

Grace First Presbyterian Church

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

**F E B R U A R Y
2 0 1 8**

P A S T O R E D I E ' S P O N D E R I N G S

I N T H I S I S S U E :

Communion Schedule	1
Pastor's Article	1
Associate Pastor's Article	3
Marialice's Music Notes	4
Ministries & Outreach	5
Acknowledgements & Congratulations	6
February Events	7
Council Highlights	10
Prayers & Concerns	12

We will celebrate

**HOLY
COMMUNION**

Sunday, Feb. 18
Sunday, Mar. 4



February marks two milestones of life at Grace First Church this year!

First, we are deeply into transition with the naming of the Mission Study Team. The following persons have said yes to God's call of service issued through members of the Council: Nancy Deison, Janice Smith, Margaret Martin, Rusty Crownover, Dawn Kahlden, Jane Moss, Randy Riall, and Marti Rosché. The team kicks off its work on February 1 under the guidance of Committee on Ministry liaison to Grace First, Rev. Michael Waschevski. This team is charged to write a study that says where God is calling Grace First to service in the coming 5 to 10 years and how we are going to get there. They cannot do this without talking to you, so please say yes to invitations to gather with team members one on one or in a small group chugging coffee. When their study is complete, the report goes to the Committee on Ministry (COM) for approval, and then the church elects a Pastoral Nominating Committee (PNC). Any active member of the congregation can be nominated for the PNC. Their work will be based on the Mission Study as they seek a pastor to lead this congregation into the future.

Second, February is the month of celebrating hearts and love. This year Valentine's Day is also Ash Wednesday - the beginning of the Season of Lent. We will have an Ash Wednesday service to which all are invited. Since it is at the conclusion of Logos dinner, we only ask that kids have a parent with them. Imposition of ashes is optional on either the forehead or the back of the hand. What is important is your commitment of your heart to God.

Continued on page 2

CONTINUED...

Speaking of heart based commitments, the congregation voted at the annual meeting to suspend the bylaws that require 12 on each board of the church. NOTE – no other bylaws are suspended. This suspension is to last for 2 years, requires 9 on each board, and will be evaluated before the Annual Meeting in 2020. Council leads us in reviewing the job descriptions of each Committee of the Council and the Diaconate. Some will be eliminated, some created, and some strengthened. Have you an idea about this? Speak now to a member of the Council!

Exciting times are ahead – new Spirit energy is flowing and calling to each one in this congregation. How will you respond?

In Christ,
Pastor Edie

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

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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

Caroline Dickerson was a long-time member of our church and life-long advocate for education. When she died in 2006, her Will made known her wish for establishing a scholarship fund for unmarried students.

The Kate Rieves Scholarship was begun in 1971 and is awarded each year to “deserving Christian students.” This fund was established to honor Kate Rieves, wife of the Rev. S.L. Rieves (pastor of First Presbyterian Church, 1913-1917) and a longtime church school teacher in our congregation.

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, 2018.**

FROM THE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

A Month for Love

It is February. Overcast, chilly, bleak-and-barren February. If you're not into skiing the slopes, skating on ice, or singin' in the rain, there's not a lot outside to excite you. Sure was gracious of God to make it last only twenty-eight days...well, sometimes twenty-nine. No wonder bears hibernate at this time of year – there's not even Monday Night Football!

But wait. There is something special about February. Valentine's Day. Hearts and flowers. Sweetheart banquets. A fresh and needed reminder that there is still a heart-shaped vacuum in the human chest that only the three most wonderful words in the English language can fill.

To love and to be loved is the bedrock of our existence. But love must also flex and adapt. Rigid love is not true love. It is veiled manipulation, a conditional time bomb that explodes when frustrated. Genuine love willingly waits! It isn't pushy or demanding. While it has its limits, its boundaries are far-reaching. It neither clutches or clings. Real love is not short-sighted, selfish, or insensitive. It detects needs and does what is best for the other person without being told.

