

# 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.*

## Making Time for God

"I am so busy now that if I did not spend three hours each day in prayer, I could not get through the day." ~ Martin Luther



We begin November with our pumpkins still on our porches and end the month with the beginning of Advent following on the heels of Thanksgiving. From John Calvin, we learn that thanksgiving is the heart of our Christian faith reflected in a response to God of gratitude. And, prayer is our primary work. A heart of gratitude and our work of prayer form our lives.

Do we have time for gratitude and prayer in our modern world? Do we have time for God? Have all of our labor saving devices cluttered up our lives so much that we no longer have time to take a Sabbath, no time for prayer?

This year, I came across a provocative book: *The Christian Atheist: Believing in God but Living as if He Doesn't Exist* by Craig Groeschel. Do we live like we believe in a living God?

A series of holidays and celebrations is creeping up and may soon flatten us unless we exert control of our lives. We move from Halloween pumpkins to Thanksgiving to Christmas. How do we find the time to pray?

We will pause at the beginning of Advent with a time of meditation and Christmas carols on the first Wednesday, November 30, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and walk the Advent Garden in the Fellowship Hall.

Prepare the way of the Lord. Prepare your heart. Make time for God, time for prayer, time for scripture, time for worship. When life is hectic, respond with prayer to calm your soul.

Many blessings,



**COFFEE GRACES:**

*Savory Perks* on **Wednesday mornings from 7:30-8:30**. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and a muffin. Spend time with Pastor Sonja and some friends.

**COMMUNION & POWER OF HOPE FUND:**

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. This is collected on communion Sundays.

**BIBLE STUDIES:**

The *Men's Bible Study* and discussion group will resume meeting **November 1<sup>st</sup>** and will meet every Tuesday, from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 a.m. in the church Parlor. We are studying the book Revelation. If you have questions, contact, Tom Newcomer at 956-973-0976.

The *Parlor Bible Study* meets every Tuesday from 12:00 until 1 p.m. in the church Parlor. We are continuing our study of Max Lucado's book, Traveling Light .

**FELLOWSHIP REGISTERS:**

Thank you for filling out the fellowship registers. We report attendance members to the denomination.

**STARS OF HOPE:**

A great big thank you to all the people that helped out with Stars of Hope this fall. We will begin again on January 11, 2012 and run through February 29, 2012 for all of our youth from pre-K through high school. If you would like to volunteer in the spring, please contact Roxie Blood.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL:**

Our children's Sunday school program has begun and we are once again following the rotational Sunday school model. This means that each age group of children rotates through a series of lessons that are on the same biblical story for six weeks. At the end of six weeks a new story is introduced and the rotation begins again. Our children are rotating through storytelling, games, art, cooking, music and science lessons. Sunday School begins at 9:30 a.m.



**November 27 is the Advent Event**

during the Sunday school hour, beginning at 9:00 a.m. with a breakfast in the Fellowship Hall. Several craft activities will be located in classrooms around the courtyard. A craft and location guide will be available at breakfast that day. The congregation is invited to participate in the faith, fun and fellowship of the Advent Event, to prepare us for coming of Christmas!

Join us for the **Advent Garden**, a meditation for the whole family on **November 30<sup>th</sup>** at **5:30 p.m.** in the Fellowship Hall.



e-mail change:

**E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGE:**

Our internet provider is doing away with hosting e-mail addresses; therefore we are having to make a change. Our new e-mail address will be [fpcweslacotx@gmail.com](mailto:fpcweslacotx@gmail.com) .

Pastor Sonja will be using [sonja.dalGLISH@gmail.com](mailto:sonja.dalGLISH@gmail.com)



**November 6th** is Daylight Savings Day. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour.

## Save the Date: November 13<sup>th</sup> Town Hall Meeting

The Session is hosting a luncheon meeting after church in the Fellowship Hall to discuss the current financial situation and to plan a budget for 2012. We are asking for a good turnout of the congregation so that any decisions we make will reflect the wishes of the whole church community. These are financially challenging times and we want to address the needs and goals of our church with a positive, practical approach. Together we can ascertain our priorities and go about meeting them. Please join us!

Camille Jones, Finance Committee Chair



## Help Celebrate the Spirit of the Season!

**Hanging of the Greens**  
Sunday, November 20th

Immediately after worship

Fellowship Soup Lunch will be provided.

Come Join us for great fellowship and get into the Spirit of the Season!



