



The Messenger

LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH AND
LET IT BEGIN WITH ME.

(APRIL 2018)

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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

Well, we finally got some rain last night at our house. It seems like over the past few months it would rain a little around us, but we would remain dry. But last night it rained.

I remember as a child in elementary school we would use a poem that began, "April showers bring May flowers," as our spelling lesson. The teacher would write it on the board then give us lined paper to copy it onto, thus helping us learn how to form letters. We would then take our masterpieces home to our parents. When mom died and I was going through her things, I found several of these papers that my brother and I had written over the years.



Kids sometimes think the strangest things. I always worried if we didn't get rain in April, would we have to go a year without flowers. I always looked forward to that first rain in April, so I could relax knowing flowers would come in May.

It's been very dry here lately, and like many of you, I am excited by the prospects of rain in the forecast again today. We all know that rain can be both beneficial and destructive. We all have rainy days in life, which then help us see God's flowers blooming in our life.

What about the storms in our life. When the clouds roll into our lives, how do we feel? It is not so much these clouds, rain and storms that scare us, it's the havoc that those storms can create that gives us such trouble.

The storms of life come in many shapes and forms. These can include family issues, relationship issues, or health issues. What hope can come out of all these storms? **Jesus!** The one that holds us during the storms, can also control the storms. Jesus will always be there, in all the storms of life.

God may use storms to soften our heart. By going through the rain, we can become more empathetic to others. We begin to seek God's direction, and not just our own, which ultimately leads to our receptivity to God's voice. As we hear God's voice, we notice that our attitude begins to change. With this change, comes a concern for others, in both humility and emotional sensitivity

Continued 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

- April 1 - **Easter Sunday**
- April 8 - Session Meeting after Worship
- April 22 - Special Musical Service - "Spring - A Celebration of God The Creator"
- April 29 - Social - Potluck by names A - M

2018 APRIL

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Easter Sunday	2	3 Yoga 1 PM	4 Choir 5:30	5 Yoga 10:30	6	7
8 Session Meeting	9	10 Yoga 1 PM	11 Choir 5:30	12 Yoga 10:30	13	14
15	16	17 Yoga 1 PM	18 Choir 5:30	19 Yoga 10:30	20	21
22 Special Music	23	24 Yoga 1 PM	25 Choir 5:30	26 Yoga 10:30	27	28
29 Social A-M	30					

Continued from page 1

that was not there before. We can rejoice, too, that when we run into these storms (problems and trials), we know that they help us learn to endure and trust in God. God is an ever-present help in times of need.



If we've never been through a storm in our life, we can never truly realize how much God is with us and loves us. This is the same love that led Jesus to take our

place on the cross and is continually displayed by our loving God. He is with us in times of our "storms", because He loves us with an everlasting love.

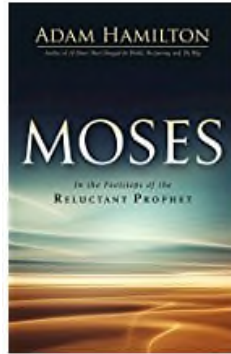
So remember,

"April showers bring May Flowers."

May God Bless you. *Carl*

Adult Bible Study Classes

On April 8, the class will begin the study of Moses: In the Footsteps of the Reluctant Prophet by Adam Hamilton.



The story of Moses' life is the defining story of the Jewish people, but his life also serves as the backdrop for much that is found in the Gospels. Throughout history, his story has continued to speak to every generation.

In the DVD lessons each Sunday, we will join Hamilton as he explores the sites of Moses' life, from the Nile River to the Red Sea, from Mt. Sinai to the desert wilderness. He uses historical information, archaeological data, and biblical text to guide us in the footsteps of this reluctant prophet who blazed a trail of faith.

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. for a time of study, discussion and fellowship. Everyone is welcome: regular members, returning members, or new members. Books are provided and coffee is served. Shirley Pinkston

Books Referenced during the March Classes:

[Living the Lord's Prayer](#) by Albert Haase

[The Faces of Jesus](#) by Frederick Buechner

[Sacred Fire](#) by Ronald Rolheiser

[The Passion and the Cross](#) by Ronald Rolheiser

[Renovation of the Heart](#) by Dallas Willard - compiled by Pat Hart



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

	Easter - April 1	Second Sunday of Easter - 4/8	Third Sunday of Easter - 4/15	Fourth Sunday of Easter - 4/22	Fifth Sunday of Easter - 4/29
1st Reading	Acts 10:34-43	Acts 4:32-35	Acts 3:12-18	Acts 4:5-12	Acts 8:26-40
Psalm	Psalm 118:1-2,14-24	Psalm 133	Psalm 4	Psalm 23	Psalm 22:25-31
2nd Reading	1 Cor.15:1-11	1 John 1:1-2:2	1 John 3:1-7	1 John 3:16-24	1 John 4:7-21
Gospel	John 20:1-18	John 20:19-31	Luke 24:36b-48	John 10:11-18	John 15:1-8

