



First Presbyterian  
MIDLAND

# Life

*news to grow on*

Edition 13 - February 2011

## Baby Boom

*Inside front cover*

Worship PAGE 1

Equip PAGE 2

Serve PAGE 5

Invite PAGE 7



*Dear Friends,*

## Celebrating 125 Years

Much has changed over the past 125 years: the automobile, the airplane, the space shuttle, the radio, the television, the computer, the Internet, the iPad, the telephone, the cell phone, talking pictures, and movies on demand. The last 125 years have seen two World Wars, the atomic bomb, the vaccine for polio, the HIV virus, and the heart transplant. Indeed much has changed.

What about in the course of your own life? What changes have you witnessed?

In the midst of all the changes in the world and in our lives there is one constant: Jesus Christ – the One who was, who is, and who is to come. Jesus was the head of the church, of this church, 125 years ago. He is head of the church today. He will be head of the church 125 years from now. The purpose of our church remains the same: to worship the God who calls each of us by name, and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. The way in which we worship may vary, the means of spreading the Good News may change with the times, but our message is timeless. Jesus Christ is constant. He is our foundation.

For the entire year we will celebrate and give thanks for our first 125 years of ministry, and we will look forward to our next 125 years as we seek God's will for our future. On February 13, Dr. Jerry Hilton will preach at both sanctuary services. Following the 11:00 services we will gather together in Lynn Hall for our annual congregational luncheon and meeting. At this gathering we will honor our retired pastors, and celebrate our history as we watch a special video put together by Spencer Starnes which includes church photographs, video, and interviews. Plan on joining us as we celebrate all that God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in the life of his church!

*- Mary Beth*



Cover:  
*FPC's Hannah and Julia Lancto,  
daughters of  
Greg and Nicole Lancto*

## Baby Boom Breathes New Life into Congregation

A statistical survey of the membership of First Presbyterian reveals that young families are tipping the church's population scales for the first time in two decades. Seventeen new births entering the nursery during 2010 have necessitated the hiring of additional caregivers, and the trend does not appear to be slowing, according to Taresa Kellogg, Nursery Director, who says she can scarcely keep track of the upcoming mothers' due dates without a calculator.

A Presbytery-mandated congregational census just published cites 256 young adults, or 18%, in membership and 66 children in the 0-3 age range, numbers that delighted elders at a recent Session meeting.

"When we returned six years ago," Pastor Steve Schorr recalled, "I was concerned about the church's age statistics. At that time, more than half the congregation was 65 or older." Today, he noted, we can be grateful to God for a healthy distribution of ages across the generations.

"My husband and I were not raised Presbyterian," said Kaci Morris, who, along with her husband John and 8-month-old son William, joined the church in December 2010. "But after visiting practically every church in Midland, we kept feeling drawn back to FPC. We saw that the Lord was really moving here, and we wanted to be a part of it."

For other young families, such as Jennifer and Scott Yeager, the Children's Day Out program was their entry point into the life of our church. "I'm a nurse practitioner," Jennifer said, "so the large churches with the over-crowded nurseries and caregivers constantly changing did not interest me. The nursery and CDO at First Presbyterian are small enough to be personal, yet they are every bit as professional as the mega churches. We joined because we thought it was the best place for our daughter, Hannah, but now we see the incredible benefits for us as a couple, and for our entire family."

Shel Goree Anderson, mom of Carter and Margaret Ann, found it natural to return to the church in which she was raised. "First Presbyterian has the best Children's Day Out in Midland," she said. "Hands down. This is where all the young moms want their children to be." Anderson and husband Paul agreed with the other parents that the pastoral staff has developed an attitude of warmth and humility that has trickled down to every staff member in the church, making it an easy place to feel at home.

Taylor and I wanted a church that our kids would be happy in," added Elizabeth Hunt, "and this has been a perfect match for them. I am at the church four days a week for various reasons, and my children love coming here. They pray for the caregivers at night, and my three-year-old son George wants to name our unborn baby after one of his favorite teachers!"



