



The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

August, 2021

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgravis@gmail.com



This is not my piece, it is titled “Food People” and it was written by Sean Dietrich as part of his blog, “Sean of the South.” It’s just too good to pass up. Hope you enjoy it as I did. See you Sunday – Drew

I paid five bucks to attend the fundraiser potluck dinner. I drove into the woods of West Florida until I found a tiny chapel with mildewed aluminum siding, a recently mowed lawn, and a smattering of modest, earth-tone-colored vehicles parked out front. I entered the itty-bitty fellowship hall. I deposited my suggested five-dollar donation into the basket. I was hugged by a woman named Margie who smelled of Chanel No. 5 and fried poultry. I was handed a paper plate.

“We’re glad you could make it, Mister Writer You,” said Margie. Then she winked. Although I’m not sure why. The buffet was the size of a landing strip, the table’s surface was weighted with enough casseroles to compromise the foundation. You’ve never seen such a spread. And it was all organized according to category.

You had your chicken dishes—lemon chicken casserole, chicken divan, fried chicken, chicken à la King of Kings. There were the cold salads—butter bean salad, corn salad, potato salad, pasta salad, and a host of other concoctions from your granny’s recipe-card box. The dessert table was ridiculous. The church ladies were just showing off. Many of the desserts I’d never even heard of, and I thought I’d seen it all.

There were various exotic delights with names like cappuccino cream cake, Georgia Pawnee pecan pie, tiramisu brownies, and lemon icebox pie, otherwise known as “Baptist crack.” There were pound cakes of every persuasion—blueberry, strawberry, chocolate, banana-mango. And, oh yeah, strawberry pretzel salad. Enough said.

There were, of course, the occasional Tupperware containers filled with store bought fare, rumored to be purchased from the Piggly Wiggly. Nobody touched this stuff. Bringing store-bought food to a covered-dish gathering is a grievous sin, and grounds for horsewhipping, punishable by mandatory nursery duty. One poor woman brought a seven-layer Publix cake. I heard that she was later asked to resign from the Monday night women’s Bible study.

Nobody was more excited about the meal than the elderly pastor. He was your quintessential clergyman with silver Andy Griffith hair and a thick drawl you could have used to pave a county highway. He waited at the back of the line until all the women and children had helped themselves. Old school. “My favorite stuff is the pretzel salad,” he remarked, loosening his tie. “I’m about to put a hurting on it.”

It had been so long since I had seen people together like this, eating this way, laughing, it almost felt illicit. This little room was full of such brightness. The same kind of glee you experienced from childhood. Maybe that’s why I had such a good time; it was like time travel. The main characters were all there, too. Characters that never change throughout the years, no matter how old I become. They are the same in every town, every region, every group.


Continued...

Continued. . .

The old guy with the plaid short sleeve shirt, jeans and suspenders—every church has one of these. He probably wears Merrells, too. The old lady with the coiffed hair and the too-tight polyester pants that practically scream “Belk, 1979.” The gal who brings lime-and-marshmallow congealed salad to every single function even though this dish looks about as appetizing as a septic tank. The fella who wears a Hawaiian shirt and blue blazer and passes out Billy Graham tracts to adults but Tootsie Rolls to children. The young people. Teenage girls in the corner, who avoid making eye contact with teenage boys in the opposite corner. The toddlers who, no matter how many times their parents threaten them with corporal punishment, keep banging on the upright piano keys so that the custodian has to lock the lid. The middle-aged dads out back, sneaking cigarettes under the guise of “going out to the car for a second.”


My favorite part of the supper, however, was the prayer. The minister let the children lead the prayer. Everyone bowed their heads. Margie took my hand. Things got quiet. Grandmothers held grandchildren. Young parents bounced babies on their hips and reminded their young ones to “Ssshhh.” And the children led us in a musical prayer, done to the tune of “Frère Jaques”: “God our father, God our father, once again...” Everyone began singing. I had to glance around the room just to observe the tableau. Because, you see, during the pandemic I was afraid we’d almost lost this. At one point last year, I thought the hard times had changed us forever. I thought we’d never get hugs back. I thought we’d lost covered-dish socials. I’m glad I was wrong.

