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## First Presbyterian Church



### Update on Natalie Bunn

Many prayers have been lifted up for a tiny member of our First Pres family, Natalie Bunn. On October 1, this sweet little girl underwent her fourth heart surgery. That's certainly a lot of surgery for anyone, but for a three-year old -- it's almost unthinkable. God is working in Natalie. She came through the

surgery with flying colors! Although she has quite a recovery to come, she is doing very well. Please continue to pray for Natalie and her family that her potassium level will stabilize, she will get a better appetite, and for no fluid on her lungs.

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### FALL ROUND UP AT GILMOUR RANCH CANCELLED

With much regret, the staff had to make the tough decision to cancel the beloved Fall Round Up at Gilmour Ranch for 2012. Much-needed rain was such a blessing. Unfortunately, it made the roads at the ranch impassable. Because we could not find a feasible date to reschedule the event, we had to cancel it completely this year. We extend a huge thanks to Nancee and Scott Gilmour for their hospitality and willingness to have us out every year for this fun event. We look forward to next year!

### NOVEMBER COLLECTABLES

Boxed meals (Hamburger Helper), canned meat, beanie weenies, and canned beans 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.

### WORDS OF WISDOM FROM THE CARE MINISTRY



**By Paul Frederiksen**  
**Director of Worship and Care**

Those of us in Care Ministry want to do all we can to help our members and their families prepare for the future. In the 23 years that I've been on staff and a member of First Pres, it's been amazing to see how many of us have passed on to Glory. One only needs to look through past pictorial directories to see the staggering number who have gone on to be with the Lord.

As Christians, we shouldn't fear death. We have a sure and certain hope of life after death through Jesus Christ, our Savior. And it's not just another life, it's a life so much better than this one that we can't even begin to imagine what it will be like. The Bible gives us a glimpse, but mere words can't adequately describe it.

To get to that much better life, we must experience death. As one preacher proclaimed, "Even Lazarus didn't get out alive!" And having lost three immediate family members in only two and a half years, I can tell you that it helps the survivors greatly to have some advanced planning in place, even if it's simply an obituary.

A member entered the church one Sunday morning and immediately collapsed from a stroke. The individual had absolutely no emergency contact information available and there was no family in the building that morning. This incident along with deaths in our church family moved me write this article.

Please make sure that your emergency contact information and any special medical information is accessible and is with you at all times. In the event that you are injured or collapse, this will help emergency responders greatly and could mean the difference between life and death if you have drug allergies, a pacemaker, diabetes, or take blood thinners. It's also helpful to medical personnel to know if you wish to donate your organs and if you have been classified as DNR (do not resuscitate).

Have you considered what your survivors would need most on the day that follows your death? When my dad died very unexpectedly, we were incredibly relieved to learn that he had written his own obituary, made arrangements for his cemetery plot, and even left instructions regarding his memorial service. It was so helpful to the family because grief had stolen our ability to focus.

Our church staff wants to be able to help your survivors fulfill your wishes for your memorial service. It may be something that makes you uncomfortable, something you'd rather put off, but please don't. We never know when God will call us home.

We have a memorial service preplanning form and an obituary form that are designed to help you. After you complete them, we can keep them on file at the church to help your survivors and the pastor(s) who will be officiating. I suggest that you make a copy and place it with your will, life insurance papers, a listing of all of your accounts (checking, savings, CDs, IRAs, 403s etc.) and investment information (real estate, REITs, mutual funds, bonds, etc.) This information can be tremendously helpful to your survivors.

Please don't hesitate to call if you'd like help working through the preplanning forms. Murray, Howard and I have helped families plan graveside and memorial services many

times, but sadly it's usually without any preplanning on the part of the decedent. Your family will be truly blessed by your preplanning.

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## GETTING TO KNOW OUR LEADERS



### **Mary Ann Osborn, Elder**

When I was a little girl growing up in the country in the oilfield outside Lefors, Texas I felt a strong sense of a loving God and that Jesus died for me. I enjoyed getting to be with other children in Sunday School since my siblings were all teenagers. I watched adults show God's love to me and help me craft projects with paper plates and pipe cleaners and of course lots of glue! As a teenager, I felt an urge that something was not right and I began reading the Bible. At age 13 I gave my heart to Christ and was baptized in First Baptist Church. How thankful I am for those years of having God's love shown to me through loving volunteers. How proud I am that under Howard's direction, our own children at First

Pres are a part of worship services so that they are able to observe their own parents worshipping God.

As I grew into an adult I experienced times in my life where I was always sure of my relationship with Jesus Christ and I always felt a loving God was present, but I pushed that relationship to the corner of my world. Every time that happened God always gently nudged me to yearn for a closer relationship.

