



The Messenger

THEME: "GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME"
(NOVEMBER 2017)

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

WEBSITE:
PRESBSALADO.ORG

PASTOR:
REV. CARL THOMPSON
CELL (254) 702-4119
CTHOMPS106@AOL.COM

MINISTERS:
THE CONGREGATION

SESSION MEMBERS:
SARA PETTIJOHN -
Clerk of Session
NANCY NORRIS -
Worship
JOYCE GOZA
Worship
JOHN BOOHER -
Education
CARL MENYHERT -
Personnel
LAQUITA ARNER -
Fellowship
NANCY HEALEY -
Benevolence
CHINE RAY -
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:
MIKE MOORE

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTORS:
MONTE & CAROL
SHUCK

MESSANGER EDITOR:
PETE STEBBINS
(254) 231-4883
PETE7744@ICLOUD.COM

* 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



The next two months are my favorite months. We celebrate three birthdays in our immediate family, plus Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. It is a wonderful time for me to reflect on all of my blessings: my family, my nation, and my God. So many times, we take our blessings for granted. I hope that you will take the time to reflect on your blessings as we celebrate Thanksgiving this year, even as many of you have, and are facing, challenging issues in your lives.

It is easy to get discouraged and lose hope in the midst of trials. When this happens remember that God never leaves us or forsakes us. When King David faced loss, trouble, and tribulation in his life, he used music to calm his troubled soul. He played and wrote music. This is where the book of Psalms comes from, they are a collection of David's writings as he dealt with both the joys and troubles in his life.

Take your time and read through them; they can bring peace to your soul. I also have a couple hymns that I like to listen to when I am facing issues in my life. They are my modern-day Psalms. One of them is the hymn, God On The Mountain. The first verse goes like this:



"Life is easy, when you're up on the mountain,
And you've got peace of mind, like you've never known,
But things change, when you're down in the valley,
Don't lose faith, for you're never alone,
For the God on the mountain, is the God in the valley
When things go wrong, He'll make them right,
And the God of the good times, Is still God in the bad times.
The God of the day is still God in the night."

This hymn draws me back to a basic Biblical truth that God is always with me, and that I need to just trust in God and allow God to carry the load. Evelyn and I have a phrase that we use a lot. Many years ago when we had a serious car accident and I spent some time in ICU, people would say to me, "you're really lucky that you are OK." Evelyn would always correct them by saying, "No, not lucky - we are blessed." That's the way we should look at all events in life, we are blessed.

Continued on Page 2

Calendar of Events

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 A.M.
Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 A.M.
Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 A.M.
Choir Practice Weds. at 5:30 P.M.
Chair Yoga Tuesdays & Thursdays

- Nov. 5 - Communion Sunday/
Daylight Savings - Fall Back
- Nov. 12 - Veterans Day Service / Cake
- Nov. 23 - Thanksgiving with your Families
- Nov. 26 - Hanging of the **Greens**
Soup and Desserts

2017 NOVEMBER						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Choir 5:30	2 Yoga 10:30	3	4
	6	7 Yoga 1 PM	8 Choir 5:30	9 Yoga 10:30	10	11
12 Veterans Tribute	13	14 Yoga 1 PM	15 Choir 5:30	16 Yoga 10:30	17	18
19	20	21 Yoga/ Choir 5:30	22		24	25
26 Special/ Hanging of Greens	27	28 Yoga 1 PM	29 Choir 5:30	30 Yoga 10:30		

Carl Continued..

When you are feeling down, sing this hymn over and over again in your head. It will bring calm to your soul. Or pick a hymn you like and use it to calm you. It worked for King David and it will work for you.

When upon life's billows you are tempest-tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Refrain:

Count your blessings, name them one by one,
Count your blessings, see what God has done!
Count your blessings, name them one by one,
*Count your many blessings, see what God has done.
*And it will surprise you what the Lord has done.

Are you ever burdened with a load of care
Does the cross seem heavy you are called to bear?
Count your many blessings, every doubt will fly,
And you will keep singing as the days go by. Refrain

So, amid the conflict whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.
Refrain

God Bless you. May you have a thankful Thanksgiving.
And every day -- Count Your Blessings. *Carl*



In celebrating "Pastor Appreciation Month", a donation is given to the Fisher House in Carl's nameand Evelyn is given a bouquet of flowers.

Centering Prayer Introductory Program

The two-day Centering Prayer Introductory Program was held on 10/19 & 20 and presented by Molly Hatchell.

