

# First Presbyterian Church

## Tidings

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

### JUST PLANT IT

As the Church year wraps up, many Bible readings address the end times and Jesus' return at an unknown date (unknown to all but God the Father, that is). Specific beliefs about the Second Coming vary throughout Christendom, but our attitude about that momentous event affects how we live right now.

"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces," Martin Luther reportedly said, "I

would still plant my apple tree." Instead of constantly despairing about this broken-down world, we can remain determined to serve God and our neighbors, planting seeds of life and hope in the process.



### UNIMAGINABLE IMPACT

You don't know how many people have been strengthened because you asked God to encourage them; how many people have been healed because you prayed for their bodies; how many spiritual runaways have come home because you prayed for their souls. None of us may ever know the true effects of our prayers this side of death. But we do know this: History belongs to the intercessors.

—John Ortberg, *The Life You've Always Wanted*

### Church Events

- Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> - Worship Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., FH
- Oct 5<sup>th</sup> – Community Event at Extra Mile Ranch, 2-5 p.m.
- Oct 6<sup>th</sup> – Communion Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Peace & Global Witness Special Offering
- Oct 7<sup>th</sup> – Mission Committee Meeting, 10 a.m., AB
- Oct 10<sup>th</sup> – Session Meeting, 5:30 p.m., FH
- Oct 13<sup>th</sup> – Fellowship Luncheon after the Service
- Oct 14<sup>th</sup> – PW Circle Meeting, 1:30 p.m., FH
- Oct 18<sup>th</sup> – *Tidings* articles due
- Oct 27<sup>th</sup> – Reformation Sunday



# WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Worship Committee meets the first Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m., in Classroom 2 of the Fellowship Hall. There are usually eight or nine people in attendance. We have some interesting discussions and would like to have all the ideas and input we can get. We would love to have you join us.

All Saints' Remembrance Sunday will be November 3rd. Please get the names of your loved ones to Robin in the Church Office as soon as possible.

Fall and the holiday season is approaching quickly. Look for many exciting events to take place in our Church. Also, cooler weather, we hope.

Have a blessed day. Prayers.

Patricia Herrmann, Worship Chair



## The Day's First Task

*The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists of shoving it all back, in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in.*

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

## +CHRISTIAN SYMBOL+

### Fortress

The tower, or fortress, is a symbol that, in the words of Psalm 46:1, "God is our refuge and strength." Martin Luther used this psalm as the basis for his hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." The tower or fortress may also represent Saint Barbara, an early Christian martyr, who ordered that her tower be built with three windows instead of two to signify the Trinity. Another scripture reads "But the LORD has become my fortress, and my God the rock in whom I take refuge" (Psalm 94:22, NIV).



### Bible Quiz

Name the first three kings of Israel in the order of their reigns.

- A. Saul, David, Solomon
- B. Samuel, David, Saul
- C. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob
- D. Solomon, Jesse, David



Answer: A (See 1 Samuel 9:15-17; 16:1-13; 1 Kings 1:28-30).



# A MONTH OF MISSIONS

Your Mission team met on Sep. 16th and began work on our budget request for next year. We will complete this at our next meeting set for Oct. 7th, so if anyone has input, please let Chuck, Bonnie, Doug, Karen, Beverly, Susie, or Ron know. We do have a special PCUSA offering on Oct. 6th, and the 25 percent which remains local will be sent to help get

“My Father’s House” off the ground. In October, we begin to collect items for our shoeboxes; we will need a few more shoeboxes, which will go to both the Port of Houston (for seamen; see page 6) and to Guatemala (for children). More details will be sent out to you via email.

Did you know that you helped Kids Free Clothing Exchange by donating 87 pairs of shoes to them in August? Besides socks and underwear, you also gave them \$193. Outstanding! FYI, we do continue to collect shoes year-round. Also, our newest recipient of funds, the Reeves Revival Food Pantry in Onalaska, is very busy. They served 304 individuals in May, 474 in June, 489 in July, and 529 in August. They provide for and serve all whom request assistance.

Our denomination is asking us to consider becoming a “Matthew 25” church and we are studying this. Please go to [www.pcusa.org/matthew25](http://www.pcusa.org/matthew25) to see what this is about and then inform one of us of your thoughts.

Later this year I expect we will participate again in the Empty Stocking Program, so be prepared. My thanks to all who have assisted & supported our work this year.

Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair



From  
the  
Pastor

## Snake Fruit

*“Did God actually say that you shall not eat of any tree in the garden?” -Genesis 3:1*

Too often the focus in Genesis 3 centers around a fruit or a snake. The real issues of that passage, indeed all of scripture where Satan is concerned, are the poison of deception and the gift of choice or free will. There was a critical moment in creation (and your impression of it may be different than mine); a divine pause, if you will, by the Almighty before He breathes into this amazing creature He has sculpted from the earth. Just before He breathes, not just life but eternal spirit, the Holy briefly contemplates the consequences of the seed He is about to plant in this creature, a seed that is in no other. It is the seed that most reflects Himself, most embodies who He is. It is the seed of free choice and free will. One might imagine a concerned but presumptuous angel at that moment saying something like, “Wouldn’t it be easier to not plant that seed? Wouldn’t it be more efficient and less dangerous to not plant that seed?” I can picture a gentle creator who is long on patience and short on indignance saying, “Yes

that is true, but to remove the choice is to remove the possibility of the love that goes with it.”

It is the fragile nature of this implanted seed that is at stake in this catastrophic chapter. To me, this is the pivotal passage in all the Old Testament, indeed all of scripture, that changes the nature of all that was created into all that it has become. This same seed has the potential of growing into the most beautiful tree of love or the horrific weeds of hate. Deception’s goal is to affect or infect this amazing seed with distortions or false versions of the truth, causing we humans to make critical decisions based on those deceptions. With the gift of choice goes also the responsibility to search out and stand for the truth no matter what that may cost. The scripture says it is the truth that will set you free, and anything short of truth will take that freedom away.

Blessings, Pastor Joe MacDonald



## “Jesus no cry”

Author Marlo Schalesky recalls her 2-year-old’s first table prayer: “Jesus no cry. Jesus be happy. Amen.” Her 5-year-old sister was unimpressed, calling it “a funny prayer.” But Mom affirmed it as fine, later blogging: “I saw how woefully self-centered my own prayers had become. ... [In my daughter’s] language ... they would sound more like ‘Marlo no cry. Marlo be happy.’”

So Schalesky made some intentional changes. “Instead of only asking for God’s blessing, I’m focusing more on asking God to help me to be pleasing to him. ... When I ask for wisdom, I also ask him to help me honor him in all I do and think. And instead of focusing on my desire for all to go well, I ask him what I can do to bring him joy. ... I am learning to pray with childlike faith. I’m learning to pray, ‘Jesus no cry. Jesus be happy.’”



## Beyond the Building

*The Christian does not go to the temple to worship. The Christian takes the temple with him or her. Jesus lifts us beyond the building and pays the human body the highest compliment by making it His dwelling place, the place where He meets with us.*

—Ravi Zacharias



**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

Joe MacDonald, meets in the dining area of FH, around the tables.

“Kid Zone” classes meet in the Activity Building, upstairs in Rooms 202 and 206.

Our classes are doing well on the 9:00-9:45 a.m. schedule.

Two adult classes meeting in the Fellowship Hall:

- Class taught by Robert Green, FH, Room 2
- Class on “End Times Prophecy” taught by Pastor

Our kids are doing okay in our Worship Services. It is great to have our young boys helping the ushers.

We still need some more teachers and helpers. Pray about your possibility of joining our team. The rewards are great as you see how God uses you to love and help our kids today.

May God bless you as you seek to serve Him.

Kerry Wheeler, Christian Education Director





# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

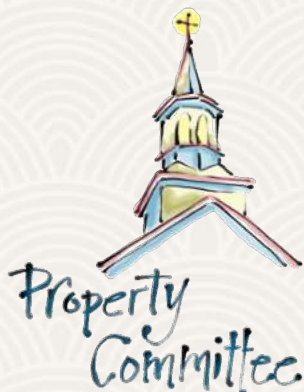
We missed the women still out of town at our September meeting. We're hoping more will be there for our new year of PW Bible Study in October. All women of the Church are welcome on October 14th, at 1:30 p.m., in Room 2 of the Fellowship Hall. Bring all your friends! Our second lesson will be *Love Carved in Stone – Words of Love: Keep Sabbath*. We are looking at the Ten Commandments this year.

