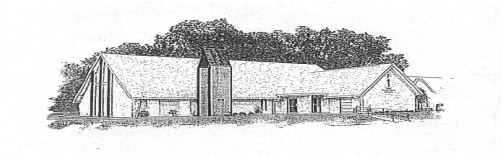


SUNDAY SCHOOL’S ORIGINS

Sunday school began in England as early as 1751. Better known is Robert Raikes’ work in Gloucester 30 years later. Concerned about poor children who worked in factories six days a week and often turned to crime, he offered classes on the only day kids were free. Soon various organizations offered a loose network of such Sunday schools, which taught basic reading and writing, using the Bible as a text.

Ten years later, Samuel Slater started the first U.S. Sunday school in his Rhode Island textile mills. By the mid-1800s, Sunday school attendance was an almost-universal childhood experience. As society became more secular and public education was mandated by the 1870s, Sunday schools focused on spiritual practices: prayers, hymns, catechism knowledge and Scripture memorization.

Well into the 20th century, Sunday school served as the church’s main outreach tool. Many adults fondly remember their teachers and lessons, and Sunday school continues to play a significant part in faith development.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
P. O. BOX 773
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Where does God hang out? Is God up in heaven? And if so, where is heaven exactly? Maybe God is in a church sanctuary, waiting for us to show up Sunday morning. Maybe God is in the kitchen—a great cook, as depicted in the best-selling book and movie *The Shack*. If so, this might explain why eating my grandmother’s homemade biscuits was an encounter with the Divine. Or who knows? Maybe God is hanging out right here, right now, wondering when we’re going to pull our heads out of our electronic devices and have an encounter. I’m sure everyone in America knows by now how God talks to us –through billboards! You know the one—black backgrounds with white letters along our interstates. “Let’s Meet at My House Sunday, Before the Game—God” or “That ‘Love Thy Neighbor’ Thing? I Meant That. – God.” I’ve really enjoyed that campaign because it’s a culturally relational way to remind us that God speaks to us personally, in the language of the heart.

If you could design one of those billboards, what would it say? I already have mine ready to go. It’d say, “You want fries with that?” Several years ago, for reasons I can’t fully explain, I decided to quit wearing sunglasses when going through a fast-food drive-through. Instead, I decided to make eye contact with the person in the window, smile and thank them. It seemed like a small thing at the time, but then something powerful began to happen. Looking into another person’s eyes for even a brief moment reminded me—and maybe reminded the person in the window—that we are actually people, equal in God’s eyes, with real hopes and dreams and the universal need to be loved. We are all children of God.

So, when you ponder all the places that God hangs out, let me assure you that God is alive and well at the drive-through, serving fries with a smile. Just like God is right there at your family dinner table, passing the peas. God is on the corner when you’re exchanging greetings with the homeless fellow.

Our Scripture writers had a word for that—Emmanuel—meaning “God is with us.” But, as we painfully know, sometimes we lose sight of this beautiful truth. As our Bible friend Jacob exclaimed, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it.”

The good news is that we don’t have to look far. We just have to open our eyes and see.

Steve Young, Executive Director of Living Waters for the World
Presbyterians Today April/May 2017



WORSHIP

The Worship Team met on July 2, 2017 and discussed upcoming dates and emphases on the liturgical calendar and whether we wanted to target any of these specifically. Lynn was mainly thinking about Reformation Sunday on October 29th, and Theological Sunday on September 17th. Previously, it has been difficult to get a seminary student to come and preach, distance being a main problem. Regarding Reformation Sunday, this will be the 500th year anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. We hope to especially celebrate that date. The Allen MIDI Assistant for the organ was discussed and reported to be working properly. Mark Reeves, Organist, plans to record the services when he is on vacation the first two Sundays in August, but we will be seeking help to play his recorded music on those dates.

Holy Communion will be served on August 6th, and again, on August 27th, because we will have Presbyterian clergy present on those dates to deliver our sermon. Thus, communion will not be served on the first Sunday in September. Please make note of this, and we will continue to remind you.

Choir practice will resume on the third Tuesday of August. We look forward to getting back in the swing of things, and hope to have a few more smiling faces to join us. The Dog Days of August are here, but we have been blessed with occasional rain, and so far, can still see green around. We enjoy serving this wonderful group of God’s servants!



Worship Committee

COMMUNITY OF HOPE OPPORTUNITY FOR MINISTRY

St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church is planning another class to prepare lay chaplains through the Community of Hope. As you may recall, Lynn and John Tieken completed this course several years ago, and served at ETMC, visiting the sick, for a few years. The Community of Hope creates communities committed to pastoral care, and equips lay persons to be present in a compassionate, listening, non-controlling manner in order to make a difference in the health and well-being of those in need. Mother Patsy Barham of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church heads up the training. If anyone is interested or knows of someone who may be drawn to this ministry, please contact Lynn or John.



CALLING ALL CHURCH MEMBERS!

