



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND

Life

news to grow on

Edition 21 - November 2011

Chap Clark:

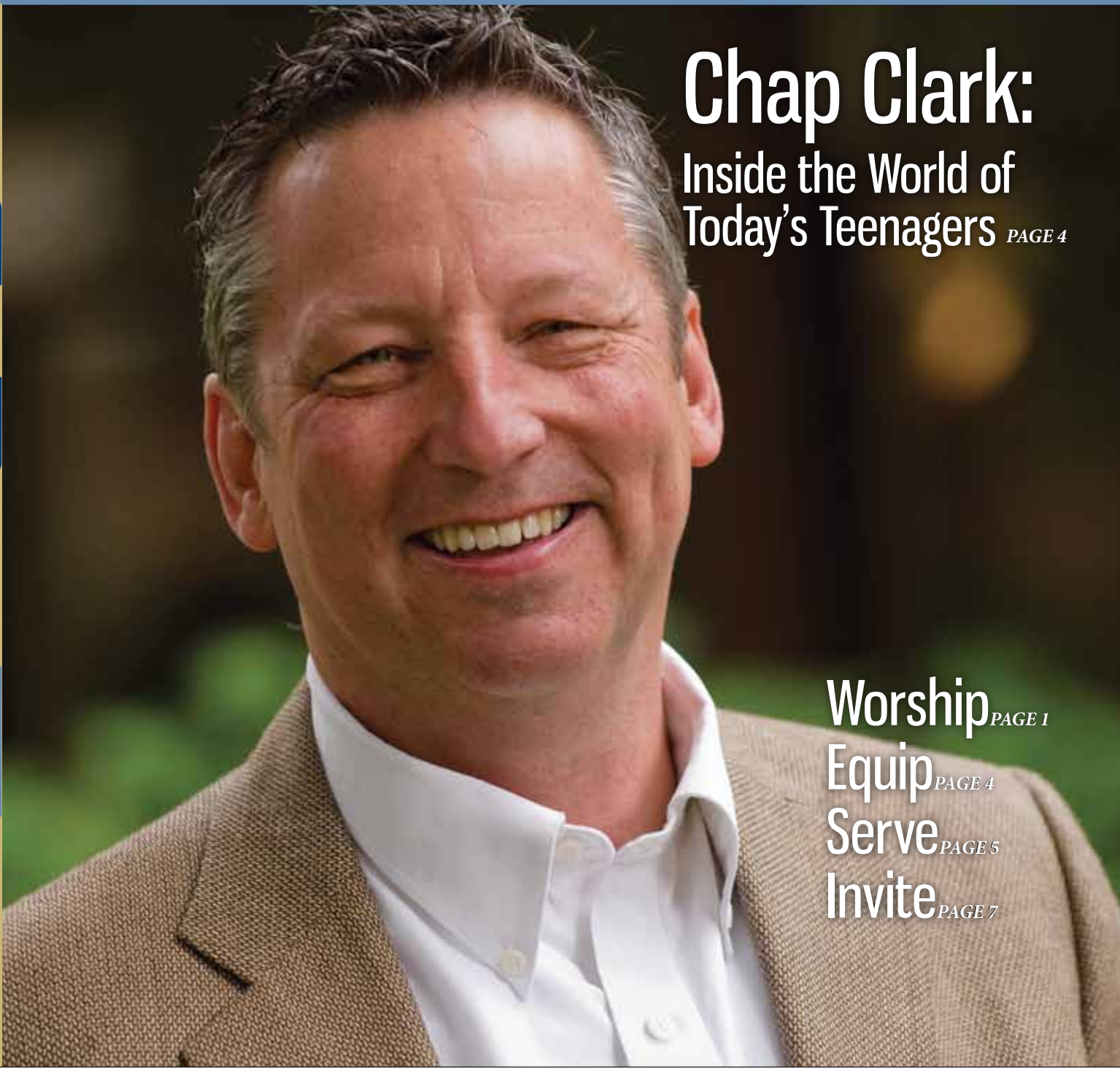
Inside the World of
Today's Teenagers PAGE 4

