

# First Presbyterian Church

## Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TEXAS

MAY 2019

### ECHOES OF EASTER

The Resurrection wasn't a "one-off"; it was a spark that lit a flame that continues burning even today, especially where people minister in the Risen One's name. One such outreach, Camp Noah, serves children traumatized by disaster. Nationwide, volunteers offer week-long experiences of kindness, love, listening and safety to kids who've recently survived a tornado, flood, hurricane, wildfire or shooting. Kids often open up for the first time to share their "storm stories" and begin a journey of healing.

Leaders at Camp Noah attest to God's power to bring joy out of

sorrow, trust out of fear and life out of death. A boy who initially was aloof dances with another camper at the closing worship; kids who arrived with uncertain expressions leave with smiles and regained confidence. Mental health counselors are part of camp teams, and referrals are made to continue care afterward.

Resurrection often happens in steps, not overnight. But wherever "ordinary" daily ministry takes place in Christ's name, extraordinary echoes of the first Easter are evident.

—Heidi Mann

### QUOTES

- "Kindness is like a garden of blessings." —Sirach 40:17
- "To the world you are a mother, but to your family you are the world." —Adapted from Dr. Seuss
- "Any mother could perform the jobs of several air-traffic controllers with ease." —Lisa Alther

### Church Events

- **May 1<sup>st</sup> - Worship Committee Meeting, 10 a.m.**
- **May 6<sup>th</sup> – Mission Committee Meeting, 11 a.m.**
- **May 11<sup>th</sup> - "We Serve" Polk County Event**
- **May 12<sup>th</sup> – Communion Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Mother's Day Fellowship Brunch after the Service**
- **May 13<sup>th</sup> – PW Birthday Lunch, 12:00 p.m., FH**
- **May 16<sup>th</sup> – Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m.**
- **May 17<sup>th</sup> – Tidings articles due**
- **May 25<sup>th</sup> – Men's Breakfast Meeting, 8:30 a.m., FH**
- **May 27<sup>th</sup> – Memorial Day; Church Office Closed**



# Thanks for the Memories...

It's hard to believe that it has been ten years that I have been Music Director at First Presbyterian Church, and what a joy it has been. Ten years bring a lot of changes and a lot of memories. So thanks, First Presbyterian Church, for the memories...

...of our special groups: Grace Notes, Back Row

Boys, Jubilant Ringers, Sanctuary Quartet, Orchestra, Dulcimers, Drama Department...

...of our special instrumental soloists: William, Zandra, Ron, Lucy, Jo Ann, Frank, Michael Parrish (clarinet), Pat Ditty (hammer dulcimer)...

...of our vocal soloists: Karen, Mark, Jane, Glenn, Ron, Larry & Vi,

Joe, Pam, Ketterling Family, Joe, Pam, Matt, Joan, Pat, Slim Brothers...

...and especially the long-suffering choir, who have suffered through hats, ties, tee-shirts, scarves, costumes, kazoos, Hanging of the Greens, 5th Sunday Specials, Fanny Crosby Sunday, Gaither Sunday, and any other cock-eyed ideas that I have had...

...but, especially, for the memories of our choir members who await us for that great Hallelujah

Chorus in the sky: Bonita, Doris, Flo, Gretchen, Frank and Lou.

Rejoice in the Lord always.

And again, I say, rejoice!

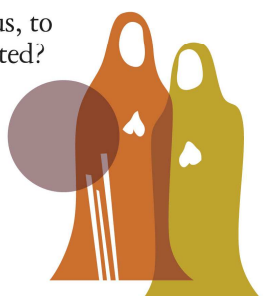
Karlene Barker  
June 8, 2019



?? **Bible Quiz** ??

In Matthew's genealogy of Jesus, to what two women is Boaz connected?

- A. Rahab and Ruth
- B. Tamar and Rahab
- C. Ruth and Bathsheba
- D. Bathsheba and Mary



Answer: A (See Matthew 1:5.)



## A Life of Praise

Despite becoming an invalid while in her teens, an 18th-century English poet who used the pen name Anna Steele wrote prolifically — often about praising God.

The closing stanza of "Now I Resolve With All My Heart," one of Steele's 144 hymns, is a timeless prayer that's fitting for the start of each new day.

*O may I never faint nor tire,  
Nor wandering leave his sacred ways;  
Great God, accept my soul's desire,  
And give me strength to live thy praise.*



## Worship Committee

The Worship Committee met April 3rd, at 9:30 a.m. There were nine (9) persons present. Mother's Day, May 12th, we will honor all our mothers at the Fellowship Luncheon. Planning ahead, our Adult Sunday Bible Study will have a small time change starting in September. We will begin at 8:45 a.m., and end at 9:45 a.m. This will allow everyone to get to Worship Service a little easier. We are always looking for new people to join us on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30 a.m., in the Fellowship Hall. Come join us.

