



**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
OF
UVALDE**

SEPTEMBER

Sunday, 6th
Communion

Monday, 7th
Office Closed

Tuesday, 8th
Presbyterian Women
Bible Study

Sunday, 13th
Gideons Visit

Sunday, 20th
Criminal Justice Sunday
Congregational Luncheon

Tuesday, 22nd
Session Meeting

Friday, 25th
Main Event for Youth

Sunday, 27th
Evangelism Sunday

CHURCH WITH A HEART



September 2009



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK . . .

September is here and for students and teachers, it's time to say goodbye to those lazy summer days and say hello to backpacks, pencils, lesson plans and the classroom. Even if you aren't involved in the education system here in Uvalde, September marks the beginning of Fall, a new season, and a sense of a fresh start. Hopefully, the weather will be cooling down some (and we always continue to pray for rain!), and we have returned from vacations renewed and refreshed.

The month of September is a busy one at our church this year. The 20th is **Criminal Justice Sunday** with residents of the Community Corrections Facility helping to lead worship. Our guests will also be with us for the Sunday School hour and there will be a covered dish luncheon after worship.

Our national Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) office has designated September 27th as **Evangelism Sunday**. There will be a special emphasis on evangelism during our worship service. Ray Jones, the Coordinator for Evangelism for the PC (U.S.A.) said these words about evangelism:

As I pray, think, and talk about evangelism, I am convinced that evangelism is closely connected to discipleship. Separated from discipleship, evangelism is relegated to member recruitment. There's no passion involved and we're always trying to get beyond our negative feelings about invading someone's space with an invitation to church. Maybe the real deal is that we are worried about rejection!

But what if in the relationship with discipleship, evangelism is much more organic? We share the love of God with others because we have encountered and bathed in the love of God in the church. Why wouldn't we want someone else to come swim with us in God's love? Why would we hesitate to invite a neighbor to a place of love and acceptance?

So, as you head back to school, or start your new fall garden, or just take a big sigh of relief from the summer heat, I invite you all to be a part of the good things happening at FPC Uvalde. I challenge you to bring someone to church with you to "swim in God's love," to splash in the waters of forgiveness and mercy, to be a part of this loving church family that we all enjoy every day.

I will close with a big thank you for a wonderful service of installation and the reception that followed. Extra time, care, and effort were put forth by many of you to make this a special afternoon for me and for the life of this church. I have felt God's blessings upon me many times for listening to His call to bring me here. Good things *do* happen when we listen to God. To God be the glory in all things!

Blessings and grace be upon each of you,

Pastor Nancy

CHURCH WITH A HEART, September 2009

CANCER CENTER OFFERING

Many thanks for all of you who donated so generously to the Session's challenge of \$1000 to go to the new Cancer Center in our community. A total of \$1805 was collected from our generous congregation. This, along with the church's donation of \$1000 will go a long way in making this center a reality in our community.



Don & Kelly Lindenborn for their gift of time and labor in painting the choir room

Bob Coble and Ken Rutherford for the many repairs they do around the church and manse.

Work Day participants: Kelly Lindenborn, Casey Ford, Bernie Dishman, Bob Coble, Ken Rutherford, and Laura Dabney.

Ray and Laura Dabney for leading worship on August 16.



SEPTEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Casey Ford

Casey Ford is our dynamic and vivacious musical director. She also leads the handbell choir, is a member of Presbyterian Women and helps out at Amistad.

Casey is from the small town of Port Neches, near Beaumont, which is close to Houston. Her mother and sister still reside in the area. Her sister is 2-1/2 years younger and is a school teacher. Casey has decided to move back to be closer to her family and to finish her degree in music and English at Lamar University. She will be sorely missed by her church family, but has promised to visit. Casey has held a variety of jobs including waiting tables and working in fast food. This led to becoming the office manager of a restaurant, where she learned administrative skills. Then Casey became a receptionist at a Christian radio station where she picked up computer skills and learned about answering services. All this experience has led to Casey's present position as an administrative assistant at American Lumber. She is also in charge of a complex phone system. Casey also does not feel comfortable leaving until an adequate replacement can be found, so we will continue to have the pleasure of her company until those big shoes are attempted to be filled. No, I'm not asking you to pray that a replacement can't be found.

Casey has been known to karaoke and go bowling. She enjoys reading and movies, but her favorite hobby is scrapbooking.

Good luck, Casey! We love you!

The Presbyterian Women will hold the September Bible study on Tuesday, September 8. The morning Bible study will be held at 10:30 a.m. and the evening study at 6:00 p.m. Both studies are held in the church parlor. All ladies of the church are invited to attend one or both of these studies.



