

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Mesquite, TX
Permit No. 324

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY
February 10, 2008

Ushers
8:45

Jerry Dressler - Head Usher
Paula Kusewitt Daniel Alvarez
Gail Thompson

11:00

Matthew Taylor - Head Usher
Darby Washeck Jerry Jones
Terri Bragg Emily Ramsey

Parking Lot Greeters

Eric Schwartz Derek Schwartz

Please remember in prayer

Kevin Alford, cousin of Craig Alford
Gary and Nancy Black
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom
Christofer Bohannon, nephew of Stephany Brown
William Burgan, son of a friend of Susan Leake
Jim Brewster
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer
Troy & Kelli Connatser, friends of Gayle Rumbeck
Lois Dandridge, friend of Susan Mathews
Karen Dixon
Richard Edwards, brother of Philip Edwards
Odis Fagan, brother-in-law of Connie Wright
Margaret Green, friend of Susan Mathews
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck
Nancy Kelly, friend of Laura Virgil
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Cheryl Lydick
Ken McClure
Wanda McDougle, 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
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

From the Pastor . . .

This Wednesday, February 6, is the beginning of Lent. The word "Lent is from an old English word which refers to the lengthening of days and the coming of spring. It is a period of 40 days before Easter which is a time of reflection, renewal, and spiritual growth. We will have a brief Ash Wednesday service in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Easter this year is on March 23, which is the earliest it has been in about 30 years. Easter is always the first Sunday after the first full moon that falls on or after the vernal equinox. The date of Easter can vary between March 22 and April 25 – over a period of 35 days.

I have found it worthwhile over the years to do a series of sermons during Lent, and this year I am going to continue a series I started last year on "Biblical Faces." Needless to say, there are a lot of interesting Biblical faces, people whose lives have something to say to our lives today. I encourage you to be here for worship this Sunday and each Sunday during Lent as we are reminded that it was during this time that Jesus set out steadfastly for Jerusalem where he died on the cross so that we could be forgiven and have new life. It is difficult to be a faithful follower of Christ without some periodic experience in renewing our devotion to God. Obviously, worship on Sundays helps us do that, but Lent can be an especially helpful time for spiritual renewal. It is significant that the early church participated in Lent centuries before it began to observe Christmas. Lent began as a 40 day period of spiritual renewal for adult converts who were preparing to be baptized on Easter morning. When the members of the church saw the changes in the lives of those participating in the Lenten program, they decided that they could all use some renewal in their spiritual lives. And that is when it became a regular part of the church year.

(continued)

As Christ gave his life for us, let us live for him. And may we all have a renewed sense of the joy and strength of the Christian faith as we prepare our hearts and minds for the day of days – Easter.

Tom Wilbanks

Church Night Supper



Our first Church Night Supper for 2008 will be this Sunday, February 10, at 6:00 p.m. For this Valentine themed supper we always have a counselor who speaks on things that make for good and stable family relationships, and we have an outstanding speaker this year, Dr. John Tolson, who will speak on "Winning Families Have Right Families." Dr. Tolson is nationally known and has been featured in publications including *People Magazine* and *Sports Illustrated*. A Presbyterian, Dr. Tolson is the author of two books *The Four Priorities: Life is Too Short to Get It Wrong* and *Dads and Moms That Make a Difference*. Through the years he has developed connections with Tiger Woods, Monica Seles, Orel Hershiser and the legendary Coach John Wooden and has had a profound impact on people's lives.

For the supper, please bring a meat, vegetable, salad, or dessert dish. Child care will be provided for preschool children. Come join us for a good supper and outstanding speaker and enjoy the fellowship of other members of the church.

This Sunday

This Sunday is the first Sunday of Lent. The Chancel Choir will sing at 8:45, and the Youth Choir and Jubilate Ringers will provide music at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will begin a series of Lenten sermons on "Biblical Faces," and the first sermon is "A Leader's Face – Moses," based on Exodus 3:1-12. We will also observe Scout Sunday.

Session Highlights

The January 9 meeting of the Session began with sharing prayer concerns.

Marilyn Saams was elected as Clerk of Session.

Ron Smith, Vice-Chairman of the Communion Committee, said that communion was held at both services on January 6, and private communion was taken to two shut-ins that day who requested it.

John Kusewitt, Chairman of the DCE Search Committee reported that the committee has had several meetings involving getting people in place to help during the interim time when we are without a Director of Christian Education. This includes scheduling of childcare workers, youth ministry, children's church and other areas. The committee recommended that during the interim, children's church not be held at the 8:45 service. Appreciation was expressed for the many people who have stepped up to assist during this time.

Johnny Graham, Chairman of the Worship Committee, reported that the committee is arranging for people to do children's sermons and children's church.

Marilyn Saams and Roger Foltz were elected to a called meeting of Grace Presbytery at North Park Presbyterian Church on January 17, to hear the request of Trinity Presbyterian Church in Texarkana to be dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

Check Out Our Church Library



Each Sunday a member of our Library Committee is in library after the 11:00 o'clock worship service (and also usually during Sunday School) to assist members in finding and checking out books or videos. Many fine books are in our library. Check it out!

One Great Hour of Sharing

This Sunday during Sunday School coin boxes will be passed out to the children to take home for family use. The boxes are part of the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. The suggested use of these is for a family to place the box on their dining table and to put a coin in the box during one meal each day during Lent.



For a long time, some churches emphasized giving up something for Lent, but this gives a positive emphasis to something we can do during Lent. The One Great Hour of Sharing is an offering received by Presbyterian churches once each year to help meet world relief and emergency needs caused by floods, earthquakes, and other disasters. A portion of the offering also goes for the Hunger program of the Presbyterian Church.

The coin boxes are to be returned on Palm Sunday which is March 16.

Confirmation Class



The Confirmation Class, preparing young people for church membership, will begin Sunday, February 17, at 3:00 p.m. in the Crossroads Sunday School class near the youth hall. The class will be led this year by Dr. Wilbanks and by Elder Phil Johnson. If you have questions about the class, call Dr. Wilbanks at the church at 972-285-5602.

Youthquake 2008

For 6th, 7th, & 8th Grade Youth

Youth Quake for students in the 6th-8th grade will be held at Gilmont, April 11-13. The cost is \$95 per person and the registration form and fee must be turned into the church office by this Sunday, February 10. This is a fun weekend filled with energizers, worship and fellowship with youth from other Presbyterian churches. If you have any questions, please contact Howard Saucier.

Our Church Family . . .

There was a large attendance at the Annual Congregational Dinner Meeting on January 27. After a delicious meal, several items of business were acted on. Liz Ramsey was elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons. Dr. David Beal and Gracy Thomas were elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for new church officers, and Roger Samuels and Elna Singleton were elected as alternates. The congregation adopted a budget of \$509,155 for 2008. The church treasurer, Pete Allen, gave a detailed year-end financial report and mentioned specifically the scholarship fund and invited those wishing to make special contributions to do so for that fund. Reports were also given by staff members and organizations in the church. The meeting concluded with a memorial service for our members who died in 2007: Clifford Moon, Sue Neece, Bessie Thompson, Sherman Reed, and Charles Gibbons.

CHERYL (Aubert) MARTIN is recovering from surgery. We were sorry to hear that SARA ALFORD has some torn cartilage in her leg which is causing her some difficulty in getting around. JIM COLLINS is scheduled for surgery at Baylor Plano on February 12, and JOYCE MORRIS is to have surgery on February 19, at Baylor Dallas.

Our sympathy is extended to TONY BROWN whose step-father died.

We are pleased that ANNA SAUCIER will be attending the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators meeting in San Diego February 13-16, and are glad she will be bringing home ideas for us for our Christian Education program.

Congratulations to ANDY LEAKE who was selected for the Chairman's Award at the Mesquite Chamber of Commerce annual banquet in January. This is an honor given to one member by the Chamber of Commerce chairman.

Year-End Contribution Reports

2007 Contribution Reports are in a box on the table beneath the clock in the hallway. If you need your report mailed to you, please call the church office at 972-285-5602.

College Scholarships

Our church is offering scholarship help for the 2008-2009 school year to active members of our church who will be enrolled full time in a college, university or trade school. In addition, for the second year in a row a scholarship is being offered by our church's Presbyterian Women organization, and is another opportunity for students in our church family to receive help and support from their church. Applications received will be considered for both scholarships, so you need only complete one application. Applications are available in the church office, and **the deadline for turning them in is Sunday, April 6**. Applications turned in after that date will not be considered.

We are happy to be able to provide educational support and encouragement for our college students, and continue the Presbyterian tradition of emphasis on education. If you are interested in helping with the education of members of your church family, the scholarship fund would be a good place to make a contribution. Gifts may be given in memory or in honor of someone to this fund. Donations may be given at any time, and marked "scholarship fund."

Volunteers Needed!

This Wednesday!! . . . We need to expedite kitchen clean up after our WCN meal this week so that everyone (including our chef, Rod Graham), can attend the Ash Wednesday service. Any extra help would be appreciated.

Youth . . . Call Howard Saucier, or the church office if you want to be involved with our youth. Help is especially needed for off-site events where adult drivers and/or chaperones are required. We have lots of great youth in our church, but that means we also need lots of adults who are willing to give their time to our youth ministry.

Special Need . . . We are in need of adult volunteers to sit with a special needs youth in our church on Sunday during the 11:00 worship service, and the 2nd and 4th Monday evenings from 6:45-8:00 during Jubilate Ringers rehearsal. If you would like to help, call Susan Scholl for more information.