



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



October 2018

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Pastor

Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

Session members:

Class of 2018

Ronny Knight and Becky Poe

Class of 2019

John Clark

Class of 2020

Armel Crocker and Jane Els

Treasurer

Jerry Poe

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PASTOR'S PEN: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER

I was once asked to join the Lions Club when we lived in Weimar, Texas. A member of the church I served asked me to go to a meeting with him so I went. Everyone was very nice and they provided a meal for me at no cost to me. I heard the program that was presented to the group and found it interesting. After the program, many of the members thanked me for coming and shook my hand as I left. The person who invited me asked me if I thought I would like to become a member. I told him I could consider it but wanted to know what was expected of me if I became a member. I learned that members of the Lions Club were expected to attend the weekly meetings, to attend a meeting of a local group elsewhere if one was traveling to another city or country, to pay weekly dues to the group, to perform acts of service when they had fund raising activities, and to try to encourage others to become a member of the Lions Club. I decided that I could not fulfill all of the obligations of being a member of the Lions Club so I told my sponsor that I would decline. I understood what was expected of Lions Club members and it was not something I could fulfill so I should not be a member.

This experience spoke to me that people who become members of a local church often forget that they make membership vows when they join a church and promise to give of their time, talents, and treasure so that the local church can fulfill its mission in the world. We ask people to promise to the church and to God that they will be faithful in attending worship services as often as they can, to give of their resources to the church so that the church budget can be met, and to volunteer to serve the church in many ways so that we can all work together to bring about the fulfillment of the goals that we make as a church.

Unfortunately, people often forget the promises they made when they became a church member. They may find other things more important to do than attend worship services regularly. They may think that they cannot afford to give of their resources to their church and not fulfill that obligation. They may not consider volunteer opportunities seriously because they think they do not have the time. In other words, they forget that they made a promise to God and to their church to be faithful members of their local church.

Each year in the fall, we have the opportunity to renew our church membership vows by participating in the stewardship campaign that is needed in order for the church to have an estimate of giving that its members will provide for the coming calendar year. The church must consider what it can afford as it makes plans for the new year so

that the pastor and others hired by the church to provide ministry and services to members can be paid. The church must consider how it will afford to cool and heat the church building, to keep it clean, to keep the lawn manicured, and to provide what is needed for worship and fellowship and education throughout the coming year. A plan is needed to forecast how much can be allocated for each of these needs so that they may be met. This plan is called a budget.

If each person who is a member of First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro, whether they live near enough to worship here regularly or if they maintain a membership even if they live some distance away, would fulfill their membership vow to give of their resources so that the church can fulfill its ministry in the world then the church can plan on how to meet the needs of the local church for the coming year and how to provide ministry to those in need in the area and in places where disaster strikes and we see the need.

You are called upon, as we extend to you the opportunity to respond to the giving invitation to seriously and prayerfully consider what you may do in order to assist your church in meeting its needs for 2019. Think about the promises you made as you became a member of this church and what God would have you do in order to be a faithful and loyal member. God always blesses those who give of themselves for others in so many ways that we cannot number them. God will bless you as you respond to the call to give of your time, talent, and treasure once again.

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.



Noisy Offering

October: Presbyterian Children's Home

November: WVFD Christmas drive

December: Winnsboro Volunteer Fire Dept.

October Sermon Titles:

Oct. 7 World Communion
Sunday II Timothy 1: 1-14
"A Legacy of Faith"

Oct. 14 Mark 10: 17-31
"The Riches of the Kingdom"

Oct. 21 Mark 10: 35-45
"Servants of All"

Oct. 28 Reformation Sunday
Mark 10: 46-52 "Eyes of Faith"

Attendance:

September 2—29

September 9—23

September 16—33

September 23—33

September birthdays and anniversaries:

Oct. 1—Olivia Holloman

Oct. 13—Beaven Els

Oct. 21—Debbi Elmer

Oct. 21—Hannah Horstman

Oct. 25—Jerry Poe

General Fund Summary - Jan - Aug 2018			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$37,464.84	\$35,599.96	\$1,864.88
Expense	\$ 40,018.05	\$39,853.46	\$164.59
Net	(\$2,553.21)		

Note: Bank balance 3/31/2018 was \$46,835.86. Restricted funds totaled \$13,182.29, while unrestricted funds totaled \$33,653.57. (Uncleared checks total \$300.00 leaving \$33,353.57 available for normal bills.)

As we continue in our study, *God's Promise: I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherlun, we will explore scripture passages from Exodus and Judges. The focus of lesson 2 is that "God accompanies the called; it is God's presence in our weakness that equips us for our calling." All who attended last month agreed that this study is easily readable and promises to be interesting and applicable to our lives.

And speaking of all who attended... We were excited to have 5 women sitting around the table for study, fellowship, and food! We hope to see more faces this month! (Sorry, though; there won't be food. ☺)

In addition to our study, we will have a very short business meeting to approve our mission projects for this year.