For these are the traditions that once brought me back to life when I was a lost kid. I was the son of a dead man. Sometimes I felt ostracized. I often saw myself as an outsider. I was chubby and awkward. Red-headed and shy. But here, at potluck suppers, in these little rooms, I have always belonged. I still do, I guess. So it was nice. It was nice being in a room with 80 kinds of chicken casserole. It was nice to know that the pastimes I cherish are still here. It was nice to be reminded that food prepared by loving hands is so much more than mere food. It was the best five bucks I ever spent.



Presbyterian Women

Nancy Burks Worcester, moderator
nancybw@gmail.com





PW Bible Study Introduction

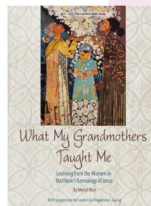
Please
Join Us

**Sat
14**

Horizons Bible Study Event 9:30 - 11:30*
Fellowship Hall
Livestream Introduction to our study of
What My Grandmothers Taught Me
Facilitated by the Rev. Joyce Lieberman &
Elder Connie Herr

Presented by PW of Central Florida
Presbytery
Bring a salad to share, beverages
provided

*Q/A Session from 12-1:30



What My Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women in Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus
by Merry Blair

Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary—Matthew names these women for a reason. How might Jesus have heard the stories of his grandmothers? What might the young Jesus have felt as he heard about his family? What might the stories of these women have added to his sense of identity, as part of a particular family in a particular time and place?



Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyoung@gmail.com



August Anniversaries

- 2 Christopher Smith
Rhonda Travis
- 3 Nancy Bennett
- 5 Jane Johnson
Jack Southern
- 7 Emily Holmes
- 8 Cory O'Carroll
- 9 Deborah Sanders
Donna Callahan
- 10 Jim Deaver
- 13 Connie Gilmore
Cynthia Horner
- 14 Sue Root
- 15 Howard Lovelady
- 19 Mark Collinsworth
- 20 Wanda Moon
William McMillan
- 25 Richard McCarthy
- 26 Cindy Cress
- 28 Kaila Wilkes
- 28 Beverley McKusick
- 30 Anne Hults
Hannah Briese

- 2 Jamie Sanders & James Witt
- 5 Andy & Lou Attaway
- 12 Derek & Vanessa Faulkner
- 14 Dave & Dennie Treat
- 17 Terry & Nancy Worcester
- 23 Ted and Trish Goller
- 24 Gary & Brenda Towers
- 25 Mike and Margaret Gulinson
- 27 Richard & Paula Hicks
Kathy & Jerry Long
- 28 Max & Ruth Ann Jewell
Howard & Winette Lovelady



At care/retirement Facilities

Courtyards at Lake Granbury

Quail Park: Mary Skinner, John Cheney, Dolores Groom

Waterview at Lake Granbury:

Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth

Prestonwood Court, Plano:

Linda Reed

The Cove at Waterview:

Jean Haight, Eloise Pauli

Town Village Crossing,

Arlington: Linda Bowlin

The Oaks: CH Tubbs

AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

JD Finlay, Ed Smith, Bill Lowe, Ann Mitchell, Paula Jenkins, Diann McHaney, Winette Loveladey, Edith George, Martha Ferrill

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

- Dave Barnett
- Rita Hart as she deals with issues related to her tumor
- Donna Callahan as she mourns the passing of her husband Jimmy
- Ann Mitchell as she continues to recover from hip surgery
- Easton Scott Farley, infant grandson of Curt and Judy Farley, born 3 months premature.

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- CJ Cluck, grandson of Beverley McKusick as he goes through chemotherapy
- Susan Younk's niece's husband after being on a ventilator for over 3 months due to COVID. Family is having to make some difficult decisions about how to proceed.

SPECIAL BLESSING

Heavenly Father, we know that so many people are struggling with health issues, sadness and despair. Please wrap them in your loving arms and give them comfort, peace and the hope to face each new day in your grace and love. Amen.





Prayer of the Month

Pat Collins, Prayer chain coordinator
pat.collins37@yahoo.com



The question may have come up for you and I know it comes up often for me, that question being: why me? I mean really, why am I writing this thought and prayer piece for the church newsletter? There are many members who have attended longer. Many who are better Bible scholars. Many who have softer, prettier words. So, why me? Simple. The call came and I said yes. Yes to alerting Prayer Team members to those in need of prayer, yes to writing prayers for them, and yes to putting a piece containing a prayer for the month in the newsletter. So, I am on the hook, so to speak (in not so glorious words). Well, we've all been there. A commitment we want to fulfill and more than fulfill, that requires our action comes up in inconvenient times and places. If we were merely human, that would be extremely difficult. Luckily, there is help available.

There is something I see on Facebook. It starts "Never have I ever," and is followed by some kind of (usually outlandish) statement, to which you reply True or False. Examples: Never have I ever: ridden in the back of a squad car, eaten crawdads, or gambled on a chess match. But, let's play for higher stakes... Never have I ever asked God for help in the moment and not received it. Never have I ever asked God to comfort me in the moment and not received it; and never have I ever drawn a deep breath and sought God's presence and not known it.

Slowing that down: God is *always* instantly available in the now.

Asking for guarantees for the future (or the future of another) probably isn't going to happen. I'm not saying that it can't happen, but my experience is that God is all-in on present moments but unavailable as a guarantor of future subsidies. We must look to the future with hope and faith and know that as the future unfolds, God will be there in each present moment and available to us. This is no small thing. This is *everything* about our lives as Christians.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, We are thankful to have been chosen by you to fulfill the work you lay before each of us day by day and moment by moment. We are thankful that you never forsake us and inspire us to act in ways we might not, were that not true. The tasks before us are doable with your aid and we acknowledge your presence and involvement in our daily lives. Teach us to ask for your help sooner, rather than later, and let us leave our personal judgments aside when it comes to doubting whether our small tasks are worthy of your involvement. We never know where the ripple of thought and motion ends and what it has affected. We trust in you.

We pray for the healing in body and/or soul for families affected by Covid-19 and it's spin-offs. We pray for families in economic distress. We pray for the mentally ill and their families. Let them be guided to appropriate treatment.

Father, we pray for people suffering from climate disasters, those displaced by them, those healing from injury from them, and those grieving losses from them. Let them turn to you for consolation and let the workers turn to you for strength to carry out emergency services. Let those receiving aid see the face of God in that of their rescuers.

Father, we pray for our church, it's pastors and leaders and ask your blessing on the work done for and by it.

We pray all in Christ's name.

Amen.





Associate Pastor

Rev. Brenda Church
rev.brenda.church@gmail.com



**In lieu of my usual newsletter article, I am using my space to provide an update on the events the 125th Celebration committee has on tap!
We look forward to celebrating with you!**

125th Celebration Events

The 125th Celebration Committee has been hard at work planning events for the next several months. You might have noticed the four banners that are hanging on our buildings and we hope you enjoyed their unveiling at our water-logged Independence Day Parade celebration on July 3rd! So, what's next?

Here are our tentative plans! You'll hear more about each event as the time draws nearer.

The Wacky Watermelon Thing!

August 28, 2021 from 6:30-9:00



This is a get-together at Hewlett Park! We'll provide watermelon and water bottles (so eat dinner before you come)! There will be yard games for adults and children alike, including a water balloon volleyball event! We will be inviting the families from the Housing Authority to join us!

Bring your lawn chairs!

Horns and History

September 17th at 7:00



The Granbury Sax Quartet will entertain us with their music. We will also have a Granbury historian, yet to be named, who will speak to us about...the history of Granbury. The event will take place in our sanctuary. This event is open to the public. Come and join us!

Pumpkin Palooza

October 24th at 2:00

Come join us for pumpkin painting and decorating in Fellowship Hall. We will offer pumpkin pie and apple cider and may even have a photo booth set up outside! We will invite children under the care of CPS to join us! Fun for everyone! And don't worry...we checked...the Cowboys have a bye week!



Movies and Mission

November 18th, tentatively, when it's dark

We are renting the Brazos Drive-in Theater for a movie night! Come enjoy a family-friendly Christmas movie and food served by carhops! This is for church members and friends. So, what's the Mission? Your entrance fee is paid in warm socks, which we will donate for kids and adults in our area who need them.





Path of Remembrance

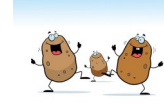
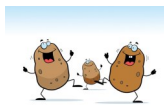
December 3th and 4th – Time TBA

In conjunction with Granbury’s Tour of Homes, we will have a luminary path on our campus with luminaries representing each member who has entered the Church Eternal in the history of FPC. The community is invited. Come walk the path and remember anew how our past reaches into our future.

Taters and Tunes

January 16th after last service

We will gather in Fellowship Hall for a light, but warm and cozy meal! Then we will engage in an old fashioned hymn sing. We will invite the Episcopalians to join us! You might dress casually that Sunday so you can stand, and clap, and dance, and sing as we celebrate hymns across the decades!



Hearts and Hotcakes

February 13th at 5:00 pm

Who needs steak and wine to celebrate Valentine’s Day when there are ... PANCAKES!?! We will gather for breakfast at suppertime! All church members and friends are invited. We encourage you to bring canned goods, dry goods, toiletries, or cash to donate to those less fortunate.



Homecoming Service

March -- Date and Time TBD



We will invite old friends and new to join us for worship. A speaker is being lined up to deliver the sermon. There is talk of encouraging 1896 era clothing and fashioning our worship to the time period as well. Drew has even offered to wear a petticoat!!! All, who can handle that, are welcome! :) Whew! That’s a lot!



Be on the lookout for 125th Celebration “bling” which will be available soon. We will have t-shirts and caps for purchase, along with coffee cups, pens, Christmas ornaments...who knows what all! Funds raised throughout our celebration will be utilized to complete a tangible community mission project that will serve our community into the future...continuing the theme:

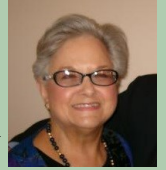
“The Past Reaching Into The Future.”

Finally...are you still thinking? What’s Your 125????



Fellowship

Linda Allen, elder
lindaallen33047@gmail.com



GETTING READY FOR THE FALL

It may still be summer, but Fellowship is getting ready for the fall. Here is a look at a few upcoming events.



1. The Flu Shot Clinic is scheduled for Sunday, September 26. Walgreens will be in Fellowship Hall from 11:30 AM until 2:00 PM on that day. There will be sign-up sheets in the Narthex when it is closer to time.

2. We will be organizing the Fall Small Group Fellowship Dinners. Sign-up will be during mid-August.



3. We are looking forward to **Anniversary**



taking part in the church's **125th** celebration!

Since it is still summer, here is a favorite summer appetizer.

Jalapeno Poppers:

Ingredients

- 10 fresh jalapenos, 2 to 3 inches in size
- 1 8-oz package cream cheese, slightly softened
- 1 lb thin (regular) bacon, slices cut in half

Directions

Preheat the oven to 275 degrees F. Set a wire rack over a baking sheet or use a broiler pan.

If you have them, slip on some latex gloves for the pepper prep. Cut the jalapenos in half lengthwise. With a spoon, remove the seeds and white membranes (the source of the heat; leave a little if you like things HOT). Smear cream cheese into each jalapeno half and then wrap with a bacon piece (1/2 slice). Secure by sticking a toothpick through the middle if needed. Place on the rack in the baking sheet.

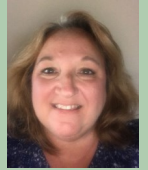
Bake for 40 to 45 minutes. (You don't want the bacon pieces to shrink so much they start to squeeze the jalapenos.) If after 45 minutes the bacon doesn't look brown enough, just keep cooking until the bacon is sizzling.

Serve immediately, or they're also great at room temperature.



Worship

Julie Dean, elder
juliebutlerdean@gmail.com



Welcome Pam Redman!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome our new Music Director, Pam Redman! Pam and her family recently moved to Stephenville. She comes to us from Bluffton, SC with a resume that is so full of accomplishments I don't know where to begin. Pam has her Masters degree in Music from Trinity in San Antonio and is certified in Music Education for grades K – 12. She has been a college vocal coach at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Pam was the director of the San Antonio Boy Choir of which she was the co-founder. She has produced, directed and accompanied multiple musical theatre productions at the high school, community theatre and professional levels. Pam is also the new accompanist for the Granbury Civic Chorus. This is but a sampling. Get to know Pam and you will learn so much more! I asked Pam to answer a few questions and here is what I learned...

