



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND

Life

news to grow on

Edition 23 - January 2012



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**Worship Christ,
the Newborn King!**

ADVENT SCHEDULE PAGE 11

Merry Christmas from our Staff at FPC



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ADVENT: Come To Worship

Sunday, December 18..... 8:15 am and 11:00 am – Regular Sanctuary Worship & Bridge Services
Fourth Sunday of Advent..... 5:30 pm – “Round the Table Carol Sing”

Christmas Eve, December 24.....5:30 pm – Worship in the Sanctuary
 7:30 pm – Worship in the Chapel with Communion
 9:00 pm – Worship in the Sanctuary with Communion

Christmas Day, December 25..... 11:00 am – Sanctuary Worship Service

New Year’s Day, January 1..... 11:00 am – Sanctuary Worship Service

Epiphany Worship, January 4..... 6:30 pm – Sanctuary
 (5:30 pm – Dinner and Children’s Choirs begin)

Prayers for...

Prayers of Intercession are requested for Jered Groner, Bob Boone, Cris Kelly, Bob Bailey, Dick Prentice, Marcus Huffer, Becky Middleton, Gail Miller, Vicki Chase, Chloe Parker.

Please pray for military personnel deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan): Michael, Casey, Daniel, Carlos, Megan, Drew McKelwaith, Chris Miles, Aaron French, David Thornhill, Hank Hortenstine, Adam Graham, Tom Wolters, Mike Neu, Jake Hall, Hunter D. Martin, Clayton Slover, Damon Darnell, Danny Wakefield, Joe Banner, Stephen Clayman, Justin Galan, Stanley Najar, Steven Castellon, Dr. David Shepherd, Mason Jennings, Kyle Humphries, Justin Robinson, Josh

Congratulations to...

Kimberly and Liz Sanberg, parents of William James Sanberg, born November 5, 2011 in Minneapolis, Minnesota; grandson of Karen and Gary Lang and Kathy and Dean Sanberg; great grandson of Louise Lang; nephew of Garrett Lang; great nephew of Jennie and Lee House.

Condolences to...

Mary Anne and Gene Bartus upon the death of Mary Anne's brother, Charles Dozier, on November 24, 2011 in Florida.

Vicki and Kenny Miller upon the death of Vicki's father, Alvin Traylor, on November 28, 2011.

The family of Libby Jacobus (former member) upon her death on December 1, 2011 in Dallas.

Kay Bird upon the death of her husband, Charles Bird, on December 8, 2011.

The family of Vera Osadchuk upon her death on December 12, 2011.

The family of Evelyn Cowden upon her death on December 9, 2011.

The family of Mark Wilson upon his death on December 9, 2011.

Matt and Martha Manulik upon the death of Matt's father, Alexander John "Al" Manulik on December 3, 2011.

Thank you for your nice letters...

Please stop by the information center at the Texas Street reception area to read the note we received from Mike Kenyon, Pastor of Church Development for the Free Wheelchair Mission, and Decker Dawson.

Free Wheelchair Success!

Thank you all for your great response to the latest campaign for the Free Wheelchair Mission. Through the matching gifts, we were able to fund 2,420 wheelchairs! Each wheelchair gives the incredible gift of mobility and changes someone's life forever. Thanks be to God!

The Music Ministry is excited to offer two new opportunities for you to share your gifts in praise to God this year. If you:

Play/Have played/Haven't played an instrument since high school,
We have an ensemble FOR YOU!

Sing/Like to sing/Sang in high school/Sing in your car or other places,
We have an ensemble FOR YOU!

These ensembles, named "*Jubilate*", will play and sing at 8:15 worship and occasionally at 11:00 worship, and will rehearse twice a month during the Gathering (Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 pm) in the choir room. The repertoire will be anthems which will not only enhance our worship, but that you will be able to sing or play, regardless of your current skill level, in thanksgiving and praise to God.

For more information, please contact Greg at gpysh@fpcmid.org or 684-7821, ext, 139. Your prayerful consideration is greatly appreciated!

The Music Ministry Has a Place for You to Serve!

If God is calling you out of your "comfort zone", we would be honored if you would consider the Music Ministry to be a part of your faith journey. The many and varied opportunities for all ages to share your gifts can be found at our website: www.fpcmid.org/find-your-place/music.

