



First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Finances

From our Director of Worship & Music

Greetings First Presbyterian Church
Duncanville! I am recovering from an
incredible experience where I was totally
plugged in this year at the Texas Choral
Directors Association's Annual Summer
Convention. The event takes place in San
Antonio each summer at the Henry B.
Gonzalez Convention Center in the heart
of the beautiful historic city.

Many of you are aware that I ended this
past school year with a new baby and
determined I am ready for a time away
from the classroom. We also experi-
enced our pastor retiring. This provided
a wonderful chance to serve more at the
church and supplement my waning
income. It's been a blessing and I am
truly grateful. I'm able to spend more
time with my boys, which is (in a way) a
dream come true! Caden is heading into
his last year of elementary school and
Caius is joining that same campus as a
kindergartner. It's going to be a lot of
fun dropping them off together for a
change each morning. I'm able to have
the baby with me, as needed, but he has
a daycare to attend and be around other
children. So, all in all, God is steadily
showing me his faithfulness to provide.

I want to share with you all about my
time at convention. I received an
invitation from a colleague whom I
had never met prior. His name is
Justin Bair of St. Luke UMC in
Houston. I was recommended to
serve on this panel discussion for the
Church Music Division alongside
Joseph Akers, Director of Music &
Worship, Windwood Presbyterian
Church, Cypress and Head Director of
Cypress Springs High School Choir in
Cy-Fair ISD, Travis Lowery, Director of
Music Ministries at First UMC,
Stephenville, Pauline Sexton, Director
of Music at St. Philip Presbyterian
Church, Hurst and Head Director of
Choir at Grapevine-Colleyville ISD,
and Dr. Jolene Webster, Director of
Music Ministries, Arlington Heights
UMC, Ft Worth and Professor of
Music at the University of Texas at
Arlington.

(Nyadia's article continues on next page)



The Epistle 2

(Continued from first page)

The session titled, Self-Care Isn't Selfish: Self-Care for the Church Musician took place on the morning of Friday, July 21. In the session were several attendees, not all were church music directors. Many were public and private school music teachers. At times, it can seem like many school and church jobs should have "martyr" written in the job description. We all know someone who took the call to serve with their entire being and unfortunately succumbed to burnout and absolute exhaustion and disconnect. What was once a dream, a passion, and a purpose quickly became weighed down with heavy lifting, burdensome, and we're filled with self-loathing and self-pity. This is not a good look for someone called to serve children, youth, and adults through music or any outward facing program such as performance and presentation. When we find ourselves stuck in that downward spiral of negative thinking, it's time to step back, remember why we entered this profession in the first place, and find renewed hope and inspiration again.

Finishing strong was the theme of my short talk. We sat in a row in the convention hall. I was last. Everyone took 15 minutes or more to speak leaving me with only 7 minutes or so. What to tell the people that will be uplifting compared to the several anecdotes and testimonies they've heard moments before. I chose to go off script! Such a risk taker, I know! There was no time to read through my many thoughts. Instead, I chose to tell them that I've had a few places of work where it was not joyful. There was constant negativity and I was not able to change the culture or impact it in a way I thought was meaningful. Yes, I was intentional about loving my students and their families, but there was something about it that just was not a good fit. After a few stops, I found myself at FPCD and it's been a breath of fresh air. My family is accepted. We are welcomed with loving arms, from people who genuinely care about our wellbeing. Ministry is able to begin when you know someone cares. I truly believe when you find yourself surrounded, overwhelmed, drowning in your stuff, the only way out is through community. So, I encouraged the attendees to make sure they are engaged outside of work and that those they engage with at work are good witnesses towards them. Have people who pour into you just as much because it is our job to constantly pour out. Be okay with saying no and setting boundaries, too. We cannot be all things to all people, but we can be the very best we can while we are present. Lastly, I shared that sometimes you have to change the community. As the coffee bean changes the water when things heat up, we can be the coffee bean in our places of service, wherever God has called us. And when we are no longer able to positively make a difference, it may be a good time to change that circle, and that's okay, too.

Overall, self-care is for everyone. Taking time to unplug from social media, turn off those distracting notifications, and play soothing sounds to help you focus on your work. Pray and welcome God into your day. Ask that you may become more aware of his omnipresence. Receive the peace knowing Jesus gives to the believer. If you are struggling with that and are feeling so burdened down, take your time and seek the Lord. He is near to the brokenhearted and is gracious, so gracious to us. Sometimes, we need to take a hint and be kind and show ourselves grace. Perfectionism is not of God. He makes us perfect, not we ourselves. I hope something said that day sticks with someone, and to you reading this recap, I hope you will find some encouragement, as well.

