

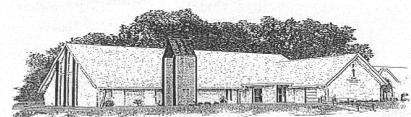
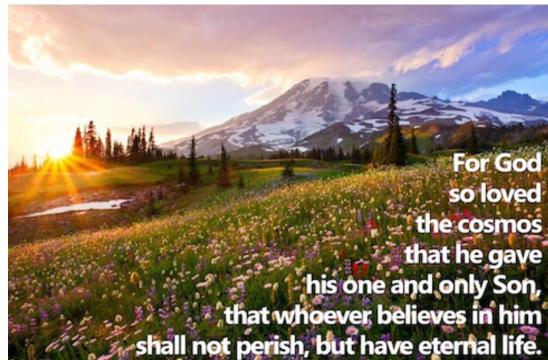
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the celebration of Christmas—the celebration of “God with us” is the demonstration of God’s love for the whole world, the love that sent his beloved Son to redeem the world. “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” John 3:16 But what “world” exactly, did God love and save by sending his Son? We mentally substitute “all people” for the word “world” when we recite this passage, don’t we? But John used the Greek word “kosmon.” God so loved the “kosmon.” He could have used “anthropos”—God so loved humanity. But he chose a word that means God loved the cosmos, the creation, and all who dwell in it.

To borrow from the poet Wendell Berry, “God made the world because He wanted it made. He thinks the world is good, and He loves it. It is His world; He never relinquished title to it... if God loves the world, then how might any person of faith be excused for not loving it or justified in destroying it?”

(Excerpt from Climate Caretakers)

The Christian Education 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

Volume 49

February, 2017

Issue Two

DURING THIS TIME OF TRANSITION

Since the pastor’s announcement of taking another call and her final Sunday in our pulpit, the church has moved into a time of transition. True, it is a time of sweet sorrow. We have gone through the process of saying goodbye—we have honored her with farewell gifts and celebrations, thanked her with personal tributes and remembrances, and rejoiced (some) with her as she moves into another area of life and ministry. She will continue to be in our hearts and in our prayers as well.

What comes next? The Presbyterian Church is a connectional church and there is a process for searching for another minister—decently and in order. The Committee on Ministry of Grace Presbytery has appointed a liaison from that committee—Jerry Camp—who belongs to First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore and who will meet with the session on February 16 to give the session an overview of the entire call process and discuss the options for transitional leadership. The COM has selected Rev. Nick Setzer from St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church to Moderate our session until a pastor has been called.

A few thoughts gleaned from reading about other churches during transition:

1. God will be with us during this time. Pastors will come and go. Only God will never leave us. (Hebrews 13:5)
2. God is in control. (Eph.1:11). This pastoral transition is not happening outside the will of God.
3. God has a good plan for this transition. It might not feel good right now. But he works all things for the good of his people. (Romans 8:28)
4. It is o.k. to weep. While good will come out of this pastoral transition, that doesn’t remove the sadness. Losing our pastor hurts. The Ephesians elders wept when Paul said goodbye. (Acts 20:36-38.). They knew God would be with them and that he would bring good out of the transition. Nevertheless, they wept. It’s o.k. to weep. It’s a way of saying thank you to both God and our pastor.
5. FPC and its ministry must go on. The Great Commission did not say, “Go therefore and make disciples...if you have a pastor.” Will it be a bit harder without a pastor leading? Probably. But God and the pastor worked to equip us in the ministry. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
6. We must stay bound together in unity and love during this transition. This will be a season of testing. We didn’t ask for it. But with God’s help we will endure.

Peace and grace to us all,

Kathy Porter, Clerk of Session
On behalf of the Session



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE EXTENDS HEART OF HOSPITALITY AND THE HAND OF GRACE

Your 2017 Fellowship Committee is up and running. A Committee full of vim, vigor and enthusiasm (and perhaps a touch of vinegar!). Our “official” Committee members to date are: Claudia Morgan-Gray-Chair, Mary Lowe-Vice Chair, Fonta Conway-Past Chair; Lavonne & Bob Schauwecker; Jan Mims, Lsha Stanley, James Nicholson and Judy Andrasko. But, we all know that the hearts of hospitality and the hands of grace in this congregation extended out from all.

