

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MINISTRY VALUING THE PAST, VISIONING THE FUTURE.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

OCTOBER 2009

Just a few fallible words about what I think from month to month...

Rev. Susan

YA'LL COME!

OPEN HOUSE AT THE ARNOLDS'

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, FROM 2:30 – 4:30 P.M.



CAN YOU BELIEVE IT!! We've been here one year. As John, Matthew, Ruth and I look back over this past year, we find so much for which to be thankful and grateful. You, here at First Presbyterian, are the reason for much of that gratitude. Because we are so thankful to God, and feel so blessed, we want to celebrate with you our one year anniversary in your midst. Please come join us AT OUR HOUSE on Sunday afternoon, October 4, from 2:30 p.m – 4:30 p.m. We'll have finger food, a punch bowl, and iced tea ready to share, and hopefully some fun extras indoors and out. It's our way of saying "thank-you" for welcoming us so warmly, integrating us so thoroughly, and allowing us to share so completely in your lives. As you may have figured out by now, we're a casual bunch, so the dress is whatever you're comfortable in. Get those Sunday clothes off, if you have time, and put on some jeans. Hope to see you there...

3706 Maplecrest

(Texas side. North of I-30. Take Summerhill or Richmond Rd. to Moore's Lane. Turn onto Stoneridge and go almost to Skyline Drive at the other end. We're one block south of/before you get to Skyline Drive, on the corner of Stoneridge & Maplecrest.)

BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY **STUDY OF JOHN'S REVELATION**

October 1	Chapter 16	November 12	Chapter 21
October 8	No Class	November 19	Chapter 22/ Conclusion
October 15	Chapter 17		
October 22	Chapter 18		
October 29	Chapter 19		
November 5	Chapter 20		



2009 Peacemaking Offering

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday, October 4

SPIRITUAL PEAK PERFORMANCE—4 DAMAGING MINDSETS

BY REV. JOHN ARNOLD

I was speaking this morning to life coach, Brad Denham and he was sharing with me 4 mindsets that rob us of peak performance. I realized there were spiritual implications for what he was sharing when he said that each of the mindsets is a lie and that we have to get at living in the truth. The four mindsets he mentioned are: blaming, excusing, complaining, and judging.

These mindsets are impurities of thought that erode our spirit, deplete our energy, drain valuable time, and can even damage the body of Christ. Take, for example, blaming. There is little or no productive value in blame unless we are going to hold someone accountable. More often than not I find that when I am fixated on blaming, I am dodging my own personal responsibility. Blame can also become a seedbed for resentment, if we are not careful.

The alternative to blame is to focus upon your own actions and attitudes. When there is a problem, stay focused on having a servant heart. Identify your part, if any. Then take responsibility and take action.

God desires to have us completely: heart, mind, soul, and body. He can't have us when we are spinning our mental wheels in lies and self-deception. To learn more about how each of these mindsets are damaging to our discipleship, visit my blog <http://www.thepracticaldisciple.com>. Enter the words, "peak performance" in the search box at the top of the far right column. Blessings to you in giving God your very best as you purge yourself of wasted thoughts and attitudes.

2009 "CHANGE FOR CHILDREN" FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN FOR WATERSPRINGS RANCH

The Diaconate's monthly mission for October, November, and December is the 2009 "Change for Children" Fundraising Campaign for Watersprings Ranch. The contact person for our church is Lucy Sarrett. Please take a coin bank that will be available in the Fellowship Hall foyer and fill it with your loose change over the next 3 months. There are currently 36 children at the Ranch. The money raised from this campaign will help provide food, clothing, medical and education needs for the children at the Ranch. The Ranch is privately funded and receives no state funding. All gifts are tax deductible through Watersprings Ranch. If you have any questions, please contact Lucy at (903) 277-7351.

'ROUND THE COFFEE POT VOLUNTEERS

October 4 – Mona Fomby
 October 11 - Nelda LeBoeuf
 October 18 - LaWanda West
 Oct. 25 - Florence Crank & Stephanie Jackson
 We thank these good people for their service.

