



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



February 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

### CONTRIBUTORS PEN:

#### WITH GENTLENESS AND RESPECT

WHEN PEOPLE FIRST hear the word *apologetics* they typically think of our modern use of the word *apology*. They often conclude that the task of apologetics is apologizing for the Christian faith, as if we have to say we are sorry for our faith. However, the word *apologetics* derives from the Greek word *apologia*, which means "to give an answer" or "to make a defense." Apologetics is not an apology, it's an answer--a defense of what we believe. In his first epistle, Peter writes, "In your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with *gentleness and respect*" (I Peter 3: 15). In his commentary on I Peter, Dr. R. C. Sproul writes:

*Our preparation is to make us ready to give a defense and a reason for the hope that is in us....If your neighbor says, "I notice that you are a Christian. What is it that you believe?" Some Christians tell those who inquire that we simply take a leap of faith with no bother about the credibility or the rational character of the truth claims of the Bible, but that response goes against the teaching of this text. The only leap of faith we are to take is out of the darkness and into the light. When we become Christians, we do not leave our mind in the parking lot. We are called to think according to the Word of God, to seek the mind of Christ and an understanding of the things set forth in sacred Scripture.*

God calls us to be ready to make a defense for the hope that is in us, but notice that He calls us to do it with gentleness and respect. Apologetics isn't just for *some* Christians, it is for *all* Christians. We all must know what we believe, why we believe it, and how to proclaim it--and we must do so with *gentleness and respect*.

The Contributor, is editor of TABLETALK magazine, Burk Parsons; from January, 2016. Submitted By Ruth Shelton

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## Presbyterian Women

**Monday, February 1st Presbyterian Women will meet at 10 am in the Reid Building.**

**Please join us as we continue our study of "Come to the Waters". Study with us as "we see the power of God in Jesus to overcome the dangers of chaotic waters."**



## From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

### TEACH US TO PRAY:

*One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ---Luke 11: 1*

Jesus baffles us as He baffles others. We see Him hard at work--confronting the powers of demons and men and defeating them, vindicating widows and orphans, directed by an unknown source of strength and wisdom. We watch and wonder. Where did He get His authority?

One of Jesus' disciples overheard Him pray and determined that Jesus' remarkable powers were related to prayer. Certainly this disciple, as every-one does prayed now and then when the chips were down. Even the impious pray. But he wanted something more and so cried out, "Lord, teach us to pray!"

The Lord's Prayer follows, the prayer we've been taught to follow in form. But the Prayer is more than ritual; it's rather a revelation of the *meaning* of prayer. When Jesus called God *Father*, He was expressing utter dependence on Him.

Jesus followed no form in His prayers. On occasions when we hear Him pray, such as in John 17. His prayers are informal. But if we listen, we will learn His secret--He prayed out of dependence. Perhaps the most startling of all Jesus' statements about Himself was His insistence that He too was a dependent being. Having laid aside the independent use of His deity, He declared, "By myself I can do nothing" (John 5: 30).

And so He prayed without ceasing. Prayer was the environment in which He lived, the air He breathed. Subject to continual interruptions, busy beyond comparison, resisted by friends and foes, hassled and harried, He managed to keep in touch with God. Every situation was an occasion for prayer. When He held the small supply of bread and saw the multitude to be fed, He first gave thanks for God's supply. When He called Lazarus from the tomb, He first called on the Father. When the Greeks came seeking Him, knowing He had to come through, He asked God to glorify His name. Prayer was His principal work, and by this He carried on the rest.

His life was continuous prayer. No demands, only dependence; no clamoring for attention, only a quiet continual reliance on the Father who always heard Him (John 11: 42).

Saints of the Middle Ages saw in everything a summons to prayer: a church bell, the flight of a swallow, a sunrise, the falling of a leaf. Our vision of ourselves as needy, dependent men makes life a matter of continuous prayer, so much a part of us that we can say with the psalmist, "I am a man of prayer" (Psalm 109: 4).

And so the quintessence of life is prayer, not to demand but to wait with patience and submission, to long for and expect. By it everything else is done.

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Taken from, *THE STRENGTH OF A MAN*, by David Roper; Discovery House Publishers.

### **Noisy Offering**

The Noisy Offering for February will be collected for the Blessing Box. The Blessing Box is a non-profit retail shop and food pantry. It also offers financial assistance when funds are available. It is a ministry of the Central Christian Church but is supported by and serves the whole community.

General Fund Summary Jan - Dec 2015			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$90,328.86	\$100,940.44	\$10,611.58
Expense	\$ 81,767.56	\$100,940.44	\$19,172.88
Net	\$8,561.30		

Note: Bank balance 12/31/2015 was \$26,815.17. Restricted funds totaled \$16,070.05 while unrestricted funds totaled \$10,745.12.

**Stated Session Meeting**  
**First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro**  
**December 13, 2015**

#### **Call to Order/Quorum:**

The meeting was called to order with prayer and Scripture reading, by Dr. Julie Adkins at 12:13 P.M. in the Reid building. A quorum was present, consisting of the following members: James Spurgeon, Larry Pendergrass, Bob Kelm, Chris Holloman, Jane Els and Don Kettleon. Also present: Leeann Moos, Ralph Gore, Rick Drennan & 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 amended, **passes all (CH/DK).**

Consent Agenda:

- Approve the agenda as amended.
- Approve the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting 11/15/2015 as presented.
- Approve the 2016 Grace Presbytery Shared Mission Commitment. Appx. \$560 (no change from previous year)
- Approve the Treasurer's Report for November 2015.
- Approve the Reid Fund Report for November 2015.