October seems a long way off, but the date of our Annual Neighborhood Party, October 28, is around the corner! We had a great turn-out last October, both from our neighbors and our congregation!

Last year, we asked our church family to donate gently-used items to be used as prizes for the winners of our popular Bingo games, traditionally the final activity of the Party. Many of you were able to donate a wide variety of items—costume jewelry, kids’ games and toys, dolls, gloves, scarves, figurines, and even unused and unboxed small appliances.

Again, let your imagination be your guide and bring your donations to the Joy Room at your earliest convenience. If you have questions, please contact Jan Pennal, Kathy Porter, Claudia Morgan-Gray or me. Thanks for all that you do to make our Annual Neighborhood Party a success!

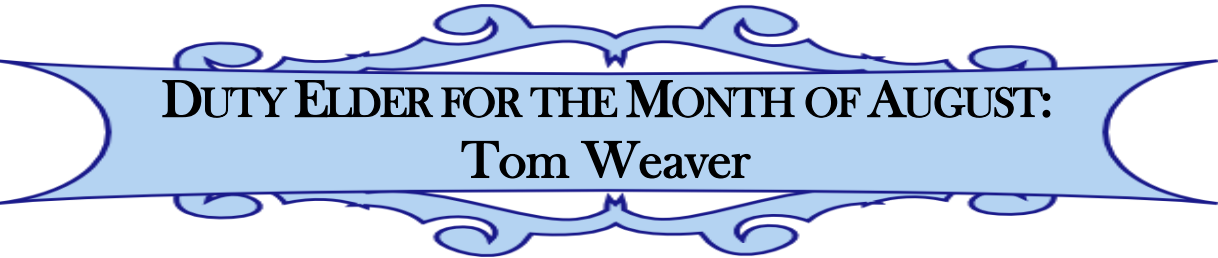
Bert Lowe for Outreach



Congratulations to Patsy and Travis Reynolds who are celebrating their 66th wedding anniversary!!



We have received memorials in
July in memory of:
Dorothy Barry



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





“Encouraging One Another”

In keeping with our commitment to try to have or to assist with at least one Fellowship event per month, we were pleased to be part of the July 19th presentation event from the group that took the McAllen mission trip. It was a good event.

As we’ve shared previously, we have been working on the drawer project for the kitchen. While we were hopeful to have this project completed by the end of July, it looks like it is actually going to be August before the drawers will be ready to be installed. At that time, our committee and others will schedule a work day to clean, rearrange and organize the church kitchen. Once we get the kitchen put back together, we’ll plan an event to share the makeover with the congregation.

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

FPC Fellowship Committee: Claudia Morgan-Gray, Chair, Mary Lowe, Vice-Chair, Fonta Conway, Past Chair, Jan Mims, Lavonne Schauwecker, Bob Schauwecker, James Nicholson, Judy Andrasko, Lsha Stanley

FINANCE

Our team members consist of Dr. John Hillin, Carol Scoggins and Bill Stanley (Vice-Chair). After reviewing our church’s finances through the first six months of the 2017, I am glad to report that things still look pretty good. We are slightly ahead for our budgeted income and slightly below budget for our expenses. Year to date, our receipts are \$65,480 compared to a budget amount of \$63,536 and disbursements have been made in the amount of \$49,301 compared to our budget of \$51,031.

**Peace and thankfulness,
Tom Weaver, Chair**



**NEWSFLASH !!!
OUTREACH BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DATE EXTENSION....**

**Dear and faithful FPC members,
Our July back to school supplies has been extended through Sunday, August 13th. Whether we make our goal or not, all is well. We just wanted to give everyone the opportunity to participate if you wish to. Thanks for all you do in reaching out to others for Christ!!**

Jan Pennal, Outreach Chair

**SCHOOL
SUPPLIES DRIVE**



**Just a reminder: The Annual Texas Sales
Tax Free Weekend is August 11 - 13!!!**

**Now is the time to visit our local Farmers Market
which is conveniently located at Fair Park across
from our church!!**

**Saturdays 7am - Noon
Tuesdays 7am - sold out**



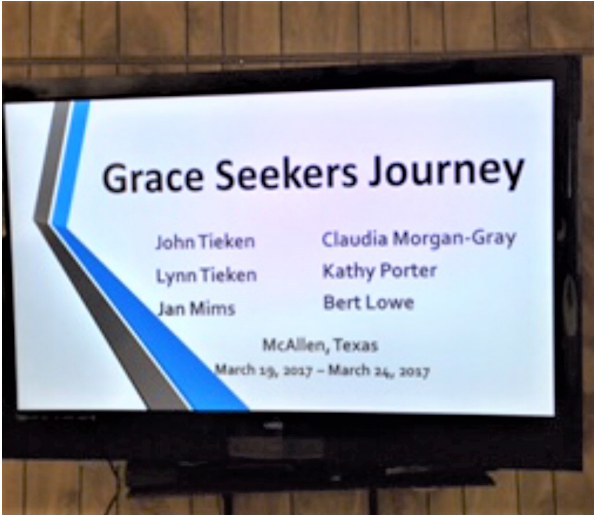
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY
Takes a Breather in July . . . but Christian Education Never Stops!

