

First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City, Texas 77414

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The Presbyterian Proclaimer
A publication of First Presbyterian Church, Bay City, Texas

January Newsletter 2012

Pastor Mark's Mark

Unity

I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as I love you. – John 17:23

It says on the calendar that the week of prayer for Christian unity begins on Wednesday the 18th of January. The reason that's important is that it is God's will for us to dwell together in unity. Since the time of the Reformation physical unity has been an illusive goal throughout Christianity.

As I have said before, Presbyterians have always taken ecumenical relations seriously because we believe there is oneness in us that must be expressed. Christ is working in us to bring about the unity of the body is word and deed. We can do more with God when we work and worship together, when we seek common ground, when we do mission together, and reach across dividing walls of race and creed to forge partnerships in God's love.

The Bay City Ministerial Alliance is planning to have a service to mark the week of Christian Unity. Last year we hosted it. This year, I think it will be at the Lutheran Church. Watch this space for more details. And let us keep praying for the peace of Christ to dwell in everyone's hearts!

**Love,
Pastor Mark**

Committee Chairpersons for 2011

Building & Grounds ~ Kay Slater

Christian Education ~ Karin Hill

Congregational Care ~ Marie Hestand

Finance ~ Joe Johnston

Nominating ~ Gertrude Hardy

Outreach & Mission ~ Anna Strickland

Personnel ~ Doug Huebner

Worship ~ Charlie Boeker

First Presbyterian Church
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Bay City, Texas 77414
(979) 245-8327
E-mail: fpcbc@sbcglobal.net
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Website: www.fpcbayscity.org

Pastor ~ Dr. Mark W. Stoub
Secretary ~ Sharen Berger
Music Director ~ John Hodges
Accompanist ~ Donna Baskin
Youth Director ~ Cindy Hodges
Nursery ~ Dolores Holzapfel
Ministers ~ Members of FPC

The Presbyterian Women are still selling the note cards in the church office. There are 10 cards for \$6.50. They can be used for so many things. Please stop by!

The Women would like to thank the congregation of the church for their generosity in giving to our Christmas Families. So far we have collected nearly \$961.00 . The money will be used for food, toys, and other necessities for the two families. We thank you also for the food the church collected for the food pantry. The Lord is working in a wonderful way in our Church.

The newsletter has a letter from one of the organizations that the Quilts for Kids Women delivered Quilts to last week. The letter speaks for itself about needy and abused children in Matagorda

Save your Campbell's soup labels, and the box tops for Education. Just bring them to the church office and I will pick them up. Thanks! -Ann Bond



Prayer Chain contact numbers (when the office is closed)

Marie Hestand 245-4660
Mary Ann Roe 843-5027
Norma Peterson 557-4129

Please leave messages and the prayer chain will be started as soon as possible.

**Thank you in God's name,
Prayer Chain Committee**

Prayer List



The Legacy campus: Louise Callaway,

Our Missionaries: The Dunns and The Hueys

Others: Bill & Cleora Boeker, John Johnston, Callier Grimes, Margaret Kelly, The family of Bobbie Dykes, Darla Matthes, Jeane Mayer, Greg Meyer, Gloria Smith, Betsey Holbert, The family of Stanley Keathley, E.M. Huitt & his family, Jennifer Greenway, Vernon Leissner, Paul Hinton, Roland Andersen, our college students, our elected leaders, our Staff and Session.

Our servicemen and their families:

Air Force ----

Ryan & Angela Tobin

Kathy Trim

John Contreras (Elizabeth Rivenbark's cousin)

Darren Hussey (Bobbie Dykes's grandson)

Michael & Kari Plummer

Gary Kane (friend of Rivenbark & Flores family)

Army —

Michael & Jodie (Richardson) Waits

Navy —

Brian Davis

Jacob Haunsperger (Lily Flores's boyfriend)

Marines—Casimiro Perez (Rivenbark's Friend)

