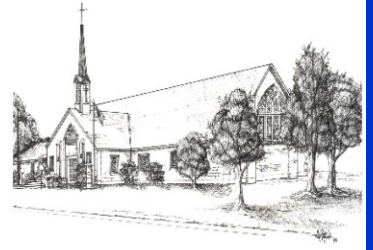




First Press

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May 2022

From the Pastor's Desk

AND SUDDENLY
YOU JUST KNOW
IT'S TIME TO START
SOMETHING NEW
AND TRUST
THE MAGIC
OF BEGINNINGS

New Beginnings. Again. Moving through the church over the space of nearly five decades as a pastor, educator, and chaplain, I have witnessed and been part of both minimal and impressive transitions. Churches and people change, whether that change is welcomed or not. "What did I eat for lunch?" becomes "Did I eat lunch? as we gain years. Churches experience a similar effect while adding years to their lives. "Did we celebrate communion last year on Christmas Eve? is a good example of our yielding corporate memories. Nearly every congregation I have gone to has this conversation in the planning stages of worship and in getting to know one another as we become acquainted. (continued on page 2)



EASTER SUNDAY



Pastor's Desk (cont.)

Neighborhoods in which our congregations are located as well as the physical plants of the churches are affected by relocating populations, internal issues, and changing needs of the ministry setting and Membership. To be effective witnesses of Christ and God's best ambassadors requires continually re-acquainting ourselves with our local ministry settings, local and global trends and our particular church family.

Over the years we, the local and larger church, have been involved with New Beginnings and similar programmatic and personality analytic systems. In the Fall of 2021 this congregation undertook a revisiting of our identities and goals in "Community TALKS." Over the course of three months, we enjoyed dinner followed by guided conversation resulting in the implementation of three priority goals. New energy seems to be streaming through the congregation possibly because of being together in conversation and seeking God's will for the mission of FPCB. Transitions are often gradual, seemingly imperceptible, leaving us feeling frustrated for apparent lack of progress. We cannot always see the hand of God moving us forward when we are amid seeking God's will. God sees us. God knows us.

The Psalmist teaches us of a God who is already aware of all that we are, thinking and doing:

You Have Searched Me and Known Me

²*You know when I sit and when I rise;
You understand my thoughts from afar.*

³*You search out my path and my lying down;
You are aware of all my ways.*

⁴*Even before a word is on my tongue,
You know all about it, O LORD....
(Psalm 139:1-4)*

Please look around this church campus and witness the gradual progress in the building and grounds, but especially in us and through us. To borrow a phrase from Paul, *Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift.*

Thanks be to God for choosing to add to our number new sisters and brothers in the faith, in our worship and in our work. Thanks be to God for those sisters graduating from college and high school this month. Thanks be to God for increased music ministry and choir members (and new instruments; chimes!). Thanks be to God for the inexpressible gift-faith and where faith is leading us.

Kathy E. Vineyard, H.R.



Tuesday May 24 6:00 pm *THE CHOSEN*

We will be hosting this Event!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN GRACE PRESBYTERY



Spring Workshops

May 21, 2022

**Let all that you do
be done in love.**

1 Corinthians 16:14 (ESV)

A Stated Meeting of the Session was held on April 19, 2022. Highlights include:

Clerk of Session--Penny presented the Treasurer's report. Although we had a negative balance in early April, after our Easter service, we once again had a positive bottom line. Specific items addressed in the meeting included approval for a graduation reception for our three graduating young women and the possibility of organizing a Men of the Church group. Bob Livingston has been approached to determine interest in this idea.

Worship & Welcome--Kay reported that attendance for Easter Sunday was 72 in person, which met our goal of beating the Christmas Eve attendance. She asked to purchase two new banners for the Sanctuary and a motion was made and approved to do so. Kay is arranging to have greeters each Sunday morning. The Worship Committee is working on details for picnics on Pentecost and Independence Day.

Buildings & Grounds--Terry Coyne presented a quote for lighting the stained glass in the entryway of the church. A motion was made and approved to do this using money from the undesignated memorial fund. Because of the recent hail storm, it was decided that we need to have our roof checked. Terry will arrange for this.

Congregational Care--Melinda reported that the mailing of cards continues. She does have some returned and requested that we update addresses that may have changed.

Missions--Julie discussed the upcoming meeting of the Presbyterian Women of Southern Grace Presbytery that our church is hosting. She is recruiting a committee to assist with planning for this event to be held on May 21st.

Moderator's Report--"The Eastertide spark of new life is invading our Membership and enriching our ministries. The Lenten offerings of clothing and hygiene items to Helping Hands was a tremendous blessing for us to give and for members of our community to receive. The music ministry is becoming a known hallmark of this congregation. Kudos and thanks to all our choirs and musicians, both staff and guests. The addition of a new set of chimes has made a world of difference in the performance sound of our Chime Choir, as had the addition of new members. The Choral Choir is also enhanced with new voices and enthusiasm for a ministry of excellence. Our Lenten Bible study was well received and attended by 12-13 people weekly, each of whom participated in our lively discussions."

Mission Statement--The Session liked a specific phrase Rev. Kathy used in her full report and decided to adopt it as our Mission Statement. The phrase is: "**A small church with a heart for loving and celebrating others through mission giving, learning and sacred music**". This was approved by consensus.

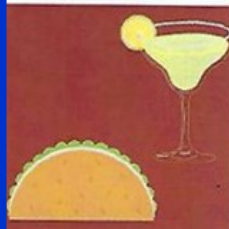
**TACO 'BOUT A
PARTY!
MAKENZIE'S
GRAD PARTY**



05.14.22

1817 N. BEAL ST. BELTON
3PM-UNTIL THE
MARGARITAS RUN OUT

RSVP to Lynette
254.931.0874



FINANCIAL DATA

JANUARY - APRIL

Total Income	\$27,959.98
Total Expense	\$27,936.70
Net Income	\$ 23.28



**Men's Group Breakfast
Meeting June 2
at the church**

EASTER







