



Presbyterian News

The First Presbyterian Church
First and Spruce Streets
P.O. Box 1118 - Dumas, Texas 79029
806-935-4423

www.dumaspresbyterian.org

John Conley, Interim Pastor
Brenda DeBons, Clerk of Session
Joyce Snow, Organist/Choir Director
Delma Stokes, Youth Director
Joyce Wethington, Church Secretary

July 2011

LIVING THE QUESTIONS

I picked up two emails today. One contained the anticipated news that a dear grade school friend's only grandson died of a cancer he had fought for most of his 16 months. His name is Carter Hurley, and his grandmother, whom I still know as Sandra Carter, kept dozens of friends up to date through emails over what seems like much longer than the length of his short earthly life.

The other email was from my niece showing pictures of my great nephew, Grant, age 5 months, smiling and floating on some raft in a swimming pool. We think how important and precious this little guy is already and then place that alongside the tragedy of another family who is heartbroken.

The lessons of faith and hope are never far away. Our sorrow and joy, tears and laughter seem to live side by side. Things are going well and then we are thrown for a loop and we wonder how life can go so wrong and so cruel.

I am reminded of a poet and philosopher named Rilke who wrote about the questions we face in life, things like Why God allows suffering?

Rilke offered the wisdom to "be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart. Learn to live the questions and one day you will find yourself living into the answers."

For me, I would like the road to be easy and wide and populated with people as agreeable as me. Then again, Jesus of all people said, "the road is hard that leads to life." (Matt.7.14)

The church has always been the place where I am with people who are here whether the way is hard or easy. I hope that is true for you.

Praying for rain,

Pastor John



Looking Ahead....

Sunday, July 3, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship

Bake Sale Fundraiser before and after church service. Come check out all the goodies!

Monday, July 4, ~ Independence Day -

Church Office Closed

Tuesday, July 5, 6:30 pm ~ VBS Meeting

Sunday, July 10, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship

Monday - Thursday, July 11 - 14 ~ Vacation Bible

School. Registration at 5:00 and VBS 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, July 12, 6:15 pm ~ **NO** Stated Session

Meeting

Friday, July 15, 6:00 to 8:00 pm ~ Sunray Pool Party

Sunday, July 17, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship - Hymn Sing

12:15 ~ Church Family Picnic

1:30 ~ Sunday School field trip to

the cross in Groom. Everyone is invited.

Wednesday, July 20th ~ Youth Night at the

church for Jr. High and High School from 6:00-9:00pm.

Sunday, July 24, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship

5:30 ~ LOGOS Leadership Team meeting.

Monday, July 25, 5:15 pm ~ Membership &

Evangelism meeting

Sunday, July 31, 10 am ~ Sunday School

11 am ~ Worship

July Birthdays

- 5 Billie Donnell
- 6 Jeff Cariker
- 7 Billy Brown
- 8 Joyce Snow
- 12 Russell Fangman
- LaFonda Keisling
- 14 Randall Keeney
- 15 Kelli Simmons
- Peggy Sloan
- 17 Sam Aldrich
- Georgia Tyler
- 18 Scott Reynolds
- 21 Dan Truelock
- 24 Shelly Burnett
- 26 Rev. John Conley
- 27 Kharena Zirker
- 30 Christian Axelsen
- Ivan Graves



Anniversaries

- 2 Ron & Gail TeBeest
- 15 John & Pat Clay
- Larry & Kay Hale
- 20 Mark & Darla Sartain
- 21 Luke & Kory Evenson
- 24 Doel & Hilary Cordero
- 25 Scott & Kelli Simmons
- 31 Richard & Peggy Erwin



Prayer Concerns

We remember the following members and friends who are facing the challenges of surgery, illness or loss of loved ones.

We remember our church prayer partner, Westminster Presbyterian Church of Lubbock. Lenora Morton, Gary Griffin, Georgia Tyler and Opal Perry are all requiring special care.

The families of Larry Graves and Myrtle McDonald who are mourning their loss.

Kyler Wilson, Jordan McGinnis, Frank Sartain, Georgann Foster and Roberta McKinney who all are concerned with cancer issues.

Doel Cordero is dealing with severe pain (back) and Paul Nystuen (abdominal).

John Clay (knee), and Jon Bose (heart valve) are recovering from surgeries.

Dear Lord, we have brought before you our cares and concerns for our members and friends. Grant them relief from pain, healing from surgeries and grant peace and comfort for those who mourn. Amen.

Prayer Request cards are available in the pews. Please place the card with your request(s) in the offering plate.

HAPPENINGS AMONG THE YOUTH...

Mission Trip 2011 was a huge success. This trip was a bit different than we normally take, but the education we were given was amazing. We were able to help out at many different facilities and meet many people who were in the process of improving their lives and those who work with those in need. St. Louis is a beautiful city with some extraordinary architecture. I would like to thank all those who prayed for us on this trip. Your prayers were felt among us all.

