



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Where God's love makes all the difference!

FEBRUARY 2012 ...Jesus LOVES me, this I know!

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

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

KNITTERS GONE WILD!

We have some **KNITTERS** at FPC Mission that have gone **WILD** making sweaters for the “KNIT FOR KIDS” project! We’ve lost track of how many years this project has been going on in the church (we think it started in 2008) – but, it has been long enough to have sent over **360** sweaters to needy children! Sponsored by the Chancel Choir, this project is in conjunction with the WORLD VISION organization. We knit the sweaters (a specific pattern, but our choice of yarn and colors) and they send them to kids who need them – it’s a great project for everyone! If you would like to participate by knitting or crocheting a sweater, please see Mary Jane Meyers or Pat Hudsonpillar for a pattern. We even have some yarn to get you started. Or, for those “non-skilled” people, perhaps you would like to donate a few dollars for postage . . . every little bit helps!



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Love is in the air with Valentines day just around the corner, and the Christian Education Committee invites you to share your love of the Lord! Mentoring, Volunteering, imparting your knowledge to our little ones is the best way to let them know how loved they are- and is a gift that will touch the lives of so many as they grow and follow in your footsteps....Christian Education Committee meets the 1st Sunday of the month, Stop by and join us in making a difference!

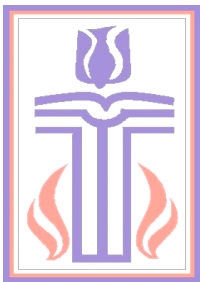


WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

8:30am
Worship

9:30am
Sunday School

10:30am
Worship



ELDERS & COMMITTEES



Mike Hudsonpillar
Clerk
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585-3265 / 330-7922



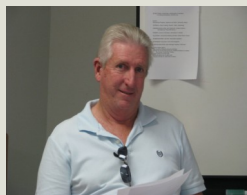
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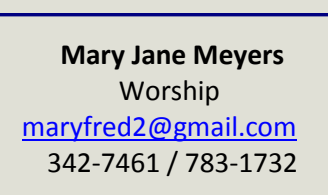
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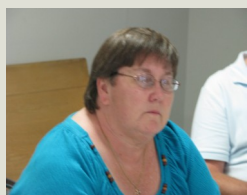
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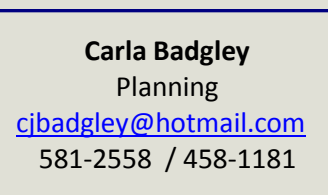
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EMAIL ADDRESSES for FPC STAFF . . .

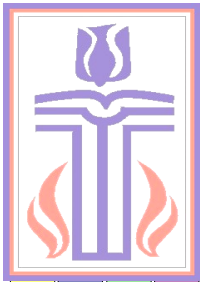
Pastor Dave Dierksen - dave@fpcmission.com

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



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

A Word from Pastor Dave...

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FEBRUARY 2012



A WORD
FROM
PASTOR
DAVE +

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

“What People Experience in Churches”

The Barna Organization does surveys and questionnaires for the Churches in America, that help us get behind the facts and figures of statistics to what these numbers mean for us. In their recent survey of “What People Experience in Churches” we begin with the generally accepted expectation that, people who attend church/worship services experience (grey box below):

Connecting with God in church is something that we expect. It’s certainly not the only place we connect with God but when we come to worship, we do so because God promises to be where “two or three are gathered in his name.” 66% of people say they do have a “real and personal connection” with God while attending church, but that leaves 34% who come to church with no encounter of God.

Transformation- 54% of those attending church say their lives have been changed by their worship in church. That leaves 46% who said that their lives had not changed at all as a result of going to church.

Gaining New Insights- 61% said that they could not remember a new insight or understanding related to faith from their most recent church attendance.

Feeling Cared For- 68% said when they attend church they feel “part of a group of people who are united in their beliefs and who take care of each other in practical ways.”

Helping the Poor- church goers were asked if their church prioritizes caring for the poor outside of the congregation; considering the budget, activities to reflect the emphasis that is placed on helping the poor. 40% of adults said their church experience placed a lot of emphasis on caring for the poor.

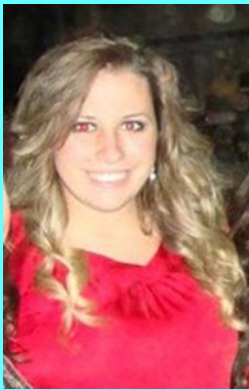
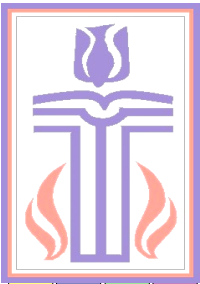
The results were pretty consistent regardless of denomination, size of church and generation. So your pastor and Session will be exploring ways this year for us to “Experience, Participate, Image- (use of sight as well as hearing), and Connect when we worship and fellowship at FPCM.

