



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Where God's love makes all the difference!

JANUARY 2012



...Happy New Year!!

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

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

First, we would like to thank you for your generous contributions to the Christmas food baskets.

Second, we would also like to thank all the volunteers who came out and braved the cold, wet weather to purchase, pack and deliver the food.

We collected \$7,235.00 in donations and were able to purchase food for the **40 families** at almost \$200.00 per family! We spent \$7,793.58. A large group met at Sam's Club in Pharr on Thursday the 8th at 6:00 pm. We completed the purchase and were back at the Church to unload before 7:00 pm. Amazing how quickly we can shop for 40 families!!

On Friday the 9th, we met in the fellowship hall at 7:00 pm to start sorting the food, so each family would receive 1 of each of the items.

What fun. Then on the worst Saturday in a very long time, a bunch of brave souls gathered once again in the Fellowship Hall. Each group that was delivering, picked names and loaded up and left to deliver. Some of these Santa elves had to return to deliver to additional families. Some families we had names for were either not home or the addresses were unable to be found, but the food was then distributed to another family that needed it.

This is such a worthwhile project, and I hope it will continue in the future, as this is my last year on the Session. Someone else will be found to take over and will have a wonderful crew of volunteers to work with.

Thank you so much for all the money and time everyone put in. I cannot thank you enough.

If you didn't participate this year, maybe next year you will be able to help out.

Yours in Christ,
Judy Mayes
Outreach Chairman

**ONE PERSON
CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE,
AND EVERYONE
SHOULD TRY**
-JOHN F. KENNEDY-



WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

8:30am
Worship

9:30am
Sunday School

10:30am
Worship





ELDERS & COMMITTEES



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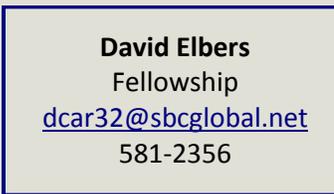
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NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES for FPC STAFF . . .

Pastor Dave Dierksen - dave@fpcmission.com

Pat Hudsonpillar - pat@fpcmission.com
(Director of Music/Worship)

Jordan Garvin - jordan@fpcmission.com
(Administrative Assistant)

Sue Leerhoff (Church Sexton) - sue@fpcmission.com

Please do not hesitate to contact our staff with questions or concerns. And, as always, look for the latest news about FPC Mission on our web site: www.fpcmission.com



**A WORD
FROM
PASTOR
DAVE +**

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

“Have You Lost It Yet?”

What a blur this “Advent Season” was... the “Sleep Over in the Manger” and the Choir Cantata, Church gatherings, parties and our Christmas Eve Service, Wow- what a rush! But, Have You Lost It Yet?? Is the Joy of Jesus’ birth still alive in your hearts or has it faded into just a nice memory?

My hope for you all is that like the “Glow Sticks” that the kids receive for the Children’s Sermon on Christmas Eve that don’t blow out, that your life has been transformed by Jesus’ birth. I tell the kids that the adults have to blow their candles out before they leave church but your glow sticks keep shining like Jesus’ love in your hearts... I share with them that when Jesus is born and comes into their hearts- his love can never be blown out, it is in their hearts to stay...no matter what!

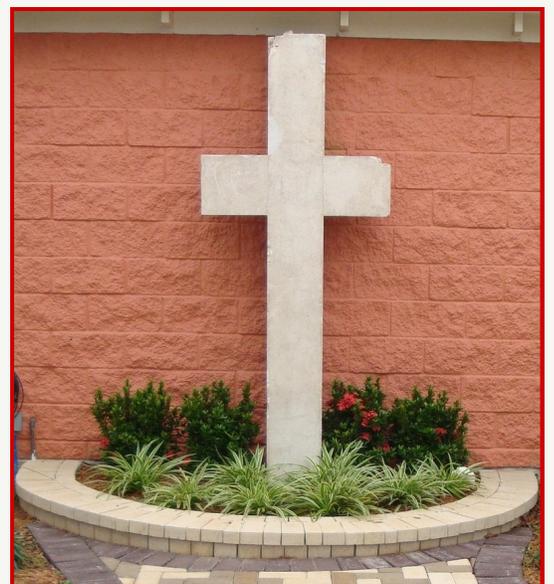
When Nadine and I drove around looking at Christmas decorations, we realized that one of the favorite decorations are the lights that are hung to look like icicles- not that we see them very often in deep south Texas.

