The Great Ends of the Church

The Great Ends of the Church are:

• The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind;
• The shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God;
• The maintenance of divine worship;
• The preservation of the truth;
• The promotion of social righteousness; and
• The exhibition of the Kingdom of Heaven to the world.

These words have been part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and its predecessors since the early 1900s. In our six issues of Connections in 2020, we would like to share stories of how our congregations are living these out in their communities. We are focusing on the first point in this issue, which is “the proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.”

For the March-April issue, the emphasis will be on “the shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God.” Please consider how your congregation lives into that and share your story. Do you host Family Promise, offer a blessing box or a weekly meal, or help in a local school? How has that impacted the spiritual growth of your congregation? We especially would love to learn about new initiatives in your congregation.

Please submit your articles to Lynn Hargrove (lhargrove@pbyofnewcovenant.org) by February 11.

The First Great End

The proclamation of the gospel for the salvation of humankind.

The book in the banner represents the Scriptures. The dove is rising from the Scriptures indicating the source of both the original witness and our present understanding. The same Spirit that inspired the original writers enables us to receive the gospel. The cross behind the book and dove remind us that the heart of the gospel is Jesus Christ, God with us and for us.
A Gentleman and a Scholar

Thornton Rogers Sampson was born in Hampden Sidney, Virginia on October 9, 1852. His father was a professor of Hebrew at Union Seminary in Virginia. When Thornton’s grandfather learned that his own son decided to enter the ministry, he is quoted as having said, “Well, the Church may have gained a good preacher, but the devil has lost the best dancer in Virginia.”

Thornton attended Hampden Sidney College and the University of Virginia, graduating from U.Va. on July 3, 1873. It was there that he decided to study for the ministry. His first theological studies took him to New College at the University of Edinburgh. After a year there, he went to Leipzig, Germany where he undertook a study of Hebrew. In 1877 Sampson went to the American College in Beirut where he hoped to learn Arabic. Upon returning to the States in 1878, he entered Union Seminary in Virginia and was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of East Hanover. In that same year he was ordained in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Most of us who have heard of Thornton Rogers Sampson know that he was the first president of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. The Seminary was officially established in 1902, but Sampson had labored the preceding two years raising funds to hire a faculty and provide some financial support for students. Between the time of his ordination in 1878 and his coming to Austin Seminary, Sampson worked as a missionary in Greece for twelve years (Athens for seven years and Salonika for five).

After a stint in Europe and a tour of Presbyterian mission stations in Asia, Sampson and his family returned to the States in 1892. For two years he served as the Foreign Missions Secretary for the Synod of North Carolina. He then accepted a call to serve as president of Fredericksburg College in Virginia. In 1896 Sampson received and accepted a call to serve as president of Austin College in Sherman, Texas.

From 1884-1895 the Presbytery of Central Texas and the Synod of Texas supported an attempt to start a Presbyterian seminary in Austin. Dr. R. K. Smoot, pastor of First Southern Presbyterian Church in Austin, and Dr. R. L. Dabney, professor at the University of Texas (and formerly at Union Seminary in Richmond), provided the leadership for the Austin School of Theology. However, in 1895 the work of that school had to be “suspended” due to Dabney’s blindness and the inability of Dr. Smoot to run the school alone.

In 1900 Sampson was prevailed upon to leave Sherman and move to Austin. His efforts bore fruit and the doors opened in the fall of 1902. Due to the efforts of many saints who followed Sampson, Austin Seminary has continued to prepare persons for the gospel ministry for over a century. Due to health reasons Sampson resigned as president in 1905, but continued to

Continued on page 3
One of the joys of being Stated Clerk for Administrative Process is meeting with the Clerks of Session for minutes review. These gatherings happen at least three times a year after the presbytery meetings in March, July and November. Others happen around the presbytery when an invitation is extended. One thing that I can say for certain is that we have some outstanding Clerks of Session in our presbytery. They each bring their gifts of organization and detail, as well as their love for their congregation.

