



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



July 2018

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

### **PASTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER**

How do you feel about summer? Some people love it because they look forward to all of the outdoor activities that they cannot do the rest of the year. They have time available and want to go to the lake, the park, the seaside. They want to get away from it all and relax in some place with family and friends.

Other people, love summer for all those reasons but also hate summer because the weather is so hot. I am one of those people. I grew up in Texas so I guess I should be accustomed to the excessive heat of Texas' summers but I still dread the arrival of summer and its endless days of 90-100 degrees every day. I really enjoy the other seasons in Texas but summers have never been my favorite.

We all have our preferences for the way we like things in life. Some enjoy hot spicy Mexican food that makes them break out into a sweat. Others want to be able to taste their food and not have their lips and tongues burning all through their meal. Seasons are like the food we prefer...some like them hot and others like them mild or even cool.

God gives us the seasons to make our lives more enjoyable. The hot summer may wear us out in many ways, but autumn is just around the corner when the cool winds will blow once more to get us ready for winter weather. Then, when winter begins to bear on us, the promise of spring comes and new life begins once more. It is a cycle that continues year after year.

We often sing, "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, our Father, there is no shadow of turning with them. Thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; As thou hast been, thou forever wilt be." (#276)

Even as the changing seasons remind us of the years coming and going, we know that we can depend upon the steadfastness of God. God never changes. God is always dependable and present to us when we need God. All we need to do is pray, to talk to God, and we know God will hear and listen to our needs.

Your church is also dependable. It is there for you in all the seasons of life. Your church leaders and pastor are always ready to be in ministry to you and your family. God calls us all to be faithful, and to be in God's House when we are able on a regular basis. Your church needs you and needs you to be present so we can all enjoy the comfort and fellowship of the Holy Spirit working in and among us.

I hope to see you in church all through this hot Texas summer. The air conditioner is working well and it is cool in God's house. I will see you soon, I hope.

You are encouraged to regularly check out our church website: [easttexasgrace.org](http://easttexasgrace.org) where we post:

- Weekly worship bulletin (posted by Thursday)
- Monthly Cross & Crown (posted first week of the month)
- Up-to-date church phone directory (call office for password)
- Google calendar of church events, birthdays, etc.
- Lots of photos along with notices of Special Events
- Videos of choir and chimes performances

## **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](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**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

### **Session members:**

Class of 2018

Ronny Knight and Becky Poe

Class of 2019

John Clark and Molly Lennon

Class of 2020

Armelle Crocker and Jane Els

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)

[revdrjerry@peoplescom.net](mailto:revdrjerry@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:**

**May 27—31**

**June 3—36**

**June 10—30**

**June 24—55**



### **Noisy Offering**

**July: Gilbreath Mem. Public Library, children's collection**

**August: WISD school supplies**

**September: Presbyterian Children's Home**



# Jane's Journey

Some folks in our congregation may not have heard the story of how I ended up taking classes at Austin Seminary to get a Certificate in Ministry.

I was at a Presbytery meeting and they had a breakout session during lunch to explain their Commissioned Pastors program. This was before we had found Jerry Carpenter and I knew we were still searching for someone to preach here on a regular basis. That's one of the things I understood a Commissioned Pastor does-

they minister to small churches. I thought to myself, "I'll go to this meeting and find us one of those people for our church." It was kind of like a shopping trip. But when I got to the meeting I found out it was to explain to the attendees to how to **become** one of "those people." I felt like God had played a trick on me with the old bait and switch. And, sure enough, the very next day Julie Adkins preached her sermon on Matthew 25:14-30--the parable of the talents where God gets mad at the servant who wastes the talents he has been entrusted with by hiding them. She said it would have been better to have risked them and failed than to just keep them under a rock. I sat there in the pew among you all and thought to myself, "Uh Oh. Can this possibly have anything to do with that Commissioned Pastor program? I'm too old to start something new. What if I fail?" And of course, that was the whole point of the parable. Better to try and fail miserably than to not even try at all.

So, I signed up for the classes not knowing what would come next. And Armel Crocker signed up with me. And we are having a wonderful time.

The Certificate in Ministry requires six classes and one elective. We took the one required class that was offered: "Worship and Preaching" and the elective that interested us both was offered this semester so we took that one also, "Comparative Religions." We finished just this week with writing 10-page papers for each class. Each of us wrote on a different topic. Armel will have insights on Tithing and I will bend your ear on Art in Worship or how the different religions approach the poor. We also spent a weekend on campus at Austin Seminary and got some valuable hands-on experience preaching and learning about how to serve communion. We have also been to a meeting of all the Commissioned Pastors and CPs in training in Grace Presbytery and made to feel welcomed. The next classes start in October and I believe they will offer two more of the required classes. Armel and I would appreciate your prayers—that we are up to the academic load and that we are doing God's will and in a way that pleases God.

To God be the Glory!

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We have pocket crosses by the front door to the Sanctuary and in the Reid Building. Take one. Better yet take it and give it away to someone. Then come back and get another one. We can become the church congregation who preaches sermons without saying a word. If you need something to say, here's what you can say: "Jesus loves you." Then give your cross away. And come get another one. And repeat as often as you can.

*A Prayer for Healing and Hope*

Almighty God,  
we give you thanks,  
for You are the Creator  
of all life and goodness.  
We praise You for the world  
You have made for us  
to care for and enjoy.

Loving God,  
help us to be faithful heralds  
of Healing and Hope.  
Grant us the awareness of the healing  
needs of those around us  
and the compassion to respond  
willingly to those needs.  
We ask this through Christ,  
Our Healer and Source of all Hope.  
Amen

Isaiah 38:5 Thus Says the Lord... "I have  
heard your prayer and seen your tears, I  
will heal you."

