

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, Tx 79007
~January 2014~*

First Presbyterian Church
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Thank you, Jesus, for your amazing gifts of forgiveness, grace and life surrounded and supported by your love.

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January

Borger, Texas

2014

Dear Friends,

As most of you have heard by now, I will not be renewing my stated supply contract for 2014. I am thankful for the opportunity I've had to serve you as a temporary supply pastor and as a stated supply pastor over the last three years. I have enjoyed getting to know each of you and ministering with you. However, at this point, I do not feel that I can commit to another year contract. If you have any questions, I will be happy to answer them. My prayers go with you as you step into the ministry God has called you to in 2014.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jennifer

Prayer for a new year



Lord, I give up all my own plans and purposes, all my own desires and hopes, and accept thy will for my life. I give myself, my life, my all utterly to thee, to be thine forever. Fill me and seal me with thy Holy Spirit. Use me as thou wilt. Send me where thou wilt, and work out thy whole will in my life at any cost, now and forever. Amen.

—Betty Scott Stam

The November Session Meeting was moved to December due to bad weather and minutes have not been approved by Session.

The Treasurer reported the following figures for November:

Total Income	\$ 6,089.94
Total Expenses	\$ <u>4,463.27</u>
Total	\$ 1,626.67
Year to Date	
Total Income	\$ 85,254.98
Total Expenses	\$ <u>74,849.70</u>
Total	\$ 10,405.28



“This is God’s universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world.”

—John Piper



Care of Member and Friends

Malnor Arthur
John and Louise Gillespie
Carlis Hooten
Teddy Buckland
First Presbyterian Church of
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR JANUARY

MARGARET EDGINGTON

SESSION MEETING

No Session Meeting In January



P. W. NEWS



Our January meeting will be January 2, weather permitting. Since we could not meet in December, lessons 4 and 5 will be covered at this meeting. Lesson 4 is Passing Through the Waters and lesson 5 is God Provides.

Phyllis

Special dates

- New Year's Day, *January 1, 2014*
- Epiphany, *January 6, 2014*
- Baptism of the Lord, *January 12, 2014*
- Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Observance, *January 20, 2014*
- Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, *January 18-25, 2014*

For everything a season

Wanting his sons to learn not to judge too quickly, a man sent each, in turn, on a quest to look at a pear tree far away and report what he saw. The first son went in winter, the second in spring, the third in summer and the fourth in fall. Finally, the father gathered the young men together. "What did you see?" he asked.

The first son reported seeing an ugly tree, bent and lifeless. The second disagreed, saying it was budding with fresh new life. The third son reported finding a tree laden with sweet-smelling, beautiful blossoms, while the fourth insisted it drooped with ripe fruit.

The father said his sons were all correct, for they'd seen the same tree, though at different seasons of its life. "Don't judge a tree — or a person — based on just one season of life," he counseled his children. "Who they are can only be known at the end, when all life's seasons have been lived.

"Furthermore," he added, "don't give up on your own life if you experience a hard season, such as winter, or you'll miss out on the renewal of spring, the joy of summer, the fulfillment of autumn."

Resolutions

American theologian Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) became focused on his life's purpose at age 19. The result was 70 resolutions, or commitments, he wrote down and then read every week for 35 years until his death.

Some of those resolutions include:

- To live with all my might while I do live.
- To study the Scriptures ... steadily, constantly and frequently.
- Never to lose one moment of time.
- Never to do anything which I should despise or think meanly of in another.
- Never to do anything out of revenge.
- To let there be something of benevolence in all that I speak.
- Never to do anything which I should be afraid to do if it were the last hour of my life.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4th: Hazel Howard
5th: Patty Kasch
11th: Virginia Edmonds
14th: Rose Lusk
18th: Phyllis Harmony
19th: Louise Gillespie
23rd: Tye Anderson
29th: Ethel Marsh



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3RD: Carroll and Rosa Pace

Humor to break up the winter blahs

- Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.
- Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited ... until you try to sit in their pew.
- People are funny: They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
- Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Working for God on earth doesn't pay much, but his retirement plan is out of this world.



Session Connection:

Julia Kasch	Clerk Of Session/Administration/Property
Sue Hooten	Fellowship
Hazel Howard	Christian Education
Phyllis Harmony	Worship




HI-PLAINS HELPING HANDS DONATION:

Items needed: **Food:** Crackers, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Tuna Helper, Spaghetti, Cereal, Rice, Pinto Beans, Canned Meats and Peanut Butter, mixed vegetable cans.


