



# First Presbyterian Church

## EPISTLE

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

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

543 East Freeman St.  
Duncanville, TX 75116  
(972) 298-3043  
fax: (972) 298-5312  
info@fpcd.org  
www.fpcd.org

### **CHURCH STAFF:**

**Rev. Dr. Ginger Hertenstein,**  
Pastor

**Jennifer Johnson**  
Administrative Asst

**Ross Shipman**  
Youth Director

**Nydia Thorpe,**  
Choir Director

**Brittany Haywood**  
Accompanist

**Sean Russell,**  
Sound Room Technician

**Ana Ortiz**  
Nursery

### *Inside . . .*

- 2-4 NYC/Carnegie Hall Experiences
- 5 - News from Session, Women's Bible Study
- 6 - Church Calendar
- 7 - Worship Volunteer Schedule
- 8 - January Birthdays, Finances

### *From your Session*

When we see a representation of the new year, it usually is a cute baby with a wide ribbon draped across its tummy with the year printed on it, "2019" for instance.

What do you think the message is in the use of a baby? Could it indicate newness, or innocence or inexperience perhaps? So let's explore all three of those possibilities.

The beginning of the new year brings a sense of newness and a fresh start. There are New Year's resolutions with a feeling of hope and possibility . . . a second (or 80<sup>th</sup>) chance! With hope in our hearts, like Charlie Brown hoping Lucy will hold the football for him, we hope to keep our resolutions.

Or perhaps the baby indicates innocence as we believe we could keep our New Year's resolutions. Innocence can be a great encourager when we decide whether or not to formulate New Year's resolutions.

The third possibility of what the picture of the baby indicates is inexperience. A new year sometimes brings situations where we

might find ourselves ill-equipped to handle such circumstances. We could elect to look at things in a new way. "When I was a child, I thought like a child . . . but I gave up childish ways. I saw in a mirror dimly, but now I see face to face." We can widen our view with various options.

Fortunately, we won't be entering the new year alone with our inexperience. There will be those who can inspire and lead us, encourage and support us. These people can be found in our own church family.

The use of a baby to indicate newness, innocence or inexperience are all appropriate. They are all a part of what we may find or feel as we journey into 2019.

Happy New Year! Or, with hope in our hearts, Hopi New Year!

*Marna*



## **The Messiah Experience Our Trip to NYC & Carnegie Hall**

*Pastor Ginger asked trip participants to share what we learned musically and spiritually from this experience, as well as what we enjoyed most about our trip. Here are the responses.*

### **Tracie Benson:**

For me, it's always a thrill to watch my son singing with other music enthusiasts. Carnegie Hall didn't disappoint. We enjoyed the performance, and meeting new people. I pray we can do this again.

### **Brenda Everett:**

I enjoyed meeting all the people. I haven't spoken to so many people with such varied backgrounds since I went to college – and it was never this much fun. Of course performing at Carnegie Hall was a phenomenal experience, but it was all the people working in such close collaboration that made it an experience worth remembering. There was a camaraderie that's difficult to describe.

I learned that in every step of our journey, there, during, and back, people were kind to us everywhere. It didn't matter what we asked for: directions, advice on where to eat, taking a photo of our group, where's the nearest (fill in the blank), taking a selfie with us, or any other advice. Sometimes it was a member of the chorus, our own church group, the bus driver taking us to our hotel, the local hospital staff, or even a stranger on the street. People were just constantly supportive, helpful and kind.

I also learned...it's okay to ask for help. (A hard lesson to learn.)

### **Ed Everett:**

I loved the experience of getting to sing with a large group of singers from all over the globe. My impressions of New York with their melting pot of different nationalities were amazing. I will always remember our time together.

### **Roxanne Lowe:**

Dan and I loved getting to sing a piece of music we never thought we would get to sing surrounded by so much talent and in such a beautiful place. We learned techniques and artistry that turn difficult notes on a staff into a message of love and redemption. Most importantly we came to see ourselves not as one denomination participating with another, but as a part of a community of Believers worshiping together through music. We are so very thankful for this blessing.

