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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**

**May 6, 2007**

**USHERS**

**8:45**

Kathy Brown - Head Usher  
Don Black Ron Smith  
Roger Samuels

**11:00**

Leslie Noble - Head Usher  
Teresa Farr Penny Palumbo  
Denise Bennett Zachary Bennett

**PARKING LOT GREETER**

Donna Barron

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

Johnny Adams, brother of Ron Adams  
Kevin Alford, cousin of Craig Alford  
Gary and Nancy Black  
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom  
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt  
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer  
Charla Corder, friend of Shannon Crelia  
Dorothy DeRoo, sister-in-law of Bernie & Lois DeRoo  
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  
Terry Hauk, friend of Ken & Judy Johnson  
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck  
Ralph Jones, father of Julia Walker  
Lesia Koday, friend of Susan Mathews  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Lydick  
Karen McCardell, friend of Laura Virgil  
Ken McClure  
Joanie McCoy, 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  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Ryan Richardson, friend of Bernie & Lois DeRoo  
Frank Ruiz, friend of Jim & Hope Sheppard  
Don Sheppard, brother of Jim Sheppard  
Mark Sheppard and family  
Velia Sheppard, mother of Neill Sheppard  
Art Sikes, brother of Marilyn Saams  
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith  
Jeff Snedeker  
Connie Tolbert and family, friends of Dave & Gayle Rumbeck  
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



# First Presbyterian Church

**Mesquite, Texas**

(972) 285-5602

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

## From the Pastor . . .

I was reading an interesting article about steeples recently which got me to thinking about the steeple on our church. Probably the two most influential European church architects who are responsible for the traditional church architecture that we most associate with today's steeple and church designs were James Gibbs and Sir Christopher Wren. Most of America's early architecture was styled from their work. The vertical lines of the steeple helped to visually enhance the lines of the church, directing people's eyes vertically to the heavens, hopefully keeping them in a heavenly frame of mind! The early church believed the church could communicate the truth of the Bible in pictures and symbols by using stained glass to tell stories as well as steeples which helped by pointing upward to heaven.

Some have wondered why most steeples are white. In the early colonial days, metal was hard to obtain and expensive. Therefore most steeples were made of wood – and wood was immediately white-washed. And we are told that this is where we get the traditional white steeples seen atop most churches. Some steeples have windows and the windows are illuminated at night, a feature that I especially like about ours. Sometimes this is called a lantern.

One of our historic churches is Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago. When that church was built, its large Gothic structure and its steeple towered over the neighborhood. Its spire, pointing upward, was easily seen and led one's eyes upward into the heavens. Later the area around the church changed dramatically. Across the street from the church is the Hancock Building, over 80 stories high. On the same street, famous Michigan Avenue, is the Water Tower Mall, a multi-story structure. To the left, as one leaves the sanctuary, there are now two very tall and expensive hotels. The result is that the church has been dwarfed architecturally. The buildings also cut off the

*(continued)*

sunlight, so the steeple doesn't stand out the way it used to. And yet, the spire is still there for those who would see - the steeple still pointing to that One is beyond us and over us. And in the midst of the "gods" of finance, entertainment, and consumerism, the steeple is a reminder of the God whom we worship, no matter whether it is the magnificent church at Fourth Presbyterian or our church here in Mesquite or the smallest church building in the smallest town.

It is my hope and prayer that as people pass our church by day or by night that the steeple will be a beacon to remind them in the busy rush of life of the spiritual and eternal, to point troubled hearts to that one who is our eternal hope.

*Tom Wilbanks*

## Coming Soon!

Remember that on May 20, 2007, our church will honor Dr. Wilbanks with a reception from 12:30-2:30 p.m. celebrating his 40 years of service and dedication to our congregation.

Our two worship services on that day, at 8:45 and 11:00 will include special music planned for this occasion. Please join us on May 20.

## This Sunday

This Sunday the Chancel Ensemble will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir Women will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Out of the Depths," based on Psalm 130:1-8. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at the 8:45 service.

## Paper Recycling Contest



Our church is participating in a paper recycling contest from May 1, 2007 through August 31, 2007, and if we meet our goal of 20% over the amount of paper we recycled in that period of time during 2006, we could receive an additional \$500 bonus.

So . . . We need your help. Please make an extra effort to get your paper into our recycling bins on the north parking lot of the church this summer. The monthly income we receive from paper recycling, goes into our Youth Account, and that account will also receive any bonus money we earn from the contest.

In addition to our monetary benefit, the greater beneficiary of our recycling efforts is the environment. Americans recycled 42 million tons of paper last year – 50% of what they used – but still pulverized the rest. 900 million trees become pulp and paper each year. Recycling can help reduce that number.

Please join us in this effort – for the environment, and for the cash !!

