



The Messenger

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

When I was younger, I used to like reading *Popular Mechanics* magazine. The issue I really enjoyed was the one where they predicted what the world's technology would be like 10, 20, 50 and 100 years in the future. Some of these predictions were "right on" and others never came close to fruition.

Several years ago in a newsletter, I asked you to think about where you thought our church would be fifteen years from now. Where will the Holy Spirit lead us to fulfill our niche for God in this community and the world. Things just don't happen by chance, we need to look out into our future with the help of the Holy Spirit and develop vision, then a plan on how to get there. We might hit the mark "right on" or in some cases miss it by a mile, but without a vision we may find ourselves just going around in circles.



Since then, we have done well in continuing to draw new people to our congregation. Some of our members have gone on to their heavenly rewards, and others have moved away to be closer to their families, yet our membership has remained fairly consistent.

Two Presbyterian churches in the immediate area have closed as have many other Presbyterian Churches in Texas and around the nation. This loss is going on in all denominations. We have been blessed because **you**, have talked to your friends and neighbors and invited them to worship with us. This is the way we get new members.

In a national church survey it was reported that people are drawn to a church not because of the Pastor, or the denomination, but because a member invited them to come. Where will we be five years from now? That depends on how many people you invite to our church.

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Calendar of Events

Adult Sunday School at 9:00 am
Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am
Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 am
Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays
Choir Practice on Wednesdays at 5:30

- Sept. 2 - Worship with Communion
- Sept. 9 - Brief Session Meeting at 9:30
- Sept. 30 - Fifth Sunday Celebration
- Sept. 30 - Breakfast Social (9:00 am)
(No Sunday School)

2018 SEPTEMBER						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3 Labor Day	4 Yoga 1 PM	5 Choir 5:30	6 Yoga 10:30	7	8
9 New Members	10	11 Yoga 1 PM	12 Choir 5:30	13 Yoga 10:30	14	15
16	17	18 Yoga 1 PM	19 Choir 5:30	20 Yoga 10:30	21	22
23	24	25 Yoga 1 PM	26 Choir 5:30	27 Yoga 10:30	28	29
30 B'fast Social						

Continued from page 1

People sense the friendliness of our congregation and come back. Keep up the good work.

Secondly, what do you see as your vision for your spiritual life over the next year? How will your personal spiritual vision be implemented? What can I do as your pastor to help you on your journey? What programs would you like to see the Session implement in our church to help you along the way?

Finally, what do you think we can do to attract more people? Some of us won't be here in five years, but we still need to plan for where the Salado Presbyterian Church will be in the future. Let a Session member or me know your ideas.

May God Bless you. *Carl*

Adult Sunday School

In an unsteady world, how do you gain stability, find peace, and learn to trust God?

At 9:00 a.m. on the first four Sundays of September, the class will discuss how to build our lives on the promises of God, not the circumstances of life. We will be using Max Lucado's book, Unshakable Hope along with the DVD.

We will celebrate the fifth Sunday in September with a breakfast social at 9:00 and a special speaker at worship.

Join us as we begin the study in the adult classroom. Books are available, along with coffee and a big welcome. Come and enjoy this time together as disciples of Jesus.

Shirley Pinkston

Barbara Tindell - Update

Dear folks at the Presbyterian Church of Salado:

My decision to stop driving to church in Salado was not made lightly. It was prompted by my losing touch with reality while driving home from church a little over a month ago. The car went off the road, and the immediate bump brought me back to awareness right away. The Lord must have picked the spot for me to leave the road because there was nothing right there that the car or I could have been damaged or injured by: no culverts, no buildings, no rock piles, and no people who could have been in harm's way. I drove back onto the road as if nothing had occurred.

I miss all of you more than I can say. You are still my family. I'm attending Grace Presbyterian Church here in Temple, and they have been very nice, very welcoming. However, it isn't the same.

May God bless you all, *Barbara Tindell*



Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times)

	Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 2	Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 9	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 16	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 23	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 30
1st Reading	Song of Sol. 2:8-13	Prov. 22:1-2,8-9,22-23	Prov. 1:20-33	Prov. 31:10-31	Ester 7:1-6,9-10 9:20-22
Psalm	Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9	Psalm 125	Psalm 19	Psalm 1	Psalm 124
2nd Reading	James 1:17-27	James 2:1-10,14-17	James 3:1-12	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	James 5:13-20
Gospel	Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23	Mark 7:24-37	Mark 8:27-38	Mark 9:30-37	Mark 9:38-50

Sept. Birthdays

June	Lubowinski	12
J.C.	Pennington	12
Jack	Googans	15
Shirley	Lett	25
Donald	Engelke	26
Pete	Stebbins	26

About our Members

Carol Booher is undergoing tests for congestive heart failure, kidney dysfunction, pain, and other issues. Please pray that her doctors can diagnose the problems and begin appropriate treatment.

Linda Lloyd has been enduring significant back/hip pain for several months. Even a good nights sleep is impossible. She is getting conflicting diagnosis from several doctors. The future direction is uncertain. Please pray that Linda can get direction, a definitive diagnosis, and treatment.

Anita Johnson has been feeling poorly recently and doctor visits indicate some potentially serious issues. Further testing is scheduled. Please keep Anita and Ellen in your prayers.

Martha Harper is under Hospice Care. She is comfortable at home with Robert and Barbara, her children. Please pray for her continued com-

fort, but also her children who provide much care.

Chris and Betty Gengler have several prayer requests for family members: Karen in Hospice Care, Ann, and Gail. Please pray for peace, hope, and healing.

Claire Hartman had surgery to repair a hernia last week in Dallas. She was in the hospital for three days and chose to stay in the Dallas area until her one week check-up was completed. Pray for no complications and healing.

