

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

May 2015

The mission of our church is to make disciples for Jesus Christ

Our vision is to be an oasis of God's love.

1311 McCaulley Office hours: M ~ F, 9:00 am ~12:00pm

P. O. Box 956, Sweetwater, Texas 79556 325-235-5491

Pastor – Rev. Kary Fry

Clerk of Session: Paula Carmichael Elder of the Month: Dennis Cumbie

website: www.fpcsweetwater.org

email: secfpc@att.net

email: kary.fry@att.net

From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Everybody,

The Brown's brought me back a beautiful Myrtle wood cross from Oregon. I had always heard of myrtle wood, but did not know very much about it. In doing some research, I learned that myrtle wood trees are found in Oregon and Israel.

In scripture we read from Isaiah 55: 13:

“Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree,

And instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree;

And it shall be to the Lord for a name,

for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.”

Isaiah is prophesying growth and life instead of death and destruction. These are words of promise for us today.

The Myrtle is an evergreen tree. Its leaves are dense and wide so that you cannot see the branches. Strong roots keep the tree going even in drought and severe weather. If it is cut to a stump, the tree will sprout again because it is so hearty. The myrtle tree starts out slowly, growing only a couple of inches per year. It may grow for 120 years! Over time, several stocks may come together to make a massive trunk.

In the same way the body of Christ is one. The church becomes strong by joining together. In Romans 12:5 we read:

“...so we, though many,

are one body in Christ,

and individually members of one another.”

Please consider your answer to these questions:

1. In what ministries are we joining with others so that the message of Jesus Christ becomes a united and strong voice?
2. Sometimes we are cut down to almost nothing and it might appear to be the end of our story because of tragedy or misfortune, but because the roots of Christianity run deep in grace, signs of life will begin to emerge and the child of God will again grow and prosper. What would illustrate this point in your individual Christian life? Do you have a corporate illustration from our church?
3. We are God's people, planted in rich soil, saturated in God's holy Word, which yields a rich variety of talents and gifts. What gifts do you bring to the Body of Christ? What other gifts do you see in your church?
4. As the people of God we have a root system that is so thick it is like a foundation. What are the challenges we face as a church/individually to maintain this strong root system and the beautiful design of this tree?

My friends, let us be committed to living the gospel, seeking not human favor but divine approval. May we not be afraid. Let us remember it is devotion and surrender to God that we are called to live.

Blessings,

Kary Fry

Dates to Remember

- 1-2 Presbytery Meeting~ Dumas
3 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School ~ 9:30am
Worship ~ 10:45am ~ Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2016
Little Ones and IBKs~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
5 Movie Night~6:00pm~ *Shadowlands Pizza provided.*
6 Plarning~ 1:00pm
Presbyterian Women~5:00pm Business Meeting
5:30pm Bible Study
7 Kary Ann's Clan~11:30am~ Oak Street Cafe
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
10 Happy Mother's Day
Sunday School ~ 9:30am
Little Ones & IBKs Choir Practice~10:15am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Children Sing
13 1:00pm Plarning
14 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:30am
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
17 Sunday School~9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am
Senior Sunday~ Meal after worship
Youth~ Tennis@SHS~ 7:00pm
19 Youth~ Hoyt Place~4:15pm
20 Plarning~ 1:00pm
5:30pm Session Meeting
23 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:30am
Choir Practice~5:30pm
24 No Sunday School
Worship~ 10:45am
25 Memorial Day
Church Office Closed
27 Plarning~1:00pm
28 Kary Ann's Clan ~ 11:30am
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
31 No Sunday School
Worship~ 10:45am~Noisy Offering
Children's Church



- 3 Ann Shirley and Doug Richards
10 Paula Carmichael and Alan Carmichael
17 Ruth Ann Campbell and Keith Brock
24 Mike Fry and Dennis Cumbie
31 Donella Parker and Hilary Brenna

Greeters needed! If anyone is interested in greeting on Sunday mornings, please call the church office.

Thank you



Birthdays

- 3 Katie Reed
4 Elissa Stroman
5 Grant Howe
8 Kenny Maxwell
9 Chelsea Wilburn
11 Jean Herring
12 Elizabeth Howe
Linda Rasco
13 Dennis Cumbie
Pat Foy
14 Stephanie Wiele
Harper Kate Gee
15 Caleb Reed
Layla Collins
16 Irene Ludlum
17 Zach Wilcox
18 Bonnie Thompson
22 Callie Boswell
23 Dana McElroy
24 Tanner Crain
28 RuthAnn Campbell
Rob Elliott

***If you are visiting First Presbyterian Church,
we warmly welcome you in the name of Jesus
Christ!***

***If you want to join in this journey of faith,
you are invited to join by:***

***-letter of transfer from another church;
-The Sacrament of Holy Baptism; or
-Reaffirmation of faith in Jesus Christ as
Your Lord and Savior.***

***Kary and the Session elders are always
happy to meet with you.***

***We celebrate the Sacrament of Holy
Communion every first Sunday of the month.
Because this is the Lord's Supper, we invite
all in Christ to share the blessings of this
Sacrament.***

Hoyt Place

We are excited to lead worship every first Sunday of the month at Hoyt Place, from 9:00-9:30 a.m. We will sing, hear the Word of God, and share Communion. Come join us in this wonderful Ministry of fellowship.



All are invited to movie night in the fellowship hall on Tuesday, May 5 from 6:00pm-8:00pm. Pizza will be provided.

