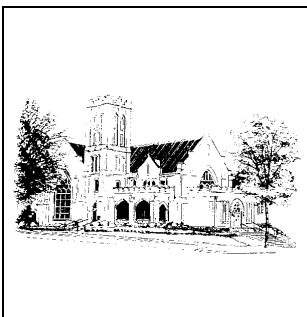


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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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](http://www.firstprestexarkana.org)

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PEOPLE TO SERVE, AND TO GLORIFY GOD.

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2014

## THINK THANK UPDATE BY REV. DR. SUSAN M. ARNOLD

*"Where there is no vision, the people perish." Proverbs 29:18*

A couple of months ago, we invited several members from the congregation to be a focus group of sorts to explore the challenges of ministry for our church at this time. We had our first meeting on September 30<sup>th</sup>. We discussed four major areas: worship, care, missions, and evangelism. We examined our strengths and weaknesses in each of these areas. We spent a great deal of time discussing differences in generational expectations and preferences. The Think Tank will be inviting some of our more recent and younger members to share their perspectives with us. We hope that out of these discussions, God will lead us into some insights that will help us more effectively minister to our existing congregation and reach out to disciple others.



## CARE VISITS

BY REV. JOHN C. ARNOLD

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep." Romans 12:15*

For most of us the holiday season is a time of great joy and lots of extra activity. That's not true for everyone. Some people find themselves painfully alone during the holidays; particularly, if they have experienced a loss in the prior year. Susan and I need your help being our eyes and ears for those who may be in need of pastoral care during this busy season. We are spread very thin as we continue to cover the Youth/Christian Education Director's position, plus our own responsibilities. If you are aware of someone in need of a visit, please say something and take time to visit him or her as well.

## CHURCH WORK DAY



NOVEMBER 1, 2014  
8:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Work that needs to be done includes — hedge trimming, raking, and blowing leaves. Also, general clean-up.

## Advent and Christmas Music

### Noon Advent Mini-Concerts

**December 4<sup>th</sup> – Brett Andrews, Cellist**  
**December 11<sup>th</sup> – Deleen Davidson, Soprano**  
**December 18<sup>th</sup> – Marc-Andre 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 21<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m.

### Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Wednesday Evening, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

### Christmas Eve Taize' Service

Wednesday Evening, December 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 p.m.



### NOVEMBER WORSHIP/STUDY SCHEDULE

<i>SUNDAY</i> Worship Services		<i>WEDNESDAY</i> FNS		<i>THURSDAY</i> Brown Bag Bible Study	
11:00 a.m.: <i>Cheering From the Bleachers</i> Guest Preacher: Rev. Dianne E. Brown	2	Philippians Study	5	Paul & Women <i>1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy</i>	6
11:00 a.m.: <i>The Forgotten Commandments - Psalm 78:1-7</i>	9	Philippians Study	12	Paul & Women <i>1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy</i>	13
11:00 a.m.: <i>iphaith - 1 Thess.5:1-11</i>	16	Philippians Study	19	Paul & Women <i>1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians &amp; 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy</i>	20
11:00 a.m.: <i>Remembering the Least of These - Matthew 35:31-46</i>	23	<b>No Family Night Supper</b>	26	<b>No Brown Bag Bible Study</b>	27
11:00 a.m.: <i>What's Trending? - Isaiah 64:1-9</i>	30				

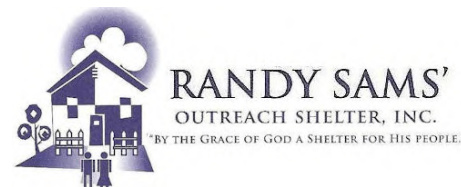
### PW FALL GATHERING

The annual Pines Presbytery PW Fall Gathering in September was hosted this year by the PW of Broadmoor Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, Louisiana. Following the worship service, led by Rev. Jim Freeman, and the installation of officers, including Gail Abrahamson as Treasurer, the group heard a presentation by Sherry Hardwick about her Appalachian Experience "Unto These Hills". Hardwick was the Synod of the Sun representative of the 2013 PW USA Mission Experience, and spent ten days in east Tennessee and western North Carolina. Through slides and stories, she shared the history and culture of the region, the long-term and existing ministry of the church there, and the challenges faced by women, children and families living in the area. While Appalachia is economically the poorest region in the United States, it is rich in culture, resources, beauty, and its people. (The September/October 2013 issue of *Horizons*, the PW magazine, is devoted to articles about this experience.) Sue Ellen and Julie Hall also attended.

### RANDY SAMS' MISSION

The volunteers for Sunday, November 2, are:

- \*Martha Nell & Mark Richards  
(Group Coordinator)
- Peggy & Larry Davis
- Bonnie Judd
- Sherry Wilburn



### CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas cards are here! The card ladies have begun sacking ten (10) cards per bag. We know that some people like to start addressing their Christmas cards early, so we will have cards available in the Church Office. Please sign the tablet on the round table and let us know how many bags of ten (10) you would like to have.



