



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



August 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

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PASTOR'S PAGE: REV. DR. JERRY CARPENTER

Ahhhh, August. I don't think I have ever heard anyone in Texas in all my years of living say those words. Most of us say instead...August, when will it ever end. I must confess that August is my least favorite month of the year. I have always dreaded the long hot days that often come during August. I hate hot weather and find August days oppressive. Is it any wonder that someone once called it the Monday of months?

August marks the beginning of a new school year for teachers and students. We pray for our children who will have a new teacher and new students to learn with. We pray for our teachers who will have new students, new schedules, and perhaps even new colleagues to get to know and work with. Teachers have a challenging profession and need our prayers daily.

August marks the ending of summer travel and many will take one last trip before the fall routine sets in. Pray for travelers and for the time away to be meaningful for those who travel.

Do not forget to be in church each Sunday in August that you are able. Your presence is needed and you will be blessed by your devotion and service to God and neighbor.

General Fund Summary - Jan - June 2019			
	Actual	Budget	Variance
Income	\$28,362.51	\$30,624.98	\$2,262.47
Expense	\$ 35,035.62	\$39,408.06	\$4,372.44
Net	(\$6,673.11)		



Jane's Journey

I have seen the most amazing assortments of meals in the last two days I just have to tell you about them.

To start with Sandy and I planned a great hamburger cookout for our bi-monthly “Easy” lunch (where the church provides everything and nobody has to bring anything.) It was going to be great. We had burgers and everything that goes with this typical summer meal. Slade donned a Wonder Woman apron and chef’s hat and got ready to grill. Then the most awful thing you can imagine happened. Nothing happened. The coals wouldn’t cooperate. The fire wouldn’t fire. We had no heat. And nobody likes raw meat for hamburgers.

Sandy explained to everyone what had happened and that she was going out for fried chicken. But Pastor Jerry pointed we already had enough to eat. He pointed out our marvelous sides: slaw, potato salad, couscous, chips and dip, lettuce, tomatoes, and (yes) buns. Not to mention the ice cream sundaes with cool toppings and other desserts. We would have plenty to eat.

We looked around the room and I could literally feel us all relax. We realized we did have enough. The whole mood of the room changed. We laughed more. We spent more time relaxing and visiting with each other than at any church lunch I can recall. I was wonderful. We remembered that the Lord provides for us.

That afternoon I went to another amazing food experience. I’m spending my week at the Great Gluten Escape at Camp Gilmont. This is primarily for kids with Celiac disease and other gluten sensitivities. This might be my favorite camp. All the food served this week is gluten-free. The food is great, the volunteer cooks are great (because it takes a bunch) and the kids are great. I love to compare the first time the kids go through the food line to the last time. Their first time they shyly ask us “can I eat this?” because they are so used to regular food making them sick. They spend their lives constantly on guard with what they eat. It takes a few meals of reassuring them before they realize that ALL the food they are served this week is safe. Then by the last meal they are zooming around with confidence

But this week I saw something I had not noticed before: the director leaned over to one camper and said a number. I later I asked what that was for. We have two diabetics here this week so we need to give them a carb count so they can keep up with their total carb intake. And then one other kid needed dairy-free food. We had a separate meal set aside for that one kid when they came through the line. We were able—through a LOT of calculation, cooking, and head scratching--- to feed each kid according to their individual dietary needs.

And then?

Then everybody got to experience camp like every other kid who goes to camp. Gilmont uses the same programming, the same activities and the same counselors. Because kids are kids.

Everybody has enough and just what they need.

Ain’t God grand?

**Thank you for your continued prayers
Dan & Marianne Wilson**

Introducing the Shepherd's Staff

We're starting a new program at our church. It is called the Shepherd's Staff. Every member and even some folks who aren't members will get a shepherd.

What is this?

It's a way to keep our congregation in touch with one another in a personal way. Every congregation member will have a "shepherd" who will stay in touch with them. It will provide many purposes:

- We will act as the "staff" for the Great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.
- Quick communication after a weather emergency to make sure everyone is OK and see if anyone needs anything. Same thing with a death or similar catastrophe.
- An informal way to "check in" anticipating a member's needs or interests or ideas.
- As the Shepherd's Staff, the Inreach/Outreach will offer short training sessions from time to time.

We'll have a brief training session after church on July 28 where we will choose our congregation member "sheep." The arrangement is designed to change periodically so that folks get to know different people in this same personal relationship as time goes by.

Practically speaking:

In case of weather emergencies we'll be able to quickly and easily find out if anyone needs help: maybe they have a tree down or have lost power and the church could help out or maybe their car won't start and they need a ride somewhere. If someone needs a ride to the doctor who are the logical folks to do this if not their brothers and sisters in Christ? These are the things a shepherd can help with.

We would like to improve communications with the church office. In a lot of churches the most common complaint a congregation member has is that their pastor didn't visit them when they needed him or her. And the most common complaint from the pastor was that the congregation doesn't call them when they need a pastor. At Winnsboro we are fortunate to have a pastor to who cares about us and wants to visit us when we have a need.

We want to get into the habit of thinking "Does the church office need to know about this?" and "Does Tina or Jerry know this?"

We can't be an effective body or Christ unless we get some exercise, can we?

Look for a note in the mail or a phone call from someone telling you they are your shepherd. Receive them with joy!

