



First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

December 2010

Vol. 18 No. 12

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,
Pastor

Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

Steve Netmiss,
Youth Pastor

Andrew Dittman,
Choir Director

Sean Russell,
Sound Room Technician

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Advent begins as a tiny yearning inside each one of us. How will we nurture it? It is a small, quiet tug at the heart, often unnoticed in the midst of a noisy world; yet in a few weeks it will explode in song and celebration. Can you feel its hope? Or are you too busy to notice?



A Puritan prayed, "I once lived in the world, but was ignorant of its Creator . . . with voices all around me, understood many things, but had no knowledge of thy ways, saw the world, but did not see Jesus . . ."

Advent is our time to see Jesus; to partake in the hope of His coming. However, to experience Jesus, to hear His distinctive voice we must take the time to quiet down and listen. We must set our intentions and not let ourselves be robbed by noisy busyness.

When we do determine to take the time and contemplate what is to come, (which Advent is all about), we find our spirit is lifted into the wonderful story. We join Joseph and Mary as they navigate through a world where no one can imagine what God has planned or how God will accomplish it. Beware: God's story requires a response, a "yes" to God; don't be afraid to open the gift.

Opening our hearts to God, we shift away from satisfaction in material things to deeper spiritual gains. Receive those freely. Then let your own giving be generous and unexpected; just like God's. Pray about what to give that expresses your faith rather than checking off a name on your list. Give to those in need, in someone else's name. Then sit by the tree for an hour and listen to the Hallelujah Chorus, knowing you have joined that magnificent chorus. Sing Go Tell It On the Mountain.

Many people of God have made the choice and gained that wonderful blessing of being a part of the story. May you be one of them this year.

Blessings,
Ginger



Words from Worship



Advent Activities

This year's focus will be on Joseph.

- November 28 1st Sunday of Advent—Jesus' Ancestors: A Long Line of Good Men
- December 3 Movie Night "Nativity Story" at 7:00 pm
- December 5 2nd Sunday of Advent—Joseph: Dreams Really Do Come True
- December 12 3rd Sunday of Advent—Joseph Overcomes Satan's Plot Against Jesus
- December 12 Choir Concert at 4:00 pm in Sanctuary
- December 18 FPCD Choir Performance at Ben Franklin on Main Street at 12:15pm
- December 19 4th Sunday of Advent—Radio J-O-Y Children's Musical
- December 24 Candlelight/Communion Service at 7:00 pm

*Reading ahead
(sermon texts for
December)*

- Nov. 28** - Matthew 1:18-25
- Dec. 5 (2nd Advent)** - Matthew 2:13-18
- Dec. 12 (3rd Advent)**- Matthew 2:1-12;
- Dec. 19 (4th Advent)** - Children's Musical
- Dec. 24** - Luke 2:1-20
- Dec. 26** - Matthew 2:19-23



Conversation with God Advent Series

Advent is a good time to listen for God's voice in preparation for our Savior's birth. For three weeks in December we will enjoy dinner together, and then gather in the sanctuary for The Conversation. Begins December 1 and continues each Wednesday from 6:00-7:20 pm.

SYMBOLS of our faith...The Shepherd's Crook



The shepherd's crook is a symbol of Jesus, the Good Shepherd. "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). The crook also symbolizes the shepherds who visited the baby Jesus in Bethlehem. It's also used in connection with King David, who had been a shepherd when he was young.



*Poinsettias
on sale!*

*Order forms are in
the bulletins on
Sunday mornings.*

ADVENT WREATH

The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus' birth. The wreath's circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World—be brought light and life to a dark world (John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.



