



The Grapevine

-a publication of the people of Fain Presbyterian Church

“ I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit.” John 15:5 NIV

REV. RHODES STIPP,
INTERIM PASTOR

APRIL 2009

Fain Presbyterian
Church

2201 Speedway

Wichita Falls, Tx.
76308

940-767-2527

E-mail:

fainpres@yahoo.com

Website:

www.fainpres.org

Sunday Services:

9:30 A.M.

Contemporary

Worship

10:30 A.M. Fellowship

11:00 A.M.

Traditional Worship

Wednesday Night:

5:30 P.M.

Wednesday Night

Suppers

6:30 P.M. Church
School

6:30 P.M. Bible Study

7:30 P.M. Chancel
Choir

“ A Word from Rhodes”

My Dear Friends,

As we come toward the end of Lent I am reminded of the words of James Montgomery’s hymn: *“Go to dark Gethsemane, you feel the tempter’s power; your Redeemer’s conflict see; watch with him one bitter hour.”* It is a difficult thing to do — to “watch with him one bitter hour;” yet the reward for us is great. I don’t think I will ever be able to comprehend the full meaning of the gift that Jesus gave to each of us. My efforts seem too small to matter, and they are! The gift of God’s grace is simply beyond mortal comprehension.

A big question for each of us is: “How does the awareness, no matter how small, of what Jesus has done for us affect our lives?” It often seems we go on with business as usual; Lent comes and goes each year; Easter comes and goes each year — and yet our daily lives remain about the same. It is a challenge of faith and it is one that we work on always.

I urge you to remember that there are, and always will be, times when we **do** “get it right!” In our daily living faithfulness in small things will yield great rewards. Often we are so overwhelmed by the big things that we forget to be faithful in small things. Let us be strong! Let us work to be faithful in small ways, and God will bless us in ways that we never knew.

I pray these final days of Lent, and the meaningful days of Holy Week, will bring you to a glorious and blessed Easter. I look forward to seeing you in all of our special services.

Peace and love,

Rhodes

HOLY WEEK SERVICE SCHEDULE

April 5, 2009 - Palm Sunday 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

April 9, 2009 - Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m.

April 10, 2009 - Good Friday Service 1:00 p.m.

April 12, 2009 - Easter Sunrise Service 7:30 a.m.

Easter Service 11:00 a.m.

*" Happy
April
Birthday"*

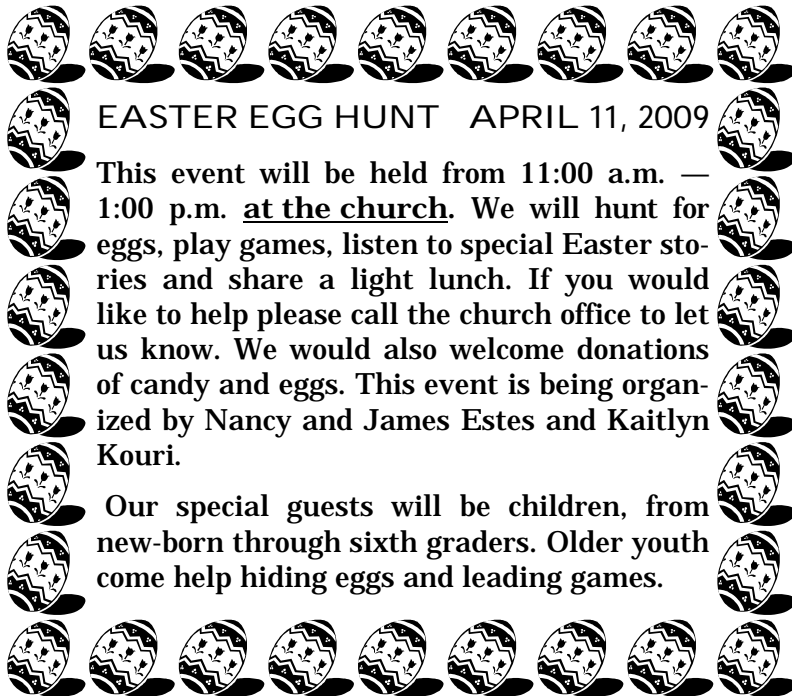


10 - John Barnard
13 - Julie Addison
18 - Gayle Brown
19 - Allen Goldapp
Peter Loftus
23 - Beverly Singleton

