

# The Chimes

Volume 41, Issue No. 3  
**MARCH 2010**

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\* \* \* \* \*

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## ***“GOD PROVIDES, AND GOD GUIDES”***

By now you have heard about the Congregational Meeting on February 28, or seen the figures. The Session has adopted a temporary budget through April 11<sup>th</sup>, with a significant deficit, and is even now looking prayerfully at possibilities for increasing revenue and reducing expenses.

**Our** new mission statement affirms our conviction that we are a fellowship, created by God, and being transformed through Christ by the Holy Spirit so that we can be part of God’s transforming work in the world. Our first response to our financial situation needs to be to remember who we are, and whose we are. We belong to God.

**There** is a very old and very true saying: “God will provide.” There are resources God could have ready for us to help us increase the church’s revenue. Some of that is in our hands already. Some may come from organizations that might later rent space in the church building. God does provide, and often in surprising and wonderful manners. We need to confidently ask God to provide for what we truly need to carry out the mission and witness what God has for us in 2010 and forward.

**There** is another saying: “God guides”. Even as we work, dig deep into our pockets, and do some sanctified imagining, we also need to ask that God guide us. We need to not only pray, but listen. We need to not only pray and listen, but be prepared to act. Our plans and goals may not always be in line with the direction the Lord of the church may point us in. We may have to take a hard, prayerful look at our current ministries and expenses and programs and be ready if we determine that God may be leading us to make changes.

**We** love and serve a living Savior, and a God who knows us, loves us, and calls us by name. Institutions and churches sometimes have to change, and sometimes they have change forced upon them by circumstances. Please pray for the church, for your Session, and for me. If you have ideas, or dreams, please share them with any of the Elders—remembering that the Session is the body that will then need to prayerfully consider alternatives and make decisions. Remember, too, that the most effective things we can do—share our faith, invite people to church activities and worship services, and more – don’t cost a cent!

Your pastor and friend,

*Fred*

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

**With God’s help, we are a fellowship where God’s love changes people, and God’s people change the world.**

## March Birthdays

|                               |                                    |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| March 1—Margaret Fontenot     | March 14—Marie Louise Livanec      |
| March 4—Gay Nell Clements     | March 14—Kimberly Jones            |
| March 6—Lindsay Gail Miller   | March 15—Sandy Marshall            |
| March 7—Barbara Tomek White   | March 15—Wendy Dees                |
| March 8—Joyce Carr            | March 15—Carol Price               |
| March 8—Grant Miller          | March 16—Debbie Serra              |
| March 9—Margaret Edwards      | March 20—Adam Knapp                |
| March 10—Ginger Ashcraft      | March 20—Meghan Singletary Gregory |
| March 10—Sarah Elizabeth Hood | March 22—Marilyn Wadsack           |
| March 10—Carl Wellington      | March 22—Curtis Woodyear           |
| March 12—Courtney Fenet       | March 22—John Stoker               |
| March 13—Dan Plauche          | March 23—Holley Poe                |
|                               | March 30—Sara Judson               |



**3/04 - David & Carol LeBlanc**  
(1989)

**3/10 - Billy & Charlotte White**  
(1998)

**3/11 - Randy & Carol DeRouen**  
(1973)

**3/31 - Stephen & Ruth Rohs**  
(2001)



**Congratulations to  
Alex Taylor for making the  
Dean's List for the Fall  
Semester of 2009 at  
ULM Pharmacy School.  
Alex is the daughter of  
Ben and Sally Taylor, and  
the granddaughter  
of Sydney Taylor**



**MEMBERS:** Harold Carr; Sara Dennison; Dot and Doug Donaldson; Margaret Edwards; Margaret Fontenot; Dan & Dorothea Harmon; Janet Harris; Dick Hopes; Todd Hopes; Sgt. David Landreneau (deploys to Iraq this month); Mary Lester; Dr. T. L. Lewis; Ann Garber McConville (M.S.); Bob Manning; Cissie McLeod; Billie Morris, injured ankle; Patti Orgeron; Molly Parker; Carol Price; Gerald and Joyce Pullin; Gloria Sens; Dr. Violet Shaver; Connie Smith; Sydney Taylor; Bill and Mary Wadsack; Carl Wellington

