

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

February 2020

*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. Marie Mickey 979-574-6348

Clerk of Session: Gayle Biggerstaff

website: www.fpcsweetwater.org

email: fpcsweetwater@gmail.com

email: mmickey290@gmail.com

Elder of the Month: Karen Brown



Baptism of the Lord

A colleague in ministry referred me to a book by Robert Warren entitled, *The Healthy Churches' Handbook* which is the fruit of 10 years of research considering how the church can best express its faith and life in the world today. His findings affirm other studies on church renewal.

Warren identifies seven indicators for a healthy church:

1. **They are energized by faith.** Healthy churches are deeply aware of the presence and goodness of God; "faith is the fuel on which these churches run."
2. **They possess an outward focus.** Healthy churches are not focused on internal matters but are fully engaged in their context and the life of their broader community. The gospel matters to the world, and these churches identify with both the joy and the pain evidenced in their contexts.
3. **They seek to find out what God wants.** Healthy churches are not content to simply be; rather, they are bent on learning and following God's will and purpose. They are characterized by prayer and a relentless willingness to move and adapt for the sake of God's agenda.

4. **They face the cost of change and growth.** Healthy churches, like healthy people, are capable of facing hard facts and courageously moving forward. Relinquishing things of the past for the possibilities of the future is necessary.
5. **They operate as a community.** Healthy churches develop and sustain robust relationships that are generous, trusting, and open. Authenticity and care infuse communication, leadership practices, and ordinary life.
6. **They make room for all.** Healthy churches practice hospitality. They constantly create space for others to join in the life and vitality of community.
7. **They do a few things well.** Healthy churches have a quiet purposefulness about their life and ministry. Rather than rush from one thing to another, healthy churches live with meaning and intentionality, doing what they do with excellence.

This guide is meant to help churches identify strengths and weaknesses and then consider actions to implement to improve the health of the church. The focus is on the quality of the church's life rather than just the numbers attending. Warren reminds us that there are no quick fixes. Improving and growing the health of a church takes time, energy, and commitment.

FPC-Sweetwater is a healthy church but there is always room for improvement. Healthy churches are not content to simply be. Together we must be open to following God's call and adapt as needed. You can "count me in"! How about you?

Pastor Marie

Thank You

Thanks for all the cards, thoughts and prayers. We miss our church very much- the people. (Please don't move around because we have a mental picture of all of you in your regular seats.)

We miss the beautiful music from Kirk and our wonderful choir and of course Marie's sermons- so easy to hear and understand.

God Bless you everyone,

Bill and Willadean Brock



First Presbyterian Church Colorado City will be holding their final worship service in the old building at 444 Chestnut St. next Sunday, February 2, 2020. Everyone is welcome to join us for a final worship and decommissioning service at 11am.

The building is being sold and the congregation will be moving to a rented space at 1435 Elm St. in the near future.

Thanks!

Mike Alexander



- 2 Ruthann Campbell
- 9 Keith Brock
- 16 Doug Richards
- 23 Keith Brock

Dates to Remember

- 2 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School~ 9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am~Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2021
- 3 Bible Study~ 5:30pm~ Meet at Church
- 5 Planning~ 1:00pm~3:00pm
Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm
- 6 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Buck's
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 9 Sunday School ~ 9:45am
Worship ~ 10:45am
Confirmation Class~ 5:30pm-6:30pm
- 12 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 13 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Heff's
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 16 Sunday School~ 9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 19 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Session ~ 5:30pm
- 20 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Pizza Hut
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm
- 23 Sunday School~9:45am
Worship~ 10:45am
Noisy Offering
Little Ones and IBKs~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 26 Planning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Ash Wednesday~ 5:30pm~ Chapel
- 27 Over the Hill Bunch ~11:30am~ Skeet's
Choir Practice~ 5:30pm

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, and hear the Word of God and share communion.
Come join us in this wonderful Ministry of fellowship.*



The Ash Wednesday service will be February 26 at 5:30pm in the chapel.



