



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

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



# THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - HENDERSON, TEXAS

Volume 52

January 2020

Issue One

*“... Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; <sup>12</sup> and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. 1 Kings 19:11b-12*

A couple weeks ago, we lost connectivity at the Goff house for about 24 hours. We could not use the internet. The Wi-Fi failed to make our smart phones smarter. Cable television was out. All of the electronic gadgets that distract our minds --consciously for work and reference or unconsciously with pings, chimes and noises begging for our attention – all of it came to a screeching halt. Unexpectedly, beautifully, we found ourselves enveloped in silence.

The silence drew into the foreground sounds that were usually drowned out. The creaking of the house, the tenor of Larry’s voice down the hall, Andi’s gentle snoring as she dreamt of chasing squirrels and the various hums of engines on the road each stood apart as its own unique thing. The silence contained so much space. Time seemed to slow down.

Days later, I was at the salon and the stylist told me how nice it was that the place had quieted down. Apparently the morning had been very busy, filled with antsy children and chatty clients. The companionable silence of our modest conversation brought some peace into the room.

Sometimes we have to be pushed, even shoved by the Spirit to appreciate what we take for granted. The verses from Kings describe a time when God came to Elijah not in the spectacular and noisy forces of wind, earthquake, and fire, but in the absolute sheer silence. Silence is one of those things we tend to ignore. We fill it up without thinking. We turn on the TV; we turn on the radio. We “need” white noise from traffic or a fan to help us fall asleep.

We forget that silence has its own place in our lives. But it can be a tool for relaxation, a safe space to just breathe, or a particular way of communing with God. When silence is a practice, our minds are open to new ideas. When we pause to hear the sound of our own thoughts, we open a path for greater connection with the Holy One. Simply listening to our breath can be a profound way to be united with the Breath of Life.

It takes discipline to be at ease in silence and to quiet the busy mind that wants to be constantly distracted and doing. Pursuing a practice of Lectio Divina, breath prayers, mindfulness or meditation can enrich your life.

As you make your New Year’s resolutions, consider adopting a practice of silence. You may find it connects you to God, yourself, and the world in ways you never imagined.

“The quieter you become, the more you are able to hear.” – Rumi

May a peaceful 2020 be yours,

*Rev Michele*

## Welcome New Staff Member Stefen Kane

The Personnel Committee is happy to announce that our search for our new Administrative Assistant came to a wonderful conclusion with the hiring of Stefen Kane.

Many of you know Stefen from his participation with our choir. In addition to his extensive musical talents, Stefen also has significant computer skills and other important office management qualities and background. He also brings a significant amount of experience in church operations as he filled in as Interim Secretary for his home church in the Dallas area for a period of time.

Stefen studied vocal and instrumental music at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana. He is also fluent in English, Spanish and American Sign Language.

The Session accepted the Personnel Committee's report during the December Session meeting. Please join us in welcoming Stefen to the FPC team.



## The Personnel Committee and Staff look forward to the magic of the New Year.



*Claudia, Kathy & Kelly  
Rev. Michele, Stefen, Joshua & Ashley*

## Holiday Concert on December 8, 2019 was a hit!

Artists Joshua Allen, Laurie Cosby and Stefen Kane were delighted to sing solos & trios of familiar Christmas tunes and also have a sing-along-with the audience.



FPC Chancel Choir performs at the Holiday Concert.

Much joy in worship, fellowship, and food at the Annual Christmas Luncheon.



## ~A Note from the Staff~

We are so grateful to provide our services and be part of such a wonderful church family. The appreciation you show us through your words, actions, and gifts are not taken for granted. We sincerely thank you!

Your devoted staff,

*Rev Michele, Joshua, Stefen and Ashley*

*Thank  
You*

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

### Liturgists for January:

Jan 5: Jimmy Chapman  
Jan 12: Carol Scoggins  
Jan 19: Jan Pennal  
Jan 26: Steve Lowe

## Communications Team

During 2020,

May the LORD  
*bless you & keep you;*  
the LORD make his face  
to shine upon you and  
*be gracious to you;*  
the LORD lift up his  
countenance upon you  
*and give you peace.*

Numbers 6:24-26

*Kathy, Kelly, Claudia & Weldon*

*Happy New Year!*



**Memorials received in  
December were in  
memory of:**

- ♦ *Jack Gray*
- ♦ *Dora Lee Rogers*

## From the Finance & Stewardship Committee



*Kelly, Tom, Lynn, & Carol*

## From the Buildings & Grounds Committee



*Steve, Claudia, Weldon, Scott, Michael, John, & Bill*

## The Fellowship Committee wishes you



*Claudia, Jan M, Katie, Judy, Kathy & Weldon*



# Worship Committee

Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord with Holy Communion. In Christian tradition, Epiphany marks a manifestation, or an appearance of God to us, the rest of the world, and it signified that all would be welcomed and included in Christ. As the magi, the wise men, or the three kings sought and found the baby Jesus, the world was enlightened to the saving grace of God; hence, the “Light of the world”. A careful reading of the Gospels reveals that this visitation occurred as late as two years after Jesus’ birth.

Does the time matter? I think not, as individuals realize the significance of God’s gift to us in various times of our lives. One doesn’t usually find an epiphany; an epiphany usually comes and finds you, often when we’re not expecting it. Being in community, sharing our very lives with each other, is one way an epiphany just might find you this year.

Look and listen for God, study how God works and has worked in the past.