Some 20 folks attended the sessions which helped them understand the Indwelling Presence of God and our intimate relationship with that Presence.

Key Verse: "Be still and know that I an God." Psalm 46:10



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

	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost — Nov 5	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost — Nov 12	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost — Nov 19	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost — Nov 26
1st Reading	Joshua 3:7-17	Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25	Judges 4:1-7	Ezekiel 34:11-116, 20-24
Psalm	Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37	Psalm 78:1-7	Psalm 123	Psalm 100
2nd Reading	1 Thes. 2:9-13	1 Thes. 4:13-18	1 Thes. 5:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23
Gospel	Matthew 23:1-12	Matthew 25:1-13	Matthew 25:14-30	Matthew 25:31-46

November Birthdays

Pat Hart	2
James Ray Ervi III	3
Renita Menghert	4
Pastor Carl Thompson	14
Rip Van Winkle	16
Annie Pekin	20
Mike Hart	28

About our Members

Anita Johnson is now home. She had a seizure and stopped breathing for several minutes on Sunday. She has had these before. Her heart is OK. They do not have a definitive answer to why this is happening. Pray that the doctors can determine the cause and start treatment.

Bob Todd's brother, Pastor Lee Todd, has been diagnosed with an aggressive cancer in a sinus cavity. He will begin chemo treatment this week. Pray for effectiveness.

Bob Norris is having extensive dental surgery this week. Pray for no complications, pain control, and a successful surgery.

Mary Jean Boston (**Ann Faber's** mother) fell in her bathroom and was diagnosed with 3 broken ribs, a fractured Thoracic 8 vertebra, plus blood

clots in the lung & right leg. She has been transferred to Park Place in Belton for skilled nursing. She is receiving physical therapy and they are working on pain management. Please pray for comfort and that God's will be done.

Pray for **Jeanette West's** son-in-law, Rob Peterman, who is recovering from having his appendix out. Since the test came back showing a self-contained cancer in the appendix, the specialists are deciding what treatment or surgery will be next.

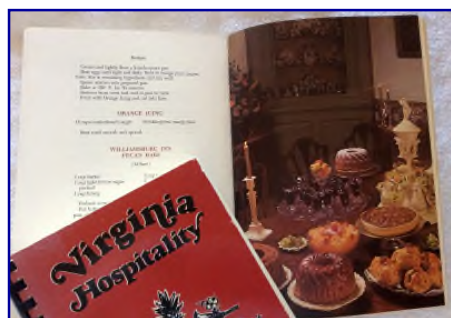
Jerry Schleicher has finally seen his cardiologist. A defibrillator is not required and blood counts are improving. He has been asked to wear a heart monitor again.

A Thanksgiving Full of Cousins by June Graybeal Lubowski



When I was a child if someone had asked me what I thought my greatest blessing was, I would have answered without hesitation, my cousins. On both sides of my family we had first cousins near our age, and my brother and I loved that we shared many good times with these special relatives.

Since Thanksgiving is coming up, I am particularly remembering the Thanksgivings spent with cousins at Riverview. Riverview is an active farm with a graceful antebellum home and lots of room for relatives to stay. It was the home of my mother's eldest sister and her husband and of course the cousins Helen, Jane and Robbie. My mother's parents would ride with us, and my brother and I were on our best behavior, excitement barely contained for the ninety mile car trip it took to reach our destination.



Arrival was always one of the best parts of the visit. My aunt would come running from the kitchen, my uncle from his desk and my cousins from various parts of the house. There were hugs and exclamations of joy, and oh, the smells from the kitchen -- fresh yeast bread, either rolls or Sally Lunn or sometimes both, and roasting turkey made your mouth water. The visuals of pies and cakes and cookies, and bowls of nuts were so tempting you would have to take one even if Auntie Billie had not said, "Have a cookie, dinner will be a little while."

Once the suitcases were carried to "the girl's" room, we girl cousins knew to report to the kitchen to "help." Mom and Grandma were there too, and if my Auntie Anita was there, she was arranging the autumn table decoration. Once she finished, then we started setting the table. Usually the cousins' table was in the kitchen, which we loved, and I'm certain the adults loved being separate from us just as much. When it was all ready, everyone would gather in the dining room and sing the blessing "For health and strength and daily food we praise Thy name oh Lord" as a round....depending on the number of relatives present it could be two or three groups. And the feeling of thankfulness and love were so strong, many of us had tears in our eyes at the four part harmony amen.

