



# First Presbyterian Church – Weslaco

*Mission Statement: In response to God's Power at Work within us, The Weslaco First Presbyterian Church offers hope in Christ through opportunities to learn and serve.*

Dear Members and Friends of FPC of Weslaco,

I give thanks for you as a community of faith and for your session. You are a blessing to me and too many. The session is dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ in the world, being Jesus' hands and feet, in this place, at this time. You demonstrate this focus and commitment in your actions and in the benevolence portion of the 2011 budget.

In the Reformed faith, we acknowledge that God acts first, reaching out in love to us. We respond in gratitude and in love to God in worship and in serving others. "We love because God first loved us." [1 John 4:19]

Reviewing the past year, we see many things that excite and energize this congregation. Education, the next generation, the music program, and missions to the world are important to us.

Is it any wonder, as Presbyterians, that Christian Education for both children and adults comes high on the list? We believe in the mind in service to God.

People are dedicated to the activities of our children and youth: their education, participation in worship, connection to Presbytery-wide events such as camping and Mid-winter conferences, and their Christmas program. Suggestions are to increase musical activities and mission activities for the high school youth. Nathan Aranda joins us as the youth elder on the session this year to help us plan the youth engagement in mission.

The congregation loves our music program. We have tremendous gratitude for the choir, the director, and the accompanist. The cantatas were mentioned as being important worship events. Many have commented that they also love singing favorite hymns from several books. Music speaks to the heart. St. Augustine of Hippo said that when we sing, we pray twice.

And, finally, returning to mission, we reach many in this community with our mission to the middle school and with our support of Su Casa de Esperanza.

My husband, Doug, this month gave me a new image of the church as God's tool shed. "We go to church, not to find God, for God is truly everywhere. We go to Church to find the tools we need to keep the world healthy and beautiful so that all the world will know that we live every moment in God's house." [Rev. Dr. Doug Dalglish]

FPC is a wonderful toolshed for God's work in the Rio Grande Valley.

May God bless you as you continue to be blessings to others.

**Church Contact  
Information**

**709 S. Iowa Ave.  
Weslaco, TX 78596  
956-969-1535**

**www.weslacochurch.com  
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**Interim Pastor:  
Pastor Sonja Dalglish  
pastor.sonja.d@gmail.com**

**Director of Christian  
Education:  
Cheryl Lindstrom  
cheryl@ies.net**

**Secretary:  
Connie Leyva  
fpcweslacotx@ies.net**

**The Session of  
FPC**

**Class of 2011  
Nathan Aranda  
Melissa Jones  
Linda Kopecky  
Mary Mattar  
Eddie Seils**

**Class of 2012  
Charles Bell  
David Dueñas  
Debby Rektorik  
Linda Taormina**

**Class of 2013  
Camille Jones  
Marvin Miller  
Margaret Perez  
Sue Peterson**

**Deacons**

**Class of 2010  
Ruth Meehlhause  
Helen Willhite**

**Class of 2011  
Kay Gibson  
Chuck Hunger  
\*Bruce Walker**

**Class of 2012  
Mary Ellen Beard  
Karen Hunger  
Jane Seils**

*\*Moderator*

**Sunday Morning Schedule**

- 8:30 a.m. Bell Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday Class, Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Children & Youth Sunday Classes
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:40 a.m. Chime Choir

**Church Office Hours**

**Monday thru Thursday:**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**\*Friday:**

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

\*Try to remember the Pastor's day off is Friday. Our secretary is in the office on Friday mornings. You can always leave a message for the Pastor with Connie, or on the church answering machine or reach her by e-mail which she ordinarily checks daily.