26 - Barbara Furman
29 - Diane Felix
Marie Harvey



**Deadline for the
May newsletter is
Monday,
April 27!**



EASTER EGG HUNT APRIL 11, 2009

This event will be held from 11:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m. at the church. We will hunt for eggs, play games, listen to special Easter stories and share a light lunch. If you would like to help please call the church office to let us know. We would also welcome donations of candy and eggs. This event is being organized by Nancy and James Estes and Kaitlyn Kouri.

Our special guests will be children, from new-born through sixth graders. Older youth come help hiding eggs and leading games.

**WORSHIP ATTENDANCE FOR
THE MONTH OF MARCH 2009**

March 1	-	9:30 a.m. service	-	19
		11:00 a.m. service	-	62
March 8	-	9:30 a.m. service	-	21
		11:00 a.m. service	-	61
March 15	-	9:30 a.m. service	-	13
		11:00 a.m. service	-	72
March 22	-	9:30 a.m. service	-	27
		11:00 a.m. service	-	68
March 29	-	9:30 a.m. service	-	17
		11:00 a.m. service	-	77

Thank You



Diane Felix has new phone numbers:

(W) 940-322-4321

(Cell) 817-637-2512

Please make these changes in your member directory.

I would like to thank all our wonderful Fain friends for the love and comforting prayers you have shown my family and me — thanks also for the many gifts to Fain in Sammie's memory — and the flowers, visits, food and many cards also. We feel so blessed to have such a loving church family.

God bless you all — Pauline Kouri and family

"MISSION KIDS" - SUNDAY, APRIL 12

ITEMS MOST NEEDED AT IMI :

Sugar/flour (small bags), jelly, Dry cereal, oatmeal, rice, dry beans
Canned fruit, pasta, toilet paper, paper towels, Personal hygiene items
(soap, toothpaste, etc.), household cleaning supplies



EASTER BASKETS

Easter is nearly here! It is not too late to donate money to help purchase supplies for the Easter Baskets for needy Ben Franklin children. Please see June Limato or you may leave your donation with Georgia in the office. The supplies will be purchased on Monday, April 6th. We will be “stuffing” the baskets after Wednesday Night Supper on April 8th and everyone is invited to help. Thanks to everyone who has contributed money or helped!

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

Hopefully, you have a fish bank somewhere in your home, “collecting your treasure”. One Great Hour of Sharing is an important mission helps God’s treasured people throughout the world as well as locally. Some examples of how your donations could be used are: a clean-up bucket filled with supplies to provide immediate relief after a flood (\$50), providing emergency shelter and food to a homeless youth for an entire year (\$350), mosquito nets for a family to help them avoid malaria (\$20). Fish banks (as well as envelopes provided in pews) will be collected at Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services.

5th. WEDNESDAY MISSION

It’s time for another 5th Wednesday for Missions! Our very own Charles Pelsue will present to us his experience of his travels to the Ukraine last May. Your mission money helped fund this trip, so try to come! The date is Wednesday, April 29th after the Wednesday Night Supper.

Sow a little love in the neighborhood!

“A reminder that God cares about you” is what is printed on the front of 1500 seed packets that we will be distributing in our community. In these depressing days it is easy to feel like no one notices you and no one cares. These seeds let people around us know that God notices and God cares. Fain notices. Fain cares. Fain prays. Members are encouraged to pray for the recipients of the packets. Packets will be bundled in batches of 15 and given to people at the April 26th services. Give the packets to those souls you come across every day — the waitress, the Fed-Ex person, the mechanic working on your car, the cashier. This is a wonderful way to reach out to people in their everyday lives without you having to say a whole lot. Additional packets will be available at the office.

