

Eastminster Eagle

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July, 2019



Notes From
Fred

TOO SING OR NOT TO SING?

I recently overheard someone in our congregation tell another member that “I don’t sing even though I like the hymns and songs.” The other member asked, “Why not?” The reply was “I have a horrible voice and don’t want to disturb those around me that are singing.” As they were walking away in the parking lot, I decided not to engage them in conversation. But it got me to thinking about it especially having in the last few months participated in two weddings where the congregation sang, and sang joyfully.

The Bible tells us to sing and further in this article you will find some proof texts for those that need such. The Jews sang, the heathen sang, and the early Christians sang. But as the Roman church and the Eastern became dominate, they eventually turned from all congregational singing and moved to only the choir with the Priests intoning some of the liturgy.

The Reformation changed that, and congregational singing again became the norm and that has lasted to this day. There are some congregations where maybe they only sing a couple of hymns and more when some verses are left out. This kind of defeats the purpose of the hymn (poem) that has come down to us, as it leaves out some of the meaning of the hymn. We may do that sometimes when 1 verse fits as a response to a particular part of the liturgy of the day, but when singing as a hymn we ordinarily sing all the verses. And there are some congregations, like the two different ones whose weddings I participated in, that use a lot of congregational singing during the service—even a wedding, which in both of these cases is considered a very sacred moment not only for the couples but for the congregations as well.

SO WHY SING?

We gather and sing because we’re called to do so. Singing is an act of obedience to God. Like telling the truth. Like loving our wives and our children. Like loving our neighbor as ourselves. These may seem like bold statements, but consider this: Singing is a real and tangible expression of loving the Lord with our whole hearts and our whole selves and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

Singing is also a privilege, a foretaste of heaven. One day in the future every nation, and people will sing as one congregation before the throne of Jesus and to God. Until then, we find a microcosm of that day in the form of congregational worship. As we anticipate the matchless glories of heaven, there’s immeasurable value in our singing together on earth. The extent of this importance becomes increasingly understood in three ways.

1. Congregational singing affects us as individuals.

In our society where many have depression, self-worth is confused, friendships, marriages and families are shattering, and some communities collapse. Violence, and suicide rates are soaring, and as always global turmoil continues. In all this, it’s only when we worship that we put God in his rightful spot, engaging him with our intellect, emotions, and bodies. We

Continued on Page 2

Notes: Continued from Page 1

cannot rise above the world's difficulties until we turn our eyes to the one higher than ourselves.

In congregational worship, we proclaim what seems impossible to our natural selves: "You are the center of the universe. I am but a moment; you are eternal." In worship, our personal engages with what's eternal. As we sing, we lift ourselves to what's higher. Ultimately, our minds are renewed as we remind ourselves of God's mercy and offer our bodies as living sacrifices to him (Romans 12:1-2). We cannot rise above the world's difficulties until, as the old hymns say (to paraphrase), turn our (your) eyes to the one higher than ourselves.

2. Congregational singing affects our community.

What it does for us as individuals ripples outward toward those around us. The apostle Paul often encouraged the earliest churches toward authentic worship. He told these new Christians to encourage one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Eph. 5:19). In other words, when we sing, we're reminding each other of eternal truths and therefore forging a lasting spiritual bond between us. We're not merely singing to God; we're also singing to one another. Please take to heart Psalm 100 "Make a joyful noise." It doesn't say make a beautiful noise, it doesn't say only if you sing on pitch, it doesn't say if you sing all the notes correctly. It says joyful noise. Why? Because we are joyful for all that God through Jesus has done for us!

3. Congregational singing helps our witness.

Imagine what our singing together sounds like to an onlooking world that doesn't believe. They see people singing together passionately. They see communities of desperate individuals joining together, men, women, youth, and children who regardless of station in life, rich or poor, highly educated or not, are joined together, singing to one another the unique melody of the good news.

I was told as a teenager to "sing out" because you are praising God and you are a witness. Singing is always a witness to something—either

to the greatest privilege of our lives or to the fact that, frankly, we're bored. From those who visit our churches, to our children who've yet to believe, to people who hear our voices from the sidewalk—when we sing together of the grace of our God, it's a powerful witness.

