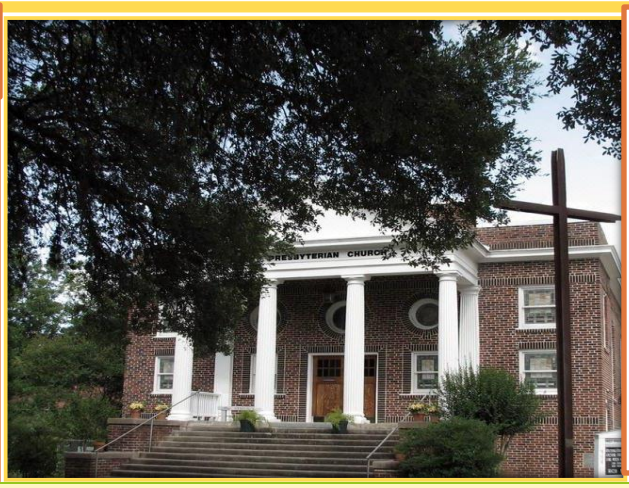
NOVEMBER 2014

First Presbyterian Church, 300 Burleson, Smithville, TX

Newsletter



Sunday Schedule

Choir Practice – 9:30 am
Sunday School – All Ages 10 am
Fellowship in Library 9:45-10:45 am
Coffee and refreshments served
Worship Service - 11 am

Grace and Gratitude

Last month when I was in Louisville at the General Assembly offices, I learned of a question the Office of Theology and Worship had recently posed. That was, "What makes Presbyterians different from other denominations?" The easy answer is "Our way of governing ourselves." But, as they noted, that doesn't particularly invite others to join us. And that led to the question, "Then why are you a Presbyterian?"

Why are you a Presbyterian? The fellowship, hospitality and good food is certainly a plus at this church, but then there are social clubs that do that. So, back to our question, "Why *are* we Presbyterian?" After some serious discussions, here's the answer they came up with - "Grace and gratitude," which is truly the heart of Calvin's understanding of scripture and the Church. More specifically, God's grace which invokes our gratitude. God's unfailing faithfulness to and love for us and our response to that faithfulness and love. Out of our gratitude for God's grace, we serve God and others.

As I listened to that message, I thought to myself, "Now that will preach!" That is an excellent description of what we are about. We don't have to save ourselves or others - God has already done that for all of us. So we can live our lives in gratitude for God's gifts to us. Not out of a sense of guilt or debt, but out of freedom, love, and joy.

So as we go into the approaching seasons, first of giving thanks and finding ways to live out that gratitude, and then of rejoicing over Incarnation - God's greatest Gift to us, let us give ourselves freely to expressing our gratitude to God. First Presbyterian, Smithville, (that would be you!) does a remarkable job of service to each other, to this community, and to the wider world. I am grateful for many things this year, but one of the things I am most grateful for is the willingness of this congregation to be open to ministry outside the walls of our building.

May your holidays truly be holy days, and may you find peace and joy in your service to this church and to others.

Blessings, love, and peace to each of you, *Jane*

Church Leadership

Pastor – Rev. Jane C. Johnson - 512.608.4293 Email - caperton6@austin.rr.com
Clerk of Session - Nancy Martin 512.661.8626
Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry 512.360.4930
Music Director – Lisa Maresh 512.308.7319
Worship Committee – Chairman Susan Guedry 512.360.4930
Mission & Outreach Committee – Chairman Janet Stephens 512.237.3814
Building & Grounds /Fellowship & Nurture Committees - Board of Deacons
Session Members - Susan Guedry, Jane Istre, Nancy Martin, Lori Lancaster, Jim McLaughlin, David Herrington, Janet Stephens

Board of Deacons – Dot Dillon, Moderator; Gloria Hurta, Hoyt Johnson, Kathy Ford, Kelly Hubley, Pat McLaughlin

Custodian – Anna Hernandez 512.237.3880

Web Site – www.fpcsmithville.org – Kathy Ford 512.321.4132

National Donor Sabbath

Sunday, November 16, 2014

Did you know…

…at any given time, about 123,920 people are waiting for an organ transplant?

