

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

709 S. IOWA WESLACO, TX 78596



Church Office
Telephone and fax
969-1535

Interim Pastor
Pastor Sonja Dalglis
Pastor.sonja.d@gmail.com

Secretary
Connie Leyva
fpcweslacotx@ies.net

Sunday School
9:15 a.m.

Sunday Worship
10:30 a.m.

Website
www.weslacochurch.com



First Presbyterian Church
Is a Stephen Ministry
Congregation

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

August 17, 2010

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I enter into my second month here, I am amazed and grateful for the dedication of the staff and members, and especially so having completed Camp Creativity. We have gathered around the Baobab tree learning stories of the faith. All week long, the campers entered and exited through the large mural, to come to God's Great Gathering, our theme for this year's Camp Creativity. Almost forty adult and youth volunteers taught and fed and cleaned and kept the children safe during the week. They showed the love of Christ in action and by example, not only to our children but also to the children of the community.

This past month's texts started with gratitude for all God has given us. I made a pledge when I came to be your Interim minister to guide you through this passage as you get ready to call your installed pastor. As part of this community of faith, I am dedicating ten percent of my income to benefit the mission of this congregation. I hope that each of you will give as you are able so that our mission can continue to grow, even in this time of transition. We bring our hearts, time, and talents to ministry, as well as our monetary gifts.

No one needs to do everything that the church offers, but to be a healthy congregation, we need to involve as many people in our ministries as possible. Find something that excites you. Pray for our missions. Pray for the staff, the elders and deacons, and this congregation. Together, we are doing awesome work in this corner of God's creation. Later in the month of August, the texts reminded us that when we live lives of faith, sometimes we do not see the results of our work. Much of the work we do contributes to causes greater than our lifetime.

Everything we have comes to us from God, so that when we give, we return our offerings to God. Someday, we will each return our very lives to God, which brings me to the next topic. I know that you are grieving, not only for Pastor Cindy, but many of you have additional losses in your lives. In response to this need, I will be offering two sessions of a six-week course in bereavement which will help participants find comfort and perhaps even grow in their faith after experiencing a loss.

I am now printing several copies of my sermon for those who have trouble hearing, as well as those who are absent because of travel or illness. Going forward, we will be adding a link to the sermons from the website. I am learning more about our audio visual equipment and will continue to explore how it can enhance our worship together.

We continue to ask that anyone who has information for the history of the church add to the posters hanging in the Fellowship Hall. We look forward to our members returning from vacations and our Winter Texans arriving. We will be beginning to articulate who we are presently and who we feel called to be as we journey forward. This coming year will be a blessed time for this church. If you want an individual appointment with me, call the office. I am available on Tuesday afternoons and if that does not work for you, query me. I want to get to know you and your hopes and dreams for the mission of this church. You are blessings to me.

Peace of Christ,

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,
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.**



Session meets every 3rd Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Parlor.

**Next Session meeting is:
September 20th at 5:30 p.m.**

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.

The next date: September 21st.

The newsletter is also available on the web at www.weslacochurch.com Click on "Newsletter"



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 the secretary, Connie, or on the church answering machine.

THE SESSION OF FPC

CLASS OF 2010	CLASS OF 2011	CLASS OF 2012
Nicole Kelly	Melissa Jones	Charles Bell
Todd King	Linda Kopecky	David Dueñas
Camille Jones	Mary Mattar	Debby Rektorik
Margaret Perez	Eddie Seils	Linda Taormina
Sue Peterson		



JOHN KNOX VILLAGE:

The **first Monday** of every month the Presbyterians at John Knox Village meet in the assisted care dining room at John Knox at 10:30 a.m. We sing some hymns, and then celebrate Holy Communion together. If you live in John Knox, please join us!

COMMUNION & OF POWER 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.

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.

