

Grace First Presbyterian Church

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

JANUARY
2020

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PASTOR ASHLEY'S PEACE

Growing up I thought 20/20 vision meant my eyesight was perfect. Yet, as I've been learning more about this in thinking about the upcoming 2020 year I learned that it meant one part of my vision, my visual acuity, or the clarity and sharpness of my vision, was near perfect. But, that there could be even more sharpness or clarity to it. As I've learned more about visual acuity: how it is tested, how the understanding of it has changed over time, etc., I have realized that 20/20 vision really does fit perfectly for us in this 2020 year we are entering together.

20/20 vision is not perfect: As we go into 2020 we are presented with new opportunities and challenges as a church community and as members of Parker County. There will be numerous ways presented to us this year to be God's light in this community and beyond. We have to start with ourselves, being God's light to one another is crucial. So may we look at one another not with expectations of perfection but with an understanding of love, mercy, and grace.

20/20 vision tests visual acuity: When our vision is tested and we are told we have 20/20 vision, or 20/200 vision, we are being tested in a stagnant environment with a standard set of measurements and scores. This test does not take into account any movement. For us to improve our vision of God's kingdom and discern God's will for Grace First into the future we must sit still. We have to be attuned to God's voice to be able to see where it is leading. So may we each enter into intentional prayer for God to open doors for us to serve the community in new ways. May we pray for the Holy Spirit to blow among us giving us a sense of clarity and sharpness in our forward path.

We will celebrate
**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Sunday, Jan. 5
Sunday, Feb. 2

Staff Schedules

Marialice is out on Jan. 5

Pastor David is out
Friday, Jan. 24—26 &
Jan. 31-Feb 2

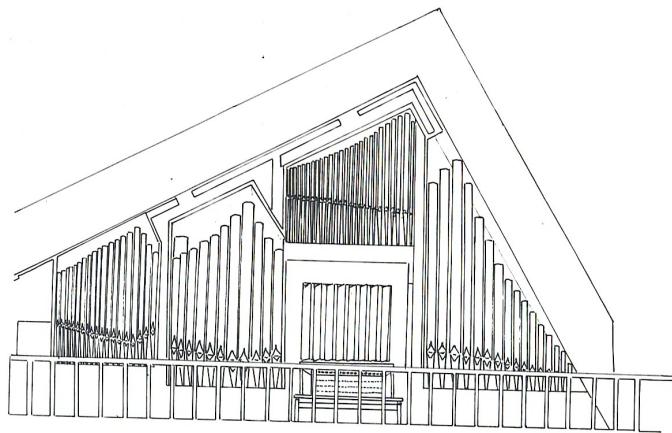
Pastor Ashley will be
out Jan. 19—22 on the
Border Mission Trip &
January 29—Feb. 1.

20/20 vision has been improved: It's easy to get caught up in the way things were or the way they've always been done. Every church, family, school; basically every system in existence can get in this rut. In learning about how 20/20 vision measurement came about I read that it is believed that people can now have better vision because of the changes in type and print that have been developed since Dr. Herman Snellen first created the measurement system in 1862. So while things may have looked perfect at one time, change is not bad, and it could even mean it gets better. As we enter this new decade, as we enter 2020, may we pray for openness to God's plan for Grace First, not for the sake of change, but for the sake of God's presence in and through us.

CONTINUED...

... C O N T I N U E D

It is my absolute joy to enter 2020 with this congregation, and I trust that God has been preparing each of us for the days ahead. May we trust God's leading as we travel this road together! It won't be perfect, but as long as we are focused on God's leading we will undoubtedly make a Christ like impact on this community and one another. May the peace of Christ be in and with you each and every day!

**M A R I A L I C E ' S M U S I C N O T E S****The Hymns We sing**

"What Star Is This, with Beams So Bright" is one of our beloved Epiphany hymns. It is found in **Glory To God** on page 152. The original text was written in Latin by Charles Coffin and included in *Paris Breviary* and *Hymni Sacri Auctore Carolo Coffin*, both published in 1736. It is an Epiphany hymn that has undergone many translations throughout the years. John Julian, in *A Dictionary of Hymnology* (rev. ed., 1907), stated, "In each hymnbook the text is altered, and no two books agree upon the same alterations." The hymn was translated into English by John Chandler in his *Hymns of the Primitive Church* (1837).

