



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



October 2017

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

CONTRIBUTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS

Okay, you've known me long enough now; it's time to confess: I'm a closet country/western fan. The radio in my car is tuned to KPLX, along with WRR (classical) and KERA (NPR). I guess you can blame it on my dad: My freshman year in college he got a pickup truck, which was quite useful for hauling various things around. However, apparently one day he decided that, if he was going to drive a pickup (which, by the way, we named "Hank"), he ought to check out the appropriate style music. One afternoon not too long after that he came into the house singing (and laughing about) this awful song by Barbara Fairchild, "I Wish I Was a Teddy Bear." I was hooked.

My seminary dorm-mates had a difficult time reconciling the Bach cantatas they'd sometimes hear blasting from my turntable with the Waylon and Willie "Mamas, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up to Be Cowboys" issuing forth an hour later. And I wasn't just overplaying my Texan-ness in that effete New Jersey environment – I actually do like the stuff. I think it really puzzled them when I would/could sing along to both of the above (i.e., Bach and Willie/Waylon)!

Which is why, a few years ago now, I actually ponied up the bucks to go hear three hours of Garth Brooks at the Tarrant County Convention Center. Along with a few thousand of my closest friends, all of whom seemed to know all the words to all the songs. It was pretty entertaining to hear a thousand-plus-voice choir belting out "I Got Friends in Low Places." (Okay, even I know most of the words to that one!)

But what I found most interesting, and moving, is that the songs which seem to have the most impact on the audience – and which, according to Garth, generate the most mail – are the serious ones. Some of his songs are actually pretty good theologically, but I had never known whether those were particularly popular or were just favorites of mine. I was amazed to hear thousands of voices singing, and apparently believing, these words:

"Sometimes I thank God for unanswered prayers.
Remember when you're talking to the man upstairs,
That just because he doesn't answer
doesn't mean he don't care . . .
Some of God's greatest gifts are unanswered prayers."

If the apostle Paul had written a country/western song to the church at Corinth, it might have sounded like one of Garth's – emphasizing that true freedom consists not in doing whatever we feel like, whenever we feel like it; but in being bound to one another in love:

"When the last child cries for a crust of bread,
When the last man dies for just words that he said,
When there's shelter over the poorest head,
We shall be free."

He also suggests that freedom will only come

"when the last thing we notice is the color of skin,"
"when we're free to love anyone we choose,"
when we all can "worship in our own different pews,"
"when there's only one race, and that's mankind."

All of which just goes to show, you don't always have to read John Calvin or Karl Barth or some other Big Name to find good theology. Sometimes you can find it "in low places." God speaks with many different voices. Some of them have a twang. ☺

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, write it on the back of an offering envelope, the attendance sheet or a piece of paper (please make sure your name is on it) 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.

Pastor

Session members:

Class of 2017
Bob Kelm and Armel Crocker
Class of 2018
Rick Drennan and Becky Poe
Class of 2019
John Clark and Rhonda Thomas
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
Office hours: M-Th, 9-noon

FPC Website:

www.easttexasgrace.org

Cross and Crown articles:
firstpres@peoplescom.net

Attendance:

September 3—27
September 10—32
September 17—32
September 24—28



Noisy Offering

October: *WHS cheerleaders*

breast cancer awareness

**November: *American Legion-
children's Patriotic literature***



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

The Longest Prayer of Jesus (Recorded in the Bible) (John 17: 1 - 26)

Jesus frequently prayed alone, separating Himself from every earthly distraction. I would strongly suggest that you select a place --a room or corner in your home, place of work, or in your garden---where you can regularly meet God alone..

This story is told:

A missionary and his family were forced to camp outside on a hill. They had money with them and were fearful of an attack by roving thieves. After praying, they went to sleep. Months later an injured man was brought into the mission hospital. He asked the missionary if he had soldiers guarding him on that special night. "We intended to rob you," he said, "but we were afraid of the twenty-seven soldiers."

The missionary pondered what this thief said, not understanding.