Non-Food Items: Laundry detergent, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Dishwashing Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes.




Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on January 19th following worship. The Annual Report will be available at this time.




Sue Hooten and the Fellowship committee would like to thank everyone who helped with Pastor Jennifer's farewell Reception.



Thank you for the cards and gifts that were given to me. It is a pleasure to work in a loving Christian environment. (Silvia Rivera – Church Secretary)



The 2014 Duty Roster/Member Roster is on the volunteers desk, please sign up to help perform duties for the church on Sundays.



The Cookie Sign-up sheet is on the volunteer desk for anyone interested in bringing cookies for fellowship on Sunday mornings.

Passing the test

Samuel Stokes, a missionary who worked with lepers in India in the early 1900s, walked through the Punjab region with only a water bottle and a blanket. He depended wholly on the hospitality of the region's residents.

In one village, Stokes received a particularly hostile reception. Village leaders sat in chairs in a circle, leaving Stokes sitting on the floor the entire evening. When he asked if he might teach them and nurse their sick, they hurled insults at him. Stokes offered no reply.

Finally, the men gave the missionary some stale bread crusts in a dirty bowl. Stokes thanked them and ate. This scene repeated itself for two days. But then on the third day, the top village official laid his turban at Stokes' feet as a sign of respect. "We'd heard that Jesus' disciples were commanded to love their enemies," the man said, "and we decided to put you to the test."

Having seen Jesus' love in action through Stokes, the amazed villagers found him credible. They served him a rich feast and listened eagerly to his teachings.

Mission Opportunity

Do you have....

tin cans
plastic coffee cans
milk jugs
cereal boxes
fabric
yarn
or other recyclables you are done with?



Satellite workshop has a special request for aluminum pie, cake, etc. containers

If you answered yes to the above question, then I have a mission opportunity for you. The Borger Satellite Workshop, which provides services and jobs for disabled adults in Hutchinson country, is in need of these items for art and craft projects for their clients. All you have to do is drop your recyclables off at the church. We will set up a box to collect these items near the Helping Hands basket behind the Volunteer's desk. Don and Sallie Thompson will see that these items get over to the workshop. Thank you in advance for your help.

+Christian Symbol+



Steeple

Steeple is a remnant of Gothic church architecture of the Middle Ages, marked by high open spaces and pointed arches that direct one's attention heavenward. Nowadays a steeple atop a church small or large serves the same function. Typically topped with a cross, it designates a Christian house of worship. Steeples sometimes double as bell towers, sending a call to worship out high above the surrounding land.

Where's your Ebenezer?

The words of the well-known hymn “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing” were written in 1757 by pastor and hymnist Robert Robinson. While most of the lines resonate with singers and listeners, the reference to “Ebenezer” may prove confusing:

Here I raise my Ebenezer;
Here by thy great help I've come.

In 1 Samuel 7:12, Ebenezer, Hebrew for “stone of help,” is what Samuel names a stone memorial he erects to God after Israel wins a battle against the Philistines. (Similarly, the name Eliezer appears several times in scripture, meaning “My God, [my] help.”)

If you were to “raise [your] Ebenezer” in memory of a place where God helped you, where might it stand? Maybe it's at the scene of a car accident you survived, or on a college campus where your faith was challenged or molded. Maybe it's a peaceful spot in nature where you sensed the Spirit's presence. Or maybe it's simply in your heart, where a figurative Ebenezer monument can remind you of the Lord's constant care and love.



**January 2014 Revised Common Lectionary
for Sundays and Festivals
[Year A]**

Second Sunday after Christmas Day—January 5, 2014

Jeremiah 31:7–14 *or* Sirach 24:1–12
Psalm 147:12–20 *or* Wisdom of Solomon 10:15–21
Ephesians 1:3–14
John 1:[1–9] 10–18

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6
Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
Ephesians 3:1–12
Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 12

Isaiah 42:1–9
Psalm 29
Acts 10:34–43
Matthew 3:13–17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany—January 19

Isaiah 49:1–7
Psalm 40:1–11
1 Corinthians 1:1–9
John 1:29–42

Third Sunday after the Epiphany—January 26

Isaiah 9:1–4
Psalm 27:1, 4–9
1 Corinthians 1:10–18
Matthew 4:12–23

