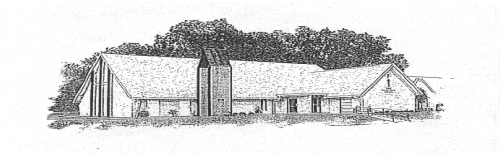




A great big thank you to all who bring H.I.M. contributions on communion Sundays. You did a great job on August 6. We filled an empty shelf at H.I.M. and they were so appreciative. In fact, their words were: “Presbyterians really are givers!” We are blessed to be blessings for others. Good work everyone!



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



# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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As our journey together in search of our next spiritual leader (Pastor) continues, we are reminded daily – but most certainly each Sunday – we are in this together. It is reaffirming to see how our small yet mighty congregation bans together not only in time of joyous celebration, or in mournful grief, but also in hopeful expectation. We are all a piece of FPC – Henderson and each of us has a space to fill in the whole, more complete puzzle of the church. The following Daily Devotional spoke to me and where we as a church are at this time. We share it with each of you in hopes that it speaks to you as well. Certain passages have been **highlighted** for emphasis.

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## Finding God in All the Wrong Places Martin B. Copenhaver

*"God has made Christ the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all." - Ephesians 1:22-23*

On a number of occasions, I have hiked in the interior reaches of the Grand Canyon. To me, it is a holy place - the most vaulted of natural Gothic cathedrals. It's not hard to feel close to God there, not only because of what is present, but also due to what is largely absent—the demands of living in community. The buttes don't quarrel with each other. The California condors make no demands of the living. The rollicking streams offer only comforting words. There is no need to raise money for a sanctuary roof because the blue sky has already supplied it. In such a place, I relate easily to those who testify that their surest encounters with God are in the natural world.

Nevertheless, the affirmation that God can be found outside the church has never seemed like much of a claim. **The true wonder is that God can be found inside the church, among quirky, flawed and broken people who may have little in common and yet are bound to one another.** What an unlikely setting in which to encounter God. But the Christian God seems to like to surprise us by showing up in the most unpromising places, like a Jew from Nazareth and **in a motley gathering of people known as church.**

**God throws us together in the church and says, in essence, "Here is where you get a chance to learn how to live with other people, to forgive, and even come to see God in one another. After all, if you can find God here, you can find God anywhere."**

**The church, like the family, is the place where we learn to live with people we are stuck with. And when we stick with those we are stuck with, it is a living reminder of the God who is stuck with us all.**

God, give me eyes to see you at work, particularly in surprising places!

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So, don't know about you all but we're happy and proud to be part of this set of quirky, flawed, and some a little broken or run down group of people that we call family -- church family. And as we've learned throughout life, we are all a little broken; but as we've also learned, even broken crayons still color. Let's continue to color the world and our church together.

Communications Team

### **OUTREACH** – We stretched our arms out far and wide!

The **BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE** was a success. We collected 65% of our goal and the Outreach Team says -- well done FPC!! We delivered 130 spiral notebooks, 130 folders, 65 packages of pencils, 65 boxes of Crayons, 65 bottles of glue, and 65 + boxes of Kleenex. Thanks be to God!

The planning for our **OCTOBER 28th NEIGHBORHOOD PARTY** is underway! Last year we tried something new with all of us bringing new or gently used items for the bingo prizes. Since it was a hit last year, we are asking the congregation to help out again by contributing items (in good condition) from home for our bingo game prizes. So please be thinking of those "gently-used items" you have at home that you do not need or use --Costume jewelry, kid's games and toys, clothing items of all sizes, small appliances....and the list goes on. We will designate the Joy Room as our collection area once again this year. Kathy, Claudia, Bert and I are available to you for any questions. We look forward to yet another successful Neighborhood Party!

Remember to **CHECK THE STATUS OF YOUR KROGER COMMUNITY REWARD PARTICIPATION**. Make sure you are current in your enrollment and helping our church as you shop. **AT THE BOTTOM OF YOUR RECEIPT FROM A KROGER PURCHASE YOU WILL SEE "participating in the Kroger Community Rewards Program with First Presbyterian Church Henderson."** To see what a difference it makes, for the first two quarters of 2017, our church has received \$169.26! Let's go Krogering!

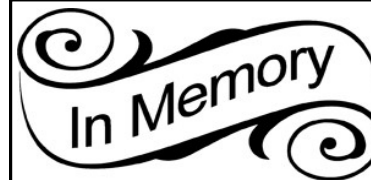
### **MISSION** – Together they are never impossible!

