

## FPC-Kingwood and the PCUSA: An Update

Last May, as changes were being made to The Book of Order and Ordination standards in the PCUSA, a report was made to our congregation by the DRSTF (Denomination Relations Study Task Force). After the report, the Session entered into a “season of discernment.” Recently, some have begun to ask what’s been happening. Here’s a quick review.

In June and July, Session members met several times to consider possible responses to the changes in the PCUSA. However, those meetings were “put on hold” in August and September because of concerns about our own congregation. Now the effort to consider responses has begun again.

As a first step, Session has invited Rev. Mike Cole, our General Presbyter to address our congregation and give us his perspective on how the changes in the PCUSA will affect our Presbytery and its local congregations. Mike will host a “Town Hall Meeting” on Sunday, November 6th from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

A second step involves following up to “The Gathering” last June of 2000 Presbyterian Pastors and Elders from across the country. Four avenues of response emerged out of the “Gathering.” But the most popular by far centered around the formation of “a new Reformed body” (a new Presbyterian denomination) which is going to be constituted at a convention in Orlando in January of 2012. We will have representatives present at the convention.

A third step in the renewed effort to formulate a response to changes in the PCUSA involves a continuing study of the beliefs and policies of other Presbyterian denominations like the Evangelical Presbyterian Church. That study is ongoing.

We know issues about FPC-Kingwood’s relationship to the PCUSA deeply trouble the conscience of many in our congregation. We know resolution is important to all of us. So the Session will continue to work. We don’t expect this “season of discernment” to last much longer. We hope to bring a recommendation about a way forward to our congregation early in 2012. In the meantime, we continue to ask for your prayers and thank you for your patience.

Written on behalf of the FPC-Kingwood Session by Dr. Jim Davis

## Festival of Angels

**Silent Auction:** Our community businesses and church members have once again stepped up and been very generous with their donations and we have some very exciting items including:

- 4 Houston Astros Diamond Club Tickets (2nd row) with Parking pass for 1 game
- Round of golf for 4 at Clubs of Kingwood (Marsh, Island, Forest or Lake Course)
- Spa Package at Kingwood Fitness and Sports Center
- Beach House at Port O’Conner – 3 days/2 nights
- Beach House at Matagorda Bay – 3 days/2 nights
- Texan Tickets
- Houston Rockets Tickets

Be sure to get your bids in early as the Silent Auction will end at 2:00 p.m. this year. *It is not too late to make a donation.* Contact Sue Groudle: FOA@fpc-kingwood.org

**Sweet Shoppe:** requests donations of baked goods. Please bring attractively wrapped goodies to Fellowship Hall on Friday, November 4, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Contact Rachel Harlin: rachelh@kingwoodcable.net.

**Drop off Donations Oct. 23 – Nov. 3, Fellowship Hall:** FOA is accepting donations for Children’s Boutique, Trash to Treasure, Fabulous Finds, Book Nook, Hacker’s Heaven and Silent Auction. Please bring your new or slightly used items to the collection area at the back of Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings, during the week (church office hours) or on Wednesday evenings.

**Children’s Boutique** donations include children’s clothing Infant-Youth Sizes, *Gently* Worn Shoes, Layette Items, Winter Coats, Ski Clothes (Sorry, no bathing suits or underwear). For your convenience, a collection box is in the nursery. Donations may also be left in the back of the Fellowship Hall. Please limit donations to items that are free of stains or tears as they are for resale for the Festival of Angels Christmas Market.

**Trash to Treasure** donations include housewares, small appliances, small electronics, holiday décor, toys, and linens. Thank you ahead of time for sending clean, operable merchandise that is sure to become a treasure to someone.

**Fabulous Finds** donations include home decor items, kitchen items, lamps, furniture, seasonal decorations and jewelry.

**Book Nook** is accepting books for all ages, adults, young adults, teens and children.

**Hacker’s Heaven**, new this year, is accepting all sporting items (men’s, ladies’, children’s): golf clubs, bags, shoes, balls, golf towels, exercise equipment, tennis racquets, etc. Contact Bill Tapley, bill\_6345@yahoo.com, with questions or donations.

**Tea Room:** Cooks are needed: We will be in the kitchen Thursday and Friday, Nov. 3rd and 4th, with last-minute preparations for the big day! Start time is 9 a.m. both days. Contact Sherry Arrick, sherryarrick@hotmail.com for more information.

**Card Tables are needed for the Tea Room:** If you have a card table that we may borrow, please contact Sherry Arrick, sherryarrick@hotmail.com. Card tables may be dropped off at the back of the Fellowship Hall starting on Thursday, November 3 at 8 a.m., but no later than Friday, Nov. 4 at noon.

**Bring a friend to the Tea Room!** As the scrumptious aromas waft from the FPCK kitchen, have some tea and conversation. Then, enjoy your lunch from our inclusive menu (soup, salad, entree and dessert) for just \$12. The Tea Room’s purpose is to provide great food, hospitality and an opportunity for outreach to the community. We’ll also have some items available for takeout in Room 101, so come buy something to have in your freezer for the holiday season.