

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

First Presbyterian Church
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“Nothing great in the world has been accomplished without passion.”
—Georg Hegel

First Presbyterian Church Newsletter

September

Borger, Texas

2017

September 1927 was a very important month in the life of First Presbyterian Church of Borger, Texas. In August of that year a week-long service was held to bring together those who wished to form a Presbyterian church here. By September, a Presbyterian minister already living in Borger had been recruited to help organize First Presbyterian Church with sixty-nine charter members. On September 21, 1927 the First Presbyterian Church of Borger was placed on the roll of churches during a meeting of Amarillo Presbytery in Electra.

Amidst the rough and tumble culture of early Borger, our church was born. On October 2 of that year our first called pastor, Rev. A.K. Price, held his first worship service with us. As Rev. Roger Harwerth wrote on the occasion of our 75th anniversary, the **“early members and leaders marked the path and led the way through those difficult first decades that included both economic depression and a second world war....By keeping their focus on living out the example of Christian discipleship they moved into an ever-changing and ever-challenging future.”**

This month we are preparing to celebrate the 90th anniversary of our church. Our actual celebration will take place on Sunday, October 1st, both because it is close to the date of our first services and because, this year, the date coincides with World Communion Sunday. We will celebrate our anniversary with former members and pastors gathered around the communion table, knowing that we are sharing communion with Christians of every denomination and every nation. What a day to celebrate!

We will lead up to our October 1st celebration (more details about the day itself inside this newsletter) by laying out tidbits of our history from every decade each Sunday. We have been gathering together old photos, minutes, letters and other memorabilia from our 90 years, and each Sunday some of it will be on display in the sanctuary. Take time to enjoy it and learn from it. We can only fully appreciate our present and prepare for our future by knowing the history that leads us here.

The Apostle Paul, considering all the ancestors of our faith, wrote: **“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...”** (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We who are First Presbyterian Church of Borger in 2017 are likewise surrounded by this “great cloud of witnesses” that includes Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Lazarus and Paul, but also includes the saints of the previous 90 years of this congregation who are now joined with the Church Triumphant. Paul writes that this “cloud” cheers us on as we run the race of faith, and, with their support, he urges, **“Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees...”** (Hebrews 12:12), that we might faithfully live out our ministry in this place, for this time.

Friends, we have much to celebrate! May our celebrations lead us forward to continue our good work in faith.

In Christ’s peace,

Janell

YOU ARE INVITED!

First Presbyterian Church of Borger, Texas will celebrate it’s 90th anniversary on Sunday, October 1, 2017.

9:00-11:00a.m. Visiting in the fellowship hall, viewing scrapbooks, timelines, and photos. Finger brunch food available.

11:00a.m. Worship with former pastors leading the service, Communion will be celebrated, Peacemaking offering will be dedicated.

(We invite former choir members to sing with our choir during the service—we will sing familiar pieces that are easy to pick up!)

LOUISVILLE (from the Presbyterian Church (USA) Facebook page:

In the wake of a weekend of violence in Charlottesville, Virginia fomented by the “alt-right,” four top leaders of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) today issued a statement condemning white supremacy and racism.

The leaders – General Assembly co-moderators Jan Edmiston and T. Denise Anderson, Presbyterian Mission Agency Interim Executive Director Tony De La Rosa, and General Assembly Stated Clerk J. Herbert Nelson, II -- praised the “faithful witness” of church leaders, especially those in Charlottesville, and acknowledged that “Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism.”

The statement further declares that “White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God’s intention for humanity” and acknowledges the church’s historic complicity in systemic racism in the U.S. And the leaders commit the church to “stand against, speak against and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.”



The full text of the statement, issued August 14:

In the aftermath of the events of August 11 and 12 in Charlottesville, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) reaffirms its condemnation of white supremacy and racism, names them as sin, and renews its commitment to disrupting them and working for justice and equity.

We give thanks for the presence and faithful witness of church members who stand against white supremacy and racism. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, stood against hate in Charlottesville. Individually and collectively the church, including Presbyterians, works to disrupt racism and to build racial equity in places across the country. We grieve for Heather Heyer, who was killed while standing witness; we grieve for state police officers H. Jay Cullen and Berke Bates, who died in a helicopter crash while monitoring events in Charlottesville; we pray for the recovery of all who were injured.

We acknowledge that Scripture has been misused to justify white supremacy and racism. However, we proclaim that the Bible’s message presents a far more consistent and insistent

witness to God's love for diversity and justice. This may be observed in God's delight in the varied creation; heard in the words of prophets who reject oppression and commend justice as true worship; seen in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, who values all persons regardless of any aspect of their identity; and experienced through the work of the Holy Spirit, who consistently blows through all the divisions we create, to reveal God's love for all humanity.

White supremacy and racism stand in stark, irreconcilable contradiction to God's intention for humanity. They reject part of the human family and are utterly contrary to God's Word made incarnate in Jesus. They are idolatries that elevate human-created hierarchies over God's freely given grace and love. They are lies about the human family, for they seek to say that some people are less than other people. They are lies about God because they falsely claim that God favors some people over the entirety of creation.

But as we give thanks, we acknowledge the church's complicity in the creation of white supremacy and racism. We confess the church's failure in challenging and disrupting white supremacy and racism. Too often we have accepted the status quo. Too often we have stood silent in the face of injustice and oppression.

By God's grace may we remember the events in Charlottesville; repent of our acquiescence and failures; and renew our commitment to proclaim and live the good news of Jesus Christ. May that commitment lead us to stand against, speak against and work against racism and white supremacy, this day and every day.

