



The Messenger

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND
LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.
(JANUARY 2018)

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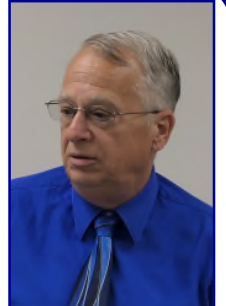
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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR NEXT
MONTH'S PUBLICA-
TION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



As I sit here at home, in front of my fireplace, on this first day of 2018, I can't believe that I am starting my fourteenth year as your Pastor. When I first arrived here in 2005 my plan was to spend three years, and then completely retire and spend my days working in my garden and reading. I ran into a detour to my plans: it was the congregation of the Salado Presbyterian church. Evelyn and I have made so many wonderful friends here. This congregation is made up of loving, caring, energetic Christians who put their faith into practice. Your love is evident to all who visit and worship with you. Thanks for the last thirteen years.

As I think about 2018, I wonder what the future holds for all of us. It was suggested to me that our theme for 2018 be, "[Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.](#)" I've thought about that, and decided to make it the theme for my preaching this year. I am still developing in my mind what that would look like. I will see how it works out as the year progresses. If you have sermon ideas around this theme let me know.



I hope that this year will be a great year for you in your personal relationships, health, and spiritual walk. As we make this journey together, I pray that the Holy Spirit will walk with us in all we do as we strive to, "[Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.](#)"

May God continue to Bless you in 2018.

Happy New Year from Evelyn and me. *Carl*

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

- Jan. 7 - Communion Sunday
- Jan. 14 - Session Meeting after Worship
- Jan. 28 - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Jan. 28 - Library Open House / Social After Worship

JANUARY 2018						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2 Yoga 1 PM	3 Choir 5:30	4 Yoga 10:30	5	6
7	8	9 Yoga 1 PM	10 Choir 5:30	11 Yoga 10:30	12	13
14 Session Meeting	15	16 Yoga 1 PM	17 Choir 5:30	18 Yoga 10:30	19	20
21	22	23 Yoga 1 PM	24 Choir 5:30	25 Yoga 10:30	26	27
28 Meeting/ Library Social	29	30 Yoga 1 PM	31 Choir 5:30			



December 26, 2017

Here it is a day after Christmas and 2 days following the magnificent Christmas Eve service. The pastor's comments were so poignant and the Cantata absolutely magnificently performed. The choir, under the brilliant leadership of the co-choir leaders, Monte and Carol Shuck, sounded as beautiful as the world famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir.

The songs by the soloist, the trio, with the accompaniment of the organist, the bells, banjo, guitars and piano and the readings were quite powerful. The practice, commitment, and dedication of all involved was evident in the outcome.

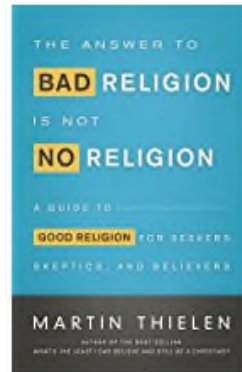
To all who were unable to be attend, you missed a wonderful production. My thanks to each and every one who contributed to this joyful Christmas service.

God bless all of you and our church. May 2018 bring peace, joy, hope, love and good health to each of you.

Respectfully, Joyce Goza

Adult Bible Study Classes

For many years, mainline Protestant churches have been experiencing a steady decline in membership. Why? In the 6-week study, The Answer to Bad Religion Is Not No Religion, Martin Thielen suggests some answers to that question. He also describes counterparts to bad religion to point the way to good religion that is grace-filled and promotes love and forgiveness.



You are invited to join us in studying and discussing this topic. Our goal is to learn to be an example to unchurched (and de-churched) people by demonstrating a faith that matters, showing others what good religion is all about. We look forward to welcoming you on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., beginning January 7, in the adult classroom.

Books are provided plus coffee and cookies are available.

