



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



August 2017

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTOR'S PEN: JANE ELS

What Shall We Do While We're Waiting?

While the Pastor Nominating Committee continues the search for our next pastor the rest of the congregation has work it can do. Fred Rogers, beloved children's television host and Presbyterian minister had a song he sang called, "*What Shall We Do While We're Waiting?*" And our assignment is no more complicated than that. The congregation at large has a lot of things we can do while the nominating committee does their work. What shall we do? We can do the work Jesus sent us out to do.

It's no more complicated than what's found in scripture in Jesus' ministry. Julie Adkins even preached a sermon that suits this topic just before she left for vacation on July 2nd.

She used the story of Abraham greeting the stranger in the desert and referred us to Jesus' teachings: that "To welcome the stranger is to welcome Jesus, is to welcome God. To minister to the stranger is to care for Jesus, is to receive the reward of God."

What do we do while we wait for our next pastor? We go ahead and do what Jesus told us to do every other time of our lives—we go ahead and live our lives the way Jesus wants us to live, we go ahead and do ministry, welcome the stranger, care for the orphan.

There are some opportunities available right here in Winnsboro, sitting right here on our doorstep.

The Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center serves abused children over the whole area of Northeast Texas yet it's only a couple of miles down highway 37 from us. They would welcome our help, financial or physical. Our youth already support them through the Noisy Offering. Maybe we could enlarge our involvement with their ministry. Individuals are welcome to call and volunteer. (903) 629-7588

And the most obvious opportunity is sitting almost directly across the street from us. Memorial Middle School releases children every afternoon who walk or ride their bike right past our building. We are in the perfect position to provide an afternoon snack, a safe space for homework and adult supervision. Our parking lot has a basketball court. We have a playground. The Reid Building has a kitchen and three TV sets. And when I say "our" I really mean "God's" parking lot, God's playground and God's kitchen.

In case you missed Julie's sermon let me repeat her closing paragraph here:

"What risks have you not taken, that you perhaps should get ready to take?
What rewards have you been missing out on?
What risks are **we**, together, perhaps being asked to undertake?
Who else is "out there" that needs to be welcomed, needs a cup of water, needs our hospitality?
Where is Jesus still waiting for us to recognize him, dressed as a stranger?
And if we don't do it, who will?"

The question is not "What shall we do while we're waiting?" The question is "Why are we waiting?"

ATTENTION: NEW PRAYER REQUESTS MONTHLY

In order to keep our prayer requests current, our prayer list will start fresh at the beginning of each month. To keep your prayer request in the bulletin, write it on the back of an offering envelope, the attendance sheet or a piece of paper (please make sure your name is on it) or contact the church office, firstpres@peoplescom.net or 903-342-3011. We do not need the reason, unless it is death or an accomplishment, which go under a different heading. Also, please give relationship to you so others know who they are praying for. And PLEASE WRITE LEGIBLY.

As our prayers are answered, we give God thanks. For those with continued needs, we continue to pray.

Pastor

Session members:

Class of 2017
Bob Kelm and Armel Crocker
Class of 2018
Rick Drennan and Becky Poe
Class of 2019
John Clark and Rhonda Thomas
Treasurer
Jerry Poe

Contact us:

Tina Hammer, Secretary
PO Box 493
301 S. Walnut St.
Winnsboro, TX 75404
Office: 903-342-3011
Fax: 903-342-3011
Email: firstpres@peoplescom.net
Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

FPC Website:

www.easttexasgrace.org

Cross and Crown articles:
firstpres@peoplescom.net

Attendance:

July 2 – 35

July 9 – 33

July 16—34

July 23—31



Noisy Offering

**August: back to school
supplies for MMS (hold for Jan.
semester)**

September: K9 unit-Winnsboro police



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

KEEPING FAITH-----Hebrews 10: 32 - !!: 6

It's tempting to think of faith as a kind of magic formula. If you muster up enough of it, you'll get rich, stay healthy, and live a contented life with automatic answers to all your prayers. But life does not work according to such neat formulas. As proof, the author of Hebrews presents a stirring reminder of what constitutes "true faith" by reviewing the lives of some Old Testament giants of faith (Heb. 11).

"Without faith," the author says bluntly, "it's impossible to please God" (Heb. 6). In describing faith he uses the word, *persevered* (v. 7). As a result of their faith, some heroes triumphed: They routed armies, escaped the sword, survived lions. But others met less happy ends: They were flogged, stoned, sawed in two. The chapter concludes, "These were all commended for their faith, yet none of them received what had been promised" (v.39).

The picture of faith that emerges does not fit into an easy formula. Sometimes it leads to victory and triumph. Sometimes it requires a gritty determination to "hang on at any cost." Of such people, "God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them" (v. 16).

