

*First Presbyterian Church  
418 West Coolidge  
Borger, Tx 79007  
~October 2014~*

First Presbyterian Church  
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Secretary- **Silvia Rivera**

**Pastor: Rev. Janell Blair**  
**Pianist: Marilyn Pearce**



*Preach the Gospel at all times and when necessary use words.*

*Francis of Assisi*

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## First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

October

Borger, Texas

2014

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October begins for us with World Communion Sunday on the 5<sup>th</sup> and winds up with Reformation Sunday, Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>. We flow from a global, ecumenical emphasis into a celebration of our unique Reformation Heritage. These are two occasions to honor who we are as Presbyterians.

We Presbyterians have long been connected to both other Presbyterians and other Christians as we worship and serve God. Living in such a troubled world, we often prefer to focus our attention inward so that we do not have to think about all the problems around us. Yet we Presbyterians are a servant people, and God sends us out—to serve our troubled nation and world. Now, you and I both know that we are not likely to march off into God's world at our ages, wading into the midst of the riots, contagions, and conflicts we hear about on our television news! But God calls us. How can we faithfully respond to this call to serve as Christ's hands and feet in the midst of Ebola outbreaks and hunger, wars and oppression? We do it by being faithful and prayerful stewards in the Presbyterian Church! Our denomination has missionaries at work all over this troubled world, plus mission partners in at least one hundred nations. These Presbyterians serve God's hurting people on our behalf. In addition, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) has countless volunteers in mission, from teenagers through very senior, senior citizens, at work on shorter term projects all around the world and our nation.

Every time we hear the news, we learn about more frightening happenings in our world. Too often, we fail to hear the good news. It is good news that in some of the most frightening places of our world today, Presbyterians are at work doing good things in Christ's name. We have twelve missionaries serving in the Middle East. Most of their names are not published to help keep them safe, but they are very actively serving—in seminaries, feeding programs, agricultural training projects, and medical facilities—on our behalf. The Presbyterian Hunger Program is at work feeding the very poorest people in areas affected by Ebola in Africa. A tiny congregation of Liberian immigrants in St. Louis, MO is at work praying and raising money for Ebola prevention back home in Liberia. They also train other Liberian immigrants in effective Ebola prevention and urge them to call relatives back home to spread the news. And this St. Louis congregation, as well as many other Presbyterian congregations in their city, have reached out to the residents of troubled Ferguson, Missouri, in support and prayer.

We have missionaries and mission volunteers working in Russia and the Ukraine, in the poorest slums and villages of Central and South America, engaged in medical missions, water projects, and evangelism efforts throughout Asia, and in ways beyond imagining in our own nation.

As we celebrate the Lord's Supper on World Communion Sunday we know that, in God's Spirit, we will be joining our brothers and sisters of nearly every nation and denomination around Christ's Table. It is the one day that we all set aside to come to Christ's Table. And as we respond to Christ's call to his table, we will hear again his call to serve "the least of these" in Christ's name. As a theology professor at one of our Egyptian seminaries writes us, "It is not enough to pray once every October for the Global Church on World Communion Sunday. We need your prayers to survive Sunday after Sunday, Monday after Monday, week after week. Translating real engagement into real prayer is so encouraging for the church and for Christians in Egypt." Through our prayers and our money, we Presbyterians keep our historic commitment to serve all of Christ's people, around the world and close to home. Let's get back to work!

In Christ's Service, Janell



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## Special dates

- World Communion Sunday, *October 5, 2014*
  - Columbus Day Observance, *October 13, 2014*
  - Reformation Sunday, *October 26, 2014*
  - Reformation Day, *October 31, 2014*
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The Treasurer reported the following figures for July - August:

Total Income	\$ 11,134.11
Total Expenses	\$ <u>10,385.45</u>
Total	\$ 748.66

Year to Date

Total Income	\$ 50,965.87
Total Expenses	\$ <u>52,051.39</u>
Total	\$ (1,085.52)



## What a wonder!

If ever I reach heaven I expect to find three wonders there: first, to meet some I had not thought to see there; second, to miss some I had expected to see there; and third — the greatest wonder of all — to find myself there.

