

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Mesquite, TX
Permit No. 324

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

November 18, 2007

Ushers

8:45

Don Black - Head Usher
Clark Windle Weldon Ballenger
Breck Bennett

11:00

Earlayne Martin - Head Usher
Leslie Noble Penny Palumbo
Gayle Rumbeck Brooks Wilson

Parking Lot Greeters

Matthew Taylor Paula Nelms

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
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 . . .

This Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday, and it is one of my favorite Sundays of the year. I like the Thanksgiving hymns and anthems and other things which make this such a special occasion. With all the catalogs and stores advertising Christmas merchandise, it is easy for a meaningful observance of Thanksgiving to get left out. But as Christians, we need to do better than that. For reasons that I don't know, attendance on Thanksgiving Sunday has not been what it should have been the past two or three years. But we have so much to be thankful for, and I encourage you to make it a priority to be here. It will be a wonderful service of praise and thanksgiving.

As we count our blessing this Thanksgiving, we are grateful for the good response by many of our people for our stewardship commitment effort for the coming year. It is significant that Thanksgiving and stewardship season occur at the same time. Because God has blessed us, we want to respond in gratitude. And one way we do this is through a pledge of support for the church. You will find information about the pledge total in another article.

I look forward to sharing the joy of worship with you on this Thanksgiving Sunday and giving thanks to God. May God grant to you a blessed Thanksgiving.

Tom Wilbanks



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 this 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

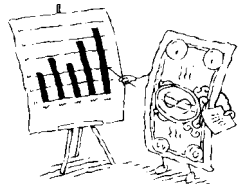


This Sunday is Thanksgiving Sunday which is always a memorable and great day in our church. A Chancel Ensemble will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir, Children's Choir, and Jubilate Ringers will provide music at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Whistling the Doxology" based on Psalm 110:1-5.

Thanks for Your Pledge

We are grateful for those who have made pledges of support for our church for the coming year. As of Monday, November 12, we have 117 pledges for \$321,804 toward next year's budget of \$509,155, and 63% of the budget is pledged. This compares to 116 pledges for \$379,234 at this time last year, so we are running behind last year at this time.

The stewardship theme this year is "One Heart, One Mind ... Many Opportunities, Many Acts, Many People. The display carrying out this theme is on the wall near the church office with names of members who have pledged, and we thank you for your financial pledge of support for the church.



Stewardship Update

Community Thanksgiving Worship



The annual Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Mesquite Ministers' Association will be held this Tuesday, November 20, at 7:30 at Family Cathedral of Praise, 790 Windbell Circle.

College Scholarship

Beautiful Westminster College, a Presbyterian-related college in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, is offering a young Presbyterian Scholars Program which is valued at \$15,000 annually or \$60,000 over four years. Further information about the scholarship is available in the church office.

Chancel Choir Advent Service

Each fall I eagerly anticipate the season of Advent—now only a few weeks away. It is a joyous time of anticipation and preparation; anticipation of the celebrations which surround the anniversary of Jesus Christ's birth, and preparation as we ready our hearts to receive the truth and purpose of His coming. One way we, as a church, prepare for Christ's coming is with special services of music and worship and Sunday morning, December 9, will be just such an occasion. The Chancel Choir, accompanied by our own B.J. Mauldin and a professional string quintet, will present the beloved Advent/Christmas portion of George Fredrich Handel's oratorio "Messiah" in both morning services. For two and a half centuries this masterwork has been presented around the world during the two holiest seasons of the church year; Christmas and Easter. This work has endured because it interweaves the timeless truths of God's written word with splendid music. Advent is an excellent time to introduce someone to the person of Jesus Christ through the medium of music and to invite friends and family to visit our church.



Youth Music Ministry Stock Sale

This Sunday is your last opportunity to purchase "stock" in our upcoming youth music ministry tour. Following both services this Sunday our youth musicians will be stationed at a table in the hallway where you may make a contribution to help fund our bi-annual trip. Shares are \$25 each and all funds will be invested in the summer tour June 14 to 21, heading to the southeastern U.S. 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 community. 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.

Our Church Family . . .

Our sympathy is extended to BILLIE STONE whose sister died last week.

MARSHALL ALFORD was scheduled for heart bypass surgery Tuesday, November 13, at Baylor Hospital.

Our best wishes are extended to AMY BRIGHT and GLENN DAVIS who were married recently and to BRITTANY BEALMEAR and JAKE HAIRSTON on the birth of a baby girl Addison Claire Hairston on November 10.

We were sorry to hear that KEN JOHNSON has a bad case of pneumonia.

MARY TAYLOR has moved.

We would like to know if there are elderly members of our church or other members who need help around their homes – painting fixing steps, etc., or other repairs. If so, please call the church office at 972-285-5602. Our church has actively participated in Addressing Mesquite in which volunteers do this kind of work, but we would like to know if some of our members also need assistance.

There will not be a church newsletter next week, and the church office will be closed Thursday and Friday. We wish for all members and friends of our church a blessed Thanksgiving.

Congratulations to REBECCA SMITH and AARON SHEPPARD-MAHAFFEY for their performances in the Poteet High School Marching Band, which won the 4-A State Championship on November 6, in the Alamodome in San Antonio. Aaron is a senior and Rebecca is a sophomore.

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.

Come Decorate for Christmas



We will decorate the church for Christmas on Wednesday, November 28, starting at 9:00 a.m. We will be grateful for men and women who will come lend a helping hand. Ronda Scott will be in charge. Our church is always beautiful at Christmas, but we do need your help. Thanks!

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!

Marilyn Saams, coordinator of the directory project asked that we express appreciation to these people who helped with the directory: Carolyn Evans for countless hours greeting during the photography sessions, and Andy Cummings for doing the layout; also Kay Allen, Cora Dugan, Linda Fricke, Sarah Kitchens, Stan Jeffus, Wade Marshall, Joy and Roger Samuels, Ronda Scott and Margie Watson.

Mesquite Symphony

The Mesquite Symphony will present a concert this Saturday, November 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Mesquite Arts Center. Music by Wagner and Respighi will be featured, along with a work by French composer D'Indy featuring a piano part by B.J. Mauldin. Nickie Wilbanks is also a member of the orchestra.