

*OUR MISSION STATEMENT IS TO SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST,
TO EMPOWER PEOPLE TO SERVE, AND TO GLORIFY GOD.*

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

August 2018



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Your 2018 Nominating Committee, chaired by Dan Boyles, is beginning its work preparing to place in nomination names for Deacons and Elders for the Class of 1921 and any vacancies in the other classes. We ask that each of you pray about this work and be prepared to suggest persons and also to consider accepting an invitation to serve. This congregation is beginning a new chapter in its life and witness, and it needs persons who can bring a passion about this congregation and deep concern for its future. God has given this congregation the gifts it needs; what remains is for persons to pray and listen for God's call to do this work. Thank you in advance for helping with this important challenge.

NEXT STEPS FOR THIS CONGREGATION

Many of you may be wondering what is going on with this church in this interim period between ministers. We have been invited to come and lead worship and preach, visit members, and assist the congregation in answering the questions about the first phase of "next steps."

In the time we are with you (until end of October), we will help you assess your current realities. We will meet first with the Session and the Deacons and then with you, members and friends of this congregation. We are developing a process in which you will work in small groups to help us gather information about this congregation. We REALLY NEED as many of you as possible to come and participate so we can hear from as many people as possible in order to get accurate information. This means YOU, each of you and all of you!

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SAVE THE DATE:

“Here and Now” Sunday, September 9, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall
Participants will need to pre-register for this event. Information about this will come later.

Our observations about this congregation thus far: 1. You are a good congregation with lots of gifts. 2. There is work to be done and **YOU CAN DO IT! YOU CAN DO IT!** 3. Not all the work to be done will be easy, but it will be important and, we pray with God’s help, that it will be healing.

We leave you with a Scripture and an old adage to help us all do the work needed: Ephesians 4: 15 “But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ...” Adage: “Before I speak, let me ask myself, Is it kind? Is it necessary? Is it true? And if not yes to all three, then let it go unsaid.”

With these things in mind, let us all move forward with God’s help.

Love and Peace,

David and Judy

DID YOU KNOW?

That Ron Cantu, church custodian, takes aluminum cans to recycle and then uses the money to help replace the drinks in the refrigerator?

That the Youth Sunday School Class is preparing the elements for Communion each month?

That rude David Fletcher has been known to write his name in dust on the tops of peoples’ refrigerators? You stand warned!

That Kathy Boyles is a Master Gardener?

FINANCIAL REALITIES

While we still need more financial support, those of you who pledge are to be commended for your faithful and generous giving. Based on pledges, we are only behind about \$10,000 for the year. Given that it is summer, this is good news. Again, thank you for your commitment and dedication.

DIACONATE MISSIONS

We are rapidly approaching the time to start collecting items and/or money for the Thanksgiving Baskets of food. This year we are going back to a basic holiday dinner basket with a few staples included as well. After discussion, the Diaconate decided we will be doing boxes for people who have moved into housing through the Doorways Home Project, and who are recommended by the housing coordinator at Mission Texarkana (Formerly Friendship Center). As you know, we have also helped these folks with our Welcome Home Kits. We will still be doing them for Angel Fund Foundation people who will be recommended by Beth Morgan. As soon as possible, we will get a list of food items we will be collecting for each basket. At that time, we will also know better the approximate cost of each basket if you wish to sponsor one. We will have a team of volunteers to do the buying with any funds donated, if you are not able to shop yourself. Further information on food collections will be provided in the near future.



Another mission project which has sprung out of our Solid Foundations Tutoring program is to provide additional school supplies which are usually requested by teachers in the late fall. We wanted to get the word out now since the tax-free weekends for school items are this next weekend for Arkansas, and the following weekend for Texas. Between now and then, we will have lists available in the vestibule of the Education Building of school supplies, if you want to purchase items yourself. Otherwise, you can donate funds toward a "Backpack" of supplies. If excess supplies/funds are given, we are planning to help the special needs students that are in Ethan Jackson's class as well.

Any monetary donations should be turned into the church office clearly marked as to which project you are supporting. As funds are received, we will keep the congregation posted if we reach our goals for both projects. Questions can be directed to Stephanie Jackson at 903-559-3547 or 870-773-9178, or to Betty Anthony at 903-277-3369.

We are excited about the changes this year which will allow us to build relationships with the people that your kindness and generosity reach. We appreciate your prayers and help with all the Diaconate missions!

