OCTOBER 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

Come for a visit, stay for a faith-lift.

Listening for the Word of God – A Message from Pastor Jane

Then Jesus said, "Now go and learn the meaning of this Scripture. . ." Matthew 9*:13*

Because of where we live, most of us have never been asked the question, "What is a Bible?" Everyone we come in contact with knows what a Bible is, even if they have no idea what's in it. It's a book, actually a collection of books, of sacred stories. It's the book about God. It tells us how to live.

As Presbyterians, we believe that the Bible is central to our worship and our life together. According to the Book of Order, "The church confesses the Scriptures to be the Word of God written, witnessing to God's self-revelation." (W-2.2001)

As a collection of books, written over several centuries, we tend not to think much about how these very different books of the Bible are actually one story - the story of God and God's relationship to the world, and especially to each one of us. In part, that's because we usually only read it in short pieces. Often people will decide to read the Bible all the way through, but that practice usually takes at least a year. I've never known anyone to just sit down and read the entire Bible the way they would any other book. And I'm not saying we should.

But over the next year or more, we're going to be going through the Bible in a different way on Sunday mornings, looking at different stories and tracing some themes that do, indeed, run all through Scripture. We'll be using what is called the Narrative Lectionary to guide us in the selection of stories.

I'm excited about this new way of preaching - and hearing - the Scripture. All good writing has a message that is timeless, and you discover something new every time you read it. I know this is true of reading the Bible.

We began a couple of Sundays ago, but you can start anytime. I hope you'll join us, and I'd love your feedback on it. There's really nothing like a good story, and this one really is the best!

Blessings to you all, *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

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 5- Sunday school will begin the study of "The Story-The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People." This will continue through August 2015 with breaks for Advent and Lent. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 10:45 am for fellowship, study and discussion.

Sunday, November 2 is our All Saints' Day celebration. Bring flowers for the windows to remember family and friends who have died.

Sunday, November 16 is **National Donor Sabbath**. How do you feel about becoming an eye, organ and tissue donor?

Chances are you think it is a natural, appropriate and giving thing to do and have no real objections to the idea. The Presbyterian Church (USA) certainly 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. 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!

The Advent devotional book this year will be "my first Christmas memory." Susan will be getting pages ready soon. We can use pictures if you have them.

ATTENTION ALL SINGERS!! There will be a Choir Retreat on Saturday, November 1st at Lisa and Hoyt's home from 9 am - to 11 am to work on Christmas music.

If you are not a current choir member but would like to participate, please talk to Lisa. New members are welcome, auditions not required!

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS – *Nancy Martin*

First Presbyterian Church Session met on September 24, 2014 for their monthly Stated Session Meeting.

Pastor Jane reported she will be out from October 9 through the 16th.
Alan Ford and Pastor Jane met with Christine Files from BCLTRT to develop a plan for mental health resources for the fire survivors.

The Choir will have a Retreat to start preparation of the Advent Music on November 1 from 9-11 at the home of Lisa Maresh.

A goal for the Peacemaking Offering on World Communion Sunday, October 5 was set at $200.

Samella Williams from "Angels Unaware" explained to the Deacons how the program furnishes food to children that would otherwise go unfed over the weekend. The Deacons requested permission to support "Angels Unaware" in the month of October with a special offering. Session approved.

Session approved Alan Ford as FPC Smithville's Disaster Preparedness & Response Representative and specifically authorizes Alan to "coordinate with local/county emergency management operations and interfaith disaster response organization" per Mission Presbytery's Disaster Preparedness & Response Plan. Thank you, Alan.

Smithville Food Pantry SEPTEMBER Report
From *Dorothy Dillon*

September

Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	Family Members
9/3	114	279	4	15
9/10	116	293	3	14
9/17	101	237	2	10
9/24	131	327	3	8
Totals	462	1136	12	47

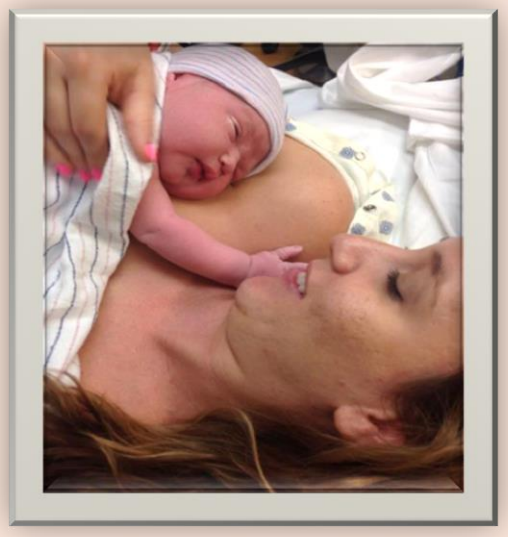
Please bring your donations on First Sunday and place them in the basket at the covered dish luncheon. There will also be envelopes available if you prefer to give money. The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank much more economically than you can purchase it at the store, so 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., Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m. Our study for 2014-2915 is entitled "Reconciling Paul – a Contemporary Study of 2 Corinthians" by Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty.

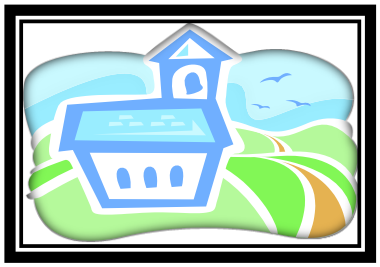
Join us then for study, fellowship and a light supper in the Fellowship Hall, downstairs. Everyone is welcome!



WELCOME and Blessings!

Rosaleigh Pearl Saunders made her arrival on Wed., Oct. 1, 2014. She weighed in at 8 lbs., 13 oz. and 20" long. Mother, father and baby are well. Other family members and friends are also ecstatic that baby is finally here and can't wait to spoil her!

Congratulations, Scott, Leah and Grandparents



Church Attendance – Sept. 2014

Prepared by Dorothy Dillon

Date	Members	Regular Visitors	Visitors	Total
8/31	22	3		25
9/7	32	3	1	36
9/14	26	4		30
9/21	30	2		32
9/28	26	3		29

COMMUNION SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

Janet Stephens, David Herrington, Jane Istre, Gloria Hurta:

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.

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.

Comments from the Clerk

From Nancy Martin

The Nominating Committee will be contacting members of the Congregation to fill the slate of 2 Elders and 2 Deacons for the Class of 2017. The Elders going off are Nancy Martin and Jane Istre; they have served 6 years so cannot run again. The 2 Deacon positions to fill are for Dorothy Dillon (6 years) and Pat McLaughlin (5 years). Give this some prayerful thought in the next few weeks, please.

That also means the Clerk of Session position could be available to any ordained Elder wishing to learn more about the record keeping of the Church and Presbytery.

The Church purchased 2 new Communion Bread Plates as the old ones were very scratched. PLEASE DO NOT CUT THE COMMUNION BREAD ON THE PLATES, FIND A CUTTING BOARD TO SLICE THE BREAD!!!

Missions and Outreach – Janet Stephens

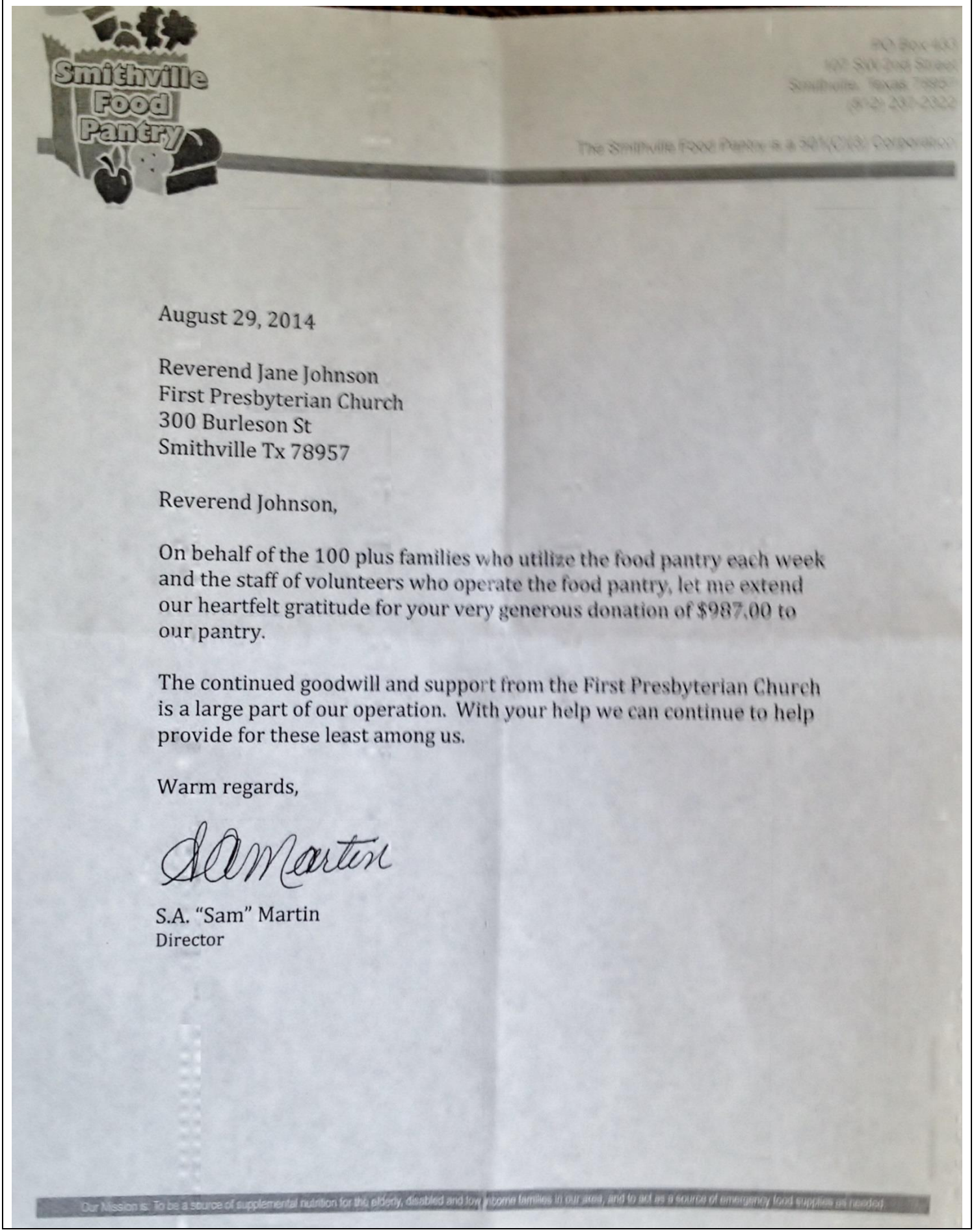
Born Again Emporium news: Our week was a great success!!! Thanks to everyone who came and volunteered their time, energy and items to sell. **We are moving locations this coming week. Our new location is 200 NW Loop 230.** Come by if you see action going on and help us!! **Our next week to work is *November 10 - 15.***