All are welcome. Shirley Pinkston



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

	First Sunday after Epiphany — Jan 7	Second Sunday after Epiphany — Jan 14	Third Sunday after Epiphany — Jan 21	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany — Jan 28
1st Reading	Genesis 1:1-5	1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)	Jonah 3:1-5, 10	Deuteronomy 18:15-20
Psalm	Psalm 29	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalm 62:5-12	Psalm 111
2nd Reading	Acts 19:1-7	1 Corinthians 6:12-20	1 Corinthians 7:29-31	1 Corinthians 8:1-13
Gospel	Mark 1:4-11	John 1:43-51	Mark 1:14-20	Mark 1:21-28

January Birthdays

Anita Johnson 5
 Chine Ray 8
 Edrie Chiles 10
 Missie Lanham 12
 John Pettijohn 18
 Jim Arner 23
 Shay VanWinkle 29

About our Members

A PRAISE - Ken and Linda Latiolais closed on their new home on December 29 and will move January 15. Ken's *foot is healed* and the doctor has released him. Still some swelling. Pray for strength and patience during the move.

Joan and Chine Ray are dealing with a bout of the flu. Pray for a quick recovery.

A PRAISE - Mary Jean Boston (Ann Faber's mother) was able to join her family for a Christmas meal. She is living and doing rehabilitation at Park Place Manor in Belton.

Carol Walls' symptoms continue to worsen. Pray for Carol and caregiver, Jim.

A PRAISE - Bob Todd's brother, Pastor Lee Todd, who had been diagnosed with an aggres-

sive sinus cavity cancer had one chemo treatment and as of mid-December is *cancer free*.

A PRAISE - Jeanette West's son-in-law, Rob Peterman, is recovering from having his appendix out and then being diagnosed with a cancer in the appendix. Rob has done very well and is home recovering. He is gradually getting back into his normal schedule.

Jerry Schleicher is, after much testing, actually having face-to-face appointments with his doctors at the VA. He hopes to get a definitive diagnosis and necessary treatment for his arrhythmia and blood irregularities. Let's pray for an accurate diagnosis and treatment.

Jean Teal has not been doing as well lately. Pray for strength and improvement with her health.

Salado Presbyterian Church Library

Library Open House

During the Jan. 28 Social

An Open House for the Library is planned after services on January 28th during our January Social. Pat Hart and June Lubowinski will be happy to show you around.

The Salado Presbyterian Church Library is a treasure. There is a wealth of information, devotional aids, historical studies and commentaries. And as all good libraries have in their collections, there are some curiosities which are interesting to read.

You may have seen Pat Hart and June Lubowinski working in the Library and wondered what they were doing. They have been cataloging all the materials. They are then putting this information into a database so that everyone can see what is available.

We are so fortunate to have this library. It is well stocked and has been lovingly worked on through the years. Pat and June are just building on the work of others, making the collection easier to manage, and more importantly, more accessible to the congregation.

If you ever need assistance in finding something in the Library, you can always just ask Pat or June any Sunday after services.



Sunday School Books

Here are the books from our recent Bible Studies.

The first three are resources for the class and the last two were recommended by Adam Hamilton for anyone studying Revelation.

[The Challenge of the Disciplined Life](#) by Richard Foster

[Eat This Book](#) by Eugene H. Peterson

[Beyond Words](#) by Frederick Buechner

[What Does Revelations Reveal?](#) by Warren Carter

[Breaking the Code](#) by Bruce Metzger

From *Pat Hart*



Walt's Garden Stone



**Claire Lewis and
Rev. Gini Norris-Lane**

Here's the story of how Walt's garden stone came to us.

Betsy, my youngest of the six children, had been away from the family for about 10 years. We let her know our door was always open to her, but she felt the need to be away. Then in November of 2016, she accepted a sibling's invitation to come for a family Thanksgiving dinner at Cracker Barrel in Temple. She came, even sitting next to me in the restaurant. Our conversation was desultory, but at least we were talking. We didn't judge and we didn't ask any questions. The door opened wide and has stayed open.

