

First Presbyterian Church *tidings*

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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER | LIVINGSTON, TX | NOVEMBER 2016

Fueled By...

**THANK
FUL
NESS**

Thankfulness is not a minor virtue. It is not one of the elementary virtues [that] may be left behind as we become more mature. I believe that thankfulness is essential to the strength of every virtue, and that without it every other branch is starved and lean.

Life without thankfulness is devoid of love and passion. Hope without thankfulness is lacking in fine perception. Faith without thankfulness lacks strength and fortitude. Every virtue divorced from thankfulness is maimed and limps along the spiritual road.

—John Henry Jowett

Forgive and Let Go

Clara Barton, founder of the American Red Cross, was said to never hold grudges. One day someone reminded her of an offense that another person had committed against her. "Don't you remember?" the friend pressed. "No," Barton replied. "I distinctly remember forgetting that."

Forgiving and forgetting are not precisely the same. While God declares that he'll "remember [our] sin no more" (Jeremiah 31:34), it's tough for humans to completely forget harm done to us, even when we want to forgive.

On the other hand, like Barton, we can consciously choose not to ruminate on an offense, as a cow does its cud. We can opt not to bring up past hurts during present disagreements, and we can intentionally not recount someone's sin to a third party, hoping they'll take our side. In the process of "choosing to forget" the wrong done to us, surely we'll also find it easier to forgive.

Church Events

- Nov 2nd - Worship Meeting 10:00 a.m.
- Nov 3rd – Evangelism Meeting 4:00 p.m.
- Nov 6th – All Saints' Day Observed in Sunday Service; Community Prayer Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- Nov 13th – Veterans Day Observed in Sunday Service; Thanksgiving Fellowship Luncheon
- Nov 14th – Presbyterian Women Meet—1:30 p.m. at Joy Wright's house
- Nov 20th – Session Meeting after Service
- **NOTICE: There will be no Men's Breakfast Meeting this month.**

Evangelism Committee



The Evangelism Committee last met on Thursday, October 6, 2016 in the Fellowship Hall. The E. C. budget for 2017 was discussed and finalized. We will submit same to our church treasurer.

Hallelujah Harvest, a Livingston-wide evangelism outing will be hosted again by the First Assembly of God on Monday, October 31 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Our committee will participate and each in our congregation is most welcome to attend. We will donate \$50.00 to First Assembly of God to help defray their cost of hosting this event.

We are looking into the cost of purchasing about 50 tee-shirts of different sizes to be worn by our church members when and where they would want. Each would have our church name proudly displayed on it.

The possibility of buying a used van or minibus was discussed and, obviously, there are many pros and cons of doing so. It was suggested that, as a trial, we borrow one from another church to shuttle church members to some upcoming event.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 3, 2016, at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

-Jay Walrath, Evangelism Chair

SALVATION

is nearer to us now than when we

FIRST BELIEVED.

ROMANS 13:11, ESV

Imitating Christ

The biblical use of the term saint in the book of Acts ... applies to each of us. All who are attempting to imitate the Christ in their lives merit the title of saint. Some do it more fully than others and are willing to let go of more to get the job done.

—Matthew Fox, Confessions

A Grateful Heart

Thou hast given so much to me,
Give one thing more — a grateful heart;
Not thankful when it pleaseth me,
As if thy blessings had spare days,
But such a heart whose pulse may be thy praise.

—George Herbert



Mission Update

Our collection drive for the Samaritan's Purse shoebox program ends on Sunday, Nov. 13th, and then following lunch on that second Sunday, we will begin filling the boxes. As you know, these boxes, along with a Bible oriented "The Greatest Journey," go to children throughout the world. We have filled 50 the last few years and do need small items to do so this year. If you have the opportunity, please consider dropping off a doll, a stuffed animal, new socks, or whatever might fit in a shoebox prior to the luncheon.

Around Thanksgiving time, we will learn who our Empty Stocking family is and the needs of their children. As you recall, last year we provided clothing and new toys for five children, thus once we know what is needed, you shall be informed.

The Mission committee has submitted its projected benevolence budget for Session's approval for 2017 and it is very close to the one posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Please check this out and of course look at the recent correspondence sent to us from those we help fund. In the recent past, we have allotted about 10% of the church budget to helping others.

At this time I want to say a BIG thank-you to the church members who have worked with me this year: Ron and Margie Tolls, Susie Nobles, Doug Palmer, Georgina Drumm, along with featured input from Bonnie Laverty, Beverly Davidson, and Pastor Joe MacDonald. If you have any questions about our work, or might want to become involved, please let me know.

