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Mesquite, TX  
Permit No. 324

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
1028 S BELT LINE RD  
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

**SERVING THIS SUNDAY**  
**January 13, 2007**

**Ushers**  
**8:45**

Larry Thomas - Head Usher  
Paula Kusewitt Henry Kaplan  
Jerry McBain

**11:00**

Linda Fricke - Head Usher  
Matthew Taylor Bernie DeRoo  
Harriet Jones Courtney Womack

**Parking Lot Greeters**

Kathy Brown Patrick Garver

**Please remember in prayer . . . .**

Kevin Alford, cousin of Craig Alford  
Gary and Nancy Black  
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom  
Jim Brewster  
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt  
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer  
Troy & Kelli Connatser, friends of Gayle Rumbeck  
Karen Dixon  
Richard Edwards, brother of Philip Edwards  
Frank Fischer, Susan Mathews' father  
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort  
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson  
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck  
Ralph Jones, father of Julia Walker  
Nancy Kelly, friend of Laura Virgil  
Lesia Koday, friend of Susan Mathews  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Lydick  
Ken McClure  
Wanda McDougale, mother of Ronda Scott  
Geraldine McDonald, friend of Laura Virgil  
Shana Meredith, Mary McBain's cousin  
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort  
Leroy Moore, friend of Dave & Gayle Rumbeck  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Kay Nowell, mother of Kelli Harris  
Amy Reynolds, friend of Robbie Lee  
Syble Roberts, sister-in-law of Grace Roberts  
Mark Sheppard and 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  
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus



# First Presbyterian Church

**Mesquite, Texas**

(972) 285-5602

[www.fpcmesquite.org](http://www.fpcmesquite.org)

## *From the Pastor . . .*

Another article in this newsletter tells about the reception which will be held after the 11:00 o'clock service this Sunday for Cynthia Petty who has resigned as our Director of Christian Education to become Director of Children's Ministries at North Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. We are grateful for Cynthia's seven years of service with us.

In the interim we are grateful that a number of our members will be picking up some of the responsibilities that Cynthia has taken care of, and members of the Christian Education Committee and the Worship Committee will be particularly involved. We are thankful that Howard Saucier has agreed to help be in charge of youth ministry, including the attendance of twelve of our youth at the presbytery sponsored Senior High Youth Connection next month at Austin College in Sherman. This is the largest presbytery sponsored youth event in the nation and includes about 600 participants. John Kusewitt, Chairman of the DCE Search Committee and the other members continue to meet regularly to help keep things going in the interim as we look for a permanent DCE. I ask for your prayers during this time of transition as we seek God's will and God's purposes and as we give thanks for those with willing hearts and hands who are helping us in this time of transition.

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 2007, and we are grateful to them. We appreciate the faithful giving of our people during the past year, and we are grateful to those who have made pledges of financial support for the church this year.

I want you to know of my gratitude to each member of this good church for helping the past year to be a good year in the life of the church and for being able to serve as your pastor. I appreciate your prayers for the church in the year ahead.

*Tom Wilbanks*

## **Happy New Year from the Music Ministry!**

The beginning of a new year is a terrific time to make new friendships and begin new endeavors and you can accomplish both of these by joining one of the choirs at our church. If you have ever considered exploring the possibility of participating in our ministry of music the new year is a great time to do so. All of our musical ensembles will be starting afresh this week and we would love to have many more of you join in. If you have any questions please call me at the church during regular office hours or at my home in the evening hours. May our glorious Lord grant you a blessed 2008.

*Soli Deo Gloria,  
Verlyn Smoker*

## **Reception for Cynthia Petty**

This Sunday, January 13, will be the last Sunday that Cynthia Petty will be with us as our Director of Christian Education. She begins her work the next day, on Monday, January 14, as Director of Children's Ministries at North Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. A reception for Cynthia will be held in the fellowship hall after the 11:00 o'clock service this Sunday.

## **This Sunday**

This Sunday Verlyn Smoker will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Five Essentials of the Christian Life," based on Hebrews 13:1-6.

**Attention 3rd - 5th graders  
KidQuake in April!!**



KidQuake for 3rd - 5th graders will be held this year at Prairie Valley April 11-13. Registration is \$95 per person, with a \$10 discount for the 2nd sibling in a family. You will be receiving registration forms in the mail soon. These registration forms must be returned to the church office no later than Friday, February 1. KidQuakes fill up fast, and we have to turn in our information to Grace Presbytery early in order to have the best chance of getting our group in, so don't delay!! If you have any questions please contact Sheila Hammer.

This will be a fun weekend, and we hope to have a large group attend!!

**Mesquite Relay  
for Life**

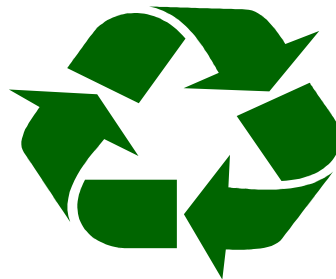
"Weez B Buds," a Relay for Life team comprised of several of our church members will be hosting an ALL YOU CAN EAT pancake breakfast at Applebee's, 19035 I-635 in Mesquite, on Saturday, January 19, from 8:30 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 per person. Included are all the pancakes you can eat, beverage, and a breakfast meat. Tickets can be purchased in advance by contacting Gracy Thomas, Brenda Evans, or Edie Brunson. Proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society.

