

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, Tx 79007
~March 2011~*

First Presbyterian Church
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FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

March

Borger, Texas

2011

PASTOR'S PEN
March 2011

Dear Friends;

I think that this is the year for blessings. Now this may not sound like much of a blessing but - - - when I looked at the 2011 calendar and saw that Ash Wednesday wasn't until March 9th and Easter isn't until April 24th, I felt truly blessed! It felt as though I had been given an extra month to get everything in order for our Lenten journey – yes, yours and mine. Lent takes us to Easter, to the celebration and experience of the new life that Jesus won for us on the cross - but what does that mean to you, where you are today?

In Lent we acknowledge our brokenness, our sin, our mistakes - AND own up to the consequences! We can't blame God or others - just humbly open ourselves up to God and ask forgiveness. That's HARD! When we acknowledge that, despite the image we try to project, we just might actually have had SOME responsibility for the messes our lives can get in. THAT'S the beginning of change, of new life.

So, this is where you and your story come in... What brokenness has touched your life? If you're like most of us, you won't have to look too hard to find something - health, family, job, relationships, or even in your personal life. Ask God to strip away the excuses, arrogance, fear and pride - and then ask him to give forgiveness and healing. I promise your journey will almost instantly change - and it may even get more difficult for a time as you are now bringing out in front of your journey those issues that need attention (instead of ignoring them or blaming others - including God).

"More difficult" is NOT all bad - it means that we are dealing with hard things - and if we DON'T deal with them, they will deal with us - and that will NOT be pleasant.

Help and support for the hard parts of your journey is here and available - Just ASK!

As we begin this journey, let us begin with prayer:

An Ash Wednesday Prayer

Father in heaven, the light of your truth bestows sight to the darkness of sinful eyes.

May this season of repentance bring us the blessing of your forgiveness

and the gift of our light. Grant this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessings in your Lenten journey,

Georgia

Session Actions

Borger, Texas Stated Session Meeting January 16, 2011

Stated Session meeting was held in the church Conference Room beginning at 11:40 am with prayer. The Rev. Jennifer Santer served as Moderator due to the illness of Rev. Georgia King. Also present were Phyllis Harmony, Hazel Howard, Julia Kasch, Jerry Pool, and Pat Petty. Treasurer Pam Nicholas was also present. Elder and Session Clerk Hal Hebermehl was absent.

CLERK: Minutes from the December 2010 meeting were reviewed and approved by a motion from Elder Harmony and a second by Elder Kasch. No communications at the present time.

TREASURER: There was no monthly report for the month of December. That report will be available to the Session at the January 2011 meeting. The budget for 2011 was discussed. One change needs to be made for the outdoor sign. That amount was listed at \$1500.00 and should be changed to \$4000.00. The higher amount was preferred by the Session. The monies will come from the Memorial Fund designated for outdoor sign in memory of Bobby Farrell. The remainder of the funds will come from the Sue Sharpe bequeath. The Budget for 2011 was approved with a motion by Elder Pool and a second by Elder Petty. The budget will be presented to the congregation on February 13, 2011 at the annual Congregational Meeting.

PASTOR REPORT: Rev. King continues to improve and plans on coming back to the pulpit on January 30, 2011. She and Rev. Santer will fill the pulpit that day.

COMMITTEES:

WORSHIP: Communion for February will be February 13, 2011.

PROPERTY: Elder Pool reported that construction continues on the remodeling of bathrooms. He anticipates that the crew will be completely done by the end of January. A gas leak was discovered and repaired.

STEWARDSHIP: Budget for 2011 is complete. It will be presented to the congregation on February 13, 2011.

FELLOWSHIP: There will be no dinners planned except for the Congregational Annual Meeting on February 13, 2011. Elder Pool will furnish the hamburgers. The congregation will bring the rest.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: One Great Hour of Sharing is April 4, 2011. Envelopes will be placed in the pews for that.

There was no New Business or Old Business.

Meeting adjourned at 12:31 pm with prayer.

