



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



August 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTORS PEN:

What is a Presbyterian? (With apologies to those of you for whom this is no more than a review!)

In its most basic form, “Presbyterian” refers simply to a form of church government. It’s one of three basic models, and is the least common (except in places like Scotland where the Presbyterian church IS the “Church of Scotland”). Those three are:

- the *episcopal* form of government, so named from the Greek word επισκοπος, “bishop.” These are churches in which particular geographic regions (e.g. a diocese) are governed by one particular individual, a bishop. Thus, the Episcopal church is episcopal (duh!) in its governance, but so is the Roman Catholic church, the Orthodox Churches, the Methodists, Lutherans, and others.
- the *congregational* form of government, where all significant power is lodged with the congregation and there is little to no oversight from anyone “above.” There may be regional councils and meetings, but those have limited authority to direct or require congregations to do anything, though they do have some powers of persuasion. The United Church of Christ is congregational, as are the Disciples of Christ, the Baptists (Southern, American, and others).

Presbyterians have historically been leery of each of these options. Because we are firm believers that all of us are sinners, we are unwilling to lodge a significant amount of power in one person – hence, we avoid the office of bishops or its equivalent. But we also believe that different people have different gifts, and there are some who have leadership gifts that the rest of us should acknowledge and honor. Therefore, we employ:

- the *presbyterian* form of church government, named for the Greek word for “elder,” πρεσβυτερος (“presbyter”). (Fun fact: in the Presbyterian Church in Ghana the members of the church’s session are called “presbyters,” not “elders.”) Each congregation elects ruling elders from among its membership to govern the congregation and order its life together. There are higher governing authorities, but these are groups, not individuals (i.e., not bishops). Every governing body level above the session and congregation – presbytery, synod, General Assembly – is made up of equal numbers of pastors (“teaching elders”) and ruling elders. This does make the process of decision-making far more cumbersome, to be sure, but far more democratic as well. Obviously, Presbyterian churches are “presbyterian” in their government; so are the various Reformed denominations.

I’ve hinted at another piece of what it means to be Presbyterian, namely, that we are connected to other Presbyterians through our presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly. No Presbyterian congregation is a completely independent agent. But that’s another topic for another month, as I suspect that I’m out of space!

See you on Sunday!

Julie

**Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro
May 15, 2016**

Call to Order/Quorum:

In the absence of the Clerk, Ralph Gore volunteered to be Acting Clerk of Session today, which was approved by consensus.

Hearing Issues from Members

- Ruth Shelton will be put on next meeting's agenda as she was unable to attend today. A copy of her letter, outlining her concerns, was provided to all session members.

Approval of Previous Minutes:

The minutes of Stated Session meeting of 4-17-2016 and Congregational meeting of 5-1-2016, were reviewed. **It was moved and seconded (LM/RG) that the minutes be approved as presented (4/17)/amended (5/1). Motion was passed on a voice vote with no dissensions**

Moderator's Report:

- Communion on May 1st
- Secured Pastors for June 12 & 26 and July 24, June 19 is pending

Pastor Search Discussion

PNC has 2 meetings this week, one with Jimmy Chapman

Finance Committee

- **Motion** to approve Treasurer's Report for Apr. 2016. **passes all (RG/JE)**
- **Motion** to approve Reid Fund Report for Apr. 2016. **passes all on a voice vote.**
- **Motion** to approve transfer of \$4,510 in local Memorial Funds to Memorial Fund Reserve account at TPF, **passes all on a voice vote.**
- **Motion** to approve the following: *"Should a Session member submit a Purchase Order for payment to Treasurer for goods or services, it is the Session member's responsibility to verify the accuracy of these charges. In the event such charges are discovered to be in error, for whatever reason, then the Session member is responsible for securing reimbursement for any overcharges. If this is not possible, then the Session member will reimburse the Church for such excess expenditures."* **passes all on a voice vote. To be added to the Policy book.**

