

Place
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The MESSENGER

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A publication of First Presbyterian Church Brownsville



Dear Friends at First Presbyterian,

Greg and I wish you a blessed and healthy new year! Beginning again is a blessing in itself because we have an opportunity to be proactive in how we will live in this new year. As a church family we have the blessing of being together as we enter 2016 and seek to follow where Christ is leading us.

I read an article recently about the Pew research findings on our nation and the faith of its people. The writer indicated that even though Pew states that its research has found fewer people committed to a life of faith, the truth of their statement is questionable. There is no indication, according to this writer, that secularization has diminished the faith life of the people in our country. He does claim that fewer people identify with a denomination or a particular stream of Christianity, and he said there is more indication of interest in the spiritual life today than in many years. The numbers of Hindus and Muslims has grown, as well as the number of people who identify as Christians.

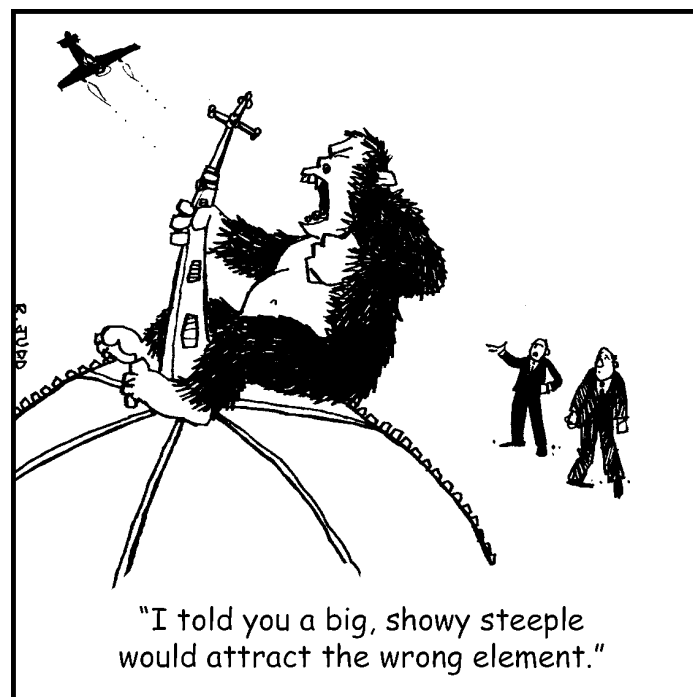
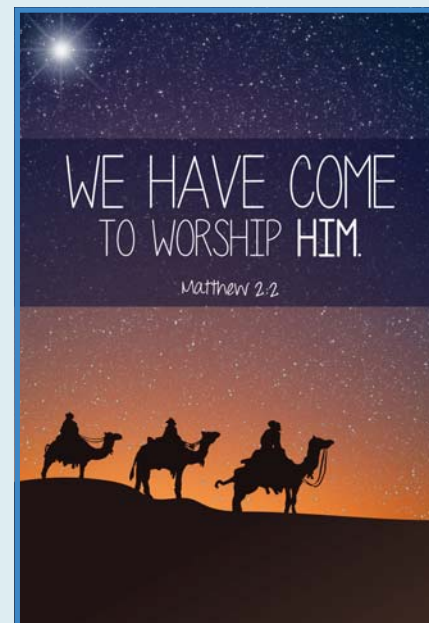
It seems to me that there is a disconnect between believing Christians and the church. If there are more people of faith today than Pew research has indicated, it is certainly true that many of them are not in the churches. This is one reason it is important for your leaders at FPC to commit themselves to finding ways to reach people as the church. Your elders, deacons, and other leaders will gather in February to compile the results of the four study groups we formed this fall. From these suggestions we will be aware of the situation of the church in Brownsville/Haywood County; we will define our vision of the church; we will strategize on how to make the vision a reality; and we will step out in courage to make our vision a reality.

Please pray for us as we take some important and bold steps for our future. Christ is the head of the church, and we are certain that the Holy Spirit is guiding our planning and visioning. We look forward to unrolling our plans to you in the near future.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Anne



SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 9:30AM
WORSHIP SERVICE AT 10:30AM



BUDGET REPORT

Total Giving Year To Date for 2015: **\$184,016.38**

Total Giving for the month of December 2015: **\$26,220.38**



GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS



The Church Office is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 4pm, closed for Lunch from 12pm to 1pm.

