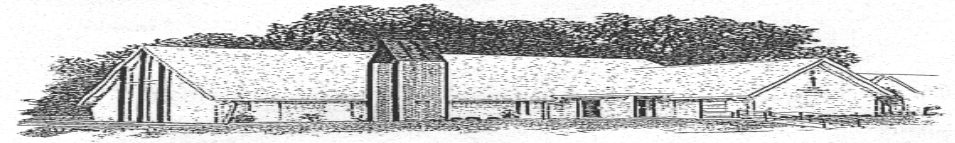




Joshua's soldiers (aka Kids for God) around the walls of Jericho.



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Unfair

Quinn G. Caldwell

I want to see my indictment in writing. Anyone's welcome to read my defense; I'll write it on a poster and carry it around town. I'm prepared to account for every move I've made." - Job 31:36-37

"How could this be happening?" she said. It was a good question. She ate right, exercised regularly, did triathlons, in fact. Never smoked, hardly drank, always applied sunscreen—you know the type. And you know where this is going.

"How could this be happening to me?" she said when the doctor told her about the gnarly leukemia that was eating her alive. Like Job, she wanted a clear cause-and-effect for the terrible thing happening to her. If only she could pinpoint the thing that she'd eaten, inhaled, failed to do or apply to her skin that had caused this, it would all make sense.

But the down and dirty truth is that it doesn't make sense; it almost never does. It's not fair; it almost never is. There's no known cause and effect; there almost never will be.

There's only this: the church member who went with her last week to pick out a wig. The guy from two pews up who's been mowing her lawn for a few weeks now. The Sunday school teacher who said with a set jaw that she was going to keep showing up on the front porch with different foods until they found *something* that tasted good. A room full of people lifting her name up to God every Sunday—and every day in between—no matter what, who will not ever let her go.

Prayer

When it all falls apart, when it's all so unfair, when it just makes no sense at all, thank you, God, for the church. Amen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Quinn G. Caldwell is the Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church, Syracuse, New York, and the author of the forthcoming [*All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas*](#).

Building & Grounds Update

Your B&G Team has been meeting regularly, sharing ideas as to how we might bring a fresh new look to our worship space. Our goal is to improve lighting, bring fresh new colors, changing things up a bit, keeping in mind this space should lend itself to putting one in a worshipful mood by creating a spiritual and sacred atmosphere. We (B&G Team) welcome any ideas you might have, I assure you all input will be discussed and evaluated.

We have reached a consensus with regard to the hall way doors. There have been several member families volunteer, (unsolicited) \$1250 to purchase new doors. The team is in the process of measuring the doors and placing the order. Our best estimate is that the new doors would not cost more than that. I thank you all for your patience in this project.

Please understand the B&G Team is working very hard to incorporate all ideas in renovations believing in our hearts we are doing God's will, and believing that many, and hopefully most will be perfectly happy with the decisions.

B&G Team Leader,
John Tieken



DID YOU KNOW?

Labor-intensive renewable energy would provide more jobs than capital-intensive coal, gas and oil. (Moyers & Co. "Climate Change: Faith and Facts")

The CE Green Team



THE SHERIFF AND THE DEPUTY ARE A
'COMIN!

Tuesday, October 21st, at 6:00 p.m. your Fellowship Committee is preparing for a BAKED POTATO SUPPER. And our speakers for the evening will be Rusk County Sheriff Jeff Price, and Deputy David Roberts. They are aware that many of us have viewed the documentary film *"Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence."* As a matter of fact, they've viewed it, too! They will be speaking to us about gun violence in Rusk County. Come out for fellowship, baked potato supper, and our fine speakers, too.



DeLoach Granddaughter is a Champion



MARLA BROSE/JOURNAL

Liz Sanchez Stables of Los Ranchos was the top New Mexico barn at the recent Youth National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship horse show held at Expo New Mexico. From left, competitors Kayla Romero and Siobhan Waxman, owner Liz Sanchez, instructor Christina Frank (kneeling), and competitors Bella Deloach and Megan Weadock.

Young riders who train at the Liz Sanchez Stables in Los Ranchos came away with a bevy of ribbons for their top-class performances at the 2014 Youth National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship horse show held July 19-26 at Expo New Mexico in Albuquerque.

Bella Deloach, 14, was Grand Champion in the Sport Geldings in Hand class with her horse Al Marah Bay Star. The horses are judged for their appearance and purity of movement. She was also in the Top 10 in the Sport Horse Under Saddle Class.

