

The NEWS

FEBRUARY 2012



**Thy Kingdom Come.
Thy Will Be Done...**



A rematch of the 2008 Super Bowl matchup, New York Giants versus New England Patriots - we will be watching the game – **AT SOPHIE'S HOUSE!!!**

What: Super Bowl Party

When: Sunday, February 4th – kick-off is at 5:30, so come anytime after 5:15.

What to bring: Yourself, your friends, and a snack to share

Where: Sophie's House. Email (fpcayouth@yahoo.com) or call ((817) 274-8286) for directions.

Who: All FPCA Youth and their Friends

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The NEWS is a publication of
[First Presbyterian Church of Arlington](#)

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January is gone and 2012 is well under way. I wonder how many of us are still standing strong in keeping our New Years Resolutions... Well, if not, that is OK. Just think, Lent is just around the corner, and that has (in recent history) become another time of year to give things up. Historically though, that is not what Lent has been about. Warning, teaching moment coming...

Lent comes from the Old English word, "Lengten", which means "to lengthen daylight." It was the period of forty weekdays (not counting Sunday) prior to Easter, but beginning with Ash Wednesday. It began as a time to prepare candidates for baptism, but then became a time of penitence and prayer for those who have been baptized. It then transitioned into a time of giving up, but not as we tend to practice it today. Early Christians would actually look at their life and find areas where they were struggling with sin and temptation. They would, then, commit to "give up" that sin in preparation for Easter by adding a Spiritual Discipline in its place. So, for example, if someone was struggling with lust, they might commit to replace it with Scripture Memory, so that every time they found themselves in a position where they might give in to the temptation of lust, they might quote Job 31:1, which says, "I have made a covenant with my eyes not to look lustfully at a woman."

So, traditionally, Lent was a season of preparing for the celebration of Easter and baptism, but became a time when baptized believers took on a Spiritual Discipline in order to rid themselves of sinful activity.

Having said that, I saw an article in the USA Today just a few weeks ago which was entitled, "For many, 'Losing My Religion' isn't just a song: it's life." In the article, it discussed the ever-growing population of our country that has a "so what" approach to religion of any kind. The 2011 study noted that 44% of Americans said they spend no time seeking "eternal wisdom." It went on to say that 46% of Americans never wonder whether they will go to heaven. In a related article, 20-year statistics from a recent Barna study noted a drop in six of seven categories of weekly religious practices. The importance of attending worship caught my eye, dropping from 49% to 40%.

Here we are approaching a season of the Church Year where we historically prepare for the celebration of the biggest event of our faith – Easter – and 60% of Americans don't feel that attending worship is important. I wonder what has led to that statistic. It might be that many Americans resonate with Gandhi's statement about Christianity when he responded to the missionary E. Stanley Jones, "I don't reject Christ. I love Christ. It is just that so many of you Christians are so unlike Christ. If Christians would really live according to the teachings of Christ, as found in the Bible, all of India would be Christian today."

As we have seen in studying the Parables of Luke 15, those who practice religion feel that if we obey the rules, do what we are supposed to do, or at least what is expected of us by others, then we will be accepted. It all comes back to the idea that people have to behave a certain way, believe a certain thing, in order to be accepted in the church. But that is not the Gospel living Jesus shared and commanded his disciples to live. Gospel living operates on the idea that we are accepted not by anything we have done or will do, but on the premise of what Jesus has already done for us. And in response to that amazing gift of grace, we live lives that share that grace with others.

What if we all decided this Lent to give up our struggles with anger, bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, gossip, malice, etc. and replace it with the spiritual discipline of sharing Grace. What if we stopped worrying about how people behave and what people do and started to focus on accepting others as people Jesus wants us to invite into the community of Grace and Faith. Maybe, those 60% of Americans might change their minds about the community of faith and worshipping together.

I challenge you this Lent to take on the spiritual discipline of inviting people into the community of grace and faith by sharing the gift of grace with them.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Rob

I BELIEVE IN...

