PYCC is the place to be!

Do you know a young person who exhibits a mature faith and has gifts for leadership? Do you know an adult with a mentoring spirit and a strong relationship with Christ? Then encourage them to apply for the 2019-2020 Presbytery’s Youth Connection Council (PYCC).

Our Presbytery’s Youth Council is a wonderful opportunity for young people to share their gifts and explore their leadership abilities. Youth on the council work alongside adult members to design and lead fellowship, mission, and worship experiences for the young people of our presbytery. Through these events, this council seeks to deepen one’s faith and relationship with God as well as build relationships between youth and adults in our presbytery.

We need you to identify young people and adults in your congregation who have gifts for ministry and leadership potential, and who will be willing to make the commitment to be a member of the 2019-2020 Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC). Information and applications can be found online at: http://pbyofnewcovenant.org/files/forms/youth/2019-2020_PYCC_Complete_App.pdf Potential youth and adults should complete applications and submit them to their home church for review and endorsement. Churches will then select and submit up to four youth (in 10th – 12th grades) and three adults (over the age of 23) to serve on the council and represent your congregation.

Don’t wait! DEADLINE: June 28, 2019. Thank you for empowering the youth of our presbytery to serve as leaders of Christ’s Church!

Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators

One Hour: Worshiping, Education, and Building Community Together as Families will be presented by Rev. Erin McGee at the next Fresh Elastic gathering on Thursday, May 2, 2019 at the Presbytery Center, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston, from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Families with children are no longer choosing an hour of age-based Sunday school, plus an hour of corporate worship, plus time for choir rehearsals or special events. They’ll give you an hour ... OK, go! How do you plan effective ministry if you only have sixty minutes, and you only have that hour once or twice a month, and you have families who want to be together (at least some of the time) so you are ministering to all ages at once?

Come explore ideas such as Messy Church, Mirrored Worship, and Prayer Grounds and share your own ideas!

Rev. McGee, a native Texan returned to the Lone Star State to serve First Presbyterian Church of El Campo. RSVP to Anne Wilson by Monday, April 29, anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com. Lunch with beverage and dessert will be served. Your RSVP will assist in planning.
In recent weeks I have been receiving in my email box unsolicited “trivia quizzes”. I don’t know where the origin of these quizzes are, but it is fun to take them. All are multiple choice questions. Some of the answers I know, but many I don’t know and have to guess. Some are right, and some are wrong. No judgment, no ridicule. And I learn something almost every time.

I thought it might be fun to try this out on our knowledge of Presbyterian history in the Synod of the Sun. All four states in the Synod are covered in these questions. Don’t worry about wrong answers. There’s no judgment here. It’s simply an attempt to have fun and maybe learn something new. The answers are at the end. So here goes.

1. What is the oldest Presbyterian congregation in Texas?
(a) Houston (b) Galveston (c) Clarksville (d) San Augustine

2. When was Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary founded?
(a) 1883 (b) 1902 (c) 1895 (d) 1910

3. From whom did the Presbyterian church purchase Mo-Ranch?
(a) J. Paul Getty (b) the Roman Catholic Church (c) Exxon-Mobil (d) the widow of Dan Moran

4. How many Presbyterian colleges are there in Arkansas and what are they?
(a) two – the University of the Ozarks and Lyon College (b) one – the University of the Ozarks (c) None (d) one – Hendrix College

5. Who was the only local clergyperson to walk with the Little Rock Nine students at Central High School in 1957?
(a) Will Campbell (b) Don Campbell (c) Dunbar Ogden, Jr. (d) James Mosley

6. Who was the first Presbyterian to preach in Arkansas?
(a) Cumberland preacher John Carnahan (b) W. H. Roberts (c) Marion Boggs (d) Richard B. Hardie

7. The first moderator of the Southern Presbyterian Church (PCUS) in 1861 came from Louisiana. Who was he?
(a) John C. Barr (b) Benjamin M. Palmer (c) Benny Benfield (d) Bob Stalcup

8. At the beginning of the 20th century Presbyterians in Louisiana were part of what Synod?
(a) the Synod of Mississippi (b) the Synod of Texas (c) the Synod of Arkansas (d) the Synod of the Sun

9. Having served as associate pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Shreveport, this church historian died in 2016. Who is he?
(a) Benny Benfield (b) Huey Long (c) Lloyd O’Neal (d) Spencer Murray

