

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



## THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Seven

### Look at the Henderson church and all the stuff!!!

I hope you are as delighted as I am about the ministry that comes out of this congregation. Lots of folks across ours and many other denominations believe that if you don't have children and young families in your population, you are doomed. Well, if that's so, then we've been "doomed" since I got here, and so far, I haven't seen that play out. We continue to do the bidding of God in outward focused ministry and, if we can no longer do what must be done, then we find another way, or a new ministry. But make no mistake, we do not give up!

Kathy Porter has recently returned from her assignment as a Commissioner to the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly. All across this country, Presbyterians have new ideas and new plans to do church a new way. Kathy met many of them while she was in Portland, OR. We heard their voices as they considered and debated the ideas that came before them for final decision. They listened for the Spirit's direction and they voted for us all. They did not give up!

Our Sanctuary renovations are completed; we're finishing up with the Narthex, and another group has already formed itself to consider what needs to happen outside the building. Because we are alive in God within these walls, we'd like the world to recognize it, be drawn to it, and want to come inside. We will not give up!

And, speaking of children, it's obvious that we don't have our own here, but we will still host Vacation Bible School in July and we will welcome children from our after-school program, from the First Christian Church and from St. Matthew's Episcopal. No one is giving up!

There are many places for you to "plug in" to the work of this congregation. Some ministries have been around for decades. Some are brand new. Some are simply re-imagined for this new time. And some are still in your mind, and you need to mention them to an Elder here, so we can picture your ideas, and watch as they unfold.

Come and worship – not because you can, but because you must. Come and worship – not because of the speaker, but because of your God. Come and worship – not because our church is here, but because it's home for you – because you are God's own. Come and worship!

Amen, and amen,

*Candice*

*"I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" – Isaiah 43: 19*

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that First Presbyterian Church of Henderson received another certification for being an Earth Care Congregation for 2016? Rev. Candice Klein received the certificate for the church at the May 26 Grace Presbytery Meeting in McKinney. Of the approximately 160 churches in Grace Presbytery, nine of them are Earth Care Congregations. To become an Earth Care Congregation, a church must meet standards and criteria set forth by the PCUSA.

Way to go people of FPC! Keep up the good work!

The Christian Education Green Team



### 2016 Earth Care Congregations

Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church  
Central Presbyterian Church, Waxahachie  
Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bedford  
First Presbyterian Church, Henderson  
First Presbyterian Church, Richardson  
First Presbyterian Church, Waco  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Denton  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, McKinney  
United Presbyterian Church, Cleburne

## Coming Soon: VBS Summer Music Mini-Camp!



Where & When? First Presbyterian Fellowship Hall  
Monday through Thursday, July 18-21

1:00pm-4:00pm

Thursday Evening Kids' Performance  
6:15pm-6:45pm in the Sanctuary

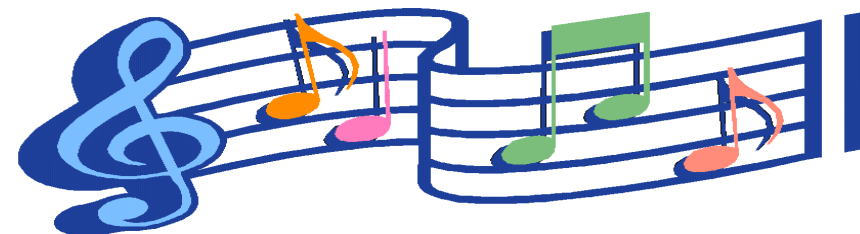
If you love music and kids—whether you can carry a tune or not—this VBS experience is for you!

You can sing along and encourage the kids with smiles and applause. You can enjoy seeing the kids as they sing, dance, use signs, play chimes and other instruments, and make joyful noises to God! You can give support to Mark Reeves, who is bringing this VBS Summer Music Mini-Camp to our church.

First Christian Church and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church are co-sponsoring VBS with us this year. It's our turn to be hosts.

Don't miss the Kids' Performance on Thursday evening. Come and join the fun when you can.

Bert Lowe and the Christian Education Ministry Team







Rebecca Barnes, Environmental Ministries, PCUSA. She signs our green certifications!



