



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND

Life

news to grow on

Edition 16 - May 2011

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



1885-2010

125
YEARS

Annual FPC Picnic

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Dear Friends,

When was the last time you experienced a lull? I experience one every year around this time. There are four things in sports to which I look forward every year: the World Series, March Madness, The Masters, and Baseball's Opening Day. Three of those happen in the course of a couple of weeks at the beginning of April. But after that...after all the buzzer beaters, birdie putts and the anticipation of another year without a championship for the Cubs...silence. The lull.

Certainly, it's tempting for us to fall into a lull after the glorious Easter celebration. We've moved through the Lenten season with its devotional focus, the paradoxical rejoicing of Palm Sunday, the somber time of Maundy Thursday, the suffering journey to the cross of Good Friday, the pregnant pause of Easter Saturday, and the hallelujahs of resurrection on Easter morning! But then what?

In the gospel story, post-Easter was anything but a let-down. In fact, as you move through the Book of Acts, you see the gospel and the Church going absolutely crazy living the resurrection. Worshipping. Equipping. Serving. Inviting. Sound familiar? Shane Claiborne uses the phrase "practicing resurrection" to talk about the life that we are invited into on this side of Easter.

It is a life that brings light to dark places...life to dead places...healing where there is hurt...hope to the oppressed...love to the lonely...peace where there is war...the Kingdom of Heaven to places where the kingdom of the world runs the show. In our homes and families. In our schools. In our offices. In our book clubs and Bible studies. In our neighborhoods. In every place we find ourselves. Because this is what Easter means...new life and the perpetuation of it by we who have it.

In *Jesus Wants to Save Christians*, Rob Bell summarizes the call to us well:

"Jesus wants to save us from making the good news about another world and not this one. Jesus wants to save us from preaching a gospel that is only about individuals and not about the systems that enslave them. Jesus wants to save us from shrinking the gospel down to a transaction about the removal of sin and not about every single particle of creation being reconciled to its Maker."

So, as we move about on this side of Easter, let's not get sucked in by the lull. It looks like this is intended to be the hour in which we move with the most energy, urgency and compassion! Love God. Love your neighbor. Practice resurrection. After all, that's what Jesus saved us into.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Todd Wyrick". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Todd Wyrick

Prayers for...

Prayers of Intercession are requested for Jered Groner, Annette and Dick Braun, Beth and Charles Priddy, Roger Elliott, Dick Prentice, Florence Doss, Barbara Sledge, Jo Berner, Sue Kerr, Glenn Eisenberg, Mary Cochran, Lizz Russell, Chat Norman, Frances Matthews, Carol Hughes, John Webb.

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, Edwin Gaston, Zach Frisbie, 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, Paul Finrock, Charles Scott, Dr. David Shepherd, Tommy Brown, Mason Jennings, Kyle Humphries.

Condolences to...

Ruby Wurth upon the death of her stepdaughter, Cindy Wurth, on March 22, 2011, in Houston.

Lee and Jennie House and Charles and Ellen House upon the death of Lee and Charles' mother, Patty House, on March 27, 2001.

Paula and Frank Cahoon upon the loss of their grandson, Hayden Bowers, on April 2, 2011, son of Corrinne and Steve Bowers.

Susie, Drew, Abby, and Danny Anderson upon the death of Susie's father, Abby and Danny's grandfather, Chester Tyra, on April 6, 2011.

Harper, Dee, Jada and Andrew Estes upon the death of Harper's stepfather, Ed Maner, on Saturday, April 9, 2011, in Lubbock.

Tanya Godfrey upon the death of her husband, Charles Godfrey, on April 25, 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 received from the family of Tom Arnold and CASA of West Texas.

