

# Grace First Presbyterian Church

*Grace First Presbyterian together ... worshipping God,  
witnessing for Jesus, and working to meet human needs.*

**MAY  
2018**

## PASTOR EDIE'S PONDERINGS

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We will celebrate

**HOLY  
COMMUNION**

May 6



### CHANGE!

Either you love it, you tolerate it, or you despise it! So, some of you are happy that this congregation has entered a time of significant transition, some are going to tolerate it (wake me when it's over), and others are going to mutter. God created us with many reactions to changing situations. So let's explore our created nature.

Change is built into living. We grow older every day, whether we are age 1, 13, 25, 51, or 76. We don't realize our growing older until one day it smacks us (or our parents) in the face – new shoes, teen-aged reactions, first drivers' license, marriage to the love of our life, grey hairs or wrinkles appearing, walkers and wheelchairs, even death.

We resist when change is thrust upon us. "Lord God, you brought us up out of Egypt and we are eating manna and have no water to drink. WHY?" That was the complaint of the Hebrew people on the journey to the Promised Land. Resisting is not new, even when God is shaping us. We resist when change is not an option but appears as the only option. "I'm too young to die," we cry to God. "But, but, but, we've always done it that way," we cry to each other. Yet the transition through death to life eternal is the goal of Christian living. We love change because it helps us escape the boring, or the untenable, or the seemingly inevitable. Escape is often yearned for when it is possible and not so welcome when it happens.

Our congregation is undergoing change. Sometimes it feels to us like one of the above scenarios; sometimes it feels like we can claim we are Presbyterians: Reformed, always reforming.

What do we mean by Reformed? That descriptor relates to the Reformation, which is a fascinating study of history. The excesses of the Roman Catholic Church got to be too much for the Reformers who wanted to use the language of the people in worship not the way it has been always done with Latin. The Reformers yearned for a church where the people had a say – a true democracy with all its give and take and the responsibility of making choices as a group.

*Continued on page 2*

Ministers' responsibilities were curtailed – the Book of Order of the PCUSA gives limited duties to ministers, which are not subject to the authority of the Session: the selection of Scripture lessons to be read; the preparation and preaching of the sermon; the prayers offered on behalf of the people; the music to be sung; the use of drama, dance, and other art forms. We also moderate the Session – note the chosen term – moderate, not direct.

What do we mean by “always Reforming”? It means we are open to God’s leadership through Christ and Holy Spirit. So, talk with the Session members about your thoughts about the changes that are happening, most of them naturally, here.

Changing pastors is done in an orderly way according to the Book of Order, which gives presbytery authority since it is where ordained ministers have membership in the Church. If you like or don’t like a new hymn, let your ministers know. If you think the choice of material for education is wrong, speak to a member of the Christian Education committee. If you have an idea for the worship service, let the Worship and Music Committee know. Burning to do a certain mission? Speak with the Mission and Outreach Committee. A reforming congregation works because of the feedback of all the people. Elders are elected to represent the people – they need to know.

Yes, change happens and yes, God’s fine hand can be seen in many changes.

## M A R I A L I C E ’ S M U S I C N O T E S

On May 20, we will celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

One of the beautiful hymns appointed for Pentecost is “Breathe on Me, Breath of God”, hymn 286 in **Glory To God**. The text was written by Edwin Hatch (1835-1889). Hatch was born in the English village of Derby and educated at King Edward’s School, Birmingham, and Pembroke College, Oxford. He became a member of the Church of England, taking holy orders in 1859, and ministered for three years in London’s East End before becoming professor of classics at Trinity College, Toronto, Canada, and rector of Quebec High School. He returned to England and served as vice-principal of St. Mary’s Hall and then held several other faculty positions at Oxford University.

