

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Nine

It's Already October!

What is the greatest commandment? Jesus was asked this question, by church leaders who were trying to confuse and/or trap him. He answered them, “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.*’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: *‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’*”

As you know, there were ten commandments the Hebrew people were charged to follow. Theologians have since realized that the first five have to do with God, and the second five have to do with neighbor. That’s one of the reasons that Jesus could narrow them from 10 to 2. And we’re still trying to follow those two, in all that we accomplish through the work of the church.

This October, as every October, we focus on our neighbors, as we welcome them, entertain them, feed them, play along with them, and award them prizes and gifts. We call it the *First Presbyterian Neighborhood Party*. We used to be in the parking spaces in front of the building; now we utilize the pavilion at Fair Park. Some say it’s becoming harder to hold this party, because we are older, and our energy is waning. Some say it’s not worth it, because neighbors don’t understand how we sacrifice, plan and pay for people we don’t even know. But I say, have you heard the answer Jesus gave to the church leaders? Because nothing has changed, and his answer still echoes in the world.

So, here’s our compromise to you, the congregation at FPC. This year, we won’t ask you to cook over a hot barbeque pit. This year we won’t ask you to eat the same ‘ol burgers. This year, we won’t ask you to tie down table cloths or hold onto potted plants in the wind. We won’t ask you to call Bingo, or supply prizes. We ask you only to follow the two commandments that Jesus named. Just two.

And this year, we’ll serve you brisket! We’ll bring the tables; we’ll even provide a fun new face as your *Master of Ceremonies*. The Committee will pray for cool weather, so you’ll be comfortable in late October. And you won’t even need to worry about your wardrobe. Just wear your blue Presbyterian T-shirt and we’ll handle the rest.

Yes, it’s already October. We’ll all be there on the afternoon of *Saturday, October 24th*. Loving our guests at the Neighborhood Party! Responding, as Jesus commanded. And goodness knows He can’t be wrong.

Peace be with you!

Candice

Candice L Klein, Pastor

And He said, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

– Matthew 22: 37-39

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Our Friendship Sunday has come and gone. On August 30th, ten guests worshipped God with us. The fellowship committee's table decorations of animals representing our mission team's Heifer "Education and Action" Project were spot on! Thanks to Fonta and her committee for putting the luncheon together.

We heard from our guest, Betty Elder, as she reported that 920 children in Rusk County were served with the back to school supplies we helped collect. At 98% of our own goal, we amassed a lot of supplies! 196 spiral notebooks and folders, 98 boxes of tissues, markers, crayons, glue, pens and pencils!! Great job, FPC !!! That is a lot of supplies.

Our Heifer project resulted in an overwhelming response. Helping people to help themselves is a great concept and Heifer does just that. Thank you FPC for your prayerful response of \$2,375 which will enable people to build knowledge and resources for sustainable progress out of poverty. See what we gave to these people around the world..... 1 pig, 5 honeybee hives, 1 irrigation pump, 4 flocks of chickens, 1 heifer, 3 goats, 1 biogas stove, 1 share of a heifer, 2 shares of a water buffalo, 2 girls sent to school, 1 flock of geese, 3 rabbits, 1 flock of ducks, geese, chickens, 3 shares of tree seedlings, and clean water.

This is amazing !!! Just look what we can do to help God's Kingdom right here...right now! God Bless you all for your action!.....not only for this project, but for all projects you so prayerfully attend to past and present.....and future!

Currently, our mission committee is deciding about money for our Young Adult Volunteer, Mary Medina, the Tieken's granddaughter. We want to show our support to Mary and her mission! We are also gearing up for the next special offering, the Peacemaking offering starting on Oct. 4. This special offering was initiated by the General Assembly 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**

Our Kroger Community Rewards Program has 22 units in our church participating. Thanks to all of you who are signed up to help our mission work !

Our steady outreach involvements in Kids for God, Adopt a Block, Improve a Block and Meals on Wheels sometimes lead us into serving in very real ways. This month, Kathy Porter went above and beyond to help our dear neighbor Frankie. Because of her untiring desire to help, Kathy was able to secure a bed/mattress, a lamp and other furnishings. Frankie has had to relocate due to the May tornado. This is outreach and mission at its best....thank you Kathy Porter for your leadership in mission and outreach!

Now, the outreach team is in the planning stages of the Saturday, Oct 24 Neighborhood Party.

**Thanks for doing our Lord's work through FPC's outreach and mission!
Jan Pennal, chair**



Excerpt from letter to Council:

Dear Elders,

.....

For the first time in our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance history, FEMA contracted with us to present our Care For The Caregiver workshop and help the First Responders, Case Managers, Office of Emergency Services and Caregivers. As it was the first partnership, PDA sent what I believe was the finest team we could assemble. Your Elder John Tieken was a member of our team.

The retreats we presented were deeply moving. One by one participants shared their experiences and stories. There were tears of healing and grace. God was present. John Tieken was an incredible part of the team. His gifts of compassion and empathy (as well as being a native Texan) were one of the reasons for the success of the team.

