



First Press

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September 2023

From the Pastor's Desk



NO news is good news. In August we skipped the newsletter but sent the calendar. Maybe the heat melted my computer or the dog ate my homework. With Labor Day in the “rearview” and summer in the “rearview”, I am thankful. Thankful for all of you who give so much of your energy, imagination and intelligence, as asked in the ordination questions. If it were not for our ardent photographer we would have few event pictures or archives. The same goes for the office administrator who puts together these works of verbal art. My list of “thankees” goes on and on as do the helping hands at FPCB. You put the **U** in church.

As I reconnoiter and hope for cooler temps and rain, I am mindful of the multitude of church members who, over the years, have made my life productive and rewarding. With immense sadness I let go of a dear friend, Charlotte, last month. She and husband Tom contributed greatly to not only our church in Dallas but also to my family. It was Tom’s influence that enabled my son to choose chemical engineering. They became acquainted as covenant partners in the communicant’s class at OCPC. (see pg 2)



July Music



Pastor's Desk (cont.)

Walter was a third "adopted" grandchild in addition to the biological ones. He attended the visitation for Charlotte on behalf of the family.

As we moved on to celebrating Labor Day, we were mindful of the many working hands which have made this country economically and spiritually strong. On Sunday, Sept.3 we celebrated those who this year have given so much in worship and had an indoor picnic. No names were called- you knew yours! Please do read the following piece the congregation received that Sunday and pause to give thanks to God for these of the congregation and those hands in these 50 states and territories who labor to make the USA a strong nation.

Rev. Kathy E. Vineyard, HR

~ A Thank You Note to the Congregation~

You know who you are. God sees you. We see you. Your contribution to the church of Jesus Christ which meets here is like the church defined by "The Westminster Standards" : visible and invisible. The Reformed tradition sees the church as being one, unified community that is seen and unseen. We are the church this Sabbath with faces- tomorrow we are the church dispersed sometimes seemingly without a face. For all you, the friends and members of First Presbyterian Church have done to further the cause of Christ in this place, there is immense gratitude. THANK YOU!

To list names and contributions would inevitably unintentionally exclude someone somewhere. Some do not desire to be named or acknowledged. This is particularly true of financial contributions. Thank you for giving to the various funds and general fund to keep the doors open, the lights and HVAC operating, the mission furthered to needy persons, and keep alive the weekly and festival worship experiences.

Thank you for your dedication to some of the ensuing and growing list of tasks, accomplishments, and general ministry:
Session and Clerk, Treasurer, pianist, organist, music directors, choirs, office administrator.

Thank you for improvements in building, grounds, and music:

Music database re-organization; maintenance of choir materials and room.

New floor coverings in social hall-removal of carpet and installation of wood flooring.

Technology – weekly online and Zoom worship; installation of security cameras and equipment, renovation of sound equipment, new media center for broadcasting worship. Banner creation, making, replacement and repair, new storage.

Christmas decoration replacements.

Addition of chime choir and purchase of instruments.

Ongoing building and grounds cleanup and beautification.

Increased mission efforts-Lenten and Christmas giving, clothing and food drives.

Men's and Ladies groups.

Giving care to the church community through prayer, card ministry, prayer chain, casseroles (of course).

Prayer bead ministry – idea and creation of beads

Photography for newsletters, social media

The foregoing list is a brief compendium of recent activities. Thank you for the many and unseen ways the mission of Jesus Christ is supported daily, weekly, monthly and through the years.



FINANCIAL DATA

JANUARY - SEPTEMBER 3, 2023

Total Income	\$59,094.15
Total Expense	\$55,385.96
Net Income	\$ 3,708.19

Celebrating the 4th



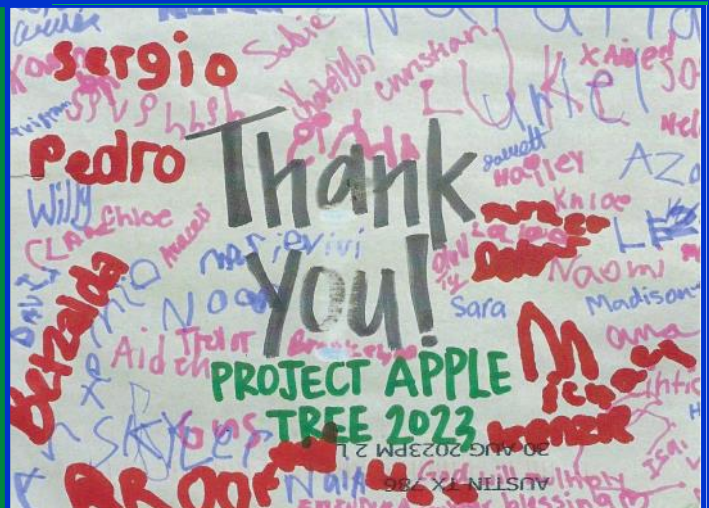
Presbytery Mission Update Based on our Lenten Giving We funded the purchase of:

- A Sewing Machine
- A Mzuzu Drill
- 3 Families of Chickens
- A Pair of Goats
- 3 Piglets
- 6 Farming Tools

Plus we fostered Beekeeping
and a Community Garden



**Women of the
Church
will meet on
Thursday
September 21
at 11:00 am
for a
“Bring a Salad”
Lunch**





Labor Day Celebration



Dear First Presbyterian Family,
Thank you for your support and
use of the church. We can't wait
for you to meet our baby boy.

Love,
Abigail, Tyler
& Baby Hunter



More Labor Day

