

*First Presbyterian Church  
418 West Coolidge  
Borger, Tx 79007  
~December 2011~*

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Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer

Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty



“Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us” (Luke 2:15, NKJV). O come, let us adore him – Christ the Lord!

# First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

December

Borger, Texas

2011

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## PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends,

The Christmas season seems to get more involved every year. Christmas is a one day celebration that has morphed into a two month extravaganza. It is only mid-November, two weeks before Thanksgiving, and my grocery trip this week was already accompanied by Christmas carols. As the Christmas season expands, so does the controversy surrounding Christmas. Every year we are treated to the debate of whether we can say "Merry Christmas" to one another or whether it is more politically correct in our pluralistic society to wish one another "Happy Holidays." This year to add fuel to the Christmas fire, the government has proposed a 15 cent tax on Christmas trees. The Christmas tree tax was intended to be paid by growers to provide them with funds to promote Christmas tree sales. However once the media got a hold of it, there was a flurry of chatter about how even Christmas is being taxed. All of this leaves us once again asking what is Christmas really all about?

As Christians we have a delicate balance to strike allowing ourselves to enjoy all the festivities while at the same time not losing sight of the reason we have Christmas in the first place. Here are a few suggestions for how we can keep Jesus as the center of Christmas.

# 1 Start your morning off or end your day with a time of Scripture reading, reflection, and prayer. If you already have a Scripture reading plan or devotional book I hope you will continue this through the advent season. If you would like to try something different for the advent season, I have copies of a free advent devotional book from Luther Seminary on the volunteers' desk.

# 2 Share Christ's love with others by participating in one of our church mission projects or by giving to others individually. This has been a very hard year across the globe with the economic downturn and so many natural disasters. There are many, near and far, who are in need of our love and care this Christmas season.

# 3 Give a spiritual gift to Christ. We tend to focus on love, joy, and giving during the Christmas season, but so often we pack these things away with our Christmas ornaments. This year let us seek to find ways to keep the Christmas spirit of love, joy, and giving alive in our hearts the whole year through.

I hope these suggestions help. I would love to hear other ways that you use to keep Christ at the center of the Christmas season. I hope everyone has a wonderful and blessed Christmas this year.

In Christ's love,

*Pastor Jennifer*

**Borger, Texas**  
**Stated Session Meeting**  
**October 20, 2011**

The Stated Session meeting was held in the church Conference Room, beginning at 12:20 p.m. with a devotional by Elder Petty and an opening prayer by Rev. Santer. Those attending the meeting were the Moderator, Rev. Santer, and Elders Phyllis Harmony, Harold Hebermehl, Julia Kasch, Pat Petty, and Jerry Pool. Elder Hazel Howard was absent. The treasurer, Pam Nicholas was also not in attendance.

**CLERK:** The September minutes were presented and accepted as amended with a motion by Elder Petty and seconded by Elder Pool.

Notable correspondence was reviewed as were updates needed on church records.

**TREASURER:**

The September finance reports were accepted by a motion from Elder Pool, seconded by Elder Petty.

After a discussion regarding the formal funding of the new outdoor sign, the general agreement was to use general funds as needed in addition to Memorial Funds (Jim Farrell). That motion was made by Elder Pool and seconded by Elder Petty. Motion passed.

**PASTOR REPORT:**

1. Rev. Santer noted that during the month she presided Scott Glenn's funeral, and attended the Quarterly Presbytery meeting. The welcoming party was also held.
2. The Stated Supply contract as revised was accepted by the Session and forwarded to Presbytery/COM for formal approval. The contract will cover the year 2012 and differs from the current one by a small salary increase and an additional week of vacation.
3. The Session will allow Rev. Santer to combine 2011 and 2012 Continuing Education budgeted expense (\$1,500). This will be used for a mission trip to Romania.
4. Rev. Santer will write a letter covering proposed disposition of the Sharpe funds.

STEWARDSHIP: Pledge Sunday will be November 20.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:50 pm.

## **Borger, Texas Called Congregational Meeting November 6, 2011**

The meeting was opened at 11:30 a.m. with a prayer by the Moderator, the Rev. Dr. Santer. Active members present exceeded the required 10% of membership. The objective of the meeting was to review actual expenditures and proposed disposition of the Sue Sharpe bequest funds. Rev. Santer reviewed the data as presented on a table she prepared. Members of the Session were to listen to congregation members regarding their position on the table handed out and possible ideas for disposition. (The table is attached for complete review.)

Slightly over \$72 thousand has been spent thus far. In summary, expenditures are \$12 thousand for Word at Work and related, \$5 thousand to Rev. King, and a bit over \$55 thousand for repairs and improvements to our buildings. We have also committed \$10 thousand for the chapel at the new hospital.

One element of the distribution would be investing \$100 thousand in the Amarillo Area Foundation. Documents outlining this organization were also handed out. The funds table covers a total disposition agenda.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am with a prayer by Rev. Santer.

