

First Presbyterian Church Sweetwater, Texas

May 2018

*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: Paula Carmichael

website: www.fpcsweetwater.org

email: secfpc@att.net

email: mmickey290@gmail.com

Elder of the Month: DeeAnne McFarland

Dear Friends,

This month, on May 20th, we will celebrate the “birthday” of the church, the day the Holy Spirit fills the disciples and calls them to be the church, the day of Pentecost. 50 days after Easter, and right after Jesus is ascended into heaven, we recognize that we as Christ’s disciples are called to go and to continue his ministry filled with the power, the intelligence, imagination and love of the Holy Spirit. In Hebrew, it is the breath of God; in Greek, it’s the wind. John calls the Spirit the Advocate; Acts says it was a rushing wind and tongues of flames. However, Pentecost is less about *what* the Holy Spirit *is* and more about what the Holy Spirit *does* through *us*. Poet Ann Weems wrote in her poem, “The Church Year “ about what the Holy Spirit can do among us.

The church is Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us
and sends us out together
afame with new life,
inheritors of the wealth of God:
life abundant.

We are liberated from the prisons of pettiness,
jealousy, and greed,
liberated to be the church.

We are freed to free others.

We are affirmed to affirm others.

We are loved to love others.

We are family;
we are community.

We are the church triumphant –
you, me, anyone who would come unto the Lord –

renewed, redirected, empowered
to change things and lives
together in love and wholeness.

We are the Lord’s church,
the church of justice and mercy,
the people sent to open prisons,
to heal the sick
to clothe the naked
to feed the hungry
to reconcile
to be alleluias when there is no music.

The mantle is upon our shoulders.
Joy is apparent in our living.
We have been commissioned to be
the church of Jesus Christ.

*Pentecost Blessings,
Pastor Marie*



Dear Friends,

I want to thank you all so much for the prayers you have been sending to me in the time I have been sick. I can surely feel them! I am better, but still have a long way to go so the prayers will still be welcomed.

*In His name,
Hilary Brennan*

Dates to Remember

- 2 Plarning~ 1:00pm
Presbyterian Women~ 5:15pm
- 3 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~Golden Chick
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 6 Hoyt Place Worship ~ 9:00am-9:30am
Sunday School~ 9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am Reverse Offering
Communion Class of 2018
Little Ones & IBKs~ 5:00pm-6:00pm
- 9 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Committee Meetings~ 5:30pm
- 10 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~ Bigg's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 13 *Happy Mother's Day*
Sunday School ~ 9:30am
Worship ~ 10:45am
- 14 Bible Study~6:30pm~ Buddy & Sherie's
- 16 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
Session Meeting~ 5:30pm
- 17 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~Dairy Queen
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 19 "Breaking Chains"~ Women's Community
Revival 10am-1pm Sweetwater Auditorium
- 20 ***Day of Pentecost~ Wear Red***
Sunday School~ 9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Children's Church
Meal after worship~ Senior Sunday and
Baby Shower for Westacott's
Middle School &High School~5:00pm
- 23 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 24 Over the Hill Bunch ~ 11:30am~Buck's
Choir Practice 5:30pm
- 27 Sunday School~9:30am
Worship~ 10:45am~ Noisy Offering
- 28 Memorial Day~ Church Office Closed
- 30 Plarning~ 1:00pm-3:00pm
- 31 Over the Hill Bunch~11:30am~Heff's
Choir Practice 5:30pm



DeeAnne McFarland each Sunday with

- 6 **Donella Parker**
- 13 **Donella Parker**
- 20 **Doug Richards**
- 27 **Doug Richards**



- 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
- 16 Irene Ludlum
- 17 Zach Wilcox
- 18 Bonnie Thompson
Alan Carmichael
- 22 Callie Boswell
- 23 Dana McElroy
- 24 Tanner Crain
- 28 Ruthann Campbell
Rob Elliott

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.
Come join us in this wonderful
Ministry of fellowship.*



**Presbyterian Women will meet Wednesday,
May 2nd at 5:15pm for a meal and study. The
meal will be provided, and we will review
Chapter 8 of our study book, "Noah Built His
Ark in the Sunshine" by James Moore.**

Celebrations on May 20

All are invited for a special Sunday in the life of our church on Pentecost Sunday May 20.



Wear red this Sunday as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. We will be collecting the Pentecost offering on this Sunday. Envelopes will be in the pews: Checks made out to FPC~ memo line Pentecost offering.



We will be honoring our graduating High school senior, Mason Maxwell, son of Kenny and Beth Maxwell. Presbyterian Women will be presenting a Bible to Mason during worship.



There will be a meal after worship. The church will provide chicken and rolls. All are asked to bring side dishes and desserts.