It is interesting to find out about how our congregations are reaching out to others. In answer to the question, “What happened this past year that makes you proud of your congregation?” One clerk wrote, “Active in Mission projects: Souper Bowl for Caring for the local food pantry and canned food drive, paper goods drive for the local apartments for low income senior citizens, Lemonade Day for our Bak-Pak program, magazine drive for Seafarers, Christmas boxes for Seafarers, and participated in Feed My Starving Children.” And they are adding working with Sproutstart with joint mission projects. This is a congregation of fewer than 50 on the membership roll and a worship attendance around 25.

Another congregation has “Service Sunday” where on the fifth Sunday of the month, they go and help local ministry partners which is making the acts of service an act of worship. There are usually a few different options as to where to serve with varying skill levels needed. It might be cleaning up a van and painting it for an organization that transports children, or helping with house restoration after a disaster, or going to a halfway house to share a meal and stories.

Another congregation has a garden that is used as a mission outreach. All of the produce goes to a local food bank. In the spring of 2019, they had grown 1000 pounds of vegetables that helped feed hungry families in their community. Another congregation is working with an organization that builds bunk beds for local children that don’t have a bed in which to sleep. They also provide the bedding including sheets, pillowcases and a comforter.

One aspect of the records review is clerks learning from each other about their work. Everyone’s minutes look similar, but there is always something that one does that others think is a good idea. Maybe it is a formatting design, or a monthly membership report, or a financial report. Often the words, “Oh, I like that …” are spoken, and pictures taken of that page. At a recent review, it was a “Handbook for Elders in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)” that was included in the minutes volume.

Our Book of Order states in G-3.0108a that “Each council shall review annually or biennially, based on the body’s meeting frequency, the proceedings and actions of all entities related to the body, all officers able to act on behalf of the body, and lower councils within its jurisdiction. In reviewing the procedures of the lower council, the higher body shall determine whether the proceedings have been correctly recorded, have been in accordance with this Constitution, have been prudent and equitable, and have been faithful to the mission of the whole church. It shall also determine whether lawful injunctions of a higher body have been obeyed.” It is the responsibility of the presbytery to review the minutes of the lower council – the session. It is the responsibility of the Clerk of Session to bring the minutes for review.

I am grateful to the Clerks of Session who attend the minutes review. If you are a clerk who hasn’t brought your minutes recently, please arrange to have this done in 2020, either after a presbytery meeting, or invite me to a gathering of clerks in your area!

Scholar ... From page 2

teach. In addition, his interest in and support of public education led the state of Texas to call him in 1914 to serve as the executive secretary of the Conference for Education in Texas. Sampson continued his work at the Seminary while, at the same time, taking on this new labor.

In the summer of 1915 he and his wife went to Colorado for a vacation. She stayed in Denver while Sampson went on to Estes Park where he enjoyed fishing and hiking in the mountains. He never returned from a fishing trip in Rocky Mountain National Park. He was last seen on September 2. His body was never recovered, but 17 years later, on July 9, 1932 his skeleton was found.

Fluent in seven languages, committed to the idea and ideals of education, and profoundly interested in the world mission of the church, Sampson left a legacy that is rich. As we make our own history today, we do well to give thanks to God for those who have gone before us who, like Thornton Rogers Sampson, planted seeds that continue to bear fruit today.

(Much of the information for this column came from the 1917 book, Thornton Rogers Sampson: A Life Sketch, by Arthur Gray Jones, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio from 1895 to 1921).
PCHAS Marathon Fundraiser

Run in the Chevron Houston Marathon, the Aramco Half Marathon or the We Are Houston 5K and support the children and families of Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services (www.pchas.org) at the same time! PCHAS is an approved Run For A Reason charity with the Chevron Houston Marathon. Our mission is to provide Christ-centered care and support to children and families in need and our primary programs in the Houston area are Foster Care, Maternity and Adoption Services, Single Parent Family (residential program) and Child and Family – a preservation program to strengthen families in their own home!

