

First Presbyterian
Church

Scripture for January

It is not enough to say that God embraces human beings. This affirmation rests on an infinitely deeper one, a sentence with a more impenetrable meaning, that God, in the conception and birth of Jesus Christ, has taken on humanity bodily. God overrules every reproach of untruth, doubt, and uncertainty raised against God's love by entering as a human being into human life, by taking on and bearing bodily the nature, essence, guilt, and suffering of human beings. God becomes human out of love for humanity. God does not seek the most perfect human being with whom to be united, but takes on human nature as it is. Jesus Christ is not the transfiguration of noble humanity but the Yes of God to real human beings, not the dispassionate Yes of a judge but the merciful Yes of

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THE LAMB'S KIN

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January 2012

A message from our pastor Bill Proctor

In 2012 may our faith come before our comfort

When I was a child some friends of my parents and their children would occasionally visit us in Dallas. On one visit they showed up towing a travel trailer behind their big station wagon. I thought the travel trailer was literally the greatest thing on wheels. I was fascinated by the way the built-in couches could be transformed into beds. The little kitchen sink, the tiny stove-top, and the miniature refrigerator all looked like child-sized toys that actually worked instead of just being pretend.

A travel trailer was probably a sensible investment for my parent's friends. They had five children and the trailer enabled them to travel without having to worry about motel rooms and meals while on the road. I am sure they must have had many great adventures together as a family as they put that travel trailer to good use.

Many years later I became good friends with an elderly woman who was a member of the congregation I served in the Chicago area, and whose late husband had been President of Airstream – the makers of those beautiful silver aluminum travel trailers. Sometime back in the late 1950's or early 1960's, as a part of a large-scale promotional effort, the Airstream company sponsored an around the world tour using their latest streamlined trailers. *Life* magazine actually did a feature on the tour. This woman showed me the old *Life* magazine article and the photos were great. Like my parent's friends, this woman and her family had also had quite an adventure.

Even so, in the intervening years I have come to wonder whether a travel trailer, motor home, or RV, as they are commonly called now, is worth the effort and expense. A person with an RV no longer needs to contend with sleeping in a sleeping bag, cooking over a fire, or hauling water from a stream. One can now park a fully equipped home on a cement slab in the midst of a few pine trees and hook up to a water line, a sewer line, and electricity. No more bother with dirt, no more smoke from a fire, no more drudgery of walking to a stream. It is now possible to go camping and never have to go outside!

People purchase an RV with the hope of seeing new places and getting out into the world. Yet they deck out their RV with the same furnishings as they have at home. Thus nothing really changes.

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a compassionate sufferer. In this Yes all the life and all the hope of the world are comprised. In the human Jesus Christ the whole of humanity has been judged; again this is not the uninvolved judgment of a judge, but the merciful judgment of one who has borne and suffered the fate of all humanity. Jesus is not *a* human being but *the* human being. What happens to him happens to human beings. It happens to all and therefore to us. The name of Jesus embraces in itself the whole of humanity and the whole of God.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer
A Year with Dietrich Bonhoeffer
Daily Meditations from His Letters, Writings and Sermons

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A person with a RV, or travel trailer, or motor home may drive to a new place, set themselves in new surroundings, but the newness can go unnoticed and un-experienced because the same old setting has been carried along from home.

As we look to the New Year it is helpful to remember that the adventure of our new life in Christ begins when the comfortable patterns of the old life are left behind.

This spiritual truth prompts me to consider what old patterns of life do you and I need to drop as the New Year begins? What old patterns have we continued to hold onto, pulling them with us into New Year after New Year? What old patterns do we need to replace, with God's help? Are we about to enter a New Year with the same old stuff weighing us down and holding us back?

What could God do in your life and in mine if we stopped trying to be "comfortable" and tried instead to be "faithful"? Do we want our life in Christ to be a great adventure or do we simply want to continue to try to control every aspect of our life as much as possible?

Maybe, in a manner of speaking, travel trailers, motor homes, and RV's are simply among the most visible signs of our desire to maintain control – even when we go to new places. We want a new adventure – but we want it on our own terms.

The adventure of faith – a real life of faith – begins when we relinquish our control and surrender to God's control. In truth, we are not in control of our lives in the first place – God is – and so surrendering to God's control is not so much a "surrender" as it is an acknowledgment of reality.

In this New Year let's resolve to let God be God in our lives – for that will guarantee us a New Year filled with joy, adventure, and faith. May God bless you in this New Year.

Thank you to our Praise Team, Chancel Choir, Kirsten, Elise & Katherine Kappelmann, Pamela Lee & Louellen Meyer for lending their musical talents to our Christmas Eve service making it both beautiful and worshipful.