*The Paul Anderson Family*



## Prayers for...

**Prayers of Intercession are requested for** Jered Groner, Larry Mills, Annette and Dick Braun, Carolyn Sawyer, Margaret Purvis, Deanna Rutherford, Bill McIntire, Charles and Beth Priddy, Sarah Wyrick, Julia Lancto, Margaret Wheatley, Roger Elliott, Wyoma Whitlow, Maneeta Heckathorne, Dorothy Rodgers, Dick Prentice.

**Please pray for military personnel deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan):** Chris, Michael, Casey, Daniel, Carlos, Megan, Drew McKelwaith, Michael Wood, Chris, Miles, Aaron French, David Thornhill, Hank Hortenstine, Adam Graham, Tom Wolters, Mike Neu, Edwin Gaston, Matt Sullivan, Zach Frisbie, Eric Van Dyke, Kristian Kirkland, Jake Hall, Hunter D. Martin, Clayton Slover, Damon Darnell, Danny Wakefield, Dean Forest, Joe Banner, Morgan Cruthirds, Stephen Clayman, Justin Galan, Stanley Najjar, Steven Castellon, Michael French, Paul Finfrock, Charles Scott, Dr. David Shepherd.

## Congratulations to...

Diane and Josh Ham upon the birth of their daughter, Linda Lee "Lindy" Ham on December 29, 2010; sister of Davis and Andy; niece of Jill and Justin Ham; cousin of Emery and Carson Ham.

## Condolences to...

Becky Yarborough and her family upon the death of her husband, Blake Yarborough, on December 19, 2010.

Liz Russell and Lana Russell upon the death of Liz's husband and Lana's father, Jack Russell, on December 27, 2010.

Jessalyn Eschberger and Adelle and Paul Dowling upon the death of Craig Eschberger on January 1, 2011 (stepson of Jessalyn and stepbrother of Adelle).

Joan Baskin and Becky and Doug Ferguson upon the death of Si Ragsdale on January 5, 2011 in Hunt, Texas (brother of Joan and uncle of Becky).

Bettye Gemmill upon the death of her brother in Lubbock during the Christmas holidays.

Jerry McCutchan upon the death of his wife, Pat McCutchan, on January 9, 2011.

Janis and Ken Dickeson upon the death of Janis' cousin, Bobby Sanders on January 11, 2011 in Oklahoma.

The Musselman family upon the death of Shelly Musselman on January 18, 2011; sister-in-law of Melinda and Henry Musselman; aunt of Luke (Julie) Musselman, Louisa (Brendan) Fikes, and Molly Musselman.

Bertha Asdo and her family upon the death of her husband, John Asdo (FPC Maintenance Staff), on Wednesday, January 19, 2011

## Thank you for your nice letters...

Please stop by the information center at the Texas street reception area to read the thank-you notes we have received from Kerry Van Dusen, Amy and Brad King, Sarah Branum Porter, and Dick Prentice.

## Have You Considered Becoming a Stephen Minister?

First Presbyterian Church-Midland will be training another class of Stephen Ministers beginning February 15, 2011, with lunch at 11:30 am and class from noon to 1:30 pm. Stephen Ministers work alongside our pastors to care, encourage and provide emotional and spiritual support to people who are going through a difficult time, such as divorce, grief, hospitalization, unemployment, terminal illness, relocation, chronic illness or loneliness. If you have gifts for caring, and listening, please begin to prayerfully consider whether you might want to be part of this exciting ministry. If you think you might be interested, talk with one of our Stephen Ministry Leaders: Mary Margaret Davis, Suzy Boldrick, Andye Conly or Nancy Baker.

## Sunday Music Schedule for February

**February 6**  
**The Jubilate Singers will sing music by Scott and Lange at 8:15 worship, and the Sanctuary Choir will sing Rene Clausen's Set Me as a Seal at 11:00 worship.**

**February 13**  
**The Sanctuary Choir will be joined by the Lone Star Brass at both services in celebration of our 125th anniversary.**

**February 20**  
**The Agape Ringers will share their gifts at both services.**

**February 27**  
**The Sanctuary Choir will share Bob Chilcott's lovely setting of *The Beatitudes* at 11:00 worship.**



# Spirit Walk

## A Mother's Prayers Are Never Done

I have long lived into the age-old mantra that “a mother is only as happy as her saddest child.”