The Aramco Half Marathon is full and the only way in is through one of the Run For A Reason Charities – and we’d love for you to join us!

To sign up to run on behalf of Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, here are the links to register to walk, jog and/or run:

- We Are Houston 5K, Saturday, January 18, 2020 ($195 fundraising goal): https://haku.ly/84bfa93f
- HERO Registration for Marathon or Half Marathon ($350 registration fee instead of fundraising goal): https://haku.ly/ee5042aa

I hope you’ll consider supporting PCHAS in a unique way offered here in the Houston area.

If you have any questions, please let me know. Lisa Johnson, 252-207-3567 or lisa.johnson@pchas.org. Thank you!

With gratitude from the Port

Thank you to everyone who called and prayed for my daughter, Phenita as she went through brain surgery and is now recovering. She has not experienced any seizures and this is a true blessing. We are grateful and blessed.

Patricia Brantley
Presbytery Staff

The chaplain staff at the Seafarer’s Center thank you for making the holidays brighter for those crews who visit Port of Houston in December. They expect to distribute more than 10,000 gifts this Christmas season. Here they are in the chapel in front of a wall of wrapped shoe boxes.
We are a family of God... Matthew 25

Faith Presbyterian Church, Baytown has always been a close-knit church family ready and willing to serve in our Baytown community and beyond. When Pastor Tim Marquez informed the worship committee that Session had approved us being a Matthew 25 church and that we would have a special service on Christ the King Sunday, we wanted to celebrate—not with cake and punch, but with what we are called to do... serve.

Our food pantry was in dire need of food. We publicized the need, provided grocery bags, and asked everyone to donate a bag of groceries or make a monetary donation on Christ the King Sunday. Faith Presbyterian heard the call of Jesus Christ and the gospel mandate to love and the need was met.

The celebration began as church members brought in their donations, placing the groceries around the welcome center table. Our food pantry volunteers were thrilled! Their work of sorting and stocking the shelves to be prepared for the weeks to come would be a busy one. Looking at all the food and monetary donations given, hearts were touched, a sense of wholeness was felt.

Within our welcome center, In observing the hustle and bustle of fellowship, the movement of disciples reaching out to others, coffee sippers sharing stories with another with sounds of laughter, there was a general feeling of love that would warm anyone's heart. The circular movement of people, extending the love of Christ to one another. The symbol for Matthew 25 was perfect.

Through fellowship, serving together on committees, volunteering, Bible study, singing together, mission outreach and more; we bond. Faith Presbyterian is a loving, cohesive church family a community in our own right. We are one. But now, Faith Presbyterian has the opportunity to serve with other Matthew 25 churches, and by working together, we are a larger community of loving church families all supporting the call to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned or poor. Together, we hear the call of Jesus Christ and the gospel mandate to love. Together, we respond in kind and as a larger community we make a larger impact as we serve in His name.

Looking out into the congregation, there we were... all colors, all ages, all shapes, all sizes, high and low voices. There we were, and here we are, a Matthew 25 church singing. We are a family of God, Yes, we are the family of God, and He's brought us together to be one in Him, that we might bring light to the world.

Service Sunday at St. Andrew’s

By Larry Gelbaugh, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Houston

While no one in Southeast Texas would ever want to relive Hurricane Harvey, Houston’s sense of community was demonstrated during and after the storm, and inspired the nation in countless ways. Like many area churches, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church identified church members and loved ones with flooding issues and pulled together volunteers to help flood victims following the storm (whether it was with a hammer or a brisket.) As recovery days turned into weeks and months, we arranged for some Saturday sessions where church members could gather and help the families in need. We saw that this was going to be a long process and decided that there was no higher calling for us in the post-Harvey times than to help and love one another. So, we began a practice that we called Service Sundays.

