

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

December 2014

*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

P. O. Box 956, Sweetwater, Texas 79556 325-235-5491

Pastor – Rev. Kary Fry

Clerk of Session: Paula Carmichael

Elder of the Month: Ruth Ann Campbell

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From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Everybody,

You are not going to want to miss all the excitement around First Presbyterian Church this Advent and Christmas season! Candles will be lit; children will be transformed into angels, livestock and the Nativity family; Kirk will reflect in beautiful music; and worship will fill our hungry and thirsty souls. I hope you will be there.

During this Advent season we will be taking a fulfilling journey through hope, peace, joy and love to the baby Jesus in the stable at Bethlehem.

What are your particular **hopes** and dreams for 2015?

How is **peace and peace-making** going to become a reality in your life?

For whom do you wish **joy**?

Where can you depend on unconditional **love**? Is there any way to broaden the borders in this New Year?

My wish for each of you this glorious Christmas season is for hope, peace, joy and love to be yours in

abundance. For Christmas I would love to take away your hurts, difficulties, discouragements and fears....but I will do better than that! I will point you to the One who is able and willing to help, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

“Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. God does not grow weary, God’s understanding is unsearchable. God gives power to the faint, and for those who have no might, God increases strength. Even youths shall faint and be weary, and young men shall fall exhausted; but they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”
Isaiah 40:28-31

With hopes for the Merriest of Christmases!

Kary

Christmas Reflections

*Kirk Stroman presents his 2014
“Christmas Reflections” concert on
Sunday, December 14th
at 6:00 pm.*

*Bring your family and
friends to enjoy the music
of the season and
Kirk’s amazing talent.*

- 3 Presbyterian Women~5:30pm Christmas Dinner
Meal Provided~ Devotional by Kay Staton
- 4 Kary Ann's Clan~11:30am~Skeet's
Choir~ 5:30pm
- 7 Hoyt House Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Adult Sunday School ~ 9:30am
All Youth Christmas Program Practice~9:30am
Worship ~ 10:45am ~ Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2016
New Elder Training~ 5:00pm
MS & HS Program Practice~5pm
- 10 Session Meeting and Dinner at Mike and Kary's
#5 Greenwood~ 5:30pm
- 11 Kary Ann's Clan~11:15am~Meet at Church
Blackland's Barbeque~ Roscoe
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 12 TSTC Nursing Pinning Ceremony~10:00am
- 14 Adult Sunday School~9:30am
Christmas Program Practice~9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Christmas Program
Kirk's Christmas Reflections~6:00pm
- 17 Angel Tree Gift Deadline
- 18 Kary Ann's Clan~11:30am~Schlotzsky's
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 21 No Sunday School
Worship~ 10:45am
Congregational Meeting to Approve Budget
and accept Committee Reports
- 24 Christmas Eve Service~6:00pm
Merry Christmas!
- 24 & 25 Church Office Closed
- 28 No Sunday School
Worship~ 10:45am~ Noisy Offering



- 7 Lou Ann Cumbie & Dennis Cumbie
- 14 Mike Fry & Donella Parker
- 21 Patty Gesin & Richard Gesin
- 28 Paula Carmichael & Alan Carmichael



Birthdays

- 3 Richard Smola
- 4 Max Nemir
- 6 Michelle Maxwell
Betty Staton
- 7 Anissa McCollom
- 8 Caroline Brennan
- 9 Justin Wilburn
- 10 Mike Fry
- 12 Jessica Bond
- 20 Kristen Shirley Peters
- 22 Mason Bennett
- 25 James Parker
- 25 Lisa Collins
- 26 Robert Whitteker
- 29 Aidan Collins



***Presbyterian Women will have their
Christmas Dinner on Wed.***

Dec. 3rd at 5:30pm.

***The meal will be provided and
Kay Staton will give a devotional.***

Hoyt Place

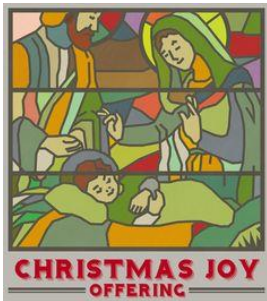
*We are excited to lead worship
every first Sunday of the month at
Hoyt House, from 9:00-9:30 a.m.*

*We will sing, hear the Word of
God, and share
Communion. Come join us in this
wonderful ministry of fellowship.*

Mission and Outreach Committee



Our first mission for opportunity is the Angel Tree Program. The Angel Tree program benefits the children of the West Texas Children Advocacy Center. The angels represent a child who has received services this year through the WTCAC. Each angel has a child's gender, age, size and any special needs or wants - favorite toys, characters, etc. The Angels will be available beginning Sun. Dec. 1st. You are invited to choose a child or children to shop for, buy needed items and bring the unwrapped items back to church by December 17th.



Our second mission is The Christmas Joy Offering. These gifts go to support the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions which helps current and former church workers, and to support student scholarships at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges. The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected at the Christmas Eve Service on Wed. Dec. 24th at 6:00pm

The Mission Outreach Committee applied for and received a \$3,000 grant for our children's ministry from Palo Duro Presbytery. Halleluiah!



Christmas Program December 14

Christmas Program Practice Schedule

Sunday December 7 at 9:30 am

Sunday December 14 at 9:30 am -

This will be dress rehearsal. Little Ones and IBKs parents please come help your child with their costume.

The performance will be during church services on December 14.

December – MS & HS Calendar:

Sunday, Dec. 7th – Program Practice during Sunday School

Sunday, Dec. 7th – Program Practice @ 5:00 PM

Sunday, Dec. 14th – Program Practice during Sunday School, Perform Program during Worship.

Sunday, Dec. 21st – No Sunday School

Wednesday, Dec. 24th – Christmas Eve Service (we will perform chimes)

Sunday, Dec. 28th – No Sunday School

**I will be asking you to assist with offering and along with other duties during this month.*

***Remember to read your daily scripture from the list given to you at the beginning of the month.*

Letter from Alice Moore

November 18, 2014

Dear Folks,

It's almost Thanksgiving, and I'm counting my blessings, and one is for whoever sends me the newsletter which makes me feel as if I still belong to FPC/Sweetwater since my membership is still listed with you. I shan't count said blessings for you; you'd be amazed at how many- even in a rehab home! I haven't written a letter since Kim Cason left, and I don't know whether there will be room for one since so much is going on with you with Kary at the helm. If there's no room, that's okay; I just wanted to wish you all a Christmas that's exactly as you wish it and 2015 the same! I'm amazed that it's nearly 2015 Goodness! I'm amazed that it's so close to Christmas!

This past week it snowed here in Wichita Falls! Not a lot, but it was great to watch it fall although it had small flakes every now and then a pretty big snowflake. The ground had little patches of ice, but it was plenty cold! Not much moisture! We are still in the midst of a drought, a historic one, and the lakes that give us drinking water are very low; how are the ones there?

There are some new names that are probably due to Kary's work, and I think she is great!

I'll not use up a lot of room, as I said before, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, and God Bless you all. As I tell Mitch Moore, truly ruly,

Alice Moore

Pledge Card 2015

Dearest Friends,

I am so thankful for you! God has blessed us abundantly. It is our privilege to return our tithes and offerings to God for ministry in God's glorious Kingdom. Thank you for your faithfulness and prayerful consideration of your pledge for 2015 for the support and ministry of this church.

With gratitude,

Rev. Kary Fry

Peggy Elliott, Treasurer

Keith Brock and Dennis Cumbie, Stewardship Committee

A Stewardship Prayer

Let us pray for the wisdom and courage to make stewardship a way of life with God.

O Lord, You are the source of all that we have and all that we are. Help us to place You, our loving Creator, first in our lives by becoming more prayerful and more focused on loving and caring for our families and our neighbors in need, and by becoming less preoccupied with material things. Help us, Lord to find the true source of happiness and wholeness that we all seek and that You alone can provide. Help us to hear Your call to be good stewards. Help us make Your priorities our priorities. Help us challenge each other, as disciples of Jesus Christ to put our faith into action as we give proportionately. As good Christian stewards, we pray we may reflect a joyful spirit of mind and heart. Amen. (Adapted from Prayer Book of Stewardship)

With a grateful heart I pledge to give to the ministry of Christ at First Presbyterian Church.

_____ Weekly
_____ Monthly
_____ Yearly

Signed _____

