

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Three

Ecclesia Reformata, Semper Reformanda!

The Latin words that we Presbyterians speak so often. “Reformed and always reforming.” But what does that mean, *really*? Well, the Reformed motto challenges both conservative and liberal views. It does not expect preservation for preservation’s sake or change for change’s sake. And most important, it signals that the modifications, whatever they are or will be, are orchestrated by God.

Part of our openness to being reformed comes out of who we are. The church, even at its best, is a frail and imperfect institution, filled with sinners. We are people who journey with Christ, who have not yet become what we will become, through the work of the Holy Spirit. Openness to being reformed comes not only because of who we are, but because of who God is.

I tell you that, to tell you this: The Presbyterian Book of Order is being changed –by the Presbyterians. At its meeting in June 2014, the General Assembly proposed an amendment to our church Constitution regarding marriage. So far, across the nation, a majority of the 171 presbyteries in our denomination have ratified the amendment, making it effective. The new language will now read:

Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the wellbeing of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couple sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

The amendment grants freedom of conscience to pastors in states where civil law permits it, to perform wedding ceremonies for same-gender couples, and it also allows sessions to authorize the use of church facilities for such ceremonies. Pastors would continue to be held responsible for pre-marriage counseling, and sessions must be in agreement, if the ceremony is to be held in the church facility. It does not require pastors to perform wedding ceremonies or sessions to authorize any service if it would violate their conscience(s).

At present, same-gender weddings are not permitted by Texas law, so the effect is largely symbolic for now, and does not affect our Henderson church. But, because the Book of Order will be modified, it may affect us at a later time. No matter how you feel about this news, please remember that the government of our Presbyterian denomination includes the fellowship of women, men, and children united in covenant relationship with one another and with God. The organization rests on that fellowship and is not designed to work without trust and love.

Over the years, the issues have come, and by the grace of God, some have gone – issues such as slavery, women’s rights, civil rights, even numerous wars – some justified, some questioned. Now, this new issue has come before us, and the denomination has spoken. I hope you will ask me questions, if you have them. And I hope you will remember that my door is always open to you. I too, am *reformed and always being reformed*. Thank God!

Candice

Peter said to them, “You know that we Jews are not allowed to have anything to do with other people. But God has shown me that he doesn’t think anyone is unclean or unfit.”
– Acts 10:27-28

LET'S TALK MISSION

Your Mission team at FPC consists of Jan, Jimmy, Fonta, Lavonne, Debbie W, Lynn and Kathy.

We want to spend your offerings wisely for 2015. This article's purpose is to state the purpose of mission for 2015 and to start getting more information to you, the members of our congregation, about who we give to as mission stewards and why.

Purpose of Mission Committee: We are responsible for overseeing benevolent expenditures and for making recommendations to support ministries and mission of the congregation. Contributions approved by this committee are made to chartered charitable agencies and organizations. This committee may also choose with care to support or originate a local mission that would improve lives of individuals, families, or groups.

Here are the areas we have approved to spend the \$11,000 BUDGETED 2015 offerings:

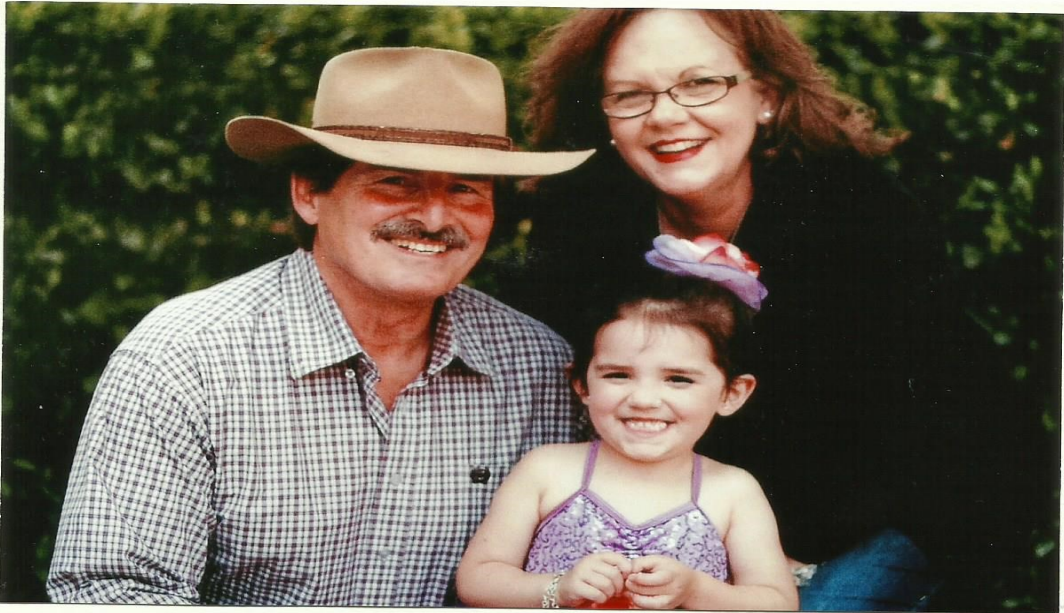
*Grace Presbytery	\$6,500
*Henderson Interchurch Ministry (H.I.M.)	1,000
*Habitat for Humanity	500
*Camp Gilmont	500
*Rusk County Children's Advocacy Center	500
*Presbyterian Children's Home	1000
*Presbyterian Theological Student	250
*Pastor's Discretionary Fund	500
*Undesignated Benevolences	250

