

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

A publication of

## The First Presbyterian Church of Kingsville, Texas

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EDITOR: MICHELE BARNETT



*June 29, 2016*

*In the middle of June, my husband, Doug, and I went to the 222<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the General Assembly (GA) of the PC(USA) in Portland, Oregon. He went as a resource person for the Committee that oversees the use of the Special Offerings, to explain the mission at Presbyterian Pan American School, if needed. I went as an observer.*

*According to one count, there were 2500 people there, including about 590 commissioners.*

*The General Assembly gathers every two years, comprised of delegates elected from each presbytery, an equal number of Ruling Elders (RE) and Teaching Elders (TE), who represent the diversity in the presbytery. The GA is tasked with the goal that the whole church becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness [G-3.0501]. Those chosen as presbyters, whether for service to the General Assembly or to our local congregation as members of our session, “are not simply to reflect the will of the people, but rather to seek together to find and represent the will of Christ [F-3.0204].”*

*In order to prepare to seek the will of Christ, the GA began with worship that included a choir, hymns, prayers, scripture, and a sermon by our out-going moderator, RE Heath Rada. In his sermon, he spoke of his enthusiasm gained by visiting many Presbyterian congregations over the past two years and his gratitude for the work shared by his vice-moderator. He reminded us that we are known by our actions. Our stewardship of what God has given us, our time, talents, and our care for the environment and for the poor and the weak are important. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has taken some blows in recent years with some churches leaving our fellowship to join with other groups, but he said that we are*

*(continued on page 2)*

*still strong, and among the wealthiest, if not the wealthiest, of the denominations. This means that we have a huge responsibility to God and to the world. He encourages us to stop “weaponizing our polity,” which I interpret as stopping the changes to our constitution that try to tie the hands of individual congregations doing ministry.*

*After the sermon, we received a Peace offering, over \$20,000 we later heard. A piper and drummer played as representatives of the various churches in the area processed into the hall. In this promenade and in this worship, I was reminded of our connection with over 1.7 million other Presbyterians in more than 10,000 congregations across the country. We are all reading scripture, praying, asking for the Holy Spirit to guide us, and listening for the tasks that God has before us.*

*Each day we are being sent out to represent Christ to the world. We can begin each day asking, “Lord, what are we to do today?”*

*In Christ,  
Pastor Sonja*

MARGINAL NOTES:

*The Church is the Church only when it exists for others...not dominating, but helping and serving. It must tell men of every calling what it means to live for Christ, to exist for others.*

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

To be a Christian congregation anywhere is to be part of a mission that reaches out to the ends of the earth.

— J. Leslie Newbigin

*It is by God’s grace that a congregation is permitted to gather visibly around God’s word and sacrament in this world.*

— Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Posterity! You will never know how much it cost the present generation to preserve your freedom! I hope you will make good use of it!

— John Adams (letter to Abigail Adams 4/26/1777)

*Every generation of Americans needs to know that freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.*

— Pope John Paul II

It’s summer! Time to find out what our friends with swimming pools have been up to since last summer...

*Laughter is the closest thing to the grace of God.*

— Karl Barth



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

**HOSPITALIZED**

**PEGGY CLARK** - Hermann Memorial Hospital, Houston (Released)

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The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated during the morning worship service at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday, July 3.



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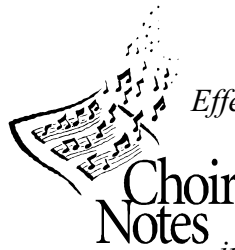
The Church Office will be CLOSED on Monday, July 4, in observance of the Independence Day Holiday.

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The **DIACONATE** will meet on Tuesday, July 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library.



The **SESSION** will meet on Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Please pick up your Information Packets from the table in the Narthex on Sunday, July 10.



Effective Sunday, July 3, the Chancel Choir will begin its annual and well-earned summer vacation and join us in the congregation. We

express our appreciation to those who volunteer to provide 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 6/27/16**

Actual Expense	\$69,772.03
Actual Income	\$66,130.41

Outstanding balance of the Piano Fund	\$1,189.00
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The following note was received in the church office following our Seniors' Luncheon:



*I would like to thank the church not only for the lovely Bible I received, but also for being a part of my life and, more importantly, my family.*

Love,  
Bailey A. Corley



Our CHURCH BBQ PICNIC has been rescheduled for Sunday, August 14. It will be held on the Church Grounds.

Details are in the planning stages, but you can start deciding which favorite side dish to bring and friends to invite for good food and fine fellowship. More details to come next month.

\* \* \* \* \*



*The following is an excerpt from a letter written by the Rev. Helen Boursier:*

“The **“Art inside Karnes”** ministry began in March 2015 when the I was given permission to do art inside the immigrant family detention center located at Karnes City, TX. The detention center holds up to 1,000 immigrant women and children seeking asylum in this country from the violence in their homelands, primarily Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras.

“Generally, the participants may make one art piece during a morning session. As time permits, they may make one pair of earrings and one bracelet during an afternoon session. They keep their art and jewelry. The mothers understand that those who facilitate the art sessions are volunteer chaplains and that the art and jewelry supplies are donated by churches and individuals specifically for this ministry.

“It has been a physical and financial challenge to keep this wonderful ministry going. The total cost for art supplies for 2015 was \$3,500 plus gas for the 90-minute commute to Karnes from New Braunfels.

