



# First Presbyterian Church, Mission

*Where God's love makes all the difference!*

## JUNE 2012



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 6

**GRACE, MERCY & PEACE TO YOU IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

### "Moving to the Fellowship Hall..."

These two pictures sure do tell the story of why I'm excited to worship in Fellowship Hall this summer...

In the announcements on Pentecost, I referred to how we keep the coals of a campfire close together to keep the fire hot- which is exactly what we're trying to do by moving to Fellowship Hall. Being closer together there is increased Fellowship and energy in our worship- more so than when we are spread out. We hope to also be an example of good stewardship for members- with cash flow decreasing in the summer months, it is important for us to conserve wherever and however we can.



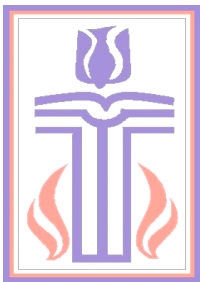
#### SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

**9:30am**

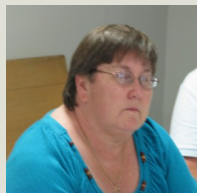
**Worship**

I hope you will join us for worship this summer, bring a friend and experience how worship leads to a life of significance...

**Blessings, Pastor Dave**



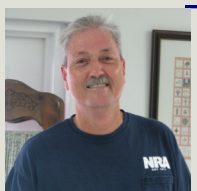
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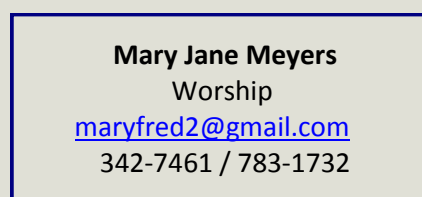
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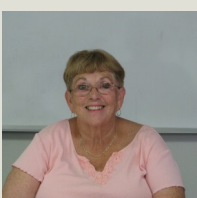
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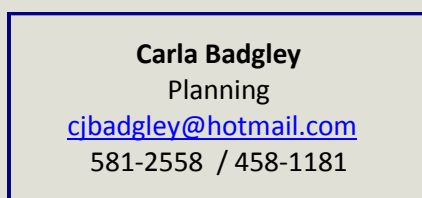
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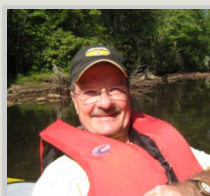
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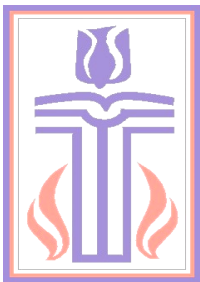
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**Please do not hesitate to contact our staff with questions or concerns. And, as always, look for the latest news about FPC Mission on our web site: [www.fpcmission.com](http://www.fpcmission.com)**



## First Presbyterian Church, Mission

### A Word from Pastor Dave...

PAGE 3  
JUNE 2012



**A WORD  
FROM  
PASTOR  
DAVE +**

## GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE TO YOU FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

### "10 Things Churches Can Learn from Apple Stores"

I was sent this article from a friend and although I think the Church is becoming too much like the world- this was an interesting look at how I think Apple stores have taken the best of Church and made it their own.

From the author: "One brief note before getting started: some of us may be uncomfortable using the language of retail stores to describe the church, particularly if we start referring to those who come to church as customers. That's a fair concern. Church is not one more place to exercise our habits for consumption, and worship isn't meant to be just another shopping experience. At the same time, both retail stores and churches care about the people who walk in their doors and should give attention to the kind of experience they want those people to have." Here are the first two things we can learn:

**STOP SELLING STUFF.** When Steve Jobs first started the Apple Store he did not ask the question, "How will we grow our market share from 5 to 10 percent?" instead he asked, "How will we enrich people's lives?" Think about your vision. If you were to examine the business model for most brands and retailers and develop a vision around it, the vision would be to "sell more stuff." A vision based on selling stuff isn't very inspiring and leads to a very different experience than the Apple Retail Store created.

Church's perspective:

*Stop worrying about membership and about whether people will join- the church's equivalent of selling stuff. Instead ask people why they're here, why they've come, and what they're looking for, and how this congregation can aid them in their walk with God.*

**ENRICH LIVES.** The vision behind the Apple Store is "enrich lives," the first two words on a wallet-sized credo car employees are encouraged to carry. When you enrich lives magical things start to happen. For example, enriching lives convinced Apple to have a non-commissioned sales floor where employees feel comfortable spending as much time with a customer as the customer desires. Enriching lives led Apple to build play areas (the family room) where kids could see, touch, and play on computers. Enriching lives led to the creation of a "Genius Bar" where trained experts are focused on "rebuilding relationships" as much as fixing computer problems.

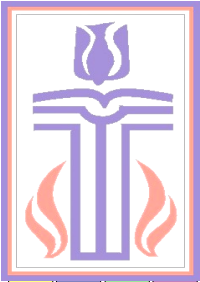
Church's perspective:

*Strengthen faith. Set before your congregation the vision of imagining that every aspect of their life- worship, education, facilities, newsletter, and all the rest- is intended to help people strengthen their faith and grow in their lives as disciples. What would it mean if before each action, decision, or vote you asked the question, "How will this help strengthen the faith of the people who come here?"*

After Church let me know what you think about 1 and 2, and if you want, give me a call and we can talk about 3 thru 10... or whatever else you have on your mind...

Blessings,  
**Pastor Dave +**





### **Report from the Pastor Nominating Committee**

We have some good news and some bad news.

First the good news – the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has made excellent progress in the first steps of the search process for a permanent pastor for our Church. We expect to begin receiving résumés soon from interested pastors. In that regard, we would be delighted to hear the names of outstanding candidates that you or any other member or friend can suggest.

Our Church Information Form (CIF), which will be sent to prospective pastor-candidates is attached to this report. In the pages that follow Please give us your comments about it.

Now the bad news – our Interim Pastor, Rev. Dave Diercksen, may not be considered as a candidate for our permanent pastor position. We had hoped, until just a few days ago, that Dave could be considered for the permanent position, but we have been told that he may not be considered. So that you may understand the situation, these are the facts:

The Book of Order (BoFO) of the United Presbyterian Church-USA (UPC-USA) **prior to** 2011 prohibited a pastor from moving from an Interim to a permanent position in the same church.

The BoFO of 2011 made that rule optional so that a Presbytery could vote to permit such a move.

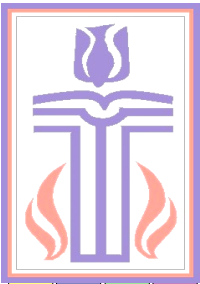
Our Mission Presbytery voted, instead, to keep the old rule.

We have been hoping that the Commission on Ministry (COM) of our Presbytery would choose to have the issue reconsidered and that they, in turn, would recommend that it be revised. We were recently told that they will not do so. The COM also mentioned that the contract that Dave signed when he became our Interim Pastor included an agreement that he would not become our permanent Pastor.

The BoFO has for many years had (and still has) the following rule: *"no pastoral relationship may be established, changed, or dissolved without the approval of the presbytery"*.

We ask for your prayers for Dave in his continuing role (we hope) as our Interim Pastor; for Dave and Nadine as they make plans for their future; and for our Church, especially during the six months or so that it may take to find a new pastor.

Don Badgley, PNC Chair



## First Presbyterian Church, Mission

### In Search of a Pastor...

PAGE 5  
JUNE 2012

#### Church Information Form of the First Presbyterian Church of Mission

As approved by the FPCM Session on 5/21/2012 and to be submitted to the Mission Presbytery for their approval.

#### *Church Mission Statement:*

With Jesus Christ as our guide, our Vision at the First Presbyterian Church of Mission is to strive to be a vibrant, intergenerational Christian community sharing our wisdom and talents through music, outreach, and spiritual nourishment. Our Mission is to be a church, intentionally encouraging each other to:

- Worship - Continually abide in the presence of God and respond to His majesty and glory by His grace
- Serve - Willingly using our time, talents, and treasure for the advancement of the Kingdom of God
- Witness - Actively share our faith in the schools, neighborhoods, work places, and throughout the RGV and the world by example, evangelism, and Bible study
- Share - Commit to relationships in which mutual love, care, truth, and accountability will thrive.

#### *Describe church programs and accomplishments.*

FPCM is typified by:

- Traditional-style worship services with child-care.
- A Sunday school for adults and younger children.
- A strong involvement of retired winter residents in Sunday worship service, choir, and Sunday school.
- A superior music program including:
  - A large adult choir.
  - Singing and acting groups for younger children.
  - Hand-bell choirs.
  - Monthly semi-professional musical performances for our community.
- A gorgeous prayer garden located in the middle of the campus.
- A modest community outreach, including:
  - A substantial Christmas Basket distribution to local needy families.
  - Support of a community project in which teens stay at local churches to repair homes of needy families.
  - Support of a local neighborhood house, Su Casa de Esperanza.
- Monthly collections for the local food pantry.
- Involvement in Daily Vacation Bible Schools at neighboring churches.

