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*Sundays at Faith*

Sunday School & Bible  
Study begin at  
9:15 a.m.  
Worship begins at  
10:30 a.m.  
*Childcare is provided*

# FAITH TIMES

*Our Vision – A Community where people are FINDING, GROWING, LIVING,  
AND EXTENDING the love, grace, and compassion of Jesus Christ.*

**Volume 5, Issue 66****October, 2008**

## **Assessment of Hurricane Ike damage in Texas begins At least one new PDA "volunteer village" to be created**

**by Shane Whisler**

Synod of the Sun communications director

HOUSTON - Up to six national response team members from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance [[www.pcusa.org/pda](http://www.pcusa.org/pda)] (PDA) headed to Houston Sept. 18 to start the formal assessment of damage and needs following Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.

PDA - the relief and development agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)'s General Assembly Council is also launching a comprehensive six-week information campaign to highlight the ways congregations and individuals can help those affected by spring and summer storms from Iowa through the gulf coast and on into heavily-hit Caribbean nations such as Haiti and Cuba.

Presbyterians will have several venues for prayer, financial and hands-on support of people all along the vast swath of devastation. One or more new PDA Volunteer Villages will be established in Texas in addition to the six already established on the Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina three years ago.

After a conference call Tuesday involving PDA staff and volunteers as well as synod and presbytery staffers in the affected regions, Synod of the Sun [[www.synodsun.com](http://www.synodsun.com)] Executive Judy Fletcher said, "The four immediate actions we can take involve spiritual care, clean-up/hygiene/school kits [[www.pcusa.org/pda/help/cleanupkitsneeded.htm](http://www.pcusa.org/pda/help/cleanupkitsneeded.htm)], prayer and financial support."

Cimarron Presbytery, one of the denomination's smallest, released \$2,000 from a hunger fund to help feed the survivors and evacuees of the recent hurricanes in its synod, according to Rev. Leah Hrachovec, associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Stillwater, OK, and member of the synod's executive committee.

Synod of the Sun will receive the money and distribute it to the Presbyteries of New Covenant [[pbyofnewcovenant.org/sections/home.html](http://pbyofnewcovenant.org/sections/home.html)] and South Louisiana [[www.pbysouthla.org](http://www.pbysouthla.org)]. Grace Presbytery [[www.gracepresbytery.org](http://www.gracepresbytery.org)] will join Arkansas Presbytery's effort in raising "bucket bucks" from congregations this Sunday, according to Grace's PDA contact person, Rev. Rick Carus.

Congregations are invited to send checks made to "Ferncliff Camp," 1720 Ferncliff Rd, Little Rock, Ark. 72223, with a memo of "emergency clean-up kits." Ferncliff became host of a disaster assistance and call center for the PC(USA) and Church World Service in 2005.

PDA staff member John Robinson will plan spiritual care team training events, to be held in Grace Presbytery, for pastors in early October. Those trained pastors would **then** be available to support the care-givers and pastors in the disaster recovery process.

Fletcher said she hopes cleanup supplies in a large truck or trucks can be sent off with prayer and signs of support from Ferncliff Camp to the Gulf Coast as "real and symbolic support from Presbyterian congregations across the country for all people struggling to recover or relocate."



You can contact  
The Rev. Jim Witherow  
by e-mail,  
pastor@faithaledo.com  
or call 817-441-6262.)

## Message from Your Pastor

Between natural disasters named “Ike” and economic disasters involving too many zeros to comprehend, most of us are struggling to find a way to understand and to reconcile the events of the past month with our everyday lives. As a community attached to the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex we are blessed in that so far we have only been “brushed” by these events. That doesn’t mean things aren’t a lot more difficult for many of us—especially those with loved ones on the Texas coast, or those who have lost a job or their home. But, like the Texas coast, the eye of this economic storm has passed over other areas of the country with far more devastation than we have seen in our community. Many of you know that before I entered the ministry, I was very active on a national level in the housing finance industry—some would consider me an expert. I personally know the circumstances and institutions—and people—who have been involved in creating the cur-

rent situation. Many were reckless and greedy, others were ignorant of the risks they were taking, and others failed to see the magnitude of the storm that was forming and were unprepared. In reality, what we are experiencing in both disasters (natural and economic) are real life applications of the parable Jesus gave us about building your house on a solid foundation:

