



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



April 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTORS PEN: JANE ELS

Why I love being Presbyterian

I was born and raised Presbyterian. My father cleverly designed my education by leaving out a copy of the Shorter Westminster Catechism lying around the house where I would find it and read it. He occasionally reminded me that I was a Scot Presbyterian and always would be. That was pretty much the extent of my formal education in what it means to be a Presbyterian.

My real education came slowly through attending worship on a regular basis and paying attention, soaking up theology through osmosis more than anything. But I fell in love with being Presbyterian by living it and that started with youth work.

I have always suspected that I was invited to take a group of kids to a youth retreat that first time simply because I owned a station wagon. Whatever the reason, it changed my life. One thing led to another and I haven't been the same since.

People who work with youth are some of the finest people I've ever known. They possess optimism and energy but they also are keenly aware of their responsibilities to teach through example. We do a lot of trust games with youth but we also understand that everything we do, every interaction we have with a youth is a teaching moment. If we can't trust humans who we can see and touch, how can we trust a God whom we can't see or touch? Knowledge of God starts with trust in each other. I also learned that church doesn't have to be boring. Some of the most fun I've ever had has been at youth retreats. God is alive and at work creating the world still. God is engaged and God cares. I learned Joy in youth work.

Then I started going on mission trips to Guatemala and met not only people from other countries but Presbyterians from the US who care enough to give of themselves to go outside their comfort zone to co-passion with the world. I learned something unique about the Presbyterian Church: we understand relationships in a way other churches don't. We don't go to a country to DO as much as to BE in relationship with the people we meet there. I learned to meet the world where it is with dignity and respect. To see first-hand that Christ loves everyone equally no matter what we look like or where we live. I found the Kingdom of God in mission work.

Then I went to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina and met volunteers from the Presbyterian Church who went not once or twice but on a regular basis to help re-build homes, who became personal friends with people in Louisiana and Mississippi. (Again the relationship thing.) I met Young Adult Volunteers from the church who lived on the coast for two years to help with the rebuilding. These are people who taught me to love the broken and the broken-hearted. I learned the modern-day equivalent of foot washing: something intimate and practical-- rebuilding someone's home. I helped install the toilet in Shirley Thompson's house. You can't get any more intimate and practical than that.

Everywhere I have been for the last 30 years I have found people without ego who are willing to roll up their sleeves and work as partners with each other, in relationship, as brothers and sisters in Christ, as disciples of Christ, acting as the hands and feet of the Master, ladling soup, holding babies, running after a soccer ball with glee, laughing and loving like we are the Children of God. Because we are. Thanks be to God.



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

THE HERESY OF INDIFFERENCE:

Doctrine matters--it matters in life and in death. Our doctrine determines our destiny. It not only affects our view about God but our view about everything. We are doctrinal beings by nature. Everyone holds to some sort of doctrine; the question is whether or not our doctrine is biblical. Consequential, we dare not be indifferent about doctrine. Indeed, there is a reason we've never heard of a Christian martyr who was indifferent about doctrine. Indifference about doctrine is the mother of every heresy in all of history, and in our day indifference about doctrine is spreading like wildfire in the pulpits and pews of our churches.

Ironically, the assertion that doctrine doesn't matter is in fact a doctrine in itself. When people tell me they are into Jesus but not into doctrine, I tell them that if they are not into doctrine, they are, in fact, not into Jesus. We cannot know Jesus without knowing doctrine, and we cannot love God without knowing God, and the way we know God is by studying His Word. Doctrine comes from God, it teaches us about God, and by faith it leads us back to God in worship, service, and love. Indifference to doctrine is indifference to God, and indifference to God is indifference to our own eternity. Pastors who think it is relevant and cool to be indifferent about doctrine--who play down the necessity and importance of doctrine and who fail to preach and explain doctrine in their sermons--are in fact failing to give their people that which will save their souls. For us to downplay doctrine or to be intentionally fuzzy in preaching doctrine isn't cool or humble or relevant, it's outright arrogant. There is nothing more relevant than doctrine, there is nothing more humbling than doctrine, and there is nothing that more quickly gets our eyes off ourselves and fixes them on our loving and gracious God than doctrine that proceeds from God.

