

Grace First Presbyterian Church

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

JANUARY
2018

PASTOR EDIE'S PONDERINGS

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We will celebrate

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Sunday, Jan. 7

Sunday, Feb. 5



New Year Resolutions are one of our topics of conversations – we are going to lose weight, gain serenity, become marvelous in our workout routine, achieve better parenthood, and so on! We have great goals and expectations of ourselves. At least for the first few weeks for January.

The writer of Philippians has another take on our eagerness for self-improvement. Paul and Timothy are working together as they open the letter exhorting the reader to be a shining light. Toward the end they say, *Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down.*

Isn't it wonderful how Eugene Peterson translates the Greek words in his Bible version The Message? "Instead of worrying, pray." What would happen if everyone associated with this congregation let go of frets and worries and prayed? Prayed for the future of this congregation and then just waited – hard to do in the lives we live – but just waited. God would have the space to do some marvelous things in the collective life of Grace First Presbyterian Church.

After Christmas and New Year's Eve are past, this congregation is going to begin a plan of self-awareness, God-awareness, and collective awareness. Plan on praying, plan on being aware of God's new call to us, and plan to be aware of the direction this congregation will move.

Continued on page 2

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

First, there will be a gathering of everyone currently serving as an officer to plan the path of self-awareness (the visioning study). This will happen after worship on January 7, a sack lunch and meeting. If you have an idea for how this visioning can unfold in our congregation, please share your thoughts with a current elder or a current deacon.

Our representative from presbytery, the Rev. Michael Waschevski will attend this important planning meeting.

Then be sure to be part of the planning process – watch for announcements and make arrangements to be part of the process. Part of the time will be spent in small groups where each voice will be valued and heard. Please be one of the voices. Pray that we may see God's new call to Grace First's life as a congregation.

After the expectations of Grace First tomorrows are voiced and laid out, the congregation will elect a pastor nominating committee to go searching for a new installed pastor. This committee must represent the entire congregation (old, young, male, female, experienced, and discovering) and folks on it would be wise to give up other commitments while they serve. It is a task both arduous and rewarding!

Thus, we will discover together the path forward for our beloved Grace First congregation.

In Christ,
Pastor Edie



"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Yesterday

"The God of Israel will be your rereward"

Isaiah 52:12

Security from yesterday. "God requireth that which is past." At the end of the year we turn with eagerness to all that God has for the future, and yet anxiety is apt to arise from remembering the yesterdays. Our present enjoyment of God's grace is apt to be checked by the memory of yesterday's sins and blunders. But God is the God of our yesterdays, and He allows the memory of them in order to turn the past into a ministry of spiritual culture for the future. God reminds us of the past lest we get into shallow security in the present.

Security for tomorrow. "For the Lord will go before you." This is a gracious revelation, that God will garrison where we have failed to. He will watch lest things trip us up again into like failure, as they assuredly would do if He were not our rereward. God's hand reaches back to the past and makes a clearing-house for the conscience.

Security for today. "For ye shall not go out with haste." As we go forth into the coming year, let it not be in the haste of impetuous, unremembering delight, nor with the flight of impulsive thoughtlessness, but with the patient power of knowing that the God of Israel will go before us. Our yesterdays present irreparable things to us; it is true that we have lost opportunities which will never return, but God can transform this destructive anxiety into a constructive thoughtfulness for the future. Let the past sleep, but let it sleep on the bosom of Christ.

Leave the irreparable past in His hands, and step out into the irresistible future with Him.

My Utmost for His Highest
Oswald Chambers

YOUTH SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Sunday, Jan. 7—Game Night at 5 P.M.

Sunday, Jan. 21—Movie Night at 5 P.M.

Wednesday, Jan. 10—LOGOS is back!

Wednesday, Jan. 24—LOGOS

Sunday, Jan. 14—Escape Room—Time TBA

Friday, Jan. 26—Sunday, Jan. 28—SHYC

Wednesday, Jan. 17—LOGOS

Sunday, Jan. 28—**NO YOUTH**

Youth Group is open to youth in grades 6th—12th. If your child is interested in participating in Youth Group activities, please contact David Slyter.