PARLOR BIBLE STUDY

The Parlor Bible Study group will be starting our weekly Tuesday Bible study on **Tuesday, September 14th** instead of the 7th. I will be out of town until the 10th. We will be studying the book by Max Lucado, "When God Whispers Your Name". For more information please contact Jane Seils.

WOMEN of FAITH CONFERENCE:

The theme is "Imagine"

Place: San Antonio, TX.

Date: October 22-23, 2010

Time: Friday 10 a.m. – Saturday 4 p.m.

*Leaving Weslaco Thursday at 1 p.m. by car

Price: Hotel \$87 (2 nights – 4 to a room)

Conference \$89 (2 box lunches included)
This is a most awesome gathering of thousands of women with the most inspiring music and speakers any of us have or will witness.
For more information contact:
Karen Hunger at 956-565-9208 or 956-789-0775 or
FPC Church Office at 956-969-1535



Healing the Heart

Many people in this community are living with grief, not only of losing a pastor, but also someone close to them, a child or spouse. For those going

through this difficult journey, there can be help along the way.

The hospice where I worked for almost fifteen years developed a course that some of you may find valuable. I am able to offer you the opportunity to learn from some of the experts in grief and loss.

Two sessions of "Healing the Heart: a Six-Week Course in Bereavement," will begin September 14 and 15. We will meet in the Parlor. The times are:

Tuesday mornings 10:00-11:30 a.m.

Wednesday evenings 5:30-7:00 p.m.

They are open to anyone who has experienced a loss of a loved one. There will be four to six people in each group. I would like to speak to each person individually before the group starts. Some losses are more than this course can address.

Please register for the course using the prayer cards in the pews, or by calling the office. Indicate which course time you would prefer and if it would be possible for you to attend the other. This is in the event one or the other fills up. We will also keep a waiting list.

Two weeks before the major holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas, I will offer a course on "Getting Through the Holidays." Especially getting through the first year after a major loss is very difficult.

If there is additional need, I will offer "Healing the Heart" again after the first of the year.

During the six weeks, you will have a chance to identify your feelings, share photos, learn about normal manifestations of grief, develop a self-care plan, learn the four tasks of mourning, and review your loss history. In addition, part of the course is understanding transformation.

We do not "get over" having lost someone we love. However, it is possible to reconcile ourselves to the loss and envision a new future. We do this in our own ways and at our own speeds. One bereavement author said "the grief train does not run on a schedule."

It is often beneficial to be in a group setting as we learn about this process of grief. I invite you to consider if this course would be beneficial for you.

For the 5:30 group, we will not eat a meal because there will not be time. If you are a choir member, you can bring a sack lunch for afterward and eat a snack before you come. It is possible that the group will decide to come a little early and have some snacks or a light supper as we gather. I hope that some of you will be open to this healing ministry.

Dear Church,
Thank you for paying half
of my stay at John Knox.
I enjoyed my counselors
because they were cool.
My favorite campfire song
was Blind Man stood
in the Road and cried.
Sincerely, Ian



BUILD A BETTER FUTURE is the theme of the campaign to raise funds for expanding the Su Casa de Esperanza building in Progresso. The program has filled the space for a long while, so the time has come to double the facility. Currently we are serving 87 families out of our limited space, about the size of a good sized bedroom.

For only \$25.00 you can purchase one (1) square foot of the expansion (more is certainly acceptable). Total cost is \$20,000.00. We know many of our members are regular supporters of the program of Su Casa, but now the request is for a *one-time gift* to the capital campaign. Goals include having the money by September, and the building finished before December 31st, 2010.

If you would like to help, you can:

- give a check to Bob Ordway
- send donation to FPC church office for forwarding
- Send donation to Su Casa de Esperanza, PO Box 1233, Pharr, TX 78577

Be sure to mark your check for Progresso Building. If you have questions, please ask Bob Ordway, Charles Bell, or Camille Jones.

Are you a Presbyterian popper?
Or a "wanna be"?