1/1 Jim Johnson
 1/2 Logan Lindemann
 1/4 Warner Phillips
 1/5 Katherine Lauer,
 Christopher Kappelmann

1/18 Barbara Rogers, Robert Coffey,
 Phillip Schneemann
 1/19 Billie Parks, Jim Cobb
 1/20 Lauren Brooks, Brady Winn, Troy Bradley
 1/21 Dorothea Jones, Kristi Beeman
 1/23 Brian Treadwell
 1/24 Ashley Stinnett
 1/25 Gordy Day, Cathy Cobb, Brendan Byars,
 Fran Early
 1/26 Mason Millican, Jaime Salter,
 John Sutton, Sherri Jones
 1/27 Randy Gardner, Katie Dahl
 1/28 Macy Massey, Sheri Beattie, Angela Day
 1/29 Susie Gibson
 1/30 Larrison Cornell, Bridget Scott
 1/31 Betty Nichols, Janet Phillips, Amy Hill,
 Leanne Byrd, Oron Lee Schuch,
 Kimberly Wynne

1/7 Shirley Sherrill, Aaron Jones
 1/8 Wendy Snider, Rachel Woods
 1/9 Jim Hindman, Cassie Millican
 1/10 Todd Henderson
 1/11 Cindy Gray
 1/12 Britt Towery
 1/13 Ellison Newlin
 1/14 Sara Blakely, Christian Bodenhamer
 1/15 Keith Swiderski, Kristin House, Megan Grigg
 1/16 Bub Williams, Tyler Walvoord
 1/17 Chelsea Sturm, Sarah Grafa

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 NEW YEAR'S DAY NO SS NO Family Faith SS 10:30 Worship Serv.	2 OFFICE CLOSED NO AA	3 12:00 NO WOW	4 SCHOOL STARTS 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 12:35 Youth Lunch NO Music Reh.	5	6	7
8 9:30 Sunday School * 10:30 Worship Serv 5:00 Youth - YC	9 9:00 AA 5:15 Youth Co—CR	10 12:00 WOW resume - 107 5:15 MSO - CR	11 116:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 12:35 Youth Lunch 5:15 Diaconate— 107 NO Music Reh. 7:00 Sr Hi B/S	12	13 PRUDE RANCH	14 PRUDE RANCH
15 9:30 Sunday School * 10:30 Worship Serv Prude Ranch Return 5:00 Youth - YC	16 NO SCHOOL 9:00 NO AA 5:15 Steward - CR	17 12:00 WOW - 107 5:15 Session - 210	18 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA 12:35 Youth Lunch Music Reh/Dinner resumes 7:00 Sr Hi B/S	19	20	21
22 9:30 Sunday School * 10:30 Worship Serv 5:00 Youth - YC	23 9:00 AA Soup Kitchen	24 12:00 WOW - 107	25 6:45 MBS - 210 9:00 AA Music & Youth - as above	26	27	28
29 9:30 Sunday School * 10:30 Worship Serv 5:00 Youth - YC	30 9:00 AA	31 12:00 WOW - 107	Project Dignidad: Food for the month of January Peanut butter, jelly, canned tuna and macaroni and cheese Please place your donations in the basket in the Commons.			*NOTE: Family Faith SS at Bates'

Our prayers and sympathy to...

Patt & Earl Warren
on the death of Patt's brother,
Ben Henson White,
who passed away on
Friday, December 9, 2011

Ann & Jim Hindman
on the death of Jim's sister,
Vicky Brown,
who passed away on
Sunday, December 11, 2011

Susan & Mark Woods and family
on the death of Mark's mother,
Jan Luker Woods,
who passed away on
Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Margie & Earlo Smith and family
on the death of Margie's sister,
Phyllis Presler,
who passed away on,
Sunday, December 25, 2011

*Do not let your hearts be
troubled. Believe in God,
believe also in me.
John 14:1*

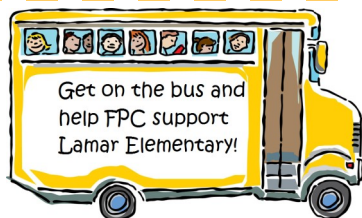
Thankful hearts...

Dear Deacons of FPC,
Thanks so much for the
box of treats you sent me! I really
appreciate your care and thought-
fulness! They provide a great lit-
tle energy boost during long hours
of studying for finals. ☺

Thanks again!
Elise Kappelmann

In-Depth Bible Study resumes

The In-Depth Bible Study will
resume Thursday, January 19 at
10:30 a.m. till 11:30 a.m. The study
will be about Heaven, loosely based
on the book *Heaven* by Roy Alcorn.
This will be a multi-media presenta-
tion led by Dr. Sharon Kulig. There
will be no need to buy a book.
Sharon is excited to be leading this
study. This is not a common topic,
however, it will prove to be a very
rewarding study. If you are inter-
ested call the church office, 655-5694
to register, or Margaret Mallard,
949-4880 for answers to questions you
may have or to just sign-up for the
class! Our meeting dates are: 1/19,
2/2, 2/16, 3/1, 3/15, 3/29, 4/5, 4/19,
5/3, 5/17 and 5/31.



We are continuing our on-
going support of Lamar
Elementary school. Currently,
we are in need of tutors to help
the children at Lamar. One
activity where help is needed is
the simple, yet very important
task of reading to the children.
It seems unfathomable that
some children are never read to
in their home. However, that
is the stark reality for some of
our city's children. Prayerfully
consider your involvement in
this ministry. A moment of
your time is an investment in a
child's future. Call Janet
Phillips for more information,
949-4350.



January 1 In the Commons
Carolyn & Troy Bradley
Patt & Earl Warren

January 8
Randy Gardner, Ronnie Hooker,
Gabriela Spraggins, Susan Woods

January 15
Don Allison, Steve Stephens, Mary
Louise Strain, Carol Dotson

January 22
Devin Bates, Robert Hamblen,
Evalie & Neal Grigg

January 29
Kathy & Ken Newman
Patt & Earl Warren



1/1
No Delivery



1/8
Julie Quam, Johnna Page



1/15
Trish Probandt
Evalie & Neal Grigg

1/22
Gabriela Spraggins
Ezra Walling

1/29
Noma Perrine, Joe Lara

