

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

October, 2020

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



As I was trying to write a piece for the Bridge this month, I stumbled across this blog a friend shared with me. It's written by Sean Dietrich from his blog "Sean of the South." It is titled "Biscuit Lovers." Enjoy!

I am saying grace before supper. And a lot is going through my mind. Namely because we are eating biscuits tonight. And I love biscuits. When I am done saying this blessing, I will experience one of the best feelings on planet Earth. Which is peeling open one of my wife's hot, handmade catheads. Steam will rise from the soft bread to kiss me square on the nose. And I will swear I can almost hear the Vienna Boys Choir singing "Ave Verum Corpus" somewhere in the distance.

I have a long childhood history with biscuits. The day after my father's funeral I remember awaking to find our kitchen covered in a fine dusting of Gold Medal Flour. There were old coffee cans of lard on counters, and matronly women in beehive hairdos. The oven had transformed the kitchen into a sauna. The sound of female chatter was like the sound of geese on a pond. I sniffed the air. Hallelujah. They were making biscuits.

After a funeral you have a lot of food around. This happens when someone you love dies. Church ladies with solemn faces show up at odd hours to leave hot pans on your porch, or shoeboxes of fried chicken, or Tupperware containers with notecards attached to the lids. And you receive a lot of biscuits. This is because the American biscuit is not something that merely sits in a bread basket, covered with gingham. A real biscuit is true. It is something real. Next time you eat a biscuit think of the hands that mixed the flour. Human hands that have seen their share of pain, and loss, and life.

See the fingers flex when they knead lard into the ivory dough. Watch the dusty palms use an upside-down cup to stamp each one. Verily. This is love.

The ironic thing is, after my father's funeral I didn't feel like eating. I had no appetite. I had bleeding ulcers from the time I was 9 because of a crummy homelife. And after my father's end, my nervous stomach only got worse. And do you know how they treated my ulcers? Well, the first method was something called wax suppositories, which I firmly believe ought to be outlawed. But the second treatment was soft, hot, golden-crust, crumbly centered, buttermilk biscuits. The women in my life took it upon themselves to heal me with food. Strange old ladies appeared from the shadows with plates of food in hand. Had it not been for these women, I would have surely withered and died.

When I met my wife, one of the first things she ever cooked for me were fried gizzards and biscuits. We shoved these scalding hot gizzards inside the steaming, floury biscuits, then smashed the pieces together, slathered them with butter, and ate until we were ill. And I couldn't quit grinning at the supper table. Because you see. Life is jagged. And it never quits lunging at you. Just when you think you're through the hard parts, there are more bumps over the next hill. But biscuits. They make life into art. They are more than they seem. They are the stuff prayers are made of. All food prepared with tenderness is this way. This bread comes to us from another realm, even though we don't deserve it, there it is. Proof that someone loves us.

Over the years, my wife's biscuits have undergone subtle changes. They have varied in thickness and weight. They have grown softer, larger, smaller, fatter, richer, more buttery, more flaky, more crumbly, lighter. Like them,

(Continued on next page)

Congregational Care

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



From the pastor Cont...

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgttravis@gmail.com



Joys & Concerns

Our Church Family

- Jimmy and Donna Callahan are moving to The Courtyards.
- Stan Bolin had a brief hospital visit last month.
- Connie Gilmore tripped and hurt her nose and suffered a hairline fracture on her elbow.
- Libby Teitsma is back home after hospitalization.
- Shirley McDonald developed an infection after her back surgery and was in ICU. She was in quite a bit of pain.
- Pete Pauley will be interred October 17 in our columbarium. Only family will attend.

Our Extended Family

- Tom and Reann's daughter, Diann McHaney, is recovering from surgery.

F.U.N. Circle

Gloria Mitchell,
F.U.N. Circle coordinator
gwmitch@sbcglobal.net



FUN Circle will be going to the Elizabeth Crockett (widow of Davy Crockett) gravesite and memorial in Acton, on Wednesday, October 26. We might have an outdoor lunch (somewhere in Acton) afterward, depending on the weather. For more information,

please contact Gloria Mitchell
817 909-0326 or Dennie Treat
940 456-0465.



