



The Messenger

BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER. ROMANS 12:12
(SEPTEMBER 2022)

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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



Many of our church events will begin again this month. Our adult religious education program will kick off on September 11th with a study of Corinthians. The Choir will begin practice on September 7 at 4 p.m. We need even more of you in our choir to help lead us in worship. I want to thank Shay Van Winkle and Jeanette for leading the choir, it adds so much to our worship service. Nancy Norris also does a great job on the bells. Thanks to all of those who provided special music this summer.

Beginning in September, I will start a new work schedule since I have eight weeks of vacation I need to use. I will be in the office every other week for office hours. I will continue to lead worship on Sundays. I will always be available for any events that may come up during my weeks off and am only a call, text, or email away.

Bear with me today as I do some personal reflection. This year my High School class had a reunion. In mid-August, I received a phone call from an old classmate that was at the reunion and whom I had not heard from in years. He called to check up on me, since I was not at the reunion. He filled me in on who was there and sent me an email with a list of classmates who had died. There were just too many names on it already. I was quickly reminded of my mortality. Where have all the years gone? I realized that I am now in my senior years. Many of my Army friends have also gone home to be with the Lord. I am learning more and more how important it is to "Give Thanks to God in All Things." Thank God for your Blessings and don't take them for granted. Enjoy your life, your family, your friends. Do those things on your bucket list. Don't get discouraged with world events, COVID, or anything else; have faith, God is alive and well, and these things will come to pass.

Continued Page 2



Calendar of Events

- Sunday Worship at 10:00 am.
- Communion on First Sunday each mo.
- Men's Prayer Breakfast Tues. @ 8 am.
- Chair Yoga Tuesdays and Thursdays
- Sept 7 - 1st Wed. Choir Practice @ 4pm
- Sept 11 - Bible Study Begins @ 9am
- Sept. 11 - Finger-food Kickoff Social
- Sept. 15 - Women's Devotion 3rd Thurs.
- Sept. 18 - Worship in Music, Bonnie Estes
- Oct. 9 - Session Meeting after Worship
- Oct. 30 - Fifth Sunday Speaker

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				Yoga 10:30	2	3
4	5 <small>Late Day</small>	Yoga 10:30	★7	Yoga 10:30	9	10
★11	12	Yoga 10:30	14	★15 Yoga 10:30	16	17
★18	19	Yoga 10:30	21	★22 Yoga 10:30	23	24
25	26	27 Yoga 10:30	28	Yoga 10:30	29	30

Carl's Comments Continued

In the 19 years as your pastor, we have been through much together. We have lost wonderful members of our congregation to death or moving away. We have seen new people join our church picking up the ball for the people we lost. Not replacing them because they can never be replaced in our hearts. Change comes into our lives and the life of our congregation, but we grow through it by the power of the Holy Spirit.

It is time for change in Evelyn's and my life. After much prayer and conversations with Evelyn and my family, I have decided to retire in 2023. Next June I will have 50 years of ordained service to God. I plan to retire on 3 July 2023. The session has a beginning plan on the continuing worship and leadership of the congregation upon my retirement. Rest assured that all will go well as the Holy Spirit works in our midst.

God Bless you. *Carl & Evelyn*



Sept. 18 - Worship in Music with Bonnie Estes

Bonnie is an old friend of Jeanette West and is a talented singer/songwriter who will conduct our 9/18 service.

She was born and raised in Temple, Texas. After graduating from Temple High School, Estes attended Baylor University (Waco, TX) and the University of Kansas (Lawrence, KS) to complete her Bachelor's in Music Therapy. Following this, she went on to complete her master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling.



Estes has worked in varying positions with mental health continuums of care - outpatient, intensive outpatient, inpatient, incarceration facilities, and school districts. She is currently in private practice as a Licensed Professional Counselor in Henderson, Texas. Bonnie and her husband, Greg, reside in the community of Minden.

Bonnie currently serves as a church pianist at Minden Baptist Church near her rural home. A CD of original songs reflecting her love of the Lord is entitled "Fork in the Road."

