

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

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

January 2012

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043
fax: (972) 298-5312
info@fpcd.org
www.fpcd.org

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

Happy New Year! I write this realizing we begin 2012 with a worship service. How appropriate: God first! That most likely makes God smile. God knows that is a huge step for most of us. In fact, more often than not we probably think of all our shortcomings, lacks, and inadequacies, wondering if we will ever be the Christian we'd like to be. I'm learning, though, to set a new paradigm.

God first does not mean that we simply relate to God as the boss; seeking out the "rules" or what we think God expects of us and do them, as if we signed up for the military.

God first does not mean we neglect or ignore other responsibilities because God takes everything we have.

God first does not mean we neglect or ignore other people who mean a lot to us because good causes in or outside the church take so much time.

God first does mean we relate to God as our loving Savior, spending time with Him and talking to Him freely.

God first does mean we cling to Jesus, the giver of faith, when our faith fails us. We ask Him to give us the faith we need, realizing we have gone to the right Source.

God first does mean we turn to Him first about anything and everything with which we need help. God ultimately has the desire and power to lead us to the right answers.

Happy New Year! We begin the year with worship. That's God first. I can't wait to see you - with a huge smile - because together we gather to know and enjoy the love of God.

Blessings. And Happy New Year,

Ginger



Words from Worship

Words from Worship

Worship is an act of [religious](#) devotion usually directed towards a deity. The word is derived from the [Old English](#) *worþscipe*, meaning *worthiness* or *worth-ship* — to give, at its simplest, worth to something, for example, Christian worship.

reverent **honor and homage** paid to God or a sacred personage
formal or ceremonious rendering of such **honor and homage**: adoring **reverence** or regard the object of adoring **reverence or regard**.

January 6 (the “twelfth day of Christmas”) celebrates **EPIPHANY**, the revelation of Jesus to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi who came to **worship** the newborn king.

FPCD and your Worship Planning Ministry desire to present worship that helps you connect to God and express your devotion and love. The first step to doing that is to realize that God really is here every time we gather. That is a stunning thought! So we want to bring Him joy. And, we want you to experience joy as you think about God, sing to God, give to God, and receive from Him. May worship be your special pleasure in 2012!

December 12 Christmas Pageant



Missions News ~ From George & Mary Huttar

The Huttars have been members of the FPCD church family since 1980 - although for much of that time, they've been living overseas. Their last overseas assignment found them training African Bible translators at a seminary in Kenya, the Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology. They returned to Duncanville in 2007, working now as editors for SIL International and Wycliffe Bible Translators. At the same time, another assignment keeps them involved with "their school" in Nairobi. Let's hear more about it in their own words:

"Most of our SIL and Wycliffe job now finds us editing books about the languages of the Bible and about other languages from all over the world, books on translation, textbooks, and other publications related to language development. But we're getting busier and busier on another assignment, working with Christian Leaders for Africa. CLA (see <http://www.clafrica.com/>) is the North American friend- and fund-raising partner for **Africa International University**, the larger school formed around NEGST as its nucleus, but now offering a much wider range of programs than before (see <http://www.africainternational.edu/>). Recognizing



the need for effective servant leaders in all walks of life in African societies, not only in churches and Christian organizations, AIU has expanded outward (with departments for Psychology and Counseling and for Business Administration), upward (with doctoral programs in four areas, including an Islamic Studies emphasis within Intercultural Studies), and downward (offering Bachelor's degrees and lower-level diplomas and certificates). We thank God that in March 2011, the President of Kenya, on behalf of the Kenyan government granted AIU its official charter, the highest level of accreditation.

"We strongly believe in the effectiveness of AIU's implementing in vision and mission to build God's kingdom in Africa. So ever since our return to Duncanville in 2007, we've been wanting to be contributing to AIU's progress in some way beyond our own prayers and gifts. That's why we're now serving on the CLA Board (George as an official member, Mary unofficially, but both of us being put to work). Just after Thanksgiving we hosted Dr. Douglas Carew, the head ("Vice-Chancellor") of AIU as he met with church groups and educational institutions in the DFW area, and visited some AIU alumni now at Dallas Theological Seminary. But mostly, between Board meetings, we're helping to write and edit the CLA newsletter and other communications.

"As you can tell, we're sold on AIU, and will be glad to tell anyone interested more about it.

"Many of you have partnered with us in prayer and in financial support over the years, for which we are grateful. We pray that all our FPCD family will know God's power and love more and more throughout 2012, and that through us all, the community will, too."

George & Mary Huttar



From our youth

As I write, Christmas is just a few days away and our Youth Group is already thinking about Valentine's Day! **What? Valentines Day?** Why would we be thinking about Valentines Day? Well, as many of you know, every year the Youth Group puts on a Valentine's Day dinner for the congregation. We go all out with a delightful service staff as well as a delicious spaghetti dinner followed by a movie! This event will be hosted at the church on **Saturday February the 18th**.



Meanwhile we've got some interesting developments happening with our Youth Group. We've decided to **move our Youth Group meeting nights to Wednesday's at 6:30pm!** We are hoping that this will give the students an opportunity to invite more of their friends. We're excited to see what will happen to the Youth Group on this new meeting day. Also, probably the biggest development from our youth is that the Youth Group meeting room is going to have a makeover very soon. The first and most vital change is that the Youth Group meeting room is now called, "The Closet."

We still have a **need for new staff** to come on board. The day/time change will cause some people to take on a lesser role while it also provides opportunities for new people join our staff! I encourage you to consider becoming one of our leaders and serving as apart of our team. I can promise you that it will be a rewarding experience if you have a heart for youth.