During January and February, every other Sunday we would offer two “tracks” for our members. Some people continued to attend church and Sunday school as usual. Others, however, chose to come in grubby clothes at 8:00 a.m., have a very brief (20 minute) prayer/song/message worship service with our Associate Pastor and then broke into teams to help families in need. The church was able to buy some building supplies out of generous Harvey-designated gifts, and the members provided a day of service. Our identity statement says that we are a community of broken people learning to be loved.
Worship Innovation at Atascocita

By Rev. Jackie Hannan, Pastor
Atascocita Presbyterian Church, Humble

In early 2014, the congregation of Atascocita Presbyterian Church applied for a grant from the Calvin Institute for Worship. The grant was sponsored by the Eli Lilly foundation and provided for innovations in worship. We received the grant for $8600.00. With that money we were able to call Marcia McFee of the Worship Design Studio, to come and be our artist in residence for 1 month. During that time, we offered workshops every week to the worship community of Atascocita and also to New Covenant Presbytery. It was well received.

Most important for us, she helped us to develop a liturgical art group at the church that worked alongside the music minister and me to design worship services that were multisensory. To this day we still have the liturgical art group and each time we take on a new series or theme we join together to find ways to engage the congregation using the visual arts, plays, innovative reading from scripture, activities that interact with the preaching and the singing. Artwork is designed that is hung from the large columns in the front of the sanctuary, music is chosen that ties into the series. The artwork on the bulletin covers and on our worship screens tie into the theme as well.

Since individuals approach learning in a variety of different ways. Many understand the scripture text and the sermon in more depth than just hearing the word preached and read. Our themes allow individuals to come to the message with their own learning styles.

Below are a few examples of our themes, including this year’s Advent theme which is “Heaven and Nature Sing.” It is the 300th anniversary of “Joy to the World.” The idea of bringing the Christ Child to earth is surely Heaven and Nature singing.

Each series is unique whether it is Stewardship, Advent, Pentecost, Easter or just stories of the Bible. The artwork, liturgy and music all speak to the theme of the series. Marcia taught us to have an anchor image and then to take ourselves from there. Her time with us was invaluable. We have continued to be a member of her website, www.worshipdesignstudio.com. It is a wonderful collection of ideas, series, podcast. The grant we received really opened up our worship. A side gift was bringing all of our artists together. Each found their niche. The group also meets once a week to repurpose items in order to sell them in their craft shop making money for missions of the church.

Service Sunday... From page 5

like Jesus so that we can love like Jesus. We believe that serving those who needed help after Harvey was living that out.

While the Harvey needs declined to some extent after February, we also opened our church facility up to a missionary group called Experience Mission, who hosted mission teams in our facility throughout the summer and during certain weeks of the year, leading teams from outside Houston around town to continue to help rebuild Houston homes. Members were invited to participate with these mission teams and church groups took turns bring desserts for the short-term mission teams.

We decided that we wanted to continue to encourage our members to periodically step out of the pews on Sunday mornings, so we adjusted our “Service Sunday” program. Now, on any month that has five Sundays, we schedule visits with local ministry partners and find work or fellowship projects that we can do with them. It has allowed us to do things like continue to rebuild houses, improve facilities for our ministry partners, and even hosted a barbeque with some recently returned ex-offenders with another partner. Through all of this, we are learning to incorporate service and “stepping out” into the rhythm of our Sundays.
Adult Legislative Seminar

Have you ever been in your Senator's or Representative's DC office? Have you spoken directly with either your elected official or their chief of staff on an issue that is important to you? Well, here is a chance to do all these things and much, much more by participating in the “Adult Legislative Seminar” led by Cassandra Dahnke and Tomas Spath, co-founders of the “Institute for Civility in Government”.

Prior to departing for DC, the group will decide on up to three issues to be discussed with elected officials. Once in DC and guided by these issues you will attend informative seminars led by experts in these areas. Based on this information, presentations will be developed and shared with your elected officials when you meet with them in their office. This experience will give you a deeper understanding of who these officials are, a glimpse of what their day is like, and an appreciation for how they get things done.

