

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, TX 79007
~August 2017~*

First Presbyterian Church
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God himself does not propose to judge a man until he is dead.

So, why should you? Christian one -liners

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

August

Borger, Texas

2017

I stumble rather regularly across the writings of Parker J. Palmer, who writes prolifically on the field of education, but also on the realms of faith, science and human dignity. As we begin the month of August when school personnel and students are heading back to the classrooms, I turned to Palmer for some inspiration. His words can be far more profound than mine will ever be. It's funny, though, Palmer, in turn, points us to one of his favorite poets, Mary Oliver. I'll let him introduce her words:

“I'm a big believer in science, grateful for every bit of evidence scientists have gathered about things that were once classified as among ‘the baffling mysteries of life.’ At the same time, I know for a certainty that truth is not restricted to what the senses can prove or instruments measure. ‘Love’ is but one example of something real and powerful that eludes empirical proof—and long live the mystery of love!

Mary Oliver, as usual, says it much better than I in her lovely "Little Summer Poem Touching the Subject of Faith." It's a poem to be read slowly and savored, a poem whose message is quiet but clear...

Memo to Self: Look for and listen to truths that can be neither seen nor heard!”

Little Summer Poem Touching the Subject of Faith

Every summer
I listen and look
under the sun's brass and even
into the moonlight, but I can't hear

anything, I can't see anything --
not the pale roots digging down, nor the green stalks muscling up,
nor the leaves
deepening their damp pleats,

nor the tassels making,
nor the shucks, nor the cobs.
And still,
every day,

the leafy fields
grow taller and thicker --
green gowns lofting up in the night,
showered with silk.

And so, every summer,
I fail as a witness, seeing nothing --
I am deaf too
to the tick of the leaves,

the tapping of downwardness from the banyan feet --
all of it
happening
beyond any seeable proof, or hearable hum.

And, therefore, let the immeasurable come.
Let the unknowable touch the buckle of my spine.
Let the wind turn in the trees,
and the mystery hidden in the dirt

swing through the air.
How could I look at anything in this world
and tremble, and grip my hands over my heart?
What should I fear?

One morning
in the leafy green ocean
the honeycomb of the corn's beautiful body
is sure to be there.
~ Mary Oliver in West Wind: Poems and Prose Poems.

May Mary Oliver's words nourish our faith in the unseen power of education happening in the schools around us. Even more, may these words recall us to tending the growth happening in our own spirits. May God bless all the "immeasurable" growing within us and around us.

Yours in the grace of Jesus Christ, Janell

Christian one-liners

Some people are kind, polite, sweet-spirited – until you try to sit in their pews.

Many folks want to serve God, but only as advisers.

Some minds are like concrete – thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose, but mosquitoes come close.

We are called to be witnesses, not lawyers and judges.

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.

The heart of Jesus



The idea of a spiritual heart transplant is a vivid image to me; once you have the heart of somebody else inside you, then that heart is there. Jesus' heart is inside me, and my heart is gone. So if God were to place a stethoscope against my chest, he would hear the heart of Jesus Christ beating.

—Max Lucado

But what about *here*?

At age 4, Anna was starting to make sense of prayer. Her parents had been praying with her since birth, but now her developing cognitive and language skills caused her to really ponder what prayer meant for *her*.

One night, after tucking her into bed and leaving the room, Anna's dad heard her voice. He paused outside the door to see if she needed something. But she was speaking to her *heavenly* Father: "Dear God," Anna prayed, "when is the best time for me to talk to you? I mean, Mama and Daddy say I can pray anytime, and I know you're always listening. But when will you be listening *especially* hard in Minneapolis?"

—Adapted from *The Children's God*, David Heller

BIRTHDAY!

August Birthdays:

3 – Alexandra Nicholas

8 – Kirsti Kasch

17 – Paul Edgington

19 – Margaret Edgington

28 – Don Thompson

Anniversaries

29 – Bob and Patty Kasch

Special dates

- *August 13 – Session meets*

God of tomorrows



This is the blessed life — not anxious to see far in front, nor eager to choose the path, but quietly following behind the Shepherd, one step at a time. The Shepherd was always out in front of the sheep. He was down in front. Any attack upon them had to take him into account.

Now God is down in front. He is in the tomorrows. It is tomorrow that fills [people] with dread. God is there already. All the tomorrows of our life have to pass him before they can get to us.

—F.B. Meyer

Christ's hands

In World War II, bombs destroyed a church in Strasbourg, France. As parishioners cleared the rubble, they discovered a statue of Jesus that was now missing both hands.

A visiting sculptor later offered to make repairs, but church members declined, saying Christ “has no hands to minister to the needy or feed the hungry or enrich the poor — except our hands. He inspires. We perform.”

St. Teresa of Avila wrote:

Christ has no body but yours;
no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours.

Know your target

Businesses must know their target market. Writers must know their target audience. And we all make better decisions when we consider the target of our actions.

A college religion teacher set up a cardboard target in his classroom. “Draw someone who has upset you,” he instructed. Students sketched ex-boyfriends or -girlfriends, coworkers who’d mistreated them, childhood bullies. Each, in turn, then placed their drawing over the bull’s-eye and took aim with a bow and arrow. Afterward, the bull’s-eye was riddled with holes. The students congratulated one another ... until the teacher pulled back the target, revealing Jesus’ scarred, torn face.

Silence fell as he read: “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these ... you did it to me” (Matthew 25:40, NRSV).

