



First Presbyterian Church

Tidings

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | 910 N WASHINGTON AVE | LIVINGSTON, TEXAS | JULY 2019

GOD IS EVERYWHERE

We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent, and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows himself everywhere, in everything — in people and in things and in nature and in

events. It becomes very obvious that God is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without him. It's impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it.

—Thomas Merton



A PRAYER FOR THE FOURTH

Loving God, we thank you — the true Father of our country — for the blessings of this land and the gifts of cultures around the world. Prompt us to strive for justice for all, at home and abroad. Remind us, in the words of the hymn, that “this is our Father's world” and that your goodness prevails. Amid tragedies and conflicts, guard us against despair. Help us focus on the kindness evident daily: from generous neighbors to conscientious public servants (because most are). On Independence Day and every day, “O let [us] ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the Ruler yet.” Amen.

—Sandy Hyland

Church Events

- July 4th – Independence Day; Office Closed
- July 7th – Communion Worship Service, 10 a.m.
- July 14th – Fellowship Luncheon after the Service; Deacons' Meeting after the Luncheon
- July 19th – *Tidings* articles due



VBS

Vacation Bible School Classes: Sundays, June 30 - July 28, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

some good times this fall and then especially at Christmas.

Bring your children or grandchildren to join us in these good times.

-Kerry Wheeler

We are going on an adventure "To Mars and Beyond" for our Vacation Bible School this year.

June 30 - July 28, from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m., at First Presbyterian Church.

We would love to have any 1st Grade through 6th Grade visitors during this adventure on Sunday mornings, looking forward to

We have many other things coming up, like a Back to School Party on Sunday morning, August 4th. We are looking forward to



**WANTED:
CHILDREN'S
SHOES & SOCKS**

**WHY:
TO SUPPLEMENT
SUPPLY AT KFCE**

**WHEN:
DONATIONS DUE
AUGUST 11TH FOR
THE CHURCH
LUNCHEON**



Bible Quiz

At the burning bush, Moses asks God's name. What is God's answer?

- A. The Lord
- B. I AM
- C. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- D. All of the above



Answer: D (See Exodus 3:14-15.)

+Christian Symbol+

Wheat

Many of Jesus' parables liken the kingdom of heaven to wheat growing abundantly in a field, as opposed to weeds planted by the evil one. When God "sows" the gospel broadly, some soil produces great crops of



wheat (believers, people who become part of God's family); elsewhere, wheat (belief) flourishes briefly or not at all. Wheat also symbolizes the bread of Holy Communion and Christ, the bread of life.

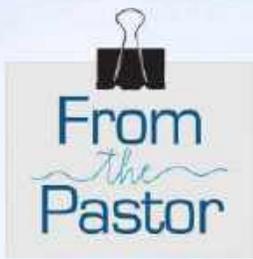
Sound/Video

Praise Jehovah! Praise the name of Jehovah; praise Him, servants of Jehovah. Those who stand in the house of Jehovah, in the courts of the house of our God, praise Jehovah; for Jehovah is good; sing praises to His name, for it is full of delight. -Psalms 135:1-3

We have received, as of June 12, 2019, \$6,552 in donations toward our goal of \$10,838 for the new video system. Thank you for those who have and those who are going to give toward this project.

-Glenn Drumm





Soar Like an Eagle

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31).

Ever wonder how and why the eagle is able to so easily stay aloft with seemingly little effort as it glides with wings outstretched and motionless, while smaller birds seem to struggle, beating the air with their wings incessantly? I know that there are aerodynamic explanations for this, but the example of the eagle is such a picture of peace and tranquility as it soars higher and higher. It can reach amazing heights that other birds cannot reach. There are two reasons. First, its wings are aerodynamically engineered by the Lord to catch the updraft of the prevailing winds, and secondly, the eagle needs to stay aloft for much longer periods of time to hunt its prey from the air. What the eagle models and what the scripture above indicates is that, like the eagle depends on the updrafts for its easy flight, we should rest and depend on the mighty wind of God's Spirit for our energy to walk the walk and live the life he has given. Too often we "flap" our wings and try to live on our own strength which is a guarantee of failure.

Like the wings of eagles and the sails of a ship, we need to draw close to the Lord and embrace His strength for the journey. I heard this little poem a long time ago about seeking God early in the morning for the strength we need for each day:

I met God in the morning when the day was at its best

And His presence came like sunshine with a glory in my breast

All day long His presence lingered; all day long he sailed with me,

And I sailed in perfect calmness o'er a very troubled sea

Other ships were torn and battered; other ships were sore distressed,

But the winds that seemed to drive them brought to me a peace and rest.

So I think I've learned the secret, learned from many a troublesome way.

I must meet God in the morning to sail with Him through the day.

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald

Property Committee

"This is what the LORD Almighty says: Give careful thought to your ways. Go up into the mountains and bring timber and build the house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored," says the LORD." - Haggai 1:7-8

Entergy replaced a bad gas meter by the Fellowship Hall.