The Eternal Concerto

I love good music whether it's what is thrown mostly incorrectly under the category "Classical Music" or the various forms of Rock, or early pop music, or musicals, contemporary in all the categories, some of the various forms of country, and if you have been paying attention this last several months, old and modern Gospel. Here at Eastminster, we try to sing hymns, songs, and anthems from every style and category. If we miss your favorite stick around.

The cello is among my favorite instruments for listening, but the hairs on my neck and chills sometime run through my body when I hear the congregation sing a hymn or song, without any instruments, like we did last month on "Breathe on Me Breath of God." Singing with God's people, standing with those who have tears in their eyes from memories of a hymn or song that touched them at some point in their lives. And yes even singing when I have tears in mine. Singing our witness, praise, and prayers before God, each other and the world. Singing with those reasons in our hearts and minds, regardless of how loud or soft, how off key or on key, whether we know a song or hymn or not but nevertheless are trying to sing, maybe the witness that through Jesus gives hope to the world!

It is the eternal concerto of the soul—the ultimate masterpiece.



Stewardship Notes

As you may remember from the 2018 Congregational meeting, the Stewardship Committee set a goal to share more information throughout the year regarding our church budget. As of May 31 our actual expenses are right on track with the annual budget. Pledge income is behind what we have budgeted at this point of the year. If you have delayed your giving please catch up when you can so we can keep our budget balanced. Eastminster is a generous congregation and we are so blessed by our members and visitors! Praise God for His perfect provision!

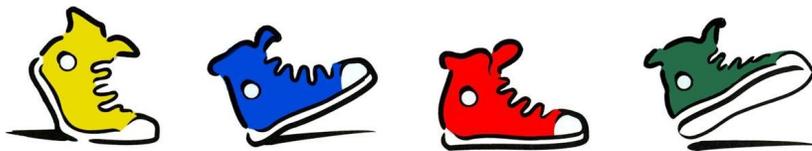
ALUMINUM CANS

Please continue to bring aluminum cans to the church instead of throwing them in the trash. There are garbage pails in the courtyard for the cans. The cans usually bring \$15-\$20 each time they are sold.



Not much, but every little bit helps!!

RECYCLE, RECYCLE!



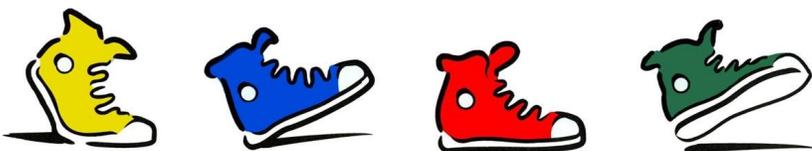
Shoes for Back to School The Location has Changed!

Shoe Carnival (located at 11255 Garland Road)

Sunday, July 28 from 2-3:30 p.m.

Can you help put shoes on 50 kids this year? One pair of shoes is \$32, but any amount helps! You may place your donation in an envelope marked "Shoes" in the offering plate, you may mail a check to the office, or you may donate online at www.eastminsterdallas.org/donate.

Please let us know if you can help with the Shoe Fitting on July 28 from 2-3:30 p.m.



If you wish to make a monetary donation of any kind and cannot physically attend Eastminster Worship, Online Donation is available. Go to the Eastminster website:

www.eastminsterdallas.org
and select the *Online Giving Tab*.

If your choice of fund is not listed, go to **Memorials and Special Gifts**, choose **Special**, and indicate your choice of donation in the notes section.

Credit Card Reminder: Eastminster does offer this option, but Eastminster is charged a 2.75% fee of the total donation.

In her first call, Presbyterian Study Grant recipient will help church connect to a neighborhood in transition

by Paul Seebeck | Presbyterian News Service

LOUISVILLE — When seminarian Alexandra Pappas felt the call to ministry while in her late teens, she was intimidated and afraid. Doubtful that God could possibly call someone like her to be a pastor — she constantly battles the desire for perfection, especially in worship and preaching — Pappas decided to go to seminary anyway.

“I felt like it might be a space where I could learn and ultimately discern God’s will for me,” says the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary senior.

Now, as she reflects on her seminary years, Pappas sees how much of that work has been done. Just before entering seminary she served a congregation going through a rough time of transition. It made her afraid of working in a church, so she figured she’d seek an alternative ministry context.

