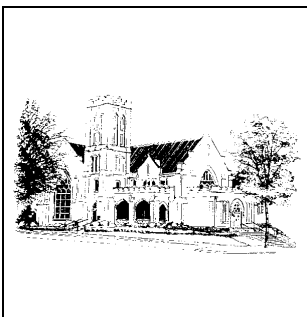


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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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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PEOPLE TO SERVE, AND TO GLORIFY GOD.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2014

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 the entire FPC congregation for making this another successful **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:

- ▲ Susan Morehead & Stephanie Jackson for completely organizing this year's collection and delivery.
- ▲ Fran Mitchell for planning and organizing another wonderful **Thanks-for-Giving Luncheon.**
- ▲ Beth Morgan for taking care of the Angel Fund Foundation recipients.
- ▲ The Youth & Diaconate for distributing the Boxes.

If I have forgotten anyone, please forgive my oversight and let me know.



THE PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY'S GIVING CATALOG & TREE OF HOPE PROJECT

If you are planning on giving a gift to someone this Christmas, but don't know what to buy, here's an alternative idea . . . The *Presbyterian Giving Catalog's Tree of Hope* project. Here's how it works:

On the Diaconate's **WALL OF OPPORTUNITY** you will find paper ornaments that symbolize four gifts.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency has selected three of the most popular gifts, plus a generic gift card, and asks that you pledge to give one of them this Christmas to someone in need and in honor of someone you love. Below are the simple steps needed for you to make a difference in the world and encourage others to do the same. These same steps are also clearly indicated on the **WALL OF OPPORTUNITY**.

- 1) Choose which gift you would like to pledge.
- 2) Separate the ornament pledge card along each perforation line.
- 3) Fill out the top portion of the ornament, punch it out, and tack it on the **WALL OF OPPORTUNITY'S** board with an available thumbtack. Then pick up a **GIVING CATALOG** from the display stand.
- 4) Fill out the middle portion of the pledge card and place in the collection plate.
- 5) Follow through on the gift you pledged (or a different one that catches your eye in the catalog) in one of the following three ways:
 - a. Give through the catalog by filling out the order form and mailing it in;
 - b. Give online at presbyteriangifts.org; or,
 - c. Give by calling 800-872-3283.
- 6) Pass along the bottom portion to the person you've given this gift in honor of.

Advent and Christmas Music

Noon Advent Mini-Concerts

**December 4th – Brett Andrews and
Mary Scott Goode**

December 11th – Deleen Davidson and Vicki Carr

**December 18th – Marc-André Bougie and
Candace Taylor**

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

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Sunday Morning, December 21st at 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

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

Christmas Eve Taize' Service

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



3 MINUTES FOR CHURCH GROWTH

BY REV. JOHN ARNOLD

“Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Hebrews 13:2

I don't know if you have noticed, but God has blessed us with quite a few new faces recently. Given the holiday season we can also count on seeing more guests. I challenge everyone to be on the look out for and to warmly welcome anyone who is new by observing a "3 Minute Rule". What's is that? When worship ends take just three minutes before visiting with friends to look for someone you either don't know or haven't talked to in awhile and engage them.

A simple "Good morning, I don't think we have met. I am so and so." can go a long way to making someone new feel welcome. Let them know you are glad they visited and that you hope they will be back. The average person needs seven positive contacts to feel welcome. These do not have to be big contacts, just positive.

If you don't see anyone new, take time to reconnect with someone you haven't spoken to or a member you don't know well. This simple three minute habit not only makes visitors feel welcome, but strengthens the connections of the existing congregation. Try it this Sunday! Better yet, commit to the 3 Minute Rule through the month of December.

CHRISTMAS PARENTS' NIGHT OUT DECEMBER 12, 2014 6:00 — 8:00 P.M.



Parents let us watch the kids for a couple of hours while you shop, rest, have a date, or whatever you would like to do. Children and youth of all ages are welcome. A nursery will be available for the little ones. Youth will be assisting with activities. This evening is always one of our favorite children's events. We hope your kids can join us for an evening packed with Christmas joy!

RANDY SAMS' MISSION

The Diaconate would like to invite any church members to join a team and help serve supper at the Randy Sams' Shelter only one time a year. You may even visit or observe a team's supper preparation and serving before joining a team. The teams are as follows:

December 7 Team - *Beth & Chuck Morgan; Joan & Tommy Boyles; and Kathy & Dan Boyles

January 4 Team - *Youth Group

February 1 Team - *Lil & Hayes McClerkin; Ruth & Buddy Bell; and Sue Ellen & Bob Letterman

March 1 Team - *Georgette & Richard Peckham; Linda & Stacy Cogbill; and Vicki & Roy Deskin.