From Mee to You

Children's Ministry Newsbrief

I hope that you had the opportunity to see our choir teachers and children as they did a marvelous job in sharing the word through song and their play. Those who were able to attend were once again blessed by watching and listening to these children telling Daniel's story. It was very poignant to see this after concluding the sermon series on the Beatitudes, and thinking about the persecuted around the world. During the 11:00 service, as well as that evening, our children sang "Here I Am Lord". I find this extremely moving, especially when sung by children as they are learning more about their walk with Christ. As I looked around the congregation it was obvious that many of you felt the same. It is marvelous to serve our God! If you were feeling nudged by God to serve here at church, then I ask you to prayerfully consider serving in the Children's Ministry and continue to honor our baptismal promise of guiding and supporting our children.

Have you noticed how many summer activities are already flooding our emails, mailboxes and notes home from school? I know that you all must be already fitting everything into place. **Make sure that you have marked May 31st through June 3rd for VBS (4 year olds - those entering 3rd grade) and June 6th through the 9th for AWC (those entering 4th grade - 6th grade).** Make your summer start off with God in the lead! If you haven't received your information on these two wonderful weeks, please pick up a brochure at the church.

Look for the more information in other parts of this newsletter.

His,
Chrissie Mee
Director of Children's Ministry



Worship



Traditional Worship Music Schedule for May

May 1

The Jubilate Singers will share their gifts at 8:15 worship, and the Sanctuary Choir will share music by Handel and Willan at 11:00 am worship.

May 8

The Men of our congregation will sing for both services on Mother's Day.

May 15

Alexandra Black will play for 8:15 am worship, and will join Emily Gulick and the Sanctuary Choir for Mack Wilberg's lovely "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" at 11:00 am worship.

May 22

Sam Hart will be soloist at both services, and the Sanctuary Choir will sing Randall Stroppe's "The Call" at 11:00 am worship.

May 29

The Sanctuary Choir will sing Randall Stroppe's "Homeland" at 11:00 am worship.

Men's Chorus Sunday:

May 8

To honor the ladies of our congregation, we will be forming a men's chorus to sing on Mother's Day, May 8. The ensemble will meet for rehearsals on April 27 and May 4 at 8:30 pm in the Choir Room.

For more information, please contact Greg in the music ministry office, 684-7821, ext. 139, or gpys@fpcmid.org.



Spirit Walk

The Making of a Masterpiece

I am moved, inspired and awed by the singing of the Hallelujah Chorus every year at Easter. The song alone invokes images of angels on clouds encircling the golden throne of God, pouring out like water their honor, praise and glory upon our great King.

But what baffles me – having never sung in a choir or participated in any organized musical endeavor – is the confidence of the conductor and his uncanny ability to coordinate the performances of 50-some-odd choristers, many of whom have never once been directed by him. They file in from the pews, speckling the wall of red robes with pastels and brights, florals and stripes, and they know their role. They know where to stand and when to sing, all at the waving of a wand by the man up front who appears as confident as God himself that his angels will break forth in jubilant, harmonious melody on the proper cue.

The mystery of such orchestration almost makes me glad – almost – that I was not gifted with even a note of musical ability, because there is something sacred in the unfolding of beauty too intricate to understand. As the Lord so aptly reminds Job (Job 38) when he dares to question His sovereignty,

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation? Tell me if you understand. Who shut up the sea behind doors when it burst forth from the womb, and I said, ‘This far you may come and no farther; here is where your proud waves halt?’ Have you ever given orders to the morning, or shown the dawn its place? Have you entered the storehouses of the snow? Who cuts a channel for the torrents of rain, and a path for the thunderstorm, to water a land where no man lives? Who endowed the heart with wisdom or gave understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to count the clouds?”

Indeed, we cannot begin to comprehend the wonders of God’s creation. The Great Conductor, who never grows tired or weary, orchestrates all that exists – daily, mind you – to our amazement, wonder and delight. And just when I begin to wrap my head around the majesty of a God capable of such creativity and balance, He gives me a glimpse behind the stage. Behind the curtain. Into the greenroom of my very life and the unborn life of my daughter.

