

*Our Mission: Connecting
with God and sharing
the Good News of Jesus*

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

March 2011

Vol. 1, No. 3

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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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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As you read this, in just a few short days we begin the season of Lent. Lent means setting aside time to be intentional about your spiritual nurture. Activities such as prayer, self-examination, offering of oneself and one's possessions, and self-denial nurture you spiritually and thus prepare you for greater understanding of Jesus' gift of Easter. How many times in your life have you been intentional about spiritual preparation for Easter? For myself, each time I make this effort, it lifts my spirits greatly.

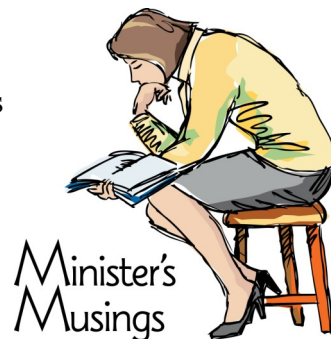
Sometimes if we try to "go" spiritual nurture alone, it is a struggle, but together we encourage one another. We can be together with the people who actually lived at the time of Jesus as we listen to their stories in the Bible. For example, there's the woman who sought Jesus out at a party and lovingly anointed Him with very expensive perfume, shocking everybody around her. Then, we see Mary and Martha at a most stressful time, at the loss of their brother, as Jesus comforts them and points them to what life after death is all about. Then, there's the story about Jesus as the Shepherd whose love is so great that He leaves ninety-nine sheep to seek out the one who has strayed and needs help.

We can be together with the experiences of these people, and we can be together with one another in our own stories. The Lord Jesus has "been there" for us in many ways, even when life has sometimes thrown us a curve. As we share those stories, we grow in faith that God is good. This season of Lent we will gather together to experience those "Conversations with God" and with one another. We will read the Scripture, listen for God's voice, and share the sense of connection we find.

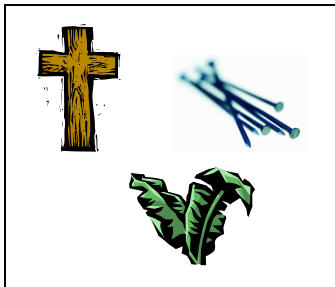
In this way we live out the connected lifestyle that Jesus taught His disciples. He is with us in the same way He was with them. Jesus still shows us the way to God, through the stories of His life and the Holy Spirit's presence with us. I can't wait to spend that time together. This year Julie Bayless will lead our music. Wednesday nights, 6:30-7:20 in the sanctuary. If you would enjoy a light dinner beforehand, it's provided at 6:00. Set aside time to be fed, both bodily and in faith.

Blessings,

Ginger



Words from Worship



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. During this 40-day period, Christians reevaluate their spiritual lives. As Pastor Ginger reminds us on p. 1, it's time for us to have a spiritual check-up and to strive to live the Christian life more intentionally and faithfully. During our pilgrimage through Lent, attending the various church services and study opportunities and using a Lenten prayer or devotional can help us grow spiritually, become more informed about the Christian faith, and inspire us to serve God more faithfully in our daily lives.

Why **Ash** Wednesday? Traditionally, the Christian church has observed the seven weeks before Easter as a time of penitence and spiritual self-examination. Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, derives its name from the ancient practice of marking the foreheads of worshipers with ashes from the unused palm branches of the previous year's Palm Sunday processions.

Ashes historically have had a dual significance. **First**, they are Old Testament symbols of **sadness and humility**. Job, in the midst of all his troubles, cried out to God from the ash heap. The **second** symbolic meaning of ashes is as a reminder of our **mortality**. Each of us faces the inevitability of physical death. Our bodies and material possessions eventually will turn to dust and ashes. This is a reminder that we dare not trust in things that crumble. But Lent does not leave us on the ash heap. It begins with Ash Wednesday, and ends with Easter. Easter proclaims that, through Christ, God resurrects us from our dust and ashes, makes us new creatures with new bodies, and brings life out of death!



Reading ahead (sermon texts for March)

March 6—Acts 19:1-7—
Receiving the Holy Spirit
March 9, Ash Wednesday
March 13—John 10:1-21—
Jesus the Faithful Shepherd
March 20—John 11—Jesus' Kingdom Has Power Over Death
March 27—John 12:1-11—
Jesus' Kingdom Involves Generosity & Servant Leadership

Mark your calendars for the following Lenten activities and invite a friend...

See more
on p. 4!

March 9
Wednesday nights, **March 16-April 13**
April 17
April 21
April 22

Ash Wednesday service	7:00-7:45
Lenten Series and Dinner	6:00-7:00
Palm Sunday Service	10:30
Maundy Thursday Service	7:00
Good Friday Service	7:00

We will also have **prayer vigil** that you can sign up for.

April 24

Easter Sunrise Service	7:00 a.m.
Breakfast	
Sunday School	9:15
Worship Service	10:30

Symbols of our Faith...



The shamrock is a symbol of the Trinity and of St. Patrick, who used it to explain to unbelievers how God is One God in three Persons. Patrick would hold up a shamrock and challenge his hearers: "Is it one leaf or three?" "It is both one leaf and three," they would inevitably reply. "And so it is with God," he would conclude.

From Our Youth



February was an eventful month for our Youth Group!

THANKS for your support as the youth hosted our Valentines Day Dinner Fund-raiser event on February 12th! The dinner turned out to be very successful. I had not been a part of this sort of event before and so it was my first time. Anna Murphy & Lori Glover did all of the preparation—purchased the food, prepared the environment and also cooked the food. My main duty, keeping the students organized and motivated, ended up being pretty easy, as the students were motivated to do a good job on their own. The students showed initiative. We even had the students all dress the same so that it felt like more of a professional environment. After the dinner we watched the movie, “The Quiet Man” in the sanctuary. All who stayed for the movie were happy to have seen John Wayne again. We did raise a good amount of money through this fundraiser but we accomplished more than just that. The students worked together as a team and they served the people who make it possible to have a youth group. I think it felt good for the students to be able to give back. We hope y’all thoroughly enjoyed the dinner and movie.

Did you know that we attended a “Planet Wisdom Student Conference” that same weekend? Thousands of Jr. High and High School students gathered at Irving Bible church to praise God and listen to the challenge of a gifted speaker/preacher. The theme of this years conference was, “A God You Can Know.” The speaker’s main emphasis was on how students are able to really get to know God. He highlighted the difference between pretending to be something we’re not and being honest with God about where we are. The students were all impacted by the speaker, and I know that a couple of them made decisions about following Jesus more fervently.

The Youth Group continues to try and build from the inside out. We want to improve our cohesiveness as a team and hope that it will bleed over into our ministry to the youth. We would love more volunteers to step up and begin serving in our ministry. **We especially NEED MORE MALE LEADERS.** Please keep this in mind—and come talk with me to find out more.

Sincerely,

Steve



January 2010

3 January – 86
10 January – 82
17 January – 75
24 January – 78
31 January – 82

January 2011

2 January – 65
9 January – 77
16 January – 83
23 January – 80
30 January – 84



January 2011

Receipts

\$14,032

YTD income:

YTD expenditures

Total Annual Budget:

*This includes memorial giving.

Expenditures

\$28,753

*\$14,032

\$28,753

\$218,200

Renovation Receipts

Total Renovation Cost

\$22,865

\$30,640

Observing Lent together ~



Lent gives us not only an opportunity to intentionally set aside time to consider our lives and our Savior, but to do so together. Set aside 7:00-7:45 the evening of Ash Wednesday (March 9), then come back the next five Wednesdays for Lenten listening to our Lord together.

Dear Media Promotion & Outreach Team,

I've heard a rumor that our worship service is recorded each week and available "online" on our church Website. Could that possibly be true? How can I see those?

Signed,
Inquisitive Mind

Dear Inquisitive Mind,

Yes! The rumor is absolutely true. You may now view our entire service for up to one week after each service is held. The most recent full service will be available there. For previous sermons, click on Announcements or Sermons links below the Categories section to see older sermons in video, audio, or text formats.

For the full service, go to our website, <http://www.fpcd.org>,

The most recent sermon title will appear at the top,

Scroll down to the bottom, below "Read the Sermon".

Then either choose to listen to the service by clicking on a Podcast link or arrow (**top circle** in the picture),

Or choose to watch it by clicking on the "play" arrow in the video window (**middle circle**), or on the Podcast (video) links at the **bottom**.

Your friends on the Media Team



Missions News

From Carlos and Caryn Benitez

Thanks to all of you who are part of our team through your prayers and support.

Our translation team 'A' and 'H' work well together. We recently completed most of the book of Genesis as well as the first draft of passages from Exodus. Very soon we hope to distribute portions of Genesis in both Roman and Ajami scripts—the first printed material in this language.

Because of recent events in the country, we have been unable to travel outside the capital. 'A' and 'H' made a trip to their area to test portions of the translation for understandability. The results were better than we anticipated! Folks kept coming from neighboring villages to hear the translation in their language.

Our work is shifting away from doing the work ourselves, toward the role of teaching and training. 'A' has been learning principles of translation in order to translate into his mother tongue. For him this kind of learning is completely new, for he has never been to school. He is also learning Hebrew, a language that is closer than English or French to languages he speaks, so he understands a lot of it.



Meanwhile 'H' has been working with "back-translation" into French. He has been to school a little bit, but is working to improve his written French.

We had a refreshing vacation in Ouagadougou. Now the children have started back to Sahel Academy. Andres is in ninth grade and Rachelle is in second grade. It is a blessing to have a quality Christian school close by. Caryn works at learning the language monolingually with women.

You can keep up-to-date on news about Niger on the internet. There is a lot going on here that needs your prayers. Thanks again for participating with us in this work.

Carlos and Caryn

Adult Sunday School

To the accompaniment of coffee and doughnuts, around 20-25 of us gather at 9:15 each Sunday under Darrell Ingram's facilitating leadership for Bible study paralleling Pastor Ginger's sermons. So currently we're in Acts, using Phyllis LePeau's *Acts: Seeing God's Power in Action*. Welcome! You don't need to have the book to join in as we learn from each other!



Presbyterian Women News

Our 2011 PW Mini-Retreat is coming soon!!

Please plan to join us on **Friday evening, March 18 and Saturday morning, March 19** at the Holiday Inn Express in Waxahachie. Our speaker will be the Rev. Anna Marie Peterson who will speak on the theme of “Crossroads and Detours” in our lives.

Rev. Anna Marie loves ministry and serving the wider church. She is an ordained Pastor of Discipleship with The Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), and an Ordered Member with The Navigators, Church Discipleship Ministry. As a mature, Christian woman, she earned a Masters of Theology (Th.M.) from Dallas Theological Seminary (DTS) in 2008. She spent over 30 years in corporate America as a leader in marketing, management, business solutions, personnel and education.

The daughter of a Baptist Pastor and loving mother, she is a veteran discipler of women with a passion for Life-to-Life ministry, the “pouring out” of one’s life into the life of another. She emphasizes the importance of Christian Formation in all areas of service. Endorsed by DTS, Rev. Anna Marie is a certified teacher with the Evangelical Teacher’s Association (ETA), an association of seminaries, colleges, universities, institutes, and churches.

Together, she and her husband, Pastor Willie, provide coaching services to equip local pastors and leaders who strongly desire to make disciples among congregational members. Churches learn to reach out to the lost with a discipleship plan designed to fit the church’s vision, mission, and ministry style. They also provide biblically sound guidance on how to develop a multiethnic congregation in the form of service models and instructional methods.

There will be a sign-up poster in the Narthex. Please sign up with a roommate no later than Sunday, March 13. The cost will be approximately \$50 per person, with 2 people in a room. Breakfast will be provided at the hotel, and as always, please bring snacks to share for Friday evening and Saturday. Also, don’t forget your Bible and a wrapped gift for our always fun White Elephant gift exchange. The Retreat will end at noon on Saturday. There are lots of fun things to do in Waxahachie on Friday or Saturday, if you wish to go into town.



PW Circle Gatherings on Thursday, March 10: We continue through the 2010–2011 *Horizons* Bible study, *Journeys through Revelation: Apocalyptic Hope for Today*, in which Barbara Rossing guides us on a journey to meet the crucified Lamb, Jesus. **Newcomers are very welcome**—don’t stay away just because you haven’t seen this study book yet!

Agape Circle: We will meet at 1 p.m. in the home of Connie Steger, 960 Cedar Hill Road, Cedar Hill, 972-291-0922. We’ll be studying Lesson 6.

Sarah Circle: We will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Diane Pegues, 302 N. Venice Dr., Duncanville, 972-298-4097. We’ll be studying Lesson 7.

Presbyterian Women Missions for 2011



Our PW Mission focus for 2011 is again through the Outreach Foundation of the Presbyterian Church. It is the Home of Hope in Harare, Zimbabwe where funds are needed for school tuition, uniforms, food, medicine, transportation, training and operations.

(For more info and pictures from Home of Hope, see http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/Project%20Updates/PDF%20Files/Jan2010_HomeofHope.pdf.)

The recent political crisis and violence in Zimbabwe have made efforts to reach out to vulnerable children and the destitute very difficult. Home of Hope is struggling to make the situation more bearable for street chil-

dren and their families. Joan Trevelyan and her team, including her son Craig, continue to faithfully serve and bear witness to the love of Christ under difficult circumstances. Several years ago, the Outreach Foundation made it possible for Joan to purchase a home to live in and a facility for her street ministry. She now ministers to street mothers as well as to children.

Please keep all those involved with the Home of Hope in your prayers as well as all of the very needy mothers and children in Zimbabwe. PW has already given \$500 to this ministry and will consider further donations in the future as our funds allow. If you would like to make a personal contribution to this ministry, just let one of the PW Board members or Pastor Ginger know. The PW Board members currently are Joan Brown, Lois Harmon, Jocelyn Bolles and Helen Barton .



Our Church is Sponsoring Seven Kids to attend *KidQuake* at Camp Gilmont

The Children's Planning Team is pleased that **seven** children from our Sunday School are planning to attend a weekend camping event at Gilmont Camp this Spring! KidQuake is sponsored by our Presbytery and Camp Gilmont, a fine camp and conference grounds in east Texas, about 2 1/2 hours' drive from Duncanville (see <http://campgilmont.org/>).

This weekend camping experience for children in Grades 1 through 6 will have God's Creation as its theme. Children will have opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. They will choose from activities such as fishing, canoeing, nature crafts, and nature walks in east Texas' piney woods. No, they will not sleep outdoors, but will sleep on beds in cabins!

Programming will be provided by Austin College Activators and other Presbytery leaders *and each church which sends children is providing a sponsor from their church who will be there to supervise their children.*

At the time of this printing, we do not know the date our children will be going. If the date assigned to us is April 29-May 1, our sponsor will be Dennis Walters. If the date is March 25-27, our sponsor will be Steve Netniss. We thank Dennis and Steve for being willing to do this.

Our Session has approved the provision of scholarships for our sponsors and kids. The cost to the church for these scholarships is **\$680**. We would welcome donations to help with this cost. Please mark your gift as for Kid-Quake Scholarships. **Thank you.**

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
 6 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia	 7 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	1 Joan Brown Malcolm Perrault James & Beth Ann Black	2 Jack & Diane Pegues Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	3 Larry & Margaret Lewis Boyd Roberts Connie Steger Jim & Pam Loyd	4 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	5 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Lenora Dalton
6 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia	7 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	8 Nadine Doura Ariel & Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman Paul & Helen Barton	9 <div style="background-color: #ff00ff; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 5px;"> Ash Wednesday </div>	10 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Pat Sparr	11 Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melisa, Carol, & Neal	12 Eunice Pike Robert & Catherine Eagle David Hertenstein Evelyn
13 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen Winifred Cook	14 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan	15 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee	16 Eddie & Darlene Cowand Christy Cowand Brandon	17 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica	18 Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	19 Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant Steve Netniss
20 Jim & Janet Stahl Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Simons	21 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar The Schaefers	22 Bob & Nancy Harrison Carol Orwig Tom & Lois Harmon	23 Stan & June West Sara & Matthew Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	24 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	25 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	26 Albert & Sarah Teel Savannah Bob & Liz Moore Gail Haynes
27 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather	28 Reid Bunger Don & Sheri Trask Jim & Andrene Hull	29 Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Beau	30 Ruth Yingst Donna To Andrew & Ashley Dittman	31 John Alsop Doris Metzger Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie		

