



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12

(JANUARY 2021)

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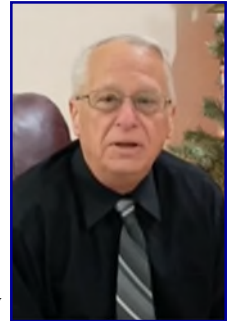
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* ARTICLES NEED TO
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MONTH - FOR THE
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Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson



What a year 2020 has been! I am glad to see it coming to an end and look forward to a new year. We lost several wonderful members this year: Joyce Goza, Jean Teal and Sam Lanham. They all had a strong faith in God, and I know they are now with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in heaven. Even though, I still grieve their loss and miss them.

We have lost other members because of their moving to be closer to their families: Ann Moore, Letta Meinen, and Teresa Tolbert. I pray God's blessings upon them as they established new homes in 2020. They will be dearly missed by all of us. It reminds me that life is full of transitions and you never know when they will take place. So, enjoy your family, friends, and neighbors while you still have the opportunity.

We have been blessed that we have lost no one to Covid-19. Several of us have had family members get it but they are all recovering. Thank God for that blessing. Our son Michael, daughter-in-law Kelly and granddaughter Ella got it. Kelly is a dedicated teacher and got it when it went through her school. Before she had symptoms, Michael got it. I will tell you that put a scare into Evelyn and I because even though they are young and healthy you worry. You worry about your kids and grandkids. I know several of you went through this recently also.

Evelyn and I got tested even though we were not in contact with them when they would have been contagious. We were negative but were quarantined for 14 days just to be safe. Michael, Kelly, and the kids are still isolated just in case the younger children have it. We hope to be exchanging Christmas gifts sometime before the end of the year.



Not because of this event, but because of other health risks Evelyn and I were able to get the first (of two) vaccination shots. We will get the second on 11 January. We had no side effect except for sore arms. The nurse told us that even though we received the vaccine we could not let down on wearing masks, social distancing, and washing hands. The vaccination will protect us, but they do not know yet if it will prevent us from giving it to someone else. So, to protect others we will wear masks, social distance, and

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Calendar of Events

Due to the increased numbers of Covid-19 cases in Bell County and Texas overall, in-person worship services, Yoga, and Prayer Breakfast's will be on hold. We hope to reopen in-person services on January 17.

- X- Sunday Worship Services at 10:00 am**
- X- Communion is on the First Sunday/month**
- X- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. 8 am**
- X- Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays**

Jan. 1 - First Day of 2021

**Jan. 17 - Session Meeting after worship
(In person or virtual TBD)**

| JANUARY 2021 | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|-----|--------------------|-----|---------------------|-----|-----|
| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
| | | | | | | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| 3 | 4 | 5 Yoga 1 PM | 6 | 7 Yoga 10:30 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 Yoga 1 PM | 13 | 14 Yoga 10:30 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Session Meeting | 18 | 19 Yoga 1 PM | 20 | 21 Yoga 10:30 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 Yoga 1 PM | 27 | 28 Yoga 10:30 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 | | | | | | |

Carl continued:

wash hands until the CDC says we do not have to. Why? I do not want anyone to have the worries we had, when we heard the family tested positive for Covid-19, besides it is just the right thing to do.

Why am I saying all this? Because on January 17, if the expected surge in hospitalizations because of COVID-19 is behind us, I plan on starting in church worship again. It will be with masks, distancing, and hand washing. I expect it will be well into 2021 before that changes. When the CDC says it is safe to stop these precautions, we will, but not until then.

Evelyn and I wish you God's Blessings and health in 2021. Here are a few suggestions for the new year I found online. Let them be a part of your New Year's resolutions for 2021.

God's Hope, Peace, Joy, Love, and Light - be with you in 2021.

Carl

For the New Year



- Hold fast to your faith (Hebrews 4:14)
- Abound in hope (Romans 15:13)
- Pray earnestly everyday (I Thessalonians 5:17-18)
- Pray for great blessings (Malachi 3: 10)
- Yield not to temptation (I Thessalonians 5:22)

- Neglect not your talents and opportunities (Galatians 6: 10)
- Examine yourself daily (1I Corinthians 13:5)
- Work diligently for the Lord (I Corinthians 15:58)

- Yield your members to righteousness (Romans 6:11, 16)
- Exercise yourself in godliness (I Timothy 4:7)
- Aim at sinless perfection (Hebrews 6:1)
- Redeem the time (Ephesians 5.1-16)

