

Use this area to offer a short teaser of your email's content. Text here will show in the preview area of some email clients.

Is this email not displaying correctly?
[View it in your browser.](#)

First Presbyterian Church

A MESSAGE FROM ROSS CLOPTON, MODERATOR OF THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE



Dear Friends,

Giving is a family matter, a personal matter between individuals and God. For people who have strong feelings about giving, it is hard to discuss without sounding judgmental or condescending, and I don't want to be either of those. But neither do I want to dilute what I know about giving. Let me share with you how we approach giving at our house.

We do not give because the church needs the money. We give because we need to give, and that need stems from three things.

First, we believe that regular, systematic, proportional, and generous giving is scriptural; we believe the *tithe* is scriptural; and, we believe that obedience has a lot to do with following Jesus. At our house we have found that everything our faith has ever asked of us has been good for us, including the tithe. I will not tell you tithing is financially profitable. No, the immediate effect of a tithe is to have less to spend on other things. However, the spiritual fact, the higher, more noble, and more important fact, is that obedient giving is a catalyst for spiritual growth, it prepares us to "walk humbly with our God."

Secondly, at our house we are convinced that if we want to examine our priorities, all we need do is look at our check book. Where we spend our money tells us what we value. Giving is definitely one of the ways we keep our faith the first priority in our lives, and doing that is, without question, vital to expanding our relationship with Jesus.

Thirdly, giving at our house is about gratitude. Looking back at my life I see someone who has done all manner of things to miss the mark, to fall short of the glory of God. It is the life of a person who, left to his own devices, would have lost it all, and yet God has loved me with a love that would not

let go. In our family we have found that every time we have been willing to turn our will and our lives over to His care

we have been blessed in ways better than anything we would ever have imagined. **Here's the bottom line.** God has never shorted us and we are not going to short Him. Having a tangible, though inadequate, means of expressing our gratitude is very important to us, and this enhances the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

We bring our gifts to God every week; we offer them in gratitude, with no strings attached, trusting that His will can be hammered out for every gift that has been



offered up for His glory. Grateful giving is an integral part of the worship experience for us. Grateful giving is a response to the "expansive" grace of God.

Giving is about all of these. It is about obedience; it is about taking action that reinforces trust and faith in our lives by keeping Christ first; and it is about gratitude for the grace He has showered upon us. Giving with this attitude really does expand the work of the Holy Spirit in our home.

I, like Martin Luther King, have a dream. I dream of a day when every individual and family will sit down and prayerfully consider what it means to be an obedient giver, what it means to put Christ first in our budget, and what it means to make giving an expression of gratitude to God for His abundant and expansive grace. When that day comes, and I believe it will, our church budget will be absolutely the least of our worries.

Before making your stewardship commitment for next year I invite you to do two things.

First, consider 1 Timothy 6:17-19: "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life."

Second, join the family of God in Christ to pray for you and yours, something like this: God our Father, we come to You today seeking Your will for our lives. We are particularly concerned with Your will in connection with our giving. Open our hearts and minds that we might remember Your faithfulness to us, even when we didn't deserve it. Help us to remember every good gift You have given us. Empower us to be good stewards of Your gifts. Empower us to put You first in everything we do. Help us to be your grateful disciples. We pray all this in the name of Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

As I write this I am praying with you for God's will in each of our lives.

Yours in Christ,

Ross Clopton
Moderator, Stewardship Committee

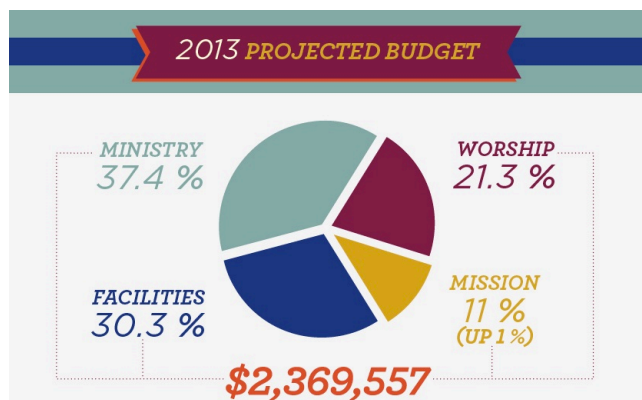


Praise Kidz II sang and rang at 11 o'clock service last Sunday morning.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Mark your calendar and plan to attend our special services at 8:30 and 11:00 a.m. Dec. 9 with the theme "Lessons and Carols." These services will celebrate the Christmas season with music from all groups in the Music Ministry: Sanctuary Choir, Praise Kidz I & II, and Chancel Bells. Please join us as we re-tell through music the timeless story of our Savior's birth.

