

*First Presbyterian Church  
418 West Coolidge  
Borger, Tx 79007  
~July 2013~*

First Presbyterian Church  
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Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer

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***Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty.***

**John F. Kennedy**

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

July

Borger, Texas

2013

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**PASTOR'S PEN**

Dear Friends:

I know I have been back from Costa Rica for a few weeks, but I thought I would take some time to share a few of my experiences with you in the newsletter. The focus of our time in Costa Rica was social issues surrounding women, children, and immigrants. Throughout our trip we had the opportunity to meet with a variety of people working on these issues. We met with University professors and students, government employees, non-profit workers, teenage mothers, and immigrants.

Costa Rica is a country at a crossroads. Since the 1940's it has been a social welfare state. It has a social security system which provides retirement, healthcare, and insurance for all its citizens. Costa Rica, like the rest of the world, is struggling because of the global recession. It is trying to decide whether it wants to continue as a social welfare state, go to a privatized system, or something in the middle. In the midst of this, Costa Rica is also dealing with a variety of other social issues. Twenty percent of children born today are born to teenage mothers. Costa Rica also continues to be a popular destination for immigrants, particularly those from Nicaragua. In addition, Costa Rica finds itself as a route for the drug trade. As we know from our own experiences, these issues are complex and have no simple answers.

On our second day in Costa Rica we visited with social work students at the University of Costa Rica. When we asked them how they described social work in Costa Rica, they said that it is about accompanying people. I thought about that throughout our trip. I realized that was a wonderful way to describe social work. As I have thought about it more, is it not also a wonderful way to describe our work as Christians? Is this not the example that Christ gave us during his sojourn on earth? Christ accompanied many people on their journeys, showing them a different way, God's way. As we face the issues and challenges of our day, can we follow Christ's example of accompanying people on their journeys? It is as we walk beside people through their joys and concerns that we will have the opportunity both to bring justice and the love of God to others.

I have spoken mostly about Costa Rica's social issues in this article, but it really is a beautiful country. If you ever have the chance to visit, it is very much worth the trip.

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Jennifer*

The Treasurer reported the following figures for May:

Total Income	\$ 6,064.88
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 4,623.67</u>
Total	\$ 1,441.21
Year to Date	
Total Income	\$ 39,976.37
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 31,065.37</u>
Total	\$ 8,911.00



We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

**The Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776**



**Care of Member and Friends**

Malnor Arthur  
First Presbyterian Church  
of Dumas, our prayer  
partner.

**DUTY ELDER FOR JULY**

**HAZEL HOWARD**

**SESSION MEETING**

**July 21, 2013**

We need volunteers to be Duty Elder for August and September there is a signup sheet on volunteer desk.



## *P. W. NEWS*



### **Count the stars**



“Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them,” God told Abram (Genesis 15:5, NRSV). On a clear summer night, especially if you can get away from city lights, try this yourself: “Look toward heaven and count the stars ....”

Although none of us can count them all, someone has calculated (don’t ask me how!) that if a grain of sand represented a star, you’d need 94,608,000 railroad hopper cars full of sand to represent all the stars of the universe. If you watched all the cars pass by, one per second, you’d be standing there for three years!

As we gaze at the sky on a warm summer night, our minds can’t comprehend such a vast universe. Yet our hearts can comprehend a God great enough to craft it.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

2nd: Katey Kasch  
5th: Debbie Winegar  
15th: John Edgington  
17th: Harold Hebermehl



## JULY ANNIVERSARIES

1st: Paul and Sandra White

## Living thanks

“Thank you!” I exuded, after receiving a hefty bag of homegrown tomatoes. I set the produce on the kitchen floor; I would attend to it shortly. But I got distracted – for days.

Finally, I lifted the bag to make use of the gift, and the bottom fell out. Many of the tomatoes had become squishy, their juices soaking the paper beneath them. Instead of making good use of the generous gift, I was left cleaning up rotten tomatoes and throwing many of the veggies away.