Betsy mentioned in one of our many phone calls (she calls twice a week, despite a very busy schedule) that she has taken an interest in working with stone and was in the process of acquiring some tools to work with. This got me to thinking, and I asked if she'd be willing to make a stone to go in our church garden where there are already other stones. She was pleased to be asked, and on December 23 of this year, one day before the anniversary of Walt's death, she gave me the finished stone. Rev. Thompson placed it in the garden the next morning (12/24/17) right after the church service, while a portion of the congregation looked on.

Barbara Tindell

Guest minister Reverend Gini Norris-Lane preached on Dec. 31 while Carl Thompson was on vacation. The Sermon was entitled "What Child is This?" and was based on Luke 2:22-40 the story of Jesus being presented to the Lord in Jerusalem and the reaction of the old man, Simeon and prophet, Anna.

Gini Norris-Lane is the daughter of Session Member Nancy Norris and her husband Bob.

Claire Lewis was a student of Gini's and is now in a Presbyterian mission with the Young Adult Volunteer Program.

Another Veteran Story - by Letta Meinen

I did not hear all the announcements for Renita Menyher't's veteran's book (being stuck in the back of the choir loft). I did not realize she wanted everyone who had connection to a person in military service. Now that I have read her great production, I believe our story from World War II while my husband Bill Meinen was in the Navy could be included.

We were married at 19 while the War was going on two fronts - Germany and Japan. We lived in the Dutch community of Holland, Nebraska which was 25 miles from Lincoln, Nebraska.



"OUR WEDDING"

Having to plan a church wedding while my soon to be husband was in the Navy, was trying at times. Getting the minister, church, music, invitations, food, flowers, dress and attendants arranged it soon all fell into place. The big day finally arrived and Bill came home on the train on February 20, 1945, two days

before the wedding. We needed to get our license the next day and our fathers had to accompany us because we were underage.

The next morning it had started to snow; Bill and his father came early, and my father and I were ready. We got to Lincoln and to the County Records office but they would not accept Bill's blood test from the Navy. The blood test had to be performed by a doctor from Nebraska. Because it was a holiday the next day - February 22, George Washington's birthday, all federal offices and many doctor's offices would be closed. We called around until we found a doctor who would take his blood test that afternoon. While waiting for the test to be completed we picked up my cake and flowers. It was still snowing and getting worse.

Finally, the blood test showed up at the Court House and they were able to issue our license. Now we had to make that trip home in a near blizzard. Bill was driving and he had to gun it whenever a snow bank showed up on the road. I was hanging onto my cake for dear life. We made it back to Holland alright, and Bill and his father had five more miles to go to their home. On



their way home, they got stuck in the snow drift and Bill had to scoop them free as his father drove.

The next day Bill was sick - he came down with the flu, either from all the snow shoveling or being tired from the trip from Chicago. The day proved to be crisp and clear with big snow drifts because the roads were being cleared by the road grader. The wedding was at 7:00 p.m., so Bill stayed in bed all day. As the day wore on, his Dad came to his bedroom door and said, "You have come this far, so you better get out of bed, because you are getting married." Bill made it to the wedding. His brother Roy was his best man, and I had to help hold him up to say his vows. He started to feel better during the reception but still not the best.

We drove into Lincoln that night as I had made a reservation at a hotel and an appointment to have our pictures taken the next day. Later we returned to Holland to pick up my trunk and returned to Lincoln to catch the train to Chicago, to an apartment Bill had rented and a job that was waiting for me.

What little kids think love means.

According to Elaine, age five, "Love is when Mommy gives Daddy the best piece of chicken."

Tommy, 6, believes it's the real thing "When a little old woman and a little old man are still friends even after they know each other so well."

"Love," according to Mary Ann, 4, "is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him all alone all day."

On the other hand, Bobby, 7, claims: "Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen."



Ralph and I have been very blessed this past week. We were fortunate to be able to attend two college graduation ceremonies, one at Texas State University in San Marcos, for his nephew, Josh, who got his BA in Business Administration, Degree Finance, and one at UT Tyler, for my oldest granddaughter, Taylor, before we set out for California.

