

First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

December 2009

Vol. 17 No. 12

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Duncanville, TX 75116
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CHURCH STAFF: Rev. Ginger Hertenstein

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director

Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative Assistant/
Bookkeeper

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It's that season again. Christmas. Reminds me of music. "Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, in the lane, snow is glistening; a beautiful sight, we're happy tonight, walking in a winter wonderland . . .

In the meadow we can build a snowman. Then pretend that he is Parson Brown. He'll say: "Are you married?" we'll say: "No man. But you can do the job when you're in town." Later on, we'll conspire, as we dream by the fire; to face unafraid, the plans that we've made, walking in a winter wonderland.

To face unafraid, the plans that we've made – what a wonderful feeling! Christians have a special reason for courage; to face unafraid the plans we've made. That reason in essence is, as we say, "the reason for the season." For this is the season of the fruition of all God's hopes and dreams and plans.

How are you at planning for Christmas? Some folks plan way ahead and others are last minute shoppers. Well, our God plans decades ahead! This year we'll look at some of God's plans through the prophet Isaiah. We'll also celebrate with joy the growth of our family here at FPCD, and continue to invest in being the hands and feet that God needs to bring the Good News of Jesus to this community. I love this season. I love the fact that God answers prayer. I can't wait to receive His Christmas gift. It lasts forever.

Blessings,
Ginger



From the

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath, a venerable European tradition, can be a way to involve even very little children in learning about Christian preparation—not only for celebrating Our Lord’s birth, but to make our hearts truly ready to receive Him.

The wreath’s symbolism of the advent (coming) of Light into the world is clear. The gradual lighting of the four candles, one on each Sunday of Advent season, combined with the liturgical colors of the candles (purple is the penitential color used during Advent and Lent; rose is a liturgical color used only on *Gaudete* Sunday in Advent and *Laetare* Sunday in Lent) help to symbolize not only our expectation and hope in Our Savior’s first coming into the world, but also in his Second Coming as Judge at the end of the world.



On the third Sunday in Advent, *Gaudete* Sunday, the Church can no longer contain her joyful longing for the coming of the Savior. We light the rose candle and rejoice that our redemption is so close at hand. *Gaudete* comes from the Latin Antiphon, which begins, *Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete..*” [Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice..]. On this day, rose-colored vestments are worn, and followers may decorate the chancel of the church.

The wreath itself is also symbolic. The circle of evergreen in which the candles are placed represents everlasting life. The seedpods, nuts and cones used to decorate the wreath are symbolic of resurrection, and fruits represent the nourishing fruitfulness of the Christian life.

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.



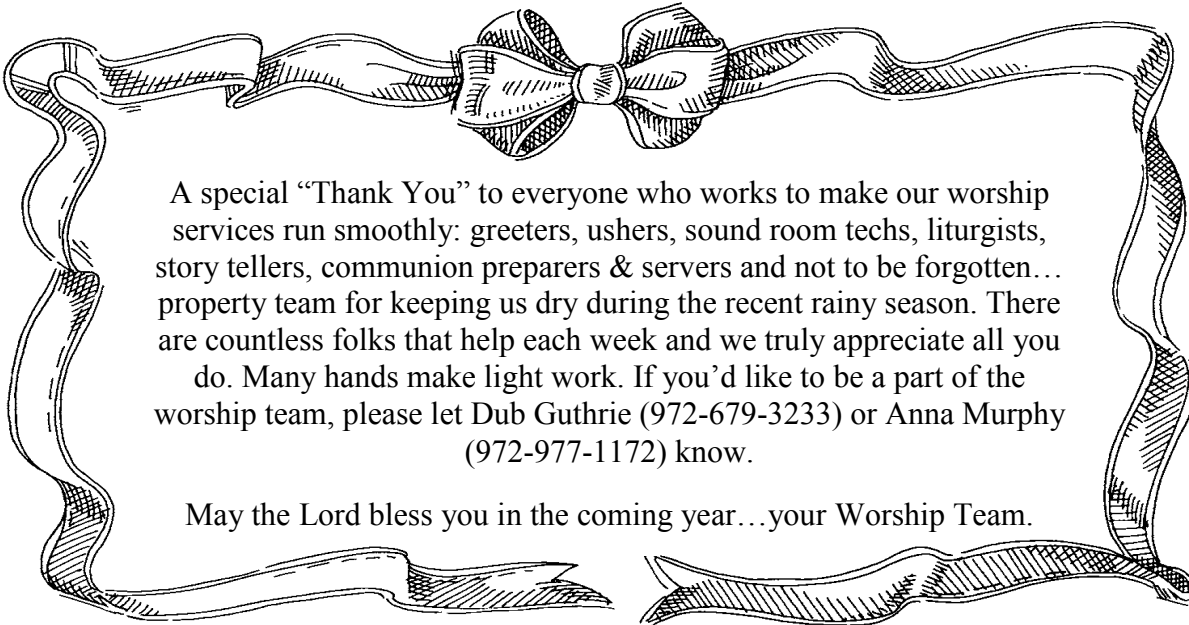
After the death and resurrection of Jesus, the apostles chose Matthias to succeed Judas. Not much is known about his missionary activity. Tradition says that he was beheaded for preaching the Gospel. On his shield is an open Bible and a double bladed battle-axe.



