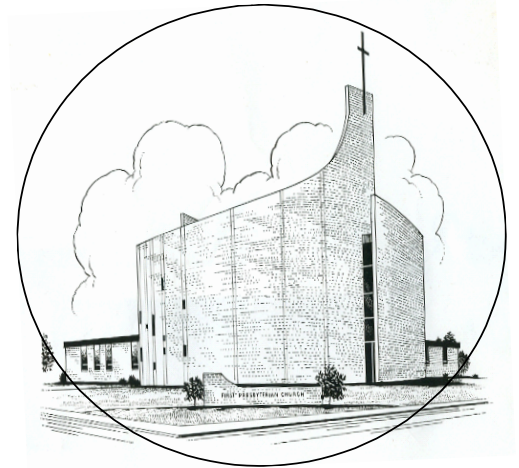


Focus

News of the Community of Faith

August 2019
Volume 56, Issue 8



Youth Swim Party & Cookout with First Christian Church

Sunday, August 11
5 pm



We are doing a second printing of our FPC T-shirts. Is yours faded or have you had a size change since 2015? Joined the church after 2015? There is a yellow legal pad in the Narthex to sign up for a shirt or email me at plv.firstpc@gmail.com. We need 8 to re-order.

If you prefer the polo shirt, bring one in and David will embroider it with the PC (USA) cross.



Dave's Doodles



Ah, the dog days of summer. Those hot (unless you live at the southern tip of Chile), lazy, numbing days where the flies buzz against the window, the dust-devils pick up the plastic bags from Walmart and drop them in the field next door, when the best solution is just to sit in the shade (or air conditioning) and drink iced tea.

Or in my case, sit back and write Doodles.

While most of the world is either on or planning their last trip of the summer before school starts, the church has been busy at work on some things that are best done when not much else is going on, and we are pleased to announce that many small projects that have accumulated over the years have been completed. It's like cleaning out your garage, and discovering that there really is space to, you know, store a car, or something.

One of the projects we are glad to get off our desk is the Online Church directory. I think one of the roadblocks we have been trying to surmount is the fact that we were kind of stuck in an earlier age, when we had a photographer come in, take pictures, organize the pictures for us, print a directory for us, and then we were good for a few years. In today's world, many of these things are not actually necessary, or even efficient. In a world of Facebook, Instagram, etc., pictures are taken all the time, and are instantly transmittable in digital format, without any loss of quality. Most people are online in some capacity, either with computers and websites, or cell phones and Facebook, and so, printed materials, while not completely gone, are not used as much. When we combine these things, a printed directory, updated every 5 or 10 years is an artifact from a different era.

Consequently, we will rely a little bit more on you all to provide us with up-to-date information. If you don't like your picture, send us a new one. If the contact information is bogus, let us know, and we will change it. We need your help to us keep our community in touch with each other.

Now, all this doesn't mean that we will not have a printed directory. We will. But it will not a full glossy production booklet. It will be a simple PDF file with staples, will be printed once a year, and it will be available in the office or in the Narthex. The main emphasis will be put on maintaining an online directory that is included in our website, both the desktop and mobile versions, that contains all the information a good quality directory would, including pictures and contact information, but is also able to be updated quickly and effortlessly, with the information immediately available to everyone. It's a big change, but I think it's a good one.

Another big project we've contemplated for years has been to update the website, using more modern palettes of colors and themes, with a more mobile-friendly interface. In working on the old website, we discovered that the platform upon which it was built, Google

Sites, had changed, and was now called, “New Sites”, and it was awful. Less flexibility, fewer options, user-UN-friendly, and an all-around big downgrade in functionality. On the other hand, it was free. But, sometimes, you get what you pay for, and this was one of those times. When I created the original website, it was good enough, but now, I find it impossible.

Consequently, in conversation with the Membership and Outreach Committee, we have subscribed to a web-building/web-hosting platform called Wix, purchased a new domain, and have completed the basic structure of a new website. We still have a ways to go, but already the website is more functional than the old one, with the Online Directory, Announcements, Sermons online, Focus newsletters online, and best of all, a more compatible mobile interface for cell phones and tablets. The website is still being indexed by google, and it will take a while to be fully resolved in search results, I am already glad that we made this change, and I have good hope for the future of using this easily edited and nice looking service.

BTW: the website is FPC-PLV.com. You can also get an app for the mobile version by typing this into your phone and then letting it install on your home screen: <https://fpcplv.beezer.com>

While on the topic of websites and domains, I would like to take a moment to thank Gene Whitfill, who created the first website so many years ago (well before the monstrosity I cobbled together), before I even came here, and has faithfully paid for the renewal of our domain registration for many years. Gene, you can put this burden down, with the deep thanks of a grateful congregation.

In addition to the work on the online directory and the website, we will be updating the Facebook page on a more regular basis. Please submit pictures and/or announcements that you would like to see posted.

In all these tech-savvy efforts, the key is content. Pictures, articles, pictures, posts, pictures, all these are critical to keeping our online presence fresh and inviting. Session members, please, please, give us content. Let us know about upcoming projects, ideas, stuff that is happening in your committees. We are not in a position to decide for you what is important in your area of responsibility. Please share what’s going on, and if possible, give us pictures! Pictures are awesome!!

I hope you all find these changes helpful. Our goal is to find ways of communicating our message to as many people as quickly as possible. I am aware that some do not use computers and cell phones in these ways, and for those folks we will still be putting calendars in the bulletin and the Focus newsletter, we will still be printing the Focus for those who want it, and we will have a simple printed version of the directory.

