

THE NEWS

December 10, 2009



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH OF
ARLINGTON

1200 South Collins St
Arlington, TX 76010
(817) 274-8286

www.firstprestexas.org

fpcatx@yahoo.com

Preschool: (817)274-4051

9:30 - 4:30

Monday - Thursday

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

8:30 AM

11:00 AM

6:33 PM

CHURCH STAFF:

Rob McClelland

Pastor

Sophie Draffin

Associate Pastor for
Youth & Missions

Esther Choi

Congregational Care

Russell Farnell

Minister of Music

Bill McCoy

Director of Discipleship

Jeanne Chin

Finance Manager

Jo Anne Thomson

Organist

Lesley Beckmann

Preschool Director

Jim McCoy

Facilities Manager

Samantha Willie

Administrative Asst.

Dear saints,

In our Hymnal there are lots of Christmas songs. One of my favorite hymns of Christmas is "Joy to the World!" It was written by Isaac Watts in 1719, and has held such a powerful meaning for so many years because it expresses the truth of Christmas...Joy has come to the world through the presence of Jesus! And what an amazing way to look at Christmas—as a time of presence, not a time of presents.

Last Advent, I introduced all of you to Advent Conspiracy. This is an organization that sought to bring back the true meaning of Advent. They focus on these four statements:

“Worship Fully. Spend Less. Give More. Love All.”

They seek to encourage this lifestyle during Advent by taking the focus off of spending more money on Christmas and truly finding the Joy of Christmas by giving presence to those we love. By not spending as much on gifts, we are less stressed and have more focus to give to worship. And with that money we saved from not buying as many Christmas gifts, we are able to love all by giving to those in need. This is an incredible concept. I would encourage all of you to consider this approach to not just this Advent, but to Advent from this year forward.

So, here is a Conspiracy Challenge for you this Christmas season...We have families within our church, some members, some not, who are struggling this Christmas. Prayerfully consider if you can make a commitment to help assist one of these families in celebrating Christmas in 2009. It might mean meeting a need that they have, like purchasing groceries or finding furniture for their home. It might mean sponsoring their family during Christmas by providing them with gifts to give their children. It might mean helping them find a job. If this is something that you might want to be a part of, please email me at fpca_pastor@yahoo.com and title your message Advent Conspiracy. Or, feel free to call me for more information about how you can find joy this Christmas season in giving more and loving all.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Rob

Christmas Eve Services

5:00 PM: Family Friendly Service

7:30 & 11:00 PM: Candle Light & Communion Service

Mission Statement

We, as the Church, are the Body of Christ equipped through prayer by the Holy Spirit to glorify God; through **passionate worship, nurturing fellowship, sacrificial service, respectful evangelism and active discipleship**, we encourage and challenge all ages of the congregation and community to grow in relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

VCR's/DVD Players/Combination Units Needed

Our old VCR'S are breaking down!

If you have any gently used VCR's or other units that you are willing to donate to the church or Pre-School please bring them to the church office or contact Jim McCoy. Thanks!

Birthday Fund!

During the months of November the following people gave a donation in celebration of their own birthday or that of a family member or friend. Thanks to all who donated. Remember, donations can be made at anytime during the year in any dollar amount. Special thanks to:

Susan Graham	Gerry Kimsey
Bob Watkins	Carol Marshall
Homer Reynolds	R.G. Landolt
Sheri Quick	Mary Jane Tibbetts
Manuel LeBlanc	Richard Moody
Helen Schrickel	Dick Whitaker



B& PG

IMPORTANT!

From now on there will only be **ONE** News Publication a month. A list of issue dates and deadlines will be publicized shortly.

Keep in Mind...

