MAPRIL 2017



April 9th Our Palm Sunday worship service immediately followed by the Hare's Annual Open House at 11:30 AM at the church manse located at 311 E. Church Street right across from the church. The Open House will be open until 1:30 PM, and everyone is invited to stop by.

April 11th The North Central Texas Chorale will be presenting their spring concert entitled, "*The Seven Last Words of Christ*" in our sanctuary at 7:00 PM. Tickets can be purchased from any Chorale member or at the door.

April 13th Our annual Maundy Thursday worship service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM. This service will include communion and a "Tenebrae" service in which the events of Christ's final hours will be remembered and the sanctuary will be darkened to commemorate his death on the cross.

April 14th This year's Good Friday event will feature a special display of artwork that depicts Jesus' final journey to the cross. These pieces of art will be set up in different rooms of the church – beginning in the sanctuary with the Last Supper and will conclude with a rendition of the tomb. The display will be open from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM.

April 15th Our annual Easter Egg Hunt and hotdog lunch will begin at 10:30 AM with three hunting areas set aside in the church neighborhood for different age groups. There will be lots of prizes for everyone – no matter how many eggs you find.

April 16th We will be celebrating Christ's resurrection with two worship services. The Sunrise service will begin at 7:00 AM at Bill & Sherley Riley's home, and our regular morning worship service will begin at 10:30 AM. There will be an Easter Continental Breakfast in Tyler Hall beginning at 9:30 AM.

LENTEN Study Series Continues

Rev. Hare's Lenten study series entitled, "Hallelujah – the Bible and Handel's Messiah" runs through Tuesday, April 11th in the church parlor at 10:00 AM! This study is looking at Handel's "Messiah" and the ways in which the composer expressed his faith through this very famous piece of music. If you enjoy music, mark your calendars now!

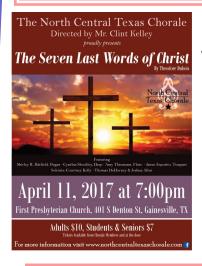


"Lenten Luncheon" Series Continues

The Cooke County Ministerial Alliance's annual "Lenten Luncheon Series" will hold its last gathering at noon on Wednesday, April 5th, at Whaley United Methodist Church. This series features 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 – a big "Thank You" to the members of our church's Presbyterian Women providing the meal on Wednesday, March 22nd!



The North Central Texas Chorale proudly presents the Theodore Dubois *The Seven Last Words of Christ* on Tuesday April 11 at our Church. This is a very powerful and moving musical experience. It has been called the "Quintessential Lenten Music." The concert will be at 7:00 PM. Tickets are available from the Chorale members and will also be available at the door. Adult tickets will be \$10; tickets for students and Seniors will be \$7. Please join us for a beautiful and emotional concert for the Easter Season.



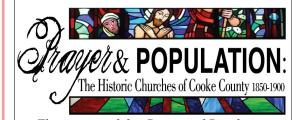




Another one of our smaller outreach ministries revolves around Box Tops and Labels for Education and coupons for things for children for CPS (Child Protective Services). Box Tops are distributed to six schools in Gainesville in March. Coupons for CPS are provided to them each week or a couple of weeks before they expire. These simple things can help the schools and CPS in so many ways. If you can help by providing the box tops, labels and coupons just drop them off in the marked envelopes hanging on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the office. If you have any questions contact either Judy Neal or Shana Powell.



You are invited to an Open House



The current exhibit, Prayer and Population, will be open for viewing, free of charge, Sunday, April 23 from 12:30^{pm} to 2:30^{pm} at the Morton Museum of Cooke County.

Everyone is welcome...please join us!



210 South Dixon Street Gainesville, TX 940.668.8900 mortonmuseum.org We believe 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!

That is where **PrayFit** can help!

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!

Below is just one of the recipes you can enjoy from the website:

Orange-Tarragon Vinaigrette

2 tablespoons freshly squeezed orange juice

2 tablespoons rice or white wine vinegar

1 small glove garlic, left whole

1 teaspoon Dijon mustard

½ teaspoon kosher salt

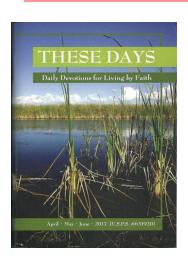
¹/₄ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper

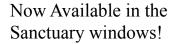
½ cup extra virgin olive oil

2 tablespoons chopped fresh tarragon or 1 tablespoon dry

Place ingredients in a jar, cover and shake well. This is perfect on green salads or steamed veggies.

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







Technology aside, the care of the congregation always has been a major concern. From the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting October 16, 1983:

"On October 9, the Pastoral care and Fellowship Committee launched the shepherding program in the congregation and is optimistic about what it can mean to our church."



