

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas
April 2013

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

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Pastor – Rev. Kary Fry	cell# 325-473-6602	email: krawlings55@wtxs.net
Clerk of Session: Paula Huckabee		Elder of the Month – Buck Cason

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Everybody,

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! What wonderful words of life to all believers in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Sunday's message is that God wants to wake us up to our life. Wake up! Open your eyes to the reality of Jesus in your everyday life. Wake up to the fact that God is in control and has a great plan for your life. Wake up and start trusting and giving, knowing that God has conquered the enemy. Wake up to the assurance that God's Church IS where life in the Spirit is happening. Come and pray. Come and learn. Come and worship God Almighty! Receive the gift of his Spirit.

Several exciting things are happening: April 10-14th I will be gone to Chicago to learn about Natural Church Development. Please be in prayer about our starting a NCD group.

We are proud to tell you that our own Stephanie Weile has decided to go into the ministry! She will be with us for a year, learning about and participating in many aspects of this glorious calling of God.

Taylor Barnett, our Youth Intern, has been doing a great job teaching Sunday School to our youth, aligned with the Bible in 90 Days Curriculum. Taylor gave her testimony at Youth Group on Sunday evening fellowship at Kary and Mike's. Fourteen young people attended that evening and a lot of pizza and brownies were consumed!

The Bible in 90 Days continues with good success. Thanks to our teachers: Becky Brock, Doug Richards, Stephanie Weile, Kirk Stroman, Richard Smola, Mike and Kary Fry.

Finally, we give thanks to Kim Cason for her faithful service to our church as Secretary! What a blessing she is to us and what joy she has brought to this job.

I wish each of you a blessed Easter season and ask for your continued prayers for and support of our ministry here in Sweetwater.

With love and joy,
Kary

Dates to Remember

- 3 Planning ~ 1:00 pm
Presbyterian Women ~ 5:30 pm
- 4 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:45 am
Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 7 Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Communion Class of 2013
- 10 Planning ~ 1:00 pm
All Committee Meetings ~ 5:30 pm
- 11 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:45 am
Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 13 "Boat on the Sea of Galilee" @ the
Municipal Auditorium ~ 6:00 pm
- 14 Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Cathy Reed ~ Pulpit Supply
Youth Activity time to be announced
- 17 Planning ~ 1:00 pm
Session Meeting ~ 5:30 pm
Final Day for Mo Ranch payments
- 18 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:45 am
Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 21 Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Youth Activity
- 25 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:45 am
Choir Practice ~ 5:30 pm
- 28 Sunday school ~ 9:30 am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Reverse & Noisy Offerings
NJHS Induction @ 12:30 pm
Diaper Shower ~ 2:00 pm at the Fry's
for Rebecca Webb (Kary's daughter)



Dear Church Family

After a lot of prayerful thought, I have decided to lay down my responsibilities as the secretary at First Presbyterian Church ~ Sweetwater. I want to spend this summer with Shelby, getting her ready to go to college this fall, my sister will be having major surgery later this year and Buck's mother is very ill with Parkinson's disease.

I love this church and my church family and it is very difficult to give up my commitment to you all. However, I am not leaving; in fact I hope to continue as a support to the new secretary and Kary as a volunteer. This will allow the new secretary time to learn and become familiar with the job as well as help Kary stay on track with her wonderful plans for our church. Very quickly our new secretary will be up to speed and smarter than me.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve our church for 5 years. Be in prayer for the Personnel Committee and for the person who will be called to this position.

God Bless Our Church! ~ Kim

The 411 from Taylor, Youth Intern

Some exciting things are brewing with the youth at First Presbyterian!

We are looking forward to a bright future filled with service projects, community outreach, and some fun youth activities.

Beginning in April the youth will start giving their testimonies and learning more about writing devotionals.

We are kicking off more great things and will continue them into the summer!

March Session Minutes

The regular monthly scheduled meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church was held in the Fellowship Hall at 5:30 p.m. on March 20, 2013.

Communication was received from Dan Carter requesting his membership be transferred to Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church in New Mexico. Session unanimously approved the transfer with sorrow.

Stephanie Wiele presented testimony to the Session about her walk as a Christian from childhood through college, career, and now to her decision to dedicate her life to ministry. Jack Aycock made a motion to endorse Stephanie as a candidate for ministry. Richard Smola seconded with unanimous approval. Reverend Fry requested that the Clerk of Session forward correspondence from Session to Janice Six and Rich Schempp endorsing for Stephanie as a candidate for ministry.