Mission is also assigned the Kroger Community Rewards Program funds. By shopping at Kroger, a percentage of your sales are given back to our church. Through two quarters, we have been given \$225.09. (Sept, Oct, Nov of 2014 = \$104.79 and Dec'14, Jan, Feb 2015= \$120.30) This money, by Kroger mandate and ours, will be spent on local mission work. Thank you for participating in this program by signing up each year! What a great and easy way to give back to your community!! (In the past, this money has been used to buy water for the Fire Department House).

Other programs benefitting in the past have been: The United Way, SonShine Lighthouse, Boys and Girls Club, and Blanket program.

As you also know, we have four special offerings for the year. For your review they are:

1. One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) - this offering starts at Lent and runs through Easter Sunday. It helps with feeding the hungry through the Presbyterian Hunger Program, empowering the self development of the poor and oppressed, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which restores hope to those affected by natural disasters.
2. Pentecost-- this offering will be available for you to give to through the whole month of May, culminating on May 24, Pentecost Sunday. This offering will help bring God's comforting love to children at risk, nurture the growing faith of youth, and provide op-



Paul, Martha w/ granddaughter Madelyn


March 21, 2015

Dear Friends at FPC Henderson,
you are all a wonderful blessing
to me! Thanks so much for
the care and kind words with
regard to my 40 yrs as an ordained
minister. The time has gone
quickly, and I have been so blessed
to get to know so many wonderful
people who have taught me the
true meaning of what it means to
be church. I thank you for your thoughts
and prayers. You are all dear to my heart.
In Christ, Paul Little

Prayers of concern for :

Members: Jane Dill & Tolly, Bill & Lsha Stanley and family, Cindy & Bob Ratliff, Debbie Murphy, Bob Hayes, Neil Pennal, Carolyn Boren, Billie Manck, Joyce Huggins, Alicia Rich, and the FPC Building Commissioners


Connected family: Conner Bradshaw, Tammy Hillan's mother, Gigi, Diane Dill & Mike Dill, Kelly's sister, Deborah, Bert Lowe's cousin Philip, our college students





Egg-tra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they’ve become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus’ empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus’ blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held “egg-throwing” festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.



opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders in the name of Jesus Christ. *** 40% of this offering will be kept by our church to be used in our own community***

3. Peacemaking--Starting with World Communion Sunday, Oct. 4, we will have the whole month of October to think about and give to this special offering. The General Assembly's adoption of Peacemaking: The Believer's Calling paved the way for this offering, providing Presbyterians an opportunity to share the peace of Christ across the PC(USA). ***25% of this offering will be kept by our church to be used to sustain local peacemaking ministries. An example of local peacemaking would be supporting an anti-bullying program through our schools.


4. Christmas Joy Gift --Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, this offering will be available for your giving opportunity through the Christmas season. Each gift to this offering helps support past, present and future leaders of the church. Whether by providing financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families (50% of offering) or by providing opportunities for deserving students of all racial and ethnic backgrounds to achieve their dreams through Presbyterian-related education (50% of offering), this is a yearly opportunity for Presbyterians to share the "good news of great joy" to those poor in circumstance or spirit.

