



First Presbyterian Church
Gainesville, Texas

October Session

The Session will hold its regular October meeting on Sunday, October 21st, in the Seekers' Classroom at 12:00 noon.

All written committee reports are due in the church office by Thursday, October 18th.

Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, October 23rd, at 8:00 AM at the Fried Pie on the square!

All the men of the church are encouraged to come and enjoy a great time of food and for solving all the world's problems!



Rev. Hare will be out of the office on a study leave from Thursday, October 25th through Sunday, October 28th. Tracy Ebarb will be our guest preacher on Sunday, October 28th. In case of emergency contact Matt Chalmers, Clerk of Session, or the church office.



Living the Christian life has always been about showing our faith in God and in God's promises. It's in that "living out" of God's promises that we affirm that God is present and active in all that we do – including in our lives as God's good stewards.

On Sunday, October 7th, Rev. Hare will begin a four-part sermon series entitled, "Living the 'New Life' Life." Using several of Jesus' parables we will be exploring four qualities that are signs of our faith and our willingness to put that faith into action – allowing us to show others what we believe.

So – mark your calendars, and get ready to hear some of Jesus' most familiar parables in a new way.

WORLD Communion

On Sunday, October 7th, our church will join with thousands of other communities of faith around the world to celebrate "World Communion Sunday." If you will be unable to attend and would like to have communion brought to your home, please contact the church office.



At its last meeting, the Session called a special congregational meeting to be held on Sunday, October 7th, after worship. The purpose of the meeting is for the congregation to respond to Rev. Hare's announcement of his retirement set for December 31st, 2018 – and to vote upon his request to dissolve his pastoral relationship with the church. Everyone is encouraged to attend.





Our church will be hosting a “Kool-Aid Stand” booth at this year’s annual “Depot Day” Festival in downtown Gainesville on Saturday, October 13th.

We are looking for volunteers to bring 5-Gallon drink dispensers full of Kool-Aid, and to help man the booth. There is a sign-up sheet on the church’s bulletin board with information and work schedules.



Funds raised at the booth will be donated to the Edison Elementary School’s Library Fund. Your help will make a difference for the students of Edison!

Special Offering Authorized

There will be a special offering taken on Sunday, October 14th, during worship to support “Solar Under The Sun,” a ministry that works to provide solar-powered water wells to communities around the world who are struggling to provide safe drinking water. Donations should be made out to the church and ear-marked, “S.U.T.S.”

Thank you for your generosity.



These Days daily devotional guides for October-December 2018 are now available. You will find them in the windows of the Sanctuary, or you can pick one up in the church office.



Rev. Hare’s Sunday sermons are available on the church webpage! Just go to www.fpcgainesville.net – click on the “Sermons” link at the top of the page – then click on the dropdown tap – and you’re there! You can also find Rev. Hare’s sermons on the church Facebook page!



Our six ministries at Edison are well underway, and everyone is encouraged to sign up on the church bulletin board to participate in at least one.

Those ministries and their church liaisons are:

- Praying for the students, staff, and families every day – Corie Autry
- Collecting school supplies on a regular basis for the teachers' use – Jessica Bullock
- Sending "Thinking of you" and birthday cards to each of the teachers – Shana Powell
- Interacting with students and parents when students are dropped off at the school (7:15 – 7:45 AM) and when parents pick students up (3:00 – 3:30 PM)- John Powell
- Volunteering to read and/or listen to students read in individual classes – Janis Skupin
- Volunteering to help individual teachers and classrooms with individual needs – Judy Neal

Find your place to make this God-given vision a reality!



- That Tommie Newman did a great job as September's pulpit assistant?
- That Carla and Charlie Waters appreciate your continued prayers?
- That our special offering for VISTO raised \$580?
- That the repair work on our church's roof is underway – between rain showers?
- That our church's Nominating Committee will soon be seeking folks to serve on the Session's Class of 2021?
- That Ned Newman was really surprised at his "surprise" birthday party after choir practice?
- That Landi Phillips is home after a recent stay in the hospital?
- That the church's phone and internet systems have been updated?
- That Mary Sue Nutter is now a member of First Christian Church – where her daughter and grandkids attend?
- That Ginger Walker appreciates your continued prayers for her cousin's family after her husband – Mark Uptain – was killed by a bear?
- That Andy Bentley is having a really good year running the ball for Era High School's football team?
- That B Cochran was recently honored as the longest living graduate of her high school?
- That Kevin Richardson just turned 25?
- That Linda Seal is home slowly recovering for recent shoulder surgery?