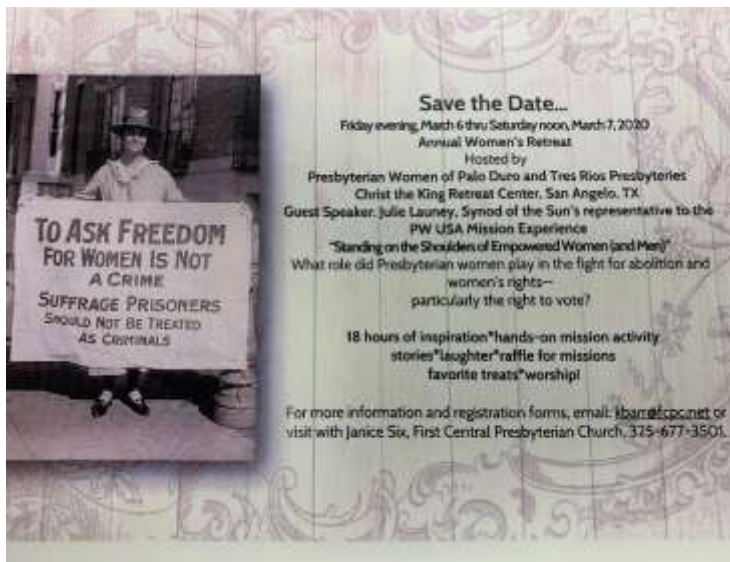
- 1 Lily Catherine Smola
- 4 Tabby Baugh
- 5 Payton Moore
- 7 Lacey LeBleu
- 8 Tres Campbell
- 12 Gayle Biggerstaff
- 14 Bette Byrd
- 15 Buddy Alldredge
- Leigha Armstrong
- 18 Gordon Nemir
- 19 Greg Wortham
- 20 David Bennett
- Tracy Wilburn
- Hannah Bennett
- 23 Evalyn Bates
- 27 Sherie Alldredge

Annual Women's Retreat

*Hosted by Presbyterian Women of Palo Duro and
Tres Rios Presbytery
Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo*

*Below is a save-the-date card with the basic
details. The cost will be around \$75/woman and
\$85 for a private room. This includes meals.*

*We should receive registration forms in a week or
two.*



Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday, February 5 at 5:15pm. We will continue our study, Chapter 5 of the Bible study, Love Carved in Stone~ A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments by Eugenia Anne Gamble.



We are still taking orders for the Presbyterian Women Brick project.

Presbyterian Women are raising funds for the upcoming 2020 year. This fund raising is actually two fold. It is a Fundraiser/Memorial project.

First, it enables Presbyterian Women to get involved in programs that "give back to the community" (scholarships, etc.).

Secondly, it gives the donor an opportunity to remember a loved one by purchasing an engraved memorial brick to be placed in the Memorial Garden. Bricks can be given in honor of someone.

Two Sizes of brick are available:

4"X 8" with 3 lines available for engraving
\$50.00

8" X 8" with 6 lines available for engraving
\$100.00

Come by the office for examples and more information.



Bulletin board by Jessica Bond and Barbara Bond

rightnow MEDIA

Opportunities

Everyone is invited to Bible study on Monday, February 2nd at 5:30pm at the church. The group is studying the book of Revelation.



The Eyewitness Bible Series' *Revelation Series* has five 12-15 minute videos and related study guides. The videos are narrative accounts by Bible personalities about *Revelation*, such as the Apostle John talking about Revelation 1.

The Sunday school class meets on Sunday mornings at 9:45am.



They are continuing with the Luke Eyewitness Series. The Eyewitness Bible Series, Luke, consists of twenty 12-18 minute videos and related study guides. The videos are narrative accounts by Bible personalities of portions of Luke, such as Mary discussing the births of John the Baptist and Jesus as described in Luke 1 & 2.



We are The Rizers, a band that sings Scripture verses in the form of upbeat, kid-friendly music.



Tim Mackie Series

Be sure to check out our own library,
First Presbyterian Church,
Right Now Media.
www.rightnowmedia.org

Remember you can still sign up and you are welcome to share this with family members and friends. The sign up link is on the website,
www.fpcsweetwater.org

BUFFALO GAP PRESBYTERIAN CAMP

"Under the Oaks at the Gap"

2020 Summer Camp Schedule

High School Retreat May 31-June 5
(completed grades 9-12) \$275

Mini Camp): June 9-12
(completed grades 1-3) \$165

Elementary Camp June 14-19
(completed grades 3-5) \$275

Middle School Camp June 21-26
(completed grades 6-8) \$275



The weeks we meet are a little different due to the confirmation classes. Any of the middle school and high school kids are welcome to join us for these classes, even if you have decided not to join the church at this time.

