



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



October 2016

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

### CONTRIBUTORS PEN: JULIE ADKINS

I learned something quite interesting a number of years ago while learning to ring handbells (and have been reminded of it these past few weeks while rehearsing with the chimers). I had thought it would be quite simple: after all, if I can read music while I'm sitting in the alto section of the choir, surely it would be no problem at all to read music and figure out when to ring a couple of bells. Probably it would be even easier, I thought to myself. After all, sight-reading a voice part means following your whole melodic line, up and down, reading pitches and rhythms. Sight-reading at the keyboard is even harder (not that I do it well!) – you have to keep up with all ten of your fingers at once – and your feet as well, if you're an organist! Only having to keep up with one or two notes out of the whole mess of melody and harmony seemed like it would be simple . . . fun . . . maybe even relaxing.

WRONG! I quickly discovered that playing handbells and reading the music involves an entirely different set of skills. Of course it helps to know which notes on the staff are which . . . but you have to think about the music in a completely different way. You have to listen to it in a different way. You don't have "your own line" to follow in order to keep your place . . . you have to count, count, count! For someone who thinks of herself as a pretty good musician, it was a humbling experience!

There are times when our journey of faith can humble us in much the same way. In the world of our day-to-day living we acquire certain skills and knowledge, we achieve a certain level of competence, we become good at certain things. It is natural to expect that those will translate somehow into skills/knowledge/competence that will move us further along on our faith journey. And some of them do, thanks be to God! But we often find that growth in faith involves laying aside some of those things we are good at – or learning to do them in different ways – in order to fit it with the plan of God's melody and harmony. For example: in the "real world," we most often are rewarded for working hard and harder. The more we accomplish, the more valued we are. But God does not value us according to our hard work. God *appreciates* and *celebrates* the work we do – but God *values* us because of who we are, not what we do.

The world values "wisdom"; God calls and uses the simple, and makes them wise. The world values strength; God calls and uses the weak, and makes them strong. Makes us wise and strong, as soon as we stop assuming that we already have what it takes to do God's will!

Ringling handbells ended up being fun, in addition to being humbling . . . after I let go of the assumption that I already knew all I needed to know in order to do it right. Journeying with God may also be humbling . . . but it is also tremendously rewarding and yes, some days, fun. Praise God!

Shalom y'all –

Julie

## **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

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)

### **Attendance:**

**August 28—30**

**September 4—30**

**September 11—33**

**September 18—30**

**September 25—31**



## **Noisy Offering**

**October: Morgan's Mercy Mansion**

**November: American Legion**

**December: Winnsboro Resource Center**

#### **New address:**

**Billie Bennett**

**1225 Colonel Dr., # 1145**

**Garland, TX 75043**

**214-703-6916**



# From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

## REMEMBERING GOD WHILE WE ARE YOUNG

ECCLESIASTES "12: 1 - 8" (V.1)

Charles, a seasoned pastor, received a call from two of his parishioners begging him to talk to their adult son. This young man was not living a raucous life by any means, but his parents were concerned that he was living only for himself, concerned only with fame and fortune and not the things of God. When Charles met with the young man and explained the gospel, the young man replied, "Yeah, pastor, I know all of that. In a couple of years, I will come back to church and start living more consciously for the Lord. Right now it is my time. I have to make my mark, do my thing. I am sure God understands."

Many younger people share this young man's view. It's even common among older people when they are considering young adults, "Let them have their fun; they will come back to the Lord when they are older," some might say. However, that is not the view of Scripture, as we see in today's passage.

As the preacher who wrote the book of Ecclesiastes approaches the end of his work, he states, "Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come," (12:1). This instruction refers to far more than simple mental recollection. It is a call to live according to His standards. It involves action; those who remember God worship Him and seek guidance from Him in His Word (see Ps 22: 27; Jonah 2:7). Why the call to remember our Creator in our youth? Part of it has to do with the complacency of youth, the assumption while we are young that we have many years ahead of us, and so we can put off for tomorrow what we might otherwise do today. The call is also given so that young people make the best use of the strengths of youth before old age saps our energy and gives us more burdens to carry. Matthew Henry comments, "Call Him to mind while thou art young, and keep Him in mind throughout all the days of thy youth, and never forget Him. Guard thus against the temptations of youth, and thus improve the advantages of it." Ecclesiastes 12: 2 - 8 paints the slow decline of old age in order to underscore the need to use the strength of youth wisely for God---while this strength remains.

But the most important reason to remember God while we are young lies in the fact that life is fleeting. Life is vanity (v. 8), that is, quick to come and go. Youth --- and even old age--will not last forever. But all that we do in memory of our Creator, no matter how old we are when we do it, will be remembered by the Lord forever (vv. 13-14; see I Cor. 3: 10 -15).

### LIVING BEFORE THE FACE OF GOD:

*Whether we are young or old, our lives on this side of the grave will not go on forever. A day is coming when we will stand before our Creator, and He will reveal how we have remembered Him. If we have remembered His character and what He has done, repenting of our sin and trusting in Him alone, we will inherit eternal life! But if we die without having remembered the Lord, we will suffer the eternal pain and death of hell.*

DEVOTIONAL: TABLETALK: {FOR FURTHER STUDY: Duet. 8; Jer. 50:51; Acts 20:35; 2 Tim. 2: 8}.



