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



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THE PRESBYTERIAN PIPELINE

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Issue Three

Small (and Mighty!)

Small /smôl/

¹⁾ of a size that is less than normal or usual; ²⁾ insignificant, unimportant

Large /lärj/

¹⁾ of considerable or relatively great size, extent or capacity; ²⁾ of wide range or scope

What makes a church large? What makes a church small?

Is it the number of members? The amount of money in the annual budget? Is it the size of the building or the height of the steeple and how far away the bells can be heard on Sunday morning? Is bigger always better?

I'll admit, when I hear our church referred to as "small", my feathers get a little ruffled. As we can plainly see from the definitions, neither small nor large is NOT synonymous with significant, influential, or even Christ-centered.

I was looking at the numbers for the Synod of the Sun, and the average church size in our synod is 144 members. That means that "small" churches far outnumber "large" churches. We fit right in!

When it comes to building community and relationship, churches our size are wonderful. Sure, it is easy to think "if we only had more members..." but we fall into a small church trap and forget what makes us special when we allow ourselves this kind of thinking.

Our church has even cultivated some of the best qualities that a "small" church has to offer.

In a church like First Henderson, we build sincere relationships and support one another like a family. Because we know one another by name, we know about one another's lives. We notice when someone is missing in worship. We notice when someone isn't feeling their best. And we have built friendships that allow us to lean on one another when there is news to share, whether it is prayers of thanksgiving and joy or requests for courage and support.

We participate together, across the generations in our mission projects. Sure, we

may not have the helping hands to be involved in every area of our community that we would like to serve, but we are focused and generous in the missions we pursue. We are agile and have the ability to adapt to the needs of neighbors. Our determination, intensity and dedication make us strong allies. We know this to be true; we are known in Henderson for being “up to something.” Our reputation extends beyond our city limits or even our county limits. At Grace Presbytery we are known for being vibrant and hardy. Our reputation for being welcoming, generous, and mission-driven helps us stand out. We move in large circles, no matter how many members we are.

So the next time we want to compare how we measure up, I hope we will consider some new metrics. Perhaps we should count the ways our building is useful to our community, for LEAN, Men’s Prayer Group, Heritage Theatre rehearsals, and foster parent training. We could begin by counting how many lives we touch every single week with home visits and phone calls. We would need to include those who are fed by our volunteers who work with Meals on Wheels. We should remember our geographical neighbors we connect with through Adopt A Block, who welcome our friendly smiles at their doors when we stop by with tokens of goodwill and inquire about their well-being. Our music ministry has connected us with new friends and there are many other ways we touch lives in the community with the light and love of Christ!

If we must call ourselves a “small” church in the future, I hope we will say: *small and mighty!*

Rev Michele

*In Recognition
of
St. Patrick’s
Day*

❁ Irish Blessing ❁

May the road rise to meet you.
May the wind always be at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
And rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again,
May God hold you in the palm of His hand.



An Invitation Especially for You



FROM CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Andrews and Seekers Sunday School classes invite you to attend a combined Lenten Study in the parlor at 9:45 a.m. during the Sundays of Lent. Beginning the first Sunday of Lent, March 1st, Rev. Michele and Jimmy will lead the study of *Forgiveness* by Marjorie J. Thompson. Forgiving others and humbly asking for forgiveness are central disciplines for all Christian believers.

Lent, a time to reflect on our Christian journey, is an appropriate time to deepen our understanding and practice of forgiveness. *Forgiveness* is the perfect resource for examining both our ability to forgive and our own need for forgiveness.

Books are available in the narthex. Hope to see you at 9:45 on Sunday morning, March 1st through April 5th. We are saving a place for you!

Member Care

Your Member Care Team has been able to reach and serve several in our congregation this month through home communion visits, meals, cards, transportation and phone calls. Jan Mims champions this team. We are in search of new members and hope that you are available to answer our call. Contacts with our church members are blessings indeed. We will meet on Sunday, March 15th following worship to welcome new members and renew our desires to continue our member care.