As we read in that greatest treatise ever written on the subject: *"Love is patient, love is kind, and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, love does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices in the truth; bears...believes...hopes...endures all things."*
(1 Cor. 13:4-7)

"I LOVE YOU." Simple, single syllable words, yet they cannot be improved upon. Nothing comes close. And because we don't have any guarantee we'll have each other forever, it's a good idea to say them as often as possible.

Day by Day
Charles Swindoll

Presbyterian Women¹ Invites the congregation to participate in another way to help those in need at Manna. Toiletries are a constant need; please bring any size of shampoo, soaps, lotions, toothbrushes and toothpastes, feminine hygiene products, etc. If you would like to help in this way, there will be a container in the Narthex. Thank you!

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

The number of commissioned musical works that Grace First Presbyterian Church has initiated is truly remarkable! The latest handbell piece to be published is **Steal Away, Swing Low** which was just released by Choristers Guild Publishers. This work was composed by Cathy Moklebust and uses two well-known Spirituals: **Steal Away** and **Swing Low, Sweet Chariot**. This was commissioned by Dan and Kerry Goldsmith for Grace First and to honor Dan's father, Rev. Dan E. Goldsmith who served the Presbyterian Church in many capacities for over 70 years. With the publication of another of our commissions, which is expected out later this spring, the church can claim an even dozen of commissioned works. Quite an accomplishment for this church!



Steal Away, Swing Low



*My lips will shout for joy when I sing praises to you;
my soul also, which you have rescued.*

Psalms 71:23

MINISTRIES & OUTREACH

MINISTRY MEETINGS

Christian Education

Sun., Feb. 11, Noon

Personnel

Tues., Feb. 13, 6:15 p.m.

In Touch

Tues., Feb. 6, 9:30 a.m.

Property

Sat., Feb. 3, 3:00 p.m.

First Connection

Thurs., Feb. 8, 5:30 p.m.

Congregational Life

Thurs., Feb. 8, 6:45 p.m.

Mission & Outreach

Thurs., Feb. 1, 6:30 p.m.

Trustees

Wed., Feb. 7, 10:15 a.m.

Deacons

Sun., Feb. 11, Noon

Worship & Music

Tues., Feb. 13, 3:30 p.m.

Prayer Shawl

Wed., Feb. 14, 4:00 p.m.

Council Dinner & Meeting

Thurs., Feb. 15, 6:00 p.m.

Mission Study Team

Thurs., Feb. 1, 5:00 p.m.



PW Coordinating Team—Thursday, Feb. 1, 9:00 am

Circle 2—Tuesday, Feb. 13, 2:00 pm

Evening Circle—Monday, Feb. 19, 6:00 pm

M A N N A U P D A T E

E M P H A S I S F O R F E B R U A R Y

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.



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:

Feb. 4 Jesus The Healer, Mark 1:29-39

Feb. 11 The Transfiguration, Mark, 9:2-9

Feb. 18 Never Again!, Genesis 9:8-17

Feb. 25 Crossroads, Mark 8:31-38



MEETING OF GRACE PRESBYTERY

Saturday, February 24

First Presbyterian Church,
1835 Young St., Dallas, TX

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & CONGRATULATIONS



Grace First welcomed the following guests during the month of

J A N U A R Y

Evan Carpenter
 Chris Coney
 Sue Coody
 Goodwyn Gamble
 Greg Jolly
 Amy Kramer
 Nancy Richards
 Dorothy Taylor
 Chris & Virginia Welsh
 Katlin Welsh
 Svea Penepacker



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

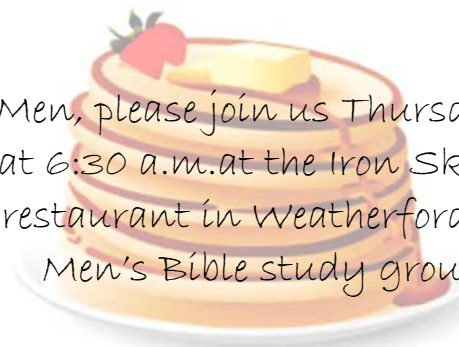
To the following GFPC members:

F E B R U A R Y

Minnie Orm	3	Ron Hansen	16
Jackie Case	7	Myrna Fields	22
Aubrey Hobbs	8	Wade Williams	23
Dawn Kahlden	12	Omari Din-Mbuh	24
Sue Masterson	12	Mark Eidson	26
Quentin Leake	14	Sam Park	28



Men, please join us Thursdays at 6:30 a.m. at the Iron Skillet restaurant in Weatherford for Men's Bible study group.