Almost 22 years ago, a precious puff of wriggling, gurgling pink was placed in my arms by a caseworker at The Gladney Center in Fort Worth. Craig and I had adopted a week-old baby girl, and through the tears of joy in that moment, the melody of her life began to play. What we never were able to fully consider, however, due to the confidentiality of adoptions in the 1980’s were the circumstances behind the composing of our baby’s song. Just a month ago, by the incredible grace of God, we heard the story and met the people who chose life for our Caroline, who felt her worthy of a tune.

On a beautiful spring day set among the bursting colors of life at the Fort Worth Botanical Gardens, we sat down with Caroline’s birthmother, Melanie, and her maternal birth-grandparents for the very first time. After hugs all around and no small amount of speculation as to the source of Caroline’s curls, what came spilling out was the story of her existence; of how she came to be and the orchestration of a God who had a plan for her long before her birthmother did.

With collectively moistened eyes, we listened as Caroline’s biological grandmother told of the sadness and disgrace the family felt at the news of her conception; of the roller coaster of emotions and torturing love after hearing her heartbeat for the very first time; of the heart-wrenching decisions that brought our baby into being.

“I rocked and cuddled you and sang to you after you were born,” the birthmother told Caroline gently. “I loved you so much that it’s hard to explain.”

But explain she did.

Seventeen years old with the secret of her suspected pregnancy held close in her terrified, young Baptist soul, her mother took her to the family’s pediatrician for a routine booster shot.

“Mom,” she said with a nervous smile, “I need to talk to the doctor alone.”

Curious, but not terribly concerned, her mother stepped out of the room, unknowingly allowing Melanie to inquire about the potential for damage to her fetus, should she be pregnant.

“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.



At this point in the story, I interrupt in utter amazement that a teenager would be so thoughtful and insightful as to even care about the welfare of the alien inside her that has the potential to turn her world upside down.

“But I knew that there was a little human growing in me,” she said, “and I have always been pro-life.”

The notes are being carefully and methodically placed on the staff lines by a Composer who makes Handel look tone deaf.

Grandmother picks up the story again, explaining that a close family friend who served on the board of Gladney offered to travel with Melanie and her mother to tour the campus for unwed mothers in Fort Worth. On the plane ride home, she said, after an emotional day of indecision and disbelief that her perky, otherwise healthy high school senior may imminently move from home to live with other pregnant teens, she found herself in no mood for small talk. Heart heavy, she turned her head towards the window of the aircraft during the boarding process, hoping to discourage any passengers from feeling welcome in the empty aisle seat beside them.

Undeterred, a 35ish professionally-dressed woman took the seat and inevitably struck up a conversation with Melanie.

“What brings you to the Dallas/Fort Worth area?” the stranger innocently inquired.

“Well,” Melanie began, to the chagrin of her mortified mother, “I’m pregnant, and we just toured The Gladney Center in Fort Worth to see if that’s where I want to place my baby for adoption.”

“Are you kidding me?” the attractive woman exclaimed. “I placed a baby for adoption at Gladney when I was just your age!”

The proceeding conversation, in which the kind woman told of her experiences and feelings about her baby’s adoption, left Melanie and her mother goose-bumped and convinced without doubt that God had sent a messenger to direct Melanie’s path.

As the passengers pushed forward to deplane, mother and daughter looked earnestly for their seatmate to offer their thanks, but she was nowhere to be seen on the still-crowded aircraft.

The words to Caroline’s song are being penned into place by the same writer who speaks the planets into motion.

Grandmom tells of Melanie’s high school graduation at Gladney and of the friends she made there. Melanie takes over the story, telling of her baby’s birth and of her intense desire to keep the child she now held lovingly in her arms.

“My parents offered to raise my baby as their own,” she told us matter-of-factly, “but I knew that would not be an ideal situation for a child,” Melanie, now 39, explained. “And the caseworker made it clear that they would be legally obligated to notify the birthfather of my new plan to keep the child, opening up the door for him to be back in my life.”

So, through gut-wrenching tears that would ultimately define Melanie’s life and mine, she handed her baby to the caseworker with the long-lasting whisper of a kiss, and drove home.

