

MO RANCH RESERVATIONS

I have reservations for two rooms at Mo Ranch at the 2018 Men's Conference May 4th through 6th. The rooms are in Pheasant Run. The rooms are motel style with two beds, in very short walking distance to all activities. They have many interesting workshops dealing with issues affecting Presbyterians locally & around the world. I have been attending for the last 10 plus years & I encourage anyone (men) to attend. We typically leave Henderson Friday morning around 8:00 A.M., eat lunch in Austin & arrive around 5:00 P.M. We return Sunday morning after worship. We always have interesting conversations in route. Lynn & I have another trip that conflicts this year. Please contact me at 903-738-1346 if you are interested in the rooms.

John W Tieken



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



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 50

February, 2018

Issue Two

The Season of Lent Begins on February 14th, Ash Wednesday

Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

So it begins! Lent is a time of reflection and preparation for Easter. Seems odd doesn't it that we prepare for the most exciting Christian observance by reveling in exactly the kind of life the Resurrection came to dispel?

Let me put it another way. Imagine if, in building up to the excitement of the race at Talladega, NASCAR fans drove 15 miles an hour everywhere they went. In prepping for a wedding, the bride wears black everywhere. An entrepreneur, in coming into a large sum of cash, ceases spending. Christians, in preparing for the greatest miracle... fast? The very joyful event at the end of Lent (Easter!) seems like reason for a 40 day party; not a 40 day funeral. For a lot of people that just wouldn't make sense.

That assessment of Lent is not really fair. Lent isn't a really long funeral. It is instead a celebration of life as we know it. And to be accurate, Easter is a season of the Christian calendar that lasts until Pentecost. So yeah, you get the huge party afterwards anyway. The traditional statement associated with Ash Wednesday is "Ashes to Ashes, Dust to Dust" - a reminder of the frailty we all experience in life. I always thought it was a bit harsh, you know? "Hey man, you are dirt," isn't exactly uplifting.

But that is precisely the point. Before we can appreciate the new life of Jesus Christ we must place it in stark contrast with what we know. And what do we know? Well just watch the news, listen to your neighbors, or check your bank account. We know scarcity. We know fear. We know dashed hopes and brokenness. We know ashes.

But before we go patting ourselves on the back for being so realistic or being so enamored with our suffering that we get prideful, read Matthew 6. This reading should make us all wonder if we've missed the mark in our piety. Even as we confront the difficulties Christ faced and our own shortcomings, we keep our journey between God and ourselves. The true reward waiting at the end of Lent is not that our piety will be rewarded but that our ashes are precisely the material God will use to bring new life. This season will help us look at our ashes in a whole new way. Over this season listen for people sharing stories of the joy of Christ. Remember the ashes that are the beginning for so many of these stories - and believe that Christ can do the same with yours.

A post by Rev. Jack Hinnen, United Methodist pastor on a blog site entitled *A United Method on 2-11-13*



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE - HOSPITALITY AND GRACE

As we enter February, we are getting our Committee together and welcoming our seasoned members and new members to this Committee of Hospitality and Grace. It is no secret that we are an active (and many say fun) group and there is a place for any and every one that wants to participate. While our Committee roster may be small, we know that hospitality and grace flows from all the hands and all the hearts of this congregation. To date, our Committee members include; Claudia Morgan-Gray-Chair, Mary Lowe-Vice Chair, Fonta Conway-Past Chair; Lavonne & Bob Schauwecker; Jan Mims, Lsha Stanley, Judy Andrasko and we welcome our newest two members Katie Hurst and Cindy Ratliff.

We are working to put together some unique and somewhat regular Fellowship opportunities – so stay tuned. While we don't have all the details on events--here are some to look forward to....

February: A Valentine "Chocola-topia"

March: St. Patrick's Day Corn Beef & Cabbage Meal

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. But for now, keep love in your heart, peace in your soul and joy in every action toward your fellow people. Peace and Grace to all.

DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY:

Mary Lowe

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Increasing our faith to become disciples of Christ through reformed studies for all ages. Christian Education team members are asked to help plan, provide and support those studies, to help raise awareness of resources in our Library, to be good stewards of God's creation, and to support PCUSA's positions on Public Witness.

Members of the adult Andrews Bible class, led by Jimmy Chapman, have completed their in-depth study of the Gospel of Matthew. They began the New Year with the study of **1 and 2 Kings**. Several versions of the Bible are available in the parlor for participants.

The Seekers class has begun the New Year with an interesting and enlightening study of **Making Sense of the Bible** by Adam Hamilton. Join or sample either class at 9:45am on any Sunday. We are saving a place for you. Children's studies and teachers are also available for children—even in the Nursery.