In choosing actions — no matter the human target — remember who else will be struck by your arrows. Let’s take aim with love, not hurt.

+Christian Symbol+



Scales

In biblical context, scales symbolize judgment, particularly divine judgment. In Daniel 5:27, the king is told he has been “weighed on the scales [by God] and found wanting.” Job also uses scales as a metaphor for judgment: “Let God weigh me in honest scales and he will know that I am blameless” (Job 31:6, NIV). Finally, scales may represent the archangel Michael, who is sometimes considered responsible for “weighing” the souls of the dead.

The power of weakness

In *Tramp for the Lord*, Corrie ten Boom describes traveling to Russia during the Cold War — when Christians were being persecuted — to thank an old woman who’d been secretly translating Christian books (including ten Boom’s). Ravaged by multiple sclerosis, the woman could move only an index finger. Yet with it she typed constantly, translating words while praying for people who’d eventually read them.

Ten Boom’s reaction was, “Oh Lord, why don’t you heal her?” But the woman’s husband said God had a purpose in his wife’s suffering. Although the secret police closely watched *other* Christians, they left this woman alone, assuming she couldn’t accomplish anything.

Jesus works through our weaknesses, making his power perfect in them (see 2 Corinthians 12:9). He doesn’t ask if we’re capable — only if we’re willing.

Holiness 2.0

For the Hebrews, who had experienced the anguish of slavery and exile, holiness had to do with separation. Adherence to sacred law [ensured] that they would not be absorbed into a foreign culture, a legitimate fear for them as a people. The Law was quite functional in preserving their Jewish identity.

[But] Jesus turns this custom upside down. Rather than insist on separation, he preaches inclusion. Rather than remove himself from “sinners,” he joins with them in love. For Jesus, holiness is about connection, not separation. It is about putting aside the fear of our own alienation and annihilation while trusting in love to heal every breach.

—*Quantum Grace*, Judy Cannato

The Treasurer reported the following figures for April, May, and June, 2017:

Total Income	\$ 15,869.36
Total Expenses	\$ 22,787.85
Total	\$ (6,918.49)

Year to Date

Total Income	\$ 33,120.38
Total Expenses	\$ 47,567.76
Total	\$ (14,447.38)



“The earth has yielded its increase” (Psalm 67:6). In late summer days, as gardens and fields ripen, we gather to praise our generous God! Welcome.



Care of Members and Friends

Malnor Arthur

Teddy Buckland

First Presbyterian Church of
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR AUGUST

—————
SESSION MEETING

August 13, 2017



Session Connection:

Julia Kasch	Clerk Of Session/Administration/Christian Ed.
Sue Hooten	Fellowship
Don Thompson	Property
Margaret Edgington	Worship



HI-PLAINS HELPING HAND DONATION:

First Presbyterian Church has recently increased its financial donation to the agency and will no longer gather food or hygiene products.



Pastor Janell will be on vacation August 1-4 [just Tuesday thru Friday] and then again on the weekend of August 18-20 to move Kate to college.



Sunday, August 27 has been designated “Synod Sunday” when all congregations in the Synod of the Sun [Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas] are encouraged to use the same liturgy and consider the ways our Presbyterian connectionalism strengthen our work and witness.



Save this date!

Sunday, October 1 is a day of celebration! First, it is World Communion Sunday when we celebrate communion with Christian brothers and sisters all over the world. But this year we will be celebrating even more: this is the day we will celebrate our 90th anniversary as a congregation! Session has designated this Sunday as a day of worship, fellowship and homecoming! We will have a few special things in store for worship this day and we will have a catered luncheon afterwards. We are working on details. Let the session know if you have addresses for former pastors or members that should be notified of this occasion.





**August 2017 Revised Common Lectionary
for Sundays and Festivals
Year A**

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 13)—August 6

Semicontinuous Complementary

Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

Isaiah 55:1–5
Psalm 145:8–9, 14–21
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 14)—August 13

Semicontinuous Complementary

Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

1 Kings 19:9–18
Psalm 85:8–13
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 15)—August 20

Semicontinuous Complementary

Genesis 45:1–15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8
Psalm 67
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15:[10–20] 21–28

Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 16)—August 27

Semicontinuous Complementary

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1–8
Matthew 16:13–20

Isaiah 51:1–6
Psalm 138
Romans 12:1–8
Matthew 16:13–20

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



Francis Patrick “Rick” Harvey Jr. of Mount Dora, N.M.

MOUNT DORA, N.M. — Francis Patrick “Rick” Harvey Jr., 63, of Mount Dora died Monday, July 17, 2017.

Celebration of life services will be at 6 p.m. July 29 at the ranch, 233 Kimble Road, in Grenville. Arrangements are by Hass Funeral Directors of Clayton.

Mr. Harvey was born Feb. 23, 1954, in Borger, Texas, to Francis Patrick “Pat” Harvey Sr. and Alice VanDerVoort Harvey. He graduated from Borger High School in 1972 and continued his education by receiving a bachelor’s degree in agricultural science from Texas Tech University in 1976.

Survivors include his wife, Robin Harvey of Mount Dora; a son, Sean Harvey of Brock, Texas; three daughters, Raechel Harvey Walton of Clyde, Texas, and Jaclyn Bell and Casey Wills, both of Joshua, Texas; two sisters, Laura Evans of Kingwood, Texas, and Elise Myers of Dallas; and a brother, Jay Harvey of Austin.