A Diaper Shower!

We will be having a diaper and wipes shower for Amy and Dorian Westacott at the meal. They will appreciate any brand and size of diapers.

~~~~~

### **Directory Update**

Welcome home to Gayle Biggerstaff  
P.O. Box 82                      1006 Beall St.  
Sweetwater  
325-235-4229

Kathleen Campbell Wilson  
1037 Anthem Lane  
Fayetteville, NC 28311 MB#103



May 6: 5:00 - 6:00 Little Ones and IBKs

May 13: Mother's Day

May 20: Pentecost Sunday- Everyone wear red, if you can. We will be asking your children to help us during the service (3 years - high school). It's a special day for our kids. We hope everyone can help out. We will honor Mason Maxwell after church and also be having a baby shower for Dorian and Amy!

5:00 - 6:00 Middle School and High School

May 27: Memorial Day

June 3: Pool party at the Sweetwater Country Club for the whole congregation! We want everyone to come and enjoy (even if you don't have kids)....an evening of fellowship, sundaes, and swimming if you like! Bring friends!



**Looking ahead June 3**

**Church Fellowship**

**Sweetwater Country Club**

**We have planned a gathering for our congregation on Sunday evening. We know that most of you won't swim, but we want a time of fellowship for our whole congregation and decided that a pool side party was the perfect place to enjoy the evening! Come enjoy the evening of visiting and having a sundae. We know the kids will join us for an evening of swimming. Please bring your friends and relatives, if you would like!**

## Session Minutes

**Stewardship and Finance:** *Financial Report was unanimously approved. The committee is working on an informational campaign to increase the monthly plate pledge.*

**Building and Grounds:** *Three bids were received for repairing the stained glass windows.*

*Bids will be accepted for replacing the ceiling tile in the fellowship hall.*

*A bid was received and accepted for replacing the fellowship hall door.*

*The choir room is going to be updated with new carpet and paint.*

*East Garden gate double gate needs to be replaced.*

**Christian Education:** *Senior Sunday will be May 20<sup>th</sup> honor Mason Maxwell.*

**Worship Committee:** *Communion will be served on May 6<sup>th</sup> by Class of 2018. Elder of the month will be responsible for putting the communion cloth on the table and purchasing the grape juice and the wine.*

**Rev. Mickey's Report:** *Rev. Mickey serves on the Resource Committee for Palo Duro Presbytery. She will attend the stated Presbytery Meeting in Lubbock April 27-28<sup>th</sup>.*

*Rev. Mickey informed the session that 40% of the Pentecost offering stays in our community. The motion and made and approved to participate in the offering on May 20<sup>th</sup> and discuss where to donate the money after collecting the offering.*

## Pastor Nominating Committee Report

The PNC has been hard at work reviewing Pastor Information Forms. We have narrowed our search significantly. All applicants reviewed and discussed have special gifts and talents worthy of recognition. We are optimistic, and the charge of finding someone to meet our expectations is meaningful and important to each of us. Thank you for continuing to keep the PNC in your prayers as we move forward in our search.

PNC Committee - Sherie Alldredge, Gary Brown, Peggy Elliott, Doug Richards, Kirk Stroman

## **Stewardship – The Joy of Giving**

Are you a cheerful giver?

Have you asked God how much He wants you to give?

### **2 Corinthians 9:7**

Each man should give what he has in his heart to give, not reluctantly decided or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

Giving to the causes of God's Kingdom is always a matter of the heart and is between the believer and God. We should give cheerfully, being glad we have the ability and an opportunity to give.

### **First Presbyterian Church** **Financial Report**

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>2018 Budget</b>    | <b>\$145,830.67</b> |
| <b>Needed Monthly</b> | <b>\$ 12,152.55</b> |

| <b>Month</b> | <b>Plate &amp; Pledge</b> | <b>Expenses</b> |
|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| January      | \$8,430.21                | \$11,463.36     |
| February     | \$7,677.00                | \$ 8,304.63     |
| March        | \$8,853.00                | \$ 7,696.69     |

|                       |               |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| Received Year to Date | \$24,960.21   |
| Over (Under) Budget   | \$ (8,171.00) |

### **Noisy Offering**

#### **Noisy Offering is designated toward the** **Ministerial Alliance**

|          |           |
|----------|-----------|
| January  | \$106.25  |
| February | \$ 164.25 |
| March    | \$ 84.46  |

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Received Year to Date | \$ 354.96 |
|-----------------------|-----------|

## Easter Sunday



In celebration of earth day, Little Ones & IBKs studied *Genesis 1*.



They also collected all of these bags of trash from around our church!



Harper Gee, Caden Wilburn,  
Peyton Gee, Emily Hammit