



First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

April 2010

Vol. 18 No. 4

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

543 East Freeman St.
Duncanville, TX 75116
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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev.

Ginger Hertenstein

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director

Sandy Gaskins,
Administrative
Assistant/Bookkeeper

Sean Russell,
Soundroom Technician

Susan Seamans,
Accompanist

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Pastor's Message for Easter

Easter is upon us and we are prepared because this Lenten season many of us have “taken on more of Jesus” by gathering on Wednesday evenings for a time of worship, listening to a passage of Scripture, and prayer. Together we have discovered new things about Jesus, and what His call is on our lives. When we spend time with Jesus we cannot help but be drawn closer to Him and that certainly is a blessing. I’m pleased that so many of you have taken this on. Bravo to you! You have made FPCD a place where seeking God is desirable and the Christian lifestyle is encouraged. That is exactly what the world needs – to see modern-day disciples fully engaged with their Savior, whose very presence opens wide the doors of transformation.

Our study in Exodus has taught me that our God is a big picture God. It amazes me that God’s plans for our deliverance began so long ago and point so distinctly to Jesus’ death on our behalf. It’s wonderful to learn the details, and how we “passover” to God through Jesus’ death and resurrection. What a great preparation for Easter week events. Maundy Thursday we will feel as if we are at the Last Supper with a cantata in which “real” disciples reenact the story, and we all take communion together that night. Then Friday’s prayer vigil gives us each a 30 minute to an hour timeslot in the sanctuary to watch and pray. Be sure to participate in that moving event. For you early birds, Sunday morning at 7 am we’ll gather on the patio for a casual sunrise service to recall the events, encounters, and circumstances of that morning of Jesus’ resurrection when the women and disciples joyfully discovered that unbelievable miracle of God’s power and presence. Breakfast follows, and then the regular worship service at 10:30.

It takes time and intention to go deeper into Jesus. How do we accomplish that in such a busy culture? Together. I am motivated by your love of the Lord and the brightness of your faces as you discover something new about Him. We are encouraged by the ministries of one another – whether it be those who sing or teach or do Bible studies or prepare meals or send cards or get involved in the community. What a blessing you are as you come with the intention of seeking Jesus. I am more encouraged than ever, because of your growing faith. Thank you for that!

Blessings,
Ginger

WORDS FROM WORSHIP

Words from Worship

SYMBOLS of our faith...**Symbols of the Twelve Apostles**



The scriptures inform us that James was the first of the disciples to die a martyr's death, and indeed the only one whose manner of death is exactly known. Acts 12:2 informs us that James was martyred for the faith by way of a sword.

The symbolism on John's shield is a chalice and a serpent. This symbol is based on a legend in which a pagan priest gave this apostle some poisoned wine to drink. According to the legend John made the sign of the cross over the chalice, and the poison became a serpent and crawled out of the chalice. This story isn't true, but it does serve to remind us that John escaped a martyr's death.

For over seventy years John maintained a firm and fearless witness. John's love was constantly centered on the Lord, and his witness was always for His glory.

The Legend of the Dogwood

There's a legend that the dogwood was once the size of the oak and other forest trees. It was so strong and firm that it was chosen as the timber for Christ's cross. This greatly distressed the tree. Jesus, nailed upon it, sensed the tree's regret and told it: "Because of your sorrow for my suffering, never again shall the dogwood grow large enough to be used as a cross. It shall be slender, bent and twisted. Its blossoms shall form a cross—two long and two short petals. And at the outer edge of each petal will be nail prints, brown with rust and stained with red. In the center of the flower shall be a crown of thorns. And all who see it will remember."



There's More!

On the first Easter morning, three women found an empty tomb. The discovery left them trembling and afraid. They didn't know there was more—a resurrected Lord. Later that day, the risen Jesus appeared. As happy as the disciples were about the miracle, they didn't yet know there was more—a gift of the Holy Spirit that would make their joy complete. Early Christians in Corinth were so delighted by the gift of baptism that they could scarcely imagine there was more—the resurrection of the body to eternal life. As great as Easter is, it's only the "first fruits" of what lies ahead. Celebrate the fact that Christ is risen, but remember that the best is yet to come!

