

*OUR MISSION IS TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST,
TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO SERVE, AND TO GLORIFY GOD.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2017

Just a few inspired words about what I see God doing at FPC...

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

Isaiah 11:1



ADVENT SERMONS

The Advent sermons have been a fascinating journey; curiously begun by a request to study C.S. Lewis' infamous book entitled *The Screwtape Letters*. Having read much of Lewis' work long ago, I again picked up his other well-known work, *Mere Christianity*. Serendipitously it is divided into four (4) sections. I wondered if the four sections might correspond with, or inform, the three advent and Christmas eve sermons this year.

The next piece of inspiration was a series of sermons I heard Fred Craddock preach back in the early 1990's: *What Is The Church Anyway?* Craddock began his series with a covered wagon stopping shortly at a general store in Dallas, Texas on its way out west. The clerk asked the driver of the wagon, "What'cha got in the wagon?" To which the driver answers, "I've got a church!" The clerk says, "What? You can't have a church in there. It's too small." And the driver begs to differ, "Oh, yes I do. I've got a pew in there, and a pulpit, and a baptismal font." And with each piece of the "church", Craddock spins a tale of what the church really is, anyway. I'm no Craddock, but these two masters have inspired Advent preaching.

December Worship & Study Schedule

SUNDAY-11:00 A.M. <i>Worship</i>	SUNDAY-6:30 P.M. <i>Study</i>	WEDNESDAY-6:00 P.M. <i>Family Night Supper</i>	THURSDAY <i>Brown Bag Study</i>
<i>WHAT IS ADVENT ANYWAY? Real Trees Please</i> 3 Isaiah 64:1-9 & Matthew 1:18-25 COMMUNION SUNDAY	<i>STRATEGIC Discipleship</i> 3 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	<i>JOY GIFT DINNER</i> 6 Confirmands	<i>NO BROWN BAG</i> 7 ADVENT CONCERT
<i>WHAT IS ADVENT ANYWAY? Jesus, Mary and Joseph!</i> 10 Exodus 16:11-20 & Luke 2:1-5	<i>STRATEGIC Discipleship</i> 10 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	<i>BEVERLY COLEMAN</i> 13 Angel Quilts	<i>NO BROWN BAG</i> 14 ADVENT CONCERT
<i>LESSON & CAROLS</i> 17 Selected Scripture / The Christmas Story	<i>STRATEGIC Discipleship</i> 17 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	<i>CHRISTMAS PROGRAM</i> 20	<i>NO BROWN BAG</i> 21 ADVENT CONCERT
<i>WHAT IS ADVENT ANYWAY? An Empty Manger</i> 24 Isaiah 61:1-11 & Luke 2:21-24	<i>CHRISTMAS EVE</i> 24 <i>CANDLELIGHT - 5:30 p.m.</i>	<i>NO FAMILY</i> 27 <i>NIGHT SUPPER</i>	<i>NO BROWN BAG</i> 28
<i>Auld Lange Syne</i> 31 Isaiah 62:1-3 & Galatians 4:4-7	<i>NEW YEAR'S EVE</i> 31 No Programming		

Parents Night Out

Parent's Night Out will be Friday, December 8th from

6:00—8:30 p.m. There will be storytelling, painting on canvas, building gingerbread houses, movies, and other activities. Invite your friends!

Noon Prayer: MONDAY – THURSDAY/SANCTUARY Prayers of Thanksgiving & Prayers of Confession: for what we've done right today



FPC's Youth Group will have their annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 16 starting at 6:00 p.m. at Maggie Morgan's home. Come dressed up or down or in your favorite ugly Christmas sweater!

Food will be served, so come hungry, too!
(Please bring a wrapped gift; \$15.00 or less.)



We are asking for more volunteers for the following dates; March 4, 2018 and July 1, 2018. Please contact the church office or Pat Davitt at 870.773.7883.

