

First Presbyterian
Church

Devotion for October

*The Kingdom of
Peace*

God's way in the world leads to the cross and through the cross to life. Therefore, do not be afraid; fear not; be faithful! But what is meant here by being faithful is namely: to stand and to fall with the Word of Christ, with his sermon about the kingdom of peace, to know that the Words of Christ in spite of all are mightier than the powers of evil.

What is meant here by being faithful as a congregation of Christ is namely: to be in this furious storm even to exhaustion, even to vexation, even to the call to martyrdom for the Word of Christ, so that there will be peace, so that there will be love, so that there will be salvation, and so that he is our peace and that God is a God of peace.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
*A Testament to
Freedom*

THE LAMB'S KIN

www.fpcsanangelo.org

October 2011

A message from our pastor Bill Proctor

When change abounds; God remains constant and always Good

For us Presbyterians change is often long in coming. This is especially true when it comes to our *Book of Order*, which typically takes more than two years to make a change. Even so, some changes have now taken place that I believe you will find both interesting and amusing.

For example, years ago when a good number of us were still Southern Presbyterians – more properly known as the PCUS (Presbyterian Church of the United States) – pastors were called “teaching elders” and elders were called “ruling elders.” I recently shared with our Session that these nomenclatures confused me as a child because it seemed to me the pastor “ruled” the church while the elders typically served as Sunday school teachers so they were “teaching” elders. In fact, the opposite was true – at least in principle. Pastors “taught,” while elders “ruled.”

It was shortly after I was ordained that the former Northern and Southern branches of the Presbyterians in the United States reunited. Having severed ties at the outset of the Civil War, it was not until 1983 that these two branches of American Presbyterianism reunited. At that time the terms “teaching elder” and “ruling elder” were replaced with “Minister of Word and Sacrament” and “Elder.” Officially, at least according to the *Book of Order*, I have been a “Minister of Word and Sacrament” since that time.

Well, a new *Book of Order*, also known as nFOG – as in “new Form of Government” – has been adopted by our denomination. What that means is I am no longer a “Minister of Word and Sacrament.” Instead, I am once again a “teaching elder,” while our Elders are once again “ruling elders.”

Another change is that the Session, Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly have been referred to as our four “governing bodies.” These four “governing bodies” are now to be called “councils.” Don't ask me why these changes—I have no idea...

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Beth Walker will be playing the organ for us once a month while Louellen is studying at UT. Beth has served churches in Ft. Worth, Roswell, NM, Germany, Pennsylvania and San Angelo over the last 50 years. Beth, married for 40 years, has 5 children and 7 grandchildren. She and her husband relocated to San Angelo from Forth Worth three years ago. They lived in San Angelo and Silver in the early 1970's and while here she was the organist at First Baptist Church in San Angelo! Welcome, Beth and thank you for lending us your talents!

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In a change that seems, at least to me, as something like our Federal government could come up with, “commissioned lay pastors” are now to be called “ruling elder commissioned to particular pastoral service.” (I am not making this up....) “Commissioned lay pastors” are Elders, men and women, who have been “commissioned” by their Presbytery to preach and administer the sacraments – typically for a congregation that is too small to have a full-time pastor. Both St. Mark Presbyterian Church and Nazareth Presbyterian Church here in San Angelo have “commissioned lay pastors,” I mean, “ruling elders commissioned to particular pastoral service,” or “ruling elder commissioned to pastoral service,” which is yet another name offered for what had been known simply as CLPs.

Then, just to keep us Presbyterians on our toes, did you know a new hymnbook is being prepared? I remember when our current hymnbook, commonly referred to as the “blue” hymnal, was introduced to the church and what an upheaval it caused at that time. I also know that there are some who have yet to adjust to it! Did you know we keep a complete set of the old “red” hymnbooks on hand for those times when we want to sing a hymn that was not included in the “blue” hymnbook? It’s true, we can reproduce hymns in our worship bulletins out of the old “red” hymnbook as long as we have enough of the old hymnals for everyone to use – even though they remain boxed up in a musty corner of the church.

Our current hymnal is called “The Presbyterian Hymnal.” The new hymnbook will be called “Glory to God: the Presbyterian Hymnal.” Will we consider using the new hymnbook? Probably. Will it have songs we do not know? Probably. Will it not include some of our favorite songs? Probably. Will it include most of the songs we already sing and love? Hopefully. Do we have to use this new hymnbook? No, we do not. We will await the guidance and recommendation of the Music and Worship Committee.

Stay “tuned” for more changes. In the meantime remember this good word from Malachi 3:6, “For I the Lord do not change....” God is good, all of the time – and all of the time, God is good. In this truth we can find comfort and rejoice.



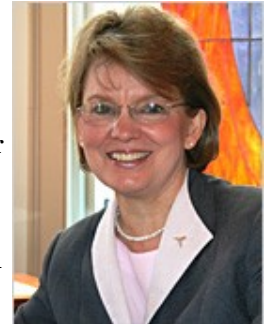
A Prayer for Rain

Almighty God, we are in need of rain.

We realize now, looking up into the clear, blue sky above, what a marvel even the least drop of rain really is. To think that so much water can fall out of the sky, which now is empty and clear! We place our trust in You. We are sure that You know our needs, but You want us to ask You anyway, to show You that we know we are depending on You. Look on our dry hills and fields, dear God, and bless them with the living blessing of soft rain. Then the land will rejoice and the rivers will sing Your praises and the hearts of men will be glad. AMEN

Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall to be our guest speaker, Sunday, October 9

Make plans to be in Sunday school and Worship on Sunday, October 9 as First Presbyterian Church welcomes the Rev. Dr. Laura Mendenhall as a guest speaker on that day. The title of Dr. Mendenhall's combined adult Sunday school presentation is *Do We Have Enough to be part of God's Story?* And, her sermon title during that morning's worship service is *Our Story in God's Story.*



Dr. Mendenhall is the former president of Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, GA. She is an ordained Presbyterian Church (USA) minister. She received her B.A. from Austin College, M.A., Presbyterian School of Christian Education, M. Div., San Francisco Theological Seminary and her D. Min., Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Help us welcome Dr. Mendenhall to FPC by being present in Worship and Sunday school on October 9!