A website which includes links to newsletters and our services.

A congregational care program which includes:  
Monthly Church-wide pot-luck dinners and social luncheons.

In-season potlucks at retirement communities.  
A support program for the outreach of visiting mission/service-related workers.

A large manse located on the Church campus.

A planning function currently focused on the development of a much greater involvement of young families and of neighborhood folks of Hispanic origin in our Church life.

#### *Describe what gifts, skills, and experiences the congregation possesses to fulfill its mission.*

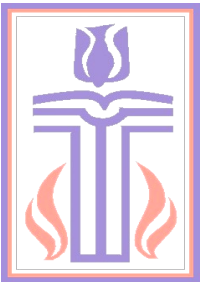
FPCM has a traditional service enhanced by a chancel choir, two hand bell choirs, a piano and organ. During the winter months, we have a variety of semi-professional musical performances on Sunday evening open to the public.

FPCM is unique. In the winter months, we have one of the largest winter Texan congregations in the Valley. Winter Texans come to share their faith, energy, time, and talents.

FPCM supports the Salvation Army; Su Casa de Esperanza; Mission Food Pantry; Mission Service Project; mission work groups and a Christmas Food Basket Drive. Vacation Bible School and Maundy Thursday services are shared with other churches.

On January 17, 2004, the sanctuary was destroyed by arson. This experience strengthened/deepened the faith/unity of the members. When the congregation found that insurance would only cover half of the cost of new construction, a fundraising drive was held and the first day of the drive yielded enough money/pledges to complete the new building. The new sanctuary was completed in two years with some of the architectural planning done by members. This Church is debt free.

This congregation was fortunate to have a minister who served for 23 years. He left in the fall of 2009 and with the help of an interim pastor, the congregation has grown/matured spiritually. The congregation had to transition from old/comfortable to new/uncharted. They took a hard look at their mission/vision and are ready to move forward.



# First Presbyterian Church, Mission

## In Search of a Pastor...

PAGE 6  
JUNE 2012

### Church Information Form of the First Presbyterian Church of Mission (continued)

*What are the key theological issues of our church and society that are reflected in the ministry of our congregation?*

1. Inconsistency in doctrine---The Book of Order was changed. The new BoFO allows flexibility in doctrine rather than the specific guidelines provided by the old BoFO.
2. Finding innovative ways to serve our church family---Many of our congregation are Winter Texans, here from fall to early spring. When they leave FPCM is able to provide worship for special religious events through cooperation with other mainline churches.
3. Insuring continuous growth---In addition to our older, more conservative congregation, FPCM must find ways to make the church relevant and interesting to both our older and younger members as well as prospective members.
4. Relationships with our church family---Any church must have a relationship with its congregants. To establish such relationships FPCM has increased the activities with church and congregation.
5. Communication with our church family---Finally, because we have a congregation that includes large numbers of Winter Texans, (people who are here for 3 to 6 months during the winter). FPCM must also be sure that we stay in contact with both full time members and winter visitors.

*Major Responsibilities: For what specific tasks, assignments, and program areas will this person have responsibility?*

1. Preaching on Sundays
2. Hospital and Home Visits
3. Overseer of Christian Education: Senior, Adult, Youth
4. Overseer of Outreach
5. Work closely with music director
6. Be a Boss – A Business administrator who guides volunteer council members and their committees
7. Be a Strong Leader and Administrator of staff and Council
8. Develop Strong Family Oriented Programs
9. Maintain Strong Program for Senior Adults
10. Maintain a visible presence on the campus.

*Describe the characteristics and qualifications needed in a person who will fill this position:*

1. To be a consistent, compassionate person who presents a good example
2. To have Spanish language skills if possible for outreach in our area
3. To be a take-charge person who can lead
4. To provide specific directions on ways to accomplish goals set forth in Mission Statement
5. To be reliable; to maintain a consistent schedule; to be the “public CEO and presence” for our Church
6. To be unafraid to deal with people with very diverse opinions and ideas while being diplomatic and able to bring people together for common goals.
7. To be a consistent, reliable leader and manager for elders who may be either employed full time or retired Winter Texans
8. To be a compassionate pastor for congregation members
9. To be a willing evangelist who directs elders with specific realistic plans to increase membership
10. To be inspirational, motivational, and maintain a positive view point

#### *Primary Skill Choices:*

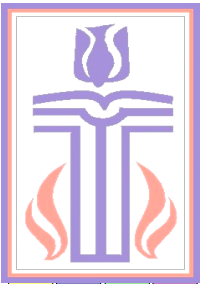
*Administrative Leadership*  
*Communication (Written/Oral)*  
*Community Service and Leadership*  
*Evangelism*  
*Family Ministry*  
*Leadership of Staff/Volunteers*  
*Older Adult Ministry*  
*Pastoral Care*  
*Preaching*  
*Youth Ministry*