## Revised Common Lectionary Scriptures for February

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### Sunday, February 6

Isa. 58:1-9a (9b-12); Ps. 112:1-9 (10)  
1 Cor. 2:1-12 (12-16); Matt. 5:13-20

### Sunday, February 13

Deut. 30:15-20; Ps. 119:1-8; 1 Cor. 3:1-9  
Matt. 5:21-37

### Sunday, February 20

Lev. 19:1-2, 9-18; Ps. 119:33-40  
1 Cor. 3:10-11, 16-23; Matt. 5:38-48

### Sunday, February 27

Isa. 49:8-16a; Ps. 131; 1 Cor. 4:1-5  
Matt. 6:24-34

**Newsletter articles** can be submitted to the church office by:

- E-mail: [fpcweslacotx@ies.net](mailto:fpcweslacotx@ies.net)
- Phone/Fax: 969-1535
- In person during our regular office hours

Deadlines for articles are **12:00 noon** the Tuesday following regular monthly **session** meetings.

Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

January 18<sup>th</sup>



On January 23<sup>rd</sup> the middle school youth will sponsor a spaghetti lunch right after church in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds from the lunch will help with the cost of attending the Mid-Winter Conference at Mo-Ranch. Everyone is welcome to join us!

### **JOHN KNOX VILLAGE:**

Our deacons and elders will take communion to the people of John Knox Village the **third Sunday** of each month at 3:00 p.m.

### **COMMUNION & POWER OF HOPE FUND:**

Communion is served every **third Sunday** of the month during the 10:30 a.m. Worship Service. This is also the Sunday we receive funds for our benevolent fund "**The Power of Hope Fund**". This fund is used for helping families in need find a sense of hope.

### **PARLOR BIBLE STUDY**

The Parlor Bible Study has finished our study for the fall. We will start again, Tuesday, February 1, 2011. Our present study book by Max Lucado, When God Whispers Your Name will remain as our study book.

### **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:**

The Men's Bible study and discussion group meets every Tuesday morning from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. in the church Parlor. We are studying the book of James. For more information contact Tom Newcomer at 956-973-0976.

**The Division of Finance provides a monthly report regarding average weekly Sunday service attendance and tithes.**

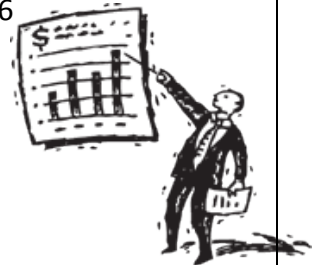
#### December 2010

*Average weekly attendance:* 116

*Average weekly tithes and offerings:* \$4941.34

*Average Weekly Expenses:*  
\$ 5900

All financial information is available in the church office.





Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for the Gifts for Baby Jesus Project.

Our babies and new mothers will be delighted with the supplies and clothing which their babies will receive. The gifts are beautiful! We appreciate this wonderful gesture.

We received many Christmas blessings this year. On behalf of Su Casa de Esperanza families, staff, and board of directors we would like to thank you for being one of our “blessings.” Your support during this special season has made a big difference in the lives of our children. We will continue our efforts to educate our families and to bring “hope” to their lives.

Su Casa de Esperanza takes pride in our partnership with First Presbyterian Church, Weslaco, and we hope that you feel our continued prayers and support for your important ministry.

Sincerely, Lucy Fernandez,  
Executive Director

Thank you to the congregation for their support



of our youth to attend the Mid-Winter conferences at Mo-Ranch. Ten middle school youth with four sponsors and five high school youth with two sponsors attended and had a wonderful time. The theme for this year was “Shine in the Light, Glow in the Dark” based on the scripture from Luke 11:33-35

## Ask the Pastor

Why do we not have any women ushers?

All are welcome to sign up on the usher sheet in the narthex. Men, women and youth are encouraged to sign up. If you don’t see someone ushering, it’s because they have not signed up. This is an enjoyable way of serving the congregation. Please continue to volunteer to meet and greet and usher. It’s an opportunity to get to know people better.

What does BSA mean? (It was on the list of things we liked)

Boy Scouts of America

Does the Boy Scout Troop meet here anymore?

It is my understanding that the BSA troop met in the casita until they added so many boys that they moved to meet in a larger area in the Methodist Church.

We still have Alanon, Weight Watchers, and the Gideons who use our facilities during the week, as well as our own members who meet for Bible studies and small groups.