In addition, August will be our Heifer International awareness project month. Starting the first Sunday in August, and running through August 30, we will become more aware of what Heifer International is and does to help impact the lives of so many. The mission (Heifer project), outreach (Friendship Sunday) and fellowship committees will combine to make Sunday, August 30 a special time for fellowship with friends, guests and church family as we learn more about how Heifer International helps us all.

For 2015, your mission committee would also like to look into supporting a missionary. Whether it is through corporate giving and/or prayers, your mission team would like to bring you on board to support a person or a team in their missionary work. You will be hearing more about this at a future date.

Thank you for taking time to read about Mission and all we can do together to touch God's people.

Jan Pennal, chair



Bible Quiz

Who told the women at the tomb that Jesus had risen?

A. Two men in shining garments

B. A young man in a white robe

C. An angel

D. All of the above, depending on which gospel you read

Outreach News

In the latter part of April, outreach will help make this congregation more aware of child abuse.

In years past we have had a Blue Ribbon Sunday in April that has focused on the local Rusk/Panola Children's Advocacy Center's (RPCAC) child abuse awareness campaign and this year will be no different.....well, maybe just a little different.

The blue ribbon awareness effort started in the spring of 1989 when a concerned grandmother, Bonnie Finney, of Norfolk, VA , took a stand against child abuse after experiencing the death of her grandson. Bonnie tied a symbolic blue ribbon to her van as a symbol to her community of her personal commitment to involve everyone in the battle to stop child abuse.

This year we will have a speaker come from our local branch on Sunday, April 12, to introduce to us again exactly what RPCAC does and why they are heading up this child abuse campaign.

Then on Sunday, April 26, your outreach team will help you don blue ribbons as together we corporately pray for the victims of child abuse, their families and their perpetrators.

On another note, your outreach team would like to remind you to bring HIM food donations on the first Sunday of each month. This will correspond with our first of the month communion Sundays.

We all have done this in the past and just need a little reminder to start back up again. Henderson Interchurch Ministry has been in existence since the 1980's, and as you probably know, is located on Hwy 64 and helps people who are in need of food, utilities and other needs.

So, remember.....food on the first !!

Finally, Bert reports that Kids for God is growing ! Nine children (2 boys and 7 girls) are participating with hopes that this will continue. We ask your prayers for our own Bert, Lynn, Kathy and Sue who show God's love and teach children about Jesus, no matter how many show up, every week. Let's keep this and all our outreach programs in our prayers !

Thanks for helping us all reach out to others, in Jesus' name !

Jan Pennal, chair

contribution to the community and come support our Cook-off Team.

Our second adventure is the Spanish as a Second Language class we have been working to put together. The class is confirmed and will begin on Thursday, April 16th. The 10-week class will be every Thursday evening from 6:00 – 7:00 pm beginning April 16th and going through our graduation day, June 18th John Cunyus will be teaching the class. Right now, we have approximately 18 people signed up for the class and need to know of any additional interest by 31st so that the correct number of text books can be ordered. If you are interested in participating or know anyone who is interested, please let Claudia Morgan-Gray know at claudiam@tstci.org or 903-646-0506. Gracias!

We'd love to have you join us for our next meeting scheduled for April 27th at 11:30 am. Jane Fahle will be the lesson leader. Remember to bring your brown bag lunch! If you have any questions or want or need additional information, please feel free to contact Lynn Ticken or Claudia Morgan-Gray.

So for today and every day, go forward and be nicer than you have to be in every encounter.



Special dates

- Maundy/Holy Thursday, *April 2, 2015*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2015*
- Holy Saturday, *April 4, 2015*
- Easter Sunday, *April 5, 2015*
- Administrative Professionals Day, *April 22, 2015*



Presbyterian Women

Happy Spring from PW! We didn't let a little or a lot of rain dampen our gleeful spirits. February rained out our regularly scheduled meeting, so we moved our "shared sunshine" together to March – and met twice. In addition to enjoying the camaraderie, we are finding common ground and conversation on each of our spiritual journeys and we are harnessing and uniting our energies toward projects that will make a difference in our own as well as other lives.

