



RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

December, 2020



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

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88931401038?pwd=YTI2THh5d0N4V3JQSEwxZmt6Z0NIZz09>

Meeting ID: 889 3140 1038 Passcode: 673029

December 6, 2020	10:30 AM
December 13, 2020	10:30 AM
December 20, 2020	10:30 AM
December 27, 2020	10:30 AM

ADVENT



November 29, 2020 —
December 24, 2020

DECEMBER NEWSLETTERS ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

**SESSION MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020
7:00 P.M. (ZOOM)**



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

November 29—December 20

PASTOR'S NOTES

The Second Christmas



Almost everywhere Brenda and I have lived I found a way to create a compost area in our back yard. One of the rare exceptions was in the Seattle area, because the house we were renting had a tiny, highly-landscaped yard. However, Newport Presbyterian, where I was serving, had a substantial “community garden” and some wonderful flower beds, so I encouraged the creation of a compost area.

We are currently in a neighborhood, and a house, with lots of trees, and a yard that needs weekly attention, so creating a compost pile for grass clippings, leaves, and a bit of household detritus (coffee grounds, potato peels, onion skins, etcetera) took no time at all.

About a week ago I was on the back porch, wondering how many more times I would need to mow the grass and gather leaves, when I noticed a couple of squirrels chasing each other around the base of the compost pile. After a few moments it sounded like a couple of voices saying “you ask him” and “no way, you ask him, because it’s your question!” and I turned very slowly and noticed two bright-red cardinals perched on a decorative wrought iron porch column. As my shoulders slowly caught up with my neck, and I continued to turn toward those voices, a couple of female cardinals, muted in their brown plumage, flitted onto the euonymous bush behind the males, and it sounded like one of the females asked “What did he say? Did he tell you?”

I’m sure I looked surprised, standing there on the back porch, trying not to stare at those birds. Just as I realized that the squirrels had stopped chasing each other, one of the male cardinals said, quite clearly, that he hoped I could help explain the season of Advent, particularly to all of the wrens. Out of the corner of my eye I noticed some wrens on the chain-link fence, and rustling just over my shoulder on the other edge of the patio.

That same cardinal said that the wrens had never heard of Advent, because it was not part of their tradition, and the cardinals were having a hard time explaining. The wrens thought that December was just one big buildup for Christmas – the shepherds, the baby, the star, the shopping, the sales, the parties, the presents under the trees. The cardinals had been trying to explain the importance of Advent, but didn’t seem to be saying the right things. That’s when one of the females said “We know that Advent is important, we are just having some trouble explaining how.” “Or why?” remarked the other female.

Then the red male said “So, can you tell the wrens, in one sentence, what the significance of Advent is, and how it relates to Christmas?” Then he whispered “Remember, they are wrens, so don’t use big words, and keep it short.”

I started to say that Advent is to Christmas what Lent is to Easter, but I realized that wrens may not know much about Lent, so instead, I tried this: “well, Advent is about being aware of the future, being prepared for the future, anticipating the future, even as the season acknowledges the significance of the past.” The wrens all had little blank stares, and the cardinals were rolling their eyes. “I mean,” I started again, “Advent is about the second Christmas, the return of Jesus, while getting ready to celebrate the first Christmas.”

Suddenly all the wrens said “Oooohhhh!” and even the squirrels seemed to understand. The cardinals seemed pleased, and the male said, “Thank you very much. We were also wondering – CAT!” he yelled and instantly every bird was up and gone. I looked around but didn’t see a cat anywhere. I waited, thinking perhaps the birds might return, but they didn’t. The whole conversation couldn’t have lasted more than a few minutes, and it almost seemed like a daydream. Then, the breeze picked up and leaves began skittering across the grass. I will be gathering those leaves into the compost pile not too long from now, and the bottom of that pile should be ready right about next Easter.

Have a happy Advent, and a Merry Christmas!

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	



We may not hear them singing songs of Christmas, but a “choir” of angels has arrived at Ridglea Presbyterian. Over thirty hymnal angels were made by members of our congregation. The angels will be delivered the first week of December to both our home members and members of the Fish Class to give these very special people some holiday cheer. After folding the hymnal pages to form both the wings and the skirts, heads were attached and the angels were embellished. All took on their own personalities while they were created by our dedicated workers.

