

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, Tx 79007
~February 2012~*

First Presbyterian Church
418 W. Coolidge ~ Borger, Tx. 79007-4818
Phone: (806)-274-5331
Email: firstpresborger@att.net
Secretary- **Silvia Rivera**

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer

Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

February

Borger, Texas

2012

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends:

February is the month of love and relationships. One morning on the way to Borger, I heard on the KLOVE radio station that 2012 is the year of the “good enough marriage.” At first glance, it seems to be a terrible thing to expect and accept a “good enough marriage.” Shouldn’t we always strive to make our marriage better? Isn’t it giving up on our marriage to simply say that it is “good enough?” However if you look at it from a different angle, a “good enough marriage” might not be such a bad thing. “A good enough” marriage is a recognition that marriage is not always going to be fireworks and romantic dinners. It is a commitment that our marriage is good enough to keep working on rather than giving up on when the going gets rough.

This idea of “good enough” isn’t just something for us to consider in our marriages, but in all our relationships with family and friends. Do we put effort into catching up with our friends on a regular basis or have we begun to take our friends for granted? Do we settle for so-so relationships with our siblings, children, and grandchildren or do we do the hard work of listening to and caring for one another on a regular basis?

“Good enough” could even be applied to our spiritual lives. Are we content with spending an hour a week with God or do we take the time through prayer and Bible study to get to know our Lord and Savior in a deeper way?

In this month of love, may we renew our commitment to all those we love from our spouses, family and friends, to our Lord and Savior.

In Christ,

Pastor Jennifer

Session Actions

Borger, Texas
Stated Session Meeting
December 15, 2011

The Stated Session meeting was held in the church Conference Room, beginning at 12:15 p.m. with a devotion and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Santer. Attending were the Moderator, Rev. Santer, and Elders Phyllis Harmony, Jerry Pool and Harold Hebermehl. Absent were Elders Hazel Howard, Julia Kasch and Pat Petty. Treasurer Pam Nicholas was also unable to attend.

CLERK: Minutes of the November, 2011 meeting were approved with a motion by Elder Pool, seconded by Elder Harmony.

TREASURER: Ms Nicholas prepared a series of comments regarding problems developing from the Session and her. These, along with the routine monthly financial reports, were accepted as presented. There was a lengthy discussion regarding the thoughts of some Session members and the Treasurer's comments regarding (appropriate) accounting procedures.

PASTOR REPORT: Rev. Santer will continue administering communion with visitations as useful or as requested. An Elder or Session member will accompany her on these visits.

COMMITTEES:

WORSHIP: Volunteers will be needed for Christmas Eve service readings.

PROPERTY:

1. The basement leak has been repaired.
2. All major repairs and upgrades have been completed and paid. Only minor repairs remain.
3. The idea to purchase the building next to the church has been dropped due to higher than expected costs for purchase and demolition.
4. The buckets used to hold the banners in the sanctuary have been replaced with lighter holders.
5. The bid to replace the sound system has not been received.

FELLOWSHIP:

1. A means to fund our occasional dinners is needed. Possibilities are a free will offering or a covered dish type meal.
2. A church member has provided money for the Rainbow Room family support.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The church secretary will get two days off at Christmas and one day for New Year's day.
2. Although Silvia has been employed for over a year, she was unable to take a vacation (as permitted by the by-laws) during 2011. Elder Pool made a motion to pay her for ten working days at four hours per day and at the current salary. The motion was seconded and passed. (Source of funds "as convenient.")
3. Staff salary raises were discussed. Per Elder Pool, Pat Petty, Music Director, declined an increase. A motion by Elder Pool and seconded by Elder Harmony was presented to raise the secretary's pay by \$1 per hour to \$10 per hour.
4. A Congregational Meeting is scheduled for January 8 to elect three new Elders to the Session. Four will be leaving—Elders Howard, Hebermehl, Kasch and Pool—as they have served two consecutive terms. The Session will be reduced to five members, unless an Elder is nominated and favorably voted at the meeting. Elder Julia Kasch will become the Clerk of Session.
5. Other dates include January 12—a visit by Charlotte Rhodes, a representative from the Amarillo Area Foundation; January 8—due date for reports to be included in the annual report; January 19—next Stated Session meeting; January 22--Annual Reports completed and available for all church members; January 29—Congregational Meeting.
6. A discussion was held whether or not to retain or sell our holdings in ConocoPhillips stock and the Texas Presbyterian Foundation account. This discussion was sufficiently involved that Rev. Santer suggested that further discussion be postponed to the January meeting.