As a group, we are spearheading two specific events that will touch the elements of outreach, communication and visibility of our small but powerful church. The first event is we have entered the Rusk County Electric Cooperative's Annual Chili Cook-off held in conjunction with their 78th Annual Meeting and Home, Ranch & Garden Show. The event is April 9th at the Rusk County Expo Center and is open to the public. Our team, "The Presbys"– Not only can we spell, we can cook-- are entered and competing for the win. We have a powerful cooking team aligned but there is always room in the kitchen for more helpers – even if your help is in the form of moral support. At this time, "The Presbys" official team members are: Lavonne & Bob Schauwecker (using a modified version of Lavonne's recipe and Bob lending Top Chef assistance); John & Lynn Tieken (providing cooking skills and kitchen location for team chili cooking); Margaret Hillin (Supervisor over things non-onion); Kathy Porter and Candice (materials managers and other non-cooking related issues); Lsha & Bill Stanley (CCAs – chief chili assessors or top taste testers); Peggy Morgan (Co-Supervisor with Margaret) and Claudia Morgan-Gray, head sous-chef. The team and any others wanting to assist or cheer on will be gathering at John & Lynn Tieken's on Monday, April 6th to make the 15 gallons of chili necessary for our winning entry! If you can't join us for the preparation, please plan to join us for the serving and consumption on Thursday, April 9th at the event. We have to be set up and ready to serve at 2:00 pm the day of the event. The event itself runs from 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please come and support RCEC's

SESSION ACTIONS

March 19, 2015

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Examined, accepted, and joyfully welcomed three people into Membership in the life of FPC
- Approved moving funds from Texas Presbyterian Foundation to checking account to cover scholarships awarded for the spring school semester
- Heard report from commissioner to March 7 Presbytery meeting
- Reviewed worship plans for Holy Week
- Approved Presbyterian Women's participation in and funding for the Rusk County Electric Chili Cook-Off
- Reviewed the 14-F Amendment to Constitution regarding definition of marriage which was recently passed by a majority of regional presbyteries



DID YOU KNOW?

America is the queen of trash. Every day in the U.S., we produce enough trash to equal the weight of the Empire State Building. We throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles every hour, produce enough Styrofoam cups annually to circle the earth 436 times and trash enough office paper to build a 12-foot wall from Los Angeles to New York City. We toss out enough aluminum cans to rebuild our commercial air fleet every three months. Each year we fill enough garbage trucks to stretch from Earth half-way to the moon. (environment.unr.edu/sustainability/tips)

Let's do our part in our little corner of the world by remembering the three R's: reduce reuse, and recycle.

Christian Education Green Team



Building & Grounds

Commission March 2015 Report to FPC Council

The B&G team has not met in the past month although the Commission has met as well as the Commission subcommittee. The work in the chancel area is near completion with the exception of minor changes to the organ speakers, the hand rails both at the front of the chancel & in the choir area. We are also deliberating as to where to reinstall the modesty rail in front of the choir & purchasing adjustable piano benches.

We are in the process of securing bids from paint & sheetrock contractors, window replacement, brick work, & lighting fixtures.

Mary Tidwell reported she was very pleased with the organ sound Sunday, 03/15/15. Other than a couple of suggested small changes I have very positive responses from the congregation. My explanation for this is to discussion & deliberation on the part of the Commission & subcommittee before work began as well as continuing to diligently work out issues. The Commission is committed to making our worship space an even more pleasing space to worship God. I am thankful for these folks who have committed their time & talents to this project.

Respectfully Submitted,
B&G Team Leader,
Commission Chair,
John Tieken



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION ASKS—IS THERE LIFE AFTER EASTER?*

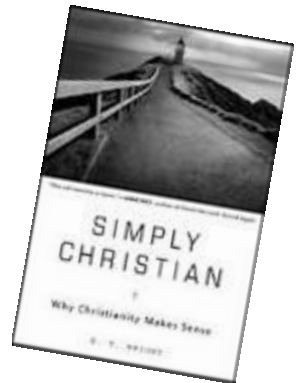
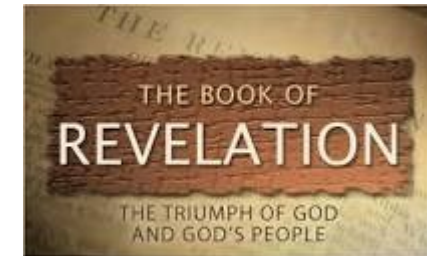
***Yes! Abundant!**

After Easter . . . the Andrews Class will study the exciting adventures of the prophet Jonah. On May 10, they will begin their in-depth study of the Book of Revelations. Under Jimmy Chapman's leadership, both studies promise to be stimulating and worthwhile.

