



The Messenger

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

(MARCH 2021)

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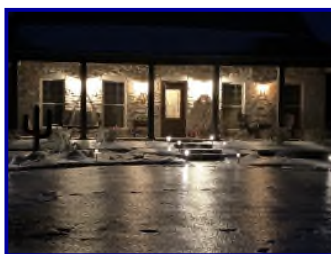
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* ARTICLES NEED TO
BE SUBMITTED TO
PETE BY THE LAST
SUNDAY OF THE
MONTH - FOR THE
NEXT MONTH'S
PUBLICATION.

Carl's Comments - Reverend Carl Thompson

What a month February has been for us. Who would have believed in central Texas we would get all that ice and snow, then more ice with single digit temperatures? On top of that, many people were without power or water for long periods. I know many of you had to leave your homes to go to family or friends to stay warm. Some of you had to ride it out at home. This event reaffirmed to me the basic goodness of humanity. I heard about many acts of kindness from people, or read in the paper, or saw on television many stories of people reaching out to help others. They took food, water, or other necessities to those who were without things they needed.



Iced Yard

Others volunteered to drive people to doctors appointments or to stores to get necessary supplies. I even know of people that brought total strangers into their homes because they were without power or water. These cases were not exceptions but the norm for most people. They were willing to do whatever they could do to help without concern for race, social standing, religion or political affiliation. It is too bad that it takes a disaster or some other catastrophic event to bring people together. I hope in the days, weeks, and years ahead we will remember that we are in the same storm but in different boats and need each other. This is what Jesus talked about when he said the kingdom of God begins here on earth, right where we live and work. God bless those who saw beyond our differences to help those in need.



The Good Samaritan

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Calendar of Events

In-Person Worship, Yoga, and Men's Prayer will be begin on Feb. 7th and 9th.

Sunday Worship and Communion at 10:00
Communion is on the First Sunday/month
Men's Prayer Breakfast Tuesdays @ 8 am
Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays
Mar. 14 - Time Change—Spring Forward
Mar. 17 - St. Patrick's Day
Mar. 28 - Palm Sunday
April 4 -Easter Sunday

March 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Yoga 1 PM	3	4 Yoga 10:30	5	6
7	8	9 Yoga 1 PM	10	11 Yoga 10:30	12	13
14 Daylight Savings Begins	15	16 Yoga 1 PM	17 St. Patrick's Day	18 Yoga 10:30	19	20 Spring Begins
21	22	23 Yoga 1 PM	24	25 Yoga 10:30	26	27 Passover
28 Palm Sunday	29	30 Yoga 1 PM	31			

Carl continued:

The good news is that we had no damage to our church, and the members of our congregation that I have talked to have had no significant damage. That was a blessing. I hope that others, who are reading this, didn't have any major problems.

We will be starting in person worship on 7 March. It is the first Sunday in March so we will be having Communion. This will be the first time in a long while that we have been able to celebrate the sacrament of communion together. We will be using individual communion packets that are individually wrapped. We will continue to wear masks, social distance and sanitize until medical people say it is safe to stop these preventive practices. There will also be no singing at this time since this has been a spreader of COVID-19 in churches.

The last Sunday in March is Palm Sunday when we will celebrate Christ's triumph entry into Jerusalem before His crucifixion. There will be no Maundy Thursday service on 1 April, but we will celebrate communion on Easter Sunday. Lent and Holy Week challenges each of us to take time for personal reflection, to grow spiritually so that when Easter arrives on April 5 we can shout out, "Hallelujah, Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!" May God continue to bless each one of you. Carl



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

	3rd Sunday in Lent - March 7	4th Sunday in Lent - March 14	5th Sunday in Lent - March 21	Liturgy of the Passion - March 28
1st Reading	Exodus 20:1-17	Numbers 21:4-9	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm	Psalm 19	Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22	Psalm 51:1-12	Psalm 31:9-16
2nd Reading	1Corinthians 1:18-25	Ephesians 2:1-10	Hebrews 5:5-10	Philippians 2:5-11
Gospel	John 2:13-22	John 3:14-21	John 12:20-33	Mark 14:1-15:47

March Birthdays



Ron Miller 15

Brad Rehm 28



THE MESSENGER

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

John Pettijohn had his post-op with the urologist last week and they think that they got all the kidney cancer. He is feeling stronger each day and is doing some walking. He is most thankful for his great caregiver, Sara. This winter has been a like a nightmare: Christmas afternoon in the ER, then birthday preparing for surgery, then 60th wedding anniversary recovering from surgery and the weather. John thanks the church for the get-well cards! He feels like they aided his recovery.