…an average of eighteen people will die each day waiting for an organ?

…one organ donor can save up to 8 lives?

The Presbyterian Church (USA) recognizes the life-giving benefits of organ and tissue donation, and encourages all Christians to become organ and tissue donors as a part of their ministry to others. Chances are you think it is a natural, appropriate and giving thing to do, and have no real objections to the idea. But have you registered as an organ donor?

Nine out of ten Americans support eye, organ and tissue donation, but two out of three don't know what steps are actually required to commit to eye, organ and tissue donation. In Bastrop County, only 30% of residents are registered organ donors, compared to 42% in Travis County and 45% in Williamson County.

It only takes a minute or so to sign up online at the Glenda Dawson Donate Life Texas Registry, www.DonateLifeTexas.com. The Registry allows you to specify what organs you wish to donate after death, and for what purposes.

Remember, it is important to tell your family members that you have decided to become a donor so that they will understand your decision and support it!

A THANK YOU NOTE

Thank you, dear body of Christ, for your cards, visits, prayers concerning Bill's right hip replacement September 22. Also, thanks to Bob Martin, painter and friend. As of October 24, with 2 more weeks of PT, Bill can walk at home without a cane. Such great progress! Prayers are God's butterflies winging their way in and out of our lives, leaving beauty and hope.

Bill & Janis Riebe

FPC IS HOSTING the SMITHVILLE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 6 PM.

There will be a community choir for the service. The choir will rehearse on Wednesday, November 19 from 6-7:30 pm and at 4:30 pm on November 23 prior to the service.

Bring your friends and family!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – *Nancy Martin*

The Session of FPC Smithville met on Wednesday, October 29, 2014.

Pastor Jane reported that the Church received a $5000 gift from the family of the late L. D. Clark. The money will be used to purchase Sunday School Curriculum and updates the sound system to be determined.

Session voted to accept Stan and Betty Williams as members of FPC.

Clerk Nancy Martin and Elder Susan Guedry reported on their trip to Presbytery in San Antonio last week.

A Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, December 7, 2014 for the purpose of electing Elders and Deacons for the Class of 2017.

Elder Jane Istre reported the carpet for the fellowship hall will be installed next week.

The Community Thanksgiving Service will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on Sunday, November 23, 2014 at 6 pm.

Elder Janet Stephens reported $286 was collected for the Peacemaking Offering on October 5.

The next week for FPC to work at Born Again Emporium is November 10 – 15. All volunteers are welcome. The Jump Start program is off to a good start.

The Deacons reported that $304 was raised for the Angels Unaware program in the month of October. December 6th has been set as the date to decorate the Church for Christmas.

The Joint Elders and Deacons Meeting will be hosted by Nancy and Bob Martin on Sunday, December 14 at 5 pm. More details to follow.

Elder Jane Istre, Treasurer asked all Committees to get their budget requests for 2015 to her as soon as possible.

Elder Janet Stephens requested use of the Church for a Piano Recital on December 7, 2014 at 2 pm.

The November Session Meeting will be Sunday, November 23rd, following the worship service.

Smithville Food Pantry SEPTEMBER Report

From *Dorothy Dillon*

October

Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	Family Members
10/1	96	222	2	6
10/8	106	230	1	1
10/15	108	246	0	
10/22	111	248	3	3
10/29	116	294	4	8
Totals	537	1240	10	18

Please bring your donations on First Sunday and place them in the basket at the covered dish luncheon. There will also be envelopes available if you prefer to give money. The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank much more economically than you can purchase it at the store, so please consider giving by check/cash. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Dillon.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

From Gwen Morris

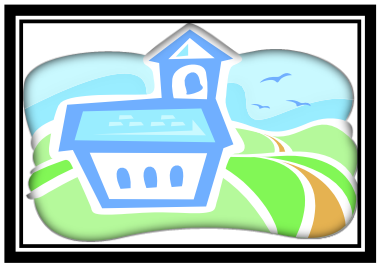
Women's Bible Study meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month, September through May. Our next meeting is on Wed., Nov. 12 at 5:30 p.m. Our study for 2014-2915 is entitled "Reconciling Paul – a Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty.