In addition to planning some monthly events for our congregation, we will also be working on fine-tuning and making the kitchen space more useable for everyone’s benefit. But, while we are working out some of the details, we do have some event dates we’d like you to mark on your calendars and **SAVE THE DATES** in hopes that you’ll be able to join us for some or all of our planned get-togethers. For now, please note the following upcoming Fellowship Events:

February:

Thursday, February 2nd, Ground Hog Day Supper at 5:30 pm;

Sunday, February 19th, FPC Choir Chili Lunch Fundraiser at 12:00 – 2:00 (Tickets \$5.00 – funds to benefit Music Ministry projects);

March

Friday, March 17th St. Patrick’s Day Corn Beef & Cabbage Luck of the Irish Dinner, 5:30 pm

If you would like to help serve on this Committee, our welcome mat is always out. If you have ideas you’d like the Fellowship Committee to take into consideration, please also feel free to share them with us. Peace and Grace to all.

WORSHIP

Your Worship Team consists of Margaret Hillin, Fonta Conway, Jan Mims, Steve Lowe, Jimmy Chapman, Kelly Weaver, Kathy Porter, Vice Chair, Mark Reeves, Choir Director and Organist, and Lynn Tieken, Chair. We start the new year running as we line up liturgists, pulpit supply, and plan for worship. Rev. Jimmy Barry, once a member of FPC, Henderson, led worship on January 22, and we hope he will return soon. The following weeks, we will welcome members of the clergy and elders from other congregations, and some from other denominations. We look forward to hearing God's message to us from each of these leaders and are confident that God is with us as we plan for worship at First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, Texas.



Worship Committee

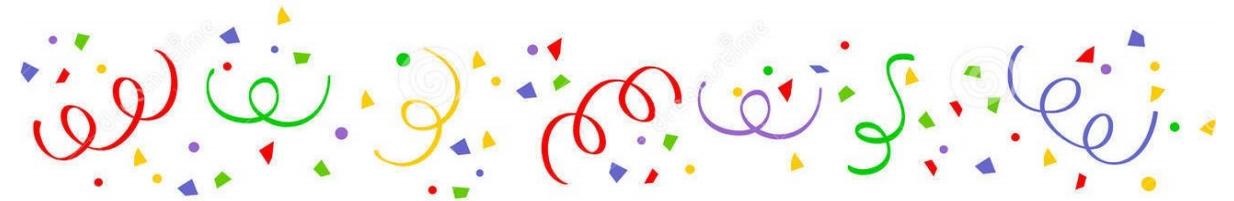
PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN KICK OFF NEW YEAR IN BIG WAY

As we prepare to say goodbye to January and hello to February, the Presbyterian Women (PW) met for the first time in 2017 on Monday, January 23rd. We had a good group come to enjoy the fun, fellowship and lesson. Joining in the gathering was: Lynn Tieken, Kathy Porter, Jane Fahle, Margaret Hillin, Jan Mims, Carol Scoggins, Mariella Pennal, Fonta Conway, Tammy Hillin, Shirley Mayo and Claudia Morgan-Gray. We are ready for a new year and the adventures that lay ahead. The PW will be using the Horizon program "Who Is Jesus" for our lessons each month. During our January gathering, Lynn Tieken led the group in the introduction of the study guide and through the chapter on Mark. We are ordering the Horizon material for each participant. Next month's meeting will be February 27th and the lesson will be on Matthew. We invite all Presbyterian Women and their friends or guest to join us each month on the 4th Monday at 11:30 am in the FPC-Henderson Fellowship Hall. Unless otherwise planned, it is a brown bag lunch event. So for today and every day, go forward and be nicer than you have to be and go out and hustle kindness in this world.

