



# 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, Youth Director  
Joyce Wethington, Church Secretary

December 2011

## BEING CAUTIOUS ABOUT CHRISTMAS

I try to be cautious in sermons because you shouldn't have to deal with all of my problems and issues. The sermon is designed for you to grapple with God's Word but not the pastor's world. I say this because we are entering the season of Advent which is to prepare us for Christmas.

Heinz used the hit song *Anticipation* to sell ketchup as Carly Simon sang, "Anticipation is...keeping me waiting," while we watched the ketchup slowing oozing from the bottle. Nowadays there is no need to hit the bottle or insert a table knife to get the ketchup. Heinz now has an upside down squeeze bottle. Anticipation has been replaced by instant delivery.

Advent is the season of preparation (and anticipation) that precedes Christmas. Advent says 'The Lord is coming' though most of us want to rush right to December 25<sup>th</sup>. Most of us aren't good at waiting. Christmas starts being celebrated as soon as merchants stock their holiday shelves and stores and radio stations start playing seasonal music.

This music disappears between the unwrapping of presents on Christmas morning and the afternoon football games. But Advent worship is here to help us hold on to some anticipation while everything around us insists, "Christmas is here!" No need to wait; turn the ketchup bottle upside down and squeeze.

Before I become a greater Grinch than I am, I want to offer a few reasons for sustaining Advent's anticipation. One is that Advent teaches us to wait expectantly for Jesus to come again. Another is that anticipation makes the event even better.

With December here you will want to sing the Christmas carols because they evoke precious memories of the few hymns we know by heart. Did you realize there are 19 Advent hymns in our book and we don't know the words to any of them? I want to put in a good word for the Advent hymns because they are compatible with the scripture of Advent and they anchor our worship in the discipline of waiting. We will light the four Advent candles one by one and leave the central Christ candle until Christmas itself.

Every act of worship is an Advent act, an overture to the One who is already here yet still to come, offered in joyous recognition that the One whom we seek has already visited us in Jesus Christ of Bethlehem. Thanks be to God!

Peace and grace,  
*Pastor John*



## *Looking Ahead....*

### Sunday, December 4

10 :00am ~ Sunday School

11 :00am ~ Worship

3:00pm ~ Ladies Ornament Exchange

### Tuesday, December 6

12 Noon ~ Advent Study

### Wednesday, December 7

5:00 pm ~ LOGOS

### Saturday, December 10

2:00 - 4:00 pm ~ Youth Ringing the Bells for the Salvation Army at Wal-mart

### Sunday, December 11

10:00 am ~ Logos Choir meets in Narthex NO Sunday school

11:00 am ~ Worship

Logos Choir Christmas Program during Worship  
Followed by Church Family Christmas Dinner

### Monday, December 12

12 Noon ~ Membership & Evangelism Meeting

### Tuesday, December 13

12 Noon ~ Advent Study

6:15 pm ~ Stated Session Meeting

### Wednesday, December 14

5:00 pm ~ LOGOS

6:00 pm ~ Logos Choir Christmas Program

7:30 pm ~ Youth Christmas Caroling

### Sunday, December 18

10:00 am ~ Sunday School

11:00 am ~ Worship

### Tuesday, December 20

12 Noon ~ Advent Study

### Wednesday, December 21 ~ NO LOGOS

### Friday, December 23 ~ Church Office Closed

### Saturday, December 24

7:00 pm ~ Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

### Sunday, December 25 ~ NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

11:00 am ~ Worship

### Monday, December 26 ~ Church Office Closed

### Wednesday, December 28 ~ NO LOGOS

## *December Birthdays*

- 4 Ruby Cummings
- 6 Gary Ward
- 8 Lily Sykes
- 9 Dylan Jones
- 11 Laura Ferguson
- 15 Audry Palmer
- 18 Cindy Williams
- 19 Richard Burnett  
Jayci McWilliams  
Marshall Simmons
- 20 Carrol McGee
- 21 Larry Hale  
Delwin McGee
- 23 Tiffany Graves
- 25 Reid Riseling
- 26 Ralph Cunningham
- 29 Jaci Brown

*May you all have a  
blessed day full of joy  
and happiness!*



## *Anniversaries*

- 15 Scott & Marietta Reynolds
- 18 Morgan & Shannan Heck
- 28 Jim & Betty Lovell
- 30 Jim & Gene Ann Dreyer



## *Prayer Concerns*

Today we remember these members and friends who are facing special challenges this day and are in need of our prayers:

The family of Harriet Abell who mourn her loss.

Jenny Lewis and Kyler Wilson who are dealing with cancer.

Kyle Carnahan and Brandy Ford are being treated for brain tumors.

Linda James is recovering from surgery.

Hayden Brunson, Joe Brunson's father, who has suffered a stroke.

Angie Jordan recovering from neck surgery.

Doel Cordero who is undergoing medical tests.

Opal Johnson requires care away from home.

We also remember our church prayer partner, First Presbyterian Church of Borger.

*Dear Lord, we bring before you these, your children, who are ill, injured, suffering from cancer and other health problems. Grant them relief from their pain, healing of body and spirit. Bring assurance and hope as only you can give. Amen.*

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## **HAPPENINGS AMONG THE YOUTH...**

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The Jr. High and High School Youth returned from the Presbytery Retreat in Ceta Canyon with a new perspective about what Luke 10:1-12 means to them. We had a great time and had a beautiful weekend to enjoy the beauty around us. Those who participated in the retreat were Dre Zirker, Reid Riseling, Matalee Fangman, Michaela Reynolds, Kammie Guest and Kenli Baxter. Adults in attendance were Doel Cordero and Delma Stokes.