OLD BUSINESS: None

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 1:45 p.m.

Date Approved

Clerk

Moderator

“Faith is a knowledge within the heart, beyond the reach of proof.”
—Kahlil Gibran

The Treasurer reported the following figures for December:

Total Income	\$ 6,418.46
Total Expenses	\$ <u>15,469.93</u>
Total	(9,051.47)

Year to Date

Total Income	\$189,269.83
Total Expenses	\$ <u>207,038.83</u>
Total	(\$17,769.00)



Care of Member and Friends

Malnor Arthur
Pat Harvey
Virginia Edmonds

DUTY ELDER FOR FEBRUARY

PAT PETTY

SESSION MEETING
Thursday, February 26, 2012

Pronoun shift

Society encourages us to focus on ourselves. The pronouns in the parable of the rich man indicate that he fell into this trap, too: “*He* talked to *himself*: ‘What can *I* do? *My* barn isn’t big enough for this harvest. ... *I’ll* tear down *my* barns and build bigger ones. Then *I’ll* gather in all *my* grain and goods, and *I’ll* say to *myself*, Self, *you’ve* done well!’” (Luke 12:16-19, The Message).

What a difference other pronouns would have made. The man could have asked, “What would you have me do, God?” He could have seen things as God’s, on loan to him to share with others: “This barn you’ve blessed me with, God, isn’t big enough for this harvest you’ve provided. I’ll share the extra with others, as you’ve commanded.”

And instead of taking credit himself, he could have offered praise: “God, you’ve cared so well for me. Thank you, Lord!”



P.W. NEWS



P.W. News

Our first Thursday meetings do surprise us sometimes. Our January meeting seemed like a surprise because it came so soon after the holidays. Now look at February, the meeting will be on February 2. We have fellowship, Bible study and even donut holes. What better way to start a day? We meet at 10 and welcome all who would like to study/fellowship with us.

Phyllis Harmony

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2nd: Christine Nicholas
25th: Charis Santer



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

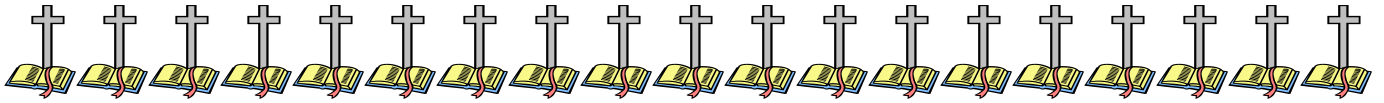
No anniversaries this month

Refocus for Lent

Give up complaining — focus on gratitude.
Give up harsh judgments — think kind thoughts.
Give up worry — trust God to provide.
Give up discouragement — be full of hope.
Give up bitterness — turn to forgiveness.
Give up hatred — return good for evil.
Give up anger — be more patient.
Give up pettiness — become mature.
Give up jealousy — pray for trust.
Give up gossiping — control your tongue.
Give up sin — turn to virtue.
Give up giving up — persevere.
—Author unknown

“If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant; if we did not sometimes taste of adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome.”

—Anne Bradstreet



CHURCH NEWS:



Office will be closed on February 20, for Presidents Day.