Don’t we normally have an Annual Congregational Meeting in January?

Having not been here in a January, I had to go and talk to the session about this one. The answer is yes, you have traditionally had an Annual Congregational Meeting in January with the purpose of reviewing the terms of call of the pastor and approving them. The congregation hires the installed pastor. However, I am an interim pastor and am hired by the session. My terms of call do not need to be approved by the congregation. No Annual Meeting is needed this year.

Dear Friends,

Thank you for adopting our Progresso families through your Christmas Food Basket project.



You have truly made a difference for the families. This is an exciting time for families and their children. Thank you for bringing the smiles to their faces and for demonstrating your generosity and thoughtfulness.

We appreciate your invitation. Please share our thoughts with members of your congregation. We always look forward to spending time with you and invite you to visit Su Casa de Esperanza.

Sincerely, Lucy Fernandez, Executive Director



**Popcorn Ministry has new head:** Marvin Miller has agreed to organize the Popcorn Ministry. This is a vital outreach to the middle schoolers each Wednesday, making friends of hundreds of children and youth as they stop by and pick up a bag of popcorn and a container of water. The bag

always has a sticker reminding them that God loves them. This year, we purchased some graphic (comic book type) books with Bible stories in them that will be put out at intervals to be picked up. EVERY week, we take up prayer requests that the children have made. We will transfer them to cards. FPC children pass the cards to willing people in the congregation who pray for the needs on the card.

### A Two-Hour Tour?

What? When? Where? Why? How shall we go? A tour of four church sanctuaries, in Weslaco, is being planned for the Wednesday morning of February 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 a.m. to noon. If you are interested in seeing these places of worship, please contact Cheryl or call the Church Office for more information. We will car-pool to the churches on

our route. This is open to all members and friends of FPC. You are invited to lunch afterwards, at a restaurant to TBA in the bulletin on February 6<sup>th</sup>. All the churches will be located around the downtown area in Weslaco. Seeing other worship spaces is always a joy! Since most of us attend worship at FPC, we do not have an opportunity to see the other church sanctuaries. Please mark your calendar for the Two-Hour Tour on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Did You Know?

During worship, one of our ushers makes the rounds of the parking lots, making sure that our cars are safe?

**We need more people to sign up for fellowship!  
We've decided to serve only drinks on those weeks when no one has signed up, to eliminate last minute scrambling for goodies to put out.**

Next Step for the Transition Team

The session's transition team will be interviewing people in the community to find out what our reputation is. How are we known?

We've had one response from someone who knew nothing about us but was invited by a neighbor to worship and found a very warm community.

The second response was from Sylvia, one of the owners of Savory Perks who said to your interim pastor - "Oh, you're the church that gives out the popcorn to the middle schoolers!" Her son used to be one of those middle schoolers, but now is grown, married, working at Savory Perks, and has an infant son of his own. FPC is making good memories and good friends!!

After we get a good sense of how we are known, the Transition Team will begin asking leaders in the community what the needs are in Weslaco and the Rio Grande Valley in 2011. You can help. Do you know a teacher, principal (we've got two here in our congregation), mayor or representative? Ask what the needs are - and let your session know.

## A Bit of History

The First Presbyterian Church of Weslaco, Texas was the first protestant church built in Weslaco. The church and manse were built in 1920 on the southeast corner of sixth and Texas on lots donated by the Weslaco Townsite.



The church and manse were in the same building. The front was the sanctuary and the back rooms were used as the living quarters for the pastor's family (Rev. Horace N. Cunningham and newly married bride). The Sunday school met in the back rooms as well.

Following the worship service of January 9, 1921, The FPC was organized with seven charter members, including the pastor's wife. The next week, five more members joined. In April 1921, the people rejoiced to be seated in chairs instead of on boards laid across nail kegs.

In May 1922, the congregation voted to build a church.

More next month.

