# **DID YOU KNOW?**

Did you know that about 20 per cent of household water use comes from showers? Traditional showerheads have flow rates of 5-8 gallons per minute, meaning a typical 5-minute shower would send about 25-40 gallons of fresh water down the drain. Low-flow showerheads use 1.6-2.5 gallons per minute, or 12.5 gallons for a 5 minute shower, reducing water demands by at least 50 per cent. Low-flow showerheads use air to accelerate the flow of water through the showerhead, enlarging the droplets. The intake of air creates a flow of water that feels like a high-volume showerhead, without the excess water. Installing a low-flow showerhead takes only a few minutes and could save you approximately \$50-\$75 per year on your water bill.

Just another idea from your Christian Education Green Team to carry out the green logo—Reduce, re-use, recycle.



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





# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Ten

### Ripple Effect

Your Stewardship Committee has asked us to consider the image of a *ripple* in a pond. The picture of a pebble thrown, causes the water to form an ever-widening circle of movement outward from the center. We have no idea how wide that circle becomes. It might bang into another pebble, or another *ripple*. It might quietly expand and gain momentum as it approaches a swift moving creek. Or maybe several *ripples* might swell into a single, larger one, headed for a giant lake. The possibilities are endless.

If we apply such images to our financial gifts, it becomes a fascinating set of possibilities. Many in this Body of Christ have thrown the same size pebble into the financial pond every year. It may be a small pebble, it may be substantial. But because it's always the same size pebble, it produces the same size *ripple* each year. What would happen if that "pebble" were increased in size by only 1% of your pew-partner's income? Yes, that's what I asked. In other words, if someone else on your pew has given a set amount year after year, and that amount were increased, wouldn't it cause a bigger result? Wouldn't you benefit from the larger amount that they put into the plate? Wouldn't the mission possibilities increase if their 2016 pledge were increased by just 1%? Wouldn't that little *ripple* be appreciated, simply because the church could do perhaps a little more with the little 1% they added to their pledge?

Wonder if you could talk them into doing that. Oh, wait. That's the job of the Stewardship Committee. But, just for a second, didn't it seem easy for someone *else* to do? Funny, because they were just thinking how easy it would be for *you*.

Now, think about what could happen if God took that new pledge amount and multiplied it even further. What if that *ripple* caused by a new and slightly bigger pebble could meet up with other, slightly bigger pebbles, simultaneously causing ever-widening *ripples*? What if everyone on your pew increased their pebble size? What if everyone in the church did? Slightly, of course, but if *everyone* added to the pledge amount, God might be so impressed, and so willing to believe in the possibilities at FPC Henderson, that we could be the beginning of a tidal wave! Just think: your pew-partner's increase, added to the *entire* church's increase, added to God's multiplication..... wow. And your pebble might be the first one in the pool. It would be the pebble that begins all that momentum. It could be the beginning of something that FPC Henderson has not ever seen before.

Your Stewardship Committee has asked me to ask you if you'll pray over your 2016 pledge. I'm going a little further, and I'm asking you to pray over not only your 2016 pledge, but also the pledge of anyone and everyone with whom you share a pew. We can pray for others, to give others the momentum to increase. And, if you're feeling a *nudge* to do the same, perhaps they're praying for you.

How wonderful. Family members praying for one another. I like it.

I'll pray for your pledge, too.

They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

- Psalm 1:3

#### The Measure of our Stewardship

"Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.-- Jesus of Nazareth.

It's that time of year again. Already I've gotten several calendars from wildlife preservation societies. They desperately need my help to keep going. How did they find out I think animals are important to the human race?

We're all probably getting letters and phone calls from fund raisers who hope we'll be generous. My alma mater wrote me a letter asking for a specific dollar contribution. They assured me that I could expect a follow-up phone call if the letter did not produce the desired results. We don't do that here at First Presbyterian Church. We rely on everyone's generosity and innate sense of doing what is right. I don't think

that we all fully understand how much impact the work and missions of our church have on us and those around us. They call this effect the ripple effect. The ripple effect is a term used to describe a situation where, like the ever expanding ripples across water when an object is dropped into it, an effect from an initial state can be followed outwards incrementally. We see evidence of the ripple effect in every area of our



church. We see the effect on every person we touch. What can happen if a group of people, committed to Christ, unite together? Instead of one ripple, you can cause many. Maybe in the end we will see a tidal wave!