But the Adult Legislative Seminars allow for much more. Whether you have ever been to DC or not, there is always much to see and do, all of which provides for a deeper understanding of our nation's capital and our history. Of course there are monuments and memorials. There are museums galore, including the Holocaust, the Newseum, and the new African American Museum of History and Culture. There is culture to be found at the Kennedy Center, and meals to be shared at a wide array of restaurants. There are opportunities for worship at historical churches, including New York Avenue Presbyterian Church (where Lincoln attended) and Old Presbyterian Meeting House, whose history dates back to the colonial period. Sightseeing is on your own, but there is plenty of help and guidance along the way.

Save the date, April 25 to May 1, 2020 and make plans now to take advantage of this wonderful and unique opportunity. For more information, call Cassandra Dahnke at 713-444-1254 or email info@instituteforcivility.org.

Welcoming the Wounded

By Kyla Hebert, A Community of the Servant Savior, Houston

Sometimes at A Community of the Servant-Savior Presbyterian Church, we feel a bit like a way station. We are a tiny, feisty church and often folks only stay with us for a short time before moving on. For some this might be a disheartening reality, especially at a time when so many are worried about the ways in which the Church seems to be dying and steadily growing numbers provide some security. But the transient nature of our body keeps us alive to the reality and work of resurrection, the mending work of the Spirit, and the joy of loving people back to life even if we do not get to keep them in the end.

In truth, we are perhaps less like a way station and more like a medic tent. The people who find their way to us are often battered and bruised, too often by the hands that were meant to love them best- the hands of the Church, and every time one of these precious people find the strength to enter our doors, it is we who are transformed, more and more into the likeness of Jesus.

Every time someone has the courage to share their wounds with us, to offer us the chance to wrap those wounds in love and understanding and the affirmation that they are indeed God's beloved, exactly as they are, we are changed. Every time someone is stirred by stubborn hope to search for community after being cast out, we are changed. Every time someone is so compelled by God's love that they keep chasing it even after being told it is not for them, we are changed. God's love is fierce and free and every time we think we have figured it out, someone new finds their way to us and we are surprised yet again. We are always learning and relearning that we do not get to say what this body looks like, how quickly or even if it will grow, or determine who is in or who is out, because this isn't our body. It never has been. This body belongs to God.

This body may live, this body may die, but through it all, we belong body and soul to God. All of us. This is the Good News, and it is our great joy to proclaim it, to do the mending work it calls us to, to love one another in light of this breathtaking truth, and to throw our doors open wide and let this wild love rush out past us, as far as it can possibly go.
Trawick Presbyterian Church Rebuilds after devastating fire

By Cheryl Bevers, Clerk of Session
Trawick PC, Nacogdoches

The early morning blaze that destroyed the Trawick Presbyterian Church on October 21, 2019 dealt a devastating blow to us, the members of the Congregation. We were shocked and numb and filled with the heartache of loss. But almost immediately plans began forming to hold worship services in the unused, former volunteer fire department building across the road from the church. Members cleaned and organized the building. Props and painted scenery from past children’s Christmas programs had been tucked away in a storage building and escaped the fire. These were used to brighten up and transform one of the two fire engine bays into our new and roomier Sanctuary. Our young adults jumped right in and began working to convert the second bay into our new and roomier Sanctuary. They worked diligently all week dyeing sheets to cover the wire on the walls. Four windows were decorated to look like stained glass and hung on the walls. Exterior columns from the church were salvaged, cleaned, painted and placed inside. Wood was salvaged from the church and made into a cross in the same dimensions as the wooden cross that had hung over the Lord’s Table in the former church. With the tireless effort of our young adults, we moved into our new sanctuary the second Sunday following the fire. Using borrowed chairs from a local church we were able to accommodate members, family and friends sharing in the Baptism of the precious little one. Our baptismal font survived the fire and in a symbolic gesture was used.

