



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Where God's love makes all the difference!

DECEMBER 2011

...another RGV Connections publication

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 12

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

"Dear, What Time Is Worship Again?"

Well, the answer to that frequently asked question is right on our brand new signs on Highland Park Ave. along with our phone number and web site information. Just remember that while the sign is great to have and will let people know about FPCM... "YOU" are the "sign" that most people will see when it comes to your God, your faith, and your church... If someone is wondering if they should come to Church at FPCM- they'll be looking to see what difference coming to FPCM makes in your life...So share something good about your Lord today...



*Merry Christmas from
First Presbyterian Church!*

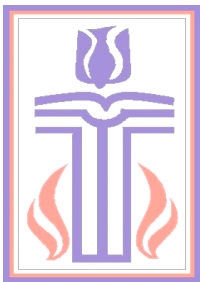


God's Love Is Everlasting!

On November 6, the congregation enjoyed a moving presentation called, "God's Love is Everlasting." As we watched and listened, Pam Sherwood, narrator, reminded us that Jesus is with us and loves us always – throughout our lives and even in death.

Participating in this event were: Anastasia Cruz, Peyton York, Colton Watkins, Kristin York, Dorothy Suter, Bill Freeman, and Halle York.





ELDERS & COMMITTEES



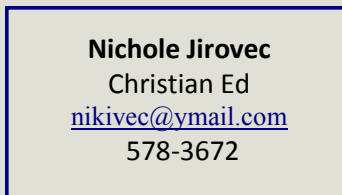
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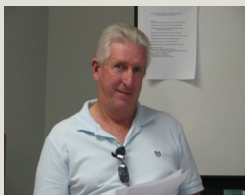
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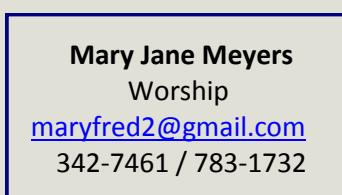
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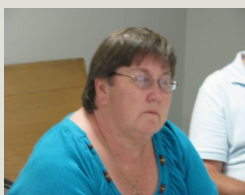
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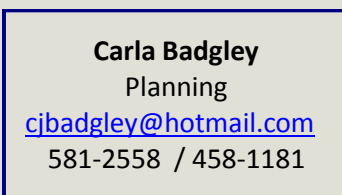
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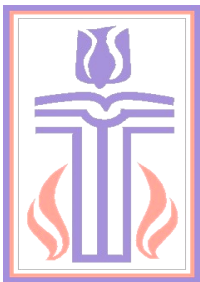
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First Presbyterian Church, Mission

A Word from Pastor Dave, Christian Education...

PAGE 3
DECEMBER 2011



**A WORD
FROM
PASTOR
DAVE +**

GRACE, MERCY AND PEACE TO YOU FROM GOD THE FATHER AND OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST!

"The Gift of Clean Water"...Update

Friends- In November I shared with you that for a Christmas gift a few years ago, Nadine had donated a bed, in my name, to Mulunge hospital in Malawi, Africa, where we had visited on a Pittsburgh Presbytery Mission Trip. I think this was one of the greatest Christmas gifts I'd ever received and so this year I was going to make a similar donation, in Nadine's name to the World Vision Clean Water Fund, for the digging of a traditional well.

"Well"... A number of you have joined me and we now have enough for 1/3 of a well... This well will provide up to 600 gallons of safe water a day- for years to come! This is an answer to prayer since a child dies of preventable illnesses from contaminated water every 15 seconds...

There is still time to help with this gift if you'd like. We will be sending our FPCM check to World Vision on Dec. 12th...

Blessings to all,
have a wonderful Advent Season,
and see you in Church!
Pastor Dave +



Advent is Here!!!

This Advent we'll be looking at:

Nov. 27th- "Repentance"

Dec. 4th- "Faith"

Dec. 11th-"Holiness"

Dec. 18th-"Love"

Dec. 25th- 9:30am Worship

(No Adult Education or Sunday School)



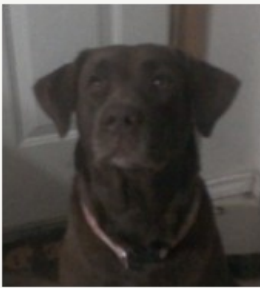
**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

Adult Education will take a break in January and resume again on February 5th. We will be studying Ray Vander Laan's- "Death and Resurrection of the Messiah" in Preparation for Easter.

Remember to order your study guide from Family Christian Bookstore early- it took them forever to get our current study guide...Or go online to e-bay and order it...



Sarah's Garden Gab...



Welcome back Linda! So good to have our helper in the garden again. Linda wanted to say "As a garden volunteer, I was pleasantly surprised when I returned to the valley this fall.



