

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

First Presbyterian Church EPISTLE

April

Vol. 20,

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF:

Rev. Ginger Hertenstein,
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Sound Room Technician

Susan Murphy,
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From our Pastor

By the time you read this we will have entered the mysteries of Holy Week, a week of incredible darkness and stunning light; of betrayal and tears; and ultimately the most surprising redemption. That is why we tell the story and sing the story, gathering on Thursday and Friday for services to ponder it together as community. And, then as individuals or families, we take the time to pray in the sanctuary, contemplating the magnificent meaning of what Jesus Christ has done for us.

The disciples and women, of course, struggle to understand it that Sunday morning. They stumble in the darkness before dawn, they hide behind closed doors, they don't believe one another. How many details are provided us! So we watch them with a smile, already knowing the outcome, and as we envision them, we are called to faith ourselves.

Jesus Christ is risen and He is on the move! Karl Barth warns that the Risen Christ passes through closed doors. There is no stopping Him. He moves forward, calling them, and calling us now. What is the call? He calls us out of unbelief to belief. And He sends us on a mission that He still embarks on Himself.

That's what makes the Christian faith so exciting. We do not go out on the mission alone. Jesus walks with us. So this month, make the assumption that He is with you. Ask anyone you can to join you. Come to all the services and be blessed by this spectacular good news. Come into the sanctuary and pray. You will see Jesus there. You will be just like the disciples who proclaimed, "I have seen the Lord." He is the Lord who has taken your need to heart and overcome death.

He is risen! Yes indeed!! Halleluiah!

Ginger

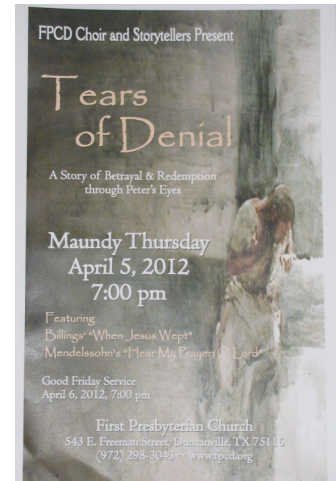


Words from Worship

Lent ends on April 7, the day before Easter. A number of us have found Lent to be especially helpful in our life in Christ this year, thanks to our observing it in community with others in our church. To encourage your taking advantage of these once-a-year opportunities, here's the schedule again for Thursday and Friday of Holy Week. This is also a great time to invite friends whose churches do not have services on those special days.

Maundy Thursday Service, April 5- 7:00 p.m. ~ "Tears of Denial"

This choral and dramatic presentation moves us from Jesus' last meal with his closest followers through Peter's threefold denial of Jesus. Through dramatic interpretations of Mark's Gospel, our storytellers retell the events of Christ's passion. The music, integrated with the drama, will feature Mendelssohn's "Hear my Prayer" - "O, For the Wings of a Dove", as well as works of Handel, Bach, American composer William Billings, Orlando Gibbons, and others.



Good Friday , April 6



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

Worship Service—7:00 p.m. St. Luke Presbyterian Church will be joining us , with their pastor Rev. Dr. Kasonga Wa Kasonga joining our pastor in leading the service .

And then at last, **EASTER!**

Easter, April 8-Sunrise Service - Steve Netniss preaching, youth leading—7:00

Pancake breakfast

10:30 Service - Ginger Hertenstein preaching



All children's **Sunday School** classes participated in a **picnic** at Cedar Hill State Park after church on Sunday **March 4**. The weather couldn't have been better and over 40 people attended. We roasted hotdogs and enjoyed them along with the chips and veggies that Lois provided. We played a couple rounds of scavenger hunt and Steve Netniss got a touch

football game going within 30 seconds of arrival. We ended the afternoon with sugar overload--first s'mores and then a chocolate cake to celebrate Jimmy Cordova's 13th birthday.

In spite of all that fun, we take Children's Christian Education seriously (which is why we even organize picnics) and aim to influence both the heads and the hearts of the children who attend our classes. We encourage you to bring your kids each Sunday at 9:15am so they can learn from God's word. We have classes for nursery through high school.

Missions News

What is **One Great Hour of Sharing**?

World War II was over. Much of Europe was in ruin. Cities were devastated; their citizens that still lived suffered from want and homelessness; refugees separated from family and country sought to find both again.

