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*“Serving God, Honoring Creation,  
Embracing Differences”*

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



# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Six

## Breaking Through

I recently traveled for continuing education to the ecumenical Festival of Homiletics preaching conference. The theme this year was “Moral Imagination.”

One enjoyable lecture was offered by Brian McLaren. We gathered in the beautiful sanctuary of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis, with its gorgeous wrap around balcony and elegant domed ceiling. Brian reminded us that one of the responsibilities of preaching is to help the listener break through the “domes” of popular thinking by using our imaginations. In this way, preaching can resemble science fiction.

Think about it: Jesus is always breaking down barriers. He gives unexpected answers, flips established thinking on its head, and turns up in unexpected places.

Without meaning to, we trap ourselves under real and figurative domes of contentment. Breaking through the dome of our expectations and shattering the restrictive force-field that inhibits our imaginations is what the inbreaking of the kin-dom of God is all about.

In the comedy/fantasy movie *The Truman Show*, the main character has spent his entire life inside a controlled, made for TV dome. Everybody he knows is an actor. Everything he does is aired on television; every product he uses is branded to be sold as commercial sponsorship. The difficulty of breaking through the dome of our perception and imagination is summed up poignantly by one of the characters, Upton Sinclair: it is “difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding.”

It is tempting to be satisfied with the way things are. As Christians who believe in the kin-dom of God and the promise of the resurrection, we have to summon the courage and imagination to look beyond our own success and strive for fairness and well-being for all humanity and creation.

Sometimes it takes a wakeup call in our lives to understand just how much God is present with us in this mission. In outer space, it’s that moment when artificial gravity is turned off however briefly and everything floats into surreal disarray only to be slammed back down a moment later when the ship’s systems are finished rebooting. Everything is rearranged, some things are broken, and the environment looks shockingly different even though it is remarkably the same.

It can take that sort of recalibration to jump start our imaginations and open our eyes and hearts to potential and possibility where we previously saw none.

From another perspective, “Moral Imagination” is the insight to look past the characters in the story of the Good Samaritan and get to the root of the problem: the ROAD.

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Have we ever considered the ROAD? Traci Blackmon believes the Good Samaritan and the Inn-keep are just the beginning of the Christian response. The Jericho road is a dangerous place. Consider the options: people who can afford it hire protection. Those who have the luxury of time find an alternate route. The road is the place where more will be robbed and wounded if things do not change. With courageous moral imagination, we ask: why is the road unsafe? Why are there people on the Jericho road who are so desperate that they are driven to haunt this road like bandits?

We investigate and create solutions for the root problems. Is there a lack of jobs? Is there a shortage of food or affordable housing? Is there education and opportunity? Unearth the oppression at the source and fix the broken systems that keep people down. Work to mend these systemic failures, and the road will become a safer place to travel for everyone.

We have gifts of creativity and imagination and we have a moral obligation to put these gifts to work for the glory of our Creator.

With joy, let us break through together.

*Rev Michele*

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;  
For the wide sky and the blessed sun,  
For the salt sea and the running water,  
For the everlasting hills  
And the never-resting winds,  
For trees and the common grass underfoot.  
We thank you for our senses  
By which we hear the songs of birds,  
And see the splendor of the summer fields,  
And taste of the autumn fruits,  
And rejoice in the feel of the snow,  
And smell the breath of the spring.  
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;  
And save our souls from being so blind  
That we pass unseeing  
When even the common thornbush  
Is aflame with your glory,  
O God our creator,  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

