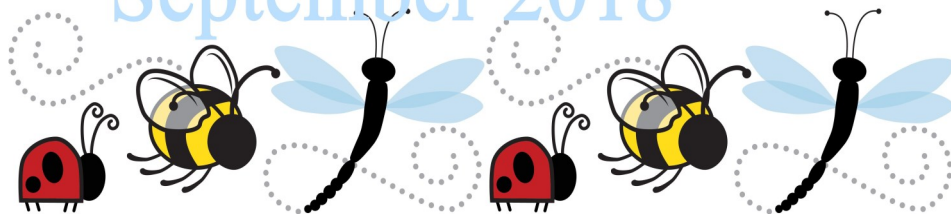


September 2018

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GAINESVILLE, TEXAS



**DON'T
GO**
TO CHURCH.
BE THE CHURCH.

Faith In Action Sunday

It is that special time of year again as we come together to participate in Faith in Action which will take place on Sunday, September 30. Outreach has designated the following projects for Faith in Action:

- ♦ Brunch for First Responders—This year, instead of having the first responders come to the church we will be delivering the food to them. So, we will need individuals who would be interested in preparing the food and individuals who will be willing to deliver it to fire stations, the police station, sheriff's department, etc.
- ♦ Backpacks for VISTO—We will be packing supplies in zip lock bags for VISTO to place in backpacks.
- ♦ Loads of Love—We will fill small brown paper bags with laundry detergent and seal with stickers that say "Loads of Love, First Presbyterian Church" with our address on them. Volunteers will be needed to fill and seal the bags and others to distribute at the laundry mat.
- ♦ "Thinking of You" cards—Continuing our ministry with the nursing homes in town we ask the congregation to prepare thinking of you cards and have them to the church on Sunday when they will then be delivered to nursing homes in town.

Sign up sheets will be posted on the bulletin board and along with copies of the recipes for anyone volunteering to cook food. The Outreach Committee truly appreciates the support of the congregation in this project.



On Sunday, September 9th, we will be taking up a special offering as part of our morning worship service. This offering will be used to support **VISTO**, our community's emergency needs agency, who has run out of funds with which to assist the needy. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of those who are struggling.



Looking for a way to honor someone's birthday or anniversary – or to remember someone who has died who you love? Consider signing up on the "Flower Chart" on the bulletin board outside the church office! You can purchase flowers – or you can make a donation to the church's "Flower Fund" and flowers will be placed in your name.

Grow spiritually, Grow closer to family & friends, Grow Closer to God

Join us in the Parlor

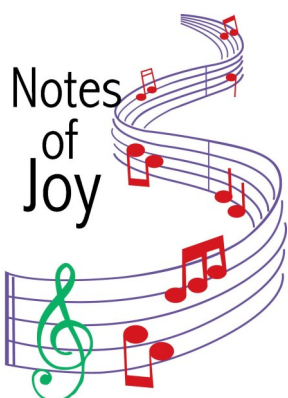
Sunday Mornings, 9:00am

Starting September 9th

Our first study travels with Paul to Greece!

How do you live in a culture where the worldview conflicts with Christianity? Learn from Paul as he presents his beliefs to the most powerful court in Athens and settles among the Greco-Romans of Corinth, who valued wealth and class, worship of multiple gods, and decadent pleasure seeking above all else.

In this sixteenth volume of *That The World May Know®*, discover how to live in your own Athens or Corinth—an increasingly secular Western world—in a way that glorifies God. Experience the Bible in historical context as you walk in the footsteps of the second missionary tour of the Apostle Paul in Greece. Join renowned teacher and historian Ray Vander Laan as he guides you through the land of the Bible. Filmed on location.



As promised, I am expressing to The First Presbyterian Church of Gainesville my immense appreciation and thankfulness for your generous outpouring of love and your sacrificial offerings to me during the hardest trial I have had to endure in my life—the death of my son—and the consequent actions that always attend such an event. Such support in a Christian church is an invaluable measure of the sincerity of their Christianity. I hope my service to you and to God will be more than comparable to all that you have done for me.

We are about to begin a new Church year. The choir has already begun to meet, and we are expecting to have a great experience as we prepare music for each Sunday service. We are certainly an important part of the Church community, but in addition we are a family of our own within that community. We share each other's joys and sorrows, we sing together, we pray together. We get to know one another, and all of this enhances our ability to contribute to our worship service each week. So if you know that you have the skills, time, and energy to donate to our choir, please come and share your talents, and be uplifted in return for your efforts.

More to come in the coming months. ~Joy





It's time for a "Girls Road-trip" Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering at Camp Gilmont October 19th & 20th

\$78.00 each covers the PW Mini-Retreat, dinner on Friday, breakfast on Saturday, the Saturday gathering with lunch and accommodations. We will leave in a caravan from the church at noon Friday and return Saturday early evening. See the church bulletin board for more information on agenda and times. For questions, contact Pam Cooper.

Deadline is September 30th.

Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women.