### THANK YOU SO MUCH

"Dear Sylvia Waldrop and The Quilting Angels,

Imagine my surprise when I opened this box and pulled out the loveliest of quilts I have ever seen. I am still in awe and truly humbled by your overwhelming generosity to me. I am so grateful beyond measure and cannot thank you all enough for choosing me to receive this exquisite work of art. It is absolutely beautiful in every way. As much as it is beautiful—what a true Ministry you lovely ladies are providing with every stitch. I do feel the love of God and the blessings and prayers of such kind hands. The Guardian Angel applique is so precious and heartfelt! I will always treasure this wonderful gift from your hands. Thank you so very much.

May God bless you all as He and you all have blessed me. And may you all have Guardian Angels to watch over you! Thank you!

With love,  
Barbara Choquette"



### ONGOING FINANCIAL STATUS

	SEPTEMBER		YEAR-TO-DATE	
	Actual	Budget	Actual	Budget
Income	\$24,573.45	\$32,895.25	\$304,383.05	\$296,057.25
Expenses	<u>30,338.14</u>	<u>38,467.25</u>	<u>299,352.61</u>	<u>346,205.25</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>(\$ 5,764.69)</u>	<u>(\$5,572.00)</u>	<u>\$ 5,030.44</u>	<u>(\$50,148.00)</u>

### SAVE THE DATE

Mark your calendars for Family Camp, June 26 - 28, 2015.



### TEXAS PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION

	SEPTEMBER
Principal Amount Invested	\$114,828.23
Income Earned Since Inception	<u>13,409.91</u>
Subtotal	\$128,238.14
Unrealized Gains Since Inception	<u>26,765.85</u>
Total Value of TPF Funds	<u>\$155,003.99</u>

Wireless internet is now available in the Sanctuary thanks to an anonymous donor!



What ARE YOU Thankful for?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## REMINDER: IT'S THANKSGIVING BASKETS TIME!

We have already started gathering food and preparing lists. Our Thanksgiving Food Basket ministry allows us to share food with those less fortunate than us, or in great financial need. We are blessed to share baskets with our community neighbors and with Angel Fund Foundation clients.

Here are some important dates to note:

**November 2:** FPC Youth Group Annual Save-A-Lot/Big Lots grocery shopping trip. Each team of youth challenges the other teams to the most cost-efficient purchases of nutrient-dense foods.

**November 16:** Thanks for Giving Spaghetti Luncheon.

**November 23:** FPC Youth Groups & Diaconate deliver Thanksgiving Baskets.

The following lists are merely weekly shopping suggestions:

- Sep. 28** Soy Milk, gelatin or pudding mixes, crackers
- Oct. 5** canned vegetables, soups, fruits
- Oct. 12** peanut butter, jellies
- Oct. 19** canned meats (tuna, Spam, Vienna sausages)
- Oct. 26** dried stuffing/dressing, potatoes mixes
- Nov. 2** mac & cheese, spaghetti noodles/sauce
- Nov. 9** cereal, oatmeal, breakfast bars
- Nov. 16** rice, dried beans



Thank you for your continued love and support for our annual service and outreach project! We are happy to do your shopping for you if needed.

Love,  
The Youth Council  
The Diaconate

## ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICES



You are invited to participate in our annual Taizé Advent services each Sunday in Advent at 6:00 p.m. and at the late Christmas Eve service. Our new hymnal is a wonderful resource for music from the Taizé tradition, but also includes music from the Iona Community (iona.org.uk). In addition, many Celtic hymns and songs can be found in *Glory to God*. 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 — November 2014

### Keeping Christmas

Henry van Dyke said that "you can never keep Christmas alone." This year as you prepare your own Christmas gift list, please remember to select an angel from the Angel Tree for Evergreen Presbyterian Ministries and shop for one of our friends from Evergreen. We all feel like we know some of the Evergreen residents better since they have been attending Family Night Supper each Wednesday. FPC has been the only "Santa" that many of them have known for many, many years. Let's give them a special Christmas morning again this year. Contact Georgette Peckham, PW Missions Coordinator, if you have any questions.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Thank Offering 2014

Each year, Presbyterian Women share the gifts they have been given by collecting the annual Thank Offering. Forty percent of the offering supports health ministries, and the remaining sixty percent funds new creative ideas for mission. The goal for the 2014 Thank Offering is \$900,000.00. Last year's Thank Offering funded many projects, including projects in Arizona, Tennessee, India, and the Congo. Included in the funded projects were a reading program, refugee assistance, clean water, and swine production. The PW Thank Offering is collected during the months of October and November. Please give generously!

