First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

JANUARY
2014

Sunday Schedule

Choir Practice - 9:15 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

Gratitude

Lots of us will be making (or have already made) resolutions for changes we want to make in the New Year. Sometimes we just need to keep doing certain things--like remembering to express our gratitude to God for ALL the good things in our lives as well as to others for their kindnesses to us. I have been made aware again and again this past year of just how caring and supportive our church family is, and I am grateful to God daily for that.

So to all of you, thank you from me and my family for your on-going kind words, your love and your support. I am blessed to be your pastor, and grateful to God for the strength He gives us all. This church is a wonderful place to be, and I am glad that each one of you is a part of it.

Not only have we cared for one another, we have continued to reach out into the community to support people and organizations that meet many needs here and around the world. What a privilege it is to be able to do these things!

The writer of Hebrews put it well when he said, *"We have been given possession of an unshakeable kingdom. Let us therefore be grateful and use our gratitude to worship God in the way that pleases him, in reverence and fear." Hebrews 12:28.* Worship takes many shapes, including service to others. Gratitude is contagious. Let's keep spreading it around in as many ways as we can think of!

With prayers for a good 2014,

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 - Sammye Hodges, Susan Guedry, Jane Istre, Nancy Martin, Jim McLaughlin, Lori Lancaster, Janet Stephens
Board of Deacons – Dot Dillon, Moderator; Pat McLaughlin, Kathy Ford, Doug Lancaster, Fredee Carr, Hoyt Johnson

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

NOTE: THE RED RECYLING BIN FOR PLASTIC HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE KITCHEN. PLEASE CONTINUE TO RECYCLE PAPER IN THE RED TRASH BASKETS NEAR THE CHURCH OFFICE AND IN THE NARTHEX.

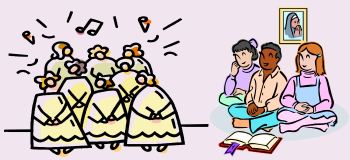
The church is searching for someone to take over the job of shopping for supplies for the church. Items purchased include paper goods (plates, cups, napkins, etc.); plastic items such as cups, utensils, and a few cleaning supplies. Food items are normally limited to coffee, sugar, sweetener, and creamer. Items are bought in bulk when possible so the shopping is usually done monthly or less often. Shopping can be done at Walmart, Costco, Sam's or wherever the normal family shopping is done and items are available in bulk. Please talk to Kathy Ford for more information if you can assist the church with this task.

Women's Bible Study

Our group will meet again on Wednesday, January 8, 2014. Remember the new time of 5:30 PM. We will continue our study of "An Abiding Hope"-Lesson 4 "Passing through the Waters."

Please join us for good food, study, and fellowship.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU



TO LISA MARESH AND THE CHOIR; PIANIST BARBARA MARESH; MUSICIANS ALAN FORD, WAYNE KING; NARRATOR TODD MARTIN; LYDIA, SOPHIE, AND CHARLIE; AND PASTOR JANE FOR THE CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE – IT WAS BEAUTIFUL!

AND THANKS TO PAT MCLAUGHLIN FOR VOLUNTEERING TO TEACH THE YOUNG FOLKS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS. SHE HAS BEEN TEACHING FOR SEVERAL MONTHS AND PROVIDING LESSONS AND CRAFTS. ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY TO BRING THEIR CHILDREN TO FPC FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10 A.M.-- IN THE BASEMENT IN THE "KIDS CORNER."

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

The Adult Sunday school class will begin a 14 week study of Philip Yancey's book *The Jesus I Never Knew* on Sunday, January 12. 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 week 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. The class meets at 10:00 in the Fellowship Hall.

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

COMMUNION SCHEDULE – JANUARY

Jim McLaughlin, Lori Lancaster, Nancy Martin, Dorothy Dillon

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: Pat McLaughlin, Nancy Evans, Gwen Morris, LaVerne Herrington, Alan Ford, Hoyt Johnson, John Saunders.

Church Attendance – Nov/Dec

Date	Members	Regular Visitors	Visitors	Total
11/3	39	2	1	42
11/10	34	5	0	39
11/17	22	2	0	24
11/24	30	1	5	36
12/1	37	8	3	48
12/8	29	3	0	32
12/15	41	2	0	43
12/22	41	3	1	45
12/29	27	4	0	31
Average:	*33.3*	*3.33*	*1.1*	*37.7*

Smithville Food Pantry Report by Dorothy Dillon

Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	Family Members
November 6	101	240	2	3
November 13	91	240	0	0
November 20	124	310	1	2
November 26	126	256	1	3
Nov. Totals	***442***	***1,046***	***4***	***8***
December 4	81	191	5	12
December 11	92	200	3	5
December 18	109	248	4	15
December 23	128	261	1	2
Dec. Totals	***583***	***1,483***	***13***	***34***
2013 Totals	***5,637***	***14,370***		

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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Session and Deacons held their Joint Meeting on December 15, 2013 at the home of Kathy and Alan Ford.

Dorothy Dillon Moderator of the Deacons reported to the Session on their activities of the year. Session gave many Thanks to the Deacons for their continuing nurturing of our Church members.

Pastor Jane announced the resignation of Hilary Shuford as Executive Presbyter and that a search committee has been formed.

It was reported that the updates to the Heating and A/C system have been completed.

Elder Jim McLaughlin updated the session on the information he has gathered for replacing the Sign Board in the Church yard.

The Elder and Deacon training and planning meeting was discussed. A date of January 18, 2014 was set, pending polling all new and existing members of both boards, at the home of Pastor Jane Johnson in Austin from 11-3 pm.

Elder and Deacon Ordination will be on Sunday, January 26, 2014 during the Church Service.

Alan Ford was presented a monetary gift from Session for all of his hard work with Faith Village and Bastrop Long Term Recovery. Susan Guedry was presented a monetary gift from Session for all her hard work this past year in the absence of Pastor Jane Johnson.

Good food and fellowship was enjoyed by following the business meeting.

Upcoming Events

Note – No choir practice or Sunday School on Sunday, Jan. 5

Wed., Jan. 8 – 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Note starting time)

Sat., Jan. 18 – 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. – Elder Deacon Training at the home of Rev. Jane Johnson
Note: This training will take the place of the regularly scheduled January Elder and Deacon Meetings.

Sun., Jan. 26 – Ordination of Elders and Deacons at 11 a.m. service

See Calendar for additional events.

A Good Thought for the Week:

"In much the same way the "light pollution" of a city will prevent you from being able to fully see the stars at night . . . .

Thought pollution robs you of the childlike faith it takes to see God in your life and the world around you.

Be cautious and aware of the things you allow to pollute your mind.
Peace to all."

Eddie Anders

January 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 ***Church Work Day - 9 am***
5 **2nd Sunday after Christmas Day** **Worship at 11 Communion** **Covered Dish Lunch**	6 Epiphany of the Lord	7	8 **Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm**	9 Linda Westerman 	10 *Human Trafficking Awareness Day*	11 Mike Maney
12 **Baptism of the Lord** **Worship at 11**	13	14	15 Cory Hurta 	16	17 Barbara Erwin 	18 Mildred Pustejovsky *Elder/Deacon Training 11-3* *Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins*
19 **2nd Sunday after Epiphany** *2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** Henry Beckcom *Race Relations*	20 Birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr.	21	22	23 Maureen Phillips Maureen & Rick Phillips 	24	25
26 **3rd Sunday after Epiphany** *3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time* **Worship at 11** **Elder/Deacon Ordination** **Nancy & Paul Evans** 	27	28 Stephen Guedry 	29 Sydney Hernandez 	**30** **Lisa & David Altmeyer** 	**31**	

NOTES