



## WANT TO HELP FPC WHILE SHOPPING?

If you should be shopping at AMAZON online, you can now list First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, Texas as your charity and the church will receive a .5% donation, just as we now do at Kroger. Simply sign in to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) each time you shop. The first time you will be asked to list your charity and you will do a search for First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, Texas. Thereafter, the church will be listed for you. These donations will be used to further the work of the church in Mission and Outreach. Every little bit adds up!



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



# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

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Issue Eleven

## The Season of Advent



We wait and we wait; that's what much of Advent is all about. The Hebrew people waited centuries. And when the waiting was over, the end result looked *nothing* like what they had anticipated. The Holy Child did not come in a palace. (*should they wait for another?*) There was no trumpet fanfare to announce his birth. (*who knew this had happened?*) As he grew up, he confused the church leaders. (*he's just a kid, what could he know?*) As he gave instruction to his students, he spoke in parables – that often sounded like riddles to them. (*what do you suppose that means?*) As he described his coming walk to Golgotha, they tried to talk him out of it. (*no, no Rabbi. Not you!*) As he hung on the cross as a convicted felon, they mocked him and challenged him to prove his identity (*if he's the son of God, let him save himself.*) And those closest to him, refused to remain with him at the end. (*“Forgive them, Father.”*)

We know the story. We know the many details. We know how it turns out. We know that evil, and sin, and death won't win. But that does not allow us to ignore the waiting that is a part of Advent. Because too many people *don't* know the story. They haven't heard how it turns out. And if they have, they aren't certain what it means, or how it relates to them. And that's where you come in.

It is our calling to tell the Christ Child's story. To anyone and to everyone. It takes time to tell it. It takes patience to recall the details. It takes wisdom to know when the listener is ready. And, if we don't tell the story, then we can't be surprised when the story doesn't spread.

Take time this Advent season, and tell the story. You may not do it perfectly – but please try. You may not do it successfully – but God will recognize your efforts. You may not do it often enough, to large crowds of family or neighbors. But tell it. The Season of Advent leads to one of the most glorious times of the year. And, as you lean in to tell the story, someone will want to hear more... and more... and you will spread the *good news!*

Now, wouldn't *that* make your Christmas, and theirs *spectacular!*

Blessed Advent and Merry Christmas, People of God!

*Candice*

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.  
Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

— *Jesus, the Messiah*

## RENOVATION PROGRESS

The Building Commission hopes you were in church Sunday; the new lighting was on full force. The carpenters & electricians worked together to build a false ceiling to house the new lighting on Thursday & Friday. The carpenters & electricians worked late Friday & Saturday (11/21/15) evening to get the new lighting working. The electricians were not able to get the system completely programmed in order that we can use the dimming functions. That work shall be completed soon. We hope you were pleased with their work. Next Sunday (11/29/15) we will definitely need all the lighting because the windows will be covered temporarily boarded up as a result of the removal of the center brick column & the existing windows. This step is being done in order that the new windows can begin to be installed beginning 11/29/15. Your Building Commission has decided to have stucco applied to all the walls. We do not have an exact date for that work at this point but plan for that to commence soon as possible after the windows are installed. There are plans to freshen up the ceiling & beams as a part of this renovation work. We hope you are happy with the work & I want you to know that 3 families in our congregation donated \$80,000 for this work. There have been no funds from any other source. The Commission has worked very hard to use these funds to be approved by God, the donors, and this congregation. As the chair, I thank you for your support. If you would want to participate in the further renovation of our facility please continue with your prayers, and financial contributions.

Thank you all!

Building Commission Chair  
John Tieken



## OUTREACH: CHRISTMAS 2015

First of all, thank you for generously giving Thanksgiving food items from the list HIM supplied to us. We were able to feed 15 needy families this Thanksgiving! Feels great, doesn't it?