## **What's on your list?**



A little smile, a word of cheer,  
A bit of love from someone near,  
A little gift from one held dear,  
Best wishes for the coming year...  
These make a Merry Christmas!  
—John Greenleaf Whittier

The Treasurer reported the following figures for October:

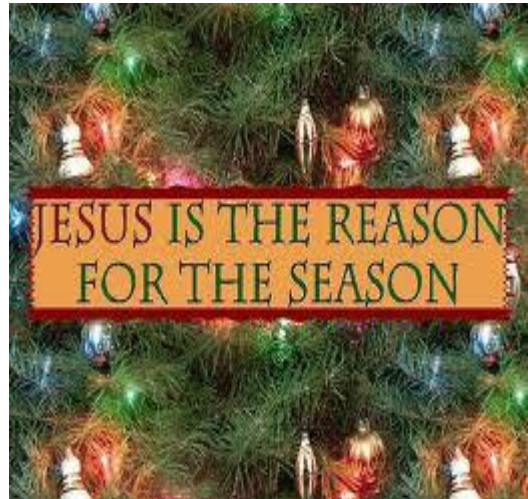
Total Income	\$ 4,677.90
Total Expenses	\$ <u>8,460.81</u>
Total	\$ (3,782.91)

Year to Date	
Total Income	\$113,557.84
Total Expenses	\$ <u>129,769.18</u>
Total	\$ (16,211.34)



**Care of Member and Friends**

Malnor Arthur  
Pat and Alice Harvey  
Hal & Virginia Hebermehl



**DUTY ELDER FOR DECEMBER**

**HAZEL HOWARD**

**SESSION MEETING**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2011**



## ***P.W. NEWS***



### **UPW news**

The praise dinner was a success as always. Thanks to all of you for helping in this effort which is a project of UPW. The total of our 2011 Thank Offering was \$ 287.00.

The month slipped up on me as it did on most of us and by the time you get this article in the newsletter UPW will have had our December meeting where we will study lesson 4 in the Beatitudes, "Greatly honored are those who are famished and parched for justice". We still hope we interest more of you ladies to join us for a very interesting study, made better because Jennifer helps with the lesson. Next meeting will be January 5.

Leah has always done this letter and we all miss her so much.

Phyllis Harmony

### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

11th: Marilyn Pearce  
14th: Chris Anderson  
16th: Scott Winegar  
22nd: Pam Nicholas  
Caleb Santer  
30th: Nancy Gilliam



### **DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

15th: Robert and Debbie Winegar



## **What to give?**

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To an opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To a customer, service.

To all men, charity.

To every child, a good example.

To yourself, respect.

—Oren Arnold

## **Special Dates**

**Second Sunday of Advent, December 4, 2011**

**Third Sunday of Advent, December 11, 2011**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18, 2011**

**First day of winter, December 22, 2011**

**Christmas Eve, December 24, 2011    Service at 7:00 P.M.**

**Christmas Day, December 25, 2011    Service at 10:00 A.M.**

**New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2011**

## **Thank You Messages**

**Thank you to the congregation for providing Christmas gifts for our Rainbow room family and for filling the Christmas bags for Helping Hands. Both organizations have expressed their deep gratitude for our assistance.**

**Hutch Cares:**

Acts of kindness warm the heart, soothe the soul, and make the world turn more gently. It's nice to know that there are still people who take such pleasure in doing special things for others.

Your contribution to Hutch Cares is greatly appreciated.

**Society Of Philippine Surgeons In America:**

On behalf of the Society of Philippine Surgeons in America and the Philippine Surgeons' Charities, Inc., I would like to thank First Presbyterian Church of Borger and the congregation for your generous donation to our medical and surgical missions to the medically impoverished and underserved people of the Philippines. Our Society has been doing these surgical missions for over a quarter of a century, with the help churches and organizations such as yours and our members and volunteers who give their time, talent and treasure for these humanitarian endeavors. Your generous gift will help in carrying out our surgical mission November 28 - December 5, 2011 in Calbayog, Samar, Philippines, one of the poorest provinces in that country.

Again please accept our heartfelt thanks for your magnanimous gesture.





## Notes from the Music Department



Christmas is coming!! Let the church bells ring!! And bells will be ringing on December 11, 2011. Our young people and Chancel Choir will be performing an anthem that will include bells. The kids have been practicing since mid November and are excited about joining the choir for an anthem. Please come and join us this Sunday !

Choir practice for December will be: December 7, 14 and 21. We will not meet on December 28. We will have our Christmas Eve service on Saturday, December 24 and will also have a Christmas morning service on Sunday, December 25, at the regular scheduled time.

The Opening Response for December will be “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”, page 9 in our hymnal. Closing Response for December “Angels We Have Heard On High”, page 23 in our hymnal. We will sing the refrain only.

Our thanks and gratitude go to James and Patti Watkins for providing us with music on November 20 during our worship service. And, thank you, Aleyene for making that happen. James is Aleyene’s youngest son. He and Patti have sung for us before many years ago and it was so wonderful to have them perform again for us. They are welcome to sing any time they visit!!

May the Good Lord bless and keep you.

Love and Grace - Pat Petty and Choir





## Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Scripture Reference December 2011

### December 4 (2nd Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 40:1-11  
Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13  
2 Peter 3:8-15a  
Mark 1:1-8

### December 11 (3rd Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11  
Psalm 126:1-6 or Luke 1:47-55  
1 Thessalonians 5:16-24  
John 1:6-8, 19-28

### December 18 (4th Sunday of Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16  
Luke 1:47-55 or Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26  
Romans 16:25-27  
Luke 1:26-38

### December 24 (Christmas Eve)

Isaiah 9:2-7  
Psalm 96:1-13  
Titus 2:11-14  
Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

### December 25 (Nativity of Jesus Christ/Christmas Day)

At Dawn:  
Isaiah 62:6-12  
Psalm 97:1-12  
Titus 3:4-7  
Luke 2:(1-7) 8-20  
Christmas Day:  
Isaiah 52:7-10  
Psalm 98:1-9  
Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)  
John 1:1-14

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)





## The Birth of Jesus

### Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.

But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"—which means, "God with us."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus. [\(KJV\)](#)

### Luke 2:1-14

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." [\(KJV\)](#)

## **The Visit of the Shepherds**

### **Luke 2:15-20**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told. [\(KJV\)](#)