F.U.N. CIRCLE

my wife and I have also undergone changes. We never had children of our own, for instance, but we've had our share of dogs. We got most of these pups when they were no bigger than softballs. We watched them grow, we let them destroy our furniture, and we saw them into their late years when their snouts turned white. And on their final days, we held their heavy heads against our chests and told them we loved them, through soaked and swollen faces, while a vet helped them drift to sleep forever.

In other words, my wife and I have had a nice life. We've been to Mexico twice. And we have seen the prairies of the Midwest. We have eaten brisket in Texas, and seen the stars shine over the Grand Canyon like scattered snow on asphalt. We have walked the shores of Cape San Blas, tossed shells into the water of the Chesapeake, and dreamed aloud while looking at sunrises over the Appalachians.

We are growing older. And it's happening faster every day. I wish that time would slow down, but it doesn't. One day, my joints will hurt more than they do now. One day I will be white-haired and need help getting out of my La-Z-Boy recliner. One day we will be but shadows of the children we were. One day I will be gone. But I can truly say that I have known the finest that this world can offer me. The hand of a lover, and a friend.

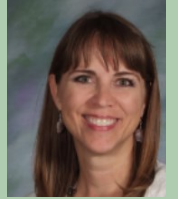
Tonight, I'm seated at a suppertable, holding that flour-covered hand. My head is bowed. If I were a painter, I'd put my whole heart into the greatest painting ever painted and give it to her. If I were a sculptor, I would carve something from the best and biggest piece of marble. If I were a builder, I'd give her Buckingham. But there is so little I can give, other than my beating heart. And these few words: "Bless this food, Lord. And bless the hands that prepared it."

See you Sunday,

Drew

Congregational Care

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



October Birthdays

1 Jerry Davis Marla Hill	14 Christian Luersen Joe Peters
2 Janna Sullins	17 Mary Lee McCarthy
3 Charles McKusick Jack Dapogny Jerry Althouse Kathryn Hogue	18 Frank Hengels
4 Dana Reinke	19 Mary Hayden
5 Jimmy Callahan	20 Margaret Gulinson
6 Betty Smith	25 Lachlyn McPhie
9 Jane Seley	28 Marjorie Wherry Roger Deeds
11 Judy Butler	29 Mary Hattox
	31 Virginia Conner Robert Silvestri



At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury

Mary Skinner
Jimmy & Donna Callahan

Waterview at Lake Granbury

Ted Dolan
Nita Collinsworth

The Cove at Lake Granbury

Eloise Pauli

Quail Park

Nancy Pauley
John Cheney
Charles Basket

The Oaks of Granbury

CH Tubbs

Autumn Hill Manor (Weatherford)

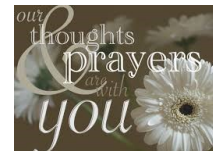
Dee Holt

Bridgewater Memory Care Granbury

Kathleen Moore

At home and/or receiving treatment

Ed Hughes
Martha Ferrill
Ed Smith
Stan Bowlin
Bill Lowe
Jeanie Smith
Jean Haight
Edith George
Warren Rutz
Shirley McDonald



Beverly McKusick
1109 Calinco Dr.
Granbury, TX 76048

Roy & Lynne Schoeneman
2595 Riley Rd.
Whitesboro, TX 76273

OUR **New**
ADDRESS

Nita Collinsworth
100 Watermark Blvd.
Apt. #403
Granbury, TX 76048

To celebrate your birthday (or that of a family member or friend), and in thanksgiving for God's gift of grace, please consider making a gift of your own, in the amount of \$1 for each year of your (or your honoree's) life, to sustain the permanent endowment funds of the church.

Please notify the church office when you make your gift that it is a birthday offering. If honoring someone else, please so note. If giving online, please provide this information in the "Notes."

October Anniversaries

2 Tim & Nancy Bennett
4 Nick & Laura Duecker
14 Joe & Felicia Peters
15 Curt & Debbie Armstrong
20 Jerry & Pepper Davis



Presbyterian Women

Margaret Gulinson

PW Moderator

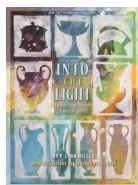
mgulinson@gmail.com

682-936-2312 (H) 214-868-7455 (C)



Our Bible study is off to a good start with options for In-Person meetings and Zoom meetings. We talked about the difference between a lament and whining. Since most of us just whine, we learned to make a lament, addressing God, thus, improving our communication with God. If you missed last month, come join us at one of the meetings listed below.

