

Grace First Presbyterian Church

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

MARCH
2019

WELCOME The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz

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We will celebrate

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

on
Sunday, March 10



The congregation voted on February 24, 2019, to call Ashley as the Head of Staff Pastor for Grace First Presbyterian Church. She begins April 1, 2019. The Pastoral Nominating Committee was unanimously enthusiastic about calling her. Ashley is also a certified Marriage and Family Therapist. In a letter that she wrote to the congregation she remarks, "One thing that stood out to me from the beginning of learning about Grace First is you desire to move forward, to embrace the future, and to be led by Jesus in how to respond to the evolving needs of Weatherford and Parker County. As we join in ministry together I am hopeful for the paths we will journey with one another." A brochure about Ashley is available by calling the church office (817-594-2744).

GOOD-BYE Pastor Edie

Thus, we come to my final newsletter column. First, let me say that I am delighted with the choice of the congregation to call Ashley. As one of the references for this church, I had the opportunity to talk with her early in the process – such astute questions she asked! You have chosen a leader who will lead well with great respect for the years of experience reflected in this congregation and with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love. I have said many times how proud I am of your engagement in mission – Ashley will only extend mission. Watch out – you are about to become even more engaged with the community around you!

Working as your Interim Pastor, I was charged to get you beyond your disappointments of the past, negotiate the transition time, and have you ready to welcome new leadership. My dear friends, you have done it! Now, you need to know that as you change pastors I am part of the past. I can only return after March 31 upon invitation of the moderator of the session, who is also your pastor. I will not bury you; I cannot talk about the congregation and its pathways into the future; I shall not listen to any joys or sorrows you have about where the congregation is headed or about individuals. You have superb leadership in your elected Session and Board of Deacons, plus your pastoral leadership. Both David and Ashley are good pastors and officiants. Enjoy! To remain in social relationship is fine; we continue as brothers and sisters in Christ. If you need to be in touch my personal email is pastoredie@gmail.com and my cell phone is 970-290-2968.

Your future is very bright – the Light of Christ is shining through you. YES!

I look forward to the Goodbye Reception after worship on March 24.

Till then, warmest regards,

Pastor Edie

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

According to the calendar, spring is right around the corner, though in north Texas we can never be too sure about that! We have been known to have some crazy weather in the month of March. But as I was out in my yard working, I noticed my Bradford Pear trees getting new buds, I trimmed back my Knock Out roses, and there are signs of green in my yard aside from the few weeds I have. So, change from the drab brown grass and leafless trees is right around the corner.

Change is coming to GFPC as well. As we all know by now, we will be welcoming our new head of staff on April 1. I am excited to welcome Ashley on that day and to begin a new pastoral relationship with her as we move forward in the life of GFPC. I look forward to the many days of us working together to share in the vision and mission of GFPC and meeting the needs of not only our congregation, but the needs of the city of Weatherford.

None of that would be possible without the diligent work of the PNC and the Committee on Ministry of Grace Presbytery. A heart felt thank you to those on the PNC for your time and dedication, discernment, and listening to the congregation about what they deemed important in a new head of staff. Of course, the most important listening was to hear God speak to them as they went through this process.

And a very special thanks to Edie who has served as interim over the past year and a half. I will be quite honest and say I am thankful she was here to transition GFPC in this time as it would not have been a strength of mine. Her work with session and the congregation has made this transition easier and helped keep our GFPC family together and in some cases, stronger.

In Malachi 3:6 God says, "For I am the Lord, I change not." Isn't that comforting? With all the changes, there is one thing that cannot change – GOD.

So, let the changes come. We will not walk in fear, but in faith! We will trust God with all the changes and know that He is more than able to help us and that He even has plans to bless us.

David

YOUTH SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Sunday, March 3 – Youth

Wednesday, March 6—LOGOS Ash Wed.

Sunday, March 10—Youth

Wednesday, March 13—No LOGOS

Sunday, March 17—Youth

Wednesday, March 20—LOGOS

Sunday, March 24—GAP-No Youth

Wednesday, March 27— LOGOS Fish Fry

Sunday, March 31—No Youth



FROM THE REV. ASHLEY DRAKE MERTZ

Dear Grace First Members and Friends,

It is with great excitement that I write this letter to you. Over the past few months I have come to know about you through the PNC and I am eager to get to know you in person. Through conversations with the PNC and reading the MIF you all established as a congregation it is clear that God is moving in this congregation. I'm looking forward to being part of the ministry of Jesus Christ that is lived out through Grace First.



