



The Newsletter

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Kilgore, Texas

December 2023
Volume 40 No. 12

FROM THE PASTOR

On our way back to Texas after the Thanksgiving holiday, Abby and I visited one of my cousins on my father's side of the family, who lives in Chattanooga, TN. Before our visit, I had not seen this cousin in at least 25 years. My childhood memories of him are scattered, but I knew he lived on our route back home, so I decided to visit. And I am glad I did.

On our last evening of the two-night visit, my cousin pulled up a file that had 4,000 pictures of the Wilson family, most of which I had never seen before. These were pictures of my grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles, great-aunts and great-uncles, dozens of cousins, and photos of my dad as a teenager. The time frame of these photographs stretched from the mid-40s to the present. It was a treasure to behold.

I've reflected on the experience of looking at pictures of family members taken decades ago, and it has left me with a greater sense of identity—who I am and the people I come from. It reminded me that who I am today did not come out of thin air but is an identity I was born into and passed on from generation to generation. This is also true in the life of faith.

Reading the Bible can be like looking at a collage of family photos. Our faith identity is not self-constructed, and neither is it a novel invention. Abraham and Sarah, Isaac, Moses, Joshua, Rahab, David, Mary, Peter, James, and John are more than just historical figures; they are our ancestors in the life of faith. Reading about their lives and histories shapes and informs our identity as a people whose God is the Lord, and their struggles and triumphs are part of our faith family history.

Why is this important? We can often be flooded with questions of identity and purpose. Who am I, and what is my God-given purpose? The world would have us believe that we have to answer this question by ourselves and for ourselves, as if identity and purpose were matters of choice. That's not how faith works. Our identity and purpose are given to us. We're born into it by the power of the Holy Spirit through the waters of our baptism. Thanks be to God.

In Christ,

Will





Notes from the Session

The Session held the Stated Meeting Sunday, November 12, 2023 at 11:35 a.m. in the Parlor following worship. The meeting began with scripture and prayer.

Clerk's report:

* Communion was served November 5, 2023 in the sanctuary during worship. We had the baptism of Perri Alexis Santora on October 22, 2023. The clerk called for discussion on the security we currently have during Sunday morning services. The Session is satisfied with our current arrangements.

Pastor's report:

Will has a journal article that will be published next year. He will finish course work in April. He will be off the Sunday after Thanksgiving, November 26, and also December 31.

Administration

* Staff reviews were conducted, and raises were requested, along with continuing to provide scholarships for Will's PhD program.

C. E.-Missions

* The Fall Festival in October was a success, as well as the booth at the November 11 Derrick Lighting. The Advent Festival will be in Fellowship Hall December 3.

Worship-Fellowship

* Plans are underway for the Candlelight Service on December 17 at 5:00 p.m.
* A fellowship supper will be held in Fellowship Hall immediately after the Grace Notes Christmas Program on December 13.

New Business

* The Session postponed the presentation of the Budget until the December meeting.

Old Business

* There was discussion on changing the Session meetings back to Wednesday evenings. It will be decided at the December 10 meeting.



Tithes and Offerings for Month of October

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 33,500
Actual Monthly Tithes/Offerings	\$ 28,659
Actual Monthly Expense	\$ 49,569
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ (20,910)

For the Year 2023

Anticipated Tithes/Offerings	\$ 402,000
Actual YTD Tithes/Offerings	\$ 313,040
Actual YTD Expense	\$ 460,951
Overage/ (Deficit)	\$ (147,911)

Thank you for your tithes and offerings!
Without your faithful giving, ministry and missions would not be possible.

A request to replace the broken glass on one of the Fellowship Hall windows will be referred to the Property Manager.

Communion will be served at the morning worship service on Christmas Eve.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which consisted of the minutes, and the financial report for August.

Session members shared joys and concerns, and prayed together for those on the prayer list, and members of our congregation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Sarah Camp
Clerk

December 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Sat. Bread St. Paul's Episcopal
3 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir 12:00 Officer Tr. 4:00 <i>Advent Festival</i>	4 9:30 P W Coord. Team	5 6:00 Handbells	6 3:30 Grace Notes 6:00 Night Circle Fellowship Hall	7 5:30 Admin. in the Parlor	8	9 Sat. Bread Bill Terrell
10 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir Rehearsal Session mtg 5:00 Youth	11	12 12:00 Noon Circle Parlor	13 3:30 Grace Notes 6:00 <i>Grace Notes</i> <i>Christmas Prog.</i> Dinner to follow Fellowship Hall	14	15	16 Sat. Bread Forest Home Baptist Youth go to Six Flags
17 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Choir Rehearsal 5:00 <i>Candlelight Service</i>	18	19	20	21	22	23 Sat. Bread Jim Griffin
24 <i>Communion</i> 9:30 Sun School 10:30 Worship <hr/> 31 8:00 NYE- F.H.	25	26	27	28	29	30 Sat. Bread Church of God in Christ



