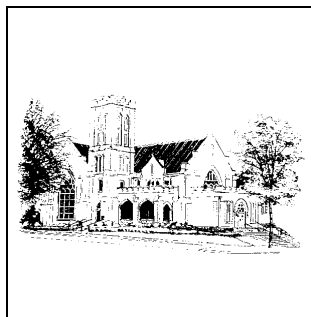


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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

MARCH 2014

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

Rev. Susan

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

ESV **Proverbs 22:6**

"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:8-9

We have now met two very gifted applicants for our position of C.E Director (*Edu-preneur*). They have been gifted in very different ways, and God has used these interviews to help our committee firmly establish what is most important to us. One of the candidates with whom we have already spoken has expressed great interest in the position, and has a ton of experience along with a passionate calling to educational ministries. We have a third interview in about a week. Thanks be to God for candidates who have shown interest and applied to the position!!!

It is my earnest belief that God has been preparing the person to be sent to us all his or her life; their unique gifts, talents, personality traits, likes, dislikes, quirks, and qualities are all part of the package God has decided is what our congregation needs at this time in our journey of faith. As well, our congregation, with its unique gifts, talents, personality traits, likes, dislikes, quirks, and qualities are what God has decided this C.E. Edu-preneur needs at this time in his or her journey of faith. Please pray for our discernment process and the subsequent major transition in the life of our new C.E. guru. I know you . . . you will open wide your doors and arms and embrace this new member of our faith family with exquisite grace. Waiting patiently . . .



DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY GARDEN YEARLY REPORT (2013)



PRODUCTION & DISTRIBUTION: About 2,300 pounds from the Community Garden.
 (2013) About 700 pounds from Gateway Farmers Market.
 Our cucumbers did not make as much and we lost a good bit thru other folks just picking green tomatoes, peas, etc.
 (In 2012 we produced about 2,500 pounds from the Garden.)

PLANTING: Will be planting cool crops soon in boxes as well as potatoes and onions in the main garden.
 (2014) Have already sent soil samples to the Extension Service. Once the results come in we will amend soil as needed and spread compost.

NEEDS: Another storage building to store the tiller and the mower on site, as well as extra irrigation equipment.
 The current shed is for sale right now at Lowes for under \$600.00.
 Seedlings and seeds for planting (potato eyes, onions, cucumbers, tomatoes, peas, etc.)

HOUSEKEEPING: Meetings: 2nd Saturday of the Month @ 9:00 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church
 Work Days: Posted on the Facebook page – Texarkana Downtown Community Garden

2014 COMMISSIONING SERVICE: Monday, March 17, 2014 @ 5:00 p.m. at the Garden site – 4th & Laurel.

Lenten Worship/Study Schedule

SUNDAY Worship Services	WEDNESDAY Family Night Supper	THURSDAY Brown Bag Bible Study
11:00 a.m.: <i>An Invitation to the 'Thin Places'</i> 2 Matt. 17:1-9	ASH WEDNESDAY 5 SERVICE	Noon - <i>Matthew</i> 7
11:00 a.m.: <i>When We Doubt Our Identity</i> 9 Matthew 4:1-11	Special PW Presentation 12 Honorary Life Membership Award FNS Study – <i>All About Lent</i>	Noon - <i>Matthew</i> 14
6:00 p.m.: Lenten Taize Worship	FNS Study – <i>All About Lent</i> 19	Noon - <i>Matthew</i> 21
11:00 a.m.: <i>Kingdom Involvement vs.</i> 16 <i>Kingdom Commitment</i> - Matt. 5:21-37		
6:00 p.m.: Lenten Taize Worship	FNS Study – <i>All About Lent</i> 26	Noon - <i>Matthew</i> 28
11:00 a.m.: <i>Can God Get Irritated?</i> – Ps. 95 23		
6:00 p.m.: Lenten Taize Worship		
11:00 a.m.: <i>Choosing to Believe</i> – Jn. 9:1-41 30		
6:00 p.m.: Lenten Taize Worship		

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

Devotional Materials—

Devotional guides for adults and children are available at most entryways to the church. The children's materials are two-fold: a small devotional guide and a mobile that accompanies it. So be sure to get both parts.

Also, if you are looking for a personal discipline to take on for 40 days, there are 5 suggested possibilities available as handouts in the entryways as well. This year's suggested activities are: Five Finger Prayer, Top 40 Bible Passages, 40 Bags in 40 Days, Fasting from a Media/Technology Habit, and Psalms in 40 Days.

The 40 Day Prayer Challenge—

Rev. John Arnold's book, "Tips On Prayer, A Quickstart Guide for Improving Your Prayer Life," has been revised and expanded. It is available for free on Amazon.com, March 1st – March 5th. If you would like to download a free copy at that time, go to <http://www.Amzn.com/B0096RI0OG>.

