



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND

Life

news to grow on

Edition 9 - October 2010

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Dear Friends,

“Stories open doors to areas or aspects of life that we didn’t know were there, or had quit noticing out of over-familiarity, or had supposed were out-of-bounds for us. Then they welcome us in. Stories are verbal acts of hospitality.”

Eugene Peterson

This fall we have been and will continue to talk a lot about stories. We’re looking at the stories Jesus told in worship on Sunday mornings and having the opportunity to hear some stories of what God is doing in the lives of our congregation. We’re learning how to tell our own stories on Wednesday nights. In the parenting class I’m a part of, we’re exploring how we invite our children to see themselves as part of God’s larger story.

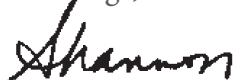
I ran across this quote from Peterson (above) while preparing for another Gathering class. I think perhaps the reason God has chosen to reveal himself so often in story is precisely because of what Peterson observes. God desires to welcome us in, longs to include us, has a significant part for each of us to play in his story. Stories grab our attention. Stories help us look at life from a perspective different from our own. Good stories give us a longing to be part of something bigger than ourselves.

One of the ways we are measuring our success in fulfilling our mission at FPC to love and lead all people to deeper life in Jesus Christ, is by whether or not we are telling our own stories. We don’t tell our own stories to toot our own horns. As followers of Jesus, our stories are really stories about God who is present and active and working in us. When we share our stories and experiences of God, we invite people into our lives, not just to know us but to know Jesus who lives in us. “Stories are verbal acts of hospitality.”

One of my favorite story tellers is Frederick Buechner. He writes in his book *Telling Secrets*, “My story is important not because it is mine, God knows, but because if I tell it anything like right, the chances are you will recognize that in many ways it is also yours. Maybe nothing is more important than that we keep track, you and I, of these stories of who we are and where we have come from and who we have met along the way because it is precisely through these stories...that God makes himself known to each of us most powerfully and personally. If this is true, it means that to lose track of our stories is to be profoundly impoverished not only humanly but also spiritually.”

Your story- of who you are, where you have been and who God has put in your life along the way - is a gift of great value. It’s a story that just might introduce another to the Jesus who lives in you. Will you be brave enough to tell it?

Blessings,



Shannon

The Bridge “sermon only” CDs are available

Order forms are available at the church reception area or call Rhondy at 684-7821 to place an order.

DVDs now available upon request

of 11:00 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary.

Cost of each DVD is \$5.



Prayers for...

Prayers of Intercession are requested for John Asdo, Jered Groner, Paul Latham, Jess Parrish, Sarah Porter, Maneeta Heckathorne.

Please pray for military personnel deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan): Chris, Michael, Casey, Daniel, Carlos, Megan, Drew McKelwaith, Michael Wood, Chris Miles, Aaron French, David Thornhill, Hank Hortenstine, Adam Graham, Tom Wolters, Mike Neu, Edwin Gaston, Matt Sullivan, Zach Frisbie, Eric Van Dyke, Kristian Kirkland, Jake Hall, Hunter D. Martin, Clayton Slover, Damon Darnell, Danny Wakefield, Dean Forest.

Congratulations to...

Danielle and Doug Wood upon the birth of their son, Corin Guy Wood, born August 26, 2010 in California; great grandson of Judia and Dan Foreman.

Jill and Justin Ham upon the birth of their daughter, Emery Elizabeth Ham, born September 8, 2010; sister of Carson; niece of Diane and Josh Ham; cousin of Davis and Andy Ham.

Erin and Jeff Wyrick upon the birth of their daughter, Ellison Jayne Wyrick, born September 9, 2010; niece of Todd and Sarah Wyrick.

Megan and Nate Brignon upon the birth of their son, Benjamin Townes Brignon, born September 14, 2010, in Midland; grandson of Mary Helen Hawkes Phillips (former member).

Heather and Austin Peeler upon the birth of their daughter, Paisley Joy Peeler, born September 14, 2010; sister of Kaylee; granddaughter of Pam and Kyle Peeler; niece of Adam Peeler.

Natalie and Douglas Prieto upon the birth of their daughter, Peyton Dray Prieto, born September 15, 2010; granddaughter of Mark and Lynn Pace; niece of Diana (Prieto) Blake and Emily Prieto; great niece of Paula and Gary Douglas.

