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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 14, 2007

#### USHERS

8:45

Jennifer Gardner - Head Usher  
Jerry Dressler Gail Thompson Jerry McBain

11:00

Eric Schwartz - Head Usher  
Clark Windle Cenia Bowen  
Beth Bridges Spencer Nystrom

#### PARKING LOT GREETERS

Patrick Garver Larry Thomas

#### Please remember in prayer . . . .

Johnny Adams, brother of Ron Adams  
Gary and Nancy Black  
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom  
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt  
Charla Corder, friend of Shannon Crelia  
Karen Dixon  
Richard Edwards, brother of Philip Edwards  
Frank Fischer, Susan Mathews' father  
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort  
Judy Gant, niece of Ken & Judy Johnson  
Dorothy Graham, friend of Ken & Judy Johnson  
Joe Hammer, father-in-law of Sheila Hammer  
Michael Haninger  
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck  
Taylor Howry, friend of Diane Marshall  
Jerry & Sharon Jones, friends of Dave & Gayle Rumbeck  
Tom Kidd, brother of Beverlee Witty  
Lesia Koday, friend of Susan Mathews  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Lydick  
Karen McCardell, friend of Laura Virgil  
Ken McClure  
McCoy, Joanie, Michael Johnson's sister-in-law  
Geraldine McDonald, friend of Laura Virgil  
Clara and Raymond McLaughlin, sister & nephew of Wayne  
Thompson  
Malcolm Marsden, friend of Laura Virgil  
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort  
Jimmy Dan Montgomery, Len McCurdy's brother  
Clifford Moon  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Frank Ruiz, friend of Jim & Hope Sheppard  
Don Sheppard, brother of Jim Sheppard  
Jim Sheppard  
Velia Sheppard, mother of Neill Sheppard  
Gary Shields, brother of Ray Shields  
Art Sikes, brother of Marilyn Saams  
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith  
Steve Tyler, friend of Bob & Maurine Robinson  
Laura Virgil  
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus  
The Whitlow family, friends of Chris and Paula Nelms  
Ben Wynk, friend of Bernie & Lois DeRoo



# First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

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



### From the Pastor . . .

The Christmas season was a good one in our church. We had a glorious service on Sunday morning, December 24, and then two beautiful Christmas Eve services that evening on a rainy, cold night when over 400 were here. I want to thank our Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers for their participation in the candlelight services on Christmas Eve and to the ushers, some of whom served at both services. Thanks also to Sara and Marshall Alford who arranged the poinsettias for these services.

Another article in this newsletter tells about plans for our new pictorial directory. Reservations will begin being taken this Sunday to have your picture taken. Our last pictorial directory was in 2002, so it is time for a new one! Such a directory has great value. Not only does it help put names with faces in our church, but it also records a pictorial history of the church. About the only family portraits my family has from years past are those which were taken for church directories, and we are grateful to have them. Please read the article about the directory and plan to have your picture included. We are grateful to Marilyn Saams who has agreed to be our coordinator for the directory.

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 2006, and we are grateful to them. We are also thankful that 98.89% of our budget for 2007 is now pledged. We appreciate the faithful giving of our people during the past year, and we are grateful to those who have made pledges of 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

Wednesday Church Night will begin again this week, January 10. Classes for all ages are held from 6:30 to 7:30 each week. Opportunities for adults for this winter session will be Pete Allen's *Landscape Painting*; the *Scrapbook Workshop*; and a special class taught by Karen Harris, *Parents and Grandparents as Spiritual Guides*. Optional dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. each week at a cost of \$4 per person or \$24 for the six-week session. (Reservations are required for dinner.)

### Congregational Meeting

The annual Congregational Dinner Meeting will be held Sunday, January 28, at 6:00 p.m. For the supper please bring a meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert dish. At the meeting, the church budget for 2007 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 caused by the resignation of Charles Schandelmeier who is moving to McKinney. The Nominating Committee will nominate Kathy Brown as the replacement.

The meeting will conclude with a brief memorial service for our members who died during 2006. 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 Verlyn Smoker will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Your Influence" based on Acts 5:12-16.

## Session Highlights

The December 13 meeting of the Session began with sharing prayer concerns.

The six new Deacons met with the Session and shared their faith journeys and were approved for ordination on December 31.

Phil Johnson gave the report of the Christian Education Committee and the Session endorsed a sub-committee recommendation that Zack Saucier and Chandler Smith be endorsed as delegates for the national youth triennium of the Presbyterian Church this summer.

John Kusewitt, Chairman of the Committee on Committees, gave the recommendations for the committees of the church for 2007, and these were approved.