Join us then for study, fellowship and a light supper in the Fellowship Hall, downstairs. Everyone is welcome!

ANGELS UNAWARE BACKPACK PROGRAM

A big Thank You goes out to the Deacons and the congregation for their support of this program during the month of October. The program was introduced to the congregation by Kelly Hubley, and monetary donations were taken in October with a total of $304 collected! The money will go to this ministry to provide food in backpacks on Fridays to school kids who might otherwise go unfed over the weekend. Upwards of 50 students from K-12 depend on this program for nutritious.
, easy to prepare food, personal toiletry items, and other support when they are away from school on weekends.

Poinsettias go on sale Sun., Nov. 2 and will be available to purchase until Nov. 16. Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. The cost is $12 and checks should be made to the SHS Tiger Band and given to Susan. Proceeds will help fund the spring band trip to Port Aransas.

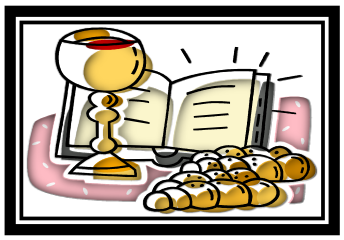


Church Attendance – Oct. 2014

Prepared by Dorothy Dillon

Date	Members	Regular Visitors	Visitors	Total
10/5	18	4	0	22
10/12	27	7	1	35
10/19	28	3	4	35
10/26	25	7	0	32

November Communion Schedule



David Herrington, Jane Istre, Jim McLaughlin, and Hoyt Johnson

The first person listed will bring the bread, prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays. (Please do not cut the bread on the silver plate.)

If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please call the Elder listed after you to prepare the communion in your place and ask one of the other Elders to serve in your place. Those who serve communion also collect the offering and should ask for a back-up before the service if you will not be able to collect the offering. Backup Elders: Nancy Evans, Gwen Morris, LaVerne Herrington, Alan Ford, John Saunders, Sammye Hodges, and Susan Guedry.

Mission Outreach - *Janet Stephens*

Our **Joy Offering** goal will be $350. I will distribute small boxes to begin collecting that offering.

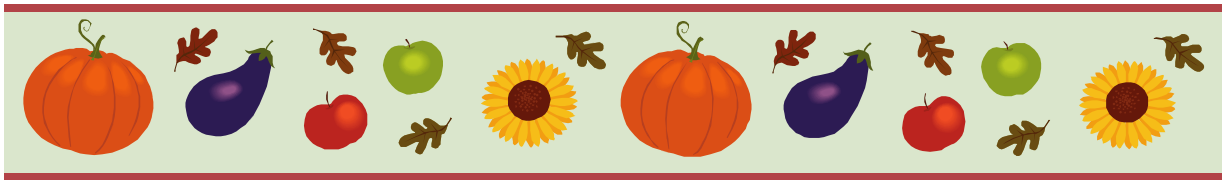
Session voted to proceed with the **Project Angel Tree**. We have been assigned a family to provide Christmas presents for their children. The presents will be given to them by a parent who is imprisoned. More information will be shared with the congregation and money will be collected by our congregation for the gifts.

We continue to work the **Born Again Emporium** store. Our next week is November 10 through 15. Hours have been changed to 9:00 to 2:00 on workdays, but on sale days, the hours continue to be 10:00 to 2:00. A huge thank you goes to all the people who help in this important endeavor.

