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Permit No. 324

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**1028 S BELT LINE RD**  
**MESQUITE TX 75149**

**Return Service Requested**

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY**

**August 23, 2009**

**Ushers**

**8:45**

Paula Kusewitt - Head Usher  
Brenda Evans Bruce Buswell  
Jerry Dressler

**11:00**

Liz Ramsey - Head Usher  
Gayle Rumbeck Lori Herring  
Jason Wehrman

**Parking Lot Greeter**

Harriet Jones

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

Betty Aubert  
Don Black  
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom  
Jim Brewster  
Eve Brice  
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer  
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker  
Debbie Duncan, niece of Minnie Mathews  
Carol Dwinell, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Steve Fischer, brother of Susan Mathews  
Wayland Gordon, father of Gwenda Aber  
Margaret Green, friend of Susan Mathews  
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Martin  
Wanda & V.W. Martin, Joel Martin's parents  
Sylvia Martinez, friend of Gayle Rumbeck  
Wanda McDougale, Ronda Scott's mother  
Margie McGee, Mary McBain'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  
Bernie Stephens, friend of Elna Singleton  
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 . . .*

I am grateful to many organizations and people who help our church in many ways, often in quiet ways in the background, but doing work which is helpful to the church. As I said during last Sunday's service, I am especially grateful for the high degree of commitment of the members of our Chancel Choir. As I mentioned, a lot of churches would be glad to have as many people in the choir loft as we have had during the summer. As indicated in another article in this newsletter, their annual summer concert the Mesquite Arts Center is a week from this Sunday. If you have never been to the Arts Center with it superb acoustics, this would be a good time to go visit this fine concert hall.

A number of other special things are coming up including Rally Day and Christian Education Sunday on August 30. And next month we will have our church picnic on September 27. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you as we gather as a church family for worship this Sunday. If you have gotten out of the habit of being at Sunday School and church, NOW is the time to get back.

*Tom Wilbanks*

## **Historical Marker Awarded to Our Church**

As many are aware, our church is now 128 years old, having been organized in 1881 with fifteen charter members. Last year Roger Foltz suggested to the Session that our church apply for an historical marker from the State of Texas, and this was approved by the Session. Our member, Charlene Orr, who is Executive Director of Historic Mesquite, Inc., filled out the application and wrote the narrative which went first to the Dallas County Historical Commission. Their marker chairman reviewed these items and then sent it on to the Texas Historical Commission which has a separate marker board which reviews the application. Our application was approved and the marker was received at the church last week. The wording on the marker was written by Charlene. At its meeting last Wednesday, August 12, the Session selected a site for the marker in front of the church.

An interesting book was written in 1980 which chronicles our church's first 100 years, and copies of the book are still available for sale. A more recent history is now being written by Ferne Porter who is being assisted in the research by Cora Dugan and Ann Kyle who have spent many hours on the project. Charlene Orr is chairing this history committee.

## **Summer Choir Concert "Christmas in July August" at the Mesquite Arts Center**

The First Church music ministry invites you to attend our thirteenth annual Chancel Choir Summer Concert to be held Sunday afternoon, August 30<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m. at the Mesquite Arts Center. This year's concert is entitled "Christmas in July August" and will feature festive music of the holiday season such as *Deck the Halls*, *It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*, *Sleigh Ride*, and the like. Who knows, perhaps thinking about Christmas will help to beat the heat on an August afternoon, so come hear the choir and visit with friends in the comfortable confines of the Arts Center. We encourage you to invite extended family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors and have additional posters and handbills for you to use if that would be helpful. The time of the concert is intended to be family friendly and all ages are welcome. There is no charge for admission so there is no excuse not to come! We hope to see you there!

*Verlyn Smoker*

## Kick Off the School Year on Rally Day!



*Attention Children:* Come and see what is in store for you at Sunday School this coming year at FPC. Meet your teachers, see your friends, eat breakfast. But that's not all. This year there will be another surprise on Rally Day you won't want to miss. Prepare for laughter and fun! Invite your friends to come and join in and see the exciting programs happening at FPC. We'll see you there!

## Sunday School Rally Day Open House!

*Attention all other Children of God:* Come and experience the variety of Sunday morning classes and programs at the Rally Day Sunday School Open House: come and go in classes during the Sunday School hour to see the unique richness of each class. Invite neighbors and friends to come and see what the church has to offer. Expect a Rally Day morning surprise as well that will start the day off with a smile. We'll see you there!

## School Supplies for Sharing Life



Sharing Life Community Outreach has asked for our help again this year in collecting school supplies for underprivileged children in our community. A list of needed items is posted on the bulletin board near the church office. Boxes have been placed near the pantries in each building for your donations.

## Mid-Year Contribution Reports

Contribution reports for the first half of 2009 (through June 30) are on the table in the hallway. Please take your today. Thanks for your faithful giving.

## Rally Day is Also Music Ministry Sign-Up Day

Fall is quickly approaching and plans for the music ministry fall offerings are in full swing. If you have been thinking about joining any of the music ensembles here at First Church NOW is a great time!

On Rally Day August 30<sup>th</sup>, children, youth and adults will have the opportunity to sign-up for the many musical ensembles offered here at First Church. Our goal is to give all who have been gifted by God in musical ability an opportunity to minister to our congregation. We do not attempt to imitate the musical experiences children have in school, but instead stress three aspects of ministry: to glorify God with our abilities and talents, to lead in the worship of His Holy name, and to minister to our congregation through music—all in response to what God, in Christ Jesus, has done for us.

