

First Presbyterian  
Church

Devotion for February

***Worship Now...and  
Forever***

Being involved in church music for most of my life, I've had my fair share of calls from congregation members complaining about the music.

Many years ago, I braced myself for yet another complaint when a call came through to me from a "long-time attender." It turned out to be a conversation I've never forgotten. The man on the other end of the phone asked me to recommend a voice teacher. I asked him how old the child was.

"No, no," he quickly said, "It's not for my kid, it's for me."

For some reason, I had assumed he was inquiring on behalf of one of his children. Suspecting that I had another aspiring American Idol on my hands, I probed deeper. "Are you wanting to join the choir or audition for the worship team?"

"No," he replied. "I just want to do a better job of worshiping on Sunday morning."

"Now let me get this straight," I said. "You want to pay for voice lessons just so you can sit out in the congregation on Sunday and sing better?"

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# THE LAMB'S KIN

[www.fpcsanangelo.org](http://www.fpcsanangelo.org)

February 2012

*A message from our pastor Bill Proctor*

## The songs we sing reinforce the scripture we read

I recently was approached by one of our younger and newer members who confessed to me that he really doesn't get much out of the hymns we sing in worship, especially on our Traditional Sundays. This is not an uncommon reaction, especially now that we live in a society where public singing rarely takes place. For men, in particular, our culture does not affirm much public singing – apart from an occasional round of a school fight song in the heat of football season.

My advice to him? If you don't like to sing – or can't sing – at least read through the words of the hymns as they are being sung because the words always have some relationship with the sermon text for that day. This is true on Traditional Sundays as well as Contemporary.

Why do we sing in worship? Congregational singing is one of the gifts that came to us from the Protestant Reformation, especially through the great German theologian, Martin Luther. Luther is considered to be the father of modern Christian hymnody.

Luther was an ardent lover of all forms of music, and his musical reforms were designed to make music more accessible to all of the participants in worship, and not just to the skilled and professional musicians, which was common prior to the Reformation.

Perhaps Luther's most enduring musical contribution was the composition and adaptation of chorales or hymns. Luther insisted that hymns be sung in every worship service. It was, Luther argued, "the robust singing of simple hymns which would open the hearts and minds of God's people, enabling them to receive and embrace the eternal Word which brings life to the soul."

One of my favorite descriptions of the importance of music is contained in a forward to a symphony by George Rhau, which was published in 1538. It reads:

*The riches of music are so excellent and so precious that words fail me whenever I attempt to discuss and describe them. In summary, next to the Word*

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*Continued from page 1*

“Something like that.” He chuckled. “I’ve always used my inability to sing as an excuse not to worship. I don’t really want to be a singer. I just want to become a better worshiper.”

You may not need to run out and take voice lessons, but there’s something to be learned from a man who is willing to invest time and money into improving his ability to worship.

*Rory Noland  
Worship on Earth as it is  
in Heaven*

*But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.*

*John 4:23*

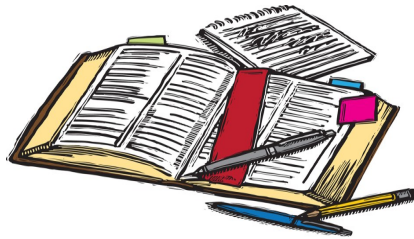
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*of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world. Music controls our thoughts, minds, hearts, and spirits. The precious gift of music has been given to man alone that he might, thereby, remind himself that God has created man for the express purpose of praising and extolling God. A person who does not regard music as a marvelous creation of God must be a clodhopper indeed and does not deserve to be called a human being...he should be permitted to hear nothing but the braying of asses and the grunting of hogs.*

Clearly, Rhau had some strong opinions about music!

Returning to Martin Luther, he believed congregational singing “has the power to drive away evil spirits and make people happy...it induces people to forget all wrath, unchastity, arrogance and other vices.” Music for Luther was a powerful proclamation of the Good News. “When we sing,” Luther proclaimed, “we pray twice!”

The next time you are in worship I encourage you to either “sing” heartily or “read” heartily because the Good News is to be found in both the Scripture we read and the hymns we sing.



**MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY**

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
in Rm. 210 beginning February 1  
(The Class will meet Feb. 1, 8, 15, 29,  
and March 7.)

**“The King and I”**

*Learning about our life of faith from the life of King David*  
This five week study will be lead by Rev. Bill Proctor.

