

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



516 Pecan Street
Texarkana, Arkansas 71854
Phone: 870-774-6453
Fax: 870-773-4199
E-mails: 1stpreshytxk@cableone.net
revsusan1stpresh@cableone.net
revjohn1stpresh@cableone.net

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT
ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TEXARKANA, TX
PERMIT NO. 71

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

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2013

WEBSITE MAKEOVER

By the time you read this our new website will be live or about to go live. Why are we bothering with a new website?

- 1) **The web is the front line of evangelism.** Many people find and check us out online before visiting. Our first impression is on the web. If our site isn't welcoming, engaging, and valuable we will never see many people.
- 2) **Mobility.** Mobile internet usage will overtake fixed access by 2014. Phones, pads, readers, and other devices are becoming the norm for accessing the internet. Our new site will automatically adapt itself for ease of use by the viewing device.
- 3) **Social media.** Facebook, twitter, google + and a host of other social media outlets are becoming a norm of interaction. Our new site will more readily incorporate and facilitate access to our growing social media presence on the web.
- 4) **Video.** 69% of mobile data traffic is video. Video too is becoming a norm. Our new site will more readily host video.
- 5) **User friendly.** For Sue Ellen Hall, myself, and others who have to work the site we are switching to a system that is extremely user friendly.
- 6) **The great commission.** Jesus commissioned us to make disciples of "all nations." Via the internet, we can literally do that. For example, recently, Erin Gloster and I ran a "google hangout" from Susan's office and had someone participating from Fiji. The month prior I led a webinar with a man on the call from Australia.
- 7) **Loving our young adults.** Historically, churches disconnect from their young adults when they leave for college. With today's technology there is no excuse for that. We vowed to nurture them and we can readily do so even when they move away.



In short, our new site makes us better at being relevant in the world and effective at sharing the Good News and making disciples. We are moving away from having a website and stepping toward having a web ministry. If you would like to be a part of this exciting ministry, please let me know. You don't have to be a tech genius to help make a big difference. We can teach you what you need to know to help out.

Blessings, Rev. John Arnold

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

Rev. Susan

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

Ephesians 1:16

Again, I want to thank all of the FPC congregation for making this another very successful 2013 **Thanksgiving Box Collection and Delivery!!!**

A special Thank You to some folks without whom the Thanksgiving Boxes would never have been filled, organized, or delivered:

Jeff Daniels for

Once again collecting the Banana Boxes,

Organizing the Youth and filling the Boxes with the right assortment of food items,

Continued on Page 2

Advent and Christmas Music

Noon Advent Mini-Concerts

December 5th – Robert Green, Organist

December 12th – Texarkana College Choir

December 19th – Brett Andrews, Cellist and

Mary Scott Goode, Pianist

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday Morning, December 15th at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Monday Evening, December 24th at 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Taize' Service

Monday Evening, December 24th at 11:00 p.m.

*(Each concert will begin
at 12:05 p.m., last
approximately twenty
minutes, and will be
followed by a light lunch.)*



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Driving the Big White Bus to the Youth Shopping Extravaganza and to collect the Chickens and produce on the day of delivery. Continued
FROM Page 1

Fran Mitchell for
Purchasing all the ingredients for the *Thanks for Giving Luncheon* and organizing the meal.

Susan Morehead for
Organizing the Recipient List for 2013,
Championing the effort through the Diaconate, PW, and Youth Groups,
Organizing the Youth to serve the congregation at the Thanks for Giving Luncheon,
Helping with the Shopping Extravaganza, the organization of Box compilation,
Herding the Youth on Delivery Day,
Greeting Box recipients on Delivery Day.

Vicki Nash for
Helping with the Shopping Extravaganza, the Box compilation, and in general keeping the Youth on target during this process,
Calling through the Recipient List to confirm addresses and phone #s.

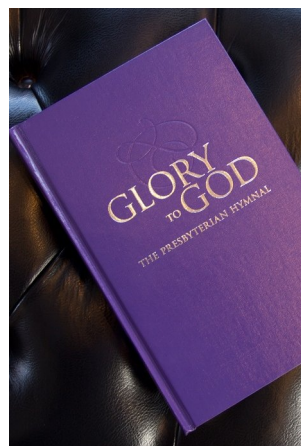
Jessica Sharp for picking up the slack often when we were in great need.

