

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



December 2011

Vol. 19, No. 12

**FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.
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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

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From our Pastor

A friend sent an e-mail in response to my invitation to coffee. "I'd love to. I just don't have time right now, maybe next Friday." I looked at my schedule. Oops, I don't have time that day . . . She's right. I feel her pain. We schedule our time until there's hardly enough room to sit down and take an extra breath. And time marches on, stopped only by our end. Know how I feel?

The Bible seems obsessed with time. Sometimes things happen after what seems an eternity, like Elizabeth and Zachariah becoming pregnant after years of barrenness. Or, God waiting for what seemed like forever to send Jesus, even though prophets predicted His coming for years. Or, the Psalmist pleading with God, "Make haste to save me" (Psalm 40:13), as if to say, *and don't be a moment too late, please!*

God is never early. We might judge Him, like Mary and Martha, *Lord, if only you had been here!* But, if we looked back, we might not be too pleased with how we ourselves have spent our time being there with or for Him.

Time marks a very important element of the Advent season. Paul writes, "But when the right time came, God sent his Son . . . in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that he could adopt us as his very own children. And because we are his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, prompting us to call out, "Abba, Father" (Galatians 4:4-6).

God has moved into our time; adopted our time; changed His schedule to be here with us to redeem us. When God raised Jesus from the dead, God miraculously and wondrously broke forever the claim of time on us. God gave us what we could never have without Jesus – eternal time.

So how will you spend your time this Advent season? Rushing about with no thought of the Gift you have been given? How about recapturing God's view of time? Jesus Christ has interrupted my life and yours. I would like to stop and allow Him to take some time from me; let Him disrupt my life for Him. Perhaps it is the right way to keep time.

Blessings,

Ginger



Words from Worship

Advent Schedule...many special events...come be a part of this joyous time of year!

Saturday, November 26 - 9-11 am - decorate church for Advent

Saturday, December 10 - 1:00 pm - FPCD Choir performs at Ben Franklin Apothecary

Sunday, November 27 – Advent One - John 1:1-5, 9-13; In the Beginning was Jesus

Sunday, December 4 – Advent Two - John 1:6-8, Luke 1:66-80; The Call of John

Sunday, December 11 – Advent Three - Luke 1:26-38, 46-55; Mary's Song, The Magnificat

Sunday, December 11 – 4:00 pm - Choir Concert; "Christmas Ordained From the Beginning"

Sunday, December 18 – Advent Four – John 1:14-18; Jesus Makes God Known; Interactive Christmas Pageant, for all ages

Saturday, December 24 – 6:00 pm – Christmas Eve Candelight Service – Luke 2:1-20; The Story

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day – 11:00 am (please note the time change); Daniel's Gift. enjoy a casual service as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus

Symbols of our Faith: HOLLY



In Christian folklore the prickly leaves of Christmas holly trees came to be associated with Jesus' crown of thorns, while their berries represented the drops of blood shed for humanity's salvation. This symbolism can be found, for example, in the Christmas carol, ["The Holly and the Ivy"](#). Christian folklore also identified Christmas holly wood as the wood used to build Jesus' holy cross. In fact, many of us, including some scholars, connect the English words "holly" and "holy," although they probably started out as two separate words..

Bible Quiz

Which prophet foretold the birth of Jesus with these words? - "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."

- A. Jeremiah
- B. Isaiah
- C. Ezekiel

Answer: "b". (Isaiah 7:14).

At long last, the anxiously awaited **FPCD Family Photo Album** is almost finished. This will take the place of the previously planned pictorial directory. No contact information will be included: names and pictures only. If you have not had your picture made and would still like to, Jim Stahl has again generously agreed to take pictures on December 11 from 9:15 to 10:15 and directly after worship. If this is not convenient, you may submit a picture electronically to conniesteger@sbcglobal.net or bring one to the church office and leave it with Sandy Gaskins. Thank you!



Missions News ~ From Carol Orwig

You all know Carol by sight. She brings her love of music and rich soprano voice to the choir each Sunday. Sometimes she is missing; if you've wondered why, here she lets us know . . .

.What in the World Is Carol Orwig Doing?

