

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

December, 2019

Advent comes. It's that time of the year again when we prepare for the coming of the Christ child. For those of us who claim the Christian faith, that simply must be a matter of more than decorating the Christmas Tree and spending too much hard earned money on gifts for those we love. And contrary to what Walmart would have us believe, Christmas does not begin on November 1 as soon as we've had time to mark down the Halloween items for quick sale.

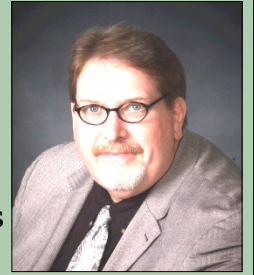
The season of Advent ought to be a time of reflection for us to focus on what it means that "God so loved the world . . ." If we aren't captured by the incarnational love of God in the Jesus Christ, it will be difficult to convince ourselves and others of the truths of the faith. It takes a little effort on our part to understand and to live the gospel truth revealed in the Christmas story. Advent is the time set aside to do that.

I've been waiting for some time for the new Mr. Rogers movie to come to theaters. I've been a Mr. Rogers fan for a long time and spent an awful lot of time watching him with a kid in my lap years ago. I was always impressed that a man ordained to the ministry in the Presbyterian Church would choose to minister to children to live out that ordination. In a way, he was a mentor to me. Over and over in the lessons he chose to teach children, Mr. Rogers upheld the importance of kindness in this world of ours. We need more Fred Rogers right now.

The film opens this week and is titled, *A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood*. It stars Tom Hanks. It is based on Tom Junod's 1998 *Esquire* magazine cover story about Mr. Rogers and the relationship the two men developed as the article was researched and written. The author and Rogers remained friends until Rogers' death in 2003.

In a recent interview, Junod said, "The thing about Fred was that he was a really complicated man who had a very simple idea which was at the center of everything . . . at

From the pastor



Rev. Drew Travis

the bottom of the universe, at the top of the list, was the simple fact that God loved you." Junod continued, "Fred wrote to me many times of the simple fact that God never gives up on you. And I think that Fred's idea of grace was the manifestation of that."

I'm going to take my cue from Mr. Rogers this Advent and Christmas Season: the incarnation is a really complicated proposition based on a very simple idea which is at the center of everything . . . God loves you, and me, and us together. God never gives up on us. May all that we do as we live our lives of faith be a manifestation of that idea of grace.

See you Sunday,

Drew

P.S. Here's an Advent discipline to follow this year that I discovered on Facebook: Beginning December 1, read one chapter of the Gospel of Luke each day. There are 24 chapters. By Christmas Day you will have read the entire gospel and will know who and why we celebrate. Give it a try.



Congregational Care

Annelle Teal, elder
806-736-0158
tealad@sbcglobal.net



Our church family

- We mourn the loss of our new member, Wayne Harvey. Prayers go out to his wife Marijane Harvey, and Bianca and Bill Brownfield.
- We mourn the passing of Sally Attebury and honor her 98 years on earth.
- Don Williams is recovering from joint replacement surgery.
- Dan Crise had knee surgery.
- Dolores Groom had a stroke and is in rehab in Weatherford.
- Kathryn Hogue was in a car accident. She is unharmed but the car was totaled.

Our extended family

- **Several of our members had loved ones pass away.**
- Lorraine Schmitz's daughter, Denise Williams, lost her battle with cancer.
- Barbara Sloan's father passed away.
- Ruth Ann and Max Jewel lost their son-in-law, John Lyon, who was in ill health. He died of a heart attack.
- Jean Matthews' grandson, Dillon Simms, passed away.
- Mark Collinworth's father, Coy, died in Alabama.
- Annelle and David Teal's niece, Danielle Murdock, was in a car accident and has gone through several surgeries.
- Juanita Morgan's dear friend, Ginnie Doubleday of Fort Worth, is facing a probable diagnosis of lung cancer.
- Pastor Drew's sister, Jan, had a serious heart attack recently, which postpones much needed back surgery.
- Pastor Drew's young grandson, Riley, has to have his ablation repeated.
- Cathy Carbaugh's brother-in-law, Rick, died suddenly from a massive heart attack.