Rev. Hare's Sunday sermons are available on the church webpage! Just go to www.fpcgainesville.net – click on the "Sermons" link at the top of the page – then click on the dropdown tap – and you're there!

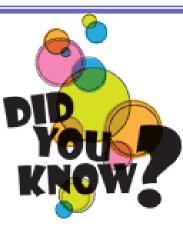
MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, April 25th 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!

SESSION MEETING SCHEDULED

The Session will meet on Sunday, April 23rd, at noon in the Seekers' Classroom.

All written reports are due in the church office by Thursday, April 20th.



- That John Warren did a great job as March's pulpit assistant?
- That Pam and Bob Cooper are adjusting well to be grandparents of a baby girl?
- That the Christian Education Ministry Committee is planning on hosting a very special speaker for an event in May?
- That lots of Presbyterians have been showing up at the Lenten Luncheon series this year?
- That Mary Sue Nutter appreciates your continued prayers?
- That is was great to see both Mary Frances and Chop VanPelt in worship?
- That Matt Chalmers recently won a fishing tournament on Lake Texoma?
- That our church has been supporting the Presbyterian Children's Homes every month for more than 15 years?
- That the Outreach Ministry Committee is still collecting large duffel bags for the State School?
- That very few folks know how to turn off the church's carillon system when it comes on during worship?
- That there's probably someone you know who would love for you to email them a copy of your newsletter?



A new preacher had just arrived on the scene. He had a group of new stories, new sermons, and a dynamic new approach to all the old problems. A lot of folks were attracted to him, and it was safe to say that he was a wonder as an evangelist.

Shortly after his arrival, a group of the old guard became concerned, and they discussed him among themselves. His preaching did not have the sound they were accustomed to hearing. It was new and unorthodox in their opinion. He, in

fact, accused them in no uncertain terms of not living up to God's expectations. Needless to say, this group of folks were not happy at all about this new guy in town.

They all decided that something had to be done. They began openly criticizing him for the folks he accepted into his circle of friends, and they attacked him for hanging out with folks who were generally unaccepted by the community. They were especially critical of just how the younger crowd seemed to hang on his every word. They were also bothered by what they considered to be his liberal teachings on the Bible.

Finally they had had enough – so someone suggests that they crucify him – on a cross – which they did – on Calvary.

Peace, John



A cartoon: Two folks are stranded on a desert island. One of them is standing at the water's edge, gazing into the distance with an extremely worried face. The other is sitting back against the

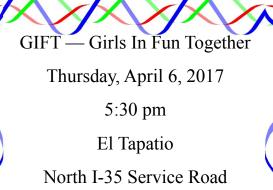
palm tree, perfectly relaxed. "Don't worry," he says, "I know that we'll be found soon. My church pledge is due this week."

A slight overstatement – but it gives credit to the army of stewardship volunteers who do the leg-work to make sure that the financial responsibilities of the church are met. The church could not survive long without that sense of commitment.



Rev. Hare will be out of the office on vacation from April 24th — May 7th.

In case of emergency, contact the church office or Matt Chalmers,
Clerk of Session.



Changes for the Month of April!

DASH ~ We will only be delivering DASH once this month, Saturday, April 22nd.
 Another organization will take the 5th Saturday.

Committee Meetings ~ The Outreach Committee and the Congregational Care Committee will not meet this month.

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!



Dear Church Family,

Thank you all so much for your prayers, cards, calls and your generous donation to the Library. Each one of you holds a special place in my heart and prayers.

I plan on rejoining my church family in the near future.

God Bless You All, Sheri Raney FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 401 S. DENTON STREET P. O. BOX 751 GAINESVILLE, TX 76241 Phone:(940) 665-5153 Fax: (940)665-1306



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

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering

On Sunday, April 16th – Easter Sunday – we will be taking up a special offering to support our denomination's "One Great Hour of Sharing" offering. This offering goes to support three programs sponsored by the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. They are:

- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which works alongside of communities as they recover and find hope after the devastation of natural or human-caused disasters. PDA receives 32% of the funds raised.
- * Presbyterian Hunger Program takes action to alleviate hunger and the systemic causes of poverty so all may be fed. PHP receives 36% of the funds raised.
- * Self-Development of People" invests in communities responding to their experiences of racism, oppression, poverty and injustice and educates Presbyterians about the impact of their societal ills. SDOP receives 32% of funds raised.

Offering envelopes will be available on Easter morning or you can mail your offering to the church with the earmark "OGHOS."

You Shall Be Called Repairers of the Breach