Rob McClelland

Confessions of faith come in many forms. We have traditional ecumenical creeds - like the Apostles' Creed and the Nicene Creed - and modern expressions of the faith - like the Confession of 1967 and the Brief Statement of Faith. We have documents of the Reformation from Scotland, Germany, and Switzerland - like the Scots Confession, the Heidelberg Catechism and the Second Helvetic Confession. Those confessions of faith are important to the life of the church. We forget, though, that it is important to hear from others, those around us, those we know, about their personal testimony - their personal experience with God and what they believe. Now, please don't get me wrong, personal experience holds high value in the life of the believer, but unlike Catholicism and Methodism, Presbyterians hold experience as subordinate to Scripture, not equal to it. But that does not mean we should not hear and be encouraged by what God is doing in the lives of other believers.

Because of that, I would like to share a confession of faith by a colleague in ministry, Rev. Ed Baker. Ed shared this recently and I found it extremely encouraging and timely as we near Easter. I hope you can resonate with and be challenged by Rev. Baker's confession of faith.

I believe in the resurrection. I believe that Jesus died on the cross, his hands and feet held to the wood by metal spikes. I believe that his body was pierced by the soldier's spear, and even the sun was darkened as all creation grieved the death of God's eternal Son.



I believe in the resurrection. I believe that Jesus' body was placed in a borrowed tomb, where it lay for three days. I believe that the power of God, his heavenly Father, brought life to his dead body and rolled the stone away from the entrance so all might see that Jesus was no longer there.

I believe in the resurrection. I believe that the unbelievable story of the women was true, just as the angel had announced: "He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."

I believe in the resurrection. I believe that there is no force in the universe that could stop, hinder, contain, or successfully oppose the risen Savior, my Lord, Jesus Christ. No nails are long enough to hold him to any cross unless he wills it to be so. No tomb can be sealed so tightly - by Pilate, Herod, or Caesar himself. Were there an army of a thousand men guarding the tomb, it would make no difference. Jesus said he would lay down his life and take it up again. And he did it!

I believe in the resurrection. I believe that Jesus appeared to eleven discouraged, defeated, demoralized disciples in a room where the doors were locked and all hope was lost. I believe that when he showed them his nail-pierced hands and his spear-pierced side, they fell at his feet and cried out, "My Lord and my God!" I believe that in the days that followed, hundreds saw him alive. All their doubt was removed; their fear was gone. What could the world do to them? Jesus was alive.

I believe in the resurrection. I believe that Jesus lives today – as powerfully and perfectly alive as he was two thousand years ago, and for all time past and yet to come. I believe he empowers his followers to follow in his footsteps, fight the forces of evil, and find their peace and joy and eternal hope in him.

I believe in the resurrection. I believe that Jesus calls women, men, and children to join him in changing the world, one heart and life at a time, starting with their own. One day soon, he will come again...then Jesus will establish his eternal kingdom, where there will be no more soldiers or spears or sepulchers or battles or bleeding wounds or crosses.



I believe all this because *I believe in the resurrection.*

chanceFlowers by Maggie Johnson

The Flower Charts for 2012 are available. If you would like to provide a floral arrangement for our Sunday worship services, then:

1. Place your name on the chart beside the date you have chosen, and,
2. Take the Flower Form, complete, and return it to Maggie Johnson (Contact info is on the form).

The cost of providing an arrangement is \$50.

Flower forms are available near each flower chart (outside the Chapel and outside the Sanctuary on bulletin boards), and will soon be available on the FPCA website www.FirstPresTexas.org.



But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, so that no one may boast before him. It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:27-30)



CORNER

Children's

Children's Sunday School for February

Kyle Terwilliger

In February, the preschool Sunday School classes and the KFC kids will be learning to love God with all of their hearts. And how do we love God with all of our hearts? We look to Jesus to teach us. Throughout the month, we will look at Jesus and see that we can love God by doing what He wants us to do, by loving others and by talking to Him in prayer. By sharing what Jesus taught us while He was here on earth, we pray that the children will begin to understand how to love their heavenly Father who loves them so very much.



The elementary Sunday School classes will be taking on The Ultimate Challenge—showing the highest degree of honor. Stop and think about someone you really admire. Are you thinking of someone? Whoever you thought of is probably important to you because of how they impact your life. But did you know that everyone is valuable? That's right. Your boss, your mailman, your babysitter, your neighbor—they are all valuable.

Every person has value, not because of what they do, but because each and every person has been created by God in His image. That means that every person has been created in the likeness of God and has value. We need to help everyone feel valuable.

When we show others that they are valuable, we show them honor. There are many ways to honor people. In the Ten Commandments, we are taught to honor our parents. The Bible teaches us to honor the authorities that have been placed over us on earth. Jesus teaches us to honor everyone—even those overlooked or unpopular.



Jesus showed others how valuable they really were by spending time with them. He ate dinner with people who usually ate alone. He served people who were used to doing the serving. He paid attention to people who did not normally get attention. If Jesus thought that it was important to honor everyone, then we should follow His example. The elementary children will be learning to do this in February.

Family Night Out

February 3rd
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Kids Night Out

February 17th
6:00 to 8:30 pm



Kyle Terwilliger

Family Night Out. What is that? A great time for families with children from new born to 5th grade. A chance to meet other families. An opportunity to introduce a family that you know to FPCA. A free meal for your family. Fun activities and games for the whole family. A short Bible lesson that often includes a magic trick. An opportunity to hear what the kids will be learning about in Sunday School. A casual time. A fun time. A...well you just have to experience it to truly get it.



Family Night Out occurs one Friday a month and begins at 6:30 pm with short activities and fellowship in the Fellowship Hall. Dinner, which is usually pizza, is served around 6:45 pm and then we play some games or participate in some other activities. In the past, we have built "things" with graham crackers and frosting and we have enjoyed playing with balloons (some were normal size and others were humongous). We have also played paper, rock, scissors tag and various other games. Once game time is finished, we talk about what the kids will be studying in Sunday School for the month and we have a fun Bible lesson. Oh yeah, I almost forgot! Childcare is available for the really

young kids and it is all right if you have to leave early due to bedtimes. We just want you to come and have some fun family fellowship.

So, why not come and have some fun family fellowship on **February 3rd** from 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall? See you soon!



Kids Night OUT

Kyle Terwilliger

Kids bringing kids to FPCA and having a whole lot of fun is what Kids Night Out is all about. If your kid is between the ages of 5 years old and 5th grade, then that's the perfect age for Kids Night Out.

Kids Night Out occurs once a month—usually the **3rd Friday** of the month from 6:00-8:30 pm. Upon arrival, kids are signed in and then parents enjoy a Parents Night Out while the child(ren) enjoy Kids Night Out.

Games or activities begin at sign in and then about 6:15 or 6:30 pm we have dinner—usually pizza. After dinner, we play a lot of really fun games like buffalo, ice cream shop and noodle joust. Then, we usually have a short Bible lesson and some magic tricks.



Kids Night Out is a great opportunity for kids to invite their friends to FPCA for some fun and to learn about following Christ. It is also a great opportunity to have fun with other kids and to build and strengthen friendships. The next Kids Night Out is **February 17th** in the Fellowship Hall from 6:00-8:30 pm. If you know of any kids from 5 years old to 5th grade who would like to have some fun and learn about following Christ, why not invite them or better yet, offer to bring them?

But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. (Matthew 6:6a)

SPOTLIGHT EVENT



A time for deep reflection

A time for prayer

A time for repentance

A time for dedication

A time to imitate Christ

The Lenten season starts with Ash Wednesday on February 22nd, and culminates with Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday on April 1st, Maundy Thursday, Christ's crucifixion on Good Friday and His resurrection on Easter, April 8th.

Make this a special time to renew in Christ.

financialUpdate by Jeanne Chin

For the month of **November** 2011:

Operating Budget:

Income:	\$ 67,388
Expense:	\$ 59,594
Net Income Over (Under) Expenses for the month:	\$ 7,794
Net Income Over (Under) Expenses Year to Date:	\$ 47,900
Expenses paid for Mission & Evangelism from Mission & Benevolence Funds Year to Date:	\$ 33,929



Income was **\$4,888** over budget for the month and expenses were under budget by about **(\$3,600)**. Pledgers were above budget by **\$1,960** for the month and are now slightly over budget for the year. Non-pledgers were above budget for the month by **\$1,787**, and are now slightly above budget for the year. Loose Offering was low for the month and for the year.

Expenses for the month were slightly under budget and included:

FACILITIES - had an extra expense of **\$1,500** for the annual Umbrella Liability insurance premium.

DISCIPLESHIP – Youth expenses of **\$1,513.94** included expenses for Disciple Now Retreat, Whirlyball, and Pumpkin Bowl. Children’s Ministry expenses included **\$700** paid for the KidJam deposit.

Other transactions included:

Mission Tithe Fund Gave **\$2,000** to Wycliffe affiliate GIAL (Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics) to pay for a much needed server for their computers.

