



# The Messenger

2014 THEME: "ARE YOU READY"  
(JANUARY 2014)

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THE CONGREGATION

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\* ARTICLES NEED TO BE  
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THE LAST SUNDAY OF  
THE MONTH - FOR NEXT  
MONTH'S PUBLICATION.

## Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

There are many churches today that are "out to lunch" when it comes to reaching out to change the world for Christ. But fortunately there are many other churches (and many church members) who are seeking to do the best they are able to make a difference in the world. I think we, as a church, and you, as members are on the right path.

Paul gives us specific directions for living each day. Paul says in Philippians, *"Forgetting what lies behind, I strain forward to what is ahead."* We should be looking forward to what is ahead this New Year. We are able to make a fresh start, forgetting the things that may have been holding us back in the past.

Our God is not a God of the past, but of the future. Our God is the One who says again and again, *"Behold, I am doing a new thing."* *"If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold everything is new!"*

I am sure of this: whatever is hurting us, whatever is holding us back, whatever is keeping us from the fullest possible experience of life; God wants to gather it up. Like some conscientious garbage collector, He will take it away so it will never bother us again. God will do that, if we will let Him.



The year 2014 is a blank piece of paper and we can color on it any way we wish. Yes, some have more crayons in their box. Some have many more colors to pick from but that should not hold us back from using what we have to draw a beautiful picture through our lives to glorify God and serve His people. Are you ready, to do that in 2014?

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## Calendar of Events

### Worship Services at 10:00 AM

#### And Adult Sunday School 9:00 A.M.

- **Sundays** - Childcare and Children's Church at 10:30
- **Tuesdays** - Games/ Fellowship at 10 A.M.
- **Dec. 31** - New Year's Eve Service:  
At 6:00 PM we will have a social with snacks then,  
At 7:00 PM we will have a short Communion Service
- **Jan. 5** - Communion Sunday
- **Jan. 12** - Ordination and Installation of Elders, Class of 2016
- **Jan. 14** - **1 PM Tuesday, Taking Down of the Greens after Epiphany**
- **Jan. 19** - Session Meeting after Worship
- **Jan. 26** - Annual Congregation/Corporation Meeting and Social Hour after Worship



### Carl's Comments Continued....



Christians have good reason to be the happiest people in the world. Their happiness is not based upon the condition of the world but upon the condition of their heart. They are happy because of God and not because of man.

So take the 8760 hours you have before you in 2014 and enjoy life knowing that God truly loves you.

Happy New Year, *Carl and Evelyn*



### Pastor Supply

On the last Sunday of the year, December 29, while Carl Thompson was on vacation, the church was blessed to have the Rev. Sam Lanham III preach and his son the Rev. Sam Lanham IV as Liturgist. Sam's topic was Joseph, the seldom discussed husband of Mary-mother of Jesus. (The first Sam Lanham lived from 1846 to 1908 and was the 23rd Governor of Texas)

The older Sam III (on the right) attends our church.

## Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests or other circumstances)

	Second Sunday after Christmas Day — Jan. 5	Epiphany of the Lord — Jan. 6	Baptism of the Lord — Jan. 12	Second Sunday after the Epiphany — Jan. 19	Third Sunday after the Epiphany — Jan. 26
<b>First Reading</b>	Jeremiah 31:7-14	Isaiah 60:1-6	Isaiah 42:1-9	Isaiah 49:1-7	Isaiah 9:1-4
<b>Psalm</b>	Psalm 147:12-20	Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14	Psalm 29	Psalm 40:1-11	Psalm 27:1, 4-9
<b>Sec. Reading</b>	Ephesians 1:3-14	Ephesians 3:1-12	Acts 10:34-43	1 Corinthians 1:1-9	1 Corinthians 1:10-18
<b>Gospel</b>	John 1:[1-9] 10-18	Matthew 2:1-12	Matthew 3:13-17	John 1:29-42	Matthew 4:12-23

