



Burnet Presbyterian Church
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Newsletter for March 2021

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From the Desk of the Pastor

Greetings to all. God's Grace I wish for you and I pray that everyone is well, warm and able to sustain life with life giving water. It has been an interesting time already this year.

We have entered the season of Lent and, after the year that 2020 was, we have all hoped for a better year in 2021. While there is still a lot of year left, 2021 has certainly come in with a bang. We have experienced an attack on our nation's capital, continue to be bombarded by news of the effects of COVID, and we have experienced the effects of global warming (really) as we endured the coldest February on record and we are only half way through.

Yes, the thermometer dropped to minus digits outside, but for at least one of our members it was 6 degrees inside the house with no electricity and no water. Others spent their days under multiple layers of covers because they too did not have electricity.

Yes, Texas was the worst hit in this winter storm, but most of the nation was affected in one way or another. Consider, for a moment what 11 inches of snow might look like in Del Rio, Texas, and those to the north and east of Texas were hit very badly as well.

I think it is safe to say that we here locally and the rest of the country are in need of a change. Change, that is what the season of Lent is about. We are called to change what we do, how we do it, and to reflect on what God is calling us to do to improve our world, and in so doing, God changes us.

Consider for a moment the story of Abram. In **Genesis 12:1** the Lord told Abram: "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing." Then in Chapter 15, Abram and God have a discussion where Abram says: "Behold, to me thou hast given

no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD *came* unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness."

Finally, in this week's texts in Genesis 17, we read: When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her.

If you think that we had a trying year or so, think about Abram – he was asked to leave his country and go where God told him to stop, and then at a ripe old age, was told that he and his wife Sarai would conceive a son and be the parents of a great nation. Yet because Abram had faith and believed God, God changed Abram's name to Abraham and Sarai's name to Sarah as he fulfilled his promises to them.

In his letter to the Romans, Paul explains: For the promise that he (Abraham) would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is

*From the
Pastor*

written, "I have made you the father of many nations").

This is what Lent is about, and I tell you this about Abraham, because we are all in the same boat. Yes, we are older than the average bear, and yes, we have done things that were not according to God's will, but the fact remains. If we will but listen to what God asks, and then trust God as we do what God asks of us, then we too will be changed through faith.

Our nation is in difficult times and society needs someone to lead it into a revival of thinking. I do not believe we, individually or as a congregation, are being called to change society and the nation by ourselves, but I do believe that we are being called to make a difference wherever we go and hopefully that will influence others to take up their crosses and follow as well.

Do not misunderstand me. I am not trying to say that anybody reading this are heathens in need of salvation, but we are all sinners saved by Grace. As such, I believe we can all do better and more in service to the kingdom. I do not know what that looks like, but God does, and I believe that God has assembled this group of people for a reason.

So take some time during this Lenten season to reflect on what God is asking of you. Take time to reflect on how your actions might better those around you and how you might assist Society in returning to God. Society and the nation will only really improve when God is brought back into everyday life, and with God's help, we can assist in that process. Go with God.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Josyph

**** Pastor's Report**

Miles Driven Last month - 250
Miles driven month to date - 55
YTD Miles driven for 2021 - 305
Visits - 40
Home/office - 2
Hospital Visits -
Nursing Home -
Phone Visits - 38

**** Presbyterian Women**

Present: Karen Brock, Mary Richmond, Marilyn Petrick, Alice Anglin, Peggy Hammond, Sue Hosterman, Pat Collins, Jean Andrews, Danielle McDonald, JoAnn Holt, Bette Roberts, Laura Akison, Armour Shin, Cissy Butler, Marjorie Bronk and Janie Howell.

Sixteen ladies gathered in the Norris Building at 1:00-ish for a time of fellowship, coffee and goodies provided by Pat Collins and Janie Howell. Alice Anglin opened the PW Meeting at 1:30 with prayer for Marsha Spinner and her family as her husband Carl passed away suddenly on Wednesday, February 3. Carl's passing is an unimaginable loss to their family as well as our church family. We send our deepest condolences to Marsha and her family.

Armour Shin led us in Lesson #5 in our PW Study Book [Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament](#) by P. Lynn Miller. The lesson was titled Lamenting Life and we all could relate to the subject. It seemed good and helpful that we could all be together and voice our laments.

