

the chimes

Sunday Mornings

9:20am Church School | 10:45am Worship in Sanctuary *(Child care provided.)*

Words of Gratitude for the 150th Anniversary Celebration

Following the 150th Anniversary Day of Celebration, there are so many to thank for planning and labor above and beyond the call of duty. They have given of themselves in the service of Jesus Christ and to the witness of God's love through this church.

Let me begin with words of gratitude to Nancy Self for leading the 150th Anniversary Coordinating Team; to Lonna McKay for coordinating the t-shirt effort; to Keith Halsell, Janice Haverland, Mary Nelle Armstrong, and all who lined up, set up, and cleaned up after the sesquicentennial fellowship lunch. Nicole & Bill McKinley designed and produced theme banners of church windows, plus centerpieces. Ken Telg, Becky Alter, Ranney McDonald, and Beth & Ken Morris planned and gave content to the program. Jerry Norris captured still photographs to record the day's activities and worship; and Joanie Foote video-recorded the worship service.

The reception before worship and the historical displays came to life from the leadership and efforts of Vicki Gergeni, Kathryn Nachlinger, Cheryl Page, Catherine Ezzell, and others. The names of so many contributors to the worship service are listed in the morning's worship bulletin. One person said, "Today I had the clear sense that after 150 years, this church is not dead, rather, in many ways, it is different (obviously) from its start, yet still journeying and evolving." Another person texted the words including words of a Chris Tomlin song, "FPC's history is only the foundation . . . there is no one like our God, for greater things have yet to come, and greater things are still to be done in this city."

And what's a birthday party without a present? The Session Elders wanted to give each of us an opportunity to express thanks to God for the influence FPC-Bryan has had and will continue to have in the months and years ahead through a **Legacy Gift for Ministry**. Give a dollar. Give many dollars. Giving card packets are available at the church.

A Service of Remembrance



On **WED, DEC 6**, all are invited to Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm for a soup & salad supper followed by "Blue Christmas" – **A Service of Remembrance** for loved ones lost to us or separated from us by death, estrangement, divorce, or other life circumstances. Through sharing in song, scripture, prayer, and a time of remembrance, we provide caring support of one another as we journey through the holidays. The evening is open to all who are facing the holidays without loved ones or know someone who is.

Bringing Joy to the FPC Family



Please join us with your hearts and voices for an evening of caroling to some of our church members as we gather to sing carols and distribute poinsettias. **Invite others**

to join you in singing—the more the merrier!

We'll warm up our voices on the Patio on **SUN, DEC 10**, at 3:30pm. Light refreshments will be available. At 4:00pm, we'll depart for the various locations to spread Christ's love in song — ". . . Christ the Savior is born."



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2017 SCHEDULE

This year's Advent and Christmas theme is "A Season of **WAITING** toward the **LIGHT**"

(See the insert in this issue for the full schedule of worship and gatherings during Advent and Christmas.)

Preaching Christ | Teaching Discipleship | Reaching Others

First Presbyterian Church · Bryan, Texas | A Congregation of the Presbyterian Church (USA)



HANDLING HOLIDAY GRIEF

Uplifting guidance provided to help you create a plan to navigate through the unique hurdles you encounter when grieving the loss of a loved one during the holiday season. Gary Roe, Chaplain and Grief Specialist, will be leading a seminar entitled Handling Holiday Grief on **SAT, DEC 2**, from 10:00am to 12:00pm, held at Astin Mansion, 506 W 26th St in Bryan. While there is no cost to attend – **space is limited and reservations are required.**

Please RSVP to 979.821.2266.

