

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, Tx 79007
~November 2011~*

First Presbyterian Church
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Secretary- **Silvia Rivera**

Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer

Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty



Revelation 11:17 – "We give thanks to you, Lord God almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign."

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

November

Borger, Texas

2011

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends,

A couple of weeks ago the children's Sunday School class studied prayer using the story of Hannah in 1 Samuel 1. It was Hannah's heart's desire to have a child, but year after year there was no baby. Finally, one year while Hannah and her husband were in Shiloh, Hannah went into the Temple and began praying to the Lord about her situation. She promised that if the Lord would allow her to have a child she would dedicate him to the Lord. Very soon afterward Hannah conceived and bore a son. A couple of years later, Hannah did as she promised and gave Samuel to the Lord. When she brought her son to the Temple she offered a prayer of joy and thanksgiving to the Lord:

“My heart rejoices in the Lord; in the Lord my horn is lifted high. My mouth boasts over my enemies, for I delight in your deliverance. There is no one holy like the Lord; there is no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God.”

As I read Hannah's story, I began to think about all the prayers that God answers in our lives. As we come into this Thanksgiving season, let us take a moment and thank the Lord for the many ways He has blessed our lives and this congregation. We thank the Lord for continuing to provide for this congregation during this time of financial upheaval. We are thankful for Rev. Georgia King's five years of ministry in Borger. We give thanks for our strong adult Sunday School program and for being able to start a children's Sunday School program. We are thankful for Sue Sharpe for sharing her blessings with us so that we can in turn do mission and ministry in this community including being able to provide a place of spiritual reflection for patients and families in the new hospital. We are thankful for the members who have gone to be with the Lord this year: Bobbie and Jim Farrell, Leah Buckland, and Scott Glenn. We are thankful to our session, treasurer, and secretary for their dedicated service to our church. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord with all of you.

These are just a few of the ways that the Lord has blessed us this year. I know each of you has many more things to add to this list. May we take some time during this very busy time of year to offer our thanks to the Lord for the many ways that he has and continues to bless our lives.

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Jennifer

Session Actions

First Presbyterian Church Borger, Texas
Stated Meeting Of The Session
Thursday, September 15, 2011 (12:30 p.m.)

Agenda:

Call to Order: Rev. Santer called the meeting to order recognizing these Elders as present: Hazel Howard, Pat Petty, Phyllis Harmony and Julia Kasch. Elders Hal Hebermehl and Jerry Pool were absent as was treasurer Pam Nicholas.

Devotional: Pat Petty read a selection from "O Ye Jiggs and Julips" concerning everlasting life.

Clerk's Report:

Correspondence was given to Rev. Santer for action, including the reservations for Presbytery meeting in Plainview October 14 and 15, and the Women's Worship Conference October 1, 2011 in Perryton. No action was taken on the Perryton meeting.

Amarillo Area Foundation representative will be here September 29, 2011.

Minutes of previous meeting were accepted as printed.

Communications: In addition to the above in the Clerk's report the monthly report for Helping Hands was presented.

Treasurer's Report:

Accepted as printed (Harmony, Petty) The treasurer is available by telephone for questions that might arise at the meeting.

Pastor's Report:

The pastor reported these activities: visits to Leah Buckland and preparing her funeral ceremony, taking Communion to Alice Harvey accompanied by Elder Phyllis Harmony.

Our congregation has been asked to partner with First Presbyterian in Dumas and pray for each others congregation.

Worship:

Motion by Pat Petty, second by Julia Kasch permission was given to pay for the copyright from Music CCLI to allow the church to copy music for the choir. The cost is \$109.00 per year.

Property:

The re hab of the restroom facility in the Sunday School area is completed, the new sign has been installed and flowers planted in the curbing. The latter thanks to Larry and Nina Larson.

The group will check on the design for the memorial recognition to Bobbie and Jim Farrell which will be placed in the new sign. We will check with H and H Printing and Message Makers for bids. Rev. Santer reported that AT&T has streamlined the services to the church, though it is still impossible to leave a message when the telephone is being used at the same time. Rev. Santer will continue to discuss this with AT& T.

