

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,Pastor

Sandy Gaskins, Admin Asst/Bookkeeper

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Brittany Tucker, Accompanist

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From your Session

Come!

Hello, church family. I have been praying about what to write for this month's newsletter and what I felt led to write about is our Lord's command to us to "Come". I've been reading Revelation and am amazed at how many times God says "Come". In Revelation, God is speaking to the exiled John on the island of Patmos, but God is also speaking to each one of us. He is saying "Come" to you and to me.

My question then, to First Presbyterian Church Duncanville, is "Are you coming?" How are you responding to His command? Have you joined or are already involved in one of our Sunday School classes? Besides the youth Sunday School classes, First Presbyterian offers two adult Sunday School classes. The Basics Sunday School Class is currently studying prayer and the Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class is currently studying Nehemiah. If you are physically able, are you gathering together every Sunday for worship? Are you attending any of the PW Circle groups or the Ruiz's Spanish Bible Study on Sunday evenings?

God isn't just saying "Sharon, come", He is calling all of us to come to Him and fellowship with Him. He wants us to rest in and take comfort from His presence. God desires above all things to have a relationship with us.

How can He do that if we don't spend time with Him?

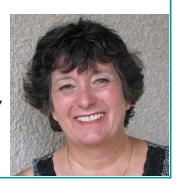
Have you come to Him? Are you or will you be involved in a Sunday School class, circle group or Bible study to learn more about our Abba Father and His great love and plan for you? Or, is there another study that you would be interested in attending or leading? If so, please talk to one of your elders or to Ginger.

If you would be interested in a new study, I would like to invite you to "come" to a 6 week Lenten Study on Sunday evenings from 5-6:30 pm at the church to read and study The Purpose Driven Life by Rick Warren. We will have a snack and fellowship from 5:00-5:30 pm and then study until 6:30 pm. Will you "come" with me on this journey to discover God's purpose for us and to draw closer to God?

If you are interested, please let me know if you would like to attend and if you would like to purchase the book (cost is between \$12 and \$15 on Amazon).

Please "Come"!

Sharon Ingram 469-774-7997





Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday...now you may be wondering why we've started thinking about Ash Wednesday this early. Well, **Ash Wednesday February 10**. We will be conducting **Ash Wednesday services at 7:00pm**, on **February 10**, **please watch your weekly Worship bulletin for more details.** Below are some questions/answers I found and thought I would share with you. Information about Lenten activities will appear in the March newsletter.

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the day Lent begins. It occurs **forty days** before Good Friday.

Is Ash Wednesday based on a pagan festival?

No. Ash Wednesday originated in the A.D. 900s, long after Europe had been Christianized and the pagan cults stamped out.

Why is it called Ash Wednesday?

Actually, Ash Wednesday is its colloquial name. Its Official name is the Day of Ashes. It is called Ash *Wednesday* because, being forty days before Good Friday, it always falls on a Wednesday and it is called *Ash* Wednesday because on that day at church the faithful have their foreheads marked with ashes in the shape of a cross.

Why do they have their foreheads marked with a cross?

Because in the Bible a mark on the forehead is a symbol of a person's ownership. By having their foreheads marked with the sign of a cross, this symbolizes that the person belongs to Jesus Christ, who died on a Cross.

This is an imitation of the spiritual mark or seal that is put on a Christian in baptism, when he is delivered from slavery to sin and the devil and made a slave of righteousness and Christ (Rom. 6:3-18).

Why is the signing done with ashes?

Because ashes are a biblical symbol of mourning and penance. In Bible times the custom was to fast, wear sackcloth, sit in dust and ashes, and put dust and ashes on one's head. While we no long normally wear sackcloth or sit in dust and ashes, the customs of fasting and putting ashes on one's forehead as a sign of mourning and penance have survived to this day. These are two of the key distinctives of Lent. In fact, Ash Wednesday is a day not only for putting ashes on one's head, but also a day of fasting.

Is there significance to the ashes?

Yes. They also symbolize death and so remind us of our mortality. Thus when the priest uses his thumb to sign one of the faithful with the ashes, he says, "Remember, man, that thou art dust and unto dust thou shalt return", which is modeled after God's address to Adam.

Where do the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from?

They are made by burning palm fronds which have been saved from the previous year's Palm Sunday, they are then blessed by a priest—blessed ashes having been used in God's rituals since the time of Moses.

Why are ashes from the previous year's Palm Sunday used?

Because Palm Sunday was when the people rejoiced at Jesus' triumphal entrance to Jerusalem. They celebrated his arrival by waving the palm fronds, little realizing that he was coming to die for their sins. By using palm from Palm Sunday, it is a reminder that we must not only rejoice in Jesus' coming but also regret the fact that our sins made it necessary for him to die for us in order to save us from hell.





FORGIVE





Circle Meetings

The Agape Women's Circle will hold its February meeting on Ash Wednesday, February 10, 2016 at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall of the church. Doris Metzger will lead our study of God's influence through water with Lesson 5: "Stormy Waters---Faith." This lesson is based on Matthew 14: 22-33. All are welcome.

Sarah Circle will meet in Marna Bayless' home, 836 Glen Oaks Blvd., Dallas on February 11 at 7:30 pm. Any woman interested in attending a night Bible study is welcome.



Directional Signage

In order to earn Boy Scout's high rank of Eagle, a Scout must complete a service project that is helpful to any religious institution, school or their community. The project must benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.