10. Where were the two main Presbyterian colleges in Oklahoma in 1910?
(a) Norman and Tulsa (b) Muskogee and Durant (c) Tulsa and Oklahoma City (d) Wewoka and Broken Arrow

11. Oklahoma Presbyterians have, historically, established educational institutions that ministered to Native Americans as a result of the Trail of Tears. One was located outside Idabel, and another was outside Hugo. Name them.
(a) Wheelock and Goodland (b) Dwight and Kingsbury (c) Durant and Wheelock (d) Kingsbury and Goodland

12. How many presbyteries are in Oklahoma? (a) five (b) two (c) four (d) three

Bonus Question: Where was the 2019 annual meeting of the Presbyterian Historical Society of the Southwest held?
(a) Austin (b) Shreveport (c) Tulsa (d) Hot Springs

Answers on page 4
How Are You?

This year has been a whirlwind so far in this combined position of General Presbyter + Stated Clerk for Administrative Process. Besides the regular schedule of committee meetings and preparation for presbytery meetings, I have traveled around the presbytery to have lunch with our pastors. Many indicated that we might do this on a quarterly basis, so I am setting up the second round. And then there are the weekend activities such preaching and teaching, attending presbytery events, or church events. I am learning the balance of it all, and hoping that I am succeeding.

In the midst of this, I wonder about my stress level. I was given a “Mental Self-Healthcare Guide” recently which I would like to share here. In psychology, stress is a feeling of strain and pressure–a type of psychological pain. Small amounts of stress might be beneficial. Positive stress helps to improve athletic performance and can be a factor in motivation. Excessive amounts of stress, however, may lead to bodily harm. Stress can increase the risk of strokes, heart attacks, ulcers, and mental illness such as depression.

Some best solutions to deal with the negative emotions could include social networking, humor, healthy hobbies, and a positive reappraisal. Some medium solutions might cause the individual to have a diminished awareness about their anxiety, threatening ideas, and fears that come from being conscious of the perceived threat. This might include displacement where an individual redirects their emotional feelings about on situation to another, less threatening one. Repression occurs when an individual attempts to remove all of their thoughts, feelings or anything related to the upsetting or stressful perceived threat out of their awareness in order to be disconnected from the situation. Reaction formation would be an attempt to remove any “unacceptable thoughts” from one’s consciousness by replacing them with the exact opposite.

The worst solutions include acting out or passive aggression. The individual might withdraw. Other coping mechanisms include dissociation, denial, projection, and rationalization. These may release the stress temporarily, but they do not solve the problem.

A better way to cope with stress is to work to minimize anxiety in a preventative manner, hopefully on a daily basis. Strategies to improve stress management include regular exercise, having support systems, better time management, using guided imagery and visualization to create a relaxing state of mind, assertiveness training to work on more effective communication, or journal writing to express true emotion and self-reflection.

Here are some indicators for anxiety disorders: persistent fear and worry, restlessness, fatigue, concentration problems, irritability, muscle tension, and sleep disturbance. Indicators for depressive disorders include lowered extroversion such as withdrawing from social life, loss of interest in activities that used to be important, sleep disruptions or changes, appetite changes, difficulty concentrating, temporary by rapid mood changes, or depression and hopelessness that could culminate in suicidal tendencies.

So, I am taking these emergency measures by making sure that others are aware of these indicators, and can alert me when they see my behaviors changing. I am aware that if I have any doubts, I need to reach out for help. At any given time, 10% if all health problems are caused by stress, 12% of the US population suffers under depression, and 10% of Americans suffer under anxiety disorders. The first consult might be with a primary care physician. For those covered under the Board of Pensions, there are 6 fully covered counseling sessions available per issue.

I bring this up because I care about you, and hope that you care about me. Mental health can be challenging to diagnose. We have been through a stressful time with Harvey recovery, and the national news seems bleak at times. “Please take care of yourselves … you belong to me!” (from Button Up Your Overcoat)

How Are You?

For the July | August edition, the theme will be: “I needed clothes and you clothed me”
Submit your articles with pictures by June 11.
Helping those in need in Baytown

Matthew 25: “I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.”