I know that from a cultural standpoint, the subject of money is a squeamish topic. It makes us uneasy because money is so personal. It identifies us and layers us. We have a great division in this country and in the greater world between the rich and the poor. And the gap is growing. It's no secret that money talks, but talking about money seems to be a secret. The fact is that regardless of our financial condition, we always need money. As Christians, we all have a need to give at least some of it away. As Presbyterians we are known for our giving.

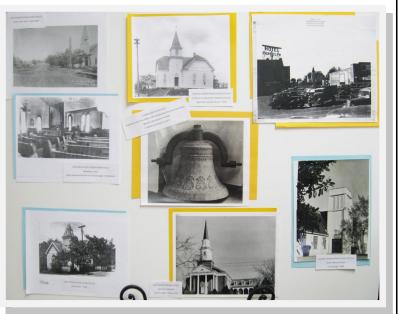
Stewardship, of course, is the proper handling of that which has been entrusted to us. Theoretically, this means that what we have is not our own, but that we are in temporary custody of it. When we go to work, we should do our very best. It's a matter of glorifying God in our daily lives. Over a period of time, we usually find ways to improve the way in which we put our own stamp on our work. Of course, we expect to reap monetary benefits. Our proper use of those benefits is a measure of our Christian formation. Rendering to God the things that are God's is about so much more than sharing our financial resources. It's about the stewardship of every aspect of our lives. When we think of rendering to God that which is God's, what is there about us that does *not* come from God or belong to God?

We are also stewards of our physical, mental and emotional selves, and staying

#### **PRESBYTERIAN HERITAGE SUNDAY**

Presbyterian Heritage was observed with displays in the narthex, and it was evident that FPC does indeed have interesting history! From its beginnings in 1845 as Old School Presbyterian Church and Cumberland Presbyterian Church in 1849, there have been name changes, various church sites, separations and mergers. Early buildings on North Main, corner of West Main and Van Buren, North Marshall (1936) and South High at Fair Park (1948) were pictured; as well as the Cumberland Presbyterian Church bell, circa 1860, now in the church bell tower here.

Two old pulpit Bibles from the 1800's and Session minutes dating back also to the 1800's special historical are items. The book, History of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 1888, belonged to Richard Brown. Brown. a survivor of the Mier **Expedition into Mexico** in 1842, made famous the Black Bean bv Lottery, was instrumen-



tal in organizing the Pine Hill Presbyterian Church. His gravesite there has a historical marker. The stained glass window in our narthex has a panel that honors him, given by two of his children, Kate and Charles, who were members here.

Albums of pictures taken and compiled by Jane Fahle that document our more recent history were especially enjoyed. There are many articles and pictures of our friends and family who were instrumental in making FPC the beacon to the community that it is today.

Pat Laney

### **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

**October 5, 2015** 

- Prayed and worshiped together
- Reviewed Theological Sunday
- Reviewed World Communion Sunday
- Made plans for Neighborhood Party, Oct. 24
- Made plans for Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 15
- Set date for examination for incoming elders, Nov. 19
- Reviewed Child Protection Policy
- Approved volunteers to work with children



# PERSONNEL

We have some great news from your Personnel Committee! We have extended an offer to a very talented organist/choir director and he has accepted. His name is Mark Reeves and, for those of you that were at church on October 25<sup>th</sup>, you may have had the pleasure of meeting him. (This is all pending session approval, of course.) Mark has served as Music

Director/Organist for First United Methodist Church in Canton and is currently on staff at Trinity Valley Community College (along with our Mary Tidwell) as Choral and student accompanist. We have always been blessed with outstanding organists and we feel the blessing continues with Mark.



in good physical condition is good stewardship. Reading and staying mentally alert is a good idea. Staying emotionally healthy is also very important. These are all ways in which we are stewards of our time, talents, and treasures. I believe that as we move toward maturity, we can also move toward spiritual maturity. As we move toward spiritual maturity, we are more inclined to see our responsibility and to share our resources. Mature stewardship comes out of our growing relationship with God.

Giving is not just for those who have abundance. Giving is the privilege of every Christian. We have been asked to give a lot lately. There have been so many natural disasters, and there are so many people around the world who are in need. Christian giving is a response to God who loves us.

Stewardship is not just something personal. Stewardship is something that our church does, our Presbyteries do, and our denomination does. When we give to support the work and mission of our church, it is like tossing a pebble into a pool of still water. It has a ripple effect through our denomination as well as our community. When our church gives to our Presbytery, they in turn give to the aid of Christian causes around the world, as well as giving back to the denomination as a whole. Can you image now how the "ripple in the pond" can now be a tidal wave of help?

