

Palo Duro Family News

Volume 15, Number 2

February 2012

Birthdays

Bob Field	February 2
Kelly Fortney	February 4
Judy Heaney	February 9
Georgia King	February 10
Jane Travis	February 10
Tom Wisdom	February 12
Janne Brumbelow	February 19
Katie Eliason	February 19
Robert Carson	February 26
Henry Chisholm	February 27
Jim Wallace	February 27
Randy Branson	February 28

Wedding Anniversaries

Robert & Gayle Brown	February 8	43 years
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Ordination Anniversaries

Larry Black	February 1	40 years
Ruth Clendenin	February 5	6 years
Tim Tam	February 12	17 years
Beverly Cook	February 23	20 years

Presbytery Retreat

The next presbytery meeting will be in a retreat setting, at Camp Chaparral in Iowa Park, Texas. Commissioners are asked to arrive on Thursday evening, February 23, 2012. The meeting will begin after breakfast on the 24th and run through noon on the 25th. Housing will be in dorm rooms and hotel-style rooms (3 persons/room). We have also provided names and contacts of nearby hotels for those who will not stay in group housing. The cost per commissioner will be \$100.00, which includes two nights lodging and five meals. Those not staying in camp housing will be charged \$50.00 for meals and camp costs. Our special guest for the retreat will be Elder Barbara Wheeler, former President of Auburn Theological Seminary in New York City. As always, there will be opportunities for Bible study, table discussions, and fellowship, along with some necessary business. The theme of the meeting is, "Living the Life — The Dignity of Differences." The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend, commissioner or not. Registration information has been mailed out, but it is also available linked to the home page of the presbytery website www.paloduropresbytery.org.

Prayer Support for Randy Branson

Most of you are aware that Rev. Randy Branson, Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Graham, Texas is running for Moderator of the General Assembly. At the last presbytery meeting, many of you signed a commitment to be in prayer for him as he

undertakes this effort. This is just a reminder to find opportunities to pray for him whenever possible — at home, at church, in worship, etc.

Annual Statistics Report

The instructions and materials needed for reporting annual statistics have been sent out to each church. Please note that the General Assembly reports are to be filed electronically. The deadline for electronic filing is Wednesday, February 15, 2012. Completion of the reports usually requires the assistance of the pastor, the clerk of session and the treasurer. Per capita for 2013 will be based on what you submit on these 2011 reports. Additional report forms from the presbytery were sent with the packet. Please alert those who receive mail for the church to look for the packet and to keep it someplace where it can be easily located.

Romania Trip

Eleven people have signed up to participate in the 2012 Romania mission trip. The trip will be June 14-26, 2012 at a cost of \$1600.00 per person. During the trip, the group will be interacting with the youth and children of the orphanages and the staff of NOROC.

Celebration Scholarship

The Celebration Scholarship application and information are published on the Palo Duro Presbytery website linked to the "Publications" page. The due date for application is **February 15, 2012**. Please note that this due date is one month earlier than what was stated in the January newsletter. If a student needs further information, he or she may contact the applications coordinator Bob Hardy at 940-691-7147.

Pulpit supply Available

The Reverend Sam Lanham, who most recently has served as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Carlsbad, New Mexico, has moved to Lubbock in the last month, and is available to do pulpit supply. He will be joining Palo Duro Presbytery as an at-large member. He can be reached at 575-361-9827.

Groundbreaking Planned

Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lubbock is planning a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, February 19, 2012. This marks the beginning of a major building project which involves the entire facility. The beginning phase concentrates on a children's wing and a new facility for the choir. For details of the groundbreaking service, contact the church office at 806-792-6124.

Calendar for February — March

February 1-2 — Board of Pensions Pre-Retirement Seminar, 9:00 a.m. at Westminster, Lubbock

February 3 — Board of Pensions Render Unto Caesar Seminar, 9:00 a.m. at Westminster, Lubbock

February 8 — PUPPIES, 1:00 p.m. at the presbytery office

February 13 — Office closed for Presidents Day

February 15 — Application due date for Celebration Scholarship

February 15 — Last day to post statistics online

February 23-25 — Presbytery Retreat at Camp Chaparral in Iowa Park

March 22 — Common Life Ministry meeting at presbytery office in Lubbock

March 29 — Committee on Ministry meeting at Abilene, First Central

Mission Co-Worker Sought

NOROC is in the process of looking for a person or persons who are interested in serving as a PC(USA) Mission Co-worker in Romania. We have had several leads and hope to have this person(s) commissioned at the July General Assembly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Tax Exempt Status

The state of Texas periodically sends out letters from the Office of the Secretary of State informing non-profit organizations of their need for a report in order to maintain their exemption from state sales and use taxes. If such a letter is received, it is important that it be responded to immediately. Several of our churches have found that their tax exemption has been revoked for failure to respond. Please do not let that happen. It is a much more difficult process to get the exemption reinstated. There is a \$5.00 fee for updating the tax exemption.

Office Closed

The presbytery office will be closed on Monday, February 13 for the observance of Presidents Day.

2012 Per Capita and Minimum Salary

The General Assembly has approved a change in the per capita rate for 2012. Per Capita has been increased from \$6.50 to \$6.63 per member as reported on December 31, 2010. Notice of the change and the total amount due has been sent to each congregation. The cost for the pastor's pension and medical coverage has also increased effective January 1, 2012 to 32.25% of effective salary. The minimum clergy compensation for 2012 approved by this presbytery has increased by 3%.

2012 Publications from Presbyterian Distribution Service

The new *2012 Mission Yearbook for Prayer & Study* is now published. Churches wanting copies should place their own orders with Presbyterian Distribution Service. Also, copies of

the new *Book of Order* are available from the same source. It will be helpful for people to have copies of the new *Book of Order* since there has been significant change since the last edition. The presbytery office will not be doing bulk orders this year.

Interim Training

Several opportunities are available for interim training. Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary is offering training March 19-23. Registration forms are available in the presbytery office.

Resource Center Collections Searchable Online

You may now search for items available in the Resource Center on our website (www.paloduropresbytery.org) on the "Resources" page. If you find one or more items that you would like to check out, you may request those items by e-mail through the website. We will get the requested items to you as soon as possible.

Presbytery Website

Don't forget to check the presbytery website regularly. Newsletters and presbytery meeting reports and a variety of other documents can be downloaded right from the website. Check the "Calendar" page for scheduled meetings and other events that impact our office schedule. The URL is www.paloduropresbytery.org.

Mileage Rate for 2012

Beginning January 1, 2012, the IRS standard mileage rate remains at 55.5 cents per mile for business travel, is reduced to 23 cents per mile for medical and moving travel, and remains at 14 cents per mile for charitable travel.

Prayer requests

- † Rev. Randy Branson, As he runs for Moderator of the General Assembly
- † Rev. Dana Mayfield as she recovers from knee surgery on January 30
- † The PC(USA) as we look to the future and the shape of ministry we will have in the world
- † Covenant Presbyterian Church in Lubbock as they begin their building project
- † Palo Duro Presbytery churches looking for pastors

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