



The Messenger

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

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

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

Last year our session chose as the theme for 2013, Spiritual Growth, for both our church and ourselves. This year the session picked "ARE YOU READY?"

"Are you ready?" I guess the immediate thought when you hear this term is that we are talking about the Second Coming of Christ, but we're not. No, in our focus on Living Life in 2014, I want to ask the question: Are you ready to really walk closer with Jesus? Are you ready to let your personal life reflect what God expects of you, as you serve Him? Are you ready to share God's love with a hurting world?

Jesus said to us as His followers. We've got to be different. He said that "if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!" We need to reexamine how our church, and how we, can become this new creation. We are setting this direction not because we are doing anything wrong, but because we want to see what we can do better. Are we missing opportunities to better serve the Lord?



So the question is: **Are you ready?** To live a righteous lifestyle; to have an evangelical, evangelistic passion; to walk an authentic Christian Walk; to love our neighbor; and to serve the Lord with all our heart, mind soul and strength? This is a big challenge for us in 2014.

There is no more important task than Evangelism: sharing the Gospel and the Good News of the Saving Grace of Jesus Christ. Are you ready to do that?

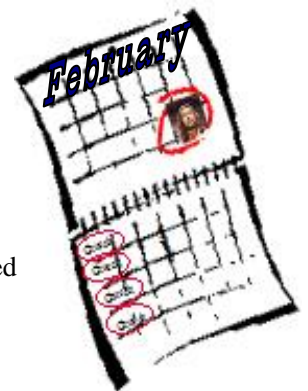
Continued on page 2



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** - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 A.M.
- **Tuesdays** - Games/ Fellowship at 10 A.M.
- **Feb 2** - Communion Sunday
- **Feb 4** - After Games - High Noon Lunch – Everyone invited
- **Feb 13** - Church Social at 6:00PM (Food and BINGO)
- **Feb 23** - Social Hour after Worship
- **March 5** - Ash Wednesday Service
- **April 20** - Easter Sunday



Carl's Comments Continued....

Are we willing to cast a line and become fishermen for Christ?

We as a congregation and as individuals are doing so many things right. Every time we have visitors they tell me there is a sweet, sweet spirit in this place. That is a great reflection on all of you. So we are not in a fixing mode when we say "Are You Ready?", but trying to determine if there are ways to take our faith a step further in our spiritual commitments.

I am looking forward to 2014 as we together ask ourselves the question, **Am I Ready?**

God Bless You, *Carl*

*"Be ye fishers of men.
You catch 'em -
He'll clean 'em."*

When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.



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

	Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 2	Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 9	Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany—February 16	Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany—February 23
First Reading	Micah 6:1-8	Isaiah 58:1-9a [9b-12]	Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18
Psalm	Psalm 15	Psalm 112:1-9 [10]	Psalm 119:1-8	Psalm 119:33-40
Sec. Reading	1 Corinthians 1:18-31	1 Corinthians 2:1-16	1 Corinthians 3:1-9	1 Corinthians 3:10-23
Gospel	Matthew 5:1-12	Matthew 5:13-20	Matthew 5:21-37	Matthew 5:38-48

February Birthdays

Robert Harper	01
Barclay McCort	04
Ellen Staples	05
Cindy Pennington	08
Laquita Arner	19
Jim Ervi, Sr.	19
Carol Walls	28

THE MESSENGER

About our Members and Friends

The Engelke's - Please keep Donald; the children Adam, Jeffery, and Holly; grandchildren, Rylie, Joshua, and Kenzie; Dawne's mother Fran; Donald's brother Ronald; other family members; and the Salado Fire Department in your prayers as they adjust to the loss of Dawne.

Mable Page is having an undetermined difficulty with balance. She will be consulting with a neurosurgeon this week and likely have another Cat-Scan.

Jackie Payne is recovering well from her knee replacement surgery on January 7th. However the loss of a very close brother (Carl Northcutt from LaPorte) on January 8th has been difficult.

Bill and Jane Carl were special visitors on 1/26. Bill is Evelyn's sister, a Presbyterian minister, and president of Pittsburgh Seminary. Pray for them and all the Presbyterian Seminaries.



When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you!

Favorite Verses - Dawne Engelke - (3/6/66 - 1/19/2014)

Dawne Engelke, age 47, died Sunday, January 19, at her home in the presence of her husband and children. She was a woman of faith. She had a tremendous faith in her Lord and God. These scriptures were chosen to begin the service and symbolize her relationship with God.

Psalm 23

1 *The Lord is my shepherd; I have all that I need.*

2 *He lets me rest in green meadows; he leads me beside peaceful streams.*

3 *He renews my strength. He guides me along right paths, bringing honor to his name.*

4 *Even when I walk through the darkest valley, I will not be afraid, for you are close beside me. Your rod and your staff protect and comfort me.*

5 *You prepare a feast for me in the presence of my enemies. You honor me by anointing my head with oil. My cup overflows with blessings.*

6 *Surely your goodness and unfailing love will pursue me all the days of my life, and I will live in the house of the Lord forever.*

John 14:1-7

1 *"Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. 2 There is more than enough room in*

my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? 3 When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. 4 And you know the way to where I am going."

