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Mesquite, TX  
Permit No. 324

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1028 S BELT LINE RD  
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY**

**July 19, 2009**

**Ushers**

**8:45**

Paula Kusewitt - Head Usher  
Denise Bennett Breck Bennett  
Karen Hunt

**11:00**

Jerry Patterson - Head Usher  
Lenny Pollard Linda Washeck  
Leonard Kitchens

**Parking Lot Greeters**

Jan Hull Gayle Rumbeck

**Please remember in prayer . . . .**

Betty Aubert  
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom  
Jim Brewster  
Eve Brice  
The family of Jennie Childress, friends of Paula Kusewitt  
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer  
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker  
Debbie Duncan, niece of Minnie Mathews  
Carol Dwinell, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Jack Fields, friend of Don Black  
Steve Fischer, brother of Susan Mathews  
Wayland Gordon, father of Gwenda Aber  
Margaret Green, friend of Susan Mathews  
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson  
Richard Harris, brother of David Harris  
Marcia Hart, friend of Laura Virgil  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Martin  
Wanda & V.W. Martin, Joel Martin's parents  
Sylvia Martinez, friend of Gayle Rumbeck  
Karen McCardell, friend of Laura Virgil  
Geraldine McDonald, friend of Laura Virgil  
Wanda McDougle, Ronda Scott's mother  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Dennis Patterson, father of Jerry Patterson  
Dave Rumbeck  
Don Sheppard, Jim Sheppard's brother  
Henry & Beth Skidmore, Cindy Jenkins' parents  
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith  
Fernita Swalin, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Justin Taylor, nephew of Jerry & Harriet Jones  
Laura Virgil  
Joyce Welch, great aunt of Ronnie & Amanda Aynes  
Brian Weller, cousin of Shannon Crelia  
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus



# First Presbyterian Church

**Mesquite, Texas**

(972) 285-5602

[www.fpcmesquite.org](http://www.fpcmesquite.org)

## From the Pastor . . .

While on vacation recently I was reading a book by Dr. Clarence Macartney who for years was pastor of the historic First Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He mentioned that in a sermon he used as a text a verse from Isaiah that says "I will trust and not be afraid, for the Lord God is my strength . . ." (12:2). As Dr. Macartney went on to say, when a text is "flung out," you never know for what soul it will be the bread of life. Seven years later, a person who at the time of that sermon had been passing through a double bereavement and was now entering the hospital for a serious operation told him of how that verse helped her as she entered the hospital.

Hold on to God, and he will hold on to you. Paul found that to be true through all the difficult things he faced in life and down to the very end, he kept the faith, and the faith kept him. A personal favorite verse of mine is from Psalm 27: "Wait on the Lord; be strong and let your heart take courage," and another is from Paul: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." The Bible has a great deal to say about God's strength available to us and about comfort. Jesus said he would send the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to us. And the Bible comes to an end with John's description of the Holy City, the new heaven and the new earth where God will dwell with his people and wipe away all tears from their eyes.

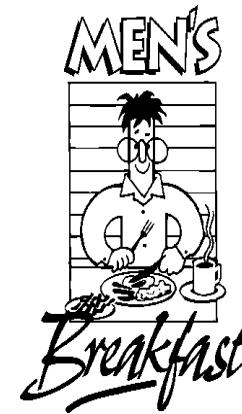
Last Sunday in the sermon I spoke of the hymn that Jesus and the disciples sang as they left the Upper Room and went to the Garden of Gethsemane where he was arrested. Singing that song of faith helped them. Today we make a great deal of our feelings. If some people don't feel like going to church, they feel that's enough reason not to go. But I know some people who had that feeling and decided to go anyway and later said afterwards that they were glad they went because,

(continued)

as they worshipped, their feelings changed. The service became a blessing. A hymn, a prayer, a sermon, an anthem helped restore faith and a better focus on life. That is my prayer for our services every Sunday.

Tom Wilbanks

## Men's Breakfast



Since there will not be a newsletter next week, we want to remind the men of the Men's Breakfast on July 26, at 7:30 a.m. Our Men's Council President, Darby Washeck, has arranged for Philip Mongeau, the Director for Emergency Preparedness for the City of Mesquite, to be our speaker. Come be with us for a good breakfast, fine fellowship with other men of the church, and an interesting program.

## This Sunday

This Sunday Brenda Evans will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "The Man Who Wanted to See Life," based on Luke 15:11-24.

## Sunday Night Alive August 2, 5:00 p.m.

Save the date August 2, so you can experience our first monthly "Sunday Night Alive" - a blended or emerging worship service. In response to congregational interest the Worship Committee has asked our DCE, Tim Smith, to plan and lead us in a new type of worship experience. Although still very Presbyterian, this more casual service will incorporate some contemporary elements of worship. There will be more lay and youth leadership, more variety of music, prayer, scripture reading, and a brief meditation. "Come as you are" for this new worship service followed by refreshments and fellowship.

If you would like to use your talents and gifts in this ministry - instrumental, vocal, praying, reading, audio visual - contact Tim Smith at 972-285-5602 or [ryan.smith@gmail.com](mailto:ryan.smith@gmail.com).