—John Newton



### Care of Member and Friends

Malnor Arthur  
Louise Gillespie  
Teddy Buckland  
First Presbyterian Church of  
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR OCTOBER

MARGARET EDGINGTON

SESSION MEETING

October 12, 2014



## *P. W. NEWS*



### **P. W. News**

**P.W. will meet on October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the coffee room, everyone is welcome to attend.**

**Phyllis**

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### **October Birthdays:**

**5th – Pat Petty**

**27th – Bob Kasch**

**30<sup>th</sup> – Liz Williams**

### **October Anniversaries:**

**30<sup>th</sup> Lee and Liz Williams**



## First of all ...

At the southwestern edge of New Zealand, a *National Geographic* writer traveled with a local guide along paths strewn with river pebbles. Suddenly the guide bent to pick up a finger-long sliver of “greenstone” — jade — shimmery and smoothed by the river. He handed it to the journalist, saying, “Our people have a tradition that you don’t keep the first piece you find. So I’m giving it to you.”

Throughout Scripture, “first fruits” signifies people giving their best back to God because he first gave the best of himself to humanity. Ultimately, Paul teaches, “Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died” (1 Corinthians 15:20, NRSV).

In response to this gift of life, we give our own first fruits to God; for example, we might spend early-morning time in prayer, set aside an offering as our first budget item, and make sure our first words to family each day are sweet ones.



Renovate me, precious Lord.  
I turned from you and just ignored  
your plan for me to be restored.  
Without your love, I sink, not soar,  
so change and fix my inner core.  
Renovate me, precious Lord.

—MaryAnn Sundby

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## Session Connection:

Julia Kasch  
Sue Hooten  
Don Thompson  
Margaret Edgington

Clerk Of Session/Administration/Christian Ed.  
Fellowship  
Property  
Worship



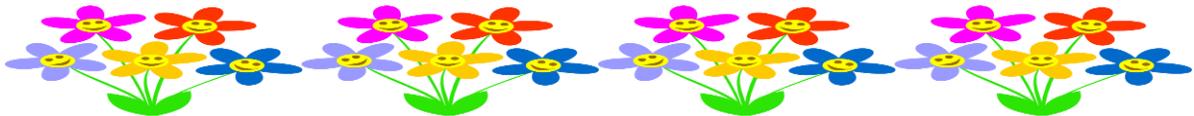
## HI-PLAINS HELPING HANDS DONATION:

Items needed: **Food:** Crackers, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Tuna Helper, Spaghetti, Cereal, Rice, Pinto Beans, Canned Meats, Peanut Butter, and Mixed Vegetable cans.

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



The 2014 Elder Duty Roster/Member Roster is on the volunteers desk, please sign up to help perform duties for the church on Sundays.



The Cookie Sign-up sheet is on the volunteer desk for anyone interested in bringing cookies for fellowship on Sunday mornings.



**October 5, 2014, World Communion Sunday**



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## What's a Christian to do with Halloween?

These days, children associate Halloween with trick-or-treating and candy. But centuries ago, Christians named the night before All Hallows' Day (All Saints' Day) "All Hallows' Eve." As the faithful prepared to remember people who were entrusted to resurrection life, they adopted various traditions to poke fun at death.

Around the world, Christians observe Halloween differently: In Poland, kids pray aloud while walking through forests to comfort souls of the dead. In Spain, tolling church bells remind people to remember the saints. In Finland, so many people light candles in cemeteries that the observance is called "seas of light." Although some Christians steer clear of Halloween, others use it as an evangelism opportunity and provide entertainment alternatives such as harvest parties.

No matter your views, you can remind children that though it's fun to pretend, we can always be ourselves with God. Whatever our features and flaws, we need not and cannot hide from God behind masks. God made us in his holy image and loves us as his holy — *hallowed!* — children.

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## The influence of John Knox

This year marks the 500th anniversary of the birth of Scottish reformer John Knox, founder of the Presbyterian church. Scottish philosopher Thomas Carlyle called Knox "the one Scotsman to whom the whole world owes a debt."

Once a Catholic priest, Knox later decried the papacy in front of royalty — and was arrested twice as a result. But he always stood firm, insisting that "a man with God is always in the majority."

Knox, who was influenced by fellow reformer John Calvin, said people had a duty to oppose unjust governments to bring about moral and spiritual changes. Among the many people affected by Knox's revolutionary ideas were the English Puritans.

Professor David P. Murray says Knox left these lessons for the entire church: Get back to the Bible. Love your confession of faith. Fear God and not man. Hate all false religion. Get involved in politics. Feed the hungry and provide for the poor. And never despair.

