



# Words of Faith

Faith United Presbyterian Church

Volume VI, Issue 9

## From the Pastor's Desk

Dear Friends of FUPC,



September in the church is always a time of new beginnings. Sunday school for children

begins in earnest after a three-month hiatus in the summer. The Presbyterian Women will also return to their regular monthly meetings in September following their annual kickoff event on August 27th. And now that summer vacations are over and I have had the opportunity to become better acquainted with the congregation, I will move forward with plans to begin the developmental tasks associated with interim ministry. In cooperation with the Church Life Committee, I have already scheduled a congregational gathering for Sunday, September the 18<sup>th</sup>. Following a "Pot Luck" Luncheon, we will talk about the histories of the two churches that merged together to form Faith United Presbyterian Church. We will also discuss what you as a congregation believe were the important milestones in each church's history as well as the milestones that have helped to distinguish Faith United's present

identity. One important question I will ask parishioners is "What brought you to this church in the first place?"

Before we meet for our first congregational gathering, however, my hope is to have in place what I refer to as a "Transitional Visioning Committee." This committee will work closely with the interim pastor to plan and guide a process that will assist the congregation in being open to new ideas and helpful change. A major task of this committee will be the gathering, collation and interpretation of information gathered from the congregation about its life and vision for the future. They will also be expected to formulate goals and recommendations based upon the information they have gathered from the congregation. This will be especially helpful when the actual search committee begins its work in filling out the church's information form that will be seen by potential pastoral candidates interested in coming to Farmers Branch to become the next installed pastor of this church.

## Rev. Dr. Jim Johns

Here's where the congregation can be helpful. First of all, I have already asked the session of our church to give me a list of individuals they believe have vision for the future of this church and would make responsible members on this committee. If you are asked to be a part of this committee, please consider it an honor and be willing to serve. Secondly, if you are asked by a member of this committee to complete a questionnaire or interview, please cooperate and give us a few minutes of your time. Of course the future of the church is in God's hands. But God has given us the gift of dreams and imagination and faith to create a new vision for the church. The Bible reminds us, "Where there is no vision the people perish..." (Proverbs 29:18 KJV) I have complete confidence that with God's help, not only will we obtain a new vision for this church, we will continue to glorify God by proclaiming the gospel, making disciples for Jesus Christ, and meeting the needs of those living on the margins of society.

Shalom, *Jim*

James@FaithUnited-pc.com

### Inside this issue

- From the Pastor's desk
- Presbyterian Women
- FUPC in the community
- ...and more!

### Next newsletter is

**October 2016.**

**Deadline for articles, Friday, 9/16/16.**

**Contact church office or Brenda Swindle via email to submit articles.**

# Words of Faith

## Presbyterian Women

FUPC Women begin their new year of Bible study with "Who Is Jesus?" Study books are available for \$10 in the office or at your circle meeting or from your circle leader.

**Tuesday Morning Circle-2nd**  
Tuesday, 10:30 am. Next meeting, 9/13. Circle moderator, Linnie Hinkle.



**Thursday Morning Circle-2nd**  
Thursday, 9:30 am at the church, Next meeting, 9/8.

**Tuesday Evening Circle-3rd**  
Tuesday, 7:00 pm in members homes. Next meeting, 9/20, Circle moderator, Irene Simpson.

## Mary Marxer

The Starboard Stitchers will next meet on Tuesday, September 6 at 1:00 pm at the church. All are invited to come help them stuff fabric animals. These animals go to toddlers when they get their shots at the North Dallas Shared Ministries clinic.

## Prayer Concerns

### Prayers for:

- ♥ Oscar Bennedsen
- ♥ Dale Durcholz
- ♥ Elizabeth Hendricks
- ♥ Roger Jones
- ♥ Ray Kirchmeyer (David's brother)
- ♥ Lilas Kinch
- ♥ Sugie Maxfield
- ♥ Sherrard Family
- ♥ Dorothea Sooby
- ♥ Alan Swope

### Rehab/At Home:

- ♥ Earl Blackney
- ♥ Lois Davenport
- ♥ Bobbie & J.R. Jones
- ♥ Henry Knight
- ♥ Betty Laney
- ♥ Joanne McKnight
- ♥ Anne Mobley
- ♥ Wanda Mosher
- ♥ Freddie Simmons

## Notes & News from the Pews



### Thank you from Cathy Marxer!

Thank you to all who prayed, talked, and sent get well cards to me during my recent surgery and recovery. I am feeling better with each passing day. Thank you for your support during this time and always.

**Jewel McClellan** (now living with daughter)  
P.O. Box 228, Tom Bean, TX 75489  
Cell Phone: 214-578-2894

Please remember to notify the church office if your contact information changes.



## Outreach & Evangelism



**Community Pancake Breakfast** will be September 10. All of FUPC is invited. Why not try it this month and bring a neighbor or friend? Good food & fellowship.

**CROP Walk** The 2016 Carrollton area CROP Walk which benefits Metrocrest Services will be Saturday, September 17.

CROP Hunger Walks are community wide events that bring people together in a common mission: Helping hungry people at home & around the world...and you can be part of it!

**When:** Saturday, September 17

**Registration:** 8 a.m.

Walk Starts at 8:30 a.m.

**Where:** Mill Valley Fellowship  
13545 Webb Chapel Rd.

Farmers Branch, TX 75234

For more info or to register go to

[www.crophungerwalk.org/carrolltontx](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/carrolltontx)



## Church Life

## Brenda Burkham

As Pastor Jim mentioned in his article there will be a congregational gathering following worship on Sunday, September 18. Our meal will be "Potluck" style. Please sign up to attend and note what dish you will bring. The sign up board will be the Narthex/Coffee area.

Looking forward, a date to put on your calendar for Bingo. It will be Saturday, October 29 at 2 p.m. Stay tuned to future News Briefs, Bulletins and Newsletters for more details.

## Faith in God as Children



But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 19:14

Faith United has two children programs: **Good Shepherd** and **Following Jesus**.

Both classes meet every Sunday. **Good Shepherd** meets at 11 a.m. and **Following Jesus** meets at 9:30 a.m. The classes stem from the God's Play program and provide worship and Christian education for children ages 3 to 9. The **Good Shepherd** program is appropriate for children ages 3 to 5 years. The **Following Jesus** program is an extension of the Good Shepherd program and intends to extend and deepen children ages 6 to 9 years. Both programs storytelling methods are visual, oral and kinesthetic. Both programs introduce to children and help them get ready for Christian worship by gathering, listening, thanking and going, which mirrors the order of congregational worship. Children get to **experience** God through this program in biblical stories, parables, playing with story materials and reflective art. Children are excited to attend and we are continuously amazed at what they understand and comprehend.

Below is a brief overview of each program:

### **The Good Shepherd program**

- ◆ Ages 3 to 5 years
- ◆ Introduction to Christian worship
- ◆ Focuses on both the Old and New Testament stories and parables
- ◆ Biblical narratives are told as stories in a worshiping environment that is specifically designed for young children
- ◆ Biblical stories and parables are translated into felt and wooden materials to be sensed, felt emotionally, visually seen and heard.
- ◆ Provides an atmosphere for children to know God, not just learn about God.

### **Following Jesus program**

Ages 6 to 9 years

- ◆ The program is an extension of the Good Shepherd program. It extends and deepens children's understanding of Jesus and prepares them for Christian discipleship.
- ◆ Focuses on the New Testament stories and parables for children.
- ◆ Biblical stories and parables are translated into felt and wooden materials to be sensed, felt emotionally, visually seen and heard.

- ◆ God is revealed through Jesus' stories.
- ◆ The program provides a way for children to follow Jesus through biblical stories, which show:
  - ◇Who Jesus is,
  - ◇What he is teaching about the kingdom of God,
  - ◇Why Jesus is calling people to follow him and
  - ◇What he is sending them into the world to say and do.

Children love these stories. When the biblical stories and parables come to life in these two programs, children are full of wonder, awe and amazement! This is the way people around Jesus responded when he told a story or performed a miracle. These two programs seek to create an environment where children can have their own faith in God as children and relay the stories in their own way back to their parents.

If you are interested in helping out with this program, we are looking for teachers and assistances. Please contact Katie Miller and Brenda Burkham.

### **Do you love children?**

If you answered "Yes" to this question, then this call is for you. We are calling for assistants and teachers for the Good Shepherd and Following Jesus children programs.

**Role: Teaching assistants** will help teacher(s) with greeting children, leading children in song, walking children to the bathrooms, assisting children with gathering & putting away materials for/from activities, assisting with snacks, watching and nurturing children to grow in understanding of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit and faith.

**Role: Teachers** will read and act out biblical stories and parables using the Good Shepherd or Following Jesus books and materials. Lead children in songs, lead children in questions from the stories, lead children in snack time prayer, lead children in playing with story materials and reflective art and provide each child a personal affirmations.

**Time Requirement:** 2-3 hours each month (assuming a rotational teaching group)

**Training:** Training will be conducted for all Assistants and Teachers

**Materials:** All materials and books/guides will be provided.

**Reward:** Lots of smiles, giggles, hugs, changing lives for each child, appreciation from the children and parents, helping each little soul know Jesus.

Please contact Katie Miller and Brenda Burkham if you have any interest in making a lasting difference in a child's life.

# Happy Birthday!

## September 2

- \* Dave Youngstrum

## September 3

- \* Jessica Stottlemyer

## September 5

- \* Patsy Craig

## September 7

- \* Billie Jones
- \* Shirley Kretchmar

## September 8

- \* Phil Kretchmar

## September 10

- \* Nadine Moser

## September 13

- \* Stephanie Booth

## September 17

- \* Ila Post

## September 23

- \* J.R. Jones, Jr.

## September 26

- \* Sugie Maxfield
- \* Katie Miller
- \* Debbie Rainier

## September 28

- \* Jeanne Sawyer

## September 29

- \* Cody Sherrard



Complete calendar of events may be found on the website—[www.FaithUnited-pc.com](http://www.FaithUnited-pc.com)



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