



Burnet Presbyterian Church

Newsletter for April, 2024

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MEMORIES OF BURNET PRESBYTERIAN

By Helen Pierson

At some point in my childhood, church time with grandparents Margaret and Alvin Tillman changed from the predictably unwelcome interruption of playtime to something I wanted to do. Especially during our summertime visits (sans parents), we kids would climb into the backseat of their car and beg to roll down the windows for the hot, dusty 18-mile drive to church. Once in Burnet, I traced every landmark on our route until we arrived at the lovely new red-brick edifice with its pristine white doors, cozy Narthex and beautiful sanctuary.

There was a sweet transition from whatever silliness had occupied us kids to a serene sense of reverence that I attributed mostly to having entered the adult realm of my grandparents and their friends, which meant I had better settle down and behave myself. It also meant I would hear how much I'd grown and get to talk a little with their friends, and, over time, begin to feel I had a secure, loving spot of my own when I came to visit.

Following my freshman year of college, the Tillmans moved from ranch to town and my visits took on new significance. In the summer of 1971, I had a transforming encounter with the good news of salvation and experienced the new life and personal relationship with God that is ours in Christ alone. The hymns I'd sung nestled next to grandparents took on new meaning. The messages I heard spoke directly to my heart. My grandparents and many of their friends became mentors of a sort as I learned their stories of faith and found spiritual companionship that bridged the gaps in our ages. I remember singing "Fairest Lord Jesus"

with a sense of awe, thinking about His beauty and majesty in genuine worship.

One day I stood next to Grandmother and Granddaddy, surrounded by my siblings and parents. We sang "The Solid Rock" and I clearly saw that, because of Jesus, I had utter security and protection because His was the foundation upon which faith and hope could not be shaken. As a college student in the early 70s, at a time when many shouted other paths to God, to peace, to enlightenment, I could see their shifting sand as if it were an unsheltered dune in a vast desert. And I knew I stood on solid rock, with a crevice in which I could shelter against storms, a place where living water poured out and from which I could look at all of life and know I would be held secure until face to face with the Lord and Savior who kept and changed and grew me for His purpose.

From that time on, I experienced Burnet Presbyterian Church as a place of solace and connection with what I knew was most important. I began to understand why being there was central to my grandparents' lives. It was for them a place of worship, service, community and connection. For me it became a place of comfort, encouragement, and strength: a haven for what mattered most.

As an adult I realized I had experienced a lifetime of unconditional love from my grandparents: years of learning and fun, of being disciplined and knit into a place of acceptance and belonging that was symbolic of our place in Christ. It is those qualities of finding acceptance and belonging in Christ that I most associate with Burnet Presbyterian Church and times of fellowship with other believers there, some whom I have come to know in more

recent years, and some with whom I've had a sense of connection across a lifetime.

Burnet Presbyterian Church and its family of believers has been a place for comfort, faith, growth and connection—connection with the faith and memory of family and with the emotional, physical and spiritual substance of my new life in Christ. It is a place where, blessed by the prayers of believers and the power of His presence, I have found a Solid Rock.



BPC's Mission Project table was well received at the PW Mo Ranch Gathering in March.

* BPC-150 March Gift Baskets



Debbie Sierra, Director of Resident Care at Country Oaks Assisted Living, was happy to receive our gift basket presented by Nancy Harlow.



Lonnie presented our gift basket to Clyde Doering, the administrator of Oaks Nursing Center. The goodies were for the staff of 60.



In honor of our 150 Years Celebration, Giving Back to the Community Bill Weaver presented a basket of HEB gift cards and homemade banana bread to the Burnet Volunteer Fire Department. They are grateful for our congregation's generosity!

