#### GO GREEN WITH ORANGE

The Christian Education "Green Team" wants to remind folks about curbside recycling that started in January. The city of Henderson cares about "the environmental footprint of the city," and the certified Earth Care Congregation does, too!

Here are some points to know:

If you have curbside trash pickup by the city, you will also have curbside recycling at no additional cost. But you must call 1-800-877-1777 to request the free recycle bin, to subscribe to the service, or to request more information.

The orange lid recycle bin will be delivered to your residence. The lid indicates what can be recycled: paper, cardboard, clean plastics (#1 or #2 on the bottom) as well as clean aluminum and metal cans. Glass will not be included. All recyclables can be commingled in the bin, so it is not necessary to separate items.

The Recycling Center at the Public Services Warehouse at 1203 Highland Drive is still open for residents not in the city limits.



Pat Laney C. E. Green Team



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





# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

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Issue Two

## TEXAS "OPEN CARRY" LAW

Once again, I find myself intrigued with the things I did *not* learn in seminary. I took Church History classes, Bible classes, Old Testament Exegesis, New Testament Exegesis, Family Systems theory, Christian Ethics, Christian Education, Hebrew, Greek, Trinitarian Theology, Presbyterian Polity, Preaching, Pastoral Care, Pastoral Counseling, Clinical Pastoral Education, Mission and Evangelism, and the list goes on. But nothing – truly *nothing* about guns in church. Who knew I'd need that!

#### But, here it is.

I read an article taken from an Austin NBC affiliate (KXAN) that indicates, although the Governor has signed the law, many people don't yet understand it. And, the nine hundred thousand who currently carry concealed hand gun licenses, and were grandfathered in to the new law, have not and will not receive any information to clarify their licenses.

It appears that additional areas also need explanation. Questions surround when guns are permitted on school grounds, mental healthcare facilities, banks, churches, businesses that serve alcohol, and even courts.

Yes, your Session has also struggled. And I want you to know what they decided. As a body, as the *serving body* here in this congregation, Session members decided that we do not want guns visible on the church property. We understand that some of our members have licenses, and that they have been trained, but because we have older adults here and sometimes small children, we don't want guns that are visible – even when they're appropriately holstered. We also have chosen not to add gun law signage to our doors.

Therefore..... we have decided that if a person comes into the church building with a gun visible, that person will be asked to leave. They have the choice to leave and not return, or to leave and return *without* the gun. If that person refuses to leave when requested, they will be violating laws of trespass.

Please allow me to apologize to you for not writing a Pipeline article that has more spiritual content than this article does. I think it's still an article that offers information – *church information*. And I think if we all agree to follow the plan that your leaders adopted, then at least we will all be in agreement about behavior at church.

And if I decide to return to seminary for more course work, I'll insist on some classes that pertain to operating a church in Texas. Apparently, that's important.

Be safe out there, ya'll,

Candice

"Put your sword back in its place," Jesus said, "for all who draw the sword will die by the sword." *Matthew 26:52* 

#### **MISSION --- A REVIEW AND A NEW BEGINNING**

Being on the Mission committee involves overseeing mainly a commitment to wider outreach on the national level. Four special offering opportunities annually (One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, Peace and Global Witness and Joy Gift Offering) involving Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Heifer International and many more organizations.

The Mission committee members of 2016 so far are: Claudia, Kathy, Jimmy, John T and Mariella. We will be getting Mission 2016 under way after our first committee meeting on February 9th.

I would like to take this time to thank our 2015 Mission committee (Kathy, Lynn, Jimmy, Debbie, Fonta, Lavonne and Claudia). Mission 2015 ended with our final special offering, the Christmas Joy Offering. We gifted \$370 to help support past, present and future leaders of the Church. We also had the opportunity to give to Presbyterian Mission Giving by donating a treadle pump, blankets, a pig and seeds. In gifting these items to people around the world who are in need, we honored and or remembered friends, loved ones and members of our congregation.

It is a blessing to serve with you all. As 2016 gets underway, we have another year of giving opportunity because we have been given the greatest gift of all......Jesus Christ !

Thanks to be God ! Jan Pennal, chair



## "ARE WE GOING TO SEE A MOVIE TODAY?"

These are the words that greet every substitute teacher as they walk into a public school classroom. The substitute can usually ignore the question. However, the answer will usually be "Yes" for the class being planned by Christian Education – A Refresher and Short Course on Presbyterianism. This class will meet during the Sunday school hour. We will be using a workbook, a video, and an on-line resource to view and discuss during class time. Watch for start dates. Tell Bert Lowe if you are Mattine and the start dates.