a prayer written by Walter Rauschenbusch



**Sunday, May 26th, we honored and thanked our servicemen and servicewomen who served their country.**





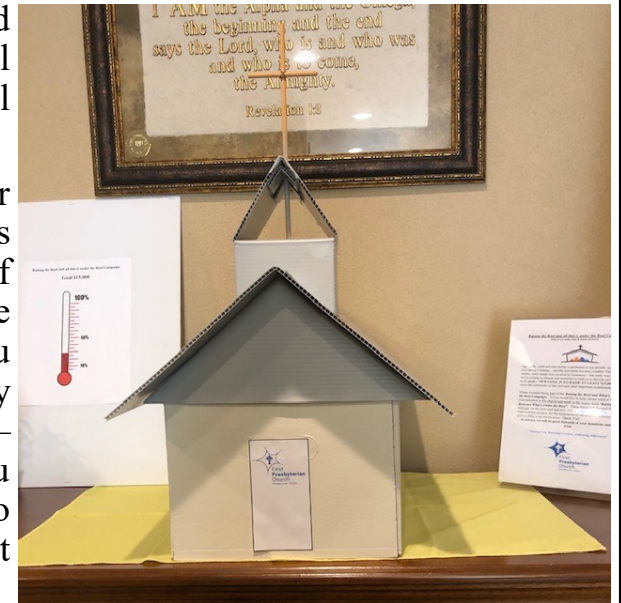


### **A Message from Building & Grounds – We're Raisin' for the Roof!**

The FPC Building & Grounds Committee is leading the Capital Campaign to help raise funds for the new roof. We need your help. As you know, our previous roof was over 20 years old – had storm damage and significant wear and tear that had occurred over the years. When the inspector came, you could see through the shingles! So that roof had done its duty. Through this process, we also learned that there was no insulation to speak of between the roof and the inside of the sanctuary – this contributed greatly to our high utility bills.

With storm damage and age, the entire roof had to be replaced. As we have shared, the insurance covered damages from the most recent storm only to the side of the roof facing Fair Park. The Session, as good stewards not only of the finances of the church but also good stewards of keeping the structural integrity of our church, approved a full roof replacement.

Our goal amount to raise to help pay for the new roof is \$15,000. And as this church always does, we know that if everyone gives some much can be done. We know that each of you already financially and spiritually support the workings of this church – and for that we are all grateful. If you would like, we invite you to also consider giving a little to this important capital campaign. Thank you.



### **Your Invitation to the "Whosoeverwill" Choir.**

Anyone who would like may sing with Joshua's accompaniment or with the choir for one Sunday with only one rehearsal needed. It is an open invitation to sing a favorite song and join in our musical ministry without long term commitment. And it's a great way to liven up our summer! Contact Joshua for details.



## COUNCIL ACTIONS

May 23, 2019

Kathy Porter, Clerk of Session

- ♦ Prayed and worshiped together
- ♦ Discussed finances and roof campaign
- ♦ Approved reinvestment of CD which matured
- ♦ Approved Christian Education observance of National Gun Violence Awareness on June 7<sup>th</sup>
- ♦ Discussed plans for VBS
- ♦ Approved webinar workshop on gender identity



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



We have received memorials in May in memory of:  
Sherry Whiteside

**DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE:  
Jan Mims**

### Liturgists for June:

06/02 Jimmy Chapman  
06/09 Jan Pennal  
06/16 Tim Wasson  
06/23 Katie Hurst  
06/30 Claudia Morgan-Gray

## WORSHIP

Your Worship Team consists of members dedicated to providing this congregation of believers a worship service each Sunday, and as needed, giving glory to God, and encouraging active participation of the whole body of Christ, with heart, mind, soul, and strength. We continue to plan services that are faithful to the Scriptures, offering consistent patterns and practices, and also allowing more spontaneous approaches, open to the creativity of the Holy Spirit. We meet monthly. Our present members include Jan Mims, Scott Hurst, Kathy Porter, Cindy Ratliff, Kelly Weaver, Jimmy Chapman, Margaret Hillin, Joshua Allen, Rev. Michele Goff, and Lynn Tieken, Chair. Next meeting, June 9, 2019

Special Emphasis this month is the season of Pentecost, which begins with Pentecost Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, fifty days after Easter. We are asking everyone to wear Red, signifying the “tongues of fire”, as the believers at Pentecost were filled with the Holy Spirit, allowing them to share Christ’s message. “They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:3-4) The choir, under direction of Joshua Allen, plans a special anthem. We hope you will be present.

Therefore, on the Day of Pentecost, we celebrate God’s gift of Holy Spirit which draws us together as one people, empowering us to proclaim, in word and in deed, God’s plan of reconciling all people in the name of Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

During the summer months, we hope to include more people in special music offerings, perhaps participating in a “Whosoeverwill Sunday” where one might meet with the choir prior to service to lend their voices for the service that day; or including their gifts of voice or instruments for a particular song or message. This would be an opportunity to serve without the weekly commitment of practice on a particular time, or regular practice. Tentative dates planned are June 16<sup>th</sup> and July 14<sup>th</sup>. Lynn will be contacting possible members, but please voice your willingness to her, Joshua, and/or Pastor Michele. Gospel Singing Sunday and/or Hymn Sing may also be planned. We welcome requests from the congregation.