Presbyterian
Women 



A Celebration of Service



COUNCIL ACTIONS

January 7, 2017

- Committee Chairs were determined
- Approved re-certification application for FPC as a Green Congregation
- Duty Elders for 2017 were selected
- Shepherd groups for 2017 were determined
- Communion for 2017 was determined to be the 1st Sunday of the month and for Maundy Thursday
- Was informed of the selection of Rev. Nick Setzer by COM to moderate the session



**HELP US TO LET PEOPLE KNOW WE ARE
HERE! LIKE US ON FACEBOOK AT
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HENDERSON, TEXAS.**



MISSION

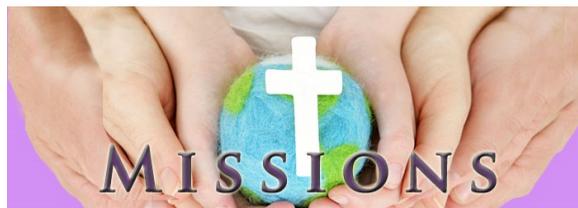
The 2017 Mission committee members (so far) are: Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy Porter, Jimmy Chapman and John Tieken. If anyone reading this would like to serve on this committee please let me know. This committee educates the congregation about the four special offerings of the Presbyterian Church which are: The One Great Hour of Sharing, The Pentecost offering, The Peace and Global Witness Offering and The Christmas Joy Gift offering. We are also responsible for overseeing benevolent expenditures and for making recommendations to support ministries and mission of the congregation.

We will be meeting this quarter to decide on what mission organizations to support in 2017 and to get our first special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing planned and soon underway.

We gave \$385 for the final special offering of 2016...The Christmas Joy Gift. Thanks be to God !

Mission is mighty ! Looking forward to serving our Lord with you this year!

Peace and thanksgiving,
Jan Pennal, chair



Come One, Come All... to the Chili Lunch Fund raiser for the Music Ministry. You will enjoy a great bowl of Chili with all the Fixins' and you will enjoy the great fellowship of FPC. The Lunch will be in the FPC Fellowship Hall, Sunday, February 19th, immediately following the 11 o'clock Service.

The tickets will cost \$5 each, and will be available from any choir member, or the church office, or you can call the church office to make your reservations.

As mentioned in the January PipeLine, the funds will be directed toward the repair of the Choir Room piano and the purchase of Choir microphones.

Choir rehearsals for February will be every Tuesday at 5 pm. And, we have plenty of room for more singers. So, come try us out, you just might find a blessing in just doing that.

Blessings!!!

Mark Reeves, CAGO

Cell: [903-707-9614](tel:903-707-9614)



With all the "Fixins"

Benefitting the FPC Music Ministry

\$5 Ticket or

Advance Reservations

Sunday, February 19th

12:15 pm – 2 pm

Fellowship Hall

First Presbyterian Church

311 S. High St. ~ Henderson, Texas

903-657-2529

FPC-HENDERSON REPRESENTATIVES TO WORK WITH McALLEN MISSION TEAM

Bienvenidos or Welcome! That begins the experience for asylum seekers coming to the Sacred Heart Humanitarian Respite Center (SHHRC) in McAllen, Texas. Several members of our FPC-Henderson congregation will be joining these efforts during a Mission Trip to McAllen March 19-24, 2017. Led by John Tieken, the team right now consist of: Bert Lowe, Kathy Porter, Lynn Tieken and Claudia Morgan-Gray. So come vicariously walk with us through a moment in time at the SHHRC in McAllen. We have more room for more volunteers to travel with us and, as always, prayers for this project accepted and appreciated. So let's see what this journey will be like:

Asylum seekers are dropped off at the bus station and volunteers transport them by van to the Sacred Heart Church. For almost three years, the parish hall at Sacred Heart has been a place of respite for people seeking protection in the US from the violence in their Central American home countries of Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador.

As with those who have come and volunteered before us, we will be hosted at the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Hosting Site at First Presbyterian Church of McAllen – whose hospitality is warm and welcoming for us and the Asylum seekers who are now “guests.” Bedding is provided and there is an elevator. An equipped kitchen is available so we can cook our own meals, if desired, or eat at local restaurants. The church houses a preschool, so our days will be up and out by 8:15 am. So our time begins:

On Monday, a brief orientation to the space and the expectations for the work we will do. From the words of a group that was there, as the first group of guests arrive and enter the hall, the volunteers all stop what they are doing and clap and shout “Bienvenidos! Welcome!” The guests enter looking somewhat fearful and concerned, but with the cheering welcome, their body language changes. They look around and smile. There is a welcoming energy that tells them this is a safe place and these are good people.