The church bell survived and has been restored thanks to one of our members and a local sandblasting company that donated services. Another member donated the piano that had been in the church used prior to the one we lost. With a little tuning the piano was good as new. Our pianist who is in her ninth decade remembers first playing it when she was 13 years old. This past Sunday our school age children visited our shut-ins and crafted centerpieces using bricks salvaged from the church.

We have received an outpouring of support from the community, the surrounding area and fellow churches near and far. Donations of service and time, gifts of items needed, and monetary donations are truly appreciated and accepted with grateful hearts. All of the thoughts, well wishes and prayers keep us in awe and focused on what we must do.

The remains of the Church have been demolished and carried away. We still feel sadness at the loss of our Church home and shed tears for the many things given by former members, family and friends that can never be replaced.

A building committee has been formed. With faith and by the Grace of God our church family will continue to work together to build our new church home. Our memories remain with us and we know with certainty, now more than ever, that the church truly is the People.
Thank You!

A huge “Thank You” to all congregations that participated in our 2019 Youth Rally on November 2nd. We donated several hundred pounds of dog and cat food, kitty litter, and pet toys to the Montgomery County Animals program! We also collected over $500 in PYCC scholarship funds. These generous donations will help youth participate in PYCC, and future mission trips and youth conferences.

Special thanks to our hosts at Northwoods Presbyterian Church.

Prayers and monetary gifts are always welcome for our amazing PYCC program- please contact Kristi Blankman if you would like to offer assistance!

Confirmation Rally 2020

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2020
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Come together by water and the Spirit on this Spiritual Journey as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ

Are you being confirmed this year?
Are you a parent or sponsor of a confirmand?
This event is meant for those at the beginning, in the middle of, or at the end of the confirmation process!

Here are the details...
9:00 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
10:50 a.m. - 11:35 a.m.
11:40 a.m. - 12:25 p.m.
12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
1:50 p.m.
2:45 p.m.

Continental Breakfast available
Energizers
REFORMATION
led by Rev. Katherine Doehring
PRESBYTERIANISM
led by Rev. John Williams
CONNECTIONALISM
led by Rev. Kristi Blankman
Lunch
GOVERNANCE
led by Rev. David Jones
Closing Worship
Dismissal

When?
Saturday, March 28, 2020
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Come early for Continental breakfast and energizers

Cost?
$20 per person
(includes Continental breakfast and lunch)

Where?
Presbytery of New Covenant
4803 San Felipe
Houston

For more information, questions and to register, contact Rev. Kristi Blankman at kblankman@pbyofnewcovenant.org

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

December 23 - 27
Presbytery offices closed for the Christmas holiday

January 1
Presbytery offices closed for New Year's Day

January 9
Lunch and Learn
Presbyterian Center

February 11
Connections deadline
March | April Edition

February 13
Fresh Elastic
St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston

February 14
Happy Valentine's Day

February 20
Coffee House LIVE
St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Houston

February 22
John Knox BBQ Dinner Fundraiser
American Legion Hall
Houston

February 23
Duerr Lecture Series
St. Philip Presbyterian Church, Houston

February 26
Ash Wednesday

Lunch ‘n Learn

START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW VISION OF THE WORLD!

Join us in a unique Lunch and Learn at the Presbytery Center, 4803 San Felipe St., Houston on Thursday, January 9, 2020 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., where we will have a rare opportunity to have conversation with a Minister doing outreach and support for North Korean Refugees.

We will learn about what is really going on in the Korean Peninsula and in North Korea. Hear powerful stories of the obstacles and hardships North Korean Refugees must overcome even after leaving North Korea.

Bring your missions group, committees or bible study groups. Discover ways your congregation may be able to pray and support the refugees from North Korea.