*“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock. And everyone who hears these words of mine and does not act on them will be like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell—and great was its fall!”* Matthew 7:24-27

All of us should carefully note that Jesus did not promise that there would not be huge and frightening storms to weather for people of faith. On the contrary, he says here and repeatedly elsewhere, these storms will come into our lives and more than anything, Jesus wants us to be prepared for them. That preparation begins with building your foundation in faith.

As far as my ‘expert’ views regarding the economic challenge our country is facing? First, the situation is very serious and does require a massive solution to avoid the real pain to everyday people that a deep recession would bring. Second, the actual losses that will be incurred will be far, far less than the huge amount of money our government is committing to this challenge. Third, the cleanup of the complex mortgage backed securities mess and the actual home loans that back those securities will ‘tie up’ our national resources for at least a decade—money that could be used for much better social and economic purposes. And, fourth—just like in New Orleans, Galveston, and other coastal communities—far too many people will rebuild and even build new lives, structures, institutions, and financial systems, on shifting sand. So, please don’t be among those. Join me in deepening your foundation to the bedrock of faith and encouraging others to do the same—Jesus Christ, the only sure rock and foundation.

The Amazing Grace of Christ Be With You!

*Jim Witherow*

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### MORE ON HURRICANE IKE

...Mike Cole, the General Presbyter in New Covenant Presbytery, reported that overall, the churches in New Covenant Presbytery (which includes Houston and Galveston) fared much better than anyone thought they would, but that many communities in that area are in great need. They are finding that the needs are not just in the coastal areas, but that they extend inland.

...Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) is still conducting assessments of the damage and needs in both Texas and Louisiana. Once PDA has completed its work, people will be mobilized to get involved in the relief, recovery, and rebuilding. PDA staff continues to advise patience.

...PDA is considering planting more volunteer villages, similar to those created in the aftermath of Katrina and Rita. Locations are being considered in several areas of New Covenant Presbytery. As always, funding will be an issue, but once funding is in place and all governmental requirements are satisfied, set-up will begin. We have been told that it could be 2 weeks to a month before a village is in place. We will keep you informed.

# October 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> 9a.m. Staff Mtg  Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Mexican Choir—7:15 p. m	<b>2</b> 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 8a.m. Men's Breakfast R&K
<b>5</b> Communion <b>Sunday</b> 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship <b>First Sunday</b> <b>Fellowship Lunch</b> Hamburgers 12:30 Ole Tyme Hymn	<b>6</b> Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30a.m.	<b>7</b> 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS	<b>8</b> 9a.m. Staff Mtg  Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Salads Choir—7:15 p. m	<b>9</b> 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship 11:45 Session budget Meeting	<b>13</b> Women's Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	<b>14</b> 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS  6:30 Board of Deacons	<b>15</b> 9a.m. Staff Mtg  Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Italian Choir—7:15 p. m	<b>16</b> 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Communion <b>Sunday</b> 8:30 Christian Upbeats 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship	<b>20</b> Women's Morning Bible Study 9:30a.m.	<b>21</b> 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS	<b>22</b> 9a.m. Staff Mtg  Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Pot Luck Choir—7:15 p. m	<b>23</b> 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	<b>24</b> 6:30 Session	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 9:15 Church School 10:15 Coffee Fellowship 10:30 Worship  5:30 Evening Communion Service	<b>27</b> Women's Evening Bible Study 7:15 p.m.	<b>28</b> 6:30 a.m. - Coffee & the Bible 9 a.m.—2p.m. FPDS	<b>29</b> 9a.m. Staff Mtg  Wednesday Together Wed 4 Kids 6:15 p.m. Dinner Theme: Soup Choir—7:15 p. m	<b>30</b> 9a.m.-2p.m. FPDS	<b>31</b>	



**Our New Home**  
**301 Bailey Ranch Rd.**  
**Estimated Completion**  
**January 2009**

## A CHURCH FOR EVERYONE

Even though it may not seem like much has happened since we poured the slab on Bailey Ranch Rd., there has been a lot done. We have just about finished the required re-grading of all 10 acres. We are in the process of connecting sewer and water and pouring the parking lot. We have taken delivery on the exterior stone and interior metal framing studs. Finally, after a long delay, we have a firm commitment on delivery of the structural steel in mid-October. There will be an update presented to the congregation on Sunday October 5 immediately after worship. Please join us and stay for a great hamburger lunch!

