



IT TAKES GRACE...

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FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TRIDINGS

Twenty-five days to the election. I just wanted to say that because I know so many of you will be wondering what to do with your time. (Oh, wait! The 2020 campaigns begin on November 9...Never mind.) At least this election and its drama will mercifully come to an end soon.

In reflection of the presidential campaign, it's probably more in order for me to talk about us than the politicians. Let's take a moment and consider as Christians in the midst of this year's political climate, what our priorities may have been. Think about the conversations you've had, the Facebook postings you've made, the tweets you've sent. Has it appeared to others that our political position is more important than our witness of Jesus? Would it appear that we want our particular candidate to win office than Christ to be glorified? Of course, our answers would seem obvious. But, if the peo-

ple we've communicated with were to judge our level of passion, what would they think? Would they make the assumption that you'd rather talk about Trump or Clinton than Jesus? Have you been able to talk about Trump or Clinton and bring glory to Jesus in the process?

This, friends, is actually a very important time to be a Christian witness. Our nation and our government does matter, and Christians should care a lot about the election. But, do we act like a president is more influential, more powerful, more important than the King of all creation?

Mentor Paul taught the new preacher Timothy how to handle the Roman government when he said, "First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions,

that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way." [1 Timothy 2:1-2] I don't think the words "peaceful, quiet, godly and dignified" are going to apply to the political rhetoric any more after the election than they have before the election. Paul would strongly urge us, though, to be sure those words do apply to our Christian witness amid all the rhetoric.

I cannot wish any of us "good luck" on the outcome of our elections this month. I'll just thank God for His grace and presence going forward, regardless of the results. And that by His grace, our presence in the lives of others will matter, for Christ's sake.
RevLon

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING—NOVEMBER 9TH @ 6PM

In lieu of our regular schedule of activities on November 9, the Session has called for a meeting of the congregation to be held at 6:00PM following our fellowship meal. At its meeting on October 11, a motion was passed to *"call a congregational meeting to vote on a reduction of total Session members from 15 to 12, made up of three classes of four elders, with those classes of four beginning with the class of 2019."*

As background to this motion, note the following items:

- * There is a good number of members not able to serve on the Session due to other obligations of their personal time.
- * We have others who are not in Madisonville the year round, making it difficult to fully serve.

* In honesty, elders of the Session may have taken on, to too large a degree over the years, more work than their title calls for. The thought is that some do not want to serve on the Session out of fear of burning out in carrying out the actual work of committees rather than leading others in the church who have gifts and skills going unused.

* The current committee structure has been re-defined in the responsibilities to be carried out. Where overlapping from one committee to another has existed in the past, we hope we have re-ordered all the responsibilities to better reflect the correct committee oversight. This re-structuring has resulted

in six committees of Session rather than seven.

* With agreeing to a reduction in the number of elders serving, the Session also moved that a commitment would be made going forward to the growth and inclusivity of the congregation. To that end, all members and regular attenders will be asked to take part in a survey, which in part will be soliciting suggestions on what kind of exciting changes the church would like to see, how best to incorporate the membership into ministry of the church, and ways of successfully bringing marginal and inactive members back home.

FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE

We have the opportunity again to participate in Samaritan Purse, Operation Christmas Child, Christmas Shoebox ministry.

Janet McCoy from Grace Fellowship Church is again leading the collection of Christmas Shoeboxes.

The area box drop-off is the gym at First Presbyterian Church November 14-21st.

TIMES: Monday, Nov 14 – Friday, Nov 18 from 5:00 – 8:00 PM
Saturday, Nov 19 from 10:00 – 4:00 PM

Sunday, Nov 20 from 2:00-6:00 PM---Shoe Box Dedication today too!

Monday, Nov 21 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM

Shoeboxes:

Choose Boy or Girl and age

groups 2-4; 5-9 or 10-14 —Label boxes accordingly.

Include items that children will immediately embrace such as:

Toys: cars, yo-yos, jump ropes, balls, toys that light up and make noise (with extra batteries), etc.

School Supplies: pens, pencils and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks, paper, solar calculators, coloring and picture books, etc.

Non-liquid Hygiene Items: toothbrushes, bar soap, combs, washcloths, etc.

Accessories: t-shirts, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, jewelry, watches, flashlights (with extra batteries), etc.

Postage money: \$ 7.00 per box for shipping.

For more information check out: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/pack-a-shoe-box>.

Shoebox Dedication:

Our youth will be making boxes which will be dedicated Sunday, November 20, 2016 in the sanctuary and in the gym with Grace Fellowship.

“RPM FOR MEN/WOW FOR WOMEN” NIGHT IS NOVEMBER 2!

Our first-Wednesday-of-the-month gatherings of men and women will meet on November 2.

Supper is at 5:15PM and the meetings will run until 7:00.

Be there for a good opportunity to get know each other a bit better and help make some plans for future events in the church!