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

| | 2nd Sunday after Christmas - Jan. 3 | Baptism of the Lord - Jan. 10 | 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Jan. 17 | 3rd Sunday after Epiphany - Jan. 24 | 4th Sunday after Epiphany - Jan. 31 |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1st Reading | Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Genesis 1:1-5 | 1 Sam. 3:1-10,(11-20) | Jonah 3:1-5, 10 | Deut. 18:15-20 |
| Psalm | Psalm 147:12-20 | Psalm 29 | Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18 | Psalm 62:5-12 | Psalm 111 |
| 2nd Reading | Eph. 1:3-14 | Acts 19:1-7 | 1Corinthians 6:12-20 | 1Corinthians 7:29-31 | 1Corinthians 8:1-13 |
| Gospel | John 1:(1-9), 10-18 | Mark 1:4-11 | John 1:43-51 | Mark 1:14-20 | Mark 1:21-28 |

January Birthdays



- Anita Johnson 5
- Chine Ray 8
- Missie Lanham 12
- John Pettijohn 18
- Jim Arner 23
- Shay VanWinkle 29

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

Bob Volle is under Hospice Care and not doing well. Pray that in this last phase Bob might be in peace and comfort. Adva thanks everyone for their prayers and wishes God's blessings on all at the Salado Presbyterian Church in 2021.

Jim Arner has some good days and some others not. **Laquita** has been able to visit Jim in person (still with many rules and regulations while in a separate small room).

Rip VanWinkle has the virus and is weak. Live-in daughter, Michelle, also has the virus but Shay is OK and doing well.

Bob Todd has been on a every three week immunotherapy injection routine for several cycles. He and Gidget feel that the lymph node nodules are getting smaller. Bob will have a PET scan on 1/11 for official results. Bob is having some lightheadedness which could be a side effect. They are trying to identify its cause. Keep praying for Bob.

Linda Lloyd and Ralph are back in their house after four and a half months while house repairs were being made. Linda is thrilled to be back in her own bed.

Julie Goggans still has much shoulder pain. She and Jack both have had the virus and are now recovered. Pray for a pain solution.

Carol Booher is doing quite well. Their son-in-law, **Bill Prather**, is getting stronger after the lung cancer and chemo. They will know more about the effectiveness of the cancer treatment after further tests in January. Keep Carol and Bill in your prayers.

Letta Meinen is adjusting to her new living arrangement and rates the food as excellent, but must watch the intake. She saw a bone specialist and so now it looks like hip surgery in Feb.

Missie Lanham wants all to know how important the Church Family has been to her family these last several months as Sam was going thru the last stages of earthly life. The Church was amazing with cards, notes, and prayers. These expressions of love gave them great joy during this time. — The whole Lanham family is a cranberry preserve making family. So, they continued the tradition and filled many jars again this Christmas. She asks that we pick up a jar or two from the Church.

Benevolence Committee - Year End Report

Our benevolent contributions, made possible by your pledges and other donations, have been limited this year, but certain agencies have continued to receive distributions. The Presbyterian Children's Home and Services in Austin and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, which provides state, national, and global projects related to catastrophes, are two agencies that have received our usual quarterly distributions. Also, our One Great Hour of Sharing offering was sent to the Presbyterian Church of the U. S. A. last spring.

Eight other helping agencies in Central Texas were also selected for at least one donation earlier in the year, including Austin Theological Seminary, AWARE, Body of Christ Community Dental and Medical Clinics, Families in Crisis, Fisher House at Fort Hood, Heart & Hands

Ministries, Salado Family Relief's Project Backpack, Salado Fire Department, and Salvation Army in Temple. Two global agencies, Doctors without Borders, and Samaritan's Purse also received a one-time donation from our congregation. The Chair Yoga class, started by Letta Meinen at our church in 2018, has become a benevolent activity this year, and it has been funded accordingly. An annual list of our benevolence giving will be available soon.

As we welcome the New Year, be assured that our congregation's monetary gifts and other mission activities have actively spread the Good News of God's grace and steadfast love both here and abroad!

Thank you! - Pat Rehm - Chair



A Story

There is a story of a visiting pastor who attended a men's breakfast in a rural farm area. The group had asked an older farmer, decked out in bib overalls, to say grace for the morning breakfast.

"Lord, I hate buttermilk", the farmer began. The visiting pastor opened one eye to glance at the farmer and wonder where this was going.

The farmer loudly proclaimed, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was growing concerned, the farmer continued, "And Lord, you know I don't much care for raw white flour". The pastor once again opened an eye to glance around the room and saw that he wasn't the only one to feel uncomfortable.

Then the farmer added, "But Lord, when you mix them all together and bake them, I do love them fresh baked biscuits.

So, Lord, when things come up that we don't like, when life gets hard, when we don't understand what you're saying to us, help us to just relax and wait until you are done mixing. It will probably be even better than biscuits. Amen."

Within that prayer there is great wisdom for all when it comes to complicated situations like we are experiencing in the world today.

Stay strong, because our LORD is mixing several things that we don't really care for, but something even better is coming when HE is done with it. AMEN!

The New Year - 2021

Given the challenges of the past year, I am looking forward to the start of a new one, as I'm sure all of you are. I am so happy to report that Ralph and I finally moved home about a week before Christmas. Pete said something to me recently that really resonated. He commented that "Going home for Christmas likely has special meaning this year." And he was so right. I am unbelievably grateful to be in my own home and sleeping in my own bed.

Although 2020 was extremely challenging, it was not all bad. I got a new hip, which resulted in a tremendous relief of pain. I cannot even tell you what a gift that was to me. And our family was blessed with two new great granddaughters, and a great niece and nephew.

What will the year 2021 hold in store? God is the only one who can answer that. You and I are not privy to that information. But what we do know and can be sure of is this: whatever the new year brings, whether it be life or death, we are covered by the precious blood of the Lamb. So, let us leave 2020 behind us, and celebrate the new year by looking forward to the blessings that the Lord has in store for those who trust him.

Wishing you much health, happiness, and peace in 2021. "Happy New Year" from both of us.

From a Merry Heart *Linda Lloyd*

Happy New Year



What is on your gratitude list? What will you *do to be better*?

Psalms 100

The Message
(translation by Eugene Peterson)

On your feet now—applaud God!
Bring a gift of laughter,
sing yourselves into his presence.

3

Know this: God is God, and God, God.
He made us; we didn't make him.
We're his people, his well-tended sheep.

4

Enter with the password: "Thank you!"
Make yourselves at home, talking praise.

Thank him. Worship him.

5

For God is sheer beauty,
all-generous in love,
loyal always and ever.

Will you ring in the New Year 2021 with hope? Yes, for me-the Covid vaccines on the way! Some contemplative thinking about the Annus *horribilus* * 2020 moves us in that direction hopefully, no pun intended- there's light at the end of this dark, dark tunnel.

What would the responses be, when the Covid threat is gone and we gather for in-person services, if Carl gave us a piece of paper, a pen and said "Write down what you missed the most during the Covid isolation? What have you learned about yourself during this Covid year? What will you change about your life because of this time?"

We have probably had similar conversations already with friends or family, but what if we had it as a congregation? Sharing aloud in the church sanctuary, I would venture a guess we would be revealing we've missed the same things, we've learned the same lessons, that we're determined to not just have survived 2020 the year of a pandemic and upheaval in our country, but that we all in some way want to be grow, change, be better people-be better Christians.

Would it be a moment of worship as verse 4 in this Psalm says filled with profound gratitude? Do you have a sense of deeply felt thanks to God for things big and small which we took for granted and never will again? This Psalms tell us these 'Thank You's' are the password into God's presence; that we are in His presence when we have thanks and praise in our hearts.

When we express Thanks TO God's people, are we in essence expressing Thanks to God Himself? Because I have been thinking that I want to express gratitude specifically, intentionally, and publicly to God's people in 2021. Would

we, by sharing the Thank You's publicly be shining God's light for all the unbelieving world to see? Does such expression of gratitude lead to more gratitude in ourselves as we realize what we have, not just what was lost in 2020? I would like to think so.

My Thank You's would start at the top of this congregation with our minister Carl Thompson. Last January/February when my parents both died suddenly and unexpectedly, Carl called and texted often; and later his listening heart and counseling expertise helped me significantly as I began the grief work necessary with such a loss.

Most of you could list a thousand times, in a thousand ways, that Carl has ministered to you long before 2020. Aren't we fortunate to have such a pastor? There is more to leading a congregation than just delivering a sermon on Sunday; Carl cares for us tenderly like a shepherd leading his flock. Even when he is technically on 'vacation' he is still submitting the weekly service and making those ministering phone calls!

Thank You also Carl for making the tough decision to keep this congregation safe by suspending in-person services. Leaders must make tough, unpopular calls; but I believe you kept the best interests of the entire group in mind and you provided us the avenue to worship with your weekly online services

I would say Thank You to the entire Thompson family - Evelyn and Amy - for helping Carl with these worship services. Technology is not always easy; it is often frustratingly time consuming, yet every Saturday night Carl's email would arrive with a wonderful service for us to either read or watch. We have been able to worship in our homes safely and without fear. Wherever you watch the video or even if you just read it, you can come into the Lord's presence as you utter the password of Thank You for your blessings and praise The One who brings us real hope.

I would thank Monte for choosing such lovely songs each week that made those online worship services rich. We all look forward to hearing the choir in person again, the strumming of the guitars, the grand chords of the organ; but until then, we worship at home-in our dining rooms, living rooms, patios, gardens. We yearn for the Sunday when we can take off the masks and 'Sing yourselves into His Presence" (v. 2)

I would thank Pete for his faithful work every month publishing this newsletter which keeps us connected and informed. He reaches out to every Session member inviting us to participate with news or articles which is an inclusive gesture. Just by his asking, I was moved to write this article.

