



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



June 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

### CONTRIBUTORS PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS

**Q. How many Presbyterians does it take to change a light bulb?**

**A. CHANGE?!?!**

Truthfully, one can make that joke about almost any church – almost any human institution, for that matter. What is it about change that so sets our teeth on edge? Why are our ruts so comfortable, anyhow?

After all – check your Bible – God rarely, if ever, calls a person or a group of people to stay as they are. When Abram was 75 years old, God came to him and said, “Well done, old man; relax and enjoy your retirement.” WRONG! God said, “Get up, leave the land where you’ve always lived, and go on a journey. Keep going until I tell you to stop. Oh, and by the way, your name is now Abraham.”

Moses killed an Egyptian (to be fair, he was defending a slave who was being mistreated) and fled to a far-off land. One day, out tending the sheep, he encountered a burning bush that said to him something like, “Smart move, Moses. You stay here where it’s safe, and I’ll see about getting the Hebrew people out of Egypt.” NOPE! God spoke and said, “You go back to Egypt, talk to Pharaoh, and tell him to ‘Let my people go.’”

Isaiah records the prophecy: “See, I am doing a new thing.” Jesus warns us about putting new wine into old wineskins, not to mention his repeated refrain of “You have heard it said ... but I say to you:...” Even in nature: creatures adapt, or they die. Species adapt, or they face extinction. Why should we be any different?

And yet ... and yet ... if change only meant adapting to something new, that would be relatively easy. Do any of us really want to return to the days before air conditioning? Power steering? Penicillin? But change is rarely only about the new arriving; it’s also about the passing of the old. And the memories associated with it. I almost can’t drive through the north Oak Cliff section of Dallas, where the church that I served as pastor (along with my husband, though he wasn’t my husband at the time) sits vacant. That section of Dallas is changing so rapidly – much of it good, no doubt – that it feels as if my memories of a particular place with a particular person are being slowly erased. So, while I’m intellectually fascinated with the processes of change, in this instance it’s far overbalanced by grief.

The older I get, the more I realize that change, even when it’s for the good, seems nearly always to be accompanied by a sense of loss. And it seems like we are the most resistant to change when we haven’t been given the opportunity to grieve, or at least to say goodbye, to “what once was” before we have to turn to “what is to come.”

So in this time of pastoral transition, we’ve said goodbye not only to John and his family, but also (mostly) to James and Martie and their family as well, and it’s not surprising that many of us are feeling a strong sense of loss. What that tells us is that John and James were faithful servants and that we will miss their leadership; it would be much worse, actually, if we didn’t miss them. But we also have a future to look forward to, and that will involve change. Hasn’t it already?

For those of us who would prefer, at least a lot of the time, to dwell in the past and resist change: we have to let go. The choice is not whether change will come; it will. Our choice is whether we will accept our role in shaping change or make ourselves miserable resisting what cannot, in the end, be stopped.

For those of us who are usually impatient for change and would like to light a firecracker under the rest of us (!): we must make time to grieve what is gone and to celebrate what was good in it – or at least, allow others to do so – before we rush ahead to the new.

We are in this together, and though the road ahead is not always clear, we know we have companions we can trust.

(P.S. Actually, my favorite answer to the riddle above is this: **Change? What do you mean, change? My grandmother gave that light bulb to this church!!**)

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**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.**

**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

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Fax: 903-342-3011

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**FPC Website:**

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

**Cross and Crown articles:**

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

**Attendance:**

**May 1--44**

**May 8—35**

**May 15—35**

**May 22—48**

**Due to popular demand, coming in July's issue:**  
**Sean Drennan's "Message" and Christian England's "Senior Moments"!!**



# From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

## THE RUSE OF EXPECTATIONS:

Jesus could have been devastated by the fact that in the face of his death the disciples cared only about their positions in his future kingdom. But he wasn't. He knew the selfishness that dominates most human relationships and was already past their failure before they were. In fact, nothing seemed to bother him about his friends---not when Martha thought kitchen chores were more important than conversing with him, not when Peter denied him at trial, and not when Thomas doubted his resurrection.