Old Business

- Dr. Adkins explained last months "Pen" for Cross & Crown, will submit it for June and write "Pen" for July
- Not going to elect a new Christian Education Elder at this time

New Business

- The adult Sunday school instructors would like to take off June & July. Will meet for fellowship but no official class
- Session minutes will no longer go in Cross & Crown until they have been approved. In addition, unnecessary item will be left out
- Jane updated on SYNOD, not sure who wants to go but is contacting the youth
- Jane discussed the Summer Lunch Program, sponsored by First Baptist Church, and the possibility of getting a group of volunteers together. The Noisy offering for June is going to this program
- Larry: thanked Bob & Beaven, again, for mowing; will be fixing the new locks; will be obtaining more mulch; Becky & Tricia have cleaned up the Youth building & installed a de-humidifier; he & Beaven are working on the feedback problem of the sound system.

Adjournment:

Motion to not have a June session meeting unless something comes up that needs immediate attention **passes all (RG/RD). Motion** for this meeting to be adjourned and the next stated session meeting be held on July 17, 2016, **moved and seconded (RG/RD) Motion was passed on a voice vote with no. dissention**, at 1:00 PM. Meeting adjourned with prayer by the Moderator.

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.

Pastor

Session members:

Class of 2016
Jane Els, Larry Pendergrass
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

Attendance:

July 3—43

July 10—35

July 17—32

July 24—37



Noisy Offering

August: Winnsboro Senior Center
September: Harley's Helping Hands
October: Morgan's Mercy Mansion



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

IF YOU KNEW JESUS WERE RETURNING TOMORROW-----

What if you knew that Jesus would return tomorrow morning? That question was asked often in the church as I was growing up. In case we didn't have a ready answer, we were usually told what we should be found doing. The question was meant to light the fire underneath us for extraordinary undertakings. Who would want to be found grocery shopping or driving home from work? However, wiser Christians remind us that being found at our daily callings, glorifying and enjoying God in ordinary ways, is a better answer. Taking in the April scent and clucking chickens from his window, Luther is reported to have said, "Even if I knew the world was going to end tomorrow, I would still plant an apple tree today."

Even if this is one of the spurious Luther quotes, it still expresses a biblical wisdom he often shared. After all, the apostle Paul answered this question directly in I Thessalonians 4. As the day of the Lord approaches, he says, believers are "to aspire to live quietly, and to mind {their} own affairs, and to work with {their} own hands+ (4: 11). It doesn't sound very world-transforming. Yet it is precisely in the habits that make up a life like this that believers live "properly before outsiders and {are} dependent on no one" (v. 12).

As we have seen, each of us is a branch of the Vine, as well as a worker in the vineyard. Paul spoke of this especially in reference in to himself and other ministers of the Word. Some plant, some water, but it is the Lord who makes it grow. Isn't that liberating?

What did you do for the kingdom today? How did you impact the world for Christ? Our tendency might be to hesitate at that point, trying desperately to recall something worth reporting. Yet every day, in all sorts of ways we're not even aware of, the kingdom is growing and our neighbors are being served. There may be a quiet reference in the coffee room that provokes a coworker weeks later to ask a question about life and death, maybe even addressing it not to you but to another believer. You made lunch for the kids and got them to school on time. You worked well with your hands to supply neighbors with what they need and---oh, again, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matt 16: 18). Keep on point. Don't lose the focus. Jesus has bound Satan (Mark 3: 27; Luke 10: 17). Now we are free to do the little things that matter, without anxiety about how it all turns out in the end. "In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world" (John 16: 33)

Exercise: What would you do if you knew Jesus were coming back today? Why?

Taken from: OR-DI-NAR-Y, 1.Sustainable faith in a radical, restless world; Ch. 11, pp. 207-8.

Music Notes



The hand chime choir will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings during the summer. If you are interested in playing, come on and join us.



