



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



January 2019

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

"A new beginning is beginning, I feel a breakthrough, a winning, a mighty moving of the spirit, ... a new beginning is beginning to take hold in my life."
(Christian song from the 1970s, author unknown).

Remember when you were a child and were playing a game with your friends and you made a mistake. Maybe you were like some kids and asked your friends for a "do-over". That was the term that meant that you wanted them to ignore what you had previously done and to allow you the chance to do it again, all over without the record of your original action being remembered.

We all want "do-overs" in life, chances to start again and to make things right when we make mistakes. We have many opportunities for "do-overs" as we make our journey through life. New jobs offer us the chance to start over and not to repeat the errors we may have made in the last job we had. New marriages after divorce give us the chance to begin a new relationship and not do some of the things that caused us and others pain in the last one. New places to live offer us the opportunity to begin again, to see life anew as we meet new people and explore a new town or city in new ways.

Many of you know that I retired from my full time role as pastor in 2018 and my wife and I moved to Tyler in late April. I had been a full time pastor for 27 years and a school teacher and counselor for 16 years before entering the ministry. So, at the age of 65 I had the chance to start over again, to assume a new role in life that I never had had before. Now, I am your half-time minister and I am also a retiree. I have never been in these two roles before and I have been learning what it means to do both. This was a new beginning for me and my wife in many ways.

Now, we all are experiencing the chance to have a "do-over" because we have been blessed with the chance to have another year of life and we call this year 2019. None of us have ever lived in 2019 before. It is a gift that God gives us to use and enjoy and do things that will bless us and others as the days and months go by. None of us knows what 2019 will hold for us. There may be day of joy and days of pain but the constant in all of our days is that we know God will be present for us each moment we live and we know that we all will be present for each other as we are needed by each other.

2018 is a memory now. It was filled with challenges and happiness. It was a year of anxiety and celebration. It will be cherished. It will be hated. Our individual experiences of 2018 will determine how we remember it. We can try to forget the pain of the past and remember the good times and let them nourish our spirits as we try to move forward into the new year with the hope of good times to happen in a new year of promise.

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
January: WCRC food pantry
February: NETXCAC

January Sermon Titles:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 6 | Epiphany Sunday
Matthew 2:1-12
"Rise and Shine" |
| Jan. 13 | Baptism of the Lord
Luke 3:15-17, 21-22
"Called by Grace" |
| Jan. 20 | Second Sunday after
Epiphany
John 2: 1-11
"Water or Wine?" |
| Jan. 27 | Third Sunday after
Epiphany
Luke 4: 14-21
"Jesus' Mission
Statement" |

Attendance:

December 2—29
December 9—30
December 16—29
December 23—
December 24—30
December 25—41

January birthdays and anniversaries:

(Please notify the office if I do not have your birthday)

9—Vicki Bond
Kelly Holloman
11—Don Kattleson
12—Christian England
13—Patricia Clark
17—Garnett Russell
22—Laquita Kelm
26—Susan Drennan



Jane's Journey

The other night some of us gathered at the City Park for the Big Bench Reveal. We had some stiff competition and in the end it was no competition. They declared all benches equally worthy; everybody sang Christmas carols, drank some hot chocolate and went home.

But before Jerry and Doris Carpenter left for Tyler, John Clark stopped them to wish them well on the dark roads ahead. John knew the route Jerry likes to take is filled with twists and turns and also wildlife. On this cold, dark night it could be especially dangerous. So, he gave Jerry a fairly standard country benediction as his parting words: "Watch for hogs in the road on your way home."

I was struck by this phrase. Not because it sounded unusual but because I thought it was such a loving thing for John to say to Jerry. The following night I found myself saying the exact same thing to my granddaughter as she went into the dark night to run an errand for me. "Watch for hogs in the road."

