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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1028 S BELT LINE RD
MESQUITE TX 75149

Return Service Requested

SERVING THIS SUNDAY

December 23, 2007

Ushers

8:45

Eric Schwartz - Head Usher
Patrick Garver Joanne Boudreaux
Pat Hebert

11:00

Andy Cummings - Head Usher
Linda Fricke Les Olson
Josh Marshall

Parking Lot Greeters

Patrick Garver Darby Washeck

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
Wanda McDougale, mother of Ronda Scott
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
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 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 Monday at 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. May none of us be so busy with our 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 read a story recently about two brothers, Bobby and Billy, who were assigned the responsibility of mowing the lawn and trimming the hedges while their parents went on a short trip. When the parents returned, nothing had been done. Dad was upset. He asked Bobby: "What have you been doing while we were gone?" In a low voice, Bobby replied: "Nothing." Dad then turned to Billy and asked: "What have you been doing?" And Billy replied: "Helping Bobby." Well, contrary to that story, a lot of people do help in our church. I continue to be grateful to be able to serve as pastor of this good church. And my family 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 30, we will observe Christian Student Sunday by recognizing our college students and will ordain and install new church officers. On January 6, 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

(continued)

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

2008 Daily Devotional Guides Available

A Year with the Bible, featuring suggested Bible readings for each day of the year, is available in the literature racks for 50 cents. 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 cents.

This Sunday

Fourth Sunday of Advent



Our services this Christmas Sunday will be joyous ones as we celebrate the birth of our Lord. Paula Nelms and Dave Edling will sing at 8:45, and the Chancel Choir and Jubilate Ringers will provide music at 11:00. Dr. Wilbanks will give the sermon "Bedlam in Bethlehem."

Session Highlights

The December 12 meeting of the Session began with sharing prayer concerns.

The new Deacons met with the Session and shared their faith journey and were approved for ordination on December 30.

“Thank you” letters were received from many organizations we support through our mission giving. These included the Genesis Women’s Shelter, Mesquite Clothes Closet, The Family Place, Sharing Life Community Outreach, and Presbyterian Children’s Homes & Services.

John Kusewitt, Chairman of the DCE Search Committee, reported that the committee had met and that the most immediate goal was getting people to help in the interim after Cynthia leaves on January 13.

Roger Foltz, Chairman of the Mission Committee, reported that our members gave 115 gift cards at \$30 each (\$3,450 for Thanksgiving baskets for Sharing Life Community Outreach to give to the needy. This was five short of our goal but still a good response. The committee is now working on the Angel Tree gifts.

Johnny Graham, Chairman of the Worship Committee, said that Verlyn Smoker reported to the committee on the youth music ministry tour fund-raising for the trip to the southeastern United States June 14-21.

Dr. Wilbanks said that the Board of Deacons had asked that we allocate \$5,000 from the building fund to be used for the first stage of the project of running ductwork in the soffits on both sides of the sanctuary in order to provide more even distribution of air in the sanctuary so that it does not all have to come from the front, and this was approved.

Dr. Wilbanks also told the Session that plans are being made to alleviate a drainage problem between our two buildings which is causing a moisture problem in the Faith and Life Sunday School class room.

The Session set the date for the annual Congregational Dinner meeting for January 27, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting concluded with Dr Wilbanks expressing appreciation to the six Elders completing terms in 2007.



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 “A Christmas Surprise.”

Attention Pathfinders!!



Thursday, December 27, is MOVIE NIGHT AT THE Galaxy Drive-In in Ennis . . .

Cost for the double feature is \$6. (What a deal!) Bring the \$6 admission fee plus something for concessions and meet in the north parking lot at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. Please let us know by Sunday, December 23, if you are planning to go.

SHYC registration forms are due on Wednesday, December 19. Don’t forget!

Angel Tree Thanks!

Thanks to all who provided gifts to needy families through our “Angel Tree.” Sharing Life Community Outreach had a successful Holiday Faire on December 15, where our gifts, along with those of other churches and individuals in our community were distributed to families in need. Also, your gifts to our Deacon’s Fund will be helpful throughout the coming year in providing assistance with special needs within our own church family.

Our Church Family . . .

KEN JOHNSON had to undergo surgery again last Thursday, December 13, at Baylor Hospital. We will want to keep Ken and his wife Judy and their family in our prayers in this difficult time.

Congratulations to LAUREN SAAMS who graduated from the University of North Texas at Denton on December 15.

We were sorry to hear that MELBA JEFFUS was injured in a car accident December 11.

In a Congregational Meeting last Sunday DENISE BENNETT was elected as a Deacon to fill a vacancy on the Board of Deacons.

As mentioned in last week’s newsletter, our Director of Christian Education, Cynthia Petty, has resigned to take the position of Director of Children’s Ministries at North Park Presbyterian Church. Cynthia’s last Sunday with us will be January 13, and there will be a reception for her after the 11:00 o’clock service that day.

Please NOTE that there will be only ONE worship service on December 30. During the service we will recognize our college students and ordain new church officers. We will begin the new year with communion on January 6.

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

Circles



The Morning Circle will meet at 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, January 8, with Cora Dugan leading the Bible study and Ellen Mallum serving as hostess for refreshments. The Night Circle will meet the same day at 7:00 p.m. in the youth hall with Martha Sheppard-Mahaffey and Beverlee Witty as leaders. Begin the New Year by joining other women of the church for Bible study and fellowship.

College Students

On Sunday, December 30, we will recognize our college students at the 11:00 o’clock service. There will be only ONE worship service that day. 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 this list, please let us know.

Matthew Almas	UT San Antonio
Jake Armstrong	Tarleton State University
Ashley Aber	Eastfield
Keight Bettis	Kansas State
Tim Black	McMurry College
Whitney Bright	University of Arkansas
Kara Bright	Stephen F. Austin
Greg Carboni	Richland College
Jonathan Dixon	UT Austin
Lauren Dixon	UT Austin
Maggie Ellis	Sam Houston State
Cort Farmer	Baylor
Drew Farmer	UT Austin
Jonathan Graham	University of North Texas
Brady Grubbs	Eastfield
Jessica Hartsell	University of North Texas
Tyler Hebert	Eastfield
Carrie Jenkins	Texas A&M Commerce
Dan Lindberg	University of North Texas
Will Lindberg	Belmont College
Chelsea Martin	University of North Texas
Kelli McBain	Indiana University
Dane Patterson	University of Nebraska
David Saams	Brookhaven
Aaron Scott	University of North Texas
Emily Singleton	Richland College
Megan Smith	UTD
Sally Windle	University of North Texas
Stephen Wright	El Centro College
Katy Uzzle	University of North Texas



*Merry
Christmas!*