The last two church wide outreach opportunities for 2015 are :

1. Henderson Interchurch Ministry Joy Baskets-----sign up sheets are in the narthex (like in years past for the poinsettias) for food baskets prepared by HIM. Each basket will be \$7 and you can buy as many as you like in honor or in memory of a friend or loved one. The deadline for this giving opportunity will be the 4th Sunday in Advent, December 20th. Please have your money in the church office by Monday, December 21st.
2. Rusk State Hospital Angel Tree---it will be done like in years past. We will gift some of the hospital residents with toilet articles in gift bags. Information will be on the Angel Tree starting Sunday, November 29th and running through Monday, December 21st. Gift will be taken to Rusk on Tuesday morning, December 22nd. It is a great way to give to the less fortunate, or to put another way.....it is a great way to act due to the Grace we have been given!

Thank you up front for the generous people you are!

Merry Christmas,  
Jan Pennal, chair



**New T-shirts  
available for  
members who  
do not currently  
have one or if  
you would like a  
new one!**

**They will be in  
the church office  
for only \$8!!**

## WORSHIP COMMITTEE NEWS

I was dazzled by the brilliance of the new lighting in the sanctuary on Sunday November 22nd. Seeing the lights first shine on Saturday was not as dramatic as when the congregation, pastor, organist, and liturgist were in their places. The light enhanced our voices and the majesty of the organ music. Window installation is next, and that will provide even more light. John Tieken expressed it accurately, "We are not just renovating our building we are rebuilding our congregation." Sanctuary remodeling will take priority over decorating the sanctuary and narthex for Advent, at least in the first part of December. The Advent Wreath will be in its place on Sunday, November 29, and we will light the first purple candle, the "Prophecy Candle," in memory of the prophets, primarily Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. Twelve new Chrismons (Monograms of Christ) are in production for the sanctuary Chrismons trees. The Christmas Eve Service will be a traditional format beginning at 5:30 p.m. The public will be invited by a newspaper advertisement. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Service will be held in our sanctuary on January 16, 2016. It will be planned by the Pastor, members of the Worship Committee, and Ms. Betty Elder. Our representatives will aid in planning the program and still allow the traditional features of the celebration to continue as in the past.

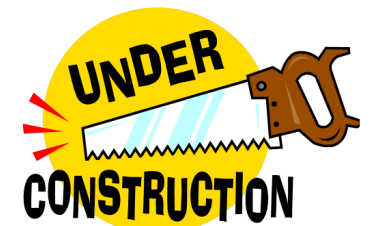
For now, Have a Joyful Thanksgiving!

Tom Laney

For the Worship Committee



**Worship  
Committee**



## MISSION: CHRISTMAS 2015



Our fourth special offering is during the Advent season. Joy Gift starts Sunday, November 29 and runs through Christmas Day. Each gift to this offering helps support past, present and future leaders of the Church. Whether by providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families (50% of offering) or by providing opportunities for deserving students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to achieve their dreams through Presbyterian related education (50% of offering), this is a yearly opportunity for Presbyterians to share the "good news of great joy" to those poor in circumstance or spirit.

*\*\*All gifts are due in the church office by Wednesday, December 30th\*\**

On another Mission note.....do you have trouble figuring out what to give the person who has everything? Well, fret no more. Mission has the perfect solution to that problem...the gift that keeps on giving...Presbyterian Mission Giving (our Christmas version of Heifer International)! We all know about this from our Heifer International "education and action" program last August. Please be on the lookout for information in the narthex regarding this Christmas giving. It just might be the only gift that can last forever!

Merry Christmas and Christ's peace to you all.....  
Jan Pennal, chair



## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Stewardship Committee and Fellowship Committee just wrapped up the Stewardship Dinner. Now the Fellowship Committee is in the process of planning the Christmas Dinner which will be held on Sunday, December 13th. The committee will provide the meats but ask that everyone bring a covered dish or dessert. We are also in the planning stages for 2016!!

Fonta Conway



## WHAT SEASON IS NEXT AT FPC HENDERSON?

*"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance". –Ecclesiastes 3:1-4*

Wise king Solomon points out in Ecclesiastes how everything in life seems to happen in cycles; being born, dying; planting, harvesting; laughing, crying. Our life is framed by the circle of time; day in – day out, eating, sleeping, working. The sun goes up, the sun goes down. The weeks, months and years pass by. Solomon sums this up by observing that "to everything there is a season". The recurrence in seasons and cycles is how we experience so much of our reality. The spring season is sweet because we're coming out of bleakness of winter. The season brings with it a whole association of thoughts and feelings that we've compiled over the span of our lifetimes. This is what makes cycles and seasons so powerful in our human experience.

