



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12
(DECEMBER 2020)

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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR NEXT
MONTH'S PUBLICA-
TION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



Once again advent is upon us, it is a time to prepare our hearts to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Evelyn and I want to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I know this Christmas season will be different than any I have ever celebrated. We will not be worshipping together in public worship, but that does not mean we cannot maintain our Christmas traditions. You can place a nativity set up in your home as a reminder of the events that happened 2000 years ago. As I send out the worship service to you electronically, I will include readings for the lighting of the Advent candles. You can make your own wreath and light



them at home. I hope you try to find ways to maintain your traditions in a safe way. I look forward to Christmas 2021. Below is a history of Advent and the Advent wreath.

“The season of Advent begins a new liturgical cycle in the church. Every year we trace the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, from his birth to his resurrection. The central themes of Advent, a Latin word which means “coming” or “arrival,” are expectation and longing for the birth of the Christ child. Advent is a time of preparation as we look forward to the great celebration of Christ’s incarnation, and we celebrate God dwelling among us in the person of Jesus. Advent is a season of waiting, expecting, and hoping. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us to prepare for the coming, or “advent” of the Christ child at Christmas.”

For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming of Christ. By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth and become more excited about His presence in our lives in the past, today and in the future.

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Calendar of Events

As of December 6, in-person worship services are canceled until further notice due to the increasing risk of the coronavirus.

Yoga and Men's Prayer Breakfasts are also canceled until further notice.

Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am

Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 am

Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays

- Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve (No Service)
- Dec. 25 - Christmas Day with Family
- Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

DECEMBER 2020						
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 Yoga 1 PM	2	3 Yoga 10:30	4	5
6	7	8 Yoga 1 PM	9	10 Yoga 10:30	11	12
13	14	15 Yoga 1 PM	16	17 Yoga 10:30	18	19
20	21	22 Yoga 1 PM	23	24 Yoga Christmas	25	26
27	28	29 Yoga 1 PM	30	31 Yoga New Year's Eve	happy new year	

Carl continued

“The origins of the Advent wreath are found in the folk practices of the pre-Christian Germanic peoples who, during the cold December darkness of Eastern Europe, gathered wreaths of evergreen and lighted fires as signs of hope in a coming spring and renewed light.”

Christians kept these popular traditions alive, and by the 16th century Catholics and Protestants throughout Germany used these symbols to celebrate their Advent hope in Christ, the everlasting Light. From Germany the use of the Advent wreath spread to other parts of the Christian world.

There is no set meaning for the candles of the Advent wreath (except for the middle candle, which always signifies the birth of Jesus the Christ). Some wreaths use all white candles; others use three purple candles, one pink candle, and one white candle in the middle. The purple candles remind us of how serious and solemn God's people have been in waiting for the Messiah. The pink signifies the joy of our waiting. The white is triumphant and celebrative because Christ is born. In the reformed tradition the candles represent:




Homemade Advent Wreath

HOPE - PEACE - LOVE - JOY AND CHRIST.

We will start our public worship services again as soon as it is safe to do so. We will have no Yoga or Men's Prayer Breakfasts until we start worship services again. I will be in the office the first two weeks of December, then take three weeks of vacation. I will continue to send out worship services, make calls and do whatever I can for you. Call me, email me or text me with whatever needs you have. We will make it through this together.

God Bless You - Merry Christmas. *Carl & Evelyn*

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests or other circumstances)

	Second Sunday of Advent - Dec. 6	Third Sunday of Advent Dec. 13	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Dec. 20	Nativity of the Lord - Dec. 24	First Sunday after Christmas Dec. 27
1st Reading	Isaiah 40:1-11	Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11	2 Sam. 7:1-11, 16	Isaiah 9:2-7	Isaiah 61:1--62:3
Psalm	Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13	Psalm 126	Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26	Psalm 96	Psalm 148
2nd Reading	2 Peter 3:8-15a	1 Thess. 5:16-24	Romans 16:25-27	Titus 2:11-14	Galatians 4:4-7
Gospel	Mark 1:1-8	John 1:6-8, 19-28	Matt. 11:2-11	Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)	Luke 2:22-40

Dec. Birthdays

- Mike Moore 3
- Debby Aldridge 4
- Betty Gengler 9
- Sandie Klingberg 21
- Carol Booher 27

About our Members

Bob Todd is continuing his every three week immunotherapy injection. Unofficially, Bob and Gidget feel that the cancer lumps are decreasing in size. The only injection side effect seems to be that Bob wants to “play more golf”. Keep praying for Bob and Gidget.

Carol Booher is doing OK. “The Meds are doing their thing.” Their son-in-law, **Bill Prather**, has finished his last round of chemo and now waiting to see if it worked. More tests will be conducted in January.

Jim Arner is getting stronger and feels better. Visitors are currently not allowed.

Rip VanWinkle is feeling better but the dizzy spells and falls continue. Dr. Green at BSW indicated that the spinal meningitis might have some bearing on it. He doesn't feel bad, just gets dizzy and falls.

