



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



June 2017

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTOR'S PEN: JULIE ADKINS

A few years ago, one of my friends living at Grace Presbyterian Village made a comment that refused to leave me in peace for days! Of course, by this time I can't remember her exact words, but the thought was this: "For many of us out here, the hardest thing of all is accepting that we can't do certain things we used to be able to do."

At first, it got me thinking about all the things that I used to be able to do that I can no longer do: Though I'm not quite ready yet to move to the Village (except maybe for my knees, which clearly belong to someone older than myself), I've definitely lost some abilities I used to have. I used to be able to do headstands, and cartwheels across the front lawn. I used to be able to bench-press quite a bit more weight than I can now. I used to be able to play tennis in the afternoon sun for two or three hours and never really feel the heat. I used to remember things without having to make a list. I used to be able to wear most of the clothes in my closet!

Of course, some of those are things which I could probably recover if I spent some time at it. It's not identical to the kinds of limitations that my friend was talking about, except perhaps for "remembering things without making a list"!

Next, though, I followed the mental "rabbit trail" of all the things I have never been able to do that I wish I could do . . . or think that I ought to be able to do. I can't draw a straight line. Can't preach a sermon without notes. Don't know how to use a caulk gun. Won't climb a ladder more than about four feet off the ground. Can't speak Spanish as well as I would like. The longer I think about it, the longer the list gets! Do you have a list like that for yourself also?

What I have to keep reminding myself (and my friend, too!) is that God does not value us according to what we are able to do. God values us because of *who we are* – and God will find plenty of things that we can do, if we will let that happen. Our limitations, though real, are not limitations to God! Somehow, even as we grieve those things which we can no longer do or which we could never do, we have to let God reach in and show us what God does want and need for us to do.

If, for example, the day comes when we can no longer drive a car; we can be assured that God no longer needs us behind the wheel. God has in mind some things we can do from home, or in the car along with other people . . . perhaps, opportunities we would miss altogether if we were still independently mobile. Maybe it's only when our bodies have slowed down with age that we really get good at praying without distraction or sitting in quiet meditation. If our hearing begins to fail, it's possible that it will be easier for us to hear God when the world around us isn't quite so noisy.

Change is never easy – especially when the change happens within ourselves. But no matter which of our abilities or faculties leave us, God never leaves us. And even on days when we are thoroughly frustrated with ourselves, God never stops loving us. I know sometimes it's hard to believe. Believe it anyway.

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:

April 30—34
May 7—20
May 14—30
May 21—25



Noisy Offerings

**June: Winnsboro Summer
Lunch program**

July: Camp Gilmont

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



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

THE WOULD-BE WOODCUTTER

*WARM-UP: 2 KINGS 6: 1 - 7

"When I would beget contentment . . . I walk the meadows and there contemplate the little creatures that are cared for by the goodness of God". Izaak Walton

The school of the prophets in Gilgal had swelled to over a hundred men (2 Kings 4: 43); and their settlements at Bethel and Jericho had grown to such numbers that their meeting place had become too small. Someone suggested to Elisha that the men should go to the woods, cut logs, and enlarge their facilities. The prophet agreed and was invited to accompany them.

The woodcutters made their way up the Jordan valley to the spot where they planned to fell trees and float them downstream to the building site. Things were going well until, as Matthew Henry so quaintly put it, "one of them accidently fetching too fierce a stroke (as those who work seldom are apt to be too violent), threw off his ax-head into the water."

"Oh, my lord," the man cried, "it was borrowed!"

"Where did it go?" Elisha asked.

When the man showed him the place, Elisha cut a stick, reached with it into the water, and "made the iron float {flow}."

"Lift it out." he said.

The man "reached out his hand and took it."

Some have suggested that nothing miraculous happened. Elisha simply probed the water with his stick until he located the ax-head and dragged it into sight. But if that were the case, such a common incident would hardly have been worth reporting.

No, it was a miracle: Elisha caused the ax-head to "flow" as the Hebrew text says. The ax-head was set in motion by a sudden rush of the water so that it drifted into the shallows where he could retrieve it.

This miracle enshrines a simple and profound truth: God cares about the small stuff of life---lost ax-heads, lost coins, lost keys, lost files, lost contact lenses---all the little things that cause us to fret and worry. He doesn't always restore what was misplaced (He has reasons of his own), but He understands our loss and comforts us in our distress.

I think of those times when our grandchildren grieve over some small loss and my own heart is touched with their grief. The broken or mislaid item is usually some trifling thing, some toy or trinket---but it isn't trifling to them. . . and my grandchildren matter to me.