Through their heroic efforts, Sue and Amanda kept the garden in tip top shape despite the heat and lack of rain. They really deserve a round of applause!"



We have pulled up some of the radishes. Again, you all are welcome to pick and eat.

It's great to know that Ms. Linda is back in our garden again! This year she has thrown the rake away. No more bags of leaves in the garden like last year. Linda is back weeding, feeding and planning. In the above picture where I am looking over the bench, is where some of the new plants are going. We have other plants coming in where the ginger just can't put up with the heat. I hope they put some good shade plants in for me to lie under. Make sure you visit our beautiful garden! If you come during the week, I will be sure to greet you.

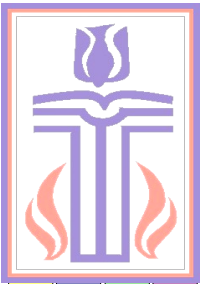


Such a comfort to have
Linda back!



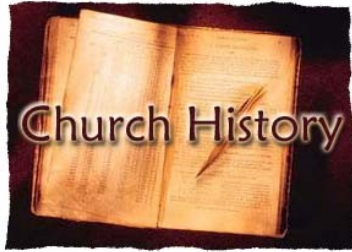
Don't forget that the Choir Room has a reading library that you are welcome to participate in! You will find many books (mostly fiction) that have been gently read and then donated to the library . . . why don't you come in and enjoy one?





CLERK'S CORNER:

The Planning Committee has been working on a history project for the last several years in our church. The following is Part 3 of the history of First Presbyterian Church Mission as compiled through the years....



Part III Overview (continued)

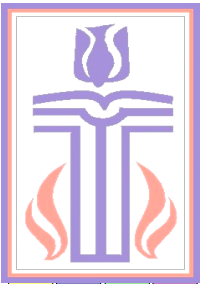
Two very special events occurred during 1953 to become highlights in the chronicles of the church. On Sunday, October 18, President Dwight D. Eisenhower and members of his staff who were in the area for the dedication of Falcon Dam attended the Presbyterian Church for morning worship services. Accompanying them was Governor Allan Shivers, the President's host during his three-day stay in the Valley. The President's attendance at the church put the community as well as the church in the national spotlight.¹⁴ The pastor at the time of Eisenhower's visit was Reverend Ernest Deutsch, and his sermon was entitled "What Think Ye Of Christ?" Many pictures, newspaper clippings, and the sermon commemorating this historic visit are located in the records and scrapbooks at the Church.¹⁵

In November of 1953, a campaign was launched for funds to construct a new church plant which would include a sanctuary, educational building and fellowship hall, using the six lots purchased in 1952 at Highland and Ash Streets in Pecan Heights. Warren Suter, a member of the congregation, was chosen to be architect for the project. Every adult and youth active in the church program took part in the fund raising campaign which set a goal of \$165,000. The building campaign was successful, and it resulted in the completion of a three-building, \$180,000 church home.¹⁶

Open house was held June 19, 1955, to mark the completion of the new church home. One of the most beautiful churches in South, Texas, it occupied a full block facing on Ash Avenue and was one-half block in depth. The tower at the west entrance was 45 feet high with a cut limestone cross extending six feet higher. The cross was lit each night. The sanctuary seated 300 persons in Appalachian oak pews. Reverend Ernest Deutsch guided the church through its successful building expansion.¹⁶ Pictures, clippings, and notes regarding the progress and completion of First Presbyterian Church's second physical home are contained in the scrapbooks and records at the Church.¹⁷

Over the course of its existence several influential people in addition to Eisenhower have worshipped at First Presbyterian Church, Mission, Texas, including Major General Frank McCoy and William Jennings Bryan. When major McCoy died in June, 1954, it was reported to the Mission Times by Virgil Lott of Roma. Lott recalled an incident connected to a battle of the Old Third Cavalry commanded by McCoy, in a hot battle in 1916 at Cavazos Crossing on the Rio Grande just above the old Mission First Lift Plant. According to Lott, "Captain McCoy, a very devout Presbyterian and up to this moment cool and collected, suddenly lost his equanimity and sent for his First Sergeant, Ernest Schaeffer. " 'Sergeant,' relax, for I have a mission for you. I have, up to this point in

CONTINUED ON THE NEXT PAGE —>



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Clerk's Corner, History of FPC, Fellowship...