### January Birthdays

- Jackie Payne 04
- Bob Eshelbrenner 08
- Chine Ray 08
- Milton Kattner 12
- Missie Lanham 12
- John Pettijohn 18
- Jim Arner 23
- Sharon Van Winkle 29

### About our Members and Friends

**Nancy Norris** sent this note after celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in our church. "Thank you to everyone at the church for the many expressions of love and fellowship! Our daughters, grandchildren, plus Bob and I are so appreciative for all of you; and for the prayers and support during our difficult health issues. Love in Christ, Nancy, Bob, and Norris family"

**Mable Page** has been confined with balance and walking issues. Remember this faithful friend of our congregation.

**The Rays** grieve the loss of a second brother of Chine in as many months. We pray that God's mercy will surround them.

**Ethel Jones**, one of our former members who now lives near family in Minnesota,

sent this message on December 23: "For all the wonderful people in my life, this is the time of year that I am so grateful having you as my friends. My special prayer goes out to Chine and Joan, who I think of very often and miss so much."

**Dawne Engelke** and her family continue to face each new day in her fight against cancer with faith and hope in God's Almighty power. We pray for the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts with His presence.

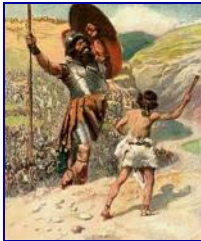
**Carolyn Williams** email has changed to [carolynmarie33@gmail.com](mailto:carolynmarie33@gmail.com).

**Mike Hatchell** (the husband of our next-summer intern, Molly Hatchell) is ill. Keep Mike in your prayers. Their address is 3410 Mount Bonnell Drive, Austin, TX 78731.

## Adult Education - Shirley Pinkston

For several years the class has studied occasional lessons on the life of David. Beginning January 5, we will begin a series of 7 lessons that will conclude our study of David. Each lesson takes an incident from David's life and a related theme in order to learn spiritual lessons for our own lives. These are the topics we will study:

1. Religion
2. Sovereign Grace
3. Love
4. Sin
5. Suffering
6. Theology
7. Death



David was a man after God's own heart, but he was not perfect. Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. as we study God's word and consider how His purposes are worked out in the ordinariness of our human lives. Coffee is served (plus if we are lucky - snacks). I have a place is waiting for you!

## Benevolence/Outreach

The Benevolence and Outreach Committees look forward to a busy 2014. We will keep you posted of individual volunteering opportunities and will continue to support agencies within our community.

We meet the first month of each quarter in the Sunday school room after church and welcome anyone who is interested in serving on the committees to attend.

Watch for the annual giving poster for 2013 listing the agencies you all have supported with the sharing of your blessings.

Nancy Healey, Elder



## Favorite Verse - Barclay McCort

I can't say one verse gave me more strength than any other, but I can say, I relied on God the most when several major life events occurred concurrently.

In January 1989, Danney and I moved from Amarillo to Dayton, Ohio. This was significant because I was leaving behind family, longtime friends, and a house I had lived in for 20 years. I was leaving a son who had just graduated from high school and was staying in Amarillo to work, while his sister was in Austin attending UT. I left a teaching job I had at Amarillo College for 12 years in order to start a new career with the Veterans Administration as nursing instructor.



So starting a new job, getting a new home and having a husband who was also starting a new assignment was challenging. All this without my support group of 20 years.

During my worry periods I relied on my faith in God, "I am with you always." I also remembered God does not give you more than you can handle. Life was difficult for months but it got easier with the passage of time. Now I would not trade the experience for anything, but am happy to know I won't have to leave my friends and family in Salado. Retirement is the best part of my life.

Matt 28:18-20

*Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. 19 Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. 20 Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. **And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

## The Games Are On!



THE MESSENGER

Game Day will continue every Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the church's classroom. We are inviting all who would like to have a morning to relax with other members and friends of our church to a variety of games, jigsaw puzzles, and fellowship. These mornings offer a great way to relax and get to know each other by visiting, playing the games, plus enjoying the snacks. We are not about competition, so we are all winners.

Everyone is also invited to come at noon on the first Tuesday of each month for a full meal. If you need a ride, contact the church (254-947-8106) or Letta (254-947-8073). [Imeinen@vvm.com](mailto:Imeinen@vvm.com). Someone will be happy to pick you up. Please join us in 2014 for this fellowship.

## Session Meeting Notes 12/15/13

**Treasurer** Mike Moore reported that in 2013, Benevolence Giving was 27.6% of offerings. For 2014, he will propose the 2014 budget based on actual pledges received. There will be some new budget expenses to support the seminary intern this summer, the sign project, and advertising.

**Session Committees** for 2014 will be:

- Worship Committee – Walt Tindell 254-228-5504 and Rip VanWinkle 254-947-3210
- Benevolence/Outreach – Nancy Healey 254-947-05003
- Building/Grounds – Jim Walls 254-947-08070
- Communications – Pete Stebbins 254-231-4883
- Education/Pastoral Care – Bev Jones 254-913-9648
- Fellowship – Laquita Arner – 254-722-9805
- Finance/Personnel – Cindy Pennington 254-933-3951

For anyone who is not involved in the church, please prayerfully consider joining one of these committees and the work of our church.

**Agenda of the Annual Congregational/Corporation Meeting** on January 26, 2014:

- Motion to Amend the Corporation By-Laws – Clerk
- Reports on 2013 Budget, 2014 Pledge Drive, and Proposed 2014 Budget – Treasurer
- Annual Reports of 2013 - Clerk and Committee Chairs
- Motion on Nominations for Nominating Committee 2014 – Personnel
- Announcement of 2014 Session Theme – Clerk/Pastor

Respectfully submitted by Bev Jones, Clerk of the Session



**Bill Pinkston, Tommie Thompson, Jack Cooper, Chine Ray, Monte Shuck, Rip VanWinkle, Jeanette West-Organ (First Row) Trish Stebbins, Letta Meinen, Shirley Pinkston, Carol Shuck, Jean Teal - Director (Not pictured: Adva Volle, Bob Harper, Debra Caldwell)**

Each member of the choir is a dedicated Christian and dedicated to the Presbyterian Church of Salado. We sing not just because we enjoy singing, which we do, but because we want to contribute to the worship experience of our congregation. Hopefully, we do that every Sunday.

We try to sing a variety of musical selections that appeal to the different preferences of the congregation. With the Choral Call to Worship, our goal is to set the stage for worship. We are saying so to speak, "Put everything in your life on hold and worship the God of all creation from whom all

blessings flow." We try to be a strong voice from the choir loft to encourage the congregation to sing with confidence and enthusiasm. I consider it a great honor and privilege to work with these wonderful people who are your church choir. They all like to sing, all have good, strong voices, and their dedication is amazing.

Singing lifts the spirit! As you have the opportunity (even in the back of the church) - sing! As I like to say, pick a note and SING!

*Jean Teal, Choir Director*

## Our Choir



*Do you have a musical talent? It doesn't have to be vocal. Do you play drums, the guitar, a horn or reed instrument, piano or organ? Come, let us worship and make a joyful noise to the Lord together!*

*Music preparation is at 5:30 p.m. every Wednesday.*

Rip Van Winkle, Soloist & Elder



**Monte Shuck, Recent Soloist and member of the Carol/Monte Shuck vocal team.**

# Christmas at the Presbyterian Church of Salado- Dec. 2013



## The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and princes are home,  
When the shepherds are back with their flock,



## The work of Christmas begins;

To find the lost,  
To heal the broken,  
To feed the hungry,  
To release the prisoner,  
To rebuild the nations,  
To bring peace among brothers,  
To make music in the heart.