I submit that Seasons and Cycles are *extremely important* to the Life of the Church's Worship. They are spiritually formative. Year after year, they leave a deepening and lasting impression upon our spirits. It's is now that we find ourselves in the Advent/Christmas season cycle.

In the first, Advent signals longing. We human beings have deep expectations and hopes. The Christmas celebration is God's answer to our expectations. God is with us in the person of our Savior Jesus. Also in this time we find ourselves in the Stewardship season.

In thousands of congregations the brilliant colors of fall signal the season for annual budgets, stewardship sermons and pledge cards. For many churches it's the only time of year financial stewardship is given high visibility. In the best-case scenario, the members pledge enough to meet the church budget, and the congregation is on its way to another year of ministry. Except for budget reports, talk about money is mostly set aside until the following autumn.

However, a growing number of congregations regard financial giving as an important part of Christian discipleship that deserves year-round emphasis. I hope we can be one of those Presbyterian congregations by keeping stewardship forefront in our minds and in our church during all seasons of our worship. We have great needs and plans that need our support if we are to be successful through the year. I hope you keep these things in mind as you decide how strong your stewardship will be this year. We are counting on you!

Your Stewardship Chair – Bill Stanley



Stewardship  
Committee

## PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**It is official!** We are happy to announce that the Session approved hiring Mark Reeves as our Music Director at our November Session meeting. He played during worship on November 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> and it was wonderful. Mark has spent most of his life in Texas. His interest in music started at a very early age, as his father was an accomplished guitarist and entertainer. He began piano lessons in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and participated in many regional piano events. The choir director of the First United Methodist Church of Canton contacted Mark in 1982 to see if he would be interested in auditioning for their organist position. Even though Mark had never played the organ before, after he auditioned, he was hired on the spot! Mark began studying the organ in earnest. He passed the American Guild of Organist's examination for the Colleague level certification. As he continued to improve his organist skills he also was instrumental in growing the choir and helping it to become a major outreach program. This also included Children's After School Choir program. As you can tell, Mark is very accomplished and extremely talented. We are so thankful that he has joined us and we hope you will take an opportunity to introduce yourself and welcome him into the fold.



Your Personnel Committee

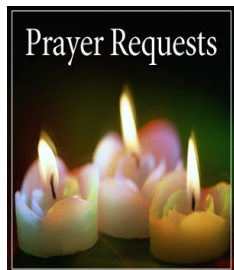
*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

**Members of the Congregation:** Jack Clark, Syble DeLoach, Jane and Tolly Dill, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy Ratliff, Kelly Weaver, Sue Williams, The FPC Building Commission, the "Color Team" task group

**Connected Family:** Connor Bradshaw – Porter's grandson, Mark & Angela Clark & Kent Clark, Linda and Mark Davis, Diane Dill and Mike Dill

**Friends and Neighbors:** Kids for God – staff and children, Contractors completing construction work in our Sanctuary

Those loved ones known only to God



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that with a little effort and imagination we can reduce the environmental impact of the Christmas season? We have a few ideas to help celebrate Christmas while caring for God's creation. To start out, try to simplify, do less this year. Even if all you do is skip one party, buy one less present, or do less decorating. Let that be your gift to yourself. Conserve energy by cleaning or replacing your filters as recommended in order for efficient heating. Conserve energy by using LED holiday lights which are at least 75% more efficient, are cooler, and last 25 times longer than traditional incandescent lights; also use a timer for efficient usage of lights. Save on fuel consumption by shopping locally. If you can't find what you want here, shop online in the comfort of your home. If you should shop Amazon. Com, how about going to [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and choose First Presbyterian Henderson, TX as your charity and FPC will receive a .5% donation.