Charlotte Echols, Outreach Committee

April is Child Abuse and Awareness Month

Blue Ribbon Sunday is April 26th, 2009. Supporters of organizations against child abuse are encouraged to wear blue ribbons to their churches. The blue ribbon is the international symbol of child abuse prevention. Fain Presbyterian Church members are encouraged to wear blue ribbons in memory of children lost to abuse and in honor of those who have survived. A list of other Child Abuse Awareness scheduled events is posted on the bulletin board.

Charlotte Echols

CALLING VOLUNTEERS

WE NEED YOU

We are looking for volunteers to serve on our Fellowship Committee. This committee will coordinate special fellowship events and our Wednesday night suppers. If you need more information please speak to Rhodes or Nancy Estes.

NOTES FROM SESSION

The Fain Session met Monday, March 30, 2009 in the library. Rev. Stipp called the meeting to order with a prayer. He read scriptures from Psalm 32:1-2 and 11 and Matthew 11:2-19. He also read a selection from *Pilgrims Progress* by John Bunyan.

Treasurer's Report: Charlotte Echols reported Fain received a sum of \$100,000.00 from the estate of Ryan Dillard.

The minutes of the February 23, 2009 meeting were approved as printed.

Clerk's Report: The clerk reported funeral services for Jerry Gamble and Lucy Hoch, and former member Lee Johnston. The church wide survey was distributed and many have been returned. They will be compiled for the Session study Session to be held in the near future. Seth and Tara Cannon said good-bye to the congregation on March 15th. The clerk received a letter of resignation from Gary Cook resigning from the Session and as chairman of the worship committee. A motion was made, seconded and passed to regretfully accept the resignation. A congregational meeting will be called on April 19th, 2009 for the purpose of obtaining congregational approval for changing the number of active Session members.

Statistical Report: 165

Pastor's Report: Rev. Stipp continues his visits and phone calls to the members of the congregation. He is teaching the Bible study for the Presbyterian Women's group each month, has been appointed to the Committee on Preparation on Ministry of Palo Duro Presbytery, and moderates the Session of Vernon. He conducted the wedding of Vanessa Pogue Deller and Jim Collins in Grapevine, Tx. last week-end.

Standing Committee Reports:

Finance: Kevin Echols reported they are working in a wills emphasis program. The committee suggests purchasing 4 copies of the book *Mending the Torn Fabric* by Dr. Sarah Brabant. The book deals with the grieving process. The books will be placed in the church library. The motion passed. The money will be taken from the Ryan Dillard memorial contributions.

Worship: Rick Arme will resume the chairmanship of the committee. He will be working on increasing the number of committee members. The schedule of holy week services is:

Palm Sunday, April 5th — communion at both services

Maundy Thursday service on April 9th at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday service April 10th at 1:00 p.m.

Easter services at 7:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with communion at both services.

Membership: no report

Outreach: Charlotte Echols is the new Evangelism/Communications chairman. Packets of zinnia seeds will be distributed to members to give to friends, etc as an Evangelism tool on Sunday, April 26th. June continues to collect items for the Easter baskets for Ben Franklin students. Donations of items or money are still needed. One Great Hour of Sharing "fish boxes" will be collected April 5th and 12th.

Building and Grounds: Reported the kitchen passed with a 100% from the city inspector. The committee hopes to repair the existing sound cloth behind the cross. The replacement cloth is very expensive.

Christian Education: The video class will continue for 2 more weeks and the scripture class will begin a new study on the book of Acts.

Congregational Care: The next Cream on Top gathering will be Tuesday, April 28th at 3:00 p.m.

Personnel Committee: The names of Nan Johnson and Mike Penn have been added to the committee from the congregation.

Interim Pastor's Support committee: 85 surveys have been returned and the process of compiling them has begun.

Fellowship: members of the congregational are heading up the different events handled by the committee which still does not have a chairman. Ray Echols has agreed to cook the Wednesday night meals with volunteers doing the serving and cleanup. Please sign up to help. A motion was made, seconded and passed to add Ray Echols and Charlotte Echols to the Wednesday night checking account.

Joe Gonzales and James Estes have agreed to serve on the Nominating committee.

Joys and concerns were shared. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer at 9:30 p.m.

