

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

March 2015

*The mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ
Our vision is to be an oasis of God's love.*

1311 McCaulley Office hours: M ~ F, 9:00 am ~12:00pm

website: www.fpcsweetwater.org

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Pastor – Rev. Kary Fry

email: kary.fry@att.net

Clerk of Session: Paula Carmichael Elder of the Month: Mitch Moore

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Everybody,

Our Lenten walk is centered on the “I Am” statements of Jesus.

1. I am the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6). Jesus is saying to the Pharisees that: My very presence is testimony to the truth of God. The distance you choose to stand apart from me is the distance you are from the truth of the reality of God's active presence. In order to change your reality, you must first draw near to Christ.

2. I am the bread of life (John 6:35). Your hunger never ends. If you have ever fed a teenager, then you really know what this means. They are always hungry. Your soul needs constant sustenance; you need to know God is with you, helping you. Jesus satisfies. When you believe in him and trust him, your soul will never be hungry again.

3. I am the door (John 10:9). Sometimes doors close. A big door that closes is death. Oh, but look! It is opened again!

4. I am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11). The world feels complicated. Evil confuses. We need a good leader to follow. Follow Jesus; you will not be disappointed.

5. I am the Vine (John 15:5). Sustenance once more; you might be pruned back for new growth, but attached to the vine, life is running toward you and in you. Do not be afraid.

6. I am the Light of the World (John 8:12). Someone was wondering, “Is this the worst of times? Are we in the last days?” Well, as Jesus said, “But of that day and hour **knows** no man, no, not **the** angels of heaven, but my **Father only (Matthew 24: 36)**. We are studying in Sunday School Matthew 24 THIS Sunday, where Jesus discusses the end times—come and learn! There have been many times of agony in the history of humankind. Remember the Russian revolution or the Holocaust? There is a very present evil in our world that must be addressed and defeated, but as to the end of time, we trust in God who holds all time and is the Alpha and Omega.

All of this is to say, Jesus is the light of the world in the midst of the present darkness. Walk toward the light, he shines brightly! Do not be afraid; if you care about seeing and living within this light then you ultimately will. God will not let you go.

7. I am the resurrection and the life (John 11: 25-26). This reminds us of what awaits us: blessed assurance, the answer, our hope and joy, your place set at the table, your cup filled to over-flowing, your loved ones surrounding you and the sound of laughter echoing throughout heaven.

How fortunate to walk with you on this sacred journey. I remain yours....and honored,

Kary

Dates to Remember

- 1 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School ~ 9:30am
HS Sunday School~ 9:45am~ Paula Carmichael
Worship ~ 10:45am ~ Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2017
Confirmation Class~4:00pm-5:00pm
Little Ones 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 3 MS Youth at Hoyt Place~ 4:15pm
- 4 Plarning~ 1:00pm
Presbyterian Women~5:00pm Business Meeting
5:30pm Bible Study
- 5 Kary Ann's Clan~11:30am~Dairy Queen
Choir~ 5:30pm
- 8 **DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS**
Sunday School ~ 9:30am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Confirmation Class~4:00pm-5:00pm
IBK's~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 11 Lenten Luncheon FPC~ Noon
Plarning~ 1:00pm
Committee Meetings~ 5:30pm
- 12 Kary Ann's Clan~11:30am~Oak Street Cafe
Choir~ 5:30pm
- 15 No Sunday School
Worship~ 10:45am
- 18 Plarning~ 1:00pm
Session Meeting~5:30pm
- 19 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:30am~ Skeets
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 22 Sunday School~9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am
Confirmation Class 4pm-5pm
Chime Practice 5:00pm
- 24 MS Youth at Hoyt Place~ 4:15pm
- 25 Plarning~ 1:00pm
- 26 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:15am~ Meet at church
Blackland's Barbeque
Choir Practice~5:30pm
Chime Practice~ 6:00pm
- 27-28 2015 Women's Retreat~ San Angelo
- 29 Palm Sunday
Sunday School~9:30am
HS Sunday School~9:45am~ Ruth Ann Campbell
Worship~ 10:45am~ Noisy Offering
Children's Church
Confirmation Class~4:00pm-5:00pm
Little Ones 5:00pm-6:00pm



