

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2017
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EXPANDING OUR VIEW OF SERVICE

We often think of serving in terms of Matthew 25: supplying food and clothing; caring for the sick, incarcerated and other “least of these” members of society — serving Jesus in the process. But we also can serve him with our unique talents and by doing things we love.

For example, Ged King, a barber in England, devotes some of his time off to giving homeless people free haircuts. Imagine Jesus saying, “For my hair was long and scraggly, and you cut it”

— or “My heart was lonely, and you played music to lift my spirits. I could no longer read small print, and you read to me. I have to work two jobs, and you invited my child to spend afternoons crafting with you. My car broke down, and you repaired it.” Then the King will say, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father ... whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:34, 40, NIV; emphasis added).

EASTER’S DAWN

On the third day, the friends of Christ coming at daybreak ... found the grave empty and the stone rolled away. In varying ways they realized the new wonder; but even they hardly realized that the world had died in the night. What they were looking at was the first day of a new creation, with a new heaven and a new earth; and in a semblance of the gardener, God walked again in the garden, in the cool not of the evening but of the dawn.

—G.K. Chesterton



Church Events

- Apr 1st -Church Garage Sale 9 a.m.—2 p.m.
- April 3rd -Mission Committee Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- Apr 5th -Worship Committee Meeting 10 a.m.; Lenten Service 5 p.m.
- Apr 9th -Fellowship Committee Meeting after the service
- April 10th -PW Meeting 1:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall Rm #1
- Apr 13th -Tenebrae Service 5 p.m.; Session Meets afterward
- Apr 14th -Good Friday Service 5 p.m.
- Apr 16th -Easter Services 7 and 10 a.m.; “He Lives” Party 11:15 a.m.; Special Offering
- Apr 29th -Men With a Heart for God Breakfast Meeting 8 a.m.
- Apr 30th - “Let’s Meet In the Parlor” (Coffee & Donuts!)

Our Sunday Services

Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.

Worship -10:00 a.m.

Children’s Celebration

(for kids ages 5 & older) 10:00 a.m.

Nursery for children up to age 4
available at all church services

Property Committee

It is spring time, and we have started refreshing the church property.

We are also having the brush cleared around the trees on the 190 property.

We have installed a new TV in Room #3 in the Fellowship Hall for viewing the DVDs in the nursery.

Presbyterian Women are now having their meetings in Room #1 in the Fellowship Hall.

The two Security lights on the front of the Activities Building have been replaced with LED lights.

If you would like to be involved in the church property, we are still looking for people to be on the committee.

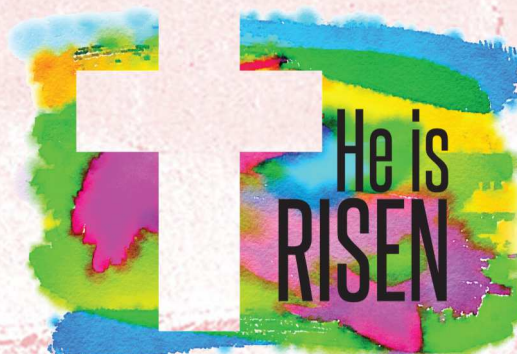
Just a note: Rick Nobles, who has served for over 10 years in the Sound Room, has retired from his post. He has served faithfully and did a

great job, even when given the challenges of the new changes in our sound system program. He will be missed. Thank you, Rick, for your service.

Glenn Drumm,
Property Chair

*"Temptation
provokes me to
look upward to
God."*

-John Bunyan



Worship Committee

The most meaningful time in a Christian's life is fast approaching — HOLY WEEK. We will have church services on Palm Sunday at 10 AM, on Maundy Thursday at 5 PM, on Good Friday at 5 PM and on Easter Sunday at 7 AM and 10 AM. The Good Friday service was recently added by unanimous approval of session. In the meantime, 5 PM Lenten services on Wednesdays will continue with the last one on April 5th. These are exciting times at God's church here at FPC—Livingston!



Pastor Joe will be out-of-pocket on Sunday, April 23. We are most pleased to announce that our own Sammy Gore has agreed to bring us the message on that day. His previous messages have been absolute delights. Thank you Sammy!

Jay Walrath,
Worship Chair

Easter Lifts the Fog

A friend stood one day where he could view the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. At first it was completely shrouded in early morning fog. But as the sun rose, the fog lifted between the upright piers of the bridge, leaving the land anchors still unseen.

Is it not so with life? We see only what is between the great piers called birth and death. But Easter lifts the fog from both. Easter is the time when we see more completely the anchorages that sustain life.

—George Mecklenberg

Pastor's Pen

The following credo should both inspire and exhort all of us in the direction of total commitment to Christ. The author is unknown, but is believed to be a young pastor in Zimbabwe who was martyred for his faith. This credo was found on his desk shortly after his death. I believe this should be a confession of our commitment.