Important Dates for April

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|----------|-------------------------|
| April 3 | Lenten Study @ 6:15 |
| April 7 | No Services in building |
| April 8 | Eclipse |
| April 14 | Country Oaks 3:00 |
| April 15 | PW Meeting @1:30 |
| April 16 | Session Meeting @ 3:00 |
| April 17 | BPC 150 Meeting @ 1:30 |
| April 21 | Children of the Church |
| April 25 | BBs Meet @ 9:30 |

Lenten Study

April 3rd and April 10th
In the Parlor, from 6:15-7:30

* BPC-150 - Children of the Church

April has finally arrived and we will celebrate Children of the Church on Sunday, April 21! Reverend Susan Liljestrand will be preaching, Alice Gray Shin Serralta, daughter of Fred and Armour, will be at the organ, and Ann Hunt, granddaughter of Lonnie and Alice, will be our liturgist! In addition, our honored guest will be Cleo Dulls, a child of Burnet Presbyterian, baptized on June 14, 1931!

We have reached out to many "children" and we hope to have a good number come back for this special Sunday. Please encourage anyone you can think of to come. After worship and a few photos of the group, we will have burgers with all the trimmings, and ice cream for dessert in the Norris Building. It promises to be a grand day! Don't miss it!!

In keeping with our children theme, our gift basket for April will benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Burnet. They requested coloring books, colored pencils, crayons, and arts and crafts supplies. Linda has provided a beautifully decorated box located in the Norris Building to collect our gifts. With summer vacation just around the corner, these supplies will be welcome. Thank you to all who generously support our BPC-150 projects.

Submitted by Janie Howell`



The BB's

Thursday April 25, 2024
9:30am

The BB's chose New York Times Bestseller, *The Kitchen House*, by Kathleen Grissom, for their April read. Our early readers already report this is a tough read. Touching tale of oppressed women; page-turner wouldn't do it justice; tension lurks everywhere. . . . descriptions from various book reviewers. The Wilmington Star-News says "The Kitchen House combines a history lesson with a compulsively readable melodrama."

'Nough said. Come for breakfast and stay for the discussion. In the meantime, happy reading!

* Burnet Presbyterian Women

March 11, 2024

Present: Charlsie Bremer, Jane Zimmerman, Helen Tanner, Mary Richmond, Alice Anglin, Marilyn Petrick, Cindy Sharpnack, Kay Lambert, Pat Collins, Karen Brock, Cissy Butler, Jamie Horn, Armour Shin, and Janie Howell.

Thirteen women gathered in Fellowship Hall at 1:00 PM for fellowship, coffee, and the best chocolate chip cookies in Texas baked by Pat Collins. Mary Richmond furnished ice cream to make our fellowship refreshments complete and wonderful! Thank you, Ladies.

Alice opened the meeting at 1:30 with prayer. Armour led us in our Bible Study written by Shannon Bream, The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak. This month's lesson was about Mary, the mother of Jesus. We could all relate to the thrilling, yet difficult, role God gave to Mary as the mother of His Son.

Alice called the business meeting to order with jocularly. Janie announced that last month's minutes had an incorrect number: an anonymous donation to PW was incorrectly listed as \$100., but the actual donation was \$200. The minutes have been corrected.

Mary reported our bank balance to be \$2,026.62.

Correspondence included a Summary letter for 2023 from Christian Women's Job Corp, and a thank you letter from Hope House for our \$120. donation. Both letters can be found on the PW Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.

OLD BUSINESS: Alice reminded us that our PW is serving lunch to the Christian Women's Job Corp on Thursday, March 21. The menu will be a Baked Potato Buffet and those participating will be Linda, Helen, Jamie, Alice, and Jane Z. Thank you, Ladies.

REMINDER: THE NEXT MEETING OF THE P.W. WILL BE MONDAY, APRIL 15. The second Monday is April 8, the Eclipse Day.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Session has approved Sunday, May 19th for our Birthday Offering and Lunch after worship. This is also Pentecost, making it a red-letter day! Thinking about Pentecost prompted

a discussion of the outdoor Pentecost feather flags which were met with mixed reviews from the congregation when first purchased. It was decided that a Pentecost banner would be more appropriate, and Mary will bring this idea to Session for their approval.