Joe Carroll is continuing to be treated for pneumonia and still on a ventilator but is requiring less sedation. He is making small improvements. Another complication is that he is confused due to the extensive sedation and medication plus lengthy hospital stay. All this began as complications from a shoulder replacement surgery. Susan and the family are grateful for your continued prayers.

Carol Booher is doing the same but having fun trying new recipes and staying home. **Bill Prather** is so thin and can't do much after his cancer treatment. Amy and the boys do all outside work. He has lost about 25 trees. Keep Carol and Bill in your prayers.

Julie Goggans' pain is still there but not to the degree it has been. A therapist is helping. Even with no further relief, she thinks she can live with it. Thank you for your prayers.

Shay VanWinkle had the virus and is dealing with respiratory issues. She will be seeing doctors about this. Pray for Shay's improvement.

Bob Todd is continuing the every three week immunotherapy injection and doing well. Bob's brother, Harry, passed away last week in Oregon. Keep the family in your prayers.

Trish Stebbins is slowly healing after the leg fracture. The doctors have released her to full weight on the leg. She thanks the church for their prayers and cards.

Adva Volle knows Bob is now at peace after his struggle with dementia and that someday they will be together again. She has loved receiving the beautiful cards from everyone in the Salado Church. They have been like an extended family. One day she hopes to be able to travel and get to visit all her friends in Salado again. Adva wants to express her thanks and all her love to this Presbyterian Church of Salado.

With Deepest Sympathy

Dr. Robert Leon Volle, Sr.

1930 ~ 2021 (age 90)

Bob Volle of Avon CT, passed away from natural causes on February 3, 2021. He lived a wonderful and productive 90 years. Born in 1930 into a French immigrant family that worked the coal mines of western Pennsylvania, Dr. Volle put himself through college at West Virginia Wesleyan College and later, completed his PhD at the University of Kansas.

In 1952 he met, fell in love with and married Adva Jean Runnels. They had five children and lived in Gulfport, MS; Lawrence, KS; New Orleans LA (twice); Swarthmore and Berwyn, PA; Avon, CT (3 times); and Salado, TX.

He was a teacher, a research scientist, and an administrator at the University of Pennsylvania, Tulane University, the University of Connecticut, the University of Kentucky and West Virginia University as Vice President and Provost.

As a member of the founding faculty of the University of Connecticut School of Medicine he led the Pharmacology Department and then became Associate Dean of the Medical School.

He left the teaching profession to take on the role of President and CEO, and then President Emeritus, of the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Active in his church, he taught classes on various religious topics at the churches in his local communities and met wonderful, endearing friends while doing so. Bob loved his pets, especially Terri, Katie, Emma and Annie and he rescued many four-legged friends throughout his retirement. He was passionate about researching his family roots.

While he thrived in academia, he was most proud of his love for and devotion to his wife of 68 years, Adva, and their children. Along with his wife, he leaves behind his daughter, L. Michelle Volle Borden, grandsons, Zachary and Bradley; his son, Robert Leon Volle Jr., his wife Beth, grand children Catherine and David; son, Rev. Dr. J. Stephen Volle; daughter Dr. Lisa M. Volle, granddaughter, Sara, great grandchildren Athena and Atlas; and son John M. Volle, his wife Maria, grandchildren Alyssa and Robert, and great grandson, Chase.

A memorial service will be planned in the future at Memorial United Methodist Church of Avon.

Marthan Katherine Harper

1921 ~ 2021 (age 99)

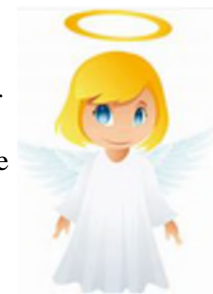
Martha Williams Harper, age 99, of Salado passed away peacefully Sunday, February 21, 2021. Martha was born in Lorena, Texas, June 27, 1921, to Katherine and Robert Williams. Her family later moved to McGregor, Texas where she met her future husband, Lloyd. She attended the University of Texas and was a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority. In 1939 she married Lloyd and moved to Houston where Lloyd was employed with Texaco. After a year, they were transferred to the main office of Texaco in New York City.

In 1941, at the age of nineteen, Martha joined Lloyd in Maracaibo, Venezuela en-route to Caracas, Venezuela, where they lived for 18 years. While in Venezuela, they raised their two children, Barbara and Bob.

Martha was active in the American Church, an avid bridge player, a grand hostess of myriad parties, and a remarkable manager of home life. Eighteen years later in 1960, Martha and family moved to Pelham, New York and remained there for eighteen years.

