



**FIRST  
PRESBYTERIAN  
OF  
UVALDE**

August

**Sunday, 1st**

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

**Sunday, 22nd**

Worship @ The Arbors, 4:00 p.m.

**Sunday, 29th**

Rally Day  
Breakfast & Singing, 9 a.m.

# CHURCH WITH A HEART



August 2010



From the Pastor's Desk . . .

As most of you know, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) met last month in Minneapolis, MN. The General Assembly consists of commissioners elected by individual presbyteries. The number of commissioners equally consists of Ministers of the Word and Sacraments and Elders. Our congregation was honored this year to have one of our elders, Ray Dabney serve as commissioner to the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, representing Mission Presbytery.

I have included in this note excerpts from a pastoral letter from the Moderator and Stated Clerk to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations. I believe their summary is much better than I could ever do. If you would like to read in more detail about any of the issues discussed in this letter, copies are located in the literature rack in the narthex.

## **JULY 10, 2010, Minneapolis, MN**

While all assemblies are significant, this one holds particular significance in the life of the PC (USA). Among the assembly's decisions – to be ratified by presbyteries – are the addition of the Belhar Confession to *The Book of Confessions* and a revised Form of Government. Both of these items give a clear signal that we are a church that is not afraid to change – an important perspective to have in these days of great change in the church and the world.

The assembly celebrated and was greatly encouraged by the commissioning of 122 young adult volunteers and 17 new mission workers for service around the globe. Commissioners voted unanimously to renew the call to "Grow Christ's Church Deep and Wide" and were inspired by the stories of congregations that are growing in evangelism, discipleship, diversity, and servanthood. They celebrated the generosity of Presbyterians who have contributed more than \$10.5 million to relief and redevelopment work in Haiti in the wake of January's devastating earthquake.

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## CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

From the Pastor's Desk . . .

The assembly also engaged in discussion about significant matters of faith and life – ordination standards, justice and peace in the Middle East, and civil union and marriage, to name just a few. Information on the more than 300 assembly actions is available.

While the content of the assembly's decisions is important, what may be of equal or greater importance is the *manner* in which commissioners and advisory delegates did their work. They debated, but did not fight. They tackled tough issues while refraining from tackling each other. They placed great value on finding common ground as they displayed gracious, mutual forbearance toward one another. They sought the will of God within their actions, rather than regarding their decisions as the will of God. One commissioner called the experience of seeking – and finding – common ground truly “miraculous.” In short, this assembly exhibited to the whole church and, indeed, to our society and the world a way to engage in difficult issues while maintaining respect for one another. To put it another way, they exhibited well what it means for the church to “a provisional demonstration of what God intends for the world” (Book of Order, G-3.0200).

Just a few short hours ago, the 219th General Assembly ended in the same worshipful manner with which it began, as well as with a similar same sense of hopeful expectation that the hard work done in Minneapolis will continue forward across the church.

Michael East and Caroline Sherard, elected by their peers as co-moderators of the young adult advisory delegates to this assembly, shared their thoughts in a blog entry:

If all our commissioners and advisory delegates returned to their places of community and encouraged others to continue similar stories, what great things could be next for the PC(USA)? These narratives have the ability to inspire discussions on new, creative, and innovative ways of being the Church. At the heart of being Presbyterian is the principal belief that our discernment is best done when we gather together. Being able to gather in one place, as one people, for the one Church is a powerful and transformative experience--one which dramatically shapes future generations.

The assembly has commended to the church a number of items for further study, out of which is hoped will come, as Michael and Caroline write, “new, creative, and innovative ways of being the Church.”

May the good and faithful work begun in Minneapolis truly be just the beginning of a season of respectful, earnest, and gracious engagement – both in our words and in our deeds – all for the sake of the gospel.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

**Elder Cynthia Bolbach**  
*Moderator, 219th General Assembly*

**The Rev. Landon Whitsitt**  
*Vice Moderator, 219th General Assembly*

**The Rev. Grady Parsons**  
*Stated Clerk of the General Assembly*

**Elder Linda Bryant Valentine**  
*Executive Director, General Assembly Mission Council*

# CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

## Congregational Nominating Committee to Meet

The Congregational Nominating Committee (CNC) will be meeting soon to create a slate of members willing to serve the church in the upcoming year. Members might be asked to serve in two different ways:

1) As an **Elder** –Our Book of Order states that “Together with ministers of Word and Sacrament, they exercise leadership, government, and discipline and have responsibilities for the life of a particular church as well as the church at large. Elders should be persons of faith, dedication, and good judgment. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel, both within the church and in the world” (G-6.0302-3). An Elder serves a 3 year term.

