

9:00 AM Bible Study

10:00 AM Fellowship

10:30 AM Worship Service

Pastor's Pen,

I know that for many there is very few quite moments between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Yet, in those quite moments I think we most often truly know why we are so very fortunate. We live in a nation that is often seen as over indulgent and spoiled, but I would rather call it blessed. Most people I know are moderate in their spending, and celebrating, and grateful for the many things life has given them. They are also willing to share with others the riches they have and their fellowship. This certainly is a time of year when some go to excessive lengths to party hardy. Also, many will go deep into debt to have everything possible under the tree for Christmas. Still, what I wish people would see are the many families who make a point of putting less under their tree so that the families of the poor have something under the small trees in their homes. I wish people would take stock in the thousands of families who give things like sheep and goats to Samaritans Purse, or the Heifer Project, so that somewhere a family has a chance at life. There are many gifts given at Christmas that have no expectation of receiving anything back.

Not only are there many families and individuals who pick angels off trees for those less fortunate there are also hundreds of hours given in shelters, nursing homes, and in community services. I believe with all my heart that Christmas still has, at its core, the truest sense that once God gave his only son and now we, who belong to him, seek to give back in honor of the season. Why do I say this? Well, people need to know that others really do understand the reason for the season and the commercial world really hasn't taken all of what is bright and shiny and good out of Christmas. When people get so tainted by the commercialism that they cannot see what good is happening in this wonderful time of year then we truly are in trouble. Don't let others tell you all the negative things about Christmas. Share with those you meet that what is good about the season is still good. Take time to do nice things for people near to you and a few who you will never meet. Most of all know that whatever the world might make of Christmas, God gave us the first Christmas gift, His son, as a pure act of love.

Sing silly Christmas songs but also be in worship to sing hymns of wonder and praise. Take delight in family but also seek to do something truly gracious for someone you may never know. Last but certainly not least in everything you do, remember the greatest gift of all that a tiny baby who would one day die for the sins of the world that we might know the deep and profound love of God. Blessed Christmas to all!

Rev. Bev

Reverend Beverly Hughes 972-423-8611 (h)

Christmas News

Here's What's Happening

- 12/3 Women's brunch
- 12/10 Children's Birthday Party for Jesus
- 12/24 One service at 7 pm on Christmas Eve
- 12/25 Christmas Day (Sunday this year) we will have a service at 10:30 am there will be no Sunday School that day so that families have plenty of time together.

Advent Sermon series:

The Restoration That Messiah Brings taken from the Psalms on the restoration of hope, peace, joy, and love that comes with the birth of Christ.



To help Rev Bev and Paula get ready for Christmas Eve and Christmas day and still have some energy to enjoy the holiday the office will be closed the Friday before Christmas.

There will be Sunday School and Church on the 1st of January.



Thanks to all who help dress up the sanctuary. Especially to Debra Sweeny who oversaw the work and brought lunch!

Important Dates

Birthdays

12/2 Kelly Walker
12/10 Patrick Dilger
12/11 Mike Bacon
Wes Steifer
12/15 Ron Lawson
12/16 Madeline Olson
12/17 Priscilla Hounam
12/21 Frank Whinnie
12/24 Mimi Montgomery
12/26 Micah Horton
12/27 Paula Mallory
Preston Yates



Anniversaries

12/18 Larry & Teresa Johnson
12/21 Clyde & Mai Ding



Ushers

12/4 Ruth Horton
Charlie Horton
Daniel Bauer
Harvey Wright
12/11 Terri Decker
Brad Decker
Debi Ward
12/18 Kate Bobo
Rachel Bobo
Joseph Uwakwe
Joe Cesspooch
12/25 Gloria Parsons
Nancy Hearon
Joy Koch
Marilyn Schilling



Note:

There will be a congregational meeting on the 11th of December to approve the restructuring of our loan. If you have questions please address them to Rev. Hughes or Steve Thomas.

Trinity News

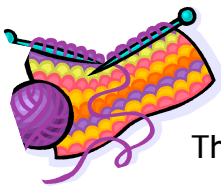
Refinance Approval

Due to our successful Stewardship campaigns the Presbytery has approved our loan refinance. This will reduce the church's cash needs about \$15,000 per year by extending the larger of our two loans by about five years. We retain the option of paying off the loan sooner.