Patricia Herrmann, Worship Chair Person





## World's Meanest Mother

*It is May already, the month we celebrate and honor our mothers. It is my hope that your mother was as "mean" as the following by Bobbie Pingaro and, if you are a mother, that you are as well:*

### "The Meanest Mother"

I had the meanest mother in the whole world. While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs or toast. When others had cokes and candy for lunch, I had to eat a sandwich. As you can guess, my supper was different than the other kids' also. But at least, I wasn't alone in my sufferings. My sister and two brothers had the same mean mother as I did.

My mother insisted upon knowing where we were at all times. You'd think we were on a chain gang. She had to know who our friends were and where we were going. She insisted if we said we'd be gone an hour, that were gone one hour or less--not one hour and one minute. I am nearly ashamed to admit it, but she actually struck us. Not once, but each time we had a mind of our own and did as we pleased. That poor belt was used more on our seats than it was to hold up Daddy's pants. Can you imagine someone actually hitting a child just because he disobeyed? Now you can begin to see how mean she really was.

We had to wear clean clothes and take a bath. The other kids always wore their clothes for days. We reached the height of insults because she made our clothes herself, just to save money. Why, oh why, did we have to have a mother who made us feel different from our friends? The worst is yet to come. We had to be in bed by nine each night and up at eight the next morning. We couldn't sleep till noon like our friends. So while they slept--my mother actually had the nerve to break the child-labor law. She made us work. We had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook and all sorts of cruel things. I believe she laid awake at night thinking up mean things to do to us.

She always insisted upon us telling the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, even if it killed us- and it nearly did. By the time we were teen-agers, she was much wiser, and our life became even more unbearable. None of this tooting the horn of a car for us

**CONTINUED..**

## Meanest Mother (CONTINUED)

to come running. She embarrassed us to no end by making our dates and friends come to the door to get us. If I spent the night with a girlfriend, can you imagine she checked on me to see if I were really there. I never had the chance to elope to Mexico. That is if I'd had a boyfriend to elope with. I forgot to mention, while my friends were dating at the mature age of 12 and 13, my old fashioned mother refused to let me date until the age of 15 and 16. Fifteen, that is, if you dated only to go to a school function. And that was maybe twice a year.

Through the years, things didn't improve a bit. We could not lie in bed, "sick" like our friends did, and miss school. If our friends had a toe ache, a hang nail or serious ailment, they could stay home from school. Our marks in school had to be up to par. Our friends' report cards had beautiful colors on them, black for passing, red for failing. My mother being as different as she was, would settle for nothing less than ugly black marks.

As the years rolled by, first one and then the other of us was put to shame. We were graduated from high school. With our mother behind us, talking, hitting and demanding respect, none of us was allowed the pleasure of being a drop-out.

My mother was a complete failure as a mother. Out of four children, a couple of us attained some higher education. None of us have ever been arrested, divorced or beaten his mate. Each of my brothers served his time in the service of this country. And whom do we have to blame for the terrible way we turned out? You're right, our mean mother. Look at the things we missed. We never got to march in a protest parade, nor to take part in a riot, burn draft cards, and a million and one other things that our friends did. She forced us to grow up into God-fearing, educated, honest adults.

Using this as a background, I am trying to raise my three children. I stand a little taller and I am filled with pride when my children call me mean. Because, you see, I thank God, He gave me the meanest mother in the whole world. *(written by Bobbie Pingaro, 1967)*

*It is my prayer that you will always strive to be a Proverbs 31 mom.*

*Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald*



# Ryan's Devotion

*For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. 1 John 5:4*

The book of Joshua is a great book with examples of leadership and overcoming hardships. In chapter 6, Joshua was commanded by God to march around the city of Jericho. They were to march around the city once a day for six days. During this time, they were to not mutter a word until the seventh day. Now just put yourself in their shoes. They had to march around this big city. It was hot, soldiers were sweaty and nasty, and they were probably dehydrated and hungry. This went on for six days, until on the seventh day, the priests blew their horns and everyone gave out a monstrous yell. The walls of Jericho came

crumbling down and the victory belonged to Joshua and the Israelites. Now apply this victory to our lives as Christians. God has given us the victory over sin and temptation. He has given us the victory over anxiety and depression. He has given us the victory over anger and hatred. He has given us the victory over hardship and the trials of this life. But, be sure to remember this victory was given to the Israelites because of their faithfulness and loyalty to God. Same

applies to us. If we want victory over bad things, it starts

with being faithful and loyal to our Savior Jesus Christ. Because of his sacrifice, we have the opportunity to be forgiven and live righteous lives. Put your trust in the One who saves.

