

# Grace First Presbyterian Church

*Grace First Presbyterian together ... worshipping God,  
witnessing for Jesus, and working to meet human needs.*

SEPTEMBER  
2013

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

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We will celebrate

**HOLY  
COMMUNION**

Sunday, September 8



Joshua, my musician son, shared with me some new lyrics inspired by that classic children's story of the race between the tortoise and the hare. The lyrics made clever use of the tale – two animals as different as two animals could be! As the story unfolds, the tortoise is the unlikely winner of the race. Slow and steady the tortoise goes undeterred by the speed of the hare!

It's a parable that translates very well when talking about the nature of church life. As a generalization, the church tends to move rather slowly in going from "here" to "there" – or anywhere, it seems. Living in this hare-driven culture infatuated with frantic busyness and speed, the slow church tortoise has no chance to keep up! Many would even say the church was left in the dust long ago – "out of sight, out of mind" among the masses of hares running life's race at a frenetic pace.

And yet all dust eventually settles and – Lo! And Behold! – the church tortoise is still moving, marching methodically onward with its eyes focused on the larger prize. The church tortoise is not deterred by hare prognosticators busy writing the end of the church story! The church in all of its diverse and varied types is here to stay, running the race set before it; striving to be the church as Christ Jesus leads. And all along the way, we are running this



race at a pace that enables sharing the light of hope, compassion and grace with this harried culture.

Why not embrace our turtle-ness?! Why not use this slower, more methodical approach to our advantage? Case in point – leadership teams (session and diaconate) are moving forward with the Acts 16:5 Initiative that started five years ago. The Acts 16:5 Initiative is a transformational ministry process that helps churches become more effective "turtles" ministering to a culture of hares starving for real community centered upon a strong sense of purpose and mission – which only the church can provide.

Last summer, Hoyt Byrum, a consultant from the Vital Church Institute (founding organization of the Acts 16:5 Initiative) led our leadership retreat in conjunction with a church-wide survey designed to take the pulse of the congregation in some key areas of our common life.

Continued on Page 2

## NOTES FROM THE PASTOR

## Continued from Page 1

At the retreat's conclusion, there was strong consensus among the leadership team that we would commit to focus on one major shift: from *assuming* discipleship happens to being very intentional about cultivating discipleship in the life of our church.

A year later, it is time to turn our sure-footed gait in this vital direction and to be even more intentional! It starts with our leadership committing to be the pacesetters for any shift or, "here-to-there" movement. One significant shift is to move from a committee-centric ministry structure to a "team" model of ministry that intentionally cultivates discipleship growth and small group life while living out its vision and purpose.

While moving slowly and methodically under my coaching leadership, the session and diaconate will be living and breathing, working and functioning, as ministry teams. What does the change mean for you? I will explain in full detail in the next newsletter! No surprise! It's what tortoises do best – keep it slow and methodical – necks outstretched, eyes forward, becoming more determined with each step, for there is a race to be run. Watch out for those hares behind you, they slow down for no one!

Peace in Christ *Charles*

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

The Sydney Swans were the joke of the Australian Rules football league. They had the worst record, the worst players, the worst coach, and the worst fans. Most of their home games were played in front of empty seats. But a strange thing happened. The team got a new coach and a few new players and started winning. Before long, the team that had been the laughing stock of the league was a powerhouse.

And since everybody likes a winning team, you can imagine what happened next. The stands began to fill and thousands of people who had no interest in the team before began to attend games, religiously. The Sydney Swans became the talk of the town and everyone wanted to be identified with them. Soon it became almost impossible to get a ticket to a game.

One Sunday afternoon the Swans were playing a rival team in front of a capacity crowd. As the TV cameras zoomed in on the revelry around the stadium, one focused on a single man who was cheering and holding his own home made sign. Grinning proudly, he held up his sign for all to see: I WAS HERE WHEN NOBODY ELSE WAS!

What an awesome picture of Jesus. When everything seems to be against us and we feel like the biggest loser of all time, Jesus is cheering us on. He's there when nobody else is. Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever."

Peace,

*David*



## MARIALICE'S MUSIC NOTES

### YOUTH HANDBELLS

We are calling all young people in grades 6 through 12 to play in Youth Handbells this year. We have 19 in this age group and would love to see a large group of ringers. This is a great way to serve your church and a great way to enjoy fellowship with one another.

We have a planning meeting set for Sunday, September 8, immediately following worship in the Choir Room (Room 10) for ringers and parents.

Please plan to attend!

