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[First Presbyterian Church](#)

First Pres to Host Presbytery Meeting

On October 12-13 our church is hosting the 123rd meeting of Palo Duro Presbytery. Representatives from Presbyterian churches all over the Panhandle and other parts of West Texas will be at our church as we worship, pray, fellowship, discuss, and make important decisions for the future of our presbytery. It takes a lot of volunteers to help host such an important event. If you would like to serve on the hospitality team, greeting team, registration team, or prayer team, please contact Melody Alexander (806)352-4466 malex@arn.net. Please join me in praying that the Holy Spirit will do a mighty work in and through us as we meet. May God's will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven.

In Christ,
Howard Griffin
Senior Pastor

Mission Team Needed for Tulsa Trip

November 18-21, a group of 10 to 20 people is needed to go to Tulsa, OK to work on a Habitat for Humanity house. No experience is necessary, just a willing heart. The group will leave after lunch Thursday, November 18 and return on Sunday after working Friday and Saturday. Please contact Murray Gossett (350-5203) for further details.

October Collectables

Breakfast cereal, breakfast food, dried milk, and cereal bars are being collected for those who need help in our community. Please bring your donations to the mission table in the Great Hall.

Spotlight

Each month, we spotlight different ministries, staff members, deacons, and elders. We will also communicate highlights of what's loved about each service, how God is working, what we can pray for, and what we can celebrate with our church family.

A Look at the Singles' Ministry



By Kim Talley
Director of Singles' Ministry

"You're the man of the house now!" my well-intending uncle said as he patted my head. I was seven years old. Our little house on Bryan Street was full of relatives and neighbors bringing covered dishes and trying to console my mom. Earlier that morning my dad had been buried. He had been diagnosed a year earlier with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He was only 29. I felt overwhelmed with responsibility for my mom.

The next five years Mom worked hard and took care of my brother, my sister, and me. She would take us to a little downtown church occasionally, but she was usually too tired. When I turned 11, she married a sweet man. He already had four children from a previous marriage. We moved into a larger house, and they had two more children together which makes nine kids if you're counting. (I actually have *two* brothers named Kent!) Throughout elementary and middle school, I was virtually on my own as Mom and my step-dad both worked and had small children to care for. We no longer went to church, and I couldn't relate to God as a Father.

In 1968, we moved to Austin. I started eighth grade in the cradle of the psychedelic, flower power, late 60s craze. I worked desperately hard to fit in with my paisley shirts, Beatle's haircut, and bell-bottoms. Besides playing football, I began "going with girls" and drinking beer that was usually stolen from refrigerators in open garages in the neighborhood.

While playing linebacker in a game in ninth grade, I collided head to head with a much larger player and was knocked unconscious. The x-ray taken later in the doctor's office revealed several fractured vertebrae in my neck. I recall the doctor saying that I had come very close to being paralyzed and that the "Lord was watching over me." I had never thought of that before and remember later that night lying in bed with my uncomfortable neck brace on trying to talk to God for the first time. I had to wear the neck brace for the entire school year and struggled with insecurity from constantly being called a weirdo.

In high school the 60s were in full swing. I had worked hard to get back in with the so called "popular crowd," but the cost of membership was heavy drinking and drug use. My parents were very loving but uninvolved. I had no curfew or rules, so I was never home. At one point I was not only partying during the weekends; I was also drinking and getting high during lunch at school. I was lonelier and more insecure than ever.

During my junior year I began to run into a group of older students and a guy in his 40s who would be out in the parking lot meeting kids at the ballgames. They were very friendly people who initiated conversation with me. To my surprise, they even remembered my name. I couldn't figure out what they wanted and why they were there. One day they invited me and the gang to come to a Young Life Club at the home of a girl we all were interested in. We drank a few beers that night to get up the courage to go to this club thing. We sneaked in late and sat in the back. I was amazed at the 'cool' kids that were there and how much fun they were having. I'd never seen Christians singing and laughing like that. Then the older man that had been so nice to me at school got up and talked about how Jesus was "God in the flesh." I was clueless.

We kept coming for a few weeks. Ralph, the leader, invited us to go on a ski trip to Colorado. I had never skied before, but when I saw the list of cute girls going, I signed up with my buddies.

We showed up in the parking lot with whiskey and weed hidden in our bags. The first few days we just enjoyed skiing and sat through the nightly talks waiting to get back to our room to sneak a drink or smoke.

