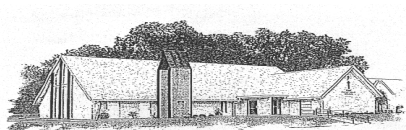




## Fellowship Committee Invites you to Annual Christmas Luncheon

As we look to the future and a new year before us, we also take a moment to reflect the year we've spent together. We hope that each of you will make plans to join us for our Annual Congregation Christmas Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. This potluck tradition will begin immediately following church service. The Fellowship Committee will be providing the entrée – roasted pork loin – and we look forward to you bringing your favorite potluck dish to share. In addition to sharing this warm and tasty time with each other, it is also the time when we collect the annual *Christmas Love Offering* for distribution to our wonderful church staff. The Finance Committee is collecting for this important extension of our gratitude for our valuable staff – Lisa, Marty and Joshua.



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

December, 2018

Issue Twelve

### *An Ordinary Night*

There is one word that describes the night He came—ordinary.

The sky was ordinary. An occasional gust stirred the leaves and chilled the air. The stars were diamonds sparkling on black velvet. Fleets of clouds floated in front of the moon.

It was a beautiful night—a night work peeking out your bedroom window to admire—but not an unusual one. No reason to expect a surprise. Nothing to keep a person awake. An ordinary night with an ordinary sky.

The sheep were ordinary. Some fat. Some scrawny. Some with barrel bellies. Some with twig legs. Common animals. No fleece made of gold. No history makers. No blue-ribbon winners. They were simply sheep—lumpy, sleeping silhouettes on a hillside.

And the shepherds. Peasants they were. Probably wearing all the clothes they owned. Smelling like sheep and looking just as woolly. They were conscientious, willing to spend the night with their flocks. But you won't find their staffs in a museum nor their writings in a library. No one asked their opinion on social justice or the application of the Torah. They were nameless and simple.

An ordinary night with ordinary sheep and ordinary shepherds. And were it not for a God who loves to hook an “extra” on the front of the ordinary, the night would have gone unnoticed. The sheep would have been forgotten, and the shepherds would have slept the night away.

But God dances amidst the common. And that night he did a waltz.

The black sky exploded with brightness. Trees that had been shadows jumped into clarity. Sheep that had been silent became a chorus of curiosity. One minute the shepherd was dead asleep, the next he was rubbing his eyes and staring into the face of an angel.

The night was ordinary no more.

*One Incredible Moment*, Max Lucado, 2006

**Wishing You All a Blessed Advent and Christmas Season**

Your Communications Team  
Kathy, Kelly, Claudia, Weldon



Please join us in welcoming to our pulpit for the month of December:

Dec. 2nd  
Preaching: Jimmy Chapman

Dec. 9th  
Preaching: Rev. Charlie Hornes`

Dec. 16th  
Preaching: Rev. Charlie Hornes`

Dec. 23rd  
Preaching: Lessons & Carols Service

Dec. 30th  
Preaching: Rev. Dr. Jimmie Reese

DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER:  
Lynn Tieken



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



*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*

Members of the Congregation: Carolyn Boren, Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Billie Manck, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Kay Warren, Sue Williams, and Session

Connected Family: Billy Tapley (Bert's brother)

*All who need our prayers*



## WORSHIP TEAM

### ADVENT

Advent is the first season of the liturgical year. It begins four Sundays before Christmas, the Sunday falling on or nearest to November 30, and ends on Christmas Eve, when the Christmas season begins. Christmas lasts for 12 days, ending on Epiphany of our Lord, January 6<sup>th</sup>.

In Advent, we are living between the first and the second coming of the Lord, placing us between memory and hope, past and future. We celebrate Christ's coming into the world, and look with hope for Christ's return. We anticipate the promised justice of God's new world, yet we praise God who raised the "righteous branch" to rule with justice and righteousness. We hope for the restoration of the afflicted, the tormented, and the grieving, yet we delight that healing has come in Christ.