"I'm a Language and Culture Learning Consultant for SIL and other partner organizations of Wycliffe Bible Translators. This assignment takes me all over the world, usually for trips of a week or two up to a couple of months at a time. What does a Language and Culture Learning Consultant do? One of my main jobs is to give pre-field training to people who want to be missionaries. We don't teach them any particular language, but we do teach them how to learn a language, and also ways in which cultures differ, and how this can affect relationships and communication. This year I taught a course in [England](#) at which we had students from 15 nationalities, from such diverse places as [Russia](#), [Eritrea](#), and [Papua New Guinea](#). In March I was in [Albania](#) where I started a course to prepare Albanian Christians for missions. In February I worked with an Indonesian Bible translation organization on a training course for [Indonesians](#) doing Bible Storying projects, and also gave some training to teachers at an Indonesian language school.

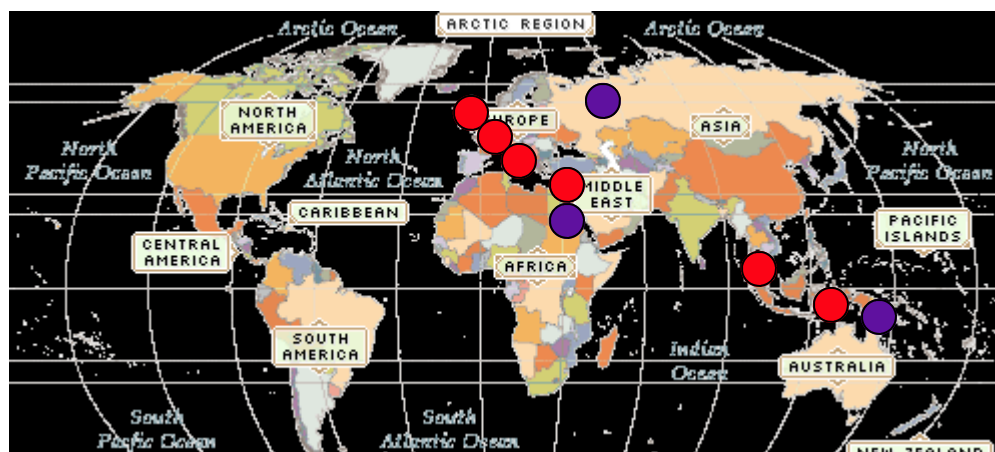


"Another thing I do is to present on-field workshops for language coaches and teachers. Language coaches are people who help missionaries learn languages, or who supervise their learning. Our Language Coach Workshops were given in [Thailand](#) and in [Hungary](#) this year, to allow people from different parts of the world to attend. This year's workshops were packed out!

Sometimes I'm asked by people from another mission to come and give them on-field training or consultation. In July I was invited to [Israel](#) to work with people learning modern Hebrew and Arabic. They wanted ideas about how to work with speakers of those languages, and how

to continue learning, after they finished language school. It was a thrill to be there and to help these learners.

"Thank you for your prayers for all of us who serve the Lord overseas – as you serve Him here in Texas."



Our youth ~ from Allison Jackson & Steve Netniss

The holidays are here and the students are excited to get a break from school! The leaders have some great activities coming up for the youth group.—like taking our students to Bethlehem revisited, always a lot of fun, informative, and inspiring. We invite anyone in the congregation to join us who would like to get a taste of what 1st century Israel was like. This event is free. Please contact Pastor Steve for dates and times.

One of the issues we've identified with the youth is an inability to have intellectual conversations about hot button topics. In high school there have always been difficult questions that arise in conversations. Steve has been covering these topics with the students in hopes of being able to teach them how to think and reason better about their faith. One topic is how do we approach other religions and their followers in a sensitive way. Discussing difficult topics at youth group is a place where students can both be informed and express themselves in a safe environment. Steve really loves it when students or leaders disagree with him. The leaders are eager to help the students grow and broaden their knowledge, so they will be better equipped to answer difficult questions that may come up at school or around friends.