“Susan,” the caseworker said over the phone, “are you ready to come pick up your baby girl?”

The long-awaited moment had arrived. We had been mad at God and questioned Him and waited impatiently for Him to make us parents, one way or another. Now came the end of our tears; the end of our anguish and emptiness; and the beginning of our new life as a family.

The masterpiece is now complete and ready to be performed. The notes and words, the sharps and flats, the crescendos and decrescendos are ready for reality.

Before I saw in part, but now I see in full.

The Great Conductor makes all things beautiful in His time.

Enjoy the music!



Stephen Ministry Commissioning

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.

On Sunday, June 5, First Presbyterian Church will commission seven new Stephen Ministers at the 11 o'clock service in the sanctuary. These new Stephen Ministers are: Elton Cole, Carl Moore, Mary Rasmussen, Randee Rathbone, Vickie Rice and Al Spinks. These six people have been through 50 hours of specialized training in Christian caregiving and join a team of eight active Stephen Ministers at First Presbyterian Church.

Stephen Ministers provide confidential one-to-one Christian care to people experiencing a crisis or going through a difficult time. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with their care receiver for about an hour to listen, care, encourage, pray, and provide emotional and spiritual support for the person. Caring relationships last for as long as the person's need persists.

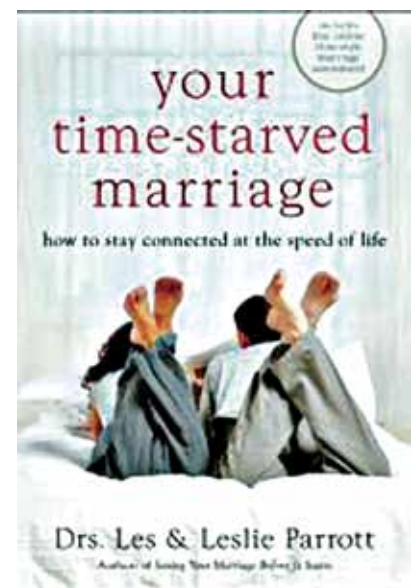
Stephen Leader, Suzy Boldrick, has conducted the classes this spring. The Stephen Ministries organization is based in St. Louis and serves more than 11,000 congregations representing 150 Christian denominations worldwide.

Please lift up our new Stephen Ministers in your prayers, asking that God bless their ministry and work through them to bring hope and healing to those they are serving. Pray also for the continued ministry of other Stephen Ministers. We encourage all Stephen Ministers (past and present) to be present to encourage and lay hands on our new Stephen Ministers.

Many thanks!
Grace & Peace,
Nancy Baker

Marriage Class Begins in May

“Your Time Starved Marriage: How to Stay Connected at the Speed of Life” begins Sunday, May 1, at 9:30 am, in Room 210. Join us for the Sundays in May as Drs. Les and Leslie Parrott help us reclaim our time and reconnect with our spouses. Everyone is welcome! For more about the authors and video presenters, check them out at www.realrelationships.com.





Hope...Help...Love... For the People of Burma

Saturday, May 7th, 2011

8 am—12:30 pm

Fellowship Hall, First Presbyterian Church

Reservations are not required but helpful.

- Continental Breakfast
- Update on happenings in Burma:
Free Burma Ranger teams and Partners
Relief and Development ministry
- Moderated panel discussion
- Praise and worship
- Prayer stations
- Exchange of ideas

Please call: 432-684-7821 or go to our website at: www.fpcmid.org

Nursery Caregivers Needed May 29th

We need your help! The majority of our wonderful caretakers in the nursery will be attending graduation for one or both high schools on Sunday, May 29th, leaving the nursery in great need of volunteers.

We need eight loving church members to help us hold babies, play with kids, and set up crafts during the eleven o'clock worship service. If you would be able to help, please call Taresa Kellogg at 684-7821, ext. 137.

Did You Know...

that the Apostle Paul wrote an opening letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 11:5), decreeing that a woman cover her head to symbolize her obedience to God and the church.