House and Grounds Committee:

- Buck Cason reported that upstairs and downstairs electric panels have been replaced. The heater and air conditioner panels have been checked and are functioning properly.
- Gary Brown will request quotes to increase the wire size for the Sanctuary main speaker. The current wire size is too small based on the available power, which could damage or shorten the life of the amplifier.

Congregational Care Committee:

- A Baby Shower for Rebecca Webb will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 28. Cake and punch will be served. Members are requested to bring diapers or wipes.

New Business:

- Kim Cason announced that she was giving notice and will be stepping down as Secretary. Robert Whitteker made a motion to receive the notice. Paula Carmichael seconded and it was unanimously approved. Applications will be taken and reviewed by the Personnel Committee.
- Reverend Fry will be attending a Natural Church Development Workshop on April 11th through April 13th. Cathy Reed has agreed to lead the April 14th Sunday Service. Meeting adjourned with prayer.

Chancel Choir

The choir room is being enlarged: If you have avoided joining because you thought it was too crowded, now's the time to join! Every Sunday we get to wear pretty robes and we get a little closer to heaven. We would love to have new members, and there are no tryouts! Choir Practice is Thursday nights at 5:30 pm and also on Sunday mornings at 10:30 am to warm up those pipes.

Boat on the Sea of Galilee

The Pioneer City County Museum is honored to present a lecture by Dr. Shelley Wachsmann, Professor of Anthropology at Texas A&M University. In 1986 Dr. Wachsmann, working as nautical archaeologist for Israel, was called to the kibbutz Ginosar and the Sea of Galilee to take a look at a "possibly ancient" boat. The first ancient ship to be recovered from the Sea of Galilee, the boat is the type described in the Gospel as used by Jesus' disciples.



Be sure to hear Dr. Wachsmann's fascinating lecture of the discovery and perilous excavation of this ancient vessel. The lecture will take place 6PM on April 13, 2013 at the Sweetwater Municipal Auditorium at 400 Locust Street. After the lecture, Dr. Wachsmann will be available to sign your copy of his book, "The Sea of Galilee Boat". Texas A&M University Press has generously allowed us to pre-sale Dr. Wachsmann's book for \$20.00 (tax included). Forms are available for preorders of books at the Pioneer City County Museum at 610 E. Third St. Admission to the lecture is free with purchase of book.

Stewardship Report

2013 Budget	\$152,355.00
Needed Monthly	\$ 12,280.00
Plate & Pledge	
January	\$ 11,529.00
February	\$ 8,912.58
March	\$12,808.95
Received Year to Date	\$ 33,250.53
Over (Under)	\$ (3,587.47)

"So let each one give as he purposes in is heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver"
~ 2 Corinthians 9:7

Noisy Offering

Noisy Offering is designated toward the Ministerial Alliance

January	\$ 125.91
February	\$ 74.85
Year to Date Total	\$ 200.76

Come Join Us!

We had a great group meet together April 10th to discuss the church's program and events for the coming month. Please consider joining us! Your God-given gifts will be a blessing for our committees. Session has 7 committees: Worship, Congregational Care, Mission & Outreach, Christian Education, House & Grounds, Personnel, and Stewardship & Finance. We meet the second Wednesday of every month at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



A Letter from Alice

Cash Flow - Last month

2/1/2013 through 2/28/2013

Category Description	2/1/2013- 2/28/2013
INFLOWS	
Designated Income	
Noisy Offering	74.85
Nolan County Food Bank	82.00
Nursery Renovation	558.72
Youth Intern Scholarship	2,000.00
TOTAL Designated Income	2,715.57
Interest Inc	0.62
Plate Income	1,301.58
Pledge Income	7,611.00
TOTAL INFLOWS	11,628.77
OUTFLOWS	
Benevolence	
Noisy Offering	74.85
Nolan County Food Bank	82.00
TOTAL Benevolence	156.85
Church Program	
Congregational Care	176.56
Worship	18.86
Youth Intern Scholarship	1,100.00
TOTAL Church Program	1,295.42
Church Property	
Building Maintenance	875.00
Church Insurance	1,007.23
Janitor Supplies	59.10
Janitorial Service	500.00
Office	
Copier Maintenance	40.00
Internet Services	57.90
Office Supplies	52.25
Postage and Delivery	5.15
TOTAL Office	155.30
Utilities - Gas & Electric	864.99
Utilities - Telephone	152.28
Utilities - Water	103.49
TOTAL Church Property	3,717.39
Church Property - Manse	
Manse Utilities	122.06
TOTAL Church Property - Manse	122.06
Misc	
Bible in 90 Days Bibles	1,080.59
Presbytery Expense	36.00
TOTAL Misc	1,116.59
Personnel	
Nursery Attendant	147.76
Organist Salary	332.46
Pastor Allowances	505.02
Pastor Car Allowance	157.06
Pastor Housing Allowance	1,243.00
Pastor Pension & Insurance	1,523.59
Pastor Salary	3,106.25
Secretary Salary	
Withholding - Extra	100.00
Other Personnel:Secretary Salary	550.29
TOTAL Secretary Salary	650.29
Soc Sec and Medicare	187.30
TOTAL Personnel	7,852.73
TOTAL OUTFLOWS	14,261.04
OVERALL TOTAL	-2,632.27

