

FIRST WORD

January 2010 First Presbyterian Church

703 Church Street * Georgetown, Texas 78626
Phone: 512/863-3381 Fax: 512/868-1226 E-Mail: fpcgt@gte.net
Website: www.fpcgeorgetown.org

Table of Contents

Worship in January	1
New Year Reminders	2
Session Highlights	3
Income & Expense	4
Christian Education	
Sunday School	6
Logos	7
Noah's Ark Kids Day Out	8
Youth Ministry	9
Fellowship	
Presbyterian Women	10
ACTs	12
Show 'N Share	11
Noon Book Review	12
Care Ministry	
Among our People	14
Points from Penny	15
Stephen Ministry	15
Mission	
Mission Sewing	12
The Caring Place	13
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Flowers,	
Head Deacons	16
Calendar for January	17

WORSHIP IN JANUARY

8:30 a.m. Sanctuary/ 11:00 a.m. Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching all month

January 3 rd	Ordination & Installation of new officers (11:00) Sermon: "In the Beginning" Scripture: John 1:1-18; Jeremiah 31:7-14
January 10 th	Sacrament of the Lord's Supper "Arranging the Body" 1 Corinthians 12:12-31
January 17 th	"The First Sign" John 2:1-11
January 24 th	"With Understanding" Nehemiah 8:1-10; Luke 4:14-21
January 31 st	"Prophet without Honor" Luke 4:21-30; Jeremiah 1:4-10

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND DINNER JANUARY 31st

The Session has called the annual congregational meeting for Sunday January 31st 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum for this meeting is 70 members.

The congregational dinner will precede the meeting at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be a potluck. Please bring a meat or salad or dessert to feed ten.

The annual meeting will include:

- Annual Report of the Pastor- Dr. Michael Roberts
- Financial Reports for 2009
- Overview of Budget for 2010
- Change in Pastor's Terms of Call
- Review of Mission Involvement

NEW YEAR REMINDERS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

- As we begin a new year together, we wish to remind you about certain practices that will make our life together go more smoothly.
- If you or a family member is going to have surgery or be in the hospital, please let the church office know. Our members have hospital stays in at least 7 area hospitals. Most hospitals no longer allow the pastoral staff to see the hospital register. We will not know that you are in the hospital unless you tell us! Your help in informing the staff can help us greatly in providing quality care while members are in the hospital.
- Any activity or event or group no matter how small needs to be cleared on the church calendar. Our Administrative Assistant, Cindee Molenda coordinates the church calendar. Outside groups and activities need to fill out a Building Use Form and be approved by the Property Committee.
- Checks are issued when a Check Requisition Form has been filled out and signed by an authorized person. A simple receipt is not sufficient for reimbursement. This insures that expenses are disbursed from the appropriate place in a responsible manner. Check Requisition Forms are available in the office and need to be turned into the Financial Secretary, Joan Kayser.
- The Sunday bulletin deadline is Wednesday noon. The staff and volunteers need the time to write, edit, reproduce, and fold the bulletins each week. The newsletter deadline is even more critical as we produce a large monthly newsletter. The next newsletter deadline is announced in each month's newsletter. Please honor these deadlines.
- Appointments with the pastor, Dr. Michael Roberts, may be made with our Administrative Assistant to the Pastor, Cindee Molenda.

WINTER NEW MEMBER SEMINAR ON SATURDAY JANUARY 23RD

Three times a year our pastor, Dr. Michael Roberts teaches the New Member Seminar for those interested in knowing more about the Christian faith and for those interested in joining with us in membership and ministry. The class will consider Presbyterian beliefs, history, government, and our future as a church. It is a great opportunity to meet fellow newcomers and many of our church staff members. A tour of the entire church facility is included. The seminar will meet in the Conference Room from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and includes lunch. Those who wish to join the church will be received by the Session on that day. Please register with the church office by Wednesday January 20th.

HOME COMMUNION TRAINING

Dr. Michael Roberts will provide training for those who serve communion to our home-bound members on Sunday January 24th at 9:40 a.m. We are looking for additional servers who are ordained elders or deacons. You do not have to be active in service at this time. We need your help. Come to this hour long training session and be a part of the team!