Advent, meaning "coming" or "arrival", is the season we are now beginning. Let us consider both "advents" of Jesus. When Jesus comes again as a victorious King, he will usher in the Kingdom of God with all of its blessings. God's peace and justice will fill the earth. There will be no more sorrow or tears. People will turn implements of war into tools to produce food, and "nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). It's easy for those of us who live in safety, comfort, and prosperity to neglect a godly hope for the coming of the kingdom and all of its benefits. Yet, this hope can be inflamed within us when we reach out to share life with and care for people in need, for the hungry and homeless, for victims of injustice and oppression, for those who suffer from sickness or sadness. Advent can be a time to touch those in need, not only so that we might share God's love with them, but also so that our yearning for the kingdom might be renewed within us.

There is excitement in the air as we begin this season of Advent. Placing the Advent Wreath, the Chrismon Trees, the garland, the candles, Christmas bells with Christmas carols to sing, we prepare for the celebration of the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, with joy and hope. We definitely feel that God has been present with us this past year and has blessed us tremendously. We hope your Advent season and your Christmas season is merry and bright!

Our Lessons and Carols service will be held on Sunday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> at the 11 am service, and there will be a Candlelight Service with more lessons and carols at 5:30 pm on Christmas Eve. Please plan now to come and bring your families. Your Worship Team looks forward to your presence!





## Our Grace Extends Beyond our OUTREACH

We continue to be a congregation of grace sharers. Our participation in the outreach event of helping stock the HIM pantry with Thanksgiving dinner items helped them to offer more than the food to those struggling during this time – and they are thankful. And now, we turn our eyes to those Christmas projects that we as a congregation continue to support:



The HIM Christmas food baskets – there are sign-up sheets in the narthex that you can purchase a food basket (purchased and put together by HIM) for \$7.00 per basket. You can assign your purchase in honor of someone or in memory of someone. Please pay the total amount for your baskets with a check to FPC memo line for HIM food baskets. Please complete this offering by December 9<sup>th</sup>.



The Rusk State Hospital Angel Tree – the tree is in the narthex and the angels are ready for adoption from each of us. A prepared list of suggested and acceptable items for the gift bags are available. Please follow the instructions on the card you select from the tree. Remember not to wrap the items but place them in a large gift bag. Please have your completed bag to the church by Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

## Council Actions

November 15, 2018

- ♦ Worshiped and prayed together
- ♦ PNC reported that a call had been extended and accepted by new pastor
- ♦ Approved use of Fellowship Hall for a birthday party
- ♦ Heard report from Church Officer Nominating Committee
- ♦ Elected commissioners to Grace Presbytery meeting on December 1
- ♦ Heard financial report and made manual changes to Finances
- ♦ Made manual changes for Duty Elders, Mission, Christian Education, Outreach, Building and Grounds
- ♦ Heard report on Church Safety meeting held at church on November 4
- ♦ Set installation date for new ruling elders for January 13

## STEWARDSHIP FINANCE

Christmas is the time for giving and sharing with others. We will be collecting Christmas Love Offerings for our wonderful church staff as we have in the past. They do so much for us and we want them to know how much we appreciate them and all that they do.

We will be presenting their gift at the Christmas luncheon planned for December 9<sup>th</sup>. Please give your gift to Carol Scoggins, Steve Lowe, Bill Stanley or Tom Weaver or any session member.

Peace and thankfulness,  
Tom Weaver, Chair



*Wishing you all the gift of faith, the blessing  
of hope and the peace of love this holiday  
season and always,*

*Merry Christmas from the Personnel Committee & Staff,  
Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy Porter & Kelly Weaver  
Lisa Temple, Marty Baughman & Joshua Allen*

*We hope you and yours have  
a Merry Christmas and  
a Joyous and Safe New Year!*

*Your Stewardship Finance Committee,  
Carol, Bill, Steve and Tom*





My favorite Christmas memory as a child is when I was around 7 yrs. old. It was Christmas Eve and we still didn't have a Christmas tree. I was pretty sure Santa was not going to visit us that year. Finally that evening Dad brought home a blue flocked tree, it was not pretty, but we thought it was the greatest thing we ever saw. Honestly I think he got it because they were probably giving it away, but we didn't care.

The next day Santa brought me a bat, a glove and a softball. It was all I wanted, I was ecstatic! Even though we didn't have much, Mom and Dad taught us what Christmas was really about, and we knew we were loved by our parents as well as Christ, for he is the greatest gift of all.

All of us at Member Care want to wish each of you a Merry Christmas and let's all remember what the season is really about.

