

*First Presbyterian Church
418 West Coolidge
Borger, Tx 79007
~May 2012~*

First Presbyterian Church
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Rev. Dr. Jennifer Santer

Organist and Music Director- Pat Petty



FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE
First Presbyterian Church Newsletter
April Borger, Texas 2012

PASTOR'S PEN

Dear friends,

A few weeks ago I read a post on Facebook by blogger Rachel Held Evans, "*15 Reasons I Left the Church.*" Her reasons for leaving her conservative evangelical church included:

"I had learned more from Oprah about addressing poverty and injustice than I had learned from 25 years of Sunday school."

"because there are days when I'm not sure I believe in God, and no one told me that "dark nights of the soul" can be part of the faith experience."

"because sometimes it felt like a cult, or a country club, and I wasn't sure which was worse."

A few days later I came across an article enumerating the PC(USA) churches that are leaving our pasture for more conservative pastures. Looking at it from Evans side it seems like there is a great opportunity for mainline churches, such as the PC(USA) to reach out to these evangelicals that are looking for a new faith home. Looking at it from the side of those leaving the PC(USA), it seems like the mainline churches are continuing to lose members to the more evangelical churches. So who is winning this battle? From my perspective I don't think there is a winner. In fact we may all be losers, and the biggest loser may be the Church universal.

No matter what side you find yourself rooting for, the question we all need to wrestle with is what has all our politicking and agenda setting done for the church? Have we gotten so caught up in our own agendas and projects that we have forgotten what the church was created to be? Have we forgotten the sacrifice that Christ made for us on the cross? Have we forgotten the road of discipleship that Christ has paved for us? Have we lost our eyes to see and our ears to hear those who need the Church the most? Do we even hear the cries of those in need of compassion, justice, and love?

In another post, Evans speaks about why she came back to the Church, not her church, but the Church universal. First, on the list was **Jesus**. Other reasons included:

"communion"

"The fact that when somebody gets sick or dies or has a baby or loses their job, it's the church ladies who are the first to show up at the front door with a casserole and a hug."

"Sucking up my pride and embracing the fact that, like it or not, I need community...and real community isn't about surrounding myself with people just like me."

Last, but not least, *"grace, grace, grace, grace."*

On Sunday, May 27th, we will be once again celebrating Pentecost, the birthday of the church. As we celebrate another year in the life of the Church universal, may we come back to our roots. May we put aside our agendas and projects long enough to be the body of Christ for the world.

There will always be different churches, and that's not a bad thing. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12 it wouldn't work very well if we were all feet. The Church needs its eyes, hands, ears, and stomach. Each part is needed in the body of Christ. Instead of fighting each other may we work together to bring the love of Christ to the world. May we celebrate what the hands, feet, eyes, ears, arms, and legs of Christ are doing in their ministries. May we find ways to work together instead of tearing each other apart. Instead of trying to beat our opponent, it's time we realize that we are all on the same team- the one holy apostolic church.

Pastor Jennifer

Session Actions

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE SESSION OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MARCH 18, 2012

The Moderator, Rev. Jennifer Santer called the meeting to order and led the group in prayer. The meeting, beginning at 11:45 a.m. was held in the Miller Board Room of the First Presbyterian Church, Borger, Texas. The prior regular worship service served as the devotional. A quorum consisting of: Phyllis Harmony, Margaret Edgington, Sue Hooten, June Voigt, and Pat Petty was established. Others attending were Rev. Jennifer Santer, Treasurer Pam Nicholas, invited guest Trustee Jerry Pool and Clerk of Session Julia A. Kasch.

Clerk's Report:

The Clerk reported no unusual mail requiring Session attention. The financial documents concerning the transfer of funds from The First State National Bank of Groom will be discussed in another part of the minutes. The yearly reports for Presbytery have been sent. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as printed.(Elder Pat Petty, Elder Phyllis Harmony).

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer presented the monthly expense statements which were accepted as printed. Previous month's minutes indicated that the Session would remove \$18,600.00 from the First State National Bank Housing C.D. and transfer it to Pantex checking account. This will be done this week. On a motion by Elder Edgington, second Elder Petty, the account at the Happy State Bank will be closed and funds transferred to Pantex checking account. Additional presentations by Trustee Jerry Pool resulted in the Session choosing to leave the Investment Account at Edward Jones.

As previously suggested the account at the Borger Federal Credit Union will be "drawn down" for various projects which are discussed in a later presentation. The treasurer's report was accepted as discussed(Elder Harmony, Elder Petty) The Power Church Accounting Program decision is pending.