MARIALICE'S MUSIC NOTES

As we greet the new year, I want to extend an invitation to join the Sanctuary Choir. We have plenty of seats available and lots of music to offer to our Heavenly Father. Singing in the choir offers many rewards for those singing: the joy of lifting your voice and learning new music (we always have plenty of practice time to learn); the fellowship and fun of rehearsals; offering good music in worship; and the great parties that we have. Come and join us!

Sanctuary Handbells will begin their rehearsals on Tuesday, January 2, 5:00-6:15.

The Children's music program will begin as Logos begins its spring term on Wednesday, January 10. We had a great group of children this fall and would like to see even more involved in our music program.

Again, my sincere thanks to all who participated in programs in December. Grace First has truly been blessed by your offering to our Blessed Savior.

Happy New Year!

Marialice

The Good Times Rolled

Grace Cartwright was leader of the youth of the church and she invited the group to her home for a party. She had in her den a very beautiful pool table. Drew Springer, Jackie Eidson, Jim Doss, and Mike Lindsey were young teenagers and had not seen very many pool tables in their lives, much less had the opportunity to try the game. Mike Lindsey said he thought he knew something about how the game was played. He took a cue, located a ball on the table, and was all set to demonstrate how to play. He pushed his cue at the ball, and somehow it caught the beautiful green felt and ripped it badly. The boys were petrified with horror. They wanted the earth to open up and swallow them, or perhaps they could run away and hide. As they stood, still in shock around the pool table, Mrs. Cartwright walked in. They gulped and showed her the misfortune. One of the stars in her crown, as far as the boys are concerned, will be because she smiled and said that things sometimes happen and that the felt could be replaced.

On Our Way Rejoicing, Page 67

You can check out the book "On Our Way Rejoicing" to learn more history/stories of the Presbyterian Church in Weatherford and Parker County,

CHURCH MATTERS – DECEMBER 15, 2017

Last evening on December 14, 2017, the Council of Grace First Presbyterian Church met, prayed, discussed, and adopted the following two actions. The Council asked its Moderator, Rev. Dr. Edie Gause, and its Clerk, Jill Bray, to convey to you the following. If you know of someone who does not receive email communications, please print this off and give to them. Thank you.

Two Scriptures come to mind as we consider these actions: From Proverbs 3:5 (The Message)
Trust God from the bottom of your heart; don't try to figure out everything on your own.

From Matthew 22:19-21, the question about paying taxes.

"Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's."

The first action the Council took concerns the immediate need for security and safety for our congregation during worship. As soon as arrangements are secure with the Weatherford Police Department, the church will pay for a trained, off-duty officer with a marked patrol car to be in the church parking lot and generally present outside the building during Sunday morning activities. This is a highly recommended deterrent. We also recommend that you get to know our protectors and help children know the friendliness of our officers as well as their protective role.

The Council also commended the Deacons for their work securing the building during morning worship. While you worship, a couple of Deacons are diligently watching. These actions are the first steps towards a comprehensive security plan for our facility that a sub-group of the Deacons is working towards. You will continue to hear more about this plan in the coming months.

The second action concerns both respect and security for those on our prayer and concerns list. In keeping with the spirit of HIPPA law, Council voted the following:

The Cares and Concerns publicized by Grace First, both on paper (bulletin, newsletter, etc.) and electronically (Church Matters, etc.) will be limited to the name of the person needing prayer and that no further information be given, unless requested by the individual or an immediate family member.

Secure in the knowledge that God knows our needs before we pray and that our prayer is supportive, we ask our staff, our Deacons, and our worshippers to follow this guideline.

For the Council,
Rev. Dr. Edie Gause, Moderator
Jill Bray, Clerk of Council

MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

MINISTRY
MEETINGS*Christian Education*

Sun., Jan. 14, Noon

Personnel

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

In Touch

Tues., Jan. 2, 9:30 a.m.