*You are also invited to join us for a catered supper at 5:30 p.m., in the WFH.  
(\$5.00 per person)*



- |      |  |      |   |
|------|--|------|---|
| 2/1  | Deborah Hiebert                                  | 2/16 | Taylor Winn, Jane Samuelson                                     |
| 2/2  | Allison Hooker,<br>John Rigdon,<br>Leslie Mackie | 2/17 | John Cargile, Leslie Lasater                                    |
| 2/4  | Jamie Huffman                                    | 2/18 | Julie Doyle, Charlotte Fisher,<br>Chandler Smrkovsky            |
| 2/5  | J.D. Cook, Jamie Akin                            | 2/19 | Mark Woods  |
| 2/6  | Joe Smith, Watt Lasater,<br>Rewk Nagel           | 2/20 | Julie Quam, Marilyn Mertz                                       |
| 2/7  | Dennis Grafa                                     | 2/21 | Don Allison   |
| 2/8  | Karys Albert                                     | 2/22 | Bill Proctor, Drew Darby, Mary Kennemer                         |
| 2/9  | Renaee Barnett, Kendall Mull, Judith Hirschfeld  | 2/23 | Tanya Norris, Bruce Baxter,<br>Catherine Palmer, Doran Reynolds |
| 2/10 | Mikel Doyle                                      | 2/25 | Lillian Smrkovsky   |
| 2/11 | Galen Akin, Allyson Felps                        | 2/24 | Sydney Kate White, Barby Easley                                 |
| 2/12 | Kay Kneisler, Harper Gray                        | 2/26 | Kasen Tate Mull, Greyson Patrick,<br>Graham Zipper              |
| 2/13 | Richard Crisp                                    | 2/27 | Devin Albert  |
| 2/14 | Bob Hamblen                                      | 2/28 | Sharon Vickery, Rick Hooker                                     |
| 2/15 | Penny Roberts, Margaret Mallard, Earlo Smith     | 2/29 | Amy Etchison  |

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 12:35 Youth Lunch 5:15 Praise Team 5:30 Handbells 6:00 Music Dinner Mid-Week B/S—210 7:00 Chancel Choir Sr Hi B/S	2  10:30 WID - 107	3	4
5 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Serv Super Bowl Caring - Youth 5:00 Super Bowl Party—Brooks'	6 9:00 AA	7 8:45 Staff 12:00 WOW-107	8 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 4:30 College box 107 5:15 Diaconate-107 6:00 Mid-Wk B/S 210 Music/Youth usual	9	10 Parents Night Out & the Valentine Party 6-10	11
12 GUEST SPEAKER 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Serv 11:30 Valentine Lunch - Youth NO Youth	13 9:00 AA 12:00 CE Co - CR 5:15 Adult CE -CR	14 12:00 WOW-107	15 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 6:00 Mid-Wk B/S 210 Music/Youth usual	16  10:30 WID - 107	17  Mo-Ranch reservation and deposit deadline	18
19 9:30 Sunday Sch. 10:30 Worship Serv 5:00 Youth - YC Dinners for 8	20 NO SCHOOL  OFFICE CLOSED  NO AA	21 8:45 Staff 12:00 WOW-107 5:15 Session - 210	22 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 5:30 Music Dinner 6:15 Rehearsal 7:00 Ash Wed /Comm	23	24 6:30 Confirmation Retreat - Stephens'	25 4:30 Confirmation Class returns
26 1st Sunday Lent Communion 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Serv 5:00 Youth - YC	27 9:00 AA Soup Kitchen	28 12:00 WOW-107	29 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 6:00 Mid Wk B/S 210 Music /Youth usual			NOTE: Family Faith SS at Bates' home except Feb. 5

Dinners For Eight!  
February 19  
Sign-up  
between the  
Commons & the  
Gym



Dr. Ted Wardlaw, president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, will be our guest speaker during the Worship service on Sunday, February 12, 2012. Make plans to be in Worship that day to welcome Dr. Wardlaw and then stay for the Spaghetti lunch fundraiser!

FPC Children's Ministry announces upcoming Parents' Night Out & Valentine party!

**F**irst Presbyterian Church will host its second Parents Night Out event Friday, February 10 from 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m. This is for children ages 3 months thru 11 years-old (*No one above 5th grade*) Our Church Nursery staff will provide the loving care your children are accustomed to receiving! Because of the Valentine party taking place for the elementary-age children, a light supper will be served. The cost is \$10 per child or a \$20 family maximum. Please make a reservation by calling the church office, 655-5694, or emailing Susan Gober:

[childrensministrydirector.fpcsa@verizon.net](mailto:childrensministrydirector.fpcsa@verizon.net)



**Children's Valentine Party**  
**Friday, February 10**  
**from 6:00 p.m.—10:00 p.m.**  
**Join the fun as we share supper together, enjoy crafts and art projects, play games and watch a movie!**  
**This is for children**  
**Kindergarten thru 5th grade**  
**Call Susan FMI**  
**655-5694**

**Youth Fundraiser**

Don't miss the Spaghetti Lunch!