WORDS FROM WORSHIP

Special Maundy Thursday Cantata and Dramatic Presentation of da Vinci's "The Last Supper"

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us at 7 p.m. on April 1 for "The Living Last Supper." This dramatic musical allows attendees to experience the Last Supper that Jesus shared with his disciples the night before his death.

Based on Leonardo da Vinci's beloved painting, "The Last Supper," the Cantata retells the happenings of Jesus' final dinner, with His 12 disciples discussing the main question that took place that night: *Is it I who will betray you?* These characters will display very human emotions associated with the story of Jesus' ministry and its impact.

Our choir, under Director Steve Bayless and accompanied by a stringed orchestra, will sing the Cantata, written by Ruth Elaine Schram. If you would like to contribute to the cost of this special service please write "Cantata" in the memo line of your check.



From
Barton,
Moore,

left, Paul
Bob
Grant

Everett, David Hertenstein, Tom Harmon, Malcolm Perrault, Sean Russell, Dean Hertenstein, Larry Lewis, Eddie Everett, Scott Hartless, Charlie Glover and David Liddle.

Easter Prayer Vigil

A vigil means to stay awake and keep watch. Years ago vigils were kept on the eve of a special holy day. Jesus took the disciples to Gethsemane to "keep watch, and pray." This is now our tradition too, to spend time in the sanctuary to pray for ourselves, our church, and our world. Beginning at 6 am on April 2, and continuing until midnight, 30 minute to one hour timeslots are allotted. Anyone can sign up, including individuals, families, friends, and youth. We ask that anyone under 16 have adult supervision. To assist you in your time of prayer, Bibles and other devotional materials appropriate for all ages will be available. A prayer journal will be available for all, if you would like to write your prayer or leave a prayer request.

You will find a sense of holiness and awe that is really special and unique as you draw aside to the sanctuary to pray. If you spent 30 minutes last year, try an hour this year. You will be amazed at the blessing of your prayer experience. Sign up in the Narthex!



Words from
Worship

DeaConGo Team News

DeaConGo Team News

Well here we are already in April 2010 and while our work in the first couple of months has involved assisting with memorial services and receptions for long-time members or their family members, we can take heart in knowing that our brothers and sisters in Christ are resting in God's arms. Our prayers remain with the Yingst, McKinney, Anderson and Kauffmann families as well as others who have lost loved ones. Many thanks to all the volunteers that helped by making meals, delivering gift baskets, setting up and cleaning up, ushering, parking lot attending & anything else we've missed.



The DeaConGo Team had a great planning session the first of March and we want you to mark your calendars now for some of the upcoming events. For those of you attending the weekly Lenten programs, we hope you have enjoyed the suppers served ahead of time in Fellowship Hall each week as much as we have enjoyed preparing them. In April, we will serve a Pancake Breakfast immediately following the Easter Sunrise Service which is scheduled for 7 a.m. The breakfast will be before Sunday School and our regular worship service.

WE'RE GOING TO A



Baseball and the Rangers – May 18th is the date for this well-attended event. We always seem to have a great turnout for this one. Last year, in spite of the original rainout and rescheduling, we sold 100 tickets. So reserve the date, Tuesday night May 18. We are ordering the tickets soon and will have them on sale earlier this year. The price did go up to \$5.00 but by getting a head start, we expect to get somewhat better seating.

BALL GAME!

There is a progressive dinner in the works, and when we finalize the participating hosts/hostesses, we will publish the particulars. We haven't had one of these in years and we are sure it will be enjoyed by all. The plan is to travel to the first stop for salad/appetizers, on to the next stop for the entree and then all come back to the church for coffee/tea, dessert and a Bingo Night.

