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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY
December 2, 2007

Ushers
8:45

Jerry Dressler - Head Usher
Larry Thomas Ron Smith
Roger Samuels

11:00

Kathy Brown - Head Usher
Teresa Farr Bart Mathis
Courtney Womack

Parking Lot Greeters

Earlayne Martin Larry Thomas

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
Leroy Moore, friend of Dave & Gayle Rumbeck
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 the first Sunday of Advent. The word "advent" literally means "coming," and it includes the four Sundays leading up to Christmas. It is a time of spiritual preparation for the ever-old and yet ever-new coming of Christ. Unfortunately, it is easy for the real meaning of Christmas to get lost among shopping and other activities – to focus more on the mall than the manger. Let us not be too busy to worship that one for whom Christmas is named. Worship each Sunday reminds us of the true basis of our rejoicing – that unto us is born a Savior.

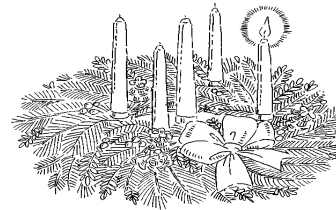
I want to express my deep appreciation to those who have made pledges of financial support for our church for the coming year. After a rather slow start, there has now been a good response, and it is a great encouragement.

Our church is always beautiful at Christmas, and I look forward to sharing the joy of worship each Sunday of December in the beauty of our sanctuary.

Tom Wilbanks

This Sunday

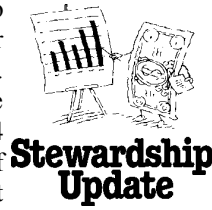
First Sunday of Advent



This Sunday is the first Sunday of Advent. A Ladies Trio will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir will sing at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "A Shining Star," based on Matthew 2:1-12. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be observed at the 8:45 service.

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 26, we have 162 pledges for \$475,004 toward next year's budget of \$509,155, and 93% of the budget is pledged. This compares with 157 pledges for \$453,496 with 92% of the budget pledged at this time last year.



Stewardship Update

"Thank you" letters have been sent out from Donna Barron, Chair of the Church Budget and Stewardship Committee, expressing appreciation to those who have responded with their financial pledges to help good things continue to happen in the church.

If you have not returned your card yet, we hope you will place it in the offering this Sunday or mail it to the church. Every pledge is important – and needed.

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.

Presbyterian Women



Presbyterian Women will meet Tuesday, December 4, at 10:00 a.m. for Bible study and a gift exchange. Cora Dugan will lead the Bible study and a covered dish luncheon will follow with Carol Evans and Marilyn Saams serving as hostesses.

The Night Circle will meet the same day at the home of Brenda Evans at 7:00 p.m.

Chancel Choir Advent Celebration Service

The season of Advent is upon us once again and is a joyous time of celebration. We look forward to the remembrance of Jesus Christ's birth on Christmas day, we prepare our homes and hearts reminding ourselves of the purpose and significance of His coming, and we celebrate with gatherings of family and friends and special opportunities for worship. Sunday morning, December 9, will be just such an occasion. On that day the Chancel Choir, accompanied by B. J. Mauldin and a professional string quintet, will present the Advent /Christmas portion of the beloved oratorio "Messiah," by George Frideric Handel. For two and a half centuries this masterwork has been presented during the two holiest seasons of the church year; Christmas and Easter. The work has thrived because it consists of the timeless truth of the inspired words of Scripture coupled with profoundly sublime musical settings. The choir will present this musical offering in both the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. services. This special service presents an excellent opportunity to invite and bring friends and family to church, or to introduce someone to the Lord, Jesus Christ, through the avenue of seasonal music.



Service of Lessons and Carols

The following Sunday, December 16, at 5:00 p.m., will present another opportunity to celebrate the season of Advent and will be led by the youth and children of our church. In our annual service of Lessons and Carols all of our children's and youth vocal and instrumental ensembles will mark the occasion with the singing and ringing of Christmas carols and anthems. The service is built around the ancient, yet most relevant of stories as revealed in both the Old and New Testaments of Holy scripture—the incarnation of Jesus, Christ. This service is always a highlight of our Advent celebration at First Church, and we hope you will make it a priority to attend. As in past years, a reception in the fellowship hall will immediately follow the service with refreshments for all, and a visit from Santa. Come and celebrate the Advent season at First Presbyterian Church!

