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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY
September 21, 2008

Ushers
8:45

Paula Kusewitt- Head Usher
Shannon Crelia Larry Thomas
Roger Samuels

11:00

Denise Bennett - Head Usher
Linda Fricke Linda Washeck
Bernie DeRoo Josh Marshall

Parking Lot Greeters

Jerry Patterson Sheila Hammer

Please remember in prayer

Betty Aubert
Barger family, friends of the Kusewitts
Gary and Nancy Black
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom
Jim Brewster
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker
Lois Dandridge, friend of Susan Mathews
Jason DeRoo, grandson of Bernie & Lois DeRoo
Debbie Duncan, niece of Minnie Mathews
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
Debbie Justice, friend of the Leakes and Hoffmans
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Cheryl Martin
Jerry McBain
Wanda McDougle, Ronda Scott's mother
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort
The family of Leroy Moore, friends of the Rumbecks
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
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
Jerry Williams, brother of Ben Williams



First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

From the Pastor . . .

After a rainy day last Saturday, Sunday morning dawned a beautiful day, and our opening hymn for worship was "Morning Has Broken," a lovely hymn for a glorious day. That evening I watched as a beautiful full moon rose in the eastern sky. This one is called the Harvest moon, and we are told that in years past, this one was a favorite of farmers because its brilliant glow lit the fields, allowing them to gather crops well into the night. As I looked at that moon, another hymn "This Is My Father's World," came to mind. That hymn was written by a Presbyterian minister, Maltbie Babcock, who had a great love of nature.

That hymn reminds us, especially as Christians, that this is God's world and that we have responsibilities for taking good care of it. While there is some debate about the causes of climate change and global warming, there seems to be little doubt that it is taking place. 2006 was the second warmest year in more than a century. According to *National Geographic*, previous epochal changes of climate, such as the Ice Age that ended 11,500 years ago, were set in motion by natural causes. In those cases, the cycles of cooling and warming unfolded slowly, over the course of millennia. But this episode is different. Climate is changing more rapidly than ever before. And we are spewing 70 million tons of global warming pollution into the environment. We are told that the poorest will be hit first and hardest by climate change and that Pentagon planners are anticipating wars over diminishing resources as climate change provokes droughts, famines, and massive population migrations. For those suffering from ragweed allergies this fall, there was an article in the *Dallas News* last Sunday that said new research indicates that because of global warming, there is now more ragweed and it is more

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potent than ever since increasing temperatures are extending its growing season

Even some sacred places such as the Jordan River are being affected by pollution. This river, where Jesus was baptized, is now filled with untreated human sewage. Much of the water that used to flow into the river is now diverted and both the Israeli and Jordanian governments have blocked off the Jordan's sources. The river has become so small that American pilgrims are often heard saying "That's it?" when they see the river.

We all have a part in taking good care of "our Father's world," and may God help us to be wise stewards of our lives – and the beautiful world around us.

Tom Wilbanks

Wednesday Church Night Begins this Week

Wednesday Church Night will begin this Wednesday, September 17. We are looking forward to a good year, and a new children's curriculum will be used. Three adult classes will be offered: *Landscape Painting*, taught by Pete Allen; *Scrapbooking* led by Len McCurdy; and an adult study class led by Steve Leake. Steve, who is an excellent teacher, will lead a study on the book *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them* by John Ortberg. In this twelve week study, you'll gain wisdom and tools for drawing closer to God and to others.

This Sunday

This Sunday the Chancel Ensemble will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "A Grateful Heart," based on Psalm 16:1-11.

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 5, 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.

School Supplies Available

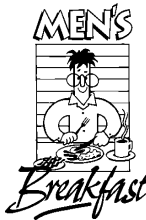
If you are a teacher, counselor, or just an individual who is aware of a child in MISD who needs school supplies, please contact Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey. The supplies collected by Presbyterian Women are available for distribution to children in our community in need.

Lemonade on the Lawn

Join us for one last "Lemonade on the Lawn" this fall after the 11:00 o'clock worship service on September 28. We appreciate the Discipleship Sunday School sponsoring this event which provides such a good opportunity for our church family to visit with one another.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast which ordinarily would be held September 28, will be held this Sunday, September 21, at 7:30 a.m. A video about last year's Addressing Mesquite will be shown and plans will be made for the one this year to be held Saturday, October 11. The President of our Men's Council, Patrick Garver, will preside for the meeting. Come join other men of the church for breakfast this Sunday.



Church Under the Bridge September 28

The only date available this year for our church to volunteer and give out food at Church Under the Bridge in Waco, TX was September 28. Since there has been some interest in participating at this event and because of the great experiences in the past from doing it we have decided to go ahead and advertise to you this great opportunity to serve the larger community we live in.

For those of you who do not know, Church Under the Bridge is a church that meets under the I-35 bridge in Waco, TX. Many different churches from various denominations gather bringing food to hand out to the homeless people that attend worship. So it is an opportunity to meet many other Christians from all over Texas and to serve the poor, and worship together in one voice declaring that Christ is our Lord and Savior. It is a place to worship and to live out our faith with poor, rich, black, white – a place of worship across boundaries.

So come one, come all at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday September 27, with food items such as meat, cheese, condiments, bread, chips or whatever you can donate so that we can prepare everything to take with us on Sunday. A sign-up for food items will be located outside of the sanctuary on Sunday so that not everyone brings bread or meat. Sign-up for one thing but bring what you can like fruit since many of the homeless will stuff their pockets full of these items.

At 8:00 a.m. Sunday morning we will caravan in our vehicles leaving the First Presbyterian Church parking lot, drive to Waco in time to arrive and park under the bridge by 10:00 a.m. At 10:15 a.m. or so after other churches have arrived with their food contribution we will begin unloading the food. We will be feeding about 100 to 150 people or so to my understanding. Worship will begin at around 11:00 a.m. or 11:15 a.m.

Don't miss out on this wonderful experience and opportunity to serve!!

Blessings,
Tim Smith

Our Church Family . . .

We are glad that KATHY GILLISPIE is home from Baylor Garland following her surgery and is recovering well.

It was good to see DUANE MOON, LOIS DeROO, and GRACE ROBERTS back at church following recent hospital stays.

We were happy to see JASON WEHRMAN back last Sunday following his tour of duty in Iraq.

Our sympathy is extended to JOANNE BOUDREAUX whose grandmother died.

ANDREW and BRYANY NEWLAND are moving to Tyler next week, and we will miss them. They have been helpful in many areas of our church's life, and Bryany had been serving as Director for Wednesday Church Night. They were faithful members of the Crossroads Sunday School class. Andrew, who worked for the Belo Corporation in Dallas will now be working for the NBC-TV affiliate in Tyler.

MARTHA WHITEHURST has moved to The Forum at Park Lane. Her phone number will remain the same. We are grateful that Martha, a long time member, will continue to be with us for Sunday School and for worship.

This Sunday is the deadline for returning the questionnaires about our Christian education program and worship services. Please put the completed surveys in one of the boxes near the sanctuary doors or mail the form to the church. Thanks for participating!

On World Communion Sunday, October 5, communion will be taken to shut-ins that afternoon. If you would like to have communion brought to your home, please call the church office at 972-285-5602 or call Margie Pollard, Chair of the Communion Committee.

Those who were at the February Church Night Supper will remember the excellent talk given by John Tolson, a counselor who teaches a class at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. There was a nice article about him in the *Dallas Morning News* on September 5, concerning his being named the new Chaplain for the Dallas Cowboys. Among other things, he conducts Bible studies for coaches and players and all chapel services at home and on the road.

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As some will recall, the figure of Mary was stolen from the nativity scene in front of the church. The Board of Deacons is trying to obtain a new figure. If you have one you don't need or know where we could get a replacement, please call the church office.

Mark your calendar for our church picnic to be held October 5, at Rorie-Galloway Park in Mesquite. The activities will begin at 4:00 with the supper at 6:00 and a hymn sign and vesper service to follow. More details and a map giving directions will be in the next newsletter.

Fall FPC Music Rehearsal Schedule

Beginning Wednesday, September 17, 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 group's 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 - 1:00	Presbytones (grades 7 - 12) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Bell Room]
Monday	
6:45 - 8:00	Jubilate Ringers (Adult Handbell Ringers) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Bell Room]
Wednesday	
4:30 - 5:00	Alleluia Chimes (grades 3 - 6) Paula Kusewitt, Director [Bell Room]
5:05 - 5:50	Children's Choir (Kindergarten - grade 6) Kelli Smoker, Director [Choir Room]
5:05 - 6:00	Youth Choir (grades 6 - 12) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Sanctuary]
7:30 - 9:00	Chancel Choir (H.S. - adult) Verlyn Smoker, Director [Choir Room]