The tune, "Puer Nobis Nascitur", is a variant form of "Puer Nobis", a melody found with the Latin original of the hymn "Unto Us a Child Is Born" from the fifteenth century Trier manuscript. The tune was adapted by Michael Praetorius in 1609 for another hymn. The harmonization we use today is that of Englishman George Ratcliff Woodward. This tune is used five times in **Glory To God**.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Happy New Year! With a new year usually comes some new goals and resolutions and a new start to another year. It is no different with the new year at GFPC. I am excited about the new year and all that we have coming up for children and youth. We are looking at some changes for the upcoming year and this month's newsletter is devoted to what has, is, and going to happen for 2020!

- The former “media room” has been converted to a more usable space with the old theatre Seats taken out and replaced with tables and chairs for the kids during children’s worship and for LOGOS.
- The junior and senior high rooms have gone through some makeovers as well with new couches, loveseat, and chairs. All the mattress seating has been removed and there is more space in each classroom. The junior high room will also be getting a new coat of paint.
- We are really moving into the 21st century in our classrooms as we are eliminating all of the chalk boards and replacing them with magnetic white boards!

LOGOS will begin on January 8 and we anticipate another large group of kids. We are going to divide the older class into 3-4th graders and have the 5th graders in a class of their own. With this change we need two people to be an extra set of hands and eyes. We have teachers for both classes in place but need the extra help. If you can help them out on Wednesday's from 5:15-6pm please contact me or Leslie.

The children’s Carol Choir will be singing regularly every Third Sunday of the month during worship. In March it will be on the second Sunday due to Spring break beginning on the third Sunday. Cherub choirs plan on singing as well but a definite schedule has not been set yet.

LOGOS parents!

There will be a parent’s meeting for the parents of LOGOS kids on Wednesday, **January 15 at 7pm**. The purpose of the meeting will be to inform parents and kids of expectations during the spring semester of LOGOS. We will be sending a letter home with the kids on January 8 to remind you. Also, I have set up a Remind account that I will be using to remind parents about upcoming events with LOGOS.

May the New Year be full of blessings and peace to you and your family!

MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

MINISTRY
MEETINGS**Session**

Thurs. Jan. 16, 6:15 p.m.

Personnel

Tues. Jan. 7, 6:15 p.m.

Worship & Music

Mon. Jan. 6, 5:00 p.m.

Mission & Outreach

Thurs. Jan. 2, 6:00 p.m.

Property

Sat. Jan. 4, 9:00 a.m.

Trustees

Wed. Jan. 8, 9:30 a.m.

Christian Education

Sun. Jan. 12, 12:00 p.m.

Communications

Sun. Jan. 26, 12:00 p.m.

Board of Deacons

Sun. Jan. 12, 12:00 p.m.

In-Touch

Thurs. Jan. 16, 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Life

Thurs. Jan. 9, 6:15 p.m.

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."

-Helen Keller



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, Jan 2, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, Jan 14, 12:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, Jan 20, 6:30 pm

MANNA UPDATE**EMPHASIS FOR JANUARY**

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.

CHILI/CHOCOLATE COOK-OFF

Sunday, February 16, following worship in the Great Hall we will hold our 10th annual Chili/Chocolate cook-off.

Mark your calendars and start planning now on what you might enter into this year's cook-off.

**Book Talk!**

There will be a Book Talk on Thursday, January 16, sponsored by Presbyterian Women. The book to read, or just come listen to learn about, is *The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall. Please consider reading this book and joining us at 10:00 am to talk about it. Janice Smith will lead the discussion.

The novel is described by The New York Times Book Review as "a moving portrait of love and friendship set against a backdrop of social change." In *The Dearly Beloved*, we follow two couples, ministers and their wives, through decades of love and friendship, jealousy and understanding, forgiveness and commitment.

