



NEW LIFE

“NEW LIFE” IS UNDERWAY!

Do you remember an event in your life that affected you so much that it shaped who you are today? Maybe it was a joyful event that reminded you of just how blessed you are. Maybe it was a difficult event that shook you to your core and yet re-affirmed your faith in both God and in yourself. Do you remember that kind of event in your life?

Every one of us have those moments in our lives – and so does every congregation. Things happen – both good and bad - and as a result we find ourselves changed and our faith strengthened. It is those kinds of moments that identify us – both as individuals and as a congregation – and when we share those moments with each other we discover what is really important to us, and we discover that there are core values that we all share.

Our church’s “New Life” Leadership Team, which is made up of Judy Neal, Janice Skupin, Shana Powell, Jessica Lacefield, Corie Autry and John Powell, met for the first time last week with Grace Presbytery’s Rev. Jim Hawthorne to discuss our congregation’s participation in the Presbytery’s revitalization program. They talked about how important it is for us, as Christians, to explore and to share our personal stories about our faith and what is really important to us as a congregation.

What is your story? What is it about our church that is important to you? Why are you here? What keeps you here? Those are the questions we need to answer as we look for ways to re-discover God’s vision for First Presbyterian Church. Do you have answers to those questions? The time is coming when you’re have the opportunity to share your answers.



NEW LIFE

A “NEW LIFE” Prayer Ministry
Begins

As we begin to explore who we are as a congregation, it is important for us to begin with our seeking God’s blessing and leadership in all that we do. To that end, we are looking for folks who believe in the power of prayer and are willing to come together on a regular basis to seek God’s participation and blessing in our journey together.

If you would like to be a part of this special ministry during our time of working through the “New Life” re-vitalization process, let Rev. Hare or Barbara Marshall know.



*A Special
Re-dedication Service*

On Sunday, May 21st, the church organ will be re-dedicated during a special service and organ recital. John Dill, Barbara Brady, and Shoko Abe will all be sharing their musical talents as we celebrate the rich history and the expanded capabilities of our wonderful organ.

The service will begin at 4:00 PM and will be followed by a reception. Everyone is invited to come enjoy this special event!



Presbyterian Women

Spring Brunch

Saturday, May 6, 2017

9:00am ~ 11:30am

Tyler Hall

***Bring a Brunch dish to share.*

We will be making Prayer Boxes and Electing Officers.



Angel Boxes have been busy. They sent 6 boxes to Houston Medical Center in Houston, Texas in March and are getting ready to send 6 boxes to Lake Area Medical in Lake Charles, Louisiana and recently delivered 3 boxes to North Texas Medical Center in Gainesville, Texas.

Boxes Needed!

The Angel Box Project is in need of boxes to mail their painted boxes to hospitals.

Size: 15"x15"

If you have any to donate, please bring to the church. They have several to mail out this week, but need boxes to mail them in.

Thank you for your help!



In many ways, the 1960s were a difficult time in the United States and churches were not immune from that.

From the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Session, Sunday, June 15, 1969:

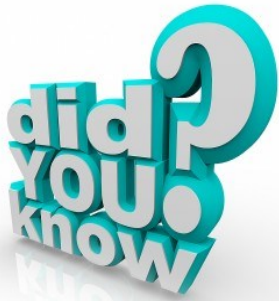
“Discussion of procedure to follow if any of the disruptive groups come into the worship service and attempt to speak. If any appear, they will be informed of the proper procedure for bringing grievances to any Presbyterian Church, namely through the Session.”

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Men's Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, May 23rd 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!



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!

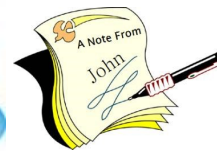


- That Corie Autry did a great job as April’s pulpit assistant?
- That the Outreach Ministry Committee is still collecting large duffel bags for the State School?
- That our church collected \$417.00 for the “One Great Hour of Sharing” offering on Easter Sunday?
- That everyone who helped make this year’s Holy Week services and events a success deserve our thanks?
- That Gage and Andrea Gilliland had a great time honeymooning in Thailand?
- That Christi Weems is once again back on the marathon trail?
- That Jamie Ellen Turbeville, the daughter of Justin and Shara Turbeville and the granddaughter of Tim and Mary Turbeville, was baptized on Easter Sunday?

- That David Yuen is alive and well in Oklahoma?
- That it was great to have Olivia Rivoire back in church?
- That Sunday, May 21st, is this year’s official “Hat Day” at First Presbyterian Church?
- That Bob Cooper is slowly getting back to his old self?
- That Shirley Kinsella has moved to 1101 Lawrence (Apartment 504) in Gainesville?
- That there’s probably someone you know who would love for you to email them a copy of your newsletter?