If you have not ordered your workbook for this year, see Bonnie. In our last meeting, we decided to keep our current mission funds this year, which are KFCE and Keep a Kid in School. There was a sign-up sheet to host snacks for each of our meetings, and the rest of 2019 has been covered.

October hosts are Kathy Nobles and Beverly Davidson.

Call Beverly Davidson (936-969-3277/713-417-4958) or Bonnie Laverty (713-557-0410) with any questions.

-Beverly Davidson



Dr. Howard Hendricks tells of the time Bud Wilkinson, coach for Sooners football team, was asked what contributions collegiate football had toward physical fitness in America. Wilkinson replied, "I do not believe

that football has made any contribution to physical fitness in America. I define football as 22 men on the field desperately needing a rest, and 50,000 people in the stands desperately needing exercise. Dr. Hendricks concluded by saying, "What a description of the local church!"

M. Lunn said it this way: "God has given every one of us something to do in this world of His. Do we appreciate the honor enough to do it?"

Activities this past month outside of general maintenance:

1. Placed lock on Education/Drama door.
2. Replaced bad sprinkler and put down grass on bare spot, both on east side of F.H.

3. Andreas Electric ran wiring for video.
4. Sound Techs installed TV screens and ran wiring. Waiting on computer.
5. Sound Techs also working on Nursery/F.H. TV issues.
6. Argon A/C fixed high level drain switch on A/C on the 3rd floor of the Act. Bldg. Also repaired A/C duct on south A/C unit in Sanctuary attic.
7. The 190 property has been mowed.
8. The stump was cut down and ground down on the east side of F.H.
9. Repaired light in Act. Bldg. choir area.

We would welcome anyone who would like to have a part in working in the sound booth or video booth. This may be a way of ministry in the Church. Contact Glenn Drumm if interested.

Glenn Drumm, Property Chair



# WHAT DO SEAFARERS BRING TO US

Seafarers coming to the Port of Houston bring a wide variety of products. This list is by no means complete, but it is intended to give a sample of just what is brought into the port by seafarers on the many ships that call at the Port of Houston. Every reader has either used or benefitted from every item here.

## FOR THE HOME:

### Appliances:

Televisions  
Washing Machines  
Clothes Dryers  
Refrigerators  
Dish Washers

### Kitchen Items:

Blenders  
Mixers  
Cook Tops  
Micro Wave Ovens  
Coffee Pots/Makers

### Kitchen Other:

Fruits and Veggies  
Frozen Seafood  
Processed Beef  
Many Canned Goods  
Specialty Foods

### General Kitchen and Dining:

Plates, glasses, utensils, pots  
Daily use silverware  
Tables, chairs, utility carts  
Candles, vases, serving dishes  
Specialty Cookware

## FOR THE FAMILY:

### Personal Use Items:

Cell Phones  
Game Type electronics  
Computers & Printers  
Personal Care Devices  
Electronic Accessories

### Clothing:

Ladies Clothing  
Men's Clothing  
Men's & Ladies Shoes  
Belts, Ties, Scarves  
Coats of all Types

### For Kids:

Infants Clothing  
Children's Clothing  
Children's Shoes  
Toys of all types  
Coats of all Types

### Other for the Family:

Children's Furniture  
Cribs and Changing Tables  
Recreational Equipment  
Sports Equipment like balls  
Furniture for the home

## FOR HOME MAINTENANCE:

### Garage:

Garage Door Openers  
Light Fixtures  
Shelving  
Storage Racks  
Workbenches

### Lawn & Yard:

Lawn Mowers  
Edger's & Trimmers  
Hand Garden Tools  
Shovels & Similar  
Lawn Care Tools

### Workbench:

Hand Tools  
Power Tools  
Electric Repair Parts  
Repair Parts  
Tool Boxes

### Other General Items:

Ladders  
Lawn Furniture  
Pool Components & Toys  
Lawn/Garden Tractors  
B-B-Q Grills & Ovens

