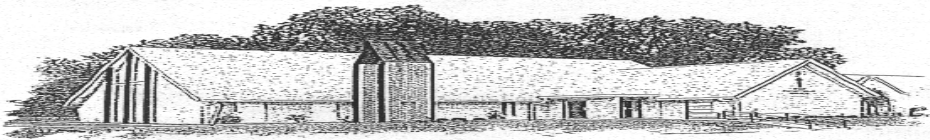


## Special dates

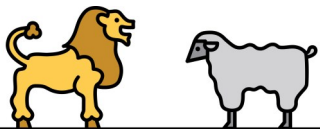
- Second Sunday in Lent, *March 1, 2015*
- Third Sunday in Lent, *March 8, 2015*
- Daylight-Saving Time Begins, *March 8, 2015*
- Fourth Sunday in Lent, *March 15, 2015*
- First Day of Spring, *March 20, 2015*
- “Book of Luke” @FUMC *March 22, 2015*
- Fifth Sunday in Lent, *March 22, 2015*
- Palm Sunday, *March 29, 2015*
- Maundy Thursday, *April 2, 2015*
- Good Friday, *April 3, 2015*



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**P. O. BOX 773**

**HENDERSON, TEXAS 75653-0773**



**MARCH**

## THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 47

March, 2015

Issue Two

### *A Lenten Journey*

“Lent” is one of those words that we struggle with. *Isn't it a Catholic thing?* we wonder. And we feel somehow empowered to stand brave and tall for our Protestant heritage. Well, it's probably time to get on board, because Lent has been celebrated in Protestant circles for centuries now, so that logic no longer holds meaning.

It's a 40-day journey, and it has ties to Jesus' time alone in the desert, and his journey toward Jerusalem and the crucifixion cross. He knew where he was headed. He knew its humiliation. He knew that he would never live to be an old man. He could have spent his time getting his final affairs in order. He could have avoided the cross. He had a choice. Yet within those last 40 days, he continued to serve, to heal, to laugh, to teach, to live his life fully.

Some have heard that they should *give something up for Lent*. Some have heard that they may choose to *add something new for Lent*. Well yes, and isn't that sort of silly? Oh, it's a good practice. It might lead to a good new habit. Jesus was ministering, and praying so hard that he sometimes sweated blood, and we're trying to decide if we should eliminate chocolate from our diets. *Really?*

Some don't want to engage in a Lenten study, because it's the same old lesson, year after year. We know it ends on Easter morning. Why don't we just go there? It's a happy time, and we'd much rather think of positive things. Well, many do. Did we learn something in a study group last year during Lent? And who's fault might that be?

We might take one word – a Lenten word – and tape it to our mirror, or put it in our pocket, where we could see it each day during Lent. We might focus on that one word and see how it shows up in our life. How one single word takes on meaning during Lent. How just one word changes our opinion about the 40 days. How one single word, considered once a day, might make us more appreciative of what the Messiah did. Or we might not.

We could try to understand and appreciate what Jesus went through. How he centered his mind, not on ordering his worldly needs, but on you. On you. How he surrendered his life, for you. We could take some of our life, and spend it thinking about his. We could.

The choice is yours. It's always been yours. God does not react to us because of what we do or don't do. God initiates. What God intended to do, God has already done. And now God waits. For you.

I hope you make the right choice this year.

May your blessings abound,

*Candice*

*And he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan.  
He was with wild animals and angels attended him. – Mark 1:13*

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

REVIEW: **THANK GOD IT'S THURSDAY**  
by **WILLIAM WILLIMON**

Pick up the small, inspired book that Rev. Candice has chosen for our adult classes' Lenten study. Skim the Contents from "Uncomfortable Supper"—"Making an Example of Jesus"—"Making love in Church"—"Truth at the Table"—to "Bread from Heaven."

Leaf through the 100 or so pages. Be ready to encounter Jesus at the Lord's Table. Be ready to let Jesus encounter *you* at his last supper on earth.