One thing that stood out to me from the beginning of learning about Grace First is your desire to move forward, to embrace the future, and to be led by Jesus in how to respond to the evolving needs of Weatherford and Parker County. As we join in ministry together I am hopeful for the paths we will journey with one another. In the days ahead I ask for your prayers and I will be praying for all of you as you come to an end of your time with Pastor Edie. When I arrive on April 1 we will be in the midst of Lent, the season of reflection and preparation. I hope you will reflect fondly on the place to which God has brought Grace First and will prepare for the ministry yet to be fulfilled.

I am thankful and excited that God has called us to one another and I look forward to joining you in ministry at Grace First.

Blessings,
Ashley



Pastor Edie stepped into our church and our lives just eighteen months ago, but in that time she has become not only the pastor in the pulpit, but also a teacher, a counselor, a comforter and a friend. Andrew, too, has shared his gifts of preaching and teaching, and together they are helping us to prepare for and welcome a new pastor in the weeks ahead. So, please plan to attend a reception in the Great Hall following worship on **Sunday, March 24**, to express your thanks for their service and to wish them well as they move into retirement (again!)

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FEBRUARY 21, 2019

Session approved recommendations from the Clerk:

- Dismiss Grace Carpenter (Goeldner) from GFPC to Moody Methodist Church in Galveston, Texas by letter of transfer.
- Remove J. Pat Wise from the roll of GFPC.

Session approved recommendations from the Board of Trustees:

- Amounts of \$3,000 for the 2019 Caroline Dickerson scholarship and \$13,100 for the Kate Rieves scholarships.
- An amount of \$3,200 for the Goldsmith scholarship.

Session approved recommendations from Christian Education:

- June 24-28, 2019 as VBS week.
- April 20 from 10-11:30 A.M. for the Easter Eggstravaganza.
- April 28 for a Variety Show with proceeds going for our children/youth Camps and Conferences.

Session approved recommendations from Mission and Outreach:

- Hold a blood drive on September 18, 2019.
- Sending a \$200 donation (money to come from the Compassion Fund) and the undesignated cash from every 5th Sunday to the Ministerial Alliance Transient Fund (after the Ryle Fund has reaches its goal). ***See below**

Session approved Property's request to change the deductible on GFPC's property insurance from \$2,500 per claim to a deductible of \$10,000 for wind and hail damage and \$5,000 for all other losses. This will save GFPC \$1,314 per year in property insurance costs.

Session approved Deacons/In-Touch Ministry recommendation to use \$150 from the Memorial Fund to purchase a memorial brick to be placed at Weatherford College.

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*At our February session meeting, the session voted that our 5th Sunday undesignated cash offerings go to the Ministerial Alliance Transient Fund. This fund is set up through the Ministerial Alliance and the Weatherford Police Department to provide one night housing for transient folks coming through Parker County. This fund is solely supported by local churches and is given out at the Police department if ministers have folks come to the church seeking lodging. Thank you for your contributions to this fund and for helping us help those who are in need. If you have any questions please contact David.
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GRACE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN 2018 YEAR END FINANCIAL REPORT

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	Expenses through	
	<u>12/31/2018</u>	<u>Overall %</u>
MINISTRY		
Worship & Music	\$ 12,886.42	2.80%
Mission & Outreach	\$ 53,041.18	11.51%
Christian Education & LOGOS	\$ 7,254.88	1.57%
Youth/Young Adult	\$ 11,479.97	2.49%
Deacon, Officer Expenses & Congregational Life	\$ 4,950.53	1.07%
Property Maintenance	\$ 81,908.93	17.78%
Office Operations	\$ 15,671.68	3.40%
Scholarships	\$ 15,700.00	3.41%
Total Ministries	\$ 202,893.59	55.97%
PERSONNEL		
Total Personnel	\$ 257,882.98	55.97%
2018 TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 460,776.57	100.00%

MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Session

Thurs. Mar. 21, 6:15 p.m.

Personnel

Tues. Mar. 5, 6:15 p.m.

