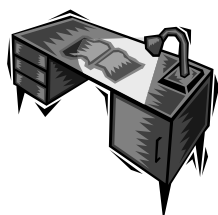

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF UVALDE

August Newsletter



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

I can't believe I have already been here a whole month! I have met many good people, and discovered a great deal of things about my new hometown, Uvalde. One of my goals for my first month as your pastor was to get to know the community in which the church sits. I feel like I have made huge headway in accomplishing that goal. Many thanks to all those persons who have introduced me around town, taken me to lunch, and generally made me feel a part of Uvalde.

In order to know my new church family better, as you know, Bob and I have been having small groups to our home for informal visits. We have so enjoyed getting to know those of you that have already come and look forward to having those we haven't had yet. If your last name begins with a letter at the end of the alphabet—don't give up! We started in the directory with the "A's" and are making our way down.

What I have been talking about so far in this note is *hospitality*--the hospitality that has been shown to me as well as my hospitality to you. Did you know that the act of hospitality is actually a spiritual practice?

As the Body of Christ, the church is called to reflect the hospitality God has shown us in Jesus. Our hospitality does not have to depend on us always sharing the same views or opinions of the one we are welcoming. When we impose or imply such conditions, we are offering entertainment, not Christian hospitality. Hospitality doesn't mean we always have to agree, it means we have to offer free space for everyone to speak and be heard.

On the 30th of this month, we will be celebrating Rally Day in our church. What a wonderful day to practice hospitality to someone new in our church. I challenge each of you to bring a friend, bring a stranger, but bring someone to church with you that day to experience the hospitality we have to offer.

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy



THE THANK YOU CORNER

***Thanks** to Mary Gallagher and Barbara Abbott for agreeing to take over some of the newsletter responsibilities.

***Thank you** Alice Gorman for volunteering to help out in the food pantry.

***Thank you** Dayse Elrod for your time on Sunday mornings at Amistad Nursing Home.

***Thank you** Bob Willet for all your computer work for the church

Cancer Treatment Center Special Offering

A special offering will be received during worship on Sunday, August 16. The offering is for Uvalde's new Cancer Treatment Center, a facility that will benefit many in our community. FPC's goal is to raise \$2000.00. \$1000.00 has been approved by the Session to come from our 09 budgeted benevolence giving. The other \$1000.00 we hope to raise from the special offering that will be collected on the 16th. Please prayerfully consider what you can give to help us reach our goal.

RALLY DAY—AUGUST 30TH

Make plans to attend Rally Day this year on Sunday, August 30th. Rally day is not just for kids! This is the time of year when all members RALLY round. This is a great opportunity if you have gotten out of the habit of coming to church regularly to get started back to church. We miss you!

The day will begin with an informal sing a long time in the fellowship hall of some old gospel favorites at 9:45. Around 10 AM, Sunday School classes will begin. There will be a new Sunday School class beginning for adults led by Pastor Nancy in the Pastor's Study, in addition to the current adult class that uses the standardized Presbyterian curriculum. Classes for children are also offered.

We will have a commissioning of the Sunday School teachers during worship, followed by a hot dog and hamburger cookout for lunch. For the lunch, please bring a side dish or dessert.

Many of our members know Lydia Hernandez Trickey. Lydia will be leaving on August 1 for Chiapas, Mexico, where she will live as she serves God and humanity through her work with Presbyterians in that region. Please keep Lydia in your prayers for success in her work, and safety in her life as she is living in a location that is sometimes less than safe.

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH SUNDAY AUGUST 30

August 30 has not only been designated as Rally Day, but it is also an official Bring a Friend to Church Sunday.

FPC Uvalde is such a special place and we do a disservice to ourselves and to our community to keep it all to ourselves.

Bring a friend or neighbor, bring someone from your family or someone you work with, but bring someone to share the love of Christ we experience so freely when we join together in His house each week.



COMMUNION SERVERS NEEDED

Are you an ordained Elder in the PCUSA? Then you are eligible to be a server when we share the Lord's Supper each month.

If you are interested in serving, please sign the sign up sheet located on the table in the Narthex next to the entrance to the sanctuary.

The Elder Ordering Worship for the month will contact you with information about serving.



Synthia Training

August 12 - 6:00 p.m.

Anyone interested in learning how to operate the Synthia system is invited to attend. Contact Casey Ford if you have questions.



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on Tuesday, July 28.

The meeting was opened with a devotional from Pastor Nancy and sharing of prayer concerns.