“I have come to realize that in order to keep this art ministry going, I need to ask for your support. The enclosed flier shows the current/ongoing list of supplies needed. In addition, there will be extra supplies needed to support the two weeks of summer VBS.

“To the best of my knowledge, there is no other ministry like this inside any other immigrant family detention facility. It is difficult to explain the absolute delight and joy that this ministry brings to so many women and children.”

*The flier Helen mentions will be posted on the Narthex bulletin board, but here is a list of desired items:*

- Elmer’s Glue Sticks
- flat/short watercolor brushes
- watercolor trays
- Stickers - regular and seasonal
- 2 oz. Bottles acrylic paint, assorted colors
- Washi tape (“fancy masking tape”)
- Seasonal small art supplies
- Large size seed beads for bracelets (beads often ½-off at Hobby Lobby)
- Small stuffed animals for the children

*Donations can be left at the church office and Sonja will take care of getting them to Helen.*



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

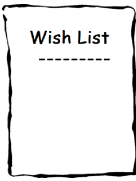
Among other business, the Session considered and/or approved the following:

1. Received a letter from the Presbyterian Historical Society, requesting that we join with a financial gift. They also listed services they offer (some free at certain membership levels), so this letter will be kept on file for consideration as we seek a Church Historian
2. The Christian Education Committee reported that there will be no Sunday School (youth or adult) during the summer. There will be a Sunday School Kickoff Taquito Breakfast on Sunday, September 11, to start the new school year.
3. The Secretary and Treasurer have met and reviewed Church Software programs. Mary is happy with the program she is now using; she and Michele both believe that PowerChurchPlus would be a good tool for our church. Session approved the purchase of the program at a cost of \$395 plus \$15 shipping. This will necessitate upgrading the office computer to Windows 10, which will be free of charge.
4. An estimate of \$856.56 was received for replacing the carpet in the Youth Room; no action taken at this time.

5. A revised Head Usher Checklist (joint effort with the Diaconate) was presented. The Session approved the Checklist with a few minor adjustments. This Checklist will be mailed to each month's Head Usher and will also be posted on the inside of the Narthex closet door.

6. Joey from Aire-Serve came to the office and showed Sonja and Michele how to log in to the remote climate controls via computer. However, the signal from the Fellowship Hall and Youth Room thermostats is too weak to reach the office where the wireless gateway is located. Joey suggested that a signal booster be installed in the Nursery room; the cost for the booster and a protective cover (so children could not unplug it) would be \$385.83. Session approved the purchase of the booster.

7. Our Church BBQ picnic originally scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup> at PPAS had to be cancelled for lack of facility and access. Sunday, August 14 was suggested as an alternate date, with the BBQ to be held on the church grounds. Tentative plans include holding a modified worship service in the Fellowship Hall, around tables, then segueing into the BBQ, family games, and ending with an Ice Cream Social. Session approved these plans, along with a Church Clean-Up Day the preceding weekend (Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>).



As you are aware, the Session came up with a Wish List of projects we would like to accomplish, albeit not all at once. We are pleased to report that a lot HAS been done, and would like you to be apprised of the current status of our Wish List:

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>EST. COST</u>
Tile in Sanctuary:	6,000
Youth Room Carpet:	900
Re-pave Parking Lot:	45,000
Patch Parking Lot:	3,600
Choir Room Piano:	4,000
Replace crook-necks in kitchen:	
Handicap bath off Cry Room:	
Men's handicap bathroom:	
Women's handicap bathroom:	
Sound in Fellowship Hall:	
Sound in Sanctuary:	
Electronic screens & system for Sanctuary:	
Electronic Screens & system for FH & Kitchen:	
Update women's bathroom (wallpaper, carpet, sink, faucet):	
Handicap access corner cuts in curbs:	
Replace kitchen microwaves:	
Hard of Hearing receivers for Sanctuary:	
Church projector & laptop:	

*The following items are being undertaken as an Eagle Scout project:*

- Ramps from street over curb:
- Ramp into Sanctuary:
- Ramp into Fellowship Hall on Kleberg Ave:
- Ramp into Fellowship Hall from patio:
- Parking Lot Striping

**COMPLETED:**

- Sanctuary Carpet replaced
- New Piano for Sanctuary
- 3 Kitchen faucets replace
- 3 handicap commodes installed (Narthex, choir room, office)
- Updated sign facing Kleberg
- New sign for Coffee Time Volunteer parking
- Exchange Coffee maker
- Electric changeover from gas
- Electric range
- Electric hot water heater
- Security Fencing around Air-conditioning units

# July Birthdays

- 1 David Jerome Langschied
- 2 Blake Ogden
- 4 Bailey Corley  
Ciera Magon
- 5 Claudia Conard  
Ashley Wells



# Anniversaries

- 6 Barbara Roberts  
Elly Demps Lopez

- 10 Scott Conard  
Pamela Sandoval  
Brittany Wells

- 14 David Rodriguez  
Olivia Holt
- 15 Jim Kirkpatrick
- 16 Travis Cornett
- 17 Abraham Alvarez  
Laura Nave

- 18 Misty Henry D'Amico
- 19 John Winkler

- 24 Josephine Smith

- 25 Javiel Gonzales

- 30 Isaac Robert McClain

## JULY ANNIVERSARIES:



- 9 Chuck & Linda Miller (1995)
- 23 Teddy & Alexa Carrier (2001)

If your July 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!