\*\*\*\*\*

### New Legacy Christmas CD Available

Once again, beautiful Christmas music with a Celtic flavor will be available through a new Legacy Christmas CD that can be purchased from PW. In addition to Celtic music, songs from the American Appalachians will also be included on this year's recording. Like last year's Legacy CD, this new CD is a fundraising project of PCUSA-PW and Living Waters of the World. Proceeds from sales will be divided evenly between the 2015 Birthday Offering and Living Waters of the World. CDs will be available at Circle meetings, by contacting Georgette Peckham, or any member of the PW Council. These make great Christmas gifts and are a wonderful way to contribute to our church's mission projects while enriching your enjoyment of the Advent and Christmas seasons.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Albertson's Rewards

Save your rewards stamps from Albertson's and contribute them to PW. The stamps will be redeemed for cookware to be given to families who are in need due to natural disaster or fire. Stamps may be turned in to your Circle Moderator to be collected at PW Council meetings or to the Church Office to be placed in the PW mailbox.

\*\*\*\*\*

### MARK THESE DATES ON YOUR CALENDARS!

**Zelle Moore Circle—November 6, 6:30 p.m.**

**PW Council—November 10, 11:00 a.m.**

**Josephine Beck Circle—November 11, 10:00 a.m.**

**Elizabeth Ann Greisser Circle—November 18, 10:00 a.m.**

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

**Joy Gift Dinner—December 3, 6:00 p.m.**

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



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**SUNDAYS**

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

**November 2 – Shopping for Thanksgiving Baskets**

*(Time change. Meet @ church @ 4:30 p.m.)*

**November 9 – Youth Group**

**November 16 – Thanks For Giving Luncheon** (No Youth Group that night.)

**November 23 – THANKSGIVING BASKET PICK-UP/DELIVERY**

*(No Youth Group that night.)*

**November 30 – Youth Group**

**WEDNESDAYS**

6:00 – 6:30 p.m. Family Night Supper

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Youth Group Devo



Ellen Andrews, Matt Arnold, and John Arnold

Ethan Davitt and Ethan Jackson



# November 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

**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 a.m. Brown Bag Bible Study

**SPECIAL EVENTS**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

- 8:00 a.m. Church Work Day

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2**

- 4:30 p.m. Jr./Sr. High Youth Groups — Shopping for Thanksgiving Baskets
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' Shelter

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4**

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

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

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6**

- 5:30 p.m. Evangelism Committee Meeting
- 6:30 p.m. Zelle Moore Circle — Peggy Davis

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7**

- 5:00 p.m. Wedding Rehearsal — Bond/Keil

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8**

- 4:00 p.m. Wedding — Melissa Bond/Matt Keil

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10**

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

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

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

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

- 5:00 p.m. Diaconate

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- 9:30 a.m. Godly Play — Opportunities, Inc.
- 12:00 p.m. Youth Thanks for Giving Luncheon

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
- 10:00 a.m. Elizabeth Greisser Circle — Library

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19**

- 5:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20**

- 5:00 p.m. Session Meeting

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23**

- 12:00 p.m. Thanksgiving Basket Pick-up/Delivery

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30**

- 6:00 p.m. Taize Worship Service

- |   |  |   |   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>N</b><br/>o<br/>v<br/>e<br/>m<br/>b<br/>e<br/>r</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 - Rachel Fomby</li> <li>2 - Samuel Solomon</li> <li>4 - Gillette McClain</li> <li>5 - Mark Richards</li> <li>6 - Craig Cogbill</li> <li>7 - Gail Cogbill</li> <li>7 - Alan Gray</li> <li>8 - Joan Boyles</li> <li>10 - Willis B. Smith</li> <li>10 - Shelly Thannum</li> <li>11 - Kathy Bryant</li> <li>13 - Jacob Triptow</li> <li>14 - James Solomon</li> <li>15 - Chris Deskin</li> <li>15 - Charles Jackson</li> <li>18 - Chad Jordan</li> <li>18 - Marge Wilhelm</li> <li>19 - Richard Sexton</li> </ul> | <p><b>B</b><br/>i<br/>r<br/>t<br/>h<br/>d<br/>a<br/>y<br/>s</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>21 - Ted Cline</li> <li>21 - Sallie Dill</li> <li>22 - Beth Morgan</li> <li>22 - Matthew Williamson</li> <li>23 - Roy Deskin</li> <li>23 - Randy Lacy</li> <li>23 - Linda Murphy</li> <li>25 - Stacy Cogbill</li> <li>26 - Peggy Davis</li> <li>26 - Jayce Keil</li> <li>27 - Maggie Uzzell</li> <li>28 - Shirley Suffridge</li> <li>29 - Matt Arnold</li> <li>30 - Sylvia Waldrop</li> <li>30 - David Williams</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|---|



**November Anniversaries**

- 3 - Susan & John Arnold
- 6 - Michelle & Matthew Williamson
- 15 - Marge & Al Wilhelm
- 18 - Isabelle & Reagon Thompson
- 25 - Sheila & Marshall Moore
- 28 - April & Philip Jackson