A YEAR WITH THE BIBLE 2010

Looking for a way to start reading the Bible? This year we will be providing once again, *A Year with the Bible*, a booklet listing a short passage of scripture for each day of the year. It also contains suggested prayers. The first edition was published in 1916. You may pick up *A Year with the Bible* in the Lobby and Narthex.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS December 15, 2009

- The following have completed New Officers Training and are ready for ordination/installation: Elizabeth Bailey, Sandra Boucher, Larry Burk, Bill Caudle, Joyce Joiner, Tim Kennedy, Karen McClure, Courtney Root, Cliff Snyder, and Joe Warren.
- Session elected their officers for 2010: Phil Bookert as Clerk of Session, Margaret Sunkel as Assistant Clerk of Session, and Jim Mueller as Church Treasurer.
- Session received Marty Curtis into membership by transfer of letter from the Grace Presbyterian Church of Little Rock, Arkansas.
- Year-end membership is 700.
- Session approved Revised Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual.
- Joy Bedford and Kathleen Wenzel will attend APCE training in Nashville in January.
- The Stewardship and Finance Committee wishes to thank the congregation for submitting their pledges on a continuing basis throughout the year, and also thank committees and staff for keeping their spending in line with their quarterly projections.
- Activities related to the Fall Financial Campaign continue. Projected income for 2010 as of Tuesday, December 15th is \$897,869 while the 2010 Proposed Budget is \$896,355, a positive difference of \$1,514. A thank-you letter to all members who pledged for 2010 will be mailed on December 21st.
- Session approved a final budget for 2010 of \$896,355.
- Senior Elder reflections were given by Rod Burke, Mike Carson, Chuck Graham, Cathy Ramsey, Bob Thorp, and Kay Yeager.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS November 24, 2009

- Session moved four additional members to the inactive roll. A total of 38 members were moved to Inactive Roll this year.
- The church received a plaque from The Caring Place recognizing our 25 years of support.
- Session will allow Noah's Ark to invite members to eat at several area restaurants on a given night and thus receive a percentage of receipts; receipts to be used to purchase educational and cleaning supplies.
- Work has been completed on the Narthex including painting, cleaning, rearranging furniture, and re-hanging of the Presbyterian Women quilt. Worship and Property Committees worked on this project this year.
- Session approved Communion dates for 2010: January 10, February 14, March 14, April 1 (Maundy Thursday), April 11, May 9, June 13, August 1, September 5, September 26 (Retreat at Mo-Ranch), October 3, November 7, November 28, December 24 (10:30 PM service), and January 9, 2011.

**Income and Expense Report Year to Date – November 30, 2009
General Operating Fund**

<u>Income</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Pledges	\$730,052	\$718,284
Other	73,957	92,684
TOTAL	\$804,009	\$810,968

<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>
Validated Mission	\$ 51,846	\$51,843
Local/Other Mission	15,646	18,452
Ministry of the Word	132,976	138,078
Program/Support Staff	308,736	318,357
Christian Education	24,261	25,415
Music and Worship	6,473	8,113
Evangelism/Care	5,980	7,608
Property	78,529	82,042
Stewardship/Finance	27,544	24,246
Other	39,861	35,925
Debt Retirement	105,582	105,002
TOTAL	\$ 797,434	\$ 815,079



WEBSITE PICTURES

Christina Bondesen

Our new website is up and running! I highly recommend you check it out if you have not done so in the last six months. Our website address is www.fpcgeorgetown.org The site is now capable of highlighting our ministries around the church through the photo gallery. There are already several slideshows for children ministries, one of the youth mission trip and church family events like Celebration of Ministry and Christmas Night Together. However, I am missing **adult ministries** and would love to add those activities to the list.

If you are a part of ACTS, Presbyterian Women, Men's Christian Fellowship, Noon Book Review, Show 'n' Share or Tables of Eight and have pictures from your gatherings in the past year, please contact me. Each of your groups is a vibrant part of our adult ministries and I would like to have up-to-date pictures that I could add as a slideshow for you. My computer is capable of receiving SD camera cards of various sizes, flash drives, photos on CD or in the event that you are still "old school," hard copy pictures can be scanned in on my printer. I do not recommend sending by email or sharing as a link online as those avenues sometimes present problems with clarity and ability to save on my hard drive. Original data would be returned to you and I would have wonderful new photos to share!

My hours are 8:30 – 12:00 p.m. M/W/F and 8:30 – 2:30 Tu/Th if you'd like to drop by while I'm here. Otherwise, you may leave anything in my box with a note explaining what activity has been photographed and on what date it happened. My box is located in the main office. I look forward to seeing your pictures!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

Joy Bedford, Education Director

joy.bedford@yahoo.com

Oh, how much we have been given. A huge thank you to my church family and the administrative committee for the staff Christmas gifts. You are awesome.

Kathleen Wenzel and I will be away at APCE (Association of Presbyterian Church Educators) from Jan. 26-29. I will be taking my last Associate Certification Class from Jan. 24-29. We will be in Nashville, Tennessee. Is there anything I should know about Nashville in January?

One of the things I love about this church is the strong sense of family we have. We welcome visitors with open arms, our college kids come home and get hugs and pats on the back, more mature persons are helped to their seat by someone they don't even know, children running through the halls stop (usually) even when someone they don't know tells them to. We are family. Let's start this new year together.



Sunday School Starts January 3rd!!! Make sure you are here.
We don't want to start the year off without you!



**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO MADE CHRISTMAS NIGHT
TOGETHER A WONDERFUL CELEBRATION!!!!**

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, 9:40-10:40 A.M.

Sunday School is offered for all ages every Sunday. Join us for a time of learning about who we are as God's people through the stories in the Bible.

ADULT EDUCATION on SUNDAY mornings, 9:40-10:40 A.M.

Adult Elective, Sanctuary

Beginning January 3rd, Dr. John Ahn, Assistant Professor of Old Testament at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be teaching this class. Since this is the first time Dr. Ahn has taught at First Church Georgetown I thought you would like to see a little of his history. He has been with the seminary since 2006. Please visit their website for more information.

- BA, New York University, 1994, *magna cum laude* (Honors in Religious Studies)
- MDiv, Princeton Theological Seminary, 1997, Old Testament (concentration)
- STM, Yale University Divinity School, 1999, Hebrew Bible/Old Testament (Class Marshal)
- Doctoral Examinations: Hebrew & Aramaic, Israelite Religion (Development of Monotheism), History of ancient Israel (6th & 5th centuries), Literature (Pentateuch & Prophets)
- PhD, Yale University Graduate School, 2006, Religious Studies; Dissertation: "Exile, Literature, and Theology: The Literary and Socio-Theological Impact of the Forced Migrations of the Southern Kingdom of Judah"

The class he will be teaching is:

"From Broken Love to Redeeming Love: Fractured Texts in the Old Testament, Why Are They There in the First Place?"

- Jan 3 "The Sin & The Binding" (Gen 3 & 22)
Jan 10 "Shattered But Her Power of Silence" (Jud 19)
Jan 17 "By the Irrigation Canals of Babylon" (Ps 137)
Jan 24 "Fragrance of Love: Too Controversial for Scripture?" (Song of Songs)
Jan 31 "Ethnic Cleansing in My Bible?" (Ezra 9-10)

Cornerstones, Room 205

On January 3rd the Cornerstones Class will begin their study of Hebrews.

Teachers: Doug and Judy Bond

Surveyors, Room 207

The Surveyors will continue their study of 1 Corinthians through January 10. On January 17th Joe Warren will lead this class in a study of the book of Proverbs.

Homebuilders, Room 111

The Homebuilders class is geared for couples, parents, and single adults in the family-building stage of life. We meet during the Sunday School hour from 9:40-10:40 AM. Need another reason to join us? We have breakfast almost every Sunday! If you have any questions, contact class leader *Karen McClure* at mcclure.karen@gmail.com. This class will continue their study of "Servant or Sucker?" through January 24th.

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT FPC

LOGOS for Children in Kinder through the 6th Grade Kathleen Wenzel, Director

Logos is very grateful for the incredible members of our church that give their time, energy and talents to Logos children. Thank You!

The Logos board is busy planning an action packed spring that will start with Jumpstart on Wednesday, January 6th AT 5:30 PM, dinner will be served and children are invited.

All Logos parents and volunteers are encouraged to attend and come hear the exciting things planned for the spring semester.

Please note the **"can't miss dates"** of the spring semester:

January 6	Jumpstart (5:30-6:45)
January 13	First LOGOS of the spring semester (4:45)
January 31	Logos choir sing in worship
March 7	Logos choir sing in worship
May 1	Musical dress rehearsal (Saturday)
May 2	Logos Musical @ both services

The spring semester will include a talent show; all Logos participants are encouraged to start planning what talent they would like to showcase. Being with these children every week I know we are surrounded by a talented group of kids. I cannot wait to see what talents they bring! This will be a fun night and you may perform solo or with a group! The date will be on the theme calendar along with other themes for the spring and given out at Jumpstart.

2010 CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Confirmation Class for youth 6th grade and up who are willing to profess their faith in Jesus Christ will begin on Wednesday January 13th at 6:15 PM, in Room 205. Our pastor, Dr. Michael Roberts, will teach this class with the help of Joy Bedford, Education Director. The class will meet on Wednesdays through March 10th. We will study the meaning of church membership, a survey of the Bible, worship, and the Presbyterian Church. The Service of Confirmation will take place at the 11:00 a.m. service on Sunday March 28th. Please contact the church office (863-3381) to register for this class or if you need further information.

JR HIGH BIBLE STUDY, WED, 6:00-7:00 PM IN YOUTH ROOM
JR HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL DINNER, 7:00-7:30 PM IN Youth Room
HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE STUDY, 7:3-8:30 PM IN YOUTH ROOM

*******OTHER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES*******

Women's Monday Night Study

We will continue the Beth Moore Study of Daniel, the last 7 chapters, beginning January 11 at 6:00 PM in Room 205. Contact Joy Bedford.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

The breakfast group will meet every 3rd Friday morning. The format of Bible study will be to study and reflect on the Scripture readings for the coming Sunday sermon. Time and place will be emailed to you. Please RSVP to David Lee Hulseley (863-3381) dhulseley63@gmail.com or Cliff Snyder (468-2877) [c_rsnnyder@yahoo.com](mailto:rsnyder@yahoo.com). Can't wait to see you there!

Men's Spiritual Growth Group

This Bible Study meets every Wednesday at noon in Room 101. The men study scripture as they eat lunch together.

NOAH'S ARK KID'S DAY OUT

Chrissy Creech

December was a month full of Christmas miracles! The first miracle involved cookies. You see, I forgot to put a request in the newsletter and bulletin asking for cookies for our Christmas Pageant. We would have no cookies to feed our fine actors and actresses when their performance was done. Joy put a letter out to the circles asking for help. When I looked in the kitchen Thursday evening before our show, the counter was covered in cookies for us! Our cookies trays overflowed and we had plenty of cookies for the parents, kids, teachers, and staff! Thank you to all who helped in the baking department!

The second miracle was the performance itself. With the help of Timothy Roberts on sound, Monica Koeing on piano and Joy Bedford on duty as all around helper elf, we had a flawless program. Now, with the cast of our pageant being 5 years or under, our flawless might look a little different than someone else's, but no one fell off the stage, no one cried and the children sang beautifully! Thanks again to Timothy, Monica and Joy for all of your patience and love.

Last but certainly not least, we had our visit from Santa! You guessed it! Joe came and visited our school to spread Christmas cheer! God has blessed our church with a wonderful man to help out Santa this time of year. I wish you could have seen the faces of the children when they saw him walk into their classrooms....PURE JOY! One little girl told me with a giggle "I can't stop smiling!" So, what's the miracle you ask? Well, that comes at nap time when the kids weren't sure if Santa was still hanging around so they all took a nap!! I LOVE Santa! Thanks Joe!

Have a happy new year!!!

2010 promises to be a year full of opportunities for our youth to engage their faith, fellowship with friends, and have some fun. In Youth Ministry, we wouldn't have it any other way! January is going to be an exciting start for the year with Wednesday night Bible Studies and Sunday Night Live starting back up, as well as visiting Mo-Ranch for Mid-Winter Conferences.

Also, all the youth directors participating in OneNow (Feb 26-28) will be in overdrive work mode trying to organize all the preparations for the big event at the end of February. Sarah and I are no exception to this, and we need your help. We are still looking for volunteers for host homes, drivers, and meal providers. If you have an interest in helping out in any way, please call the church and let us know where you'd like to help. This event has always been a great success because of all the support we've received from our local churches.

At the beginning of this month, we will be having several meetings for those involved with our Youth Ministry (parents, student leaders, and adult volunteers). If you'd like to be involved in some way with our Youth Ministry, or maybe you're just curious what goes on, I encourage you to come to our Parent Meeting (Jan 6, 6:30pm) as we go through the Calendar and volunteer opportunities for the Spring semester.

Sarah and I would like to thank First Presbyterian Church - the congregation, staff, parents, and youth - for allowing us this wonderful opportunity to take part in the life of this wonderful community of faith. You have nurtured us, shared your wisdom, and encouraged us to grow, and we hope to continue this for as long as the Good Lord allows. God bless,

David Lee Hulsey

Youth Calendar for January

Jan 1 - SLED Team lunch @ noon, Macaroni Grill

Jan 6 - SLED Team Meeting 5:30pm Youth Room
Parent Meeting 6:30pm Youth Room
Adult Volunteers 7:30pm Youth Room

Jan 10 - SNL begins 5:30-7:30

Jan 13 - Wed Bible Study begins **NEW TIMES!**

Jr. High - 6:00-7:00

Dinner - 7:00-7:30

Sr. High - 7:30-8:30

Jan 15-17 - Jr. High Mid-Winters

Jan 19 - Youth Mission Trip Genesis Meeting 6:30pm Youth Room

Jan 22-24 - Sr. High Mid-Winters

Fellowship

Presbyterian Women

Judy Bond 868-3487

Our Presbyterian Women's Winter Gathering is on Saturday, January 16th at 11:30am. Babysitting is available—let your circle leader know if you need it. Our speaker will be Linda Richards from the Georgetown Independent School District program for homeless children. To benefit the program, we will have a silent auction. Please contribute new items or used ones in good condition. We will have a sheet to list your item and mark your starting bid. Those interested in purchasing your item will place their bids next to their name. When bidding ends, the highest bidder will have bought the item. This is really a lot of fun for all. All proceeds go to the GISD homeless children program. A luncheon will be provided by the Esther, Martha and Miriam Circles. Please let your circle leader know if you are attending.

My husband Doug and I took over the hundreds of gifts you all put under the tree at church to benefit the residents of the Georgetown Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in time for their Christmas party on Dec. 16th. They were over-whelmed by the generosity of our members. Their tree in the dining hall was over-flowing with all your wonderful gifts. "Thank you" to all those who took the time and effort to provide for the residents there.

The Board did not meet in December. Our next meeting is Monday, January 4th, 2010 at 10:30 in room 101. There will be a meeting following the Board meeting of Esther, Martha, and Miriam to finalize plans for the winter gathering. Listed below are the meeting times and places for our circles in January. If you are interested in joining a circle, call the hostess and let her know you would like to be included. Check out the Presbyterian Women bulletin board near the church office for a list of our circles and the days they meet.

Cookies for our overseas service people are being provided by the Sarah Circle in January. Thank you to the Martha circle for the beautiful bulletin board display in December. Have a happy and healthy New Year!

January 2010 Circle Hostesses

CIRCLE	DATE	TIME	HOSTESS	PHONE	ADDRESS
Elizabeth	1/11	6:30pm	Contact Theresa McKenna	930--3751	3601 Brangus Road
Esther	1/6	1:30pm	Suzanne Stallings	868-5697	315 Champions Drive
Hannah	1/20	11:00am	Angie Harris	863-7133	At the Church
Lydia	1/13	1:00pm	Alison Harrison	388-1812	3506 Citrine Place
Martha	1/20	9:30am	Sandra Boucher	863-5876	121 Nassau Circle
Miriam	1/8	9:30am	Becky Hesson- Smith	868-2048	First Presbyterian, Rm. 205
Naomi	1/13	9:30am	Marjorie von Rosenberg	864-0117	118 Crystal Springs Drive
Rachel	1/20	9:30am	Wanda Hoermann	869-0674	102 Lariat Drive
Rebekah	1/20	9:30am	Judy Wilhite	868-8086	217 Trail of Flowers
Ruth	1/11	10:00am	Patti Wojcik & Ann Patterson	868-8158	29004 Turnberry Court
Sarah	1/18	10:00	Laura Sue Smith	863-2459	P.O. Box 99 Weir

FELLOWSHIP

Wanda Hoermann

What a Christmas gathering our church had at our Christmas Night Together on December 6th!! It was wonderful to watch our children, our young people and the young at heart having a good time.

First, I want to thank Rusty Winkstern and his staff at the Monument Cafe for providing the chili, cornbread, chicken fingers, biscuits and gravy and the desserts. Thanks are also extended to Judy Bond for providing the chicken noodle soup and to Sandy Hulshizer, Mona Anderson and Lois Stanley for preparing the veggies and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, decorating the tables, and serving the food. Of course, the committee had a lot of help with our assistants, Marvin, Bill and LeRoy. Although the serving line went a little slowly due to the variety of food and the choices that had to be made for the approximate 250 people that attended, the food was worth the wait. Many, many thanks, Rusty.

