

FIRST THINGS FIRST

A publication of

The First Presbyterian Church of Kingsville, Texas

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July 27, 2016

PEACE AND GOODNESS

Peace and goodness are among the gifts of the Spirit that God is longing to give to you and me. These gifts lead to gratitude and generosity. A generous life is a life that gives to others; it is a way of combating greed and simple self-interest. They lead to lives that are more Christ-like. What do peace and goodness look like?

Peace is not like sailboats with sails down, moored in the harbor. At rest and tied down, they are not at peace. For a sailboat, peace is when sails are full of wind and stretched taut, moving swiftly through the water. That is what our peace in Christ is – the ability to move forward, wind filling our sails.

The word for “spirit” in Hebrew (ruach) and in Greek (pneuma) can be translated as “breath” or “wind.”. In thinking of a Spirit-filled life, one that is choosing the path of being a faithful Christian in any country or time, think of the Spirit as a strong wind.

And what is it that we are and what is it that we do as we move forward with the Spirit?

We are grateful and generous.

A second image of peace is also beautiful. It is likening us to birds. Although birds have claws for grasping and legs on which they can stand and walk – we know them best when they spread their wings and fly. The winds lift them. We know they are birds because they fly. It is the nature of most birds to fly.

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We, too, fly when we give. Giving is in our nature when we are supported by the Spirit. People will know us as Christians and people of God because we give – our time, our money, and our good will. The Holy Spirit can transform the world through our lives, by making us peaceful and grateful and generous. As we move forward both as individuals and as a church, let us spread our wings and let the Spirit take us where God is guiding us. Let us work together serving God.

In Christ,

Pastor Sonja

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MARGINAL NOTES:

*In prayer, we respond
to God in many ways...
In thanksgiving we express
gratitude for what
God has done.*

— PCUSA Directory of Worship

Prayer is at the heart
of worship.

— PCUSA Directory of Worship

*If you are not generous
with a meager income,
you will never be
generous with abundance.*

— Harold Nye

We must be purposely kind
and generous or we miss
the best part of life's existence.

— Horace Mann

*If you haven't got all the
things you want, be grateful
for the things you don't have
that you didn't want.*

— Author unknown

Thou has given so much to me.
Give me one thing more --
a grateful heart.

— George Hebert



JIM HELMS - Spohn-Kleberg Hospital, Kingsville (Released)

HOSPITALIZED

PEGGY CLARK -

Hermann Memorial Hospital (Houston)
Peggy began a 60-week course of radiation and oral chemo on July 11th. She and Bill are staying in a nearby apartment. Their address for this period of time is:

8181 Fannin
Apt. 1717
Houston, TX 77054



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated during the morning worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, August 7

The **DIACONATE** will meet on Tuesday, August 2, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.



The **SESSION** will meet on Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Please pick up your Information Packets from the table in the Narthex on Sunday, August 7.



The Chancel Choir is on its annual and well-earned summer vacation and joins us in the congregation. We like to fill the "anthem spot" with special music during this hiatus. If you would like to offer your voice or instrument to fill this time in the worship service, please contact Barbara Elliott.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Year-to-Date:

Income: \$76,170.41
Expenses: \$80,404.42

As of July 25, 2016:

Income: \$10,040.00
(includes \$2,000.00 from Edward Jones)
Expenses: \$6,821.52
(does not include payroll)

In preparation for our 111½ Birthday Bash picnic, we want to clean out the rooms & grounds that will be used. Therefore, your presence is requested on Saturday, August 6, from 9:30 to Noon) for a focused clean up day. Lunch will be provided!





Our CHURCH PICNIC has grown into a community get-together. It is being called our 11½ BIRTHDAY BASH! On Sunday, August 14, we will meet in Fellowship Hall for Worship, Lunch, Wet/Dry games (indoors & out). Casual Dress - bring a friend and join us for Fellowship, Food & Fun. Burgers and Bow-Wows (hot dogs) and beverages will be provided. You are invited to provide your favorite side dish.

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**GRADUATION
CELEBRATION**

We will have a Potluck Luncheon on Sunday, August 28, to celebrate ALYSSA MAGON'S graduation from college. Brisket and cake will be provided, plan your side dishes accordingly. This will take place in Fellowship Hall immediately following the morning worship service.



Coming in September: BARBARA ELLIOTT will lead a book study class on "Mere Christianity" by C. S. Lewis. This Adult Class will meet at 9:45 a.m. on Sundays in the Parlor. This theological book by C. S. Lewis was adapted from a

series of BBC radio talks made between 1942 and 1944, while Lewis was at Oxford during World War II. It is considered to be one of the most influential Christian books ever written.

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**COMMUNITY
SING-ALONG**



Christ United Methodist Church (1120 Carlos Truan Blvd,) will host this month's Community Sing-Along on Sunday, July 31st, at 2:00 p.m. We are all invited to share in the singing and fellowship. There will be simple refreshments served after the event, as well.



MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Rev. Dr. Helen Boursier continues her ministry to the women and children detained in the Karnes City facility. Most have family in the States and are awaiting processing which sometimes takes months before they can be reunited with loved ones. She provides an art ministry that has lifted spirits and shown the love of God. If you'd like to help, monetary donations are greatly appreciated. Mail checks to the office with the memo line of: Karnes Art Ministry.

Missionary Jessica Lorenzini, Rose & Bert Alvarez's daughter, will be traveling to Africa beginning August 21, to serve on The Mercy Ship. Pray for her mission. And, if you want to help financially, any amount will be appreciated. Contact Bert Alvarez about how to help.

Want to go on a Mission Trip to Malawi and Zambia? The Mission Outreach and Justice committee (MOJC) is planning a trip to Malawi and Zambia in April 2017. We will visit Presbyterian churches in both countries and spend time with our Mission Co-Workers Charles and Melissa Johnson. For more information, contact: Rev. Krin Van Tatenhove: krinvan@sbcglobal.net, 817-902-2198, or Ruling Elder Tom O'Meara: tom.omeara@sbcglobal.net, 512-924-2277.



The Session held its stated meeting Sunday, July 12, 2016.

Among other business, the Session considered and/or approved the following:

1. Treasurer Mary Wright advised that an anonymous person wished to donate a new laptop computer to the church to be used by the Treasurer. Motion to accept this gift was carried with gratitude.
2. Requests to use church facilities were approved for the following: Saturday, September 10, wedding of Robert McCreight and Debra Caballero. Saturday, November 12, wedding of Reba Howard & Miles Cavanaugh. A graduation celebration for Alyssa Magon (date to be determined).
3. The Christian Education Committee is considering whether to keep Sunday School during worship time, or change back to Sunday School preceding the worship hour.
4. Transition Team Survey of Congregation and appointment of PNC - will be addressed in September.

Birthstone: Sardonyx or Peridot

Flower: Gladiolus

2 Heidi Suzanne Langschied

3 Erica Rivas

5 Dr. Talmer Peacock
Rae Magon

6 Sydney Lea Russell

7 Raul Bosquez

8 Aiko Gunderson
Priscilla Bosquez

9 Tanya Silva Nash

11 Becky Bast
Melissa Ramirez

12 Mitchell Daly

13 Dr. James Mathews

14 Emily Marie Bast

August



16 Isla Jones

19 Barbara Elliott

21 Adriana Ramirez
Tricia Mendieta

23 Derek Edge

24 Janis Simons
Andres Ramirez

28 Chad Gangwer
Mark Andrew Dingee

30 Joslin Pollard
Trista J. Mendieta
Jacob E. Mendieta

31 Andy Gonzales
Jason Kress

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES:

17 ... & Elena Montalvo (2008)

18 Roger & Laura Pollard (1973)

25 Andy & Tenley Gonzales (2007)



If your August birthday or anniversary is not shown, please call the church office (592-2114) so we can include you on our list and not miss the big event next year. We want to celebrate with you whether you are an "official" church member or not!