



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



February 2018

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast

PASTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS

Just for fun, to help us through the often gloomy days of winter:

(A list compiled by me and my then-pastoral intern, who later became my dissertation advisor, who later became my husband!)

You might be a Presbyterian if:

- The Methodist pastor borrows Old Testament commentaries from your pastor.
- You have *Roberts Rules of Order* on your bookshelf along with other sacred texts.
- When someone drops a hint, you can form a committee to study it before it hits the floor.
- The only place you ever want to see a bishop is on your chess board.
- You've ever attended a General Assembly and actually enjoyed it.
- You own at least one casserole dish with your family name permanently affixed to it.
- You've never heard a sermon on the Book of Revelation.
- You think "organ transplant" means replacing the Allen with a Casavant.
- You know what someone means by "the red hymnal," "the blue hymnal," and "the old green hymnal."
- You say "debts" instead of "trespasses" in the Lord's Prayer because you know it's the correct translation from the original Greek.
- You think that the Brief Statement of Faith is actually brief.
- You know what the Shorter Catechism is shorter than.
- You believe that evangelism is something best practiced in private, between consenting adults.
- You know that "frozen chosen" isn't a section in your grocer's freezer case.
- When you hear "Calvin," the first thing that comes to your mind isn't Brooke Shields and designer blue jeans.
- You know that the Civil War really ended in 1983.
- You understand that grace is a free gift of God, and you're going to work just as hard as you can to earn just as much of it as you can.
- You're secretly proud that only one of your denominational colleges/universities has a Division I football team.
- You've ever been in a meeting where somebody said, "The church should be run like a business!" ... and nobody disagreed.
- Your Long-Range Planning Committee still hasn't finished the plan for 1999.
- You know that Jeremiah wasn't a bullfrog, and he wasn't a particularly good friend of yours.
- You know why "Angela Davis" is a swear word.
- You have a framed piece of needlework in your home with the words "decently and in order" somewhere in it.
- You take a TUMS when your heart feels "strangely warmed."
- You think that "tithing" means "giving 2%."
- You proudly trace your lineage back to Geneva, Edinburgh, and/or Philadelphia.
- The only time anyone raises their hands in the sanctuary is in a congregational meeting.
- You made it through this list without having to look anything up!

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 2018
Rick Drennan and Becky Poe
Class of 2019
John Clark and Rhonda Thomas
Class of 2020
Louis Bond and Armel Crocker
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:

December 31—24

January 7—20

January 14—19

January 21—24



Noisy Offering

February: W. Volunteer Fire Dept.

March: NE TX Children's Advocacy Center



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

GOD REAFFIRMED ISRAEL AS HIS CHOSEN PEOPLE:

He warned them that practicing idolatry was foolish:

God reminded the Israelites that worshipping an inanimate object, such as a piece of firewood, as a god, was not only futile but stupid.

You can make an idol out of anything or anyone in life. A church building can become an idol to us, when all the while it is simply a place to meet and worship our Lord--nothing more. Your child can become your idol . . . in subtle ways . . . you can so adore that little one that your whole life revolves around the child. Your mate or date can be given first place in your life and literally idolized. Your work can easily become your God . . . as can some pursuit in life. A house, a lawn, an antique car, a letter sport, an education, a trip abroad, and even that goal of "retirement." . . .

Your Lord and Savior wants to occupy first place!

Matthew 6:33 says that when He has it, everything else will be added to you. How long has it been that you have enlisted your Lord's help in a private, personal temple-cleansing session? It is so easy to get attached to idols--- good things, inappropriately adored. but when you have Jesus in the center of the room, everything else only junks up the decor.

(From: Come Before Winter, by Charles Swindoll)

APPLICATION/Question yourself---Who created you? Who can you depend on? Where can you find supreme truth? Where can you find happiness?

*Did you answer anything but *God* for these questions?

If so, you may be in danger of falling into idolatry.