The youth will be ringing the bells for the Salvation Army at Wal-mart on Saturday, December 10th from 2:00-4:00 pm. This is a great opportunity for our kids to participate in community service. I will be in need of at least 2 adults who will "hang around" for an hour in case the kids need anything. If you are able to participate or you would like your kids to be involved, please contact me as soon as possible. We will need 4 kids from 2:00-3:00 and another 4 kids from 3:00-4:00.

The LOGOS Worship Team have been working with the kids preparing for the Christmas program which will be presented during the church worship service on December 11th and also during LOGOS at 6:00 pm on Wednesday, December 14th. Parents are welcome to stay after the program and have dinner with their children on that Wednesday.

The LOGOS Youth will be participating in our annual Christmas Caroling Around Moore County on Wednesday December 14th after the LOGOS meal. If you would like to request someone special to be caroled to or would like to join us, please give me a call at 806-717-7413.

May you all enjoy the anticipation of this advent season and have a Merry Christmas!

~ Delma Stokes

## *NOVEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS*

- Rev. Conley led a memorial service to celebrate the life of Harriet Abell on November 11, 2011.
- Session approved requesting the Presbytery Committee on Ministry to approve the formation of a Pastor Nominating Committee. The Committee on Ministry approved the request during the Plainview Presbytery meeting on October 15 – 16. Rev. Conley represented the church at that meeting.
- Session approved forming a seven member Pastor Nominating Committee, subject to approval by the Congregation. The Congregational Nominating Committee will begin working on nominations for the Pastor Nominating Committee. The members of the Pastor Nominating Committee will be elected in a called meeting of the Congregation, which has tentatively been scheduled during December.
- Rev. Conley reported that the Abell family was very appreciative of the services for Harriet. The Fellowship and Nurture Committee took a meat tray to the home for the family after the services.
- Rev. Conley noted that a young couples group is being formed for fellowship and study activities.
- Elder Marietta Reynolds reported that 39 pledges had been received; it is estimated that approximately 17 pledges are outstanding. A second letter from the Budget and Stewardship committee will be sent asking that pledge cards be returned to the church. The Budget and Stewardship Committee will meet after Thanksgiving to finalize the budget for 2012, which will be presented to Session for approval at the December meeting.
- The Building and Grounds Committee reported that the heaters in the basement (that heat the sanctuary) have not been working properly. The heaters are approximately 35 years old and need to be replaced. Session accepted the bid of Lewis Plumbing for new heaters. The new heaters will be paid for with funds from the major maintenance fund.
- A committee has been formed to consider window treatments. Doel Cordero, Shelly Burnett, Ann Parrish, and Marietta Reynolds will consider where the window treatments should be replaced and which window treatments are preferred. The Committee will report their recommendations to Session.
- Session approved removing the cedar tree, on the north side of the cross at the front of the building, which is diseased and blocks a full view of the cross on the front of the church. Joe Brunson will lead a volunteer group who are going to remove the tree.
- Session approved the use of the van on November 30 to transport High School youth to Canyon. The Logos group of First Presbyterian Canyon invited the High School students to attend Logos in Canyon.
- Rev. Conley will lead a nine week study of the Beatitudes during the Tuesday noon Bible study, beginning the last Tuesday in January.
- Mark and Susan Graves made a wonderful chili and stew lunch after church services on Stewardship Sunday, November 6. Approximately 80 -90 people were served.
- The average church service attendance for October was 80.
- A volunteer is needed to deliver the canned goods collected on communion Sundays for the food pantry. Larry Parrish, Co-Chairman of the Mission Committee, delivered 25 shoe boxes for Christmas to St. Stephens church in Amarillo.
- The Logos Children's Christmas program will be presented during worship services on Sunday, December 11. The annual Christmas lunch will follow church services on that Sunday as well.
- The Worship Committee reported that on the third Sunday of each month the liturgist or special music will be presented by a member of the youth group. Regular services will be conducted on Sunday, Christmas morning; dress will be casual. There will be no Sunday School that Sunday.
- Session approved the recommendations of the Committee formed to address the "to do sooner" new form of government list received from Presbytery. Most of the recommendations were already in the church bylaws.
- Dillon Ferguson, who is sponsored by the church, will be graduating from seminary in May. By common consent, Session approved inviting him to preach and acknowledging his graduation with a gift.
- Session approved a one year extension of Rev. Conley's interim pastor contract at the same terms. Rev. Conley has indicated that he will serve as interim pastor until a permanent pastor is called.
- Installation of the Elder Class of 2014 is scheduled for January 15, 2012. Session will examine the elders, who take office in January, after church services on December 18.
- Session approved moving the monthly session meetings, beginning in January, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month, following church services, around 12:15 or 12:30.

## Member Highlights...

Shon and Cindy Williams both grew up in Dumas and graduated Dumas High School. Then they both went on to graduate Texas Tech at Lubbock. Shon is now a coach and teacher at the high school and Cindy is a teacher at the middle school. The couple has two children, A.J. and Sloan who enjoy Logos. The whole family has visited our church frequently in past months, and they recently became members. We are happy to welcome them into our church family.



Canned goods will be collected each communion Sunday (the first Sunday of the month) to be donated to the Food Pantry. Please place your donations in the baskets provided in the Narthex.

The Reverend John Conley  
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Keep up with what's going on.  
Log on to  
[www.dumaspresbyterian.org](http://www.dumaspresbyterian.org)

**Alcoholics Anonymous**  
2nd floor Mondays & Fridays 8 to 9 p.m.

**Probation Counseling**  
meets with clients  
the first & third Saturday of the month,  
from 9—Noon, 2nd floor

Return Service Requested

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