Jump Start news: We will begin our Jump Start after school program on October 8th. The cooking classes are first on our list. Hours for this are 3:00 to 6:00 every Wednesday in our fellowship hall. Your help is always welcomed in this new endeavor. Please talk to Jane Istre for more information.

Peace Giving Offering news: This Sunday, October 5th, is our Peace Giving Offering. Our goal is $200.00. This offering supports the peacemaking ministries of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. nationally and globally. As we gather this Sunday for World Communion Sunday, let us remember our neighbors and partners who help us see the transforming cultures of violence into communities of peace.

Angels Unaware Backpack Program: Samella Williams from "Angels Unaware" explained to the Deacons how the program furnishes food to children that would otherwise go unfed over the weekend. The Deacons requested permission to support "Angels Unaware" in the month of October. Session approved and Kelly Hubley will explain the program to the congregation and a

A Thank You from the Smithville Food Pantry



Smithville Food Pantry

August 29, 2014

Reverend Jane Johnson
First Presbyterian Church
300 Burleson St
Smithville Tx 78957

Reverend Johnson,

On behalf of the 100 plus families who utilize the food pantry each week and the staff of volunteers who operate the food pantry, let me extend our heartfelt gratitude for your very generous donation of $987.00 to our pantry.

The continued goodwill and support from the First Presbyterian Church is a large part of our operation. With your help we can continue to help provide for these least among us.

Warm regards,

S.A. "Sam" Martin
Director

Our Mission is: To be a source of supplemental nutrition for the elderly, disabled and low income families in our area, and to act as a source of emergency food supplies as needed.

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Sincerely,

Jeffrey Lawrence
Publisher

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P.P.S. This offer expires on October 31, 2014.

OCTOBER 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Ethan Johnson *Deacon Meeting - 5:30 p.m.*	2	3	4
5 **17th Sunday after Pentecost** *27th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** **Communion** **Covered dish lunch** *World Communion Sunday* *Peacemaking Offering*	6	7	8 *Women's Bible Study - 5:30 p.m.*	9 Shawn Hernandez 	10	11
12 **18th Sunday after Pentecost** *28th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** *Domestic Violence Awareness*	13 Sue Patterson Columbus Day	14	15	16 *World Food Day*	17	18
19 **19th Day after Pentecost** *29th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** *Children's Sabbath*	20	21 Nancy Evans 	22	23	24 *United Nations Day*	25
26 **20th Sunday after Pentecost** *20th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** Dan Rinehart *Reformation Sunday*	27	28	29 David Herrington Sue & Jim Patterson 	30	31 Jacob Guedry 	