*With Sympathy*

**We extend our sympathy to David & Pamela Dueñas. Pamela's father, Alvin AalSeth, passed away January 16<sup>th</sup>. Our prayers are with the Dueñas family.**

# Session Snippets

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## January 17, 2011 Meeting

The Session welcomes questions about church activities and asks everyone to pray for our ruling elders, deacons, congregation, community, and the world at large.

- Twenty people from First Church of Weslaco attended the Mid-Winter Conference for teens this month. Ten middle school and four high school students attended. Cody Blood was on the Mid-Winter planning team this year helping design the retreat. He attended each week of the event. Each youth paid half the cost of the trip and will raise most of the rest of the money through several activities including a spaghetti lunch after worship on January 23, 2011.
- The 2011 Budget was approved.
- A financial update to be distributed to the congregation was approved.
- Bruce Walker has been named the chairman for the Deacons. He will report deacon activities at the beginning of each Session meeting.
- Deacons have divided the church families into "flocks" and have sent letters introducing themselves to their flock.
- At the recommendation of the deacons, communion at John Knox Village will be moved to the third Sunday afternoon of the month, which is also the regular communion Sunday in the sanctuary.
- A day- long praying, learning, and planning meeting for the Session will be held January 22, 2011.
- Marvin Miller will be in charge of the Popcorn Ministry for middle school students held each Wednesday afternoon of the school year in the church parking lot.
- A garage sale was set for March 5. Proceeds will go to Camp Creativity, the children's day camp held the week before school starts.
- A potluck lunch will be held on March 6 to recognize our Winter Texan friends.

# CHERYL'S CORNER

## A Job vs. A Ministry by Mickey Anders, The Beginning of Ministry

Someone has said there is a huge difference between having a job at church and having a ministry at church.

- If you are doing it because no one else will, it's a job. If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it's a ministry.
- If you are doing it just well enough to get by, it's a job. If you are doing it to the best of your ability, it's a ministry.
- If you'll do it only so long as it doesn't interfere with other activities, it's a job. If you're committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it's a ministry.
- It's hard to get excited about a job. It's almost impossible not to get excited about a ministry.
- An average church is filled with people doing jobs. A great church is filled with people involved in ministry.

## Ministry Positions available at FPC:

### For Children's Rotational Sunday School:

A Sunday school coordinator who can help with Sunday mornings, taking attendance and helping with the children's offering, assisting the children and announcing their group activities is needed by February 6, 2011. This ministry can be shared.

1. Two greeter leaders are needed to greet children (with smiling faces) and to read the scripture theme to the children in their gathering room #6 on Sunday mornings at 9:15 to 9:30 a.m. These people will rotate the Sunday mornings during on unit of study.
  - Our current unit of study is just beginning and will end March 20, 2011.
  - The next unit of study is four weeks long, beginning April 3 through Easter morning, April 24, 2011
  - The final unit of study for the school year is four weeks during the month of May.
2. Shepherd Guides are needed to guide and direct the children, assisting one group of children, as they move to their activity, led by a teacher/leader who has already prepared the

lesson. (We are in need of shepherds/guides now and during the springtime (for the safety of the children). Ministry time is on Sunday mornings at 9:30 to 10:15 a.m.

Schedule for the Children's Rotational Activities as they study the unit "Jesus Teaches: Faith Foundations"

### For Creative Arts during the week:

1. Small Group Assistants are needed for the first and third Wednesdays of each month. Choose the Wednesday that you could greet and meet people as they arrive at 9:30 a.m. The ministry involves greeting and helping participants to locate supplies in Room 10 and to introduce the participants to one another.
2. The Stars of Hope program is being directed by Roxie Blood. Meals for the mid-week program are being coordinated by Julie Kelly. Thank you to Roxie and Julie for their ministry to the children and youth. Thank you to all the adult leaders who are leading the children and youth activities during our winter eight week session! Thank you to all who are making meals possible for the children and youth on Wednesdays!
  - Ministry needed: Prayer for all those involved in ministry with young disciples. Children and youth and their leaders need our prayer support.