Time!

#### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CE) MINISTRY REPORT

As Eugene H. Peterson reminds us in *The Message*, *Proverbs* 3:5-6: "Trust God from the bottom of your heart. Don't try to figure out everything on your own. Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go. God's the one who will keep you on track."



Your CE Team is constantly trying to listen to God's voice through lessons from contemporary events, Christian history, and God's Word—and with God's help, to stay Education on track.

One modern-day voice comes to us from the compassionate, courageous activist Sister Simone Campbell, author of *A Nun on the Bus*. The Seekers Sunday School class is finding her story refreshing and inspiring. According to the U.S. Catholic magazine, one of her strengths is willingness to follow the Holy Spirit—whom she fully trusts as the GPS for her bus. Reverend Candice Klein is facilitating this book study.

The Andrews class under Jimmy Chapman's capable leadership is studying voices from biblical history—the Minor Prophets, beginning with *Habakkuk*. According to Peterson, the baffled prophet made the case that living by faith is a bewildering venture. Habakkuk was clearly frustrated with God, "but he ended up in a world, along with us, where every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good."

Come listen with us for God's voice. You may feel baffled at times, but you won't be alone. And you'll be welcomed with open arms and hearts. Classes begin at 9:45 a.m. every Sunday.

**Bert** Lowe

**CE Ministry Team Leader** 

Important note: Our 2016 CE Ministry Team members are Juan Castro, Jimmy Chapman, Pat Laney, Tom Laney, Kathy Porter, Claudia Morgan-Gray, and Rev. Candice Klein. We welcome our two new team members Juan Castro and Claudia Morgan-Gray, and we welcome back Tom Laney. We have a great CE year ahead!

**Tom Laney** 

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN GOT IT GOING ON

Goodbye January – Hello February. We are ready for a new year – it is like being given a new piece of paper to begin a new chapter in the life we're living. How thankful are we to be sharing a piece of that life with each other, enriching and energizing ourselves, each other and our love for God. In addition to our local endeavors, remember that February is



also the month of the Gilmont Women's Retreat. This year it is scheduled for February 6-8 and the Theme is – "What's With Our Stories." During our January 25<sup>th</sup> get together, we ate, laughed, prayed, shared stories, and just generally enjoyed each other's company and the day. Jane Fahle was our lesson-leader and the lesson focused on taking the "Christmas Spirit" throughout the year. Take the happy, joyful excitement associated with Christmas and apply it to your everyday. It was a great interactive lesson. We are looking into partnering with the Fellowship Committee to resurrect the soup dinners – we'll keep you posted on that upcoming event! As you may recall, back in September 2015, we, as a group, committed to provide \$100.00 a month for a year to the Son Shine Lighthouse. We continued that commitment at this meeting. In addition, through interaction with the Christian Women's Job Corp, they have extended an open invitation to the community to a free "Cell Phone Academy" on February 3, 2016 from 9-11 am at the CWJC, 210 North Sioux St. Several in attendance also volunteered to assist with providing a lunch for a RCCA meeting at least one month this coming year. 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.

## FELLOWSHIP

The Fellowship Committee wrapped up 2015 with the annual Christmas dinner. This year's dinner was quite a success with more than forty-five in attendance. The committee is looking forward to hosting and assisting in events throughout 2016!

**Fonta Conway** 



## **BIG MOVE STARTS BUILDING AND GROUNDS YEAR**

Here is a huge thank you for all who helped in moving shelves and cases to the church on Saturday, January 23rd. Claudia and Weldon started the day off right with breakfast burritos. This energetic two-some discovered items for a history room and for storage. Four tall display cases went into the room between the parlor and the music director's room; two went into the east corner room off the Fellowship Hall. The show cases are in the balcony access room off the narthex which will display the church's historical items and artifacts.

As a bonus, while we still had a trailer, the playground equipment, mangled metal and tree limbs from the tornado were taken off the property by the Building Committee. The playground equipment had become unsteady, but John was able to find it a home. Those helping with the projects were Claudia and Weldon Gray, John Tieken, John Hillin, Bill Snow, Bill Stanley, Tom Weaver, Kathy Porter, Lynn Tieken and Tom Laney.