Liz Sanchez-trained rider Kayla Romero, 17, was in the Top 10 in classes for driving and hunt seat equitation. Megan Weadock, 17, was a winner in



Ribbons won at the 2014 Youth National Arabian & Half-Arabian Championship horse show by riders who train at Liz Sanchez Stables in Los Ranchos.

the Sport Horse in Hand mares class.

The show drew 1,000 horses and 2,200 riders/handlers from throughout the U.S., Canada, Mexico and Brazil.



Are you a Ding-a-Ling?! Perhaps even a Ring-a-Ling?! If so, we're looking for you and have a special place for you in our new handbell choir!! Our church is in possession of a set of handbells that would add a special beauty to our worship experiences, especially at Easter and Christmas! If this is something you would be interested in, please contact Mary Tidwell at rachykeys@gmail.com or speak with me on a Sunday morning! (I'm the one at the organ!) Our rehearsals would take place on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon at a time that would be convenient for us all. I am excited about this new avenue for making music in worship of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee,

Thank you for the generous scholarship over the past few semesters. I am so very grateful for your contribution to my education. This scholarship has helped me to complete my college career in December! Thanks for your investment!

In Christ,

Taryn Reynolds (granddaughter of Travis & Patsy Reynolds)



OFFICE HOURS



From the Personnel Committee - Our church office will begin slightly modified hours beginning Monday, September 29th. Martha will continue to be in the church office Monday through Friday; however, her hours will be from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm. She has

agreed to a pay schedule that will reflect the hours. For those of you who work closely with Martha, you are aware that she has become quite proficient with her duties and these changes will benefit both Martha and the church.

Session Actions

August 2014

- **Worshiped and prayed together**
- **Studied Presbyterian *Polity* using Book of Order**
- **Officially hired Marty Baughman as nursery attendant**
- **Approved use of the church for Ratliff wedding**
- **Approved showing by CE of gun violence video--*Trigger –the Ripple Effect of Gun Violence***
- **Reviewed CONC duties and responsibilities**
- **Discussed feedback from the *Bring a Neighbor Sunday* on Aug. 10**
- **Discussed feedback from the Hale's presentation of their Israel trip at August 12 Fellowship supper**
- **Encouraged by Outreach for all to participate in the school supplies drive and the Kroger card program**

Session Actions

September 2014

- **Worshiped and prayed together**
- **Heard progress report from CONC**
- **Reviewed church calendar for the remainder of the year**
- **Approved inviting the Rusk Co. Sheriff to speak on gun violence at a Fellowship event**
- **Elected Bert Lowe and Jan Pennal as commissioners to September 27 Presbytery meeting in Longview**
- **Rescheduled Austin Seminary student to preach on September 28**
- **Accepted the gift of the Chrome Box from Bill and Lsha Stanley to enable computer hook up with television in the Fellowship Hall**
- **Accepted the gift of chairs and side tables in parlor from Fonta Conway**
- **Approved the removal of the long couch in parlor**
- **Decided to keep the portable fan, which used to reside in the Lydia Class, and save it for the history area that is being developed**
- **Decided that the Moderator's report will no longer name congregation members who have received pastoral care. Instead, the Moderator will give a count of the number of people she has counseled.**

WONDERFUL WORSHIP

On Sunday, October 5, First Presbyterian Church will observe World Communion Sunday with other Christians around the world as one collective body to demonstrate our oneness in Jesus Christ.

October 4, 1936 was the first observance of World Communion Sunday.

The Presbyterian Church (USA) created this special worship service for their churches nationally and overseas, and in 1940 the National Council of Churches began promoting it. Now congregations from denominations around the world feel a sense of shared global faith as they celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday in October.

When we share in the bread and wine of the Lord's table at First Presbyterian Henderson, we are a part of the worldwide phenomenon of becoming the body of Christ that is not confined to geography or particular denominational or theological interpretations. We're not just all "doing the same thing." We are becoming the same thing – the worldwide body of Christ.

Won't you join us on October 5 as we gather around His Table and broadcast our faith to the world and say, "This is God's table. Come and dine; there is room for all!"