Linda Lloyd and Ralph were back in their house for a couple of days. Then they had to leave again; some floors had to be refinished, the electrician will be cutting holes in the walls, the bath vanity has not arrived. Linda and Ralph went to Tyler for Thanksgiving and will be there through this week at least. **Linda** has an eye doctor appointment on the ninth to have an exam to determine if shots will continue or if a retina surgery will be required.

Julie Goggans is gradually recovering from her recent shoulder surgery. Next, she will have a surgery on her other shoulder, sometime before the end of this year.

Please keep **Letta Meinen**, **Ellen Staples**, and **Teresa Tolbert** in your prayers as they adjust to new locations. (See page 4)

Samuel W. Lanham III

March 6, 1932 ~ November 29, 2020 (age 88)

Obituary - Samuel Willis Tucker Lanham, III was born in Waco, Texas on March 6, 1932, the first child of Samuel W. T. Lanham, II and Eugenia Nash Lanham. His great-grandfather, whose name he carried, served as Governor of Texas from 1903-1907. Sam died at home in Salado, Texas on November 29, 2020.

Sam met his wife, Martha "Missie" Lanham in 1955 at the Ridgewood Country Club pool, where he was a lifeguard. He drove her home that afternoon, and she knew she had just met the man she would marry. She was right, and they married on June 8, 1956. They lived a rich and full life together for the next 64 years, raising three children, adjusting careers, sharing faith and friendship, and gathering a broad spectrum of close friends along the way, all of it centered in a deep and deepening faith and the relationship Sam and Missie shared with each other.



Sam was a life-long scholar, lawyer, minister, and teacher. His breadth of interests ranged from collecting rare books and maps (mostly in the field of Texana), printing and binding books, designing and making jewelry in their business "The Shout of Joy Artisans," and knot-tying in various formats.

In his career as a minister in the Presbyterian Church, he served three congregations as pastor: West Isle Presbyterian Church in Galveston, St. Philip Presbyterian Church in Houston (where he was named Pastor Emeritus), and Memorial Presbyterian Church in Fredericksburg, Texas.

While in Fredericksburg, he also served his alma mater, Schreiner University, as a professor of humanities, teaching students how to observe and gather information to further their learning, much as it had furthered his own. His Jan-term course in Japanese bookbinding filled up quickly whenever he taught it. And he received the student selected Harriet Garrett Excellence in Teaching Award several times in his career.

People were drawn to Sam. If you are reading this, you may be one of those people. He was a Renaissance Man, making his mark in each of his careers and hobbies. His scholarly interests intertwined with his observation of the world. When something captured his attention, he wanted to learn everything he could about it. The Shout of Joy Artisans were born when he discovered the Egyptian pictograph for "a shout of joy" in a book on extinct languages. He turned the image into a jewelry design. Before you knew it, the family den became a studio where silver and gold jewelry was being created.

Sam's love of learning was infectious. He was a gifted teacher. And he had a wide variety of interests. You may have learned any number of things from him at Mo-Ranch, Laity Lodge, Schreiner University, or at church - from jewelry making to bookbinding, from real estate law to biblical studies. He ran marathons and helped start the Galveston Marathon. He

rode many miles on his bicycle through the Texas hill country.

Sam was spiritual and faithful and lived as Christ called him. He cared about people, and you knew he cared about you. While serving West Isle Church he was drawn to a nearby fishing village community because he recognized the people there as salt-of-the-earth folk, just like those who were the core of Jesus' community. That community welcomed him because he loved them just as they were and are.

When he was called to ministry at St. Philip Church in 1971, Sam and Missie and the congregation clicked. So much ministry was done, much of it centered in embodying God's justice. Feeding ministries, connecting with the San Marcos Presbyterian Church, welcoming to gay Presbyterians, being involved in developing and supporting the Interface Counseling Ministry, connecting with Mo-Ranch. These are a few of the important witnesses Sam led this congregation through during this season, founded on God's Scripture.

Because of his years in ministry - including his life as a lawyer and a college professor - he went through life's mysteries with many folks. People loved him for the closeness he shared with them in those times. There is something miraculous about having a faithful companion come alongside you in the important experiences of marriage, birth, baptism, life, death, divorce, sorrow, and grief. Maybe you experienced connection with him in one of your life's passages.

Sam loved his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who all called him "Pappy." Nothing pleased him more than to teach them how to fill the bird feeders, how to make a book, how to read maps, or who knows what else!

Sam is honored at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly in the St. Philip Garden with a stone marker which reads: "In Honor of Sam Lanham - Preacher, Teacher, Craftsman, Friend."

While all of these successes and many others make us marvel, Sam would be the first to affirm that it was the constant and life-long love that he and Missie shared that made everything in his life possible. From the very moment they met, their world was united and filled with a new vision.

Sam is survived by Missie, his wife of 64 years; his brother Mike and his wife Mary Lanham of Waco; his son Sam and his wife Cathey Lanham of Lubbock; his daughter Brooks and her husband Mick McCorcle of Fredericksburg; his daughter Claire and her husband Bill Hartman of Salado; grandchildren, step-grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews aplenty.

