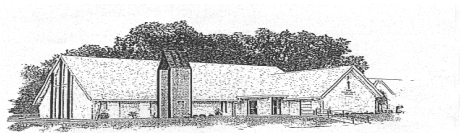




**Bach the Betta fish in
Earth Sunday display**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 49

May, 2017

Issue Five

*He breathed on them and said to them,
"Receive the Holy Spirit."
—John 20:22*

You can almost feel it resonating throughout Christendom: a deep, collective breath being taken. In the wake of the intensity of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter—intensity borne of the starkness of this stretch of the liturgical year as well as its immense, nearly overwhelming richness—we need a pause, a shared regathering of ourselves as we begin to absorb what it means that Christ is risen, that death has not had the final word.

Breath is precisely what Jesus comes to give his disciples, his friends who followed him to the end and hardly know what to do now, reeling as they are from all that has occurred and struggling to discern what happens next.

He breathed on them, John tells us in his gospel. More than any words could have done, this breath comes as gift, as grace: Christ's own breath that bears to them the Spirit that will enable them to keep living, to keep breathing, to proclaim the astonishing news of the risen Christ, and to be his body in this world.

Here on this side of Easter Sunday, what deep breath do you need to take? How will you open yourself to the risen Christ who comes to breathe the Spirit into you?

Blessing of Breathing

That the first breath will come without fear.

That the second breath will come without pain.

The third breath: that it will come without despair.

And the fourth, without anxiety.

That the fifth breath will come with no bitterness.

That the sixth breath will come for joy.

Breath seven: that it will come for love.

May the eighth breath come for freedom.

And the ninth, for delight.

When the tenth breath comes, may it be for us to breathe together,

and the next, and the next, until our breathing is as one,

until our breathing is no more.

—Jan Richardson
from *The Cure for Sorrow*

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that one of the amendments to the Book of Order (Constitution of the PC(USA) proposed at the 222nd General Assembly was that G-1.0304 The Ministry of Members be amended by adding the words “caring for God’s creation”?

In fact all 16 constitutional amendments proposed by the 222nd General Assembly have received the required number of affirmative votes from among 170 Presbyteries needed for ratification. The new provisions will take effect on June 25, 2017 – one year from the adjournment of the assembly that proposed them.

“Membership in the Church of Jesus Christ is a joy and privilege. It is also a commitment to participate in Christ’s mission. A faithful member bears witness to God’s love and grace and promises to be involved responsibly in the ministry of Christ’s Church.” Such involvement now includes “caring for God’s creation” in addition to the other commitments of members listed in G-1.0304.

Christian Education
Green Team



FINANCE

Your 2017 Finance Committee did not meet this month.

Our team members consist of Dr. John Hillin, Carol Scoggins and Bill Stanley (Vice-Chair). After reviewing our church’s finances through the first three months of the New Year, I am glad to report that things look pretty good. We are slightly ahead for our budgeted income and slightly below budget for our expenses.

Peace and thankfulness,
Tom Weaver, Chair

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Our Worship Team was very busy this past month with Holy week services, and thanks go out to many members of the congregation for their parts in participating and attending the provided services. There are too many to name, so I will just say “Thank you!” Revs. Kathy Collier and Jimmy Barry served us well for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, respectively. Jimmy Chapman officiated on Maundy Thursday serving Holy Communion to our congregation as he is commissioned to do when we do not have an ordained minister.

A prayer service celebrating Earth Day on April 22, 2017, was coordinated by the Christian Education Team and it was a very meaningful and lovely service. Following, we planted an olive tree, signifying hope and eternity. Jen Mitchell, Director of Christian Education at First, Kilgore brought God’s message to us on Sunday, April 23, and again, we touched on God’s creation. Rev. Debbie Tipps from First United Methodist Church will preach for us on April 30, followed by Rev. Jimmie Reese from Tyler, on May 7th.

We plan a reception for the East Texas Presbyterian churches on Saturday, June 10, 2017, introducing Rev. Cathy Chang, a Presbyterian missionary, whom our congregation supports through Missions. She and her husband, Juan Lopez serve in the Philippines, addressing migration and human trafficking. Rev. Chang will preach for us on Sunday, June 11th. Please plan to welcome Cathy and the region churches that weekend.



Worship Committee



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION HAPPENINGS

The **ANDREWS Adult Sunday School Class** continues their in-depth study of the Gospel according to Matthew under the capable leadership of Elder Jimmy Chapman. The Gospel of Matthew provides a smooth transition from the writing of the Jewish scriptures (our Old Testament) to the writings of the New Testament. In this "most Jewish" of texts, we see Jesus as the long-awaited Jewish Messiah whose teaching opens the kingdom of heaven to us here and now.

