



The Messenger

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

CHURCH OFFICE:
105 SALADO PLAZA
DRIVE - P.O. BOX 865
(254) 947-8106
PRESBY999@EMBARQMAIL.COM

WEBSITE:
PRESBSALADO.ORG

PASTOR:
REV. CARL THOMPSON
1602 BOWEN AVE.
COPPERAS COVE, TX
HOME (254) 518-4555
CELL (254) 702-4119
CTHOMP106@AOL.COM

MINISTERS:
THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:
BEV JONES - CLERK
RIP VAN WINKLE
LAQUITA ARNER
CINDY PENNINGTON
WALT TINDELL
NANCY HEALEY
JIM WALLS
PETE STEBBINS

TREASURER:
MIKE MOORE

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTOR:
JEAN TEAL

MESSENGER EDITOR:
PETE STEBBINS
(254) 231-4883
PETE44@VVM.COM

* 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

"Jesus said ... 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die'"

This last Sunday as we drove over to Salado to worship we saw all the sights that spring, the season of new life, was on its way. The blue-bonnets were popping up along the highway. New calves were seen with their mothers in the fields. The grass was turning green again. Life was beginning all over again.



Many Christians use the weeks leading up to Easter Sunday, called the season of **Lent**, to focus their thoughts on Jesus through prayer, Bible reading, repentance, and acts of service. All of us face life's challenges daily, and at times we become discouraged. We thank God that we also have cause to celebrate moments of special blessings. There is joy beyond comparison in being a Christian. Henry Ward Beecher once said, "The strength and the happiness of a person consists in finding out the way in which God is going, and going in that way too."

We are all on a journey, an exciting journey, a journey to find our way of walking closer with God. **Why?** Why do we have this inward desire to be closer to God? Last Sunday our worship service was centered on music and it was a great service. I want to thank all those who used their God given talents to make that service possible. Music can help answer the **why** questions.

We are on this spiritual journey because we realize that in the turmoil of life we need the assurance that God really cares for us. We need to hear the words of those old and new hymns once again:

"When peace like a river attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot,
Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well, with my soul."



To 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.
- **April 1** - After Games - High Noon Lunch – Everyone invited
- **April 6** - Communion Sunday and Session Meeting after Church
- **April 13** - Palm Sunday
- **April 17** - Maundy Thursday Communion (light food) 6:00 PM
- **April 20** - Easter Sunday
- **April 27** - Social after Worship and Milton Kattner Spring Golf Scramble @ 1:00 PM



Carl's Comments *Continued.....*

“God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
 He came to love, heal and forgive;
 He lived and died to buy my pardon,
 An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!
 Because He lives, I can face tomorrow,
 Because He lives, all fear is gone;
 Because I know He holds the future,
 And life is worth the living, Just because He lives!”



This is what Easter is all about. This is *why* we believe. This is *why* we celebrate Easter.

Microsoft's Windows operating system for PCs has a wonderful feature called "system restore". How does it work? Suppose you suffer a system crash on your computer this week.

You're not a computer expert, and you don't know how to recover the information you entered into your computer. Now, it is gone and you're in a state of complete panic.

What are you going to do? All you have to do is select "system restore" and specify the date to which you want your machine reset. Voila! Problem solved. All the things you somehow messed up are put back in their configuration as of that earlier date.

We have that feature for our human lives? It's called Easter. Maybe you can remember the day when things crashed for you and you'd give anything you own to restore things to the way they were. God won't erase all the consequences of our actions, but he promises things far better, to forgive us.

What Windows calls "system restore" we call Easter, God redemption. Isn't that a good reason to rejoice? Through Easter, God restored us to a right relationship with Him. That is the best news that we will ever hear.

God Bless You. *Carl*

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

	Fifth Sunday in Lent - April 6	Palm Sunday April 13	Maundy Thursday - April 17	Good Friday - April 18	Easter Sunday - April 20	Second Sunday of Easter - April 27
1st Reading	Ezekiel 37:1-4	Is 50:4-9a	Ex. 12:1-4, 11-14	Isa 52:13-53:12	Jeremiah 31:1-6	Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm	Psalm 130	Psalm 31:9-16	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	Psalm 22	Ps. 118:1-2,14-24	Psalm 16
Sec. Reading	Romans 8:6-11	Phil 2:5-11	1 Cor 11:23-26	Hebrews 10:16-25	Acts 10:34-43	1 Peter 1:3-9
Gospel	John 11:1-45	Matthew 26:14-27:66	John 13:1-17,31-35	John 18:1-19:42	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31

About our Members and Friends

Walt Tindell is recovering well from his heart attack and triple bypass surgery.

Barbara Tindell had the second of three reconstructive surgeries on March 28th. She is doing well and only has one more.

Molly Hatchell will be with us on Sunday, April 6, to attend the session meeting. Molly will be our seminary intern for 10 weeks this summer. Her husband, Mike, is still recovering at home from an aggressive bacterial infection. We are looking forward to her in our church.

Melba Kattner had a good report from her doctor. The multiple myeloma has been well controlled with treatment.

Ashley Jones, Bev Jones' son, has been dealing with inflammation of the liver for a number of months. He has improved but the long term results are yet undetermined.

Mable Page has been feeling better and is able to come back to Sunday school and worship. Special thanks to Joan and Chine Ray for their courier service from Temple.

Letta Meinen has been afflicted with shingles. There has been some improvement each day, but it is slow. She wants to thank everyone for their prayers and concerns during her siege with shingles. She also wants to encourage all to have the shingles shot so you do not need to endure a similar ordeal.

Ellen Staples would appreciate prayers for her sister, Anita Johnston. Her husband, Jim, passed away last week after his cancer migrated to his liver and he had a stroke. Since they have no children, and he had no family, Anita is alone through this in Washington State. Ellen would like to be with her sister during this time of grief but needs to care for Stan. A praise is that Anita has been blessed to have two friends (angels) that have been helping her.

Teresa Tolbert has moved back to our area and is worshipping with us again. Her new address is 4312 S. 31st Street Apt #22, Temple, TX 76502 and phone is 254-913-5920.

Bob and Gidget Todd have been traveling, for all you who have been inquiring. It will be good to have them home.

April Birthdays

Chelsea	Ervi	06
Bobby	Dickerson	09
Luke	Arner	19



Maunder Thursday Service

- ⇒ April 17 @ 6:00 PM
- ⇒ Brief Service
- ⇒ A Disciple Type Meal (Bread, cheese, grapes...)
- ⇒ Communion Served

Survival of the Christian Church

John Booher and Pete Stebbins participated in a Training Session put on by Peter Steinke from 9 to 4 on Saturday, 3/30, at the First Presbyterian Church of Belton with other area small churches.

The purpose of the seminar, *New Visions*, was to get churches out of survival mode and return to the original mission of the Christian church, as defined in the Bible.

The session outlined how the American church got where it is, (once the dominant culture in America but no longer) to where it is now (on the edge of society looking in), struggling with secularization and the concept of too much information and change to process it all properly. Some 3000 to 3500 churches will close in America this year. In the 18 to 39 year old age group, only 29% are affiliated with a church. Christianity in the US is in decline. Somewhere around 300 church buildings are currently for sale here in Texas.



John Booher, Peter Steinke, and Pete Stebbins

Changes will be required! Concerning change, a key premise was presented: Churches resist change least, when it involves mission and when that mission is grounded in hope.

John and Pete will share what they learned in the seminar with others here at the church as a Vision for our future is created. More about these information transfer sessions will be forthcoming. If you are interested in participating in this process, let John or Pete know (947-0585 or 231-4883).

Favorite Verse - Jean Teal

Romans 8:35, 37-39 *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord.



Jean remembers growing up with bomb drills in school. It was a time when the government initiated siren warnings and practice routines for adults and children to rapidly seek shelter when an imminent threat of an atomic bomb seemed likely. Parents and children were "scared to death", and it was troubling, as a youngster, to feel safe.

Jean said, "One night, I was reading my Bible, and came to these verses in Romans 8. Right then, I decided that everything will be OK. If God loves me and Christ loves me, I never have to be afraid." These verses have been a great comfort in many of life's experiences. Truly, God loves us, each and everyone.

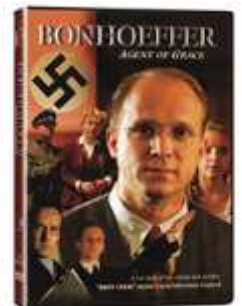
Adult Bible Class

The class will continue studying Easter from the Backside through Easter Sunday, April 20. On April 27, we will have an "Ask your Pastor" session. If you have really tough questions, you may write them out and give them to Carl ahead of time, although that is not required.

We will be studying the life and writings of Bonhoeffer the four Sundays in May. This will be a DVD-based study, filmed on location in Germany.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. Coffee is served and the fellowship is great. See you there.

Shirley Pinkston



Ash Wed - 3/5/2014



A short Service

Ash Wednesday, is the first day of Lent and occurs 46 days before Easter. It is a moveable fast, falling on a different date each year because it is dependent on the date of Easter. It can occur as early as February 4 or as late as March 10.



Light Lunch



Work behind the scenes



Men's Prayer Breakfast



The Men's Prayer Breakfast is held each Tuesday. The breakfast part starts at about 7:45 AM with the prayers starting at 8:00. We conclude before 9:00. All men of the church (and other churches) are invited to attend.

The Men's Prayer Breakfast is averaging 12 men per week for the first 2 months. We start with a breakfast, take prayer requests, pray, and conduct a brief study.

Some of the study topics have been:

- Prayer - What the Bible Says
- Grief and dealing with the Grieving Christian
- The Good Life
- Care and Nurturing of your Pastor
- Praying for your Enemies
- Survival of Christianity in America

Be sure to let us know of your requests so we can bring them to God.

Fifth Sunday (and Social) — 3/30/2014

A Joyful Noise *Something old *Something new
*All of it Borrowed *And all of it True



“Face to Face”
Adva Volle and
Shirley Pinkston



“The Lighthouse”
Monte Shuck



“Hide Me, Rock of Ages” Jean Teal, Rip VanWinkle,
Monte Shuck, and Carol Shuck



**“Somebody Bigger
Than You and I”**
Jennette West



“Peace in the Valley”
Rip VanWinkle



**Can't
have a
social
without
food!**



TACO SALAD from Gidget Todd

- About 1 head of lettuce
- 1 lb hamburger, drained and cooled
- 1 avocado
- 1 can Bush's chili beans
- About 1/2 tsp chili powder

Mix above ingredients....Then before serving, add:

- Tomato, if you have a good one
- Extra sharp cheese, if you like...
- KRAFT CREAMY ITALIAN DRESSING (make sure you use this)
- About 1/2 of a 7-1/2 oz bag of Doritos nacho cheese tortilla chips, crumbled up and save some chips to top the Taco Salad