

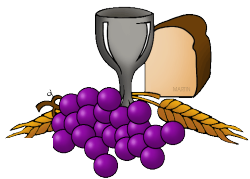
Grace First Presbyterian Church

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

**AUGUST
2019**

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We will celebrate
HOLY COMMUNION
Sunday, Aug. 4

PASTOR ASHLEY'S PEACE

Happy August, Everyone! The summer is flying by. I can't believe we are already to August. June and July were packed with preparing for Guatemala and then heading down to serve with friends old and new for a week. Our group was made up of 18 individuals, two of whom came along after hearing about it here at Grace First! During VBS the children (and many adults) donated books and money to go toward a library project that Mission Co-Worker Debbie Welch has implemented in Coban, Guatemala. I was able to take an entire carry on size roller bag full of books, with an additional \$420 for Debbie to purchase more books! Additionally, \$100 was given toward construction cost on the church we've been working on completing for two years, over 80 cards were decorated and signed with messages in Spanish from our young people, and Colin Rosché wanted to share his love of coloring by sending multiple packs of crayons and coloring books.

It was an honor to represent you all, along with Katy Smith (granddaughter of Nancy and Dave Deison), as we presented these offerings to our friends. The books will be put to great use in classrooms that have no storybooks, the notecards will be shared with all the children of the Monte Carmelo Church in Limon Sur, the cash was used to purchase roofing materials for the new church building, and the school in Limon Sur (that serves children who attend one of three Presbyterian Churches in the rural village) happily received the coloring books and crayons. They remarked that they didn't have either of these for their preschool age children.

Thank you to all of you who have embraced my love for Guatemala, and especially for the people of Guatemala whom I have loved for the past six years. I am looking forward to exploring how the Grace First community may consider investing into the lives of our Presbyterian brothers and sisters there, and reaching communities that desperately need simple, basic resources.

As we head into a new school year and look toward our fall church programming I hope you all will consider ways to continue the support of education by contributing to our backpack program, becoming a LOGOS volunteer, or helping out with numerous opportunities to serve the children and youth of GFPC.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

What a fantastic month of July! Exhausting but fantastic!

The other day at our staff meeting, Ashley asked us what the highs and lows of our life were since we last met. Without a doubt or hesitation, I said, "My high definitely was Synod!"

For those of you who do not know what Synod is, it is a weeklong high school conference held at Tulsa University for youth from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana, and this year Missouri. Churches bring their youth and sponsors and almost immediately they are split up into different small groups that become your "Synod family." While it is a little unnerving for some youth, because they must meet new people, the small group quickly becomes their new church family for the week.

GFPC had four youth, three sponsors, and three staff members attend Synod this year. Our own Eryn Williams was on the planning team along with nine other youth. The planning team develops the theme, songs, energizers, and skits, basically they lead the conference. What a joy it was to see Eryn lead energizers and be a part of the planning of the best youth conference around!

Synod truly is a life changing experience for the youth who attend and even the adults who participate. This conference is one that I look forward to each year with great joy and anticipation. If you have been, you know what I am talking about. If you have never been, you can rest assured we will continue to go and I encourage you to go as a sponsor so you can experience the Presbyterian youth of today as they lead and develop into the future leaders of the Presbyterian church.

GRACE FIRST FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT 2019

	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	YTD
Income	\$ 140,244.50	\$ 170,121.47	\$ 310,365.97
Expenses	\$ 115,030.19	\$ 159,397.02	\$ 274,427.21
2019 Budget	\$ 476,875.00		
Income needed monthly	\$ 39,739.58		
Income needed quarterly	\$ 119,218.75		
Income needed YTD	\$ 238,437.50		



MARIALICE'S MUSIC NOTES

Singers in the Sanctuary Choir will resume their weekly rehearsals on Wednesday, August 14, at 7:00, after their summer rest. They will be singing in worship on Genesis Sunday, August 18. This is a great time for interested singers in the Congregation to come and join us. This is a great group to become a part of, and we have lots of fun AND wonderful parties!

Sanctuary Handbells will resume their Tuesday rehearsals on September 3, at 5:00.

Cherub and Carol Choirs will begin on Wednesday, September 4, with 3:30 snacks and 4:00 rehearsals. Cherub singers, kindergarten through second grade; Carol singers, third through sixth grade.