One time during a casual talk with our coordinator for our local church food pantry Barbara, she said these caring words “I always look outside our door (church glass double doors) to see if we have someone out there who needs help. I don’t want to miss anyone that Jesus sent us this way.” Our Food Pantry here at Faith Church Baytown is not just a ministry it has become a way of life (we try to do it that way). We serve families from our community two days a week in partnership with the Love Ministries Network, a network of local churches and food pantries in the greater Baytown area. Respect and love are very much part of the package we share to the families that we welcome to our doors. With prayers and hope that the food we share today will be able to help our friends. This ministry along with our Meals-On-Wheels program are the everyday opportunities that God gives us to reach out to the least among us.

– Faith Presbyterian Church, Baytown Texas

Welcome to Servant Savior

A Community of the Servant-Savior Presbyterian Church is tiny congregation with an expansive welcome. It is not a welcome that accosts or pressures, but rather a gentle yet clear invitation to bring one’s full self to worship and to participate in all things. All are welcome inside our doors, at our table, and to join us in membership or service. As a More Light congregation, we have long history of welcoming those who have not always been welcomed or welcomed fully in other places. For those who have been hurt or cast out of their faith communities, this kind of wide-open welcome echoes the beauty of resurrection power because what they thought had been lost for good, community that is grounded in the deep roots of shared faith, has come to life once again. The mending work of the boundless love of God is a breathtaking gift to us all.

Whether folks stay with us for a short time or forever, it is our joy to welcome them in and remind them that the body of Christ is not whole without them and that they are God’s beloved, without a single caveat. Our welcome is not window dressing or programming, it is deep in our bones; it is the rhythm that our liturgy and our hearts beat to. Here you are wanted, here you are welcomed home, here there is room for everyone and it is our great joy to make the circle bigger.

Wanted: General Assembly Commissioners/Alternates

The 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) will be June 20-27, 2020 in Baltimore, Maryland. It may seem early to be taking application since it is a year away. Commissioner names are submitted 180 days before the assembly begins which is in December of 2019.

Presbytery of New Covenant will have 4 commissioners for the next assembly – two Ruling Elders and two Ministers of Word and Sacrament. If you would like to apply to be a Commissioner to the next General Assembly, please complete and submit an application form, found on the Presbytery website, https://www.pbyofnewcovenant.org/ to the Nominating Committee. They will work with the Committee on Representation on the desired balance between gender, age, race/ethnicity, geography, and other factors, such as congregational and presbytery involvement.

Please consider serving in this important role in the life of our denomination.

How did you do on the quiz? Here are the answers from page 2

Answers: (1) – (c) Clarksville; (2) – (b) 1902; (3) – (d) the widow of Dan Moran; (4) – (a) two – the University of the Ozarks and Lyon College; (5) – (c) Dunbar Ogden, Jr.; (6) – (a) Cumberland preacher John Carnahan; (7) – (b) Benjamin M. Palmer; (8) – (a) the Synod of Mississippi; (9) – (d) Spencer Murray; (10) – (b) Muskogee and Durant; (11) – (a) Wheelock and Goodland; (12) – (d) three. Bonus: (d) Hot Springs
Welcoming Strangers at the Port of Houston

By Chaplain Tom Edwards, Seafarers Center

It is indeed a great privilege to serve as a chaplain to the International Port Houston, where almost 115,000 seafarers visit from 72 countries each year. Non-officer seafarers are among the hardest-working and poorest paid workers on the planet. They also bring about 90% of the goods sold in America to us. Their lives are also busy, dirty and dangerous. Boarding their ships and visiting with them in their work and living situations is deeply appreciated by every seafarer.

Seafarers are extraordinary people, and though we usually meet as strangers we do not remain so for long. A “welcome to Houston,” a word of greeting and a warm smile goes a long way in helping them to be ‘strangers no more’. Affirming their dignity and worth at every point is God’s calling. Reminding them they are never strangers from God is a daily blessing. Listening intently to their hopes, dreams, needs and hurts is also a daily blessing. Encouraging them in their work and calling, in their love of God, shipmates and families back home is life-affirming for seafarers.

Thank you to congregations of New Covenant Presbytery who partner in this vital, fruitful work. May God bless and keep safe all the seafarers!

APTS International Students Benefit from New Covenant Generosity

Axolile Qina received the New Covenant International Student Fellowship, and Daniel Awuah received the Robert W. B. and Shirley Johnston International Student Fellowship. During their time at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS), they have taken a full load of classes and participated in campus life. After receiving their master’s degree from the Seminary, they plan to return home in May. Qina returns to a graduate program at the University of Stellenbosch; Awuah, a Presbyterian pastor, will be appointed to new congregations upon his return. It is likely that will mean each serving up to five churches, sometimes more than seventy kilometers apart. Both are interested in further study.