I remember as a kid that one year when my house had an especially large display of icicles hanging from our gutters. My brother and I would spend hours mesmerized looking at the icicles and we were very upset when our dad told us that when the temperature gets above 32 degrees- the icicles will melt, they won’t be there anymore.

Shortly after that my dad opened the freezer to get something and he saw- about 62 lbs. of icicles in there. We’d knocked them off the gutters and filled the freezer with them- That way we’d be able to look at them right through the summer, all year long... I even had a snowball turned into an ice-ball that I was going to hit Eddie Intili with in July...

Friends- I hope you will know the joy and peace of Jesus in your hearts all year long, everyday... like a freezer full of icicles. So I invite you to keep coming back to Church; join us at 9:30am starting in Feb. for our Adult Ed. as we explore our faith, join the choir, volunteer to help with the work groups that stay with us, come to bag and gab- whatever...

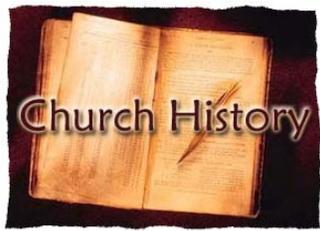
Blessings to you all, all year long,
Pastor Dave +





CLERK'S CORNER: History of the Church...

The Planning Committee has been working on a church history project for the last several years. The following is the conclusion of the history of First Presbyterian Church Mission, compiled through the years....



Fast forward to the decades of the 80s, 90s, and 2000s – to meet another interesting and influential person involved with the Church – Pastor Don Owens. Don preached his sermons at the church for twenty three years from 1986 through 2009, entertained the congregation with his “true stories,” and helped guide the church to a new age of growth, evangelism, and outreach.¹⁹

While the Mission Presbyterian “Church’s One Foundation” has surely been in one continuous firm spiritual existence for over 100 years, its physical existence has been housed in three distinct separate physical plants. Like the 1953 planned campaign, another building campaign was launched in 2004 – but this time, the campaign was not by choice. The Church had been set on fire by four teenagers in January 2004. Thankfully, no lives were lost in the fire. Pastor Don Owens wrote in February 2005, “On January 16th, 2004 our hearts were broken over the destruction of our Sanctuary. On January 16th, 2005 our hearts were happy to break ground for our new Sanctuary. Today, you are invited to be a part of the campaign to ‘Rebuild God’s House.’¹⁹

On August 14, 2005, “God’s House Rebuilt,” a service of dedication of the new sanctuary, was held with members of the Church and community attending. The new sanctuary has 12,000 square feet and seats 550 people, compared to the 1955 structure with 4200 square feet and a seating capacity of 300. Total Construction Costs were \$1,474,000, funded by insurance proceeds and over \$650,000 of private donations. This Church is one of very few Presbyterian churches owned by the local congregation – it is not owned by Presbytery, and it is fully paid for, with no outstanding debt against it. Records, photos, and articles describing the rebuilding campaign are contained in historical records of the church.^{19,20}

Even though the physical plant has changed throughout the Church’s first century of history, some physical items from the first two structures still remain and are displayed in the new 2005 building. In the narthex of the church is the pew where President Eisenhower worshipped – it is marked with a plaque, and is located between the nursery and the parlor. Worshippers enjoy sitting here each Sunday between services.

A tribute to the former pastors who have served the church since its founding can be seen in the unusual windows on the east side of the sanctuary. These windows feature stained glass alternates with clear in diamond shaped panes. Inscribed in each colored pane are the names and dates of the ministry of pastors. In the years to come, the names of succeeding pastors will be etched on the windows. These windows were designed and installed as a memorial to Mrs. J. Hopson, church member at time of her death in 1954.²¹

The eight stained glass windows from the 1955 structure, set in cut limestone, have been preserved and are located on the north and south sides of the sanctuary. Two of the windows were given as memorials while the other six windows were gifts of active members at the time of 1955 building. All of these windows depict important Old and New Testament incidents. They are marked with descriptive plaques.²²

The Official Seal of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., formerly adorning the façade of the 1955 church sanctuary above the entrance now rests proudly

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on the east side of the church plant housing church offices and classrooms. The Seal faces the play yard recently installed in 2011. This location is appropriate, as the seal was originally donated in 1956 by Mr. and Mrs. Weaks Martin in memory of their young son, Tom Dumas Martin (1932-1934).²³

In the narthex of the present church, there is a cabinet donated in honor of Roscoe and Betty Watkins, long-time members of the church, which displays some of the Church's tangible pieces of history. A Communion Token, struck to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the First Presbyterian Church of Mission, Texas, is contained here. The obverse of the Token shows an exterior view of the 1955 church and the reverse shows the center view of the 1955 chancel area. This token was presented to each member in 1960 in TRUST as a reminder of a link in the chain of heritage as Presbyterians.²⁴ A detailed description of the historical significance of this token can be found in church histories and records located in this display cabinet. A signed copy of *Border Trails*, written by the Church's organizing minister, Dr. Glasgow, also resides in this cabinet.

Finally, a tangible symbol of this Church's continued existence through the past 101 years can be found in the form of a candle, located on one of the display cabinet shelves. It comes from the altar table of the building at the time of the fire. It is unblemished and not melted, in spite of the flames and smoke surrounding it on that evening of January 16, 2004. This candle serves as a reminder to First Presbyterian Church worshippers that God's love is never ending and the call to do His work cannot be brought down by earthly acts.

III. Significance

First Presbyterian Church, Mission, Texas, was founded in 1910 to provide spiritual guidance to Protestants settling in this rough, previously unsettled portion of our country. It was founded to offer people of all denominations a place to come, spiritually refuel and refresh and most importantly, hear God's word, and do His work. Throughout the past 101 years, the Church has done His work and been a vital part of the Mission Community. Outreach programs have consistently been part of this Church's history, from the early days of sending citrus fruit from trees donated by church members to orphanages to active participation in Su Casa De Esperanza, Pennies from Heaven, Agape Christian School, Food Baskets, Mission Service Projects, Mission Food Pantry, and Hosting of work groups to provide housing for the poor in the Rio Grande Valley.¹⁹

One of the most continuous and important ministries of the Church has been its music ministries – starting in 1909, with Dr. Glasgow's wife and her portable organ, to present day programs attracting people of all denominations. Present day music programs include organists, chancel choir, instrumental ensembles, Sun Shine Players Youth Drama and Music, Bells of Hope and Faith, and Celebration Sunday Concerts. There are numerous historical memorabilia and descriptive pictures and writings located in the narthex of the church describing the music and other important outreach programs and ministries of our church.¹⁹

There is an expression – “things come full circle, and the cycle begins again.” While the first century of the Church has ended, the beginning of the second century of First Presbyterian Church Mission Texas continues the legacy brought by its founder Dr. Glasgow, in 1910.... “Oh to Seize and Mould the Day.”

Hope you all have enjoyed our Church's narrative. The exciting thing about this story is it does not end :) For a listing of all references and works cited, please contact me and I will forward you a copy.

Blessings to all,
Mike Hudsonpillar, clerk of Council.



The FPC Building Speaks!

“ Well, laughter and good food filled the fellowship hall once again. Not only from the



beautiful and delicious potluck, but boxes and boxes of food were filled with food by the FPC elves. Oh, what fun to watch them put all that food together for someone else.

We had a friend of a friend come and visit us from out of state and they built a handy dandy hanging tree, in the shop, to hang all of the extension cords and more. So happy to see organization.

How nice to have beautiful decorations put up in our sanctuary, volunteers and workers making the church look so festive.”



NEXT POTLUCK JANUARY 8th!
The attendance at the December potluck luncheon didn't have quite as many people as we've had before, so let's turn it around in January! January 8 in the

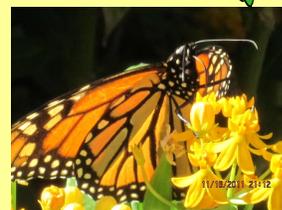
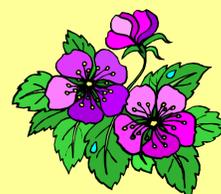


fellowship hall we will have another potluck luncheon after service but this time we will be treated to some delicious chili and cornbread by Bill Freeman and John Cain. All we ask is for you to bring your favorite dessert. Judy Alexander and her Thursday night class will display the cards and scrapbooking that



Sarah's Garden Gab...

The poor ginger plants are suffering from sunburn and have asked to be relocated to a shady home. So we are going to put them out front (where I am standing in picture) the sweet smell of ginger will welcome you into the garden.



To brighten our brick wall, we are contemplating on some bright, butterfly attraction of Esperanza. I am getting pretty excited about the pretty colors coming into the garden. We give thanks to God for the lovely drink of water our garden received. Leaves have been washed and all perked up to greet you. Please come visit us.





Proud! Proud! Proud!

What in the world can I say about the performances of the FPC Music Department ensembles in December except that I am **VERY PROUD** of all of them! Not only were the performances of the **SonShine Players, Bells of Hope, Bells of Faith, and, the Chancel Choir** extremely enjoyable for the audiences, but, those performances were “personal bests” for each group. There are very few times in a church Music Director’s career when this can be said . . . and so, I am proud! And **THANKFUL** . . . Thankful for their hard work, their joyous attitudes, and most of all, for them putting up with ME!

Pat Hudsonpillar



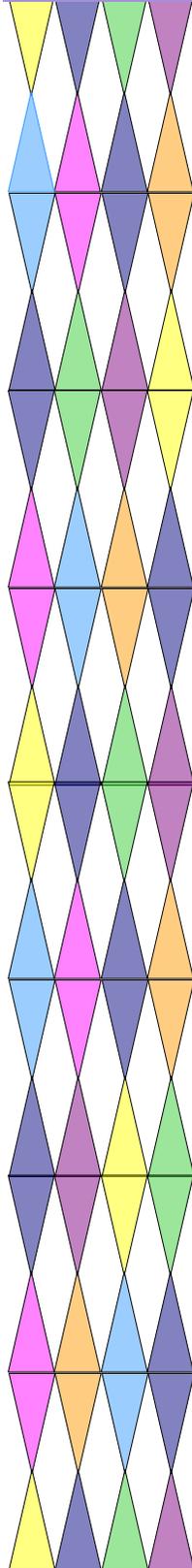
Pam Sherwood -
“Grandmother” in
MEMORIES OF A
MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Bells of Hope &
The Bells of Faith
A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS



The Chancel Choir
MEMORIES OF A MERRY CHRISTMAS





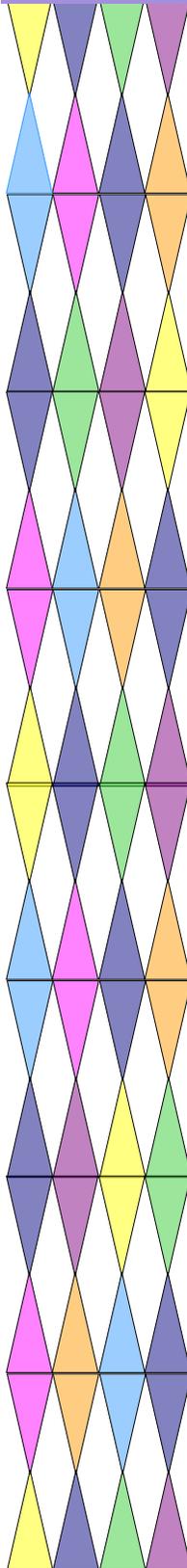
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MISSION
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Church Activities...

Birthdays

Anniversaries

January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 -NO Sunday School for the MONTH!	2 -Alice Raymond	3 -Dell Hausbeck	4 -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -Jean Bell -Carol Gibson -Betty Melrose	5	6 -Victoria Burgoon -Jeri and Dennis Smith	7
8 New/Associate Members -Potluck Lunch after service -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith -Jerry Taylor	9 -John Allen -Donna Pearson	10 -12:00 PM Worship Committee -Arloene Glessner -Richard and Shirley Nelson	11 -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 Chancel Choir -Charles Glessner	12 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander -7:00 PM Planning Meeting -Gale Cratsenberg -John Watkins	13 -Shirley Brand -Bess Johnston -Marilyn Liebold	14
15 -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith	16	17	18 -12:00 PM Bag and Gab -2:00 PM Brook Ridge Communion -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -Halle York	19 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander -Newsletter Deadline!! -Ed Hare -Richard Longwith	20	21 -Anastasia Cruz -Don Schaff
22 -6:30 PM Celebration Sunday- Don Braswell II, Tenor -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith	23 -Robert Bertling -Richard Tornow	24	25 -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 PM Chancel Choir	26 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander	27	28 -Robert McCrey
29 -10:30 AM Max Penalez baptism -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith -Anthony Held -Pamela York	30	31				



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First Presbyterian Church—Mission



Happy 2012 From the Christian Education Committee!

As we begin the New Year, let's give thanks for all of the great things we were able to accomplish the previous one, and remember all of those that helped to make it amazing. A big Thanks to all the hard work and volunteers that helped to make it a wonderful 2011. Bake sales, movie nights, Sunday school kick-off, and family night out...just a few of the many projects that everyone worked together in bringing to fruition, and hopefully just as many special moments will be waiting for us throughout this new year! Don't forget that Christian Education committee meets the first Sunday of the month and you are always welcome to stop in and share your ideas!

Blessings & best wishes for an amazing 2012,

Nichole Jirovec
Christian Education

