

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



## The power of the Spirit wind

### Time for the dust within to be kicked up

by Donna Frischknecht Jackson, *Presbyterians Today*

I stared out of the kitchen window watching a late spring thunderstorm roll in and kick up the dried leaves yet to be cleaned out of my garden beds. I was enchanted with how the wind seemed to be choreographing the leaves in a frenzied, yet freeing, dance with Mother Nature. As I watched, I prayed – deeply and urgently – asking for the Holy Spirit to be in my life like the wind outside: “Rushing wind blow through this temple, blowing out the dust within, come and breathe your breath upon me.” If the words to my prayer sound familiar, it’s because they are from Keith Green’s song, “Rushing Wind.”

Before I started seminary, a boyfriend dropped off a box of cassette tapes filled with Green’s music. He didn’t want them anymore, stating they were from his more “evangelical” days. Green was a contemporary Christian musician in the ‘70s whose earthly life was ended in 1982 by a plane crash. I not only embraced the box of cassette tapes, but also Green’s witness of faith and trust. So powerful was the message in “Rushing Wind” as it asked for the Spirit to not only blow the dust within, but to help me surrender and “take me where you want to go,” that I had it sung during my ordination service.



Even at the start of my call to ministry, I knew I never wanted to be trapped in the parish doldrums: those windless waters of maintaining the status quo and pleasing those in the pews rather than pleasing God. Windless waters might sound safe, but let’s recall the fear that sailors of old felt when they were in a doldrum. They knew if the wind didn’t start blowing and set them sailing soon, death would be certain.

As I watched the leaves dance outside my window, I realized I was in need of my own rush of fresh wind. I was tired, which wasn’t unusual as a year of ministering in a pandemic has had all of us stretching to new heights and plummeting to new lows. But what I didn’t expect was how the incessant barrage of challenges and changes had kicked up the dust of memories about why I answered the call to ministry. I wasn’t alone. A long overdue phone call with a friend revealed that she, too, was questioning if she is living her call authentically. We joked about when we get to the pearly gates if God will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant” or ask us, “What happened?”

Soon after that phone call, I began noticing my Facebook feed had at least one announcement per day of a minister

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## Stay Connected!

Visit the APC website for more information and service schedules:  
[www.apchumble.org](http://www.apchumble.org)

Make sure you are subscribed to the Newsletter and Narthex News email.

Check us out on Facebook!  
<https://www.facebook.com/AtascocitaPresbyterianChurch/>

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leaving their current call for another church, nonparish ministry, or to start their own worshiping community. My tax preparer, whose client roster includes clergy from all different denominations, confirmed my growing suspicion: The Holy Spirit wind is blowing, leading many to reconnect with what called them originally to ministry. I began wondering if the pandemic has been a time of deep soul-searching and, ultimately, personal growth. And, if so, how many congregations and pastors, grappling with so many challenges and tough decisions, have grown together? How many more have grown apart?

The pandemic is not just a health crisis. It is a political crisis, raising issues beyond when and how to worship in person again. It has asked the body of Christ to reclaim its prophetic voice. It has revealed that mission is more than just dropping a can of soup in the church's food pantry basket. It has shown us the inequalities within our own communities: those without internet access for their children to learn, those without proper health care and those attacked and killed because of skin color or gender identity.

The pandemic has also revealed the tension between those in the church who want to sail and those who prefer the doldrums. Some people have caught a vision of the "new" thing God is doing. Others have simply chosen to ride out the new thing and are reverting back to what is familiar. I have seen this in my own church as the familiar elements of worship are creeping quickly back into our Sunday services. More music and singing are edging out that beautiful quiet time the pandemic has gifted to us. I do think it is harder now to lead a congregation than it was at the start of the pandemic, because now the struggle of committing to living into the new ways God has shown us begins. And it is a struggle because we are entering this phase still worn-out from the pandemic itself.

The Holy Spirit wind is blowing and picking up velocity. There is nothing to fear, though. The wind might be frenzied, but it is freeing! And the dance the Spirit wind is choreographing in life is indeed enchanting.

*Donna Frischknecht Jackson is editor of Presbyterians Today.*

Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all."