The television legend of the 1970's, Mr. Rogers, used to sing a song on his children's show went something like this:

There are many ways to say I love you
There are many ways to say I care about you.....
Cleaning up a room can say I love you
Hanging up a coat before you're asked to
You'll find many ways to understand what love is...
Just by being there when things are sad and scary
Just by being there, being there, being there to say,
I love you

If I have learned anything in my journey through life I have learned to never be embarrassed to tell someone that I love them and that there are an unlimited number of ways to say it. I am still learning new ways to say it.

Sometimes it's hard to recognize. But if you look you can find signs everywhere. Our Creator tell us in subtle ways-- in a leaf changing colors on a tree or in a glistening raindrop. Look! God is talking to us: "I love you."

That's kind of what the cross is saying when we see it.

How will we find new ways to tell each other "I love you"?

Watch for hogs in the road on your way home tonight.

Love, Jane

***Some visitors from First
Presbyterian Church visiting Santa
to invite him to our church service***



General Fund Summary - Jan - Nov 2018

	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$56,051.19	\$48,949.96	\$7,101.23
Expense	\$55,859.17	\$56,846.61	\$987.44
Net	\$192.02		

Note: Bank balance 11/30/2018 was \$50,698.88. Restricted funds totaled \$14,416.22, while unrestricted funds totaled \$36,282.66. (Uncleared checks total \$142.46 leaving \$36,140.20 available for normal bills.)

News from the Session

At their December 9th meeting, the Session approved the church's 2019 Operating Budget noting this year's approved budget shows an approximate increase of 14% in both income (pledge and estimated non-pledge) and expenses from the 2018 budget.

Dates have been set for important Congregational Meetings in January:

- January 6th: Election of Elders to replace Ronnie Knight and Becky Poe (expired terms), Armel Crocker (resignation) and a fourth elder position which has been unfilled since September 2018.
- January 27th: Session Committee chairpersons will present their annual "state of the church" reports.

The January Session meeting date has been rescheduled for Sunday, January 20th. Visitors are always welcomed, but must be placed on the agenda ahead of time if they wish to address any concerns.

More Session News next month.....



The focus of lesson 5 of our PW Bible study for January is that "God's promise of presence when we are powerless invites us to lay down our weapons of worry and keep our eyes on God." Although we are greeting a new year, we are continuing this excellent study, *God's Promise; I Am With You* by Amy Poling Sutherland. We have been holding strong at 5 members in attendance but would love to add to that number. We will meet at 10 a.m. on Monday, January 7, 2019 in the conference room of the Russell Annex. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to spend more time in Bible study, this is a great place to start. Join us!



Thanks to John Clark, Sandy Corder, Jane Els, and others for making our bench a reality. We appreciate all the hard work that went into making this beautiful and useful place of rest.

New & Used Tools for Gilmont

Our very own Beaven Els, along with two other men on the Gilmont Maintenance Committee, help coordinate all the volunteer maintenance work done at Camp Gilmont. The Committee has recently been able to establish a permanent location for a Maintenance Volunteer Building. Both cash donations (to wire the building for electricity, build work benches and storage bins) and tools (new and gently used) are needed to complete this project. They emphasize **NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL.**

In January, the Inreach/Outreach Committee of First Presbyterian Church Winnsboro will sponsor our own Tool Drive to support the Camp Gilmont Maintenance Committee. Wouldn't this be a good time to find a new home for any extra tools in your garage/shop? Collection areas will be designated to collect the following:

Corded Tools	Cordless Tools	Hand Tools	
Circular saw	Drills	Claw/ball peen hammers	Needle nose pliers
Miter saw	Circular saw	screwdriver sets	Linesman pliers
3/8" or 1/2" Drills	Reciprocating saw	3/8" and 1/2" drive socket sets	Utility knives/blades
Reciprocating saw	Combo kits (3-4 tools)	Pliers sets	screw driver bit sets
Jig saw	(Note: Committee would like to request 20-volt cordless	Diagonal pliers	Tape measures
(Note: Makita or Porter-cable brands preferred.)	Makita or Porter-Cable brands to be able to use current access to same batteries.)	Open/box end wrench sets	channel lock sets
		drill bit sets	wire strippers
		crescent wrench sets	vice grips
		levels	nail bars

(Note: if you prefer to make a cash donation, please make checks out to First Presbyterian Church-Winnsboro and designate "Tool Drive" in the memo.)