Taylor's graduation was a particularly joyous day. She had initially started school at Texas Tech, but due to some health issues had to move back home before she completed her studies. But by the grace of God, her health eventually improved, and she was finally able to finish her degree and received her diploma, a BA in Psychology.

We are understandably very proud of these two young people, not only for their accomplishments, but for the exciting futures that lie ahead of them. New beginnings, you might say.

"New Years" is also a time for new beginnings, which makes me think of Jesus, and the new beginning he gave to each one of us when he gave up his life on the cross. We are no longer under the old law of sin and death. We are, by the grace of God, and the sacrifice of his only Son, Jesus, a forgiven people. We can face death with confidence; because we know without a doubt, that it is not the end, but only a new beginning.

Wishing you all a very "Happy New Year."
From a "Merry Heart" *Linda Lloyd*



Carol and Monte Shuck, co-choir directors, are given end-of-year gifts from the Choir.

Benevolence

We bid farewell to 2017 with gratitude for the blessings, as well as trials, that we shared - and many that were held quietly in our hearts. At a time when many churches see their congregations dwindling, we have grown through our steadfast trust in the Lord and our faithfulness to His Word. It is a precept of our church to support those in need by sharing 25% of our tithing. It is the responsibility of the Benevolence Committee to oversee this commitment. Quarterly we have met with seven members to discuss needs, and each need has been vetted and voted upon. We have based our giving on our "60/40" guideline of giving 60% locally and 40% internationally. Bell County and Salado were primary and then we reached out to support hurricane victims in Houston and Rockport.



Thanks to an unexpected Christmas giving, we have been able to do a church-to-church giving that could become a wonderful fellowship between two Presbyterian churches. The Presbyterian Church of Rockport suffered damage during the Houston hurricane but the community of Rockport suffered even great devastation, and the church has been pivotal in helping the community rebuild. Thanks to Julie Engelke who grew up in Rockport and the church, we knew of the need and through a generous blessing we were able to support the church who will support the community.

Without each of you our church could not have reached out across Bell County and across the world to help those suffering. We are here to serve our Lord by helping others. Thanks to each of you for making that possible.

In His Service, *Nancy Healey*

Salado Family Relief sponsored the **Christmas Project** which filled up two rooms of the church with gifts for needy children for a week in December.



The organization is run by volunteers and there is no physical "office." The Presbyterian Church offered SFR use of our building for the Back to School Project (help with

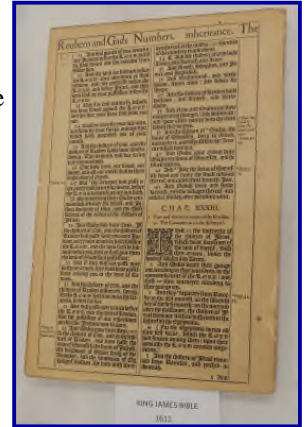
school supplies), the Christmas Project, and client interviews to determine need. Recipients must live in the Salado School District or have a child in the Salado schools.

This year, for Christmas, the project served 67 families with 173 children. All those bicycles in the picture were provided by the Masons.

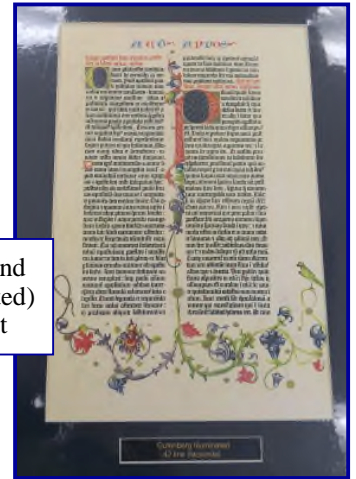
Rev. Sam Lanham Shares some History of our English Bible - 12/17/17



A Page from the 1611 King James Bible



A picture of a hand painted (illuminated) Gutenberg print



The Choir performing the Cantata, "King Forever" on Christmas Eve, 12/24/17.