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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

June 8, 2008

Ushers

8:45

Liz Ramsey- Head Usher
Jerry Dressler Rick Aber
Gwenda Aber

11:00

Teresa Farr - Head Usher
Kathy Brown Les Olson
Chris Orr Zachary Bennett

Parking Lot Greeters

Eric Schwartz Ryan Schwartz

Please remember in prayer

Cindy Allen, daughter of John and Janie Jameson
Betty Aubert
Gary and Nancy Black
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom
Jim Brewster
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer
Troy & Kelli Connatser, friends of Gayle Rumbeck
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker
Lois Dandridge, friend of Susan Mathews
Jeff Dixon, brother of Kirk Dixon
Karen Dixon
Margaret Green, friend of Susan Mathews
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Cheryl Martin
Jerry McBain
Ron & Wanda McDougale, parents of Ronda Scott
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort
The family of Leroy Moore, friends of the Rumbecks
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
Les Olson
Syble Roberts, sister-in-law of Grace Roberts
Dave Rumbeck
The Sheppard family
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith
Justin Taylor, nephew of Jerry & Harriet Jones
Steve Tyler, friend of Bob & Maurine Robinson
Laura Virgil
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus



First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

From the Pastor . . .

It always helps to count our blessings, and as Americans, we have a lot of them to count. More than one billion people in the world lack access to safe drinking water. Access to water seems poised to become the next big global crisis. And despite the record price of oil, some experts predict that this century's wars will be fought over water instead of oil. It is ironic that while many complain about the high prices at the gas pump that they willingly pay up to three times as much for bottled water (on a cost per gallon basis) as they do on gas for their cars. In any event, we are blessed to be able to turn on a water tap and have clean water.

Another of our blessings is the freedom to worship. A recent article in *U.S. News & World Report* told about the difficulties of being a Christian in Iran, where a person's Christianity almost has to be kept a secret and it is very difficult to worship. Islam is the state religion of Iran, governing most aspects of life since the 1979 Islamic revolution. Leaving Islam for another religion brings reprisals from the Iranian government. And expressing loyalty to Islam is necessary in order to have a good job in Iran. Christians in Iraq also continue to face many hardships. There are four Presbyterian congregations in that country – in Baghdad, Basra, Kirkuk and Mosul. Christians are especially traumatized in Mosul where a Catholic bishop's body was found in a shallow grave after he was kidnapped after leading prayers at a local church.

Some people in our country seem to exercise freedom from worship instead of freedom to worship. But as Christians and church members, we need to do better than that. It is a blessing to be able to openly share our faith and to join with other Christians in worship, and I look forward to seeing you at worship this Sunday.

Tom Wilbanks

Blood Drive This Sunday June 8



Carter Blood Care will conduct a blood drive in their bus on our north parking lot this Sunday, June 8. If you want to donate blood and have not signed up, you can call the church office at 972-285-5602 and we'll add your name to the sign-up sheet. Every day in our community, more than 800 patients depend on blood transfusions to survive. When you donate blood, you are saving lives.

This Sunday

This Sunday Verlyn Smoker will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "The Heart of the Gospel" based on Acts 10:1-8; 34-43. We will also observe Men of the Church Day.

Session Highlights

The May 14 meeting of the Session began with sharing prayer concerns.

The report of the Church Treasurer, Pete Allen, indicated that the weekly offering for April was below what was needed to make the budget and that we are now running behind for the year.

Duane Moon, Chairman of the Christian Education Committee, reported that Youth Sunday went well and thanked Howard Saucier for his help and also thanked Joy Samuels who was in charge of the reception for our high school seniors.

Johnny Graham, Chairman of the Worship Committee, reported that a camera has been installed underneath the balcony and other equipment installed for making DVDs of our worship services for shut-in members. Some remaining work is to be done on the cables.

Duane Moon, Vice-Chairman of the DCE Search Committee said the committee has received expressions of interest in our position from five individuals, and phone interviews have been held with two of them with more to be held later as well as follow-up personal interviews.

An update was given by Roger Foltz on the placement of a Texas Historical Marker to be placed at our church noting our church's long history. Dr. Wilbanks reported that Ferne Porter has agreed to write a history of our church which would pick up from when the last one was done in 1980. Charlene Orr is Chair of the committee and the other members are Cora Dugan and Ann Kyle.

The Session received a letter of resignation from Zack Saucier from the Board of Deacons because of his serving as a counselor at presbytery camps this summer and then leaving for college. The Session called a Congregational Meeting to be held during the 11 o'clock worship service on June 1, to elect a new Deacon to fill Zack's unexpired term. Roger Foltz, Chairman of the 2008 Nominating Committee, said that Shannon Crelia was the next alternate.

Marilyn Saams was elected as Chair of the Nominating Committee for new church officers for 2009 and Mary McBain was elected as the second Elder.

Beverlee Witty raised a question in regard to trends in Sunday School and worship attendance.

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The Session asked the Christian Education and Worship Committees to study this and some related issues.

Roger Foltz was elected as our commissioner to the meeting of Grace Presbytery at First Presbyterian Church in Arlington on May 29.

New Officers for Presbyterian Women



New officers have been elected by our Presbyterian Women's organization and they are:

Moderator - Gini Gray
Vice-Moderator - Roxanne Martin
Secretary - Marilyn Saams
Treasurer - Sarah Kitchens
Mission Coordinator - Joy Samuels
Fellowship Coordinator - Ellen Mallum
Search Coordinator - Kay Allen
Parliamentarian - Carol Evans
Morning Circle Leader - Diane Beal
Evening Circle Leader - Mary Taylor
Morning Circle Bible Study Leader - Cora Dugan

Presbyterian Planning Calendars

The 18-month Presbyterian Planning Calendars for June 2008-December 2009 are available in the church office for \$8. The theme of the calendar is "I will sing to the Lord as long as I live," from Psalm 103:33. The calendar honors the lives and work of the church's older adults. Using the art of three older Presbyterians, the calendar invites you to see and hear the story of faith expressed by these three through their own art forms.

Our Church Family . . .

Our sympathy is extended to PHIL EDWARDS whose brother died, and to JOANN CHEEK whose sister died.

KAREN DIXON was in the hospital for several days this past week as was JERRY BRINGLE. MARILYN SAAMS underwent surgery at Presbyterian Hospital on Monday, June 2.

RAFAEL and GINA VILLAFANA are the parents of a new baby boy, Parker Reed, born May 27.

SARAH LEAKE graduated from Texas A & M Commerce with a degree in English on May 10. She also received her teaching certificate and plans to become a middle school teacher. She is celebrating her graduation with a trip to the Holy Land.

SANDY COLLINS left Sunday afternoon, May 25, to be part of a short-term mission trip to Guatemala which helped bring crucial dental and medical aid to those who might not receive it otherwise. In addition, they had the opportunity to share the love of God with those who might be hearing the good news for the first time.

Some nice renovation has been done in the senior high room in the youth hall. The walls were painted. New carpet was installed with a cross in the center, and new furniture is also there. The project, approved by the Board of Deacons and Session, was made possible by money from the Building Fund.

Ten women from our church were at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch this past weekend for a women's conference and had a good experience. Rev. Joan Gray, Moderator of the 217th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was the keynote speaker for the conference.

We are sorry that we will soon be losing ELAINE PRESBY from our church. She will be moving back to Appleton, Wisconsin, this month. We will miss Elaine – and she has said she is going to miss our church.

During a Congregational Meeting last Sunday Shannon Crelia was elected as a new Deacon. The vacancy on the Board was caused by the resignation of Zack Saucier because of his serving as a counselor at presbytery camps this summer and then leaving for college this fall.

BOB and NANCY WILLET have moved from El Paso to Driftwood, just outside Austin.

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A nice Church Night Supper was held last Sunday evening. It was our annual talent show and also featured crafts and hobbies of our members. And there was also good food and fellowship. This was the last Church Night Supper until our church picnic in October. Our thanks to the Fellowship Committee, chaired by Dave and Gayle Rumbeck, for their good help in the kitchen at each of the suppers.

There will not be a church newsletter next week.

Vacation Bible School



Plan to be a part of our great Vacation Bible School which will be held each evening June 22-26. The theme this year is "Beach Party – Surfin' Through the Scriptures." Classes will be held for children, youth and adults. Adult Classes will include *Scrapbooking and Calligraphy* led by Len McCurdy, and a study of *The Apostles Creed* led by Beverlee Witty. VBS will kick off with a covered dish supper Sunday evening, June 22, at 6:00, and then an optional dinner will be served each week night at 6:00 before the classes begin. Shannon Crelia is Director this year, and Erin Williams is Assistant Director.

VBS registration will begin on Sunday, June 15.

Mo-Ranch Conferences

Brochures about these conferences and others at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch are on the bulletin board across from the library:

Family Fun Retreat – July 30-August 1

Photography Weekend – October 17-19

Mapping Our Journeys -

A Retreat for Bereaved Parents – November 7-9