From the family of George Cowand, A heartfelt word of thanks...

In this time of our loss, our First Presbyterian Church family has shown us God's love so helpfully in so many ways, that we can't put into words what you have meant to us. Your prayers, your words, your cards, the memorial service, the luncheon provided by my friends, including those in the Agape Circle, and many other expressions of your love have borne us up immeasurably. Thank you!

Billie Cowand, for all the family

*You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord
who abide in His shadow for life
say to the Lord
"My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"*

*The snare of the fowler will never capture you
and famine will bring you no fear
under His wings your refuge
His faithfulness your shield.*

*You need not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day
though thousands fall about you
near you it shall not come.*

*For to His angels He's given a command
to guard you in all of your ways
upon their hands they will bear you up
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

*And He will raise you up on eagles' wings
bear you on the breath of dawn
make you to shine like the sun
and hold you in the palm of His hand...*



—Michael Joncas, based on Psalm 91

March 2011

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 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	7 4:30 PM Deacons' Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	8	9 7:00 PM - 7:45 PM Ash Wednesday Service	10 1:00 PM Agape Circle 7:30 PM Sarah Circle	11	12																																										
13 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	14	15 Newsletter Deadline	16 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	17 7:00 PM Session Meeting	18 PW Mini Retreat - Holiday Inn (Wax.)	19																																										
20 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study FOOD SUNDAY	21	22	23 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	24	25	26																																										
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WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2011
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

March 6	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers: Communion Servers:	Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Doris Metzger Sharon Ingram Joan Brown Lori Glover, Bob Harrison Dick Bergman, Diane Pegues, Eugene Jimmerson Joan Brown, George Huttar, Anna Murphy
March 13	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers:	Mickey & Betty Jespersen Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand Dave Bolles Kathleen Hartless Anna Murphy Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
March 20	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary Albert Teel, Bob Moore Dub Guthrie Savannah Baker-Teel Gail Haynes Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
March 27	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tellers:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Lori Glover Margaret Lewis Sydney Russell Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

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.

Evelyn Pike	March 1	Roy Jensen	March 10
Bobby Reed	March 2	Malcolm Perrault	March 10
George Huttar	March 3	Pat Sparr	March 12
Dennis Walters	March 3	Dudley Austin	March 17
David Gaskins	March 5	Dick Bergman	March 23
Irving Kezar	March 5	Evelyn Hertenstein	March 24
Paul Barton	March 8	Tom Harmon	March 27
Nancy Bergman	March 9	Carol Orwig	March 31

Bible Quiz:

What did Jesus say his earthly mission was all about? Choose the correct answer from the list below:

- Doing his own will
- Doing God's will
- Doing the will of the people
- All of the above

See John 5:30



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education
Worship Service
Youth Group

— 9:15 a.m.
— 10:30 a.m.
— 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.fpcd.org

12 The Epistle

Children's Sunday School



The Serving Spoon and the Noble Duster



Next time you come to the church office, take a look at the bulletin board nearby. The collage prepared by our children illustrates what Peter told the Roman centurion Cornelius. "I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right." Acts 10: 34-35

Besides getting familiar with the stories of Peter and Cornelius, the children also had the fun of acting out a story using tools found around the house. The kitchen tools realized that the cleaning tools were needed along with them, to keep house well! Main characters: the Serving Spoon and the Noble Duster.

Teachers who have led classes so far this year: Connie Steger, Lois Harmon, and Diane Pegues.