*Our goal is that, God willing,
you will not leave worship the same
as when you came into worship...*

Blessings and see you in church,
Pastor Dave +

~Connecting with God
~Transformation
~Gaining New Insights
~Feeling cared For
~Helping the Poor





A Note from your Secretary

As the year has come to an end, I've been working on finishing up the posting of contributions in ACS. I've discovered that it's much easier and quicker for me when the majority of contributions are in the pink envelopes. So, I encourage you to see Mary Jane Meyers to receive a number and envelopes to help make a more sufficient process for the posting of contributions that we receive. Thank you so much and God Bless!



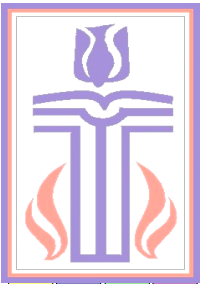
Have you ever been to "Su Casa de Esperanza"?

"Su Casa de Esperanza" translates as "Your House of Hope" and it is an outreach ministry of the Presbyterian Church. The purpose of Su Casa is to empower lower income Hispanics in the area where they live. There are many ways this is done including teaching English and Bible studies for adults as well as offering preschool for 2-3 year olds. Another service involves home visitors who follow and empower pregnant women and new mothers in prenatal and infant care. The result of this relationship is better informed women who can make educated choices regarding their pregnancies and early child rearing, improving the health of mothers and babies.



On Tuesday, January 31st, Annette Smart will be taking 3-5 people to see the facility and to participate and observe in the Toddler class from 9:00 – 10:30. If you would like to go and learn about this ministry, please call the church office by January 30th.

If you would like to contribute to the work of Su Casa, you may bring gallon bottles of apple juice, large containers of animal crackers, small containers of Play-Doh or bottles of bubbles to the office by January 30th.



REMEMBERING EARL HILLESTAD...



On January 9, 2012, First Presbyterian Church, and family and friends gathered for a Service of Witness to the Resurrection for Earl Hillestad. A great service was followed by lots of sharing and requests for the poem that Karen Burgess read during the service.

Here is her poem about "Earl"...

EARL

Goodbye to Earl, good neighbor and friend.
He was there for others, right to the end.
A people person, no strangers he met.
If one needed help, he'd be there I bet.

He was a father, a farmer, a frugal guy.
When it came to spending, Earl asked, "Why?"
If something was broke, he'd get out the tools.
Calling a repairman was for the inept or fools.

Be it Barbershop or church, he loved to sing.
Music made him joyous. He was doing his "thing".
He serve on the Board at Fiesta Village Park.
In fact he served twice making his mark.

He was on cloud nine when he found Jean.
Folks said he was the happiest they'd seen.
They cherished the time they spent together.
It matter the time. It didn't matter the weather.

Earl's gone home now, his work's done on earth.
He's wrapped in God's love. He's had a rebirth.
Don't mourn too heavy. Don't cry lots of tears.
He's earned Heaven's reward after all these years.

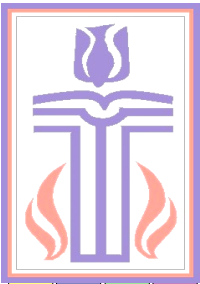
Written by:
Karen Burgess
December 30, 2011

February is going to be the start of a busy time in the life of



Outreach. We have a workgroup coming in for the third year from February 25th to March 2nd from Crafton Height PA. The month of March we may have two more groups. The first group comes on March 3rd to March 9th from Penn State Behrend Campus and possible a team from First Presbyterian Church, Bryan Texas on March 12th to March 17th. The Outreach committee will be in charge of welcoming these groups to the First Presbyterian Church and cooking a welcoming dinner for them. The shower trailer will be brought in and anchored behind the kitchen and checked out and cleaned. Each work group will be responsible for cooking their own meals, but we will want to provide them with cookies, brownies, cakes, etc., for them to munch on when they arrive back in from working or as a late night snack. If you would like to bring in cookies or some other desert, please let me know. I can be reached at 956-343-8716 or by email at [ju-dymayes99@yahoo.com](mailto:judy-mayes99@yahoo.com) or catch me after worship. As always, thank you for your support and participation.

Judy Mayes
Outreach Committee Chairman



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Around the Church, Help Needed...

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FEBRUARY 2012



THE FPC
BUILDING
SPEAKS

“

Extra, extra! Read all about it!!!

Work / project day is coming!

On February 11, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00, we will be doing a few projects that you may find fit your interests and talents. Please come and help us

out. Many hands make light work and make it more fun!