Prayer Companions have noted many answered prayers through this group and the congregation’s prayers on Sundays. So thank you all. One of the greatest gifts we can give to one another is to pray for each other. Our Prayer Companions’ sub-committee commits to confidentiality when we are contacted with a confidential prayer request and only share with others what we’ve been asked to share. All who believe in the power of prayer are invited to join with this group. At present, please contact Lynn Tieken, Kathy Porter or Rev. Michele Goff with any prayer requests.

The body of Christ, the church, builds itself up, matures on direction from the head, Christ; each helping one another in the growing process, each doing their part in the ministry of God. Ephesians 4.

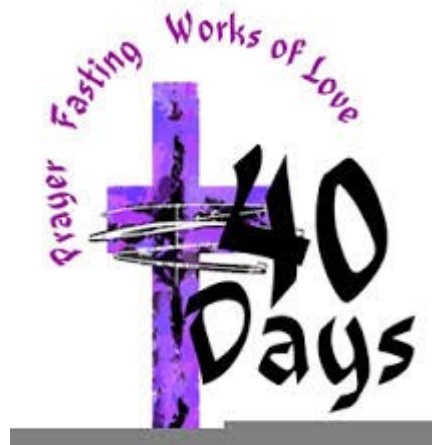
Worship Committee

We prepare for Lent and Easter

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday as a day of mourning for our sin and the sin of all humanity before God, a recognition of our mortality save for the grace of God and a request that the Lord remember our creation and breathe new life into our burned-out, dusty lives once more.

The first Sunday of Lent is March 1, when we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. On March 8, Rev. Michele Goff will be out for continuing education and our guest preacher will be Dr. Sharon Templeman from Nacogdoches, Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Throughout the Lenten season, we will reflect on our lives and how we live out our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Through meaningful practices, we will seek to remember what Jesus did for us because of the love he has for us.



MUSIC NOTES

Why We Tell the Story

Telling the story of Jesus through the music of **BROADWAY**

When the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, he admonished them that worship should include everyone, honor the gifts of the people, and point the way with love. He told them "If you speak to people in words they don't understand, how will they know what you are saying? You might as well be talking into empty space. There are many different languages in the world, and every language has meaning (1 Cor. 14:9-10 NLT)." Paul exhorts us to share the Gospel in languages that include the stranger and strengthen the community.

Beginning with Ash Wednesday, and continuing until Easter, the music department will sing selections from Broadway musicals that tell the story of Jesus in a broad musical language. As we include repertoire from *The Secret Garden*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Hair*, *The Color Purple*, and many other musicals, we rehearse the Reign of God that is already at work in the world around us. As we hear the familiar story of repentance, forgiveness, love, sacrifice, hope, wholeness, and new life, we learn how to hear and share the story of God beyond the worship service. We are reminded that THIS is "Why We Tell the Story"—because we want to awaken to the story that God is already writing in the world, and in hearts all around us!

SAVE THE DATES!



Next month, April, will be a bustle of activity so we wanted to get you to SAVE some of these important dates on your calendar for events out of the realm of our normal services.

We will mark together services for Maundy Thursday (April 9) and Good Friday (April 10) at our church. Easter Sunday morning (April 12), we will share a Sunrise Service together followed by an Easter Sunday Breakfast prior to our 11:00 Easter Service.

Please also mark your calendars to come and join the CE Green Team for a short yet significant Earth Day Service on Earth Day, April 22nd. As a certified and practicing "green" congregation, we are honored to continue our participation in honoring and working to preserve God's creation, our Earth.

Liturgists for March:

Mar 1: Kathy Porter
Mar 8: John Tieken
Mar 15: Lynn Tieken
Mar 22: Claudia Morgan-Gray

DUTY ELDER FOR THE MONTH
OF MARCH:
Claudia Morgan-Gray

*Honorary gifts received in
February
were...*

In Honor of

◇ Mariella Pennal

Please keep these dear ones in your prayers:

- ◇ For our home bound members:
Sue, Debbie, Joyce, and Kay.
- ◇ For Delbert G. as he transitions into
assisted living in Longview.
- ◇ For our friend Anita B.
- ◇ For those who are ill and at risk for
the Flu and Coronavirus

Prayer 
Request

The 2020 Outreach Committee has not had a chance to officially meet together just yet; however, we have some items we'd like to tee up for folks.