But through what she calls great teaching and conversations with fellow seminarians, she began to realize her pull to serve in alternative ministry was coming from a place of fear. Now, more confident of God’s call and love for her, this Presbyterian Study Grant recipient is prepared to enter into parish ministry this fall as a ministry resident at First Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, La.

Part of what grounded Pappas was returning to her love of making pottery. In her middle year at Austin, worship professor Dr. Jennifer Lord agreed to do a directed study with Pappas during which they talked about the history of art in the Protestant church.

In those conversations, Pappas agreed to make a communion set for the seminary.

“I was anxious about having such big task to accomplish,” says Pappas, “but Dr. Lord walked with me every step of the way. It turns out

making pottery part of my life again has given me new perspective on my relationship with God.”

She came to realize how much God loves her, even when she fails. Increasingly thankful for this kind of grounding love that came through the image of God being our potter, and of us being the clay and the work of God’s hand (Isaiah 64:8), Pappas began to understand that this is what she wishes every person knew — and could get into their hearts, that God loves both their best and their worst parts.

“God loves you when you act small and when you’re the best person you can be,” she says.



Alexandra Pappas poses with the communion set she created for Austin Seminary. Creating the pottery gave her new perspective on her relationship with God and her struggle over the desire for perfection. (Photo by Randal Whittington)

Pappas says she’s excited for her two-year ordained ministry position at First Presbyterian Church in Shreveport, where she’ll have an opportunity to think “big picture” about how churches can support and stabilize neighborhoods in transition. As part of her Stoer residency, she’ll be working in one of Shreveport’s most progressive and culturally diverse neighborhoods. In the Highlands community neighborhood restoration work is underway, which is a perfect fit for Pappas.

“What would it look like for the church to go out into the world and share the good news through our actions and relationships, instead of using that kind of outreach as a way to lure people back into our church building? I think the world we live in calls us to go out, not to retreat in, and I believe God has given us all the tools to do that. We just have to live into that call.”



Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

2019 PCHAS School Supplies Drive

Eastminster is sponsoring 12 kids from PCHAS for back to school supplies. It is important that we follow the school lists closely—those are the requirements from the individual schools for their students.

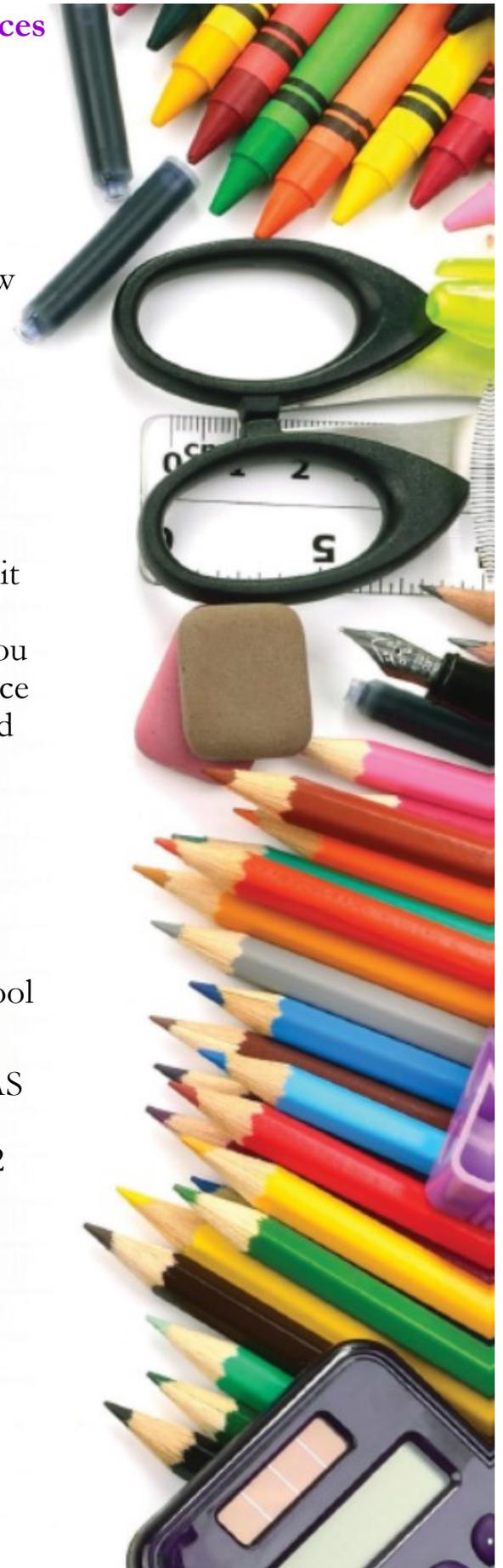
If you have chosen a child to send back to school, thank you! The best time to purchase the supplies is when the sales start in July. We need the supplies returned to the office no later than Sunday, July 28.

