

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

First Presbyterian Church  
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Secretary- **Silvia Rivera**

**Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer**

**Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty**



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

September

Borger, Texas

2011

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**PASTOR'S PEN**  
**September 2011**

Notes from the pulpit

Dear friends:

It is hard to believe that summer is coming to an end. The kids are going back to school, and very soon it will be time to start back to Sunday School, Presbyterian Women, and other activities on our fall schedule.

As we think about transitioning to fall, I thought it would be a good time to talk about a transition within the PC(USA). On June 7th Trinity Presbytery in South Carolina became the 87th and final vote needed to approve the New Form of Government which was passed by the 2010 General Assembly. The New Form of Government, or nFog, took effect on July 10th.

You may be thinking I haven't noticed any changes in how the church operates in the last month, so what does this mean for us? Under the New Form of Government many things will stay exactly the same. What the nFog offers us, though, is much more flexibility to do our ministry in a way that fits our time and location. When I read the original draft of the nFog a couple of years ago, I wasn't expecting to like it. I wasn't sure we really needed to overhaul the Book of Order. However, as I began to read it, I got excited about the new form of government because I realized we were leaving behind the idea that one size fits all. The nFog is especially welcome news for smaller congregations such as ours. We no longer have to struggle to meet quorums or fill slots on committees that make no sense for our church. As Rev. Dan Williams, co-moderator of the nFog task force, says the new form of government doesn't change what our governing bodies are expected to do, but allows individual governing bodies to choose who does the work and how it gets done.

As we live into this new form of government many things will stay the same, but over time you may begin to notice some changes in terminology and process. For instance, Ministers of the Word and Sacrament are once again called Teaching Elders. At our August meeting, the session also began to review some things such as quorums and policies that we will need to set for ourselves in the near future.

If you would like to read the new form of government for yourself, here is the web address for it: [http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/amendments\\_219\\_part1.pdf](http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/oga/pdf/amendments_219_part1.pdf)

I'm excited for all this year holds for First Presbyterian Church. I look forward to ministering among you this coming year.

In Christ,

Pastor Jennifer

## Session Actions

### **First Presbyterian Church Borger, Texas Stated Meeting of the Session June 19, 2011**

#### **Agenda:**

Call to order and opening prayer was given by Don McDonald, Moderator.

#### Clerk's Report:

Communications: consisted of a review of the presented contract for Jennifer Santer and an invitation to nominate delegates for the Presbyterian General Assembly, and a letter from Jim Reeves expressing his availability to fill our pulpit.

Minutes were approved as presented.

#### Treasurer's report:

Accepted and filed. Discussion consisted of which of our current accounts to use for non budgeted items. A bill from AMA Tech Tel will be paid, and service discontinued. The cost of the asbestos abatement will be paid from the Sue Sharp account. Treasurer discussed IRS requirements for Stated Supply, including travel allowance. The church has access to an account at Happy State Bank which can be used at our discretion for non budgeted items. All the above suggestions passed by the Session.

#### Committee Reports:

#### Worship:

Contract for Stated Supply Minister: motion by Jerry Pool, second by Pat Petty that the contract be accepted. Passed by Session.

The outdoor sign and the cross for the Hospital were both discussed by the session and the dimension of the sign and lettering will follow the listing in the Cokesbury catalog. Phyllis Harmony and Julia Kasch will visit the cross display in White Deer, Texas and report to the Session.

The Session will not meet in July. Church services on July 3, will consist of a Liturgy and hymns. On July 10, 2011, Rev. Don McDonald will be in the pulpit and that date will be Communion Sunday. Rev. Santer will return from vacation for the July 17, 2011 service. Session will consider Jim Reeves application when his credentials are approved by Presbytery.

Property: The Session voted to have the new floor surfaces in the Education Wing professionally cleaned, waxed and buffed. The cost will be \$2,100.00 paid from the Sue Sharp Fund. Session passed.

