



First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

January 2010

Vol. 18 No. 1

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

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Rev.

Ginger Hertenstein

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New Year's Message

F R O M T H E P A S T O R

Last February elders and leaders of FPCD gathered for a retreat. Afterwards, the retreat leader wrote: "I was encouraged by the dedication and commitment of your leaders and excited by their willingness to make FPCD a vital witness . . . The following passage comes to mind: "Behold, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the desert and streams in the wasteland" (Isa 43:19). God is doing a new thing in your congregation and it will be magnificent."

God is certainly doing a magnificent thing. During the last year we have been saturated in God's word and that word produces fruit. Think back. Through Luke we experienced Jesus – what He did as he lived among us and then what He said through the parables. Summertime brought us Nehemiah and God's children rebuilding the wall and filling Jerusalem with life once again. Then, there was Esther's story of courage and commitment to fight for the lives of God's people. In the fall we learned how to engage in Holy Conversations about God in everyday life, and at the same time, we gained a practical application of 1st Corinthians.

The result has been the fruit of a richer, closer, more experiential relationship with God. You can see it in your joyful faces, in your energetic, enthusiastic work at the church, and in your overwhelming generosity in giving. It's magnificent!

As we look forward to 2010, I sense a call to new faith to go with this new thing God is doing. Let's press on expectantly to see what the New Year brings. Without a doubt, it will be wonderful because our God is magnificent.

Blessings,
Ginger

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Words from
Worship

WORDS FROM WORSHIP



Advent decorations will be taken down on January 2 from 9-11 am. If you are available, we'd love to have you. The more folks we have the faster it will go and you won't miss any of the bowl games!

We had incredible Advent services, and we thank each of you for making them services unique and different. From Advent reader/candle lighters, to choir, to youth (and parents), to skit participants, and all those who helped decorate. Thank you from the Worship Team. We couldn't do it without you!



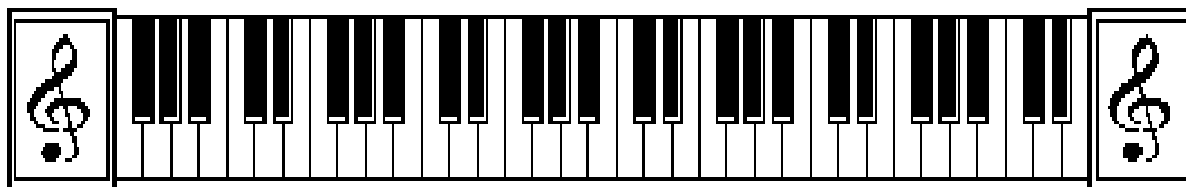
SYMBOLS of our faith...Symbols of the Twelve Apostles

The twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus to be His special representatives were “Peter, James the son of Zebedee, John the brother of James, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew, Thomas, James the son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus, Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot.” Mark 3:16-19 They are frequently represented by symbols.



Simon the Canaanite, or sometimes referred to as Simon the Zealot, became a leader of the church in Jerusalem and had a great deal of success bringing people to the gospel and converting them to Christianity. His symbol became a fish on a book to show that he became a fisher of men by the power of the Word of God. The fish referred to his dedication to fishing for converts and the book to the gospel that meant so much to him.

*Welcome back to our piano, Susan Seamans.
It's nice to have your smiling face on a regular
basis, behind the piano.*



The Sacristy was recently cleaned and organized. If you use it, please clean up after yourself and please do not “donate” anything to it, unless you notify the Worship Team. Your help is appreciated.

FPCD SEMINARS

Back to Basic Seminars

Lost your job? Having financial problems?
Concerned about food costs and nutrition?

Plan to attend one of the following seminars designed to help you sort through and plan how to "Get Back to Basics." Each seminar will be lead by people just like you, that have experienced these same situations. They will offer helpful suggestions, ideas and insight on steps to take to help you get back on your feet. Seminars will be held on the following evenings from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall of First Presbyterian Church. Child Care provided.

Unemployment Seminar- You've lost your job...now what?

Tuesday-January 5- Unemployment Benefits
Tuesday-January 12- Writing a resume
Tuesday-January 19- Looking for a job
Tuesday, January 26- Interviewing

Financial Planning- I can't be overdrawn... I still have checks!

Tuesday, February 2- Assessing your current financial situation
Tuesday, February 9- Insurance
Tuesday, February 16- Investments
Tuesday, February 23- Helping Your Family

Nutrition- Cheaper than eating out!?

