

Shepherding the Flock – Notes from September 2025 Session Meeting

Pastor Will's devotional was John 1 beginning with verse 35. We are all called to be like Andrew and Phillip and bring people to Jesus. Pastor Will challenged everyone to invite someone to FPC.

Report of the Clerk: Pastor Will and Lolly are working on updating the child safety policy. The comprehensive version used by the presbytery will be used as a basis for the policy. Aiming to have this reviewed and finalized in October.

Report of the Music Study Committee: Pastor Will acknowledged Liz Wellers's exceptional job in chairing the committee. The study committee will come back to Session with their top two or three recommendations and finance will work on a preliminary budget.

Deacon report: Care packages will be taken on by Brian Wolhaupter, with the target of mid- to late October. Project CONNECT arranges rides to and from church services. Hammers with Halos reminds everyone they are here to help.

Pastor's Moment: Pastor Will thanked all those involved in the great fall kick off. The Bible study at M-N-M's is going very well. He officiated his first FPC wedding last Saturday, which was off-site. He is working on his PhD, with an October 19 deadline for his paper. He will be gone twice for PhD reasons.

Finance report

Monty reported they have reviewed the current technologies in use, future plans, and related budget items; discussed alternatives for reconciling financial accounts each month, added volunteers to the committee, and planned the 2024 audit. They are working on the 2024 audit, budget planning instructions, recruiting a new endowment committee member, and continuing migration to ACS, mainly data clean-up and accounting set-up. They are looking ahead to maintaining two systems, improving the monthly reconciliation process, and starting the budget process. There were some big donations in September, and we are okay financially. Session approved extending the services of an ACS consultant to assist with technology, data, and church finances. The consultant's specific activities

include keeping up with double entry in the ACS system - which is entering pledges, monthly expenses, transfers, journal entries, entering payrolls two times per month and reconciling each month.

Worship and Music

Amy reported two sound board people were hired. She says it is a simple job geared to teens.

Children's Ministry

Peter reported at their last meeting the team welcomed Angela Himgarner as Interim Director of Children & Family Ministry, solidified the full calendar for the year, prepared for Sunday School kick off, and talked about teacher recruitment. Calendars were printed for the Fall Kickoff Sept. 7. The first day of Sunday School was Sept. 14 and the last day will be May 24. They are working on finding more teachers and some classes have been combined even though the overall student count is down. 5th and 6th grade Bible presentation will be Sept. 21, and Food for Kidz is October 19.

Building and Grounds

Ryan reported there is nothing pressing right now, and in the future, there will be more talk about the Pillars and Pathways projects. Current projects being worked on are roof repairs on the west side of the sanctuary/gathering space, new fencing around the dumpster, parking lot light bulb replacement, and new landscaping on the west end of the building. Session voted to allow Don Tierney to install trees on the north side of our lot. Don will pay for the trees, and the future management will be ours. The B&G team is looking ahead to a fall clean up in October, replacing the Fellowship Hall kitchen flooring in the winter, updating the door lock controllers, and replacing parking lot and exterior lighting with LEDs.

Personnel

Rick reported that the Director of Children & Family Ministry has been filled with Interim Director Angela Himgarner for the 2025-2026 year. They have paused posting for the Director of Student Ministry, will be working on an overall staffing strategy. Moving ahead with hiring sound desk staff.

Stewardship

Barb reported that the design for the 2026 pledge card logo is in progress and has requested that the planned giving materials are completed soon. The team is working on drafting letters to accompany pledge cards and writing various articles highlighting the pledge campaign for the Connector and maybe the bulletin. Pledge Sunday is October 26.

Student Ministry

Emily reported her committee met with six students to discuss plans for the fall. They learned there is tentative interest in at least four students for a confirmation class, they prefer a weekly group meeting on Wednesday with a routine agenda and a mix of Bible study and activities, they enjoy small group discussions, want to maintain a music component but focus on acoustic music, and the older students seemed more open to meetings that involve a service component. The team's priorities are confirmation class and Wednesday night youth group. Brice Wallace will run Cocoa & Conversation if there is student interest.

Adult Nurture and Spiritual Growth

Jim reported the committee met in late August to prepare for the fall kick-off campaign and Ministry Fair on September 7. They manned several tables after the service to answer questions about the ten existing and new adult small groups. The committee also agreed to rebrand MOMCO to "Better Together," a group for women in their active parenting years. They are hoping to bring in women from the community. Kristin Hall Sliwicki and Becca Gottwald will lead the group beginning this fall. The committee agreed to start a small group centered around faith-based books and/or author discussions using our FPC library as a resource. Clare Zaimen-Keen and Pam Knutson will lead this group meeting every other month starting in November. The committee is currently working on launching all the adult small groups for the Fall 2025 season: Light Team, FPC Men's Group, Life Compass & Foundations Adult Sunday School, Virtual Bible Study, Coffeehouse Bible Study, Connect and Reflect, Better Together, Book Discussion Group, New Horizons, and The Heavenly Stretch. They are continuing to discuss how to continue and offer the video series "The Chosen" and renewing the Tuesday morning Bible Study at M-N-M's Coffeehouse.

The Nominating Committee will pause the search for a new mission elder for now. It will resume with the 2026 nominating committee. To maintain/meet/plan for our budgeted mission commitments during this time, the committee recommends forming a mission committee to meet once a quarter and help manage and facilitate our current and future mission commitments. The committee would meet quarterly and be composed of 1-2 elders to help co-chair and facilitate, 2-3 FPC members with a heart for missions and currently involved in some mission aspect, and Pastor Will for his leadership and direction. The committee would disband after an elder is elected and assumes the role. The session approved this approach and appointed Jim Fitzgerald and Kyle Halweg to be the elders on the committee.

Fellowship

Krista thanked everyone involved with the Fall Kick Off: Susan Lanphier, Leah Hauck-Mills, and Sam Robinson with communications, Wes Ray and Lisa Lerdahl with food details and all those who pitched in that day. The village showed up, and it was a huge success. Plans are underway for next year's event discussing food amounts, activities, and start time. The date will be Sept. 13. Working with Angela Himegarner to plan a fall event involving families and kids. A FUN Team meeting is being scheduled to plan future events for the year. They are working with a list of over a dozen ideas. Krista is also reassessing any changes needed now with two service times.

New Member Outreach

Kyle reported he is working on the displays on the electronic sign. There will also be a new card in the pews for guests. There will be handwritten notes sent to guests and meetings set up for guests who have had multiple visits.