Thank you to those who took the time and effort to make these special remembrances of the holidays. Those who participated in making these gifts from their hearts were:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Michelle Birdwell | Lilia Briseno | Thylis Chambless |
| Laura Saxton | Andi Ferreira | Mary Fisher |
| Jean Godfrey | Chris Shahan | Delaine Godwin |
| Brenda Harwerth | Roger Harwerth | Jackie Stevens |
| Jan Henckell | Jane Johnson | Betsy Kibler |
| Renee Stuart | Katrina Little | Glenda Long |
| Ellie McIntyre | JoAnn Van Oosterhout | Nancy Marchant |
| Jeanne Owens | Lynne Payne | Marsha West |
| Marji Rauniker | Lorane Rea | Julie Ritz |
| Mac Zimmerman | | |



Thanks so much to everyone who participated in the Christmas Stocking project for Presbyterian Children’s Home and Services. The generosity and caring of RPC families allowed us to fill 35 stockings with colorful, fun, and useful items sure to bring joy to children’s faces on Christmas morning.



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!



Advent Wreaths

The Christian Education team is providing Advent wreath kits for all our church families with children and youth.

The season of Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation as we look forward to celebrating the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Sunday, November 29th, was the first Sunday of Advent. Our Advent wreath is already set up in the Sanctuary and we will light our Advent candles each Sunday morning during our streamed services. To make it more personal, and perhaps a little more real for children, we encourage families to celebrate Advent at home. We hope you will find this Advent wreath and calendar useful to guide your family preparations throughout this Advent season.

Look for your Advent wreath kit to be delivered this week.

Some Thoughts on Giving *

We may want to tiptoe around the issue of money and giving; we are uncomfortable with it. Jesus, however, reminds us that it is an issue of the heart. He says in Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

We should give to please God. In doing so find we may find our greatest joy.

In 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, Paul tells us "The point is this: the one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.

The Greek word for *cheerful* that Paul uses is the same word from which we get *hilarious*. This is the only use of this word in the Bible. The word connotes overflowing, joyful, and yes, hilarious giving. Giving should be one of our greatest joys.

Paul says that we should give as we have made up our mind (or perhaps we might say as we have decided in our heart). God does not need our money. He has created everything, is creating now, and will always be creating. While we should try not to make foolish decisions, we often limit our giving by what we think is possible. Why not give as if God really is in charge of what we have? Just give. No organization to which we give is perfect; our church is not perfect. Just give with joy and let God will take care of the rest. He loves a cheerful giver.

Just say I will give. And do it.

*Liberal borrowed from *I Could. I Might. I Can. I Should. I Will! (Nine Traits of the Outwardly Focused Christian)*, by Thom S. Rainer

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

Remember Our
Home Members



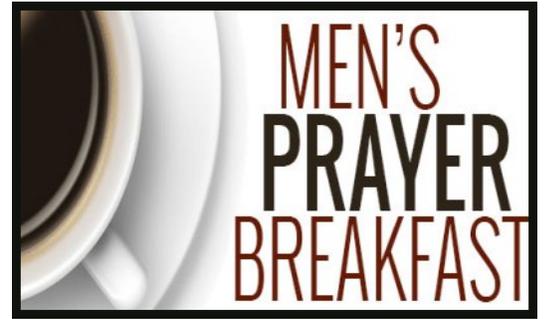


PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTER
of Tarrant County

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
**NO BREAKFAST ON
DECEMBER 23**

Presbyterian Night Shelter



DECEMBER 4, 2020

THIS YEAR'S GALA WILL BE A
VIRTUAL EVENT



Our Silent Auction is Now Open!

Let the bidding begin!

The 2020 Home for the Holidays Virtual Gala silent auction is now open; we have over 50 incredible packages available to bid on - check out some of the highlights below!



Round of Golf for 4 at Colonial

Enjoy a round of golf for 4 at the beautiful Colonial Country Club golf course. Kick back while you golf with a case of local favorite Wild Acre Beer. Date and time must comply with Colonial Country Club guest policy



King of the Backyard BBQ

- You will be king of the backyard BBQ with this EPIC package, including: Coyote Asado Cooker (\$1000 value)
- Private, 4-hour grilling class with BBQ pit master Sean McNallie
- \$100 gift card to The Meat Board The Gospel Meat Church Rub



Private Dinner for 6

Enjoy a private dinner for six at either Bonnell's Fine Texas Cuisine or Waters. Includes wine pairing by Chef Bonnell.