Alice opened the business meeting with jocularly. Treasurer, Mary Richmond, reported that our balance was \$2,942.36.

Correspondence included thank you letters from LA Care for our 2020 contributions, and a letter from Hope House for a recent \$500.00 donation. There was also a brochure about publishing a church cookbook. (After the meeting several ladies expressed interest in this project.....stay tuned!)

There was no old business.

New Business: Alice announced that someone in the congregation suggested that we send another \$1,000.00 to Joseph's Hammer, the organization that is raising funds to build a chapel/education center at the Ellen Halbert Unit (the women's prison) in Burnet. After a brief discussion, Armour moved and JoAnn seconded that we donate \$1,000.00 to Joseph's Hammer. Motion passed. Alice also announced that Sylvia Weed, the Christian Women's Job Corp director sent us a thank you for past donations and asked if we could donate again. In years past, we brought a lunch to the Corp twice a year but due to the pandemic, no one is permitted into the facility. Pat moved and Armour seconded that we send \$100.00 to the Corp. Motion passed.

The committee to select the 2020 Lifetime PW Member was reminded that it was time to meet. The committee consists of the past three recipients

who are Jamie Horn, Armour Shin and Pat Collins. We will learn of their selection at the PW Annual Summer Lunch.

There was a brief discussion about discontinuing the last three lessons in our study book as laments can be depressing. The consensus was that we finish our book. We are thankful for Armour who brings other aspects into the lessons.

Marjorie Bronk answered questions that some of the ladies had about LA Care. She explained that there is a need for cereal and tuna this month. She also explained what one does if they volunteer for a 2-hour once-a-month shift. If you have any LA Care questions, Marjorie is your go-to lady!

There being no further business, Alice closed the meeting with our virtual circle and prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Janie Howell, Secretary



Burnet Meals on Wheels Goody Bags

March 10, 2021

9:30am

Parlor Dining Room

The first Goody Bags of 2021 will be packed and delivered to Meals on Wheels March 10. Volunteers will then deliver our bags, along with meals, to Burnet MOW recipients.

If you would like to help pack, if you enjoy walking in circles while talking, please come.

Thanks to your generous Thanksgiving 2020 Offering, Burnet Presbyterian has \$195 to spend filling 80 bags. And we can do this three more times in 2021! Blessings abound.

Submitted by Pat Collins

**** The BB's Review News**

On a cold and sunny January 28th, 2021, Sue Hosterman lead discussion on Timothy Keller's book *The Reason for God, Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. In attendance were Sue Hosterman, Priscilla Schaefer, Cissy Butler, Jean Andrews and Pat Collins. Janie Howell, Dick Spinner and Mary Richmond were unable to attend due to situations related to the Chinese virus. Marjory Brown was wished a happy birthday and John was wished good

health. Helen Pierson's most recent recovery progress, from a double lung transplant on January 18, was also shared. Blessings for all.

This was way too much book for a single-session discussion but with Sue's guidance and the discussion book provided by Armour Shin, a good effort was made. Of course, the four others in the discussion group managed to contribute a few observations of their own.

Sue posted the following words on the white board. Their definitions are not provided; you might want to look up and learn on your own.

Sue's Theology Terms

Her-me-neu-tics

In-car-na-tion

Di-a-lec-tic

Hy-pos-ta-sis

Pal-in-gen-e-sis

Perichoresis

Myth, legend, fable, parable, mystery, morality

Eucharist, Lord's Supper, Communion

Agnostic – Athiest

Secular – Sacred

Hom-i-let-ics

Immaculate Conception

Hym-nol-o-gy

Trans-, Con- Substantiation

Pal-in-gen-e-sis

The-od-i-cy

The group enjoyed a breakfast casserole, Collins Street fruitcake and coffee. Plans to expand discussion of this book for a 6-week Lenten Study were considered. As Elder and Worship Committee chair Sue Hosterman will present to Session.

The next review will be Thursday April 22, 2021, *Adelsverein: The Gathering*, by Celia Hayes.

Submitted by Pat Collins

**** Men of the Church**

The Men of the Church met for breakfast and Bible devotional at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, February 7. Attending were Jack Butler, Pastor Andrews, and Dick Spinner.

Jack Butler reported a balance of \$314.00 in our Treasury. Dick Spinner said that no date had been set to hold a Memorial Service for Carl Spinner.