Sermon topics for August:

Aug 4
Luke 12:13-21
Right Priorities

Aug 11
Hebrews 11:1-6
Living by Faith

Aug 18
Hebrews 11:29-12:2
Everlasting Faith

Aug 25
Luke 13:10-17
Room for Freedom

August birthdays & anniversaries:

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

1 John Clark
3 Brad DeWees
3 H P Hosey
6 Rick Drennan
10 Peggy Rounseville
31 Ed Russell

Attendance:

June 30—32
July 7—24
July 14—33
July 21—31



Using Wal-Mart to Be a Good Samaritan

In his July 14th sermon, Pastor Jerry challenged the congregation to follow the Good Samaritan's example in the parable Jesus told (Luke 10:25-37). We should be willing to show compassion for others and keep in the mind that "our neighbor" is anyone we come across who needs a helping hand.

When someone is ill, disabled, or lacks transportation, getting to the grocery store can be very problematic for them. Taking a senior citizen shopping who has both

visual and mobility impairments can be challenging for both shoppers. But now more stores are introducing grocery shopping services, so I decided to try out the Sulphur Springs Wal-Mart Grocery Pickup Service to see if it would be a more practical way to "help my neighbor." Was this service as great as it sounds?

In a word: YES! I used the Wal-Mart App on my smartphone to order a wide variety of groceries: produce, dairy products, sliced deli meat, canned goods, and something sweet from the bakery. It took just a few minutes to navigate their user-friendly app. In fact, it took less time to shop online than it would have even if I was doing one of my "snatch and grab" trips!

After I completed my grocery list, I started the check-out process which begins with reserving a pickup time/date (in one-hour intervals) and indicating whether or not it would be okay for my personal shopper to make "substitutions." I allowed for substitutions on everything, except my Wrights Applewood Thick Sliced Bacon!

At my designated appointment time, I received an email on my cell phone that my order was ready for pickup. I was instructed to check in when I was on my way. When I arrived, I parked in the designated pickup area on the west side of the store. Within a very few minutes, a very friendly employee rolled out a cart with my bags of groceries in her blue tubs. On her hand-held scanner, it showed my "shopper" made one substitution, and I had the option to accept or decline it. I had a copy of my shopping list, and she patiently waited for me to inventory everything. Everything was perfect...and the produce was amazing! (And no tipping is allowed.)

My "neighbor" and I have a new plan for the future! She will call me and dictate her list over the phone, I will place the order and pick it up. When her groceries are delivered and put in her cupboards/refrigerator, we will go to Liefie's for a ladies-only lunch!

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



Session News

The Session met on July 14 for a regular stated meeting. All Session members were present. Some highlights of that meeting are as follows.

- Armel Crocker presented a Session training curriculum that he created for a class he took as part of his certification for commissioned pastor.
- Commissioned Elders Armel Crocker and Tricia Clark attended Grace Presbytery meeting on June 1, 2019.
- The Admin/Building and Grounds committee reported that foundation work needs to be done on the manse to correct a moisture problem. The Session approved going ahead with that work.
- The Session approved forming a committee to research and determine the best future for the manse property.
- The worship committee selected a new communion chalice to replace the broken one.
- Worship attendance report for 5/12: 35; 5/19: 31; 5/26: 43; 6/9: 31; 6/23: 32; 6/30: 33.
- The InReach/OutReach committee is planning to implement The Shepherd's Staff. This is a system of staying connected with each church member. Session members and other congregation members who wish to serve will each have several "sheep" (church members) for whom they will be responsible. Their duties will include checking on folks when they have been absent several Sundays in a row, sending birthday greetings, checking in after weather emergencies, and more. Look for more information about this program in the very near future.
- **Of great importance to the congregation! A congregational meeting has been called for September 8 following worship to elect a nominating committee to serve September 2019 - August 2020. This committee will nominate two church members to recommend to the congregation for election to serve as elders for the class of 2022. As per the Book of Order and our own Manual of Operations, the Session appointed two elders, John Clark and Molly Lennon, to this committee. Molly will serve as moderator. Three additional members from the congregation at large will be elected. This is only a one year commitment and after September/October the committee will only meet if a Session member is unable to fulfill his/her term and needs to be replaced. Please consider serving your congregation in this way.**
- **Also of great importance to the congregation! A congregational meeting has been called for October 20 following worship for the purpose of hearing elder nomination recommendations from the nominating committee and for electing 2 elders to serve for the class of 2022.**
- The next Stated Session meeting will be September 8 following the congregational meeting.

August 2019 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

August 4—Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
Hosea 11:1–11
Psalms 107:1–9, 43
Colossians 3:1–11
Luke 12:13–21

August 11—Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 1:1, 10–20
Psalms 50:1–8, 22–23
Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16
Luke 12:32–40

August 18—Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
Isaiah 5:1–7
Psalms 80:1–2, 8–19
Hebrews 11:29–12:2
Luke 12:49–56

August 25—Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
Jeremiah 1:4–10
Psalms 71:1–6
Hebrews 12:18–29
Luke 13:10–17

August 2019

First Presbyterian, **Contacts**, **Holidays in United States**

Aug 2019 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28 Noisy Offering	29 2pm - Bible study	30	31 Nathan Clark	1 John Clark	2	3 Brad DeWees H. P. Hossey 12pm - Al-Anon
4 Communion	5 2pm - Bible study	6 Rick Drennan	7	8	9	10 Peggy Rounseville 12pm - Al-Anon
11	12 2pm - Bible study	13	14	15	16	17 12pm - Al-Anon
18 Family Lunch	19 2pm - Bible study	20	21	22	23	24 12pm - Al-Anon
25 Noisy Offering	26 Cross & Crown 2pm - Bible study	27	28	29	30	31 Ed Russell 12pm - Al-Anon