Worship



Welcome New Members:

Price and Brooke Moncrief
Lucian and Nannel Wray

Traditional Worship Music Schedule for January

Jan 1

Carl Moore will be soloist at our 11:00 worship service.

Jan 8

The Sanctuary Choir will sing John Rutter's "*New Year*" at 11:00 worship.

Jan 15

The Sanctuary Choir will sing "*Psalm of Ascents*", a setting of Psalm 121, at 11:00 worship.

Jan 22

The Men of our congregation will sing at both services.

Jan 29

The Sanctuary Choir will sing Elizabeth Poston's "*The Apple Tree*" at 11:00 worship.

The Men of the Sanctuary Choir invite ALL MEN of the congregation to join us for a

Men's Chorus Sunday on January 22. Rehearsals will be Wednesday, January 11 and 18 at 8:30 pm in the choir room. For more information, please contact Greg in the music office, 684-7821, ext. 139, or gpysh@fpcmid.org.



Worship

Gathering Dinner and Epiphany Celebration

Dinner - Wednesday, January 4th
5:30 pm
Lynn Hall

Epiphany Worship Service - 6:30 pm
Chapel



January 6 is Epiphany, the day we celebrate the arrival of the wise men who followed the star from the east to bring gifts and kneel in worship to the baby Jesus. We will kick off the winter Gathering by offering gifts of fellowship, joy and praise to our newborn King. Please join us as we celebrate and worship together!



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

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

EOoCC (Early Onset of Christmas Commercialism) Blessings

I will take you as my people, and I will be your God. You shall know that I am your God, who has freed you from the burdens of the Egyptians. Exodus 6:7

“You come to me, O God! In fact, you are in the process of doing so right now. In this most blessed season of anxious anticipation, I await your coming once again—remembering the manger, celebrating your presence in my life, and hoping for your forever return. You come to me, O God! And not empty-handed. You bear rich gifts as you approach. Your arms are laden with **promises**, with **commitment**, with **covenant**. You aren't just passing through. You desire a relationship with me. You are committed to it. It is a commitment that will lead you to crude manger and cruel cross. It is a commitment that will change me and the way I love. You come to me, O God! I await you.”*

For the past seven or eight weeks, I've been hitting the mute button on my television's remote control with increasing frequency and annoyance. It started the day I saw my first Christmas commercial...waaaay back on October 18. Anytime a commercial popped up with a Christmas theme, I couldn't get to the mute button fast enough. “My goodness,” I muttered, “we're not even through Halloween or Thanksgiving. The beginning of Advent isn't for another month, for crying out loud! Is it really necessary to start this now?” The Early Onset of Christmas Commercialism (what I like to call EOoCC—try saying it out loud) grated on my not-ready-to-decorate/do-Christmas-cards/buy-gifts nerves. “It's too soon!” my numbing mind screamed, “Too soon!”

A wise friend often reminds me to give God thanks in all circumstances; to find the blessings in every situation. (He also remembers to duck when I throw things at him for saying that.) He is right – but please don't let him know I said so—EOoCC can be an opportunity for me to thank God for remote controls. OK, sarcasm aside, my friend is right to remind me that God deserves my praise in all circumstances, even the ones I label “annoying.”

It is my job to discover God's blessings in EOoCC. As each premature Christmas commercial hawks its wares, I can choose to remember that God comes to us; that God bears rich gifts in God's arms – promises, commitment, and covenant; that God desires a relationship with each and every one of us; that God loves us deeply, fully, eternally. Yes, EOoCC itself can be a blessing, but only if I choose to relinquish my remote control to a Higher Power.

Celebrating God's love and light in our lives,

Chris Laufer
Director, Faces of Children

**Stirring up Advent: Daily Prayers for the Season* by Peter Mead, from the writings of Roger Sonnenberg; Creative Communications for the Parish; Fenton, MO; 2008

From Mee to You

Children's Ministry Newsbrief

Here we are in the thick of the Advent Season. Christmas is upon us. I love the smell of a fresh pine tree. When we bring it in and decorate it with all of the ornaments; the memories flow out and cause wonderful conversation to occur. As you continue through this Advent and Christmas season, remember the reason for the season. Enjoy the time you get to spend with loved ones and make sure you let them know how much they are loved. Jesus was born for us! He is with us all the time. We forget that He is with us and that we are the ones that pull back from Him.