Reg Jackson for making sure we workers had pizza on delivery day.

Thank you to our Drivers for this 2013 Thanksgiving Box Delivery:

Keith & Betty Anthony	Marshall Moore
Reg Jackson & Pat Davitt	Nancy Emerson
John & Cynthia Wesley	Mona Fomby
Pat Willis	Gene Scott
Vicki Nash	

Beth Morgan, Fran Mitchell, & Marilyn McCulloch for taking care of the Angel Fund Foundation recipients.
If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive my oversight and let me know.



SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG

For the first time in almost twenty-five years, we will have the opportunity to worship using a new Presbyterian hymnal. This wonderful new resource will be used as our source for congregational song on the second Sunday in January, 2014. As we began our church year singing from the beloved 1955 *Hymnbook*, so we will celebrate the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of the new calendar year with *Glory to God*, the new Presbyterian hymnal. If you wish to participate in the purchase of these hymnals, offering envelopes are available at the Sanctuary entrances and in the Office. The cost of each hymnal is \$20.00, and the accompaniment edition is \$75.00. Hymnals may be given in memory of, or in honor of, those whom donors designate and appropriate bookplates will be affixed to the donated hymnals.

RANDY SAMS' MISSION

The volunteers for Sunday, December 1, are:
*Beth and Chuck Morgan (Group Coordinator)
Joan and Tommy Boyles
Kathy and Dan Boyles
The volunteers for Sunday, January 5, are:
FPC Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups
*Susan and John Arnold (Group Coordinator)

REMINDER

REMINDER . . . Commitment Sunday was in November. "I wonder" if you know it is never too late! Please bring your pledge by the Church Office.

**Annual Congregational Meeting
January 15, 2014
Following Family Night Supper**

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

WE'RE ACCEPTING

Angel Fund Foundation is now taking your donations for the big Spring Garage Sale. We would love to have your decorative and kitchen items, furniture in good condition, gently worn clothing, tools, sporting and gym equipment, bicycles, toys, lawn and gardening equipment, art supplies, working computers less than three (3) years old, books, tapes, records, CD's and musical instruments, anything in good working condition. We could even use you and/or your spouse to help us set up and work the sale which will be on May 30 and 31st, 2014.

Folks were amazed at the quality of merchandise we had at our previous sales and we want to continue pleasing our customers. Remember this is our only fundraiser, even though we gratefully appreciate donations, honorariums, and memorials.

We are at the Garage Sale office every Tuesday between the hours of 10:00 A.M. and Noon. Call Beth Morgan, Fran Mitchell, or Margo Strickland and we will meet you if our regular hours aren't convenient for you. If you want to have your items picked up, please let us know so that we can schedule it.

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

ONGOING FINANCIAL STATUS

	OCTOBER		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$29,223.07	\$34,013.33	\$394,997.82	\$340,133.30
Expenses	<u>36,325.39</u>	<u>38,079.92</u>	<u>344,629.89</u>	<u>380,799.20</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$ 7,102.32)</u>	<u>(\$4,066.59)</u>	<u>\$ 50,367.93</u>	<u>(\$40,665.90)</u>



Get ready for
Parent's Night Out
December 13, 6 - 8

TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

	OCTOBER
Principal Amount Invested	\$114,528.00
Income Earned Since Inception	<u>9,052.00</u>
Subtotal	\$123,580.00
Unrealized Gains Since Inception	<u>23,696.00</u>
Total Value of TPF Funds	<u>\$147,276.00</u>



Deadline Extended:



November
Newsletter
-
Karen
Flowers

Reminder that all committee meetings will be delayed by one week in January.

Reminder that the January and February Newsletters will be combined.

Family Night Supper Study & Preaching Schedule for Dec./Jan.

