MARCH 2014

First Presbyterian Church, 300 Burleson, Smithville, TX

Newsletter

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

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

Pastor's Remarks – Rev. Jane C. Johnson

Spring is Coming!

In beginning God created . . . [And when] God saw all he had made, indeed it was very good. Genesis 1

Like many of you, I take my Easter lilies home after the Easter service every year and plant them in my garden. A couple of weeks ago, I noticed that they are back - green pointy leaves about 3 inches tall. Then I noticed my lone hyacinth was blooming. And just last week, I saw my first clump of bluebonnet leaves beside the road in south Austin. "Spring is coming. Spring is coming!" they all shout.

And I turn my church calendar to March and am reminded that Lent is coming. Soon. This coming Tuesday evening, to be specific. That is when we will observe Shrove Tuesday with a Pancake Supper and then close the evening with a service including the imposition of ashes.

This year's theme for Lent is "Transformation," and we're going to let nature guide our thinking about that. Scripture tells us that the heavens declare the glory of God and that the earth and all that dwell in it is the Lord's. One of the marvelous ways God is revealed to us is through the natural order of creation.

This Sunday's theme is the Transfiguration of the Lord, the story of the time three of Jesus' disciples were allowed to see Him in all His glory. What an incredible experience that must have been! How we wish we could catch a glimpse of God's glory. Yet, there are glimpses all around us that we tend to overlook - and many of those are in nature.

As David and I were coming back from Houston recently, we could see a glorious sunset in front of us, and a spectacular full moon rising behind us. God does *good* work! Too bad we don't always pay attention to it. But we are going to be paying attention to it during Lent as we think about how God is always transforming all creation - including us. We will be paying particular attention to butterflies - those stunning creatures that begin life as eggs, and then as caterpillars, which are then hidden in chrysalises before finally emerging as the beautiful flying spots of color that we love to watch.

I hope you'll join us on this Lenten journey, beginning Tuesday night.

See you there! *Jane*

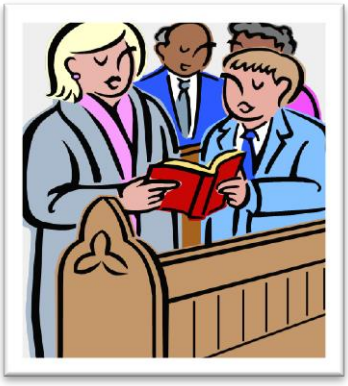
Church Leadership

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

Church Attendance - February

Date	Members	Regular Visitors	Visitors	Total
2/2	33	1	0	34
2/9	34	4	1	39
2/16	32	4	0	36
2/23	30	4	0	34



Make it Your Goal to Invite Someone to Visit FPC in March!

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

Since 1949 Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives and work together to strengthen their families and communities. The Presbyterian Hunger Program receives 36 percent of undesignated gifts, while Self-Development of People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance each receives 32 percent. **The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering will be collected on Easter Sunday. Our goal this year is $350.**

AND SPEAKING OF SHARING-- HERE IS GOOD NEWS!

Elder Jim McLaughlin announced at the Session Meeting on Feb. 26 that an anonymous donor in our congregation has offered to underwrite the entire purchase of our new Church Sign!! More about this in coming weeks. *Thank you!*

Comments from the Clerk – Nancy Martin

Dorothy Dillon and I will be working on the Church Directory for 2014 real soon. Please get any changes of addresses, e-mails, phone number, etc. to either myself, Dorothy or your Deacon as soon as possible. Our hope is to have it ready no later than the first Sunday in April.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

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

Elder Susan Guedry and Pastor Jane Johnson will attend the Presbytery Meeting at Central Presbyterian Church in Austin on Friday, February 28 and Saturday, March 1st.

The Annual Statistical Report was submitted by Clerk Martin for Approval by Session.

It was reported that the work on the roof, soffit and fascia of the Church has been completed plus the window screens.

Session voted to support the One Great Hour of Sharing, Peacemaking and Joy Offerings again this year. A goal of $350 was set for One Great Hour of Sharing on Easter Sunday.

Fat Tuesday/Ash Wednesday will be observed on Tuesday, March 4 with a Pancake Supper at 6 with services to follow.

Elder Jim McLaughlin reported that the cost of the New Church Marquee will be underwritten by an anonymous donor from the congregation.

Pastor David Johnson will preach on March 9th while Pastor Jane is recovering from surgery.

COMMUNION SCHEDULE – MARCH

Nancy Martin, Janet Stephens, David Herrington, Kelly Hubley

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 Report by Dorothy Dillon

Date	Clients	Family Members	New Clients	Family Members
2/5	105	261	1	6
2/12	82	189	6	11
2/19	103	245	4	17
2/26	71	158	0	0
Totals	361	853	11	34

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.

ON A LIGHTER NOTE

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

Wearing Our PDA T-Shirts in 2013

Wear your Presbyterian Disaster Assistance T-Shirt to Church the First Sunday in Lent – March 9, 2014

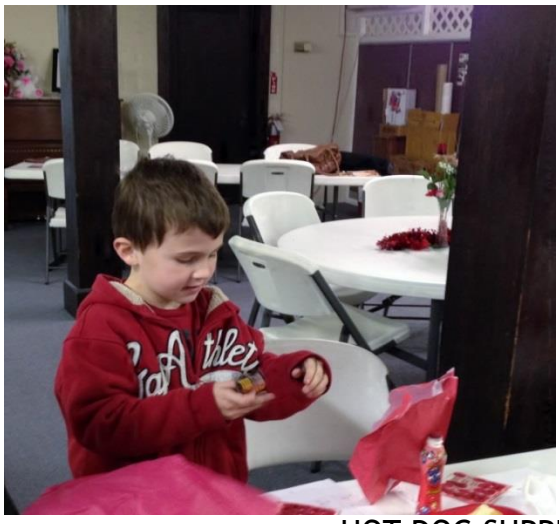
As an act of solidarity with families affected by multiple disasters throughout the United States, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) has designated March 9, 2014— the first Sunday in Lent (and beginning of the One Great Hour of Sharing offering promotion) — as "wear your blue PDA T-shirt Sunday".

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. In 2013, more than 4,000 individuals participated in the ministry of service through volunteer work teams.

Unfortunately, a large number of families are still homeless and the recovery from some situations – such as Hurricane Sandy– will take years. Many families will need the faithful witness and service of volunteers to help rebuild their homes.

MARCH 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 **Transfiguration of the Lord** **Worship at 11** **Communion** **Covered Dish Luncheon** **Deacon's Mtg.**	3	4 Shrove Tues. Pancake Supper & Ash Wed. Service 6 p.m.	5 **ASH WEDNEDAY**	6	7 *World Day of Prayer*	8 *International Women's Day*
9 **1st Sunday in Lent** **Worship at 11** Wear Your PDA T-Shirt ***Celebrate the Gifts of Women*** Daylight saving time begins	10 **Doug Lancaster** **Tim Dixon** 	11 Jim Patterson 	12 **Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm**	13 Bob Martin 	14	15
16 **2nd Sunday in Lent** **Worship at 11** *Self-Development of People*	17	18	19	20	21	22 Mildred Beckcom
23 **3rd Sunday in Lent**	*24*	**25** **Aaron Leis** 	26	**27** **Scott Saunders** 	**28**	29
30 **4th Sunday in Lent**	31					



HOT DOG SUPPER – FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2014

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