



First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

Our Mission: Connecting with God and sharing the Good News
of Jesus Christ with the community.

December 2012

Vol. 20, No. 12

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

Steve Netniss,
Youth Pastor

Andrew Dittman,
Choir Director

Deborah Titus,
Accompanist

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

Susan Murphy,
Nursery

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Offering

As we leave our study of the prophet Amos to enter Advent*, I hope you will take Amos with you. He was an ordinary guy like you and I, busy, filled with his own concerns, when one day while on the job he heard the voice of God. The voice said, "Go! Prophecy to my people." Amos was compelled to extend God's message to others. The message contained a rather striking wakeup call and an astounding blessing. The message pointed to the world's problem and to the world's hope.



We don't necessarily turn to prophets for instruction – we, like those first hearers, might be inclined to shut them out and turn them off. But, I find pondering Amos' message to be helpful. It encourages me to consider acting like Jesus when I encounter people each day. It helps me wake up to God in my daily life and let it show to others. It inspires me to love God with all my heart, soul, and strength, and my neighbor as myself. I need that inspiration; otherwise I default to selfishness and discouragement – ah, the world's problem.

God told Amos a wonderful blessing was coming to God's people after all. Here are some of the promises: God will *raise them up; repair and rebuild all that is broken; restore their fortunes. Their grain and grapes will grow faster than they can be harvested and the fruits of their labor will be enjoyed.* These are wonderful, hopeful promises for them – and for us now.

Faith and hard work that results in fruitfulness surely blesses us and blesses those around us. We become a bright light of hope, and that points others to God. Another prophet wrote: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined" (Isa 9:2). How wonderful to move out of darkness and into that light, and then with great joy, bring others into that light, too. As you fix your eyes on Jesus this Advent season, trusting Him, believing Him, and following Him, know that "this will happen." For Amos tells us: *it is Your Lord who does this.*

***Merry Christmas,
Ginger***

*For more on Advent, see p. 2.



Words from Worship

2012 Christmas Schedule

December 1—PW Dinner & Christmas Auction, 6:00 pm

December 2—First Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 10:30 am

December 9—"Follow the Star" Children's Christmas Musical, 10:30 am

December 15—Choir performs at Ben Franklin Apothecary, 1:00 pm

December 16—Third Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 10:30 am

December 16—Christmas Choir Concert, 7:00 pm

December 22 & 23—Live Nativity, 7:00 pm

December 23—Fourth Sunday of Advent Worship Service, 10:30 am

December 24—Candlelight Service w/ communion, 6:00 pm



For those who ordered a Poinsettia, they may be taken home on Christmas Eve, after the Candlelight Service.



*For example, in Psalm 96:

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it.

¹²Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy.

¹³Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, for he comes, he comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in his faithfulness. "

Hi, my name is Amos! I hope my sign got your attention—Yes, REJOICE because the righteous judge is coming—and He will set everything right at last! During **Advent**, as you festively remember when that judge first became fully human, I know you're also preparing for His **return**. Should you be afraid? Well, yes—just read my book that Pastor Ginger's been preaching from lately! (It's only about 2700 years old.) Judgment is a terrifying prospect for the unforgiven. But even that final judgment is not just about God's justly punishing sin. It's about God's mercy AND His justice. He will right all the wrongs that we've brought into this world—by His grace even make right the relationship we have broken with Him. Do you long for all the injustices in this world to be made right? Rejoice! Jesus the judge is also the one who intercedes for us, so who can condemn us?! The vision God gave me (and my contemporary, Isaiah, and guys who wrote psalms)* is that the "terrible" day of judgment will also be the day of complete restoration—of us, of relationships, of all creation! **I can't wait!**

*This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.*

—Madeleine L'Engle

Presbyterian Women News



A **BIG THANK YOU** to everyone who came to the PW Christmas Auction! As well as having a good time, you supported PW's giving to missions overseas and in our church.



Women's Fellowship
Thursday, December 13
Every woman is welcome!

Sarah Fellowship: meets at the home of Jocelyn Bolles, 619 Athenia, 7:30 pm.

Agape Fellowship: meets for lunch at 11:30 am at Amore's Italian Restaurant, 111 S. Cedar Ridge, (near the old Duncanville Athletic Club) and continues at the home of Billie Cowand, 342 Lakeview Circle.