Poinsettias on sale!
Order forms are in the bulletins on
Sunday mornings.



FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM CONTINUED



A special "Thank You" to everyone who works to make our worship services run smoothly: greeters, ushers, sound room techs, liturgists, story tellers, communion preparers & servers and not to be forgotten... property team for keeping us dry during the recent rainy season. There are countless folks that help each week and we truly appreciate all you do. Many hands make light work. If you'd like to be a part of the worship team, please let Dub Guthrie (972-679-3233) or Anna Murphy (972-977-1172) know.

May the Lord bless you in the coming year...your Worship Team.

**From the
Worship**

Attendance

**Book-
keeper's**



December 6 - *I Hear the Prophet Callin' Cantata*
 December 13 - Prophecies about Bethlehem &
 Special Presentation by the 4-6th graders.
 December 20 - *Starry Night, Noisy Night*
 Children's Musical
 December 24 - 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service
Christmas Around the World

ATTENDANCE

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT

November 2008

4-November-64
 11-November-72
 18-November-73
 25-November-85

November 2009

25-October-87
 1-November-89
 8-November-69
 15-November-76
 22-November-74

October 2009

Receipts
 \$12,354

Expenditures
 \$9,851

YTD Receipts
 \$132,095

YTD Expenditures
 \$154,797

Total Annual Budget is \$173,824.

**Special
Christmas
Offering**

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING



Christmas is a time of giving and sharing. The Personnel Team is asking that you consider a special holiday gift for the paid staff of our church. These gifts can be placed in the offering plates anytime between now and December 12. These gifts will be shared by the staff. Your generosity is appreciated.

PW NEWS**PW****CHRISTMAS AUCTION and SPAGHETTI SUPPER****Saturday, December 5, 6:00 pm**

PW will provide the dinner which will consist of Spaghetti and Meat Balls, Salad, Bread, and Dessert. Bring your appetite and after dinner we will move on to our Auction, which is always a lot of fun. Everyone is invited to participate in the auction. Please bring Christmas/Seasonal items to be auctioned, as well as any other craft or homemade items (food, floral, decorative) that you may have. And, if you wish, just plan to come and shop for Christmas gifts for family, friends, teachers, etc. as well as enjoying a great evening of good food and fun with your church family. A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Narthex.

Circle Gatherings for December:

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday, December 3 at 7:30 pm at the home of Diane Pegues, 302 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville, 972-298-4097.

Agape Circle: Meeting Thursday, December 10 at 11:30 for lunch at Cretia's, across from Kroger on Camp Wisdom Rd., in Duncanville then at the home of Billie Cowand for dessert, 342 Lakeview Circle, Duncanville.