In 1949, to meet the needs for relief and reconstruction, several denominations formed an organization to appeal to their churches for support. In the following year this group was named One Great Hour of Sharing. It has included various participating communions, all using their funds for disaster relief, refugee assistance and development aid. Today projects are underway in more than 100 countries. The Presbyterians have given about ten million dollars annually to this effort.

Recent Projects

In January 2010, an earthquake devastated **Haiti**. Funding from Presbyterian Hunger Program, Disaster Assistance and Self Development programs made a difference. Its programs provided seed that allowed continual food production by folks relocated from Port-au-Prince. After the first harvest, seed from their crops enabled others to increase production and help ensure sustainable food sources for Haitians. Clean water was made available in the sugar worker towns of the Dominican Republic where Haitians had fled. These programs work for basic human rights and improvement of health for the people there.

In **Cameroon**, another project of Presbyterian Hunger Program joins national programs to help local farmers. Two—Fair Fruit and Credit against Poverty—provide loans to expand their agricultural activities and earn supplementary income by providing a market for their products. As a result their families can now afford schooling for their children and enjoy financial stability.

When we hear news reports of lives torn apart, we ask, "What can I do?" One Great Hour of Sharing is an answer to that. By your gifts you make it possible for the church to use its many personnel and agencies to step in and help in significant ways.

*Speaking of Presbyterians involved in serving others in need around the globe, here's part of a recent report from The Outreach Foundation on the situation in **Syria** and what Presbyterians are doing to help:*

During these days when each news cycle brings reports of violence and death in Syria, we want you to know that fellow Presbyterians are caught in the cross-fire of the Syrian conflict. We have received an appeal for help from Rev. Fadi Dagher, General Secretary of The National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (our Presbyterian partner). The Synod is reaching out to care for more than 250 Presbyterian families, mostly from the area of Homs, displaced by the violence and instability, who are now living as refugees in Syria and neighboring countries.

You can read more about The Outreach Foundation and Syria (including a link to a letter from Rev. Dagher) at <http://www.theoutreachfoundation.org/>.



Presbyterian Women News

You can be as active as you want to be in Presbyterian Women at our church! A number of us come to monthly fellowship gatherings (see below). All women in our church--and friends--are welcome to these gatherings.

An event that women of our church especially enjoy is the Mini Retreat which we hold early each spring. As you heard, this year's March 9-10 Mini Retreat focused on A Women's Prayer Life. It was a happy time of sharing and we came away with two items to remind us of what we'd learned!

Another way women and their families participate in PW activities is to come to the annual **Bake and Plant Sale, which this year will take place on Sunday, April 29.** Mark your calendar! Plan to pick up some beautiful bedding plants and/or planters that day and some delicious baked goods! *Please remember, we depend on volunteers to bring plants and/or baked goodies for sale at that event.* There will be a brief sale period before our 10:30 worship, and a longer sale time after worship. Proceeds from the bake sale go to projects such as our mission project. Our 2012 mission project is to support of the Sureste Theological Seminary in the state of Tabasco in Mexico.

April Agape and Sarah Women's Fellowship Meetings

Agape Fellowship will meet Thursday, April 12, at 1 pm at the home of Ruth Yingst, 926 Springwood Lane, Duncanville. The study will center on "Blessed are the peacemakers," Lesson 7.

Sarah Fellowship will also meet Thursday, April 12, but at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Jocelyn Bolles, 619 Athenia Way, Duncanville. The study will be on "Blessed are those who have been persecuted because of righteousness," Lesson 8.

Gracias! Danke! Khamsahamnida (감사합니다.)! Merci!

No matter how you say it, many thanks to two servant groups who have made a real gifts to our church family in the month of March.

First, heartfelt thanks to **Jocelyn Bolles, Helen Barton, and Nancy Bergman** who have been the chief cooks for the Lenten Suppers we have been enjoying on Wednesday evenings. The meals have been delicious and it has been a pleasure to eat together these weeks, just prior to the Lenten Bible Studies.

Second, sincere thanks and hats off to **Malcom Perrault and Steve Bayless** who repaired the exterior door which opens from a Sunday School room onto our playground!! The door had been left unlatched numbers of times over the past months. Careful examination, and thinking, led the men to realize that the door wasn't locking because the wide push-handle was not working correctly. The men found that a tiny screw was missing. Malcom and Steve purchased and installed that special screw, the handle again works correctly and now the door shuts and locks fine as you exit. Many thanks from one of the people who is glad to use that door!