Help make FPC's 125th birthday celebration special

Wedding dresses worn in our church or the christening gowns/outfits of children baptized in our church are being sought for our historical display during the November 20, 2011 125th Birthday Celebration. A picture with the person wearing the wedding dress or baptismal outfit



would be a wonderful accompaniment. All special items loaned for this occasion will be set up in classrooms the week of the celebration. Doors to these rooms will remain locked as to provide security for the heirloom items. On Sunday, November 20, the rooms will be opened for viewing. If you have a wedding dress or children's outfit you are willing to lend to this endeavor, please call the church office, 655-5694.

Thankful Hearts

Dear Church Members & Friends,

Thank you, thank you for your gifts of prayers, visits, phone calls, flowers and food during my illness. Your gifts of love were so grand. I gained so much. You helped me grow in faith and to heal.

Thank you to the Dorris' for the flowers from the Sanctuary, to the Deacons for the delicious food and get well cards.

Thank you to Lanee and Bill Proctor for their visits, to Georgia and Sam Edwards for visits and food. To Georgia for the heirloom garden that cheered me very day. To Sarah Hardwicke who kept me thinking outside myself.

Thank you to Bill Proctor and Kary Fry and to everyone

who talked and prayed with me about the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

Thanks to each of you for the support you gave to Fred. It helped me stay sane and gave him encouragement to take care of the home front.

Saying thank you reminds me how connected we are and how much we need each other. I am so grateful to you.

Please forgive my delay in writing. God bless each of you.

Thank you from both of us,
Annie & Fred Roeben

Dear Church Family,

I was happy to receive the beautiful flowers sent to the church in memory of Dr. J.

Francks. The flowers were delivered by Noma and her mom, Marge Smith. I enjoyed a visit with them as well as the beauty of the flowers, especially since it was my birthday! Such fun to have surprises on that day.

Thank you as the flowers added to a wonderful day.

Love to all in Christ,
Rudy Lu Akin

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the beautiful flowers and prayers during the past two weeks. It has left me with a great feeling of comfort knowing you are always there.

Sincerely,
David Quam

Church-wide Fall Festival & Trunk-or-Treat set for October 30

It's that time of year again! Pumpkins, shorter days and hopefully by October 30 cooler ones too, can only mean one thing—Fall has arrived and the annual Fall Festival and Trunk-or-Treat event is imminent! The place to be on Sunday, October 30 at 5:30 p.m. is

First Presbyterian Church! Bring your family, your friends, your neighbors and your neighbors' family if you want! There will be plenty of fun for everyone! Weather permitting all the games will take place outside in the vacant area on the South side of the Youth Center. We will enjoy a sit down meal, in the Wood Fellowship Hall, provided by the church. Chicken tenders, gravy mashed potatoes, rolls and whatever side dishes everyone brings will be the evening's fare.

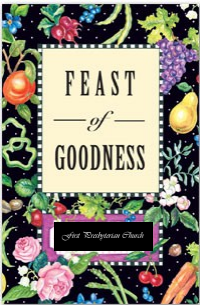
Cakes, cup cakes, sweet breads or whatever delicious treats you'd care to share will be needed for the always popular, always entertaining cake-walk! All the usual games will be available, Youth volunteers are needed and appreciated to help make the evening fun for everyone! Children are encouraged to come dressed in their Halloween costumes—as long as they aren't too scary—and, as always, there will be a costume contest. Anyone who would like is welcome to dress festively—just know there isn't a contest for anyone who is beyond 5th grade!

After dinner, we will then have our annual Trunk-or-Treat in the parking lot behind the gym. Bring lots of candy to share with all the trunk-or-treat participants! This is an evening you don't want to miss, if you are young or simply young at heart!





FPC is at the Wesley Daily Bread Soup Kitchen, the 4th Monday of every month. If you would like to join this fun and enthusiastic ministry team, give Susan Gober a call at church, 655-5694.



**Don't have one yet?
Get yours for only
\$12**

There are lots of wonderful recipes for Fall! And, they make great gifts for teachers and other special people who make your life easier!



**Food for the month of
October**

Canned green beans, peas, tuna fish, Vienna sausages, peanut butter, boxed cereal, instant oatmeal, and macaroni and cheese

Please place your donations in the basket in the Commons.

The *Lamb's Kin* is published monthly for the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. Deadline is the 20th of each month. Please email your news to
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gosusan@msn.com

Church office: 655-5694
Church office email:
choffice@gte.net



10/2
Sutton Page, Vic Probandt,
Polly Brooks-Harper, Bob Hamblen

10/9
Janet & Warner Phillips,
Diane & Scott Montgomerie

10/16
Renee & Rod Winn,
Penny Roberts, Ken Newman

10/23
Fran & Tom Early,
Randy Brooks, Bill Morehead

10/30
Susan & Paul Little, Dennis Grafa,
Julie Cecil



10/2
Lane Allison
Mike McCammon

10/9
Verna Morse
Colette Mull

10/16
Kathleen Pfluger
Gabriela Spraggins

10/23
Noma Perrine
Lane Puckitt

10/30
Fran Early
Suzanne & Richard Dorris