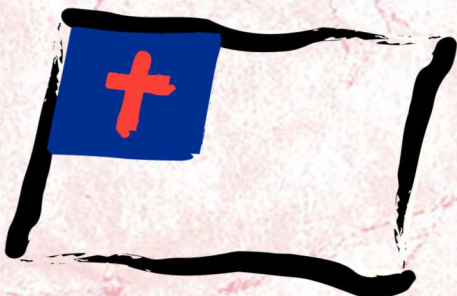
"I'm part of the fellowship of the unashamed. I have the Holy Spirit's power. The die has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made -- I'm a disciple of His. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I'm finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap giving, and dwarfed goals."

"I no longer need preeminence, prosperity, position, promotions, plaudits, or popularity. I don't have to be right, first, tops, recognized, praised, regarded, or rewarded. I now live by faith, lean in His presence, walk by patience, am uplifted by prayer, and I labor with power."

"My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way rough, my companions few, my Guide reliable, my mission clear. I cannot be bought, compromised, detoured, lured away, turned back, deluded, or delayed. I will not flinch in the face of sacrifices, hesitate in the presence of the enemy, pander at the pool of popularity, or meander in the maze of mediocrity."

"I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, paid up, preached up for the cause of Christ. I am a disciple of Jesus. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And, when He comes for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me ... my banner will be clear."

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald



Evangelism Committee

As your elder in charge of Evangelism for 2017, I fear that as Presbyterians and Christians, many of us have fallen short on this. Our denomination has long been regarded as reserved. Our Lord ordered us to be evangelists, so I will consider everyone as unofficial members of our church Evangelism Committee. We will be calling on all of you to help us, and praying for us is something you can do. Never hesitate to tell us no if asked to do something you cannot, as we will call again.

Are you getting the good news of salvation to your family and friends, your neighbors, Livingston, our country and the world? Tell someone what Jesus has done for you. Send a note of encouragement. Pray; there is something for each one of you to do. Our church needs you. For information on our meetings schedule, call Nina Dobyns at 520-465-5348 (I text, too), or email me at ninadobyns@gmail.com. You are invited to volunteer for committee, or just to share your concerns or ideas. Feedback, please! Let's find ways we can reach more of the unchurched and unsaved in our community.

Nina Dobyns, Evangelism Chair

Mission Committee



April 1st is our garage sale, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will be used to help purchase padded chairs. Thanks to all who have donated items, and of course, thanks to anyone who purchased something.

Your Mission committee meets on April 3rd at 11 a.m. in the church office area; all are welcome to attend.

Our Special Offering for the One Great Hour of Sharing is set for April 16th. Money donated to this is used by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (32 %), the Presbyterian Hunger Program (36 %) and the rest for Self-Development of People programs (32 %). Donations can be made prior to this date with a notation on your check

for OGHS. In 2015, we received \$346.07, and last year, \$180; what will God lead us to do this year?

Please view the Mission bulletin board in the Narthex for up to date letters of thanks and information from the various organizations you help support. Also, please continue to bring non-perishable food items for the Center of Hope's food pantry. We also continue to collect eyeglasses, cases etc. for use by Lions International as well as

craft items for the Head Start program at the Alabama - Coushatta Reservation. For those of you with some interest in helping others around the world, please pick up the 2016 - 2017 Presbyterian Giving Catalog located on the brochure table.

Chuck Davidson,
Mission Chair



He Lives Easter Party



You won't want to miss out! Join us for Easter fun as we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- April 16, 2017
- Held in the Fellowship Hall from 11:15-11:45 a.m.
- A time to celebrate with your friends
- A special gift for you
- Light Refreshments
- Youth and Nursery Departments are invited

GRACE
*God's Riches at
Christ's Expense*

Thank You Lord

By Tommy Fluker

*Thank you Lord for giving me another day
For the glory of sunrise
The serenity of dusk
Smile of a stranger
A lone hawk circling high in a clear blue sky
The innocence of a child
Joy of children at play
A flower waving gently in the breeze
The chorus of crickets in the night
A full moon rising slowly above the tree tops
Of lovers hand in hand
The never ending bond of family love
The gift of friends
Wonder of a child's birth
A cool summer's breeze
Splatter of raindrops on a parched earth
Perfumed scent of flowers in bloom
The blessings of knowledge and those who serve
A mother's love
The list is endless
Most of all my Lord, your never ending love*

When We Can't Find Easter

Easter is the most joyous Christian holy day ... except when it's not. What do we do when our mood isn't what we think it "should" be? The kids are sugared up, we're juggling family gatherings (and maybe conflicts), our everyday challenges remain, and festive hymns — however rousing — fail to lift our spirits. We wonder, "What's wrong with me, that I can't seem to find Easter?"

Been there, done that. And it's okay. You're okay.