## VEHICLES AND TRANSPORTATION RELATED:

### Direct Transportation:

Cars and Trucks  
Car Components  
Heavy Trucks  
Buses  
Golf Carts

### Petrochemical:

Gasoline  
Diesel Fuel  
Fuel Additives  
Oil & Feed Stocks  
Other Refined Goods

### Maintenance:

Oil & Lubricants  
Tools  
Polishes  
Testing Equipment  
Compressors

### Supplies:

Tires  
Batteries  
Shop Maintenance Items  
Aftermarket Supplies  
Jacks & Work Ramps

## HOME CONSTRUCTION:

### Foundations:

Site Prep Equipment  
Concrete  
Reinforcing Bar  
Framing Materials  
Concrete Finish Tools

### Framing:

Lumber  
Nails  
Screws  
Insulation Sheathing  
Exterior Siding

### Roofing:

Storm Clips  
Plywood  
Tar Paper  
Roof Shingles  
Metal Roofing

### Interior Finishing:

Dry Wall  
Electrical Plugs & Switches  
Light Fixtures  
Plumbing Fixtures  
Flooring & Carpet

This list has been itemized to facilitate recognition of items used in daily life. There are thousands of other items, particularly items used in all types of manufacturing, that are carried by seafarers and go into products used in daily life but which are components of something else, such as steel beams used in the construction of commercial buildings. Other items include products derived from the petrochemical industry that are used in cosmetics, pharmaceuticals, food stuff, paint, lubricants and many other products that are seldom ever recognized for the origin. Also, items used in heavy manufacturing often include components manufactured overseas that then go into items completed in the U.S.

Seafarers also transport U.S. manufactured or grown items all over the world as exports, thus insuring that this is a two way trade cycle. Thus it can be said: **Seafarers Serve Everyone Every Day.**





First Presbyterian Church Choir returned to Worship Services in September



# Thank You, Choir

For the beautiful music  
on Sunday mornings,  
For your dedication in  
attending rehearsals,  
For inspiring us to lift our  
hearts,  
minds and voices in singing praises  
to our Lord,  
Choir, we thank you!



# The Gift of Music

I wish to see all arts, principally music, in the service of Him who gave and created them.

Music is a fair and glorious gift from God. I would not forego my humble share of music. Singers are never sorrowful, but are merry, and they smile through their troubles in song.

Music makes people kinder, gentler, more staid and reasonable. I am persuaded that after theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of heart ... the devil flees before the sound of music almost as much as before the Word of God.

—Martin Luther



# Celebrate!



- Tommy & Joan Fluker, 10/05
- Joe & Pam MacDonald, 10/21



- Tommy Fluker, 10/01
- Ann Wilkins, 10/05
- Paul Laverty, 10/08
- Gavyn Heredia, 10/13
- Barbara Neal, 10/13
- Jim Meyer, 10/15
- Sean Sessums, 10/26
- Pam Stoops, 10/29

## Fellowship Committee

I have been told the September Luncheon was delicious. Thanks to Chris for preparing wonderful gumbo. Thanks to my committee for helping Kathy Nobles, who took on the chore of making sure everything was taken care of. Thanks to Patty Harrell for decorating, and thanks to the Congregation for providing "loaves and fishes."

The Luncheon on Sunday, October 13th, will be roast beef cooked with potatoes, carrots, onions, and gravy. We are fortunate to have beef! H-E-B had a good price on sale. The committee was able to get a good quantity. We froze it until the Fall. The congregation will please provide the "loaves & fishes" to enhance the beef, vegetables, and gravy dishes the committee will provide. Thanks to all. Bon appetit!

Jo Pavey, Fellowship Chair



Online:  
[www.fpclivingston.com](http://www.fpclivingston.com)  
Email:  
[fpclivingston.com](mailto:fpclivingston.com)  
Phone: (936) 327-8381  
Fax: (936) 327-4719

### Our Sunday Schedule

- "Signs of the Times" Class - 9:00 a.m., FH (around the tables)
  - Kid Zone - Rm. 202, AB
  - Middle School - Rm. 206, AB
- Adult Bible Study - 9:00 a.m., FH
- Worship - 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary
- Nursery available for children ages infant through 4