Your Christian Education (CE) Ministry Team did not meet during July, so this report will be short (are you smiling yet?) . . . However, we will meet in the church parlor at 10am on Thursday, August 3rd (Lord willing). You are welcome to join us. In fact, you would be welcomed at any of our meetings with a seriously heartfelt “Bienvenidos” (Spanish for “Welcome!”—See what we learned in July?).

If you’ve gotten out of the Sunday School habit (it’s so easy to do in the summertime), you could expect another heartfelt “Welcome!” in either of our adult classes—Andrews or Seekers. Beware: Both classes can be habit-forming. The Andrews class is an intense but lively Bible study led by Elder Jimmy Chapman. The Seekers class is a book study group, intent on finishing Trust God by David W. Johnson during the next two Sundays. We would appreciate your suggestions of subjects and authors you might find helpful to *you* in your faith journey.

Again, we invite you to join us as we strive to strengthen our faith and witness during these challenging times. All God’s blessings to you.

Christian Education Ministry Team
Jimmy Chapman, Tolbert (“Tolly”)
Dill, Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy
Porter, Bert Lowe, team leader



Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

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

Friends and Neighbors: the family of Dorothy Barry in their loss



Those loved ones known only to God





McAllen Trip Grace Seekers Share Experience and Journey

On Wednesday, July 19th, a group from our congregation and others from our community joined for a potato and salad supper before hearing and sharing in the journey of the group that went to the Rio Grande Valley in March. To a room of almost 50 people, this small group from our congregation (John Tieken, Lynn Tieken, Kathy Porter, Bert Lowe, Jan Mims and Claudia Morgan-Gray) walked those in attendance through the week spent working at the Catholic Charities Humanitarian Respite Center, the Rio Grande Valley Food Bank, and La Posada Provincial and their encounter with the “Wall.” The presentation was well attended and we believe well received.



DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the world would look a lot different if everyone recycled? According to an article in USA TODAY on June 22, 2017 by Ashley May, most likely, it would be cleaner and make more use of available resources. Landfills would shrink tremendously. Recycling plants would be an epicenter of activity.

“As a society, if everyone recycled we will have moved from a linear ‘take, make, waste’ economy to one that is more circular by keeping materials in our economy and not allowing them to waste away in landfills,” Brenda Pulley, senior vice president of recycling with *Keep America Beautiful* stated.

A few ways the world might change if everyone recycled: Plastic water bottles, aluminum cans and plastic bags would go a lot farther. *Keep America Beautiful* compiled data to imagine what just one act of recycling by everyone in the U. S. might look like:

If everyone recycled one aluminum can, 295 million new aluminum cans could be made. Also, everyone recycling just one can would reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to taking 6,750 cars off the road and save energy equivalent to 80 thousand barrels of oil.

If everyone recycled one plastic bag, those materials could be reused in making 28,906 park benches. Plastic bags cannot be included in the regular recycling process in Henderson. However, there is a bin for recycling plastic bags in the entrance to Lowe’s.

Chaz Miller, director of policy/advocacy with National Waste and Recycling Association said that with so many substances flowing through recycling plants, new products would be created and that recycling would create “products you and I haven’t dreamed about.” He says that if the U.S. alone reached a recycling level of 75%, 1.5 million new jobs would become available.

Let’s all do our part!
The C.E. Green Team

**KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL**

August 2017

****Reminder: Bring H.I.M. donations the First Sunday of every month****

Sacred Harp Convention
Located at the Civic Center
Sat. 12th 9:30am - 3pm
Sun. 13th 9:30am - 2:30pm

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3 <i>C.E. Meeting 10:00am</i>	4 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	5
6 <i>Communion</i> <i>Bring H.I.M. Donations</i>	7	8	9	10	11 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	12 <i>Sacred Harp 9:30am - 3pm</i>
13 <i>Worship Team Meeting following service</i> <i>Sacred Harp 9:30am - 2:30pm</i> <i>Sales Tax Holiday 11-13</i>	14 <i>Adopt-A-Block 4:30pm</i>	15 <i>Choir Practice 5pm</i>	16	17 <i>L.E.A.N. Mtg. 2:00pm</i> <i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i> <i>1st Day of School for Henderson</i>	18 <i>Meals On Wheels</i> Mark Davis Matthew Price	19 Tom Laney
20	21	22 <i>Choir Practice 5pm</i> Hunter Davis	23 <i>Kids For God 4:15pm</i>	24	25 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	26
27 <i>Communion</i>	28 <i>Pipeline Deadline</i> Tammy Hillin	29 <i>Choir Practice 5pm</i>	30 <i>Kids For God 4:15pm</i>	31		