2011 Capital Campaign Fund Received **\$7,400** in Capital Campaign gifts.

specialOfferings by Mission & Evangelism Team (Sheri Quick)

In 2011 our church again supported five church wide special offerings. Four of these offerings are through the Presbyterian Church USA. The fifth is Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services that we support directly. When each offering is presented throughout the year, information is provided in the News and Sunday bulletins. The following are the amounts collected from FPCA in 2011 in calendar order.

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$1,607
Pentecost	\$913
Peacemaking	\$1,055
Joy Offering	\$1,091
Children’s Homes	\$3,694

This year, we also collected an offering for Japan Special Relief, **\$2,780**. This was given to World Vision Japan Quake and Tsunami Relief Fund. For the Pentecost Offering, 40% went locally to HOPE Tutoring. For the Peacemaking Offering, 25% went locally to children of the Life Shelter. The Children’s Homes Offering was divided between Itasca and Waxahachie within the Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services.



Youth Choir Concert

Russell Farnell



Agape, our youth choir, will be going to Waco later this month to join over 300 other youth singers at the YouthCUE festival of youth choirs on the campus of Baylor University. Agape has been preparing and rehearsing this music since August, and they have been anticipating in this event since last year. This is the second year that we have taken our youth to this wonderful festival. The goal of the festival is to connect youth from around the region, and engage them in fellowship and the message of the gospel through music. This is a three-day event filled with rehearsals, fellowship, and fun.

The FPCA music ministry will host a brief concert featuring music from the YouthCUE festival on **Sunday, March 4**, in the Sanctuary **following the 11:00 service**.



Belize Mission Team Presents...

Servant and Silent Auction

Saturday, February 18, 2012
Fellowship Hall @ 12-2
Light lunch provided.

Contacts:

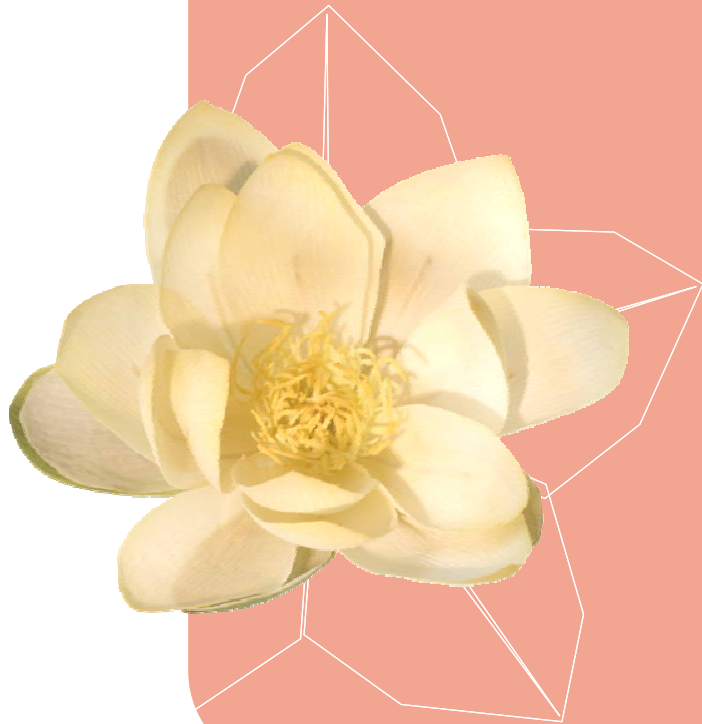
Tara Sanger 580-695-2812
lilth21@hotmail.com

Rev. Sophie Marian Draffin
fpcayouth@yahoo.com

Need help checking off your to-do list? Why not bid for a helpful servant of the Belize Mission Team to help you complete your to-do list?

Also, there will be Silent Auction items to bid on.

So bring a friend and your checkbook for a day full of fun!



Proceeds to benefit the Belize Mission Team serving Christ March 10-18, 2012 at the Y.E.S. School for girls. See <http://fpcamissions.blogspot.com/> for last year's stories and pictures.