Please consider joining our dynamic group. Also, we are strongly considering meeting on a new night for youth group. Starting in January we may be meeting on Wednesday nights. This might make it easier for more of the congregation to come and support us. Is God calling you to help the youth of our church grow in Christ? If so, please contact Steve Netniss for information.



Mark your calendars for early December: Saturday, December 3, 6:00 p.m., and come to the

CHRISTMAS AUCTION AND SPAGHETTI SUPPER

PW will provide a delicious dinner of meatballs, spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert. Afterwards we will enjoy bidding on items you'll want to select as gifts and possibly for yourself! Everyone is invited to participate in the auction, by bringing items to be auctioned, such as decorative or edible treats or other possible gift items. Home made gifts are always welcome! Even if you have no gift to bring, come for the fun, and shop! Proceeds will benefit Presbyterian Women's projects here and far away (see last month's letter for our project in Zimbabwe, Home of Hope—or go to <http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org>).



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

Darrell Ingram—12/4
Eddie Everett—12/21
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

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

December 2011 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

December 4 (2nd Advent):

Greeters: Jocelyn Bolles & Dorothy Cleary
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Children's Church: Sandy Gaskins
Nursery Volunteer: Jocelyn Bolles
Tellers: Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
Communion Servers: Diane Pegues, Mickey Jespersen,
 Joan Brown, Bob Moore,
 Lois Harmon, & Dub Guthrie

December 11 (3rd Advent)

Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
 Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
 Teresa Reed
 Joan Brown
 Lori Glover, Bob Harrison

December 18 (4th Advent)

Greeters: Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
Ushers: Albert Teel, Bob Moore
Children's Church: (No children's Church)
Nursery Volunteer: Sydney Russell
Tellers: Paul Barton, Tom Harmon

December 25 (CHRISTMAS)

TBD
 Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
 (No children's Church)
 Anna Murphy
 Teresa Reed, Joan Brown

'TIS THE SEASON FOR CHRISTMAS MOVIES

While we won't be having a Movie Night at the church, you can still have your own Movie Night at home!

Just pick up some microwave popcorn and meander into our FPCD Library and check out one of our Christmas movies. We have "The Nativity Story" and "The Fourth Wise Man". Two excellent Christmas movies to celebrate the season. If you are interested, please check out one or both of the movies, but please try to return it within 72 hours in case another FPCD member would like to watch it as well.

There are also Christmas books available. For the holiday season they are located next to the DVD's.

Merry Christmas from your Librarian



October 2010

3 October 86
 10 October 87
 17 October 79
 24 October 87
 31 October 87

October 2011

2 October
 (not recorded)
 9 October 67
 16 October 91
 23 October 94
 31 October 93

October 2011

Receipts

\$16,718

YTD income:

YTD expenditures

Total Annual Budget:

*This includes memorial giving.

We're behind in our giving: **<\$14,218>**

Expenditures

\$17,659

*\$182,747

\$196,965

\$218,200

Presbyterian Women News

Our PW 2011 Mission Focus — Don't forget ...



Harare

afr-235 www.fotosearch.com

that one third of the proceeds of our December 3 PW Christmas Auction (see p. 4) will be sent for the work of Home of Hope in Harare, Zimbabwe (see Nov. letter or www.theoutreachfoundation.org).



Sarah Fellowship and Agape Fellowship groups will meet **Thursday, December 8**. Agape Fellowship women will meet at 11:30 a.m. for lunch at Applebee's on Cockrell Hill Road and will have dessert at the home of Billie Cowand, 342 Lakeview Circle, Duncanville, [972-2985449](tel:972-2985449). Sarah Fellowship women will meet at 7:30 pm at the home of Jocelyn Bolles, 619 Athenia Way, Duncanville [972-296-2715](tel:972-296-2715). Joan Brown is the co-hostess. **You are welcome to visit!**

Christmas is a time of sharing. Please consider a gift for the hardworking staff of our church. By designating your payment "staff gift" and placing it in the offering plate by December 18, you will help us make Christmas a little happier for those members of our staff.
(This is a different opportunity from our annual **Christmas Joy Offering**.)

First Annual Arlington Christkindl Market

2011 marks the 60th Anniversary of the partnership between Arlington and her sister city, Bad Königshofen, Germany.