WEDNESDAY	FNS BIBLE STUDY	SUNDAY	SERMON TEXT	SERMON TITLE
		12/01/13	Isaiah 9:2-6	<i>A Prophet's Hope</i>
12/04/13	PW JOY GIFT DINNER	12/08/13	Luke 2:8-10	<i>A Shepherd's Love</i>
12/11/13	Hebrews	12/15/13		Lessons & Carols
12/18/13	Hebrews	12/22/13	Luke 2:1-5	<i>Joseph's Peace</i>
		12/24/13	Luke 2:7	<i>A Child's Light</i>
12/25/13	NO FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER	12/29/13	Isaiah 63:7-9	<i>At Year's End</i>
1/1/14	NO FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER	1/5/14	Ephesians 1:3-14	<i>The Eleventh Day of Christmas?</i>
1/8/14	Hebrews	1/12/14	Matthew 3:13-17	<i>Baptism of the Lord</i>
1/15/14	ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL			

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- 1) The Randy Lacy Family for the donation of the California Baby Redwood Tree, Height: 12", Width: Full 76", with Clear Lights, which will be our new Chrismon Tree in the Sanctuary in memory of Nancy Lacy.
- 2) Charles and Lynn Jackson for the new figures for the Crèche in the Fellowship Hall in honor of the 2011-2013 Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team.
- 3) Lary and Cynthia Walker for the white Crèche purchased for the Annex in honor of the Children's Ministry.
- 4) June Owen and Her Family for the donation of a Solid Brass Floor Model Advent Wreath with Adjustable Ring and Round Base; 1 1/2" x 13" Brass Top Dyed Liquid Advent Candles, Set of Four, Color: Purple-Pink; and 3" x 14" Nylon Top Liquid Christ Candle which will be used in the Sanctuary in memory of Joe Charles Owen.

THANK YOU

Dear FPC Friends,
 Although we will never be able to thank each and every person individually, we want our FPC friends to know how much we appreciate their support and love during our time of sorrow. Your thoughts, prayers, cards/ emails have all been very comforting. To all, thank you -- you are a very special part of our lives.

Sincerely,
 Helen Ward's Family

DECEMBER TAIZÉ SERVICES

Please join us for our Taizé worship services in the Sanctuary on the following dates:

- December 1 — 6:00 p.m.**
- December 8 — 6:00 p.m.**
- December 15 — 7:00 p.m.**
- December 22 — 6:00 p.m.**
- December 24 — 11:00 p.m.**



CHURCH WORK DAY

A special thank you to Corey & Jessica Sharp, Richard Peckham, Martha Nell Richards, and Bryan Jackson for showing up for the church work day. Lots got done for so few people.

Thank you,
 Ronnie Walraven

**Presbyterian Women Updates —
 December 2013**



Angel Tree-Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries

The PW Angel Tree will be in the foyer after November 25 and will have about 80 gift wishes from our special friends at Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries. In what has become a long standing FPC tradition, our congregation assumes the role of "Santa" to many of the residents of Evergreen - those who do not have close family or friends to provide for special Christmas wishes. In essence, we are their "Santa Claus" - purchasing, wrapping and delivering gifts for Christmas morning.

Willie L., Leroy J., Martre W., Thelma C., Michelle J. are names you might recognize from past years. They are a few of the 26 Evergreen clients who will be delighted and filled with anticipation and the joy of Christmas when the gifts that we send are put around the Christmas trees in their group homes.

Let PW Help with Your Christmas Shopping!

Need one more stocking stuffer? Why not purchase a Legacy Christmas CD from PW? The CD's are a fundraising project of PCUSA-PW and Living Waters of the World. CD's will be available for purchase at the Joy Gift Offering Dinner or by contacting Georgette Peckham. If requested, Georgette will deliver your CD in person!

Feasts for the Body and Spirit

Two highly anticipated annual events will take place the first week of December: the PW Joy Gift Offering Dinner and the chili luncheon after the first Advent concert. The Joy Gift Offering Dinner on December 4 will be a catered meal at 6:00 PM, and our church's new members will be recognized. The first Advent concert at 12:05 PM on December 5 features organist Robert Green, Director of Music at First United Methodist Church in Hope, and all attendees are invited to the luncheon prepared by the Presbyterian Women.

