can Imagine*  
*By Tom Harmon*

Have you ever attended a church retreat, Sunday School class, or some other event sponsored by the church and been asked to tell the group how and when you became a Christian? If your response has been the same as mine, you begin to shake, rattle and roll! What am I going to say this time? Some people don't have any problem answering this question - they know exactly the date, time and place they became a Christian. It could have been in a Sunday School class in their youth, at a Christian summer camp, or during a restless night when they knew God spoke to them.

Over the years, I've learned to not panic when I have to answer this question. I know my story and exactly how I became a Christian. The answer is, I've always been a Christian! My choice to follow Jesus Christ had its beginnings at Sunday School--even as early as when I played in the sandbox there. God guarded my life even when at the age of one I was required to be in a children's hospital for twelve months. My parents didn't have a car, but did manage to go the 200 miles to visit me every two weeks. The doctors were there to care for me and watch over me for years to make sure that I could walk in a straight line! God's plan for my life was beginning to take shape. In the ensuing years, God continued to shape my life. I was blessed with one especially good Sunday School teacher who taught me for at least 5 of my formative years. Although my father didn't attend church, my mother insisted that we four kids go to Sunday School and church every Sunday. We had many years of perfect attendance! I was also blessed with a grandfather who came to pick us up and took our mother and us to church. I can still hear him coughing every Sunday morning the whole two miles or so to the church. Then every summer, one week after school stopped, we were back in the same classrooms to attend Summer Bible school for two weeks!

I'm convinced that God was in charge of my life in 1955 when He "made arrangements" for me to befriend a life guard at a state park where I had a summer job. One day, in response to the life guard's question "Where are you going to go to college?", my answer was that I probably wouldn't

(continued on p. 8)

### Why Come to a Women's Fellowship Group?

#### Some good reasons are

1. to get to know other women, enjoy being with them and learn from their life experience,
2. to get to know a portion of the Bible--the focus of a group study,
3. to listen to God speak to you through that scripture and through the thoughts of others.



**September begins a new year** in our Women's Fellowship Groups. It's a good time to start coming! Both of our groups meet on the second Thursday of the month: **September 13**, this month.

The **afternoon** group--Agape Circle--meets at **1 p.m.** at the home of Billie Cowand, 342 Lakeview Circle.

The **evening** group--Sarah Circle--meets at **7 p.m.** at the home of Joan Brown, 810 Rock Canyon Drive.

**You** are welcome to come! Our Bible Study topic this year is six short books of the New Testament, called the General Epistles: **1 and 2 Peter, 1, 2, and 3rd John, and Jude**. If you would like a copy of our colorful study book *Dispatches to God's Household\**, please see Joan Brown or Lois Harmon.



\*by Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol—see July newsletter



#### July 2012

##### Receipts

\$27,996

##### Expenditures

\$ 22,562

YTD income:                   \*\$149,267

YTD expenditures           \$134,657

Total Annual Budget:      \$218,200

\*This includes memorial giving.

### Property Committee

All members of the Property Committee are needed at our meeting on Tuesday, September 4 at 7:30 p.m. We've got plans and decisions to make, and need your input!

*Thanks,  
Malcolm Perrault*



## Missions News

### News from Niger

(Carlos and Caryn Benitez serve in Niger. Letters from them are often posted on the bulletin board in the Sunday School foyer.)

**I Peter 1:25 “... the word of the Lord stands forever. “**

People prayed and God moved. There is no other explanation for what we have seen here recently, despite some difficult situations.



Over the past three months, the team has consultant-checked the last 25 chapters of Genesis, and is now in the process of printing it in Roman script. We hope to print in Ajami script\* soon after. At the same time, the team has begun testing the first portion of Exodus, and we hope to begin testing the second half of Exodus and other selections of the Pentateuch in the near future. The Lord truly has done marvelous things!



Recently, a committee of speakers of ‘A’ and ‘H’s’ language asked Carlos to give a lecture at the university about their language. Since in the past most speakers wanted nothing to do with us, this was an opportunity we could not pass up! To a packed audience, Carlos, along with a historian, explained the history and language of the people as distinct from neighboring peoples and languages. Now for the first time since we arrived in 1999, people who in the past would not even acknowledge Carlos are going out of their way to greet him. (It’s a little hard to get used to!) Please pray that this would lead to an acceptance of the translation.