**Moderator's Report:**

- Communion on Dec. 6 and took to 1 homebound couple
- Discussed Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday schedule & Communion

**Mission Study Committee: Leeann Moos**

- **Motion** to approve the Mission Study Committee to engage the congregation in a Bible Study series, using biblical images of the mission and purpose of the church. The Bible Study would take place during Sunday School time from 9:30-10:30 and replace normal Sunday School for the Sunday's on January 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. **Passes all (LM/CH)**
- **Motion** to approve the reimbursement of Dr. Julie Adkins for the purchase and shipping of five Copies of the Book of Order (appx. \$55.25) for the Mission Study Committee. **Passes all (CH/JE)**

**Personnel Evaluations**

- Personnel evaluations discussed by session
- **Motion to present a Christmas Bonus to Tina Hammer (\$300) and Della White (\$200) Passes all (CH/RG)**

**Examination of New Ruling Elders for 2016:**

- **Ralph Gore Passes all (JS/BK)**
- **Leeann Moos Passes all (JS/JE)**
- **Rick Drennan Passes all (CH/JE)**

**Covenant with FPC Pittsburg:**

Tabled until Chris can speak with FPC Pittsburg Clerk of Session & Shane Webb

**New Business:**

- **Motion** to approve the 2016 Budget, **Passes all (CH/RG).**
- Bldg/Grds scheduled meeting Dec 27 following church
- In case of bad weather, Dr. Adkins will email her sermon to Jane Els

**Old Business:**

Chris Holloman is willing to continue as the Clerk of Session for one more year. **Motion to elect Chris Holloman as the Clerk of Session for 2016 passes all (JS/JE).** Tina will continue taking the Minutes.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion** for this meeting to be adjourned with prayer and the next stated session meeting be held on January 17, 2016 at 12:15pm, **moved and seconded (JS/CH) Motion was passed on a voice vote with no dissention,** at 1:20 PM.

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## Youth News

The youth will meet on February 7 and February 28. Our goal is to meet the first and 4th weekends of each month. We've had a hard time getting started up again with the change in leadership due to unforeseen delays, but we finally got off the ground in January. We had a nice turnout on the 24th and Becky and Tricia are looking forward to getting to know the kids and learning what it is that they want in a church youth group. If you are not a parent or grandparent but would like to help with a meal now and then, please let Becky Poe or Tricia Clark know. We will gladly put you to service! Please be in prayer for this group as they explore together what it is to be a person of God.

Please welcome our New Members and add them to your directory (remember, the directory is also on the website [www.easttexasgrace.org](http://www.easttexasgrace.org). Call office for password):

**Debbi\* & Larry\* Elmer**  
214-288-1212  
279 Timberidge Trail  
Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765  
[Debbi.elmer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Debbi.elmer@sbcglobal.net)  
[Larry.elmer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Larry.elmer@sbcglobal.net)

**Brad\* & Judy\* DeWees**  
903-613-2137  
279 Timberidge Trail  
Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765  
[Jdwees36@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Jdwees36@sbcglobal.net)

**David Ware\***  
840 FM 21  
Mt. Vernon, TX 75457

### 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](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net)  
Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

#### FPC Website:

[www.easttexasgrace.org](http://www.easttexasgrace.org)

**Cross and Crown articles:**  
[firstpres@peoplescom.net](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net)

#### New Address:

Gayle Moss  
1601 W. Queen Creek Rd., #144  
Chandler, AZ 85248

## Here We Grow!

#### Attendance:

**December 27—32**  
**January 3—42**  
**January 10—36**  
**January 17—46**  
**January 24—33**



As many of you know, Gayle Moss has moved to Phoenix to be closer to her family. Gayle's son Charlie, and granddaughter Devin, both live in Phoenix with their families. We flew Gayle out on a private plane, to minimize travel time for her, and her belongings came a couple of days later after a cross-country drive. Gayle is in assisted living at a beautiful place; her room is light and airy; her assistants are wonderful and understand how to get her used to her new environment.

Gayle particularly wanted to say a special good bye to her friends at Bridge Club, and First Presbyterian Church. She will miss you all, and she says she left a part of her heart in East Texas!!

**Linda Elliott**

[linda.gayle.elliott@gmail.com](mailto:linda.gayle.elliott@gmail.com)

303-956-7177

Thanks to everyone who continues to bring Box Tops for Education and Campbell's soup labels to Becky Poe. She turned in 500 Box Tops to Winnsboro Elementary School this week which represents a \$50 donation from First Presbyterian Church! Also, 5 deserving 4<sup>th</sup> graders were given personal pan pizzas on our behalf. Keep cutting those labels and bringing them in.

## **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](mailto: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.**

**Starting the first week of JANUARY**

# First Presbyterian Church

*Birthdays/Anniversaries*

## February 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> PW 10 am 2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>2</b> Kelli Conradson	<b>3</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>4</b> 6PM Kairos-office	<b>5</b> Darrell Wanker Camp Gilmont Women's retreat	<b>6</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>7</b> COMMUNION Youth after church Women's retreat	<b>8</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Ash Wednesday 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>11</b> Session reports to office by 11 am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Presidents' Day 2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>16</b> 1:30 Finance Com. Mtg.	<b>17</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>18</b> 6PM Kairos-office Carson Moore	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Noon Al-Anon Carolyn Summers Gene Ash
<b>21</b> Congregation Mtg. Family Lunch Session	<b>22</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study LaVerne Baber	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Renovare' at Camp Gilmont	<b>27</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>28</b> Noisy Offering Renovare'	<b>29</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study					