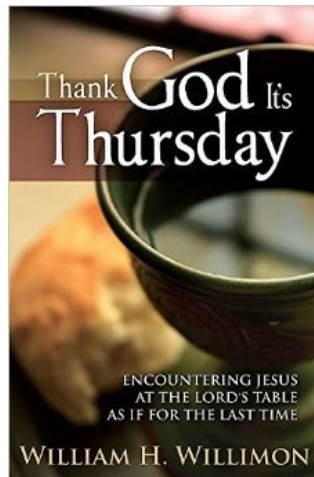
In the first chapter—"Uncomfortable Supper," we learn answers to important questions: Who is a Christian? What is the church? A Christian is a sinner who has been washed head to toe by Jesus. The church is a ragtag group of betrayers who are regularly served and nourished by Jesus.

"Do you understand what I do?" Jesus asks us (John 13:12) as he lovingly washes his disciples' and betrayers' dirty feet. Such boundary-breaking, risky, total love is incomprehensible. Fortunately, Willimon reminds us that we need not fully understand it; we just have to do it.

Come. Every Sunday morning during Lent. In the Fellowship Hall at 9:45 a.m. We'll save a place for you.

Bert Lowe, leader

Christian Education Team



## Mission

Our first special offering for the year is One Great Hour of Sharing. It started on Ash Wednesday and will run through the Lenten season ending with Easter Sunday. We will actually keep the offering open for one week after Easter to ensure you all have had time to make your contribution.

One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering that enables us to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world with:

1. Feeding the hungry
2. Empowering the self-development of the poor and oppressed
3. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Please pray about your gift to this very important mission work.

God's blessings to you!  
Jan Pennal

Two events sponsored by the Fellowship Committee have been very successful. First Presbyterians enjoy being together. The Pancake Supper on Feb 17 was attended by 38 people.

Eighteen persons attended the play, "The Man Who Came to Dinner."



The next event will be Breakfast following Easter Sunrise Service April 5.

Fonta Conway  
Fellowship Committee



## Greetings from the Communications Committee -



Your Communications Committee, which consists of Kelly Weaver, Kathy Porter and Claudia Morgan-Gray, met last Tuesday to discuss some new (and some old) ideas. Kathy will be in charge of our Facebook department, I am responsible for our website. We invite you to notify us of any upcoming event, meeting, pictures, etc. I also post our bulletins, Pipeline and items for the calendar to our website. So, if you have something that you think would be of interest to others please email us at [hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonfirstpres@gmail.com).

Claudia is our newest member and she is going to write an article each month for the Pipeline representing the Presbyterian Women. She is also going to send out a weekly email (for all of you that have provided your email address) that will keep you informed of the upcoming happenings.

Kelly Weaver

### *DID YOU KNOW?*

About 12 percent of the municipal solid waste stream is plastic materials such as soda bottles, plastic bags, lids, and shampoo bottles. The Henderson Recycling Center at 1203 Highland Drive, (next to Public Services building), accepts some but not all kinds of plastics.

The Henderson Recycling Center accepts No. 1 and No. 2 plastics. The numbers in triangles on the bottom of plastic containers are part of a resin identification coding system that helps distinguish types of plastic. You can use those numbers to determine if our recycling program accepts that type of material. The main markets for recycled plastics are fiber for carpet and textiles and then bottles, depending on the type of plastic. Let's help reduce waste by recycling and reusing!

Christian Education Green Team



Prayers for members : Jane, Tolly & Diane Dill, Bob Hays, Neil Pennal, Debbie Murphy, Billie Manck, Jack Clark, Joyce Huggins, Cindy Ratliff, Alicia Rich and Those loved ones known only to God.

### Stewardship Takes a Lifetime

No I am not coming to you for more money as it is not budget time. That time has come and past. However stewardship is not just an October or November occurrence, but is a yearlong lifetime commitment.

A biblical world view of *stewardship* can be consciously *defined* as: "Utilizing and managing all resources God provides for the glory of God and the betterment of His creation."