### AN "EVENING" MORNING SERVICE - SEPTEMBER 29

The Worship and Music Committee has discussed the wonderful evening hymns we have in our hymnal and we never sing them because we have no evening service.

On September 29, at our 10:40 a.m. worship, we will sing evening hymns and an evening anthem as part of the service. I grew up singing *Now the Day is Over* as a closure to children's choir rehearsal. The text of this beautiful hymn was written by an English author, Sabine Baring-Gould, who wrote the text especially for children. It is based on the text from Proverbs 3:24: "If you sit down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet."

Please plan to attend September 29, as we enjoy these special hymns in our hymnal!

### HYMN FESTIVAL CELEBRATING GLORY TO GOD

As we anticipate the new hymnal for the Presbyterian Church, *Glory To God*, a hymn festival is planned at First Presbyterian Church, 1835 Young Street in Dallas, on Sunday, September 22, at 4:00 p.m. Featured will be Dr. Mary Louise Bringle, Chair of the Presbyterian Committee on Congregational Song, and David Eicher, Hymnal Editor. Singing and Handbells Choirs as well as the Celtic Band of First Presbyterian will participate.

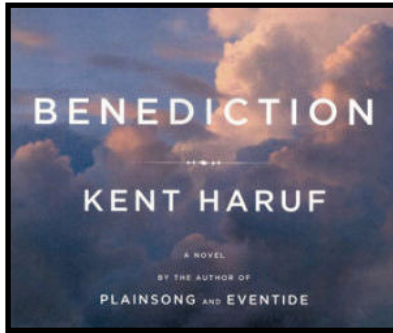
### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST 15, 2013

Approved the Backpack Project. The backpacks will be given to children at Bill Wright Elementary School.

Approved the updated Employment Policy.

Approved the rewording of the Scholarship portion of *The Structure of the Church*.

Approved allowing the congregation to make donations toward a gift card for our custodian, Curtis Johnson, to be presented to him at the September Third Sunday Lunch when we will celebrate his retirement and honor him for 30 years of service to Grace First.



## BOOK TALK

Join Presbyterian Women (Men invited, too) Thursday, September 12th for Book Talk!

We will begin at 6:00 pm with a potluck meal and afterwards, Janice Smith will lead the discussion of *Benediction* by Kent Haruf. This fictional tale is about the small town life in Holt, Colorado. When Dad Lewis is diagnosed with terminal cancer, he and his wife must work together, along with their daughter, to make his final days as comfortable as possible, despite the bitter absence of their estranged son. Next door, a young girl moves in with her grandmother and contends with the memories that Dad's condition stirs up of her own mother's death. A newly arrived preacher attempts to mend his strained relationships with his wife and son, and soon faces the disdain of his congregation when he offers more than they are used to getting on Sunday mornings. Throughout, an elderly widow and her middle-aged daughter do all they can to ease the pain of their friends and neighbors.

Good discussions, great food and fellowship will abound - come and join the fun! Bring a dish to share. Child Care available upon request.

## REGIONAL LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

GRANBURY, FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SEPTEMBER 7, 2013, 8:30 AM UNTIL 3:00 PM

First Presbyterian Church, 202 W Pearl St, Granbury, TX 76048

Workshops offered at the South Region Leadership Development Training:

- **Conflict Management & Communication:** Neill Morgan (Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Sherman)
- **History & Theology:** Mike Thompson (Associate General Presbyter, Grace Presbytery)
- **Polity:** Tom Gibbons (Pastor, St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, Richardson)

To register, go to [www.gracepresbytery.org](http://www.gracepresbytery.org) and fill out the form.

### Schedule

8:30 am - Registration & Coffee

9:00 am - Welcome & Prayer

9:15 am - Workshop I

10:45 am - Break

11:00 am - Workshop II

12:30 pm - Lunch

1:30 pm - Workshop III (until 3:00)

The workshops would be especially beneficial for church officers, but anyone interested can attend.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS



Welcome Guests

Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

**AUGUST**

- Alex Cartmill
- Jacquelyn Cartmill
- Greg Jolly
- Charlotte Willingham



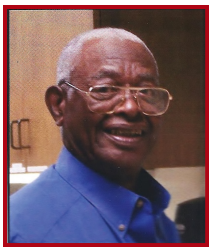
**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



To the following GFPC members:

