

First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

Our vision: Seeking God first, who first loved us.

*Our Mission: Knowing & loving God; obeying & worshiping him together;
sharing Jesus & his love with everyone.*

March 2009

Vol. 17 No. 3

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF: Rev. Ginger Hertenstein

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director
Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative Assistant/
Bookkeeper
Tom Wylie,
Accompanist/Youth Director

*"The Epistle" is a monthly
publication of
First Presbyterian Church,
Duncanville, Texas.*

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All during March we will journey with Jesus, with a close eye on how He shaped his disciples as He moved toward Jerusalem and the cross. We have opened ourselves to God's call on our lives by committing to take that deeper step of daily Bible reading and prayer. By taking this step, we seek Jesus' touch on our lives. This is a worthy endeavor, especially appropriate for Lent, which is truly a time of sweeping away lethargy so that our life in Christ can burst forth in new growth.

We began the first week in March talking about Jesus feeding the 5,000. What a profound miracle that reflects God's most basic faithfulness to provide for God's children. When we ponder our response to this story, we realize it means we, like the disciples, have to take the risk of faith and obedience. It was only as they obediently brought their meager resources to Him that Jesus was able to work. That was a worthy risk and their faithful obedience certainly received an abundant award.

As we spend time with the Lord each day, let's listen for His direction for First Presbyterian Church. What call might Jesus have for each one of us? Each of us has a role to play within the ministry of the church. At the end of the month, we will have a "Ministry Team Fair" where we will all have the opportunity to see what the various ministries of the church are up to and where we might fit in.

It's an exciting time for First Presbyterian Church. I applaud you for your enthusiasm and your commitment. May this season bless you with great joy as you grow deeper into a lively and profound spiritual practice.

Blessings,
Ginger

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

From the Worship
Team

The Season of Lent

The season of Lent has not been well observed in much of evangelical Christianity, largely because it was associated with "high church" liturgical worship that some churches were eager to reject. However, much of the background of evangelical Christianity, for example the heritage of John Wesley, was very "high church." Many of the churches that had originally rejected more formal and deliberate liturgy are now recovering aspects of a larger Christian tradition as a means to refocus on spirituality in a culture that is increasingly secular.

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays **in** Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food. Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.



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Christian Resource Institute

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LENTEN CALENDAR

April 5 — Palm Sunday

FPCD will have a Palm Sunday Worship Service starting at 10:30 am. The sanctuary will be adorned in palm leaves.

April 9 — Maundy Thursday

FPCD will have a Maundy Thursday Service with communion & a Cantata starting at 7:00 pm. The Choir will present a special cantata unique in concept, soaring in spirit, and with music, text, and narration by Pepper Choplin. ***Come Touch the Robe*** allows us to encounter Jesus Christ Lord of healing, glory, authority, humility, and victory. This work uses the simple garment that Jesus wore as a thematic device to recount the interaction of those who were with Him during His last days on Earth. To a suffering woman, His robe conveyed divine healing. On the mountaintop, the robe shone and filled the disciples' eyes with His glory and authority. When Jesus laid His garment aside in the upper room, it displayed His humility as a servant. At the tomb, the grave clothes He left behind help us experience His resurrection and the victory over death. It is through these personal, touching moments that our hearts are fully prepared to meet Jesus in an intimate way, allowing us to experience the healing, the glory, and the power of Christ, and rejoice in the stirring celebration of the resurrection of the Lamb of God.

April 10 — Good Friday

FPCD will be having a Prayer Vigil in the Sanctuary from 6:00 am to 12:00 am. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex with 30 minute time slots. Hymnals, Bibles, books for Meditation, CD's & a CD player will be provided. Feel free to bring your own Bible, books or inspirational music.

April 12 — Easter

FPCD will have a Easter Sunrise service (pancake breakfast) & a 10:30 am Worship Service. The Easter Sunrise service will be lead by the Youth. Easter lilies will be available to purchase in honor or memory of someone.

Session Notes

SESSION NOTES

Session Notes

Action taken at the January 22, 2009, session meeting:

- Called for a congregational meeting immediately following the worship service on February 15, 2009, for the purpose of re-opening the installed pastor position at FPCD.
- Approved renewal of stated supply contract with the Rev Ginger Hertenstein for the period March 9, 2009 through September 8, 2009.
- Approved financial report for year-end 2008.
- Elected Helen Barton and Jocelyn Bolles as elder commissioners to the next Presbytery meeting to be held Feb 28, 2009, at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church in Richardson.
- Approved minutes of 11/20/08 Session meeting.
- Approved minutes of 11/23/08 Congregational meeting.
- Approved minutes of 12/18/08 Joint Session/Deacons meeting.
- Approved minutes of 01/19/09 Annual Congregational meeting.
- Accepted all committee reports.



Property

Action taken at the February 19, 2009, session meeting:

- Approved financial report for January 2009.
- Approved minutes of 01/22/09 Session meeting as corrected.
- Approved minutes of 02/15/09 Congregational meeting.
- Approved request from Carol & Norris McKinney for the use of Fellowship Hall on June 5, 2009, for Christy McKinney's wedding rehearsal dinner.
- Approved request from Trinity Presbyterian Church, McKinney, for the transfer of membership of Andrene and Jim Hull.
- Approved request from Property Committee to proceed with needed roof repairs (Education Wing and Fellowship Hall) at a cost of approximately \$2,500.
- Approved communion dates for 2009 (first Sunday of each month and Maundy Thursday).
- Accepted all committee reports.

Property

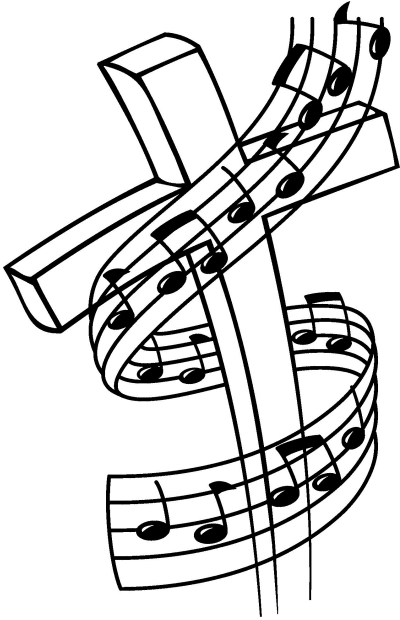


Last month we asked if anyone noticed anything unusual about our Wheatland Road church sign during the time since it was repaired in May or June of last year? Well for those of you who didn't notice I am going to spill the beans!

On both sides of the sign the word Church was misspelled. It said "First Presbyterian Chrch".

(The sign has since been fixed by the sign company.)

Duncanville's Mr. Music



Steve Bayless' talent and experience in music are as large as the instruments he plays. And they are among the largest in the orchestra—the tuba and the bass violin. He is equally as comfortable at the conductor's stand and the composer's desk.

For the past 14 years Steve has served as Minister of Music at First Presbyterian Church of Duncanville. He enjoys working closely with Rev. Ginger Hertenstein so that the music used in worship supports the message of the service. His desire is “to tie it all together—musically and scripturally.” Sometimes this involves composing a special arrangement for use by the choir. Steve's extensive musical experience enables him to draw on many styles to fit the occasion—traditional hymns and choral anthems, or contemporary gospel songs and spirituals. He has also spearheaded a number of musical presentations at the church, some with accompanying string orchestras. On the 4th of July he organized and lead a Dixieland band on the lawn of the church to entertain Duncanville residents who gathered there to watch the city's fireworks.

Steve is a long time resident of southwest Dallas County. His family moved to Oak Cliff when he was in high school, for his father was pastor of Oak Cliff Presbyterian Church. His aptitude and love for music showed up as a child. He absorbed the music of the church as the son of a pastor. He learned to pick out chords and melodies on a family Autoharp and listened avidly to a variety of records on a Victrola. Steve stated that by the time he was in first grade he had a good repertoire of different styles of music and tunes.

After completing a music major at UNT, he returned to the Oak Cliff area to teach. In his first job he began bands in six elementary schools there, teaching the students to play the needed instruments. At the time music teachers were paid by the number of pupils they instructed; Steve's accomplishment surprised many. He then became Assistant Band Director and Orchestra Director at Kimball High School. From there he went on to teach at Dallas Baptist University, East Texas University and Mt. View College.

Directing choirs has also been a part of Steve's interest. He began at his father's church, then served at First Presbyterian of Dallas and Rosemont Christian Church before coming to First Presbyterian Church of Duncanville. Outside of church Steve lends his musical support to the Silver Serenaders, a singing group of seniors that is well known in the area.

In 1974 Steve and his wife Marna established their own music production company that has produced a variety of projects from German bands, a Fife and Drum Corps complete with costumes and 3-corner hats to an 18 piece orchestra that plays dinner music, to conventions, to fund raisers with Julie Andrews and Clinton Eastwood for the Dallas Center for the Performing Arts. In the summer of 2007, Steve composed the music for the opening session of the Rotary International Convention at Salt Lake City. The International Children's Choir sang his music at the event. As a member of the Oak Cliff Lion's Club, Steve works on their musical variety show for their annual fundraiser. It's no wonder that some of his music projects become all night events more often than not.



PW NEWS

PW CIRCLES

**PW
News**

Our PW Circles meet monthly (except for the summer months of June, July and August), and the dates and places are below. If you do not currently attend a Circle, please consider doing so. The Circles meet in different homes each month and enjoy Bible Study, prayer, good discussions, desserts and fellowship. There is a daytime and an evening Circle.

The study for this year will be the PW Horizon's Bible Study taken from the Gospel of Luke:

Jubilee!

Luke's Gospel for the Poor

by Dale Lindsay Morgan

**Movie
Night**

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday, March 5 at 7:30 pm at the home of Nancy Bergman, 1063 Fairmeadows Circle, Duncanville, 972-709-0268.

Agape Circle: Meeting Friday, March 13 at 10:00 am at the home of Billie Cowand, 342 Lakeview Circle, Duncanville, 972-298-5449.

MOVIE NIGHT AT THE FPCD CINEMA



Join us for a fun night at the movies. We will use our new projector to show the recently released movie, Fireproof, on Saturday, March 28 from 6:45-9pm in the sanctuary. Fireproof stars Kirk Cameron and was produced and directed by the church that produced the movie, Facing the Giants. Fireproof is a heartwarming movie that teaches us to never leave our partner behind.

We will have popcorn, drinks and it's FREE!! This is a great opportunity to invite your friends and neighbors to enjoy an evening out without spending a dime. The nursery will be available for the little ones and the youngsters will have their own movie night with popcorn and lemonade! Tom Wylie will have something fun cooked up for the youth, so it will be a fun night for the whole family.

Be thinking of who you know that would enjoy a free night out and invite them to spend the evening with us. Please no smooching in the balcony!!



YOUTH PAGE

Youth All-Stars

Each month, we feature one of the youth from FPCD's Youth Group.

This month's Youth All-Star is: **Grant Everett**

Full Name: *Grant Edward Everett*
 Birthdate: *October 9, 1992*
 Grade: *10th, (Sophomore)*
 School: *Home Schooled*
 Fav. Food: *Mexican Food*
 Fav. Drink: *Water*
 Fav. Color: *Blue*
 Hobbies: *Acting, singing, attempting to dance*
 Fav. Song: *Hit the Road, Jack*
 Fav. Movie: *Glory Road*
 Fav. Book: *The Bible*
 Fav. TV Show: *Whose Line is it, Anyway?*
 Extracurricular: *Basketball, Acting, Choir*



Youth Page

Something most people don't know about me is: *I love acting & love old school soul music!!*

Something funny that happened to me was: *I was at a rehearsal & wondering why my Mom wasn't picking up her cell phone, until I realized I was using her own cell phone to call her!*



MARCH EVENTS

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
March 1 st	Frisbee & Water Balloon Madness	FPCD
March 8 th	Daylight Savings' Softball Night	FPCD
March 15 th -18 th	Spring Break Campout	TBA
March 22 nd	DVD Movie Night	FPCD
March 29 th	Laser Tag	Alley Cats, Arlington

YOUTH CONTINUED

GET CONNECTED!

Youth:

If you are currently in the 7th through 12th grade, the First Presbyterian Youth Group is for you! We meet on Sunday nights at the church from 6:00-8:00pm for Bible study, wild & crazy games, field trips, and of course, food! Contact Tom Wylie for more information at; 817.734.1786 or wyliefam1@earthlink.net

Adults:

If you are interested in becoming a youth sponsor, it's a great excuse to act like a teenager again. Come and join us; you'll never be the same! Contact Tom Wylie at; 817.734.1786, or wyliefam1@earthlink.net

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Look Who's Cooking for Youth

March 1—Katherine Liddle

March 8—Gail Haynes

March 15—Helen Barton

March 22—Lori Glover

March 29—TBA (Volunteer Needed!)



New Sunday School class for 4th, 5th & 6th grades being taught by Sandy Wylie. If you know any tweens please invite them.

The Youth Group Group has renamed their group the "Hands of God Youth."

Tom Wylie has been leading the youth for 7 weeks. We are excited about the new faces we have seen with approximately 15-20 youth attending. We say a great big thanks.

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—3/1
Bobby Reed—3/2
Marjorie Ochs—3/3
George Huttar—3/3
David Gaskins—3/5
Irving Kezar—3/5
Paul Barton—3/8
Nancy Bergman—3/9
Roy Jensen—3/10
Pat Sparr—3/12
Dudley Austin—3/17
Dick Bergman—3/23
Tom Harmon—3/27

Bookkeeper's Report

January 2009

Receipts
\$12,830

Expenditures
\$11,873

ATTENDANCE

February 2008

3-February-74
10-February-64
17-February-66
24-February-59

February 2009

1-February-88
8-February-70
15-February-68
22-February-85

Youth
Continued

Christian
Education
News

Bookkeeper's
Report

Attendance

Birthdays

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

March 2009

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

March	1	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Lori Glover Sharon Ingram Anna Murphy Sean Russell, Jody Fox Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
March	8	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen Bob Moore Dave Bolles Sandy Wylie Sharon Ingram Sean Russell, Jody Fox Lori Glover, Jocelyn Bolles
March	15	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy Albert Teel Helen Barton Savannah Baker-Teel Katherine Liddle Sean Russell, Jody Fox Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
March	22	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Mickey & Betty Jespersen Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Joan Brown Margaret Lewis Jocelyn Bolles Sean Russell, Jody Fox Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
March	29	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues Tom Harmon Helen Barton Helen Barton Sean Russell, Jody Fox Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

FPC PRAYER CALENDAR

March 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
1 Del & Dorothy Anderson Bryan & Winfred Cook	2 Paul & Helen Barton Bill & Ruth Yingst Doris Metzger	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton	4 Joan Brown Tom & Sandy Wylie Thomas, Katie & Abby	5 Jack & Diane Pegues Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andres & Rachelle	6 Larry & Margaret Lewis Pat Sparr	7 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan
8 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	9 Norris & Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin	10 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	11 Nadine Doura Ariel & Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman	12 George & Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	14 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Melissa, Carol & Neal
15 Bill Farish Robert & Catherine Eagle Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen	17 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R.	18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Jim & Andrene Hull	19 Tom & Lois Harmon Eunice Pike Jackie Walke	20 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Jay & Jessica	21 Roy & Wendy Jensen Don & Edie Burquest
22 Eddie & Brenda Everett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant	23 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To David & Kathy Barr Genny & Caitlin	24 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Teresa Rodrigues	25 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand	26 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather	27 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless Gail Haynes	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn & Andrew
29 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Bob & Liz Moore	30 Stan & June West Sara & Matthew Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	31 Melody Meistrell Eric & Amy Slater Cody				



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Christian Education	— 9:15 a.m.
Worship Service	— 10:30 a.m.
Youth Group	— 6:00-8:00 p.m.