



# First Presbyterian Church, Mission

*Where God's love makes all the difference!*

## FEBRUARY

...another **RGV Connections** publication

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

**GRACE, MERCY & PEACE TO YOU IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!**

### "When the Nominating Committee Calls..."

What an exciting time to be part of the First Presbyterian Church of Mission; worshiping in our congregation are the Elders for the class of 2014, and they may not even be aware of God's call on their lives.



So in the February newsletter let's talk about "How Will I Know If I'm Called To Be An Elder?" and "Am I Qualified To Be An Elder?"

In the March Newsletter we'll address "What Will Be Asked Of Me?" and "Will It Ever End?"

#### *"How Will I Know If I'm Called To Be An Elder?"*

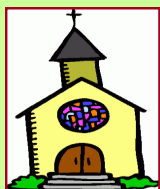
In the Reformed (Presbyterian) Tradition, our ordination as Pastor, Elder or Deacon is recognized to be among equals that are distinguished by function, not hierarchically. We further believe that the more people involved in a decision, the less likely the decision will be manipulated by one person, hence our emphasis upon committees under the direction of the Holy Spirit...

That is why in the Call to Ordination as either Minister of Word and Sacrament (pastor), Elder or Deacon; we discern the "call" by three means. The first means of discernment is the "outward call". Where the church seeks out and identifies those who give evidence of their faith in their daily lives and relationships. The second means of discernment is the "inward call". Where she/he surrenders to God's overwhelming love and struggles with God's choosing to use them as his faithful servants. The third means of discernment is by the Church's Session, who has the responsibility to raise up and prepare new leaders for their particular Church. Your "call" to ordination is filled with joy, trepidation and confirmation...



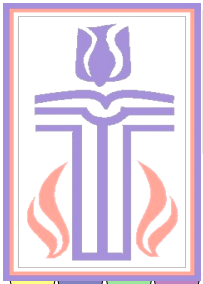
*Continued on page 6...*

### FPC — WORSHIP SCHEDULE:



**8:30am**    **Worship**  
**9:30am**    **Sunday School**  
              **Adult Education**  
**10:30 am** **Worship**

**There will be a short congregational meeting on February 20 at 11:30 AM for the purpose of electing a nominating committee. This committee, assisted by Session representatives, will present at the Annual Congregational Meeting in March, the names of 4 members who are willing to serve as Elders.**



## ELDERS & COMMITTEES



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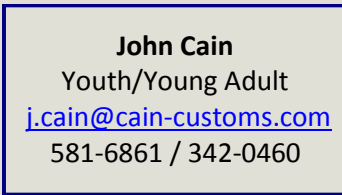
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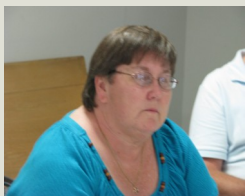
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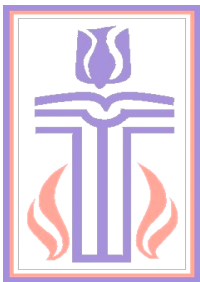
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## First Presbyterian Church, Mission

A Word from Pastor Dave, Clerk's Corner...

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FEBRUARY 2011



### A WORD FROM PASTOR DAVE +

From January 10<sup>th</sup> through February 6<sup>th</sup> - FPCM has been home to 11 AmeriCorps (NCCC), workers based out of Denver, CO. AmeriCorps is made up of young adults 18-24 years old who give a year of time working at a variety of tasks, from case work for social services to home rehab to work at our National Parks.

This is now our second work group from AmeriCorps and it has been a great opportunity to get to know them- even just a little bit. They are from Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey and have enjoyed their time in Texas. This picture is of the group down by the Rio Grande River and Chimney Park- after having spent the afternoon at the McAllen Border Patrol Office.



As we say "Adios" to our AmeriCorps workers our Hosting Team is busy preparing for the next group to arrive. The First United Presbyterian Church of Crafton Heights, Pgh.Pa. on Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> through March 5<sup>th</sup> and Covenant Presbyterian Church from March 12<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup>... Crafton is returning this year and is an adult work group. Their members have taken a week of vacation to come down to the Valley to work with Faith Communities Disaster Recovery in rehabbing homes in our area. Covenant Pres. is coming during spring break and will be a family work group doing rehab but also working with the P.E.T. program and Su Casa... There are so many opportunities to share our heart for mission that isn't just construction work...

What a great use of this facility we are blessed with as we provide opportunities for people to experience Christ for themselves here in Mission...