Property

Sat., Jan. 6, 9:00 a.m.

Congregational Life

Thurs., Jan. 11, 6:30 p.m.

Mission & Outreach

Thurs., Jan. 4, 6:30 p.m.

Trustees

Tues., Jan. 9, 10:00 a.m.

Deacons

Sun., Jan. 14, Noon

Worship & Music

Tues., Jan. 9, 3:30 p.m.

Prayer Shawl

Wed., Jan. 10, 4:00 p.m.

Council

Thurs., Jan. 18, 6:45 p.m.

*With God as our Leader,
may we be prepared to
live another year under
His guidance.*

Happy New Year!



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, Jan 4, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, Jan 9, 2:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, Jan 15, 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 18, following worship in the Great Hall
we will hold our 8th annual Chili/Chocolate cook-off. Mark
your calendars and start planning now on what you might
enter into this year's cook-off. This is a fundraiser for **Trinity
Habitat for Humanity**. More information forthcoming.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS



Grace First welcomed the following
guests during the month of

D E C E M B E R

Sue Coody
Greg Jolly
Amy Kramer
Kirk & Janie Pendleton
Chris & Virginia Welsh
Katlin Welsh
Priscilla Hall
Lela Morris
Valerie Froehlich
Ryan, Ashley, Haden, Kinsley
and Alison Rosché
Neil & Stephanie Bennett
Cari Masterson
Linda Nell Evans
Christopher Tull, Jr.
Anne Healy
Lynne Klaus
Paula Dardeganian
Mary Jo
Emma, Savannah and
Kennedy Cooke
Allen & Peggy Varnon



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To the following GFPC members:



JANUARY

Akhil Din-Mbuh	1	Kelly Baggett	19
Daniel Arnold	3	Emily Gonzales	19
Lacy Davis	5	Jake Mittendorf	20
Allie Mittendorf	6	Lanie Arnold	21
Bryana Callahan	7	Melvin Dale	21
Janet Duncan	7	Mike Davis	23
Dawn Ryle	13	Dave Kaiser	25
Charles Baird	15	Bob Allen	26
Ethan Williams	15	Myrlan Coleman	26
Jane Moss	16	Meagan Arnold	27
Aiden Coleman	17	Janet Douglass	27
Shanteé Siebuhr	18	Sarah Eidson	28



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:

- Jan. 7 Order Out of Chaos, Genesis 1:1-5
Jan. 14 Discerning Gods, 1 Samuel 3:1-10
Jan. 21 The Gift and Call of Discipleship, Mark 1:14-20

"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

JANUARY EVENTS

1**HAPPY NEW YEAR !**

Monday, January 1, 2018. In observance of the New Year's holiday, the church office will be closed.
Happy New Year !

2018**6****ADVENT CLEAN-UP**

Saturday 6, 2018. Congregational Life will be taking down the Advent decorations. We need volunteers to help with this task and breakfast will be provided.

7**CELEBRATE EPIPHANY**

Sunday, January 7. 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 .

10**FIRST LOGOS OF THE YEAR !**

Wednesday, January 10. 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.

Carter BloodCare Blood Drive



When: Wednesday, January 10, 2018
4:00 P.M.—8:00 P.M.

Where: GFPC Parking Lot (Carter BloodCare Bus)

Contact

Colleen Horan, (817) 343-1410

GFPC Contact

Stephanie Eidson

Mission & Outreach invites you to schedule time to donate blood and help others in need. A sign-up sheet is posted on the board in the coffee area.