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Dear Friends,

Think Pink

The woman behind the counter at Starbucks this morning wore pink ribbon earrings. Driving down A Street or Midland Drive I can't help but notice the flash of pink at the parks. Our daughter along with her teammates played their volleyball match last week in pink tee shirts. Last Tuesday our copy of the MRT arrived printed on pink newsprint. The stories in its pages were moving, uplifting, and challenging. The people of Midland have done an excellent job in building our community's awareness about not only breast cancer, but all types of the disease.

Most of us are touched by cancer in one way or another. My two closest friends are breast cancer survivors; one of whom is fighting the disease for a second time. My father and my father-in-law both died of cancer. As a pastor I regularly have the opportunity to visit and pray with people undergoing treatment.

During these conversations and prayers I am most often profoundly encouraged by the faith and testimony of cancer patients and their families. In these moments I am grateful that our faith in Jesus Christ provides deep roots that enable us to face the challenge posed by devastating illness and anything else life might throw at us.

*God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult...
Be still and know that I am God. (from Psalm 46)*

The words of the Psalmist sustain us. They inspire in us a living hope that God is present with us in the midst of suffering just as he is present with us in the midst of joy. **On Wednesday, October 26, 6:30 pm, we will gather in the Chapel for a Service of Healing and Wholeness.** Together we will worship and pray for others as well as for ourselves. The pastors will be on hand to pray privately and offer the anointing of oil with those who wish it (*Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.* –James 5:14).

Ambrose of Milan, a fourth century church leader, wrote this statement of faith:

*You are medicine for me when I am sick.
You are my strength when I need help.
You are life itself when I fear death.
You are the way when I long for heaven.
You are light when all is dark
You are my food when I need nourishment!*

May each one of us cling to the only One able to sustain us in this world and in the world to come.

Mary Beth



Prayers for...

Prayers of Intercession are requested for Jered Groner, Liz Russell, Bob Boone, Cris Kelly, Hilda Banister, Bob Bailey, Jim Blischke, Zack Klunick, Lyn Ford, Charlie Polk, Carol Craig, Ralph Green, Mary Garay.

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, Dean Forest, Joe Banner, Stephen Clayman, Justin Galan, Stanley Najjar, Steven Castellon, Dr. David Shepherd, Mason Jennings, Kyle Humphries, Justin Robinson, Josh.

Congratulations to...

Megan and Jeremy Newton upon the birth of their son, Jacob Carter Newton, on August 18, 2011, in Midland; grandson of Gail and Marc Nelson; nephew of Michael Nelson and Matthew Nelson.

Caroline and Robin Brown upon the birth of their daughter, Coleman Virginia Brown, on September 4, 2011, in Midland; sister of Sonny.

Megan and Brandon South upon the birth of their son, Jude Wyatt South, on September 21, 2011, in Midland; grandson of Susan and Jan South; great grandson of Dottie and Norm Barker; nephew of Laura and Jason South; cousin of Margo South.

Roshawna and Chris Sloan upon the birth of their daughter, Jacqueline Zoe Sloan, on September 26, 2011, in San Antonio; granddaughter of Pat and Ron Larson.

Hailey Sisneros upon the birth of her daughter, Ava Mia, on September 30, 2011, in Midland; granddaughter of Karen Sisneros, CDC Receptionist.

Condolences to...

Brooke King (PLU 7) upon the death of her aunt, Tiffany Burkholder.

Kathy Nobles, Carolyn Price, and Paul Page upon the death of their cousin, Carmen Joy Preston.

Shawn Higgins upon the death of her mother, Gladys Chadwick, on October 8, 2011.

Thank you for your nice letters...

Please stop by the information center at the Texas Street reception area to read the notes we received from Joan Baskin, Bill Porter, and Pastors Diane and Robert Anderson.

