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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 7, 2008**

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

Liz Ramsey - Head Usher  
Jerry Dressler Henry Kaplan  
Joanne Boudreaux

**11:00**

Teresa Farr - Head Usher  
Ronda Scott Terri Bragg  
Andy Leake Blake Sexton

**Parking Lot Greeters**

Linda Fricke Kathy Brown

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

Betty Aubert  
Barger family, friends of the Kusewitts  
Betty Bates, sister of Peggy Mayfield  
Gary and Nancy Black  
Esther Boatman, Kathy Uzzle's mom  
Jim Brewster  
Jennie Childress, friend of Paula Kusewitt  
Pam Combs, friend of Sheila Hammer  
Lynette Copeland, friend of Julia Walker  
Debbie Duncan, niece of Minnie Mathews  
Carol Dwinell, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Adam Fort, son of Doug and Jan Fort  
Frances Hair, mother of Phil Johnson  
Billy Harp, friend of Ken Johnson  
Frank Holub, brother of Nickie Wilbanks  
Debbie Justice, friend of the Leakes and Hoffmans  
Virginia Ledbetter, friend of Hope Sheppard  
Cheryl Martin  
Jerry McBain  
Wanda McDougle, Ronda Scott's mother  
Linda Miller, mother of Jan Fort  
The family of Leroy Moore, friends of the Rumbecks  
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni  
Dave Rumbeck  
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  
Brian Weller, cousin of Shannon Crelia  
Garret Whitaker, grandson of friend of Melba Jeffus  
Jerry Williams, brother of Ben Williams



# First Presbyterian Church

**Mesquite, Texas**

(972) 285-5602

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

## *From the Pastor . . .*

While there is much to be said for new ways of doing things, I have often thought that traditions also have their place. I thought of that during the Thanksgiving season in two regards. One is the tradition we have had for many years of putting cards in the bulletins at the Thanksgiving Sunday service on which people are invited to write down things they are thankful for. I continue to be amazed every year by the thought that goes into some of the things listed on those cards. And as most are aware, I always read several of those cards in the sermon which were turned in the previous year. Many of the cards are touching and thought-provoking.

A second tradition here at our church is the Thanksgiving dinner sponsored by our Men's Council. Interestingly enough, in the early years, this dinner was held in January. An article in *The Texas Mesquiter* from January 20, 1933, tells us that on that date 75 years ago "the annual turkey supper was enjoyed by members and friends" of the church. And then another article from January 7, 1949, says: "The men of First Presbyterian Church entertained the whole church family by serving the 25<sup>th</sup> annual turkey dinner December 29 to an over-flow crowd. Entertainment came spontaneously from the happy diners as each tried to 'top' the others with jokes, reminiscences and stunts. Prayers for the New Year were offered by Dr. Condit, Walter Hanby, and the Rev. Charles Workman" (the pastor at that time). We are grateful that this good tradition is being carried on by our Men's Council. Along with Presbyterian Women, both of these are good groups with a good spirit.

This Sunday is the second 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. In this busy season, let us not be too busy to worship that one for whom Christmas is named.

*(continued)*

I want to express my deep appreciation to those who have made pledges of financial 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*

## **Cookies Needed**

After the Lessons and Carols service on December 14, at 5:00 p.m., refreshments will be served in the fellowship hall along with a visit from Santa with treats for the children. If you would help provide cookies, it would be a great help. The cookies can be left in the kitchen that Sunday morning, December 14, or brought to the kitchen before the Lessons and Carols service begins.

## **This Sunday**

This Sunday at 8:45 and 11:00, our Chancel Choir will present "Joy to the World," a service of carols – old and new – accompanied by a string quintet. 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.



## Welcome New Members!

We want to welcome these new members who joined our church on November 23.



ANNETTE ADKINS



BRUCE and ANNE BUSWELL



JOHN and SUE BOHMER



ZAK BROWN and KELLY VITOVSKY



BETH LONG

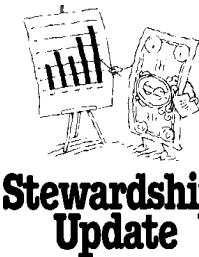
## Our Church Family . . .

It was good to see CHERYL LYDICK back at church last Sunday following her surgery at Baylor on November 26. MELISSA SHANDS was scheduled for surgery at Medical City on December 3.

Looking for a Christmas gift for someone? You might want to consider one of the nice picture plates of our church. The plate and hanger is \$12. Also available are copies of the book which chronicles the first 100 years of our church, and the cost is \$10. Christmas cards featuring our beautiful sanctuary are also available in the church office for \$10.

## 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, December 1, we have 157 pledges for \$445,392 toward next year's budget of \$509,583, and 87.4% of the budget is pledged. This compares with 162 pledges for \$475,004 with 93% of the budget pledged at this time last year. So we are running behind where we were at this time a year ago.



## Stewardship Update

"Thank you" letters have been sent out from Paula Kusewitt, 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.

The stewardship theme this year is from a passage in the book of Romans which says "serve the Lord with a heart full of devotion." 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 serving the Lord with a heart full of devotion by your financial pledge of support for the church.

## Chancel Choir Advent Celebration Service

Last 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 victorious return. One of the ways we celebrate the season here at FPC is with special opportunities for worship, and this Sunday morning, December 7, will be just such an occasion. On that day the Chancel Choir, accompanied by a professional string quintet and our own B.J. Mauldin, will present a delightful collection of traditional and modern carols entitled "Joy to the World" by the acclaimed composer John Leavitt. The choir will present this musical offering for both the 8:45 and 11:00 a.m. services providing an excellent opportunity for you to invite friends and family to our church and introduce them to the Lord, Jesus Christ through the avenue of seasonal music. You will not want to miss it.

## Service of Lessons and Carols

The following Sunday, December 14, at 5:00 p.m., is another special service of the Advent season which is led by our youth and children. This annual service of Lessons and Carols is an opportunity to hear the Christmas story interspersed by children's and youth vocal and instrumental ensembles marking the occasion with the 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 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