AUGUST CALENDAR

WEEKLY EVENTS

SUNDAY

- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 10:30 a.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 11:00 a.m. Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 6:30 p.m. Adult Discipleship Class

MONDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting
- 6:00 p.m. Boy Scouts - Annex

WEDNESDAY

- 10:00 a.m. Card Ministry
- 6:00 p.m. Family Night Supper
- 6:30 p.m. Bible Study-Godly Play for All Ages
- 6:30 p.m. Godly Play - Evergreen Residents
- 6:30 p.m. Youth Group
- 7:00 p.m. Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY

- 9:00 a.m. Angel Quilts

SPECIAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, August 2

- 5:00 p.m. Stewardship Meeting - Library

SUNDAY, August 5

- 10:30 a.m. Around the Coffee Pot
- 6:00 p.m. Dinner for Randy Sams'
- 6:00 p.m. Sunday Evening Simple Worship

TUESDAY, August 7

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

WEDNESDAY, August 8

- 5:00 p.m. Diaconate Meeting

SUNDAY, August 12

- 3:00 p.m. Worship Committee Meeting - Library

MONDAY, August 13

- 2:00 p.m. Federal Retirees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, August 15

- 5:00 p.m. Evangelism Meeting - Library

TUESDAY, August 21

- 7:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast

SUNDAY, August 26

- 12:15 p.m. Session Meeting
- 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. "Here & Now" Meeting with Elders & Diaconate

Session meetings will be on the following dates at 12:15 p.m. through October 2018:

- August 26, 2018S
- September 23, 2018
- October 28, 2018

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Judah Duke | 15 Molly LeBoeuf |
| 2 Vicki Deskin | 17 Stephanie Jackson |
| 2 Nancy Jackson | 18 Ronnie Walraven |
| 4 Marty Flowers | 18 Dannel Burke |
| 4 Tamra Seiler | 19 Missy Parks |
| 9 Deacon Huff | 21 Adam Knowles |
| 12 Edward Malcolm | 21 Laura Davis |
| 13 Susan Arnold | 23 Sheila Moore |
| 13 Lizzie Sharp | 23 Ned Stewart |
| 14 Corey Sharp | 30 Becky Thompson |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 3 Remica & Danny Gray | 16 Cynthia & John Wesley |
| 3 Jen & Shaun Dierksen | 17 Dianne & Greg Brown |
| 6 Nelda & Rodney LeBoeuf | 20 Sarah Beth & Fred Davis |
| 7 Alicia & Norman Lash | 23 Linda & Stan Knowles |
| 12 Beth & Charles Morgan | 24 Brenda & Jim Works |
| 14 Brenda & David Williams | 25 Kathy & Dan Boyles |
| 15 Peggy & Larry Davis | 27 Pat & Buford Willis |



The winner of the final competition covering Genesis was Ethan Davitt! Ethan received a \$15 movie pass for the most correct answers on Genesis and Ancient Mesopotamia. The first half of the unit covered lessons on the creation of the world, rebellion against God, the great flood and the scattering of nations. The second section was pulled from Genesis 12-50, the story of the Patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. We learned about the meaning of *blessings* and *covenants* while also taking note of things going on in the world during the Bronze Age and early Egypt. I'm no historian, so I've been working hard to research how significant world events coincide with the lives of those recorded in the scriptures.

This week we focus on Moses. Martha Nell will tell the Exodus story through Godly Play which invites participants into an experience of worship and wonder beyond just taking in information.

I already feel summer starting to wind down as we move toward the start of school next month. I've very much enjoyed researching and teaching the first two books of the Bible. We will wrap up this summer with lessons on Moses and the Israelites building a tabernacle in the wilderness and the concept of holiness. Moving into fall we'll find out what is next for the Israelites in the desert. As always, I thank you for the chance to work with the youth and invite you to join us sometime.



† The Sharing Place †

The Revs. Judy and David Fletcher met with members of the Sharing Place Volunteer Team, and Martha Nell Richards concerning the direction of this mission. This mission started as a place where one could come to get clothes that would help them dress appropriately for a job interview. It has become a mission serving mostly repeat clients and occasionally new clients. It has been decided that a hiatus should be requested to the Diaconate, which would give the Diaconate an opportunity to decide the best direction for the mission. If you have any suggestions, please contact your Diaconate Shepherd as soon as possible.

Monthly Financial Highlights - JUNE 2018

	June Actual	June Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income	\$ 17,239	\$ 21,500	\$ 118,604	\$ 129,000
Expense	\$ 21,699	\$ 26,256	\$ 153,792	\$ 157,540
Net Gain (Loss)	\$ (4,460)	\$ (4,756)	\$ (35,188)	\$ (28,540)

Texas Presbyterian Foundation Funds

Initial Amount Invested	\$ 166,356.41
Income Earned Since Inception	\$ 34,582.56
Subtotal	\$ 200,938.97
Unrealized Gains Since Inception	\$ 42,909.53
Total Value of TPF Funds as of June 30, 2018	\$ 243,848.50



Randy Sams' Mission

The 1st Sunday night of each month a dinner is served for the shelter. Below is the schedule of volunteers in charge of these dinners.