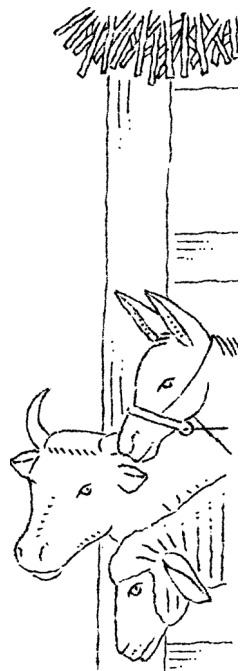
**Christmas
Program****CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

On December 20, during the morning worship time, our children aided by some youth and adults, will present a Christmas musical.

The musical will feature solos by Evelyn Walters, Savanna Baker Teel, and Rachel Simon. There will be songs sung by the entire cast and familiar carols for the congregation to sing as well. In an unusual twist, the story is told by the animals and the human characters are silent except for a song presented by Mary.

The forward to the musical uses these words to describe the setting, "Mary and Joseph arrive in the busy town of Bethlehem, which is bustling with visitors, each one adding to the noise and creating a cacophonous racket. The night is so bright with stars, it seems like the middle of the day."

Come experience "Starry Night, Noisy Night." See how the animals learn the meaning of the things that were happening in their very presence. They had to "turn away from life's distractions" as we do to be able to realize the meaning of those events.



DUNCANVILLE OUTREACH

Providing Christmas Angel gifts for a child through the Duncanville Outreach Ministry has become a joyful tradition here at First Presbyterian Church. This year DOM has given us the names of 21 children, aged 10 and under, whose families have requested help with providing Christmas gifts. These are families who have received aid through DOM this year.

Thank you to those of you who are being angels to one or more of these children!

Please remember to follow these directions:

- Purchase 1 to 3 gifts, totaling no more than \$40
- Please wrap the gifts and put the child's name on each gift
- Do not put your name on the gifts
- Put the gifts in a large garbage bag
- Put the page number (listed on the angel tag) on the outside of the garbage bag
- Bring the gifts to church Sunday Dec. 6 or to the church office by Dec. 7.



Anita Davis, DOM Director, reports that as usual they will prepare Christmas food baskets for their clients. She says that they have plenty of canned vegetables on hand and will buy turkeys from Texas Food Bank, but Ramen noodles and Spaghetti-o's are also needed. Yes, you have generously brought these before, but these items are definitely needed for the Christmas food baskets. Please bring your food gifts to the DOM food basket in the church entryway.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are opportunities for the children to experience the Bible story theme in a variety of ways and with a variety of leadership.

Usually we have the same story/scripture for 3 or 4 Sundays in a row, but the idea is to present it in a variety of ways so the strengths of the children are used. For example, some children learn best through using art. And another child would be more involved using drama. So we present those and other methods when the story is developed.

Opportunities are also available for church members to be involved with the children. Since the type of presentation used for the lesson changes, there is an opportunity for adults who have skills in art, drama, music or games or even in something like cooking, to volunteer to help present a lesson in one of those ways.

A recent topic used on October 18—November 1 was Jesus Teaches Us to Pray. Mary Huttar led the younger class and Gail Haynes led the older group. The current topic is The Ten Commandments. The younger age is being taught by Joan Brown and Lois Harmon is working with the older children.

The theme during Advent will be Isaiah Promises a Savior. The younger class will be led by Brenda Everett and the older class by Susan Walters. Marna Bayless will be a facilitator for the Advent series. This theme will coordinate with Pastor Ginger's sermon emphases during Advent which will be on Jesus fulfilling the Biblical prophecy of Isaiah.

Not to be left unmentioned, are the opportunities we have to encourage children we may know to become involved in our Sunday morning program, and the opportunity we have to pray for the leadership involved.