Volunteers Needed

If you have an apron that needs breaking in, the PW Hospitality Committee is in need of some new helpers. All of us enjoy the delicious meals prepared by the Hospitality Committee, and now its time to let those who have served faithfully know how much their efforts are appreciated by coming to their assistance for future catered events at First Presbyterian. Let Sallie Dill know that you're ready to help make delicious meals for your fellow Presbyterians.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

- PW Council will not meet in December
- Josephine Beck Circle—December 10, 10:00 AM
- Elizabeth Ann Greisser Circle—December 17, 10:00 AM
- Zelle Moore Circle—December 19, 6:30 PM
- Joy Gift Dinner (prepared by PW)—December 4, 6:00 PM
- First Advent Concert with Lunch (prepared by PW)—December 5, 12:05 Noon
- Deadline for Honorary Life Membership Nominations—January 15, 2014

+++REMEMBER TO SAVE ALBERTSON'S REWARDS STAMPS TO HELP THOSE IN NEED+++

January Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 6:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups

MONDAY
 5:45 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice (Starts 1/20)
 7:00 p.m. Tower Bells — Practice (Starts 1/20)

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

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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 9
 5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting

MONDAY, JANUARY 13
 11:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting
 2:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle — Annex
 6:00 p.m. C.E./Youth Director Search Committee Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15
 12:00 p.m. Texarkana Animal League Board Meeting
 5:00 p.m. Diaconate
 6:30 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16
 6:30 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Annex

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
 9:30 a.m. Godly Play — Opportunities, Inc.
 12:00 p.m. Joint Session/Diaconate Strategic Planning

MONDAY, JANUARY 20
 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 21
 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Greisser Circle — Library

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22
 5:00 p.m. Permanent Funds Ministry Committee Mtg.
 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23
 5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 28
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

(ALL COMMITTEE MTGS. & SESSION DELAYED ONE WEEK)

SPECIAL EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1
 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED

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

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8

January Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Carson Gray | 12 - Patti Smith |
| 1 - Albert Wilhelm | 13 - Larry Davis |
| 2 - Susan Flowers | 14 - Beth McHenry |
| 3 - Tyler Blain | 16 - Chris Walraven |
| 3 - Emily Lukins | 20 - Seth L. Sexton |
| 5 - Elizabeth Blain | 21 - Samuel Moore |
| 6 - Brett Jackson | 28 - Brandon Richards |
| 6 - Brent Stewart | 29 - Dan Boyles |
| 9 - Matt Keil | 29 - Mark Jackson |
| 9 - Martha Nell Richards | 30 - Branden O'Neal |
| 10 - Becky Rogers | 31 - Sydney Shepard |
| 10 - Buford Willis | 31 - Bennett Solomon |
| 11 - William Johnson | |



January Anniversaries

- 3 - Sally & William Bryant
- 3 - Linda & Stacy Cogbill
- 9 - Tamra & Bruce Seiler
- 18 - Dian & Louis Acruman, II
- 24 - Dean & Bob Ransdell
- 30 - Gillette & Frank McClain

December Calendar

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY
 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 6:00 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups
 6:00 p.m. Taize Worship Service (1, 8, & 22)
 7:00 p.m. Taize Worship Service (15)

MONDAY
 5:00 p.m. Handbell Technique Class
 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
 12:05 p.m. Advent Concert Series and Lunch

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1
 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' Shelter

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 6:00 p.m. C.E./Youth Director Search Committee Mtg.

December Birthdays

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 - Nancy Sandefur | 16 - James Works |
| 5 - Gail Abrahamson | 18 - Charlie Norton |
| 5 - Hastings Hoover | 21 - Betty Anthony |
| 6 - James Robert Lacy | 22 - Karen Flowers |
| 7 - Sue Ellen Letterman | 22 - Anne Russell |
| 8 - Greg Brown | 23 - Billie Ford |
| 9 - Chris Knowles | 24 - Marshall Moore |
| 11 - Savannah Thompson | 25 - JoAnn Pope |
| 14 - Brenda Works | 27 - Ben Davis |
| 15 - John Tice Parks | 28 - Ruth Arnold |
| 16 - Reg Jackson | 29 - Sarah Beth Solomon |
| 16 - Hayes McClerkin | |

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4

5:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting
 5:15 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Joy Gift Dinner

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5

5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9

12:00 p.m. Federal Retirees

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle — Annex

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11

5:00 p.m. Diaconate

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13

6:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

9:30 a.m. Godly Play — Opportunities, Inc.

11:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

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

6:00 p.m. C.E./Youth Director Search Committee Mtg.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 18

5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19

5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

6:30 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Jessica Sharp

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Taize & Communion

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast



December Anniversaries

- 20 - Erin & George McCasland
- 22 - Lynn & Charles Jackson
- 27 - Martha Nell & Mark Richards
- 30 - Becky & Kevin Thompson
- 31 - Stephanie & Brian Jackson