**Congregational Meeting  
January 27**

The annual Congregational Dinner Meeting will be held Sunday, January 27, at 6:00 p.m. For the supper please bring a meat, vegetable, salad or dessert dish. At the meeting, the church budget for 2008 will be adopted, and reports from various organizations and staff members will review the past year. There will also be an election to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons.

The meeting will conclude with a brief memorial service for our members who died during 2007. 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.

**We Recycle!**



In an effort to help take good care of God's world, we recycle. Most are aware of the paper retrievers on our north parking lot. The money received from that recycling goes for youth ministry at our church. Paper DOES grow on trees, 900 million of them every year become pulp and paper. We can reduce that number by recycling.

We also recycle aluminum cans and plastic bottles and would be grateful if you placed these in the marked containers at the church and NOT in the trash. Unfortunately, 80% of the 25 billion plastic water bottles manufactured every year (using 1.5 million barrels of oil) are thrown away and end up in streams, rivers, oceans – and landfills.

**Our Church Family . . .**

KEN JOHNSON got to come home from Baylor Hospital on Christmas Day, and SARINA MAYFIELD was able to come home from Baylor on New Year's Eve and she was able to be back at Sunday School and church on January 6. MARHALL ALFORD has had several complications in his recovery from heart bypass surgery, and we will want to continue to keep him in our prayers.

Our best wishes are extended to SARAH PETTY and MIKE HANKINS who were married December 22, and to SHAWN and LINDSEY ELLIS on the birth of a baby girl, Lynnlee Kate Ellis, and to ERIC and JESSICA McBAIN on the birth of their daughter, Raleigh Greer McBain, on December 31.

We were sorry to hear that NORMA HAGETHORN has a painful case of shingles. She is currently staying with her daughter and son in law, Robert and Sharon Blackburn in Sunnyvale.

Has anyone seen Mary? She was stolen from our nativity scene in front of the church sometime during the week of December 17. We kept hoping someone would bring her back, but they didn't.

Among Christmas greetings received at the church was one from FERN REED. She is now in an assisted living apartment at Fairview Baptist Home.

A number of poinsettias are still at the church. If you would like to have one or more, you can pick them up during the week or this Sunday.

In addition to the college students listed in the last newsletter, we are pleased to make these additions:

- |               |                           |
|---------------|---------------------------|
| Jaime Collins | Austin College            |
| Lauren Smith  | Stephen F. Austin         |
| Aaron Scott   | University of North Texas |

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\* **Flower Calendar** \*  
\* A flower calendar for 2008 is 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. \*  
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Wednesday Church Night resumes this week, January 9. An optional delicious dinner prepared by Rod Graham will be served at 6:00 for \$4, with exciting classes for all ages beginning at 6:40 (We're going to take a little extra time for dinner, and start classes at 6:40 instead of 6:30.)

Adult classes are:

**Gospels Roundtable**

led by Beverlee Witty

(This class will begin next week, Wednesday, January 16, and continue for 4 weeks.)

**Landscape Painting**

led by Kay Alvarez in Pete Allen's absence

**Scrapbooking**

led by Len McCurdy

Join us on Wednesday evenings for food, study, and fellowship!

**Summer Camps**

Did you know that over 75% of our denomination's leadership -- elders, deacons, pastors, and educators claim that summer camp experiences played a significant role in their personal faith development?

It seems early, but we have summer camp brochures in the church office, and as you are making your plans for vacations this summer, you might want to begin considering camp for the kids. Camps are available in June and July at Camp Gilmont in the piney woods of East Texas, and Prairie Valley on the northern edge of the Texas Hill Country for children and youth ranging in ages from 6 to 16. Camp fees are discounted if you register and pay by April 1. There is even a new camp this year for kids and adult family members!

If you are interested, pick up a brochure and see what is available so you can begin planning your summer fun.

# Happy Birthday!

1/3	Roxanne Martin	1/16	Zachary Krajca
1/4	Michael H. Lee	1/17	Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey
	Christopher Mathews	1/18	Patrick Garver
	Mitchell Smith		David Saams
1/6	Tony Brown		Chris Uzzle
	Aaron Scott	1/19	John Smoker
	Beverlee Witty		Kelli Smoker
1/8	Monica Mitchell	1/21	Kelli McBain
1/9	Emily Ramsey	1/23	Byron Collins
1/10	Bart Mitchell	1/25	Marshall Alford
1/11	Stephen Wright		Jennifer OBrien
1/12	Jenny Burkhalter	1/26	Lori Garver
	Elaine Hoffman		Susan Leake
	Ed Hudson		Kathy Uzzle
1/15	Kim Beal	1/27	Harper Cummings
	Taylor Hammer	1/28	Gini Gray
		1/31	Travis Windle

## 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)  
6:40 - 7:00 Hope Choir (Room TBA)  
7:30 - 9:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)