

First Presbyterian Church *Tidings*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | LIVINGSTON, TEXAS | MAY 2017
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A Mother's Prayer

A.T. Pierson writes that "all true prayer trusts [God] to give his own answer, not in our way or time, or even to our own expressed desire, but rather to his own unutterable groaning within us which he can interpret better than we."

As an example, Pierson points to Monica, the mother of the man who came to be known as Saint Augustine. Although Monica "pleaded with God that her dissolute son might not go to Rome, that sink of iniquity," he went anyway. While there, he

met Ambrose, bishop of Milan, who led him to the Christian faith. Saint Augustine is considered one of the most important church fathers.

"God fulfilled the mother's desire while denying her request," Pierson writes. How might God be meeting your desires, even amid what appear to be unanswered prayers?



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Decisions Matter

Good and evil both increase at compound interest. That is why the little decisions you and I make every day are of such infinite importance. The smallest good act today is the capture of a strategic point from which, a few months later, you may be able to go on to victories you never dreamed of. An apparently trivial indulgence in lust or anger today is the loss of a ridge or railway line or bridgehead from which the enemy may launch an attack otherwise impossible.

—C.S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

Church Events

- May 1st - Mission Committee Meeting 11 a.m.
- May 3rd - Worship Committee Meeting 10 a.m.
- May 6th - Rise Up 9 a.m., Extra Mile Ranch
- May 7th - Communion Worship Service 10 a.m.
- May 7th - Evangelism Committee Meeting after the Service
- May 8th - Presbyterian Women Circle 1:30 p.m. in FH, Rm #1
- May 11th - Session Meeting 5:30 p.m.
- May 14th - Mother's Day Luncheon after the Service
- May 18th - Evangelism Meeting 3:30 p.m.
- May 27th - Men with a Heart for God Breakfast Meeting 8:30 a.m.
- May 28th - Memorial Day Worship Service and Children's Event

Unite My Heart
To Fear Your Name

Psalm 86:11

Worship Committee



The Worship Committee met on Wednesday, April 5 at 10 AM with six of our eight members present. The main focus was preparation and planning for Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday. These all seemed to go quite smoothly and were well attended by our congregation.

Thanks to those who were a part of these services and who made them so meaningful.

By the time you read these *Tidings*, our two pianos will have just been tuned – each is tuned twice a year. Also, Sammy Gore will have delivered the message on Sunday, April 23. He has “filled the pulpit” several times in the past and

has done an outstanding job. Thank you again, Sammy!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to attend.

Jay Walrath, Chair



To My Church Family:

Thank you for all your love and concern during Shep's illness and passing. The memorial service and dinner were wonderful. One more thing: you all are awesome.

*Love 'n prayers,
Carole Green &
Family*

Property Committee



If you want to know God's power and boldness, Ask God for the ability to live beyond your own means. Ask God to do something through you that only He can do.

This past month we had an infestation of termites in the area behind the sanctuary piano. They have been treated.

Thanks to the Mission Committee's Garage Sale, we were able to buy 28 new padded chairs for the Fellowship Hall. Thank you all for your contribution and work.

The Property committee will be meeting on May 15th at 11 am in the Fellowship Hall. We

welcome anyone who would like to be a part of a vision for our church.

“We can use the past for inspiration, and we can use the past for guidance; be we can seldom or never use the past as a pattern for the present.”

-William Barclay

“It is better to aim for a high goal and miss it then to aim low and leap clear over it.”

-Anonymous

I have included the following questionnaire, and would like for you to fill it out and return it in the offering plate, or mail it to the church office. We would appreciate your input.

-Glenn Drumm, Chair



Which of the following projects would you be most like to see completed at First Presbyterian Church?
Please select one:

New pews (with padded seat and back) for the Church Sanctuary.

New tile flooring under pew seats.

Covering for walkway from Fellowship Hall to Sanctuary.

Other: _____

Without stopping your TITHE or your GIVING to other mission projects, would you be willing to financially support the project you chose? Yes ___ No ___

Comments:

Pastor's Pen

When You Give Up But God Does Not

Has there ever been a time that you thought God had forgotten your prayer or your heart cry? It was then that you began to wonder whether it was worth praying about that particular thing or person anymore. You wanted to just get it behind you and forget about it. I am sure that the disciples and the followers of Jesus entertained such thoughts between the crucifixion and the resurrection. It was too painful to carry on; to hope for a new earthly kingdom with Jesus as king as they had all anticipated. Along with grief and sorrow, there was deep humiliation. Why had Jesus disillusioned and disappointed them? Why had He died and left them vulnerable to His same fate as a disciple? They had given up and just wanted to get this all behind them. Then there was this resurrection. Was this for real? It was too hard to really accept it as true. We don't want to allow ourselves to hope again, this would be too painful if it is not real. Maybe that is why Jesus felt it necessary to appear to five hundred people and to let Thomas put his hand in His side and touch the holes in His hands. That act was not just for Thomas but for the sake of the faith of all His followers.