I know it is a sacrifice for your congregation to give PDA your Chairman of Building and Grounds for a week and I want to thank you for your generosity in sending John to do Gods work among those who so desperately need it. John spoke about you all so often, know that you were present with him as he served in Christ.

Blessings and Grace,

The Rev. Jeanie Shaw

National Response Team Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

Eventide Community

4300 Las Cruces Way

Sacramento, CA 95864



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE



DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that September 19 was the International Coastal Cleanup 2015? Hundreds of thousands of volunteers around the world cleaned up beaches, lakes and rivers. In Texas there were 9,308 volunteers who cleaned beaches from Galveston all the way to Padre Island and collected 282,185 pounds of trash. The International Coastal Cleanup is an annual event in September hosted by the Ocean Conservancy. The Ocean Conservancy coordinates volunteers to clean beaches and record their findings. The Texas Adopt-A-Beach program serves as the International Coastal Cleanup coordinator for Texas.

Plastic pollution in the ocean is a big problem. Recent studies have revealed that approximately 11 billion pounds of plastics enter the ocean annually. Plastic is potentially disastrous for ocean wildlife. Studies have also shown that 60 percent of all seabird species have eaten plastic trash and more than half of all sea turtles on earth have consumed plastic or other debris. Experts estimate that if plastic pollution that enters the ocean isn't dramatically reduced, in 10 years there could be a pound of plastic in the ocean for every three pounds of fish. Ocean Conservancy brings people and businesses (such as: Coca-Cola, Bank of America, GLAD, DOW, Cox Conserves, etc.) together to protect the ocean and its wildlife and the people who depend on the ocean for food, jobs, and recreation.

“The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it” (Psalm 24:1). To care for the world is to care for its people and to take care of people is to fulfill the commandment, to love our neighbors as ourselves. May it be so.

The Christian Education Green Team



COUNCIL ACTIONS

September 17, 2015

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Heard committee accomplishments in 2015
- Heard committee goals for 2016
- Chose commissioners for October 1 Presbytery meeting
- Set date of Stewardship Sunday for November 15
- Requested further research by the Communication Team regarding a new sign
- Granted permission for the playground equipment to be removed
- Granted permission for a new flower garden east of middle entrance
- Agreed to put insurance money received for tornado damage in account to grow and to add additional funds in order to cover cost of new roof in the future
- Heard plans for Neighborhood Party on October 24
- Agreed to meet with Allen Organ Representative to consider purchase of the MIDI



KFG learn about the Feast of Tabernacles in Deuteronomy 16.

Grief never ends... but it changes. It's a passage, not a place to stay. Grief is not a sign of weakness, nor a lack of faith.... It is the price of love.

Thank you so much for your continuous prayers and support through my Mother's journey. The gifts, cards, food and your presence meant alot to me and were so appreciated. Gigi will be missed. With love, Mommy Hillie

On behalf of the Scholarship Committee I would like to thank all those folks who give so generously to this ministry of our congregation. For the fall semester of 2015 we were able to give \$3800 in scholarships to college students. Members of our congregation received \$500 and relatives of members received \$300. The following are the students who received awards and the school which they are attending.

CHURCH MEMBERS

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



RELATIVES OF CHURCH MEMBERS

Austin Andrus	North Central Texas College
Baylee Boren	Texas Tech University
Connor Bradshaw	Schreiner University
Ben Laney	Texas A & M University
Will Rever	Texas Tech University
Hayley Scoggins	North Texas State University

We are so proud that these young people are pursuing a post-secondary education and hope that we will be able to assist them and others following them for many years to come. Thanks again.

For the Scholarship Committee, Carol Scoggins

FROM COMMUNICATIONS –

We have added something new to our website. The policy manuals for the FPC Henderson Bylaws, Administration, Finance and Personnel are now available on line. This will be very helpful in streamlining changes and/or updates and is also helpful in our mission to be more 'green'. By having the policy manuals on the website this will eliminate making paper copies for each session member's policy manual. This will also be beneficial for you should you have questions, such as, who would be in charge of ____ ? How would I go about ____ ? Please take a look. Go to our website fpchendersontx.org and in the top right corner is a search box. Type in *policy* or *policy manual* and all four will pull up. We hope this will be a beneficial addition.



Book Corner

BOOK CORNER

If you haven't browsed through the books and media in our church library, you have a real treat in store for you. You'll find resources ranging from fiction to theology to Presbyterianism to Bible interpretations and more.

Many of our books have been donated by members and friends who love to explore what great minds have to offer. We thought you might like to know what books are on our "Want List" right now:

The Presbyterian Handbook; A Down and Dirty Guide to Theology by Donald K. McKim; *A Faith of Your Own* by Ronald J. Allen; *The Jesus Way* by Eugene Peterson; *What Was Lost* by Elise Erikson Barrett; *Finding Calm in the Chaos* by Kathleen Long Bostrom; *God in the Manger* by Bonhoeffer; *God Is On the Cross* by Bonhoeffer; *I Want to Live These Days with You* by Bonhoeffer; *A Year with the Bible 2013; The Green Bible Devotional Book; Who Is This Man?* by John Ortberg; *Twelve Unlikely Heroes* by John MacArthur; *Grace* by Max Lucado

If you'd like to donate one of these books in honor of, or in memory of, a loved one, please contact anyone on the Christian Education Ministry Team (below). We'd love to hear from you.