The Bible reading was on Jeremiah 29:12 where the Lord promises to listen to our prayers. Then we each gave testimony to our own prayer history.

The next Men of the Church meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m., March 7 in the Fellowship Hall.

Breakfast will be prepared by Emma Scott. We will maintain social distance. Every man of the church who is able is encouraged to attend. Ladies are welcome to join us for breakfast.

Submitted by Dick Spinner

Submitted by Richard Spinner

**** LACare Update**

In the month of December, 832 individuals from 269 families were served by LACare.

The needs for this month are pasta, rice, and dried pinto beans.

Submitted by Hap Zimmerman

**** Praying for Persecuted Christians**

Though there are 67.4 million Christians in India, they only represent 4.9% of the population which is almost 1.4 billion people! Hindu extremists believe that all Indians should be Hindus, and that the country should be rid of Christianity and Islam. Christians are persecuted in all areas of public and private life, and anti-conversion laws are used to harass and intimidate Christians.

The COVID pandemic has offered a new weapon for persecutors and Christians are often deliberately overlooked when official COVID food and aid is distributed. This has left many desperate for food, particularly since many Christians are from the Dalit caste and thus very poor, having lost their sources of income this year.

For further information about the plight of the Indian Christians, see the bulletin board in the Norris Building. Please pray for these brave souls who are enduring untold hardships and suffering. Thank you.

Submitted by Janie Howell

Fellowship of True Friends

(On Sunday, February 7, Nancy Allen gathered the Mavericks Class on Zoom to join the Disciples' Class for the Sunday School Opening Devotional. She knew our need for comfort and support as we grieved the loss of our beloved friend, Carl Spinner. This is her devotional.)

John 15:15 – “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”

Sometimes it is hard to make sense of life, and certainly this week has been one of those times. But here we are together, drawing strength from one another. I think of the Bible verse from Ecclesiastes (4.9). Two are better than one... [10For if one falls down, his companion can lift him up .](#)

Billy Graham said, “The human soul is a lonely thing. It must have the assurance of companionship. Left entirely to itself, it cannot enjoy anything. God said in the beginning, “It is not good that man should dwell alone” (Genesis 2:18). God’s people are a body, not intended to function separately, not intended to be unconcerned for one another. The only true body in the world is the Church. Only in a true friendship and a true love do we find a genuine basis for peace.

Friends, including our brothers and sisters in Christ, walk through the most difficult of times together sharing their experiences and talking through their heartaches. The Bible tells us of another time when friends talked together, confused and troubled about what was happening in their lives. On the Road to Emmaus, we see this happening just after Christ’s death and resurrection. Still unsure if it could possibly be true, we find two friends doing life together, walking and talking about all that was going on in their lives. Jesus met them in their utter confusion and in the midst of their pain. I believe that today when we meet together, talk together, struggle to make sense of what is happening in our world – together – Christ still meets us in the midst of our confusion and pain.

Friendship – fellowship -- is one of life's greatest treasures. Friends that are loyal are always there to make you laugh when you are down, they are not afraid to help you avoid mistakes and they look out for your best interest. This kind of community can be hard to find and hard to maintain – but it is worth it. The Bible tells us that friends exhort one another, support one another, help one another see our weaknesses and work toward strength. In Jesus, we see the world’s best example of how to be a brother and a friend.

You always answer when I call
And help me up if I should fall,

But you never complain at all,
My friend.

You confront me when I am wrong
But will never scold me for long,
Instead, you try to keep me strong,
My friend.

You know the funny things to say
To make me laugh my fears away.
Like the sun, you brighten my day,
My friend.

You see in me gifts I deny
And urge me to give things a try.
You spread for me my wings to fly,
My friend.

You always perceive what I need
And offer it before I plead.
Just like a book, my mind you read,
My friend.

You value little things I do
But won't brag of what you do too.
How can I ever repay you,
My friend?

And greatest of all I have found
When times are tough and I'm down,
You are the one who sticks around,
My friend.

Author Unknown

Session Agenda February 2021, 2:00 PM Burnet Presbyterian Church

Elders Present: Jamie Horn, William D. Weaver, Pat Collins, Nancy Allen (Temporary Clerk of the Session, Sue Hosterman. Marsha Spinner(Clerk of Session), **Moderator:** Josyph Andrews. All elders were present.

