

Non-Profit  
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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**  
**December 6, 2009**

**Ushers**  
**8:45**

Jan Hull - Head Usher  
Andy Leake Richard Follansbee  
Joanne Boudreaux

**11:00**

Andy Leake - Head Usher  
Teresa Farr Kirk Dixon  
David Howard Taylor Hammer

**Parking Lot Greeter**  
Harriett Jones

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

Betty Aubert & Cheryl Martin  
Wally Birk, friend of Kirk Dixon  
Don Black  
Jim Brewster  
Eve Brice  
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer  
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker  
Bob D'Amato, friend of the DeRoos  
Steve Fischer, brother of Susan Mathews  
Adam Fort  
Wayland Gordon, father of Gwenda Aber  
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson  
Judy Johnson  
Don Jones, father-in-law of Justin Rich  
Lance Lanford, friend of Kirk Dixon  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Martin  
Wanda & V.W. Martin, Joel Martin's parents  
Sylvia Martinez, friend of Gayle Rumbeck  
Ken McClure  
Wanda McDougle, Ronda Scott's mother  
Margie McGee, Mary McBain's mother  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Dennis Patterson, father of Jerry Patterson  
Leslie Reynolds, friend of Paula Kusewitt  
Dave Rumbeck  
Don Sheppard, Jim Sheppard's brother  
Henry & Beth Skidmore, Cindy Jenkins' parents  
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith  
Cole John Stone, friend of the Rumbecks  
Fernita Swalin, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Justin Taylor, nephew of Jerry & Harriet Jones  
Ted Turner, brother of Terry Turner  
James Weckman  
Joyce Welch, great aunt of Ronnie & Amanda Aynes  
Brian Weller, cousin of Shannon Crelia



# First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

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

## From the Pastor . . .

As most are aware, it has been a tradition here for many years to put cards in the bulletins on Thanksgiving Sunday on which people can write down things they are thankful for. I continue to be touched and moved every year by the thought that goes into some of the things listed on those cards. One this year was from a woman whose husband has cancer, and she wrote: "I am thankful that my wonderful husband was able to come to church with me today. Each day is a blessing." Indeed, each day is a blessing.

And speaking of blessings, each Sunday at church can also be a blessing. This Sunday is the second 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. Since some stores started the Christmas shopping season frenzy at midnight on Thanksgiving day, the commercialization of Christmas is well under way. In view of that, we all need times of worship and spiritual preparation which remind us of the true meaning of Christmas.

I want to express my deep appreciation to those who have made pledges of support for our church for the coming year. Another article tells about the pledge response so far.

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

*Tom Wilbanks*

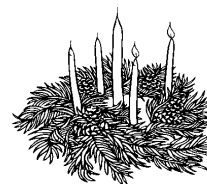
## First Presbyterian Church HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Saturday, December 5 - Noon-5:00 p.m.



Come support our church family and friends with their businesses and get some holiday shopping done too! We will have a variety of vendors with a wide range of products and services, crafts and food items for sale. Proceeds from vendor and sponsor registration fees will go to the Deacons' Fund. If you are interested in being a vendor or sponsor, visit [www.fpcbazaar.org](http://www.fpcbazaar.org) or contact Kathy Cummings at 972-329-9045 or [info@fpcbazaar.org](mailto:info@fpcbazaar.org).

## This Sunday



### Second Sunday of Advent

This Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00 our Chancel Choir, accompanied by a professional string quartet, will lead in our annual Advent service. They will sing a selection of inspirational choral music telling the story of the coming of Christ to redeem his people. Please note that the communion service usually held at the 8:45 service on the first Sunday of each month will be held on the second Sunday because of the special choir program. Join us this Sunday as we celebrate through music our Savior and the season of his Advent.

## Chancel Choir Advent Celebration Service

This past Sunday we observed the beginning of the season of Advent. It is a time of joyful anticipation as we look forward to the celebration of Christ's birth on Christmas day, and prepare our hearts and homes for the festivities. Advent is also a season of expectation as we are reminded of the purpose and significance of Christ's coming and eagerly await his glorious return. One of the ways we celebrate the season here at FPC is with special offerings of music in worship, and this Sunday morning, December 6, will be just such an occasion. In both morning worship services the Chancel Choir, accompanied by a professional string quintet and our own B.J. Mauldin, will present a selection of inspirational choral music re-telling the story of the coming of Christ to redeem his people. Central to the morning will be the piece entitled "The Little New Born Jesus Child," by Dietrich Buxtehude, a one time organ teacher of J. S. Bach. Services such as these provide an excellent opportunity for you to invite friends and family to our church.

## Service of Lessons and Carols and Living Nativity

The following Sunday, December 13, at 5:00 p.m., is another special service of the Advent season which will be led by our children and youth. This annual service of Lessons and Carols is an opportunity to hear the Christmas story interspersed by vocal and instrumental ensembles marking the occasion with singing and ringing of carols and anthems. The service is built around the familiar story as recorded in both the Old and New Testaments of the incarnation of Jesus, the Messiah. This service is always a highlight of our Advent celebration here at First Church, and we hope you will make it a priority to attend. Immediately following this service will be a living nativity play on the front lawn.