April Birthdays

Chelesa Ervi 6

Bobbie Dickerson 9

J.R. Lett 13



THE MESSENGER

About our Members

Rev. Carl Thompson announced in church Sunday, that he will need surgery next month to fix the eustachian tube issue that has been an ongoing problem. Pray that the surgery is a success, there are no complications, and he heals quickly.

Barbara Tindell had two surgeries on 2/27 to remove a basal cell cancer in her nose - then plastic surgery. The anesthetic has been giving her lingering issues. On 3/26 she had a further plastic surgery. Pray that the anesthetic used this time does not have ill effects and for rapid healing.

Rev. Sam Lanham fell in his back yard and injured his shoulder. This happens to be the shoulder which includes artificial parts. X-Rays don't show any damage to the man-made pieces, yet there is pain, swelling, and bruising. Pray for pain relief, healing, and no complications.

June Lubowski fell coming out of S&W and cracked her arm near the elbow. However, the story has a silver-lining. When she fell she twisted the ankle that doesn't want to respond to her brain commands. Well, now that it hurts a little, evidently the brain has a specific on which to focus, and she is moving that ankle more and with more control! (this may be a **Romans 8:28 thing!**) Pray for June's healing and mobility.



Salado Presbyterian Church Choir by Letta Meinen



I have been a member of the Church Choir since 2006 when Jean Teal, the choir director at the time, asked me to join. I told her then that at my age my singing voice was not the best, but she insisted that I join. As my age kept going up, I still felt I was not that much help but enjoyed everybody involved.

After Jean moved away, we were blessed when Monte and Carol Shuck walked into our church and became our choir directors. They have so much talent, and they make our Wednesday practices a joy so we can perform for the congregation on Sundays. Monte pushes us to learn new songs that go with our Presbyterian study throughout the year. He

even pushed us to a Christmas Cantata this year that turned out great with a big crowd attending the service. A big thanks to Monte and Carol for your service.

Our choir includes some talented singers, plus musicians including guitar and banjo players, a drummer and a bell ringer. I believe this full choir enhances our church services.

As an added suggestion, Monte and Carol wanted a get-together meal once a month following our Wednesday practice. Presbyterians love to eat and we all agreed it to be a good way to get to know each other better. Thank You - Monte and Carol have made our choir grow and we are blessed to have you members of this church.

Woolworth's Famous Icebox Cheesecake

(Requested Recipe from 3/21 Choir Meal)

- 1 12 ounces Can Carnation Milk well chilled
- 1 ½ cup graham crackers crushed
- ½ cup confection sugar
- 6 Tablespoons butter
- 1 box Lemon Jell-O gelatin
- 1 cup boiling water
- 2 8 oz packages cream cheese softened
- 1 cup sugar (I used Stevia-mix)
- 4 tablespoon Lemon Juice (I used 1 lemon)

Crush graham crackers and add confection sugar and melted butter, stir until blended. Save one cup for topping. Press mixture into a 9x12 pan and refrigerate to cool.

Shake the can of evaporated milk well and chill in refrigerator for over an hour or overnight. In a small bowl dissolve lemon Jell-O in boiling water, blend and let cool until ready to use.



In a large bowl use a mixer and blend cream cheese, sugar and lemon juice and beat until smooth and fluffy. Beat in the cooled Jell-O mixture and blend all together and refrigerate until ready to use.

Shake well the can of evaporated milk and pour into chilled bowl and whip for 3-4 minutes until light and fluffy – like beaten egg whites. Beat in the chilled cream cheese and Jell-O mixture. Pour into chilled graham cracker crust and smooth surface then sprinkle on saved extra graham cracker crumbs. Refrigerate for several hours until ready to serve. Should serve 10-12 -
from Letta Meinen

5th Sunday - April 22nd

The choir will be leading a special service on April 22nd with the theme "Spring - A Celebration of God The Creator." We will be offering songs and readings in a spring motif with (weather permitting) a special surprise ending to the service. Plan to join us for a celebration of spring on April 22nd.



