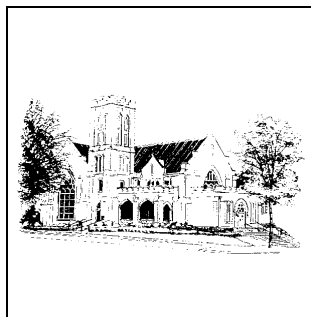


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS TO SHARE  
 THE LOVE OF CHRIST, TO EMPOWER  
 PEOPLE TO SERVE, AND TO GLORIFY GOD.

We're on the Web!

www.firstprestexarkana.org

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## Seven Towers Festival

Celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Installation of Change Ringing bells at  
 First Presbyterian Church — Texarkana, Arkansas

April 24 - 27, 2014

First Presbyterian Church, Texarkana, is host this year for the 2014 Seven Towers Festival. The bands of seven southwestern towers - Trinity Episcopal Cathedral of Little Rock, Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church of Houston, St. James Episcopal Church of Dallas, St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral of Shreveport, St. Thomas' Episcopal Church of Houston, St. Paul's United Methodist Church of Houston, and First Presbyterian Church in Texarkana - invite ringers from all over the country to join us for a weekend of fun, food fellowship, and plenty of ringing.

### Your help is needed!!

- Assist with providing meals and snacks for the event
- Provide overnight accommodations in your home
- Transportation to and from the church, airport or train station

If you would be able to provide help in any of these areas, please let us know by placing your name on one of the sign-up sheets located on the bulletin board by the Fellowship Hall, on the bulletin board outside the Choir Room, in the Church Office, or on the Church's website at [www.firstprestexarkana.org/festivalhelp/](http://www.firstprestexarkana.org/festivalhelp/). Contact Remica Gray at (870) 773-3741 or [remicag@aol.com](mailto:remicag@aol.com) if you have any questions.

Registration Form and Daily Schedule available on the church's website at [www.firstprestexarkana.org](http://www.firstprestexarkana.org) or in the Church Office. Consider joining us and becoming a member of your own church's ringing band.

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# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2014

Just a few fallible words about what I think from month to month...  
 Rev. Susan

And the angel of the LORD said to her, "Behold, you are pregnant and shall bear a son. You shall call his name Ishmael, because the LORD has listened to your affliction. He shall be a wild donkey of a man, his hand against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he shall dwell over against all his kinsmen."

ESV Genesis 16:11-12

As for Ishmael, I have heard you; behold, I have blessed him and will make him fruitful and multiply him greatly. He shall father twelve princes, and I will make him into a great nation. But I will establish my covenant with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this time next year."

ESV Genesis 17:20-21



During the summer months **Brown Bag Bible Study on Thursdays and Brown Bag Replay on Sunday afternoons will engage in a study entitled: Christianity and Islam.** Here's what *Kerr Resources* has to say about this study:

"This is a unique study for a unique time. Each session of this 13-week study covers a major area of the world's two largest religions, comparing and contrasting them in a way that brings greater understanding of each. Written for Christians that have little knowledge of Islam other than what they have seen in the news, it aims at providing a general understanding of the differences and similarities between these two great religions.

The study takes neither a "how-to-convert-Muslims" nor a "we're-all-the-same" approach. It provides students with a greater appreciation of both Jesus and Muhammad, both the New Testament and the Quran, and both Christianity and Islam and it faces, frankly, both our similarities and our differences."

This popular study is divided into the following thirteen weekly sessions:

### DESCRIPTION OF SESSIONS ON PAGE 6

### April Worship/Study Schedule

SUNDAY Worship Services	WEDNESDAY Family Night Supper	THURSDAY Brown Bag Bible Study
	FNS Study – All About Lent 2	Noon - Matthew 3
11:00 a.m.: <i>The Walking Dead</i> - Romans 8:1-6 6	FNS Study – All About Lent 9	Noon - Matthew 10
5:00 p.m.: <i>Brown Bag Replay</i> – Matthew		
6:00 p.m.: Sanctuary Open for Meditation		
11:00 a.m.: <i>Who Is This Jesus</i> - Matthew 21:1-12 13	<b>FNS MOVES TO THURSDAY NIGHT 17</b>	Noon - Matthew 17
5:00 p.m.: <i>Brown Bag Replay</i> – Matthew	6:00 Supper	
6:00 p.m.: Sanctuary Open for Meditation	7:00 Maundy Thursday Service	
11:00 a.m.: <i>God Still Moves Stones</i> - Matt. 28:1-10 20	FNS Study – <i>Reformation History</i> 23	Noon - Matthew 24
<b>NO BROWN BAG REPLAY</b>		
11:00 a.m.: <i>Taking Refuge in God</i> - John 20:19-31 27	FNS Study – <i>Reformation History</i> 30	
5:00 p.m.: <i>Brown Bag Replay</i> – Matthew		

## YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE BY REV. JOHN ARNOLD

Someone asked me the other day, "Who's in charge of youth now?" We have a Youth Council made up of adults and youth who do all of the planning. Jeff Daniels and Susan Morehead, are the adult council members. Emily Andrews, Taylor Sexton, and Ethan Davitt are the youth members. The council meets monthly to brainstorm ideas that keep a balance of fellowship, study, worship, and service activities. They are amazingly creative. They then present a schedule to the youth group who offers suggestions and makes the plan even better.

Right now they are studying the Gospel of Matthew, making videos in teams, and we interject fun games and music periodically. If you would like to support the group by providing a light meal for them on Sunday nights, please contact Susan Morehead. We have a creative secret service project we are working on to benefit a couple of members, but we can't tell you what it is just yet. We want to surprise the recipients. Hopefully, by next month we can let you in on the secret.

Susan and I act as a resource to the council and the youth group, but they are growing in self leadership. We are hoping that by the time we find a Christian Education Director they can function fairly independently so that the new director can focus more heavily on developing children's ministry. Please continue to pray for our search committees, our Christian Education Committee, the youth and the children of our Church.

## APPRECIATION FOR EVERGREEN ANGEL TREE

*Greetings and Blessings -*

*Again, you all have amazed us with your outpouring of love and support of our mission at Evergreen. Thank you for embracing us and giving so generously. May you be as blessed.*

*Linda Bailey, Executive Director*



## RANDY SAMS' MISSION

The volunteers for Sunday, April 6, are:  
 \*Jane & Pat Davitt (Group Coordinator)  
 Trudy Pomeroy  
 Brenda & David Williams

## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME!!

Novella Hunter, Lynn Jorgensen-Benefiel, and Marilyn McCulloch have joined the Church. Please help us welcome them into our church family.

## SYMPATHY

Mary Galloway, daughter of Dora Mae Dyer, passed away on March 14, 2014.

Jean Garrison passed away on March 22, 2014.

Cornelia DeWoody passed away on March 25, 2014.



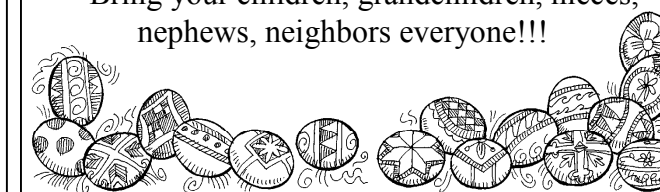
## HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

4/6 6:00 Meditative Prayer in Sanctuary  
 4/13 11:00 Palm Sunday  
 4/13 6:00 Meditative Prayer in Sanctuary  
 4/17 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service  
 4/18 12:10 Community Good Friday Service  
 4/18 6:00 Good Friday Taize Service  
 4/19 11:00 Easter Egg Hunt  
 4/20 11:00 Easter Sunday



## Easter Egg Hunt

The annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place at 11:00 a.m. on April 19, 2014, at the Church. It is always a fun-filled, well-attended event. Donations of candy filled eggs or candy for filling eggs is needed, as well as new, small to medium size stuffed animals. Donations should be brought to the Church by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Please plan to attend the Easter Egg Hunt . . . Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors everyone!!!



## ONGOING FINANCIAL STATUS

	FEBRUARY		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$26,465.34	\$30,568.33	\$77,027.40	\$61,136.66
Expenses	<u>37,178.40</u>	<u>38,467.25</u>	<u>70,631.93</u>	<u>76,934.50</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$10,713.06)</u>	<u>(\$7,898.92)</u>	<u>\$ 6,395.47</u>	<u>(\$15,797.84)</u>

## SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for Family Camp, June 20 - 22, 2014.



## TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

	FEBRUARY
Principal Amount Invested	\$114,828.23
Income Earned Since Inception	<u>10,606.53</u>
Subtotal	\$125,434.76
Unrealized Gains Since Inception	<u>27,188.70</u>
Total Value of TPF Funds	<u>\$152,623.46</u>

**Church Workday**  
**April 5, 2014**  
**8:00 a.m. — 12:00 p.m.**



## THE SEARCH COMMITTEE FOR MUSIC DIRECTOR/ ORGANIST

Our search committee was pleased to introduce Timothy Handle to you on March 9th. Since Tim's interview we have received another response to our position posting from Thomas Collins from Oregon. He, along with Tim, expresses an interest in relocating to the south. Please keep us in your prayers as we seek to discern God's will for First Presbyterian!!