The movie is **Shadowlands** with Anthony Hopkins and Debra Winger which is the love story of C.S. Lewis and Joy Davidman Gresham.

Please RSVP to the church office, 235-5491 or secfpc@att.net



All Women of the Church are invited to come for fellowship, prayer and Bible Study. Presbyterian Women will meet on Wed. May 6th. There is a business meeting at 5:00pm and Bible Study with Kay Staton at 5:30pm. The study will be Walking by Faith: Lessons I Learned in the Dark by Jennifer Rothschild.



Senior Sunday May 17th

Please join us for a special Sunday in worship where our graduating seniors will be honored:

***Caroline Brennan, Ty Crain
Blake Cumbie and Wesley Maxwell***

There will be a meal following worship to honor the seniors.

Chicken will be provided. Please bring side dishes of vegetables, salads and desserts.



Thank you

Our kitchen ladies give a great big thank you to Buddy Alldredge for all the food containers he provided. This is not the first time Buddy has gifted us with these, and we really appreciate it!

Thank you Buddy.

Letter from Alice Moore

Monday April 13, 2015

Dear People,

In Wichita Falls the wind is blowing strongly (as usual) and the skies are a promising gray with a hope of some more rain than we have already enjoyed this Monday morning, a week after Easter. The day after the resurrection when Jesus has been seen by his disciples with the wonder that his actual appearance has brought! He had said he would, but it was almost impossible for them to believe, but he was alive after that cruel crucifixion and burial. They had been aware of and with the proof of his living, it promised LIFE, FREEDOM, FORGIVENESS, GOODNESS, HOPE AND LOVE! And all that is still promised to us!

I hope you had a happy Easter!

Most of you are too young to have been Pogo fans, but my family were, and one of the goofy "beliefs" followed in Pogo was that any 13th of the month was Friday the 13th. So, today, being the 13th is "Friday the 13th" had come on Monday this month! Its effect was still to be feared no matter which day it fell on, so there was always an air of dread until the day was over. I hadn't thought of that until son Steve brought me a Pogo book to enjoy (which I did), and when the 13th came, I thought how wonderful it was to glory in the 13th instead of dreading it! GLORY, HALLELUJAH!

I've just been to the Monday afternoon sing-song I think I've told you about, and it reminded me of the ones we used to have there with Davis Clark leading, and I can't remember our organist/pianist we had for a long time (that's what happens when you get to be 95!). I remember she had three sisters, and the one in the choir was named Mary. I guess now sing-songs you have would be with guitars and drums- what would you sing? I like your having pictures in the newsletters. I just wish I could know all the unfamiliar names. Take care, all of you.

Blessings on you, truly-ruly,
Alice Moore



Message from Lou Ann for Little Ones and IBKS

May 3 Little Ones and IBKS will meet from 5:00 - 6:00. The kids will make Mother's Day gifts and practice singing the song they will sing on Mother's Day

May 10 10:15am children's choir practice in the sanctuary, and the kids will sing during church today

With all of the end of school activities, these will be the only 2 times we will meet in May, but be looking forward to the return of Summer Fun! I am already working on the fun activities for the summer and will let you know all about them soon!

LouAnn

SMS/SHS Activities for May:

Sunday, May 3rd – Lectionary Liturgy by high school students during worship.

Sunday, May 17th – Senior Sunday, Seniors will be recognized during worship and a luncheon will follow.

Sunday, May 17th - Tennis @ SHS, 7:00 PM

Tuesday, May 19th – Hoyt House visitation @ 4:15.

An upcoming event in July that everyone will want to participate in is Breakfast on Beech Street, (B.O.B.S.) in Abilene. We will assist First Central Presbyterian Church in their continued mission to serve breakfast and lunch to low income and homeless people in their community. Approximately 65 – 85 people are served regularly on Thursday mornings. The dates we are assisting are July 2nd & July 16th. A total of 6 Abilene churches join together in this worthy project. Their ultimate goal is for "the love of Christ to be seen in every plate of food we serve." Save these dates so you can take part!

Session Minutes

Stewardship and Finance: *Financial Report which was unanimously approved. The audit report was accepted.*

Property Committee: *Jarrold Gee and Ty Crain have been working on the yard. Dennis Cumbie has fertilized the front.*

Renovation Committee: *Committee is looking for a new contractor. The glass doors will be fixed within 2 weeks.*

Congregational Care: *Chicken will be provided by the church for Senior Sunday lunch on May 17th. Congregation is asked to bring side dishes.*

Mission and Outreach: *Care Portal Training was at noon on April 15th at the Police Station. \$300.00 will go towards this mission.*

Christian Education:

*1. The Women of the Church will award 4 Senior Bibles to the following Seniors, Class of 2015: Caroline Brennan, Ty Crain, Blake Cumbie and Wesley Maxwell.
2. Ruth Ann Campbell, Lou Ann Cumbie and Stephanie Wiele are working on a youth class for June, July and August.*

Worship Committee:

Daises will be ordered for Mother's Day.

Personnel Committee:

Payton Moore will fill in if additional assistance is needed in the nursery.

Other Business:

Gary Brown will be the Elder Commissioner at the Palo Duro Presbytery meeting on May 1-2, 2015 in Dumas.

Directory Update

Betsy Howe Texspeeder@gmail.com

NOTICE

During worship, all doors will be locked except the front door to the sanctuary. The front door will remain unlocked during worship