Traditional Worship Music Schedule for November

Nov 6

The Sanctuary Choir will sing works by Copeland and Scott at 11:00 worship.

Nov 13

The Sanctuary Choir will present "*It is a Good Thing to Give Thanks*" by Fedak at both services and the Elementary and Junior Choirs will sing at 11:00 worship.

Nov 20

The Sanctuary Choir will sing Allen Pote's "*A Jubilant Song*" at 11:00 worship.

Nov 27

The Sanctuary Choir will share the lovely Advent anthem "*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus*" at 11:00 worship.

Welcome New Members:

Steve & Sarilyn Andes
Darren & Rhonda Skyles
Sharla Sirgo
Leon & Emma Wu



Be Surprised By Joy

“Very truly, I tell you, you will weep and mourn, but the world will rejoice; you will have pain, but your pain will turn into joy.” John 16:20

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.

As I pulled into the Grace Presbyterian Church parking lot a few weeks ago, I spotted a splash of bright color in the vacant lot next to the church. A memory quickly surfaced of a previous summer and a vibrant, but tiny, scarlet-orange blossom poking out of the hard-packed dirt in the field next to Grace. They were back again, much to my surprise and delight! Not even this year's extreme drought conditions could keep the little flowers from reappearing.

How amazing it is to me that the barren terrain of West Texas—where vegetation dries out to a crisp in the brutal summer heat—can produce something so vivid and beautiful. Amidst the brown, withered landscape, a brilliant reddish-orange bloom reminded me there is joy to be found even in the most unexpected of places. It also brought to mind one of Henri Nouwen's writings.

“Learn the discipline of being surprised not by suffering but by joy. As we grow old, there is suffering ahead of us, immense suffering, a suffering that will continue to tempt us to think that we have chosen the wrong road. But don't be surprised by pain. Be surprised by joy, be surprised by the little flower that shows its beauty in the midst of a barren desert, and be surprised by the immense healing power that keeps bursting forth like springs of fresh water from the depth of our pain.

*With a heart trusting that we will get what we need, and a spirit always surprised by joy we will walk through this valley of darkness performing and witnessing miracles.”**

I may be going out on a limb to say this, but here goes...*Suffering is a given.* If you are breathing, chances are you've probably suffered some way. If you say you haven't suffered some kind of pain or loss, you may indeed be the luckiest person on the planet or the most delusional—no offense intended from out here on my limb.

Let's face it, if you are a living, breathing human being, you've probably suffered, and I'll bet you know others who've suffered. Maybe a loved one's gotten a terrifying diagnosis. Or perhaps you were that loved one. Parents die, and sometimes children do, too. Marriages come to an end through divorce or the death of a spouse. Every now and then, jobs cease, friendships dissolve, families break apart. Siblings bicker and clash. Church members disagree and fight like reality TV stars. If you are alive, breathing the air around you, you probably know something about suffering and have been taken aback by it.

Nouwen, however, encourages us not to be surprised by this suffering and pain. Instead, he invites us to be surprised by the joy we witness in nature: the ruby-orange blossom in the desert; the smell of rain on the breeze; the blue jay flitting through drought-ravaged trees; the blazing sky of a desert sunset.

He invites us to be surprised by the joy we witness in life: The happy dance of a toddler; the smile of someone truly glad to see you; the exuberant cries of children racing through church halls; the wagging tail of a beloved pet; the tiny hand of a newborn wrapped around your index finger; the blue-eyed gaze of love and recognition in the final rally of a dying, elderly mother.

Nouwen extends to us an invitation to be surprised by joy, by this healing power that bursts forth “like springs of fresh water from the depths of our pain.” His invitation, wrapped in the imagery of water, is music to this drought-weary desert dweller's ears. It quenches my parched and thirsty soul.



Yet the skeptical part of me wonders if this is real. Can it be so? Or is it beyond our grasp like the shimmering water of a highway mirage? When we practice the discipline of being surprised by joy, can that truly bring about our healing? The intuitive part of me feels it is so, hopes it is so, and prays this joy is able to transform the pain and suffering each of us encounters on our journeys through life.

