



First Presbyterian Church  
Gainesville, Texas

## 4th of July Celebration!

On Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, our church will once again be hosting a hot dog supper and a community patriotic songfest! The supper will begin at 6:00 PM in Tyler Hall and the songfest will begin at 7:00 PM!

This year's celebration promises to be better than ever, so invite your families, neighbors, and friends to join you at First Presbyterian Church as we honor our nation and our armed forces!



**NEW LIFE**

### THE "NEW LIFE" RENEWAL PROCESS HAS BEGUN!

What is God's vision for our church? What does Christ want us to be and do as his disciples? How do we grow in our understanding of what it means to be followers of Christ?

Our answers to those questions are the foundation of our journey as Christians – and they form the basis for our desire to renew both our church's life and ministry together and our personal journeys of faith. To find the answer those questions we must first look to our past and identify the people, events, and traditions that have shaped our congregation. We must also look for God's presence and activity in our church.

That's why, on June 25<sup>th</sup>, we devoted our Sunday morning worship service to remembering and sharing our stories about those people, events and traditions that have enriched our spiritual lives. A special "Thank You Very Much" to everyone who was a part of those conversations!

For those who were not there that Sunday, please know that your memories and stories are very important, and are very much needed as we seek God's vision for our church's future! So, this month, someone from our church's "New Life" Leadership Team will be contacting the folks who were not in church on June 25<sup>th</sup> and will be asking them to share their memories. The questions they will be asking are elsewhere in this newsletter.

Please be in prayer as we seek God's leadership and direction and vision for First Presbyterian Church!



As we explore who we are as a congregation, we are seeking God's blessing and leadership in all that we do. To that end, a "New Life Pray-ers" group has been formed to meet and pray on a regular basis to seek God's participation and blessing in our journey together.

This group meets in the Seekers' Classroom across from the church office every Tuesday at noon for a time of fellowship (it's a brown bag luncheon moment) and to pray for our church. Everyone who believes in the power of prayer is welcome to be a part of this ministry.



This year we are celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation Movement from which our Presbyterian heritage got its start. In order to honor that anniversary, Rev. Hare has been preaching throughout the summer on what's called "the Basic Tenets" of the Reformation.

On Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, Rev. Hare's sermon focused on the tenet called "Sola Gratia" which is Latin for "Grace Alone." We believe that we are saved by God's grace alone and not by any of our good works. On July 2<sup>nd</sup>, Rev. Hare will preach on the second tenet, "Sola Fide," which means "Faith Alone." Then, on July 30<sup>th</sup>, the series will continue with a sermon entitled, "Solus Christus," which means "Christ Alone."

Come discover once again what we, as Presbyterians, believe and how these beliefs impact who we are and what we do!



The Personnel Ministry Committee is proud to announce that Alyse Hokamp has been hired to serve our church as our musical accompanist! Alyse brings a wide array of musical skills to this position and will be a great asset to our church's musical program. Welcome to the family, Alyse!



Everyone is invited to come watch Part 2 of the movie "Ben Hur" and the famous chariot race! Showing in Tyler Hall on Tuesday,

August 1<sup>st</sup> @ 5:00pm.

Popcorn, candy & Cokes will be available for a donation.

All donations will go to DASH.

## Men's Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 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!

## July Session Meeting

The regular meeting of the Session will be held on Sunday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, at noon in the Seekers' Classroom. All written committee reports are due in the office by Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>.



From the Minutes of Regular Meeting of Session November 21, 1971:

"Trustee report was given by Rev. Dobesh and Winnie Sherrill, Chairman of the Board, concerning the signing of the contract with Schulmerich Carillon, Inc. in the amount of \$3530 for a "Tyme Stryke" Carillon which is to be delivered prior to Christmas 1971."

## Sermons Online!

Rev. Hare's Sunday sermons are available on the church webpage! Just go to [www.fpcgainesville.net](http://www.fpcgainesville.net) – click on the "Sermons" link at the top of the page – then click on the dropdown tap – and you're there!

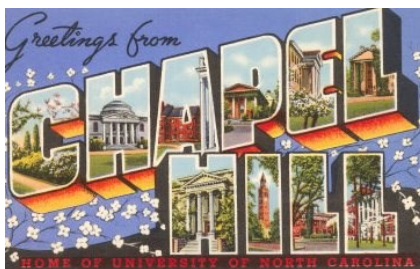
## Sponsoring Students from the Presbyterian Children's Home

Going off to a college can be an exciting as well as an emotional and scary time for a young eighteen-year-old. Receiving support from their family makes that experience a little less lonely and scary. But, when you are a young person leaving the Presbyterian Children's Home and going off to college you don't have the support of a family. You are on your own and it can be overwhelming. To try and ease that transition, the Presbyterian Children's Home reached out to the Outreach Committee and asked if we would be willing to sponsor five of the young people from the Home while they are in college. As we are no longer providing food or support for the college students at NCTC, the Outreach Committee has voted to sponsor the students.