We seek to fulfill our chief end: to glorify and enjoy God forever!



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the planet earth is in praise to God?

*"Praise the Lord from the earth, you great sea creatures and all ocean depths, lightning and hail, snow and clouds, stormy winds that do his bidding, you mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars, wild animals and all cattle, small creatures and flying birds, kings of the earth and all nations, you princes and all rulers on earth, young men and maidens, old men and children." - Psalm 148*

Make no mistake about it, the entire earth is a declaration of God's awesome power to create and sustain life with wondrous beauty and fathomless splendor. Every leaf on a tree, every crystal in a snowflake, every feather of a bird, every pebble on a mountain every leg on an ant and every whisper of the wind is a testament to the great care and "attention to detail" of the Creator. According to the Psalmist, humanity is not distinct from, but very much a part of the earth's natural symmetry. When we violate the planet through global warming, toxic contaminants and environmental neglect, we interrupt the planet's praise to God. And in so doing, we pollute our own praise to God as well.

### Prayer

Gracious God, Let our praise to you be reflected in our care for the planet, and let our love for you resound throughout this wondrous world. Amen.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kenneth L. Samuel is Pastor of Victory for the World Church, Stone Mountain, Georgia.

The C.E. Green Team



By the time the summer solstice occurs, it feels as if the season has been in full swing for weeks. It's bittersweet that just when summer officially starts, the length of daylight begins decreasing. Before we're ready to let go of the season, summer marches toward fall, and then winter with the year's shortest day.

Yet that is our Creator's plan: "You have fixed all the boundaries of the earth; you have made summer and winter" (Psalm 74:17, ESV). God fashioned the world to be beautiful, good and perfectly symmetrical. With concise order, he ordained seasons, rhythms, orbits and natural boundaries. As God's beloved children, we're blessed to enjoy the intricacies and patterns of this magnificent universe. —MaryAnn Sundby



**We'll Spot  
YOU at VBS!**

July 25, 26 and 27  
Thursday and Friday evening  
5:30-8:05  
Saturday morning 9-12  
First Presbyterian Church  
Henderson, Texas



**ROAR!**  
Life is wild \* God is good

## COMING SOON:

A small evening group book discussion

***"Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality"***

by Colby Martin

(See Kathy or Rev. Michele for more info)

*Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:*


**Members of the Congregation:** Debbie Castro, Joy Chapman, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Aaron Ramberg, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, and the family of Sherry Whiteside.

**Connected Family:** Billy Tapley (Bert's brother), the family of Dr. Brian Rumbo, and the Vantino family.

*All who need our prayers*

*Prayer*   
Request



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>***<b>Reminder</b>***</p> <p><i>Bring H.I.M. donations the First Sunday of every month</i></p>						<p>1</p> <p><i>Grace Presbytery Meeting in Ft. Worth</i></p> <p><i>Farmer's Market @ Fair Park Opening Day</i></p>
<p>2</p> <p><i>Communion</i></p>	<p>3</p> <p><i>Home Communion Visits</i></p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>Theology on Tap series in Longview 6:00pm</i></p> <p><i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p> <p><i>Christian Education Meeting 10:00am</i></p>	<p>7</p> <p><i>Gun Safety Awareness Day (Wear Orange)</i></p> <p><i>Meals On Wheels</i></p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9</p> <p><i>Day of Pentecost</i></p> <p><i>Worship Team Meeting following service</i></p>	<p>10</p> <p><i>Adopt-A-Block</i></p>	<p>11</p> <p><i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i></p> <p>Tim Wasson</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Cody Conway</p>	<p>14</p> <p><i>Meals On Wheels</i></p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16</p> <p><i>Trinity Sunday</i></p> <p><i>Happy Father's Day!</i></p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p> <p><i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i></p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p><i>L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm</i></p> <p><i>Session Meeting 6:30pm</i></p>	<p>21</p> <p><i>Meals On Wheels</i></p> <p></p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23</p>	<p>24</p> <p><i>Pipeline Deadline</i></p>	<p>25</p> <p><i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i></p> <p>Jan Mims</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p><i>Meals On Wheels</i></p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30</p> <p>Mariella Pennal</p>					