Thoughts and prayers
Family and friends of FPC

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| * Tom Ansley | * Gary Atchley |
| * Regina Baker | * Raymond Bazinet |
| * Gary Boyd | * Joe Brown |
| * Elizabeth Collins | * Shauntell Copeland |
| * Jimmy Culp | * Linda Curkan |
| * Susie Pelham Davis | * Kenny Ferro |
| * John Fout | * Laura Guzman |
| * Ashley Haden | * Chester Hardy |
| * Guy Harrison | * Lucy Harrison |
| * Joan Harslett | * Mike Holbert |
| * Kenzie Hyatt | * Zoe Kelt |
| * Cheyenne Kirkpatrick | * Rita Knox |
| * Nikki Lafitte | * Shirley G Latham |
| * Michelle Lemming | * Jason Lopez |
| * Dianne Lyle | * Donna Marshall |
| * Carolyn Martin | * Alea Mata |
| * Mike McCollum | * Ward McCollum |
| * Rex McCubbin | * David McElroy |
| * Carla McKnight | * Abbi Melton |
| * J Mitchell | * Dayne Neal |
| * Doris Newton | * Larry Perkins |
| * Amanda Presley | * Jerry Richardson |
| * Margaret Roberts | * Ken Rucker |
| * Vivian Sharp | * Chris Spinks |
| * Katie Wylie Stovall | * Henry Thompson |
| * Cindy Venable | * April Watson |
| * Ann White | * Stewart White |
| * Larry Willis | * Linda Willis |
| * Carolyn Wimberley | |

In Service to our Country

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| * Jacob Conner | * Robert Gray |
| * Stone Smith | |



P W
News



Your PW Coordinating Team will meet on Monday December 4, 2023 at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor. Plans for our December events and Evergreen gifts are being made.

Our circles will be meeting soon. Watch the church bulletin for reminders! The Noon Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 in the parlor for lunch.

The Night Circle will meet on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall for their Christmas dinner and gift exchange.

Please stay well and remember to check on your friends and neighbors during this holiday season. Have a great December!!

Jackie Fout
 Moderator

It's
Pledge
Time

Reminder to turn in your pledge card for 2024.

Cards are available in the sanctuary, narthex, and church office.

Monthly Missions



Saturday Bread Christmas Baskets will be delivered on December 23.

The sign-up sheet will be sent out soon.

Please bring your items to the church office by December 20.



The poinsettias in the sanctuary for Advent are given:

In memory of:

Frank Brown
Joel Camp
Jack & Nelwyn Collum
Kent & Yvonne Colvin
Winston & June Gardner
George & Elsie Gause
Burke Green
Bill & Jean Hughes
Gore & Betty Kemp
Lance Harlan Laird

Autrey & Nita Monroe
The Jeff Moore Family
Tom & Waurine Nixon
Caroline Ross
Sam & Ruth Ross
William R. & Katherine Smylie
Betty Spradlin
Dr. William R. & Jane Terrell
J. B. & Dorothy Watson
David Wylie

In honor of:

Jack & Claire Aboussie
Charlotte, Emma &
Grayson LaCroix
Sophie Leppert
Bru Crew Mauldin's
1st Birthday
Rett Jett Mauldin's
3rd Birthday
Blake & Katie Wylie
Stovall
Jimmy Thrower

Advent Festival

December 3

4:00-6:00 PM

Fellowship Hall

Join us for an afternoon of:
Making Ornaments, Advent Wreath,
Story time, Fellowship & More



Grace Notes Christmas

children's program

Please join us Wednesday,
December 13, at 6:00 p.m.
in the Chapel.

After the program, we will
all have dinner together in
Fellowship Hall hosted by
the Worship-Fellowship
Committee.





Fall Youth Connection at Camp Gilmont





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Web page: firstpreskilgore.org

Facebook: First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore

December



December Birthdays

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Michael Long | 21 Coleen Clower |
| 2 Taylor Nixon | Hattie Griffin |
| 4 Lyndsay Richard | 23 Kristina Galvan |
| 9 Trey Crim | Robert Lightfoot |
| Rett Mauldin | 26 Alice Laird |
| 10 Sylvia Nelson | 27 Andy Bates |
| 12 Lila Currin | Tonya Brown |
| 14 John Ingersoll | 29 Alice Lowery |
| 16 John Dickerson | Jimi Mankins |
| Stephen Phillips | Carolyn Wimberley |
| 17 Terry Stembridge, Sr. | 30 Canon Gorman |