

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

First Presbyterian Church
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Secretary- **Silvia Rivera**

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer

Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

January

Borger, Texas

2012

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear Friends:

I hope everyone had a blessed Christmas filled with new memories that will be treasured for years to come. I pray that 2012 will be a blessed New Year for you.

Are you one of the millions of Americans that will be making New Year's Resolutions in the coming days? If you are, you might be interested in these unique resolutions that I came across recently. In 2011 Jeff decided that he was going to spend the year eating as many weird meats as he could. Some of the delicacies he has tried so far are insects and ostrich sandwiches. Gala Darling for her New Year's resolution decided to learn the correct scientific name for every flower. Finally, there is Colin Beaven who decided to try to have zero impact on the earth for one whole year.

If you are interested in more traditional New Year's resolutions, such as becoming more physically fit, you might be interested in the "My Fitness Pal" website that my mother introduced me to yesterday. After you plug your personal data into this free website it will develop a plan to help you maintain or lose weight. For example, "My Fitness Pal" tells you how many calories you should eat a day, tracks how many calories you have eaten that day, and rewards you with extra calories if you add exercise to your program.

As I was setting up my account on the website, I started wondering if anyone has considered creating the "My Spiritual Pal" website? This website could help us reach our spiritual fitness goals in 2012. For instance, it could track our progress in reading through the Bible. It could calculate how many times we have reached out to our neighbor this week. It could even encourage us toward the goal of tithing. Yes, I think a "My Spiritual Pal" website could be very beneficial for Christians. It would not only help us track our progress in meeting our goals, but it would also be a reminder of the many ways that we are Christ to the world each day.

In 2012, I encourage us all to consider making a spiritual resolution alongside our more traditional New Year's resolution.

Many Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Session Actions

Borger, Texas
Stated Session Meeting
November 17, 2011

The Stated Session meeting was held in the church Conference Room, beginning at 12:15 pm with a devotional and prayer by the Rev. Dr. Santer. Those attending the meeting were the Moderator, Rev. Santer, and Elders Phyllis Harmony, Harold Hebermehl, Hazel Howard, Julia Kasch, Pat Petty, and Jerry Pool. No Elder was absent. The treasurer, Pam Nicholas, was not in attendance.

CLERK:

1. The minutes for the Called Congregational meeting of November 6 and the Stated meeting of October 20 were accepted, with minor corrections, by motion of Elder Harmony, seconded by Elder Petty.
2. The Scott Glenn bequest of \$10,000 has been received from the Teacher Retirement System of Texas. The check will be deposited Today (11/17/11). In the financial records, it will appear in the Unrestricted Memorial funds.

TREASURER:

1. The Treasurer's reports were accepted by a motion by Elder Petty, seconded by Elder Pool.

PASTOR REPORT:

1. All requested gifts for Rainbow Room clients have been taken.
2. Gift bags for Helping Hand will be filled after church November 21.
3. Home communion continues as needed.
4. Rev. King called regarding internment of Leah Buckland's ashes. Teddy Buckland was arranging the private service to be held the Saturday after Thanksgiving.

COMMITTEES:

WORSHIP:

1. We will have a Christmas eve service, with Communion.
2. A service will be held on Christmas day (Sunday).
3. Elder Kasch noted that additional signups are needed for Advent programs.

Property:

1. After discussion, a motion was made by Elder Petty, seconded by Elder Harmony, that the Scott Glen bequest (\$10,000) be used to update/upgrade the speaker and sound systems. Left over funds will be placed in the Unrestricted Memorial account.
2. It has been suggested that the church look into purchasing the building adjacent to the east parking lot and tear it down. Additional parking space could be installed along with a flower garden area. The asking price for that structure and a second one near by is \$28,000. It was further suggested that we ask June Voigt or an associate to make an offer of \$20,000. A motion was made for Elder Pool to contact Mrs. Voigt to see what arrangements can be made. That

motion was by Elder Petty, seconded by Elder Hebermehl, and was passed. (Note that the total project cost would be considerably higher.)

3. A small water leak has appeared in the basement floor of the Education building. A further review of the piping system will be made after Thanksgiving to determine the source of the leak. The extent of the repairs will be reported to the Session at the December meeting.