Roger Foltz gave the report of the Mission committee and reported that thanks to the generosity of our members, we provided 120 Thanksgiving baskets through Sharing Life Community Outreach for the needy in our community and 101 cards were taken from the Angel Tree to assist those in need.

Duane Moon, Chairman of the committee for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Dr. Wilbanks as pastor of our church, said that the committee had chosen the date of Sunday, May 20, for the observance at both services with a reception and program to follow the 11:00 o'clock service. He said that although Dr. Wilbanks' first Sunday here was July 30, 1967, that May 20 seemed to be a better date to celebrate the anniversary.

Margie Pollard, John Kusewitt, and Dr. Wilbanks gave a report on the meeting of Grace Presbyterian that was held at NorthPark Presbyterian November 10-11.

The Session set the date for the annual Congregational Dinner Meeting for January 28, at 6:00 p.m.

At the request of the Geneva Fellowship Sunday School class, the Session approved a plaque for the stained glass window in that room that was made by Boley Caldwell.

The meeting concluded with Dr. Wilbanks expressing appreciation to the six Elders completing terms in 2006



Reservations will be taken this Sunday at the table in the hall to have your picture taken for our new pictorial church directory. There is no charge to have your picture in the directory, and you will receive a free 8x10 portrait and a free directory for participating.

An opportunity is given to purchase pictures, but people are not pressured to buy them. The premise of the companies who do pictorial directories is that many people intend to have a picture taken but never get around to it – which is true. We have had a number of cases in the church where the only picture a family had of a loved one who died was a picture taken for one of our church directories. These directories really help put “the name with the face” in our growing church, and the directory will not be complete without your picture! Lifetouch will be doing our directory this time, and we are grateful that Marilyn Saams will be coordinating plans for the directory. Please make a reservation this Sunday for photography dates February 13-17 or March 15-17. The February dates will be filled first.



### Little Caesars Pizza

Help us earn money for our mission trip to San Antonio and enjoy some pizza too! Don't forget the YUMMY cookie dough.

Pizza orders and money MUST be turned in by January 23, for pizza delivery by January 29. Contact a PATHFINDER for ordering information

## Our Church Family . . .

Our church lost a faithful long-time member on December 21, in the death of BUD DERRICK. Bud fought a courageous battle with cancer. He was at church every Sunday when he was able to be here. We will want to keep his wife, Frances, and the other family members in our prayers. We also want to extend our sympathy to LEN McCURDY whose mother died on December 27, after a lengthy illness resulting from a car wreck in 1997. Len's parents were members of our church for a number of years before they moved to Honey Grove in 1967 where they operated a farm.

LINDA HEBERT has been at the Medical Center of Mesquite the past several days and DAVID BAYS has had to go back to Zale-Lipsch Hospital.

We are sorry that we are going to be losing CHARLES and PAULA SCHANDELMEIER and their children from our church. They are moving to McKinney, and their last Sunday with us will be January 21. We appreciate all the helpful things this nice family has done for the church, and they will be greatly missed.

During our worship service on December 31, we were pleased to recognize our college students. Two of them assisted in leading the worship service and this nice looking group filled the chancel steps when they were asked to come forward.

CLIFFORD and WANDA MOON have a new address. Also, AMANDA GREER has moved.

A really nice big black and white umbrella was left at the church recently. If it's yours, please call the church office, or claim it next time you're here.

Our thanks to those who helped take down the Christmas decorations on January 3. They were: Ronda Scott, Roger Samuels, Bernie DeRoo, Larry and Gracy Thomas, Patrick Garver, and Roger Foltz.

## Plan Ahead . . .

On May 20, 2007, the church will honor Dr. Wilbanks with a reception celebrating his 40 years of service an dedication.

Please mark you calendar!!!



## Hand to Hand

This is a ministry of our Wednesday Church Night Children. The offerings they bring each week will be designated for the Nutrition Program operated by Norte Presbytery in Guatemala and sponsored by the East Dallas Cluster of Presbyterian Churches. Through this program, children are fed nutritionally sound meals along with vitamins throughout the week while parents are taught about nutrition and hygiene. Once a particular area is doing well on the program, the counselors move to another group to do the same. Please encourage our children in their participation – we can make a difference – hand to hand.

## Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women invite all women of the church to join us at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 16, for an interesting program presented by a member of the Mesquite Police Department regarding identity theft. The program will be followed by a stew luncheon. Please call the church office at 972-285-5602 no later than noon, Monday, January 15, for child care reservations. Don't miss this!

## !!Attention Pathfinders!!

Pathfinders Covenant of Conduct and notarized medical release forms have been distributed. We must have these forms completed and returned to the office prior to any activity taking us away from the property. Please contact the church office if you have any questions.