

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TX 77351 | PHONE: (936) 327-8381 | FAX: (936) 327-4719
EMAIL: FPC@FPCLIVINGSTON.COM | WEBSITE: WWW.FPCLIVINGSTON.COM

NOT HEALED, BUT WHOLE

While researching America's Prosperity Gospel movement, Kate Bowler was saddened by its implications — namely that God is present in people's triumphs but not their suffering, and that every aspect of life is either "your fault or your reward." When Bowler was diagnosed with stage IV cancer at age 35, the prosperity-minded messages of well-wishers made cancer seem like a punishment.

In *Everything Happens for a Reason (and Other Lies I've*

Loved), Bowler asks: "What would it mean for Christians to give up that little piece of the American Dream that says, 'You are limitless'? Everything is not possible. The mighty Kingdom of God is not yet here. What if rich did not have to mean wealthy, and whole did not have to mean healed? What if being people of 'the gospel' meant that we are simply people with good news? God is here. We are loved. It is enough."

A PRAYER FOR THE 4TH

Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to please to do what is right.

—Peter Marshall, before the U.S. Senate



Church Events

- July 4th - Independence Day; Church office closed
- July 8th – Fellowship Luncheon after the Service





Your Worship Committee met at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, June 6. We, like session, will take July off and plan to next meet on Wednesday, August 1.

A couple of weeks ago our two pianos were tuned. This maintenance is done every six

months or so in order to keep them in tip-top shape.

We are making efforts to having our youth participate in our Sunday worship services this summer. They are the future of our church and we trust that each of you agrees with this plan.

As you recall, at the June 3 Sunday worship service, retired minister Lou Ann Franklin delivered a short message and led us in song. She was delightful and is a

spiritual giant. We look forward to inviting her back sometime in the future.

The choir is taking a much needed break and will return to the loft sometime in late August. Meanwhile, we will be singing some of your favorite hymns between now and then.

STAY COOL!

Jay Walrath, Worship Chair



To My Church Family:

I wanted to thank each of my Church Family for all you did for me after the tree went through my roof and destroyed my bedroom. The love and generosity that I felt from each one of you was overwhelming. Each of you praying for me meant so much to me along with all the support each of you gave to me. Every time I walk into my room, I just smile and feel warm inside of me knowing my Church Family did this for me. I hope each of you knows how grateful and appreciative I am towards you.

Love & God Bless,
Jo Ann Hogg

Music Program

Let the godly sing with joy to the Lord, For it is fitting to praise Him. -Psalm 33:1

Have you (or your family or grandchildren) ever wanted to sing a solo, play an instrument, play an organ or piano solo, read a poem or even sing your favorite hymn without a long term commitment to the choir? Then this summer is for you. This summer, while the choir takes its much needed break, there is a place for you. We can even

include the story of your favorite hymn or solo.

Just check with the office (327-8281) or me (329-6959) for open dates in June, July and August.

Rejoice,
Karlene Barker
Music Program Director



The choir shared fun and fellowship during the end of year choir party on June 2, 2018.

Omnipresent

We may ignore, but we can nowhere evade, the presence of God. The world is crowded with him. He walks everywhere incognito. And the incognito is not always hard to penetrate. The real labor is to remember, to attend ... in fact to come awake. Still more, to remain awake.

—C.S. Lewis

Poor Planning

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty - Proverbs 21:5

I have always loved the following story, and whether you have heard it or not, you will love it too:

"A bricklayer working on a three-story-tall chimney had set up a pulley system so that his helper could raise the bricks up to where he needed them. As he was working, his helper complained about how difficult it would be to get the last of the bricks up to the flat roof of the building. Just then another contractor had some material delivered and it was placed on the roof by a fork lift brought to unload it. The bricklayer asked if the driver would load the rest of the bricks up there as well and the driver agreed. The bricklayer realized that he would not need his helper anymore and sent him home.

When the bricklayer completed the chimney he noticed that he had quite a few bricks left over and that the fork lift was no longer at the job site. Now he had to figure out how to get the leftover bricks back down by himself. If he dropped them, they would surely break. So he decided to use the pulley he had set up earlier to lower them down.