Then it hit me. On the third night the speaker began describing what Jesus went through on the cross in graphic detail, and then the speaker continued to explain how Jesus had taken my personal sins on Himself. He said that when Jesus took on all of that undeserved sin, God had to turn His face from His own Son, and that Jesus cried out in loneliness "Father, why have you left me?" That statement pierced my soul because it was the question I had been asking since my own father's death. Not only had I wondered why

my earthly father had been taken from me, but why God had not been there. The speaker continued to say that God the Father cared so much about me that He sent His Son to die in my place and that even if I had been the only human to ever live, He still would have done it." That captivated me. Then the speaker instructed us to go out into the still, moonlit, snowy grounds and be completely alone for 20 minutes to think about what Jesus had done for us and what our response was going to be. I looked out over that glowing white field that was reflecting the light of a full moon and realized I was loved and through Jesus could finally have the Father I so longed for. I sank to my knees and said "Lord I'm yours."

I rushed back into the lodge to find Ralph. I found him in the bathroom in his boxers, brushing his teeth. I blurted out "I want to become a Christian!" He stared at me, toothpaste dripping down his chin, and said "Sure!" We kneeled right there on the bathroom floor, and he guided me in a prayer of acceptance of Christ as my Lord and Savior.

Upon returning to Austin, my old buddies were waiting. The first night of my return they picked me up in our old party van, and we started the same old routine. After a few drinks and hits I declared "I have become a Christian!" They were dead silent for a moment. Then one guy said, "I'll drink to that!" And the party continued.

The next morning I felt horrible: like I had blown it with Jesus and nothing had changed. Later that day Ralph called me to see how I was doing. I confessed my failure, and he listened patiently. Then he said, "Kim, you belong to Jesus. He promises to never leave you or forsake you." Then we began to meet weekly with other guys from the trip who had also come to know Jesus. Some of these guys I would have never gone near before, and I'm sure they felt the same way about me. We began to dig into the Scriptures and became great friends. Going out during lunch to get drunk or stoned was replaced with meeting with some guys and girls in the courtyard and discussing the Scriptures and praying together. We soon became known as the "Lunch time Jesus Freaks" which we took as a compliment.

Upon graduation I entered college with a solid foundation in Christ and started becoming involved in ministry. The Lord has graciously allowed me to continue to do ministry, even as I write this article.

As I look back on my conversion, it's clear to me how the Lord took the childhood loss of my earthly father and used that tragedy to open my heart to the good news of a Heavenly Father who loves me so much that "He sent His only son to die for me." He also used things that I've gone through personally in life since then to prepare me to lead the ministries I lead at First Pres.

"Behold what manner of love the Father has for us that we shall be called the children of God!"

Singles' Ministries: A Quick Look at the Details

GAP (Grace Always Prevails)

College-age and young professionals

What began with eight students has grown to 10 leaders and over 35 students within one year! Our primary goal is to make disciples for Christ. Young people return to church after

years of absence and others turn from heavy drug use and destructive lifestyles to being active participants in the life of the church.

Weekly Activities

We meet in the GAP room downstairs on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings to hang out, study, and discuss scripture.

Yearly Activities

We have fun throughout the year with a Fall Retreat to New Mexico, a Lubbock Road Trip, a Colorado Ski Trip, and many mission and service projects.

SALT (Single Adults Learning Together)

This ministry seeks to provide a healthy, Christ-centered community for adult singles who have survived divorce or who have never married.

Activities: Wednesday Night Small Group: DivorceCare and monthly fellowship opportunities

SOLO

This ministry's purpose is for fun and fellowship for singles over 50. These singles are already actively involved in the life of the church but love to get together during times of the year when being single can be a challenge. We have Thanksgiving, Christmas, and other holiday parties. Our long running tradition for over 15 years is the Super Bowl Party and the annual "Cookout in the Canyon."

GETTING TO KNOW OUR LEADERS

Melody Alexander, Elder



People often ask me how I have the time to be so involved here at First Pres. My only answer is God is giving me the time I need to do what He needs to be done. For a good part of my life, I thought I was in charge of all my time. I have always worked and volunteered, running from one thing to the next. Now, don't get me wrong, I still run but I have a different attitude about it. I have learned to ask God to show me what he wants me to do AND give me the time to do it. Maybe that is selfish but it works. If I give God my time, he uses it.