The Congregation of the  
First Presbyterian Church of Weslaco

&

The Hidalgo County Historical  
Commission

Invite you to the dedication of the Texas  
State Historical Marker

Commemorating the establishment of the  
church in 1920

on

Sunday afternoon, the 13<sup>th</sup> of November

2:30 p.m.

at

First Presbyterian Church  
709 S. Iowa St.  
Weslaco, TX

Refreshments will follow in the Fellowship  
Hall.



The Church Office will be closed  
on November 24 & 25 in  
observance of Thanksgiving

## Worldwide Ministry – Solar Under the Sun

-- by Doug & Sonja Dalgish

Our ministry is larger than what we do at Weslaco. I have wanted to highlight for you some of the work that we are doing as a national church. For the next few months, we'll be featuring ministries of the PCUSA that involve many different congregations. This first article is about a relatively new ministry, **Solar Under the Sun**.

Believing that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the vision of the Solar Under the Sun (SUTS)– a ministry of the **Synod of the Sun** [which includes the PCUSA churches in the four state region of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas] –is to serve as a resource to partnerships between congregations and their sisters and brothers in communities around the world. These partnerships work together to bring solar power to enhance the quality of life for people in villages and towns wherever needed.

Our solar power systems can run water treatment systems, such as those installed by our partner **Living Waters for the World**. Solar power systems can also be used as a power source for communication, medical clinic refrigerators or x-ray equipment, or can help with lighting needs.

SUTS trains, equips, links, and supports individuals and teams to work with communities in need of a reliable and relatively inexpensive power source. So far, SUTS has installed 15 solar installations in Haiti, all helping to bring clean water to communities. SUTS has completed one and a half years of training, graduating 117 students who are now trained volunteers in solar installation and are, in turn, training others to operate and maintain their solar installations.

➔ Other Missions we have supported in the last month: We sent over \$1400 to Mission Presbytery to help with the wildfire relief in Central Texas. We sent almost \$1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to help feed the children in Somalia.

Thank you for your generosity.

## How do You give?

There are the three big T's: Time, Talents, and Treasures. The people of this congregation give of all three, teaching Sunday School and Stars of Hope, cooking, setting up for worship, supporting each other in the faith. Not only do people volunteer here, they are active in our community.

Here are some of the places that I've heard that you are giving of your time and talents. I'm sure there are more:

The Weslaco Museum  
Knapp Hospital  
The Lion's Club  
The Valley Band  
Coaching children's sports

Let us know what you are doing in the community.

## Environmental Committee



### Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Our reusable grocery bags and water bottles are here!  
The Youth will be selling them at church on Sunday. They are blue with a **HOPE** Sign on them. The bags are perfect for all your grocery trips and the water bottles would be great for any outdoor activity. Most importantly, they're great for our environment and only \$4.00! !!  
For more information or to purchase you may contact Connie at the church office.

Are there things you want to recycle and don't know how? Go to [www.terracycle.net](http://www.terracycle.net) .



[www.facebook.com/fpcweslacotx](http://www.facebook.com/fpcweslacotx)

## CHRISTMAS CANTATA

The church choir is looking for two people who would like to be "readers" for the Christmas Cantata. If you are interested in participating, please contact our Choir Director, Jeffery Figueroa, or the Church Office.

If you have someone you would like to add to the Prayer Chain for 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.



### RETREAT OPPORTUNITY



### Compassionate Evangelism Sharing our Love, Sharing our Faith

**February 19-21, 2012**

Mo- Ranch Conference Center

Rev. Ray G. Jones, III  
Coordinator for Evangelism,  
General Assembly Mission Council, PC USA

Great opportunity for Adult Sunday School classes and elders and deacons!

For more information and/or registration forms contact the church office.

### SHORT TERM LIST

Thomas January  
Connor Cruz  
Ruth Armstrong  
Randy Petch  
Jennifer McDaniel  
Amy Scott  
Marti Dyrk  
Raul and Carla Leal  
Clyde Pellett  
Casey Damen  
Jerri Lantz  
Sean Moore  
Sharon Newcomer  
Pamela Dueñas  
Jay Tirrel (Shirley Anderson's son)  
Alan Landers (Doris's son-in-law)  
Dawn (Jo Green's daughter)  
Gerardo Mendoza  
(Ana Maria "Anita's son)

### LONG TERM LIST

Dora Aldrich  
Melanie Liesner  
Bob Jolma  
Dorothy French  
D J McGroarty  
Chris Anderson  
David Salazar  
Seth Chambers  
Mary Jane Lofton  
Jo Summers  
Bette Fasano  
Beth Moore  
Don Brue  
Bill Cody  
Mary Vinkemulder  
Phil Timmer (Sherri Bagwell's cousin)  
Nancy Smith (Kathy Sornson's sister)  
Clayton Vicars (Linda Kopecky's grandson)  
Lois Alexander (Phyllis Walker's step mom)  
Linda Evans (Bob Ordway's sister)  
Julia Sleeth Mays (Ellen Sleeth's sister)  
Pamela Duffy (Chuck and Kathy's niece)

### SHUT INS & FRIENDS

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

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

### September 2010

Average weekly attendance: 77

Average weekly tithes and offerings: \$3408.94

Average Weekly Expenses: \$ 5900

All financial information is available in 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

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:

Judy Kruse  
Polly Lovell  
Kelly Family

### LITURGISTS:

Debby Rektorik  
Margaret Perez  
Camille Jones  
Phyllis Walker  
Bruce Walker

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

King Family  
Bagwell Family  
Roe Family  
Sims Family  
Seils Family  
Perez 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.

Thank you Pastor Sonja for all your visits and prayers while Tom was so ill.

I would also like to thank this congregation for all of their prayers and concerns. This congregation is such a caring and friendly group of people. I really needed them and still do and they have been there for me. I feel really blessed to be here with so many wonderful people. thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

~Sincerely Judy Kruse

Dear Friends in Christ,

This letter is to express how much we miss you, words cannot describe. We were not able to spend the winter months in Texas last year and will not this year. Don's health continues to worsen ever so slowly from the pulmonary fibrosis disease. The doctors told us when he was first diagnosed 6 years ago that this would happen. His weight is considerably less; his breathing ability more restricted which requires a need for a higher level of oxygen. We are thankful that he has a good appetite and is mobile with the use of a walker. He loves to be out of doors, the 4-wheel scooter and our warm summer weather was a blessing for that. He with the help of 2 daughters, planted a garden. He was the instructor, the girls did the foo/labor. They put up a 6 foot chicken wire fence around the garden to keep the many deer from making it their gourmet lunch. We harvested many tomatoes, a few green peppers and some squash. We do miss the Valley produce through the winter months.

We truly wanted to let you all know we miss you, you have been a joy to us over the seven years we have shared worship/fellowship with you at FPC Weslaco. You are in our prayers for your search of a permanent pastor. It sounds like Pastor Sonja has been a great blessing from God. We had so hoped to meet her in person.

God's blessing be with you, sending His love and ours,  
~Don & Alberta Bricker



## Welcome back Winter Texans

It's "winter" time in South Texas, how do we know? We've spotted several Winter Texans in our congregation. Welcome back. We are happy to have you here and a part of our church family.