Qina has had the chance to travel while in the U.S., seeing “the ancient sites” of San Antonio as well as Disney World and Fort Wayne, Indiana (“So many churches!”). He says, “One thing I have observed that is different from my country, is that here, Christianity is so much a part of who people are. People’s religious identity is their cultural identity.”

Rev. Awuah says he chose Austin Seminary because it is rooted in Reformed theology and he appreciated that the Seminary faculty reflects different races and genders. He says, “I am now in a better position to teach congregants about the Reformed tradition. I also understand how to deal with moral and ethical issues from different perspectives in the church and society.”
**Vital Congregations**

2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year for the Presbytery of New Covenant. In January New Covenant was selected to be one of 14 presbyteries in the national Vital Congregation’s Revitalization Initiative. This is an amazing opportunity for our entire presbytery to join together in the work of Holy Spirit.

Through this initiative, we will gather the mission and identity of our congregations around the “7 Marks of a Vital Congregation,” and we will create our own partnerships in missions, ministry and outreach within our Presbytery. Read more about this initiative on the PCUSA Presbyterian Mission Agency site: [https://presbyterianmission.org](https://presbyterianmission.org)

Each congregation in the Presbytery of New Covenant can “opt in” to joining in this 2 year initiative. Joining the initiative will allow congregations to connect together through pastoral and leadership cohorts, learn together through national and regional conferences and have access to the vast array of resources in the PCUSA around this initiative.

We have a healthy first round of churches who have officially signed on as a Participating Congregation, and twice that number showing interest in exploring it with their churches. We even have 8 folks in our presbytery going to the Denver national gathering of Vital Congregations this May.

We have created a handy website to allow members of our presbytery to get updated information on what our Presbytery is doing through this initiative at [https://vitalnewcovenant.org](https://vitalnewcovenant.org).

---

**Ignite the Fire**

The Ignite the Fire leadership event at Pines Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 6, was full of the spirit of growth and faith that is filling this presbytery as we work together to transform into who God has created us to be. We saw this energy in the participants, a wide range of pastors and elders from many of our churches around Houston, and joining us on Facebook Live.

The Rev. Ted Foote kicked off the day with a reflection on our foundational questions – “Why are we Christian and how/what makes us Presbyterian?” In answering these questions, we get back to basics and reminded why we believe and practice in the ways we do. Building on those foundational questions, we heard about churches doing creative work in intergenerational ministry. Elder Dave Coles laid out the faithful reasons why we need to return to forms of intergenerational ministry. Elder Kate Cross described how they are diving into Messy Church at Spring Branch. And the Rev. Becky Downs shared how they are engaging mission in meaningful ways among their youngest members at John Knox in the summers. Following lunch, we heard how we might reignite our teamwork in our leadership teams from the Rev. Steve Hill and Elders Dave Coles and Shelley Hernandez led us through the depth of demographic information you can get FOR FREE through Mission Insite.

If you were not able to attend, we encourage you to watch all of these powerful presentations (just one hour each for four sessions). The Facebook Live recordings are still available on the New Covenant Presbytery Facebook page for you to watch any time. We are also putting together more polished videos that you can use at your churches, and we will let you know when they are available on our website.

The Congregational Resourcing Team is continuing to work hard to bring opportunities for leadership enrichment and growth that will keep lighting fires in our leaders and churches throughout the presbytery. We also heard from those of you who watched the livestream that it was a good way to join in, so we’ll be doing more of that in the future! Keep an eye out for upcoming leadership opportunities and dates as they arise.

---

**Connections Copy Deadline**

The next deadline for CONNECTIONS is Tuesday, June 11 for the July/August issue. Send articles and photos to Lynn Hargrove at lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org

The July/August issue will highlight “I needed clothes and you clothed me”
The door is open at St. John’s

There are strangers among us and it is a good thing at St. John’s Presbyterian Church. Having partnered with Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, homes of safety and comfort for single-parent families were built and grace our campus. These parents use our buildings as meeting rooms to heal emotionally, to grow in life skills, and to seek God. The children play on our playgrounds and attend a children’s devotion once a month as their moms do the same with volunteers from our congregation. Our congregation participates in supply drives for these new families to provide them with towels, linens and kitchen items as they start life afresh.

