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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

February 22, 2009

Ushers

8:45

Sheila Hammer –Head Usher
Brenda Evans Breck Bennett
Jerry Dressler

11:00

Jan Hull - Head Usher
Gayle Rumbeck Leslie Noble
Marshall Romine Rebecca Smith

Parking Lot Greeters

Brenda Evans Linda Fricke

Please remember in prayer

Betty Aubert
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
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson
Becky Hernandez, friend of Gayle Rumbeck
Debbie Justice, friend of the Leakes and Hoffmans
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Olivia Madrid, friend of Chelsea Martin
Cheryl Martin
Wanda & V.W. Martin, Joel Martin's parents
Sylvia Martinez, friend of Gayle Rumbeck
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
Dennis Patterson, father of Jerry Patterson
Dave Rumbeck
The Sheppard family
Henry & Beth Skidmore, Cindy Jenkins' parents
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith
Justin Taylor, nephew of Jerry & Harriet Jones
Laura Virgil
Mildred Warner, sister-in-law of Joann Cheek



First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

From the Pastor . . .

A week from this Wednesday, February 25, 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 on February 25, at 7:00 p.m.

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 regular part of the church year.

As noted in an earlier column, the series of sermons on the Beatitudes will continue through Lent, and I am appreciative of the comments that have been made about this series. As Christ gave his life for us, let us live for him. And may we all have a renewed sense of the values and the strength of the Christian faith as we prepare our hearts and minds for the day of days – Easter.

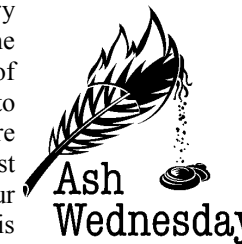
Tom Wilbanks

This Sunday

This Sunday Sarina Mayfield and Dave Edling will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will continue the series of sermons on the Beatitudes, and the sermon will be “Blessed are the Meek” based on Matthew 5:5.

Ash Wednesday Service

Wednesday, February 25, is the beginning of the season of Lent: the 40 days of preparation leading up to Holy Week in which we are called to reflect upon the cost of our salvation paid by our Lord, Jesus Christ. On this day, known as Ash Wednesday, a brief service of scripture, song, and congregational participation will be observed in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is invited as we gather to begin this holy season of preparation. The Chancel Choir will provide music, Verlyn Smoker will present a homily and childcare will be provided. There will be no children's choirs or Wednesday Church Night classes held on this date.



Our prayer is that this additional opportunity for worship will assist you in your observance of the Lenten season so that together we may more fully appreciate the wonder of Holy Week culminating in the joyous celebration of the resurrection of our Savior on Easter Sunday! May God be greatly glorified in our worship throughout this upcoming holy season.

Mesquite Mayor to Speak at Men's Breakfast this Sunday

John Monaco, the Mayor of Mesquite, will be the speaker for the Men's Breakfast this Sunday, February 22, at 7:30 a.m. Plans will also be discussed for this year's men's retreat at Mo-Ranch. President Darby Warsheck will preside for the meeting. Join us this Sunday!

College Scholarships

Our church is offering scholarship help for the 2009-2010 school year to active members of our church who will be enrolled full time in a college, university or trade school. In addition, a scholarship is being offered by our church's Presbyterian Women organization. Applications received will be considered for both scholarships, so you need only complete one application. Applications are available in the church office. The deadline for turning in completed scholarship applications is Sunday, April 5.

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. Donations may be given at any time, and marked "Scholarship Fund."

We have awarded scholarships in past years based on the amount of interest earned on the money in our scholarship fund. This interest amount will be less this year because of the current economic conditions, so if you would like to make a contribution specifically for 2009 scholarships, please note "2009 Scholarship" on your contribution.

Mo-Ranch Men's Conference

Attention all men who want to attend the Mo Ranch Men's Conference: this is your reminder to get your registration in. The Conference is May 1-3, and we will stay in the River Dorm. For more info call Dave Edling or go to Moranch.com and click on Men's Conference.

Does your lid fit??

Somehow at the Valentine church night supper on February 8, a couple of pot lids got mixed up. Liz Ramsey got home with a lid that looked like hers (clear glass with a silver colored metal handle) but doesn't fit her pan. So, check your cookware, and if you have a lid that doesn't fit, you can bring it to the church office and make the exchange.

Year-End Contribution Reports

2008 Contribution Reports are in a box on the table in the hallway near the church office. If you need your report mailed to you, please call the church office at 972-285-5602.

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 April 5.

Sunday School Teacher's Lunch

On March 1, there will be a lunch and fellowship time for all Sunday school teachers and educators in the fellowship hall following the 11:00 worship service. There will be lots of fun and fellowship. Please come.

Lunch and Meeting for ChildCare Workers

On March 8, there will be a childcare meeting and lunch in the fellowship hall following the 11:00 worship service for all of those involved in childcare here at the church.

Goldenaires Meeting

The Goldenaires will meet at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, February 26, in the youth hall. All are invited to join us for an excellent program and fellowship.

Our Church Family . . .

Our sympathy is extended to B.J. MAULDIN whose mother, Imogene Mason, died early this past Sunday morning, February 15. Visitation will be held from 5-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18, at New Hope Funeral Home. The funeral will be at our church at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 19. B.J. has requested that in lieu of flowers, those who wish could make a memorial gift to the music fund or organ fund of our church.

JIM COLLINS was badly injured in a ski accident in New Mexico on February 7, and was taken by Care-lite to a hospital in Denver where he underwent surgery. It is expected that he will be able to come back to Mesquite this week. DAVE RUMBECK was at Doctors Hospital all last week and was able to come home Saturday evening. We will want to keep Jim and Dave in our prayers for a good recovery.

A nice Church Night Supper was held February 8. This supper, which always has a Valentine theme, featured speakers Dr. and Mrs. John Tolson, who had a lot of worthwhile things to share. Our next supper will be on March 1, and the Program Committee has arranged for Officer Bryan Cummings with the Mesquite Police Department to speak about identify theft and ways to prevent it – a very timely subject.

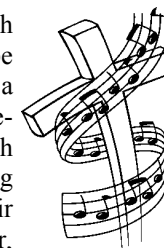
The 16 month old great-grandson of ROSE WHITNEY, Caleb Tomlinson, was flown with a medical team to Cincinnati Children's Hospital in Cincinnati where he was to undergo surgery this week. Caleb became ill in July 2008 with what was originally thought to be a simple virus but turned out to be staph pneumonia, and he weakened to the point where he stopped breathing. This required an emergency intubation and a week on a ventilator. Unfortunately this process damaged his airway and he has had breathing difficulties since that time. He has spent most of the last seven months at Children's Hospital in Dallas. The hospital in Cincinnati is known for successfully treating airway problems in children.

Blood Drive - March 1

Carter Blood Care will conduct a blood drive in their bus on our north parking lot on Sunday, March 1. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board near the church office. Providing nutrients to every cell in the body, blood is truly the river of life. Your donation will make a difference!

Baylor Youth Choir Music Festival

This weekend a group of youth from our church's Youth Choir will be traveling to Waco to participate in a festival of choral music designed specifically for the members of church youth choirs. This gathering of young people, who minister in music to their home congregations during the year, will see the convergence of around three hundred youth from churches throughout Texas and from several surrounding states. They will join forces for this special weekend which will culminate in a concert of sacred choral music accompanied by members of the Baylor University Orchestra. The concert will be held on Sunday, February 22, at 3:00 p.m. in the performing arts center on the campus of Baylor and is free and open to the public. They will also be singing in the worship service of First Baptist Church of Waco that morning.



We would greatly appreciate your prayers for the youth and sponsors that they would have a profitable weekend growing in God's grace, building lasting friendships, and being inspired to continue to serve Christ and His church through ministry in music. Thank you for supporting the young musicians of our congregation!

Confirmation Class

For parents of 7th graders and up, if your child has not taken the Confirmation class and would like to, or if your child has and would like to attend anyway, please notify Tim Smith as soon as possible.

Circle Meetings

The Morning Circle will meet Tuesday, March 3, at 9:30 with Diane Beal serving as hostess and Cora Dugan leading the Bible study.



The Night Circle will meet the same day at 7:00 in the youth hall with Susan Farmer leading the Bible study.