CALLED MEETING OF SESSION FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BORGER, TEXAS 2-5-2011

Members attending: Jerry Pool, Phyllis Harmony, Julia Kasch, Pat Petty, Georgia King, and Pam Nicholas, treasurer. On a motion by Pat Petty, seconded by Jerry Pool, Julia Kasch will serve as interim clerk of the session until Hal Hebermehl is able to resume the duties of clerk. Motion passed.

Members were reminded that documents relating to session meetings are not published until the full session has read and approved said documents. This approval can be expressed individually by e mail to the clerk.

Old business: Members reviewed the draft of the budget to be presented to the congregation at the congregational meeting. The treasurer will make the adjustments suggested and make copies for the congregational meeting. The session feels that new budget format will increase the readability of the document.

New business: Rev. Janne Brumelow, Stated Clerk of the Palo Duro Presbytery, is retiring for health reasons. She has filled our pulpit several times in addition to her Presbytery duties. The session voted to contribute \$250.00 from our unrestricted memorial fund to assist her in her move to the Grace Presbyterian Village in the Dallas area. (Motion Pat Petty, second Phyllis Harmony, passed).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Submitted: Julia Ann Kasch, Acting Clerk

**Congregational Meeting First Presbyterian Church Borger, Texas
February 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 12:15 p.m. by Rev. Georgia King, pulpit supply for First Presbyterian Church. A copy of the Annual Report was available for each member. The Church Clerk was absent due to illness and Julia Ann Kasch was chosen by the Session to serve in his absence.

Each section of the report was discussed by the members. The new persons to serve on the Nominating Committee were approved by the group. Other items discussed from the various other reports were: carpet cleaning; signage indicating church time and office location (this to be partly funded by the memorials to Bobbie Farrell); the closing of the Sue Sharp estate in July of 2010 with the church to receive a refund from the IRS with the law firm stating that there would not be a reclamation of the estate; pastor sick leave policy; other suggested local mission possibilities for the Sue Sharp funds; thanks to the Session, C.J. Nelson and Bonnie Schropp for their efforts with the remodeling and refurbishing of the break room and

secretary's office. Thanks also to Jerry Pool for preparing the hamburgers and to the ladies of the Hospitality Committee for making the luncheon a delicious success.

Submitted by Julia Kasch

A copy of the Annual Report is filed with the meeting document in order to give details of the report.

The Treasurer reported the following figures for January:

Total Income	\$17,639.58
Total Expenses	<u>\$19,506.78</u>
Total	(\$1,867.20)
Year to Date	
Total Income	\$17,639.58
Total Expenses	<u>\$19,506.78</u>
Total	(\$1,867.20)



Care of Member and Friends

Scott Glenn
James Farrell
Malnor Arthur
Pat and Alice Harvey
Georgia King

DUTY ELDER FOR MARCH

HAZEL HOWARD

MARCH 6

JULIA KASCH

MARCH 13TH, 20TH & 27TH

SESSION MEETING

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2011



P.W. NEWS



P.W. will meet March 3, 2011 at 10:00pm, in the Coffee Room. Bonnie and C.J. cleaned our Coffee Room and gave it such a shine and polish. We'll enjoy meeting there.

Our Lesson is number 6, "Witness to Hope" We have printouts from Horizon Magazine to help us with this study.

Come join us for a study and fellowship at 10:00 a.m. on March 3rd.

Lee Buckland

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3rd : Sandy Edgington

26th: Pat Hester



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

NO ANNIVERSARIES THIS MONTH

Special dates

World Day of Prayer, March 4, 2011
Transfiguration of the Lord, March 6, 2011
Ash Wednesday, March 9, 2011
First Sunday in Lent, March 13, 2011
Daylight-Saving Time begins, March 13, 2011
Second Sunday in Lent, March 20, 2011
First Day of Spring, March 20, 2011
Third Sunday in Lent, March 27, 2011



Ark of the Covenant

The ark was at the center of worship for the Israelites. It contained the stone tablets of the Ten Commandments, a pot of manna and Aaron's rod. In the Old Testament, the ark was a visible representation of God's throne, or presence, on earth, where he communed with Moses and the high priests. It also represents our earthly bodies, where the Holy Spirit dwells.