A new idea of Memories Night will be forthcoming (date to be determined) where you will have an opportunity to share family memories with pictures and narration. This could prove to be hilarious if you are willing to share some family secrets and admit that we all come from slightly dysfunctional families.



In September the Deacons will host a "Build your Own Taco" night. The activity following dinner is still being planned but it's sure to be amazingly fun!

The Thanksgiving dinner and PW Auction are a given for later in the year and, as the nicer weather gets here, we will begin our Lemonade on the Lawn after-church socials.

Do you know?

Do you know who your deacon is? Regular church attendees should have received a letter from your deacon introducing himself/herself. If you did not receive a letter in March please contact Sandy Gaskins at the church office, 972-298-3043.

After much work the new church directories are complete and ready to pick up at the back of the sanctuary or in the church office.



Hands Of God Youth HAPPENINGS

March activities

We continue to study the stories of the Old Testament. We recently completed the story of Jacob and Esau. When we return after spring break, we'll begin our study of Moses.

Summer Mission Work

We've begun discussion of our Summer Mission Trip. Stay tuned for more details, as we might be teaming up with a group from Idaho (wonder who their leader is?) and may need some help with providing a couple of meals and host homes for a couple of nights.



We continue to average 6-8 youth each week. If you would like to lead discussion, play a game or serve a meal, please sign up on the HOGY calendar, posted on the door of the Youth room, or contact Lori Glover or Anna Murphy. Youth meets Sunday evenings from 4:30-6:00 in Fellowship Hall.

Our Youth Are AwEsOmE!

The search for a Youth Pastor/Director still continues. If you know of someone you think would be interested, contact Lori Glover or Anna Murphy. This is a part-time position.

CHURCH WORK DAY

We hope you will plan to be at the church on Saturday, April 24 to help do some spring cleaning, both inside and outside. There will be lots of yard work as well as some other special projects. If you know of something that needs to be done, this would be a great time to do it. We will have a list of tasks in the narthex that you can sign up to do or just come and help out where needed. There are also many things to be done inside the church buildings as well, for those that don't care to work outside. Please plan to come and work and enjoy lots of good fellowship in the process!!



Attendance

ATTENDANCE

BOOKKEEPER'S REPORT

February 2009

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

February 2010

7-February-84
14-February-78
21-February-71
28-February-82

February 2010

Receipts
\$12,304

Expenditures
\$21,384

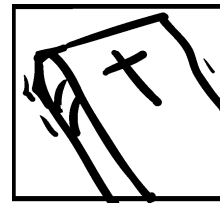
Bookkeeper's
Report

PW NEWS

PW NEWS

Bible Study and Fellowship

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. For more information, please contact Helen Barton or Joan Brown.



In the nine lessons of *Joshua: A Journey of Faith*, Mary Mikhael invites us to explore the challenging, sometimes heartrending, book of Joshua. Pursuing such themes as leadership, the promise of land, the concept of "holy war," and outsiders becoming insiders, we learn ultimately to find rest in the justice and mercy of God.

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday evening, April 8 at 7:30 pm at the home of Nancy Bergman, 1063 Fairmeadows Circle, Duncanville, 972-709-0268. We will be studying Lesson 8 in our study books. ***Please note that Sarah Circle has changed its meeting night to the second Thursday of each month.***

Agape Circle: Meeting Thursday, March 11 at 1 p.m. at the home of Lois Harmon, 207 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville, 972-296-8224. We will be discussing Lesson 4 in the study books.

PW MISSIONS



PW Mission emphasis for the coming year is helping to care for vulnerable children in Kamwenge, Uganda by donating funds for educational needs and school supplies.

