

Hooray for Back to (Day) School!

Martha Sherrod

Happy New Year!!! New School Year that is 😊 Our Fall semester has started in fine style. With all safety protocols in place, we have welcomed back many returning families and several new families.

Our beginning of the year theme is **Colorful Crayons**. Cute, right? Well, let's look closer at what a box of Crayons can teach us.

*If each Crayon could speak they would say: I'm Colorful!

I'm Vibrant!

I'm Unique!

I'm Bright!

I'm Sharp!



What a great message to teach our kids!

One of my favorite children's books is *The Crayon Box That Talked* by Shane DeRolf. Here is the ending of the story:

Colors changing as they touched, becoming something new.

They watched me as I colored, they watched till I was through.

And when I finally finished, I began to walk away.

And as I did, the Crayon box had something more to say.

"We are a box of Crayons, each one of us unique,

But when we get together, the picture is complete!"

Isn't that the truth! When we come together, we are better because all our gifts make the world a better place.

*Here is a Bible verse that one of our teachers has on her bulletin board:

"I praise You for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.

Wonderful are our works; that I know very well." Psalm 139:14

Teaching children how precious they are in God's sight and to appreciate the uniqueness of others...that is what we are all about!!!

All safety protocols remain in place. All staff are wearing masks at all times. Temperature checks for all staff before they enter. Sanitation of rooms, toys and materials several times a day.

We have spaces open for enrollment! If you know of any family looking for high-quality faith-based child care, please have them call!

Even though we cannot allow visitors into the Day School at this time, we appreciate all your prayers and support of your Day School!!!

Keeping in Touch While We're Distant

Bob and Gayle Lord in Summer 2020

We bought a house! On the river! In downtown San Antonio! Bob and I have always dreamed about living downtown, walking to our neighborhood coffee shop, and riding our bikes to festivals. However, that was an “in retirement” dream, which is still a few years away. Then in May, our realtor showed us one of those once-in-a-lifetime finds, and we took the leap! It seemed a little crazy to buy a fixer-upper (and she is!) during a pandemic, but guess what? I think the old girl has saved us. Now we spend our weekends combing the internet for more history on the original owners, shopping for tile and countertops, and trying out paint colors on cabinets and dry wall that will go away anyway during demo. The most recent news is that the San Antonio Historical Society has blessed our renovation plans, which is more evidence that God is in her heaven and she loves us. Our address won't change anytime soon as there is MUCH to do to make our little Queen Anne cottage livable. But SOME DAY there will be a heck of a party and y'all are invited!



We have our first grandchild! Sawyer Elijah Reed was born in Lexington, KY to Bob's daughter Shelby and her husband Jordan on July 14th. And on August 14th, we got to meet him. WOW – he is so much fun already! And it's amazing how when they first put him in your arms you tense up like you're holding a vase from the Ming Dynasty, and then in a matter of hours your cooing to him and burping him like you cuddle babies for a living! Expect photos – we are those people now!

We hosted Hurricane Laura refugees! One of my colleagues and her husband live in League City, TX, and for a while, it looked like their home might seriously be at risk. So they high-tailed it to SA with their four cats (you read that correctly!). Although there were challenges as all four of the humans navigated simultaneous Zoom meetings with limited bandwidth, they were wonderful houseguests. They cooked dinner for us every night, paired the food with amazing wine (the husband is not only an ACTUAL rocket scientist for NASA, but also a sommelier!), and even brought along a murder mystery which kept us thoroughly entertained.

Bottom line - we are so blessed. We cannot WAIT for the world to be huggable again. Sending virtual ones to you all.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Saturday Circle
Horizons Bible Study
*Into the Light: Finding Hope
through Prayers of Lament*
Saturday, Sept 19, 9:30 am
contact Elizabeth Hewins for
the Zoom link

Evening Circle
*Life Lessons From 1 & 2
Thessalonians*
by Max Lucado
Monday, Sept 14, 7:00 pm
contact Sherryl Walsh for the
Zoom link

In Case You Missed It in eNotes



**Shop Produce from
River City
Farmer's Market**

Day School parking lot
Wednesday, Sept 9
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm.
All are invited!

Contemporary Book Club

Sunday, Sept. 27, at 6 pm on Zoom
Olive Again by Elizabeth Strout

Other books selected for
the Fall are *The Dutch
House* by Ann Patchett
and *Daughter of a
Queen* by
Sarah Bird.



Everyone is invited

For questions, contact Judy Harris.

... ZOOM ROOMS ...

Fellowship Zoom
to keep in touch
and share
joys and concerns.