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

April 2012 ~ 10:30 A.M. SERVICE

April 1 (Palm Sunday)

Greeters: Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz
Ushers: Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues
Liturgist: Joan Brown
Children's Church: Teresa Reed
Nursery Volunteer: Lois Harmon
Tellers: Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
Communion Servers: Dub Guthrie, Doris Metzger, Eugene Jimmerson
 Jocelyn Bolles, Tom Harmon, & Brenda Everett



	April 8 (Easter Sunday!!)	April 15
Greeters:	Donna To, Wendy Jensen	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson
Ushers:	Bob Moore, Eddie Cowand	Albert Teel, Bob Moore
Liturgist:	Darrell Ingram	Doris Metzger
Children's Church:	Kathleen Hartless	Savannah Baker-Teel
Nursery Volunteer:	Jocelyn Bolles	Anna Murphy
Tellers:	Teresa Reed, Joan Brown	Jocelyn Bolles, Margaret Lewis

	April 22	April 29
Greeters:	Lori Glover, Burle Murphy	Jocelyn Bolles, Dorothy Cleary
Ushers:	Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues	Eugene Jimmerson, Jack Pegues
Liturgist:	Dave Bolles	Sean Russell
Children's Church:	Margaret Lewis	Lori Glover
Nursery Volunteers:	Sydney Russell	Susan & Evelyn Walters
Tellers:	Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison



February 2011		February 2012		February 2012	
				Receipts	Expenditures
6 February	71	5 February	88	\$22,578.99	\$18,422.87
13 February	73	12 February	70	YTD income:	*\$35,892.13
20 February	90	19 February	98	YTD expenditures	\$41,546.19
27 February	83	26 February	88	Total Annual Budget:	\$225,810
average	79	average	86	*This includes memorial giving.	
9 Mar (Ash W)	43	22 Feb (Ash W)	51		

Six are off to KidQuake at Camp Gilmont

The Children's Planning Team are happy to report that five of our elementary age boys will be attending the weekend camp event Grace Presbytery is hosting at Camp Gilmont, Friday evening April 20 through Sunday noon April 22.

The boys' sponsor is Sean Russell, proud parent of two of the boys attending. Thank you Sean!

Camp Gilmont is located about two and a half hours' drive east of Dallas, near Gilmer, in Texas' piney woods. Perhaps the dogwood trees will still be in bloom. In any case it's a beautiful place to be in the Spring! As well as enjoying the outdoors, the boys will take part in some Bible studies. The theme is "You too are chosen!" and the scriptures are stories related to David. David and Samuel, David and Jonathan, King David and the Ark.



WHAT ARE THESE KIDS
UP TO?!?!
See p. 8!



Lord, teach us to
number our days!

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. Thank you.

Anna Murphy	April 2	John Alsop	April 12	Andrew Dittman	April 20
Weston Russell	April 2	Adelmo Ruiz	April 13	Leah Jordan	April 20
Bob Harrison	April 7	Evelyn Walters	April 15		
Jim Hull	April 8	Sandy Gaskins	April 16		



