



The Messenger

2016 THEME: "REJOICE"
(SEPTEMBER 2016)

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JOHN BOOHER -
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Personnel
LAQUITA ARNER -
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NANCY HEALEY -
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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR NEXT
MONTH'S PUBLICA-
TION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

This August, Evelyn, my brother, and I made a trip back to Ohio where my brother and I grew up. We made the trip for two very distinct reasons. I would like to share the experience with you. The trip was not an epiphany event (an aha moment), but yet very eye opening for me.

The first and most important reason for going home was to keep a promise I made to my mother and dad. Eleven years ago my dad asked me to take his and my mother's ashes back to Ohio, where they lived most of their lives (home). My dad only lived in Texas for four years before he died and wanted his ashes to be spread at a lake where he and mom enjoyed time together.

So it was now time for me to keep my promise to dad and take their ashes back to Ohio. It was just ashes, all that remained of their physical bodies, but still an earthly tie to mom and dad. Their ashes were a physical reminder of them and what they meant to me. They brought back memories of times gone by - now it was time to take them home.



Evelyn, Don, and I took the ashes to the lake, where we spread them in a very beautiful, secluded place and said Good-Bye. It was an emotional event for me, even though I knew they were just ashes, not mom and dad. As I walked away, I reflected on the Hope we Christians have because of the resurrection. I was not saying Good-Bye but, *Until We Meet Again*.

Our faith gives us hope that when our physical body is gone, we have a spiritual body alive with Christ. Because of God's love and forgiveness, we have the assurance that we will see each other again. How dark it must be for those who lose a loved one, when they do not have the hope of the resurrection. We have that hope, so I left the lake sad, but with the knowledge that mom and dad were together again and at peace with God, knowing I would see them again.

[Continued on Page 2](#)

Calendar of Events

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 AM (Starting 9/11)

Worship Services at 10:00 AM

- **Tuesdays** - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 A.M.
- **Wednesdays** - Choir Practice at 5:30 P.M.
- **Sept. 4** - Communion Sunday
- **Sept. 8** - "Back to School" dinner at 6:00 PM on Thursday
- **Sept. 11** - Session Meeting after Worship (all are invited)
- **Sept. 18** - Theological Education Sunday
- **Sept. 25** - Social after the Worship Service (A Spaghetti Lunch)



Carl continued...

Second, I went back to attend my Fiftieth High School Reunion. I had not seen most of my classmates since I graduated from High school. Oh what a sight it was when we gathered together that night. I could not recognize most of them, even the ones I knew well in school.

1966 50th 2016

As I walked around trying to read name tags, a revelation came to me, my classmates were old! Not me, I still see myself the way I was in the past. My mind still thinks I am in my 30's but my body knows the truth.

My eyes were opened to reality that night.

We were no longer having the same type of conversations we had 50 years earlier. It was not about who we were dating, what we would be doing after graduation or what we wanted to get out of life. It was about health and how many operations we have had, about opportunities missed or grandchildren. I am sorry to say some have become sad, angry, miserable people.

The reality of 50 years gone by really struck home, when I saw a memorial quilt. It had the names of the known members of the class that had died. There were just too many names on it already. I was quickly reminded of my mortality. Where have all the years gone. I realized that I am now in my twilight years.

As I look back over the years, I thank God for the Blessings in my life. God Is Good All The Time. There have been times in my life where, I wish I would have done somethings a little bit better. But overall life has been good. I hope it has been that way for you in your lives.

Thank God for your Blessings and don't take them for granted. Enjoy your life, your family, your friends. Do those things on your bucket list. And when things don't go the way you planned, just remember the words from the Gaither's song;

“Because He lives I can face tomorrow,
because He lives all fear is gone,
because I know who holds the future,
life is worth the living just because He lives.”