Jesus' resurrection doesn't scoop us out of our troubles, but the death-defying Christ walks through them beside us, on our own Emmaus road (Luke 24). We aren't alone. When we can't find Easter, Easter somehow finds us — if not on this designated Sunday, perhaps two days from now, or next week or mid-May. Watch for it; keep your heart open. Christ is risen indeed — and you shall be too.

—Heidi Mann

Agnus Dei

This image is known as the Agnus Dei, Latin for "Lamb of God." When pictured standing and with a banner, it represents the risen Christ, victorious over



death. John the Baptist, seeing Jesus approach, famously declared, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29, NIV). In Revelation, too, Jesus is portrayed as a lamb who was slain but now reigns triumphant.

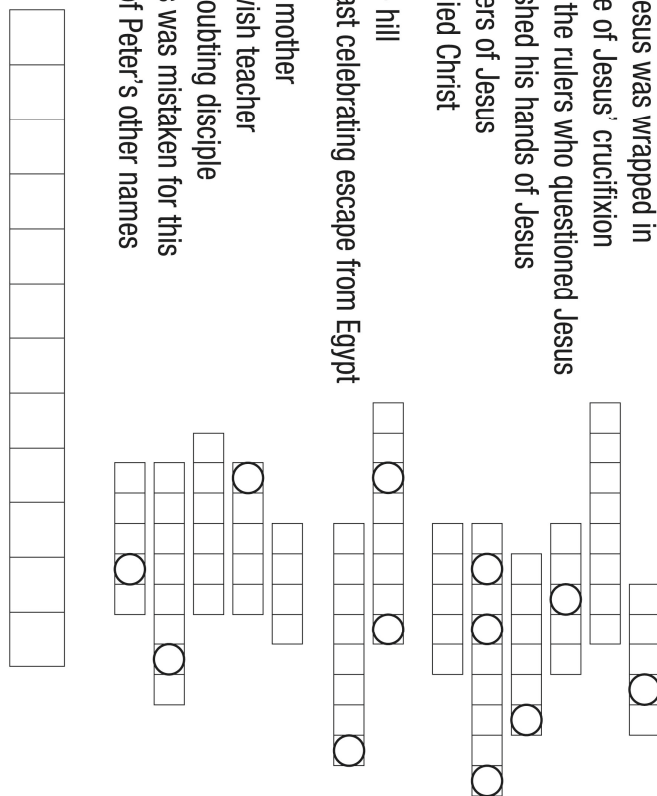


Alleluia!
Christ is risen!

Puzzle!

After completing this Easter crossword, unscramble the circled letters to discover a special word:

1. What Jesus was wrapped in
2. The site of Jesus' crucifixion
3. One of the rulers who questioned Jesus
4. He washed his hands of Jesus
5. Followers of Jesus
6. He denied Christ
7. A large hill
8. The feast celebrating escape from Egypt
9. Jesus' mother
10. A Jewish teacher
11. The doubting disciple
12. Jesus was mistaken for this
13. One of Peter's other names



Answers: 1. cloth, 2. Golgotha, 3. Herod, 4. Pilate, 5. disciples, 6. Peter, 7. mountain, 8. Passover, 9. Mary, 10. rabbi, 11. Thomas, 12. gardener, 13. Simon; resurrection

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



**APRIL
BIRTHDAYS**

Our April Birthdays are:

- Joe MacDonald, 4/4
- Joan Fluker, 4/9
- Aleai Galloway, 4/10
- Larry Ketterling, 4/11
- Elena Walrath, 4/11
- Karen Palmer, 4/12
- Stephanie McCreight, 4/14
- Fred Durham, 4/23
- Debra Dawson, 4/30
- Bonnie Lavery, 4/30

Our April Anniversaries are:

- Billy & Kellie Preston, 4/9
- Jerry & Rosalind Wiedman, 4/23
- Mark & Jane Nye, 4/29



**APRIL
ANNIVERSARIES**

Fellowship Calendar for 2017



SOMETHING NEW!!

The fifth Sunday in April will be the first "Let's Meet In the Parlor." Arrive just a little early on Sunday, April 30th. There will be coffee and donuts in the parlor prior to church service. Coffee and donuts will be available to Sunday school classes in the Fellowship Hall also.

Stay tuned for more fellowship fun on future dates!! Fellowship always needs help on our team. If you are interested in joining a fun group, watch the calendar and come to our meetings.

We will not have luncheons every month this year. We are assisting in the effort to save funds for the church. There will be luncheons scheduled as follows:

Mothers Day	May 14
Fathers Day	June 11
KFCE Luncheon	August 13
Thanksgiving Feast	November 12
Christmas Meal	December 10

The church will provide the meat, bread and tea for the luncheons. Please bring in your wonderful covered dish and dessert items.

Karen Palmer, Fellowship Chair