It is interesting the perspective that our children give to us when we try to look at life through their eyes, to see things as they see them. We see humor in some of the things that they find serious. We clarify when they misunderstand. We feel hurt and angry when they have been wronged. We don't want our children to be around others that are difficult to deal with and we want to protect them. Always pray for those who are less fortunate and those whom we don't particularly like. Yes, I know that is hard. It is also what God calls us to do. We forget that God loves the other person as much as He loves us. That He wants us to love one another, to pray for our enemies, to lead them to Him through our actions, words and deeds. How do we help our children live this out? We model the behavior of love towards all. Not easy for any of us. We talk to them about acceptable behavior and unacceptable behavior and how we are to show others that they are loved. A rule book didn't come with our baby, but God gave us the Bible to use as our guide for every situation in our lives. We need to remember to use it each and every day. Keep the conversations open with the people that we come in contact with, so that we can live out loving one another.

Merry Christmas!

His,
Chrissie Mee
Director of Children's Ministry

Winter Gathering Begins

Gathering dinner begins with the Epiphany celebration on January 4th followed by worship. Gathering classes will begin after dinner at 6:30pm on Wednesday, January 11. Watch your mailbox for the Winter in the Word brochure for complete details.

The Power of Forgiveness

- *What is meant by "Forgiveness"?*
- *Why do some people find it easy to forgive while others can't "let go"?*
- *What are the "three" factors in creating an unforgiveness?*
- *How do I know if I have really forgiven?*
- *How do I forgive myself?*
- *What if I am not ready to forgive?*
- *What does God say about forgiveness?*
- *What are the "three" elements needed to forgive "for good"?*

These are some of the questions we will answer in the six-week class **Forgiveness: Reclaiming your Power**. Many of us are told to forgive, but few of us are taught "how" to forgive. Forgiveness is the key to healing in your body, soul and spirit. In this class, we will explore proven ways to forgive yourself and others for good!

This class will begin Wednesday, January 11 at 11:30 am in the parlor and will run for 4 weeks every Wednesday. Ron Ellison, Bereavement Clinical Supervisor at Hospice of Midland will be the facilitator. The cost of lunch is \$6.

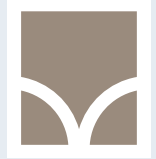


Tapestry will resume on January 5th, 9:15 am in the FPC Parlor with the study "Blessing of a Skinned Knee" by Wendy Mogel.

Come grab coffee and relax with other moms as we gather to study and encourage each other toward deeper life in Jesus Christ. All Moms are welcome!

Childcare is available for children kindergarten and under.

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 am worship in the Sanctuary.

Cost of each DVD is \$5.

"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.



Invite

Please join us for the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 12, 2012 at 12:00 p.m. in Lynn Hall for a delicious lunch and great fellowship as we elect our new church officers, honor our retiring officers, and begin our next 125 years!



Sunday School

Join us every Sunday at 9:30 SHARP for Sunday School in room 228! This is a great place to dig into Scripture and life and how they intersect. Bring a friend...bring 10 friends...and join some awesome, loving adults who are crazy about Jesus and you!

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.

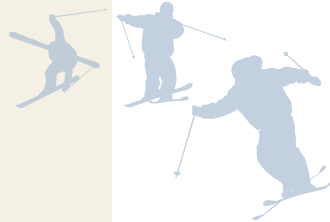
Most groups will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 -- for specific details contact Becky Holmes, 684-7821.



Mission Trip to Peru- High School Juniors and Seniors

June 3-13, 2012: High school juniors and seniors and adult sponsors will spend an awesome week in Lima Peru. We will be partnering with Buckner International and joining their ongoing mission efforts to orphans and communities in Lima and Cusco. We will do a variety of things that may range from Vacation Bible School to soccer tournaments to life skills training to medical projects all geared towards addressing issues present in settings of abject poverty. Almost all ministry projects will be highly relational so students will have the opportunity to make some wonderful new friends from a new place!

Registration dates will be Jan 22-Feb 4, 2012. For more information please contact Todd or Becky at 684-7821.



Ski Escape 2012

We are going to bring in 2012 in Winter Park, Colorado! The youth Ski Escape 2012 is December 29, 2011-January 1, 2012 where we will have a great time of fun, fellowship, and SNOW!!!