BIRTHDAYS

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include it in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or info@fpcd.org.

Thank you.

Darrell Ingram—12/4
Eddie Everett—12/21
Valerie Cordova—12/22
Dean Hertenstein—12/22
Don Trask—12/22

Betty Jespersen—12/24
Darlene Cowand—12/25
Joan Brown—12/26
Lucy Russell—12/26
Janet Stahl—12/28



October 2012

Receipts
\$15,804

Expenditures
\$17,321

YTD income: * \$197,071
YTD expenditures \$191,079
Total Annual Budget: \$225,810
*This includes memorial giving.

Children's Sunday School

We are enjoying an increase in attendance these past several weeks, so much so that we've split the elementary class in two: the Bethlehem Bunch and the Galilee Group. This means that we need more teachers. Please volunteer to teach for a three-Sunday stint if you can, or be ready to say "yes" when we come ask for your help.



Recently the elementary class studied the life of Moses. Using sculpture, drama, and hieroglyphics they learned how Moses was rescued from the Nile and later lead the Israelites out of Egypt! Take one of the students to the bulletin board near the offices and ask them to tell you one of the stories about Moses.

In October the intermediate class (grades 5-6) focused on the theme of being strong in the Lord. They know Paul's list of the armor of God and where to find it in the Bible. Sometimes they made models or drew pictures of this armor. Always we discussed how we would use this "armor" in real situations.

Currently the kids are working to prepare a Christmas musical. Dress rehearsal, including dinner, is Wednesday, December 5, 5-7pm, and Saturday, December 8, 5-8pm.

Stop by our classroom and you can see some of the many things we are thankful for on the tree!



Missions News



Very soon we will be taking part in the annual Christmas auction and spaghetti dinner. It's always a fun time. Have you ever wondered where the money from the auction is used?

Our Presbyterian Women's groups have chosen a number of projects over the years. Last year their mission project was a work in Mexico, the Sureste Presbyterian Theological Seminary in the state of Tabasco, Mexico. This year they have chosen the African International University near Nairobi, Kenya.

Originally founded in 1983 as Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (NEGST) the school received a university charter from the government of Kenya in 2011 and changed its name to fit its new status. (Perhaps some of you will remember

that this is the school where George and Mary Huttar taught before they returned to the US.) Its stated vision is to produce "Christ-centered leaders in Africa, educated to transform God's people and world."

The university came into being through the vision of the late Dr. Byang Kato of Nigeria, who then was the first African General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa and Madagascar. He was deeply concerned because at that time the evangelical churches in Africa had seen little need to provide training for their pastors beyond certificate or diploma level. He saw a coming crisis of 'Christopaganism' in African Christianity and was convinced of the need for African Biblical theologians with advanced training to combat this trend. Practical as well, his objective was not only the enrichment of scholars, but of the ordinary believer in the churches; the African Christian was often poorly taught and vulnerable to a confused understanding of Christian truth. He felt that an evangelical graduate school of theology was the instrument to solve this problem.



Since that beginning, the university has sought to educate Christ-centered leaders for the Africa's needs. All students take core courses that include: Foundations of Christian life and mission, Hermeneutics, Bible and moral issues, Leadership and Research. This core is considered vital for engaging further branches of knowledge in a way that is biblical and missional.

FPCD's Presbyterian Women chose this year to contribute to this significant university and at the same time to honor Dr. M. Douglas Carew who until his untimely death was the very valued vice chancellor of the University.

Editor's note: If you would like to learn more about AIU, check their site on the internet: www.africainternational.edu, and that of their fundraising partner in the U.S., Christian Leaders for Africa: www.clafrica.com.

FROM OUR YOUTH

“ THE CLOSET ”

Dear Congregation,

Our Youth Group, aka “The Closet” is back in full swing. In October we changed our schedule in order to not conflict with the different school events. Our students are heavily involved both academically and in extracurricular activities. For example, all of regular attenders are involved in Sports, Dance Team, or Orchestra. We are incredibly blessed to have such a talented group and yet it can present a scheduling challenge at times.



Lucy Russell(17), the daughter of Sean and Lucy Russell, was nominated for Homecoming Queen and even though she didn't win at Duncanville High School, she is certainly 'the Closet' Homecoming Queen. Also, our students who are involved in High Hats went to the Texas State championships and finished in 13th place.

One of the challenges of being a Youth Pastor is not only to teach the students about Christ with words but to also give them action-opportunities to serve. In October, a few students and I went to 'The Bridge Ministry' to serve the homeless food and water. This was an excellent time for students to live out their faith and also enjoy fellowship with one another serving Christ. On December 12th we will be heading over to Duncanville Outreach to pack boxes of canned goods for the upcoming Christmas season. Please consider joining us.



In October we spent two weeks learning about grace. Mainly, we talked about 3 different gods (god the Santa Claus vs. god the Negotiator vs. God of the Bible). During these messages we explored what it means to live in relationship with a God who blesses abundantly and yet obliges a response. We talked about the difference between doing good because we've been blessed and doing good in order to gain God's blessing. We also made it a goal to write down 5 things for which we are thankful for 21 consecutive days. In December we will be singularly focused on the incarnation of Christ.



Thank you for keeping up with the youth group. Please feel free to ask more questions if you have them. We are an open group and love connecting with all people.

Grace & Peace,
PASTOR STEVE

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

December 2012

Remember each other in daily prayer.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
2 Paul & Helen Barton Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Larry & Margaret Lewis	4 Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Sam & Charlotte Fithian	5 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	6 Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	7 Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin, Georgia & Ella Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn	8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman
9 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Berg- man	10 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	11 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	12 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	13 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy, Vanessa, Valerie & Jason	14 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netmiss	15 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles
16 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee The Schaefters	17 Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon Andrew Watts	18 Darrell & Sharon Ingram Connie Steger Boyd Roberts	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle Billie Cowand	20 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Barbara Notari	21 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Carol McKinney	22 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull
23 Bob Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand Don & Edie Burquest	24 Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Bill & Vangie Jackson	25 Steve & Marna Bayless Gary & Linda Simons Rachel	26 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	27 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer Joan Brown
30 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza McGinnis, Eric & Erin Mike	31 Irving & Peggy Kezar Deborah Titus Gary & Nita Malone Pat Sparr					

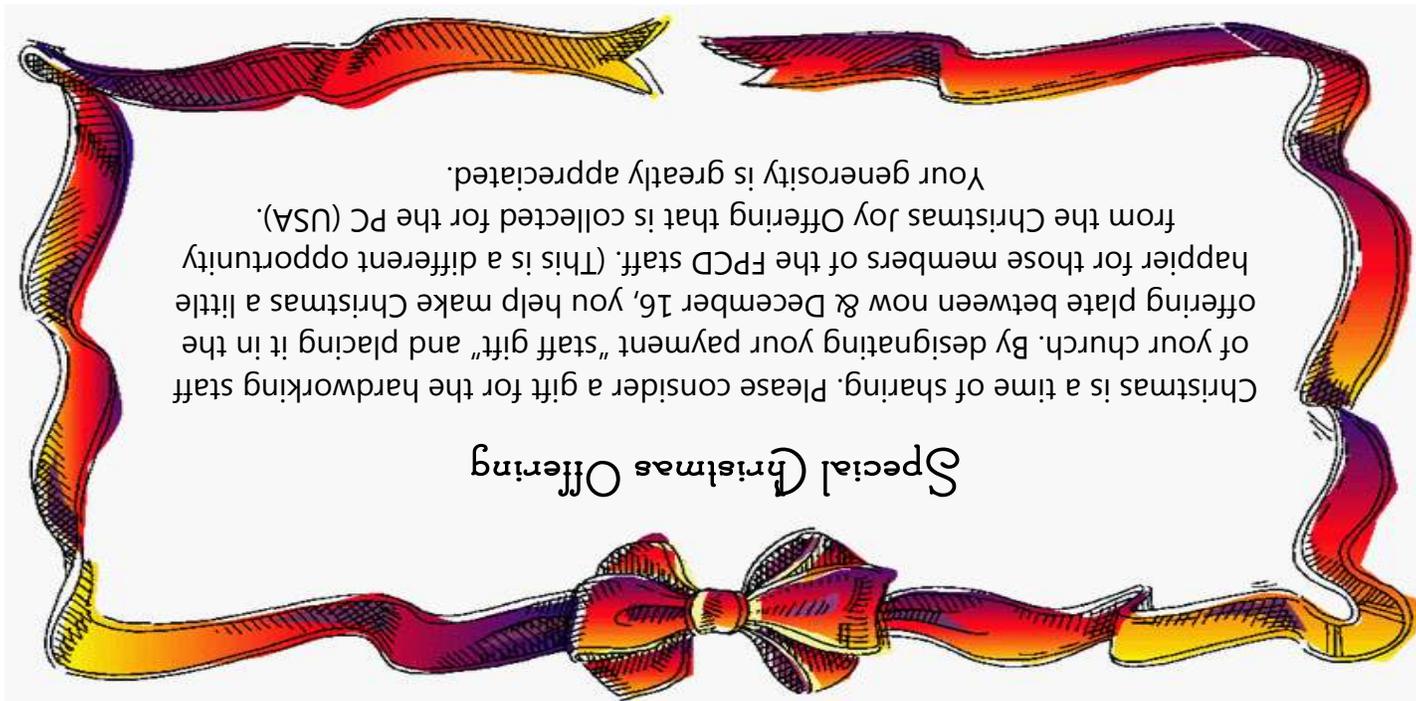
*"Follow the STAR!"
A Christmas children's musical*