If you are willing to serve, please contact Martha Nell Richards at (903) 838-7106.

SYMPATHY

Evelyn Stewart,
 sister of
Thomas R. Boyles,
 passed away on
September 3, 2009.



SYMPATHY

Frances Thomas,
 mother of Sue
Ellen Letterman,
 passed away on
September 23, 2009.



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

Thank Offering 2009

Traditionally **the PW Thank Offering is collected in October each year.** In theory, all year long we put aside our pennies or dimes or even dollars when we think of the little (and big) things that we have to be thankful for and it adds up to our Thank Offering for that year.

The fall issue of the PW Horizons Magazine had a beautiful service of dedication for our 2009 offering.

Meditation

Throughout the world, many people are the beneficiaries of offerings received by Presbyterian Women. Hospitals and schools have been built; doctors, nurses and teachers have been trained; orphans and vulnerable children have received loving care; programs have been established to rebuild lives and restore the dignity of those who have suffered because of violence, conflicts and war; and women have been empowered and trained to support their families and themselves through income-generating projects and microenterprise.

With thanksgiving we can be pleased with how God has been at work through the generosity of Presbyterian Women. We also are reminded that it is because God has so abundantly blessed us that we are able to be a blessing for others through our gifts and offerings. We rejoice that God is able to use our gifts and offerings to build up the lives of others for the sake of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, for all of the many blessings that we enjoy, we give you thanks. We especially thank you that because of the abundance of gifts that we have received, we are able to be participants in your mission in the world. You have called us to serve others in your name. We pray that through these gifts, your love, your healing presence, your grace and your peace will be made known in the lives of people throughout the world that you have entrusted to our care. May all who benefit from these offerings rejoice because of all you have done for all of us. Amen

So if you have been putting aside those coins all year long, or not - bring your Thank Offering to a circle meeting this month or contact PW Treasurer, Gail Abrahamson, to contribute.

Many will benefit from our gifts - Twenty seven grants will be given to projects that meet criteria established by the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women. Each must have a purpose that meets basic human needs and provides a form of aid that relates directly to the people being served. At least 40% of the Thank Offering funds go to health related projects.

.....and all the people rejoiced because of what God had done.....2 Chronicles 29:36

Youth Group Food Drive begins now

For many, many Thanksgivings past, the FPC youth have sponsored a food drive for hungry families in our community. Through the generous support of our congregation and friends, we have been able to fill the pantries, if only for a short time, of those who struggle with daily expenses. It is time to begin collecting non-perishable food items for our 2009 Thanksgiving Basket project.

Our goal this year is to provide 50 banana boxes filled with non-perishable food items and a roasted chicken to families in our community. We are now collecting food and donations of money towards the purchase of chickens. We are also collecting banana boxes to transport the food items.

A spaghetti luncheon will be held in the Fellowship Hall, immediately following worship on Sunday, November 15. Baskets will be delivered to families and organizations on Sunday, November 22, following our Worship service and a light lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

Please provide Jane Portis with contact information of families you know that will benefit from receiving a Thanksgiving basket.

Over 36 million Americans live in food insecure households, over 23 million adults and over 12 million children. Join us in our endeavor to provide a small amount of relief, for a short time, in our own community.

For hunger statistics, visit:

www.harvesttexasarkana.org

www.feedingamerica.org

www.frac.org

www.bread.org

Thanksgiving Baskets

Suggested Items

October 4 canned vegetables, soups, fruits, cranberry sauce

October 11 peanut butter, jellies

October 18 canned meats (tuna, potted meat, Spam, ham, Vienna sausages, chili)

October 25 dried stuffing and dressing mixes, mashed potato mixes

November 1 rice, macaroni & cheese, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce

dried
oatmeal



November 8
cereals,

November 15 dried rice, dried beans

October Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 4:00 p.m. Handbells I
 4:00 p.m. Youth Guitar Instruction (Alternate Weeks)
 4:30 p.m. Youth Music Practice (Alternate Weeks)
 5:00 p.m. Youth Handbells
 6:00 p.m. Handbells II
 6:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups

MONDAY

7:30-5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Baby Steps & Preschool
 6:00 p.m. Tower Bells — Lessons for Beginners
 7:00 p.m. Tower Bells — Practice
 7:00 p.m. Al-Anon

TUESDAY

7:30-5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Baby Steps & Preschool
 10 - 12:00 p.m. Prescription Assistance Program
 11:30 a.m. Texarkana Women's Chorus Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY

7:30-5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Baby Steps & Preschool
 9:30 a.m. Card Ministry Team
 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper
 6:30 p.m. Stewpot Classes
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

7:30-5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Baby Steps & Preschool
 9:00 a.m. Angel Quilts
 10:00 a.m. The Sharing Place
 12:00 p.m. Brown Bag Bible Study

FRIDAY

7:30-5:30 p.m. First Presbyterian Baby Steps & Preschool

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1

6:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

8:00 a.m. Tower Bells — Ringing/Teaching Session

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

6:00 p.m. Dinner Randy Sams' Shelter

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 6

6:30 p.m. Circle of Friends Meeting — Annex Building

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

5:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting

5:00 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting

MONDAY, OCTOBER 12

10:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting

12:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting

6:30 p.m. Alpha Delta Kappa Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle — Annex Building

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14

5:00 p.m. Diaconate

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

7:00 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Margie Rhoads

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

4:00 p.m. Church Picnic/Friendship Day

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20

10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Anne Greisser Circle — Library

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21

5:00 p.m. Baby Steps & Preschool Board Meeting

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22

5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

October Birthdays

1 - Erin McCasland	17 - Lynn Jackson
1 - Bob Veon	19 - Laura Lee Lacy
2 - Blanche Barber	21 - Tommy Boyles
2 - LaWanda West	22 - Frank West
3 - Sally Sue Rogers	23 - Nina Madden
4 - Chad Triptow	23 - Margo Strickland
4 - Sherry Wilburn	24 - Jake Boyles
6 - Andrew Gloster	24 - Lora Davis
8 - Danny Gray	24 - Carmon McFerran
12 - Lee Homan	26 - Dorothy Siebel
13 - Carolyn Brown	27 - Merilynn Johnson
13 - Cordell Klein	29 - Amy Triptow
15 - Maxwell Blain	30 - DeeDee Pope
16 - Eli Jackson	30 - Aileen Williams



October Anniversaries

11 - Molly Beth & Bruce Malcolm
 28 - Debbie & Billy Lavender
 31 - Merilynn & Don Johnson

First Presbyterian Church Baby Steps and Preschool

October 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 MUSIC	6	7 CHAPEL	8 MUSIC	9	10 Invoices Due Camylle B-day
11	12 MUSIC	13	14 CHAPEL	15 MUSIC	16	17
18	19 MUSIC	20	21 CHAPEL	22 MUSIC Carson B-day	23	24 Reagan's B-day
25	26 MUSIC	27	28 CHAPEL	29 MUSIC	30	31

LETTER FROM DIRECTOR

Although I haven't been here long, I can already see positive changes. I have been working hard to get things in order. I look forward to working with you all in the future. Thanks for inviting my significant other and me to dinner the other night; we thoroughly enjoyed it. You all have made me feel right at home. I know this is the place I want to be!

Thanks,

Shawna Gauntt

ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

- We are looking for someone who is interested in a Substitute position, to fill in when a teacher is absent.
- We need 10 full-time children. We have graciously been given 300 fliers to advertise our Preschool. If you would like some to pass out, please come by my office and get them. Also, if you are interested in passing out fliers to businesses, churches, doctor offices, etc., please let me know ASAP.

Congratulations!
 Congratulations to the
 Gray, Gray, & Crank Families
 on the birth of
 Cale Daniel Gray
 who was born on
 September 10, 2009, to
 Ginger and Alan Gray.