A great fit

A caller to Christian radio station KLOVE spoke of the amazing way God restored her struggling marriage. On the weekend that she and her husband separated, they each attended different services on different days at their large, multi-campus church.

For an object lesson, the pastor had purchased three 1,500-piece puzzles and given one piece to each worshiper that weekend. The woman took hers home and placed it on her dresser.

That Sunday, the husband stopped by the house to do yard work. When the woman walked by her dresser, she noticed that another puzzle piece was attached to hers – and it fit. It was the piece her husband had received at church.

The woman said that was a loud sign from God that she and her husband “fit” together and would be okay. Life and marriage aren't always perfect, but she framed the puzzle pieces “as a constant reminder to our covenant to each other” and to God's promises.



Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Scripture Reference

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March 2011

March 6 (Transfiguration of the Lord)

Exodus 24:12-18
Psalm 2:1-12 or Psalm 99:1-9
2 Peter 1:16-21
Matthew 17:1-9

March 9 (Ash Wednesday)

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

March 13 (1st Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
Psalm 32:1-11
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

March 20 (2nd Sunday of Lent)

Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121:1-8
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

March 27 (3rd Sunday of Lent)

Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95:1-11
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42



Living as a Christian

It isn't easy to live the Christian life. Some years ago, Dom Helder Camera, Brazil's Roman Catholic bishop, said: "When I gave food to the poor, they called me a saint; when I asked why there were so many poor, I was called a Communist." Do good consistently, and you will pay a price sooner or later.

Jesus was sometimes considered radical. He talked to a Samaritan woman at a well. He healed and ate grain from a field on the Sabbath. He hung out with sinners.

The Pharisees and the Sadducees didn't work to get rid of Jesus because he spoke of the birds of the air and the lilies of the field. Rather, it was because he denounced the unjust leaders he called hypocrites (see Matthew 23).

Lent is a good time to recall these words of Jesus: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me" (Matthew 16:24, NRSV).

The glory of spring

A pastor looked out his study window and was smitten by the glory of spring bursting forth all around him. He recalled a story about a Jewish doctor freed from a Nazi concentration camp.

The doctor began walking along a country road and was captivated by the green meadows, the wildflowers, the singing birds. He felt touched by the master artist's work in nature. Indeed, the doctor was so moved that he knelt by the road in prayer. He decided that God was giving him a whole new life. He was becoming a healthy human being again, instead of a victim of horror and hate.

The pastor, remembering that story, praised God as he saw the earth blooming once again with indescribable beauty.



Notes from the Music



Department

February was a very cold and snowy month. Maybe March will be somewhat warmer!! We also know that March is usually a windy month. I hope we luck out with better weather!

Choir practice for March will be March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30. We meet at 6:30 pm and would love to have any of you who want to come join us. We will begin to learn new music for Easter along with our good old standbys.

The Opening Response for March will be “Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place”. The Closing Response will be one we have used in the past and will be an insert in the bulletin. Please join the choir in singing.

We always hold our members who have left us in our prayers. We keep Jim Farrell in our prayers as he deals with health issues. We are thrilled that Georgia King is finally much better and back with us where she belongs. We pray for continued strength and healing for all those mentioned and for all our church family.

May the road rise up to meet you until we meet again. Amen!

Pat Petty and Choir

Say yes to God

“Many think of self-denial as giving up something during the Lenten season. Others have said that it is to be dead to self, or even to hate self. I disagree with these opinions. When Jesus referred to self-denial (Mark 8:34), he was not talking about denying ourselves some luxury item or denying the reality of self or the needs of self. Rather, he was focusing on the importance of renouncing self as the center of our life and actions.

“In other words, self-denial is the decision of each of his followers to give over to God his body, career, money and time. A true disciple is willing to shift the spiritual center of gravity in his life. Self-denial is the sustained willingness to say no to oneself in order to say yes to God.”

—Bill Hull