-Ryan Shields

Instagram @  
ryans\_devotions



## Joys of Motherhood

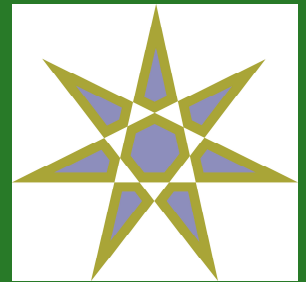
- A hug for no reason.
- Belly laughs.
- The light-bulb moment when your child understands something you've been trying to teach them.
- Smiles and giggles.
- Mud pies.
- Arms raised in the air after a big accomplishment.
- Hearing Scripture and prayer from your child's lips.
- Quiet moments on the couch.
- Reading aloud together.
- A family meal filled with conversation and laughter.
- Watching your child be kind to another.
- Recognizing a moment you'd like to freeze in time.
- A child's look of surprise and joy.
- A quiet conversation that heals a wounded heart.
- The words "I love you" — and a sticky kiss.

—Unknown

## +Christian Symbol+

### 7-Pointed Star

This star represents Isaiah's list of the gifts of the Spirit to be revealed in the Branch of Jesse — that is, Christ: "The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD — and he will delight in the fear of the LORD" (Isaiah 11:2-3, NIV). Some baptism and confirmation liturgies pray for God to "stir up in" the newly baptized or confirmed "the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in [God's] presence."





# Mission Update

Your Mission group meets on Monday, May 6th, at 11 a.m., in the office area. Anyone is welcome to participate as we review correspondence received in the previous month and make plans for upcoming events. The March fundraiser for the Beckers netted over \$2800; THANK YOU to all who helped with the food, the decorations, the music, and of course the donations. We continue to collect items for them to use in Guatemala, which are stored in Room 1 of the Fellowship Hall.

Our major service project this month as part of the "We Serve" Polk County event is interior painting on May 11th. Robert Green and the Mission Committee are open to anyone wanting to paint, just contact Chuck Davidson or Doug Palmer for details.

We have had two campers register for Camp Cho-Yeh as of this writing and have funds to assist several more so, if you have a child or grandchild who might be interested, please register first at the Cho-Yeh website, and then let me know. Day camp is for students in grades 1-6 and the overnight week sessions are open to students in grades 1—11. Visit [www.cho-yeh.org](http://www.cho-yeh.org).

We ask that during your summer trips you collect items which could be used in our shoeboxes for both youth and seamen; and we do continue to collect non-perishable foods for the Center of Hope as well as eyeglasses and craft items.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair

## The Tidings Online

Did you know the *Tidings* newsletter is available on our website for viewing and printing? Go to [www.fpclivingston.com](http://www.fpclivingston.com) and select the "News" tab.

***Effective in July:*** in order to save money on stamps and printing, the paper copy of the *Tidings* will not be mailed to you unless you specifically request that the church continue to mail it. Just call, email or come by the office to make your request.

# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

The April showers should be over, so come check out May flowers at our next and last lesson of 2018/2019; plus there will be lunch.

We will be meeting at Noon for a Presbyterian Women's Birthday lunch, where we will take up a Birthday Offering for mission goals. There are four mission funds that will be sharing the birthday gifts this year and are listed in the January/February *Horizons* magazine. We will send out a reminder later to those who volunteered to bring food.

Make sure you have ordered your workbook for next year (2019/2020) from Bonnie for \$10. That also includes the *Horizons* magazine. Workbooks that have already been ordered and paid will be passed out at the May meeting.

Go mark your calendar now to join us May 13th at noon for lunch and birthday cake in the Fellowship Hall. After lunch, Bonnie will lead us in Lesson Nine of our Study of *God's Promise I Am With You – God with Us*.

There will be new pages to color that go along with our lesson, and maybe a May flower. Call Beverly Davidson (936-969-3277/713-417-4958) or Bonnie Laverty (713-557-0410) with any questions.

-Beverly Davidson





# Celebrate!



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



- Sandy Hilland, 05/08
- Glenn Waybright, 05/11
- George Nixon, 05/18
- William Mischen, 05/26
- Bill Jorgensen, 05/29
- Rosalind Wiedman, 05/29

## FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee met Sunday, March 31, 2019, after the Service.

We decided on the main course for our monthly fellowship meals. For the April 14th luncheon, the committee bought and cooked a spiral sliced ham. We also cooked a large pork loin, and the congregation took care of loaves and fishes.

The May 12th luncheon will be a Mother's Day brunch. Each committee member will prepare an egg casserole. We are asking the congregation to please provide dishes they would like to prepare for the brunch meal.

The June 9th luncheon will be barbequed pork loin. Another pork loin will be deliciously baked. Our committee is working hard to have delicious main courses while trying to keep the cost down. We appreciate all the help from the congregation.

Jo Pavey, Fellowship Chair

**LET'S CONNECT!**



Online:  
[www.fpclivingston.com](http://www.fpclivingston.com)  
Email: [fpc@fpclivingston.com](mailto:fpc@fpclivingston.com)  
Phone: (936) 327-8381

### Our Sunday Services

- Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m., FH
- Worship - 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Kid Zone (for children ages 5 & older) - 10:00 a.m., Activity Bldg.
- Nursery available for children ages infant through 4