

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation

Carolyn Boren, Jack Clark, Tom & Syble DeLoach, Jane and Tolly Dill, and Diane Dill, Bob Hays, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Peggy Morgan, Debbie Murphy, Neil Pennal, Alicia Rich, New Ruling Elders coming on to Session

Connected Family- Connor Bradshaw – Porter’s grandson, Tammy Hillin’s mother

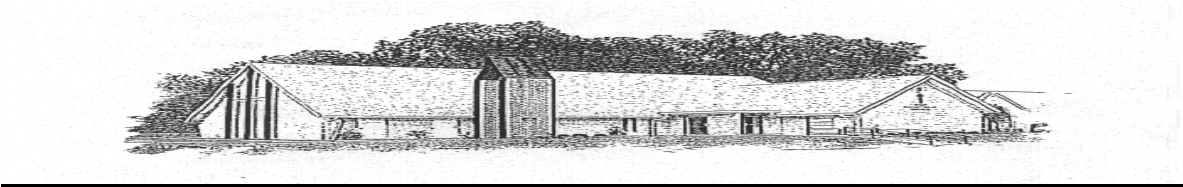
Friends and Neighbors- Reagan McDonald – undergoing cancer treatments, Children attending *Kids for God*

Those loved ones known only to God

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773



For the grace of
God has appeared,
bringing salvation
for all people.
Titus 2:11, ESV



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 46

December, 2014

Issue 09

Is Christmas Coming Again?

The Christmas season is upon us. Here at the church, we’re marking Advent – which means we’re in a season of waiting, and hoping, and praying for the Second Coming of Christ. Our job is to be watchful, to anticipate, to prepare. So we’re not singing Christmas hymns, we’re singing Advent hymns. We’re collecting items to give away to our neighbors who will experience the cold weather, but won’t have warm scarves, gloves, and hats – unless we provide them. They may not have toys under their tree for their children – unless we put them there. They might not have anything even *close* to a Christmas banquet, unless we pitch in. Oh dear.

The news around the country is focused on what’s terribly, terribly wrong out there. Citizens in Ferguson, MO are rioting and looting and burning businesses in their own town. The weather along the east coast has already dumped a year’s worth of snow on parts of upstate NY. People have been stranded in airports and bus stations from NC to MA. Time that might have been spent with family has been cut short, if it happens at all. Oh dear.

We have shopping to do, and pies to bake. We have cards to address, and lights to string. We are expected in the homes of friends, wearing a happy face, when we’re already tired and it’s only just begun. We will have family coming in, and there’s cleaning to do, and groceries to buy, and beds to make ready, or there’s driving to do and clothes to pack and presents to wrap before we leave. Oh dear.

So listen to the prophet Isaiah, who knew *positively*, 700 years before it happened, that it *would happen!* He was so convinced, that he told the people, all the people, that the Most Powerful God would do as promised and all these lowered shoulders, and all these heavy hearts, and all these empty dreams would VANISH!!!

Listen to what the prophet said. “*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them, light has shined. For a Child has been born to us. A Son given to us. Authority rests upon his shoulders. And he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.*” And why did Isaiah believe this so strongly? Because, he said, “*the zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!*” Oh Dear!

And we know that Isaiah was right. He spoke God’s truth. It did happen. God made it so!

So spend some time with us this season. Wait with us. Anticipate with us. Prepare with us. The birth of the Prince of Peace will be celebrated once again. It will be a great celebration. You’ll see.

Merry Christmas!

Candice



Employee Appreciation Offering

Tis' the season of Blessings. When thinking of the Advent season we also think of the employees of our church. Their hard work, gracious giving of time, and devotion to our church makes our church what it is today. Without their commitments to our house of worship, we would not be where we are today in our ministry.

We are taking up our annual offering for our employees . . . to be distributed to them during our annual Christmas luncheon on December 14, 2014. As always you can send your offering to Martha at the church or give to any of the members of the Stewardship/Finance committee. This committee consists of Bert Lowe, Tom Laney, Carol Scoggins, Bill Stanley and Tom Weaver. You can give by placing your offering in the plate on Sunday, but be sure to indicate the offering is for the Employees of our church.