Coming Events

Spring Break Mission Trip to El Paso

High school students are going to the colonias of El Paso, TX, March 11-17, 2012 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!



Our annual church-planting mission trip to Uganda will be June 14-27, 2012. If you're interested in going or if you need more information, you can find an application on our website or at the reception desk. The deadline is quickly approaching, so please turn in your applications as soon as possible.

Call Pastor Walter Thompson, 432-684-7821 or e-mail at walter@fpcmid.org for more details.

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

Primetimers Events

Men's Lunch Out on Tuesday, January 10 - 11:30 am. We will meet at Lory's Cafe on the corner of Andrews Highway and Wall. Come for the good food, fun and fellowship with good friends.

Come help put the Primetimers Mission project. We gather on Wednesday, January 11, 2012 at 2:00 pm in the Koinonia Room. The Primetimers have a ongoing mission project. The items we would like to include are: toothpaste, toothbrush, bar of soap, 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 pm.

Come get out of the cold, relax and enjoy the Movie Matinee scheduled for Wednesday, January 11 at 3:00 pm in the church parlor. The movie this month is The Help. This is a worthy film based on Kathryn Stockett's #1 best seller. If you view only one movie this year this would be the best. Come see a great movie, stay for the Gathering meal and enjoy the fellowship.

Scrapbooking and Jewelry making and repair- Thursday, January 12 - 10:00 am - 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. All ages are welcome.

Primetimers Lunch will be at 12:15 pm 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. See you Sunday, January 22 for lunch.

Ladies Lunch will be Tuesday, January 24 at 11:30 am at Lory's Cafe on the corner of Andrews Highway and Main. This will be a dutch treat event with lots of opportunities for fellowship.

The purpose of the Angels in Apron ministry is to provide for a small fee ready to eat food in individual frozen servings. The February menu will be Chicken Normandy, pecan chicken breast, corn with cornbread, taco soup and celebration cherry 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, January 26. The small individual portions can be picked up and paid for on Thursday, February 9 from 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm in the Family Life Center area foyer.

FPC Men's Retreat

February 17-19, 2012
Warren Ranch, Coleman, Texas

A Weekend with Pastors Jim Houston-Hencken and Steve Wilkins.

Join with other men of our congregation for fellowship, study, worship, and recreation. The cost is \$125. Registration forms are available at the church office and online. For more information contact Jamey Lucas or Bob Kiker.

Thank you to the members of First Presbyterian Staff for their dedication and commitment. Congratulations to the following staff members upon their January anniversaries with FPC:

Taresa Kellogg	Nursery Director	January 1, 2001
Chrissie Mee	Director of Children's Ministry	January 9, 2006

Thank You from the CDC!!!

The Annual Child Development Center Bake Sale was a huge success. Thank you to all the members who made donations for the yummy goodies. The donations will be used to purchase equipment and supplies for the children. Your support of our children is always greatly appreciated. We hope that everyone enjoys their goodies, during this Christmas season. THANK YOU!!

The Poinsettia sale was a huge success! Thank you so much for supporting the First Presbyterian children's program, your generosity is a blessing. Merry Christmas!



Art and Music Classes

Spring Semester Music Classes Begin January 17th

Spring Semester Art Classes Begin January 23th

**Fine Arts
School
at First
Presbyterian
Church**



Artistic Excellence in a Christian Environment

Registration materials coming soon.

Contact Kathy Schorr for more information at 230-2042 or katschorr@suddenlink.net

First Presbyterian Church • 800 West Texas, Midland • www.fpcmid.org

Music

Suzuki Violin

with instructor
Aliza Bowcutt

Musikgarten

with instructor
Becca Sawyer

Piano Lessons all ages

Art with instructor Kathy Schorr

Art for Children

KinderArt

Art from A to Z

Adventures in Art

Art for Adults

Art 101

Art 201

Thanks to the tireless “chain gang”

Martha Holton • Vera Osadchuk • Gladys Nickell • Carol Craig • Jackie Perry • The church staff

Proofers

Sue Kerr • Marilyn Hightower • Tammy Smith • Harold and Carol Hughes • The church staff

Life Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the **second Thursday of the month** for publication in the next issue.

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