

February 2017



Valentine's Day is on February 14th, so in honor of this special day, the Fellowship Ministry Committee is hosting our annual Valentine's Day covered dish luncheon on Sunday, February 12th after our morning worship service. Everyone is asked to bring a dish to share!

Then – after the luncheon – we will be hosting our other annual Valentine's Day event:

“Valentines For VISTO” dessert auction.

All the money raised will be donated to VISTO, our county's emergency food bank. So bring your covered dish – your fancy desserts – your check-books – and your spirit of love and generosity on Sunday, February 12th!



There will be a called Session meeting after worship on Sunday, February 5th, in the parlor. The purpose of this meeting is:

- 1) To approve our church's annual statistical report for the denomination.
- 2) To take any needed action on our congregation's participation in Grace Presbytery's “New Life” program.
- 3) To elect commissioners to Grace Presbytery's meeting being held on February 25th at First Presbyterian Church in Fort Worth.

GIFT

Girls In Fun Together

February 2, 2017

5:30 pm

The Rib Crib

Annual Congregational Meeting

There will be a called congregational meeting on Sunday, February 19th, after the morning worship service. The purpose of the meeting is for the Session to present its annual ministry reports for 2016 to the congregation for its information. The report will also include the approved budget for 2017. Everyone is encouraged to be present.



At the Session's recent retreat it was decided to change the day and time the Session meets for its regular monthly meetings in order to allow more Ruling Elders to regularly attend – and to allow all ministry committees more flexibility in scheduling their meetings. So – beginning in February, the Session will begin meeting on the fourth Sundays after worship. The date in February is the 26th. All Session ministry committees are asked to adjust their meeting days and times to allow for this change.



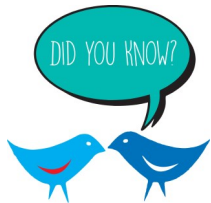
Attention: Fellows - Board the Ship for the 2017 Cruise

The Fellowship Committee is in the process of making plans for the year's tour activities, and all hands on deck are needed to set sail. Many of these ports have already been scheduled for this the tour - Valentines for VISTO, Easter egg hunt, Pentecost luncheon, Thanksgiving dinner, etc. The Crew is asking for your suggestions for additional tour activities to bring families together for fun and fellowship.

Ahoy! How about it, Mates?

Contact the ship's Captain June Sherrill with any ideas you have to add to our Tour 2017.

Let's have some fun on this cruise.



- That Amanda Warren did a great job as January's pulpit assistant?
- That Shana Powell, Pam Cooper and Mike Bentley were all ordained and installed as Ruling Elders on Sunday, January 8th?
- That Pam Cooper's husband Bob is slowly but surely recovering from his surgery?
- That we have received some good feedback regarding the "Human Trafficking Forum" our church sponsored last month?
- That Robert Hokamp and his family enjoyed their recent trip to Hawaii to visit relatives?
- That Megan Turbeville and her family continue to need your prayers?
- That Shoko Abe and her husband Robert had a snowy time visiting family in North Carolina?
- That our two Presbyterian Women's Circles would love to welcome new members this year?
- That Eugene Bentley recently spent some time in the hospital?
- That Daphne Kehril is home recovering after her recent hospital stay?
- That Olivia Rivoire is also home after some recent foot surgery?
- That Chip Claxton's brother Larry appreciates your prayers?

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!

2017 Session COMMITTEES



With the New Year comes new Session committee assignments. And with each New Year come new opportunities to volunteer in our church's ministry committees.

Don't wait to be asked!

Contact one of these folks and volunteer!

Here are this year's committees and moderators:

- Fellowship – June Sherrill
- Christian Education – John Powell
- Stewardship – Corie Autry
- Property – Mike Bentley
- Worship and Music – Amanda and John Warren
- Personnel – Pam Cooper
- Outreach – Shana Powell
- Congregational Care – T.B.A
- Clerk of Session – Matt Chalmers



A Note from John

More than a generation ago, Jackie Robinson, a great baseball player and a courageous man, faced a lot of racial harassment as he tried to break into the world of professional baseball. On one occasion when Robinson's team, the Brooklyn Dodgers, was playing the home team of Cincinnati, angry racial taunts from one particular section of the crowd grew louder and louder – in proportion to the amount of beer they consumed.

When things got really bad, Pee Wee Reese, one of Jackie's teammates and a native of Cincinnati, called time out. Reese walked over to Jackie, put his arm around his shoulder and just stood there silently. It was a wordless yet very powerful message to the crowd. "This man is my friend."

With all the division and tension going around in our country, we need a few more folks like Pee Wee Reese – folks who will step up and step out, put their arm around someone with whom they disagree, and say, "We might not be the same – but this is my friend."

