

The Bridge

First Presbyterian Church of Granbury

February, 2023

From the pastor

Rev. Drew Travis
revdgtravis@gmail.com



When I was a kid, we lived at 2007 N. Marrs in Amarillo. My father was the pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church at 2009 N. Marrs. Between the church manse where we lived and the church building, there was a vacant lot that seemed as big as Texas to me as a little boy. We played “war” in that lot and had clod fights that lasted for hours. We hunted horny toads until I believe we caught them all. We would be out the door of the house as soon as we could be in the morning and we’d play until Dad stood on the front porch and whistled for us to come home. It was a pretty fine existence for a kid with an imagination for play.

One of the great joys of my life as a youngster was being allowed to walk over to the church with my father when he would go after hours. He’d forget something he needed at home or would have a project at the church he needed to complete and, on occasion, he’d invite me to go with him. I loved that time alone with him. There were 5 kids in the family, it wasn’t often that we had one-on-one time with one of our parents. Those were special times. I loved going to the church with my Dad.

When we moved to Tulia, the church was across town and it was even more special in some ways to be invited to accompany him. Often we’d stop by the Post Office to pick up the church’s mail. I still remember the box number, 297. We’d travel in his bright red Opel that was small enough that Dad didn’t get into the car – he really just kind of put it on! He loved that little car and I loved being in it with him.

Years later, I entered ministry myself and learned what it was like to spend much time at the church. Somedays were quite busy at the office; some were pretty slow. I recall sitting behind the rather enormous oak desk provided for me at the first church I served. I had only been there for a few weeks and was learning this ministry thing for myself. Believe it or not, my sermon was finished early in the week and I didn’t have anything to do. I called my father and asked him what I was supposed to do now. He snickered a bit and said, “Don’t worry son, they’ll find you with plenty to do!” My father never lied to me and he knew from experience what he was talking about. In the almost 40 years since, I don’t believe I’ve finished a sermon before Saturday night! There has always been plenty to do.

I’m filled with fond memories as I write this last newsletter article for The Bridge. Fond memories of lots of folk in the 7 congregations I have been fortunate to serve. It’s been a good ride and I’ve enjoyed it so much over the years. Often, I would take one of my own children to the church with me to help me with a task or two. I hope those times meant as much to them as they did to me. Those trips to the church got me off on the right foot in this vocation to which I was called.

Now, I can say with all honesty that serving as pastor of FPC in Granbury has been the perfect place to be these last 10 years of ministry. It has been fun. It has been meaningful. It has been full and it has been rewarding. Thanks to each of you who have been part of this time together. My experience here has been the perfect bookend to this career in ministry and I shall be forever grateful to this congregation for sharing it with me. Thank you. Thank you very much.

See you Sunday,



A Note From The Session

The session met for our annual retreat on Saturday, January 21 in the home of Lawson and Linda Allen. Thank you, Lawson and Linda for the beautiful and comfortable setting for the retreat.

One of the topics discussed was the upcoming transition after Drew's retirement the end of February. The session began the transition process at our November meeting when an Interim Pastor Search Committee was appointed. This committee is comprised of Connie Darne', Brad Bell, Pat Luley, and Susan Younk Kidd. The committee has been working closely with the Grace Presbytery Committee on Ministry. The task of reviewing applications and scheduling interviews has begun.

Another step in the process is the completion of a Mission Study. We are working on this currently. The Mission Study involves the entire congregation. A questionnaire will be distributed to all members. It will be extremely important for all members to complete the questionnaire and return it to the church office as soon as possible. This study is the means by which the congregation can provide their thoughts on what they see as priorities for the church in the coming years, as well as, any areas of concern, successful programs etc.

The election of the Pastor Nominating Committee will also involve a vote of the congregation. Once elected, the PNC will write the Mission Information Form. This form is submitted to the Presbytery for their use in soliciting applicants. The Mission Study is the document used by the PNC to write the Mission Information Form.



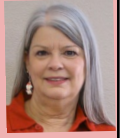
This is a somewhat condensed explanation of the process that is in place for the call of a new minister to a church. The Presbytery has the expertise to guide us through each step. FPC Granbury has completed the process previously in 2013 when Drew was called and in 2020 when Brenda Church was called as Associate Pastor. The most important part of the process is that we have *faith* in God to lead us to find the right pastor for our church, just as he did in 2013 and 2020.