Appointment of Nancy Allen: Nancy Allen's appointment as temporary Clerk of the Session was unanimously approved by the elders.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Josyph Andrews

Approval of Agenda: Nancy Allen made the motion to approve the agenda. Jamie Horn seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

Sharing and Caring – Taking the Pulse of our Group

What we as Church Leaders give thanks for tonight

*What we as Church Leaders need help with tonight
What we as a Church Family can do, or do better*

Cares and concerns of the elders were discussed. Except for the discomfort due to the inclement weather, all elders are doing well. Jamie Horn expressed our ongoing concern for the Spinner family.

Devotional: The pastor, Josyph Andrews, gave a devotional based on Mark 1:9-15.

Christian Education: Sue Hosterman presented a devotional on the nature and duties of elders.

Clerk's Report: The Clerk's report was postponed until the next meeting due to Marsha Spinner's personal situation.

Pastor's Report: The pastor reviewed his report, which had been emailed to the elders previous to the meeting. He added that he would be attending a conference May 7-11 in Marble Falls but would continue to work that week. He also added that he had contacted all but three of the members of the congregation to check on their needs during the current week due to the inclement weather.

Treasurer's Report : There was no treasurer report due to the recent death of Carl Spinner, Church Treasurer.

Committee Reports

Mission and Stewardship – Nancy Allen

Nancy Allen had previously emailed a stewardship report to all elders. That report follows, with actions taken recorded.

Stewardship Committee Report

The loss of Carl Spinner and his many contributions to the Church is felt deeply. We appreciate Marsha Spinner and Omar Cavazos's work in getting Carl's files ready for transfer. Thanks is also due to Jack Butler for working with First State Bank to determine what needs to be done to get our account up to date. The following items need discussion and all actions taken should be included in the minutes.

Bank Account Updating

1. The documentation needed for Corporation Accounts needs to be completed (supportive attachment emailed to elders). I have everything assembled except for the forms for the new signees (see item #3)
2. A Business Deposit Account Questionnaire needs to be filed. I have completed this document with the church secretary's (Betty Carpenter's) assistance.

3. A Customer Information Questionnaire needs to be completed for each signer on the account (supportive attachment emailed to elders).

4. Four – five people should be identified to be signers on the account. Each will need to fill out a questionnaire and furnish a copy of a state issued ID.

5. People who are no longer on the account should be taken off. At present the signers are:

Henry Zimmerman

Walter West

Carl Spinner

Jack Butler

Lonnie Anglin and Deanie Smith have been signing checks, but neither is on the account according to the bank, although minutes of the Session from previous years have noted their appointment to the account.

6. A new Night Depository Agreement needs to be completed and the individuals currently authorized for pickup of Lock Bag Deposits should be reviewed and updated. The individuals currently on the list are:

Jane Zimmerman, Hap Zimmerman, Jack Butler, Carl Spinner, and Kay Behrens

7. At present, Reverend Dick Spinner and Janie Howell count the donations after church. We need to identify two people committed to deposit the weekly donation and to pick up the deposit bag from the bank after the deposit is received by the bank.

The committee makes the following motions:

1. Walter West and Carl Spinner should be removed from the bank account; Jack Butler and Henry Zimmerman to remain on the account. **The motion was from committee and thus did not require a second. It was passed unanimously.**

2. Lonnie Anglin, William D. Weaver, and Nancy Allen should be added to the account. **The motion was from committee, and thus did not require a second. It was passed unanimously.**

3. Carl Spinner, Kay Behrens, Jane Zimmerman and Hap Zimmerman should be removed from the Night Depository Agreement. Jack Butler to remain on the Night Depository Agreement. Janie Howell, Nancy Allen and Betty Carpenter should be added to the Night Depository Agreement. **The motion was from committee and thus did not require a second. It was passed unanimously.**

4. Request that Hap Zimmerman sign a written consent document authorizing the changes noted in

4-6, as required by the bank. **This did not require a vote but discussion was supportive of the action.**

5. Request that Janie Howell and Reverend Dick Spinner remain as the offering counters on Sunday mornings following services, but to add Nancy Allen as a partner to Peggy Hammond as relief counters.

This did not require a vote but discussion was supportive of the action.