I gave up praying for a young man I had prayed for years. He been a camper in a youth camp that I directed. His father was (and is) a chalk artist evangelist who used chalk art to proclaim the Gospel, and when campers gave their lives to Christ, his son would deliberately tear down their faith and make fun of them because he did not believe in the Christ they believed in, and hated his own father by attempting to destroy the impact of his ministry. Even after I no longer directed the camp I prayed diligently for this man but continued to hear that he was sinking more and more into an atheistic position. I remember telling God I was finished praying for this (now man) and I never mentioned his name in prayer again. About a year after that decision I walked into a department store and saw a flyer on a bulletin board that advertised this very man doing an evangelistic chalk artist revival at a local church. I broke into tears right there because I realized that just because I gave up, God did not. He had stopped fighting with God and his father and turned it all over to Christ. I immediately called him and apologized for giving up on him in prayer and he said, "Don't worry, Joe, you had to stand in line behind a lot of people who also gave up." Thank God Jesus never gives up and never forgets our prayers. David has become as great if not a better chalk artist than his dad. If you Google *David Teuling*, you can see some of his amazing creations now to the glory of God.

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Somewhere

Should a teardrop fall it will quickly vanish
Yet the sadness from whence it came will often languish

Will a cry for help go unheeded
Or will an answer come that's sorely needed

Will memories last or fade away
For youth is fleeting and turns to gray
When petals fall from yesterday's rose
There's always rain and wind that blows
Smiles that come will never last
All that's new will be the past
A mother's love will never die
Someone will laugh a child will cry

A voice shall shout another sing
Someone will cast away another bring
An arm will strike another embraced
Someone will turn away another face

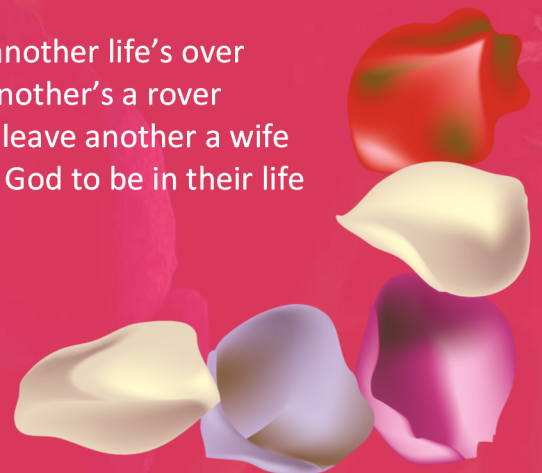
The sun will rise and greet a day
Clouds shall come then fade away
Night will fall and stars to shine
One shall hunger another dine

Somewhere there's drought elsewhere a flood
In deserts there's sand somewhere there's mud
Somewhere a leaf falls and sails on the breeze
Someone will hurt another please

Somewhere a dog barks and children play
Somewhere people kill and others pray
Somewhere a tree falls that's stood for years
Lightning will strike as a summer storm nears

A baby is born another life's over
One stays put another's a rover
Someone takes leave another a wife
Someone seeks God to be in their life

-Tommy Fluker



Mission Committee

Rise Up is set for Saturday, May 6th, starting at 9am at the Tolls' Extra Mile Ranch; can you help? Fence work is the main focus: minor repairing and major staining. Word has it that work ends about noon and that something will show up for workers to eat. Then, those wishing to fish may try their luck. Participants should contact our fearless leader Pastor Joe if attending, and bring

paint brushes or a sprayer, and fishing pole if so inclined. The ranch is located about .9 mile north of the VFW Hall on US 59 heading towards Corrigan; turn right at sign for ranch and once you see the fence, look for the entrance on your left just past the big curve. Our April garage sale was an outstanding success, and the Property Committee has already ordered

and received 28 new cushioned chairs for your use. Again, I must say thanks to all who donated items, their time, and their money. For those of you with children or grandchildren who might enjoy camping, Camp Cho-Yeh still has a few spots open for both summer camp (1 or 2 week long sessions) and day camp. Check out www.cho-yeh.org or call 936 328 3200. If needed, your Mission committee does have some scholarship funds available, just contact Chuck Davidson.

small items as you travel, which can be used when we fill our shoeboxes in November. Just a reminder, we will be doing some for students and some for seamen.

Our next Mission meeting is set for May 1st. Thus, you might be reading this after the fact. Our members are fantastic but anyone is always welcome to visit us at our 11 am meetings. Keep your eyes on our bulletin board and continue to serve our Lord whenever and wherever you can.

This summer is a great time to pick up various

Chuck Davidson, Chair

Remembering Star Starling at Easter Time

One of the many things that Star did for our church was teach one of the Sunday school classes. She taught faithfully for about ten years and did so right up until the time of her passing.

With much appreciation,
Star's Sunday school class



A Sign of Honor

Even he who died for us upon the cross, in the last hour, in the unutterable agony of death, was mindful of his mother, as if to teach us that this holy love should be our last worldly thought — the last point of earth from which the soul should take its flight to heaven.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



“Do not be afraid of tomorrow, for God is already there.”
—Unknown
* * *

“Faith is like wi-fi: It’s invisible, but it has the power to connect you to what you need.”
—Unknown
* * *

“Your children will become what you are, so be what you want them to be.”
—David Bly

Christian Education

SUCCESS ... OUR "HE LIVES" CELEBRATION WAS A HUGE SUCCESS IN EVERY WAY.