We are all in this together and the session will make every effort to keep the congregation informed as we progress in the search for our next pastor. Please feel free to ask us questions and we will let you know where we are in the process. We appreciate your assistance and prayers as we go forward.

Worship

Pat Luley, elder
pluley@gmail.com



Thank you to the many volunteers who showed up for the Un-decking of the Halls. You helped complete the task quickly and came up with some excellent suggestions to make future Advent Decking of the Halls easier.

January 15th was a special day in the life of our congregation as we Ordained and Installed three new Elders - Connie Darne' (Outreach and Mission), Darin Smith (Long Range Planning), and Pat Luley (Worship). Stephanie Mosley was also recognized for continuing as Administration Elder.

Coming soon, look for a new cabinet in the front right side of the sanctuary. This cabinet is for the children of our church. It will contain worship materials – children's bibles, journals, Sunday School themed pamphlets, and colored pencils. This is a joint project between Christian Education and Worship committees.

Thinking about children in worship reminds me of a hymn our congregation sang at my church in Michigan. I think it was in the blue hymnal, because I can't find it in our red hymnals. The lyrics were:

This, this is where children belong.
Welcomed as part of God's worshipping throng,
water, God's word, bread and cup, prayer and song,
This is where children belong,



February Elder of the Month
Pat Luley

Worship Attendance January

	<u>10:00 AM</u>	<u>On Line Views</u>
January 1	82	27
January 8	129	39
January 15	133	24
January 22	126	30

**One service on Sundays
at 10:00 a.m.**



Prayer of the Month

Gloria Mitchell, coordinator
glomitch5300@gmail.com



We have been very fortunate to have Drew Travis as our pastor for the past 10 years. He does an outstanding job of sharing the word of God and has been one of the best parts of our church. We are going to really miss Drew and his wife Rhonda, as well as seeing their grandchildren we've gotten to know through Vacation Bible school.

As far as we know, Drew has not been cloned so we won't be able to have another pastor exactly like him. But we hope the committee will find one with many of the same qualities. We may have to settle for one without such a beautiful singing voice though.

Dear Lord, we thank you for the 10 years Drew Travis has been our pastor. We pray that Drew and Rhonda have many years of happiness and good health during their retirement. Please guide the committee to choose a pastor who will be a good fit for our congregation. Help us adapt to a new pastor and help him or her adapt to us as well.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



Stewardship

Dan Crise, Elder
dancrise13@gmail.com



At our annual congregational meeting held in early January, the church budget for 2023 was presented for general information. The budget was prepared with the assistance of the Treasurer and the input and approval by the Session in a process of allocating estimated pledged and non-pledged income and anticipated expenditures over the course of the coming year.

A question we might ask ourselves is **"What does our church budget represent to each of us?"**. In lieu of just dollars and cents, perhaps we should consider the budget as an opportunity to invest in the reign of God and as the means to fulfill the hopes, ambitions, and the intent of what we want our ministry and mission to accomplish this year. Our budget is essentially a statement of faith and how we as stewards of God's gifts will make the most and best use of His abundance.



Christian Education

Sylvia Hickey, elder
sylvia.hickey1969@gmail.com



The Christian Education Committee is working diligently to teach all ages about our Lord and Savior. Whether through Sunday School classes, Bible Studies, Vacation Bible School, or personal reading and study, we are here to help you.

An exciting announcement concerns our progress in the remodeling of our Church Library. The Property committee has worked hard to get this project rolling in getting the previous workroom (which had been the garage) now has additional and upgraded electrical plugs and wonderful shelves for books and educational materials. We are ready for some member volunteers to start painting! Stay tuned!!

The date has been set for our 2023 Vacation Bible School. Put July 17th - 21st on your calendars. We look forward to Emily Graham organizing this great program. It's truly a church-wide event, since there is a place for everyone to bring this all together. Remember, it's not too early to invite your friends, neighbors and family members to enjoy this week with us.

We continue to look for an assistant Nursery Attendant. Our new Nursery Attendant Director, Madison Huse, is doing a wonderful job, but by state law, we are required to have a minimum of 2 adult attendants in our nursery. Your prayers are needed and sharing this open position within our church is very important. Pray and pass the word please. God has the right person out there for our childcare needs.

Wishing you a Happy Valentines Day !

THANK YOU Drew



Outreach and Mission

Connie Darne`, elder
conniedarne@gmail.com



I would like to begin my first newsletter article with a big **THANK YOU** to Bianca Brownfield for all the work she has done in Outreach & Mission the past six years. Just shadowing her the past couple of months made me realize the positive impact she has had on both our church and community. So, Thank You Bianca, from me and our fellow church members. Thank You also to the Outreach & Mission committee who all agreed to continue to serve another year. We plan to keep moving forward with the programs that we have been doing, as well as being open to new ideas.

Thank You to everyone who participated in providing Christmas Gift Bags for the Housing Authority residents. Hams were requested and provided to 47 residents. Christmas Gift Bags were provided for 20 families w/33 children and 78 individual residents. We have received heart-warming Thank You notes from the residents. The thoughtfulness as well as the gifts themselves were very much appreciated.

We will continue with lunch for Habitat for Humanity on the third Wednesday of each month, September - May. Our next lunch will be February 15th. I will have the sign-up sheet in the Narthex the two Sundays prior to the lunch. The food items need to be in the church office by 10:00 a.m. the day of the lunch. If you would like to help set up and serve the lunch, I would be more than happy to have you go with me. I plan to add a line to the sign-up sheet to volunteer to help serve lunch onsite.

I look forward to working with all of you the next three years. If you have any ideas or wish to participate in any of our service projects, please let me know.

The next Habitat for Humanity lunch is
Wednesday, February 15, 2023.

**IMPORTANT
REMINDER**

Please remember to ***lock all doors***, if you are the last person to leave any of the FPC buildings. For all our safety!

**One service on Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
The Session will continue to monitor our attendance and assess the need for a second service and we will continue to listen to the needs and opinions of the congregation on this matter.**

F.U.N. Circle

Bev McKusick
F.U.N. circle coordinator



It's February and love is in the air. **LOVE** is such a small word but what an impact it can make in our lives and in the lives of others. I guess February is the month we practice saying "I love you" everyday so we can continue to say it the rest of the year. I'll start by saying "I love you, my church family." Have a wonderful Valentines day.

SEWING CIRCLE

We will be meeting on February 21st at noon. Bring a lunch with you. We will be working on the new banner for the sanctuary.

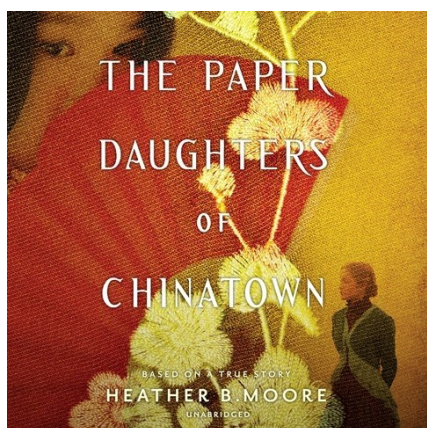


FUN CIRCLE



PLEASE NOTE A NEW DATE. Our normal meeting would be on the 22nd but that happens to be Ash Wednesday so **we will be meeting on Thursday the 23rd** in the Fellowship Hall at 10:30. We're going to make some new flower arrangements for the tables in Fellowship Hall. If you have flowers, moss, or any other flower arranging supplies you would like to donate please bring them.

We will also have a **potluck** after the meeting.



PW BOOK CIRCLE

title for Feb. 15 is

"Paper Daughters of Chinatown"

by Heather B. Moore

Gwen Clay will lead the discussion.

Congregational Care

Susan Younk Kidd, elder
susanyouнк@gmail.com



- | | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Sandy Haberkamp | 13 | Linda Bowlin | |
| 3 | Gregory Gifford | 14 | Wayne Delyea | |
| | Jack Gilmore | 18 | Vanessa Fulкner | 7 |
| | Kay McMillan | 19 | Hal Marlar | Christopher and Kathy Smith |
| | Paul Holmes | 21 | Trish Goller | 14 |
| 7 | Howard Hafner | 23 | Joanne Wallis | Nancy and Steve Wilmeth |
| 8 | Ted Dolan | | Lloyd Sigrist | |
| 9 | Laneal James | | Maureen Walker | |
| | Stephanie Mosley | 26 | Beverly Williams | |
| 11 | Kathy Smith | | Bill Gould | |
| | Kelton Conner | 27 | Drew Travis | |
| | | 28 | Bill Wood | |

If you know of anyone who needs to be contacted for a care or concern, please email me at susanyouнк@gmail.com or contact Gail at the church office.

CONCERNS FOR OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Juanita and Ken Morgan as they deal with COVID.

Ann Mitchell who had hip surgery.

Joyce Yingling who had hip surgery.

Marina Kuyl who is receiving hospice care at home.

Gardner Davis as he battles multiple health issues from long-term COVID.

Dave Barnett as he deals with multiple health issues.

Rita Hart as she deals with the effects of a brain tumor.

Carol Gadbois as she deals with multiple health issues. Carol and Bob's great-grandson, 9 months old, also needs your prayers as he deals with a very serious health condition.

Claire Mitchell Copeland who has multiple health issues.

Lorraine Schmitz as she receives Hospice care at home.

Marla Caraway as she deals with health issues.

Richard McCarthy as he seeks treatment for eye care.

Ted Gollar as he deals with the effects of a brain tumor.

Donna Callahan as she deals with multiple health issues.

Larry Walker as he deals with health issues.

Theda Deaver as she navigates declining health.

Sandi Ricketson as she navigates health issues.

Sheila Higgins who is in the hospital with pneumonia.

AT CARE/RETIREMENT FACILITIES

Moved to a Facility in Cleburne

Maureen Walker

Waterview at Lake Granbury

Ted Dolan, Nita Collinsworth

AVIVA (formerly "Quail Park") Granbury

Dolores Groom, John Cheney

Prestonwood Court, Plano

Linda Reed

Town Village Crossing, Arlington

Linda Bowlin

Rosemont, Humble TX

Betty Dean

Martin Crest, Assisted Living

Weatherford

Dee Holt

Bridgewater Memory Care, Granbury

Bill Lowe

Lewisville Estates, Lewisville

Fran Smith

CONCERNS FOR OUR EXTENDED CHURCH FAMILY

- **Janis Thronton**, daughter of Juanita Morgan, as she seeks cancer treatment.
- **CJ Cluck**, grandson of Beverly McKusick, on his continued cancer recovery.
- **Jim Dean's** parents and sister as they navigate multiple health issues.
- **Earnestine Sutherland**, who is receiving cancer treatments.
- **The Ukrainian family** that has been part of Marla Caraway's daughter's life, as they shelter from the siege.
- **Joan Smethers**, sister of Max Jewell as she seeks treatment for lung cancer.
- **Miles**, grandson of the Jewells as he tries to get medicine approved for the severe pain from gastroparesis.
- **Bonnie**, friend of Judy Butler, experiencing health issues. Judy is also requesting prayers for Rev. Donna Vaughn, whose husband Milton passed away this last month.
- **Dave Kennison**, friend of the Gulinson's, as he recovers from a series of strokes.

AT HOME AND/OR RECEIVING TREATMENT

Dave Barnett, Rita Hart, Rene Metcalf,
Theda Deaver, Bill Wood, Sharon Wilemon,
Lorraine Schmitz, Carol Gadbois, Marina Kuyl



We mourn the passing of our beloved members Edith George and Betty Werbung.

We pray for their families and friends and ask Gods strength and love to be with them.

SPECIAL BLESSINGS:

For those hurting and in pain, we ask your blessing and your healing. We also ask your blessing for the caretakers, struggling to help their loved ones with patience and perseverance. Give them strength for the days ahead and help them to feel your love and grace. In Christ we pray.



As most of you know, Rev. Drew is retiring. His last Sunday with us is on February 19th. While we are happy for Drew and Rhonda and hope they enjoy retirement to the fullest, they will be greatly missed! To show both Drew and Rhonda how much we care, we are going to have a very special catered luncheon for them following the service. The same caterer who provided the Stewardship Luncheon last fall is providing this meal and I think everyone will enjoy it! After we eat, there will be time to visit with Drew, express our appreciation, and there might even be a little “roasting” that has nothing to do with food. It will be important to know approximately how many will attend. We certainly want to have enough food! So, there will be an “RSVP” sign-up sheet in the narthex for the next few Sundays.