But then my thoughts move, as they often do in this ministry, to children whose suffering extends far beyond anything I've ever experienced...children whose eyes and spirits are dulled by the immeasurable pain in their lives. Is it possible for them to be surprised by joy when they are so beaten down they're unable to experience the everyday joys of childhood?

I've learned much about joy from the children I've encountered in my everyday life here in Midland, Texas. They've helped me find surprising moments of joy in the most unexpected places. Yet, the children I encounter through my work in Faces of Children, often have the gift of finding joy in unexpected places even though they are smothered by the suffering of their hell-on-earth lives. Is it possible for this gift to be resuscitated or revived? Is it truly possible for the hurting and vulnerable children of the world to be surprised by joy, to experience that burst of healing power from the depths of their pain?

I pray it is so.

And then I remember that our Creator is the God of endless possibilities, of limitless healing and mercy, of redeeming grace, of ruby-orange blossoms in the desert, and I know it is so.

Chris Laufer
Director, Faces of Children

**Finding My Way Home: Pathways to Life and the Spirit*, foreword by Wendy Wilson Greer, edited with preface by Sue Mosteller, Crossroad Publishing, New York, 2001

Living in the "Now" Class

Mindfulness: How do we live in the present moment and not be drawn into past memories or jump into a future that has not yet happened? When we leave the "now" in our mind/body/spirit and live in our past or dwell in our imagined "future," we rob ourselves of joy and peace in our present now. The class began Wednesday, October 19, and will continue through November 23, at 11:30 a.m. in the church parlor. Lunch will be offered for \$5. Ron Ellison, Bereavement Clinical Supervisor of Hospice Midland, will be the instructor. Come learn to live in the present and find balance with the past and the future.

Sanctuary Choir to present 125th Anniversary Commissioned Composition

As part of our 125th Anniversary celebration, the Sanctuary Choir commissioned Alfred Fedak to compose a setting of Psalm 92, titled "It is a Good Thing to Give Thanks". Fedak, a Presbyterian musician who serves Westminster Presbyterian Church in Albany NY, set the work for choir, soloists, brass quintet, oboe, and tympani. This work will be shared on November 13, at both sanctuary morning services.

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)



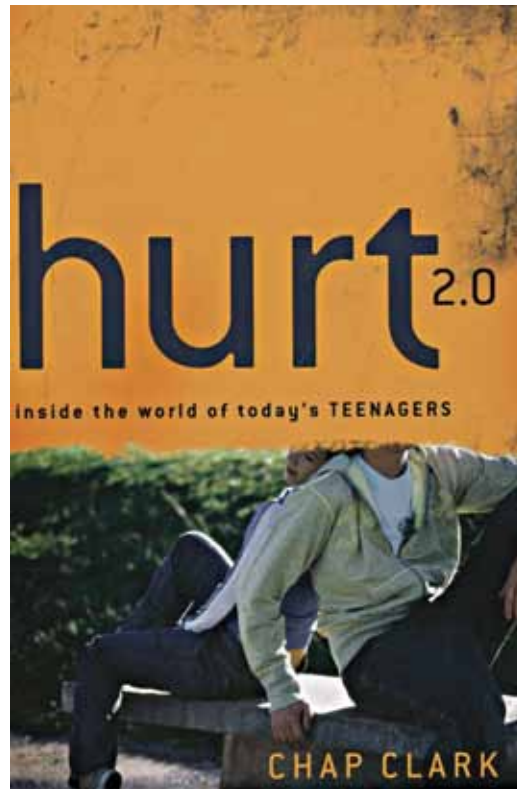
The Prayer Closet is there for YOU. PLEASE feel free to step in and close the door and PRAY.