Arlington introduces the First Arlington Christkindl Market (Kris-kin-dle Market) to deepen knowledge of the German culture among visitors and our local community alike.

Arlington Christkindl Market is an enchanting family market in the tradition of those held throughout Germany during the Christmas season. Set up as an Old World-style charming festival, this outdoor market offers authentic German cuisine, beverages, entertainment, arts, crafts, exquisite unique ornaments, rare European crafts and holiday gifts and the opportunity to devour German delicacies like brats, goulash, potato pancakes, gingerbread, cookies, German beers and Gluhwein!

Admission is free.

Hours of Operation:

Thursday, December 8 from 3pm-10pm

Friday, December 9 from 3pm-10pm

Saturday, December 10 from 10am-10pm

Sunday, December 11 from 11am-7pm

Where: Road to Six Flags and Ballpark Way





FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

(December 2011 - 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 Pe-	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton
4 Joan Brown Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés &	5 Boyd Roberts Connie Steger Sam & Charlotte Fithian	6 Larry & Margaret Lewis David Hertenstein Evelyn	7 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, & Logan, Weston, & Tristan	8 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	9 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia	10 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda
11 Nadine Doura Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman	12 Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden & Beau	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Jessica Bayless	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 Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netniss	17 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles
18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Reid & Betty Bung-	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	22 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Allison Jackson	23 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Gary & Linda Simmons	24 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene
25 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand Carol Orwig	26 Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Mike Bacon Anthony Jennings	27 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless Miguel & Fanny Penaloza	28 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes Bill & Vangy Jackson John Alsop	29 Burle 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

Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.
— 4:30-6:00 p.m.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

8 The Epistle

Children's Christian Education

Our **Preschoolers**, under Jessica Bayless, Marna Bayless, Susan Murphy, and Joan Brown, have been learning about Abraham and Sarah and how they obeyed God. Before that? The Creation story, and Noah and the flood. Late November brought us stories of Joseph and Samuel, then in December the birth of Jesus, helping them prepare for **"A Simple Christmas Pageant"** during our Dec. 18 worship service.  This pageant has **parts for all ages—We need many children, youth, and adults to participate.**  Costumes are being assembled and parts are being assigned now.

Elementary school children completed learning about Daniel in early November, under Lois Harmon's leadership. We hope that making puppets and using them to act out Daniel and his friends' experiences will help the students remember how those young men loved God and faithfully prayed to him. Later in November, Doris Metzger led the children in Jesus' parable of the talents. The children found the story in the New Testament, where we noticed the timing of this parable—just one week before Jesus' death—and his reasons for telling the story to his disciples. We talked about the emphasis on faithfulness that the master commended. Next we plan to think about the gifts God gives to us and how we can use them in ways that would please him.

Janet Stahl is leading our **Junior High students** during November and December. Janet comments, "This month our topic...has been being thankful. Do you know the biblical example of the worst case of thankfulness? Look at Jesus' parable of the two men praying in the Temple. After talking about Jesus' warning against a wrong attitude of thankfulness, we looked through Psalm 100 and talked about what we can do to be thankful and to "enter God's gates" wherever we are. We took time to write poems of thankfulness. **We encourage you to read the poems on the bulletin board outside the church office.** And join us in thanking God for the junior high students he is bringing to our church.

Wanted: Volunteers to serve on the following **TEAMS:**

Children's Church (With 12 volunteers, you'd only lead the program once every 3 months!)

Nursery (What better way to get that "baby fix"?)

Christian Education (Expect the unexpected from our youth!)

Usher (We can always use one or two more folks.)