February 9: 5:30-6:30 Confirmation Class
 February 16: 5:00-6:00 Little Ones and IBKs
 February 23: 5:00-6:00 Little Ones and IBKs

Session Minutes

Session members elected Peggy Elliott to serve as Treasurer and Gayle Biggerstaff to serve as Clerk.

Stewardship and Finance:

Financial Report was unanimously approved.

Building and Grounds:

Session members approved replacing an outside light on the west side of the church at a cost of \$350.00. They also approved the pruning of three trees at a cost of \$750.00. Both project costs will be paid from the Nunn Garden Trust. Session members also approved the installation of Ethernet needed for fellowship hall. Jim Gesin reported that he is currently seeking a company to give an estimate for construction for a labyrinth in the garden area.

Christian Education:

A Confirmation Class would begin Sunday, January 19th with two participants. Confirmation is planned for Palm Sunday.

Mission and Outreach:

Care Portal is requesting donations of furniture. The donated furniture will be stored upstairs until turned over to Care Portal.

Moderator's Report:

Rev. Mickey reported on a plan that she and Ruth Ann Campbell are working on to involve SHS teachers. They hope to provide an opportunity once a month for fellowship with the high school teachers. Rev. Mickey encouraged Session members to look for other opportunities in the upcoming year that will allow our church to reach out to the community.

New Business:

Session members approved a request from Justin Wilburn and Candace McFadden for use of the sanctuary on July 25, 2020 for their wedding ceremony.



Peyton Gee, Harper Gee, Brynlee Scott



Brynlee Scott and Emily Hammit

Stewardship - The Manner of Giving

Matthew 10:8

Freely you have received, freely give.

When Jesus told His disciples to go out and freely give, He was specifically referring to the spiritual gifts they had received. The command for us is not less. Jesus calls each of us to examine our hearts and realize the amazing sacrifice of Jesus and the awesome gifts God has freely given us. Our response can be none other than to willingly give of all that we have and are. God did not limit His love and gifts to us. We, therefore, cannot place limits on our giving.

First Presbyterian Church 2020 Budget	
Income	Budget
Texas Presbyterian Foundation	3,500.00
Plate Income	7,000.00
Pledge Income	155,044.05
Total Income	\$ 165,544.05
Expenses	Budget
Benevolence/Mission	
Austin Seminary	0.00
Buffalo Gap Camp	1,200.00
Palo Duro Presbytery	
Per Capita \$	1,602.05
Pledge \$	2,000.00
Presbyterian Childrens Home	1,200.00
Presbyterian Women	1,500.00
Total Benevolence/Mission	\$ 7,502.05
Church Programs	
Advertising	350.00
Choir Music	225.00
Christian Ed	1,000.00
Fellowship	750.00
Mission & Outreach	600.00
Scholarships (Camp & Conference)	0.00
Session Expense	50.00
Session Presbytery Expense	200.00
Worship	500.00
Youth	100.00
Youth Sponsors	0.00
Total Church Program	\$ 3,775.00
Church Property	
Building Maintenance	2,000.00
Capital Improvement	0.00
Church Insurance	10,000.00
Worker's Compensation Insurance	500.00
Dues/Subscriptions	50.00
Janitorial Supplies	250.00
Janitorial Service	6,500.00
Office	500.00
Copier Lease & Maintenance	2,000.00
Postage	300.00
Church Management Program	500.00
Utilities - Gas & Electric	10,000.00
Utilities - Telephone/Internet	2,000.00
Utilities - Water (City of Swater)	1,500.00
Total Church Property	\$ 36,100.00
Personnel	
Youth Directors	12,000.00
Choir Director	1,800.00
Nursery Attendant	500.00
Organist Salary	4,700.00
Pastor Salary	39,611.00
Pastor Housing Allowance	15,845.00
Pastor Allowances	300.00
Pastor Car Allowance	5,800.00
Pastor Continuing Education	1,000.00
Pastor Pension & Insurance	20,519.00
Pulpit Supply	500.00
Secretary Salary	9,792.00
Soc Sec/Medicare	2,500.00
Substitute Employee	300.00
Treasurer	3,000.00
Total Personnel	\$ 118,167.00
Total Expenses	\$ 165,544.05