

First Presbyterian Church

9/20/11



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,

We are approaching the Harvest Season, the time for pumpkins and harvest moons, our Harvest Fest, shorter days, and remembering our thankfulness for all God has given us. As I write this, I consider just how grateful I am for all of you. We are a blessed church!

At our All-Church Picnic, our Camp Thicket Fun Bash, forty-eight people gathered to play and eat together. We learned more about the people we see every Sunday and about friends and families that are connected to the church. Would we ever have expected that so many people had read all of the Harry Potter books, or could recite the Ten Commandments, or even liked liver and onions? The last one surprised me the most. The Psalm we used at lunch was:

Psalm 133

How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there the Lord ordained his blessing,
life for evermore.

The PNC continues to prayerfully consider the matching of a pastor to the church. As they do their work, we continue with our mission, worship, and educational programs. We offer Sunday School for all ages. The Popcorn Ministry reaches out to the neighborhood children and those in the Boys and Girls Club on Wednesday afternoons. The Stars of Hope and the Youth Group continue to meet on Wednesday nights. A Wednesday night class for adults will read and discuss what is most important in our Christian life.

Come to be nourished in Spirit. Stay for fellowship and service to others. We believe in putting the mind to work as our faith seeks understanding. We do not always agree but treat each other with respect and kindness, acknowledging that God alone is Lord of our conscience.

May God bless and increase this church so that it may bring light and hope to this place on earth. Come, let us walk this life of faith together.

Sonja Dalglish, Interim Pastor



Contact Information:

Address:

709 S. Iowa Ave.
Weslaco, TX 78596

Phone & Fax:

956-969-1535

Website:

www.weslacochurch.com

Interim Pastor

Pastor Sonja Dalglish

sonja.dalglish@gmail.com

www.hopetalks.wordpress.com

Secretary

Connie Leyva

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.

STEPHEN MINISTRY



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

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 October 18th.**

**Revised Common Lectionary
Scriptures for October**

2 October

Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 ; Psalm 19;
Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21: 33-46

9 October

Exodus 32:1-14; Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23;
Philippians 4:1-9; Matthew 22:1-14

16 October

Exodus 33:12-23 ; Psalm 99;
1 Thessalonians 1:1-10; Matthew 22:15-22

23 October

Deuteronomy 34:1-12; Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17;
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46

30 October

Joshua 3:7-17; Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37;
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12



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.

JOHN KNOX VILLAGE:

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

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.

PARLOR BIBLE STUDY

The Parlor Bible Study group meets every **Tuesday at noon**. We are studying Max Lucado's book, "Traveling Light." If you would like to attend, contact Jane Seils.

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.

STARS OF HOPE:

Stars of Hope meets every Wednesday (through October 26th) starting at 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for all children Pre-K through Grade 12. A light supper is served in the Fellowship Hall and then the children break into groups to learn God's word, sing, play games, and socialize. If you are interested in helping guide the students or in providing a meal for the children, 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. We have a wonderful group of volunteers already in place but are looking for a few more. Right now we need someone to teach four sessions of cooking and four of music. The lessons are all written out for the teachers. Please see Sue Peterson or Melissa Jones if you are interested in helping.

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.

Pastor Sonja will be using sonja.dalGLISH@gmail.com



- 9:00 a.m. Old Testament for Beginners
- 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday Class, Parlor
- 9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School
Adult Coffee Class, Room 10
- 10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
- 10:30 a.m. Worship
- 11:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
- 11:40 a.m. Chime Choir

Sunday Morning Adult Class Old Testament for Beginners

9:00 - 10:00 a.m. Rm. 15

Bible from Scratch: The Old Testament for Beginners by Donald L. Griggs
[New Testament in the Spring]

Do you wish you knew the Bible better? Do you want to have a better overall understanding of the Bible? Join us.

Sometimes, we study particular books in depth but wonder how this particular book and teaching fits in with the Bible as a whole. The Bible is a complex library of books. Many times we do not see and understand the wealth, richness, and variety contained within the Bible. Join us in an overview that will give you a wonderful framework for all the Bible study that you do.

Child care provided from 9-9:30.

Children's Sunday School 9:30-10:15

Join us to learn more from a wonderful teacher, pastor, professor, Donald L. Griggs.