We will begin serving popcorn to the middle school students on **Wednesday, August 25th**. If you have helped before, please help again, and new helpers are always appreciated!

Please call Clyde Pellett (956-463-2343) to offer help, or phone the church office (956-969-1535). Pray for our middle school students and the adults who serve popcorn to them.

SESSION SNIPPETS

Here are some of the highlights from the regularly scheduled session meeting:
August 17, 2010.

1. Our church has received a very nice thank you note from Ian Aranda. Way to go Ian.
2. The First Presbyterian Church of San Benito is receiving a plaque for being the oldest church in San Benito. The celebration is August 29th for anyone interested in attending.
3. Pastor Sonja will be visiting her Canyon Lake church on October 31st for a special event being held there.
4. Pastor Sonja is planning to hold grief support groups beginning in September. If anyone is interested, talk to Pastor Sonja. She has extensive experience working in a Hospice setting. How fortunate we are to have her skills in this area.
5. The committee on Ministry and Outreach wants to expand our ministry with the students at Central Middle School. They have some wonderful ideas.
6. Barbara Rogers has generously donated a white board to use during our popcorn ministry. Thanks Barbara.
7. Our church has a "honey do" list and Eddie Seils and David Dueñas are constantly working on the items. We want to thank them for their generous gift of time and skill.
8. Seventy- nine people at our church and twenty-one at John Knox were served communion in August. Thanks to our volunteers who go to John Knox.
9. We want to thank all the people and youth that have helped make Camp Creativity a huge success.

Looking Ahead...

October 2 nd	Video Conference
October 3 rd	World Communion
October 27 th	Harvest Fest

September Birthdays



Marlin Meyer	1 st
Susan Peterson	2 nd
Millicent Pinto	6 th
Michele McFarlane	7 th
Evelyn Nelson	9 th
Norman Sluis	9 th
Norman Reid	9 th
Marlene Meyer	11 th
Lola Nelson	12 th
Dale Opsata	15 th
Shirley Anderson	15 th
Austin Lowe	16 th
Michael Jones	21 st
Kaitlynn Bagwell	21 st
Eric Cabote	22 nd
Todd King	23 rd
Dick Gibson	27 th
Caroline Garry	27 th
Robert Rektorik	29 th
Mitchell Jones	30 th



Remember we are a Stephen Ministry congregation. We have people who are willing to listen, and pray with persons facing difficult times. If you know of someone who could benefit from the ministry of a Stephen Ministry person, please contact Pastor Sonja.

CHERYL'S CORNER

As I write this report, we will have just completed the first day of Camp Creativity 2010! It's the 3rd annual day camp and most of the campers attended last year! They must have told their friends because we have twenty more campers than last year. Thanks to FPC members and friends; we also have twice as many volunteers than we did last year. Thirteen youth are also volunteering their time and talents. Most of the Safari Guides or Site Activity leaders are teaching professionals or retired teachers sharing their time and talents for the week. Lots of planning and preparation time has been spent to make this week a meaningful (and maybe life-changing experience) for children.

A note of thanks:

To the Camp Creativity Task Force who helped to plan the camp week:

David Duenas	Jane Seils
Pamela Duenas	JoNette Sims
Linda Kopecky	Carmen Whitaker
Jeannette Roe	Pastor Sonja

To the Camp Creativity Volunteer Staff who are guiding and leading the children each day: (Those listed above are also guiding and leading activities at camp.)

Barbara Rogers	Youth helpers:
Thelma Dyer	Nathan Aranda
Fran Solether	Kaitlynn Bagwell
Linda Williams	Cody Blood
Polly Lovell	Wyatt Blood
Mary Mattar	Zachary Budimir
Terry Barbee	Tiffany Cardenas
Mary Jo Havertape	Kiki Duenas
Jack Havertape	Morgan King
Dick Gibson	Nicholas Pash
Rosita Jones	Reid Vaughn
Eddie Seils	Laura Van Tilberg
Kathy Sornson	
Charles Bell	
Jessica Roe	
Bob Ordway	
Chuck Hunger	
Linda Taormina	

Food Coordinator, Carolyn Bell, has planned lunch menus with the help of Madge Haney, Linda Kopecky, Dick Gibson, Mary Ellen Beard, Ruth Meehlhause, Miriam Namken, Isabella Waldschmidt, Art Lindstrom, and Clyde Pellett.

