



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



April 2018

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

PASTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JULIE ADKINS

The day has finally come! We have a pastor!

Let us introduce you to the Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter. Dr. Carpenter has a BS in Education and Master of Ed. in Counseling from Lamar University (Beaumont) and Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry from SMU. He taught in the Texas public school system for several years before answering the call to the ministry. He began his ministry in the United Methodist Church and later transferred his ordination to the United Church of Christ (UCC). He comes to us from Weimer, Texas. He is retiring from the UCC and had already planned a move to Tyler when he discovered our search for a pastor. He connected with the PNC just about the time our congregation decided to close the position of full-time pastor. Through our conversations with him, we learned of his desire to continue to serve God in ministry and his willingness to serve in a part-time position. He is an energetic preacher and expresses a desire to serve our church community in all areas and especially in congregational care.

Physically active, Carpenter is a runner-turned-walker and an amateur chef. He and his wife, Doris, have been married for over 43 years. She is a retired Texas public school teacher. They are not new to the East Texas area, having served in both Edom and Tyler with the Methodist Church. They have a son and daughter, both of whom are married.

So, how can we hire a non-Presbyterian minister? The Presbyterian Church is in full communion with several denominations. Simply put, this means we may call pastors from these denominations to serve in a PCUSA church. (For more information, see <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ecclesial-and-ecumenical-ministries/ecumenical-and-agency-relationships/ministers-other-denominations/>) The United Church of Christ is one of those full communion partners. The UCC is not related to the Church of Christ that most of us are familiar with here in East Texas. The UCC worship service is VERY similar to that of the Presbyterian Church. Especially notable to me, was the fact that our communion service liturgy is the same. When the PNC interviewed Dr. Carpenter, we asked about his understanding of Presbyterian Church polity. He immediately answered with great knowledge (more than I knew!) and willingness to learn more.

Dr. Carpenter will be coming on board most likely the first Sunday in May. Stay tuned for more information.

Praise God that He has brought us to this partnership with the Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter!

Tricia Clark

UPDATE (from Julie): Jerry plans to join our session members on Saturday, March 24 for officer training, in order to start to get acquainted with the session and to get some "Presbyterian orientation." We are looking forward to meeting him! The plan is for him to begin on May 1, with May 6 as his first Sunday in the pulpit. Jerry will be officially received/approved at the May meeting of Grace Presbytery, but has met with the appropriate persons/committees and been granted permission to "move on the field" (i.e., begin working, in Presbyterian-speak) before that time.

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

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

Session members:

Class of 2018

Becky Poe

Class of 2019

John Clark and Molly Lennon

Class of 2020

Louis Bond and Armel Crocker

Treasurer

Jerry Poe

Contact us:

Tina Hammer, Secretary

PO Box 493

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Winnsboro, TX 75404

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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:

February 25—24

March 4—31

March 11—23

March 18—25

March 25—34



Noisy Offering

April: Gideons

May: Blessing Box



From the Desk of Ruth Shelton

TOTAL CONTROL:

“Now listen, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money.” Why you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.
James 4: 13 – 17

Planning is something we do every day, a necessary effort to make the most of our time here on earth. Without an intelligent plan, disorder and chaos overwhelm us.

Yet James insists that planning can be “evil” (his word, not mine) if we plan without making room for God. Why? Because it's presumptuous to assume that we have that much control over our lives! How can we presume to mark our calendars one year hence when we don't know what the next moment will bring? How can we plan so confidently for tomorrow when we may not be here when it comes?

Paul puts it this way: “We know that in all things {and he means all things} God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son ...” (Romans 8: 28-29).

Paul is not suggesting that all things are good, or ought to feel good, but that things are working for our good, the good for which we were created---to be like God's own dear Son.

I find contentment in that assurance. God's will is my safety---to know that I'm not my own, to know that no matter what I plan I am always in God's plans. I can cast all my anxiety on Him because He is caring for me.

To quote angler, Izaak Walton:

“When I would beget content and increase confidence in the providence of Almighty God, I will walk in the meadows by some gliding stream, and there contemplate the lilies and other little dumb creatures for which God plans and cares and therefore trust in Him.”

The word, “trust” they tell me is an old contraction of the superlative degree of “true” (true, truer, truest). Trust knows that God is incomparably true when He tells us that all things---even those that seem wrong or regressive---are determined for our ultimate eternal good.

Are there deep disappointments in your life? The question is this: How do you regard these happenings? Are you frustrated because your plans have gone awry? Have bitterness and cynicism drawn you into thinking some blind fury is against you?

There is a better way- - - -the way God's humble saints have always gone,. It is to acknowledge God in all your ways, to know that Wisdom is at work though it may not seem to be working at all, quietly, invisibly, inexorably working all things for good. In this you can rest.

Thy will, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be!
Lead me by thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.

Smooth let it be or rough,
It will be the best;
Winding or straight, it leads
Right onward to thy rest.

I dare not choose my lot;
I would not, if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God;
So shall I walk aright.

Take thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem;
Choose Thou my good and ill.

Choose Thou for me my friends,
My sickness or my health;
Choose Thou my cares for me,

My poverty or wealth.

Not mine, not mine the choice,
In things both great or small;
Be Thou my Lord, my Love,
My Wisdom and my All!
Horatio Bonar

*A part taken from Growing Slowly Wise, David Roper; ODB Publishers

You're invited!
Going Away Reception for the Reverend Dr. Julie Adkins
April 29, 2018
Immediately following worship
At the home of John and Tricia Clark
210 W. Myrtle
Winnsboro
Join us for food and fellowship and to wish Julie well in her
next endeavor (or needed rest!)

CHECK OUT THIS SMART PHONE APP!



The Westminster Shorter Catechism App contains a faithful and concise summary of the essential doctrines of Scripture. Written in 1647 by the Westminster Assembly, it continues to be used in reformed churches around the world to this day.

The App contains both the 107 questions and answers for the Shorter Catechism along with the Westminster Larger Catechism consisting of 196 questions.

Scripture proofs supporting each question are included, along with a feature to hide the answers to aid in memorization.

Notifications can be enabled to have one question a day emailed to you.

Church clean-up day is April 28

Join us for the dedication of the Russell Annex, formerly known as the yellow house, on April 15th immediately following our church service. Many of the Russell family will be here for this dedication.

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

The PW Bible Study scheduled for Monday, April 2nd has been canceled. We plan to complete our Bible Study at the May 7th meeting and meet in June for our annual luncheon.

General Fund Summary - Jan - Feb 2018			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$8,041.13	\$8,899.96	\$858.83
Expense	\$ 9,098.45	\$10,365.14	\$1,266.69
Net	(\$1,057.32)		

Note: Bank balance 2/28/2018 was \$47,236.81. Restricted funds totaled \$11,777.35, while unrestricted funds totaled \$35,459.46. (Uncleared checks total \$610.00 leaving \$34,849.46 available for normal bills.)

REMINDER

Clip box tops

Earn Cash for Our School!

PROOF OF PURCHASE 1 Community 1 ONE Coffee ONE

PROOF OF PURCHASE 3 Community 3 THREE Coffee THREE

Our church will be collecting Box Tops for Education and Community Coffee Proofs of Purchase this year for the Winnsboro Elementary School.

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

April

Sun Apr 1	Mon 2	Tue 3	Wed 4	Thu 5	Fri 6	Sat 7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communion Easter Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing collect 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10am PW 2pm Bible study 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov" 			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Al-Anon
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Bible study 	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov" 	12	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Al-Anon
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Bible study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tax Day 9am Session reports due 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov" 	19	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Al-Anon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12pm Session 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9am Cross & Crown articles due 2pm Bible study 	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov" 	26	27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Church clean-up day 12pm Al-Anon
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noisy Offering 12:30pm Reception for Dr. Adkins 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2pm Bible study 	May 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Louis Bond 	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cinco de Mayo 12pm Al-Anon