Coincidentally, on April 30 the **SEEKERS Adult Sunday School class** will complete their study of *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus*, which has brought into focus the importance of understanding the Jewishness of Jesus for a clearer understanding of his message about the kingdom of heaven being in the here and now.

On Sunday, May 7, the Seekers Class will begin their study of *Trust in God* by David W. Johnson. The author uses the Book of Confessions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) as a guide. The book also gives concrete guidelines for Bible reading and prayer. The book helps one to learn that Reformed Christianity is not simply a historical tradition but a way of life that celebrates the mystery of God's grace, the paradox of freedom in obedience, and the determination to make God's world conform to God's will.

You will be warmly welcomed by the members of both Sunday School classes, which begin at 9:45am each Sunday morning. We also invite you to visit our Library where excellent Christian educational resources abound. Come and enjoy the blessings and joys of a Reformed vision of the spiritual life through Bible study, prayer, and fellowship.

Bert Lowe, team leader

Christian Education Ministry Team

Members: Jimmy Chapman, Tolly Dill,
Claudia Morgan-Gray, and Kathy Porter



MAY WE LIVE IN HARMONY WITH THE EARTH

Earth Day began on April 22, 1970 to draw popular attention to environmental causes and the need to protect nature. Today it is observed in over 193 countries. Earth Day reminds us to think hard about the future we want for our planet, ourselves, and all those who come after us.

In honor of our Earth and one of the tenets of the Presbyterian faith—Faithful Stewardship of Creation, the CE Team and many members of our congregation met Saturday morning, April 22, 2017 for an Earth Day prayer service. During the service we honored water, seed, soil, sky, animal life and the Cross. After the prayer service, the group planted an evergreen tree as a symbol of hope and eternity for our Earth and to further honor to our Creator God and all of His creation.

People are often unreasonable and self-centered. Forgive them anyway.
If you are kind, people may accuse you of ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.
If you are honest people may cheat you. Be honest anyway.
If you find happiness, people may be jealous. Be happy anyway.
The good you do today may be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.
Give the world the best you have and it may never be enough. Give your best anyway.
For you see, in the end, it is between you and God. It was never between you and them anyway.

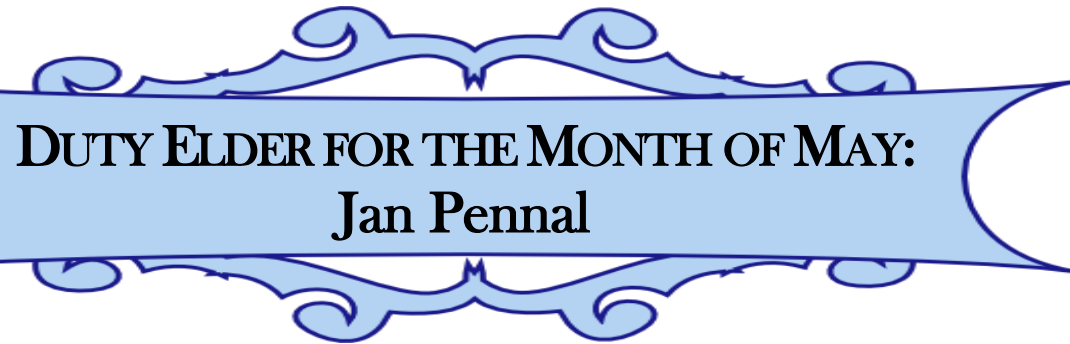
Mother Teresa

Happy Mother's Day

*"Mother love is the fuel that
Enables a normal human being
to do the impossible"*

Marion Garretty

Happy Mother's Day



**DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF MAY:
Jan Pennal**



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



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Robbie Brooks, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Debbie Murphy, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, Session and Congregation of our church during this transition time

Friends and Neighbors: Dr. David Craig – friend of the congregation

Those loved ones known only to God



"Be devoted to one another in brotherly love; give preference to one another in honour"

The Fellowship Committee partnered with the Worship Committee to help make the Sunrise Easter Service and breakfast event a success. Our Committee functions as a wonderful team to make these fellowship events warm, welcoming and wonderful for all that join together. Fonta Conway and Jan Mims stepped up to lead and coordinate this successful event with the ever-present help from other Committee members Lavonne Schauwecker, James Nicholson, Mary Lowe and our in-house design guru and set-up master, Lsha Stanley and Bob Schauwecker.

Upcoming events in the works include an evening with the group that went to McAllen Texas where we will share a meal and they will share the stories and pictures from their trip. We are also working with the Worship Committee to host an East Texas Region Presbytery group for a special presentation by Rev. Cathy Chang sometime in early June.

