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Permit No. 324

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

**Return Service Requested**

## **SERVING THIS SUNDAY**

**September 3, 2006**

### **USHERS**

**8:45**

Eric Schwartz - Head Usher  
Andy Cummings Rick Aber  
Gwenda Aber

**11:00**

Jennifer Gardner - Head Usher  
Les Olson Jerry Patterson  
Chris Orr Jonathan Graham

### **PARKING LOT GREETER**

Mary McBain Don Black

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

Johnny Adams, brother of Ron Adams  
Gary and Nancy Black  
Edward Buechele, cousin of Kathy Uzzle  
Linda Collins, friend of Dave & Gayle Rumbeck  
Charla Corder, friend of Shannon Crelia  
Pat Cutright, friend of Rose Whitney  
Karen Dixon  
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort  
Dorothy Graham, friend of Ken & Judy Johnson  
Joe Hammer, father-in-law of Sheila Hammer  
Michael Haninger  
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck  
Taylor Howry, friend of Diane Marshall  
Brandon Izzarelli, nephew of Robbie & Janice Robinson  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Lydick  
Karen McCardell, friend of Laura Virgil  
Geraldine McDonald, friend of Laura Virgil  
Malcolm Marsden, friend of Laura Virgil  
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort  
Jimmy Dan Montgomery, Len McCurdy's brother  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Frank Ruiz, friend of Jim & Hope Sheppard  
Gary Schone, brother-in-law of Ed Hudson  
Don Sheppard, brother of Jim Sheppard  
Velia Sheppard and baby "Dallas", mother of Neill Sheppard  
Gary Shields, brother of Ray Shields  
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith  
Steve Tyler, friend of Bob & Maurine Robinson  
Laura Virgil  
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus  
The Whitlow family, friends of Chris and Paula Nelms  
Ben Wynk, friend of Bernie & Lois DeRoo  
Linda and John Young, cousins of Jimmy Gray



# **First Presbyterian Church**

**Mesquite, Texas**

(972) 285-5602

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

### ***From the Pastor . . .***

"It seems to me that of all the loneliness and the yearning of the Christian heart, the one that goes deepest is to be cut off from the privileges of Christian worship and Christian fellowship. The yearning to hear the Gospel message preached is widespread, especially in times of sorrow and great need." Those words are from a remarkable book *The Main Trail*, written by Ralph Hall. From the late 1920's to the late 1950's, the Presbyterian Church had Sunday School missionaries. Their ministry was to go out to the far and lonely places in the west – to the homes, logging camps, mines, and homestead communities. Wherever possible, they would organize a Sunday School.

Ralph Hall says that when he would travel over the range country by horseback or car, that if he saw a dim road or trail turning off, he often had a longing in his heart to follow that trail and see where it would lead him. He had followed many of them and almost every time it led him to some isolated family or cow camp, but always to people. Following such a trail on one such occasion he saw at the end of it a little shack, typical of the homestead country. When he knocked at the door of that little home, he was met at the door by a young woman with sorrow and suffering written on her face.

When he told her who he was and why he had stopped, she gazed across the prairie, and then she began to cry. He asked what was wrong, and she pointed to a little stunted tree and said: "It's out there, the little grave." Then came the sad story of how their daughter, three years old, had been bitten by a rattlesnake and had died almost immediately. They had buried the girl the preceding week and said "if only we could have had a minister we could have had a Christian burial." Then she asked Ralph Hall if he would go up to the grave and say a few words and have a prayer.

Presently the husband came in and she told him what she had asked Ralph to do. He was grateful and asked if he could invite some of the neighbors to go

*(continued)*

with them. Two of the neighbor girls saddled their horses and rode miles over the mesa to a little spring where they found some evergreens and wild flowers. Just at evening time a small group went up to the little grave. Ralph Hall said it was one of the loneliest moments he ever experienced as they stood there in the lengthening shadows of the evening time, beside this little grave covered with evergreens and tiny wildflowers. But he counted it a great privilege to say some words of comfort and to offer a prayer for the bereaved family.

