



♪ The Chimes



Vol. 1, Issue 3

November 2011

Scripture of the Month:

1 Thessalonians

5:18

Give Thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

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"The Chimes" is a Monthly Publication of First Presbyterian Church, Lewisville TX

TRANSITIONING

A word from Pastor Anne Kinard

I visited with Franky Mesnard in September both because she has had some health issues, but also because of her life-long, 86 years, membership in this church. Franky spent some time gathering some of her past bulletins and other artifacts to give me to read. I was touched that she trusted me to care for them. Seeing the work of the church and past pastors, even back to the 20's helps me to understand this congregation better. Franky is very concerned about what will happen with this congregation in the years to come. I know many are concerned.

An honest look at the past is extremely important for a congregation in

transition. It hasn't happened properly this past year. That is some of the work we will do as the new year comes around.

Some people believe it's important to forgive and move on, but if the past is not healed, the words "I forgive" or "I'm sorry" mean nothing. Honestly looking at the past includes the celebrations and joys as well as the struggles and conflicts. Sometimes the past is just dead weight, preventing the movement of the Spirit in the work of today and hope of tomorrow. Grieving the loss of "what the church once was" is incumbent. Healing happens when things are "named," not set aside to show up in hard times.

Striving to move forward, taking the strongest and best, is what will help the congregation move in a healthy direction. Seeking God's will through discernment on the part of the session will only happen when leaders acknowledge errors and rebuild trust in each other and with the congregation as a whole.

I pray every day that our hearts and minds be opened to the work necessary to do mission and ministry in this time and place. Please pray with me and be willing to be part of the process of coming to terms with your history.

Peace and love,
Anne

One Great Hour of Sharing Offering ~ A Thank You From Margaret Hall Boone, Special Offerings, PC (USA)

Dear Friends,
Thank you for your gift of \$760.00 to the One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) offering. We are grateful for your generosity. When you give to OGHS, you are making a conscious decision to bring the joy and love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable and desperate

places and people around the world. Your contributions help by partnering in programs that help communities grow produce to consume and sell; by providing seeds and tools to Haitian farmers to assist in their recovery; and by enabling mobile health units to move quickly into areas

affected by disaster.
So, on behalf of those sisters and brothers for whom this help is a witness to God's ever-present love, may the Spirit of thanksgiving with which you gave it continue to overflow abundantly within both your own lives and the life of your congregation.

Please read this letter from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly actually sent out in May as the total vote of Presbyteries made it clear that Amendment 10-A would pass. It shares the changes in wording in the Form of Government regarding ordination of deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders. It also gives a clear understanding of the process of discernment that any Amendment goes through in our denomination. Web sites are given if you have more questions or want to comment. My door is open to discuss any concerns you might have.
Peace, Rev. Anne Kinard

Louisville, KY ~ To congregations of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

May grace, mercy, and peace be yours in abundance (Jude 1:2).

The debate about ordination standards has been a Presbyterian family struggle for much of the last three decades. We have sought to find that place where every congregation and every member, deacon, elder, and minister of the Word and Sacrament can share their gifts in ministry while, at the same time, the integrity of every congregation, member, deacon, elder, and minister is respected.

This year, the conversation has focused on Amendment 10-A that was passed by the 219th General Assembly (2010) and sent to presbyteries for approval. While we wait for official tallies, it appears that 87 presbyteries will approve 10-A during the week of May 9, which is the majority required for approval.

If this becomes official, the new language outlining the gifts and requirements for ordained service will say the following: *Standards for ordained service reflect the church's desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life (G-1.0000). The governing body responsible for ordination and/or installation (G.14.0240; G-14.0450) shall examine each candidate's calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of office. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate's ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation (W-4.4003). Governing bodies shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.*

This decision begins with an unequivocal affirmation that ordained office will continue to be rooted in each deacon, elder, and minister's "joyful submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life."

This action also has important effects on our life together as a church, namely:

- in keeping with our historic principles of church order, each session and presbytery will continue to determine the suitability of individuals seeking ordination within its bounds.
- persons in a same-gender relationship may be considered for ordination and/or installation as deacons, elders, and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within the PC(USA); and all other churchwide standards for ordination remain unchanged.

Reactions to this change will span a wide spectrum. Some will rejoice, while others will weep. Those who rejoice will see the change as an action, long in coming, that makes the PC(USA) an inclusive church that recognizes and receives the gifts for ministry of all those who feel called to ordained office. Those who weep will consider this change one that compromises biblical authority and acquiesces to present culture. The feelings on both sides run deep.

However, as Presbyterians, we believe that the only way we will find God's will for the church is by seeking it together – worshiping, praying, thinking, and serving alongside one another. We are neighbors and colleagues, friends and family. Most importantly, we are all children of God, saved and taught by Jesus Christ, and filled with the Holy Spirit.

We hold to the strong affirmation that all of us are bound together as the church through Jesus Christ our Lord. "There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all," Paul wrote to the Ephesians (4:5-6).

