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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

March 8, 2009

Ushers

8:45

Liz Ramsey –Head Usher
Victor Carboni Richard Follansbee
Joanne Boudreaux

11:00

Jan Hull - Head Usher
Teresa Farr Mark Noble
Leonard Kitchens Dylan Colbert

Parking Lot Greeters

Harriet Jones Liz Ramsey

Please remember in prayer

Betty Aubert
Gary and Nancy Black
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom
Jim Brewster
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitz
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
Wayland & Mary Gordon, parents of Gwenda Aber
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
Acton Michael Merritt, newborn grandson of Bernie &
Lois Deroo
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
Fernita Swalin, friend of Hope Sheppard
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 . . .

“Praise the Lord, His mercies trace, Praise His providence and grace.” Those are some of the words of the opening hymn we sang last Sunday. I think of those words often because I have long thought that all of the good things which happen in our lives happen by God’s providence and grace. It always helps to count our blessings. We have much to be thankful for – for this good country in which God has placed us and for the blessing of Christian friends. One of my joys on Sunday mornings is greeting those here for worship. Some ministers feel a need to prepare themselves for worship by quiet time. I can understand that but I also feel that an important preparation for worship is seeing the faces, hearing the voices, and sensing the moods and needs of people gathering for worship. It has been a privilege for me to greet worshippers in our beautiful sanctuary for many years. I think sometimes about some of our members who have gone on to the Church Triumphant. I can remember their voices. I can remember where they sat in the sanctuary. I can remember their faithfulness. Sometimes as I greet people they are writing out a check to the church to be given during the offering. I’m always touched by that since that in itself is an expression of thanks to God for his blessings.

“Count your many blessings, name them one and by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done.” In our daily lives and as we worship as a church family, as people who love and care and pray for one another, may we always praise God for His providence and grace – and count our blessings.

Tom Wilbanks

Daylight Savings Time Begins this Sunday

Daylight Savings Time starts this Sunday, so remember to turn your clock AHEAD one hour when you go to bed Saturday night so that you won’t be late for our worship services and for Sunday School.

Work Day



Weather permitting, a work day will be held at the church Saturday, March 14, to gather up the leaves on the north side of the church by the educational wing. We plan to start at 9:00 and will be finished in a couple of hours. Lenny Pollard, the new Chairman of the Property Committee of the Board of Deacons, will be in charge.

This Sunday

On this second 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 continue the Lenten series of sermons on the Beatitudes, and the sermon will be “Blessed Are the Merciful,” based on Matthew 5:7.

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.

Relay for Life Garage Sale Coming Up Soon

The "Weez B Buds" Relay for Life of Mesquite team will be having a garage sale on our north parking lot from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., on April 18. If you have items to donate please contact Gracy Thomas or Brenda Evans. Brenda has room in her garage to store some items. All proceeds will go to the American Cancer Society.



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.

Session Highlights

This is a summary of the Session meeting on January 14 and February 11.

Marilyn Saams was elected as Clerk of Session.

The report of the church treasurer, Pete Allen, indicated that the average weekly offering for January was \$9406 which is less than the \$9800 needed to meet the church budget.

Dr. Wilbanks reported that the History Committee, chaired by Ferne Porter with other members Cora Dugan and Ann Kyle, with the assistance of Charlene Orr has been diligently working. The history will cover the period from 1981 when the last book was published up to the present. The state historical marker for our church should be delivered sometime this year.

Phil Johnson, Chairman of the Christian Education Committee, said that our DCE, Tim Smith, had recommended the formation of a sub-committee to consider changes that might need to be made in regard to the Wednesday Church Night program.

Howard Saucier gave the report of the Mission Committee and said that a blood drive would be held March 1.

Dr. Wilbanks reported that Craig Scott, our webmaster, advised us that the service that hosted our webpage was going to shut down at the end of January. A communications committee composed of Craig Scott, Linda Fricke, and Tim Smith, was formed and the new service is now in operation.

Order Your Butter Braid!!

Youth are selling butter braid, a delicious frozen breakfast/dessert bread, to help raise money for this summer's mission trip. It comes in multiple flavors, and is delicious!! The cost is \$12. Don't miss your opportunity to purchase this specialty bread, and help our youth at the same time.

Our Church Family . . .

It has been good to see JIM COLLINS back at church after he was badly injured in a skiing accident in New Mexico.

ELLEN MALLUM underwent emergency gallbladder surgery last Saturday night, February 28, at Medical City Hospital and is now home.

TOM ELLIS, who is a Richardson police officer, underwent surgery Tuesday, March 3, for a work related injury.

Our sympathy is extended to JULIA WALKER whose brother, Billy Ray Moore, died February 26, in Cherokee, Kansas, and to KATHY BROWN whose grandmother died February 16. Kathy and her family attended the funeral in Pittsburgh.

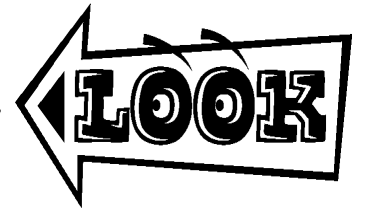
RICK and GWENDA ABER have a new grandson Wyatt Gordon Smith, born February 22. He is the son of Jason and Julie Smith. BERNIE and LOIS DEROO also have a new grandson, Acton Michael Merritt, born February 26. His parents are Steve and Linda Merritt.

An interesting and informative Church Night Supper was held last Sunday evening. Detective Brian Cummings, a fraud investigator with the Mesquite Police Department, gave a power-point presentation about identity theft and ways to prevent it. He also answered a number of questions, some of which were asked by members who have been victims. Copies of his presentation are available on a table near the church officer for those who were not able to attend. The next Church Night Supper will be on April 19, when our member, Sandy Collins, will show pictures and tell about her work as part of a Christian dental and medical mission team which served in Guatemala last summer.

Let's Go to Mo!

Information is available in the church office for the 58th Annual Men's Conference to be held May 1-3, at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch near Kerrville in the beautiful Texas hill country. Brochures are also available about the Women's Conferences to be held June 2-4 and June 5-7, and the Horizons Bible Study Conference to be held July 27-29. A brochure about the Family Fun Retreat March 12-15 is also available.

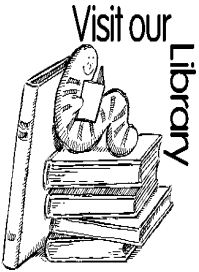
Love and Logic at Wednesday Church Night



Beginning this coming week on Wednesday March 4, at 6:30 p.m., Karen Harris who has vast experience as a counselor in the MISD, will begin a six-week parenting seminar entitled *Love and Logic*. Come early as this is a very popular class both to church members and to the community at large. If you have parenting questions or issues, or if you just want to improve your parenting skills, this class can be very informative and life-changing, and relates to children of all ages, from preschool to teens. We hope to see you there!

New in Our Church Library

A new book in our church library is *Good Mourning, Getting Through Your Grief*. In this book, Allen Hugh Cole explains the process of grief, identifies ways of coping, and reminds us of the hope we can find in mourning. Ultimately he offers a way to work through the loss and rebuild life with new strength. Allen Cole is Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.



Lunch and Meeting for Child Care 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.

Happy Birthday!

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|------|------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 3/1 | Brent Crelia | 3/15 | Judy Johnson |
| 3/4 | Mary Ruth Mandel | | Leslie Noble |
| 3/5 | Ron Adams | 3/17 | Mark Smoker |
| | Craig Alford | | Brenda Evans |
| | Jerry McBain | | Connie Wright |
| 3/6 | Blake Holland | 3/19 | Ron Smith |
| 3/7 | Betsy Litchfield | 3/20 | Rachel Petty |
| 3/8 | Paula Kusewitt | 3/22 | Cheryl Lydick |
| 3/9 | Victor Carboni | | Carley Patterson |
| | Anna Saucier | 3/23 | Sarah Hankins (Petty) |
| | Phil Wright | | McKenna White |
| 3/10 | Jeff Saams | 3/24 | Emma Smoker |
| 3/12 | Duane Moon | 3/25 | Ann Okafor |
| | Tracey Okafor | 3/28 | Ken Sheppard-Mahaffey |
| | Jim Sheppard | 3/29 | Brian Bridges |
| 3/13 | Joyce Ballenger | | Amy Bright |
| | Camryn Crelia | 3/30 | Alex Lindberg |
| | David Litchfield | 3/31 | Nathan Edling |
| | Madison Orr | | Johathan Graham |
| | | | Maurine Robinson |

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)
5:05 - 5:50 Children's Choir (Choir Room)
5:05 - 5:50 Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
7:30 - 9:00 Chancel Choir (Choir Room)