Common Lectionary Readings (Carl will change topics at times due to requests - especially in the Summer)

	13th Sun. after Pentecost - Sept. 4	14th Sun. after Pentecost - Sept. 11	15th Sun. after Pentecost - Sept. 18	16th Sunday after Pentecost - Sept. 25
1st Reading	Jeremiah 18:1-11	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15
Psalm	Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18	Psalm 14	Psalm 79:1-9	Psalm 91:1-6, 14-16
2nd Reading	Philemon 1:1-21	1 Timothy 1:12-17	1 Timothy 2:1-7	1 Timothy 6:6-19
Gospel	Luke 14:25-33	Luke 15:1-10	Luke 16:1-13	Luke 16:19-31

Sept. Birthdays



- June Lubowski 12
- J.C. Pennington 12
- Jack Goggans 15
- Shirley Lett 25
- Donald Engelke 26
- Pete Stebbins 26

About our Members (and Prayer Requests)

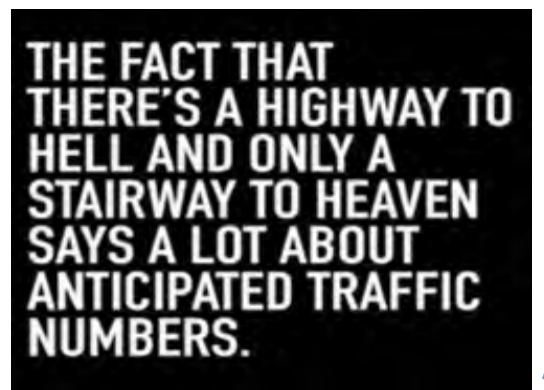
Betsy Tyson has had a tough two years but is back to most of her everyday activities. Still some back pain but getting better.

Pete and Trish Stebbins need prayers for healing and strength. Trish has an intestinal malady that has not improved very quickly. Pete has a wound imbedded in old burn scar tissue that is not healing. Several months and scores of visits to doctors have not moved this forward much. We need your prayers.

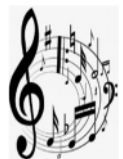
Matt Haynes, the grandson of friends of Evelyn and Jerry Matthews, who was diagnosed with leukemia, is still going through cancer treatment. He also has a case of COVID. Please continue to pray as they

treat and monitor Matt's progress.

Bob Norris did get his electrolytes back in balance and he is doing much better. Thanks for the prayers.



Adult Bible Study - Shirley Pinkston

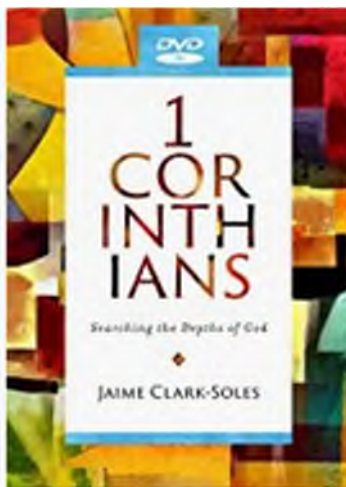


"Jesus loves me this I know..."
 "Love divine, all love excel ling..."
 "Love lifted me..."
 "More love to thee, O Christ..."
 "Wonderful story of love, tell it to me again..."

From early childhood, we sing many songs about love, so we are aware of how important love is in the Christian life. We begin our Bible studies this year with an in-depth look at I Corinthians, Paul's New Testament letter to the Corinthians that contains what we commonly refer to as the "Love Chapter," I Corinthian 13. This chapter ends with these words:

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

The Corinthian Christ followers were trying a new social experiment, a Christian community in the middle of the first-century "sin city." This church was dealing with



many issues that plague today's churches, and the study will help us apply the lessons Paul taught to our problems today.

The title of our book is I Corinthians: Searching the Depths of God, by Jaime Clark-Soles, an ordained minister who is a Professor of New Testament and Distinguished Professor of Theology at Southern Methodist University. She will help us do the hard work of reading what can sometimes be a culturally confusing text. She wrote: "Paul's writings in I Corinthians teaches us a logic that depends on love..."

Classes begin at 9:00 a.m. Sunday, September 11 in the adult classroom. Coffee and cookies will be available as we share God's word and fellowship together. Everyone is welcome. Books are available at the church for you to pick up by September 4th.

Session Meeting Minutes from Aug. 14 - Pat Rehm

Presbyterian Church of Salado Stated Session Meeting Minutes - 11:07 am to 12:23 pm.

Present: Rev. Carl Thompson; Treasurer Pat Hart; Clerk Pat Rehm; Elders: Randy Kemp, Debbie Aldridge, Mike Hart, Sharon VanWinkle, and Jeanette West.

Minutes of May 15 meeting approved.

Treasurer's Report - Pat Hart

Joyce and Bill Goza's bequeathed funds are now in the Vanguard Fund. Our regular offerings are close to being "on budget" YTD through July. Cleaning and energy costs are over budget.

Worship - Jeanette West

Elders that will serve Communion have been identified. Bonnie Estes, a guest pianist and vocalist, will perform special music during the Sept. 18 worship service.

Education - Mike Hart

Pat Rehm's Summer Bible Study has been a big success. The Men@Prayer group continues and is currently studying the Book of Matthew. Fifth Sunday Speakers will resume on Oct. 30 with a guest from the Presbyterian Children's Home in Austin.

