

# Things Are Happening!

at

## FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### Lufkin, Texas

Sunday School - 9:30 a.m.  
Morning Worship - 10:45 a.m.

*Celebrating 127 Years of Christian Ministry*

November 2011

## FROM THE PASTOR

### The Church Making a Big Difference

*"...remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction . . . you became imitators of us and of the Lord."*

*-1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

The apostle Paul praises the Thessalonian church for responding to the gospel with actions of faith, hope, and love. In a culture of many gods and emperor worship, they were living in the power of the one true God they had discovered in Jesus Christ. Their faith was not just know-ledge of the gospel; it was a way of life, sermons in action, daily demonstrations of faith, hope, and love empowered by the Holy Spirit. Paul praises them for living Holy Spirit-empowered lives. The Christians had received the impartation of Christ's Spirit and that allowed Jesus to unleash his power in their lives as they sought to imitate all that Jesus said and did.

Napoleon was one of the greatest military commanders in history. Rising to power in 1799, he built an empire that extended throughout Europe for 15 years. He was finally captured and was exiled to the island of St. Helena off the coast of Africa in 1815 and lived the last six years of his life there. In his last days he spoke truthfully:

"You speak of empires and power. Well, Alex-



ander the Great, Julius Caesar, Charlemagne, and myself founded empires, but on what did we found them? Force. Christ founded His on love, and at this moment there are millions ready to die for Him . . . I see no army, no banner or battering-ram; yet a mysterious power is there, working in the interest of Christianity-people secretly sustained here and there by a common faith in the great Unseen. I die before my time, and my body will be given to the earth as food for worms. Such is the fate of him called Napoleon the Great. But look to Christ, honored and loved in every land. Look at His kingdom, rising over all other kingdoms. His life was not the life of a man; His death not that of a man but of God."

If this quote I found from Napoleon is correct, then he realized near the end of his life that the church of Jesus Christ had discovered power that was true power. They had discovered a life that really was life. I believe that is why the church is still in existence today. It is not due to its own talents or ideas; as a matter of fact, even churches sometimes miss the mark. But the church still exists and still carries out the ministry of Jesus Christ because it is empowered by God—God at work in the lives of people. In uncertain times, the church continues the ministry started by Jesus Christ because it is God granting us the grace to live lives marked by faith, hope, and love because we have the Savior and Redeemer, Jesus Christ.

Timothy Peck wisely noted, "We worship the God who has no limits. While we are limited by space, our knowledge, and our resources, God knows no such limits. As the all-present God we can be confident of his presence; as the all-knowing God, we can trust the wisdom of his plan; and as the all-powerful God, we can expect his intervention in our lives and in our church. This is the God we worship."

Knowing that the power to live the life of faith is a gift from God, do not worry about your worthiness,

**See Difference, page 3**

# Session Highlights

The session members passed a motion to allow the Presbyterian Women to take up their Thank Offering during the worship service on Nov. 20.

The Compassionate Ministries Committee is making plans for the annual Meals on Wheels on Christmas Eve. The committee members will need people to cook turkeys, to help cook the meals, to help prepare the meals for delivery, to clean up the Kitchen, and to deliver the meals. Please be in prayer about helping the elderly people of Angelina County in several of those areas.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner will be after the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 20. The Congregational Growth Committee will provide the meat, dressing, gravy, and dessert. Members are asked to bring salads and vegetables.

The Education Committee planned Trunk or Treat for Sunday, Oct. 30 in the parking lot.

Beginning Sunday, Oct. 23, a music time will be presented during Sunday school for the children in the nursery through elementary school children.

The audit of the 2010 church financial records by Stephanie Slemmons was approved.

A special worship service of thanksgiving will take place on Sunday, Nov. 20.

On Wednesday evening Nov. 30, dinner will be provided at the church after which everyone is asked to join the Worship Committee members to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. The committee members are asking for donations of ornaments in the shape of crosses, stars, angels, or other chrismon symbols in white, silver, or gold.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the choir will perform a Christmas cantata. Refreshments will be served after the worship service.