The youth group has a church-wide luncheon planned to raise funds for their Compassion International sponsored children in Africa, Simbi and Agness. The luncheon will be held in the Wood Fellowship Hall immediately after the morning service on February 12. Plates will be served on a donation basis. Please plan to enjoy this good meal and great service from our youth.

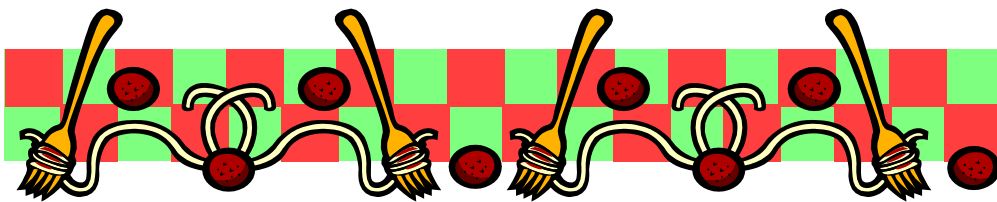
*The menu will consist of:*

*spaghetti with meat sauce, salad, garlic bread, and cheesecake.*

**Agness**



**Simbi**



The FPC Youth will be collecting donations on Sunday, February 5 in support of the **Souper Bowl of Caring**. All donations will go to the local food bank to help fight hunger in our community.



**Youth Super Bowl**



5:00 p.m. till game ends  
@ the Brooks' 5401 Woodbine  
For Middle and High School  
Hamburgers &  
Hotdogs will be served!



**ACQUIRE THE FIRE**

Acquire the Fire is a highly charged spiritual event for youth. An Acquire the Fire event is taking place in San Antonio on March 2-3. Its mission is the following:

*Our heartbeat is to provoke a young generation to passionately pursue Jesus Christ and take His life-giving message to the ends of the earth. Through music, speakers and more your teen will grow closer to Jesus Christ. Contact Brad Morgan, 655-5694, FMI.*



*Cathy & Vic Choate  
and family on the  
death of Vic's father,  
Wade Choate,  
who passed into  
eternal life on  
Sunday,  
January 1, 2012*

**Food for the month of  
February  
Rice, Pinto Beans, Canned  
Soup & disposable eating  
utensils**

*Please place  
your donations  
in the basket in  
the  
Commons.*



**Project  
Dignidad**



**USHERS**

**10:30 a.m. Service**

**2/5**

Renee and Rod Winn  
Susan & Bub Williams  
Troy & Carolyn Bradley

**2/12**

Sandy Whittley,  
Sutton Page, Victor Probandt,  
Suzanne & Richard Dorris

**2/19**

Janet & Warner Phillips,  
Dennis Grafa, Ginger Heare,  
Bill Morehead, Randy Gardner

**2/26**

Susan & Paul Little,  
Diane & Scott Montgomerie,  
Gabriela Spraggins, Susan Woods

**Y**ou've been reading about our upcoming all-church retreat to Mo-Ranch over these past several months! Now it's time to make a commitment if you want to attend! It is a wonderful opportunity to relax, enjoy fellowship with your church family, and grow spiritually all in the scenic Texas Hill Country this June 22-24.

This retreat is for families and it's for individuals. It's for someone who is 9 or 99. There are no limits. Activities will be provided for one and all! *If you and/or your family would like to attend, a deposit of \$100 is required by Friday, February 17, 2012.* This will hold your spot! Please call the church office for more information, 655-5694.

*The **Lamb's Kin** is published monthly for the members and friends of First Presbyterian Church. Deadline is the 20th of each month.*

*Please email your news*

*to*

*Susan Gober*

*gosusan@msn.com*

**Church office: 655-5694**

**Church office email:**

**choffice@gte.net**



*February  
Flower  
Delivery!*

**2/5**

Lane Allison, Noma Perrine

**2/12**

Kathleen Pfluger, Lane Puckitt

**2/19**

Suzanne & Richard Dorris,  
Bruce Gibson

**2/26**

Carolyn & Troy Bradley,  
Georgia Edwards