The first of the four special offerings that we traditionally participate in through Grace Presbytery began in late February. **One Great Hour of Sharing** runs from February 26

through April 12, 2020. Donation gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing supports efforts to relieve hunger through Presbyterian Hunger Program, promote development through the Presbyterian Committee of the Self-Development of People, and assist in the areas of disaster through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA). In recognition of our participation and support of PDA and for all the work they do, please also plan to join us in **WEARING BLUE** as part of the **2020 Blue Out** event on the first Sunday of Lent (March 1st). Be part of the visible message of our commitment to helping people in all ways. .

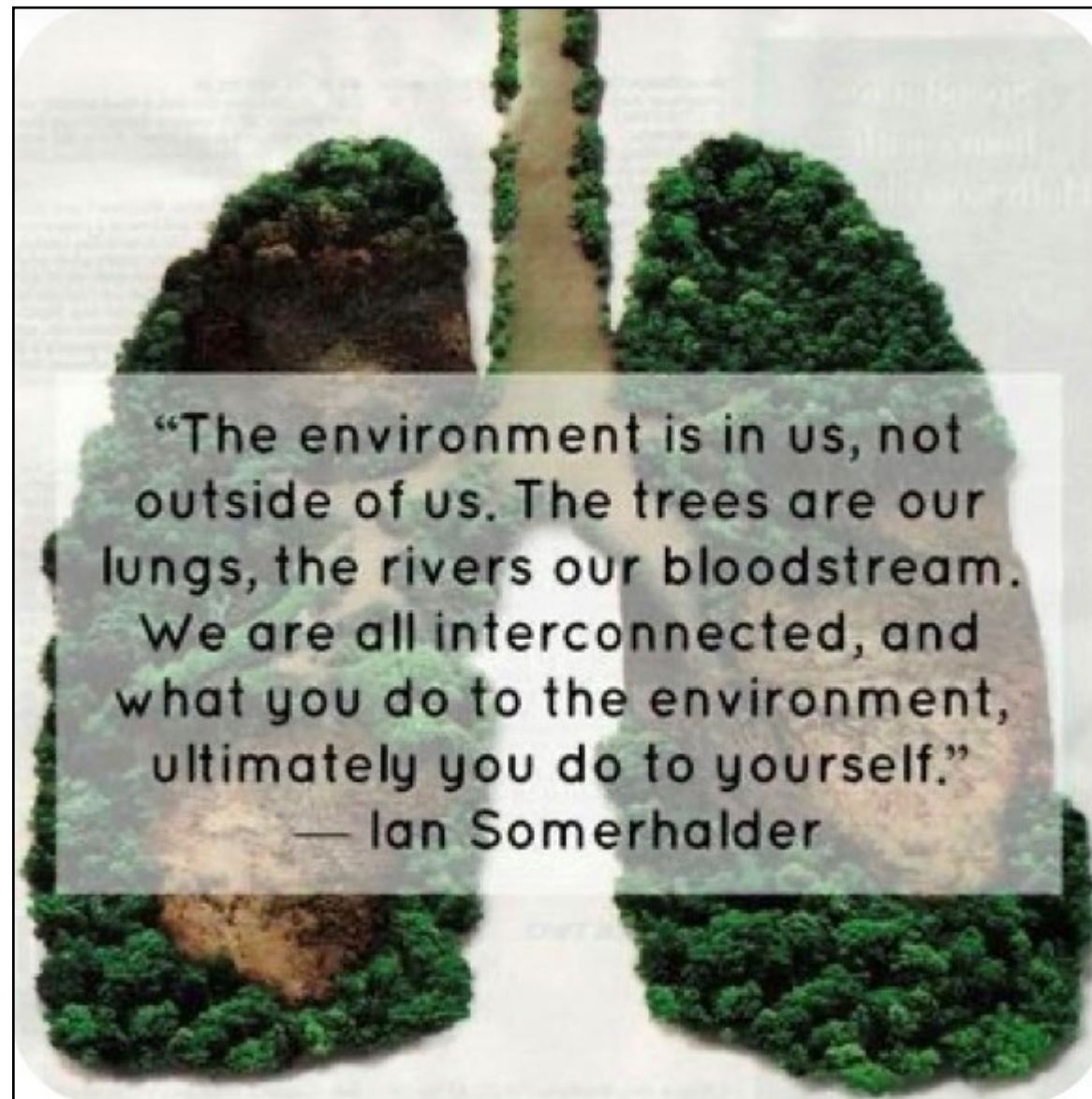
Through our Outreach Committee, we also provide regular financial assistance to other organizations including Grace Presbytery, Presbyterian Children's Home and Camp Gilmont. In addition, we also bring assistance to several more local assistance platforms like Henderson Interchurch Ministry (HIM), Rusk County Children's Advocacy, and Meals on Wheels. We also continue to be good neighbors in our neighborhood with our continuation of Adopt A Block and in our community with our efforts and support of the School Supply Train.