ONE MORE PERCENT GIVEN TO MISSIONS IN 2013



BUDGET UPDATE

2012 Financial Results Year-to-Date as of Sep 30

	Gifts & Offerings	Expenses
Actual Results	\$ 1,546,125.00	\$ 1,629,440.00
Budgeted/Expected	\$ 1,370,234.00	\$ 1,642,351.00
Actual Over/ (Under) Budget	\$ 175,891.00	\$ (18,659.00)

Refurbishing Capital Campaign
Gifts Received to Date: \$ 1,359,782.83

**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.

COLLECTABLES FOR OTHERS

Help those in our community who need it. Bring your gifts to the mission table in the Crossroads. **For the rest of November:** Boxed meals like Hamburger Helper, canned meats, beanie wienies, and canned beans. **For December:** Paper goods and cleaning supplies.

3rd SUNDAY LUNCH GROUP MOVING TO CALICO COUNTY

We meet after the 11 a.m. service at Calico County on the 3rd Sunday of each month. No reservation is required, and everyone is invited. Please call Martha for more information at 359-3289.

ANGEL TREE INFORMATION

With the Christmas holiday upon us, it's time once again to ask for your help in providing gifts for our Angel Tree Children and our Neighbor Children.

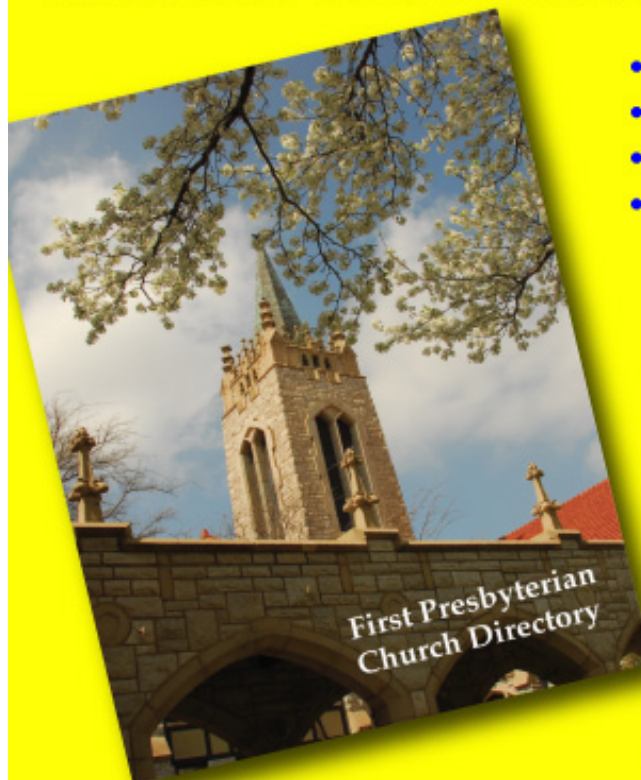
We list these children's gift wishes on angels and hang them on the Angel Tree in the Great Hall for you to adopt. Each child should receive either a toy or an article of clothing. Try to adhere to the guideline of \$15 to \$25 per gift per child.

Gifts are to be returned (gift wrapped) to the church office by Sunday, December 9.

On December 15 from 11:00 – 12:00 p.m. we will have a Christmas party for these children and their caregivers. It will be a great time of fellowship and games. Everyone is invited to participate. If you have any questions please contact Anita in the church office, 350-5202.

Directory: Deadline to Pay -- Nov. 12

Directories Will Be Printed for Pre-Paid Orders and Will Not Be Available for Purchase Later. Assure Your Copy NOW!



Delivery of the Directory is Expected Near Thanksgiving.