Tuesday, March 2- Assessing the situation
Tuesday, March 9- Planning a menu
Tuesday, March 16- Shopping/budgeting
Tuesday, March 23- Tasting

FPCD
Seminars

Attendance

Bookkeeper's
Report

ATTENDANCE

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT

December 2008

7-December-85
14-December-100
21-December-100
24-December-94
28-December-69

December 2009

22-November-85
6-December-96
13-December-113
20-December-Not yet recorded

November 2009

Receipts	Expenditures
\$27,519	\$17,495
YTD Receipts	YTD Expenditures
\$159,614	\$172,291

Total Annual Budget is \$173,824.
The YTD Receipts does not include the \$16,000 from the sale of previously donated stock.

PW News

PW NEWS

Enjoy Bible Study and Fellowship with PW

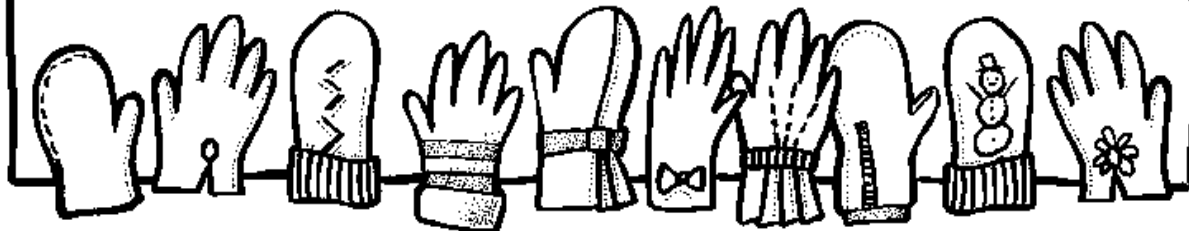
If you do not currently attend a Circle, please consider doing so. The Circles meet in different homes each month and enjoy Bible study, prayer, good discussions, desserts and fellowship. There is a daytime and an evening Circle. The meeting places, dates and times are printed in the announcements section of the weekly Sunday bulletins, as well as in the monthly newsletters. If you have any questions about the Circle meetings, please contact Helen Barton or Joan Brown.



Circle Gatherings for January:

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday, January 7 at 7:30 pm at the home of Jocelyn Bolles, 619 Athenia Way, 972-296-2715; we will study Lesson 4 in the study books.

Agape Circle: Meeting Thursday, January 14 at 1:00 pm at the home of Catherine Eagle, 115 Willowbrook, 972-298-2303; also will study Lesson 4 in the study books.



Thank you to all who came to the PW Spaghetti Supper and Christmas Auction and so generously supported it!!

Approximately \$1300 was made from the Auction and will be used to support our mission project in Uganda, our PW Mission Pledge, as well as our projects within our church.



The Christmas basket that was raffled was won by Dean Hertenstein!
Approximately \$200 was raised and will be used to help offset the cost of recovering from our computer crash last month.

PW MIS*SIONS

PW Mission emphasis for the coming year will be helping to care for vulnerable children in Kamwenge, Uganda by donating funds for educational needs and school supplies.

Kamwenge Vocational School is a community school in the heart of rural Uganda with a vision to transform this poor community into a self-sustained and responsible one with a high sense of integrity and accountability in a Christian transforming environment.

continues on Page 5

PW NEWS Continued

The school is located on 20 acres of land in the district of Kamwenge, western Uganda. This area has a population of 300,000 people, mostly refugees from neighboring countries, and is considered one of the poorest in Uganda. Parents can not afford to send their children to school and do not understand the importance of education. This illiteracy has increased the cycle of HIV/AIDS and poverty. This School aims to equip individuals with skills for sustainable socio-economic development, a holistic approach of building the Kingdom of God.



**PW
News
continued**

How You Can Help! We will be accepting donations toward this cause at our Circle Meetings through the year and also designating a portion of our PW fundraisers toward this project. Our two PW fundraisers are the Spring Plant and Bake Sale and the PW Family Spaghetti Supper and Christmas Auction. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining with us to help these Ugandan families build a better life through education and hopefully to see the love of Jesus Christ through our generosity and concern.

HOGY HAPPENINGS



On December 6-we traveled to Bethlehem to witness the birth of Christ... well in a manner of speaking...we actually went to Waxahachie, TX to Bethlehem Revisited, an annual production created by the churches of Waxahachie, so that visitors can experience the life and times of Christ. We hope Mary and Joseph didn't encounter the problems we did...rain, cold and directionally challenged drivers!, but it was well worth the trip.