Nancy Estes, Clerk

APRIL MENU FOR FAIN CAFÉ



Wednesday
Night
Supper

April 1 - POTLUCK

Bring your favorite dish or
dessert to share

April 8 - Beans & Cornbread,
Salad

April 15 - Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Salad, Garlic Bread

April 22 - Baked Chicken
Mashed Potatoes

Green Beans, Salad

April 29 - 5th Wednesday Missions
Faith Mission Goulash
Salad, Bread

POTLUCK SUPPER HOSTS



APRIL 1, 2009

Wanda and Joe Gonzales, Nan Johnson, Charlene Wilcox and Mary Hicks.

Each month we are ASKING FOR VOLUNTEERS to serve as Hosts for our Potluck Supper. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board across from the stairs.

Hosts will come early to receive food as folks come in, get the drinks together, and do any decorating they might want to do. We appreciate your sharing with the community in this way.

CALLING ALL COOKS!

Have you ever thought about preparing a meal for a Wednesday night? As we plan meals for the next few months, we are open to having people be in charge of cooking a meal. We will provide you with help, if you can't find someone to help; and, we have volunteers who help with last-minute preparation and serving. If you don't have a favorite meal you would like to cook we even have recipes you could use. We would appreciate hearing from you before the next newsletter goes out so we can put you on the schedule. With all of us working together the work is not a burden for a few!

OUR SPECIAL THANKS GOES TO OUR WEDNESDAY KITCHEN VOLUNTEERS

We would like to say a special "thank you" to those folks who have been volunteering as preparers, servers, and clean-up helpers on Wednesday nights. Without your help things would not run as smoothly.



Fain Presbyterian Church wants to thank the estate of Ryan Dillard for the generous donation in his memory.

A TRIBUTE TO SAMMIE KOURI

Dad passed away quietly in the early morning hours of January 25, 2009. He was unafraid because he believed in God and knew his life had been an example of what God wanted him to accomplish here on earth. He was an extraordinary individual—a human being and a man of compassion.

He was born and raised in Oklahoma City and baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church. It was only after he was married that he became a Presbyterian and joined Fain Church. He was raised during the depression and the values of saving money and hard work that were instilled in him at an early age stuck with him for his entire life.

He did not have a formal college education; he was what I like to call a “self-made” man. Through reading, watching news networks, listening and observing, he learned more about the stock market and banking systems than the average person will ever know. He had an inquisitive mind for learning new things.

Dad was a member of the Fain choir for 40 years where he sang tenor. I can remember Dad and his buddies (Ed Hicks, Ben Cunningham and Bill Johnston) would try to out sing each other — joke and cut up through choir, while Kent would struggle to keep order. Bless Kent —he was the model of patience.

Dad was active in the men’s group. He and Bill would have a fish fry for the men and their wives twice a year. Bill and Jack Robertson would catch the fish, freeze it and when they had enough, they would fry it and serve it with all the fixings.

As many of you know, he was responsible for ordering the Easter lilies and poinsettias at Christmas and did so for the past 25 years. He also helped with the orders for 7 other churches in town, in coordination with Steve Smith at Smith’s nursery. He was an avid volunteer with MPEC at all functions from Ranch Roundup to Hotter ’N-Hell. He also volunteered at IMI and Meals on Wheels. When his shift was over, he was hard pressed to leave because he liked to continue visiting with all of his friends.

He valued higher education and was a staunch supporter of MSU. For years, he had season tickets to the basketball games. He actually was a follower of all sports, most especially college sports and I will miss rehashing the Saturday football and basketball games with him.

He made us work at the store starting when we were very young. We started with menial tasks such as sweeping the floors and stocking shelves. He wanted each of us to have a sense of self-worth. As I got older, I appreciated him more and the worth of his wisdom. He was a positive influence in my life as well as Kaitlyn’s. Someone once wrote “a positive influence is like a ripple effect-something we should treasure and pass along”. I will always remember the good times I had with him and carry his spirit in my heart always. I speak for my family as well as his friends that he is missed and will always be missed.