Lastly, I would thank this entire body of Christ that, as Carl did, sent beautiful sympathy cards and prayed for my family during the time I lost my parents in my very own Annus *Horribilis*. God's love through God's people.

I would love to hear from you; would you share what you missed during the pandemic year 2020? What will you change in your life? What is on your gratitude list? What will you *do to be better*?

Thank You All - **Debby Aldridge**

**Latin for 'a year of disaster or misfortune*



We are all experiencing an unprecedented time in the history of our world, our nation, our community, and our church. We miss terribly the adult education, worshipping together, and the fellowship of sharing a meal.

But at the same time, we must be so very thankful for the blessings we enjoy every day - our food, our shelter, our health, our ability to connect with others using technology, to name just a few.

As a congregation, we have placed our trust in our pastor to do the right thing for all of us, helping to keep us safe, while continuing to send us meaningful worship services.

I thank Carl and Monte for their time and effort in adding special music to the services, making them even more enjoyable.

Many of us have used our time in isolation to read and study some of the numerous works of spiritual writers available to us. We have a very well stocked church library, full of the works of many of these writers, including devotionals, historical and archaeological treatments of the Bible, novels, and unusual Bibles. The catalog of materials in our library is available on the church website. Please feel free to call me if I can assist you in checking out anything. It may even be interesting to have a "study buddy" - two of you read the same book and schedule phone calls or face time to have a discussion.



The vaccines are out there. We WILL come together again in worship and fellowship. The Presbyterian Church of Salado WILL go on. Until that time, "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." (Romans 12:12)

Have a safe, healthy, and blessed New Year,

Pat Hart

A Layman's "10 Commandments" for 2021

Someone has written these beautiful words. It's a must read. Try to understand the deep meaning of it. They are like the ten commandments to follow in life all of the time!

1] Prayer is not a "spare wheel" that you pull out when in trouble, but it is a "steering wheel" that directs the right path throughout the journey.

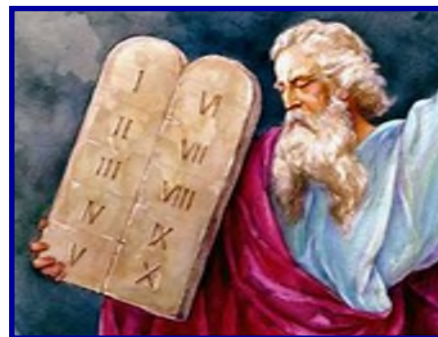
2] So why is a Car's WINDSHIELD so large & the Rear View Mirror so small?
Because our PAST is not as important as our FUTURE.
So, Look Ahead and Move on.

3] Friendship is like a BOOK. It takes a few minutes to burn, but it takes years to write.

4] All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.

5] Old Friends are Gold! New Friends are Diamond! If you get a Diamond, don't forget the Gold! Because to hold a Diamond, you always need a Base of Gold!

6] Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, GOD smiles from above and says, "Relax, sweetheart, it's just a bend, not the end!"



7] When GOD solves your problems, you have faith in HIS abilities; when GOD doesn't solve your problems HE has faith in your abilities.

8] A blind person asked St. Anthony: "Can there be anything worse than losing eye sight?" He replied: "Yes, losing your vision!"

9] When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them, and sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10] WORRYING does not take away tomorrow's TROUBLES, it takes away today's PEACE.

How To Make A Music Video by Monte Shuck

Most of the music videos I provide to Pastor for inclusion in the service email I find on YouTube and simply forward a link. But occasionally I like to include music that I have recorded, as well. I thought you might find it interesting to see how I make the videos that I share with you. When I find a song I want to record, I first use a program called Crescendo to enter the music into the computer.

The program will play it back (so I can practice!), provide lots of accompaniment options (piano, organ, harp, even backup voices), and also produce a file called a .midi, which is used in the next step of the process.

This file is fed into another program called MixPad. I plug a microphone into the computer and sing along with the recorded music. I can record multiple voice tracks, if I want to sing harmony with myself. I can also record a guitar track here. Sometimes there are several “takes” needed to get it right, just like in a real recording studio. This program puts out a .wav file for the next step.

I next go looking for appropriate images on the internet: free picture files that I can add the words of the song to using a program called Paint. Once I have those made, the .wav sound file and the .jpg picture files all get loaded into a program called VideoPad.

Here, I match the words to the music, so the right words are displayed as the song is sung and played. This program puts out a file called an .mp4, which I then upload to YouTube. YouTube provides a link that can be used to access the video. I post all my music files as “private”, so there are no copyright issues (only the people provided the link can view it). Depending on the complexity of the song, it takes between 8 and 20 hours to produce one of these videos. I hope you enjoyed the tour (and the music)!