I will be telling more about this book on another occasion and of Ralph's experiences sleeping in a bedroll out under the stars. The congregation has often heard me tell of the historic Presbyterian Church I served for two summers in the mountains of Colorado while I was in seminary. And one reason I found this book of such great interest is that my supervisor there at Lake City was one of the Sunday School missionaries. Their work is part of our heritage for which we can be grateful.

*Tom Wilbanks*

### **Come Sing With Us!**

The Chancel Choir is looking to increase membership. The only requirements are that you love the Lord, and wish to sing His praises with like-minded people. No audition is necessary and you will be warmly welcomed by all current choir members. If you are interested, please see me or contact me at the church 972.285.5602, at home, or by email. Fall rehearsals begin on Wednesday, September 6, and we will soon begin to work on our Christmas program so NOW is a great time to join! Even if you are just considering participation in the choir, I would be delighted to speak with you. The commitment of one night per week is far outweighed by the joy of making music for the glory of God, and for the encouragement of His people—just ask any current choir member!

*Soli Deo Gloria, Verlyn Smoker*

## Fall FPC Music Rehearsal Schedule



Beginning Wednesday, September 13, the music ministry will hit full stride as we begin our full fall rehearsal schedule. Meeting times, age divisions, directors, and meeting places are listed below. Please note that some of the children's choirs have age division changes from last year and the Hope Choir is now meeting

during the Wednesday Church Night class time. Please make every effort to be punctual to rehearsals, this helps both the directors and participants. Most of the ensembles still have room for more participants so if you did not sign up on Rally Day, please do this Sunday in the hallway by the choir room or just give Verlyn a call. We all look forward to a terrific year of making music together for the glory of God!

### Sunday

12:05 - 1:05 Presbytones (grades 9 - 12) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Bell Room]

### Monday

6:00 - 6:45 Praise Ringers (grades 7 - 8) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Bell Room]  
6:45 - 8:00 Jubilate Ringers (Adult Handbell Ringers) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Bell Room]

### Wednesday

4:45 - 5:15 Alleluia Chimes (grades 3 - 6) Paula Kusewitt, Director [Bell Room]  
5:00 - 6:00 Youth Choir (grades 7 - 12) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Sanctuary]  
5:15 - 6:00 Cherub Choir (Kindergarden - grade 2) Kelli Smoker, Director [Genesis Classroom]  
5:15 - 6:00 Alleluia Choir (grades 3 - 6) Paula Nelms, Director [Choir Room]  
6:30 - 7:00 Hope Choir (ages 3 - 4) B.J. Mauldin, director [Enquiry Classroom] (during Wednesday Church Night classes)  
7:30 - 9:00 Chancel Choir (H.S. - adult) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Choir Room]



Wednesday Church Night will begin September 13. Classes will be held for all ages from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Optional dinner (\$4 per person) will be served at 6:00. (YOU MUST MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR DINNER!! - Please pay in advance.) Adult classes offered during the first fall session will be:

#### *Krazy Kinfolk*

#### *Dysfunctional Families of the Bible*

Taught by Steve Leake

#### *Landscape Painting*

Led by Pete Allen

This popular class is limited to 12-15 people.

#### *Scrapbooking Workshop*

Hosted by Len McCurdy

Are you trying to find the time to work on your scrapbooks? Bring your supplies and join with other creative folks to enjoy this pleasant hobby.

Children and adults may all sign up following both services on September 3 and 10 in the hallway by the office.

## Presbyterian Women



### School Supplies

The Mission Committee of Presbyterian Women has collected a large variety of school supplies for students of all ages. If you know of any student or teacher in need of supplies, please contact Martha Sheppard Mahaffey at 972-222-7842, or email her at msheppard-mahaffey@mesquiteisd.org.

### Circle Meetings

Plan to join with other women of the church for Bible study this fall. The Morning Circle resumes meeting on Tuesday, September 5, at 9:30 a.m., and the Night Circle will meet that evening in the youth hall at 7:00.

### Pots, Pans, etc.

We are collecting new or very gently used cookware to be donated to the New Beginning Center, a shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence. If you wish to help with this project, please bring your donation of a pot or pan, pyrex cookware, etc. to the Circle meeting Tuesday.

## Session Highlights

The August 8 meeting of the Session began with sharing prayer concerns.

