

Covenant

Courier



March 08, 2009

Volume I

Issue VI

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Notes from the Deacons

Dear Congregation,

From time to time you may be approached by individuals who are looking for help from you or from the church. This is often difficult. It is hard to know if someone is in need or is seeking to take advantage of you or the church. We have clear commands from God's Word to be a people of mercy first to other Christians and then others as we are able. And yet, Scripture also says that those who will not work should go without eating—it may sound harsh, but hunger is a strong motivator. We are to be at the same time generous and wise stewards.

While the Diaconate would not wish in any way to discourage your acts of generosity to those who are in need, we do wish to be a help in these matters when you find yourself unsure how to proceed. Where you can help another believer or even an unbeliever that is in need of mercy we would encourage you doing what you believe is right as you are able. However if you wish to defer to the Deacons, please feel free to call asking for help. If we can advise, we will. If you think it best to simply connect the request with your Diaconate, please feel free to give us the name and contact information of the person in need.

For your information, our policy is below. You may find it useful to know how we will proceed.

Sincerely,
The Deacons of Fifth Street
Presbyterian Church

Benevolence Policy for Walk-ins

Believing that God has called Fifth Street Presbyterian Church to show mercy to all, especially those of His household, we are very interested in assisting those who are in need and are truly deserving of mercy.

While we realize that we can not see a man's heart, we also realize that we must (to the best of our ability) measure each request by Biblical standards and act according to the limits of God's providence. To this end the following policy is adopted by the Deacons:

1. Requests for assistance from walk-ins will be referred to PATH or a similar organization that we support and can best address the specific need.
2. No cash will ever be distributed by the church.
3. Requests for assistance, directly to the church, by non-church members are to be made to the Deacons following the morning worship service. The person requesting assistance is expected to be with us for worship and may request of an usher directions to a Deacon.

Please note: Members that need assistance should speak to a Deacon or the Associate Minister concerning the Robert Hill fund.

Wedfest

Meal at 5:30 pm. Classes at 6:30 pm. Choir Practice at 7:30 pm.

March 11	Pizza & Hymns	April 8	Wedfest
March 18	Wedfest	April 15	Wedfest
March 25	Wedfest	April 22	Wedfest
April 1	Pizza & Hymns	April 29	Wedfest
		May 6	Pizza & Hymns

News from the Session

Parenting together in Christ's Church:

Session approved a quarterly fellowship of parents with young children to provide a place of encouragement and mutual help for parents of young children (8 and under).

The Group will meet at 4:00 P.M. and enjoy a covered dish meal together at 5:30 p.m. The first of these meetings is scheduled for Sunday, April 5. Pastor Simmons will facilitate the discussion and a few topics will be chosen to help generate discussion but there will be no lesson or assignments—just parents encouraging parents in this God given role of raising children for God's glory.

A Principle Reduction Fund:

A Principle Reduction fund was established for those who wish to make donations against the outstanding principle of our building fund.

Please be sure to mark the gift clearly for "Principle Reduction" otherwise the gift will go to the general fund or the building fund which is used to make the monthly payments.

As you know, our building fund income has been below the \$2,950 needed monthly, so the Session asks that you continue to make your monthly pledge and gifts to that fund and the general fund as you have been doing and use the Principle Reduction Fund as a place to make gifts beyond your normal support of the church.

Miscellaneous:

David Kelly, Sam Kordik, and Ron Brady were approved as potential substitute teachers for our youth Sunday School.

Megan Crim was removed from our roll, having united with another evangelical church.

The following members were approved for the Session's committee:

Mission and Outreach Committee

Chaired by Bill Turman

- Beverly and Joe Kanewske,
- Louann and Robert Lewis,
- Linda and Fletcher Smith

Christian Education Committee

Chaired by Jerry Shore

- Oleta Brinton,
- Trae Elmore,
- Katie LaRoy,
- Louann Lewis,
- Brenda Orbaugh

Youth Committee

Chaired by Gary Hopkins

- Cheri Bowen,
- Jami Brumfield,
- Lisa Sharpless,
- Jenny Simmons,
- Kent Travis

Weekly Schedule

Tuesdays

6:30 am, Men's discussion group
9:00 am, Mom's Fellowship

Wednesdays

11:45 am., Prayer time w/Pastor Bowen

Small Groups

Every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the Month at 5:45 pm, & the 2nd Friday of each month at 6:00 pm.