His ashes will be interred in Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas in the family plot.

Memorials may be made to Schreiner University in Kerrville, Texas or to the church of your choice .



A Storywalk in Memory of Carol Shuck at the Salado Library



A Storywalk for children is featured on the grounds of the Salado Library this month in memory of Carol Shuck. Carol was featured, according to Ms. Lively, Head Librarian, because so many donations were made in her memory. The donations became the seed money for the program. The Storywalk features a complete story on the outdoor signs. The first sign says *Read, Talk and Enjoy Together*. And each month a new book is featured.

Julie Hoy, Children’s Librarian, stated the Storywalk was started here last month. The program originated in Montpelier, Vermont by Anne Ferguson and has spread

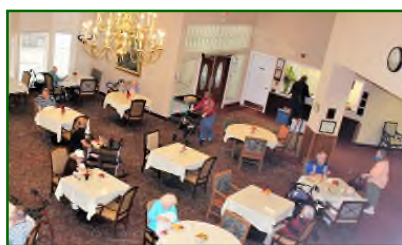
across the United States. Once a child, and sometimes adult, finishes reading the story on the signs he/she is given a sticker upon entering the library. The Library staff said they hope this is the beginning of an outdoor discovery center they hope to establish.



(Thanks to Barclay McCort for finding and submitting this article)

Some Members Movin’-On

Letta Meinen’s move last Tuesday loading and unloading a small U-Haul van went fine. Her son Russ was lucky as his son-in-law was available to drive and help with the loading. The Waterford is a three-story building with two wings with 125 residences. Letta is on the third floor and has a quite roomy apartment. She will have to get used to not fixing her own meals but the food is excellent.



This is a picture from the balcony over looking the dining room. The balcony area has all the activity rooms including Yoga, Library, Church and meeting rooms.

“I have greatly enjoyed worshiping and participating with the members of the Salado Presbyterian Church. My time in Salado has been so enjoyable and now I look forward to new friends and activities at the Waterford in Fort Worth” with love, Letta.

Her new address is: Letta Meinen -The Waterford
6799 Granbury Road #334, Ft. Worth TX 76133

Ellen Staples has moved to a smaller home in Belton near Wal-Mart and HEB. Her sons helped sort, organize, and move. Through all this she has had back pain and her involvement in the move was limited. Please pray for improvement with her back and acclimation to the new home. Her new address is: Ellen Staples
1515 Loving Trail,
Belton, TX 76513.



Teresa Tolbert is moving into a house next door to her son and daughter-in-law in Martindale, outside of San Marcos. She will enjoy their company as well as being able to enjoy the great outdoors since they live on the San Marcos River. The address is: Teresa Tolbert
641 Martindale Falls Rd,
Martindale, TX 78655



Please pray that each of these members acclimate quickly to their new world.

Benevolence Committee Report - by Pat Rehm

In November the Heart and Hands Ministries' food distributions were gratefully received in our community. In addition to the usual Saturday pick-ups for groceries, dessert mixes were given out on November 19th, and 275 Thanksgiving take-out meals were prepared and distributed at the Salado Intermediate School on November 21st. Thank you to all of our members who participated in providing both packaged and cooked foods!

With Advent approaching, you may find inspiration in the 2020 Advent devotional from the mission agency of our denomination. It is called "Let Us Light Candles: Matthew 25 and the work of Advent," and it is authored by the editor of the *Presbyterians Today* magazine, Donna Frischknecht Jackson. The devotional is available, one week at a time through January 6, on the following link:

www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/today/advent2020/advent-and-christmas-devotional-2020-week-1/



Ms. Frischknecht Jackson bases her inspiration on the poem "I Will Light Candles This Christmas", which affirms "a redemptive, transformative love as seen in its author's writings about the light that came into the world at Christmastime."

I WILL LIGHT CANDLES THIS CHRISTMAS

By Howard Thurman



I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

She introduces the Reverend Howard Thurman as a "Baptist pastor, theologian, and civil rights activist born in 1899." The grandson of a former slave, he was recognized by *Life* magazine in 1953 as "one of the 12 greatest preachers in the country." He also mentored Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thurman's theology emphasized Jesus' example of unconditional love and how it not only helps the disinherited endure oppression, but also changes the heart of oppressors.



In the editor's devotional, she presents each week's Advent and Christmas theme with a stanza from Thurman's poem, followed by a reading from Scripture, a short meditation, and closing prayer.

At the start of each week there will be a reflection question in which she invites you to light a candle (or play the video of the candle provided) and ponder more deeply that week's theme.

It is her hope that the readers will find their journey with Thurman this season just as powerful as the one that she experienced. That is the reason she invites us to begin these Advent and Christmas seasons lighting those candles Thurman envisioned — *candles of joy, hope, courage, peace, grace and love.*"

Her devotional seems especially appropriate now, when she recognizes that "our world has been shrouded by the darkness of racial and political unrest and the cloud of pandemic uncertainties that still hover."