Soli Deo Gloria,
Verlyn Smoker

Welcome New Members!

We're happy to welcome the following new members who joined our church family on November 18.



DAN and TERRI BRAGG



SONNY KNOWLES and
CHRISTINA SHELTON

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.**

Our Church Family . . .

MATT ARMSTONG had a heart attack on Friday, November 23, and is at Medical City Hospital. Matt has been the faithful teacher of the Genesis Sunday School class for a many years. MARSHALL ALFORD did not get to come home from Baylor Hospital last week as was expected following his heart bypass surgery and as of Monday, November 26, he was still at Baylor. We will want to keep Matt and Marshall in our prayers for their recovery.

Our thanks to RON BETTIS who planted some nice flowers for fall on the south side of the sanctuary recently.

Dr. Christine Walker has a new phone number.

We were sorry to hear that JOY SAMUELS has been dealing with a difficult medical problem recently.

PathFinders
Keep your heart on the right path.

Progressive Dinner!!!

It's time for one of our MOST FUN events -- the Christmas Progressive Dinner. We'll meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. Saturday, December 8, and head out for yummy food and lots of fun. Friends are welcome, but **YOU MUST R.S.V.P.** by Wednesday, December 5.

Senior High Youth Connection

SHYC - "Between the Trees" will be held at Austin College, February 1-3. This Senior High Presbytery-wide conference is GREAT and not to be missed. Registration forms are available in the office and should be completed and returned to the office by December 19, with your registration fee of \$40. Scholarships are available. Don't miss it!



*All are invited to a
bridal shower for
Sarah Petty
Sunday, December 16,
from 12:00-2:00 p.m.
in the fellowship hall.*

Women's Retreat

The holidays are here which means the cut-off for the Women's Retreat price break is rapidly approaching. Please remember if you want to take advantage of the price difference, any outstanding balance needs to be paid by Sunday, December 30. After that day, the cost rises from \$100 to \$110. If you haven't signed up and are interested in going or need to make a payment, please contact the office or see any of the following: Brenda Adams, Brenda Evans, Sarina Mayfield, Sheryl Miller, Bryany Newland, Ronda Scott, or Gracy Thomas. The retreat will be held April 4-6, 2008.

Attention Goldenaires!

The Goldenaires meeting for December has been cancelled. The next meeting will be in January.

Mesquite Symphony

The Mesquite Symphony will present Christmas concerts on Saturday, December 15, at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. B.J. Mauldin and Nickie Wilbanks are members of the orchestra.

Happy Birthday!

12/2	Heather Mayfield Terri Smith	12/15	Brian Beal Erin Williams
12/4	Carrie Jenkins J. P. Marshall	12/16	Norma Hagethorn Tyler Hebert
12/6	Gary Black Micah Krajca	12/18	Joy Samuels Noel Nelms
12/8	Lynn Coomer Katy Uzzle	12/20	Matthew Graves 12/21 Gwenda Aber
12/9	Sara Alford Derek Schwartz	12/25	Edie Brunson Pat Elliott
12/12	Beth Gonzales Hayden Mayfield Audrey Mitchell Marilyn Saams	12/26	Jim Brewster Joanne Moon
12/14	Joyce Murdock	12/28	Carol Evans
		12/30	Nancy Black
		12/30	Tim Black
		12/31	Jennifer Gardner

Wednesday Church Night Schedule

6:00-6:25 p.m.	Dinner
6:30-7:25 p.m.	Classes for everyone

Wednesday Choir Schedule

4:30 - 5:00	Alleluia Chimes (Bell Room)
5:00 - 5:50	Children's Choir (Choir Room)
5:00 - 5:50	Youth Choir (Sanctuary)
6:30 - 7:00	Hope Choir (Room TBA)
7:30 - 9:00	Chancel Choir (Choir Room)