New Do - New You!

Look and feel fresh with a haircut and skin treatment from ZeeBa Salon. Treat yourself to lunch afterwards at La Madeline. Includes:



- \$100 gift card with Ann Gunter, Stylist and Color Specialist
- \$100 gift card with Erika, who specializes in sensitive skin issues
- \$75 in salon products
- \$150 La Madeline gift card

Questions? Contact Director of Communications,
Michael Handley
817-632-7477
mhandley@journeyhome.org

RAFFLE

YOU HAVE THE CHANCE TO WIN:

How you can win?
Purchase a raffle ticket at our event website below - the more you buy, the greater your chances of winning!

Tickets are only
\$25 each, or
5 for \$100.

To find out more visit
<https://PNS2020Gala.givesmart.com>

A BEAUTIFUL
LOUIS VUITTON
PURSE



YETI
A YETI COOLER | FILLED WITH YOUR FAVORITE BOOZE

A WINE WAGON
FULL OF CAREFULLY SELECTED WINE FROM PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT SHELTERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Presbyterian Women

DECEMBER, 2020

If you need another reminder that Christmas is just around the corner, check out the pile of holiday stockings at the church. Filled to overflowing with surprises for the youth at Presbyterian Children's Home and Families, they are bound to bring smiles and joy. Thank you, all, who stuffed a stocking or donated money, or items to help.

December's "Just Bring It" will go to Presbyterian Night Shelter who could use small size toiletries and soap, along with cough drops, Advil and Tylenol.

The beautiful hymnal angels our PW ladies made will also be delivered this month to our Home Members. Thank you all. Your efforts make a difference.

Presbyterian Women's magazine, Horizons, has again received recognition from the Associated Church Press in their 2019 Best of the Church Press awards competition. Last year's bible study Love Carved in Stone by Eugenia Gamble won an Award of Excellence. They commented it was "A very useful resource with fresh insights". Two other articles and our birthday offering materials were honored.

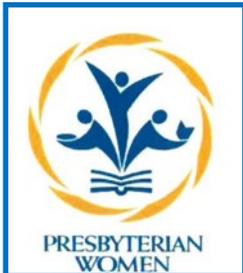
Circles will be meeting in December

Circle One:	December 8	10:30 a.m. Zoom
Circle Two:	December 8	Church
Circle Three :	December 1	7:00 p.m. Zoom

As we close 2020, we turn to the words of Helen Steiner Rice:

"For in seeking Peace for All People
There is only one place to begin
And that is in each Home and Heart —
For the Fortress of Peace is Within"

All Women, Always Welcomed
BIBLE STUDY - MISSION - FELLOWSHIP



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

Putting faith in action is what we do!

December "Just Bring It" will be items for the Presbyterian Night Shelter. Health concerns are at the forefront this winter for our homeless neighbors, and the PNS is working hard to keep folks safe and strong. Our JBI requests are a bit simpler this month — hope everyone can participate! Just stop by the church and drop in some of the following:

**Sample/hotel size toiletries/soap
Cough Drops
Advil/Tylenol**

The Presbyterian Night Shelter was started by Ridglea Presbyterian and other churches as an overnight shelter for men, women and children struggling with homelessness in Tarrant County. Today, this service continues, while also providing spiritual guidance for those who seek it. And while the overnight emergency shelter services are still available to anyone who needs them, PNS is equally focused on helping guests find their own permanent housing.

Collaboration between the Care Committee and Commitment Committee put smiles on our member faces that do not get to watch or listen to our church service. Some have not been able to watch since we last met in person. Special signs were made to either put in their yards or hang on their doors. The signs were to let them know how much we love and miss them. The signs were either hand delivered or mailed. Hopefully, we will all be back together soon.



The Jam Session for December will be on Monday, the 14th, 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 2020 SUNDAY SCHOOL CALENDAR



December 6-- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
December 13-- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
December 20-- Sunday school Pre-K-1st grade 9:30 a.m. 5th -12th grade 4:00 p.m. on Zoom
December 27 --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.