After Easter . . . led by Reverend Klein, the Seekers Class will resume the study of *Simply Christian* by Bishop N. T. Wright. The author explores answers to questions such as: Why do we expect justice? Why are we attracted to beauty? Why are relationships often so painful? How will the world be made right? He leaves believers with a reason for renewed faith.

Don't you wish you could sit in both classes at the same time? I do too! Come join us. Sample both. Expect to grow.

Bert Lowe
Christian Education Ministry
Team Leader



What beautiful and amazing changes are taking place in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Henderson! How brightly the sounds of the choir are echoing within its walls! How beautifully the organ is resonating in this newly renovated place! How the choir joins in worship with the whole congregation of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Amen!

FROM ASHES TO PALMS TO RESURRECTION

Palm Sunday, 11:00 a.m. March 30th, is a milepost in the Lenten season as we have moved from the somberness of Ash Wednesday at the beginning of Lent to our next Lenten event, commemorating the Messiah's entrance into Jerusalem. Wave palms, sing, and be joyful that the Kingdom of God is here.

Maundy Thursday service, 6:30 p.m. April 2nd, will be held in our Fellowship Hall with choir and members of First United Methodist Church joining us for this communion service. "Maundy" is derived from *mandatum*, the first word in the Latin phrase, "*a new commandment* I give unto you, that you love one another, as I have loved you." John 13:34.

Good Friday service, 6:30 p.m. April 3rd, will be at the Methodist Church sanctuary with the combined choirs. Estimated to be in 33 AD, Jesus was crucified on a Friday before Passover, an early spring Jewish festival. "Good" refers to pious, holy.

Easter Sunday, April 5th. The resurrection of the Lord. Greet everyone with "He is risen." The Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the Fair Park pavilion. In case of bad weather, we will assemble in the Fellowship Hall. There will be song, story, and prayer. A continental breakfast will follow in Fellowship Hall.

The Easter worship service, the highpoint of the Christian year, begins at 11:00 a.m. and will include a service of communion.

Bring fresh flowers for the cross in the sanctuary; Fonta and Lynn will help arrange your flowers.

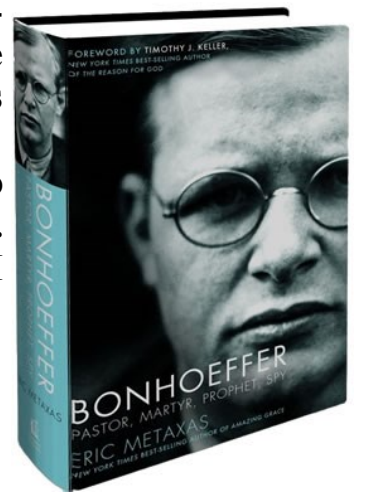
Tom Laney, for the Worship Committee



Our Library at FPC Henderson

We are blessed here at FPC Henderson with an impressive library. The selection is not huge but I think very impressive. I have read Bonhoeffer and have begun to read Wilson. Bonhoeffer was an amazing pastor, theologian, & truly courageous man. He was in the United States in 1939 and returned to Germany as Hitler was beginning his extermination of the Jews. He could have easily sat out the war in safety but instead chose to return and oppose the Nazis regime and its policies. He would sacrifice his deep love and planned marriage to a young German woman in order to stop Hitler. His bravery came from his deep faith in God. He did not carry a rifle but participated in "Operation 7" (an effort to smuggle Jews into neutral Switzerland). He participated in the failed Val Kyrie plot to assassinate Adolph Hitler for which he was hung in the last days of the war. "Silence in the face of evil is itself evil: God will not hold us guiltless. Not to speak is to speak. Not to act is to act." Dietrich Bonhoeffer. This is just one of the many books available, I encourage you check one out.

John Tieken



Bible Quiz

As Jacob used a rock for a pillow — later to become a pillar honoring God — which of the following did he experience in a dream

- A. Angels going up and down on a ladder between earth and heaven.
- B. The Lord promising that Jacob's family would be a blessing to all nations.
- C. God's assurance: "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."
- D. All of the above.



April

2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29	30	31	1	Bill Snow 2	Good Friday FUMC 6:30p.m. 3	4
5 Sunrise Service 7:00a.m. Easter Worship 11:00a.m.	6 Church Office closed	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Tom Weaver	14	15	16 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00p.m.	Jane Dill 17	18 Fonta Conway
19	20 Adopt A Block 4:30p.m.	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28 Sue Williams Lavonne Schauwecker	29	30	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9