As a church, our responsibility as stewardship includes creating sacred space, opening the space to others, and leaving space for the Holy Spirit to work. Stewardship becomes a way of life. Of course, this takes financial resources. As you know FPC is remodeling and putting a fresh face on our church. This would make our church more attractive to Christian families looking for a place to worship. We have received financial gifts from only three families to fund all costs of the Sanctuary remodeling. So this expense is not a part of our church budget. Those three families have dropped a pebble in a pond. And if that pebble in the pond causes a tidal wave of God's blessings, then so be it.

Our participation is a privilege that God grants. One measure of our development is figuring out what is important. Our mature spiritual response to God would now become a spiritual act. May we respond accordingly.

Your Stewardship Committee Bill Stanley, Chair

> Advent is Coming...Sunday School Classes will be combined. Jimmy Chapman will be the teacher.



# IT'S GOOD TO BE A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN

Our monthly meeting on October 26 continued our climb in attendance with 15 "church ladies" and one special guest, Jo Salmon, our Cluster 4 representative. Jo introduced herself and told us about upcoming PW activities and events. Jane Fahle brought information and a video we watched on the "Good Samaritan Shoebox Project" that we are pursuing individually and as a group. In fact, this project along with a project to do Christmas boxes for our military personnel are going to be showcased during our luncheon on November 15<sup>th</sup>. We will have samples and details on each of these projects there for you to see, touch, feel.... and participate with us. Good projects and good deeds by good people for good people.

Speaking of good people, Carol Scoggins has agreed to be the PW Treasurer for our Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries effort. As you will recall, the PW adopted the Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries as our annual project and committed to make a monthly donation of at least \$100.00 to them each month. We've made it easy and the whole church can join – just set aside \$5.00 (more if you'd like) and put it in the envelop on the bulletin board in the church office marked PW Son Shine Project. Make your check out to the church but memo it to Son Shine Project. Please note, this is a special project so it is in addition to your normal commitment to the church. You can also give your checks/money directly to Carol, Claudia or Lynn.

Our next meeting will be Monday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> and Bert Lowe will be our lesson leader. In addition, SAVE THE DATE of December 7<sup>th</sup> for the traditional PW Christmas Lunch hosted by Jane Fahle. Please let her know what you'll be bringing.

**QUOTE OF THE MONTH: "When you feel like quitting, remember why you started"** 





#### **OUTREACH** -- another neighborhood party success !

Since 1997, when Sam Lanham introduced the concept of "blossom where you are planted", we have had an annual neighborhood party.

On Saturday, October 24, 2015 we had our 19th annual neighborhood party!!

The forecasted rain did impede our outdoor party, but not our newly discovered indoor one! We had 75 guests and members in our fellowship hall from 4pm until 6:30pm and all really seemed to have a great time and truly happy to be there! Bert and Fonta greeted our guests at the reception table where each adult was given a Pocket Pal planning calendar and each child, a goody bag filled with things that make a child say "goody"! Many teenagers who attended had once been part of Bert's (and team) Kids for God program. To just stop and think about that for a moment.....remarkable! What an influence our ladies have had on many a child!! As our guests entered the fellowship hall, Pat and Sue served up popcorn as the welcoming began. Lots of visiting and stories with laughter were shared. Weldon served as our emcee for the day and kept the party flowing with humor and fancy card tricks. He introduced our pastor, Candice who spoke about the Good Samaritan and challenged us all to not only be one, but to recognize when we are on the receiving end and know that in those times God is caring for and loves us. She blessed the food and turned the day over to Claudia and Weldon and their delicious brisket and pulled pork tacos with hot dogs for the children!! The "Morgan-Gray dynamic duo (and team)" came to our faithful cookers rescue this year as they prepared all the food at their home and "catered" it (imagine that!) right in the back door and into our tummies! YUM!! After a chocolate/white sheet cake, our guests turned their attention to Kathy and Weldon who gave out ten, \$10 gift cards to Walmart by drawing from the list of guests registered. Then we all know what it was time for......BINGO!! This event has been very popular and seems to be enjoyed by all our guests. Sue and Kathy had secured nice and various prizes for our gifts as Jan Mims and her granddaughter Brenli did an outstanding job calling bingo for the second year in a row. (Another dynamic duo!) Between games, I gave FPC water bottle prizes for correct answers for bible trivia. At 6:30pm, Candice closed the party by encouraging us to lean on our Lord for everything. Thanks to EVERYONE who helped make this party special for our guests. A special thanks to our session (Bill Stanley, John Tieken, Bert, Kelly, Steve, Tom Laney, Fonta and Pastor Candice) who support all of our outreach endeavors. A very special thanks to John T, Tom L, Pat, Kelly, John H, Bill (Snow and Stanley) and Fonta for your work and/or SPECIAL THANKS to FPC's outreach team of Kathy, support and a VERY, VERY Lynn, Bert, Lsha, Sue, Claudia and Judy. A lot goes into this party and these seven people are responsible for 95% of it. I am very proud to serve with this "magnificent seven".