At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury
Mary Skinner

Waterview at Lake Granbury
Kathleen Moore

The Cove at Lake Granbury
Eloise Pauli
Maddie Reed
Jean Teal

Quail Park
Ruth Garrett
Pete & Nancy Pauley
Marilou Schairbaum
John Cheney
Charles Basket

Granbury Care Center
CH Tubbs

At home and/or receiving treatment

Shirley McDonald
Martha Ferrill
Ed Smith
Stan Bowlin
Winette Lovelady
Bill Lowe

To our congregation, if you know of anyone who would appreciate a home visit, please let Annelle Teal or the church office know of your concern. Thank you!

Congregational Care

Annelle Teal, elder
806-736-0158
tealad@sbcglobal.net



November Birthdays

1 Susan Harding	16 Debbie Armstrong
2 Baylor Southern David Johnson Ed Hughes	18 Junnie Herron Sheila Wood
3 Brad Bell Linda Powell	19 Saunya Bishop
4 David Hinterleiter	20 Karen Stahlman
6 Jan Massengale Marcia Walker	22 Diana Burton
8 Ann Mitchell Eloise Pauli	23 Rita Hart
10 Renee Metcalf	26 Carl Dinkel Keith Nolan
11 C.H. Tubbs Carolyn Rudsenske Gary Towers	31 Dick Kliemann Warren Rutz
13 Deece Robertson Greg Schneider Peggy Losher	



Anniversaries

1 Ben and Anne Mays
5 David and Julia Hinterleiter
10 Joe and Felicia Peters Dana and Stephen Reinke
12 Lillian and Joe Ethridge
20 Robert and Carol Gadbois
22 Theda and Jim Deaver
28 Kelton and Virginia Conner Susan and Timm Kidd
29 Bernice and Ron Deeds Stan and Renee Metcalf



Jean Teal is in #154 at The Cove for a physical address but her mail will now be going to our address

Jean Teal
9108 Bontura Rd.
Granbury 76049

They don't have mailboxes for those in memory care and Jean gets a lot, so The Cove asked us to have her mail sent to us.

Thank you, Annelle

F.U.N. Circle

Peggy Losher,
F.U.N. Circle coordinator



On Monday, December 9, Melody Belles will provide the program for F.U.N. Circle and PW, followed by a luncheon in Fellowship Hall.

Administration

Roy Schoeneman, elder
wrschoeneman@charter.net



Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins
Prayer chain coordinator
huhwhat777@att.net



Church Attendance Report:

27 Oct: 157

3 Nov: 153

10 Nov: 177

17 Nov: 135

Record of Giving and Budget Need:

Year-to-date (Jan – Oct 2019) Giving: \$394,995.67

Year-to-date (Jan – Oct 2019) Budget Need: \$389,068.24

Prayer of the month December

Merciful God

Keep us on track this month, remembering what is important, what we are celebrating, why it bears celebrating and the best ways to share this good news: Jesus Christ is born! We sing praises to you, a loving and merciful God for bringing this brilliant light into our tiny world. As our knowledge of the universe expands so does our awe and wonder in you. Without the love of our dear Savior, how lonely and frightened we would be in this contemplation. Thank you for blessing us with the gift of the Christ child. Help us reciprocate and share your love of us every day throughout the year. Open our eyes to see what needs to be done so that others who do not know your full mercy can be brought into the light of your love and be blessed. Addiction, Father, it is all around us. It causes parents to neglect their children and the addicted to waste their personal gifts and strengths, not to mention financial resources. Hearts are torn in those around them because of their helplessness and repeated failure to put things right. Remind them, Father, a cure is not in their hands but in yours and in that of the addict. Help us discover ways to prevent addiction, open our eyes to ways to empower people so they can turn away from substances. Heal the heartache caused by it and let both the addicted and those who love them find solace in you. Bring us to the New Year safely and with renewed vigor to face whatever challenges it might bring. We give thanks for the addition you have provided for our church family and ask you blessings upon our new Associate Pastor. Bless the work of First Presbyterian Church of Granbury, Texas and let us all continue to serve you always in good spirits, if not in good health.