For those of you who don't want to shop, we will do it for you. Any amount you can spare will help a child have everything they need to start the school year. You may donate online, send a check to the church, or place a donation in the offering plate in an envelope marked "School Supplies."

A Story of God's Work from 2018

Last year, we sponsored 10 children, and somehow ended up with an extra set of supplies for a high school child and a 1st grade child.

We received a last minute emergency call from PCHAS asking if there was any way we could help with 2 kids that just came into the program. Guess what, those 2 kids were a 1st grader and a high schooler! How amazing is that?





House & Property



Did you know ...

The playground at Eastminster was built around 1992 for the children of the church and for the children and grandchildren to come. There have been several changes and additions to the playground over the years as we've committed to our young ones.

The ark came to us all the way from Ohio with group of our men taking a road trip to bring back the centerpiece that so many kids have enjoyed over the years. We've added and replaced playground equipment including the jungle gym that is there now.

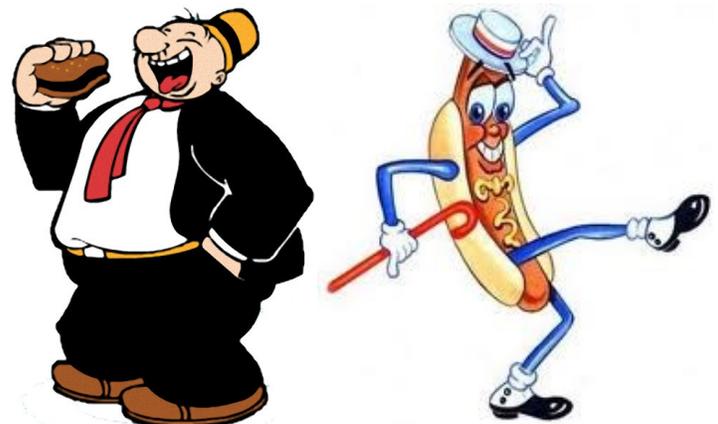
Noticed anything new? How about that brand new tetherball on the freshly painted pole? It has been many years since the mulch for the playground has been added to but over the last 3 months, a total of 6 cubic yards of mulch have been added. We think we are about halfway through with the needed mulch to bring the playground back up to the level it needs to be. We should be done in September and thanks to several volunteers and Blair Garrett, the House and Property committee has gotten this done at no cost to the church. Blair has a friend with a trailer we have been able to

use to get the mulch to the church. The city of Mesquite offers residents of the city two free cubic yards of mulch and compost per month and we have taken advantage of that generosity three months in a row. So, we thank God for that generosity and for those who've given their time and sweat to get the job done, in particular Katie Karlen, Ronnie Dixon and Bruce Turner. Take a look at the playground and see if you notice a difference. After all, it is the young who are the future!



What's happening on Sunday, July 21? Hamburgers, hot dogs, and ice cream novelties, that's what! Join us after worship for some food, fun, and fellowship. What do you need to bring? Yourself and a friend—everything else is provided.

Carlos Vargas and his students will be performing. Don't miss the music.



Realm Makes it Easy to Give!

Would you like to keep up with your own contribution report? Or update your own information? Well, you can! With our Realm program you can have all this information at your fingertips. You can have easy access at any time. Let the office know that you would love to have this convenience, and we'll send you a Realm invitation. You will set up your own account and you will have access to your own information.

Did you know that you can give by text? Text epcdallas general \$10 (or the amount you choose) to 73256 to give to General Fund using your text messaging. Standard text message rates do apply.

“Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted. Bloom!” —Christine Caine

“Truly it seems that we are never so alive as when we concern ourselves with other people.” —Harry Chapin

“I only went out for a walk, and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in.” —John Muir

We need deliberately to call to mind the joys of our journey. Perhaps we should try to write down the blessings of one day. We might begin; we could never end; there are not pens or paper enough in all the world.