Prayer Concerns



Please join us as we pray for:

Church Family Members:

Ted Brook, LaWanda Butler, Ray Dabney, Bernie Dishman, Audra Elrod, Elizabeth Gonzalez, Edie Huddleston, Gus Neutze, Terri Ramb, Mary Lee Reynolds, June Richardson, Garry Smith, Ed Taylor, Pastor Nancy & family

Friends and Loved Ones:

The Family of Henry Charles Casal, Robert Driskoll, friend of Bob Coble; **Lee Dubose**, aunt of Ray Dabney; **Phillip Gorman**, son of Alice Gorman; **James Loch**, grandfather of Bryan & Brittany Loch; **Jacqueline McClure**, daughter of Mary Lee Reynolds; **Scott Morgan**, friend of Bob Coble; **Debbie Neil**, mother of Dana Miller; **Danny Nichols**, husband of Bob Coble's niece; **Deborah Schafer**, friend of Jackie Rutherford; **Mrs. Henry "Tooter" Scheide**, friend of Dayse Elrod; **The Family of Warren Seymour**, organist at St. Philip's Episcopal; **Natalie Speer**, niece of Edmond Speer; **Lydia Hernandez Trickey**, Elizabeth Gonzalez' 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; **Will Jaegli**, son of Glen & LuAnn Jaegli; **Jeremy Hedrington**, nephew of Jeff Mortensen

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.

NAMING THE NEWSLETTER

Dayse Elrod has won the naming the newsletter contest. She came up with "Church With a Heart". It captures the spirit of our church family.

Congratulations, Dayse!

IMPRESSIONS

of Muryle Shurley
ICE CREAM SOCIAL



Dayse Shurley brought Vanilla Blue Bell Ice Cream. This year, the Ice Cream Social fell on Muryle's and her twin sister's birthday. Amy Forste brought her a cake, which Muryle thought was sweet of her. We all sang to Muryle wishing her a happy birthday. Muryle has enjoyed homemade ice cream every year. This year, Laura Dabney made peach homemade ice cream and wow, was it good! There were also sandwiches and sweets. The socialization was fun. If you missed it, there will be another Ice Cream Social next summer. Y'all come down now, ya hear!

Stated Session Meeting
Tuesday, September 22, 2009
6:30 p.m. in church parlor

The church office will be closed
for Labor Day on September 7.

CHURCH WITH A HEART, September 2009

Stewardship Report

Income:
Month of July: \$ 8,344.25
Year to Date: \$55,221.88

Expenses:
Month of July \$10,678.90
Year to Date: \$67,328.37

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

MEMORIAL GIFT

A gift in memory of Jack Jarvis was received from Howard and Toni Collins.

Discernment is like driving an automobile at night; the headlights cast only enough light for us to see the next small bit of road immediately in front of us. But that light is enough to take us home.

Listening to Hearts by Suzanne Farnham



IMPRESSIONS of Rose Brook CHURCH PICNIC AT BIG TREE RANCH

Yes, there is a big tree, a very big, beautiful tree. Rose Brook feels that the church picnic is a good tradition. She told me in the past there was dinner on the ground under trees with music playing. Some people would stay the night before in bunkhouses. This year, she felt it was generous of Rowan Crawford of the Stoner family to let us use their ranch overlooking the Frio River. It was flowing that day. Rose explained that it goes underground. The church service was held under the big tree and was led by George Stewart. He recognized guests, among them Nancy and Bob Willet. Rose said it was nice in the open air and enjoyed the hymns the guitar group played. Kelly Knight Lindenborn was in charge of organizing the food and did a wonderful job. We prefer people drop their dishes off before the service so it isn't overwhelming after the service. Rose brought baked beans and pickled cucumbers. Ray Dabney cooked all the meat, which Rose informed me might be his job after retirement. We could sure give him good word of mouth, since our mouths were watering. For the past 4-5 years the brisket he cooked was auctioned. This year Ray's brisket was sold to benefit the church. Our graduating senior, Audra Elrod was recognized and given a Bible Study Guide as a gift. We wish her well in her next phase in college. The food was out of this world and the outdoor socialization was great fun. If you missed it, you can come next summer and have a blast!

BOOK CLUB SELECTS NEXT BOOK

ATTITUDE IS YOUR PAINTBRUSH: IT COLORS EVERY SITUATION

by James W. Moore

Our attitude goes a long way toward determining who we are and how we live day to day. James W. Moore's warm conversational style inspires readers to transform negative, pessimistic attitudes into positive, optimistic attitudes centered on love and hope of Jesus Christ.