A report from the Buildings and Grounds/ Finance/Personnel Committee was given by Edie Huddleston. She reported that a **WORKDAY** has been scheduled for **August 8 at 8 AM** to paint the choir room and make ready for new carpet to be installed. It was also reported that the new website is up and running. There is still some "tweaking" that needs to be done, but the majority of the pages have information on them. You may visit the website at: www.fpcuvalde.org. The Session voted to install new programmable thermostats in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. These thermostats will greatly reduce the spike in demand that we currently experience on Sunday mornings, and will help lower our electric bills.

Augusta Matthew reported for the Worship and Christian Education Committee. She announced that **RALLY DAY** would be held on August 30, with a cookout lunch after worship. Please see Rally Day article for details. It was also reported that there would be a **new Sunday School Class** starting on Rally Day. Pastor Nancy will be leading a class focusing on the Bible. Class participants will decide the first week what they want to study. The class will meet in the pastor's study at 10:00 A.M.

Prayer Concerns

Please join us as we pray for:

Church Family Members:

Ted Brook, LaWanda Butler, Ray Dabney, Mary Gallagher, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Edie Huddleston, Charles Jones, Jane Key, Gus Neutze, Barrett Rambie, Terri Rambie, Mary Lee Reynolds, June Richardson, Garry Smith and Ed Taylor

Friends and Loved Ones:

Jim Cannon, brother-in-law of Garry and Vesta Smith; **Robert Driskoll**, friend of Bob Coble; **Phillip Gorman**, son of Alice Gorman; **James Loch**, grandfather of Bryan and Brittany Loch; **Jacqueline McClure**, daughter of Mary Lee Reynolds; **Rett Miller**, 9 year old son of Barrett and Dana Miller; **Danny Nichols**, husband of Bob Coble's niece; **Deborah Schafer**, friend of Jackie Rutherford; **Mrs. Henry "Tooter" Scheide**, friend of Dayse Elrod; **Warren Seymour**, organist at St. Philip's Episcopal Church; **Natalie Speer**, niece of Edmond Speer; **The Family of Christie Connelly**, cousin of Mary Gallagher and **Lydia Hernandez Trickey**, Elizabeth Gonzalez's sister

Family and Loved Ones in the Military:

Will Dabney, son of Ray & Laura Dabney; **Brandon Davis**, great-nephew of Edmond & Kittie Speer; **Derek Elrod**, grandson of Dayse Elrod; **Tyler Hamiter**, nephew of Edmond & Kittie Speer; **Jeremy Hedrington**, nephew of Jeff Mortensen; **Will Jaegli**, son of Glen & LuAnn Jaegli and **Ty Smith**, son-in-law of Dusty & Edie Huddleston

When you or someone you care about needs prayers during difficult or challenging times, please call the church office for inclusion on all Prayer Concerns lists. Remember also to call the church office when the difficult or challenging time passes to have the name removed from the lists.

July Worship Attendance

July 5	36
July 12	40
July 19	36
July 26	44

Average July Attendance: 39

**Stated Session Meeting
Tuesday, August 25, 2009
6:30 p.m.**

Memorial Gift

A gift in memory of Jack Jarvis was received from Mike and Patti Dishman.

Stewardship Report

Income:

Month of June: \$ 5,640.66
Year to Date: \$46,877.53

Expenses:

Month of June: \$ 11,368.21
Year to Date: \$56,649.47

Should you have questions concerning the finances of the church, please contact Treasurer, Barbara Abbott, or Bookkeeper, Nita Alderson.

You're Invited!

Pastor Nancy will be installed as our pastor on Sunday, August 23rd, at 4:00 p.m., in the church sanctuary.



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women's Supper and Officer Installation

A PW supper will be held on Tuesday, August 11th, 6:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Officers for 09-10 term will be installed. All women of the church are invited.

Officers for the 09 -10 term are:

Morning Study:

Moderator - Alice Gorman

Secretary-Treasurer - Bernie Dishman

Evening Study:

Moderator: Kelly Lindenborn

Secretary: Casey Ford

Bible Study

The Presbyterian Women will hold their first Bible Studies of the 09 -10 term on Tuesday, September 8th, at 10:30 a.m. and at 6:00 p.m., in the church parlor. Choose the study that fits your schedule or attend both.

Choir & Hand Bell Rehearsal Schedule

The Chancel Choir will rehearse August 19th, at 6:30 p.m. in room #5.

The handbells rehearse every Thursday in August at 6:30 p.m.

To save the church printing and postage costs, please consider receiving your newsletter by email. Send your email address to fpcunews@gmail.com

August Spotlight - Mary Gallagher

Howdy from Mary Gallagher! I mentioned to Pastor Nancy that I like to write and she's so good at delegating that we agreed that I would become the newsletter editor. Nita Alderson is doing a wonderful job showing me the ropes and Bob Willet has toiled to get a computer running properly for me.

We will be spotlighting a church member each month. This will help our church family get to know each other better. You will be chosen at random and I will be visiting with all who consent.

While I'm talking about myself, I might as well tell you a few things about me. I was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the oldest of five children. I graduated from high school the year of our country's bicentennial. I graduated from Slippery Rock University with a BS in therapeutic recreation on the 100th anniversary of the college's founding. I've been a nurse's aide, worked in a women's shelter and a group home for mentally and physically challenged adults. I have performed standup comedy, acting and have written a book, a blues song, plays, short stories and poetry. I love to swim, read, play dominoes and am learning bridge. The smartest move I made was to come to Uvalde, where I am very happy. I am recuperating steadily from hip replacement surgery. I look around my apartment and I see your kindness. I am looking forward to getting to know you better. Let's have fun on this journey!

Mary

September Newsletter Deadline

The deadline for your news items, announcements, essays, book reviews, recipes, trivia, and other literary offerings for the September Newsletter is Friday, August 21st. Send them to the church office or email them to: fpcunews@gmail.com.

From Our Choir Director

Beloved Church Family:

My last Sunday as your music director will be August 30, 2009, as I have decided to return to Southeast Texas to live near my family. I have made this decision prayerfully over a number of months, and while it saddens me to leave you—because you have loved me so well—I believe it's just time for me to make a change. I've learned so much during my year with you. Each time I experience God's grace it utterly astounds me, but through all of you, my prayers were answered in countless ways, and I have experienced grace like never before. You have fed me, clothed me, given me shelter, and prayed all around me. You support my creativity and all the many talented musicians of our church, always encouraging and praising our efforts. Worshiping with you has been intimate, truthful, and inspiring.

In addition to being spiritually enriched, I have also learned a great deal about conducting a choir...the things they don't really teach you in school! As most of you know, this was my first job as a choral conductor, and I couldn't have asked for a better experience.

My time with the Presbyterian Women has been a very special blessing. I've realized that I have a great deal in common with women outside my age bracket. Intellectually, I suppose that's just common sense, but it's altogether different to actually sit down with someone 50 years older than myself and realize through conversation that on a day-to-day basis, we have the same kinds of hopes and dreams, the same thoughts about God, about family, about true beauty, about life in general. This realization, a gift from God, makes me feel like I'm on the right path, and that I am never alone.

My plan is to return home, return to school, and go through the doors God opens for me. I will always treasure my time at First Presbyterian Church. You, my Uvalde family, will always have your own REALLY BIG spot in my heart. I will see you again! I love you very much.

Peace...
Casey Ford

Name That Newsletter!

Have you noticed the change in format of our newsletter? There are many good things that happen in our church and we wanted a more updated look to share those good things with you. The newsletter staff would like to have a name for our newsletter. One website gave these suggestions for naming a church newsletter: *Signify a new energy in your church's newsletter by giving it a new name that captures the essence of what you're trying to accomplish. Instead of Oak Hill Church News, use the name that expresses your vision, such as The Seeker, Hope for Today, The Connection, or From the Hilltop. You want the name to represent your church's ideals and message.*

The new name will be used on September's newsletters, so put on your thinking caps and send us your ideas! Submit your suggestions to: fpcunews@gmail.com



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www.fpcuvalde.org

Our Mission Statement

First Presbyterian Church, Uvalde, Texas, serves the middle southwest border region of the state. It is the only Presbyterian Church between San Antonio and the Rio Grande border at Del Rio, approximately 150 miles. Ministering to a broad, rural region of Southwest Texas, First Presbyterian Church serves both its members and the surrounding communities. Its ministry is to those in all life's stages. First Presbyterian Church is also mindful of its relationship to the denomination and to the world. We want to restore our role as a facilitator of the interaction between Presbyterian churches in this region. It seeks to serve as an active participant in the missions of Mission Presbytery and through benevolence activities to show the light of Christ in neighboring Mexico. Through its adherence to the tenets of the Reformed Faith, it strives to be ever willing to consider new needs and ministries.