The **Jump Start** after school program is going very smoothly. Even though we only have 3 girls enrolled, we are all having a lot of fun working with them and getting to know them better. This coming month, we will be making lotion, and learning how to do manicures and pedicures.

A **very special thank you** to our congregation!!!! You are truly in tune with God's work. This past month, we have collected over $500 for special mission projects/offerings. As we continue to do God's work, may you all be blessed for giving!!!

Upcoming Events and News



Adult Sunday School – 10:00, Sun., Nov 2 – Nov. 23 – continuing the study of "The Story." Nov. 30 we will begin our Advent Series, "A Thrill of Hope, The Christmas Story in Word and Art".

All Saints Day Service -11 a.m., Sun, Nov 2– Bring flowers to place in the church windows to remember loved ones (extra flowers and vases will be available); Communion and Covered Dish meal. Papers due to Susan for the Advent Readings (you know who you are).

Poinsettias Sale – Begins Sun., Nov 2 and ends Sun., Nov. 16. Make checks payable to SHS Band. Plants are $12 each and will be used to decorate the church until after the Christmas Eve Service when purchasers take them home to enjoy.

Born Again Emporium - **Our next week to work is *November 10 – 15, Monday through Thursday 9-2; Friday and Saturday 9-2. Come by anytime during this week to help with donations, pricing, and sales!!***
If you cannot come this week, come anytime and help other churches.

Jump Start for Girls: Each Wednesday from 4-6 pm. in our fellowship hall. Your help is always welcomed in this endeavor. Please talk to Jane Istre for more information.

Deacons Meeting - 5:30 pm, Wed., Nov. 5

Airing of the Quilts on Main St and around town 10 am – 5 pm, Sat., Nov 8

Women's Bible Study - 5:30 pm, Wed., Nov. 12

Community Choir Rehearsal - 6-7:30 pm, Wed, Nov. 19

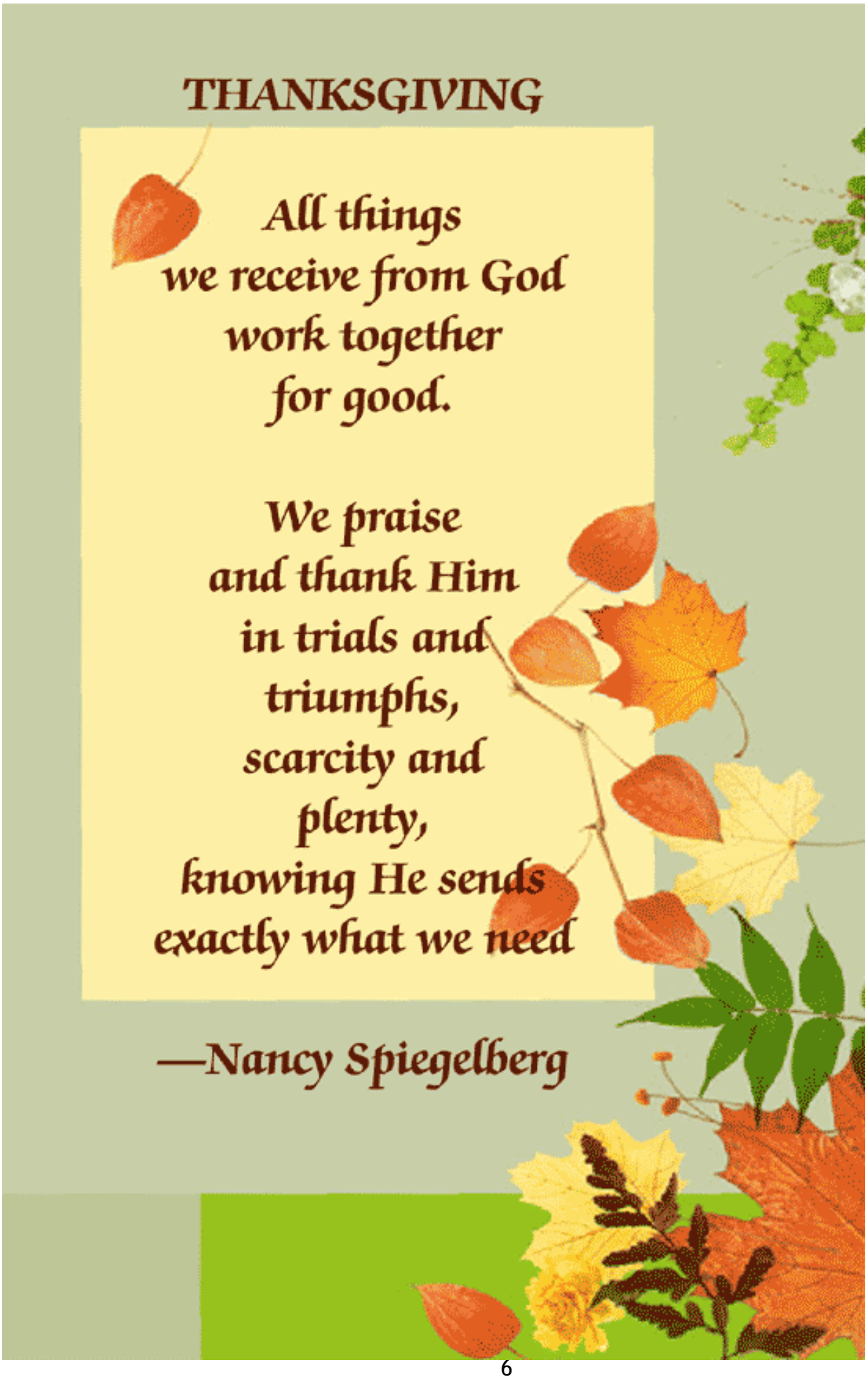
Community Choir Rehearsal - 4:30 pm, Sun., Nov. 23