First, he went down to the ground and raised a large metal bucket up to the roof level using the rope and pulley. Next, he tied the rope off onto a railing and climbed back up to the roof and loaded the bricks into the bucket. Then he went back down to the ground. He knew that the bricks would be heavy, so he wrapped the rope around his hand a couple of times and then untied the end of the rope with his other hand. Well, the bricks were heavier than he imagined and with physics being as it is, he was immediately launched upwards at a high rate of speed.

As he was racing up towards the roof he encountered the bucket full of bricks coming down at an equally fast rate. He collided with the bucket and broke his nose and his shoulder. The bucket passed him by as he sped upwards. He reached the pulley just before the bucket hit the ground and broke a few of his fingers as they were pulled into the pulley. When the bucket hit the ground, its bottom fell out and all of the bricks spilled onto the ground. Now the fun reversed. As the now light bucket sped upwards, the mason took a shot to the groin when one of his legs slipped into the empty bucket.

He then tilted enough to fall out of the bucket and continued with his gravity experiment. Eventually, he landed *(continued)*

Poor Planning (cont.)

on top of the pile of bricks and broke both feet. He collapsed in pain there on the bricks but was glad to be alive. He let go off the rope and cried out for help. It was then that the bucket hit him in the head and fractured his skull."

- An oft-told urban legend known as "The Barrel of Bricks"

Most of us don't plan to fail, we just fail to plan. I confess that I wish I were a better planner. Lack of planning and preparation is a form of laziness and often procrastination. Are you guilty, as I often am, of this phrase: ready, FIRE, aim? Planning is critical and God is our greatest example. He planned for us before the foundation of the world, not only to be born but to be born again by believing in Jesus Christ, through whom His work of redemption was planned even before the fall of Adam and Eve.

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Mission Update

Did you know that we have helped send six campers to Camp Cho Yeh this summer? And one of them will soon be a junior counselor? If you see Aleigh Ritter, Gavyn Heredia, Emily Hermann or Ashley Hermann, ask them about their experiences. Soon, Grayson Wilkins and Kelsey Farwell will be onsite; hopefully we will see some of these campers in August with updates.

We had a great workday at home of Carole Green's in May and pray that she has returned to her home to enjoy what Jay, Bonnie, Nina, Suzie, Joe, Chuck, Kathy and Robert began.

Our key goal this summer is to collect new shoes, yes, new ones of all sizes, for distribution prior to school by Kids Free Clothing Exchange. Containers exist in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex for your filling. The August 12th luncheon is our target date to deliver to KFCE at least 50 new shoes, new socks, even new underwear, for children of all ages. We will also accept checks made out to "KFCE" in case you are not able to shop this summer.

We continue to collect non-perishable food items for the Center of Hope along with unneeded eye glasses & cases, plus school & craft items for the Head Start program at the Alabama Coushatta Reservation.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair



Celebrate!



July BIRTHDAYS



July ANNIVERSARIES

- David & Beth Hancock, 07/03
- Lee & Patte Jones, 07/03
- Bill & Karen Jorgensen, 07/03
- Steve Davis & Sheri Grounds, 07/12
- George & Jamie Nixon, 07/18
- Dave & Patty Harrell, 07/20
- Phyllis Mackey, 07/03
- Claudia Hamilton, 07/05
- Ervin Herrmann, 07/11
- Joanne Pavey, 07/11
- Adam Jones, 07/16
- Linda Eckert, 07/17
- Ben Morris, 07/19
- Patti Meyer, 07/22
- Marilyn Nail, 07/24
- Natalie Rowe, 07/24
- Josephine Durham, 07/26
- Marilyn Mischen, 07/29
- Marilyn Green, 07/31

PROPERTY COMMITTEE

- The new signs for the restroom doors have been put in place.
- The new wall in the Act. Bldg. bathroom has been finished.
- The new pump motor for the sprinkler system has been installed and now the system is back in service.
- The 190 property has gotten its semiannual haircut.

Are you looking for something to do in the church? Maybe you would like to be a part of our Audio/Visual team. We would love to have you be a part of our team. Contact Glenn Drumm for more information.

Just a shout out to Ervin Herrmann, who has had heart surgery. Take care of yourself and get well. We miss you and look forward to your return in the sound booth.

Glenn Drumm, Property Chair



Our Sunday Services

Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.
Worship -10:00 a.m.
Nursery available for children ages
infant through 4