Nyadia

FPCD News and Thank-yous

Search for Part-Time Interim Pastor

Session authorized the search for a part-time interim while we are looking for our next permanent pastor. Volunteers for this search team are: Jocelyn Bolles, Brenda Everett, Nyadia Thorpe and June West. While you are praying for our Pastor Nominating Committee in their search, please also pray for us that God will direct us to the right person to guide us through this interim period. Thank you.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Although this is somewhat late in coming, thanks to one and all who participated in our annual PW Plant and Bake Sale on May 7. Whatever you did – baked cookies, cakes, pies or breads, donated items for sale, purchased plants or goodies from our bakers, helped set up tables and put them away, whatever – we appreciate you all. Altogether we received \$1,135 but net receipts came to \$635. (We have to purchase the plants we sell.) We then donated those funds back to the church for the sprinkler fund campaign. THANK YOU!!

PROPERTY

THANK YOU FOR THE SPRINKLERS

It took a bit longer than anticipated, primarily due to city permits, but our irrigation system for the gardens is up and running and has been now for several weeks. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this effort and helped us raise the funds to make this happen. We couldn't have done this without your donations. Just so you are aware, the system will water the gardens on the north side of Fellowship Hall plus the lawn in that area between the parking lot sidewalk and the garden. It will water the gardens across the front of the Fellowship Hall building, the gardens on the south side of Fellowship Hall (outside the kitchen) on both sides of the sidewalk including the garden beneath the stained-glass windows in that area. It will also water the gardens on both sides of the courtyard as well as the lawn adjoining the courtyard on the east side of Fellowship Hall. The only garden that couldn't be included is the Fountain Garden in the midst of the courtyard. But it only takes ten minutes to water that garden compared to the hour it took just a few weeks ago to water everything. What a difference it makes!!

HELP WANTED

Looking for a volunteer to take out a bag or two of trash once a week on Monday afternoon or evening for Tuesday morning trash pick-up. The cleaning service puts out the trash on Thursdays when they clean for Friday pick-up. The trash, already placed in the receptacle behind the courtyard wall, is bagged and just needs to be placed at the Freeman Street curb. Please consider helping us out with this chore.

REMEMBER TO LOCK DOORS

If you are the last to leave, please remember to check church doors to be sure they are all locked, especially the door out from the kitchen. We have found that door not locked securely several times recently. Remember to set the latch properly on that door.

What does the Lord's Prayer Mean?

By Linda Simons

Like most adults in this church, I grew up on the King James Version of the Bible, but in my Sunday School class we use a more modern version when we read Bible stories because the kids do not understand the English language spoken during King James's time.

Some years ago, I started a little study of how well the kids in this church understand the Lord's Prayer that we all recite at the end of the service every Sunday. I think quite a few of those kids have actually memorized it themselves, but I wondered just how well they actually understood what they were saying. To find out, I created a little test. On a piece of paper, I wrote out the Lord's Prayer in individual phrases and then asked them to restate (not copy) that phrase in their own words. I also said, "If you really don't know what it means, either guess, or just say 'I don't know.'" I have been collecting these answers for several years and I would like you to see some of the answers I've collected:

Our Father which art in heaven,

- God, who is in heaven (3 kids)
- Our father who is in heaven
- My dad, who is not in heaven (art=aren't)
- Our father who isn't in heaven (art=aren't) (3 kids)
- God who made heaven
- What God does in heaven for us, has an effect on everybody

Hallowed be thy name.

- Holy is your name
- Yelled your name (hallowed=hollered)
- Hollowed is your name (hallowed=hollow)
- "I don't know" (many kids)

Thy kingdom come,

- As the kingdom is being formed
- A town may come
- Your kingdom came
- "I don't know." (5 kids)

Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

- What is done on earth is done in heaven
- What is done here on earth will happen in heaven
- Your will will be done on earth like it is in heaven
- We'll do how it is in heaven
- And all things will be done like heaven
- What you do on earth, it has meaning in heaven
- Leaving earth and going to heaven
- Please watch over us

(What Does the Lord's Prayer Mean? Continued from previous page)

Give us this day our daily bread.

Today, please give us enough to eat. (This was the sample.)

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

- Forgive the ones who haven't died
- Forgive us as we forgive others (5 kids)
- As we forgive debts and our debtors
- He forgives us so we should forgive others
- Forgive my wrongs and forgive the people who did wrong
- Forgive us our wrongs and forgive our enemies

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

- Lead us away from bad things and keep us from evil
- Don't lead us to temptation but don't give us to evil
- Don't lead us to sin, but keep us from evil (2 kids)
- Help us by stopping evil
- Stop temptation from leading us and take us away from evil
- When I think about stealing my mom's credit card, I shouldn't do that
- Push us to do good and away from evil
- Please keep us away from evil
- "I don't know" (1 kid)

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

- The kingdom comes with power
- Please take my prayer
- I don't know" (6 kids)

and the glory, forever.