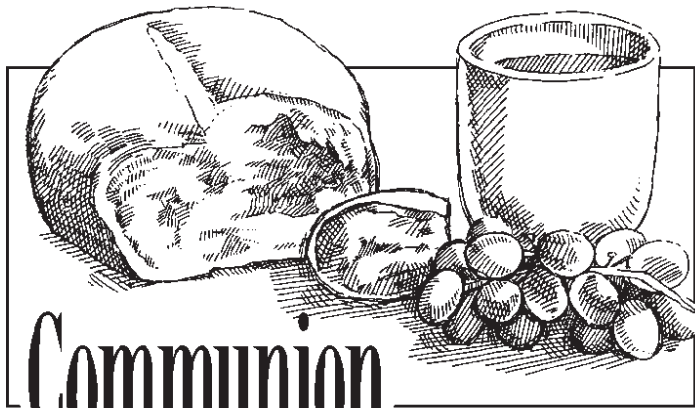
We will again this year have a Christmas Eve candlelight service on Saturday, Dec. 24 with a regular worship service on Sunday, Dec. 25.

Dr. Wiggins is conducting a class for new members with five people attending.

The date of the next session meeting was moved to Sunday, Nov. 13 because of the Thanksgiving dinner on the 20th.

## ELDERS OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER

Barbara Corbett and Michael East



## Communion

### SCHEDULE for 2011

**November 27 – First  
Sunday of Advent**

**December 25 – Christmas**

An Extended Table Ministry offering for the poor will be collected during the worship service on every Sunday we celebrate communion.

**REMEMBER TO BRING  
YOUR PEANUT BUTTER  
(18 oz. jars) AND RICE  
(1-2 pound sacks)**

## Nourishment Advent Series Off to a Good Start

Our Wednesday night Nourishment dinner and Bible study is off to a good start! The meals prepared by Connie McEntire have been delicious and the Bible study has nourished souls. The good news is people are being fed with fellowship, food, and faith! We hope you will join us at 6 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall every Wednesday through Nov. 16.

**Deadline  
for the newsletter –  
November 20**



## Circles

- Circle 1 – Nov. 8 – 9:30 a.m.  
at Betty Watts' home  
Leader: Winona Oates  
Circle 2 – Nov. 8 – 2 p.m.  
Church Parlor  
Circle 3 – Nov. 14 – 6 p.m.  
Church Parlor

## 2011 Thank Offering

*"... for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me."*

– Matthew 25:35-36

Please join the Presbyterian Women in being thankful!

Each year, the Thank Offering travels the world, meeting needs all over. In 2011, 26 projects (14 in the United States and 12 international) will receive funding to expand their work.

Your past gift to the 2010 Thank Offering will provide health care for women and children, build a safe residence for high school girls, educate people with physical challenges, improve food and water supplies and allow women increased economic opportunities. Your generosity to the 2011 Thank Offering will support similarly impressive programs in the future.

How wonderful that Presbyterian women hear Jesus' call for compassion and care, especially as recorded in Matthew's Gospel. And how wonderful that Presbyterian women not only hear that summons but respond with such generosity that many are satisfied and filled with good things.

With thanksgiving, we celebrate that we have been abundantly blessed and have these gifts to share. We rejoice that God uses our gifts to satisfy so many and build up the realm of God here on earth.

The Presbyterian Women of First-Lufkin will receive the Thank Offering on Sunday, Nov. 20.

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### DIFFERENCE, continued

status, or ability. Just report for duty, for God loves to use those who are available. God knows how to use those who are weak. If you recall, God did not send an orator or army when God delivered Israel out of Egypt. God sent an individual who had been out in the desert for forty years and had some type of

speech impediment. God did not need Moses' ability. God just needed Moses to be available. The story of Moses and the exemplary lives lived by the common people in the Thessalonian church are reminders that nothing is small, nothing is ordinary, when God handles it.

Although words are important, our world may not need to hear more sermons as much as it needs to see them! May our church and all churches, empowered by the Holy Spirit go forth into our culture with deeds and actions of faith, hope, and love. Today, may we and all churches live like the church in Thessalonica, a people who had not only received the gospel but also allowed its power to be unleashed in actions of faith, hope, and love.