October 8, 2018
Church Office will be closed.



11:30am ~ October 18

G.I.F.T.
Girls In Fun Together
5:30pm ~ October 4
The Rib Crib



As many of you already know, I recently announced to the Session that I will be retiring as your pastor as of December 31st, of this year. Since that announcement, lots of folks have been asking me, “What are you going to do now?” There are two possible answers – the simple answer and the not-so-simple one.

The simple answer is, “Something that doesn’t require being on call 24-hours a day, and 7 days a week – and something that doesn’t require me to work every holiday and week-end.” Both of those things have been a part of my life for the past 30 years, and after a while, they start to wear on you.

The not-so-simple answer is – well – harder to explain to folks. You see, we live in a society where what we do defines who we are, and there are a lot of folks who see being “retired” as no longer being valuable or having a purpose in life. I have never been one of those folks, so here’s my “not-so-simple” answer. I will do whatever God’s wants me to do – and whatever my gifts and skills allow me to do well.

Retirement should not be seen as “the end,” but rather as the “new beginning.” God is always calling us to listen for His voice and to follow His lead. I believe that God not only calls us “to” something – but also “from” something and “to” something else. All of us must be willing to listen for that call – and when we follow it, we show everyone around us that we trust God to take care of us.

So – for the next 3 months – we have a lot to do as all of us get ready for that “new beginning.” I ask that you be in prayer as both you and I determine what God is calling us to do.

Peace,

John



Join a Presbyterian Women's Circle

It is more than a bible study. It's an opportunity to nurture your faith, support the mission of the church and our community, work for justice and peace and enjoy fellowship with friends.

Circles meet once a month. There are two to choose from:

- ♦ The Town & Country Circle meets in the parlor October 24th at 1:30pm (4th Wednesday).
- ♦ The Reflection Circle meets in the parlor October 18th at 7:00pm (3rd Thursday).

All women are welcome.



While Angie and I were on vacation, we made a stop in Hannibal, Missouri, to visit Mark Twain's hometown. As we were making the rounds I bought a shirt with this Mark Twain quote: "Don't put off until tomorrow what you can put off until day after tomorrow if at all possible." It's my new slogan.

Another of my favorite quotes – from Will Rogers – goes like this: "When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished how much he had learned in 7 years."

Along that same line an old village philosopher said to a youth 40 years younger than himself who had just made some inflexible statement: "My boy, when I was your age I also knew far more than I do now."

Our knowledge is like that. We gain a new perspectives on everything in our lives – including stewardship and responsibility – as we get older. As least I hope so.

"C" IF YOU CAN COMPLETE THIS BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ!

All correct answers begin with the letter C. Circle the correct answer.

1. What was Nehemiah's occupation? centurion, cook, carpenter, cupbearer
2. Who was the Bible's first murderer? Caleb, Cain, Caiaphas, Cush
3. Where did Jesus perform his first miracle? Caesarea, Capernaum, Cana
4. Which of these books contains the great chapter about love? 2 Chronicles, 1 Corinthians, Colossians, 2 Corinthians
5. A man named Simon was forced to carry the cross to Golgotha for Jesus. Where was he from? Cyrene, Caesarea, Cush, Chicago
6. Which of these "C" words has nothing to with the crucifixion of Jesus? crown, cross, Calvary, cypress

ON THE RECORD!

Who made the following statements as read in the Bible?

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?" Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have I give unto you." Peter, James, John, Paul
3. "What is truth?" Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD!" Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God." Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. "Almost you persuade me to become a Christian." Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Calaphas, Annas
7. "Entreat me not to leave you for your people will be my people. Where you lodge, I will lodge." Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have kept the faith." Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

ANSWERS TO "BIBLE TRIVIA QUIZ": 1. cupbearer; 2. Cain; 3. Cana; 4. 1 Corinthians; 5. Cyrene; 6. cypress. ANSWERS TO "ON THE RECORD!": 1. Cain; 2. Peter; 3. Pilate; 4. Joshua; 5. Peter; 6. Herod Agrippa; 7. Ruth; 8. Paul.

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“Ghouls, Goblins, and Groceries”

On Halloween night – Wednesday, October 31st - the streets around the church will be full of trick-or-treaters, and our church will literally be right in the middle of it, as we once again host “Ghouls, Goblins, and Groceries.” We will be handing out candy in front of the church – and collecting canned food and money to be donated to VISTO.

Donations of candy can be dropped off in Tyler Hall beginning Sunday, October 21st.