In 1981 another transfer, this time to Dallas, Texas which led to the discovery of the village of Salado. In 1982, Martha and Lloyd made their final home in Salado. Martha became active in the Historical Society, the Women's Auxiliary, and of course, bridge. Both Martha and Lloyd loved the wonderful friends made in this special village.

The family is grateful for all the caregivers Mother has had throughout the years. They are truly angels who touched us deeply.



An Update from the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

Our mission report this month features a denominational agency which our congregation has continued to support with benevolence funds each quarter during the COVID-19 Pandemic. It features a recent email on February 26, 2021, from Reagan Stone, our Austin representative and a Senior Development Officer at PCHAS.



"This year has been tough for many children and families in the care of Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. With the ongoing pandemic and the devastating winter storm, our families, who were already struggling, need help now more than ever.

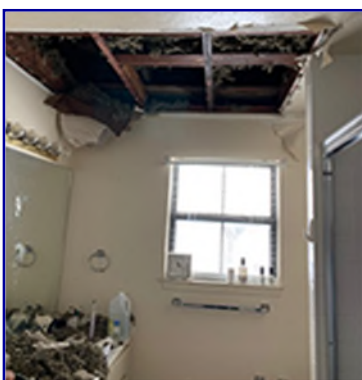
All of our clients are safe after last week's events. Staff have arranged temporary relocation for those whose homes are currently unsafe. Case managers have checked in on our non-residential clients to ensure they are safe as well. Some PCHAS staff have taken to sitting in their cars to find the power and warmth to make these critical calls to families.

Here are just a few of the very real challenges our PCHAS family faces today:

- The electricity is out on our Waxahachie, TX campus. Some families left to stay with friends in the community, and the others moved to the Bridge House, which has a fireplace that clients and staff are using to stay warm. One of the cottages had a ceiling pipe burst which will soon be repaired.

- Electricity was out in our Itasca, TX Foster Care Village, but it has now been restored. One cottage on this campus has an upstairs pipe that burst causing some water damage.

- A ceiling pipe burst in our transitional living home in Columbia, MO which has caused water damage in parts of the building. Our Columbia friends know this was particularly disappointing for all involved as the home was recently renovated and redecorated to



welcome back its residential clients. We have temporarily moved all of the young women we serve in this program while repairs are made.

While many hardships continue, PCHAS responds to community needs and those continue as well. Therefore, PCHAS is expanding and opening new programs throughout the state.

- Temple Texas will soon have a new therapeutic mentoring program. The program will link community mentors and youth in middle and high school working on communication and problem solving skills as well as strengthening their future outcomes with tutoring and financial planning.

- The San Antonio campus expansion is almost complete! The campus will now host 16 single parent families and their children. These families will have free counseling, mentoring for their kids, and a safe, loving duplex to stay while regaining their footing in the community. The campus will also house up to 6 transitional youth, those young adults who recently aged out of a foster home.



Please pray for all the children and families in our care that we may continue to ensure they stay warm, safe and comforted. Pray that parents stay calm and strong during this crisis. Pray for our staff who are challenged to care for their own families as well as their clients. And pray for our communities, that we may grow closer to our neighbors as we persevere together.

If you have questions or would like further updates, please reach out to your congregation's relationship officer, Reagan Stone at reagan.stone@pchas.org or on his cell phone, 210-860-3188. You can also make a one-time or monthly donation at giving.pchas.org."

Reagan Stone, Senior Development Officer

From *Pat Rehm* - Chair Benevolence Committee

Remember:
The One Great Hour of Sharing offerings continue up to Easter on April 5th.



Covenants - by Linda Lloyd

In today's sermon, Carl spoke about "covenants." That topic is one that I have had on my mind for a few weeks now, in particular, the covenant of baptism. My great granddaughter Kinsley and her brother Koden were baptized last Sunday in the Copperas Cove Presbyterian Church. By God's good grace, Pastor Naomi opened the church to our family, and we celebrated the sacrament of baptism together.

It was a precious moment when Kinsley, who turns one tomorrow, allowed Naomi to lift her up, looked her in the eye, and then snuggled herself into Naomi's neck. Kinsley does not usually react that way with people outside of our family. But I am certain that she must have felt Naomi's sweet spirit surrounding her.



In the words of John Calvin, "We are not our own, but the Lord's," and "The crucial factor in the Christian life is that we are consecrated and dedicated to God." "A New Brief Statement of Faith" starts with the words "In life and death, we belong to God." Our Lord Jesus was baptized by John in the Jordan River. And thus we honor the sacrament of baptism.