The Children of the Church Sunday is April 21. Janie announced that if you have 'children' coming for this event, please sign their names to the clipboard list located in Fellowship Hall. We will provide name badges for our members and any 'children' coming. We would like to have the name badges finished in advance to avoid a bottleneck at the door.

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

Respectfully submitted, Janie Howell, Secretary

P. S. The subject of a good seamstress came up during our fellowship time and I promised to provide the name of someone who seemed quite good to me: Margaret Thomas, 311 South Oak Lane, Burnet. Email: budathomas@yahoo.com. Phone: 520-891-1461.

Margaret serves on the LA Care Board from the Episcopal Church which is where I met her.
Janie.

*** The Cameroonian Civil War and PCUSA Response**

My daughter, Carolee Frampton, and I were privileged to attend the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering at Mo Ranch. During our stay, we attended a workshop led by Reverend Naomi Ingrim of First Presbyterian Church in Copperas Cove, Tx. Naomi explained that a civil war is raging in Cameroon and the terrible consequences the war is having on the people living there. We heard first-hand accounts of homes and fields being burned and people displaced with nowhere to go. All too often we see or hear about these devastating events, but feel helpless to really make a difference. Here's is a little light amid a dark situation:

God has been working in Cameroon since the 1800's when German missionaries brought the Good News of Jesus Christ to the country. The main religion is Christianity and Naomi told us the people are "highly" Presbyterian. When the civil war broke out and the people needed to flee, many came to America and became citizens who are now serving in the Armed Forces. Because Copperas Cove is close to Killeen and Ft. Cavazos, First Presbyterian now enjoys a population of 50 Cameroonians including at least 17 children!

Meanwhile, back in Cameroon, through One Great Hour of Sharing, the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and the Presbyterian Hunger Program are making a difference by partnering with The RELUFA Network in Cameroon to serve the people still in that country. Please see the poster at the back of the sanctuary with more details about the good work that the RELUFA Network is doing. An offering of over \$5,000.00 was collected at the Sunday worship service to benefit the RELUFA Network! Even so, the need is still great to support One Great Hour of Sharing. We thank you for all the ways you reach out to help others. Together, we ARE making a difference!

Submitted by Janie Howell

*** News from LACare**

As you can imagine with the high prices of groceries, the numbers of neighbors needing assistance are growing each month. Thankfully, we have been able to obtain food from the Central Texas Food Bank in addition to purchasing food at HEB. We know we are blessed!

Director Lottie McKorkle will make up a dozen Good Samaritan bags filled with easy-open snack type foods for anyone caught stranded during the week of the Eclipse. However, LA Care will be closed on Monday, April 8.

During the hot summer months, hygiene products are sometimes requested by the neighbors shopping at the food bank. While LA

Care does not promote non-food items, we will provide them if asked. If you have occasion to travel and see travel size toiletries in your hotel, please think about donating them to LA Care. In addition, we will be the "Bar Soap Church".

Items may be left in the LA Care basket in the Narthex or in a box you will find in the Norris Building. This will be an ongoing project through August.

Many thanks for all who contribute to this worthwhile endeavor.

Submitted by Janie Howell

*** Session Minutes**

BPC SESSION RETREAT AND STATED SESSION MEETING, held at the home of Fred Shin on February 24, 2024

ELDERS: Class of 2026 Fred Shin, Class of 2026 Debbie Weems, Class of 2024 Bill Weaver, Class of 2025 Mary Richmond, Class of 2024 Barry Dawson, Treasurer, Pat Collins, Moderator: Rev. Regina Maas, and Linda Weaver, Clerk of Session met at 11am for a Retreat.

Fred Shin opened the Retreat with a prayer. Rev. Mass asked each member present to give their personal story and faith journey. She explained the duties of Session and gave a printed handout of Book of Order for 2024 and highlighted important areas to remember. Committee Assignments were completed and Bill Weaver was appointed Chairman of the Nominating Committee for 2024. Bill Weaver passed out an updated Congregation List and each Elder took 9 members to be on their Congregational Care List. The Retreat set Goals set for 2024-25 1) Upgrade Zoom, 2) Website Professionally Launched with a new Domain, and 3) establish a Prayer Ministry more intentional. Suggestions were Stevens Ministry or a prayer wall outside Church Building, or a Church Mailbox on outside of Church Building for community to leave prayer requests. Mary Richmond showed a copy of a bulk mailer that had

information on our church, dates of activities, and a calendar. She stated these could be mailed, handed out, and placed in Chamber of Commerce Office.

Rev. Maas stated the BPC had a solid Session eager to take this church into the future. Rev. Maas gave a prayer before lunch break.

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The Session met again at 1:45pm in the home of Fred Shin to conduct business for the church. All Elders were present representing a quorum.

Fred Shin opened the meeting with a prayer.

AGENDA: The Agenda was approved on a motion from Barry Dawson, seconded by Mary Richmond, with one correction: Fred submitted a corrected item under Stewardship: It should read: Re-established Thanksgiving Fund and establish BPC 150 Anniversary Fund as line items. Also, he had a report to add on receiving a new member, Kay Lambert.

SHARING AND CARING:

DEVOTIONAL: Fred Shin gave the devotional from Billy Graham and 2 Corinthians Chapter 9, God does not bargain with you. Our precious salvation cost something, it cost God's son giving his life for us. Th greatest gift of all is salvation.

CLERK'S REPORT: Approval for December 19, 2023, January 2, 2024, and January 16, 2024 Session Minutes were approved as presented. The Clerk read a letter from a concerned member that the minutes were running behind in the newsletter. The Clerk stated it was an error by the secretary who printed October minutes twice instead of November. Then December and January minutes were delayed due to clerk having COVID and being out of the country. The Clerk reported the normal routine is for the Session to approve minutes before they are printed in newsletter. Session concurred to continue with this schedule. It was suggested by Rev. Maas that an Elder give an update on the

Interim Pastor to the congregation on Sunday. Fred Shin Volunteered to do so. The Clerk submitted approved copies of the Statistical Reports to PCUSA. The committee consisting of Fred Shin and Mary Richmond approved the reports. The Clerk also stated copies of all minutes for 2023 were submitted to Laura Palmer, PCUSA, for approval. Clerk also submitted a New Membership List for 2024.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Pat Collins submitted the Financial Report. She stated \$668 sent to Mission Presbytery for yearly Joy Offering. She moved \$665 from Total Funds/Spinner Scholarship into Operating Funds/Spinner Scholarship. In combination with the budgeted \$345, this will make a total \$1000 Spinner Scholarship for 2024.

Question was raised to ask congregation if any child related to member is interested in applying for the 2024 scholarship.

Announcement to be made Sunday in church and deadline set for March 15 with a letter to Clerk of Session. If no member responds, the scholarship will be awarded to a senior BISD.

Award ceremony at BISD is May 16, 2024.

The Thanksgiving/BPC 150 Fund collected Love Offering totaling \$740 and paid out \$185 each to Secretary, Organist, Custodian, and Lawn Care. Fred Shin stated that the

Thanksgiving Fund should be a separate line from BPC 150 Fund. Pat will adjust. Men of the Church \$234 in Total Funds was rolled into 2024 Operating Funds. Men of the Church Line is now \$0 in Total Funds and will be closed out in February report. An advance tithe was applied to January 2024 offering to fulfill member pledge. Paid for Pulpit Supply was Peters \$400; Maas \$120, and Clarke \$200. Barry Dawson raised a question on balance.

Fred Shin stated he and Pat would check the formula and report back to next Session Meeting. The Financial Report was approved on a motion from Bill Weaver, seconded by Debbie Weems with clarification of question raised.