*In Memoriam*

We thank God for the life of

ALICE KATHLYN DAVIS ROBERTS

April 11, 1946
 January 23, 2018

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

Betty Mills (Yaya) is so very proud to announce the birth

NOLAN MACGYVER ANDERSON

Born January 23, 2018 at 4:44 am
 8 lbs. and 12oz of joy!

Proud parents are Elizabeth and Paul Anderson.



FEBRUARY EVENTS

4


S O U P E R B O W L O F C A R I N G

Sunday, February 4, will be our Souper Bowl of Caring. Soup/other canned goods, monetary donations will be collected before and after worship in the Narthex. All donations will go to Manna Storehouse, Inc.

B O Y S C O U T S U N D A Y

Sunday, February 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. in the Great Hall, the congregation of Grace First Presbyterian Church is invited to enjoy a pancake breakfast provided by the Scouts and leaders of Boy Scout Troop 76. This is the Troop's way of saying "Thank You!" to the members of Grace First for supporting Scouting for over 50 years. Come and enjoy a delicious breakfast! The Boy Scout Troop 76 will be helping during the morning worship service; by greeting members and visitors, passing out bulletins, and taking the offertory.


14


A S H W E D N E S D A Y S E R V I C E

Wednesday, February 14, 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.

19

T H I R D S U N D A Y L U N C H C H O C O L A T E B A K E - O F F & C H I L I C O O K - O F F

Sunday, February 18, after worship in the Great Hall. After sampling and voting for your favorite chocolate and chili dish, you may choose your favorite to eat for lunch. The congregation is asked to bring cornbread, crackers, or other dishes that will go with chili. Hotdogs, fixings, and Fritos will be provided for the children.

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

Lay Leaders:

February 4—Janelle Currin
February 11—Jane Moss
February 18—Communion

Deacon Assignments:

Dave Kaiser & Janet Duncan

Nursery Help:

February 18—Erin Thiem

Children's Moment:

February 4—Rev. Edie A. Gause
February 11—Bettie Riall
February 18—Communion
February 25—Linda Skov

Greeters:

February 4—Boy Scout Troop 76
February 11—Kevin & Leslie Goeldner
February 18—Karen Lail & V.A. Littleton
February 25—Sue Masterson & Linda Snow

Guest Station:

February 4—Myrna Fields
February 11—Roberta Furman
February 18—Leslie Goeldner
February 25—Melissa O'Hern

Communion Set and Clean Up:

Cathy Zellers, Karen Lail, Melissa O'Hern
and Jean Thomason.

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

T H I S D A Y I N (P R E S B Y T E R I A N) H I S T O R Y F E B R U A R Y

On **February 3, 1924**, former **President Thomas Woodrow Wilson** died. Born on Dec. 28, 1856, Woodrow Wilson was the son of a Presbyterian minister, **Rev. Dr. Joseph Ruggles Wilson**. Woodrow Wilson was a lifelong and devout Presbyterian.

On **Feb. 18, 1546**, Protestant Reformation leader **Martin Luther** died in his hometown of Eisleben in Saxony, Germany.

On **Feb. 27, 2003**, Mr. Rogers — **Frederick McFeely Rogers** — passed away. An American educator, ordained Presbyterian minister, songwriter and television host, Rogers (March 20, 1928 – February 27, 2003) was the host of *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*.