Condolences to...

Nancy Jordan upon the death of her son, Craig Jordan, on August 26, 2010, in Allen, Texas.

Bob and Vicki Rice upon the death of Bob's mother, Shirley Rice, on August 28, 2010.

Lynne, Nick and Sam Parsley upon the death of Matt Parsley, Lynne's husband and Nick and Sam's father, on August 31, 2010.

Faye and Laddie Long upon the death of Faye's sister, Corky Trott, on September 3, 2010, in San Antonio.

Van and Margy Tettleton upon the death of Van's stepfather, William Roden, on September 4, 2010.

Bruce and Terry Gilmour upon the death of Jesse Gilmour on September 8, 2010.

The family of Bill Thams upon his death on September 10, 2010.

Thank you for your nice letters...

Please stop by the information center at the Texas Street reception area to read the lovely thank you notes we have received from LuAnn, Ryan, and Morgan Lane, Jessalyn Eschberger, the Association of Gifted and Talented Parents, and Lee High School.

Sunday Music Schedule

October 3

In celebration of World-Wide Communion Sunday, the Sanctuary Choir will sing music by Kallman and Courtney at both services, and the Elementary and Junior Choirs will sing at 11:00 worship.

October 10

The Sanctuary Choir will sing "How Can I Keep from Singing" by Davis at 11:00 worship.

October 17

The Agape Ringers, assisted by the Lone Star Brass, will play music by Respighi and Copland at both services.

October 24

"Jubilate" will sing at 8:15 worship, and the Sanctuary Choir, assisted by bassist Mark Lowe, will sing anthems by Gardner and Scott at 11:00 worship.

October 31

In celebration of All Saints Day, the Sanctuary Choir will sing anthems by Tavener and Rutter at both services.



Plug into the Children's Ministry at FPC!



Children's Ministry Highlights:

Dear Parents:

What a wonderful beginning to our Sunday School year! We have loved having so many of the children each Sunday. The teachers are enjoying getting to know your children and helping them build a relationship with God. We (teachers and children) miss them so much, especially since we only get to see them once a week. Encourage your children to be on time, so they don't miss out or disrupt any part of the class. After class make sure that you take some time to ask your children what they learned in Sunday School each Sunday. We want them to understand the importance of growing spiritually, just as we want them to grow in their other activities. Besides Sunday School, your child has the opportunity to grow spiritually with our Wednesday activities of Miss Club and Choir. Both are available for our 4 year olds through our 6th graders. Don't let your children miss out and help them be on time!

Special Sunday activities planned intentionally for:

- October 24 – Acolyte training for 5th graders during Sunday School
- October 24 – Sacraments class for 1st and 2nd graders from 2 - 4 p.m.
- October 31 – 6th grade Parent Meeting



Early Childhood Ministry

Laughter and excitement once again fill the Child Development Center halls as First Presbyterian Mother's Day Out and Preschool Program are back in session. Both programs began the 2010-2011 school year on September 7th. There are 158 students enrolled in both programs, and 32 talented staff members help them grow and learn.

The calendar is filled with new and exciting activities. Children will be painting, playing, and singing, all while learning about Jesus' amazing love. Everyone is looking forward to a fantastic year.



Living in the Book

The Gathering continues through Wednesday, November 17th, with dinner and opportunities for all ages. See the Fall for All brochures for a complete list of opportunities for all ages on Wednesday nights at FPC.

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|------------------|--|
| 5:30 p.m. | Dinner in Lynn Hall |
| 5:55 p.m. | 5:55 Bible Club (K4 - Grade 6) |
| 6:30 p.m. | Classes for Adults |
| | Children's Choir (K4 - Grade 6) |
| | JOLT (Grade 7-12) |
| 7:30 p.m. | Sanctuary Choir |

Nursery is provided for children of kindergarten age and under from 6-9 p.m. every Wednesday.

Please join us for our fall Bible Studies! The Tuesday Morning Bible Study, led by Steve Schorr, meets each Tuesday at 6:30 a.m. in the Koinonia Room and is studying the Book of Acts.