Jesus did not lace his relationships with expectations, and he refused to be trapped when others sought to put their expectations on him. He disappointed Mary and Martha by delaying his trip to Bethany when they begged him to come and heal their brother, Lazarus. He didn't tell people all they wanted to know, nor did he heal people just to prove his power. Many misunderstood him, and others got angry with him, yet he just kept loving them as they were, gently pointing them to the truth and letting them decide whether to come or not. He refused to manipulate people even for their own good, and he was not crushed when they turned on him.

The popular saying is true: "Expectations are resentments waiting to happen." We sabotage many of our relationships by imposing expectations on others or trying to meet theirs. It cannot be done. People who live with expectations will never be satisfied. Of course we can still love those who impose their expectations on us, but we will also have to find peace in knowing that we may never be able to love them in the way they demand it.

Gilbert has been in the hospital for a few days, and since I had been out of town, I had not gotten by to see him sooner. When I did, all he could do was complain about how lonely he had been. Ni one had come by to see him. No one cared about him. As I heard him talk, I knew better. I knew at least half a dozen people who had told me they had come by to see him.

"Gilbert are you sure?" I finally asked him. "Didn't Marty come by a few days ago, and Mark, Jim, and Paul too?"

He cocked his head remembering. I honestly didn't think he was lying to me. He had been so wrapped up in his disappointment that I hadn't come, he couldn't appreciate the others who had. That is what expectations do. They make us look for the person we want to help us instead of letting God send us whomever he desires.

Disappointments are the surest test that you are a captive to expectations. When you hear yourself saying, "If they loved me, they wouldn't (or would) have . . ." or "After all I've done for them, you'd think . . .," know that you've fallen into a trap from which there is only one escape. Instead of letting your disappointment rage at whoever has not done what you thought he or she should, ask Jesus to help you trust him to bring whoever you need into your life without demanding that it come your way.

*\*Taken from: AUTHENTIC RELATIONSHIPS, Chapter. 4, It's not all about you, pp 50-51; by Wayne and Clay Jacobsen; Publisher: Baker Books*



## Thank you Recycling Supporters...

You have done a most  
fantabulous job saving  
*Box Tops for Education*  
(our church collected

700 this school year), *aluminum can pull tabs* (we turned in a 1  
gallon bag full) and *Campbell's Soup* IPC codes (I lost count). We  
plan to continue saving these items.

May we add a new item? The 4<sup>th</sup> grade Winnsboro Elementary  
teachers are collecting the little plastic *Ice Breaker Mints*  
containers for their students. They use them to store their ear  
buds (earphones) for when they go to the computer lab to work on  
Math and Reading skill practice.

Becky Poe will continue to collect all items and get them to their  
respective organizations.

There is a request for HUMOROUS get well cards for Katie Hightower, one of our Reid  
Scholarship recipients, should you like to send a card to her. She is not allowed visitors.

Katie Hightower  
8089 State Hwy. 37  
Winnsboro, TX 75494

Happy Birthday

Celebration - Ruth Appleby was 95 years young on Wednesday, May 25th.



**Noisy Offering**  
**June-Winnsboro Summer Feeding**  
**Program \***  
**July-K9 Unit**  
**August: Winnsboro Senior Center**

\*Our Noisy Offering for June will be a special offering...the Youth want to send a sizable donation to the Winnsboro Summer Youth Feeding Program. Many of the larger churches in Winnsboro are working together to provide Bible stories, recreation, crafts, and a free lunch for school age children. First Presbyterian members who would like to support this important community outreach program can bring their loose change on Sunday, June 26, or mail a check to the church and designate it for the June Noisy Offering.

## Youth Sunday



The youth led a very moving worship service on May 22. The gifts God has bestowed on these kids were evident in the instrumental music from Christian, Charlie, and Lynn; prayers from Nate, Charlie, and Christian; scripture readings from Lynn; offering gathered by Nate and Rachel; the message and benediction

from Sean; senior moment from Christian; and the artwork on the bulletin cover by Rachel. We would like to thank Patricia Fields for technical support for the musicians, Debbi Elmer and Chris Holloman for playing their guitars for one of the hymns, and Rick Drennan and Leeann Moos for serving as acolytes.