The children's program was outstanding, thanks to Mrs. Joy and her staff of helpers. Everyone had fun singing and acting "The Twelve Days of Christmas," which was led by the junior and senior high youth. It was certainly very helpful to the Fellowship Committee when the Nurture Committee and others stayed after the program to help with the clean up.

The next church dinner will be a potluck dinner at the annual Congregational Meeting on January 31st. Details will be available in the church bulletins.

MEN'S CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Jim Wilhite

The Men's Christian Fellowship Program Committee is actively finding programs for our 2010 meetings that will be interesting and informative for each of you. For the January 18th meeting, John Stock, the Executive Director, for the Caring Place will be our speaker. John has been with the Caring Place since May, 2009, after serving with the American Red Cross for 23 years. The First Presbyterian Church has partnered with the Caring Place since its formative years and this year will be the Caring Place's 25th anniversary. In order to plan for this meeting, dinner reservations must be made with Bob Thorp (869-7236), Frank Hubbard (863-6144) or Jim Wilhite (868-8086). All men of the Church are invited to attend the Men's Christian Fellowship meetings. The cost of the dinner will be \$8.00 per person.

SHOW 'N SHARE

Cathy Hubbard

In January, "**SHOW 'N SHARE**" will light up your smile. Start your body swaying and maybe even turn your feet to a gentle point. The conference room will be a stage where dancers hearts float to the strains of the overture. The orchestra will be playing the melodic music of that wonderful seasonal ballet, "*The Nutcracker*". Travel back in time with Tricia Osborne. She studied ballet with The Rio Grande Valley Civic Ballet starting at age seven. That company presented a delightful holiday adaptation of E.T.A. Hoffmann's original tale. Tricia played many parts as a beginner. She was a snow flake, a candy cane, why, she was even a mouse. Then, at thirteen, she landed the coveted role of CLARA! That year she also was given her very first Nutcracker soldier. Tricia will be **SHARING** all of the colorful Nutcrackers that have found their way into her heart over all the years since her first starring performance. The curtain will be up on Sunday,

January 10th beginning at 8 am and ending all too soon at 12:20. Tricia danced her dream and maybe even yours. Come to Fellowship Time from 10:30-11:00 to see her **SHOW!**

NOON BOOK REVIEW

Marion Shell

WE WILL WELCOME THE NEW YEAR IN with OUR REGULAR NOON BOOK REVIEW MEETING, JANUARY 21ST, 2010, AT 11:50 AM, ROOM #101. Mark your calendars so that you can attend this informal fellowship. The knowledgeable and talented Phil Bookert will review the recently published book, "People of the Book", written by Geraldine Brooks. The book is a historical fiction tracing the origins of the famous Bosnian Haggadah, a Jewish prayer book. Pack a brown bag, call a friend and come and be with us; EVERYONE is invited.

ACTS GAMES AND GOODIES

Nadine Tanner

We start the New Year on Tuesday, January 12 with some rousing games of Bingo followed by a luscious dessert buffet with coffee and tea. For Bingo prizes, please go through your junk drawers and bring in one or two items - useful, silly, or just plain awful. We will start at 1:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Cost is \$2.50 per person. Please put your checks in the ACTS box on or before Sunday, January 10th.
Game Day: Tuesday, January 26 at 1 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD AT 2010

JANUARY: Bingo and dessert buffet

FEBRUARY: Valentine Luncheon catered by Mona Andersen.

MARCH: Dinner at the McCombs Center of Southwestern University followed by a concert.

APRIL: This is OUR BIG TRIP!! Start saving your pennies and clipping coupons for our bus trip through bluebonnet country to visit four of the glorious Painted Churches. Talk it up among your friends and neighbors. We need to fill the bus!

MAY: Carpool to the Round Rock stadium for the baseball game and those foot-long hot dogs!

Mission

MISSION SEWING

Kathy Jones

Paper was flying and ribbons were swirling at our last meeting when crocheted pillows, lap blankets, and fabric tote bags were wrapped for the residents of Georgetown Nursing and Rehabilitation. Several stuffed animals and their blankets were delivered to the Children's Advocacy Center. Baby blankets were placed in the Christ Cradle and will be delivered to Su Casa de Esperanza after the first of the year. Donations of yarn were greatly appreciated. Our next meeting will be Friday, January 8th, at 10:00 AM in room 111.

By the time this news letter arrives at your house it will already be 2010. Are you ready for a new year to begin? I thought it might be useful to give you a little information about The Caring Place statistics. For the month of November 22,980 pounds of food were received. This is a record. Usually we receive between 5,500 and 7,000 pounds of food. On the other hand 59 tons more food was distributed than for the same period last year. For the first 11 months of 2009 we have spent 167% of our annual budget for purchasing needed food not available through the food drives or from the food bank. A special thank-you goes to everyone who donated food. For Thanksgiving meals 581 families were served and for Christmas 787 families will receive meals. Those are staggering numbers and give some idea of the needs we have in our community. We hear on the news that the recession is beginning to turn around but it hasn't turned around for all those who are still out of work or cannot find enough work to feed their families, so please keep bringing in the food. The special needs for this month in addition to food are: **toothpaste and tooth brushes, laundry soap, shampoo, other toiletries**. Remember if you are traveling in this holiday season and are staying in hotels **those little soaps and shampoos are yours and would be most welcome at The Caring Place**.

There is always a need for volunteers and if you would just like to try it out, an excellent way to do this is to help with **Fresh Food for Families**. This food distribution takes place on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Mondays from 8.00am till 10.30am. Fresh food is provided for 300 families on those days and there is always a need for help. Contact Rita Turner at 869-4735 x231 for details.

This would be a great time to become a **Good Neighbor**. This is a program administered by the utilities company where you can add \$1 to your utility bill and it will go towards paying for utilities for those who are having difficulty paying their bills. It is so easy to do and will cost you exactly \$12.00 per year.

Care Ministry

AMONG OUR PEOPLE -**Boldface** indicates a member of First Presbyterian Church

In the hospital last month: Russell Fay

Special concerns: Mary Katherine Briggs, Jim's mother; **Lou Brown**, Kinsey Ticknor, the infant daughter of friends of the Bookert's; David Dickey, Marilyn Mehaffey's nephew; Alice and Russell Fay's daughter, Jennifer; **Mary Forbes; Catherine Glenn; Jake Jacoby;** Laura Brooking Lewis, Gladys Brooking's daughter; **John Marsh;** Suzan Syler Martin; **Shea Norfleet;** Tommy Scribner, Monte's son; **Betty Wallace;** Mary Weiss, Cathy Leloux's mother; **Kay Yeager.**

Serving in the Military: Master Sergeant Bradley Belford and Brian Belford, George and Jane Belford's son and grandson; Josh Benge, Sturdy and Tammy Wanamaker's nephew; Capt. Ronald Boyd, Chaplain; Maj. Brian Burk, Larry Burk's son; Maj. Kyle Burrow, Poppy Hulse's grandson; 1st Lt. Geoff Childs, Helen Douglass' grandson-in-law; **Rick Cospers;** 2Lt. Josh Daleiden, husband of Lisa Foster; Chaplain Douglas Fenton; **Amy FitzGerald;** Capt. James R. Franks, U.S.A.F., grandson of Mary Lou Moore; Pete & Kellie Moore Fredholm, Tommy & Clara Moore's granddaughter; Jared A. Gross, Robert Bedford's Nephew; **Brian Hall; Garrett Herbst;** Jeremy Hord; Brandon Keith, Phil and Jeanne Smith's son-in-law; **Debra Knight; Jonathan LeLoux; Nicholaas Leloux;** Marc Masuccio, Grandson of Helen Burk and Ken Gibbons; Allen Morrison, Janna Briggs' nephew; Captain Robert Kain, III, Ouida & Marvin Henderson's grandson; Hank Perry, Davidsons' nephew-in-law; David Penney; **Sgt. Paul Rayburn;** Rev. Louis Rosa; Col. Wayne M. Shanks, George and Mary Pope's son-in-law; **Lt. Col. Tim Smith;** Ashton Stamos, Grandson of Larry and Helen Burk; Steven T. Watson.

Our Sympathy to: Roger Taylor on the death of his brother Roy.

The New Year

First, I want to thank all of you generous folks who contributed to the staff Christmas gift. In this time of economic uncertainty, it is so good of you to remind me of the certainty of your care and thoughtfulness.

The New Year is also a time of joy for me. The new beginning and the anticipation of the future brings energy and hope. The first event of the year is AED/CPR training on Sunday afternoon, January 17 (see the article below). The second excitement for me is the February, March & April education events on the first Thursday of each month. Each speaker teaches topics that are timely and valuable for the entire congregation. For more information on this, look for Melissa Pilcher's article below.

CPR / AED Training

Training for the automated external defibrillator use, which includes basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation instruction using American Heart Association materials, will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 17. The class size is limited but we still have three spots left so call me if you are willing and able to attend. A BIG thank you goes out to Greg and Janice Wallace who are certified to teach this class and who give of their time and talents so very graciously.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Melissa Pilcher

You may have seen the following quote on one of our Stephen Ministry bulletin boards: "What is required for a truly human life is not the absence of pain but the presence of others, the maintenance of living bonds with other human beings...As part of their healing, those who suffer require from us the assurance that our relationships with them endure," Morhmann, *Medicine as Ministry: Reflections on Suffering, Ethics and Hope*, p.84. This quote speaks to the essence of Stephen Ministry – the presence of others, relationships that endure. It ties in beautifully with Paul's admonition in Galatians 6:3 to "bear one another's burdens and in so doing you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Yet, why is it that a dominant characteristic and source of pride for most of us is our strong sense of independence, our fierce attitude of, "Oh, I can handle this myself. Things are not that bad. There are others who need help much more than we do." Why are we so loath to share our burdens?

Stephen Ministers are trained to listen, to bear one another's burdens, to uphold confidentiality. Ours is a ministry of presence, a promise to be with you through the pain, whether the pain results from something so seemingly simple as "empty-nest syndrome" or as complex as death and dying.

Please call Jenny Carswell, our referrals coordinator, if you or someone you know needs a listening ear. Our Stephen Ministry is only as effective as we, a congregation, allows it to be.

2010 Stephen Ministry Continuing Education Programs that may be of interest to the entire congregation:

February 4	Tam Cummings, Gerontologist, Positive Power of the Mature Mind
March 4	Pete Weyrauch, The Survivor's Handbook
April 1	Dr. Jimenez Shahed, Neurologist, Parkinson's Disease

HAPPY JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3 LeRoy & Wanda Hoermann | 23 Robert & Catherine Glenn |
| 8 Roland & Esther Martin | 23 Doug & Sandie Kienitz |
| 9 Jeff & Amy Pratt | Joe & Joyce Porch |
| 11 Robert & Christina Bondesen | 28 Jay & Bonnie McNemar |
| 12 Jim & Janna Briggs | |
| 17 Robert & Joy Bedford | |
| 18 Vincent & Julie Solon | |
| 21 Morris and Jean Fisher | |

HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Erin FitzGerald | Nancy Zolondek | 21 Joy Bedford |
| Gary Jones | 12 Jim Aldrich | 22 Ben Andrusin |
| Hooper Lee | Teresa Miller | Will Cosper |
| 2 Sandra Boucher | 13 Taylor Counts | Ed McKee |
| 3 Anne-Mary Beck | Victoria Lee | Haley Seiders |
| Connor McClure | Betty Wilkins | Nadine Tanner |
| 5 Susan Davidson | 14 Jane Long | 25 Lacey Unger |
| Colby Smith | 15 Joyce Hinds | Misty Walden |
| 6 Gary Cox | 17 Alice Graham | 26 Carolyn Gregory |
| Hubert Syler | Micah Hall | Hope Smith |
| 7 Geneva Berg | Clara Moore | 27 J. C. Johnson |
| Coila Sims | 18 Fred Cowen | Monica Koenig |
| Bob Thorp | Miles Hall | Alex Robinson |
| 9 Jay D. Allen | Mark Laas | Loma Rugeley |
| Richard Cody | Jeff Pratt | 28 Theresa McKenna |
| Tracie Rayburn | Mary Tobias | Haley Root |
| Bill Stump | Lael Winkstern | 29 Richard Archer |
| 10 Bob Jones | 19 Matt Bookert | 30 Cathy Leloux |
| 11 Gladys Bannan | Mikael Wagner | 31 Keri Dunn |
| Harrison McLain | 20 Shirley Nash | Polly Nelon |
| Kathleen Wenzel | Paul Rayburn | Michael Wenzel |

FLOWERS IN WORSHIP

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 3 _____ | 17 _____ |
| 10 _____ | 24 _____ |
| | 31 _____ |

HEAD DEACON

Early Service: Judy Bond
Back-up: Bob Jones

Second Service: Mona Andersen
Back-up: Bob Jones