Rev. Anne Emery will be in the office from 9am– 12pm Tuesday through Friday. If you would like to make an appointment to speak with the pastor please call 731-772-2893.

1stpresbville@kyn.twcbc.com

POINSETTIAS



In Honor

Rooks Violet Phillips
By: Eleanor Rooks

Lily Lovelace Brasfield
By: Her Parents

Our Children & Grandchildren
By: Peter & Mary Katherine Mascolo

Ed & Alice McClanahan
By: Marcia McClanahan Watson & Mari McClanahan

Tom Bridgewater
By: Greg & Anne Emery

Ronnie Richards, Alice McClanahan & Mary Jane Williams
By: Greg & Anne Emery

Lalla Mellor
By: Greg & Anne Emery

Greg & Anne Emery
By: The Gillespie Family

Linda & Roy MacIin Bridgewater, Sarah & Jim Crittenden

Paula Bushart
By: Glynn Bridgewater

In Memory

Charles C. Sullivan III
By: Alice Sullivan, Liz Dilworth, Charles Sullivan IV, & Suzy Edwards

Mimi & Pop Fitzwater
By: Molly, Rich, & Sadie Nichols

Dot Estes
By: Ronnie & Sheri Richards

Bess Cresap
By: Ronnie & Sheri Richards

Thomas & Enid Powell
By: Ed & Alice McClanahan & Family

Charles E. McClanahan
By: Ed & Alice McClanahan & Family

MD & Virginia McClanahan
By: Ed & Alice McClanahan & Family

MD & Virginia McClanahan
By: Marcia McClanahan Watson & Mari McClanahan

John & Laura Gallaspy
By: Mickey & Garland Gallaspy

Rainer Combs
By: Andy & Dolores Combs

Mary Ruth McCoy
By: Roscoe & Dale Green

Leroy C. Gillespie IV
By: The Gillespie Family

Lynn Perry
By: Brennan Holloway

Elizabeth & Roy Bridgewater
By: Glynn Bridgewater

Marion Wright
By: His Family

January 2016

| December 2015 | | | | | | | February 2016 | | | | | | |
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| 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | 28 | 29 | | | | | |
| 3 Holy Communion | | | | | | | 1 Church Office closed for New Years Day <i>Welcome 2016!</i> | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | 6 Epiphany | | | | | | |
| 5 | | | | | | | 8 | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | 13 Planning Study Group #4 at 6:30pm | | | | | | |
| 11 | | | | | | | 14 Planning Study Group #2 at 6:30pm | | | | | | |
| 12 | | | | | | | 15 | | | | | | |
| 17 | | | | | | | 18 Church Office closed in observance of MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. Day | | | | | | |
| 19 Session Meeting at 6:30pm NewsLetter DEADLINE | | | | | | | 20 | | | | | | |
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Please contact the church office with any events or birthdays that you would like to add to the calendar.



Sunday School Class
9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship Service
10:30 a.m.

Choir Practice
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Men's Study Lunch
Thursdays at Noon

For more information call the church office at 772-2893.



- 3 – Molly Nichols
- 5 – Gina Smith
- 7 – John King
- 9 – Roanne Burton
- 10 – Miles Martin
- 13 – Clayton Williams
- 18 – Peyton Cheung-Riley
- 21 – Will Jones

- 23 – Laurence Cunningham
- 25 – Taylor Ann King
- 28 – Susan Jones

Lessons & Carols

DECEMBER 13, 2015



Children's Choir

DECEMBER 20, 2015



First Presbyterian Church,
I would like to thank everyone for the food they brought, the visits to the hospital, and their prayers while I was recovering. I would also like to thank Pastor Anne for taking the time to visit me at the hospital and at home.

God Bless,
Mrs. Flora Leath

Thank You to everyone who helped with food drive for the Backpack Ministry. Pastor Anne and Mr. Greg Emery delivered a carload of food to the Carl Perkins Center on Tuesday, December 29, and it was very appreciated. We hope that it will bless a child in need.

Thank you, Church Deacons, for remembering me at Christmas time. Thank you also for the cookies.

God bless and keep you,
Betty Boyd

Liturgist Schedule

January 3th

Don Spencer

January 10th

Abby Nichols

January 17th

Blended Service

Tom Bridgewater

January 24th

Leslie Stoots

January 31st

Greg Emery

Thank you for your commitment to our worship.
If you are unable to serve as liturgist on the date you are scheduled, please call Marilyn Kipley at 901-381-2110 (day) or 731-432-0312 (night/weekend), as soon as possible.