Carolyn Kouri

THE OLD WOOLY SHEEP

It was a cold winter morning and we had a long way to go. She kept lagging behind the rest of the sheep. I got close enough to where I could see and there was an old woolly ewe with one of the sweetest looking newborn lambs. We traveled in thick underbrush and at other times climbing up and down the steep, rocky hills but she was being very careful to keep it with her and protect it. As I watched her with her baby lamb that day it reminded me of what the Bible says about God and man. One is that God loves us very much and wants to take care of us, (Ephesians 2:4). That old ewe would do anything to protect her lamb and care for it; even to the point of giving her own life (the Bible says Jesus gave his life for us, Ephesians 5:2, Romans 5:8). By the end of the day, we had moved them to a safer place with more food. I realized that God (if we put our faith in Jesus and follow him, John 10:27 & 28) would take care of us. Sometimes life’s journey can be difficult and hard but just remember if we will draw close to God and try to follow him he will see us through no matter how difficult it becomes. See you in church next Sunday.

Betty Wagner, Courtesy of Coleman County Chronicle-Democrat Voice, Coleman, Texas



Hello again from the cake lady,

Thank all of you Fain members for faithfully baking cakes for the state hospital. Your monthly efforts are very appreciated. Simply place them in the church freezer with the initials WFSH written on them. That way they will not be mistaken for the cakes for Faith Mission.

I would like to add that Vanessa and Jim Collins were married in Grapevine, Texas on Friday evening March 27th. We were honored to have the ceremony performed by our own Reverend Rhodes Stipp. We all had a wonderful time.

Until May I thank all of you.....

Georgia, Fain Cake Lady

Poem: "Afraid So" by Jeanne Marie Beaumont from *Curious Conduct*. BOA Editions, Ltd., 2004

"Afraid So"

Is it starting to rain?	Will it leave a scar?	Are you contagious?
Did the check bounce?	Must you go?	Will we have to wait long?
Are we out of coffee?	Will this be in the papers?	Is the runway icy?
Is this going to hurt?	Is my time up already?	Was the gun loaded?
Could you lose your job?	Are we seeing the understudy?	Could this cause side effects?
Did the glass break?	Will it affect my eyesight?	Do you know who betrayed you?
Was the baggage misrouted?	Did all the books burn?	Is the wound infected?
Will this go on my record?	Are you still smoking?	Are we lost?
Are you missing much money?	Is the bone broken?	Will it get any worse?
Was anyone injured?	Will I have to put him to sleep?	
Is the traffic heavy?	Was the car totaled?	
Do I have to remove my clothes?	Am I responsible for these changes?	

In Memory of Sammie Kouri
Donated to Presbyterian Women
By: Kelly & Cecile Bilberry



In Memory of Sam Goodrich
(Great nephew of E.J. & Dotsy Hill)
By: Pauline Kouri

In Memory of Sammie Kouri
By: Paul & Nancy Redding
Ed & Shirle Draper, John & Leslie Adkins
Jane Spears & Family
Ben & Ann Cunningham, Georgia Pogue
Mrs. Lynn Moran, Jr.
Robert W. Leonard, Richard Hinkley
Texhoma Chapter American Guild
Dr. & Mrs. Harvey Martin

In Memory of Jerry Gamble
By: Rhodes & Susan Stipp
Joe & Wanda Gonzales
In Memory of Lucy Hoch
By: Rhodes & Susan Stipp
Edna Haven, Mary Hicks
John & Leslie Adkins
In Memory of Lee Johnston
By: Frances Jackson
Mary Hicks



Fain Presbyterian Church
2201 Speedway Avenue
Wichita Falls, Texas 76308
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. Postage PAID
Wichita Falls, Texas
Permit No. 513

The people of Fain Presbyterian Church seek to glorify God by leading people to Jesus Christ and membership in His family, by moving them towards Christ-like maturity and by equipping them for service in the church and in the world.

*Mr. and Mrs. Phillip Keith Hill
Request the honor of your presence
At the marriage of their daughter
Anna Elizabeth
To
Mr. Jonathan Albert Strong
Saturday, the eighteenth of April
Two thousand nine
At three o'clock in the afternoon
St. Giles Presbyterian Church
5200 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia*