

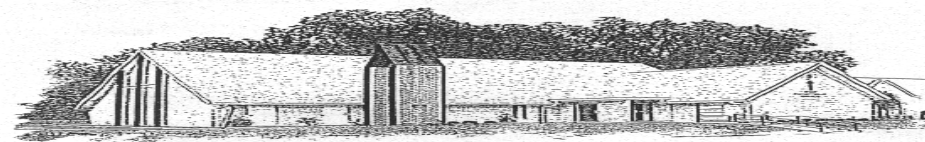
Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

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

Connected Family: Connor Bradshaw – Porter’s grandson, Tammy Hillin’s mother, Susannah – Bert Lowe’s niece, 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, Those loved ones known only to God

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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As Thanksgiving Day approaches, we begin to prepare for the inevitable question that is asked, and answered, around many tables that day: *what are you especially thankful for this year?* And I wonder, of course, why it’s asked only annually. And why it’s asked only in November. And why it’s asked only at table. And why it’s asked only among friends and family.

As People of God, we are perhaps more aware of our blessings. We certainly *give thanks* over meals, over children and grandchildren, over weather conditions we approve of, over sickness healed. Yet, I wonder, when we give thanks, if we feel “blessed.” When and why we feel “blessed.” When and why it seems that we recognize our “blessedness” only when things are going our way.

Paul wrote several letters to the church at Thessalonica and encouraged the people to “*give thanks in all things.*” Do you believe it’s possible to give thanks for illness? Or for relationship struggles? Is it possible to give thanks while depressed? Or in the midst of bodily pain? And if we feel “blessed” when we believe that the Almighty is smiling on us, is it also possible to believe that we are “blessed” when it seems the Almighty is not?

I challenge us, this Thanksgiving holiday, to remember that we are blessed beyond comprehension by the God we serve. We are blessed when things are going smoothly, and we are blessed when struggles and pain overwhelm. God does not love only on sunny days. God does not abandon when storms are present. God loves all day, every day, in all things, for all reasons, in all circumstances, in all weather, in all places, all people, always. God is always moving, always working, always available, always protecting, always loving. How’s *that* for being blessed? And when things are tough, God does not give up. Not on us, not on circumstances, not on growth, not on you.

Maybe the answer to this year’s Thanksgiving question is, *I am thankful that in all circumstances, at all times, for all reasons, I am a blessed child of God!* Then, believe it, and carry it with you until next November, too.

I am *blessed* to serve you.

Candice

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– *I Thessalonians 5: 16-18*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) NEWS—Special Edition

As most of our avid “Presbyterian Pipeline” readers know, the CE Ministry Team has been focusing on the deadly serious problem of gun violence locally and in our country. We are trying to separate facts from myths and are searching for ways to help bring about changes that would honor the Prince of Peace.

As reported in our last “Pipeline” edition, we invited our Rusk County Sheriff, Jeff Price, and his Deputy, David Roberts, to be our special guests at our October Fellowship Dinner. We asked them to address the problem of gun violence locally. They were pleased to accept our invitation. And they enjoyed the Fellowship Committee’s marvelous stuffed baked potatoes and Betsy Brooks’ scrumptious cake made in their honor. (Thank you, Judy and your committee, and thank you, Betsy!)

We learned that the state of Texas has no gun laws, and that law enforcement officials follow federal gun laws. We learned that under federal law, a background check and proof of proficiency are required only for a license to carry a concealed weapon. They stressed the need for all guns at home to be kept secure—under lock and key—in a place known only to the gun owner.

Sheriff Price said that their No. One problem in combating crime is the lack of government support for treating the mentally ill. “We need to step up and pay the bill,” he said. The Sheriff added that 90% of mental health problems are drug induced.

When asked how we can help them do their job for us, their first answer, adamantly, was to get involved with “Crime Stoppers.” Sheriff Price told us, “Don’t look away—call us when something does not look right.” He also noted that there are 960 square miles in Rusk County and only four deputies, but stressed not to try to take matters into our own hands.

The Sheriff and his Deputy will be with us again soon with a program to help parents and grandparents to recognize illegal drugs when they see them. They also warned us of small thefts of our own prescription drugs that kids toss together (“Skittles”) into bowls at parties with their friends. They reminded us that the children most vulnerable to peer pressure are those in middle school.

We appreciated the information Sheriff Price and Deputy Roberts shared with us and look forward to having them with us again soon.

Meanwhile, your CE Ministry Team does not want to look away. We will continue to work toward responsible solutions to the problem of gun violence.

CE Ministry Team Leader,
Bert Lowe

P.S. Don’t forget—the Season of Advent begins November 30. Jimmy Chapman will lead the combined adult Sunday School classes in our Advent study of *When God Comes Down* by James A. Harnish. During our first session, we will join Zechariah and Elizabeth as they “Wait for the Sunrise.” Books will be available at no cost. Do plan to be with us!

Many, many thanks to my wonderful congregation for recognizing me on Pastor Appreciation Sunday. I have a plaque that confirms your recognition, and I will cherish it always!

