

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

SEPT
2021

300 Burleson, Smithville, Texas 78957
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Pastor's Remarks:

From Rev. Kris Brown



September marks a wonderful moment in the life of our church. On the 24th, we will have been active as a congregation in Smithville for 150 years! Can you imagine it? What a lot to celebrate, even in these hard times.

Covid may slow down a few group activities, but Sallie Watson, the General Presbyter of Mission Presbytery, will be preaching on the 19th to help us bring in the occasion. Her message should be inspiring. I am really looking forward to it.

Covid permitting, we are planning some other ways everyone might take part in honoring our church community. Among them in the fall, we will be conducting an engraved brick sale. Individuals and businesses can have their names and a short message engraved on a brick. Once we see how many we have, we will build something beautiful with these bricks. I hope you will consider buying one for your family and helping us get the word out to Smithville so that others might join in. We should have information available about these bricks beginning in October.

In addition, Lydia (I am sure she would like some others to volunteer to help) will be selling cookbooks in the front of the church building on Sundays starting in October. My, won't they make good Christmas presents? There will also be copies of my book, *The Bleed of Heaven*, available for purchase. All the proceeds will go to our building repair and updating fund.

Some other special services are fast approaching. October 3rd, we will remember St. Francis by having a youth-led animal blessing service on Sunday. And the 31st, we will celebrate All Saints Day out at our farm with a hymn sing and again Covid permitting, some All Saints and Halloween fun for kids of every age.

I hope to see as many of you as I can over the next few months. Even in the midst of rising fear and worry, we have each other. We have our dear church. We have so much to be thankful for.

Church Leadership

Pastor - Rev. Kris Brown - 512.608.4293 Email - kribrown1001@gmail.com

Clerk of Session - Barbara Maresh - Email - bvmaresh@yahoo.com

Pastoral Assistant - Susan Guedry - Email - sguedry85@gmail.com

Music Director - Lisa Maresh - Email - lisamaresh@yahoo.com

- Piano/Organ/Harp - Monica Miller
- Trumpet - Alan Ford/Wayne King

Session Members: Harleigh Altmeyer, Jane Istre, Kathy Ford, Lilly Willenberg, Lisa Maresh, Monica Miller, Barbara Maresh

Worship & Christian Formation - Lisa Maresh/Monica Miller

Church Administration - Jane Istre

Mission Outreach & Fellowship - Kathy Ford/Lilly Willenberg

150th Anniversary - Harleigh Altmeyer/Monica Miller

Web Site - www.fpcsmithville.org, Facebook, Newsletter - Kathy Ford - kathrynford@austin.rr.com

Sunday Schedules

We are open for 11 am worship, masks are now required for all in-person attendees. We will continue our Face Book Live option also.

When we open completely the schedule will be:

Coffee Hour 9:45

Sunday School -10 am will begin on September 12

Worship at 11 am -Currently in the building and on Face Book Live

Communion on First Sunday

Women's Bible Study – 2nd Tuesday from Sept to

May at 10 a.m. begins on Sept 14th.

Please check the website for changes in schedule



FOOD PANTRY – AUGUST

Remember to bring your donations for the food pantry on First Sunday. There are envelopes if you prefer to give money. Actually, The Food Pantry can purchase food from the Capital Area Food Bank more economically than you can purchase it at the store.

Date	Clients	# Family Members	New Clients	New Family Members
8-4-21	87	184	2	4
8-11-21	99	206	0	0
8-18-21	92	199	0	0
8-25-21	107	226	0	0
Totals	385	815	2	4

UPCOMING EVENTS – SAVE THE DATES IN OCTOBER –details to follow:

Brick sale. Engraved bricks will be sold to raise funds for building repair and maintenance. Buy one and have your name/short message engraved on the brick. They will be used to build something beautiful at the church.

Cookbooks and copies of Pastor Kris’s book *Bleed of Heaven* will be for sale at the front steps of the church and other select locations.

October 3rd – the youth will lead the St. Francis Day Service and blessing.

October 31st – All Saints Day Sevice at the Brown Farm.

A Proud Moment for Women in FPC Smithville History

From David Herrington

This event occurred on March 12, 1972,
and the pastor was Rev. James H. Robinson (not 'Robertson' as the paper
reported)

First Woman Elder Ordained

Mrs. Sam Shelburne was ordained as a Ruling Elder in the morning worship service of the First Presbyterian Church of Smithville, Sunday, March 12th. She was the first woman to be ordained as Elder in the history of the Smithville Church.

Mrs. Shelburne is the daughter of the first pastor of the Church, the Rev. J. M. Renick, who served as pastor on three occasions during the period 1871 to 1901. She was installed to the active Session of the Church along with Mr. Raymond Michulka and Mr. Felix Volcik, who had previously been ordained as Elders and were elected to serve again as members of the Session. The service of Ordination and Installation was conducted by the pastor, the Rev. James H. Robertson.



September Birthdays

- 9/5 - Janet Jewell
- 9/9 - Tristyn Herrington-Altmeier
- 9/9 - Cora Belle Hurta Williams
- 9/14 - Jane Istre
- 9/14 - David Brown
- 9/17 - Dianna King
- 9/18 - Hoyt Johnson
- 9/27 - Stellen Herrington-Hernandez



September Anniversary

- 9/4 - Anna & Shawn Hernandez

Cookbook Info

The new cookbooks are here and ready to purchase for \$20. They are available at the church and will be available at a few other locations to be announced later. Beginning in October, Lydia will be selling on the front porch of the church. Contact Monica Miller for additional info. There is one correction: pg. 105, Pistachio Pudding Cake - add- 1 sm. pkg. pistachio pudding mix to the CAKE ingredients list. This is in addition to the package in the FROSTING ingredients. The correction is being made to the unsold books. The cookbook is a fundraiser for our 150th Anniversary. It makes a great gift!



September Communion Schedule

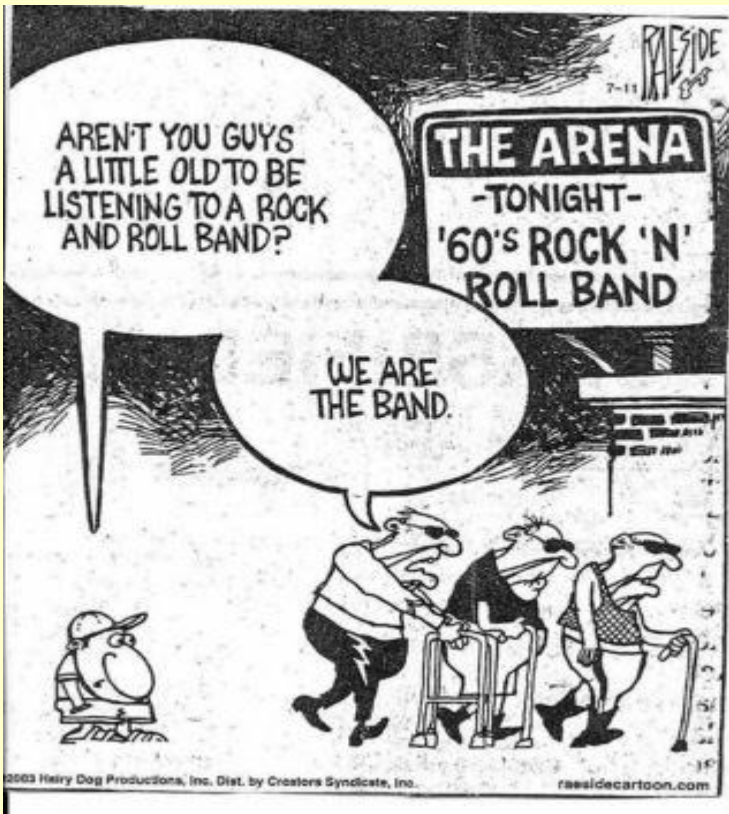
Lilly is in charge of Communion for September. She will prepare the communion table, pick up the glasses at the end of the service, wash and put away the service trays.

Monica Miller has volunteered to bring the bread and juice for ALL communion services. Thank you, Monica!

If you cannot be at church when it is your turn to be in charge of the preparation for communion, please ask one of the other Elders to serve in your place.

September – Lilly Willenberg
October – Lisa Maresh

Humor – Thanks to Gloria Hurta



I just cleared out some space in the freezer sounds much more productive than I just polished off another pint of ice cream.

This morning my son said his ear hurt and I said on the inside or outside, so he walks out the front door, comes back in and says both. Moments like this got me wondering if I'm saving too much for college.

Just failed my driving test. When the examiner asked me "what sign would you expect to see down a narrow country road?" Apparently 'fresh eggs for sale' wasn't the answer...

Ida Relief - from Alan Ford

As Hurricane Ida hit our eastern neighbors this week, our first thoughts were, of course, to spring into action and do something to help. Until FEMA and local authorities have had time to evaluate the situation, we need to hold fast and wait for now. Yes, the news reports and images show us all kinds of things that families need, but there are large areas of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama where authorities are advising residents not to even attempt to return home until roadways have been made safe and restoration of electric power is at least well under way. We do not know what resources are already in the area, or exactly where help is needed.

The first thing we can do is to pray for our friends, colleagues, and sister congregations in the affected area, the multitude of displaced families, and the thousands of responders working to restore safe living conditions and access in the affected areas.

Mission Presbytery has some equipment for deployment in disaster assistance, notably a portable shower unit, two very large generators (recently returned from almost a year of use in disaster recovery near Lake Charles, LA), and a custom trailer on which to transport them. These will likely be driven back to Louisiana as soon as a specific need is identified.

Later there may be opportunities to donate specific kinds of supplies, but for now the best way to make an immediate contribution is in the form of cash—easily and quickly moved to where it is needed.

You can contribute in two ways:

1. Through Mission Presbytery,
 - a. Online [HERE](#). You do not have to create a profile to donate.
 - b. By check for “Hurricane Ida Relief” to:

Mission Presbytery
7201 Broadway St., Ste. 303
San Antonio, TX 78209

2. Directly to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, at <https://pma.pcusa.org/donate/make-a-gift/gift-info/DR000169/>

The recovery from Hurricane Ida will take years. Many needs will not even be identified for quite some time. There will be opportunities for volunteers to contribute their labor—and their presence—for the benefit of those affected. But due to the current concerns about the Delta variant, no plans for volunteer teams are yet in place.

SEPTEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 15th Sunday after Pentecost 11 am Service with Communion In the Building and on Facebook Live <i>Season of Peace Begins</i>	6 <i>A Social Creed for the 21st Century</i> Labor Day	7	8 <i>International Literacy Day</i> <i>Presbyterian Higher Education</i>	9	10	11
12 16th Sunday after Pentecost 11 am Service In the Building and on Facebook Live <i>Theological Educatin/Seminaries;</i> <i>Christian & Citizsn Sunday;</i> <i>Evangelism Sunday; Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence begins</i>	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 17th Sunday after Pentecost 11 am Service In the Building and on Facebook Live 150th Anniversary Service	20	21	22 <i>Native American Day</i>	23	24 The 150th anniversary of the Church	25
26 18th Sunday after Pentecost 11 am Service In the Building and on Facebook Live <i>Gifts of New Immigrants</i>	27	28	29	30		