I don't mean the kind of sadness that trickles from trivial downturns like losing a game or making a bad grade on a test; nor do I mean the kind of frowner brought on by good, old fashioned discipline. It's when one of my children has his world rocked by heartache or rejection that I, myself, cry out on behalf of my wounded loved ones. This is, I think, the very nature of motherhood.

What is *not* so natural is to allow – and even watch – your child fall into a pit of despair when, as a mother, you could have orchestrated a circumvention of the entire situation. A modern proverb probably written by a sensible, 20th century American dad says, “Prepare your child for the road; don't prepare the road for your child.”

That, to me, is harder to follow than all the Ten Commandments put together! My maternal *mind* fully aligns with the notion of allowing my children to fail; but my maternal *instinct* is stronger, and it tells me to rush in and make things right. I am a master micro-manager with a death grip on happiness. God knows this about me, of course. And, much to my dismay, I have come to realize that the older my children get, the less control – or paving – I am able to achieve on their behalf.

**Just before the holidays**, both Caroline and Kyle found themselves separately facing harshly slammed doors in their lives over totally unrelated circumstances. I could hear the panic and heartache in Caroline's quivering voice on the phone, and Kyle's stoic silence was deafening. Both were entering the week of final exams, and it was easy to predict that their minds would be settled on the tests of life rather than on the academic ones before them.

What's a mom to do when nearly grown adult children are hurting? When the pain can't be soothed with a band-aid, and the rejection – real or imagined – cuts to the very soul? Pray. When it's all you've got, you pray.

I resolved to get up early the morning after my heart became heavy with both kids' sadness. With the inky morning skies of winter and frigid air beyond the coziness of my down comforter, I had, of late, allowed myself the luxury of arising a bit later, often forgoing my peaceful morning time with the Lord. After all, December days were full of shopping and parties and decorating. Getting ready for the Lord's birthday had worn me out!

But on this particular morning, I didn't need the incessantly whining alarm beside my bed to wake me, as my slumber had been uneasy at best. I tossed back the covers before 6 a.m. and barreled into the bathroom eager to clothe myself in the warmth of God's embrace.

As I was standing at the sink in the dimly lit bathroom waiting for the water to reach a civil temperature, the Lord whispered to me two simple words barely audible above the whoosh of the tap: “Remember Cassey.”

“Cassey?” I questioned. My dear friend who had turned her back to me almost 20 years ago?

Washing my face, I pondered the Lord's suggestion.

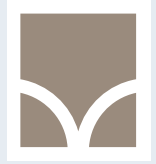
Drying my face, it became clear what God meant.

**“But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly”.** Matthew 6:6

(King James version)



**The Prayer Closet is there for YOU. PLEASE feel free to step in and close the door and PRAY.**



**You see, I had managed to make it all the way** into my early 30's before ever having to stare into the face of rejection. Oh sure, I'd had a few rough patches in my life – not making a dance squad or the teary break-up with a boyfriend – but never an outright, unexplainable purge of a friendship as I had experienced with Cassey. The wound was deep; the grief grueling.

In the midst of that period of pain, I had been asked to speak at our church's Women's Retreat. The chairman of the committee said that she had prayerfully considered who should address the group, and that my name had repeatedly come to her.

"But what would I speak about?" I wanted to know.

"Whatever is on your heart," she said with reassurance. "We aren't so much looking for a lecture as for a testimony about how God has been working in your life."

Well, I thought, that should be interesting, in light of my present state of utter sadness. Nonetheless, I agreed to the challenge, convinced that God would give me the words. So with the retreat several months away, I began to pray diligently and daily with a much more purposeful tact than ever before in my life.

About a month into my new routine, the Lord spoke to me for the very first time. Never before had I slowed down long enough, sought Jesus earnestly enough, or been in despair deep enough for Him to speak in a way that I could discern. I will never forget where I was sitting or even the way the sun cast its shadows on the couch that day. It was the dawn of new depths between me and my Maker.

The words God spoke that very first time gently equated the way Cassey had treated me to the way I had been treating my Lord – ignoring Him, not speaking to Him, flashing fake smiles at Him in public with no love behind them, too busy for Him.