Cover:
Chap Clark, Fuller Seminary
Professor and author of
book "hurt 2.0"

Chap Clark: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers

November 13-14



We live in a culture that undergoes exponential changes at every turn. The iPhone came out in 2007 and is now the best-selling smartphone on the market. Texting and social networking have shown signs of radically changing the ways in which we communicate and relate to one another as people. The economy is...well...the economy. Family structures have continued to change. And while many of us as adults might sit back and reminisce about "the good old days," this world of constant change is the only world our kids have ever known. All this begs the question, *"in light of all of this change, how do we faithfully respond to God's call as parents and adults who have an enormous influence on our young?"*

Admittedly, that's a loaded question with no universal answer. In fact, it may very well raise more questions than answers. Our kids are our greatest treasure—as families, as a church and as

a society—and there's not one of us who would want anything but the best for them. Teenagers in particular are navigating a turbulent sea of changes as they grow toward healthy adulthood. So, how do we help them in that direction in ways that are most helpful and healthy, both in the short-term and the long-term?

In an effort to press more deeply into those types of conversations, **FPC is excited to host Dr. Chap Clark in Midland, November 13-14.** Chap is Professor of Youth, Family and Culture and Vice Provost at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA. Drawing from a deep faith and love for the Church and more than 30 years of youth ministry experience through ministries like Young Life, he is widely regarded as one of the key voices in the world regarding adolescents and their families. It is truly a privilege for us to welcome him to FPC and Midland! Please plan on joining us for one of the events with Chap!

Chap will be preaching in the 8:15 Sanctuary service and 11:00 Bridge service on November 13. Sunday evening, parents of youth are invited to join Chap for a special conversation (complete with coffee and desserts!) at Laurie and Miles Boldrick's home (5 Santa Anita) from 6:30-8:30 pm. Please RSVP to the Youth Office by phone or email for Sunday night.

On Monday night, all youth volunteers are invited (and strongly encouraged!) to join us for a special time with Chap for those of us directly involved in youth ministry. This event will be hosted at First Baptist Church in the Student Worship Center from 6:30-8:30 pm.

We hope you will join us for one of these special opportunities to hear and talk to one of the premier fans of kids and their place in the Body of Christ!

November 13th, 2011 is Nursery Appreciation Day.

Please help us honor these wonderful caregivers who provide such a great service to the youngest of our congregation.



Arlene Reynosa

Arlene has been here since 1999; she is the nursery manager and does a wonderful job with staff, children, and parents alike. We are truly blessed to have her!



Debbie Morales

Debbie has been with the Nursery since 2006, she is a quiet peace in a normally chaotic environment.



Joanna Rivera

Joanna has been with the Nursery since 2006. She shares her talents with us and the Child Development Center.



Danyale Kellogg

Danyale started in the nursery in the summer of 2011, officially. She was raised in the nursery- so was always the "helper". She is a Freshman at MCS



Nilda Reynosa

Nilda has been with us since 2010, she is Junior at MHS. She is a very fun caregiver always up for playtime.



Neyda Reynosa

Neyda joined us in 2008; she is a Freshman at Midland College. We are so lucky to have her and her skills at work in our nursery.



Donna Hensley

Donna began in 2008; she is a joy to have on staff. She is partial to the baby room, who could blame her.



Maria Galindo

Maria has been with the church since 1997. She loves working with the 2 year old class the most and they love her too.



Joyce Munn

Joyce started with FPC in 2003. She works the Check-In desk and takes care of a very special young man on Sunday mornings.



Taresa Kellogg

I started with FPC in 1998 teaching Children's Church, and then in 2000 took the Director position. I have watched the nursery grow from simple childcare into a true ministry. We have the best job here in the nursery, watching the youngest of our congregation start out on their journey of finding out all about God's world and His love for them.

Serve



Not available at picture time:

Haley Sisneros-

Who started with us this past summer and is away on maternity leave.

Alicia Dickeson-

Who also started with us this past summer and works during the week with us.



