



First Presbyterian Church

The Cross and Crown



February 2021

Extending God's Grace throughout Northeast Texas

Session members:

Class of 2021

Sandy Corder and Kelly Holloman

Class of 2022

Patricia Fields and Slade Weaver

Class of 2023

Ronny Knight and Alice McGregor

Treasurer

Ronny Knight

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Session and Congregational Meeting Highlights

We had a congregational meeting on January 10 to hear annual reports. After hearing reports, since the question and answer opportunity was canceled due to not having met for worship on Jan. 3, members were given an opportunity to ask any questions they had. We also held a corporate meeting and the congregation voted to sell the manse and use the proceeds to create an Ann Moore fund.

Committee reports will be posted on the church website. If you don't have computer access and wish to receive a printed copy, please contact the church office.

The Session members welcomed newly installed members Ronny Knight (Bldg/Grounds) and Alice McGregor (Inreach/Outreach) on board!

During the session meeting, several yearly tasks were attended to:

- Appointed Ronny Knight to continue as Treasurer
- Appointed Tricia Clark to continue as Clerk
- Appointed Sandy Corder and Jane Els to serve as commissioned elders to Presbytery
 - Appointed Jane and Beaven Els to serve as voting representatives of our church to the Camp Gilmont board
 - Appointed Alice McGregor to serve as session member on Reid Committee
 - Approved Church Statistics report to be submitted to PCUSA
 - Set special services to be held during 2021. Those will be Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17,) Maundy Thursday with communion (April 1,) and Christmas Eve (Dec. 24.) Those services will be held at 6:00 p.m.

- Approved communion to be held every 3 months if a pastor is not available monthly but to be held monthly whenever possible
- Approved special giving opportunities [Shared Mission Commitment (to Presbytery), Joy Gift, One Great Hour of Sharing]

In other business

- Moved to transfer \$7,000 from Donor Restricted Funds to TPF. It was decided that in the future, we should actually spend memorial monies in a more timely manner to honor those for whom they were given.
- Jimmy Chapman stated that as long as we need him, he will continue to serve as moderator for our church.

Discussed what direction we need to take in order to secure pastoral leadership. Jimmy assured the members that Presbytery has not forgotten us.

Sunday schedule

Feb 7 - Jane Els in the pulpit

Feb 14 - Jimmy Chapman in the pulpit, communion, session meeting

Feb 21 - Tricia Clark in the pulpit

Feb 28 - Jane Els in the pulpit

February 2021 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

Sunday, February 7

Isaiah 40:21–31

Psalms 147:1–11, 20c

1 Corinthians 9:16–23

Mark 1:29–39

Transfiguration of the Lord—February 14

2 Kings 2:1–12

Psalms 50:1–6

2 Corinthians 4:3–6

Mark 9:2–9

Ash Wednesday—February 17

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 or Isa. 58:1–12

Psalms 51:1–17

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21

First Sunday in Lent—February 21

Genesis 9:8–17

Psalms 25:1–10

1 Peter 3:18–22

Mark 1:9–15

Second Sunday in Lent—February 28

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16

Psalms 22:23–31

Romans 4:13–25

Mark 8:31–38

February birthdays & anniversaries:

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

There are no February birthdays that the office knows of!

Attendance:

December 27—cancelled

January 3—cancelled

January 10—15

January 17—6

January 24—14



Jane's Journey

I think one of the most interesting and curious things on earth is when we pray and pray for something and then feel shocked when we get it. And that had happened to some of the most deserving people I know: Camp Gilmont. Beaven and I went to their annual meeting yesterday.

Camps in general and especially church camps have been having a tough time lately. Gilmont is no exception. 2019 was a tough year for them financially and 2020 wasn't looking any better. In spite of Covid restrictions they opened the year with ideas and plans to keep the campers healthy. Between the need for social distance and fears, they weren't surprised to serve half of their normal amount of campers.

Yet their zest for ministry remained. Their hearts yearned, "Send us some campers!"

And God did.

When a hurricane slammed up the coast in early fall the camp had closed out their summer and the counselors had resumed college classes. But the storm did enough damage to the campuses of Evergreen Ministries that they needed housing immediately. Gilmont knew Evergreen and their needs. Their campers would come with mental delays, some severe. Some campers would need their food pureed. But Gilmont is accustomed to serving special diets and has been serving special needs children for years. Without hesitation, they told them to come. The camp management had no idea how they would pay for it. They operated totally on faith. With barely 24 hours' notice, Gilmont stocked up on food and found volunteers and counselors and the camp was full of 80 campers.

It ended up being a perfect combination of Evergreen's needs of facilities and Gilmont's talent for ministry. The counselors who came had already been set up to study on-line because of Covid. One of my favorites, Andy, while attending UNT online in Denton lived at the camp, took 18 semester hours, while working in the kitchen and serving as a lifeguard and taught archery. He never missed a beat. It was the busiest I've ever seen the place and everyone had a smile on their face.

Yet, underneath the smiles, the reality was that no one at Evergreen or Gilmont had a clue how it would play out financially. They were both operating totally on faith. We were all smart enough to know that that doesn't always work in the real world. But we knew that in the Kingdom of God it does. And we all believed we were living in the Kingdom of God.

When Beaven and I were at yesterday's Board of Directors meeting they announced that Evergreen was able to pay their bill in full and through astute management Gilmont ended their year in the black financially. And Andy passed all his classes.

