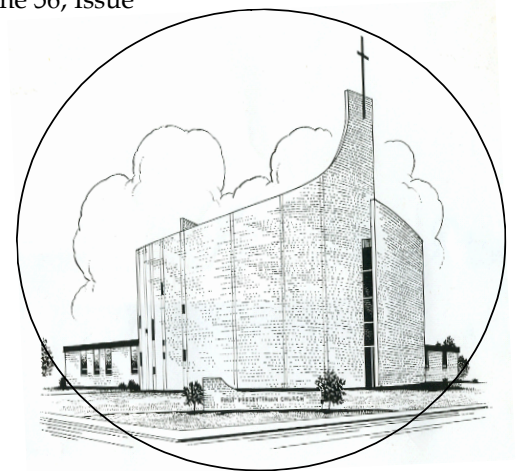


Focus

News of the Community of Faith

September 2019
Volume 56, Issue



You "Do-Nut" want to miss Sunday, September 8th! This is the day that the Discipleship Committee under the leadership of Gene Whitfill unveils the plans for the Fall Sunday School Season.

Come learn about Heifer International and the Animal Crackers curriculum. Heifer is in its 75th year of helping people, animals and plants live in harmony as God's good creation. Our hope is that the children, the youth, as well as the adults can see themselves as part of this Global Family. Come learn about the strategy of Passing on the Gift and why all the animal banks are sitting around the church.

Animal Crackers is the curriculum that will be used during the worship hour with the children of the church. Animal Crackers is an eleven-week program that helps to interpret the mission of Heifer International through sharing facts, stories, pictures and activities about Heifer animals and other inputs that this organization has to offer.

Job 12:7 But ask the animals and they will teach you...

Our youth went on a work/mission trip to Heifer International headquarters in Arkansas (can you say humidity!!) in the summer of 2011. It was a life changing trip for the kids and adults.

Please go to our website often and look around. We're trying to add new stuff every day. It's not perfect yet but we're trying our best. Right now, the website cannot be found by googling it. This is where you can help: the index bots at Google need lots of clicks on the website to recognize it.

www.fpc-plv.com



Dave's Doodles



The Theology of Technology

Technical innovation and the Church have had an uneasy relationship over the years.

For centuries, the Bible was the main science textbook, and consequently, the Church taught as a matter of scientific and religious fact that the sun and stars revolved around the earth (actually there are still many folks who believe this. It's called 'geo-centrism'). In the 16th century, Copernicus suggested that the earth revolved around the sun, a theory later affirmed by Galileo's telescope. You can imagine the uproar.

A couple of hundred years later, technology and religion again found itself at odds when the Luddite revolution, itself informed by the labor reforms advocated by the Methodists, began smashing the factory machines that threatened their livelihood. While the official position of the church was on the side of the aristocracy, the underlying theology grew out of Wesley's own concern for the plight of the working poor, and this presented itself as a difficult position to reconcile. (and you thought I wouldn't be able to work in a reference to Labor Day!)

For some in the church, technology has been a tool to be used in furtherance of God's kingdom on earth: From scrolls to Bibles, from hand printing to printing presses, from foot operated organ bellows to steam calliopes, to electric air compressors, from hymnals to a screen, technology has been used to present God's word in increasingly broader and sophisticated ways.

But this use hasn't always been welcomed with open arms, as you can imagine. When John Wycliffe first translated the Bible into English, he was declared a heretic. When Martin Luther used the emergence of the printing press to distribute his translation of the Bible into German, it resulted in war.

And while we don't usually associate advances in technology with revolution these days, the use of technology in church is still fraught with opportunities to offend, wound, frighten, and infuriate congregations.

And with good reason.

I, for instance, am deeply offended by the emergence of mega-churches that will broadcast their Pastor's sermon (by hologram!) to satellite churches. My offense is based on the idea that our faith is and always was an incarnational faith, that we believe that God came to us, Emmanuel, in the flesh, that he was really real, that he assumed our limitations and our finiteness, and you could see him, touch him, hear him, eat with him.

Our reformed theology of communion is based on the understanding that we do not call Jesus down from heaven to be our own table, along with every other table in every church everywhere, but rather that we are brought into the presence of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

You can see how the idea of an infinite and artificial broadcast of a preacher is at the very least inconsistent with our theology of an incarnate and finite Lord. At least for me it is.

I also think that the way Facebook and Twitter is being used to say things that one would never say face to face is a real problem. I am personally not on Facebook, not because I'm afraid of what I might say, but rather, I'm afraid of what I might see. The few times I've been online, I've seen things that are so completely out of character that I can hardly believe they are being written by people I know. The truth is, I don't want my good feelings for my family and friends to be ruined by the carelessness that I see being exhibited by the rants and polemics that seem all too popular these days.

And so, the truth is, in some ways, I am a social technology Luddite (again with the Labor Day references!). While the great promise of social media was to bring people together, the reality is going into a restaurant, and seeing everybody, even those at the same table, deep into their phones. A technology that promised community is instead creating isolation.

On the other hand, as my wife can testify, I am a gadget freak. If it clicks, whirs, computes, or can break down for no discernable reason, I love it.