Another way we care for strangers is the Anchor House Ministry, a ministry that offers lower cost, furnished apartments to those from out of town seeking medical treatment from our world-renowned medical center. Feeling overwhelmed with a significant medical challenge and facing a new city can be daunting for any of us. By offering safe and comfortable accommodations for the individual receiving treatment and his or her family, their energies can be focused on getting well. Our members have partnered with other organizations to financially support these accommodations. We offer help with housing placements, staffing the phone, checking in with residents to offer support and help, and in cleaning the residences when needed. When a Church home is desired, many of these residents, when able, join us for worship on Sunday morning.

Half way across the globe, strangers have become part of our family, too. The Lulwanda Children’s Home offers hope and a new life for orphaned children in Uganda. We have joined with other church communities to help financially support many of the children. This is a place where not only a home is offered to a child, but education and training into young adulthood. Some of our members have travelled there to help train teachers and others have developed relationships via letter writing to offer love and encouragement to these youngsters.

The impact of each of these ministries has marked the “strangers’ hearts as well as our own in immeasurable ways. All the Glory be to God!

The Fruit of Jesus’ Followers - Prayers of the People

By AnneMarie Wallace, President, Prayers of the People

Ann Hardy and Dave Nelson are two of POP’s shining examples of dedication to the ministry of visiting in the hospitals. In her weekly visits to Presbyterian patients at Memorial Hermann-Texas Medical Center, Ann appreciates the human need to balance the serious side with a joy that comes through the love of God. This requires a skill in deep-listening and careful timing allowing the patient and family to transform their cries into peace and joy. Ann does this deftly while listening for the guidance of God’s Holy Spirit.

Dave is a POP Lay Chaplain serving at Memorial Hermann-Katy visiting Presbyterians and others listed on the patient census. After a full day’s work, Dave has a evening at the hospital where he enters room after room and listens to the concerns of the human soul. Along with his patience and deep compassion, Dave also volunteers his time by attending the hospital’s Partners in Caring events and shares his artistic talents by drawing Caricatures of the employees. Dave programmed the prayers found in the web based Texas Health Resources offering access for those seeking prayer, as well as for the many caregivers surrounding the patients’ care in healthcare settings. Take a look at Dave’s great work: http://www.christophergraphics.com/prayerbook/

Ann and Dave have heard Christ’s clarion call and offer a confirmation of God’s presence in the midst of health crises, disruption of life, isolation due to illness, fear and loss, as well as the anxiety around the grieving process. Visit us at: www.popministry.org
Hurricane Season starts June 1

Be prepared, have a go bag ready!

**Electronics**
Example: phone charger, battery pack, flashlight and small hand-cranked or battery-operated AM/FM radio (with extra batteries)

**Personal Items**
travel size version of daily needs (deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrush etc.), backup eyeglasses, a first-aid kit, baby wipes and if possible, a multipurpose tool.

**Clothes**
Pack couple of days’ worth of clothes. Include layers you can add or remove, rain gear and waterproof boots.

**Medicine**
Pack about a weeks’ worth of each of your prescriptions and a list of the prescriptions. If you need larger items, such as an oxygen tank, make sure you have a portable version.

**Paperwork**
Put in a zip-top waterproof bag with photocopies of important documents: birth certificate, driver’s license, Social Security, Insurance cards, power of attorney and will, any marriage, adoption or naturalization certificates; proof of address, Flood/home owner’s insurance, medical and immunization records and information about your credit and ATM cards.

**Food and water**
Bottled water and Granola or energy bars are great options. Only pack food you and your family will actually eat.

**Small Toys**
If you have children a small toy for your child to be comforted by while in unfamiliar places. Example: Barbie sized or smaller doll, coloring book small pack of crayons or “happy meal” type toy.

**Cash**
In addition to enough money for a few days, include small bills. ATMs will not work if power is out.

Thank you Pines Presbyterian Church

Thanks to a generous grant from Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Pines Presbyterian Church is now able to hire a Site Coordinator. Cindy Houlihan has done an amazing job balancing her duties as the Office Manager and hosting work groups. We are excited to take this extra work she graciously picked up, off her shoulders. This grant will cover the costs of a part time coordinator who will be tasked with scheduling groups, ensuring the site is prepared for them and dealing with issues that arise during the stay. Pines Presbyterian Church is one of three PDA Host Sites in the Presbytery of New Covenant. Pines Presbyterian prides themselves on the hospitality they show the groups coming in to help our communities.