Come and celebrate the season of Advent at First Presbyterian Church!

Soli Deo Gloria,  
Verlyn Smoker

## Attention: PW Knitters and Crocheters

Presbyterian Women are knitting and/or crocheting wool helmet liners for our troops. Completed liners may be brought to Circle meetings or given to Kay Allen or Joy Samuels. Liners will be taken to Rutherford Senior Center. From there, once a month, they will be packaged with other items, taken to the airport, and handed to deploying military personnel. Extras are taken to the USO to be given out.

Diane Mickelson, City of Mesquite Senior Program Coordinator, has indicated that interested knitters may also accompany the group to the airport if so desired. If you are interested, please call her. She indicated that the Center has a supply of wool yarn which may be used for the liners. She also has a revised simpler pattern.

### Youth Progressive Dinner

The Youth Progressive Dinner is this Saturday, December 5. All youth are invited to meet at the church at 4:30 p.m. to caravan to volunteer houses stocked with great food!!

## Spaghetti Lunch



This Sunday, December 6, there will be a spaghetti lunch for all in the fellowship hall following the 11:00 a.m. worship service. Come hungry. Food is on the house and will be prepared by volunteers in the church.

Goldenaires Meeting  
10:30 a.m.  
Thursday, December 10

## Our Church Family . . .

Our Thanksgiving Sunday services were especially meaningful this year on a beautiful fall day on November 22. At the 11:00 service we were pleased to have a large group of boys, parents, and leaders of our Boy Scout Troop worship with us. Mel Felton is the Scout Master. That evening a large crowd attended the 85<sup>th</sup> annual Thanksgiving dinner. Our thanks to the Men's Council for continuing this good tradition in our church. An added feature this year was that after the delightful talk given by Rose Mary Rumbley, Clarence Greer proposed marriage to Brenda Evans – and she accepted an engagement ring!

It was good to see SANDY COLLINS back at church on November 22, following her recent surgery. Unfortunately, she will have to undergo surgery again. It was also good to see KEN McCLURE at church that same day. It is very difficult for Ken to get out because of his battle with cancer and was a special effort for him to be here.

JEFF CROMEENS underwent surgery on November 25, at Presbyterian Hospital in Plano to relieve a blood clot on his brain. He has been transferred to Town East Rehab where he will be for a couple of weeks.

JUDY JOHNSON was taken to M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston on November 25. There has been some improvement in her condition since being there. She and Ken will probably be in Houston for about a month or perhaps longer.

ADAM FORT is still in the hospital following extensive surgery.

Our congratulations to CHELSEA MARTIN who will graduate Summa Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of North Texas on December 19.

Please note that weather permitting, this Saturday, December 5, concrete work will be done on the circle drive near the fellowship hall. Because of that, the circle drive will not be able to be used Sunday morning. The work is being done to alleviate drainage problems which have caused a "pond" to form in that area in heavy rains. The north parking lot can still be used.

## Angel Tree

An angel tree for clients of Sharing Life Community Outreach and others, is located in the hallway near the south wing. We can help by providing gift cards to stores which can be used to provide Christmas gifts for all ages of children and teens, as well as food for a holiday meal. If you would like to help, please take a tag from the tree which will list a requested gift card. All gift cards must be returned to the box beneath the tree no later than Wednesday, December 16.



## 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 30, we have 149 pledges for \$439,278 toward next year's budget of \$515,695, and 85% of the budget is pledged. This compares with 157 pledges for \$445,392 at this time last year. So we are running behind where we were at this time a year ago.

"Thank you" letters have been sent out from Brenda Evans, 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 our 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.

Children's Christmas Party  
(A.K.A. Parents' Day Off)  
Saturday, December 12,  
10:30 a.m. — 1:30 p.m.  
Visit from Santa about 1:15  
(Bring your cameras)

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

12/2 Heather Mayfield  
Terri Smith  
12/4 J. P. Marshall  
12/6 Micah Krajca  
12/8 Lynn Coomer  
Katy Uzzle  
12/9 Sara Alford  
Derek Schwartz  
12/12 Beth Gonzales  
Hayden Mayfield  
Marilyn Saams  
12/14 Joyce Murdock  
12/15 Brian Beal

12/15 Erin Williams  
12/16 Andrew Galindo  
Tyler Hebert  
12/18 Joy Samuels  
12/20 Matthew Graves  
12/21 Gwenda Aber  
12/25 Edie Brunson  
Pat Elliott  
12/26 Jim Brewster  
Joanne Moon  
12/28 Carol Evans  
12/30 Tim Black  
12/31 Raleigh McBain

## Wednesday Night Schedule

4:45 p.m. Alleluia Chimes  
5:05 p.m. Youth Choir  
6:00-6:30 p.m. Dinner  
6:30-6:45 p.m. Worship & Song  
6:45-7:25 p.m. Classes for all ages  
7:30 p.m. Chancel Choir