Hope you will plan to join in the discussion!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

**Welcome Guests**

Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

DECEMBER

Luann Burleson	
Barrett Eidson	
Jon Eidson	
Larry & Kay Hale	
Jim & Bonnie Hardy	
Ervin Hauk	
Marlee, Maisee & Michael Hendrix	
Danny Lockwood	
Melanie Munyard	
Jack & Peter Nave	
Alycia Nelson & Family	
Calli Padgett	
Eric Reed	
Alex & Madelyn Rogers	
Llaiene Strattman	
Lacey VanPay & Family	
Nancy Wester	
Stephanie Williams	

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

To the following GFPC members:

JANUARY

Daniel Arnold	3	Kelly Baggett	19
Lacy Davis	5	Emily Gonzales	19
Allie Mittendorf	6	Jake Mittendorf	20
Bryana Callahan	7	Lanie Arnold	21
Janet Duncan	7	Melvin Dale	21
Dawn Ryle	13	Mike Davis	23
Charles Baird	15	Dave Kaiser	25
Fynnegan Pilkington	15	Bob Allen	26
Ethan Williams	15	Myrlan Coleman	26
Jane Moss	16	Meagan Arnold	27
Aiden Coleman	17	Janet Douglass	27
Johnathon Siebuhr	18	Sarah Eidson	28
Shanteé Siebuhr	18		

The Session has called the congregation to meet immediately following worship on Sunday, January 26 for the GFPC Annual Meeting. The meeting will include voting and/or receiving a report on the following items:

- To approve a proposed change in the GFPC bylaws from 12 to 9 Ruling Elders.
- To approve a continued suspension of the GFPC bylaws as it relates to the number of Deacons currently serving. (This will allow Deacons one more year to determine if 9 serving Deacons will work or if we should revert to the current bylaw standard of 12.)
- To elect members of the nominating committee for 2020-2021.
- To hear a report on various GFPC activities as planned for 2020.

JANUARY EVENTS

1**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

Wednesday, January 1, 2020. In observance of the New Year's holiday, the church office will be closed. Happy New Year!

2020

5**CELEBRATE EPIPHANY**

Sunday, January 5. The Epiphany of our Lord will be celebrated during the Sunday service. Christians recognize Epiphany in honor of the coming of the three kings to the infant Jesus Christ.

8**FIRST LOGOS OF THE YEAR !**

Wednesday, January 8. LOGOS begins for another term of fellowship and fun.

4 p.m.—8 p.m. a Blood Drive will be held in the GFPC parking lot. Sign-up on our website!

12**SECURITY MEETING**

In the Parlor following worship we will hold the first of two training session for the Security System. If you have a key, it is mandatory you attend one of the training sessions. See page 9 for more details!

13**SECURITY MEETING**

Monday evening at 6:30 pm in the Parlor we will hold the second training session for the Security System. If you have a key, it is mandatory you attend one of the training sessions.

16**BOOK TALK !**

There will be a Book Talk on Thursday, January 16 at 10 a.m. sponsored by Presbyterian Women. See page 4 for more info!

26**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

Following Worship the annual Congregational Meeting will be held. More info on page 5.

Carter BloodCare Blood Drive



**When: Wednesday, January 8, 2020
4:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M.**

Where: GFPC Parking Lot (Carter BloodCare Bus)

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

Deacon Assignments:

Greg Rosché & Erika Trevino

Communion Servers: Jane Moss, Gary Snow,

Janice Smith & Ed Moss

Greeters:

January 5—Jim & Janet Duncan

January 12—Ashley Garcia & Leslie Goeldner

January 19—Seth Goeldner & Karen Lail

January 26—Margaret Martin & Jane Moss

Communion Set and Clean Up:

Christie Tull, Cathy Zellers, Linda Snow

& Jean Thomason

Lay Leaders:

January 5—Stephanie Eidson

January 12—Seth Goeldner

January 19—Leslie Goeldner

January 26—Jeff Kahlden



Gilmont Women's Retreat!

F e b r u a r y 7 - 9 , 2 0 2 0

Theme: Soul Spa

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Cindy Ryan

Dr. Ryan will share real life soul tending techniques guaranteed to send us back into the world refreshed and recommitted to spiritual self-care. Start making plans now to attend this great retreat. The price includes room and meals for Friday evening through Sunday lunch.

Lodge – Double Rooms, \$195/person

Cabin Community Space - \$175/person

Cozy Cabin Discount – Register with 6 friends by Dec. 1, 2019 for \$150/person.

Visit www.gilmont.org/womens'retreat for more info and to register.

You may also email, info@gilmont.org, or call, 903-797-6400.

If you are interested in attending, sign up on the bulletin's
Stewardship Covenant insert or see Jill Bray.