- The rewards be with us forever
- And the beauty forever
- "I don't know" (6 kids)

Amen

- the end (2 kids)
- There is no other word for "**amen**"
- All done.
- Amen (2 kids)
- Please make that happen

I hope some of these answers give you pause as they did me. I was happy that there was some true understanding of the KJV version of the Lord's Prayer, but rather shocked at how some of the KJV words were understood. I mean, "**Our Father which *aren't* in heaven**" is pretty much the opposite of what the actual meaning is!

I want our kids to be able to understand the Word of God when they hear it or read it. Therefore, I am proposing that on Youth Sundays (that is, 2nd Sundays of the month) the congregation will read the Lord's Prayer from a translation that is more understandable for children, instead of reciting the traditional version from the KJV.

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div> <div>Jul 2023</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> | 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 | | | | | | | 1 | 2 (Choir Off) | 3  6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting | 4 | 5 Men's Fellowship 9 AM  |
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service | 7 | 8 | 9 (Choir Off) | 10  | 11 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 13 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service | 14  7:00 PM Member Care Meeting | 15  | 16 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 17 4:00 PM Parking Lot Ministry | 18 | 19 Men's Fellowship 9 AM  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service 3rd Sunday Potluck | 21 | 22 | 23 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 24  6:30 PM Session Meeting | 25 | 26 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 27 9:15 AM Sunday School for All Ages 10:30 AM Worship Service | 28 <div>The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless</div> | 29 | 30 7 PM Choir Rehearsal | 31 | <div> <div>Sep 2023</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> </table> </div> | | 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 | | | | | | | |
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Puzzle & Humor Page



WATER WORKS!

The gospels record Jesus' miracles, many of which involve water.

Directions: Using the illustrated equations, fill in the blanks to describe each miracle. Use the Bible references for help.



+ e

Water changes to

JOHN 2:1-11



- k + d

Heals a man born

JOHN 9



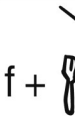
- op +



- w

Calms a

MATTHEW 8:23-27



- d

Catch of

LUKE 5:1-11



- ch + er

Walks on

MATTHEW 14:22-33

Answer: wine, blind, storm, fish, water

Showing Through

On the way home from church, a little girl turned to her mother and said, "Mommy, the preacher's sermon this morning confused me."

The mother said, "Oh! Why is that?"

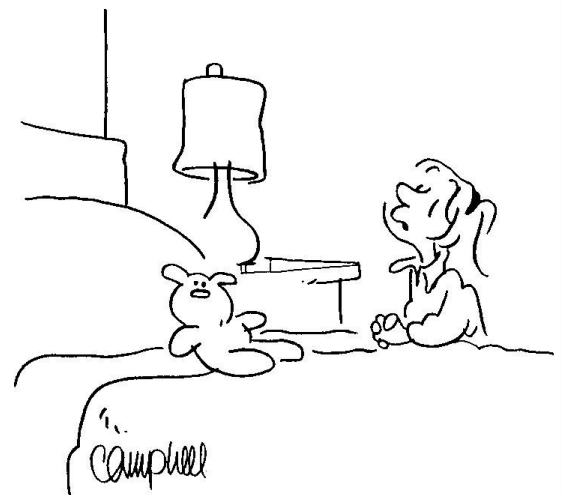
The girl replied, "Well, he said that God is bigger than we are. Is that true?"

"Yes, that's true," the mother replied.

"He also said that God lives inside of us. Is that true too?"

Again the mother replied, "Yes."

"Well," said the girl, "if God is bigger than us and He lives inside us, wouldn't He show through?"



"I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO
'LEAD ME NOT INTO TEMPTATION.'"

**Worship Volunteer Schedule
August 2023**

| | | |
|------------------|--|---|
| August 6 | Greeters Tellers End of Service Prayer COMMUNION Servers COMMUNION Prep | Connie Steger Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Lori Glover & Brenda Everett Darrell Ingram & Diane Pegues Teresa Reed |
| August 13 | Greeters Tellers End of Service Prayer | Sharon Ingram Joan Brown & Teresa Reed Brittany Haywood |
| August 20 | Greeters Tellers End of Service Prayer | Dudley Austin Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Jimmy Cordova |
| August 27 | Greeters Tellers End of Service Prayer | Dudley Austin Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Diane Pegues |

*Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.*


Psalm 34:8

August Birthdays

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.

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathleen Hartless, August 6 | Jaime Cordova, August 24 |
| Brenda Everett, August 17 | Dale Walters, August 28 |
| Eddie Cowand, August 20 | Scott Hartless, August 29 |
| Lori Glover, August 23 | Doris Metzger, August 29 |
| Eugene Jimmerson, August 23 | |

|  | | |
|--|-----------|--------------|
| 2023 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE | | |
| | Receipts | Expenditures |
| June | \$ 11,470 | \$ 32,678 |
| Jan—Jun | \$124,020 | \$ 165,274 |

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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