

Forty-six crosses were placed on the lawn at the First Presbyterian Church in commemoration of Gun Violence and Gun Safety Awareness month. The number 46 represents the number of gun violence deaths in 2018 in schools and churches; the color orange signifies safety and the value of human life.



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

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



THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 51

July, 2019

Issue Seven

The Power of The Story

As Christians we are people of story. The stories in the Hebrew Bible were passed down orally for generations before they were fixed onto parchment and scroll and eventually made into the books we know now. In the New Testament, some of the books began as letters from leaders to various groups of early Christians, often identified by geography. We know God through the Bible and God’s behavior through the stories captured in it. We are people of The Story.

When we share the story of our lives, God is part of our story, and we are the continuation of the story of God. To share God with others, we articulate our place in the world as ones who know the good news of Jesus Christ and the mercy and grace of our Creator. Our story connects us with God and with one another.

Sharing our stories with each other helps us build relationships of trust and community.

When we introduce ourselves and meet others for the first time, we share details about our life stories. We ask questions and offer information about where we grew up, where we went to school, and how we came to be here at this time in this place. We make connections between our stories and the stories of others. We readily relate to people whose stories are similar to ours because of culture, class, age or faith.

When we hear stories from outside of our familiar experience, our understanding of the world broadens. The more we learn from unfamiliar stories, the less we are likely to stereotype and be dismissive of another person’s perspective. Friendships that cross generational, cultural and economic boundaries expand our understanding of one another and our understanding of God.

Consider this example: A person pulls up in our parking lot for church one Sunday on a motorcycle so loud that it rattles the windows. He is dressed in well-worn black leather.

If the motorcycle and the clothing are the only details we know, then we might stereotype this person as all sorts of un-neighborly things. This is the danger of a single story.* But we have the ability to share our stories, if we take the courage and the time to ask.

Look closer: his leathers bear the colors for the Christian Motorcyclists Association and indicate that he is a veteran. He’s a grandpa six times over. He speaks a bit loudly, and we soon discover that he lost his hearing working with heavy artillery in the service. (The engine noise isn’t THAT loud to him!) He lost his wife a year ago and is just now getting settled after relocating to live closer to family. He’s looking for a church, and heard of our welcoming reputation.

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

We live and move in a world where we don't know lots of things. In an effort to process information efficiently, our brains sort and categorize. This becomes a problem when we fail to see more than one facet of another's story, or when we assume different stories are false or invalid. Our brain's shorthand for sorting is not necessarily useful for relating to others.

We have the power to turn stereotypes and misconceptions into friends and beloved children of God. That's one of the many gifts of being people of The Story.

Rev Michele

*For a different perspective, see Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TED Talk: *The Danger of a Single Story*, from TED Global 2009

Your Finance Committee (Carol Scoggins, Tom Weaver, Lynn Ticken and Kelly Weaver) is pleased to report that we are above our anticipated pledge/plate offerings. Our expenditures are over the budgeted amount due to the needed roof replacement. However, thanks to the generosity of our congregation, the "Raise the Roof" contributions have reduced this overage significantly. Proof, yet again, that our congregation is very dedicated to this church and are very generous in their giving. Many thanks to all of you that have given.

And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed.
2 Corinthians 9:8



Study Opportunity

An evening group book discussion
"UnClobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality"
by Colby Martin

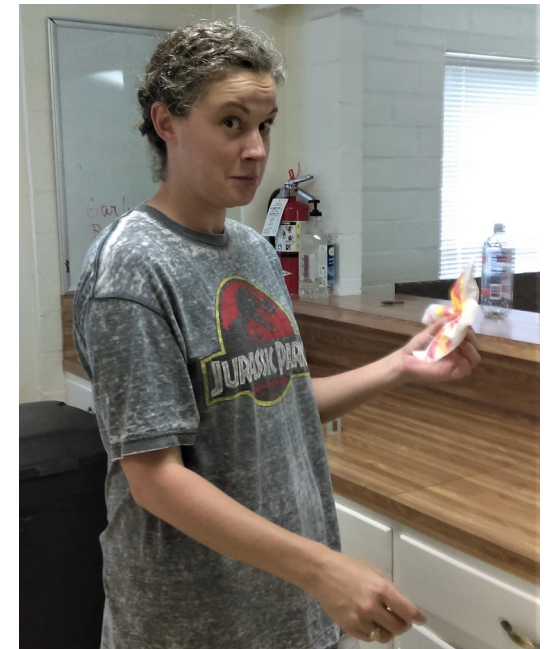
Part scripture study, part memoir, Colby walks through
Genesis 19, Leviticus 18 and 19, Romans 1,
1 Corinthians 6, and 1 Timothy 1
with an eye for God's all-inclusive grace.

Tuesday, July 30, 7:15 pm in the Parlor, following choir

If interested, please let Rev. Michele or Kathy know so a book can be ordered for you.



A great big shout out of thanks for all the volunteers who helped with construction of the VBS set ROAR !





Kathy with Robyn Michalove the associate pastor at First Ft. Worth & Rebecca Chancellor Sicks the associate pastor at First Dallas



Where do we begin to say how grateful and blessed this church is to have such a loving, dedicated and generous Congregation? In June, we launched the Capital Campaign to help raise funds primarily for the new roof. Our goal amount is to raise \$15,000. As the members of this church-family always do, we have already raised a little over \$11,000! How awesome is that. Your financial and spiritual support of the life of this church is aweing. We will continue the campaign through the month of July. We are grateful.

We are looking and will be installing a new ice machine in the kitchen in the near future. For those of you that have been hauling ice in for us for events – thank you. Once it is installed and functioning, we will have a little tutorial for the Building & Grounds, Worship and Fellowship Committee members!