-Chuck Davidson, Mission Chair





Music Program

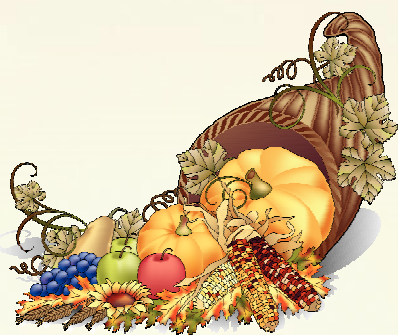
Some time ago, Ron Tolls sang a special, "Thanks to God for My Redeemer," which listed 27 things for which the author, August Ludvig Storm, was thankful. How many things could you list that you are thankful for this Thanksgiving Season? Scripture tells us:

"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." (II Thessalonians 5:16-18)

This Thanksgiving Season, I give thanks for the music ministry in this church....for the people that give untring of their time to rehearse, practice and study to bring God's word in music to First Presbyterian church. I know each one of them would appreciate a kind and gracious word of thanks.

I've got an attitude of gratitude,
A heart that's full and grateful.
Through the good and bad,
Happy or sad, dear Lord,
Help me always be thankful.

Rejoice,
Karlene Barker, Music Program Director



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

I want to thank Sheri Grounds and Natalie Rowe for the special elements, and Patty Harrell for the beautiful tablecloth on Oct. 2, World Wide Communion Sunday.

We will be having **ALL SAINTS DAY** on Nov. 6th. If you have an immediate family member that has gone to be with Lord in the past 2 years, whom you would like to have remembered on this day, please call the office with the name.

We will have a short moment in the Gathering on Nov.13th to honor our **Veterans**. We will be hanging the **GREENS** on Nov. 21st.

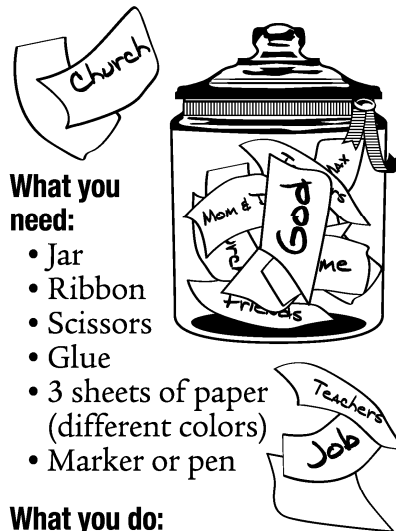
And Ezra blessed Jehovah, the great God. And all the people answered, Amen, amen, lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshiped Jehovah with their faces to the ground. Neh. 8:6

Glenn Drumm, Worship Chair

P.S. Do not forget to move your clocks back 1 hr. on Nov. 6th.

BLESSINGS JAR

Thanksgiving reminds us of our many gifts from God. Count your blessings all month long with this craft.



What you need:

- Jar
- Ribbon
- Scissors
- Glue
- 3 sheets of paper (different colors)
- Marker or pen

What you do:

1. Measure and cut enough ribbon to wrap around the jar's neck, below the lid. Glue in place and let dry.
2. Fold each piece of paper in half three times, resulting in eight rectangles per sheet. Cut along the fold lines, and you'll have 24 rectangles.
3. Each day in November until Thanksgiving, write down one blessing from God. Then place that blessing in the jar.
4. On Thanksgiving, open the jar and read all your blessings to your family and friends.

+Christian Symbol+

Keys

A key symbolizes the church's authority to forgive sins in Jesus' name. In Matthew 16:19 (ESV), Jesus says to Peter, who would come to represent the Christian church, "I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."



Pastor's Pen

"This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will He hears us" -1 John 5:14.

A little boy whose father was a pastor was gathered with the family around the table for an evening meal. The little boy asked his dad, "Why is it that I see you praying every Saturday night at the same time?" His father replied, "I am praying that God will help me preach a good sermon on Sunday." To which the boy responded, "Then how come He never answers your prayers?" I hope that made you chuckle, but there are some people who ask that question of God a lot. "Why is it that God doesn't answer my prayer?"

First of all, God answers all prayers, but He answers them on His terms not on ours. There are some very good reasons for that. First, He knows what is best for us at any given time in our lives, and because he knows the beginning to the end, He also knows what is best for each of us long term. The reason that the scripture from 1 John includes the qualifier, "according to His will," is for our good and the good of the kingdom of God. The most important issue related to prayer is our willingness to wait, even long, for His will in all that we pray. So many times our prayers are misguided, self-centered or driven by what we want or think is best for us. He will always give us bread and not stones. In other words, our very best is at His heart, and often our prayers are not directed on what He knows is best for us, but what we think is best for us. He will not answer a prayer that He knows will harm us, or His answer will be a lifesaving NO. Remember, God answers in only three ways: yes, no, and not yet. The question is whether we are ready to accept the "no" or "wait" as enthusiastically as the "yes."