## FAITH SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

- ⇒ SUNDAY MORNING GREETERS—We're always looking for new smiling faces to welcome our Sunday morning guests. Please let Natalie Peak know if you are able to serve as a greeter on Sunday mornings.
- ⇒ CENTER OF HOPE SFS DRIVE—We are making regular deliveries to the Center of Hope. You will need to be able to lift tubs that weigh 50 lbs. or so. See Deacons Janette Hahn or Jeff Shook if you are able give a hand with this.
- ⇒ SUPPORT THE TROOPS MINISTRY—See page 7 for a wonderful opportunity to support our troops as they work to bring freedom and new hope to the people of Afghanistan and Iraq.
- ⇒ LANDSCAPE MINISTRY—We can always use help with our weekly landscape upkeep. Pastor Jim and/or Don Kissner can always be found at work on Friday mornings beginning at 9 a.m.

## Music at Faith Presbyterian...

Oct .5 Hamburgers on the Grill Luncheon followed by our 3rd Annual Ole Tyme Hymn Fest with Jill Birdwell on the piano, we are providing the hamburgers, please bring a side dish, salad or dessert.

St. Matthew Cumberland Fellowship - come join us on Saturday Oct 11 as we caravan to St Matthew's to observe their worship service ... more details later ...

Come and hear our first ringing of the Christian Upbeats on Oct 19 when they will play Jesus Shall Reign and Lead on King.

*Johna beth*



## Growing Our Family of Faith

We want to welcome all who were our guests this past Sunday. We hope that you experienced the Faith Hospitality that we want to extend to all God brings our way. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to fully participate in everything we do at Faith—membership is not required—but if you are looking for a church home, we encourage you to consider our Faith family. We set aside the last Sunday of each month to bring in New Members. Information about becoming a member, Journey to Faith, is available at the Hospitality Table. Please contact Pastor Jim if you are interested in joining our Faith family!

Next joining Sunday is **October 26**

## JOYS AND CONCERNS

We pray for Mike and Jill Birdwell's granddaughter, Amber, who is undergoing tests for a medical condition. We pray for all those trying to put their lives and homes back together after Hurricane Ike. We pray for the economic health of our country, wisdom for those working on solutions for bringing back stability to the marketplace, and new hope for those who have lost employment and homes. *If you have joys, concerns, or prayer requests please let us know. Call 817-441-6262 and leave messages on Pastor Jim's voice mail or send an email to Pastor Jim at: [pastor@fpcepc.org](mailto:pastor@fpcepc.org).*

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS\*

J D Martin	10/1	Olivia Mazade	10/11	Sutton Poynter	10/22
Edwina Patterson	10/2	Kathryn Priest	10/11	Janice Grant	10/27
Carla Luig	10/5	Nick Holman	10/11	Kenneth Wilson	10/27
Randy Rogers	10/8	Kaitlyn Ferrell	10/12	Wanda Witherow	10/27
Robin Poynter	10/8	Jeanie Martin	10/15	Gracie Tillman	10/30
Brandon Watson	10/8	Claire Luig	10/17	Katie Bosser	10/31
Sean Edwards	10/9	Brande Holman	10/20		

\*We have manually converted our member data to a new system this year. If there is an error or omission in birthdays or any other member info please let us know by email: [faithtimes@faithaledo.com](mailto:faithtimes@faithaledo.com)

### ADULT ACTIVITIES

**Sunday Mornings** -Please join us at 9:15 a.m. every Sunday morning for "A Contemplative Walk Through the Synoptic Gospels." During this time, we will explore the unique witness of the Gospel writers to Jesus Christ. We will step back in time to learn about the 1st century Mediterranean world of the early Christians. Just as important, we will explore how these unique Gospels have shaped our understanding of the Risen Lord. Our study leaders will be Dr. Bob Peak and Don Kissner.