Much later when the missionary returned to his homeland, he related this strange story, and a member of his church said, "We had a prayer meeting that very night, and I took the roll. We always prayed for you, and on that night, there were just twenty-seven of us present."

From, Hope for the Troubled Heart, by Billy Graham.

___ For further study: Prayer: Deut. 4: &; Psalm 32: 6; Matthew 14: 23, 26: 36; Luke 6: 28; Ephesians 6: 18.



Please join us for our Presbyterian Women's Bible Study as we explore the major themes found in Hebrews, relate these themes to other parts of our faith tradition, and tie them together with the overarching motif of community that we call our "great cloud of witnesses." This "great cloud of witnesses" (Heb. 12:1) strengthens and encourages us as we "run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith" (Heb. 12:1b-2).

Our next meeting is Monday, Oct 2nd (10:00 - 11:00 a.m.) in the Conference Room of the church office building.

A meeting of the congregation of First Presbyterian Church, Winnsboro, Texas, has been called for **Sunday, October 15, 2017**, immediately following the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting shall be to hear the report of the Nominating Committee and to elect two Elders to the Class of 2020, one Trustee to the Class of 2019, and one Trustee to the Class of 2020.

By order of the Session, Julie Adkins, Moderator

General Fund Summary - Jan - Aug 2017			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$48,617.18	\$57,666.64	\$9,049.46
Expense	\$ 34,840.47	\$54,785.31	\$19,944.84
Net	\$13,776.71		

**Note: Bank balance 8/31/2017 was \$52,903.02.
Restricted funds totaled \$17,932.16, while unrestricted funds totaled \$34,970.86**

Recovery Efforts - From Synod of Sun Newsletter

Mission Presbytery

Sally Dyer, PDA volunteer arrived on Sept. 24 to help to gather partners and do the work of identifying churches, both to house and to aide in recovery efforts. Executive Presbyter, Sallie Watson says "the generosity and support has been incredible". There have been 18 wheelers showing up on church doorsteps, visits from military members bringing supplies, and bundles of gift cards sent from across the country. There was a called Presbytery meeting September 24 in Corpus Christi that offered a time for people to tell their stories.

We aren't ready for work crews, but you can Email pda.callcenter@pcusa.org or call (866) 732-6121 to be connected with partnering organizations in the area that can put you to work. Or, consider sending retail gift cards, writing cards or prayers and sending to the presbytery office.

New Covenant Presbytery

The churches of the Presbytery of New Covenant are deep into immediate disaster response throughout the presbytery. Churches are sending out muck-and-gut crews, hosting volunteer groups from other places, acting as day shelters and/or storage and distribution centers for basic assistance, and planning next steps.

As churches determine how they want to continue their work in the short and long term, the presbytery is working, with guidance from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA), to form a Long Term Recovery Commission that will be able to support and guide churches in this work, manage financial contributions well, and think about other ways the presbytery can assist pastors, members and communities in spiritual healing.

(Note: First Presbyterian Winnsboro Noisy Offering for September was \$769.)

NOTE: For an updated calendar, please go to easttexasgrace.org

OCTOBER

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Oct 2017 (Central Time)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Communion Olivia Holloman 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	2 2pm - Bible study	3	4 Billie Bennett 6pm - Supper &	5	6	7 12pm - Al-Anon
8 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	9 Columbus Day 2pm - Bible study	10	11 6pm - Supper &	12 Erin Faith Vander	13 Beaven Eis	14 12pm - Al-Anon
15 Congressional Family Lunch 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	16 Tina Vacation 2pm - Bible study	17 9am - Session	18 6pm - Supper &	19	20 Aaron Vander	21 Debbi Elmer Hannah Horstman 12pm - Al-Anon
22 Tina Vacation 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir 12pm - Session	23 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible study	24	25 Jerry Poe 6pm - Supper &	26	27	28 9am - Chicken 12pm - Al-Anon
29 Nolsy Offering 9am - Chime 9:30am - Sunday 9:45am - Choir	30 2pm - Bible study	31 Halloween Khalel Clay	1 6pm - Supper &	2 Patricia Fields	3	4 12pm - Al-Anon