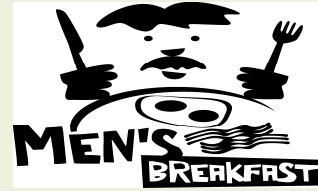
**FRIENDS:** Ernest Brown, nephew of Harold Carr; Beatrice Dunbar, family member of Joyce Carr; Terry Gould, (pancreatic cancer) Band Director at Sam Houston High School; James Frazier, (exploratory surgery at VA Hospital/Alexandria), Joey Frazier's father; Robert Jones (U.S. Army, Afghanistan), son of David Foster; Lorraine Nealis (stroke), sister-in-law of Margaret Fontenot; Dr. David Reiber (Maine), Lois Ferguson's brother; Sharon Texada, Johnny's sister; Ann Womble (stroke), friend of Sara Dennison

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SPECIAL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



**Family Night Supper  
Wednesday, March 10th  
6:30 PM - Fellowship Hall**

*Bring your favorite casserole, covered dish or dessert and join us for a wonderful time of fellowship and a delicious dinner.  
Please invite a guest or friend!*



The Men's Breakfast Prayer Group will meet on Saturday, March 20, 2010 at 8:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Bring a guest, friend, neighbor or family member and enjoy a wonderful breakfast and a great time of fellowship!

**MULTI-CULTURAL YOUTH UNITY  
CONFERENCE**

Saturday, March 13th at THE BRIDGE  
2750 Power Center Parkway,  
Lake Charles, from 10:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
The conference is an effort by several area churches including Good Samaritan, Sacred Heart, and First Presbyterian. It should be a great conference with prayer, devotionals, music, fun and games.

The Youth are invited to stay after the conference as well for a nominal fee.

**Sunday, March 14th  
Daylight Savings  
Time begins**



First day of Spring is Saturday, March 20th

**2nd Sunday After Church  
Lunch Bunch**

Join us after church  
MARCH 14  
for Dutch treat lunch at  
Steamboat Bills (Lakeshore location)  
Invite a friend (or more!) to church  
and join us afterward for food and  
fellowship!



Join us for the  
Primetimer's Luncheon on  
Wednesday, March 17th at  
11:30 AM in the  
Fellowship Hall.

**BUILDING & GROUNDS MEET ON  
Wednesday, March 17th at 7:00 PM**

Wednesday, March 17th



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION NEWS

by Barbara White

Sunday School Classes at 10:00 AM each Sunday

**Young Elementary Sunday school class** is located in the room next to the nursery and led by Charlene Aguillard.

**Older Elementary Sunday school** for Grades 2 through 5 with Fletcher Pierson. The class continues with *"Bible Blitz"* in the older elementary room.

**"NEW" Middle school class** is ROCKIN' on the third floor! The class is studying a series called *"I Know My Bible,"* starting with Genesis. They have learned that Genesis has some pretty cool & scary stories as well as some lessons God wants them to remember. Richard, Justin, Hannah and Jared are hanging out way up on the 3rd floor with Sara Judson and they'd be happy for other 6th-8th graders to join them.

### Weekday Bible Studies!

**Tuesdays at Noon** in the Friendship Room, Dr. T. L. Lewis leads a study in the Book of Galatians. All members of the FPC family and community are invited to attend. A light lunch will be provided. So we will know how many lunches to prepare, please call the church office at 433-4667 or respond by email to: [chur1837@bellsouth.net](mailto:chur1837@bellsouth.net).

**Thursdays at 7:00 A.M.**, Reverend Seay leads in a study of the Psalms over a great breakfast at Southern Spice Restaurant located at 3901 Ryan Street. The study breakfast is a great way to begin your day and finish your work week! Bring a guest and have a good breakfast.

## SPECIAL LENTEN STUDY

All youth and adults will continue the Lenten Study through March in the Fellowship Hall.