And so, I am an inconsistent Luddite. Some uses of technology scare me, some intrigue me. Some infuriate me, some fascinate me.

And I'm probably not alone in this. All of us, I think, continue to have an uneasy relationship with technology. Technology, in the right hands at the right time, has resulted in the word of God being available to all in every language. In the wrong hands, at the wrong time, it can result in a 'dirty' nuclear device going off in a major city.

So, back to my opening thesis, the theology of technology: I'm not sure there is one. We can use technology for good things and for good reasons, or for bad things for bad reasons. This isn't an indictment of technology, but it is a reminder of our own failings as human beings.

But, it is important to be aware of the potential for hurt that technology possesses. While the printing press was a blessing, it resulted in countless deaths. While nuclear research has brought us targeted cancer treatments, smoke alarms, and runway lighting, it has also brought us nuclear bombs and catastrophic nuclear plant meltdowns.

Cont'd on page 4

September Birthdays and Anniversaries

Brent Silvas	Sept 3
Wiley Hawkins	Sept 10
Sawyer Tirey	Sept 10
Shelley Williams	Sept 15
Karen Hawkins	Sept 24
Sandra Chavez	Sept 26
Richard Morgan	Sept 29



♥ David & Karen Hawkins	Sept 1
♥ Kim & Glenna Butler	Sept 27

Cont'd from page 3

And while I'm not trying to say that the use of technology in church is likely to result in a mass casualty event, it bears remembering that change is difficult, and it's hard to predict the future.

On the other hand, nothing ventured, nothing gained! On the whole, we are better off with technology. 50 years ago, my Kidney disease would have killed me off within a year. The idea that they can run a camera up the arteries of my arm right into my heart is still baffling to me, but, boy, am I glad they can do that.

My computer has an incredibly sophisticated Bible research program on it, with Bibles and resources in literally every language. I can work on sermons and church work literally anywhere there is a Wi-Fi connection. When I was a kid, I used to dream of having a communicator like Captain Kirk, and now, I have a combined communicator, tri-corder and ship's computer all in one Android-branded phone (Yes, I know, iPhone owners; yours probably includes a cloaking device of some kind).

So, I'm not afraid of technology. I am aware, however, of its power to disrupt. As we begin this new season of the church's life, looking at new ways of communicating an old message, I would love to promise that nothing will go wrong, nothing will offend anybody, nobody will be hurt. But I know that I can't do that. It may be a bumpy ride.

But we won't be taking this ride by ourselves. We are in it together, and we are accompanied by God. And maybe that's the best theology I can come up with.

Update on WBU Koinonia

Elise and I talked to four students. They will probably not attend our church but they heard that this church loves them and has a home-cooked meal for them whenever they wish to attend. We think it was also good for the other churches to see we were involved.

September 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

1 10:30 am – Worship	2	3 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts 6:30 pm – Outreach & Membership Committee	4 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Amazin' Grazin' 6:45 pm – Choir	5	6	7
8 9:15 am – Rally Day w/donuts 10:30 am – Worship & Com- munion, Potluck	9	10 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	11 11 am – MoW 1:30 pm – Naomi Ruth Circle 6 pm – WNF T-Bones 6:45 pm – Choir	12	13	14
15 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship	16	17 5:30 pm – SnackPak4Kids packing 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts	18 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Disciples 6:45 pm – Choir	19	20	21
22 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Pick up 	23	24 6:30 pm – Cub Scouts Recruiting Night	25 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Groovy Grillers 6:45 pm – Choir	26	27 Noon – FFFF PDP Meeting—Colorado City	28
29 9:15 am – Sunday School 10:30 am – Worship Return 	30					

F.I.S.H

Faith In Sharing House
504 Joliet St. / P.O. Box 332
Plainview, TX 79073-0332

Hours: Mon-Fri 1:00P.M. - 3:30P.M.

FISH "Wish List"

Priority Needs:

- United Gift Cards (Any Amount)
- Wal-Mart Gift Cards (Any Amount)
- Paper Sacks with Handles (United)
- Plastic sacks (United or Wal-Mart)

Miscellaneous:

1 pound box of saltine crackers (4 sleeves)
Ramen Noodles
5 1/2 oz. box of macaroni and cheese
Children's cereal
46 oz. can of fruit juice (apple or orange)
Peanut butter (any size)
Toilet paper
Bath size bar soap
8 oz. can of tomato sauce

Meats:

6 oz. can of tuna

Soups:

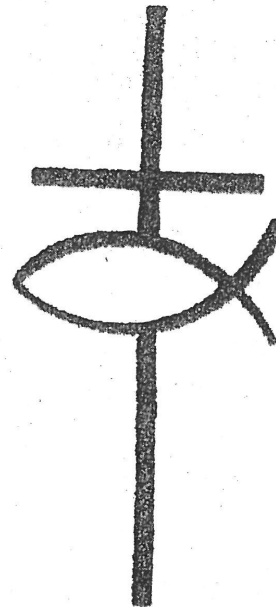
10 1/2 oz. can of chicken noodle
10 1/2 oz. can of tomato

Vegetables:

15 oz. can of new potatoes
15 oz. can of sweet potatoes
15 oz. can of corn
15 oz. can of green beans

Fruit:

15 oz. can of mandarin oranges



This is a brand-new F.I.S.H. wish list. The gift cards will be used by volunteers to purchase much needed items for F.I.S.H.

