



# First Presbyterian Church

## The Cross and Crown



June 2019

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

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Rev. Dr. Jerry Carpenter

**Session members:**

Class of 2019

John Clark and Molly Lennon

Class of 2020

Jane Els and Dan Wilson

Class of 2021

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

Summer is officially here! The weather staff on our local television stations often now says that we have "meteorological summer" which begins June 1 and lasts until Sept 1, despite the fact that the calendar says that summer begins on June 20, the date of the summer solstice, the longest day of the year. I don't know about you, but I have always thought that summer begin with Memorial Day and ended with Labor Day. I guess that is because our lives have been shaped by the school calendars so much that we have lived with that thinking that when school is out, then summer happens.

My wife is a retired school teacher and for part of her experience, she worked in the Van ISD, not too far from here. The school superintendent during part of her career was an energetic younger man who convinced the school board to try what they called "a modified year round plan" for a few years. The plan had school begin around August 1 and end sometimes in June. At first there was some resistance to the idea but once it was in place most people there loved the school calendar. It gave students and teachers more time off during the school year even though they were meeting for the same number of instructional days. Suddenly they had Fall Break in addition to Thanksgiving Break, they had Christmas Break and Winter Break, and they had Spring Break and Easter Break. The staff working at the school felt more refreshed because of the plan and the students enjoyed all the breaks spread out through the school year. It was the same number of days that the school was open for learning but just arranged differently.

Then, the State of Texas, in their ultimate wisdom, decided that the state needed a uniform school calendar where all the schools in the state started on the same date and ended about the same time. So, individual differences for public schools were eliminated and the year round school calendar stopped working for Van ISD. I hear there are some schools in Texas that still try a year round plan and are granted a waiver by the State to operate as such but those are few and far between.

So, school is out and children are around for the summer until the last Monday in August. Parents are trying to figure out how to fill up the days and weeks so the children are occupied. Time is a fleeting commodity and must be used wisely or it is soon gone and can never be recovered.

The Psalmist spoke in a prayer, "Teach us, O Lord, to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom. O satisfy us, early with thy mercy that we may rejoice and be glad all our days." In other words, God help us to use our time wisely. Help us not to waste time with things that really do not matter but help us to stay focused on what is good and right and true and instructive for living.

Summer is a time for family fun, for outdoor activities, for travel, for vacations, for reunions. It is a time to stay active in your church also. The church only exists for its members and those who seek spiritual renewal. If no one is there, then the church need not open its doors. There is an old saying, "Showing up is half the battle." That is true for all of life. Just getting there is often hard, but if we put forth the effort and make being in church a priority in our lives, then it will be something that really does matter to us.

Join us this summer for worship and learning and fellowship and fun. Invite someone else to come with us too. We are all important in the life of the church. If you are not there, you are missed.



## **Noisy Offering** **To be announced**

### SERMON TOPICS FOR JUNE:

- June 2      Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21  
"Jesus, Resurrected to Reign"
- June 9      Pentecost Sunday  
Acts 2:1-21  
"Wind, Fire, Noise"
- June 16     Trinity Sunday  
John 16:12-15  
"The Work of the Spirit"
- June 23     Second Sunday after Pentecost  
Luke 8:26-39  
"God's Care for All"
- June 30     Third Sunday after Pentecost  
Luke 9:51-62  
"Following Jesus"

### **Attendance:**

**April 28—28**

**May 5—21**

**May 12—35**

**May 19—31**

### **June birthdays & anniversaries:**

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

**6 Jack Baber**

**11 Sean Drennan**

**13 Claire Agnew**

**20 Della White**

**26 Charlie England**

**27 Holly Clark-Porter**



Our Presbyterian Women's Bible study for the year has come to an end. *God's Promise: I Am with You Always* was an excellent study reminding us that God has promised from the beginning that God/Jesus/the Holy Spirit will always be with us.

We will take a break for summer and pick up in September with a new study. Be watching for information as summer ends.



# Jane's Journey

Armel Crocker and I are taking Theology right now. I don't know what he thinks but for me, it's one of the hardest classes I taken so far and also one of the most rewarding.

