

A Word from Will

Dear Church Family,

God works in mysterious and sometimes mischievous ways. Several weeks ago, I mentioned in a sermon that I went on a school trip to Montgomery, Alabama. Our class covered preaching during the Civil Rights era. I noted that Montgomery was once known as the cradle of the Confederacy, and for good reason. Montgomery was the first capital of the Confederate States of America for three months, and "The First White House of the Confederacy" still stands across the street from the Alabama State Capital building.

Montgomery had also been a significant hub for the slave trade. In 1860, around 66 percent of the population of the county were enslaved. According to the Equal Justice Initiative, hundreds of enslaved people arrived by train and by boat every day in Montgomery. They were paraded up the main street to be sold in the city's slave markets. During our visit, our class went to where these slave markets existed, right in the heart of downtown.

While Montgomery was known for being the cradle of the Confederacy and the center of Alabama's participation in the slave trade, it's now known for something else: the birthplace of the Civil Rights movement. Martin Luther King, Jr. began his pastoral and prophetic ministry at Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and as the leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott that changed America and the world. Considering that Montgomery, once known as the cradle of the Confederacy, is now recognized as the birthplace of the Civil Rights Movement reminds me that God has a sense of humor.

What does any of this have to do with Easter? After his death, Jesus was buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. Going to a tomb means that life is over. It's finished. A period, no comma. Yet, God has a sense of humor. By raising Jesus from the dead, God transformed a tomb that meant the end of life into a womb that gave birth to new life in the resurrected Christ. The gospel's good news is that Christ is at work in the world, calling us out of our tombs into the new life he died to give to us.

In Christ,

Will



PW Officers

Moderator - Jackie Fout
Vice-Moderator - Elaine Hall
Secretary - Nancy Smith
Treasurer - Jo Little
Historian - Lsha Stanley
Faith / Family Life - Elaine Hall
Community Action - Ruth Anne Camp
Leadership / Resources - Nancy Smith
Night Circle Chairman - Jan Wylie
Noon Circle Chairmen - Libby Laird & India Stroope

Hello to all Presbyterian Women,

Spring is here and our church families are looking forward to many special memories being made with different events.

Our PW Coordinating Team will meet on Monday, April 1, 2024 at 9:30 a.m. in the church parlor. We will be finishing plans for our Spring and Summer PW meetings.

Please make suggestions to any of our PW officers or your Circle Chairman.

Our Noon Circle will meet on Tuesday, April 9 at Noon in the Church Parlor. Our Night Circle will meet on April 10, at 6:00 p.m. also in the Church Parlor.

Don't forget that our Birthday Offering is coming up at your April Circle meetings.

Thank you for participating with other Sisters in Christ in this way to support each other.

Have a wonderful Spring!

Jackie Fout

Moderator



For the most up to date calendar, please visit <https://www.firstpreskilgore.org/calendar>

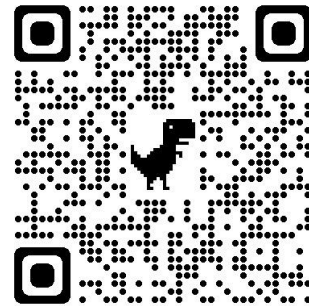
Please Note the following dates:

April 14 Communion

April 14 Dr. Warner Bailey to preach

Happy Birthday
April

1 Janie Terrell	15 Colin Johnson
6 Maggie Crim Hudson	17 Barbara Dickson
9 Carson Covnet	Maryanne Harris
10 Paula Crews	18 Beth Abernethy
Brian Johnson	Jack Tyra
Cheyenne Kirkpatrick	22 Phyllis Jewell
11 Sally Beane	25 Landry Jackson
12 Julie Gage	26 Dana Hudelson
14 Shelby Savony	29 Elaine Hall
Christi Whisenhunt	



