

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

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

WE LOVE
BECAUSE HE FIRST
LOVED US.
1 JOHN 4:19, NRSV

February 2013

Vol. 21 No. 2

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

Susan Murphy,
Nursery

From our Elders

I'VE BEEN TO THE MOUNTAINTOP! Thanks to our Session Retreat, that is. We met at Prayer Mountain at the Mountain Creek Church January 18 & 19 and we talked, prayed and worked together to learn how to provide the best leadership we can to First Presbyterian Church Duncanville.

Lance Bohannon led us in our review of Nancy Ortberg's book, Unleashing the Power of Rubber Bands. Building upon Mrs. Ortberg's ideas, your Session worked together to plan for the future of our church. We asked ourselves questions such as: "What do we have that our community wants?" and how FPCD should be "the kingdom of God on earth".

Most importantly, we looked at the concept of responding to God's gift of His Son and our salvation through Him in ways that will impact our community. But...before we can impact our community and this church, we need to look at where WE are in our work and worship. As Session members and members of First Presbyterian Church Duncanville each of us must ask ourselves:

Are we spending time EACH day reading Through the Bible in a Year or the translation of our choice?

Are we starting and/or ending our day talking to God?

Are we giving our best to God each day?

*Are we having Holy Conversations with friends, family and strangers, sharing what God has done and is doing in our lives?

Are we tithing to this church?

Until all of us at FPCD answer yes to these questions and make them cornerstones of our lives, we cannot make the impact in our community that I believe God wants us to make. In 2013, let us focus on making God real in our lives and then making God real in our community!

Soli Deo Gloria
Sharon Ingram, Elder



Inside . . .

- 2 – Words from Worship
- 3 – Missions News
- 4 – Worship Volunteer Schedule, Birthdays
- 5 – Youth, Women's & Men's Fellowships
- 6 – PW Retreat, Finances
- 7 – Prayer Calendar
- 8 – CE

Words from Worship

Lent Events

Ash Wednesday Service: February 13, 7:00 pm

Dinner and Conversation with God: February 20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 6:00—7:20 pm

Dear Choir,

I want to thank you again for your hard work and dedication during Advent and Christmas last month. You represented the church well in what I believe are this congregation's three greatest calls.

Worship: The music during Advent, the Christmas concert, and the Christmas Eve service was absolutely spectacular and God was glorified! In Advent, we captured the spirit of reverence, excitement, and anticipation of the coming of our Lord, God in mortal flesh, revealed. On Christmas Eve, we expressed awe and adoration, proclaiming, "Oh, what a pretty little Baby! Oh, come let us adore Him!"

Children: Your involvement in the children's musical helped it become the success that it was, and the children of the church witnessed how much this congregation is invested in them. Deborah did a great job of organizing and directing, and the people who volunteered each week were indispensable. It is of utmost importance that we never underestimate the role that personal attention plays in the spiritual formation of these children.

Evangelism: Your excellent performances at Ben Franklin and the live nativity were great opportunities to reach out to the community and spread the good news! You represented this congregation and all it stands for very well!

Once again, a job well done! I look forward to more great work and a deeply fulfilling Easter season!

Yours in Christ, Andrew Dittman

Dear Worship Planning Team, Choir, DeCongo, Sunday School teachers, Property, Youth, Staff, and friends,

Never before have I gotten such positive response to the Advent and Christmas season. So many people were blessed by the excitement, the variety, the new ministry efforts, and the richness of all the presentations of the Christmas story. Reflecting on it, I began to realize that just about the entire church was involved. That shows just how much your contribution matters.

I want you to know how special you are and how wonderful it is to see you stepping into ministry. God actually expects your participation. Your unique gifts can be given only by you; and it is impossible for someone else to fill your shoes. God's work is finished only through you.

So thank you so very much for taking a risk. Ministry continues every day, and as you offer it as a regular part of your life, your life becomes filled with purpose. Through your gifts and talents the Lord brings glory to Himself while bringing great fulfillment and blessing to you.

Well done! Pastor Ginger

Missions News ~ from the Walters family

Susan writes:

We've been back in East Asia now for six months. Thanks again for helping us get here. It has been a fruitful time. A key person in the Zee language work is now living in the same town with us. Dennis works with him several times a week. Susan has been involved in literacy and music, among other things. We enjoy seeing Zee folks growing up. Remember them.