From Mee to You

Children's Ministry Newsbrief

Fall is upon us and so many activities are in full swing! Sunday school is going strong! We love having your children with us on Sundays. Our Sunday school curriculum has been selected and written to help all of the children build their Biblical and Spiritual knowledge and understanding each year. Feel free to come join us anytime to experience your child's class with us. We would love to have you with us.

As your child grows, there are milestones we as parents worry about. Are they going to walk, talk, and become potty trained at the "right age"? We need to be just as conscientious about how they are growing spiritually each year. Are they getting the opportunity each week to be equipped and to worship? How often are they able to serve and invite others? You may remember that the percentage of people becoming believers after age 13 drops tremendously. We want to reach our children and allow them to continue to grow spiritually as they mature in their faith. We, as Christians, have the duty to share the Gospel with those we encounter in our lives. It is important that our children are properly equipped for this mission, so that their actions, words and deeds reflect Christ to the world around them. Our Children's ministry wants to transform each generation of children into influential disciples of Christ and illuminating lights to the world!

His,
Chrissie Mee
Director of Children's Ministry

The Early Childhood Ministry Committee is once again selling poinsettias for our annual fund raiser. Brighten your home or give a gift of this holiday favorite! There will be white or red six inch plants for \$12.00 and red ten inch bushes for \$40.00. The order forms will be available November 3rd at the Child Development Center desk. Payments must be made with your order. The poinsettias will be available for pickup will begin the week of November 29th. Over the years this has been a great fund raiser for the CDC which uses the money to purchase supplies and equipment for the children. We look forward to providing you some Christmas cheer as you support our children.

Music Ministry Notes

What is Christmas without.....MUSIC!

Come and be a part of the Sanctuary Choir for the Christmas Season!!!

As Advent and Christmas are almost upon us, we would invite your prayerful consideration to join the Sanctuary Choir for the Advent/Christmas season. Music is such an essential part of "this wonderful time of the year", and the Choir would love to have you join us! For more information, please contact Greg at 684-7821, ext. 139, or gpysh@fpcmid.org.

Round the Table Carol Sing Band

If you would like to join in the rollicking "Round the Table Carol Sing" band on December 19, please contact the music ministry office. Even if you haven't taken your clarinet out of its case in a year or two (or three), we want you to join us! For more information, please call Greg at 684-7821, ext. 139, or e-mail gpysh@fpcmid.org.

2011 FPC Top Ten Hymns - 125th Anniversary Edition

Here it is! The FPC Top Ten hymns by your votes. Each hymn was given "votes" per your ranking, with ten given to each number one hymn, nine for number two, etc.

Your worship planners are most grateful not only for your participation in this survey, but for your care and enthusiasm for the Lord's Song!

Here are the top ten favorite hymns for our 125th anniversary year:

1. *Amazing Grace* (easily the most popular)
2. *How Great Thou Art*
3. *Holy, Holy, Holy*
4. *A Mighty Fortress is Our God*
5. *Great is Thy Faithfulness* and *Here I Am, Lord* (tie)
6. *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*
7. *Because He Lives*
8. *Blessed Assurance* and *It is Well With My Soul* (tie)
9. *Jesus Christ is Risen Today*
10. *Be Thou My Vision*

Thanks to all who submitted your votes. *Soli Deo Gloria!*



New Stephen Ministers Commissioned

This Fall First Presbyterian Church commissioned 4 new Stephen Ministers. They are Elton Cole, Mary Rasmussen, Vicki Rice and Al Spinks. Rev. Walter Thompson was also commissioned as a Stephen Leader. They are joining our current active Stephen Ministers Nancy Baker, Suzy Boldrick, Andy Conly, Jo Curtis, Mary Margaret Davis, Dan Foreman, Ron Morgan, and Bonnie Sanders.

Our Stephen Ministers have completed substantial training to equip them for their task of Christian caregiving. They will be depending on the congregation's support in the time ahead as they assume the duties of their ministry. How can we help?

