

# First Presbyterian Church Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | LIVINGSTON, TEXAS

MARCH 2017

910 N WASHINGTON AVE  
LIVINGSTON, TX 77351  
FPCLIVTX@LIVINGSTON.NET  
WWW.FPCLIVINGSTON.COM

## Giving Up Guilt

Rev. Greg Boyle, a Jesuit priest who ministers to high-risk youth in Los Angeles, once quipped, "I ... don't do guilt. I gave it up for Lent years ago." Many Christians give up something for Lent but usually not guilt! Rather, Lent is seen as a time to somberly examine our sinful nature.

Having witnessed sin's tragic effects through addiction, violence and gang warfare, Father Boyle realizes that dwelling on guilt doesn't lead to hope or healing. Instead, he

helps people discover their God-given strengths and their ability to make life-affirming choices. His nonprofit Homeboy Industries provides positive alternatives for teenagers, who are reminded not of their guilt but of their identity as God's beloved children.

On Good Friday Jesus conquered sin and death so we don't have to wallow in guilt. Giving our lives to God frees us to live in the joy of forgiveness.

## God's Hands



Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixty-fold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.

—Virginia Brandt Berg

## Church Events

- Mar 1<sup>st</sup> - Worship Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- Mar 5<sup>th</sup> – Communion Sunday; 1st Sunday in Lent
- Mar 6<sup>th</sup> – Mission Meeting 11:00 a.m.
- Mar 12<sup>th</sup> – Daylight saving time begins
- Mar 13<sup>th</sup> – Presbyterian Women Meeting 1:30 p.m.
- Mar 25<sup>th</sup> – Men's Breakfast 8:15 a.m.

Don't forget to....



Spring Forward!



# Willing to Worship

Lamentation is a powerful, and meaningful, form of worship because it places our love for God above even the worst of circumstances in our life. ... God does not ask us to deny the existence of our suffering. He does want us to collect it, stand in those things and make him an offering.

The Holy Spirit, our Comforter, helps us to do this: He aligns himself with our will and says, "I will help you to will to worship God." The glory of the majesty of God is that he helps us will and do.

-Graham Cooke

## Zucchini Squash Casserole

(or any squash)

2 Cups Squash cut up

1/2 Cup Butter—melted

1/2 Cup Bisquick

1/2 Cup Parmesan Cheese

1/2 tsp Oregano

1/2 Cup Onion—chopped

2 Eggs

Salt & Pepper

Mix all together.

Bake 425°

uncovered, 30-40 minutes till golden brown

Source: Natalie Rowe



# Omission

One of our 2017 Committee Chairs was inadvertently omitted from last month's Tidings newsletter.

The Stewardship Committee will be chaired by:

**Tommy Fluker**

Note: The 2017 Committee Responsibilities for Session are posted on the church website at [www.fpclivingston.com](http://www.fpclivingston.com).

# Properties

Maybe you have noticed that we put the church's e-mail and website addresses on our church sign; thanks to Bill at Signs & Wonders.

We are still working on the pricing of a walkway covering which would reach from the Fellowship Hall to the Sanctuary.

The installation of the new handrail to the sanctuary platform has been completed.

Looking for something to

be a part of in the church? Like a challenge in your life? Put your thoughts and ideas to work in the Properties Committee. Members of all ages and of either gender are invited to take part in making our property attractive and appealing, not only to the church family but also to the community. Contact Glenn Drumm for more information on becoming a committee member.

Glenn Drumm, Chair

# Presbyterian Women

The PW Circle Meetings will be held in the Fellowship Hall, Classroom 1, in March, April and May. Meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, at 1:30 p.m:

March 13, April 10, and May 8.



"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn."

—Hal Borland

\* \* \*

"Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."

—Martin Luther

\* \* \*

"Music comes from an icicle as it melts, to live again as spring water."

—Henry Williamson



## The Four Cs of God's Guidance

"Trust in the Lord with all Your heart and lean not to your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and he will direct your path." *Proverbs 3:5-6*

Have you ever had or do you now have decisions that you must make which leave you uncertain of which way to go? Here are four Cs that you may find helpful for the times you need guidance:

- 1) Commands from the inspired Word of God (seek the scriptures)
- 2) Competent and wise counselors
- 3) Circumstances and changing conditions
- 4) Conscience aided by the Holy Spirit

God can use any and all of these resources to give you direction. It may take time, but as you seek to make decisions in concert with His will, He will make it clear and confirm it with peace.

Blessings, Pastor Joe



# Evangelism

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 an evangelist 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.

Now might you be a part of 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. A meeting of the Evangelism Committee will occur soon so call Nina Dobyns, 520-465-5348 (I text, too) or Email me at [ninadobyns@gmail.com](mailto:ninadobyns@gmail.com) to volunteer for committee or to share concerns or ideas. Feedback, please. Let's find ways we can reach more of the unchurched and unsaved here.

Nina Dobyns, Evangelism Chair

## True Friendship

A true friend knows your weaknesses but shows you your strengths; feels your fears but fortifies your faith; sees your anxieties but frees your spirit; recognizes your disabilities but emphasizes your possibilities.