Stewardship is about recognizing that our life – all of it – is God's. All of life must demonstrate this: "whether you eat, or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). Time, talent, money, dreams, family, Sundays, golf, football, vacations, beach homes – these are a part (perhaps a big part) of our lives. And we must use all these in a manner that bring God glory. We *worship* in *all of life* – presenting our "bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship" (Romans. 12:1).

Three times, Paul tells us that he has been entrusted with a "stewardship" (1 Corinthians 9:11; Ephesians 3:2; Colossians 1:25). Similarly, he tells us that he and his fellow apostles are "stewards of the mysteries of God" (1 Corinthians 4:1-2). More generally, Peter adds, "As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" (1 Peter 4:10).

**But isn't stewardship about money?** Yes, but that's only a part of it. First, we need to get a perspective – that "we are not our own."

"We are not our own: let not our reason nor our will, therefore, sway our plans and deeds. We are not our own: let us therefore not set it as our goal to seek what is expedient for us according to our flesh. We are not our own: in so far as we can, let us therefore forget ourselves and all that is ours. Conversely, we are God's: let us live for him and die for him. We are God's: let his wisdom and will therefore rule all our actions. We are God's: let all the parts of our life accordingly strive toward him as our only lawful goal." [John Calvin *Institutes of the Christian Religion* (III.7.1)].

Are you committed to be a lifelong Steward of God's church in Henderson, Texas?

Bill Stanley – your Finance & Stewardship Committee Chair

## LENTEN COMMUNION TABLE

Gracing the Communion Table in the sanctuary is a creation by Lsha and Kathy that consists of rocks, jars, twigs, burlap, and purple cloth.

These are simple things decoratively placed. The rocks tumbled in a river and worn smooth by the action of water and gravity. They look dry and dusty but when they are wet, colors appear and they shine. Jesus said that out of stones, God can raise up true people of God.

Rough burlap winds through the pieces; it is a symbol of a rough garment worn long ago by the desert fathers seeking solitude and peace. For Jesus had said "...go, sell your possessions, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven..."

The jars are for storage of food and wine. They are empty. Their rich contents were consumed before this time of repentance and self-sacrifice. They were consumed with bread. Jesus said, "I am the *living* bread that came down from heaven. . ."

There are dry, brittle twigs and broken sticks; there is not a green leaf or flower on them. The psalms say, "As for man, his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone. . ."

Beneath all these items is beautiful purple cloth, a color worn by people of importance; people that give us hope: prophets, priests and kings. Christ Jesus gives us hope as he is our Prophet, Priest, and King.



## Presbyterian Women Got It Going On

Goodbye February -- hello March. Spring is right around the corner and while the weather slowed us down just a tad for our meeting in February, we are going to double down for March. In addition to the activities of the Presbyterian Women, let us take just a minute to remind you of some other upcoming activities too. Our neighbors across the street – Activity Center at Fair Park – have several on-going activities that some of the Presbyterian Women are participating and some you may be interested in joining. On Tuesdays at 9:00 am they have Domino's and Canasta playing; but on Wednesday and Friday mornings we rock the place with a Zumba Gold (for Seniors and/or people who may need to work their way back into shape!) at 10:15 am. Several from our group are participating in this activity and it is fun.... No, really, it is fun! So go ahead and mark your calendar to participate if either of these activities appeal to you.

As for what Presbyterian Women are up to.... we re-initiated the Presbyterian Women's group with an informational meeting January 27 and had a great turn-out. We established our goal of combining Biblical-education and current life-issues, with a significant missionary part of our presence. All that and we get to spend a wonderful hour networking with many of the fabulous women of this church. Life is good. Presbyterian Women will be meeting every month on the fourth Monday at 11:30 in the community room. It is a "brown bag" meeting. Come join in the conversation and break bread with us. Due to the inclement weather we recently experienced, we had to reschedule the January meeting twice! So to accommodate Mother Nature (and we always accommodate Mother Nature) our group will meet twice during March. March 2, 2015 for the make-up meeting and our regularly scheduled meeting, Monday, March 23. We'd love to have as many women from the church as possible join us each month, but we aren't limiting our circle so bring a friend.