Members of the Building and Grounds Committee for 2016 are Bill Stanley, John Tieken, Juan Castro, Bob Schauwecker, Tom Laney (Chairman) and Pat Laney. If you are interested in being a part of this team, please notify the Chair. We hold in reserve for the large tasks where strength, expertise

(and proper tools) are needed, Bill Snow, John Hillin, Weldon Gray and Tom Weaver. We look forward to this being a year of finishing construction, cleaning up, and tending to the details of property management.





**OFFICE HOURS** Reverend Klein's posted office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm. She will be available for your needs in her office during these times and, as always, available via phone and email.

# A thank-you note from Mary Medina, granddaughter of John & Lynn Tieken. Mary is serving the PC(USA) as a Young-Adult Volunteer in Boston, MA.

Dear 1st Presbyterian Church,

Happy New Year!! First I would just like to thank everyone for supporting me through my YAV year through prayer, love and financial assistance. My roommates and I are benefitting from your gratitude more than you know. Donations go towards our living expenses, stipend and keeping the YAV Program thriving.

Although it's been stressful and difficult I couldn't have asked for a better support team to help carry me through the year. As many of you know my year is focused on Food Justice and my work is split between The Presbyterian Church of Burlington and the Burlington Food Pantry. So far my responsibilities at the pantry are weighing incoming and outgoing food, organization, interacting with the clients and collaborating with the board to help the pantry run more efficiently. In addition I have started a book discussion, a bi-weekly minute for mission based on Pope Francis's encyclical on the environment, and am leading a panel discussion and movie nights. All of this is in order to promote and teach healthy, and local eating using food education outlets.

Outside of work we are practicing what we preach by eating a diet of locally grown food that we have stored by canning and freezing and living as simply as possible. That means saving energy by unplugging, switching off and bundling up. On Fridays we have community day revolved around a book and devotion. I've learned a lot about what it means to call myself a Presbyterian and am looking forward to see what God has in store for me next. This program is transforming young adults in a positive way and pushing us out of our comfort zone to embrace our future as Christians.

We have set a new goal to raise another \$3,000 as a group. We ask that checks be made out to the Presbytery of Boston with BFJYAV in the memo line and mailed to Clarendon Hill Presbyterian Church, c/o Boston Food Justice YAV Program, 155 Powder House Boulevard, Somerville, MA 02144. Anything would be much appreciated. Your thoughts and prayers are also much needed. Again thank you for all of your love and support. This is gonna be a year to remember.

God Bless, Mary Medina



## COUNCIL ACTIONS JANUARY 21, 2016

- Prayed for the church and the church's leadership
- Approved 2016 Scholarship committee members
- Reviewed scholarship disbursements for spring semester
- Reviewed worship services for Christmas Eve, Dec. 27, and Jan. 10
- Reviewed the MLK Service and reception
- Reviewed and updated membership rolls
- Reviewed Texas Open Carry Law and determined that anyone with a gun in view would be asked to leave the church building / or return without the gun
- Agreed to research putting a camera near the front door to determine who is there, before approaching the door to open it.
- Determined to co-ordinate with First Methodist Church for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services
- Discussed preliminary details for Council Retreat on February 13
- Approved Communion for February 7 and February 13
- Named Council members to serve on 2016 CONC
- Determined that C.E. will make a *New Member Class* available in the spring
- Discussed adjustments necessary for a lowered budget

## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the awarding of six scholarships for the spring semester 2016. The following students were granted awards: Austin Andrus Texas State University; Baylee Boren Texas Tech University; Connor Bradshaw Schreiner University; Cody Conway Stephen F. Austin State University; Ben Laney Texas A & M University; Hayley Scoggins University of North Texas. We hope these students have a productive semester and we wish to thank our congregation for continuing to support our scholarship fund.

**Carol Scoggins** 



#### **BOOK REVIEW**

#### The Lemon Tree by Sandy Tolan

This book was donated to the church library by Shirley Latham, a former member of First Presbyterian Church, Henderson and current organist of First Presbyterian Church, Richardson (and a member of the illustrious Henderson High School Class of 1964, as is yours truly and many other remarkably brilliant people), in honor of her mother.

This is an excellent book for anyone who is interested in gaining some understanding of issues in the Middle East. It is about two families. One is Jewish, the Eshkenazis, who escaped the Holocaust in Bulgaria and came to Israel in 1948. The other family is the Khairis, an Arab family who owned a house in Ramla in Palestine.