This month we will have our first business meeting of the year on Friday, Oct. 23rd. At this meeting we will also discuss the possibility of making and repairing Christmas Ornaments for our Christmas Tree we use in the sanctuary at Christmas time. Some of our existing ornaments need to be replaced and/or repaired.



Bible Study – “Into the Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament”, by P. Lynn Miller

- Oct. 8** 2nd Thurs. Morning In-Person Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00 AM. Contact Sheila Higgins for reservations at 817-579-5722 or smhig35@gmail.com
- Oct. 13** 2nd Tues. Morning In-Person Bible Study, Fellowship Hall, 11:00 AM. Contact Sheila Higgins for reservations at 817-579-5722 or smhig35@gmail.com
- Oct. 13** 2nd Tues. Zoom Virtual Study, 6:30 PM. Contact Rev. Brenda Church for reservations at 817-476-7827 or rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



Presbyterian Women Meeting – Oct. 23, Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM.

Oct. 23 We will have a business meeting and discuss future plans and projects.



F.U.N. Circle (Friends United Naturally), Fellowship Hall, 10:00 AM, 4th Wednesday

Oct. 28 Visit Elizabeth Crockett Gravesite, Acton Cemetery, Acton, TX, off Hwy 4/Acton Hwy. 10:00 AM, RSVP to Gloria Mitchell, (817) 909-0326, gwmitch@sbcglobal.net

Book Circle and Bridge Circle will not be meeting this month.



*Join Us for "Communion" on World Communion Sunday,
October 4, 6 o'clock in the evening. We'll gather in the
large parking lot and you may remain in your car or bring
lawn chairs to sit outside. A brief service of scripture and
prayer will provide our liturgy for the evening. The elements
will be carefully prepared in a sanitized manner and
delivered to each worshipper in individual containers.
Come gather at the table with Christians around the world.*

*We will be sharing communion during online worship that
morning so gather your elements for "home communion."*

Financial Update

Record of Giving and Budget Need:

Year-to-date (Jan – Aug 2020) Giving:
\$398,502.12

Year-to-date (Jan – Aug 2020) Budget Need:
\$357,579.66

Farewell to the Schoenemans

Each month for the past several years, *The Bridge* has contained a page of comments and news and financial updates from the Chair of our Administration Committee, Roy Schoeneman. You'll notice that the page is missing this month. Roy and Lynne have moved to Whitesboro to be nearer to their daughter and to enjoy the closer proximity to family. We will miss them both and all that they have contributed to the life of our congregation in the past many years. We will surely miss Roy's steady presence on the session and in the church office.

Roy and Lynne promise that they're not gone from our lives and that they will be popping in every now and then. We'll look forward to that occasion. Do note that the Schoeneman's new address can be found on page 3 of this edition of *The Bridge*.

Thank you Roy for being the best boss ever and for also being such a good friend. I so enjoyed working with you as the Administration Elder and will miss you dearly.

Shanna



As we noted earlier this month, the Thursday evening class did not make...but we need more slots for morning classes so we will discontinue Thursday evening and add Thursday morning. Therefore, our class schedule for October is as follows:

2nd Thursday of the month (10/8) at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

2nd Tuesday of the month (10/13) at 11:00 am in Fellowship Hall

2nd Tuesday of the month (10/13) at 1:30 pm (closed small group at Pat Collin's home)

2nd Tuesday of the month (10/13) at 6:30 pm via Zoom

Please RSVP to Sheila Higgins for either of the classes in Fellowship Hall and please RSVP to me for the Zoom class. We will RSVP each month until Covid is no longer a factor so please remember to claim your spot!

We had two folks who offered their back patios if we want to try to do an outdoor, mask optional session. I didn't get any response from others who wanted to do such a session...but if you do, please let me know. I am always happy to add sessions or do whatever is necessary to get this study out to everyone in safe ways.

Looking forward to seeing you in October!

Brenda





Nine FPC@Home Sunday School bags assembled with 6 Gospel lessons and crafts for our families.



FPC@Home - Sunday School provided nine families with lessons and crafts for 6 Sundays. The lessons were parables from the Book of Matthew which aligns with our lectionary and the crafts included a variety of types: pinecone birdseed feeders, coin rubbings and fall placemats. In all, 14 children were included in this project.

The Adult Sunday School is planning on meeting every other Sunday for fellowship and educational opportunities. Our first gathering was September 13th and we enjoyed an outdoor ice cream social (ly) distanced gathering. As weather changes, we will look at indoor and zoom options.

Ferncliff Camp is offering Advent boxes for families and homebound (or staying at home) older adults. This is the organization that provided the VBS Camp-in-a-box. Included in each box will be 4 lessons and a surprise for Christmas day. Pricing is based on a tier system with lower tiers being subsidized by Ferncliff. Tier I - \$29.00; Tier II - \$36; Tier III - \$49. Shipping costs are \$15 per box. If you are interested in ordering a box for a loved one or for yourself, you can order directly from Ferncliff (www.ferncliff.org/advent-in-a-box) or contact the church office. Please indicate whether you would like the family box or the older adult version. For families with multiple children, depending upon the ages of the children, you may want to order a separate box for each child.

Thank
you!

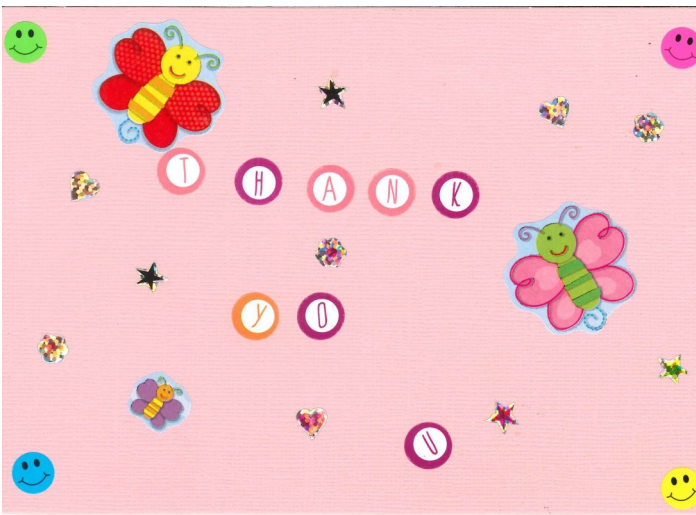
The Lord is my strength and my
shield; in him my heart trusts,
and I am helped; my heart
exults, and with my song I give
thanks to him.

Psalms 28:7

Dear ZPC,

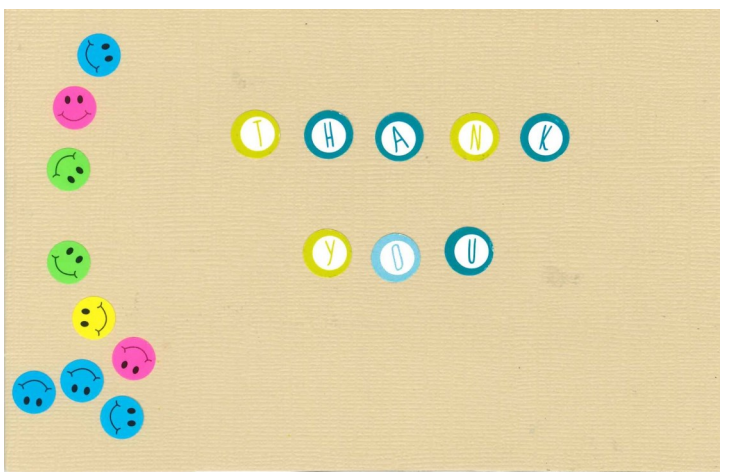
Thank you so much for bringing
me a camp in a box. I missed having
rebo but the box was fun.

Love,
Cash



Thank you for the V.B.S.
box. I enjoyed everything.

Love Kylee.



Thank you for my
VBS box. I liked the
bubbles most.

Kolby

Birthday Offering

To celebrate your birthday (or that of a family member or friend), and in thanksgiving for God's gift of grace, please consider making a gift of your own, in the amount of \$1 for each year of your (or your honoree's) life, to sustain the permanent endowment funds of the church.

In the 4th quarter of 2018, session created and authorized funding of three permanent funds: the general endowment fund, the benevolences fund, and the capital fund. Income earned in the general fund is distributed by formula to the benevolences and capital funds, and further distributed from those funds to support their designated missions. In 2020, nearly \$2,000 was provided to the Missions and Outreach Committee for additional missions giving; the capital fund paid for the installation of the anti-microbial sanitization systems installed in the church's HVAC systems in response to the pandemic.

