



No. 18

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Thoughts About Autumn

It's a little early to see the leaves changing color around here, but it won't be long. The high temperatures of summer are already coming down. Autumn is coming and it officially arrives on Sept. 22.

Autumn is, I think, my favorite season, especially when it is in the midst of coming. Changes are everywhere. It marks harvest time, back to school, and, of course, the arrival of football season. Even more, the air seems lighter and crisper, and autumn has its own special beauty. I believe what makes it special for me is that its arrival is so strong. The change from summer to autumn is not subtle. It reminds me that change is refreshing and good.

And the source of all this change is, of course, our Heavenly Father, who created all things and made man to enjoy and care for those creations. Thinking about that got me looking for Bible verses that echo how I feel about autumn. Here are some verses I found, courtesy of Google, of course. You can find more, I'm sure.

Psalm 8:3-4: *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?*

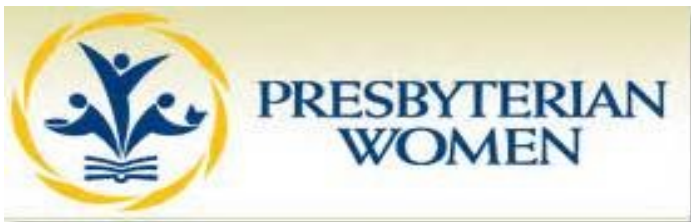
Ecclesiastes 3:1, 14: *For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven...I know that whatever God does endures forever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it; God has done this, so that all should stand in awe before him.*

Galatians 6:9: *So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up.*

New on the Bulletin Board

- A two page (front & back) flyer about Grace Presbytery's PW Fall Gathering on Oct. 19-20 at Camp Gilmont, near Gilmer. Keynote speaker is Joanna Kim, Grace Presbytery's Director of Ministry Services. Look for it in the PW's glass enclosed bulletin board in the sanctuary hallway.

Don't Forget!
Ice Cream Social
6 p.m.
Sept. 16



Grace Presbytery PW Fall Gathering

This year's event is a mini-retreat at the Gilmont Camp and Conference Center near Gilmer. It will be held on Oct. 19-20.

The event's keynote speaker is Joanna Kim, Grace Presbytery's Director of Ministry Services. The cost for overnight accommodations, dinner on Friday,



Joanna Kim

breakfast and lunch on Saturday and the mini-retreat is just \$78 a person. Or you can just come Saturday for just \$8, which includes a simple breakfast and lunch, and all the events of that day.

"Presbyterian Women? Bible Study, tea and cookies, right?"



Sure.

Presbyterian Women's groups often study the Bible together. They also live their faith through ministries in many different areas—including making baby caps for newborns. Creatively, prayerfully joyfully. And sometimes with cookies.



ONE LAST REMINDER OF LOUISVILLE TRIP—Below is pictured the beautiful stage backdrop at the PW Churchwide Gathering held recently in Louisville, Kentucky which was attended by Toni Deaton and Bettina Zvanut.

In Our Prayers at First Presbyterian

Our Troops
Melba Blount
Gayle Shumate
Preston Helton
Jan Burns
Jean Angotti
Bob Wilkins
Kristen Anderson
Gary and Melba Strobel

Gordon Hunter
Amy Lopez
Gladys Gray
Catherine King Robertson
Audrey Hucks
Jim Calvert
Joe Dipiazza
Family of Freda Lambert

Bruce Campbell
Joe Yeakley
Mildred Miller
Bennie Neve
Larry Ratliff
Tammi Fucci
Deryl McKenzie
Nancy Smith

Sara Grace Pullen
Grace Byrd
Gaye Furry
Ron Davis
Jack Gray
Adele Reeves
Danny Spruel
Petra Strassberg

If you have anyone you would like to add to the FPC Prayer List, please contact the church office

Additions to Prayer List

We've had several recent additions to the FPC Prayer List.

- **Gary and Melba Strobel**, a son and his elderly mother who are friends of the McKenzie's, have been added to the prayer list. Both are in declining health.



Please pray for all those (and their families) on our list.

Assisting with Worship

The following people are assisting with worship the next two Sundays.

September 16

Head Usher:Ric Estes
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist: Susan Reeves

September 23

Head Usher:Scott Stewart
Candle Lighter: TBD
Liturgist:Toni Deaton

Please remember to let our worship leaders know how much you appreciate them. If you would like to help with worship in some capacity, please contact Rev. Rasco or the church secretary.

Good News Deadline

The Good News for October will go out around Oct. 3. If you have news, pictures, or a story to share, the deadline for that edition is Monday, Oct. 1.