As a result of the Arab/Jewish War of 1948, Arab families of Ramla were forcibly removed from their homes and sent to Ramallah in the West Bank. The Khairi family had to unwillingly leave the home which the father had built in 1936. He had planted a lemon tree in the backyard and it was a favorite tree of the entire family.

Subsequently, the Eshkenazi family, who had narrowly escaped being deported by the Nazis to extermination camps during World War Two, was moved into the home in Ramla formerly occupied by the Khairis. They were told that the former occupants had just left of their own free will.

Bashir Khairi, the young son of the Khairis, grew up in the West Bank, but always wanted to see the home he left when he was six years old. He went there in 1967, rang the doorbell, and met Dalia Eshkenazi, daughter of the Jewish family which had moved there when she was an infant. The remainder of the book concerns conversations and views held by Bashir and Dalia, as they realized that both of them in a sense had the same home and neither of them had another real home. But, they both could not occupy it at the same time. Bashir and Dalia never gave up their views as Arabs and Jews, respectively, but they were respectful of one another's differing views (unlike so many not only in the Middle East, but also here in the United States).

This book makes it very clear that there are two sides and two views in the current Middle East. One side is not clearly right and the other clearly wrong; it is much more complicated than that. There is right and wrong on each side. Anyone wanting a simple black and white view of the Middle East will not find it here.

I strongly recommend this book. It was very interesting to read.

Jimmy Chapman



### OUTREACH----PAST AND PRESENT

Being on the Outreach team is overseeing the reaching out to mainly local neighbors including Adopt-a-Block, Improve-a-Block, Kids for God, Meals on Wheels and our annual Neighborhood Party.

The Outreach team members of 2016 are: Claudia, Bert, Kathy, Lynn and Mariella and Judy. Our First meeting for 2016 will be Tuesday, February 9 at 6pm.

2015 ended up with our Christmas giving to Henderson Interchurch Ministry (HIM) Joy food baskets. We donated 64 baskets for a total of \$448 ! We also collected and delivered toilet articles plus "toboggan" hats and socks for sixteen men at Rusk State Hospital in Rusk, Texas for our Angel Tree project.

What a blessing it is to serve our Lord with you. Our committee looks

forward to leading you in 2016. Together we can once again make a difference by helping those in need.

Thanks be to God for all of you ! Jan Pennal, Outreach Chair

#### WORSHIP

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; worship the LORD in the splendor of his holiness" (<u>Psalm 29:2</u>) Worship is giving God the best that God has given you. God will never allow us to keep a spiritual blessing completely for ourselves-God wants it to bless others.

The Worship Team has not met in January, but plans to meet after church on January 31<sup>st</sup>. Lynn Tieken is the new chairperson with Steve Lowe as back up from the Session. We have a great group assembled to serve on this committee, but will welcome more folks to come with ideas and a willing heart to serve. Lynn will provide lunch so please let her know if you will join with the Worship Team on Sunday. Ash Wednesday is February

10, and Easter Sunday is March 27. We have lots of planning to do for 2016.

Please join us as we serve God.Lynn TiekenHome (903) 836-2418

Cell (903) 738-1621





# **FPC Celebrates MLK**

about the worship components,



BRIEFS HTP: CTRUEN POLICE MAXMENT of to had to MLKK service set Pornday beginning Fo Par coarse is from, rel mento will be served applications can be pi up at from Lake Farmer 7 d retarsed there by Call Deputy Chief & and at Danish Retricted

WIST UP BUSH



Candidate forum will be a part of



take part," said the Rev. Canvterian. egin the program. Attendees

MLK service set for Saturday at 1st Presby Park Project board and Elder have been planning the ser-tice for many years and local churches take turns hosting tach year. First Parket service a brief tor of Henderson's First Chris-tach year. First Parket service a brief tin Church. favorite song, and Dan Hogan. worship together and we live in each year. First Presbyterian

"Dr. Cunyus will read and because Klein said "it's all about first hosted in 2013 and this do some explaining and com- coming together." will be its second year to do so. mentary of 'I Have a Dream' "I think that in this 21st cen-"We sat with Betty and I and read some excerpts from tury, and certainly in the year

have a committee and we talked it," Elder said. 2016, our country and people There will also be a love in our country are struggling who would take part and who who would take part and who we would ask to take part, so given will go towards funding relations," Klein said. "We see we've got several different peo-all the projects within Help the in the news what's happening ple from several churches to Youth of Yates Park. across the country. A lot of it is A political forum will be held, horrifying to watch and some dice Klein, pastor of First Pres- and Mayor Pat Brack will speak of it is great to watch. Here in briefly and all elected officials Henderson, I think it's impor-Elder will welcome guests to and candidates are welcome. tant to be aware of what's goin "The reason we do the politi- on around us and that we don' will sing the national anthem cal thing is because of Dr. King's turn into a statistic.

