

Presbyterian Trumpet



April 2018



April 1st, Easter Sunday, will be at 10:30 A.M. in the Sanctuary. The Scripture will be Mark 16:1-8 and the sermon is *"This Meal Is Not To Fill You..."*.

I'm looking forward to journeying through the Season of Lent with you...

Pastor Dave



Grace, Mercy and Peace... Six months ago Hurricane Harvey made landfall at Refugio, TX and they have been hard at work ever since, picking up the pieces of their homes and lives... The Mission Committee is sponsoring a day trip to Refugio on April 27th to help in the Hurricane relief work.

We will be hosted by First Pres. Church, Refugio and the Refugio County

Volunteer Reception Center. We will be working alongside other volunteers from around the country. That day helping to repair roofs that were damaged or destroyed. And if Roofs aren't for you- I'm sure we can find appropriate work for your skill level.

Because-we are going in mission, to be the tools in God's hands that he will use for these hurricane survivors to know they are loved by God and not forgotten "Out of the Chaos and destruction of Hurricane Harvey comes Hope..."

If you are interested in going- even if you stay "firmly on the ground" or want to help in other ways, please call me at 210-850-6172 or email me dvdierksen@gmail.com.
Easter blessings, Pastor Dave



Evening Angels Circle Meeting will be held on Sunday, April 2nd, at 6:30 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church. The lesson will be given by **Gail Streun**.

Ethel Circle and Faith Circle will meet at the First Presbyterian Church on Tuesday, April 3rd, at 9:30 A.M. The hostesses will be **Sue Bierman**. The lesson will be given by **Norma Colunga**.

April 24th – PW Council meeting will be held at 9:30 A.M. in the FPC choir room. Norma Colunga will be the hostess.



Rehearsal for the Easter Sunday drama will be on **Saturday, March 31st, at 10:30 A.M.** in the Sanctuary for those who are involved in the drama.

Easter Egg Hunt



The Easter Egg Hunt will be held at **11:30 A.M.** after the Easter Sunday worship service. The Pre-Kindergarten – Kindergarten hunt will be held at the playground area and 1st – 5th grades will be held at the north area of the church (Walnut Street side). Be sure to bring your Easter baskets so you can participate in the hunt.



Church Women United of Guadalupe County

The Church Women United will have a booth promoting CWU at the Earth Day Celebration in Central Park. This event will be held on Saturday, April 28th, from 9:00 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. in Central Park. Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! The CWU will be selling divided recyclable to go plates. They are good to pack lunches in or use for takeout. The plates will be sold at \$4.00 each. If you wish to purchase one, please contact Claribel Sebesta or Bettye Tuten.



...Our thoughts and prayers are with our homebound parishioners: **Sue Guenther and Tom Stevenson** and our nursing/rehabilitation resident, **Doris Hammock**, at Windsor Nursing and Rehabilitation who is still recovering from a bad fall.

...Our thoughts and prayers are with **Mary Ann Koebig, Sue Bierman, Esther Cuellar, Landa King, Cloma Dodd, Paul Jamison, Ron Colunga, Lloyd Wilson, Carol Willmann, Jim Tuten, Al Berry, Dustin Hegwer, Carrie Davenport, Kristin Mueller, Sharon Durbin, Rochelle Carter, Linden Williamson, Doris Rodgers, Katherine Hughes, Peggy Gossett, and Anaya Diercksen** for healing graces.

...Our thoughts and prayers are with **Tom Paterson, Melanie Wright, Chunkie Harwell, Lloyd Wilson, Dan Willmann, and Anaya Diercksen** who are recovering from surgery, **Afton Carter** who is recovering after his motorcycle accident, and **Melanie Wright** who is recovering from surgery.

...Our thoughts and prayers are with **Mike DeLeon and Tom Wright** after the loss of their beloved spouses, and the **Davenport family** after the loss of their mother and grandmother, **Carrie Davenport**.

...Our thoughts and prayers are with **Andrea Moreno**, choir member, who will be going as a Peace Corps volunteer to Cameroon, Africa.

...Our thoughts and prayers are with all members of our church family who are having health difficulties.



Least Coin Collection

The Presbyterian Women are presently at **\$227.00 and counting**. The collection will be turned in to the Church Women United (CWU) the first week of May. After that, we'll start collecting for the 2018 - 2019 offering.