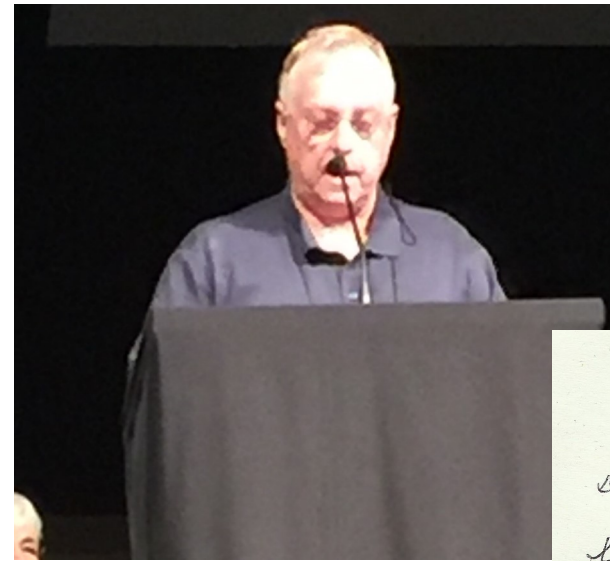
Grace Presbytery commissioners ready for action. #GA222



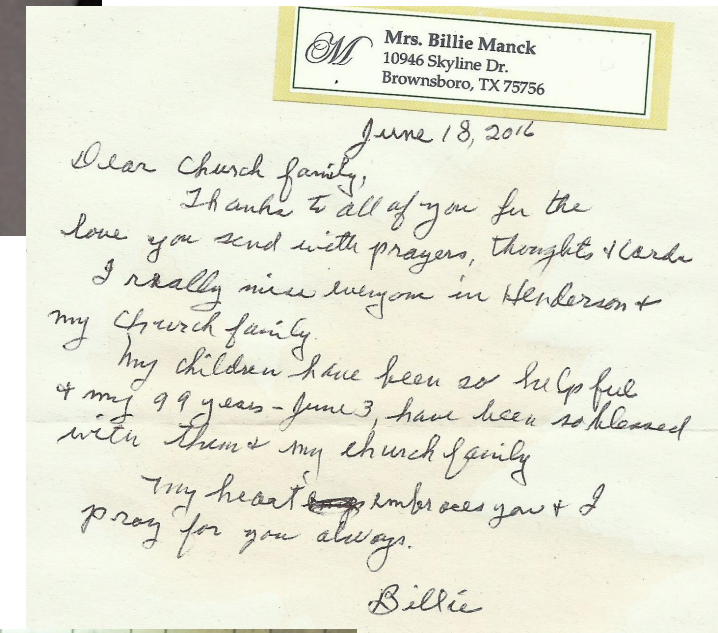
Prayer before plenary begins



Committee sign in 3 languages



**Grace Presbytery**  
Jimmy speaks of his trip to Israel at Grace Presbytery in May



CE wore orange to the meeting on National Gun Violence Awareness Day to advocate for responsible gun ownership



## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION REPORT: It's great to be a Presbyterian!**

**Summertime and the learning is . . . easy!**

Learning about the Presbyterian Church (USA) was made easier for us this summer. The PC(USA) is comprised of all Presbyteries in the United States. Ours, Grace Presbytery, is the largest in our state. June 18-25, teaching elders (pastors), session members and other participants from virtually all of the Presbyteries in the nation attended the biennial 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly (G.A.) Convention in Portland, Oregon.

Our own Kathy Porter was there. She attended G.A. two years ago as an Alternate, and this year as a Commissioner. That title meant that she was allowed to vote on the many issues brought before the Assembly. She spent many hours during the past two years preparing for that task.

During the week of General Assembly, the CE Team invited members of our congregation meet in the Fellowship Hall three nights to enjoy food and fellowship while watching live-stream as Commissioners at G.A. voted on important issues. Remember Roberts Rules of Order? Our denomination is very faithful in keeping those Rules, especially when controversial topics are at issue.

While our live-stream connection was being fine-tuned (thank you, Mark Reeves and Weldon Gray), we enjoyed the video of the opening Worship service at G.A. on Saturday, June 18. We listened to an inspiring sermon by Rev. Heath Rada, the much-loved Moderator of the 2014 G.A. Convention. We were delighted by Presbyterian YAVs (Young Adult Volunteers) who added energy, freshness, and hope to the service.

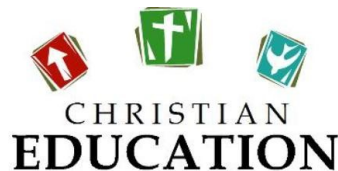
We prayed and sang along with Kathy and the other participants there in Portland. It was a beautiful experience.

A main activity for us that first night was looking for Kathy Porter among the three thousand Presbyterians in that huge Conference Center in Portland. Thanks to Judy Andrasko, we spotted Kathy, and yes, we were proud.

Thank you, Claudia Morgan-Gray for reminding us: It's great to be a Presbyterian!