You may know that I work with the bereavement ministry. I prayed that God would use me not knowing that He was teaching me so many different lessons. He has taught me to be flexible since I never know when I will be needed. In a completely scheduled world, most of us have no time for flexibility. How can God use us if we are never available? Opening yourself up to hearing His call also means allowing the time needed to respond. I would plan my day only to find out that I was needed somewhere else. I would always pray "God, if I am to be your hands today, make me joyful and happy to serve." Those of us in this ministry often say only God could work out all of the details. But that is true! It always works out. I would encourage each of you to ask God to place you where you are needed. True joy comes from being God's hands.

ONE CHURCH FAMILY - MANY DIFFERENT PARTS

Monthly Third-Sunday Get Together

Jump Into the Blender!

First Pres offers four different opportunities to worship at a time and in a style one prefers, but members may lose touch with those who attend at other times. Our goal and mission is to be “one church.” To foster the idea of being one in Christ, the church from all four venues is invited to “Get Together” and blend in. The “blender” will whip up coffee, donuts, cookies or muffins, and who knows what else – maybe new friends, strengthened ties with long-time friends, and a great mix of fellowship. Jump into the blender Sunday, September 16 and every third Sunday of the month from 10:30 – 11:00 in the South Great Hall!

October 7 - Connection Sunday & Pancake Breakfast

We are having **Connection Sunday on October 7** to further connect ourselves to the Body of Christ as Hebrews 10:24-25 encourages us to do. Instead of Sunday school, please join us in the Great Hall for pancakes and find out new information about the different areas of ministry here at First Presbyterian Church. The cost of the pancake breakfast is \$3.00 per person and children 12 and under eat free. See you there!

BUDGET UPDATE

2012 Financial Results		
Year-To-Date as of July 31st		
	Gifts & Offerings	Expenses
Actual Results	\$ 1,205,935	\$ 1,203,566
Budgeted / Expected	<u>1,078,966</u>	<u>1,246,646</u>
Actual Over / (Under) Budget	<u>\$ 129,969</u>	<u>\$ (43,080)</u>

Please remember we need your giving to continue kingdom work!

“Refurbishing” Capital Campaign Gifts Received to Date \$1,250,990
Thank you for your continued generosity!

If you have any questions, please contact a member of your Finance Committee, an Elder, or the Business Office at 373.4242; or noland@firstpres.com

Elder, Deacon, and CNC Nominees

The following members are being nominated for church offices by the Congregational Nominating Committee. The congregational meeting to vote on them will be Sunday, September 30 at the conclusion of each service.

Elder Nominees



David Mullin

First Pres member for 34 years
 Family: Spouse Mary; children Matthew, Rachel, & Jazzy
 Spiritual Gifts: preaching, teaching
 evangelism, compassion



Bob Houchin

First Pres member for 20 years
Family: Charlotte
Spiritual Gift: teaching; feels that he should always be serving.



Darrin Murphy

First Pres member for five years
Family: Spouse Yvonne; children Jack, Peter, Leah, & Laine
Spiritual Gifts: discernment, encouragement, teaching



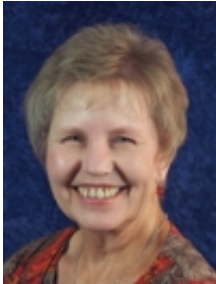
Susan Kitchens

First Pres member for 25 years
Family: Daughter Brandy; son-in-law Shane; grandkids Price, Elly, & Wiley
Spiritual Gifts: administration, counseling, organization, compassion, communication



Shelley Chaloupka

First Pres member for 17 years
Family: Spouse Steve; Children Michael & Carter
Spiritual Gifts: encouragement, hospitality, leadership



Sharon Oliver

First Pres member for 32 years
Family: Spouse Richard; Children Bryan & Zeb
Spiritual Gifts: administration, encouragement, compassion

Deacon Nominees



Brenda Talley

First Pres member for 15 years
Family: Spouse Dan; children Gentry & Nick
Many spiritual gifts and an overall willingness to serve wherever needed



Andrew Evans

First Pres member for eight years
Family: Spouse Cindi; children Ryan & Ethan
Spiritual Gifts: administration, faith, & exhortation



Linda Warrick

First Pres member for 15 years
Family: Spouse Bill; Children Mark & Sam
Spiritual Gifts: leadership, organization, hospitality, & encouragement



