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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

November 11, 2007

Ushers

8:45

Jerry Dressler - Head Usher
Eric Schwartz Daniel Alvarez
Roger Samuels

11:00

Linda Fricke - Head Usher
Patrick Garver Jerry Jones
Denise Bennett Zack Bennett

Parking Lot Greeters

Sheila Hammer Kathy Brown

Please remember in prayer

Kevin Alford, cousin of Craig Alford
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
Karen Dixon
Richard Edwards, brother of Philip Edwards
Frank Fischer, Susan Mathews' father
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson
Carla Haynes and son Caleb, friends of Dave Rumbeck
Ralph Jones, father of Julia Walker
Nancy Kelly, friend of Laura Virgil
Lesia Koday, friend of Susan Mathews
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard
Cheryl Lydick
Ken McClure
Geraldine McDonald, friend of Laura Virgil
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
Kay Nowell, mother of Kelli Harris
Amy Reynolds, friend of Robbie Lee
Syble Roberts, sister-in-law of Grace Roberts
Ryan Richardson, friend of Bernie & Lois DeRoo
Mark Sheppard and family
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith
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 Sunday is a very important one because what happens this Sunday helps determine the mission and programs of our church for the coming year. This Sunday is Stewardship and Pledge Sunday. The Apostle Paul gave us two important principles for giving as Christians. He said that our giving should be in proportion to our income. And secondly, it should be regular, faithful, not haphazard. This is one reason a pledge is helpful and important.

There are many reasons why people give to God through His church. But the best reason is that we give because God first gave to us. He gave his Son to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins, be saved, and have new life. That forgiveness, that grace, should fill the hearts of all of us with gratitude.

I have often thought how appropriate it is that stewardship Sunday occurs in November, the month in which we observe Thanksgiving. The Pilgrims had been through difficult experiences, but still they thanked God for his blessings and that they had survived. I encourage you to respond with that same sense of gratitude this Sunday, to continue to pray for our church and for each other as we give thanks to God for the blessings he has given us.

I was touched by the offertory prayer that Sheila Hammer gave on October 28, when she referred to our stewardship theme this year by saying to God: "We know you made us with one heart, one mind, and purpose, and so now we give – on purpose, freely offering to you the best of who we are. Continue to work out your purpose in us. Make us your hands through our many acts and many opportunities within our community and church." That says it very well.

I want to express my deep appreciation for the faithful, generous giving of so many of our people. This is a good church, and it has good people. This Sunday when we bring our pledge cards we can each help ensure that good things will continue to happen

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for the cause of Christ in this church and the mission work we support in this community and state and through Presbyterian missionaries in the far corners of the earth sharing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Tom Wilbanks

Thanksgiving Dinner



Tickets will be on sale after both services this Sunday for the 83rd annual Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by our Men's Council to be held Sunday, November 18, at 6:00 p.m. The President of the Men's Council, Daniel Alvarez, has arranged for a Native American artist, Amulfo Pena, to present the program. Mr. Pena received a fine Arts Degree from the University of Texas at Tyler. He started painting portraits and still does, but now enjoys creating larger pictures and murals. Many of his works are featured in restaurants and homes across Texas and range from angels to mariachis, from eagles across a mountain to lake scenes.

The tickets are \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children ages 12 and under, with no household paying more than \$18. Please note that tickets will NOT be sold the night of the dinner. Childcare will be provided for preschool children.

This Sunday

This Sunday the Chancel Choir will sing at 8:45, and the Youth Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "One Heart, One Mind," based on Acts 4:32.



Wednesday Church Night classes for the 2nd fall session will begin this week. There are classes for all ages beginning at 6:30, with optional dinner at 6:00. Adult classes include *Landscape Painting* and *Scrapbooking Workshop*. Steve Leake will be leading a four-week Advent study beginning November 14.

Children's classes will be working on preparing for "Countdown to Christmas," a Christmas program to be presented on December 19. Don't miss out on the fun.

Dinner costs \$4 per person per week. Reservations are required and payment for the full six weeks is required to hold your spot. Please remember that food is being purchased each week based on those who have made reservations. If you are not here, we are still providing a meal on your behalf. Assistance is available if needed.

Grace Presbytery Annual Youth Worship Celebration

**Sunday, November 18
St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church,
Richardson**



This special worship service is one we never miss. Pathfinders have been asked to usher and collect the offering.

We'll have pizza for lunch at 1:00, then leave our church for the celebration. We'll be back in time for the Men's Thanksgiving Dinner. There is no cost, however, an offering is collected for Grace Presbytery scholarships.

YOU MUST R.S.V.P to the office (972-285-5602) NO LATER THAN November 11.

Youth Music Ministry Stock Sale

Following both services this Sunday our youth will be selling shares of "stock" in their bi-annual music ministry tour this year heading to the southeastern U.S. A table will be set up in the hall where shares may be purchased for \$25 each and all funds will be invested in the summer tour June 14 to 21. Shareholders will join in the privilege of investing in the lives of our youth as we send them to take the message of God's grace to people outside our own city. Dividends gained will be your participation in the ministry of spiritual growth, life experience, team work, and group building of our youth.

All shares purchased by the congregation at large will be designated for the tour's general fund, while family members and friends outside the church body may contribute directly to individual accounts.

The Dow Jones is unpredictable, but the grace of God is constant, and the privilege of investing in assets with eternal benefits, like the lives of our youth, yield eternal returns. Thank you for your support.

Chancel Choir Concert Recordings Are Ready

If you ordered a recording of the Chancel Choir's summer concert "Songs of Summer," please come to the choir room to pick it up. If you did not order a copy, but would like to have one, contact Verlyn Smoker. The price is \$10 for a CD, and \$8 for a cassette tape.

The Pictorial Directories Are Here!

The corrected pictorial directories are here, and you may pick up your free directory from the desk in the church office. Please check your name off the list that is near the directories. We ask that each family take only one so that we can use the extras to give new members when they join our church to help them put names with faces in our church family. And thanks to all who participated by having their pictures taken!

Our Church Family . . .

Our sympathy is extended to WILLIE TOWNSEND whose brother died October 19, in Pasadena, Texas.

It was good to see DOUG FORT back at church last Sunday following his surgery, and also PEGGY BREWSTER following heart bypass surgery. RENITA FOSTER is scheduled for knee surgery this Thursday, November 8. We were sorry to hear that KAREN CARBONI was injured in a recent car accident. BETTY AUBERT was in the hospital for several days recently and we will want to keep her in our prayers.

Our best wishes are extended to BLAIR BURKHALTER and BEN BRISCOE who were married October 27.

At their October 28 meeting our Men's Council elected new officers. PATRICK GARVER will serve as president next year, DARBY WASHECK was elected vice-president, and ROGER SAMUELS will continue at treasurer.

Several of our members were pictured in the neighbors section of the *Dallas Morning News* on October 28, in a story about Addressing Mesquite Day. The pictures are on the bulletin board near the church office. About 40 of our members participated in this helpful project. A nice card and note was received at the church from a woman who was assisted by our members and she said: "Thank you for the excellent work you did at my home on "Addressing Mesquite Day" – tree trimming and removal of limbs over my roof and removal of a large TV antenna. Some of us older citizens are just making it from month to month and it really helps out to have concerned Christians take notice and offer a helping hand. God bless you all. My prayers are with you."

A nice Church Night Supper was held last Sunday evening. The speaker was Sid Rice, Executive Director of Literacy and Evangelism International, an organization whose work we have supported through our mission giving for many years. This organization teaches people in the U.S. and in many foreign countries to read using the Bible. Through the grace of God and dedicated missionaries, it is a work that has lifted millions of individuals around the world out of the depths of abject poverty by giving them the gift of reading. And, importantly, it has lifted millions of

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individuals out of the depths of sin by sharing with them the eternally critical gift of the life-changing story of Jesus.

Be sure to notice the nice display on the wall near the church office which carries out this year's stewardship theme "One Heart, One Mind . . . Many Opportunities, Many Acts, Many People" based on Acts 4:32. The names of those who have made commitments of support for our church for next year will be placed on the display after our pledge Sunday this week. Our thanks to Jennifer Gardner and Paula Nelms, members of the Church Budget and Stewardship Committee who put up the display.

Thanksgiving Baskets

The Mission Committee hopes to provide a Thanksgiving meal to 120 needy families in our community through Sharing Life Community Outreach. If you have the desire to share your good fortune with others, this is a good opportunity to help. The cost of a complete Thanksgiving meal costs approximately \$30.

If you want to help with this project, please place your donation in the offering and mark your check or pew envelope "Thanksgiving Basket."

One Nation Under God Lunch

The Exchange Club of Mesquite, along with nearly 1,000 Exchange Clubs across the nation, is recognizing November as "One Nation Under God Month." A prayer luncheon will be held at the Mesquite Church of Christ this Friday, November 9, from 11:30 – 1:00 p.m. The speaker will be Lt. Colonel Tom Jordon. There is no charge to attend.

JAMMERS Christmas Celebration Sunday, December 2

4:00 - Games and gift exchange in fellowship hall
5:00 - Pizza
5:45 - Depart for Bethlehem Revisited in Waxahachie
8:00 - Stop for ice cream and then come home

Bring a Christmas gift to exchange, and a little money for ice cream. **R.S.V.P. to Cynthia (972-285-5602) by November 28.**