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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

May 11, 2008

Ushers

8:45

Earlayne Martin- Head Usher
Paula Kusewitt Daniel Alvarez
Gail Thompson

11:00

Matthew Taylor - Head Usher
Linda Fricke Jerry Jones
Lori Herring Jordan Hartsell

Parking Lot Greeters

Zack Saucier Gayle Rumbeck

Please remember in prayer

Cindy Allen, daughter of John and Janie Jameson
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
Troy & Kelli Connatser, friends of Gayle Rumbeck
Lois Dandridge, friend of Susan Mathews
Jeff Dixon, brother of Kirk Dixon
Karen Dixon
Odis Fagan, brother-in-law of Connie Wright
Margaret Green, friend of Susan Mathews
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Cheryl Martin
Wanda McDougle, mother of Ronda Scott
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort
The family of Leroy Moore, friends of the Rumbecks
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
Les Olson
Syble Roberts, sister-in-law of Grace Roberts
The Sheppard 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 . . .

Because Easter fell in late March this year, we did not get to make mention of our church's 127th anniversary. But I think often about the fifteen charter members who started this good church in March of 1881. A lot of good things have started from small beginnings, including the Christian Church itself with those twelve disciples. In commenting on a passage in John 17, William Barclay says that when Jesus left this world, it would have seemed he did not have much ground for hope since it didn't look like he had accomplished much and had won so few. But Jesus had a divine confidence that springs from God and was not afraid of small beginnings.

Some in our church can remember when Mesquite was just a small town. And the same is true of Forney and Rockwall. I was amused to read in the *Dallas Morning News* about a man in Rockwall who remembered years ago being taught this little ditty by his first grade teacher: "Rockwall, Rockwall, little town on the hill, Never has grown and never will." The man said: "We laugh about that now." And that is understandable when one sees the tremendous growth that has taken place there.

Growth in a church takes place in many ways. I am always grateful when our members invite others to visit our church. The church lives and grows through people like you and me. If the Christian faith is important to us, if the church is important to us, then it ought to be important enough to share it with others. Sometimes people feel like they need to get started to church. But they don't know where to get started and are sometimes afraid they won't know anybody. And our word of invitation can make a tremendous difference. I can think of a number of our members for whom this church has made a great difference in their lives. But they wouldn't be here except for the fact that someone else invited them to come. As disciples

(continued)

in our own day and time, we need to be awake and alert to the opportunities we have to share a good word about Jesus Christ and about our church.

Tom Wilbanks

Vacation Bible School



Plan to be a part of our great Vacation Bible School which will be held each evening June 22-26. The theme this year is "Beach Party – Surfin' Through the Scriptures." Classes will be held for children, youth and adults. Shannon Crelia is Director this year, and Erin Williams is Assistant Director.

This Sunday

This Sunday is Mother's Day. Make it a family day at church! Dave Edling and Verlyn Smoker will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir men will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "A Place Called Home" based on Deuteronomy 11:18-21.

**Mesquite Recycles Day
May 10
8 a.m. - Noon
at Poteet High School**



On Saturday, May 10, Mesquite residents will have the opportunity to clean out their closets and garages for Mesquite Recycles Day. Items donated will help save landfill space and will either be recycled or reused, and some donations will benefit local charities. For a complete list of vendors and items that will be accepted, please log on to the following:

www.keepmesquitebeautiful.org

Below is a partial list of items that will be accepted:

Electronic waste - computers, monitors, keyboards, printers, televisions, microwaves, stereos, VCRs, phones and other small appliances and electronic devices

Mesquite Lion's Club - gently used eyeglasses

Friends of the Library - gently used books, magazines, videos, DVDs, CDs, and books on tape

Environmental Co-op - used cell phones, cell phone batteries and accessories, used laser and ink jet printer cartridges, and used rechargeable batteries

Sharing Life Community Outreach - gently used clothing, handbags, linens and towels

Mesquite Social Services - Gently used toys and children's items

Mesquite Solid Waste - tires and used appliances

Session Highlights

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

The report of the church treasurer, Pete Allen, indicated that the average weekly offering for March of \$9,669.52 was below the \$9,791.44 needed to meet this year's church budget.