Special preparations before Camp:

Sherri Bagwell
Helen Meyerink
Lola Nelson
Wendy Rogers

Special thanks to Staff:

Pastor Sonja
Connie Leyva
Tencha Escamillia
Sue Cathey
Dominga Salazar

Thank you to all of you who brought supplies, which will be put to good use in Art, Music, Science and Storytelling, decorations, etc. Camp Creativity's theme "God's Great Gathering" is what it took to make Camp Creativity 2010 happen! Praise be to God for giving us gifts to share with the camp children. It will make a difference!

Children's Sunday school will meet with special activities this Sunday, August 22nd, to celebrate "God's Great Gathering" at 9:30 a.m., preceding worship time. A celebration Open House will follow worship for campers and their families.

September means that a new schedule will begin:

STARS OF HOPE

On *Wednesday, September 1st*, Stars of Hope will resume with Water Fun for children and youth, beginning with a meal at 5:30 p.m. and concluding the water fun at 7:00 p.m. Stars of Hope children (Pre-K through grade 5) and Youth Groups will meet on Wednesdays through *October 21st*, concluding with the Harvest Festival on *October 27th*.



Let the Youth Group fun begin! FPC Youth and friends begin meeting on Wednesdays in September and October. Mischelle King will lead the

Middle school group on Wednesdays in September and October. Wendy Rogers will lead the High School Youth.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Get ready for the "Safari"! The Christian Education Committee invites everyone, all ages, to the FPC Open House Celebration on Sunday, September 12th, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., opportunities to explore for Sunday and mid-

week small group activities and programs for adults, children and youth! Come and see what possibilities there may be for you! Each Classroom in the courtyard will have something to see! With the theme of "Safari Scavenger Hunt" there will be things to see and do on the "safari walk" from one room to another! Breakfast snacks will be served. Come to Fellowship Hall for your Safari Map.

Children's Sunday school rotation classes will resume on *September 19th at 9:30 a.m.* with the WE BELIEVE rotation curriculum. **Youth** Sunday classes will resume on *August 22nd*. The High School Sunday class will be led by Melissa Jones and the Middle School Sunday class will be led by Sue Peterson.

Teachers leading the Rotational classes are invited to an informational meeting to receive materials and schedules on *August 29th at 8:30 a.m.* in the Fellowship Hall.



SMALL GROUPS

The Beading Group will resume on Wednesday mornings, starting *September 22nd, at 9:30-11:30 a.m.* in Room 10. Come and see the possibilities at the "Safari" Open House.

Basic Spanish Part I will resume on Thursdays, beginning *September 23rd at 10:30 a.m.,* in Classroom 14. We will study basic vocabulary. We begin with devotions and prayer. It's just one hour of language learning fun!

Fabricators, the group that creates projects from fabric, will begin meeting once a month on *the third Thursday in October, at noon,* in Room 10. Please bring a sack lunch. New projects are planned to help others!

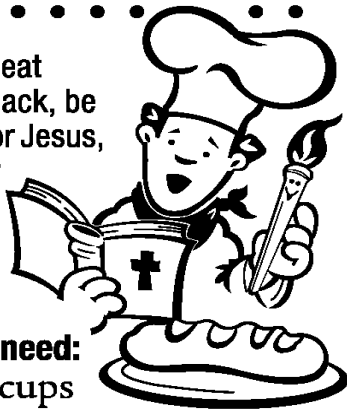
Readers Theater will resume rehearsals on the *first Friday in October, at 9:30 a.m.* Plan to meet in the Sanctuary to discuss some new scripts.