Nancy Mandel

Meet to Pray



IN NEED
OF PRAYER

Please join us on **Tuesday, April 3, at 11:00 A.M. in the FPC Blue Room as well as praying daily**. Pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance for what God expects of us as a congregation. Pray for our homebound members – Al Berry, and Sue Guenther. Pray for our nursing/rehabilitation facility member – Doris Hammock at Windsor Nursing. Pray for our members – Esther Cuellar, Melanie Wright, Jim Tuten, Landa King, Dustin Hegwer, Allison Williamson (Tome & Claire Walters daughter), Linden Williamson (Tome & Claire Walters granddaughter), Ann Hodges, Tom Paterson, and Anaya Diercksen for healing graces and continued recovery. Remember Doris Rodgers in pray who whose husband, Curtis, and Tom Wright whose wife, Joyce, died recently. Also, remember the Davenport family in prayer for their recent loss of Carrie Davenport. Pray for missionaries in Zambia: Liezl and Arthur Pienaar, Charles and Melissa Johnson, Rev. Dr. Dustin and Sherri Ellington. Pray for Rev. Lovemore Nyirenda. Pray for God's guidance for Christian work in Zambia. Pray for Andrea Moreno, choir member, who is going as a Peace Corps volunteer to Cameroon, Africa.



Men's Bible Study

Come join us on **Tuesday mornings at 7:00 A.M.** at Cascades Cafe in GRMC. We are studying the book of Isaiah. We conclude at 8:00 A.M.



We all play a role
when it comes to
the healthy development
of our nation's children.

April Is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

A total of 623 pinwheels will be placed in our church yard during the month of April. Our members will place them in the yard after the breakfast on Friday, March 30 (Good Friday). Please come and help.

Each pinwheel represents a child that has been served at the Guadalupe County Children's Advocacy Center during 2017. Our Presbyterian women's local mission project since October 2004 has been to give a gift bag by a volunteer to each child that receives a forensic interview at the center because of possible abuse. Our Presbyterian members have been very supportive of the Advocacy Center by donating money to the center. Our members participated in "Buy a Brick" campaign--the money to be used for their new building project. The members have supported the purchase of gift items to go in the gift bag that is given to a child. A number of organizations and individuals in Seguin and in New Braunfels also supply us with quilts, blanket, totes and many other items.

Look for the Advocacy Center display in Karrick Hall during April. There is also a collection container if you would like to donate something to be used in the gift bags. Money can also be given to the Presbyterian Women fund to purchase items.

Unfortunately, child abuse will never stop, but these children will especially feel comforted to know that someone cares enough about them to give them a bag full loving gifts. The following is a list of items that are always in need for the bags. The take-home gift bags are for boys and girls ages 3 to 17 years: Books, coloring books, puzzle books, crayons, washable markers, pencils, ball point pens, erasures, balls, Frisbees, other small outside toys, puzzles, cards, games, small cars, figurines, stickers, Hi lighters, colored pencils, notebook paper, calculators, dictionary, silly putty, play dough, visors, toothbrushes, refillable water bottles, flash lights or small toys that require batteries must have a supply of batteries to go with it, hotel toiletries, toiletries, new stuffed animals or gently used stuffed animals that can be washed and dried, small dolls, necklaces, bracelets, watches, belts, scarves, sunglasses, visors, nail polish, combs, brushes, small mirror, small packages of tissues, hair clips/bows, purses, billfolds, makeup bags, back packs, pencil boxes, key chains to attach to back packs.

We cannot accept the following for the bags: No food items, no religious items, no violent play toys, no medical play toys, no sharp objects such as pencil sharpeners, razors or fingernail items and no money.

The Advocacy Center is always in need of the following: 8 ½ x 11 copier and printer paper, HEB or Wal-Mart gift cards (any denomination), cases of bottled water.

For additional information, contact Patty Grones, 830-303-8955 or email phg6611@gmail.com

Christian Cupboard and Family Violence Shelter



Suggested donations for the Christian Cupboard are nonperishable foods (particularly oatmeal, dried beans, jelly, and ramen noodles), checks, cash, empty egg cartons, and empty plastic bags. You may bring donations any time, but the first Sunday is our big push to help the Christian Cupboard meet their demands. The Family Violence Shelter can always use our help with cleaning supplies, personal hygiene items, paper towels, anything women and children might need if they leave their home in a hurry. Please look for the tubs to place your items in the narthex or the hallway next to Karrick Hall. Your donations are always appreciated.



Stated Meeting of the Session

The Session of First Presbyterian Church met on Sunday, March 12, 2018 at noon. There was discussion about the members of the congregation who need prayers and visits. The minutes from the February 18, 2018 meeting were approved as printed. The Presbyterian Women's Liaison report was accepted as printed.

