



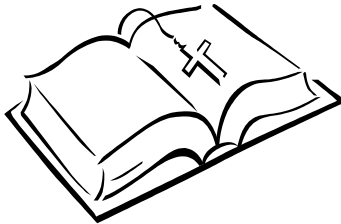
First Presbyterian Church

June, 2014

Bringing people to the celebration of Christ

Gospel Lessons for June

- 6/1 John 17:1-11
- 6/8 Acts 2:1-21
- 6/15 Matthew 28:16-20
- 6/22 Romans 6:1-11
- 6/29 Romans 6:12-23



Pastor's Message

"I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is being reported all over the world." ~Romans 1:8

Summer is upon us! Time for school to let out and for me to hibernate in the air conditioning. This Coloradan still struggles with the Texas heat, and, if you have tips for how to endure, I'll take them!

Summer is always a good time to take a trip and experience something new. This summer, we're going to go on a holiday of sorts, as we venture through Paul's letter to the church in Rome. We'll be following the lectionary texts for Romans from June 22-August 31st.

This will be an enriching time of learning about the early Church and discerning how we can grow from the story. I will also be leading a series of Sunday school classes related to Romans. Topics include baptism, communion, weddings, funerals, and more. Those classes will start on June 22 and will take place after fellowship time, around 10:30 am each Sunday. I hope you can join us this summer as we take a Roman holiday together!

Grace & Peace, Pastor Becca



Open House & Building Dedication

****NEW DATE****

Sunday, July 13, 3-5 pm



Come see our newly remodeled building and enjoy refreshments and good fellowship.

A brief blessing ceremony is planned in the Sanctuary at 4 pm.

All are welcome!

Calendar of Events

- 6/1** Worship at 9 am*/Ryan Lozano, Preacher
6/3 Volunteer Day at Food Bank, 8:30 am-1 pm
6/6-7 Mission Presbytery Meeting
6/8 Pentecost Sunday/Worship at 9 am*
6/15 Father's Day/Worship at 9 am*
6/22 Worship at 9 am*
Sunday School at 10:30 am
6/24 PW Luncheon & "Unto These Hills"
presentation, 11:30 am-1:30 pm
6/29 Worship at 9 am*
Sunday School at 10:30 am
Session meeting following Worship Service

**Worship Service is now back in the Sanctuary. Coffee Hour will resume in the Fellowship Hall when the renovations are completed and the kitchen.*

Birthdays/Anniversaries

- 6/4** Pastor Becca Longino
6/6 James Manford
6/6 Raymond & Ernestine Harman
6/9 Tom & Helen Wofford
6/14 Pastor Ed Kuny
6/16 Fred Weise
6/16 Jim & Althea Manford
6/28 Etta Weise
6/30 Ernestine Harman

Liturgy/Church Host Schedule

Our thanks to **Fred Buchholtz** for serving as liturgist during the months of June and July.

Open House & Building Dedication

Our building renovation is nearly completed, and soon it will be time to celebrate! The original open house and dedication date of **Sunday, June 8, has been moved to Sunday, July 13**, to allow plenty of time for all of the renovation work to be finished.

Session

Session will meet following Worship Service on **Sunday, June 29**.

Mission Presbytery will meet **June 6-7** at San Pedro Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. Presbytery will also meet **October 24-25** at First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio. Please let **Beth Flynn** know if you are interested in attending a Presbytery meeting.

Presbyterian Women

On **Tuesday, June 24**, Presbyterian Women will conclude the program year with a special luncheon and presentation by Sherry Hardwick of New Braunfels, who was a participant in "**Unto These Hills**," the 2013 Mission Experience in East Tennessee and Western North Carolina. Sherry will share the history and culture of the region, the ministry of the church, and the challenges faced by women, children and families living in the area.

Members of PWs in our Farmland Cluster have also been invited to the luncheon, which will begin at 11:30 am in Fellowship Hall. Please bring donations for the area **Women's Center**, including personal items, like shampoo, lotion or toothpaste. Monetary contributions will also be accepted.

Beth Flynn and **Susan Rutherford** are organizing food for the luncheon. Please contact one of them if you would like to help.

