



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



January 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

### IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

Greetings, Presbyterian Family!

As part of the beginning steps in our pastor search, the Session has appointed a Mission Study Team to help lead our congregation in a thorough study and evaluation of our church's mission and purpose. In order to do this, we want to invite each and every one of you to join us in a Bible study series, beginning the first Sunday in January and carrying on through the fourth Sunday; those dates of our study will be: JANUARY 3<sup>RD</sup>, 10<sup>TH</sup>, 17<sup>TH</sup>, AND 24<sup>TH</sup>. We will be meeting in the Reid Building during the regular Sunday School time, 9:30AM-10:30AM, on those four Sunday mornings.

During those times, we hope to explore biblical texts that will engage our church family in the nature and purpose of the church. YOUR INPUT IS CRITICAL TO FORMULATE OUR MISSION [STUDY](#) STATEMENT. As our past mission [study](#) envisioned, we are "Together in Christ: Learning, Living, and Sharing the Word." As we share God's word, we hope to specifically relate how we can LIVE Christ's mission, both within our sanctuary and in the streets of our community. In today's times, more than ever before, we need to pinpoint how to share God's Glory in our world.

We're asking you to be a part of this. Please consider devoting that extra hour a week to helping us formulate and proclaim Christ's mission. THERE'S NO SIGN-UP. JUST SHOW UP, AND SPEAK UP

"WHAT WE PLANT IN THE SOIL OF CONTEMPLATION, WE SHALL REAP IN THE HARVEST OF ACTION."

Our mission [study](#) must [be completed](#) before our Pastor Nominating Committee can be selected. Feel free to contact any of our Mission Study Team members: Armel Crocker, Katelyn Drennan, Leeann Moos, Carolyn Stewart, or Dan Wilson, if you have any questions. We are thankful for Pastor Julie Adkins who will be our Moderator and leader during our January congregational mission study series.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY.

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## Presbyterian Women

**Monday, January 4th Presbyterian Women will meet at 10 am in the Reid Building. Please join us as we continue our study of "Come to the Waters". This month our lesson is about STORMY WATERS --- FAITH. As we have had such STORMY WEATHER lately, so our lives have had STORMY times. Faith and our belief in Jesus has strengthened and up lifted us. 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

### Developing the Quieter Virtues:

*Whether the cloud stayed over the tabernacle for two days or a month or a year, the Israelites would remain in camp and not set out, but when it lifted, they would set out. Numbers 9: 22*

I watch the thunder heads mass and billow over the Boise Front and think of "the cloud"--the symbol of the Presence in Israel's midst and the means by which God's people were led through the wilderness.

Moses had this to say about the cloud: "Sometimes the cloud was over the tabernacle only a few days" (Numbers 9: 20); other times the cloud "remained over the tabernacle a long time" (9: 19)--several days, a month, a year--and God's people waited and waited and waited . . .

Waiting is hard. We twiddle our thumbs, shuffle our feet, stifle our yawns, and fret inwardly in frustration. We want to hit the road.

"Ah, for the open road," sighs Mr. Toad in *The Wind in the Willows*. "There's the real life for you . . . Here today and off somewhere else tomorrow! Travel, change, interest, excitement! The whole world before you, and a horizon that's always changing."

Like Toady, we want to put miles behind us, see new sights. Change, interest, excitement! That's the life! But the cloud lingers, and so do we. We feel trapped by drab routine; day-in and day-out duty; the monotonous grind; the same ol', same ol'.

We writhe under our frustration and helplessness. "This is no place to grow," we complain. "What chance do I have to develop my full potential? What opportunity do I have to accomplish great things?" "Haven't I endured enough?" we ask. "Haven't I learned the lesson of this place?" "Isn't it time to move on?"

"No," is often the answer. The cloud lingers, and we make no progress at all--or so it seems to us.

But what seems so *is not what is so*. Waiting is not an interruption of our journey but an essential part of it. Without delay we could never make the most of our lives. It's one of the ways God affects the ends on which He has set His heart.

Waiting is the time for soul making, the time to develop the quieter virtues--submission, humility, patience, endurance, persistence. The quiet virtues take the longest to learn, are the last to be learned, and, it seems, can be learned only through God's delays, the very thing we're most inclined to resist,

We mustn't resist, and we mustn't grow restless. We must wait before we make a change by some rash and willful act--before we give notice to a difficult employer,, before we walk out on a hard marriage, before we trash a disappointing friendship, or make some other irrevocable decision. We must wait to make the next move. We'll know when it's time to go. God will make the change in plenty of time.