Another way is to do something different. Allow yourself to experience some cognitive dissonance, some discomfort, some change. Allow yourself to hear the voices of those with whom you disagree, the voices of those not in your immediate friend circle, or of a different theological or political leaning, and have a conversation. Try something different or do something you already do differently. Maybe an epiphany will come find you.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration will take place at Mother Zion Baptist Church on Saturday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 pm. Rev. Michele, Joshua Allen and the choir will participate and Bert Lowe will perform a solo. We hope you will join with us and members of the community to celebrate the life of the man who became the most visible spokesperson and leader in the Civil Rights Movement, and will always be remembered for his fight against injustice. His quote “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

## *Happy New Year!!*

# Did You Know?

Did You Know that you could make a few simple New Year’s Resolutions that could have a huge impact on the earth? Here are 10 easy “green” New Year’s resolutions suggested by HGTV:

1. Ditch the plastic. Carry a reusable bag with you for groceries, shopping, and take-out food.
2. Tuck in your computer at night. Turn off your screen saver and cut even more energy your computer uses by putting it in sleep mode when not in use.
3. Clean with green. Clean your home with non-toxic and natural cleaning products. Just about anything can be cleaned with white vinegar, baking soda, and a few drops of lemon.
4. Be good to your vehicle and it will be good to you. Inflate your tires once a month or as necessary. Replace the air filter and tune up your engine regularly. A new air filter can get you 10 percent more miles per gallon, and a tune-up can boost miles per gallon from 4 to 40 percent.
5. Think globally, buy locally. Buy locally grown food that’s in season. Food that hasn’t traveled thousands of miles to your plate is fresher and tastier. Buying local food drastically cuts down on global-warming pollution.
6. Coffee – it’s not just for drinking. The next time you brew a pot of coffee at home, don’t toss the used coffee grounds; scatter them around your evergreen shrubs and trees – it’s an energizing fertilizer for them.
7. Start composting today. A compost pile or composter turns your food and lawn wastes into rich mulch. It’s a great way to reduce your trash production, and if you start today, you’ll have rich compost in time for spring planting.
8. Don’t be a drip. Fix leaky faucets. A faucet that drips once each second can waste over 8 gallons of water per day and more than 3,000 gallons per year.
9. Turn dollars into sense. Save on energy consumption and your electric bill by turning down your thermostat and throwing on your favorite fuzzy pajamas.
10. Ease up on the pedal. Slowing down from 75 to 65 miles per hour will drop your highway gas consumption by about 15 percent.

## *Happy New Year!*

**C E Green Team**



The **Outreach Committee** thanks you  
for all the helping hands of our  
congregation.

We wish you a wise and wonderful New  
Year!

*Bert, Claudia, Jan P., John T., Kathy,  
Lynn, Mariella & Katie*

## Meals On Wheels

We are looking for a few dedicated individuals to join with our group that delivers Meals On Wheels each Friday morning around 10 am. It usually takes about one and a half hours and the route is pretty much in Henderson. We like to go two at a time. The rotation at present includes Claudia Morgan-Gray, Kathy Porter, Jan Mims, Tim Wasson, and Lynn Tieken. Please let Lynn know if you would like to join us and serve one Friday a month.



## The Worship Team at Work

*Lynn & Kathy*

## Council Actions December 19, 2019

- ◆ Worshiped and prayed together
- ◆ Adopted the 2020 Budget
- ◆ Examined and approved the new Ruling Elder
- ◆ Approved the hiring of Administrative Assistant
- ◆ Reviewed assignments for January 25 retreat
- ◆ Approved new signatories for bank account
- ◆ Noted the date for MLK Celebration at Mother Zion Church

## Member Care Team

Your Member Care Ministry Team is focusing its efforts on caring for members and keeping them involved in the life of the church. As this New Year (2020) begins, we hope many will join in our ministry. Caring for one another is an integral part of knowing, loving and obeying God. Christians belong to one another in Christ, and this fellowship comes with certain privileges and responsibilities. The Bible reminds us that, "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together" (1 Cor. 12:26). Caring for others in a Christ-like way comes from a living faith, but there are specific things we can do to be more effective in our desire to help others: Keep in touch when someone misses a church service. Call and let them know they are missed. Encourage their attendance if possible. Send cards and prayerful wishes often. If they need something (grocery shopping or a ride to a doctor's appointment) let them know we can help. John Tieken is available to help with transportation. I'm sure there are others who would be willing and able to provide this service, so please let the pastor, the church office, or Jan Mims know. Personal visits are always nice and let our home-bound members know what is going on at church.

We step out in faith every time we visit a person in need or reach out to others in Christian love. We don't know what we'll find, but God has gone before us. So "let us not grow weary of doing good" (Gal. 6:9); instead "let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works" (Heb. 10:24)

Please consider joining with us on the Member Care Team this year.

*Happy New Year!!*

# January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3 Meals on Wheels	4
5 <i>Debbie Castro</i>	6	7 6 PM - Choir	8	9	10 Meals on Wheels	11
12	13 <i>Kay Warren</i>	14 6 PM - Choir	15	16	17 Meals on Wheels	18 MLK Celebration at Mother Zion 7PM
19 <i>Kathy Porter</i>	20	21 6 PM - Choir	22	23	24 Meals on Wheels	25 Session Retreat 9 to 5 pm
26 <i>River Evers</i>	27 <i>Juan Castro</i> Pipeline Deadline	28 <i>Katie Hurst</i> 6 PM - Choir	29	30	31 Meals on Wheels	