Doctrine, however, is not an end in itself. Doctrine exists to help us know, love, worship, and glorify the God who is. There are few things the devil wants more than to have churches full of people who think they are straight as a rifle barrel in their doctrine--but just as empty as one--in their application of that doctrine. Doctrine rightly understood is doctrine rightly applied. If we separate our doctrine from our life, our doctrine will lead to our death. Doctrine is a gift from God, and it flows from the inspired pages of the Word of God that we might love God with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. This is why we must be dogmatic in our doctrine--not dogmatically harsh, but dogmatically humble as we seek to know, proclaim, and defend the doctrine that teaches about our loving and holy Lord who gave Himself for us. We must be dogmatic in our doctrine and dogmatic in living it out for the glory of God. As Matthew Henry wrote, "Those who teach by their doctrine must {also} teach by their life, or else they pull down with one hand what thy build up with the other."

TABLETALK magazine/May, 2015/by Burk Parsons.

Youth News:
The Youth will meet on April 3 after church.



Noisy Offering
April - Presbyterian Children's Home

General Fund Summary Jan - Feb 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$12,661.02	\$14,286.67	\$1,625.65
Expense	\$ 9,990.04	\$14,286.67	\$4,296.63
Net	\$2,670.98		

Note: Bank balance 2/29/2016 was \$33,052.18. Restricted funds totaled \$19,976.11 while unrestricted funds totaled \$13,076.07.

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, either write it on the back of your offering envelope (please make sure your name is on the envelope) 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.



Dinner for Two? Or Twenty?

Family Lunch - What a wonderful tradition we celebrate every third Sunday after church! This is a great time for the congregation to spend time just visiting with each other and to taste the wonderful fare for which we Presbyterians are famous. Unfortunately, we fell a little short last month, so perhaps we need to remember a few guidelines. A good rule of thumb is to bring enough to serve your own family. It would be helpful to

bring two items: one main dish (meat, casserole, OR hearty soup) and a side dish (vegetable, salad, appetizer, bread, OR dessert.) Of course, if you love to cook, you need not be limited to two dishes!

If everyone is generally following the guidelines, we will have plenty of food to share. We want to be able to feed each other and any guests who may have attended worship. Of course, there are times when someone isn't able to bring a dish; in that case, stay and eat anyway! We've got you covered!

Let us break bread together!

Pastor

Session members:

Class of 2016

Jane Els, Larry Pendergrass and James Spurgeon

Class of 2017

Bob Kelm and Chris Holloman

Class of 2018

Rick Drennan, Ralph Gore and Leeann Moos

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

Here We Grow!

Attendance:

February 28—41

March 6—33

March 13—50

March 20—52

March 27—48

**Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro
March 20, 2016**

Call to Order/Quorum:

The meeting was called to order with prayer and Scripture reading, by Dr. Julie Adkins at 12:15 P.M. in the Reid building. A quorum was present, consisting of the following members: Chris Holloman, Larry Pendergrass, Bob Kelm, Jane Els, Leeann Moos, James Spurgeon, Ralph Gore and Rick Drennan. Also present: Jimmy Chapman, Ruth Shelton and Tina Hammer.

Hearing Issues from Members or Request to Join the Church: None

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, **(RG/RD) passes all**
Consent Agenda

- Approve the agenda as presented.
- Approve the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting 02/21/16 and Called Session Meeting on 03/06/16

Moderator's Report:

- Communion on the 6th
- Scheduled to preach April 3, 10, & 17 and May 1, 8, 15 & 29

Pastor Search discussion: Jimmy Chapman

Jimmy presented 2 ways to choose the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) of 5-9 members. We chose to allow the Nominating Committee to choose the PNC. He & his staff will work with the PNC

Finance:

- Approve the Treasurer's Report for February 2016. **Passed by voice vote.**
- Approve the Reid Fund Report for February 2016. **Passed by voice vote.**
- Approve the Reid Fund Budget for 2016. **Passed by voice vote.**
- **Motion** to approve the Reid Fund Disbursements, passes **(RG/RD).**

New Business:

- **Motion** to approve the transfer of membership for Brittany and Emma Pflug **(JS/RG) passes all.**
- Tina will be off April 4

Old Business:

B/G: door on Sanctuary needs a deadbolt, getting more mulch for play area, window installed at Manse & pest spraying done everywhere except Manse

Adjournment:

Motion for this meeting to be adjourned with prayer and the next stated session meeting be held on April 17, 2016 after the congregational meeting, **moved and seconded (RG/RD) Motion was passed on a voice vote with no dissent**, at 1:10 PM.

(Please note: All minutes published in Cross and Crown the same month as the meeting, have NOT been approved by Session and are subject to change)

Presbyterian Women

Monday, April 4

“Come to the Waters” will once again be studied. Our 8th lesson is titled: “The Hospitality of Living Water---Compassion”. We will be looking at John 4: 1 – 30, 59 – 42; Acts 2: 44 – 47.

Please join us for Bible study and fellowship



Judith Ann Moore 1930—2016

Burial was at Lee Cemetery on Sunday, March 13, 2016 with a Memorial service following at 2:00 PM at First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro, TX conducted by James Spurgeon.

Ann was the only child of Asa and Marguerite (Vannoy) Dickson, each of whom was a descendent of early settlers in the Wood and Franklin Counties.

A graduate of Winnsboro High School, Class of 1947, Ann earned two Bachelor degrees with honors from Texas State College for Women (TSCW), now Texas Women's University. There, she was named to Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities. Her Master's Degree was from Louisiana State University. She was a teacher for a few years before she resigned to be a mother and to help in her husband's business.

Ann and McKay Moore were married for 54 years before his death in 2007. They were classmates from first grade through high school, but attended different colleges.

As a Christian, Ann's membership was in the Presbyterian Church for 76 years where she served as an elder and historian.

Survivors are a daughter, Kay; a son, Edward, and wife, Terrie; grandsons, Josh, Joel Jonathan, and John; sister-in-law, Carolyn Johnson Moore; brothers-in-law, Scott Moore, and wife, Doris Jane, and John P. Moore, and wife, Leslie; several nieces and nephews from the Moore family; cousins, Jane Dickson Cox and Laverne Baber, and husband, Jack.

If desired, memorial gifts may be made to the First Presbyterian Church, P. O. Box 493, Winnsboro, Texas 75494 or to your favorite charity.

**Edward & Terrie Moore, 3625 Wandering Trail, Plano, TX 75075
Kay's address withheld by request**

One of the exciting things at the last presbytery meeting was the welcome of Jacob Wilson as an Inquirer into the ministry of teaching elder. This is a long and slow process and Jacob has taken the first of many steps. Throughout this process he will be nurtured by a Committee on Preparation for Ministry made of several caring pastors and elders.

As an elder and member of First Presbyterian Church of Mt Pleasant all of his “paperwork” will go through that church but as a “son” of this church we will follow him with love and pride all the same. He reports that his studies at Austin Seminary are hard but his fellow students have received him with open arms and he feels loved. Cards and care packages can be sent to Jacob at this address:

Jacob Gene Wilson
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary
100 E. 27th Street
Currie Hall Mailbox 192
Austin, TX 78705-5711



**THANK YOU TO WHOM EVER PICKED OUT LILIES AND CARED FOR THEM. THEY WERE
ABSOLUTELY GORGEOUS AND FRAGRANT. THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH.**

MARIANNE WILSON

First Presbyterian Church

Birthdays/Anniversaries

April 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Noon AI-Anon
3 COMMUNION	4 Tina out of office PW 10 AM 2-4 pm Bible Study	5	6 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	7 <i>Session reports to office by 11 am</i> Mindy Hosey	8	9 Noon AI-Anon
10	11 2-4 pm Bible Study	12	13 <i>1:30 Finance Com. Mtg.</i> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	14 6PM Kairos-office Dustin Brown	15	16 9 AM-1 PM AI-Anon business meeting
17 Family Lunch Session	18 2-4 pm Bible Study	19	20 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	21	22	23 Noon AI-Anon
24 Noisy Offering: Presbyterian Children's Home	25 Cross & Crown articles due by 9 AM 2-4 pm Bible Study	26 Annv. Walenta	27 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	28 6PM Kairos-office Caden Moore	29	30 Noon AI-Anon