



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



November 2017

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

CONTRIBUTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS

Here's one of the (many) things Jesus instructed us that doesn't seem to make much sense: "Leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift." What? Take care of earthly matters *before* attending to heavenly ones?

Jesus never seems to stop monkeying with the way we think things ought to be. Surely, we think, if we could just get ourselves straightened out with relation to God, then all our human relationships would fall easily into place . . . yes? Come to the sanctuary and pray, sing, make an offering; connect with God in the right way, and the rest will follow.

Perhaps it should work that way, but more often it doesn't. The church's history is full of individuals and groups of people who sang and prayed and gave gifts faithfully, but still couldn't manage to relate appropriately to their brothers and sisters. It's sad that Christian churches and people were some of the loudest voices claiming that some humans have the right to enslave other humans. Sad, that Christians managed to rationalize theologically the displacement and even murder of indigenous people who "stood in the way of progress." Sad, that for centuries Christian brothers have oppressed Christian sisters "in the name of God."

Let's hope we've made progress on a lot of those things. But notice, Jesus didn't say to leave your gift at the altar "if you have something against your brother or sister." This isn't about offering forgiveness at times when we have been sinned against. It's more difficult than that. He says, "if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you." Which is to say: if *you have sinned* against your sister or brother, and have not yet repented and sought forgiveness, then you have no business trying to get right with God. A gift offered to God can never substitute for a "contrite heart," as the Psalms describe it.

Of course, it might be that a world of brothers and sisters reconciled and at peace with one another is the greatest gift we could offer God anyway!

We will have a church work day on Saturday, Nov. 18 to do some fall cleanup on the yard. Watch the church website and Facebook for more information.

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:

October 1—32

October 8—20

October 15—36

October 22—26



Noisy Offering

**November: American Legion-
children's Patriotic literature**

**December: Salvation Army
Red Kettle**



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL

This year marks the five-hundredth anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. Martin Luther ignited the Reformation when he nailed his Ninety-Five Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany, on October 31, 1517, calling the church to repentance and to return to the gospel. The flame that Luther ignited in Wittenberg spread like wildfire throughout Europe and around the world. Just as the Apostles turned the world upside down with the gospel, Luther set the world ablaze with the gospel. But ultimately, it was neither the Apostles nor Luther who did it; it was the Word of God and the Spirit of God that did it all.

Like the Apostles, the church fathers, the forerunners of the Reformation, and all faithful heralds of the gospel throughout history, Luther was a servant and steward of the gospel of Jesus Christ. In a sermon Luther preached in 1522 reflecting on his role in the Reformation, Luther said concerning the Word of God: "In short, I will preach it, teach it, write it, but I will constrain no one by force, for faith must come freely without compulsion. Take myself as an example; I opposed indulgences and all the papist, but never with force. I simply taught, preached, and wrote God's Word; otherwise I did nothing. And while I slept (cf. Mark 4: 26-29) . . . the Word so greatly weakened the papacy that no prince or emperor ever inflicted such losses upon it. I did nothing; The Word did everything. Had I desired to foment trouble, I could have brought great bloodshed upon Germany; indeed, I could have started such a game that even the emperor would not have been safe. But what would it have been? Mere fool's play. I did nothing; I let the Word do its work."

Ultimately, the Word of God was the hero of the Reformation, not Luther. The power was not in Martin Luther or John Calvin or any of the Reformers--- the power was in the gospel unto salvation for everyone who believes. The fuel and the fire of the Reformation was the Holy Spirit who brought revival and reformation not only in doctrine, but in worship, in the church, in the home, and in the hearts of all those He brought to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ---all for the glory of God to the end that nations might know, love, and proclaim the name of our triune God *coram Deo*, before His face forever.

Taken from: Tabletalk Magazine, Oct. 2017; by Burk Parsons, Editor & Copastor of Saint Andrews Chapel in Sanford, Fla.

VOICES OF THE REFORMERS



MARTIN LUTHER

THESIS 82 OF THE
NINETY-FIVE THESES

Why does the pope not empty purgatory, for the sake of holy love and for the sake of desperate souls that are there, if he redeems an infinite number of souls for the sake of miserable money with which to build a church? The former reasons would be most just, while the latter is most trivial.

VOICES OF THE REFORMERS



JOHN CALVIN

INSTITUTES OF THE
CHRISTIAN RELIGION

God deprives man of the power of producing any new doctrine, in order that he alone may be our master in spiritual teaching, as he alone is true, and can neither lie nor deceive.

General Fund Summary - Jan - Sept 2017

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$53,488.58	\$71,318.09	\$17,829.51
Expense	\$ 39,953.38	\$52,723.62	\$12,770.24
Net	\$13,535.20		

Note: Bank balance 9/30/2017 was \$53,488.58.

Restricted funds totaled \$17,962.16, while unrestricted funds totaled \$35,526.42.

Christmas in the Park

Saturday, November 11, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Winnsboro City Auditorium, City Park

We are needing crafts, baked goodies, re-gifted items, plants, etc.
(Donations are now being collected in the Youth Building.)

Call or email **Becky Poe (903.629.3460)** if you can help
or if you have items you plan to donate.

Proceeds benefit Presbyterian Women mission projects and youth program.



