

First Presbyterian Church

EPISTLE

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

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

April 2009

Vol. 17 No. 4

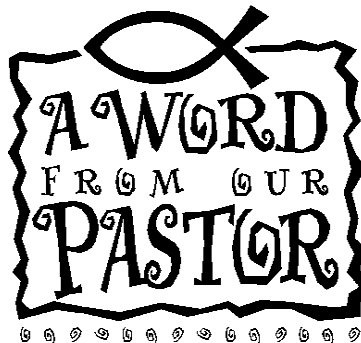
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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CHURCH STAFF:
Rev. Ginger Hertenstein

Steve Bayless,
Choir Director
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Bookkeeper
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Accompanist/Youth Minister

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



The elders of First Presbyterian Church have written
a new mission statement:

*CONNECTING WITH GOD, AND
SHARING THE GOOD NEWS OF
JESUS CHRIST
WITH THE COMMUNITY*

Isn't that the best? I love it, because it certainly reflects what we are about. We've spent the past year connecting with God by studying the Word, and we continue to do so through our daily readings in our One Year Bibles. Nothing beats getting to know Jesus Christ and joining Him in His ministry. The month of April, of course, brings the culmination of His work as Jesus gains victory for us through His death and resurrection, celebrated in a special way during Easter week.

This year our celebration includes some new events for First Presbyterian Church. The choir and a string ensemble will bring us a wonderful cantata for our Maundy Thursday service. Then we'll each experience setting aside 30 minutes of our day on Good Friday to come to the sanctuary for a prayer vigil from 6 a.m. until midnight. I don't know how long it's been since you sat in the sanctuary and prayed, but it's a powerful and moving experience. The highlight of the week will be Easter services, with the youth leading the Sunrise Service under the direction of our new Minister of Youth, Tom Wylie. It will be great to eat breakfast together and then gather for worship at 10:30 a.m.

All these activities reflect newfound hope and a desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, who is all about rebirth and revival. What a relevant message for a culture that is laden with a sense of poverty and worry! We have a powerful message and we are energized to share it. Let's each pray to discover our part in it. Then, the Sunday after Easter, we'll have a Ministry Fair so that we can see some of the dreams we have for how to go about sharing it.

Blessings,
Ginger

Inside . . .

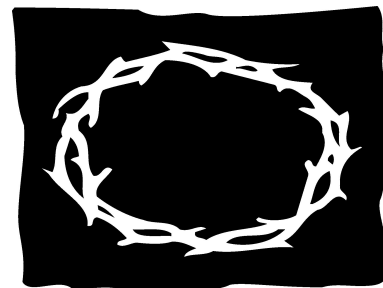
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FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM*The Days of Holy Week*

Palm Sunday ~ Maundy Thursday ~ Good Friday ~ Holy Saturday

From the Worship
Team

Holy Week is the last week of Lent, the week immediately preceding Easter Sunday. It is observed in many Christian churches as a time to commemorate and enact the suffering (Passion) and death of Jesus through various observances and services of worship. While some church traditions focus specifically on the events of the last week of Jesus' life, many of the liturgies symbolize larger themes that marked Jesus' entire ministry. Observances during this week range from daily liturgical services in churches to informal meetings in homes to participate in a Christian version of the Passover Seder.



The entire week between Palm Sunday and Holy Saturday is included in Holy Week, and some church traditions have daily services during the week. However, usually only Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday are times of special observance in most churches.

Palm Sunday (or Passion Sunday)

This Sunday observes the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds, who were in Jerusalem for Passover, waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the messianic king. The Gospels tell us that Jesus rode into the city on a donkey, enacting the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9, and in so doing emphasized the humility that was to characterize the Kingdom he proclaimed. The irony of his acceptance as the new Davidic King (Mark 11:10) by the crowds who would only five days later cry for his execution should be a sobering reminder of the human tendency to want God on our own terms.

This Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday to commemorate the beginning of Holy Week and Jesus' final agonizing journey to the cross. The English word *passion* comes from a Latin word that means "to suffer," the same word from which we derive the English word *patient*.

Maundy Thursday, or Holy Thursday

There are a variety of events that are clustered on this last day before Jesus was arrested that are commemorated in various ways in services of worship. These include the last meal together, which was probably a Passover meal, the institution of Eucharist or Communion, the betrayal by Judas (because of the exchange with Jesus at the meal), and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep. Most liturgies, however, focus on the meal and communion as a way to commemorate this day.