(* - Denotes the Group Team Coordinator.) John Wesley is coordinating the Randy Sams' Mission for 2015. A BIG THANKS to all members that serve on this mission activity of FPC!

THANK YOU

“Dear Search Committee,
Thank you so much for the interview weekend. I deeply appreciated being a part of the church for the weekend and, whether we end up walking together or not, look forward to hearing great things from the Texarkana community.

Blessings,
Sarang Kang
2014.11.13”

CHURCH WORK DAY

A special thank you to everyone who showed up for the church work day on November 1st. A lot of work was done.

Thank you,
Ronnie Walraven

SYMPATHY

Francis Dow, brother of Julie Hall, passed away on November 2, 2014.

Cindy Gray, sister of Danny Gray, passed away on November 7, 2014.

Patsy Roberts, sister-in-law of Cordell Klein, passed away on November 12, 2014.

Lena Post, mother of Sheila Moore, passed away on November 24, 2014.



ONGOING FINANCIAL STATUS

	OCTOBER		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$33,102.37	\$32,895.25	\$337,485.42	\$328,952.50
Expenses	<u>41,825.95</u>	<u>38,467.25</u>	<u>341,178.56</u>	<u>384,672.50</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$ 8,723.58)</u>	<u>(\$5,572.00)</u>	<u>(\$ 3,693.14)</u>	<u>(\$55,720.00)</u>

Annual
Congregational
Meeting

January 21, 2015

Following Family
Night Supper

TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

	OCTOBER
Principal Amount Invested	\$114,828.23
Income Earned Since Inception	<u>13,810.56</u>
Subtotal	\$128,638.79
Unrealized Gains Since Inception	<u>27,976.81</u>
Total Value of TPF Funds	<u>\$156,615.60</u>

Reminder that the January and February Newsletters will be combined.



Congratulations
and
Best Wishes!

Matt Keil
and
Melissa Bond
were married on
November 8, 2014.



Please
complete
an order
form and
return it to
the Church
Office.

FNS Study & Preaching Schedule for December/January

WEDNESDAY	FNS BIBLE STUDY	SUNDAY	SERMON TEXT	SERMON TITLE
12/03/14	PW JOY GIFT DINNER	12/07/14	Isaiah 40:1-11	<i>Waiting not so patiently . . . Isn't always bad</i>
12/10/14	Philippians	12/14/14	Isaiah 61:1-11	<i>Good News?</i>
12/17/14	Philippians	12/21/14		Lessons & Carols
12/24/14	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES <i>5:30-Candlelight /11:00-Taizé</i>	12/28/14	Is. 61:10-62:3	<i>A Convergence of Opposites</i>
12/31/14	NO FAMILY NIGHT SUPPER	1/04/15	John 1:1-18	<i>The Best Explanation God Could Give Us</i>
1/07/15	Philippians	1/11/15	Acts 19:1-7	<i>Mind the Gap</i>
1/14/15	Philippians	1/18/15	1 Sam. 3:1-20	<i>The Summons</i>
1/21/15	Philippians			

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

At 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 21, we will join in a hymn festival as part of our Advent worship experience. Entitled "Savior of the Nations, Come," this musical work was written by American organist/composer Michael Burkhardt. Burkhardt's music will be supplemented with music by Paul Manz, Christopher Uehlein, and Charles Ore. The choir will sing anthems based on hymns, and the congregation, choir, organ, and bell choir will participate in hymns from our new hymnal which complement readings from *The Mystery of Holy Night* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Scripture lessons. Several of our college-age members will serve as liturgists for the service. In addition, the bell choir will play our opening and closing voluntaries. Plan to participate in this worship service that reminds us of the spirit of anticipation inherent in the Advent season and of the joyous celebration of Jesus' birth.

