

Presbyterian Trumpet



February 2012



Circle Meetings will be held Tuesday, February 7, 2012

Ethel Circle will meet at 9:30 A.M. at FPC. **Patty Grones** will be the hostess and conduct the lesson.

Faith Circle will meet at 9:30 A.M. at the home of **Judy Hart** who will also be the hostess. A group discussion will be held.

Evening Angels will meet at 6:30 P.M. at FPC.



Tuesday, February 28, 2012

PW Council Meeting will meet at 9:30 A.M. in the FPC choir room.



Claribel Sebesta helped plan and participated in a Church Women United Workshop for Area 6 (which includes Austin and San Marcos Units). It was held at the William Taylor Methodist Church in Luling on Friday, January 13th. They are trying to get a Unit organized in Luling. Fifteen women attended.

Claribel also planned and led a CWU Workshop for Area 7, which includes Seguin/Guadalupe County, San Antonio, and Kerrville. It was held on January 20th at the St. John Lutheran Church in Marion. Twenty-two women attended and many expressed thanks for a very informative and enjoyable day.



More than 20 years ago, Souper Bowl of Caring began with a simple prayer from a single youth group: *"Lord, as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us to be mindful of those without even a bowl of soup to eat."* Since that day, more than \$71 million has

been raised for local charities across the country through Souper Bowl of Caring.

Through the Souper Bowl of Caring, our youth will be collecting money immediately following the worship service on February 5th. They are raising money to help fight hunger in our community. The money raised will be donated to the Christian Cupboard. Since it is Super Bowl Sunday, the youth will have two large soup pots (Green Bay Packers and Pittsburgh Steelers). So be sure to donate to one of our teams. Hopefully, the team who collects the most money will also be the winners of Super Bowl XLVI.

Continuing the Souper Bowl theme, join your fellow church members for a bowl of soup following worship in Karrick in addition to the regular round of coffee and goodies in Karrick Hall. That way you will be energized for the Super Bowl kickoff Sunday afternoon at 5:30 p.m.



Help Us Extend Our Outreach

The Outreach Committee has met for its first meeting for 2012 and discussed goals and plans for the coming months. One of the goals is to extend our outreach to members of our congregation and church worship visitors beyond those on the Outreach Committee through visitation teams. Needed are persons that would be willing to visit those in our congregation, especially those homebound or in nursing homes OR following up on worship visitors. The time commitment is minimal, but can make a huge difference in our congregational life. Talk to either Travis Anderson or Claribel Sebesta for more information.



Youth News

We are so happy to see so many youth returning for mid-week

programs this year- our youth have been doing a great job at bringing friends and growing our youth family! Mid winters went very well, it was a great opportunity for the youth to reconnect with themselves, each other, and God. This month we will be attending the "Silver Ring Thing" on Saturday February 18th at the Coliseum. The event starts at 5:45 and talks about teen dating and abstinence. The youth is also participating in Souper Bowl of Caring Sunday February the 5th. Please bring dollar bills to support your favorite team and support the Christian Cupboard! Also there will be no Wednesday program on February the 22nd due to Ash Wednesday services. The youth are planning more mission work for Saturday February the 25th. We are hoping to spend some time at the Humane Society volunteering. The youth are learning the value of serving others, and have been working very hard at helping those in need. We are blessed to have such a wonderful group of young adults!

With love and Laughter
Stephanie



**Ash Wednesday Service
February 22, 2012
at 6:30 P.M.**

Ash Wednesday marks the onset of Lent. The early church determined that the Lenten period of fasting renewal should correspond to the period of Christ's fasting (Matthew 4:2) and by counting forty days back from Easter (excluding Sundays which remain "feast" days). Hence, the arrival at the Wednesday seven weeks before Easter. On **Wednesday, February 22nd, at 6:30 P.M.**, we will gather in the sanctuary for a brief service of worship to focus our thought on the season of Lent around the theme "Ashes of Transformation" based on Joel 2:1-2, 12-17.



**Walking the Way of the Cross
with Paul**

Thursdays, February 23-March 29
9:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m.

The apostle Paul has often been considered a controversial figure in early Christianity, especially in modern times. Paul's own complex and sometimes contradictory writings are

partly responsible for this mixed image. Yet at the heart of his difficult texts (and difficult life) was a simple but potent realization: God had sent Israel as crucified Messiah. This key recognition transformed Paul's entire understanding of God's ways and of the human response to them. It made the cross of Christ central to his unfolding of what it means to live a life conditioned by that belief. It placed self-sacrificing love at the foundation and the core of Paul's view of God, his own apostolic ministry, and Christian life overall.