Three times a year we will be putting together care packages for the students. The first one will be at the beginning of August as they prepare to head off to college for the start of the semester. If anyone would be interested in contributing to the care packages the following items are some of the things that we will be looking for: 1) snacks: popcorn, peanuts, gum, beef/turkey jerky sticks, hard candies like life savers, mints, peppermints, etc. 2) school supplies: highlighters, colored pens, post-it notes, fine-point markers, fun stickers, notebooks 3) hygiene: q-tips, first aid kit, tube of antibiotic cream, band-aids 4) other items like small hand lotion/sanitizer, chap stick, air fresheners, forever postage stamps, vitamin C, prayer cards, inspirational notes, etc. We will have a bin in the hall next to the red wagon where donations can be placed. Thank you and please pray for these students as they embark on the next chapter in their lives.



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes & Services



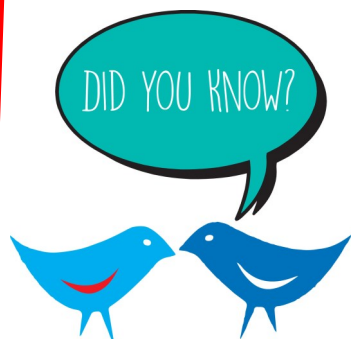
Dear Church family,  
After driving for three days, we safely arrived to Chapel Hill, NC last night. The flowers and the tree from you are still beautiful! Thank all of you for your wonderful gifts and cards, and thank you again for precious two years. Best wishes for all of you and the church.



### Safety Tips:

- ◆ Do not ride in a car – they cause 20% of all fatal accidents.
- ◆ Do not stay at home – 17% of all accidents happen there.
- ◆ Do not walk in the street – 15% of all accidents happen to pedestrians.
- ◆ Do not travel by air, rail, or water – 16% of all accidents result from these activities.
- ◆ Only .001% of all accidents happen in church.





- That Shana Powell did a great job as June's pulpit assistant?
- That the Outreach Ministry Committee is still collecting large duffel bags for the State School?
- That Barbara Brady is looking good after her recent fall?
- That Lydia Ansley enjoyed visiting her family in Canada?
- That the re-dedication service for our re-built organ will be held in September?
- That our church is partnering with the Presbyterian Children's Home to support some young men and women who are aging out of the system and going off to college?
- That Janis Skupin, Jessica Lacefield, Shana Powell, Corie Autry and John Powell are all members of our church's "New Life" leadership team?
- That plans for a prayer labyrinth are being made for the east side of our church property?
- That Pam and Bob Cooper had a wonderful on their recent trip to Galveston?
- That the Congregational Care Ministry Committee gave out some wonderful gifts on Father's Day?
- That our church recently "adopted" a 7-year-old girl named Ciara from the Philippians as a mission project?
- That registration forms for this year's "Creative Arts Camp" that will begin on August 7<sup>th</sup> will soon be available?
- That there's probably someone you know who would love for you to email them a copy of your newsletter?



There's a story about a minister who was taking his first airplane trip and he was very nervous. He chewed his nails, and rubbed the cross hanging around his neck like the end was near. Seated next to the minister was a business man who traveled all the time and wasn't the least bit nervous. The business man could help but notice the minister's anxiety so he finally asked what the problem was.

The minister admitted that he was afraid to fly, so the business man said, "You're a man of faith. Doesn't your Bible have Jesus saying something like, 'I am with you always, even to the ends of the earth'? What have you to fear?"

The minister thought for a moment, reflecting on the man's words, and finally said, "Yes, but what Jesus actually said was, 'Lo, I am with you always.'"

High or low – near or far – high up on the ladder of life or down near the bottom, God is with us always! "Behold, I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done that of which I have spoken to you." (Genesis 28:15)

Peace, John

## From Sea to Shining Sea





## THE "NEW LIFE" RENEWAL QUESTIONS

Here are the questions we are asking folks as we work to seek God's vision for our church:

### NEW LIFE

What stories do you remember or have you heard that says something about this congregation's life, ministry and mission since its founding?

Name and describe a member that has left a lasting impression on you. What is it about this person that makes them stand out in your mind.

What cherished traditions have been passed down from generation to generation which need to be preserved?

What major changes or events have affected our congregation?

How have you seen God's movement in this church? In what ways has God nurtured, guided, challenged, redirected, and supported our congregation during its history?

What impact has this church had on this community during its history?

What impact does our church have on our community today?

it's summer! it's summer! it's summer! it's summer! it's summer!

Summer

National Ice Cream Day is celebrated the third Sunday of July in the United States. It is a time of the year when millions of people all across the country can enjoy one of the most iconic American desserts of all time. This day, as well as National Ice Cream Month, was established by presidential proclamation in July of 1984 and continues to be the favorite holiday of children of all ages.

There isn't a whole lot of fanfare associated with this holiday. In fact, most people just go out and enjoy their favorite ice cream dish. Which is probably the perfect way to celebrate this day.

it's summer! it's summer! it's summer! it's summer! it's summer! it's summer!



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Sponsored by the Outreach Committee, "Cool Capers" is a block party that will take place on the grounds of the church and part of Church street on Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Among other things, children will be able to enjoy a refreshing trip down a water slide; draw beach and water scenes on the sidewalk; decorate their own beach balls; visit a Bubble stand; enjoy water fun with the fire department; listen with their parents to music; and participate in a cake walk. Sign in sheets will be posted soon on the bulletin board for volunteers to help. There will be refreshments. So, grab your sunglasses and suntan oil, invite your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren and come on out to this fun-filled "Cool Capers" summer-time event.