SCAN ME to volunteer with the Youth

Thoughts and Prayers

Regina Baker	Laura Guzman	Mike McCollum	Cindy Venable
Jim Barker	Ashley Haden	Ward McCollum	Stewart White
Raymond Bazinet	Chester Hardy	Rex McCubbin	Larry Willis
Velma Beaglehole	Bob Harris	David McElroy	Linda Willis
Gary Boyd	Guy Harrison	Carla McKnight	Carolyn Wimberley
Joe Brown	Lucy Harrison	Abbi Melton	
Tonya Brown	Joan Harslett	Dayne Neal	
Elizabeth Collins	Mike Holbert	Doris Newton	
Shauntell Copeland	Kenzie Hyatt	Larry Perkins	
Shane Courtney	Rebecca Jefferson	Amanda Presley	
Beverly Crawford	Zoe Kelt	Jerry Richardson	
Linda Curkan	Cheyenne Kirkpatrick	Margaret Roberts	
Susie Pelham Davis	Rita Knox	John Rowe	
Marcia Dean	Nikki Lafitte	Ken Rucker	
Kenny Ferro	Shirley G Latham	Vivian Sharp	
Jack Florence	Jason Lopez	Chris Spinks	
John Michael Florey	Dianne Lyle	Katie Wylie Stovall	
John Fout	Donna Marshall	Henry Thompson	

In Service to our Country
Jacob Conner
Robert Gray
Stone Smith

Notes from Session

The Session held the Stated Meeting Wednesday March 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the church parlor.

Ryan Griffin read scripture and gave a devotional.

Clerk's report:

Communion was served March 3, 2024 in the sanctuary during worship. A thank you note was read from Carolyn Wimberley. A report from Jerry Camp on the February 15, 2024 Presbytery Meeting in Ft. Worth was presented.

Pastor's report:

Will is focusing on his recent studies, the Lenten Season, and the upcoming Holy Week. He is off the Sunday after Easter, and asked that communion be moved from April 7 to the 14th. The request was approved.

Old Business

Mike Sechrist reported that he has been in discussions with both of our security officers as well as another City Policeman. All are in agreement that they are better prepared to address a potential threat by being able to observe from the field instead of being in the building. Also, they are in full agreement that we have too many entrance points to properly observe.

It was agreed that we need to develop a plan to have the entrance doors reduced and/or provide managed access. It appears we have folks arriving prior to 9:00 for choir, Sunday school and some go in the sanctuary around 9:30-9:45. Head usher, Ryan Griffin will communicate the information with all usher captains. The officers recommend we establish walkie-talkie communications from within the building with them. We have two sets of walkie-talkies, and Mike is in the process of testing them for coverage. Once it is determined that communications is adequate we will decide how to deploy them.

The Consent Agenda was approved, which consisted of the minutes, and the financial report for February. Session members shared joys and concerns, and prayed together for those on the prayer list, and members of our congregation.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with prayer.

Ryan Griffin

Acting Clerk



Stewardship Report

Monthly Glance: February

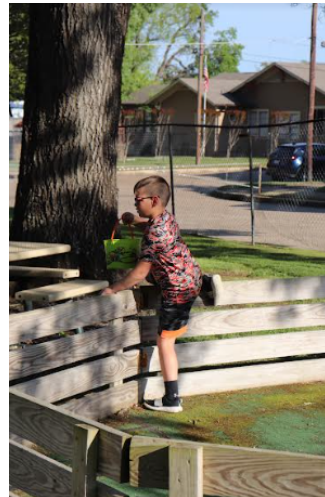
Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$34,083
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$27,322
Actual Expenses	\$60,380
Overage (deficit)	\$33,058

Yearly Glance: 2024

Anticipated Tithes & Offerings	\$409,000
Actual Tithes and Offerings	\$110,134
Actual Expenses	\$106,481
Overage (deficit)	\$3,653

Thank you for your tithes and offerings! Without your faithful giving, ministry and missions would not be possible.

LAST MONTH'S PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



Thank you Daniel Wilkerson for being the Easter bunny!