Candice



One of the duties of the Finance Committee is to provide information to the congregation concerning methods for making gifts to the church over and above one’s normal giving. We have received two specific questions that we would like to address.

The first one is “What is the easiest way for a member to leave a gift to the church upon their demise?” The easiest way is for a written statement declaring the amount of the gift or the percent of your estate you wish to leave to the church. This gift can be monetary, real estate, stocks, or any other asset you have. A gift can be undesignated or designated for a specific use.

The second question is “What if a gift is left to the church but FPC Henderson as we know it no longer exists?” A written statement can be included with the gift that states if FPC no longer exists the gift would revert back to your other heirs.

If you have any questions concerning any kind of gift to the church, please ask one of the committee members—Bill Stanley, Tom Laney, Bert Lowe, Carol Scoggins, or Tom Weaver. If we cannot answer your question, we will find someone who can.

Caulking the Boat

Mary Luti

"A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped."
- Mark 4:37

I know this story is about the power of Jesus, and about trusting him in stormy times. But it's also about a seaworthy boat. It wasn't a pure miracle that the boat wasn't swamped. It's also that someone did a great job maintaining it.

We complain a lot about the nitty-gritty of church life. Pastors chafe at administrative tasks that keep us from the "real work" of ministry. Deacons grumble about filling those tiny cups on Communion Sundays. Secretaries and treasurers weary of bulletin prep and invoices. And God help you if you have renovations going on in the building. Talk about mind-numbing details and decisions!

Once, when we were having big building headaches at church, I wrote to the moderator, commiserating about how sick and tired she must be of all the thankless jobs that had fallen to her. Turns out she wasn't. I've kept her reply with me for years, reading it whenever slog-ging away at inglorious tasks makes me feel like a pitiful martyr. It's about buildings, but it could be about lots of other things. It helps me. Maybe it will help you.

"I often thought," she wrote, "that all those behind-the-walls problems and continual building challenges were as sacred as anything, kind of like repairing Jesus' sandals or caulking that fishing boat that made it through the storm."

As sacred as anything. Thanks, Gaylen Morgan.

Prayer

Holy One, when I start feeling like a pitiful martyr, show me Jesus' sandals in need of repair, his boat in need of caulking, and give me second wind.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Luti is Interim Senior Pastor, Wellesley Village Church, Wellesley, Massachusetts.

ENOUGH – Our Fight to Keep America Safe from Gun Violence

by *Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly*

Gabby Giffords was serving her third term in the U.S. House representing Arizona when she was shot in the head on January 8, 2011, in Tucson. Her life and her husband's, astronaut Mark Kelly, lives were forever changed.

The book begins with the shooting, relates Gabby's hard fought recovery still progressing, and explains their latest endeavors concerning gun violence. "Enough" was Gabby's first word after hearing about the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting in Newton, CT, in December 2012. She and Mark felt they now must do something to curb gun violence.

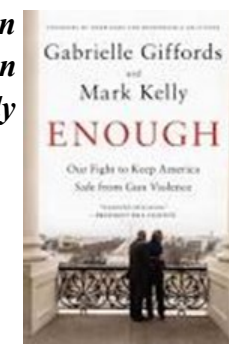
As gun owners and strong supporters of the Second Amendment, they were interested in preserving the right to own guns for collection, recreation, and protection, but now wanted to take actions to prevent the next Tucson, Aurora, or Newtown. They founded the organization Americans for Responsible Solutions which promotes responsible gun ownership and encourages lawmakers to find solutions to gun violence.

There are many interesting explanations, facts, and responses to statements:

- "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun."
- The National Rifle Association (NRA), founded as a gun safety group after the Civil War is historically an advocacy group for gun owners. But the book discloses much more.
- The defeat in April 2013 of the Manchin-Toomey Bill to strengthen background checks for gun purchasers.
- Senator Ted Cruz, among the most opposed to proposed gun-law reform.
- Guns don't kill people. People kill people. Background checks would dramatically change this.

Enough came to our attention as a good follow-up to the Christian Education Team's sponsoring of "Trigger" – The Ripple Effect of Gun Violence-- the DVD presentation and discussion groups. It is a newly released book-- and it is also the newest book in the church library!

Pat Laney for the C.E. Team




The Fellowship Committee met briefly before church on Sunday October 12, 2014. Those present were Kay Warren, Fonta Conway, the Reynolds, the Schauwecker's, Sue Williams, and Judy Andrasko. We discussed the budget, goals, and accomplishments of the Fellowship Committee. There were special guests on October 21 at the Baked Potato Dinner, Sheriff Jeff Price and Deputy David Roberts.

Thanks



We were so pleased to come out
for food and fellowship.

Thank you for your hospitality.

