



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



March 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTORS PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS

On Sunday, March 20, we will have the opportunity to participate in one of the PC(USA)'s four special offerings, possibly the best known: **One Great Hour of Sharing**. This offering supports people in need, both "at home" and around the world, through three different programs of the PC(USA):

- Presbyterian Hunger Program (PHP) responds with emergency food aid in various places where drought, famine, or similar problems have caused food shortages. But PHP also works to educate individuals and congregations about the root causes of hunger, and to make suggestions to us about ways we can help address these larger issues (for example, buying fair-trade coffee, or advocating for fair wage for migrant farm workers).
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) does just what its name says: provides on-the-ground work, funds, and support for people whose lives have been torn apart by disaster. Abroad, PDA has done long-term work in recovery after the South Asian tsunami in 2004, and the Haiti earthquake of 2010 (among others). In the U.S., PDA provided long-term rebuilding assistance after Hurricane Katrina (ask Jane Els!), and also helped in West, Texas, after the devastating explosion in 2013.
- Self-Development of People (SDOP) organizes longer-term projects that "help people to help themselves." Whether through funding, education, trained personnel, equipment, etc., SDOP projects are a step beyond meeting immediate needs. In Managua, Nicaragua (for example), I saw a classroom full of young children in a very poor neighborhood learning how to use computers provided by SDOP in order to help them learn skills that would allow them to compete for good jobs that would help lift their families out of poverty.

So, One Great Hour of Sharing provides us with a way of "multiplying" our gifts by pooling them with other Presbyterians to do amazing things! Please support as generously as you are able.

Presbyterian Women

Monday, March 7th could be a busy day for ladies of the FPC Winnsboro and community.

At 10 A.M. in the Reid Building Presbyterian Women will meet for Bible Study. "Come to the Waters" is the theme for our 2015 – 2016 Study. This month we will be looking at "Streams of Mercy -- Forgiveness". Our scriptures will be Isaiah 35: 1-2, Psalm 51: 1 – 12, Matthew 6: 12. Please join us as we study God's word for us.



At 2:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary come hear and make music. The Quitman Ringers will play the hand bells. Then we all get to make music with chimes. Treat yourself to a delight time of music and fellowship.



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

CHARACTER COUNTS

*Forgive my hidden faults.
Keep your servant also from {these} willful sins,
may they not rule over me.
Then I will be blameless,
Innocent of great transgression.
May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
Be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer. Psalm 19: 12 - 14*

I was fishing Lick Creek one day and cast my fly into a willow. It was the last fly of that pattern and the only one that was working. I said a very bad word! There are some things bad enough to make a preacher cuss, but my reaction surprised me. I hadn't used that word for a while. I wondered where it came from. But I was safe. Carolyn was fishing one hundred yards or so downstream, and we were more than one hundred miles away from my parish and twenty miles from the nearest town, There was no one around to hear.

Late that evening while I was attempting to set up the trailer, one piece of equipment would not work right. It was a warm, humid night, and soon I was wringing wet and utterly frustrated. Carolyn tried to be helpful, offering advice since she couldn't offer anything else at the time.

I got annoyed and suggested that if she should like to start my car I would sit in hers and blow the horn. It's an old joke that she didn't find funny. Nor did I---I followed up with some angry words. Again, it surprised me. I rarely talked to her that way. But mostly I was chagrined because there was someone around to hear. I looked up from under the trailer into the eyes of two nearby kayakers who were taking in the whole scene. But once more I was safe---they were from California.

As Carolyn and I talked about the two incidents the next morning on the way back to Boise, I realized afresh that what I was in private was the *real* me. I had kidded myself into believing that my public image was what I was, but that was my illusion. The way I behave when there's no one around to hear or see is *me* !Everything else is a sham.

Dickens wrote about *telescopic philanthropy*---compassion for those at a distance but not for those at hand. I've always applied that principle to others, to those who decry apartheid but act as shamelessly as a South African bureaucrat toward those of other races in the United States. I don't apply that truth to myself. As Tolstoy said, "Everybody thinks of changing humanity and nobody thinks of changing himself."

I can talk about compassion for others and yet be utterly tactless and inconsiderate to my own family. In which case, what I am at home is what I am. Or I can think myself reasoned and self-controlled, but what I do and say when angry and unobserved gives me away. My character is what I am when I'm alone.

I have a mountain friend who winters in a backcountry ranch all alone. He doesn't have a radio and doesn't read much. Most of the time he's snowed in. I asked him once what he did while he was there by

himself. "Well," he mused, "I get to know myself real good." That sounded like wisdom then, and it still does. If I would know myself well, I must know myself when I'm alone.

There's old Adam within, with vast potential for greed and selfishness. I know I can't change him much, Frontal attack has never worked for me. As soon as I resist sin, I endow it with more power. This same power it uses against me. Inner transformation, thus is God's work. As Mother Teresa put it, we may *will* holiness, but He must *do* it.

What's needed is more of God in me. He must work his work. Righteous-ness is His gift, which I may receive. David's prayer in Psalm 19: 12 - 14 becomes my own.

