



# FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

JANUARY 2010

## PASTOR'S PEN

Not only have we begun a new calendar year, (I emphasize "calendar;" the new church year began on November 29 with the first Sunday of Advent) but we are beginning a new decade. Who would have ever believed that we would all be seeing 2010!!! Amazing - or at least I am realizing that I am getting older. But I am amazed at what we have accomplished through the grace of God and the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit in these past four years. **WE ARE STILL HERE!**

I often hear conversations about how small our church is, how elderly we are, and questions about how we keep going. I tell them that the answer is simple – God isn't through with our church yet and we are a faithful, stalwart bunch. Also, none of those things have (or will) prevent us from being God's people in God's kingdom on earth in the coming days and years. There is every reason in God's plan that First Presbyterian's ministry will continue and thrive in 2010 and beyond. Just as the Apostle Paul wrote:

*"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, or ashamed of me his prisoner. But join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God, who has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace." (2 Timothy 1:5-9)*

First Presbyterian Church did not begin when I became your pastor or even when you joined the church. It began before our time when other faithful people answered God's call to be the church and it has continued for all of these years because of God's intention. In spite of us, God has evidenced his continued and ongoing presence in this place. You have been the church even without a full-time pastor and I commend you for that. You are the true evidence that (while I believe that churches need the guidance and leadership of a minister part-time or otherwise) the real business of the church is done by you the people and God. What a combination!!!

This coming year we have a wonderful opportunity to continue being God's people. We have been given a generous gift from one of our former members, Quinta Sue Sharp. While I didn't know her, it is obvious that she thought highly of this church and of you. It is also interesting to think about her high level of trust in this church. We have been entrusted to extend the life of her estate through our ministry. She gave us a gift through which we have an opportunity to provide for others and for ourselves, but, we must also be alert to the responsibility that has been placed on us. I believe that's when we get down on our knees and pray.

At the end of this month, January 31, we will gather together on Sunday morning at 9:30 in Fellowship Hall to begin our conversation concerning 'the gift.' We will combine worship, annual meeting of the congregation, and the first gift discussion. I would anticipate that we will be finished by 12:00 noon or earlier. My hope is that we will use this time to look at who we are and who we want to be through prayerful consideration and in God's name. It is also an opportunity to celebrate our place in God's kingdom. We are FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH and we can be sinfully proud (as Marge Carpenter would have said) to be who we are and to have the possibilities we have for today and tomorrow.

God's blessings and my love for a fabulous 2010,

Georgia

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## Care of Members and Friends

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



**Mary Botkins**  
**Bobbie Farrell**  
**Robin Arthur**  
**Aleyene Watkins & Family**  
**Pete Marsh**  
**Leah Buckland & Family**  
**Rhodean Hopkins**  
**Scott Glenn**  
**Nora Sims**




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## Stated Session Meeting

November 15, 2009

The Stated Session meeting was held in the church Conference Room, beginning with prayer at 11:40 am. The following were present and constituted a quorum: Moderator the Rev. Georgia King and Elders Phyllis Harmony, Harold Hebermehl, Hazel Howard, Pat Petty and Jerry Pool. Elder Julia Kasch was absent. Treasurer Pam Nicholas also was present.

CLERK: Minutes of the October 18 Stated Session meeting were presented. A motion was made and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

### TREASURER:

1. The Wells Fargo Certificate of Deposit, worth a nominal \$16,000, expires at the end of November. The CD will not be renewed and these funds will be moved to the Pantex savings account.
2. The CD's representing the Sue Sharp bequest are not included in operating income but are shown separately on the financial statements.
3. The monthly financial reports were accepted.

### PASTOR REPORT:

1. Rev. King requested that she be called promptly concerning any items regarding the congregation or church operation.
2. She will be on call at BSA on December 6.
3. Treasurer Nicholas requested that she be notified regarding any substitute so that a proper check can be prepared on time to pay the individual.

### COMMITTEES:

#### PROPERTY:

1. One air conditioner unit motor needs replacement. The cost will be \$300 to \$400.
2. The parking lots need to be seal coated. Elder Pool will get a cost estimate for the work on the three lots.
3. There are some minor electrical circuit repairs needed.
4. The gutters need cleaning; this task will be hired out.

#### STEWARDSHIP:

1. Pledges received for the first Sunday total about \$20,000. Treasurer Nicolas will prepare a list of those who have pledged so that follow up calls can be made to those who have not pledged yet. Jim Farrell has agreed to conduct

the follow up campaign.

FELLOWSHIP:

1. Costs covering the Praise Dinner will be taken from the Memorial Fund. Presbyterian Women will receive a separate collection at the dinner.
2. The presentation given by Rev. Tim Tam was well received.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: All is OK.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Nominating Committee for Elders—Both Elders Harmony and Petty will complete their first terms this year. Both have agreed to serve a second, and final, term.
2. The Memorial books (in the sanctuary) have not been updated since 1998. These should be brought up to date. The Clerk noted that deaths have not been recorded in the Session minutes for many years. The Church Register will be reviewed to develop a proper listing. Also, local funeral homes and the newspaper are other information sources. In addition, a calligrapher will need to be hired to make these entries after the list is compiled.
3. Picture Directory—Rev. King has all the pictures in her computer and is about ready for printing. She will try to get this completed before Christmas. We will need between 50 and 75 copies.
4. Special activities for the Christmas season:
  - a) Advent is November 29. We will try to get the tree up and the large wreaths hung prior to the 29<sup>th</sup>. The congregation will complete the tree decoration after the worship service.
  - b) On December 20, we will schedule a Fellowship gathering before worship, with refreshments.
  - c) A Christmas Eve service will be scheduled.
5. Secretary replacement—Elder Hebermehl reviewed the process last year by which Amanda was hired. Ideas for inclusion in a newspaper advertisement were discussed: part time job; need a mature, self starter, and independent thinker with good communication skills. Elder Petty will look into hiring an interim secretary through the Madison Avenue organization, a local temporary service.
6. Rev. King suggested that we give Amanda a going away gift of \$500. A motion to that effect was made by Elder Pool, seconded by Elder Petty. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS: None

The next Stated Session will be December 20, 2009

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 pm.

## PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

*O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew commitment to following Your Son, Jesus. May it be a year of blessing, a time to cherish family and friends, a time to renew efforts at work, a time to embrace faith more fully. Walk with us, please, in every day and every hour of this new year, that the light of Christ might shine, in spite of my weaknesses and failings. Above all, may I remember this year that I am a pilgrim on the sacred path to You.*

*--Prayer from St. Agnes Cathedral. Rockville Centre, New York*

## Notes from the Music Department

Happy New Year to everyone!! I hope all of 2010 will be a very good year for us. I look forward to what God has in store for us. This will be a challenging year also as the Session moves forward with our gift from the Sue Sharpe estate. Please keep the Session in your prayers as they move through deciding what is best for the gift and for us and First Presbyterian Church.

Choir practice for January will be: January 7, 14, 21, and 28. We'll begin our practices at 6:30 pm as usual. We will begin working on Easter music as Easter falls early this year. If you have any requests, please let us know. I all ready have in mind what I would like to do but am very open to changes and requests.

Opening response for January and February will be "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place". This should be familiar to us now and most of us really like the song. Please join us every Sunday in this response.

Closing response for January will be "Joy to the World". It is one we have done quite frequently in the past and the words of easy. And we will have bells with this response. Speaking of bells, thank you all for helping to ring bells for the anthem on December 27. That just made my heart rejoice!! And be on the alert. Margaret may ask you again to join the choir and ring a bell for the closing response. Thank you, Margaret Edginton, for all your work in ringing bells and getting "volunteers" to help on December. Your efforts were most appreciated!

As always, we hold Aleyene Watkins and her family, Scott Glenn, Mary Botkin, Jim & Bobbie Farrell, and Pat & Alice Harvey in our prayers and thoughts. We continue to hold all our members in our prayers and thoughts as we continue on our life's journey. With God's help and our listening to Him speak to us we will muddle through life together.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen!

Pat Petty and Choir

## The Advent Candle Ceremony



This year the Worship Committee chose persons as representative of several segments of the congregation to light the candles. The grandmothers, Pat Petty (church organist) and Julia Kasch ( session member) first candle; the young people Shawna Lusk, Kirstie and Katey Kasch the second candle; the church choir Margaret and John Edginton the third candle; the congregation Nena and Larry Larson. Rev. Georgia King will conclude the ceremony on Christmas Eve. The candle holder was designed and constructed by Bob Kasch to fit the communion table and accommodate the large candles. The succession of the candles is: Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

*First Presbyterian Church  
418 West Coolidge  
Borger, TX 79007  
~January 2010~*

First Presbyterian Church  
418 W. Coolidge  
Borger, TX 79007-4818  
Phone: (806)-274-5331  
Email - firstpresborger@att.net  
Secretary: Lynn Garrison

Rev. Georgia King  
56 Prestwick Lane  
Amarillo, TX 79124  
Cell # (806)-206-0296  
Work # (806)-212-5357  
Email - Georgia.King@bsahs.org  
GeorgiaNKing@aol.com

Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty