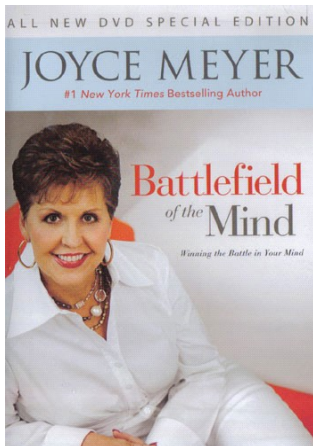
Kamwenge Vocational School is a community school in the heart of rural Uganda with a vision to transform this poor community into a self-sustained and responsible one with a high sense of integrity and accountability in a Christian transforming environment.

The school is located on 20 acres of land in the district of Kamwenge, western Uganda. This area has a population of 300,000 people, mostly refugees from neighboring countries, and is considered one of the poorest in Uganda. Parents cannot afford to send their children to school and do not understand the importance of education. This illiteracy has increased the cycle of HIV/AIDS and poverty. The Kamwenge School aims to equip individuals with skills for sustainable socio-economic development, a holistic approach of building the Kingdom of God.

How You Can Help! We will be accepting donations toward this cause at our Circle Meetings through the year and also designating a portion of our PW fundraisers toward this project. Our two PW fundraisers are the Spring Plant and Bake Sale and the PW Family Spaghetti Supper and Christmas Auction. We hope you will prayerfully consider joining with us to help these Ugandan families build a better life through education and hopefully to see the love of Jesus Christ through our generosity and concern.



PW NEWS continued



2010 Mini Retreat

Our PW Mini-Retreat was a great experience!

Many thanks to all who came and participated in our Retreat! We heard a very practical and inspiring message from Joyce Meyer that we can incorporate into our daily living. We would like to thank Katherine Liddle and Brenda Everett for leading our music. Our white elephant exchange had some “return visitors” which really added to the fun. We had good discussions, sharing, prayer and lots of good fellowship—not to mention the endless snacking! We are already looking forward to next year, so plan to join us if you weren’t able to come this year.

PW NEWS
continued



The annual PW Plant and Bake Sale is fast approaching!! On April 25 at 10:15 am outside in the Church Courtyard, and continuing after the Church service, at 11:30 am, delicious baked goods & beautiful plants and flowers will be offered for sale. The purpose of this sale is to help replenish our treasury, to fund special mission projects within & outside of our church.

Please donate baked goods and/or plants to sell and bring them to Church on the morning of the 25th. Pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, fudge & various desserts and breads would be welcomed. Please bring plants already potted, or plants in a flat or in temporary containers that are ready to be planted. And, of course, we need ladies and men, young and old, to purchase the baked goods and/or plants. Some well-loved specialties include Jocelyn Bolles' Rhubarb Pie or Apple Pie, and other special treats from Armelia Jimmerson and others.

This is always a fun event and we have some great cooks in our Church!

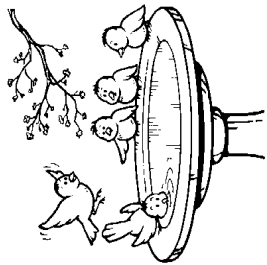
WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE
April 2010
10:30 A.M. SERVICE

April 4	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eddie Cowand, Sharon Ingram Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Leo Skinner Lori Glover Katherine Liddle Sean Russell Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
April 11	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand Tom Harmon Anna Murphy Lois Harmon Sean Russell Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis
April 18	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Albert Teel, Bob Moore Scott Hartless Sandy Gaskins Sharon Ingram Sean Russell Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner
April 25	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Gail Haynes, Burle Murphy Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Lori Glover Sharon Ingram Jocelyn Bolles Sean Russell Lori Glover, Bob Moore