(Submitted by Ruth Shelton, taken from a card her  
sister Dorothy sent.)

General Fund Summary - Jan - May 2018			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$23,064.70	\$22,249.96	\$814.74
Expense	\$ 23,170.53	\$22,791.14	\$379.39
Net	(\$105.83)		

Note: Bank balance 5/31/2018 was \$48,445.13. Restricted funds totaled \$12,124.75, while unrestricted funds totaled \$36,320.38. (Uncleared checks total \$478.03 leaving \$35,842.35 available for normal bills.)



Congratulations 2018 Reid Scholarship recipients  
Garnett Russell and Christian England.



## "PENDY'S PEN" SANCTIFICATION: GROWING IN CHRIST



Sanctification: We normally associate this word to designate that which is “set apart in sacredness”. The Apostle Paul makes excellent use of Romans 5 and 6 to introduce us to the basic fundamentals of sanctification. Romans 5 illustrates a sharp contrast between the first Adam, who ushered sin & death into the world, as opposed to Jesus, the second Adam, who by God's grace, offers the assurance of eternal life to all that belong to Him, & made possible by His finished work on the cross. Here, Paul grimly reminds us of the consequences of sin that has plagued mankind since the fall, & the desperate need for a Savior to save us & set us apart in sanctification. Romans 6 speak of those in Christ as being “slaves of righteousness”, the fruit of which leads to sanctification. Sanctification is mentioned twice in Romans 6, (verses 19 & 21).

Sanctification is derived from the Greek word “hagiosmos”, meaning set apart in holiness or consecrated. Simply stated, it has to do with growing & maturing in Christ; laying aside the “old self” & putting on the “new” (Eph4:22-24) & being conformed in the image of Christ (Rom 8:29). R. C. Sproul, in his book “The Mystery of the Holy Spirit”, describes sanctification as gradual & continuing throughout the life of the believer. While regeneration & sanctification are inter-related, they differ, in that being “born again” through regeneration is spiritual “birth”, whereas sanctification is spiritual “growth”. While the work of sanctification is primarily the work of the Holy Spirit (Rom15:16), it is also a Trinitarian work, involving both God & Christ, (1 Thes 5:23).

THE 3 LEVELS OF SANCTIFICATION: The Bible speaks of 3 levels, or stages of sanctification:

- Positional Sanctification: The initial sanctification that begins at the moment of salvation. (Rom6:11) demonstrates how one is “dead” in sin prior to being born again & “alive” to God in Christ Jesus after being regenerated. Here, all believers begin their spiritual journey as “babes” in Christ (1Pet2:1-3), seeking the “milk” of the Word as their source of growth.
- Progressive Sanctification: The process of becoming more Christ like in nature (Col 3:10), a daily zeal for growing in knowledge of the Word (1 Pet1:2), proclaiming the Gospel (Matt4:23), & witnessing to Christ (Acts 1:8). This spiritual growth continues throughout our life. It's now time to progress from the “milk” of the Word to a higher understanding of what Christ has accomplished in our lives. Complete or perfect sanctification, however, does not take place in this life, due to our struggle with the “flesh” (Rom12:1-2).
- Perfect Sanctification: The total, or perfect sanctification when a believer is glorified in Heaven, (1 Thes 5:23) , (Rom 8:28-30), & (Phil 1:6).

CONCLUSION: HOW IS FAITH & SANCTIFICATION RELATED? Ephesians 2:8-10 affirms that our salvation is a Divine gift of God's grace alone, through faith, & not through works of our own. What, then, is the purpose of the works described in Ephesians 2:10? These are works of sanctification ordained by God himself, that we, as Christians, are chosen & called to walk in. They involve human effort & testify to our faith; a working faith that matures us spiritually.

But even more importantly, through sanctification, we are the “vessels or means”, that God uses to accomplish His sovereign will. It is His Divine power that enables us to glorify Him in the highest, as we live out the 2 greatest commandments of love, in our outreach, our witnessing, & through the “great commission”. Philippians 2:12-13 is a prime example: “As we work out our salvation with fear & trembling”, it is God that is at work in us to will & to work for His good pleasure. We are the” means” & He is the” source & the power”. All praise & glory is His!

SUBMITTED BY LARRY PENDERGRASS



Congratulations to **Garnett Russell** for making the West first team and helping them win the 2018 All-Star Game 52-21! This fall Garnett will play football for Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, AR.



John, Beaven and Pastor Jerry share a meal with Sean Drennan at Camp Gilmont after fixing dinner for all the camp counselor trainees. (Jane Els is behind the camera and was head cook/planner!)



Congratulations Garnett Russell and Christian England - our 2018 graduates!

NOTE: For an updated calendar, please go to [easttexasgrace.org](http://easttexasgrace.org)

# July

Sun Jul 1	Mon 2	Tue 3	Wed 4	Thu 5	Fri 6	Sat 7
Michelle Anglin	● 2pm Bible study	● 9am Session reports	Independence Day OFFICE CLOSED			● 12pm Al-Anon
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Communion ● 12pm Session	Secretary on vacation			● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov Annv Bond LilyMae Holloman		● 12pm Al-Anon
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Family Lunch	● 2pm Bible study		● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov		Ryan Burdett	● 12pm Al-Anon
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	Annv Clark ● 9am C & C articles due ● 2pm Bible study	Bob Simmons Sadie Vander Schaaf	● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov			Larry Pendergrass ● 12pm Al-Anon
29	30	31	Aug 1	2	3	4
Baptism Noisy Offering	● 2pm Bible study	Nathan Clark	John Clark ● 6pm Supper & Bible basics: "Hov		Brad DeWees H. P. Hosey	● 12pm Al-Anon