I grew up, graduated from college and joined the Army to become a registered dietitian. I married Bill and we moved often in the six years of military life. Bill was a dentist serving in the Army and at the end of his tour he decided to go back to school to complete a Master's degree in orthodontics. This brought on another move to Oklahoma City and then to Abilene. By now we had two children, Sarah and Sean. I longed for them to have the experiences that I had enjoyed in church as a child. We attended First Central Presbyterian Church in Abilene and we soaked up the fellowship of believers there. We decided to return "home" to Amarillo to be near ailing parents and be able to care for them.

In 1999, I turned 40, buried my Dad and some months later discovered that I had a melanoma on my back. I suddenly didn't like becoming 40! Fortunately, my melanoma was discovered early and was "in situ" which means it was still located in the top layer of my skin. At first I was in shock and thankful that it was discovered early but at the same time I thought, why me? Then I thought that I might not get to see my children, then nine and 12, grow up. I was forced to put all my faith in God because it didn't do me any good to sit and worry and think what if I get another melanoma or it somehow spread. I began to think, why not me? Having that melanoma made me appreciate every day a little bit more; to be more grateful and appreciative for simple things. Then in 2003, during a routine checkup for skin cancer, another "suspicious" mole was found...probably nothing to worry about. Again, the phone rings quite quickly (within three days)...another melanoma... again in situ. Why God? But in the same breath... Praise God, it is just in situ...again! I realized that having heard the word cancer and your name in the same sentence is very sobering. It makes you feel very temporary on this earth; that you might leave this place

sooner rather than later. I was forced to give all my worry and anxiety about this to God. It really only made me more anxious to try and bear this worry on my own. I didn't feel in any way equipped to handle this worry and anxiety.

My favorite verse since college has always been Philippians 4:6-7, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer with supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." That verse took on such a new fresh meaning to me. I told myself that I would not be anxious for my melanoma, but I would tell God that I needed for Him to see me through.

Somehow 2003 seems like a long time ago and in some way, like yesterday. I go every six months for a skin check always knowing in the back of my mind I am quietly holding my breath. When I feel the cold sweat break out, I pray to God to calm my heart and get me through this. He is so faithful to get me through, every time. It is with gratitude that I serve my Lord -- that he cares so much for me and my anxiety every single day -- that HE never tires of my asking to help me with my fear and worry and anxiety that a melanoma might slip under the rader, go undetected and ravage my body. I serve the Lord with a thankful heart that I am so undeserving to have such a compassionate and caring God -- that it is nothing that I have done to deserve this grace and love, yet HE chooses me anyway. In some strange way, I am thankful that I have had a melanoma. It has made me not sweat the small stuff, and mostly it is all small stuff that bothers us. I am more thankful to see a gorgeous panhandle sunset, taste a delicious cantaloupe and to hear my husband's laugh, to hear my phone ring and know it is one of my children just calling to say Hi.

Yes I savor this crazy thing we call life because I might not be entrusted with it for as long as I think I will. I try to make the most of everyday, being more successful some days than other days. I try to never wish a day of my life away, as it is a gift from God; He knows the number of hairs on my head, he is in control. I must not worry.

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## ONE CHURCH FAMILY - MANY DIFFERENT PARTS

"Our family is bi-lingual, and we appreciate the opportunity to worship in this fashion. The family community that has been established in The Road/Comunidad el Camino is comforting to us."

-- Chris Reynolds

"We love the Reformed service at 8:30 a.m., the music, and the friends we get to see in the Sanctuary."

-- Jerre Wells

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## ATTENTION ALL SINGERS!

The Sanctuary Choir is hosting a brunch FOR YOU on Saturday, November 10, 9:00 -11:00 a.m., in the Parlor. Anyone interested in singing with the Sanctuary Choir for "Lessons and Carols" on December 16 is invited to attend. Following a delicious brunch, we will preview *Candles and Carols*, a collection of familiar carols and songs. This is a great opportunity to experience singing with our fine choir in a friendly, supportive environment. Let us know you are coming in one of these three ways – call Joyce Ladd at 350-5219, email her at

[joycel@firstpres.com](mailto:joycel@firstpres.com), or sign up here

<https://firstpresamarillo.smartevents.com/public/events/lessons-and-carols-brunch-11-10-12>. SEE YOU THERE! COME AND SING WITH US!

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## BUDGET UPDATE

## 2012 Financial Results

Year-to-Date as of August 31

	Gifts & Offerings	Expenses
Actual Results	\$1,379,083	\$1,437,905
Budgeted/Expected	<u>\$1,216,125</u>	<u>\$1,469,214</u>
<b>Actual Over/(Under) Budget</b>	<b>\$ 162,958</b>	<b>\$ (31,309)</b>

Refurbishing Capital Campaign Gifts  
Received to Date: \$1,334,369.26

***Thank you for your continued dedication and generosity!***

If you have any questions about finances, please contact the Business Office, an Elder, or a member of the Finance Committee

## INTERESTED IN BOOK CLUB?

Book Club Affinity Group will meet November 12 at 7 p.m. at the home of Donna Clopton, 705 Tyler #4. They will be discussing "Outliers: The Story of Success" by Malcolm Gladwell.