## LITURGICAL ART IN NOVEMBER

The Worship and Music Committee will sponsor another liturgical art event in November.

We will have a photography exhibit of things we are thankful for. Please bring your photos, matted and ready to hang, to the church on Sunday, October 30. The photographs will be hung during the week and ready for viewing the first Sunday in November.

The show will run until the beginning of Advent.

If you have any questions, contact Gladys Swanson.

## ORNAMENTS NEEDED

Please consider donating ornaments to grace our beautiful tree this holiday season. Your choice of Chrismons—crosses, crowns, angels, and stars—in gold, silver, and white will add a personal touch and create a family tree worthy of the King of Kings.

## THANKSGIVING DINNER SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20

The Congregational Growth Committee is planning the annual Thanksgiving dinner after worship on Sunday, Nov. 20.

The committee members will provide the meat (turkey and ham), dressing, gravy, and dessert.

Members of the congregation are asked to bring salads and vegetables to round out the meal.



## FRESH FLOWERS NEEDED FOR THE SANCTUARY

Are you looking for a way to contribute to the worship services and honor loved ones at the same time?

Fresh flowers beautify the Sanctuary during Sunday morning worship services and are taken to the shut-ins following the service.

Please consider donating flowers. Your donation can be made anonymously or in honor of someone.

Contact Rebecca in the church office for details.



### Come Decorate for Christmas

On Wednesday, Nov. 30, we will gather from 6 p.m. until whenever to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas and enjoy fellowship, pizza, and ice cream.

Stay for a little, or stay for a lot. There is something for everyone, and the fun will not be complete without you!

Please RSVP to Rebecca if you plan to attend.

## MORE NEWS OF RECENT GRADUATES

Niko Battise graduated this past August from Texas State Technical College in Waco, Texas.

## E-MAIL UPDATES

If you have a new e-mail address or have not provided yours to the church, please be sure to call Rebecca in the church office at 634-3701. This way, we can keep in touch!



## Christmas Cantata

Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to celebrate the birth of Christ in a worship service on Sunday, Dec. 18, featuring our talented choir.

The Worship Committee will sponsor refreshments in the Fellowship Hall following the service.



### Saturday evening Dec. 24

## 2011 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN NEARS END

The Finance Committee would like to thank all of you who have turned in a pledge for 2012. We are putting together a budget for the church operations and committees for next year. We would like to increase funding to our church committees so they can plan additional events for next year.

If you have not yet turned in your pledge, please do so in order that we may have the additional funds we need. Our church is blessed with a truly giving and caring congregation.

May God bless all of us in the coming year!

Sarah Strinden, treasurer

As of October 11, 2011:

Total pledges collected for 2011 - \$114,229 (51%)  
Total income for 2011 - \$221,532 (59%)  
Total expenses paid - \$211,074 (61%)

# The Installation of Our New Minister

The Rev. Dr. Brian Wiggins was installed on Sunday, Oct. 2, 2011 at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Ted Wardlaw, president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary preached a powerful sermon on the "Foolishness of Ministry." It was a most relevant message for today's world.

Ruling elder Debra Battise-Kleinman from Indian Presbyterian Church moderated the installation and the laying on of hands.

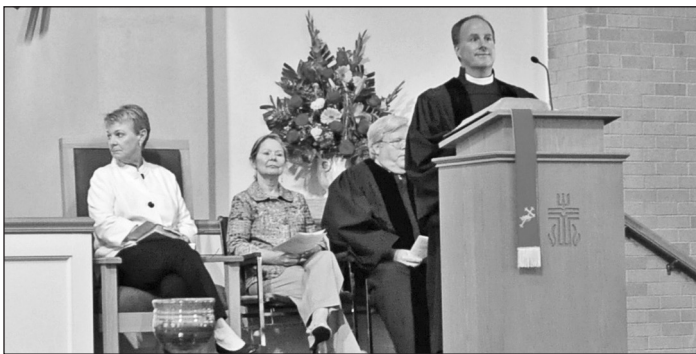
Everyone involved, from elders and pastors from Crockett and Nacogdoches to elders who participated in the laying on of hands to the choir and musicians and the women of the church who organized the reception afterward, needs to be thanked for their hard work and a day well planned! It was a good day for our church.

Even though the laying on of hands has been done and our pastor is now installed, continue to pray for the church and all those in positions of leadership.

God has blessed days planned ahead!



*Dr. Brian Wiggins receives the charge from Dr. Ted Wardlaw at his installation service.*



*Brian addresses the congregation during his installation service.*



*Ruling elder Kip Miller asks the members of the congregation to respond to questions during Dr. Brian Wiggins' installation service.*

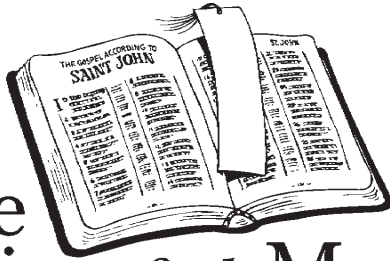


*Dr. Ted Wardlaw preaches a sermon on the "Foolishness of Ministry" during the installation service for Dr. Brian Wiggins.*



*The laying on of hands by all ordained pastors and ruling elders during the installation service for Dr. Brian Wiggins.*





# Bible Readings *for the Month*

NOV. 6- 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

Psalms 78:1-7

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Matthew 25:1-13

NOV. 13 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Judges 4:1-7

Psalms 123

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Matthew 25:14-30

NOV. 20 - Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

Psalms 100

Ephesians 1:15-23

Matthew 25:31-46

NOV. 27 - First Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 64:1-9

Psalms 80:1-7, 17-19

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Mark 13:24-37

# Thank You!

Dear Church Family,

Thank you so very much for the huge bouquet of flowers you brought me from Dr. Wiggins' installation service. I am sad that I could not attend.

I feel richly blessed to be remembered in such a lovely way.

Elaine Frazier

## Celebrating

*An Anniversary This Month*

- 16 - Kip and Debbie Miller
- 23 - Dick and Debbie Lambing
- 30 - Ron and Patress Schaeffer

# Happy Birthday



### November:

- |                        |                         |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 01 - Nettie Cartwright | 18 - David Maxwell      |
| 04 - Kristin Boulware  | 20 - Barbara Ferguson   |
| 04 - Greg Van Horn     | 23 - Shirley Brooks     |
| 05 - Rodney Ivy        | 27 - Morty Halyard      |
| 07 - Stephen Corbett   | 29 - Stephen Adams      |
| 08 - Brad Lowe         | 30 - Maurice Johnson    |
| 08 - Brian Smith       |                         |
| 10 - David Forrest     | <b><u>December:</u></b> |
| 10 - Rolle Rand        | 02 - Taylor Stroud      |
| 11 - Jack Schaeffer    | 06 - Rachel Battise     |
| 11 - Kelly Schaeffer   | 08 - Elizabeth Neel     |
| 14 - Matt Moreau       | 09 - Keith Bailey       |
| 17 - Carol Hatcher     | 09 - Bill Strinden      |

**FABULOUS FRIENDS**  
Look for an announcement  
from Lori Cummings  
as to when and where  
we will meet in November.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

### Sunday, Nov. 20

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**607 Jane Way**  
**Lufkin, Texas 75904**

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Office hours:     Monday-Thursday  
                          8 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
                          Friday - 8 a.m. to noon

E-mail address: fpc@consolidated.net  
Web page: www.fpclufkin.com

Newslettter:     Libby Stapleton  
                          home - 936-639-3600  
                          elsteacher@suddenlink.net

Circulation:     Betty Watts

**NEWSLETTER**

**DEADLINE:     20th of each month**

Rev. Dr. Brian Wiggins, Pastor  
E-mail: fpcpastor@consolidated.net  
Rebecca Faulk, Secretary/  
Financial Assistant  
Paula West, Music Director  
June Clement, Organist  
Susan Dickens, Pianist