We have a new Address for Tom Edmonds he now lives at The Continental Apartments. His new address is: Tom Edmonds, 1300 S. Jackson St. Apt. 309, Amarillo TX 79101, Phone: (806) 337-5309



Flower Calendar:

The 2012 Flower calendar is on volunteer's desk for anyone interested in signing up to provide a special touch to our service of worship. If you would like to mark a birthday, anniversary, or honor a loved one, you are encouraged to do so. The arrangements come from Minton's flowers and Minton's bills the members directly. You can come by the Church and sign up or call the Secretary during business hours (806) 274-5331, and give Silvia the information and she will be happy to sign you up.



Alice Louise Harvey
February 10, 1924 - January 25, 2012

Funeral services for Alice Louise Harvey, 87, of Borger were at 1:00 p.m. Saturday at the First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer, Pastor officiating. Interment was in Memory Gardens Cemetery in Pampa under the direction of Minton Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger. Mrs. Harvey died Wednesday, January 25, 2012 in Borger.

Alice was a longtime secretary at Spring Creek School and married Pat Harvey September 22, 1950 in Borger. She had lived here since 1942 and was a member of the First Presbyterian Church. She was a member of the Alhambra Home Demonstration Club, The Ladies June Glenn Circle at church, the Book Review Club, several Bridge Clubs and the Borger Country Club.

Alice is survived by her husband Pat, two Sons Rick Harvey and wife Robin of Texline and Jay Harvey and wife Jeanene Smith of Austin, two Daughters Laura Evans and husband Max of Houston and Elise Myers and husband Ronnie of Coppell, TX, 7 Grandchildren and 7 Great-Grandchildren. Memorials may be made to your favorite charity in her memory.





Mail:



We received an e-mail from Sue Goodman:

Good morning,

I am very appreciative to the church for continuing to send me the newsletter. Please change my address in your records.

Sue Goodman
1001 E Washington #6C
Stephenville, TX 76401

Thank you very much,
Sue



Dear Partner in Ministry,

For the past several years I have been privileged to lead groups of various sizes to work with Casas por Cristo (www.casasporcristo.org) building homes in Mexico. We have built in Juarez and more recently in Acuna, Mexico, across from Del Rio, Texas.

We are planning a trip to Acuna for Spring Break, 2012 would love for any interested from your congregation to join us! I have included a flier about the trip in this message please feel free to share it through your newsletter or bulletin. (flier is on bulletin board)

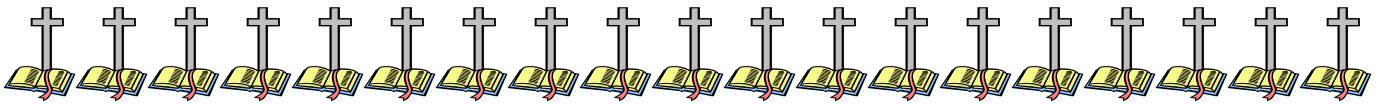
Westminster will limit the team number to 12 - right now we have 9 spots available. We are joining another church in town, so our total team size will max out at 24 - and we will construct a double (three room structure) for a family of six or more. Casas has this construction down to a science and all ages and abilities may complete the project. We would also be sharing the expense, making better use of the resources God has provided all of us for mission work. Most importantly, short term mission trips change the lives and deepen the faith of those who participate in incredible ways.

Please take a moment to go to Casas por Cristo's website: www.casasporcristo.org to see more about this ministry. Feel free to contact me with any questions! Our sign up deadline is February 5.

Thank you for prayerfully considering joining us in this good work. (Ephesians 2:10)

Blessings,
Mollie Fields
Ministry Program Coordinator.





Pack well



During Lent, as we focus on Christ’s journey to the cross, let’s also examine the journey of our lives. The first task when leaving on any adventure is packing. What have you placed in your bag? Are you weighed down with temptations, self-doubt, money worries, relationship troubles? Have you overlooked any important items? Maybe your bag feels too empty for the challenges ahead. Remember to pack mercy, grace and forgiveness.

Thanks to Easter, we know that our journey in Christ continues, even when the road becomes difficult. So as you prepare for Lent, carry with you the hope made possible by Jesus’ sacrifice on our behalf.