One of the projects is to put shelves in the decorating closet. We want to fit neatly all of the different seasonal decorations that are put up throughout the church to make our building look spiffy.

Second project is to paint the block wall in the prayer garden. We have such a nice garden why not accent it more with a “good lookin’” wall. Any painters out there?

Third and last project is if you like an indoor job, our pews are in need of a “once over” ... we have vacuums that help us out but just don’t run on their own.

I hear that we have a couple of work groups coming in, shower trailer is on its way and will be sitting outside my back door. I bet that will have to be cleaned up too?

Fellowship hall will be full of noises, snoring and

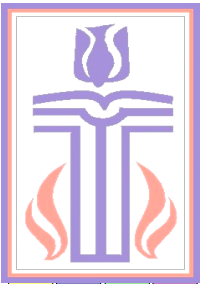


laughter. But I was assured there will be no marshmallows flying around bouncing off walls. This year the guns are outside play. Fun to watch but....

Looking forward to hearing and seeing smiling, laughing faces as we transform a closet, wall and clean up the pews.

Thank- you so much for helping me look great!”





First of all, we want to thank Bill and Libby Freeman for all their hard work Saturday and Sunday preparing for the most delicious chili and cornbread lunch.

Our next luncheon will be on



February 12 in the Fellowship Hall after the 10:30 AM service. We had a pretty good number attend this last time, but let's try to increase the attendance even more! The next delicious meal we will be having is lasagna and French bread. We ask that you please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert.

SEE YOU THERE!!



Sarah's Garden Gab...

This solitary rose seems to be a brave little guy coming out in the chilly weather... it sure is nice to have some



color to brighten the garden!

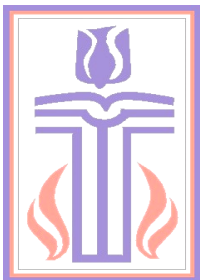
Rain sure made our garden grow, and it's time for a trim! I can't keep up with the birds in our game of tag.

Our garden helpers say that these flowers are to be ground cover, looks to me like they are starting to be head cover — I think a "hair cut" is needed here, too!

There's a rumor out there that the garden wall is going to be painted...does this mean that I will soon have some company?

Friends are always welcome!





ACTS OF LOVE . . .

According to Japanese legend, folding 1000 Origami cranes can be life-changing. Truly a labor of love, folding the cranes is done when someone has a wish, be it for peace, health, or luck. The Premus and Cruz families certainly had such a wish when they folded their 1000 cranes this past December: it was a wish of healing and health for their daughter/sister/aunt, Pamela Haug, who has cancer. Anastasia is pictured with SOME of the cranes they folded – they were hung on long strings in every room of the house. After finishing the last one, they carefully packaged the cranes, a book about the legend and a special narrative by Anastasia; it was shipped to Pamela in South Dakota. Can you imagine her amazement when she received that special package? Scripture tells us in 1 Corinthians 13:13,



**“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love.
But the greatest of these is love.”**

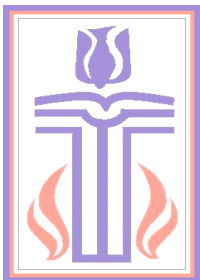
Thank you Premus and Cruz families for reminding of us of all three!



The worship committee met on January 10th. We are still trying to make it easier for all of us to get to know each other. We would like to start using name tags, so we can put names with faces.

We hope when we start this, we will get all of you to take part, wearing your name tag each week is a step toward meeting many new friends.





CAROLYN WINFREY GILLETTE

Carolyn Winfrey Gillette is a hymn writer and a Presbyterian pastor. She and her husband, Bruce, are co-pastors in Wilmington, Delaware at the Limestone Presbyterian Church. While we have sung several of her hymns before, during the month of February, we are going to sing and study more of them. Some of her hymns are original tunes, but many have beautiful new words that are sung with traditional, familiar hymn tunes. It is exciting, indeed, to be able to learn and enjoy these fine hymns written to the glory of God by someone who shares our Presbyterian beliefs. By the way, the Pastors Gillette both went to Princeton Seminary with our own Pastor David Diercksen! What a small world . . .



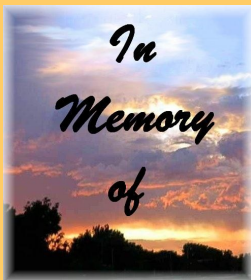
FPC MUSIC DEPARTMENT rehearsals :

**SonShine Players
(Wednesdays)
6:15 PM**

**Chancel Choir
(Wednesdays)
7:30 PM**

**Bells of Hope
(Sundays)
5:30 PM**

**Bells of Faith
(Sundays)
6:30 PM**



The CHANCEL CHOIR mourns the loss of two long time members in the month of December:

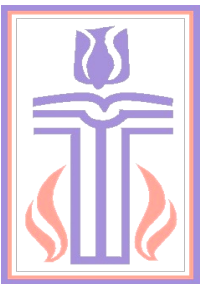
**Richard Weenink and
Earl Hillestad.**

These gentlemen were wonderful friends of the choir and they will be sincerely missed.

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN

We have been asked by several people when the next ingathering of our pennies will be. Please plan to bring them on February 26. That is the date we have chosen to have "Miss Piggy" in the Narthex to collect your coins and "quiet money." We will let you know in February where our monies will be going.





Presenting . . .
CRYSTAL WALLACE
In concert

The First Presbyterian Church of Mission is proud to present **CRYSTAL WALLACE** in concert on Sunday, **February 19 at 6:30 PM**. This concert is presented as a part of the **CELEBRATION SUNDAY CONCERT SERIES** which is now in its 14th year.

Crystal was only 13 years old when she was hired by FPC Mission to play the organ for an early service (8:00 AM) in the Fellowship Hall. Her talent was soon apparent to everyone and it wasn't long before she was "helping out" with other services. She presented her first organ concert in this church at the age of 16.

After graduating from Rowe High School in McAllen, Crystal went to Baylor University where she studied organ and piano. She graduated with a degree in Piano Pedagogy (the study of teaching piano) and returned to the Valley opening a piano studio in McAllen.

Crystal and her husband, John Wallace, Jr, have one son, Brandon who is 3 years old. They are expecting a second child this coming April. Crystal's program will

**Share your snapshots of FPC
Fellowship, Service, & FUN
for future newsletter
editions!**



offer a variety of music, ending with the "Toccata from Symphony #5" by Charles-Marie Widor (spectacular!) Please make plans to attend and enjoy some wonderful music!

Have some info for the next newsletter??
Got a story about why you love FPC?
Want to share your favorite recipe??



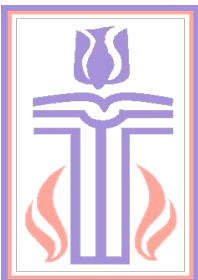
Our goal for this newsletter is that it reflects who we are and what we do at First Presbyterian Church—Mission. The most important part of this newsletter is **YOU!** So, please send your submissions to Jordan:

jordan@fpcmmission.com

**CELEBRATION SUNDAY
CONCERTS 2012**

February 19
Crystal Wallace – organ

March 18
Eddie De La Garza & friends



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MISSION

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Church Activities...

February 2012						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 -Harold Blinn -Stephanie Freeman -Cliff Baker	2 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander	3 9AM-4PM Stroke Scan -Bill and Pat Craig	4 -Jean Bell -Sean Bell -Charles and Arloene Glessner
5 -Begin Adult Education Class -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith	6	7	8 -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 Chancel Choir	9 1:30 PM Women's Circle -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander -7:00 PM Planning Meeting	10	11 -8:30 AM Church Work/Project day -Mary Ann Nation -Geneva Elbers
12 -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith -Jack Willis -Jerry Willis -James Burgoon	13	14 -12:00 PM Worship Committee -Brad Wood -Wilfred Jones -Floyd and Bess Johnson	15 -12:00 PM Bag and Gab -2:00 PM Brook Ridge Communion -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -Steven Higley	16 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander -Tom Larson	17 -Newsletter Deadline!!	18 -Dick and Annette VanGelder
19 -6:30 PM Celebration Sunday- Crystal Wallace, Organist -4:00 PM Bells of Faith -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -Victor Hom	20 -6:30 PM Session -Dick Uhlmacher	21 -Alta Uhlmacher -Keith Dietrich	22 -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 PM Chancel Choir	23 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy Alexander -Dot Harrigan -Ron Cooper	24 -Anita Smith -Lambert Namminga -Harriett Burns	25 -Peggy Reed -Marilyn Schrader -Lloyd Campbell Work Group from Crafton Heights, PA →
26 -Zelma Willis -Vera Held -Elizabeth Resczenski -Thelma Larson	27	28 -Anna Evans -Pauline Augsburger	29			



HOW TO KEEP WARM IN CHURCH

1. Rush to the front of the sanctuary.
That will warm you up, and you'll avoid
the draft in the back of the church.
2. Invite your neighbors and friends,
and sit 12 people to a pew.
3. Seat yourself near the pulpit.
Much hot air is emitted from that area.
4. Wear thermal underwear
(in the appropriate liturgical colors, of course).
5. Wait for an unfamiliar hymn-
and then watch the sparks fly!