As you all know, we have four special offerings we give to each year. The first--**ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARNG** -- occurs at Easter time and helps feed the hungry, empower the poor and oppressed, and supports Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. This year, we collected \$674. Some have asked how that compares so FYI: 2016- \$830; 2015- \$995. Second offering – **PENTECOST** – occurs in May-June as we celebrate Pentecost. It is used for children at risk and to nurture the growing faith of youth, and helps support young adults in becoming spiritual leaders. FPC gets to keep 40% of the total offering. For 2017, we collected \$580 (kept \$232); 2016- \$325 (\$130); 2015- \$426 (\$170.40). Third special offering begins this month (September) and culminate on World Communion Sunday - it is **PEACE AND GLOBAL WITNESS** offering which promotes the peace of Jesus Christ. For Peace and Global, FPC will be able to keep 25% of the total offering collected. In 2016, we collected \$485 (Kept \$194); 2015- \$450 (\$180). The fourth and final special offering of the year is the **CHRISTMAS JOY GIFT** that helps support past, present and future leaders of the church. In 2016, we gave \$385; and, in 2015, we collected \$370.

### **COUNCIL ACTIONS**

**August 17, 2017**

- **Worshiped and prayed together**
- **Reviewed church finances**
- **Approved moving communion from September 3 to August 27**
- **Discussed church insurance as renewal date is in September**
- **Discussed pastor search process and personnel matters**
- **Reviewed the McAllen Trip Presentation**
- **Discussed and approved the Scholarship Report**
- **Noted that Sunday, September 10<sup>th</sup> will be a hymn- sing day**
- **Reviewed sessional actions to be taken by December 31<sup>st</sup>**
- **Received the new Book of Order 2017-2019**
- **Reviewed upcoming dates on the church calendar**



We have received memorials in  
August in memory of:  
Dorothy Barry & Alicia Rich

### ***Into the Church Triumphant***

**Alicia Willett Rich**

July 27, 2017

***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, Travis Reynolds, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, Session and Congregation of our church during this transition time

**Friends and Neighbors:** Family of Billy Tapley

*For all the people who have been affected by Hurricane Harvey*



## WE GET THANK YOUS



July 25, 2017

Dear All,

Thank you for your "surprise" to us!! Yes, I remember "You All" visiting us. We appreciate your lovely letter and your generous \$210 Mission offering.

I am enclosing our census. Despite all the negativism regarding the immigration issue, our shelter is filled to capacity. Mothers with children are our most frequent clients brought to us by Homeland Security.

Again, thank you and blessings,

Sister Zita

La Posada Providencia



July 2017

First Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for letting us use the church for our wedding shower. We appreciate it very much.

Lane Stauffer & Keelie Mims



August 1, 2017

Church Family,

Thank you for all the love and prayers I have received over the years. I am praying that we will continue having a minister as wonderful as we have had over the many years of my life.

Love and prayers to all of you,

Billie Manck

In June, our Mission Committee was busy giving our mission monies to various mission organizations. These monies come from designated memorials, Kroger Cares Fund and monies our church keeps from the Pentecost and Peace and Global Witness special offerings. To date, we have supported the viable mission work of: The American Red Cross - \$210; Evergreen Life Services \$210; La Posada (McAllen)- \$210; and, missionary, Cathy Chang- \$213.50. This giving is in addition to the other important mission work being done through those organizations we support through our budgeted giving. Thanks for all you give and do. God is working through FPC mission! Thanks be to God through Jesus!

Jan Pennal, chair--Outreach and Mission



## SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following awards for the fall semester 2017:

- Austin Andrus
- Baylee Boren
- Connor Bradshaw
- Emily Bradshaw
- Cameron Coe
- Cody Conway
- Ben Laney
- Rob Rever
- Will Rever
- Amanda Scoggins
- Hayley Scoggins

Texas State University  
University of Texas at Arlington  
Schreiner College  
Vanderbilt University  
Texas Tech University  
Stephen F. Austin University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Tech University  
Texas A&M University  
Texas Tech University  
University of North Texas

Thank you very much for support of this program.





### ***"A Positive Attitude Changes Everything"***

After the summer break, the Fellowship Committee is back at it and planning some fellowship time – and you're all invited!

