



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



March 2017

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTOR'S PEN: JULIE ADKINS

If we are truly people of faith, we must be willing to fail more often. If we fail infrequently, it means we are not acting boldly enough or lovingly enough, enough of the time. It means we are hiding behind walls of past successes and shrinking from present-day risks which will determine what is possible. Unless we fail on a regular basis, God will have insufficient raw material with which to work. It is from our haphazard efforts that the Holy One can sculpt works of art.

-- Hope Douglas J. Harle-Mould

Like many candidates for ministry, I spent the summer of one of my seminary years doing a “basic unit” of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) – in my case, at the downtown Baptist Hospital in San Antonio. One of the core beliefs of CPE is that you learn ministry by doing it and then reflecting on what you have done: What worked? What didn’t work? What more information do you need to be of help to this patient? Where will you go to get that information?

Of course, what makes CPE downright scary is that you do all this lovely “reflecting” and evaluating of your efforts, not alone in the privacy of your cubicle, but in a group with other CPE students and your supervisor. The temptation, then, is to write up only the case studies in which you think you did a good job; to present your “successes” to the group and keep the “failures” to yourself, promising to do better next time. The only problem is that you don’t learn anything this way. One of the most difficult hurdles to overcome in the entire CPE experience is being willing to share with the group your failures: patients you feel that you weren’t able to help . . . people you were afraid to get involved with . . . stupid things you said that you wish you could take back . . . etc., etc. Your supervisor and peer group are also quite good at noticing additional things that you yourself didn’t catch – for example, ways in which your own “issues” kept you from really hearing the patient’s concerns, etc. Well, as you might guess, it wasn’t the most FUN summer I ever spent, but it was one of the most useful.

So, how do we feel about failure? Is it a reason to feel ashamed, or is it an opportunity for growth? Do we let it paralyze us, or will it inspire us to try something different? What happens to us when things which succeeded in the past fail us in the present? Do we long for the past in which we knew what to do . . . or do we seek something new and different to try? The other day I read a story about Thomas Edison, showing a visitor through his lab, eager to demonstrate his latest idea for the incandescent light bulb. Edison flipped the switch, and . . . nothing. No light. Not even a flicker. “Oh, I’m sorry your experiment failed,” said the visitor. “This isn’t a failure,” said Edison. “Now I know what not to try the next time.”

The only way to avoid failure is to do nothing. For the church, that isn’t an option. Likewise, “past performance is no indication of future anything” (isn’t that sort of what it says in the mutual funds ads?!) We want to succeed, of course; who doesn’t? But it is far better to try faithfully and to fail than to do nothing for fear that our efforts might not succeed. The world may try to tell us otherwise . . . but God doesn’t care whether we are “successful.” God cares that we are faithful . . . whatever the result.

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 Ralph Gore
Class of 2018
Rick Drennan and Leeann Moos
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:

January 29—33
February 5—35
February 12—30
February 19—34



Noisy Offering

**March: N.E. TX. Children's
Advocacy Center (NETCAC)**
**April: Winnsboro Community
Resource Center (WCRC)**



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

WE SHARE GOD'S GLORY

Then God said, "Let us make man in our own image." --- Genesis 1: 26

I must confess that I am a humanist---like David, whose poem raises the best question of all: "What is man?" (Psalm 8: 4).

What is man? Biologically speaking, he's a mammalian vertebrate; order: primate; genus: homo; species: sapiens. His body is made up of organs, tissues, cells, and protoplasm. Chemically he is composed mostly of water, a large quantity of iron, calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, sulfur, lime, nitrogen, and some mineral salts. Psychologically, he has intellectual, emotional, and volitional powers and various instincts. He has on occasion dashed off a 4.2-second forty and leaped into the air a little over 7.5 feet.

But man has to be something more. We long for other, more complete explanations! Something in man refuses to be cribbed and confined, and reaches out beyond mere scientific descriptions. Eternity is in our hearts. We too ask, "What is man? What am I?"

Down inside us is a mystery from which comes our pursuit of excellence; our love of athletics, art, and music; our yearning to know and be known; our deep discontent at our inability to live up to our own ideals. That's why we want to know what it means to be a man (or a woman).

We ask, as Saul Bellow did, "Is there nothing else between birth and death but what I can get out of this perversity---only a favorable balance of disorderly emotions? No freedom? Only impulses? And what about all the good I have in my heart---doesn't it mean anything? Is it simply a joke? A false hope that makes a man feel the illusion of worth?" Is this all there is?

And what about our instincts? We know that men were meant to be courageous, selfless, loyal. Manhood, (and womanhood) is deeply rooted and is a memory written in our hearts. We know the rules. We just can't comply. And in the end we get tired of trying. As G. K. Chesterton said, "Pessimism comes not when we get weary of doing evil, but when we get weary of doing good," No, there must be something more.

What are we? The psalmist fills in the picture. God made man the summit of creation, the highest order of created beings, the most godlike creature in heaven or earth, only slightly less than God Himself. Man is the only creature who shares God's glory and honor. We have great dignity and worth. For all our foibles and flaws, we have vast potential for good in science and technology, in arts and letters. We have tremendous capacity to give and love, to know and be known. No man has ever plumbed his own depths. We're wonderful because God made us so.

The poet's conclusion, therefore, is noteworthy:

O Lord, our Lord,

How majestic is your name in all the earth! (Psalm 8: 9)!

His contemplation of man's greatness leads the poet to worship not man, but the God who made man, who "crowned him with glory and honor" and "put everything under his feet" (Psalm 8: 5 - 6).

And so, we, along with the psalmist, give thanks to the One who made man ---who formed the creative genius of Michelangelo, the music genius of Amadeus Mozart, the hand-eye coordination of Joe Montana. Contrary to our common belief, there are no self-made men. "It is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves" (Psalm 100: 3 KJV). We know that it takes God to make men great, and we give thanks to Him for making us what we are. We give credit where credit is due.

An excerpt from: SEEING GOD, --The Strength of a Man, (pp 11-12); David Roper; Discovery House Publishers, 2006.



The Presbyterian Women's special Birthday Offering Bank!

Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering

Since 1922, Presbyterian Women have encouraged members of their group, and their church, to support mission projects by donating a *special offering* during the month of their birthday. This "birthday offering" would be used to improve the lives of women and children around the world.

Our Winnsboro First Presbyterian Women have chosen to revive the "birthday offering" project. Every month, at the Family Lunch, we will recognize the folks who have birthdays that month and encourage them (and their friends) to celebrate their birthday with a special donation to the birthday bank.

Check your Cross & Crown calendar now to see whose life we will be celebrating at the March 16th Family Lunch!

We have looked at who Jesus is through the viewpoints of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, and Hebrews. March's lesson from Who Is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes will take a look at the non-canonical gospels. What is that, you might ask? The author of our study explains that "other stories about Jesus circulated in the early centuries of Christianity, offering us the 'missing years' of Jesus and information about the diversity of early Christianity." We will explore these stories through the guidance of our author Judy Yates Siker. I think this will be a very interesting lesson!



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

PW meets the first Monday of each month. Come join us this month on March 6th.

General Fund Summary - January 2017			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$6,663.44	\$7,208.26	\$544.82
Expense	\$ 5,158.09	\$10,353.34	\$5,195.25
Net	\$1,505.35		

Note: Bank balance 1/31/2016 was \$54,787.15 Restricted funds totaled \$32,387.34, while unrestricted funds totaled \$22,399.81.



Music Notes

It's time! It's time to get back together to ring and sing. We will begin rehearsals for chimes and sanctuary choir on the first Sunday in March. (March 5) Ringers will start at 9:00 and singers at 9:45. If you have not been singing or ringing and would like to join us, please know you are welcome.

NEW ADDRESS:

H. P. Hosey
1044 Church St.
Sulphur Springs, TX 75482
903-348-1169
sheboss@suddenlink.net

NEW MEMBERS:

Ronny & Beth Knight
709 Melissa Ln.
Winnsboro, TX 75494
903-767-2779
rknight@suddenlink.net

*This key was found in the
street by the office. It has
not been claimed. Please
contact the office, if it is
yours.*



Lilies for Easter

Each plant is \$8.00. 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 lilies" on check).