The annual Farmland Cluster meeting is scheduled **Saturday, August 9**, in Smithville. More information will be included in the July newsletter.

Mission and Outreach

Community Vacation Bible School will be held at First Methodist Church from **9 am-noon July 14-18**. Contact **Beth Flynn** or **Etta Weise** if you would like to volunteer. Sponsorships of \$10 or more are also appreciated to help local children participate.

The **Food Bank** needs donations. Suggestions for June include "hamburger helper," cold cereal and crackers. On **Tuesday, June 3**, FPC members will serve as volunteers at the Food Bank. Please let Pastor Becca know if you are interested in helping.



In Memory of Bill Cardwell

Our friend James William "Bill" Cardwell died on May 24 in Luling, following a courageous four year battle with cancer. The following is the Homily offered by Pastor Becca during his memorial service:

John 14:1-6, 25-27: *'Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me.²In my Father's house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.⁴And you know the way to the place where I am going.'*

⁵Thomas said to him, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?'

⁶Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. 'I have said these things to you while I am still with you.

²⁶But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. ²⁷Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

This passage from John was the lectionary text three weeks ago. In our tradition, we follow a schedule of selecting scriptures to read each Sunday.

After church that day I went to see Bill in the hospital and asked if he would like me to read some scripture to him. Of course he requested the lectionary text.

Bill had an appreciation for the passages selected by the ecumenical church. The ones that many churches read and hear sermons on each week.

Bill had a heart for the sound reading and proclamation of the Word of God. I believe he is one of the few people who would actually enjoy it if I parsed a Greek sentence during a sermon. If I made a side note about grammar in the text. Or went on a tangent about Roman laws in the time of Jesus. Those sorts of things, which bore most people, seemed to delight Bill's heart. He had a thirst for knowledge, especially when it came to scripture.

As I read John 14 to Bill on that sunny day, he closed his eyes. It almost seemed like he was transporting himself out of the hospital. Away from the stale beige walls and clinical smells.

Perhaps he was imagining hearing those comforting words from his pew in Luling. I can't even imagine how many scripture readings he heard from his spot up front. A lifelong member of the Presbyterian Church, Bill was immersed in the Word of God. As Gene (England) mentioned, Bill had perfect attendance for Sunday school. He was nurtured by the church that baptized him and promised to raise him in faith. That foundation stuck with him his whole life.

Or Perhaps Bill imagined hearing those words from John 14 while visiting the strawberry farm in Poteet. Each spring he made that pilgrimage to pick up a box of the freshest strawberries. It wouldn't do to buy them at HEB. He wanted them even fresher.

This spring he happened to make his trip on Maundy Thursday, during Holy Week. Now, the idea of the worship service we held that night, was to leave with solemn hearts. We were supposed to depart in silence and enter Good Friday, the day of Christ's death.

But we couldn't resist sticking around and marveling at the strawberries Bill brought. He personally distributed them to everyone there. Making sure everyone went home with a basket of them. Just another example of his generous heart. I think that was a more poignant way to end the evening. Celebrating the gifts of spring, through those Poteet Strawberries.

Or maybe, as I read that text to him, Bill imagined he was under that big live oak tree at the Cardwell house here in Lockhart. The heavenly location where he hosted a worship service each year.

I know that that service was one of his great joys and a gift to the church, his friends and his family. I'm fairly certain he invited anyone with a connection to First Presbyterian Church of Luling. Any who had filled the pulpit during the church's time without a pastor. Any who had visited. Not to mention his extensive family and friends who were able to join from out of town. I had the joy of meeting many of you at that live oak tree a few weeks ago. Bill certainly had a way of bringing people together.

This was evident during those final weeks he spent in the hospital. Each time I visited, there were at least two other people in the room and more in the hallway, waiting for their turn to see him. I heard that at one point, the hall was lined with people just there to see Bill. This is a blessed sight in a hospital.

When his doctor gave him the terminal diagnosis, his community rallied to support him. It was devastating news after four years of living with cancer. Many of you journeyed with him during that time. Watched the ups and downs of the cancer treatment. Walked alongside him during those dark moments and celebrated with him during the good moments.

There's no doubt Bill's death has caused a quake of emotions for everyone who loved him. Sadness, anger. Confusion as to why cancer is such a powerful force in our world. His death brings up memories of others who have lost their lives to cancer. It seems everyone has some connection to a cancer survivor or victim.

As we gather today, we join our grief together as a community. Our troubled hearts unite as we remember Bill and honor his life. But as our scripture tells us, we can't allow our hearts to be troubled for too long.

We must trust that God, who created Bill and was with him all along, is with him still. That God has welcomed Bill into that house with many dwelling places. A place where cancer and pain are nowhere in sight.

We trust, that because Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life, the path has been made clear for God to welcome Bill into that eternal home. We have been blessed by Bill's life. And now we give him back into God's hands.

In this Easter season, we rest upon the promise of the resurrection. Not just of Christ's resurrection, but our resurrection as well. We know that death does not have the final say. It is not the end of the story.

In his death, Bill's baptism has been made complete. He now rises with Christ into that heavenly kingdom. Joining those who have gone before him. Preceding all of us who will someday enter that place.

Until that time, let us continue to the task at hand. The task of being the covenant people, the community of God's children. Celebrating Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. No doubt, Bill has left us a fine example of how to live faithfully with eyes and hearts focused on God. For that we give thanks on this day. Amen.

Prayer List

Congregation:

Nell Brown, Elizabeth Payne, Raymond & Ernestine Harman, Bert & Mary Reid, Tom & Helen Wofford

Those facing illness:

Nancy, Sandy Villarreal's cousin
Alavara Herrera

Friends/Families of the Congregation:

Maryanne & David Cochran
Marianna Brown's sister, Carolyn
Susan Rutherford's mother, Carolyn
Joanna Glass' daughter-in-law, Debbie, & her friend, Joyce
Fred Buchholtz' sisters-in-law, Debbie & Mary Jane
Mary Nelson's mother, Frances
Jimmy Manford's wife, Althea
Margie & Dick Hudson
Bill & Becky Slaughter
Julie Veidt's friend, Nancy
Jerry Kidd
Helen Bassett's brother & sister-in-law, Buddy & Leona West; & her cousin, Richard Bradley
Jay's niece, Jennifer
Beth Flynn's friend, Janie Zepplin
Pastor Charles & Debbie Cropper
Lorenzo Miles

The Families of:

Bill Cardwell
Robert Hunter

Contributions for May, 2014

Securing Our Next 100 Years Building Campaign

Tributes in memory of:

Bill Cardwell: Beth & Carrol Flynn

Bill Cardwell: Charles & Etta Weise

Bill Cardwell: Gene England

Hymnal Fund contributions:

In memory of Carl Glass and in honor of Joanna

Glass: Dee Wilson & Family;

In memory of:

Walter W. Cardwell Sr. & Annie McCurdy Cardwell (2 hymnals): Bill Cardwell

Knox E. Manford: Margie M. Shultz

Mrs. J.W. (Margie) Manford: Margie M. Shultz

Luther & Blanche Smith: Charles, Etta & Fred Weise

Bill & Mildred Weise: Charles, Etta & Fred Weise

Fritz & Ruby Rogge: Charles, Etta & Fred Weise

Sandra Seay Matchett: Charles, Etta & Fred Weise

Vernon & Opal Barnett: Coy, Sandy & Brian C. Barnett

Johnie A. Smith: Coy & Sandy Barnett

Bill & Myrtle Bartlett: Tom & Helen Wofford

Dora McDonald: Tom & Helen Wofford

Lorraine Crockett: Tom & Helen Wofford

Bill Cardwell: Tom & Helen Wofford

In honor of:

Helen Bassett: Vicki & Bruce Morlock & Family;

Fred Weise: Charles, Etta & Fred Weise

Charles & Etta Weise: Charles, Etta & Fred Weise

Charles & Etta Weise's 60th Wedding Anniversary:
Weise Children (Sandy, Fred, John, David)

Kaileigh Gonzales, Kennedie Scott & Elle Barnett:
Coy & Sandy Barnett

Coy & Sandy Barnett: Coy & Sandy Barnett

Marjorie Newton: Tom & Helen Wofford

The cost of the new hymnals has been covered with donations from church members and friends. A bookplate noting the donation will be placed inside the front covers.

Contact Information

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