



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



May 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTORS PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS



**THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR THE
PREACHER, WHO WENT AND GOT THE FLU
INSTEAD!**

See next month.





Noisy Offering

May-Meal on Wheels

June-Wounded Warrior

July-K9 Unit

General Fund Summary Jan - Mar 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$18,717.51	\$21,429.99	\$2,712.48
Expense	\$ 19,898.25	\$21,429.99	\$1,531.74
Net	(\$1,180.74)		

Note: Bank balance 3/31/2016 was \$20,362.76. Restricted funds totaled \$10,955.21 while unrestricted funds totaled \$9,407.55.

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.



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

GOD'S REFRESHING WORD:

We cannot know God unless He reveals himself to us. An attribute of God is characteristic that God has chosen to reveal about Himself through his Word.

Incommunicable attributes are those that belong to God alone. (e.g., omniscience [all-knowing]; omnipotence [all-powerful]; omnipresence [present everywhere]; immutability [unchangeable]; infinite [having no limits]; transcendence [beyond comprehension]).

Communicable attributes are those that human beings can also possess (e.g., compassion, love, mercy, goodness). In Isaiah 55: 8-9, God reveals that He is unlike any other being and our finite minds can never fully understand Him (see Job 11: 7-9; Ps. 131: 1; Rom. 11: 13. Throughout Scripture we are told that there is no one like God (see Ex. 15: 11; Ps. 35: 10; 89: 6-8; Isa. 40: 25).

*Isaiah 55: 8-11

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," says the Lord. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts."

"For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My Word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."

When I was a boy, our family would occasionally travel across Nevada. We loved the desert thunderstorms. Accompanied by lightning bolts and claps of thunder, huge sheets of rain would blanket the hot sand as far as the eye could see. The cooling water refreshed the earth--and us.

Water produces marvelous changes in arid regions. For example, the pincushion cactus is completely dormant during the dry season. But after the first summer rains, cactuses burst into bloom, displaying delicate petals of pink, gold and white.

Likewise, in the Holy Land after a rainstorm, dry ground can seemingly sprout vegetation overnight. Scripture carries *spiritual* vitality. That's why it doesn't return void. Whenever it encounters an open heart, it brings refreshment, nourishment, and *new life*. (***The Bible is to a thirsty soul what water is to a barren land.***)

Youth News:

Something new is happening with the middle school and high school kids. We are going to combine Sunday school and "youth group" on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:30. Questions?

So what makes it Sunday school AND youth group? Well, we will be studying a bonafide curriculum offered by Grace Presbytery, but we will also incorporate activities and games that we might have done during the after-church youth program. This will even include making breakfast from time to time. We will also plan once-a-month outings that will happen after church or maybe at some other time during the week. (Did someone say fishing?) 😊

Why are we doing this? We had come to a point that a new Sunday school teacher for the kids was going to be needed. We also realized that youth parents had to wait for their kids or even go home and drive back to pick them up. Since we draw from areas all around Winnsboro, we feel this might be friendlier to the parents (although we never heard any parents complain!) So if you have not joined youth because it meant staying too long at church, you no longer have an excuse. 😊

Who is leading? Becky Poe and Tricia Clark (when not doing choir) will continue to plan for, teach and lead. We will also welcome anyone who wants to volunteer to act as a substitute when neither of us can be there. (If that could be you, please give one of us a call!) 🙋

Where will we meet? In the youth garage! Becky and Tricia have been working on the youth room and have it ready for the kids. No bugs. No mold.

When will this begin? It already started on April 24. 🙋

We would love to see all of our youth participate. We're going to do some great things!



Christian and Lynn enjoyed learning how to make the famous TORCHY'S TACOS at a recent youth meeting."



A special ‘Thank you’ to Bob Kelm and Beaven Els for keeping the lawn so nicely manicured!

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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Cross and Crown articles:

firstpres@peoplescom.net

Please note Janie Walenta’s new
email address:
janiewalenta@gmx.com

Attendance:

April 3—27

April 10—40

April 17—37

April 24—34

Betty Stewart, A long-time member of our church, passed away on the morning of Wednesday, April 6th, in Sulphur Springs, where she was a patient.

A memorial service will be held for Betty, at First Methodist Church in Mount Vernon on Saturday, May 7th, at 11 a.m. This news comes to us from Ruby Neely, who is a member there and visited Betty. Betty is said to have passed away from natural causes.