- **Sunday, Dec. 13th**
- 6:30 PM Advent Festival
- **Thursday, Dec. 17th**
- 11:30 AM Saints Alive
- 6:00 PM Joint Session/Deacon Mtg.
- **Friday, Dec. 18th**
- 6:00 PM Scrapbooking in Parlor
- **Saturday, Dec. 19th**
- ALL CHURCH WORK DAY!
- **Sunday, Dec. 20th**
- 5:00 PM Youth Group Christmas Party
- **Thursday, Dec. 24th**
- 5:00 PM: Family Friendly Service
- 7:30 PM Candle Light & Communion
- 11:00 PM Candle Light & Communion
- **Pre-School Closed:**
- December 21st-January 4th
- **Church Office Closed:**
- December 24th-January 4th

A Great Thanks

To our church family,

We are appreciative for all the thoughts, prayers, cards, and phone calls during our recovery. Our thanks to each.

In His Love,
Shirley and Louis Bragg

Perfect Attendance!

The following children had Perfect Attendance for November in Faith Quest:

Owen Majka
Eamon Howell
Matt Jensen
Caroline Vanderberg



Advent Festival

The First Presbyterian Church in Arlington presents an Advent Festival and Carol Sing on Sunday, December 13, at 6:30 PM, featuring the

Anthem Brass ensemble, the Chancel Choir, and various ensembles from the music ministries of FPCA. Come join the celebration!



To the Congregation of FPCA,

I have enjoyed working with you all for the last two years, but my time here is coming to an end. Due to an extremely heavy course load next semester, I will no longer be able to continue working. I will be graduating in May and will hopefully get a "big girl" job (AKA a full time job in the Criminal Justice Field) very soon after. I have learned so much from you all, and appreciate all of your kindness. I have made some amazing friendships that will continue to grow long after I'm gone. January 11th will be my last day, and I hope to see as many of you as I can before then. I wish you all luck in the future and I know there are many great things to come for FPCA.

With Love,
Sammie

F.Y.I.

A printout of the updated Church Directory is available in the office. Let us know if your information has changed. Be sure to pick one up soon!

MEET THE STAFF:

Rev. Sophie Draffin– Associate Pastor of Youth and Missions

Greetings FPCA family!

My name is Sophie Draffin, and I have been serving here at FPCA as the Associate of Youth and Missions for a year and a half.

What do you do for fun?

I love to be active and enjoy being outside. My favorite sport is running, and I love to run half-marathons. Though over the summer I tried a few triathlons, and enjoyed those as well. I also love to rock climb. When I am not being active, I like to read, scrapbook, and enjoy photography.

What are your main areas of focus here at FPCA?

My two main areas of focus are youth and mission. I work with both the junior high and senior high youth. This involves teaching Sunday School and leading weekly youth group. Summer is one of the busiest times of the year for the youth, and this past year we traveled to Galveston for a mission trip, Gunnison, Colorado for a junior high conference, and South Padre Island for a senior high conference. I love working with the Mission and Evangelism team as well, and being a part of all the events they sponsor! This year I was a part of two mission trips to Galveston and Belize, and am looking forward to returning to both locations in 2010.

What is your favorite movie or book?

Even though it's a book written for children, I love "You Are Special" by Max Lucado.

What is your favorite food?

Blue Bell Rainbow Sherbet and anything from Trader Joes



ATTENTION: PARENTS OF K-5th GRADERS

On Dec. 13, our Faith Quest classes will be creating Christmas gift bags for our home-bound members during the Sunday School hour. Children in our K-1st class will need to be dropped off and picked up from their normal classroom that day. All other elementary kids should report to the Fellowship Hall to decorate cookies, make crafts and decorate the gift bags. Our carolers will deliver these Christmas gift bags when they visit and sing for the home-bound members on Dec. 19. This is a great way to bless our home-bound folks and involve children in sharing the joy of Christmas and the love of Christ this Advent season! Parents are welcome to join us in the Fellowship Hall for this fun service event!

Church-wide Caroling To Our Homebound Members

On Saturday, December 19th from 3:00-5:00P, we will visit our homebound members to sing Christmas carols and bring gifts to them. Caroling has been a wonderful Advent ministry at FPCA for a number of years and is an opportunity to have fellowship with a part of our church family who for health reasons are unable to attend church. Caroling is also an activity which involves all ages of our church family – children, youth and adults celebrating the season of Christ's birth in song. If you wish to join us, please contact the church office or George Morey at (817) 275-4699.