RAIN - Please pray for rain. This has been one of the driest summer's on record for Central Texas. Our water resources are being depleted and regardless of watering, we are still loosing some plants.



Mission Outreach Report

Thank you for your generous contributions this summer to the Heart & Hands Ministry and to the Military Support Project of the Salado Republican Women! Both of these local mission projects have assisted many persons. While the Military Support Project will end this month, our congregational support of the Heart & Hands pantry and clothing shop is on-going, and your continuing contributions to the basket in the Narthex will certainly be appreciated. Remember that if you have other items for Heart and Hands they are open the 2nd and 4th Saturdays from 9 to 11 AM.

Brightly colored backpacks and big cartons full of school supplies filled the rec room of the church last week. Salado Family Relief had its annual Back to School event, using our facility to dispense 125 backpacks and supplies to qualifying families residing in the Salado Independent School District. This year the organization spent over \$6000 for supplies and backpacks to ensure local students were sufficiently equipped to start the school year. (Salado Family Relief is one of our Benevolence recipients.)



The members of the Benevolence Committee will meet later this month, as they do quarterly, to distribute your gifts to mission agencies. They will also sponsor the mission speaker from Salado Family Relief at the 5th Sunday worship service on September 30th. Marilyn Griffin, coordinator of the agency's Back-to-School Backpack Program will share its results. Our congregation donated funds for the project, as well as providing the distribution site. Your benevolent donations are sustaining an important outreach to those needing assistance, both here and abroad.

Library News

We have recently had a donation of a group of books about angels! Please stop by and see them...235.3!

Pat Hart



LIVING with THORNS

They say "Write what you know." And what I have known a lot of for the last couple of years is pain. I have learned more about pain than I ever wanted to know. (I'm sure that most of you can identify with that statement).

It's been a 24 hour a day struggle for me. With so many different health issues, it's hard to figure out which one is causing the problem. Do I need back surgery? Do I need a hip replacement? To quote Yul Brynner in his famous role as the King of Siam, "'Tis a puzzlement."

I think about the apostle Paul every day. Mostly I think about his petitions to God to "**Remove this thorn in my flesh**". And then I immediately think about God's answer. HE said, "**My grace is sufficient for you; my power is made perfect in weakness.**"



I was sitting in my car, after yet another doctor's appointment. They'd done another hip x-ray, which had only exacerbated my pain; and I started to cry. I reached into my purse in search of a tissue, and instead I pulled out a card that I had placed there a couple of months ago.

When I read the words printed on that card, I cried even harder. (But these tears were ones of gratitude, not distress). This is what it said: "**God has a purpose for your pain, a reason for your struggle, and a reward for your faithfulness. Trust in HIM and don't give up.**"

I have written several times that "God always meets you at your point of need." And he does! So I will continue to trust in HIM because I know he cares for me. There are 350 times in the Bible where God says that he will ALWAYS be with us. And I believe it is true.

From a Merry ♥ Linda Lloyd

Wait Upon The Lord

After starting a new diet I altered my drive to Yoga to avoid passing my favorite bakery. I accidentally drove by the bakery this morning, and as I approached, there in the windows were a host of goodies. I felt this was no accident, so I prayed ... "Lord, it's up to you, if you want me to have any of those delicious goodies, create a parking place for me directly in front of the bakery." And sure enough,

**on the eighth time
around the block,
there it was!
God is so Good!"**



A Note from Molly



Molly Hatchell - Ordination March 4, 2018

What a joy it was for me to have many of you with me (in person and in spirit) in March when I became ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament. It was especially poignant for me since I believe my internship with you in 2014 set me on this path to ordained ministry. Your grace, kindness, and encouragement then, and continuing, is surely the type of good works that is a testimony to the love of Christ and the glory of God.

I wanted to share with you the ripple effects of that mission project. You can celebrate that, in the last nine months, over 800 patients in hospitals from Round Rock, Austin, and down to Kyle, were supported with spiritual and emotional care. As a chaplain for Seton Family of Hospitals during that time, I served a diverse patient population in multiple hospitals. There were patients from all sorts of cultures including the homeless, prisoners shackled to their hospital beds (with two police officers in the room), teenage mothers-to-be, newborns in the ICU, and patients who spoke Russian, Hausa (Nigeria), Swahili, and Spanish.

On more than one occasion the patient said something like “I was just praying and you walked in – your visit is the answer to my prayers,” or “Your visit helped me to know God is with me, I was losing faith.” And one my favorite exchanges, one I overheard from a nurse to a doctor: “Oh, it’s okay now, the chaplain went in to see her, her blood pressure is down now.” We don’t really know the impact of our service as chaplains, but it’s satisfying, sharing the compassion and grace I have received from God and God’s people (like you), and offering it to others. I hope you enjoy knowing the fruits of your labor.

My chaplain residency program at the hospital ended last week so I’m back in the discernment process, watching for where God will lead me next. Here is a poem that helps to give me strength in this time of waiting:

The Avowal

*As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain freefall, and float into Creator
Spirit’s deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.*

---Denise Levertov

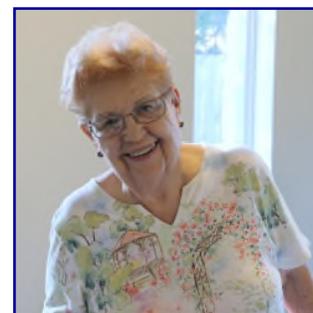
“Back-to-School” Dinner



Beautiful Dessert Table



“Cherry Cobbler Man”



Bobbie Dickerson



Sandy Klingberg



Bob and Nancy Norris