I am sure that Paul could not have imagined the flamboyance with which women would comply!

Let us continue the celebration with **“Ladies Hat Sunday”**, Sunday, May 8th.

What better way to honor those wonderful women who came before us!

Vintage hats, new hats, make your own hats! Don't be without one!

Thank you,
Ellen Bell

Book Fair

The preschool and CDO programs once again thank the congregation of FPC for their support. The Spring Book Fair was a great success thanks to people like you. The money raised will be put to use directly into the Preschool and CDO programs. Additionally, the book fair provided lots of fun and interesting books for the classrooms. Our children are blessed by your generosity. We sincerely thank you!

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.*

*“Rejoice always, pray without
ceasing, give thanks in all
circumstances, for this is the
will of God in Christ Jesus for
you.” 2 Thess 5:16-18*

Prayer Closet Ministry is
seeking someone who would
like to pray on Thursdays at
noon.

Please contact Bonnie Sanders
at 687-5179 or Carolyn Price
at 683-3390 if you are
interested.



Invite

Chuck Wagon BBQ

FPC Annual Church Picnic

The West Lawn of the Church
Sunday, May 1, 2011 • 5-7pm

Cost: Free

Bring a side dish or salad to share...and a dessert for our famous dessert contest!
Prizes awarded!

Carriage rides – Games – Musical Entertainment
Petting Zoo – Face Painting – Balloons



Antiques Roadshow or Show & Tell

In our celebration of our 125th year of congressional fellowship we are planning our ideas of having our own version of "Antique Roadshow" or "Show & Tell" during the coffee hour between services.

Given the size and constitution of our congregation, we know that there are untold numbers of interesting items sitting in your closets, attics, garages, sock drawers, and quite possibly, your purses or pockets! We would love to see if any of our members are interested in having an opportunity to show off those special items that you're particularly proud of or that you think some of the rest of us might not be familiar with. We would love to see old family bibles, photographs, or any item or collection that is special or that you inherited from your great aunt or uncle so and so!! If you have a particular story that goes along with your collectable, please include it too! We are excited to get a glimpse into the past and hear interesting stories about your collections.

Do you have a collection that spans several years or decades and would like to display it? Fantastic! Let us know what you have collected and maybe we can find some other church members who have similar items for our own "125th Anniversary Antique Roadshow"!!

Please contact:	Margaret Williams	margaret@rewilliams.com	694-1044
	Matthew Bell	mbell@kalpowar.com	559-9246
	David Stroman	dlstroman@yahoo.com	685-8586

Let one of us know if you would like to bring something; if we have enough interesting items to display, we will schedule a Sunday or two for our own First Presbyterian Show and Tell!!

Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast *Calling all veterans!!*

On Sunday, May 29, we will have a Memorial Day Pancake Breakfast to honor our veterans. So dig out your uniform to wear on this Sunday and bring your memorabilia to display in Lynn Hall. We will start serving at 9:15 am, so feel free to attend either worship service and stop in for breakfast.

Makeup Pictures for Directory

All of our scheduled times for taking pictures for the directory have now ended. Since our participation level is currently less than 40%, we will be offering makeup opportunities. For those who still need their pictures taken, times will be offered Monday, May 23, and potentially Tuesday, May 24, if needed. Please go online at signup.olanmills.com or call Marty Burns at the church office (684-7821) to sign up. The more participation we have, the more useful our pictorial directory will be, so please help us out!

AARP Driver Safety Program...

A one-day, four-hour refresher course for experienced motorists age 50 and older will be offered on Monday, May 9. The fee is \$12 for AARP members (membership card required) or \$14 for non-members. This includes the cost of the manual. The fee is payable by cash, check or money order at the beginning of the course and is not refundable. Upon completion of the course, each participant will be given a certificate which can be used to reduce one's car insurance for three years.

So come and improve your driving skills and save money on car insurance. The course will be 12:45 pm to 5:00 pm on Monday, May 9, 2011. If you desire to take this course, please contact Mary Margaret Davis at the church office. You will need to fill out a registration form by noon on Friday, May 6.