Drew will also be doing the Ash Wednesday service on February 22nd. Presbyterian Women will be preparing their wonderful breakfast, followed by our Ash Wednesday service including communion and the imposition of ashes.

The recipe this month is for gluten-free muffins. These were prepared for the recent session retreat and it seems that everyone enjoyed them even if they weren't gluten sensitive.

Gluten Free Morning Glory Blender Muffins

- 1 1/2 cups rolled oats
- 1 t ground cinnamon
- 1 t baking powder
- 1/4 t baking soda
- 1/4 t salt
- 2 large eggs
- 1 c unsweetened applesauce
- 2/3 c light brown sugar
- 2 T canola oil
- 1 t vanilla extract
- 1 c shredded and coarsely chopped carrots
- 1/3 c chopped raisins or dried cranberries (to your taste)
- 1/3 c chopped pecans or walnuts



Preheat oven to 350. Coat a 24-cup mini muffin tin with cooking spray. Pulse oats in blender until finely ground. Add cinnamon, baking powder, baking soda, and salt. Pulse once or twice to blend. Add eggs, applesauce, brown sugar, oil, and vanilla. Puree until smooth. Stir in carrots, dried cranberries (or raisins), and nuts. Fill the prepared muffin cups (they will be full). Bake until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean (16-20 minutes). Cool in pan for a few minutes then turn out to cool. These can be frozen.

(TIP: People with celiac disease or gluten sensitivity should use oats labeled “gluten-free”, as oats are often cross-contaminated with wheat and barley.)

February 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	30 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	31	1 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 1:00pm - 2:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	2 10:00am CE Committee Meeting - Admin Building 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 5:30pm - 6:30pm Permanent Funds Committee - Admin	3	4 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH 10:00am - 11:00am Labyrinth Committee Meeting - Admin
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 3:00pm - 4:00pm Called Session Meeting - Admin Building	6 10:00am - 11:30am The Church Sings It's Faith - Bible Study - Priscilla Allen 1:00pm - 4:00pm Bridge Circle - FH 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	7	8 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	9 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH 11:00am Outreach and Mission - Admin	10 All Day Event - Fellowship Hall	11 All Day Event - Fellowship Hall 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
12 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 11:00am Congregational Meeting	13 9:00am Monthly Property Meeting - Square Cafe 10:00am - 11:30am The Church Sings It's Faith - Bible Study - Priscilla Allen 1:00pm - 3:00pm Memorial Hall - Pecan Bookmarks 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	14	15 10:00am Book Circle - Admin Building - Paper Daughters of Chinatown 10:00am - 11:00am Habitat for Humanity - Admin Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall	16 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH	17	18 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
19 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook 11:00am Drew's Retirement Celebration Lunch - Fellowship Hall	20 Bridge Articles Due 10:00am - 11:30am The Church Sings It's Faith - Bible Study - Priscilla Allen 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	21 12:00pm - 3:00pm Sewing Circle - FH - Bring Lunch 5:30pm Session - Admin Building	22 8:30am - 10:00am Ash Wednesday Breakfast and Service - Fellowship Hall 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall	23 10:00am FUN Circle - Fellowship Hall 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH	24	25 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH
26 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Worship Service - Live Stream and Facebook	27 6:00pm - 7:00pm AI-Anon	28	1 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - Admin Building 12:00pm - 1:00pm Men's Study - FH 1:00pm - 2:00pm Staff Meeting 4:30pm - 6:00pm Choir Practice - Memorial Hall 6:00pm - 7:00pm Handbell Rehearsal - FH	2 10:00am CE Committee Meeting - Admin Building 10:00am - 12:00pm Melody Belles - MH	3	4 9:30am - 11:30am Women's Way Out- MH

Watch for changes to the current calendar on our website [FPCGranbury.com](https://fpcgranbury.org) and Click on Calendar at the top of the page. Or click on the link below <https://fpcgranbury.org>

The church office is open Monday — Thursday, 7:30 — 4:30.



Celebrating Birthdays

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.

To:

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