Fellowship:

October 16th(Sunday) will be the official “Pastor Party” to welcome the Santer family to our church. It will be held at 6:30 p.m.

The Women of the Church will continue with the Thanksgiving Dinner on November 16th(Wed.) with the offering going to Women and Children’s projects. “ Mals “will cater the event as in previous years.

Stewardship:

Hal Hebermehl and Jennifer Santer will work to prepare the budget for the next year.

Christian Education:

Hazel Howard reported that she has the envelopes for the Peacemaking Offering. Sunday School is off to a good start with seven children attending on last Sunday. There is a wide variation in age.

The Session discussed having Caleb Santer preside over the nursery for the very young children. On a motion by Julia Kasch, second Phyllis Harmony Caleb will assume these duties and be paid the traditional wage for his time. The Elders will continue to bring refreshments to the group.

New Business:

On a motion by Phyllis Harmony, second Hazel Howard, Georgia King’s name will be removed from the CD related to the manse and Julia Kasch and Pat Petty will be the signatories on that CD.

Old Business:

The Session acted on some changes that have been requested relating to the Book of Order. The definition for a quorum for Session action will be 50% of the Session present.(Motion Pat Petty, second Hazel Howard). The minimum notice of a Congregational Meeting will be two successive weeks(Motion Hazel Howard, second Phyllis Harmony). The term length of the treasurer will remain the same. (one year) which will be acted upon each year by the Session(Motion Pat Petty, second Phyllis Harmony). The Clerk of Session must be an elder, but not necessarily a member of the current Session, and must be elected annually by the Session(Motion Phyllis Harmony, second Hazel Howard). A sexual misconduct policy is needed and will be discussed at a later Session meeting. Meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Submitted: Julia Ann Kasch, Acting Clerk of Session.

Highlights of the Presbytery Meeting

Palo Duro Presbytery met on October 14th and 15th in Plainview. The presbytery meeting can best be summed up in the people and the celebrations. Our outgoing presbytery moderator, Rev. Randy Branson, asked the presbytery to endorse him as a candidate for General Assembly moderator in June 2012. He believes that the mission and ministry going on here in our presbytery can be an example for the rest of the church. The presbytery approved his endorsement and then gathered to lay hands upon him and pray for him. Rev. Kenny Rigolout, from Pampa, was approved as the presbytery moderator for 2012.

Rev. Mary Ferris has been our mission co-worker in Romania for the past ten years. She has decided that God is calling her to a new ministry. The presbytery thanked Mary for her years of service. Burkhard Paetzold, the coordinator for mission in Central Europe for the PC(USA), was also present at our presbytery meeting. He preached on Friday evening encouraging us to think about what it means to do mission as international partners. On Saturday morning, he shared a presentation on the work of the PC(USA) in Central Europe focusing in particular on the work being done among the Roma people. Our Presbytery executive, Rev. Schempp, followed these reports with the invitation to join an adult mission trip to Romania in June 2012.

On Friday evening, we also heard a report from Dr. Matthews who represented the Pan American School in southern Texas. He shared stories about how the violence in Mexico is affecting many of their students. The school will also be receiving 18 new Rwandan students in the next few weeks.

The presbytery also marked several important occasions in the lives of some of our ministers. We celebrated the installation of Rev. Ruth Clendenin as our new stated clerk of the presbytery. We continued the celebration with a retirement service for Rev. Jim Bankhead, former senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Amarillo. Following the service for Rev. Bankhead, the presbytery had the joy of transferring Rev. David Smallegan from the Reformed Church of America to the PC(USA). Rev. Smallegan is currently serving the Presbyterian Church in Dalhart.

Finally the presbytery took several actions precipitated by the passing of the new Form of Government this summer. The presbytery updated all its manuals of operations to include the new language now found in the Book of Order. This was also important because the new form of government gives presbyteries and sessions much more latitude to create policies that will serve their needs. The presbytery was also asked to approve a code of Ethics for ministers coming into the presbytery. The code of ethics presented was basically the code of ethics the General Assembly approved in 1998. The three churches requesting that this code of ethics be approved by the presbytery did update the code to retain language that is no longer in our book of order about ministers either living in a marriage between a man and woman or in chastity in singleness. After much discussion, the code of ethics was adopted by the presbytery.

The Treasurer reported the following figures for September:

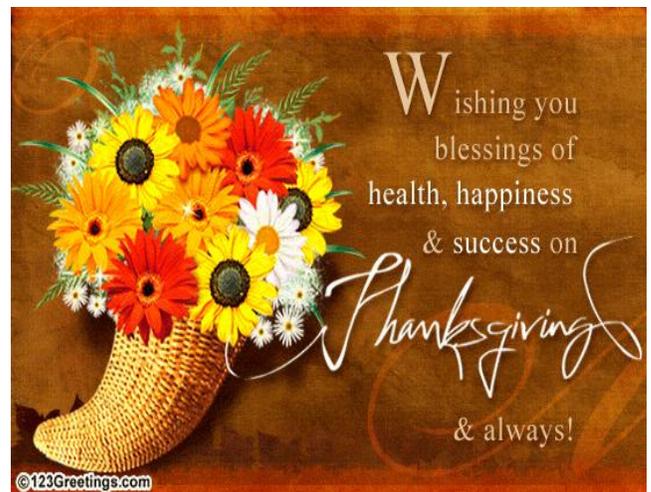
Total Income	\$ 7,268.35
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 13,819.01</u>
Total	\$ (6,550.66)

Year to Date	
Total Income	\$108,879.94
Total Expenses	<u>\$121,308.37</u>
Total	\$ (12,428.43)



Care of Member and Friends

Malnor Arthur
Pat and Alice Harvey
Hal & Virginia Hebermehl



DUTY ELDER FOR NOVEMBER

JERRY POOL

SESSION MEETING

THURSDAY, November 17, 2011

Colossians 3:17 – "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."



P.W. NEWS



It is time again for our monthly P.W. meeting. All are welcome at 10:00 a.m. on November 3rd. Our study this year is on "Confessing the Beatitudes" and this month's lesson is "Greatly Honored are the Humbled!". We are blessed to have Pastor Jennifer leading our discussions.

We seldom have any business but this time we will have to have a brief meeting to plan the Thanksgiving Dinner and Praise Service on November 16th.

Phyllis Harmony

Deuteronomy 8:10 – "When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you."

World Religion Class Opportunity

If you would be interested in attending a study on world religions on the fourth Thursday of the month beginning in January 2012, please see Pastor Jennifer. In this study we will take an in depth look at a variety of world religions. We will likely start with either Judaism or Buddhism.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5th: Rosa Pace
9th: Lee Williams
Gene Lusk
12th: Shauna Lusk
14th: Nora Sims
16th: Jode Mills
28th: Carol Mills



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

No Anniversaries

What do the turkeys sing on Thanksgiving Day?

God save the kin

Five kernels

The Plymouth Pilgrims celebrated the first Thanksgiving Day in fall 1621, but by the next May, their food supply was depleted. The harvest of 1622 was a failure, and the Pilgrims often lived for days on just a few kernels of corn.

Amid a drought in 1623, the people sought divine intervention. After praying for nine hours on a hot July day, they were blessed with a two-week rainfall. Edward Winslow wrote, "It was hard to say whether our withered corn or drooping affections were most quickened and revived." The Pilgrims never went hungry again.

Start a Thanksgiving tradition by placing five kernels of corn at each place setting. Point out a blessing that each kernel represents. For example:

1. God loves us.
2. God provides for all our needs.
3. God gives us friends, just as the Indians befriended the Pilgrims.
4. God hears and answers our prayers.
5. God is preparing a place for us in heaven.

Then have family members share five things for which they're grateful.

Special dates

All Saints' Day	November 1, 2011
Daylight-Saving Time ends	November 6, 2011
Veterans Day	November 11, 2011
Christ the King Sunday	November 20, 2011
National Bible Week	November 20-27, 2011
Thanksgiving Day	November 24, 2011
First Sunday of Advent	November 27, 2011



We received an e-mail from Barbara Graham informing us a former member Evelyn Graham passed away on October 4th. She has been cremated there will be a Memorial Service followed by burial next to her husband Will F. Graham in the spring.



