



RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5000 Southwest Boulevard, Fort Worth, Texas 76116 ♦ (817) 732-3388
www.RIDGLEAPRES.org

January 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR



**THE CHURCH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON
JANUARY 18 IN
OBSERVANCE OF MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY**

10:30 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE - ON ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85680081267?
pwd=Q042RC9rYXF1YlRGZHZ0RUt1L0ZLdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85680081267?pwd=Q042RC9rYXF1YlRGZHZ0RUt1L0ZLdz09)

Meeting ID: 856 8008 1267
Passcode: 390529

January 3, 2021 10:30 AM
January 10, 2021 10:30 AM
January 17, 2021 10:30 AM
January 24, 2021 10:30 AM
January 31, 2021 10:30 AM

JANUARY NEWSLETTERS ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE



**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2021
IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP SERVICE**

**SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 2021
7:00 P.M. (ZOOM)**



PASTOR'S NOTES

Star Light, Star Bright

A few weeks ago, as I was perusing articles on The Atlantic magazine's web page (Atlantic.com, and they have a wonderful mobile app, too), I noticed that they had posted an Advent Calendar: the 2020 Hubble Telescope Advent Calendar. To my surprise, the lead-in indicated that this was the 13th Annual such calendar, and the postings would be from December 1st through the 25th. I am sure that The Atlantic receives well-meaning letters every year explaining that the season of Advent is more than 25 days long, so I was not going to quibble with their concept – particularly since the images are so captivating.

The third day's picture was of Sh2-106, described as "a compact star-forming region in the constellation Cygnus," and the ninth day's entry was of a young nebula whose central star "...is estimated to be no more than 10,000 years old – just a baby in astronomical terms." I highly recommend searching for this site, and reading about the wonderful pictures.

Seeing these images reminded me of a book I had purchased years ago, and which I found on my shelves: Whitney's Star Finder, by Charles A. Whitney. Inside the front cover is a 14-sided polyhedron of the sky, and inside the back cover is a Locator Wheel that helps to identify "every prominent star in the sky at any point on earth." Or, at least that was its purpose from 1990 through 1995, since my edition of the book was printed in October of 1989.

Even as I was wondering about the possibility of the cyclical nature to celestial motion that might make this thirty-year old book relevant, I was also aware that the winter solstice would bring an alignment of both Saturn and Jupiter that had not been witnessed on earth for many, many centuries. Some were making comparisons of this alignment to that of the star which guided the Magi in the gospel story of Matthew 2:1-12. However, as with magazine headlines and mis-understanding the season of Advent, so too the comparison of the Saturn/Jupiter alignment with the "Magi star" of Matthew 2 took liberties with reality.

Anyone lucky enough to see those two planets on December 19 through 23 was aware that their alignment occurred at slightly different times, and in slightly different parts of the sky, on each of those evenings, and it was only on Dec. 21st that they were so close together that they lost significant separation without magnification. In other words, those two planets were really bright and obvious for a few nights, but not anything like what Matthew was trying to describe, which would spur on a journey of hundreds of miles over many weeks and months.

Matthew's story of the Magi is about faith that searches, about faith that travels, about faith that is not limited by borders or boundaries, and about a few other things. Matthew wants us to know about the incarnation – God becoming one with humanity – more than about constellations, planets, or star-forming regions, so Matthew focuses on truth more than detail.

I enjoy looking at the night sky, and seeing pictures of nebulae and galaxies, and pondering the vastness of the universe. On the 17th day of the Hubble Telescope Advent Calendar was a picture of two galaxies (NGC 2799 and NGC 2798) that are in a galactic dance with each other, and which may eventually merge, or may create a unique formation, over the span of *a few hundred million years!!* I continue to be awed by the idea that in the midst of such time and space the Creator of time and space broke into our time and space to provide you and me with the time and space to know and experience and share the grace of time and space of love. The Magi brought more than gifts; they brought the epiphany of divine presence into our world.

Peace,
Roger H.

Making contact...