God Bless You. *Carl*

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

	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 4	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 11	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 18	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost — Sept. 25
1st Reading	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Jeremiah 8:19-9:1	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalm 14	Psalm 79:1-9	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
2nd Reading	Philemon 1:1-21	1 Timothy 1:12-17	1 Timothy 2:1-7	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33	Luke 15:1-10	Luke 16:1-13	Luke 16:19-31

September Birthdays



Macy	Simon	1
Greg	Faber	3
Haley	Duque	7
J.C.	Pennington	12
Jack	Googans	15
Ginny	McCracken	22
Shirley	Left	25
Darlene	Robison	25
Donald	Engelke	26
Pete	Stebbins	26

About our Members

Michael and Nancy Kelsey went back to MD Anderson on August 28 for tests. The results showed a return of cancer in both. Mike hopes to be included a trial for a new drug in mid-September. Nancy will begin a new medication that has shown very promising results. They will be spending much time in Houston for a while. Please continue your prayers for this family as they go through these difficult trials.

Bev Jones - please know that I miss all my church family in Salado. I am very glad to have a warm and welcoming new church family here on the Outer Banks (NC) and yes, I am getting involved as I can. My own family needs me more now,

so I do less at church, but we have a few children in Sunday School and now four little people in the nursery. It's great fun to be part of their early church experience. All my best to the Salado Presbyterian Church family.

Our Church Choir is beginning a new season. Under the direction of Monte and Carol Shuck the choir has taken on new music, solos, duets, trios, instruments and roles in the service. Now they are excited about some new “stuff” (it’s a secret, so it cannot be reviled yet - but soon). This is going to be a really special time for the choir. Its not to late to join. Choir practice is on Wednesdays at 5:30.

Church-Wide Dinner

On September 8 at 6:00 p.m. at the church, we will have our annual "Back to School" dinner sponsored by the Adult Bible Class.

This is a great time of fellowship and food, when we mark the end of the Summer vacation season and celebrate a return to our regular schedule. Please sign up to bring a dish on the sign-up sheet provided and include your phone number by your name.

I'm looking forward to seeing you. Please come
Shirley Pinkston



Theological Education Sunday

On Theological Education Sunday (Sept. 18th) congregations across the country will be celebrating the contributions of Presbyterian seminaries and the partnerships they enjoy. More than forty Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary faculty, staff, students, and alumni will be participating in this year's event as preachers and teachers at host churches. Our church will again participate in this program.

This annual event allows congregations the opportunity to celebrate the gift of strong, effective leaders of the church who graduate from Austin Seminary and reflect on the role they play in shaping the lives of those who have answered the call to become ministers.

More info will be provided as available.

Walt Tindell,
Worship Committee



Adult Bible Study

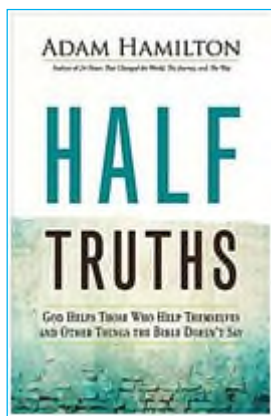
Can you pass this test?

True or false:

- ____ 1. Everything happens for a reason.
- ____ 2. God helps those who help themselves,
- ____ 3. God won't give you more than you can handle.
- ____ 4. God said it, I believe it, that settles it.
- ____ 5. Love the sinner, hate the sin.



If you answered "true" to all five, you're not alone. Adam Hamilton says these statements may contain some elements of truth, but compared to the wisdom found in scripture, they are just common Christian clichés. He calls them Half Truths, which is the title of our first series of lessons this year. The lessons include an 8 to 10-minute DVD segment. (Thanks to Pete and Zack Stebbins, everyone will be able to see the now elevated TV screen.)



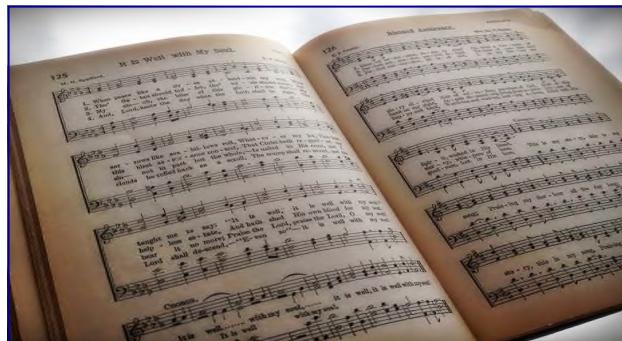
Please join us as we search the scriptures, discuss, and pray together September 11 at 9:00 a.m. Don't miss out on this learning and fellowship. Coffee is provided.