Stewardship: The Pentecost offering envelopes will remain in the pews until July 1, 2011.

Fellowship: The congregation enjoyed the July Ice Cream Social.

Christian Education: The Sunday School class will resume in September.

New and Old Business covered in the above committee reports.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 by prayer (Pat Petty).

Submitted: Julia Ann Kasch, Acting Clerk of Session

### **JULY 7, 2011 CALLED MEETING OF THE SESSION OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BORGER TEXAS**

Reverend Don McDonald, COM Presbytery, attended a called meeting of the Session of First Presbyterian Church, Borger Texas. Julie McDonald, COM, was also present.

Session members attending were: Jerry Pool, Pat Petty, Phyllis Harmony, Julia Kasch.

The previously mentioned persons constituted a quorum. Rev. McDonald opened the meeting with prayer. The group read and approved the revised contract for Rev. Jennifer Santer. The motion to approve was made by Pat Petty and the second was by Phyllis Harmony. The motion passed. There being no further business, Elder Jerry Pool dismissed the group with prayer. Rev. Santer's Contract as Stated Supply was discussed and the following figures were approved by Session. Contract dates will be from July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012.

Addendum:

Modified Salary Request:

Cash Salary \$4,813

Housing \$18,000

403(b) retirement plan \$5,000

offset for health insurance costs \$3,000

Mileage \$7,000

Expense Account \$500 (for Presbytery, books)

Continuing Education \$1000

Total: \$39,313.00 (actual cost for six months \$19,656.50)

Note: Mileage, Expense, and Continuing Education Accounts are reimbursable accounts. If the money is not used, it will remain with the church.

Separate accounts will be kept for commuting mileage and business mileage. Commuting mileage will be added to income at the end of the year for IRS purposes.

Submitted: Julia Ann Kasch, Acting Clerk of Session

*“It is God who is at work in you” (Philippians 2:13, NRSV). We celebrate the gift that you are to this community of believers!*

## **Divine forgetfulness**

For humans, forgetfulness can be frustrating and worrisome. Yet it can be a blessing to be able to forget certain things.

The late professor and author Gerhard E. Frost noted that “forgiveness is a beautiful form of forgetfulness” — a heaven-sent absent-mindedness.

For what is failure to forgive but the refusal to release a memory of someone’s hurtful actions? Only by releasing old grudges and choosing to forget past wrongs can we find peace. For help, we can look to God as the ultimate example of “forgetting” sins.

The Treasurer reported the following figures for July:

Total Income	\$ 13,143.60
Total Expenses	\$ <u>14,496.90</u>
Total	\$ (1,353.30)
Year to Date	
Total Income	\$ 96,917.20
Total Expenses	\$ <u>100,356.00</u>
Total	\$ (3,438.80)



Care of Member and Friends

Scott Glenn  
Malnor Arthur  
Pat and Alice Harvey  
Hal & Virginia Hebermehl  
Leah Buckland



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DUTY ELDER FOR SEPTEMBER

PAT PETTY

SESSION MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011



## ***P.W. NEWS***



Do you faithfully attend P.W. meetings every year?  
Do you come to P.W. once in a while?  
Have you never made it to a P.W. meeting?

No matter which one of the above categories you fit into, I hope to see you at our first fall Presbyterian Women's meeting on Thursday, September 1st at 10 a.m. in the Coffee Room. Our study this year is on "Confessing the Beatitudes." For September we will be studying "Greatly Honored Are the Poor!" from Matthew 5:3 and Luke 6:20,24.

It's going to be a great study and will be even greater if you are there to help us ponder these Biblical truths from the Sermon on the Mount.

Please keep Leah Buckland, our P.W. leader in your prayers.