The Scout will use skills he has learned thus far in Scouting: leadership, responsibility, managing projects and applying the Scout Oath "to help other people". He will decide on a project, research the project, find funding, coordinate the project, arrange for needed materials and supervise the project.

After several suggested projects were presented to David Yaqubian, he choose to build, paint and install directional signs for our church.



David is a member of Troop 493 here in Duncanville. He attends Richardson High School where he is a senior. After graduation, he plans to attend UTD and someday pursue a political career.

Thank you, David. The signs are very much appreciated.

Stewardship Corner

One supporter of FPCD sent this Scripture and prayer for 2016:

Mark 12:41-43

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a few cents.

Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything - all she had to live on."

Gracious Heavenly Father,

You are the almighty, the creator, redeemer, and sustainer. Forgive us when we put you in a small box confined by our short sighted vision and limited understanding. Help us to trust you to meet our needs that we may surrender our wants in order to give to others in need. Help us to see our blessings and be content in what we have that in giving we expect nothing in return other than giving you joy.

Lord your faithfulness is the guarantee of your presence and abundant provision in all things even unto life everlasting with you. Your will be done, in Jesus precious name. Amen.

Pastor Roy Watson and the Church in the Wood donated \$1,000 to FPCD's plumbing repairs with the following Scripture.

James 2:15-17

Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.





This month's delectable recipe comes to us from Doris Metzger.

BEEF STROGANOFF

1 lb. round or sirloin steak, cut in thin strips* 2 tsp. butter or margarine 2/3 cup water 1 can (3 or 4 oz.) mushrooms 1 envelope onion soup mix 2 tsp. flour 1 cup sour cream

Brown meat in butter. Add water, mushrooms and soup mix. Cook until meat is tender. (Can be cooled and refrigerated or frozen at this point.)

When ready to serve, heat. Add sour cream to which flour has been added. Do not boil. Serve over prepared rice--either instant, regular or wild rice. Makes 6 servings. NOTE: Wild rice makes this special.

*HINT: If the meat is partially frozen, it is much easier to slice into thin strips.





FPCD Prayer Calendar

February 2016

Remember each other in Daily Prayer

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Jack & Diane Pegues Ruth Yingst Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	Charles Tyer Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant	Jaime & Lorraine Cordova Vanessa, Valerie, Jimmy & Jason	Dudley Austin Julia McConnell Connie Steger Joan Brown	Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah, Aeris & Benjamin Eddie & Darlene Cowand	Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle Carol McKinney
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Larry & Margaret Lewis. Heather, Zephyr, Erin & Christian	Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. David Hertenstein & Evelyn	Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee John Alsop	Jeff & Nyadia Thorpe Vincent & Caden Wanda Shipman	David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	Miguel & Fanny Penaloza Susan Murphy Anna Murphy	Doris Metzger Tom & Lois Harmon
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Billie Cowand Gary & Nita Malone Barbara Notari	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	Bob Harrison Darrell & Sharon Ingram Gary & Candice Morris	Gary & Linda Simons Dick & Nancy Bergman	Paul & Claudia Griffith Dorothy Cleary	Roy & Wendy Jensen George & Mary Huttar	Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn & Andrew
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Sam & Charlotte Fithian	David & Katherine Liddle Caleb & Jonathan Paul & Helen Barton	Eric & Erin McGinnis Ashlee & Michael Mickey & Betty Jespersen	Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Leo & Marlene Skinner	Paul & Jen Schaefer Caleb, Micah, Josiah, & Sarah	Irving & Peggy Kezar Angel, Brandon, Cyleigh, Devon, & Elyssa	Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal Bill & Vangie Jackson
28	29					
Dave & Jocelyn Bolles Pat Sparr Steve & Marna Bayless	Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan					

February 2016

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	6:00 PM Deacons Meeting	2	3 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	4 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	5	6
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion (Scout Sunday) 5:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	8	9	10 Cah Wednesday 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 6:45 PM Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	11 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	12	13
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Spanish Blble Study	1:00 PM "New Beginnings" Grief Support Small Group Newsletter Articles Due	16	6:00 PM -7:20 PM Dinner & Conversation with God 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	18 6:30 PM Session Meeting	19	20
Potluck Sunday 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 5:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless	23	24 6:00 PM -7:20 PM Dinner & Conversation with God 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:00 PM 4th Sunday Praise Team Rehearsal	25	26	27 Youth Confirmation Gathering - Time TBD
L		Pas	tor Ginger on Vacc	ition		
9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - 4th Sunday 5:00 PM Spanish Bible Study	29		Jan 2016 S M T W T 3 4 5 6 7 10 11 12 13 14 17 18 19 20 21 24 25 26 27 28 31	F S 1 2 8 9 6 7 15 16 13 14 22 23 20 21	Mar 2016 T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 8 9 10 11 12 15 16 17 18 19 22 23 24 25 26 29 30 31	



Youth Group — 6:00 p.m.

MEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education — 10:35 a.m. Worship Service — 10:30 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

ВЕТИВИ SERVICE REQUESTED

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

February Birthdays

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.

Candice Morris, February 2 Carol McKinney, February 4 Christy Cowand, February 6 Triston Russell, February 8 Helen Barton, February 10 Billie Cowand, February 10 Ann Reed, February 11 Paul Griffith, February 12 Leo Skinner, February 15 Claudia Griffith, February 16 Erin McGinnis, February 21 Susan Walters, February 22 Nadine Daum, February 23 Morgan Hall, February 24 Gary Simons, February 26 Gary Morris, February 28



2016 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
December 2015	\$31,365	\$17,037
Jan - Dec 2015	\$238.812	\$225,979