Adult Wednesday Night Class: Fall 2011

What's the Least I Need to Believe and Still be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most

5:30-6:30 p.m. Church Parlor

Have you ever had a conversation with someone who tells you they can't believe in God because of some event in their life? Because of a death or illness or overbearing preacher, some people cannot believe in a loving God. Perhaps they or you have been accosted by someone who demands to know, "**ARE YOU SAVED?**"

Perhaps you have heard people declaring things in the name of Christianity that you just cannot believe and wonder to yourself, do I have to believe this? What about cancer, car wrecks, catastrophes, doubt, evolution, women preachers, saving souls and trees, the rapture, Jews, literal interpretation of the scriptures, gays, and Christians who are obnoxious? What do we have to say about this? **What must Christians believe?**

When a person tells us they are an atheist, perhaps we find that we do not believe in that god they have heard of either. Join us in prayerful discussion and consideration of our beliefs, as we study: ***What's the Least I Need to Believe and Still be a Christian?: A Guide to What Matters Most*** by Martin Thielen



Memoir Writing Group

Mondays 1:30-2:30 -- Church Parlor

Do you want to share your life with others?

Perhaps your children or grandchildren

have asked you to record your stories. Join

us on Mondays. We will use prompts to help us remember times, places, people, and important events in our lives. Join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and writing. We'll be using prompts that come out of the memoir group, Story Circle Network, begun by writer, Susan Wittig Albert.



Stewardship -- A Season or A Way of Life?

Wikipedia defines stewardship as “an ethic that embodies

responsible planning and management of [resources](#).” It goes on to examine stewardship in various areas: environment, fiscal (monetary), health, and even data. It’s not all about money - but money is part of it.

As Christians, we acknowledge that everything that is created comes from God and is on loan to us. Even our lives are gifts from God. Many times people think of the fall in the church as stewardship season because we are planning for the next year. As we plan and calculate what we want to do, we try to budget the moneys for the various ministries we do: providing a church that is well kept and comfortable for Sunday worship, Christian Education space and materials, Outreach materials, music for our Choir, etc. As each committee examines its needs and hopes for the coming year, a budget amount is established. In order to plan well, we need an estimate of giving.

Sunday, October 30: Pledge cards given out

Sunday, November 6: Stewardship Sunday.

Receive pledge cards.

Cards will be placed in a bowl on the Communion Table, blessed and dedicated to God’s work.

Prayerfully consider how you are able to help your church.

Did you know?

You could have your bank mail your pledge directly to the church, eliminating check writing? Someone dropped this hint into the collection plate a few Sundays ago. It helps when you are traveling or if you have trouble remembering if you've written that check this week. Some of us are doing this already.

Financial Report August 2011

Thanks to the faithful giving by members and church friends, the current financial status of First Presbyterian Church is good. We have met all of our expense obligations to date and have a comfortable working balance as we head into the fall months.

During October and November the committee will focus on gathering information for the presentation of a new budget for 2012. In order to encourage congregational support for that, we must take advantage of opportunities to share information about the on-going church activities and programs and to emphasize the importance of worshipping together in this Christian community. There will be several Minutes for Mission opportunities to speak directly to the congregation during worship in the coming weeks, and I hope a number of you will feel comfortable in sharing your thoughts and/or experiences here at FPC. Please let me know if you are willing to share.

Pledge cards will be made available to the congregation on October 30th. We hope to have the majority of them returned by the following Sunday so we can begin compiling the figures for the proposed budget. Please start considering now what your part will be in how we financially plan for next year.

Thank you in advance, The Finance Committee : Camille Jones, Mary Mattar, Miriam Namken, Ruth Meehlhause

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

August 2010

Average weekly attendance: 65

Average weekly tithes and offerings: \$3525.12

Average Weekly Expenses: \$ 5900

All financial information is available in the church office.





Summary of Saturday's
Presbytery Meeting

While we at FPC were enjoying our picnic together, the Presbytery at large was meeting to talk and listen about the concerns on the recent changes in the Book of Order. My husband attended the meeting which he reports was very well done. He discusses it in the following question and answer.

~Pastor Sonja

After our most recent changes to the PCUSA constitution there are some churches upset with the removal of specific language about the sexual conduct of church officers. It is possible that some churches may ask to change their relationship to our denomination. What is happening with this situation?

It is true that some specific language was removed, after having been in our constitution for 10 years. We are back to the more general, biblical standards that have been upheld by our denomination for 500 years. ("The character, qualifications, and authority of Church officers are laid down in the Holy Scriptures." F-3.0106 and "Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and in the world." G-2.0104 and "Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates." G-2.0104b) However, some people worry that this more general language leaves too much room for interpretation.

At this point, no congregation in our presbytery has taken any official action to request any change in their relationship to the denomination. However, in order to be prepared for such a request, we held a special presbytery meeting to discuss four possible options that churches may choose if they are unhappy with the constitutional changes.

First, the current constitution gives every church the power to elect/choose their own officers (elders, deacons, and pastors) and to set appropriate biblical standards for those officers.

