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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

September 16, 2007

USHERS

8:45

Eric Schwartz - Head Usher
Ronda Scott Elaine Presby
Joanne Boudreaux

11:00

Andy Cummings - Head Usher
Linda Fricke Bernie DeRoo
Les Olson Kevin Kutch

PARKING LOT GREETER

Patrick Garver

Please remember in prayer

Kevin Alford, cousin of Craig Alford
Gary and Nancy Black
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom
Jim Brewster
Dorothy & Jack Brooks, sister & brother-in-law of Billy Mandel
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer
Karen Dixon
Richard Edwards, brother of Philip Edwards
Frank Fischer, Susan Mathews' father
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck
Ralph Jones, father of Julia Walker
Lesia Koday, friend of Susan Mathews
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Cheryl Lydick
Karen McCardell, friend of Laura Virgil
Ken McClure
Geraldine McDonald, friend of Laura Virgil
Clara and Raymond McLaughlin, sister & nephew of Wayne Thompson
Malcolm Marsden, friend of Laura Virgil
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
Ted Nowell, father of Kelli Harris
Amy Reynolds, friend of Robbie Lee
Ryan Richardson, friend of Bernie & Lois DeRoo
Don Sheppard, brother of Jim Sheppard
Mark Sheppard and family
Neill Sheppard
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



First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

From the Pastor . . .

A recent headline in *The Dallas Morning News* should make us all pause and think. The headline said "Texas leads the nation in drunken driving fatalities." Another unfortunate statistic is that Dallas County is ranked second in the country for DWI fatalities and injuries. It seems that almost every week-end there is a story on the news about someone who has been injured or killed by an intoxicated driver – and those are just the ones who make the news. I have become particularly aware of three such cases recently, one in which a woman was hit by a drunken driver and her car caught on fire. Aside from excruciating pain from her burns, her face was terribly disfigured and she has had to go through numerous surgeries.

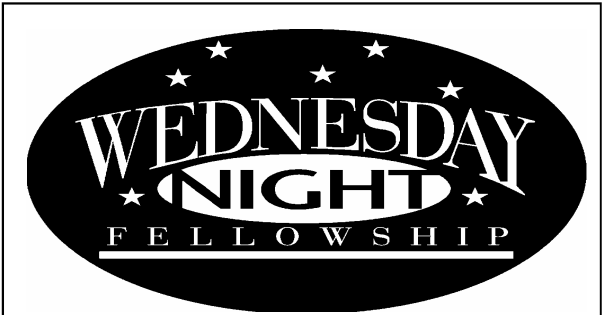
The second case involved a nice young woman, Jackie Murphery, in Wise County who was an outstanding graduate at Decatur High School and was looking forward to going to college this fall. A few weeks ago while on the way to work at 8:30 in the morning, her car was hit by a drunken driver and she has been in a coma ever since. What a tragedy for her and for her family. The woman who hit her even smiled for the mug shot.

The third case is that of Paige Owens, a 15 year old girl from Keller, who is now paralyzed from the neck down. A convenience store apparently sold alcohol to some underage friends of hers which led to a car crash on August 4. Ironically, Paige wasn't one of the ones who was drinking that night. Seeing her and her parents interviewed on TV was heart-rending, and I have had them in my prayers. Her life and the life of four other teens were changed in an instant. The driver of the car and two other youths were killed.

Glynn Birch, president of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said that 97% of Americans view drunken driving as a threat to their families and themselves. And he added: "They should be afraid. The results of drunk driving are devastating." One law enforcement

official said recently that if they wanted to, the Texas Legislature could do a lot to help solve the DWI problem, but they don't want to. One wonders how many people have to be injured and die before our society really decides to get serious about this problem.

Tom Wilbanks



Wednesday Church Night Classes begin next Wednesday, September 19!!! There will be classes for kindergarten through adults. Classes for all ages will be from 6:30-7:30. Optional dinner will be at 6:00 p.m. Cost for dinner is \$4 per person. Dinner reservations are required.

Adult classes for the first six-week period are: *Landscape Painting* with Pete Allen, *Scrapbooking Time* with Len McCurdy, and *Happy Holydays Happenings* with Ronda Scott. This workshop is open to all you crafty folks who would like to help make the lovely Christmas decorations for our church building.

Sign-up will be held following both worship services this Sunday, September 16.

Men's Breakfast

Since there will not be a newsletter next week, we want to remind the men about the Men's Breakfast on Sunday, September 23, at 7:30 a.m. Daniel Alvarez, President of our Men's Council, will preside. The speaker will be Don Williams, Crime Prevention Officer for the Mesquite Police Department. Come join other men of the church for breakfast and an interesting program.