News from the PNC

The Session has approved our Ministry Information Form, and we are now online and have already begun to receive many Personal Information Forms (PIFs) from pastors seeking a position. As we continue to meet, the committee asks you to do a few things.

- 1st - continue to pray for the person God has already chosen for us.
- 2nd - Pray that your PNC will be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- 3rd - We ask that our church family remember the questions we all answered affirmatively during the commissioning of the PNC.

Three of those are:

- *Will you trust that God is guiding the PNC?*
- *Will you, relying upon the Holy Spirit, resist forming images of what your new pastor should look like or be like, trusting the committee's skills and intentions to discern worthy qualities of ministry in this place.*
- *Will you respect the need for confidentiality in this search process?*

We know it is hard waiting. Your committee is chomping at the bit to find our new pastor, but we know, as you do, that God has a plan and His timing is perfect.

Got Stuff?

In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? John 14:2 Our Master is preparing a place for us. In the same spirit, some of the PNC members are working to prepare the manse in hopeful anticipation of the pastor we should call. (No we haven't made ANY decisions yet, but that day will come before we know it, so we want the manse to be ready!)

We would love to present a clean, empty house to a potential pastor. There is stuff at the manse that needs to find a home - dishes, pots and pans, golf clubs, and more. If any of these items might be yours that you would like to have back, please help us out by picking them up before the end of the month. At the end of August, we will box up any unclaimed items and donate them to appropriate recipients. You may call Tricia, Carolyn, or Laquita if you would like to check out what's there.

Presbyterian Women

"Who is Jesus?" - What a Difference a Lens Makes

Author Judy Yates Siker invites us to join her on "a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is --- a journey of our hearts and our minds, a journey that we will take together.

Presbyterian Women and friends come join us as we look at the life, ministry, and guidelines given to us in the Bible. We will begin with the book of Mark.

Mark your calendar - Monday, September 12, 2016 – the second Monday.

See you then.



General Fund Summary Jan -June 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$38,258.91	\$42,860.00	\$4,601.09
Expense	\$ 34,932.04	\$42,860.00	\$7,927.96
Net	\$3,326.87		

Note: Bank balance 6/30/2016 was \$24,514.68 Restricted funds totaled \$8,508.45 while unrestricted funds totaled \$16,006.23.



Getting in to the 4th of July spirit!



This is a holy place for reflection—a safe place to talk and grow as Disciples of Christ. Here you'll find writing, art, videos, and podcasts. Some of it will be bilingual. Some will be collaborative projects, bringing together artist and wordsmith. All of it will push the boundaries of what passes for conversation in the church and will, we hope, inspire us to dream bigger when it comes to the gospel. Our opinions are ours alone; they do not represent the policies of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or *Presbyterians Today*. Our thoughts may sometimes be messy; they may make you feel uncomfortable. They are not meant to be the last word. They are an invitation. So, come, paint with us!

Editor's Note: If you would like to follow and or contribute to the Presbyterians Today Blog, you can find it online at: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/today/>

First Presbyterian Church

Birthdays/Anniversaries

August 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 2-4 pm Bible Study John Clark	2	3 6 pm Supper & Bible basics H. P. Hosey	4	5	6 Noon Al-Anon Rick Drennan
7 9:30 AM Hand Chime Choir practice COMMUNION	8 2-4 pm Bible Study	9	10 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Peggy Rounseville	11	12	13 Noon Al-Anon
14 9:30 AM Hand Chime Choir practice	15 2-4 pm Bible Study	16	17 <i>1:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg.</i> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	18	19	20 Noon Al-Anon
21 9:30 AM Hand Chime Choir practice Family Lunch Brainstorming mtg.	22 <i>Cross & Crown articles due by 9 AM</i> 2-4 pm Bible Study	23	24 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	25	26	27 Noon Al-Anon
28 9:30 AM Hand Chime Choir practice Noisy Offering: Winnsboro Senior Center	29 2-4 pm Bible Study Martie Spurgeon	30	31 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Ed Russell			