Pastor's Report: Brandi Becker has agreed to serve as Elder and Clerk of Session. There will be an Ordination and Installation service on March 18th during the Worship Service. Carrie Davenport's Service of Witness to the Resurrection in Jesus Christ was very uplifting, great community, and family presence. Our church members turned out in force and provided an incredible of food for the family time in Karrick Hall. Strategy Team will be meeting with Risa Ware who has agreed to be the lead person on the 1,000 books before kindergarten and Story Time programs with C.E. We hope to help play out a flow chart of who, what, when, where and how, as we prepare for the Mid-June Story Times kickoff. The Ash Wednesday Service was sparsely attended, but meaningful for those in worship. Would like to think with Session how to improve attendance at special services. Need to remind everyone that it is the Elder's responsibility to check all the doors and turn off lights whenever you're in the building. Committees need to list the committee members who were in attendance at each meeting.

Session Action: The motion to fund the church sign using the \$5,000 from the 2018 Philippians Project for the Church sign was tabled. A motion was made by Carol Willman, seconded by Callan Carter to allow a love gift offering for Andrea Moreno who is going to Cameroon in West Africa as a Peace Corp volunteer. The motion was approved.

Outreach : No report

Worship: The committee met on February 25th and more preparations were made for Holy Week and Easter events. Paul and Lindsay attached Velcro to the sanctuary windows to hold the black plastic covers. Gail and Mildred cut the plastic. The youth will usher/greet on Easter and four of them will pull window covers. Four choir members will do the lights, cross and windows in the loft. Mildred and Gail will do two sanctuary windows, two more people are needed for the remaining windows. Billy Wilson is interested in serving as acolyte. A rehearsal is set for Saturday, March 31st, at 10:30 A.M. Afterwards we will prepare the lilies for the sanctuary. Risa is getting readers for the Maundy Thursday drama. The Worship Committee will darken the sanctuary after the service. Next meeting is March 25th.

Building and Grounds:

- Security Camera system upgrade: If you remember, we approved upgrade of our security camera DVR system. I contacted with 4 Square communications and we have had the new system installed. During the process we found one of the nine cameras we have had been destroyed by rodents. We are in the process of replacing that camera now. Also, our new system is capable of supporting 1080p HD cameras. We are upgrading the camera at the "main" church entrance in order to be able to see faces clearly at that location for Viola's sake. Tome has said he will be donating the money to replace and upgrade those two cameras. Also for consideration I would like to take the "extra" camera we will have and install it in the nursery. So think about that. I watched the system in the sanctuary this last Sunday during worship, and I believe we have good coverage of the church the nursery/ kitchen area is the only area really lacking.
- LED sign: I had my sign meeting on Thursday, March 1st, in Karrick Hall. We had about 15 church members attend. Thank you to those of you who came. We have decided to go ahead with the "local contactor" (Sign Crafters of San Marcos). They did approve the 5 year parts, factory parts, and on site labor warranty. So that means I will be signing their contract this week and that process will get rolling. The LED sign takes 3-5 weeks to be received and they will not order it until we have placed the deposit. Their bid was for \$22,000 for a turn-key sign install. They will be providing a Watchfire 24" x 84" double sided LED sign. The current bid design is for the sign to have a brick base that closely matches the color of the church building bricks. We still have to

come up with sign colors, the text and font we want printed on the fixed upper portion of the sign. Do we want a cross or no cross? So there is still many design attributes still to be discussed. If you would like my powerpoint presentation emailed to you just email me and I will send it. If we plan to use 2018 Philippians project money for the sign wear every close to our goal of \$22,000 for the sign. I know we have two donors that are going to contribute, but I am not sure we have an amount from them yet. Needless to say think about this as we will be sending the \$11,000.00 deposit to the sign company in the next coming days.

- **Playground:** I have been approached by a few folks that want to look into upgrading the playground equipment. I have not gone and inspected the equipment myself to see its current condition. Anyway we will tackle this topic sometime in the future after the sign project is accomplished.
- **Grounds:** I have contacted the “yard service” about making sure everything is cut and clean prior to Palm Sunday but he has not yet called me back to verify. I’ll stay on top of it.

Christian Education: The youth continue to usher on the first Sunday of the month. Lorrell reports that plans are underway for Youth Sunday on April 29th. The youth will stuff Easter eggs and hide them for our annual Easter Egg hunt. Several youth are excited to attend the mission trip to John Knox over Spring Break. They will share their experience at the luncheon on March 18th. Mary Potter is doing an excellent job as the nursery attendant.