First of all, we can pray for our Stephen Leaders, our Stephen Ministers and their care receivers. This ministry calls for both time and effort. At times they may feel tired, discouraged, or convinced that they are not accomplishing anything. The assurance of our prayers and appreciation will help them keep moving forward.

We can also affirm and show our appreciation for this valuable ministry. We can tell them how much their hard work means to us, tell others how much we value our Stephen Ministry, and focus attention on our Stephen Ministers to bless and affirm them in special ways.

We can also become involved in this ministry in many ways. Some of us may recognize a call to use our special gifts in this ministry and may apply to be a Stephen Leader or Stephen Minister. Plans are being made for a training class to begin in the Spring. You may contact Mary Margaret Davis for further information.

Some of you may accept the care of a Stephen Minister. Or we can be ministers of referral, watching for people in need and suggesting a Stephen Minister's care. We all can give our enthusiastic support by keeping Stephen Ministry always before us and by praying for and affirming those who have answered God's call to serve in this way.

As we welcome our newly trained Stephen Ministers, let us thank God for all that they will bring to this congregation in providing care to others, and let us promise them our daily prayer and support as we send them out to minister among us.



Habitat for Humanity

First Presbyterian Church is participating in Midland Habitat's Apostles Build again this year. FPC, along with 11 other local churches, have partnered together to build a house for a family in need. Our weekend for working will be Friday and Saturday, November 11-12. We'll need lots of help, so please make plans to join us at 810 Adams Street, November 11-12, 8 am to 5 pm. No skills required! Please call Pastor Walter at the church with questions.



Invite



ADVENT ART DAY

Kindergarten through Grade 6
Sunday, November 6
Art Rooms (217-218)
4:00-6:00 pm

RSVP to Chrissie, 684-7821

Sunday School

Join us every Sunday at 9:30 am 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 pm – for specific details contact Becky Holmes, 684-7821.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes meet Sundays at 6:00 pm in the Koinonia room. For more information, contact Shannon Weisenfels, 684-7821



What a better way to bring in 2012 than in Winter Park, Colorado, with your friends? Join us for fun, fellowship and SNOW!

Who: All 7th-12th graders.

When: December 29, 2011-January 1, 2012.

How Much: \$575 per person (base cost)

Register ONLINE at fpcmid.org

Follow the link to the Ski Escape 2012 page to register. If you need assistance, please contact Becky at 684-7821.



Turkey Bowl and Cookout

Join us for our annual Turkey Bowl and Cookout at Trinity School on November 6 from 3-6 pm. Come play flag football, or just come cheer those who are playing, and have a burger after the game! Bring your family, bring your friends, bring your neighbors... everyone is welcome!!!

Don't miss out on the fun!!!



JASON ROBERTS, Organist

Presented by The West Texas American Guild of Organists and First Presbyterian Church
Thursday, November 10, 2011 7:00 pm.

Jason Roberts is Organist and Choirmaster at St. James' Episcopal Church in West Hartford, Connecticut. A graduate of Rice University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music, his teachers have included Clyde Holloway, Martin Jean and McNeil Robinson. He recently completed his Doctorate at the Manhattan School of Music. He is the winner of the 2008 AGO National Competition in Organ Improvisation and the 2007 Albert Schweitzer Organ Competition. In 2010, he presented recitals for the national conventions of the Association of Anglican Musicians and also the American Guild of Organists.

The Concert is free and open to the public.

Primetimers Events

Men's Lunch Out

Tuesday, November 8 at 11:30 am. We will meet at Michael's Charcoal Grill on the corner of "A" Street and Wadley. Come for the good food, fun and fellowship with good friends.

Primetimers Mission project

Wednesday, November 9 at 2 pm in the Koinonia Room. The Primetimers have an 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 them by the reception desk. Come help and plan to stay and watch the movie at 3 pm.

Movie Matinee

Wednesday, November 9 at 3 pm in the church parlor. The movie this month is *Places in the Heart*, which Pastor Schorr mentioned in his sermon recently. This movie is a look back at life in the Depression era in Texas. Sally Fields received an Oscar for her performance. Come see a great movie and enjoy the fellowship and plan to stay for the gathering meal.