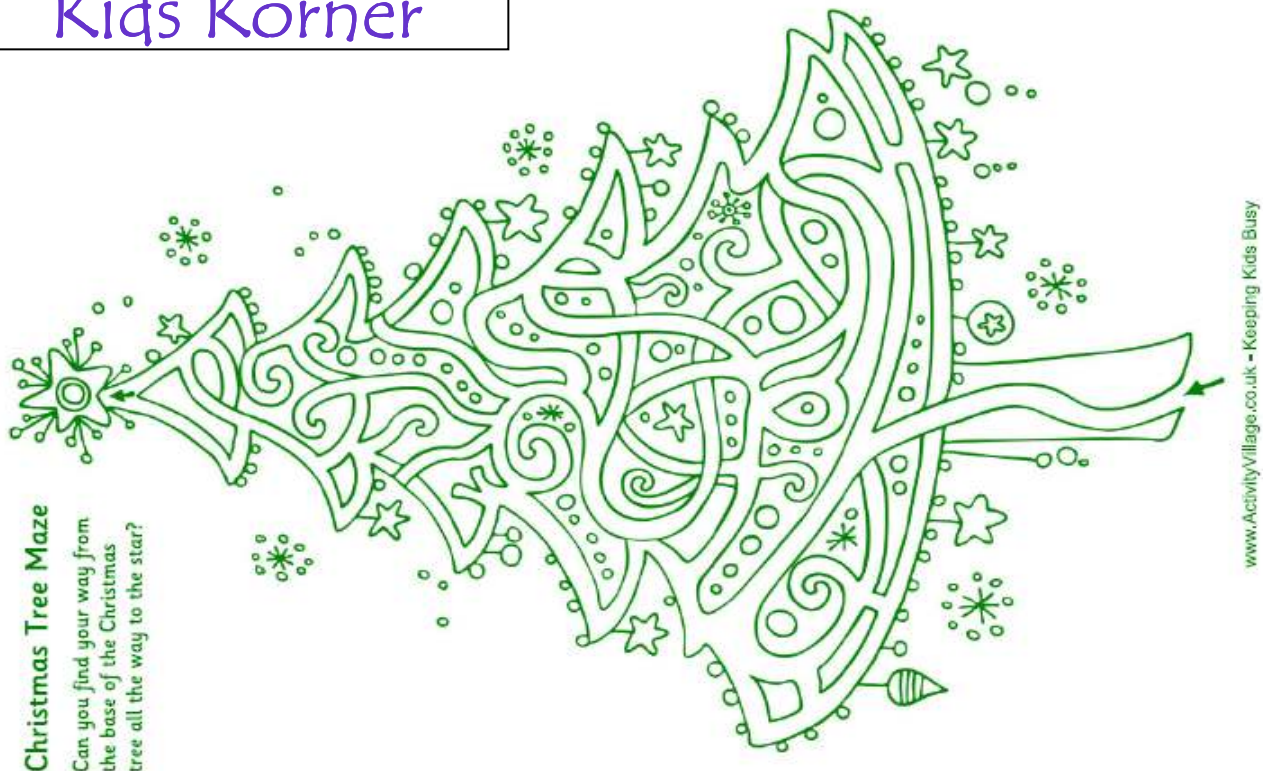
Property (Helen got us in tip-top shape, please help us stay there. We especially need a coordinator.)

Christian Stewardship is not just about giving money to the church and other worthy causes. It is about what we do with the blessings God has entrusted to our care. Those blessings can include our money, time, gifts and talents. Such blessings have been given to us, not just for our own use, but for the building up of the Body of Christ. Each of us has been given blessings beyond measure; so, how we use them ought to reflect our gratitude to God, the source of all such blessings.

Please consider signing up for at least one of the above Teams (men and women are welcome on all teams). We all have a lot "on our plate", but if each person takes on one responsibility, the load will be lightened on those already committed.

Please contact me to sign up, if you don't see anything that interests you, ask...I'm sure we can find the perfect team for you. *Anna Murphy*

Kids Korner



DECEMBER 2011

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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11 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Choir Christmas Concert 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Small Group Study	12	13	14 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 7:00 PM Session/Deacon's Meeting Newsletter Articles Due	16	17 1:00 PM Children's Christmas Play Rehearsal/Party																																																																																				
18 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Christmas Play 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Small Group Study ** Food Sunday ** Staff Gifts Due	19	20	21 7:00 PM Choir Party 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	22	23	24 6:00 PM Christmas Eve Service																																																																																				
25 11:00 AM Worship Christmas Day	26 Office Closed Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre	27	28 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29	30	31																																																																																				