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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

January 11, 2008

Ushers

8:45

Paula Kusewitt –Head Usher
Shannon Crelia Gwenda Aber
Jerry Dressler

11:00

Teresa Farr - Head Usher
Harriet Jones Bernie DeRoo
Earlayne Martin

Parking Lot Greeter

Victor Carboni

Please remember in prayer

Betty Aubert
Barger family, friends of the Kusewitzs
Betty Bates, sister of Peggy Mayfield
Gary and Nancy Black
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom
Jim Brewster
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker
Debbie Duncan, niece of Minnie Mathews
Carol Dwinnell, friend of Hope Sheppard
Myralin Flickinger, friend of Nickie Wilbanks
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson
Debbie Justice, friend of the Leakes and Hoffmans
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Olivia Madrid, friend of Chelsea Martin
Cheryl Martin
Wanda McDougle, Ronda Scott's mother
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort
The family of Leroy Moore, friends of the Rumbecks
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
Dave Rumbeck
The Sheppard family
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith
Justin Taylor, nephew of Jerry & Harriet Jones
Steve Tyler, friend of Bob & Maurine Robinson
Laura Virgil
Brian Weller, cousin of Shannon Crelia
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus
Jerry Williams, brother of Ben Williams



First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

From the Pastor . . .

For at least the fourth time through the years, somebody stole baby Jesus from our nativity scene in December. News reports from all over the country tell of many a missing baby Jesus. As someone said: "It's tough to keep Christ in Christmas when thieves keep stealing him." Some churches have even resorted to putting GPS locators in figures in their nativity scenes. But the truth is that Christ can be stolen in a lot of different ways, stolen from the hearts and lives of people as they get busy with other things. That is one reason why worship on Sundays is important.

In a passage in the Bible, God says: "I know the plans I have for you ... plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope." There are a lot of things competing for the plans and hopes God has for our lives, including soccer games and baseball games for children and youth during Sunday morning church time. But I think the question to be asked about some of the competing things with which we all have to deal is: "What is most important in life, what is eternal?" Those questions are worth thinking about as we begin a new year and think about the spiritual journey of our lives as we seek to fulfill the plans and hopes God has for our lives.

As most of our members know, our boards and committees operate on a three-year rotation system. A number of faithful officers and committee members finished terms at the end of 2008, and we are grateful to them. We are also appreciate the faithful giving of our people during the past year, and are grateful to those who have made pledges of support for the church this year.

We are pleased that Mike and Nancy Haninger, medical missionaries to the Congo will be with us on Sunday, January 25. In addition to giving Moments for Mission at both worship services, they will speak to all Sunday School classes in the fellowship hall and show

(continued)

pictures of their work in one of the world's poorest countries. We are supporting their work through our mission giving.

I want to express my gratitude to each member of this good church for your commitment to the church. I am grateful to be able to serve as your pastor. I appreciate your prayers for our church in the year ahead.

Tom Wilbanks

Congregational Meeting January 25

The annual Congregational Dinner meeting will be held Sunday, January 25, at 6:00 p.m. For the supper please bring a meat, vegetable, or dessert dish. At the meeting, the church budget for 2009 will be adopted, and reports from various organizations and staff members will review the past year. We are pleased that Mike and Nancy Haninger, medical missionaries to the Congo, whose work we are supporting through our mission giving, who will have been with us that morning, will also be at the dinner.

The meeting will conclude with a brief memorial service for our members who died during 2008. Child care will be provided for preschool children. This is a significant meeting in the life of the church, and you are encouraged to attend.

This Sunday

This Sunday the Smoker family will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Life's Library," based on Revelation 20:12



Explore our new Spring Wednesday Night programs!!

If you are looking for a variety of educationally worshipful and fun activities in the middle of the week, you need not look any further. Beginning this coming Wednesday, January 14, there are exciting workshops on a variety of different topics being led by highly experienced and devoted people. At 6:00 p.m. dinner will be served with the help of the Jenkins as well as Daniel Alvarez. And at 6:40 p.m. attend one of these workshops:

Class on Parenting – led by **Denise Bennett**, who has taught a course similar to this before and whose profession gives her ample experience to teach on this topic.

Those who have children should not miss this absolutely fantastic opportunity!

Biblically-related topic – led by **Beverlee Witty**, who has a plethora of teaching experience and who has led various workshops and book studies in the past.

Learn from Beverlee and experience the gospel in the world today!

Landscape Painting – led by **Pete Allen**. Pete has been teaching this for quite a while and he has a real passion for the art that excites one into the craft. If you have always wanted to paint but thought it beyond your talents, I urge you to take this workshop and experience the art.

Scrapbooking – led by **Len McCurdy**. Len has also been one who continuously offers this course because of her love for the craft. Explore your inner creativity and learn from a highly skilled artist.

Faith and Film: Revelation in a Postmodern World (Jr. and Sr. High Youth but all are invited!!) – led by **Tim Smith**, DCE. Perhaps films have always served entertainment purposes in your life. But I invite you to explore film through theological lenses and find, as Karl Barth termed them, “secular parables” – the voice of God in the world. Tim graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary with an emphasis in Religion and Society and Youth and has taught courses on this subject in the past.

Watch films on Monday evenings at 7:30 p.m. (this is optional though)

Film discussions and lessons on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m.

Look for sign-up tables this Sunday.

(Coining Disney) “Come and experience the magic!”

Flower Calendar

The flower calendar for 2009 has been posted near the church office. If you would like to provide flowers for the sanctuary in honor of a special occasion or person, or in memory of someone, please sign the calendar by the date you choose



A Year With the Bible

Copies of the excellent little booklet *A Year with the Bible* are available in the literature racks at the church. In addition to the suggested Bible reading for each day, there are some fine prayers in the back for personal or family use. Let’s begin the New Year with daily Bible reading! Copies of *These Days*, our church’s daily devotional guide, are also available.

Our Church Family . . .

It was nice to see a large group of our college students on December 28, when we observed Christian Student Sunday. They were a fine looking group as they filled the Chancel steps as part of the observance. We want to congratulate JESSICA HARTSELL who graduated in December from the University of North Texas at Denton with a degree in criminal justice. In addition to the list of college students that was in the last newsletter, we want to add the names of LAUREN SMITH at Stephen F. Austin, AARON SCOTT at UNT, and JAIME COLLINS at Austin College.

We are glad that LEN McCURDY and CHARLIE HAMMER are recovering well from recent surgery. MARGIE POLLARD is scheduled for knee surgery Friday, January 9, at Baylor Hospital. We were sorry to hear that JOHN KUSEWITT has been ill with a bad case of pneumonia.

An interesting news item several weeks ago told about the death of Dr. George Docherty who was credited with helping to urge Congress to insert the phrase “one nation under God” in the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Docherty was then pastor of the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, just blocks from the White House. He gave a sermon in 1952 saying the pledge should acknowledge God. Although the suggestion gained little traction at that time, Dr. Docherty mentioned it again on February 7, 1954 after learning that President Dwight Eisenhower would be at the church. The next day a member of the House of Representatives introduced a bill to add the phrase “under God” to the pledge, and a companion bill was introduced in the Senate. President Eisenhower signed the bill into law on Flag Day that year. Dr. Docherty died this fall at the age of 97.

A number of poinsettias are still available at the church if you would like to have one.

West Side Story at John Horn High School

John Horn High School is presenting the musical, *West Side Story*, and Angela Washeck and Lindsey Martin have significant parts in the production. Performances will be Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, January 8, 9, & 10 at 7:00 p.m., with a matinee Sunday, January 11, at 2:00 p.m. Tickets will be available 30 minutes before each performance for \$10.

Happy New Year from the Music Ministry!



The beginning of a new year is a terrific time to begin new endeavors and make new friendships — you can accomplish both by joining one of the choirs or instrumental groups here at FPC. If you have ever considered participating in our ministry of music, the beginning of a new year is a great time to begin. All our musical ensembles will be starting afresh within the next week

or so, and there is always room for more of you to join in. The Children’s Choir, Children’s Chimes, Youth Handbells, Youth Choir, Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers are all eager for new participants, so if you have any questions or would just like to visit any rehearsal, please call me at the church during regular office hours, or at my home in the evening hours, or email me anytime. I look forward to hearing from you and may our glorious Lord grant you a blessed 2009.

Soli Deo Gloria,
Verlyn Smoker

Fundraiser for Mesquite Relay for Life

The “Weez B Buds” Mesquite Relay for Life team comprised of several of our church members will be hosting an ALL YOU CAN EAT Pancake Breakfast at Applebee’s, 19035 I-635 in Mesquite on Saturday, January 31, from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person. Included are all the pancakes you can eat, a beverage and a breakfast meat. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Gracy Thomas, Brenda Evans, or Edie Brunson or any team member. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the door. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

Happy Birthday!

1/3	Roxanne Martin	1/18	Patrick Garver
1/4	Michael H. Lee		David Saams
	Chris Mathews		Chris Uzzle
1/6	Mitchell Smith	1/19	John Smoker
	Tony Brown		Kelli Smoker
	Aaron Scott	1/21	Matthew Galindo
	Terry Turner		Kelli McBain
1/9	Beverlee Witty	1/23	Byron Collins
1/11	Emily Ramsey	1/25	Marshall Alford
1/12	Stephen Wright		Jennifer O'Brien
	Jenny Burkhalter	1/26	Lori Garver
	Ed Hudson		Susan Leake
1/15	Elaine Whitlock		Kathy Uzzle
	Kim Beal	1/27	Harper Cummings
1/16	Taylor Hammer	1/28	Gini Gray
1/17	Zachary Krajca	1/31	Travis Windle
	Martha Sheppard-Mahafey		

Wednesday Church Night Schedule

6:00-6:35 p.m. Dinner
 6:40-7:25 p.m. Classes for everyone

Wednesday Choir Schedule

4:30 - 5:00 Alleluia Chimes (Bell Room)
 5:00 - 5:50 Children's Choir (Choir Room)
 5:00 - 5:50 Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
 7:30 - 9:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)