



# Presbyterian News

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

[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

January 2012



In Ireland, in County Meath, not far from Tara, the site of the ancient home of the old Irish kings, in the valley of the Boyne, there is an unusual site. There in a field is a gently rising mound made with stones but now covered with soil and turf so it takes on the gentle contour of the hills that surround it. The place is called Newgrange. It has been there for thousands of years, dating back before the time of the kings of Tara, before the Druids were there, back into the mists of prehistory.

You notice a narrow passage in the center of the mound. It extends 68 feet and slowly descends into a central chamber. The guide tells you it is a burial chamber and pieces of bone and urn shards were found as a reminder of ancient cremations. Standing in that center space I could look back up the passageway toward the entrance. It is like looking through the sights of a rifle.

It is said that the structure, Newgrange itself, is set in alignment with the heavens, so that on the day of the winter solstice, and on that day only, the sun will rise over the horizon directly in line with the entrance, and light will pour down that passage and fill the chamber with the radiance of its rising.

The prophet Isaiah wrote: *Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.* (60:1)

May we continue to bask in the light of our savior, Jesus Christ, who will overcome any darkness we will ever meet.

Peace and grace,

*John*



## *Looking Ahead....*

### Sunday, January 1

10:00am ~ Sunday School

11:00am ~ Worship

### Wednesday, January 4

~ NO LOGOS

### Sunday, January 8

10:00 am ~ Sunday School & Choir Practice

11:00 am ~ Worship

### Wednesday, January 11

5:00 pm ~ LOGOS

### Friday, January 13, Noon ~ Membership meeting

### Sunday, January 15

10:00 am ~ Sunday School & Choir Practice

11:00 am ~ Worship

Installation of Class of 2014 Elders

12:30 pm ~ Stated Session Meeting

### Wednesday, January 18

5:00 pm ~ LOGOS

5-5:30 pm ~ Acolyte Training

### Sunday, January 22

10:00 am ~ Sunday School & Choir Practice

11:00 am ~ Worship

12:00 pm ~ Acolyte Training (lunch provided)

### Wednesday, January 25

5:00 pm ~ LOGOS

### Sunday, January 29

10:00 am ~ Sunday School & Choir Practice

11:00 am ~ Worship

12:15 pm ~ Annual Congregational Meeting  
followed by the Annual Soup Fest

### Tuesday, January 31

Noon ~ Bible Study - "The Beatitudes"

The Reverend John Conley  
Office Phone: 935-4423  
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## *January Birthdays*

- 1 Siobhan Merrills
- 3 Kisika Cariker
- 4 Kevin Sartain
- 6 Carl Bittner  
Jan McBee-Bradley
- 7 Jill Williams
- 9 Darla Sartain
- 17 LeGendre Zirker
- 23 Sloan Williams
- 26 Ruth Holland
- 31 Nathan Taylor

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



## *Anniversaries*

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



## *Prayer Concerns*

During this holiday season we want to remember those in our church family who are ill, in pain, or facing treatment for illness or injury.

Doel Cordero, Brandy Ford and Hayden Brunson who have health issues.

Kyler Wilson and Jenny Lewis who are undergoing cancer treatment.

Kyle Carnahan who has had surgery and Clark Frische who is recuperating from an accident.

Angie Jordan has had neck surgery.

We also remember Donna Sue Boles who is living in an assisted living facility and Opal Perry who is living in a memory care facility.

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

*Dear Lord, we bring these family and friends before you. Grant them your special blessing of healing and peace. Amen.*

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

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2012 ... I guess it is time to get used to writing it. Although, as I do every new year, I will mess up and write 2011 a few times before I finally get used to 2012. It is one of those changes in life that is exciting, yet scary because I wonder what the new year will bring.

I look forward to all the plans to be made with the youth. The memories that will be made on trips, retreats and lock-ins. I look forward to watching my Seniors graduate and the Juniors taking on the roll of Seniors. I look forward to a new year of birthdays for my children and the ending of a school year and the beginning of another. I look forward to another wonderful year with my husband who supports me in so many ways and In making memories with friends and relatives.

I hope that you will take a moment to stop and look forward to what is to become in your life this new year. At this moment, you possess the power of perspective. You can choose to see your life becoming whatever you wish. Appreciate those among you. Praise God for all your blessings and know that He is with you through your good times and the bad. Our Father stands by our side with open arms and all we have to do is talk to Him.

I ask each of you to pray for this new year. What is it you can do to make 2012 a great year for you and your family?

Members of our youth ended the year helping out others in the community by braving the cold and ringing the bells for the Salvation Army in December. Michaela Reynolds, Tristan Darcy, Kaleigh Speck, Jaci Brown, Jaxson Darcy, Jillian Darcy, Jayci Stokes, Macy Palmer, Rena Zirker and Madison Cariker all participated. A special thank you to Doel Cordero for coming out with us and helping out the kids.

I would also like to thank Joyce Snow, Brenda DeBons and Shelly Burnett for all the hard work they have done this year putting together that amazing Christmas Program with all the children of LOGOS and the Jr. High and High School youth. We had two great performances and the children, the music and the costumes were terrific.

May you all have a Happy New Year filled with many blessings. ~ Delma Stokes

## *DECEMBER SESSION HIGHLIGHTS*

- Session approved the transfer of the Youth Ministries Fund to the Special Funds so that the funds could be earning interest and could be used for salary of the Youth Director and other youth expenses designated by Session.
- A 2x3 ad, at a cost of \$35.00, on the Christmas Greetings from churches page in the Moore County News Press Christmas edition on December 25 was approved by Session.
- Committee chairs were reminded that reports for the Annual Congregation Meeting are due to Joyce by January 15 at the latest. Chairmen of committees during the year 2011 will write reports for the annual meeting, not committee chairmen appointed for the 2012 year.
- Rev. Conley noted that Joyce Wethington will be on vacation December 27 – 29 and a volunteer is needed to answer the phone.
- The offering on Christmas Eve has been designated for the Joy Gift fund, which assists retired ministers. It was noted that Good Samaritan Fund expenses have increased during the year and Session might consider designating offerings for Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve in 2012 for the Good Samaritan Fund.
- The Congregational Nominating Committee reported that Richard Burnett, Marsha Hise, Mert Keeney, Kagan Randolph, Marietta Reynolds, Carl Speck, and Shelby Taylor had been selected as nominees for the Pastor Nominating Committee. The election of the Pastor Nominating Committee members will be at a called meeting of the congregation on December 18.
- Session adopted the following resolution: We the Session of First Presbyterian Church, with thanksgiving for the ministries of Marietta Reynolds, Joe Brunson, Jan McBee-Bradley, and Brenda DeBons, wish them and the congregation to also know how much their faith, dedication, wisdom, and cheerful diligence to the calling as Elders has meant to the Session and the work of this Church. We ask this be published in the minutes of the Session and in the next newsletter. By unanimous vote of the Session, December 13, 2011.
- Session approved the 2012 budget recommended by the Budget and Stewardship Committee. The budget is a \$64,195 deficit budget, reflecting \$64,195 more expenses than expected revenues.
- The Fellowship and Nurture Committee served approximately 120 at the annual Christmas dinner following worship on December 11. About 25 ladies and children attended the Ladies Ornament Exchange social on December 4 in the parlor. The Annual Soup Fest is scheduled after church services, prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting, on January 29, 2012.
- Average attendance at church services in November was 78.
- The Worship Committee reported that communion on Christmas Eve will be by intinction. Christmas Day services will be casual, at 11:00 a.m.
- Session elected Elder Ben Maples to serve as Treasurer during 2012 and Elder Shelly Burnett to serve as Clerk.
- The request of Shelly Burnett for acolyte training in either January or February, 2012 was approved by Session.
- Christmas bonuses for church employees were approved by Session.

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 by listening to their faith journeys.

## Member Highlights...

Billie Donnell's father was in the sawmill business, which necessitated frequent relocations, so Billie grew up in Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas. She graduated high school in Louisville, Mississippi. After her father died in 1948, she moved to Dumas to live with her sister. She attended Presbyterian Church services with her sister while they were still meeting in the court house. Billie married Dawson Donnell in August, 1950. She had grown up in the Methodist Church and Dawson was a Baptist. They decided to compromise and joined First Presbyterian soon after their marriage. She has one daughter, Marietta Reynolds. She states that she likes the beliefs of our church, the structure of its worship services and the friendliness of its members. We're proud to have you in our congregation, Billie.

Keep up with what's going on.

Log on to

[www.dumaspresbyterian.org](http://www.dumaspresbyterian.org)



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.

### 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

Non-Profit  
Organization  
POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit # 38

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