At the same time that so many wonderful things are happening, we are watching events in the region with concern. One neighboring country has seen a series of religiously motivated attacks and reprisals. At the same time, governments in several other neighboring countries have fallen. These events directly affect the language groups we are working in. Pray that God would raise up peacemakers.

In June, we started a home assignment, during which we hope to see many of you. In the meantime, ‘A’ and ‘H’ are trained to continue translation in our absence. Please pray for the entire team—‘A’ and ‘H’ and ‘B’—that they would work well together and become integrated into a single team. Pray also for ‘M’, the team leader, as he now coordinates work in two different languages.

It’s hard to believe that in a few weeks we will be seeing some of you in person! The children, and Caryn as a teacher, have finished another school year here—and soon school will begin in the US!

*Carlos and Caryn Benitez*

\*Ajami is a traditional adaptation of Arabic script - لِيَقْدَسَ اسْمُكَ - to fit several languages of West Africa.

**WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE**

**September 2012**

**10:30 A.M. SERVICE**



September 2	Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Scott Hartless
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Erin McGinnis
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
	Communion Servers:	Dick Bergman, Nancy Bergman, Dave Bolles Jocelyn Bolles, Tom Harmon, & Mary Huttar
September 9	Greeters:	Jocelyn Bolles, Janet Stahl
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Liturgist:	Dub Guthrie
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
	Tellers:	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
September 16	Greeters:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Liturgist:	Helen Barton
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Valerie Cordova
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison
September 23	Greeters:	Lori Glover, Anna Murphy
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Tom Harmon
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Lois Harmon
	Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
September 30	Greeters:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Joan Brown
	Children's Church:	No Children's Church
	Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

**Sunday, September 16**  
**National Back to Church Sunday Kickoff**  
**Potluck Lunch after service**

**Saturday** 9/22/2012 – Fiesta Dinner with special guest Buckle the Clown

**Sunday** 9/23/2012 – Donation Drive Kickoff supporting Duncanville Outreach/Austin Street Shelter

**Sunday** 9/30/2012 –BBQ with live gospel music by the Lost Immigrants band after service

**Sunday** 10/7/2012 – Donation Drive Report

**Sunday** 10/14/2012 – Football, Food and Friends in the Fellowship Hall after service

**Saturday** 10/27/2012 – Fall Fest with Biblical storytelling and choir presentation

All events are free of charge.

For more information, please phone the church at (972) 298-3043, email [info@fpcd.org](mailto:info@fpcd.org) or visit [www.fpcd.org](http://www.fpcd.org).

## More than Sandwiches!

### Austin Street Center to Participate in "North Texas Giving Day"

**Thursday, September 13**



September 13, from 7 AM to Midnight, Austin Street Center will once again partner with the Communities Foundation of Texas and Donor Bridge to participate in the **North Texas Giving Day**. Every donation of \$25 or more will be matched by a percentage if you donate to Austin Street through the official Donor Bridge web site (see instructions below).

The Communities Foundation of Texas will contribute over \$1 million dollars in matching funds and prizes to those charities receiving donations linked to Donor Bridge that day. Several cash donation prizes will be made to charities that have the most donations, most unique individual donors, and the largest increase of unique donors. Every dollar donated to Austin Street will go further, to help the 400+ clients they serve each day. To make a contribution to Austin Street Center through Donor Bridge on September 13:

1) **log in to** [www.donorbridgetx.org](http://www.donorbridgetx.org)

2) **search "Austin Street Center" and click "Donate Now"**

("Austin Street Center exists to provide emergency shelter and related services to the homeless person in a compassionate, faith-based community, and to provide "whole person" therapeutic programs so that the person in need might be better able to make responsible choices, positive changes and have economic self-sufficiency.")

### *Did you know?...*

There's a lot more you can give to the Austin Street Center besides sandwiches and money. For example, their site lists these immediate needs as of August 20:

- Mens Shoes (over size 10)
- Disposable Razors
- Backpacks
- Toothpaste
- Gently Used Rolling Luggage
- Kleenex
- Toothbrushes
- Lightweight Blankets
- Bar Soap
- Rolling Duffle Bags

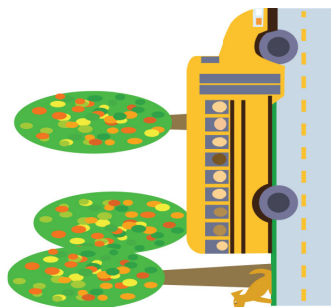


Lord, teach us to  
number our days!