Pastor's Report:

The Pastor celebrated Communion with Mr. and Mrs. Gillespie on March 15, 2012
Visited with Larry and C.J. Nelson following his surgery also March 15, 2012.
Led the study on Islam for Congregation on February 15, 2012.
Attended the Presbyterian Women Circle meeting on March 1, 2012.

Committee Reports:

Worship Committee announced these dates: Communion on Palm Sunday April 1, 2012, Service on Maundy Thursday April 5, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.
Guest Sunday morning participants: March 25th- Boy Scouts , Philippine Surgeons April 15, 2012.
The Session will meet on April 19, Thursday, at noon.

Property:

The fence on the east side of the church will begin at the edge of the Education Wing with a blocked area so that persons cannot enter. It will not be a gate. The fence will then continue to the sidewalk with a "slope" as it nears the end of the fence. The cost is \$1,800.00. This cost will come from the Sue Sharpe Special Project Fund.

The bid on the sanctuary carpet is attached, the Bulldog Carpet Cleaning and Venthoods bid \$1,089.01 for the job. The complete bid is attached. (Elder Petty, Elder Edgington). Cost from church maintenance budget).

The Sound System is complete except for the replacement of the black speakers with white speakers.

Christian Education/Fellowship:

The One Great Hour of Sharing envelopes are in the pew racks and inserts in the bulletins are planned.

Old Business:

Shawna Lusk's Graduation Luncheon is scheduled for May 20, 2012.
A memorial service is scheduled for Evelyn Graham on May 18, 2012.

New Business:

As previously stated the Pastor will do the Maundy Thursday service in the evening, she will be at the Church from 9:00 a.m. until after Maundy services. Communion by intinction will be offered.

Next Session meeting April 19, 2012 at noon(Previously mentioned).

Members mentioned the possible change of the Website. It is currently managed by a company which provides all the usual licensing and fees for the site. Pastor will update the information on the site.

Hospitality group will provide Chocolate Eggs for the young people on Easter Sunday.

Elder Pat Petty moved that the group adjourn. (12:40 p.m.)

Submitted: Julia A. Kasch Clerk of Session

The Treasurer reported the following figures for March:

Total Income	\$ 11,952.90
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 11,110.99</u>
Total	\$ 841.91
Year to Date	
Total Income	\$ 33,147.98
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 46,201.41</u>
Total	\$(13,053.43)



“Many are the woes of the wicked, but the LORD’s unfailing love surrounds the one who trusts in him.”

Psalm 32:10 (NIV)



Care of Member and Friends

Malnor Arthur
Pat Harvey
Larry Nelson
Virginia Edmonds
Hal & Virginia Hebermehl
First Presbyterian Church
of Dumas, our prayer
partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR MAY

PHYLLIS HARMONY

SESSION MEETING

Thursday, May 17, 2012



P.W. NEWS



PW NEWS

Ladies, the last lesson for this series will be Thursday, May 3. I have seen the suggested study for next season and it looks very interesting. We are small in number, but find studying God's word together something to look forward to each month. Naturally, all are invited to the study, male and female.

Phyllis Harmony

“Courage does not always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, I will try again tomorrow.”

—Mary Anne Radmacher

MAY BIRTHDAYS

1st: Hannah Chambers
17th: Chelsea Mills
29th: June Voigt



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

1st: Jerry & Toni Pool



CHURCH NEWS:



Session Connection:

Julia Kasch	Clerk Of Session
June Voigt	Property
Margaret Edgington	Fellowship
Sue Hooten	Christian Education
Pat Petty	Worship/Liaison between Congregation, Session and Pastor
Phyllis Harmony	Stewardship/Administration



HI-PLAINS HELPING HANDS DONATION:

Items needed for April, **Food:** Spaghetti, Canned Meats, Ramen Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Tuna, Tuna Helper, Crackers. **Non-Food Items:** Laundry detergent, tooth brushes.



Silvia would like to thank everyone for the prayers, calls, cards, plant and concern during her absence. It is a blessing to work for such a wonderful caring Christian group.



There will be a Graduation Luncheon for Shauna Lusk on May 20th following worship.



Property Committee:

The property committee continues working hard to maintain our church building as well as exterior appearance in superior condition.

A new fence has been installed at the East side of the East parking lot. The amount of \$1800.00 cost was taken from the Sue Sharpe Fund.

The sealing process was done with money from the maintenance fund.

Session received and accepted the bid from the Bulldog Capet Co. For cleaning of the sanctuary carpet, pew. stairs, and downstairs.

Our thanks to Jerry Pool, Trustee for all his devotion and efforts to this time consuming and ongoing project of keeping the Church looking so good.

Submitted by: June Voigt, Property Committee.



Thomas Leon Edmonds, passed away Friday, April 6, 2012 in Amarillo, Texas. Services were held at the First Presbyterian Church in Borger, Texas on Thursday, April 12 at 2:00PM. Funeral arrangements by Brown Funeral Directors of Borger, TX.

The family received friends at Brown Chapel Of The Fountains in Borger, TX on Wednesday, April 11, 2012 from 6:00PM to 8:00PM.

Tom was born on May 10, 1932 in Borger, Texas to Flora Love and Cline Azel Edmonds. He grew up in the Gulf Camp and graduated Valedictorian from Borger High School.

Tom received a degree in chemical engineering from Texas Tech University and began working for Phillips Petroleum Company in Borger, in 1953. He became head of the Operations Analysis Division and spent much of his time working with the Research and Development Division in Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

Active in Toastmasters, Tom was a champion of the performing arts in West Texas. He particularly enjoyed opera and ballet and was a member of the Tri-City Concert Association.

While in Bartlesville, Tom met and fell in love with Virginia Leon, who also worked for Phillips. Their first encounter was in an Arthur Murray dance class where they were paired up to dance the Tango. Tom and Virginia were married in Raton, New Mexico in 1960 and began their life together in Borger. In 1963, they welcomed the birth of their only child, Stephanie.

Tom worked in computer analysis and R & D for several companies across Texas and the midwest, including McDonnell Douglas, but decided to return to Texas Tech to study law in 1971. He began his second career practicing oil and gas law in Borger in 1974.

Over the years, Tom partnered with many good friends but ended his legal career representing Borger both as prosecuting attorney and on the board of the Canadian River Municipal Water Authority.

Tom was a kind and generous man and he loved to help people and animals alike. He had a big heart and was always willing to support those less fortunate than himself.

Tom and Virginia celebrated 50 years together in 2010. As Virginia's health began to decline, she moved into an assisted living facility in Amarillo. Soon thereafter Tom moved to a nearby apartment and made an effort to visit her every evening and tuck her into bed.

Tom is survived by his wife Virginia Edmonds, daughter Stephanie Sullivan, son-in-law Douglas Sullivan and his little dog, Max.

The family suggests memorials be sent to the Amarillo SPCA.





Notes from the Music



Department

April showers will indeed bring May flowers!! Our part of the world looks much more green this year than last! Thank you, God, for the rain!

Choir practice for May will be: May 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. May 30 will be our last practice before we begin our summer break.

The Opening Response for May will be "Through It All" and will be an insert to the Sunday bulletin. Closing Response will be "Amen" from the hymnal on page 587.

Again, I would like to thank the choir members, Margaret Edgington and the Santer children for all their hard work during the Easter season. This work was greatly appreciated by the congregation and your Music Director!

May the Good Lord bless and keep you.

Love and Grace - Pat Petty and Choir

Tithing...

There were two men shipwrecked on this island. The minute they got to the island, one of them started screaming and yelling.

"We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! No water! We're going to die!"

The second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly it drove the first man crazy.

"Don't you understand?!" We're going to die!!" the first man said.

"You don't understand. I make \$100,000 a week," said the second man.

The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked what difference does it make?

We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to die!!!"

The second man answered, " You just don't get it. I make \$100,000 a week. I tithe. My pastor will find me!"

The Ascension challenge

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid?

Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the challenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds.

When we follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

A memorial

One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex was staring up at the large plaque that hung in the foyer of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and small American Flag were mounted on either side of it.

The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex." "Good morning pastor," replied the young man, still focused on the plaque.

"Pastor McGwire, what is this?" Alex asked. "Well, son, it's a memorial to the men and women who died in the service. "Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, "Which service, the 8:45 or the 11:00?"

Prayer's power



Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.

—Elisabeth Elliot



May 2012 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals

5th Sunday of Easter—May 6

Acts 8:26–40
Ps. 22:25–31
1 John 4:7–21
John 15:1–8

6th Sunday of Easter—May 13

Acts 10:44–48
Ps. 98
1 John 5:1–6
John 15:9–17

Ascension of the Lord—May 17

Acts 1:1–11
Ps. 47:1–9 *or* Ps. 93:1–5
Eph. 1:15–23
Luke 24:44–53

7th Sunday of Easter—May 20

Acts 1:15–17, 21–26
Ps. 1
1 John 5:9–13
John 17:6–19

Day of Pentecost—May 27

Acts 2:1–21 *or* Ezek. 37:1–14
Ps. 104:24–34, 35b
Rom. 8:22–27 *or* Acts 2:1–21
John 15:26–27; 16:4b–15
Isa. 49:1–7
Ps. 71:1–14
1 Cor. 1:18–31
John 12:20–36

Office of Theology and Worship, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) 1