August 5

*Remica & Danny Gray
Bunn & Liz Fawcett

September 2

*Nancy & Charles Jackson
Sue Ellen Hall, Gail & Gene Cogbill

October 7

*Carla & Randy Lacy
Aimee & Michael Gilliland, Val Buster

(*Denotes Group Coordinator)

Additional volunteers would be helpful for these months. Please contact the team coordinator to offer assistance.

Presbyterian Women



We are looking forward to September when we will begin our study of *God's Promise; I Am With You.*

IN LOVING MEMORY FOR THOSE WHO ARE FOREVER IN
OUR HEARTS -



NANCY DILL SANDEFUR
DECEMBER 1, 1937 - JULY 5,
2018

LENA MERLE ANTHONY
JULY 16, 1921 - JULY 24, 2018

Back to School...WHAT?! Yep, It's That Time Again!

Wow, another school year is upon us. To help jump start the school year I started wandering around online trying to come up with some ideas for back-to-school devotionals for students of all ages. I happened upon this idea that I hope could be encouraging for everyone going back to school, including the real rock stars, our teachers.

As a majority of you know, this is my son's senior year in high school, and I have found it to be both exciting and bittersweet. I know that all of you parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, educators and "adopted" family members, etc. are probably experiencing your own kind of feelings. I am always trying to come up with ways to encourage my son (without embarrassing him and receiving the "really mom" look) with his studies, tennis or just on a day to day basis. Sometimes I feel like I don't have the time or energy or brain cells to make this happen. Hopefully this idea can be a simple but great tool to make this an amazing school year.

Below are some back-to-school ideas (or you can come up with your own "truths") that can be cut out or written on a post-it note and placed in lunch boxes/backpacks, taped to mirrors or your fridge or for this day and age, a text can go a long way! You can encourage your person to give one to his/her teacher, too.

Don't be shy to use these with anyone you care for and love and just want to brighten and encourage their day. Send one of the truths below to your special somebody and you never know, it could be what puts a spring in their step or a smile on their face or what makes the worst day ever ☹ be the best day ever ☺! Go

Forth with Confidence & Faith in Your Journey, Rebecca (Your FPC Office Administrator)

I am a Child of God.

1 John 3:1

God Has a Plan for Me.

Jeremiah 29:11

I am Never Alone.

Deuteronomy 31:6

I am God's Masterpiece.

Ephesians 2:10

I am a Light.

Matthew 5:14-16

I am Enough.

Colossians 2:10

I Know the Truth.

John 14:26

I am Wonderfully Made.

Psalms 139:14

I am Confident.

Philippians 1:6

I am a Friend of God.

John 15:15

God Will Help Me.

Hebrews 13:6

I am Able.

Philippians 4:13

I am Known.

Jeremiah 1:5

I Have Victory with Jesus.

Romans 8:37

I am Made New by His Grace.

2 Corinthians 5:17



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Church Staff

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Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant
Ron Cantu, Custodian
Gene Cogbill, Acting Clerk of Session
Beth McHenry-Pope, Moderator of Diaconate
Dan Boyles, Church Treasurer
Betty Anthony, Church Co-Treasurer

August Worship & Study Schedule

SUNDAY-11:00 A.M. <i>Worship</i>	SUNDAY-6:30 P.M. <i>Study</i>	WEDNESDAY-6:00 P.M. <i>Family Night Supper</i>
"ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT" 5 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a, Ephesians 4:1-16 & John 6:24-35 Rev. David Fletcher COMMUNION SUNDAY	STRATEGIC Discipleship 5 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	BIBLE STUDY 8 Godly Play for All
"WHAT IS GOOD" 12 Psalm 100, & John 3:1-3 Rev. Judy Fletcher	STRATEGIC Discipleship 12 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	BIBLE STUDY 15 Godly Play for All
"OUR CHRISTIAN LIFE... TOGETHER" 19 Ephesians 5:15-21 & John 6:51-58 Rev. David Fletcher	STRATEGIC Discipleship 19 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	BIBLE STUDY 22
"DISCERNING GOD" 26 Deuteronomy 31:6-8 & John 14:18-20 Rev. Judy Fletcher	STRATEGIC Discipleship 26 Facilitator: M. Gilliland	BIBLE STUDY 29