

# The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

January, 2020

It's been a long time since I first read Frederick Buechner's *The Hungering Dark*. I visited the volume again this year as I prepared for Advent and Christmas. On this day after Christmas, I thought I'd share his words:

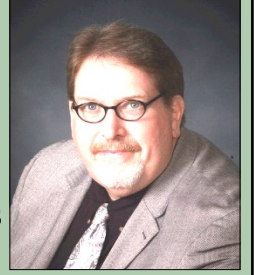
IN THE LETTERS of St. Paul, which are the earliest New Testament writings, there is no suggestion that the birth of Jesus was accompanied by any miracle, and in the Gospel of Mark, which is probably the earliest of the four, the birth plays no part. So a great many biblical scholars would agree with the skeptics that the great nativity stories of Luke and Matthew are simply the legendary accretions, the poetry, of a later generation, and that were we to have been present, we would have seen a birth no more or less marvelous than any other birth.

But if that is the case, what do we do with the legends of the wise men and the star, the shepherds and the angels and the great hymn of joy that the angels sang? Do we dismiss them as fairy tales, the subject for pageants to sentimentalize over once a year come Christmas, the lovely dream that never came true? Only if we are fools do we do that, although there are many in our age who have done it and there are moments of darkness when each one of us is tempted to do it. A lovely dream. That is all.

Who knows what the facts of Jesus' birth actually were? As for myself, the longer I live, the more inclined I am to believe in miracle, the more I suspect that if we had been there at the birth, we might well have seen and heard things that would be hard to reconcile with modern science. But of course that is not the point, because the Gospel writers are not really interested primarily in the facts of the birth but in the significance, the meaning for them of that birth just as the people who love us are not really interested primarily in the facts of our births but in what it meant to them when we were born and how for them the world was never the same again, how their

## From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis



whole lives were charged with new significance. Whether there were ten million angels there or just the woman herself and her husband, when that child was born the whole course of history was changed. That is a fact as hard and blunt as any fact. Art, music, literature, our culture itself, our political institutions, our whole understanding of ourselves and our world—it is impossible to conceive of how differently world history would have developed if that child had not been born. And in terms of faith, much more must be said because for faith, the birth of the child into the darkness of the world made possible not just a new way of understanding life but a new way of living life.

Good thoughts for a new year.

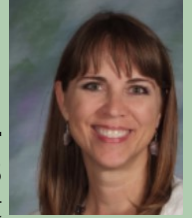
See you Sunday.

Drew



## Congregational Care

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



## Our church family

- Earl Haberkamp had day surgery for a hernia repair and is back up and around.
- Jimmy Callahan is home from the hospital and doing well
- Jerry Teitsma had a successful hip replacement and is getting around nicely.
- Keith Nolan was hospitalized with pneumonia.

## Our extended family

- The Teals with to thank everyone for their prayers for their nieces: Danielle, who is recovering from her car accident and Sidney, who has been approved to be on a donor list for a kidney and pancreas.

A huge THANK YOU goes out to the Jeanelle Morris Bible Study Circle. These ladies personalized Christmas cards for our at-home members and delivered wreath card holders to each one. A Merry Christmas to all!

## At care/retirement facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury  
Mary Skinner  
Shirley McDonald

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



## January Birthdays

<b>2</b> Dolores Adams	<b>17</b> Kathy Long
<b>4</b> Riley Briesse Sheila Higgins	<b>18</b> Jamie Sanders
<b>5</b> Greg Wilemon Theda Deaver	<b>20</b> Matthew Kennedy Sherry Johnson
<b>6</b> Gardner Davis Hannah McCray Jim Stringer	<b>21</b> Brenda Douglas
<b>8</b> Hayward Moore Taylor Clay	<b>23</b> Patricia White
<b>9</b> Connie Darne' Louise Deems	<b>24</b> Mary Gourley
<b>10</b> Marilou Schairbaum	<b>25</b> Madge Liscomb
<b>11</b> Carol Boyd	<b>28</b> Charles Baskett Fran Smith
<b>12</b> Karen Delyea	<b>29</b> Caleb Luersen Carole Frey Joyce Higginbotham Louise Murray Martha Ferrill Rylee Hendrix
<b>15</b> Dorothy McCree	<b>31</b> Marina Kuyl
<b>16</b> Marlin Massengale	



## January Anniversaries

<b>2</b> Stan and Linda Bowlin
<b>5</b> Kelly and Susan Harding
<b>7</b> Ken and Allyce Peters
<b>14</b> Bianca and Bill Brownfield
<b>24</b> Hayward and Meg Moore
<b>28</b> Kay and William McMillan



Shirley McDonald has a new address and phone numbers:

Shirley McDonald  
801 Calinco Dr. #514  
Granbury, TX 76048

home 817-736-4330  
cell 682-205-9235



## Administration

Roy Schoeneman, elder  
wrschoeneman@charter.net



## Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins  
Prayer chain coordinator  
huhwhat777@att.net



### **Church Attendance Report:**

24 Nov: 171

1 Dec.: 155

8 Dec: 191

15 Dec: 214

### **Record of Giving and Budget Need:**

Year-to-date (Jan – Nov 2019) Giving: \$420,573.99

Year-to-date (Jan – Oct 2019) Budget Need: \$430,011.71

## Prayer of the month January

2020! To the older members of our church (me!) who remember the hubbub of the millennium, that number seems futuristic. Yet here we are beginning yet another decade (third, right?) of the 21st century. And don't get me started on the changes we have witnessed and the differences in lifestyle we have experienced. (Like we had any choice, right?) It is usually at this point in my reminiscences (and worry) that I exclaim to myself: Thank God for God! Thank God for churches, and church family, for its/their constant values and traditions. I saw a post on Facebook that tradition is peer pressure from dead people! Kind of funny and sometimes true. But the traditions of which I speak are the commitments to service and love, of sharing the good news, of being present for others who need us, and so much more. We could not do any of it alone. Yes, thank God for God.

### Our prayer:

Keep us honest, Father, reaching for you. Keep us faithful, trusting in you. Keep us wholesome, Father, seeking your company. Keep us aware of the misfortune of others, Father, so we will know who needs your love and our help. Keep us active, Father, so we may do that service for you. Keep us curious, Father, able to learn more things of use. Keep us kind, Father, remembering your sacrifice for us. Keep us generous, Father, remembering the blessings we receive daily. Keep us Father, under your shelter. Bless us Father, as you have always done, with your abiding love. Guide us as we go forward bravely bolstered by our love of you.

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** 

Kathy and Lloyd,

I would like to thank you both for your hard work and dedication during your tenure as Worship Elder and Property Elder. It has been a pleasure to work with you and getting to know you!

Sincerely,

Shanna



## Worship

Kathy Long, elder



I would like to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity and privilege to be your Worship Elder these last three years. I thank you for your kindness and encouraging words of support. Those of you on the Worship Committee, along with our very talented musicians, are greatly appreciated for all your work to make our worship services so meaningful. It has been an honor to work closely with Pastor Drew on session, and his guidance and dedication have been a blessing.

With love and friendship,  
Kathy

## F.U.N. Circle

Peggy Losher,  
F.U.N. Circle coordinator



On Monday, January 6, 2020 F.U.N. Circle and anyone else who would like to help will Undeck the Halls. We need men and women to help us pack up our Christmas decorations.



*Thank you so very much for the turkey you gave me for Thanksgiving - it was (+still is) very good.*

*Thanks again  
and God Bless you and your church.*

*Evelyn Murff  
(Grashury Housing)*

# Presbyterian Women

Margaret Gulinson  
PW Moderator  
[mgulinson@gmail.com](mailto:mgulinson@gmail.com)



January 2020 Bridge Article

Margaret Gulinson

[mgulinson@gmail.com](mailto:mgulinson@gmail.com) 682-936-2312 (H) 214-868-7455 (C)

In December, we enjoyed a wonderful program by Melody Belles with lunch afterwards. Saunya Bishop and Emily Holmes did a terrific job organizing it. I would like to thank all the ladies who volunteered to help out with this event! We could not do this without some great teamwork and FPC Presbyterian Women do that well!

Next month, on Jan. 10<sup>th</sup>, at our PW meeting, Nancy Worcester will tell us about the “First Presbyterian Church Library Prison Ministry” she has organized for our church. This ministry began in 2018 with two inmates. In the spirit of “each one, teach one”, our inmates have shared our ministry with others, and we are now serving 14 men at the McConnell Unit, a maximum security prison for males, located in Beeville Texas, and one woman at Gatesville. Gatesville has five of the eight prisons and state jails for women operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. One of the facilities, the Mountain View Unit, has the state's death row for women. Our primary focus is books, the lifeline of prisoners who want to help themselves. We send everything from Word Search to the Classics. During “lockdown” in November we mailed 48 books and 24 cards. The prison ministry is serving a vital place in the outreach of First Presbyterian Church of Granbury. Come and learn more about it.

**Don't forget our CC's Carry Ons work day, Jan. 29, 2020, 10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall.** We will assemble “First Night Bags” for CPS who removes children from their homes, sometimes with nothing but the clothes on their backs. These bags will be a comfort to those young ones that first night they are removed from their homes. 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 Ziploc bag: 5 diapers, baby wash, pacifier, socks, pajamas, cuddle toy and explore toy.** Wednesday, Jan. 29<sup>th</sup>, bring them to the meeting, in Fellowship Hall, where we will be God's hands and feet for these little ones!

## Dates to Remember:

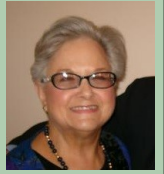
- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Jan. 6  | Bridge, 10AM   |
|         | F.U.N. Circle - Undeck the Halls, 9AM  |
| Jan. 7  | Bible Study, 10AM  |
|         | Trinity Mission Birthday Party, 2 PM   |
| Jan. 10 | PW Meeting: “Prison Book Ministry” by Nancy Worcester- donations welcome. 10AM |
| Jan. 15 | Book Circle – <u>Peace Like A River</u> , Leif Enger, 10AM                     |
| Jan. 29 | CC's Carry Ons, 10 AM  |

# JANUARY 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>29</b> 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	<b>30</b> 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM AI- Anon	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Office Closed for Holiday	<b>2</b> 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Co-ed Bridge 10:00 AM FUN Circle- Undeck the halls 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM AI- Anon	<b>7</b> 10:00 AM Jeanell Morris Bible Study Circle 1:45 PM - 3:00 PM Trinity Mission Birthday Party	<b>8</b> 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM PEO 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles	<b>10</b> 10:00 AM PW Meeting	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	<b>13</b> 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM AI- Anon	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Granbury Knitters 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Disciples Bible Study	<b>15</b> 10:00 AM Book Circle 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>16</b> 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles 5:30 PM - 8:30 PM Oddfellows Lodge #237	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Session Retreat at Waterview
<b>19</b> 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	<b>20</b> Bridge Articles Due 8:30 AM - 12:00 PM DAR 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM AI- Anon	<b>21</b> 1:00 PM Library Meeting	<b>22</b> 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>23</b> 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 8:45 AM First Service 10:00 AM Church School 11:00 AM Second Service	<b>27</b> 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM AI- Anon	<b>28</b> 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM Disciples Bible Study	<b>29</b> 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM PW CC's Carry-On's 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study 5:00 PM Choir Rehearsal 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM Bell Choir Practice	<b>30</b> 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM Yoga Class (\$7.00) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM Melody Belles	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>

# Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder  
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



The Fellowship Committee was very busy in November and December. We served hot chocolate at the downtown Christmas parade, and served a chili luncheon to a huge crowd after the choir's Christmas cantata. We will be taking a little break from big events, but our Small Group Fellowship Dinners will resume in January. They skip December because everyone gets so busy.

The Spring Small Group Fellowship Dinners will begin in February and there will be a sign-up sheet in early January in the narthex for those who want to participate. It is such a great way to make new friends and enjoy old friendships.

By popular demand, I am including the recipe for the chili we served at the Christmas Luncheon.

## Meredith's Chili serves 18-20

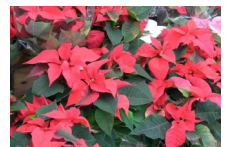
Brown 6 lbs. chili meat in 1/3 cup oil.

Add 3 onions chopped and 6 cloves garlic minced (Add garlic near end after onion is transparent)

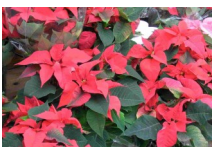
Mix 6 T chili powder, 1 T salt and pepper, 1 t cumin, 1 t oregano, ½ c flour all together

Add spice mix to meat and mix.

Add 3 c water and 15 oz tomato sauce. Simmer about 3 hours, adding more water if needed.



*Poinsettias purchased In memory of....in honor of...  
listed on the following page*



*In memory of Lowell Faulkner  
In memory of Dale Sloan  
In honor of Emily Graham  
In honor of Rev. Brenda Church  
In honor of JoAnn & Carrol Lackey  
In memory of Bill Holt  
In memory of Bill Holt  
In memory of Lee Shaffer  
In memory of John L. Jones  
In memory of Barbara Althouse  
In honor of my husband, Chet  
In memory of both of our parents  
In memory of Jim Moye  
In memory of our parents  
In memory of our loved ones who have passed  
In memory of our mother, Geneva Sanders  
In memory of our mother, Mary Ellen Harvey  
In memory of Martha, Craig & Robbie Robinson  
In honor of our grandchildren, Veronica & James  
In honor of our grandchildren, Margaret & Elliott  
In memory of our parents  
In memory of John Lyon  
In honor of Armed Services of America  
In memory of Patricia Dolan  
In memory of Donald Matthews  
In memory of Dillon Simms  
In memory of Troy Elliott  
In honor of Jane Seley, our organist  
In memory of our son, Sean Angus McMillan  
In memory of Stuart "Bob" Higginbotham  
In memory of Joe Collins  
In memory of Doyle Collins  
In memory of Wayne Harvey  
In honor of Dott Tierson  
In memory of our loved ones  
In memory of Pete Blankenship  
In memory of Deanna Blankenship  
In memory of James K. Butler (Jim)  
In memory of our parents  
In memory of Michael W. Freeman  
In memory of Deborah D. Sykes  
In memory of Col. Harvey H. Hogue  
In memory of Howard Hogue  
In memory of Bob Boyd*