Randy Sams' Mission

The 1st Sunday night of each month a dinner is served for the shelter. Below is the schedule of volunteers in charge of these dinners.

Thank you Nancy & Charles Jackson, Sue Ellen Hall & Gail & Gene Cogbill for serving Randy Sams' supper on September 3!

December 3rd

**Beth & Chuck Morgan*

Joan & Tommy Boyles, Kathy & Dan Boyles

January 7

**Youth Group*

(*Denotes Group Coordinator)

Additional volunteers would be helpful for these months. Please contact the team coordinator to offer assistance.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MUSIC

Noon Advent Concerts

December 7 - Mark & Amy Meadows, piano, guitar & vocalists

December 14 - Texarkana Symphony Orchestra, Emerald Quartet

December 21 - R. Andrew Clark & Robert Green, organ & piano with singing of carols

(Each concert will begin at 12:05 p.m., last approximately twenty-five minutes, and will be followed by a light lunch.)



Christmas Eve Candlelight & Christmas Services

† Lessons & Carols will be Sunday, December 17.

† Sunday, December 24 - Worship at 11:00 a.m.

† Sunday, December 24 - Candlelight Service - 5:30 p.m.





LESSONS and CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017
DURING WORSHIP



Liturgists

Thank you to our volunteers for Liturgist
and Children's Sermon for the month of
December 2017!

	<u>Liturgist:</u>	<u>Children's Sermon:</u>
December 3	Danny Gray	Beth McHenry-Pope
December 10	Maggie Morgan	Chris Walraven
December 17	Lessons & Carols	Lessons & Carols
December 24	Michael Gilliland	Chris Walraven
December 31	Michael Gilliland	Rev. Susan Arnold



OUR EVERGREEN 'ANGEL TREE' COMES FROM THE TRADITION OF THE JESSE TREE

A Jesse Tree is a decorative tree used during Advent to retell the stories of the Bible that lead to Jesus's birth. Since Advent is a season of waiting, a Jesse Tree helps build joy and anticipation as we wait for Christmas.

Jesse Trees have three main parts: A tree, symbolic ornaments, and passages or scripture readings to go along with them. Jesse Tree readings are designed to be read each day of Advent, and highlight the key stories throughout the Old and New Testaments that connect to Jesus. Each story/reading has a corresponding symbol/ornament that is hung on the tree each of Advent.

The term Jesse Tree comes from this verse in the book of Isaiah 11:1: *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.* In this verse, Isaiah predicts the coming of Jesus. He is telling the people that, one day, a great ruler will rise up from the descendants of the great King David. Jesse was David's father. This was exciting news to the people of Isaiah's time. Many of the kings who ruled after David weren't very good rulers. They led their people away from worshiping God. Eventually David's kingdom split in two and faded away; and Isaiah's prophecy of a stump shows how the family of David had been "cut down". But Jesus would be like a new growth/a new hope for the kingdom that was once strong and worshiped God as one. <https://www.myjessetree.com/what-is-jesse-tree/>

A Jesse Tree tells the Biblical story of God's greatest gift to us, Jesus. Our Angel Tree represents this continued tradition of giving gifts to others. We have decided to, once again, help the 20 clients of *Evergreen Life Services* with no family. The Christmas Tree near the Fellowship Hall will have pockets with cards inserted that have presents listed on them. The clients were asked to name one present and one snack favorite to receive. When the members of our congregation choose a gift, there will two pieces of paper in the pocket. One is the gift tag to be placed on the gift and the other is for a signature of who is buying the gift. Please return the small paper with your name on it back to the pocket and take the gift tag for your present. This year we are only responsible for 40 gifts total. They need to be wrapped and returned to the tree by **Friday, December 22nd** in order to be picked up over the weekend.