6. Authorize Nancy Allen to keep the spreadsheet of money included in collections for:

A. Individuals' tax reports, including direct deposits

B. Memorial donations, and

C. LACare donations.

If the counters make a copy of the checks from the collection plate and Betty makes a copy of the bank statement to give to Nancy Allen, this can be kept current. **This did not require a vote but discussion was supportive of the action.**

Bookkeeping and Reporting

Tabor and Burnett Accounting Firm has been working with Carl to complete payroll documentation including preparing all payroll tax documents and completing quarterly reports and the year-end report. They charge us \$175 a quarter for this service. Should we decide to hire them to do so, they can also do all the bookkeeping, giving us a monthly summary as well as the year-end reports. This would cost us about \$75 a month, assuming we write about 15 checks per month. What they would not do is track and report on individual members' contributions (see item #7 above).

The committee asks that we consider this option, but leaves making a motion to that effect open. **A motion was made by Pat Collins, seconded by William D. Weaver. The motion passed unanimously.**

In summary:

Signers on the account will be:

Jack Butler

Hap Zimmerman

William D. Weaver

Nancy Allen

Lonnie Anglin

Depository Individuals will be:

Janie Howell

Nancy Allen

Jack Butler

Betty Carpenter

Hap Zimmerman

Tabor and Burnett will do the bookkeeping. Nancy Allen will keep the individual donation account.

• **Christian Education** – Nancy Allen submitted two motions from the committee as follows:

The Education Committee further moves that the Burnet Bookmarks be permitted to hold a 6 week Lenten study starting Wednesday, February 24 at 3 PM in the Library of Burnet Presbyterian Church. Elder Sue M. Hosterman, Ph.D., will continue to lead the study of Dr. Timothy Keller's *The Reason for God, Belief in an Age of Skepticism*. The study will be open to members of the BB's as well as to other persons interested in this timely examination of belief and unbelief. Dr. Keller draws his questions and answers from his experience as pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church, an RCA congregation of over 4,000 people in Manhattan, N.Y. The book may be purchased at Christianbook.com or from Amazon. **The motion was from committee, and thus did not require a second. It was passed unanimously.**

The Education Committee further moves that the chairmanship of this committee be moved from Nancy Allen to Sue Hosterman. **The motion was from committee, and thus did not require a second. It was passed unanimously.**

As the new chair of the Education Committee, Sue Hosterman reported that the members of the Mavericks Class would like to continue to meet, continuing the study that Carl Spinner was conducting, with the different member-volunteers taking a month at a time to teach. Sue Hosterman further noted that she had curriculum resources that would support this study. The other two Sunday School classes are continuing normally.

• **Building and Grounds and Committee** --

William D. Weaver reported that Hoover Construction had agreed to consider the kitchen project and would have something for us to consider very soon. He also reported that we had hired a new lawn care person. No motions were submitted from this committee.

• **Congregational Care** - No motions were submitted from this committee.

• **Evangelism** – Pat Collins thanked Jamie Horn for her work in assigning each elder a list of members to be responsible for. Pat had contacted her list and found it very rewarding. No motions were submitted from this committee.

• **Nominating Committee** – It was noted that William Weaver, as Chair of the Nominating Committee, needed to work with the members of the committee to identify a new (additional) elder as well as a presbytery delegate. Members of the search committee were identified as Alice Anglin, Janie Howell, and Jack Butler. Sue Hosterman volunteered to serve, at least temporarily, as the presbytery delegate. Jamie Horn volunteered to be the alternate. **Nancy Allen made the motion that we accept their offers; Pat Collins seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.**

• **Worship and Music** – Sue Hosterman noted that the music and worship committee were continuing to work. She had provided some additional suggestions to liturgists.

With all agenda items having been dealt with, Nancy Allen made the motion that we adjourn. The motion was seconded, and all members voted yes by joining Pastor Josyph Andrews in a closing prayer.

Respectively submitted,
Nancy Allen, Temporary Clerk of the Session

March Birthdays

- 1 Carol Woodyard
- 7 JoAnn Holt
- 8 Rachel Dawson

Happy Anniversary

- 10 J.C. and Deanie Smith
- 15 Billy and Kathy Frankum
- 22 Alan and Helen Tanner

The Spinner family wishes to extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their prayers, cards, calls, and kind words to comfort us in connection to the death of Carl Eugene Spinner.

Marsha Spinner and Richard Spinner