## Our younger disciples are helping others

During the months of November and December this past year, the children asked about where they could help others. We discussed the possibilities (after hearing some stories about places with malaria and how buying mosquito netting at \$10 per net could help young children from becoming ill. We brought small change and some larger amounts in bills during those two months to celebrate the gift of Christ for the world. The children in grades K-5 are donating their Sunday school offering from November and December to "Mosquito Nets for Kids". Thank you boys and girls on our Sunday school program. Well done! You have made a difference in the world for others. The children are already talking about another project for spring.

It's a joy to serve with you,



Loretta Barbee	1
Thane French	1
Taryl Gillum	2
Marvin Miller Jr	4
Stephanie Aranda	8
Gennie Shouse	10
Mary Tucker Wessel	13
Lee Moyer	15
Dean Long	17
Jarod Kelly	19
Lawrence Strouts	20
Barbara Rogers	21
Marites Cabote	22
Martha Fairbairn	22
Ozzie Ostberg	26
Marvin Miller	27
Matthew Peterson	27
Mary Ellen Beard	28

## Special Thanks To Our Recent Hosts and Musicians

### **PIANISTS:**

Sherri Bagwell

### **ORGANIST:**

Jeffery Figueroa

### **FLOWER HOSTS:**

Carmen Whitaker

### **LITURGISTS:**

Bob Ordway

Phyllis Walker

Sharon Newcomer

### **FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:**

Ostberg Family

Rektorik Family

Perez Family

### **ACOLYTES**

Tiffany Cardenas

Forrest Jones

Ethan Cabote

Ian Aranda

Austin Cardenas

If you would like to donate flowers for worship, or if you would like to be a fellowship host/hostess, you may sign up on charts located in the Fellowship Hall or call the Church Office.

## Loving kindness

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, "What do you think the Bible means when it speaks of loving kindness?"

"Well," answered a young boy, "If I was hungry and someone gave me bread with butter on it that would be kindness. And then if they put a spoonful of jam on it, that would be loving kindness."



## Words from Women's Circle

The hostess of our January meeting was Sharon Newcomer. She served chicken pot pies and fruit pies (yum). Margaret Perez

gave a great talk on our fourth lesson in Revelations. It is an awesome Bible study and one which is not the easiest to get through, but we are already getting interesting insight into the meaning and explanations of what John of Patmos wrote.

Since this is the start of a new year, we did discuss some resolutions that we might want to do in order to help keep us on the right road with God throughout the year ... Relationship (reaffirm) Micah 6:8, Review (look back) Psalms 139:23-24, and Repent (confess) 1 John 1:9.

Six or eight of us are reading the Bible all the way through. As I write this we are on day 17 and into Exodus. After getting beyond the begats, I am finding rereading the Old Testament "stories" fascinating. I only wish this old brain could remember all that I have read!!

A few of us (as have other church "members") have helped Dr. Bob Ordway, Lily and the Pelletts in their preparations for their move to McAllen and those of us in circle are making plans to serve birthday cake to the residents of Valley Grande Manor on February 10. It is a pleasure to be of help and hopefully inspiration to friends and acquaintances.

Applications to Mo-Ranch Spring Gathering; "Walking with God—Hills and Valleys" on March 25-27, 2011 are available now and at least seven of our women are planning on going. It is an experience of great fun and great learning (crafts, singing, Bible study, exercise, etc.). If anyone is interested in finding out more or getting an application contact Karen Hunger at 956- or the Church Office at 956-969-1535.

We welcome visitors or new members for one hour on the second Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon in the Fellowship Hall for good food and great fellowship.

Peace and blessing to you all,  
"Mary Ellen Rice Circle"

*Karen Hunger*

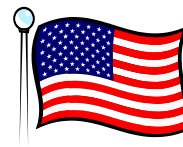
**Oops!** We forgot an ingredient! The missing ingredient has been added to the recipe.

## Kay's Spicy Crackers

Ingredients

- 1 box of saltine crackers
- 1 ½ to 2 TB cayenne pepper
- 1 pkg. Hidden Valley dry dressing mix
- 1 ½ cups of oil

1. In a 9X13 pan, place the saltine crackers sideways in rows
2. Wisk briskly and pour at once over crackers.
3. Turn every 15 minutes upside down for 1 hour.