Thanks be to God and for your commitment to this party! Let's make our 20th even better!!

Jan Pennal, chair

# **MISSION**

The Mission Committee voted to send \$200 to Young Adult Volunteer, Mary Medina to help support her mission work in Boston. This money came from the 40% Pentecost money we were allowed to keep (\$170.40) and the rest from the mission memorial fund (\$29.60). Sending this Pentecost revenue was ideal to use to support Mary since part of this special offering is used to provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders in the name of Jesus Christ.

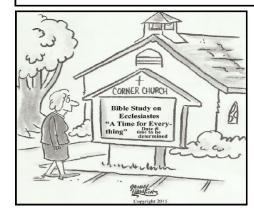
It was also decided that any memorial money left in the mission account will be carried over into 2016 to continue to use for mission work. We have received letters from various organizations asking for funds. These will be looked at and decided on in early 2016. Boys and Girls Club, The United Way and The Salvation Army were all mentioned as needing funds.

We voted to frame the Heifer International participation certificate and we talked about how to best get the word out about Heifer during Christmas. The goal is promote Heifer as an ongoing giving option for the FPC members. Pipeline articles, posters and announcements were suggested to remind members during the Christmas season. When you want to give a

gift to someone who has everything, what better gift than a Heifer International stove, clean water, honeybees, heifer, etc. ......after all, as we learned in August, it is the gift that keeps on giving!



Mission is ongoing and going on at FPC! Jan Pennal, chair





#### MARY MEGAN MEDINA AKA BOSTON YAV (YOUNG ADULT VOLUNTEER)

Mary's experience began as a year-long commitment to serving, offering her a unique opportunity to grow in intentional living in community within a Presbyterian-based ministry. After her family and church family and friends assisted her in raising recommended funds, Mary went to Stony Point, New York for a week-long orientation before moving to Watertown, Massachusetts, from College Station, Texas. She shares the second floor of a house with fellow housemates, Taylor and Ashley. Mary has learned to maneuver the bus and subway systems into Boston and back home, and is actually driving to and from her adopted church, Burlington Presbyterian Church. She works at the People Helping People Food Bank. From September to the end of January, 2016, Mary and her housemates take part in a local food challenge. All their food must be grown in New England, with very few exceptions. They will be cooking their own meals. On Fridays, Community Day, the three go to local farmers markets and farms, and gather fresh food to preserve, freeze or can, to provide for their winter meals. So far, they have picked raspberries, apples, canned tomatoes, and frozen lots of fruit and vegetables. Since all the food must be local, they find grocery shopping very time consuming. Even flour for bread making must be milled in the area. If they are invited out for a meal, they can eat whatever is offered, so feel free to come by and take them out. They are living on a monthly stipend, so must budget for everything, so they practice frugality. They participate in Bible study, and activities at their respective churches, in

Burlington, Brookline, and Easton. I can't say how excited I am about this opportunity for Mary, and think this program cannot help but grow Christ's church. You can follow Mary online at BFJYAV. She and her housemates each have a blog. Mary's is marymmedina@wordpress.org

Lynn Tieken, proud grandmother



#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Class of 2015 Bert Lowe—Christian Education Jan Pennal—Outreach/Mission John Tieken—Building and Grounds Kelly Weaver—Communications/Personnel Class of 2016 Fonta Conway—Fellowship Tom Laney—Worship Steve Lowe—Member Care Bill Stanley—Finance/Stewardship Moderator—Rev. Candice Klein Clerk of Council—Kathy Porter

Fellowship Committee

Congratulations to the Outreach Committee for another great Neighborhood Party! It was the Fellowship Committee's honor to assist with the success! Now the committee will focus on helping the Stewardship Committee have an equally successful Stewardship dinner this month. But the committee's work doesn't stop there... the committee is actively planning for Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. We are also in the planning stages for 2016!!

