



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE

First Presbyterian Church

April

Borger, Texas

2010

PASTOR'S PEN



I HATE THE COLD!!! But, the longer I live the more I find myself thinking, "Looks like I'll make it through another winter and see another spring." With that thought is my expectation that lurking under the snow (which we just had more of (this has been an amazing winter for the Texas panhandle I think) is life waiting to be awakened from sleep. It's an expectation I've taken for granted far too long. We all do. After all, spring has never not come. It may arrive late or too quickly yield to summer, but we

expect spring to come, and it doesn't disappoint us. The old life has gone, the new life has begun.

When I think of 'new beginnings' I always think of the month of April. There is nothing more exciting than the bursting forth of springtime, the expectation of all that is new. Our Creator God has put together a world that welcomes expectations – the happy confidence that after the night the sun will likely rise again, that after I take this breath there will likely be another, that children may grow to become parents and parents grandmothers. **The old life is gone, the new life has begun.**

Every day in the hospital I see young expectant mothers and father comes in for a miracle. Not unlike sleepy spring beneath the snow, their child, waits in darkness for light. And we wait, too. We expect what has been going on since the beginning of time, risk and pain, but finally birth and breath, and, as Carl Sandburg said, "God's opinion that the human race should go on." **The old life has gone, the new life has begun.**

The older I get the simpler my expectations become. To be living right now the day I expected to live last night is no small gift. To see my children becoming what for so long I prayed for is wondrous. To see a friend rising from the darkness of depression, as I had hoped, is amazing. To have been given and continue to be given so many wonderful opportunities. **The old life has gone, the new life has begun.**

Ahead of me is a time when this body, my body, will rest beneath the snow, waiting for the ultimate spring, a new heaven and a new earth. I have every reason to believe that it will rise just as Jesus rose from the dead. I expect it will be right on time. I can surely expect to be overwhelmed. And I think you can too. **The old life has gone, the new life has begun.**

Easter blessings to each and all.

Georgia

EASTER LILY DEDICATION

Each Easter morning our sanctuary windows are graced with lilies. Friends and members of our congregation have again volunteered to add to the beauty of the sanctuary, dedicating a lily in honor of or in memory of a loved one. While the orders for this year's lilies have already been submitted to a local florist, people who have not "signed-up" may still participate in this annual event by bringing a lily on Easter morning to add to the marvelous display

Palo Duro Presbytery

**Area 1 event:
Brush Arbor Gospel Songfest,
April 25th,
First Presbyterian Church
Pampa, Texas
3:30-5:30 p.m.
Pot Luck**

All are welcome.

Greetings from the Nance's

Recently Marilyn and Gordon Pearce ran into former church members, Sharon and Thurman Nance. They were in Amarillo visiting their daughter and friends. They asked about the church and sent "Hello's" to everyone. Their daughter Robyn is an attorney in Amarillo, son Brandon is in San Antonio, and son Clayton lives in Arkansas about 45 minutes from where Sharon and Thurman have their retirement home. They are well, having changed very little, and are enjoying retirement



*Please join us for the
Congregational Group Picture
scheduled for
Sunday, April 11
9:30 am at
First Presbyterian Church*

**Interesting different approach:
“Epictetus said: ‘Everything has two handles, one by which it can be borne and one by which it cannot. If your brother sins against you, don’t take hold of it by the wrong he did you but by the fact that he is your brother. That’s how it can be borne.’”**

**May Newsletter Deadline
Friday, April 23**

SESSION MEETING

Sunday, April 18
following worship

DUTY ELDER FOR APRIL

Jerry Pool



The Treasurer reported the following figures for February

Total Income	\$10,476.62
Total Expense	<u>\$ 14,692.33</u>
Total	\$ (4,215.71)

Year to Date	
Total Income	\$19,481.56
Total Expense	<u>\$ 17,089.20</u>
Total	\$ 2,392.36

PLEASE NOTE: CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

April 2-5 ~ for Easter Holiday
April 16-19 ~ secretary on vacation

THESE DAYS

Daily Devotional
for Living by Faith

The daily devotional for April - May - June 2010 is now in. You can find your copy on the back pew in the sanctuary.

Please join us
for the

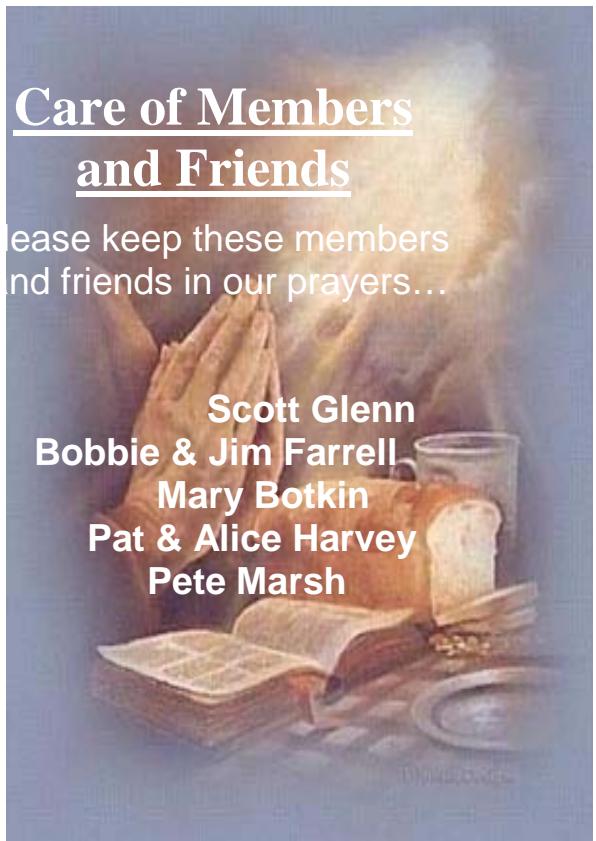
Soup Supper &
Maundy Thursday
Worship Service

April 1st
beginning at
6:00 PM

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**



Notes from the Music Department

April showers will bring May flowers (or the next snow storm!). We need the moisture so when the wind blows, we won't blow away. Anyone noticed that the wind has not blown as much this March as in the past. Easter Sunday will be April 4, 2010, and the choir will be ready. Please join us in worship!

Choir practice for April will be: April 7, 14, 21, and 28. We will also have a Maundy Thursday service on April 1, 2010. Practice will begin at 6:30 pm as usual. We have prepared our Easter music and will begin to work on music for May and the summer. We will also be working on 2 new pieces. So stay tuned!

We will begin using the hymn "There's a Sweet, Sweet Spirit" that is in our hymnal beginning April 11 as an opening response. Please join with us as we sing.

Closing response for April will be a short version of "Jesus Christ is Risen today!" from the hymnal. We encourage everyone to sing with us.

If you have any special requests for choir music or organ music, please let us know. I try to remember when a member tells me they like something but my memory is not always very reliable. So if you want to hear something special, just let us know!

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.

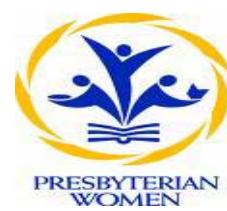
May the Lord bless you and keep you. Amen! Mary, pass the gravy!

Pat Petty and Choir

PW NEWS

Spring may finally have arrived! We had a good meeting in April, with most of us there. We're planning on meeting on Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 am in the coffee room.

We only made one chapter in March so we'll talk about Rahab and the Gibeonites this time—Lesson 6. Come join us for a talk about Rahab's faith.



Lee Buckland



CARROLL PACE -- 80TH BIRTHDAY

Your are invited to an open house at the Pace home (513 Austin) on Sunday April 18, from 2-5 PM to help celebrate Carroll's 80th birthday.

APRIL 2010 Lectionary Readings

April 1	Maundy Thursday Institution of the Passover. A promise to offer a sacrifice to God in joyful thanksgiving. Paul hands down the tradition of the Lord's Supper. Jesus washes the disciples' feet, gives a new commandment that they love one another as he loved them.
April 2	Good Friday The affliction and exaltation of God's chosen servant. Anguished cry of the God-forsaken; praise to God from the delivered. Forgiveness through the blood of Christ; live lives of love and good deeds. Jesus as high priest, knowing our weaknesses, yet without sin. Passion narrative from the arrest of Jesus to his burial in a tomb.
April 4	Resurrection of the Lord/Easter Peter shares the gospel story with the household of Cornelius. God promises a new creation of the heavens, the earth and Jerusalem. Psalm of thanksgiving for the steadfast love of God. Christ is first fruits of all who die. (If the Isaiah text was read first) Peter shares the gospel with Cornelius. Mary Magdalene finds the empty tomb; does not recognize Jesus. Women discover the empty tomb; disciples do not believe them.
April 11	Second Sunday of Eastertide Peter and the apostles are reproached by the high priest for teaching in Jesus' name. The Lord is the source of our strength and salvation
Psalm 118:14–29	Cry for joyous praise of God's mighty deeds. God is the Alpha and the Omega. Jesus appears before the disciples; appears again before Thomas.
April 18	Third Sunday of Eastertide Saul on the road to Damascus; Ananias restores Saul's sight. Psalm of thanksgiving for God's salvation. Vision of the exaltation of the Lamb. Jesus appears to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberius.
April 25	Fourth Sunday of Eastertide Peter raises Tabitha from the dead. The Lord is our shepherd. A diverse multitude of the faithful appears before the Lamb, their shepherd. Jesus, the good shepherd.

Death was no match for God!.

The ancient Greek essayist Plutarch told the story of a man he knew who attempted to make a dead body stand upright. He tried various schemes finally giving up in disgust saying, “There is something missing on the inside.” There certainly is. What is missing is the life God gives, and no one but God has ever found the secret of creating life. If God has given life once to us before we were born, what is to stop God from giving life once more, in other forms and other ways . after we are once dead? The philosopher/mathematician, Blaise Pascal (1623-1662) put it this way: *.What reason can people give for saying that we cannot rise again? Which is the more difficult . to be born, or to rise again? Is it more difficult to come into being than to return to it?. .Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen..*

A Declaration of Faith of The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) (Hebrews 11:1) affirms our assurance of what we hope for and yet have not seen . yet.

In the death of Jesus Christ

God's way in the world seemed finally defeated.

But death was no match for God.

The resurrection of Jesus was God's victory over death.

We do not yet see the end of death,

*But Christ has been raised from the dead,
transformed and yet the same person.*

In his resurrection is the promise of ours . . .

So we treat death as a broken power . . .

We invite you to be a part of the worshipping community on Easter Sunday and beyond.



*First Presbyterian Church
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~April 2010~*



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Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty