

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

December 21, 2008

Ushers

8:45

Gayle Rumbeck –Head Usher
Shannon Crelia Larry Thomas
Roger Samuels

11:00

Kathy Brown - Head Usher
Earlayne Martin Linda Washeck
Bernie DeRoo Josh Marshall

Parking Lot Greeters

Sheila Hammer Gayle Rumbeck

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
Alan Clark, friend of Dianna Greer
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
Olivia Madrid, friend of Chelsea Martin
Cheryl Martin
Jerry McBain
Wanda McDougale, 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
Jeff Snedeker, son-in-law of Tom & Nickie Wilbanks
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

From the Pastor . . .

This Sunday is Christmas Sunday, and we will have glorious worship service at 8:45 and 11:00, and then we will have two beautiful Candlelight Christmas Eve services on Wednesday, at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. 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 gift given to me Sunday night. I am so grateful for the many people who help in so many different ways in our church.

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 28, we will observe Christian Student Sunday by recognizing our college students and will ordain and install new church officers. On January 4, we will observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. 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 carols 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



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 the sermon "Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella!"

This Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Our services this Sunday will be joyous ones as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. A Chancel Ensemble and Trio will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers will provide music at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Amazing Christmas" based on Luke 2:167-17.

Mesquite Symphony Christmas Program



This Saturday, December 20, at 5:30 and 8:00 p.m., the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra will present "Music of the Season" at the Mesquite Arts Center. B.J. Mauldin, Nickie Wilbanks, and Dan Worobey, of our church are members of the orchestra.

DVDs Available

We are now able to provide DVDs of our Sunday worship services, and are doing so for a number of our members who are not able to attend church. If you would like to be on the list receive a copy of the service each week, please call the church office at 982-285-5602.

In addition to providing this service to our shut-ins, we can provide copies to others who have an interest in having a DVD of a particular service. Call the church office early in the week if you would like a copy, and we'll make one for you for a minimal charge.

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 15, we have 163 pledges for \$458,692 toward next year's budget of \$509,583, and 90% 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.

College Students

On Sunday, December 28, we will recognize our college students at the 11:00 o'clock service as we observe Christian Students 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.

Ashley Aber	Texas Woman's Univ.
Matthew Almas	UT San Antonio
Jake Armstrong	Tarleton State Univ.
Keight Bettis	Texas Tech
Tim Black	McMurry College
Kara Bright	Stephen F. Austin
Greg Carboni	Richland
Jonathan Dixon	UT Austin
Lauren Dixon	UT Austin
Maggie Ellis	Sam Houston State
Cort Farmer	Baylor
Drew Farmer	UT Austin
Jonathan Graham	UNT
Jessica Hartsell	UNT
Tyler Hebert	Eastfield
Dan Lindberg	UNT
Will Lindberg	Belmont College
Chelsea Martin	UNT
Kelli McBain	Indiana University
Ashley Patterson	Texas Woman's Univ.
Dane Patterson	University of Nebraska
Ben Robinson	Mary Hardin Baylor
David Saams	Concordia University
Zack Saucier	Texas Tech
Griffin Scholl	DeVry University
Aaron Scott	UNT
Aaron Sheppard-Mahaffey	UNT
Emily Singleton	Richland College
Megan Smith	UTD
Mitchell Smith	Fordham University
Bobby Stees	Eastfield
Brooks Wilson	UT Austin
Sally Windle	UNT
Travis Windle	Trinity Valley
Katy Uzzle	UNT

Our Church Family . . .

CHESSIE HODGSON is recovering from surgery on December 9.

Our sympathy is extended to LESLIE NOBLE and KELLY LONG whose father, Joe Hornsby, died last week.

At the December 3 meeting of the Board of Deacons, the Board elected new officers and they are: Moderator – Linda Fricke; Vice-Moderator – Denise Bennett; Secretary – Sheila Hammer.

We are in great need of two additional ushers for the Christmas Eve service at 5:30, and one at 7:30. If you would be willing to help, please call the church office at 972-285-5602.

Please note that there will be only ONE worship service on December 28. During the service we will recognize our college students and ordain new church officers. We will begin the New Year with communion on January 4.

We are pleased that one of our college students, ZACK SAUCIER, is participating in a presbytery sponsored mission trip to Pueblo, Colorado during the Christmas holidays. He will leave on December 27. The group will be worshiping at a small Presbyterian church there along with making some repairs to the church and also making home repairs.

Our congratulations to ANN OKAFOR who received her Bachelor of Education degree from Texas Woman's University on December 13th.

Once again our church is beautifully decorated for Christmas. Ronda Scott was in charge, and we are grateful to a wonderful group who helped. They were: Gracy Thomas, Ron and Terri Smith, Roger Samuels, Bruce Buswell, Marianne Twomey, Nicolas Scholl, Dale and Margie Pollard, Ken Johnson, Ferne Porter, Jack and Joyce Murdoch, and Dave Edling. Thanks also to Eric and Ryan Schwartz and Clark Windle who put up the nativity scene, and to Ben Williams who once again put up the banner by the street about our Christmas Eve services.

We are pleased that Dr. and Mrs. Mike Haninger, medical missionaries in the Congo, whose work we are supporting through our mission giving, will be with us on Sunday, January 25. They will speak at the Men's Breakfast that morning, and then will speak to the children's, youth, and adult classes in the fellowship hall at 9:45, and will give Moments for Mission

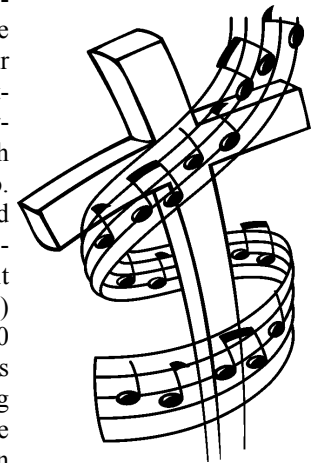
(continued)

at both of our worship services. They are mentioned in the editor's column in the December issue of *Presbyterians Today*, our national Presbyterian magazine. A copy of the magazine is in our church library.

This is our last church newsletter for this year. The church office will be closed Friday, December 26. We wish for all our church family a joyous and blessed Christmas and a New Year filled with good health and happiness.

Youth Choir Music Festival

This coming February 20-22, several of the youth musicians of our church will be participating in the Baylor University Festival of Youth Choirs held in Waco. The festival is sponsored by the Youth Cue organization (you can visit them at Youthcue.org) and will involve 300 students from churches in Texas and surrounding states. If you would like to make a contribution before the end of the year to offset the cost of this trip please send your donation to the church and mark it "Youth Music Festival." Thank you for your support!



Verlyn Smoker

2008 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 booklets 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 25¢.