I wish to thank all those who came upstairs to the loft for the organ demonstrations. The groups were enthusiastic and inquisitive, and hopefully learned more about the lovely pipe organ that lives within the walls of Grace First Sanctuary.

The pipe organ has enhanced worship for centuries, and with the installations of great organs all over the world, the pipe organ will endure for centuries to come. The Psalms encourage us to sing praises to God with trumpets, pipes and the sound of horn, all of which the pipe organ is ready to joyfully play!

CHAIR YOGA 2019 FALL SCHEDULE TUESDAY AT 2 P.M., GREAT HALL

Have you tried yoga and given up because you couldn't get down to the floor and back up? Have you had knee or hip replacement and find yoga painful or uncomfortable? Have you suffered recent illness which has left your stamina at a low point? If any of these apply, come and try chair yoga. Starting **Tuesday, September 3**. Please bring a yoga mat to keep the chair from slipping. Contact Suzanne Rothrock at 817-597-6180, email s_rothrock@sbcglobal.net or Linda Crownover at 817-901-9986, email ln-crown@sbcglobal.net for further questions or concerns.

Chair Yoga is available for GFPC members only.



Presbyterian Women

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an independent organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of more than 300,000 women. PW offers women in the church meaningful ways to live out their faith in the midst of a caring community of women. At Grace First, if you are a woman and a member of our church you are considered a Presbyterian Woman and invited to participate in any and all of our activities (of course friends are welcome too). PW does not receive any budgeted monetary support from Grace First, but operates independently with funds coming only from donations/pledges of those women who participate. If you have attended Book Talk, a Sole Hope Party, a Thank Offering Luncheon, packing cookies for homebound, a Birthday Offering Salad Supper, a Ladies Tea, packing college care boxes, an all women led worship service, or a Circle Bible Study, then you have been to a Presbyterian Women planned event. Additionally, PW gives quarterly to mission support at the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly level. Please help us continue to fulfill the PW Purpose:

Forgiven and freed by God in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves

- *to nurture our faith through prayer and Bible study,*
- *to support the mission of the church worldwide,*
- *to work for justice and peace,*
- *to build an inclusive, caring community of women that strengthens the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and witnesses to the promise of God's kingdom.*

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN FALL KICK-OFF

Presbyterian Women will be having their annual Fall Kick-Off Luncheon on Sunday, August 25 following worship. We will gather for a light lunch in the Great Hall and then afterwards, Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz will present the Introduction and Lesson 1 of our new Horizons Bible Study book, *Love Carved in Stone* by Eugenia Anne Gamble. This promises to be an interesting study as we take a new and fresh look at the Ten Commandments. If you have never attended one of our PW Bible Study Circles, you are invited to join us for fellowship with some of the ladies who regularly attend, and learn what we are all about. Lunch will be provided.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN OPPORTUNITY!

First Presbyterian, Ft. Worth, has graciously invited all PW members to join them on **Tuesday, August 27**. Reverend Eugenia Anne Gamble, author of *“Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments”* the 2019-2020 Horizons Bible Study, will be our featured speaker. Bring your bible study book with you.

Fellowship 10-10:30 a.m. on the Third Floor Concourse

Program at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall

Lunch served at 12 p.m. (cost of lunch is \$7 per person)

Lunch reservations needed by Monday, August 19.

You may register online at <https://fpcf.org/pw/>. There is no charge if you will not have lunch, but they still need to know if you are coming.

If you do not have access to the internet to register, please let the church office know.

P . W . C I R C L E S

Presbyterian Women (PW) is an independent organization within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) of more than 300,000 women. PW offers women in the church meaningful ways to live out their faith in the midst of a caring community of women. At Grace First, if you are a woman and a member of our church you are considered a Presbyterian Woman and invited to participate in any and all of our activities (of course friends are welcome too).

Our Bible Study Circles will start meeting again in September and run through May. All women are invited to participate in either (or both) circles.

- **Circle 2** will meet on the second Tuesday of each month, beginning on September 10, at noon in the parlor. Bring a brown bag lunch and stay for the Bible Study lesson. Janice Smith is the moderator.
- **Circle 4** will meet on the third Monday of each month, beginning on September 16, at 6 p.m. in the parlor. Bring a dish to share for a potluck dinner, followed by the Bible Study lesson. Jill Bray and Robyn Coffey are co-moderators.