Throughout the rich history of our church, the exceptional generosity and forward thinking of our congregation is very notable. Nothing about that has changed, even in these present trying circumstances. Your birthday offering, if you choose to give, will continue that tradition of which all of us to this day are the thankful beneficiaries.

Please notify the church office when you make your gift that it is a birthday offering. If honoring someone else, please so note. If giving online, please provide this information in the "Notes."

You may specifically designate your birthday offering to any one or more of the funds (general, benevolences and/or capital.) If you choose not to designate your gift, it will support the general endowment fund, and through its earnings, the other funds as well.



The church office will return to regular office hours on Monday, October 5th. Beginning that day, the office will be open from 8 to 4. Masks remain a requirement for the safety of all those who work in the office and all those who come to visit. We'll see you there.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church

rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



I woke this morning to 47 degree weather! I am not really sure how it's possible that it is October already! This has been, for me, one of the longest years in the history of my life and yet, in some ways, it has absolutely flown by! I love the changes in the seasons. These changes are visible and tangible evidence of the faithfulness of God. God is always making things new. God is always creating...always sustaining...always providing. Each day in the coming weeks, as you walk outside and feel that new chill in the air, I invite you to stop for a moment and think about how powerful and perfect Almighty God truly is! No one can cause the seasons to change. God does this with perfect consistency. No one can, at the same time, keep the plates of consistency spinning, and also, continually create and recreate new life and beauty and awe in our world. This month, if you feel the weight of the discord in our world, remember the God of all creation is in perfect control.

It's so wonderful that we are beginning to gather together again, in Bible Study, Sacred Space, Men's Group, Sunday School gatherings, and soon, in this very season, worship! Just as God is creating a new season on this earth, God is creating a new season for our church as we begin to gather again. Many of us have been praying for a return to normalcy, but perhaps a better prayer may be a prayer that God would usher us into something brand new! How can we, as God's people at First Presbyterian Church, become an even more faithful church? How can we, having lived (and continuing to live) through a season of pandemic, work together to bring our community and our world more closely in line with God's very best? What new possibilities and opportunities might we consider to help others who have not been as blessed as bountifully as we? Where can we bridge the gap with people that we may not yet understand? How can we be a part of creating beauty from ashes?

The time is now for God's Church to arise in every corner of the earth, to recognize anew that these seasonal changes are not just happenstance but the product and gift of our loving and very much alive God! Our God is active and working and God invites us to come alongside and join God in the most important work we will ever do...proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and frightened world. May the chill in the air bear in us a new sense of vitality in our identity as children of God!

Peace and joy and all things good!

Brenda

First Presbyterian Church—Granbury



303 West Bridge Street
Granbury, Texas 76048

Office & Mailing:
202 West Pearl Street

Brenda Church
Associate Pastor

817-476-7827 office 325-669-9904 cell
rev.brenda.church@gmail.com

“Please watch for news regarding which events will occur when we have less restrictions.”

OCTOBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube	28 Brenda's Day Off	29	30 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Bell Choir Practice	1 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space	2 Drew's Day Off	3
4 World Communion Sunday 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube 6:00 PM Communion	5 Brenda's Day Off	6 10:00 AM Jeanell Morris Bible Study Circle 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Clergy Group	7 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Bell Choir Practice	8 11:00 AM PW Bible Study 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space	9 Drew's Day Off Shanna vacation day	10
11 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube	12 Brenda's Day Off	13 11:00 AM PW Bible Study 6:30 PM PW Zoom Bible Study	14 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Bell Choir Practice	15 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space	16 Drew's Day Off Shanna vacation day	17 11:00 AM Pete Pauley Memorial - Family only
18 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube	19 Brenda's Day Off Bridge Articles Due	20 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM Clergy Group 5:30 PM Session	21 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Bell Choir Practice	22 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space	23 Drew's Day Off 10:00 AM PW Meeting	24
25 8:45 AM Online Worship via Facebook & YouTube	26 Brenda's Day Off	27	28 10:00 AM FUN Circle 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 6:15 PM - 7:15 PM Bell Choir Practice	29 12:00 PM Invitation to Sacred Space	30 Drew's Day Off	31

An Invitation to Sacred Space



Our sanctuary will be open for
quiet reflection and meditation.

Thurs 12:00

Masks and social distancing
required.

To:

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