Aequus Nox

By John P. Van Dusen

And if Pera is having difficulty today relating to those around her what does it matter? Today she turns her head upward and drinks in the last of the summer sun. It's moved away toward the equator and the angle of its once brutal rays now only has the power to project a gauzy silence in the orchard's treetops. Insects, quieted a bit by the change in season, busily finish their life's work knowing time is short. The earth explodes upwards and calls for harvest. Pera, feet on the ground—head in the sky, always the dreamer. Around her a slice of humanity seems to race about picking out boxes of apples, pears, and peaches. Some in hand, gobbled up greedily, the goodness trickles down the throat and slops onto t-shirts but most will become jams, ciders, and pies; their benefit realized in the dead of winter. Today is marked by smiles and laughter, a joyful gift from God. A cool little breeze, a reminder really, causes Pera to shiver as it rustles through her greenery. Content in her place, she lifts a song to her Creator:

*I looked up the other day
To see the birds had flown away
Fall had come and brought a winter chill
Left her signature on the windowsill
Windblown messengers, red and gold
Repeat the story yearly told
Fragile acrobats in the sky
Twisting, twirling: they dance, they die
Born in the air to catch the sun
They return to earth when their lives are done
Much like the one who knows Christ the Son
Must lose their life to know He's won
How beautiful when life begins
How full of grace when near the end*



This is the day, she reminds anyone willing to listen, that the Lord has made. Rejoice and be glad in it. Grace abounds, let it saturate your being—draw it in like rain. Lift up your eyes to the hills. And where does your help come from, O man? From the Lord of course, He's been there all along. Through winter's bitter crush and summer's lightning, the Lord has brought you through to peace. He will again, you know.

A happy farm dog, tired of chasing about the feet of customers, comes and lies at Pera's feet. Panting and grateful for a little shade, he doesn't stay long. In the dirt parking lot a whole caboodle of children, spilling out of a station wagon, needs to be met with his doggy smile and wagging tail. There might be faces to lick or carelessly dropped bits of food to eat. Everything about him says, "I'm on it!" and so he is, giving up his respite in favor of the promise of treats. Pera tolerates him at best and doesn't mind his quick departure.

The owner of the orchard looks up from the cash register and with a sigh looks out beyond the open doorway. Pera is beautiful. Not because she stands out as such but just the opposite. How beautiful to be in the place God intended for you. Pera, seemingly unaware of the owner's gaze, is just happy to *be*. The owner's wife gives him a playful poke in the ribs and directs him back to his customers. She knows his heart is in the orchard.

And, if Pera is having difficulty today relating to those around her, what does it matter? Distracted Pera, the birds in her thoughts raise their carols declaring their Maker's praise. Quietly engaged in the scene about her, yet apart in their songs, she drifts on an ocean of green that stretches across the valley floor. The mountains and hills roll in like breakers, slow as glaciers. Her silent praises go out with joy. The Comforter, her comforter, walks in this orchard. He sings, the few remaining birds hush recognizing the melody He gave them. Hearts ring and He carries a moment. And all the trees of the field clapped their hands.



