



Burnet Presbyterian Church
P. O. Box 126
Burnet, Texas 78611
Phone: 512-756-4366

Newsletter for January 2021

E-mail: burnetpres@gmail.com

Website: www.bpcburnet.org

Strong into the Night

He who trusts in the LORD will be exalted. [PROVERBS 29:25](#)

In September 1939, Great Britain allied with France and several other alarmed countries in declaring war on Hitler's Germany, which had invaded Poland in its intended march toward global domination. By the end of the year, [anxieties](#) throughout England remained on high alert; everyone was fearful of bombing and invasion.

When King George VI sat down before two large microphones to make his [Christmas](#) Day speech to the nation, he was dressed in his official uniform as Admiral of the Fleet. With so many parts of the world facing an uncertain future, his goal was to reassure the people that their nation was prepared and able and their cause right and just.

"A new year is at hand," the king said. "We cannot tell what it will bring. If it brings peace, how thankful we shall all be. If it brings us continued struggle, we shall remain undaunted."

Then, turning to some lines of poetry his wife had recently shared with him, he concluded his speech with these words, which are a fitting close to our year together. They offer a word of encouragement that—we hope—will settle your hearts amid the troubles of our own era in history. These lines are from "The Gate of the Year," a poem written in 1908 by Minnie Louise Haskins:

I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year
"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied, "Go into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way!" As you make the turn to a new year, what are you facing that needs you to sink your hand more deeply into God's hand? Pray for one another that as you

embark upon a new year, God will grant you and your family His favor.

"Do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." [Joshua 1:9](#) —

On the first day of a new year many of us wish each other a "Happy New Year!" But as we begin a new year, we need more than a hopeful greeting from the people around us. We need to listen to what God told Joshua about 3,400 years ago. As Joshua was about to lead God's people into the promised land, he had reason to be afraid. He had an enormous task ahead of him, and he was well aware of the dangers that he and the people would soon be facing. He needed God's encouragement. A new year brings lots of questions: Will our health hold? Will our marriage last? Will I be able to hang on to my job? Will I get into the right school? Will I live to see the end of this year? Will the economy improve? Will there be a terrorist attack or some natural disaster that takes me or my loved ones? The Creator of the universe comes to us and says, "Don't be afraid; don't be discouraged." What happens in this coming year is not left to chance. God is in charge, and he promises to stay close: "The LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." Many years later, the Lord Jesus made the same promise when he said, "I am with you always" ([Matthew 28:20](#)). That's the reason we can wish each other a "Happy New Year!"

**** Pastor's Report**

Miles Driven Last month	--	25
Miles driven month to date -		92
YTD Miles driven to date for 2020		1243
Visits - 8		
Home -		
Hospital Visits - 1		
Phone Visits - 7		

**** Presbyterian Women**

Happy New Year! If 2020 had been an ordinary year, this space would be filled with tall tales about our Annual Christmas Party, but, alas, there was no Christmas Party in 2020. We did celebrate with a beautiful Carols and Candles Service in church on December 20 and Jesus was born on Christmas Day! With the thought of the precious Babe in our hearts, we move forward to a brand- new year!

Our first meeting of 2021 will be Monday, January 11 at 1:30 PM in the Norris Building. Coffee will be ready after 1:00 PM and a yummy treat most likely will be available. We will be studying lesson #4 in our Horizon Study Book, Into the Light.

On Saturday, January 23, there will be a Zoom Winter Retreat sponsored by the P.W. Coordinating Team of Mission Presbytery from 9:00-10:30 AM. Since the meeting is rather short and starts early, we will not be meeting at the church to view it together. Alice sent you an email about the meeting in December, and in that email is the link for you to sign up to receive the zoom invitation for January 23. If you cannot find the email, please email Alice or me, and we will forward it to you. The zoom meetings with the Coordinating Team are a fun and easy way for us to stay connected to other PWs in Mission Presbytery until we can meet again in person.

One quick reminder: There is still time to contribute to the Red Stocking! Thank you!

Janie Howell, PW Secretary



**** LACare Update**

In the month of November, 974 individuals from 310 families were served by LACare.

The needs for this month are dried pinto beans in one-pound packages.

Submitted by Hap Zimmerman



BB's Ready to Read in 2021

Mark your calendars for Thursday January 28, 2021, 9:30am, to discuss Timothy Keller's book, **The Reason for God, Belief in an Age of Skepticism**.

Quoting from the back of the book, "*The Reason for God, the founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York City, Timothy Keller, addresses the frequent doubts that skeptics, and even ardent believers, have about religion. Using literature, philosophy, real-life conversations, and potent reasoning, Keller explains how the belief in a Christian God is, in fact, a sound and rational one.*"

Now this next part of the description seems to apply to us at BPC: "*To true believers he offers a solid platform on which to stand their ground against the backlash to religion created by the Age of Skepticism.*"

Maybe even more important, Keller addresses those lacking a Christian foundation: "*And to skeptics, atheists and agnostics, he provides a challenging argument for pursuing the reason for God.*"

The BB's meet in the Church Library where coffee and breakfast will be served. Please, please come.

**** MOC Minutes for December**

The Men of the Church met for breakfast in the Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday, December 6th. Present were Jack Butler, Pastor Josyph, Fred Shin and Dick Spinner. Our food was prepared by Emma Scott.

Pastor Josyph opened the meeting with prayer. Jack Butler reported a balance of \$518.00 in our Mission Fund. We approved gifts of \$100.00 to Joseph's Hammer and \$200.00 (including \$100.00 matching donation) to Friends of P.E.B.

Dick Spinner presented a devotional based on an advent message by C.S. Lewis. The subject was Jesus' command to "Love your enemies." Lewis confessed that there are some people that he cannot, by human nature alone, love. However, when God's unfailing love, which abides with people of faith, is added to their limited human capacity to

love, they are empowered to love even the unlovable.

Due to the busy schedule of holiday activities, it was decided that the Men of the Church will not meet on Sunday, January 3rd. Our next meeting will be on February 7th at 8:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted by Richard A. Spinner

**** Praying for Persecuted Christians**

Imagine, during the last nine months of the COVID-19 pandemic, that in addition to having your place of worship closed, you did not have any Christian literature in your own language to give you encouragement. Imagine, too, that if you were caught speaking with anyone about your faith, you might be imprisoned for many months.

This is the plight of the Christians living in Iran, the country ranked #9 by Open Door.org. for persecuting those who worship Jesus Christ. Additional information about this situation can be found on the bulletin board in the Norris Building. Please keep all persecuted Christians in your prayers, but especially pray for those in Iran this month. Thank you.

**** Session Review**

The Burnet Presbyterian Church State Session Meeting took place on December 15, 2020, at 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall and through Zoom. In attendance were Nancy Allen, Pat Collins, Jamie Horn, Armour Shin, Billy Don Weaver, and Rev. Josyph Andrews, Moderator. Carl Spinner, Treasurer and Marsha Spinner, Clerk. Sue Hosterman attended as a future Session member. A quorum was present.

Pastor Josyph opened the meeting with a prayer.

After a time for "Sharing and Caring," Pastor Josyph gave an opening devotional based on Luke 1:26-38.

Josyph gave the Session his Pastor's Report.

The following decision was made:

Because of the pandemic the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be canceled. Instead, a candlelight service will be held in place of regular worship on December 20 during the regular worship time.

While other issues were discussed, no other decisions were made.

The meeting was duly adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for January 19.

Josyph closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Spinner

**** News From Project Cure**

Most of you know that the ladies of BPC participate in various sewing projects for Project Cure, an agency that collects and forwards hospital gowns, baby gowns, baby caps, and other supplies used in the medical field in Africa.

We have had a request from Project Cure for receiving blankets for babies. It seems that Project Cure makes up Midwife Kits consisting of a baby cap, baby gown and a receiving blanket. Since our church is so prolific with our baby gowns and caps, the young lady assigned to Midwife Kits, Amy Theall, reached out to us to request receiving blankets! It is good to know that we have a reputation for getting things done!

Receiving blankets are generally 36 to 45 inches square. If you have flannel in your fabric stash left over from long-ago baby projects, please bring it to the church. If you do not have fabric and this project touches your heart, you might consider purchasing a package of receiving blankets. Any help will be much appreciated. Thank you!

Submitted by Janie Howell

January Birthdays

2 Alan Tanner

4 Richard Spinner (92!!)

12 Carl Spinner

23 Guy Stuart

24 Kathy Frankum

25 Janie Howell

28 Marjory Brown

Anniversary: Jan 27 Dick and Hilda Smith

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR