

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

# First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

March 2012

Vol. 20, No. 3

## **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
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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

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## **From our Pastor**

*About that meeting in Orlando . . .*

At our recent congregational meeting a request was made for more communication about the new movement which has been initiated in the past year. I am happy to do so! Two national meetings have taken place, one in Minneapolis last August, and a second one in Orlando in January 2012. Two options have come out of these gatherings. One is a new movement. Called Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians, or ECO, it has been formed and incorporated as a separate order from the PC(USA), and churches that join ECO will move out of the PC(USA). It is not being called a denomination as such, but it will function in the same way as a denomination, with some significant differences. Each church will own its own property. Churches' leaders will be connected through a covenant of grace to foster growth and accountability in discipleship. ECO has set up an insurance and pension structure and written a constitution, including polity and confessions.

The second option is to join the association called the New Fellowship of Presbyterians. Churches that join the New Fellowship remain members of the PC(USA), but the association will allow them to be identified with a group of churches within the PC (USA) who are unified by commitment to a particular set of values as established by the Fellowship. If you would like to read the covenant, you may go to: <http://www.fellowship-pres.org/about/> Membership in this affiliation costs \$250 per year for a congregation, and that allows the church to participate in the annual conference of ECO, gives access to pastoral support and development, and supplies resources to promote flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.

Your session has been in prayerful consideration about these options. In the meantime, important ministry is happening at FPCD. Who are you inviting to come along with you? The season of Lent offers nourishment for the soul through worship, prayer, Bible study, music, and fellowship. I hope you will bring your friends so you can introduce them to the most endearing and important Lord we can ever meet. Can't wait to experience it all together!

Blessings!

*Ginger*



### Words from Worship

We'll be observing Lent (Feb. 22—April 7) during all of March. [Mark your calendars](#) for the following opportunities for our growth together in repentance and joy on the path to Easter, and invite a friend:

#### **Conversations with God**—Wednesdays from **February 29 to March 28**

6:00 dinner in Fellowship Hall; 6:30-7:15 conversations in sanctuary



#### **Maundy Thursday Service, April 5- 7:00**

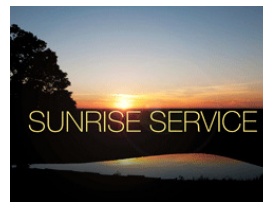
#### **Good Friday , April 6**

Vigil from 6:00 am to midnight - sign up in the Narthex  
Worship Service

#### **Easter, April 8-Sunrise Service** - Steve Netniss preaching

**Pancake breakfast**

**10:30 service** - Ginger Hertenstein preaching



"The Lenten season begins. It is a time to be with you, Lord, in a special way, a time to pray, to fast, and thus to follow you on your way to Jerusalem, to Golgotha, and to the final victory over death.

"I am still so divided. I truly want to follow you, but I also want to follow my own desires and lend an ear to the voices that speak about prestige, success, human respect, pleasure, power, and influence. Help me to become deaf to these voices and more attentive to your voice, which calls me to choose the narrow road to life.

"I know that Lent is going to be a very hard time for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. There are no times or places without choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you.

"Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy the new life that you have prepared for me. Amen."

Henri Nouwen, *The Road to Daybreak*, p. 137.

#### *Reading ahead (sermon texts for March)*

- 3/4/12 **Mk 8:27-30, 9:2-10—Peter's Confession & Jesus' Proof**  
3/11/12 **Mk 10:35-45—Learning to be a Servant of All**  
3/18/12 **Mk 13:1-6—Temple Destruction Prophesied**  
3/25/12 **Mk 14:3-11—Deep Contrasts: the Spirit and the Flesh**



## Missions News ~ West Africa



### From the Schaefers

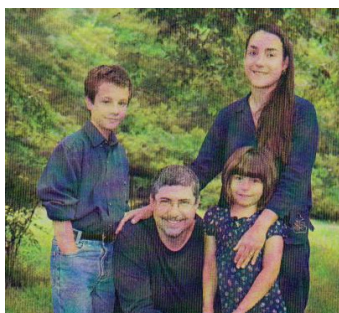
Paul and Jennifer send greetings from Ghana. This Christmas they were able to give to their Safaliba people the recently translated and checked story of the birth of Christ from Luke. Their letter included the translation of the text; all the linguists among us can probably even read it with the proper pronunciation. Take a moment and imagine what it would be like to read that story for the very first time.\*

### From the Benítezes

Carlos and Caryn report that all is well there in Niger. Their colleagues 'A' and 'H' have almost finished the first draft of Exodus and have started on drafts of the narrative portions of the rest of the Pentateuch. The next step is to test the text with more mother-tongue speakers to make sure it is well understood.

A workshop on translation principles held last month was a great help to their team. Now 'H' has software on his computer so that he can work on translation; in the past he worked only on "back translation" (a literal translation from his own language back into French, so visiting consultants can understand how the Bible passage was translated into his language). Having two translators working at the same time on different passages moves the work along faster. Please pray that both will learn the orthography (the spelling) of their language quickly and that they will work well together as a team.