Those attending the mission trip were Lisa Flood, Delma Stokes, Nathan Taylor, Alfredo Ruiz, Brittney Stokes, Ashley Lance, Marcus Flores, Audry Palmer, Kamree Whackler, and Becca Skinner.

Vacation Bible School is coming up fast. We are still in need of many volunteers. If you are able to help this year, please be at the VBS meeting on July 5th at 6:30 pm at the church. Your participation is greatly appreciated.

On Sunday July 17th, we will be taking a field trip to the cross in Groom, Texas. This is an open invitation for all ages. Anyone who has been wanting to see this magnificent Cross is welcome to join us. We will be leaving after the church picnic on July 17th.

There will be a youth night for Jr. High and High School on Wednesday July 20th from 6:00-9:00 pm. We will have food, games and watch a movie. Come out and join us!

May God continue to bless this wonderful church,

~ Delma Stokes

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session met with Molly Hutches and Kisika Cariker after church services on May 22, 2011. Molly and Kisika were received into membership by reaffirmation of faith.
- Elder preacher training is scheduled for anyone who is interested in preaching, in Abilene on June 18, from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.
- Reverend Conley invited session members to select a member of the mission trip team as a prayer partner during the mission trip. Session members will include their mission prayer partner in their prayers and were invited to send a note to their prayer partner to arrive while they are in St. Louis.
- Elder Reynolds gave the financial report and noted that a transfer of \$10,000 from the special fund was made to the general fund in order to have funds available to pay the monthly bills.
- Rev. Conley requested the committee chairs schedule regular meetings for their committees and invite John to attend. Every committee and the pastor should know what the committee's job is and what they are doing.
- Session planned small groups meetings for Sunday, June 26. There will be a pot luck lunch after church services. As soon as people are finished eating, the members of the congregation will break into small groups to discuss the mission and the ministry of the church. The groups will come together after 30-45 minutes of discussion to share ideas presented in their groups with everyone.
- The church picnic is scheduled for Sunday, July 17. Rev. Conley will be attending his family reunion and will not be able to be there. A hymn sing will replace the sermon for that Sunday.
- Members of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry will meet with session at their rescheduled meeting on August 2 to discuss options available for calling a permanent pastor.
- The Building and Grounds Committee will notify the Police Department that we do not want them to enforce the designated disabled parking areas due to the fact that there are no signs notifying people that they can receive a ticket if they park in a disabled parking space without authorization.
- There will be no Sunday School on June 19 or June 26 for the Jr. High and Sr. High due to the Mission trip.
- Session approved the request of Delma Stokes, Youth Director, for vacation.
- Elder Brenda DeBons, Commissioner, and Rev. Conley reported to the Session on the Presbytery meeting in Pampa on June 3-4.
- Average attendance for worship services during May was 84.
- The Worship Committee reported that the third hymn is being put back into the worship service; the Apostle's Creed will be used more in the worship service; and from 10:45 until approximately 10:55, prior to church services, there will be a hymn sign and a time to learn contemporary hymns. Patriotic hymns (out of the hymnal) will be sung during services on July 3.
- Dr. Mark Heaney will fill the pulpit on June 19 and on July 10.
- The vacation requests of Joyce Wethington, church secretary, were approved. Volunteers will answer the phone from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., especially on days when neither John nor Delma will be in the office.

Session rescheduled and combined the session meetings for July and August into a single meeting on August 2.



Member Highlights...

Maxine and Carl Bittner were married in 1954 in Colorado. After Carl was discharged from the navy, job opportunities were scarce, and they moved to Dumas where Carl went to work at the smelter. Carl Ernst was the pastor when they joined First Presbyterian Church in 1955. Their three children grew up in our church. Through thick and thin Carl and Maxine have been faithful members and through the years both have served as elders and in various other positions. Our church is better because of their presence.

Bake Sale

There will be a fundraiser bake sale on Sunday, July 3rd to benefit the women of the church attending the Women of Faith trip to Oklahoma City, OK in November. Come out and stock up on all your Fourth of July goodies and meals!

Items will be on sale before and after the Worship Service in the narthex.



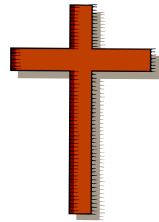
Youth Movie Night

**Jr. High and High School
Youth**

**Come join us for a movie
night downstairs in the Fellowship
Hall**

Wednesday, July 20th

6:00 - 9:00 pm



Sunday School Field Trip to the Cross in Groom, Tx

**Sunday, July 17th following the
church picnic, we will be taking a
trip to the cross in Groom. This trip
is open to anyone who would like to go. We
will be taking the church van and possibly
more vehicles if needed. Please contact
Delma Stokes 717-7413 if you are willing to
drive your vehicle.**

Let's go pray for some much needed rain.

LOGOS Leadership Team Meeting

There will be a LOGOS Leadership Team Meeting on Sunday evening July 24th in the Parlor Conference Room at 5:30 pm.

Bring a potluck snack to share

Return Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1118
Dumas TX 79029



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