But, if you, like me, enjoy having this information at your fingertips, these changes are for you. Please take the time to check us out online!

August Birthdays and Anniversaries

Pam Kendall	Aug 3
Rusty White	Aug 5
Brian Adamson	Aug 6
Pat Walter	Aug 11
Donna Austin	Aug 14
Gene Whitfill	Aug 14
David Hawkins	Aug 20
Brandy Tirey	Aug 21
Connie White	Aug 28
Whit Hunt	Aug 31



♥ Keegan & Lynnlee Butler	Aug 2
♥ Scott & Karen Beth Strovas	Aug 4
♥ Kade & Bailee Kersh	Aug 10
♥ Heath & Kelley Bozeman	Aug 17
♥ Larry & Shelley Williams	Aug 31



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

The Naomi Ruth Circle would like to invite all the ladies of the church to participate in this year's Bible Study. We meet on the second Wednesday of every month (except August) at 1:30 pm in the church parlor. It would be fun to have you join us!

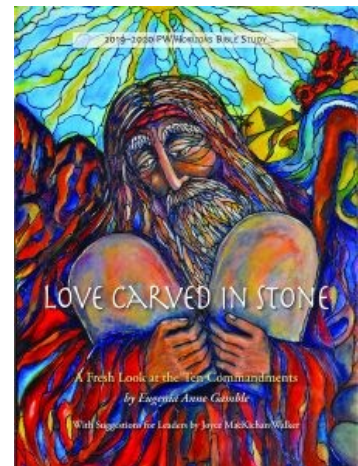
The first meeting will be on **Wednesday, August 21** with Pastor Dave introducing the study. Study books are \$10.

Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

by Eugenia Anne Gamble

Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. "Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community." Love Carved in Stone is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.



WNF

We will start Wednesday Night Fellowship up again on August 21. We have invited the new Wayland students to come partake in our meal at church and could really use a couple more cooks and/or helpers in the kitchen. If you can help, please let Sue Lewellen know. Thank you!

August 2019

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

				1	2 1 pm – Card Making	3
4 10:30 am – Worship & Communion, Potluck, Session Meeting	5	6 11 am – Home Communion	7 11 am – MoW 1 pm – Home Communion 5:30 pm – Nominating Committee	8	9	10
11 10:30 am – Worship 5 pm – Youth Swim Party & Cookout w/FCC	12	13	14 11 am – MoW	15	16 5 pm – WBU Koinonia	17
18 10:30 am – Worship Pick up 	19	20	21 11 am – MoW 1:30 pm – Naomi Ruth Circle 6 pm – WNF Disciples 6:45 pm – Choir	22	23 Noon – FFFF at Royal Splash	24
25 10:30 am – Worship Return 	26	27	28 11 am – MoW 6 pm – WNF Groovy Grillers 6:45 pm – Choir	29	30 	31

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:

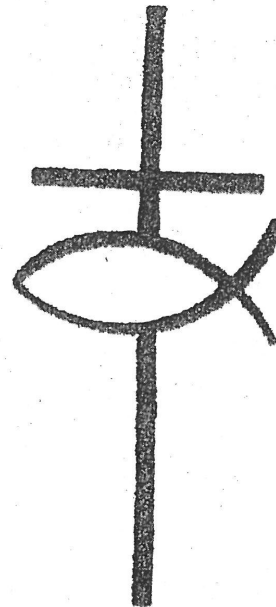
10 1/2 oz. can of chicken noodle
10 1/2 oz. can of tomato

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.

These are the words to the special music David presented Sunday, August 4

Hymn: “If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers”

Thanks to Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, this hymn is free for congregations to use in worship. It was written after the church shooting in Sutherland Springs, Texas, that claimed 26 lives.

**If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers
O WALY WALY LM (“Though I May Speak”)**

If we just talk of thoughts and prayers
And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death,
Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.

If we just dream of what could be
And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways,
Our dreams of change are false displays.

If we just sing of doing good
And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain,
Our talk of good is simply vain.

God, may our prayers and dreams and songs
Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs—
That works for peace and justice, too.
Then will our prayers bring joy to you.

Biblical references: Isaiah 58; Matthew 7:21, 24-27; 1 Corinthians 13:1; James 2:14-26; 1 John 3:18-24

Tune: Traditional English melody

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Our church is participating in Wayland's new student orientation event (Koinonia). We will have a booth with informational brochures about our church and give out some cookies. If you would like to bake a batch, please let Karen Hawkins or Elise Adamson know. Koinonia kicks off Aug 16 at 5 pm.



Wayland gives out sling backpacks to 200 students and we have included this FPC pen in WBU colors and a flier inviting students to join us for Wednesday Night Fellowship. No programs, just a meal!

Focus

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AUGUST 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 August.

Ushers

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

August Liturgist

Stan Rigler

Wednesday Night Fellowship

Aug 21—Disciples of Dinner
Aug 28—Groovy Grillers

July Attendance

July 7	28
July 14	29
July 21	44
July 28	32

July Contributions

July 3 (online)	\$2,130.00
July 7	\$2,577.90
July 14	\$ 672.60
July 21	\$4,848.65
July 28	\$2,546.80

Total Income:	\$12,545.00
Total Expenses:	<u>\$13,161.04</u>
Total:	\$ -616.04