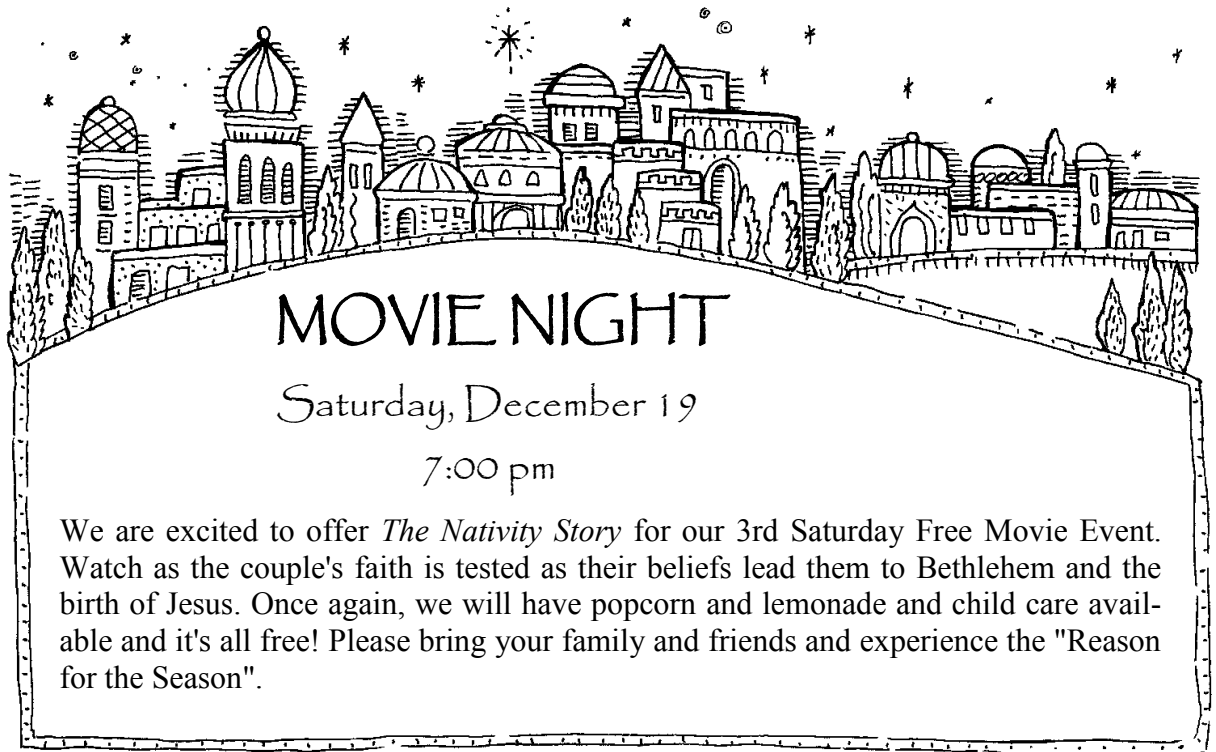
**Duncanville
Outreach
Ministries**

**CHIL-
DREN'S**

Movie Night

Hands Of God Youth

MOVIE NIGHT



HOGY HAPPENINGS

With the departure of Pastor Tom, we are in search mode for a new Youth Pastor. Until then Lori Glover and Anna Murphy will be working with the HOGY.

We've decided to get back to basics and study the stories of the Bible, starting with, where else, the beginning. During our study, we will develop questions that can be used at a later date to create our own "Are You Smarter Than a Bible Scholar". This should prove to be a fun exercise. If you would like to come lead a game, Bible study or serve dinner, please let Lori or Anna know.

In **November** we became the HOGY moving team as we helped the Wylie family pack for their move; planned the next 2 months activities and played Turkey Trivia. We began our journey through the Bible and studied the Creation and Adam & Eve. We discussed some unique Fund Raising opportunities to help defray costs for our next Mission experience.

December Calendar

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
12/6	Bethlehem Revisited Trip	Waxahachie
12/13	Carpet Ping-Pong/Cain & Able study	FPCD
12/20	Gift Exchange & Noah study	FPCD
12/27	No HOGY MERRY CHRISTMAS!	

