



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



July 2019

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Pastor:

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

Sandy Corder and Kelly Holloman

Treasurer

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PASTOR'S PAGE: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER

July is all about Freedom! We celebrate our freedoms on July 4 each year when we celebrate Independence Day! Of course, that is the day we remember our nation becoming independent from Great Britain in the great war we call the Revolutionary War. Besides remembering that great conflict that lasted many years, we also remember the document that gave us our freedoms—The Constitution of the United States of America. Most of us learned in school that we have many freedoms guaranteed to us by the individual amendments—freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion and many others. We are thankful to live in a nation that allows us many freedoms to live and act as we desire.

Freedom of Religion also means Freedom from Religion. All Americans have the right to belong to any church or religious tradition that they may choose but they also have the right to not belong to any religion if they desire. Americans are a diverse lot religiously. There are thousands of religious expressions in the United States and each person has the right to belong or not belong to any of them. Scientists who study religion classify religious expressions by the many characteristics they may have and count adherents to them by their official membership or attendance in those religious groups. A new phenomenon that has occurred in recent years is the category called "None" which means that when persons are asked what religious group they may belong to, they reply "None" meaning they are not part of any religious group. At last tally, that number has grown to about 25% of the total population of America. There are a growing number of people in the United States who feel that organized religion gives them little personal meaning.

It is sad that religious expression in America has lost its meaning for so many people. Many would rather simply stay home on Sunday or whenever worship happens for them than to devote an hour or more to being with others who may worship and fellowship together. It is even more sad, however, when people do belong to a certain religious organization and do not feel that it offers

them any reason to attend worship services or participate in its' activities. Church attendance in most Christian denominations by the members of the local church usually is around 25-35% on any given Sunday. Some people never attend, others sporadically attend, and some are the famous "C & E's who may come only on Christmas Eve and Easter Sunday. Church attendance to some is a routine or a tradition and has little meaning. It is simply what one does if one happens to be with others who go to a church service.

Freedom from religion is valuable because Americans do not want to be required to belong to a state church such as people in European nations historically were required to do. Americans want to have the choice to be religious or not to be religious, to belong or not belong to a church, to practice religious rites or not to do so. Protestants are particularly bound to the independence they feel is guaranteed to them by belonging to their denomination. They practice their religion as they desire and see church attendance as optional, not demanded by the church, as is true for

Roman Catholics and others. The freedom we have to be as involved or uninvolved as we desire is one of the traits of being a Protestant that we hold highly.

The local church, unfortunately, needs involved and dedicated members if it is to survive. The local church depends on people who give up their independence in some way to serve as liturgists and teachers and board members and task servers. The local church depends on people who will yield up a bit of their independence so that the greater good of the church, the community, and the world can be accomplished.

When Jesus said to go into all the world and preach, teach, and baptize, he was not just speaking to his listeners in the First Century. He was commanding them to follow his instructions and then to pass those down to future generations who would also continue to follow them. We are the only tools God has to reach the “nones” who think that there is no meaning in organized religion and have no use for it. We have to go into our world and find others for whom God and religion and Christianity may seem naïve or useless and help them understand that behind all that is done is God’s love reaching out to all humankind.



Noisy Offering **Iglesia Maranatha in the town of Salama, Guatemala**

SERMON TOPICS FOR JULY:

- | | |
|---------|---|
| July 7 | Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 10: 1-11, 16-20
“Marching Orders” |
| July 14 | Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 10: 25-37
“A Good Samaritan?” |
| July 21 | Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 10: 38-42
“The Better Part” |
| July 28 | Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
Luke 11: 1-13
“Perseverance in Prayer” |

Attendance:

May 26—35

June 2—24

June 9—31

June 16—25

June 23—28

July birthdays & anniversaries: (Please notify the office if I do not have your birthday)

12 Annv. Bond

12 LilyMae Holloman

23 Annv. Clark

24 Bob Simmons

31 Nathan Clark



Jane's Journey

Armel and I are finished with our classes!! Assuming all goes as planned and we pass these last two classes we should each receive a Certificate in Ministry. Recently Austin Seminary changed the requirements and instead of six required and 1 elective classes (which would leave us still needing to take the required Christian Education class), now they just require eight classes in any subject. Since we have taken so many electives we will meet the required eight classes after passing the two we just finished.

What becomes of us now remains up to Grace Presbytery. They may choose to commission either one of us to a church or wait until a good match becomes available.

In the meantime, we've had a great education and for that we can't thank this congregation and the Reid Fund enough.

I think of all the classes I've taken my two favorite classes have been this semester: Polity and Theology. It was a real surprise to me that I would enjoy learning about our Book of Order in the Polity class. It turned out that there is a lot of theology in this book. Our denomination is founded on solid principles of the bible and its love of God.

When it came to our Theology class I was to discover that the real treat was that not only was the professor one of the best in the country but she had written the textbook we would use. She had literally "written the book." You don't often get an opportunity like that in a class.

We went through all the standard doctrines of Christianity and ended on Vocation. I never fully appreciated what an integral part of life this doctrine is until I studied it.

When I was a child my father cleverly left a copy of the Westminster Shorter Catechism lying around on our coffee table, knowing that I being a curious child would read it.

"What is the chief end of humanity?"

"To glorify God and enjoy God forever."

So, I've spent my life understanding that my sole purpose was to enjoy God and spend my time in a way that would glorify God.