In the meantime we should look into each delay for its disciplines, learning its deeper lessons of faith and obedience and yielding to God's efforts to change us *rather than* our circumstances. The extent to which we do so will determine the extent to which His purposes are achieved in us or are thwarted.

F. B. Meyer said, "What a chapter might be written of God's delays. It is the mystery of educating human spirits to the finest temper of which they are capable. What searching's of the heart, what analyzing of motives, what testing's of the Word of God, what uplifting of the soul . . . All these are associated with these weary days of waiting which are, nevertheless, big with spiritual destiny."

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Taken from, --*In Quietness and Confidence*, by David Roper; Discovery House Publishers is affiliated with Our Daily Bread Ministries. (Used with permission.)

### **Noisy Offering**

**The schedule has not been made as of this printing, but we will be taking the offering.**

*cell phone: 903-347-0909*

General Fund Summary Jan - Nov 2015			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$84,527.20	\$92,528.74	\$8,001.54
Expense	\$ 74,702.78	\$92,528.74	\$17,825.96
Net	\$9,824.42		

**Note: Bank balance 11/30/2015 was \$27,875.56. Restricted funds totaled \$15,539.70 while unrestricted funds totaled \$12,335.86.**

**Stated Session Meeting  
First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro  
November 15, 2015**

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

The meeting was called to order with prayer and Scripture reading, by Dr. Julie Adkins at 12:19 P.M. in the Reid building. A quorum was present, consisting of the following members: James Spurgeon, Larry Pendergrass, Bob Kelm and Chris Holloman. Jane Els arrived later. Also present: Leeann Moos, Ralph Gore, Rick Drennan & Tina Hammer.

**Hearing Issues from members and Visitors:** none

#### **Session Quorum:**

**Motion** to define the number of Ruling Elders required for a quorum is 4 Elders plus a Moderator, passes all (CH/RG).

### Approval of the Consent Agenda:

- ☐ Approve the Consent Agenda as amended.
- ☐ Approve the agenda as amended.
- ☐ Approve the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting 10/20/2015 and Congregational Meeting 11/08/15 as presented.
- ☐ Approve the Reid Fund Report for October 2015.
- ☐ Approve the Treasurer's Report for the General Fund for October 2015.

### Passes all (CH/RG)

### Finance Committee:

- ☐ **Motion** to approve the Finance Committee's suggestion to appoint Jerry Poe as Treasurer with Laquita Kelm serving as his assistant only through March 2016 and Becky Poe serving as his assistant for CY 2016, **passes all**.
- ☐ **Next budget workshop is Wednesday, December 9 at 7 PM**
- ☐ **Motion** to amend the 2015 budget transferring \$1,100 from Church Administration Pastor's Salary (Account # 58101) to Worship Pulpit Supply (Account # 55201), **passes all**.

### New Business

- ☐ **Committee Chairs for 2016:**  
Larry Pendergrass - Building and Grounds  
Bob Kelm - Church Finance  
Jane Els - Mission and Evangelism  
James Spurgeon - Christian Education  
Leeann Moos - Congregational Life  
Rick Drennan - Worship  
Ralph Gore - Church Administration  
Chris Holloman will continue to think & pray on continuing as Clerk until next meeting
- ☐ The date for the examination of the New Elders is December 13.
- ☐ The date for the Ordination and Installation Service for the New Elders is January 17.
  - Rick Drennan and Leeann Moos will be ordained and installed
  - Ralph Gore is an ordained elder and will be installed
- ☐ Dr. Adkins would like mileage & pay as separate items on her check for IRS purposes
- ☐ Dr. Adkins will lead (instead of Jimmy Chapman) Mission Study as long as they meet on Sundays
- ☐ Communion for "shut-ins" will continue in Dec. with Dr. Adkins & Larry Pendergrass.
- ☐ Pulpit Supply discussed and agreed upon for January and February 2016  
Dr. Julie Adkins will preach January 3, 10, 17, 31 and February 7, 14, 21  
James Spurgeon will preach January 24 and February 28

### Old Business: none

### Adjournment:

**Motion** for this meeting to be adjourned with prayer and the next stated session meeting be held on December 13, 2015 at 12:15pm, **moved and seconded (RG/JE) Motion was passed on a voice vote with no dissention**, at 1:10 PM.