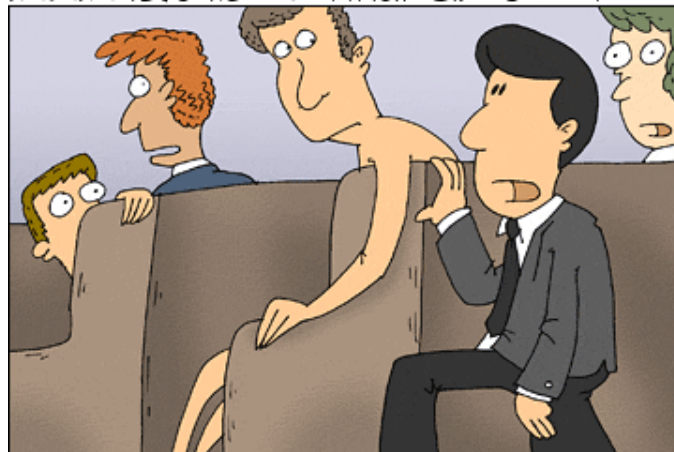
2) As a member of one of the six committees in our church. These committees are :

Worship and Christian Education  
Mission and Outreach  
Finance/Personnel/Stewardship  
Building and Grounds  
Fellowship  
Congregational Care

Members of this year’s CNC are: Steve Dishman (moderator) Elder Augusta Matthews, Alice Gorman, Mary Gallagher, and Diana Meyer. Over the next few weeks, members are asked to prayerfully consider serving with one of these groups. God gives each of us particular gifts for ministry. Pray that God will make clear to you where you are being called to serve.

If you need more information or would like to be considered, contact a Session member or one of the members of the CNC.

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Thanks to Jason Adelsbegrer (See Isaiah 61:10) 07-12-2010

I UNDERSTAND THAT YOU ARE 'ARRAYED IN A ROBE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS', BUT YOU STILL NEED TO DRESS FOR CHURCH

# CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

## HELP WANTED

### Secretary

Mary Gallagher is looking for someone to take interview notes for her until she can write quickly with her right hand again. Most interviews take place before or after church services. Some interviews will be done on the computer, which she can handle herself.

Hey folks, interview is not a bad word. It's just visiting and sharing that visiting with your church family.

Mary Gallagher  
AKA Lefty



## Why go to Church?

A Churchgoer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday... "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 203,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this... They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

'When you are DOWN to nothing... God is UP to something! Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible! Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment!  
---Author unknown

## PASTOR'S DESIGNATED FUND HELPS COMMUNITY

Did you know that our congregation has a line item in the budget called the Pastor's Discretionary Fund? You give \$2400 per year to fund this account. This account is used for a variety of things, but the main thing it is used for is to help out people in our community that have nowhere else to turn. Since January of this year \$423 has been given to help 16 families with their utility bill. \$75 has been given to folks needing help with prescription medicines. We have bought \$255 in HEB gift cards to give out to folks for gasoline to get to doctor's appointments in San Antonio, or to buy a bit of perishable food.

The assistance that we give from this fund is separate from the food bags that are handed out from our Food Pantry. The Food Pantry helped 32 families (102 people) in the months of June and July.

The Pastor's Fund is a vital and necessary ministry that the church office performs with your help. We have on average 20-25 people a month come into the office to ask for some form of assistance—most of the time we are able to help. Pray for those that we help that they may become self-sufficient and their lives might be easier.

*To save the church printing and postage costs, please consider receiving your newsletter by email. Send your email address to [fpcuvalde@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fpcuvalde@sbcglobal.net)*

# CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

## MEMORIALS

Memorial gifts have been received from The First State Bank in memory of T.L. Whitley, and Rose & Ted Brook in memory of T.L. Whitley and in memory of Ken Garrett.

### Rally Day is August 29<sup>th</sup>

Make plans to attend Rally Day this year on Sunday, August 29<sup>th</sup>. Rally Day is not just for kids! This is the time of year when all members RALLY round. This Sunday is a great opportunity to get started back in Sunday School or in the habit of coming to worship regularly.

The day will begin with an informal breakfast at 9 a.m. and singing with Guitars and Friends. Breakfast will be provided so there is no need to bring anything. Sunday School classes for children, youth, and adults begin at 10 a.m. Then, during worship we will commission the Sunday School teachers.



### THANK YOU

Mary Gallagher

I just came back from a family reunion for my mother's eightieth birthday. We rented a house in the Outer Banks of North Carolina near the beach. My relatives are from Philly, Jersey and New York. I couldn't understand why they were always in a hurry, until I remembered that I was once like that and had to be told to slow my rate of speech so I could be understood. We all talked about how our lives were going. I told them about my small community and my small community within my small community, my church family. I really stuck up for the friendly, supportive and relaxed atmosphere in both my communities.