May God Bless you



### Yes, We Have Some Really Good News to Share

**WE HAVE A PASTOR** – beginning in January – January 6<sup>th</sup> to be exact! Our Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) of Kathy Porter, Kelly Weaver, Lsha Stanley, John Bruce Hillin and Jimmy Chapman shared during our

congregation meeting Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> that they had issued a call to Rev. Michele R. Goff and that she accepted. We will share more about and from Rev. Goff in the January issue of Pipeline. For now, please mark January 6<sup>th</sup> on your calendar and plan to come and be part of our welcoming group.

### *The Fellowship Committee shares with you a Recipe for Christmas Blessings Merry Mix*

**Bugles** – they bring the joyful message of peace on Earth good will to all;

**Pretzels** – symbol of mother's loving arms; as Mary wrapped her son in swaddling clothes and laid him in the manger;

**Red Hots** – red berries that decorate the holly plant – a reminder of eternal life and Christ's redemption;

**Nuts or seeds** – promise of a future harvest, one we will reap only if seeds are planted and tended with diligence;

**Dried Fruit** – remind us of the rich gifts brought by the Wise Men; and,

**M&Ms** – memories of those who came before us to guild us to a blessed future.

*Mix all the above together and enjoy with a side of.....*

**Hershey Kisses** – the love of family and friends that sweeten our lives;

**Candy Canes** – represent the shape of the shepherd's crook, used to bring lost lambs back to the flock.

*Merry Christmas from your Fellowship Committee,  
Claudia, Mary, Bob & Lavonne, Cindy, Katie, Judy, Jan M & Weldon*

**May you all have a very green and Merry Christmas!**



**The C.E. Green Team**





**Preparing caramel apples  
for the Neighborhood  
Fall Reception on Oct. 27**

**Neighbors enjoying caramel apples**



**A special birthday  
celebration on  
Oct. 28 for two very  
special people!**

**P  
E  
A  
C  
E**



**Christmas**

**NOEL**



**Attention All Andrews and Seekers Class  
Members and Visitors**

Elder Jimmy Chapman will lead an Advent Study for Adults beginning Sunday, December 2, in the Fellowship Hall at 9:45am. Each Sunday during Advent the combined Adult classes will study Shine! Light for All People by Patricia Farris. Curriculum will be provided.

Bert Lowe  
CE Chair

#### **FPC MISSION COMMITTEE – SHARE THE JOY**

Our final special offering for the year is the Christmas Joy Gift. This offering provides financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families (50%) and it provides opportunities for students of all backgrounds, racial and ethnic, to achieve their dreams through Presbyterian-related education (50%). Please consider what level you can support this special offering.



**CHRISTMAS JOY**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

#### **SPECIAL TIMES OF SERVICES**

- 12/23      Lessons & Carols Service      11:00am
- 12/24      Candlelight Service      5:30pm

# December

## 2018

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

\*\*\*\**Reminder*\*\*\*\*

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

						1
<i>Communion</i> <i>1st Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Welcome to our pulpit</i> <i>Jimmy Chapman</i>  <i>Bill Boren</i>			<i>Choir Practice</i> <i>6:00pm</i>			<i>Meals On Wheels</i>
<i>2nd Sunday of Advent</i> <i>Welcome to our pulpit</i> <i>Rev. Charlie Hornes`</i> <i>Christmas Luncheon</i> <i>HIM Gift Baskets Deadline</i> <i>Angel Tree Deadline</i>			<i>Choir Practice</i> <i>6:00pm</i>			
<i>3rd Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Welcome to our pulpit</i> <i>Rev. Charlie Hornes`</i>			<i>Choir Practice</i> <i>6:00pm</i>		<i>L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm</i> <i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i>	<i>Meals On Wheels</i>
<i>4th Sunday of Advent</i>  <i>Lessons &amp; Carols Service</i>  <i>Joy Gift Offering Ends</i>	<i>Christmas Eve</i> <i>Candlelight Service</i> <i>5:30pm</i> <i>Pipeline Deadline</i>		<i>Christmas Day</i>			<i>Meals On Wheels</i>
	<i>Church Office Closed</i>					
<i>Welcome to our pulpit</i> <i>Rev. Jimmie Reese</i>  <i>Doris Madkins</i>	<i>New Year's Eve</i>  <i>Church Office Closed</i>  <i>Carol Scoggins</i>					