**Fonta Conway** 



# Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

<u>Members of the Congregation</u>: Jack Clark, Syble DeLoach, Jane and Tolly Dill, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Kelly Weaver, Sue Williams, The Building Commission, seeking to renovate the Sanctuary space

<u>Connected Family:</u> Connor Bradshaw – Porter's grandson, Mark & Angela Clark & Kent Clark, Linda and Mark Davis, Diane Dill and Mike Dill

*<u>Friends and Neighbors:</u>* Our college students away from home, Kids for God – staff and children

Those loved ones known only to God



#### WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

On World Communion Sunday, October 4, bread was baked in the church kitchen to be served fragrant and warm. We hope to continue this practice as long as there are willing bakers. Fonta reports that fermenting bread still rises very slowly. All the senses and experience of the baker play a role in the art of bread making.

The Musical Instrument Digital Interface (MIDI) organ controller is installed and on the Allen Organ, a major upgrade in

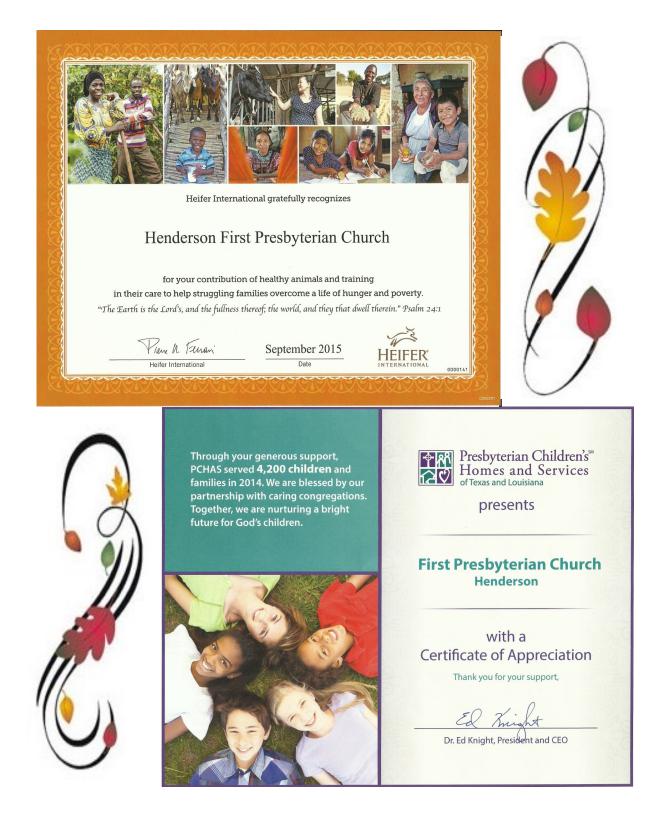


our organ technology. The expense was generously provided by a member of the session; she is also a choir member and a pharmacist. We may use the music loaded flash drive that came with the purchase to transfer selections to a second flash drive, or record live playing as we do now on the organ's internal memory. With the MIDI, playback can be done remotely.

In worship on October 11, Jonathan Gage, Kilgore Police Department, (the Stanley's son-in-law) delivered a reflective report for Domestic Violence Awareness Sunday. Each year the Presbyterian Church lifts up this national epidemic. The facts and figures on this ongoing tragedy are astonishing.

Reformation/Presbyterian Heritage Sunday was observed on October 25<sup>th</sup> through the sermon, "*The Church Reformed, and Always Reforming*". Our pastor's brilliance in presenting new angles on God's Word makes our worship together a transforming experience. Members of the Worship Committee organized a display of pictures and historical objects in the narthex. After the service a Town Crier passed out pieces on the lives of Church Reformers who preceded Martin Luther.

All Saint's Day is November 1<sup>st</sup>; names of family or close friends deceased since All Saints Day of 2014 will be read and a flower will be presented in their memory. Christ the King Sunday, is November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This is the last Sunday of the Church year. The First Sunday in Advent is November 29, also the first Sunday in the Church year.



**Tom Laney** 

Sunday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Saturday Monday Friday 3 2 4 5 6 7 All Saints Sunday Communion Daylight Saving Time Ends C.E. Meeting 2pm Lsha Stanley **Mitchell Hillin** 13 14 8 10 12 9 11 Weterans Day Worship Meeting 6:00pm Kelly Weaver Jane Fahle 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2pm AAB 4:30pm Stewardship Luncheon Session meeting 6:30pm Mary Ann Chapman **Debbie Wasson** 23 24 28 22 25 26 27 P.W. Meeting 11:30 Christ the King Sunday **Pipeline Deadline** Church Offices Closed for Thanksgiving Patricia Price **Bob Ratliff** 29 30 Advent Begins

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