My Star Word for this year is “Thankfulness.” Angus and I are thankful and grateful for all God’s blessings in our lives. Special thanks go to The Presbytery of New Covenant staff, ministers, congregations, members, Pinecrest Presbyterian Church family and numerous friends for everything that you have done. Words can’t express how overwhelming it is to lose your only child. Thank you for the many words of kindness, condolences, cards, flowers, phone calls, and prayers. Thank you for the donations to the Presbyterian Women of Pinecrest Presbyterian Church given for scholarships to help youth and young adults. This was important to us because Shuan was given several opportunities to experience God’s grace at Camp Cho-Yeh, Mo-Ranch, Montreat, a Triennium event and many conferences. Thankful for friends like the late Reverend Lynn Johnson, Ron and Judy Fleming, the Reverend Phin and Sylvia Washer and others who put Shuan in their cars with kids from their churches and off they went. We are blessed daily with friends and prayers that surround and hold us up. Your thoughtfulness and generosity will never be forgotten. This has been one of the hardest things that we have ever experienced. We do ask for your continued prayers for strength and guidance.

With appreciation and gratitude,
sincerely, Sharon Gibson Darden & Angus E. Darden
Presbytery of New Covenant
Confirmation Rally

Confirmation rally participants

Our Presbytery had an awesome Confirmation Rally Saturday March 30th! We had a total of 35 attendees including confirmands, confirmation sponsors and facilitators from Atascocita Presbyterian Church, College Station Presbyterian Church, First Presbyterian Church Dickinson, and First Presbyterian Church, Sugar Land. We started off the morning learning new energizers- led by the Austin College ACTivators. We then shifted gears and went back in time to learn about Martin Luther and the Protestant Reformation, led by Rev. Laureen Suba. Our Reformation session was followed by a wonderful interactive discussion on Presbyterianism, led by the Rev. Dr. John Williams. We then talked about Connectionalism and how one of the major core beliefs of the Presbyterians is that we are to be a connectional body with one another based on scripture and our Constitutional beliefs. This session was led by Rev. Kristi Blankman. After a delicious lasagna lunch, we were led by Rev. Dr. David Green in an interactive discussion on church governance and how our particular denomination makes decisions. It was a wonderful, insightful and lively event and we are thankful for all that were able to attend! Please keep these young saints in your prayers as they discern God’s call on each and every one of their lives during their confirmation journeys. Special thanks to St. Philip for providing the space, Chuck Johnson for providing a delicious breakfast and lunch, and the Austin College ACTivators who traveled from Sherman, Texas to be with us!

Residents in the Beaumont community are still in need of assistance. The youth mission trip can help in the rebuilding process. This summer trip will take place June 16 - June 21, 2019. Lodging will be at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Beaumont. The cost is $50 per participant and includes all transportation, meals, a group swamp tour and a t-shirt.

Make plans to support Hurricane Harvey recovery and bring hope to a hard-hit community.

RSVP to Kristi Blankman by Friday, May 17, 2019. If you have question or need more information, email her at kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org.

If you have any question about PYCC, the Mission Trip or Triennium, contact Kristi Blankman, Coordinator for Youth Ministry at 713-526-2585 or kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org
On the calendar

May 2
Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators
Presbytery Center

May 12
Happy Mother’s Day!

May 17
Deadline to register for the PYCC Mission Trip

May 17
Deadline for full registration to Triennium

May 23
Coffee House LIVE
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Houston

June 16 - 21
Youth Mission Trip
St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church
Beaumont

July 16 - 20
Triennium
Purdue University
Lafayette, IN

July 25 - 27
PW Synod Gathering
First Presbyterian Church
Tulsa, OK

August 1 - 3
Big Tent
Baltimore, MD

Upcoming Conferences

Mo-Ranch

Mo-Ranch is a retreat center nestled in the Texas Hill Country along the Guadalupe River near Hunt, Texas. Here are some opportunities to get away in the Spring:

Women’s Conference
May 31 - June 2, 2019
Wonder Woman!
Each year, hundreds of women from across the region gather together for the Mo-Ranch Women’s Conference. Hear God’s word through inclusive and intentional worship. This year’s keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Christine Roy Yoder and Saturday evening will feature the New York Times best-selling author, activist and highly sought-after speaker, Glennon Doyle. (By purchasing tickets to Glennon Doyle’s exclusive Saturday evening presentation, you are gaining admittance to her presentation only.)