Blessings, Pastor Joe



Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the blanks.
The only vowel used is the letter A.

1. The mountain where Noah's ark rested (*Genesis 8:4*)
_ _ _ _ _
2. Jacob's grandfather and Ishmael's father (*Genesis 18:1, NIV*)
_ _ _ _ _
3. She sometimes laughed inappropriately. (*Genesis 18:12*)
_ _ _ _ _
4. He had a talking donkey. (*Numbers 22:28*)
_ _ _ _ _
5. This bird is both a color and a species. Did he come from the Islands?
_ _ _ _ _
6. This can refer to a hat, canal, country or isthmus.
_ _ _ _ _
7. The country with the largest area in the Western Hemisphere
_ _ _ _ _
8. This animal is an early entry in the dictionary.
_ _ _ _ _
9. A magician's exclamation
_ _ _ _ _
10. A brand name for motorcycles and pianos
_ _ _ _ _

Answers: 1. Ararat, 2. Abraham, 3. Sarah, 4. Balaam, 5. canary, 6. Panama, 7. Canada, 8. aardvark, 9. abracadabra, 10. Yamaha



Cajun Cake

2 ¼ cups flour

1 ½ cups sugar

2 tsp. baking powder

Dash of salt

2 eggs

1 #2 can crushed pineapple

1 tsp. vanilla

Combine dry ingredients. Add eggs and can of pineapple, stir until well blended.

Pour into well greased 13 x 9 pan and bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes.

Spread topping while cake is still warm.

Topping

¾ cup sugar

½ cup evaporated milk

1 stick butter

1 cup pecans

4 oz. coconut

Place sugar, milk and butter in saucepan and bring to boil. Remove from heat and add pecans and coconut – spread on warm cake.

Submitted by Mary Lou Anderson



November Meeting

Presbyterian Women will meet on November 14th, at 1:30 p.m., at the home of Joy Wright.

Everyday Miracles

When Joan Luise Hill's son survived a dire medical diagnosis, two friends recognized that divine intervention had occurred. Hill wasn't so sure, though. "How could I have experienced a personal miracle in today's world?" she writes in *The Miracle Chase* (Sterling Ethos). "Wasn't that something that only happened in the Bible or to someone else?"



Then one day, during a visit to the park, Hill learned a lesson about everyday miracles. "There's a white rainbow!" shouted her 5-year-old son. She told him it was just a jet trail, but the boy replied, "Not to me. It's beautiful."

That was an "aha!" moment for Hill. "Why couldn't a rainbow be white?" she asks. "Maybe it was time to shift my thinking. Perhaps there are 'rainbows' all around us; but since we only see them a piece at a time, we mistake them for something else. Miracles happen. We may not always notice them, but they exist, and the choice to recognize a miracle is up to each of us."



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Our November Birthdays are:

- Pat Heldenbrand, 11/02
- Steve Eckert, 11/02
- Ryan Shields, 11/18
- Chuck Davidson, 11/19
- Kathy Nobles, 11/22
- Sammy Gore, 11/30



Happy Birthday

Our November Anniversaries are:

- Gary & Chelsea Stephens, 11/13
- Jay & Elena Walrath, 11/27

Bible Quiz

Fill in the blank to complete this verse from a psalm of thanksgiving:

"Bless the LORD, O my _____, and forget not all his benefits."

- A. people
- B. soul
- C. heart
- D. children

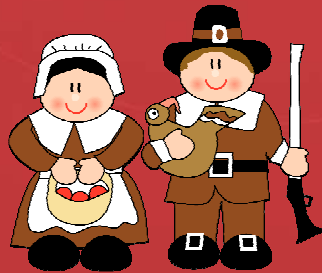


(Answer: B (See Psalm 103:2, ESV))

Thanksgiving Meal

The Fellowship Committee will be preparing the entire meal for you this year. Just come and enjoy. We will have turkey and dressing with all the trimmings. If you have something you would like to bring, feel free to do so. We love to enjoy your wonderful treats. Don't miss out on this wonderful meal.

Karen Palmer, Fellowship Chair



Sunday Services

Adult Bible Study – 9:00 a.m.

Worship -10:00 a.m.

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

(for youngsters ages 5 & older)

10:00 a.m.

Nursery for children up to age 4 is available at all church meetings, services, and events.

**COME AND BE A PART OF OUR
"SATURDAY NIGHT LIFE" EVENING
SERVICES, EVERY SATURDAY AT 6PM.**