Youth Group

Regular meeting Wednesday during Wedfest

Safety at Fifth St.

From time to time people come into our church looking for assistance. Often times these are people just looking for a hand out. Other times it is someone who is really in need and we are happy to be a blessing to that person. When someone comes in seeking assistance, the deacons will meet the person and try to ascertain if we could, or should, offer some assistance.

On a recent Sunday morning, a man entered the Sunday School wing rear entrance. The deacons were notified and visited with the man. The man was looking for money, but when told that we would not give him any cash he became agitated and made threatening gestures towards the deacons. The man was then told to leave the church property or the police would be called to remove him. The deacons escorted the man out of the church building and off the property.

Even though this type of problem is rare, it prompted the Diaconate and Session to discuss safety issues here at FSPC. The Diaconate would like to make you aware of a few changes that are being implemented as an outcome of that

meeting. First, the rear entrance to the Sunday School wing (by the Nursery) will be locked at 9:40 AM on Sunday mornings. Please enter by the Fellowship Hall when the door is locked. All rear doors are locked after the Worship Service begins. Second, a Greeter or Usher will be stationed in the hallway during the Sunday School hour. The man on duty will be responsible for locking the rear door and checking the hallways, sanctuary and narthex during Sunday School and before the Worship Service begins. Finally, if you see someone you don't know give them a greeting. If the person seems lost, or obviously out of place, contact the man monitoring the halls or the nearest deacon.

We want to continue to be a Church that is friendly, accessible, and welcoming to newcomers while providing for the safety and security of our families. We trust that these changes will not be a burden. If you have any concerns or questions please contact John Orbaugh at (903) 561-5916.

MEN'S STUDY

We continue meeting on Tuesday mornings from 6:30-7:30 am to discuss articles. These discussions are led by Mike Bowen and Greg Kiblinger.

The purpose of these meetings is to foster and encourage fellowship and unity as well as mutual ministry among our men.

We will meet every Tuesday in March except March 10 (Spring Break). Articles will be available for pick up each week and will also be posted on the church website.

Church Website

The Church Website, www.5thstpca.org, has been updated and expanded (thank you Matt LaRoy!).

You can find our weekly bulletins and worship guides there. Sermons are now available archived all the way back to 2006. You can see past newsletters.

The member's area has lots of information. In order to access the member's page, you must type in "member" as the user name, and "knox" as the password. You will find the link to the weekly articles that the men are discussing each Tuesday morning in addition to the most recent shepherding lists, new members information, and a whole lot more!

New Members

We welcome Mae Davis to the membership of our church. Mae is the granddaughter of Emma Dougherty and the seventh of ten children (five brothers and four sisters).



Mae Davis

Mae is a portrait artist and is presently taking photography so she will have better photos to paint from. Also, she is looking into a physical therapist assistant program, perhaps starting this fall at Kilgore. She requests your prayers as she seeks the Lord's guidance in what she should do concerning her education and future vocation.

She comes to us from the Central Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

P.O. Box 768
Gladewater TX 75647
Home: 903.845.6025
maedavis84@yahoo.com

Sara has moved to the area and lives with her grandparents Bill and Emma Dougherty. Sara with her sisters and cousins (total of 7 now attending FSPC) grew up in Brazil where their grandmother (Emma) and her first husband were Presbyterian Missionaries.



Sara May Siviero

Nina is attending Kilgore College and with her family helping with the care of her grandmother. Nina came to us by transfer from the Central Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

Pray for Sara as she is in school and seeks to serve our Lord in her education as well as in her service to Christ in the Dougherty home.

15121 CR 3223
Gladewater, TX 75647
Hm: 903.845.6025
Cell: 903.987.1164
e-mail: sivierobrasil@yahoo.com

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the love and kindness you have showered on Fletcher and I while Mother has been so ill. Your prayers on her behalf and on ours has lifted our hearts through these long uncertain days. It was a very real comfort to know that others were joined in prayer with us. I know that her improvement and healing is an answer to prayer.