Community Thanksgiving Service, FPC - 6:00 pm, Sun., Nov. 23

First Sunday in Advent, - Sun., Nov 30

Workday at Church – Decorate for Christmas - 9 am, Sat., Dec. 6

First Sunday in December – Sun., Dec. 7 – Communion and Covered Dish Meal. Donations for the Food Pantry collected.


THANKSGIVING
All things
we receive from God
work together
for good.
We praise
and thank Him
in trials and
triumphs,
scarcity and
plenty,
knowing He sends
exactly what we need
—Nancy Spiegelberg

November 2014

NOVEMBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 **All Saints' Day**
2 **21st Sunday after Pentecost** *31st Sunday in Ordinary Time* *All Saints' Day Service 11 am Communion* *Covered Dish Lunch* *Christian and Citizen* Daylight saving time ends	3 Mason Morris 	4 Election Day	5 *Deacon's Meeting - 5:30 pm.* Jump Start for Girls 4-6 pm	6	7 David Carr *World Community Day*	8 ***Airing of the Quilts 10 am to 5 pm***
9 **22nd Sunday after Pentecost** *32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time* *Caregiver*	10	11 John Saunders Veteran's Day	12 *Women's Bible Study - 5:30 p.m.* Jump Start for Girls 4-6 pm	13 *World Food Day*	14 Hunter Bell 	15 Heidi Erwin LaVerne Herrington
16 **23rd Sunday after Pentecost** *33nd Sunday in Ordinary Time*	17	18 Tom Morris 	19 Jump Start for Girls 4-6 pm	20	21 *United Nations Day*	22
23 **Christ the King/Reign of Christ** Esther Schlortt Brian Stephens Community Thanksgiving - 6pm	24 Mary Boord 	25 Wayne King 	26 Crystal Herrington Jump Start for Girls 4-6 pm	27 LaVerne & David Herrington **Thanksgiving Day**	28 Jerri Nell Winslett Tess Gosselink 	29
30 **1st Sunday of Advent** Harleigh Elliott 						

November 2014

Notes: