



First Presbyterian Church **FIRST NEWS**

March 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

March 2019

Have you ever thought of Lent as a yearly second chance? Each year the Church gives us six weeks to take a long look at our lives to see if our values and priorities are in line with God's desires for us. Since most of us find that we've wandered from God's path, Lent becomes that second chance, or do-over, to "return to God with our whole heart."

Perhaps Lent is an invitation to be "re-born," if you will. Perhaps it's about following the path of death and resurrection, about participating in Jesus' final journey. To be somewhat more concrete, some of us may need to "die" to specific things in our lives ... perhaps to behavior that has become destructive or dysfunctional, perhaps to a relationship that has ended or gone bad, perhaps to an unresolved grief or to a stage in life that it is time to leave, perhaps to our own self-preoccupation, or even to a deadness within our lives. It is possible to change all these things ... so the journey of Lent is about getting a second chance, being born again ... about dying and rising, about mortality and transformation.

On Ash Wednesday, we Christians are traditionally reminded of our own mortality in a very vivid way, as the ashes are marked on our foreheads in the sign of the cross. In the sign of the cross we hear the words spoken over us, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This is a reminder not just of our physical mortality, but of the very path of Lent itself. We begin this season of Lent not only reminded of our death but marked for death, and that path of death is about our transformation ... about second chances.

The journey of Lent is about being born again by participating in the death and resurrection of Jesus, about that journey from Galilee to Jerusalem. The journey of Lent with its culmination in Good Friday and Easter is about embarking on the way of Jesus on that path of mortality and transformation that is at the very center of the Christian life. When you think about it, who among us doesn't yearn for this? Who of us doesn't yearn for a fuller connection to life? Who doesn't yearn for an identity that releases us from anxiety and self-preoccupation? To be given a second chance, to be reborn in the spiritual sense, seems to me corresponds to our deepest yearning. This Lent may we experience that internal spiritual transformation which is at the very core of the Christian life. Re-joyce friends, our God is all about second chances.

"For those without hope, for those in despair, The body of Christ, though broken, is there with wine and with water, with bread and with tears; God's love washes over our moments, our years."

Terry York, 2010

Grace and Peace,
Clint

MARCH MEETINGS

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|---------------|
| 04 | Congregational Care Meeting | 12:30 pm |
| 05 | Deacon Meeting | 11:00 pm |
| 05 | Weekly Prayer Group | 1:00 pm |
| 06 | Bible Study Group | 10:00 pm |
| 06 | Lenten Study | 5:30 pm |
| 06 | Ash Wednesday Service | 7:00 pm |
| 10 | Food Bank Collection | |
| 10 | Second Sunday Lunch | |
| 11 | Presbyterian Women Meeting | 12:00 pm |
| 12 | Weekly Prayer Group | 1:00 pm |
| 13 | Bible Study Group | 10:00 pm |
| 13 | Lenten Study | 5:30 pm |
| 13 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |
| 14 | Food Bank Work Day | 9:00-12:00 pm |
| 19 | Weekly Prayer Group | 1:00 pm |
| 20 | Bible Study Group | 10:00 pm |
| 20 | Lenten Study | 5:30 pm |
| 20 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |
| 24 | Goodall Witcher Worship | 1:30 pm |
| 26 | Weekly Prayer Group | 1:00 pm |
| 26 | Session Meeting | 5:30 pm |
| 27 | Bible Study Group | 10:00 pm |
| 27 | Lenten Study | 5:30 pm |
| 27 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |

LEADING WORSHIP IN MARCH

MARCH GREETERS

- 03 Brian & Marcie Gillaspie
- 06 Charlie Blue & Wally Penberthy Ash Wednesday
- 10 Sherrod & Sue Fielden
- 17 Driscoll & Laura Jenkins
- 24 Mullens Family
- 31 George & Jenny Walker

MARCH LITURGIST

- 03 Linda Bracken
- 06 Steve Robertson Ash Wednesday
- 10 Shayne Embry
- 17 Jenny Walker
- 24 Punky Penberthy
- 31 Judy Blue

MARCH ELDER OF THE DAY

- 03 Debbie Bergman
- 06 Don Forson Ash Wednesday
- 10 George Larson
- 17 Elane Valero
- 24 Laura Baughman
- 31 Elisabeth Montgomery

"Scholarship Program"

The response from the congregation in supporting our College Scholarship Fund is greatly appreciated! Currently we have 5 students receiving scholarships. Your support will make a big difference in the future of these young people. Thank You!

Year to Date Financials

thru January

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Offerings received in January | \$10,778 |
| Offerings received thru January | \$10,778 |
| Expenses thru January | \$12,739 |
| Budgeted exp. thru January | \$15,966 |

**THE FOOD DRIVE BOX
WILL BE IN THE NARTHEX
Sunday, March 10th
Our work day is the 14th**



**Food
Bank**

The Congregational Care Committee

The Congregational Care Committee organized meals for two church families recovering from surgery and illness. A total of 10 meals were served. Thank you Lori Symank, Lois Krause, Judy Blue, Punky Penberthy, Nancy Haenisch, Bible Study Group, Laura Jenkins, Susan Ferguson, and Elane Valero for providing food to these dear families. If you are interested in cooking or purchasing meals for families, please call or text Debbie Bergman at 254-749-6372.

In February, chicken enchiladas, beans, rice, homemade chips, hot sauce, guacamole, cheesecake, and brownies were served to approximately 65 people at the 2nd Sunday Lunch after church. Special appreciation is extended to Judy Blue, Kim Fields, Joyce Grelle, Kathy Harr, Lori Symank, Sherrie Mangum, Tam Mullens, Lois Chaney, Nancy Haenisch, Laura Jenkins, and Punky Penberthy for the delicious food and clean-up. Please make plans to attend our next church lunch on Sunday, March 10th. The menu is Stuffed Baked Potatoes, Salad, and Dessert.

Another word of thanks goes to another special member of our committee Elisabeth Montgomery. She is in charge of the birthday greeting cards for our church family. Each card is carefully hand crafted, written, and mailed by Elisabeth. Thank you, Elisabeth, for making our birthdays so special with these beautiful cards.

There are many ways that you can participate in this committee's activities besides working with us every month. Your duties can be a one-time activity such as cooking a meal or purchasing pizza or fried chicken for a family in need. Other one-time activities include making or purchasing a dessert for 2nd Sunday lunch, loading and unloading the dishwasher, or laundering the table cloths and kitchen linens. If you would like to lend us a helping hand, please contact Debbie Bergman at 254-749-6372. We welcome you and look forward to hearing from you.

The next committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 4th, at 12:30 PM

The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday Worship Service – March 6th @ 7:00p.m.

Weekly Lenten Bible Study – Begins Wednesday March 6th from 5:30 to 6:30p.m. and continues each Wednesday at the same time through March 10th. Our curriculum is “*Jesus: Understanding His Death and Resurrection-A Study of Mark 14-16,*” by Kay Arthur & David Arthur.

Presbyterian Women

Presbyterian Women:

The next meeting will be on March 11th starting at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. The hostesses are Elane Valero & Punky Penberthy.

Quarterly Food Box Ministry:

This ministry delivers boxes of food to needy families on the last Saturday of each quarter. The ministry is coordinated by Immanuel Lutheran Church and Clifton Bible Church. They are striving to help 40 families. The next date for deliveries will be Saturday, March 30th.

FPC's Presbyterian Women as well as Mission & Outreach are supporting this ministry with funds and volunteering to help box food and make deliveries.

Please consider supporting this ministry with prayer, funds and/or helping with boxing the food & deliveries. Contact Elane Valero for information. Thank you in advance.

Food Bank:

FPC volunteers are needed to help at the Clifton Food Bank on Thursday, March 14th from 9:30 a.m - 12:00 noon. Volunteers are asked to arrive at 9:15 a.m. Contact Elane Valero.

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.

“Hold the Date”

We're doing a new thing for those in their fifties and sixties. **Please save the date of Tuesday, March 19.** From six to eight in the evening, Lorana and Mark Rush will host an informal get together in their home. Enjoy fun, food and refreshments. This evening promises to be an excellent time of fellowship and the opportunity to get to know each other better. We will also talk about our plans for future gatherings.

I LOVE THIS!!

Church is hard.

Church is hard for the person walking through the doors, afraid of judgement.

Church is hard for the pastor's family, under the microscope of an entire body.

Church is hard for the prodigal soul returning home, broken and battered by the world.

Church is hard for the girl who looks like she has it all together, but doesn't.

Church is hard for the couple who fought the entire ride to service.

Church is hard for the single mom, surrounded by couples holding hands, and seemingly perfect families.

Church is hard for the widow and widower with no invitation to lunch after service.

Church is hard for the deacon with an estranged child.

Church is hard for the person singing worship songs, overwhelmed by the weight of the lyrics.

Church is hard for the man insecure in his role as a leader.

Church is hard for the nursery volunteer who desperately longs for a baby to love.

Church is hard for the single woman and single man, praying God brings them a mate.

Church is hard for the sinners.

Church is hard for me.

It's hard because on the outside it all looks shiny and perfect. Sunday best in behavior and dress. However, underneath those layers, you find a body of imperfect people, carnal souls, selfish motives.

But, here is the beauty of church—

Church isn't a building, mentality, or expectation.

Church is a body.

Church is a group of sinners, saved by grace, living in fellowship as saints.

Church is a body of believers bound as brothers and sisters by an eternal love.

Church is a holy ground where sinners stand as equals before the Throne of Grace.

Church is a refuge for broken hearts and a training ground for mighty warriors.

Church is a converging of confrontation and invitation. Where sin is confronted and hearts are invited to seek restoration.

Church is a lesson in faith and trust.

Church is a bearer of burdens and a giver of hope.

Church is a family. A family coming together, setting aside differences, forgetting past mistakes, rejoicing in the smallest of victories.

Church, the body, and the circle of sinners-turned-saints, is where He resides, and if we ask, He is faithful to come.

So even on the hard days at church—

The days when I am at odds with a friend, When I've fought with my husband because we're late once again. When I've walked in bearing burdens heavier than my heart can handle, yet masking the pain with a smile on my face. When I've worn a scarlet letter, under the microscope. When I've longed for a baby to hold, or fought tears as the lyrics were sung. When I've walked back in, afraid and broken, after walking away.

I'll remember, He has never failed to meet me there.

Church is a body, a family, a place to love God and love others through our struggles!

I love MY church!!

Author unknown

March 2019

Monthly Planner

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Feb 2019</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td></tr> <tr><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td></tr> <tr><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>Apr 2019</caption> <thead> <tr><th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div> | | | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | | | S | M | T | W | T | F | S | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | 1 | 2 |
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| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 3 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service | 4 Congregational Care Meeting 12:30 pm | 5 1:00 PM Weekly Prayer Group Deacon Meeting 11:00am | 6 Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm Bible Study Group 10:00 am Lenten Study 5:30-6:30 pm. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service Food Bank Collection Day Second Sunday Lunch | 11 Presbyterian Women Meeting 12:00 pm | 12 1:00 PM Weekly Prayer Group | 13 Bible Study Group 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Lenten Study 5:30-6:30 pm. | 14 Food Bank Work Day 9:30-12:00 pm | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 17 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service | | 19 1:00 PM Weekly Prayer Group | 20 Bible Study Group 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Lenten Study 5:30-6:30 pm. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 24 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service 1:30 PM Goodall Witcher Worship | | 26 1:00 PM Weekly Prayer Group 5:30 PM Session Meeting | 27 Bible Study Group 10:00 am Choir Rehearsal 7:00 pm Lenten Study 5:30-6:30 pm. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 31 9:30 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Worship Service | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

March 2019

Birthdays Anniversaries

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | | 1 Stuart Pickell Teresa Ratliff | 2 |
| 3 | 4 Grant Ferguson | 5 | 6 Carla Sigler | 7 | 8 Chanda Robertson Debra Embry | 9 Jim Lemons |
| 10 | 11 Tam & Freeman Mullens | 12 | 13 Susan Rulla | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 | 18 Jo & Bill Beck | 19 Chris & Debbie Bergman | 20 | 21 Hannah O'Reilly | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 Paul Mangum | 26 | 27 | 28 Danielle Reed Donald & Lori Symank | 29 Mercy Newell | 30 Brian Haensch |
| 31 Kaylee Mullens | | | | | | |

April 2019

Birthdays Anniversaries

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|-------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------|
| | 1 | 2 Marschell & Ronald Allen | 3 | 4 | 5 Bill Beck | 6 |
| 7 | 8 Bob A-Skew | 9 | 10 | 11 Cookie Myers | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Steve Watson | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Sue Fielden | 29 Shea O'Reilly | 30 | | | | |

Mar 2019

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Apr 2019

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| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | |

SESSION MEMBERS

CLASS of 2019
Laura Baughman
Brian Haenisch
Elisabeth Montgomery

CLASS of 2020
Debbie Bergman
Lois Krause
George Larson

CLASS of 2021
Elane Valero
Mike Conner
Don Forson

TREASURER
Jean Lewis

DEACONS
Punky Penberthy
Jenny Walker
Grant & Dana Ferguson
Lorana Rush

TRUSTEES
Brian Gillaspie
Chris Bergman
Joe Borden

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.



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