The book club meets every Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. at 722 S. Ashby Drive. The new book discussions will start on September 30. Give Alice Gorman a call at 278-5028 by September 15 and she will order a book for you.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session met on August 25 for their regular monthly stated meeting. Session members shared prayer concerns and Pastor Nancy opened the meeting with prayer. The Session will be reading and discussing the Book of Acts, and began on chapter one. Treasurer Barbara Abbott presented the **Treasurer's Report**. She noted that we are behind budget for 2009 by \$12,106.49 and that a weekly offering of \$2500 is needed to make budget for this year. For the months of July and August, we have averaged weekly offerings of \$1404.04

Augusta Matthews reported for the **Worship/Christian Education Committee**. She reported on the plans for Rally and noted that Pastor Nancy will be out of town on Sept. 6. Forrest Fitzhugh will be pulpit supply for that Sunday. Criminal Justice Sunday will be Sept. 20 followed by a covered dish luncheon.

Eddie Huddleston reported for the **Building and Grounds/Budget and Finance/Personnel Committee**. She reported that our Music Director, Casey Ford's last Sunday with us would be September 13. Eddie also commented that, along with the church's donation of \$1000, a total of \$2805.00 was collected to give to the Cancer Treatment Center. \$400 was collected at Pastor Nancy's Installation service, which will go to Mission Presbytery.

Pastor Nancy gave her report stating that she and Bob completed their visits at the manse with church members. 55 individuals, representing 37 families enjoyed visits with Pastor Nancy and Bob. Laura Dabney gave the clerk's report noting that we had two new members, Amy Forste and Jimmie Coneley; join the church on August 23.

An offertory prayer was given in thanks for the offering of the work of the committees, the pastor and the clerk. The Session was sent out in God's name by singing the Doxology, a closing prayer by Augusta Matthews and the benediction.



MONEY MATTERS



As mentioned in the Session Highlights, there has been some concern over whether the church will meet our budget for 2009. Sadly, the church is not insulated from the current economic crisis going on all around us. Historically, the offerings in the summer months are lower, and this year that is especially true. As mentioned in the Treasurer's report, we need to collect **\$2500** per week. For the months of August (4 weeks) and July, the average weekly offering was **1404.04, \$1095.96** below what is needed.

Our financial situation as a church family may mean that we, as individuals may need to take a step back and consider how we are spending our money Monday through Saturday, as well as how much we place in the offering plate each Sunday.

FPCU enjoys many wonderful programs and avenues that deepen our spiritual journey and our ministries to the community, but we do live in this world, and the world does operate on money. If you are currently giving only once a quarter or once a year, you might consider giving monthly.

ALL good gifts, everything we have and everything we are, are gifts from God. We trust in God to lead us through this troubling financial time, but we also know that God does not always swoop in to save us when we can save ourselves. **Please be in prayer concerning your church and your money.**

CHURCH WITH A HEART, September 2009

THE STARFISH POEM



Once upon a time there was a wise man
who used to go to the ocean to do his writing.
He had a habit of walking on the beach before he began his work.
One day he was walking along the shore.
As he looked down the beach,
he saw a human figure moving like a dancer.
He smiled to himself to think of someone who would dance to the day.
So he began to walk faster to catch up.
As he got closer, he saw that it was a young man
and the young man wasn't dancing,
but instead he was reaching down to the shore,
picking up something and very gently throwing it into the ocean.
As he got closer he called out,
"Good morning! What are you doing?"



The young man paused, looked up and replied,
"Throwing starfish in the ocean."

"I guess I should have asked, why are you throwing starfish in the ocean?"



"The sun is up and the tide is going out. And if I don't throw them in they'll die."

"But, young man, don't you realize that there are miles
and miles of beach and starfish all along it.
You can't possibly make a difference?"



The young man listened politely.
Then bent down, picked up another starfish and threw it into the sea,
past the breaking waves and said,
"It made a difference for that one."



Author Unknown

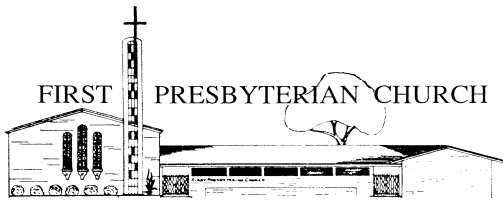
This is dedicated to all the teachers in our lives. We give thanks that they care enough to throw us back and make a difference in our life.



THE MAIN EVENT FOR YOUTH

The Main Event for Youth will be held Friday, September 25 to Sunday, September 27, and it calls young people grades 6-12 to be disciples of Christ at the John Knox Ranch through speakers, devotionals, worship service, small group discussions, and skits. Fellowship is further promoted with meals, a campfire rally, and a sleepover. If this sounds like a good experience for you or someone you know, please contact:

**Lita Simpson (800) 446-5294 or "litas@missionpby.org"; or
Cheryl Brockman at "cbrockman2@yahoo.com"**



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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.