First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Where God's Love Makes All The Difference!

September 2013

Grace, Peace, and Mercy to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Increasing in Wisdom

Luke 2:40 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.
Luke 2:52 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

The school year has begun, and Sunday School is a major focus in the church. Learning is very important, and we all must be committed to be both teachers and students with each other and in every walk of life. There is a popular saying, "All I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." Although this saying can be badly abused, there is some truth to it.

This saying points out the importance of early learning. In Kindergarten, we learn some important truths: to live in community we must share and have patience with one another, we do what we can and respect what others say and do, we say we're sorry when we hurt another, and we begin to realize that the world is bigger than ourselves and greater than even our own imagination.

Recognizing the importance of early learning, this year, we have begun a Pre-Kindergarten class to prepare our children for greater learning when they are eventually promoted to Elementary, Youth and Adult classes. We never graduate from learning about God's work with and through our lives. The second chapter of Luke reminds us that by the age of 12, Jesus was "filled with wisdom." He knew more at that age than others his own age, and even some adults. His knowledge and wisdom amazed his parents and adults at the Jerusalem Temple. But despite being filled with wisdom, his time of learning did not end. Scripture tells us that although he was filled with wisdom, he continued to increase in wisdom and in years. He continued to study and learn.

No one ever completes the learning process. Some of our learning is by experience, and other learning comes through individual and community instruction and discussion. Learning on one's own, though possible, is more limited than corporate learning, for in corporate learning one is more likely to have one's current knowledge and opinions questioned and challenged. Only when what we currently know is questioned and challenged can we truly be open to growing in knowledge and wisdom. This is particularly true in biblical studies, when the Holy Spirit challenges us and molds us through study and discussion with others.

Whatever your stage in life, Pre-Kindergarten, Elementary, Youth, or Adult, God has new things for you to learn about your evolving life with our Lord. Take time to consider, "What am I doing to work with God's Holy Spirit to continue 'increasing in wisdom'?" The church offers many opportunities for Adult learning. The Upper Room is available for individual study. The Lectionary scriptures are posted in the Newsletter every month for your individual personal study. All levels of Sunday School will be studying these same scriptures every Sunday morning. The Presbyterian Women have a monthly Bible Study, and a second study group is forming in the near future. You may join the journey of faith with an existing group or work with me and with others to form new study and sharing groups. With Jesus, let us all find time through individual and corporate studies to engage God and one another as we continue to increase in wisdom and in love for God, for one another, and for all the world. In Christ, Eric.

9:30 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship

First Presbyterian Church
Mission, TX

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SUE

JORDAN

PAT

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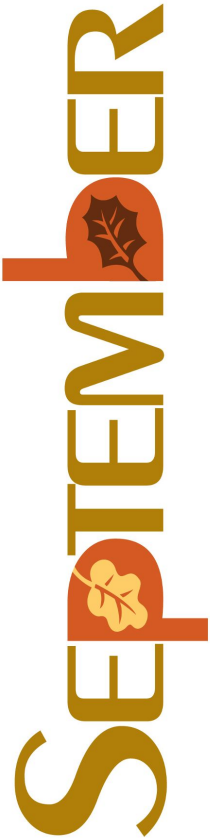
FPC CALENDAR

Sept 1	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith
Sept 4	**12:00 PM**	PW Planning Meeting
	6:15 PM	SonShine Players
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sept 6	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group
Sept 7	**6 - 8 PM**	"Bounce Back to Fun"
Sept 8	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith
Sept 10	**12:00 PM**	Worship Committee Meeting
Sept 11	**6:15 PM**	SonShine Players
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sept 13		**NO** Paper Crafts Group
Sept 14	**9 AM - 1 PM**	Valley Wide PW Gathering
Sept 15	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	After Service	Potluck Lunch
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith
Sept 16	**6:30 PM**	Session
Sept 18	**6:15 PM**	SonShine Players
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sept 20	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group
Sept 22	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith
Sept 25	**6:15 PM**	SonShine Players
	7:00 PM	Youth Group
	7:30 PM	Chancel Choir
Sept 27	**6:00 PM**	Paper Crafts Group
Sept 29	**9:30 AM**	Sunday School
	10:30 AM	Worship
	5:30 PM	Bells of Hope
	6:30 PM	Bells of Faith



WELCOME BACK!

FPC CHANCEL CHOIR
BELLS OF HOPE & BELLS OF FAITH
SONSHINE PLAYERS

Vacation is over and it's time to work!

Rehearsal times are as follows:

Chancel Choir – Wednesday evening @ 7:30 PM (Choir Room)
SonShine Players – Wednesday evening @ 6:15 PM (Choir Room)
Bells of Hope – Sunday evening @ 5:30 (Bell Room) – no audition needed
Bells of Faith – Sunday evening @ 6:30 PM – audition needed

P.S. New Choir Members are always Welcome!

Do you play an instrument?
Do you like to sing?
Are you an actor waiting in the wings?

If you can answer "yes!" to any of these questions, you need to let Pat Hudsonpillar, Director of Music/Worship, know! People often say that they would be happy to help if only they were asked – but it is very hard to ask if we don't know you would like to help! (. . . Sigh) So, please make note of it on your blue card, call the church office, or email: pat@fpcmission.com.

NOTABLE News!

We have 2 new bell ringers in the BELLS OF HOPE Handbell Choir: Aubrey & Jordan Hughes. Welcome!

The BELLS OF FAITH will be playing during worship on September 22.

Our young people's choir/drama-group/worship leaders, the SonShine Players, will begin practice on September 4 at 6:15 PM in the Choir Room. We welcome students from age 4 (4 year old participants must have a parent in attendance) through high school.