He felt about me, I came to realize, the same way I felt about Cassey. He was as jealous for a relationship with me as I was for a relationship with my one-time friend.

**Now two decades later**, He reminds me about Cassey and I know with certainty that painful trials and rejection are often the surest way to Jesus' feet. Until we are hurt and broken, we may never seek His face. We may miss the gold at the end of the rainbow if we don't first walk through the storm; or if we escort our children through the storm with an umbrella.

I had to let Caroline and Kyle get wet.

In *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers wrote, "When God gets us alone through suffering, heartbreak, temptation, disappointment, sickness, or by thwarted desires, a broken friendship or a new friendship – when He gets us absolutely alone, and we are totally speechless, unable to ask even one question, then He begins to teach us."

In other words, the sooner I stopped hovering, the sooner God would be able swoop in and affect heart-change in my children. I remember Cassey, and I remember my first audible encounter with Jesus.

Oh, how I pray that for my children. Joy trumps happiness every time.

Thank you, Lord, for reminding me.

– Susan Atchison

## New Pictorial Directory Is Coming

It is time to begin work on the new church pictorial directory. A new and improved Olan Mills will be working with us to take pictures and print the directories. Photographers will be at our church during the month of April. You may sign up for an appointment beginning Sunday, February 13th, at church or you may make your appointment online (details to follow at a later date). FPC wants 100% participation as we celebrate 125 years!



Equip

## The Bridge “sermon only” CDs are available

Order forms are available at the church reception area or call Rhondy at 684-7821 to place an order.

## DVDs now available upon request

of 11:00 a.m. worship in the Sanctuary.

Cost of each DVD is \$5.

## Fear

What is fear?

Where does it come from?

Why are we so fearful about so many aspects of our life?

We are afraid for our kids, we are fearful about our safety, we are fearful about our future, we are fearful that our past will repeat itself and we will go through the same problems again, and the list goes on and on. But the question is: Why are we so fearful?...and why do so many Christians live in fear? In this four week class, starting Wednesday, February 2, we will explore these questions and concerns and discover how to overcome fears in our life. The class begins with lunch in the parlor. The cost of lunch is \$5. Ron Ellison, Education Facilitator for Hospice Midland, will be the instructor. Come join us.

# Mo-Ranch 2011 Women’s Conference

**Conference I: May 31-June 2**

**Conference II: June 3-5**

*God will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more: mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away.* Revelation 21:4

## Hope Beyond Tears: Mourning and Crying and Pain Will Be No More

If you have eyes to see this, you’ll find it everywhere. Suffering—whether it’s in our daily lives or the news—appears with unwavering regularity. So where does the promise of Revelation 21:4 fit in here?

Join us this summer at the 2011 Mo-Ranch Women’s Conference as we wrestle with the themes of suffering and hope through keynote addresses by The Rev. Dr. Martha Moore-Keish (Assistant Professor of Theology at Colombia Theological Seminary). Worship services will be led by The Rev. Dr. Ann Hoch (Pastor of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Fredericksburg) and Dr. Diana Greene (Executive Director of Worship, Music, and Fine Arts at First Presbyterian Church, Houston). There will be a generous offering of workshops.

FPC Midland is well-represented in the leadership of this conference with Karen Winkler serving as the conference designer and leading a workshop about her experiences working with Partners Relief and Development in Burma. Sue Stroman is on the planning team and will help with free time crafts and conference leadership. Associate Pastor Shannon Weisenfels will lead a workshop about balancing work, family, and spiritual life at the second session of the conference. Faces of Children Director Chris Laufer is serving as the 2011 women’s conference director.

We hope you will attend this conference next June at beautiful Mo-Ranch! A registration form is available on the FPC website, the Mo-Ranch website, and in the church office. Please contact Chris Laufer, [claufer@facesofchildren.net](mailto:claufer@facesofchildren.net), if you have any questions.

## From Mee to You

### Children’s Ministry Newsbrief

We had a wonderful Celebration of Jesus’ birth on December 19. A huge thank you to all of the volunteers and parents that helped assemble the nativities with the children!