PAGE 6
DECEMBER 2011

Continued from page 5...

this fight, been at least fair to the enemy, but the enemy doesn't want to play fair. He has shot one of my horses and wounded a recruit. In that tree over there is a sharpshooter or maybe two sharpshooters. You are a sharp shooter and I want you to clean that nest out. I am going to offer a prayer for your success and at the same time pray for the misguided souls of the men who are shooting down our horses and our men. 'Proceed, sergeant.'” “And Schaeffer proceeded with telling effect, for at the crack of his rifle a man came crashing to the ground out of the tree. Three fell, shot to death by the unerring aim of one of the best sharpshooters in the old 'regular' army.” Lott went on to say, “If there is a niche in the Mission Presbyterian Church for Dwight D. Eisenhower, surely there should be one for Frank R. McCoy, praying Presbyterian officer, who made a lot of history on the border in the Mission vicinity during the bitter years of 1915-16. McCoy was a regular attendant at services of the church as was William Jennings Bryan, of blessed memory, who was also a very devout Presbyterian and a lay preacher who often filled the pulpit of the Mission Church.”¹⁸

(Hope you all have been keeping up - it will be continued next month 😊)

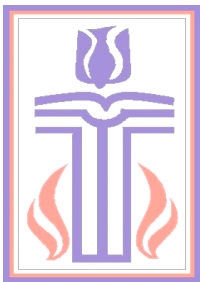
SHEPHERD GATHERINGS: GREAT WAYS TO JOIN IN FELLOWSHIP AT FPC!

On Halloween weekend- the Badgley's hosted a Shepherd Gathering- which is FPCM's effort to get church friends together and get to know each other "outside" of church—you'll just have to guess which member was not in costume...

Elder Judy Alexander, who chairs Congregational Care, is coordinating this effort on behalf of FPCM. Check the announcement page in the bulletin for when the gathering takes place in your neighborhood...

PS- If you'd like to host one, let Judy know that as well- This is what a "normal" gathering looks like- just some cookies, coffee or hot chocolate- since we're coming into winter- and perhaps a few shrimp thrown in there for good measure!





Celebration Sunday Concert Series, Christmas Edition!

The Bells of Hope and the Bells of Faith of First Presbyterian Church of Mission, will present a Christmas Concert called "A Very Merry Christmas." This concert is presented in conjunction with the Celebration Sunday Concert Series which is now in its 14th year at FPC Mission.

What could be more joyous than the peal of handbells? Make plans to enjoy this beautiful music on **DECEMBER 11 at 6:30 PM** in the **FPC Sanctuary**.

The **Celebration Sunday Concert Series** is now in its 14th season. These concerts are held one Sunday each month, October – March. They are open to the public and free of charge. All concerts will be held in the Sanctuary of the First Presbyterian Church at 1102 Ash, Mission, Texas.

CELEBRATION SUNDAY CONCERTS 2011-2012

December 11

"A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS"
FPC Handbell Choirs

January 22

Don Braswell, II - tenor

February 19

Crystal Wallace – organ

March 18

Eddie De La Garza & friends



"SLEEPOVER AT THE STABLE!"

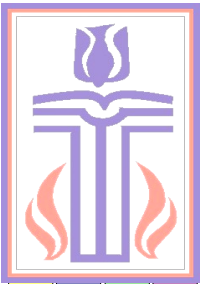
to be presented by the SonShine Players, December 4th

It's bedtime at the stable and the menagerie is snoozing soundly. Suddenly, two humans crash the scene! The humans' donkey strikes up a conversation with the other animals. Their repartee gives a play-by-play of the birth of baby Jesus. You'll love the characterizations:

the trio of chickens who say everything in triplicate (played by **Zelene & Ellasyn Gray** and **Peyton York**), the grouchy Goat who's trying to sleep (**Halle York**), the weary Donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem (**Randy Wood**), the chatty Sheep (**Anastasia Cruz**), the wisecracking Mule (played by **Lawrence Wood**), & the kind Cow (played by ??? – you will just have to come to the play to find out!).

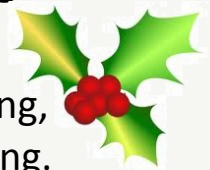
Not a single human in this charming performance - but still the complete Nativity story is told. The animal costumes add a touch of magic to the story. So make plans to attend this cute little show – **December 4 at 4:00 PM**. There will be cookies and coffee after the play and an opportunity to meet these future thespians!





"MEMORIES OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS"

By Marty Parks



It's Christmastime and once again familiar carols ring,
And everyone, it seems, is simply in the mood to sing.
Both young and old and in between are giddy with delight
Each time they hear a church's bell, or spy a twinkling light.

It's not so much what lies ahead as what has gone before
(Those things that stir up memories and cozy thoughts galore)
That cause us to reflect a bit, when Christmas comes around,
On how our lives are richly blessed, and on the joy we've found.

Yes, Christmas is a time for happiness and peace on earth,
But let's not overlook the reason for this season's mirth;
For in our memories we can find so many cherished things
That come to us because of Jesus Christ, the King of Kings.