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY

[Click here](#) to learn about exciting fall 2012 Bible Studies in Women's Ministry. Printed brochures are also available in the office.

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

### November and First Week of December

- November 7 – Smoked Sausage, Potato Salad, Beans and Texas Toast
- November 14 – Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Rolls
- November 21 – No Wed. Night Activities
- November 28 – Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, and Garlic Bread
- December 5 – Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Rolls

**Reservations for Wednesday Night meals must be made by Monday noon.** Email [charlottek@firstpres.com](mailto: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!

### Mexican Christmas Dinner Fundraiser

Wednesday, December 12

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

Tickets will be available beginning November 14 from students and at our table in the Great Hall.

Tickets for the dinner are \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children, and under two are free!

Please contact Michael Bankhead or Alana Mitchell in the Student Ministries office for more details or to get your tickets!

### GAP Ski Trip

January 4-7, 2013

Copper Mountain Colorado

Contact Kim Talley for details at [kimt@firstpres.com](mailto:kimt@firstpres.com)

## MUSIC MINISTRY WELCOMES SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS



Please welcome our Music Scholarship Students singing with the Sanctuary Choir this year.

They are (left to right):

Antonio Charles, Trent Willoughby, Brian Rose, Sarah Neely, and Tori Castillo.

## NUFFS TO HEAR HOWARD GRIFFIN

Everyone is welcome to come and hear Howard's story of following a call to ministry after working in finance for several years. We'll also have a turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Thursday, November 8 at 11 a.m.

Parlor

Call 655-3204 to RSVP for lunch by noon Tuesday, November 6.

## NAVIGATORS AND NEIGHBORS PROGRAM STILL AT WORK

First Pres continues to have an active part in the Panhandle Twenty/20's program Navigators & Neighbors. This is a program that pairs a Navigator (someone willing to help a family in need) with a Neighbor (a needy family). Navigators help the Neighbors identify the steps that need to be taken to improve the Neighbors' life situation. They might help them with their education, make goals for their families, or get better jobs. A group of our deacons recently went to 'Back to School Night' at San Jacinto Elementary School. This group is part of the Navigators and Neighbors program that helps families in need. Our group had to decorate a truck with a college team theme. The First Pres group chose OSU. It was a great time and the Navigators were able to visit with five of the Neighbor families. For more information about this program, visit [panhandle2020.org](http://panhandle2020.org).

## GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

### Darrell Cameron

Given by

Trudy Buford

Liz & Bill Carter

Donna & Ross Clopton

### Abbie Madden

Given by

Trudy Buford

Norma & Tom Cambridge

Liz & Bill Carter

Donna & Ross Clopton

Dorothy & Arthur Hamilton

Carol & Bill Harper

Dorothy Parker Circle

Barbara & Bob Rudd

Laura & Joe Street

### John Maynard

### Ala Wells

Given by

Betty & Joe Howell

Betty & Carl Jeans

Virginia & Tony Sicola

Kay Stargel

### Edna Wilson

Given by

Trudy Buford

Susan Burnette & Mark Morey

Norma & Tom Cambridge

Donna & Ross Clopton

Elizabeth Collins

Carol & Bill Harper

Barbara & Bob Rudd

Given by  
Susan Burnette & Mark Morey

**Ed Morris**

Given by  
Norma & Tom Cambridge  
Liz & Bill Carter  
Donna & Ross Clopton  
Barbara & Bob Rudd

**Charles Arthur "Art" SoRelle**

Given by  
Susan Burnette & Mark Morey  
Donna & Ross Clopton

**Helen Vahue**

Given by  
Trudy Buford  
Susan Burnette & Mark Morey  
Norma & Tom Cambridge  
Liz & Bill Carter  
Donna & Ross Clopton  
Barbara & Bob Rudd  
Darla & Doug White

## Upcoming Events

- October 12-13 First Pres hosts Palo Duro Presbytery Meeting
- October 28 Children's Choir sings in 11 a.m. service
- October 31 No Wednesday Night Activities
- November 9-11 GAP Fall Retreat to Angel Fire
- November 11 Veteran's Day
- November 18 Stewardship Sunday
- November 21 Church Office Closes at noon
- November 21 No Wednesday Night Activities
- November 22 Thanksgiving Day
- November 23 Church Office Closed
- December 5 Last Wednesday Night of Semester

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