**SEPTEMBER**

Debbie Hopkins	1	Kwinton Smith	19
Janelle Hart	2	Mary Sommers	20
Margaret Martin	4	Susan Dye	20
Bill Grissom	5	Bill Senter	21
Everly Gonzales	6	Bonnie Evans	22
Kennedy Gerber	7	Romeo Escobedo	23
Terry Nelson	10	Tom Martin	25
Paul Martino	12	Dianna Dixon	26
Erika Trevino	12	Grace Goeldner	27
Erika Smith	12	John Moulder	29
Norma Harris	14	Robyn Coffey	29
Jim Coleman	16	Glenna Haller	30
Dorothy Doss	19		



**Curtis Johnson Retiring from Grace First**

Grace First's custodian for 30 years, Curtis Johnson, has retired. We will be honoring Curtis for his many years of faithful service to our church at the Third Sunday Lunch on September 15. The congregation is invited to contribute toward a gift card that will be presented to Curtis at the Third Sunday celebration. Donations will be accepted until Wednesday, September 11. Please mark the memo line of checks with "Curtis Gift".



**Youth Group Calendar**

- Wednesday, September 4—LOGOS Begins!
- Sunday, September 8, 5:00 pm—Movie Night
- Wednesday, September 11—LOGOS
- Sunday, September 15, 4:00 pm to go to Keeneland Nursing home for worship, with Dinner after.
- Wednesday, September 18—LOGOS
- Sunday, September 22, following church to go rock climbing at Dyno Rock Gym
- Wednesday, September 25—LOGOS
- Sunday, September 29, 5:00 pm—Game Night

## MISSION & OUTREACH BACKPACK PROGRAM



Across the country, teachers and school nurses have found that in some instances, Monday morning comes and they are forced to compete against hunger for the attention of their students. More than 18 million children qualify for free or reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program, the fuel that they need to get them through the week. What happens to these children when they go home over the weekend?

Churches all around have adopted this Backpack Program to meet the needs of the children.

Here is how it works:

A school is chosen to serve and the school determines how many children are in need. We have partnered with Wright Elementary and will provide packs for ten children, to start with.

Disposable backpacks are purchased for the children to put the non-perishable foods in. Each week the packs are filled with 3 daily servings for 2 days (the weekend) The packs are dropped off at the school on Thursday or Friday, at which time the school Counselor gives backpacks to the children.

Please watch for more details and mission opportunities.



## LOGOS FALL TERM BEGINS!

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4

**LOGOS** is our Wednesday afternoon program for 3 yr. olds through 12th graders that includes children's choirs, bible study, recreation, and family dinner time.

See director Leslie Goeldner for more information and registration forms. The congregation is invited to join us for dinner each Wednesday. Watch the bulletins for the weekly menu and to make reservations.

## NEWS ABOUT CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Periodically during the past month we included an informal survey in our *Church Matters* emails. The results are very unscientific since the survey was only distributed though *Church Matters*, but we were pleased with the response.

We found that our 25 respondents all read the newsletter, found it useful, and liked the current format. They also liked having the different distribution options available - attached to *Church Matters* emails, copies located in the Narthex, copies mailed, and available through the church website.

One respondent now lives out of state, but enjoys keeping up with the goings on at Grace First. Another read the newsletter for a year before moving to Weatherford.

We are pleased that you find the newsletter useful. Thank you for the survey response, and please feel free to send along any suggestions for improvement.

**MINISTRIES & OUTREACH**

**PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN**

**Exercise Classes**

Tuesdays at 9:00 a.m., Parlor  
Thursdays at 9:00 a.m., Parlor

**FEASTING ON  
THE WORD**

The *Feasting on the Word* adult Sunday School class meets in room 14 each week at 9:15 a.m. You are invited to join us as we discuss and share ideas on the following topics:

Sept 1, Hebrews 13:1-8; 15-16  
Welcome!

Sept 8, Luke 14:25-33  
The Cost of Discipleship

Sept 15, Luke 15:1-10  
Rejoice With Me

Sept 22, 1 Timothy 2:1-7  
Praying For All

Sept 29, 1 Timothy 6:6-19  
Live Eternally Now

**MINISTRY  
MEETINGS**

*Worship & Music*

Tues., Sept 3, 3:30 p.m.

*In Touch*

Wed., Sept 4, 9:30 a.m.

*Mission & Outreach*

Thurs., Sept 5, 6:30 p.m.

*Christian Education*

Thurs., Sept 5, 7:00 p.m.

*Property*

Sat., Sept 7, 9:00 a.m.

*Trustees*

Sun., Sept 8, 9:00 a.m.  
Sun., Sept 22, 9:00 a.m.