Fellowship: March 18th we will have a sandwich luncheon after church to celebrate Saint Patrick's Day with speaker Chris Holmes, Executive Director of John Knox Ranch, receive an update on mission team work at John Knox Ranch and Bingo to follow. Signup sheet is in Karrick Hall. Fellowship will provide breakfast after the Good Friday Service on March 30th. A meeting will be scheduled with the Fellowship Committee within the next week to discuss Good Friday, Easter, and upcoming events. No meeting was scheduled last month.

Mission: John Knox mission trip, 8 workers signed up, \$60 donated toward meals for the team. Children’s Advocacy Center – Patty Grones is taking bags to the satellite center as well as the one in Seguin, she especially needs items for teenage boys. Salvation Army – Ann Hodges reports they continue to need volunteers. Christian Cupboard – Liz Taft reported that summer is a critical time, suggested St Andrew’s Episcopal Church for a Food Fight. Christian Counselling Center is thinking about maybe having a Horseshoe Tournament Fundraiser. Refugio Mission Trip – Pastor Dave is the point person for this and he is going to flesh out the details. Zambia – we did receive confirmation that the money from 2017 was received to support Arthur and Liezl Pienaar in their work with Overland Missions. It was decided to send \$300 more this month, and Bob Sebesta will write a Zambia Report for the April Newsletter. He is also reaching out to the Austin Seminary to see if we can have a student or professor from Zambia or that region can come and speak to us. Mission Sunday, we are planning for a Sunday in the fall, Sharon Durbin is the point person on this, the idea is to have a Sunday where we really expose the congregation to the mission opportunities available to us.

New Business: Christian Education needs to look into clarifying what the Memorial Education Fund is to be used for and who is authorized to request and sign on the account. Administration and Personnel will look into moving the nursery staff under their committee. The session will ask Tome Walters to be at each session meeting to discuss the treasurer’s report and then be excused. Meet or email with William to discuss the questions he raised in his report concerning the bid design. Perhaps have a design team?



Zambia to Come to Seguin

Rev. Elijah Mwandila, a minister in Zambia, is coming to our church on Sunday, April 22, to preach. He is currently a student at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, has a church in Zambia, and will return for his final year to Justo Mwale Theological Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia in June. Following the service we will have a luncheon and Elijah will show photos of Zambia and we will have time for questions and answers with Elijah. He will be accompanied by Cheryl Banks of Austin who has spent several summers in Zambia. Mark your calendar for April 22 and invite family and friends to come too.



News from Liezl Pienaar in Zambia

Bob Sebesta forwarded the following paragraph which appeared in Liezl's Facebook page on March 21st.

Kids are able to enter into the presence of God and worship deeply! We had such a weighty manifestation of God's presence at our Kids on Fire Power Club on Saturday. Some kids felt sure that this is what heaven feels like, others could not find words to describe their experience and just shook their heads in speechless wonder. Our adult volunteers were astonished by how engaged the children were, commenting that they

saw tears roll down many faces.

One of our adult volunteers, Ruth, shared how she was so touched by the anointing and God's presence at Kids on Fire, that her experience emboldened her to go and pray afterwards for someone who had his legs amputated by a train last week. She was able to lead him to the Lord - her first time ever! All because of the way the Holy Spirit touched her at a KIDS ministry event!!



Worship Committee

Worship Committee

Thank you to everyone for all of the time and work spent on the Holy Week services. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 22nd. Happy Easter to all!

Carol Willmann



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Administration/Personnel Team

The team continues to work on its goals. As we persist with our organization of permanent records, we are also developing plans for a few projects, including special storage of our historic materials. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, April 3rd, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., in the Blue Room.



Electronic Fund Giving

Reminder from your Administration/Personnel Committee: Do you like to do your banking online? Did you know you can also make your church donations this way? Just go to our website: < www.firstpresseguin.org/Index.html >, scroll down a little, and you will see a gold oval "donate" button on the right-hand side. After you have completed entering in the

amount and source of your donation, be sure to click on "instructions to merchants" to specify what it is for, such as pledge, offering, building fund, etc.



Lay Readers

Lay Leaders for April 1 thru July 8, 2018

- Rochelle Carter – 4/1/2018
- Claire Walters – 4/8/2018
- Callan Carter – 4/15/2018
- Chunky Harwell – 4/22/2018
- Risa Ware – 4/29/2018
- Melanie Wright – 5/6/2018
- Katie McLean – 5/13/2018
- Travis Anderson – 5/20/2018
- David Cook – 5/27/2018
- Paul Jamison – 6/3/2018
- Bob Sebesta – 6/10/2018
- Robin Dwyer – 6/17/2018
- Claribel Sebesta – 6/24/2018
- Rochelle Carter – 7/1/2018
- Claire Walters – 7/8/2018