

First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TX 77351

SEPTEMBER 2018

WILL HEAVEN BE BORING?

As a youngster, I imagined heaven as a big, dim room with thick carpet and worried that filling an eternity of days would be boring. I never dreamed anyone shared that concern until I read Sam Storms' words: "Heaven is not one grand, momentary flash of excitement followed by an eternity of boredom" (*One Thing*).

So, what is heaven like? Scripture offers only a few intriguing glimpses: Ezekiel's vision of four fiery creatures and the hem of God's garment gleaming in rainbow light; Jesus' parable of the rich man and Lazarus, depicting heaven within shouting distance of Hades; Jesus' mention of many rooms in his Father's house; Stephen seeing Jesus at God's right hand; John of Patmos'

view of the new Jerusalem, descending from God.

We can't know exactly what heaven looks like — or how we'll fill all our "free time"! (Doubtless, worship around God's throne will be a big and joyous part.) But we know there will be no hunger, thirst, tears, death or pain (see Revelation 7, 21 and 22). All peoples and languages will be included, with healing for all nations. "There will be a new episode of divine grace every day!" Storms writes. Most importantly, Jesus will be there — the Lamb of God, our Shepherd, sheltering us with his presence. For now, that's all we need to know.

—Heidi Mann

THE ROLE OF A LIFETIME

We grow up when we see our life and our role from God's perspective; when we thank God for the role he has assigned us and begin to see our cup as a gift instead of a cross; when each morning we ask, "God, how can I glorify you today in my given role?" — Linda Dillow, *Calm My Anxious Heart*



Church Events

- **Sept 2nd - Choir returns; Communion Sunday; Last day of VBS**
- **Sept 3rd - Labor Day; Church Office Closed**
- **Sept 5th – Worship Meeting, 10 a.m.**
- **Sept 9th – Fellowship Luncheon after the Service**
- **Sept 10th – Mission Meeting, 11 a.m.; PW Meeting 1:30 p.m.**
- **Sept 13th - Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**
- **Sept 21st - *Tidings* articles due**
- **Sept 29th - Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30 a.m.**



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The Challenge of Scripture

GQ magazine recently included the Bible on a list of 21 books not worth reading, calling the text “repetitive” and “foolish” (among other things). Pushback came from both secular and religious folks. Writing in *USA Today*, Tim Swarens argued that even if you don’t believe in God, the Bible helps you understand

Western culture, history, current events and your neighbors.

For Christians, the Bible — God’s inspired Word — reveals God’s love and will. It isn’t always easy to read or process, but no other book contains such good news.

As Danielle Shroyer writes in *Original*

Blessing, “Scripture is a sacred book meant to provoke us in ways that will move us toward God. And often, that is the very last thing we are looking for. We would rather have an answer, a simple plan, even a nicely tidy moral story. But Scripture gives us none of these things, because the holy is anything but domestic. We go looking to find a plan and instead are sent on a treasure hunt.”

A Morning Prayer

At the start of a day, who can tell what a day may bring forth? Cause me therefore, gracious God, to live every day as if it were to be my last, for I know not but that it may be such. Cause me to live now as I shall wish I had done when I come to die. O grant that I may not die with any guilt on my conscience, or any known sin unrepented of, but that I may be found in Christ, who is my only Savior and Redeemer.

—Thomas à Kempis

John 14:23-24 An Obedience to God

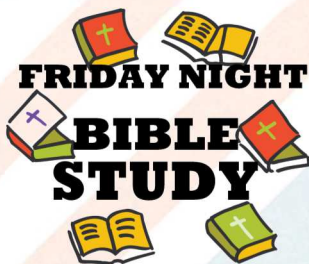
by Ryan Shields

Jesus came from the Father in Heaven partly to minister about obedience to God. He says in John Chapter 14 that all who love him will do as he says and the Father will love them.

Though it seems pretty cut and dry (follow my commandments and you will be blessed), following the commandment to love one another as Jesus has loved us can be tricky. Whether someone said something that rubbed you the wrong way or

you’ve had a long day and showing a loving side just doesn’t seem to be in the cards at the moment, it’s important that we remember that we can pray to God for him to give us the ability to show grace to others. We can go to him for guidance to keep his commandments and be humble and obedient children to him.

Follow Ryan every Wednesday on Instagram at: [ryans_devotions](#)



Check out our new Bible Study, Friday nights at 7 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Questions for discussion during Bible Study may be placed in the collection tray during worship services. You are not required to sign your name.

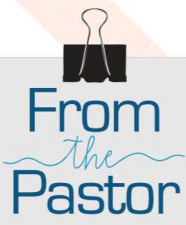
Music Report

“The Church knew what the psalmist knew: Music praises God. Music is well or better able to praise Him than the building of the church and all its decoration; it is the church’s greatest ornament.” -Igor Stravinsky

Come: Be a part of the church’s greatest ornament. Join the choir which meets every Wednesday from 5:30-7:00pm. Or volunteer as instrumentalist or soloist.