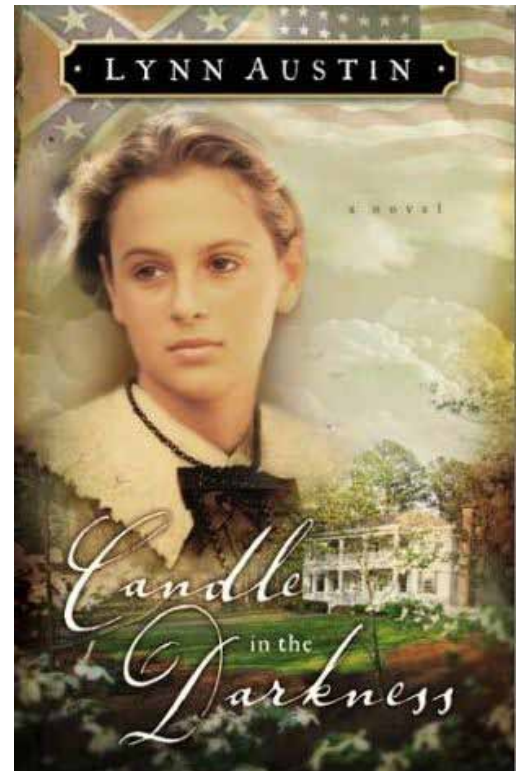


Candle in the Darkness

Lynn Austin

Lynn Austin has created a character in Caroline Fletcher with whom it is easy to identify and with whom one has to sympathize. She is caught between her loyalty to her father and their way of life in the South and her loyalty to the loving people who essentially raised her. Since her mother was sickly for most of Caroline's life, the slaves of the kitchen and the caretakers of the livestock had been her family while her father traveled on business. It was only when her father, because of the Civil War and shortage of money, was forced to sell her dearest friend to another plantation that she felt the true effects of slavery. At a young age, she had to make the decisions that would affect the rest of her life. This is a very good read and brings another view of the South and the conflicts during the time of the Civil War.

This book was recently added to the FPCA library.



WANTED



THE CHURCH IS IN NEED OF A USED, BUT WELL LOVED 20 TO 24-FOOT LADDER.

IF YOU HAVE ONE THAT IS TAKING UP SPACE IN YOUR GARAGE OR STORAGE SHED AND IS NOT BEING USED, PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING TO OUR CHURCH.

Contact Jim McCoy @ 817-274-8286 or fpcatx@yahoo.com for additional details.

thisMonth

BIBLE STUDIES

Men's Bible Study

The Men's Bible Study group meets every **Wednesday** morning during January, at **7:00 am** in the Parlor, men of all ages meet to study the epistles of 2nd Peter and have great fellowship. Everyone is invited to join this study, led by George Morrey.

Women's Bible Study

We are continuing our study of the book: Unexpected Blessings, The Beatitudes Expanded. We are studying Chapter 4, Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness. This study will continue through May.

Sunday Afternoon Bible Study

Men and women of all ages are invited to meet together to study the book of Acts every **Sunday** afternoon during January, at **4:30 pm** in the Brides Room.

ADULT MUSIC MINISTRIES

Chancel Choir

In January, the choir meets at the Westminster Room for rehearsals on **Wednesday evenings** at **7:30 pm**. Join us as part of the music ministry of FPCA!

Morning Bells

The FPCA Morning Bells group meets on Tuesday mornings at 11:30 for an hour of rehearsal and fellowship by having lunch together at a nearby sandwich shop or restaurant. We participate in worship several times a semester, and we

ring at various assisted living facilities twice a year. For variety we also sing as we ring, and sometimes we add other aspects to our outreach projects, just to keep things interesting. This group has been serving Christ through music for many, many years and we are grateful for the opportunities that FPCA provides.

CHILDREN/STUDENT MUSIC MINISTRIES

Agape Choir

Choir for 6th to 12th grade students. Rehearsals every **Sunday** at the Westminster Room at **4:30 pm**. Join us this fall as part of the music ministry of FPCA!

Children Music Ministries

Singing, instruments, bells, and chimes for children pre-K (4yrs) through 5th grade. **Sunday** afternoons at **4:30 pm**.

FACILITIES

All Church Work Day!

February 18th - 8:30 am to noon

Come join the Facilities team in cleaning and maintaining our church facility. We need as much as help as we can get. Donuts and Coffee are provided!



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Deacons Meeting

Thursday, **February 9th** at **6:00 pm**, the Diaconate meets in the Parlor to oversee the following ministries - Congregational Care, Hospitality, and Fellowship.