Armel and I had to write two papers as our final exam in Theology. One of mine was on the doctrine of Vocation. Our vocation as Christians is to be "sent out" by Christ. The beautiful thing about this is that opportunities abound. God continues to create, the Kingdom of God is always "Under Construction" and we are the workers who are invited to don hardhats and pick up a shovel. Or a knitting needle. Or cake pan. Opportunities to make the world a better, more loving place sprout up around us daily. Christ gave us a new commandment before he left us: "Love one another as I have loved you."

Opportunities abound.

General Fund Summary - Jan - May 2019			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$24,522.55	\$25,520.81	\$998.26
Expense	\$ 27,100.67	\$33,650.47	\$6,549.80
Net	(\$2,578.12)		

Presbyterian Women do not meet during the summer months. Look for news in August as to when we will start our 2019/2020 study.



Music Notes

Ringers and Singers will not practice during the summer months.

“Gratitude” AL anon Group hosting a great speaker.



***On July 13th and July 20th
All are welcome.***

***Location:
1st Presbyterian Church
302 S. Chestnut St.
Winnsboro, in the Fellowship Hall***

Time: 12-1 pm both Saturdays

Donations to the AL anon/AA program are welcome

***Sat. 13th talk – “My Story of Recovery” 12 pm
Sat. 20th talk – “Hiding God’s Word in My Heart
Healing Life’s Pain with Scripture” 12 pm***

Local speaker Jane Davis has graciously agreed to bring her experience, strength and hope to our AL anon Winnsboro meeting. She will share her personal story with us on July 13 about how the Al-Anon program and God’s words and love helped her find peace and serenity through a terrible time in her life.

On July 20 she offers us another inspiring story of how scripture kept her afloat and stays with her and her husband bringing light and love into their lives. And her blessed ability as a heart filled speaker will bring the delight of God’s love to our minds and hearts.

Please join us for this great event.

Highlights from the Session:

The Session did not meet in June.

If you have served on our Session in the past few years and did not receive a certificate upon your ordination, please contact Clerk Tricia Clark

July 2019 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

JULY

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9)—July 7

2 Kings 5:1–14

Psalm 30

Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16

Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 10)—July 14

Amos 7:7–17

Psalm 82

Colossians 1:1–14

Luke 10:25–37

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 11)—July 21

Amos 8:1–12

Psalm 52

Colossians 1:15–28

Luke 10:38–42

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12)—July 28

Hosea 1:2–10

Psalm 85 Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6–1

Luke 11:1–13

Miracle Moment

Last month, Betty Corder fulfilled a “Miracle Moment” with the help of Autumn Winds’ Michael Herrera and the Winsboro Lady Raiders basketball team. After her stroke, she was left without use of her left arm and very reduced use of her left leg. When she arrived at Autumn Wind, she worked really hard at her therapy to recover the use of her limbs.

Noting that she rarely missed a session with her therapist or the group exercise classes, people began watching and cheering her on in her efforts to regain her control. When she hit a particularly rough patch late last spring, Michael wanted to help by giving her a challenge to work toward.

He arranged for her to meet the basketball team and officially laid down the challenge – for her to shoot a basket in the gym the following year. Church members came out to cheer her on as well.

With this goal firmly in mind, Betty renewed her work with firm resolve. She worked hard at walking, throwing a ball, and just getting stronger overall.

This year, with a gym full of students and church members watching, she walked in to the gym on her walker. As she made it to the free throw line, she passed the ball to one of the players who made the shot.



Breathe in the Spirit—Sandy Corder

Sometimes I find it hard to leave my everyday life when the church service starts. While I really want to worship with everyone and devote the time to God, daily cares and worries creep in. I sometimes find myself unable to settle down and pay attention, even though I really want to. Random thoughts bubble up and I will catch myself planning dinner, chasing a memory, or thinking of something absolutely not church related.

To help myself get out of my own head and into the pew, I do some deep breathing exercises. As the chimes start to play when worship starts, I take three really deep breaths to help slow my body and mind down and settle in to listen. The technique I use is simple and no one around me knows I am even doing it as I purposely relax my body and brain.

The science behind it is really cool. It has been proven in many studies by notable institutions that specific breathing techniques work on the body and mind. The one I'll explain slows our heart rate and promotes relaxation and attention.

If you would like to try it, here's how:

- 1 Begin by closing your mouth and breathing in through your nose.
- 2 Relax your belly as you fill your lungs, letting it expand as it fills fully with air (this engages your diaphragm).
- 3 When you can't fit any more air in your lungs, hold the breath as you count to three.
- 4 Open your mouth slightly and release all the air very slowly (trying to exhale for twice as long as you inhaled).

Repeat these steps three or four times as the chimes begin to play, when you sit down in the pew, or some other time that "church starts" for you. Hopefully, you will get some of the same results I do and feel calmer, clearer, and able to pay closer attention to the service.

Hurschel & Rhonda Thomas' granddaughters, Milla (in red) and Zoe (in hat) planting flowers in the church courtyard



July 2019

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays in United States

Jul 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Noisy Offering	1 2pm - Bible study	2	3	4 Independence Day Office closed	5 Session Reports	6 12pm - Al-Anon
7 Communion	8 2pm - Bible study	9	10	11	12 Annv Bond LilyMae Holloman	13 12pm - Al-Anon Jane
14 Session	15 2pm - Bible study	16	17	18	19	20 12pm - Al-Anon Jane
21 Family Lunch	22 C & C articles due 2pm - Bible study	23 Annv. Clark	24 Bob Simmons	25	26	27 12pm - Al-Anon
28 Noisy Offering	29 2pm - Bible study	30	31 Nathan Clark	1 John Clark	2	3 Brad DeWees H. P. Hoey 12pm - Al-Anon