FPCD SEMINARS

Back to Basic Seminars

FPCD
Seminars

First Presbyterian Church
543 E Freeman
Duncanville, TX 75116
www.fpcd.org

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 what steps to take to help you get back on your feet. Seminars will be held on the following evening from 7:00-8:00 p.m.; 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 situation
Tuesday, February 9- Cutting corners
Tuesday, February 16- Budgeting
Tuesday, February 23-Planning for the future

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

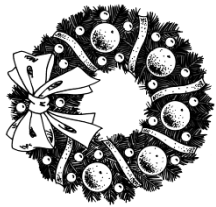
December 2009

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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6 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion & Cantata 4:30 PM -8:00 PM Youth	7	8	9 6:45 PM Finance 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	10 11:30 PM Agape Circle @ Cretia's	11	12																																																	
13 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM -6:00 PM Youth	14 7:00 PM Deacon's Meeting	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 PM Joint Session/Deacon's Meeting	18	19 7:00 PM Movie Night "The Nativity Story"																																																	
20 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Children's Musical 4:30 PM -6:00 PM Youth FOOD SUNDAY	21	22	23 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26																																																	
27 10:30 AM Worship	28 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre	29	30 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	31	<div>Jan 2010</div> <table> <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></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td></tr> <tr><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>		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						
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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE
December 2009
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

December 6	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Helen Barton, Bob Moore Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Dave Bolles Anna Murphy Jocelyn Bolles Sean Russell Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
December 13	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand Darrell Ingram Sandy Gaskins Helen Barton Sean Russell Lori Glover, Jocelyn Bolles
December 20	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram Albert Teel Doris Metzger Sharon Ingram Anna Murphy Sean Russell Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
December 27	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Dub Guthrie Kathleen Hartless Gail Haynes Sean Russell Teresa Reed, Joan Brown



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

December 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
		1 Del & Dorothy Anderson Winfred Cook	2 Paul & Helen Barton Bill & Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton	4 Joan Brown Tom & Sandy Wylie Thomas, Katie & Abby	5 Jack & Diane Pe- gues Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle
6 Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	7 Sean & Lucy Rus- sell 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 Robert & Catherine Eagle Pat Sparr	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen	17 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R.	18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Michelle Petersen	19 Tom & Lois Harmon Eunice Pike Christy Cowand Brandon
20 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica	21 Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	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 & Sarah 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		

FUNNY CHRISTMAS QUOTES

Funny Christmas Quotes

You know you're getting old, when Santa starts looking younger.
Robert Paul

I once bought my kids a set of batteries for Christmas with a note on it saying, toys not included.
Bernard Manning

I stopped believing in Santa Claus when my mother took me to see him in a department store, and he asked for my autograph.
Shirley Temple

The Supreme Court has ruled that they cannot have a nativity scene in Washington, D.C. This wasn't for any religious reasons. They couldn't find three wise men and a virgin.
Jay Leno

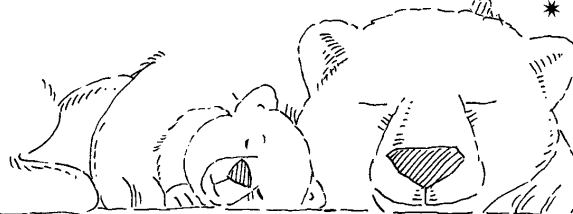
Mail your packages early so the post office can lose them in time for Christmas.
Johnny Carson

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree.
Roy L. Smith

Once again we find ourselves enmeshed in the Holiday Season, that very special time of year when we join with our loved ones in sharing centuries-old traditions such as trying to find a parking space at the mall. We traditionally do this in my family by driving around the parking lot until we see a shopper emerge from the mall, then we follow her, in very much the same spirit as the Three Wise Men, who 2,000 years ago followed a star, week after week, until it led them to a parking space.
Dave Barry

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."
Norman Vincent Peale

No
Children's Sunday
School
on December 27.



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@fpcc.org
www.fpcd.org

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.



DECEMBER

Wanda Rubrecht—12/3
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
Jay Ingram—12/31

