



# Presbyterian News

The First Presbyterian Church  
First and Spruce Streets  
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[www.dumaspresbyterian.org](http://www.dumaspresbyterian.org)

John Conley, Interim Pastor  
Brenda DeBons, Clerk of Session  
Joyce Snow, Organist/Choir Director  
Delma Stokes, Interim Youth Director  
Joyce Wethington, Church Secretary

April 2011

## A bit about our history...

Martin Luther let fresh air into Christianity when he defied Rome with his 95 “theses” nailed to the door of the Wittenburg Castle Church in Germany. Christians, from Pentecostals to died-in-the-wool Presbyterians, are beneficiaries of Luther’s bravery. And Presbyterian types took advantage of the unrest with the Catholic way by initiating an order of business of their own. Among standards was a method that, to this day, gives laity a voice in work and worship as well as establishing a system for church government at four levels — Session, Presbytery, Synod, General Assembly, called “Courts.” The linchpin is the grassroots level, Session. Let’s talk about that in a few (probably many) words.

In the early church were two classes of elder: teaching elder and ruling elder. The difference is obvious. Teaching elder was the preacher and moderator of the Session. Ruling elder was a layman who on election by the congregation committed himself to service. Notice the gender. It was all about men doing the jobs. That changed centuries later. But what has not changed is the parity of the teaching and ruling elders at all levels. Neither should be able to dominate although there is one exception. Both should exhibit the need for commitment, to God and to the congregation.

Election to serve as an elder is not an “honor” or reward for some deed. What the congregation says is, “We trust you as a leader,” And, there is recognition of the person as a Christian/Presbyterian committed to the work and worship of the church. *Georgia Tyler* [Read more on Page 6](#)



Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Classes for Pre-school thru High School and Adults

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

**\*\*Note special Lenten services inside\*\***

# FINANCIAL FOCUS 2011

	<u>February</u>	<u>January-February</u>
PLEDGES	\$10,347.50	\$35,639.50
YOUTH PLEDGES	898.00	1,946.00
INTEREST INCOME	3,755.08	5,007.37
OTHER INCOME	<u>1,649.15</u>	<u>10,079.53</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$16,649.73	\$52,672.40
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>-20,490.99</u>	<u>-50,480.60</u>
NET PROFIT/LOSS	<b>\$ -3,841.26</b>	<b>\$ 2,191.80</b>

### An Invitation from Friends in Faith

Pastor John Conley, leader  
 Sundays, 10–10:45 am  
 Fellowship Hall  
 The Study of Genesis  
 Drink a cup of coffee, listen, ask  
 questions, and get to Worship  
 in plenty of time.  
 Access by elevator or stairs.



### **SAVE THE DATE!**

Vacation Bible School  
 July 11-15th

We need all the help we can get, so  
 mark your calendars now.  
 If you know you would like to be a  
 part of this community event,  
 please contact  
 Delma Stokes or Tami Fangman.



### *Easter Lilies*

*For those wishing to purchase  
 Easter lilies to decorate the sanctu-  
 ary, please find the sign-up sheets in  
 the narthex. Designate if you wish  
 to give them in memory of or to  
 commemorate or honor someone or  
 a special occasion. Leave your  
 check in the amount of \$20 payable  
 to FPC in the church office.  
 Also, please take your lily home af-  
 ter the Easter Worship service.*

### MISSION TRIP 2011

Mission Trip 2011 is planned for June  
 19th -26th to St. Louis. Please keep this  
 group in your prayers as they prepare to  
 spend a week doing the work Christ has  
 prepared for them.



### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Lorren & Natasha Coffin

Join us as we celebrate the  
 baptism of their son, Hayden  
 Sunday, April 3, at 11:00 am

## *Looking Ahead....*

4th Sunday of Lent , April 3 ~ Baptism at Worship  
After Worship ~ Mission Trip Fundraiser  
Luncheon & Silent Auction

Tuesday, April 5 ~ Noon Bible Study  
6:00 pm ~ Worship Committee meeting

Wednesday, April 6 ~ LOGOS—Diners, Drive-Ins & Dives  
5:30 pm ~ Mission Committee meeting

Saturday, April 9 ~ Youth Work Day

5th Sunday of Lent , April 10 ~ LOGOS choir sings  
in Worship 11 am

Tuesday, April 12th ~ Noon Bible Study  
6:15 pm ~ Session Meeting

Wednesday, April 13th ~ LOGOS - Smooth Sailing  
Parents invited for dinner at 6:45 and to stay for the end of  
the year slide show. This is the last Logos for Spring '11.

6th Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday, April 17 ~  
11 am Worship

Monday, April 18 ~ 6:30 Scholarship Committee  
Meeting in the parlor

Tuesday, April 19th ~ Noon Bible Study  
Thursday, April 21st ~ 7 pm Maundy Thursday  
(Communion) Worship Service

Friday, April 22nd ~ Good Friday Worship Service  
at Noon

Easter Sunday, April 24th ~ 11 am Worship  
(Communion)

Tuesday, April 26th ~ Noon Bible Study

Wednesday, April 27th ~ 6:30-8:00 pm Training for  
Greeters & Worship Leaders

## *April Birthdays*

2	Stratton Fangman Cannon Speck Kathy Speck
5	Sharen Baker
6	Will Philley
8	Jim Lovell
9	Tami Fangman
10	Hazel Truelock
11	Tom Flood
12	Shelby Taylor
14	Dillon Ferguson
15	Mary Taylor
17	Derrick Jones
19	Mark Graves
24	Kade Molina
27	Carolyn Stallwitz
29	Jaeden Fangman
30	Marsha Hise Becky Lewis



## *Anniversaries*

3	Helen & Bob Clifton
10	Delma & Craig Stokes

# Members & Friends

Let us remember those whose lives are challenged with illness or loneliness, loss of a family member, and other unspoken issues. Please lift in prayer: **Lenora Morton** who requires care away from home; Our church prayer partner, **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Lubbock; **Larry & Becky Lewis**, learning to live with diabetes; **Gary Griffin**, rehabilitating in Houston; **Jeannine Atkisson**, recovering from heart attack; **Mackenzi Stokes**, recovering from surgery; **Moody Mulkey**, recovering from accident at work; **Natasha & Rusty Hanson** and those affected by wildfires; **Peggy Haynes**, recovering from car accident; **Carol Ledbetter**, recovering from surgery; **Linda Folsom**, recovering from surgery; **Maria Cordero**, Doel's mother, ulcers in her foot; The **Riseling family** as Susan's mother, **Shirley Martin**, recovers from surgery, son **Reid** recovers from a broken leg and this family mourns the loss of Susan's sister, Debbie Breen. Let us remember **Shona Moore** on the death of her Grandmother and **Bev Huffman Krom** with the death of her father. **May the Lord bring peace and comfort to these families.**

## TOO MANY EGG ROLLS

The LOGOS kitchen staff has 7 boxes of frozen egg rolls (20 per box) at \$8.98 per box. If anyone is interested in making a donation to Logos & clearing out some freezer space, please contact the church office or Laura Brunson.

### Training for Future and Current Greeters & Worship Leaders

Wednesday, April 27  
from 6:30–8:00

Come for supper from 6:30 to 7, then we will help anyone who has been or wants to be a Greeter or a Worship Leader.



## CALLING ALL

## CHILDREN!

Easter Party

Sunday, April 24th at 10:00 am.  
No need to bring a basket for the hunt. One will be provided.  
Meet downstairs in the Fellowship Hall.

*A word from...*

## The Wild Bunch

This probably seems like a funny name for a Sunday School class. Guess it is since the folks attending seem to be older and pretty much "un-wild". However, we have been meeting since the early sixties and have been studying the Bible all that time.

During the early years we skipped around, taking a book here and there. The New Testament was our focus for 20 years or so. Three years ago, we started in the Old Testament with Genesis and are now up to the middle of Isaiah. Most folks don't want to go over the Bible like we do - we read a chapter and then discuss it. Sometimes we spend a whole class on just one chapter and sometimes we may cover 3 or 4 chapters. Depends on what we find interesting and pertinent to problems in our lives or problems in the world. Come join us! You're always welcome.