Lent is, among other things, a journey on the way of the cross—a journey of learning how to appropriate Christ's teaching about "taking up the cross" for ourselves. Our six-weeks study together will love at how one early Christian missionary, teacher, and theologian sought to do just that in his work and in his life. We will be looking at a number of passages in Paul's letters in order to reflect on the place of the cross in our Christian lives today. We will also consider Paul's statements about the cross and its implications for our lives today.

A copy of the study is in Karrick Hall for your perusal. Come join us in these Lenten reflections.



...Keep in prayer our nursing home residents: **Delos Law, and Maxine Trost** at Guadalupe Valley Nursing Center; **Noel Jamison** at Oak Ridge Manor in Brownwood; **Jean Albin** at Hacienda Oaks; **Dorothy Purdon** at Sonterra Health Center in San Antonio; and **Charlotte Haley** at Remarkable Healthcare of Seguin.

...Our prayers for healing continue to be with **Shirley Brown** who continues chemo treatments. She continues to do well with good progress medically and high spirits.

...As this newsletter goes to press **Mildred Finch** is undergoing hip replacement surgery at GRMC. Check with the church office for updates on her progress.

...**Doris Hammock** underwent shoulder surgery this past Friday and is home and doing well. Says she has an excellent and attentive "nurse" in husband, Tony.



Session Summary

January 21, 2012 Session meeting and retreat at the home of Tome and Claire Walters:

- Meeting opened with prayer and extended meditation and discussion on 1 Samuel 3:1-10 and John 1:43-51. The discussion focused on how these passages related to us in our faith and call to follow Christ and our work in the church. Where is God leading and calling us as a congregation and as a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)? The Session discussed information provided on two organizations that have evolved as a result of the passage of Amendment 10A, The Fellowship of Presbyterians, now renamed Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO), and Next Church. Persons were encouraged to examine the theology and polity documents of the ECO which are central to this new Reformed body being organized and its plans for the future (www.fellowship-pres.org/wp-content/uploads/Polity.pdf and www.fellowship-pres.org/wp-content/uploads/Theology.pdf)
- There were decisions which were made by the Session in response to the new Book of Order: 1. Maintain an inactive roll; 2. Have an election for Clerk of the Session annually; 3. Set quorum for session meetings at 25% of the session members plus the Moderator.
- Minutes of the December 18, 2011 Stated Meeting of the Session was approved with minor corrections.
- Elections: 2012 Clerk of Session – Liz Taft; 2012 Treasurer – Tome Walters; 2012 session members of the Nominating Committee: Jim Frost and Rochelle Carter
- 2012 Proposed Budget: There was discussion about the per capita. A motion was made, seconded and passed to withhold our 2012 per capita as a means of protest against recent General Assembly actions and concern about proposed overtures to upcoming 2012 General Assembly, communicate to the congregation its decision, and inform congregation that individuals can pay their own per capita (\$6.62 per member) if they wish or designate gifts to Mission Presbytery or General Assembly. Our action will be communicated to Mission Presbytery and Office of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of the reasons for withholding the per capita for 2012
- The Session approved a 2012 budget of \$155,566.00.
- Session approved the following proposed Ministry Teams (first person named is chair) : Budget and Stewardship-Jim Frost, Robin Dwyer, Tome Walters; Building and Grounds-Louella Wilson, Trevor Anderson, Tome Walters, Jennifer Wilson, Ree Mawande; Christian Education-Liz Taft, Rochelle Carter, Kristin Mueller; Fellowship-Bettye Tuten, Louella Wilson, Liz Taft, Kristin Mueller, Travis Anderson; Outreach-Travis Anderson, Trevor Anderson, Ree Mawande, Rochelle Carter, Bettye Tuten; Worship-Robin Dwyer, Jim Frost, Jennifer Wilson
- Fellowship: Travis Anderson recapped the fellowship event from December – the Christmas Party.
- Outreach: Travis Anderson encouraged the members of the church to wear the church T-shirts to events.
- Building and Grounds: The moderator presented a bid from John Holt of My Father's Tools, for \$7,831.12 to complete the work not done by the previous contractor, and it carried.
- Christian Education: no report
- Worship: The next Communion will be February 26, which will be the first Sunday in Lent. A calendar for the communion dates for 2012 will be presented at the next meeting.
- Budget & Stewardship: Tome Walters brought a summary of the 2011 utility bills in which \$2,851.00 was for watering the lawn and connected sewer usage fees. His recommendation is to explore seriously the church possibility of drilling a well to water the lawn.
- Building use request from Jennifer Wilson for use of Karrick Hall. A Master Gardener class will be conducted later this year. The request was enthusiastically passed and to granted use the expertise of existing Master Gardeners to help us with landscaping plans and recommendations for suitable plants for the church property in exchange for use of the building.