NEW OFFICER TRAINING – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND

New Officer Training is scheduled for Saturday morning, December 2nd from 9:00 a.m. to noon. This is to fulfill a Book of Order requirement that all officers duly elected by the congregation *shall* be trained and then examined by the Session prior to Ordination and Installation. New officer classes of 2020 are: Elders – Kurt Andrews, Dan Boyles, Sarah Propps, Griffin Johnson; Deacons – Beth McHenry-Pope, Kevin Thompson, Pat Willis; filling an Unexpired Term – Betty Anthony.



A LONG-RANGE PROCESS UPDATE

At the November Session meeting, the Sponsorship Team **unanimously** recommended NOT to accept the proposal for a long-range planning process with our congregation, and the Session voted favorably on this recommendation. The primary reservation was cost. Should you wish to read the proposal, hard copies are still available in the church office. The Sponsorship Team will remain constituted and continue pursuing other options to assist in long-range visioning and health of our congregation. If you have ANY questions regarding this proposal please contact a member of Session and/or the Sponsorship Team. Those names are listed below. Take a moment to thank the members of the Team for the incredible work, time, and energy put into this initial process. And please continue to pray for FPC as we move forward in discerning God’s call on us in the future.

Long-Range Planning Sponsorship Team

Larry Davis	Betty Anthony	Stacy Cogbill	Remica Gray
Aimee Gilliland	Maggie Morgan	Sarah Propps	Susan Arnold



ELDERS

Class of 2018
Unexpired Term
Mona Fomby
Marilyn McCulloch
Remica Gray

Class of 2019
Maggie Morgan
Unexpired Term
Martha Nell Richards
Youth/Griffin Johnson

Class of 2020
Kurt Andrews
Dan Boyles
Sarah Propps
(Session approved reduction of the 2020 class to 3)

DEACONS

Class of 2018
Michael Gilliland
Unexpired Term
Pat Davitt
Stephanie Jackson

Class of 2019
Susan Andrews
Unexpired Term
Betty Anthony (filling term)
Richard Sexton

Class of 2020
Beth McHenry-Pope
Kevin Thompson
Pat Willis
(Session approved reduction of the 2020 class to 3)



Presbyterian Women December 2017/January 2018

PW Coordinating Team: Monday December 11, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. - Library

Beck/Greisser Circle: Tuesday, December 12, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. - Sylvia Waldrop's Home

Zelle Moore Circle: Thursday, December 14, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. - Annex

PW Coordinating Team: Monday January 8, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. - Library

Beck/Greisser Circle: Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. - Annex

Zelle Moore Circle: Thursday, January 11, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. - Annex

DIACONATE NEWS

The Thanksgiving Baskets were ready for delivery or pickup on Saturday, November 18th thanks to the many people who stayed Wednesday night after supper and program; and also to those who came in on Saturday morning to finish the job. The baskets were a blessing to those who received them. They were most appreciative of the congregation generosity. One gentleman rode his bike to the church to pickup his basket. An automobile ride was offered to him to take him, the bike & basket wherever he was going. He declined; placed the basket on the bike and rode off. What a sight to see!

With the Noon Advent Concerts being offered in December, the Diaconate will be providing the taco soup and fixings for the light lunch on Dec 14th.

We bid adieu to the Diaconate Class of 2017. They are Kathy Boyles, Valerie Buster, Nancy Jackson and Jane Portis. We welcome the Diaconate Class of 2020 which includes Betty Anthony, Kevin Thompson, Pat Willis and Beth McHenry-Pope.

Dear Church Family,

I want to take a moment and thank each and every one of you for all you did to make the Thanksgiving Baskets a success. I could not have done it without my co-director, Susan Morehead, my fellow Deacons, and the Wednesday night crew that packed boxes. A special thank you to Cody Howard (Friendship Center) for helping us find families who would benefit from this gift. Again, this mission could not be accomplished without you, the congregation, that supports it through your donations and prayers. This blessing happens once a year and every year it gets better.

Thank you,

Stephanie Jackson

Dear Church Family,

These past three years on the Diaconate have been a pleasure and a challenge. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve you.

