

## Welcome to First Presbyterian Church

*Thank you for joining us in worship today. We are so glad that you are here!*

*Please take a minute to fill out the friendship pad in your pew and pass it along to others.*

*Our desire is to serve you and your family as you seek to grow in your faith.*

*Please speak to the pastor if you would like to become a member of this community of faith.*

## WORSHIP TODAY

**Flowers** today are given to the glory of God and presented by Martha & Jim Braswell in celebration of Allison Johnson's birthday.

**The Barnabas Cards** are also located in the pews. They are used like thinking-of-you cards. Fill out the person's name on the front and place it in the offering plate. A volunteer will address it and mail it for you.

### Remember in your thoughts and prayers:

**Health concerns:** Norma Shepherd; Jackie Sydnor; Brenda McCaleb; Deanna Herreth; Sue Miller; Jamie Jamison; Frances Jamison; Kelsey Hilson; Kirsten Hilson; Dean Pogue; Jim Tinney; Betty Abramchuk; Dr. Jack Walker; Christopher Finch; Sally Carr; Jimmy Gilchrest; Susan Robinson; Dianne Bunnell; Aaron-Nathaniel Arambula; Cassandra Guice; Pat Clark; Doris Reed; Carrie Walker; Nancy Heeth; Rachel Herreth; Vicki Jones; Virgil Cammack; Olga Pate; Theo Holt; Aaron Valentine; Dave Askine; and Glenn Williams.

**Loss of a loved one:** the Garcia family

## WORSHIP HELPS

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me..." At First Presbyterian Church, we believe that children enrich worship within the full faith community. In them, Christ is present for us. We also believe that children learn best to worship by worshipping! Therefore, all adults and youth are encouraged to help our young children experience the rhythms and rituals of worship: finding and standing for hymns, being still when we pray, and learning responses. Following "Chancel Time with Children", children are invited to take a Children's Bulletin from Pastor Jim and a worship bag or notebook to draw them further into the remainder of worship. Younger children (under 5) may go to the nursery in Room 1, if desired.

**Bibles and hearing enhancement devices** are available at the back of the sanctuary.

**Coffee** is available before and after worship in the fellowship hall.

**Worship Attendance:** 12/6/15

**10:30 am: 104**

**We will be celebrating The Lord's Supper  
December 24th during the Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion Worship.**

## FPC Event Calendar

Today	Hand Bell Practice	12:15 pm
Monday, December 14	Gathering Place Board Mtg.	1:30 pm
Tuesday, December 15	Bend & Be Fit	11:30 am
	Prayer Shawl Ministry	2:00 pm
	Interfaith Board Mtg.	7:00 pm
Wednesday, December 16	Baywood Crossing Service	10:00 am
	Intercessory Prayer	11:00 am
	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Thursday, December 17	Men's Breakfast at Frank's	7:00 am
	Young at Heart	10:00 am
	Bend & Be Fit	11:30 am
	Men's Bible Study	7:00 pm
Saturday, December 19	Men's Breakfast	8:00 am
Sunday, December 20	Sunday School	9:00 am
	Worship	10:30 am
	Youth & Young Adult Lunch	12:00 pm
	Hand Bell Practice	12:15 pm

## FRIDGE NOTES 12-13-15 Third Sunday of Advent

*Welcome to First Presbyterian Church.*

*We pray that our eyes may be opened to see the wonder of the world around us...  
to connect with, commit to, and celebrate Emmanuel...God With Us.*

**Worshipping God With Open Eyes this Advent Season and Beyond** There are many ways to pray...with words, silence, music, and movement, to name a few. We can also pray with our eyes, sometimes called "visio divina" or "sacred gazing". This morning, as you reflect on the images on the screens, prayerfully look for glimpses of God's presence. May we be open to the majesty and mystery of God's world here in worship as well as when we walk out the doors today. A special thanks to all who have submitted photos for our sanctuary screens. As always, if you have an image that somehow reflects God's glory and presence, please send it to the office. We'd love to add your photos to the weekly rotation. Advent blessings.