The Presbyterian Women will be selling containers of **frozen** Chicken Spaghetti again this year in conjunction with their Christmas in the Park booth. Each container serves 2-3 generous portions and sells for \$12.

You can pre-order yours by filling in this form and giving it to Becky Poe at Church or mailing it to her at PO Box 937, Winnsboro, 75494.

Deadline for pre-orders will be Monday, Nov 6th.

Name _____ # Containers _____ @ \$12 each. Total: \$ _____

Please make payable to "Presbyterian Women."

Obituary for Emma Louise Fisher Murley



Emma Louise Fisher Murley was born on September 21, 1933 in Paris, Texas to Grady and Evelyn Fisher, and died on October 11, 2017 in Winnsboro.

Lou attended Bonham High School, Paris Junior College and East Texas State University, where she met David Murley in a chemistry class. David and Lou wed on June 19, 1954 and were married for 63 years.

After a few years in dental school, the couple moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where David was enrolled in medical school. Lou had earned a degree in zoology and worked as a medical technologist.

After medical school, they returned to Texas and lived in Dallas, where David continued his medical training, and Lou continued to work as a medical technologist.

In 1961, they moved to Winnsboro, where Lou would spend the rest of her life.

She was active at the First United Methodist Church, where she taught Sunday school, led children's choir, and served on the administrative board.

In 1976, the couple hosted the first Republican Primary in Wood County since Reconstruction.

Always anxious to work in her community, Lou served on the WISD school board in the 70s. She was a vocal advocate for academics and music education at a time when football was the undisputed king of the hill, so her time on the board was not without conflict.

She served as President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1989 and was selected as Winnsboro's 'Woman of the Year' in 1992.

Lou was always interested in food and the food service industry. She attended La Varenne cooking school in Paris, France in 1982 and Le Cordon Bleu in London. She worked with her friend, Becky, doing catering jobs around Winnsboro until 1978, when she opened Lou's Country Inn restaurant.

Lou's Country Inn was a vibrant meeting place for Winnsboro residents. The food was excellent – the buttermilk pie alone was worth going – and many people looked forward to Sunday lunch at Lou's every week after church.

Though she worked very long hours and dealt with many challenges, Lou would remember her time running "the restaurant" as one of the happiest seasons of her life. A cookbook called A Collection of Recipes from Lou's Country Inn guides many a kitchen novice to this day.

Winnsboro is a small community, and Lou shone as one of its brightest lights. She treasured her many friendships there, and always modeled that love for community to her children.

In her later years, she began attending the First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro. She sometimes played the piano for services there until her health began to fail.

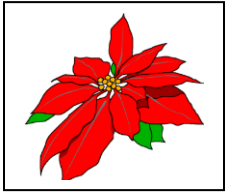
She is preceded in death by her parents and by her son, Patrick. She is survived by her husband, David C. Murley; her son, David, Jr. and his wife, Susan, of Boerne, TX; a son Michael and his wife, Kelly, of Austin, TX; a son Stephen and his wife, Jackie, of Boerne, TX; three siblings, John Fisher, Grady Fisher, and Evelyn Fisher; 12 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren.

Visitation at the First United Methodist Church of Winnsboro will be held Saturday October 14, 2017 from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A celebration of Lou's life will follow on Sunday, October 15, 2017 at 2:00 PM at the church with Rev. Evelyn Fisher officiating.

Donations in Lou's memory can be made to the Gilbreath Memorial Library, 916 North Main Street, Winnsboro, TX 75494.



**Reminder: PW Bible Study
Bring a friend or neighbor!
Chapters 2 and 3
Monday, November 7th
10:00 – 11:00 a.m.
In conference room of
church office building**



Poinsettias for Christmas

The Poinsettias that decorate our church for Christmas will be ordered from Lowe's.

Each plant is \$10.00. If you would like to order one (or more), please fill out the information below and place the sheet in the offering plate with your check made out to Presbyterian Church for the proper amount (please indicate "for poinsettias" on check), or drop it off at the office.

November 30, 2017 will be the last day we accept orders.

Given By: _____

In Honor Of: _____

OR

In Memory of: _____

Total # Plants Ordered: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

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

NOVEMBER

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Nov 2017 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 Noisy Offering 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	30 2pm - Bible study	31 Halloween Khalel Clay	1 6pm - Supper &	2 Patricia Fields	3	4 12pm - Al-Anon
5 Communion Daylight Saving 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	6 Daniel Wilson 10am - PW 2pm - Bible study	7	8 6pm - Supper &	9 Kelly Drennan	10 Bonnie Vander Rhonda Thomas Veterans Day	11 Christmas In the Veterans Day 12pm - Al-Anon
12 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir 5pm - City-wide	13 2pm - Bible study	14	15 6pm - Supper &	16	17	18 Church yard-work 12pm - Al-Anon
19 Family Lunch 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	20 2pm - Bible study	21 9am - Session	22 Nyla Kettieson 6pm - Supper &	23 Thanksgiving Day	24	25 12pm - Al-Anon
26 Jane Eis Noisy Offering 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir 12pm - Session	27 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible study	28 Cheyenne Brown	29 6pm - Supper &	30	1	2 12pm - Al-Anon