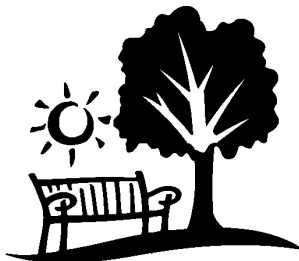
Sign-up sheets will be posted on tables just outside the choir room (in the south wing of the main church building) and will be available on Sundays, August 30, and September 6. I will be on hand to answer any questions you may have, and the rehearsal schedules will be posted on the sign up lists. If you have any questions regarding the music ministries of our church speak to me any Sunday, or call me at the church office at 972.285.5602, or at my home, and I will be delighted to speak with you.

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Verlyn Smoker

## Attention Women of FPC!

The annual FPC Women's Retreat will be held the weekend of October 2-4, 2009. If you haven't signed up yet, now is the time! We will be accepting registration through August 30, 2009. The cost is \$100.

Also, for those of you who have already signed up with a deposit, the final amount is due by August 30.



## Our Church Family . . .

MARY WILLIAMS is at Baylor Hospital and LYNN BEAL is at Dallas Regional Hospital. EDNA TILLISON was at Baylor Garland Hospital last week and is now at Winters Park Rehab and Nursing Center in Garland. EMMA GALLIP is now at Sunflower Park in Kaufman. SARA GRAHAM is scheduled for surgery Wednesday, August 19, at Baylor.

Lonnie and Sharon Lee have moved.

The New Member Care Committee is planning a nice dinner for those who have joined since the last dinner in 2007. The dinner will be on Sunday, September 13, at 6:00.

Remember to bring your newspapers and magazines to the paper retrievers at the church for recycling. You not only help the environment but you help our youth because proceeds from the sale of the paper goes for youth ministry. Please note, however, that cardboard can no longer be put in the retrievers.

## Would You Like to Serve as a Church Officer?



Would you like to serve as a deacon or elder – or recommend someone else? An insert will be in the bulletins this Sunday and again on September 6, on which you can indicate your interest or suggest someone else. The forms give a brief description of duties of deacons, elders, and trustees. Not everyone who is suggested can be nominated, but it will help to know of your personal interest or recommendation of someone else.

The members of the Nominating Committee are Elder Howard Saucier, Chairman, and George Venner, both elected by the Session; Liz Ramsey, elected by the Board of Deacons; Kay Allen from Presbyterian Women; and Stan Jeffus from the Men's Council. John Kusewitt and Terri Smith were elected to represent the congregation at the Annual Congregational Dinner Meeting this past January. As noted in the Session Highlights in this newsletter, the suggestion sheets will also have a place where a youth deacon and elder can also be recommended to serve a one year term.

## Session Highlights

This is a summary of the July 8 and August 12 meetings of the Session. Both meetings began with sharing prayer concerns.

Phil Johnson, Chairman of the CE Committee, said that the "Nooma" video series currently being shown in the fellowship hall during SS would conclude on August 23. Wednesday Church Night is scheduled to begin September 16.

Diane Beal, Chair of the Worship Committee, said that Verlyn Smoker attended a continuing education event at the Annual Conference of the Hymn Society of America in Northfield, Minnesota. She also gave a report on the Sunday Night Alive service on July 26, and said the committee will evaluate and make further plans at their next meeting. Dr. Wilbanks will out of town on September 6, and the committee approved Verlyn Smoker leading our worship services and giving the sermon that Sunday.

Margie Pollard, Chair of the Communion Committee, suggested that since Dr. Wilbanks would be away on September 6, that communion which is usually held on the first Sunday of the month at the 8:45 service be moved to September 12, and this was approved.

Howard Saucier reported for the Mission Committee and said that 21 units of blood were collected at the blood drive in June, and that the Third Saturday program where the committee assists members with work at their homes is continuing.

The Session approved a motion that the church create a position for one youth Deacon and one Youth Elder. They would be in addition to the 18 current members on each board and would serve for one year. Nominations would be made by the church nominating committee although the committee would not be required to nominate a youth deacon or elder. Suggestions for these positions would be received on the "suggestion sheets" provided to the congregation each year and which will be in the bulletins this Sunday.

## This Sunday

This Sunday the Octet will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "A Walk on the Good Side," based on Ephesians 5:1-20.

# Happy Birthday!

8/2	Chelsea Martin Ryan Schwartz	8/22	Jaime Collins Sharon Lee
8/3	Lois DeRoo	8/23	Carol Graham Sara Graham (Mrs. Johnny)
8/4	Dan Fricke		Ethan Williams
8/7	Matt Armstrong	8/24	Kim (Saams) Chapman Clarence Greer
8/9	Rod Graham		Meredith Miller Mark Noble
8/10	Sarah Kitchens		Evelyn Coomer
8/12	Nancy Willet		Stan Jeffus
8/13	Greg Garr Malissa Hull	8/26	Rogers Windle
	Karen E. Hunt	8/29	Kathy Cummings Lenny Pollard
8/14	Melba Jeffus		
8/15	Betty Leake	8/30	
	Linda Washeck		
8/21	Margaret Pruitt		