FELLOWSHIP:

1. Elder Harmony noted the repayment of the Thanksgiving dinner.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:

1. Brochures concerned with the Christmas Joy offering have been received and will be distributed over the Advent period.

STEWARDSHIP:

1. The date for the annual meeting was set for January 29, 2012. Reports by the Session members are to be submitted by January 8. This will permit sufficient time to prepare the document and have it available by January 22.

NOMINATING:

1. A congregational meeting will be held on December 18 to elect new Session members. The Session will be lowered to five members for 2012.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. The church office will be closed December 26th and 27th. New office hours will be 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. all week days except Thursday which will be 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Motion by Elder Pool, seconded by Elder Hebermehl. Motion passed.
2. The \$10,000 contribution to the new GPCH will be taken from the Sharpe Capital Improvement and General Funds component. Motion by Elder Pool, seconded by Elder Hebermehl. Motion passed.
3. A representative from the Amarillo Foundation will make a further presentation at the January Session meeting.

BUDGET:

1. Changes made to the preliminary budget were reviewed. It was noted that it is possible that the sanctuary carpet will need replacement. A rough cost estimate is \$12,000. This item will not appear in the final budget.

The meeting was adjourned with prayer at 2 pm.

Date Approved

Clerk

Moderator

The Treasurer reported the following figures for November:

Total Income	\$ 69,293.53
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 61,799.72</u>
Total	7,493.81

Year to Date	
Total Income	\$182,851.37
Total Expenses	<u>\$191,568.90</u>
Total	(\$8,717.53)



Care of Member and Friends

Malnor Arthur
Pat and Alice Harvey
Virginia Edmonds

DUTY ELDER FOR JANUARY

PHYLLIS HARMONY

SESSION MEETING
Thursday, January 19, 2012



P.W. NEWS



P.W. News

It WAS December, so there were only three of us at the meeting but we had a good discussion of lesson 4. Jennifer is such a help with the lessons. January lesson is number 5 and we hope more will be able to come. We will meet and study no matter how few can attend. It is important that we do this.

Phyllis Harmony

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

4th: Hazel Howard
5th: Patty Kasch
7th: Rev. Jennifer Santer
11th: Virginia Edmonds
14th: Rose Lusk
18th: Phyllis Harmony
19th: Louise Gillespie
23rd: Tye Anderson
29th: Ethel Marsh



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

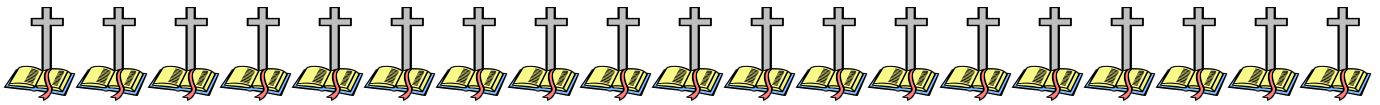
3rd: Carroll & Rosa Pace



Without fail

“I was once young and now I am old, but not once have I been witness to God’s failure to supply my need when first I had given for the furtherance of his work. He has never failed in his promise, so I cannot fail in my service to him.”

—William Carey



CHURCH NEWS:

Office will be closed on January 2nd.



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.



A Congregational Meeting for the purpose of electing officers will be held after Worship on Sunday, January 8th.



A Congregational Meeting will be held after Worship on Sunday, January 29th.



History of The Bells

Because everybody was not here when Malnor's husband died many may not know how we were fortunate enough to have bells. J.R. had asked before his death that our church should have bells and we have enjoyed them over the years even having a bell choir for awhile. It was so great to see and hear the children using the bells again.

Phyllis Harmony



Mail:

From NOROC:

On behalf of NOROC and Romanian abandoned, orphaned children including their retired adult workers, thank you for opening your hearts to their needs at this time. Your gracious, generous gift of \$5,303.66 will go a long way to continue NOROC'S presence in their lives. In most cases, NOROC is the only positive influence reminding each person that God is in their lives! As troublesome as is our economy Romania's is much worse. The timeliness of your gift can not be overestimated and is greatly appreciated..

Sincerely,
 Fred White (Vice President)



Thank you for the gifts and cards, it is a blessing to work for such a wonderful Session and congregation. God bless you. Silvia



+ Christian Symbols +



“Ecce Agnus Dei”

Latin for “Behold, the Lamb of God,” this is the phrase John the Baptist used twice to point out Jesus to others (John 1:29, 36). It marks Jesus’ Epiphany (manifestation, revelation) as the Anointed One (Christ, Messiah).