Rejoice,
Karlene Barker
Music Program Director





I Wish I Had

"We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord..." -Psalm 78:4.

The story is told about a question that was asked of fifty people over 95. Here is the question: If you had your life to live over what would you do differently? Three common answers emerged from the group. "We would risk more, reflect more and do more things that would live on after we die." Those are phenomenal responses, and all seem to have a relationship to our legacy. What will we leave when we leave? All of us leave memories, good or bad, but memories fade; legacies do not. We need to ask what kind of a "foot print" we are leaving on the souls of others.

Pam and I recently had the privilege of listening to a presentation by Don Piper. He is the author of the book, *90 Minutes In Heaven*, which also was the inspiration of a full length movie. I will never forget when he said that all the people who met him during his sojourn in heaven were people who had had some influence on his salvation and spiritual growth. You may not believe his story at all or any stories about near death experience, but one impactful question arises from what he said. Whose life, or lives, are you influencing in the direction of a relationship with Jesus Christ? I couldn't help asking myself, "Who would I have the opportunity of greeting in heaven? Are there any lives that I have pointed in Christ's direction by my life and my words?" Some time ago I heard this statement: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what is done for Christ will last?" There can be no greater legacy than to have had an influence in the life of someone in coming to Christ. I am sure you can name the people who set you on the road and so can I. Yes, only the Holy Spirit can draw us to Christ, but the Holy Spirit partners with God's people to make it happen. Remember Paul's words in I Corinthians 3: "I planted, Apollos watered but God gives the increase."

Blessings,
Pastor Joe MacDonald

NEW YEAR FOR PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Starting on September 10th at 1:30 p.m., in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall, we will have our first 2018/2019 Bible Study lesson from the new book *God's Promise: I Am With You*.

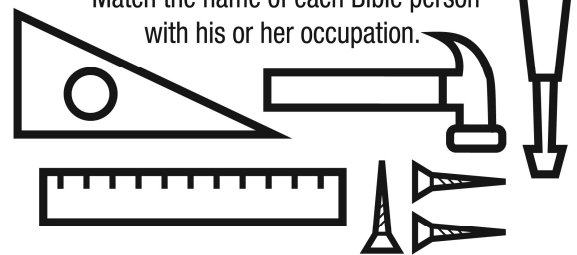
We would like to invite all women of the Church to join us and bring your friends as this new study is open to everyone. We will trace God's presence in the lives of women and men in the scriptures. Plus, discover and share God's fingerprints in our own stories and lives.

As in the past, I can guarantee you will leave feeling better about yourself and others. Call Beverly Davidson at 936-969-3277/713-417-4958, or Bonnie Laverty at 713-557-0410 with any questions.

-Beverly Davidson

Puzzle!

Match the name of each Bible person with his or her occupation.



- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Nehemiah | A. soldier |
| 2. Luke | B. carpenter |
| 3. Demetrius | C. cupbearer |
| 4. Matthew | D. clothseller |
| 5. Lydia | E. fisherman |
| 6. Joseph | F. shepherd |
| 7. Paul | G. tax collector |
| 8. Cornelius | H. tailor |
| 9. Tabitha | I. silversmith |
| 10. Amos | J. priest |
| 11. Eli | K. tentmaker |
| 12. Peter | L. physician |

Answers: 1. C, 2. L, 3. I, 4. G, 5. D, 6. B, 7. K, 8. A, 9. H, 10. E, 11. J, 12. F

Celebrate!



- Robert & Marilyn Green, 09/15

Our Sunday Services

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



- Glenn Drumm, 09/01
- Dave Harrell, 09/05
- Robert Green, 09/07
- Mary Lou Anderson, 09/09
- Bruce Houck, 09/10
- Max Smith, 09/15
- Jim Stoops, 09/15
- Steve Davis, 09/19
- Kash Cooper, 09/21
- Judy Bristol, 09/24
- Sherry Grounds, 09/24
- Kerry Wheeler, 09/25
- Sue Hyde, 09/28
- Jane Nye, 09/28
- Madden Heredia, 09/29

FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON

The September Fellowship Luncheon is on the 9th. We are planning foods our children from the Vacation Bible School will enjoy. The Fellowship committee members are making Macaroni & cheese casseroles. We are asking the other church members to bring dishes the children will enjoy. If you have any questions, please call me and I will help with coordinating what we might need. Thank you.

Jo Pavey, Fellowship
Chairperson



Mom's Peanut Butter Fudge

Submitted by Pam MacDonald

5 cups white sugar
1 can carnation milk
1/2 cup white Karo syrup
1 stick oleo

Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly until mixture is 255 °F with a candy thermometer (or until a small amount forms a ball in cold water, if you don't have a candy thermometer) Remove and add 1-2# jar creamy peanut butter and 1 large jar marshmallow cream. Beat with mixer until smooth, and pour in buttered cookie sheet. Pour 2 bags milk chocolate chips on top. As they melt, spread until smooth. Let dry & cut in small pieces.