Sincerely, 

Session Actions

October 9, 2014

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Studied Presbyterian *Polity* using Book of Order
- Heard report of Presbytery Meeting by Jan Pennal and Bert Lowe
- Heard CONC Report of slate of nominees for elders and CONC
- Called Congregational Meeting for Nov. 2 to elect elders and members of CONC
- Discussed preparations for Annual Neighborhood Party October 18
- Set Annual Congregational meeting to hear annual reports in conjunction with Fellowship Luncheon on Nov. 16
- Decided to purchase doors for hallway and have them stained by a painter and windows installed in 6 of them
- Heard report from Personnel regarding the resignation of secretary
- Reviewed Pastor's Evaluation and expressed appreciation for her leadership of the church
- Reviewed preliminary budget
- Appointed a commission to work on sanctuary renovations
- Set Stewardship Campaign in conjunction with Annual Congregational Meeting and Fellowship luncheon on Nov. 16
- Discussed the presentation of Rusk County Sheriff on gun violence to be held Oct. 21



You are invited to a
Stewardship/ Thanksgiving Luncheon
in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, November 16th
Following Sunday Worship

Lunch will be a traditional Thanksgiving meal with all the trimmings. After lunch Committee Chairs will make a short presentation on how your commitments to our church continue to make a difference. You will hear how our church wide missions and service to our community of faith serve God through our church. Our Committee chairs are aware and remind us that all giving, that of ourselves as well as our financial resources, is in response to God's goodness and generosity. God gives, then we respond, and we spend our lives learning and growing in our responses.

The Stewardship committee will take the extra time of making the message of this luncheon available to all members. If you are unable to attend, one of our members after the luncheon will hand deliver a printed copy of the presentations to you at your residence.

We look forward to seeing you at Church and at our annual luncheon.

Your Stewardship Committee Chair

Bill Stanley



FPC door engineers using their gifts to work on new hallway doors for the betterment of the church and to the glory of God.





From Communications for November 2014

Just a reminder to everyone that if you have a committee meeting scheduled or if your committee has a special event coming up please email me with the details. I will post it on the website calendar or Facebook (or maybe both). It is a great way to let everyone know what is going on at FPC Henderson for members and non-members alike. This is especially important now that we are coming in to one of our busiest seasons. Also, please remember to make a note on the calendar in the church office.



Abigail at KFG telling how she saves her family from being killed by King David



Another Neighborhood Party Success !!!

It is with a full heart that I report on the Saturday, October 18, 2014 neighborhood party.

First of all, thanks to ALL who contributed in any way!! It is such a pleasure to serve with such a dedicated group of believers!

While it takes a lot of help from many who are not members like, First Baptist Church- tables and chairs, Warden Michael Bell and the MTC cooker, and a "celebrity" bingo caller which was Betty Elder this year, and several "young strongmen" , the true backbone of the party is YOU ! I appreciate you all so much for recognizing that this party is important. I have to remind myself that our Lord can take each life touched by our efforts and groom each to His service in ways we do not ever see nor may ever know..... but He does. And that is the bottom line, isn't it ?

A huge thanks to the outreach team is in order who year after year has taken this party on with joyful hearts. To: Kathy, Lynn, Lsha, Kelly, Bert, Sue, John T, Judy, Linda, thanks always for your commitment to excellence. To our session of : Bill, John T, Kelly, Judy, Bert, Kathy, Steve and Debbie, thank you for your work and or support, to our Pastor Candice who always has His message for us, thank you and finally to the faithful members of FPC, and you know who you are, that show up year after year because you know and understand that what God can do and accomplish with our small efforts is furthering His Kingdom in ways only He can see, thank you, thank you, thank you !

May God bless you all for your outreach work !! It is my pleasure to serve our Lord at this time and place with you all.

Sincerely,
Jan Pennal, Outreach chair



By the power vested in me as choir director/organist

at First Presbyterian Church, Henderson,

I hereby declare

November **Choir Appreciation Month!!!**



Hug a choir member this month
and let them know how much you appreciate
their commitment and dedication
as your music worship leaders!!

Did You Know????

Paper and paperboard products make up the largest portion of the municipal solid waste stream in the United States, and as a result, offer the greatest opportunity to recycle. Paper accounts for more than a half of all recyclables collected in the US, by weight. About 44 million tons of paper and paperboard were recovered in 2012. That's about 65 per cent.

What can recovered paper be used for? About 37 percent of the fiber used to make new paper products in the US came from recycled sources in 2011.

Did you know that we have a recycling center right here in Henderson, TX, located at 1203 Highland Drive? Open 8 AM to 5 PM, Monday thru Friday, and Saturday morning.





November

2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Mitchell Hillin
2	Lsha Stanley 3	4	5	6	7	8
Jane Fahle 9	10	11	12	13 Session Meeting 6:30 p.m.	14 Kelly Weaver	15
16 Thanksgiving Day Lunch following worship	17 Mary Ann Chapman 18 Adopt A Block 4:30	19 Debbie Wasson	20 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00 p.m.	21	22 Grace Presbytery Meeting Ft. Worth	23 Patricia Price
29	30	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 Bob Ratliff	26
27 Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving	28	29	30 Advent Begins	31	1	2