I thank all of the Deacons for their perseverance in helping the congregation find direction in missions. Thank you congregation for "stepping up to the plate" when called upon. Without you, these missions could not have been the success that they were. I would hope that even though a quarterly mission has been completed that we will all remember to continue these.

Again, Thank You to each and everyone of you. May God Bless.

Val Buster
Diaconate Moderator

DECEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Children's Time

MONDAY

- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting - Annex
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer

TUESDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer
 3:45 p.m. Tutoring at Kilpatrick Elementary

WEDNESDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer
 5:30 p.m. CLICK Choir
 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Godly Play - Evergreen Residents
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group & CLICK
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Angel Quilts
 10:00 a.m. Sharing Place
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer
 3:45 p.m. Tutoring at Kilpatrick Elementary

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Nancy Sandefur | 22 Anne Russell |
| 6 James Robert Lacy | 23 Billie Ford |
| 7 Sue Ellen Letterman | 23 Chloe Gilliland |
| 8 Greg Brown | 24 Marshall Moore |
| 9 Chris Knowles | 25 JoAnn Pope |
| 11 Savannah Thompson | 25 Jesus Christ Our Lord |
| 11 Miranda Rhodes | 27 Ben Davis |
| 14 Brenda Works | 27 Tony Uzzell |
| 15 John Tice Parks | 28 Ruth Arnold |
| 16 Reg Jackson | |
| 16 James Works | |
| 17 James Murphy | |
| 18 Charlie Norton | |
| 21 Betty Anthony | |



SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, December 2

- 9:00 a.m. New Office Training

SUNDAY, December 3

- 10:30 a.m. Around the Coffee Pot
 12:15 p.m. Christian Education Meeting
 2:00 p.m. Boy Scout Parent Meeting-Fellowship Hall
 3:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams'

WEDNESDAY, December 6

- 11:00 p.m. Staff Holiday Lunch
 6:00 p.m. Joy Gift Dinner

THURSDAY, December 7

- 12:05 p.m. Advent Concert Series
 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting - Library
 6:00 p.m. S.C.A.T. (Stray Cat Alliance of Texarkana) Meeting - Annex

FRIDAY, December 8

- 6:00 p.m. Parents Night Out

SUNDAY, December 10

- 3:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting - Library

MONDAY, December 11

- 12:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting - Fellowship Hall
 4:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Meeting - Library

TUESDAY, December 12

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 10:30 a.m. Beck/Greisser Circle-Sylvia Waldrop's

WEDNESDAY, December 13

- 5:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Library
 6:30 p.m. FNS Speaker - Beverly Coleman

THURSDAY, December 14

- 12:05 p.m. Advent Concert Series
 6:00 p.m. PW Zelle Moore Circle - Annex

SATURDAY, December 16

- 4:00 p.m. Youth Christmas Party-Maggie Morgan's

WEDNESDAY, December 20

- 5:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting - Library
 6:30 p.m. FNS Special Leader - Youth Group

THURSDAY, December 21

- 12:05 p.m. Advent Concert Series
 5:00 p.m. Session Meeting - Library

SUNDAY, December 24

- 11:00 a.m. NO Morning Activities - Worship
 5:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

MONDAY, December 25

OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Holiday

TUESDAY, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED - Christmas Holiday

WEDNESDAY, December 27

- 10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 NO FNS Activities

SUNDAY, December 31

NO Sunday Night Activities

JANUARY 2018 CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

9:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
 11:00 a.m. Worship
 6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Worship
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
 6:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Children's Time

MONDAY

6:00 p.m. Boy Scout Meeting - Annex
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer

TUESDAY

10:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer
 3:45 p.m. Tutoring at Kilpatrick Elementary

WEDNESDAY

10:00 a.m. Card Ministry
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer
 5:30 p.m. CLICK Choir
 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper
 6:30 p.m. Bible Study
 6:30 p.m. Godly Play - Evergreen Residents
 6:30 p.m. Youth Group & CLICK
 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

