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

The Messenger

(JANUARY 2015)

A Christmas Prayer from Missie Lanham

Rev. Carl Thompson is preparing for a shoulder surgery on Wednesday, Dec. 31. It was thought that we might give him a little break from writing the monthly Messenger article as we include this Missie Lanham prayer. She offered this at prayer time last Sunday.



Lord God,

We celebrate you, and your coming to us in the person of your son, Jesus. During this Christmas Tide, help us to grow in our understanding of just what this means. Be present in each moment as we go about our daily tasks. Help us to remember that you are present calling us even as we call your name.

As we gather together, listen to the concerns that each of us has, and bless and make whole those whose names and needs have been mentioned in this *Messenger*.

Lord, we pray for our nation and all of its leaders. Lead them in the decision making process of our democracy. We pray that you keep our nation in your care.

Help us to listen to your voice and lead us as we pray and remember the hungry, the sick, the grieving, and all your people who may feel alone this day. Touch them with your Holy Spirit. Bring them all that they need. And God, make us aware of your voice when you speak to us and show us what each of us can do to help someone.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen

Calendar of Events

**Worship Services at 10:00 AM with
Adult Sunday School @ 9:00 AM**

- **Tuesdays** - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 A.M.
- **Tuesdays** - Games/ Fellowship at 10 A.M.
- **Wednesdays** - Choir Practice @ 5:30 PM
- **Jan. 4** - Communion Sunday (Molly Hatchell to preach)
- **Jan. 4** - "**De-Greening**" of the Church (Stay for 20 min. to help)
- **Jan. 11** - Installation of new Elders during the service
- **Jan. 11** - Session meeting after the service
- **Jan. 25** - Church Social after the Service



God at Work - the North Pole



This is the sunset at the North Pole with the moon at its closest point last week. You also see the sun below the moon.

A New Year's Prayer 2015

*Dear Lord,
please give me..*

*A few friends who understand me
And yet remain my friends.*

*A work to do which has value,
Without which the world
Would feel poorer....*

*A mind unafraid to travel,
Even though the trail be not blazed,
An understanding heart...*

*A sense of humor,
Time for quiet, silent meditation,
A feeling of the presence of God.
And the patience to wait....*

*For the coming of these things,
With the wisdom to know them when
they come!*

By W.R. Hunt

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

	January 4, 2015 Christmas 2	January 11, 2015 The Baptism of our Lord	January 18, 2015 Second Sunday of Epiphany	January 25, 2015 Third Sunday of Epiphany
First Reading	1 Kings 3:4-15	Gen. 1:1-5	1 Sam. 3:1-10 (11-20)	Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm	Psalm 119: 97-104	Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-10	Psalm 62
Sec. Reading	Eph. 1:3-14	Rom. 6:1-11	1 Cor. 6:12-20	1 Cor. 7:29-31 (32-35)
Gospel	Luke 2:40-52	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20

January Birthdays

Jackie	Payne	4
Anita	Johnson	5
Chine	Ray	8
Missie	Lanham	12
John	Pettijohn	18
Jim	Arner	23
Sharon	Van Winkle	29

THE MESSENGER

About our Members and Friends

Pastor Carl Thompson will have surgery on Wed. 12/31 to repair his ailing shoulder. Please pray that he has a very effective surgery, no complications, effective physical therapy, and rapid healing!

Jack Cooper had brain surgery on May 27th to remove a tumor. He has concluded radiation therapy and continues with chemotherapy. He is having some difficulties dealing with the oral chemo this time around.

Tommie Thompson has had his second major back surgery at Methodist

Hospital in San Antonio on Dec. 9th. This was successful and after a stay in the hospital and rehab facility, is now home. He is having some issues with his feet which is slowing his physical therapy. Tommy and Dawn (512-653-6834) need our continued prayers.

Martha Harper has been dealing with flu symptoms and spent some time in the hospital just prior to Christmas.