The Session approved the baptism of Graham Christopher Akin, son of Chris and Marjorie Akin for August 13, and of Madison Grace Orr, daughter of Chris and Renea Orr for September 10.

Roger Foltz gave the report of the Mission Committee and said the committee was working on our church having a good representation for Addressing Mesquite Day on Saturday, October 14, when volunteers help with a local house or yard project for people who cannot do these things themselves. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near the church office. The next blood drive will be October 15. He also said school supplies were being collected for children in need of supplies.

Duane Moon, Chairman of the Worship Committee, reported that there was a good attendance for the visit by the youth choir from Jackson, Mississippi, led by our former Director of Music, Marc Foster and that the Tenth Annual summer concert by our Chancel Choir would be held at the Mesquite Arts Center on August 20.

The Session concurred in a recommendation from the Board of Deacons that we do a new pictorial church directory.

Pete Allen gave a further update on some of the things taking place in our national Presbyterian Church following some of the actions of the General Assembly in June.

## Our Church Family . . .

Our thanks to all who by their prayers and presence helped us to have a great Rally Day last Sunday. Our thanks also to the Men's Council for providing a nice continental breakfast before Sunday School started.

We are glad that CHERYL LYDICK is out of intensive care and is now at Baylor Specialty Hospital on Swiss Avenue in Dallas. An interview with Cheryl was carried on the channel 4 news last Thursday night at 6:00 and 10:00.

BUD DERRICK has been at Medical City Hospital in Dallas since last Saturday.

It was good to see MAURINE ROBINSON back at Sunday School and church last Sunday. It was the first time she has been able to be here since having hip replacement surgery.

LEN McCURDY is scheduled for surgery this Tuesday, September 5.

The new address listed for the SCHANDELMEIER family in the last newsletter was incorrect. Please check with the church office for the correction.

Many good things happen through our mission giving. One of those recipients, Grace Presbyterian Village in Oak Cliff, expressed appreciation to us recently for our support. Because of our support and that of other Presbyterian Churches, they are able to continue their benevolent mission of providing for their seniors after they have exhausted their financial resources. The letter said: "Please accept my sincere thanks to the members of First Presbyterian Church of Mesquite for their partnership with our ministry."

There will not be a church newsletter next week, and the church office will be closed Monday, September 4, for the Labor Day holiday.

## 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 "An Answered Prayer," based on Matthew 15:21-28. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at the 8:45 service.

# Happy Birthday!

9/1	Sheryl Miller Jeff Pruitt Grace Roberts	9/10	Bobbye Bringle Sarah Graham Jennifer Jeffus	9/19	Len McCurdy
9/2	Cassie Patterson Dave Petty Mary Williams	9/11	Whitney Bright Hayden Colbert	9/20	Lauren Smith Verlyn Smoker
9/3	Roger Foltz Karen Harris Brenda Mitchell	9/13	Ted Barron Jay White	9/22	Jimmy Gray
9/6	Luke Boling Hope Sheppard	9/14	Kathy Brown	9/23	Susan Farmer Richard Hoffman Iwana Virgil
9/7	Andy Cummings	9/15	Bill Mandel	9/24	Charlene Orr
9/8	Justin Rich	9/16	David Gardner Kay Shields	9/25	Ron Krajca Clifford Moon
9/9	Zachary Bennett Wade Marshall	9/17	Eve Brice Joshua Saling	9/26	Ken Johnson
		9/19	Tanner Alford	9/27	Sandy Collins Judy Hudson
				9/28	Susan Graham Ray Green Michael Johnson

## Wednesday Church Night Schedule

6:00 - 6:25	Dinner
6:30 - 7:30	Classes for everyone

## Wednesday Choir Schedule

4:45 - 5:15	Alleluia Chimes (grades 3 - 6) Bell Room
5:00 - 6:00	Youth Choir (grades 6 - 12) Sanctuary
5:15 - 6:00	Cherub Choir (age 5 - grade 2) Genesis Classroom
5:15 - 6:00	Alleluia Choir (grades 3-6) Choir Room
6:30 - 7:00	Hope Choir (ages 3 - 4) Enquiry Classroom
7:30 - 9:00	Chancel Choir (grades 9 - adult) Choir Room