

March 2017



On Wednesday, March 1st, First Presbyterian Church will be hosting a traditional Ash Wednesday Service at 6:00 PM in the sanctuary. This service, which marks the beginning of the Lenten Season, will include a meditation entitled, "Locust Lessons" as well as the imposition of ashes.



On Tuesday, March 14th, Rev. Hare will begin a Lenten study series entitled, "Hallelujah – the Bible and Handel's Messiah." This five-week study will look at Handel's "Messiah" and the ways in which the composer expressed his faith through this very famous piece of music. The study will be held in the church parlor and will begin at 10:00 AM each Tuesday through Holy Week. If you enjoy music, mark your calendars now!

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

The Fellowship Ministry will be hosting a lunch following morning worship on March 12th in celebration of St. Patrick's Day.

All food will be provided!

That means you don't have to bring a thing!

So ~ green is the color of the day, loaded Irish potatoes are the main course and some blarney will certainly be in order!



Rev. Hare will be out of the office on a study leave from March 6th through March 12th. Rev. Ralph Graham will be leading worship on March 12th. In case of emergency, contact the church office or Matt Chalmers, Clerk of Session.



Beginning on Wednesday, March 8th, the Cooke County Ministerial Alliance will be hosting its annual "Lenten Luncheon Series" at noon at Whaley United Methodist Church.

This weekly series, which will run through Wednesday, April 5th, will feature meals and Lenten devotional services provided by area churches. Donations collected from this series will be used by the Alliance to support its county-wide ministries.

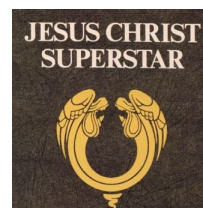
- * By the way - our church will be providing the meal and the devotional on Wednesday, March 22nd.
- * Presbyterian Women will be in charge of the meal.

Tuesday, March 7, 2017 @ 6:00pm

The Bible Study group will be showing the movie, "Jesus Christ, Superstar" version from 1973.

Everyone is invited!

Popcorn & sodas will be served and all donations will go to VISTO.



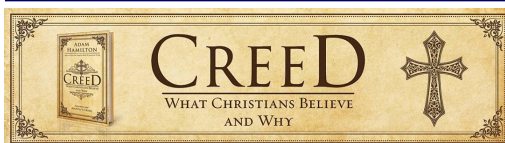


One of our smaller ministries with a big heart is the “Open Hearts” ministry. It was established to help non-profit agencies assist folks whose needs can’t be met because of guidelines or lack of funds. When a request is made to the church from an agency, such as VISTO, looking for help for one of their clients, we decide if we can help and if so, how much assistance we can provide. That assistance comes out of the “Open Hearts” fund.

Money for the “Open Hearts” funds comes from the loose change that we collect in the boxes in the sanctuary windows.

So, if you have change jingling in your pocket or sliding around the bottom of your purse weighing you down “Open Hearts” is your chance to make your pockets and purse feel lighter-just drop that change into the boxes in the window sills in the sanctuary and it will go a long way toward helping someone in need.

If you have any questions, please contact Shana Powell or the church office.



Adult Sunday School in the Parlor
Starting Sunday, March 5th at 9am
6 week Study
“Creed”

Adam Hamilton believes that powerful answers to many of our complicated questions are contained in the Apostles’ Creed, an early statement of foundational Christian beliefs. In *Creed*, he explores not only what Christians believe, but also why they believe, and why it matters, which in turn leads readers to confront and examine their own core beliefs and go beyond reciting the Creed’s familiar words.



On behalf of the congregation we extend our Christian sympathy to the family of Megan Turbeville who died on February 19th.

Jesus said, “Come to me all who are burdened and heavy-laden and I will give you rest.”