Please RSVP for space and food to: http://evite.me/GaPjivyKTs

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE TRAINING

Are you interested in becoming a Spiritual Care Volunteer with POP Ministry? Volunteers bring pastoral care to those in hospitals across the city of Houston and beyond. The next training event will be Saturday, January 18, 2020 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church, 11612 Memorial Drive, Houston.

POP’s ministry helps to open doors. This training provides you with the skillset needed to explore your call in ministry.

For more information about the training and registration, go to the POP Ministry website, https://popministry.org/home/programs/training/.
Texas’ own international blues legend Anson Funderburgh will perform at Coffee House LIVE. Come and hear a true legacy artist as he will be joined by blues multi-instrumentalists Christian Dozzler.

Coffee House LIVE at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, 5308 Buffalo Speedway, Houston on Thursday, February 20, 2020. Doors open at 7:00 p.m., music starts at 7:30 p.m. Free coffee and snacks. No cover charge, donations accepted but not required. Park in the lots at the intersection of Bissonnet and Rutgers. Overflow parking in the ABC-13 KTRK lot.

Fresh Elastic for Stretched-Out Educators

Everyone is invited to come together on Thursday, February 13, 2020 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe St., Houston for a time of fellowship and hospitality as we gather to share resources and experiences from the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators 2020 Annual Event. There will be interactive sharing led by some of our local educators who will attend the conference in Little Rock, Arkansas. You are encouraged to join in the conversation as a variety of topics from the workshops and plenary sessions are offered. You don’t want to miss this fun and unique opportunity!

If you are a volunteer, paid staff person, teaching elder or just curious, you are invited.

It will be our pleasure to serve you lunch, complete with a beverage and dessert! Your RSVP will assist our planning. Please send replies to anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com by Monday morning, February 10.

This session will be facilitated by folks with a seasoned heart for education. Please feel free to contact any one of them if you have questions.

Connie Nyquist (lnyquist@sbcglobal.net) Kim Shrull (kshrull@earthlink.net)
Anne Wilson (anne.aiko.wilson@gmail.com)

Deurr Lecture Series

“Christian Biblical Interpretation and Christian Antisemitism: Exploring an Unfortunate Link”

Join us on February 23, 24 and 25, 2020 - preaching Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., lectures each evening at 7:00 p.m. at St. Philip Presbyterian Church, 4807 San Felipe St., Houston. Speaker: Rev. Deborah L. Forger, Ph.D., Postdoctoral Scholar, Jewish Studies, Dartmouth College. M.Div. Duke University; M.A. and Ph.D. University of Michigan; ordained Presbyterian Minister.

The lectures will focus on how the Bible, and the figure of Jesus in particular, have often been deployed in an historical and antisemitic ways. From early Christian efforts to divorce the Old Testament from its Jewishness, to the recent use of the Gospel of John in relation to the Tree-of-Life synagogue massacre, the lectures will explore how interpretations of Jesus and the biblical narratives about him have contributed to anti-Jewish sentiments. Particular attention will be paid to how deeper knowledge of the Jewish world into which Jesus was born as well as Jesus’ own message can help to combat such violence.
Join us this spring for fun and faith-filled weekends at Camp Cho-Yeh for CONCLAVES 2020.

Connect with youth from all over our Presbytery, engage in small groups, experience dynamic worship and have a blast playing games and making new friends.

Participant in a youth Mission Project and explore ways to connect with God in our Spirituality Center.

WHO?
- Middle and High School youth and adult advisors
  (Adults must be 21 and older; Ratio 1 adult to 5 youth by gender)

WHERE?
- Cho-Yeh Camp and Conference Center
  Livingston, TX

COST?
- $150 per person
  (includes lodging, meals, all activities and conference t-shirt)

Registration deadline is Friday, January 31, 2020

REGISTRATION PACKET available at: www.pbyofnewcovenant.org
REGISTER ONLINE at: www.campcho-yeh.org/retreats/reservations-and-pricing/conclaves

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”
Philippians 4:13