Civilians —

Brian Keller working in Afghanistan

Jeffrey Davis working in Iraq



Happy Birthday

Lilian Flores	01/01
Haley Greenway	01/03
Elizabeth Rivenbark	01/06
Charles Boeker	01/09
Laura Frazier	01/09
Karin Hill	01/09
Sid Gilzow	01/13
Doug Huebner	01/13
John Merck	01/14
Ann Bond	01/15
Laura Bond	01/16
Pam Klepac	01/16
Marissa Gavender	01/19
Luke Ledwig	01/19
Neal Tobin	01/21
Billy Rivenbark	01/22
Clifford Mullen	01/23
Samantha Friedrich	01/25
Ryan Tobin	01/25
Lenore Simons (101!)	01/30

Happy Anniversary

Jim & Dianne Matthes	01/03
Eric & Sonja Varnell	01/04
John & Linda Merck	01/13



Anyone wishing to help prepare Communion, please call Ann Bond. 245-1429



Audio/Visual System Running in Robbins Hall



Our audio/visual system is going strong in Robbins Hall— it's a wonderful thing— and it's available to ALL. For questions on how to set it up for your presentation, contact Jim Coe, Charlie Boeker, or John Hodges—they will be glad to help you.

If anyone wishes to join our Prayer Chain, please call Sharen at the church office at 245-8327 or Marie Hestand at 245-4660.



Facts on New Year's & Resolutions

During this week, millions upon millions of people around the world will be formulating their New Year's Resolutions.

Here's how things usually end up...

63% of people are still keeping their resolutions after the first two months.

67% of people actually make 3 or more resolutions.

The top resolutions usually involve promises to exercise more (37%), increase the time devoted to study or work (23%), lose weight, stop smoking or drinking (alcohol and/or coffee), and eat healthier.

People make more resolutions to start a new habit (84%), than to break an old one (16%).

65% of people made their resolutions between the 28th of December and New Year's Day. The rest usually take up until the end of January.

Of those who successfully achieved their top resolution, 40% of them did so on the first attempt. The rest made multiple tries, with 17% finally succeeding after more than six attempts.

So what will your resolutions be for 2012, and do you think you can achieve them?

December 5th was Monday Night Movie time. We gathered together to watch "Elf" on the not so big screen at the Hodges' casa. It was a laughter-filled way to get into the Christmas spirit!

For "Candle Lighting Day," we had a lesson on the Advent Wreath, **December 11th**. We looked at the history behind it, the meaning of each candle and its importance to the Advent worship season.

On **December 16th** it was time for some great *Christmas Caroling* and *Youth Group Partying*. We met up at the church, loaded up into vehicles and headed out to spread some Christmas cheer. The highlight was caroling through the halls of the Legacy! Then we returned to the church to have our Youth Group Christmas party.

This year's "Angel Tree" kid was a 10 year old girl named Itzel. She listed a desk, room decorations, a purse and jewelry on her wishes. Hopefully we fulfilled it well with the desk, desk chair, lamp, desk supplies, and a necklace purse that we bought! Thanks to those youth families that provided money to help with the cost!

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 1/2 - Monday Night Movie**
- 1/8 - National Joy Germ Day**
- 1/15 - Humanitarian Day**
- 1/22 - Celebration of Life Day**
- 1/29 - Curmudgeons Day**

Back to School 1/3/2012!



EDUCATION



New Year's Scripture: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17

As always, give the Lord praise and glory in all that you do.



JOIN US FOR CRAFTING FUN

The Arts and Crafts group are meeting on the first and third Thursdays at 9:30 in the parlor. Anyone who want to learn to knit or crochet are invited to join us.



Quilts for Kids

If you would like to join Quilt for Kids come to Robbins Hall to see what we are doing. You can also see the baby quilts and blankets that are made for the babies and kids of Matagorda County that are less fortunate than some of us. We also give a quilt to babies born to church members and grandchildren of church members.

Greetings, church members, John Hodges here—

I wanted to express my appreciation to everyone who did things over the Christmas holidays—from tableau setup and takedown, and participation (thanks Bill Irvine and Charlie Boeker and the boys for the help with all that hay, and the women for refreshments and costume setup), to caroling (thanks, Doug for the setup we ended up not using), the choir candles cantata and our super-dee-duper choir, to the Worship Committee church decorating that took some doing, to Jarred and Edy for their help, to Cindy (for the youth group party, Movie Nite, and general advice), to Donna for the special services she was present for (on her own time, I might add!), to Pastor Mark and Jane for their help and encouragement along the way, the extra work Sharen did, and the wonderful special music performed by various singers and players (including Rachel and Lily Flores).

I know there are others I should thank, and I hope I remembered them all. This church made it a nice time-of-year this go-round, and the family and I were truly blessed with the spirit of the Christ child. God bless us, everyone!

Our Time and Talents



Flower Arrangements

When calling the office to arrange to have flowers placed in the sanctuary, please also call the florist to make arrangements for the selection of the flowers as well as payment!



ALL ARE WELCOME TO COME TO THE MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCH ON THE 2ND FRIDAY OF EACH MONTH. WE MEET AT 11:30 AM AT KING BUFFET. WE CELEBRATE THOSE WITH A BIRTHDAY IN THE CURRENT MONTH.

Acolyte Schedule

January 1
Aaron Ansari
January 8
Halle Smith
January 15
Bethany Brann
January 22
Spencer Hill
January 29
Justin Hubbard

Lay Leaders

January 1
Kaylee Reed
January 8
Cindy Hodges
January 15
Richard Knapik
January 22
Gail Conner
January 29
John Hodges

Children's Moment

January 1
Dr. Mark W. Stoub
January 8
Joe Johnston
January 15
Norma Peterson
January 22
Cindy Hodges
January 29
John Hodges

Nursery Workers



January 1
Ronnie Mullen
January 8
Doreen Bounds
January 15
Marie Hestand
January 22
Ronnie Mullen
January 29
Doreen Bounds

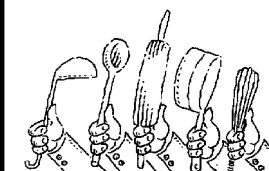
SNL HOSTS

January 1
NO SNL
January 8
January 15
January 22
January 29

January Ushers

January 1	A
January 8	B
January 15	C
January 22	D
January 29	E

January Kitchen Crew



KITCHEN CREW

Ethel Williams 245-3444
Anna Strickland
Marie Hestand

* * Supporting the Crisis Center of
Matagorda and Wharton Counties *



Drive in

\$7 per plate

Drive Thru

Dine In
or
Drive Thru
For Tickets

cash, check or credit card

Call **979-245-9109**

or

Come by the Crisis Center at 3010 6th Street, Bay City

Funds raised will help support the programs of the Crisis Center:
Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Community Education
and the Children's Advocacy Center

Sponsorship Opportunities

Event Sponsor - \$2,500

Platinum - \$1,000

Gold - \$500

Silver - \$250

Bronze - \$100

OFFICE OF
SHERIFF MATAGORDA COUNTY



Gary L. Mathis
Sheriff
(979) 240-6022 Cell

Bruce Page
Chief Deputy
(979) 240-3585 Cell

December 14, 2011

Marie Hestand
First Presbyterian Church
2216 Avenue H
Bay City TX 77414

Dear Marie:

Thank you and the ladies of the First Presbyterian Church for again donating quilts to be given to Matagorda County children who are victims of physical and sexual abuse.

Marie, I know you are aware of what we use these quilts for but I would like to explain to those of your group who may not know how we use your kind donation. These quilts are given to children as part of a "goody bag" after they have been interviewed concerning allegations of being physically and sexually molested. After going through such a traumatic ordeal of being interviewed and asked to provide specific details of horrific abuse, we always end by giving these children their "goody bag" filled with books, toys and one of your beautiful quilts. I have to share a story with you. We recently went to trial on a defendant who severely physically abused her six year old stepdaughter. This abuse included burning the bottom of her feet with an iron as well as tying her up and breaking her arm. On my first meeting with the little girl, 18 months ago, she received one of your quilts. Her guardian reported to me at the trial that the child still sleeps with that quilt every night as it gives her much comfort. By the way, the defendant was found guilty and will be sentenced in January.

Thanks so much to you and the First Presbyterian Church ladies for all your hard work and generosity in once again donating the quilts.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Sgt. Charlotte B. Brown and Sgt. James Orr.

Sgt. Charlotte B. Brown and Sgt. James Orr
Criminal Investigations Division
Matagorda County Sheriff's Office