Music Notes

The Ringers and Singers have had a jolly time preparing and performing Advent and Christmas music for worship. We will take a little break before we begin practicing for Lent and Easter music, so no practice during the month of January. Be on the lookout for the next start-up dates. And, if new folks would like to join either group, this will be a great time to do that. Just let Patricia Fields (Ringers) and/or Tricia Clark (Singers) know, and we will put you to work!

2019- A Year of Spiritual Renewal

2019 has been designated as a Year of Spiritual Renewal at First Presbyterian Church of Winnsboro. This year will offer us all the opportunity to grow spiritually as we begin new efforts to read more of the Bible, to pray more often and in many new and creative ways, and to explore new patterns of worship and prayer that may open new pathways to the Holy Spirit's presence becoming more recognizable in our lives.

Each month we will be given the scriptures that will be read during worship each Sunday. You are encouraged and challenged to read these readings in advance each week before you attend worship service and to formulate questions about the readings that may help you to have new ears to listen to what is read and proclaimed in worship weekly. The lectionary readings will be listed in the newsletter each month and you are encouraged to either print them out or to refer to the listing on the church website in order to read the four readings before you attend worship. If you are not able to attend worship one Sunday, this will also serve as a wonderful way of bringing God's Word into your life to nourish your spirit daily. Read the readings at least once each week but you may also wish to make them part of your daily devotional practice.

That also brings us to another emphasis in our effort to have spiritual renewal in our lives. If you do not have a daily devotional practice as part of your daily routine, this new year offers you the chance to incorporate one into your life. Your devotional practice will be unique and individualized for you by what you choose to do. Some may simply read the Bible and pray silently in a comfortable place in their home. Other may read what is called "The Daily Office" which are scriptures based on the lectionary and assigned for daily use. This can be found in many ecumenical sources and I will provide sources for those who would like to begin such a spiritual practice. Regardless of what you choose as your daily devotional practice, having one increasing your awareness of the presence of God in your life.

We will also be exploring new ideas and practices in worship this year. Silence, meditation, guided prayer, and other practices have been a part of Christian worship since the Church began in the first century. We all need to use our senses to experience worship even as we use them to navigate the world around us on a daily basis. Gradually, we will incorporate some new spiritual practices in worship as we explore how God may speak to each of us in new ways as we open ourselves to God's Spirit at work among us.

The Spirit is at work in our lives daily. May God be with us and bless us in our efforts to listen and learn and grow in God's grace throughout this new year.

"Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old; I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" (Isaiah 43:18-19)

January 2019 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Epiphany of the Lord—January 6

Isaiah 60:1–6
Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14
Ephesians 3:1–12
Matthew 2:1–12

Baptism of the Lord—January 13

Isaiah 43:1–7
Psalm 29
Acts 8:14–17
Luke 3:15–17, 21–22

Second Sunday after Epiphany—January 20

Isaiah 62:1–5
Psalm 36:5–10
1 Corinthians 12:1–11
John 2:1–11

Third Sunday after Epiphany—January 27

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 12:12–31a
Luke 4:14–21

January 2019

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Jan 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Nolay Offering	31 New Year's Eve	1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3	4	5 12pm - Al-Anon
6 Communion 12pm - Congregati	7 10am - PW 2pm - Bible study	8	9 Kelly Holloman Vicki Bond	10	11 Don Kettleson	12 Christian England 12pm - Al-Anon
13 Patricia Clark	14 2pm - Bible study	15 Session rpts due	16	17 Garnett Russell	18	19 12pm - Al-Anon
20 Family Lunch 12pm - Session	21 Martin Luther King 2pm - Bible study	22 Laquita Keim	23	24	25	26 Susan Drennan 12pm - Al-Anon
27 Nolay Offering 12pm - Congregati	28 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible study	29	30	31	1	2 12pm - Al-Anon