We will be putting the finishing touches on our Outreach Programs for 2020 in anticipation of sharing our goals with each of you very soon. We remain grateful for the support and prayers of our congregation.

Peace & Grace,

*Claudia, Katie, Bert, Jan P., Jan M., Jimmy, John, Kathy, Lynn,
Scott & Rev. Michele*

Did You Know?



The CE Green Team



Our own Music Director,
Joshua, entertained the
Henderson Women's
Forum by playing and
singing love songs for
Valentine's Day!



Vilmarie Cintron-Oliveri,
Ruling Elder and
Co-Moderator of the
General Assembly of the
PC(USA) was presented a
Texas hat at the Grace
Presbytery meeting
February 22.

Council Actions February 21, 2019

- ◆ Worshiped and prayed together
- ◆ Shared pastoral concerns
- ◆ Elected treasurer
- ◆ Elected two session members for the CONC
- ◆ Assigned Shepherd Groups
- ◆ Began reviewing and updating of the Administration Manual

High-Ho, High-Ho off to work we go! The FPC-Henderson Building and Grounds group are making a list and checking it off – one task at a time.

If you've had opportunity to be at or near the church in the evening, you may have noticed the wonderful new motion detection lighting on the outside doors near the Pastor's office and near the Fellowship Hall. Our tallest blessing, John Tieken, installed those for all of us. Not only does this practical and needed addition help with safety issues it also is a wonderful visual enhancement to the church.

Already on our developing and living "TO DO" is repainting the steps leading to the entries of the church. We are hoping to also do some needed pampering of the railings. As Spring is just around the corner, we are sure to be looking at some "spring cleaning" duties as well. As always, if you have an item you'd like to see the B&G Committee consider, please bring it to our attention.

Also please note that James Nicholson and the new theatre group, East Texas Heritage Theatre, will be using our Fellowship Hall every Thursday evening beginning in March. This new theatre group will be performing at the new outdoor theatre space at Lake Forest Park beginning in the Spring. When we know about those performance opportunities, we will be sure to share with all of you.

Through the helping hands,

Building & Grounds Committee





20

March

20



| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|-----------|--|---|--|
| 1 1st Sunday in Lent Communion | 2 | 3 Theology on Tap 6 PM Choir 6 PM | 4 | 5 | 6 Meals on Wheels | 7 |
| 8 <i>Daylight Saving Time Begins</i> Dr. Sharon Templeman, Guest Pastor | 9  <i>Jake Mims</i> | 10 Choir 6 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 Meals on Wheels | 14 |
| 15 Prayer Companions Meeting | 16 | 17 Choir 6 PM <i>St. Patrick's Day</i>  | 18 | 19  | 20 Meals on Wheels  <i>John Bruce Hillin</i> | 21 |
| 22 | 23 Pipeline Deadline  <i>Robbie Brooks</i> | 24 Choir 6 PM | 25 | 26 | 27 Meals on Wheels | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Choir 6 PM | 1 | 2 | 3 Meals on Wheels | 4 Reminder: Please bring your H.I.M. contributions. |