THANK YOU NOTE

9-15-09

Thank you for all the cards you sent for the death of Dian's mother Barbara Boyd of Hot Springs who died 8-18-09.

Thank you & God Bless you all,
 Louis & Dian Acruman

ONGOING FINANCIAL STATUS

	<u>AUGUST</u>		<u>YEAR-TO-DATE</u>	
	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Income	\$ 38,564.83	\$38,835.33	\$298,693.47	\$310,682.64
Expenses	<u>46,725.47</u>	<u>47,670.08</u>	<u>347,028.66</u>	<u>381,360.64</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$ 8,160.64)</u>	<u>(\$ 8,834.75)</u>	<u>(\$48,335.19)</u>	<u>(\$70,678.00)</u>

SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for
 Family Camp,
 July 9 - 11, 2010.



MUSICAL NOTES FROM DR. JIM

For years, I have actively participated in Bible Study Fellowship—something I have immensely enjoyed, that I value greatly, and from which I have learned much about God, and about myself. Today, I am grateful for the opportunity to learn about Who God is, and for a greater understanding of the miracle it is to be a Christian.

Last year, we studied Moses, one of God's greatest servants. Now, Moses certainly showed himself to be human—as human as the rest of us. Self-doubts troubled him. Excuses rolled off his tongue. On more than one occasion, his weak temperament led to some rash behaviors. In the end, Moses paid a heavy price, ultimately suffering God's punishment for his unwise decisions. One may be tempted to ask, "How could God use such an individual?" And yet, that is one of the greatest parts of the miracle. *God did not give up on Moses.*

God *did* use Moses in great ways. Why? I think Moses realized both his need for God, and his need to serve God. Moses became God's instrument. He wasn't perfect. But, he was willing. And, one can be sure that God knew about Moses' weaknesses. One cannot hide anything from God. But God used these weaknesses to teach Moses that *God* was responsible for the success of getting the children of Israel out of Egypt—not *Moses*.

In the same manner, *God does not give up on us.*

Psalm 46: 10 tells us to ". . . *be still and know that I am God.*" He will be exalted among the nations—not *us*. And that's the way it should be.

Have you ever stopped to think that God can do the same for us—that He can use us in the same manner, and that He walks beside us in our difficulties, just like He did with Moses and the children of Israel?

Often, when facing a daunting task, and with my anxiety rising, it helps me to remember Who is in charge, Who put me where I am, and Who gave me the talents and abilities with which I serve Him. Often, I find peace when I humbly bow before God, invite Him into my challenges, by saying "Lord, I give this over to You. You are responsible for the success of this enterprise. You opened the door. I am here, and I am Your instrument in this circumstance. Do within me, and through me that which You would do." With that, I choose to move forward.

The next time someone calls upon you to be a part of some ministry, or to serve in some particular manner—especially if it seems unlikely, completely out of character for you, uncomfortable, whatever. . . stop and ask, "Is God calling me to this?" When God calls us, He equips us. Put yourself in His hands. Be His instrument, and then watch what He will do! Then, thank Him for the blessing of being His disciple, enabled by His power and His strength, all of which are at work within you.

In His faithful service,

Jim Spirup, Director of Music Ministries/Organist
 First Presbyterian Church

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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We're on the Web!
www.firstprestexarkana.org

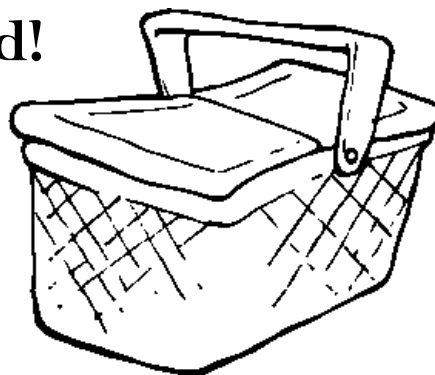
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Church Picnic

October 18th, 4:00-6:00 p.m.

- Don't Forget—**Bring a Friend!**
- Bring a Dish
- Join the Fun at the Church



Young People vs. Old People Kickball Game
Games for younger children provided as well.