Watch for an e-mail with links,
or contact Linda Kendall to be included!

Choose your time:

Thursday Zoom @ 5:00 pm
Sunday Zoom @ 10:00 am
Sunday Zoom @ 12:00 noon



**Kid's
Zoom!!**

Children of the church have
their own zoom time at 10:30 on
Sunday mornings, where we will
visit for a minute before our
lesson and prayer. Contact
Vanessa Mueller for more
information.

August Session Highlights



Financial Update

Bob Lord

Scott Shepherd is moving out of the city but will remain as bookkeeper/accountant though working from a distance. This has entailed some changes in the way reimbursements are made to church members. Pledged giving has stayed strong, though other income is less, as are expenses. A planned quarterly transfer from the endowment will be made in the third quarter. Session approved a salary range for use by the PNC in their search for our next pastor.

Interim Pastor's Report

Pastor Dick Kreutzer

Committees: Leadership for Session committees have been named for the next year. They are Building and Grounds, Jennifer Rivera; Christian Education; Karissa Clefisch-Arnett and Vanessa Mueller; Congregational Care: Sheron Antczak; Fellowship: Nancy Byers; Membership and Evangelism: Linda Kendall; Mission and Service: Elizabeth Hewins and Anne Little; Personnel and Administration: Cotton Clark; Stewardship and Finance: Bob Lord; Worship and Music: Anne Detweiler; Day School Representative: Tommy Moreno.

Membership: The roll was updated to reflect a total membership of 197. Of those, however it is estimated that 55 are inactive or have moved away, making the active membership 142. The Membership Committee will work to confirm a final and correct roll. Note: No one is placed on or taken off the membership rolls without the express decision of the Session.

Pastor Nominating Committee: According to results of the congregational election, the PNC will be comprised of Angela Barrientes, Gail Clowe, Elizabeth Hewins, Gayle Millard, Jim Mueller, Ellen Patterson, and Ron Prichard.

Thanks: Thanks to Patty Clark, Ray Tolbert, Gayle Sharpley, and Bob Sharpley our production people for streaming the Sunday worship service. Thanks to Owen Duggan, Deborah Rhine-Bading, Vanessa Mueller, Tommy Moreno, Patty Clark, and host of others for planning, communicating, and executing our worship service. Thanks to Vanessa Mueller and her group of leaders who are hosting Kid's Zoom. Thanks to Nancy Byers, Linda Kendall, Judy Harris, Gayle Millard, and Owen Duggan who planned and are hosting our three Fellowship Zoom Sessions.

Vacation: Pastor Dick and Betty have scheduled vacation in the next few weeks. A guest preacher will lead worship on two Sundays.

Worship Committee

Vanessa Mueller

With numerous COVID-19 cases in San Antonio, we continue to live stream services and have removed the rotating worship leader and children's message leader. With the removal of the children's message, we added a Kids Zoom before online worship. Working with Fellowship and Membership, we have three Zoom

fellowship times, and Owen has offered a music service. We are considering additional outdoor services once the temperature is more comfortable. The Safe Church Team will decide when to begin in person services again; even once in person services are resumed, we will continue to live-stream services.

Congregational Care Team

Sheron Antczak

The team continues to contact members as often as the members have requested. and to bring prayer requests to the Session. It came to the attention of the team that some working mothers with young children were extremely stressed out. To ease the situation, the team made surprise packets for the children with coloring pages, dot-to-dot pages, and mazes and included crayons in the deliveries.

Mission and Service

Elizabeth Hewins

An online study of Dismantling Structural Racism will be started during the PCUSA Week of Action in late August. The committee continues to send donations that were part of this year's budget.

Safe Church Team

Tommy Moreno

The committee continues to meet regularly and to monitor the local Covid situation. Opening is not expected to be possible soon, as the committee wants to be sure doing so will be safe.

Class of 2017-2020

This was the last meeting for the Session class of 2017-2020, and they were dismissed with thanks. The incoming class will begin in September.

There's Still Tme to Join the PW Gathering



Come Live in the Light!

*Virtual
2020 Fall Gathering*

Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery
Saturday, September 12, 2020
9:30 - 11:30 a.m. [zoom](#)



Speakers/Presenters

- ♦ Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson, Mission Presbytery
- ♦ Nancy Robohn, First Presbyterian, Georgetown
- ♦ Katy Bedford, M.Div., Central Presbyterian, Austin

*Featuring breakout sessions
for the six clusters.*

Offering recipient:
PW Thank Offering

To register and receive a Zoom link,
email your name, church & cluster to
lizanzaldua@gmail.com