ogether and say the Pledge of emphasis on the civil rights "This is our community and Allegiance. In the provement and his dream," all of us have to be a part of it. The choir from Mother Zion Elder said. "It brought about and to say someone is unquali-Baptist Church will sing as the Civil Rights Act of 1964 field because of the color of their well as several individuals with and the Voting Rights Act of skin or because of the way that all of us have to be a part of it solos, including Bert Lowe who 1965 and school integration. they worship, we're past that, will sing "Take My Hand, Pre- Now people can go to school Or we should be past that." cious Lord," which was King's together, go to church together,

# **BRAG BOX**-

#### FOR THOSE EXTRA SPECIAL MOMENTS!

We are implementing a new section to our Pipeline – the Brag Box. The Brag Box is intended to highlight for our membership those extra special moments for family accomplishments, awards, momentous celebrated events. For those months that we have submissions from our congregation members and approved by the Communications Committee, we'll have a **Brag Box.** 

To kick this section off, we add our congratulations and celebration to the recent retirement of Major John W. Tieken, Jr. from the 344<sup>th</sup> Recruiting Squadron. There was a wonderful write-up in the Henderson Daily News newspaper (1/24/2016) that we have on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. Major Tieken is the son of John & Lynn Tieken.



Choir continues to meet on Wednesday at 6pm, and we have been working hard to build up a repertoire of anthems for Worship. Easter comes early this year and now would be an excellent time to reserve your spot in the loft and add your voice to our celebration.



Questions? Call or email me! (903)707-9614 / mwreeves88@gmail.com

Mark Reeves, CAGO

#### **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Class of 2016 Fonta Conway - Fellowship Tom Laney - Building/Grounds Steve Lowe - Member Care Bill Stanley - Finance/Stewardship Class of 2017 Bert Lowe - Christian Education Jan Pennal - Outreach/Mission Claudia Morgan-Gray - Communications/Personnel Lynn Tieken - Worship Moderator - Rev. Candice Klein Clerk of Council - Kathy Porter



#### Last year's Stewardship ..... This year's commitments

Hard to believe we are already starting a new church year for First Presbyterian Church. What an exciting year it will be. We have new people with new commitments to our Church. Mark Reeves has really gotten our Music program going again. It is just fantastic to hear our choir back in action and I do believe he plays with new enthusiasm. Lisa has taken command of the office and our daily organization continues to improve. I believe it is just going to get better with our new staff members. If you have not seen the remodeled Sanctuary, please come and see. It is wonderful to see what has been done so far and the remodeling is not yet complete. There is even more to come in the new year.

As many of you have noticed and commented on, we were not sending out pledge statements on a regular basis or in the format of years past. We are happy to report that Lisa has our database under control and we will be sending out affable statements on a regular basis. You should receive your annual statement for the 2015 year within a few days. Please review your statement and let us know if something does not look right. We manually entered all the generous gifts given to date, so errors can sometimes happen. If you let us know we'll get it sorted out quickly. We appreciate your commitments to our church. Without your pledge commitments we could not have a budget to fund all that we do. Without your time and talent commitments we could not minister in God's name.

So, if you find the statement does not add up to your 2015 commitments and you feel it is in error, please contact Lisa as soon as you can.

It is often said but never enough .... We could not maintain this church and its mission without your financial and time/talent commitments. We will all succeed together through common beliefs and commitment to serving our Lord and the

work of His church.

stewardship

#### God bless you

Bill Stanley – Chair Stewardship and Finance Committee

# Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

<u>Members of the Congregation</u>: Jack Clark, Syble DeLoach, Tolly Dill, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Sue Williams, Ruling Elders serving on Session

<u>Connected Family:</u> Connor Bradshaw – Porter's grandson, Mark & Angela Clark & Kent Clark, Diane Dill and Mike Dill, Mary Medina – Tieken's granddaughter, serving as YAV

*Friends and Neighbors:* Martha Paul Bennett – friend of the congregation, Kids for God – staff and children

Those loved ones known only to God