*Deacons*

Sun., Sept 8, 12:00 p.m.

*Prayer Shawl*

Wed., Sept 11, 4:00 p.m.

*Personnel*

Wed., Sept 11, 5:00 p.m.

*First Connection*

Thurs., Sept 12 5:30 p.m.

*Congregational Life*

Thurs., Sept 12, 6:30 p.m.

*Session*

Thurs., Sept 19, 6:45 p.m.

**MANNA  
EMPHASIS  
FOR SEPTEMBER**

**bagged (dry) pinto beans  
spaghetti  
peanut butter & grape jelly**

Please put your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex each Sunday or bring by the church office during the week.

**COMPASSION  
FUND**

**PARTIAL JULY  
REPORT**

17 individuals or families were helped in July and funds were distributed in the following ways:

UTILITIES:	\$	.00
FOOD:	\$	560.00
GAS:	\$	488.00
TOTAL:	\$	1048.00

All undesignated cash put in the offering plates each Sunday will go to the Compassion Fund.

**TRINITY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEWS**



The Fall build for our next house in Weatherford is currently scheduled for October 2013, so get your hammers ready. The schedule dates are October 16 - 19, October 23 - 26, and October 30 - November 2. This house will be located at 1012 North Street.

We are closing in on the remaining funds, but currently still need \$14,400.

In other Habitat News: Former President Jimmy Carter and First Lady Rosalynn Carter are scheduled to be in Dallas-Fort Worth in October of 2014 to host their annual namesake work project for Habitat for Humanity International, which draws hundreds of volunteers from around the world. Scheduled for Oct 5-11, 2014, 18 to 20 houses will be constructed in the 5400 block of Van Natta Lane and the 5300 block of Greenlee Drive on the city's far east side.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

**7****PRESBYTERIAN MEN'S BREAKFAST**

Saturday, September 7, at 8:00 am in the Parlor.

**4****LOGOS FALL TERM BEGINS!**

Wednesday, September 4. Watch the bulletins for the weekly menu and to make reservations.

**13 & 14****STATED GRACE PRESBYTERY MEETING**

Friday, September 13, All Day, and Saturday, September 14, 9:00 am—Noon..

Trinity Presbyterian Church, 5871 Virginia Pkwy, McKinney, TX 75071.

Online Registration available at <http://www.gracepresbytery.org/>**15****THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH**

Sunday, September 15, after worship in the Great Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share and stay for good food and good fellowship. We will be honoring **Curtis Johnson** for his many years of faithful service to our church. He and his family will be invited to join us for lunch.

**29****PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER**

Sunday, September 29. Grace First will be providing the food & serving the evening meal. Volunteers will be needed to help. Watch for sign-up opportunities in the September bulletins.

## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Edna Garza-Escobedo's friend's son, who is scheduled for further kidney transplant surgery; Kathy Dalrymples' mother, Joyce Marshall, who is recovering from hip surgery; Bel Wise, who is recovering from arm surgery; Ken and Robin Oosterhout's granddaughter, Maggie Vandivort, who is recovering from serious burns to her face; Fred Ryle's sister, Dorothy Jackson, who is recovering from bladder surgery; The Labrake family's friend, Charlotte McCollough, in the death of her husband; Donna Allen who will be undergoing hip replacement surgery; Robyn Coffey's friend, Cara Waltrip, who is awaiting open heart by-pass surgery; Julia Sealy, whose health is declining and has been confined to a wheelchair; Blake Viehmann as he deals with life challenges; Betty Mill's friend, Dana Doss McLaughlin, who has stage 4 lung cancer; Joe Glover who is recovering from surgery; Greta Henderson who will be having hip replacement surgery; Meagan Arnold who is recovering from kidney surgery; Norma Harris, who is recovering from surgery; Marion Harris' mother, Chloe-Marion Perry, who has been hospitalized.

Continued prayers for Janet Douglass; Katie Bruner's friend, Yvonne Michaud; Kwin Smith; Jolene McGowen's friend, Glennas Rowe; Roberta Furman's friend, Sherry Johnson; Maygen Proctor's father-in-law, Bobby Proctor; Dannie Woodard; Kelly Baggett's friend, Theresa Crespo; Dale Schau; Stephanie Eidson's co-worker, Chris Curtis; Kay Sheffield & Christie Tull's friend, Carrie Ferrer; Bob Hopkins and his friend, Lisa Wenninger; Arda Morgan's husband, Frank; Martha Klatt; Barbara Ryle; The Roberts family; Greta Henderson's sister, Jackie DeSalme; Patsy Hooks; Dan Goldsmith's mother, Grace; Sam Burgess; Nick Hays; Ron Hansen's mother, Elenora Hansen; Trenton Garrett; Ben McPherson's daughter, Cindy; Janelle Currin's mother; Dave Kaiser; Coleman's friend, Bob Perkins; Karen Lail's mother, Evelyn Bredel; Chase Slyter's friend, Kyle Dealing; Wanda Nichols; all those serving in the military and their families; and our homebound and nursing home members.