Childcare for any PW event can be provided upon request.

MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

MINISTRY MEETINGS



Presbyterian Women

Nurture Faith. Support Mission. Work for Justice & Peace. & Build Community

Session

Thurs., Aug. 15, 6:15 p.m.

Christian Education

Sun., Aug. 11, 12:00 p.m.

Mission & Outreach

Thurs., Aug. 1, 6:00 p.m.

Personnel

Tues., Aug. 6, 6:15 p.m.

Property

Sat., Aug. 3, 9:00 a.m.

Trustees

No August Meeting

Worship & Music

Mon., Aug. 5, 5:00 p.m.

Deacons

Sun., Aug. 11, 12:00 p.m.

Congregational Life

Thurs., Aug. 8, 6:15 p.m.

In Touch

Thur., Aug. 15, 5:30 p.m.

PW Coordinating Team,

Thursday, August 1, at 9 a.m.

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MANNA UPDATE

EMPHASIS FOR AUGUST

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.

NEW SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS!

The Weatherford Independent School District's new school year starts Monday, August 22!

We're Going Back To School



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

MISSION & OUTREACH BACKPACK PROGRAM

Across the country, teachers and school nurses have found that in some instances, Monday morning comes and they are forced to compete against hunger for the attention of their students. More than 18 million children qualify for free or reduced price meals through the National School Lunch Program, the fuel that they need to get them through the week. What happens to these children when they go home over the weekend?

Churches all around have adopted this Backpack Program to meet the needs of the children. Here is how it works:

A school is chosen to serve and the school determines how many children are in need. We have partnered with Wright Elementary and will provide packs for several children. Last year we provided 22 packs per week.

Disposable backpacks are purchased for the children to put the non-perishable foods in. Each week the packs are filled with 3 daily servings for 2 days (the weekend) The packs are dropped off at the school on Thursday or Friday, at which time the school Counselor gives backpacks to the children.

The Mission & Outreach Ministry is collecting the following items to fill backpacks
(individual packets only):



Applesauce, Beans & Franks, Beef & Cheese Sticks,
Beef Stew, Cereal Bars, Crackers, Fruit Cups,
Graham Crackers, Granola Bars, Cereal Boxes,
and Snack Items

Fruit Juice, Mac-n-Cheese, Oatmeal, Canned Vegetables,
Peanut Butter & Jelly, Pudding Cups, Raisins, Trail Mix,
Vienna Sausage, Cocoa Mix, Popcorn

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS

WELCOME
Enter as a Guest • Leave as Friends



HAPPY BIRTHDAY
To the following GFPC members:



AUGUST

Grace First welcomed the following guests
during the month of **JULY**

	Linda Skov	1	Christie Tull	16
Steve Coover	Stephanie Eidson	4	Parker Allen	17
Donna Dalton	Kyle Mittendorf	7	Sally Arnold	17
Doug Daniel	Dave Young	8	Daniel Trevino	17
Kirstin Janzen	Blair Currin	14	Destiny Spence	18
Cordell Massey	Rebecca Williams	14	Arda Morgan	21
	Mac Smith	16	Cathy Devlin	31

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Our Mission is to provide fellowship opportunities to our congregation and friends.

We invite you to serve on our ministry! New ideas are encouraged and welcomed.

We meet the second Thursday of the month at 6:15. Please join us!

Upcoming activities:

- Third Sunday Lunches
- Game Nights
- Shepherds Breakfast
- Cottage Ministries
- Advent Decorating



Sign up for Cottage Ministries!

Small groups will meet from October – May to enjoy fellowship and fun together. Each group will decide how often and where to meet. This is a wonderful way to better know our church family by sharing a meal, game night, or whatever each group decides! Please sign up on the Weekly Stewardship Covenant in the Sunday bulletin or contact Lacey. If you participated last year, please sign up also to be included. Names will be reshuffled and new groups formed the middle of September. A coordinator is needed in each group to contact and initiate planning for the group.

Hope you will join us!



AUGUST EVENTS

18

GENESIS SUNDAY

Sunday, August 18, you are invited to breakfast in the Great Hall to celebrate the beginning of a new year of Christian Education. Breakfast will be served at 9:15 am.

**SEE BELOW*

25

PW KICK-OFF LUNCH

Sunday, August 25, following worship. All women of the church & Guests are invited!

