



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

Where God's love makes all the difference!

APRIL 2012

...behold, the tomb is empty!!

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

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

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN HAS RAISED OVER \$20,000 SINCE 2008!



Our first "Pennies from Heaven" ingathering of coins was in August 2005. We continued to gather our coins for our own building fund for three years, raising a total of \$6,765.56 by February 2008.

In August of 2008 our "Pennies" went to Heifer International with a total of \$2,270.71 for this great project.



In 2009 we decided our "blessings" should be shared with our own Mission Food Pantry. The total coins collected in February and August amounted to \$2,211.97.

In February of 2010 we shared with the Kenya Children's Project. Our coins amounted to \$2,033. and Rotary donated another \$1,000. for a very nice gift to this project. In August 2010 we were able to give \$1800 to the "Pet" project here in Mission. Do you remember the hand-propelled tricycle that Pastor Dave rode into church?

February 2011 we shared with the Comfort House in McAllen and were able to help them in their work with a gift of \$1,513. In August 2011 we sent our coins to Tuscaloosa, Alabama to Covenant Presbyterian Church, to help with restoration of their church from tornado damage. The total of \$1,650 was gratefully accepted by them.

In February of this year, our "Pennies" were given to Su Casa de Esperanza for their educational programs in Pharr. They received \$1,008 from us.

We have been truly Blessed to be able to share the amount of \$20,252.14 with others since we started this program! As you can see, these little things sure do add up!!

May God keep on blessing each of you as we continue donating to "Pennies from Heaven" each year.



NEW WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

9:30am
Sunday School

10:30am
Worship

HAPPY

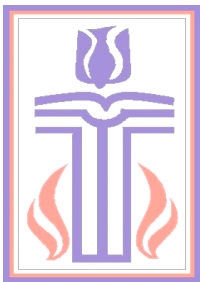
Easter

EASTER 2012 — April 8th

7:30 AM Sunrise Service
8:30 AM Breakfast
9:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt
10:30 AM Worship Service

Sermon: "Scared to Life..."

Matthew 28:1-10



ELDERS & COMMITTEES



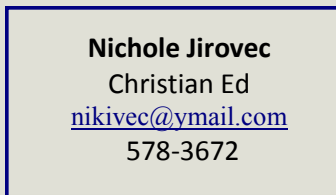
Mike Hudsonpillar
Clerk
mhud52@aol.com
585-3265 / 330-7922



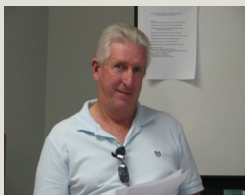
Lowell Hudsonpillar
Treasurer
lowell@meldenandhunt.com
581-3990 / 279-1739



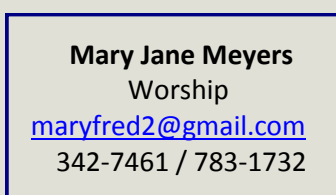
Tom Smith
Maintenance
tmissiontx@sbcglobal.net
580-0303 / 222-4183



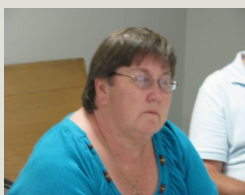
Nichole Jirovec
Christian Ed
nikivec@ymail.com
578-3672



Keith Dietrich
Church Growth
kdietrich@rgv.rr.com
584-3433 / 844-8024



Mary Jane Meyers
Worship
maryfred2@gmail.com
342-7461 / 783-1732



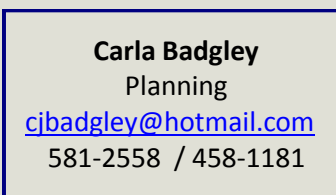
Judy Mayes
Outreach
judymayes99@yahoo.com
585-1198 / 343-8716



David Elbers
Fellowship
dcarr32@sbcglobal.net
581-2356



Judy Alexander
Congreg. Care
judyale401@sbcglobal.net
580-0712 / 778-3232



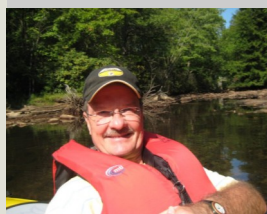
Carla Badgley
Planning
cjbadgley@hotmail.com
581-2558 / 458-1181



Bill Ellisor
Co-Stewardship
vaadabill@msn.com
424-7502/303-564-5803



John Ingram
Co-Stewardship
lingramjohn@gmail.com
956-310-3319



DAVID DIERCKSEN
PASTOR
dave@fpcmission.com
585-4829 church
585-1548 home
330-1043 mobile

NEW EMAIL ADDRESSES for FPC STAFF . . .

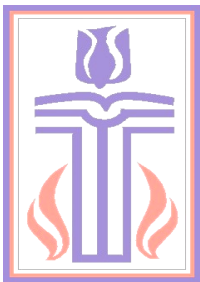
Pastor Dave Dierksen - dave@fpcmission.com

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



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

A Word from Pastor Dave...

PAGE 3
APRIL 2012



A WORD
FROM
PASTOR
DAVE +

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

The San Antonio Newspaper reported after our March Presbytery Meeting that "Breaking up is hard to do" as it covered the three Hispanic Churches, El Principe de Paz in Mercedes, Iglesia Presbiteriana Getsemani in San Benito and Iglesia Presbiteriana San Pablo in Brownsville, that have chosen to leave

Mission Presbytery and the PC(USA).

There has been much mis-information going around about this and so I thought I'd put in our newsletter a more accurate reporting of the events and issues.

STATE OF THREE VALLEY HISPANIC CHURCHES

Some of you have been asking questions about the El Principe de Paz, Getsemani, and San Pablo Presbyterian churches. Some have made some incorrect assumptions. Last month's Newsletter article did not go into much detail; this month's article is designed to help in understanding what has happened to date.

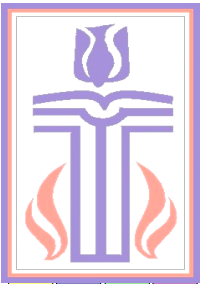
The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a motto to "do everything decently and in order". (1 Cor. 14:30) Through the years the Constitution has given order to life together in congregations, presbyteries, synods, and General Assembly. Behind that order is the understanding that we are in relationship with one another at all levels and need to treat each other with trust and respect. There are both rules and policies about how to conduct meetings (Robert's Rules of Order) and how to join and leave the PCUSA. All have been approved by either the General Assembly (rules) or by presbyteries (policies). Just as God gave the 10 Commandments to assist humanity in knowing how to live together peaceably, the rules and policies also have that intention. When they are ignored or broken or other rules are created by individuals or churches without reference to the wider relationships, it causes confusion and ends up hurting many people.

- The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a way for teaching elders (G-2.0509) and ruling elders (G-2.0407) to leave the denomination by their own accord. It is called "renouncing jurisdiction". When ministers (teaching elders) write a letter to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery stating their desire to renounce jurisdiction, it is effective immediately upon receipt. When a minister renounces jurisdiction it not only removed that minister from the roll of the Presbytery, it removes him/her from ordination. Hence, the referral to the pastors of these churches as "Mr." rather than "Rev.". Renouncing jurisdiction can only be done individually, not collectively.
- The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has a way for congregations to no longer be part of the PCUSA. (G-3.0301) "...the presbytery has the responsibility and power to: *provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard. This...shall include organizing, merging, dismissing, and dissolving congregations in consultation with their members...*" A presbytery can only dissolve or dismiss a congregation, not several congregations. (underlining in this article is the author's)
- Mission Presbytery, understanding there were some congregations who were thinking about leaving the PCUSA or transferring to another reformed denomination, approved a policy in October, 2011, called "Gracious Separation" in which "consultation with members" of a congregation would take place to determine the congregation's full understanding of what that would mean and how it could be done with graciousness so harm would not be done to members, the congregation or the Presbytery.

The Stated Clerk received a letter from the pastors of two of the churches (one of them was the moderator of the session of the third church) on February 10 that both ministers and the three congregations were renouncing jurisdiction. The Clerk acknowledged receipt of that letter from the two ministers and as the Constitution requires they were immediately removed from the rolls and their ordination set aside. Since, they were no longer ministers of those congregations, they were given one week to remove their books and personal possessions and turn in keys to the church property.

The letter received on February 10 spoke of the congregations renouncing jurisdiction. That is not possible according to PCUSA polity. The letter did not speak of the congregations being part of any other denomination. However, it later came to light that arrangements had been made for them to join the Evangelical Presbyterian Church denomination. The Clerk confirmed with the Stated Clerk of the EPC that the congregations had already been received. Mission Presbytery had no opportunity to "consult with members" about that decision or assist them in following the proper procedure for graciousness to be a part of the decision and

Continued on next page...



First Presbyterian Church, Mission

A Word from Pastor Dave (continued)...

PAGE 4
APRIL 2012

assist them in following the proper procedure for graciousness to be a part of the decision and consequent actions. Quite quickly it came to the Presbytery's attention from members of those congregations that there were a number of irregularities in calling the congregational meeting, unwillingness to acknowledge motions to table the matter to give time to think and gather more information, and in voting procedures. It was reported that many of the people who voted to leave did not really understand what was happening, but out of respect for the ministers, they followed their recommendations and instructions, which were also out of order. There are members of those congregations who voted against the move to the EPC and want to maintain a relationship with the PCUSA. These folks are sometimes called the "remnant". Arrangements have been made for folks from all three churches to worship and have activities in the church buildings.

Mission Presbytery at its March 2012 meeting approved the formation of an Administrative Commission (AC) for each of the three churches. An AC is given the power by Presbytery to act in its stead and has no fewer than 7 members of ruling and teaching elders. (G-3.0309b) The ACs will meet with the "remnants" of the three churches to help strengthen them and to decide matters dealing with their futures as congregations or worshipping fellowships, as well as with practical matters related to paying bills, insurance coverage and the property (church buildings and land). It will take time to bring clarity to the confusion that has been left and to move through the hurt that has taken place.

-The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) provides that "all property held by or for a congregation...is held in trust nevertheless for the use and benefit" of PCUSA. (G-4.0203)

All property includes the contents of the buildings, bank accounts and investments as well as session records and minutes. Those members of the congregations that voted to leave the PCUSA stripped the contents of the buildings and the bank accounts one week after the Stated Clerk received the 2/10/12 letter. After learning the contents were not theirs, they brought the contents back or have paid for them to be stored. The bank accounts have not been recovered.

-Before G-4.02 was added to the Constitution, churches were given the opportunity to "opt out" of the trust clause as it is known. Of the over 150 churches in Mission Presbytery, 40 churches opted out and hold the deeds to their own property. There are five churches in the Valley who have done so; First Presbyterian Brownsville, First Korean - McAllen, First Presbyterian McAllen, First Presbyterian Mission and First Presbyterian Weslaco.

-When the trust clause was added to the Constitution, it codified what had theretofore been a "gentlemen's agreement".

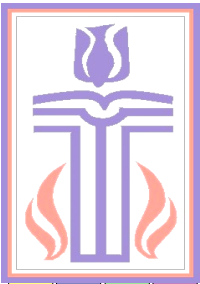
-The reasons behind the trust clause are to honor the stewardship of previous generations who generously gave of their means, sometimes at great sacrifice, to purchase land and build sanctuaries and other buildings for Christ's mission as *PCUSA congregations*. In addition, the Constitution also says, "If there is a schism within the membership of a congregation and the presbytery is unable to effect a reconciliation...the presbytery shall determine if one of the factions is entitled to the property because it is identified by the presbytery as the true church within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This determination does not depend upon which faction received the majority vote within the congregation at the time of schism." (G-4.0207)

-No decision has yet been made as to which part of the three congregations will have possession of the church property. It is up to the ACs of each of the churches to decide that matter.