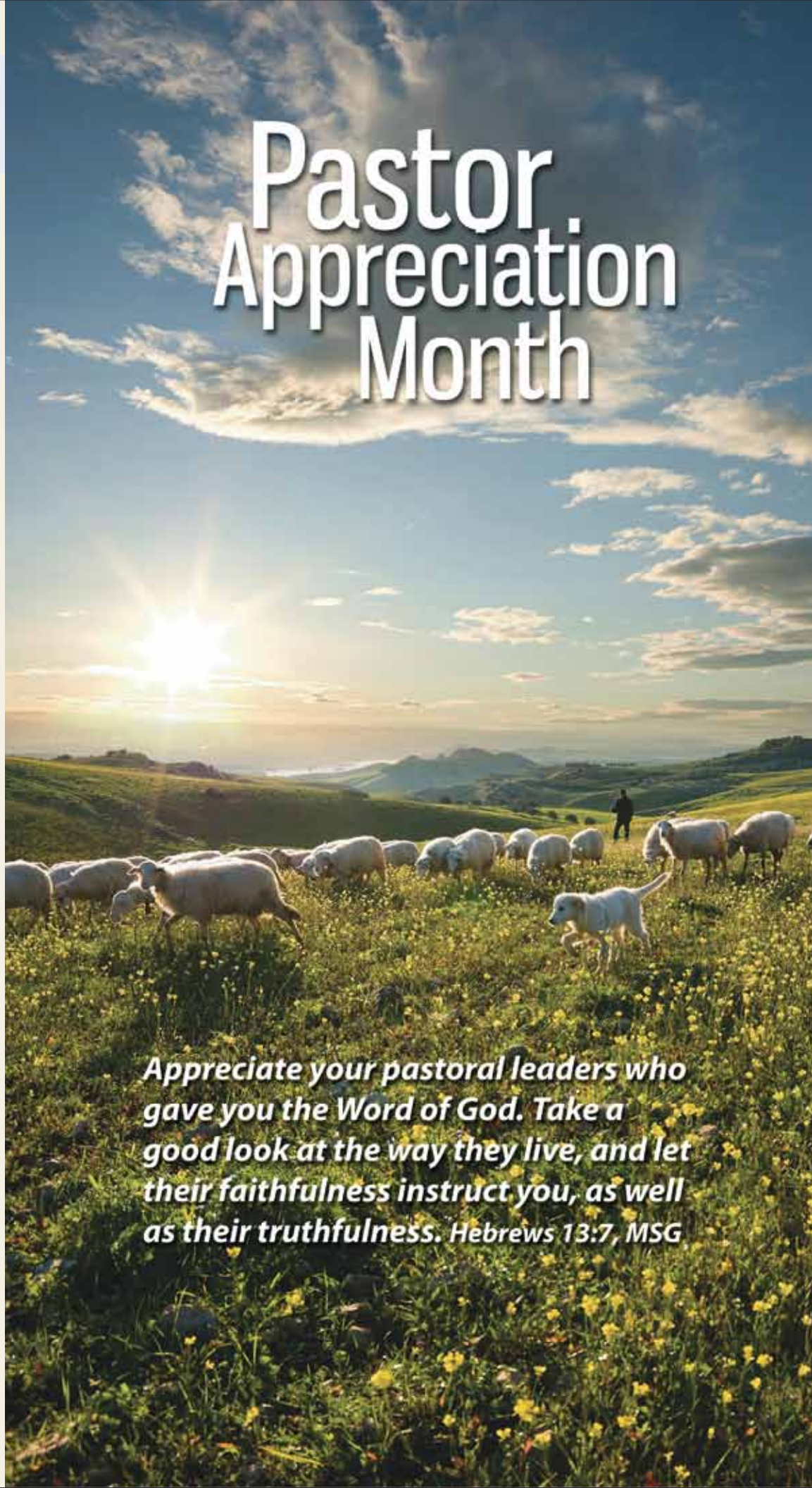
Serve

Monday Morning Choir Looking for Two Ringers

The Agape Ringers are looking for two ringers for our fall season. The Choir rehearses from 11:30-12:30 Monday mornings in the choir room, and a nursery is provided for each meeting. The ability to read music is helpful, but not essential.

For more information, please contact Greg at 684-7821, ext. 139, or gpysh@fpcmid.org for more information, or simply join us Monday morning at 11:30.

Pastor Appreciation Month



Appreciate your pastoral leaders who gave you the Word of God. Take a good look at the way they live, and let their faithfulness instruct you, as well as their truthfulness. Hebrews 13:7, MSG

Serve



Halloween Fall Festival

Sunday, October 31
5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
West lawn of the church

*All church fellowship,
dinner, games, costumes,
face painting, Trunk or Treat*



Help is needed for the FPC Annual Fall Festival which will take place on Sunday, October 31 (Halloween), 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

We need volunteers who can cook hot dogs, run game booths, hand out candy at Trunk or Treat, serve cotton candy, bake cakes for the cake walk, set up, and clean up.

*If you can help, contact
Mary Beth Anton at
mba62@suddenlink.net
or
Patrice Blanchard at
patrice15@suddenlink.net.*



THE MUSIC MINISTRY OFFERS TWO NEW ENSEMBLES TO SHARE YOUR GIFTS!

We are off to a GREAT start! Come join us!!!

The Music Ministry is excited to offer two new opportunities to share your gifts in praise to God this fall. If you:

Play/Have played/Haven't played an instrument since high school,
We have an ensemble FOR YOU!

Sing/Like to sing/Sang in high school/Sing in your car or other places,
We have an ensemble FOR YOU!

These ensembles, named "Jubilate", will play and sing at 8:15 a.m. worship and occasionally at 11:00 a.m. worship, and will rehearse twice a month during the Gathering (Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m.) in the choir room. The repertoire will be anthems which will not only enhance our worship, but that you will be able to sing or play, regardless of your current skill level, in thanksgiving and praise to God.

For more information, please contact Greg at gpysh@fpcmid.org or 684-7821, ext, 139. Your prayerful consideration is greatly appreciated!

SEPTEMBER IS SAFE PLACE MONTH FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

During the month of September, Presbyterian Women will be collecting items needed at Safe Place, the temporary shelter for women and their children here in Midland. They are currently in need of regular sized hygiene items such as lotions, unisex deodorant and especially shampoo and conditioner. No individual or hotel size items please. Underwear and socks for women and children of all ages are also needed. Other needs are over the counter medications including ibuprophen, cough drops, cough, cold and flu medications. Always in demand are baby items such as diapers (especially sizes 4, 5 and 6), wipes, baby shampoo, lotion and diaper rash ointment. No clothing donations or pull-up diapers are needed. A large donation tub will be conveniently located at the reception desk entrance of the church and a small tub will be located at the nursery entrance throughout the month of September.

Gretchen Davis
Safe Place Chairman

Nominating Ministry

Your Nominating Ministry is hard at work compiling the slate of nominees for the new class of Elders and Deacons to be presented for election at the 2011 Congregational Meeting. Please prayerfully consider nominating members of our congregation who would be willing to serve in these leadership positions and submit their names to Sally Kvasnicka, Chairman of the Nominating Ministry. Nomination forms are located at the Texas Street information center by the Receptionist Desk.

Matching Funds Offer for Free Wheelchair Mission

A generous church member has offered to match donations to the Free Wheelchair Mission up to a grand total of \$10,000. Each chair costs \$59.20. Ten thousand dollars will buy almost 170 wheelchairs and a new life for people who are homebound, unable to get to school or work (or sometimes even off the ground!). Your donation of \$59.20 will give the precious gift of mobility. For more information, please visit www.freewheelchairmission.org.

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly".

Matt. 6:6 (King James version)



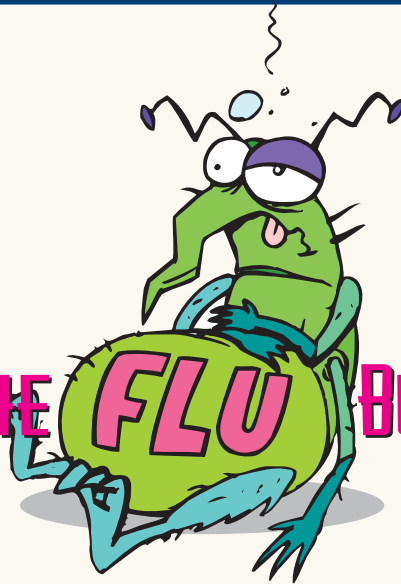
The Prayer Closet is there for YOU. PLEASE feel free to step in and close the door and PRAY.

Invite



Welcome September New Members –
Stuart & Jennifer Yeager

DON'T LET THE FLU BUG YOU!



Each year millions of people are bitten by the flu bug, resulting in the disruption of lives and well being due to the influenza virus. Since the flu is easily transmitted from one person to another, FPC offers a flu shot clinic to help you and your family escape this year's flu season.

Dr. Gregory Bartha will offer flu immunizations on Monday, October 11, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the Koinonia Room. The cost per person is \$10. Cash or check accepted. Mark your calendar! For questions, please contact Mary Margaret Davis, director of Older Adult Ministry 432-684-7821 ext. 120.

75 Year Anniversary

First Presbyterian Church of Monahans, Texas will be celebrating their 75th Year Anniversary and would like to invite all former members to attend.

If you know any former members, please ask them to contact Lynda Linton at (432) 943-5829 or lyndahl@att.net.

2nd CONCERT OF HOPE BENEFITS SAFE PLACE FAMILIES

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

On Sunday, October 17th, the 2nd Concert of Hope is coming to True-Lite Christian Fellowship. Presented by Molly Maid® of Midland and Odessa, this afternoon concert by the True-Lite Praise Team will highlight the hope, healing and change that victims of domestic violence find at Safe Place. For more information contact Safe Place at 522-7202.

Concert of Hope
Sunday, October 17
4:00 p.m.
True-Lite Christian Fellowship
3001 North A Street



Invite

Picnic at the Park

FPC and True Lite Christian Fellowship Church

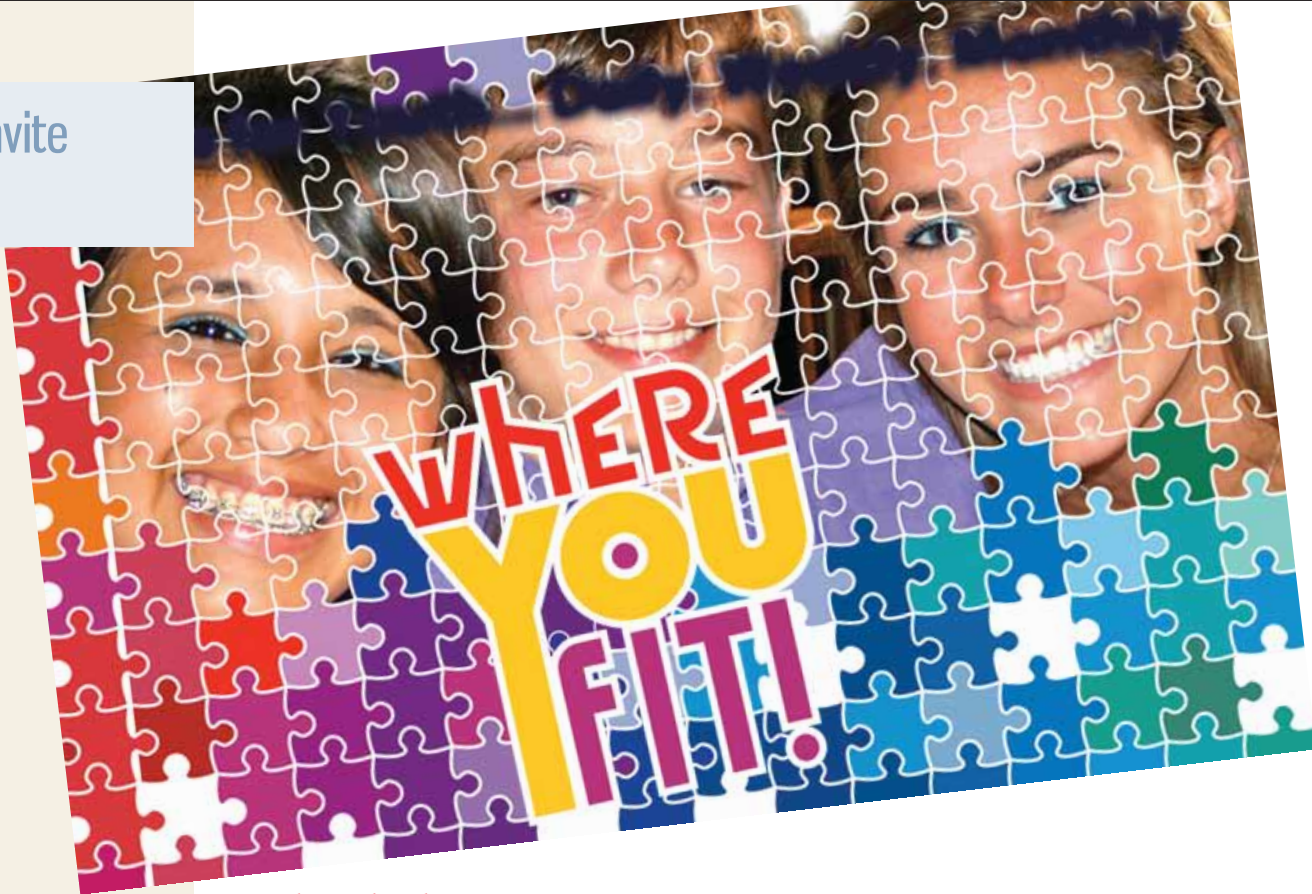
Please join us for a Picnic with True Lite Christian Fellowship Church on Sunday, September 26th from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Ulmer Park!



There will be games and activities for all ages. Please bring food for your family, table and chairs or blankets. Water will be provided.



Invite



Sunday School

All youth join us every Sunday at 9:30 SHARP in Room 228 for Sunday School! We will start out as a big group with fellowship and announcements and break into grade-level classes to dig into scripture and life and how they intersect!

JOLT

All youth meet together with guys or girls your own age in a small group environment where it is safe to share, ask questions, and simply “do life” as a family together. This is a great place to grow in your faith while growing in relationships with others.

Most groups will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 p.m. For details about your group, contact Becky.



Broom Ball and Pizza October 3 – 6:00-8:30 p.m.

We are going to Music City Mall in Odessa to play Broom Ball and eat pizza. Wear tennis shoes, bring your friends, and meet on the Texas Street parking lot at 6:00 p.m. Cost is \$10. We will be back at the church at 8:30 p.m.

Don't miss out on the fun, food, fellowship, and friendly competition!



Ski Escape 2011

Watch your mail for **Ski Escape 2011** trip packets! Sign-ups will begin **October 18**.

You don't want to miss out on the fun!!!

Primetimers Events

Catch the Mini Bus for a fun trip to Lubbock on October 6th. We will visit the Margaret Talkington exhibit at the Science Spectrum Museum, pick up apples at the Apple Orchard, and make several stops on the way home. The Margaret Talkington exhibit has recently opened at the museum and will showcase many of the original fashions and sense of style which made the ladies' store of Margaret's so famous. We will eat lunch at Sugar Bakers which will cost around \$10. The bus will leave from the Texas Street parking lot at 8:00 a.m. The exhibit will cost \$6 which we will collect on the bus.

Tuesday, October 12 - Men's Lunch Out - 11:30 a.m. We will meet at Johnny Carino's on Loop 250 near Target. Come for fun and fellowship with good friends.

Come help with Operation Bless the Children! We will be wrapping shoe boxes to help get ready for the Mission Project Operation Bless the Children. Come to the Koinonia Room at 1:00 p.m. with scissors in hand on Wednesday, October 13. Enjoy a lot of fellowship and a little hands-on mission work.

Come enjoy the Movie Matinee and stay for dinner and Gathering classes. The movie is scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, at 3:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The movie is *Letters to Juliet* and it is a feel-good romantic comedy about love lost and love found. This movie has received excellent reviews and is one of those movies you will not want to miss. Come enjoy the movie!

Scrapbooking and jewelry making and repair—Thursday, October 14, 10:00 a.m., Koinonia Room - Bring your photographs to organize, crop or just visit about them. Come and work until 2:00 p.m., and we will pick up something for lunch. Joyce Watts will help with jewelry ideas and repair. Sharla Somers will show you fast and easy shortcuts to get your pictures in albums ready to enjoy. Nursery will be available. All ages are welcome.

Primetimers Regular Meeting will be Tuesday, October 19, at 11:30 a.m. The program this month will feature a program on Aphasia strokes. You never know when someone close to you might suffer a stroke and need the Aphasia Center. This program will give us the information to help us and those around us. Cost of lunch is \$5.

Ladies Lunch will be Tuesday, October 26, at 11:30 a.m. at Olive Garden on Loop 250. This will be a dutch treat event with lots of opportunities for fellowship.

The purpose of the Angels in Apron ministry is to provide ready to eat food in individual frozen servings, for a small fee. The November menu will be turkey and dressing, candied yams, broccoli and rice, cranberry salad and pumpkin pie. This is an outstanding menu and you can place your order by calling Rhondy at the church office. Your order must be placed by Thursday, October 21, 2010. The small individual portions can be picked up and paid for on Thursday, November 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center area foyer.

Primetimers Lunch will be at 12:15 p.m. after worship service in Lynn Hall. We offer a splendid spread at the Primetimers Sunday Pot Luck Luncheon. Your ticket for admission is a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Or if you're not into heating up your kitchen, there's nothing wrong with something whipped up by your local grocery store. The church will provide the meat. See you Sunday, October 24, for lunch.

Don't miss a fall trip to Granbury and the surrounding area. We will check out the historical square, attend a production of Granbury Live, visit the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, sample wine tasting in downtown Granbury, and dine at some of the historical and new restaurants. The trip will be October 21 - 23. We will leave from the church on Thursday, October 21, at 8:00 a.m. The cost is \$175 for a single (or \$350.00 for a double) to cover motel room, Granbury Live ticket and admission to Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. The non-refundable payment of \$100 is due by **Friday, October 8**, and the remainder is due on Friday, October 15. If you have questions, contact Mary Margaret Davis at the church office.



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND

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Midland, Texas 79701

Periodicals Postage

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Midland, Texas

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