**Bert Lowe, CE Team Leader**

**Team Members: Jimmy Chapman, Rev. Candice Klein, Pat Laney, Tom Laney, Claudia Morgan-Gray and Kathy Porter**



**New Chancel furniture**



**Have a good Summer!**

**Live Streaming of GA happenings**



## PC(USA) leaders issue post-General Assembly letter to the church

**“For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”**  
- Ecclesiastes 3

June 25, 2016  
Portland

Brothers and sisters in Christ, there is a new season in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as witnessed by the actions of the 222nd General Assembly (2016). The body of 594 commissioners who gathered June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon, elected Co-Moderators Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, and J. Herbert Nelson as the Stated Clerk. Both were historic, and both signal a new way forward for our church.

The business decisions made by the body also were transformative for the 1,572,660 members and 9,642 churches of the PC(USA). The work wasn't easy, and involved careful deliberations. Collectively, the body acted on nearly 100 overtures by discerning the will of Christ.

Among other things, we now have a new addition to our Book of Confessions – the Confession of Belhar. It is the first of our confessions that comes from the global south. And, the PC(USA) has a new Directory for Worship; and Child/Youth/Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures. God is truly guiding us to be more faithful and just to all of God's creations.

Much discussion has been taking place around the identity and purpose of the denomination, and this week the assembly voted to create a 12-member Way Forward Commission “to study and identify a vision for the structure and function of the General Assembly agencies of the PC(USA),” and a 15-member 2020 Vision Team to “develop a guiding statement for the denomination and make a plan for its implementation.”

To quote Stated Clerk-elect J. Herbert Nelson, “We are not dead ... we are alive, we are reforming and we are transforming this world, one person at a time.”

Looking outward, the assembly voted to engage in selective, phased divestment from fossil-fuel companies through the PC(USA)'s Mission Responsibility Through Investment committee, and re-affirmed a two-state solution for Israel-Palestine.

Please know this is only a snapshot of the actions taken, and just a glimpse at where God is leading this denomination. Complete business actions can be viewed at [www.pc-biz.org](http://www.pc-biz.org).

We are, brothers and sisters, in a new season. It's exciting, but also a little scary. Yet in the midst of it all, take comfort that God is still guiding and controlling all – and we need not fear. God is calling us to hope, and to God be the glory!

**The Reverend Gradye Parsons**  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly

**The Reverend Denise Anderson and the Reverend Jan Edmiston**  
Co-Moderators of the 222nd General Assembly (2016)

**Ruling Elder Tony De La Rosa**  
Interim Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency

Approaching my 8th month at FPC, I am amazed at what a faithful and loving church congregation this is. Always patient and kind despite the pressures of deadlines for this and that. The choir continues to meet and minister to one another and prepare to sing of God's greatness and mercy. Please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. And, especially pray for our upcoming VBS (Music Camp). It promises to be fun and exciting, and hopefully a spiritual outreach for our community.



**Blessings and Peace to you all!**

**Mark Reeves**



*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

**Members of the Congregation:** Jack Clark, Syble and Tom DeLoach, Tolly Dill, Jane Fahle, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Sue Williams, Ruling Elders serving on Session

**Connected Family:** Connor Bradshaw – Porter's grandson, Diane Dill and Mike Dill - Tolly Dill's daughter and son, Mark & Angela Clark, Kent Clark

**Friends and Neighbors:** Dr. David Craig – friend of the congregation, PNC at First Pres, Kilgore as they search for a pastor

Those loved ones known only to God





# July 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3 Communion Chase Davis	4 <b>Celebrate THE FOURTH</b> Church Offices Closed	5	6 Choir Practice 5:45pm	7 C.E. Meeting 2pm	8	9
10 Worship Team Mtg. 12:15pm	11 Adopt-A-Block	12 VBS Meeting 6:30pm	13 Choir Practice 5:45pm	14 Session Meeting 6:30pm	15	16
17	18 John Tieken	19 Steve Lowe	20 Carolyn Boren Choir Practice 5:45pm	21 L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm	22 Presbyterian Women Synod of Sun in Ft. Worth	23 Jan Pennal Bob Schauwecker
24	25 Pipeline Deadline Linda Davis	26	27 Jimmy Chapman Choir Practice 5:45pm	28 Marty's 2 Year Hire Anniversary	29	30
31						

**Vacation Bible School** Mon. 07/18 through Thur. 07/21 1:00pm - 4:00pm  
*(Thur. Evening Hot Dot Supper 5:30pm followed by Kids Performance at 6:15pm)*

**Presbyterian Women Synod of Sun** Thur. 07/21 through Sat. 07/23 in Ft. Worth