



Burnet Presbyterian Church
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Newsletter for December, 2021

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From the Desk of the Pastor
Greetings and Glad Tidings to all! As you read this we have entered our 4th Advent season together and for that I am truly thankful.

So much has happened since we got here, and I suppose the worst thing is COVID. Even though they called it COVID19, here we are close to turning the corner on 2021 and entering 2022, and still it affects us in so many ways.

Being sequestered in our homes for so long has been so detrimental and has caused us to react differently to things around us than I suspect we ever would have before. When we have little or no physical stimulation and human contact, we naturally tend to get cranky and crave that which we miss.

To that end, it is my intention to return to visiting as much as possible after the new year. I fully understand that this statement will be met differently by many of you. Some will welcome the renewed visits while some will be reluctant because of the current conditions, while some will definitely not welcome visits now because they have remained sequestered and away from those who might carry the dreaded demon.

I fully understand these reactions and assure you I will do nothing that I feel will threaten you or yours. That said, I hope you will let me know your wishes so that I can respect your desires.

I told you when I came here that I would not necessarily make appointments and would drop in when in the area, and while I

will continue that where possible, I fully understand that some of you may desire an appointed time for a visit and I will respect that if I know you wish an appointment. So, if you would be kind enough to drop me an email or phone call so that I may know your desires, it would be greatly appreciated.

My Office Hours remain Monday – Thursday from 9am to 12:00 noon, though things do happen which alter that, such as emergency hospital visits or other health related items. Regardless my posted hours, if you desire to see me in my office, I will make arrangements to meet you whenever possible.

In the words of 1 Thessalonians 3:9, How can I thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that I feel before our God because of you? Thank you for the privilege of being here and I look forward to serving you for some time to come. God Bless and Keep you in this joyous season.

Sincerely,

Pastor Josyph

Pastor's Report

Miles Driven Last month - 264

Miles driven month to date – 25

YTD Miles driven to date for 2021 – 1499

Visits – 11

Home/office – 4

Hospital Visits – 1

Nursing Home -

Phone Visits – 7

Presbyterian's Women Christmas Party

It is once again time for the Annual PW Christmas Party/Luncheon/White Elephant/Red Stocking Extravaganza! We missed last year due to COVID, but we will celebrate this year with bells on!

The party will once again be held at the beautiful home of Fred and Armour, 1315 CR 334, Burnet, beginning at High Noon on Monday, December 13. Wear your favorite festive Christmas outfit and bring a salad or dessert to share, a White Elephant Gift*, and your contribution to the Red Stocking Fund. There will be an actual red stocking hung by the fireplace! Feel free to invite friends or family to join in the fun. If you want to carpool or caravan, please meet at the church by 11:45. Merry Christmas!

*White Elephant Gifts are only limited by your imagination. Past gifts include plants, kitchen ware, puzzles, home baked or store purchased food, Christmas décor, and other gifts for the home.

Respectfully submitted, Janie Howell, Secretary

** Men of the Church Meeting

November 7, 2021

The Men of the Church met at Storm's at 8:00 a.m. on November 7, 2021. Those attending were Jack Butler, Pastor Josyph, Fred Shin, Dick Spinner, and Bill Weaver.

The lesson was taken from The Upper Room. The writer relates that he had been asked by his church to do a task which he felt he was not equipped to do. Not wanting to decline, he reluctantly accepted the job. He soon found that he could do the job and in fact, enjoyed doing it, and left blessed to be serving the Lord in that way. The men related experiences where we too had been asked by the church to undertake a work that they were reluctant to do. However, they went ahead and not only did the work

but did it well and enjoyed it. The Lord equips us to do whatever he asks us to do.

The next meeting will be at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, December 5, at Storm's. All men of the church are invited to attend.

Respectfully Submitted, Richard A. Spinner

Red Stocking Time



*Greetings to all
Women in our
Church Family*

The Red Stocking Fund is used by Presbyterian Women to share the Christmas Spirit throughout the coming year. We appreciate the financial support of the women in our congregation who are unable to attend the monthly meetings and to all who contribute to the Red Stocking Fund.

The projects we support during the year include:

Hope House
Joseph's Hammer
Presbyterian Children's Home
LACare
Family Crisis Center
CASA
Children's Advocacy Center
Meals on Wheels
Oaks Nursing Home
Medical Missions

May God bless you during this Holy Season and the New Year!

For your convenience, the Red Stocking is in the Narthex for your contributions, or your contribution may be given to our moderator Alice Anglin, or our treasurer Mary Richmond. Mail: Mary Richmond, 1700 Thousand Oaks Trail, Liberty Hill, TX 78642

**** Session Review**

The Burnet Presbyterian Church State Session Meeting took place on November 16, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the library. In attendance were Pat Collins, (Treasurer), Jamie Horn, Sue Hosterman, Fred Shin, Rev. Josyph Andrews, Moderator, and Marsha Spinner, Clerk. Billy Don Weaver was away. A quorum was present.

Pastor Josyph opened the meeting with a prayer.

After a time for "Sharing and Caring," Pastor Josyph gave a lesson based on readings from Romans 3:20-24 and Romans 6:1-4.

Josyph gave the Session his Pastor's Report. The Session received the Treasurer's Report from Pat.

The following decisions were made:

- to appropriate \$55 for Emma Scott, a few dollars more than the original \$50 allotted.
- that PW use The Mavericks' classroom shelves for an on-going book borrow/purchase for a "buck"/trade beginning in January.
- to have the January communion on the second Sunday of the month as Jason Fry, guest minister on the first Sunday when communion is normally served, is a Methodist. (A Presbytery ruling.)
- to offer a Lenten study on Thursday mornings at 9:30 in Library, running through weeks of Lent and concluding on first Thursday of Eastertide. Possible book: *Telling the Truth, the Gospel as Comedy, Tragedy and Fairy Tale* by Frederick Buechner. Sue Hosterman would lead. Motion passed.
- to elect Janie Howell to represent Burnet Presbyterian Church at LACare meetings, replacing Hap Zimmerman.