The first half of 2012 Carol's team leader 'M' is hoping to study outside the country. If this goes through Carlos will need to supervise that language program and his translator 'B' as well. He asked for prayer that they will be able to work out all the details so that 'M' would be able to study and the translation will go forward while he is gone.



The Benítez children are thoroughly enjoying school and doing well academically. Children in the school they attend do not always come from Christian families; the Benítezes are concerned and prayerful that their children be able to choose friends of good character and be a good influence on those they have.

Finally they asked for your prayer as they make a major decision about their coming back to the US sometime next summer. First it concerns the amount of time it should be – six months or a year. The timing also impacts the timing of their son's schooling in Niger. Either option has advantages or disadvantages. Please pray for wisdom to make the best decision for the continuation of the work and the good of the family.

Both these families are very thankful for our part in their translation team.

\*The Stahls ran into some reactions when they taught the same story half a world away; they tell about that in their last letter, that you will find on the Missions bulletin board in our Christian Education wing..



## Presbyterian Women News

### "A Woman's Prayer Life"

Friday evening March 9 through Saturday noon March 10



What can motivate us to pray, stories of answered prayer, and Bible study will be main themes of our retreat this year. An inspirational message from Bible teacher Beth Moore (on DVD) will anchor our study. *Enjoying each other's company is another main ingredient of our retreat. Be sure to bring a wrapped White Elephant gift for our Friday night exchange!*

Ask someone to be your roommate, pack your Bible and your toothbrush, bring a snack to share and check in at the Waxahachie Holiday Inn Express at 6:30 Friday night, or earlier! Directions to the motel will be available at the sign-up table in the narthex by March 4. Cost is about \$50 per person, double occupancy, breakfast included..



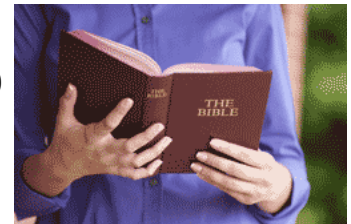
*\*Please sign up by March 4.\**

#### March Women's Fellowship Gatherings: Thursday, March 8

Agape Fellowship will meet at 1 p.m. at the home of Lois Harmon, 207 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville.

Sarah Fellowship meets at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joan Brown, 810 Rock Canyon Drive, Duncanville.

*All women are welcome!*



#### **PW 2012 MISSIONS QUIZ**

Mission giving from Presbyterian Women in our church this year is designated for a seminary which is having a great impact .

In what country is this seminary located?

Ask at Agape or Sarah Fellowship gatherings in March, or check your February newsletter!

#### **FREE MOVIE NIGHT! Friday, March 2: "COURAGEOUS" — Honor Begins at Home**

Four men, one calling: To serve and protect. As law enforcement officers, they are confident and focused. Yet at the end of the day, they face a challenge that none of them are truly prepared to tackle: fatherhood. While they consistently give their best on the job, good enough seems to be all they can muster as dads. But they're quickly discovering that their standard is missing the mark.

When tragedy hits home, these men are left wrestling with their hopes, their fears, their faith and their fathering...Check out the trailer at [courageousthemovie.com](http://courageousthemovie.com) for more.

**Free movie, free lemonade, free popcorn! And a kids' movie for the younger ones! And free childcare!**



## WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2012 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

	March 4	March 11
<b>Greeters:</b>	Lori Glover, Burle Murphy	Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary
<b>Ushers:</b>	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues	Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Leo Skinner	Tom Harmon
<b>Children's Church:</b>	Margaret Lewis	Lori Glover
<b>Nursery Volunteer:</b>	Anna Murphy	Sydney Russell
<b>Tellers:</b>	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
<b>Communion Servers:</b>	Steve Bayless, Marna Bayless, Bill Jackson, Vangie Jackson, Darrell Ingram, & Helen Barton	



	March 18	March 25
<b>Greeters:</b>	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram
<b>Ushers:</b>	Albert Teel, Bob Moore	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
<b>Liturgist:</b>	Helen Barton	Steve Netniss
<b>Children's Church:</b>	Anna Murphy	Sharon Ingram
<b>Nursery Volunteers:</b>	Susan & Evelyn Walters	Darlene Cowand
<b>Tellers:</b>	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison



Lord, teach us to  
number our days!

Evelyn Pike	March 1	Paul Barton	March 8	Anthony Jennings	March 19
Bobby Reed	March 2	Nancy Bergman	March 9	Dick Bergman	March 23
George Huttar	March 3	Roy Jensen	March 10	Evelyn Hertenstein	March 24
Dennis Walters	March 3	Malcolm Perrault	March 10	Tom Harmon	March 27
David Gaskins	March 5	Pat Sparr	March 12	Erin McGinnis	March 29
Irving Kezar	March 5	Jossue Peralta	March 14	Michael McGinnis	March 29
Reid Bunger	March 6	Dudley Austin	March 17	Carol Orwig	March 31

## ATTENDANCE

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](mailto:info@fpcd.org). Thank you.



January 2011		January 2012	
2 January	65	1 January	69
9 January	77	8 January	98
16 January	83	15 January	90
23 January	80	22 January	90
30 January	84	29 January	85
average	78	average	86

January 2012	
Receipts	Expenditures
\$13,313	\$23,259
Total Annual Budget:	\$225,810

### What's Up in Kids' Sunday School?

**Take a look at the bulletin board** near the church office door and you will see art work showing some of what various groups of kids have been learning recently in Sunday School!

Students in the Elementary Grades have been hearing and acting out stories of Jesus' early life—his dedication as a tiny baby at the temple in Jerusalem, his family's trip to Egypt, their return to Nazareth, their special visit to the temple in Jerusalem when Jesus was twelve, and finally his baptism at the River Jordan. The students have been asked to relate these events to places where they happened. Posted on the bulletin board are colorful paintings students made of what Jesus and those around saw and heard at his baptism.

Jr. High's have been learning about talking to God, listening to Him, worshiping Him, and being like Him (see bulletin board for creative art on not conforming to the pattern of this world). Now we're looking at what the Bible teaches us about how to love each other as Christ has loved us.

Our Sr. High's have been continuing their journey through the book of James where we explore what is happening to the 1st century community James is writing to. We look at each verse and ask questions about whether or not the message is legitimate and if we understand it. Some of the students continue to push the envelope with difficult questions which cause us to sometimes go off track. But the book of James is still a great practical handbook for daily life for Christians young and old.

Marna Bayless, Lois Harmon, Mary & George Huttar, and Steve Netniss

### Sunday School Picnic at Cedar Hill State Park

All kids from FPCD Sunday School classes are invited to an afternoon of food and fun at Cedar Hill State Park on **Sunday March 4, 2012**. We'll be roasting some hot dogs, having a scavenger hunt and some other fun activities. Who doesn't like S'mores??

**Who:** FPCD Sunday school members. Parents are also invited but not required (parents of our preschoolers are encouraged to join us).

**When:** Sunday March 4, 2012

**Time:** after church until around 3pm

**Transportation:** we will car pool from the church parking lot and children will be delivered to their homes afterwards if parents do not attend.

**Cost:** free (Can't beat that!)

Questions? refer to the flyer you should have received or contact Linda Simons at [linda.simons@gmail.com](mailto:linda.simons@gmail.com) or [972-296-3105](tel:972-296-3105).





# FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

(March 2012 - Remember each other in daily prayer.)



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
				<b>1</b> Andrew & Ashley Dittman Winfred Cook Jackie Walke Sam & Charlotte Fithian	<b>2</b> Paul & Helen Barton Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues Ruth Yingst	<b>3</b> David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton Larry & Margaret Lewis
<b>4</b> Joan Brown Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	<b>5</b> Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	<b>6</b> Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	<b>7</b> Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn	<b>8</b> Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	<b>9</b> Nadine Doura Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman Carol McKinney Miguel & Fanny Penaloza	<b>10</b> Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden & Beau
<b>11</b> Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	<b>12</b> Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	<b>13</b> Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer	<b>14</b> Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netniss	<b>15</b> Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	<b>16</b> Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Reid & Betty Bunger	<b>17</b> Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon
<b>18</b> Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Barbara Notari	<b>19</b> Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle The Schaefers	<b>20</b> Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Allison Jackson	<b>21</b> Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Deborah Titus	<b>22</b> Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	<b>23</b> Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand	<b>24</b> Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Mike Bacon
<b>25</b> Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	<b>26</b> Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	<b>27</b> Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	<b>38</b> Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	<b>29</b> James & Beth Ann Black Jimmy& Jason Cordova	<b>30</b> McGinnis, Eric & Erin Michael Andrew Watts	<b>31</b> Anthony Jennings Gary & Linda Simons Rachel

## 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  
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DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116  
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## 8 The Epistle

### From Our Youth



A big THANK YOU to our church family for your generous support of our Valentine's Day dinner-&-movie night! You helped us raise over \$500 towards this year's youth mission events, and showed our youth that you care!

And THANK YOU, too, for supporting in prayer our youth's participation in Planet Wisdom at Irving Bible Church Feb. 10-11. It was a rewarding time of growth and commitment for many of our youth. We're encouraged to see clear signs of God's work in their lives! Keep prayin' for us all!



Steve Netniss



Did you miss "Jambalaya & Jazz" on Mardi Gras?

...or the Valentine's Dinner & movie?

Take a look at p. 4 for another free movie!



# March 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																				
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<b>4</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 12:00 PM Sunday School Picnic at Cedar Hill State Park	<b>5</b> 4:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting 	<b>6</b> 7:00 PM Property Team Meeting 	<b>7</b> 6:30 PM -7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Community Prayer Gathering in Sanctuary 1:00 PM Agape Women's Study 6:30 PM Youth Group	<b>9</b>  <b>PW Mini Retreat - Holiday Inn (Wax.)</b>	<b>10</b> 																																																																																				
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<b>18</b> 9:15 AM Courageous Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Courageous Bible Study ** Food Sunday **	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting 	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30 PM -7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>																																																																																				
<b>25</b> 9:15 AM Courageous Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:00 PM Courageous Bible Study	<b>26</b> Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre 	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30 PM -7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 6:30 PM -7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>29</b> 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting in place of April 5 	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>																																																																																				