Grace & Peace to you!

Youth Pastor Steve

Steve Netniss

snetniss@fpcd.org



Lord, teach us to
number our days!

Jocelyn Bolles – 1/1
Andrene Hull – 1/2
Gwenn Guthrie – 1/4
Dorothy Cleary – 1/5

Jim Stahl – 1/5
Connie Steger – 1/16
Logan Russell – 1/25
Don Burquest – 1/28

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.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

January 2012 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

January 1 (New Year's Day, Holy Name Day):

Greeters: Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Liturgist: Steve Netniss
Children's Church: Sharon Ingram
Nursery Volunteers: Susan & Evelyn Walters
Tellers: Joceyln Bolles, Margaret Lewis
Communion Servers: TBA

January 8

Greeters: Donna To, Wendy Jensen
Ushers: Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
Liturgist: Tom Harmon
Children's Church: Kathleen Hartless
Nursery Volunteer: Darlene Cowand
Tellers: Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

January 15

Lori Glover, Burle Murphy
 Albert Teel, Bob Moore
Darrell Ingram
 Savannah Baker-Teel
 Jocelyn Bolles
Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

January 22

Greeters: Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary
Ushers: Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
Liturgist: Doris Metzger
Children's Church: Margaret Lewis
Nursery Volunteer: Anna Murphy
Tellers: Paul Barton, Tom Harmon

January 29

Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
Jack Pegues, Eugene Jimmerson
Dave Bolles
 Anna Murphy
 Sydney Russell
 Teresa Reed, Joan Brown



November 2010	November 2011
7 November 72	6 November 81
14 November 91	13 November 77
21 November 79	20 November 93
28 November 90	27 November 74
average 83	average 81
average	

Receipts	Expenditures
\$24,095	\$16,654
YTD income:	*\$206,842
YTD expenditures	\$213,619
Total Annual Budget:	\$218,200
*This includes memorial giving.	
We're behind in our giving:	<\$6,777>

Presbyterian Women News

All women are invited to come to one of the women's fellowship groups, which meet this month on Thursday, January 12. In addition to having a good visit, we will continue this year's study of the Beatitudes.



Agape Fellowship will meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Lois Harmon, 207 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville.

Sarah Fellowship will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Nancy Bergman, 1063 Fairmeadows Circle, Duncanville. Marna Bayless will be the co-hostess.



2011 Number Search

Happy New Year!

Can you find "2011" twenty times in the puzzle below?
You can look for it forwards, backwards and diagonally too!

Kids'
Korner

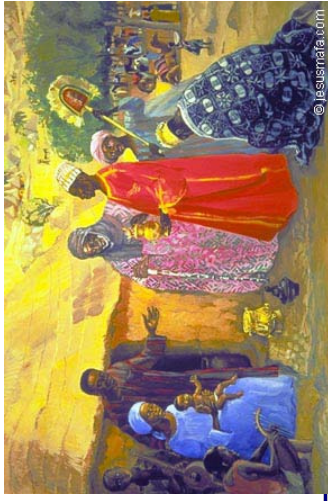
6	5	1	1	0	2	2	2	5	6
2	8	1	9	5	1	1	0	2	4
0	7	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	9
1	3	0	2	3	1	1	1	1	1
1	5	2	0	1	1	1	6	0	2
3	2	0	1	1	4	0	0	2	0
1	5	0	1	4	1	2	3	2	1
1	2	0	1	1	4	7	7	8	1
0	5	6	0	1	0	9	8	7	8
2	3	2	1	1	0	2	4	4	6





FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

January 2012 - Remember each other in daily prayer.)



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

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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8 The Epistle

Come One, Come all to Think Tank

We are a group of highly intelligent, very creative, super organized, witty, beautiful and handsome members of this church - NOT! Well, we ARE beautiful and handsome and SOME of us have more brain cells than the others, but we're just ordinary folks who want to share the wonderful things going on in this church with our community. We want our friends and neighbors to have the desire and feel the importance of being a part of this great fellowship.



We've only been meeting for a few months, but some exciting things are already happening. We now have:

- ↳ A Youth Choir made up of 6-8 kids who meet each week and are led by Ashley and Deborah
- ↳ Cute Visitor Gifts created by Linda Simons
- ↳ A "new and improved" website being designed by David Hertenstein
- ↳ A potential Community-wide Volunteer Seminar envisioned by Marna Bayless

We would appreciate YOUR great ideas and suggestions to help us share "The Best Kept Secret in Duncanville" (FPCD). **Please plan on coming to our next meeting January 16, 2012.** We will meet at 6:30, enjoy some delicious food, share our ideas and finish up by 8pm.

<div>Closed</div>		<div>6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>6:30 PM Youth Group</div> <div>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>		
<div>4:30 PM Deacons Meeting</div> <div>7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting</div>	10	<div>11</div> <div>6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>6:30 PM Youth Group</div> <div>6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting</div> <div>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>12</div> <div>1:00 PM Agape Women's Study</div> <div>7:30 PM Sarah Women's Study</div>	13
6	17	<div>18</div> <div>6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>6:30 PM Youth Group</div> <div>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	<div>19</div> <div>6:30 PM Session Meeting</div>	20
		<div>New Fellowship Gathering - Orlando, FL</div>		
<div>3</div> <div>Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre</div>	24	<div>25</div> <div>6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal</div> <div>6:30 PM Youth Group</div> <div>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</div>	26	27
0	31			