April Prayer Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
PALM SUNDAY 1 Andrew & Ashley Dittman Winfred Cook	2 Paul & Helen Barton Doris Metzger Jack & Diane Pegues Ruth Yingst	3 David & Katherine Liddle Caleb, Jonathan Lenora Dalton Larry & Margaret Lewis	4 Joan Brown Carlos & Caryn Benitez Andrés & Rachelle	5 Sean & Lucy Russell Lucy, Sydney, Logan, Weston, & Tristan Don & Sheri Trask	6 Malcolm Perrault Paul & Claudia Griffith Dean & Ginger Hertenstein Boyd Roberts Connie Steger	7 Ryan & Marjorie Ochs Colvin & Georgia Jim & Pam Loyd David Hertenstein Evelyn
EASTER SUNDAY 8 Dorothy Cleary T.J. & Eugene Dudley Austin Allen & Wanda Shipman	9 Nadine AbuMarkhia Leah & Aeris Dick & Nancy Bergman Carol McKinney	10 Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gaskins Alexander, Aiden Beau, & Blake Miguel & Fanny Peñaloza	11 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	12 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guthrie Neal	13 Pat Sparr Don & Edie Burquest Bob & Liz Moore Charles & Laura Tyer	14 Mickey & Betty Jespersen The Buuck's Steve Netniss Anthony Jennings
15 Scott & Kathleen Hartless J.R. Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	16 Bobby & Teresa Reed Matthew & Rylee Reid & Betty Bunger	17 Tom & Lois Harmon Christy Cowand Brandon Mike Bacon	18 Gary & Nita Malone Darrell & Sharon Ingram Barbara Notari	19 Roy & Wendy Jensen Robert & Catherine Eagle The Schaefers	20 Eddie & Brenda Everett Grant Allison Jackson	21 Jim & Janet Stahl Donna To Carol Orwig Deborah Titus
22 Evelyn Pike George & Mary Huttar Jim & Andrene Hull	23 Bob & Nancy Harrison Eddie & Darlene Cowand	24 Adelmo & Edelmira Ruiz Gary & Linda Simons Rachel	25 Irving & Peggy Kezar Steve & Marna Bayless	26 Albert & Sara Teel Savannah Keith & Gail Haynes	27 Burle Murphy Susan Murphy Anna Murphy Nicholas	28 Dennis & Susan Walters Dale, Evelyn, & Andrew
29 James & Beth Ann Black Jimmy & Jason Cordova	30 Eric & Erin McGinnis, Michael Andrew Watts	In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.				

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

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8 The Epistle

From Our Youth

The Youth Group would like to welcome **Liam Schuster** to our church! Please welcome him and show him how much of a loving church we are!

Our youth group has had a lot going on. I'm sure you all have seen the construction that's happening in our youth room, "**the Closet**" (see photos on p. 6). We're excited about this room because our goal is to retell the story of the Bible and create a more youthful environment.

Once again, our students have taken **Lent** extra seriously. The goal was to die to things which aren't providing life so that we could REALLY live. We begin Youth by talking about how we are struggling through Lent. We talk about how well we have done without having what we each chose to give up.

Our current teaching series is about God's view of sex. During our weekly meetings we talk about what healthy sexuality looks like and what God has envisioned for his people. This is an especially difficult subject during the high school years and we'd appreciate the prayers of our congregation.

For those of you that are interested we will be doing a movie night on Saturday, April 6th. We'll be watching the movie Ben-Hur in Blu-Ray. If you want to join us please contact Pastor Steve.

Once Resurrection day is over, we will be full-steam ahead for a wet summer. We are hoping to have a pool party every week throughout the summer. This will only be possible if the congregation allows us to use their home/pool. Please let us know if you have a pool and would be up for giving us a place to have amazing fellowship.

Grace & Peace,

Pastor Steve

April 2012

First Presbyterian Church, Duncanville, Texas

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 AM Courageous Bible Study 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship - Communion 4:00 PM Courageous Bible Study PALM SUNDAY	2 4:30 PM Deacons Meeting 7:30 PM Congo Life Meeting 	3 7:30 PM Property Team Meeting 	4 6:30 PM - 7:15 PM Prayer Meeting 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	5 <div>7:00 PM Maundy Thursday Service</div>	6 <div>7:00 PM Good Friday Service</div> <div>Prayer Vigil 6:00am - 5:00pm, 8:30pm - Midnight</div> 	7
8 6:30 AM Sunrise Service on Patio followed by Pancake Breakfast 9:15 AM Sunday School (Easter Egg Hunt) 10:30 AM Worship EASTER	9	10	11 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 6:45 PM - 7:45 PM Finance Meeting 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	12 1:00 PM Agape Women's Study 7:30 PM Sarah Women's Study <div>Study God's Word</div> 	13	14
15 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship ** Food Sunday ** Newsletter Articles Due	16 6:30 PM Thinktank Meeting 	17	18 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	19	20	21
22 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Confirmation Class	23 Sandwiches for Austin Street Centre 	24	25 6:30 PM - 7:20 PM Youth Choir Rehearsal 6:30 PM Youth Group 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	26 6:30 PM Session Meeting 	27	28
29 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Confirmation Class <div>PW Spring Bake & Plant Sale</div>	30	<div> <div> Mar 2012 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div> <div> May 2012 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div> </div>				