Their time begins with registration where they receive instructions about getting to their destination. The next station is where they are greeted by a volunteer and receive a backpack with hygiene supplies, such as toothbrush and toothpaste, combs, deodorant, and diapers and other supplies for children. Volunteers engage them to help them get settled at a table for a meal, followed by a shower and clean clothes (provided through donations). Some arrive with only an hour before their bus leaves, while others may be there for several days. When the families gather to return to the bus station, they are given instructions on how to manage the bus trip and a brown manila envelope containing their immigration documents and bus tickets. On the envelope is a list of the bus stations they will pass through and a note that says, “I do not speak English. Please help me.” One can't help but wonder what kind of help they find as they pass through their journey stops. As they leave the center, each family is also given a bag of food for the journey.

Join us in next month's Pipeline for the “rest of the story.”

OUTREACH

The 2017 Outreach Committee members (so far) are: Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy Porter and Bert Lowe. If you wish to serve others through reaching out, please let me know. The primary objective and function of the Outreach Committee is to reach out to people and to be a reflection of God's love. Outreach programs are tangible programs that may have very intangible results. While reaching out to others may feel uncomfortable for some, the benefits of doing so are great. We may never know the full impact of our actions but we are confident God sees the big picture.

We will be meeting this quarter to assign duties and discuss outreach opportunities. Please join us!

Our 2016 Christmas outreach included HIM food baskets. Thank you for supporting sixty deserving families! The total amount we collected was \$425. Our congregation also gifted twenty men at Rusk State Hospital through our Angel tree outreach. Lynn and John unselfishly delivered our gift bags prior to the Christmas weekend. Thank you, FPC members, for doing our Lord's work for so many in need.

Outreach is ongoing.

Peace and thankfulness,
Jan Pennal, chair



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

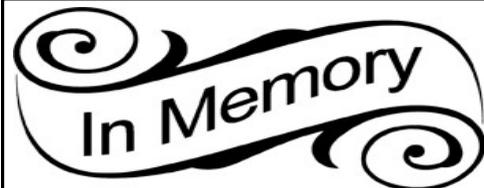
The Communications Team has the honor and responsibility of helping keep our church members informed and helping keep our community informed about us. If you have some ideas that would add value to our Communications efforts--we would love for you to bring you and your brain-power and talents and join our Committee. Please sign the Communications sheet in the narthex. We need some of the communicative people of this congregation to help us. We promise fun and challenges!

Kathy Porter, Chair
Claudia Morgan-Gray, Vice-Chair





The Fellowship Committee invites you to the 2nd Annual Groundhog Day gathering on Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 5:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Last year's event was so fun and well received, we thought we'd try it again. In addition to our congregation and friends of FPC, we are also going to again extend a personal invitation to the Henderson Fire and Henderson Police Departments to join us. So please mark your calendar and plan to join us for maple-pancake casserole, sausage balls (ground hog!), fruit and beverage. Not sure that a ground hog in Pennsylvania can really predict the weather in Texas. But let's see what Punxsutawney Phil and his shadow have to say/show for our future winter weather! Hope you will plan to join us – we'll look forward to seeing you on February 2nd.



We have received memorials in December & January in memory of:

Peggy Morgan
Tom DeLoach

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Robbie Brooks, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Sally Hosea, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Sue Williams

Connected Family: Connor Bradshaw – Porter's grandson, Mark & Angela Clark, and Kent Clark, Delbert Gray - Jack's brother, Dorothy Maloney – Kathy Porter's mother, Our college students away at school

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

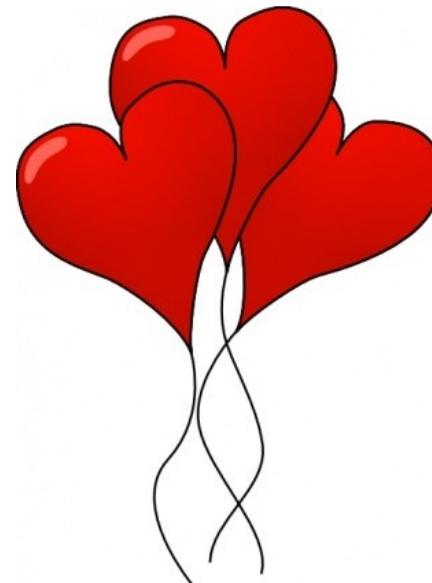
Those loved ones known only to God



Rev. Klein with newly installed Ruling Elders Tom Weaver, Mary Lowe, and Kathy Porter on January 8, 2017