My brother John, who some of you met at the '09 picnic, couldn't make the reunion. Before he realized this, he set up the plane tickets so we were travelling together. So I visited with John and my nephews on the way to the airport and back.

On the long bus drive from Austin to Uvalde, the visiting was over and I really had a chance to reflect on my life. I really had a renewed appreciation for you, my church family. I thought about how you welcomed me with open arms. I have the honor of meeting a great bunch of folks. You continue to touch my soul, heart and mind. You have seen me through two surgeries and a bad fall. Thanks for all those rides. I am deeply grateful to you, the Good Samaritans who helped a stranger set up a household when disaster struck.

You have made an investment in me. I don't seem to have the Midas touch, but I hope you feel I can begin to return your faith in me.

All I have left to say is, 'THANK YOU AND I LOVE YOU !!!'

## CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

### ***“The ever pressing question.... What’s next?”***

A 2010 Quarterly Report from the Budget, Stewardship & Personnel Committee

By Kelly Lindenborn

As I write this update, I ask myself the question I am always asking. “What’s next?” We at FPC Uvalde, are achieving goals we have set. Then, comes the next question. “How do we keep the momentum going?” Then, I worry and, I fret. And then, I remind myself that God has a plan for us. And, He will lead us the direction we are to go.

As of June 30, we are on track to meet our budget targets. We are rebuilding our cash operating reserves and placing FPC Uvalde on firmer financial footing.

Expenditures continue to be within or under budget. FPC now has a budget surplus of \$6,152.84. The surplus has allowed us to build up FPC’s checking (operating) account from \$16,568 in December 2009 to \$21,421.48 at the end of June 2010. We are very close to meeting our goal \$22,000 in the operating account. This amount is equivalent to two months budgeted operating expenses and is considered to be a minimum safe level from a financial planning standpoint.

FPC’s savings account balance was \$28, 273.14 (cash) and \$40,025.24 (CD’s) totaling \$68,298.38 at the end of June. Interest earned year to date on Savings is \$439.22.

The Gustafson/Shurley Account continues to have a balance of \$60,455.26. This fund is presently in a money market fund and will be invested in diversified conservative mutual funds and bond holdings.

The Food Panty has a balance of \$924.50. The Food Pantry has received 457.67 since December 31, 2009 and spends an average of \$68.22 per month.

The Youth Activity Fund has a balance of \$4,940.44.

Funds are being received and set aside to update and renovate the Church Chapel. This account has a balance of \$575.00 This money was raised from proceeds of the Brisket Sale at the annual Church picnic. Anyone wishing to give to this special project is encouraged to do so.

First Presbyterian Church Uvalde was officially incorporated under the Laws of the State of Texas on March 4, 2010.

We are happy to answer any questions, and encourage congregational involvement and awareness in all Budget, Stewardship and Personnel matters of FPC Uvalde.

We have set bold targets as a community of faith. God’s blessings are countless. As we share, so we are able to serve others.

Grace and Peace,

The Budget, Stewardship & Personnel Committee

# CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

## Prayer Concerns



Please join us as we pray for:

### Church Family Members:

**Rose Brook, Mary Gallagher, Alice Gorman, Dusty & Edie Huddleston, Errol & Mary Jane Jonsson, Jackie Rutherford, Muryle Shurley, Jean Stanley, and Charles Wimberley**

### Friends and Loved Ones:

**Jean Ann Angermiller**, friend of Susie Stone

**Robert Driskoll**, friend of Bob Coble

**Lee Dubose**, aunt of Ray Dabney

**Dolores Forste**, aunt of Amy Forste

**Gary and Cindy Hogman**

**Alice Hunnicutt**

**Mary Jones**, extended family member of Rutherfords

**Melanie Jones**, co-worker of Cheryl Renfro

**Judy Kale**, wife of high school friend of Bob Coble

**Elaine Kiesling**, principal at Anthon

**James Loch**, grandfather of Bryan & Brittany Loch

**Bob Oakley**, brother-in-law of Kittie & Edmond Speer

**Dick Pelton**, father of Pastor Nancy

**Sara Probasco**

**Laura Sasser**, daughter-in-law of Augusta Matthews

**Cynthia Schmidt**, daughter of Gary & Vesta Smith

**Deborah Schafer**, friend of Jackie Rutherford

**Daisy Stocks**, friend of Tim Wilson

**Rose Ann Suarez**, friend of the Elrod family

**Pam Tannahill**, former church member

**Joe Welch**, Patti Dishman's brother-in-law

**John Wilson**, Tim Wilson's son

**Linda Word**, friend of the Elrod family

### 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

**Kevin Wimberley**, grandson of Charles & Penny Wimberley

## WORSHIP THIS MONTH

Worship on Sunday mornings as a community of faith is integral to our spiritual lives. We were created, live, and breathe to give God glory and to worship our Risen Lord. Listed below are the Scriptures that will be used in worship services for the month of August. Please read over the passages before each service to deepen your understanding of what God is saying to you. An asterisk (\*) indicates the text the sermon will be based upon for that week.