Sunday School

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



Do you have special memories of VBS as a child? If you would like to help make our Vacation Bible School extraordinary this year, but do not have the time to commit, then we have a special way you can help! Please be on the lookout for our giant VBS pandabear, Boomer. He will be covered with listings of grocery items we need to collect in order to make the snack time extra special. We would love for you to add one of our items to your grocery list next time you shop. It sure would help us as we prepare for a week of fun and exciting bible exploration at Panda Mania VBS ... Where God is Wild About You!

What happens when a pack of fun-loving pandas invade our church? The wildest VBS you've ever seen! Get ready to take a walk on the wild side, as we invite you to join us for PandaMania Vacation Bible School 2011...Where God is Wild about You!

The adventure begins **Tuesday, May 31**, and continues through **Friday, June 3**, from 9 am to noon. This bamboo blast is for children ages 4 by **September 1, 2011**, through those that have completed 2nd grade. Be on the lookout for registration forms. Wanting to volunteer and be a part of the fun? Please call Amber Crumpler 432-638-2658 or Diane Ham 432-631-2446. We can't wait to see you there!



Great Escape

Who? 6th, 7th, & 8th graders
(*grade as of May 2010*)
When? June 18-24, 2011
Where? Gunnison, Colorado
How Much? \$425

Register Online at www.fpcmid.org



FUN in the SON

Who? Current high school students
(*grades 9-12*)
When? July 9-15, 2011
Where? South Padre Island, Texas
How Much? \$400

Register Online at www.fpcmid.org



Mission: Houston

Who? Current 7th & 8th graders
(*grade as of May 2010*)
When? July 24-29, 2011
Where? Houston, Texas
How Much? \$300

Register Online at www.fpcmid.org

For more information about any of these trips, contact Todd or Becky at 684-7821.

Invite



CONGRATULATIONS! 2011 High School Seniors

Daniel Backry
E J Baldridge
Ariel Bell
Alexandra Black
George Clifton
Tripp Edwards
Coleman Floyd
Nelson Grimes
Emily Gulick
Adam Heck
Carson Hughes
Avery Klunick
Braden Miller
Abby Morrow
Cody Mulloy
Carole Anne Nelson
Claire Renaud
Hannah Riek
William Robb
Chloe Roybal
Lindsey Shannon
Eileen Small
Maddie Spinks
Seth Wilson
Will Wommack



Welcome New Member:

Sarah Staley

Children's Ministry Summer Intern:

*Love God
Love children
Love sharing the word of God with children*

Come talk to Mee, Chrissie Mee, if you are out of high school and interested in working with children this summer as a Children's ministry intern then call 432- 967-1488.

Primetimers Events

AARP's Driver Safety Program – Monday, May 9

The class is a one-day, four-hour refresher course for experienced motorists age 50 and older. The fee is \$12 for AARP members (membership card required) or \$14 for non-members, which includes the cost of the manual given to each participant. The fee is payable by cash, check or money order at the beginning of the course. The fee is not refundable. Upon completion of the course each participant will be given a certificate that can be used to reduce your car insurance for three years. So come and improve your driving skills and save money on your insurance. The course will be 12:45 pm to 5 pm on Monday, May 9. To fill out a registration form, contact Mary Margaret at church by noon on Friday, May 6.

Men's Lunch Out – May 10

We will meet at Tater World, 802 South Garfield, at 11:30 am. Come for great catfish, fun and fellowship with good friends.

Primetimers Mission Project – May 11.

We will gather at 2 pm in the Koinonia Room to work on the Primetimers ongoing mission project. 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 them by the reception desk. Come to help, and plan to stay and watch the movie at 3 pm.

Movie Matinee – May 11.

The movie this month is “*The King's Speech*”, to be shown at 3 pm in the church parlor. This was one of the Oscar winners for 2011. It is the true story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it. Come to see a great movie and enjoy the fellowship.