## Attention College Students

Mo-Ranch will be holding a special “2007 College Connection” May 21-25 especially for you. Do you every wonder things like: What difference does it make to be a Christian? How are we faithful to our call to share our faith while still respecting others? What unites different faiths? What divides us? Then come explore these and other questions at Mo-Ranch. Take a few days to refresh your spirit, recharge your personal batteries, and reflect on issues facing you with other college students from around the region. And do it all while enjoying the beauty of Mo-Ranch! Call the church office at 972-285-5602 if you are interested, or if you need more information.

## DVDs of Church Services

Ron Morris has been making DVDs of special worship services which are sent to shut-in members. If you are not able to attend church services and have not received one of the DVDs, but would like to, please call the church office at 972-285-5602. Those who are not shut-in who would like to have a DVD of a special worship service can order one for \$4.00 by calling the church office.

We want to express our appreciation to Ron for providing this service to our congregation.

## Mesquite Symphony Concert

On May 12, the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra will present a concert at 7:30 at the Mesquite Arts Center. Music by Faure and Tchaikovsky will be presented. Shannon Lee, 13 year old violinist, will play the Prokofiev Concerto No. 1. Jonathan Graham and Nickie Wilbanks of our church are members of the orchestra.

## Presbyterian Women Meet May 15



All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women meeting on Tuesday, May 15, at 6:30 p.m. Supper will be provided, and we especially hope that women who work outside the home during the day will be able to attend this evening meeting. During this meeting the Birthday and Least Coin offerings will be dedicated, representatives to church committees will be announced, and the Coordinating Team will be elected and installed.

## Our Church Family . . .

DR. CHRISTINE WALKER has had to go back to Baylor Garland Hospital. She has also had to close her medical practice in Forney, which was the end of an era. She attended UT Southwestern Medical School when it was in a Quonset Hut and for many years she was the only physician in Forney. Over the years she treated patients with competence and care.

CHERYL LYDICK was able to come home from Baylor Hospital on Saturday following her surgery on April 25. BILLY MARK GILLISPIE is continuing to deal with some difficult medical problems. DAVID BAYS is now at Golden Acres Nursing Home. We will want to keep all of these in our prayers.

It was good to see LES OLSON back at church last Sunday following his surgery several weeks ago.

We were pleased to have a nice visit with LEITH and CAROL FUJII on April 22, when they gave Moments for Mission at our worship services and showed a DVD about their work and answered questions in the fellowship hall during Sunday School. They are Presbyterian missionaries in Thailand whose work we are supporting through our mission giving. They have been on Interpretation Assignment here in the States visiting various churches before returning to Thailand in May. Our thanks to BERNIE and LOIS DeRoo who hosted the Fujiis at their home and to the Mission Committee who helped with arrangements for their visit and also had lunch with them at the church following the church services on April 22.

The spring series of Church Night Suppers closed out on a nice note last Sunday evening with our annual talent show. It was an enjoyable evening with an abundance of good food. The next Church Night Supper will be our church picnic on October 7.

Twenty-two men of our church will be attending the annual Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch near Kerrville this week-end.

There will not be a church newsletter next week.

*Please remember to pray  
for those in the military service.*

## Register Now for Summer Camp



Pick up one of the registration brochures on the table under the clock in the hall and register your child for a great time this summer at either Camp Gilmont in the piney woods of East Texas, or Camp Prairie Valley bordering the northern edge of the Texas Hill Country. Camping opportunities are available in June and July for children and youth ranging in ages from 6 to 16.

Camps fill up quickly, so don't delay in making these plans. The deadline for the early registration discount has already passed, and summer is almost here! Scholarships are available.

## Presbyterian Planning Calendars

Orders are being taken in the church office for the 2007-2008 Presbyterian Planning Calendar. The theme this year is “Come all you people, come and praise your Maker,” featuring photos and accompanying passages reflecting our life together, worldwide, as a denomination. The cost of a calendar is \$8. If you would like one, please call the church office at 972-285-5602 by May 20.

## Need Help Hearing?

If you have hearing impairment, the church can provide a hearing device on Sundays which will assist you in hearing better. Please call the church office if you would like to use one of these.

# Happy Birthday!

5/1	Lori Boling	5/11	Melody Wright
	Elna Singleton	5/15	Ellen Mallum
	Dana White	5/16	Pat Venner
5/2	Penny Palumbo	5/17	Denise Bennett
	Larry Thomas		Nicolas Scholl
5/3	Debbie Bealmear	5/18	Sean Hunt
5/4	Howie Burkhalter	5/21	Matt Uzzle
	Frances Hair	5/22	Margie Watson
5/5	Pete Bailey	5/23	Margie Akin
	Bennett Miller		Harrison Cummings
5/6	Sarina Mayfield	5/24	Brantley Alford
5/8	Jerry Bringle		David Evans
	Pat Wilson		Craig Scott
5/11	Joanne Cheek	5/27	Cindy Hunt
	Megan Mayfield	5/31	Breck Bennett