



January 2018

First Presbyterian Church
Gainesville, Texas



Communing
TOGETHER



On Sunday, January 7th, we will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during worship. If you are unable to attend and would like communion brought to your home, please contact the church office.



Session
Retreat

The Session will be holding its annual retreat on Saturday, January 20th, in Tyler Hall at 9:00 AM. The retreat will be followed by the Session's regular meeting at 1:30 PM. The Session asks for your prayers as they seek God's vision for our church for 2018!



Angel Box Update

Recently 10 Angel Boxes were sent to the Vallex Medical Center in Brownsville, Texas. The last boxes were sent to Tulsa, Oklahoma. It's good to have a Texas hospital.

The lady whom we get the hospital addresses from lives in Germany. It is a national organization called Memory Box.



ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION SERVICE SCHEDULED

Sunday, January 7, 2018

Mary Estill

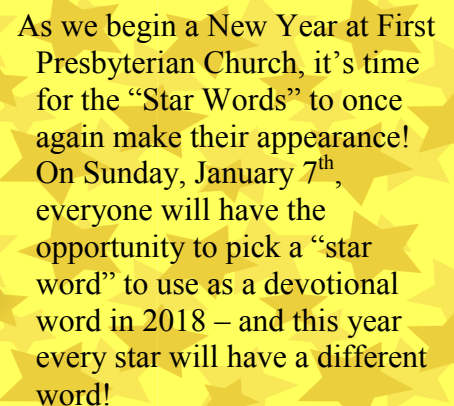
Carol McBride

Tommie Newman

The Ruling Elders representing the Session Class of 2020 will be ordained and installed as part of our morning worship service. Come celebrate this very special act as they begin their new ministries at First Presbyterian Church!



They're
Back!



As we begin a New Year at First Presbyterian Church, it's time for the "Star Words" to once again make their appearance! On Sunday, January 7th, everyone will have the opportunity to pick a "star word" to use as a devotional word in 2018 – and this year every star will have a different word!



Thanks
for
Serving!

A special "Thank You" to the Ruling Elders of the Class of 2017 who have finished their terms.

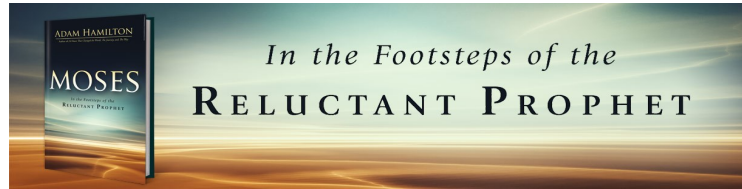
John Powell, Amanda Warren & John Warren
deserve our thanks for their time of service and faithfulness.

Welcome



The Session is pleased to announce that Joy Hague has been hired as our church's new Music Director and Organist. Joy comes to us with a wide range of experience and expertise. She has a Masters of Music Degree in Organ and Church Music and has served at several churches as a choir director. She has taught at several colleges, including St. Philip's College in San Antonio, and was one of the founding organizers of the Harlem Boys' and Girls' Choirs in New York City.

First Presbyterian Church has long been blessed to offer quality music in worship and for the community, and God has once again blessed us with Joy Hague. Her first Sunday on staff will be January 7th.



Start the New Year off right!

Join us in the parlor for informative, interesting and spiritual small group studies.

Our new 6 week study begins
January 7th at 9:00 am

Travel through the story of Moses in a brand new Adam Hamilton DVD study, "Moses: In the Footsteps of a Reluctant Prophet."

Retrace the life of Moses from his modest birth and rescue as a baby to the courts of Pharaoh, from herding flocks in Midian to leading his people out of Egypt.

Join Adam Hamilton as he travels from Egypt to Mt. Sinai, the Nile, the Red Sea and the wilderness exploring the sites of Moses' life. Using historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text, Hamilton guides us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who grew in his relationship with God and by the end of life had successfully fulfilled the role he was given.

You'll discover how you, too, can turn your own reluctance into boldness.



Rev. Hare will be out of the office on study leave from Monday, January 29th through Wednesday, January 31st to attend an event at Austin Seminary. In case of emergency, contact Matt Chalmers, the Clerk of Session, or the church office.

Learn
&
Grow



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!



The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd at 8:00 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!