MISSION COMMITTEE SPONSORS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES



Once again, FPC will have the opportunity to share in providing a wonderful Christmas for families in Bryan-College Station through **THE SALVATION ARMY** – giving Christmas gifts to over 800 local families (2,000+ children). The **ANGEL TREE** is on the Patio with 40 angels hung on the tree which friends can “adopt” and purchase gifts for their “angel.” The Angel ornaments on the tree provide the name, sizes, and wish list for a child whose Christmas you can brighten. Pick up your “angel’s” name and enjoy the experience of Christmas shopping at its best! Place your gifts for your “angel” around the tree in the Patio **by Dec 8**. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

STILL CREEK ACADEMY is in need of donations of paper goods. With this **PAPER GOODS DRIVE** The Academy is asking for **paper towels, tissues, and toilet paper**. Still Creek Christian Academy is a private, K-12 Christian boarding school situated on almost 200 acres in the Brazos Valley in Bryan. The Academy is the heartbeat of Still Creek Ranch and their student base consists of those who live onsite as well as children from the community. These donations go a long way in helping The Academy have essential items. A marked container to receive your donations will be in the Patio **through Dec 8**.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING TO BE RECEIVED

“Thanks be to God for this indescribable gift!” —II Corinthians 9:15

OUT OF GRATITUDE WE GIVE. Since the 1930s, the **Christmas Joy Offering**—one of four PC(USA) offering each year—celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ, the truly “indescribably gift,” as well as the gifts of church leaders—past, present, and future. This year’s offering will be received on **SUN, DEC 17**, and **CHRISTMAS EVE DAY, DEC 24**. Envelopes will be available in the pews. In gratitude to God for the gift of Jesus, the PC(USA) invites you to join this celebration of God’s presence with us by supporting those in need of help and hope.



Growing Disciples *Christian Education Ministries* (education@fpcbryan.org)



CHILDREN'S GIFT MAKING WORKSHOP SATURDAY • DECEMBER 2, 2017 • 10:00am to Noon Fellowship Hall

All children (K-GR 6) are invited to make and wrap gifts for family and friends.

Contact Kathryn Nachlinger, knachlinger@gmail.com, with names of children attending.

We hope your child(ren) can participate!



YOUng Adult News

Eric Peterson, *Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*
(youngadults@fpcbryan.org)

Scheduled for every other Thursday, the **ECUMENICAL YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP** will be held on **THU, DEC 7**, at 8:00pm. Young adults from various churches in the Bryan-College Station area gather for fun and recreation. Where? To be notified of the location, contact Eric Peterson, youngadults@fpcbryan.org.

Youth Haps



Eric Peterson, *Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries*
(youth@fpcbryan.org)

FELLOWSHIP, SERVICE, RECREATION



SUN, DEC 3, 2:00pm. All youth and their parents are encouraged to come and watch the **91st Annual Christmas Parade – “A Fairy Tale Christmas.”** Watch for text messages and/or emails about where and what time to meet.

SAT, DEC 9, 9:30am. Brazos Church Pantry Service Day! Help volunteer from 10:00am to 11:30am. We'll depart from the church in the church van at 9:30am. See you there!

SAT, DEC 16, 3:00pm-5:30pm. CHRISTMAS PARTY! **KEN and PEGGY TELG** host the youth in their home. **Food! Games! White Elephant Gift Exchange!** All youth are asked to bring a \$5-10 gift item for the gift exchange AND a pair of crazy colored socks to exchange with other youth. Meet in the church parking lot by the van at 2:30pm.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

Room 401 at 7:00pm is the place for youth to be **EVERY WEDNESDAY** for bible study. Study leaders alternate between **ERIC PETERSON** and one of our youth, **RACHEL PRATT**. Bible study will break from **DEC 13** until **JAN 17, 2018**.

PRIME TIME CHRISTMAS PARTY!



Come to the Parlor on **THU, DEC 7**, at 11:30am, for the Prime Time (60+ big-hearted, spirit-filled folks) Christmas party. They gather for great food, fellowship and holiday shenanigans.

Turkey, cornbread dressing and gravy will be provided. Bring your favorite side dish and a friend. For our gift exchange, please bring a wrapped gift valued between \$5 and \$10. Contact Ted or Karen, office@fpcbryan.org, for details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!



ANNE & RICK THOMAS come to us by reaffirmation of faith. Rick is a CPA; Anne is a substitute teacher in Bryan and College Station ISDs. They are delighted to be a part of this congregation where Rick's father served as pastor from 1961-1967.

They are looking forward to learning more about outreach, mission, and caring support ministries. They make their home at 4228 Rocky Rhodes Drive, CS 77845. Rick can be reached at 214.532.5387 or rthomas154@outlook.com; Anne can be reached at annejones2808@hotmail.com or 806.676.8834.



JASEN PETERSEN comes to us pending letter of transfer from First Presbyterian Church in El Campo, TX. Jasen is married to Jessica Sahm. He is a Water Lab Technician at TAMU and sings in the Chancel Choir. Jasen & Jessica live at 3771 N Traditions in Bryan 77807. Jasen can be reached at 979.236.8586 or kjasenpetersen@gmail.com.



LOIS COX SWANSON returns to First FPC-Bryan (a member in the 1990s) by reaffirmation of faith. Lois is retired from Shell Oil Co. Her mailing address is: P.O. Box 12231, College Station TX 77842. Lois can be reached at 979.731.8240 or loisscox@aol.com.

Welcome, Anne, Rick, Jasen, and Lois!

CARING & SHARING

The prayerful support and sympathy of the congregation are extended to **JO MONROE** and family following the death of her husband, Haskell, on November 13.

"I am the resurrection and the life," saith the Lord.—John 11:25

Friends,

Our heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your expressions of love and condolences following the death of Paul. A memorial service will be on Epiphany, SAT, JAN 6, at 1:00pm, in our sanctuary.

With love and gratitude, Marguerite Van Dyke and Family

Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

Thank you so much for your care and love for Nell & Landon Palmer. The First Prez Family has been so wonderful to them and our family as well. Thanks to Ted, Marie, their Sunday School Class, and the Prime Time Fellowship for an abundant Life in Christ.

Love, John & Cindy Palmer



Please notify the church office at 979.823.8073, when you have news to share in the newsletter, or if you or someone you know is in the hospital, is scheduled for admission, or was recently hospitalized. When admitted, please list First Presbyterian Church, as your church affiliation. If you would like to be visited by one of our hospital visitors, please agree to be included on the Pastoral Care List. Your church family wants to minister to you whenever you are ill, especially when you are in the hospital, and they can only do this if you inform them of your needs.

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Church Office Hours
M-F, 8:30am to 4:30pm

Visit us on the web
www.fpcbryan.org



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

STOCK THE BRAZOS CHURCH PANTRY
PERSONAL HYGIENE ITEMS FOR MEN AND WOMEN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!
Next time you're out shopping, please pick up a few extras for those in need in the Brazos Valley.



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|-------|-------------------|-------|------------------|
| 11/30 | Velma Burnett | 12/08 | Josh Wesp |
| 11/30 | Ronen Renold | 12/10 | Ron Douglas |
| 11/30 | George Stuart | 12/10 | Shelley Espinoza |
| 12/01 | Cody Cravatt | 12/10 | Becky Jobling |
| 12/03 | Brian Currie | 12/11 | Rachel Pratt |
| 12/04 | Janice Haverland | 12/12 | Wayne Hayenga |
| 12/04 | Leroy Schoenemann | 12/13 | Ina Copus |
| 12/05 | Max Butler | 12/16 | Carol Dunham |
| 12/07 | Bob Baker | 12/17 | Madeline Hendler |
| 12/07 | Don Spencer | 12/17 | Rusleen Maurice |
| 12/08 | Margaret Anderson | 12/19 | Clark Neely |



- ♥ Ron Douglas
- ♥ Harry Green
- ♥ Madison Hodges
(granddaughter of Peggy & Ken Telg)
- ♥ Gladys Wilding
- ♥ Marjorie Wright

MEMBERS & FRIENDS
IN THE
MILITARY

- ★ Christian McKinley
- ★ Ryan Ratcliffe

ABOUT SUNDAY WORSHIP



- DECEMBER 3
Jeremiah 29:4-14
- DECEMBER 10
Isaiah 11:1-9
- DECEMBER 17
I Thessalonians 5:16-24

NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE
covering news and events from DEC 21 thru JAN 10, 2018
(incl. the January 2018 Calendar),
the deadline for the next issue of the newsletter,
The Chimes, is **NOON, SUN, DEC 10.**
Submit content to: office@fpcbryan.org.