

# **The First Press**

**AUGUST 2019**



**Pray With Your  
Eyes Open**

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### September Newsletter Deadline: August 26

#### Celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!!!

Every third Sunday of the month the Church provides a cake during fellowship time to celebrate the birthdays and anniversaries that occur that month. This is also the opportunity to contribute a dollar to the "Birthday Fund" for each year you are young! The Birthday Board is exhibited, envelopes and a box are available for your use or you may put your check in the offering plate. Please write on your check "Birthday Fund" so that it will be deposited to the correct account. The Birthday Fund goes towards scholarships for our graduating seniors.

Please join us on *August 18*, after Worship, to celebrate Birthdays and Anniversaries!

## *August Birthdays*

|                  |           |
|------------------|-----------|
| Steve Van Pelt   | August 01 |
| Pat Edwards      | August 01 |
| Alex Carr        | August 04 |
| Michael Carr     | August 07 |
| Kaitlyn Boyd     | August 11 |
| Karen DeMott     | August 11 |
| Suzanne Cain     | August 15 |
| Leslie Hardin    | August 16 |
| Leonard Bridges  | August 20 |
| Rosemary Nipper  | August 22 |
| Chris Chapmond   | August 25 |
| Susan Paparella  | August 25 |
| Marjorie Postman | August 25 |
| Dick Muse        | August 29 |
| Emily Stone      | August 29 |
| Wayma Rowe       | August 30 |

## *August Anniversaries*

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Tom & Kathy Harst     | August 05 |
| Bob & Theo Byrne      | August 06 |
| Pat & Jackie Edwards  | August 07 |
| Bill & Betty Nieburg  | August 08 |
| Gene & Donna Brooks   | August 15 |
| Led & Gwen Davis      | August 20 |
| Dick & Janet Muse     | August 25 |
| Brooks & Marilyn Rice | August 29 |

*God Bless You on Your Special Day!*



## Praying with Our Eyes Open

*Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18

I don't know where I got the idea that I have to close my eyes when I pray. I guess it was when I was a child in Sunday School, and we were asked to bow our heads for the closing prayer. If my eyes were wandering, the teacher would gently touch my shoulder or head to remind me to shut my eyes in prayer.

One Sunday, while my parents were praying during communion (of which I could not yet partake), I remember turning behind me to see several people praying with their eyes open. Two of them had their eyes fixed on the cross hanging in the chancel, while others were staring aimlessly into space. One man noticed me staring at him and quickly closed his eyes, while one woman smiled and waved to me. I quickly turned back around!

Actually, closing our eyes is a good habit to practice when we pray, in order to minimize the distractions that would disrupt our conversation with God. Closing our eyes invites us to step into our own private world of prayer and leave behind our worries and to-do lists, and make God the central focus of our lives. Some people like to light a scented candle when they pray, or play quiet, soothing music to help focus their minds on the presence of God.

Yet, at seminary one day, our preaching professor taught us to pray with our eyes open. After reading a scripture lesson out loud, she gave us instructions to take our journal, go off campus to a place that we normally would not think of writing a sermon (whether crowded or quiet), and take notes on what you saw. Then she dismissed us for the day to pray with our eyes open. How would this practice shape our sermon to speak to the world around us? What is God doing in and through what we do, and even in spite of what we do?

As important as it is to pray with our eyes closed, it is just as important to pray with our eyes wide open, paying attention to the world, noticing God at work, and listening to those whom we might otherwise neglect in our daily lives. Isn't this what Paul is telling the Thessalonians in the above passage: "rejoice always," even when times are tough; "pray without ceasing," pay attention to people and places around us; "give thanks in all circumstances," for even in the tough times, we trust that God is at work—if only we will keep our eyes open?

So, yes, I invite you to spend time every day with your eyes closed, praying to understand God's will for your life. But, also, I invite you to pray attentively with your eyes open, watching for glimpses of God at work in the world, inviting you to reach out in mercy to those to whom God is sending you. Pray with your eyes open, and you will indeed rejoice in all that God is doing that you otherwise wouldn't see.