Choir Christmas Performances

FPCD Choir
Lessons & Carols

Sunday,
December 12

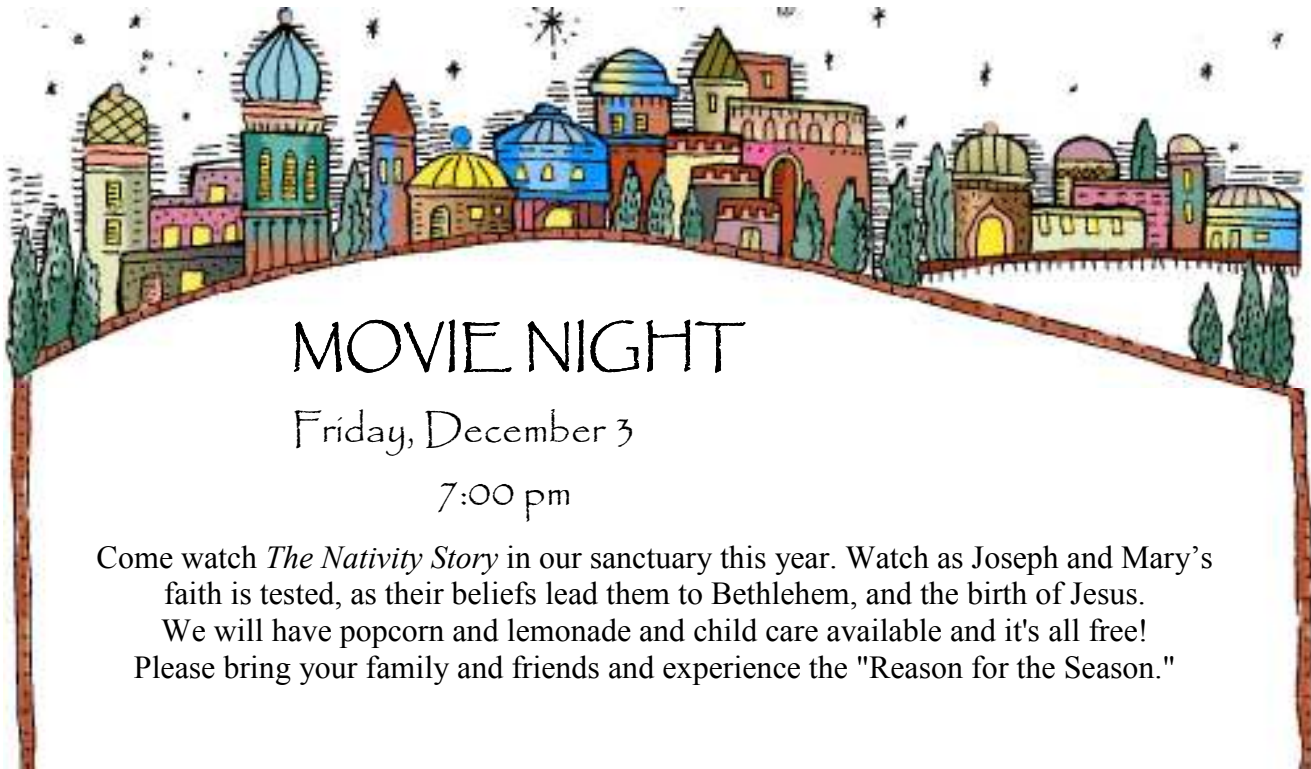
4:00pm
In the sanctuary



FPCD Choir
Sings carols

Saturday,
December 18

12:15 pm
Ben Franklin
Apothecary



MOVIE NIGHT

Friday, December 3

7:00 pm

Come watch *The Nativity Story* in our sanctuary this year. Watch as Joseph and Mary's faith is tested, as their beliefs lead them to Bethlehem, and the birth of Jesus. We will have popcorn and lemonade and child care available and it's all free! Please bring your family and friends and experience the "Reason for the Season."

ATTENDANCE



October 2009

4-October-68
11-October-87
18-October-90
25-October-87

October 2010

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

October 2010

Receipts	Expenditures
\$18,852	\$11,635
YTD income:	*\$178,351
YTD expenditures	\$170,161
Total Annual Budget:	\$173,824
*This includes memorial giving.	
Renovation Receipts	\$10,940
Total Renovation Cost	\$28,286

PW NEWS

CHRISTMAS AUCTION and SPAGHETTI SUPPER

Saturday, December 4, 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 9 at 7:30 pm at the home of Marna Bayless, 836 Glen Oaks Blvd., Dallas. Nancy Bergman will be the co-hostess and we will study Lesson 4.

Agape Circle: Meeting Thursday, December 9 at 11:30 for lunch at M&T's Restaurant, on Main Street, in Duncanville then at the home of Ruth Yingst for dessert, 926 Springwood Lane, Duncanville.