Continue to pray for our Nation's Leaders that they would follow God and resist the many temptations of DC.

Thanks to Laquita and Jim!

Please extend your thanks to Laquita Arner and Jim Walls for their contributions to the session over the past



three years as they conclude their current terms of service. Since January 2012, Laquita has served as chair of the fellowship committee and Jim has served as chair of building & grounds.



Ordination of John Booher (Class of 2017) and installation of John, Nancy Healey (2017), Barclay McCort (2015), and Chine Ray (2017) is scheduled for January 11. Please continue to keep the work of the session in your prayers.



Corrections to the 12/10/2014 Presbyterian Church of Salado Roster:

- Mable Page is using her home address: 3210 Poplar Temple, TX 76502
- Ashley Simon's Cell Phone is 443-956-9038

Some One-liners

Opportunity may knock once,
But temptation bangs on the front door forever.

God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. So why should you?

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

Men's Prayer Breakfast

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



The Men's Prayer Breakfast is averaging 10 men per week for the first 12 months. As we move into 2015 we would like to expand the size of the group.

Favorite Bible Verse - Jerry Schleicher

When asked to submit one of my favorite Bible verses to the Messenger, it took me awhile, as several of mine had already been referenced. I finally settled on something from my childhood, the 23rd Psalm. While its six verses make it one of the shorter psalms, it is crisp and concise, yet essentially covers the gamut of our emotional states: from fear and sorrow through pleasure, thankfulness, praise and adoration.



"The LORD is my shepherd ... and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever."

It reminds us of our relationship to our God and Savior.

Psalm 23 (KJV)

- 1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.*
- 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.*
- 3 He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.*
- 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
- 5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.*
- 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

I think David got it right!

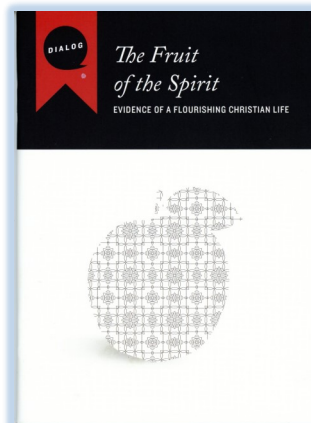
Adult Education News - Shirley Pinkston

Galatians 5: 19-21 records the consequences of a life of sin. Immediately after this list in verses 22-23, Paul lists the results of living a life lived in response to God. This list is called the fruit of the spirit and contains nine items: love, joy, peace, patience, goodness, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

You are invited to join the Adult Bible Class as we begin our study The Fruit of the Spirit: Evidence of a Flourishing Christian Life on January 4th.

We will explore the context and original meanings of the nine words and discuss practical applications for our lives. Books are available and the coffee and cookies will be ready.

Please don't miss this opportunity for spiritual growth. The class will begin at 9:00 AM each Sunday morning.



Health Issues - A Story By Letta Meinen

I do not talk much about my health issues, but many of you know about the shingles episode that turned into Neuralgia. This condition still exists but is improving every day. However, this summer I had another condition concerning my breathing and energy level, so I went to the Salado Clinic. I prayed about the situation and an effective solution.



They gave me a battery of tests and decided it had to do with my heart. They sent me to a heart specialist, Dr. Anderson, at Scott and White. Again, I received a similar group of tests and he concurred that the left side of my heart was weak plus I had a slow heartbeat. He recommended medication for high blood pressure. Dr. Anderson also alerted me to the fact that I could be ripe for a pacemaker. I was given lots of material to read and he said to come back in three

months. I continued to pray for peace, guidance, and healing.

I thought this could not be serious, since I was to come back in three months, but faithfully took the recommended medication. I began to feel better and continued in my regular activities. I did not even remember the November meeting until they reminded me. This time, after listening to my heart he said he thought the pacemaker would help. Dr. Anderson made arrangements with a surgical specialist, Dr. Black. My appointment with Dr. Black was for December 18th.

