



# First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

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

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043  
fax: (972) 298-5312  
info@fpcd.org  
[www.fpcd.org](http://www.fpcd.org)

### **Church Staff:**

**Nyadia Thorpe**  
Director of Worship & Music

**Jennifer McWilliams**  
Admin & Media Specialist

**Katherine Hurlin**  
Admin Assistant

**Dameron Growe**  
**Brittany Haywood**  
**Susan Walters**  
Accompanists

**Sean Russell**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**  
**Kira Sewell**  
Nursery

### ***Inside . . .***

- 2 - Member Spotlight
- 3 - Volunteer Opportunities
- 4 - Church Calendar
- 5 - Worship Volunteer Schedule
- 6 - October Birthdays, Finances

### ***From our Session***

#### **Seasons**

They come and go. Sometimes, they last a little longer than we expect, like the summer heat we experienced this year. But finally, we have reached lower temperatures and cool breezes that come out of nowhere. In my mind, I believe that God is reminding us that when we least expect it, He can blow through and relieve us of the "heat" that we have been overwhelmed by.

Personally, this has been a tough season for me. While I am more than grateful for a new chance to live healthy, I have been hit with challenge after challenge. As I work through physical therapy, the therapist reminds me that I am not where I started. I have improved, and there has been growth. It may not be in the timeframe I would have wanted it, but nevertheless, IT IS PROGRESS.

I am learning to sift through the pile of challenges, problems, and obstacles and find the positive. I passed a video on Facebook where the question was asked, "Should you focus more on positive things, or start thinking less about negative things?" Of course, I believed the first answer to be correct. The speaker however revealed that the two (positive and negative) are two completely different scales. Yes, we should always think positive and meditate on positive things, but we

should focus even more on thinking less about the negative things. I even thought to myself that maybe I should take the negative things and convert them into positives, which would shift things from that negative scale to the positive one. But how?

Well, I believe in the sun, even when it's not shining. I also believe in God, even when He is silent. I believe in Him, even when things look strange or unsettled. Faith is believing in what cannot yet be seen. I believe that God watches over me and sees me. As the guest speaker preached on Sunday, God sees me and hears me! Even at my lowest point or in my distress, I can absolutely depend on him to protect me. It requires being steadfast with my faith and learning to be content. "Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well....with my soul."

*Brittany*



## Member Spotlight—Vangie Jackson

An excerpt from FPCD Interviews on Faith, Family and Friends

**Q:** Is there someone who's had a big influence on your life, and what lessons did that person teach you?

**Vangie:** Actually, quite a number of people have had great influences on my life. Since the early days. I think as far as my faith is concerned, my mom's cousin, who we always knew as Aunt Doris. She was a special addition to my life because she was a very strong Christian and had Bible study classes with children. So, I think that certainly as far as my faith is concerned, she was very special. It was interesting watching her teach because she used flannelgraph, and that to me when I was young, it was a fascinating thing. And so I picked up using flannelgraph from her. But her faith was just very natural, and very solid. And it was just so helpful to me because she was interested in sharing it with others and the children around her.

**Q:** Have you always been a Presbyterian?

**Vangie:** No. In fact, we didn't have any Presbyterian church around. We were Baptist. We went to the Baptist Church and that was very important to us. And there's just so many very pleasant memories connected with that.

**Q:** Why did you choose to come to First Presbyterian Church Duncanville?

**Vangie:** Well, when we came here in '72, the church was very young at that time. They first started having their meetings over in the schoolhouse across the street, just across the road. It was just a road then. I think it was because one of our parishioners happened to be a teacher over there. It's a junior high school, but people would meet over there until the [church] building was completed. And this was our first building, this building here. Anyway, we finally got the building built, and we were able to meet here. So a lot of interesting memories that go along with that.

**Q:** How did you become a Christian?

**Vangie:** Well, of course, my parents were Christians, and they really lived out their faith. But I made a decision at our church when I was about nine years old. And shortly after that, I was baptized and we had a special baptismal service there. And anyway, that was it. Very special memories with that.

**Q:** What important lessons have your religious beliefs taught you?

**Vangie:** To put our faith into practice, I think that's probably the best way to put it, and to live consistently. We had a business and, of course, our hardware business, and we served a lot of different people. But they were aware that our parents were Christians because of the way my dad carried on his business. So, I think just their example, the way they related to people. They enjoyed people very much and appreciated them, and people appreciated them.

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Teacher Needed

Do you love working with children? Are you just aching to fulfill a lifelong teaching dream? We are in need of a teacher for the kindergarten through third grade Sunday School class. If you are interested, please contact Diane Pegues for more information.

### Volunteers Wanted!

Want to make a difference in someone's life by delivering food and a smile to their door? Do you have 1.5-2 hours free on a weekday morning? Join the VNA Meals on Wheels volunteer team and deliver meals to homebound seniors in a neighborhood near you. The routes usually cover about 15 miles and provide food to 12-15 homes.

Cedar Hill has 4 routes delivering 62 meals to 53 clients every day.  
Duncanville has 17 routes delivering 263 meals to 225 clients every day.  
DeSoto has 10 routes delivering 173 meals to 143 clients every day.  
Lancaster has 6 routes delivering 91 meals to 78 clients every day.  
Grand Prairie has 11 routes delivering 197 meals to 161 clients every day.  
Oak Cliff & SE Oak Cliff has 53 routes delivering 1257 meals to 1063 clients every day.

You can see why VNA needs drivers!!

If you'd like to ride along to see how it's done, you can call Sharon Ingram 469-774-7997. She recently started volunteering with VNA or reach out to [volunteer.vnatexas.org](http://volunteer.vnatexas.org) or call 214-689-3222.

Thanks,

Sharon Ingram

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



## **Worship Volunteer Schedule October 2023**

<b>October 1</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b> <b>COMMUNION Servers</b> <b>COMMUNION Prep</b>	Connie Steger Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Sharon Ingram Jocelyn Bolles & Jeff Thorpe Diane Pegues
<b>October 8</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Sharon Ingram Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed Jimmy Cordova & Diane Pegues
<b>October 15</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Dudley Austin Lori Glover & Jaime Cordova Nyadia Thorpe & Nancy Bergman
<b>October 22</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Jocelyn Bolles Brenda Everett & Linda Simons Dub Guthrie & Darlene Cowand
<b>October 29</b>	<b>Greeters</b> <b>Tellers</b> <b>End of Service Prayer</b>	Connie Steger Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis Lori Glover & Brenda Everett

**“His master replied,  
‘Well done, good and faithful servant!  
You have been faithful with a few things;  
I will put you in charge of many things.  
Come and share your master’s happiness!’”**

**Matthew 25:23, NIV**

## October 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.

Zephyr Lewis, October 2	Doyce Smith, October 15
Diane Pegues, October 3	Barbara Notari, October 19
Carlos Benitez, October 8	Brandon Cowand, October 24
Grant Everett, October 9	Lorraine Cordova, October 30
Sean Russell, October 14	

2023 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE		
	Receipts	Expenditures
Aug	\$ 19,369	\$ 23,565
Jan - Aug	\$163,283	\$ 202,780

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education  
Worship Service  
— 9:15 a.m.  
— 10:30 a.m.