*From Roxanne's Facebook: We often accuse God of putting unpleasant unexpecteds in our lives. Dan and I are thanking God for this unexpected blessing. Together with The Duncanville Community Chorus and choirs from around the world we got to sing Messiah at Carnegie Hall! It was one of the most amazing experiences of our lives!*



*Carnegie Hall Trip Continued***Diane Pegues:**

The Carnegie Hall trip was one of the highlights of my life so far. I absolutely loved it! The moment we sang the first couple of measures, the tears just came. The sound was heavenly. Getting to sing with a chorus and orchestra of that magnitude was way beyond any experience I ever expected to have. Just to be surrounded by the beautiful voices and music and to be singing the scriptures was so powerful.

Music speaks to me in a very powerful way. Singing The Messiah with the expert direction of Dr. Johnathon Griffith gave new and deeper meaning to the scriptures. The meaning of the words is deeply implanted in my heart differently than before. I had been taught most of the things Mr. Griffith taught us, but he has a way of helping one to remember and feel the words and music while singing. I learned again how important it is to enunciate the consonants and to hold my mouth in an oval shape. I also practiced how to breathe silently before singing and to breathe from the belly, not the diaphragm. I learned about when turning a page is allowed and what to do if I forget to turn it in time and about how to hold the music and when to lower it and raise it again so as not to distract from the ongoing concert. Many technical things that help to improve any performance. I felt confident and ready by the time for the concert. Mr. Griffith is certainly a master director, and I feel so very privileged to have spent rehearsal and performance time with him. What I enjoyed most was singing the beautiful music surrounded by the chorus of 500+. I enjoyed the whole trip - meeting new friends, having adventures and sightseeing with friends, rooming with Nancy, and experiencing NYC. I really enjoyed the cream cheese bagels, but I enjoyed the music the most.

Also a note to Ginger from Diane: *I'm still searching for the words to thank you for the wonderful experience of singing "The Messiah" in Carnegie Hall. It meant more than words can express, and I will never forget it. I know we would never have accomplished the trip if not for you and your love for all of us at FPCD and your faith in us to bring God's Word to NYC through music.*

**Linda Simons:**

Musically I learned a lot, the actual music, in particular. I am not a classically trained musician, and I had never sung most of Parts 2 and 3 of the Messiah. Also, during the NYC rehearsals I learned how to breathe silently--who knew?? Not me! I've said it before and will repeat: I was probably the worst singer there (that's a fact, not being overly modest), but counted it a privilege to participate. Spiritually--it is blessing to have the scripture verses playing over and over again in my mind, providing opportunity to reflect on scriptures I may not always think of.

I enjoyed lots about the trip: learned great music; fun traveling with friends; happy to see my daughter check something off her bucket list (singing at Carnegie); happy to check something off my bucket list (birding in Central park); happy to spend time with my son, daughter-in-law, and granddaughter; happy for the fun photo memories. But most of all, I just can't explain how wonderful it was to sing Worthy Is the Lamb with full orchestra and 499 of my closest friends in an amazing venue--it was an incredible experience!

## *The Epistle 4*

### *Carnegie Hall Trip Continued*

#### **Nyadia Thorpe:**

The trip was fantastic! I believe our choir could benefit from taking trips like this periodically. Learning from other directors is important, as well as, the opportunity to fellowship with others. It's also important to see our faith in action, going out and doing something to share the Good News through our music. Overall, it was amazing and I hope we can anticipate another trip in the future.

#### **Naomi Villalba:**

I learned that to produce an excellent program, much work is required. The dedication of the Duncanville singers was inspirational and impressive. They were all so committed. When the Messiah was sung on that Sunday afternoon, I felt that we were in the Heavenly realms, even though we were still on earth.

To me, the Lord revealed a portion of his glory in that production.

What I enjoyed about the trip was the ability to truly enjoy my visit to NYC. I have been to NYC many times in the past, but always either working or following someone else's agenda. Even though we were there for the Messiah, I still had plenty of time to fully enjoy the experience of NYC for myself. It was a wonderful trip.

#### **Others:**

*"The most wonderful thing was to hear Messiah at Carnegie Hall by such gifted singers."*

*"The Duncanville community contributed money for the trip, and we ended up strengthening relationships with others who joined us from the Community Chorus. . . . Our aim was to glorify God, both in the community here, and before the people who came to hear the wonderful story of Jesus, the Messiah, through our performance. I believe, by God's grace, that we did."*

Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting  
doors; and the King of glory shall come in.

~Psalm 24:9

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of  
peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

~Romans 10:15



## **News From Your Session**

This year the session will be working on helping us become more comfortable with the use of prayer. And through other ways, help will be provided for the community around us to learn how to use prayer. There will be outreach to the community through a unique web site. Watch for more information as the Session's ideas are developed.