-The record of Mission Presbytery concerning property is one of graciousness and generosity. The former Faith Presbyterian Church Brownsville, begun as a mission church by FPC Brownsville, is a case in point. When it desired to leave the PCUSA, Mission Presbytery agreed to allow for a 10 year period for the congregation to be part of another denomination and if at the end of that time it wanted to return to the PCUSA it might do so with the same property. If after that period it decided to remain a part of another denomination, it would give Mission Presbytery a tithe 10% of the value of the property assessment 10 years earlier. The agreement was the church would not use the word Presbyterian in its name. Faith Community Church did give 10% payment to Mission Presbytery and the Presbytery deposited that amount in the New Church Development Fund. There is another instance of Mission Presbytery giving property to a mission enterprise that a congregation who left the PCUSA requested be done (e.g. Laredo). The record is replete with this kind of response to congregations leaving the PCUSA.

All the churches in the Valley have close familial, historic, missional and relationship ties with one another. This situation has been difficult and there is much work and many decisions to be made by the ACs and the remnant congregations. They all need our prayers and compassion. We also need to pray for the portions of the congregations who have joined the EPC that God may bless and keep them and their ministry and mission may show the love and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessings,
Pastor Dave+



First Presbyterian Church, Mission Presbytery Report...

PAGE 5
APRIL 2012

Presbytery Report From the process of "selection of songs" that will be in new hymnals, to the Judicial decisions required to deal with the "desolvment of churches," the Presbytery was an interesting and educational meeting.

Most all of the decisions that have been made, or are still pending, involve dealing with many people, each having their own ideas of what is right. Off-times personal feelings must be dealt with careful consideration. The choices we make about music are about "what I grew up with." The range of people involved ranges from the very young to the more seasoned, and moods, tempos, and feelings change with our ages. With careful and thorough explanation we were informed of the process of selection.

A brief selection of some of the new music was presented, and at least four of those were sung by the 400 plus attending, with most agreeing, "They were beautiful and appropriate." We have a couple copies of this sampler which I am sure our Music Director will present far more beautifully and with far more gracefulness with her voice.

Various reports from committees in charge of the activities of the Presbytery in its service to "all" the congregations within its jurisdiction were given. Mission Outreach and Justice Committee was a very rewarding rendering of just how the Presbyterian Church is demonstrating itself to the world. Mission Outreach is much, much more than just caring for our immediate memberships. We recognized the importance of caring and feeding our own, but we were informed and reminded that "if we want to bring more people unto Christ, we have to present ourselves to the world outside our walls." And we were reminded that as today's political arenas are more responsive to large numbers of constituents, we could present our feelings through our Presbytery.

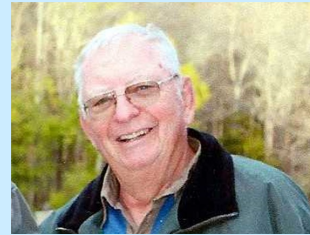
Several people were presented to the gathering of the Presbytery, who were "preparing for the ministry." And while each of these people were planning their futures, and received the blessings of the Presbytery, a few who had been taken under direction in previous years, have changed their direction and the Presbytery revealed this fact.

The item with perhaps the most attention was one that involved churches here in the Valley. Any time a church "closes" or "changes its affiliation," brings people forward with their feelings on the cuff. As is human nature, stories of incidents surrounding the situation are quoted, mis-quoted, and often totally blown out of portion. Such was the case of three churches here in the Valley.

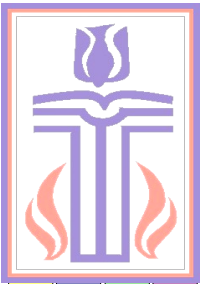
In an attempt to assure the members of these churches, and others reading about the events, the Presbytery invited a reporter from the San Antonio Express-News to sit in our gathering. The results were that a very informative and correctly described account of the current proceedings appeared on the front page of the San Antonio Express-News that very Saturday evening. (Copies of that article are available should you desire to read them.)

The Presbytery Meetings could not be complete without some very warm and earnest worship. Perhaps the most impressive (at least for this writer) was A Service of Witness to the Resurrection Giving Thanks for the Lives of members of Mission Presbytery. This service is in memoriam to Ministers of Word and Sacrament/Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders and Deacons. Each name of those who went to their reward in the past year was read. And, both David and I were proud to hear the name of Roscoe Watkins of our church read at this service.

For those who have never attended a Presbytery meeting . . . it's very rewarding . . . and we are allowed to have three voting members from our church. Let's use them; I don't think you will be disappointed with the proceedings. Our next Presbytery is during June, 2012 in Corpus Christi. Sorry to say, you may have to wait until 2013, because David, Mary Jane and myself plan to attend.



Thanks to Elder John Ingram for providing this report!



Stewardship Report — John Ingram

Let me start this report by simply saying “Thank You! Thank You! Thank You!” to all the young people from Penn State University-Behrend. I am not thanking them for the hard excellent work that they accomplished. I am thanking them for allowing me to feel apart of their group.

They labored very hard removing old hard sheetrock from the ceiling and walls of a home damaged by hurricane Katrina. They pulled all the nails and swept up the place. They then proceeded to re-apply new sheetrock to the ceiling and walls. They learned quickly what people who do this type of work daily know, “uneven walls” are a nightmare, compounded by studding that has seasoned over the years. Undaunted, this group of young adults, replaced the ceiling and walls of the four-room structure. They spent the next days taping and mudding the seams and nails.

They completely re-roofed an accompanying house. They were hot, dirty, sun-burned, tired, but Never complaining. They smiled, worked very hard with each other, and completed the task they set about to complete.

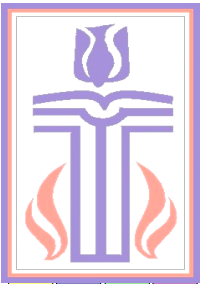
I got to “tag along.” I didn’t have to do any work. They lifted, re-stacked material, measured, cut, carried, and applied. All I was ask to do was to occasionally render an opinion about some situation that presented itself.

Most of what I was needed for was to supply information or the where-abouts of local facilities that could provide what was needed at that particular time. Things that a group flying into south Texas would not have brought with them. Things like water jugs, coolers for drinks and sandwiches.

Monday morning on the job, I shared with them techniques for the removal of the plaster board in ways that were safe. It was hot, dry, extremely dusty work. Soon we were all perspiring, and needed a drink. Our water was slow to arrive, and was medium cool. By two p.m. when I left, I really desired a “cold cola.” I took care of the situation for myself. Upon returning home, I grabbed a cooler from my shed, filled it with colas and ice. By the time I got back to the church, the group was back. They were off to the showers, and I was greeted with shouts of “Man Can I Use A Cola.”

We also had a couple casualties with some very old, very small hammers that fell victim to some very stubborn nail pulling. And we still had two more days of hammer work, pulling and nailing. You can bet that we had ice and a cooler full of pop on-site the next day and six new hammers. That is what a local member working with the crew can provide. I am too darned old to do the physical work those young people did, but I still can think-and-do! Why just saying it reminds me of grade school again. Do you remember “Think And Do?”

As an Elder whose co-chairing the Stewardship Committee, I am seeking not only funds for Mission work of this type, but I am also seeking Volunteers who are willing to spend a few days making themselves available on these work sites with these young people. The wisdom and experiences that is in our Winter Texan groups is of the largest pool of skills available. Lending a hand, this is an important, and necessary part of Stewardship. And it is truly rewarding . . . it really makes you feel young again.



The FPC Building Speaks!

“Wow, has this building been buzzing lately. So many people have been in and out...

There was a group from Crafton Heights and then another from Penn State University-Behrend. I

heard laughs, snoring, lots of conversation &

activity...AND many great smelling meals!! There was even a shrimp boil in the Fellowship Hall for our potluck luncheon.

In Sue's shop there is a new addition. A window A/C unit was put in so the computer can be in a temperature controlled room.

We also have a new in-ground hose bib put in by the youth room sidewalk. Now, my sidewalks and overhang can be washed down a little easier with a water supply so close. The good news is that someone donated, so both projects are paid for!

Also, with the dirt that was taken out for the hose bib, the hole north of the office is filled in. We also filled in the hole out by the south entrance to the church.

Weeds are being pulled and landscape is starting to be trimmed up.

I hear we will be having another meal in the wee hours of the morning on Easter.

I can't wait to see all those pretty, colorful decorations and the happy children running around out grounds looking for Easter eggs. Happy Easter!! ”



Sarah's Garden Gab...

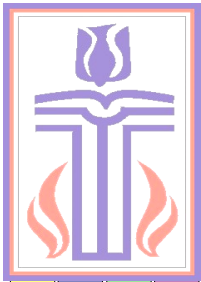
There is much hurrying around the garden these days as everyone is encouraging our plants and flowers to bloom and be colorful for Easter. Plants

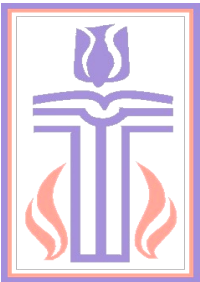
have been transplanted from crowded garden areas and relocated to fill in spots in other areas. I keep trying to dig some holes for them, but I seem to get in trouble

when I dig!! I just watch everyone work to make the garden looks pretty and bright!

Another big surprise! One day, there were people laying on the garden pavers where I love to lay. I had a great group of young people to play with. I think they enjoyed the garden, too!!







FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, MISSION

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Church Activities...

Birthdays

Anniversaries

April 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 ONE SERVICE! -9:30 AM Sunday School -10:30 AM Worship	2 -Richard Augsburger -Keith Stevens	3	4 -Randy Wood	5 -6:30 PM Maundy Thursday Service @ FPCM	6 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy A.	7
8 Easter Schedule -7:30 AM Sunrise Service -8:30 AM Breakfast -9:30 AM Egg Hunt -10:30 AM Worship -NO BELLS -Barbara Hare	9 -Lyle Blick -Cathryn Blick	10 -12:00 PM Worship Committee Meeting -Joyce Petit -Phyllis Jacobs -Eugene Brooks -Marilyn Close	11 -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 Chancel Choir	12 -7:00 PM Planning Meeting	13 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy A. -James Bennett -Augustus Denham	14
15 -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith -Mike Ramsland	16 -Ellasyn Gray -Colton Watkins -Eugene and Verna Brooks	17 -Mike Hudsonpillar -Max Hoffman -Bill and Lana McClure	18 -12:00 PM Bag and Gab -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -John Cain	19 -Guy Selleck -Eddie and Janet Pena -Newsletter Deadline!!	20 -6:00 PM Valley Day @ FPCM -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy A.	21 -8:30 AM Valley Day @ FPCM -Keith Stevens
22 -5:30 PM Bells of Hope -6:30 PM Bells of Faith	23 -6:30 PM Session	24	25 -2:00 PM Brook Ridge Communion -6:15 PM SonShine Players -7:30 PM Chancel Choir -Doris Miles -Cinda Sparks -Dick Buresch	26 -Wanda Snow -Emily Cain	27 -6:30 PM Paper Crafts with Judy A. -Jean Johnson -Melvin Freese	28
29 -Install and Ordain New Members -6:00 PM Congregational Meeting	30 -Barbara Gray -Mae Walswear	31				

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



APRIL 1 Bells of Hope will play during worship
APRIL 5 Community at Worship on Maundy Thursday
John 13:1-17 34_35 Sermon: "To Wash Another's Feet..."
APRIL 8 EASTER SUNDAY
APRIL 29 Installation & Ordination of New Elders
MAY 6 Bells of Faith will play during worship

FPC Mission
would like to
bid many of our
members and
volunteers "goodbye" during
the month of April. We
appreciate our Winter Texans
so much!



May you travel with God's
blessings and for goodness
sake, HURRY BACK!

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



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@fpcmission.com