This season we will be studying *"Living with the Mind of Christ,"*

Referring to the book of Luke and Philippians. The chapters we will be studying are *Faithful, Suffering, Surrender, Humility, Obedience, and Glory.*

What does it take to change your mind? The apostle Paul in Philippians 2 set out to change the way we think. Paul challenges us to "let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus". We will

Explore just what that means with Bible study and discussion. **COME JOIN US!**

## A UNIQUE GLIMPSE AT THE RESURRECTION

by T. L. Lewis

*The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulcher, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulcher. John 20:1*

This is perhaps one of the most amazing verses of scriptures in the whole of the Bible. In this one verse of scripture we see the bravery and dedication of one woman, Mary Magdalene. She makes a trip many of us have done from time to time. We visit the tomb of our loved ones whose souls have crossed over the chilly Jordan. Many make the memorial trek on holidays, the anniversary of the death of a loved one and so on. So, it is not particularly impressive that Mary of Magda would make a visit to the tomb of her Lord and our Lord. What makes this visit unique and sets it part from any mere visit to pay respect to the lifeless body of a loved one is that she made it **while it was yet dark**. I, myself, have made a visit to prayerfully reflect on the life and departure of loved ones, however, I can say that I have never made those visits in the dark, not even dusk, as the night sky was giving way to the morning sky. As a young minister, I was often wrong, profoundly celebrative, but wrong. I use to proclaim that JESUS rose from the dead bright, early Sunday morning. And while I was correct in proclaiming that He rose, it was not bright. The text says that Mary came while it was yet dark and the Lord was already up!

The S-O-N had gotten up before the s-u-n.



**GET  
READY FOR  
THE  
HIGH  
SEAS  
EXPEDITION  
AT  
VACATION  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL!**

It's time to plan for **the High Seas Expedition** at Vacation Bible School! Once again, First Presbyterian Church will partner with the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Immaculate Conception Cathedral and First United Methodist Church to provide an amazing experience for approximately 200 children, Pre-K through 5th grade. This adventure is set for June 21st—June 25th at First Methodist! When we set sail on the **High Seas Expedition**, both the kids and volunteers will experience the deep rolling waters of God's love! Whether you can help ahead of time, during the event on just one or two mornings, you can help share God's love with the children! We need help with:

- Decorating
- Leading Small Groups from station to station
- Doing skits on stage
- Being a group leader (teaching a Bible point to each group)
- Working registration (very busy morning)

Check you calendars and let Sara Judson or Sabrina in the Church office know how you'd like to play a part in the **High Seas Expedition!**

## Unauthorized Highlight Summary of February 8, 2010 Session Meeting

- Approved Homebound Communion through January, 2011.
- Approved request for transfer of Robert "Bob" Price Sr's membership to First Presbyterian Church, Ft. Worth, TX.
- Approved the Good-News Reach-out Work (G.R.O.W.) project called "Tent Event" to be held April 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, off-site. 'Tent' Committee is now meeting once a week for planning, staging and execution.
- Approved Rev. Bobbie Yellott from 1st Christian Church to preach at the Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 17th.
- Approved a Youth Unity (multi-cultural) Conference to be held March 13<sup>th</sup> at "The Bridge".
- Approved Easter Services to include one simple, short early morning service, acoustic guitar only and one full church service at with communion at 11:00 am.
- Approved Neighborhood egg hunt at church for Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am.
- Approved a combined adults and youth Lenten study, "Living with the Mind of Christ", by James Harnish.
- Approved First Presbyterian Church to join with St. Paul Lutheran (and possibly other Oak Park churches) for a Good Friday service at that church on April 2nd at 7:00 pm.
- Approved Discipline and Anti-Harassment policies for Standard of Procedure as required by our insurance company.
- Approved a temporary 2010 Budget to remain in effect for 60 days through April 11<sup>th</sup> Session meeting and approved a congregational meeting for February 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:50 am-10:45 am [during the Sunday school hour] to present the church budget information.
- Approved purchase of new office computer(s) and extra money for computer(s) that may also need upgrade due to being linked.
- Approved purchase of replacement air conditioner pan using funds from either Special Gifts and/or other equity funds.
- Approved request by Christian Education that Stewardship place the following funds into new equity accounts for Youth Group meals-\$575; Youth Group job jar-\$420; and Tuesday bible study at noon-\$100. Motion was amended and approved to take the money from Special Gifts.
- Approved request by Christian Education for Stewardship to move \$429.35 of the Friendship Class fund to the Bereavement Fund and the remaining amount of \$100.00 for Haiti offering.
- Clerk of Session is completing First Presbyterian's 2009 Annual Statistical Report and Questionnaire as requested by the General Assembly and Presbytery and will require Session approval prior to submitting on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Approved Stewardship's new and more formalized written policy covering special offerings and the set up and administration of equity funds.
- Approved the addition of more members, including some youth, to several of our committees.
- Approved "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" service, Sunday, March 14th, with Rev. Betty McGehee as preacher for both services and also approved a PW Birthday luncheon for May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:00pm.