Plans are being made for a New Members Class, which will be open to all who would like to learn more about what it means to be a Presbyterian.

Please contact any of us on the Christian Education Ministry Team with any questions or any personal Christian educational needs or desires. A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex if you would like to serve on the CE Ministry Team during 2018. May the New Year bring you special joys as we learn and grow together toward the goal of being disciples of Christ.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!
From your 2018 CE Team
Members:

Jimmy Chapman,
Rev. Tolbert ("Tolly") Dill,
Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy
Porter, Bert Lowe, Team leader



SESSION NEWS.....



Kathy Porter was re-elected as Clerk of Session.

Bill Stanley was elected as Treasurer.

WORSHIP TEAM

Your Worship Team consists of Jimmy Chapman, Jan Mims, Kelly Weaver, Kathy Porter, Margaret Hillin, Fonta Conway, Cindy Ratliff, and Lynn Tieken, Chair.

We meet monthly to discuss and plan our worship services. We are thankful that in this time of transition, between ministers, we have been blessed to have willing and gifted ministers, elders, and others to bring God's Word to us each week. Jimmy Chapman has been one from our congregation to graciously officiate in service of the Lord's Supper and bringing God's message. Jimmy will again serve us in February, and will officiate Ash Wednesday service on February 14th. That service will take place at 6 pm.

Joshua Allen continues to offer his talents with the organ, piano, and voice to add much appreciated music. Our choir meets each Tuesday evening at 5 pm for practice. We seek new choir members. We are looking into purchasing a new digital piano as the present one belongs to Jack Brooks, one of our previous choir directors, and he needs it. There are recording abilities and MIDI capabilities that the choir feels that we could use in order to practice and then sing anthems. We are seeking direction on how to go about this purchase from previous choir directors and Joshua. We still have some funds from the Chili Cook in February, 2015.

Rev. Pam Leach from FPC, Tyler, has graciously agreed to fill our pulpit on Palm Sunday, March 25, 2018, so we will plan communion service for this date instead of the first Sunday in April (April 1st) which will also be Easter Sunday. So, in March, the Lord's Supper will be served the first and last Sundays.

Our meetings are usually following worship on Sundays. Please plan to join us.



Worship Committee



SCHOLARSHIPS

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the following \$300 scholarships to be awarded for the spring semester of 2018.

Luke Boren--University of Texas at Arlington

Kameron Coe--Texas Tech University

Rob Rever--Texas Tech University

Will Rever--Texas A & M University

Amanda Scoggins--Texas Tech University

Hayley Scoggins--University of North Texas

This semester will be the final distribution of scholarship money from this fund which was initially started with a gift from Angus G. Wynn Senior during the 1970s. Church members have contributed to this fund over the years and the first distributions from the fund were during the 1980s. Over the years there has been over \$60,000 dispersed to church members, relatives of church members, and friends of the church. The Session with the concurrence of the Scholarship Committee has decided that since the original intent of the gift to the church has been fulfilled that any remaining money in this fund will be moved to the church's general fund. The Scholarship Committee and the Session expresses thanks to the many church members who contributed to this fund in an effort to encourage higher education among young people.



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



Did You Know?

Did you know that the earth's ozone hole shriveled to the smallest size since 1988? According to an article by The Associated Press on 11-4-17, the ozone hole over Antarctica shrank to its smallest peak since 1988, NASA said on 11-2-17. Paul Newman, chief Earth scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center said this year's drop is mostly natural but is on top of a trend of smaller steady improvements likely from the banning of ozone-eating chemicals in a 1987 international treaty. Ozone is a colorless combination of three oxygen atoms. High in the atmosphere, about 7 to 25 miles above the Earth, ozone shields Earth from ultraviolet rays.

Ultraviolet rays have effects on amphibians at every stage of their life cycle and effects the survival rate of plankton which plays a role in converting atmospheric carbon dioxide into oxygen. In some species of plants UV radiation can alter the time of flowering, as well as the number of flowers produced by a plant. Ultraviolet rays can have impacts on humans as exposure poses an increased risk of developing several types of skin cancers, cause eye damage, and can include impairment of the immune system, and can cause difficulty in breathing, throat irritation, and hamper lung functioning.

Scientists at the United Nations a few years ago determined that without the 1987 treaty by 2030 there would have been an extra 2 million skin cancer cases. They said overall the ozone layer is beginning to recover because of the phase-out of chemicals used in refrigerants and aerosol cans.

We all can do our bit to save the ozone. Use/buy more recycled products, save energy, and most importantly, spread awareness. Our individual efforts can go a long way in saving the Earth's protective ozone blanket.