FROM THE WORSHIP TEAM

Traditionally in the Christian Church, this day is known as Maundy Thursday. The term Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment," from John's account of this Thursday night. According to the Fourth Gospel, as Jesus and the Disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they had finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" commandment that was not really new (John 13:34-35):

Thanks to the Lord



In some church traditions all of the altar coverings and decorations are removed after the Eucharist is served on Maundy Thursday. Since the altar in these traditions symbolize the Christ, the "stripping of the altar" symbolizes the abandonment of Jesus by his disciples and the stripping of Jesus by the soldiers prior to his crucifixion. This, like the darkness often incorporated into a Good Friday service, represents the humiliation of Jesus and the consequences of sin as a preparation for the celebration of new life and hope that is to come on Resurrection Day. Some churches only leave the altar bare until the Good Friday Service, when the normal coverings are replaced with black.

Good Friday, or Holy Friday

Friday of Holy Week has been traditionally been called Good Friday or Holy Friday. On this day, the church commemorates Jesus' arrest (since by Jewish customs of counting days from sundown to sundown it was already Friday), his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Since services on this day are to observe Jesus' death, and since Eucharist is a celebration, there is traditionally no Communion observed on Good Friday. Also, depending on how the services are conducted on this day, all pictures, statutes, and the cross are covered in mourning black, the chancel and altar coverings are replaced with black, and altar candles are extinguished. They are left this way through Saturday, but are always replaced with white before sunrise on Sunday.



Another common service for Good Friday is **Tenebrae** (Latin for "shadows" or "darkness"). Sometimes this term is applied generally to all church services on the last three days of Holy week. More specifically, however, it is used of the **Service of Darkness** or **Service of Shadows**, usually held in the evening of Good Friday. Again, there are varieties of this service, but it is usually characterized by a series of Scripture readings and meditation done in stages while lights and/or candles are gradually extinguished to symbolize the growing darkness not only of Jesus' death but of hopelessness in the world without God. The service ends in darkness, sometimes with a final candle, the Christ candle, carried out of the sanctuary, symbolizing the death of Jesus. Often the service concludes with a loud noise symbolizing the closing of Jesus' tomb (see The Empty Tomb). The worshippers then leave in silence to wait.

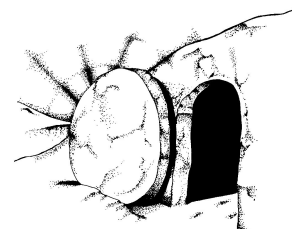
From the Worship
Team cont.

Holy Saturday

This is the seventh day of the week, the day Jesus rested in the tomb. In the first three Gospel accounts this was the Jewish Sabbath, which provided appropriate symbolism of the seventh day rest. While some church traditions continue daily services on Saturday, there is no communion served on this day.

Some traditions suspend services and Scripture readings during the day on Saturday, to be resumed at the Easter Vigil after sundown Saturday. It is traditionally a day of quiet meditation as Christians contemplate the darkness of a world without a future and without hope apart from God and his grace.

Resurrection of the Lord



Easter or Resurrection Sunday is the day Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. This event marks the central faith confession of the early church and was the focal point for Christian worship, observed on the first day of each week since the first century (Acts 20:7; Sunday was officially proclaimed the day of Christian worship in AD 321). Easter as an annual celebration of the Resurrection that lies at the center of a liturgical year has been observed at least since the fourth century. Even in churches that traditionally do not observe the other historic seasons of the church year, Easter has occupied a central place as the high point of Christian worship.



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SESSION NOTES

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

- Approved financial report for the month of Feb 2009 and year-to-date.
- Approved minutes of February 19, 2009, session meeting.
- Elected Dub Guthrie as elder commissioner to the Presbytery meeting in Richardson on March 28, 2009.
- Approved request from PW to hold Plant and Bake Sale on Sunday, Apr 26, following worship service.
- Approved request from Katherine Liddle for the use of the Sanctuary/Fellowship Hall on Friday, May 22, 2009, at 7 p.m., for the annual talent show of her home schooling group.
- Approved motion to increase Tom Wylie's hours with the youth program to twelve hours per week beginning April 1, 2009, with the appropriate adjustment in salary.
- Approved motion not to have Communion on Sunday, Apr 5 (regularly scheduled for the first Sunday of each month) since we will celebrate Communion on Thursday, Apr 9, 2009, at the Maundy Thursday service.
- Approved motion to set the number of individuals on the Pastor Nominating Committee at three.
- Approved motion to call a congregational meeting on Sunday, April 5, 2009, for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee.

