

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

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

February 2012

Vol. 20, No. 2

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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From our Pastor

As we study Mark we remember Mark's thesis for his gospel: *The Beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.* Mark attempts to prove that statement. Each week's message during worship will have some element to support it. So let's review.

The good news begins with the coming of Jesus, the Messiah. Mark proclaimed the good news that Jesus, not Caesar, rules. That declaration would have hit Mark's readers hard, because it seemed that they were always under the thumb of the Roman government. Today, we can count on Jesus' "rule," too. Even though we may be uncertain about our own rulers in this election year, and we might be concerned about the direction of the PC(USA), for us Jesus rules, and we can depend on His truth. Jesus' truth offers a great deal of security in uncertain times when we let our lives be defined by Him.

Mark talks about a community of love between the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and we are invited into that circle of love. That means faith is built in relationships. In other words, God is not a principle but a Real Being we love and get to know. Are you getting to know Him?

What do you believe about Jesus? Mark shows people's response to Jesus. He pushes us for a decision, too. It is the most important decision in the world, and will shape your life. The Bible helps you to make it, and so does worship, fellowship, and prayer. Practice these things.

With each chapter Mark challenges us to really question. And at the same time he tells us up front: this news is really good; very good. This news brings us lasting joy. Do you believe that a love relationship with God is possible? I hope so! And I hope it leads you to center your life in God.

Blessings,

Ginger



Words from Worship

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, is February 22* this year. It's worth repeating Ginger's words to us in our March, 2011 newsletter as we approached Lent last year:



"Lent means setting aside time to be intentional about your spiritual nurture. Activities such as prayer, self-examination, offering of oneself and one's possessions, and self-denial nurture you spiritually and thus prepare you for greater understanding of Jesus' gift of Easter. How many times in your life have you been intentional about spiritual preparation for Easter? For myself, each time I make this effort, it lifts my spirits greatly."

Our spiritual nurture is facilitated and enriched when we undertake some of it together. We have the opportunity to do that in our **Ash Wednesday service, 7:00-7:45 p.m.**

*Lent follows the "40 days and 40 nights" pattern of Jesus' temptation by Satan that we focused on together at our January 22 service. Ash Wednesday is more than 40 days before Easter Sunday because the Sundays during Lent don't count toward the 40 days—our worshiping together on Sundays reflects the joy and celebration of Jesus' coming back to life on Easter Sunday, rather than the more somber tone of reflection and repentance that is the focus of Lent.

I Give Up! Many Christians use Lent as a time to take some specific action to get their life more in tune with God's values. Some actions are negative, like giving up something during Lent (whether doughnuts, video games, sleeping in on Sunday mornings,...). Others are positive, like serving a few hours every week in a community or church project. Others are both, like giving up a daily stop at Starbucks and giving the money to a worthy cause instead. These actions can be done for wrong reasons, of course, like anything else. But done out of love for God and a desire to keep Him in first place above all other things in life clamoring to be "gods", they can bring joy and growth in "becoming by grace what God is by nature" (as Athanasius put it). See 2 Peter 1:4, "...so that...you may become partakers of the divine nature,...".



Reading ahead (sermon texts for February)

2/5/12	Mk 2:13-17	Challenge to Religion, Pt 1 - Jesus elects a sinner as His disciple
2/12/12	Mk 2:21-3:6	Challenge to Religion, Pt 2 - Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath
2/19/12	Mk 3:20-35	A House Divided Cannot Stand (Steve Netniss preaching)
2/22/12		(Ash Wednesday)
2/26/12	Mk 8:31-9:1, 9:30-32, 10:32-34	What will it profit us to gain the whole world and forfeit our life?

Missions News ~ From the Walters family

In 1994 FPCD sent us out (Dennis and Susan) to work in East Asia. And now in 2012, you are still encouraging us.

The past two and a half years, we've needed to be back in the US. Our family has so enjoyed being with you all at FPCD. Our kids have loved your friendship, your support of their activities, and your fun at the talent shows. We (Dennis and Susan) have appreciated seeking out God together in Sunday School, reverent moments of corporate worship with you, and your helping hands as we furnished a house, and travelled in and out. Thank you for welcoming us and walking alongside us.



Now we are thinking of our return to East Asia this summer. While we are daunted by a few challenges, like our kids' continued schooling, we are eager and happy to go back. There is a lot going on there in "Zeeland". Just this week we received word that, in the last two months there were verified reports of 100 people turning to Christ just by listening to a Christian radio broadcast in the Zee language. Later a Zee man took at least 40 of them to the nearby hot springs to be baptized. The next time they visited, the converts were numbering around 200.