Upcoming Bible Readings

Sunday (September 16) Is the 17th Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: Mark 8:27-38 *Peter's Declaration about Jesus / Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection*

Old Testament: Proverbs 1:20-33 *The Call of Wisdom*

Epistle: James 3:1-12 *Taming the Tongue*

Old Testament (and sermon focus): Psalm 19
God's Glory in Creation and the Law

Sunday (September 23) Is the 18th Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37 *Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection / Who Is the Greatest?*

Old Testament: Psalm 1 *The Two Ways*

Epistle: James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a *Two Kinds of Wisdom / Friendship With the World*

Old Testament (and sermon focus):
Proverbs 31:10-31 *Ode to a Capable Wife*

Sunday (September 30) Is the 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Gospel: Mark 9:38-50 *Another Exorcist / Temptations to Sin*

Old Testament: Psalm 124 *Thanksgiving for Israel's Deliverance*

Epistle: James 5:13-20 *The Prayer of Faith*

Old Testament (and sermon focus): Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 *Haman's Downfall and Mordecai's Advancement / The Feast of Purim Inaugurated*

Grace Presbytery Stated Meeting Oct. 6

Mark your calendar for a special **Grace Presbytery Stated Meeting** on **Saturday, Oct. 6** at First Presbyterian Church of Longview, where **Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb** will preach and lead a panel discussion.

Born and raised in Bethlehem, Palestine, Rev. Raheb serves as the president of [Dar al-Kalima College](#) in Bethlehem and is the former pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church, also in Bethlehem. Rev. Raheb also serves as the president of Bright Stars of Bethlehem, and in conjunction with [Room for Hope](#). Additional events and worship opportunities with Rev. Raheb and Bright Stars of Bethlehem (along with Palestinian students studying dance and cultural arts) will be offered throughout the weekend of Oct. 4-7, including:

Thursday, Oct. 4—Dinner with Rev. Raheb at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church, Dallas.

Friday, Oct. 5—Ecumenical Breakfast with Rev. Raheb at First Presbyterian Church, Richardson.

Saturday, Oct. 6—Worship, led by Rev. Raheb, and Panel Discussion during stated meeting at First Presbyterian Church, 301 North Center Street, in Longview.

Sunday, Oct. 7—World Communion. Rev. Raheb will preach at 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church, McKinney.

Additional details will be listed on the Grace Presbytery website soon. Questions can be sent to Associate General Presbyter, Amgad Beblawi.

If you would like to subscribe to Grace Presbytery's twice monthly newsletter, go online to www.gracepresbytery.org and click on the "Join Newsletter" tab.



Thursday, Sept. 20, is this year's North Texas Giving Day, an opportunity to make your donation to one or more of the worthy Hunt County organizations which have signed up. If you go to the www.northtexasgivingday.org website and schedule a donation of \$25 or more, it will be increased by matching funds pledged to this event.

This reminder is made in hopes that at least one of your donations goes to the Commerce Food Pantry.

Food Pantry Donation Items

The Commerce Food Pantry typically serves between 30-40 different families in need each week—over 120 families each month. Donations remain an important source of its ability to help these people. Remember to help out the food pantry with a donation of food each Sunday.

Here are suggested donations. There is a box just inside the sanctuary for your donation.

1st Sunday—Saltine crackers

2nd Sunday—Ranch Style Beans

3rd Sunday—Spaghetti sauce (in cans)

4th Sunday—Chili without beans

5th Sunday—Canned pineapple

In addition to the above, the Commerce Food Pantry is always in need of [grocery paper bags with handles](#) (Braum's paper bags are perfect). If you have any spare paper bags, please consider donating them at any time.

Help Needed

Dr. Royce Lee, a frequent donor of fresh veggies to the food pantry, could use some help at the Commerce Community Garden behind the United Methodist Church here. Get in touch with him if you would like to help.

Dr. Lee also urges folks here to take advantage of the garden. For \$40 per year, you get good soil in a 4 x 12 space with all water provided free.



Although September is the ninth month, its name comes from the Latin *septem*, meaning seven, since it was the seventh month of the Roman calendar, which began with March. There are 30 days in September, which starts on the same day of the week as December each year but does not end on the same day of the week as any other month in the year.

Source: Dixie Allan, ThoughtCo. article updated 8-28-18.



15 **Saturday—Miss Bois d’Arc Pageant.** For more information see the Chamber of Commerce

21 **Friday—Bois d’Arc Golf Tournament.** For more information see the Chamber of Commerce

21-22 **Friday and Saturday—Annual Bois d’Arc Bash**—Parade, live music, food booths, and lots more!

For a complete list of Bois d’Arc Bash activities, call the Commerce Chamber of Commerce or the City of Commerce.

Come Join the Fun!

22 6 p.m.—First home football game as the TAMUC Lions defend their 2017 National NAIA Football Championship

Recurring Monthly Events

- 2nd Wednesday, 1-4:30 p.m. at TAMUC Alumni Center—Silver Leos Writers Guild

- Thursdays, 6-8 p.m.—Family Night at the Commerce Public Library.

- Next time we’ll add your monthly event if you tell us!
Call the church office at 903-886-3783.



Out and About

Tiny church (87 member congregation), big impact food pantry—sound familiar? Read about another church reaching out to its community through the fight against hunger. Click [here](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/story/small-hunger). Or go to www.presbyterianmission.org/story/small-hunger.

Tina Fletcher Selvaggi sent us this picture of her and husband Rick (at left) with the cast from the Lion King, which recently came to Baylor Hospital for the bone marrow transplant recipient’s reunion. Tina said, “They sang the Circle of Life to us!”, adding, “It’s year 28 for me.”

Did We Forget?



Maybe we forgot an event or a committee report. Please let us know.