Matthew 3 tells us that "As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment Heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from Heaven said, "this is my son whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

And I am confident that God and all Heaven rejoice when these littlest souls are dedicated to his care, thus fulfilling the covenant of baptism.

May God richly bless each one of you in this holy season of Lent and open your hearts and your minds in the spirit of faith, hope, and love, as Pope Francis emphasized in his Lenten Message to people of faith all over the world.

From a Merry Heart, *Linda Lloyd*

The Great Winter Storm of 2021



ICE



SNOW (and 2 Degrees)



MORE ICE (Some loss of Power and Broken Pipes)

The Great Winter Storm of 2021

An Example - Mike and Pat: After 24 hours in our freezing home, our son-in-law braved the roads to come get us and Buddy, our dog. They live in Hidden Springs and get their power from Bartlett Co-op and had just rolling outages for one day. They had plenty of food and water so we stayed with them until Saturday. We had shut off the water at the street before we left and put our frozen meat in a box on the patio so we arrived home to no damage. God is good! Pat and Mike Hart

Another Examples:

Pete & Trish →

Carl and Evelyn

Had power & managed to venture out and bring Amy & Brady plus 2 big dogs and 4 guinea pigs to their home for 5 days.

Letta Meinen

Her retirement home had power so her son came to live with her for several days.

Sara and John Pettijohn

Since John was still getting over his surgery and was somewhat anemic, 41degrees in the house was not going to work. They tried the Stage Coach Inn and Holiday Inn before both lost power. Then they went all the way to Austin closely following a semi. Their daughter never did loose power and had hot food and showers.



So, what was this winter storm about: first a paralyzing ice storm with lots of sleet on Thursday, 2/18, followed by a snowstorm (6 inches) on Sunday, 2/21, night with extreme cold (2 degrees) Monday and 6 degrees Tuesday, then another ice storm Wednesday, 2/24, morning. So, we had ice, snow, and more ice with record breaking lows.

Trish and I had 79.5 continuous hours with no power. It went off at 5:03 AM Monday and did not come back on until 12:30 Thursday afternoon. It was in the forties in our bath and bedroom, but the propane fireplace kept the living room around 60. It just felt COLD - as it went on hour after hour!

We began synchronizing our schedule with daylight. With little light, other than four candles, the fireplace, and flashlights, plus no TV or radio, there was no reason we should not go to bed by at least 8 o'clock. **It was dark!** Getting up was tough, with stormy skies and temperatures in the single digits, a bedroom in the 40's, no chance for a hot shower, a cold breakfast, and no hot coffee; it was an easy decision to stay in the cozy/warm bed until mid-morning.

Trish was still recovering from the spiral break of the femur. The metal plate seemed to get colder but did no damage.

And we could not leave the house, driving was impossible, plus where would we go - the grocery, motels and most businesses were also out of power or lacked personnel. (We heard that at one point the closest available warm motel room would be in Austin or Waco.) We ended up with thick ice, snow, then more ice on the snow and ice! I can understand how DEPRESSION could set in!

I had not worn long-john's for years, but they really felt good on the power outage days outside and INSIDE the house. Do not forget that Sawyer Dog needed to "go out" 4 or 5 times a day. She did not like the iced grass, but the snow was fun. However, once we had just solid ice, she had as much trouble walking, even with four-wheel (legged) drive, as I did with two. I only fell on the ice once but had a couple of other close calls. I had to "winterize up" before each trip out with Merrell boots, scarf, stocking cap, gloves, and a coat with hood.

All cell phones, DeWalt batteries, and backup chargers were about dead by Thursday AM. Power came on at noon, 2/25 - just in time.



Once the power came on - 70 degrees - in the house felt hot! Friday finally brought some thawing, but Saturday morning brought dangerous refreezing. Sunday was 74 degrees and all the snow and ice were gone!

The Lord has brought us through this "test" and made us stronger! *Pete and Trish Stebbins*



We lost some refrigerated food but really came out very well other than a broken garage door spring. We had no frozen pipes (son in Houston had a pipe in a ceiling break in 9 places so for a while he had no power or water). If you had a water line break there are not enough plumbers or copper piping to go around to get it fix for weeks. However, everyone around here with a pool has problems - neighbors have estimated \$3500 to \$15,000 to get a pool fixed.

We have heard of some older folks freezing to death in their homes during the storm and yes, I can understand after being cold, hungry, and depressed for multiple days!