While working at WQED in Pittsburgh on children's programs, Rogers decided to get his Masters of Divinity from the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary (founded 1794), graduating in 1962. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Pittsburgh in 1963

8th Annual Chili/Chocolate Cook-Off

February 18, 2018, Following worship in the Great Hall

You may participate by either entering your best chili &/or chocolate recipe into the contest or by coming to sample all of the entries and voting for your favorite. Either way, it's fun for all attending! Funds raised will go to **Trinity Habitat for Humanity!**

If you are interested in participating in the cook-off, please sign up on the Stewardship Covenant insert or contact the church office.

Rules for entering the contest are as follows:

1. Submit a \$5 entry fee for each item entered, payable on day of cook-off.
2. Double your recipe, unless it feeds 24.
3. Bring your entries to church between 9:00 & 9:30 a.m. Food needs to be *fullycooked/baked* before arriving at the church.
4. Chili must be in a crock pot or something similar to keep it warm.
5. Chili needs to be marked mild, medium, or hot.
6. Mark type of meat used in the chili-venison, pork, beef, chicken, etc.
7. Give your entries creative names - think outside the box.
8. Presentation is very important on chocolate entries - *decorate your space!*
9. Submit your recipe to the church office to share with others.



The “official” judging will start at 9:45 a.m. A first, second, and third place will be awarded in each category, with certificates awarded to the winners.

In addition, a People's Choice Award will be determined during this event when folks “vote” by placing money in donation jars marked for each entry. The most money collected in each category will be the “People's Choice”.

After sampling and voting, you may choose your favorite to eat for lunch.



The congregation is asked to bring cornbread, crackers, or other dishes that will go with chili. Hotdogs, fixings, and Fritos will be provided for the children.

***Bring your friends and let's raise lots of money for the first Habitat house to be built in 2018.
Our church has some fabulous cooks and bakers - don't miss out on this year's samplings!***

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 18, 2018

Transition Issues

It was agreed upon that the purpose of the team is to discern what God's call for our congregation is as we move forward in finding a new pastor and to write a Mission Study to pass on to the Pastor Nominating Committee. Janice Smith and Nancy Deison were named to serve on the team as reps from the Council and an additional 7 others were identified to be contacted to see if they are willing to serve. Edie was asked to contact Michael Waschevski to see if he would be available to meet with the team to help get them started.

Linda Crownover moved that the Council recommend to the congregation at this Sunday's Annual Congregational Meeting that the portion of our bylaws that govern the size of the Council and Diaconate be suspended for two years, so that the number of officers serving on each board can be reduced to nine for this trial period. *Jill Bray seconded the motion and, following discussion, the motion passed.*

Janice reported that we were awarded a \$500 grant from Presbyterian Historical Society for Digitizing Council Minutes and that she will share more details later.

Commissioners for Presbytery meeting on Saturday, February 24 at First Presbyterian, Dallas, TX. Jill moved and Betty seconded that Janice Smith and Linda Crownover be elected. *Motion passed.*

By consensus, all agreed that the new officers will be examined at the Stated Council meeting on Thursday, May 17 and that the Ordination/Installation service will be on Sunday, May 20, Pentecost.

That Grace First Presbyterian Church is not enslaved by the past is documented in the contemporary architecture of the present building. It is free to relate the unchanging Biblical message to new needs, in new ways. A people of pilgrimage, preparing for what will come in His future, Faithful not to the past, but to the Lord of our past who leads us into tomorrow and sends us...

On Our Way Rejoicing

*On our way rejoicing,
As we homeward move,
Hearken to our praises,
O Thou God of Love.*

Resource: On Our Way Rejoicing, Page 138

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS JANUARY 21, 2018

The Council approved 2018 budget was presented to the congregation. There was a motion to adopt the budget, the motion was seconded, and after discussion and questions answered, *the motion passed.*

Nominations from the floor for church members to serve on this year's Officer Nominating Committed included Patsy Vawter, Christie Tull, Judy Rawlins, and Erik Skov. There was a motion to close the nominations and that we elect those named. *Following a second, the motion passed.* Council previously named Nancy Deison (moderator) and Linda Crownover as Council reps and the Diaconate named Dave Kaiser as Deacon Rep to also serve on the committee.