5 *"No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?"*

6 *Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. 7 If you had really known me, you would know who my Father is. From now on, you do know him and have seen him!"*

Rom 8:31-39

31 *What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?*

32 *Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? 33 Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. 34 Who then will condemn us? No one—for*

Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of

honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

35 *Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death? 36 (As the Scriptures say, "For your sake we are killed every day; we are being slaughtered like sheep.") 37 No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.*

38 *And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. 39 No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.*



Highlights from Session (1/19) and Congregational (1/26) Meetings

Selected Highlights from the Session and Congregational Meetings on January

Pastor's Report – Carl has agreed to supervise a student from the Austin Theological Seminary as part of the **“Practice in Ministry” Project** of Presbyterian seminaries. Our church will have a fulltime intern for ten weeks during the summer of 2014. Session approved \$2,500 for her stipend, and committed their time as assistants. Carl will be contacting several members to give of their time and expertise in making this a valuable learning project for our intern and our church. Please prayerfully consider your role.



Treasurer's Report – Mike presented the 2013 End-of-Year Finances and the 2014 Budget. Our congregation has always met the financial needs of our church and we plan to continue the goal of giving 25-30% of offerings to charitable causes.



Clerk's Report - Bev reported there are 74 active and 5 baptized members. Changes in 2013 were Ethel Jones' transfer to Plymouth, MN, and three people, Betty Morgan, and Carl and Renita Menyhert, who joined our congregation. Welcome!

Special Thanks - to Eddie Tindell, Walt's brother, for again donating the poinsettias.

Worship - Walt Tindell still needs folks to sign up to be greeters and Liturgists for 2014. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex.



Finance/Personnel – Cindy Pennington received the approved Pastor's 2014 Contract from the Committee on Ministry of Grace Presbytery. At the Annual Meeting, members elected to the **2014 Nominating Committee members** were Cindy as chairman, and Evelyn Thompson and John Booher as members.



Communications – Pete Stebbins presented ideas for creating a “Men's Prayer Breakfast” at our church. Session supported his proposal enthusiastically (see below article). The Messenger and Web-site efforts continue.

Education – In 2014, we plan to study the needs and feasibility of a children's Sunday school. If you have an interest, please contact Nancy.



Fellowship and Outreach – Laquita and Nancy thanked their committee and the entire congregation for their generous support of the social programs and the “casserole brigade”. Laquita also sends out a huge **“Thank You”** for all who helped serve some 130 family/friends/firemen (F³) at the funeral.

Building/Grounds – Jim Walls rightly said **B&G is a “committee of ghosts.”** He thanked the many members and friends of this church who have quietly contributed to the maintenance of our building and grounds.



Speaking of **ghosts**, please take time to thank our pastor and session members for their time and effort to attend the Presbytery meetings this year in Richardson and Dallas.

NEW - Men's Prayer Breakfast - Tuesdays at 8:00 to 9:00 AM - Pete Stebbins

This is a unique Men's Ministry. It focuses on love. God loves us and we desire to reciprocate this love toward God and “our neighbors”. This love is developed as the men pray for family, friends, acquaintances, unknowns, or even enemies.

Answered prayers are one of the ways we increase our faith in our loving God. Scripture confirms that men who unite in prayer, grow in their faith, love, and understanding of God. Men have grown up thinking that they are in control, this prayer group will help them understand “Who Really Is”.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Matthew 22:36-39 “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?” 37 Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.” [a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: “Love your neighbor as yourself.”

Rev. Carl Thompson will not lead this ministry but will instead be a participant and councilor to the group.

Christian Studies will take about half of our allotted time each week. To grow as Christians, we need to devote time to His Word and outstanding studies concerning His Word. This time is informal and not a lecture but a discussion where men with questions/ ideas can share.

Over the last 15 years while I have attended this type of Men's Group, I have observed:

- Prayers answered
- Spiritual Growth of each man
- Development of strong bonds
- Increased maturity as Christians
- The Development of male Role Models
- Increased comfort in praying “out loud”



Join us Tuesdays - food for the body and soul!

The Presbyterian Church of Salado ~ January - 2014



Rip VanWinkle and Walt Tindell are installed as Elders, Class of 2016, while Rip is Ordained as an Elder 1/12/14



Taking Down of the Greens after Epiphany 1/7/14



Sister and Brother

Hostesses:

- Letta Meinen
- Gidget Todd
- Bobbie Dickerson



January 26 Social



The Games Continue!

Game Day continues each Tuesday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the church's adult 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). lmeinen@vvm.com. Someone will be happy to pick you up. Please join us in 2014 for this fellowship.