Presbyterian Singles

On Saturday, September 29, you are invited to White Rock Lake for the Run for Shelter, benefiting the Austin Street Centre. Presbyterian Singles Social Time (PSST) will join the one mile run as a group and then head over to Café Brazil for brunch afterward. If you are not a walker, you can be a cheerleader by showing up and then going to brunch or you can sleep in and still come to brunch. There is a charge to be entered in the run. More information is available in our church office or by emailing SinglePresAdults@sbcglobal.net and you can register online at www.austinstreet.org.

PSST has been active for about a year and a half, and has a data base of over 200 Christian singles, reaching out to over 80 Presbyterian churches in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area and beyond. Most of the members are about 35+ in age, and monthly events average about 35 attendees.

Women's Retreat Fundraiser Lunch

12:05 p.m., Sunday, September 23

On Sunday, September 23, you don't have to drive to a restaurant for lunch. The Women's Retreat Committee is sponsoring a fundraiser lunch here at the church at a cost of \$6 per person. Plan to be here!

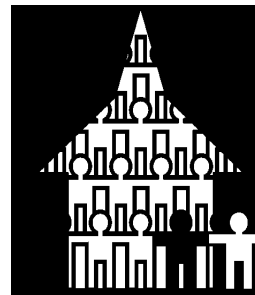
Presbyterian Women Work Day

Tuesday, September 18



Presbyterian Women will have an Outreach Ministry Work Day on Tuesday, September 18, at 9:30 a.m. in the youth hall.

New Member Class



Fall is almost here and with it comes this year's class for visitors and new members which Dr. Wilbanks leads on basic Christian and Presbyterian beliefs. The class will begin on Sunday, October 7, at 9:45 and will meet for six Sunday mornings. The first class includes a visit to the sanctuary for a description of the symbolism of our beautiful stained glass windows. Other classes cover our Presbyterian heritage and form of government and a look at the sacraments – baptism and the Lord's Supper – and what it all means.

Act II

**Saturday, September 29
"Getting Funky with Grace"**

It's time for the annual Grace Presbytery ACT II. This year it will be at First Presbyterian Church Grapevine. It's like an old fashioned (well, not TOO old fashioned) Youth Rally with music, energizers, fellowship and a GREAT MESSAGE from John Williams, Chaplain at Austin College. There is NO COST to YOU for the event, though you may want to bring some money for dinner on the way home. We will meet here at 3:30 to travel to Grapevine, and should be back around 9:30. RSVP to Cynthia by SEPTEMBER 19.

Our Church Family . . .

LOIS DEROO is scheduled for major back surgery on Tuesday, September 18.

Our best wishes are extended to JESSICA GREER and ERIC McBAIN who were married September 1.

Our sympathy is extended to TOM DEEGAN on the recent death of his mother in Wisconsin.

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 wondering how you can use your gifts and talents to minister to the body of Christ here at First Church, and you have musical ability, please see me or contact me at the church 972-285-5602, at home, or by email. Fall rehearsals began last Wednesday 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*

Work Day

A work day will be held Saturday, September 22, starting at 9:00 a.m. A number of projects are planned and we would be grateful for men and women who will come lend a helping hand. We will be through by noon. Patrick Garver, Chairman of the Property Committee of the Board of Deacons, will be in charge.



Fall FPC Music Rehearsal Schedule

Beginning Wednesday, September 19, 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. 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 contact Verlyn Smoker, the groups director, or just show up at the indicated time and place. 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

6:45 - 8:00 Jubilate Ringers (Adult Handbell

Ring

ers) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Bell

Wednesday

4:30 - 5:00 Alleluia Chimes (grades 3 - 6) Paula Kusewitt, Director [Bell

Room]

5:00 - 6:00 Youth Choir (grades 7 - 12) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Sanctuary]

5:00 - 6:00 Children's Choir (Kindergarden - grade 6) Kelli Smoker, Director [Choir Room]

Director

6:30 - 7:00 Hope Choir (ages 3 - 4) B.J. Mauldin, Director [Enquiry Classroom] (during Wednesday Church Night)

Addressing Mesquite Saturday, October 13, 2007

The City of Mesquite and the Mesquite Ministers' Association will be hosting the 3rd Annual Addressing Mesquite Day on October 13. A volunteer sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board near the church office. We need at least 40 volunteers! Please sign up!