

First Presbyterian Newsletter

The mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ

Our vision is to be an oasis of God's love.

First Presbyterian Church	Office hours: M ~ F, 9 am ~ noon	May 2012
1311 McCaulley, P. O. Box 956, Sweetwater, Texas 79556		Telephone 325-235-5491
Interim Pastor – Rev. Earl Stewart cell# 951-813-1266	Elder of the Month – LouAnn Cumbie	
fpcsweetwater.org	revstewartswt@att.net	kimfpcsw@att.net

From the Pastor's Pen

A Final Word or Two

It's easier to say "hello" than it is to say "goodbye" --- that is, unless you are being released from prison (what a revolting thought!).

As many, if not most, of you know, I will be leaving Sweetwater and moving to Griffin, Georgia to take advantage of another interim pastor opportunity.

This is an opportunity that sought me rather than me seeking it. Some people suggested my name to the First Presbyterian Church in Griffin, GA and they contacted me.

Lucy and I recently flew to Atlanta to meet with their Interim PNC and before we left they offered me the opportunity and I accepted it because both Lucy and I sensed it was God's will.

Sunday, June 3 will be my last Sunday with you. I have chosen that Sunday because it will give me an opportunity to share in a service of the Lord's Supper with you one more time.

Serving you as your interim pastor has been a service of joy for me. Lucy and I both have come to love you and felt loved by you. Your Session has been a blessing to work with. They have been supportive of me and have always been willing to help me when asked. No pastor can ask for anything more from a Session.

You, the congregation, have also been a blessing for Lucy and me to know and love. We treasure your friendship. You truly are an oasis of love. We will miss you, but we will never forget you --- we don't want to. The only thing left for me to say is --- a final God Bless you.

Pastor Stewart

Dates to Remember

- 2 Presbyterian Women ~ 5:30 pm
Plarning ~ 1:00 pm in the fellowship hall
- 3 Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 6 Adult Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45 am
Communion ~ Class of 2013
No Communicant's Class
- 9 Plarning ~ 1:00 pm
All Committee meetings ~ 5:30 pm
- 10 Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 13 Adult Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45 am
Mother's Day!
Communicant's Class ~ 9:30am in the fellowship hall.
- 16 Plarning ~1:00 pm
Session meeting ~ 5:30 pm
- 17 Choir ~ 5:30 pm
- 20 Adult Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45 am
"Senior & Youth Sunday"
Pastor Earl's Birthday!!!
Senior Luncheon immediately following worship.
- 23 Plarning ~1:00 pm
- 24 Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 27 Adult Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45 am
Day of Pentecost ~ Wear Red to worship!
Noisy & Reverse Offering
- 30 Plarning ~1:00 pm
- 31 Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm

May Greeters

- 6 Paula Carmichael & Janice Gesin
13 Matt Gesin & Jo Thompson
20 Keith Brock & Richard Gesin
27 RuthAnn Campbell & Dorothy Stroman



MISSION AND OUREACH PROJECTS

HANDYMAN PROJECT:

Need your own personal handyman? Do you have batteries or filters that need changing, light bulbs that need replacing, trash to be removed or other odd jobs with which you need help? Don't step on that ladder or wait for a relative, call Keith and Becky Brock 235-2943 or the church office at 235-5491 if you need help or you would like to be a handyman volunteer.

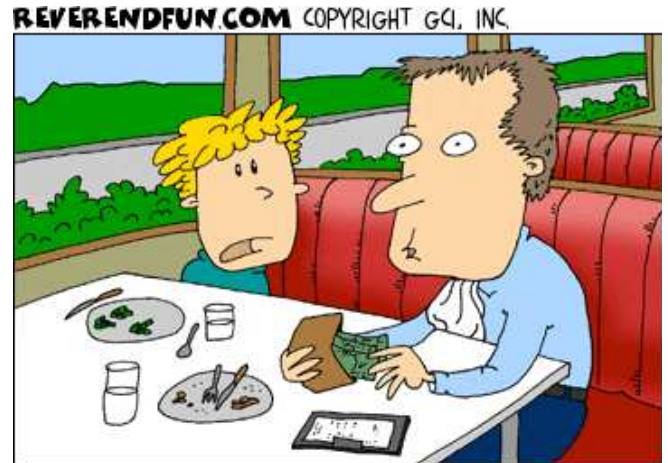
NOLAN COUNTY FOOD PANTRY:

Thank you for your generous donations. Boo Nemir used your donations to purchase \$230 worth of food which Doug Richards took to the food pantry. However, the Nolan County Food Pantry will continue to need our support each month. Please be generous in keeping this mission going. If you wish to make a monetary donation, make you check payable to the First Presbyterian Church and put Food Pantry in the memo line or your cash donation in the pan on the side of the grocery cart in the narthex. Remember Reverse Offering is the last Sunday of the month along with the Noisy Offering which goes to support the Ministerial Alliance.

RAINBOW ROOM:

Donations are needed for the Nolan County Child Welfare Board Rainbow Room which is located at the Child Protective Services Office 1300 Hailey Street. When a child is removed from their home due to severe abuse or neglect, they are often in need of

new clothing, shoes, diapers, formula, car seats and school supplies which helps with the transition into a safer place. If you would like to make in-kind donations or financial contributions, they may be sent to Sweetwater Nolan County Child Welfare Board Rainbow Room 1300 Hailey Sweetwater, TX 79556 or put the donations in the office across from the nursery and Doug Richards will make the delivery.



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Thanks to Shirley Ostrander 01-15-2004
HOW COME THE WAITRESS GETS 15% AND GOD ONLY GETS 10%?

Thank You!!

We appreciate Pat Foy for repairing the wood laminate on several pews. He has been doing this job for a long time and it is always an ongoing project! Thanks!

A Letter from Alice

Monday, April 23, 2012

Dear People,

You probably weary of my commenting on the rapidity of TIME as it marches on, so I won't mention it this time. How has the weather been in Sweetwater, and were your Easter services as impressive as they deserve? I miss Maundy Thursday

observance there, and since I have lived in West Texas (an eon!) I have only had them in Sweetwater, so it is one of my special memories. I also decided that I had a very special feeling at being in the sanctuary there of closeness to the rest of the worshippers, and not just because of knowing nearly everybody. I became aware of this one Sunday here at First Presbyterian Church where I felt a bit overwhelmed at the size of the sanctuary (which is very beautiful) and realized that I missed the size of FPC Sweetwater which I think is quite as beautiful and provides me with a feeling of Koinonia (spiritual fellowship). I'm sure that worshippers at the church here have my same feeling at their own church. I have started going to the service here at the retirement complex and am becoming worshipful again and liking the woman pastor and feeling her sincerity and comfort in prayer. I like the feeling of closeness and am beginning to know the other people a little better which I know is good. I do miss all of you>>>God bless you!

Dear me! That all just came out, I'm surprised at myself! I hope you gave that feeling of closeness to each other and to the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost! Doesn't that sound good?

Well, we have had some delightful weather here! Just cool enough not to be chilly, and a bit of rain a couple of days and a lot once, so I haven't had to carry water to pot plants on my front stoop (a real relief). I hope your days have been as pleasant. Predictions are scary that we may have another summer of heat and continued lack of

moisture, God forbid! Surely no more wild fires!

One of the nicest things in my life at this point is that Kim sends me your bulletins each week and the newsletter each month. I am grateful more than you know. I am hoping to be able to come to Sweetwater in the not-too-distant future and get to know some of the new people (to me) whose names I see in said missives...Dan Carter, Jr., Anne & Fred Wilson, and, thank you, Jay Moore when he had his recent eye problem. I was on the prayer list once and felt comfort for same! I also enjoyed reading about Reece Whitteker and his athletic experience! Wow! Imagine his joining that!

I have been gone almost three years, and so much has happened there and here since then. Children who were little three years ago are incredibly grown up in three years! I have great grandchildren who I expect to stay the way they were when I saw them last - such an unrealistic expectation - and lo, they have changed so very much in short months! Same with the children there! And I'm sure you are all getting accustomed to Earl - and Lucy - and I haven't met them yet! And I haven't seen the Fellowship Hall nor the new stove in the kitchen! Yes, I DO want to visit in the not-too-distant future! Meanwhile, take care. God bless every one!

A.M.