Plans for the Fall season include leading worship on October 13 and presenting a Christmas musical on December 8. This highly successful group has been enchanting congregations and praising the Lord since 1995, offering students a variety of activities to learn about our Lord.

Keep Calm and Walk On

PW FALL GATHERING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

8:30 AM REGISTRATION

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1102 ASH DR
MISSION, TEXAS
COST: $5.00

One of your Elders, JENNY HUDSONPILLAR, has taken on a big task – one that she needs HELP with!! Our Church Directory is out-of-date, so Jenny and several volunteers have set up a table in the Narthex on Sundays to talk with you about updating your information: current address, phone numbers, email . . . you get the idea, I'm sure. This information is a vital part of shepherding our church family. Please stop by on Sunday morning!

YOUTH

CALLING ALL 6TH - 12TH GRADERS!

Our new youth ministry program will meet on Wednesday starting Sept. 11th from 7 to 8:30 p.m. (so don't procrastinate with that homework!). Youth will gather for a snack and meet together in our brand new Youth Cave (it's the old exercise room; the new exercise room is the old youth room….oh never mind!). ☺ Bring a friend or two. And mark your calendars now for our first road trip!!! See details below:

Presbytery-wide youth meet at The Main Event
September 27 – 29, 2013 at John Knox Ranch in Fischer, TX
Cost is $47.50 (the church pays the other half- what a deal!). Registration and money due Sunday, Sept. 15th to Sheri or to the church office. A flyer and more details will be given out at our first meeting so be there!!! ☺

Ministry

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

September marks a new calendar year for our Sunday school program. The Christian Education ministry team is pleased to offer four classes: Pre-school through adult. The children and youth Sunday classes will meet at 9:30 in the elementary classroom (Kathy Dickey's room!) for opening time and then break into their specific age group and classroom. At our Bounce Back to Sunday Fun event on Sept. 7th, each child will have time to visit their classroom and visit with their Sunday school teachers. September also marks new beginnings. Make a commitment to come to Sunday school and "dive" into God's wonderful Word with others. There is a place for you.

A new Saturday morning Women's Bible study is beginning on October 5th at the church. Come to the SPA where women will Study Pray Act upon God's Word and what it means to us today and as women today. Our first study is the book of Esther. No prep required. Just come and be pampered in God's grace and goodness. Mark your calendar now. For more information, call Laurel Watkins or Sheri Dittman.

FPCMISSION TEXAS on Facebook!

Check it out! Click on the 'LIKE' button and you will see the daily devotional posts by Pastor Eric and photos of events as they are added to our page. If you have any suggestions for what to include on the website, just let us know! We hope this is a way for all of us to keep up with the "happenings" at FPC Mission even when we have to be far away!

THE BUILDING SPEAKS

We had some floors stripped and waxed so we are looking shiny for the next events coming up. I hear that we are going to have a Presbyterian Women's gathering and Sunday school kick off. So there will be many voices, laughter and activity. It is good to see the building being used. The potlucks are back, and food and conversation are always welcomed inside our walls. The yard has taken a beating with the hot weather so we upped our days for watering hoping to avoid getting anyone one wet.

It sounds like a lot of energy milling around the fellowship hall and Sunday school rooms. It is so good to see people working together and helping get the children ready for the bible teachings. Don't forget if you need anything moved out or in, please let Susie know.

Sarah's Garden Gab

Hot weather and no rain have taken a toll on our prayer garden. I guess we are going to have to step up our prayers. The garden team of 3 is working hard at trimming but not too much and taking the dead plants out. We lost some lantana and thought we would replace it with fox tail fern since they like to grow so nicely out there. We are talking about putting down some more mulch so if anyone would like a day out in the garden please contact Susie or Geneva Elbers. I found a little stray dog and one that wasn't a stray and promptly chased them out of the garden. Just doing my job! Enjoy the garden.

Sarah is Mrs. Sue's chocolate lab that protects our garden!

Worship Texts for August

Study and Worship texts for September are as follows:

	First Reading	Gospel Reading
September 1	Jer. 2:4-13	Luke 14:1, 7-14
September 8	Jer. 18:1-11	Luke 14:25-33
September 15	Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28	Luke 15:1-10
September 22	Jer. 8:18-9:1	Luke 16:1-13
September 29	Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15	Luke 16:19-31

These same scriptures will be studied in Sunday School and read in Worship. Sunday School for Children, Youth and Adult begins at 9:30, and Worship begins at 10:30 each Sunday morning. Please join us as we study God's Word and seed to do God's will, together and individually.

September Birthdays

Sept 1 - Lucy Wegner
Ed Olivier
Sept 2 - George Konop
Florine Dietz
Sept 3 - Deb Horn
Sept 5 - Lee Brand
Carolyn Bell
Sept 6 - Deborah Mayes
Sept 7 - Wallace Larson
Sept 9 - Dorothy Hedges
Donald Magnuson
Sept 12 - Marjorie Crandell
Jason Wood
John Fickes
Sept 15 - Marlene Hughes
Sandy Larson
Leta Brown
Sept 16 - Bob Yount
Sept 18 - Ronald Summers
Sept 22 - Larry Gaston
Sept 23 - Judy Alexander
Sept 24 - Paul Cruz
Annabel Salinas
Sept 25 - Rolland Brendsel
Donna Fickes
Edward Hughes
Sept 27 - Robert Walker
Sept 29 - Mila Kolb

September Anniversaries

Sept 9 - Stanley and Ginny Shook

Sept 15 - Rigo and Nicole Sarinana

Sept 20 - John and Donna Fickes

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Have some info for the next newsletter?? Got a story about why you love FPC?

Want to share your favorite recipe??

Our goal for this newsletter is that it reflects who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian Church—Mission. The most important part of this newsletter is YOU! So, please send your submissions to Jordan:

jordan@fpcmission.com