April 2010

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
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4 7:00 AM Sunrise Service on Patio followed by Pancake Breakfast 9:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt for Kids 9:30 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study EASTER	5 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting	6	7 6:30 PM -7:15 PM Prayer Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	8 1:00 PM Agape Circle 6:30 PM Worship Meeting 7:30 PM Sarah Circle	9	10																																																																																											
11 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM -6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study	12 4:30 PM Deacons' Meeting	13	14 6:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	15 <div>Newsletter Deadline</div>	16	17 <div>7:00 PM Movie Night</div>																																																																																											
18 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	19	20	21 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	22 7:00 PM Session Meeting	23	24 <div>Church Work Day</div>																																																																																											
25 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 4:30 PM -6:00 PM Youth 6:00 PM Evening Small Group Study <div>PW Spring Bake & Plant Sale</div>	26 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre	27	28 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	29	30																																																																																												



FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

April 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
4 Joan Brown Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle John Alsop	5 Jack & Diane Pegues Boyd Roberts Connie Steger Malcolm Perrault	6 Larry & Margaret Lewis David & Evelyn Hertenstein	7 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Albert & Sara Teel Savannah	8 Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein	9 Carol McKinney Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia	10 Dorothy Cleary Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman
11 Nadine Doura Ariel & Leah Dick & Nancy Bergman	12 George & Billie Coward David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner Don & Sheri Trask	14 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	15 Bill Farish Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Burle Murphy	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jespersen Keith & Gail Haynes	17 Susan Murphy Eddie & Brenda Ev- erett Jocelyn, Natalie, & Grant
18 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Michelle Petersen	19 Tom & Lois Harmon Eunice Pike Christy Coward Brandon	20 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon In- gram Jessica Bob & Liz Moore	21 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle	22 Jim & Andrene Hull Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	23 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Jim & Pam Loyd	24 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Hut- tar The Schaefers
25 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Coward	26 Stan & June West Sara & Matthew Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz	27 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bay- less	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew	29 Gary & Linda Si- mons Rachel Simons	30 Carol Orwig Anna Murphy Nicholas & Heather	

A Thank You

The Family of Dorothy Anderson wishes to thank the congregation for all of their expressions of kindness and love during this time of loss. Mom and dad love this church and your love and caring towards us explains to us why. Thank you.

Del Anderson
Diane Scott
Debbie & Ed Landers
Doug & Barbara Anderson
Denise & Dan Seibold



A Thank
You

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.

Birthdays

Anna Murphy—4/2
Weston Russell—4/2
Steve Innis—4/5
Bob Harrison—4/7
Jim Hull—4/8
Del Anderson—4/11
John Alsop—4/12



Kevin Jespersen—4/13
Adelmo Ruiz—4/13
Evelyn Walters—4/15
Sandy Gaskins—4/16
Leah Jordan—4/20
Omar Rodriguez—4/22
Candace Reed—4/30

EASTER QUOTES

The resurrection gives my life meaning and direction and the opportunity to start over no matter what my circumstances. ~Robert Flatt

The joyful news that He is risen does not change the contemporary world. Still before us lie work, discipline, sacrifice. But the fact of Easter gives us the spiritual power to do the work, accept the discipline, and make the sacrifice. ~Henry Knox Sherrill

Tomb, thou shalt not hold Him longer;
Death is strong, but Life is stronger;
Stronger than the dark, the light;
Stronger than the wrong, the right...
~Phillips Brooks, "An Easter Carol"

See the land, her Easter keeping,
Rises as her Maker rose.
Seeds, so long in darkness sleeping,
Burst at last from winter snows.
Earth with heaven above rejoices...
~Charles Kingsley

Let every man and woman count himself immortal. Let him catch the revelation of Jesus in his resurrection. Let him say not merely, "Christ is risen," but "I shall rise." ~Phillips Brooks

But from this earth, this grave, this dust,
My God shall raise me up, I trust. ~Walter Raleigh

And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here. ~St Augustine

EASTER
QUOTES

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DUNCANVILLE, TX 75116
(972) 298-3043 / fax: (972) 298-5312
Email: info@fpcd.org
Website: www.fpcd.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

- **Christian Education**
- **Worship Service**
- **Youth Group**
- **9:15 a.m.**
- **10:30 a.m.**
- **4:30-6:00 p.m.**