#### *Compensation & Housing.*

*A range is needed for matching purposes. The maximum salary is not published anywhere. Effective salary is cash salary plus housing allowance or manse value and other compensation considered “effective salary” by the Board of Pensions of the PC (U.S.A.).*  
*Minimum Effective Salary \$31,000      Maximum Effective Salary: \$67,600      It should be noted that our PNC has made it their policy that “under no circumstances shall the total of any offer exceed the total amount that Don (and Dave) received”.*

*Location from which candidates may come:*  
From anywhere in the United States





## The FPC Building Speaks!

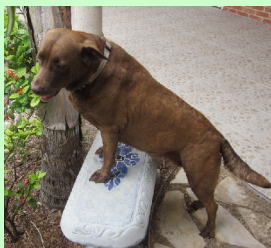
“ There has been so much going on! Little ones and big ones playing out in the playground, the smell of food cooking and dishes clanging in the kitchen. Folks cooking up good smelling food for special guests.

Dust was more than flying out of the closets as Pat, Mary Jane, Sue and Bob were getting closets organized for the church use and groups. Mission accomplished. Ted came to put propane tanks on the shower trailer and found the electric cord was cut and removed. Quick thinking Ted, got friends to come over to help fix the problem and we are back in business with electricity and showers ..... the next groups in June.

It was so refreshing to smell the rain and watch it come down to feed and clean off our trees and plants. Oh and our tress got cleaned up and trimmed back so we're ready for summer!

I hear and am starting to see that we're buffing up floors and setting up chairs, but for what? We are going to have much more company in the Fellowship Hall. Worship service is coming over to join us out there. It will be so good to hear the singing, laughter, messages and prayers. Come check out the Worship Service with me in the Fellowship Hall.

”



## Sarah's Garden Gab

It seems so sad to see Linda leave us for the summer, but she leaves us with a beautiful garden to maintain. Now to just try and keep the garden in as good as shape as she has.

Linda has asked Amanda once again to help out in the garden during the time that she will be visiting family up north.



I hear there are good comments on our lovely FPC Prayer Garden. People ask “how does it stay so pretty with blooms?” Let me tell you what we tell people, its good caring, help, and PRAYER... get it Prayer Garden. Come out and join me.

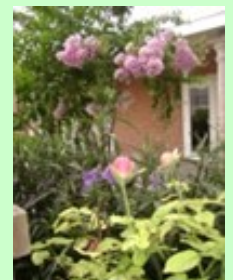
Sue has already come out and sprayed for the white flies and Thrip. Trying to get ahead of those little critters.

We had red tomato's out on the vine, and I see that someone found it. I'm so very happy that you took some of the fruit from our



garden. Please feel free to take fruit as you see come on the vines.

I (Sarah) will be on pregnancy leave, and will keep you informed about my new little family as they come. If interested in any lab puppy's, contact Sue.



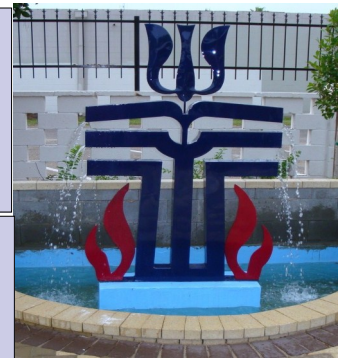


**DID YOU KNOW??**  
**Did you know that the FPC choir room has a library? There are many books (mostly fiction) and a few audio books that are just waiting to be checked out!**  
**Come on in!**



## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MISSION**

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## **IMAGINE CREATION**

Dear Church Members,

This year's VBS program is geared toward sending the message of "understanding what God gave us" through the "Story of Creation" in Genesis. To reduce the cost of materials and supplies we are asking for donations, whether they be material or monetary. The 2012 VBS program is calling on our congregation to come together as we combine our efforts with FPC of Mission, by helping us collect the materials necessary to complete our projects. In the Parlor we will post a list of the different materials one might be able to contribute to the program.

We are also ready to start registration, beginning with church members and their guests. You will find the registration form on the reverse side. Please turn in your forms to the front office.