**Please pray for our troops and all the families with loved ones in the Middle East. Do you know of others? If anyone is not on the list that needs to be, or if you have an addition, please contact the church office.**

### MILITARY PERSONNEL

**Clint Gebke (Polly Lovell's grandson)**  
**Spc. Douglas Walker (Bruce Walker's son)**  
**Mickel Fernández**  
**Jim Rogers (Jim & Barbara Roger's son)**  
**Terry Osheim**  
**Jonathon Osheim**  
**Joseph Osheim**  
**(Sharon Newcomer's nephews)**  
**Lucas Anderson**  
**(Orlen Anderson's grandson)**

### STATE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

**Eric Whitaker based in Nairobi, Kenya**  
**(Carmen Whitaker's son)**

Jonita Whitaker based in Basra, Iraq



If you have someone you would like the Prayer Chain members to pray for, please call (968-6478) or email [janeseils@msn.com](mailto:janeseils@msn.com) so this person can be added to our list. If anyone needs to be removed from the list, also contact Jane.

### SHORT TERM LIST

Thomas January	Connor Cruz
Ruth Armstrong	Randy Petch
Jennifer McDaniel	Amy Scott
Beth Moore	Marti Dyrk
Raul and Carla Leal	Marion Scott
Tom Cruze	Casey Damen
Jay Tirrel (Shirley Anderson's son)	Clyde Pellett
Alan Landers (Doris's son-in-law)	
Sandra Williams (Ellen Williams's daughter-in-law)	
Gerardo Mendoza (Ana Maria "Anita's son)	
Mary Lou Lovell (Polly Lovell's daughter)	
Tom Thompson (Margaret's brother-in-law)	
Robert Pratt (Bob Ordway's friend)	

### LONG TERM LIST

Dora Aldrich	Melanie Liesner
Sibyl Mattar	Bob Jolma
D J McGroarty	Chris Anderson
David Salazar	Alex Rodriquez
Phil Timmer (Sherri Bagwell's cousin)	Mary Jane Lofton
Nancy Smith (Kathy Sornson's sister)	
Clayton Vicars (Linda Kopecky's grandson)	
Lois Alexander (Phyllis Walker's step mother)	
Linda Evans (Bob Ordway's sister)	
Gavyn (Karen Hunger's friend)	
David DeGuisse (John & Shirly Bowen's son -in -law)	
Marv Fiedler (Karen Hunger's friend)	

### SHUT-INS & FRIENDS

Juanita Pointer	Arlene Waughtal
Delores Rettig	Juanita Cloninger
Fran Pellett	Millie Johansen
Joe Barbee	Dorothy Warren
Katie Carter	Isaac and Doris Bo

## A Way Past Due Thank You!

### Cookies and Crunch

January 19, 2011



It never fails, as I approach the trials and tribulations of the "Finals Season" at Texas Lutheran University, a small goodies box will appear in my mailbox. The FPC Women of the Church save the day! Ever since I moved away from home to begin my journey as a college student, the Ladies of First Presbyterian Church, Weslaco have always made sure to remember me during my crunch time at school. My box has been filled with all sorts of assorted and wonderful goodies. There is such an abundance of treats that I have been able to share with my friends and roommates every year. I'm not surprised that the delicious cookies disappear in about three days! All of us extend a huge thank you for giving us a token of calm amidst the stress of exam schedules. I know that many students will receive a care box from their parents but not many get that extra support from their church family. I was only one year old when I was baptized into the FPC Weslaco but Mom explained the promise the congregation gave to love and support me as a member of this Christian community. Just knowing that I have an extended family standing behind me gives me encouragement to push through the last stretch of every semester. Thank you again for being the body of Christ that continues to meet me where I am. All of you are an important part of my life journey.

With much affection  
And Christian Love  
*Jessica Rae Roe*