PW NEWS*Bible Study and Fellowship with PW*

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

Sarah Circle: Meeting Thursday, April 2 at 7:30 pm at the home of Diane Pegues, 302 N. Venice Drive, Duncanville, 972-298-4097.

Agape Circle: Meeting Friday, April 10 at 10:00 am at the home of Catherine Eagle, 115 Willowbrook, Duncanville, 972-298-2303.



The annual PW Plant and Bake Sale is fast approaching!! On April 26 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 26th. Pies, cakes, cookies, brownies, fudge & various 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 Nadine Doura and others. We have some great cooks in our Church! Purchase plants for your spring flower garden. This is always a fun event and a time for fellowship.

**PW
News**

YOUTH PAGE

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: **Sarah Brack**

Full Name: *Sarah Elizabeth Brack*
 Birthdate: *February 13, 1992*
 Grade: *11th, (Junior)*
 School: *Duncanville High School*
 Extracurricular: *Band, Interact, National Honor Society*
 Favorite Food: *Chicken*
 Favorite Drink: *Sunkist/Sprite*
 Favorite Color: *Green & Purple*
 Hobbies: *Running, Writing*
 Favorite Song: *Too many*
 Favorite Movie: *Too many*
 Favorite Book: *Too many*
 Favorite TV Show: *Too many!*
 I'm a fan of: *Shiny things*



Something most people don't know about me is: *I was born in Oakland, California.*

Something fun that I did: *Inventing "Shoe-ball" late at night with my friend Vanessa at the tennis courts.*

On Saturday, March 29, Sarah traveled with other Grace Presbytery youth to Austin, Texas where she attended *Pathways*, a leadership seminar for youth and adults working with youth, sponsored by Princeton Theological Seminary. Sarah is active with youth leadership in Grace Presbytery and a valuable asset to the Hands of God Youth.



April Events

<u>When</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Where</u>
April 5 th	Destination Easter: Peter's Walk	FPCD
April 9 th	Destination Easter: A Meal to Remember	FPCD
April 12 th	Youth-led Sunrise Service—(No meeting Sunday night)	FPCD
April 19 th	Laser Tag	Alley Cats, Arlington
April 26 th	Paint the HOGY Room	FPCD



Scouts help Outreach

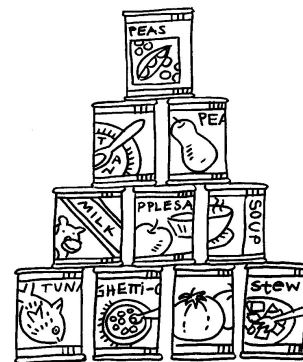
(copied from today newspapers)

Cub and Boy Scouts in Lancaster, De Soto, Grand Prairie, Duncanville and Cedar Hill collected around 20,000 cans of food for area food pantries during the 2009 Scouting for Food drive. Bags were placed on porches Feb. 14 and picked up Feb 21.

Each year Cub Scout packs and Boy Scout troops from across North Central Texas and Southern Oklahoma get together and collect canned goods. The goal of the Scouting for Food program this year was to collect 500,000 cans of food for food banks and local charities in the North Texas area.

After picking up the food, Scouts took the donations to food pantries in the five cities. Lancaster Outreach center received 1,700 cans, Duncanville Outreach Ministries received 7,039 cans, Cedar Hill Food Pantry received 3,861 cans and Grand Prairie United Charities received 2,201 cans. Can counts were not available of Desoto Food Pantry or Grand Prairie Food and Clothing Co-op, but they also received donations.

Thanks to everyone who helped the Scouts with this community project. Items were also dropped off at Tom Thumbs stores.



