FEBRUARY

2014

First Presbyterian Church 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

Pastor's Remarks – Rev. Jane C. Johnson

You're Invited

O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker! For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. Psalm 95:6-7a

One of the first Bible verses I learned as a small child was Psalm 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the House of the Lord." And that has been true for me most of my life. Church is where I feel most at home; weekly worship is a joy and a blessing. I know many of you have similar feelings, because of your faithfulness in attending worship.

I am well aware that regular church attendance is not something you have to do. And truthfully, there are days when I would rather stay snuggled under the covers than get up and get dressed and leave my cozy little house just to spend an hour in worship.

As Presbyterians, we have a particular form of worship. How we do that is set out specifically in our Book of Order, where there is an entire section on worship. There is a basic flow to the service: we gather, we are called to worship by remembering God's unfailing love for us, we confess our failings and ask and receive forgiveness, we listen for God's Word to us, and then we respond to that Word by going out into the world to serve. Beyond that, the Book of Order is not overly precise, because those who wrote it know that there is more than one way to worship when the community gathers.

How we do that depends on each individual congregation. And over the years, there have been many discussions over what constitutes the "right" way to worship. It even got to the place where the subject was (and sometimes still is) known as the "Worship Wars." Like *that* pleases God. Still, no matter how traditional we consider ourselves, worship changes. For instance, the preacher is no longer judged on how loudly he or she proclaims the Word. And few folks would be willing to sit (or stand, as was once the practice) through an hour or more of preaching. We sing songs other than the Psalms, which was all that Calvin allowed.

The truth is, for most of us, the "right" way to spend that hour on Sunday is usually the way it was done when we were growing up. And there is comfort in ritual, in knowing that no matter how much everything else around us changes, some things stay the same.

However, (and you knew this was coming, right?) sometimes it doesn't hurt to make some changes. Sometimes change gives us insight into familiar things we tend to take for granted, makes us think about them in new ways. So. I have been wondering if any of you ever find yourself in worship thinking, "Gee, I wish we would _____."

Four times a year, a month will have five Sundays rather than the usual four. Perhaps we might use those times to try a little something different from what we usually do. If you have any ideas or suggestions, write them down and email or give them to me or Susan or another member of the Worship Committee. And, if there is something you would like to hear a sermon about, let us know that, too. I can't guarantee we'll use all the suggestions, but we really would like to hear from you. Start by telling us what makes Sunday worship important to you, and then how something different might make it even more so. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

God is blessing this church, and I am looking forward to the possibilities that 2014 brings.

In Christ's service, *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
Youth Activities – Doug Lancaster 512.284.0048
Worship Committee – Chairman Susan Guedry 512.360.4930
Mission & Outreach Committee – Chairman Janet Stephens 512.237.3814
Christian Formation Committee – Chairman Sammye Hodges 512.304.8350
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

Shopping for the Church

Thank you to Jane Istre for taking on this task. If you observe that the church is running low on any kitchen, bathroom or office items please note it on the shopping list on the blackboard door in the kitchen *or leave a note in Jane's mailbox*.

Women's Bible Study

WBS met on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, with 9 ladies present. Kathy Ford and Linda Westerman furnished our meal. We will meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, at 5:30 PM. We will continue our study in "An Abiding Hope" - Lesson 5 – "God Provides."

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for good food, study, and fellowship. Call Gwen Morris for more information – 512.549.3728 or 512.308.7791.

COME TO THE HOT DOG SUPPER AND VALENTINE'S BINGO ON FRIDAY, FEB. 7 AT 6 PM FOR FUN, FOOD, PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIP!

WILL YOU BE THERE? PLEASE LET your deacon (or DOT DILLON if you don't know your deacon) KNOW SO WE CAN PLAN THE RIGHT AMOUNT OF FOOD AND PRIZES! Bring your spouse, kids, grandkids and friends – but tell us so we will be prepared!! Thanks and see you on Friday evening in the Fellowship Hall.

Dot can be reached at Dorothy.dillon@aol.com or 512.636.9709.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS – 10 a.m. FELLOWSHIP HALL IN THE BASEMENT

The Adult Sunday school class is continuing a 14-week study of Philip Yancey's book *The Jesus I Never Knew*. This book looks at how we perceive Jesus by using various film clips from movies. We will look at how we see Jesus and why we see him in that way. We will also begin to think about the Jesus we never knew.

On March 9, we will stop the Yancey book and pick up the study of Handel's *Messiah.* We studied this for the four weeks of Advent and will continue the study for the 6 weeks of Lent. Following Easter, we will finish the Yancey book.

Come join us for lively discussions and good fellowship. You do not have to purchase the book and you can join the study at any time. The class meets at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

All classes are led by Susan Guedry, Pastoral Assistant -Join us!!

COMMUNION SCHEDULE - FEBRUARY

Lori Lancaster, Nancy Martin, Janet Stephens, Kathy Ford

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, Hoyt Johnson, John Saunders, Sammye Hodges, Susan Guedry.

Church Attendance - January

Date	Members	Regular Visitors	Visitors	Total
1/5	34	2		36
1/12	27	2		29
1/19	34	3	1	38
1/26	37	3		40

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Women's Bible Study

WBS met on Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2014, with 9 ladies present. Kathy Ford and Linda Westerman furnished our meal.

We will meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2014, at 5:30 PM. Susan Guedry will lead our study in the Horizons Bible Study "An Abiding Hope – The Presence of God in Exodus and Deuteronomy" - Lesson 5 – "God Provides." Participants will recognize the ways in which God takes care of us and the ways in which we take care of others.

Background scripture is Exodus 15:22-18-27.

Please join us in the Fellowship Hall for good food, study, and fellowship. Call Gwen Morris for more information – 512-549-3728 or 512-308-7791.

On Sunday, January 26, Elder Janet Stephens, Chair of the Mission Outreach Committee shared with the congregation a proposal to offer free life skills training to children 9-13 in a controlled and nurturing setting in the Church. **This is a summary of the proposal:**

- The plan is to meet weekly on Wednesdays after school to teach and demonstrate hands on life skills. The proposed topics to be studied for one month each include subjects such as: sewing, cooking, cleaning, hygiene, decorating, and finances.
- Each month after a topic is completed, a culminating activity to include parents will be planned.
- After 6 months the program will be evaluated and, if appropriate, plans will be made for the next session of classes.
- The goal of the program is "to enrich 9-13 year olds' lives and to encourage them to be givers and participants in community services."
- The classes will be taught at the church and financed by the church.

Janet is asking the congregation to be thinking about the topics and which one(s) they would be willing to help with instructing. The classes will be held on Wednesday afternoons after school and each topic takes 4-5 weeks (depending on the month).

This is an exciting proposal for outreach and community involvement. Please pray about this and give your feedback to Janet Stephens!

Smithville Food Pantry Report by Dorothy Dillon

Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	Family Members
Jan. 8	95	204	2	7
Jan. 15	87	209	2	5
Jan. 22	115	362	3	9
Jan. 29	104	241	6	9
Totals	401	1016	13	30

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.

Upcoming Events

Wed., Feb. 5 – 5:30 p.m. – Deacon's Meeting

Fri., Feb 7 – 6 p.m. – Hot Dog Supper and Bingo
Sat., Feb 8 – 1 p.m. – Hamilton Funeral – FBC Smithville
Wed., Feb 12 – 5:30 p.m. Women's Bible Study (Note starting time)

See Calendar for additional events.

Recipe of the Month- Breakfast Casserole – from Janet Stephens

Pre-heat the oven to 400 degrees.

1 lb. of bacon (cooked and crumbled)*
1 package of frozen Potatoes O'Brian or hash brown potatoes
8 eggs
2 cups milk
2 cups grated cheddar cheese

Using a 9x13 casserole dish, bake the potatoes for 20 to 30 min. *Reduce oven heat to 350 degrees.* Mix the egg and milk and pour on top of potatoes, sprinkle with cheese, top with crumbled bacon. Bake for *an additional 30-45 min. at 350 degrees.*
Serve with salsa and warm flour tortillas on the side (optional).
*You can substitute breakfast sausage for the bacon for a nice change.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session and Deacons held their Joint Training and Planning Meeting on January 18, 2014 from 11 to 3 at home of Pastor Jane Johnson.

Following the Devotional prepared by Pastor Jane each Deacon & Elder were asked to tell about a favorite book, either of the Bible, Fiction or Non Fiction. After a lively discussion on books, a lunch of Zimmerhanzel's BBQ Beef sandwiches and chips was enjoyed by all.

After lunch the real work began. There were four goals set by the Deacons and Elders for 2014.

1. Further research into establishing a Second Chance store similar to the one in LaGrange, in cooperation with other churches in Smithville. The ultimate goal would be to use the funds raised to support the local Food Pantry and Community Clinic. David Herrington will look into possible locations.

2. Establish an After School Program to teach Life skills to children from 9 to 12 years of age. This would be done in conjunction with the Boys & Girls Club in Smithville.

3. Replace the badly deteriorating church sign in front of the Church. Jim McLaughlin has already done some research on prices, styles, etc., and will present these to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting in February. Memorial money will be used for some of the expense of replacing the sign.

4. Inviting the other churches in Smithville to join in a Community Choir Event in the Spring of 2014.

These are lofty goals, but with the help and prayer of the entire Congregation most or all of them can be met this year.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY MARTIN, CLERK OF SESSION

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Come to the grand opening and ribbon cutting for the Seton Smithville Regional Hospital Volunteers/Great Habits Gift Shop. The gift shop is located within the hospital at 800 E Hwy 71 E, Smithville.

We have several church members who volunteer at the hospital!

February 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 *Fredee Carr*
2 **4th Sunday after Epiphany** *4th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11 Communion** **Covered Dish Lunch**	3	4	5 **Deacon Meeting 5:30 pm**	6 *Kathleen Bennatt* 	7 *Dianna Saunders* **Hot Dog Supper and Bingo 6 pm**	8 *Cade Hurta* *Funeral Services for June & Moe Hamilton 1 pm FBC - Smithville*
9 **5th Sunday after Epiphany** *5th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** *Camp & Conference Ministries*	10	11	12 **Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm**	13	14 	15
16 **6th Sunday after Epiphany** *6thSunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** *Jane & Willie Istre* 	17 Presidents' Day	18 *Mark Winslett* *Emily Boord* 	19 *Cara Hurta* *Jake Patterson* 	20 *Nancy Martin* 	21	22 Max Butler Lisa Maresh
23 **7th Sunday after Epiphany** *7th Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** *Three Critical Global Issues of World Mission: Poverty, Evangelism and Reconciliation*	*24*		26	**27**	**28**	

NOTES