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**January 2012**

# News from First Presbyterian

**Abiding in Christ, we love and serve others.**

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## In This Issue

From the Pastor  
 Update on your Youth  
 Music Ministries  
 Prayers of the People

## For your Info

**Ladies Night Out**  
 Tuesday, January 3,  
 5:45 PM  
 - Applebees

**First Friday Fellowship**  
 Home of Glenda Roberts, across church parking lot, Friday, January 6, 7:00 PM, bring goodies

**Congregational Meeting**  
 Sunday, January 8, after church - to vote on nominees for the position of elders to fill unexpired terms of Justin Rue and Duane Runyan

**PYF Luncheon**  
 Sunday, January 8

## From the Pastor

Here we are at the beginning of a new year! HAPPY NEW YEAR everyone!!!

We have a challenge before us as we enter the New Year. It is one I set forth in the Christmas Eve meditation. Do you remember? It goes like this:

In a world that seems not only to be changing, but even to be dissolving, there are some tens of millions of us who want Christmas to be the same... with the same ole greeting, "Merry Christmas," and no other. We long for the abiding love among men of good will which the season brings ... believing in this ancient miracle of Christmas with its softening, sweetening influence to tug at our heartstrings once again.

We want to hold onto the old customs and traditions because they strengthen our family ties, bind us to our friends, make us one with all mankind for whom the Christ was born, and bring us back again to the God Who gave His only begotten Son that "whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Here is the challenging part. So we will not *spend* Christmas ... nor "observe" Christmas. We will "keep" Christmas - keep it as it is ...in all the loveliness of its ancient traditions. May we keep it in our hearts, that we may be kept in its hope.

Interestingly, these words come from a sermon preached by Rev. Peter Marshall. The sermon was published and copyrighted in 1952 by his wife Catherine. It is remarkable how these words written over half a century ago still ring so true today. Our challenge, as it was for the people living in the golden era of the 1950's, is to "keep" Christmas.

Keeping Christmas has little to do with gifts and trees and all the trappings. Keeping Christmas means, as Peter Marshall is quoted: Keep

**Deacons Meeting**  
Sunday, January 8

**Church Committee Meetings**  
Tuesday, January 10,  
6:00 PM

**Annual Chili Cookoff**  
Wednesday, January  
18

**Women's Bible Study**  
Tuesday, January 24,  
10:00 AM

**The Book Wits**  
Tuesday, January 24,  
6:00 PM - We Were the  
Mulvaneys by Joyce  
Carol Oates

## **Celebrations**

### **Birthdays:**

Karen Friedman 1/2  
Rachel Tilley Ferrel  
1/4  
Jo Wright 1/6  
Martha Wilson 1/6  
Richard Galbraith 1/7  
Jim Hobbs 1/7  
Lila Viner 1/8  
John Moritz 1/10  
Ron Sasfai 1/12  
Ron DuBois 1/12  
Michael Hafferty 1/16  
Faith Hogan 1/18  
Tyler Fields 1/20  
Angela Pelton 1/23  
Earl Mobley 1/25  
Michelle Cullen 1/30  
Jack Baker 1/31

### **Anniversaries:**

Ron & Hilary DuBois  
1/5  
Todd & Karen Baker  
1/7  
Russel & Trisha Betts  
1/7  
Bob & Emily Laurel  
1/8

Christmas in our hearts that we may be kept in its hope. Keeping Christmas looks different for each person. Discern what it looks like for you. What does it mean to "keep" Christmas? How would you live that out in your life? Think about it. Pray about it. Ponder it in your heart. I challenge you to "keep" Christmas in the coming New Year, for in whatever way that might be manifest in your life you can be certain that you will be blessed beyond measure.

Keep Christmas throughout this New Year ... 2012

*Dari*

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## **Update on your Youth**

It is exciting to report that 17 young people participated in our annual Gingerbread House making activity. There were a few of us (who are still young) who participated and assisted as walls caved in, photos were taken, icing escaped onto tables and the candy onto the floor. Much thanks to Kate Reecer who painstakingly labored over the mixer, making untold amounts of frosting to serve as glue for the houses. We all had a great time.

Thank you to everyone who helps with the JUPY program. This is a great need in our church family and it is quite successful. The numbers of youth and children are increasing with the largest group to date being 17 young people for Gingerbread House making.

The JUPYs are a great group. They have grown into a group of youngsters who care for one another, help one another out, and really get on one another's last nerve....that is a good thing. Look for upcoming JUPY activities and studies.

## **Music Ministries**

### **MUSIC SPECIALS AND ANTHEMS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS**

January 1, 2012  
What Child Is This? - Emily Laurel, vocal solo  
Good King Wenceslas and What Child Is This - Claire DuBois, piano solo

January 8, 2012  
Down to the River to Pray - Sanctuary Choir with Donna Anderson, soloist

January 15, 2012  
Psalm 139

January 22, 2012  
I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

January 29, 2012  
Create in Me a Clean Heart

February 5, 2012  
Amazing Grace

### **THANK YOU FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

The Music Department would like to thank all who have purchased choir

### Fine Arts Group Coming Soon

A small group of people who love to paint together may be making their way to First Presbyterian in 2012. This group, which has been in existence for several years, recently lost its home and its teacher and has asked to be accepted at First Presbyterian as part of our community. This ecumenical group of artists uses several art forms, including watercolors, colored pencils, pastels, acrylics, oils, and pen and ink to express their creativity.

Pending approval of Session, the group will meet every Tuesday morning from 10:00 AM - Noon.