The Council recommended to the congregation that the portion of the Grace First bylaws (Section XII. Elders Line 1 and Section XIII. Deacons Line 1) that govern the size of the Council and Diaconate be suspended for two years, so that the number of officers serving on each board can be reduced to nine, for this trial period. *There was a second to accept the recommendation and, following discussion, the motion passed.*

Minutes from the Council meeting and the Congregational meeting are available on the narthex table for congregational members to take home. It was suggested to the Council that the minutes be made available to the members to help keep them updated with important church business.

YOUTH SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Sunday, Feb. 4 — No Youth

Sunday, Feb. 18—Mystery Night

Wednesday, Feb. 7—LOGOS

Wednesday, Feb. 21—LOGOS

Sunday, Feb. 11—Game Night

Sunday, Feb. 25—Movie Night

Wednesday, Feb. 14—LOGOS

Wednesday, Feb. 28— LOGOS

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.

*Yet I will remember my covenant with you in the days of your youth, and
I will establish with you an everlasting covenant.*

~Ezekiel 16:60

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

Roberts' family, death of Kathy Roberts
 Ann Berryman, cousin of Peggy Myrick
 Paul Martino
 Carla Trevino
 Bob Showman
 Charles Hagler, father of Gary Snow
 Father of Patti Allen
 Ann Birmingham, sister of Kelly Baggett
 Nona, mother of Deb Kaiser

Friends

Ervin and Mary Liles, Friends of Jerre Dale
 Virginia Taylor, Mentor of Janet Duncan
 Kati Hamilton, daughter of Linda Tingle
 Autumn Reed, friend of Deb Kaiser
 Donny, friend of Patti Allen
 Paige Davis, friend of Liz Clark

Continuing Concerns

Lauren Barnhart Reed
 Greg, father of Shanteé Siebuhr
 Judy Gyll, cousin of Roberta Furman
 Jim Trail, son-in-law of Bel Wise
 Mildred Beard
 Paula Bowen, grandmother of Hilary Davis
 David Wenzel, son-in-law of Peggy Boardman
 Kaye Martino
 Ben 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

To Pastor Edie and all my Special Friends of this special church,

As I near the end of my rehab-experience, I want to thank all of you who have been by my side through this journey.

From the first morning in the hospital to my rehab stay to finally getting back home, I have been blessed with a caring, loving church family. Personal visits, showers of cards, flowers to brighten my day, food, and calls to check on me have been so comforting. I am grateful for each and every one. Some of you have been there to give me rides to church and doctors' offices, while others have come to visit and done laundry while we talked. I love you all as you have gone above and beyond.

Pastor Edie, for your constant visits and prayers. I can only say thank you from the bottom of my heart.

And one more thanks from my daughter, Carla, as she has battled her own health problems, many of you called to check on her and visited her too, in the hospital. She was also gifted with a beautiful pink prayer shawl. She sends her love and thanks for the caring and concern.

Again, my love and thanks to my wonderful church family. I am blessed to be a part of you.

Roberta

REUSE, REDUCE, RECYCLE

KANS FOR KIDS



Thanks to all of you who so faithfully bring your aluminum drink cans for recycling. This fall we have provided \$90 to the kindergarten teachers in three Weatherford elementary schools so these little ones can order

books. This means that 90 children who cannot otherwise afford them now have books of their own. The teachers have told me how delighted and proud the children are of their books. Let's keep up the good work on this most worthwhile project! If you cannot bring them to the church, I can pick up your cans.

Linda Young (817-991-2550)



RECYCLE INKJET CARTRIDGES

All proceeds for this program go to Trinity Habitat for Humanity.



CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS

The old cell phones that you donate will be recycled and sold for minutes for our soldiers to call home.

Collection boxes for donated cell phones and inkjet cartridges are in the coffee area.



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*

EMAIL ADDRESSES

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