What our faith rests on is the belief that God is in ultimate control and will indeed keep His promises--whether that happens in this life or the next.

Our greatest comfort in sorrow is to know that *God is in control.*

Phillip Yancey/Taken from, OUR DAILY BREAD, JULY '16.

*Hebrews 11 has been called the Hall of Faith. In it we read of diverse people who faced trials and tribulations far beyond what most of us face. Yet all persevered by trust in the Lord. By the grace of God, we can do the same. (D. Fisher)



Sunday School is Just Around the Corner

Summer is here, but it's time to start thinking about going back to school! Sunday School, that is! Starting September 3rd we will resume our Sunday School programs at 9:30am for Children, Youth, and Adults. See you then!



In September of 2016, four new women joined Marabeth Russell for the Presbyterian Women meeting. That number of newcomers to PW grew each month. Sadly, we have lost 2 of those women through a move, and our dear Marabeth has gone to live with our Lord. She was so excited by the new attendance to see that the PW at our church was not going to fall by the wayside. In that spirit, we are looking to continue to increase PW membership.

What is PW? Very simply put, Presbyterian Women is a PCUSA organization that, on the national level, supports missions that are not generally supported financially by the larger church. Of course there is much more to it than that. You can check out PW online at <http://pma.pcusa.org/ministries/pw/>

On the local level, we give to that ministry and local mission through fundraisers such as Christmas in the Park and the Birthday Offering that we take up at Family Lunch each month. We also meet each month for fellowship, a short business meeting, and Bible Study. The study is the same one all Presbyterian women are studying across the PCUSA; we here in Winnsboro study the same lessons that our sisters in Colorado and Wisconsin and Delaware and Guatemala and Korea and beyond are studying! What a connection! This year our study is titled *Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews*.

This year we will continue to meet on the first Monday of the month at 10 a.m. with an occasional Saturday event. We look forward to adding new members to the Monday fellowship, and hopefully, the women who aren't able to attend on Mondays will be able to join us for the Saturday fellowship opportunities.

The first Saturday event will be a luncheon and will be held very soon - late August or early September. It is our hope that every woman in our church will be able to join us. Be on the lookout for an invitation in the mail for this event.

PW - an opportunity for women to fellowship and grow closer to each other and God through Bible study and mission!

EastTexasGrace.org

Have you explored our updated church website? Members are reporting that it much easier to navigate regardless of the electronic device being used: computer, tablet or Smartphone.

You will find an up-to-date Google calendar, issues of the Cross & Crown, copies of our Sunday worship bulletins, lots of photographs, and a current phone directory (that is password protected for security.)

There are links in the drop-down menus at the top of each page as well as links in the "footer section" of each page which will give you quick access to the areas you wish to explore.

Encourage your friends and neighbors to also visit our website (and our Facebook page) regularly to see the exciting things we are doing at First Presbyterian Church.

Music Notes

It is already time to start thinking about music for the fall and Advent/Christmas season!



We need new voices and new ringers!!

- Singers - Can you carry a tune? You're hired!
- Ringers - Can you count to 12? Can you hold a chime? You're hired!

We really do have fun during rehearsals creating music to add to the worship service. Talk to Tricia Clark or Patricia Fields. We will put you to work.

Chime choir and Sanctuary choir will both start rehearsals on September 10. Chime choir at 9:00 a.m. and Sanctuary choir at 9:45.

General Fund Summary - Jan - Jun 2017			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$38,188.66	\$43,250.00	\$5,061.34
Expense	\$ 27,609.94	\$47,070.02	\$19,460.08
Net	\$10,578.72		

Note: Bank balance 6/30/2017 was \$70,487.82.

Restricted funds totaled \$34,027.85, while unrestricted funds totaled \$36,459.97.

Both newspapers are available
at the Winnsboro Chamber of
Commerce & our church office.

Support these local newspapers who carry our
church's advertising and information about us!



The Community Chronicle
Strong Faith. True Leadership. Deep Commitment.

Dantis Times Newspaper

NOTE: For an updated calendar, please go to easttexasgrace.org

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Aug 1 John Clark	2 6p ■ Supper & Bible bas	3 Brad DeWees H. P. Hosey	4	5 12p Al-Anon
6 Communion Rick Drennan	7 2p ■ Bible study	8	9 6p ■ Supper & Bible bas	10 Peggy Rounseville	11	12 12p Al-Anon
13	14 2p ■ Bible study	15	16 6p ■ Supper & Bible bas	17	18	19 12p Al-Anon
20 Family Lunch	21 2p ■ Bible study	22 9 Session reports due	23 6p ■ Supper & Bible bas	24	25	26 12p Al-Anon
27 Noisy Offering 12p Session	28 9 Cross & Crown article 2p ■ Bible study	29	30 6p ■ Supper & Bible bas	31 Ed Russell		