MEMORIALS FOR NEW HYMNALS

Grace First will have new Presbyterian hymnals arriving this Fall. The new hymnal will include almost all of the hymns that we use in the current bound hymnal. It will also include many more hymns, some that are old favorites that were not in the current hymnal, and some that will be new to us.

The Worship and Music Committee is hoping that members of the congregation will sponsor the purchase of one or more of the new hymnals (250 embossed hymnals have been ordered.) The cost is approximately \$20 per copy. You are invited to donate the cost of one or more hymnals as a memorial to a loved one or to honor someone living. The names of those honored and/or memorialized will be listed in the Memorial Book in the narthex. Donation forms are available in the church office and on the table in the narthex, as well as here in the newsletter. If you would like to make a gift to the Hymnal Fund, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or bring to the church office, along with your check (made out to Grace First, with "Hymnal Fund" noted in the memo line).

DONATIONS FOR NEW PRESBYTERIAN HYMNALS

In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Amount of Donation:

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(Cost of Hymnals \$20 each)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**New Hymnal Update:** As of July 1, \$2715 has been donated for new hymnals. A remaining balance of \$1750 is still needed to complete the order for this Fall.

REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE

KANS FOR KIDS



Thanks to all of you who so faithfully bring your aluminum drink cans for recycling. This fall we have provided \$90 to the kindergarten teachers in three Weatherford elementary schools so these little ones can order

books. This means that 90 children who cannot otherwise afford them now have books of their own. The teachers have told me how delighted and proud the children are of their books. Let's keep up the good work on this most worthwhile project! If you cannot bring them to the church, I can pick up your cans.

Linda Young (817-991-2550)



RECYCLE INKJET CARTRIDGES

All proceeds for this program go to *Trinity Habitat for Humanity*.



CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

The old cell phones that you donate will be recycled and sold for minutes for our soldiers to call home.

Collection boxes for donated cell phones and inkjet cartridges are in the coffee area.

CHURCH OFFICERS JUNE 2013-MAY 2014

**Session**  
 Kelly Baggett  
 Joe Barnhart  
 Nancy Deison, *Trustee*  
 Stephanie Eidson  
 Dale Fleeger, *Trustee*  
 Robert Franek

Leslie Goeldner  
 Dan Goldsmith  
 Jamie Mittendorf  
 Jane Moss  
 Scarlett Roberts, *Youth Elder*  
 Bill Sommers, *Trustee*  
 Gary Snow  
 Ed Moss, *Treasurer*

**Board of Deacons**  
 Bob Allen  
 Donna Allen  
 Liz Clark  
 Rusty Crownover  
 Kathy Dalrymple, *Moderator*  
 Janet Duncan, *Secretary*

Kevin Goeldner  
 Mark Harris  
 Amber Ingram, *Youth Deacon*  
 Jeff Kahlden  
 Sue Masterson  
 Mary Sommers  
 Christie Tull



Grace First Presbyterian Church  
606 Mockingbird Lane  
Weatherford, TX 76086

**GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
606 MOCKINGBIRD LANE, WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

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**SUNDAY MORNING  
SCHEDULE**

Sunday School Classes for all ages—9:15 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship—10:25 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.

**S T A F F**

Pastor, *The Rev. Charles A. Bruner*  
Associate Pastor, *The Rev. David A. Slyter*  
Pastor Emeritus, *The Rev. Fred A. Ryle, Jr., D. Min.*  
Ministers, *The Congregation*  
Dir. of Music & Organist, *Marialice Parish, M. M.*  
Office Coordinator, *Jill Bray*  
Financial Administrator, *Kimberly Perry*  
Office Assistant, *Amy Justice*  
Communications Administrator, *Dale Rogers*

**P H O N E N U M B E R S**

817-594-2744, 817-341-2258 (metro),  
1-800-429-7496, 817-594-7143 (fax)

**W E B S I T E**

[WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG)

**E M A I L A D D R E S S E S**

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