~ a note from the Director of Music, Pat Hudsonpillar:

"Memories of a Merry Christmas" is a musical that will (hopefully) touch your hearts and stir memories of Christmases past. The story is told by a grandmother (played by Pam Sherwood) as she reads her Christmas cards – each one reminding her of a special Christmas memory. The Chancel Choir adds beautiful music to the story to further our emotions, excitement, and feelings of nostalgia.

This musical will be presented on December 18 during both worship services.

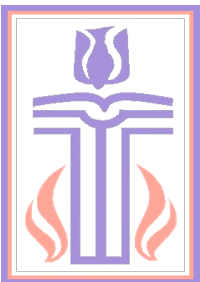


The FPC Building Speaks!

“ Sure is nice to have some cooler weather! As Susie cleans my buildings, she opens up the doors and airs them out with the fresh air we've had lately. I had a small visitor in the Garden meeting room. A small bird decided to come have a visit, but Sarah does not tolerate birds inside the building. So, within minutes, she had it caught and put back outside where it belonged.

I had good smells and friendly chatter that came from my fellowship hall recently. It was so nice to have company. By the smell and sounds of things, the potluck lunch was a great success!

Not much fixin' needed lately, which is a good thing. But we all are keeping an eye out for small things so they don't become big things. ”



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MISSION

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Church Activities...

Birthdays
Anniversaries

December 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 -6:30 PM Arts and Crafts with Judy Alexander -Marian Eggers	2 -6:00 PM Kids Movie Night	3
4 -4:00 PM SonShine Players Program -5:30 PM C.E. Meeting -6:30 PM Bell Practice -Orville Huenink	5 -Marilyn Hanna	6 -Lenora Coyle	7 -6:15 PM Pre-school Pray and Play -7:30 Chancel Choir -Arlene Benegas -Sam Benzel -Kathy Buresh	8 -6:30 PM Arts and Crafts with Judy Alexander -7:00 PM Planning Meeting -Muriel Gustafson -George Michelson -John and Laurel Watkins	9 -Mary Frederickson Stuff Christmas Baskets	10
11 -Potluck Lunch after service -6:30 PM Celebration Sunday, FPC Handbells	12 -6:30 PM Session -Alice Boulanger	13 -12:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting -Jim Pendergrass	14 -12:00 PM Bag and Gab -2:00 PM Brook Ridge Communion -6:15 PM Pre-school Pray and Play -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -Eddie Pena	15 -6:30 PM Arts and Crafts with Judy Alexander -Henry and Alice Boulanger	16 -6:30 PM Music Departments Christmas Party -Peter Dick	17
18 -No Scripture or Sermon -10:30 AM Choir Cantata	19 -Newsletter Deadline!! -Samuel Denham	20 -Robert Carson	21 -6:15 PM Pre-school Pray and Play -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -Neal and Dorothy King -Erma Graf	22 -6:30 PM Arts and Crafts with Judy Alexander -Ermadean Watson	23	24 -5:00 PM Candlelight Service -Carol Garcia
25 -No Sunday School -9:30 AM Worship	26	27 -Arlie and Grace Mayer	28 -6:15 PM Pre-school Pray and Play -Jane Anderson -Dwayne and Edith Pecks	29 -6:30 PM Arts and Crafts with Judy Alexander	30	31

First Presbyterian Church—Mission
1102 Ash Drive
Mission, TX 78572
(956)585-4829



KNIT FOR KIDS PROJECT

Do you know how to knit or crochet? Would you like to be a part of an international project that helps kids of all ages? If the answer to either of these questions is “yes,” then you need to participate in the KNIT FOR KIDS PROJECT!! For a number of years, the Chancel Choir has been participating in this World Vision / Guidepost Magazine project. A specific pattern to knit or crochet a child’s sweater is provided, but the type of yarn and color is your choice. Choir member, Mary Jane Meyers, spearheads this project at FPC Mission and would love to give you a pattern – and some yarn, if you like. Many people in the congregation have contributed their handiwork . . . in fact, the number of sweaters that we have sent World Vision is over 300 now! Won’t YOU help the children of the world?



MONTHLY POTLUCK LUNCHES AT FPC!

If you didn’t make it to our November potluck, you missed out on some really great food and fellowship! Please join us for our next potluck luncheon in the fellowship hall on **December 11** after the second service. Our FPC children will be displaying their project that they have been working on in their classes.



Potluck
LUNCHEON

THURSDAY CRAFT SESSIONS A HIT!

The Thursday night paper craft classes are going well. We invite all those interested in learning to make cards and do scrapbooking to come and join us. We meet on Thursday evenings, in the kitchen, from 6:30 to 9:00 P. M. We will be displaying our work at the pot luck on January 8, 2012 and would love to see you there. For more info, call Judy @ 580-0712.



FUN!