This year the Mission and Ministry Team of First Presbyterian Church is committed to being the HANDS AND FEET OF CHRIST in our community as well as in the world around us. We had a successful offering (\$960.30) for the One Great Hour of Sharing to help those in need through Presbyterian Missions and our NOROC Sunday raised \$1,856.00 to send 22 children to horse camp and several other children were able to attend Day Camp because of your giving. This Fall there will be other opportunities to help being the hands and feet of Christ. The Mission Team would like to invite you to participate in these activities.



Meals on Wheels

First Presbyterian Church has a Meals on Wheels route each Wednesday. Volunteers pick up the meals at Covenant Hospital Cafeteria and spend the next 30 to 45 minutes handing out warm meals to local residents on Route 9. Some of the people on our church route don't see any other people during the day except for the one delivering the meals, keep these people in your prayers. The sign-up sheet for Meals on Wheels is on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

Faith in Sharing House

Each Monday a few Presbyterians and friends help pack groceries for the clients of FISH. There is always a need for bar soap, toilet paper, children's cereal and paper and plastic bags. A FISH wish list can be found on the Church's website and this newsletter.

Snack Pak 4 Kids

Snack Pak is a community organization that provides weekend snacks for needy kids. Over 800 plus kids in Plainview were able to reach their learning potential last year because of Snack Pak 4 Kids. This year the Mission Team has set 3 packing dates for the Fall semester. The first date is Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Packing begins at 5:30 so show up a little early in your Church t-shirt to 908 Ash. The packing takes place in the Brown Annex. Other packing dates will be October 15th and December 17th.

If you would like to sponsor a child for a year, please talk to Sherry Thompson to learn the details. Snack Pak 4 Kids-Plainview has a Facebook page that also has information about this valuable program in Plainview.

Kids can't learn if they are hungry.

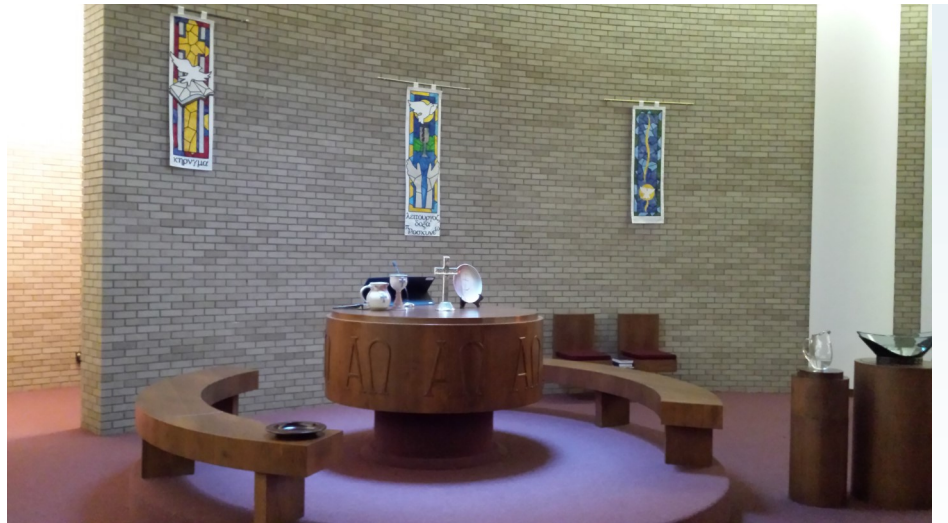
Animal Crackers

This is project of the Heifer Organization that is in its 75th year of good work. Look for details on the front page of this Newsletter as we introduce this program for the children and youth of First Presbyterian Church.

Focus

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SEPTEMBER NEWS TO KNOW

Focus
is published monthly by First
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FOCUS are requested by the 20th
of the month.

Rev. David Hawkins, Pastor
Dr. Charles Teykl, Pastor Emeritus
Karen Hawkins, Publisher

Be sure to note these important dates
and jobs to be done during the month
of September.

Ushers

Whit Hunt, Richard Morgan,
Gaylan Goddard, Chris Lewellen,
Larry Williams, Mike Craig, Gra-
ham Tirey

September Liturgist

Lisa Kersh

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Sept 4—Amazin' Grazin'
Sept 11—T-Bones
Sept 18—Disciples of Dinner
Sept 25—Groovy Grillers

August Attendance

Aug 4	32
Aug 11	58
Aug 18	30
Aug 25	35

August Contributions

Aug 4	\$1,984.70
Aug 5 (online)	\$2,130.00
Aug 11	\$1,822.50
Aug 18	\$ 597.20
Aug 25	\$4,324.15
(incl. \$1,700 moved from Edward Jones)	

Total Income:	\$ 9,025.55
Total Expenses:	<u>\$12,961.28</u>
Total:	\$ -3,935.73