This month has sped along at a whirlwind pace. I had the pleasure of attending the Children’s Pastor’s Conference this past week and hearing some topnotch speakers, such as Phil Vilscher, the creator of *Veggietales* and Alex Kendrick the producer/writer of *Facing the Giants*. They shared how God has worked through them. The participants of the conference were privileged to see the premier of *Courageous*, the next movie by Alex Kendrick. Save September 30 to go see this amazing movie.

If you LOVE books, do I have a spot for you! Call Mee at the church office 684-7821 for more information.

CLER will be offered to 5th and 6th grade girls on February 27 and to the 5 and 6 grade boys on March 6. Watch your mailbox for the information coming in February.

Also keep your eyes open for all of the wonderful 125th Anniversary activities during the rest of this year. There will be information coming out monthly about these events!

Blessings,  
Chrissie Mee  
Director of Children’s Ministry



# HOPE BEYOND TEARS

Mourning and Crying and Pain Will Be No More



## Loving through Prayer

Several years ago, First Presbyterian Church hosted a Renovare prayer and spirituality conference at which Richard Foster was one of the keynote speakers. Foster is an internationally known author and speaker on the subject of prayer. His book *Prayer, Finding the Heart's True Home* is a staple in the libraries of many folks, including mine.

Serving on the steering committee for this conference, I was able to meet Foster and the rest of the Renovare group and chauffeur them around town while they were in Midland. This group was delightful and kind, but something Foster did really speaks to his character as a disciple of Jesus Christ and it is a gesture I will never forget.

Foster and the Renovare group wanted to meet with and thank the steering committee at a dinner one evening before the conference began. I was driving the group in the church bus to a local Mexican restaurant and let them disembark while I figured out how to lock the bus. After exiting the bus, I noticed Richard Foster had waited for me. I expressed surprise that he had waited and he just smiled and said he didn't like to leave anyone alone in a dark parking lot. His thoughtfulness and humble manner moved me deeply. The next day, his thought-provoking words stirred me even more.

When you hear something profound that resonates in your soul, are you like me and want to capture it? That happened to me during this conference when Foster said, "Prayer is a way of loving another human being." I dug through my oversized, overstuffed purse, scrambling to find a pen, afraid I'd forget the words before I had time to commit them to paper.

**"Prayer is a way of loving another human being."**

That was a light bulb moment for me that day. "This is why we pray for children at risk!" I thought. "We love them through prayer!" Richard Foster was able to put into words what I haven't been able to articulate very well before. "Prayer is a way of loving another human being." We can offer our love to the children of our world through our prayers!

"If we truly love people," Foster says in *Prayer: Finding the Heart's True Home*, "we will desire for them far more than it is within our power to give them, and this will lead us to prayer. Intercession is a way of loving others... Intercessory Prayer is selfless prayer, even self-giving prayer."

"In the ongoing work of the kingdom of God, nothing is more important than Intercessory Prayer. People today desperately need the help that we can give them. Marriages are being shattered. Children are being destroyed. Individuals are living lives of quiet desperation, without purpose or future. And we can make a difference...if we will learn to pray on their behalf."

"Intercessory Prayer is priestly ministry," writes Foster, "and one of the most challenging teachings in the New Testament is the universal priesthood of all Christians. As priests, appointed and anointed by God, we have the honor of going before the Most High on behalf of others. This is not optional; it is a sacred obligation—and a precious privilege—of all who take up the yoke of Christ..."

Foster reinforces this when he says, "By means of Intercessory Prayer God extends to each of us a personalized, hand-engraved invitation to become intimately involved in laboring for the well being of others."

And, I believe, for the wellbeing of suffering children.

*-Grace and peace,  
Chris Laufer*

Serve



*Faces of Children...a ministry of prayer for children at risk  
www.facesofchildren.net*

*Faces of Children prayer group meets at 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the Bride's room at FPC Midland.*

## West Texas Handbell Festival

The Agape Ringers will be participating in the annual West Texas Handbell Festival, which will be held at First Baptist Church on Saturday, February 19. You are invited to join the ringers for the closing concert at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the music ministry office.



Serve

### Free Wheelchair Mission: We exceeded our goal!!

Thank you for your caring hearts and generous response to the Free Wheelchair Mission challenge of a matching \$10,000 donation! Your donations enabled us to purchase 559 wheelchairs and give more people the precious gift of a new life of mobility.



### MAAS donations make Christmas Merry

Midland/Odessa Area AIDS Support would like to say a Special Thanks to all who gave gift items and their time to our client Christmas party. This year we had approximately 120 attend, which included clients, as well as family and friends. It was a huge success and we couldn't have done it without your support.

A Special Thanks to the Prayer Shawl Group, Betty Ann Prentice, Pat Hunter, Leslie Kennedy, Sue Chanofsky, Kaye Sexton, Brenda McClure, Kerry VanDusen, Sarah Lew Grimes, Gayle Gililand and everyone else who helped make this all possible. The shawls were such a wonderful gift and the clients loved them. Many wore the scarves and hats out the door that very night.

### Be a Hero Now!!

You can be a hero by giving blood to someone in need.

FPC is having a blood drive on Sunday, February 27, from 8:00 am-12:00 pm in the Bride's Room.

Please call Rhondy at the church at 684-7821 to schedule your appointment time.

### Family Promise

Family homelessness is a reality in our community. However, help is on its way---FAMILY PROMISE IS COMING TO FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH!!

We at FPC are joining 16 other congregations within our community offering shelter, meals, and support services to families facing homelessness.

FAMILY PROMISE will begin in March at First Presbyterian and we will be updating you between now and our start date. Be praying about how God can use you in this incredible mission. Contact Pastor Walter Thompson at the church for more information.

### Jubilee Fund

Did you know that in the Old Testament law, God made provision for those people who had fallen on hard times? In Leviticus 25, God established the Year of Jubilee. Every fifty years, the Israelites would take one year to free all the slaves, give back all ancestral lands and forgive debts to one another. In this way, God ensured that everyone in the community was able to start with a "clean slate" in the Year of Jubilee.

In the same spirit as the Year of Jubilee, FPC has a Jubilee Fund. In 1986, the Jubilee Fund was established by an anonymous donor who wanted to respond in some way to God's goodness. The Jubilee Fund exists to assist those within our own church community who have fallen on hard times. While the Deacon's Fund is broadly focused on the greater community of Midland County, the Jubilee Fund is focused on our own church family.

The fund, administered confidentially by the pastors and deacons, has been able to extend the Lord's favor to countless people through the years. Since the fund is sustained by memorial gifts and donations, it depends on a "Year of Jubilee" attitude among the whole community to continue. If you are interested in contributing to the Jubilee Fund, please simply denote "Jubilee Fund" on the memo line of your check made out to the church.

### 125th Anniversary Choir

The Sanctuary Choir invites singers to join us for our 125th anniversary celebration worship services. The first of these will be Sunday, February 13.

Please contact Greg in the music office, 684-7821, ext. 139, or [gpysh@fpcmid.org](mailto:gpysh@fpcmid.org) for more information.



Invite



## YOUTH - Save the Date Mark Your Calendars!

### Spring Break Mission Trip

March 13-19, 2011

High school students will head to El Paso, TX to do some construction and repairs for local residents and hold a Vacation Bible School for the children of the community.

### Wilderness 2011

May 29-June 7, 2011

Current juniors and seniors will experience extreme discipleship in the "wilderness" of the Ozark Mountains in Missouri.

### The Great Escape

June 18-24, 2011

Current 6-8 graders will participate in a camp/conference experience with other junior high students on the campus of Western State College in beautiful Gunnison, CO.

### Fun in the Sun

July 9-15, 2011

Current 9-12 graders will participate in a camp/conference experience with high school students from all over the country on the beaches of South Padre Island, TX.

### Summer Mission Trip

July 24-30, 2011

Current 7-8 graders will serve various established mission organizations in Houston, TX in this new mission.

*Watch your mail for details about all of these wonderful trips.*

## Sunday School

All youth join us every Sunday at 9:30 am SHARP in Room 228 for Sunday School! We start out as a big group with fellowship and announcements and break into grade-level classes to dig into Scripture and life and how they intersect!

## JOLT

All youth meet together with guys or girls your own age in a small group environment where it is safe to share, ask questions, and simply "do life" as a family together. This is a great place to grow in your faith while growing in relationships with others.

