APRIL

2014

First Presbyterian Church, 300 Burleson, Smithville, TX

Newsletter

Sunday Schedule

Choir Practice – 9:30 am
Sunday School – All Ages 10 am
Fellowship in Library 9:45-10:45 am
Coffee and refreshments served
Worship Service - 11 am

Come for a visit, stay for a faith-lift.

Pastor's Remarks – Rev. Jane C. Johnson

Waiting for Easter

Those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint. Isaiah 40:31

According to the calendar and custom, Easter is "late" this year. But when we think about it, there is a sense in which Easter often seems to come late, perhaps even too late. When Jesus was told his friend, Lazarus, was dying, he didn't go rushing to Lazarus' side. And before Jesus did get there, it was too late - Lazarus had indeed died. "Lord," Lazarus' sister Martha told Jesus, "if you had been here my brother would not have died."

And that's probably true. But Jesus knew that was not to be the end of the story, and he went to call Lazarus back from death to life.

We know the day after Jesus' crucifixion that his disciples thought it was too late for any more miracles. Jesus was dead. They had watched him die, had taken his body to a borrowed tomb, and had gone away - their hopes and dreams as dead as Jesus was. It was too late for anything to change. And then, completely beyond all possibilities, Easter came! In God's own time, Jesus was resurrected, brought back to life, the ultimate triumph of the power of God's love over all the forces of evil. Through the work of the Holy Spirit that experience caught fire in the lives of the disciples and from that time on, they and the world were never quite the same.

I have often reminded myself and others that the God we serve, the God from whom "a thousand years are as a day," (Psalm 90:4) does not always work on our time-table. That God is the creator of glaciers as well as things that move or act quickly. The path from caterpillar to butterfly may seem brief to us, but it is most of a lifetime for the butterfly.

Sometimes God lets us see the end results (or what we would consider the end) of a project or event or something difficult that comes into our lives. Sometimes, we do experience a type of resurrection, of new life coming from the midst of chaos and destruction - like the fire lilies that blossomed the spring after the 2011 wildfire. Rarely, if ever, do we see the finished product that is our lives. At least not from this side.

Whatever our challenges, we must never forget. All things are in God's hands and in God's time. Resurrection *is* coming. Easter is never really "late." Thanks be to God.

May the blessings and joy of Easter be with you all, Jane

Church Leadership

Pastor – Rev. Jane C. Johnson - 512.608.4293 Email - caperton6@austin.rr.com
Clerk of Session - Nancy Martin 512.661.8626
Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry 512.360.4930
Music Director – Lisa Maresh 512.308.7319
Worship Committee – Chairman Susan Guedry 512.360.4930
Mission & Outreach Committee – Chairman Janet Stephens 512.237.3814
Building & Grounds /Fellowship & Nurture Committees - Board of Deacons
Session Members - Susan Guedry, Jane Istre, Nancy Martin, Lori Lancaster, Jim McLaughlin, David Herrington, Janet Stephens
Board of Deacons – Dot Dillon, Moderator; Gloria Hurta, Hoyt Johnson, Kathy Ford, Kelly Hubley, Pat McLaughlin

Custodian – Anna Hernandez 512.237.3880
Web Site – www.fpcsmithville.org – Kathy Ford 512.321.4132

Church Attendance - March

Date	Members	Regular Visitors	Visitors	Total
3/2	29	0	0	29
3/9	28	2	0	30
3/16	41	2	0	43
3/23	35	5	0	40
3/30	42	4	1	47

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

First Presbyterian Church Session met on March 26, 2014 for their monthly Stated Session Meeting.

Pastor Jane Johnson reported on the Presbytery Meeting at Central Presbyterian Church in Austin on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1st.

Elder Jim McLaughlin reported that the new Church Marquee will be ordered and he is still working out the details for installation of the sign.

Pastor Jane is recovering from her latest surgery. Elder Susan Guedry fell and sustained a hairline fracture in her left ankle.

Pastor Jane reported on the meeting of Smithville Ministerial Alliance. A representative of the "Second Chance" resale shop in La Grange gave a report on the formation and continued success of this entity. The FPC Session approved endorsing the formation and participation of a resale shop in Smithville along with the other Churches in Smithville.

Elder Janet Stephens requested use of the Church for a Piano Recital in May.

Clerk Martin reported that the 2014 Church Directory will be available the first Sunday of April.

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING - Janet Stephens Mission and Outreach Committee

The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Our goal this year is $350. Fill your fish with change or write a check!

Tuesday, April 29 at 7 p.m. there will be a planning meeting for the Smithville Churches Resale Shop. This meeting is at First Baptist Church in the Fellowship Hall.

Plans are on-going to meet with students ages 9-13 on Wednesdays after school to teach life skills. The classes will begin in September when school starts again.

The program will be called Jumpstart!!

Women's Bible Study will be Wednesday, April 9 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for study, fellowship and food. Everyone is welcome!

APRIL NEWS from Susan Guedry

Easter Lilies are on sale for $12.00 each. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Smithville Food Pantry. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

1. We will be placing butterflies on the cross on Easter morning. This will celebrate rebirth and renewal. You can make one, buy one, color one, cut a picture out of a magazine – anything you want. On Easter Sunday these will be placed on the cross at the front of the Sanctuary. Be sure to mark your name clearly on the back if you want to get yours back. We will leave the cross up for several weeks.

2. **Calendar for Holy Week:**

Sunday, April 13	Palm Sunday
Thursday, April 17	Maundy Thursday Communion Service
	Begins at 6 p.m. with light sandwich meal
Friday, April 18	Stations of the Cross - Church will be open 10 am. – 2 p.m.
Sunday, April 20	Easter Sunday worship service – 11 a.m.

4. The Empty Bowl Project will be Saturday, April 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mary Nichols' Art Center (across the street from the church). The project benefits the Smithville Food Pantry, the Smithville Community Gardens, and the Lost Pines Artisans' Alliance. This year, 10% of the proceeds will also go to Angels Unaware, an organization that sends food home over the weekend with students in need Tickets are $20 for a bowl made by one of our Smithville students and soup donated by local restaurants. This year, the Smithville Food Pantry will use the Smithville Empty Bowl Project to launch its capital campaign to raise the funds needed for a new building.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE – APRIL

Janet Stephens, David Herrington, Jane Istre, Gloria Hurta

The first person listed will bring the bread, prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays.

If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please call the Elder listed after you to prepare the communion in your place and ask one of the other Elders to serve in your place. Those who serve communion also collect the offering and should ask for a back-up before the service if you will not be able to collect the offering. Backup Elders: Nancy Evans, Gwen Morris, LaVerne Herrington, Alan Ford, John Saunders, Sammye Hodges, and Susan Guedry.

Smithville Food Pantry March Report by Dorothy Dillon

Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	Family Members
3/5	103	230	2	4
3/12	77	185	3	8
3/19	88	194	3	5
3/26	103	260	4	10
Totals	371	869	12	27

Please bring your donations on First Sunday and place them in the basket at the covered dish luncheon. There will also be envelopes available if you prefer to give money. The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank much more economically than you can purchase it at the store, so please consider giving by check/cash. If you have questions, please contact Dorothy Dillon.

IT'S PICNIC TIME AGAIN – SUNDAY, MAY 4TH AT VIRGINIA'S – BRING A SIDE DISH, THE CHURCH WILL PROVIDE FRIED CHICKEN.

REMEMBER WHAT A GREAT TIME WE HAD AT VIRGINIA'S PICNIC LAST YEAR? MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR *THE FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY – MAY 4, 2014* FOR THIS YEAR'S PICNIC!! THANK YOU, VIRGINIA FOR HOSTING US ONCE AGAIN IN YOUR BEAUTIFUL YARD.

PDA T-SHIRT DAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2014

As an act of solidarity with families affected by multiple disasters throughout the United States, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) designated March 9, 2014— the first Sunday in Lent (and beginning of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering promotion) — as "wear your blue PDA T-shirt Sunday".

Thank you to everyone who wore their shirts that Sunday. PDA is thankful for the tens of thousands of volunteers who over the past few years have offered themselves in service helping to clean, repair and rebuild homes of families affected by numerous disasters throughout the United States.

April 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Ben Johnson 	2 **Deacon Meeting 5:39 pm**	3	4	5
6 **5th Sunday in Lent** **Worship at 11 Communion** **Covered Dish Luncheon**	7	8 Ian Boord 	9 **Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm**	10	11	12 Jess Winslett
13 **Passion/Palm Sunday** **Worship at 11**	14 Andrew Field 	15	16 Sherry Ceder 	17 Cynde Sill Gloria Hurta Maundy Thursday 6 pm	18 Gwen Morris David Johnson Good Friday – Stations of the Cross 10 am -2 pm	19
20 **Resurrection of the Lord/EASTER** **Worship at 11** *One Great Hour of Sharing Collection*	21 DJ Lancaster 	22 *Earth Day*	23 Jessica Dixon 	24	25	26 Rachel Boord David Altmeyer
27 **2nd Sunday of Easter** *Multicultural Church/ Immigration*	*28* *Holocaust Remembrance Day*	29	30			

Notes