



First Presbyterian Church **FIRST NEWS**

January 2019

A Publication of FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
211 S. Avenue G – Clifton, Texas 76634 – phone (254) 675-8105
Church Office Hours: Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Rev. Clint Schofield, Pastor
Brenda Robinson, Church Secretary

Pastor Notes

January 2019

“Breathe In”

The gift of life is amazing. What an incredible gift from our Triune God! To be alive, able to sense the world, relate to others, to receive and give love. I am continually grateful for this divine gift of the breath of God.

Some say it all began with a big bang, but we as followers of the way sense all began with a gentle outflow of the Creator’s love. Perhaps it began with the Spirit, blowing with awesome energy, forming galaxies, stars, and planets (Gen. 1-2). We are told that a wind from God, the “*ruach*” in Hebrew, the Spirit of God, blew over the chaos, making order. On planet Earth, human life began as the Creator created human-kind in His image, male and female. In chapter two of Genesis, the second telling of the creation story, we read human life began as the breath of God was instilled into the nostrils of the first human being. The indwelling Spirit breathes into us this wonderful gift of life. In each moment, you and I receive that great gift as we inhale the love of God.

Edwin Hatch (1835-1889), a professor of classics at Trinity College in Quebec, Canada, was recognized extremely talented, international scholar. Yet in plain, mostly one-syllable words, he penned a hymn expressing the prayer of receiving the gift of life: “*Breathe on me breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do.*”

As the Creator’s breath gives life to us, it purifies us and makes one with God. Walking with God we live in love and compassion. The refreshing breeze of the Spirit awakens us and sets us on the way of Love.

The breath of God glows in us. As Genesis 2:7 says, the breath of Yahweh gives life to humanity: “Then the Lord God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life.” The breath of God makes human life possible, that energy, that divine Spirit, enlivens human existence. We walk with God as we accept the divine love breathed into us. From God we receive life, consciousness, and awareness of our Source, to whom we belong.

So with the beginning of this New Year, as with the beginning of each new day, breathe deep. Fill your lungs with fresh air. Hold that breath briefly. Then release the air you are holding ridding yourself of the old and making space for the new. As you inhale, breathe in the Breath of God rejoicing in the gift of life. May the Spirit of God permeate your being guiding you into all things good. May you have a Blessed, Healthy and Happy New Year.

Clint

JANUARY MEETINGS

02	Bible Study Group	10:00 pm
02	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
06	Food Bank Collection	
07	Congregational Care Meeting	12:30 pm
08	Weekly Prayer Group	1:00 pm
09	Bible Study Group	10:00 pm
09	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
10	Food Bank Work Day	9:30-12:00 pm
13	Second Sunday Lunch	
14	Presbyterian Women Meeting	12:00 pm
15	Weekly Prayer Group	1:00 pm
16	Bible Study Group	10:00 pm
16	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
22	Weekly Prayer Group	1:00 pm
22	Session Meeting	5:30 pm
23	Bible Study Group	10:00 pm
23	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm
27	Goodall Witcher Worship	1:30 pm
29	Weekly Prayer Group	1:00 pm
30	Bible Study Group	10:00 pm
30	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm

LEADING WORSHIP IN JANUARY

JANUARY GREETERS

- 06 Mullens Family
- 13 Laura & Driscoll Jenkins
- 20 Brian & Marcie Gillaspie
- 27 Mark & Lorana Rush

JANUARY LITURGIST

- 06 Linda Bracken
- 13 Kaylee Jo Mullens
- 20 Bryan Davis
- 27 Martin Grelle

JANUARY ELDER OF THE DAY

- 06 George Larson
- 13 Debbie Bergman
- 20 Laura Baughman
- 27 Lois Krause



"Scholarship Program"

The response from the congregation in supporting our College Scholarship Fund is greatly appreciated! Currently we have **6** students receiving scholarships. Your support will make a big difference in the future of these young people. Thank You!

**THE FOOD DRIVE BOX
WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX
Sunday, January 6th
Our work day is the 10th**



**Food
Bank**

Year to Date Financials

thru November

Offerings received in November	\$16,629
Offerings received thru November	\$148,112
Expenses thru November	\$174,644
Budgeted exp. thru November	\$188,875

Congregational Care Committee Meeting

The Congregational Care Committee will meet on Monday, January 7th at 12:30 in the church fellowship hall. Please consider starting out the new year by joining this fun group who do so much for our church family. We have many responsibilities besides providing 2nd Sunday lunches. We need more volunteers to help us provide food for members who are ill or recovering from medical procedures; provide food or snacks for funeral meals or receptions; provide transportation for members who cannot drive to medical appointments, church events and the grocery store. We welcome you to join us at this next meeting. If you have questions, please contact Debbie Bergman at 254-749-6372.

