



# The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Kilgore, Texas

November 2022  
Volume 39 No. 11

## FROM THE PASTOR

Paul, the apostle, eloquently describes our Christian vocation in 1 Corinthians 4: 1 & 2: “Think of us in this way, as *servants* of Christ and *stewards* of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of *stewards* that they be found trustworthy.” Servanthood and stewardship constitute the core of Paul’s understanding of our Christian identity and responsibility. Servanthood and stewardship for us is both a gift we have received and a task we must undertake. According to biblical scholar Gordon Fee, “servant” in the original Greek refers to an individual who has the duties of administering the affairs of another. Someone of higher status, perhaps a master of a household, has delegated authority to the servant to act on the master’s behalf.

The second metaphor in these verses re-enforces this theme of delegated authority; Paul claims that we are also *stewards* of God’s mysteries. Steward, from which we derive the word stewardship, also echoes the same idea that one has been entrusted with managing a household of another. By the way, the Greek word for steward is *oikonomos*, from which we derive the words economy/economics. We are servants and stewards of the mysteries of God, that is, the gospel revealed in Christ.

To be a servant and steward also contains a dimension of accountability. We answer to the one who entrusted to us these sacred mysteries of word and sacrament. Part of stewarding the mysteries includes proclaiming them. Yet, proclamation is not reducible to mere speaking, but it encompasses the entire life of the Christian community’s practice of worship, mission, education, and service. None of this is possible without stewarding appropriately the resources God has given us.

We are now entering our annual stewardship season, and we are asking each member to participate in the act of stewarding the gospel God has entrusted to us by giving back to God a portion of our treasure. **Specifically, I am asking all of us to increase our pledge by 10%, which should get us to around \$380,000 in pledges.** While it is true that we have endowments to help us make up any shortfall in pledges, our current rate of withdrawal on those funds is not sustainable for the long term. Therefore, we must continue in the direction of supporting our ministry primarily from congregational giving for abiding financial health and vitality.

You will soon receive a letter from the stewardship committee and a pledge card. Please prayerfully consider a pledge increase. We know that thanksgiving always occurs in November, and part of how we give thanks to God is by giving back a portion of what we’ve received.

Grace and Peace,  
Will



## P W News



Presbyterian Women will meet this month to continue our Bible Study, from Celebrating Sabbath, Lesson Four, Sabbath and Surrender.

Our scripture reading is from Exodus 16. The Noon Circle will meet November 8, at noon in the church parlor. The Night Circle will meet November 9, at 6 p.m. in the parlor.

During this time of Thanksgiving we will also be contributing to our annual Thank Offering 2022, "Do Good, Rejoice, Pray and Give Thanks." Grant Recipients this year on the national level include: Synod of the Covenant, Synod of Living Waters, Synod of Med-Atlantic, Synod of South Atlantic, Synod of the Sun, and Synod of the Trinity. Our International Recipients include: Haiti and Lebanon. Please pray for all of these endeavors that help so many.

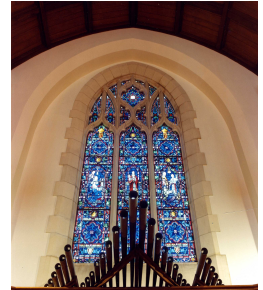
Please continue to pray for all on our prayer lists.

Hope to see you at circle!!!!

### PW officers 2022-2023

<b>Moderator</b>	<b>Jackie Fout</b>
<b>Vice-Moderator</b>	<b>Elaine Hall</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Nancy Smith</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Jo Little</b>
<b>Historian</b>	<b>Lsha Stanley</b>
<b>Personal Faith &amp; Family Life</b>	<b>Elaine Hall</b>
<b>Christian Community Action</b>	<b>Ruth Anne Camp</b>
<b>Leadership /Resources</b>	<b>Nancy Smith</b>
<b>Special Flowers</b>	<b>Connie Field</b>
<b>Noon Circle Chairman</b>	<b>Libby Laird</b>
<b>Night Circle Chairman</b>	<b>Jan Wylie</b>