In Christ's name.

Amen.

If you would like prayers for yourself, a friend or a loved one, please contact Pat Collins at the email above.



**GIVE.
SHARE.
GROW.**

Making your offering at <http://fpcgranbury.org/online-giving/> allows you to pay the way you like, while also making it easier to track your charitable giving for tax purposes. Plus, you can spread the work of our mission with your friends and family through Facebook!

Visit <http://fpcgranbury.org/online-giving/> today and see how easy online stewardship can be.

**Presbyterian
FOUNDATION** 

Worship

Kathy Long, elder



December will be very busy at First Presbyterian Church! The first Sunday of Advent is on December 1st. Our beautiful Sanctuary will be all decked out for Advent! Please remember that there will be forty poinsettias available to place in memory of or in honor of a loved one or friend. Forms will be available on the Narthex table.

On December 6th and 7th, there are many events planned in our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall for the annual Granbury Candlelight Tour. Melody Belles will perform a concert at 6PM on Friday, December 6th. On Saturday, December 7th at 1:00 in the Fellowship Hall, our very own Nancy Worcester will present Christmas Cookie Caper Too! At 4:00 in the Sanctuary, Granbury Civic Chorus is performing and at 5:00 The Madrigal Singers perform. At 6:00 PM our wonderful FPC Handbell Choir performs and at 7PM The Granbury Sax Quartet performs.

Our choir and musicians have been hard at work getting prepared for our Cantata which will be at 10:00 (one service only!) on December 15th.

On December 24th, there will be a special Christmas Eve service at 7:00 PM.

Pastor Drew will be away for some rest and family time on December 29th. Nancy Worcester will be leading our worship service.

It's definitely a busy time in December with an abundance of special musical performances and worship services. Please invite your friends and family and join us to observe this very special season.

Kathy, Worship Elder

Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



Christmas Gift Bags for our Neighbors

This Christmas, we are providing gifts for the residents at the Housing Authority units just to the north of Granbury Square. We will fill gift bags for 25 families and 83 elderly or disabled residents. If you would like to donate a gift bag for a family with a cozy blanket, a family game, holiday hand soap, hot chocolate and popcorn there is a tree in the narthex that has gift tags with the children's ages. OR if you would like to donate fleece lap blankets, holiday beverage mixes, holiday hand soap, or lip balm for the gift bags for the adult residents please bring them to the narthex or church office. Please bring all donations by Sunday December 15th.

Thank you to everyone who has provided food for the **Habitat for Humanity** volunteers!! They are a dedicated crew of 45-50 men and women out there on Wednesdays and they very much appreciate the lunch that we bring each month.



Presbyterian Women

Margaret Gulinson
PW Moderator
mgulinson@gmail.com



The Christmas Luncheon and Program is right around the corner, Monday, Dec. 9. It starts at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary. The Melody Bells will be singing for us. Come enjoy one of our favorite celebrations listening to delightful music from Granbury's well known women's choral group. Some of our members are a part of this talented group of women who enjoy learning, practicing and performing music for venues such as civic organizations, churches and retirement centers. Melody Belles originated in 1981 and usually includes between twenty and thirty auditioned singers. While adding new voices every year or two, it still keeps the "sistership" feeling they have for one another. Following the program we will have our traditional Christmas Luncheon in Fellowship Hall provided by our very own wonderful members. The food is absolutely delicious! Come and bring your spouse and friends. If you missed the Nov. 24th deadline for reservations, call Emily Holmes for a reservation, 817-304-7280.