—George Buttrick

From Jenelle

With deep regret I must tell you I am leaving Eastminster. My oldest daughter (Terri) and family are moving to Charlotte, NC and my youngest daughter (Dee) lives in Austin. I'm in the process of selling my apartment building, which has been my home of the last 27 years. When that is complete I will pack up and move to Austin.

I was nine years old when my family became charter members of Calvary. I remember meeting in a small café in front of a dance studio on Military Parkway. We collected the offering in a man's hat. I had five siblings, so we were the Sunday school class and the youth group.

I have served as treasurer, Sunday school teacher, choir member, youth group leader, camp counselor, coach of the little girl's soft ball team, played co-ed soft ball and volleyball, served as usher, greeter, lay leader, served on the session twice and leader of the Seniors' Day Out.

I love my church and will miss all my very dear friends. Jenelle



At the burning bush, Moses asks God's name.
What is God's answer?

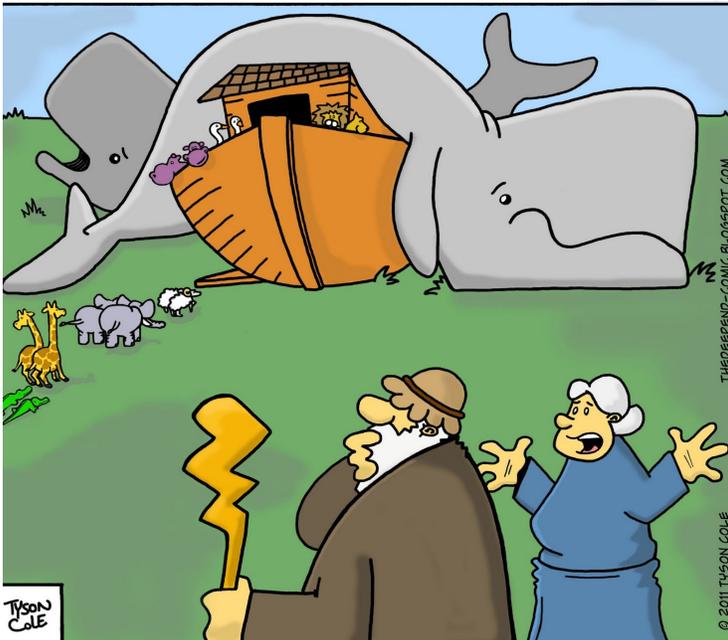
- A. The Lord
- B. I AM
- C. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- D. All of the above



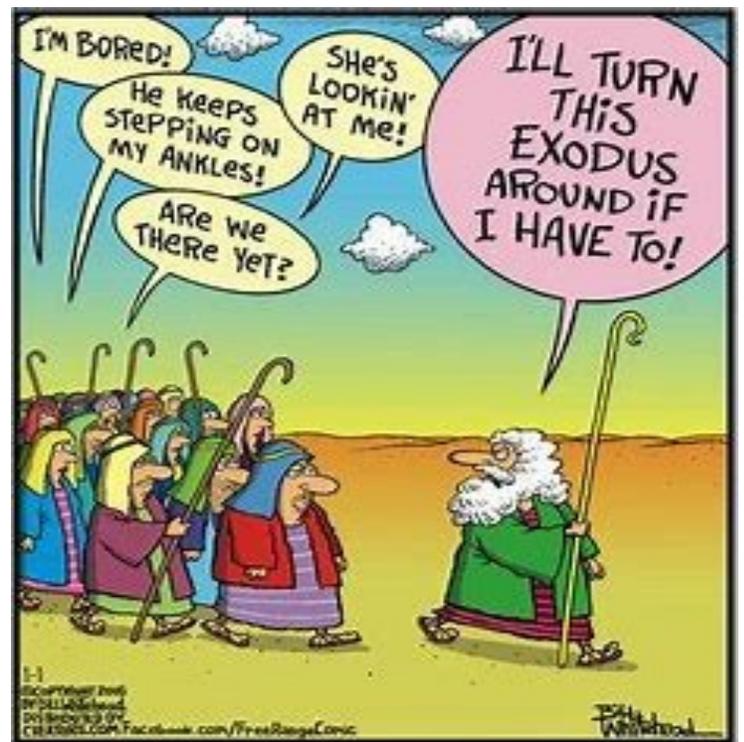
Answer: D (See Exodus 3:14-15.)

THE DEEP END

TYSON COLE

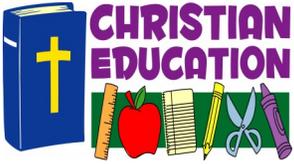


"MAYBE THE WHALES WOULD BE OK STAYING IN THE WATER."



Scripture Readings for July

1 Luke 22:52-62	12 Mark 1:1-13	23 Mark 4:21-34
2 Luke 22:63-71	13 Mark 1:14-28	24 Mark 4:35-41
3 Luke 23:1-12	14 Matt. 23:29-39	25 Mark 5:1-20
4 Luke 23:13-25	15 Mark 1:29-45	26 Mark 5:21-43
5 Luke 23:26-31	16 Mark 2:1-12	27 Mark 6:1-13
6 Luke 23:32-43	17 Mark 2:13-22	28 Matt. 25:31-46
7 Matt. 22:1-14	18 Mark 2:23-3:6	29 Mark 6:14-29
8 Luke 23:44-56a	19 Mark 3:7-19a	30 Mark 6:30-46
9 Luke 23:56b-24:11 (12)	20 Mark 3:19b-35	31 Mark 6:47-56
10 Luke 24:13-35	21 Matt. 25:14-30	
11 Luke 24:36-53	22 Mark 4:1-20	



SYNOD & Triennium

Jezzi Whitley, Coy Whitley, Jacob Wood, Sebastian Crouse, and Alek Veloz are heading to Tulsa, OK for SYNOD (July 8-12) with sponsors. Christine Blair and Tammy Crouse. Gary and Sherry Holloman, and Kayla Dixon will be there too.

Jacob and Mason will also attend Triennium (July 16-20) at Purdue University. Triennium is a national conference that is held every three years. Youth from all over the world will attend. Jacob and Mason will travel with the Grace Presbytery delegation on Charter Buses to Indiana.

Don't carry two days at once

“Worrying is carrying tomorrow’s load with today’s strength—carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time.” This wise counsel is attributed to Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian whose family in Amsterdam sheltered some 800 Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, suffering imprisonment as a result. Her father and sister died in captivity, but Corrie was freed and later set up a rehabilitation center for concentration camp victims and supporters of the Germans alike.

Surely ten Boom couldn’t have survived and achieved what she did without laying aside her worries and trusting God. Indeed, her wisdom closely echoes Jesus’ teaching: “Do not worry about your life. ...Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? ...Your heavenly Father knows [what] you need. ...Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:25-34, NIV).

Self-fulfilling prophecies

“Children have this amazing way of becoming exactly who we tell them they are,” writes Amy Weatherly. “If we tell them they are strong, they become strong. If we tell them they are kind, they become kind.”

Perhaps Jesus knows this when he tells his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth [and] the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). Clearly they haven’t already mastered sharing Jesus’ goodness with everyone! They are works in progress, as are we. But Jesus, teacher that he is, seems to set the bar high so his followers will strive to meet his expectations.

“You are Peter,” Jesus tells Simon, “and on this rock I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18). We can hear Weatherly: “If we tell them they’re faithful, they become faithful.” And when Jesus declares, “You are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:31), we believe in our worth and live it out. We become what Jesus tells us we are. —Heidi Mann

Love made flesh

The whole concept of God taking human shape had never made much sense to me. That was because, I realized one wonderful day, it was so simple. For people with bodies, important things like love have to be embodied. That's all. God had to be embodied, or else people with bodies would never in a trillion years understand about love.

—Jane Vonnegut Yarmolinsky

July

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday: 6, 13, 20, 27
Choir is out for the Summer
- 2 EPW Summer Dining, 7p.m. at Hacienda Ranch
4 Office Closed
7 Communion – Intinction; Pulpit Supply
9-14 Synod Youth Workshop
16-21 Triennium
21 Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, and Ice Cream in the Fellowship Hall following worship
22 Newsletter Deadline
28 Back to School Shoe fitting at Shoe Carnival

August

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Choir Resumes - Wednesdays (21, 28)
PCHAS Book Review
- 4 Communion – Intinction; Committee Meeting; Senior Source Seminars, 1 and 2 p.m.
6 EPW Summer Dining: BJ's at Town East
11 Stewardship & Worship Committees meet
18 Stated Session Meeting; (2020 Budget figures due to Treasurer within 5 days)
19 Newsletter Deadline
21 Choir Dinner and Choir practice resumes
25 Rally Day; pot luck; choir is back

September

- Neighborhood breakfast every Saturday 7, 14, 21, 28
Choir Practice - Wednesdays 4, 11, 18, 25
- 1 Communion Sunday – Intinction; Committee Meetings
2 Office Closed – Labor Day
3 EPW 7pm
8 Worship & Stewardship Committees Meet
15 Stated Session Meeting
23 Newsletter Deadline
28 Presbyterian Meeting: 1st Presbyterian of Tyler



Blair Garrett	5
Caston West	5
Emma Wallis	8
Steve O'Neil	9
Joseph Bacon	13
Ginny Beatty	13
Paul LaPorte	14
Tim Kreger	16
Darlene West	20
Duke Wyatt	20
Bonnie Lucas	21
Roy Ridley	24



Tammy and Dennis Crouse	7/6/1978
Toni and Joseph Bacon	7/13/1982
Doris and Paul LaPorte	7/15/1951
Deidre and Wayne Maples	7/17/1978
Kellie and Frank Karlen, Jr.	7/18/1986



Those Who Will Serve in July



Ushers/Greeters—Team

Blair Garrett—Captain
Cindy Garrett
Sylvia & Tom Falcon

July 7

In the Pulpit: Ron Holloman

Liturgist: Wilson Nicholson

Communion:

Michele Pappas
Tom Pappas
Philis Knox

July 14:

Liturgist: Wilson Nicholson

July 21:

Liturgist: Wilson Nicholson

July 28:

In the Pulpit: Wilson Nicholson

Liturgists: Sherry Holloman



Eastminster Session

Janice Bell

Denise Bennett

Tony Bennett

Ronnie Dixon

Cindy Garrett

Janet Muller

Michele Pappas

Evelyn Parker

Helen Randolph

Bruce Turner

Shirlene Watkins

Tom Whitley

Mason Gonzales, Youth Elder



Pastor Sherry Holloman

Director of Christian Education Kathy Kreger

Director of Music Fred P. Watkins

Organist Melody S. Davis

Administrative Assistant Chandra Anderson

Hostess/Housekeeper Minerva Hernandez

Child Care Provider Betty Crabtree



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HIGHLIGHTS from the STATED SESSION MEETING

May 19, 2019

- ◆ House & Property: Motion made, seconded and approved to begin a fund-raising campaign to remodel the nursery. The committee will work on involving the young mothers in the remodel.
- ◆ Outreach: Action Items: PCHAS school supply collection. Motion made, seconded and approved to begin the PCHAS school supply drive in June.
- ◆ Outreach: Motion made, seconded and approved to hold an Ice Cream Social in July on a date to be determined. CCC, Worship, and Outreach will discuss July 6 as the possible date; and will discuss working together on the Ice Cream Social.
- ◆ Discussion on filling the vacancy of Session Elder Tom Whitley (Class of 2020). Motion made, seconded and approved to leave Tom Whitley's seat vacant for the remainder of 2019.
- ◆ Updates: The Security Task Force is still gathering information; The receptacle was installed in the attic above the Cloister.
- ◆ The ADA Task Force has an Action Item to employ architect Greg Wyatt for the estimated cost of \$18,000 from a fund that the Stewardship Committee will recommend at the next Session Meeting. Motion made, seconded, and approved for the Stewardship Committee/Cindy Garrett to research the possibilities of using Presbyterian Investment and/or a Building loan to accomplish the ADA remodel of the building.
- ◆ The Fellowship Hall Task Force has an Action Item to use funds from Account #3651 (\$419.54) and Account #3663 (\$2553.59) to pay AudioVisual of Dallas the total of \$2973.13 for Fellowship Hall updates. Motion made, seconded, and approved.
- ◆ Revisit the Flock Ministry. Pastor Sherry presented the updated Flock Ministry. She will speak with Tom Pappas regarding his availability to take the young adults and those members who have not attended in three or more years.



Special dates

- **Canada Day, July 1, 2019**
- **U.S. Independence Day, July 4, 2019**