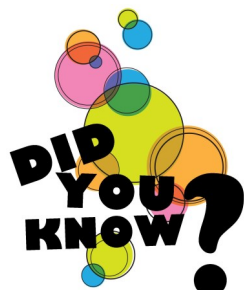
Join a Presbyterian Women's Circle

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 September 26th at 1:30pm (4th Wednesday).
- ♦ The Reflection Circle meets in the parlor September 20th at 7:00pm (3rd Thursday).

All women are welcome.



- That Corie Autry did a great job as August's pulpit assistant?
- That Carla and Charlie Waters appreciate your continued prayers?
- That Kay and Lloyd Marshall were recently recognized as a "Legend" for living at Lake Kiowa for more than 40 years?
- That the repair work on our church's roof is underway with more to come in the near future?
- That it's great to have the choir back on Sunday mornings after their summer vacation?
- That 19 kids had a great time at our "Creative Arts Camp" last month?
- That Mary Frances VanPelt is home after a recent stay in the hospital?
- That the church's phone and internet systems have been updated?
- That Cameron Gilliland is doing really well with his new business in Granbury?
- That Ginger and Jack Walker continue to appreciate your continued prayers?
- That Paul Bentley is a real adventurous kind of guy?
- That everyone had a good time at our recent Ice Cream and Bingo social?
- That the Presbyterians really showed up at the Gainesville State School's "Celebrity Waiters" event at Luigi's?
- That John could really use your prayers now that Angie's retired?
- That Lloyd & Kay Marshall's grandson, Lloyd Steven, has graduated from Stanford Law School and is currently working for a Federal Judge in Washington, D. C.?



Dearest Church Family,

It seems appropriate that on the one year anniversary of my pancreatic cancer diagnosis that I let you know how important you have been in my life this past year.

So many of you have brought meals, sent cards, prayed, and embraced me with hugs and well wishes. All of your kindness has lifted my spirits and kept me going. I know that your prayers are working. The doctors have been amazed that my cancer has not spread. After my surgery and they were able to see the tumor, they said it was not as bad as the scans had indicated. I know why! It is your loving prayers that have done their work.

Please keep the prayers coming. I know the prayer chain reaches well beyond our congregation as you have called on friends and family to help. They are working and are needed still as my fight is not yet won.

We love you all like family, and we could not get through this without you. You are God's gift to us and we are so very thankful for the blessing you are to us.

Agape,
Carla Waters



The Creative Arts Camp this year was a very successful one thanks to all of the support people from our

congregation. To the instructors, to the people that brought the refreshments, to the people who served the refreshments, to Jesse who played Sunday with the students, to the congregation who kindly indulged our young people we Thank You and Bless You. Isn't youth wonderful?

Sylvia, Earl, Pam, Retha and Judy.



Jesus once asked his disciples the following question: "Who do you say I am?" How would you answer that question? Might I suggest some possible answers:

Does Jesus keep you from sin? Call him "Savior." Does he free you from the slavery of your passions? Call him "Redeemer." Does he teach you as no one else has taught you? Call him "Teacher." Does he mold and master your life? Call him "Master." Does he shine a light on the dark paths of your life? Call him "Guide." Does he reveal God to you? Call him the "Son of God."

Or maybe you can't put into words the way Jesus impacts your life every day. If that's the case, call him by no name – and just follow him.

Peace,
John

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, September 25th, 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!



A while back the officials of the United Methodist Church were stunned to learn that a small church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, had a per-capita giving that was 30% higher than the national church's average. What was the trick?

One writer speculated that one reason may be osmosis. Berrien Springs is the home of a "Seventh-day Adventists' school – Andrews University – which had an enrollment of nearly twice the village's population. Seventh-day Adventists believe very strongly that at least a tithe of 10% belongs to God through the church.

Maybe it does help to have the right neighbors!

Creative Arts Camp 2018



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH
401 S. DENTON STREET
P. O. BOX 751
GAINESVILLE, TX 76241
Phone: (940) 665-5153
Fax: (940) 665-1306



E-mail: fpcgaines@sbcglobal.net

Website: www.fpcgainesville.net

What's the Vision?



Eighteen months ago, the “New Life” Leadership Team began a quest to answer the following question: What is God calling our church to do and be now and in the future? Now we have the answer! God is calling our church to utilize our spiritual gifts of faith, giving, and mercy to make a difference in the lives of children and families in Gainesville. And we will do that by establishing an “Adopt-A-School” ministry at Edison Elementary School.

We have begun six ministries at Edison and are encouraging everyone in the church to sign up to participate in at least one. They are:

- Praying for the students, staff, and families every day!
- Collecting school supplies on a regular basis for the teachers’ use!
- Sending “Thinking of you” and birthday cards to each of the teachers!
- 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)!
- Volunteering to read and/or listen to students read in individual classes!
- Volunteering to help individual teachers and classrooms with individual needs!

Why are we doing this ministry? We believe that God calls us to be different and to make a difference in our community. We believe that our history shows us that when we use the gifts that God gives us to reach out beyond ourselves and live out our faith in the community we experience God’s joy and love in our lives. We believe that there is something that everyone in our congregation can do to make this vision real. We believe that we, as a congregation, will grow spiritually as Disciples of Christ. And we believe that we are blessed when we bless other people.

Sign-up sheets for each ministry are on the bulletin board at the church.
Find your place to make this God-given vision a reality!