CC's Carry Ons, back by popular demand, is scheduled for **Jan. 29, 2020, 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall**. Charlotte Staples will update us on the status of this program to benefit foster youth when CPS removes them from abusive homes. We will assemble "First Night Bags" for the children who sometimes leave their home with nothing but the clothes on their backs. Take advantage of the holiday sales or your trips to Costco to buy the needed items. **CPS needs more 0 to 18 months infant bags than any other size. We will focus on these sizes in order to make complete bags. Collect the following items for us to assemble in a gallon size ziplock bag: 5 diapers, baby wash, pacifier, socks, pajamas, cuddle toy and explore toy.** Jan. 29th, bring them to the meeting where we will be God's hands and feet for these little ones!

The following lists other items always needed. Bring them if you want, there is nothing she can't use. Travel size shampoo, conditioner, lotion, tooth paste, tooth brushes, lip balm, & deodorant; pull-ups for 2T, 3T and 4T; underpants size 2T through 10/12; socks newborn through adult small; pajamas/sleep-shirts/sleep shorts 0 months through 10years; \$10 Pilot Cases for kids; small suitcases, back packs or duffel bags; pacifiers – new; baby bath packs from Dollar Tree; Taggie sized cuddle blanket toys; infant toys and teething; Beanie Babies (used is ok, Charlotte will wash them); small flashlights; little kid toothbrushes; gallon size zip lock bags; string back packs; shower scrunches; hair brushes; nail clippers; and diapers size 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Good sources: Dollar Tree, Walmart, Amazon for travel size toiletries. For more information, go to CC's Carry Ons' Facebook page.

Dates to Remember:

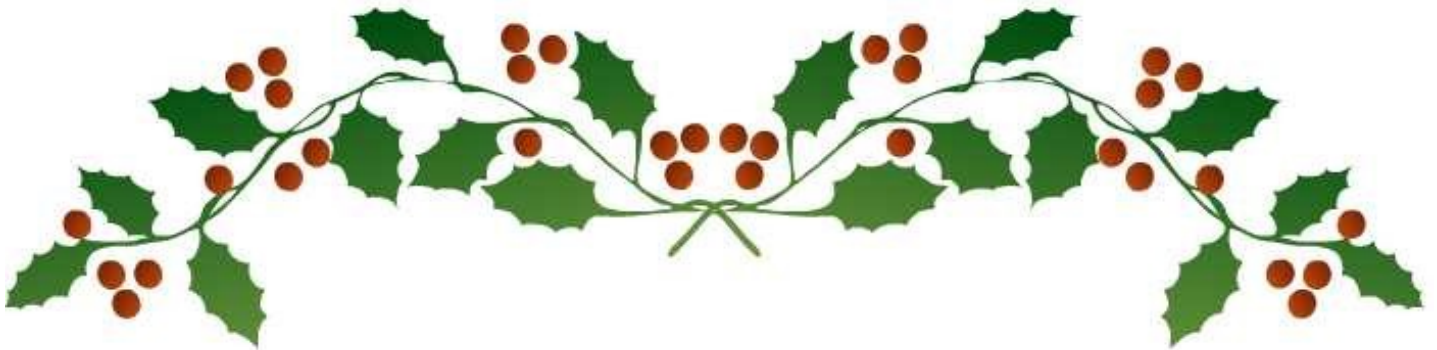
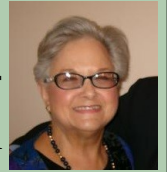
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|---------|---|
| Dec. 9 | Christmas Luncheon and Program |
| Jan. 6 | Bridge
F.U.N. Circle - Undeck the Halls |
| Jan. 7 | Bible Study
Trinity Mission Party |
| Jan. 10 | PW Meeting: Prison Book Ministry, Nancy Worcester, bring paperback books to donate. |
| Jan. 15 | Book Circle – <u>Peace Like A River</u> , Leif Enger |
| Jan. 29 | CC's Carry Ons |