Come join us this Monday, October 8, in the Russell Annex.



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Elizabeth Drennan's 96th birthday







God's amazing grace! What comes to your mind when you hear these words? The first thing that comes to my mind is the hymn "Amazing Grace", by John Newton, whose own story of salvation is reflected in the words of this hymn. Newton, a former British seaman & slave-runner in bondage to his own wicked & sinful life, gives praise to God's grace for his own salvation in the words he penned. As beautiful & eloquent as this hymn is, however, human words are inadequate to express the power of God's far reaching grace!

GRACE DEFINED:

The Holman Bible Dictionary informs us that the word "grace" is derived from the Greek word "charis" & is closely related to "charisma" (meaning gift or favor or kindness freely given). It suggests unearned merit; therefore God's grace, freely given, cannot be earned or achieved through human effort. God, through His common grace, demonstrates His far reaching compassion for all of humanity, both Christians & non-Christians, through the blessings of life & the means to sustain it, (Psalm 145:9) & (Matt 5:45). But as impressive as common grace is, let us focus on something far more significant, God's saving grace that promises eternal life! The Apostle Paul affirms that all fall short of God's glory & that only through faith in Christ can one be justified, (Rom3:19-26) & (Gal2:15-16). Thus we can see how God's grace is preeminent in relation to salvation!

GOD'S SAVING GRACE IS EXEMPLIFIED BY EPHESIANS 2:8-10:

Throughout all of his epistles, Paul emphasizes that salvation is accomplished only by God's grace & through faith in Christ alone. This relationship is brilliantly illustrated in verses 8-10.

vs.8 "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, vs.9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Vs.10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." ESV

Verse 8: In very simplistic terms affirms the following:

- God, through His grace alone, apart from works, is the source of our salvation.
- That faith in Christ alone is the instrument, or means of salvation.
- That our faith itself is a gift from God.

But from what have we been saved? Backing up to verses 1-7 of Chapter 2, we see that prior to our conversion, we were dead in our trespasses & sins, sons of disobedience, & children of wrath, before being made alive together in Christ.

Verse 9: Clarifies the definition of grace by stating what it is not; it is not by works of man.

Verse 10: Identifies us as God's workmanship & affirms the reason for our salvation; to glorify God through the works He has foreordained (1Cor10:31). Our good works flow from our faith & is part of our sanctification & growth (1 Cor1:2).

CONCLUSION:

Without God's grace & apart from Christ, we would be forever lost in sin with no hope of eternal life (Jn 15:5). But through God's grace & the good work that Jesus has begun in all believers, (Phil 1:16) we can be assured of life everlasting. Through God's grace we are justified through faith (Gal 3:11,12); a working faith that is based on the love of God, (1Cor16:13)!

Realism---

Realism is facing life with eyes wide open—
an awareness that I must deal with good and bad
situations. I can acknowledge the reality that life
is not perfect, but I can also believe the TRUTH of
God's encouragement. He makes me an overcomer,
as well!

“--in this world ye shall have tribulation; but be
of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

John 16: 33 KJV

FROM MY CALENDAR

Ruth

Believing Without Seeing

You have not seen Christ, but still you love Him; You cannot see Him now, but you believe in Him. So, you are filled with a joy that cannot be explained, a joy full of glory. And you are receiving the goal of your faith, - - the salvation of your souls.

I Peter 1: 8 - 9

I am one of your peculiar people, Lord, set apart from the world by both my beliefs and my actions. I have never seen even your sandal prints at the edge of the lake, yet I follow You with all my heart. My ears have never heard Your voice, but I live by Your Word. My fingertips have never brushed the edge of Your garment, yet I am healed. My belief is not based in my senses or in my intellect but in Your never failing love, which saved my soul, and promises me unspeakable joy.

In Your powerful Name **Lord Jesus Christ**, for Your glory alone . . . Amen

Taken from, The Everyday Guide To PRAYER: A collection of prayer starters by Toni Sortor & Pamela McQuade. HUMBLECREEK Publishers/Barbour Publishing, Inc.

October

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Oct 2018 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Noisy Offering	1 Olivia Holloman 10am - PW 2pm - Bible	2	3	4	5	6 12pm - Al-Anon
7 Communion	8 Columbus Day 2pm - Bible	9 Session Rpts.	10	11	12	13 Beaven Els 12pm - Al-Anon
14 12pm - Session	15 2pm - Bible	16	17	18	19	20 12pm - Al-Anon
21 Debbi Elmer Family Lunch Hannah	22 9am - Cross & 2pm - Bible	23	24	25 Jerry Poe	26	27 12pm - Al-Anon
28 Noisy Offering	29 2pm - Bible	30	31 Halloween	1	2 Patricia Fields	3 12pm - Al-Anon