(After the death of her husband, Betty moved from Kings Country to Mt. Vernon, and joined the Methodist Church there.)

She graciously purchased the light on the baby grand piano ~ as she was visiting from Mount Vernon and saw that Twilla needed a light.

**Stated Session Meeting
First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro
April 17, 2016**

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: Larry Pendergrass, Bob Kelm, Jane Els, Leeann Moos, James Spurgeon, Ralph Gore and Rick Drennan. Also present: Chris Holloman, Becky Poe, Ruth Shelton and Tina Hammer.

Hearing Issues from Members

- Youth - Becky Poe discussed the idea and **Motion to approve combining youth Sunday School class and after Church Youth Group through the summer of 2016, agreed by consensus.**
- Ruth Shelton will be put on next months agenda

Approval of the Consent Agenda

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented, (RG/RD) passes all

Consent Agenda

- **Motion** to approve the agenda as presented.
- **Motion** to approve the Minutes of the Stated Session Meeting on 03/20/16 as presented.

Moderator's Report:

- Communion on Maunday Thursday and April 3
- Scheduled to preach June 5, July 3, 10, 17, & 31. Taking vacation June 12, 19 & 26

Pastor Search Discussion

Session called a Congregation Meeting for May 1 for the purpose of electing the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). **Agreed by consensus.**

Finance Committee

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report for March 2016. AND

Motion to approve the 1st Qtr. 2016 TPF Reports (General Fund Reserve, Memorial Fund Reserve, Reid Fund & Reid Fund Reserve). (RG/LM) passes all

New Business

- **Motion** to accept James Spurgeon's resignation with regret, **passes all (RD/RG).**
- Discussion of Election of new Elder tabled 1 month
- Youth Sunday School Teacher issue covered above by Becky Poe

Old Business

- Dr. Adkins will write the "Pen" for Cross & Crown
- Building & Grounds put a load of mulch on the playground; has added a lock to the Sanctuary door & will adjust so that the key works; motor on the A/C unit needs replacing; calling a meeting for Wednesday, May 11 at 6:30 PM in the office

Adjournment:

Motion for this meeting to be adjourned with prayer and the next stated session meeting be held on April 17, 2016 after the congregational meeting, moved and seconded (RG/RD) Motion was passed on a voice vote with no. dissention, at 1:12 PM.

(Please note: All minutes published in Cross and Crown the same month as the meeting, have NOT been approved by Session and are subject to change)

Presbyterian Women

Monday, May 2nd will close out the 2015 – 2016 Come to the Waters Bible Study. River of Life -- HOPE will be our discussion using Revelation 21 – 22. PW's are filled with HOPE that you can join us for our discussion time OR for Lunch.



PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN

Bible Study will be at 9 and meet at church at 11:30 to go to lunch.

Please treat yourself to some time with your Presbyterian Sister!!!

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

PW's have enjoyed Synod Gatherings in Hot Springs, AR and San Antonio, TX.
HOPE, HOPE, HOPE this will be another year of Winnsboro PW's going!!!
Check the Bulletin Board.

**CONGREGATION MEETING MAY 1
TO ELECT THE PASTOR NOMINATING COMMITTEE (PNC)**

First Presbyterian Church

Birthdays/Anniversaries

May 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 COMMUNION Gideons speaker Congregation Mtg.	2 PW 9 am Bible Study; 11:30 for lunch 2-4 pm Bible Study	3 Louis Bond	4 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	5	6	7 Noon Al-Anon
8 Mother's Day Bob Kelm Lanny Wren	9 2-4 pm Bible Study	10 Session reports to office by 11 am	11 1:30 Finance Com. Mtg. 6 pm Bldg/grds mtg.-office 6 pm Supper & Bible basics-Reid	12	13	14 Noon Al-Anon
15 Pentecost Family Lunch Session	16 2-4 pm Bible Study	17 Debra Gaines	18 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	19	20	21 Noon Al-Anon
22 TRINITY SUNDAY Youth Sunday	23 Cross & Crown articles due by 9 AM 2-4 pm Bible Study	24	25 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Ruth Appleby	26 Annv. Baber	27	28 Noon Al-Anon
29 Noisy Offering: Meals on Wheels	30 Memorial Day Office closed Ruth Shelton	31				