



Presbyterian News

The First Presbyterian Church
First and Spruce Streets
P.O. Box 1118 - Dumas, Texas 79029
806-935-4423

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

January 2011

Two Thousand Eleven...2011..What to do?

The staff at the YMCA and any exercise/health club will tell you they get an enormous boost in memberships at the beginning of every year. If you already belong you know that you will have to share (or fight) with those new members who are now using your favorite treadmill, stair master, or stationary bike. The good news for the long time members is that most of those who join will soon give up.

There are many reasons people drop out—lack of discipline, it's too hard, setting goals so high they were bound to fail, you name it.

The first line of an old best seller, *THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED*, goes like this: *Life is hard*. I am a long time believer that one reason the church is here for us is to help us survive the most difficult seasons, the hard times. We do that by sticking together in prayer and worship, by listening without judging, and by being a community where the best of who we are has a place to be nourished and put to work.

I was going to leave that last phrase, “put to work,” out of that sentence. But it is true, we both rest and find peace here and find places to use ourselves in service to Christ and the world.

Elsewhere you will find “36 Tips for making 2011 the happiest year of your life! Okay, it is a little corny, and if I thought I would do each of these every day I imagine I will have failed by midnight January 1. But I am going to take a shot at trying something new this year and see if I can do each of these 36 things once. I don't know if I want to give up being *general manager of the universe* (see #35) but I will try.

Say hi if you see me at the Y. I'll be the one is certain he will be in shape by January 31st.

Peace, *John*



FINANCIAL FOCUS 2010

	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>JANUARY - NOVEMBER</u>
PLEDGES	\$22,935.50	\$187,528.58
INTEREST INCOME	2,008.47	22,552.16
INSURANCE PROCEEDS	0.00	31,829.44
OTHER INCOME	<u>2,560.19</u>	<u>35,244.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	\$27,504.16	\$277,154.18
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>-23,266.65</u>	<u>-249,007.45</u>
NET PROFIT/LOSS	\$ 4,237.51	\$ 28,146.73



36 Tips for making 2011 the happiest year of your life!

1 Pray . . . 2 Go to bed on time . . . 3 Get up on time so you can start the day unrushed . . . 4 Say "No" to projects that won't fit into your time schedule or that will compromise your mental health . . . 5 Delegate tasks to capable others . . .

6 Simplify and unclutter your life . . . 7 Less is more - although one is often not enough, two are often too many! . . . 8 Allow extra time to do things and to get to places . . . 9 Pace yourself - spread out big changes and difficult projects over time - don't lump the hard things all together . . . 10 Take one day at a time . . . 11 Separate worries from concerns - if a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety - if you can't do anything about a situation, forget it . . . 12 Live within your budget - don't use credit cards for ordinary purchases . . . 13 Have backups - an extra car key in your wallet, an extra house key buried in the garden, extra stamps, etc. . . 14 K.M.S. (Keep Mouth Shut) - this single piece of advice can prevent an enormous amount of trouble . . . 15 Do something for the "Kid in You" every day . . . 16 Carry a spiritually enlightening book with you to read while waiting in line . . . 17 Get enough rest . . . 18 Eat right . . . 19 Get organized so everything has its place . . . 20 While driving, listen to a tape while that can help improve your quality of life . . . 21 Write down thoughts and inspirations . . . 22 Every day, find time to be alone . . . 23 Having problems? - Talk to God on the spot - try to nip small problems in the bud - don't wait until it's time to go to bed to try and pray . . . 24 Make friends with godly people . . . 25 Keep a folder of favorite scriptures on hand . . . 26 Remember that the shortest bridge between despair and hope is often a good "Thank you, Jesus" . . . 27 Laugh . . . 28 Laugh some more! . . . 29 Take your work seriously, but not yourself at all . . . 30 Develop a forgiving attitude - most people are doing the best they can . . . 31 Be kind to unkind people - they probably need it the most . . . 32 Sit on your ego . . . 33 Talk less - listen more . . . 34 Slow down . . . 35 Remind yourself that you are not the general manger of the universe . . . 36 Every night before bed, think of one thing you're grateful for that you've never been grateful for before.

Looking Ahead....



Tuesday Jan. 4th ~ The Biblical Foundations of the Church Bible Study 12:00-12:55 p.m.

Sunday Jan. 9th ~ Installation of Elders

Tuesday Jan. 11th ~ The Biblical Foundations of the Church Bible Study 12:00-12:55 p.m.
~ Session Meeting at 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday Jan. 12th ~ LOGOS

Tuesday Jan. 18th ~ The Biblical Foundations of the Church Bible Study 12:00-12:55 p.m.

Wednesday Jan. 19th ~ LOGOS

Wednesday Jan. 26th ~ LOGOS

Sunday Jan. 30th ~ Annual Congregational Meeting followed by luncheon



Take Note:

The Biblical Foundations of the Church
Bible Study

Tuesday, January 4th, 11th, and 18th
Come once, come twice or come all three times!
Bring a brown bag lunch and join us from
12:00 - 12:55 p.m. in the church parlor.
Come join us!

Birthdays



- 1 Sionhan Merrills
- 2 Josh Huffman
- 4 Kevin Sartain
- 6 Carl Bittner
- Jan McBee
- 7 Jill Williams
- 9 Darla Sartain
- 17 LeGendre Zirker
- 22 Vicki Swiedom
- 23 Sloan Williams
- 26 Ruth Holland
- 27 Brandi Cheevers
- 31 Nathan Taylor



*May you each have a
Happy Birthday filled*

Anniversaries

- 4 Jerry & Janet Lewis
- 6 Billy & Krista Brown
- 20 Tom & Lisa Flood
- 24 Mert & Freda Keeney
- 31 Carl & Maxine Bittner



Members & Friends

Let us remember those whose lives are challenged with illness or loneliness, loss of a family member, and other problems we don't know about.

Our prayers are with **Lenora Morton** and **Billie Overton** who require care away from home.

Please include in your prayers our church prayer partner, **Westminster Presbyterian Church** in Lubbock.

Continue to keep these other loved ones in your prayers: **Sam Aldrich**, **Odell and Marie Whitwell**, Stephanie Griffin's grandparents. Odell has Alzheimer's and Marie has breast cancer, **Winona Hollaway**, who is Gary Ward's sister, was diagnosed with lung cancer, **Cheri Sue Thompson**, Maxine Bittner's niece has been diagnosed with cancer, **Kyndal Paige Jones**, Milt and Diane Hoefling's granddaughter, **Todd Henderson**, Jan McBee's nephew, having a pancreas and kidney transplant, and **Gene Everett**, diagnosed with cancer, **Don Drickey**, who had a bicycle accident, **Tatum Cartrite**, as the Dr.'s try to find out the cause of his illnesses and as he goes to the Mayo Clinic for further testing and diagnosis, and **Marcus Sartain** recovering from a serious fall.

Let us not forget those serving in the military. **Ryan Nevius** and **Jerod Maxwell** (Carl & Maxine's grandson) and all the other members of our military.

We ask for prayers for the families that have lost loved ones. Please pray for the family of **Bebe Powell**, **Loretta Garrett**, Maxine Bittner's aunt; **Weston Futrell**, **Cecil Venhaus**, Joyce Wethington's brother; and **Richard Hoelting**, Joyce Wethington's brother-in-law.

Lord, we ask that you comfort all our friends and family. Amen.

'Happenings' Among the Youth

As you get this newsletter, the youth will be returning from a Winter Youth Retreat in Glorieta, New Mexico. What an amazing way to start the New Year! I am hoping these kids will be able to start the New Year with a totally new perspective and love for God.

LOGOS begins for the Spring Semester on Wednesday, January 12th. Parents please remember the children in grades Pre-K ~ 6th may invite "guests" to LOGOS for the first 3 weeks. Youth in Jr. High and High School may bring friends at any time during the semester.

We are looking forward to another great semester of LOGOS! If you would like to be a part of this great program, feel free to contact me anytime 717-7413.

May this New Year bring many blessings to each of you!

~ Delma Stokes

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

- Session approved a \$100 donation to Project Graduation to be paid out of the Special Children's/ Youth fund.
- Rev. John Conley conducted the examination of the elders in the Session Class of 2013, Shelly Burnett, Ben Maples, Doel Cordero, and Betty Whitson. Each elder was asked to present a synopsis of their faith journey. Installation of the elders is scheduled for January 9, 2011.
- Session approved the celebration of baptism for Sullivan Christopher Heck in church services on January 9, 2011. Rev. Conley will officiate at the marriage of Morgan Heck and Shannon Blair on Saturday, December 18.
- Rev. Conley is planning to offer a Presbyterianism 101 class, probably at 10:00 on Sunday mornings for three Sundays in January.
- Session adopted the 2011 budget recommended by the Budget and Stewardship Committee.
- Session approved a \$30 day ad in the Christmas Directory of the Moore County News Press to be paid out of the Christmas fund of the Mission Committee.
- The Buildings and Grounds Committee reported that the blond piano was moved from the basement to the choir loft; the piano in the choir loft was moved to a member's home. Elder Richard Burnett replaced the disposal switch on the island in the basement as well as two receptacles for the new televisions in the classrooms. The surge protector was mounted in the basement. The light on one of the fixtures on the southwest part of the sanctuary was replaced and the bulletin board was hung in the breezeway.
- The Worship Committee notified Session that there had been a change in the advent candle lighting schedule, the Charlotte Harrison Family lit the candles on December 5. The Christmas Eve service is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Church services on Sunday, December 26 are casual dress.
- Approximately 90 people were served at the annual Christmas dinner after services on December 12. Hot cider and cookies were served at the 3rd annual Ladies Ornament Exchange. Between 30 – 35 ladies were in attendance.
- A commercial grade can opener was purchased for approximately \$100 to be mounted on a counter top in the basement kitchen.
- The Congregational Meeting and Luncheon will be held after church services on January 30, 2011. The meal will be the Soup Fest; members will be asked to bring soup, stew, or cornbread.
- Average attendance for the month of November was 86. The Membership Committee is working on reviewing the church roll to contact inactive members.
- The Mission Committee will be purchasing Christmas gifts for people in local nursing homes who do not have families. The gifts will be purchased out of the Mission Committee Special Christmas fund.
- Session approved Christmas bonuses as recommended by the Personnel Committee.
- Session approved sending Dillon Ferguson, who is sponsored by the church as a Candidate for Ministry, \$500 to pay for tuition for the Clinical Pastoral Education internship and to also pay a portion of the cost of his books.
- The Congregational Nominating Committee has nominated three members of the Congregation to serve for the 2011 year, Anne Parrish, Gary Ward, and Karen Owens.
- Session approved the purchase of a new laptop at an approximate cost of \$650 to replace the laptop currently used in Logos and other youth programs.

Join us on Sunday mornings:

Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

There are classes for pre-school thru High School and adult classes

Worship Service 11:00 a.m.

Come join us for our Worship service where we enjoy each other's fellowship
while receiving the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Everyone is welcome!

Pastor's Hours & Information

Reverend John Conley

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

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

Email: Jcfpc@amaonline.com

Return Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church
P.O. Box 1118
Dumas TX 79029



Non-Profit
Organization
POSTAGE
PAID
Permit # 38