Scrapbooking and Jewelry Making/Repair – May 19.

Bring your photographs to the Koinonia Room at 10 am to organize, crop or just visit about them. Come and work until 2 pm. 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 Monthly Meeting -- May 17.

Lindy Tefteller, County Extension Agent, will teach us about easy gadgets to make life easier

when you find it difficult to do the normal tasks. She will be sharing her tricks. The meeting begins at 11:30 am in Lynn Hall. Lunch cost is \$5.

Ladies' Lunch – May 24.

The Cafe at the Gardens, Loop 250, at 11:30 am. This will be a dutch treat event with lots of opportunities for fellowship.

The purpose of the Angels in Apron ministry is to provide ready to eat food in individual frozen servings for a small fee. The June menu will be Italian chicken, ham and cheese sandwich, green bean casserole, chicken and rice soup and lemon 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, May 26. The small individual portions can be picked up and paid for on Thursday, June 9, from 2 pm to 3:30 pm in the Family Life Center foyer.

The Quest for the BEST Hamburger – May 26.

We will be going to Stanton Drug Store to check out their hamburgers! The minibus will leave from the church parking lot at 10:45 am. Call Mary Margaret at the church office to reserve your seat.

Wander the Hill Country – May 19 – 21.

We will visit all the stops you've always wanted to visit alongside the road, and maybe some you've never heard of! We will take Willow City Loop on our way to San Marcos. We will visit an animal park, tour the city of Wimberley, an olive orchard and shop at the discount mall in San Marcos with lots of interesting eating events. The cost for this three-day/ two-night trip will be \$120 per person, which includes your motel room and entrance to the animal park. This trip will fill up fast so get your payment to Mary Margaret as soon as possible to get your name on the list.

Hummer House – June 15.

Come with us to Hummer House in Christoval, Texas. All you bird lovers will love this trip. We will see and hear all about the hummingbirds, and the painted buntings will be nesting at that time. We will make a stop at the Chicken Farm Art Barn. We will have a dutch treat lunch in San Angelo and if time permits we will get in some shopping. You will need to pay \$5 for the visit to the Hummer House and lunch will be about \$15. Contact Mary Margaret to ensure you will have a seat on the van. The minibus will be leaving at 8 am.



Hope

In the history of the 1940's, World War II overshadows everything. Whether you lived through that time or have studied it, seen it depicted in dozens of movies or heard about it from your family, this event in human history has had a profound effect on us. Let us all remember those who served and especially the three men of our congregation who gave their lives for our freedom and way of life today.

In memory of these men, LT. JIMMIE BROOK, ODIE A. KELLY and JAMES MILES, may we never forget your sacrifice.

Bob Hope and many others traveled with the USO to entertain our troops all over the world. It was no accident that Hope was this man's name, and hope is what we needed.

Two months after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, First Presbyterian called the Rev. Hubert Hopper. Serving from 1941 to 1947, he led us through the war giving hope to all. War Relief was a line item in the budget. Reaching out to the cadets at the Bombardier School at MAF, the church provided a room on Saturday afternoons and Sunday nights for a gathering place. Early roots in opening the church to the public started the year before by inviting the young people of Midland for social entertainment at the new Sunday School annex one night each week, directed by Lynn Stephens.

In 1940 there were 303 and by 1949, 755 members. A few members joining at that time were: The LaForces, Sally Secor, and, by profession of faith, Sarah Lew Link (Grimes). Lee and Alice Park first joined on Nov. 9, 1941, moved away, and rejoined May 24, 1942. Alice just celebrated her 101st birthday. Happy Birthday, Alice! The fall of 1942 brought sad news to the congregation in the loss of Clarence Scharbauer, Sr.

In 1943, a young man, just out of seminary, was called to Lakeview Presbyterian in New Orleans, La. In the midst of the tumult in the world, God planted hope in preparing Rev. Franklin Ray Riddle to come to us in the future. In Washington, President Roosevelt died in 1945, bringing Harry Truman to the presidency. Hope for peace soon became a reality. Midland's peace was kept by Sheriff Ed Darnell, elected in 1941. He served the next 35 years.