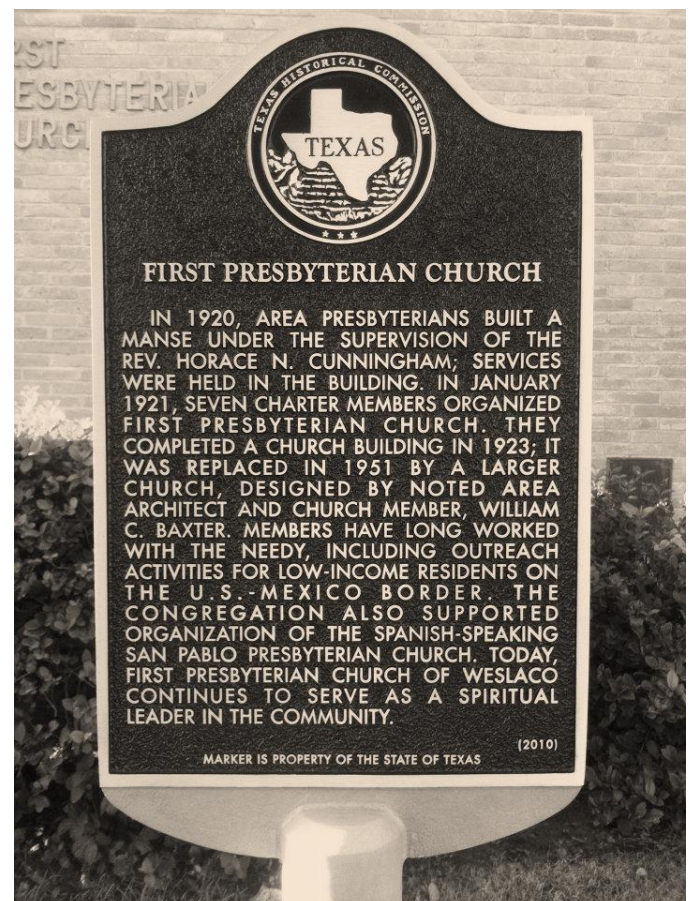
# Session Snippets

October 17, 2011

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

1. First Church has a memorial fund. How should this money be used? Please let the Session know. Tell a ruling elder, Pastor Sonja or contact the office. You can also contact the Clerk of Session, Debby Rektorik, at [drektorik@gmail.com](mailto:drektorik@gmail.com). Here are a few ideas.....
  - a. Music Program
  - b. Su Casa de Esperanza
  - c. Camp Creativity
  - d. Bibles
  - e. Facility Improvements
  - f. Camp Scholarships
  - g. Provide temporary food or shelter for the poor
2. The Popcorn Ministry has been disbanded due to student safety and litter issues. The dedicated popcorn volunteers are open to ideas for a middle school ministry to replace the popcorn. Please give your ideas to Melissa Jones or Pastor Sonja.
3. Camille Jones and Pastor Sonja Dalglish will attend the Presbytery meeting the last weekend of October.
4. Harvest Fest is for the young and young-at-heart. Everyone is invited to attend this intergenerational event of food and fun to be held from 5:30-7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 2011. Donations of baked goods for the cake walk, two liter bottles of soda and wrapped candy are needed.
5. The youth are selling calendars for \$6 each as a fund raiser to attend Mo Ranch Mid-Winter Conference.  
A new dishwasher will be purchased and special locks installed on gates soon.

6. An historical marker has been installed in the front of the church.
7. The Pastor Nominating Committee has been meeting at least every two weeks and usually weekly the past month. Over 50 pastor information forms had to be reviewed. Interviews have begun.
9. Some dates to remember:
  - a. Nov. 13: Town Hall lunch and meeting following worship
  - b. Nov. 13: Dedication service of the historical marker followed by refreshments at 2 p.m.
  - o Nov. 20: Lunch and intergenerational Hanging of the Greens following worship
  - o Nov. 27: Advent Breakfast
  - o Dec. 11: Christmas Cantata during worship
  - o Dec. 11: Christmas pageant and dinner at 5 p.m.
  - o Dec. 18: Baby Shower for Jesus to support Su Casa de Esperanza families



**Contact Information:**

**Address:**

709 S. Iowa Ave.  
Weslaco, TX 78596

**Phone & Fax:**

956-969-1535

**Website:**

[www.weslacochurch.com](http://www.weslacochurch.com)

**Interim Pastor**

Pastor Sonja DalGLISH

[sonja.dalGLISH@gmail.com](mailto:sonja.dalGLISH@gmail.com)

[www.hopetalks.wordpress.com](http://www.hopetalks.wordpress.com)

**Secretary**

Connie Leyva

[fpcweslacotx@gmail.com](mailto:fpcweslacotx@gmail.com)

**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.

**Presbytery Website**

[www.mission-presbytery.org](http://www.mission-presbytery.org)

**Synod of the Sun Website**

[www.synodsun.com](http://www.synodsun.com)

**PCUSA Website**

[www.pcusa.org](http://www.pcusa.org)



First Presbyterian Church  
Is a Stephen Ministry  
Congregation

**Officers of FPC**

**Session**

**Class of 2011**

Nathan Aranda (youth)  
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 2011**

Ruth Meehlhause  
Helen Willhite

**Class of 2012**

Kay Gibson  
Chuck Hunger  
\*Bruce Walker

**Class of 2013**

Mary Ellen Beard  
Karen Hunger  
Jane Seils  
\*Moderator

**Committees**

**Christian Education:**

Sue Peterson

**Finance:** Camille Jones

**Mission & Outreach:**

Charles Bell

**Property:** Eddie Seils

**Worship:** Margaret Perez

**Fellowship:** Linda Kopecky

**Environmental:** Melissa Jones



Deadlines for articles are **12:00 noon** the Tuesday following regular monthly session meetings. **Newsletter deadline is November 22<sup>nd</sup>.**

**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.

**Revised Common Lectionary  
Scriptures for October**

**6 November**

Josh. 24:1-3a, 14-25; Ps. 78:1-7  
1 Thess. 4:13-18; Matt. 25:1-13

**13 November**

Judges 4:1-7; Ps. 123: 1 Thess. 5:1-11  
Matt. 25:14-30

**20 November**

Ezek. 34:11-16, 20-24; Ps. 100  
Eph. 1:15-23; Matt. 25:31-46

**27 November**

Isa. 64:1-9; Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19; 1 Cor. 1:3-9  
Mark 13:24-37