Shirley Pinkston

LARGE Print Hymnals

Our church has acquired some additional **LARGE print hymnals**. These hymnals have the words "Large Print Edition" at the top of the front cover. They do not have the musical score, but instead have only the words to the hymns in larger print!

The hymnals are the same size and color as the regular print hymnals. You will find these located on the round table by the entrance to the worship center. Some are also stacked on the back corner table as you enter the worship center.



A Day in the Life of a Christian

It seemed simple enough when I woke up this morning and said my first prayer of the day. "Lord, thank you for this beautiful morning. Thank you for all the blessings you give me. Please be with me today, in all that I do and say. Please let me be the person you want me to be and help me to do the things you have for me to do today, joyfully, and without complaining".

I had my day all planned out but several things happened in rapid succession and before too long I found myself feeling disgruntled, used, misused, and anything but the person I wanted to be. I went about doing the things that needed done and I didn't complain, not even to myself but it just wasn't enough.

The feeling lingered throughout the day and at one point, I found myself venting to a friend. Unburdening myself helped a little and yet, the feeling persisted, that unsettling feeling of not being enough, not for my friends, my family, and most assuredly not enough for God.

Late in the evening, Ralph and I went to get a bite to eat; and on the way home, we stopped to gas up the car. I was still feeling down and didn't pay much attention when I heard Ralph talking to somebody.

When he got back into the vehicle, he said that a man was asking for a few pennies. He told him that he didn't have any pennies and the man took off on his bike without hearing the rest of what Ralph was saying.

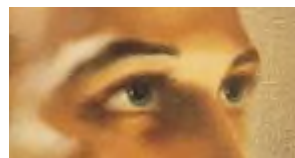
We saw the man riding his bicycle in the parking lot of the gas station across the street so Ralph pulled into the station and blew the horn to get his attention. As he approached the vehicle, Ralph pressed some bills into his hand.

The man started talking to Ralph like he was some long lost friend, about how his daughter was singing in Nashville, and then on to some nonsense about God's name being Howard and Jesus' nickname being Andy.

It was late. I was tired. I'd had a less than satisfying day. And I thought to myself that the poor man must be demented.

I heard him ask Ralph if he could share a poem with us. He started reciting a poem about God, something about just when you thought things couldn't get better, God sent some angels to help you.

I looked at the man really looked at him, for the first time. I saw a middle aged man with a gap toothed smile and found myself gazing into deep brown eyes, eyes which seemed to look right down into the depths of my soul. They seemed to me the kindest, most understanding eyes I had ever seen. And I thought to myself, "like looking into the eyes of Jesus". It was unsettling, to say the least.



He continued talking about God, looking directly at me and all at once, the real message became clear. And the message was for me.

It wasn't about me falling down. It was about God lifting me up. He had been right there with me all day, just like I asked him to be, just like he promised he always would be. He knew my struggles and heard my cries. His strength was manifest in my weakness.

Andy walks with me. Andy talks with me. Andy tells me I am his own. And Howard be his name forever. Amen.

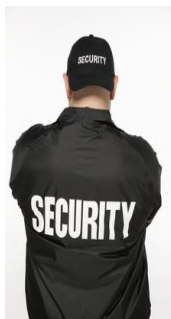
From a Merry Heart (Linda Lloyd)

Building and Grounds

The Security Plan has been fully implemented with the posting of Security Monitors (humans) within the church fellowship. More volunteers are need for this aspect of our security program. A standing sign-up sheet is available in the narthex for volunteers.

Chine Ray

THE MESSENGER



August Social and Anniversary Celebration



Watching the "Pete & Trish - 50 Beautiful Years" Video



Pete and Trish Stebbins celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 27th. On the 28th, the Stebbins' children provided a reception after our church service.



Zach, Katie, Kim, Herb, Pete, Trish, Ted, Heather, Tobey, Millie and Ben Stebbins