Ruth Whitehead

First Pres member for 25 years
Family: Spouse Richard; children Ike & Andy
Spiritual Gifts: mercy, compassion, organization, & prayer



George Cason

First Pres member for 12 years
Family: Spouse April; children Alex, Zachary, & Reid



Virginia Maynard

First Pres member for 60 years
Family: Children Kathryn, John, Tom, & Martha
Spiritual Gifts: hospitality, encouragement, & creativity



Vicki Scivally

First Pres member for 33 years
Family: Spouse Gene; Children John, Reid, & Christen
Spiritual Gifts: encouragement & leadership



Russell Goodrich

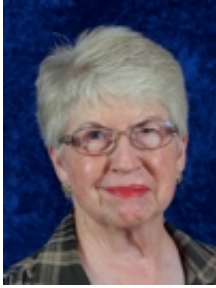
First Pres member for 11 years
Family: Spouse Jill; Children Katie, Ryan, Grant, & Clay
Spiritual Gifts: service, discernment, faith, & hospitality

CNC Nominees



Elizabeth Rogers

First Pres member for 12 years
Family: Spouse Cody; children Abigail & Maxwell
Spiritual Gifts: hospitality, evangelism, leadership in music



Marty Smith

First Pres member for over 12 years

Family: Spouse Cal; children Wendy & Ginger

Spiritual Gifts: faith, giving, hospitality, & evangelism



Virginia Sicola

First Pres Member for 24 years

Family: Spouse Anthony; child Alex

Spiritual Gifts: service, prayer



Jay O'Brien

First Pres member for over 50 years

Family: Spouse Susie; children Emily, Jane, Hamilton, & Wales

Spiritual Gifts: teaching

Wednesday Night Menu - October

Oct. 3 – Fajitas, Chips, Salsa, Sour Cream, Guacamole and Tortillas (Beef and Chicken)

Oct. 10 – Pork Loin, Cream Corn, Salad and Rolls

Oct. 17 – Burgers and Hot Dogs, Tater Tots and Baked Beans

Oct. 24 – King Ranch Chicken, Salad and Rolls

Oct. 31 – No Wednesday Night meeting

Reservations for Wednesday Night meals must be made by Monday noon. Email CharlotteK@firstpres.com or call 373-4288. Please specify the number of adults and the number of children who will be eating.

Save the Date!

Christmas Home

Sunday, December 9

5:00-7:00 p.m.

Mexican Christmas Dinner Fundraiser

Wednesday, December 12th

6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Parlor & Great Hall

Tickets available beginning November 14th from students & at our table in the Great Hall

Reformed Worship: What is It and Where Can I Find It?

By Howard Griffin

What is Reformed worship exactly? Well, worship in the Reformed tradition is focused on the triune God and is guided by scripture, saturated with scripture, and centered on the reading and preaching of God's word. In a postmodern age of Biblical illiteracy where truth is relative, people need to know the scriptures more than ever. Therefore, it is a great time to participate in Reformed worship. For we believe that it is through the scriptures that we

encounter God, learn who God is, and discover who God is calling us to be.

To say that Reformed worship is guided by scripture means that we use the scriptures to call us to worship, and we use scriptures like **Isaiah 6** to direct us on what the proper order of worship should be. In Reformed worship, the first half of the service prepares us to hear the word of God read and proclaimed through: a call to worship from scripture, a call to confession from scripture, a corporate prayer of confession informed by scripture, an assurance of pardon from scripture, and a prayer for illumination before the scriptures are read.