Last week one of our discussion topics was to tell about our favorite cross. Everybody in the class, of course, waxed eloquently about their favorite. But yesterday something made me think of the cross in a new way.

An old Presbyterian friend from out of town was visiting and I went into Dallas to see her and visit. She had been to church with her sister. It was one of those new non-denominational churches: big, loud contemporary music, with a "stage" and an "auditorium" (yes, they called it that). She told me there wasn't a cross anywhere in sight.

I had heard about this phenomenon in the new mega churches. I'm not really sure what their thinking is. I have heard they think the cross "makes people nervous."

Armel and I have learned there are a few 'musts' in worship: a font, table, chalice and, yes, a cross. I can promise you a cross in a Presbyterian church.

But we are also learning in our Theology class that the cross should make us anything but nervous.

It's a symbol of God's amazing love for us. Our class spent last week learning over three different theories of Atonement and I can't promise that I understand them yet. My head is filled with names like Anselm, Abelard and *Cristus Victor*. I think I could spend the rest of my life digesting these theories but I do understand that there's not just one answer. I think of all the things I've learned so far in Seminary the main thing I've learned is that sometimes we just can't fully grasp God. In fact, one of the best quotes so far I found on Facebook is from Rachel Held Evans who said, "Once you understand God, God ceases to be God." I think the God I believe in is great and magnificent beyond understanding. But loving and reassuring.

The one thing I do know—the answer I know in my bones, that I can take to the bank: is that God loves me. And you. And what a wonderful thing it is to see the cross in our Sanctuary and remember that.

## Father's Day is June 16



### Music Notes

**The Singers and Ringers are taking a break from practicing. The Ringers plan to play on a few Sundays in June and July (if we have enough people in town!) But they will do a run-through practice at 10:30 on those Sundays - no 9:00 practice.**

**Please call the office if this pin belongs to you**



**June 2019 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals**

**Seventh Sunday of Easter—June 2**

**Acts 16:16-34**

**Psalm 97**

**Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

**John 17:20-26**

**Day of Pentecost—June 9**

**Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9**

**Psalm 104:24-34, 35b**

**Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21**

**John 14:8-17 [25-27]**

**Trinity Sunday—June 16**

**Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31**

**Psalm 8**

**Romans 5:1-5**

**John 16:12-15**

**Second Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7)—June 23**

**1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a**

**Psalm 42 and 43**

**Galatians 3:23-29**

**Luke 8:26-39**

**Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 8)—June 30**

**2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 1**

**Psalm 77:1-2, 11-20**

**Galatians 5:1, 13-25**

**Luke 9:51-62**





## Reid Committee Votes to Support Northeast Texas International Water Ministries



At their recent Reid Foundation meeting, the committee (Becky Poe, Armel Crocker, John Clark, Carolyn Stewart, and Ronnie Knight) heard a very fascinating presentation by Harold and Kathy Patterson describing the work their organization does to coordinate with missionaries and organizations in 3rd-world countries to supply clean water, teach sanitation & hygiene, and help in any other way to improve the lives of people in developing countries. They described their patented water well drill that was designed for the express purpose of drilling shallow water wells. To date they have drilled wells in more a dozen counties in Africa and South America.

With the help of donations, both large and small, they build a drilling rig and ship it. Once the drill is on site, a team flies to the location where they train 3 to 5 Christian young men how to operate and maintain

the drill and mud pump. When the trained team is in place, Harold and his crew return home and leave the drilling equipment in the hands of the trained Christian men so they can continue to drill for their community.

Just outside of Winnsboro is their training facility and shop for building the drills. Visitors can contact the Patterson's and make arrangements to visit the facility.

The Reid Committee voted to make a \$1,000 donation this year and also to contact Grace Presbytery to see if there is foreign mission money available for additional funding. It takes about \$10,000 to build the equipment and send a team out for the installation and training. Individuals can make personal donations by visiting their website ([www.ntiwm.org](http://www.ntiwm.org)). Small donations are pooled and used for the travel expenses incurred for getting Mr. Patterson and his crew to their installation locations.