They send their thanks to churches like ours who sent them contributions during their "Evergreen Summer." Winnsboro sent them a contribution from the Reid Fund. They also announced plans for the future: a solid Presbyterian presence with Rev Kenny Rigoulot and his wife Jennifer as Co-Directors and a deeper involvement from Grace Presbytery.

God is good. All the time.

Hear the Word Project

Inreach

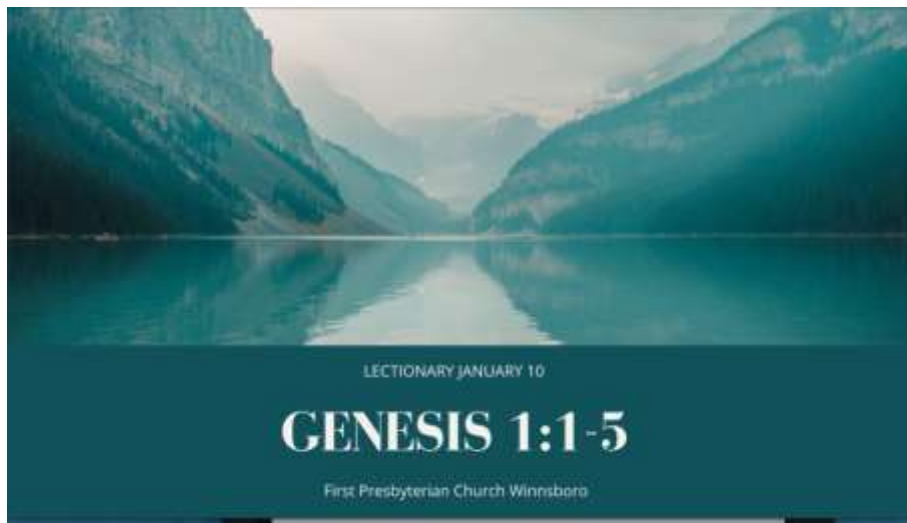
As one of the Inreach and Outreach members of the session, this whole Covid 19 experience has been a difficult challenge. I will admit to being completely out of my league and at a loss over the past months on how to reinvent my role in this “new reality”. I focused on Inreach – specifically on making services available to all our congregation whether they decided to enter the church or not. I figured it was my duty to make church available on Sunday mornings – exactly as it was before the virus was a consideration. I believe that has been accomplished to some extent, so I have handed off that torch to the Worship committee to do their magic. For my next challenge, I will turn my attention to Outreach.

Outreach

I feel that our role, now, as a church is to be a beacon of light to lives that may be dimmed by loss of hope, fear and isolation. Personally, I feel a strong desire to making the bible accessible in small bites to anyone who may need a moment of guidance. To that end, I will be using our church’s liturgical calendar and resources to publish the four weekly bible excerpts to be read aloud and attached to a lovely picture.

How does this work?

On our Facebook page, there will be four posts per week that lead up to the sermon. When you access the post, you can hear someone read the noted verses. I truly believe that in order to receive understanding, you must hear the words yourself and form your own meaning from them. So there is no interpretation or discussion – merely a pretty picture and the sound of someone reading the verses. It will look something like this and simply scrolling to it will make the recording begin on Facebook:



A whole church project

While I am heading up this project, I would really like it to become a whole church outreach effort. People from all over the world will be able to access it and understand that the fantastic folks of a little town in Texas made an effort to brighten their day and make sure they have access to simple, bite-sized pieces of the Bible.

Readers will not be identified aloud or in the notes. This project is about the verses, not the readers... so I am keeping it anonymous.

I am asking for volunteer readers for this project. I also need volunteers to help with file creation (it is easy to learn if you are somewhat tech savvy).

How to help?

- Please let me know you would like to help – email me at sandy@etps.net.
- I'll contact you and we'll discuss how to do this, but basically:
- You will be provided a web link to the verses you will be reading.
- For each of the liturgical excerpts for a given week, you will make a separate recording on the device of your choice.
- You will deliver the recordings to me electronically.
- I will create the posts and schedule them (for now).

Tune In

The first of week of February, you will see the first of these posts on our Facebook page. Later this year, I hope to revamp our website to give this project a home there. For now, it is easier to just do it on Facebook!

We are also anticipating a hybrid online/in-person bible study session that will go along with the verses. We'll post the details when/if it evolves. With each Sunday the service will reinforce the verses and the study session – just as intended by the liturgical calendar.

A wheelchair has become available for \$100 dollars. Contact Alice McGregor (call church office for phone number)



PW recently sent mission gifts in memory of Marj Carpenter. Our treasurer, Carolyn Stewart, received the following thank you note from The Outreach Foundation:

Dear Mrs. Stewart, I wanted to be sure to write to say thank you so much for the gift from the Presbyterian Women toward the health kits in Mozambique, Bibles for new Christians, and food in Venezuela. We are so grateful. Blessings to you and your family and church family.

**Carol Dublin
Administrative Assistant**

Sean Drennan's address in the army is:

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3820 Williams Way
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February 2021

First Presbyterian, Contacts, Holidays In United States

Feb 2021 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1 First Day of Black	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 Communion Session meeting Valentine's Day	15 Presidents Day	16	17 6pm - Ash	18	19	20
21	22 Cross & Crown	23	24	25	26	27
28	1 First Day of	2	3	4	5	6