**BROWN BAG BIBLE STUDY**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

**June 5 & 8** *The World's Two Largest Religions:* An introduction to the two faiths, how they are distributed worldwide and how each is growing.

**June 12 & 15** *Jesus and Muhammad, the Early Years:* Describes the birth and early years of both men, their families, their occupations, etc.

**June 19 & 22** *Jesus and Muhammad, the Ministry Years:* Looks at the ways in which both Jesus and Muhammad launched their ministries, gathered disciples, etc.

**June 26 & 29** *Jesus and Muhammad, the Conflicts:* Focuses on the conflicts that both men and their ministries encountered and the unique ways in which they responded to them which eventually shaped the world's two largest religions.

**July 3 & 6** *Apostles and Caliphs:* A comparison of the early development of Christianity and Islam under the leadership of those who had known Jesus and Muhammad.

**July 10 & 13** *Schisms and Denominations:* Comparisons of the splintering of both religions into a variety of denominations and the ongoing relationships between these sects and denominations.

**July 17 & 20** *The Bible and the Quran:* A look at the defining documents of the two faiths and their meaning and importance for doctrine, law, and history.

**July 24 & 27** *Pillars of Faith:* A comparison of the "Five Pillars" of Islam with similar emphases in Christianity.

**Jul 31 & Aug 3** *Religious Leadership and Worship:* The training, meaning, and role of clergy in both faiths as well as an outline of the worship, devotional practices, and holy days of the two faiths.

**Aug. 7 & 10** *Primary Theological Beliefs:* A comparison and contrast of the primary doctrines of the two faiths, both formal doctrines and popular belief.

**Aug 14 & 17** *Culture and the Role of Women:* A comparison of the way in which both religions function within secular culture with special emphasis on the freedom, roles, and leadership of women.

**Aug. 21 & 24** *Violence and Warfare:* A comparative look at the way in which Muslims and Christians have viewed participation in war and violence throughout their history.

**Aug. 28 & 31** *The Future of Christianity and Islam:* A candid assessment of current relations between the two faiths, attitudes of members toward one another, the impact of forces outside of the two faiths on their relationships with one another, and both the hopes and the fears of what the future holds."

To learn more about Kerr Resources and this particular study, click on the following site: <http://www.kerrresources.com>.

## Presbyterian Women Updates — April 2014



\*\*\*\*\*

### Bring your embellished pink hat and join the party!

Vera Lloyd welcomes more than 100 women to the 2014 Pink Hat Day and Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering at the children's home in Monticello on Saturday, April 26. Please make plans to be part of the celebration!

This year's Pink Hat Day will begin at 9:00 a.m. with tours of campus, including two homes, followed by a campus update, introductions of youth and staff, the Pink Hat Day parade, awards and lunch. Business meetings for the Arkansas Presbytery and Presbytery of the Pines will begin after lunch.

"This is the first year we've been able to host both the Presbyterian Women's meetings and Pink Hat Day on our campus," Lyn Whaley, Vera Lloyd CEO, said. "We are thrilled to recognize these ladies for all they do for our youth."

\*\*\*\*\*

### Calling Poets and Composers:

In preparation for the June 18-21, 2015, Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Minneapolis, the Plenary Work Group is looking for a theme song that enhances the "One Body and One Spirit" theme (based on 1 Corinthians 12:12-13). Submissions should consist of original words and music (or original words to a tune in the public domain) that reflect the Gathering theme and scripture. Submissions must be theologically sound, in keeping with the Reformed tradition, and must use inclusive language. Details on how to submit entries will be available on the PW website at a later date. The deadline for submissions is August 1, 2014. After all songs are submitted, the work group will select three on which the PW constituency may vote.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Food! Fun! Study!