Members of First Presbyterian Church who would like more information about the Northeast Texas Water Ministries work can also find additional information on their Facebook Page.

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### Highlights From the Session

The Session is now meeting every other month; accordingly, news from the Session will be included every other month in the newsletter.

Exciting news - We will be reinstating the Noisy Offering which will be collected on the last Sunday of the month. Rather than it going to a different recipient each month, the monies collected will be sent to the Norte Presbytery in Guatemala for the purpose of assisting the Iglesia Maranatha in the town of Salama, Guatemala. Our congregation may remember collecting items one Christmas for our young Presbyterian sisters and brothers in Guatemala. This will be another opportunity for our church to engage in direct mission for our fellow Presbyterians. The InReach/OutReach committee is preparing a poster to share information with you about this church.

Financial news - The Session accepted a letter from Jerry Poe resigning as Treasurer and expressed appreciation for Jerry's years of service as Treasurer. They have decided to hire Shannon Monk as bookkeeper to take care of our accounting needs and have appointed Elder Ronny Knight as Treasurer. Bank signature cards have been updated. The Session approved hiring Clara Ziegler to do the required annual audit.

From the Pastor - Rev. Jerry and Elder Carolyn Stewart took communion to our members at Autumn Wind and Trinity Mission Rehab. Pastor would like everyone to know that even though his official part-time hours are Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday, he is available to anyone who needs him at ANY time. Just let him know if you need him.

Other actions taken - Elders Armel Crocker and Tricia Clark were commissioned to attend the June 1 Presbytery meeting. The 2018 Church Statistical Report was approved. The next Stated Meeting is July 14, 2019.

## Fellowship Lunch

May's Sunday Fellowship lunch was fantastic! Jane and I would like to thank all who stayed and enjoyed the food and great conversation. It was wonderful to see so many folks relaxing and chatting. Whether catching up with old friends or discovering new ones, we hope everyone was able to feel welcome.

June's Fellowship lunch will fall on Father's Day. Rather than spoil family plans, we're moving the lunch to June 23rd. This one will be a pot luck – if every family could bring a dish, we'll all have plenty. Let's keep the man theme going – bring a dish that a male family member loves! Dad, brother, cousin, whomever - let's honor the wonderful male role models we've all been lucky enough to have in our lives.

One recipe was requested by several folks, so I thought the Cross and Crown may be the best place to share it. I found the recipe on a website called Genius Kitchen. I wish I could say I invented it, but all I did was follow the recipe. I did double it for the number of folks we had..

### Strawberries Romanoff

1/2 cup sour cream  
3 Tablespoons brown sugar  
1 Tablespoon vanilla  
1/2 cup heavy cream  
3 Tablespoons sugar  
Fresh strawberries  
Blueberries

Mix sour cream, brown sugar and vanilla in a bowl.

In a separate bowl, whip cream until it starts to thicken. Add sugar, whip until thick.

Fold cream into sour cream mixture and blend well.

Serve over fruit.

In case you missed it on KLTV  
Tuesday night:

Ms. Betty Corder achieved a "miracle moment" today and walked across the basketball court with her favorite girls cheering her on. With the help of the Lady Raiders, Betty Corder walked to the free throw line to help setup a winning basket.

Read the story & see the video at  
KLTV.COM (scroll down until you see  
this picture & click on it)



# June 2019

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Jun 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 Annv. Baber	27 Memorial Day Office closed	28	29	30 Ascension of the	31	1 Presbytery mtg. 12pm - Al-Anon
2 Communion	3 2pm - Bible study	4	5	6 Jack Baber	7	8 12pm - Al-Anon
9 Pentecost	10 2pm - Bible study	11 Sean Drennan	12	13 Clair Agnew	14	15 12pm - Al-Anon
16 Father's Day Trinity Sunday	17 2pm - Bible study	18	19	20 Delia White	21	22 12pm - Al-Anon
23 Family Lunch	24 C & C articles due 2pm - Bible study	25	26 Charlie England	27 Holly Clark-Porter	28	29 12pm - Al-Anon
30 Noisy Offering	1 Michelle Anglin 2pm - Bible study	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6 12pm - Al-Anon