The tune for “Breathe on Me, Breath of God” was composed by Robert Jackson in 1894. The tune, TRENTHAM, is named after the small village of Trentham in Staffordshire, England. Robert Jackson (1842-1914) was born in Oldham, Lancashire, England, and studied at the Royal Academy of Music. He was organist at St. Mark’s Church, London, and on the death of his father, Jackson took his position as organist and choirmaster at St. Peter’s Church, Oldham. Jackson and his father between them served the same St. Peter’s Church for almost ninety years.

*“Breathe on me, Breath of God; fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love, and do what thou wouldst do”*

## FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Recently, a friend gave me a devotional book to add to my daily reading of Oswald Chambers. It is an interesting book titled *“Have You Considered: Evidence Beyond a Reasonable Doubt.”* It is a much lighter read than Chambers but, it is very thought provoking as it looks at nature, history, and some of the sciences. The one I read for the day I wrote this article is under the heading of design.

It is often stated that belief in God is a “leap of faith.” Yet, in the Bible, from the Old Testament (Psalm 19:1-4) to the New Testament (Romans 1:18-23), clearly states that the reality of God’s existence is absolutely apparent to everyone, everywhere – simply by observing creation. In other words, creation could only exist if a Creator made it.

The September 2013 journal *Science* describes a set of perfectly formed gears at the base of a lowly 2 mm-long leafhopper nymph. This creature has the ability to jump several inches using a mighty thrust from its hind legs that propels the creature with an acceleration of nearly 400 G’s (fighter pilots risk blackout if accelerating much past 10 G’s). This feat would be equivalent to a man accelerating from 0 to 200 mph in less than a second and jumping 400 feet in a single bound!

What makes the leafhopper’s feat even more amazing is that the nerve impulses cannot travel fast enough to allow both legs to push off in a coordinated fashion – meaning that with every hop, the insect should spin out of control. So how did the Creator solve this problem? The Creator added a set of interlocking gears at the base of the leafhopper’s legs so that they are forced to move in exact coordination. This design is currently being studied as a prototype for new kinds of high-speed directional gears. The marvels of the microscopic world and the wonders of God’s creativity never cease. The belief that such a gear could “make itself” via random changes over time is equivalent to believing a gear could be produced in a machine shop via random hammering of a piece of metal. When we see microscopic gears solving a leafhopper’s leap, we stand in awe of our Creator!

*“The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.” Psalm 19:1-4*

*Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.*

*Romans 12:2*

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS APRIL 2018

### Transition Issues

Discussion and approval of Officers' Calendar – Due to the struggle of coordinating schedules, there was a motion for the Head of Staff to conduct officer training for all officers (new and continuing) during each monthly meeting of Council and Board of Deacons, until it is deemed training is complete. *The motion was seconded and passed.*

Eddie informed the Council that COM had approved the Mission Study report and given permission to elect the PNC. There was a motion to accept the following Officers' Calendar:

Sunday, April 29, following worship – Congregational meeting to elect new church officers and a Pastor Nominating Committee.

Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m. - Dinner with new officers, followed by Stated meeting. Examination of new officers will be postponed until after training is complete.

Sunday, May 20, during worship – Ordination/Installation of New Officers

Thursday, May 31, 6:45-8:45 – Organizational meeting of all officers (both boards, new and continuing officers)

Friday, June 1, 12:01 a.m. - New Council and new Board of Deacons begin service.

*Approved by vote.*

### GIFTS OF HOPE 2018 ~ MOTHER'S DAY CARDS

Mother's Day, May 13, 2018

Mother's Day cards will be available to purchase **April 29– May 13** in the Narthex on Sundays, or in the church office. This year we are supporting the following charitable organizations:

The **Supplies for Displaced Students** project, **The Kitchen Kits** project of the Presbyterian Giving Catalog and The **GFPC Compassion Fund**



## MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

### MINISTRY MEETINGS

#### *Christian Education*

Tues., May 2, 5:00 p.m.

#### *Personnel*

Tues., May 8, 6:15 p.m.

#### *In Touch*

Tues., May 1, 9:30 a.m.