The C.E. Green Team



Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women met at 11:30 a.m. on Monday, January 22 in the Fellowship Hall for the monthly Brown Bag lunch and lesson. The group is using the *Horizons* study *Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes*. The lesson for this month was Lesson Eight—*Who is Jesus According to the Other Abrahamic Faiths*. In this lesson we learned that the three major monotheistic religions of the world—Judaism, Christianity, and Islam—all share the patriarch Abraham in their traditions. We learned about the different perspectives each of these religions has on Jesus. We are taking the time in this lesson to learn about others who may have more in common with us than we have recognized. In this ever-shrinking world of ours, we encounter many people whose faith traditions are not our own, so we have the opportunity to learn from one another. We live in a time when too many are too quick to judge others and to stereotype whole groups of people who differ from them. We can each play a part in creating gracious space for all and in advancing the common good.

If you are interested in learning more about the perspectives of these faiths on Jesus, we invite you to join us on the fourth Monday of February at 11:30 a.m. as we will continue the study of Lesson Eight that day to learn more.

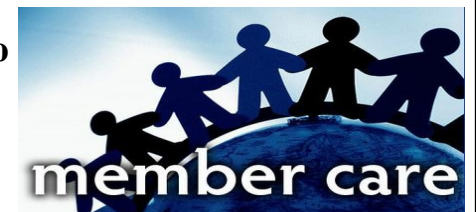
It's that time of year again to sign up to help with different committees, and we at Member Care would love to have as much help as we can get!

Member Care Goals are to:

- Provide home visitation and meal distribution as needed
- Administer home communion
- Make cards available to be signed for get well and special occasions
- Provide link to Prayer Companions
- Assist with food needs for the family and assist funeral staff with church services

If this sounds like something you would like to help with, please sign up for Member Care!

Thank you,
Mary Lowe/ Member Care Chair



OUTREACH

Our Outreach programs include (but are not limited to):

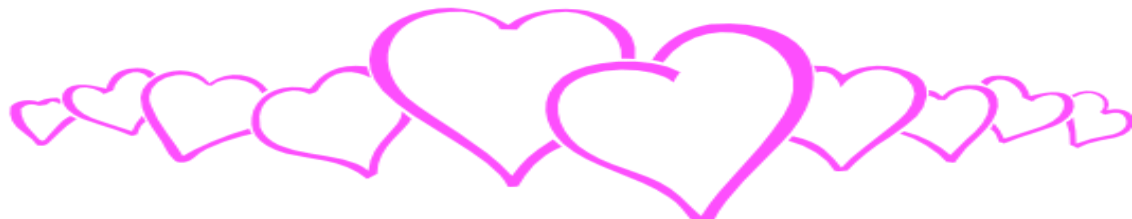
- Adopt-A-Block
- Improve-A-Block
- Annual Neighborhood Party
- Blue Ribbon Campaign in support of the Rusk/Panola County Children's Advocacy Center
- Meals on Wheels: Volunteering to carry meals once a week to clients in Chalice Apartments and to a few neighborhoods in town
- School Supply Train for Needy Children—helping purchase, organize and distribute school supplies in August of each year
- Henderson Interchurch Ministries (H.I.M.)—collecting non-perishable food items year-round

Yes, Outreach is ongoing—and rewarding. All willing hands and hearts are needed. No one can do everything, but each of us can do something to help those in need. In the process, each of us can expect joy. If you would like to become more involved, please sign the Outreach sign-up sheet in the Narthex or leave a phone message at the church for one of our 2018 Team members to call you. We will be in touch. We need you.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From Your 2018 Outreach Team Members:

Jan Mims, Kathy Porter, Jan Pennal, Bert Lowe, Outreach Team leader



Council Actions January 18, 2018

- **Worshiped and prayed together**
- **Reviewed the Scholarship Report**
- **Assigned Shepherd Groups**
- **Elected treasurer for 2018**
- **Elected clerk of session for 2018**
- **Designated duty elders for 2018**
- **Discussed church finances**
- **Discussed church safety**
- **Made home communion assignments**
- **Set communion dates**



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

Dorothy Maloney
Peggy Morgan
Zachery Reynolds

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

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

Connected Family: Billy Tapley (Bert's brother)

*For all the people who have been affected by hurricanes,
floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and mud slides*





February

2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
28	29	30	31	1	2 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	3 Travis Reynolds
4 <i>Communion</i> <i>Bring H.I.M. Donations</i>	5 <i>Home Communion</i>	6 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	7	8	9 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	10
11  TRANSGURATION of the Lord	12 Bill Stanley	13 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	14 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	15 <i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i>	16 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	17
18 	19 	20 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	21	22 Briar Hurst	23 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	24
25 	26 <i>P.W. Meeting 11:30am</i> <i>Pipeline Deadline</i>	27 <i>Choir Practice 5:00pm</i>	28	1	2	3