## *Lacy*



*"It is a good practice each day to memorize one verse, or part of a verse, from a Bible passage you have read, and to use that as a prayer phrase...In this way you carry your prayer and meditation time over into the activities of the rest of the day, and you insert the words deeply into your heart, so that you will never forget them."*

John Killinger

## Session Notes

The Session did not meet in June, and I would like to thank Peggy Leonhard for serving as clerk while I was out of town in July. While we may not have had as many meetings as usual during the summer, work has continued.

Members of the Membership and Outreach Committee planned to welcome incoming ASMSA students and their parents with cookies and water on move-in day. They will also invite the students to attend our church.

We have completed the transfer of our Legacy Funds to the Texas Presbyterian Foundation where our Endowment Funds were already invested. We now have a total of \$2,177,013.23 invested through TPF. Earnings from some of these funds are used to supplement our budget, and others are used for special projects. Endowment funds are designated for capital facilities and for program, mission, and benevolences.

Adult Sunday School has continued through the summer, and older youth class will resume on August 11. A youth mission trip to Nashville this summer was meaningful and memorable. The Christian Education Committee will sponsor a seminar on October 18 and 19, "The Last Segregated Hour," a book on integration of Presbyterian Churches in Memphis during the 1960's.

The Session has called a congregational meeting for August 11, to elect new Elders and Deacons, and congregational representatives to the Nominating Committee. Thanks to Peggy Leonhard and the committee. Officer nominees will be:

### Ruling Elders - Class of 2022

Carol Mattson  
Terri McKissack  
Paul Mills  
Tom Rath  
Paul Rice

### Deacons - Class of 2022

Carroll Bridges  
Betty Kate Carney  
Linda Glover  
Cheryl Martin  
Dick Mattson

### **Nominating Committee - Class of 2021**

Cheryl Poole and Gracie Gann

### **Other items from the Session reports:**

- The Fellowship Committee is working with neighboring churches St. Mary's Catholic and Roanoke Baptist, on another Fall Block Party.
- Rewiring the Sanctuary lights was completed under quote.

***Kathy White,***  
**Clerk**



## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



**PW Sewing Group - "The Sew Whats"** Each year PW collects gloves, hats, mittens and scarves to help those in need when the cold weather hits. This year, in addition to collecting them, we want to make them! We are calling on all members & friends who can knit or crochet to get out those scraps of yarn & get started. We also have patterns and material to sew the hats, mittens and scarves. We need donations of yarn and suitable material such as flannel or fleece. We meet Thursday, **August 8** (every 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday). Please join us! Contact Jeanette Cline or Carol Mattson with questions.

**The PW Coordinating Team** will not meet August 12th but will meet on **August 13th** at Helen Bumpas' house, 115 Sparling Rd, at noon for the year's planning.

**The PW Day Circle Bible Study** will not meet in August. We will begin our new study in September.

**The Women's Wednesday Study** meets weekly to discuss contemporary issues in Christian life. We take turns leading a discussion of faith issues, as we laugh together, pray for, and support each other. Join us Wednesdays at 10:30, in the Church Library.

**P.W. Fall Gathering, Saturday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** from 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. It will be hosted by the PW group at Kirk in the Pines in Hot Springs Village. It will include a short worship service, a mission speaker from "The Drop In," an overview of the Horizons Bible study for next year, and of course FOOD. Cost is \$10.00. We'll carpool for more fellowship fun! **In addition**, our PW team will have pillow cases out to decorate for children in Puerto Rico. **We need fabric paint.** If you have some at your home you're no longer using, please drop it at the church with my name, Sally Pierce.