This first option is to stay with the status quo but make a serious effort to ensure congregations take these responsibilities seriously.

Second, if there is fear that the presbytery may pressure congregations to accept officers with whom the church is not comfortable, the presbytery is willing to meet with that congregation and draw up a covenant agreement to give the congregation the control they desire (and which they already have under the current constitution.)

Third, in order to ensure even more protection for congregations, a constitutional amendment may be proposed for the 2013 General Assembly that will allow congregations with similar concerns to form new non-geographic presbyteries.

Finally, a congregation may request to move to another denomination or become a joint member of our denomination and a related denomination. This is a long and involved process as it requires all parties to agree upon membership changes, officer qualifications, and property matters. Congregations may not become independent or non-denominational.

Rev. Dr. Doug Dalglish

October Birthdays

Maryann Warren	1 st	Courtney Budimir	22 nd
Tom Carter	2 nd	Juanita Cloninger	26 th
Pauline Lovell	2 nd	Nicole Kelly	26 th
Carolyn Bell	4 th	Isaac Botts	27 th
Lauren Budimir	7 th	Charles Bell	28 th
Eric Gillum	10 th	Phyllis Opsata	29 th
John Meyerink	15 th	Kim Moyer	29 th
Margaret Foil	17 th	Jean Wolfe	30 th
		Jonah Dyer	30 th
		Orlen Anderson	31 st

PNC News

The Pastor Nominating Committee is researching selected PIFs (PIFs - Personal Information Forms) for the next installed pastor. The search continues.

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:

Helen Willhite
Taormina Family

LITURGISTS:

Barbara Rogers
Matthew Jones
Forrest Jones
Sue Peterson
Jane Seils

FELLOWSHIP HOSTS:

Gibson 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.



What great, great fun and fellowship we had! Forty-eight of us between the ages of five and eighty-five gathered for fellowship, games, food, and swimming. Many, many thanks to Dick and Kay Gibson for providing ALL of

our food and setting the mood with festive table decorations. Thank yous also are in order for Phyllis Walker who was our on-site nurse and Bruce Walker for bringing softball equipment. I want to express my gratitude to Pastor Sonja for her oversight, encouragement and being in charge of the games. Those who served behind the scenes to set up our picnic are: Mary Mattar, Marvin Miller, Linda Taormina, Dick Gibson, and Rob Peterson as our idea guru. Many thanks again.

~In Christ, Margaret

Kalen Vos is attending Trinity University in San Antonio. His address is:
Kalen Vos
Trinity University
One Trinity Place #1788
San Antonio, TX 78212



If you know of any college students who would like to receive our newsletter please let the church office know.

Please keep our college students in your prayers.



CAMP CREATIVITY

Many thanks of appreciation to all volunteers who volunteered time, energy, art,

food supplies and food preparations for lunches and snacks. Last month we included a chart of all the people who volunteered and realized we missed a couple of people. We wanted to recognize them and assure them that their help was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Kelli Jones, who helped in the Food Market on Friday, and Polly Lovell, who helped in the kitchen.

We have posted several pictures on our website. Check out the "Gallery" look for Camp Creativity 2011. (Thank you Pastor Sonja and Carolyn Bell for the awesome pictures).



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.



Stewardship and Our Environmental Committee

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

REDUCE --

--Sign up for getting your newsletter by email and get it the same day it is printed.

Save: COST -- paper, postage, labels

TIME -- copying, folding, sticker placing, address label placing,

Let the office know if you want your newsletter by email.

Newsletters on-line: www.weslacochurch.com.

We will still mail newsletters to those who want them in paper form.

REUSE

-- Disposable and one use items are becoming an increasing problem. We are being encouraged to not use plastic one-use water bottles or plastic grocery bags. Soon, you can get our reusable water bottles (no BPA, made in the USA) and reinforced grocery bags, with a logo of a cross and the word 'hope.'

-- You can also reuse all those old plastic bags you are saving, by cutting and crocheting new totes or mats to sit on. If you want to know more, let us know. Call the office.

RECYCLE -- Stewardship and our Trash

-- In our office, we have boxes to recycle:
paper, cans, water bottles.

Saving batteries to recycle them and not put the chemicals into the landfill.

We will have a recycle basket near the narthex so that you may place your bulletins in it as you leave.

**If you want to help take the boxes to the Weslaco Recycle Center, on a Tuesday or Thursday, call the office.

Education on Stewardship and Eco-Justice

At the regional Presbyterian Women's Gathering in Harlingen, your pastor attended a session on Eco-Justice. I came away with new knowledge and some interesting materials. You may be interested in knowing that there is a possibility of becoming an **Earth Care Congregation**. There is a "Guide to Greening Presbyterian Churches" available on the internet that has worksheets, resources and instructions for becoming an Earth Care Congregation. We will be looking at this further as part of our life together as faithful Christians, living a life of stewardship.