GIFT Girls In Fun Together
Thursday
March 2, 2017 @ 5:30 PM
The Wolfe Den



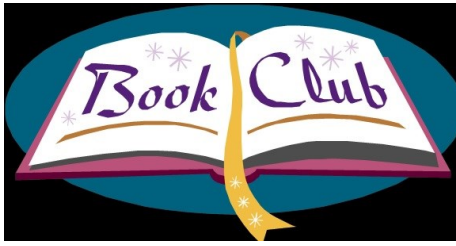
The “PrayFit” website is full of devotional material, healthy tips and recipes, exercise information for all levels of fitness, and small group opportunities! Just go to www.prayfit.org – find the “log in” page – enter fpcgaines@sbcglobal.net as the user name – enter “940-665-5153” as the password – and get started being all that God wants you to be!

Don’t forget that Retha Bond is leading a Tai Chi class in Tyler Hall on the first and third Wednesdays at 6:00 PM. Everybody is welcome to attend.

We believe that God’s Holy Spirit dwells within us – so it’s our calling to make sure that we provide God the cleanest and healthiest “temple” we can! So – check out the PrayFit ministry!



The Men’s Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 AM at the Fried Pie on the square! All the men of the church are encouraged to come and enjoy a great time of food and for solving all the world’s problems!

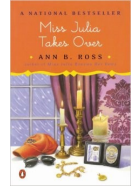


Miss Julia Speaks Her Mind was a rousing hit with the members of the Book Club in January. In February, we enjoyed Max Lucado's Miracle at the Higher Grounds Café – what a special place that café is and who wouldn't love Manny? For March, the Book Club will be returning to the world of Miss Julia when we read Miss Julia Takes Over by Ann B. Ross.

So, come back to North Carolina with us and the small town where Miss Julia lives and see what is going on with Julia, Lillian, Hazel Marie (oh no, she has been kidnapped again), the sneaky Pastor Ledbetter, Vern, the TV evangelist (Ledbetter and Vern seem to be plotting again), Little Lloyd, and the ever-steady Sam.

We will gather at Braums on Tuesday, March 28th at 7:00 p.m.

If you have any questions, contact Shana Powell.



Please join us to celebrate
World Day of Prayer
with an ecumenical coffee fellowship

Friday, March 3rd at 10 a.m.
Valley View Methodist Church, 201 Church St. in Valley View



Speaker: **Lucy Sulton**

Director, Morton Museum of Cooke County
Member, First Christian Church, Gainesville
"Historic Churches in Cooke County"

World Day of Prayer USA promotes justice and equality for women through prayer, partnerships, service and celebration.

Please join us for this **FREE** event!

Annual Dues of \$20 per Congregation will be collected at this meeting.
Women of Faith in Service is open to and inclusive of every faith in Cooke County. We truly celebrate — TOGETHER — ecumenism and our Lord, Jesus Christ. Please join us!

Save
the
Date



Saturday, March 25, 2017

Presbyterian Women's Retreat

9:30 AM ~ 3:00 PM

Theme: "On Butterfly Wings"

Devotion, Crafts, Fun & Fellowship

Watch for a sign-up sheet with details.

Admit One

Let's Go to the Movies!

There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for all those interested in attending the movie "The Shack" scheduled to be in theaters in March. A Tuesday afternoon will be selected by the Fellowship Committee.

We can make it a Presbyterian and friends afternoon at the movies!

Admit One

Volunteers Needed!

To answer phones at the church from 10:00am-Noon on Monday-Friday, March 20-24, while Sarah is on vacation. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



Sanctuary Flowers

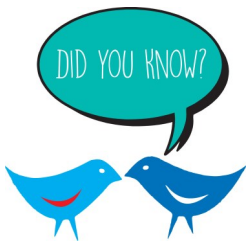
The flowers in the sanctuary help remind us of God's grace in creation, and can be especially meaningful to celebrate special days.

The flowers that add beauty to our Sanctuary every week are donated by members of the Church.

Would you like to provide flowers for a Sunday morning worship service?

We have numerous openings for the 2017 year. All you need to do is sign up on the "Flower Chart" found on the bulletin board in the hallway. When it's your Sunday, you'll be contacted for information to be placed in the bulletin and that will be your reminder for the Sunday you will be providing flowers.