—William Arthur Ward



# Reflections on Lent

*Lent, the period preceding Easter in the Christian church, is devoted to Fasting, Abstinence, and Penitence in commemoration of Christ's fasting in the wilderness.*

The Lenten season, not counting Sundays, lasts forty days. Sundays are not included because the Lord's Day, according to church tradition, is never a fast day, but always a *feast* day—a celebration of the resurrection!

Therefore, during Lent the Lord's Days are listed as Sundays *in* Lent, not Sundays *of* Lent.

How can I Keep Lent? Traditionally, the Lenten season is observed in four basic (and overlapping) ways:

1. Self-Examination
2. Self-Denial
3. Acts of Compassion
4. Using the Means of Grace

Lent is a time for focusing on the heart, a time for asking questions about our spiritual health.

## Mission Update

Beware the Ides of March? No, be aware that we support the Center of Hope at its new location (600 S. Washington), and its food bank, which is now open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30-3:30, and from 5:30—7:30 Thursday evenings. Several of you currently volunteer, and a few more would be welcome; stop by and visit this great program serving the people of Polk County.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Center of Hope, craft items for the Head Start program at

the Alabama-Coushatta Reservation, as well as eyeglasses for Lions International— all in containers located in both the hallway of the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex.

We are also beginning to collect items in Room 3 of the Fellowship Hall for a community garage sale. No clothing, please, but anything else is welcome. Our goal is to sell your donated items on April 1st, with the proceeds to be used to purchase chairs for the FH.

Garage Sale: April 1st  
9am-2pm



- a. What are my characteristic sins, and how can I pray for change?
- b. What idols have captured my imagination so that my love for God has grown cold?
- c. In what ways is my devotion to Christ and His church less than wholehearted?

-C.R. Higgins, Trinity Presbyterian Church (PCA), Rye, NY.

The sale will be held in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to help, contact a member of the Mission team. If you have items to be picked up, notify the church or Chuck Davidson, Doug Palmer, Susie Nobles, or Georgina Drumm (members of Mission).

Thanks to those who donated food items or cash for our Souper Bowl of Caring effort on Feb. 5th; two large containers plus \$41 went to the Center of Hope.

The next meeting of your Mission committee is March 6th at 11am; all are welcome.

*"The choice to observe Lent is a personal one—the whole point is to focus your heart and mind on Jesus during the journey to Easter."*

*-Anon.*

Our next Special Offering is the One Great Hour of Sharing on April 16th.

Rise Up, a Christian service event involving several local churches, is set for May 6th; volunteers are needed as we plan to work at the Extra Mile Ranch that day under guidance from Ron Tolls.

Chuck Davidson, Chair



# Worship Committee

Your Worship Committee met on Wednesday, February 1, 2017 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall with eight of our ten members attending.

One of Worship's duties is to ensure that the entire communion process is done in an orderly and reverend fashion. This task has been admirably done over the past five years by Sheri Grounds who would like to see someone else take over. Should anyone wish to assume this meaningful work, please let Sheri know and she will be pleased to train you.

An Ash Wednesday service is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 at 5 PM in the sanctuary. Additionally, five Lenten services will be held at 5 PM in the sanctuary each Wednesday beginning March 8 and concluding April 5. It has been decided that no soup/sandwich dinners will be provided after any of these services.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 1 at 10 AM in the Fellowship Hall. We will be planning for the upcoming Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday services. Any of you is most welcome to join us.

Jay Walrath, Worship Chair



# Bible Quiz

In John 4, Jesus talks with a woman about living water. Where does that conversation take place?

- A. Sychar
- B. Samaria
- C. Galilee
- D. Jacob's well



# Puzzle!

Are you getting "antsy" for spring?  
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to complete these words that end in A-N-T.

		A	N	T				
			A	N	T			
				A	N	T		
					A	N	T	
						A	N	T

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one's testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Answers: giant, recant, servant, relevant, stimulant

# BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



## Our March Birthdays are:

- Tom Wilkins, 3/1
- Patty Harrell, 3/7
- Cecil Widner, 3/9
- Jana Wilkins 3/9
- Robin Sessums, 3/13
- Joy Wright, 3/19
- Kellie Preston, 3/20
- Phenone Neal, 3/24

## Our March Anniversaries are:

- Fred & Jo Durham, 3/2
- Rick & Kathy Nobles, 3/7



## Our Sunday Services

**Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.**

**Worship -10:00 a.m.**

**Children's Celebration (for youngsters ages 5 & older) 10:00 a.m.**

**Nursery for children up to age 4 is available at all church meetings, services, and events.**

## 2017 Fellowship Calendar



There will be no Lent soup supper this year. The Worship committee scheduled the service in the sanctuary at 5:00. The choir will be working on their music at 5:30, leaving many not able to attend soup supper this year.

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:

<b>Mothers Day</b>	<b>May 14</b>
<b>Fathers Day</b>	<b>June 18</b>
<b>KFCE Luncheon</b>	<b>August 13</b>
<b>Thanksgiving Feast</b>	<b>November 12</b>
<b>Christmas Meal</b>	<b>December 10</b>

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