Rev. John is encouraging people who download the book to select one tip from it and practice that tip for 40 days. Anyone who does can sign-up to be part of a Facebook group to encourage and support one another. Plus, there will be a Q&A webinar for challenge participants. Check out the church website for details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR RANDY SAM'S SHELTER

The church needs more volunteers to provide and serve food at the **Randy Sams' Shelter** on the following dates: **April 6, July 6, September 7, and October 5**. More couples or individuals would be preferable to make the mission more manageable for the volunteers involved. Please notify **Sarah Propps** at (903) 490-1170 if you would like more details or would like to participate.

RANDY SAM'S MISSION

The volunteers for Sunday, March 2, are:
 *Georgette & Richard Peckham (Group Coordinator)
 Linda & Stacy Cogbill
 Vicki & Roy Deskin

Congratulations to the Nash Family on the birth Jillian Grace Nash who was born on January 29, 2014, to Vickie and Steven Nash.



SYMPATHY

Elizabeth Wilburn, mother-in-law of Sherry Wilburn, passed away on February 2, 2014.

George W. Crank, Jr. passed away on February 6, 2014.

Lynn Jackson passed away on February 23, 2014.



THANK YOU NOTE

Dear FPC Family,

Thank you, thank you, thank you . . . These simple words can only begin to express our gratitude to you, our church family, during the time of Daddy's illness, death, and final wonderful celebration of his life and resurrection. He was a part of FPC for 89 of his 95+ years on this earth, quietly following Christ. Your acts of kindness, telling of stories, and the joyful service and fellowship at the potluck afterwards were beautiful expressions of love for him and for us. May we all be so blessed.

Sue Ellen on behalf of Julie, Jeanne, Rick, Velvet and the entire Richard V. Hall family



January/February
 Newsletter -
 Lil McClerkin,
 Fran Mitchell,
 &
 Brenda Works

ONGOING FINANCIAL STATUS

	JANUARY		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$50,544.24	\$30,568.33	\$50,544.24	\$30,568.33
Expenses	<u>29,025.10</u>	<u>38,467.25</u>	<u>29,025.10</u>	<u>38,467.25</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$21,519.14</u>	<u>(\$7,898.92)</u>	<u>\$21,519.14</u>	<u>(\$7,898.92)</u>

SAVE THE DATE

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



TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

	JANUARY
Principal Amount Invested	\$114,628.00
Income Earned Since Inception	<u>10,207.00</u>
Subtotal	\$124,835.00
Unrealized Gains Since Inception	<u>22,974.00</u>
Total Value of TPF Funds	<u>\$147,809.00</u>

Lenten Taize Services
March 9, 16, 23, & 30, 2014
6:00 - 6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary

MUSIC DIRECTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Mr. Timothy Ray Handle will be here from South Dakota on March 7th, 8th, and 9th to work with the Choir and play our organ for the worship service. He will observe the Taize service Sunday evening. Tim has taught music in public school and played the organ for various churches, but he always wanted to go back to school to get a Masters in Organ Performance. He will graduate with that degree in early May. Please welcome Tim to the land of warm weather.

LOCKINPALOOZA VI

Thank you to Sarah Propps, Sheila & Marshall Moore, and Nancy Emerson for driving!!!



TEAM #1



TEAM #2



TEAM #3

DIACONATE FIRST QUARTER MISSION

I want to thank everyone who donated clothes and household items to The Sharing Place last month. This mission effort will continue through March, so you still have time to bring your used women's, men's, and children's clothing and drop them off outside the Fellowship Hall.

Pat Baker, Diaconate Moderator



SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG



You still have an opportunity to honor or remember a loved one in our new hymnal, *Glory to God*. Approximately 144 of the 219 new hymnals have already been personalized. Please pick up an envelope at the Sanctuary entrance or contact Patricia Thomas in the Church Office to participate in this offering. The cost of each hymnal is \$20.00. If you wish to donate an accompaniment edition, the cost is \$75.00.

Although we have begun to use the new hymnals, it is not too late to participate in the purchasing and personalizing of one or more of these hymnals. A list of all those participating in this project will be listed in the newsletter and in a bulletin insert. Personal acknowledgements will be sent to any non member or at the request of the purchaser.

LENTEN TAIZÉ SERVICES

During the first four Sundays in Lent and again on Good Friday, Taizé services will take place in our Sanctuary from 6:00-6:30 p.m. These contemplative services of prayer, simple song, scripture, and meditation remind us of the times when Jesus withdrew with his disciples to "a quiet place" (Mark 6:31) or to "lonely places and prayed" (Luke 5:16). Please join us on **March 9, 16, 23, and 30** and on **April 18** for worship in the reconciling spirit of Taizé.

