

Subj: **News from First Presbyterian Church**
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February 2012

News from First Presbyterian

Abiding in Christ, we love and serve others.

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For your Info

Annual Chili Cookoff
 Wednesday, February 1, 6:00 PM, donation of \$5 for a meal and \$3 for kids with proceeds to help send JUPYs to youth camps, retreats, and conferences.

CJCOHN Fundraising Pancake Breakfast
 at Salem United Methodist Church
 Saturday, February 4
 7:30 AM - 11:30 AM
 Tickets \$6 or two for \$10 with proceeds to go toward renovation of the food storage

Leaping Ahead

February is the shortest month of the year. This year it is a little longer than usual with February 29 being added for Leap Year. We are filling this February with activities and programs! There are many opportunities for the Body to gather and to celebrate our love for Christ and our love for each other. I encourage everyone to participate in the life of the church, as you are able.

Look forward to the **Chili Cook-Off** (see February 1 details on left side column under *For your info*) sponsored by the Junior Presbyterian Youth (JUPYs). The competition is fun and all profits go toward the youth attending camps and conferences in exotic places like Montreat, North Carolina; Ferncliff in Little Rock, Arkansas; and outside of Hunt, Texas, where Mo Ranch is located. We have several youngsters looking forward to these experiences, which will encourage faith development and foster relationships that will continue for years to come. These relationships will only strengthen our youth group and the connections with youth across the denomination. Make plans to attend and support our youth!

February brings with it our **Annual Congregational Meeting**. This meeting will occur immediately following worship Sunday, February 12, 2012. The purpose of this meeting is to present the 2012 budget and to present the 2011 Annual Report of First Presbyterian Church Benton. I hope you can join in this gathering time of the congregation to both worship and be a part of the governance of the church.

I am excited about a new event coming up the end of the month. It is a **Mystery Dinner Theater**: "The Case of the Missing JUPY Youth Group." (See February 25 details on the left side column under *For your info*.) The last weekend of the month the JUPYs will be hosting this meal and Reader's Theater with a lot of help from others in the congregation. Again, the proceeds will go toward camps and conferences for the youth. This promises to be fun and a great time for fellowship among the congregation. In addition, I hope you will bring friends and relatives along with you. Tickets will be limited and go on sale in the near future. Details

building at CJCOHN.
 Tickets may be purchased from Frankie Moritz, Linda Gilbert, or Marcia Snyder or at the door.

First Friday Fellowship

There will be no First Friday Fellowship in February.

Souper Bowl Special Offering

Our youth will be taking an offering to fight hunger and poverty in our community on the Sunday of the Super Bowl football game.

PYF/JUPY Luncheon

Sunday, February 5
 Come to the Junior Presbyterian Youth (JUPY) fundraising luncheon on February 5th following worship. We will be serving a hearty cajun 15 bean soup and fresh cornbread. Adults \$6 and children 11 and younger \$3. All are welcome for great food and fellowship!

Deacons Meeting

Sunday, February 5

Ladies Night Out

Monday, February 6,
 5:45 PM at Applebees

Second Thursday Fellowship

at noon on February 9
 Soup Potluck will feature the handbell choir from Salem Methodist along with vocalist and guitarist Lynn Hoggard, also from Salem.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 12,
 after church - to receive

forthcoming!

An upcoming **special opportunity for study** in Adult Church School is a study that will lead into and through the Lenten Season. "Final Words" study is by popular pastor and author Adam Hamilton. This DVD-based study takes a look at the final words Christ uttered from the Cross. Join in this class for what promises to be a thought provoking and inspiring series.

There are many things going on in the life of the congregation, and I pray we can come together and get to know one another in a new way. Encourage everyone to join in the fun, the worship, and the learning. My greatest prayer is for our lives as Christians to come together and worship and love the Lord in such ways that people will know who we are by our love. We are known to be a friendly church and that's great. Let's grow that and become known as a loving church!

Blessings to you as we move into the Lenten season, *Dari*

Update on Pastor Nominating Committee's Progress

The Pastor Nominating Committee is continuing to meet. We are making progress on the Church Information Form (CIF).

Novel mission/outreach activity receives Session approval

If you come to Cockmon Hall (fellowship hall) on any Tuesday morning between 10 AM and noon, be prepared to see people creating art as they quietly visit with each other and the group.

On January 24 Session unanimously approved Emily Laurel's request to allow a small group of people who love to paint together to use our beautiful church as a weekly meeting place.

This group, which has been in existence for several years, recently lost its home and its teacher, so Emily asked for this group to be accepted at First Presbyterian as a new ministry for our church members to enjoy and as a mission opportunity for 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 through their art.

Although the people in the group are all painters, anyone who wishes to have a place to use their skills in the use of arts or crafts is welcome to attend. This unique mission opportunity provides a safe, cost-free way for people to meet and share their inspirations, concerns, news, ideas, and love. There is no fee for attending. So, bring your current project and prepare yourself to lose track of the everyday cares and worries of your life as you focus your attention on creating the art you most enjoy.

Be sure to bring protection (a yard of felt from WalMart or a piece of plastic to protect your work area) if your specialty might make a mess.

All are welcome, men included; if you don't have an artistic bone in your body, please come anyway. The fellowship is great!

the church's 2011 annual report from Session's committees and 2012 budget.