## Music Notes

The chime choir is meeting from 9:00 - 9:30 Sunday mornings. We are preparing music not only for Advent and Christmas, but also to play during October and November. There always seems to be a stand missing a player, so if you want to dabble with ringing, come join us.

The choir meets from 9:45 - 10:30 on Sunday mornings. We're putting together some nice music and even using guitars! The choir has grown and we continue to welcome new singers.

We'll have a guest speaker at our October 16th church luncheon! Jimmy Chapman, a ruling elder at the First Presbyterian Church in Henderson (and also our liaison to the PNC) will join us to share his experience as part of a group from Grace Presbytery who visited Israel and Palestine in May of this year. He will have stories to share that we have never heard before; as he puts it, "I've seen things I can't un-see."

This will be a first-hand report of the holy land from someone who lives here in East Texas. And it promises to be a view that we may not have seen before.

I have heard only the condensed version when he reported to the Presbytery and can't wait to hear more. I hope you will come and *invite friends to join us* to hear this special first-hand report that you won't hear anywhere else.

Jane Els Mission Committee



## Pastor Search Update

The PNC continues to search for a pastor. We have begun making a few contacts to put a real voice to some of the 75+ PIFs we have received, but we are still in the initial stages of talking with potential pastors. Please pray for wisdom and guidance for the PNC, the pastor God has chosen for us, and the role ALL our church members have in this process.

The PW organization welcomed new members in September. Six women were present to share the lesson led by Marabeth Russell. We are excited to see attendance of PW growing. Because new "woman-power" is available, with blessings from the Session, the organization of Christmas in the Park will be handled by the Presbyterian Women this year.

We are studying *Who Is Jesus* by Judy Yates Siker. Marabeth and Tricia Clark are going to tag-team the lessons. For the October meeting, the question of who is Jesus will be studied through the eyes of the gospel of Matthew.

There are lots of chairs still available. Come join us!





General Fund Summary Jan -Aug 2016			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$50,168.30	\$57,146.67	\$6,978.37
Expense	\$ 42,523.77	\$57,146.67	\$14,622.90
Net	\$7,644.53		

**Note: Bank balance 8/31/2016 was \$26,949.67 Restricted funds totaled \$8,696.05, while unrestricted funds totaled \$17,628.62.**

### Adventure Day and Visioning Dinner at Gilmont Saturday November 5, 2016

Friends of Gilmont are invited to a day of fun from 10 am-5 pm with high and low mobility activities all day long! Come out and enjoy what Gilmont has to offer - make a craft, play games, ride the zipline, go canoeing, catch a fish, take a hike, bring your bike or borrow one from the camp, enjoy music, fun and fellowship with other friends of Gilmont!

Everyone is invited to attend Gilmont's Annual Visioning Dinner at 5:00 pm that evening. A Silent Auction and Entertainment will be part of this annual fundraising event. If you know someone who would like to help support the day, there are opportunities for Event Sponsors and Table Sponsors. Accommodations are available for overnight stay at a special rate.

Gilmont is requesting an RSVP in order to help plan for you! Please go online to get more information about the day and Sign Up at [www.gilmont.org](http://www.gilmont.org) click EVENTS (You may also email [info@gilmont.org](mailto:info@gilmont.org) or call 903-797-6400).

## Christmas In the Park

Christmas In the Park (November 12<sup>th</sup>) preparations are underway...plants are being watered, stained-glass ornaments have been created, plans are being made for a "Chicken Spaghetti Cook-In", our stitchers, knitters, and crafters are stock-piling their teddy bears, painted saws, and other wonderful gift ideas for our booth!

Now it's time to start looking around your homes for high-quality household items you can donate for our "Garage Sale" table. Last year we sold out quickly items such as holiday linens, glass serving dishes, etc. You can begin bringing those items to the church and ask Tina to put them in the Youth Building.

For those of you who like to putter in the kitchen, buttermilk and pecan pies are great sellers as are plates of cookies, scones, etc.



Call Becky Poe (903.629.3460) if you have questions or need your items picked up.

# First Presbyterian Church

*Birthdays/Anniversaries*

## October 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Noon Al-Anon  Olivia Holloman
2 <b>COMMUNION</b> 9:00 AM Chime practice 9:45 AM Choir practice  Nancy Davis	3 10 AM PW 2-4 pm Bible Study	4  Billie Bennett	5 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	6 <b>Presbytery</b>	7	8 Noon Al-Anon
9  9:00 AM Chime 9:45 AM Choir	10 <b>Columbus Day</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study	11	12 1:30 PM Finance Comm. Mtg. 6 pm Supper & Bible basics Erin Faith Vander Schaaf	13  Beaven Els	14	15 Noon Al-Anon
16 <b>Family Lunch w/ Jimmy Chapman</b> 9:00 AM Chime 9:45 AM Choir	17 2-4 pm Bible Study	18 11 AM Session reports due to office	19 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	20  Aaron Vander Schaaf	21  Hannah Horstman	22 Noon Al-Anon
23 <b>SESSION</b> 9:00 AM Chime 9:45 AM Choir	24 <b>Cross &amp; Crown articles due by 9 AM</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study	25  Jerry Poe	26 6 pm Supper & Bible basics	27	28	29 Noon Al-Anon
30 <b>Noisy Offering: Morgan's Mercy Mansion</b> 9:00 AM Chime 9:45 AM Choir	31 <b>Halloween</b> 2-4 pm Bible Study  Khalel Clay					