One Great Hour of Sharing - (O G H S)

The One Great Hour of Sharing is a special offering of the Presbyterian Church, U. S. A. It enables persons and communities in over 100 countries throughout the world, to seek and obtain improved living situations. **O G H S** gifts are divided among three global projects:

Presbyterian Hunger Program receives **36%** of this offering. Through local partner agencies, it strives to alleviate hunger, to care for creation, and to address the causes of poverty. For example, a widow in Uganda was helped to keep her farm from being taken by her in-laws and to continue to grow food for her family and others.

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance receives **32%** of this offering. It helps communities to recover after devastating natural or human-caused disasters, and it assists communities in supporting refugees. Long-term assistance is available to victims of catastrophic events, such as the 2017 hurricanes.

Self-Development of People also receives **32%** of this offering. This program partners with communities experiencing oppression, poverty, and injustice. It educates Presbyterians about the impact that these issues are having in the world. For

example, women who were once trafficked have been rescued and helped to join together in a cooperative business.

This congregation will collect the **One Great Hour of Sharing** on Easter Sunday, April 1st. Please consider taking a fish bank or a special envelope that are available on tables in the narthex, or entry hall. Please include your name with cash gifts. You may also simply put a check (payable to the Presbyterian Church of Salado) in the offering plate. The gifts from our congregation will help **O G H S** to spread the news of God's gracious love. Thank you! --The Benevolence Committee



Jellybeans and Library Books

It is April and Easter, and for many of us this means dishes of jellybeans. Not everyone likes all the flavors of jellybeans. In the past it was simple, yellow was lemon, green lime, red cherry, white pineapple, purple grape and black was licorice. In my opinion the inclusion of a licorice jellybean amongst all the fruit flavors was a big mistake, and yet, my Dad loved them best. Now we have every conceivable flavor of jellybean including jalapeño and hot buttered popcorn. I have chosen to compare jellybeans to library books because their selection and appeal are similar.

Once libraries had few selections, and one knew exactly what was appealing and what wasn't. Now our church library is like a big candy jar filled with a variety of flavors, some simple and some simply amazing. To illustrate, the book I reviewed last month "The Language of God" by Dr. Francis S. Collins is in my all-time favorite pink grapefruit jellybeans category. The many books we have by C. S. Lewis or about him are in my lemon-lime jellybean category (which runs a close second to the pink grapefruit) and so on.

We recently lost the Reverend Billy Graham to Heaven (what an Easter he will be having), but we can appreciate his legacy in books by him on spirituality and angels (my strawberry-cheesecake flavor jellybeans, a category all their own). The wonderful thing about having such a varied collection of books is, like having a big dish of multi-flavor jellybeans, you are certain to find something you like or even love. **BUT**, the thing is - you have to try them first. Choose a book and if you don't like your first selection, choose another.

Pat Hart and I will be happy to make suggestions for books. I would be curious to know what your jellybean rating is for your favorites. You may email me at lubowij@hotmail.com with ideas, questions or a charting of your own if you would like to do this, and I'll put together a list of suggestions to share with others. *June Lubowski*

Heart & Hands Ministries

Heart and Hands Ministries Food and Clothing Bank offers assistance to qualified families in our area. It is a local food pantry and used clothing store in the Mill Creek shopping center (213 Mill Creek Dr. #135). It is one of our congregation's local mission projects.

We purchase 35 loaves of bread twice a month for the pantry's clients, but we also have a bushel basket in the narthex, near the front door, to collect various cans and other packaged foods which we take to them weekly. Basic items needed for the basket include canned vegetables (corn, green beans, peas, baked beans and pinto beans), meaty pastas (ravioli & spaghetti), canned meats & tuna, soups, tomato sauces, rice and dry pastas, juice boxes, and evaporated & powdered milk.

Clothing donations can be bagged or boxed and left in the corner behind the basket. Please consider donating to this helping agency in this way.



Thank you! --The Benevolence Committee

“AND THEIR SOULS WERE KNIT TOGETHER” - A True Love Story -

(Billy and Ruthie McPhail were strong Presbyterians in Killeen and helped convince the Presbytery to allow a new church to be formed in Salado, thus were crucial to the formation of our church.)

This past Sunday, Carl asked for prayers for the McPhail family, who lost both their parents within a week's time. Their mother, Ruthie, passed from this world to the next on Sunday, March 4th. Billy, their father, joined her on Sunday, March 11th. This is only a small portion of their story, a love story that lasted 72 years.