Although the people now on the waiting list are all painters, everyone who wishes to have a place to express their creativity through the fine arts (drawing, reading, writing poetry, etc.) are welcome to join us. If are interested in joining this group or getting more information, please contact Emily Laurel at (501)778-9564 or [etlaurel@aol.com](mailto:etlaurel@aol.com).

If approved on January 17, not only will First Presbyterian be offering the use of our facility as a place for this group to meet; but also we will be offering our facility as a means to fulfill our church mission and

anthems as honorariums or memorials, not only for 2011 but since 2009 when this form of church giving began. As of this writing 33 anthems have been purchased through your loving donations. Thank you so very much.

**SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS** are from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Wednesdays. Easter music will begin in February, so if you have considered joining the choir as a seasonal singer, then make plans to join us in February.

**CHILDREN'S CHOR MEETS ON SUNDAYS AT 9:30 AM** as part of their Sunday School hour. If you have preschoolers, feel free to come sit and listen with your child to get them familiar with music time and hopefully to begin a love for church music. Give the gift of music to your child and continue that gift through their attendance in Sunday School. Adult Sunday School classes are available for you as well.

### HANDCHIME CHOIR FOR EASTER

Did you hear the handchimes during worship on December 18? It would be great to prepare a song or two for Easter. No music note reading is needed, but counting to 4 is required. Let Lisa know if you would be interested. Rehearsal should begin in March.

### Prayers of the People

#### Please continue to pray for these members of our church family:

Betty Neely, Margaret Downs, Mignon Pevey, Fannie Dorian, Gerald Broadway, Lila Viner, Horace Lovell, Charlotte Morrison.

Rev. Dari Rowen, Earl Mobley, Brenda Bryan, Bob Denman, Joan DuBois, Edna White, Kaye Dunn, Jim Porter, Barbara Laule, Christie Miller, Barbara Galbraith, Russel Betts, Chuck Ward.

Oscar Lowe and family, friend of Jo Wright; Vinnie Donor, friend of Lisa Hester; Joe Grigsby, husband of Linda Gilbert's niece; Cyrie and Jeff Wright, friends of Ron and Brenda Sasfai; Layden Augular, Carl & Cheryl Winters' great-grandchild; Pud (Gwendolyn) Webb, wife of Allen Webb; John Stegman, friend of Arabelle Wade; Stephanie Yant, neighbor of Brenda Bryan; Allan Inmon, friend of Donna & Ken Anderson; Sophia Tilley; Marie Goldsmith, sister of Fred Wilson; Robert Johnson, brother of Peaches Calhoun; Patricia Jerrell; Julie Bellott; LaDonna McCormack, friend of Arlene Rainey; Crystal Balentine & family, friends of Marti Snellback; Easton Begoon, friend of Kelsey Fields; Jessica & Drew Short & family; Jessica Montgomery & twin sons, Fugere family; Pam Cluff, niece of Arabelle Wade; Brennan Jennings, grandson of James Jennings; Susan Berry, friend of Kaye & Frank Dunn; Cheryl Kulsa, friend of Lenore & David Monkus; Ken Ball, brother-in-law of Joyce Porter; Bill Umberson, Mary Mazander's brother; Bryan Grober, cousin of Jerry Stewart; Monroe Young, father of Donna Anderson; Bob & Jennifer Elam, friends of Alice Griswold; D. L. Ziegler, friend of Fred & Dori Wilson; Donna Ferro, friend of Trisha and Russel Betts; Mike Hardin, co-worker of Barbara Neely; Jim & Druetta Craig, friends of Tim & Jo Wright; Richard Widup, son-in-law of Carl & Cheryl Winters; Joyce Dobbins & Billie Mungle, sisters of Martha Wilson.

Please continue to pray for friends and family:

#### Please continue to pray for our military:

Pvt. 1st Class Austin Green, U.S. Army; Matt Krull, U.S. Army; Jared Paxton, friend of Barbara Neely; Major Jack Keene, U.S. Army; the

outreach efforts.

This unique mission opportunity will provide a safe, cost-free way for creative people to meet and share their inspirations, concerns, news, ideas, and love.

leaders of our country. Give thanks for the safe return of Hilary DuBois to her family.

**Please pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)**

April Counts, Ron DuBois, Sam Parnell, Lance Pelton, Kate Reecer, Jon Snyder, Mary Talbert.

**Condolences at the Time of Loss**

Our Christian sympathy goes out to Barbara Allen and her family at the loss of Barbara's father recently.

**A New Beginning**

You may notice some differences in this newsletter. The Communication and Strategic Planning Committee is very interested in keeping everyone up-to-date on church activities, events, issues, and announcements. This newsletter is an important part of that effort (also the LED sign in Trinity Triangle and the church website), but help is needed.

January 2012 is a new beginning for all of us--an opportunity to start afresh. Pick a new way to serve your church or choose an additional ministry you wish to perform and join us at our Second Tuesday Committee meeting on January 17 at 6:00 PM. If you cannot join us at the meeting on January 17 but are willing to serve the church in some capacity, contact Emily Laurel, newsletter coordinator. We Need You!

Also, we are asking for additional help with the newsletter. Please prayerfully consider whether you may be able to support our effort to keep everyone up-to-date on the church's activities. Thanks again to those who are now supporting this on-going effort.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

**Communication and Strategic Planning Committee**

Jon Snyder, Committee Chair (jondsnyder@aol.com, 501/454-6019)  
Emily Laurel, Newsletter Coordinator (etlaurel@aol.com, 501/778-9564)

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