**SEE PAGE 5*

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GAME NIGHT

August 31 at 6:00 p.m. Congregational Life will host another game night.

Dinner will be provided. This is a great way to fellowship with one another.

Genesis Sunday

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Genesis Sunday celebrates the beginning of a new year of Christian Education



You are invited to a **free breakfast** in the Great Hall. During this time you will hear about, and will be able to sign-up for, educational opportunities for the new year (Sunday School, LOGOS, Bible Studies, etc.). Breakfast will be served at 9:15 am.

Don't miss out on the fun—see you there!

AUGUST VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Lay Leader:

August 4—Jane Moss
August 11—Virginia Welsh
August 18—Janelle Currin
August 25—Jeff Kahlden

August Deacon Assignments:

Jean Thomason and Kelly Baggett

Nursery Help:

August 18—Ashley Garcia

Greeters:

August 4—Janelle Currin & Karen Lail
August 11—Jim & Janet Duncan
August 18—Leslie & Seth Goeldner
August 25—Wendy Bates & Susie Bossert

Guest Station:

August 4—Janet Douglass
August 11—Sarah Eidson
August 18—Myrna Fields
August 25—Roberta Furman

Communion Set and Clean Up:

Melissa O'Hern, Jean Thomason,
Christie Tull & Dawn Kahlden

Communion Servers:

Kevin & Leslie Goeldner, Joe Barnhart
& Nancy Deison

**Volunteer to help in the nursery
from 4-5 p.m. on LOGOS
Wednesdays!!**

LOGOS

LOGOS is our Mid-week afterschool program for children ages 4 to Senior High.
The activities includes snack, choir, recreation, Bible study, and a family style meal.

The fall term begins Wednesday, September 4 and
runs through Wednesday, November 20.

All church and family members are encouraged to enjoy the meal with the group.
The cost of meals for adults is \$4.00.

LOGOS is free to all kids who participate
in the program and table parents.

Come to Genesis Sunday for more information or contact
Leslie Goeldner goeldner@aledobb.com; 817-675-6622.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Members and Their Families

Janet Douglass
Jill Bray
Sunshine Billings
Sue Masterson
Melvin Dale
Gene Dawson

Homebound and Nursing Home Members

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

Friends

Mike and Barbara Pask, In-Laws of Glenn & Jean Bell
Taylor Pegram, Daughter of Kevin Goeldner's Co-worker
Diana Britt, Friend of the Furst Family
Sara Casey, Sister of Gary Sheffield
Bill & Joann Stolfutz, Friends of Gene & Martha Dawson
Aubry Wesnitzer, Friend of Brittany Dixon
Ann Burdett, Co-worker of Roberta Furman
Jack Nixon, Friend of the Moss's
Tom Shopoff and Jim Watkins, Friends of the Moss's
Frankie Werner, Friend of Sue Jones
Kati Hamilton, Daughter of Linda Tingle
Autumn Reed, Friend of Deb Kaiser

*Continue to include in your prayers
all of our homebound and nursing home
members, and all those serving in the
military and their families.*

Continuing Concerns

Kathy Coats, Sister of Dawn Kahlden
Carol Gomez, Sister of Dawn Kahlden
Gavin Sheppard, Alycia Nelson's Nephew
Grainger Weston, Father of Sarah Eidson
Nona, Mother of Deb Kaiser
Greg, Father of Shanteé Siebuhr
Don Jones, Cousin of Roberta Furman
David Wenzel
Chloe-Marion Perry, Mother of Marion Harris
Gerald Perry, Father of Marion Harris

In Memoriam

We thank God for the life of

Dave Douglass

(October 1, 1937—July 12, 2019)

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

CHURCH OFFICERS JUNE 2019—MAY 2020

Elders

Linda Crownover, Trustee
Dave Deison, Trustee
Stephanie Eidson
Leslie Goeldner
Marion Harris

Jeff Kahlden
Deb Kaiser
Karen Lail
Ed Moss, Trustee

Deacons

Kelly Baggett
Jerre Dale
Sue Jones
Greg Rosché

Mac Smith, Moderator
Jean Thomason
Erika Trevino
Christie Tull
Richard Varnon

Pastors

The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz
The Rev. David A. Slyter



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

Pastor, *The Rev. Ashley Drake Mertz*
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

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