DECEMBER 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Communion 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	2 10:00 AM Co-ed Bridge 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Strings Practice 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Al-Anon	3 10:00 AM Jeanelle Morris Bible Study Circle 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM Trinity Mission Birthday Party 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Disciples Bible Study	4 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	5 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM clergy group meeting	6 6:00 PM Melody Belles Concert	7 1:00 PM Christmas Cookie Caper Tool 4:00 PM Granbury Civic Chorus 5:00 PM Madrigal Singers 6:00 PM FPC Handbell Choir 7:00 PM Granbury Sax Quartet
8 Hand Bells Play 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	9 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PWFUN Circle Christmas Luncheon 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Strings Practice 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Al-Anon	10 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Granbury Knitters	11 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	12 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Elder Training	13	14
15 10:00 AM Cantata 11:00 AM Chili Luncheon	16 Bridge Articles Due 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Strings Practice 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Al-Anon	17 5:30 PM Session	18 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	19 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM clergy group meeting 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Oddfellows Lodge #237	20	21
22 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	23 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Strings Practice 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Al-Anon	24 Office Closed for Holiday 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	25 Office Closed for Holiday	26 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles	27	28
29 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	30 1:00 PM - 3:30 PM Strings Practice 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Al-Anon	31	1 Office Closed for Holiday	2 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles	3	4

Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

The Fellowship Committee is planning two events before Christmas.

We will be serving **hot chocolate** in front of the Administration Building before the Christmas Parade on Nov 29th. This will start at 6:00 PM. The **parade** starts at 6:30.

Next, there will be a **Christmas Luncheon** following the Choir Cantata on December 15th. The Fellowship Committee will be serving homemade chili with all the fixings. The congregation is asked to bring cookies / desserts. There will be a bulletin insert the Sunday before the luncheon as a reminder.

Administration

Roy Schoeneman, elder
wrschoeneman@charter.net



WATCH US ONLINE

Sundays at 11:00 am
fpcgranbury.org/live



Facebook and YouTube
Search: FPC Granbury

Previous services also available for playback

Christian Education

Nancy Bennett, elder
nbennett0803@gmail.com



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

*Come celebrate the Advent and
Christmas Seasons with us!*

*The Great
Christmas
Cookie
Caper Too*

Special Events & Services

November 25—9:00 AM

Decorate the Church

November 29—6:30 PM

Night of Lights Christmas Parade

December 7—1:00 PM

The Great Christmas Caper Too

December 15—10:00 AM

Christmas Cantata Service

December 24—7:00 PM

Christmas Eve Service

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

300 W. Bridge Street
Granbury, TX 76048

www.fpcgranbury.org
www.facebook.com/fpcgranbury

**We Do Church
Together!**



For our second year, the Great Christmas Cookie Caper Too will feature Jingles, Nancy, and Waco the Weasel as they look for the animals who witnessed the birth of the little baby Jesus in the manger. But where IS the cow who gave up his hay, or the donkey who carried the mother? Where is the sheep who gave wool for his blanket, or the dove who sang him to sleep?

They are nowhere to be found, but there are plenty of other surprises to be had. What is with all the HISSING going on? Who is this stranger who comes bearing unusual animals of every kind?

Find out more at

FREE EVENT
DECEMBER 7TH 1:00 PM
FELLOWSHIP Hall

Please bring a
can or bag of
pet food or a
pet toy to
support local
charities.

Associate Pastor Nominating Committee

Last fall the congregation elected an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, composed of Mark Collinsworth, Connie Darne', Ann Mitchell, Linda Allen, Derek Faulkner, Marty Gump, and Mike Gulinson. During this past year we have worked faithfully and diligently.