9:00 a.m. Angel Quilts
 10:00 a.m. Sharing Place
 12:00 p.m. Noon Prayer
 12:05 p.m. Brown Bag Bible Study
 3:45 p.m. Tutoring at Kilpatrick Elementary

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1 Carson Gray	14 James R. Murphy
1 Albert Wilhelm	16 Chris Walraven
2 Susan Flowers	16 Lisa Doss
3 Tyler Blain	16 John Quinn
3 Emily Lukins	20 Seth Sexton
6 Brett Jackson	21 Samuel Moore
6 Brent Stewart	25 Michael Gilliland
8 Elzora Thompson	26 Raleigh Andrews
9 Matt Keil	28 Brandon Richards
9 Martha Nell Richards	29 Dan Boyles
10 Becky Rogers	29 Mark Jackson
10 Buford Willis	29 Ernest Brown
11 William Johnson	30 Branden O'Neal
12 Patti Smith	31 Sydney Shepard
13 Larry Davis	31 Audrey Sharp
14 Beth McHenry-Pope	31 Bennett Solomon

SPECIAL EVENTS

MONDAY, January 1

OFFICE CLOSED - New Years Day

TUESDAY, January 2

OFFICE CLOSED until NOON

WEDNESDAY, January 3

5:00 p.m. Task Force Meeting - Library

THURSDAY, January 4

5:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting - Library
 6:00 p.m. S.C.A.T. (Stray Cat Alliance of Texarkana) Meeting - Annex

SUNDAY, January 7

10:30 a.m. Around the Coffee Pot
 12:15 p.m. Christian Education Meeting
 4:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams' - Youth Group

MONDAY, January 8

12:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting - Fellowship Hall
 4:00 p.m. PW Coordinating Meeting - Library

TUESDAY, January 9

7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast
 10:00 a.m. Josephine Beck Circle - Annex

WEDNESDAY, January 10

5:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting - Library

THURSDAY, January 11

6:00 p.m. PW Zelle Moore Circle - Annex

SUNDAY, January 14

3:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting - Library

MONDAY, January 15

OFFICE CLOSED - MLK Day

TUESDAY, January 16

10:00 a.m. PW Greisser Circle - Library

WEDNESDAY, January 17

5:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting - Library

THURSDAY, January 18

5:00 p.m. Session Meeting - Library

TUESDAY, January 23

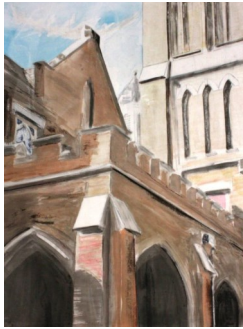
7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

DECEMBER WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

20 Erin & George McCasland
 27 Martha Nell & Mark Richards
 30 Becky & Kevin Thompson
 31 Stephanie & Brian Jackson

JANUARY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3 Sally & William Bryant
 3 Linda & Stacy Cogbill
 9 Tamra & Bruce Seiler
 18 Dian & Louis Acruman, II
 24 Dean & Rob Ransdell
 30 Gillette & Frank McClain



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Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Ron Cantu, Custodian
John Arnold, Technology Support
Sheila Moore, Clerk of Session
Val Buster, Moderator of Diaconate
Maggie Morgan, Church Treasurer

POINSETTIAS

If you are interested in donating Poinsettias, please complete the information below. We ask that you return this form and a donation of \$10.00 per Poinsettia to the Church Office by Wednesday, December 10, 2017. Reminders for Poinsettia donations will be in the Bulletins. For more information, please contact the Church Office at (870) 774-6453.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Name: _____ Date: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Quantity: _____

Memorial Designation: _____

Honorarium Designation: _____

Form of Donation: Cash: _____ Check: _____ Total: \$ _____

Signature: _____