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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY
December 20, 2009

Ushers
8:45

Clark Windle - Head Usher
Darby Washeck Linda Washeck
Karen Hunt

11:00

Victor Carboni - Head Usher
Linda Fricke Larry Thomas
Bernie DeRoo Josh Marshall

Parking Lot Greeter

Denise Bennett Sheila Hammer

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
Ken McClure
Wanda McDougle, Ronda Scott's mother
Margie McGee, Mary McBain's mother
Charlotte McGuire, friend of Anna Saucier
Michelle Nall, sister of Karen Carboni
Dennis Patterson, father of Jerry Patterson
Leslie Reynolds, friend of Paula Kusewitt
Dave Rumbeck
Henry & Beth Skidmore, Cindy Jenkins' parents
Clay Smith, son of Bob and Beth Smith
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



First Presbyterian Church

Mesquite, Texas

(972) 285-5602

www.fpcmesquite.org

From the Pastor . . .

This Sunday is Christmas Sunday, and we will have glorious worship services at 8:45 and 11:00 and then we will have two beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve services on the following Thursday. May none of us be so busy with Christmas that we leave Christ out. I encourage you to be here and to invite a friend to worship with you.

This is our last newsletter for this year, and I want to thank the congregation for your friendship, service, support, and for the Christmas gift given to me. I am thankful for the many people who help in so many different ways and who make our church what it is. I continue to be grateful to be able to serve as pastor of this good church. And my wife and I wish for you a joyous and blessed Christmas.

In addition to our services this Sunday and on Christmas Eve, other special services are before us. On December 27, we will observe Christian Student Sunday by recognizing our college students and will ordain and install new church officers. Please note that there will be only one worship service on December 27, and it will be at 11:00. On January 3, we will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper at both services. I can't think of a better way to begin a New Year than at the Lord's Table.

In the meantime, I look forward to worshipping with you this Sunday in the beauty of our sanctuary. In the words of the glorious Christmas carol we will open our services with this Sunday:

*Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore, on bended knee
Christ, the newborn King*

Tom Wilbanks



Christmas
Eve
Worship

Plan to attend one of our beautiful Christmas Eve Candlelight services at 5:30 or 7:30. The Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers will provide music, there will be congregational singing of carols, and Dr. Wilbanks will give "A Sermon in Candles."

This Sunday



Fourth Sunday of Advent

Our services this Sunday will be joyous ones as we celebrate the birth of our Lord on this Christmas Sunday. Paula Kusewitt and Susan Mathews and a Chancel Ensemble will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers will provide music at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "The Difference Christmas Makes."

Chancel Choir “Christmas in July” Recordings Available

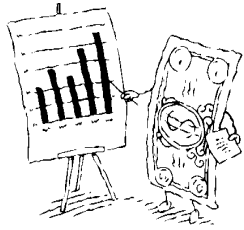


This past summer your Chancel Choir presented a concert at the Mesquite Arts Center which was entitled “Christmas in July.” The program included such favorites as *Deck the Halls*, *Jingle Bells*, and *We Wish You a Merry Christmas*. A high-quality live recording was made of the concert and is now available for our church family to enjoy. The CD’s sell for \$10 each and all proceeds will benefit the Youth Choir tour fund. You can purchase your CD from Verlyn Smoker or pick one up at the church office during the week. They will also be available following both services this Sunday morning in the hall across from the office.

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 14, we have 158 pledges for \$451,602 toward next year’s budget of \$515,695, and 87% of the budget is pledged 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.



Stewardship Update

College Students

On Sunday, December 27, we will recognize our college students at the 11 o’clock service as we observe Christian Student Sunday. Two of our college students will assist in leading the worship service. As you can tell from the following list, we have many in college, and it is a little hard to keep track of all of them. If there are changes or additions to the list, please call the church office and let us know.

Matthew Almas	UT San Antonio
Jake Armstrong	Tarleton State Univ.
Jared Armstrong	Eastfield
Keight Bettis	Texas Tech
Kara Bright	Stephen F. Austin
Greg Carboni	Richland
Jonathan Dixon	UT Austin
Lauren Dixon	UT Austin
Maggie Ellis	Sam Houston State
Cort Farmer	Baylor
Jonathan Graham	UNT
K.D. Harris	Tyler Junior College
Jordan Hartsell	Southwestern University,
	Georgetown
	Eastfield
	Creative Circus in Atlanta
	UT Dallas
	Austin College
	UNT
	Austin College
	Indiana University
	Baylor
	University of Nebraska
	Eastfield
	Concordia University
	Texas Tech
	DeVry University
	UNT
	Austin College
	Richland College
	UTD
	Fordham University
	Eastfield
	Texas A&M
	UT Austin
	UNT
	Trinity Valley

Tyler Hebert
Will Lindberg
Cassie Lydick
J. P. Marshall
Lindsey Martin
Amanda Mayfield
Kelli McBain
Janel Okafor
Dane Patterson
Ben Robinson
David Saams
Zack Saucier
Griffin Scholl
Aaron Sheppard-
Mahaffey
Hope Sheppard-
Mahaffey
Emily Singleton
Megan Smith
Mitchell Smith
Bobby Stees
Angela Washeck
Brooks Wilson
Sally Windle
Travis Windle

Our Church Family . . .

MARY WILLIAMS underwent shoulder surgery on December 8. MICHELLE WINDLE underwent surgery on December 14. We were sorry to hear that KAY ALVAREZ had to return to Doctors Hospital on December 10. It is expected that she will be able to come home this week. JEFF CROMEENS is now at Mesquite Specialty Hospital. We will want to keep JAMES WECKMAN in our prayers in his difficult battle with cancer.

Our sympathy is extended to JIM SHEPPARD whose brother died. The family has designated Texas Baptist Men Retiree Church Builders, 5351 Catron, Dallas 75227 for memorial gifts.

We are in need of one more usher for the Christmas Eve service at 7:30. If you would be willing to serve, please call the church office at 972-285-5602.

At a Congregational Meeting on November 29, ERIC McBAIN was elected to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons.

HOWARD & ANNA SAUCIER have moved.

If you are stumped for a Christmas gift, you might consider one of the nice picture plates of our church or the book which covers our church’s first one hundred years. Both items are \$10. There are also beautiful Christmas cards featuring a picture of our sanctuary for \$10. All of these are available from the church office.

A couple of nice ladies’ rings are in the church’s lost and found. Call the church office if you have lost a ring. (972-285-5602)

We want to thank a wonderful group of people who decorated the church for Christmas. RONDA SCOTT was in charge and she was assisted by MARIANNE TWOMEY, ROGER SAMUELS, HARRIET JONES, NICK SCHOLL, LARRY & GRACY THOMAS, JAN FORT, DALE & MARGIE POLLARD, GERALD & CINDY JENKINS.

This is our last church newsletter for this year. The church office will be closed on Monday, December 28. We wish for all our church family a joyous and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.

Please remember that on December 27, we will have only one worship service, and it will be at 11:00.

Blood Drive Sunday, December 20th 9 a.m.—1 p.m.



Boy Scout Nicholas Ratzer has organized a blood drive to be held this Sunday on our north parking lot near the scout hut. Carter BloodCare will be here with their mobile unit asking for holiday heroes willing to give the gift of life. For more information contact Nicholas Ratzer at 972-222-7693.

2009 Daily Devotional Guides

A Year with the Bible, featuring suggested Bible readings for each day of the year, is available in the literature racks for 50¢. These books also have prayers which can be used for family or personal use. *These Days*, our church’s daily devotional guide for January-February, is also available in the literature racks for 50¢.

Mesquite Symphony Christmas Program



This Saturday, December 19, the Mesquite Symphony will present concerts at the Mesquite Arts Center at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m. Our own Jubilate Ringers will ring in the upper lobby before the concerts. Three of our members play in the orchestra.