***But those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.***

***Isaiah 40:31***

### **SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**5th: Larry Nelson**  
**12th: Leah Buckland**  
**14th: Teddy Buckland III**  
**19th: Elizabeth Austin**  
**24th: Jan Moore**  
**30th: Julia Kasch**



### **SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES**

**19th: Don & Sally Thompson**  
**22nd: Pat & Alice Harvey**

*"It is useless to pray for more knowledge, power or faith until you begin to use what you have already."*

*—Henry Bucklew*





The following is an e-mail we received from Janne Brumbelow: *Dear Friends, I received your gift today as part of my retirement gift. I was so delighted and surprised. Thank you so much. I have been very impressed with y'all's dedication and faithfulness to Christ's ministry and my gratitude for you and esteem has grown even greater. I am humbled and blessed. May God continue to bless all of you and your ministry, Janne*

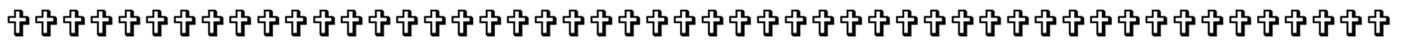


Leah Buckland will temporarily be staying with her son Teddy in Stinnett, if you would like to send her a note or card please mail to P.O. Box 1261, Stinnett, TX 79083. The street address is 706 Elm.



Scott Glenn is now in Georgia Manor Nursing Home, the phone number is (806) 355 - 6517, if you would like to send a card send to:

SCOTT GLENN  
 C/O GEORGIA MANOR N.H.  
 2611 S.W. 46TH AVE.  
 AMARILLO TEXAS 79110



### Special dates

- Labor Day, September 5, 2011
- Patriot Day, September 11, 2011
- National Grandparents Day, September 11, 2011
- First Day of Autumn, September 23, 2011



## **Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Scripture Reference September 2011**

### **September 4 (23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 12:1-14  
Psalm 149:1-9  
Romans 13:8-14  
Matthew 18:15-20

### **September 11 (24th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 14:19-31  
Psalm 114:1-8 or Exodus 15:1b-11, 20-21  
Romans 14:1-12  
Matthew 18:21-35

### **September 18 (25th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 16:2-15  
Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45  
Philippians 1:21-30  
Matthew 20:1-16

### **September 25 (26th Sunday in Ordinary Time)**

Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16  
Philippians 2:1-13  
Matthew 21:23-32

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)





## Notes from the Music Department



It is September all ready!! Maybe some cooler weather will also come along. That would be so nice! I think we could all use a break from the hot and dry summer. And we still need to pray for rain!

Choir practice will start back on Wednesday, September 7, 2011 at 6:00 pm for just this Wednesday. We are going to have a little choir party before practice. We will begin regular practice on September 14 at 6:30 pm staying on that schedule for September 14, 21, and 28.

The Opening Response for September will be “Spirit of the Living God” pg 322 in Hymnal. The Closing Response will be “The Lord Bless You and Keep You”, and will be a bulletin insert.

We keep Malnor Arthur, Scott Glenn, Alice Harvey, Hal Hebermehl and Leah Buckland family in our prayers as always. We pray for continued strength and healing for all those mentioned and for all our church family. We always hold all our members, past and present, in our thoughts and prayers.

May the Good Lord bless and keep you all as we travel this world.

Love and Grace - Pat Petty and Choir

### Seek to please

Shift your prayer life from “Please, God” to “Please God.” Take the comma out of those two words when you pray, and transition your praying from asking God for things to asking God for the pleasure of God’s pleasure.

—*Homiletics*

## Follow God's lead

Have you ever watched a well-trained dog walk with its master? On or off a leash, the dog will slow or quicken its pace, turn left or right, or immediately stop at the soft command of his master's voice.

Such isn't the case with my pooch. Either he's straining ahead or lagging behind, darting after a bird or stubbornly lingering over an interesting scent. He isn't content to follow my lead.

Sometimes that latter scene resembles my own walk with God. At times, I rush ahead or lag behind, veer to the right or stumble to the left, oblivious of my Master's pace and direction. How much better to walk closely with God and let him lead!

"O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart" (1 Kings 8:23, NRSV).