Psalm 100:4-5 – "Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."



Two sides of gratitude

Todah, the Hebrew word for “giving thanks,” also means “admitting, confessing, acknowledging.” That might seem odd, but when we thank someone, we’re acknowledging we needed what they gave us. Rabbi Daniel Lapin explains we’re even confessing we were incomplete, or experiencing a shortcoming, beforehand.

Gratitude is so important for the Jewish life that the Hebrew root words for “giving thanks/confessing” and for “Jew” are closely related. A Jewish person, then, is “one who both confesses and gives thanks” — actions crucial to the well-being of the receiver, even more than for the giver.

Christians, too, treat confession and thanksgiving as significant aspects of faith, prayer and worship. While we confess that we wholly depend on God for our life and salvation, we offer daily gratitude to God for his countless blessings.

Thanksgiving Humor:

It's the day before Thanksgiving, and the butcher is just locking up when a man begins pounding on the front door.

"Please let me in," says the man desperately. "I forgot to buy a turkey, and my wife will kill me if I don't come home with one."

"Okay," says the butcher. "Let me see what I have left." He goes into the freezer and discovers that there's only one scrawny turkey left. He brings it out to show the man.

"That's one is too skinny. What else you got?" says the man.

The butcher takes the bird back into the freezer and waits a few minutes and brings the same turkey back out to the man.

"Oh, no," says the man, "That one doesn't look any better. You better give me both of them!"



Notes from the Music Department



It is November all ready! That means that Christmas is not far away. And I love the cooler weather. Granted we have not had much yet but it should be on the way!

Choir practice for November will be: November 2, 9 and 30. We will not meet on November 16 or 23. November 16, 2011 is the Thanksgiving Dinner and November 23 is the night before Thanksgiving. We will be learning 2 new songs and a few old familiar songs. We will also be having a treat in November. Charis Santer will be playing sometime this month. AND we will begin practicing bells for December! Our young people have agreed to learn how to play bells for Christmas. This should be exciting!!

The Opening Response for November 6, 13, and 20 will be "Jesus, Name Above All Names" and will be an insert in the bulletin. Opening Response for November 30 will be "O Come, O Come Emmanuel", Page 9 in our hymnal. November 30 will be the first Sunday in Advent. Closing Response for November 5, 13 and 20 will "God Be With You 'Til We Meet Again", Page 540 in our hymnal. Closing Response for November 30 will be "Angels We Have Heard On High", Page 23 in our hymnal. We will sing the refrain only.

We continue to pray for healing and strength for Alice Harvey and Hal Hebermehl. We keep all our members in our prayers as we all travel along life's path.

May the Good Lord bless and keep you.

Love and Grace - Pat Petty and Choir





Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Scripture Reference November 2011

November 1 (All Saints' Day)

Revelation 7:9-17
Psalm 34:1-10, 22
1 John 3:1-3
Matthew 5:1-12

November 6 (32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 13 (33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123:1-4
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 20 (Christ the King/Reign of Christ)

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100:1-5
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Begin Lectionary Year B

November 27 (1st Sunday of Advent)

Isaiah 64:1-9
Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:24-37

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)





A Thanksgiving Day Prayer

*Lord, so often times, as any other day
When we sit down to our meal and pray*

*We hurry along and make fast the blessing
Thanks, amen. Now please pass the dressing*

*We're slaves to the olfactory overload
We must rush our prayer before the food gets cold*

*But Lord, I'd like to take a few minute more
To really give thanks to what I'm thankful for*

*For my family, my health, a nice soft bed
My friends, my freedom, a roof over my head*

*I'm thankful right now to be surrounded by those
Whose lives touch me more than they'll ever possibly know*

*Thankful Lord, that You've blessed me beyond measure
Thankful that in my heart lives life's greatest treasure*

*That You, dear Jesus, reside in that place
And I'm ever so grateful for Your unending grace*

*So please, heavenly Father, bless this food You've provided
And bless each and every person invited*

Amen!

--Scott Wesemann