- 350 Photos -- Hundreds of Faces
- Identify People You Don't Know
- Complete Alphabetical Listing
- Contact Information

\$15 per Copy

Convenient Ways to Pay --

Offering Plate -- Drop in your \$15 check Sunday. Mark it: "Directory"

Credit Card -- VISA, MasterCard, or Discover. Call Charlotte Kinch, 350-5200 *no later than Monday, Nov. 12!*

Hand Deliver or Mail -- No later than next Monday, Nov. 12, bring or mail your check to First Pres, 1100 S. Harrison, Amarillo, TX 79101, ATT: Charlotte Kinch

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU

November and First Week of December

Nov. 14 – Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Rolls

Nov. 21 – No Wed. Night Activities

Nov. 28 – Chicken Spaghetti, Salad, and Garlic Bread

Dec. 5 – Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Rolls

Dec. 5 will be the last Wednesday Night gathering for this semester. Wednesday Nights will kick off again on Jan. 16.

Reservations for Wednesday Night meals must be made by Monday noon. Email charlottek@firstpres.com, 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, Dec. 12

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

Tickets will be available beginning Nov. 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 kids under two are free! Please contact Michael Bankhead or Alana Mitchell in the Student Ministries office for more details or to get your tickets! **We need desserts for our event! Please bring your desserts to the Student Ministries office anytime between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 10 or Tuesday, Dec. 11. If you would like to drop them off on the day of the event, please drop them off before 6:00 p.m.**

in the Parlor kitchen. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication to our students!
 Questions? Please contact Alana at 350-5209 or alanam@firstpres.com

YOUTH SKI TRIPS ANNOUNCED

A&O Ski Trip Sign Ups

Middle School

Dec. 27-30

Winter Park, CO

For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.skidaddy.com/firstpresms>

High School

Dec. 30-Jan. 3

Winter Park, CO

For more information or to sign up, visit <http://www.skidaddy.com/firstpreshs>

GAP Ski Trip

Jan. 4-7

Copper Mountain, CO

Contact Kim Talley for details at kimt@firstpres.com

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ADVENT LUNCHEON

Begin your holiday season with a focus on Christ! You are invited to the Women's Ministry Advent Luncheon in honor of First Pres staff Wednesday, Dec. 5 at noon in the Parlor. FPC Circles will provide a delicious lunch at no charge. A Love Offering will be accepted for our missionaries. Reserve by Dec. 3. Call Megan, 350-5207, or email meganm@firstpres.com. Childcare will also be available reservation with Debbie at 350-5213 or debbiel@firstpres.com.

NUFFS UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 15 - Harrington House Christmas

Nov 17 - Claude, TX to visit the Gem Theatre to see The Almost Patsy Cline Band Christmas Show

Dec 8 - Trip to Post, TX to visit the Ragtime Gospel Theatre

Dec 13 - Christmas Celebration with Christmas Carols with Sarah Kemmerling and white elephant gifts; Call Cal to RSVP for lunch at 655-3204

For more information about the NUFFs outings please contact Gerri Yock at 352-3255.

MEMORIAL GIFTS, OCT. 6 -- NOV. 2

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Simeon "Simmie" Callahan

Given by

Amarillo National Bank

Control Technologies, Inc.

Mrs. Fred Johnson

Susie & Jay O'Brien

Tol Ware

Pat Dickson

Given by

Susie & Jay O'Brien

Abbie Madden

Given by
Norma Bowen
Polly & Charles SoRelle

Ed Morris

Charles Arthur "Art" SoRelle

Helen Vahue

Ala Wells

Edna Wilson

Given by
Norma Bowen

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 18 Stewardship Sunday
- Nov. 18 3rd Sunday Get-together during end of Sunday School hour
- Nov. 21 Church Office Closes at noon
- Nov. 21 No Wednesday Night Activities
- Nov. 22 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 23 Church Office Closed
- Dec. 5 Women's Ministry Advent Lunch
- Dec. 5 Last Wednesday Night gathering for the semester
- Dec. 9 Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 12 Youth Mexican Dinner
- Dec. 15 Angel Tree Party
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services at 4, 8, and 11 p.m.
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 30 ONE combined service at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary (childcare for infants only)

[friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2012eChimesAug All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
creative@firstpres.com

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)

Sent to << Test Email Address >> — [why did I get this?](#)
[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)
First Presbyterian Church · 1100 S Harrison · Amarillo, Texas 79101