*Derek Faulkner  
Vanessa Sloan Faulkner  
FPC Bell Choir  
Rhonda & Drew Travis  
Rhonda & Drew Travis  
Dee Holt  
Marlin & Jan Massengale  
Shirley Shaffer  
Sondi Jones  
Jerry Althouse  
Donna Barden  
Don & Beverly Williams  
Richard & Mary Lee McCarthy  
Juanita & Ken Morgan  
The Holmes Family  
Richard & Debbie Sanders  
Richard & Debbie Sanders  
Gwen Clay  
Nancy & Terry Worcester  
Nancy & Terry Worcester  
Max & Ruth Ann Jewell  
Max & Ruth Ann Jewell  
Earl & Sandy Haberkamp  
Ted Dolan  
Jean Matthews  
Jean Matthews  
Connie LaClair  
Martin & Ruth Gump  
Bill & Kay McMillan  
Joyce & Susan Higginbotham  
Ruth Ann Collins  
Ruth Ann Collins  
Marijane Harvey  
Mark & Saunya Bishop  
Mark & Sheila Higgins  
Beverly McKusick  
Beverly McKusick  
Judy Butler (Mrs. Jim)  
Lynne & Roy Schoeneman  
Lynne & Roy Schoeneman  
Tom Sykes  
Kathryn Hogue  
Kathryn Hogue  
Carol Boyd*

# Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder  
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



~ A Merry Christmas ~

Thank you to all who contributed to our Christmas gift bags for the Housing Authority!

We gave 22 gift bags for families and 83 gift bags for elderly and disabled folks.

This year we added 4 bags of snacks for the employees and 17 cat toys and 21 dog toys.

What a wonderful way for us to spread Christmas cheer in our neighborhood.

A big thank you to the Missions and Outreach Committee: Emily Graham who helped price and shop for gift items, Marijane Harvey who hand wrote 109 cards, and Saunya Bishop and Carol Boyd who filled and tied beautiful bows on each bag.

And thank you to Tim and Nancy and Thomas Bennett for delivering all 109 bags up to the community room at the housing authority.



# Membership

Brenda Staples, elder

Brenda@flytx1.com

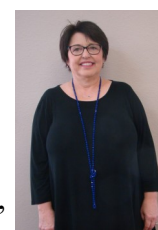


## We Welcomed Seven New Members on December 8, 2019 by Reaffirmation of Faith or Transfer of Membership.

**Arlona Herbel** moved from Fort Worth to Granbury last May. She has a daughter living in Granbury and two sons. She has eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Arlona has been a golfer in the past, but is still in recovery from a broken femur. She hopes to get back to golfing, and she also enjoys bridge, bunco, cooking, walking, and being with the grandchildren.



**Marla Hill**, a Granbury native from a family going back six generations here, moved back from Dallas and is working in the family business. Her family has owned The Granbury Flower Shop for 54 years. Marla is an ordained elder and has enjoyed working with the youth of the church in the past. Marla has been single for the last 20 years, but she is now engaged to her high school sweetheart. Marla has a daughter in Austin and another who will be moving to Manchester, England after a Texas wedding this summer.



**Pat Luley** is a retired registered nurse. She moved to Granbury with her life partner, Pete Marquez, last May from New Mexico. She has a son in the Detroit area and a daughter and a 5 year old grandson in New Mexico. Pat's hobbies include reading and a love for animals. Her pets include a cat and a Yorkie dog.



**Ken and Allyce Peters** moved to Granbury eight years ago from California when Ken started a position at Comanche Peak. They are both originally from New Jersey. They have a grown son and daughter and three grandchildren. Allyce enjoys artwork, especially watercolors. They enjoy traveling to Maryland and North Carolina to visit the children and grandchildren.



**Richard and Deborah Sanders** moved to Granbury in 2011 from Big Spring, TX. They have a son and daughter, three grandchildren, and one great grandchild. Richard is retired from the Federal Prison System and enjoys doing mission and volunteer work. Deborah is a retired reading and elementary teacher. She enjoys reading, walking, and playing bridge.



**2020 First Presbyterian, Granbury Elders**

Administration, Roy Schoeneman

Christian Education, Nancy Bennett

Clerk of Session, Mike Gulinson

Congregational Care, Annelle Teal

Property, Derek Faulkner

Fellowship, Linda Allen

Long-Range Planning, Jerry Althouse

Membership, Brenda Staples

Outreach & Mission, Bianca Brownfield

Stewardship, Jack Gilmore

Ushering, Ruth Ann Collins

Worship, Julie Dean

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](mailto:office@fpcgranbury.com).

**To:**

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