Women from First Presbyterian gathered on March 18 for the annual Joint Circle Meeting and salad luncheon. Guests from Northwood and Trinity Evangelical Presbyterian Churches were welcomed as more than fifty gathered to visit, eat, and join in the Bible study led by Margie Rhoads. A highlight of the meeting was the presentation of Honorary Life Memberships to Gail Abrahamson by Sylvia Waldrop and posthumously to Lynn Jackson by June Owen. Many thanks to all who helped with the meeting and luncheon.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Josephine Beck Circle—April 8, 10:00 AM

Zelle Moore Circle—April 10, 6:30 PM

PW Council—April 14, 11:00 AM

Elizabeth Ann Greisser Circle—April 15, 10:00 AM

Pines and Arkansas Presbytery Joint PW Spring Gathering/Pink Hat Day—April 26, Vera Lloyd Home

PW Birthday Dinner—May 7, 6:00 PM

+++REMEMBER TO SAVE CAMPBELL'S SOUP CAN LABELS FOR GOODLAND ACADEMY+++

# JUST 4 YOUTH!

~ APRIL ~

**SUNDAYS**

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Youth Group – DINNER/STUDY/PLAY/PRAYER

(BIBLE STUDY FOR THE SPRING: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW)



YOUTH COUNCIL

**April 6 5:00 p.m.** Youth Council

**6:00 p.m.** Youth – Study & Service Project

**April 13** Study & Easter Egg Prep & Hunt

**April 20 EASTER – NO YOUTH GROUP**

**April 27** Service Project – Downtown Community Garden

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Family Night Supper

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Videos &/or Super Secret Service Project

**Saturday, April 5** Church Work Day (community service!!!)

**Saturday, April 19** Church Easter Egg Hunt @ the church



**July 28-Aug. 1 – VBS**

**May 18 – Youth & Senior Sunday**

THE FIRST PICK-UP LINE



"Baby, you know you're the only woman for me."

# April Calendar

**WEEKLY EVENTS**

**SUNDAY**

9:45 a.m. Sunday School  
 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal  
 11:00 a.m. Worship  
 5:00 p.m. Brown Bag Bible Study Replay  
 6:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups  
 6:00 p.m. Meditative Prayer in Sanctuary (6 & 13)

**MONDAY**

5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice  
 7:00 p.m. Tower Bells — Practice

**WEDNESDAY**

9:30 a.m. Card Ministry Team  
 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper  
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study  
 6:30 p.m. Godly Play  
 6:30 p.m. Godly Play—Evergreen Residents  
 6:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups  
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

**THURSDAY**

9:00 a.m. Angel Quilts  
 10:00 a.m. The Sharing Place  
 12:00 p.m. Brown Bag Bible Study

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2**

5:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting  
 5:15 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3**

5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting

**SATURDAY, APRIL 5**

8:00 a.m. Church Work Day

**SUNDAY, APRIL 6**

5:00 p.m. Youth Council  
 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' Shelter

**TUESDAY, APRIL 8**

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast  
 10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle — Annex

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9**

5:00 p.m. Diaconate

**THURSDAY, APRIL 10**

6:30 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Annex

**MONDAY, APRIL 14**

11:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting  
 2:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting

**TUESDAY, APRIL 15**

10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Greisser Circle — Library

**THURSDAY, APRIL 17**

5:00 p.m. Permanent Funds Committee Meeting  
 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting  
 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service

**FRIDAY, APRIL 18**

6:00 p.m. Good Friday Taizé Service

**SATURDAY, APRIL 19**

11:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt — Church

**TUESDAY, APRIL 22**

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

**THURSDAY, APRIL 24**

5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

*April Birthdays*

- |                            |                         |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4 - April Jackson          | 22 - John McDowell      |
| 6 - Philip Jackson         | 25 - Cole Jackson       |
| 10 - Ann Burke             | 26 - Molly Beth Malcolm |
| 10 - Kathy Stewart         | 28 - Jane Davitt        |
| 12 - Mary Margaret Solomon | 29 - Jessica Sharp      |
| 13 - Margie Rhoads         | 30 - Tom Wooten         |
| 13 - Pat Willis            |                         |
| 14 - Cecil Pavey           |                         |
| 21 - Anna Moore            |                         |
| 21 - Marshall E. Moore     |                         |
| 22 - Lauren Black          |                         |
| 22 - Sandra Holmes         |                         |
| 22 - Edward Jackson        |                         |



*April Anniversaries*

- 7 - Jane & Pat Davitt  
 19 - Shelly & Michael Thannum