For September, we're planning a group outing to the Henderson Civic Theatre on **Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>** to see the upcoming play "Leading Ladies" directed by one of our members, James Nicholson. We are going to meet for a **Dutch-treat dinner at Sombreros at 5:00 pm** to have dinner before the play. The play begins at 7:30 so this will allow time for group service. Please let Claudia know if you will be joining us so we can ensure to have reservations for your theatre tickets.

In October, we will be working with the Outreach Committee on the always fun FPC Neighborhood Party. If you haven't already, **SAVE THE DATE** of October 28<sup>th</sup>.

We've got additional plans for November and December in the works and will share with you soon.

In the meantime, remember that **FELLOWSHIP MATTERS!** We invite you to join us as often as you can.

FPC Fellowship Team: Claudia Morgan-Gray, Mary Lowe, Fonta Conway, Jan Mims, Laverne Schauwecker, Bob Schauwecker, James Nicholson, Judy Andrasko, and Lsha Stanley

### **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

**Our Presbyterian Women group starts meeting again on Monday, September 25, 2017 at 11:30 am. We hope all our ladies will be ready to get back in the swing of meeting monthly the last Monday of each month. We will resume the study of "Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes". As you will recall, we looked at Jesus from the perspective of each of the writers of the Gospels: Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, and now we turn to the writings of the apostle Paul, and his emphasis is focused on the risen Christ. His portrait of Jesus is of the crucified Lord. Members are invited to wear or bring a cross and to describe what it means. Also, be thinking of what you would like to have as a mission project this year. Suggested readings are 1 Corinthians 2:1-2; 2Corinthians 5:17-20; Philippians 2:1-4; and Acts 18. Key Scripture is 1 Corinthians 18-25. So, bring your brown bag lunch, and meet in the Fellowship Hall for study and fellowship. Get prepared for some new information!**



### **DID YOU KNOW?**

**Did you know that all 16 constitutional amendments proposed by the 222<sup>nd</sup> General Assembly in 2016 were approved by the presbyteries by large margins and the amendments took effect on June 25, 2017 – one year -- from the adjournment of the assembly. One of these amendments involves the Ministry of Members (G-1.0304).**

**G-1.0304 states that church membership is 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 includes:**

- **proclaiming good news in word and deed**
- **taking part in the common life and worship of a congregation**
- **lifting one another up in prayer, mutual concern, and active support**
- **studying and issues of Christian faith and life**
- **supporting the church through the giving of money, time, and talents**
- **demonstrating a new quality of life within and through the church**
- **responding to God's activity in the world through service to others**
- **living responsibly in the personal, family, vocational, political, cultural, and social relationships in life**
- **working in the world for peace, justice, freedom, and human fulfillment**
- **participating in the governing responsibilities of the church**
- **reviewing and evaluating regularly the integrity of one's membership**
- **caring for God's creation – the new addition.**

**May we all strive to fulfill our commitment to our church.**

**The C. E. Green Team**



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



**DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST:  
Lynn Tieken**

**WORSHIP TEAM**

**Your Worship Team (Jimmy Chapman, Fonta Conway, Jan Mims, Margaret Hillin, Kathy Porter, Kelly Weaver, Mark Reeves, and Lynn Tieken) meets regularly to plan your Sunday services. This past month we discussed a change in the usual date for Holy Communion for August/September. Since we had a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Lynette Solomon, to officiate on August 27, 2017, we opted to celebrate the Lord’s Supper twice in August. Please note: we will not have Holy Communion service in September!**

**Items for Henderson Interchurch Ministry may be brought to the church at any time.**

**On September 10<sup>th</sup>, please plan to be present for a Hymn Sing. The service will be abbreviated to some extent and members will be able to request favorite songs for the congregation to sing. This should be fun, so we hope to have a good representation from our congregation.**

**We decided to inventory the silver service for communion, etc., purchase silver cloth to adequately cover it, and find a suitable storage area to keep it well. We use a small amount regularly for serving communion. Lynn hopes to have a “polishing party” to prepare the additional pieces for storage.**

**As your PNC continues to meet and search for a new minister for us, your Worship Team strives to provide worship services in the manner to which we are accustomed, always glorifying our Living Lord.**

**Rev. Jimmie Reese will serve us on Labor Day Sunday, and Rev. Jack Albright, on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Both of these willing servants are retired Methodist ministers who have graced our pulpit recently. A special treat on the last Sunday of the month, we will welcome Rev. Ted Foote, former minister of this church. Rev. Foote currently serves First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas. We are grateful to all who serve us, and are fortunate that we have willing and able servants, including our own Jimmy Chapman.**