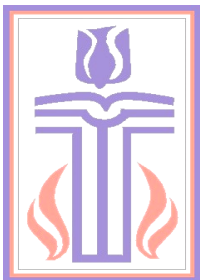
Blessings to all,  
Pastor Dave +

### Clerk's Corner:



Keep on coming... We are excited to see so many people worshipping at FPC Mission! We are starting 2011 off with good attendance statistics, but there are still plenty of spaces left in each worship service that need to be filled. Invite a friend! :) We look forward to seeing you.

Attendance so far this year: January 2nd - 409;  
January 9th - 447; January 16th - 450;  
January 23rd - 480



## Make a Joyful Noise Unto the Lord with Music!

### **CELEBRATION SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES**

February 20 at 6:30 PM will be the date for the next installment of the 13th Annual Celebration Concert Series at FPC! These concerts are sponsored by the church as a community service—free of charge and open to the public.



**Alta Uhrmacher** has been treating us to her marvelous music since the fall of 1997 when she and her husband, Dick, became full time residents of Mission. Alta had been the primary organist at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Rapid City, SD, where she played for 32 years. She also was a personal banking officer at Norwest Bank but retired from both jobs at the end of 1993. Alta and her husband, Dick, have three children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. And of course we can't forget their pride and joy, an energetic poodle named Barney. Alta & Dick are avid campers and boaters, and spend their summers in northwestern Montana on Lake Koocanusa.

Fortunately for us, another thing that Alta loves is our Allen Renaissance Organ! She has spent many hours discovering all of its bells and whistles – she has even been known to “instruct” the Allen technicians about one or two of the organ’s finer points! She has invited fellow musicians, Mary Jane Truster and Beverly Nicholas, to perform with her on this concert. Make plans to attend . . . you can expect an evening of exciting music!

#### **CELEBRATION SUNDAY** **CONCERT SERIES:**

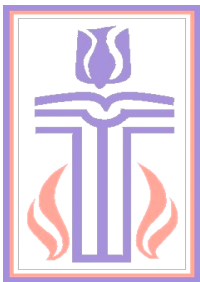
**February 20: Alta Uhrmacher, organ**  
**March 4 - JULIE McClarey, pianist**  
**March 13: Salomon Lopez, tenor**

**\*\*MUSIC BONUS!! The Senior Ambassadors will present a short program at the beginning of the 10:30 AM worship service on February 27.**

#### Please fill out a BLUE CARD!

These cards help us to get to know you. Keeping track of attendance at FPC Mission is difficult, as you can imagine, with all of the Winter Texans who worship with us. However, by filling out a BLUE CARD, you help us with vital information that can help us to stay in contact with you. After all, families like to keep in touch!





## **Pennies from Heaven Collection—Feb 27th**

The next ingathering of our Pennies From Heaven collection will be on February 27. You are encouraged to take part in this exciting ministry of our church by bringing us your coins, “quiet money” or even checks!

**Proceeds will benefit the Comfort House in McAllen.**

**Below are just a couple of the projects that your pennies have benefitted in the past:**



**Kenya Children's Project**



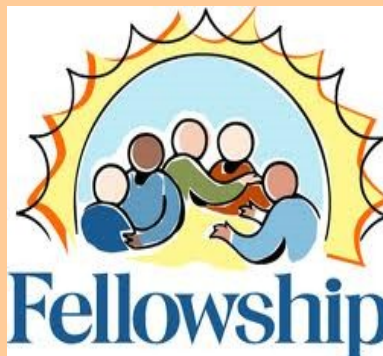
**P.E.T. Project**

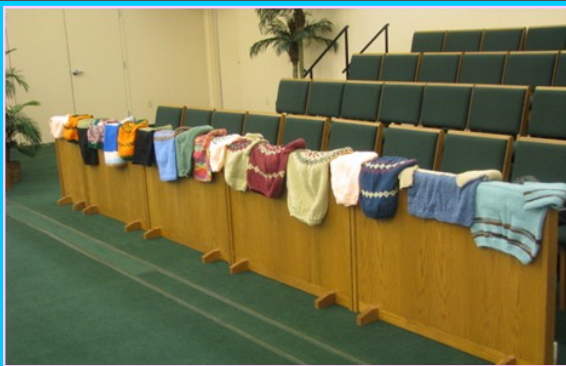
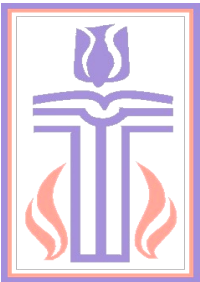
## **FELLOWSHIP - Elder Mike Manuel -**

Fellowship is an important part of First Presbyterian Church and we hope to provide many opportunities for fellowship outside, as well as inside the sanctuary.