Billy Byron McPhail was born on December 18, 1922, and Ruth Marie Pribble on December 20, 1924 - exactly 2 years and two days apart. They would have been 96 and 94, respectively, in December of this year. I was blessed to call them my friends and adopted family for almost 40 years.

As I chatted with Charlie, one of the McPhail grandsons, at Billy's viewing, he expressed to me that the most important lesson he learned from his grandparents was one of complete acceptance and unconditional love, regardless of circumstance.

Hundreds of people passed through the McPhail home over the years. The first time they entered as strangers, the second time as friends. It didn't matter if you were black or white, Democrat or Republican, Presbyterian or Catholic, old or young, rich or poor, you were welcomed with the same enthusiasm. They were never too tired or too busy to offer a smile, a hug, a piece of advice, a place to sleep, the loan of a vehicle, or an encouraging word, nearly always accompanied by a beverage and a bite to eat.

For all the years that I knew them, their greatest delight seemed to come from spending time with each other, especially after Billy's retirement. They were always happiest when they were together, and more often than not could be seen holding each other's hands. They spent so much time together that their daughter Sherry had a hard time finding a photograph of Ruthie by herself.

The last few years of their lives were spent in assisted-living at the Rosewood in Killeen. Recently, Billy's health deteriorated to the point that he was moved to the Veterans Hospital in Temple. So their oldest daughter, Dolores, came to stay with Ruthie for a couple of weeks. She planned to fly home on Monday, the 5th of March. But that was not to be.

On Sunday, the 4th, Ruthie, accompanied by her two daughters and her son-in-law, went to Temple to visit Billy. He didn't have his hearing aids in, and never opened his eyes during the visit. But Ruthie held his hand the whole time they were there. When the others had said their goodbyes, Ruthie said, "I love you Billy". To which he responded, "I love you, Ruth Marie".

As they were leaving the hospital, the girls noticed that their mother looked peaceful and serene, a look they hadn't seen since their father had been removed from the residence. When

they arrived at their brother's home in Belton for dinner, his wife also made a comment about the peaceful look on Ruthie's face.

Shortly after dropping Dolores and Ruthie at the Rosewood, Sherry got a panicked call from her sister saying that their mother had collapsed. They called 911. When the ambulance arrived, by God's good providence, one of the responding EMT's was an extended family member. But all attempts at resuscitation failed. Ruthie had gone home to meet her Maker.

Her viewing was held at Harper Talasek Funeral Home on Sunday, March 11th. When the last visitor had departed, the family released some balloons in remembrance of their mother. The time was 5:15 PM. They then departed the funeral home, to

a restaurant to have a meal together, and say goodbye to Dolores, who planned to return home the next day, Monday, the 12th. But that was not to be. As they pulled into the parking lot, Sherry's phone rang. The call was from the V.A. in Temple. Billy had passed away. The time of death was listed as 5:15 P.M.

The entourage left the restaurant and proceeded to the hospital in Temple. A little later, as the family finally sat down to eat dinner, grandson David remarked to Sherry, "This is so crazy. Mom is at the funeral home in Killeen. They'll be taking her back to Temple the crematorium; and Papa will be coming to the

funeral home in Killeen. It's like they're high-fiving each other on the way."

So Sherry called the funeral home and requested that Ruthie be kept there until Billy arrived. The funeral home personnel agreed, and told Sherry that they would transport the two of them back to Temple together, so that they could be cremated on the same day. When their ashes are returned to the family, they will be combined, in accordance with their parents wishes. And on August 18th of this year, their 72nd wedding anniversary, they will be buried at the Killeen City Cemetery, with friends and family in attendance to celebrate their amazing love story.

I know in my heart and believe that it is true, that when Ruthie realized that she and her sweetheart could no longer be together, she asked God to take her home. And there is no doubt in my mind that at exactly 5:15 P.M. on March 11, 2018, Ruth Marie McPhail reached out, took Billy's hand and said, "Billy, our work here is finished. It's time to go home."

I also believe that the ending to their story here on Earth could only have been orchestrated by a loving and compassionate God. There is no other explanation, no coincidence. I call it a "God incidence." And I can hardly wait to get to heaven to hear the rest of their story.

From a Merry  Linda Lloyd

(I am writing this on Thursday, March 22, 2018, and sharing with you via the "Messenger," with the permission of the McPhail family.)



March 25 Social - "Sandwiches and Cookies"

Just a light lunch as we prepare for Maundy Thursday service on the 29th.



Pat Hart is available to help you find books in our expanded and catalogued library.



A complete "Reading Station" is now in the Library (chair donated by Nancy Norris).