Dear Folks

This letter is long overdue! I had such a nice visit two weeks after New Year's when I was in Sweetwater. It just happen to be the time for Yucca, and it was an important evening with Kathleen Campbell being crowned Queen, Mitch Moore being Master of Ceremonies, and Payton Moore representing her freshman class as a Princess! I should have gone to the affair, but I was plumb tired after the drive from Wichita Falls and visiting a little beforehand. It was a thrill to go to church on Sunday and hear that Kathleen was Queen! She was so beautiful when she officiated with the welcome that morning! Did you know that the pastor came down to welcome me before the service! I was so very pleased. You have to know that it was a great joy to be there and to see you all! My greatest surprise was to see all the kids who were "LITTLE KIDS" when I left in 2008, and they were so adult looking! I'm experiencing my most frequent thing right at this moment as I type. I find myself in one of those "senior moments" and when I mean to tell how many kids have grown about two feet or more, and I can't recall the names!! Maybe before I finish this epistle I can.

Part of my visit was abbreviated by severe illness of Ryan's father, and he had to go to Dallas, and she went with her mother and him, so I missed seeing her as much as I wished to. I got to visit a bit with Francis Harris and Bill and Willadean Brock; meant to see Bill and Arleen Kennedy, but they had an appointment, so I missed them except I saw her at church. Oh, and one of the happy things was that Kim Cason met me and Kathy Dickson and showed us all over the church and explained about the changes. I don't know how long some have been there even before I left, but what used to be two rooms

has been enlarged to be a huge one with all kinds of great equipment for teenagers ~some of those little kids who have grown so much! There has been so much painting which brightens a place so much, and apparently more work is about to be done! It looked so nice, and then we went down to the fellowship hall and saw what had been done there! AND the new stove in the kitchen! I wish I could join you for a meal! I don't know how many recipes I have that came from meals there. Also, one of the other joys was being with Kim Cason even a little while! It was so gracious of her to take that much time to show us around. You have done a great job, and I must also mention Jeannette Harris who has worked hard with the kitchen. I don't know who worked with her, but I salute you all.

This letter should have been written early in February when I got home, but the older I get the more of a procrastinator I become, and I can hardly believe it is nearly Easter. When I was little, my dad always took part in his lodge's observance of Maundy Thursday, and I never where "Maundy" originated, so I asked a Presbyterian minister who comes for a service in the Chapel here once per month, and he said he did not know what "Maundy" meant, but Maundy Thursday refers to the Thursday before Easter in commemoration of the institution of the Eucharist. The "Maundy" comes from the French term meaning command, and in this instance the command of Jesus to his disciples: "A new commandment I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

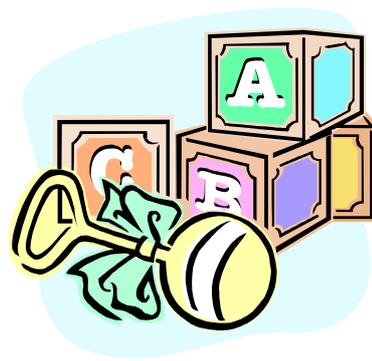
So – I think that we are his disciples, for I have felt the love at FPC Sweetwater, haven't you? In fact, it is a sustaining blessing to me. So, observe Maundy Thursday, and be again blessed. And rejoice at Easter, for He rose again!

Love, Alice

Congregational Care Committee

There will be a "Diaper Shower" for Rebecca Webb (Kary's daughter) on April 28, 2013 at 2:00 pm at Mike and Kary's home, #5 Greenwood. Rebecca's due date is on Kary's birthday July 14th!

Any size diapers and wipes are appreciated. Come and help celebrate this wonderful new life and great fellowship!



**The Bible in 90 Days
will continue this
Sunday for all ages!
The adult class
should be up to
Psalm 89. Mike Fry
will be this week's
instructor!**