Capital Campaign Success

The members of TPC have made a tremendous commitment to the future of the church by committing to support the principal payments of the mortgage over a three year period. While we did not fully reach our target of \$180,000 as of the 14th of November we did reach \$165,965. With the refinance this actually covers the principal payments and provides some flexibility, if the church chooses, to cover interest or additional principal.

Since we believe so strongly in the future and mission of TPC, let's invite others to join in with what God is doing through the church.



The "Hats for the Homeless" ministry has delivered 82 winter caps, five quilts and two sleeping bags as a donation to The Stewpot in downtown Dallas to assist in their efforts in serving people in need this year. Lee Hutchins, the development director of The Stewpot of First Presbyterian Church, expresses her sincere thanks for the efforts of everyone at Trinity Presbyterian who contributed time, work and material toward this effort.

We also wish to add a reminder that we are planning to continue this effort into 2012, so please continue to knit caps, teach others to knit caps, donate yarn and contribute in other ways as the spirit moves.

Laurie and Ron McKee

"History of our Songs" adult Sunday school class meeting at 9 a.m. each Sunday wishes to extend an invitation for anyone interested in fellowship and celebration of the hymns of the Thanksgiving and Christmas season (and beyond) to join us across from the church office in the north building.



Thanks! Ron

Trinity Missions

Thank you so much for your response for the Toiletry Bags. You filled more than the 20 bags that we set as a goal. Wendy Vega from Communities in Schools was surprised at the amount donated. Thank you again for your generosity.



Our Joy Tree is out in the Narthex. The gift cards collected from it will be turned over to Pastor Bev to help those in need. There are tags for different amounts for either gas or groceries. If this is a mission you wish to participate in, please take a tag and purchase a gift card. Return the card to the box by the Joy Tree.

Start gathering up your loose change. Pick-up those pennies you see in the parking lots. Look under the cushions of the sofa. Skip a coke or two. On Christmas Day we will be collecting a special offering for World Vision to help supply livestock, seeds, and medicine to those in need in impoverished countries around the world. The target goal is \$250.00 which will provide \$1,100 worth of medicine, a goat, and 4 chickens. Anything above \$250.00 will be used for seeds, trees, and to help provide clean water. Let's see how far our loose change can go!



The Missions committee would like to let you know our plans for next year. We have planned projects for each season.:

- ✓ Spring-Support Communities in Schools and One Great Hour of Sharing
- ✓ Summer-World Vision and a Mission trip to be determined
- ✓ Fall-Hats for the Homeless
- ✓ Winter-Joy Tree and Christmas Joy Offering.

We will continue our ongoing missions which are:

- ✓ Meals on Wheels- Lynda Rice
- ✓ Road to Recovery- Dee Stokes
- ✓ Serving breakfast at the Stew Pot- Frank and Debra Whinnie
- ✓ Al's Hugs and Hammers- Patrick Dilger
- ✓ Never Ending Food Drive- a Youth mission

We would also like to start the Touchstones again. It is a mission that sends letters and care boxes to our students away at college. If this is something you are interested in, please contact me.

If you would like to help on the missions committee, our next meeting will be Saturday December 10th at 9:00 AM at the church. We would love to see you there. Please call me if you have any questions or would like to help. My number is 972-259-0047.

This is an amazing and generous church. Whenever a need arises, it is met. I thank God for everyone of you. May God continue to bless you so you can continue to be a blessing to others.

Thank you,

Missions Elder
Debra Whinnie

Children's Ministries

We had our Event for Advent on Friday evening, November 11 and all had an awesome time. There were 7 children in attendance. We had "walking tacos" for dinner provided by Ms. Joy and then we had a story about the meaning of Advent and Christmas and sang a few Christmas carols. We made some Christmas ornaments for the Christmas Tree that will be placed in the Chapel. It was just a wonderful event.



Other upcoming events are:

December – Birthday Party for Jesus – Saturday, 12/10/11, 10:00 – 11:30 AM – bring an unwrapped toy as your gift for Jesus and we will take these to the fire station to give to children in the community whose families may be struggling this time of year.