#### *Property*

Sat., May 5, 9:00 a.m.

#### *First Connection*

Thurs., May 10, 5:30 p.m.

#### *Congregational Life*

Thurs., May 10, 6:45 p.m.

#### *Mission & Outreach*

Thurs., May 3, 6:30 p.m.

#### *Trustees*

Wed., May 2, 10:30 a.m.

#### *Deacons*

Sun., May 13, Noon

#### *Worship & Music*

Tues., May 8, 3:30 p.m.

#### *Prayer Shawl*

Wed., May 9, 4:00 p.m.

#### *Council*

Thurs., May 17, 6:00 p.m.



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, May 3, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, May 8, 2:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, May 21, 6:00 pm

### MANNA UPDATE

#### EMPHASIS FOR MAY

**Any and all canned goods, including canned fruits,  
vegetables, soups, and 1lb bags of rice  
and pinto beans, 1 lb. boxes of spaghetti**

Please put your donations in the grocery cart in the Narthex  
each Sunday or bring by the church office during the week.

**Sunday, May 6—No Youth**

**Sunday, May 13—No Youth**

**Sunday, May 20—Putt Putt**

**Sunday, May 27—Movie Night**



The *Feasting on the Word* adult Sunday School class meets in Room 14 each week at 9:15 a.m. You are invited to join us as we discuss and share ideas on the following topics:

May 6— Open Waters, Moving Spirit      Acts 10:44-48

May 13— Can I Get A Witness?      Acts 1:15-17; 21-26

May 20— Spirit-ed Communication      Acts 2:1-21

May 27—A Vision For Worship      Isaiah 6:1-8

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS &amp; CONGRATULATIONS



Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

## A P R I L

Javier & Maria Leon  
 Garrick Pilkington  
 Linda Wilbur  
 Berta Pilkington  
 Debbie Wood  
 Heather Pearson  
 Amanda Skov  
 Schuyler & Ellen Yost  
 Ted & Blake Yost  
 Michael Hendrix  
 Sunshine Billings  
 Jim & Louise Nichols  
 Brian Birch  
 Sue Coody



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To the following GFPC members:



## M A Y

Glen Bell	1	Linda Crownover	24
Kaye Martino	2	Wendy Ingram	25
Michael Furst	8	Colin Rosché	26
Stan Baggett	11	Mandy Overturff	27
Townes Gonzales	18	Ed Zellers	27
Bel Wise	20	Emersyn Thiem	29
Cash Davis	21	Greg Rosché	30

National Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7-11. This is a special time to honor and show appreciation for our teachers. Take a few minutes and thank the teachers for all they do and all their dedication and hard work.



# MANNA EMPHASIS FOR MAY

Any and all canned goods, including canned fruits, vegetables, soups, and 1lb bags of rice and pinto beans, 1lb boxes of spaghetti.

Please put your donations in the grocery cart in the narthex each Sunday or bring by the church office during the week.



## WELCOME NEW MEMBER

We have been blessed with the following new member who recently joined our church.

Sunshine Billings  
 1429 W. Water St  
 Weatherford, TX 76086

Please welcome her to our church family.



## GIFTS OF HOPE 2018 ~ FATHER'S DAY CARDS

Father's Day, June 17, is right around the corner.

NOW IS THE TIME – **GIVE** A **GIFT** OF **HOPE** TODAY!

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus,  
**“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”**  
(ACTS 20:35)

Tired of giving the same old tie for Father's Day? Try GFPC's Mission and Outreach cards! What father, mentor or special friend wouldn't be honored with a card knowing that a donation was made in his honor to support the church's mission work in assisting needy men and families locally and internationally?

Our children and youth of Grace First did their part by creating the wonderful designs for the fronts of the Father's Day cards that you can choose from. Inside will list the names of the 3 charitable organizations that we are supporting which are:

Your gift to the **Anti-Bullying Response** will help educate our youth and families on the dangers and warning signs of online harassment. Bullying has gone beyond the playground and cyber bullying has become a harmful and prevalent form of harassment.