Rev. Klein with new member Mark Reeves



Dear First Presbyterian Church Family,
We thank you all so much for your loving support in the passing of our father. Thank you for arranging the meal and visit prior to the service. Thank you for your caring thoughts and words in the card you sent. We thank the Lord for a wonderful and loving church family!!
We Love You,
Mark, Angela & Kent

The Family of
Jack L. "Jackie" Clark

Acknowledges with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy



Kids For God Christmas Party!!

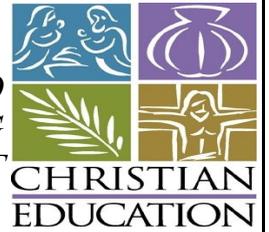


FPC participated in the Celebration of the Life of Martin Luther King, Jr. at Mother Zion Baptist Church on Saturday, January 14th.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

THE CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TEAM MEMBERS WANT TO SAY THANK YOU FROM OUR HEARTS TO OUR TEACHING ELDER AND PASTOR, REV. CANDICE KLEIN, FOR EIGHT EXCITING YEARS OF LEADERSHIP AND INSPIRATION!



The Session (including me) were in shock at the Session meeting when Reverend Candice announced that she had accepted a call to be the pastor of another Presbyterian church. She was with us eight years, and I must admit that I took her for granted. I soon realized all the wisdom, love and care that she had brought to us. Spiritually, we have grown. As our loyal, wiser members often remind us, God has a plan. While God works out that plan for us, we know what to expect because Rev. Candice has shown us—right there, step by step, in the Book of Order. (Of all places!)

I have learned that Rev. Candice would never abandon us in our search for a higher level of Christian education and service. As our Teaching Elder, she was automatically a member of our CE Team. True to her calling, she has stretched us to better understand and appreciate the vision of our “bigger church,” the Presbyterian Church (USA). She was always ready to step up and help our CE Ministry stay vital and goal-driven.

We hope that she will have time to stay in touch with us. Of one thing I’m certain: Reverend Candice will always care about us. And she will always be in our hearts.

May God’s grace be with you, dear Candice, and with us all.

Bert Lowe, CE Team Leader

2017 Team Members: Jimmy Chapman, Claudia Morgan-Gray, and Kathy Porter

Special Note: The sign-up sheet for other prospective 2017 Christian Education Team Members is on a table in the Narthex. I’ll be in touch with you soon to help find answers to questions you might have.

Another Special Note: We also extend a heartfelt prayer for God’s grace to be with Pat and Tom Laney as they finalize their move to be closer to their children. They have served our church, the PC(USA) and our community in countless, meaningful ways. They have faithfully served on the Christian Education Ministry Team. They, too, will always be in our hearts and prayers.



2017

FEBRUARY



Sunday  Monday  Tuesday  Wednesday  Thursday  Friday  Saturday

				1	2	3	4
		Choir Practice 5pm		Kids For God 4:15pm	 Ground Hog Day Supper 5:30pm	Meals On Wheels	
5	6		7	8	9	10	11
Super Bowl Spaghetti Lunch at F.U.M.C. at Noon		Choir Practice 5pm		Kids For God 4:15pm		Meals On Wheels	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	18
Worship Meeting Following Service	Adopt-A-Block 4:15pm	Choir Practice 5pm	Kids For God 4:15pm	L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm	Meals On Wheels		
Bill Stanley		Valentine's Day		Session Meeting 6:30pm			
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	25
 FPC Choir Chili Lunch Fundraiser 12:00 pm - 2:00pm	Presidents' Day	Choir Practice 5pm	Kids For God 4:15pm		Meals On Wheels		
26	27	28					
	P.W. Meeting 11:30am						
	Pipeline Deadline	Choir Practice 5pm					

