



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 Friends,

Last month, I talked about how important it is for us to make a habit of being grateful. One way to express gratitude is to keep a gratitude journal each day; another is to sing. Acknowledging where all good things come from, we sing each week, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Rosemary Clooney sang, "If you're worried and you can't sleep, try counting blessings, instead of sheep – and you'll fall asleep counting your blessings."

We have much to be thankful for again this month.

1. We are moving ahead with finding the next installed pastor.
2. Camp Creativity will be a wonderful time for our church.
3. We have excitement building for the all-church picnic in September, now known as the Camp Thicket Fun Bash.

I want to focus on Camp Creativity, happening August 15-19. I am thankful for those doing the initial design and planning. This is taking a lot of time and effort.

First, I am thankful that Cheryl Lindstrom found the materials for Nazareth, Jesus' Hometown. This curriculum has won a prize for the best VBS material this year. Julie Kelly helped to organize everything, making notebooks for volunteers, lists of volunteers needed, and items needed for decoration, and making a plan for how to transform our Fellowship Hall into a first century marketplace. Roxie Blood has been our major craft shopper, figuring out what supplies were needed for the crafts, how to get them the most economically, and then finding them. Carolyn Bell stepped forward to be a co-director, aided with the organization, making sure nothing falls through the cracks, helping to train and supply the volunteers with their materials, and many other things.

Camp Creativity gives our children, youth, and adults a time to learn more about our faith stories. Many crafts allow them to express themselves creatively. But even more importantly it is a time of spiritual formation when we model living and working in a Christian community. If we count our blessings every day, we will have no trouble drifting off to sleep each night.

Giving thanks with a grateful heart,

Pastor Sonia

Officers of FPC

Session

Class of 2011

Nathan Aranda (youth)
Melissa Jones
Linda Kopecky
Mary Mattar
Eddie Seils

Deacons

Class of 2011

Ruth Meehlhause
Helen Willhite

Class of 2012

Charles Bell
David Dueñas
Debby Rektorik
Linda Taormina

Class of 2012

Kay Gibson
Chuck Hunger
*Bruce Walker

Class of 2013

Camille Jones
Marvin Miller
Margaret Perez
Sue Peterson

Class of 2013

Mary Ellen Beard
Karen Hunger
Jane Seils
*Moderator

Committees

Christian Education: Sue Peterson

Finance: Camille Jones

Mission & Outreach: Charles Bell

Property: David Dueñas

Worship: Margaret Perez

Fellowship: Linda Kopecky

Environmental: Melissa Jones

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, or on the church answering machine or reach her by e-mail which she ordinarily checks daily.

Contact Information



Interim Pastor

Pastor Sonja Dalglish

pastor.sonja.dalglish@gmail.com

www.hopetalks.wordpress.com

Secretary

Connie Leyva

fpcweslacotx@ies.net

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday Class, Parlor

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

10:30 a.m. Worship

11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

11:40 a.m. Chime Choir

Newsletter articles can be submitted to the church office by:

- E-mail: 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 is July 19th.**



Summer's here but the worship and mission continue! Remember to keep your pledges current.



Revised Common Lectionary Scriptures for April

Sunday, August 7

Gen. 37:1-4, 12-28
Ps. 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Rom. 10:5-15
Matt. 14:22-23

Sunday, August 21

Exod. 1-8-2:10; Ps. 124
Rom. 12:1-8; Matt. 16:13-20

Sunday, August 14

Gen. 45:1-15; Ps. 133
Rom. 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matt. 15(10-20) 21-28

Sunday, August 28

Exod. 3:1-15;
Ps. 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Rom. 12:9-21
Matt. 16:21-28



JOHN KNOX VILLAGE:

Our deacons and elders will take communion to the people of John Knox Village the **first Sunday** of August.

PARLOR BIBLE STUDY

The Parlor Bible Study group will resume meeting again in the fall. Our first meeting will probably be **Tuesday, September 6th**.

FLOWER & FELLOWSHIP:

Please take a look at the **Flower & Fellowship Charts**. There are several summer dates available. You can sign the charts in the Fellowship Hall or call the church office.

COMMUNION & POWER OF HOPE FUND:

The Session has voted to move our communion and Power of Hope collection to the **first Sunday of the month**. This will put us on the same schedule as most other churches that have once a month communion. The deacons will continue to take communion to the homebound on the same day

that we have it in church. If you know of someone who is homebound and would like communion, let us know by calling the office or informing your deacon.

The Power of Hope Fund is used for helping families in need find a sense of hope.

FELLOWSHIP REGISTERS:

Thank you for filling out the fellowship registers. We report attendance members to the denomination. They are on file for Pastors who are looking at applying for our pastor position and can be used by the deacons and membership committee to respond to members' needs.

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday School will start *August 21st* with a kick-off celebration. We will use the rotational model, again, for the younger children. If you are willing to help with Sunday School please talk to Melissa Jones or Sue Peterson.

STARS OF HOPE:

Stars of Hope will begin *August 31st* with Splash Day! Anyone willing to help with anything connected to Stars of Hope on Wednesday nights is asked to contact Roxie Blood.



COFFEE GRACES:

Savory Perks on **Wednesday mornings from 7:00-8:00**.

Grab a cup of coffee or tea and a muffin. Spend time with Pastor Sonja and some friends.



Stop by and read the blog and make a comment at hopetalks.wordpress.com.

BONHOEFFER EVENINGS

Bonhoeffer, Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy by Eric Metaxis.

Weslaco FPC Parlor

Wednesday evenings in the summer, 6-7 p.m.

We have enjoyed our Bonhoeffer discussions. They will continue on through August. There is so much that we did not know about the German experience before and during the war. Things were bad for German citizens for years before Germany went to war.

-Anyone with Jewish blood was barred from being a pastor in the church.

-The soldiers in the Army had to swear a loyalty oath to Hitler, as did then the pastors in the Reich Church. "I swear by God this sacred oath, that I will render unconditional obedience to Adolf Hitler."

- When Hitler came into power, he sent out squads that killed his enemies during the 'Night of the Long Knives.' Even today, the exact number of people killed is not known, perhaps as many as 1,000. They were killed in their homes and in their beds. No wonder the resistance within Germany was so hampered.

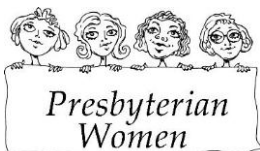
We have learned a lot about the courage and life of Pastor Deitrich Bonhoeffer. Discussion continues through the month of August.

September Wednesdays 6-7 p.m.

We will do something new. The first three Wednesdays will be about being an elder in the Presbyterian Church.

The last Wednesday is about being a deacon in the Presbyterian Church.

We will return to a book study in October



PW mark your calendars for Saturday, Sept. 10th for the RGV PW Gathering. More information to come...

PNC - Pastor Nominating Committee

The Church Information Form is now on the internet at the denomination's website. In less than two weeks, forty-seven PIFs arrived for the Pastor Nominating Committee to review. The word has gotten out that this is a wonderful and faithful congregation and the Valley is a great place to live – warmer in the winter than the rest of the nation and cooler in the summer than many other locations. Thank goodness for that breeze!! Things are moving along!

Women of Faith

You are invited

Date: October 20-22, 2011

Place: San Antonio, Texas (Alamo Dome)

Cost:

- **Conference \$89**, which includes two box lunches Call Woman of Faith at 1-888-493-2484 (using account #1889086) for your reservation.
- **Hotel (Courtyard by Marriott) \$157** (two queen beds). This amount can be divided among 2, 3, 4 people.
- **Coach Bus Fee: \$50** (payable to Sharon Newcomer (1501-40 S. Airport Dr. Weslaco, TX. 78596-7265). The bus will depart First Presbyterian Church located at 709 S. Iowa Ave. in Weslaco on Thursday at 3:30 p.m. and returning to the same location on Saturday at 10:00 p.m.



Registration Forms are available in the Church Office.



POPCORN MINISTRY

We will start our popcorn ministry on August 31st. If you would like to help with this program, contact Marvin Miller or any of the other volunteers.

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

June 2010

Average weekly attendance:

Average weekly tithes and offerings: \$6020.00

Average Weekly Expenses: \$ 5900

All financial information is available in the church office.



Camp Thicket Fun Bash

Thank you Charles Bell for the name!

Fun for all ages: swimming, games, eating, full of laughter and stories.

The Committee: Margaret Perez, Mary Mattar, Linda Taormina, Marvin Miller, and Nathan Aranda.

The Fun Bash will be:

at Camp Thicket, naturally
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Saturday, September 17, 2011

1. **Kay and Dick Gibson will organize the food -- Hooray!!**
2. **Camp Thicket will provide the lifeguard**

In order to have loads of fun, we need:

3. An organizer to create a schedule
4. An Activities Director -
5. Someone to choose and buy prizes for the games.
6. Publicity Whiz, encouraging people to come & perhaps even matching people with rides. Let people know about the contests so that they can practice up.
6. Clean up Director
7. Official Photographer -- Chief Shutterbug

THEY ARE COMING... THEY ARE COMING



The time once again approaches for the good people of First Church to host "THE ALABAMA GROUP".

Dick Gibson will be the coordinator and

since the group is going to be a small one (six + 1 cook) little volunteer help from our congregation will be required but you can join in as always. The planned arrival is July 24th and leaving July 30th. Please contact Dick to volunteer your willingness to help in this activity.

Mission Group

~~~August Birthday~~~

Neal Namken	1 st	Lynn Carter	21 st
Margaret Whitley	4 th	Delores Rettig	24 th
Allen Rudolph	8 th	John Bowen	24 th
Richard Vos	10 th	Tammy Lou Cardenas	24 th
William Gillum	14 th	Mary Ellen Rice	28 th
Marilyn Leverenz	16 th	Jackie Ostberg	28 th
Frances Solether	17 th	Cheryl Lindstrom	28 th
Carolyn Rudolph	18 th	Clarence Leverenz	29 th
Evy Guillum	18 th	Camille Jones	29 th
Katrina Rogers	19 th	Donna Delacretaz	30 th
		Ethan Cabote	31 st



Bell Choir

The Bell Choir will start rehearsal on August 21st. I would like each ringer to decide if we need to change our schedule. My schedule is full. The only time I can get away is a little before 8 p.m. on Thursdays. We need an hour rehearsal to perform

our best. Give me some feedback.

Chime Choir

The children who are in third grade through 5th grade are welcome to come and join the chime choir. We will start on August 28th. I want to start practice at 11:40 a.m. and end at 12:05 p.m. We need to have better attendance so that we will sound good.

Camp Creativity

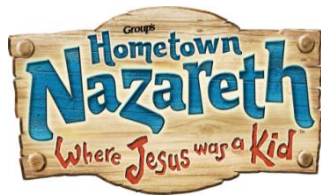
Camp Creativity will be a great adventure

this year as the kids and adults explore what it means to be in Nazareth during Jesus' time. We are trying some new ideas for classes in the afternoon. We plan to have a Weaving Room, an Art Room, Music Room, and games. We will be teaching a little Hebrew to our young scholars. And, generally, we will be having a ball.

We need help with some decorations and supplies.

- Galvanized tubs to dye t-shirts
- Rugs and baskets and pots as props for the area to make it look like Nazareth

Thank you to all who are working so hard to bring this together.



Session Snippets

July 18, 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.

- The Session expressed appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Sonja for her wonderful leadership this past year as our interim pastor.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee has not met for the past month while waiting for the Church Information Form (CIF) to be approved. The CIF has been approved and loaded onto the denominational website where pastors can view and submit Pastor Information Forms (PIF) and a "matching service" provides PIFs that match the needs listed in the Church Information Form. PNC members have received almost 50 PIFs to review.
- Dates to remember:
 - July 24: Athens Group of 7 here to do mission work in Mexico
 - August 21: Sunday School Kick Off complete with a breakfast
 - August 28: Rotational Sunday School for children begins
 - August 31: Stars of Hope begins
 - September 17: All church picnic from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Camp Thicket. Kay and Dick Gibson will be in charge of the picnic food.
 - October 26: Stars of Hope ends with Harvest Fest
 - November 27: Christmas Pageant practice
 - December 4: Christmas Pageant practice
 - December 11: Christmas Pageant practice



Recycle

Environment Committee:

The Environment Committee has started its trek towards becoming better stewards of our beautiful environment. We are now recycling our office paper...great! Thanks, Pastor Sonja! Speaking of recycling, did you know that Weslaco has its own recycling center? It is located north of town by the airport. The address is 1912 Joe Stephens. They will recycle paper, cardboard, tin, aluminum, glass and plastic. Please be a part of helping conserve our environment and try recycling. Recycling hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 8:00 – 12:00 and 1:00-5:00. For more information, you may call the Public Works office at 973-3146.