Ridglea Presbyterian Church is a member of the Presbyterian Church (USA). It is governed by the Session, an elected body composing of elders and pastors. Our committees, led by elders, oversee our ministries. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. Email: Clerk@RidgleaPres.org. Our deacons oversee our ministries of care and compassion. Email: Deacons@RidgleaPres.org

RPC SESSION		
<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>
Julie Ritz	Delaine Godwin	Miriam Gallagher
Butch Saxton	Katrina Little	Gayle Johnson
Tom Sisolak	George Tischler	Nancy Staples
Renee' Stuart	Reeve Van Nostrand	Nick Thoni
<i>Clerk of Session: Karen Landon</i>		

RPC TRUSTEES		
<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>
Ed Chandler	Jean Hadley	Chris Henderson
Susan Everts	Ken Kibler	Susan Maxwell

2020 RPC DEACONS	
Michelle Birdwell	
Lynne Payne	
Ruth Ann Rinewalt	
Jane Johnson—Home Member Care Coordinator	
Dean Phillips – Hospital Care Coordinators	
*Betsy Kibler – Funeral Reception Coordinator	
*Not active Deacon	

RPC FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

<u>Class of 2020</u>	<u>Class of 2021</u>	<u>Class of 2022</u>	<u>Class of 2023</u>	<u>Designee</u>
Ann Shelton	Thylis Chambless	Micky Severson	Beth Duncan (President)	Will Stallworth

Staff

Roger Harwerth, Pastor	roger@ridgleapres.org
Patricia Taber, Office Manager	patricia@ridgleapres.org
Pier Crenshaw, Accountant	pier@ridgleapres.org
John Sauvey, Director of Music Ministries	john@ridgleapres.org
Dale Bench, Organist	dalepipeorgan@sbcglobal.net
Thomas Rodriguez, Church Custodian	building
Church Office #817.732.3388	

Proposed New Leaders

These are names of the folks the Nominating Committee will present to the congregation for your consideration to elect to leadership positions during the annual meeting on January 31, 2021. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

Elders serving 3 years beginning in June 2021

Dale Laforest Wagner Jr. -I was raised in a Baptist /Catholic household, with five brothers and a sister, and was baptized in 1984 at First Baptist Church in Waxahachie, Texas. He has a BA in History from the University of Texas at Arlington and a MA in Military History from Sam Houston State University. In 2003, he decided he wanted to become an educator and he currently works as a Social Studies teacher with the Burleson ISD. He has attended RPC since 2008 and joined the Church in 2012. While attending RPC, he has served as a Youth Advisor and on the Building and Equipment Committee. Dale is married to Mary Beth Wagner, a Fort Worth Police Officer and they have a 5-year-old daughter named Sarah. Dale has served 23 years with the US Navy Reserves and has deployed to the Middle East and Africa.

Mike Strange - grew up in west Fort Worth. Although I attended a Methodist church, I had close ties with RPC as an active member of Pack 26 and Troop 326, where I earned my Eagle Scout award. I remained Methodist until I met and married a great Presbyterian and subsequently joined Ridglea Presbyterian Church in 2002. Between us, we have four wonderful children, four wonderful children in law, and eight wonderful grandchildren.

I practiced medicine in Fort Worth from 1982 to 2010, when I retired. After that, I have “relaxed” and been active in TCU’s Extended Education. Since joining RPC, I have served one term on Session and on multiple committees. I have also served six years on Grace Presbytery’s Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

At this time, I feel a strong call to serve on RPC’s Session and do my best to help guide our church through all the unknowns it is facing and visualize them as opportunities for growth and doing God’s work.

Marji Raunika - grew up in Muskogee, Oklahoma and have been a life-long Presbyterian. We attended Bethany Presbyterian Church, which is now Presbyterian Church of Muskogee. I was active with the church youth group and the music programs there. In High School, I accompanied the children’s choir, played handbells, and sang in the chancel choir.

I attended Forest Hill Presbyterian Church when I first moved to Fort Worth. The minister at the time, Patrick McCoy, and his wife Becky were from Muskogee! Patrick’s mother was my 5th grade teacher and Becky’s family were members of Bethany. Her younger brother Tom and I were the same age.

I joined Ridglea Presbyterian Church around 1997. My husband of 33 years, Bob Ballard, joined Ridglea some years ago and our son, Kevin, grew up at Ridglea. Many years ago, I served on the Outreach Committee. I also served a partial term as Deacon. I loved being a member of the chancel choir and I joined the handbell choir this year.

I retired from Lockheed Martin this in January 2020. I attended the Women’s retreat for the last two years and recently joined Women’s Circle 1. It has been a joy to get to know so many of the women at Ridglea. My favorite Bible verses are Matthew 7-8 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

Susan Everts - is a retired Special Education Teacher/Educational Diagnostician, has been a member of RPC since her early days of teaching, fresh out of Texas Christian University. She is a long term pre-school Sunday School teacher and "Acolyte Wrangler." She has also served RPC as a Deacon and enthusiastic Vacation Bible School worker as well as serving on various other committees. Susan and her husband Frank married and raised their three daughters, Rosemary, Hillary, and Emily at RPC.

Proposed New Leaders **(continued)**

Deacons serving 3 year terms

Jean Godfrey - grew up in Houston and was a member of Bellaire Methodist Church. I became a Presbyterian a few years after Jim and I married. We joined RPC when we moved to Fort Worth in 1995. We have a son and daughter and three grandchildren. Our two grandchildren, Mandy and Gavin who live in Weatherford , have been active members of RPC for many years. I graduated from Lamar University with a B.S. in education and taught school in Houston and Jacksonville. We were members of First Presbyterian Church in Jacksonville for 21 years , and I taught Sunday school there for many years. Since we have been members of Ridglea, I have taught Pre- school Sunday school and been treasurer of PWR. I have also served on the Finance and Budget committee and served as a Deacon.

Kathryn (Kit) Van Nostrand - grew up in Saint John's Methodist Church (Davenport, Iowa) accepting Jesus Christ as savior in 1960. She joined Houston's Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in 1991 and transferred her membership to Grace Presbyterian Church in 1998. After moving to Fort Worth she and husband Reeve joined Ridglea Presbyterian Church in 2018.

Kit and Reeve have four children: Laura Nelson resides in Fort Worth, Jessica Van Nostrand resides in Maplewood, New Jersey, Julie Harding resides in Fort Worth, and Christopher Van Nostrand resides in El Cerrito, California. Six of her ten grandchildren live in Fort Worth.

Kit graduated from Texas Tech University with a Bachelors in Business Administration (Management and Marketing) and a minor in Home Economics. Her career originated as a Retail Buyer for Sears and then for Foley's. She left retailing for a 25 year career in commercial real estate acquisition, leasing and management. For 7 years she worked as an ADA Administrator enforcing Federal accessibility standards.

Retirement has allowed her time to enjoy volunteering, traveling, crafts, sewing, baking, walking with friends and most importantly time with her family. She finds RPC to be a very caring community and looks forward serving as a Deacon.

At-Large (For Nomination Committee)

Beth Duncan - grew up in Florida and earned her BS in Industrial Engineering at the University of South Florida. She went on to earn her MBA at Aston University in Birmingham, England. Beth was baptized in the Catholic Church and was raised and confirmed in the Episcopal Church. After marrying Paul, (who was raised in the Baptist Church) they embarked on a search to find a church home that was a good fit for both of them. They agreed on Presbyterian and joined Faith Presbyterian in Huber Heights, Ohio. Paul's Air Force career led to several moves, including 2 1/2 years in Misawa, Japan. Beth first joined RPC in 2000. After moving to Marietta, GA and then back to Aledo she rejoined Ridglea in 2006. She previously served as an ordained elder in another congregation and is currently the President of the Board of Directors of the RPC Foundation. Beth also serves on the Cristian Education team, volunteers with the Youth, and serves on the Relocation Central Commission.



Presbyterian Women

JANUARY 2021

Before we look head to 2021, PWR would like to look back and give “thanks”.

First, to all the crafters who used their talents to bring smiles to many faces. Oohs and Aahs were heard from all over Fort Worth as the Christmas Angels were delivered. A few happy tears were shed. One senior center, The Good Life, took a picture to place on their website.

