



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

First Presbyterian Church

May Borger, Texas 2010



Pastor's Pen
May 2010

On Easter Sunday I had one of those *aha!* moments in worship . It happened at an unexpected point in the service, during the Apostles' Creed, of all things! I mean we say it most Sundays of the year. Most people wouldn't see the saying of that old Creed as necessarily inspiring. It's been around since the early 2nd Century. It's a matter-of-fact statement of what we believe and is the basic creed of Reformed churches. It has received its title because of its great antiquity; it dates from very early times in the Church, a half century or so from the last writings of the New Testament

What struck me, though, while we were almost all reciting the words, was the range of folks who were all saying the same thing – the wide range of spiritual maturity among us. Having been here for several years now, I know just about all of us who worship together. For the most part I've come to know our different stories and what occurred to me on Easter Sunday, as we spoke the words, "I believe that...on the third day he rose again from the dead," each of us spoke from our own unique story. In other words, some of us are strong, deeply committed Christians, who live with an almost constant awareness of Jesus Christ, His presence and power. Others of us are just getting our faith renewed. Some are on a growth curve that is amazing. Some are stalled in our faith or maybe even a bit disenchanted with our church. And some maybe haltingly whisper those creedal words because we're seeking to get our questions about God answered. And we're all there together at that moment, saying the same thing, but from very different perspectives. That's amazing, and that's what hit me Easter morning. It's always been that way. The Holy Spirit does not create cookie cutter Christians, all looking just the same from the get go. On the growth curve, we're at different places.

So I ask you, where are you in your own spiritual journey? Are you confident and secure? Do you have a few or a million questions or no questions at all? Does it even matter to you what you believe? (After all, we've all been at this for a while.) But, even after our lifetimes of learning about our faith, we do likely still have questions. In the Reformed and Presbyterian tradition, we have a basic set of Christian values and understanding and its stated right there in The Apostles' Creed. I encourage you to read and dissect The Apostles' Creed one more time for your own understanding of how you translate what you believe.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Peace and blessings,

Care of Members and Friends

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

- Scott Glenn**
- Bobbie & Jim Farrell**
- Mary Botkin**
- Pat & Alice Harvey**
- Pete Marsh**
- Aleyene Watkins**

"Let me fall into the
hand of the LORD, for his
mercy is very great..."

1 Chronicles 21:13

DUTY ELDER FOR MAY
Hazel Howard

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
Sunday, May 16

SESSION MEETING
Sunday, May 23



**CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
MONDAY, MAY 31**

**The Treasurer reported the
following figures for March:**

Total Income	\$8,862.11
Total Expenses	<u>\$7,649.25</u>
Total	\$1,212.86



Year to Date

Total Income	\$28,343.67
Total Expenses	<u>\$32,875.95</u>
Total	\$(4,532.28)

**HI-PLAINS HELPING HANDS
DONATION FOR MAY**

TOILET PAPER, PAPER TOWELS, PAPER
PLATES OR ANTIBACTERIAL SOAP



**Newsletter
Deadline
for June
May 26, 2010**

Mother's Day



"My Mother's Garden"

A mother is a gardener,
Planting the seeds
Of faith, truth and love
That develop into the fairest flowers
Of character, virtue and happiness
In the lives of her children.

—J. Harold Gwynne

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Notes from the Music Department

I think that May has arrived along with the wind (didn't I mention in March that we have not had that much wind?). But we have also had enough rain to change our brown, dry landscape into a beautiful sea of green. Even with the wind, our Panhandle is beginning to turn green and flowers bloom. Absolutely beautiful!!

Choir practice for May will be: May 5, 12, and 26. We will not have practice on May 19 as I will be out of town. Practice will begin at 6:30 pm as usual. We have prepared two new anthems for May. We will also be singing two of our stand by anthems.

We will begin using a new Opening Response for May. We will use "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place". We are going to change the Closing Response to the refrain part of the hymn "Lift High the Cross". So look for an insert for the Opening Response and a page number for the Closing. Please join with us as we sing.

