



The Messenger

THEME: "GOD IS GOOD ALL THE TIME"
(DECEMBER 2018)

CHURCH OFFICE:
105 SALADO PLAZA
DRIVE - P.O. BOX 865
(254) 947-8106
PRESBY999@EMBAROMAIL.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
PAT REHM -
Benevolence
RANDY KEMP -
Building & Grounds

TREASURER:
JOHN PETTIJOHN

ORGANIST:
JEANETTE WEST

CHOIR DIRECTORS:
MONTE & CAROL
SHUCK

MESSENGER 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



Once again Advent is upon us, and it is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Evelyn and I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The season of Advent begins a new liturgical cycle in the church. Every year we trace the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from his birth to his resurrection. The central themes of Advent, a Latin word which means "coming" or "arrival," are expectation and longing for the birth of the Christ child. Advent is a time of preparation as we look forward to the great celebration of Christ's incarnation and we celebrate God dwelling among us in the person of Jesus.



Advent is marked by a spirit of expectation, of anticipation, and of preparation. It is the season to focus on the gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that God gives us daily through the Gift of His Son, born some 2000 years ago.

As we go into the Advent season, I pray that we will all catch the true meaning of the season: Christ has come, and He will come again!

We have so many blessings to be thankful for this Christmas Season. I hope you have a wonderful time with family and friends. Enjoy the season but foremost count your many blessings and remember to keep Christ in your hearts, and in Christmas.

God Bless You. *Carl*

Calendar of Events

Worship Services at 10:00 AM

Adult Sunday School each Sunday at 9:00

- Tuesdays - Men's Prayer Breakfast at 8 am
- Wednesdays - Choir Rehearsal at 5:30 P.M.
- Dec. 2 - Communion Sunday & Search Committee Meeting after Worship
- Dec. 24 - **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** at 6:00 PM
- Dec. 25 - **Christmas Day** (No Service)

2018 DECEMBER						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4 Yoga 1 PM	5 Choir 5:30	6 Yoga 10:30	7	8
9	10	Family Relief Christmas Gifts			14	15
		18 Yoga 1 PM	19 Choir 5:30	20 Yoga 10:30	21	22
23	24	25 ★	26 Choir 5:30	27 Yoga	28	29
30	31 New Years Eve	2019 →				

Thanks and Appreciation

I would like to send praises for a number of folks in our congregation.

Evelyn Thompson, Sara Pettijohn, and the leader, **Laquita Arner** for all the work and excellence in delivery of the great socials. Ladies, you are the best!

Carol and **Monte Shuck** for the dedication and great production of music for every service. Thank you!

To our **Pastor, Carl**, who stays in touch with all the members keeping abreast of their needs and praying for all of us, our country and the military.

For **Shirley** and **Bill Pinkston** who devote a lot of time and energy in preparation and delivery of the Sunday School lessons.

Pete Stebbins for his excellence in communication through the Messenger, updates, and the 2018 Directory! His care and concern for our members is so evident.

For **Nancy Norris**, who works hard in procuring the supplies for the services (bulletin covers, candles, etc.)

I know there are many more folks that I should mention, please accept my thanks and appreciation!



Joyce Goza, Session Member

In Remembrance of Jack Cooper



Jack Cooper and Jackie Payne

and chemicals. He incorporates power tools and natural elements such as fire, water and freezing techniques in his work. "Gentle Dove" is hanging in the hall outside the choir room across from our mail slots.

Stop, take a look, and remember Jack!

A new painting titled "Gentle Dove" by Chris DeRubeis has been donated to the Presbyterian Church of Salado by Jackie Payne in "Loving Memory of Jack Cooper."

Chris DeRubeis, a Florida artist, paints on metal, mixing pigments



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

	First Sunday of Advent - Dec 2	Second Sunday of Advent - Dec 9	Third Sunday of Advent - Dec 16	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Dec 23	First Sunday After Christmas - Dec 30
First Reading	Jeremiah 33:14-16	Malachi 3:1-4	Zeph. 3:14-20	Micah 5:2-5a	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
Psalm	Psalm 25:1-10	Luke 1:68-79	Isaiah 12:2-6	Luke 1:46b-55	Psalm 148
Sec. Reading	1 Thes. 3:9-13	Phil. 1:3-11	Phil. 4:4-7	Hebrews 10:5-10	Col. 3:12-17
Gospel	Luke 21:25-36	Luke 3:1-6	Luke 3:7-18	Luke 1:39-45	Luke 2:41-52

December Birthdays

Mike Moore 3
Debby Aldridge 4
Betty Gengler 9
Sandie Klingberg 21
Jesus Christ 25
Carol Booher 27

About our Members and Friends

Carol Booher is continuing to recover and complete her rehab at Cornerstone Gardens. She does both physical and occupational therapy during the weekdays. She enjoys visiting with her neighbors and eating lunch with John every day. Her family visits often. Pray for strength.

Martha Harper is under Hospice Care. She is comfortable at home with Robert and Barbara, her children. Please pray for her continued comfort, and also for her children who provide much care.

Bev Jones' son, **Ashley**, has a rare liver condition and cancer. Ash's medical staff at Duke have told him it is a good sign that he has responded to the first and lightest round of chemotherapy. Pray that this continues. Our Almighty God has heard your prayers. Thank you all.

May the magic of Christmas gladden your heart with the joys of the season. May the spirit of Christmas bless you with greater strength. May the promise of Christmas bring you and yours endless blessings.

Christmas Eve Service

The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at 6:00 P.M. on Monday December 24.



Greeters and Liturgists

To all those who served as Greeters and Liturgists during this past year, and to all those who celebrated special occasions by donating flowers for the sanctuary, the Worship committee sends a big THANK YOU. And would you believe it, 2019 is just around the corner, so it's time to sign up for next year.



Sign-up sheets are in the usual place in the narthex for January through June. Since Pastor Carl is leaving in July, we will wait until later to handle the last half of the year. However, we will take sign-ups for flowers for the whole year, so if you are celebrating a special time later in the year, feel free to sign up for flowers any time in 2019.

Thank you again for serving.
Nancy Norris and Joyce Goza

Benevolence Report

The Benevolence Committee distributes our congregational mission funds quarterly and will next meet on December 30th after worship.

We continue to support the Heart & Hands Ministries' pantry and clothing store on the 2nd and 4th Saturday each month.

This month we are also promoting the Salado Family Relief's annual project, *Christmas Gifts for Children*. Sara Pettijohn has the names of 10 children for whom we can provide the joy of being remembered. Please contact her if you can take a child's information and deliver wrapped or unwrapped gifts to our church on December 11 or 13.



A special **Thank you!** to all of our members who provided food and/or served at the Heart & Hands' Thanksgiving Luncheon on November 17th! We were one of five local churches supporting this important community meal. It was a lovely day, and the event was both well organized and well attended.

Best wishes, Pat Rehm

Adult Bible Study Classes

Advent lessons will begin on Sunday, December 2 and continue for the four weeks before Christmas. Matt Rawles, a minister and international speaker, likes to tell an old story in a new way. He will take us from "Bah Humbug!" to a Merry Christmas in his book entitled The Redemption of Scrooge.



The world keeps trying to stuff God into a smaller and smaller box, but Rawles shows that God owns our culture, not the other way around. He illustrates spiritual truths in even the most secular of places. Join us as we participate in this Advent Study on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. as we prepare for a blessed Christmas. Even if you've never attended before this is a good time to start. Coffee and cookies will be available.

There will be no class on December 30.



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

Amazing Grace by Kathleen Norris ****

The Good Book by Peter Gomes

Living the Message by Eugene H. Peterson

Beyond Words by Frederick Buechner

Prayers from the Heart by Richard Foster

Lift Up Your Eyes by Rev. Clyde E. Nichols

Forgotten God by Francis Chan ****

Silent Strength by Lloyd John Ogilvie

*** In the church library
Compiled by Pat Hart

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

This past Sunday Carl suggested that we read the Christmas story before Advent begins (in Luke chapters 1 & 2). I just finished. Last year about this time, after reading it, I wrote about Mary, the mother of Jesus. She is always on my mind during Advent. However, now I am thinking about Joseph. To me, and I would guess to a lot of people, he seems to be a minor figure in the story. He is just hovering in the background. But the truth of the matter is that he is not only a major character, so to speak, but is actually crucial to the unfolding story of the Nativity.

Let's just think about that for a minute. Let's think about the prophecies. We are told in Micah 5:2, "You, Bethlehem, least among the thousands of Judah, out of you HE shall come forth that is to become ruler of Israel." Jesus was to be descended from the line of King David. Joseph was from that line, and was from the tribe of Judah. Mary wasn't descended from royalty.

Joseph was the one who took them to Bethlehem, fulfilling Micah's prophecy about the birth of Jesus. Joseph found a place for Mary to give birth. Joseph was the one who guided them safely to Egypt, keeping the baby Jesus away from Herod and his son Archelaus, who sought to kill him. Joseph is the one who guided them safely back to Galilee. Joseph guarded and guided Jesus, and loved him like his own.

And Joseph was also obedient to the Lord, just as was Mary. He could have divorced her and sent her away. Under the law he had every right to do so. But he chose to be obedient, to trust in God, to take her as his wife, and protect and love her (and her child) as long as he lived.



(Isaiah 9:6) "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given; And the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, the everlasting Father, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace."

Wishing you a very "Merry Christmas"
from a Merry Heart  Linda Lloyd

The November 2018 Church Directory has been Published



The Session decided on October 15 that a new Directory for the church would be appropriate. There have been changes in the congregation, home/cell phone numbers, e-mail address, and home addresses. The "good ol' white pages" is no longer a reliable source of information.

Pete Stebbins was asked to review all current information in the data base, design a cover, and have the book printed.

This has been completed and all members that have church mail slots have a copy therein while some remote members were mailed a copy. He still has copies for other "not member - regular attender - friends").

See Pete for copies.



Social and Hanging of the Greens - 11/25/18



**Guest Organist
Our Carol Tyson**



Visitor: Sam and Missie Lanham's grandson, Graham McCorcle



Visitors: Bobbie Dickerson's granddaughter, Amy Dickerson and great granddaughter, Lilly Dickerson



**Joyce Goza
Our Flower Lady
Married 53 Years**

Recipe for Christmas Crack from Denice Kemp

- 1 to 1 1/2 sleeves of saltine crackers
- 1 1/4 cups unsalted butter
- 1 1/4 cups light brown sugar
- 4 to 6 ounces Heath toffee bits

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees.
Grease or spray a 16 X 11 rimmed baking sheet. Then line pan with foil or parchment so that it also comes up the sides.



Place a single layer of crackers to cover the pan.
In a saucepan, add sugar and butter and heat till all melted and boiling. Continue to stir while mixture boils for 3 full minutes.
After 3 minutes, pour the mixture over the crackers and place in oven.
Bake crackers for 5 minutes.

Remove crackers from the oven and sprinkle with toffee bits while still hot. Allow crackers to cool completely, then break in pieces.