



*First Presbyterian Church  
418 West Coolidge  
Borger, TX 79007  
~February 2009~*

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**Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty**

**Bible Scramble: Unscramble the letters in each word to discover the passage. Solution on last page.**

**EH TTHA TSSPIHEED SIH RONIHGEB**

**TSNNIHE: UTB EH TTHA THHA YRMEC NO**

**EHT RPOO, YPPHA SI EH. OD YTHE TON**

**RRE TTHA VSIEED VLIE? UTB YRMEC NDA**

**UTTRH SLLHA EB OT TMHE TTHA VSIEED**

**OOGD.**

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**FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE**  
**First Presbyterian Church Newsletter**

February

Borger, Texas

2009

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## PASTOR'S PEN

February 2009

We have begun this year with energy and commitment. We had a wonderful chili dinner prepared by Carroll Pace (thank you Carroll – it was delicious) and attended by many. This time together provided an opportunity for us to have our Annual Meeting of the Congregation. It is so pleasing and fulfilling that we continue to come together as the Church supporting our mission and ministry even though we are so few. As it is said in Holy Scripture “*Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.*—Matt. 18:20 I have no doubt that God is with us in all our endeavors.

Thank you to all who assisted with Bob Watkins service on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. It was so meaningful to be part of First Presbyterian Church offering comfort and compassion, welcoming and fellowship, worship and prayer to those who attended – many of whom were not part of our congregation. Thank you for being the Church.

We hold Aleyene, David, and James, along with their extended family in our prayers.

As has been announced we are working on producing a new Church Directory – colored pictures and all. Please make plans to have your picture taken by Jim Farrell (thanks Jim for your willingness to assist with this effort) on February 15<sup>th</sup> between 8:30 and 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall where we will all be enjoying breakfast prepared by the men of the church. I am surely looking forward to Jerry Pool's “Shipwreck.” - reported to be a delicious breakfast main dish. Bring your family and friends for this time of fellowship and nourishment.

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Georgia

Solution to Bible Scramble:

***He that despiseth his neighbor sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he. Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good. Proverbs 14:21-22***

## The Treasurer reported the following figures for December:

Total Income	\$ 6,296.38
Total Expenses	\$ <u>8,527.03</u>
Total	\$ (2,230.65)



	Year to Date	
Total Income		\$ 86,155.16
Total Expenses		\$ <u>88,056.30</u>
Total		\$(1,901.14)

## Hospitality News

A delicious meal of brisket, potato casserole, salads, rolls and desserts was served to Bob Watkins' family and friends after his memorial service January 30th. Thank you for all the help with food, serving and cleanup. The fact that there were more volunteers, than actually needed at this time, proves once more what a loving church we are.

Phyllis Harmony, Hospitality Chairperson



## Notes from the Music Department

Greetings to you all! My, how time does fly. It is already February. The Season of Lent will be upon us shortly. Time to prepare for Easter!

Choir practice for February will be on the following nights: February 4 at 6:30 pm; February 11 at 6:30pm; February 18 at 6:30 pm; there will be no choir practice February 25th, due to the Ash Wednesday Worship Service. We will begin working on Easter music on February 11.

Closing Response for the month of February can be found on page 586 in our hymnal. It is an "Amen" that is a good old stand by and the words are very easy (just a little humor intended).

Anthems for February have all been picked by the choir. They are all familiar ones; some we have not sung in a long time and some we could sing all most every Sunday! We will begin working on Easter music on February 11. I plan to have music selected for all of March, April (including Easter), and May by that time. We will be busy little bees in February and March!

We hold Aleyene Watkins and her family in our prayers and hearts as they travel through this part of life's journey of grief. We hope to have Aleyene back in choir whenever she feels the time is right.

We also hold Mary Botkin, Scott Glenn, and Bobbie Farrell in our prayers and hearts. We pray for healing for all. We also hold all past and present choir members in our hearts. We miss you all.

May the Good Lord watch between you and me while we are absent one from the other!

Pat Petty and Choir



We will once again begin our Lenten Season with our Ash Wednesday worship service, Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday [is] the beginning of Lent - and the church does a strange thing on this day. For those who desire it, we place ashes on their foreheads as we say, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return." Sounds like the ultimate reductionist view: Humanity is nothing but dust. So what is the insight here, and what more is there to say?

Ash Wednesday is a wake-up call. Ash Wednesday hits us squarely between the eyes, forcing us to face mortality and sinfulness. We hear Scripture readings that are urgent and vivid. We have black ashes rubbed into our foreheads. We recite a Litany of Penitence that takes our breath away, or should. It is a tough day, but take heart! This is one religious day that won't fall into the clutches of retailers. There aren't any Hallmark cards celebrating sin and death; no shop windows are decked out with sackcloth and ashes.

On Ash Wednesday we come to church to worship, to pray, and to ask God's forgiveness, surrounded by other sinners. Human sin is universal; we all do it. But our church tradition sets aside Ash Wednesday as a particular day to address sin and death. We do this mindful that "God hates nothing God has made and forgives the sins of all who are penitent." We are ALL sinners, no better and no worse than our brothers and sisters. This is not a day to compete ("my sins are worse than yours are"), but to confess.

Ash Wednesday is the gateway to Lent. We have forty precious days to open ourselves up most particularly to God, to examine ourselves in the presence of one who created us, knows us, and loves us. We have forty days to face ourselves and learn to not be afraid of our sinfulness. We are dust, and to dust we shall return, but with God's grace we can learn to live this life more fully, embracing our sinfulness, allowing God to transform us.

## **Care of Members and Friends**

Please keep these members and friends in our prayers...

Scott Glenn  
Bobbie & James Farrell  
Aleyene Watkins & Family  
Pete Marsh  
Leah Buckland & Family  
Rhodean Hopkins