And so it is with our father. Our small worries mean everything to Him because He cares about us (I Peter 5: 7).

Does Jesus care when my heart is pained,
Too deeply for mirth and song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?

O yes He cares, I know He cares!
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.

-----Frank E. Graeff

From: **Out of the Ordinary**; by David Roper; Discovery House Publishers.

Summer is here!

This is the day the
LORD has made;
let us rejoice
and be glad in it.

PSALM 118:24



June is here, which means summer is also here! Sunday school is on hiatus, school's out, swimsuits and sunscreen are purchased, vacations are planned, and kids dream of sleeping in!

Wishing for you a summer full of fun, no mosquitos, and only happy surprises.

"The Lord bless and keep you"
Numbers 6:24 NIV

**Submitted by the Christian Education
Committee**

From the InReach & OutReach Committee (Armel Crocker and Becky Poe)

We recently learned that our church (FPC) is the only active Presbyterian Church in Wood County, which has prompted us to begin actively working to increase our presence and visibility.

- Our FPC website, easttexasgrace.org, is currently being re-designed and upgraded to a format that will make it much easier to access church information on any device: computer, smartphone, tablet, etc. The plan now is to have the new website go live mid-June.
- We recognize the value of using Facebook to share our church activities with a much wider audience than just those who have friended us. We posted and "boosted" a Mother's Day Drennan-family photo and saw a dramatic increase in our church's weekly total reach as friends of friends shared the photo to their pages. AND, we learned that members without a Facebook account can still see items we post.
- We have met with two community newspaper editors outside of Winnsboro and have begun placing display ads for our church. The Yantis Times published our ad (free of charge) in their May issue; sometime this summer, the Community Chronicle will also publish a large display ad along with a feature article highlighting our Reid Scholarship recipients.
- We have updated the church's former glossy church information card and placed copies in the Reid Building and at the entry to the sanctuary for members to take and distribute to friends and neighbors that they would like to invite to church.
- We are putting together a "visitor's packet" for our ushers to distribute when new people come to worship with FPC for the first time.

We need everyone's help! You are encouraged to share our Facebook page, the link to the website and the updated information card. Inviting a friend, neighbor or family member is considered to be the most effective way to add members to a church and these new resources will help you!

*Dear Church Family, Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers. I think of you all so often and Danny keeps me up to date—May the Lord bless and keep you all—
Love, Marianne Wilson*

| General Fund Summary - Jan - Apr 2017 | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| | Actual | Budget | Variance |
| Income | \$26,339.25 | \$28,833.28 | \$2,494.03 |
| Expense | \$ 17,890.71 | \$29,423.46 | \$11,532.75 |
| Net | \$8,448.54 | | |

**Note: Bank balance 4/30/2017 was \$64,332.92.
Restricted funds totaled \$35,332.85, while unrestricted funds totaled \$29,000.07.**

Volunteers Appreciated

It is so appreciated when members volunteer to participate in the Worship service. Being an acolyte, or an usher to help take up the offering. To welcome people as they arrive or being Lay Worship Leader - it takes each of us doing our part. Please contact Rick to get your name on the calendar to volunteer or put your name on the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board.



Lay Worship Leader (Liturgist), Molly Lennon

Submitted by the Worship Committee

First Presbyterian Church

Birthdays/Anniversaries

June 2017

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|---------------------------------------|--------|--------------------|
| NO SUNDAY SCHOOL JUNE, JULY OR AUGUST | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 Noon Al-Anon |
| 4 PENTECOST COMMUNION | 5 2-4 pm Bible Study | 6 Jack Baber | 7 6 pm Supper & The Miracle of Mercy | 8 | 9 | 10 Noon Al-Anon |
| 11 Sean Drennan | 12 2-4 pm Bible Study | 13 Claire Agnew | 14 6 pm Supper & The Miracle of Mercy | 15 | 16 | 17 Noon Al-Anon |
| 18 <u>Father's Day</u> Family Lunch | 19 2-4 pm Bible Study Anniv. Murley | 20 <i>Session reports due by 11 AM</i> Della White | 21 6 pm Supper & Bible basics | 22 Session papers to be emailed | 23 | 24 Noon Al-Anon |
| 25 Noisy Offering: Summer lunch program Session | 26 2-4 pm Bible Study Charlie England | 27 Holly Clark-Porter | 28 6 pm Supper & Bible Basics | 29 | 30 | |