We are very pleased that God has blessed us with someone we believe will be a tremendous asset to our church. Our congregation voted unanimously on October 27, 2019, to extend a call to Reverend Brenda Church. Rev. Church has served as stated supply pastor at FPC Ballinger, TX for the past three years. She brings many skills, including worship leadership, Christian education experience, a mission focus, and organizational ability. Above all, she has a passion for pastoral care. Her enthusiasm and energy seem boundless. She will help enhance our ministry to our elderly and home bound members, increase our outreach to potential members and visitors. She is as excited about our church and our community as we are about her. We feel certain that the Holy Spirit has led her to our church! We anticipate she will begin as our Associate Pastor in early January 2020. We hope you will join us in welcoming her to our church family.

The APNC would like to extend a sincere **THANK YOU** to the congregation for your prayers and support of our committee. We could not have done this work without you and faith that God was guiding us.



The **Men's Study Group** meets each Wednesday at noon in the Admin Building. Bring your lunch and come join us. We are currently viewing Rob Bell's "Nooma" series and considering "Short Stories by Jesus" (a study of the parables) for later in the fall. You are invited!



Membership

Brenda Staples, elder
Brenda@flytx1.com



Fellowship Dinner

A Fellowship Dinner was given November 8th by the Membership Committee. There were 53 in attendance, including 25 new members (plus 2 children), 16 frequent visitors, and 12 committee and Session members. An evening of fun, food, and fellowship provided a chance for everyone to get better acquainted.

Invite! Invite!

Please remember to invite folks to attend the musical events at our church on the Candlelight Tour Dec. 6th & 7th. The Cookie Caper Too (Dec. 7) with Nancy Worcester and Friends, as well as the Cantata (Dec.15, 10:00am) and the traditional Christmas Eve service. Watch for colorful ads with information on these events in the Hood County News on 11/27, 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18, as well as the December Showcase magazine.

We are growing!

More new members are expected to join at the 11:00am service on December 8th.

Library committee

Book Overview For PW Book Club's February Selection For Discussion by Kay McMillan

The Presbyterian Women's monthly book club will read "The Great Alone" by Kristin Hannah, author of the acclaimed novel "The Nightingale" and many others. In this, her latest novel, a desperate family seeks a new beginning in the near-isolated wilderness of Alaska only to find that their unpredictable environment is less threatening than the erratic behavior found in human nature.

Alaska, 1974: Ernt Allbright came home from Vietnam War a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes the impulsive decision to move his wife and daughter north where they will live off the grid in America's last true frontier.

Cora will do anything for the man she loves, even if it means following him into the unknown. Thirteen year old Leni, caught in the riptide of her parents' passionate, stormy relationship has little choice but to go along, daring to hope this new land promises her family a better future.

In a wild and remote corner of Alaska, the Allbrights find a fiercely independent community of strong men and even stronger women. The long sunlit days and the generosity of the locals make up for the newcomers' lack of reparation and dwindling resources.

But as winter approaches and darkness descends, Ernt's fragile mental state deteriorates. The dangers outside soon pale in comparison to threats from within. In their small cabin, covered in snow, blanketed in eighteen hours of night, Leni and her mother learn the terrible truth: they are on their own.



2019 First Presbyterian, Granbury Elders

Administration, Roy Schoeneman

Christian Education, Nancy Bennett

Clerk of Session, Mike Gulinson

Congregational Care, Annelle Teal

Property, Lloyd Sigrist

Fellowship, Linda Allen

Long-Range Planning, Jerry Althouse

Membership, Brenda Staples

Outreach & Mission, Bianca Brownfield

Stewardship, Jack Gilmore

Ushering, Ruth Ann Collins

Worship, Kathy Long

If you would like to receive a paper copy of the bridge please let Shanna know , 817-573-2337.

If you are receiving a paper copy and only need the email version please let Shanna know, office@fpcgranbury.com.

To:

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury
202 W. Pearl St.
Granbury, TX 76048