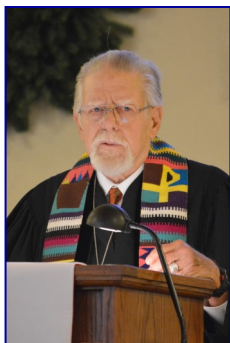
I was notified that I would need another ECHO test, so they set up an appointment for me on Wednesday, December 3rd. This test lasted over 45 minutes and the technician looked at my heart from all angles. I was fascinated as I was watching my own heart beat on that screen. I had never been in the hospital or had any surgery, so this was a new experience. I continued to pray for resolution.

On Thursday afternoon December 4th, I got a call from Dr. Anderson's office and she said she had good news! I was surprised, as she seemed so upbeat and I answered "What?" She said the doctors had reviewed the ECHO heart test and it had improved. I would not need a pacemaker after all! I was in shock and said "What?" again. She said it is true and we have cancelled your appointment with Dr. Black on the 18th.

All I could say was "Thank You - Thank You". It was amazing for the heart to show enough improvement to cause the cancellation of this surgery. The doctors can't explain what happened, but I'm sure that the Lord knows all about it – as He answers prayers.

I had just emailed my whole family about my health issue and the pacemaker operation. My daughter was going to come and stay with me. Plans were set. Now, I needed to send another email immediately concerning the good news. It amused me at some of their email responses. My daughter said "Your guardian angel is still looking out for you!" One grandson replied, "Bionic Grandma" which made me laugh. My son wrote back, "You will make 100 for sure."

"What to Wear? What to Wear?"



Rev. Dr. Sam
Lanham

Rev. Dr. Sam Lanham gave the sermon on 12/28 while Carl was on vacation. He discussed the difficult Matt 22:11-13 text.

11 "But when the king came in to meet the guests, he noticed a man who wasn't wearing the proper clothes for a wedding. 12 'Friend,' he asked, 'how is it that you are here without wedding clothes?' But the man had no reply. 13 Then the king said to his aides, 'Bind his hands and feet and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

The difficult issue is "Do we choose God? Or does God choose us?" The witness of Scripture is: Both! Our earthly human "wisdom" is that one or the other must be true. We can't be both the one who chooses and the one who is chosen. That is a paradox---an overlapping truth. In the life to come, we will understand

the overlap of truth, the sky will clear, the answer to the riddle will be apparent, and what an experience it will be!

Meanwhile, in faith we affirm the paradox: We are chosen, and we choose. In faith we choose God's love and grace, and having done so, we discover that it was *by God's love and grace* we were led to choose! In the words of an anonymous hymn from 1880:

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
He moved my soul to seek Him seeking me;
It was not I, who found, O Saviour true;

No, I was found by Thee.
Thou didst reach forth Thy hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea;
'Twas not so much that I on Thee took hold
As Thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but on the whole
Of love is but my answer, Lord, to Thee!
For Thou wert long beforehand with my soul;
Always Thou lovest me.

The Year 2014 in Review



**The Loss of
Dawne Engelke
on 1/19/14**



**Molly Hatchell
spends the Summer
with us as an Intern
and teaches a
Women's Bible
Class**



**Rip VanWinkle and
Walt Tindell are in-
stalled as Elders (Jan.)**



**Joyce Goza is a
New Member
(July)**



**Anita Johnston
is a New Mem-
ber (July)**



**Milton Kattner Golf
Scrambles (April & Sept)
The Loss of Milton 8/14/14**



**Adva and Bob Volle move closer to
family in CT (May)**

One of Many Monthly Socials



Bingo Night (Feb)



**Claire Hartman
is a new member**



**Our friend John
Schahn passes
2/15/14**

**The Tuesday AM
Men's Prayer
Breakfast Begins**



**The
Apostle
Paul
Pre-
sents
Philip-
pians
(Aug)**



**Bev Jones moves
to NC in May**

**Milton Kattner
Golf Scrambles
(April & Sept)**