Peace, John



A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

Mary Queen of Scots, who was also the queen of France, once became ill and asked the family chef to fix her some sort of antidote for her sickness. When the chef presented a concoction to the queen, she ate it and soon began to feel better. After that, whenever a member of the royal household was ill, the chef was asked to prepare more of his "remedy." One day someone asked the chef what the mixture was called the chef replied that he'd not given it a name. When the noble insisted that he do so, it dawned on the chef that a practical name would be best for his concoction. "It will be called 'Marie est malade,'" he replied. "Mary is sick" is the translation for the chef's remedy. Today it's called marmalade.

The mixture each of us brings as a remedy for the world's ill is our stewardship of our time, talent, and treasure – each of which comes out of our own experience and ability.



The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, February 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!



ATTENTION RULING ELDERS!

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



Another example of the role of technology in the church appears in the following entry:

From the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting June 19, 1983:



January 4, 2017

Dear First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for adopting an Abigail's Arms family for Christmas.

Your generosity blessed a family immensely! Your thoughtfulness played an integral part in serving 39 families, which included 88 children and 6 women without children. The joy and smiles that each gift brought was heartwarming and precious. Your love gives them hope and a chance to see that there is light despite the darkness surrounding their situation.

As a nonprofit organization, in-kind donations are imperative for our funding. Your continued kindness and concern encourages us. You help bring the families in our community back to health and wholeness.

Words can never express our gratitude!

Love the LORD your God...
and hold fast to him.



DEUTERONOMY 30:20, NIV



Dear Church Family,

Thank you so much for remembering me these past few months with all the cards, prayers, and well wishes!

I've never been a "Super Star"—that was a nice experience!

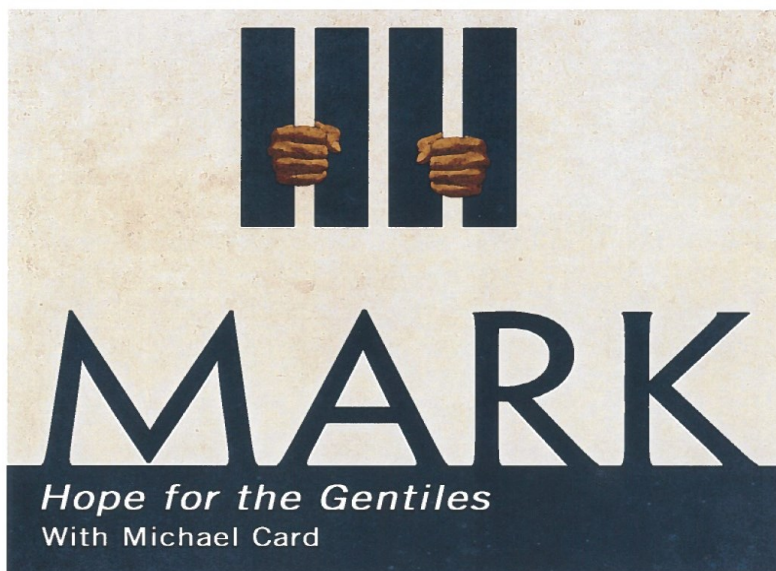
I've settled into the routine with my daughter and son-in-law. I've been blessed with 2 new granddaughters—Christopher & Jill had Cora, a baby girl born in September, and Bevin & Matt had Brynn, a baby girl in November. Everyone is doing well.

Dear Church Family,

Thank you to those helping make Dad's 90th Birthday Bash a big thrill for him. He enjoyed the day and what a smile he had in all the numerous photos taken. All those pictures have become treasures now that he has passed. Your cards and concerns have been appreciated. While he will be missed terribly – It is comforting to know that his final days were ones that he felt loved and honored by family and friends.

While it is very difficult to discuss Megan's health due to limited progress for weeks upon weeks – we continue to appreciate your prayers and concerns. The doctors are amazed at the fight she has despite her immunity deficiencies. Megan is making small steps of progress but will require continued hospital care for some time. December 2016 has been quite a faith challenge for us. We have been very blessed

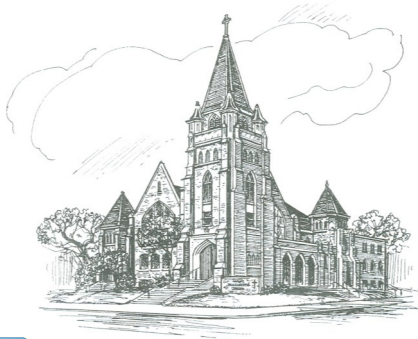
ADULT STUDY IN THE PARLOR SUNDAY AT 9AM



Travel to Rome and Israel with host Michael Card to explore the life and character of Jesus through the experiences of Peter as captured by Mark. You'll visit the Mamertine Prison, Circus Maximus, the Roman Forum, and significant landmarks in Israel that help to reveal the struggles, suffering, and pain endured by non-Jewish believers who followed Jesus. Gain a fresh perspective on the meaning of discipleship. Discover how you can find hope, healing, and encouragement in the face of trials through Jesus Christ.



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First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville

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.