

Rev. George R. Stewart, Interim Pastor
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July 2009

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

What a wonderful first Sunday! Bob and I could not have felt more welcomed and at home in our new congregation. Thanks to all of you who made our first Sunday in Uvalde a truly special one.

I am so looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you. In the near future, I will be inviting each of you for a visit at the manse with Bob and me so we can get to know each other better. We will gather in a group of 4 or 5 to share with each other about ourselves, our lives, and our faith journeys. I do hope you will make this a priority in your busy life. You may even learn something new about someone you have known forever!

Included in this newsletter is a copy of My Statement of Faith. Candidates for ministry in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) are required to write a Statement of Faith which is reviewed and approved (or not!) by the Presbytery before a candidate's ordination. I am happy to share this information with you about my faith beliefs, and I am hoping my statement of faith will be a starting point for some of the conversations I have with you in the future.

During my first month or so here, I plan to spend some time in the community meeting people and letting Uvalde know I am here. One of my hopes for our congregation is that we will be an active presence in this community, letting others know we are willing and able to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.

I will be keeping office hours at the church Monday through Thursday. If you need to get in touch with me when I am out of the office, you may contact me on my cell phone at (830) 275-0152 or by email at nancywillet@gmail.com.

Again, I am so excited to be here and to be serving you and God at First Presbyterian Church of Uvalde.

Blessings,

Pastor Nancy

Prayer Concerns

Church Family Members: Ted Brook, LaWanda Butler, Mary Gallagher, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Edie Huddleston, Charles Jones, Jane Key, Barrett Rambie, Terri Rambie, Mary Lee Reynolds, June Richardson, and Ed Taylor

Friends and Loved Ones:

Robert Driskoll, friend of Bob Coble
Muriel England, aunt of Vesta Smith
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
Mrs. Henry "Tootie" Scheide, friend of Dayse Elrod
Warren Seymour, organist at St. Philip's Episcopal Church
Natalie Speer, niece of Edmond Speer
The Family of Lewis Bracy Jr.
The Chuck Vargulish Family
The Congregation of St. Philip's Episcopal Church

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 deploying to Iraq
Tyler Hamiter, nephew of Edmond & Kittie Speer
Jeremy Hedrington, nephew of Jeff Mortensen
Will Jaegli, son of Glen & LuAnn Jaegli
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 Birthdays

A Very Blessed and Happy Birthday to:

01 Tim Wilson
07 Rebecca Merritt
09 Cheryl Renfro
10 Lance Elrod
12 June Richardson
14 Jackie Rutherford
16 Laura Dabney
19 Muryle Shurley
20 Toni Collins
Tara O'Brien
24 Ben Elrod
26 Bill Cate

July Wedding Anniversaries

14 Jeff and Shannon Mortensen
17 Billy and Elizabeth Whitwell
22 Will and Amy Dabney
24 Frank and Barbara Abbott
26 Bob and Teresa Coble
30 Cristian and Jennifer Abbott Banu

Stewardship and Attendance Report

Income:		Attendance:	
May:	\$ 7,487.10	May 3	44
Year to Date:	\$41,236.87	May 10	53
		May 17	56
		May 24	39
Expenses:		May 31	41
May:	\$ 9,581.78		
Year to Date:	\$45,281.26	Average May Attendance:	47

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

Presbyterian Women

Bible Studies

The Presbyterian Women will not be meeting during the summer months. Bible studies will resume in September.

Food Pantry

In May, 12 families representing 36 individuals received a bag of food through this ministry.

If you would like to help you can make a monetary donation or you can provide a bag of food. Each bag consists of 2 lbs. pinto beans, 2 lbs. rice, 2 cans of tuna, 2 boxes of macaroni and cheese, 4 canned vegetables and 1 can of fruit.

If you would like to volunteer to give of your time to help with the purchasing of the items and the making up of the bags, please contact Dayse Elrod or Susie Stone.

Church Calendar

July

03 Church office closed in observance of 4th of July

05 Sacrament of Communion

13 - 16 VBS @ St. Philip's Episcopal 6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

19 Ice Cream Social 6:00 p.m.

August

14 School begins for teachers

23 Service of Installation for Pastor Nancy

24 School begins for students

Flowers for Worship Needed

Flowers in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings add to the beauty of our sanctuary and enhance worship for many. If you would like to donate flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign the flower chart in the narthex.

A Note from Audra Elrod

Dear FPC,

Thank you so much for the wonderful book "Where To Find It in the Bible". It was so thoughtful and generous. Thank you so much for thinking of me. It will come in handy for my Bible studies. I am eager about beginning a new chapter in my life.