Second, to all of you who supported “Just Bring It” and other projects we engaged in this year.

Third, to a very special member. Miriam Gallagher has been running the prayer chain for many years. She has heard our sorrows, joys, and concerns. Now she is passing on that “joy” to another so she can support some new adventures. Thank you Miriam, for your faithful service all these years.

Last, but not least, thanks to Ruth Ann Rinewalt who volunteered to step in to be the new chairperson.

Looking ahead, we are continuing our timely study Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament.

Circles will be meeting in January

Circle One:	January 12	10:30 a.m. Zoom
Circle Two:	January 12	Church
Circle Three :	January 5	7:00 p.m. Zoom

January’s “Just Bring It” - January

We are proud to again help the Center for Transforming Lives. They would love to have new pre-school books for their nursery and children under their care.

SAVE THE DATE—MARCH 5 & 6— ANNUAL WOMEN’S RETREAT

Various workshops will be zooming that Friday night and during the day Saturday. More information coming:

All Women, Always Welcomed

BIBLE STUDY - MISSION - FELLOWSHIP



- ♦ We Welcome
- ♦ We Witness
- ♦ We Work (and play!)

Putting faith in action is what we do!



PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER
of Tarrant County

Providing safety and hope since 1984

Please help us help others!!

There are sign ups for sandwich makers for
the
Presbyterian Night Shelter in the hallway on
the

bulletin board with the Flower Calendar.

If you have any questions, please contact

Nancy Aprilant

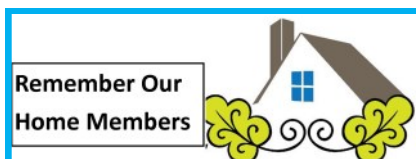
nAprilant@charter.net



Wednesday mornings at 8:00 a.m.
Sanctuary

Facebook Update

Pastor Roger mentioned the update of Ridglea's web-site, and we also want to share some additions to one of our Facebook pages. In addition to week-day devotionals on Ridglea's home page (Ridglea Presbyterian Church), Pastor Roger has begun to post mid-week devotionals for families on the **Ridglea Children and Youth** page. These 5-8 minute videos share a couple of verses of scripture, a bit of reflection, and a brief closing prayer. Since they are on screen it is easy for adults and children to pause and chat about the verses before listening to the reflection, and then share in the closing prayer. The primary resource for these devotionals is *Making Time for God*, copyright 2002; Baker House Publishing. Check them out, rainbow trout!



The Care Committee wishes to encourage the congregation to send a note, a card, or make a phone call to a Home Member to brighten their day, since visitors are not allowed at this time. For a Home Member's contact information, please call either Jane Johnson @ 817-307-9776 or Betsy Kibler @ 817-560-3141.

☺ Thank you for reaching out to our Home Members! The Care Committee

Pastoral Installation



The formal installation of Pastor Roger Harwerth
Sunday, January 24, 2021, 4:00 p.m.
Ridglea Presbyterian Church

Zoom links will be provided in the weekly email newsletters

January “Just Bring It”



We are proud to again help the Center for Transforming Lives. They would love to have new pre-school books for their nursery and children under their care.

The Jam Sessions for January will be on Monday, January 11th and 25th, in the Sanctuary from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Lots of bluegrass, folk, Americana and country music is shared with acoustic (unamplified) instruments. Musicians of all skills are encouraged!



RPC Youth & Children's News.....

Ridglea Presbyterian Church CHILDREN AND YOUTH 2021 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



January 3 -- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
January 10 -- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
January 17 -- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
January 24 -- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
January 31-- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom

ZOOM links are provided by your teacher.



Sign up for Covid Vaccine

<https://tcph.quickbase.com/db/bq3q4uet8?prfry=1>

Session Meeting Notes for December 17, 2020

- The RPC regular stated session meeting took place on Thursday, December 17, 2020, using the Zoom video conferencing application. The Reverend Roger Harwerth moderated the meeting. Members of the Session and guests to the meeting remotely accessed the meeting.
- The minutes of the November 19, 2020 Stated Session meeting and the November 2020 Financial Statement were approved.
- A list of nominees for the 2 open positions on the RPC Foundation Board of Directors was presented to the session and approved. The nominees will be presented at the annual meeting of the congregation on January 31, 2020.
- The Clerk shared correspondence from Grace Presbytery. Rev. Mike Thompson, who has served as Grace's interim general presbyter since October 1, 2019, will end his service on December 31, 2020. Rev. Dr. Stephen A. Shive will begin serving as interim general presbyter beginning January 15, 2021. Rev. Dr. Shive currently serves as general presbyter for the Presbytery of Wyoming.
- The Clerk thanked the RPC committee chairs for providing the required documents that are to be included in the session minutes each year, and reminded the chairpersons to complete their annual committee reports (which will be included in the 2020 Session Minutes) by January 5, 2021.
- The Personnel Committee is continuing efforts in the search to fill the position of Director of Youth Ministries. Annual RPC staff reviews are in progress and should be completed by the end of the year.
- The Finance & Budget Committee presented the RPC budget for 2021. The budget was approved by the session.
- The Finance & Budget Committee recommended the purchase of new office computers with related equipment and service contracts. The purchase was approved by the session.
- The Nominations Committee submitted recommendations for Trustees, Deacons, Elders, and the At-Large Nominating Committee Member. These nominees will be presented at the annual congregational meeting in January.
- The next stated session meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

Service Session Work Group:

Primary task is to provide for the service of the people of God, focusing on the external life of the church.

1st Monday of the Month (*as needed*)

January 4 , 2021

Ministry Teams meetings

- **Outreach Team: Focus on Mission**
Marsha West, Chair (*6:00 p.m.*)

3rd Wednesday of the Month

January 20, 2021

- **Commitment Focus on Guests**

Katrina Little, Chair
(*as needed*)

1st Tuesday of the Month

January 5, 2021

Ministry Team meeting at 10:30 a.m.

- **Care Team: Focus on Members**
Betsy Kibler, Chair (*as needed*)

2nd Wednesday of the month

January 13, 2021

- **Worship Team: Delaine Godwin , Chair**
(*as needed*)

Worship & Nurture Work Group:

Primary task is to provide for the service of the people of God, focusing on the internal life of the church.

2nd Tuesday of the Month

January 12 , 2021

Ministry Teams meeting

- **Christian Education:** *Julie Ritz, Chair*
(*6:15 pm*)
- **Fellowship Team:** *Bill Long, Chair; Butch Saxton, Vice Chair* (*as needed*)

3rd Tuesday of the week

Session Meeting week

Ministry Team meeting

- **Finance & Budget, Ken Kibler**
(*5:30 pm*) (*as needed*)

**YOUR SESSION INVITES YOU TO
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS:**

1. **FIND YOUR PASSION**
2. **FIND YOUR MINISTRY TEAM**
3. **IDENTIFY YOUR MEETING NIGHT**
4. **GET INVOLVED!**

Government Session Work Group:

Primary task is to provide support & resources for the church.

2nd Thursday of the Month

January 14, 2021

Ministry Teams meeting

- **Building & Equipment** (*as needed*)
George Tischler & John Godwin, Co-Chairs
- **Personnel** (*as needed*)
Blythe Lee, Chair and Julie Ritz
- **Clerk of Session**
Karen Landon

Session Meeting
January 21, 2021 7:00 pm

January Birthdays

Adrian Cleworth	1	1
Joy Key	1	2
Amber Birdwell	1	2
Michael Bo Birdwell	1	4
Karen O'Dell	1	7
Bett Hammons	1	12
Nancy Marchant	1	12
Bob Brennand	1	15
Betsy Kibler	1	18
Marsha West	1	21
Jared Welch	1	21
Bill Morris	1	23
Dean Phillips	1	25
Kaiti Severson	1	28
Charlett G Long	1	28
Rita Margarida Ferreira	1	28
Reagan Henderson	1	31



The next
newsletter
deadline
will be
January 21, 2021
at noon.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5000 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116