I mentioned that I would be out of town on May 19. I am also going to be gone on May 9 and May 17. Our family will be taking a family cruise to celebrate our youngest granddaughter's 16th birthday and our oldest granddaughter's high school graduation. I am also going to be gone on May 23. I will be in church with our oldest granddaughter to celebrate her high graduation service. I will miss you all but will be having a good time with our family.

As always, we hold the following in our prayers and thoughts: Aleyene Watkins, Scott Glenn, Mary Botkin, Jim & Bobbie Farrell, and Pat & Alice Harvey. We hold all our members in our prayers and thoughts as we continue on our life's journey. With God's help and our listening to Him speak to us we will muddle through life together.

The Lord bless you and keep you. Amen! Mary, pass the gravy!

Pat Petty and Choir

PW NEWS

Not even the weather can stop our PW goers! We decided at our April meeting to finish our Joshua study by meeting in both June and July.

The dates for PW are:

-  **May 6**
-  **June 3**
-  **July 1**

Come join us for bible study and fellowship. All women are welcome.

Lee Buckland



MAY 2010 LECTIONARY READINGS

May 2

Acts 11:1–18
Psalm 148
Revelation 21:1–6
John 13:31–35

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Peter's vision; what God has made clean you must not call profane.
All of creation called to praise God.
Vision of the new heaven and the new earth.
Jesus gives a new commandment; love one another as he loved you.

May 9

Acts 16:9–15
Psalm 67
Revelation 21:10, 22—22:5
John 14:23–29
Or
John 5:1–9

Sixth Sunday of Easter

Paul baptizes Lydia and her household.
Call for all peoples to praise God, who judges with equity.
Vision of the new Jerusalem.
Jesus promises the coming presence of the Holy Spirit
Jesus heals and invalid on the Sabbath.

May 13

Acts 1:1–11
Psalm 47
Or
Psalm 93
Ephesians 1:15–23
Luke 24:44–53

Ascension of the Lord

The ascension of Jesus into heaven.
Psalm of praise to God, king of all the earth.
God is sovereign over all creation.
Christ made head of the Church, which is his body.
Ascension of Jesus into heaven.

May 16

Acts 16:16–34
Psalm 97
Revelation 22:12–21
John 17:20–26

Seventh Sunday of Easter

Paul and Silas in prison.
Creation trembles at the righteousness of God.
Jesus is the Alpha and the Omega.
Jesus prays to God for his followers to be as one.

May 23

Acts 2:1–21
Or
Genesis 11:1–9
Psalm 104:24–34, 35b
Romans 8:14–17
Or
Acts 2:1–21
John 14:8–17 (25–27)

Day of Pentecost

Holy Spirit comes as a rush of wind and divided tongues of fire.
Tower of Babel
Praise for God, creator and sustainer of life.
All who are led by the Spirit are children of God.
If the Genesis text was read first.
Jesus and the Father are one; promise of the coming Holy Spirit.

May 30

Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31
Psalm 8
Romans 5:1–5
John 16:12–15

Trinity Sunday

Wisdom present at the dawn of creation.
Creation as a testament to God's majesty.
Through Christ, our hope in God is not in vain.
Jesus promises the Holy Spirit to his followers

JOIN US FOR PIZZA AND A CONGREGATIONANAL
MEETING AFTER WORSHIP ON MAY 16



*418 West Coolidge
Borger, TX 79007
May 2010*



First Presbyterian Church
418 W. Coolidge
Borger, TX 79007-4818
Phone: (806)-274-5331
Email - firstpresborger@att.net

Secretary ~ Lynn Garrison
Rev. Georgia King
56 Prestwick Lane
Amarillo, TX 79124
Cell # (806)-206-0296
Work # (806)-212-5357
Email - Georgia.King@bsahs.org
GeorgiaNKing@aol.com

Organist and Music Director ~ Pat Petty