A small French drain has been installed on the west side of the Fellowship Hall to alleviate mud by sidewalk.

A new 3 drawer cabinet has been installed in the Fellowship Hall kitchen pantry.

New floor mats have replaced the damaged ones.

We now have a new custodial service replacing Direct Solutions. Her name is Melissa Gonzales.

Glenn Drumm , Property Chair

Christian Education

We are still in need of some more workers to help work with our children, grades K through 6. We are trying to increase our number of teachers for this class so a couple of two will be able to choose one Sunday a month to teach, and attend our church services the other three Sundays.

We also need a volunteer to help Ann in the nursery when she has more than 2 or 3 small children at a time.

We could use help taking care of and promoting our library. We are going to start a "Book-of-the-Month Club" (see p. 5) to help our congregation become familiar with the good selection we have in our library.

We have many other opportunities to serve in special classes, trips, drama, music, etc.

For other information, contact Kerry, (580) 760-0249, or call Robin at the church office, (936) 327-8381.

Yours in God's Service,

Kerry Wheeler, Christian Education Chair

Bowing to Authority

Almost 250 years after the Revolution, independence is still important to Americans. Just as colonists objected to high taxes from the English crown, we object when others saddle us with overbearing burdens or demands.

As God's child, however, I recognize the importance of his authority and oversight. God works in me to make me more like him, and

he works through me to do his bidding. The Holy Spirit intertwines with my thoughts and actions to bring about God's good will. Even when I'm selfish or don't want to conform, God's presence becomes part of my daily activities. "For it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13, ESV).

Because God knows what's good and right for me, I'll depend and lean on him, even when doubts arise. As I grow older, I see more clearly that hope and satisfaction result when I follow God's direction
—MaryAnn Sundby



Quotes

"Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted. Bloom!"

—Christine Caine

* * *

"Truly it seems that we are never so alive as when we concern ourselves with other people."

—Harry Chapin

* * *

"I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

—John Muir

America



by Tommy Fluker

America, we are blessed to live in this great land
Mighty your spirit; old glory waving, a sight so grand
Everyone should be free-your lofty goal
Regardless of race, religion, the young and the old
Incomparable your beauty-prairies, mountains, rivers and lakes
Courageous your deeds-whatever it takes
All together what a glorious symbol it makes

Traveling Advice

We need deliberately to call to mind the joys of our journey. Perhaps we should try to write down the blessings of one day. We might begin; we could never end; there are not pens or paper enough in all the world.

—George Buttrick

A Guide for Giving

I do not believe one can settle how much we ought to give. I am afraid the only safe rule is to give more than we can spare. In other words, if our expenditure on comforts, luxuries, amusements, etc. is up to the standard common among those with the same income as our own, we are probably giving away too little. If our charities do not at all pinch or hamper us, I should say they are too small. There ought to be things we should like to do and cannot do because our charitable expenditures exclude them.

—C.S. Lewis



Thank you for your awesome response to “Pick Your Favorite Hymns for July.” We have enough requests that we are expanding into the month of August. If you didn’t get your song in, we can still use a few more. Our congregation is amazing.

DATES TO LOOK FORWARD TO:

August 14: Choir Social to welcome choir back, 5:30 p.m.

August 21: Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.

August 28: Choir Rehearsal, 5:30 p.m.

September 1: The choir will march into the choir loft with a song in our hearts.

Talent Search

Erma Bombeck once said: “When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I could say, I used everything You gave me.”

Are we going to use our talents, or are we going to hide them? If you have a talent (singing, instrumental, choir, etc.), please let it shine out for the glory of God. Please sign up for a Sunday to present your special. The sign-up sheet is on the counter in the Activity Building. Please leave your name and phone number as well. Let’s use what God gave us and build our choir.

The choir will meet August 14th for our first Choir Social. We will talk about what we want to do this year and get ready to be back in the sanctuary with our music on September 1st. We will be practicing on August 21 and 28.

If you have any questions or suggestions, please call me at 936 223-7330. Leave a message if I don’t answer and I will call you back.

Jo Ann Hogg, Music Director

True Meaning of the 4th of July

The 4th of July, yes, it's that time of year
Does it mean more to you than bar-b-que and beer?

Despite what you think freedom isn't free
It's been paid for by our military throughout history

Do you realize how fortunate you are to be born in this great land?
It could have been Darfur - that place of death and burning sand.

Or countless other places throughout the world
Where the flags of tyranny and terror are unfurled

Voice your opinion if you don't like the government you've got
You won't be thrown in prison or maybe even shot.

You can jump in your car - everyone's got one or more

You don't need permission for where you want to go

Our stores are filled with food and goods, with luxuries commonplace

We don't wait in endless lines with empty shelves to face

No one controls the books you read or the news you hear

You don't live in a society that's always filled with fear

You're free to worship anyway you choose
It's material things, not your life you lose

So, my friends, think again what the 4th of July means to you

And proudly sing, shout, wave your flags for the good old RED, WHITE and BLUE



-Tommy Fluker

SEW----

It's Been Awhile!