May it be so. Amen.

What's your calling?



When you have a sense of calling — whether it's to be a musician, soloist, artist, in one of the technical fields or a plumber — there is something deep and enriching when you realize it isn't just a casual choice; it's a divine calling. [That's] not limited to vocational Christian service, by any means.

—Charles R. Swindoll



September Birthdays:

14 – Teddy Buckland

19 – Elizabeth Austin

24 – Jan Moore

Don Shepherd

30 – Julia Kasch

Anniversaries

20 – Mario and Shawna Rios

Special dates

- Labor Day, *September 4, 2017*
 - National Grandparents Day, *September 10, 2017*
 - Patriot Day, *September 11, 2017*
 - Hispanic Heritage Month, *Sept. 15–Oct. 15, 2017*
 - First day of autumn, *September 22, 2017*
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God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. “Look at the gorgeous leaves!” Grandma exclaimed. “Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!”

“Yep,” said her grandson, “and he did it left-handed.”

Perplexed, Grandma asked, “Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?”

“Because,” said the boy matter-of-factly, “we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God’s right one.”

The Treasurer reported the following figures for July, 2017:

Total Income	\$	4,897.51
Total Expenses	\$	<u>8,958.83</u>
Total	\$	(4,061.32)
Year to Date		
Total Income	\$	38,017.89
Total Expenses	\$	<u>56,526.59</u>
Total	\$	(18,508.70)



Proverbs 1:7

Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. (NLT)



Care of Members and Friends

Malnor Arthur

Teddy Buckland

First Presbyterian Church of
Dumas, our prayer partner.

DUTY ELDER FOR SEPTEMBER

FIRST AND SECOND SUNDAY
MARGARET EDGINGTON

THIRD AND FOURTH SUNDAY
SUE HOOTEN

SESSION MEETING

September 24, 2017



Session Connection:

Julia Kasch
Sue Hooten
Don Thompson
Margaret Edgington

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



Office will be closed on September 4, 2017 in honor of Labor Day



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.





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

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 17)—September 3
Semicontinuous Complementary

Exodus 3:1–15	Jeremiah 15:15–21
Psalms 105:1–6, 23–26, 45b	Psalms 26:1–8
Romans 12:9–21	Romans 12:9–21
Matthew 16:21–28	Matthew 16:21–28

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 18)—September 10
Semicontinuous Complementary

Exodus 12:1–14	Ezekiel 33:7–11
Psalms 149	Psalms 119:33–40
Romans 13:8–14	Romans 13:8–14
Matthew 18:15–20	Matthew 18:15–20

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19)—September 17
Semicontinuous Complementary

Exodus 14:19–31	Genesis 50:15–21
Psalms 114 or Exodus 15:1b–11, 20–21	Psalms 103:[1–7] 8–13
Romans 14:1–12	Romans 14:1–12
Matthew 18:21–35	Matthew 18:21–35

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 20)—September 24
Semicontinuous Complementary

Exodus 16:2–15	Jonah 3:10—4:11
Psalms 105:1–6, 37–45	Psalms 145:1–8
Philippians 1:21–30	Philippians 1:21–30
Matthew 20:1–16	Matthew 20:1–16

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





Robin Arthur

February 11, 1941 - August 14, 2017

Robin Arthur, 76, passed away August 14, 2017.

Funeral service were held at 2 pm on Thursday, August 17, 2017 at the Church of Christ at Borger with Mr. Denny Sneed officiating. Burial was in Highland Park Cemetery under the direction of Minton Chatwell Funeral Directors of Borger. In lieu of flowers his memory may be honored with a gift to the Church of Christ at Borger, 1100 Bulldog Blvd., Borger, Texas 79007.

Robin was born February 11, 1941 in Wichita Falls, Texas to J.R. Arthur and Malnor Estes Arthur. He married Juanell Moore on July 31, 1959 in Phillips. Robin proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1959-1963. He retired in 2000 from Phillips. Robin was an avid reader and enjoyed working on the computer. Nothing brought more joy to his life than being with his family.

He is preceded in death by his father.

Survivors include his wife, Juanell of Borger; mother, Malnor Arthur of Borger; sister, Sue Hooten and Carliss of Borger; and nephews, Gene Lusk and Rex Lusk.

Beatitude in action

After a renowned career in academia, priest and author Henri Nouwen devoted his final years to living in community with and caring for adults with severe developmental disabilities. A friend once asked Nouwen if it might make more sense to spend his remaining time writing.

“I am not giving up anything,” Nouwen answered. “It is I, not Adam [the man he helped with the most basic needs], who gets the main benefit from our friendship.”

Nouwen didn’t merely read Jesus’ beatitude “Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy” (Matthew 5:7). He lived it.

—Based on *I Am in Here* by Elizabeth Bonker and Virginia Breen

Four perspectives

Because different writers penned each Gospel, the four books offer unique angles and insights. Although the overall message is the same, the human authors’ backgrounds and perspectives shine through every account.

These verses by an unknown writer remind us of each Gospel’s characteristics:

Matthew — Messiah, Israel’s King,
sets forth, by Israel slain;
but God decreed that Israel’s loss
should be the Gentiles’ gain.

Mark tells us how in patient love
this earth has once been trod
by One Who, in a Servant’s form,
was yet the Son of God.

Luke, the physician, writes
of a more skilled Physician still
Who gave himself, as Son of Man,
to save us from all ill.

John, the beloved of Jesus,
sees in him the Father’s Son,
the everlasting Word made flesh,
yet with the Father One.