FOOD DRIVE

Fireproof Your Marriage Take **The Love Dare** 6 Week Small Group Study

Sunday, April 19 begins the *Fireproof Your Marriage* 6 week Small Group study. Founded on Biblical principles for strong, Christ-centered, lifelong marriages, it uses exclusive movie clips from the movie **Fireproof**. Thought-provoking discussion questions and individual and couples' devotionals challenge members to grow deeper spiritually and in their relationship. You'll be issued a challenge too – to love first, to love better and to love for a lifetime. **Come take the dare!**

Small Groups meet Sunday morning at 9:15 am or Sunday evenings at 6:00 pm on the following dates: April 19 & 26, May 3, 10, 17 & 24.

Childcare is provided on Sunday mornings & will also be provided on Sunday evenings, by reservation.

Please register for the Small Group Study by calling the office at (972) 298-3043.



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

April 5—Helen Barton

April 12—Lori Glover

April 19—TBD

April 26—TBD



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.



Dorothy Anderson—4/1
Anna Murphy—4/2
Weston Russell—4/2
Steve Innis—4/5
Bob Harrison—4/7
Jim Hull—4/8
Del Anderson—4/11
Kevin Jespersen—4/13
Adelmo Ruiz—4/13
Sandy Gaskins—4/16
Candace Reed—4/30

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to cook for our youth during Youth Group which meets from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm on Sunday evenings. Please see Lori Glover if you can help.

ATTENDANCE

March 2008

2—March—68
9—March—69
16—March—69
23—March—93
30—March—65

March 2009

1—March—72
8—March—72
15—March—79
22—March—71
29—March—not
recorded yet

Bookkeeper's Report

February 2009

Receipts
\$11,319

Expenditures
\$12,136

Youth
Continued

Christian
Education
News

Birthdays

Attendance

Bookkeeper's
Report

WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

April 2009

10:30 A.M. SERVICE

April	5	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Tom Harmon, Doris Metzger Irving Kezar, Jack Pegues Scott Hartless Helen Barton Lois Harmon Sean Russell, Jody Fox Lori Glover, Jocelyn Bolles
April	12	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Helen Barton, Bob Moore Bob Moore Mickey Jespersen Taylor Glover Gail Haynes Sean Russell, Jody Fox Paul Barton, Tom Harmon
April	19	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Lori Glover, Bob Harrison Albert Teel Lori Glover Anna Murphy Joan Brown Sean Russell, Jody Fox Teresa Reed, Joan Brown
April	26	Greeters: Ushers: Liturgist: Children's Church: Nursery Volunteer: Tech Team: Tellers:	Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Dub Guthrie, Jack Pegues Dave Bolles Sandy Gaskins Christy Cowand Sean Russell, Jody Fox Mickey Jespersen, Leo Skinner

FPCD PRAYER CALENDAR

April 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	FRIDAY	Saturday
			1 Del & Dorothy Anderson Bryan & Winfred Cook	2 Paul & Helen Bar- ton 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 Rus- sell 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 Berg- man
12 George & Billie Cowand David & Sandy Gas- kins Alexander	13 Eugene & Armelia Jimmerson Leo & Marlene Skinner	14 Kent & Lori Glover Taylor & Charlie Dub & Gwen Guth- rie Melissa, Carol, & Neal	15 Bill Farish Robert & Catherine Eagle	16 Kevin & Tonya Jespersen Mickey & Betty Jes- persen	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 Jen- sen Don & Edie Burquest Dave & Jocelyn Bolles	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 Melody Meistrell	25 Bob & Nancy Harri- son Eddie & Darlene Cowand Eric & Amy Slater Cody
26 Burl 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		

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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Holy Week Events

April 5 — Palm Sunday Service – 10:30 am

April 9 — Maundy Thursday Service – 7:00 pm

The choir and string ensemble presents, *Come Touch the Robe*, a cantata about the greatness and humility of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is through this unique and touching musical presentation 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 – Prayer Vigil

We keep watch and pray in anticipation of the most holy day. Individuals, couples, families, friends, and youth may sign up for a 30 timeslot to pray in the sanctuary, beginning at 6:00 A.M. and ending at midnight. We ask that anyone under 16 have adult supervision. Sign up in the narthex.

April 12 — Easter

7:00 am Sunrise Service led by the youth
8:30 am Pancake breakfast in the Fellowship Hall
10:30 am Worship Service