Coming Soon....



Session Snippets

September 19, 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. The water bottles and grocery bags with a symbol of hope and a cross were approved by the Session. They will soon be available.
2. PNC continues the work on finding the next installed pastor.
3. Nominating committee elected: Sue Peterson, Margaret Perez, and Mary Mattar with members of the congregation at large to be asked.
4. Report received on Camp Creativity. Pastor Sonja recommended adding a Youth program with mission work to the Camp.
5. Communion on World Communion Sunday will be by intinction. The table will be adorned with many kinds of bread.
6. Town Hall meeting to accept the budget -- Sunday, November 13, 2011
7. Election of Officers -- Sunday, December 4, 2011.



The beautiful morning of Saturday, September 11, was very special for several of our church women.

Along with many more women form our "area", Pastor Sonja, Mary Ellen Beard, Joyce Greezweig, Judy Kruse, Sharon Newcomer,

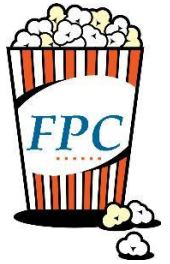
Margaret Perez, Kathy Sornson, Phyllis Walker, Carmen Whitaker and myself went to Treasure Hills Presbyterian church in Harlingen to The Fall Gathering (We were disappointed that Mary Mattar and Helen Myerink could not attend, as they were not feeling well).

Around 8:30 a.m. we gathered in the courtyard to register and partake of coffee and light snacks. At 9:00 a.m. we proceeded to the sanctuary for worship, communion and then a business meeting. A collection was taken at worship and the women generously donated \$1077 to Su Casa de Esperanza. After break we had the opportunity to attend one of two workshops, "Presbyterians Go Green" with Roxanne Hauschild or

"Peace and Justice" with Patty Nance. Then back in the sanctuary, Margaret Perez presented a workshop on our circle's new study, "Confessing The Beatitudes" (this looks like another interesting and informative study). We will be reporting on what we learned at these workshops at our noon *Mary Ellen Rice Circle meeting on October 12*, when we will have another potluck lunch and our second lesson on the Beatitudes. Even if you cannot bring something, please come, as there is always lots of food to share. We will also be telling you more about The Fall Gathering and all the "Bs". Our circle meeting is generally done by one. Hope to see you *October 12th*.

~Love and Light, Karen Hunger

Popcorn Ministry is beginning again! We value the relationships with the kids and the opportunities to pray for them. We will begin serving at 3:30 p.m. allowing the buses time to take those from far away home again. We will be serving the neighborhood, the Boys and Girls after school Club, and sometimes the Drama Club. We will be focusing on the need to be good citizens and not litter.



With the assistance of the Central Middle School teachers and administration we will be able to also give popcorn to all 916 students on certain holiday weekends. It will take us two days to make all that popcorn. We will make half on one day and half on the next before selected holidays such as Christmas.

We are making these modifications to support the school in getting the behavior under control. The administration is doing a fantastic job of helping the students understand manners and self-control, cutting down on violence and vandalism. A new Environmental Club has begun at the school. We will be reinforcing the messages of recycling and not littering. Pray that this ministry continues to reach the hearts of students within our neighborhood.

SU CASA DE ESPERANZA

Su Casa de Esperanza began its new year for its Early Childhood toddler program on August 31, after a brief summer break for the children and their mothers. The year's activity calendar was kicked off with an Open House for returning families and to introduce new families to the program.

Staff members explained the various programs and signed up new families. Su Casa aims to help the older children, ages 3-4, make the transition from home to school. Adult computer literacy classes are being offered to the mothers while the children participate in the toddler class. The computer classes are being offered at the Pharr center through a partnership with the Pharr Memorial Library who provides the instructor.

English classes will also be offered beginning October 3 for the mothers of all the toddlers. Volunteers are needed for child care while mothers attend the English classes twice a week. If you would like to volunteer for this project and/or any other Su Casa program, contact Lucy Fernandez, Executive Director, at 781-0276.



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 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
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)	
Gerardo Mendoza (Ana Maria "Anita's son)	
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	Seth Chambers
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
Julia Sleeth Mays (Ellen Sleeth's sister)	Bill Cody
Pamela Duffy (Chuck and Kathy's niece)	
Gavyn (Karen Hunger's friend)	

SHUT-INS & FRIENDS

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