Building and Grounds - Randy Kemp

A new cleaning person will begin working on Fridays. Any maintenance suggestions need to go through Randy.

Fellowship - Shay VanWinkle

A light lunch (finger food) will be the meal during our Sept. 11 Fall Kickoff Social after the service. This is a celebration of both the beginning of the Fall Choir season and new Adult Sunday School program.

Benevolence - Mike Hart

Benevolence giving has totaled some \$13K or 24% of offerings. We also provide 35 loaves of bread twice a month for Heart & Hands.

Personnel/Finance - Debby Aldridge

Debby noted that five substitutes have been recruited to backup Cindy Pennington and John Pettijohn as the regulars to be utilized as needed to count the Sunday offerings.

Pastor's Report - Rev. Carl Thompson

Carl will be taking vacation days every other week for the remainder of the year to use up accrued vacation time.

Carl expects to retire fully at the end of June 2023.

Respectfully submitted by Pat Rehm, Clerk of the Session and condensed by Pete Stebbins

A PLACE AT THE TABLE - Linda Lloyd

Ralph and I had breakfast in Waco this morning, at Chip and Joanna Gaines' place, the Magnolia Table Cafe. The coffee was hot and the blueberry pancakes with lemon zest were delicious!

We were seated across from a communal table where "singles" can choose to sit with others to share a meal. It reminded me of another place that we ate at on a trip to Europe many years ago.

I couldn't help but notice the big metal sign above that table. In big bold letters, it proclaimed: "WHERE EVERYONE HAS A SEAT AT THE TABLE." I loved that!

When I looked up what a table symbolized it said something like this. "The table is a place where we interact with friends, family, colleagues, and enemies. Remember? Even Jesus dined with a Pharisee.

It reminded me that we too have a seat at the table, the communion table, where Jesus calls us to partake of the bread and the wine in remembrance of Him. As the old hymn says, "Jesus calls us o'er the tumult of our life's wild restless seas. Jesus calls us o'er the tumult saying "Christian, follow me."

Luke 22:30: "You prepare a table before me in the presence of mine enemies; you anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows".



Luke 14:13: Jesus said, "When you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, lame, and the blind."

We are all welcome at God's table.

From a Merry Heart - *Linda Lloyd*

Choir Practice Starting Again - Sept. 7th and then each Wednesday at 4:00pm



Now that we have had a nice summer break, choir practice will resume. Our 1st practice will be on Wednesday, 9/7/22, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. We will be reviewing some of our music from last year, as well as beginning to learn "new-to-some-of-you" hymns. I am looking forward to this time together as we have had a chance to sing together this last year.

We are blessed to have Sharon (Shay) VanWinkle in the choir director position again. It is great to have her leading in this capacity and using her former band/orchestra training!

Nancy Norris will also be playing the chime bells at many of the services. This will include chime bell solos, ringing with the choir, and specials with organ, piano, or any other instrument YOU are willing to play. You may not realize there are 2 sets of chime bells. This means,

even though Nancy has been our sole ringer, there is room for others to learn to play the bells.

Betty Gengler will be helping Shay and me with the choir notebooks. This includes filing music, putting music in and/or taking it out of the plastic sleeves for our choir. If you have an interest in helping in this "behind-the-scenes" opportunity, let us know.

Please consider joining the choir. There is always room for more. The Bible says, "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into His presence with singing." Psalm 100:1-2 NRSV. It is as easy as that!

If you would like more information on choir, singing, playing the bells or another instrument, please talk with Shay or me on the 7th!

Sharing in Christ's Service, Jeanette West

Summer Bible Study in Review

The Thursday Bible Study group has just completed the nine-week study on Celebrating Sabbath. A huge heartfelt "Thank You" to Pat Rehm for leading the group through this enlightening study.

The summer Bible study's participants had a potluck meal at the last meeting on August 25. After discussing the lesson, they prepared "thinking of you" cards to send to certain members and friends of our church.

While the study lasted nine weeks, members of the group decided to continue having lunch, a devotion, and discussion on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Last year they started a once-a-month devotional/inspirational group as a continued opportunity for Christian Fellow-

ship. This gathering will continue this year on the 3rd Thursday of every month. The first gathering will be on Thursday, September 15th. The meetings will be in the adult classroom, at 11:30 after yoga. Bring a sack lunch and the devotional is from 12:00-1:00.

Mark your calendar; meetings are Sept. 15, Oct. 20, Nov. 17, Dec. 15, and for 2023 - Jan. 19, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18. They all look forward to sharing in Christian Fellowship.

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *"Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."*



These pictures are from the Aug. 25th meeting.