Scrapbooking and Jewelry making and repair

Thursday, November 10, 10 am in the Koinonia Room. Bring your photographs to organize, crop or just visit about them. Work until 2pm, 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

After worship service at 12:15 pm on November 20 in Lynn Hall. We offer a splendid spread. 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.

Angels in Aprons ministry

This ministry's purpose is to provide for a small fee ready to eat food in individual frozen servings. The December menu will be chili, white chicken chili, cornbread and broccoli cornbread. 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, November 24. The small individual portions can be picked up and paid for on Thursday, December 8 from 2 pm to 3:30 pm in the Family Life Center area foyer.

Bethlehem at Ragtown Gospel Theater

We will see the matinee performance at the Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post, Texas on Saturday, December 3. In a story that takes us from Heaven, before the throne of the Father, to a humble stable in Judea, the musical drama "Bethlehem" will forever change the way you look at the birth of the Savior. Enjoy a full hour of vibrant and uplifting southern gospel music featuring Chip Polk. This trip will be filled with lots of surprises. We will visit the OS Ranch Museum and you will be given the opportunity to check out a few Christmas gifts at the Post Trade Days activities. The cost will be \$20 paid in advance for the theater ticket, reserving your seat on the mini bus. You will need to bring money for your meals and any other purchases. We will leave from the church parking lot at 7:30 am.

Primetimers Christmas

Friday, December 2, at 5:30 pm in Lynn Hall. We will have beef tip and all the fixins prepared by our own Angelo. The cost will be \$12 and reservations should be prepaid before Wednesday, November 30. We will also have our traditional White Elephant gift exchange so bring an item that you can share with someone else or a gift not valued over \$5. These gifts need to be wrapped so they can be easily unwrapped. The bus will pick up at Manor Park to help individuals who would like a ride. Call the church office to reserve your seat on the bus - seats will be limited. This is always a fun event and we will have lots of surprises.

Presbyterian Women's Thank Luncheon

On Tuesday, November 8, at 11:30 am in Lynn Hall, J'Lynn Wheeler will speak on "Self Care for a more enjoyable holiday." Lunch will be \$8.

J'Lynn, an active member of our congregation, has a Master's Degree from Loyola University in New Orleans. She will introduce poetry to lift us up through the holidays and will review Henri J. M. Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World* and use it to give us a new perspective. She will also spend some time helping us identify the framework for writing our own personal mission statement.

Please RSVP with Rhondy at 684-7821.

Don't Let the Flu Bug You!

Each year millions of people are bitten by the flu bug, resulting in the disruption of lives. Since the flu is easily transmitted from one person to another, FPC and Dr. Bartha are offering a flu shot clinic to help you and your family escape this year's flu season. The flu immunization clinic will be in the Koinonia Room on Wednesday, October 26, from 9 am to 11 am. The cost per person is \$10. (cash or check accepted). For questions, please contact Mary Margaret Davis, 432-684-7821, ext. 120.

Date Change

FPC Men's Retreat is back!

Jim Houston-Hencken and Steve Wilkins will be our featured speakers February 17-19, 2012 at the Warren Ranch.

Cost will be \$125 per person, scholarships available. Registration will begin later in the fall.

If you would like to be a part of the planning team, please contact Jamey Lucas.

We need volunteers to work the game booths, bake small cakes and treats for the cakewalk, decorate a car “trunk” and bring candy to hand out for Trunk or Treat, and cook hot dogs! If you can provide a treat for the cake walk, email Kim Kempton at kkepmtton@cbtd.com. If you would like to volunteer, contact Emily Blonkvist at eblonkvist@yahoo.com.



Country Fair
FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 30 • 5:00-7:00 pm
West Lawn of the Church

FOOD • OLD-TIME GAMES • CAKE WALK
CARRIAGE RIDES • TRUNK OR TREAT

- Costumes a Must! -

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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