**Glory be to God!!**



*Worship Committee*

**I write this as I prepare to leave for San Antonio to link up with 3 other PDA/NRT members. Our assignment is to coordinate relief efforts with the churches in Mission Presbytery which includes towns & cities roughly from Austin to about El Campo to Brownsville & north up the Mexican border, & back to Austin. As I am sure you are aware this includes Corpus Christi, Aransas Pass, Rockport & Victoria along with many other coastal towns affected by Hurricane Harvey. We will be helping the affected people return to a “new” normal in their lives. “New normal” is a phrase I have learned in PDA, their lives will never be exactly the way normal was before Harvey. We at PDA do not just help Presbyterians, but rather try be the face of Christ to all the hurting people, in this case, along the Texas Gulf Coast. In many cases we try to be a listening presence to survivors who need to share their deep pain of loss , share their story. We try to coordinate the survivors with the agency best suited to assist them in order that they can find a new normal in their lives. This natural disaster may prove to be the worst in the history of America. We are already seeing how God uses terrible circumstances like these to make positive outcomes, first responders doing yeoman work & ordinary people helping their neighbor in need. People using their own initiative to help their neighbor, using their personal boats & families to rescue flood survivors. That is one way we show the love of God to our neighbor, another might be a monetary gift to PDA, American Red Cross, any reputable organization that assists in recovery efforts to this disaster.**

**Presbyterian Disaster Assistance /National Response Team member  
John Tieken**

**P.S. A team was scheduled to go to Houston (New Covenant Presbytery) but is being rescheduled. The rescheduling is in order that PDA is part of the solution & does not become part of the problem.**

Grace Presbytery is setting up a fund to receive donations for storm victims from Hurricane Harvey. The area affected includes both Mission Presbytery and New Covenant Presbytery. This week, Presbytery Council will act to send a donation as well. Address your checks to "hurricane relief" as you send them to Grace Presbytery, 6100 Colwell Blvd., Irving, Texas 75039. We will keep you advised as we have additional information from both presbyteries. Thank you for your many prayers for victims, churches, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, and the two presbyteries as they seek to respond.





CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY

This year, we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. One of the hallmarks of the Reformation was its emphasis upon education.

Luther, Calvin, and other reformers believed that universal education was essential so that everyone—not just priests—would be able to read and understand the Bible. At First Presbyterian Church, Henderson, we honor that commitment to education with our Sunday School, Presbyterian Women, and children’s mid-week ministry.

What’s new? The Seekers Class members are excited about their study of an interesting new book, *Grounded*, by Diana Butler Bass. She is the author of nine books on religion in America. She holds a Ph.D. from Duke University and is a regular commentator on religion, politics, and culture for media outlets nationwide.

Sunday School classes begin each Sunday at 9:45am. Come a little early for fellowship, coffee and doughnuts. Join us!

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



Staff photos by Ashton Griffin  
Bert Lowe (left) and Kathy Porter representing First Presbyterian Church, Betty Jean Elder and Evelyn Anderson are gathering donations for this year's school supply train. The Yates Park Help the Youth Project will be giving away free school supplies 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Aug. 16 at the civic center.

Great teacher and guide,  
We pray for students and teachers this day.

Give to students the heart to learn,  
to listen and absorb, to engage and challenge,  
to change and to grow.

Give to teachers  
the heart to empower,  
to be patient and understanding,  
to lead and persist,  
to give grace,  
and to give direction.

Amen.

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

2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Meals On Wheels Cindy Ratliff	2
3 Bring H.I.M. Donations	4 Labor Day Church Offices will be Closed	5 Choir Practice 5pm	6 Kids For God 4:15pm	7	8 Meals On Wheels	9
10 Hymn Sing Worship Service	11	12 Choir Practice 5pm	13 Kids For God 4:15pm	14 C.E. Meeting 10:00am	15 Meals On Wheels	16 Fellowship Dinner & Play 5pm
17 Claudia Morgan-Gray	18 Mark Reeves	19 Choir Practice 5pm	20 Kids For God 4:15pm	21 L.E.A.N. Mtg. 2:00pm Session Meeting 6:30pm	22 Meals On Wheels	23
24 Lynn Tieken	25 Presbyterian Women Meeting 11:30am Pipeline Deadline	26 Choir Practice 5pm	27 Kids For God 4:15pm	28 Elaine Davis	29 Meals On Wheels	30