



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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Church Staff:

Elder On Call: **Dub Guthrie**

Nyadia Thorpe
Director of Worship & Music

Katie Swofford
Church Admins

Dameron Growe
Brittany Haywood
Accompanists

Sean Russell
Sound Room Technician

Ana Ortiz
Kira Sewell
Nursery

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From Your Session

The month of July was a tough month. We lost two long-time church members, Eddie Cowand and Steve Bayless. A member of our Lion's Club who I interacted with frequently also passed away. All three men were people that I greatly respected. The only comfort is that I am convinced all three are now in heaven reaping the reward that they spent their lives seeking. Steve Bayless and I worked on many projects and planned many special services.

I read a book several years ago that had a statement that I remember the point but not the exact words. The point was that we don't get to retire from serving God. We are to serve as long as we are physically and mentally able. Steve did this. A few months ago, he asked what he needed to do to get nominated for session. I told him I would take care of it. On July 5, 2026, Steve was elected to serve a 2-year term as elder. Steve was wanting to continue to serve his church and his God until the end.

Steve and I served on the worship planning team for many years. Several of those years I was the chairman. Steve's input and suggestions were very important to me. Sometimes Steve would listen quietly to the discussion on a special service. I was always relieved when I asked him what he thought and he replied he thought it was a great idea. One time during the planning, he

had a big smile and said thinking about our plans made him tingle. Several times after the service we planned, he said it was very meaningful to him. Steve was an entertainer, but entertaining was not the most important thing to him. The service having meaning and an impact was what he saw as important.

Steve and I did several building projects together. We always got along well despite our very different approaches. If I was leading the building, the plans were in my head. Steve accepted that and helped get the job done. When Steve was in charge, he came with three-dimensional drawings from different views. He rarely made mistakes. The very few times he did, he took the correction willingly. It was more important the project was done right rather than he be right.

We will miss Steve's wisdom, his skill, his enthusiasm, and his devotion to his church and his God.

Dub



HELP WANTED

We are in need of someone to **deliver sandwiches to the Austin Street Shelter** once a month. The church provides sandwiches (perhaps 15 to 20 dozen) on the 4th Monday of each month and the sandwiches are taken to the downtown Dallas shelter that evening (at 7 p.m.) or the following morning (sandwiches are in the church refrigerators). The next date for sandwich delivery is Monday, August 24. As Dennis and Susan left on their next assignment in Asia August 3, **we need to find a replacement as soon as possible.**

If you are willing to volunteer for this opportunity to serve our church, please email the church office at info@fpcd.org or contact Jocelyn Bolles.

Thank you.

**We Need
Volunteers**

A Long Obedience in the Same Direction

Recently, after digitizing some old home VHS tapes, we watched an FPCD Sunday service from 1994 - the service in which the church commissioned us and sent us to Asia to work in Bible translation. We all looked so young!

Pastor Craig Sanders was leading the church then. Young acolytes in white robes lit candles before the robed choir—with Bill and Vangie Jackson, Paul and Claudi Griffith, and Lois Harmon, and others—sang the introit from the front. Ken and Evelyn Pike were seated in the first congregational row. Our mentor and friend Lon Diehl preached about the need for Bible translation workers among language communities in Asia that were still waiting for help. George and Mary Huttar led us through the commissioning questions. They asked us to affirm our calling, and they asked the congregation to recognize that calling and promise to support and encourage us in the ministry.

More than thirty years later, through many ups and downs, you have faithfully kept that promise. You have prayed for us, supported our ministry financially, and walked alongside us and the three children God gave us. You are still doing that today. It is amazing—and a beautiful example of the title of one of Eugene Peterson's books, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*. Thank you.

We still feel the same calling we felt as newlyweds: to come alongside marginalized language communities that have less access to Scripture and fewer resources than others, following Jesus' example of caring for those on the sidelines. We want to contribute what we can so that these communities can flourish through the languages they value most—by advocating, building capacity, and applying linguistic expertise to education, development, and engagement with Scripture.

And now, more than thirty years later, we are heading overseas once again. We leave on Monday (Aug 3). Our house is rented, our car is sold, and we have been closing out services, commitments, and responsibilities here. Soon we will begin setting up life in a new place—this time in Thailand.

This season will be different from our earlier terms overseas. Rather than working primarily alongside one language community, we will be training and supporting individuals from various language communities across Southeast Asia. They will be leading language projects, literacy efforts, and translation work in their own languages and in neighboring communities. It is a privilege to go and work alongside them. Susan will teach in the graduate linguistics program at Payap University, continuing to lean into literacy, local arts and music, and sociolinguistics. Dennis will provide language technology support through the Linguistics Institute there, having leveled-up his skills and gotten up-to-date on newer technology these last few years.

Another difference this term is that our children will not be going with us. They are now living independently: Dale in Arlington, Virginia; Evelyn in Cambodia; and Gary in Waco, studying at TSTC. And we are moving to a country where we have never lived, whose language we do not yet speak and whose culture we are only beginning to learn.

We are older now, with a little less energy and flexibility than we had in our twenties. But we are still trusting God, and we are deeply grateful for the many partners who continue to stand with us. We are not going alone, and we look forward with expectation to seeing what God will do in this new season.

With love and admiration,

Susan and Dennis



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH DUNCANVILLE
CALENDAR

August 2026

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 9AM Men's Fellowship
2 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	10	11 7pm Session Meeting	12	13	14	15 9AM Men's Fellowship
16 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship; Church Potluck after Worship	17 7pm MCT	18 Newsletter Articles for September Newsletter Due!	19	20	21	22
23 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship	24 Austin St. Sandwiches Due!	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

August Volunteer Schedule

Aug 2	Greeter	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers	Connie Steger & Ingram
	End of Service Prayer	Sharon Ingram & Brenda Everett
	Communion Service	Darrell Ingram & Jocelyn Bolles
	Communion Preparer	Teresa Reed
	Liturgist	Linda Simons
Aug 9	Greeter	Beau Gaskins
	Tellers	Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis
	End of Service Prayer	Christian Laurent & Connie Steger
	Liturgist	TBD
Aug 16	Greeter	Connie Steger
	Tellers	Brenda Everett & Linda Simons
	End of Service Prayer	Nyadia Thorpe & Nancy Bergman
	Liturgist	TBD
Aug 23	Greeter	Sharon Ingram
	Tellers	Darlene Cowand & Teresa Reed
	End of Service Prayer	Dub Guthrie & Lee Austin
	Liturgist	TBD
Aug 30	Greeter	Dudley Austin
	Tellers	Connie Steger & Ingram
	End of Service Prayer	Lori Glover & Brenda Everett
	Liturgist	TBD

Trust in the Lord with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

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	Alvarez Nzoundja, August 30
Brenda Everett, August 17	Ruth Hara, August 31
Lori Glover, August 23	

		
2026 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE		
	Receipts	Expenditures
May	\$ 7,665	\$ 19,868
June	\$ 10,491	\$ 8,921
YTD	\$ 97,774	\$ 90,103

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education
Worship Service

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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