Kathy Porter

For the Worship Team

WORLD COMMUNION
SUNDAY



BOOK CORNER

The Seekers Class is studying a wonderful book for thirsty people: *Sacred Thirst* by M. Craig Barnes. Barnes is a Presbyterian pastor, a member of the faculty of Fuller Theological Seminary, and the president of Princeton Theological Seminary.

His latest book *Sacred Thirst* addresses the question: “Why are Christians still thirsty?” We throw ourselves into church work, Bible studies, prayer, missions, fellowship, he says, and yet we search restlessly for something more. What are we missing?

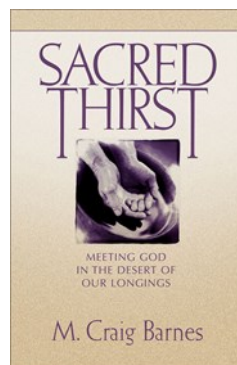
The author’s suggests: Perhaps the answer is, more of Jesus. No matter how devoted we are to these wonderful activities, they are not the same thing as communion with Jesus.

Like the woman at the well, we have tried to satisfy our parched souls with so many other things—even religious things. Barnes reminds us that when we get to the bottom of our desire, we find Jesus quietly waiting with His living water—intimate communion with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Sacred Thirst is filled with insights into human experience and the character of God. Drawing from his rich background in the Bible and tender insights as a pastor, Barnes leads us into a new understanding of ourselves and of the uncontrollable but gracious God we seek.

Studying this book is a very rewarding experience for me. And I’ve noticed there really is an empty chair in both adult classes. Every Sunday At 9:45 a.m. Come a little early for coffee if you’d like.

Bert Lowe
Christian Education Ministry
Team leader



A big thank you to all of you who so generously contributed to the Scholarship Fund of FPC this year. Because of you we are able to award eleven scholarships for the fall semester of 2014. Following are the awardees.

CHURCH MEMBERS

Cody Conway	Stephen F. Austin University
Hunter Davis	North Texas State University
Mitchell Hillin	Houston Community College
Ryan Hillin	Austin Community College

RELATIVES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Austin Andrus	North Central Texas College (Scoggins' grandson)
Baylee Boren	Texas Tech University (Boren's granddaughter)
Haleigh Roach Hutson	University of Texas at Tyler (Schauwecker's granddaughter)
Ben Laney	Texas A & M University (Laney's grandson)
Will Rever	Texas Tech University (Laney's grandson)
Taryn Reynolds	East Texas Baptist University (Reynolds' granddaughter)

FRIENDS OF THE CHURCH

Stefani Fitzgerald	Kilgore College (Martha Hicks' daughter)
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Christian Education Happenings—Report on “Trigger”

On behalf of the Christian Education Ministry Team, I want to report to you on our congregational study known as “Trigger.” First, I want to thank our Pastor/Teaching Elder for bringing this important study to our attention, the Session for their approval, the members of the congregation who participated, and the CE Ministry Team for their hard work and dedication.

“Trigger: The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence” is a DVD concerning the deadly serious problem of gun violence in our nation. This study was produced by the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in response to a resolution passed by the Presbyterian Church (USA) 2010 General Assembly. The purpose of the resolution is “to awaken members and communities to the faith dimensions of our on-going tragedy”—gun violence. This is a call to local congregations to build public awareness of gun violence and to bring about a spiritual awakening to the tragic devaluing of human life.

Our CE Ministry Team chooses to answer this call.

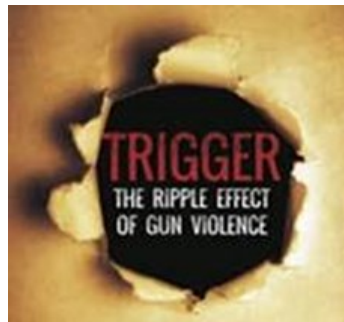
In our two evening sessions, 19 of us gathered in the Fellowship Hall to share a meal, to view the documentary DVD, and to discuss the ripple effects of gun violence. The DVD draws upon conversations with lawmakers, emergency room chaplains and surgeons, survivors and victims’ families, police officers, community leaders and others. It examines the ripple effect that one shooting has on a survivor, a family, a community and our entire society. It also addresses the critical issue of prevention, such as keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill, and full legal compliance in retail practices. The DVD is factual, thought provoking, and motivating.

Discussions were lively and harmonious. We moved from conversations about the problem to the possible ways that we might be part of a solution in our local community and beyond.