When it comes to gift giving, what about giving someone an experience present—tickets to a play or concert, movie tickets, restaurants. No packaging! And for the person who doesn't need more "stuff", donate to a charity in their honor. A really green gift would be to plant trees in someone's honor. If you must give a gift with batteries, how about getting rechargeable ones with a charger. Remember you can dispose of your old batteries by bringing to the church office. If you get new electronics, remember to dispose of old ones at a periodic Trash Off Day sponsored by the city and Keep Henderson Beautiful rather than the landfill. Use real dishes but if the numbers necessitate, use paper disposable items that will break down in landfills. Reuse or recycle all that Christmas packaging and wrapping. Don't forget God's feathered creatures by placing pine cones slathered in peanut butter and rolled in seeds outside your windows and enjoy the scene.

May the Christ Child be honored by our efforts for a green Christmas.

*WISHING YOU ALL A VERY GREEN AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS*  
*The Christian Education Green Team*



## NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

**Advent—the waiting, the yearning for the coming of the Messiah! As Christians we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, the Messiah—but we can only imagine what the actual waiting for the Savior of the world was like.**



**The first four Sundays in December mark the 2015 Advent Season of the church. Through Bible study and worship, our church tries to experience the yearning for the coming of Christ. This year, Elder Jimmy Chapman will lead the combined adult Sunday School classes in a study of the lectionary passages (Year C) on the first four Sundays in December. He will also lead a study of the Christmas Season lectionary passages on the fifth Sunday in December.**

**If you can join us for this Advent/Christmas study, we will be delighted! At 9:45 a.m. each Sunday in December, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall where donuts, hot beverages, and fellowship abound. We are privileged to have Jimmy Chapman leading this study. We believe you will find Advent and Christmas even more meaningful if you can be with us.**

**Bibles will be available, but our teacher encourages all to read all four lectionary texts as we prepare for this Advent season. The lectionary texts are listed below (see Advent Study 2015).**

**God bless us everyone!**

**Bert Lowe  
Christian Education Ministry  
Team Leader**



**From the Organ Bench....**

**Musical Greetings to All! God is so Good! I am so blessed and so thankful to be at FPC-Henderson. It has been a difficult year for me, but God knows where I belong. I already feel at home and "loved" in this place! I am still a struggling musician, but I pray that my musical offerings will touch you and enhance your worship experience at First Pres!!! At least, that is my hope and prayer. I am happy to announce that the Chancel Choir will be resuming practices (mid-week) on Wednesdays at 6 PM. We will meet first in the choir room to hand out folders and music and make sure everyone has what they need, and then embark to the Choir loft (in the Sanctuary) for rehearsal. We may not be ready for Prime Time Sunday, but look for us on Christmas Eve for some special offering(s)(?!). For you choir members...there MAY be a five minute game of "what's my name" in song (purely for my benefit). This is also a great time for some of you "former choir" or "considering choir" persons to come join us. Maybe you're not ready for a long commitment, but consider joining us through Christmas, you may be blessed and I am certain we will be. Any and all are welcomed. Some of my future ideas involve hand bells, children's music, chimes for children and adults, guest musicians and participation in the community of Henderson wherever we can. WE will start small and go forward. Hope to see you in the Choir Loft.**

**Soli Deo Gloria  
Mark Reeves, CAGO**





## COUNCIL ACTIONS

November 19, 2015



- **Worshiped and prayed together**
- **Reviewed Neighborhood Party, All Saints Sunday, Stewardship Sunday**
- **Examined elder nominees for Class of 2017**
- **Appointed commissioners to Presbytery on Dec. 10**
- **Hired Mark Reeves as organist**
- **Reviewed staff evaluations**
- **Set Congregational Meeting to elect elders on December 6**
- **Set December 13 for Christmas luncheon**
- **Discussed the proposed budget for 2016**
- **Determined that any funds from smile.amazon.com go to Mission**



**Kids For God Baking Lesson  
with Miss Claudia**



## COUNCIL MEMBERS

### *Class of 2015*

**Bert Lowe—Christian Education**

**Jan Pennal—Outreach/Mission**

**John Tieken—Building and Grounds**

**Kelly Weaver—Communications/Personnel**

### *Class of 2016*

**Fonta Conway—Fellowship**

**Tom Laney—Worship**

**Steve Lowe—Member Care**

**Bill Stanley—Finance/Stewardship**

**Moderator—Rev. Candice Klein**

**Clerk of Council—Kathy Porter**



## ADVENT STUDY 2015

*Combined Adult Classes meet in Fellowship Hall at 9:45am - Jimmy Chapman, teacher*

### 1. Advent One—November 29

- Scriptures are: (a) Jeremiah 33: 12-16;  
 (b) Psalm 25: 1-10;  
 (c) 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13;  
 (d) Luke 21: 25-36

### 2. Advent Two—December 6

- Scriptures are: (a) Malachi 3: 1-4;  
 (b) Luke 1: 68-79;  
 (c) Philippians 1: 3-11;  
 (d) Luke 3: 1-6

### 3. Advent Three—December 13

- Scriptures are: (a) Zephaniah 3: 14-20;  
 (b) Isaiah 12: 2-6;  
 (c) Philippians 4: 4-7;  
 (d) Luke 3: 7-18

### 4. Advent Four—December 20

- Scriptures are: (a) Micah 5: 1-5a;  
 (b) Psalm 80: 1-7;  
 (c) Hebrews 10: 5-10;  
 (d) Luke 1: 39-56

### 5. 1st Sunday after Christmas—December 27

- Scriptures are: (a) 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26;  
 (b) Psalm 148;  
 (c) Colossians 3: 12-17;  
 (d) Luke 2: 41-52



## SPECIAL DATES

- **Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 2015**
- **Third Sunday of Advent, December 13, 2015**
- **Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 20, 2015**
- **First Day of Winter, December 21, 2015**
- **Christmas Eve, December 24, 2015**
- **Christmas Day, December 25, 2015**
- **New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2015**



## IT'S GOOD TO BE A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN

It is a good day and a good place to be a Presbyterian Woman. We celebrated our November monthly meeting on November 23. It was an extraordinary day spent with extraordinary women. Bert Lowe led the group in our lesson for the day – “Hospitality to Strangers.” How appropriate the lesson message is given the place we are in our world today. We had very good and heartfelt conversation about having given and having gotten hospitality extended to us throughout our lives. It was a wonderful and timely lesson and reminded all of us of the scripture, Hebrews 13: “Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.” We touched base on our monthly commitment to the Son Shine Lighthouse Project and collected from those present their November pledge. Carol Scoggins, PW Treasurer, noted that she hand-delivered the October commitment and how appreciative they are to our group. We will also be setting up a date for a tour of the facility in the near future, probably after the holidays. Jane Fahle reported that the Good Samaritan Shoebox project was a success and thanked everyone who participated. Lynn Tieken and Lavonne Schauwecker reported on their assignment to check with Radar Funeral Home on helping with holiday goodies for the troops. Lynn brought some stockings with a list of fillers for those interested in participating. Lavonne is going to see if she can find the names and station locations for service men and woman from Rusk County to get to Radar to assist in them being sent to those serving from Rusk County first. We reminded the group of the traditional PW Christmas Luncheon hosted by Jane Fahle that will be on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup> and other upcoming community events. Our next and last get together for 2015 will be the Christmas Luncheon on Monday, December 7<sup>th</sup>.

*QUOTE OF THE MONTH: “Give thanks for unknown blessings yet to come”*



	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	Congregational Mtg. (following worship)	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	Christmas Luncheon	14	15	16	17	18	19
20		21	22	23	24	25	26
27		28	29	30	31		

Sunday: Jack Clark  
 Monday: Presbyterian Women's Luncheon  
 Tuesday: Worship Mtg. 6:00pm  
 Wednesday: Choir Practice 6pm, Bill Boren  
 Thursday: C.E. Meeting 2pm, Presbyterian Mtg. in Ft. Worth  
 Friday: L.E.A.N. Mtg. 2pm, Session Mtg. 6:30pm  
 Saturday: Syble DeLoach

Church Offices Closed January 1st  
 Christmas Eve Worship 5:30pm  
 Church Offices Closed for Christmas  
 Choir Practice 6pm  
 Choir Practice 6pm  
 Choir Practice 6pm  
 Carol Scoggins  
 Pipeline Deadline