



*First Presbyterian Church  
418 West Coolidge  
Borger, TX 79007  
~March 2009~*



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Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty

### Green Chili Chicken Cheese Soup

Boned and chopped chicken breast  
(approx. 4-6) (you can use the meat of a  
whole chicken if desired)  
3 quarts chicken broth  
(you can use chicken bullion if desired)  
1 quart water  
1 can diced green chilies  
(mild or hot – your choice)  
1 pkg. frozen O'Brien Hash Brown  
Potatoes  
1 onion sautéed  
1-2 lbs Velveeta cheese (cut in cubes)  
1-2 cans whole kernel corn including liquid  
Salt, pepper, garlic powder

Fill crock pot (large) with broth and water.  
Add boned chicken, green chilies, chopped  
onion, and hash browns. Cook until  
potatoes are tender adding desired amounts  
of salt, pepper and garlic powder.

Approximately 30 minutes before serving  
add Velveeta cubes and cook until all is

melted and yummy!!!

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FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE  
**First Presbyterian Church Newsletter**

March

Borger, Texas

2009

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PASTOR'S PEN

March 2009

*Psalm 118: 5 – 14*

Out of my distress I called on the Lord;  
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.  
With the Lord on my side I do not fear.  
What can mortals do to me?  
The Lord is on my side to help me;  
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to put confidence in mortals.  
It is better to take refuge in the Lord  
than to put confidence in princes.

All nations surrounded me;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!  
They surrounded me, surrounded me on every side;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!  
They surrounded me like bees;  
they blazed like a fire of thorns;  
in the name of the Lord I cut them off!  
I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,  
but the Lord helped me.  
The Lord is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.

I am sure that I remember a song entitled "Those Were the Good Ole Days" but I am not sure if it really is a song or not – and I can't find it on You Tube; but - I know that many of us have memories that we would categorize in that terminology. Those memories of days gone by when life was safe and secure; groceries and gas were cheap; church was a regular part of most families lives; and we weren't strange for being Presbyterians.

But life and times have changed. We live in a world that threatens us. The influences are many and most appear to be negative. We long for the "Good Ole Days". They are mythical days where it appears we were less stressed and safer. It is no doubt that we live in a complex and at times a dangerous world. I am not sure it was any better at any other point in history. I think back to when I was a teenager in the 1960s and I thought we had it worse than the 1950s. Then in the 1980s and 1990s when my children were in high school and college, I thought it was even worse than when I was a teenager. Today as my grandchildren are growing up, I wonder what obstacles they will face as they move toward maturity.

The psalmist has been stressed. He has attempted to put his trust in princes and other mortals but they have failed him. He is beset on every side. He is being pushed hard. It is a scary time for him. So much for the "good ole days."

It is a natural and common experience to want to escape our situations. We want to believe that someone had it

easier than we do. No matter how advanced we become technologically, we will never find the peace we want outside of a relationship with our God who offers true and lasting peace.

I realize that the future for my grandchildren will be no different than it was for their great grandfather. The world offers many obstacles and temptations. As long as we keep our eyes on the prize, as long as we keep our eyes upon Jesus, we will be fine. Lent is a time when we can recognize the times we lost that focus. We can resonate with the palmist when he said in verses 13 – 14:

*"I was pushed hard, so that I was falling, but the LORD helped me. The LORD is my strength and my might; he has become my salvation."*


It is just as true today as it was in the "Good Ole Days!!"

We have begun this year with energy and commitment. We had a wonderful chili dinner prepared by Carroll Pace (thank you Carroll – it was delicious) and attended by many. This time together provided an opportunity for us to have our Annual Meeting of the Congregation. It is so pleasing and fulfilling that we continue to come together as the Church supporting our mission and ministry even though we are so few. As it is said in Holy Scripture *"Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."*—Matt. 18:20 I have no doubt that God is with us in all our endeavors.

Thank you to all who assisted with Bob Watkins service on Friday, January 30<sup>th</sup>. It was so meaningful to be part of First Presbyterian Church offering comfort and compassion, welcoming and fellowship, worship and prayer to those who attended – many of whom were not part of our congregation. Thank you for being the Church.

We hold Aleyene, David, and James, along with their extended family in our prayers.

Grace and peace in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.



Georgia

## Care of Members and Friends

Please keep these members and friends in our prayers...



Scott Glenn  
Bobbie & James Farrell  
Aleyene Watkins & Family  
Pete Marsh  
Leah Buckland & Family  
Rhodean Hopkins



## THE HISTORY AND MEANING OF LENT

Originating in the fourth century of the church, the season of Lent spans 40 weekdays: beginning on Ash Wednesday and climaxing during Holy Week, with Holy Thursday (Maundy Thursday), Good Friday, and concluding Saturday before Easter. Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for those who were to be baptized, a time of concentrated study and prayer before their baptism at the Easter Vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord early on Easter Sunday. But since these new members were to be received into a living community of Faith, the entire community was called to preparation. Also, this was the time when those who had been separated from the Church would prepare to rejoin the community.

Today, Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent, and are referred to as the Sundays in Lent. The number 40 is connected with many biblical events, but especially with the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness preparing for His ministry by facing the temptations that could lead him to abandon his mission and calling. Christians today use this period of time for introspection, self examination, and repentance. This season of the year is equal only to the Season of Advent in importance in the Christian year, and is part of the second major grouping of Christian festivals and sacred time that includes Holy Week, Easter, and Pentecost.

Lent has traditionally been marked by penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Some churches today still observe a rigid schedule of fasting on certain days during Lent, especially the giving up of meat, alcohol, sweets, and other types of food. Other traditions do not place as great an emphasis on fasting, but focus on charitable deeds, especially helping those in physical need with food and clothing, or simply the giving of money to charities. Most Christian churches that observe Lent at all focus on it as a time of prayer, especially penance, repenting for failures and sin as a way to focus on the need for God's grace. It is really a preparation to celebrate God's marvelous redemption at Easter, and the resurrected life that we live, and hope for, as Christians.



## *Notes from the Music Department*



Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found. I think by now most of you know how much I love that old hymn. And you may even be wondering when we are going to sing that for an anthem. Well, it looks like we will be singing that in May. We will also be singing a new Christmas anthem in May. Yes, I know that Christmas is not in May but in my opinion we should be able to sing Christmas music all year long. So we are!

Choir practice for March will be on the following nights: March 4 at 6:30 pm; March 11 at 6:30pm; March 18 at 6:30 pm; and March 25 at 6:30 pm. We may have to make adjustments for Session meeting but that will be fine. We will be working very diligently on Easter music for March and April. Maybe even some more bells on Easter Sunday!

Closing Response for the month of March will be printed in the bulletin. It will either be as an insert or be included in the bulletin. I "borrowed" this response from Wesley Methodist church. I think you will like it.

I am going to give you a hint as to what to expect for Easter Sunday. We will be singing "Up from the grave He Arose" on Easter. We are also working on Lenten music for all of March and April. And I have even found an old piece (very old – before Scott Glenn) for us to work on. That will be a surprise!

We hold Aleyene Watkins, Scott Glenn, Mary Botkin, and Bobbie Farrell in our prayers and thoughts. We pray for continued healing and peace as they move through life's journey. We also hold all past and present choir members in our hearts. We miss you all.

May the Good Lord watch between you and me while we are absent one from the other!  
Pat Petty and Choir