**Women of First Presbyterian**, it's time again for your coordinating team to plan the budget for the coming 2019-2020 year. Last year you pledged \$2,280.00 by giving up just one Starbucks coffee for the month. We spent that money on mission, birthday, and thank offerings. Also, Vera Lloyd Children's Home, honorary memberships, 3 HS graduation gifts, Days for Girls project, Christmas gifts and other mission projects. This year our theme is to **"Light up the World"** with our giving. A poster is in the Fellowship Hall so you can see how much "light" is being spread. Please continue to give at least \$50.00. We are fantastic stewards of your pledges. Remember your pledge money funds mission activities outside of Garland County. Bargain Box money funds projects inside Garland County. Make checks to **PW** and give to Sally Pierce. We never know what **"light"** our money will bring to someone!

| <b>STATISTICS</b>   |                     |                 |                        |
|---|---------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>July Attendance:</b>   |                     |                 |                        |
| <b>Dates</b>  | <b>Worship</b>      | <b>Visitors</b> | <b>Sunday School</b>   |
| 7/7   | 89                  | 4               | 13                     |
| 7/14  | 61                  | 5               | 13                     |
| 7/21  | 94                  | 4               | 5                      |
| 7/28  | 84                  | 6               | 17                     |
| <b>June Financial Statistics:</b>   |                     |                 |                        |
|   | <b>Year to Date</b> | <b>Budget:</b>  | <b>YTD% of Budget:</b> |
| Pledge Income:  | 135,188             | 269,902         | <b>50%</b>             |
| Other Income:   | 20,375              | 56,105          | <b>36%</b>             |
| Legacy Income:  | 50,000              | 100,000         | <b>50%</b>             |
| <b>Total Income:</b>  | <b>205,563</b>      | <b>426,007</b>  | <b>48%</b>             |
| <b>Total Expenses:</b>  | <b>211,900</b>      | <b>442,801</b>  | <b>48%</b>             |
| <b>Income to Expense:</b>   | <b>(6,337)</b>      |                 |                        |
| <b>COMMITTEES - DIACONATE - SESSION<br/>AUGUST SCHEDULE</b>   |                     |                 |                        |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Committees Meet:</b> The week of August 19. Contact your Moderator for specific place, date, and time.</li> <li>• <b>Session Meets:</b> August 28, 6:30p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.</li> <li>• <b>Diaconate Meets:</b> August 28, 6:30p.m. in the Library.</li> </ul> |                     |                 |                        |



| <b>BARGAIN BOX</b>   |  |
|--|--|
| <b>June Sales and Donations</b>  |  |
| 6/5  | 376.45   |
| 6/12   | 352.00   |
| 6/19   | 345.00   |
| 6/26   | 327.50   |
| <b>Memorials—Joel Hamilton</b>   | 3,329.95   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$4,760.90</b>  |
| <b>June Expenditures</b>   |  |
| <b>Boy Scout Troop #1</b>  | 300.00   |
| <b>Jackson House</b>   | 1500.00  |
| <b>First Step</b>  | 500.00   |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>\$2,300.00</b>  |
| <p><b>Bargain Box is always in need of most items.</b> We can always use <b>clean</b> clothes, <b>working</b> appliances, and <b>unbroken</b> household items. If you are unsure about your donation you can always check with a Bargain Box volunteer. We appreciate your donations. 100% of our sales go to help organizations in Garland county. THANK YOU!!!</p> |  |
| <p><b>Won't you consider volunteering in the Bargain Box on sales days?</b> By giving your time you would be helping your neighbors, nursing students (scholarships), and children in distress. Please Rosemary Nipper, 501-525-0153, if you'd like to learn more, or to sign up!</p>  |  |
| <p><b>LIKE us on our Facebook page, "First Presbyterian Bargain Box."</b></p>  |  |
| <p><b><u>Bargain Box Workers for August</u></b></p>  |  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8/7</li> <li>• 8/14</li> <li>• 8/21</li> <li>• 8/28</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carol DeHut and Gwen Davis</li> <li>Sally Pierce and Kathy McConkie</li> <li>TBA</li> <li>John and Frankie Ochsner</li> </ul> |

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AUGUST 11<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 A.M.