As a group, we are also working on having a 10-week Spanish as a Second Language class. Details are still being worked out but look for information to be sent soon. If you are interested, please let Claudia Morgan-Gray know at [claudiam@eastex.net](mailto:claudiam@eastex.net) or 903-646-0506. Gracias! So for today and every day, go forward and be nicer than you have to be and go out and make your piece of the world a better place in Jesus name.

### QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"I See Skies of Blue and Clouds of White  
Bright Blessed Days and Dark Sacred Nights  
And I think to myself  
What A Wonderful World"  
Louis Armstrong



**Greetings from your Chancel Choir and organist! It is an amazing and beautiful new year and we are busy preparing music for worship services**

**for the coming months! We have anthems, hymns-of-the-months, vocal solos, piano solos, and, of course, organ works scheduled and ready to enhance the Sunday morning worship services! We are also deep in the planning stages for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday special services! It promises to be a busy, musical time at FPC, Henderson! We raise our music to the glory of God and thank Him for His abundant blessings!**

**Mary Tidwell  
Organist & Choir Director**

## **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

**February 12, 2015**

- **Worshipped and prayed together**
- **Received new member**
- **Approved the hiring of carpenters for sanctuary renovation**
- **Hired painters to stain and finish hallway doors**
- **Saved the date of October 24 for the Neighborhood Party**
- **Changed council meeting date to the third Thursday of the month**
- **Changed the Good Friday holiday to the Monday following Easter**
- **Approved the use of L.E.A.N to present the Step Up, Scale Down program in our Fellowship Hall one night a week during the period of April 16-July 2**

## **LENTEN SCHEDULE**

March 8<sup>th</sup> – Not a Lenten event, but this is when we switch to Daylight Saving Time. “Spring forward.” Lose an hour of sleep. The sky will be darker on arising but lighter longer in the evening. Today’s 11:00 will then be 12:00. Not changing clocks will make you one hour early for worship, but you can go to the Lenten study class in the Fellowship Hall.

March 29<sup>th</sup> 11:00 a.m. - Palm Sunday is our next Lenten event. Prepare to celebrate the memory of the Messiah’s entrance into Jerusalem. Wave the palms as we sing; be glad that the Kingdom of God is here. Palms may be left at the foot of the cross as the service closes.

April 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30 p.m. – Maundy Thursday service will be held in our Fellowship Hall with the choir and membership of First United Methodist Church joining with us for this communion service.

April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 p.m. – Good Friday service will be held at the Methodist Church with the combined choirs.

April 6<sup>th</sup> – Easter. Resurrection of the Lord.

Sunrise Service will begin at 7:00 a.m. at the pavilion in Fair Park. 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.

As the congregation gathers for worship at 11:00, the cross in the sanctuary will be wreathed with flowers and greenery that you bring. Easter worship service will include the Lord’s Supper.

**Tom Laney**

# MARCH



| SUNDAY                                       | MONDAY           | TUESDAY                               | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY                        | FRIDAY               | SATURDAY   |
|--|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--|
| 1  | 2                | 3 Claudine Kennedy                    | 4         | 5 C.E. Meeting<br>2:00 p.m.     | 6                    | 7 Grace Presbytery<br>@ North Park PC,<br>Dallas |
| 8 Daylight Savings<br>Time Spring<br>Forward | 9                | 10                                    | 11        | 12                              | 13                   | 14   |
|  |                  | ← Martha on vacation 03/09-03/13 →    |           |                                 |                      |  |
| 15<br>Worship Committee<br>Meeting 12:15     | 16               | 17 Rev. Klein in<br>Dallas for<br>COM | 18        | 19 Session Meeting<br>6:30 p.m. | 20 John Bruce Hillin | 21   |
| 22<br>"The Book of Luke"<br>FUMC 3:00 p.m.   | 23 Robbie Brooks | 24                                    | 25        | 26                              | 27                   | 28   |
| 29 Palm Sunday                               | 30               |                                       |           |                                 |                      |  |