## CPR/Defibrillator Training

A CPR/Defibrillator class is scheduled for 10 a.m., this Saturday, July 18. This class led by Penny Palumbo is for anyone interested in learning CPR and becoming familiar with our defibrillator. (It is not a certification class.) If you are interested in attending, please call the church office at 972-285-5602.

## Sharing Life Needs Clothes!

In addition to their ongoing need for food, Sharing Life Community Outreach is in need of summer clothing, especially for children and men. If you have things in your closet you don't need, bring them to the pantries at the church. Your cast offs can provide for a genuine need!

## Our Church Family . . .

Our best wishes are extended to JAKE HAIRSTON and BRITTANY BEALMEAR who were married on July 9, and to ZACK BROWN AND KELLY VITOVSKY who were married July 11

JOYCE MURDOCK has been in intensive care at Presbyterian Hospital in Rockwall. LINDA HEBERT has been in the hospital and is now home. We were sorry to hear that JOHNNY GRAHAM cut his foot badly in an accident at his home last Saturday. DON BLACK and MELBA JEFFUS are continuing to recover from back surgery and CYNTHIA PETTY is recovering from surgery for a badly broken ankle. We will also want to keep SARA GRAHAM, JOY SAMUELS, JIM BREWSTER, and DAVE RUMBECK in our prayers as they deal with difficult medical problems.

Our sympathy is extended to CAROL STEPHENSON whose father died in June, and to BARBARA FOLLANSBEE whose father died July 12, in Vancouver, Washington. Barbara had been with her dad for several days prior to his death.

During our worship service on June 21, CAROLYN AMELIA AKIN, daughter of Chris and Marjorie Akin and granddaughter of Tom and Nickie Wilbanks was baptized.

Congratulations to JOHN KUSEWITT who received a surprise award by our Men's Council as Church Man of the Year during the 11 o'clock worship service on June 21. John and his wife Paula have been faithful members of our church for ten years. John is serving as our Sunday School Superintendent and was Chairman of the DCE Search Committee, and is a past President of the Men's Council. He and Paula are both members of our Chancel Choir.

It was good to see JIM COLLINS serving as Elder of the Day last Sunday. As most are aware, Jim was badly injured in a ski accident this past winter which could have been life-ending. During the service Jim expressed his heartfelt gratitude for the prayers and care of the congregation as he recovered from his injuries in the ski accident and also as he dealt with cancer.

DENISE NEWELL is now living in Lewisville. ERIC and JESSICA MCBAIN have moved to Forney and LAURA LEWIS has moved.

*(continued)*

Three adults and nine of our senior highs left early this past Monday morning for the Synod Youth Workshop at our Presbyterian-related University of Tulsa and will return this Saturday afternoon.

We would like to be able to provide transportation to the church for a person who would need a handicapped van that could accommodate a wheel chair in order to get here. If anyone could help with this, please call the church office at 972-285-5602.

"Third Saturday" is a project sponsored by our Mission Committee in which work is done for one of our church members who needs assistance with house repairs, trimming trees, etc. The program is similar to the Addressing Mesquite Program which our church has been highly involved in, but "Third Saturday" is for our members. If you have a need, please call Howard Saucier or call the church office. Those who helped on a helpful project recently for a church member were David and Diane Beal, Dave Edling, Bernie DeRoo, Wade and J.P Marshall, and Rick Porter.

Our thanks to all who helped with Vacation Bible School this year. DEBORAH EDLING and SHEILA HAMMER served as co-directors along with a wonderful group of teachers and helpers.

NANCY WILLET has been called as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Uvalde. Nancy's first Sunday there was June 28. She and her husband Bob had been living in the Austin area.

VERNE TIBBLE, who has served as our church custodian for many years, underwent back surgery on July 13.

## Goldenaires to Meet July 23

The Goldenaires will meet at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, July 23, to continue their discussion of the book The Shack by William Paul Young. Make it a point to join this group of lively seniors for discussion, fellowship, and light refreshments. Even if you haven't read the book, you will enjoy the discussion, and will be welcomed by the group.



A group of youth and adults (above) replaced the ailing azalea bushes with some small rose bushes in the planter box in front of the youth hall as a VBS service project. The group is seen on Sunday, July 12, admiring their landscaping success!



Adults and children of all ages enjoyed a week of fun and learning at VBS 2009!

# Happy Birthday!

7/1 Diane Beal  
7/2 Riley O'Brien  
7/6 Dane Patterson  
7/6 Tim Smith  
7/8 Marc Carboni  
7/9 Janice Robinson  
7/10 Brian Scott  
7/10 Lonnie Lee  
7/11 Scott Patterson  
7/11 Karla Wilson  
7/15 Dianna McCalmont  
7/15 Shelby Lee  
7/16 Drew Farmer  
7/17 Camryn Hodgson  
7/18 Dianna Greer

7/18 Amanda Mayfield  
7/20 Weldon Ballenger  
7/20 Dennis Hunt  
7/21 Jared Thompson  
7/23 Caleb Crelia  
7/23 Tyler Ellis  
7/24 Leonard Kitchens  
7/24 Ann Kyle  
7/25 Christopher Stegman  
7/25 Mary Greer  
7/27 Ryan Witty  
7/27 Joel Martin  
7/30 Patti Bettis  
7/31 Allen McCurdy  
7/31 Marjorie Bays  
7/31 Dallas Hebert