EVANGELISM: No report

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Barry Dawson stated March 16, 2024, 9-12 would be a Work Day at the church to clear the bushes back of church and clean flower beds. He said he received notice that the 10 year contract with Circle S Pest Control had expired. He asked Session if they wished to renew. The cost for Church and Fellowship Hall is \$2400.00 and \$240 per year for 9 nine years. Session directed Barry Dawson to ask if Lonnie Anglin or Jane Zimmerman remember any past problems with termites 10 years ago. Session authorized Barry Dawson to execute a contract if there was a problem in the past. There is still an issue with the timer on the outside lights. Barry Dawson said he would need to employ an electrician to figure out the problem.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE: Bill Weaver reported BPC 150 Celebration designated the month of March for "Men of the Church". The offering will be snack treats for the staff of Country Oaks and Oaks Nursing Home. March 24 is Palm Sunday and palms have been ordered. Lilies will be purchased by members for Easter Sunday and an order form will be in Church Bulletin. March 31 is also the Easter Church Family and Friends Lunch following services after church. April 21, 2024 is designated "Children of the Church" and will have a luncheon following church with sandwiches and sundaes. May 19 is the PW Birthday Celebration and will have a party following church. June 23 is planned to have hot dogs and guest singers. July 21 will be Hamburgers and floats, which leads us up to August for the grand 150 year Celebration. Bill Weaver also distributed the Congregational Care list for each elder to be responsible for 9+ members.

MISSION COMMITTEE: Mary Richmond made a motion to pay \$750 to Joseph's Hammer for the chapel being constructed at the Women's Prison System. Bill Weaver

second the motion. Mary stated that the BPC needs to be directed to the Help Center in Marble Falls, Tx, for anyone who is in need of financial help. We donate to this organization as well as other churches to help people in need. She suggested that a card be placed by all phones in the church building so if anyone answers the phone they can direct the person in need to the Help Center. Session said good idea to put in Newsletter. Mary Richmond also requested that we continue with Undie Sunday on August 25, 2024. The collection of items for school children has been well received from the schools. Session duly approved.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE: Fred Shin made a motion to separate the Thanksgiving Fund from the BPC 150 Fund and create new lines on financial report. The motion was duly approved. Fred Shin also reported that the committee consisting of Debbie Weems, Mary Richmond, and himself met with Kay Lambert, new church member candidate. He said she is transferring her membership from New Braunfels Presbyterian Church and the committee of Session graciously received Kay Lambert.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Debbie Weems reported the Lenten Study is on the movie, The Chosen, series 2.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE: She stated Rev. Poe would be the pastor on Easter Service, March 31. Lilies will be ordered by purchase from congregation for that service. Discussion on the Eclipse for April 7 concerned session about mobility to and from church and parking on that date. It is estimated 100,000 visitors in our area on that date. Session recommended closing the church on April 7 and offering Zoom Service to its members. This recommendation was duly approved by Session. An announcement will be made in Church Sunday, the newsletter, and the upcoming bulletins.

Session duly approved moving communion from April 7 to Easter Sunday, March 31. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** Rev. Maas gave an update on the Interim Pastor list. Two of the candidates are not available, leaving one possible. She gave authorization to Fred Shin to contact that person. Rev. Maas said a salary needed to be established before talking with candidate. Pat Collins stated \$40,000 had been budgeted.

NEW BUSINESS: PW requested approval of May 19, 2024, as their Birthday Celebration date. Session duly approved. New liaison to BPC from Presbytery is Rev. Dr. Josh Robinson, Hope Presbyterian Church, Austin.

As discussed earlier, a church member requested expediting Session Minutes. Session approved current procedure in force saying minutes can only be published once approved by Session which will always be one month behind.

The meeting ended at 3:10pm on a motion from Fred Shin, seconded by Barry Dawson. Fred Shin closed the meeting with a prayer. The next Session Meeting is March 19, 2024.

Church and Zoom Attendance March 2024

Date	Attendance	Zoom	Total
March 3	36	5	41
March 10	29	10	39
March 17	30	10	40
March 24	36	N/A	36

April Birthdays

April 3 Nancy Allen

April 5 Bill Weaver

April 12 Dick Smith

April 29 Cary West

Happy Birthday!!