I N O U R T H O U G H T S A N D P R A Y E R S

Members and Their Families

Randy Coney
 Deb Kaiser
 Ann Binford, Sister of Jill Bray
 Dave Young
 Wendy Bates
 Melvin Dale
 Gene Dawson

Friends

Taylor Pegram, Daughter of Kevin Goeldner's Co-worker
 Diana Britt, Friend of the Furst Family
 Sara Casey, Sister of Gary Sheffield
 Bill & Joann Stolzfus, Friends of Gene & Martha Dawson
 Ann Burdett, Co-worker of Roberta Furman
 Kati Hamilton, Daughter of Linda Tingle
 Autumn Reed, Friend of Deb Kaiser

Continuing Concerns

Kathy Coats, Sister of Dawn Kahlden
 Carol Gomez, Sister of Dawn Kahlden
 Grainger Weston, Father of Sarah Eidson
 Nona, Mother of Deb Kaiser
 Greg, Father of Shanteé Siebuhr
 Don Jones, Cousin of Roberta Furman
 Chloe-Marion Perry, Mother of Marion Harris
 Gerald Perry, Father of Marion Harris

Homebound and Nursing Home Members

Christene Donnell, College Park
 Ginger Goeldner Clear Fork Assisted Living
 Frank & Arda Morgan, Elmcroft of Graham
 Tom Martin, Martin Crest
 Kakie Williams, Martin Crest
 Bel Wise, Brookdale
 Dannie Woodard, Home

Y O U T H S C H E D U L E F O R J A N U A R Y

Sunday, Jan. 5—Youth Group @ 5

Wednesday, Jan. 8—LOGOS is back!

Sunday, Jan. 12—Youth Group @ 5

Wednesday, Jan. 15—LOGOS

Sunday, Jan. 19—No Youth

Wednesday, Jan. 22—LOGOS

Sunday, Jan 26—No Youth

Wednesday, Jan. 29—LOGOS

[SHYC Weekend January 31—February 1!](#)



Please contact the church office with change of addresses, phone numbers, & e-mail addresses. Don't forget your kid's new college addresses.

Please help keep the office informed when there is a sickness, someone is in the hospital, or a death in the family. The office will then let the rest of the church family know to lift up in prayer those in need. Also, let us know when it is okay to remove a name from our concerns list. Joys, accomplishments and achievements are important to us too and can be shared through Church Matters. Call us or email us. THANKS, The Office

NOTES FROM THE COMMITTEES

The Security committee plans to go live with our security system on February 1. This means that as of Feb 1, if you unlock the empty church building or are the final person to lock the building you will need to know the proper buttons and PIN to enter on the keypad in order to arm or disarm the system.

Training is **mandatory** for those who have a key to the church and wish to keep it. You may attend either of two training sessions that are scheduled. The first will be in the Parlor immediately following church on January 12. The second session will be in the Parlor on Monday January 13 at 6:30. Training is expected to last no more than 45 minutes, and you're welcome to bring a sack-lunch/supper to either meeting.



Thanks to your prayerful and generous commitments 76.17% of the new budget is covered with pledges and 20.68% is covered with existing, dedicated funds.

You all committed to cover 96% (\$395,260) of the requested \$411, 626 pledge amount of the overall budget.

In addition to those of you who have generously pledged we know there are giving families that do not pledge but regularly support the budget at about the same level each year.

Many of you also made commitments of time and talent without which the ministry of the church could not be fulfilled. Some of you are taking on new challenges and others are continuing your commitments to areas of ministry within the church that you have long held dear. Either way, your commitments are used to bring Christ into the world.

The Stewardship Committee believes the new budget is adequately supported to proceed at this time. As always, the church family sincerely appreciates your gracious support. We understand that your commitments of time, talent, and treasure are sacrifices and we are grateful that you entrust us with these gifts to proclaim the love of God in Weatherford and beyond.

Signed,
Your Stewardship Committee

Grace First Presbyterian Church
606 Mockingbird Lane
Weatherford, TX 76086



Grace First Presbyterian Church

www.gracefirstpc.org

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

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

STAFF

Pastor, Ashley Drake Mertz
Associate Pastor, 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 Ashley's Cell
512-940-9301 Pastor David's Cell

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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Alycia—anelson@gracefirstpc.org
Lacey—lvanpay@gracefirstpc.org