New Books  
in the Church  
Library



## **LIBRARY CORNER**

by Angie Dilmore

This month we have two new parenting books in our library.

**PRO-ACTIVE PARENTING**, by James R. Lucas. I haven't personally read this entire book, but it deals with parenting both young kids as well as teens. The back cover states, "one of the greatest fears of parenting is that there is simply no way of predicting how your kids will turn out." Even well-meaning friends and childhood experts say, "Just try to survive adolescence. There is not much you can do; so just hope for the best." But nowhere does the Bible say parents must settle for less. In fact, God's Word teaches numerous strategies for effective parenting. Author Jim Lucas passionately shares those strategies with you.

**WHAT'S HAPPENING TO MY TEEN; Uncovering the Sources of Rebellion**, by Mark Gregston. I did read this book, and it's a must for any parent of teenagers. Unlike many parenting books, which often attempt to change the teen, Gregston suggests most teen behavior is a response to their environment rather than rebellion. And parents are often the root of such a response. Gregston encourages parents to look at themselves and see what they might be doing that may be causing the teen's actions. Parents need to examine themselves to determine if they are a part of the problem. Gregston reminds parents to never stop loving their teen and that God works through all situations to help parents and teenagers through difficult times.

These two books join several other Christian parenting books in the library. Look on the shelf marked "parenting."



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS

## MARCH MEETINGS



**Sunday Circle** will meet on Sunday, March 7th at 4:30 p.m. in the Friendship Room.

**Circle of Friends** will meet on Friday, February 12th at 11:30 AM at Bertha Shea's house

**Thursday Morning Circle** will meet at 9:45 AM on March 18th.

**Circle 3** will meet on Thursday, March 18th at 6:00 PM, in Caroline Garrett's home.



The church will again "Celebrate the Gifts of Women" on Sunday, March 14th in a special worship service led by the women of the church!

The Church needs Easter eggs that can be stuffed. We also need non-chocolate candy or, if you'd like, please donate money to help purchase these items!



*If you have plastic eggs or candy, please bring by the Church.*

## THANK YOU!

PW thanks you for your generous donations of items and cash for Health Kits. We appreciate your support of this ongoing project. We collected \$88.47 in December 2009 and made 51 Health Kits that were delivered to Friend Ships. During January/February we collected \$256.32 and 76 Health Kits were assembled and delivered to Friend Ships in mid-February. We will continue to collect soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, washcloths, hand towels, and shampoo for this ongoing project.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Next Coordinating Team Meeting is Sunday, March 21st at Noon in the Friendship Room.

PW Birthday Luncheon on Saturday, May 1, 2010 at 11:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall.

PW now has a page on the website! Please visit the church website at [www.firstpres-lc.org](http://www.firstpres-lc.org) and "click" on the link *Presbyterian Women*.



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAKE CHARLES

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Saturday, March 27:** 10:00 A.M., 2nd Annual Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt

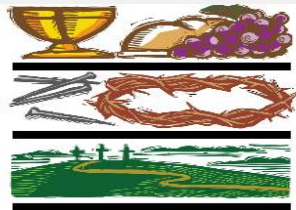
**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 28:** 9:00A.M., The Gathering;  
11:00 A.M. Traditional Worship Service

**Upper Room Maundy Thursday Communion Service:** 6:30 P.M., Thursday, April 1st in the Fellowship Hall. The Chancel Choir will help lead us as we continue on the journey to Easter.

**Oak Park Good Friday Service:** 7:00 P.M., Friday, April 2nd at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 1620 E. Prien Lake Road. This will probably be a Tenebrae Service. (We shared our facility with the St. Paul congregation after their building was severely damaged by Hurricane Rita in 2005. Their restored sanctuary is truly beautiful. Come and share this holy day with other Oak Park Christians.

### Easter Sunday, April 4th

- 9:30 A.M. Service of Praise and Prayer, in the Patio Courtyard (weather permitting!)
- 10:00 A.M. Continental Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
- 10:30 A.M. Easter Egg hunt
- 11:00 A.M. FULL CHURCH COMMUNION SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY



PASSION/PALM SUNDAY  
HOLY WEEK BEGINS

### FEBRUARY CHURCH ATTENDANCE

February 7 - 45 - The Gathering; 58 - Traditional  
February 14 - 41 - The Gathering; 64 - Traditional  
February 21 - 57 - The Gathering; 65 - Traditional



## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN SECOND ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD EASTER EGG HUNT!

The church will host its second annual Easter Egg Hunt for the surrounding neighborhood as an outreach to our neighbors on Saturday, March 27th at 10:00 AM. All are invited to make a presence during this event. The youth are asked to help again with hiding the eggs and with games. We will distribute door hangers again this year after the 11:00 AM service on Sunday, March 21st to advertise the event. Please help with this effort if you are able.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
OF LAKE CHARLES  
Spring Break Destination**

The "Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) Lake Charles Village" will see an increase in activity beginning late this month. On February 21st, groups arrive from Clemson, South Carolina, and John Calvin Presbytery in Missouri (the latter's third visit), and on February 28th from Ann Arbor, Michigan (their fourth visit). Even now, our mission partners at the Methodist Storm Station of Southwest Louisiana continue to have a need for volunteer work crews:

**60 open houses, 140 ready, and 600 applicants.**  
First Presbyterian Church continues to be part of this area's long recovery from Hurricanes Rita and Ike.



*Thank you for your very generous response to our two special offerings last month!*

**Haiti Earthquake Relief Offering:** \$3,279.83  
-including \$11.83 from the Children's Piggy Bank & \$100 from the Friendship Class with \$2,000 in Matching funds from Session: **\$5,279.83**

**A total of 127 Health Kits were prepared by Presbyterian Women and sent via FriendShips to Haiti.** Many members contributed items or funds to purchase items for the kits. They were sent with two Bible verses in Haitian Creole (1 John 4:10 and 21).

**"Bridging the Gap" Offering,** for supporting our partnership with the Dora E. Valentin Reformed Presbyterian Church in Varadero, Cuba: **\$661.00**

**OAK PARK FOOD  
PANTRY  
Meal-A-Month  
Program**



**SUGGESTED ITEMS:  
MONTH OF MARCH**

- Beans and Franks
- Soup or Spaghetti's
- Canned Fruit or Jell-o
- Cornbread Mix

*Please use this list as a guideline, but know that all food items are accepted and appreciated.*

**THE TENT EVENT**  
*A Celebration  
of Christ*



The Session is bringing you a new Mission to participate in. On Friday, April 16th & Saturday, April 17th we are going to have a large mission event to highlight our church to other parts of Lake Charles. The event will be a large music, kiddies, and worship event.

It will take place on Country Club Road, a few hundred feet west of Nelson Road, and next to the VFW. We will have a large tent visible to anyone driving through the intersection of Nelson Road/Country Club Road. The reason for the tent is it makes a statement to anyone going by there is something NEW happening! We will have music that people can hear as they drive by and there will be blowup games for the kids. We'll have a jumper, an 18' tall slide, a striker machine, hot dogs, cold drinks, popcorn, cotton candy, snow cones, and other things for adults as well as kids.

There will be multiple speakers and multiple bands and present what Presbyterians are. We want people to sing, have fun and hear about Christ. We want people to learn what a great congregation we are and **where** we are.

**Why do we want to locate the Event there?** Because this is one of the fastest growing areas of the city & there are so many new neighborhoods in the area. There must be many families who don't have a church home or maybe don't really know about our Lord, Jesus.

**We want to evangelize and encourage people to go to church, any church.**

This is a large endeavor and **we need you**, the congregation to help make this a success. The TENT EVENT will cost about \$10,000 and we will be asking for donations to supplement money from the Session. But most of all we need your participation in this event itself. We need a large congregational turn-out so that the event is a large event, with many people attending, and so that you, the congregation, can make people feel comfortable, and for them to learn about our church. America needs people to go to church. We can help start a turn around of the American culture back to its Christian roots, back to what made it great.

Christ gathered the Disciples and sent them out into the world to gather his flock and save them from death in sin. The Disciples went out and taught Christ's teachings wherever people were. This is what we must do. We must share the Good News with all people we come into contact with. We can reach out of the walls and meet people where they are and show people the goodness of Jesus and of this church. We can bring them into our fold and bulge the walls of this church with new Christians!

# WHO DAT!

(at Joe & Barbara White's home for Super Bowl Sunday)

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH PHOTO PAGE



Bailey, Barbara and Ruth



Hannah and Pastor Fred



TOUCHDOWN! Geaux Saints!