Most groups will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 -- for details about your group, contact Becky.

## Junior High LOCK-IN

Junior high students come be a part of the fun Friday, February 4 at 9:00 p.m. through Saturday, February 5 at 7:00 a.m. The cost is \$10 and the night will be filled with food, fun and fellowship! Bring your friends and come hang out in the Family Life Center!



## Spring Break Mission Trip to El Paso

High school students are going to the colonias of El Paso, TX, March 13-19, where we will join the work God is already doing there through VBS and several construction projects. It is a week that promises a lot of sweat, great fellowship and an encounter with the God who is on the move! Prayerfully consider being a part of this amazing mission opportunity! Come be a part and you will walk away changed!

Interested? Sign up now through February 1st ONLINE at [fpcmid.org](http://fpcmid.org). Parents, we need you too! If you would like to join us, please sign up ONLINE or contact the youth offices.

Questions? Problems with registration? Need information, contact Todd or Becky at 684-7821.

## Super Bowl Party

Senior high students will hang together, eat, laugh, fellowship and maybe even watch the game!!! We will meet at McKenzie and London Edwards house at 3501 Trinity. Mark your calendar for February 6th starting at 5:00. Admission will be two cans of food for St. Andrews Mission. Don't miss it!



Invite

## Primetimers Events

**Tuesday, February 8 - Men's Lunch Out - 11:30 a.m.** We will meet at Lori's Cafe, 2201 W. Wall. Come for fun and fellowship with good friends.

**Come help put the St. Andrews Primetimers Mission project** together on Wednesday, February 9 at 2:00 p.m. in the Koinonia Room. The Primetimers have an ongoing mission project to help St. Andrews Mission. The items we would like to include are: toothpaste, toothbrush, bar of soap, hair combs, small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and hand lotion. If you would like to contribute any of these items for this project, please drop by the reception desk. Come help and plan to stay and watch the movie at 3:00 p.m.

**Relax and enjoy the Movie Matinee** scheduled for Wednesday, February 9 at 3:00 p.m. in the church parlor. The movie this month is Secretariat in which Disney presents an astonishing true story bursting with hope, heart and courage. Secretariat is the movie version of the life of the greatest racehorse of all time. Come see a great movie and enjoy the fellowship.

**Scrapbooking and Jewelry making and repair - Thursday, February 10 - 10:00 a.m. - Koinonia Room** - Bring your photographs to organize, crop or just visit about them. Come and work until 2:00 p.m. and we will pick up something for lunch. Joyce Watts will help with jewelry ideas and repair. Sharla Somers will show you fast and easy shortcuts to get your pictures in albums ready to enjoy. Nursery will be available. All ages are welcome.

**Tuesday, February 15 - Primetimers meeting** - The regular monthly Primetimers meeting will be held the third Tuesday of the month at 11:30 a.m. Lindy Tefteller, a Family and Consumer Science Agent, will share information on nutritious and healthy snacks. Lunch cost is \$5. See you in the Lynn Hall!

**Ladies Lunch** will be Tuesday, February 22 at 11:30 a.m. at Harvest Caffe, 2101 W. Wadley. This will be a dutch treat event with lots of opportunities for fellowship.

**Primetimers Lunch will be** at 12:15 p.m. on Sunday, February 27 after the worship service in Lynn Hall. We offer a splendid spread at the Primetimers Sunday Pot Luck Luncheon. Your ticket for admission is a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Or if you're not into heating up your kitchen, there's nothing wrong with something whipped up by your local grocery store. The church will provide the meat.

**The purpose of the Angels in Apron ministry** is to provide for a small fee ready to eat food in individual frozen servings. The March menu will be chicken cordon bleu, meat loaf, hearty breakfast, TexMex potato soup, and pistachio salad. This is an outstanding menu and you can place your order by calling Rhondy at the church office. Your order must be placed by Thursday, February 17. The small individual portions can be picked up and paid for on Thursday, March 10 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center area foyer. Please note the shorter pick up hours.