- to engage the McBride accounting firm to make a financial review for the year 2021.

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

The meeting was duly adjourned. The next meeting is scheduled for December 14.

Josyph closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Marsha Spinner

LACare Burnet has several items that we need donations for, especially this time of year!

- **Canned soups**
- **Boxed cereals**
- **Canned or jars of spaghetti sauce**

**** Thanksgiving Offering**

The Thanksgiving Offering of 2021 totaled \$2,095.00, the largest ever since Judy Olson began this project back in 2000. Can you believe that Burnet Presbyterian is celebrating 21 years of Thanksgiving Offering? In 2013 the offering was \$1,793.27; HEB contributed an additional \$60 towards groceries. Remember back when we purchased, hauled, packed and then re-hauled all those food boxes to Meals on Wheels? It was a multi-generational family and church effort. There was a floor plan defining where each item went and the order in which it was packed into boxes, banana boxes which Jack and Cissy gathered from HEB. Thanks to Carol Clarke (HR) for setting up the HEB Gift Card/Goody Bag program.

The Finance Committee has now added a *Thanksgiving Offering* line to the Finance Report so the congregation can see the

disbursement of their generous gifts now and throughout 2022.

What an amazingly blessed experience to attend the BPC 2021 Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you, Jamie, for an excellent job! Thank you, Linda for the lovely table flowers. The room looked welcoming and the congregation was welcoming to each other and to our many visitors. Miss Emma Scott outdid herself on the turkey, dressing and gravy! We are so blessed.

Thank you all and blessings, Pat Collins

**** Praying for Persecuted Christians**

Vietnam is #19 on the World-Wide Watch List of persecuted Christians as noted by Open Doors.org. Almost ten percent of the population professes to be Christian. Here is the story of one young couple:

‘We have received healing and blessing from our Lord. He has changed our lives. We will not deny our faith as you have demanded.” Ai and Liem.

Ai and Liem, whose names we’ve changed for security reasons, are new Christians in Vietnam. The repercussions that greeted their new faith in Jesus highlight the severe opposition converts from indigenous backgrounds can face. The couple became Christians after Ai was healed of sickness when a local church prayed for him. They shared their new faith with their family, and a small house church was birthed which grew to six families (30 people).

In July 2020, villagers and local authorities stopped a church service and beat some of the congregation. Church members were cut off from a government-funded subsidy program for the poor, and in August the six Christian families were

excluded from government Covid-19 aid. In September, villagers destroyed the believers’ properties. Their rice harvest was burned, two cows were slaughtered and another was severely injured, yet they remain faithful to Jesus Christ.

Please continue to pray for persecuted Christians around the world and for Open Doors.org who continue to support these brave people.

Submitted by Janie Howell

**** Alternative Gift-Giving**

The gift of love is the best gift of all. The reason for the Christmas Season is to celebrate God’s gift of love to the world, Jesus our Lord. Jesus said, “Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers, you did for me.” (Matthew 25:40) So when you consider the gifts you will buy this year, think of the huge impact a gift would have from the Presbyterian Giving Catalog or the Heifer Catalog. These gifts enable families to provide a living for themselves. Here are a few examples: farming tools \$10, a fishing net \$15, a flock of chicks \$20, sapling set \$30, Mzuzu hand water drill \$115, community garden \$200. Send a Christmas card to your loved one telling them of how you honored them. There are a few catalogs in the sanctuary narthex. Or you may go to presbyteriangifts.org (phone 800-727-7228, extension 5047), as well as Heifer.org/Catalog (phone 855-848-6437).

Submitted by Jamie Horn

Christmas Joy Offering, December 19

Each year during Advent and the Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus our Savior.

By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor God’s gift of Jesus Christ by

providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at the Presbyterian-related schools and colleges and equipping communities of color.

On December 19, we will give to God in the manner He has blessed us. It truly is a JOY to give.

*Submitted by Jamie Horn,
Chair of Mission Committee*



The BB's Read Again in 2022

The BB's chose the following books to read and discuss for 2022. They meet on the last Thursday of the month (see dates listed below), beginning at 9:30am, in the Fellowship Hall. There is ALWAYS coffee, food and fellowship.

Please know you are welcome, whether you have read the book or not.

January 27: ***A Prayer for Owen Meany***,
by John Irving

April 28: ***The Lilac Girls***, by Martha Hall Kelly

July 28: ***The Space Between Us***,
by Thrity Umrigar

October 27: ***Hidden Power: Presidential
Marriages That Shaped Our History***,
by Kati Marton

Submitted by Pat Collins



**Photo of World Communion Sunday Table,
prepared by Linda Weaver**

New!!! Lending Library in the Mavericks' Classroom (sponsored by PW)

Do you love to read? Do you have any books at home you really enjoyed reading, but now your bookshelves are overflowing? Beginning in January (and continuing throughout the year), bring your well-loved books to the Mavericks' classroom (next to the choir room). PW will organize the books by genre and place a donation box for an optional Buck-a-Book. You may borrow a book, trade a book for a book, or donate a buck for a book, your choice. Happy reading!



Bob and Lynne Marie at Roaring River State Park in Missouri, and the bus they travel in. Lynne will celebrate her 99th birthday on December 3rd.

Happy Birthday, Lynne!!