Aaron, Andre & Andrew

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## MISSION TRIP PHOTOS FROM VALLE HERMOSO!



Teacher, community members working on facility

**NOVEMBER  
2009  
C.U.P.S.  
MISSION TRIP**



School supplies from L Charles distributed in Mexico



Joe Duffel & Aaron busy weeding

Daniel cutting grass for the new work center!



## MARCH 2010

| Sunday   | Monday                                      | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday  | Friday  | Saturday   |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>28</b><br/>2ND SUNDAY OF LENT<br/>9:00 AM "The Gathering"<br/>9:50 AM <i>Congregational Meeting</i><br/>10:00 AM Sunday School<br/>11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service<br/>4:30 PM Youth Group Meeting</p>  | <p><b>1</b></p>                             | <p><b>2</b><br/>12:00 PM Bible Study with T. L. Lewis<br/>6:30 PM The Gathering Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>3</b><br/>5:30 PM Worship Committee Meeting<br/>6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>   | <p><b>4</b><br/>7:00 AM Morning Bible Study</p>   | <p><b>5</b></p>   | <p><b>6</b></p>  |
| <p><b>7</b><br/>3RD SUNDAY OF LENT-Communion<br/><i>Rome Presbyterian Church Mission Group arrives from Wyalusing, PA</i><br/>9:00 AM "The Gathering"<br/>10:00 AM Sunday School<br/>11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service<br/>12:00 PM Mission Committee Meeting<br/>4:30 PM Sunday Circle<br/>4:30 PM Youth Group Meeting</p>   | <p><b>8</b><br/>6:30 PM Session Meeting</p> | <p><b>9</b><br/>12:00 PM Bible Study with T. L. Lewis<br/>6:30 PM The Gathering Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>10</b><br/>6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>6:30 PM Family Night Supper</p>  | <p><b>11</b><br/>7:00 AM Morning Bible Study</p>  | <p><b>12</b><br/>11:30 AM Circle of Friends meet at Bertha Shea's home</p>  | <p><b>13</b><br/>10:00 AM Youth Multi-cultural Conference at THE BRIDGE<br/>7:00 PM Youth attend Concert at Christian World Center</p> |
| <p><b>14</b><br/>4TH SUNDAY OF LENT</p> <p><b>CELEBRATION OF THE GIFTS OF WOMEN</b><br/>Daylight Savings Time begins</p> <p><i>First Presbyterian Church Mission Group from Colorado Springs, CO arrives</i><br/><i>John Calvin Presbytery Mission Group arrives from Springfield, MO</i><br/>9:00 AM "The Gathering"<br/>10:00 AM Sunday School<br/>11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service<br/>12:00 PM Lunch Bunch (Dutch Treat) at Steamboat Bill's<br/>4:30 PM Youth Group Meeting</p> | <p><b>15</b></p>                            | <p><b>16</b><br/>12:00 PM Bible Study with T. L. Lewis<br/>6:30 PM The Gathering Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>17</b><br/>St. Patrick's Day!<br/>11:30 AM Primetimers' Luncheon<br/>6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal<br/>7:00 PM Building &amp; Grounds Meeting</p> | <p><b>18</b><br/>7:00 AM Morning Bible Study<br/>9:45 AM Thursday AM Circle<br/>6:00 PM Circle 3 at Caroline Garrett's home</p> | <p><b>19</b></p>  | <p><b>20</b><br/>First Day of Spring<br/>8:00 AM Men's Breakfast</p>   |
| <p><b>21</b><br/>5TH SUNDAY OF LENT<br/><i>Whitworth University Spokane, WA Mission Group arrives</i><br/>9:00 AM "The Gathering"<br/>10:00 AM Sunday School<br/>11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service<br/>12:00 PM Neighborhood Promo Walk for Easter Egg Hunt<br/>12:00 PM PW Coordinating Team Meeting<br/>4:30 PM Youth Group Meeting</p>   | <p><b>22</b></p>                            | <p><b>23</b><br/>12:00 PM Bible Study with T. L. Lewis<br/>6:30 PM The Gathering Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>24</b><br/>6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>25</b><br/>Spring Book Fair at Good Shepherd (3/25-3/27)<br/>7:00 AM Morning Bible Study</p>                              | <p><b>26</b></p>  | <p><b>27</b><br/>10:00 AM Neighborhood Easter Egg Hunt</p>   |
| <p><b>28</b><br/>PASSION/PALM SUNDAY (Holy Week begins)<br/>9:00 AM "The Gathering"<br/>10:00 AM Sunday School<br/>11:00 AM Traditional Worship Service<br/>4:30 PM Youth Group Meeting</p>  | <p><b>29</b></p>                            | <p><b>30</b><br/>12:00 PM Bible Study with T. L. Lewis<br/>6:30 PM The Gathering Rehearsal</p> | <p><b>31</b><br/>6:00 PM Choir Rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>1</b><br/>7:00 AM Morning Bible Study<br/>6:30 PM MAUNDY THURSDAY</p>   | <p><b>2</b><br/>7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY Service at St. Paul Lutheran Church</p> | <p><b>3</b></p>  |

## **A Message From Stewardship Committee**

by Mark M. Judson, Moderator

The Session, at the recommendation of the Stewardship Committee, has called a Congregational Meeting for February 28th at 10:50 sharp (in lieu of Church School) for the limited purpose of presenting budget/financial information to the Congregation. The meeting is informational only. There will be no issues presented for a vote.

Similar to last year, the financial status of First Presbyterian Church is mixed. At the end of 2009, our financial balance sheet showed the church having approximately \$395,000 in liquid assets. These funds exist in equity accounts and are set aside for specific purposes. They are not intended to be used for recurring expenses. So, as far as non-recurring assets go, we are in pretty good shape.

Recurring revenue and expenses are a different story. As we began 2009, we had originally projected a loss of \$30,000. We wound up finishing the year with a net loss of approximately \$13,000. Considering everything, it was the opinion of the committee that a \$13,000 loss, though certainly not desirable, was not terribly bad.

As we plan for 2010, however, we are anticipating a \$10,000 reduction in revenue. Additionally, our insurance premium increased by \$10,000. Also, administrative expenses have increased. In sum, the Stewardship Committee is anticipating a \$60,000 shortfall for 2010.

Unless we as a church can find a way to increase our recurring revenue significantly, the Stewardship Committee is of the opinion that our Church cannot continue to operate in the manner in which we are all accustomed. To put it in simple terms, we are used to operating on about \$310,000 per year. The current trends indicate that we need to operate on a budget of about \$250,000 per year. A \$250,000 a year budget would greatly change the way we worship, it would reduce our staff, it would change the way we give benevolence, and it would perhaps even cause us to consider a smaller facility.

We have so many good things going on at First Church. We are not suggesting that we stop worshiping and serving God. But we are concerned about discerning the will of God with respect to the assets He has given us. As we continue to pray, meet, and seek God's will, we ask that you pray for the Session and that you attend the congregational meeting so that you may be better informed.

# EASTER LILIES ORDER FORM



Easter/Resurrection of the Lord Sunday is April 4, 2010. If you would like to order Easter Lilies to be placed on the sanctuary, please fill out the form below and return to the church at your earliest opportunity.

HERE IS MY CHECK FOR \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO ORDER \_\_\_\_\_ EASTER LILY PLANT(s) at \$8.75 PER 6" POT. (Deadline to place order will be announced in an upcoming bulletin)

My Easter lilies are given in:

MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

APPRECIATION OF \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

CELEBRATION OF LIFE \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

GIVEN BY \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Office: 337-433-4667

Fax: 337-433-4601

Office Hours: 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. Monday - Friday

E-mail: chur1837@bellsouth.net

## SESSION

Dr. Fred Seay, Moderator\*

Emergency Contact No. 337-263-0138

Fran Plauche, Clerk of Session

Lenn Knapp, Asst. Clerk

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Class of 2010 | Tom Cole, Worship*<br>Mark Judson, Stewardship*<br>Chester Miller, Building & Grounds*<br>Joe Duffel, Fellowship*                                    |
| Class of 2011 | Charlene Aguiard, Christian Education*<br>Sarah Harmon, Mission*<br>Lenn Knapp, Administration**<br>Billie Morris, Worship<br>Debbie Serra, Andrew*  |
| Class of 2012 | Mary Ann Booth, Stewardship**<br>Joyce Carr, Worship<br>Vic Picheloup, Administration**<br>Ruth Singletary, Fellowship**<br>Dorothy Strait, Andrew** |

\*Moderator; \*\* Vice-moderator

***First Presbyterian Church  
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