- 1 Donella Parker & Hilary Brennan
8 Doug Richards & Keith Brock
15 Patty Gesin & Richard Gesin
22 Paula Carmichael & Alan Carmichael
29 Lou Ann Cumbie & Dennis Cumbie

*Greeters needed! If anyone is interested in
greeting on Sunday mornings,
please call the church office.
Thank you!*



Birthdays

- 1 Robert Hampton
Chris Maxwell
- 2 Peyton Gee
- 3 Marina Wilcox
- 5 Leslie Bond
- 6 Ann Shirley
- 9 Kim Cason
- 10 Major Briggs
- 11 Tracey Smola
- 12 Jeannette Bryant
- 16 Jeff Stein
- 19 Dane Bennett
- 25 Jenny Smola
- 27 Beth Maxwell
- 30 Bill Brock
Betsy Howe
Kallen Moody

Hoyt Place

*We are excited to lead worship every
first Sunday of the month at Hoyt Place,
from 9:00-9:30 a.m. We will sing, hear
the Word of God, and share Communion.
Come join us in this wonderful
Ministry of fellowship.*

2015 Women's Retreat

Wade In!

God's Gonna Trouble the Water

March 27-28-2015

Christ the King Retreat Center

Arrive 5pm-7pm Friday

Stay through noon Saturday

"We women of Faith sometimes have a time staying in the water of belief, the water of baptism, the water of who we are as children of God. We forget that we are precious and that we have something essential to offer the work of God in this world. The goal of this retreat will be to wade back into the water that brings healing, to experience the 'troubling' of God, and to be renewed in our lives, our relationships, and our callings."

Dr. Cynthia Rigby~ Speaker
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Registration forms are available in the church office.

Lenten Devotionals

The Worship Committee purchased a Lenten Devotional for each family called *Draw Near*. It has a daily devotional from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday. . There are still some available in the narthex or the church office.

If you are visiting First Presbyterian Church, we warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus Christ!

If you want to join in this journey of faith, you are invited to join by:

- letter of transfer from another church;*
- The Sacrament of Holy Baptism; or*
- Reaffirmation of faith in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.*

Kary and the Session elders are always happy to meet with you.

We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion every first Sunday of the month. Because this is the Lord's Supper, we invite all in Christ to share the blessings of this Sacrament.



All Women of the Church are invited to come for fellowship, prayer and Bible Study. Presbyterian Women will begin their monthly meetings on Wed. Mar. 4. There is a business meeting at 5:00pm and Bible Study with Kay Staton at 5:30pm. The study will be Walking by Faith: Lessons I Learned in the Dark by Jennifer Rothschild.

This is a wonderful study, and we are so blessed to have Kay lead us again this year. We hope to see you all on Wednesday.

Church Directory

The updated Church directory will be emailed during the first week of March. Printed copies will be in the Church office by March 8th.

Thank you,
Becky Brock Secretary

Letters

Gayle Biggerstaff sends greetings to everyone and sends her family news:

My second granddaughter has arrived– and of course she is sweet and beautiful!

Lilly Cate Biggerstaff Born 2–9–15

Her big sister, 2 ½ years old Susannah, is quite pleased with her as her parents Rhett and Rachel.

I appreciate my birthday cards from Sweetwater. Thank you all. I am truly blessed.

Love, Gayle

New address: 4500 Falcon Place
Midland, TX 79707

Saturday February 7, 2015

Dear People,

When Willie Johnson was our yardman, he used to welcome spring or fall by praising the Lord be he was making the earth beautiful for his people, and he always said PEOPLE and never FOLKS because “people” meant believers and were special. I started to address you as “Dear Folks” and thought of Willie. He was working for us when Allen Guthrie was our minister, and one time when I went over to see how Willie was (he had been sick), I ran into Allen which made him sort of special because I loved Willie; he was my yardman too. And to think that Allen cared about him, too gave me a special feeling.

The Lord was blessing his people the first part of this WINTRY week with a glorious soft rain that lasted a great part of the day, and I thought of Willie – and Allen. It is good to

have happy memories, ain’t it?

I particularly like the letters that Kary writes at the first of the newsletter. They have such a special meaning. Thank you, Kary. I’m so impressed with all that’s going on there! The work that Lou Ann and Ruth Ann are doing with the kids, the fact that there is so much activity with the middle schoolers and the highs! Plus the men and women’s meetings sound busy! Congratulation on your good work!

I was ailing last week and the one before, and finally went to the doctor and found out it is arthritis. The doctor said that arthritis acts up sometimes and then abates. Thank goodness it has now abated, and I hope it will remain so; it’s no fun when it decides to “act up”.

Church which I usually attend is in the Rolling Meadows chapel at one o’clock Sunday, and the pastor is woman named Nina Conner. I like her, and I especially like the way she prays. It’s as if she’s talking to God and thanking him for his goodness to us. She is a non–denominational minister although she was a Baptist when she was young. The very special thing is every other Sunday and Wednesday when a minister from the Presbyterian Church in Seymour who lives in Wichita Falls preaches in the chapel. I like him very much although I have not attended his services since Christmas because of the pesky arthritis. Some of my new friends here who come to see me tell me that the attendance there has increased in numbers because he has become so well liked. I hope to start going again the 15th when he’ll be back.

Meanwhile, happy New Year. God Bless you all, A. M. Alice (Alice Moore)

YOUTH GROUP

Message from Lou Ann Cumbie

March 1: Little Ones from 5:00-6:00

March 8: IBKs from 5:00 - 6:00

March 15 and 22 Spring Break

March 29: Little Ones 5:00 - 6:00

Message from Ruth Ann Campbell

MS & HS Youth Calendar for March

Sunday, Mar. 1st - 9:45 am - HS Sunday

School with Paula Carmichael

4:00pm-5:00pm Confirmation Class

Tuesday, Mar. 3rd - 4:15 - MS at Hoyt House

Sunday, Mar. 8th

4:00pm-5:00pm Confirmation Class

Sunday, Mar. 15th - Reminder... No Sunday School due to Spring Break

Sunday, Mar. 22nd

4:00pm-5:00pm Confirmation Class

5:00pm Chime Practice

Tuesday, Mar. 24th - 4:15 - MS at Hoyt House

Thur., Mar. 26th - 6:00 Chime Practice

Sunday, Mar. 29th - 9:45AM - HS Sunday

School with Ruth Ann

Play chimes during worship.

4:00pm-5:00pm Confirmation Class

There will be a HS School Bible Study this month (date to be announced later). We will have a special speaker. In addition to the Bible Study we will have a session on Social Skills. (This includes first impressions, conversational tips, dining tips (like which fork you use?) You won't want to miss this!



Congratulations to Rob and Peggy Elliott proud grandparents of granddaughter, Ava Grace Johnson, born February 23, 2015 at 12:02am in Dallas. She weighed 6 lbs. 13 oz.

Parents are James and Taryn Elliott Johnson

Picture is of Ava Grace with older brothers, Joshua and Austin.



Congratulations to Gary and Karen Brown proud grandparents of grandson, Liam Riley Brown, born Feb. 25, 2015 in Salem, Oregon. He weighed 7lbs 11oz, 21 inches. Parents are Trevor and Sarah Brown.



Blessings to both these families!

Brandie Gee with Harper and Mollie Bennett with Hannah.



Little Ones and IBKs

Singing praises before Sunday School.
Jim Gesin, Kiara Collins and Tabby Baugh



More pictures are on the photo page of the website and on the bulletin board.