Then we went to our respective tables and the talking began. We shared so much back then, the older cousins telling the younger cousins about books and school, and the younger cousins feeling loved and cared for and oh so much wiser for the sage advice of these wonderful experienced beings!



Girl Cousins (Except Me - Taking Picture)

I am still very close to cousins today, again it is a blessing and something that I am most thankful for in my life. We have continued through the years encouraging and supporting each other, loving each other, and still sharing advice. We have lost a few from the group, and they can never be replaced, but in memory they are still with us and we speak thankfully of the time we had together, as it had influence and contributed to our joy. I would wish for everyone a Thanksgiving full of cousins and other relatives that share love and peace and joy along with dinner. My cousins nourish my spirit and make me strong.



Adult Bible Study Classes

This Fall we are our studying Adam Hamilton's newest book, Making Sense of the Bible: Rediscovering the Power of Scripture Today.

The topics have shifted to questions of interpreting the Bible such as:

- How literally should we read the Bible?
- Why is God so violent in the Old Testament?
- Is the Book of Revelations a guide to the end times?

Together we will study this book, watch the DVD lessons, and discuss the answers to these questions as well as many others relating to the Bible and its meaning.

I hope you will be present on Sunday mornings at 9:00 A.M., to add your thoughts and insights to our discussions.

**Coffee and
cookies
are served!**



Here are a list of the books that have been referenced during the class:

Making Sense of the Bible by Adam Hamilton *

Amazing Grace by Kathleen Norris *

The Mind of God by Dr. Jay Lombard

The Word of God and the Word of Men by Karl Barth

Christian Doctrine by Shirley Guthrie

The Scandalous Gospel of Jesus by Peter Gomes

Beyond Words by Frederick Buechner

(An * means we have it in the church library)

Help Us Celebrate Christmas in Music



For the first time in several years, we will be attempting a cantata for our Christmas Eve service. In order to make this a success, we need your help. We need singers, readers and instrumentalists from the congregation, as we do not have enough choir members available for Christmas Eve to make this happen (and, besides, we'd love to have you participate!)



We will be holding practice sessions Sunday afternoons (either after church or later in the afternoon), starting November 5th. We will not be rehearsing for the cantata during the week, to avoid conflicts for those with jobs. The music we have selected is a collection of up to 15 songs and readings called "King Forever!". It is not difficult, and should be very enjoyable to do. Please sign up and join us on November 5th.

Thanks,
Carol and Monte Shuck

Our Blessed Man

Ken and Linda Latiolais were in church on Sunday the 29th. What an ordeal they have been through -- but what a blessing to have Ken back! He has endured three surgeries, IV antibiotics, and weeks of rehab at Creekside Terrace. While this was going on, they received a contract to sell their home, they closed, moved everything out, and are in temporary housing in Temple. They will soon go to the Houston area to find a new home then move to be closer to their family.



Chair Yoga Continues

I wish to thank the Session for approving the Chair Yoga classes as an Outreach Program. We welcome all adults from our church and the community who are looking for ways to improve their life. I have found that this exercise program has greatly improved my health and expanded my outlook on life. *Letta Meinen*



Chair Yoga, That's for Me - Poem by *Pat Rehm*

Doing the chair yoga has been very good for me!
It has strengthened and stretched my whole body.

Starting at my head and going down to my toes,
Although I'm sitting, it does not let me doze.

The poses and rhythmic motions make me relaxed,
Taking deep breaths and still feeling untaxed.

"Deep breaths in and out," says Tracy, our instructor,
Since controlling our breath makes the meter.

As she changes the poses, I feel muscles stretching
In a good toning way, flexing but not wrenching.

After extended motions, the "hand-to-heart" pose
Allows me to lower my chin to my chest with no woes.

Before the session ends, I stand behind a chair
And gently stretch my spine, arms, and legs there.

To close, "Savasana" [shuh-vah-sana] shows another way to relax,
As our leader lightly massages our shoulders, necks, and backs.

She ends the hour with "Namaste," [nah-muh-stay], as Hindus say,
Which I offer in return, now refreshed for the rest of my day!



**Tracey Davis
Certified
Instructor**

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump. "Reverend," said the young man, "I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip."

The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

COUNTDOWN TO CHRISTMAS

Thanksgiving is just around the corner, soon to be followed by Christmas. In the blink of an eye, we will be ringing in the New Year. The countdown has begun. The ball will soon be dropping in Times Square.

