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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**

**November 9, 2008**

**Ushers**

**8:45**

Jerry Dressler - Head Usher  
Paula Kusewitt    Weldon Ballenger  
Roger Samuels

**11:00**

Earlayne Martin - Head Usher  
Teresa Farr    Jerry Jones  
Lori Herring    Angela Washeck

**Parking Lot Greeters**

Sheila Hammer    Darby Washeck

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

Betty Aubert  
Barger family, friends of the Kusewitzs  
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  
Debbie Duncan, niece of Minnie 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 Rumblecks  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Dave Rumbleck  
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  
Brian Weller, cousin of Shannon Crelia  
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](http://www.fpcmesquite.org)

## *From the Pastor . . .*

This Sunday is an important one because what happens this Sunday helps determine the mission and programs of our church for the coming year. The word "stewardship" refers to the fact that we have been made stewards, caretakers of certain things – our time, our talents, our money. And in gratitude to God for his blessings to us, we give back to him a portion of what he has given to us. Stewardship is every believer's responsibility and joy. Although we speak of "our money or our possessions," the truth is that they are owned by someone else, and that is our God. That means that our role is as a manager of that portion of God's resources that come under our control.

There are many reasons why people give to God through His church. But the best reason we give is because God first gave to us. He gave his Son to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins, be saved, and have new life. That forgiveness, that grace, should fill the hearts of all of us with gratitude.

As Christians, we should not be afraid of making commitments to God. Certainly he made a commitment to us when his son died on the cross so that we could be saved. One thing that helps us in that commitment is making a pledge. If we don't stop and think through what we want to give to the work of the Lord through the church, then we are apt to wind up giving God the left-overs, except for the fact that by the time we have done everything else we want to do, sometimes there isn't anything left over. But when we give to God first, as the Bible tells us to do, then I think we will find that there is always enough left over for other needs and necessities.

Some people say they won't pledge because they like to give when they come. But some of these don't come very often. And when they do come, they expect the church to be here, to be clean and to be lighted. They expect the services of the church. And these

*(continued)*

things can happen only because of those who take the matter of pledging and giving seriously. Jesus certainly took these things seriously. Some might be surprised that he talked more about money than he did about prayer, heaven, or hell. He talked more about money and our use of it than any other subject except for the reign of God.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the faithful, generous giving of so many of our people. This is a good church, and it has good people. This Sunday when we bring our pledge cards we can each help ensure that good things will continue to happen for the cause of Christ in this church and the mission we support in this community and state and through Presbyterian missionaries in the far corners of the earth sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

*Tom Wilbanks*

## **Work Day**

A work day to clean and polish the pews in the sanctuary will be held this Saturday, November 8, starting at 9:00. Eric Schwartz, Chairman of the Property Committee, will be in charge, and we will be grateful for those who come lend a helping hand. We will be through before noon.

## **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 "Hearts Full of Devotion" based on Romans 12:11.

You are cordially invited to attend  
the annual

# One Nation Under God Prayer Luncheon

*Sponsored by*

The Exchange Club of Mes-  
quite

Friday, November 14, 2008

11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

*Mesquite Church of Christ  
400 W. Davis, Mesquite 75149*

Featuring guest speaker

Scott Sams

CBS Channel 11 News

“Americanism”

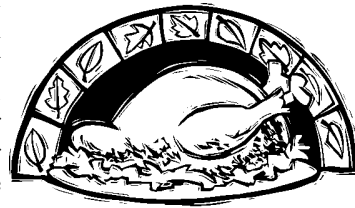
And Homemade Chicken Spaghetti &  
desserts

## What Fun We Had!

We want to express our appreciation to Erin Williams and Lori Garver, Tim Smith, and all those who helped in planning the Happy Harvest Festival held on October 22, for the children (of all ages) of our church. We had a row of cars lined up with trunks decorated, full of candy for trunk-or-treating for the children, and lots of games and activities, which provided a safe, fun environment for our children to wear their costumes and celebrate fall. Thanks to everyone who brought goodies to share, helped with games, decorating, clean up, etc.

## Thanksgiving Dinner

Tickets will be on sale after both services this Sunday for the 84<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by our Men's Council to be held Sunday, November 23, at 6:00 p.m. We are pleased that Dr. Michael Hawn who gave one of our best programs ever will be making a return visit with us. You will enjoy his delightful program.



The tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 12 and under, with no household paying more than \$18. Childcare will be provided for preschool children. Come join others in our church family for a good thanksgiving dinner and a great program.

## Goldenaires Meeting Thursday, November 13, at 10:30 a.m.

You are invited to come and be a part of the Goldenaires, our church's senior citizen group which meets monthly for study, fellowship, and refreshments. New members are always welcome!

The Goldenaires have been studying a series of lectures (presented on DVD) by Dr. Bart Ehrman, Chair of the Department of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The series is entitled "History of the Bible: the Making of the New Testament Canon." The program for November 13th will be centered around Dr. Ehrman's lecture "The Copyists Who Gave Us Scripture." Professor Ehrman raises the question: "What was it about the early Christian writings which were circulated among the churches that made Christians eager to read and study them?" "Christianity," he answers, "is an authority-based religion—Jesus (in the days of his flesh) then the Apostles (while they lived) and, since their departure, the books they wrote became our authoritative basis for our faith."

Don't miss this interesting program, and a great opportunity for fellowship.

## Our Church Family . . .

We are glad that JERRY McBAIN and JIM SHEPPARD are both home from the hospital and recovering well.

A nice retirement ceremony was held for MARK NOBLE last Wednesday on the occasion of his retirement when he was honored for 25 years of service as a Mesquite Firefighter by the Mesquite Fire Department.

We appreciate the work of RON BETTIS who planted some beautiful pansies for fall on the south side of the church sanctuary.

The youth of our church expressed interest in having two "youth Sundays" during the year, and the first of these will be a week from this Sunday, on November 16.

An interesting and informative program was given last Sunday evening at the Church Night Supper about the work of Mission East Dallas, a faith-based organization which provides medical and dental assistance to low-income and uninsured people. We are supporting their work through our mission giving. At least one-fourth of the citizens of eastern Dallas County are uninsured, and about 70,000 indigent people live within a five mile radius of the clinic. Not only is the Gospel shared with those who come, but they are also given hope, healing, and enabled to become self sufficient and productive in their communities through job training, parenting classes, and social work services. Our thanks to the Fellowship Committee, chaired by Dave and Gayle Rumbeck, for their help with the suppers throughout the year.

## Thanksgiving Baskets

The Mission Committee is asking for your help again this year in providing Thanksgiving meals to needy families in Mesquite through Sharing Life Community Outreach. The cost of each Thanksgiving basket



this year is approximately \$35. We will be providing the money to Sharing Life rather than assembling the baskets ourselves since they are able to get quantity discounts through various sources. This Sunday is the deadline for helping with this project. Please mark your contribution "Thanksgiving Basket" and place it in the offering plate.

## Calvin at 500

John Calvin, spiritual forefather of Christians in the Reformed tradition, from which the Presbyterian Church derives, was born July 10, 1509. Next year, therefore, marks the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth. Along with leading the Protestant reformation in Geneva, Switzerland, Calvin placed a high value on education in the church. In addition to preaching at St. Pierre's Cathedral, he established schools for Geneva's children and youth, and he taught Scripture and theology. Calvin worked out a system of church government, based on the Scriptures and set it up in Geneva. And with some modification, this system, which is called the Reformed system of church government, is the basis for our modern Presbyterian form of government. Under Calvin, Geneva was transformed. It was changed from a turbulent community into a city of sober people concerned with religion and civic improvement and business. He believed that Christianity should be carried into every relationship of life. Greater cleanliness was introduced. He insisted on the removal of filth from houses and the narrow and crowded streets. He got the magistrates to oversee the markets and prevent the sale of spoiled meat, etc. Under Calvin, Geneva became one of the most modern, progressive, civilized cities of the world, one of the first of its kind in fact.

Calvin was only 24 years old when he published the "Institutes of the Christian Religion." The word translated as "institutes" means "instruction" or "education." And that book affected the course of history. While not perfect, Calvin was a remarkable man – and worship, public education, and the democratic government of the church are three of his important legacies for us today.

## Grief and Loss Symposium

A Grief and Loss Symposium presented by Christian Care Hospice will be held Saturday, November 14, from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Dallas Christian School, 1515 Republic Parkway in Mesquite. The cost is \$25 and will cover things such as understanding and coping with the emotions of grief. For more information you can call 972-686-3765.