From providing coffee and lemonade for Sunday School and after services to fellowship breakfasts and special activities, our goal is welcoming friends new and old to join us at FPC.

If you would like more information on getting involved in this ministry, talk to Mike Manual—583-1756.





### **THANK YOU FOR THE SWEATERS!**

Since the KNIT FOR KIDS PROJECT was introduced to FPC Mission by the Chancel Choir 3 years ago, more than 300 sweaters have been knitted or crocheted by this church and its friends. The sweaters are sent to the World Vision Organization to be distributed to

needy children around the world.

In addition to this project, the choir is also participating in another knitting project called LITTLE PEOPLE. Small colorful dolls are being knitted and contributed to soldiers, firefighters, police, and EMT personnel who give them to children in traumatic situations.

If you are interested in participating in either of these projects, please see Mary Jane Meyers in the choir room on Sunday or call her at (956) 783-1732. She has patterns, yarn, and much encouragement for you! There are also patterns available in the office and in the Narthex – just ask an usher.



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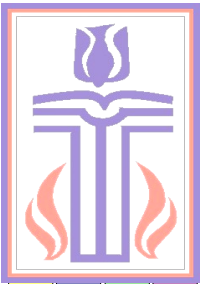
#### ***“Am I Qualified To Be An Elder?”***

The obvious answer to the question of being qualified, is that you are as qualified to lead the Church as Moses was to lead the Hebrews...or the disciples were qualified to lead the church in Jerusalem. Instead, Ephesians 4:12 tells us that those who are given to the church as its leaders are “*to equip the saints for the work of ministry...*” Eldership is all about “OJT”, On the Job Training- being coached by the existing Elders.... More than the gifts that we all bring to our call to leadership in the church is the need for us to be “teachable...trainable...moldable” in Jesus’ hands.

1 Timothy 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9 both give us the qualities of life and faith that God desires: above reproach, an apt teacher, strong faith, self-controlled, hospitable, as caring of church as their own family. The closer you walk with God, the more God will rub off on you... So that like Moses whose appearance was changed because of the time he spent with God on Mt. Sinai: that’s being qualified!!!

**Is God “calling” you to serve at First Presbyterian—Mission? ?**





## **A Sunday School Update...**

Back in October the kids in both the Pre-K/Kinder and the Elementary classes learned the story of the widow's mite (Luke 21:1-4). We had a conversation about how her offering of two small coins made very little sound when they went in the offering box (compared to the noise of pouring in a bagful of a rich man's heavy coins). We discovered that she was poor and her offering did not add up to much at all. But, more importantly, we also learned that she gave gladly and out of love...and that made God very happy.



In Sunday School, we often come up with ways that we can serve God with our whole selves...our time, our energy, our words, our prayers, etc. When we read Luke 21:1-4, we found out that another way that we can choose to serve God is by giving monetary gifts. We talked about how, by giving to God, we can also show God's love and care to others.

During the children's sermon that morning, the kids got to take a look at the offering plates that are used in worship. They saw that adults can worship God by giving an offering, just like we had discussed, and they became excited about bringing an offering to Sunday School. A piggy bank and a jar (one that counts the coins as they pass through the lid...oh my, this is most thrilling!) were brought in for the kids to use for their offering.

We recently finished our fall quarter of Sunday School and celebrated that \$18.37 had been given as an offering! The children enthusiastically voted to support the "Child and Family Health Fund" through World Vision. Their offering will go toward a fund that will *"help local experts provide services such as training for health workers, provision of medical supplies, and delivery of critical care based on each community's specific needs."* They took this decision VERY seriously and are really excited about it!

Their desire to be generous is overwhelming and the kids decided that, this quarter, the offering will be given to the "Shelter and Clothing Fund" of World Vision. Through their involvement with Su Casa de Esperanza, Christmas baskets, Pennies from Heaven, the local animal shelter, their schools, and more, the kids already are actively, and eagerly!, serving others (and animals) in our community and now they're also sharing God's love with God's people all over the world! Thank you, Sunday School classes!!

**Have some info for the next newsletter??**

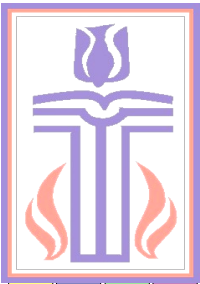
**Got a story about why you love FPC?**

**Want to share your favorite recipe??**



Our goal for this newsletter is that it reflects who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian Church—Mission. The most important part of this newsletter is YOU! So, please send your suggestions to editor, Heather Marks.