We are also now being better stewards of our natural resources. We are conserving water and only watering the church lawn once a week. So, though our grass may not be as green as it once was, we are now also in compliance with the city's watering restrictions.

Finally, this fall we will be selling reusable shopping bags and water bottles. We designed them with a Christian logo in hopes to spread God's word, while also being kind to our environment. We hope these will become popular items around town and will become a trend. More information about pricing will follow. Thanks.

~ Melissa

Main Event for Youth
John Knox Ranch Camp (JKR)
September 23-25.



I thank my God every time
I remember you.
[Philippians 1:3]

Special Thanks To Our Recent Hosts and Musicians

PIANISTS:

Sherri Bagwell

ORGANIST:

Jeffery Figueroa

FLOWER HOSTS:

Mary Vaughn

LITURGISTS:

Karen Hunger
Dick Gibson
Marvin Miller
Linda Taormina

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Bell Family

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.

Thanksgiving for the lives of

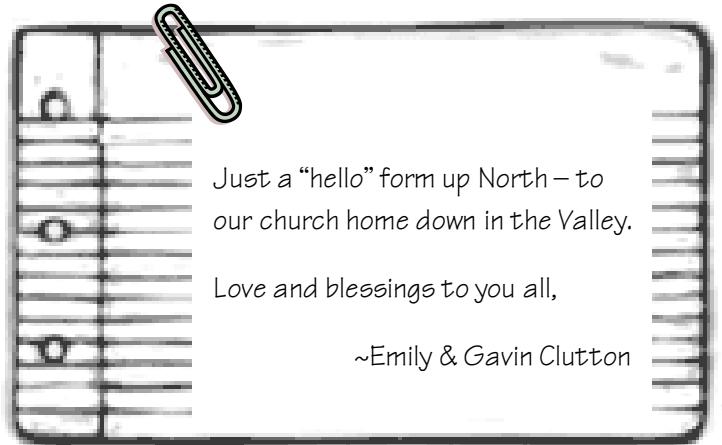
Gennie Shouse

Tom Kruse

*Mary Ellen Rice

We are grateful for their lives of faith. They now rest from their labors and are with our Lord.

*Mary Ellen Rice was remembered in a memorial service on June 11, 2011 in West Virginia. We have a bulletin in the Church Office for those of you that would like to view it.



A big thank you to Art Lindstrom who helped set our sprinkler system and to Dick Gibson who trimmed trees this month

Thank you to Wendy Rogers and Brian Lofton who figured out how to post the words to songs from the white hymnbook on the fly. How much fun we had singing those old songs. Also, we thank them for modifying the service quickly when the women from Teen Challenge came in July. You are a blessing to us.

Also, thank you to Karen Saviñon who helped us by playing when Jeffery Figueroa was on vacation. She was a wonderful blessing and enriched our worship.

PRAY FOR OUR ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ MILITARY

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)

Mickel Fernández

Jim Rogers (Jim & Barbara Roger's son)

Lucas Anderson (Orlen Anderson's grandson)

Terry Osheim, Jonathon Osheim, Joseph Osheim
(Sharon Newcomer's nephews)

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

janesails@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
Marti Dyrk	Marion Scott
Raul and Carla Leal	Clyde Pellett
Casey Damen	Jerri Lantz
Jay Tirrel (Shirley Anderson's son)	Sean Moore
Alan Landers (Doris's son-in-law)	Jeanette Roe
Gerardo Mendoza (Ana Maria "Anita's son)	
Mary Lou Lovell (Polly Lovell's daughter)	
Robert Pratt (Bob Ordway's friend)	
Pamela Dueñas	
Dawn (Jo Green's daughter)	
Sharon Newcomer	

LONG TERM LIST

Dora Aldrich	Melanie Liesner
Bob Jolma	Dorothy French
D J McGroarty	Chris Anderson
David Salazar	Alex Rodriguez
Phil Timmer (Sherri Bagwell's cousin)	Mary Jane Lofton
Nancy Smith (Kathy Sornson's sister)	Bette Fasano
Clayton Vicars (Linda Kopecky's grandson)	Jo Summers
Lois Alexander (Phyllis Walker's step mother)	Beth Moore
Linda Evans (Bob Ordway's sister)	Don Brue
Gavyn (Karen Hunger's friend)	Bill Cody
Sylvia (Savory Perks)	Julia Sleeth Mays (Ellen Sleeth's sister)

SHUT-INS & FRIENDS

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

HERO Sandwich

To celebrate the Bible's many heroes, make this sandwich for a picnic.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Shredded lettuce
- Olive oil and vinegar
- Seasonings (salt, pepper, oregano)
- Italian crusty bread (six inches per person)
- Mayonnaise
- Sliced meat
- Sliced cheese
- Sliced tomato
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Pencil
- Toothpicks
- Tape



What you do:

1. Drizzle shredded lettuce with oil and vinegar; sprinkle with seasonings.
2. Cut bread in half lengthwise and spread mayo on both halves.
3. On bottom half, layer meats, cheese, tomato and lettuce.
4. Top with other half of bread. Cut in half.
5. Cut paper into small triangles. Write your favorite Bible heroes' names on them.
6. Tape the triangles to toothpicks to make pennants. Stick in sandwich halves. Enjoy!