*Circles are currently studying together *Journeys Through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today* by Barbara R. Rossing

What comes to mind when you think of the book of Revelation? Scary images, the four horsemen come to unleash destruction, mysterious numbers such as “666” or the endtime battle of Armageddon?



In recent years, an enormous prophecy industry has marketed frightening images of Revelation, leaving many people intimidated by this amazing and often misunderstood book. Although brimming with mysterious symbolism, Revelation ultimately is a book of hope that throughout history has sustained people who are oppressed. It is a Christ-centered book, full of worship and praise.

In this study Barbara Rossing guides us on a journey to meet the crucified Lamb, Jesus. In a journey reminiscent of the ancient Israelites' exodus from slavery, we are led from an unjust empire and its system of domination, through mythic battles and plagues, until, ultimately, we find ourselves in a renewed creation where God comes to live with us on earth. This brilliantly hope-filled vision speaks to us in the midst of the urgent crises of our day. In a time when all of creation stands at a turning point, a kairos moment, Revelation can help guide the choices we make each day as we seek to live into the renewal that God has for the whole world.

Duncanville Outreach Ministries

Anita Davis, Director, reports that they are currently very busy giving food to families. An average of 28 families a day receive food assistance from DOM. What foods are currently needed? Almost all non-perishable foods, but NOT Ramen noodles. Everything else is needed--such as canned chili, vegetables, soups, fruit, tuna, and Hamburger helper type foods. Anita says that the food that is given to DOM, is usually given out the next day. So let's remember to include DOM in our grocery shopping and bring your gifts to the DOM basket in our church entryway.



Another way you can help is by taking items to DOM (202 E. Cherry St.) to stock their store "Thrifty Station." They need usable items you no longer need--knickknacks, games, clothing, CD's, DVD's, etc. --- everything but furniture! You can drop such items off Monday through Friday until 3pm going in the door facing Cherry St. which is marked for donations. Some wonderful volunteer sorters and stockers work there! And you won't want to forget to go shopping at Thrifty Station, Monday through Friday 9am - 3pm and Saturdays 10am - 1pm.

Keep in mind that the proceeds from Thrifty Station fund important services. Anita reports that DOM is currently providing assistance to twelve local families who are having to deal with serious medical problems such as cancer. These families receive assistance such as help with paying the rent, help with medications, and gift gas cards to help them go to medical clinics.

A decorative border made of a colorful ribbon in shades of red, orange, and yellow. The ribbon is tied into a large bow at the top center. The border frames the text below.

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. Please designate "staff gift" on your check and place in the offering plate between now & December 19.
Your generosity is appreciated.

Children's Sunday School

The elementary and intermediate aged children meet together on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the room across from the nursery. The first three Sundays of November we focused on being thankful. Our Bible story for these three weeks was the story told in Luke 17 about Jesus healing the ten men who had a dreaded skin disease. It is likely that all ten men were happy to be healed, but only one of them actually took the time to return and thank Jesus for his healing. The application we are trying to put into practice from this story is to not only develop an attitude of gratitude for all God has done for us, but to also take the time and effort to verbally express our thanks to God and to others.

One way we are showing our thankfulness is to fill two shoeboxes full of little gifts for a boy and a girl in need. These two stuffed shoeboxes will be sent to a relief agency called Samaritan's Purse to be distributed along with many others to kids in different poor countries.

Stop by and see some things we are thankful for. If you look closely at the colorful leaves on our classroom tree, you will see some of the many things we are thankful for.



From the Youth Pastor



The Christmas season is right around the corner and the Youth Group is looking forward the Christmas festivities. On Sunday December 12th we will be going to Bethlehem revisited. Please consider joining us that night as we see what Israel was like in the 1st century.

During Sunday school and also Sunday Night youth meetings we have been studying the question “Why Choose Jesus?” Particularly we’ve been questioning whether the life Jesus calls us to is the best possible life. We’ve been able to explore questions about unmet needs and Jesus promise, “I have come that they may have life and have it to the full.” Many students walk away from Jesus and the church after high school. I believe this is because they never had a realistic understanding of what it means to follow Jesus.