We do the same with God’s gifts: “I’ll practice piano tomorrow ... next week ... next month ...” until soon we don’t remember how to play at all. We pass up chances to visit someone dear and, when she moves away, regret squandering the friendship. We opt to sleep in instead of attending worship, unaware of what gifts of God’s Word and Christian fellowship we’ll miss.

Next time I receive something – from God or anyone else – may the Spirit help me not just *give* thanks but *live* thanks by using and enjoying the gift!

–Heidi Mann



## Special dates


- Canada Day, *July 1, 2013*
- U.S. Independence Day, *July 4, 2013*





**Session Connection:**

Julia Kasch	Clerk Of Session/Administration/Property
Sue Hooten	Fellowship
Hazel Howard	Christian Education
Phyllis Harmony	Worship



Thank you for the prayers for my stepdaughter who had open heart surgery on June 10, she is on the road to recovery and is out of the hospital.

Silvia Rivera



**HI-PLAINS HELPING HANDS NEWS FOR JUNE:**

High Plains Helping Hand is in need of additional space. A bid was made for a new storage building to be added to the present one, but due to difficulties with the contractor, the plans are on hold.

James Stephens, Board President, submitted his resignation effective May 29th, and it was accepted. John Westman, Pastor at St. Andrews Methodist Church has accepted the position as Board President and was welcomed at the June 21st Board meeting. Most of the meeting was spent discussing the problems with the contractor and possible solutions.


Aleyene Watkins, Board member.



**HI-PLAINS HELPING HANDS DONATION:**

Items needed: **Food:** Crackers, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Tuna Helper, Spaghetti, Cereal, Rice.

**Non-Food Items:** Laundry detergent, Bar Soap, Shampoo, Dishwashing Soap, Deodorant, Toothpaste and Toothbrushes.



## Mission Opportunity

Do you have....

tin cans  
plastic coffee cans  
milk jugs  
cereal boxes  
fabric  
yarn  
or other recyclables you are done with?



### **Satellite workshop has a special request for aluminum pie, cake, etc. containers**

If you answered yes to the above question, then I have a mission opportunity for you. The Borger Satellite Workshop, which provides services and jobs for disabled adults in Hutchinson country, is in need of these items for art and craft projects for their clients. All you have to do is drop your recyclables off at the church. We will set up a box to collect these items near the Helping Hands basket behind the Volunteer's desk. Don and Sallie Thompson will see that these items get over to the workshop. Thank you in advance for your help.



## What's your bugle?

Numbers 10 tells of God's command that Moses make two bugles for various purposes: summoning the leaders, sending the people to war, announcing worship, presenting offerings, calling everyone for a festival. "Blow the bugles," declares the Lord. "They will keep your attention on God" (v. 10, The Message).

What "bugles" draw our attention to God? Maybe church bells chime daily near your home. Maybe worship attendance serves as the "bugle" that calls you back to the Divine. Some people place a small dot-sticker on the face of their watch to remind them to pray whenever they check the time. A sticker on your cell phone or MP3 player might work even better. Maybe you set your Bible or devotions on the kitchen table before bed to remind you to start your day with God.

God's people get distracted easily, whether with tent-pitching in the Sinai Desert 3,500 years ago or with jam-packed schedules today. We all need a "bugle."  
What's yours?



## July 2013 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals Year C

### **Seventh Sunday after Pentecost—July 7, 2013**

#### **Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Semicontinuous Complementary*

2 Kings 5:1–14 Isaiah 66:10–14

Psalm 30 Psalm 66:1–9

Galatians 6:[1–6] 7–16

Luke 10:1–11, 16–20

### **Eighth Sunday after Pentecost—July 14**

#### **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Amos 7:7–17 Deuteronomy 30:9–14

Psalm 82 Psalm 25:1–10

Colossians 1:1–14

Luke 10:25–37

### **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost—July 21**

#### **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Amos 8:1–12 Genesis 18:1–10a

Psalm 52 Psalm 15

Colossians 1:15–28

Luke 10:38–42

### **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost—July 28**

#### **Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Hosea 1:2–10

Genesis 18:20–32

Psalm 85





## "Sew Me In"



Sew me in your hem, oh Lord.  
Tuck me where your garment folds.  
Sew me in and keep me close.  
Stitch me in the linen folds.  
In your garment I will stay  
Where I'll hear you speak and pray.  
Sew me in, oh precious Lord.  
Tuck me where your garment folds.

—MaryAnn Sundby

### In honor of Independence Day:

#### Founding Fathers Christian Quotes

John Adams:

“ The general principles upon which the Fathers achieved independence were the general principals of Christianity... I will avow that I believed and now believe that those general principles of Christianity are as eternal and immutable as the existence and attributes of God.”

• “[July 4th] ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.”

—John Adams in a letter written to Abigail on the day the Declaration was approved by Congress

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Avarice, ambition, revenge, or gallantry, would break the strongest cords of our Constitution as a whale goes through a net. Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people. It is wholly inadequate to the government of any other." --October 11, 1798

## **Thomas Jefferson:**

“The doctrines of Jesus are simple, and tend to all the happiness of man.”

“Of all the systems of morality, ancient or modern which have come under my observation, none appears to me so pure as that of Jesus.”

"I am a real Christian, that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus."

“God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are a gift from God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, and that His justice cannot sleep forever.” (excerpts are inscribed on the walls of the Jefferson Memorial in the nations capital)

[Source: Merrill . D. Peterson, ed., Jefferson Writings, (New York: Literary Classics of the United States, Inc., 1984), Vol. IV, p. 289. From Jefferson’s Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, 1781.]

## **Samuel Johnston:**

- “It is apprehended that Jews, Mahometans (Muslims), pagans, etc., may be elected to high offices under the government of the United States. Those who are Mahometans, or any others who are not professors of the Christian religion, can never be elected to the office of President or other high office, [unless] first the people of America lay aside the Christian religion altogether, it may happen. Should this unfortunately take place, the people will choose such men as think as they do themselves.

[Elliot’s Debates, Vol. IV, pp 198-199, Governor Samuel Johnston, July 30, 1788 at the North Carolina Ratifying Convention]

At the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison proposed the plan to divide the central government into three branches. He discovered this model of government from the

Perfect Governor, as he read Isaiah 33:22;

“For the LORD is our judge, the LORD is our lawgiver,  
the LORD is our king;  
He will save us.”

[Baron Charles Montesquieu, wrote in 1748; “Nor is there liberty if the power of judging is not separated from legislative power and from executive power. If it [the power of judging] were joined to legislative power, the power over life and liberty of the citizens would be arbitrary, for the judge would be the legislature if it were joined to the executive power, the judge could have the force of an oppressor. All would be lost if the same ... body of principal men ... exercised these three powers." Madison claimed Isaiah 33:22 as the source of

division of power in government

See also: pp.241-242 in Teaching and Learning America’s Christian History: The Principle approach by Rosalie Slater]

Fourth of July  
Happy July 4th

Find lots of words related to the Fourth of July - plus a few extras!

M S F G S T A R S O N H  
R A E S S M Y F Y I R B  
M Y S K E M D D G I A L  
F D T R F S F H A N E S  
A E I O E R T E D R C L  
T C V W C L E R H O K O  
A Y A E F E K E I C S N  
O E L R A M L R D P A M  
N S A I A E A R A O E U  
G A L F M G D E D P M S  
W C A A K A L E B I S I  
K R I F U N F M R A E C

fireworks  
night  
popcorn  
America  
stars

sparklers  
dark  
Casey  
freedom  
stripes

band  
family  
Kaleb  
festival

music  
fun  
Megan  
flag