There were approximately 25 students in attendance, plus a lot of adults who came to watch the fun. Liz Shields started things rolling (or should I say hopping) with students hopping down the hall with balloons between their knees .. There were a few spills, but it was part of the fun. The other game was an egg toss where the kids could show off their throwing skills. Then, on to our craft for the day -- sticker fun recreating the resurrection scene with stickers as they envisioned it. You can't have a party without food ... Karen Palmer did a great job of providing the refreshments. Robin Sessums handled the communications for the event.

A special thanks to Liz, Karen, Doug, Robin, Rosalind, Carolyn, Karlene, and Ann Wilkins for all your help. If I missed anyone, I apologize in advance. It was definitely a team effort. The Tuesday Huddle will attest to that, as they had a fun evening filling the baskets with resurrection themed items.

Does this stop here? NO ... We are already planning our Memorial Day Event. Watch your bulletins for more details as we get closer. These events will be a regular part of our Youth Ministry.

Jo Ann Hogg, Christian Education Director

LIKE TO READ??? CHECK OUT THE CHURCH LIBRARY

The Library is located in the Sanctuary area at the end of the bookshelves. Hours? Anytime you are at church or in the building.

The library is set up for self check out. There is a binder with forms on the table. All you have to do is write in the name of the book, your name and the day you check it out.

When you bring it back simply lay the book on the table and note the day you returned it.

This room can be a valuable resource for everyone. I would like to see it used more often.

Thank you for READING with us.

Jo Ann Hogg, Christian Education Director



Evangelism Committee

Our Evangelism Committee (we like to call ourselves a team) will be meeting after church on May 7th, and at 3:30 PM on Thursday, May 18th. We have enthusiastic members and attendees, including two Deacons, one from Music and a retired Presbyterian minister as well as Joe. We consider all of you as members of our team, so we welcome you to our meetings. We learn so much from everyone who attends, if you have a chance to get a word in edgewise. We know we can't do everything, but we are going to do something. We love the saying by Helen Keller, " Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!"

Our one word motto for the last 2 months has been "Pray," and we will get another, or continue with that one as it is so vital to our doing what the Lord would have us do. We see so much evangelism in all our church committees-our church services, our Sunday School, the Easter party for our youth, all the missions work done, the fellowship happenings, our Saturday night Life, our Women's Group, our Men's Breakfast Group, and all the churches and charities that we support and participate in. Instead of competing as often happens, we see so much cooperation with the churches and charities in Livingston. God must smile when we are all on His same team.

Our funds are limited (\$150 a year), but the Lord blesses us with extra funds, which we will put to use. We have again ordered pens with our church name and address on them to circulate so we will not be the "best kept secret in Livingston" as one of our church members called us. We are considering pencils for the pews and T shirts for our church members, youth, and friends. Getting on Facebook has been tabled until we get an Administrator and more information, as we just have to do what we are capable of doing. We would like to do cards for our military, absent members, college students, visitors, shut-ins, and the ill, but desperately need addresses from you. Please submit the information either to the church office, or to Nina (520-465-5348 or ninadobyns@gmail.com) We will be doing something with music (stay tuned), and please watch for our congregational emails Also, please check our website (www.fpclivingston.com) if you are able. You can now read our Tidings there. Please also consider checking out a book from our wonderful library. We hope to reach some of the unchurched in our area and share our Lord with them. Our team is looking for places where we are most needed and where we can serve and be a blessing and an inspiration to our church, our church family, and our community.

We just celebrated Easter and the resurrection of our Savior with our sunrise service at the lake and our wonderful music and timely message at church service; we contributed to One Great Hour of Sharing; we shared Easter lilies with so many and are blessed with our caring church family. Let's bloom where we are planted.

Nina Dobyns, Evangelism Chair

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Our May Birthdays are:

- Sandy Hilland, 05/08
- Flo Bouras, 05/18
- George Nixon 05/18
- William Mischen, 05/26
- Veta Murray, 05/27
- Bill Jorgensen, 05/29
- Rosalind Wiedman, 05/29

Our May Anniversaries are:

- Jim & Patti Meyer, 05/03
- Chuck & Beverly Davidson, 05/08
- Tom & Ann Wilkins, 05/20
- Sammy & Carla Gore, 05/24
- Rafael & Shonia Heredia, 05/26
- William & Marilyn Mischen, 05/31



May Pot Luck Luncheon

We are looking forward to the Mother's Day luncheon this month on May 14th.

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

Fellowship always needs help on our team. If you are interested in joining a fun group, watch the calendar and come to our meetings. The luncheons will be added back for the remainder of the year. Lots of fun times ahead keep watching our article for menus and fun surprises!!

—Karen Palmer, Fellowship Chair

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