**Only God can help us. . IF we ask Him. .: He is our Savior and Friend!*

General Fund Summary - Jan - Dec 2017			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$71,063.07	\$86,500.00	\$15,436.93
Expense	#####	\$94,140.04	\$38,435.99
Net	\$15,359.02		
Note: Bank balance 12/31/2017 was \$58,154.75. Restricted funds totaled \$35,657.83, while unrestricted funds totaled \$16,624.43, while unrestricted funds totaled \$41,530.32. (Uncleared checks totaled \$5,729.76 leaving \$35,800.56 available for normal bills.			



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith, Support Mission, Work for Justice & Peace, & Build Community

Join us on Monday, *February 5th* @10:00 for Bible Study

Cloud of Witnesses: the Community of Christ in Hebrews
Lesson 5: In Community with the Tradition of the Past

Chapters 5 & 6: Community of the Past and Reality of the Present

Note from Building & Grounds

Any work done on the physical plant of the church, office, or manse must be pre-approved by the building and grounds chair. This applies whether or not the work is to be given as gift or to be reimbursed. This policy protects the grounds and buildings from possible undesirable additions, renovations, or removals*. In addition, our finances are limited and must be allotted according to priority.

We appreciate that our members see a need and want to take care of it, and we will gladly consider the request and take care of it as able.

*(such as removing furniture, etc.)

Your 2017 Noisy Offerings Made a Difference!



Alone, the loose change we all have laying around the house typically doesn't add up to a whole lot of money. Then something pretty special happens on the last Sunday of the month when we combine our jars and baggies of pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters in our Noisy offering buckets.

Would you believe we collected a total of \$2,033.30 in those galvanized buckets in 2017? Our funds provided support for local organizations supplying food for senior citizens, children and their parents. We helped the veterans and first responders in our community. Funds were sent twice to help those folks affected by severe weather throughout our state.

Never underestimate the value of your "loose change". Together we made a difference in our community, and the youth thank you for your generosity.

Jane Els and Armel Crocker Begin Certificate in Ministry Program

In the fall of 2013, the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary introduced a new Certificate in Ministry (CIM) program where individual members could enrich their theological understanding and prepare for leadership roles in the local church. The two-year program involves completing 7, self-paced, online courses plus attending two intensive, on-campus weekend seminars.

Jane Els and Armel Crocker have signed up for the program and will begin their coursework as soon as their registration is approved. Upon completion of the program, they will contact Grace Presbytery whose responsibility it is to authorize them to be recognized as Commissioned Ruling Elders and provide mentors as they begin limited pastoral service to an assigned church...hopefully First Presbyterian, Winnsboro. Currently, it is our understanding that limited pastoral services may include having the authority to moderate a Session meeting, perform weddings/funerals, and administer the Sacraments.

Both Jane and Armel recognize the importance of this program as it helps meet the needs of small, rural churches who often have difficulty affording full-time pastors or finding qualified pastors to fill in as pulpit supply. Having our own Commissioned Ruling Elders would be a blessing, and we commend them for their willingness to commit to this training.

The office has been having problems with our telephone service ever since we tried to go to internet phone. For a couple months on & off, it has been either no service or you couldn't hear me (in which case I could call back from my cell at least!). Thank you for your patience and understanding.

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

February

Sun 28	Mon 29	Tue 30	Wed 31	Thu Feb 1	Fri 2	Sat 3
Noisy Offering ● 12pm Session	● 2pm Bible study		● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov		Kelli Conradson	● 12pm Al-Anon
4 Communion	5 ● 10am PW ● 2pm Bible study	6	7 ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov	8	9	10 ● 8:30am Beekeepers mtg. ● 12pm Al-Anon
11	12 ● 2pm Bible study	13	14 Valentine's Day ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov	15	16	17 ● 12pm Al-Anon
18 Family Lunch	19 Presidents' Day ● 2pm Bible study	20 ● 9am Session reports due	21 ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov	22 LaVerne Baber	23	24 ● 8:30am Beekeepers mtg. ● 12pm Al-Anon
25 Noisy Offering ● 12pm Session	26 ● 2pm Bible study	27	28 ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov	Mar 1 Annv. Wilson	2	3 ● 12pm Al-Anon