Jimmy Chapman, Pat Laney, Jan Pennal, Kathy Porter, Rev. Candice Klein, and Bert Lowe, team leader

ORGAN HELP IS HERE!

In a called meeting on Monday, September 28, the Session observed a demonstration of an electronic device (known as a MIDI – musical instrument digital interface) that will play selected organ music from a digital file. We have used the organ's recording and playback capabilities this summer and have retained Mary Tidwell to make the weekly recordings. The new device will allow us to "play" hundreds of hymns and selections for the organ already recorded on a USB flash drive or "thumb drive." The device can be operated remotely from anywhere in the sanctuary. The Session voted to purchase the new technology. Search for a live organist continues.

Tom Laney



IT'S GOOD TO BE A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN

We are back..... And it is good to be a Presbyterian Woman in Henderson Texas and elsewhere. After a summer break, we began our new season together on Monday, September 28. We had a great turnout – 14 “church ladies” and two special guests that we hope will become regulars, Kathy Ballow and Jan Mims.

After lunch, together we set some solid and steady goals for this mighty girl-power group. While there is no shortage of projects that could benefit from our assistance, we felt focusing our resources to a particular project would give it a better level of support. The Presbyterian Women officially adopted the Son Shine Lighthouse Ministries as our annual project and committed to make a monthly donation of at least \$100.00 to them. We are asking the women of this church to set aside \$5.00 a month to help us meet our commitment of \$100.00 per month. To participate, please make your (monthly) check out to Son Shine Lighthouse and give it to Lynn or Claudia or leave it in the envelope marked “Presbyterian Women – Son Shine Lighthouse Project.” While this is a project adopted by the Presbyterian Women, we would be honored to have the men of this church join us in supporting this important mission. If leaving your donation in the office, checks are preferred. We will take up our monthly contributions during each month’s PW meeting. We have already made contact with the Director of the Lighthouse and shared our commitment with her. The appreciation in her voice was notable.

Our normal meeting time is the 4th Monday of each month (September – May) at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall of the First Presbyterian Church. Unless otherwise arranged, the meeting is “brown bag.” Our next meeting will be Monday, October 26, 2015 – so save the date. Lynn Tieken will be the Lesson Leader and we may have a special visit from Jo Salmon, PW East Region representative.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: *“May my heart be kind, my mind fierce and my spirit brave”*



WORSHIP COMMITTEE WORKINGS

On Theological Education Sunday, September 20, Gary Matthews, Director of Development at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary preached after visiting with the session at dinner on Saturday.

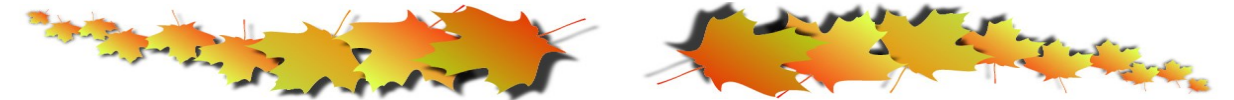


In October, special recognition is planned for World Communion Sunday, October 4; the elements will receive additional attention and the Communion table will be appropriately arranged. On October 11, Domestic Violence Sunday, Johnthan Gage, the Stanley’s son-in-law, will share his experiences as a law enforcer. Reformation/Presbyterian Heritage Sunday, on October 18 will include local congregation pictures, history, and mementos in the narthex.

The Worship Committee goals for 2016 were stated at the September committee meeting and were presented to the session. Some of these included:

- Continue to work with the Renovation Commission.
- Renovate the narthex as a place of invitation that complements the worship space.
- Vary the Lord’s Prayer recitation to include ecumenical and musical Versions.
- Grow the concept of “Care of the Earth.”
- Continue worship activities: a Martin Luther King, Jr. service in our sanctuary in January, 2016; a creative Ash Wednesday, Easter Sunrise, and Christmas Eve Service; recognize the church’s emphasis on stewardship commitment, peace, health, social justice, sharing and education.

Tom Laney, For the Worship Committee



FROM PERSONNEL –

The search for our Music Director continues. We are confident that the right person for our congregation is out there. Please pray for our paths to cross and for our discernment.





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



**Thanks to Brett Boren for
tuning up our sound
system!**



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Carolyn and Bill Boren, Jack Clark, Syble DeLoach, Jane and Tolly Dill, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Sue Williams, The Personnel Committee, searching for an organist, The 2016 CONC, searching for Ruling Elders, The Building Commission, seeking to renovate the Sanctuary space

Connected Family: Connor Bradshaw – Porter's grandson, Mark & Angela Clark & Kent Clark, Linda and Mark Davis, Diane Dill and Mike Dill, Margaret Lyons - mother of Mary Lowe

Friends and Neighbors: Our college students away from home, Congregations of Grace Presbytery

Those loved ones known only to God

Prayer
Requests