### **IMAGINE CREATION VBS2012**

**WHO:** Children between grade levels Pre-k thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**WHERE:** FPC McAllen

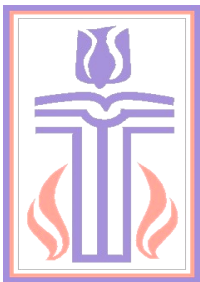
**WHEN:** July 30- August 2, 2012

**TIME:** 8:30am-12:00pm

Thank You for your Efforts,  
The 2012 VBS Program Directors

Cristina Garfield, FPC McAllen  
Nicole Jirovec, FPC Mission





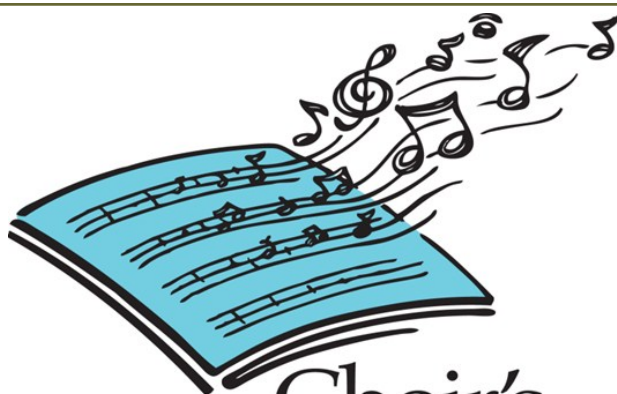
## **“The Lost Sheep”**

The SonShine Players presented a delightful skit called “The Lost Sheep” on May 13, 2012 during Worship.

Appearing in the plays were:

(L-R) **Narrators** - Zelene Gray, Halle York, & Randy Wood;

**Shepherd** – Anastasia Cruz; **Wolf** – Lawrence Wood; **the Lost Sheep** – Peyton York & Ellasyn Gray.



## **Choir's Taking a Break**

The **Chancel Choir** is definitely ready for a well-deserved vacation! Did you know that the choir has sung for over 50 services since last September? We have the only choir that I know of that sings for BOTH services on Sunday morning! That's real devotion and it is greatly appreciated by their Director! So have a wonderful vacation, friends – I will be anxiously waiting your return in the fall.

*Pat Hudsonpillar*

## **Kids Can Help, Too!**

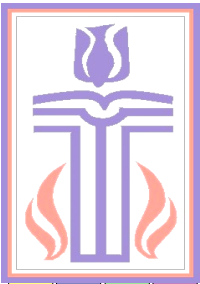


The kids at FPC Mission would like to thank you for your help with their **KIDS CAN HELP, TOO!** Project. A total of \$800 will be going to the RGV Food Bank to be used in support of the KIDS CAFÉ and children who don't have enough to eat.

## **GREAT JOB, Kids!**



Thank You  
**SO Much!**



## First Presbyterian Church, Mission Outreach, Lost & Found...

PAGE 10  
JUNE 2012



This will be my last article as chairman of the Outreach Committee. I now turn over the reins to Bob Sherwood and know our outreach program will move on smoothly.

I would like to thank you all for making my job as chairman a breeze.

We served food to work groups, baked cookies for them also, collected change for our "Pennies from Heaven," and delivered food to 40 families. I will continue helping Bob on the Outreach Committee and with Mission in Mission. In May, we had a small work group from Westminster Presbyterian Church in North Carolina. The committee served them a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, May 19th, and breakfast on Sunday, May 20th. In June, we have 3 teams scheduled to arrive and stay at our Church along with the Mission Service Project. One of the groups and MSP will be the same week. If you are able, please bring cookies, cakes and or brownies for these groups. MSP is the week of June 10th through June 16th. We will not have a team nor will we be a host Church but we will be responsible for serving supper to the group on Monday June 11th at the Veteran Memorial High School on Mayberry Road. More about that will be announced during Church service. Thank you to all who have helped me on these tasks. I think these are good programs and hope they will continue. Please continue supporting these programs and help Bob out.

**Judy Mayes,**  
Outgoing Outreach Chairman



**The MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT is  
missing 6 white angel  
costumes, 2 white  
robes used for Mary,  
and 4 wings. If you  
might have any  
information about  
these items, please  
contact Pat  
Hudsonpillar or the  
church office.**

**Share your snapshots of FPC  
Fellowship, Service, & FUN  
for future newsletter  
editions!**



**Have some info for the next newsletter??**

**Got a story about why you love FPC?**

**Want to share your favorite recipe??**



Our goal for this newsletter is that it reflects who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian Church—Mission. The most important part of this newsletter is **YOU!** So, please send your submissions to Jordan:

**[jordan@fpcmision.com](mailto:jordan@fpcmision.com)**







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*First Presbyterian Church*

*Where God's Love Makes all the Difference.*