The generous gift of the restaurant cards has met a very practical need for meals after a long day at the hospital. We appreciate your kind and generous spirit in caring for us in such thoughtful ways. "I thank God for every remembrance of you..." Philippians 1:3. Gratefully yours,

Love in Christ,
Fletcher and Linda Smith

We welcome Logan back to the membership of our church. Logan was baptized here at Fifth Street but until about a year ago has been living in Oklahoma.



Logan Grigg

Logan is currently studying Criminal Justice and is involved in RUF here in Tyler.

Pray for Logan as he continues his studies and prepares for the vocation to which our Lord has called him.

20119 CR 2147
Troup, TX 75789
Mobile: 580.660.1603
lgrigg@live.com

New Members: *Continued...*



Samuel (Sam) Kordik

Sam moved to the area to attend Alert Academy in Big Sandy for training as an Ambulance Medic.

Presently he is working with ETMC's ambulance service as a medic and is completing his final year of Nursing School.

While at Alert Academy the Lord opened an opportunity for him to direct one of the summer ministry programs and he continues to minister there.

Sam comes by transfer from Crossroads Community Church in Greenfield, WI.

Pray for his work, education and the ministry the Lord has given him with young men during the summer.

One Academy Blvd. #573
Big Sandy, TX 75755
Cell: 903.705.4572
e-mail: samuel@samuelkordik.com



Nina Brown Siviero

Nina has moved to the area and lives with her grandparents Bill and Emma Dougherty. Nina with her sisters and cousins (total of 7 now attending FSPC) grew up in Brazil where their grandmother (Emma) and her first husband were Presbyterian Missionaries.

Nina is attending Kilgore College and with her family helping with the care of her grandmother.

Nina came to us by transfer from the Central Presbyterian Church of Brazil.

Pray for Nina as she is in school and seeks to serve our Lord in her education as well as in her service to Christ in the Dougherty home.

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Hm: 903.845.6025
Cell: 903.987.1164
e-mail: sivierobrasil@yahoo.com



The Compton's

We welcome the Compton Family to the membership of our church. Randy and Mary come with their four children

Zach (4/4/96), Trent (3/2/98), Reid 2/14/02), and Elise (6/6/04). They are coming by transfer from Trinity P.C.A. of Cleveland, TN.

Randy is an Assistant Professor of English at Letourneau University in Longview and

Mary home-schools their four children.

Pray for the Compton family as they seek to serve Christ here at Fifth Street and take that weekly drive with four little children.

503 Ruthlynn Dr
Longview, TX 75615
Home: 903-238-9997
RandallCompton@letu.edu
Marycompton@att.net

March 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	2	3 9:30 am Mom's Fellowship and Crafts Ruth Mitchell Trent Compton	4 WEDFEST Spring Break 7:00 pm Choir John Priddy Georgiann Shore	5 6:30 Mary & Martha Circle	6 10:00 am Ladies' service project Robyn McDowell	7 Jenny Simmons Ron Brady
8 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship 12:00 pm Church Lunch	9 7:00 pm Christian Education Commit- tee meeting	10 9:30 am Mom's Fellowship and Crafts 9:30 am. Esther Circle 7:00 pm Deacons	11 5:30 Hymn Sing & Pizza No Choir practice Jessica Martin	12	13	14
15 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship	16 Jim Dent	17 6:30-7:30 am Men's Discussion Group 9:30 am Mom's Fellowship and Crafts 7:00 pm Session	18 5:30 pm WEDFEST 6:30 Classes 7:30 Choir	19	20 6:00 pm Small Group w/ Ken Brunfield	21 4:00 pm Families in the park Natalie Travis
22 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship 5:45 pm Small Groups	23 Josie Travis	24 6:30-7:30 am Men's Discussion Group 9:30 am Mom's Fellowship and Crafts	25 5:30 pm WEDFEST 6:30 Classes 7:30 Choir	26 6:30 pm Ladies' night out	27	28 Youth Service Pro- ject/Bowling/Pizza Joanna Leath
29 9:30 am Sun. School 11:00 am Worship 3:00 pm Ryan's Organ Recital	30	31 6:30-7:30 am Men's Discussion Group 9:30 am Mom's Fellowship and Crafts				

The Covenant Courier is a production of 5th Street Presbyterian Church. Our goal is to promote extensive communication within the body so that all may more thoroughly enjoy the benefits of Christian Fellowship.

For questions, comments, and/or informational submissions, please contact us at news@5thstpc.org