I pray all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas season.

Thank You
Bill Stanley



A CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May God grant you the light of Christmas,
which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas,
which is justice;
the belief in Christmas,
which is truth;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.

From Communication/Personnel Committee



*Merry
Christmas!
from all of us*



*Rev. Candice Klein
Church Secretary: Martha Hicks
Organist & Choir Director: Mary Tidwell
Pianist: Sally Hosea
Custodian: Bob Schauwecker
Nursery Attendant: Marty Baughman*





Kids for God having fun and learning lessons with balloons with Bert Lowe



Building & Grounds

We look forward as I am sure you do to the coming celebration of the birth of our Lord & Savior. I am thankful for the gift of salvation & celebrate the country he chose for me to be born in, grow up in, raise a family in, & worship Him in. We want to take a few minutes to thank all our fellow members here at FPC Henderson, Texas for their time, hard work, prayerful support, & money to make our building a more comfortable place to worship. Where we learn what plans God has for us, & how we might better serve Him.

I know it is possible to worship anywhere, anytime, but corporate worship has traditionally taken place in a house of worship. With that in mind it is the B&G Team's goal to make our house of worship one that is safe, functional, and attractive. The B&G Team & the Commission are in the midst of coming up with ideas & recommendations to the session. The ideas under consideration include refinishing the ceiling, repainting the walls, new lighting, new floor covering, repositioning the pews, and replacing the choir chairs with pews from the balcony. We are also considering updating the narthex. We hope you are beginning to embrace the enthusiasm we share! We hope for you & your family a safe & happy celebration of the birth of Christ!

Building & Grounds Team Leader,

John Tieken



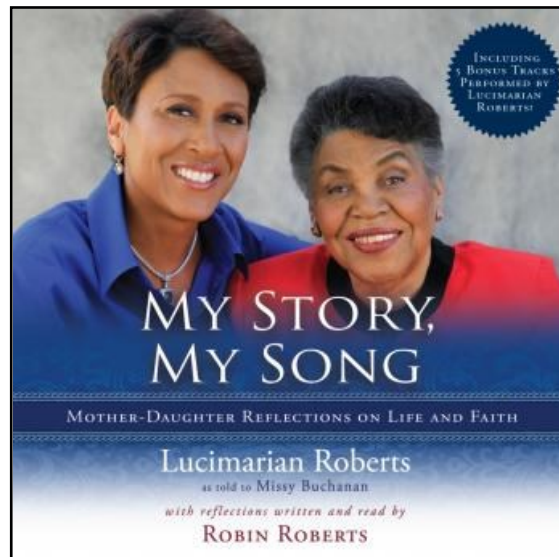
Book Corner

"My Story, My Song" is a book on the mother-daughter life and faith reflections of Lucimarian Roberts and her daughter, Good Morning America anchor, Robin Roberts.

My sisters and I gave this book to our mother last Mother's Day. It is a heartfelt account of the life and faith of Lucimarian "detailing pivotal moments in her life and revealing how faith in God has provided her with strength and hope to face the challenges of life. Daughter Robin reflects at the close of each chapter on her extraordinary mother's character and influence. " Robin said, "Folks are drawn to Mom's humility, wisdom and spirituality."

This book is filled with scriptures and hymn lyrics, both of which were instrumental in the elder Roberts walk, and I would imagine, the younger Roberts too ! Lucimarian died in August 2012. This book was published only months earlier and is an inspirational read. On behalf of the Christian Education committee, I recommend this faith-filled book found in our church library.

Jan Pennal



Tom and Syble DeLoach received an award for their beautiful yard !

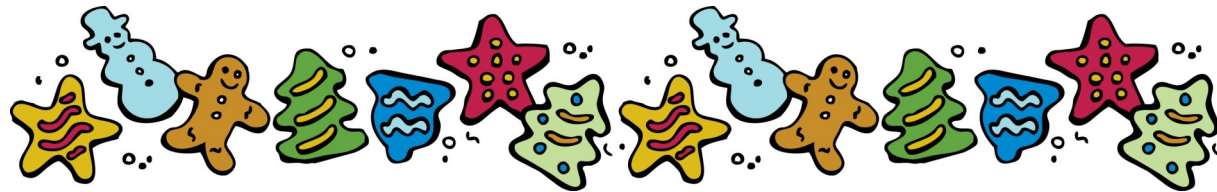
Special dates

- Second Sunday of Advent, *December 7, 2014*
- Third Sunday of Advent, *December 14, 2014*
- Fourth Sunday of Advent, *December 21, 2014*
- First Day of Winter, *December 21, 2014*
- Christmas Eve, *December 24, 2014*
- Christmas Day, *December 25, 2014*
- New Year's Eve/Watch Night, *December 31, 2014*





Lsha Stanley always does a fabulous job decorating for special events



What's the name of the angel who told Mary she would give birth to God's Son?

- A. Gabriel
- B. Raphael
- C. Michael
- D. Jonathan

Answer: A (See Luke 1:26)



Merry Christmas!

from the

Chancel Choir

We invite you to join us

in worship on Sunday, December 14, 2014

for our special

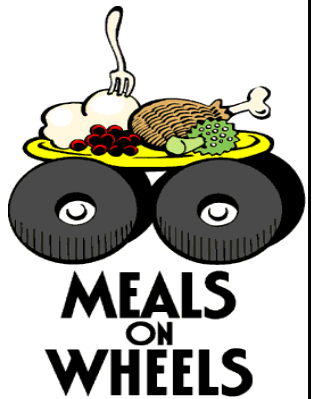
Lessons and Carols Service

11:00 am



The Meals On Wheels program delivers a nutritious meal, a warm smile and a safety check that helps keep 2.5 million seniors healthy, safe and living independently in their own homes each year. This past year, volunteers from our church have joined in this great effort as part of our Outreach to our community. We go two by two one day each week. We drive our own vehicles and have a route here in Henderson. It takes us about 1 ½ to 2 hours each

Friday for the noon meal. Not only do we enjoy meeting and checking on the people on our route, but we enjoy the comradeship with each other. The Meals on Wheels site is right across from our church at the old Community Center building, so it is very convenient. If you think you might enjoy helping with this ministry, please contact Jan Pennal or any of the volunteers (Mariella, Bert, Debbie, Pat, Tom, Lynn, and Tammy).



WONDERFUL WORSHIP

The church calendar has rolled over once more and the new year of the Christian Church -the season of Advent- has come again. Advent is our time of preparing for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord through the birth of God’s Son Jesus Christ. It is a time to celebrate light in the midst of darkness, and to remember that God’s promises can always be trusted.

During worship, we will once again follow a tradition surrounding the Advent wreath, lighting candles of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy the four Sundays of Advent. On December 14, the choir will share a time of Carols and Scriptures. The final candle- the Christ Candle- will be lighted on Christmas Eve. Make plans now to come and bring family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the birth of the Savior at our Christmas Eve Candle-light Service at 5:30 p.m. on December 24th.

The sanctuary will take on a different look this year as our Christmas garlands and wreaths have been given a “facelift.” Instead of purchasing poinsettias this year, the Worship Team has designated memorials and honorariums that may be made to benefit H.I.M. during this time of year when there is such great need. There will be 4 baskets in the sanctuary where we may place gifts to people whom we don’t even know, but God dearly loves, while we honor the Christ Child: Food; baby items, infant formula and diapers; warm clothing such as hats, mittens, scarves; and Christmas toys. These items will be distributed to H.I.M. and PALS.



May the story of Christmas bless everyone all year long!

Merry Christmas from

The Worship Team

- | | | |
|---------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <i>Fonda Conway</i> | <i>Margaret Hillin</i> | <i>Sally Hosen</i> |
| <i>Mary Tidwell</i> | <i>Tom Laney</i> | <i>Pat Laney</i> |
| <i>Lynn Ticken</i> | <i>Kathy Porter</i> | <i>Candice Klein</i> |



Santa’s Helpers spreading some Christmas Cheer!

Reagan McDonald, on a journey with cancer, niece of Kathy Porter's son-in-law, who was a grateful and blessed recipient of a Prayer Blanket from FPC. The prayer blankets are a ministry of the Prayer Companions at FPC.



“Did you Know?”

Here are some mistakes that people commonly make as they attempt to make their homes more energy efficient:

Failure to unplug electronic devices, which tend to be the biggest energy hogs in a home. While you may go room to room turning off devices when a space is unoccupied, unless you actually unplug the device, you are not doing all you can to save energy. Televisions, computers or video game consoles are still consuming electricity even when they have been turned off. This phantom load, often referred to as "vampire power," can consume a considerable amount of energy used in a typical household. One way to make this more convenient is to plug devices into a power strip and then power off the strip when the devices are not being used.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE)

OFFERINGS FOR THE SEASON—AND BEYOND

Advent is upon us! Jimmy Chapman will lead the combined adult Sunday School classes in the study of *When God Comes Down*. Through worship, Scripture and prayer, we will seek God's presence so that in the hubbub of the "holidays," we are prepared to celebrate a "holy day"—the day when God came down among us in human flesh. In this study, pastor and author James A. Harnish explores the lives of people who witnessed the miracle in the Incarnation. He invites us to become witnesses with them to the one light that will never be overcome. Don't miss it!

Also during Advent, our own Pastor, the Rev. Candice Klein, will teach the Joy Class, using the PC(USA) curriculum "We Believe," for multiage children. The curriculum is lectionary-based, designed to help children to watch, wait, and prepare for the coming of the true light of God's presence in Jesus Christ. We hope you will bring your children, grandchildren and their friends for the joy they'll find in this class, created just for them.

After Advent, the Seekers class will begin the study of *Simply Christian* by N. T. Wright, the Bishop of Durham, England, a university professor of New Testament studies, and a classical historian. As winner of the Christianity Today Book Award, *Simply Christian* is described as "simply outstanding" and "will confirm, challenge, and deepen your grasp of Christian faith and practice." This exciting study will be taught by Pastor Candice Klein. The curriculum for the Andrews Class after Advent will be announced later this month.

The purpose of the Christian Education Ministry is to help grow our faith so that we may become worthy disciples of Jesus Christ. With this purpose in mind, we invite you will take full advantage of the CE offerings during Advent and beyond.

May all of God's blessings of Advent and Christmas be yours.

Christian Education (CE) Ministry Team

Jimmy Chapman, Pat Laney, Tom Laney, Jan Pennal, Kathy Porter, Lynn Tieken, Rev.

Candice Klein, and team leader Bert Lowe

SESSION ACTIONS

November 13, 2014

- ♦ **Worshiped and prayed together**
- ♦ **Studied Presbyterian *Polity* using the Book of Order**
- ♦ **Heard Stewardship plans for the Annual Congregational Meeting 11-16-14, the Stewardship letter, pledge cards, and plans from the Finance Committee to connect with each church member**
- ♦ **Approved active membership of FPC per the Book of Order**
- ♦ **Approved the FPC 2015 Budget**
- ♦ **Appointed Debbie Wasson as commissioner to Presbytery Nov. 20 and 21 at Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church**
- ♦ **Set examination of new elders for December session meeting**
- ♦ **Set installation of new elders for January 4, 2015**
- ♦ **Heard Worship plans for memorials and honorariums to go to H.I.M. this Christmas**
- ♦ **Heard Outreach plans for the Angel Tree for Rusk State Hospital at Christmas**
- ♦ **Discussed tentative plans for Session retreat in January 2015**





December

2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1 Jack Clark Hanging of the Greens 6:30 p.m.	2 Bill Boren Building Committee mtg. 6:15	3	4 C.E. Mtg. 1:00 p.m.	5	6
7	8 Presbyterian Women's Luncheon 11:00-1:00 p.m.	9	10	11 Session Mtg. 6:00 p.m.	12	13
14 Christmas Luncheon Lessons & Carols	15 Adopt A Block 4:00 p.m.	16	17	18 L.E.A.N. Mtg. 2:00 p.m.	19 Syble DeLoach	20
21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 5:30 p.m.	25 Rev. Klein away 12/25-29	26	27
28 Jimmy Chapman Preaching	29	30	31 Carol Scoggins	Offices closed for Christmas	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Offices Closed for New Year's Day	9	10