After the service a reception was held to honor our graduates - Sean Drennan, Lynn Van, and Catherine Spurgeon - and to say goodbye to Nate Fitzgerald who is moving. We appreciate Nyla Kettleson and Betty Ash for serving, and Marabeth Russell for bringing finger foods.

Becky and Tricia were so proud of all our youth who have all proved to be present and future leaders in the church



**Presbyterian Women**  
**No meeting until September 12**



PRESBYTERIAN  
WOMEN

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

July 21 -23, 2016 - Synod of the Sun  
P W GATHERING - First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, TX

"I know the plans I have for you....." Jeremiah 27: 11

Keynote Speaker - Rev Dr. Cynthia Rigby

Presbyterian Women from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas will be gathering in Fort Worth for a great time of learning, sharing, fellowship, and worship. Come sing with a couple thousand - some of your favorite songs and some new songs. Hear great speakers, attend workshops, meet the authors of our Bible study, and meet wonderful ladies.

We will stay in a motel, and then go to the church for our meetings by bus. We would leave Thursday, July 21 and can come home Saturday evening.

Many of you have attended a GATHERING. I would love to go again and hope one of you can be my roommate. Pray about it, plan some personal time for yourself. I would love to share this time with you. Marabeth Russell

Check the Bulletin Board.



**Our First Presbyterian ladies celebrated the completion of their 2015-2016 Bible study with lunch at the Texas Tea Room in Quitman.**

## The Hunt Has Begun

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) has had their initial meeting. Our first task is to fill out the Ministry Information Form (MIF) to be submitted to Presbytery. This form will tell Presbytery and prospective pastors who we are and what kind of person we will be looking for. The information gathered during the mission study, including your input during the Sunday school meetings that took place earlier this year, will be put to use in filling out this form. This is not a quick process, but the PNC is taking one step at a time, and we will keep you apprised through the newsletter and a monthly update in worship. We are energized and looking forward to finding our next pastor!



## *In Loving Memory*

### Gayle H Moss

October 24, 1918 - April 29, 2016



Gayle H. Moss, aged 97, passed away on April 29, 2016 in Phoenix, Arizona. Gayle was born in Munden, Kansas on October 24, 1918. She is survived by her son Charles Moss, her daughter Linda Elliott and her granddaughter Devin Moss. Gayle was predeceased by her husband Leland M. Moss.

Gayle and Leland were residents at King's Country for many years, and attended First Presbyterian Church in Winnsboro. In 2011, Gayle moved to Winnsboro and resided at Autumn Wind until the beginning of 2016, when she moved to Phoenix to be near her son and granddaughter.

After 97 years of loving life, and reveling in her job, her family, and her friends, Gayle passed out of this life peacefully, surrounded by her family in Phoenix, Arizona. Gayle's demise was simply the product of old age; she did not experience any suffering, and lingered long enough to enjoy a week with her family around her.

Gayle and Leland's ashes will be interred together in Miltonvale, Kansas at a private family ceremony later this summer.

Cards may be sent to Linda Elliott, 7600 Landmark Way, #1109, Greenwood Village, CO 80111



### **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.**

# First Presbyterian Church

Birthdays/Anniversaries

## June 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>5</b> <b>COMMUNION</b>	<b>6</b> no PW until <b>September</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study  <b>Jack Baber</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Noon Al-Anon  <b>Sean Drennan</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study  <b>Claire Agnew</b> <b>Twilla Wanker</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>19</b> <b>Father's Day</b> <b>Family Lunch</b>  <b>Anniv. Murley</b>	<b>20</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study  <b>Della White</b>	<b>21</b> <b>1:30 Finance</b> <b>Com. Mtg.</b>	<b>22</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Noon Al-Anon
<b>26</b> <b>Noisy Offering:</b> <b>Winnsboro Summer</b> <b>Feeding Program</b>  <b>Charlie England</b>	<b>27</b> Cross & Crown articles due by 9 AM  2-4 pm Bible Study	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	<b>30</b>  <b>Ralph Gore</b>		