**Adult Sunday School Class in the Conference room every Sunday morning. 10:00 A.M.**



### ATTENTION ALL WOMEN!

Palo Duro Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering  
Saturday, April 30

First Presbyterian Church, Plainview

Speaker: Marie Mickey

"My Cup Runneth Over" Stages in Spiritual Growth

Registration 9:30 am Program 10:00 am

Noon Lunch \$10

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

Session approved:

- \* Request of Adam and Jessica Parsons to transfer their membership to First Presbyterian Church, Casa Grande, Arizona.
- \* Request of Randall (Randy) Keeney to be moved to the active roll.
- ◇ There will be a special offering March 27 designated for Presbyterian Disaster Assistance for relief to Japan. An announcement will be made at services March 20.
- ◇ Elder Larry Parrish and Reverend John Conley reported to Session about the votes made at the Presbytery meeting on February 18-19 in Albany. Elder Larry Parrish was the delegated church commissioner to the Presbytery meeting.
- ◇ The Nominating Committee will meet Tuesday, March 22, to begin working on the nominations for the two vacant positions in Session. Session approved calling a Congregational meeting to elect the two elders for Session.
- ◇ The Building and Grounds Chairman, Doel Cordero, reported that the cost (not including parts) to check and make repairs of the sound system would be approximately \$500. The \$150 cost of the estimate would be applied to the \$500 fee. Session approved proceeding with the sound system evaluation and repairs.
- ◇ The Membership Committee is working on member and visitor packets, brochures, and other information. Usher and greeter training will be in early April.
- ◇ The average attendance for church services in February was 80, with 74 attending the March 9 Ash Wednesday service.
- ◇ The Membership Committee, who is overseeing the publication of the newsletter, committees requested to provide committee meeting dates and other relevant information to be included in the monthly newsletter.
- ◇ Session approved receiving new members following church services; the new members will meet with the pastor and at least half of the Session members, which will be an alternate method to meeting with the full session at a session meeting.
- ◇ The Worship Committee approved adding acolytes to light the candles before each worship service.
- ◇ Maundy Thursday Service will be April 21; there will also be a service at noon on Good Friday, April 22.
- ◇ Carol Ledbetter agreed to serve a two-year term on the Personnel Committee and Delwin McGee agreed to serve a one-year term.
- ◇ The church directory is going to the printer on March 16 and will be available soon.
- ◇ Session approved the extension of Pastor John Conley's contract for an additional six months.
- ◇ There will be a Presbytery class for elders who are interested in preaching in Abilene from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on June 18.
- ◇ Graduation Sunday is scheduled for May 1. There will be a Mexican pile-on lunch following church services.

Continuing the description/explanation of church elder, at least two events occurred in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that should be recognized as significant in the Presbyterian Church in America. One is gender-oriented, saying to the world, "Women are not second class Presbyterians." The second is the reunion of two Presbyterian denominations that had been separated since the War Between the States, basically along the same geographic lines as the war. Additionally, the "quaint" teaching elder and ruling elder titles were modernized, although qualifications remained pretty much unchanged. Now, the titles are Minister of Word and Sacrament and just plain elder. To borrow from some wise person, "a rose by any other name is still a rose."

Elders and the minister are members of the church's Session, the court that determines the work of the church. Only at this level does the laity outnumber ministers in the courts of the church. A committee chosen by the congregation proposes candidates for elder, then, members vote their choices for office. Each may serve only three years, although after at least one year off, he/she may be elected to a new term. Once an elder, always an elder, with some exceptions. After ordination in a church, the elder may be elected to serve in any other church in the denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA). Qualifications for church office are pretty specific, appearing in the second most important to Presbyterians, **The Book of Order**. Obviously, the most important is the **Holy Bible**.

Wherever there is a Presbyterian church, there is acknowledgement that the officers and members are committed to the standards, conducting the work and worship "decently and in order."

*Georgia Tyler*



**Graduation Sunday  
May 1**

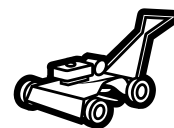
**Special recognition of our 2011 graduates: Ashley Lance, Kaitlin Sullivan, John Brunson, Derek Molina & Sarah Carrell**  
**Scholarships awarded & Luncheon following Worship Service**  
**Mexican Pile-On meal**

**Everyone welcome!**

**Sign-up sheet in narthex for items needed for the meal**

**Youth Workday  
Saturday, April 9th**

**Have some work to be done?  
Call Delma Stokes 717-7413 or  
sign up in the narthex**



**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

must be returned to the church office  
**no later** than Friday, April 15th .

# Happenings Among The Youth...

LOGOS for 2010/2011 will be coming to a close this month. The year just seemed to zoom right on by us and it is time to wrap up another year. I would like to take this time to thank every parent and volunteer who has helped make this program a success. The last LOGOS will be on April 13th and parents are invited to come and have dinner with their children and enjoy the slideshow presentation afterwards.

This summer we are planning a mission trip to St. Louis. Please join us as we have a fundraiser meal and silent auction on Sunday, April 3rd following the worship service. If anyone is interested in donating an item for the auction, please notify me as soon as possible and I will gladly pick it up. I can be reached at home or by cell phone 806-717-7413.

The youth are gearing up for their annual community mission we like to call Youth Workday. If you or a relative or friend are in need of some work to be done, please call me or sign up in the church narthex. I ask that the work needed be something we can get done in 2 hours or less in order to schedule several appointments throughout the day. Donations will be accepted.

Parents, please remind your Seniors and college students to turn in their scholarship applications to the church by April 15th. The applications must be complete. Guidelines for the recipients and the applications can be picked up from the church office.

Senior parents of the 2011 graduates are invited to decorate a table downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for their Senior for Graduation Sunday on Sunday, May 1st. We hope you will invite friends and family to celebrate this occasion with your child. There will be a meal after the worship service in honor of the graduates.

I hope we will have as many students as possible for our Sunday School Easter Party on April 24th. We will have a "hunt" for the true meaning of Easter. Please have your children downstairs in the Fellowship Hall for the party during our regular Sunday School hour at 10:00 a.m. Hope you all can join us!

*~ Delma ~*

## **Women of Faith Conference**

Oklahoma City

November 11-13

Sign up in the narthex  
or call Delma Stokes

Tickets must be reserved by  
April 18th *at the latest* in order  
to ensure seats together.

May we be ever mindful of those serving in the military: **Ryan Nevius**, Shona Moore's son, **Jerod**, the Bittners' grandson, and all other members of our military.



## Acolytes

The word *acolyte* is derived from the Greek word *acolytos*, meaning companion, attendant, or helper. The Acolyte ministry has its roots in the Old Testament of the Bible, where the prophet Samuel is seen assisting Eli, the Levite priest, and Elisha is seen assisting Elijah, the Prophet.

In the reformed tradition, acolytes participate in the worship service by carrying a processional cross, lighting and extinguishing candles, and ringing the church bell to call the congregation to worship. The lighting of the candles in the worship service is a symbol of Jesus' coming into the presence of the worshiping community. Before the extinguishing of the last candle, the acolyte relights the candle lighter and then processes out into the narthex. This symbolizes that Jesus Christ is for all people everywhere. It also symbolizes the light of Christ going out into the world where believers are called to serve. It is traditional for acolytes to wear a type of robe called a cotta. Generally, acolytes are young people, male or female, not younger than 10 years of age. We are beginning a new tradition in our worship service to include acolytes. Be in prayer for these young people as they learn additional responsibilities in Worship and lead us to a new verse in our tradition.

Please advise Pastor John or Jan McBee-Bradley if your child is interested in serving as an acolyte.

The Reverend John Conley

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 10:00 - 3:00

Office Phone: 935-4423 Cell Phone: 930-5290

Email: [Jcfpc@amaonline.com](mailto:Jcfpc@amaonline.com)

Return Service Requested

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