Worship & Music

Thurs. Mar. 14, 5:00 p.m.

Mission & Outreach

Thurs. Mar. 7, 6:00 p.m.

Property

Sat. Mar. 9, 9:00 a.m.

Trustees

Wed. Mar. 13, 9:30 a.m.

Christian Education

Sun. Mar. 10, 12:00 p.m.

Communications

Tues. Mar. 26, 12:00 p.m.

Board of Deacons

Sun. Mar. 10, 12:00 p.m.

In-Touch

Thurs. Mar. 21, 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Life

Thurs. Mar. 14, 6:15 p.m.



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, Mar. 7, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, Mar. 12, 12:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, Mar. 18, 6:00 pm

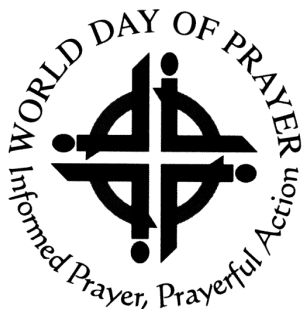
MANNA UPDATE

EMPHASIS FOR MARCH

**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.

**Don't forget!!
Daylight Saving Time
Begins on Sunday, March 10**



Friday, March 1, 2019

Chair Yoga meets at 2 p.m. in the Great Hall
every Tuesday. Members are
encouraged to attend.

Pray without ceasing
1 Thessalonians 5:17

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS



Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

F E B R U A R Y

Chris Gerber
 Mishaela Gerber
 David Marsden
 Stephanie Marsden
 The Forester Family
 Danial Rivas Family
 Amy & Hughlen White
 Kellie Hodnett
 Marley Young
 Ashley Garcia

St. Patrick died on March 17th in A.D. 461. He is best known for organizing the church in Ireland and spreading Christianity by sharing the Gospel about Jesus with the Irish people.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To the following GFPC members:



M A R C H

Eric Huerta	3	Claire Varnon	16
Ed Kramer	3	Erik Skov	17
Nancy Harris	6	Nadine Rayborn	18
Marti Roschè	12	Jill Bray	23
Richard Varnon	15	Delainy O'Hern	29
V.A. Littleton	16		

M A R C H V O L U N T E E R S C H E D U L E

Lay Leaders:

March 17-Judy Rawlins
 March 24-Janelle Currin
 March 31-Jeff Kahlden

Deacon Assignments:

Janet Duncan & Mac Smith

Nursery Help:

March 17—Sarah Eidson

Greeters:

March 3
 Dave & Janet Douglass

March 10

Girl Scouts

March 17

Seth Goeldner & Wendy Bates

March 24

Bonnie Evans & Karen Lail

March 31

Susie Bossert & Janelle Currin

Guest Station:

March 3—Sue Jones
 March 10—Judy Rawlins
 March 17—Wendy Bates
 March 24—Janet Douglass
 March 31—Sarah Eidson

Communion Elders:

Sue Jones, Linda Crownover,
 Claire Varnon and Cathy Devlin

Communion Set and Clean Up :

Jill Bray, Linda Snow, Dawn
 Kahlden and Melanie Curtin



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S CHILI/CHOCOLATE COOK-OFF WINNERS!

Chili Winners

1st Place, Stephanie Eidson

2nd Place, Janet Duncan

3rd Place, Kevin Goeldner

Chocolate Winners

1st Place, Kellie Hodnett

2nd Place, Stephanie Eidson

3rd Place, Leslie Goeldner

**People's Choice Award (Chili)

1st Place, Rusty Crownover

2nd Place, Jeff Kahlden

3rd Place, Christie Tull

**People's Choice Award (Chocolate)

1st Place, Kellie Hodnett

2nd Place, Hudson Kahlden

3rd Place, Seth Goeldner

Fireman's choice for Children's Chocolate:

1st place - Hadley Brice

2nd place - Hudson Kahlden

3rd place - Quinn Kahlden

Through your generous donations we were able to raise \$1,857 which the Mission & Outreach Ministry will donate an additional \$700 for a grand total of \$2,557 for Habitat!

Also, a big thank you to the participants and the Congregational Life/Mission and Outreach ministries. Everyone involved did a great job and it's much appreciated. It's not too early to begin thinking about your 2020 entries for the Chili Chocolate Cook-off!



MARCH EVENTS

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CELEBRATE THE GIFTS OF WOMEN SUNDAY

Sunday, March 3, Presbyterian Women will be leading the worship service, "*The Grace of God Has No Boundaries*", doing everything except the sermon. Please make plans to join us!

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ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, March 6 at 6:45 p.m. in the Sanctuary following the LOGOS Dinner. Ash Wednesday marks the first day of Lent, the period of preparation leading up to Easter. The Ash Wednesday service will be a solemn time of reflection, prayer and confession along with the placing of ashes on the forehead as a sign of repentance.

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THIRD SUNDAY LUNCH



Sunday, March 17, after worship in the Great Hall. Bring a potluck dish to share and stay for good food and good fellowship.

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GOOD-BYE RECEPTION

Following worship on Sunday, March 24, there will be a reception in honor and thanks for Pastor Edie.

30

GAME NIGHT

Congregational Life would like to invite you, your friends and families to Game night. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with dinner provided by Congregational life. Please join us, as this is a great way to fellowship with one another in a relaxed setting.

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FIFTH SUNDAY

We will leave for the Ft. Worth Presbyterian Night Shelter at 3 p.m. Please sign-up on the Stewardship Covenant insert if you are interested in serving the evening meal.

*All undesignated Offerings will go toward the Ministerial Alliance Fund. See page 4.

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KEENELAND WORSHIP SERVICE

Members of Grace First provide a short worship/singing service for the residents of Keeneland Nursing Home on the last Sunday of the month.

GIRL SCOUT SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2019

Girl Scouts of the USA is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, girls develop qualities that will serve them all their lives, like leadership, strong values, social conscience, and conviction about their own potential and self-worth.

Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place

The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.



SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The Kate Rieves Scholarship and Caroline Dickerson Scholarship applications are now available.

An applicant letter along with the application are available on the Narthex table. **Please read the letter and application carefully** as they detail all the requirements. You may apply for both scholarships, but can only be awarded one.

Deadline for turning in applications is **March 15, 2019.**

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Members and Their Families

Sarah Arnold
Jackie Case
Dianna Dixon
Bel Wise
Melvin Dale
Peggy Boardman

Friends

Jack Nixon, family of the Moss'
Tom Shopoff and Jim Watkins, friends of the Moss'
Gavin Sheppard, Alycia Nelson's Nephew
Frankie Werner, friend of Sue Jones
Jo Ann Fowler, friend of Myrlan Coleman
Kati Hamilton, daughter of Linda Tingle
Autumn Reed, friend of Deb Kaiser

Continuing Concerns

Grainger Weston, father of Sarah Eidson
Nona, mother of Deb Kaiser
Greg, father of Shanteé Siebuhr
Don Jones, cousin of Roberta Furman
David Wenzel, son-in-law of Peggy Boardman
Chloe-Marion Parry, Mother of Marion Harris

Homebound and Nursing Home Members

Frank & Arda Morgan, Elmcroft of Graham TX
Paul & Kaye Martino, Martin Crest
Christene Donnell, College Park
Bel Wise, Santa Fe Nursing Home
Dannie Woodard, Home

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life of

J. PAT WISE

March 2, 1924—February 21, 2019

We join with the family in sharing the hope
that we have in life eternal through
Jesus Christ.

Lane Anette Seidler
was born Feb. 22.
Weighing 9 pounds 9 oz.!
Mom and dad are
Maggi and Brandon Seidler.
Welcomed by proud Nana,
Stephanie Eidson,
Aunt Marti, Uncle Greg and
cousins Colin and Catherine Rosche.





Grace First Presbyterian Church
606 Mockingbird Lane
Weatherford, TX 76086

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.

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.*
Office Coordinator, *Lacey VanPay*
Financial Administrator, *Alycia Nelson*



PHONE NUMBERS

817-594-2744 Office
817-565-6756 Pastor Cell

WEBSITE

WWW.GRACEFIRSTPC.ORG

**EMAIL
ADDRESSES**

Church—info@gracefirstpc.org
Edie—egause@gracefirstpc.org
David—dslyter@gracefirstpc.org
Marialice—mparish@gracefirstpc.org
Alycia—anelson@gracefirstpc.org
Lacey—lvanpay@gracefirstpc.org