- That Matt Chalmers and Pam Cooper did a great job as December's pulpit assistants?
- That it has been wonderful having Barbara Brady serve as our choir director interim for the past couple of months?
- That Carla and Charlie Waters appreciate your prayers?
- That this year's "Live Nativity Scene" was – to quote someone who was there – "the best ever"?
- That John Carr is engaged to be married?
- That Presbyterian Women collected \$121.00 for the State School at the Christmas coffee?
- That Landa Phillips is home from her recent stay in the hospital?
- That Bill Riley is slowly recovering from his recent surgery?
- That Mary Frances and Chop VanPelt appreciate your thoughts and your prayers?
- That our choir's Christmas Cantata was spectacular?



Have you ever heard folks' making excuses for themselves by proclaiming what they don't have? "I'm too old." "I'm too young." "I'm not educated." "I'm too busy." "I'm not good enough." "I could never do that."

When God asked Moses to tell Pharaoh to let the children of Israel go, Moses came up with a lot of excuses for why he couldn't do what God wanted him to do. But after listening to Moses' complaints, God said to him, "What is that in your hand?" God was saying to Moses, "I'm not interested in what you don't have – I'm only interested in what you do have. Stretch out your hand, Moses, and I will be with you."

Smaller churches like ours have this tendency to always focus on what we don't have – and we forget to look at what we already have in our hands. God has blessed us with lots of skills and lots of spiritual gifts and lots of talents and lots of resources to use to serve God in some pretty amazing ways. 2018 is the year we will stop focusing on what we don't have – and to start using what God has already given us.



There's an old Swedish story about a country doctor who came to a farmhouse one night to help deliver a baby. As the mom labored in the kitchen table, her husband assisted the doctor by holding up a gas lamp to illuminate the make-shift delivery room. After a time of labor, the mom gave birth to a fine baby boy. Then, to the surprise of both parents, the doctor announced that a second child was on the way. And indeed the mother delivered a lovely daughter.

Her husband was already shaken by this unexpected turn of events, so you can imagine his surprise when he heard the doctor say, "Hang on. I think there's a third. I think we have triplets!" At that, the father began to back out of the room. "Hold it!" called the doctor. "Come back here with that lamp!" "Oh, no," said the father. "They're attracted to the light!"

As we enter a new year – as we prepare for the coming of the three magi – and as we seek God's vision for our church in 2018 – it is Christ's light that attracts us to the mystery and majesty that we find in God's presence within our community of faith. Let God's light shine in and through all of us this new year!


Peace, John

THANKS *from the* HEART

Shana and I would like to thank the congregation for all the cards, food, phone calls, visits, and most especially the prayers during my recent heart attack. We appreciate all of you very much.

John and Shana Powell



A  of thanks to all for the birthday calls and cards. This congregation and staff have been very special to me for many years and I'm most appreciative of your love and support. A special thank you to the wonderful choir and their hard work due to extra rehearsals — early, late, whenever. No matter the day or time they're always present and ready to work. My love and thanks to all.

Barbara Brady



Abigail's Arms committee would like to thank the congregation for adopting one of their families for their special Christmas. The church adopts a family each year from Abigail's Arms. These women are usually having to start all over when they leave Abigail's Arms. Many have children, are on limited income and extras for their children are difficult to find funds.. When our church adopts a family that means that family has some Christmas. Remember Christmas is for children. It is hard to explain to a young child that Santa won't come even though they have been good all year. This year through our generous congregational donations one lady and her three children will have some Christmas. Judy Neal and Sylvia Deaver thanks you on behalf of one family graduating from Abigail's Arms. Please pray for these people who face such life changing experiences.



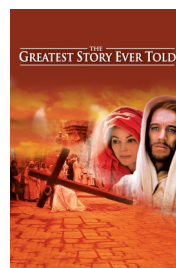
Ginny Lynch

Presbyterian Children's Home



The new chart for
2018 Sanctuary flowers is
now on the bulletin
board.

Please stop by and sign-up to
provide the flowers for the Sunday
of your choice.



Tuesday, January 2, 2018

5:00pm ~ Tyler Hall

Part 2

For more information contact
Reynolds Ansley

First Presbyterian Church's Live Nativity 2017



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First Presbyterian Church

2018 Session COMMITTEES

With the New Year comes new Session committee assignments. Here are this year's committees and moderators:

- Fellowship – June Sherrill
- Christian Education – Carol McBride
- Stewardship – Corie Autry
- Property – Mike Bentley
- Worship and Music – Tommie Newman
- Personnel – Pam Cooper
- Outreach – Shana Powell
- Congregational Care – Mary Estill
- Clerk of Session – Matt Chalmers

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!