It is Jesus Christ who calls individuals to ordained ministries, and all those who are called to ordained office continue to acknowledge Jesus as Lord of all and Head of the church. It is this same Jesus Christ who is the foundation of our faith and to whom we cling.

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thanksgiving dinner

Our annual Thanksgiving dinner will again be held at CCA on **Sunday evening, Nov. 13 at 6:00p.m.** Turkey, dressing, mashed potatoes, cranberry sauce and rolls are being furnished by Mama's Daughter's Diner. So please bring your favorite salad, vegetable or dessert and join us as we celebrate our love for the Lord and each other. Doyle is planning some entertainment, too, that you won't want to miss. **All registrations must be received by Nov. 6.**



Name(s): _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Adults: _____

Children: _____

Please Circle What Kind of Dish You Will Bring: Salad Vegetable Dessert



FALL FESTIVAL THANK YOU FROM JOHN GRACE: "This years Festival of Faith was great success and we had more folks last years. There is no accurate way to determine who many people attended, the only measurement we have is how many hot dogs we gave away. According to reliable sources we handed out 1,400 hot dogs!!! All the performers had a great time they all said they would love to come back next year. All that being said, I am humbled every year when our announcer at 11 AM says, "Good morning Lewisville!" over the sound system! After he makes that announcement the people start to come over and we have a Festival. To see where we were 7 years ago to where we are today I am very proud of the people who help bring this event into happening. There are untold hours devoted to getting give-a-ways, getting performers, arranging bands, fund raising and much, much more. It would never happen with out their help. Thank you to each and every one who helped the Festival of Faith become a tremendous out reach to the community."

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No doubt, there will be several news stories and other reports about this change in the days ahead. A number of resources, including frequently asked questions and liturgical resources, are available for you at [Office of the General Assembly website](#). In addition, for those who wish to comment on or inquire further about 10-A, please contact ga.amendments@pcusa.org or call (888) 728-7228, x8202.

We invite you to join us in prayer:

Almighty God, we give thanks for a rich heritage of faithful witnesses to the gospel throughout the ages. We offer gratitude not only for those who have gone before us, but for General Assembly commissioners and presbyters across the church who have sought diligently to discern the mind of Christ for the church in every time and place, and especially in this present time.

May your Spirit of peace be present with us in difficult decisions, especially where relationships are strained and the future is unclear. Open our ears and our hearts to listen to and hear those with whom we differ. Most of all, we give thanks for Jesus Christ, our risen Savior and Lord, who called the Church into being and who continues to call us to follow his example of loving our neighbor and working for the reconciliation of the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Gradye Parsons
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

Cynthia Bolbach
Moderator, 219th General Assembly (2010)

Linda Valentine
Executive Director General Assembly Mission Council

Landon Whitsitt
Vice Moderator, 219th General Assembly (2010)

**First Presbyterian
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Reverend Anne Kinard, Interim Pastor
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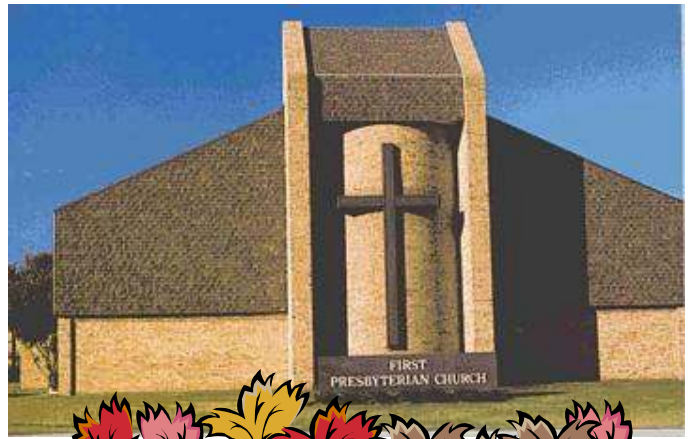


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**CONGREGATIONAL
CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS**

| | |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 6 | Remembrance Sunday Congregational Meeting @ 11AM Waxahachie Stocking Project @ 11:30AM (lunch served first) |
| Nov. 12 | FPC FLEA MARKET @ 8AM |
| Nov. 13 | Veterans Day Sunday Thanksgiving Dinner @ CCA 6:00PM (*reservations required) |
| Nov. 17 | Joint Session Meeting and Deacon Meeting @ 7PM |
| Nov. 24 | Thanksgiving Day! <i>(Office Closed 24th & 25th)</i> |
| Nov. 26 | Hanging of the Greens @ 10AM |
| Nov. 27 | First Sunday of Advent |
| Nov. 30 | Dinner/Advent Study @ 5:30PM |



Psalm 136:1

***GIVE THANKS
to the LORD,
for he is good.
His love endures forever.***

November Birthdays

| | |
|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Cathy Garrett |
| 3 | Kelly Porter |
| 6 | Jerry Harvey |
| 10 | Vanessa Nowlin |
| 12 | Gina Hudson |
| 16 | Cierra Sullivan |
| 19 | Denise Mason |
| 21 | John Grace |
| 22 | Helen Harrison |
| 29 | Sandra Giesler |

Happy Birthday