**Send to: [heatherbmarks@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbmarks@gmail.com)**



## **The Allstate Foundation and Channel One News Challenge Sharyland High School Students and the Community to “X the TXT” for \$10,000**

*Partnership to elevate awareness of the dangers of texting while driving; empowers students to help save lives*

The Allstate Foundation and Channel One News, the leading television news network for teens, announced a pledge competition for students to “X the TXT” and stay focused behind the wheel. High school librarians Nicole Cruz and Janie Flores received permission from campus principal Diamantina Chapa to register Sharyland High School to compete in this important safety awareness competition. The week-long online competition will launch Feb. 7, 2011 on the Channel One website <http://www.channelone.com/xthetxt/>. Only pledges received online from Monday, February 7, 2011 to Sunday, February 13, 2011 will count towards winning the competition.

“Students can get involved with X the TXT online and on-the-ground by asking their friends, family, and fellow students to take the pledge not to text and drive,” said Susan Duchak from The Allstate Foundation. “In partnership with Channel One News, the X the TXT student program gives teens the chance to talk about the dangers of distracted driving and tell their community to keep their thumbs off their phones and their eyes on the road.”



As part of National Youth Traffic Safety Month in May 2011, The Allstate Foundation will reward the winning school with a \$10,000 grant and, together with Channel One, will host a private concert featuring rising music star Ashlyne Huff ([www.ashlynehuff.com](http://www.ashlynehuff.com); [www.facebook.com/ashlynehuff](http://www.facebook.com/ashlynehuff)) and a taping of a Channel

One newscast from the winning school. Ashlyne, whose music has been heard recently on hit MTV shows like *The Hills* and *World Of Jenks*, is currently putting the final touches on her new album due out in Spring 2011.

“Sharyland High School was one of the first 200 schools to register to participate. The campus collaboration from teachers to police officers to student clubs and organization is going to make this effort a success,” according to Nicole Cruz. Nicole is one of our FPC elders.

“X the TXT is an important program that is making an impact through education and by featuring influential voices who reinforce the significant risks that come with dangerous behaviors while driving,” said Kent Haehl, CEO, Channel One Network. “By helping The Allstate Foundation bring its message directly to students in our schools, Channel One can lend a hand in making a difference to a population at greater risk and by means that we hope will not only create a positive movement within the school environment, but also extend the message into the community.”

The school-focused X the TXT initiative marks the third year of Channel One News and The Allstate Foundation’s working together to educate and inform young adults on critical issues related to safe and responsible driving.

**For more information on getting involved in the X the TXT initiative, talk to Nicole Cruz.**

**THUMBS UP TO X THE TXT.**

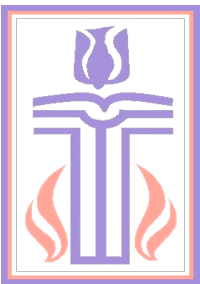
**TEXTING  
KILLS.**

**MAKE A PLEDGE NOT TO  
TEXT AND DRIVE.**

FACEBOOK.COM/THUMBSUPPLEDGE







**HELP WANTED:  
"Able Bodied Ushers"**

Work Sundays, with weekdays free for golf!  
Work just about 2 hours per week (unless the preacher goes looong).

Retirement benefits are out of this world and must be able to carry a full offering plate...

Love of God and God's people a must.

Apply in person to Bob or Pam Sherwood- very easily located on Sunday mornings or call 585-6377 (just not during the sermon).

**Valley Day Gathering On "Leadership and the Presbytery"  
February 26<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church- Mission  
9:00AM- 1:00PM**



Pastors Larry Coulter and Nancy Reeves will be presenting the new direction of Mission Presbytery. Elders and those involved in the life of the Church will appreciate Mission Presbytery's new vision and direction... There will be two presentations and time allotted for small group interaction, a light lunch and worship with communion and we will end at 1:00PM.

We will recognize the obvious that we are in a rapidly changing world where our "Vision" is met with "Dissatisfaction" resulting in the "First Steps" of change...

The Presbytery recognize that "Healthy Churches" have these five characteristics: Worship, Serving, Connecting, Growing and Inviting. So Mission Presbytery is focusing on four priorities to help its Churches in these five areas, and they are: Equipping Leaders, Partnering and Connecting for Ministry and Mission, Cultivating Church Growth and Being Mutually Accountable.

At the end of the day, the Presbytery wants us to know that they're here to serve the local Church and provide valuable resourcing and support... Join us on Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> and catch the enthusiasm and vision going on in Mission Presbytery.

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