JANUARY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Lay Leaders:

January 14—Jeff Kahlden
January 21—Rebecca Williams

Deacon Assignments:

Sally Arnold and Randy Riall

Nursery Help:

January 21—Mandy Overturff

Children's Moment:

January 14—Linda Skov
January 21—Leslie Goeldner
January 28—Linda Snow

Greeters:

January 7—Sue Masterson & Linda Snow
January 14—Wendy Bates & Janelle Currin
January 21—Dave & Janet Douglass
January 28—Sarah Eidson & Bonnie Evans

Guest Station:

January 7—Judy Rawlins
January 14—Wendy Bates
January 21—Janet Douglass
January 28—Sarah Eidson

Communion Servers:

Jackie Case, Linda Crownover, Nancy Deison,
Cathy Devlin, Jeff Kahlden, Karen Lail,
Betty Mills and David Rothrock

Communion Set and Clean Up:

Setup, Dawn Kahlden and Janet Duncan
Clean up, Jill Bray and Jackie Case

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

WOMEN'S RETREAT AT GILMONT CAMP & CONFERENCE CENTER FEBRUARY 2-4, 2018

At the Women's Retreat, February 2-4, 2018, we will provide space for conversations about our purpose, no matter our age or stage in life, and how that purpose frames the way we look to the future. We welcome our leader, Edwina Thomas, Christian disciple, learner, and prayer warrior. Together we will explore how we can position ourselves to live out Ephesians 2:10 and see *"heaven's poetry etched on lives"* – after all who wouldn't want to claim such a wonderful promise? Be planning and thinking about whether you would like to go this year and watch for more details later. This is a great time to bond with other women from Grace Presbytery, explore your faith, and relax in the piney woods of east Texas.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

Members and Their Families

Bob Showman
 Pete, brother of Robyn Coffey
 Carla Hollingsworth, daughter of Roberta Furman
 Nona, mother of Deb Kaiser

Friends

Cody & Carsen Pilgrim, Friends of Jerre Dale
 Kati Hamilton, daughter Linda Tingle
 Autumn Reed, friend of Deb Kaiser
 Donny, friend of Patti Allen
 Paige Davis, friend of Liz Clark

*I took my
 troubles to
 the Lord;
 I CRIED OUT TO HIM
 and
 HE ANSWERED
 my prayer.*
Psalms 120:1

Continuing Concerns

Ann Birmingham, sister of Kelly Baggett
 Roberta Furman
 Lauren Barnhart Reed
 Carla Trevino
 Reneé Roberts
 Bel Wise
 Greg, father of Shanteé Siebuhr
 Kathy Roberts
 Judy Guyll, cousin of Roberta Furman
 Jim Trail, son-in-law of Bel Wise
 Susan Henry
 Mildred Beard
 Paula Bowen, grandmother of Hilary Davis
 David Wenzel, son-in-law of Peggy Boardman
 Paul and Kaye Martino
 Ben and Sharon McPherson
 Cindy McPherson
 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.



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

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE**Theater Room Costume Sewing Party****Sunday, January 28, 2018**

After Worship in Great Hall

Lunch provided



No sewing experience needed.

Bring sewing machines,
scissors, needle and thread,
appropriate material and trim items.

We need to outfit our youngsters in enough costumes that fit.

Talk to Leslie Goeldner for details.

**LOGOS TABLE DECORATION NEEDS**

LOGOS is looking to replace some of the worn out table centerpiece decorations.

Here are items we are needing:

- ♦ Train Cars
- ♦ Doves
- ♦ Disney, Pixar, etc. Animated Movie Characters (stuffed, statues)
- ♦ Pool Toys (dive sticks and rings, noodles, etc. NOT inflatable rings or beach balls)
- ♦ Cars and Trucks
- ♦ Hats
- ♦ Slippers
- ♦ Luau Items (tissue paper pineapples and hula people, etc. NOT leis or beach toys)
- ♦ Super Heroes (stuffed, statues)
- ♦ Movie Cases

Items don't need to be new, just clean and in good shape.

Please keep this list in mind when going to garage sales, Manna, or cleaning out kid's rooms and closets.

There will be a container in coffee area marked LOGOS Decorations.

Talk to Leslie Goeldner if you have any questions.



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.



PHONE NUMBERS

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

WEBSITE

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.*
Office Coordinator, *Casey Schmidt*
Financial Administrator, *Alycia Nelson*
Office Assistant, *Lacey VanPay*

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