March 16, 2017 will be the last day we accept orders.

Given By: _____

In Honor Of: _____

OR

In Memory of: _____

Total # Plants Ordered: _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Believe or not, the PNC has only been looking at prospective pastors since July. Although we were commissioned in April, there was a good bit of paperwork that had to be done before we started receiving Pastor Information Forms. Even though it may be difficult, we are learning, along with the whole congregation, to wait on God's timing. We want to choose the right person for our congregation knowing that that one has already been chosen by God. We believe that God will lay that person on our hearts when we come across his or her PIF and that he or she will also be open to us. The PNC has talked about how grateful we are for the leadership that Julie Adkins has been giving our congregation as interim pastor thus allowing us the freedom to take our time in listening for God's leading. PLEASE continue to pray for us and for our future pastor.



“Can you hear me now.....”

Free donuts! Yes, donuts!! If you don't know about it, then you've not been part of the “in” crowd—the folks that are coming to *SUNDAY SCHOOL* at 9:30am Sunday mornings!

The young children meet in the classroom behind the nursery and are taught by Leeann or Jane. The Youth meet in the Youth House, currently deciding on a project, swapping ideas, and talking theology with their teacher, Becky. The Adult Class meets in the Reid Bldg. and benefits from the teaching of Rev Dr. Julie Adkins, currently studying “God Loves Us”. Who wouldn't want to hear about that?? You are encouraged to come, enjoy a donut (or two), and fellowship with church family and friends as you study the Bible in a relaxed smaller group.

Submitted by the Christian Education Committee

“Pattycake Shower”



Following February's *Presbyterian Women's* meeting, we celebrated the beginning of Tricia Clark's new chapter in her life — Grandparenthood! Lots of good fun, food, and fellowship! We laughed, visited, ate, and enjoyed watching as Tricia opened the gifts that any grandparent needs to keep at their house for a visiting grandbaby. A different kind of shower idea, but oh so much fun!

“A grandbaby is a bit of stardust blown from the Hand of God”

NEW COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

As you've heard at least in passing if you were at the congregation's annual meeting, the Session has reorganized itself into three committees. Details are below. If you're interested in getting involved, these are a great place to start! Most do not meet every month, but instead invest their effort in doing things rather than meeting at length to talk about them. In addition, if you have a Bright New Idea for something you'd like the church to think about doing, or a question about a particular area of the church's life, these are the best place to start.

All committees have the following responsibilities:

- Recruit and invite members of the congregation who are not on the session to serve on the committee
- Meet at least quarterly
- Keep accurate minutes of all committee meetings
- Regularly check incoming mail that has been routed to the committee, and handle appropriately (note: this may mean simply throwing it away!)
- Coordinate committee-planned activities with other session committees and other groups within the congregation
- Report monthly to the session on the committee's activities
- Keep the congregation informed on activities, needs, plans that fall under the committee's domain (via *Cross and Crown*, Sunday morning announcements, group emails, etc.)

Here are the three committees, their general functions, and their duties. (Subject to change once we really get this up and running, and discover what has been left out. Also subject to change when a new pastor arrives on the scene!)

ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE

Basic functions: Finance, Stewardship, Personnel, Building & Grounds

Specific duties:

- Prepare annual budget for recommendation to the session.
- Oversee work of the church Treasurer, and assist that person as needed.
- Organize and manage annual campaign for obtaining pledges from church members.
- Make recommendations concerning opportunities for extra giving beyond the usual church budget, coordinating with the inreach/outreach committee
- Oversee church staff, including the hiring, dismissal, and evaluation of personnel.
- Ensure that church buildings, grounds, and equipment are properly maintained.
- Evaluate church's insurance coverage for adequacy
- Order supplies as needed
- Ensure that the church does required background checks on all staff and volunteers who work with children and/or youth
- Oversee the work of, and receive regular reports from, the Reid Fund Committee

Session members leading this committee: Bob Kelm and Ralph Gore

WORSHIP AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Basic functions: Worship & Music, Christian Education (Sunday school and other education/ study efforts)

Specific duties:

- Ensure that adequate supplies are available as needed for worship. This may include, but is not limited to: bread and juice for communion, bulletin covers, candles.
- Ensure that sanctuary is in order in preparation for every worship service.
- Obtain liturgists (lay readers), acolytes, and ushers for Sundays and special worship services.
- Ensure that regular meetings and coordination take place between pastor and music staff.

- Suggest and approve worship services for special days or seasons in the church year.
- Obtain and arrange payment for supply preachers in the absence of the pastor (a list of available ministers and commissioned ruling elders is available from Grace Presbytery).
- Obtain and arrange payment for substitute organist or pianist in the absence of regular music staff.
- Recruit and support Sunday school teachers for children, youth, and adults.
- Recruit and support leadership for youth group and activities.
- Oversee the choice and ordering of curriculum, submit to session for approval as needed.
- Ensure that children and youth are informed about church camps and other opportunities, assist with scholarship funding as needed and available.
- Oversee existing education efforts apart from Sunday morning.
- Periodically evaluate scope and adequacy of the church's education program to ensure that everyone who would like to participate has the opportunity to do so.

Session members leading this committee: Rick Drennan and Rhonda Thomas

INREACH AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE ("CARE" COMMITTEE)

Basic functions: Fellowship, Member Care, Visitor/New Member Outreach, Community Outreach

Specific duties:

- Oversee monthly fellowship meals
- Coordinate with Presbyterian Women meals that may be needed for members who are bereaved, experiencing illness, etc.
- In coordination with the pastor, develop and implement a plan for visiting members who are ill and/or shut-in.
- Note worship attendance and follow up with members who have been absent
- Send greeting cards to church members as needed and appropriate (birthdays, get-well, sympathy, etc.)
- Make recommendations to the session, at least annually, concerning the deletion of members' names from the church rolls
- Develop and implement a plan for attracting visitors
- Develop and implement a plan for welcoming and retaining new members
- Oversee monthly publication of the *Cross and Crown*
- Receive and evaluate information about opportunities for ministry in the wider community
- Make recommendations to the session about participation in various projects of community service
- Inform congregation about opportunities for community service (even if the church as a whole is not going to participate in an organized way)
- In coordination with the administration committee, make recommendations concerning extra giving opportunities for ministries/projects beyond the local congregation

Session members leading this committee: Leeann Moos and John Clark

RECYCLE TRAILER	
RECYCLABLE ITEMS	NON RECYCLABLE ITEMS
Newspaper	NO Foil
Water bottles	NO Tin pie plates
Plastic Milk Jugs	NO Glass
# 1 and # 2 Plastic	NO Waxed cardboard
Aluminum cans (bagged)	NO Egg Cartons
Cardboard - Collapsed boxes ONLY	NO Styrofoam
Used motor oil (sealed containers)	NO Tin Cans

Did you know that there is a trailer parked by the Winnsboro Police/Fire station that collects recycling? Items need to be inside the blue recycle bags, which may be obtained inside the Water payment office. Newspaper may be bundled & tied.

First Presbyterian Church

Birthdays/Anniversaries

March 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 ASH WEDNESDAY 6 pm service Annv. Wilson	2	3	4 Noon Al-Anon
5 COMMUNION 9 AM Ringer practice 9:45 Choir practice	6 10 AM PW 2-4 pm Bible Study	7	8 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Judy DeWees	9	10	11 Noon Al-Anon
12 9 AM Ringer practice 9:45 Choir practice	13 2-4 pm Bible Study	14 Marianne Wilson	15 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Ann Dunn	16 Last day to order Easter lilies	17	18 Noon Al-Anon
19 Family Lunch 9 AM Ringer practice 9:45 Choir practice	20 2-4 pm Bible Study	21 Session reports due by 11 AM Helen Poteet	22 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	23 Jacob Wilson	24	25 Noon Al-Anon
26 Noisy Offering: NETXCAC 9 AM Ringer practice 9:45 Choir practice Session	27 Cross & Crown articles due by 9AM 2-4 pm Bible Study	28	29 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	30 David Murley	31 Marabeth Russell	

We had so much info this month; I went past our allotted 8 pages.