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*Friends,*

*Because I have not written my gratitude to you individually, please accept the sincerity of this expression of appreciation.*

*God has given me great improvement and blessings during this health problem.*

*Your prayers, visits, words of encouragement, cards, notes, flowers and food have offered me comfort and support.*

*I remember and treasure each act of your kindness and help.*

*With Christian Love,*

*Ann Moore            cell phone: 903-347-0919*



My dear church family,

I want to thank you for your show of love during my father's memorial service. The reception table was heavy-laden with wonderful desserts and treats (something he would have loved!) Your willingness to bake extra during the Thanksgiving holiday was so appreciated. Even more though, the fact that so many of you were in attendance at the service (either in body or through food) touched our family more than you can know. His family was not able to attend and though most of you did not know my dad, your presence was a loving tribute from our church family.

With deepest gratitude,

Tricia and John Clark and the family of Ron Pressly

**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:**

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**FPC Website:**

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

**Cross and Crown articles:**

[firstpres@peoplescom.net](mailto:firstpres@peoplescom.net)

**NEW ADDRESS:**

**Carolyn Appleby has been moved to  
room #54 at Whispering Pines  
910 S. Beech St.  
Winnsboro, TX 75494**

**Here We Grow!**

**Attendance:**

**November 29—40**

**December 6—39**

**December 13—45**

**December 20—29**

**December 24—80**

**Youth News**

**We are working on getting the youth group going again. All youth and parents/grandparents should receive a letter and calendar in the mail by the end of December. Please contact Tricia Clark if one doesn't come your way. We will NOT meet the first Sunday in January, but we will start up towards the end of that month.**

## 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

### PSALM 23 for the MODERN WOMAN

\* By Kathleen Long Bostrom

*The clock is my master, I shall want more time.  
It makes me get up far too early;  
It leads me away from still waters; It drains my soul.  
It leads me by the nose for efficiency's sake.*

*Even though I race as fast as I can through the highway tunnels,  
I fear I am late; for my wristwatch is with me;  
Its numbers and second hand--they control me.  
It prepares a fast-food meal before me,  
In the presence of many demands; It anoints my head with aching: my calendar overflows.*

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
But I will be one step ahead of them, forever.*

\*\*\*\*\*

God of time and timelessness, the breath of your Word swept over the chaos and brought forth days and nights, years and seasons, time and order. You created years, weeks, days, hours, minutes and seconds to give shape and form to our lives, but we have turned time into a taskmaster. We have become slaves to the second hands of our clocks. We rush through our days pressured and anxious. In our hurry to make the most of minutes, life passes us by. Slow us down! Let your Spirit sweep across the chaos we have created until we learn to stop and enjoy the wonders of this world. We pray in the name of the Word, through whom all life came into being. Amen.

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Kathleen Long Bostrom author of: *For Everything, A Season: Study of the Liturgical Calendar*, the 2005-2006 Horizons Bible Study.

(Cross & Crown Editor note: Verse lines combined to fit in space)



## News from the Wednesday Night Bible Study Class:



We've been studying the book of John and having a wonderful time taking each story slowly. And while we're at it we're having a lot of fun. While discussing ministry, we decided to assemble shoeboxes for a ministry through Operation Christmas Child. Last week we found out our boxes went to the African country of Niger.



In December, just for fun, we made tamales.

Our class meets every Wednesday. We eat a small meal around 5:30 then study from 6 to 7 pm. Della is always there if you need child care. Because the class is small we are all asking questions we never thought to ask. Come join us and bring a friend!



# First Presbyterian Church

*Birthdays/Anniversaries*

## January 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>3</b> 9:30 Mission Study <b>COMMUNION</b>	<b>4</b> PW 10 am 2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Epiphany 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Mary Lou Jordan	<b>7</b> 6 pm Kairos Betty Ash	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Noon Al-Anon Vicki Bond Kelly Holloman
<b>10</b> 9:30 Mission Study	<b>11</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study- new study begins Don Kettleson Wayne Werner	<b>12</b> Christian England	<b>13</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Patricia Clark	<b>14</b> 1:30 Finance comm. Michael Spurgeon	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>17</b> 9:30 Mission Study Family Lunch Session Examine/Install Elders	<b>18</b> M L King Day 2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>21</b> 6 pm Kairos	<b>22</b> Laquita Kelm	<b>23</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>24</b> 9:30 Mission Study	<b>25</b> Cross & Crown articles by 9 AM 2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>26</b> Susan Drennan Blossom Barnett	<b>27</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>31</b> 9:30 Sunday School resumes Noisy Offering						