## 2022 East Texas Pipe Organ Festival November 6 - 10, 2022



Schedule of Concerts at  
First Presbyterian Church  
Kilgore, Texas

**Sunday, November 6 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Opening Concert**  
Vincent Dubois, organist

**Monday, November 7 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Organ Recital**  
Stefan Engels, organist

**Tuesday, November 8 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Silent Movie**  
"Safety Last," starring Harrold Lloyd  
Christian Elliott, organist

**Wednesday, November 9 - 10:00 a.m.**  
**Organ Recital**  
Bruce Neswick

**Thursday, November 10 - 8:00 p.m.**  
**Closing Concert**  
Sándor Balatoni, organist

For a complete schedule of the organ festival,  
please visit:

[www.easttexaspipeorganfestival.com](http://www.easttexaspipeorganfestival.com)

## Midweek Manna



Join us Wednesday evening Nov. 2, for Communion at 6:00 p.m. in the Chapel, and afterwards at 6:30 p.m. for the New Member Dinner in Fellowship Hall.

A nursery will be provided.



**Saturday, November 5**  
**Set your clocks back 1 hour!**

**Monthly**  
**Missions**



for November is  
**PCHAS Angel Tree.**



**Please look for the Angel Tree in the  
Education Wing.**

## **Welcome New Members!**

“No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lamp stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”

We love lights! City lights, holiday lights, sunlight, moonlight---we love lights! Each and every one of us has a light within us and we need to let this light shine brightly.

We have some new bright lights among us in the form of new members. They are the Mauldin Family-- Clayton, Allie, and Rett, Kasey Nisbett and Jill Schleier.

We will celebrate them with our **New Member Dinner** following Midweek Manna on Wednesday, November 2.

Please come join in the fun and fellowship with our church family hosted by:

Visitation-Evangelism and  
Stewardship-Budget Committees.





The Session held it's Regular Stated Meeting October 19, 2022 at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

The meeting began with a devotion and prayer.

The Consent Agenda included the following committee reports:

### **C E-Missions**

- The committee is planning and helping the children and youth directors with the upcoming Fall Festival to be held Sunday, October 30, at 4:00 pm in Fellowship Hall

### **Stewardship-Budget**

- The committee met October 11 in the Library. Plans were discussed for sharing responsibilities with the Visitation-Evangelism committee for the New Member Dinner on November 2.
- A Stewardship theme was discussed.
- Moderator Jan Wylie will send a letter to the congregation related to stewardship.
- The committee worked on the proposed budget to present to the Session for approval.

### **Clerk's Report**

Sarah Camp reported on attending the recent Review of the Session Minutes in Henderson.

### **Pastor's Report**

Will reported on his recent trip to Chicago for the Evangelical Homiletics Society annual meeting. He shared his experience of feeling nourished while attending the Progressive Baptist Church of Chicago.

### **Committee Reports**

The **Stewardship-Budget committee** presented the 2023 Budget to the Session. After discussion the budget was approved.

The **Property committee** presented two motions for approval by the Session:

- To replace the flat roof over Fellowship Hall to prevent further leaking, which causes continued need of repairs inside.
- To replace the front doors of the sanctuary for security measures.

Both motions were approved.



## ***Tithes and Offerings for Month of September***

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 31,226
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 21,141
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 38,554
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ (17,413)

### **For the Year 2022**

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 374,719
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 288,891
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 381,211
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ (92,320)

Thank you for your tithes and offerings! Without your faithful giving, ministry and missions would not be possible.

### **New Business**

The Session discussed the dates for worship during the Christmas Season. It was agreed to have the Annual Service of Carols & Candles on December 18 at 5:00 pm; The Christmas Eve Communion Service at 5:00 pm in the Chapel; The Sunday Service on Christmas Day at 10:30 am, which will be a service of Lessons & Carols.

### **Old Business**

Will shared with the session of directing community members with pastoral needs to the Greater Longview United Way serving Gregg County.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which also consisted of the previous minutes, and the financial report for September.

Session members shared joys and concerns, and prayed together for those on the prayer list, and members of our congregation.

Sarah Camp

**Clerk of Session**



## ***Thoughts and prayers***

### ***Family and friends of FPC***

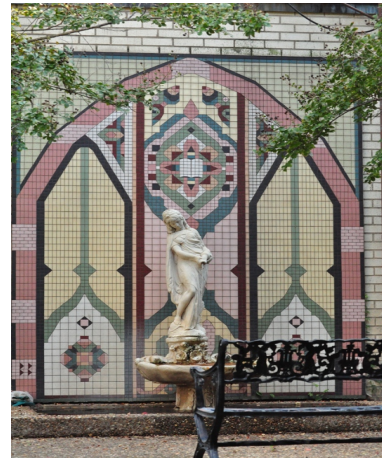
- \* We are saddened in the death of Rexine Burden.
- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| * Haley Lemming Banks | * Raymond Bazinet   |
| * Jami Bird           | * Patrick Braly     |
| * Joe Brown           | * Angela Burch      |
| * E J Chowdhury       | * Elizabeth Collins |
| * Lynda Crittenden    | * Linda Curkan      |
| * Carly Faulkner      | * John Fout         |
| * Laura Guzman        | * Ashley Haden      |
| * Anne Hardy          | * Chester Hardy     |
| * Lucy Harrison       | * Kenzie Hyatt      |
| * Zoe Kelt            | * Rita Knox         |
| * Shirley G Latham    | * Michelle Lemming  |
| * Sherry Lockman      | * Dianne Lyle       |
| * Donna Marshall      | * Ward McCollum     |
| * Rex McCubbin        | * David McElroy     |
| * Abbi Melton         | * Dayne Neal        |
| * Larry Perkins       | * Amanda Presley    |
| * Katie Ramo          | * Jerry Richardson  |
| * Margaret Roberts    | * Ken Rucker        |
| * Charlotte Sechrist  | * Butch Squier      |
| * John Squier         | * Kai Tucker        |
| * Russell Washburn    | * April Watson      |
| * Stewart White       | * Larry Willis      |
| * Linda Willis        | * Carolyn Woods     |

### ***In Service to our Country***

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| * Jacob Conner | * Brent Duvall  |
| * Robert Gray  | * Gavin Jackson |
| * Stone Smith  |                 |



Communion will be on  
**Memorial Sunday,**  
November 6.



Join us as we remember all the  
Saints who have gone before us.

## **Saturday Bread Schedule:**



- November 5: Church of God in Christ  
November 12: St. Luke's Methodist  
November 19: Robert Lightfoot  
November 26: First Christian



Dear Members and Friends of First Presbyterian Church, Kilgore,

Beautiful red poinsettias will be available for purchase in two sizes. These will be placed throughout the church during the Christmas season- from the First Sunday in Advent through the First Sunday in Epiphany. You may purchase the poinsettias in Honor of, in Memory of or anonymously.

The proceeds will support the ministries of Presbyterian Women and Men of the Church.

Please place your completed order form, with payments in the offering plate during worship, drop it off in the church office, or mail to FPC-Kilgore, **PO Box 1216**, Kilgore, TX 75663.

FPC Presbyterian Women and Men of the Church thank you for your participation.

### **First Presbyterian Church poinsettia order form 2022**

10" - \$30.00

14" - \$80.00

10" x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

14" x \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_

Return this order form with your payment to the offering plate or church office  
by **November 20**.

**Make payable to Presbyterian Women**

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

Anonymous \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Anyone who purchases a poinsettia will understand that they will be used for the purpose of decorating our church. Those wishing to take the size plant they purchased may do so only after January 1, 2023. There will not be names on the individual plants.



**Fun  
At the  
Danville  
Picnic!**





**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**PO BOX 1216**

**KILGORE, TEXAS 75663**

**903-984-1502**

**Email: [firstpreskilgore@gmail.com](mailto:firstpreskilgore@gmail.com)**

**Web page: [firstpreskilgore.org](http://firstpreskilgore.org)**

**Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore**

**November**



## **NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- |                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 3 Sophie Leppert<br>Lsha Stanley | 20 Collin Clower   |
| 5 John Leppert                   | 22 Jo Little   |
| 6 Jan Wylie                      | 23 Kace Murphy   |
| 8 Jalissa Smith                  | 25 Rylie Mann  |
| 9 Shea Tyra                      | 26 Tom Mobley  |
| 11 Sarah Jackson                 | 27 Sue Brown<br>Joan Maxwell<br>Leigh-Ann Sechrist<br>Lilly Sechrist |
| 12 Lelo Perez                    | 28 Susan Halbert   |
| 17 Griffin Richard               |  |
| 19 James Whisenhunt              |  |