<i>Charlotte Fithian</i>	9/1	<i>Sharon Ingram</i>	9/22
<i>Danielle Reed</i>	9/4	<i>Aiden Gaskins</i>	9/26
<i>Gail Haynes</i>	9/10	<i>Beau Gaskins</i>	9/26
<i>Ginger Hertenstein</i>	9/14	<i>Marlene Skinner</i>	9/26
<i>Jack Pegues</i>	9/14	<i>Margaret Lewis</i>	9/28
<i>Edelmira Ruiz</i>	9/19	<i>Gary Malone</i>	9/30

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](mailto:info@fpcd.org).





## FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

August 2012

Remember each other in daily prayer.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
<b>5</b> Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	<b>6</b> Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	<b>7</b> Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn	<b>1</b> Andrew & Ashley Dittman Winfred Cook Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	<b>2</b> Paul & Helen Barton Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues Joan Brown	<b>3</b> David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Larry & Margaret Lewis	<b>4</b> Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Sam & Charlotte Fithian
<b>12</b> Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	<b>13</b> Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy & Jason	<b>14</b> Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netniss	<b>8</b> Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	<b>9</b> Nadine Doura Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman	<b>10</b> Deborah Titus David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	<b>11</b> Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner
<b>19</b> Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle Billie Cowand	<b>20</b> Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Barbara Notari	<b>21</b> Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig	<b>22</b> Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	<b>23</b> Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand Irving & Peggy Kezar	<b>24</b> Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Bill & Vangie Jackson	<b>25</b> Steve & Marna Bayless Gary & Linda Simons Rachel
<b>26</b> Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	<b>27</b> Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	<b>38</b> Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	<b>29</b> James & Beth Ann Black Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer	<b>30</b> Miguel & Fanny Penaloza Eric & Erin McGinnis Mike	<b>31</b> Reid & Betty Bunger Carol McKinney Lenora Dalton	

# September 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<b>2</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion  <div>Pastor Steve on Vacation</div>	<b>3</b> <i>*Labor Day*</i> Office Closed	<b>4</b> 4:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting 7:30 PM Property Team Meeting	<b>5</b> 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Prayer Gathering 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>6</b> 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>																																																																																				
<b>9</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Guest: Former Mayor David Green	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal  <div>Admin Sandy at APA National Conference in San Antonio</div>	<b>13</b> 1:00 PM Agape Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Bible Study	<b>14</b> Presbytery Meeting and Video Showing	<b>15</b> Newsletter Articles Due																																																																																				
<b>16</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM P & L Luck Luncheon  <i>Back to Church Month Begins!</i> City of Duncanville Food Pantry Sunday	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 5:30 PM Deacons Fiesta Dinner & Fun w/ Buckle the Clown																																																																																				
<b>23</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Donation Drive supporting DOM & Austin Street Centre  <i>Back to Church Month!</i>	<b>24</b> Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre Shelter	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>																																																																																				
<b>30</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM BBQ & Live Gospel Music by the band "The Lost Immigrants"  <i>Back to Church Month!</i> Open House 5:30-8:00 PM Bar Lunch																																																																																										

## 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

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

## *8 The Epistle*

(continued from p. 1) ...go to college because my family had no money to pay for college. He told me that he had some contacts at Penn State where he was a student. He told me he would check in to "some things". That conversation led to a full ride scholarship to Penn State!

Active in the Methodist youth center in college, I eventually signed up for three years of service with the Methodist Mission in South Korea. I think God was "in" my decision to extend for a fourth year because in that year I met a married a great Christian girl! Three months into our marriage my job disappeared, but not long after, I was blessed with a permanent job in a career that was to last for 31 years.

When we settled in Duncanville in 1982 we were welcomed by this church family. Through the thirty years we have worshipped and worked in this church, I have learned a great deal about what following Christ means. I've also come to love this church deeply.

After I retired, God had another blessing for me when a friend of mine invited me to a Rotary club. You see, I had been concerned about what I could do in my retirement to give back to the community. God is in control, indeed!

*That's my story. What's yours?*

*Tom Harmon*