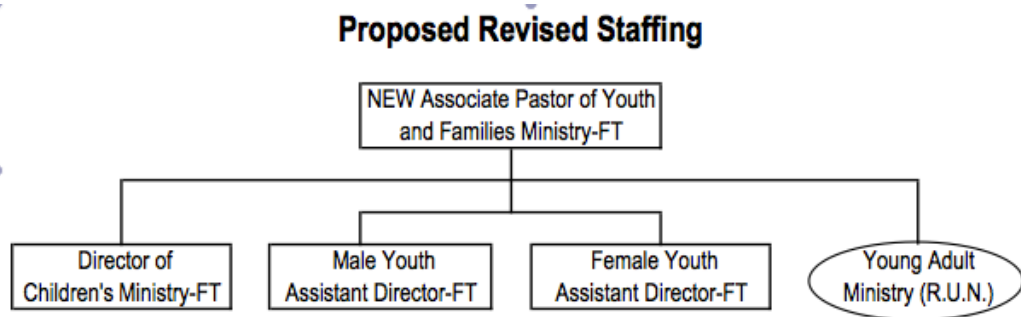
As Presbyterians who emphasize the authority of scripture and seek to search the entire counsel of God, Reformed worship has a reading from both the Old and New Testaments. After hearing the word of God read and proclaimed through the sermon, we respond to God’s word by offering our tithes, praying the Lord’s Prayer, and affirming our faith using an ancient creed or a Reformed confession that is based on scripture. These creeds and confessions were written to help teach the faith. By using these faithful words and having a service that is saturated with scripture we keep our hearts and minds centered on God, and so encounter Him as we help teach the Reformed faith to our children. If you want to experience a Reformed worship service that is saturated with scripture from beginning to end, then I would encourage you to join us in the sanctuary at 8:30 or 11:00. People often call it traditional worship, but it’s not just traditional worship. It is Reformed, and I believe that makes all the difference.

New Associate Pastor of Youth and Families Ministry

by Howard Griffin

In July Darrin Murphy resigned as the director of young adults to take his new position as the president of the Presbyterian Home for Children. As Darrin and I discussed the best long term plan for the young adults and 1105, we agreed that ideally we would have an associate pastor over these areas. We then included Cody Graham, our youth director, in this discussion. Cody agreed that an associate pastor over young families would be best. With the knowledge that Cody would be transitioning soon, we came up with the following org chart.

This new associate pastor will be responsible for coordinating the discipleship efforts and curriculum between children, youth, and young adults so that our church is helping parents disciple their children. This new associate pastor will also be responsible for coordinating the 1105 service. By consolidating several vacant positions the total additional cost for this associate pastor to the personnel budget is \$3,000. The personnel committee and session unanimously approved this position and an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee (APNC) is now being formed. If you would like to recommend someone to the APNC, please e-mail Charlotte Kinch CharlotteK@firstpres.com. Please join me in praying that the Lord will lead us to just the right person to serve in this important position.



Women's Ministry

Find out about the exciting Bible Studies in Women's Ministry for Fall 2012 by [clicking here](#). Printed brochures are also available in the office.

NUFFs Host T Kim Goodnight

The great-great nephew of Charles Goodnight entertains the crowd with silent family movies and family memorabilia

Thursday, October 11, 11 a.m.

First Pres Parlor

All are Welcome

Call 655-3204 to RSVP for lunch

NUFFs Annual Bus Tour

Thursday, October 18

For more information, call Gerry Yock (352-3255).

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Darrell Cameron

Given by

Amarillo National Bank

Carol & Bill Harper

Tammy & Jack Quackenbush

Mary Melba Sigmon

Given by

Nancy Hunter

Jo Ellen & Ronald Marshall

Jere Mollen

Scotty Owens

Abbie Madden

Given by

Joan Baskin

Olla Johnson

Laura & Weir Labatt III

Kathy & Stan Morris

Susie & Jay O'Brien

Vicki & Gene Scivally

Gay & Jerry Shelby

Charles Arthur "Art" SoRelle

Given by

Kathy & Stan Morris

Cindy & Jim Smith

Jay R. Taylor

Given by

Linda & Carl Hare

Kathy & Stan Morris

Ed Morris

Given by

Kay & Richard Brown

Janette & Terry Caviness

Helen Vahue

Given by

The George Morris Jr. Family

Julie & Greg Mitchell

Kathy & Stan Morris

Cindy & Jim Smith

June Milholland

Given by

Connie & Ben Latham

Edna Wilson

Given by

Betty & Joe Howell

The Odom Family

Cindy & Jim Smith

Joann & Tom Thatcher

Rebecca Neely

Given by

Cindy & Jim Smith

Virginia Posey

Given by

Kathy & Stan Morris

Cindy & Jim Smith

Upcoming Special Events

- September 30 Congregational Meeting after All Services to elect Elders, Deacons, and CNC members-at-large
- September 30 First Pres Fall Round Up at Gilmour Ranch
- October 7 Connection Sunday & Pancake Breakfast
- October 28 Children's Choir sings in 11 a.m. Service
- October 31 No Wednesday Night Activities - Happy Halloween!

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