

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



First Presbyterian Church

March 2013

Vol. 12, 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

Susan Murphy,
Nursery

From our Pastor

Jesus spent the last few days of His earthly life in conversations. During Maundy Thursday we often remember the events of that evening – the foot washings, the supper, the betrayal and arrest. This year we'll focus on the things that were said between Jesus and His disciples.

Jesus talked to them about who He was, and that He was going away, and that at times, they would not understand the things that would happen. He promised that though it appeared worse it would actually be better for Him to go because He would send them the gift of the Holy Spirit, to be with them and lead them.

Jesus must have been an incredibly accessible person because the disciples were free to express their doubts and questions. Surely the thought of all the things they had experienced with Him – His power in calming a huge storm one night; His ministry to the sick; and how they had done likewise when they went out on mission for Him. How could they forget it?

Their conversation with Him that night was probably what carried them through the trauma of His arrest, conviction, and death. The Maundy Thursday service is designed to help us enter into that evening, hearing the conversation as if we were the disciples, celebrating the Lord's Supper together in remembrance of Him.

Then, Good Friday's service continues the conversation with the choir's presentation of "The Seven Last Words of Christ," by Theodore Dubois. Jesus continued to talk from the cross, mostly to His Father. The music will be interspersed with depictions of the story from Scripture.

As I have worked to put the story, Jesus' words, and the music together in a meaningful way, an overwhelming sense of the grace of what Jesus has done for us became evident to me. He did it all – and His acts and words express the most magnificent love.

Then Easter Sunday as we celebrate the resurrection, it is my prayer that we take in His self-giving love and that we stand in awe. And may each of us know the joy of that love in a deeply personal way.



Happy Easter, Ginger

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- 8 – Welcome to our New
Deacons!

Words from Worship

As we spend most of March in the season of Lent before reaching the joy and power of Easter, join us for the following opportunities, as we together join millions of our Christian sisters and brothers around the world remembering Jesus' life, temptation, suffering, death and resurrection! (See p. 1 for more.)

Wednesdays, March 6, 13, 20, 6:00-7:20 p.m.: "Conversations with God" series focusing on the disciples' stories of their years with Jesus, and our own stories, culminating in that last conversation Jesus had with his disciples on...

Maundy Thursday. The evening of March 28 at 7:00, we'll gather to relive those last hours Jesus spent with the Twelve before his arrest.

Good Friday, March 29: "The Seven Last Words of Christ" by Theodore DeBois

Prayer Vigil: Saturday, March 30 from 6:00 am—12:00 am.

Easter, March 31: Sunrise service 7:00 am on the patio followed by pancake breakfast. Easter Egg Hunt for children at 9:15 am, and Worship at 10:30 am.

The following poem, based on Rembrandt's painting "Peter's Denial", is from *Drawn to the Light: Poems on Rembrandt's Religious Paintings*.^{*} For one of your devotional times during Lent, you may want to ponder the painting as you read the Gospel account of Peter's denial in Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, and/or John 18 together with the poem. Can you imagine how Peter felt? How Jesus felt? How you feel about identifying yourself as a follower of Jesus?



Peter's Denial

Failing this test,
the rest of his life
he will remember:

he has no stones to throw —
not at liars and cowards,
the expedient, the self-serving,
hypocrites, dissemblers,
profiteers who trade on
the pearl of great price.

Having to live with
having denied the Lord,
in every evening's firelight
having to remember the heat
of this moment by the courtyard fire,

he will have to find his power
in penitence, his preaching fueled
by forgiveness, his message
amazing grace.

In his outstretched hand
he seems to hold the Lord himself
in the balance.

Even as he turns away
from the one whose love costs more
than he had reckoned, his body remembers
sinking in the waves: how the Lord took
the hand he stretched out then
and saved him from his unbelief.

Marilyn Chandler McEntyre

^{*}Eerdmans, 2003

Missions News ~ from India, and from the book of Numbers, A Story of Hope



Just after the Christmas holidays this year, which for many of us were marked by the violence at Sandy Hook Elementary School, Jim and I went to India to teach at a seminary for three weeks. The headline news in India was about a young female medical student who was brutally raped on a public bus and then thrown off the bus. She died later of her injuries. The newspapers and television news reported all sorts of opinions from leaders and others, some of whom suggested that girls should be forced to wear overcoats as part of their school uniforms. It seemed like every day another similar crime was reported as families felt emboldened to denounce what had happened to their children. Riots broke out in the capitol protesting the violence against women.

The government put together a panel to recommend new laws that would help to eliminate the problem and within a few weeks their recommendation, covering all possible categories of sexual abuse, was announced. They had obviously been doing their research long before the incident that stirred up public opinion. They went as far as suggesting the appropriate punishment would be chemical castration.

I was already sensitized to brutal violence done to innocent victims when we reached the seminary. The first Tuesday evening we were invited to join the women students' Bible storytelling club. Every Tuesday evening, the women students meet to learn to tell another Bible story. They asked us to share a story. I'd anticipated that they would and I searched for a message of hope to the young women who faced all sorts of discrimination. So I told the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad from Numbers 27:1-11. Just before Moses was to apportion the land to the twelve tribes of Israel, the five daughters of Zelophehad brought their petition to Moses asking that they be given the portion of land that their deceased father would have received. God tells Moses to give them the land since they had a legitimate complaint. I wanted the women to know that they were rightful members of God's Kingdom and that He hears their requests. Some of the young women were moved to tears. Then for the remaining two and half weeks at the seminary, students came to me privately to share their stories and how encouraged they were by the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad. A simple gift of telling a Bible story can bring hope to people.



Kerala women from Stahls' last course in India, singing the stories of Mark 5 using a tune associated with a popular boat race

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2013

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

March 3	Greeters:	Janet Stahl, Jocelyn Bolles
	Ushers:	Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Leo Skinner
	Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles
	Tellers:	Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
	Communion Servers:	Scott Hartless, Nancy Bergman, Irving Kezar Brenda Everett, Steve Bayless, Jocelyn Bolles
March 10	Greeters:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Eddie Cowand
	Liturgist:	Janet Stahl
	Nursery Volunteer:	Anna Murphy
	Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
March 17	Greeters:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen
	Ushers:	Albert Teel, Irving Kezar
	Liturgist:	Scott Hartless
	Nursery Volunteer:	Erin McGinnis
	Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
March 24	Greeters:	Anna Murphy, Lori Glover
	Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Helen Barton
	Nursery Volunteer:	Sydney Russell
	Tellers:	Darrell Ingram, Leo Skinner
March 31	Greeters:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger
	Ushers:	Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues
	Liturgist:	Tom Harmon
	Nursery Volunteer:	Valerie Cordova
	Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison



Lord, teach us to
number our days!

Evelyn Pike	March 1	Malcolm Perrault	March 10
Bobby Reed	March 2	Evangelyn Jackson	March 12
George Huttar	March 3	Pat Sparr	March 12
Dennis Walters	March 3	Jossue Peralta	March 14
Jimmy Cordova	March 4	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	Eric McGinnis	March 29
Blake Gaskins	March 9	Michael McGinnis	March 29
Roy Jensen	March 10	Carol Orwig	March 31



January 2013

Receipts

\$44,428

Expenditures

\$16,822

YTD income*: \$44,428

YTD expenditures: \$16,822

Total Annual Budget: \$240,342

*This includes memorial giving.

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

From Our Youth ~



THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

**For your support of our Valentine's Day Lasagna Dinner!
By Gods' grace working through your generous hearts, more than
\$700 has come in to support our ministries in the coming year.**

Women's Fellowship Groups ~ Thursday March 7 *Come and visit!*

The daytime women's group (Agape Fellowship) meets at 1 p.m. at the home of Billie Cowand, **342 Lakeview Circle, Duncanville.**

The evening women's group (Sarah Fellowship) meets at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Marna Bayless, **836 Glen Oaks Blvd, Dallas.**



Both groups will be looking at two scriptures: 1 Peter 5:1-11 and 2 John.

Reminder: Women's Mini-Retreat ~ March 15-16

Waxahachie Holiday Inn Express, 6:30 Friday—noon Saturday



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!