Donations can be made in honor or memory of a loved one, to celebrate an occasion, or for any other event. Donors can be an individual or a group and you may even provide more than once in a year!



- That Matt Chalmers did a great job as February's pulpit assistant?
- That our recent "Valentines for VISTO" dessert auction raised \$888.00?
- That Pam Cooper's husband Bob is slowly but surely recovering at home after his surgery?
- That the Worship and Music Ministry Committee is looking for a place to hold our annual Easter Sunrise Service?
- That our church's new website is located at www.fpcgainesville.net?
- That the North Central Texas Chorale will be presenting "The Seven Last Words of Christ" on Tuesday, April 11th, in our sanctuary?
- That daylight saving time begins on Sunday, March 12th, so you'll have to "spring forward"?
- That Merle and Sandy Currie appreciate your prayers?
- That Matt Chalmers is really the one who has "gone fishing"?
- That John Carr is getting ready to be a grandfather?
- That Cameron Gilliland is doing really well?
- That Chop and Mary Frances VanPelt are taking care of each other?
- That some interesting things are being talked about in the Outreach Ministry Committee?
- That Mary Sue Nutter would appreciate your prayers for the next few weeks?



A woman in Michigan bought a piece of needlework at a church bazaar that carried the message as part of the design "Prayer Changes Things." She took it

home and hung it above the fireplace in the family room. Several days later she noticed that the piece was missing, and by questioning her husband, found out that he was the one who had moved it.

She asked him if it bothered him because he did not believe in the power of prayer. He responded by saying, "No, that's not it. I do believe in the power of prayer. I believe, in fact, that prayer does change things. The problem is that I don't like change – so I took it down." Peace, John

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

The last words of General John Sedgwick, spoken while looking at the enemy lines during the Civil War battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse in 1864: "They couldn't hit an elephant at this dist...."

Some of the biggest blunders even made were the result of the fact that, yes, "To error is human." Some of those blunders are made in the area of stewardship. In not taking responsibility for our environment, in not freely giving of ourselves and our resources for good causes and God's work – we err! To believe that we can be optional in regard to stewardship responsibilities and that the implications won't "hit us" is to have the same attitude of good old General Sedgwick!



Easter Lilies

If you would like to honor someone or remember a loved one with an Easter Lily for our Sanctuary, please fill out the form and place it in the offering plate or bring by the church office with your donation of \$15.00 towards the flowers.

Forms will be available in the church bulletins,
or you may pick one up in the church office.

We will need all the forms into the church office by Sunday, April 2, 2017.



One more sign of technology in the church appeared in the following minutes:

From the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting September 16, 1990:

“The Session voted to purchase a small answering machine for the church office.”

Congratulations to Patrick and Jeri Cooper
at the birth of Pearl Monteene on
February 17th.

She weighed 8 lbs./13 ozs, 20” long.

Parents and grandparents – Pam and Bob Cooper – are all doing well.



Valentines for VISTO



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E-mail: fpcgaines@sbcglobal.net
Website: fpcgainesville.net

Back
online
again!

We are excited to announce that after several weeks of hard work, the new web page for First Presbyterian Church is up and running and published!

The web address is: www.fpcgainesville.net.

It includes a lot of information about our ministries and upcoming events, displays several photos including some beautiful shots of the stained glass pieces in the church and an aerial view of the church and the surrounding neighborhood which is awesome! There is a new genealogy room which those of you with historic ties to the church might want to take some time to go through.

There is so much more to see so take a peek at www.fpcgainesville.net.

Next on the horizon is a blog page attached to the web site...stay tuned for more details.



The March meeting of the Session will be on Sunday, March 26th at Noon following worship. All written reports are due to the office by Noon on Thursday, March 23rd.



Date Change!!

Angel Box Project will now be meeting on the 4th Monday each month @ 2:00pm.

This month's meeting will be March 27th.