

# FIRST THINGS FIRST

A publication of  
The First Presbyterian Church  
of Kingsville, Texas

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*April 30, 2008*

*Recently I spent 4½ hours in a hospital holding cubicle with one of my parishioners. She was awaiting surgery, which was obviously moved back several times. Every once in a while we would glance up at the clock and make some comment about the delay and the passing of time. But no matter how much we wished for the wait to be over, the hands on the clock just kept slowly ticking off the minutes and the hours.*

*During the time in the cubicle, I noticed some other hands in motion:*

- \* The gentle hands of an RN (fittingly named “Joy”) as she deftly inserted an IV needle on her first attempt in the left arm of the patient, an admitted “difficult stick.”*
- \* The competent hands of the RN whose task it was to ask millions of questions and correctly write down the answers.*
- \* The skilled hands of the doctors as several of them came in to examine the patient before surgery.*
- \* The strong hands of an orderly as she transferred the patient to a surgical gurney.*
- \* And finally, her hands and mine clasped together in prayer before going into surgery.*

*But the hands that gave us the most comfort were hands that never moved during the extended wait. They were the outstretched hands on the crucifix hanging just above the clock. Even on the cross, Jesus Christ was extending peace to all who entered that little room. His hands served as a reminder that, even though the surgeons would be performing the actual operation, he was the Great Physician who would be guiding their hands and bringing about healing and wholeness to her. And, thanks be to Him, when the proper time finally arrived and the wait was over, he did just that.*

***“But he was wounded for our transgressions, crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the punishment that made us whole, and by his bruises we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5).***

***Shalom,***

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MARGINAL NOTES:

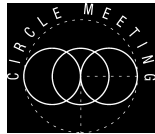
Sometimes all a person needs  
is a hand to hold and  
a heart to understand.

*It is such a comfort  
to drop the tangles of life  
into God’s hands  
and leave them there.*

*It is said that time  
heals all wounds.  
That’s a lie. Time  
doesn’t heal squat!  
It is God who works in and  
through time and all eternity  
who heals our wounds.  
— Chuck Miller*

As we practice the work  
of forgiveness, we  
discover more and more  
that forgiveness and  
healing are one.  
— Agnes Sanford

The only way to keep  
your health is to  
eat what you don’t want,  
drink what you don’t like,  
and do what you’d rather not.  
— Mark Twain



Hospital, Corpus Christi (Released)

\* \* \* \* \*

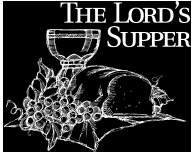
*The THURSDAY NOON CIRCLE will  
hold its brown-bag lunch meeting on May  
1 at 11:30 a.m in Fellowship Hall.*

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**MARY TRUITT** - The Heart Hospital -  
Bay Area Medical Center, Corpus  
Christi.(Released)

**RILEY SCOTT WRIGHT** - Bay Area  
Medical Center, Corpus Christi  
(Released)

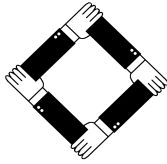
**COLETTE OGDEN** - Spohn-South



The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated as part of the Morning Worship Service on May 4.

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The **ECUMENICAL BRIDGE GROUP** will meet on Sunday, May 4 at 7:00 p.m. in the Parlor.



The **DIACONATE** will meet on Tuesday, May 6, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Please pick up your information packets from the table in the Narthex following the Sunday morning worship service on May 4.

April has proven to be a difficult month in the life of our church family. During this month, three people have transferred from this life into eternal glory: **GORDON KINSEY** (April 18), son of Monta Fae and Lewis; **JANICE BRIDGERS** (April 18), member of our church from 1945 until her move to Castroville in 1993; and **HAZEL KRAMME** (April 28), a member since 1934.

A memorial service was held for **Gordon** on April 21<sup>st</sup> in our sanctuary. A

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The **SESSION** will meet on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Library. Please pick up your information packets from the table in the Narthex following the Sunday morning worship service on May 11.

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*You will not want to miss church on May 11! Even if it is a beautiful day and you want to go to the beach, resist the temptation and be here at 11:00 a.m. Not only is it Mother's Day and Pentecost, it is also **YOUTH SUNDAY!!** The young people of our church will once again be leading us in worship and praise. As in the past, we will be privileged to see in just what good hands the future of our church rests. So, plan to be here for an inspirational time of celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ in a more youthful manner.*

graveside service for **Janice** was held at the cemetery in Fowlerton, TX on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

A funeral service will be held for **Hazel** in our sanctuary this Friday at 1:00 p.m. Until her death Monday at the age of 89, Hazel had been our member of longest standing . . . 74 years! Besides her love and service to our church, Hazel was also a devoted member of the Eastern Star.

*Please continue to lift up in prayer the families of these departed ones.*

Fifty days after the Resurrection, the first Christians, most of them Jews, gathered to celebrate the Jewish harvest festival known as Pentecost.

At that gathering something happened that was so awesome and indescribable that when writing about it, St. Luke could only use metaphors. A sound like the rush of a violent wind seemed to fill the entire house where they were meeting. Something like tongues of fire appeared among them - a tongue rested on each of them.

It was then that they "were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability" (Acts 2:4). The crowd that gathered outside was amazed and perplexed. They wanted to know what it meant. Some observers thought it was a gathering of drunks.

But Peter interpreted it all correctly to

anyone who would listen. He told of Christ, his life, his mission, his death and his Resurrection. Most importantly, Peter explained that God had made Jesus both Lord and Messiah. The proof of that was the Resurrection.

Three thousand people were so moved by Peter's words that they were baptized that day and "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42).

"And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). The Church was born that day.

This year, Pentecost falls on May 11. Please remember to WEAR RED that day in celebration of the birthday of the Church!



## **Birthdays**

**2** Tom Langschied

**4** Hilda Rodriguez Lopez

**5** Jodi Daly  
Brenda Melendy

**7** Betty Overton

**10** Michael Ogden

**13** Lucy Elizabeth Russell

**14** Patsy Stewart

**16** Carole Geddes

**22** Mattie Gaston  
Corky Peacock  
Nancy Kingsanders

**24** Carmen Gonzales

## **MAY ANNIVERSARIES:**

**10** Hal & Misty D'Amico (Misty Henry) (2003)

**19** Randy & Debbie Branstetter (2001)

**20** Bert & Rose Alvarez (1961)

If your May birthday or anniversary is not shown, please call the church office (592-2114) so we can include you on our list and not miss the big event next year. We want to celebrate with you whether you are an "official" church member or not!

Julia Nicole Hall  
Eric Nave

**27** Sarah Henry Deterling

**31** Will Nave

Flower: Lily of the Valley  
Birthstone: Emerald