December Special Offerings

A Presbyterian tradition for almost seventy years, the Christmas Joy Offering is one of five special offerings supported by our church. These are designated by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to provide congregations direct ways of supporting specific causes that help those in need.

The receipts from the Joy Offering are distributed equally to the Board of Pensions for assistance programs and to National Ministries of the General Assembly Council to support Presbyterian racial ethnic education.

During the Christmas Eve services, there will be an offering to benefit the Presbyterian Children's Homes in Waxahachie and Itasca.

More information about both of these December offerings can be found in the church bulletins. Offering envelopes for the Joy Offering can be found in the sanctuary and chapel.



Tremendous thank you to everyone who helped make the Thanksgiving Baskets Program a record success with 251 sacks.

Thanks for:

- Donating professional posters
- Helping with the bulletin board and setting up the sack sign-in tables
- Donating strong sacks
- Assembling sacks
- Signing up for sacks and then signing up for more sacks
- Asking your family to fill sacks
- Helping your Sunday School Class fill sacks
- Helping your Pre-School Class fill sacks
- Letting your children bring in the sacks
- Asking your co-workers to fill sacks
- Volunteering your delightful granddaughter to help on Sundays
- Picking up 10 baskets to fill as you picked up your Pre-School child
- Checking and delivering the mid-week sacks
- Thanks for pulling the checks on a regular basis to protect them
- Checking the turned in baskets and loading them in cars
- Delivering the sacks to Arlington Charities
- Writing extra checks
- Joining with the other youth to collect 22 sacks

This Thanksgiving our church helped feed 900 families of Arlington's working poor and in the process hopefully realized how blessed we are.

With sincere gratitude~ The Mission & Evangelism Team

Arlington Life Shelter Wish List

- Bathroom Tissue
- Paper Towels
- Laundry Detergent
- Adult Cold/Flu Medications
- Cleaning Supplies
- Disinfectant
- Diapers
- Children's Hygiene Products
- Children's Socks/Underwear/P.J.'s



Mitten Tree 2009

As winter arrives, remember the people who do not have basic necessities to keep them warm. From now and during the month of December, the congregation will have the opportunity to bring mittens, hats and gloves along with other gift items to be placed on the Mitten Tree. These items will be given to children and adults who need them this winter at the Life Shelter, Safe-Haven Women's shelter, Arlington Charities and Carter Jr. High. This year the need is greater than ever. Items can be placed in the S.O.S. boxes, or on the Mitten Tree which will be located in the hallway across from the choir room.

Thank you from the Mission and Evangelism Team.



Just A Reminder...

There will be no Sunday School for children, youth, or adults on Dec. 27 (Christmas weekend). Our morning worship times will remain the same however: 8:30am in the Chapel and 11:00am in the Sanctuary.

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Questions about the schedule? Check the calendar at - www.firstprestexas.org

Prayer Ministry Page:

In the Hospital: Bill Watson, Jim Barnes, and Nella Stone

At Home or in Rehab: Rodney Orr, Esther Anderson, Nita Price, Beverly Kelley, O'Neil Harris, Patty Hollers, Georgia Anderson, Joan Reynolds, Randy Coffman, Wayne Snyder, Eric Shaffstall & Kaitlin O'Connell (friends of Billy Sanders), Ann Pitstick, Polly Baugh, Beth Watson, and Rex Bell (Father of Charles Bell).

Homebound Members: Ken Swanson, Nella Stone, Joyce and Johnny Waldie, Artie Watkins, Nita Whitenight, Maxine and Lew Allen, Roy Anderson, Suzette Armstrong, and Jim Barnes.

Pray for those who do not know Christ.

Our Missionary Families:

Brett and Marla Shideler-with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

Rev. Donald and Laurie Marsden-with Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship.

Our Family Serving in the Armed Forces:

Ben Boughton (grandson of Edna Collins-Harris), Eric Dill, Jason Polk, Matthew Johnson (grandson of Ann Scarr) in Iraq, Jeff Grimes (nephew of Sheri and Jim C. Quick), Mike Mancini in Iraq, SSgt. Dustin Eason (son of Allen and Sandy Snowden) in Iraq, and James Shryock.