Growing and harvesting crops is possible only with the proper tools and the **Farming Tools project** provides tools such as machetes and shovels to help people with bringing in their crops.

The **GFPC Compassion Fund** supports our Parker County community in need with assistance toward utility bills, groceries, prescription meds, and gas for doctor appointments. Manna Storehouse distributes this Fund for the church.

Your donation will be split evenly between the three organizations unless you indicate a preference when you purchase the card. We'll leave it to you to circle that organization on your cards. Please prayerfully consider giving a \$10 donation, but any amount will be greatly appreciated. The sum total of all contributions will make a huge difference to boys, men and families in need.

Both projects can be found at the Presbyterian On-line Giving Catalog:  
[www.presbyteriangifts.org](http://www.presbyteriangifts.org) or by calling 800.872.3283.

You can purchase Father's Day cards in the Narthex on Sundays  
or in the church office during the week of May 27 -June 10.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S BIRTHDAY OFFERING SALAD SUPPER

Wednesday, May 9 at 6 p.m. in the Great Hall

Men and women are invited to join us for a dedication service, supper, and brief program.  
**Please bring a salad to share.** Drinks and birthday cake will be provided.

Our guest speaker will be Kathy Moriarty, who serves as the Interpretation Resources person on the Grace Presbytery Presbyterian Women Coordinating Team. She will share information on what the Presbyterian Women organization does church-wide, at the Synod level, and in Grace Presbytery.

This year is the perfect time to highlight PW, as we celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Presbyterian Women in 2018. After many years of talk about our denomination's reunification, it became a reality in 1983 when the UPCUSA and the PCUS joined, becoming the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). There were many difficulties in blending two organizations of strong women. Finally in 1988, Presbyterian Women was born, incorporating the best in United Presbyterian Women (UPW) and Women of the Church (WOC).

The Birthday Offering is one of Presbyterian Women's two offerings. Received in the spring each year, it gives women a tangible way to celebrate the blessings in their lives. In 2018, three projects received funding through Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering. Your gift to the Birthday Offering will allow PW to provide funding to Cottage Village, Village of Grace Center for Physical and Spiritual Health, and The Dwelling place.

Don't miss this opportunity to have fellowship with your church family and learn more about Presbyterian Women and the Birthday Offering.

*Childcare will be available.*

Presbyterian Women of Grace First Presbyterian Church is not an organization to join, but a way for women who are members of the church to grow in knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ, to fulfill their Christian responsibilities, and to maintain a Christian community. By becoming a member of our church, you also become a member of Presbyterian Women. All are encouraged to attend circle meetings of choice and visitors are always welcome.





## MAY EVENTS

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**3****NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

Let us gather together as one Nation under God for the National day of prayer. It is being held at Heritage Park Ampitheater in Weatherford at 6:30 p.m.

**9****PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S ANNUAL  
BIRTHDAY OFFERING SALAD SUPPER**

Wednesday, May 9, 6:00 p.m. in the Great Hall.

**13****MOTHER'S DAY**

Don't forget to honor your mothers on *Sunday, May 13th*. Try GFPC's Mission and Outreach cards!

**20****PENTECOST OFFERING**

The Pentecost Offering is one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). When you give to the Pentecost Offering during Sunday morning worship, you help bring God's transforming, redeeming love to children at risk, guide and nurture young people's growing faith, and provide opportunities for young adults to become spiritual leaders—all in the name of Jesus Christ. Forty percent of the Offering stays within our own congregation to support our Backpack Program. The remainder is sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to support other programs that help youth and young adults and advocate for children at risk.

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**OFFICER ORDINATION / INSTALLATION**

The new church Officers will be Ordained and/or installed during worship.

**27****SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND  
TEACHER RECOGNITION  
SUNDAY**

The *Kate Rieves* and *Caroline Dickson Scholarships* will be awarded. We will give recognition of outstanding teachers for their commitment to our children.

**28****MEMORIAL DAY**

The Church Office will be closed on *Monday, May 28*.



## IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

### Members and Their Families

Joyce Coney  
 Andrew Short  
 Carla Trevino  
 Chloe-Marion Parry, Mother of Marion Harris

### Friends

Carol Allen, friend of Nancy Richards  
 Russell Mason, friend of Jerre Dale  
 Jessica Stephens, co-worker of Stephanie Eidson  
 Jo Ann Fowler, friend of Myrlan Coleman  
 Kati Hamilton, daughter of Linda Tingle (Habitat for Humanity)  
 Autumn Reed, friend of Deb Kaiser  
 Donny, friend of Patti Allen

*Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be  
 healed; save me, and I shall be saved;  
 for you are my praise.*

*Jeremiah 17:14*

### Continuing Concerns

Grainger Weston, father of Sarah Eidson  
 Nona, mother of Deb Kaiser  
 Lauren Barnhart Reed  
 Greg, father of Shanteé Siebuhr  
 Judy Guyll, cousin of Roberta Furman  
 Mildred Beard  
 Paula Bowen, grandmother of Hilary Davis  
 David Wenzel, son-in-law of Peggy Boardman  
 Ben and Sharon McPherson  
 Paul and Kaye Martino  
 Frank & Arda Morgan  
 Hazel Woodrum, mother of Sharon McPherson

Our homebound and nursing home members,  
 and all those serving in the military and their families.

### Heritage Preservation Grant for GFPC

Our church applied for and received a grant from the Presbyterian Historical Society for help with digital imaging of our church records. We have Session minutes and other records from the nineteenth century on, which we will send (in stages) to the PHS to be digitized. We need to go through the books of records, determine the order we want to use to send them and other small issues, and then pack them as we decide what to send. If you would be Interested in working on this project, help would be welcome. It will give you an opportunity to see the amazing history of Grace First! Please contact the office, or Janice Smith or Jill Bray, and we will begin this process.



Sign up on the Stewardship covenant insert, or  
contact David if you are able to help these kiddos  
learn more about the saving Grace of Jesus!

## MAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

### Lay Leaders:

- May 6—Judy Rawlins
- May 13—Mac Smith
- May 20—Janelle Currin
- May 27—Stephanie Eidson

### Deacon Assignments:

- Dave Kaiser and Sally Arnold

### Nursery Help:

- May 20—Claire Varnon

### Greeters:

- May 6— Linda Snow & Wendy Bates
- May 13— Janelle Currin & Bonnie Evans
- May 20—Dave & Janet Douglass
- May 27— Kevin & Leslie Goeldner

### Guest Station:

- May 6— Judy Rawlins
- May 13—Wendy Bates
- May 20—Janet Douglass
- May 27—Sarah Eidson

### Communion Set and Clean Up :

Jean Thomason, Leslie Goeldner,  
Christie Tull, and Melissa O'Hern

\* Fellowship Snack Schedule is located in the  
kitchen on the board next to the microwave.

**GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
606 MOCKINGBIRD LANE, WEATHERFORD, TEXAS 76086

**SUNDAY MORNING  
SCHEDULE**

Sunday School Classes—9:15 a.m.  
Coffee Fellowship—10:25 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship—10:40 a.m.



**PHONE NUMBERS**

817-594-2744, 817-341-2258 (metro)  
Office Hours: M-Th, 9:00 am—4:00 pm

**WEBSITE**

[WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG](http://WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG)

**STAFF**

Interim Pastor, *The Rev. Edith A. Gause*  
Associate Pastor, *The Rev. David A. Slyter*  
Ministers, *The Congregation*  
Dir. of Music & Organist, *Marialice Parish, M. M.*  
Financial Administrator, *Alycia Nelson*  
Office Assistant, *Lacey VanPay*

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