Tell me about your family...

My husband Robb, is an ordained pastor with the Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. He is a professor and director of ministry programs at South College based in Knoxville, Tennessee for which he directs online ministry programs. This allows him to work remotely.

Martha is 17 and will be a senior at Stephenville High School this year. We adopted her from China when she was 17 months old. Martha has her eye on a career in the medical field and the family wanted her education to be completed in Texas.



Is there anything special you would like everyone to know about you?

Music is and has always been my passion - all forms and genres. I absolutely love musical theatre and opera. In fact, I and my composer colleague, Federico Chavez-Blanco from San Antonio, have written a musical for Hispanic youth called "CENICIENTA: A Quinceanera with a Taste of Cinderella." I've written the book (script) and English lyrics for the songs and Federico has written the Spanish lyrics for the songs and composed the music. A very unique aspect of our musical is that its accompaniment is scored for mariachis! The mariachis are on stage all of the show and sort of like a Greek chorus - singing with the singers as well as playing for them! Our musical has been performed in three cities so far- McAllen, San Antonio and Flint, Michigan. And will soon be presented on YouTube in "chapters" in a unique format.



Continued...

Your resume has so many wonderful accomplishments. What are the ones you are proudest of and why?

The obvious one is my musical! This is the ONLY musical specifically targeting Hispanic youth and their schools and communities. It was written for them and it celebrates their culture in a festive way! If anyone is interested in knowing more about it, just ask me!

Other things I'm proud of is preparing music and arranging music - both vocal and instrumental, and preparing singers in both the church and school settings. I also love to accompany!

Do you have any hobbies?


I'm a cross stitch fanatic! Although my time for this hobby is going to be greatly reduced with my duties at FPC!



What do you enjoy most in your free time?


Spending time enjoying family, friends, Texas BBQ and Mexican restaurants! I'm so happy to be back in Texas!!





Membership

Marla Caraway, elder
marlahill1001@gmail.com



We are excited to present several new members to the congregation on August 8th at the 11:00 service. If you, or anyone you know of would like to be a part of this group of new members, please contact the church office and speak to Pastor Drew or Pastor Brenda at 817-573-2337.

There are several ways to become a member of First Presbyterian Church.

- By Transfer of Membership from another church
- By Profession of Faith
- By Reaffirmation of Faith



We are seeing quite a few new faces in worship each Sunday. Reach out and introduce yourself to some new folks! We welcome all who wish to be a part of our community of faith!

“Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back, lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes.” Isaiah 54:2



Outreach and Mission

Bianca Brownfield, elder
biancabrownfield@gmail.com



What a joy to contribute shoes to the Hood County Rainbow Room and all they do for our kids in foster care.

Our contribution of gift cards for shoes allows a CASA volunteer or a caseworker to take a child to pick out new shoes that they like and that fit!!

August 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Drew - Vacation 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	2 Drew - Vacation 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bridge Circle 6:30 PM Al-Anon	3	4 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Bridge Circle	5 6:00 PM Philipian's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall	6	7
8 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	9 6:30 PM Al-Anon	10 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM Granbury Knitting Guild - FH 5:30 PM Mission & Outreach Meeting - FH	11 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM PEO Meeting - FH 5:30 PM Permanent Funds Committee - Admin Building	12 6:00 PM Philipian's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall	13	14 Horizons Bible Study Event 9:30 AM—11:30 AM
15 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	16 6:30 PM Al-Anon	17 5:30 PM Session	18	19 6:00 PM Philipian's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall	20 Bridge Articles Due	21
22 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	23 6:30 PM Al-Anon	24	25	26 6:00 PM Philipian's Bible Study - Fellowship Hall	27	28 10:00 AM Communion Guild
29 8:45 AM Worship 11:00 AM Worship - Live Stream and on Face Book	30 6:30 PM Al-Anon	31	1 10:00 AM Staff Meeting 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM Men's Study	2	3	4 10:00 AM Communion Guild

Watch this space for changes to our calendar. View current calendar on website <http://fpcgranbury.org/> Click on calendar at the top of the page.



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."

**Any announcements for inclusion in the
bulletin need to be received by Thursday noon.
Bridge deadline is the 20th of each month.**



To:

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