More help needed for
Hechos Dos Mission Center

Some of us have been talking about having another "Women of the Church" get together this Fall to maybe work on a microwave bowl for use at home, and talk about a request needed by Hechos Dos Mission Center. This would require no skills, unless you want to do some of the actual sewing as we would need cutters, watchers, and talkers.

Watch the August and September Tidings for a date and time!

We will keep a container in the Narthex to continue to collect school supplies and craft items for the young children at the Center.

List of school needs from Maria:

- Crayons - Colored Pencils - Washable Markers
- #2 Pencils and Ballpoint Pens
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Blunt-tipped Scissors
- Construction Paper
- Wide-Ruled Notebooks or Paper
- Tissues
- Match Box Cars and Small Dolls or Stuffed Animals

The Beckers do outreach with the children using small dolls and Match Box cars that we collect and send over with the school supplies.

For any questions or suggestions contact Beverly Davidson, Pam MacDonald, or Bonnie Laverty.





Children's Class and Coming Activities

Sunday Morning VBS:

Classes from June 30 through July 28

"To Mars and Beyond"

- Session 1:* Daniel Trusts God in the Lions' Den (Daniel 6)
- Session 2:* Queen Esther Takes a Stand (Esther 4-90)
- Session 3:* The Good Samaritan Helps a Fellow Traveler (Luke 10:25-37)
- Session 4:* Jesus Heals 10 Lepers (Luke 17:11-19)
- Session 5:* Jesus Comforts Friends on the Way to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35)

Book-of-the-Month Club

Each month we will be highlighting a special book from our library, and inviting everyone to visit our library, located at the back of the church between the Sanctuary and the Narthex. Check it out and enjoy!

The Book for July is:

Answers to Life's Problems, by Billy Graham

Imagine being able to sit down with Billy Graham and ask him for advice. In response to thousands of letters, Billy Graham offers guidance and answers to the most-often asked questions about every aspect of life, including relationships, ethics, psychological problems and spirituality.

Hechos Dos Ministry (a.k.a., Keith & Maria Becker's Ministry)

Our goal is to have some of the below items available for the next shipping container to Guatemala; the last one arrived mid-May. There is a drop off container in The Narthex, or in Room 1 of the Fellowship Hall, ready for your donations.

School Supplies for Teachers and Students:

paper, pencils, art or colored pencils, blunt scissors, spiral notebooks, index cards, crayons, glue sticks, rulers, plastic folders, tissues, assorted construction paper

Adults:

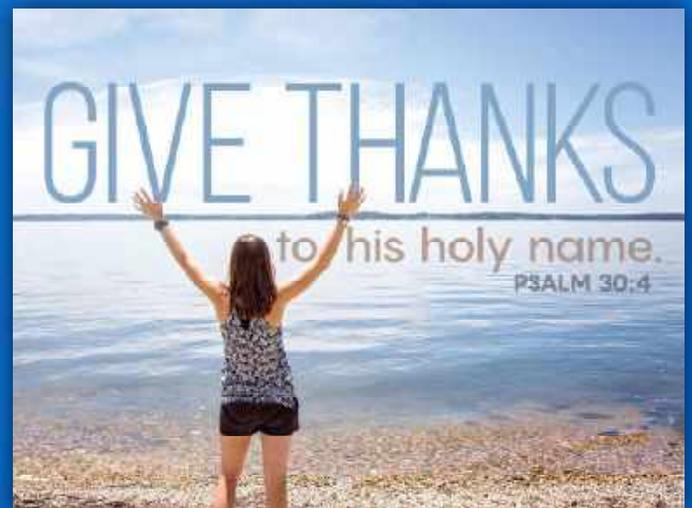
sewing machine needles, bobbins, spools of thread, cutting scissors, straight pins, large safety pins, tape measures, plastic bins, ribbons, sewing needles and threads

Ministry:

Spanish Bibles, powdered milk, powdered baby formula, plastic baby bottles, small dolls, Matchbox cars, pens & pencils

Clothing:

children's underwear, dresses (for children all sizes), blue jeans (all sizes), blankets, shoes all sizes (no high heels)



Celebrate!



- David & Beth Hancock, 07/03
- Lee & Patte Jones, 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
- Jo Pavey, 07/11
- 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

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The June 9th Fellowship Luncheon was a celebration for Father's Day. The main course was baked hams. The congregation provided wonderful dishes for the "Loaves and Fishes" to round out the meal.

The July 14th Fellowship Luncheon will be gumbo provided by Chris Longoria. It will be a delicious meal. We all know how tasty Chris makes anything he cooks. We ask the congregation to provide "Loaves and Fishes." I will be out of the state for the luncheon. Kathy Nobles and Chris will need some extra hands to help set up and clean up after. We have been short handed the last two months due to many of the committee have had health issues, some out of town, and many other obstacles. Thanks in advance to any one that will help.

Jo Pavey, Fellowship Chair



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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