Take Note

The Session will meet on Tuesday, May 16th @ 6:30pm in the Seekers’ Classroom. All written reports are due in the church office by Thursday, May 11th.



A man who was very interested in old books ran into an un-bookish friend who’d just throw away an old

Bible which he had found in his attic. The friend happened to mention that “someone name Guten-something-or-other” had printed it.

“Not Gutenberg!” gasped the book lover. “You idiot! You just threw away one of the first books ever printed! A copy of that Bible just sold for more than \$400,000!” The other man was unmoved. “My copy wouldn’t have brought a dime,” he said. “Some guy named Martin Luther had scribbled all over it.”

We can’t know the value, as they say, without knowing the background. Maybe that’s why so many folks – and congregations – are suffering from low self-esteem. They don’t know their worth because they don’t know their history.

Peace, John



Rev. Hare will be out of the office on vacation from April 24th through May 7th. In case of an emergency, contact Matt Chalmers or the church office.

In his absence, Rev. Stuart Pickell will be leading worship on Sunday, April 30th, and Rev. Ralph Graham will be here on Sunday, May 7th.



On behalf of the congregation we extend our Christian sympathy to:

Mary Wallace and her family at the loss of her mother Frances
 Pattie Stinnett and her family at the loss of her brother
 Daphne Kehrlie and her family at the loss of her son

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

A SPECIAL SPEAKER



In honor of “Holocaust Remembrance Day” the Christian Education Ministry Committee has made arrangements for Mr. Jack Repp, a holocaust survivor, to come to Gainesville on Tuesday, May 23rd, to share his experiences. This free event will be held at the State Theater in Gainesville and will begin at 7:00 PM.

Mr. Repp was born in 1923 in Poland. His family was interned in the Radom ghetto in 1941. He worked in a labor camp in Radom from 1941-1942, a Radom concentration camp in Radom from 1942-1943, an ammunition factory until the end of 1943, and then ended up in Auschwitz. He and his sister were the only family members to survive the war. He moved to the United States in 1949, and to Dallas in 1950.

This is a very unique opportunity for Gainesville to hear the story of the holocaust from someone who was there. Everyone is invited to come and experience a moment in history.



Jack Repp
(1923-)
Birth Place:
Radom, Poland



Jack Repp and his family
before the Holocaust



Jack Repp today



There’s a story about a family who was struggling financially, but they placed the hopes on their son who was a very talented lecturer. When the son came home after a lecture tour, the family gathered around to welcome him home. Suddenly silence filled the room and the daughter asked the question that was on everyone’s mind: “Did they pay you?”

Slowly the son drew out his wallet and showed everyone what was in his wallet – a single dollar. “Another year I will do better,” the son said. There was a stunned silence, and then his mother reached out and gave her son a big hug. She looked into her son’s eyes and said, “I call that doing very well.”

Our worth is determined in the stewardship of our doing as well as we can with what we have. When we do, we can know that kind of hug from God and we will hear, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”



Our purpose as individuals and the purpose of PrayFit ministry is to live and love like Jesus.

Read the PrayFit Ground Rules below to help define that purpose.

At PrayFit, we're followers of Jesus, first and last.

At PrayFit we love others.

At PrayFit, we believe health is a gift of grace.

At PrayFit, we see health as an act of stewardship.

At PrayFit, we are sensitive to the needs, hurts and unseen illnesses of others.

At PrayFit, we seek to put our faith to work.

At PrayFit, we strive to be humble and modest.

At PrayFit, we're servant leaders.

Check out the "PrayFit" website for a better understanding of the Ground Rules. PrayFit 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!

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\*\*If you have Jesus in your heart and you see your health (as well as illness) as a means to praise Him, PrayFit is the perfect place to hang out.\*\*

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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.

GIFT

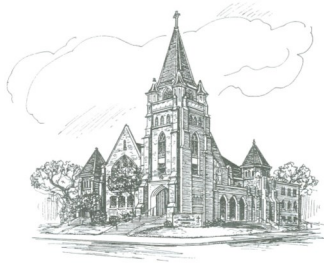
Girls In Fun Together

Thursday, May 4th @ 5:30pm

@ Luigi's

I-35 Service Rd. North

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GAINESVILLE, TX 76241



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BOY, Oh Boy~
Sterling J. Carr has arrived!

You are invited to a Diaper Shower & Reception
for Rainy Carr and her new bundle of joy.

WHEN: Sunday, May 14 - during fellowship after worship

WHERE: Tyler Hall

WHAT TO BRING: Packaged Diapers, any size

Please plan to join us as we celebrate Rainy and Baby Sterling!