**Today's sermon, "Good Tidings of Great Joy!", is presented by FPC children and youth, with a few loving adults sprinkled in.** We invite you to listen for the Word of God through scripture, music, and movement.

**Spread the Good News!** FPC Youth invite you to pick up a few discount cards to area restaurants and activities. For a love offering (any amount) you are encouraged to take some cards and share them with neighbors, teachers and friends. Proceeds will offset the cost of camps and conferences, but even more, the cards share the good news of the ministries here and through FPC. Thanks for spreading the joy!

**The Bethlehem Market, the alternative gift market, is open in the narthex after worship services today and next week.** You may donate to your favorite mission in honor of someone, and you will be given a gift card to send to the person you are honoring. Stop by to shop and give a gift that will make a difference.

**Coats for Veterans** Please prayerfully look through your closets for any spare coats and jackets for our Veterans. They will be shared with the men and women at the VA Hospital on **Tuesday, December 15**, when the Presbyterian Women (and men) host our annual Christmas party there.

**Brown Bag Bible Study will NOT meet on December 16, 23, and 30th. Study will resume on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.**

**Men Of The Church...How about having breakfast December 19 to avoid the Christmas holiday travels.** In January we will go back to our normal last Saturday schedule.

**The Presbyterian Church, USA JOY OFFERING will be collected on Sunday, December 20 during worship.** This annual offering is used to give financial assistance to clergy in need and to aid racial ethnic institutions of higher learning. Please give generously to this special offering. Envelopes are available.

**Seafarer Boxes of Love** If you are interested in a simple yet meaningful family/personal mission project this season, pick up an empty shoe box under our Chrismon tree in the narthex. A handout with instructions is attached to the box. You may use your own shoebox, since a copy of the handout is in the December newsletter in the narthex. When shared with the seafarers who come through the Port of Houston, these boxes become God's love made visible. **Please return wrapped boxes to the tree by next Sunday, December 20.** Thank you.

**Youth & College-Age Young Adults Christmas Lunch Next Sunday, December 20!** Since some of our youth who have moved out of state and our college age young adults are here for Christmas, next Sunday following worship, it's time to celebrate and catch up with one another. We'll meet in The Oasis immediately after worship, then go out for lunch and deliver the boxes of love to the International Seafarer's Center at the Port of Houston. We will return to FPC by 3 p.m. No need to bring anything...lunch is our treat! Hope to see you next Sunday.

**A Library Invitation...**Ruth Askine is our FPC librarian. To enrich the season, she has done an amazing job of pulling out the Advent and Christmas books from our collection and has put them in three places around the church building: in the back of the sanctuary, on the carts in the fellowship hall reading corner, and in the library itself. For a time of rest and renewal this season, stop by one of these places, sit down and read a story...alone or with a child.

**Looking for Some Peace & Quiet this Season?** If so, you are invited walk through our interactive prayer stations at the back of the sanctuary today and all week. Whenever the doors of the building are open, you are welcome to come in for a time of reflection and prayer...whether for ten minutes, an hour or an afternoon. **"Be still, and know that I am God"** is an open invitation to all. New to our 2015 stations is a gift from Theresa Dunn Rogerson, Elois Murray's daughter and frequent member of our Prayer Shawl Ministry. It is a ceramic nativity that has an accompanying meditation near it. *May the peace of Christ be with us all as we listen and wait this Advent season and beyond.*

It is almost the end of the year. Statements thru mid-November have been mailed. Year-end statements will go out in January.

**As of November 30, 2015:**

Operating Budget:	Total Income: \$367,576	Total Expenses: \$370,047
Organ Repair Fund:	Total Needed: \$ 56,925	Total Collected \$ 50,175

Thanks to all who turned in pledges. This really helps me prepare the estimate for next year, which in turns sets the budget. It is not too late, if you still would like to turn your card in. You can mail it, leave it in my box or drop it in the offering plate. They are located in the pews or here in the office. All 2015 offerings and 2016 pre-pledges must be in my office by 12/31/2015 to receive credit for this year.