**Women's Morning Bible Study** - This group meets the first and third Monday mornings of each month and is open to any interested women in our community. We will not meet on Labor Day, so our meeting for September is Monday, September 15 at 9:30 a.m. at the church. We hope you will join us. Childcare is provided.

**Women's Evening Bible Study** - This group meets at the church on the second and fourth Monday evenings of each month. Please consider joining us. We find that each person brings unique thoughts and blessings. Our next meetings will be Monday, September 8 and 22nd at 7:15 p.m. at the church. We hope to see you then.

**Men's Breakfast** - **Saturday, October 5**, we will meet at R&K at 7:55 a.m. All of our Men of Faith are encouraged to join us for a great morning of fellowship and sharing events of our lives, our faith, and a great meal. We

## COFFEE AND THE BIBLE

TUESDAY MORNINGS AT 6:30

Meet with Pastor Jim and other Faith early risers every Tuesday morning for a guided Bible Study and devotion. We will be studying books of the Bible, what the Bible says about topics on your minds and issues of the day, and how the Bible can feed our souls with the grace of Jesus Christ. Join us for a refreshing pause in your week for that much needed time in the Word of God. Previous experience in Bible study or knowledge of the Bible is not necessary to participate. We will end each session promptly at 7:30 a.m. We hope you will come and enjoy Coffee and the Bible with Pastor Jim.

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

One of the questions I hear most from parents is “How do I get my kids to behave?” Even the best parents with the best kids have times when they struggle. Below are some tips to help get things back on track. As Christian parents, remember that God has given scriptures filled with wisdom that applies to family life. Don’t just limit yourself to the passages that talk about roles and relationships in the family. Look at the entire Bible for practical solutions to relational issues and then apply them to your situation. The Bible talks about overcoming selfishness, obeying when you don’t feel like it, the consequences of foolishness and much more. God’s Word has strategies and answers for the issues all families face.

Grace and peace,

*Judith*

### 8 Discipline Tips

1. Make expectations clear. Outline what will be the expected behavior and boundaries.
2. Be positive. When you go over rules focus on what your children can do rather than what they can’t. Your ‘do’s’ should largely outnumber your ‘don’t’s’. Also be positive in your tone of voice. Especially when frustrated, it is important to stay neutral.
3. Keep rules to a minimum. Decide what is really important and focus on those issues. If you expect children to “respect one another” then that kind of encouragement covers a lot of different situations such as using “hurtful words” or physical intimidation.
4. Build mutual respect. Let your children know that you respect them. We must not become “power-hungry” or have unrealistic expectations of our child’s behavior.
5. Aim high. Expect the best. Let your children know that you expect good behavior from them. Let them know that you have confidence in their ability to behave.
6. Process failure. When something goes wrong, talk about it. Was what was expected too hard or instructions unclear? Tell your child how you feel about the situation and listen to his or her views also. Use failure as a situation where God’s grace and forgiveness can be exercised.
7. Correct sparingly; affirm lavishly. We all need large helpings of love every day. Even when they are exasperating, children need to be hugged. Even when they are incredibly obstinate, they need our kindness. Children need to hear that they are valued more often than hearing that they are wrong.
8. Make time for laughter and fun. Lay a good foundation of discipline through your positive relationships with your children. The average family spends far too little time engaged in fun and far too much time engaged in complaining. Create a Funny Family Movie Night and watch classic family comedies. Surprise your children and turn an ordinary day into a celebration. Who knows, you might begin a tradition.



For more information about any of our Children or Youth Ministries, contact Judith Alexander Priest at 817-441-6262 or email [children@faithaledo.com](mailto:children@faithaledo.com)

### Rising Disciples (Grades 6-8)\_Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> – We’ll meet at the church from 4-6:00 p.m. for Bible study, fellowship and fun!