The church was growing and voted to build a west wing for offices and Sunday School rooms. Christian education was a top priority. The first full time secretary's position was created and Mrs. W. H. Hester filled that position. At the end of 1944 and in 1945, a gift of the two lots in the northwest corner of the present site were donated by the McRae, Stubbeman, Hawkins, Turner, Adams, Wood, Abell, Link and Hall families.

More familiar names appear in the session minutes of new members: Mr. and Mrs. James Mashburn, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller, Mr. Lynn Durham, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Tompson, Harold Shull and Jo Ann Proctor, Mr. and Mrs. Newnie Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Thornton Hardie, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Parks (we also remember Mrs. Parks as Harriett Faudree Dublin), Mr. and Mrs. Jack Huff, Mr. and Mrs. George Van Husen, and T. P. Tarwater. Many infants were baptized here in the latter part of the decade, including Pat Tompson (Hunter) and Adelle Tarwater (Dowling). Watson LaForce's profession of faith was August 14, 1949.

Much to the disappointment of the congregation, Rev. Hopper left in 1947. During his tenure the church had grown by leaps and bounds and held each other together through the trials of war.

Who did God send? Matthew Lynn.

Midland High School broke ground as our neighbor, where it still stands today. Our church had just begun building on the new wing and membership was continuing to expand. With such need, First Presbyterian, under the guidance of Dr. Lynn, organized new Presbyterian churches in Midland that opened in the next decade. As war ended, the oil fields were drawing more and more employment and the people of this servant congregation were blessed. Hope was present then, and hope is with us now.



Jessalyn, Adelle and T.P. Tarwater



Summer 2011 Art and Music Classes

ART

Art Camps

Session 1 June 13-16 **Session 2** July 11-14

Session 3 August 8-11

Enjoy summer art fun using a variety of mediums.

Pre-K/Kindergarten (4,5,6 year olds) 9-10:15 am

Grades 1-3 (entering) 10:30-12 pm

Grades 4-7(entering) 1-3 pm

**includes all materials*

FPC art room, Kathy Schorr, instructor

\$55 per 4-day session*

\$65 per 4-day session*

\$75 per 4-day session*

Music Camps

Session 1 June 27-30 **Session 2** July 25-28 **Session 3** August 8-11

Music Makers Camp, Ages 4 – students who have completed Kindergarten 10:30 am-12:00 pm. Sing, dance, play bells, lummi sticks and boomwhackers. We will explore many instruments together and retreat to our tent for some camp songs. **Cost: \$60**

Music Adventurers Camp for students who have completed Grades 1 – 3 1:00-3:00 pm. Singing, dancing and music games will begin our class. We will explore instruments of the orchestra, learn to play bells and walk inside the largest of all instruments. **Cost: \$80**

Musikgarten Classes

June 22 – August 3. (No classes on July 6.) Summer term is 6 weeks long, and fees are for 4 weeks of classes to accommodate vacation times.

Toddler Class – ages 16 months – 3 years

Sing, dance, play instruments and develop skills in listening, taking turns, language development and coordination in this fast-moving class. Each child brings a parent or caregiver who is ready to play and share music with your child in a very special way.

Wednesdays 10:00 – 10:30 am.

\$32

Cycles of Seasons – ages 2 ½ - 4 ½ years

Sing, dance, explore instruments and how they create sound, improve listening skills, develop language and encourage creativity with music and movement. Parent or caregiver will be invited to join us for the last 10 minutes of each class.

Wednesdays 9:00 – 9:45 am

\$40

Registration deadline for all sessions is June 6, 2011

Register for one or all sessions – each session is unique. Class size is limited. For art class information contact Kathy Schorr at 684-6392 or at katschorr@suddenlink.net.

For music class information contact Becca Sawyer at 684-7821, ext. 127, 528-5982 or bsawyer@fpcmid.org

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