Taken from: *Seeing God*, Pt. II, pp 93,94, by David Roper's, *The Strength of a Man*; Discovery House Publishers.



Noisy Offering

March - Northeast Texas Child Advocacy Center

April - Presbyterian Children's Home

General Fund Summary Jan 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$7,256.46	\$7,143.33	\$113.13
Expense	\$ 5,807.53	\$7,143.33	\$1,335.80
Net	\$1,448.93		

Note: Bank balance 1/31/2016 was \$32,456.55. Restricted funds totaled \$20,207.59 while unrestricted funds totaled \$12,248.96.

March 7 at 2:00 PM, instead of Bible Study we will be having a performance by the Quitman Ringers Hand bell choir. Everyone is invited to this fabulous event!

Youth News

The Youth will meet on March 6 after church. We will NOT meet on the 4th Sunday, though, because that is Easter.

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

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Cross and Crown articles:

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There are still pans and serving trays stacked in the kitchen that do not belong to the church. If any are yours, please come get them.

Here We Grow!

Attendance:

January 31—38

February 7—37

February 14—33

February 21—39

Choir and Music News - The choir is meeting again to prepare for Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter. If you can sing, please join us in making a joyful noise! We meet in the sanctuary on Sundays, 9:30 - 10:30. We also have been given a gift to purchase hand chimes for our church. Hopefully, those will be here soon. If you wish to make music and can count to 6, we can teach you to play hand chimes. Let Tricia Clark or Patricia Fields know if you are interested in chiming!

**Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro
February 21, 2016**

Call to Order/Quorum:

The meeting was called to order with prayer and Scripture reading, by Dr. Julie Adkins at 12:40 P.M. in the Reid building. A quorum was present, consisting of the following members: Larry Pendergrass, Bob Kelm, Jane Els, Leeann Moos, James Spurgeon, Ralph Gore and Rick Drennan. Absent: Chris Holloman. Also present: 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 presented, **(RG/BK) passes all**
Consent Agenda

- Approve the agenda as amended.
- Approve the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting 01/17/16

Moderator's Report:

- Communion on the 7th
- Suggested that if easier for Treasurer, 1 check per month would be fine
- Will do Ash Wednesday service at 6 PM
- Mission Study Committee will be finished by March 7

Finance:

- Approve the Treasurer's Report for January 2016. **Passed by voice vote.**
- Approve the Reid Fund Report for January 2016. **Passed by voice vote.**
- Approve the 2015 Audit Report. **Passed by voice vote.**
- Approve the transfer of an additional \$10,000 (GF Special restricted account) to TPF General Fund Reserve and \$100.00 (Memorial restricted account) to TPF Memorial Fund Reserve with Finance Committee authorizing Treasurer to make this transfer contingent upon favorable market conditions. Total transfer would be \$14,377, \$4,277 of which the Session previously approved. **Passed by voice vote.**

New Business:

- **Motion** to allow Errol Barber from Gideon's to come on May 1st (annual visit) and talk to the congregation. **(RG/JS) passes all.** 5 minutes allowed.
- Discussed directory, Cross & Crown Contributors Pen & Elder pins
- **Motion** to allow One Great Hour of Sharing collection on Palm Sunday, **(JE/RG) passes all.**

Old Business:

- Discussed keeping the movement of Communion in the Order of Worship.
- Discuss the inquiry of using the manse as a residence. Need no longer exists.

Adjournment:

Motion for this meeting to be adjourned with prayer and the next stated session meeting be held on March 20, 2016 after the congregational meeting, **moved and seconded (JE/BK) Motion was passed on a voice vote with no dissention,** at 1:40 PM.

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.

Starting the first week of JANUARY

Lilies for Easter

Each plant is \$8.00. If you would like to order one (or more), please fill out the information below and place the sheet in the offering plate with your check made out to Presbyterian Church for the proper amount (please indicate “for lilies” on check).

March 24, 2016 will be the last day we accept orders.

Given By: _____

In Honor Of: _____

OR

In Memory of: _____

Total # Plants Ordered: _____

Total Enclosed: \$_____

First Presbyterian Church

March 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Annv. Wilson	2 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	3 Tina out of office 6PM Kairos-office	4	5 Noon Al-Anon James Spurgeon
6 COMMUNION Youth following church	7 PW 10 am 2 PM Quitman Ringers hand bell performance	8	9 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	10 Session reports to office by 11 am	11	12 Noon Al-Anon
13	14 2-4 pm Bible Study Marianne Wilson	15 1:30 Finance Com. Mtg. Ann Dunn	16 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	17 6PM Kairos-office	18	19 Noon Al-Anon
20 PALM SUNDAY One Great Hour of Sharing offering Family Lunch Session	21 2-4 pm Bible Study Helen Poteet	22	23 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Jacob Wilson	24 Last day to order lilies Maundy Thursday service 6 PM	25 Good Friday	26 Noon Al-Anon
27 EASTER Noisy Offering: NETCAC	28 Cross & Crown articles due by 9 AM 2-4 pm Bible Study	29	30 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Ken Summers David Murley	31 6PM Kairos-office Marabeth Russell		