How will you be counting down the days until Christmas? Will you be frantically searching the stores for just the right gift for each person on your list? Will you be baking cookies or singing carols?

Perhaps you've booked a trip to some exotic place, hoping to avoid all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. Maybe you're traveling to some winter wonderland, dreaming of a white Christmas.



We will be in La Mesa, California, ensconced in my son's fifth wheel. On Christmas Eve, we will go to church, and eat pizza at his mother-in-law's house. Christmas morning we will open gifts with him and his family. Later in the day, we will travel to his sister in law's home up in the mountains, for a Christmas luncheon.

But Christmas is so much more than all that. It's really all about *the gift* - the most important gift ever given or received, the precious gift of *Jesus Christ, our Lord*.

So no matter how you plan to spend Christmas this year, I hope you'll take time to remember that Jesus truly is **"the reason for the season."**



"And she shall bear a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21)

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas from a very Merry heart. *Linda Lloyd*

The Church Business /Committees

Session Notes from 10/15/17 Meeting

1. Carl's contract extended for another year.
2. Windows contract: working on an acceptable contract with TR McLaughlin to replace the old church windows
3. Approved continuing Chair Yoga with monetary support of the church. Thanks to Letta Meinen for introducing and providing this program to the congregation for the past few months. Participants have found physical benefits and a welcoming church fellowship.

Election of Three Elders for the Class of 2020 - 10/29/17

The Clerk, representing the Nominating Committee, presented the following individuals as candidates for Elder for the Class of 2020: **John Booher, Randy Kemp, and Pat Rehm**. The Moderator asked for any further nomination from the floor. There being none, the question was asked. Motion carried.

Sara Pettijohn, Clerk of the Session

The **Benevolence Committee** met at the end of September for our third quarter giving. In light of the weather disasters, the focus was on Houston area needs and it was agreed to send our support and prayers to our Presbyterian Disaster Assistance organization, the Greater Houston Area Salvation Army, and Samaritan's Purse. Our commitment to the Presbyterian Children's' Homes was fulfilled as well.

Locally, we learned of the unexpected financial needs of the Salado Fire Department and after speaking with Chief Berrier, we agreed to a \$350.00 contribution towards vehicle repairs and once a year to provide a dinner for the volunteers as a thank you from all of us for their faithful commitment to our community. That dinner will be provided Monday, November 6th, with casseroles and veggies from Lynette's and **cookies from our congregational bakers**. Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who will help with delivery and setup, plus each of you who have baked cookies!

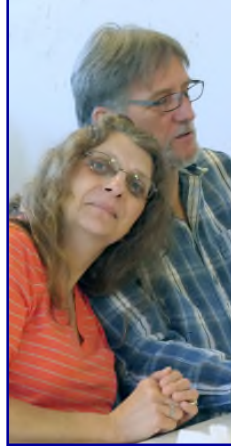
We are here to share our love for one another, and we can do that by sharing God's blessings and coming alongside someone in need. You are each a big part of our church being able to do just that-lighten loads through the unexpected receipt of a financial blessing. *Nancy Healey*

The **Finance Committee** has completed the contract for Carl Thompson and sent it to Presbytery. *Carl Menyhart*

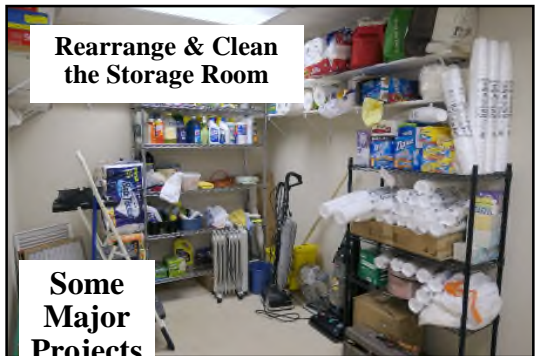
The **Fellowship Committee** is planning for the November social. It will be Nov 26th. We will do hanging of greens and have soups & desserts. *Laquita Arner*

The **Buildings and Grounds Committee** has negotiated a contract for replacement of the windows in the front (North) of the building. Work should be finished in late November to early January depending on delivery time of the windows. *Chine Ray*

October 29, 2017 Social, Golf Tourney, Projects



**Rearrange & Clean
the Storage Room**



**Some
Major
Projects
this
Week.**



**Rearrange & Add Book
Shelves to Library**