—Based on the “Journey to Hope” sermon series, www.rethinkchurch.org/lent

Wayside shrines:

Along European and Latin American roads, especially in Catholic countries, it’s common to encounter sculptures of Jesus, Mary or another religious image often set within a little shelter. People have erected these wayside shrines for centuries to mark an important event’s location, indicate a parish boundary or help a traveler find the way. They may be at crossroads, on hilltops or along stretches of open road. The shrines allow travelers to pause, offer prayers and turn heart and mind to God.

What places in your life serve as wayside shrines, encouraging you to turn to God? For many Christians, weekly worship is such a place. Daily devotional reading might be a wayside shrine for you. Could the “empty” time, not of your choosing, between jobs or other life experiences be a wayside shrine, inviting you to step off the road and rest, pray and listen to God? When you take up your journey again, heart refreshed, remember that God always walks with you.



February 2012 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

5th Sunday after Epiphany—February 5

5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isa. 40:21–31

Ps. 147:1–11, 20c

1 Cor. 9:16–23

Mark 1:29–39

6th Sunday after Epiphany—February 12

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:1–14

Ps. 30

1 Cor. 9:24–27

Mark 1:40–45

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 19

2 Kings 2:1–12

Ps. 50:1–6

2 Cor. 4:3–6

Mark 9:2–9

Ash Wednesday—February 22

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 *or* Isa. 58:1–12

Ps. 51:1–17

2 Cor. 5:20b—6:10

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

1st Sunday in Lent—February 26

Gen. 9:8–17

Ps. 25:1–10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9–15

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1





Notes from the Music Department



Happy Valentine's Day to all! It is February already. Before you know it, Easter season will be here.

Choir practice for February will be: February 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29. That is right – five Wednesday's in February. This is a leap year! We will begin to work on some new music for Easter even though Easter is still two months away.

The Opening Response for February will be "Holy, Holy" found on page 140 in our hymnal. Closing Response will be "Lift High the Cross" found on page 371.

How do you like having bells in church? I love it! It is really nice to have some wonderful talent in our congregation. Look forward to hearing them again!

May the Good Lord bless and keep you.

Love and Grace - Pat Petty and Choir

Special Dates:



- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, February 5, 2012
- Valentine's Day, February 14, 2012
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, February 19, 2012
- Presidents Day, February 20, 2012
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, 2012
- First Sunday in Lent, February 26, 2012



Oil

Two old friends met one day after many years. One attended college, and now was very successful. The other had not attended college and never had much ambition. The successful one said, "How has everything been going with you?"

"Well, one day I opened the Bible at random, and dropped my finger on a word and it was oil. So, I invested in oil, and boy, did the oil wells gush. Then another day I dropped my finger on another word and it was gold. So, I invested in gold and those mines really produced. Now, I'm as rich as Rockefeller."

The successful friend was so impressed that he rushed to his hotel, grabbed a Gideon Bible, flipped it open, and dropped his finger on a page. He opened his eyes and his finger rested on the words, "Chapter Eleven."

Learning from Peter's mistakes

In Mark 9:2-10, Jesus takes three disciples up a mountain, where his clothes become dazzling white and Moses and Elijah speak with him. Terrified, Peter starts babbling. He offers to construct three "dwellings" — presumably, worship structures. But Peter makes two common mistakes.

First, he fails to treat Jesus as the unique object of worship. Just as Peter would have worshiped Moses and Elijah alongside Jesus, we sometimes act as though money, work, another person or even church and Scripture are coequal with Christ. Obviously, family and friends are important, but Jesus is the only Son of God. The church and the Bible, though worthy of devotion, are only vehicles that bring us to Christ.

Second, Peter would have stayed on that mountain indefinitely. Spiritual highs are tempting that way. We resist going back "down" to daily life. Ecstatic glimpses of Jesus' glory are one way God strengthens us to continue serving in Christ's name.