As part of getting ready to move back to "Zeeland", Dennis and Susan will head over to Asia for two weeks. We will be gone Jan 15-30. There are several things we hope to do:

1. Discuss with some experts the details of a Zee language survey
2. Learn to integrate our data into the company's data archives
3. Pray with our colleagues
4. Talk to moms who have home schooled their high schoolers in Asia

While we travel this time our kids will stay in Duncanville. Some of you are helping us make the trip by teaching Andrew Gary while we are away.

Thank you for supporting us so that we can help new brothers and sisters on the other side of the world--people you haven't met yet, but who are your family too.

Dennis & Susan, Dale, Evelyn, and Andrew Gary

Welcome to our two new deacons! And **thank you** for willingness to serve our FPCD family in this way!

On Sunday, January 11, we elected Vangie Jackson and Doris Metzger as our new deacons for a two-year term. The following Sunday, they were duly ordained for this ministry.

Doris Metzger

Doris Metzger is a familiar face around the church. You might see her working in the library, teaching Sunday school (adult or children) or writing articles for the communications team.

After retiring in 1991, Doris and her late husband, Bill, moved to the Duncanville area to volunteer with Wycliffe International, and became members of 1st Presbyterian Duncanville since 1992. They have two children, Paul & Deborah.

Doris is a native of Kansas City. She earned her Master’s Degree in English Literature from the University of Minnesota and was a teacher prior to raising her family.

Vangie Jackson

Vangie Jackson is a familiar face to many of us. She and her husband, Bill were members of 1st Duncanville from 1972-1996. They were out of our midst from 1996-2011, while Bill attended seminary and pastored a church in Sinton, TX.

Upon retiring, they returned to Duncanville and “home” to our church, picking up where they left off... singing in the choir, attending Sunday school and socials.

Vangie grew up in Maine. After college, she taught elementary education in the Boston area where she met Bill. They celebrated 54 years of marriage on December 27. They have 5 children, Steve, Ruth, Bonnie, Cathy and Dorothy.

It's Coming March 9 and 10!

(Friday evening and Saturday until noon)

Ladies, these are the dates for our Women's Mini Retreat, and you don't want to miss it!

We will again gather at the Holiday Inn Express in Waxahachie, this time with the topic

"A Woman's Prayer Life"

We'll discuss some of Beth Moore's Bible teaching about prayer, a topic that can be a big help in our daily living.

It will also be a time to relax and have some fun.

Cost is \$50 per person, double occupancy, breakfast included.

(There's more PW news on p. 6.)

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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

February 2012 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

February 5

Greeters: Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Liturgist: Leo Skinner
Children's Church: Sharon Ingram
Nursery Volunteers: Susan & Evelyn Walters
Tellers: Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
Communion Servers: Scott Hartless, Diane Pegues, Irving Kezar, Sandy Gaskins, Jack Pegues, & Edelmira Ruiz

February 12

Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
 Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
 Dub Guthrie
 Teresa Reed
 Darlene Cowand
 Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

February 19

Greeters: Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
Ushers: Albert Teel, Bob Moore
Children's Church: Scott Hartless
Nursery Volunteer: Lois Harmon
Tellers: Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

February 26

Donna To, Wendy Jensen
 Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
 Janet Stahl
 Jocelyn Bolles
 Paul Barton, Tom Harmon



Carol McKinney—2/4
Christy Cowand—2/6
Ashley Dittman—2/8
Tristan Russell—2/8

Helen Barton—2/10
Billie Cowand—2/10
Paul Griffith—2/12
Leo Skinner—2/15
Claudia Griffith—2/16

Erin McGinnis 2/21
Susan Walters—2/22
Nadine AbuMarkhia—2/23
Gary Simons —2/26

**Lord, teach us to
number our days!**

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.



December 2011

December 2010	December 2011
5 December 92	4 December 83
12 December 88	11 December 93
19 December 109	18 December 95
24 December 122	24 December 106
26 December 47	25 December 47
average 92	average 85

Receipts	Expenditures
\$18,411	\$20,329
YTD income:	*\$225,253
YTD expenditures	\$233,948
Total Annual Budget:	\$218,200

*This includes memorial giving.

Presbyterian Women News

Our annual mini-retreat is coming! See p. 4.

December Spaghetti Supper's Impact

The Spaghetti Supper hosted by Presbyterian Women this past December was a happy evening. We enjoyed the good dinner and had a good time bidding at the Auction. (Special thanks to everyone who contributed items.) After expenses, proceeds from the auction were about \$1100, of which \$500 was given to help buy a new refrigerator for the church kitchen, \$100 went toward PW National's Mission fund, and \$500 will be sent to support Home of Hope, in Harare, Zimbabwe, in eastern Africa, which has been the 2011 mission emphasis of our church's Presbyterian Women.

Home of Hope is one of the projects sponsored by the Outreach Foundation (of the Presbyterian Church). We suggest that you go to their website theoutreachfoundation.org to read about the work of Presbyterians all around the world. There you will see a recent posting from the Home of Hope, which includes these comments:

"We continue to be in awe of how faithful God has been with the needs of this ministry.....We have helped about 50 children get into school for the final term. The priority, as always, was the children of the mothers who come for training who are in need.....There are presently 25 mothers being trained in dress-making skills by Lucy. Our favorite time was praise and worship and a meal...

"Our food for the homeless program is still offered for about 60 people, mostly men, every Monday through Friday at 7 and tea served daily and a bar of soap given out every two weeks. Medicines are also distributed, as well as money to hospital for more serious cases. "

Our 2012 Mission Project

This year we will support the work of the Sureste Theological Seminary in the state of Tabasco in Mexico (see http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=212:sureste-presbyterian-theological-seminary). On the Outreach Foundation's website you can find a letter from someone who was there in December. He writes of visiting the seminary and churches which he reports are growing. "The seminary is truly having a large impact on the churches in Tabasco."



PW Fellowship Groups meet this month on **Thursday, February 9** :

Agape Fellowship will meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Billie Cowand, 342 Lakeview Circle, Duncanville

Sarah Fellowship will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Marna Bayless, 836 Glen Oaks Boulevard, Dallas



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

(February 2012 - Remember each other in daily prayer.)



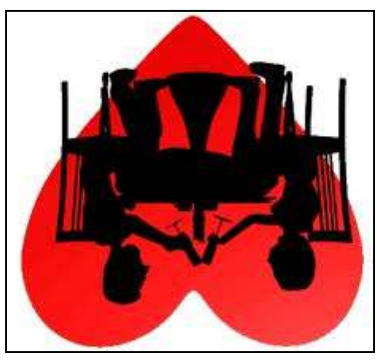
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
5 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	6 Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	7 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd	1 Andrew & Ashley Dittman Winfred Cook Jackie Walke Sam & Charlotte Fithian	2 Paul & Helen Barton Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pe-gues Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton Larry & Margaret Lewis	4 Joan Brown Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle David Hertenstein Evelyn
12 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	13 Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer	14 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netniss	8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	9 Nadine Doura Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman	10 Billie Coward David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden & Beau	11 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner
19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle The Schaefers	20 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Allison Jackson	21 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Gary & Linda Simmons Rachel Carol Orwig	15 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	16 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Reid & Betty Bunger	17 Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon Andrew Watts	18 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Barbara Notari
26 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	27 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	22 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andre Hull	23 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Coward McGinnis, Eric & Erin Mike	24 Adelmo & Edel mira Ruiz Mike Bacon Anthony Jennings	25 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless Miguel & Fanny Penaloza
26 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	27 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 James & Beth Ann Black Jimmy & Jason Cordova			



Don't forget about our **Valentines Day Dinner** on **Saturday, February 18th!** We will begin at 6:30pm with a romantic spaghetti dinner. Later we'll move over to the sanctuary where we'll enjoy a movie with some popcorn!

Our youth ~ from Allison Jackson & Steve Netniss

8 The Epistle



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- Christian Education** — 9:15 a.m.
- Worship Service** — 10:30 a.m.
- Youth Group** — 4:30-6:00 p.m.

February 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Jan 2012</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> <tr><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table> </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: 45%;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Mar 2012</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center; font-size: small;"> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td></tr> </table> </div> </div>		S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					S	M	T	W	T	F	S					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">1</p> <p>6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Prayer Meeting</p> <p>6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">2</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">3</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">4</p>
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<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">5</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship - Communion</p> <p>** Scout Sunday **</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">6</p> <p>4:30 PM Deacons Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">8</p> <p>6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30 PM Youth Group</p> <p>6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">9</p> <p>1:00 PM Agape Women's Study</p> <p>7:30 PM Sarah Women's Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">11</p>																																																																																			
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<p>Pastor Ginger on Study Leave - Returns 2/20</p>																																																																																									
<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">19</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship</p> <p>** Food Sunday **</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">21</p> <p>6:30 PM Jambalaya & Jazz</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">22</p> <p>7:00 PM - 7:45 PM Ash Wednesday Service</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">23</p> <p>6:30 PM Session Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">24</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em; color: red;">25</p>																																																																																			
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