OUR CALENDAR GIRLS!

Mrs. Eleanor Rooks was featured on the cover of the 2016 Sugar Creek Calendar and Mrs. Dorris Wright was one of two Miss February's.



Gifts to the Church

In Honor of Andy & Dolores Combs' 50th Wedding Anniversary
By: Hal & Denita Jarratt

In Memory of Elenor Edwards
By: Hal & Denita Jarratt

In Memory of Charles Ammons
By: Roscoe & Dale Green

In Memory of Donna Dyer Leigh
By: Joe & Elaine McCool
Tom & Barbara Callery

Music Fund

In Memory of Donna Dyer Leigh
By: Ed & Alice McClanahan & Family

Mexico Mission Fund
In Memory of Rainer Combs
By: Roscoe & Dale Green

In Memory of Beverly White
By: John & Patricia Windrow
Roscoe & Dale Green
Mark & Denise Halbrook

Jimmie Tyson
Billy Solomon
Keith & Carlynn Gardner
Joe & Elaine McCool
Tom & Barbara Callery
Donna White

Mike & Alice Burkhart
Betty Boyd
Ben & Glenda Anderson
Bill & Kacky Mitchell

Mexico Mission Fund
In Memory of Beverly White
By: Ed & Alice McClanahan & Family

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN AND TO GROW TOGETHER

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS

Join us as we complete our study of the *Book of Acts* during the month of January, 2016. It is a forum for remembering the powerful work of the Holy Spirit in the early church and for becoming more aware of how the Spirit works through us now.

In February we will begin a new study. I am in the process of evaluating some subjects/books for us to use. I look forward to offering a challenging and interesting exploration of our faith as it plays out in the world in which we live.

CONNECT GROUPS

The Connect Groups will reconvene in January on the date most convenient for conveners and hosts. We will complete the study of our book *The Me I Want to Be*. In February we will begin a new study to run through early May, meeting every other week. **We need volunteers to HOST a GROUP and to FACILITATE.** Please call me at 731-345-6777 if you are interested and willing.

JOHN KNOX FELLOWSHIP

Speaker: Nathan Holland, Christian Trail Runner

Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at 7 p.m.
at First Presbyterian Church
Somerville, TN

The cost of the meal is \$7.00.
See Robert Rooks for tickets.

PYC Retreat FIRST WORLD PROBLEMS

Seriously. The . Worst.
Get some perspective

For Middle & High School Students

February 26-28, 2016 at Pinecrest
Cost: \$110/ person (make checks payable to Pinecrest)
Deadline to sign-up is Friday, February 12



GREAT BANQUET

Where will you be April 21-24?
What about April 28-May 1?

There is a great opportunity for everyone including your friends during one of these weekends. How about a retreat away from home? How about meals provided without you cooking? Would you like to leave the kids at home? How about the Mid- South Great Banquet?

The Mid-South Great Banquet has been around since 1995. Twice a year these 72-hour weekends have provided men and women the opportunity to focus on God and His will in their lives creating disciples for Christ. These weekends can strengthen your relationship with Christ, your family, and your church. Many have found Jesus for the first time during these events, and many more have established a different set of priorities in their lives. If you have never attended this once in a lifetime event and you would like to know more, please contact Robert Rooks.

The next men's weekend will be April 21-24, 2016. The women have their weekend April 28-May 1, 2016. If you would like to jumpstart your commitment to God, this could be a perfect time for you to experience an event that is entirely bathed in prayer and love. The Great Banquet is based on the parable found in Luke 14:12-24. (The Methodist Church has a similar event called the Walk to Emmaus.)

Words cannot adequately describe this wonderful event. These weekends will be held at our church camp, Pinecrest in LaGrange. Both weekends are filling up now and we only have spaces for 30 guests. Do yourself a favor and experience the love that JESUS has for you.

Since our church hasn't had a renewal or revival recently, this might be exactly what you are looking for. These weekends aren't a Bible Study. You're not even asked to bring a Bible. The only requirement is for you to accept the Lord's invitation and attend with an open mind. If you are the least bit interested, please prayerfully consider what could be the most wonderful time you've ever had. Enjoy what hundreds of others in West Tenn. have already experienced.