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).

Perhaps you would like to invite a friend from outside the church. Friends are welcome!

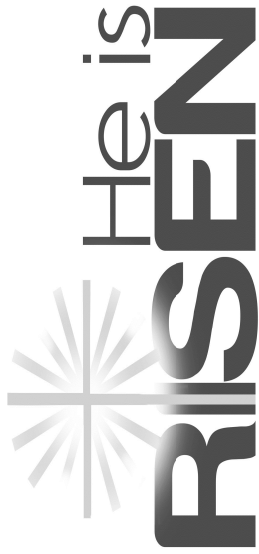


**Men's Fellowship ~ Mark your calendars for our March breakfast ~
Saturday, March 16, 8:00 a.m. Our speaker will be Dr. Walter,
whose illustrious patients include Steve Bayless and Tom Harmon!**

March 2013

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																					
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3 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 6:00 PM Lenten Bible Study	4 5:15 PM Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	5	6 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	7 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	8	9 8:00 AM NEW Men's Ministry																																																																																					
10 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Lenten Bible Study	11	12	13 6:00 PM - 7:15 PM Lenten Series with Ginger 6:15 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	14 1:00 PM Agape Women's Fellowship 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Fellowship	15 Newsletter Articles Due <div>Women's Retreat - Holiday Inn</div>	16																																																																																					
17 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Lenten Bible Study 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 6:30 PM Session Meeting	22	23																																																																																					
24 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 6:00 PM Lenten Bible Study Palm Sunday	25 Sandwiches for the Homeless	26	27 5:00 PM Youth Group - The Bridge Ministry 6:15 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	28 7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service	29 7:00 PM Good Friday Service	30 6:00 am-12:00 am Prayer Vigil Day of Fasting																																																																																					
31 7:00 AM Sunrise Service on Patio followed by Pancake Breakfast 9:15 AM Sunday School (Easter Egg Hunt) 10:30 AM Worship Palm Sunday																																																																																											



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2013

Remember each other in daily prayer.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
					1 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	2 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Carol McKinney
3 Steve & Marna Bayless Gary & Linda Simons Rachel Malcolm Perrault	4 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	5 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Allen & Wanda Shipman	6 Andrew & Ashley Dittman John Winifred Cook	7 Bob & Liz Moore Charles Tyer Joan Brown Bob Harrison	8 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	9 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee The Schaefers
10 Jamie & Lorraine Cordova Jimmy, Vanessa, Valerie & Jason	11 David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau & Blake	12 Paul & Helen Barton Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger Dudley Austin	13 Roy & Wendy Jensen Billie Cowand Boyd Roberts	14 Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Don & Edie Burquest Don & Sheri Trask	15 Albert & Sara Teel Keith & Gail Haynes Jack & Diane Pegues	16 Eddie & Darlene Cowand Bill & Vangie Jackson Connie Steger
17 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	18 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan	19 Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd	20 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netmiss	21 David Hertenstein Evelyn Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	22 Irving & Peggy Kezar Deborah Titus Gary & Nita Malone Pat Sparr	23 Nadine Daum Ariel, Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman
24 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Larry & Margaret Lewis	25 Miguel & Fanny Penaloza McGinnis, Eric & Erin Mike	26 Darrell & Sharon Ingram Sam & Charlotte Fithian	27 Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon Andrew Watts	28 Paul & Claudia Grif- fith Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	29 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Barbara Notari	30 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner
31 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal						

8 The Epistle

Welcome & THANK YOU to our new two deacons!



Billie Cowand



Erin McGinnis

From all our Deacons:

Your Deacons are looking forward to this Lenten season along with the rest of you. What a joyous but solemn time in the life of our church. Please continue to let us know of your happy as well as difficult times so we can support you. Call any of the Deacons or the office with your news or needs. Please be sure to let us know if these items are private or for general distribution.

One of the coming events will be an **Easter egg hunt** for the younger children of our congregation during Sunday School on Easter morning beginning around 9:15. If you would like to help support this, please bring plastic eggs or packaged treats to the office. You may bring these from Sunday February 17 through Sunday March 24. Thank you!