### August 1, 2010

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Ecclesiastes 2:18-26

\*Luke 12:13-21 "Enough is Best"

### August 8, 2010

\*Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Luke 12:32-40 "Walking By Faith"

### August 15, 2010

Isaiah 5:1-7

\* Luke 9:51-62 "No Turning Back"



### August 22, 2010

Jeremiah 1:4-10

\*Luke 13:10-17 "Getting Our Priorities Right"

### August 29, 2010 Rally Day

\*Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

\*Luke 14:1, 7-14 "Seating Arrangements"

Elders serving this month:

Elder Ordering Worship - Susie Stone

Liturgists - Shannon Mortensen (August 1)

Michael Robinson (August 8-29)

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 office when the difficult or challenging time passes to have the name removed.

# CHURCH WITH A HEART, August 2010

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM JULY

The Session met last month at the new Wellness Center of Community Health Development, or Our Health located on South Evans. Our Health is a recipient of a portion of our benevolence giving, and Elders were introduced to the work and ministry that happens there. After a presentation by Executive Director Rachel Gonzales-Hansen, the meeting opened with sharing of prayers concerns and prayer.

A recommendation was presented by the Worship/Christian Education Committee and approved by Session to begin development of a Sunday evening program. The hope is that this can be a gathering time for our congregation with an informal meal and some type of class or program that might also attract students from the Jr. College as well as other community members. Members are asked to think of type of classes or programs they would like to see happen. Some suggestions are: Art in the Bible, Singing through the Blue Presbyterian Hymnal, or Singing with Guitars and Friends. Susie Stone reported for the Stewardship Committee and said that this year's stewardship campaign will focus on "Blessing and Adding." The campaign will kick off on September 12. There will be a congregational stewardship luncheon on October 17, and pledge Sunday will be December 21.

The Session also voted to begin a new process of transformation in our congregation. We will be embarking in the Acts 16:5 Initiative. The Acts 16:5 Initiative has the philosophy of "bless and add." It is about "blessing" all that God has done and is doing in the life of the church while "adding" new endeavors and emphases. This is a very exciting path we as a congregation will begin traveling in the near future, and on into the future as we discover what great things God wants to do through us and our congregation.

The meeting was closed with prayer and a singing of the Doxology. There will not be a Session meeting in August.

Below is a wonderful poem Audrey Hepburn wrote when asked to share her "beauty tips."

It was read at her funeral years later.

**For attractive lips**

Speak words of kindness...

**For lovely eyes**

Seek out the good in people.

**For a slim figure**

Share your food with the hungry.

**For beautiful hair**

Let a child run his/her fingers through it once a day.

**For poise**

Walk with the knowledge that you never walk alone...

People, even more than things, have to be restored, renewed, revived, reclaimed, and redeemed; never throw out anyone.



# First Presbyterian Church of Uvalde

## August 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> Karen Sullivan's Birthday Communion Sunday 9:00AM - Amistad NH 9:45AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship	<b>2</b> LaWanda Butler's Birthday Mike Dishman's Birthday	<b>3</b> Kennedy Thompson's Birthday	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Ophelia Dishman's Birthday Chris Holt's Birthday	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 9:00AM - Amistad NH 9:45AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> The Cate's Anniversary	<b>11</b> The Rutherford's Anniversary	<b>12</b> Rev. Nancy Willet 's Birthday	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Terri Rambie's Birthday Augusta Matthew's Birthday
<b>15</b> 9:00AM - Amistad NH 9:45AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship	<b>16</b> Pastor on Vacation	<b>17</b> Pastor on Vacation	<b>18</b> Pastor on Vacation	<b>19</b> Pastor on Vacation	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 9:00AM - Amistad NH 9:45AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship 4:00PM - The Arbors	<b>23</b> Brenden Holt's Birthday	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Caroline Jones' Birthday Edie Huddleston's Birthday	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> The Brook's Anniversary
<b>29</b> 9:00AM - Amistad NH 9:45AM - Sunday School 11:00AM - Worship Rally Day 9:00AM - Congregational Breakfast	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				