Poinsettias were lovingly purchased in memory of, in celebration of and in honor of the following:

Thylis Chambless	In Memory of:
Gary Guly	My husband, Tom Chambless
Jeanne Owens	Garrett Guly, Jr., Buddy & Winnie Guly, Pete & Elsie Nicol
	My husband, Gerald, and loved ones
Marsha & Bob West	In Honor of:
Gary Guly	Our church family
	The Fish Class
Gary Guly	In Celebration of:
	Pastor Roger and Brenda Harwerth



“Presbyterian Women of Ridglea would like to thank all of those who donated to the Thank Offering in November. A total of \$670.00 was donated to help fund programs in the areas of health, education, economic development and the needs of women and children.”

Session Meeting Notes for November 19, 2020

- The RPC regular stated session meeting took place on Thursday, November 19, 2020, using the Zoom video conferencing application. The Reverend Roger Harwerth moderated the meeting from his office. Members of the Session and guests to the meeting remotely accessed the meeting. All elders were in attendance at the meeting.
- The minutes of the October 22, 2020 Stated Session meeting and the October 2020 Financial Statement were approved.
- An RPC Manual of Operations was approved. A copy of the manual is located in the church office.
- The Clerk commended the RPC committees and chairs for faithfully submitting all documents required by the Book of Order in the Session Minutes for 2020. When Session Minutes are reviewed each year at the February Presbytery Meeting, there are 39 criteria that are required to be included in the minutes for the previous year. RPC is on track to have 100% of these criteria met by the end of 2020.
- The Personnel Committee is beginning efforts in the search to fill the position of Director of Youth Ministries.
- The Building & Equipment Committee is working to finish getting bids for the roof repair on the older portion of the building by the end of the month.
- The Finance & Budget Committee is working on the preliminary budget for 2021. Pledges for 2021 have not yet been received by many who pledged in 2020. Elders will reach out to these individuals and families and remind them to submit a pledge for next year.
- The Worship Committee is planning one worship service for Christmas Eve at 7:00 p.m. on December 24th. The installation service for Rev. Harwerth is planned for January 24, 2021. The session approved the dates for the Celebration of Communion in 2021.
- A Zimbelstern has been purchased and is being installed on the chapel organ. A Zimbelstern is a “toy” organ stop consisting of a metal or wooden star or wheel on which several small bells are mounted. When engaged, the star rotates, producing a continuous tinkling sound.
- The next stated session meeting will be Thursday, December 17, 2020, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom video conference.

RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
DRIVE IN MOVIE



Drive-In Movie

Mark your calendar! We will be hosting a drive-in movie in our parking lot! When: Saturday, December 19th at 6:30 pm. Movie: TBD (a family friendly Christmas movie) Plan to join us for a fun and safely distanced evening!

More Info coming soon.




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)*

December 7, 2020

Ministry Teams meetings

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

3rd Wednesday of the Month

December 16, 2020

- Commitment Focus on Guests

Katrina Little, Chair
(as needed)

1st Tuesday of the Month

December 1, 2020

Ministry Team meeting at 10:30 a.m.

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

2nd Wednesday of the month

December 9, 2020

- 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

December 8, 2020

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

December 10, 2020

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
December 17, 2020 7:00 pm

December Birthdays

Nereyda Sabido	12	1
Sara Carpenter	12	2
Wanda Delulio	12	4
Kathy Doty	12	6
Bailey Martin	12	6
Jeff Sills	12	7
Ivey Ramsey	12	9
Mary Fisher	12	10
Myra Marrow	12	10
Ransom Lockhart	12	10
Paul Morrison	12	13
Marsha Dueease	12	14
Robin Roberts	12	17
Barbara Dorman	12	18
Claire Dearman	12	21
Jeanne Owens	12	21
Kathy Bales	12	22
Alisha Dunkin	12	22
Billye Kane	12	23
Hannah Severson	12	23
Miriam Gallagher	12	24
Ruth De La Rosa	12	24
Beth Duncan	12	25
George Sloan	12	26
Paul Duncan	12	27
Aubrey Henderson	12	27
Micky Severson	12	29
Glen Walker	12	30
John Bacon	12	31



The next
newsletter
deadline

will be

December 17,
2020 at noon.

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

RIDGLEA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5000 SOUTHWEST BOULEVARD
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76116