New mercies

Everyone seems to have at least one resolution that seems impossible to keep. And that can become very discouraging.

The prophet Jeremiah, who had his own reasons to feel down, wrote, “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:22-23, NRSV).

God refuses to give up on us. When we lose hope, when we fail and fall short, his mercy never runs out. Tomorrow is full of promise and our Lord’s unceasing love.



January 2012 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

1st Sunday after Christmas—January 1, 2012

Isa. 61:10—62:3
Ps. 148
Gal. 4:4-7
Luke 2:22-40

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isa. 60:1-6
Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14
Eph. 3:1-12
Matt. 2:1-12

Baptism of the Lord—January 8

Gen. 1:1–5
Ps. 29
Acts 19:1–7
Mark 1:4–11

2nd Sunday after Epiphany—January 15

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Sam. 3:1–10 (11–20)
Ps. 139:1–6, 13–18
1 Cor. 6:12–20
John 1:43–51

3rd Sunday after Epiphany—January 22

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jonah 3:1–5, 10
Ps. 62:5–12
1 Cor. 7:29–31
Mark 1:14–20

4th Sunday after Epiphany—January 29

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deut. 18:15–20
Ps. 111
1 Cor. 8:1–13
Mark 1:21–28

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





Notes from the Music Department



Happy New Year for 2012!! Another year has passed and now we begin a new year. What a wonderful way to begin the New Year by being in worship on Sunday, January 1, 2012.

Choir practice for January will be: January 4, 11, 18, and 25. We begin at 6:30 p.m. and usually finished by 7:15. We have such a loyal group of choir members. I thank God for keeping this little group as loyal as they are.

The Opening Response for January will be “Still, Still, Still” found in our hymnal. Closing Response will be “Joy to the World”. This response is from an anthem and is familiar to us all.

I will be evaluating the choir music that we have on hand and how to best utilize our old music as well as new music. I hope to order new music in the next few weeks. And I hope to include some bell music along with that. It was certainly nice to hear bells being rung in our church service again! Thank you to the Santer children and Margaret Edgington for all their work with the bells. Plan on hearing them again!!

May the Good Lord bless and keep you.

Love and Grace - Pat Petty and Choir

Special Dates:



New Year's Day, January 1, 2012
Epiphany, January 6, 2012
Baptism of the Lord, January 8, 2012
Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Observance,
January 16, 2012
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity,
January 18-25, 2012



Jesus, show us what we must leave behind to follow you; show us what talents and tools to use in sharing your good news with others.

Sometimes we come to worship carrying heavy burdens and unclean spirits. Jesus, assure us that you are stronger than our worries and sins so we may worship you in peace.

What *not* to take into the new year

- Self-help books – Trust in God first; don't turn to him as a last resort. (See Proverbs 3:5-6.)
- Tape measure – Consider only God's standards; don't compare yourself to other people. (See Luke 18:9-14.)
- Rearview mirror – Don't live in the past. You'll miss out on what God is doing in your life now. (See Philippians 3:12-14.)
- Gavel – Stop wasting time judging others. Instead, pray for them, help them and team with them. (See Luke 6:37-38.)
- Life vest – Don't be overly cautious spiritually. Peter experienced Jesus in a real way because he dared to step out of the boat. (See Matthew 14:22-33.)
- Garage-door opener – We think we're networked but often isolate ourselves. God intended for us to live in community with one another. (See Hebrews 10:23-25.)
- Handcuffs – Don't offer excuses about why you can't help out. God can do amazing things through – and despite – us. Just follow him, with no excuses. (See Mark 6:35-44.)

—Gregg McCaslin

Waiting to blossom

A 1979 song called “The Rose” (written by Amanda McBroom and made popular by Bette Midler) encourages listeners to keep the faith, even when the source of our hope isn't visible.

In the depths of winter, we especially need the reminder that beneath mounds of snow lie seeds already being prepared to burst forth “with the sun's love” into springtime flowers.

When you're in the cold depths of despair, grief, illness or other struggles, remember the deeply buried seed. Beyond your view, God's love is already tending that seed, readying it to blossom into healing, new friendship, joy and life.