**START YOUR
ENGINES!**



November Birthdays & Anniversaries

3rd	Jim Agin	21st	John Betts
	Doris Thomas		Janet McClain
	Rena Roberts		Heather Ricketts
5th	Sam Waddell	22nd	Luanne Cole
6th	Lance Millard	24th	Mike Hofmann
7th	Austin Walker		David & Merry Brooks (A)
13th	Lindsey Peyton Zanetti	25th	Burl & Paula Milligan
14th	Dave & Val Dreusicke (A)		Becky Moore
	Ruth Hendrix	26th	Connie Conover
18th	Ross Thomas	27th	Erlene Ewing
19th	Daniel Carter	28th	Floyd & Rhonda Gordon (A)
20th	Alice Kelley	29th	Becca Wilson
	Charlie Hoskins		



From the Fellowship Committee

Our Thanksgiving dinner will be November 20, following worship. Turkey & dressing will be provided. Please bring a salad, vegetable, or dessert. Please join us for this special time of fellowship.

We are collecting \$10 gift cards for Grapevine staff in December. Please turn in to Susie Jackson or Dawn in the office.

REMINDER:

Christmas Baskets will be distributed soon. If you would like to make a monetary donation or assist with Christmas Baskets please see Michael Milam or Anna Leasure. More information will follow.



Christmas Baskets

REMAINING GREAT BANQUET/CHRYSALIS WEEKENDS:

- November 4-6: Women's Great Banquet #175**
- November 17-20: Vienna Prison Great Banquet #47**
- November 25-27: Chrysalis #55**

GIVING TO GOD

Alan Smith of White Horse, Tennessee shared the following story of a church that had a parking problem. It was right next door to a store that was closed on Sunday. They asked the owner if they could use his parking lot. He said that they could use it for 51 Sundays out of the year but that it would be chained off one week. They were happy with the deal, but curious why it would be chained off that one Sunday. He explained that he just wanted them to remember that it wasn't their parking lot!

You know, there's a lot of wisdom there. Because if you use something long enough, you tend to assume that it's yours. But everything we have belongs to God. God wants us to remember that. He told Israel that one day they would be richly blessed. But he warned them:

Do not say to yourself, My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth. But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, so that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your ancestors, as he is doing today. (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).

Think about it. Is it harder to give up something of your own or give someone back what is already his? If you need to haul some stuff around, you might need to borrow a friend's pickup truck for a while. Suppose you kept it for a day. Then you start to give it back to

him. Is that hard to do? Here's a truck that's worth thousands of dollars and you're just giving it to him? Sure, it's easy to give it to him because it's not yours; it belongs to your friend.

What we have belongs to God; it's his stuff to begin with! He blesses us by letting us use it, but it's still his. And when we understand that, giving to God becomes a lot easier.

Someone has said that "As long as a man thinks that he owns what he has, then the church will always appear to him as a beggar appealing to him to part with what he has to meet her needs. But once a man realizes that he owns nothing, but owes everything, and even his life is given him in trust, then the proper portion of his blessings will be given back to God."

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High. Call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me"(Psalm 50:14).

If you are reading this, you are aware of our church's financial situation posted in the finance committee report. Spending exceeds income. The Session believes that God, through you, will provide. And, you will. However, every now and then you need to be reminded that you need to offer your first fruits and not a tenth of what you have left.

Paul taught the Corinthians to set aside a collection "on the first day of the week" (1 Cor 16:12). The offering of first fruits was an occasion of thanksgiving, so the Christian is to give with gladness.

We are to give Him the first (and the best) of what He has given us.

Are you giving Him your best? Consider yourself reminded.

On the Inside, Pete.



**... of all that thou
shalt give me I
will surely give
the tenth
unto thee.
Genesis 28:22**

Poinsettia Order Forms Available November 6th


Again this year we will be taking orders for Christmas poinsettias to decorate our church. Beginning November 6th through November 20th forms will be available for your order. The cost will be \$15.00 each. Please use one order form per flower. If you have any questions please call the church office (821-6426).



We will be hosting the Messiah on December 4th at 7:00PM.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. If you would like to bring cookies, please have them at the church by that afternoon.

November 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 7:00 PM Session Meeting	2 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	3 Messiah Rehearsal Women's Great Banquet #175	4	5
6 →	7 9:30 AM Norma Siria Circle	8	9 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	10 Messiah Rehearsal	11	12
13	14 ←	15 *Christmas Shoebox Deliver Delivery times: 5:00—8:00PM	16 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal	17 Messiah Rehearsal	18 → Vienna Great Banquet #47	19 *10AM—4PM
20 *2-6PM →	21 *8-10AM	22 Messiah Rehearsal	23 No Activities	24  THANKSGIVING Day	25 Chrysalis #55 @ FUMC	26
27	28	29	30 5:15 Fellowship Meal 6:00 Activities 7:00 Choir Rehearsal			



**Star
Search**
Church-Wide
Annual Talent
No Talent
Show

Singers, dancers, comedians and actors... The 3rd annual Talent/No Talent Show is set for Wednesday evening December 7 @ 6PM following the fellowship supper. Our church family is loaded with stars! So let your light shine this Christmas season! See Pastor Lon or Janet Agin for details.



“Do you hear what I hear?” It’s time for our 4th ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY, which comes once a year. So “Come all ye faithful” to our “Home for the Holidays” We will be “Rockin around the Christmas tree” and drinking hot cider cause “Baby it’s cold outside”.

Let’s “Deck the Halls” for “One Holy Night” Friday December 2 @ 7PM. Bring a favorite appetizer or sweet and have yourself a “Merry Little Christmas” party.

The Agin, 270-824-8073 (if you have any questions)

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