Remember that FELLOWSHIP MATTERS and we hope you will join us as often as you can.

FPC Fellowship Committee
Claudia Morgan-Gray, Chair
Fonta Conway, Past Chair
Lavonne Schauwecker
James Nicholson
Lsha Stanley

Mary Lowe, Vice-Chair
Jan Mims
Bob Schauwecker
Judy Andrasko

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God (John). The Presbyterian Women gathered again Monday, April 24th to continue their study of “Who is Jesus”. This month’s study was “According to John.”

Our group enjoyed the lesson, interaction and interpretation of the lesson of John. We had a good group joining in the gathering: Lynn Ticken, Jane Fahle, Pat Laney, Margaret Hillin, Carol Scoggins, Fonta Conway, Bert Lowe and Claudia Morgan-Gray.

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on May 22, when we will gather at 11:30 for our traditional end of season Salad Luncheon. Everyone is asked to bring a salad to share and we will share a meal and time together. This will be our last gathering before we break for the summer months. We will break for the summer and begin again in September. We invite all Presbyterian Women and their friends or guest to join for our Salad Luncheon.

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.



COUNCIL ACTIONS

April 20, 2017

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Determined to seek a Stated Supply pastor after discussion with COM representative
- Reviewed Holy Week services
- Moved May communion to the second Sunday
- Approved a request from Grace Presbytery to host a Regional meeting at FPC Henderson on June 10th to hear from Rev. Cathy Chang, Missionary in the Philippines

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4 ★NATIONAL★ DAY of PRAYER	5	6
		Choir Practice 5pm	Kids For God 4:15pm	C.E. Meeting 10:00am	Meals On Wheels	Sally Hosea
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Communion		Choir Practice 5pm	Kids For God 4:15pm		Meals On Wheels	Tolly Dill Pat Laney Patsy Reynolds
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Happy Mother's Day!		Choir Practice 5pm	L.E.A.N. Mtg. 2:00pm Kids For God 4:15pm	Session Meeting 6:30pm Bert Lowe Mary Lowe	Meals On Wheels	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Mike Dill	P.W. Meeting 11:30am Adopt-A-Block 4:15pm Pipeline Deadline	Choir Practice 5pm	Kids For God 4:15pm		Meals On Wheels	
28	29	30	31			
	memorial DAY	Choir Practice 5pm	Kids For God 4:15pm			



- Ten ways to love**
1. Listen without interrupting. (Proverbs 18)
 2. Speak without accusing. (James 1:19)
 3. Give without sparing. (Proverbs 21:26)
 4. Pray without ceasing. (Colossians 1:9)
 5. Answer without arguing. (Proverbs 17:1)
 6. Share without pretending. (Ephesians 4:15)
 7. Enjoy without complaint. (Philippians 2:14)
 8. Trust without wavering. (Corinthians 13:7)
 9. Forgive without punishing. (Colossians 3:13)
 10. Promise without forgetting. (Proverbs 13:12)



MEMBER CARE

This month member care has been able to serve home communion, deliver meals, and check on our members. To make sure we don't miss anyone, please notify a Member Care member if you know of anyone that we should contact.

Member Care Committee members are: Mary Lowe, Lynn Ticken, Steve Lowe, Travis and Patsy Reynolds, Cindy Ratliff, Carolyn Boren, Jan Mims, and Lavonne Schauwecker.



God Bless,
Mary Lowe, chair

As many of you may have noticed, I play a lot of Bach. I hope you like to hear Bach. I like to play Bach. The music is idiomatic for the organ, and Bach's work, no matter how simple it may appear, or sound, always contains mental, emotional and physical challenges (lessons) to be worked out, and is, for the performer (me) rarely perfected. Spiritually and Intellectually, one cannot question his work. Bach, a devout Lutheran, gave his life in Service to the church of the time, leaving behind a vast amount of music literature for all levels of appreciation.

Although, the choir will not be performing the works of Bach anytime soon, we will, however continue to work through the Summer, singing anthems for Services as often as we can, We are still needing to fill our ranks as choristers, and we will welcome all. Keep us in mind if you have a heart to sing for God, we have an opening. Choir will continue to meet on Tuesdays, at 5pm.

The Trinity Valley Community Choir presents their final Concert, Sunday, April 30th at 3 pm, in Athens, Texas. Location will be at Dogwood Baptist Church, located on FM 2494 in Athens.

I will be playing the organ in the Longview Community Chorus / Longview Symphony Orchestra presentation of ELIJAH by Felix Mendelsohn on Tuesday May 2nd, 7:30 pm, at Trinity Episcopal Church in Longview, if you would like to attend.



Blessings and God's Peace to you all!
Mark Reeves, CAGO