We are recruiting a group of interested people to help design a dynamic, useful web site dedicated to helping people pray. It will include testimonies concerning prayer.

## **Women's Bible Study**

### **Joy to the world. The Lord has come!**

How blessed we were to celebrate His birth last month and to be reminded of the miraculous gift we have been given.

With that in mind, the ladies of the Sarah and Agape Bible Study Circles will continue in their study of God's promise to always be with us at their January meetings. Each will be reading Lesson 5 from "God's Promise: I Am With You" by Amy Poling Sutherlun. The Sarah Circle will hold their next meeting on Tuesday evening, January 8, at 7:00 pm at the home of Marna Bayless. The Agape Circle will meet on January 9 at 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall of the church. If you'd like to join them or have any questions, please call Joan Brown (972.742.7997) about the evening group or Connie Steger (972.741.7932) about the afternoon group.

**Happy New Year to all!**

## FIRST Presbyterian Church

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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<b>6</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>7</b> 7:00 PM Deacons Meeting	<b>8</b> 7 PM Sarah Circle	<b>9</b> 1 PM Agape Circle 5:30 Impact Youth 6:30 Closet Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>10</b> 6:30 PM Worship Planning Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>																																																	
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<b>20</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service 3rd Sunday Potluck	<b>21</b> Staff Retreat	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 5:30 Impact Youth 6:30 Closet Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>24</b> 6:30 PM Session Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>																																																	
<b>27</b> 9:15 AM Sunday School 10:30 AM Worship Service	<b>28</b> The Sandwich Project Bring your Sandwiches for the Homeless	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 5:30 Impact Youth 6:30 Closet Youth 7:15 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>31</b>	<div>Feb 2019</div> <table> <tr><td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1 2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	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										
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## **Worship Volunteer Schedule January 2019**

### **January 6**

Greeters  
Ushers  
Tellers  
Nursery  
End of Service Ministry  
Communion Servers

Armelia & Eugene Jimmerson  
Jack Pegues & Albert Teel  
Lori Glover & Brenda Everett  
Anna Murphy  
Sean Russell & Darlene Cowand  
Jeff Thorpe, Anna Murphy,  
Darrell Ingram,  
Diane Pegues & Dub Guthrie

### **January 13**

Greeters  
Ushers  
Tellers  
Nursery Volunteer  
End of Service Ministry

Darlene Cowand & Anna Murphy  
Eugene Jimmerson & Irving Kezar  
Teresa Reed & Joan Brown  
Jason Cordova  
Vanessa Cordova & Doris Metzger

### **January 20**

Greeters  
Ushers  
Tellers  
Nursery Volunteer  
End of Service Ministry

Doris Metzger & Jocelyn Bolles  
Dub Guthrie  
Jocelyn Bolles & Margaret Lewis  
Logan Russell  
Marna Bayless & Connie Steger

### **January 27**

Greeters  
Ushers  
Tellers  
Nursery Volunteer  
End of Service Ministry

Youth  
Youth  
Darrell Ingram & Anna Murphy  
Candice Morris  
Jeff Thorpe & Nancy Bergman



## January Birthdays

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](mailto:info@fpcd.org).  
Thank you.

Jocelyn Bolles, January 1  
Dorothy Cleary, January 5  
Gwenn Guthrie, January 4  
Jim Stahl, January 5  
Brittany Tucker, January 7

Jeff Thorpe, January 10  
Nyadia Thorpe, January 12  
Jason Cordova, January 13  
Connie Steger, January 16  
Logan Russell, January 25

— 6:00 p.m. Youth Group

### WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

— 9:15 a.m. Christian Education  
— 10:30 a.m. Worship Service

### SUNDAY SCHEDULE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

[www.fpcd.org](http://www.fpcd.org)  
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### 2018 MINISTRY RECEIPTS UPDATE

	Receipts	Expenditures
November	\$13,041*	\$23,377**
Jan - Nov	\$255,918***	\$270,950****

\*\$520 for Carnegie Hall Trip, \$12,521 for budget

\*\*\$0 for Carnegie Hall Trip, \$23,377 for budget

\*\*\*\$55,006 for Carnegie Hall Trip, \$200,912 for budget

\*\*\*\*\$50,141 for Carnegie Hall Trip, \$220,809 for budget