Our own kids are growing too, of course. A teacher to help with their education has just arrived in country this week. We are grateful. This past semester has been quite busy, teaching high-school (Dale), middle-school (Eva), and elementary school (Andrew Gary), on top of all our other work. It's also been a joy to be with our kids so closely. They miss the DISD band program, sports, peers, and you.



Dale writes:

Without a car I can get to pretty much anywhere I want in town within half an hour. I go shopping, to the park, to a lake nearby. I like that I can go around by myself on my bike.



Eva writes:

One of my favorite things here in our town is the home-school library we started. Since our family rented a whole apartment just for homeschooling, one entire room is devoted to books. I am the official librarian. I have organized all of our books into various categories on different shelves, and have implemented a check-out system. Mom discovered a great website for cataloguing all of our books, so that we and other families can see what books we have and search our online library. I'm almost done inputting all of our books into the database. I've been putting off the picture books because there are so many of

them, but I've had to face them at last, and it's not actually as bad as I expected. Besides housing our collection of books, the library also serves as the warmest and most inviting room at PAX (Preparatory Academy of Xichang-the name we gave our homeschool), mainly because it's the only room with couches, blankets and a heater. I love having so many great books to read, and I'm hoping to get some more soon.

Andrew Gary writes:

One of my chores here is buying milk. About every three days or so, I go to the milk store with a backpack and buy some. It comes in plastic bags with about a cup of milk in each bag. I usually buy 15 bags: 5 yogurt, and 10 milk, sometimes more. The milk store is right outside our gate so I walk. We used to buy it for 1.8 yuan/bag, but on January 1 it went up to 2.2 yuan.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

February 2013
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

February 3	Greeters:	Anna Murphy, Lori Glover
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Joan Brown
	Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
	Communion Servers:	Dave Bolles, Erin McGinnis, Dick Bergman, Sharon Ingram, George Huttar, Doris Metzger
February 10	Greeters:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Liturgist:	Sean Russell
	Nursery Volunteer:	Valerie Cordova
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
February 17	Greeters:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Liturgist:	Adelmo Ruiz
	Nursery Volunteer:	Darlene Cowand
	Tellers:	Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner
February 24	Greeters:	Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Lori Glover
	Nursery Volunteer:	Lois Harmon
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison



Carol McKinney — 2/4	Billie Cowand — 2/10	Susan Walters — 2/22
Christy Cowand — 2/6	Paul Griffith — 2/12	Nadine Daum — 2/23
Ashley Dittman — 2/8	Leo Skinner — 2/15	Morgan Hall — 2/24
Tristan Russell — 2/8	Claudia Griffith — 2/16	Gary Simons — 2/26
Helen Barton — 2/10	Erin McGinnis — 2/21	Madison Douglas — 2/27

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

If we've missed your birthday and you would like us to include you in this "birthday" section of the newsletter, please contact us at (972) 298-3043 or info@fpcd.org.
Thank you.

From Our Youth ~

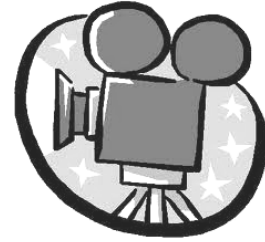
Circle the date! Saturday, February



Followed by a **movie & popcorn!**

16, 6:30!

Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner



Women's Fellowship Groups
Thursday February 14 ~ Valentine's Day!


Come and visit !



The daytime women's group (Agape Fellowship) meets at **1 p.m.** at the home of Mary Huttar, **206 Merribrook Trail, Duncanville.** Their study will focus on I Peter chapter 3.

The evening women's group (Sarah Fellowship) meets at **7:30 p.m.** at the home of Marna Bayless, **836 Glen Oaks Blvd, Dallas.** Their study is on two scriptures: 1 Peter 5:1-11 and 2 John.

Remember, these fellowships are open groups. Come visit!

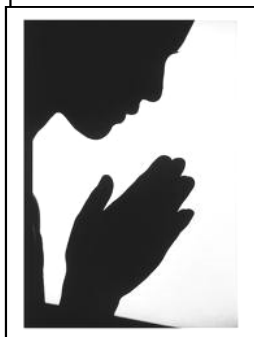
More Presbyterian Wome's news on p. 6—our annual mini-retreat! 