Duane Moon, Chairman of the Christian Education Committee said that with help of Howard Saucier, plans were progressing for the Youth Sunday Service.

Johnny Graham, Chairman of the Worship Committee, said that Dr. Wilbanks would be on vacation May 20, and the Session approved Dr. Hank Hunt leading our worship services that day.

Duane, Moon, Vice-Chairman of the DCE Search Committee, reported that three resumes have been received and plans were being made for interviews with the applicants.

Under New Business, the Session was advised that the Board of Deacons had approved a request from Zack Saucier on behalf of the senior highs to redo their room in the youth hall. Among other things, new carpet will be installed. Appreciation was also expressed to several of our members who have spent a lot of time on two projects at the church. One is new duct work for air conditioning and heating on the south side of the sanctuary and the other is wiring for a video taping system for our worship services.

Mesquite Symphony Program

On Saturday, May 10, at 7:30 p.m., the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra will present a concert at the Mesquite Arts Center. The program will consist of music by Leonard Bernstein, Rachmaninoff, and the violin concerto by Tchaikowsky. B.J. Mauldin of our church is keyboardist for the Symphony and Nickie Wilbanks is principal of the second violins.

The most powerful part of a Sunday School lesson is the teacher behind it.

Henrietta C. Mears

Our Church Family . . .

Our thanks to the Christian Education Committee which provided a lovely reception on April 27, for a large group of graduating high school seniors. Our youth did a fine job that day in leading our annual Youth Sunday service.

It was good to see JIM BREWSTER and DONNA MECASKEY back at church last Sunday following their surgeries. RICHARD MAULDIN underwent surgery recently. We were sorry to hear that ELIZABETH TRACEY was involved in a car accident recently and hope she will have a good recovery.

Congratulations to RON KRAJCA who was chosen Mesquite Police Officer of the Year. Ron is a 28 year veteran of the department. He was one of the original Law Enforcement Teaching Students (LETS) officers and now serves as a school resource officer at his alma mater, Mesquite High School. Ron said: "It's truly an honor to accept this award. It hasn't always been easy being an officer. It's a tough job, but this is a great place to work, and I feel blessed to be here."

Nineteen men from our church attended the statewide gathering of men at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch last week-end. Our organist, B.J. Mauldin, served as pianist for the conference.

The new stained glass window dedicated to CLIFFORD and WANDA MOON was installed this past Monday, May 5. The window, approved by the Session, is on the south side of the sanctuary near the pulpit.

DALLAS HEBERT has enlisted in the Army and is in boot camp at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri. Following boot camp he will continue his training in Arizona.

Please note the following address changes in our church family:

FRANCES SMITH
PENNY PALUMBO
NORMA HAGETHORN
CHRIS & RENEA ORR

College Scholarships

We want to offer our congratulations to several students who received college scholarships from our church for the 2008-2009 school year. They are: Janel Okafor, Ben Robinson, Zack Saucier, Lauren Smith, and Brooks Wilson.

In addition, our Presbyterian Women organization has offered a college scholarship for the past two years, and Lauren Smith is the recipient of that scholarship for the coming year.

**Presbyterian Women Luncheon
Sunday, May 18**

All women of the church are invited to attend the Presbyterian Women Luncheon immediately after the 11:00 worship service on Sunday, May 18. The PW Birthday Offering and Least Coin Offering will be dedicated and received. Representatives to church committees will be announced, and the Coordinating Team will be elected and installed. The devotional will be given by the Night Circle, and the PW Coordinating Team will serve as hostesses.



Missionary Update

As mentioned in a previous newsletter, our church established a new relationship with James and Carol Brees at the Memorial Christian Hospital in Sialkot, Pakistan. Jim was the general superintendent of the hospital and Carol was an obstetrician. However, they are going to have to return to the States in June. Jim

has been battling Parkinson's disease for the past ten years and it has reached the point where they will no longer be able to continue in ministry there. We will want to keep them in our prayers.