On the remaining Sundays preceding Easter, **April 6 and 13**, the Sanctuary will be open for quiet reflection. Please feel free to spend quiet time in the church on those Sundays anytime between 6:00 and 6:30 p.m.



Presbyterian Women Updates — March 2014

YOU Are Invited
to the Annual Joint Circle Meeting and Salad Luncheon
Tuesday, March 18, 2014
11:30 AM

ALL the women of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend this yearly event. Whether you are active in a PW circle or not, you are welcome to join us. Women from the other Presbyterian churches in Texarkana have been invited to join us for lunch, the Bible study led by Margie Rhoads, and a brief business meeting. Bring a salad to share and ask friends to come with you. The PW Hospitality Committee will provide bread, crackers, dessert, and drinks.

Dishes from Albertson's

We are so thankful that you chose to share stamps during Albertson's promotion for free dishes. We collected enough stamps to obtain sixteen four-piece plate settings plus a few extra pieces. One set has already been delivered to a family which lost everything just after Christmas and to a homeless man who has just moved into a highrise apartment. The remaining sets are being donated to Doorways Projects, benefiting clients from Friendship Center and Domestic Violence Prevention. Thank you for your generosity.

Goodland Academy Needs Your Help

Remember those commercials about the soup that is "Um-Um Good?" Many of us use Campbell's soup for quick meals and in our cooking, but even the labels on the outside of the cans are useful. Save those labels and bring them to Circle meeting or to the church to be placed in the PW mailbox. We forward those labels on to Goodland Academy to help procure a much needed minivan for their use.

MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

PW Council—March 10, 11:00 AM

Special PW Honorary Life Membership Presentation at Family Night Supper—March 12, 6:00 PM

Joint Circle Meeting/Salad Luncheon—March 18, 11:30 AM

Pines and AR 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+++

MARCH YOUTH Meeting

SUNDAYS

6:00 – 7:30 p.m. Youth Group – DINNER/STUDY/PLAY/PRAYER
(BIBLE STUDY FOR THE SPRING: GOSPEL OF MATTHEW)

**March 2 Afternoon Movie: *Son of God*,
Based on the History Channel's
miniseries, *The Bible*.**



2:20 p.m.: Meet at Cinemark 14 Theater
4:50 p.m.: Pick-up @ Theater

(Church will pick up movie tickets. You provide your own \$ for snacks. Let us know if you plan to join us so we know to wait for you. Afternoon showing so you can get home to watch the Academy Awards!!!)



YOUTH COUNCIL

March 9 5:00 - Youth Council Meeting

(Moving Youth Council to the 2nd Sunday because of Movie on March 2.)

Remember to move your clock forward 1 hr.

WEDNESDAYS

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Family Night Supper

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Devo

March 5 Ash Wednesday Service @ 6:30 p.m.

Friday – Sunday, March 14-16

Sr. High Youth Quake

“God Has a Plan – John 3:8”

(If you missed the deadline, February 28,
and still want to go, just let us know.)



“JOSHUA THREW A FIT AT JERICO,
JERICO, JERICO.
JOSHUA THREW A FIT AT JERICO,
AND THE WALLS CAME TUMBLING DOWN!”

March 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. Taize Worship Service (9, 16, 23, & 30)

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

2:20 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups - Movie
6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' Shelter

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5

5:00 p.m. Christian Education Committee Meeting
5:15 p.m. Stewardship Committee Meeting
6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 9

5:00 p.m. Youth Council

MONDAY, MARCH 10

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 11

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
6:00 p.m. Joint C.E & Organist Search
Committee Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12

5:00 p.m. Diaconate

SUNDAY, MARCH 16

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

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

11:30 a.m. PW Joint Circle Meeting

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

12:00 p.m. Texarkana Animal League Board Meeting
5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

March Birthdays

3 - Debbie Abrahamson	17 - Kaley Thannum
5 - Claire McCasland	21 - Daniel Seiler
7 - Kevin Thompson	22 - Ruth Davis
8 - Susan Morehead	23 - Doke Douglas
8 - Alexander Sexton	23 - Jordan Johns
9 - Jane McDaniel	24 - Karin Lincoln
9 - Jacob Tackett	25 - Doug Anthony
13 - Edna Upchurch	26 - Jeannie Sexton
14 - Melanie Gloster	28 - Kathy Boyles
14 - Charles Morgan	28 - Greg Groenke
15 - Hodge Thompson	29 - Don Johnson
15 - Cynthia Walker	31 - Ryan Black
17 - Jeff Daniels	



March Anniversaries

13 - Kristen & Brad Gibson
26 - Karen & Marty Flowers
26 - Lindsay & Jeff Morgan