**Welcome New Members:  
Leonard, Candyce &  
Chloe Roybal**

### Rock and Read

*While the statistics for growth in our church are encouraging, the perfect model of a Christian family would be to see our older members volunteering to rock the little ones in the nursery on Sundays through the new "Rock and Read" program.*

*Brush up on your lullabies, Primetimers! More babies are on the way! Call Taresa Kellogg at the church if you'd like to love on our littlest ones.*

Share your memory of our church



*When I joined the church in 1952, the thing that struck me was the love that the people had for each other. Since that time I have seen God work in amazing ways through not only me but my family. Our granddaughter and her family are now part of this congregation and it is wonderful. The same love we experienced when we joined is now being experienced and passed on by my granddaughter and her family. We are blessed to be a part of the family called First Presbyterian Church of Midland.*

Mary Jan Thomas

### Last Chance to get your Memory into the Book.

Please send your Memory card to the church office by February 1st.

We have had a very good response and want you to be in the book.

If you would like to share another memory pick up a card at the front desk of the church.

It will be fun to see all the memories and share with one another.



## For Everything There is a Season

Our season to celebrate starts February 13th for lunch, a congregational meeting and insights into our 125 years as First Presbyterian Church. Don't miss it! Sally Green will have a history of the prayer ministry available. The photographic display should be up by the 1st of February. I will keep you updated on events and histories each month.

The decade of the teens did not see many changes, unless you count the changes of the pulpit. Eight different ministers in ten years! The reverends Anderson, Gribble, Kidd, Viser, Moore, and Foster were all called with A.P. Willis filling the pulpit when needed.

In 1913 a piano replaced the reed organ, in 1916 a new communion service was purchased and in 1917, to welcome yet another new minister, W.H. Foster, the church was painted and repapered all for \$130.00. What a deal! The Women's Auxiliary put in so many hours and money to prepare the manse that a thank you was written in the minutes of the Session.

In 1916 the annual salary for the pastor was \$500.00. Membership grew slowly but steadily. Mr. J.H. Nobles joined the church on February 24, 1918. Is this anyone's ancestor?

The decade started off slowly for worldly news. Maria Montessori published her method of teaching, *Pollyanna* was on the best selling list in 1913 and in 1919 the number one best seller was *The Four Horses of the Apocalypse* by Blasco.

For everything there is a season....a time for war. World War I took 100,000 Americans while the flu took an estimated 10 million world wide. This war was the first to use airplanes, that just the decade before were skimming over Kittyhawk. President Woodrow Wilson, son of a Presbyterian minister, felt it was God's will that he was elected. He campaigned so hard for his "Fourteen Points" for lasting peace, that it seriously affected his health. But Peace came in 1919, the flu ended, but the war to end all wars did not end violence, as that same year the race riots raged on in Chicago.

Not everything was bad. The first animated cartoon, "Gertie the Dinosaur", was made in 1914 The PGA was established in 1916, and the first Tarzan film hit the big screen in 1918.

In the next few decades, several familiar names appear. If you are related to early members, let me know!

One name that shows up in the 1930's is Sarah Link. Her daughters, current members Frances Matthews and Sarah Lew Grimes, raised their families here. Susie Foy, Frances' youngest daughter, shares a memory:

"Most of all my childhood memories have some association with First Presbyterian Church. I was baptized in the church and probably spent every Sunday and Wednesday night for 18 years at the church. There are several that are particularly poignant and vivid. My grandmother, Sarah Link, lived down the street from the church at 1411 W. Texas. Whenever I had the opportunity to spend Saturday night with her, we would get up early on Sunday morning, and it was always very dark. We would have breakfast and walk to church together. She liked early service because she used to go back home and make the most wonderful Sunday meals for the entire family: fried chicken, roast beef, amazing sides and always homemade rolls!

Another memory I have is when I was in kindergarten at church (1958-59). Sancy Harris and Mrs. Drummond were our teachers. One day we were so excited because they were going to put the steeple on the new sanctuary. We all filed out to the playground, where the church offices are now located, and watched this big crane begin to hoist the top of the steeple on the church tower. I guess something slipped because it crashed and fell to the ground. I don't think the steeple fell down, the crane fell down; it was really exciting and scary."

Thanks, Susie! Everyone get your cards in so we can enjoy these memories together!

- Sherry Bell