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*A Season of Peace*

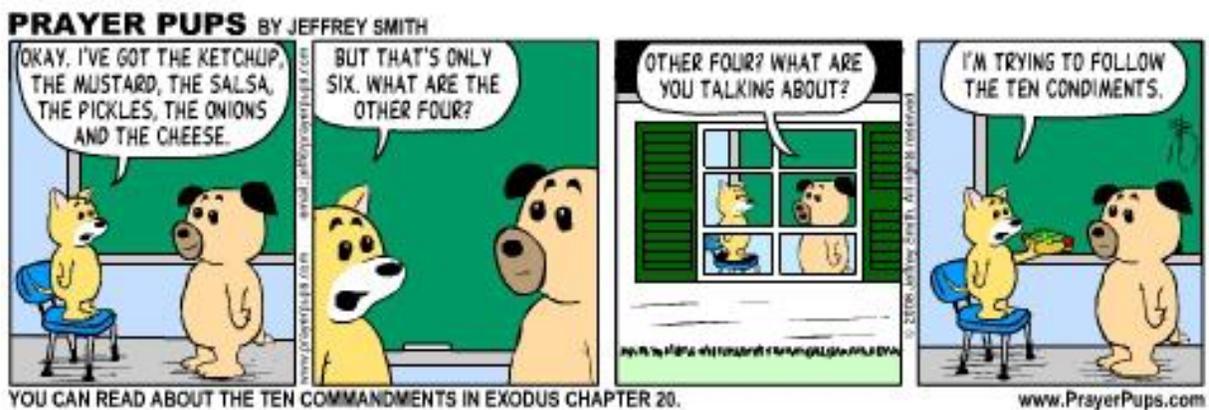
- Give through your church
- Text **PEACE** to **20222** to give \$10
- [presbyterianmission.org/give/peacemaking-offering](http://presbyterianmission.org/give/peacemaking-offering)

**AT ALL TIMES IN ALL WAYS.**  
2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

## Earnest worship

Comparing worship to a dramatic production, Danish theologian Søren Kierkegaard said congregation members are actors, the worship leader is the prompter, God is the “audience” and the stage is eternity. The point of worship, Kierkegaard maintained, should be to please God alone.

“The prompter whispers to the actor what he is to say, but the actor’s repetition of it is the main concern,” Kierkegaard wrote. “The main concern is earnestness: that the listeners by themselves, with themselves and to themselves, in the silence before God, may speak with the help of this address.”



## Mission Opportunity

Do you have....

tin cans  
plastic coffee cans  
milk jugs  
cereal boxes  
fabric  
yarn  
or other recyclables?



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

**aluminum**

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 county, 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.

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## Equals at communion

After saving England from Napoleon's threats in 1815, the Duke of Wellington achieved hero status. One Sunday as the duke approached the altar for communion, a poor man from London's streets, wearing rags, knelt beside him. The indignant minister whispered for the vagrant to move away. "Don't you realize this is the great Duke of Wellington?" he asked.

When the duke overhead, he responded, "Leave him alone. We're all the same here. The ground is level at the cross."

That's the spirit in which we celebrate World Communion Sunday on the first Sunday of October. Paul says believers share the Lord's Supper by partaking of the "one bread" (1 Corinthians 10:17). Everyone at the communion table is equal in God's sight, needing his forgiveness and grace.

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## October 2014 Revised Common Lectionary for Sundays and Festivals [Year A ]

**Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost—October 5**  
**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 22)**  
*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 Isaiah 5:1–7  
Psalm 19 Psalm 80:7–15  
Philippians 3:4b–14 Philippians 3:4b–14  
Matthew 21:33–46 Matthew 21:33–46

**Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost—October 12**  
**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 23)**  
*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Exodus 32:1–14 Isaiah 25:1–9  
Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23 Psalm 23  
Philippians 4:1–9 Philippians 4:1–9  
Matthew 22:1–14 Matthew 22:1–14

**Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost—October 19**  
**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 24)**  
*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Exodus 33:12–23 Isaiah 45:1–7  
Psalm 99 Psalm 96:1–9 [10–13]  
1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10  
Matthew 22:15–22 Matthew 22:15–22

**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost—October 26**  
**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Proper 25)**  
*Semicontinuous Complementary*

Deuteronomy 34:1–12 Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18  
Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 Psalm 1  
1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8  
Matthew 22:34–46 Matthew 22:34–46

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