With love,
Audra Elrod

**An Invitation to Vacation Bible School
from St. Philip's Episcopal Church**

Vacation Bible School will be held July 13 - 16 from 6:00 - 8:15 p.m. at St. Philip's Episcopal Church. Children in pre-K through 6th grade and adults are invited to come, learn and participate in "Doing God's Work in Our Community". There will be something for everyone including food, music, Bible lessons, crafts and recreation. Please contact Beverly Heyen at 591-2656 or jheyen@stx.rr.com or Diana Keith at 278-6917 or dianakeith@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

**FPC Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir
Summer Rehearsal Schedule**

CHANCEL CHOIR

Wed, July 15 6:30pm
Wed, Aug 19 6:30pm

HANDBELL CHOIR

No rehearsals during July
August rehearsals every week, Thursdays at 5:30pm

Mission Presbytery Review of Minutes

FPC's Session minutes for 2008 were reviewed and approved at the Presbytery meeting on June 12 -13 at First Presbyterian Church Kerrville. Our thanks to Laura Dabney for serving as our Clerk of Session and for doing such a wonderful job.

Ice Cream Social

The annual Ice Cream Social is scheduled for Sunday, July 19th, 6:00 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Bring your favorite ice cream, cookies or sandwiches and join us for some cool fellowship and fun.

Service of Installation for Pastor Nancy

On August 23 at 4:00 p.m., a service of installation will be held for Pastor Nancy. This service is an act of Mission Presbytery and will be led by a presbytery commission of clergy and elders. This is an important and meaningful service in the life of our congregation. Please make plans to attend

Statement of Faith **Nancy Willet**

My faith is based upon the living, triune God that is present and active in my life and in the world around me. My understanding of the Christian faith comes to me through my understanding of Scripture as revealed to me by the Holy Spirit, the Reformed creeds and confessions, through prayer, and through my involvement in the Christian community.

I believe that creation came about as a pure gift of grace. The world was created out of nothing by the Word in an act of God's will. However, God has not stopped creating. God is a personal God who is present in the world, creating anew every day.

Scriptures tells me that all things good come from God. At the end of the creation story in Genesis, we are told that God created humankind in God's image. To be created in the image of God means that humanity, in all its diversity, reflects the tri-unity of God. Sadly, though, through the gift of human freedom, people have chosen not to live within God's divine will for creation, and although still created in the image of God, we no longer always reflect God's image to God, to others, or to ourselves.

Through God's providential care of creation and out of God's endless mercy and compassion for humankind, God accepts humanity. God accepts humanity through the reconciliation given to men and women in grace through Jesus Christ. God showed God's love for us by bringing Jesus Christ into the world as the perfect example for human life. Through Jesus Christ, both fully and fully human divine, humans are redeemed.

The salvation we experience daily comes to us through the pouring out of the Holy Spirit into the world. The Holy Spirit in people's lives is a loving gift of grace. Christian hope for the future comes to us through the knowledge that Christ was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit. Jesus' death on the cross was not only a sign of God overcoming evil and sin, but a sign of hope for the future.

I believe the church is the Body of Christ present in the world today. The church has been called by God for a two-fold purpose. The first calling is for the community to receive forgiveness, healing, and the renewing gift of God's grace—to be ministered to. The second purpose is for the church to be sent out into the world—to be ministers to others.

The Holy Spirit empowers the church to carry out its mission. The God-given gifts of the Sacrament of Baptism and the Lord's Supper and the preaching and hearing of the Word equip the Christian community in fulfilling God's dual purpose for the church. In Baptism, God bestows the sign and seal of God's grace upon the believer. We become members of Christ's family through Baptism and a new life with Christ begins. We are spiritually fed through the Lord's Supper as we experience the real spiritual presence of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. I believe the Lord's Supper to be a past, present, and future sign of God's creative and redemptive work in the world.

As people of the Reformed tradition, we participate in the covenant life of the church. Reformed and always reforming, the church is guided by God's love, by the grace of Jesus Christ, and through the transforming presence of the Holy Spirit to reflect God's tri-unity—God's image—in which we were

JULY 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	* Denotes Birthdays c Denotes Wedding Anniversaries		1 *Tim Wilson 10a Book Club	2	3 Church Office Closed	4 Independence Day
5 Sacrament of Communion 9a Amistad NH 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship	6	7 *Rebecca Merritt	8 10a Book Club	9 *Cheryl Renfro	10 *Lance Elrod	11
12 *June Richardson 9a Amistad NH 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship	13 6:00-8:15p Vacation Bible School @ St Philip's Jul 13-16	14 *Jackie Rutherford ♥The Mortensens	15 10:00a Book Club 6:30p Chancel Choir Rehearsal	16 *Laura Dabney	17 ♥The Whitwells	18
19 9a Amistad NH 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship 6p Ice Cream Social	20 *Tara O'Brien	21	22 ♥The Will Dabneys 10:00a Book Club	23	24 *Ben Elrod ♥The Abbotts	25
26 *Bill Cate ♥The Cobles 9a Amistad NH 9:45 Sunday School 11a Worship	27	28 5:30p Committee Meetings 6:30p Stated Session	29 10:00a Book Club	30 ♥Chris & Jennifer (Abbott) Banu	31	