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – The Youth and Rising Disciples will work at the Center of Hope Pumpkin Patch from 1-6:00 in two hour shifts. Please contact Robin Davis at [rrdavis75@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rrdavis75@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

### Youth (Grades 9-12) Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> – We’ll be going to Trinity Valley School to see Andy and Craig Shook as they perform “Hole in the Sky”. It is a matinee performance, and we’ll need to purchase tickets prior to the event. Please contact Robin at [rrdavis75@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rrdavis75@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Sunday, October 26<sup>th</sup> – The Youth and Rising Disciples will work at the Center of Hope Pumpkin Patch from 1-6:00 in two hour shifts. Please contact Robin at [rrdavis75@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rrdavis75@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

## October Volunteers of Faith

There are times when it is obvious that God has put people in the right place and time to serve His purpose. That has happened many times here at Faith, but no more than when our Day School went through a transition of leadership and staff over the summer. Our volunteers of Faith this month have given countless hours of their time and skills to make sure our Fall Day School not only happened, but happened with a whole new level of professionalism and quality. Our children and their families were welcomed to a completely new, high-quality experience and staff this term thanks to **Melinda Lary-Smith and Anna Whitfield**. Melinda took on the daunting task of transforming the administration, procedures, and policies of the Day School while Anna has blessed us with the gifts of her education, training, and experience by providing the curriculum for the program. Our Day School, now known as Faith Presbyterian Day School, has advanced with great strides this summer thanks to Melinda and Anna—our October volunteers of Faith. Thanks Melinda and Anna for all you have given and continue to give to Faith Presbyterian Day School!

### Supporting the Troops.....and Others

LCDR James Scarcelli, USN, part of Bob Wood's command, has been deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan. In contact with Mary Frances and Bob, he has asked that if care packages are sent his way, their focus should be on the Afghan people living in refugee camps and children living in orphanages.

LCDR Scarcelli writes: "It is absolutely ridiculous and tragic the poverty in this country, and I am going to try to make it out to as many orphanages and refugee camps as I can throughout my tour. It is amazing how much they cherish the simple things like toothbrushes and toothpaste, hand sanitizer, shoes/sandels, warm clothes, socks, etc..."

The Navy chaplain serving with Lcdr Scarcelli has indicated that it's not unusual for twenty percent of those living in the camps or orphanages to die during the winter months. If you would like to assist with a gesture of goodwill to people who have so much less than we do, please contact Mary Frances Wood at 817-441-7872 or [malbanesi@aol.com](mailto:malbanesi@aol.com). Donations of the items listed above are wonderful, however we will also need support for shipping costs. To the Rising Disciples and all those who have already donated items, a big THANK YOU for your kindness and generosity!!

### *Intergenerational Events*

#### **OLE TYME HYMN FEST**

What : a time to sing our favorite traditional hymns

When : Sunday, October 5 immediately after our Fellowship Lunch

### **Lord, Teach Us to Pray! - Sunday Mornings at 9:15**

Think about how easy it is to go through our days without acknowledging God's presence, to worry rather than trust, and lean on ourselves rather than relying on God. And when we do make time to pray, our words can become monotonous, rote, ineffective, and powerless.

Please join us every Sunday in the worship center as we continue our 13-week study, "Lord, Teach Us to Pray". This intergenerational study is about God's children learning to fellowship with Him in prayer. It is a unique opportunity for the young to learn from the old, for the old to learn from the young, and for us all to learn together how to touch the throne of the Almighty God.

**Faith Presbyterian Church  
E-mail Directory**

**Pastor Jim Witherow: [pastor@faithaledo.com](mailto:pastor@faithaledo.com)**

**Children's Ministry: [children@faithaledo.com](mailto:children@faithaledo.com)**

**Youth Ministry: [youth@faithaledo.com](mailto:youth@faithaledo.com)**

**Music Ministry: [music@faithaledo.com](mailto:music@faithaledo.com)**

**Faith Times Newsletter: [faithtimes@faithaledo.com](mailto:faithtimes@faithaledo.com)**

**Care Team: [careteam@faithaledo.com](mailto:careteam@faithaledo.com)**

**General Information: [info@faithaledo.com](mailto:info@faithaledo.com)**