Second Sunday Lunch

Start the new year right by planning to attend 2nd Sunday Lunch, January 13th, after worship service. The Congregational Care Committee has not made the final decision on the menu. However, someone said they are thinking about "comfort food!"

Women of the Church Christmas Party

On December 10th, 35 women participated in the Christmas Party at Gary Creek Ranch. Thank you to our hostess, Punky Penberthy, for providing a warm and friendly setting and awesome ambience. There was fantastic food, fabulous fellowship, and lots of helpful hands. The Chinese gift exchange was quite crazy with a bit of "taking" and some "freezing".
Summary: FUN FOR ALL!

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women will meet on January 14, 2019 at noon in the FPC Fellowship Hall. The hostesses are Elisabeth Montgomery and Susan Ferguson.

Come Join the Choir

Do you love to sing praise to the Lord? The choir wants you and welcomes new faces of all youth and adults. See Karen with your questions. Rehearsals are Wednesday evenings from 7:00pm-8:30pm. Come early so we can get your music set up.

Angel Tree

Thanks to all of you for supporting the angel tree ministry. It was another joy filled season with the local churches supporting 43 area families with a Christmas meal. We provided clothing and goodies for 19 children. Blessings to each of you for your Christmas spirit!



Anticipation

Do you practice an active faith? I try to, but I admit that I don't always succeed. Advent provides a good example.

The other day, I was thinking about the idea of *anticipation* and how, during Advent, we look forward with anticipation to the celebration of the birth of Jesus. But anticipation can be a very passive thing: it's easy to sit back and wait, as if we're just waiting for a date on the calendar, a date that will come around regardless of anything we do or don't do.

I was thinking about this on a recent Sunday while we were studying Psalm 11 in church. My eyes and attention strayed to Psalm 14, and I was struck by what I read:

Psalm 14:2 – The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. (NRSV)

I asked myself: do I seek after God? Particularly at this time of Advent, am I seeking after God? While I await the date of remembering Jesus' birth, am I just awaiting an event that I know will come, or am I actively seeking, searching, hungry for His salvation? Am I contemplating what His birth and life mean to me, and perhaps reflecting on what life would be like without Him? Am I questioning my own activity and striving to live in the way that God commands throughout the Bible? Am I actively using this time of anticipation to deepen my faith?

My attitude to Advent changed on that Sunday morning. Perhaps yours will too.

Prayer: Dear God, thank You for this season of Advent, this season of anticipating the birth of Your Son so many years ago, this season of prayer and preparation. We pray that You might help us to use this season to deepen our faith as we seek Your wisdom, Your insight, and Your salvation. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.












January 2019

Monthly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
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January 2019

Birthdays Anniversaries


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1  Max & Cabot O'Reilly	2	3	4	5	
6  Mary Bergman	7  Lorana Rush  Mike & Robin Conner	8  Bina & Nancy Henech	9  George Walker	10  Tom & Cooke Myers	11	12  Kathy Harr
13	14	15	16	17	18	19  Emily Pickett
20	21	22	23  Sherrie & Paul Mangum	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31  Joe Borden		

Dec 2018						
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February 2019

Birthdays Anniversaries

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	3  Tom Myers	4	5	6	7	8
9	10  R.O. Bass	11	12	13	14  Terry & Ray McDonald	15  Elaine Valero
16	17  Donald Symank	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26  Nelda Ramsey	27	28  Abby & Steve Robertson  Carol Forson	29
30	31					

Jan 2019						
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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

CLASS of 2018

Driscoll Jenkins
Jim Lemons0
Carla Sigler

SESSION MEMBERS

CLASS of 2019

Laura Baughman
Brian Haenisch
Elisabeth Montgomery

CLASS of 2020

Debbie Bergman
Lois Krause
George Larson

TREASURER

Shayne Embry

DEACONS

Punky Penberthy
Jenny Walker
Grant & Dana Ferguson

TRUSTEES

Linda Bracken
Brian Gillaspie
Steve Robertson

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Lois Krause, Moderator
G-Ann Jones, Vice-Moderator
Elane Valero, Secretary-Treasurer
Kay Gebhardt, Historian
Ann Wiland, Least Coin

Laura Jenkins & Joy Williamson, Coordinators for NH parties



Sunday School – Bible Study – All Ages – 9:30 a.m.; Fellowship 10:30 – 10:50 a.m.

Worship – 11:00 a.m. Sunday (Communion on 1st Sunday of month)

Presbyterian Women – 2nd Monday of month 12:00 p.m., (Sept.-May)

Session Meets – 4th Tuesday of month, 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Adult Choir Practice – Wednesday evenings – 7:00 p.m.



First Presbyterian Church

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Clifton, Texas 76634