The new cribs and the new TV (with DVD) have been assembled, thanks to David Dueñas. Thanks to Melissa Jones who made the purchases to replace the old items. It has been a busy month! A workday will be helpful to clean up closets in each classroom and the fellowship hall cupboards. It is time, again!

Serving with you in Christ,

BREAD painting

When you eat
this fun snack, be
thankful for Jesus,
who is our
Bread of
Life.



What you need:

- Small cups
- Milk
- Food coloring
- Clean artist brush
- Slice of bread
- Toaster or toaster oven
- Butter (optional)

What you do:

1. Decide how many colors you want to use, and set aside one cup for each color.
2. Pour about 1/4 cup of milk into each cup.
3. Add drops of food coloring until you get a bright color.
4. Using a brush, paint a picture or write words (such as a Bible verse) on the slice of bread. Make sure not to get the bread too soaked.
5. When you're finished painting, toast your bread. You can top it with a bit of butter. Enjoy!



*First Presbyterian Church
566 North Reagan
San Benito, Texas 78596*

956-399-2235

[*\(lupitazabrego@sbcglobal.net\)*](mailto:lupitazabrego@sbcglobal.net)

[*\(sanbenitofpc@sbcglobal.net\)*](mailto:sanbenitofpc@sbcglobal.net)

The First Presbyterian Church of San Benito, Texas will celebrate its Centennial September 18 and September 19, 2010. The Centennial Committee requests you mark these dates on your calendars. Please submit to the church office the names and addresses of former members and others you feel would wish to join our celebration.

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



July 2010

Average weekly attendance: 66

Average weekly tithes and offerings: \$3362.75

Average Weekly Expenses: \$ 5900

All financial information is available in the church office.

(Carmen Whitaker's son)

Special Thanks To Our Recent Hosts and Musicians

PIANISTS:

Sherri Bagwell

ORGANIST:

Jeffery Figueroa

FLOWER HOSTS:

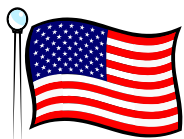
Barbee Family
Ferguson Family
Ordway Family

LITURGISTS:

Barbara Rogers
Bruce Walker
Melissa Jones
Debby Rektorik

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Cabote Family
Dueñas Family



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 Niamey, Niger-Africa

If you have someone you would like the Prayer Chain members to pray for, please call (968-6478) or email 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	Ted Thurmond
Randy Petch	Jennifer McDaniel
Amy Scott	Beth Moore
Marti Dyrk	Raul and Carla Leal
Jay Tirrel	Alan Landers
(Shirley Anderson's son)	(Doris's son-in-law)
Sandra Williams	Alvin AAISeth
(Ellen Williams's daughter-in-law)	(Pamela Dueñas' dad)
Gerardo Mendoza	Marion Scott
(Ana Maria "Anita's son)	Marci Stephens
David (Minga's son)	Mary Lou Lovell
Marv (Karen Hunger's friend)	(Polly Lovell's daughter)
Verda (Karen Hunger's mother)	

LONG TERM LIST

Dora Aldrich	Melanie Liesner
Sibyl Mattar	Bob Jolma
D J McGroarty	Chris Anderson
Jose Garces	David Salazar
Phil Timmer	Nancy Smith
(Sherri Bagwell's cousin)	(Kathy Somson's sister)
Frank Mooney Sr.	Clayton Vicars
(Sandy Namken Mooney's father-in-law)	(Linda Kopecky's grandson)
Lois Alexander	Linda Evans
(Phyllis Walker's step mother)	(Bob Ordway's sister)
Alex Rodriguez	Christopher Patterson
Gavyn (Karen Hunger's friend)	(Helen Myerink's nephew)

SHUT-INS & FRIENDS

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