Team Meeting Night

Thursday, **February 9th** at **6:45 pm**, all Teams meet for worship in the Chapel with subsequent gathering into respective teams for ministry planning and coordination.

Session Meeting

Thursday, **February 23rd** at **6:45 pm**, the Session meets in the Parlor to oversee the ministry of the church. The work of the Diaconate, Church Administration, Facility Management, and all Discipleship, Worship, and Mission and Evangelism ministries will be discussed.

DISCIPLESHIP

Library Team

There is always a need for volunteers to help with the library. Volunteers do not necessarily have to be trained librarians but are willing to serve by doing various library-related tasks by keeping our library well stocked and tidy. The library team meets at 7 pm on the first Monday of every month to process books. There are also opportunities for day-time work sessions, if your schedule allows.

The Team is in the process of entering all of the current library books in a database. This database

will be used to facilitate searching a particular book.

If you are interested in this ministry, please call Sandy Thomlinson, 817-460-8050 or email at sandy@larkwebdesign.com.

FELLOWSHIP GROUPS

Quilting Group

Every Wednesday at 10:00 am during January, come join a wonderful group of ladies who quilt, sew, knit, and just enjoy being together!

Saints Alive!

Saints Alive will meet on Thursday, **February 16th** at **11:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall. Program to be decided. As usual, we will begin with a potluck lunch, so remember to bring a dish to share.



januaryPuzzle/solution

Answers: wheat, wine, wafers, vinegar, raisins, manna, liver, barley, leaven, grapes.

birthdayFund

The Birthday Fund is another opportunity to be involved in the stewardship of the church. You can give a dollar for each year you have been alive, and this money will be used to further ministry here at FPCA. This fund has provided money for new lapel microphones, new gliders for the nursery, blood pressure monitors, temporal thermometers, banners for Holy Week, assistive listening devices, etc. If your birthday is coming up, Don't Forget 'em!!!! (We promise not to reveal your age. Donations can be made at anytime during the year in any amount.



During the month of **December**, the following gifts were received. Thanks to all who donated.

Darlene Reagan (Nov.) **Dixie Tucker**
Nancy Welborne **Kieran Welborne** **Brittan Welborne**
 In memory of **Bill Burdett** In memory of **Hugh Monroe**

matchingGame/Puzzle

BIBLE SWEETHEARTS
Matching Game

Connect the guys on the left to their sweethearts on the right.

1. ADAM _____
2. JOSEPH _____
3. SAMSON _____
4. ABRAHAM _____
5. ZACHARIAS _____
6. BOAZ _____
7. URIAH _____
8. NABAL _____
9. JACOB _____
10. AHAB _____
11. FELIX _____
12. HEBER _____
13. ISAAC _____
14. ANANIAS _____
15. ELIMELECH _____

- A. SARAH
- B. NAOMI
- C. REBECKAH
- D. RACHEL
- E. JEZEBEL
- F. SAPPHIRA
- G. DRUSILLA
- H. EVE
- I. MARY
- J. DELILAH
- K. ABIGAIL
- L. BATHSHEBA
- M. RAHAB
- N. RUTH
- O. Jael
- P. ELISABETH

Compliments of Any-Occasion-Free-Christian-Game.com

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DEADLINE for the MARCH Issue of the "NEWS" is FEBRUARY 15th

IN HOSPITAL: Dick Rabb and Evelyn Parker

AT HOME or IN REHAB:
Allan Poindexter (Craig and Judy Poindexter's son).

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR:
Morgan Hamilton, Andy Andrews, Ted Dysart, Ron Forte's son, Nancy Wordsworth (Jennifer Wordsworth's mother), Laurie Bell, Ken Swanson, Margaret Frank, J Miller, Jim Scott (son-in-law of Edna Harris), Fred Tucker, Becky Speck and Ruth Moore.

IN MISSION:
Brett and Marla Shideler and their ministry with GIAL students.

OUR FAMILY SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES:
Colin Peden (son of David and Isobel Peden) Ben Boughton (grandson of Edna Collins-Harris), Eric Dill, Jason Polk, Jeff Grimes (nephew of Sheri and Jim C. Quick), Sgt. Mike Mancini, Robbie Wallace (nephew of Kathy Perkins), Aaron Alonso (son-in-law of Karen Flynn) and James Shryock.

PRAY FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT KNOW CHRIST!