Our new **Men's** Fellowship got off to a good start in January with 15-20 men enjoying a fantastic breakfast from Bobby Reed, assisted by Sean Russell, and an encouraging and challenging sketch by Steve Netniss of a few key men that have made a big difference in his Christian pilgrimage.

Mark your calendars now for our February breakfast ~ **Saturday, February 9, 8:00 a.m.** Speaker George Huttar sez he'll keep it short, since Saturday morning hours are precious hours for all of us.

Save March 15-16 For our Women's Mini-Retreat!



The theme of this year's Women's Retreat is "Choose Joy, Because Happiness is Not Enough." Our speaker is Kay Warren—yes, wife of Pastor Rick Warren. Kay's talks come from her personal search for joy, something that is deeper and lasts longer than happiness. Many of us think a joyful life is difficult to find, so we just settle for survival! Kay directs us to Scripture and suggests down-to-earth steps to take on a path to a joyful life. *Joy is far more accessible than we think!*



We think Kay's four short talks (via DVD) and our discussions of scripture and discussion of her ideas will encourage you! You'll also enjoy conversation, singing, and swapping white elephant gifts!

We will meet at the Waxahachie Holiday Inn Express at 6:30 Friday evening, March 15 and will close at about noon on Saturday. The cost is about \$50 per person, double occupancy, breakfast included. Please bring a snack to share and a wrapped white elephant gift. Ask someone to be your roommate, and sign up soon at the table in the church entryway (aka narthex).



December 2012

Receipts

\$24,926

Expenditures

\$29,340

YTD income: * \$249,570

YTD expenditures \$243,497

*This includes memorial giving.



FPD PRAYER CALENDAR

February 2013

Remember each other in daily prayer.

The Epistle 7

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Larry & Margaret Lewis	4 Irving & Peggy Kezar Deborah Titus Gary & Nita Malone Pat Sparr Dudley Austin	5 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza McGinnis, Eric & Erin Mike Connie Steger	6 Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Coward Brandon Andrew Watts	7 Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	8 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman Darrell & Sharon Ingram	9 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Barbara Notari
10 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	11 Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn	12 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	13 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew Don & Edie Burquest	14 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes Eddie & Darlene Coward	15 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee The Schaefers Bill & Vangie Jackson	16 Roy & Wendy Jensen Billie Coward Boyd Roberts Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
17 Paul & Helen Barton Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues	18 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Allen & Wanda Shipman	19 Burlie Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	20 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Carol McKinney	21 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy, Vanessa, Valerie & Jason	22 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	23 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull
24 Bob & Liz Moore Charles Tyer Joan Brown Bob Harrison	25 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netmiss	26 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden, Beau & Blake	27 Steve & Marna Bayless Gary & Linda Simons Rachel	28 Andrew & Ashley Dittman John Winifred Cook		

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
543 EAST FREEMAN STREET
DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
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8 The Epistle

Christian Education

Advent & Christmas in elementary Sunday School class

1. We had a great time during this past Advent. We took five Sundays to carefully examine all parts of the Christmas story and then present them in visual form on the big bulletin board near the church office. Our lessons were based around the people in the story, including **The Prophets Micah and Isaiah**
2. **Elizabeth, Zachariah, and John the Baptist**
3. **Mary and Joseph**
4. **Angels, Shepherds and Baby Jesus**
5. **The Wise Men**



Each Sunday we constructed a small poster using chunky foam stamps to make the nativity figures and added other material as well. Then each of these small posters was added one at a time to the bulletin board until we had covered the entire story. You can also see a decorative border that we all helped to make.

Adults ~ we've got a choice of classes now: Beginners'/Basics class in the library, & the Book of Revelation in Fellowship Hall.

February 2013

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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10 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM Annual Congregational Meeting & Potluck	11	12	13 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 1:00 PM Agape Women's Bible Study 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	15 Newsletter Articles Due	16 6:30 PM Valentine Dinner & Movie - Youth Fundraiser																																																																																											
17 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Poverty Awareness Day	18 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting	19	20 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 6:15 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23																																																																																											
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