Junior High Jubilee I
June 30 - July 4, 2019
and Junior High Jubilee II
July 7-11, 2019
Theme: “Don’t Be Afraid, Ya’ll”
For youth who have completed 6th through 8th grade come together to be inspired to grow their faith by learning and living the words and deeds of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Keynote and worship sessions, energizers, small groups, home groups and vespers make this time in the Hill Country a enjoyable time spent together. Register now, space is limited.

A.R.T. @ Mo
July 14-19, 2019
An art conference for all ages
Spend a relaxing and inspiring time with fellow artists while experiencing fellowship, worship, relaxation and renewal during this week long conference. Mornings are spent in class and afternoons are open for working on projects, learning new skills through mini-workshop courses or simply time to enjoy beautiful Mo-Ranch. This is a family-friendly art conference with entertainment for all ages, and childcare is available during morning courses.

Grand Camp
July 21-25, 2019
Get away with your grandkids
Adventure-filled days to pray and play together! Activities are designed for all ages and may include worship, archery, pool parties, nature and critter classes, arts and crafts, campfires, s’mores, adventure races and much, much more. Our Grand Camp pricing is all-inclusive - food, lodging and program activities are included. We’ll take care of the details, planning, activities, including rest time and preparation of the meals, and you’ll get to enjoy quality time and fun with your grandkids!
**Coffee House Live**

DALE WATSON

Coffee House Live at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Houston brings back Austin-based honky tonker “The Real Deal”, Dale Watson and His Lone Stars, Thursday, May 23, 2019. No cover charge. Donations are accepted/encouraged. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Music at 7:30 p.m. Free coffee and snacks.

The church is located at 5308 Buffalo Speedway, in the Warren Family Center. Park in lots at intersection of Bissonnet at Rutgers. Overflow parking available across Bissonnet in the ABC-13 KTRK-TV lot.

**SpLENDORS OF EASTERN EUROPE**

Including The Passion Play of Oberammergau

11 DAYS | June 3 - 13, 2020

Hosted by Pastor Andy Gans, Pines Presbyterian Church, Houston

Visiting Prague, Budapest, Vienna, Munich, and Oberammergau

Price Includes: Round-trip air from Houston, first class/select hotels and guesthouses in Oberammergau, first class (Category 1) admissions tickets for the Passion Play, most meals, comprehensive sightseeing with an English-speaking guide and more!

Space is limited. Book now to avoid disappointment. This is your last chance to experience the world-famous Passion Play of Oberammergau until 2030.

For a brochure and more information, please contact Pastor Andy Gans at 713-467-2234 or andy@pinespc.org. For more information about the trip and to view the day by day itinerary, go to: http://pinespc.org/trip-to-eastern-europe

This world famous Passion Play is only presented every 10 years so don’t miss out on this exciting opportunity.

**Big Tent**

August 1-3, 2019
Baltimore

CALLED TO A MOVEMENT BEYOND INSTITUTION

Registration is open to attend the Big Tent Conference in Baltimore MD, August 1-3, 2019. Rev. Amantha Barbee will lead the plenary, Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah will kick off the conference and Renita Weems will close out the event remembering the late Rev. Dr. Katie Cannon.

Many opportunities for networking and education before the conference begins. There will be programs for youth and children. Registration is only $95 per person.

For more information and to view the conference schedule, go to: http://oga.pcusa.org/section/big-tent/big-tent-2019/
Get Ready for the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium - a gathering for high school age students in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Youth come together for this life changing, life giving, faith growing gathering!

This five day event will take place Tuesday, July 16 through Saturday, July 20, 2019 on the campus of Purdue University in Lafayette, IN. Registration is now open.

Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years.

Come, be a part of the conversation, recreation, learning, worship and fun! Drawing from the rich and diverse theology, history and education of the Presbyterian tradition - the Triennium experience is packed with the information students long to explore!

Digging into faith through a variety of activities and experiences - all focused around the theme “Here’s My Heart” (recognize the line yet? It’s a lyric from a classic tune/hymn we sing) participants at the Triennium will re-enter their lives with a fresh sense of inspiration grounded in the context of personal communal worship.

For the New Covenant Delegation, full travel cost to and from the event including the registration fee will be $1000 per person. The deadline for full registration is Friday, May 17, 2019. Scholarships are available. Please contact Kristi Blankman at kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org.