The Session has called a Congregational Meeting for Sunday, August 11, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting is to hear a report of the 2019 Nominating Committee who will nominate the following persons to serve in ordered ministries in our church:

#### Ruling Elders – Class of 2022

Carol Mattson  
Terri McKissack  
Paul Mills  
Tom Rath  
Paul Rice

#### Deacons – Class of 2022

Carroll Bridges  
Betty Kate Carney  
Linda Glover  
Cheryl Martin  
Dick Mattson

#### Nominating Committee – Class of 2021:

Cheryl Poole, Gracie Gann

As required by the Book of Order, there will be an opportunity for nominations to be received from the floor of the meeting for each of these ministries. Please make every effort to attend this brief but important meeting.

#### August Liturgists

- 8/4      Ian Poole
- 8/11     Dianna Thayer
- 8/18     Jim Black
- 8/25     Jim Black

**Jackson House Donations in August: Pasta and Past Sauce.** First Presbyterian provides two people to bag and hand out groceries every Monday, 1:00-3:00 p.m. **If you'd like to volunteer, please call Jeanette Cline, 701-0399.** Put your faith in action and become part of FPC's efforts to feed the poor!

## THE P.L.A.C.E.

*Following Jesus ~ The Discipleship Path*

Saturday, August 10, 2019

9:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

The Presbytery Leadership Academy for Congregational Enrichment's 2019 event includes a keynote by Steve Hancock exploring four fundamental spiritual practices used by Jesus and his followers, giving purposeful and repeated attention to that which is crucial for our growth in Christ.

*Registration forms are located on the table in the hallway leading to the Fellowship Hall.*



## Annual Ice Cream Social

**BINGO!!!**

**Backpacks for Kids Fundraiser**

**Wednesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m.**

The Fellowship Committee will host a BINGO fund-raiser, “**Backpacks for Kids!**” All donations will go to the purchase of backpacks.

The Fellowship Committee will furnish finger foods, ice cream, toppings, and beverages. Members are asked to bring toppings, cookies, or brownies to complement the ice cream. Please join us for the fun!

*Dear Church Family and Friends,*

*I want to thank everyone for the many prayers, cards, and expressions of support that I received when my sister, Rebecca Sullivan, died on June 23. The Memorial Service on July 20 was very comforting for the whole family, and I want to thank the Deacons for the lovely reception they hosted after the service. The church made my family feel very welcome. Thank you for being my church family.*

*Billy S. Sisler*



## Memorials Received in June and July in Memory of...

### *Gene Workman*

(Wayma Rowe's Brother)

from

Judy Hoefler

Jamie Williams

### *Bernard Harst*

(Tom Harst's Father)

from

Jamie Williams

### *Dorothea Schmid*

(Kathy Harst's Mother)

from

Jamie Williams

### *Ed Etl*

(Peggy Leonhard's Father)

from

Judy Hoefler

Jamie Williams

### *Mary Jane Woodruff*

(Billy Sisler's Sister)

from

Judy Hoefler

Jamie Williams

### *Rebecca Sullivan*

(Billy Sisler's Sister)

from

Jamie Williams

Nancy Doyle

### *Cynthia Chaffin*

from

Danah Murray

Carroll and Patricia Bridges

**How to Reach Us**

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 213 Whittington Avenue  
 Hot Springs, AR 71901  
 Church Phone: 501.624.5646 Fax: 501.624.2938  
 Business Office Hours  
 Monday – Thursday: 8:00 am – 4:00 pm  
 Friday: 8:00 am – 12:00 pm  
  
**Rev. Dr. Lacy S. Sellars, Jr.**  
 Home: 501.318-9904, Cell: 501.282.0209  
 Email: revlacy@sbcglobal.net

**Support Staff**

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 Ms. Jamie Randall, Youth Director, 501.622.8878  
 Mr. William Randall, Jr., Children's Choir, 501.622.8878  
 Ms. Linda Glover, Church School Supt., 631.375.0817  
 Ms. Jan Meyers, Historian, 501.624.2282

Ms. Kathy White, Clerk of Session, 501.626.4859  
 Mr. James Matheney, Treasurer, 870.866.5242  
 Ms. Helen Bumpas, Moderator, Presbyterian Women, 501.767.6997  
 Ms. Jackie Edwards, Board of Deacons, 501.625.2025