**ADVENT
TAIZÉ
SERVICES**



Our annual Taizé Advent services begin at 6:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 30, the first Sunday in Advent. Additional Taizé services will take place on December 7, 14, and 21 at 6:00 p.m. and at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Our new hymnal is a wonderful resource for music from the Taizé tradition, and *Glory to God* includes music from the Iona Community (iona.org.uk) and many Celtic hymns and songs. During this year's evening Advent services we will incorporate all of these elements into our worship, continuing to employ a liturgy that includes Scripture, prayers, music, and silent meditation. Please join us in worship on:

- November 30 — 6:00 p.m.
- December 7 — 6:00 p.m.
- December 14 — 6:00 p.m.
- December 21 — 6:00 p.m.

December 24 — 11:00 p.m. (Christmas Eve Communion service).



**Presbyterian Women Updates —
December 2014**

The Angel Tree is Here!

The PW Angel Tree will be in the foyer after November 24 and will have about 80 gift wishes from our special friends at Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries. In what has become a 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.

Many names on the tree will be familiar. These former recipients are among the 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.

Thanks for Giving

The First Presbyterian Women contributed \$315.00 to this year's Thank Offering, which has a national goal of \$900,000.00. The Thank Offering supports programs that relieve pain, provide clean water, alleviate homelessness, provide educational opportunities, promote health, and improve the lives of women and children throughout the world. The generosity of all those who gave to the 2014 Thank Offering is deeply appreciated.

Christmas Shopping Made Easy

Need one more stocking stuffer? Why not purchase this year's 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, from the Circle Moderators, by contacting Georgette Peckham, or by contacting the Church Office. If requested, Georgette will deliver your CD in person!

Delicious Food, Lovely Music

During the first week of December, Presbyterian Women will serve the Joy Gift Offering Dinner and the chili luncheon after the first Advent concert. The Joy Gift Offering Dinner on December 3 will be a catered meal at 6:00 p.m., and our church's new members will be recognized. A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools. The first Advent concert at 12:05 p.m. on December 4 features Brett Andrews, Principal Cellist of the Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, and beloved local pianist Mary Scott Goode, and all attendees are invited to the luncheon prepared by the Presbyterian Women.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

Church Advent-Christmas Decoration/Angel Tree Decoration—November 24, 9:30 a.m.

PW Council will not meet in December.

Joy Gift Dinner—December 3, 6:00 p.m.

First Advent Concert with Lunch (prepared by PW)—December 4, 12:05 p.m.

Josephine Beck Circle—December 9, 10:00 a.m.

Zelle Moore Circle—December 11, 6:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Ann Greisser Circle—December 16, 10:00 a.m.

Deadline for Life Membership Nominations—January 15, 2015

+++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

WEDNESDAY
 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Team
 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Children's Ministry
 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

THURSDAY, JANUARY 8
 5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Annex

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9
 7:00 p.m. Magical Mystery Tour Lock-In

MONDAY, JANUARY 12
 11:00 a.m. PW Coordinating Team Meeting
 2:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle — Annex

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14
 5:00 p.m. Diaconate

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18
 9:30 a.m. Godly Play — Opportunities, Inc.
 12:00 p.m. Joint Session/Diaconate Strategic Planning

MONDAY, JANUARY 19
 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20
 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Greisser Circle — Library

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21
 5:00 p.m. Permanent Funds Ministry Committee Mtg.
 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting
 6:30 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22
 5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1
 HOLIDAY - OFFICE CLOSED

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4
 5:00 p.m. Youth Council
 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' Shelter

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7
 5:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting
 5:15 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting

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 |
| 8 - Elzora Thompson | 29 - Mark Jackson |
| 9 - Matt Keil | 29 - Jillian Nash |
| 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

MONDAY
 6:00 p.m. Handbell Choir Practice

WEDNESDAY
 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry Team
 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Children's Ministry
 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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3
 5:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting
 5:15 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting
 6:00 p.m. Joy Gift Dinner

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 | 27 - Tony Uzzell |
| 16 - Reg Jackson | 28 - Ruth Arnold |
| 16 - Hayes McClerkin | 29 - Sarah Beth Davis |

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4
 5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7
 5:00 p.m. Youth Council
 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' Shelter

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8
 12:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9
 10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle — Fellowship Hall

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10
 5:00 p.m. Diaconate

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11
 6:30 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Annex

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12
 6:00 p.m. Parents' Night Out

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Greisser Circle — Library

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18
 5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21
 9:30 a.m. Godly Play — Opportunities, Inc.
 11:00 a.m. Lessons & Carols Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Taizé & Communion

THURSDAY — FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25 — 26
 HOLIDAYS — OFFICE CLOSED

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30
 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast



December Anniversaries

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