Michael DeLeon is bringing his expertise and talents in heating and air conditioning and assisting with getting our air conditioning in improved operating shape. All that will also be helpful to our utility use.

As of July, we'll have a new lawn care company tending to our landscape. Please help us welcome Chilo Lawn Service.



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



COUNCIL ACTIONS

June 20, 2019

- Worshiped and prayed together
- Discussed finances and the Raising the Roof Fund
- Approved purchase of ice machine from capital campaign funds
- Approved request from Eddie Hodges for Monday Night Men's Prayer Group to meet at our church once a quarter
- Reviewed conditions of church air conditioners for summer
- Cancelled July Session meeting
- Set July 30 to begin evening book study of "Unclobbered"

Bless the Lord, O my soul
Lord my God you are great
You are clothed with the energy of atoms
As with a mantle
From a cloud of whirling cosmic dust
As on the potter's wheel
You began to tease out the whorls of the galaxies
And the gas escapes from your fingers condensing and burning
And you were fashioning the stars
You made a spatterdash of planets like spores or seed
And scattered comets like flowers....

a prayer written by Ernesto Cardenal



We have received memorials in June in memory of:

Aaron Ramberg

Mark Reeves



Henderson School System is providing "Summer Feeding" free for children and teens ages 0-18 years at Fair Park Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 11:15 – Noon, now through July 3rd. In addition, Summer Feeding is also happening at the Henderson Middle School (HMS) Cafeteria, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays from 7:15 am till 8:00 am for breakfast and 11:00 am – 12:30 for lunch – also available now through July 3rd.

Liturgists for July:

07/07 Kathy Porter

07/14 Lynn Tieken

07/21 John Tieken

07/28 Carol Scoggins

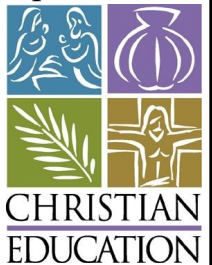
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES

On Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m. you are invited to study God's Word with the Andrews Class or the Seekers Class.

The Andrews Class is studying the Gospel of John and is led by Jimmy Chapman and John Hillin.

The Seekers Class is beginning the study of the Walter Brueggemann book "Sabbath as Resistance: Saying No to the Culture of Now." In this book Brueggemann interprets the Sabbath as God's imaginative alternative to a culture of consumption, anxiety, and violence. He pictures the practice of Sabbath as far more than day of rest or a list of moralistic laws and holds up Sabbath as an act of resistance that continually reorients us to God's life-giving presence and purpose. Our pastor, Rev. Michele, will lead the study.

Come study the Word with us at 9:45 am and hear the Word with us at 11:00 am.



**Knowledge is free at
the library. Just bring
your own container.**

Just a gentle reminder of the glorious treasure we have in our FPC-Library.

It is so much more than a room full of books – it is a room full of knowledge, history, adventure, past moments and future miracles. And, if you like having someone read to you -- we have the audio book of the Bible. In addition, each book that the Seekers Sunday School class read are included in our Library. So, we invite and encourage you to visit and experience the Library!



Fellowship Committee - Hospitality and Grace -- *For now and always, keep love in your heart, peace in your soul and joy in every action toward your fellow people.*

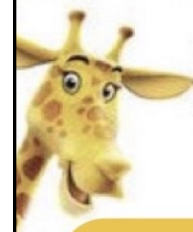
Oh July – the middle month of summer. We will be working with the CE Team on our church hosting VBS July 25-27th. While not an official or traditional Fellowship event, we invite all members to help in body or in spirit for this important event at our church.



We haven't officially selected a date (as we want to wait until our wonderful VBS is complete) for a Summertime Sensation that we'll host before the kids have to go back to school in August. There will be cold watermelon and perhaps some homemade ice cream and lots of warm hospitality! Look for additional details.

To help you make it through the bold days of summer, here is a refreshing recipe for Pineapple Lemonade: 1 cup Countrytime Lemonade Mix, 3 cups cold water, 1 can chilled pineapple juice, and 2 cans of cold Sprite. Enjoy

You are all always welcome at the Fellowship table --Claudia Morgan-Gray, Jan Mims, Lavonne Schauwecker; Katie Hurst, Judy Andrasko, Weldon Gray and Rev. Michele.



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



DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH OF JULY:
Kelly Weaver

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

Members of the Congregation: Judy Andrasko, Debbie Castro, Mary Chapman, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Jan Mims, Patsy Snelgrove, Sue Williams, and the family of Aaron Ramberg.

Connected Family: Billy Tapley (Bert's brother)

All who need our prayers



Reminder

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

July 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 <i>Theology on Tap series in Longview 6:00pm</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i>	3 <i>VBS Planning Meeting 6:00pm</i> Chase Davis	4 	5 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	6
7 <i>Communion</i>	8 <i>Home Communion Visits</i>	9 <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i> Jon Nicholson	10	11	12 <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	13
14	15	16 <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i>	17	18 <i>L.E.A.N. Meeting 2:00pm</i> John Ticken	19 <i>Meals On Wheels</i> Steve Lowe	20 Carolyn Boren
21	22 <i>Pipeline Deadline</i>	23 <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i> Jan Pennal	24	25 <i>VBS 5:30pm - 8:00pm</i> Linda Davis	26 <i>VBS 5:30pm - 8:00pm</i> <i>Meals On Wheels</i>	27 <i>VBS 9:00am - Noon</i> Jimmy Chapman
28	29	30 <i>UnClobber Book Club 7:15pm</i> <i>Choir Practice 6:00pm</i>	31			