Join FPCD as we "Follow the Star" with the children of our church and community.

This Christmas special, lead by FPCD's accompanist Deborah Titus, was written by David Ebersberger, Luke Gambil & Susie Williams. It is a fun and joyous reminder of why the wise men of the Christmas story sought after Christ and why we still do today! More commonly referred to as the three wise men or three kings, the journey of the Magi is an amazing story of obedience, faith and worship. Enjoy the fantastic story of the three companions as they set their sights on a bright star in the heavens that would ultimately lead them to the Christ-child, the King of all kings!

Find your place in the sanctuary on Sunday, December 9 at 10:30 am for the morning worship service as the children lead us in the quest for the Christ Child this Christmas season. You may be surprised to find that FPCD's children's choir of three faithful members has grown to 15, or more! The crew of leaders that have become involved has grown also. Deborah has inspired us all and the results are truly amazing! You will hear these children skillfully deliver lines, sing joyously, and move to the music. You won't want to miss being there.





Christmas is a time of sharing. Please consider a gift for the hardworking staff of your church. By designating your payment "staff gift" and placing it in the offering plate between now & December 16, you help make Christmas a little happier for those members of the FPCD staff. (This is a different opportunity from the Christmas Joy Offering that is collected for the PC (USA). Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Special Christmas Offering

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education — 9:15 am
Worship Service — 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Youth Group — 6:00 pm
Choir Rehearsal — 7:30 pm

December 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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2 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 6:00 PM Advent Small Group Study	3 4:00 PM Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting Christmas Angel Gifts Due	4	5 6:00 PM Christmas Musical Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:20 PM "Conversation with God" Advent Series 8:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	6 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	7	8 10:00 AM Film Video #2 5:00 PM Children's Christmas Musical Dress Rehearsal																																																																																				
9 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship and Children's Christmas Musical 6:00 PM Advent Small Group Study	10	11	12 6:00 PM - 7:20 PM "Conversation with God" Advent Series 8:00 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	13 11:30 AM Agape Women's Fellowship @ Amore's Italian 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship 6:30 PM Session/Deacon Party	14	15 1:00 PM Choir Performance at Ben Franklin Newsletter Articles Due																																																																																				
16 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 7:00 PM Choir Christmas Concert ** Food Sunday ** Seal Gifts Due	17 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting Austin Street Centre Shelter Sandwiches Due	18	19 6:00 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	20	21	22 7:00 PM Live Nativity																																																																																				
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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2012

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

December 2	Greeters:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Andrew Dittman
	Nursery Volunteer:	Erin McGinnis
	Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
	Communion Servers:	George Huttar, Sandy Gaskins, Bob Harrison Edelmira Ruiz, Jack Pegues, & Mary Huttar
December 9	Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Liturgist:	Scott Hartless
	Nursery Volunteer:	TBD
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
December 16	Greeters:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Liturgist:	Dub Guthrie
	Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
December 23	Greeters:	Anna Murphy, Lori Glover
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Sean Russell
	Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
	Tellers:	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
December 30	Greeters:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Helen Barton
	Nursery Volunteer:	Valerie Cordova
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