December 20-we participated in the annual church youth pageant. This year's story "**Starry Night, Noisy Night**" told the birth of Christ as seen from the animals in the stable. We also enjoyed a gift exchange. It's amazing the quality of gift you can purchase for \$1.00!

**Hands
Of
God
Youth**

*JANUARY ACTIVITIES

We will continue our Bible Story journey and plan to view the movie "**To Save a Life,**" a gripping story of two friends as young kids travel different paths as teenagers, one leading to a tragic end.

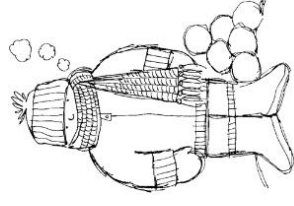
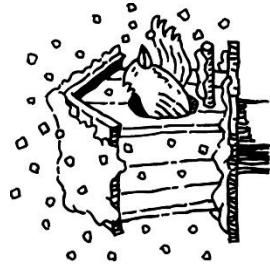
FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES

Saturday, February 13-we will begin raising money for a Mission Trip by offering Dinner With Your Valentine . . . so save the date. Invite your friends and neighbors. Reservations will be taken. Cost: \$20 per couple. Did I mention, this will also include a movie!! Child care (\$5.00 per family) will also be provided so parents can truly have a "date night." Children will also be served dinner and view a movie. Watch for more details.



Thank you to Lori Glover & Brenda Everett who provided us with meals. If you would like to serve a meal please sign up on the HOGY calendar posted on the door of the Youth room.

If you would like to participate in the HOGY Happenin's, please contact Lori Glover or Anna Murphy.



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR January 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton	4 Joan Brown Tom & Sandy Wylie Thomas, Katie & Abby	5 Jack & Diane Pegues Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	6 Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	7 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	8 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	9 Norris & Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin
10 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	11 Nadine Doura Ariel & Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman	12 George & Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Jim & Pam Loyd	14 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal	15 Bill Farish Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen
17 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Michelle Petersen	19 Tom & Lois Harmon Eunice Pike Christy Cowand Brandon Cowand	20 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica	21 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle	22 Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant	23 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons
24 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers	25 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand Carol Orwig	26 Stan & June West Sara & Matthew Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	27 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Bob & Liz Moore Gail Haynes	30 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather
31 Reid Bunger Don & Sheri Trask Jim & Andrene Hull						

De-Con-Go Team

Jehovah Jireh Basket

You may have noticed a red cloth-lined basket in the narthex – occasionally with something in it. When visiting someone in the hospital or at home after surgery or hospitalization, the Dea-Con-Go team likes to provide a basket of goodies to that person to show that FPCD is thinking about them and praying for them. We are looking for contributions of non-perishable items such as: bottled water; V8 juice, fruit juice, individually packaged snacks (nuts, crackers, trail mix), ballpoint pens, note pads, blank cards, puzzle books, good reading material such as small devotional booklets, paperback books, CDs and whatever else you can think of that you would appreciate receiving if you were ill. The basket is in the narthex, on the floor underneath the coat hooks. Thank you for helping with this!



De-Con-Go
Team

De-Con-Go Team Report

Desiring to reach out to the community and share our blessings with others, Dave Bolles contacted Duncanville Outreach Ministry, asking them to identify some families who could be invited to attend FPCD's annual Thanksgiving Dinner. One family was able to come; the Ingrams graciously served as hosts. The Smith family greatly appreciated the warm welcome and had a good time. We are following up with a visit to them soon.

There have been several needs in our church family: Dorothy Anderson fell and sustained a cracked pelvis; Ruth Yingst had ablation surgery and was admitted to Crestview in Cedar Hill for rehab; David Hertenstein had surgery for a herniated disk, and Pam Loyd surgery for a brain tumor. Then, our dear brother, Bill Yingst, passed away. Everyone pulled together to host a reception after the Memorial Service on Dec. 12th.



Last, but not least, we filled Christmas stockings and delivered them to 14 families, who are shut in, have serious health issues, or a loss. It is a special joy to be able to visit these dear ones, who in turn inspire and bless us.

Birthdays

BIRTHDAYS!

If you think we might not have a record of your birthday and you would like us to include it in the "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact the office (972) 298-3043. Thank you.



Jocelyn Bolles—1/1
Andrene Hull—1/2
Gwenn Guthrie—1/4
Dorothy Cleary—1/5
Carol Guthrie—1/11
Melisa Guthrie—1/11
Logan Russell—1/25
Don Burquest—1/28



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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.