With those conversations in mind, we have invited Sheriff Jeff Price and Deputy Dan Roberts to be our guest speakers on October 21st. They will answer questions on gun violence in Rusk County and how we might be of help.

We hope you will come.

Prayerfully,
Bert Lowe, CE Ministry Team Leader



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Jack Clark, Tom & Syble DeLoach, Jane and Tolly Dill and Diane Dill, Bob Hays, Joyce Huggins, Claudine Kennedy, Billie Manck, Peggy Morgan, Debbie Murphy, Neil, Mariella, and Jan Pennal, Alicia Rich, Patsy, Ginny and Tela Snelgrove

Connected Family: Connor Bradshaw – Porter’s grandson, Tammy Hillin’s mother, Brittany McLane – Schauwecker’s granddaughter, Susannah – Bert Lowe’s niece, Letty Tennison – Cindy Ratliff’s mother, Colton Wallace – Cody Conway’s cousin

Friends and Neighbors: Myra Folmar – friend of Bert Lowe, Regan McDonald – undergoing cancer treatments, Children attending *Kids for God*, Caleb Williams – Seminary student, Lucas Zihlman – Friend of Martha Hicks

Those loved ones known only to God,



All God's
Creatures

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

When: Saturday October 4, 2014

Time: Noon

Where: St. Matthew's Episcopal Church

This year, the Rev. Patsy Barham will be joined by the Rev. Candice Klein. So, put that on your calendar and bring your furry friends (or feathered, or gilled) and have them *blessed* during an ecumenical service, by two of Henderson's clergy finest!



OUTREACH NEWS

Who : First Presbyterian Church, Henderson

What : Annual Neighborhood Party

When : Saturday, October 18 from 3:30pm until 6:30pm

Where: Gazebo at FairPark / Bingo- Fellowship Hall

Why : To continue to reach out to our neighborhood in Christian love with food, fun and fellowship.

On behalf of your Outreach team, I want to urge each and every member to participate in our annual neighborhood party. Our neighbors really seem to love the event and it is a great way to reach out to them. The plans include our usual meal of hamburgers and hotdogs, singing together and bingo with prizes. While it is the same agenda, every party brings its own uniqueness. Thanks for all you have done in the past ! Now, let's make this party one of the best!

Here's to reaching out!
Jan



EXTRAORDINARY CLIMATE MARCH

The largest climate march in history

On Sunday, September 21st, approximately 400,000 people from 1,000 different groups marched in the streets of New York City to call for climate action – environmental justice groups, faith groups, labor groups. People of faith marched in Manhattan, while others all over the world made their voices heard. At 1:00 p.m. EDT, faith communities around the world rang their church bells, sounded their shofars, issued calls to prayer, and chanted mantras – a worldwide interfaith Global Climate Chorus! Our own church bell rang in solidarity that morning.

They marched because scientists have told us that the planet's temperature has already been raised, and will rise even higher by the end of this century. They marched because Hurricane Sandy filled the NYC subway system with salt water because of rising ocean levels. They marched for their grandchildren, and for yours, because their lives will be impoverished and severely degraded if the world's leaders don't act.

They marched because Exxon Corp currently spends \$100 million daily searching for more hydrocarbons, while scientists tell us we already have more in reserves than we can safely burn. They marched because California has lost 63 trillion gallons of groundwater to the drought that won't end, and because the glaciers at the roof of Asia are disappearing. And they marched for those too weak from dengue fever and malaria to make the journey.

On Tuesday, September 23rd the world's politicians gathered at the United Nations in New York to dialog together about climate action. These leaders heard the clear message that climate change is a moral issue, and taking action is a moral imperative. The People's Climate March demonstrated that there is massive support to do something about climate change *now* because the future of the planet is in peril.

God's people of faith can, and do, and *must* make a critical difference in caring for God's creation. Please pray for the earth!

The C E Green Team





October

2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	1	2	3	4 Blessing of the Animals Noon at St. Matthew's
5 World Communion Sunday Ryan Hillin	6 Jack Gray	7	8	9 Session Meeting 6:30 p.m.	10	11
12 Margaret Hillin	13 Adopt A Block 4:30 p.m.	14	15	16 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00 p.m.	17	18 Neighborhood Party 3:30-6:30 p.m.
19 Worship Committee Meeting	20	21 Baked Potato Supper with Rusk Co. Sheriff	22	23	24	25
26	27 Judy Andrasko	28	29	30	31	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8