



First Presbyterian Church
Texarkana, Arkansas

FPC Youth News!

January 2010

Youth to provide meal at Randy Sam's Homeless Shelter

Sunday, January 3, 2010 Youth and sponsors will meet at the church at 5:00 p.m. to gather all supplies and food. We will take the church bus to the shelter at 5:30 p.m. **Please bring a dessert to feed the clients at the shelter.** We will be serving spaghetti and garlic bread. Youth group will end at its regular time, **7:30 p.m. at the church.**

Youth Study of Peter and Fish Fry

We will begin a study series and take a close look at Peter and follow him through the sometimes rough and rocky process of learning to fully follow Christ. When Jesus met a fisherman named Simon, he told him he was going to be called Peter from then on. You see, Peter was hand-picked by Jesus to be part of the rock-solid foundation of His church. If you took a close look at Simon at that time of his life you might have seen him as an impulsive, uneducated man of many mistakes who was destined to spend the rest of his life catching fish. Jesus *knew* all of the mistakes Peter would make along the way and He called him anyway, for He saw a fisher of people. Peter's response to Jesus' vision was to spearhead the most incredible spiritual movement ever recorded in history, what later came to be known as Christianity. The same call to Simon goes out today—not always to the folks who have it all together or are the most impressive. Jesus has a vision for all of us, for each and every person, average, everyday and outgoing or shy. Come join us as you seek Jesus' vision for your life.

Study: Jan. 10, 17, 31 and Feb. 7, 14 - Church

Fish Fry: Jan. 24 - Home of Beth and Chuck Morgan



**WE NEED YOUR NEWS!
WE NEED YOUR PHOTOS!**

Please help us make your newsletter more about YOU! Share school events, family outings, personal thoughts, stories, and creations, for consideration for publication. Send us photos and show us how YOU see God's wonderful world. We need your help in making this newsletter interesting and exciting to all. Submit entries and photos to Jane at:

youth1stpresby@cableone.net

Making time in the mean time

Over the past few days, I have been thinking about how many of us (myself included) spring into action when someone is sick or passes away. What I mean is, we go visit the infirm and tend to them, care for them, and let them know they are important to us. In the case of death, we do the same with the surviving family, because of the same type of care and relationship we had with the deceased. As I thought about these visits and our presence in others' lives, the same question came to mind repeatedly: In many instances, why do we wait until there is an acute event? What is the catalyst in those defining moments? What is different about our care, concern, and fears in the mean time?

I am challenging myself in 2010 to spend the same amount of earnest energy with others on "normal" days as I would use in making myself available and present to others in an emergency or death situation. My plan is to be aware of the present needs of people and not just their needs when they are ill, or wait to pay my respects to after death. I want to let others know they are important to my life - Now...when they are healthy and feel good...while they are alive. I want to expend the same, or more, amount of energy to the healthy and the living that I would when illness or death calls.

The more I thought about this use of time, the more I realized that sometimes our relationship with God falls into this same pattern. In acute emergencies, in the event of death, and in the event of great news, births, and good times, we call upon our God and plea to him, or thank him. We earnestly cry to him for help and we earnestly praise him for our blessings. What about in the mean time? Isn't our God, whose grace and attention has no end, worth our earnest energy and acknowledgement in every day in every way? We know, of course, in our hearts that He is, but our worldly lives may consume our energy to act on our beliefs. I challenge you, too, to make time, all the time, for your most gracious God. Be the kind of person that reflects God in all that you do. Make your time, His time. I challenge you also to spend your time and energy NOW with the people that God has blessed you with in your life. With your blessing, I look forward to spending my time with *you* in 2010! Blessings and peace to you and yours! - Jane Portis

THANK YOU!

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A big THANKS to Mr. Jeff Daniels and Mrs. Cynthia Walker for their tireless efforts and time with our youth programs.



PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH USA
HERE AND NOW.

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(See Matthew 4:19)

06-26-2009

**ALL THESE NEW COMMERCIAL
FISHERIES-OF-MEN ARE TOTALLY KILLING MY
PERSONAL EVANGELISM EFFORTS**