The leadership team is still brainstorming about what ministry will look like in this youth group and that process is about to get some more steam. We are still hopeful that others from the congregation will step up and join our team. The most important thing for students is NOT a good program, fun trips, or relevant messages. The most important thing for students is relationship, first with Jesus and then with His followers. Students need mentors, coaches and parents who are encouraging them in all the different areas of life. Please email me if you feel inclined or would like more information about where you fit in with this leadership team. I guarantee you won’t regret it and you may actually really enjoy it.



Youth Pastor Steve Netniss—stevefpcd@gmail.com

A Different Kind of Costume Party

Saturday, December 4 at 2:00 pm

Parents, do you have memories of Christmas Pageants Past..... when bathrobes were transformed into Royal Robes for Kings? And there was something magical and significant, when as a child you donned a Christmas Pageant costume. Do you wish for the ghost of Christmas Pageants past? Maybe age has cast its spell on you, but there is time left to share those pageant experiences with your children, grandchildren and other young friends.



Bring all your young ones to our Christmas Pageant Costume Party on Saturday afternoon, December 4th at 2:00 o’clock in the fellowship hall. A host of angels are needed as well as Mary, Joseph, shepherds, kings, sheep, cows, camels and a donkey. Children may bring their own costume or use one we provide or both. The activities will be designed for pre-school and primary grade children.

The party will include crafts, costumes, refreshments and an informal, interactive retelling of the Christmas story. Parents and Grandparents are invited to come along, too. Bring your camera and capture the moment to enjoy for years to come. Some of the pictures from that day will be shown in church on December 19. They will be used to illustrate the Christmas Story for our power point presentation during our Worship Service.



It is not necessary, but would be helpful, to notify Marna Bayless (214-371-9665) if you think you may be bringing children, grandchildren or other young friends to participate. This will help us have enough, cake, cameras and costumes.



FPD PRAYER CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
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 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia	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, Aiden, Beau	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Pat Sparr	14 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal	15 Eunice Pike Robert & Catherine Eagle David Hertenstein Evelyn	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen	17 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Andrew & Ashley Dittman	18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee
19 Eddie & Darlene Cowand 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 Steve Netniss	23 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons	24 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers	25 Bob & Nancy Harrison Carol Orwig Tom & Lois Harmon
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 Burie Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather	31 Reid Bunger Don & Sheri Trask Jim & Andrene Hull	

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / (972) 298-5312
info@fpcc.org
www.fpcc.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 Coward—12/25
- Joan Brown—12/26
- Lucy Russell—12/26
- Janet Stahl—12/28
- Jay Ingram—12/31

Mark your calendars for
Sunday, December 19 as your church family
of all ages presents:

Radio J-O-Y
*where the Best Songs are Songs
about Christmas*

You will enjoy a humorous and poignant
musical with solos, a trio, narration by the
radio studio staff and a chance for you to join
in the singing of Christmas sings.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

December 2010

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

December 5	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers: Communion Servers:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Joan Brown Lori Glover Lois Harmon Teresa Reed, Joan Brown Paul Barton, Lois Harmon, Jack Pegues, Brenda Everett, Darrell Ingram, Lori Glover
December 12	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers:	Irving & Peggy Kezar Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand Darrell Ingram Anna Murphy Sharon Ingram Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
December 19	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen Albert Teel, Bob Moore Doris Metzger Sharon Ingram Jocelyn Bolles Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
December 26	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers:	Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Dave Bolles Kathleen Hartless Helen Barton Lori Glover, Bob Harrison



December 2010

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																										
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<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">5</p> <p>9:15 AM Sunday School</p> <p>10:30 AM Worship - Communion</p> <p>4:30 PM Radio J-O-Y Rehearsal & Wiener Roast</p> <p>4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth</p> <p>6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">7</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">8</p> <p>6:00 PM - 7:20 PM "Conversation with God" Series</p> <p>6:45 PM Finance Meeting</p> <p>6:45 PM Radio J-O-Y Rehearsal</p> <p>7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">9</p> <p>7:30 PM Sarah Circle</p> <p>11:30 PM Agape Circle @ M&Fs on Main St.</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">10</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">11</p>																																																																																										
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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> <p>Rev. Ginger on Vacation</p> </div>																																																																																																