Church Committee Meetings

Thursday, February 16, 6:00 PM (moved from February 14 due to Valentine's Day)

Mystery Dinner Theater

Saturday, February 25
Featuring The Case of the Missing JUPY Youth Group
Brought to you by First Presbyterian's Young Presbyterians

Wedding Invitation

Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Eberly invite you to celebrate the marriage of their daughter Hayley Lynn Eberly to Jonathan Adam Gilbert on Saturday, February 25, 2012, 3:00 PM at Pines Presbyterian Church 12751 Kimberley Lane, Houston, Texas. Cake reception immediately to follow in Fellowship Hall.

Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, February 28, 10:00 AM

The Book Wits

Tuesday, February 28

Celebrations

Birthdays:

John Lucas "Luke" Allen 2/8
Candy Webb 2/10
Elizabeth Kraus 2/11
Trisha Betts 2/12
Hunter Hogue 2/15
Marti Snellback 2/16
Jim Horn 2/17

If are interested in knowing more, please contact Emily Laurel at (501) 778-9564 or etlaurel@aol.com. Otherwise, be there any Tuesday morning to join the fun.

Music Ministries

MUSIC SPECIALS AND ANTHEMS FOR THE NEXT FEW WEEKS

February 5, 2012 - Amazing Grace
February 12, 2012 - A Closer Walk with Trust and Obey, Given in honor of Lisa Hester by D'Ann and Kaye'D Diles.
February 19, 2012 - We Are Singing, for the Lord is our Light
February 22, 2012 (Ash Wednesday) - Taize Medley
February 26 - We Believe (The Apostles Creed)
March 4 - How Beautiful

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSALS are from 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM on Wednesdays, including February 1, after the Chili Cook-off and February 22, after the Ash Wednesday service. Easter music will also begin in February so if you have considered joining the choir as a seasonal singer, then make plans to join us this month.

CHILDREN'S MUSIC TIME is working on the children's choir anthems "God Made Me" and "Wade in the Water" (which includes Devotion to Motion). They meet every Sunday at 9:30 a.m. as part of their Sunday School hour. Those with 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.

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.

Destiny Hogue, Kay Dunn, Christie Miller, Joan DuBois, Jim Porter, Barbara Galbraith, Chuck Ward, Brenda Bryan, Edna White, Ron DuBois, Russel Betts, Earl Mobley.

Quay Marshall; Llona Wade, daughter-in-law of Arabelle Wade; Joseph Womack, father of Barbara Webb; Sammie Patton, mother of April Counts; Carl Berry, son-in-law of Emma Bailey; Nick Foley, friend of Carolyn Duncan; Rhett Womack and family, friend of Peaches Calhoun; Vinnie Donor, friend of Lisa Hester; Joe Grigsby, husband of Linda Gilbert's niece; 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; Sophia Tilley; Marie Goldsmith, sister of Fred Wilson; Robert Johnson, brother of Peaches Calhoun; LaDonna McCormack, friend of Arlene Rainey; Crystal Balentine and family, friend of Marti Snellback; Easton Begoon, friend of Kelsey Fields; Jessica & Drew Short and family; Jessica Montgomery & twin sons, family of the Fugeres; Pam Cluff, niece of Arabelle Wade; Brennan Jennings, grandson of James Jennings; Susan Berry, friend of Kaye & Frank Dunn; Ken Ball, brother-in-law of Joyce Porter, Bill Umberson, Mary

Dillon Coker-Quintus
2/19
Gerald Broadway 2/20
Horace Lovell 2/28

Anniversaries:

Ray & Faith Hogan
2/4
Lance & Angela Pelton
2/12
Fred & Dori Wilson
2/12

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; 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 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 leaders of our country.

Please pray for our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC)

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

Newsletter Deadline

Please note that the deadline for submission of articles is the 20th of the month. To submit articles after the deadline, contact the church office to determine whether article can be published in the next issue.

A Message of Encouragement

Quoting Dr. Sid Batts:
"Courage is not the absence of fear; it is being fearful and doubtful and doing it anyway."

Offered by Elder Ron Sasfai

The cupboard (pantry) is bare.

Each week we give sacks of food to people in need. The deacons provide these sacks of food but need your help keeping our pantry stocked. You may place your food donations in the round Up wagon in front of the nursery window any Sunday or you may wait and give them to the children as they collect food before the offering on the last Sunday of the month.

We need pop top items such as meals, soups, and vegetables; single servings of fruit; peanut butter; jelly; bottled water; saltine crackers; breakfast bars and other similar items.

CASH DONATIONS ARE ALSO ACCEPTED.

Please designate your checks for Deacons' Pantry or place your cash in an offering envelope marked for Deacons' Pantry and place in offering plate on Sunday.

Transitions

The Communication and Strategic Planning Committee is very interested in keeping everyone informed about 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). With this issue of our church newsletter, coordinator/editor Emily Laurel is turning over the reins to someone new. She agreed to shepherd this important communication vehicle at the time Pastor Kris left to join her husband in Louisiana. The first issue was published in October, 2009. During this time the newsletter's focus has been to keep everyone up-to-date on church activities through the articles and special items published in the newsletter (also the LED sign in Trinity Triangle and on the church's website). We say goodbye to Emily and welcome to our new coordinator/editor. Look forward to a fresh, new perspective in coming issues.

Thank you for making the effort to read to the end of this newsletter. If you are reading this online, you are among the 60 families on our 90-family email distribution list to do so. "Hard copies" are mailed to fewer than 50 other families who either do not have email capability or who prefer to have their copy mailed to them. If you need to make a change in how you receive this newsletter, please contact the church office.

Communication and Strategic Planning Committee

Jon Snyder, Committee Chair (jondsnyder@aol.com, 501/454-6019)

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