Children's Choir (Rays of Sonshine) will sing on Sunday, December 11 and maybe again at Christmas Eve Service

And don't forget Sunday School and Children's Choir (our little "Rays of Sonshine"). Practice is on Sunday mornings. Sunday School is at 9:00 AM and choir practice is at 9:40. Look forward to seeing you there.

We are looking for a Sunday School teacher for our 1st and 2nd graders. Mr. Paul will be stepping down from teaching effective the first Sunday of January. We thank him for his service to the children these past few years. If anyone feels this calling please contact Ruth Horton and let her know. Otherwise, she might be calling you.

Ruth Horton

Elder – Children's Ministries

Looking in the wrong places Trusting the wrong things.

Something happened last week when some of our senior citizens gathered at the church for a morning of games and fellowship. While others were playing dominos one lady, who had been absent for the last several weeks, went to the kitchen to make some coffee. In the weeks since she has been there the ladies of the church had reorganized the kitchen. As part of their efforts they had moved the coffee to the freezer so it would stay fresh longer. She soon discovered that the coffee was not in the cupboard and realized she needed help finding it.



The odds are that by the time you read these words you have already spent some time today looking for something. Most of our searches are for ordinary things like discovering where someone put the coffee. Occasionally we spend time and energy searching for the really important things in life, like love and acceptance. And then there is our search for, and need for salvation, which is the ultimate combination of being loved and accepted.



As the search for the coffee demonstrated, you are never going to find what you are looking for if you are looking in the wrong places. When you think about it, it just makes sense. You would not go shopping for tires at the bookstore.

Mark 10:17-29 tells a story of a conversation Jesus had when a rich young man came. The young man asked, "What must I do to get into heaven?" Jesus' answer was simple, direct, and to the point, "Obey the commandments." I can also see the smile on the young man's face at hearing this. Listen to his response as recorded in Mark 10:20, "Teacher," he declared, "all these I have kept since I was a boy." (NIV). This young man was looking for salvation in the wrong place and trusting in the wrong things. He was looking at his good works and trusting in his abilities. He was about to discover that as good as he was it would never be good enough. Jesus told him to sell all he had and give it to the poor; something he just could not do. Disappointed, the young man leaves. Mark 10:25-27 ends the story as Jesus tells the disciples the bad news, and the good news. Let's listen in. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, "Who then can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God." (NIV)

I read in a cartoon, "Love is... lots of choices... but an easy decision." Choosing to love is an easy decision, actually loving is harder. Choosing to accept salvation through Christ is easy, actually living it is the hard part, but it is possible when you trust God in all things.

John is the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Prosper.

Trinity

Organizational Structure

Session

Session Elders - Debra Sweeney, Ruth Horton, Lee Ann Bandy, Robin Dilger, Humphrey Wambaa,
Lloyd Olson, Debra Whinnie, Dennis Yates, Paul Leddy

Session Moderator - Rev. Beverly Hughes

Clerk of Session - John Fiedler

Ministries

Worship – Debra Sweeney

Children – Ruth Horton

Youth – Lee Ann Bandy

Membership – Robin Dilger (includes Fellowship, Member Care and Member Involvement)

Team Leaders

Gloria Parsons, Camille Marchelletta, Mimi Montgomery

Adult Studies – Humphrey Wambaa

Evangelism – Lloyd Olson

Mission – Debra Whinnie

Points of Contact

Hurricane Ike Relief Galveston and Emanuel Presbyterian Church - Lynda Rice

Angel Food - Roly Rice

Hats for the Homeless - Laurie and Ron McKee

Never Ending Food Drive, A Youth Project - Tyler Winn

Road to Recovery -Dee Stokes

Volunteering at North Texas Food Bank -Pam Hampson

TPC Touchstones - (Does not begin until August 2011) -Cissi Bauer

Al's Hugs and Hammers Project - Janet Ohlig

Volunteering at The Stewpot-Second Chance Cafe- Frank and Debra Whinnie

Meals on Wheels - Lynda Rice

Facilitating – Dennis Yates

Committees

Property - Patrick Dilger

Grounds - Charlie Horton

Services - Steve Thomas

Finance - Larry Johnson

Personnel - Paul Leddy

Executive Director - Steve Thomas