Ephesians 4:3-6 NIV)

## May Lectionary

### 5/2 5th Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:26-40 and Psalm 22:25-31  
1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

### 5/9 6th Sunday of Easter

Acts 10:44-48 and Psalm 98  
1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

### 5/16 7th Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26 and Psalm 1  
1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19

### 5/23 Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-21 or Ezekiel 37:1-14 and  
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

### 5/30 Trinity Sunday

Isaiah 6:1-8 and Psalm 29

Romans 8:12-17

John 3:1-17

Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 2 pm.  
Aaron Seay may be reached by email:  
aaron@apchumble.org

### CHURCH STAFF

Director of Youth Ministry.....Aaron Seay  
Office Coordinator.....Carroll Hebert  
Director of Music.....Joe Weir  
Pianist.....Carl Braden  
Interim IT Manager.....Forrest Craig

## Shot Shuttle

Call the Shot Shuttle when you receive notification that you have an appointment for a specific time and place to get vaccinated.



We will see that you get to your appointment. Don't miss your appointment just because transportation is an issue.

Call the church office (281-852-8990) to let Carroll know if you need a ride and she will contact a driver.

## Children's Faith Formation Meeting In Person

Children's Faith Formation meet at APC, room 102, every Sunday at 9:30 am. We look forward to seeing your children back at APC!

Please feel free to contact Lisa Stacy with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministries by email, [lisastacy3@yahoo.com](mailto:lisastacy3@yahoo.com) or home phone 281-852-2986.

## Adult Faith Formation

Pastor Shelley's Faith Formation class meet from 9:15 to 10:15 am by BOTH ZOOM online AND in person. Please make the choice that is right for you.

The class will discuss the scriptures being preached: Who, what, where, and when of the story.



We will continue in the fellowship hall since there's plenty of room to be physically distanced. Bibles are available but you may want to bring your own. Please wear a face mask. Hand sanitizers will be on the table.

Shelley's and Doug's Zoom classes now have waiting rooms when you first enter the meeting. The meeting host will release you from the waiting room and admit you to the meeting.

Doug Kennard's class meets at 9:15 am through the Zoom invite <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83087066050> or from [apchumble.org](http://apchumble.org) live streaming page.

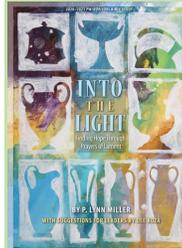
## Youth News

At a recent youth group meeting, APC youth made tie-died face masks.



Aaron and the youth group meet Sundays at APC fellowship hall from 4 to 6 pm.

## Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study



The May meeting of the Horizons Bible Study will be in person at APC in the parlor via Zoom on Wednesday, May 19, from 11:00 am until noon. We will study *Lesson 9: The End of Lament*, in the study guide, *Into the*

*Light: Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament*. We will also discuss the 'Before You Begin' section, early in each lesson. Bring your own lunch - either in person or Zoom.

For more information please contact Judi Anderson ([jla.lpc55@gmail.com](mailto:jla.lpc55@gmail.com)) or Doris Fisher ([abcdoris2003@yahoo.com](mailto:abcdoris2003@yahoo.com)).

## Pentecost Special Offering

investing in our greatest resource

Help youth begin life with a solid foundation of faith.



Psalm 71 testifies that a foundation of faith established during childhood helps ensure lifelong faith and service. The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life. By receiving the Pentecost Offering, you are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come – children, youth, and young adults.

Your gifts are accepted through Sunday, May 23. The Presbyterian Foundation has set up an additional option when clicking on the Give Now button on the church website. In addition to the General Fund option (used for offerings and pledges), there is now a Pentecost Fund option to accept your donation. All online giving is subject to a 2% transaction fee. Thank you for your generosity!

## Love requires only one skill - caring for others

by Chris Roseland, Mission Engagement & Support/ Special to Presbyterian News Service

Over the past year amid a pandemic, protests, and politics, I often heard many pastors, elders, and mid-council staff say that they are having a particularly hard time making ends meet. People aren't giving the way they used to give. These churches and presbyteries are struggling to do more with less, and it's the same way at the place where I currently serve, the Presbyterian Mission Agency – which has had a 40% reduction of our workforce over the past 10 years. In the end, the need is becoming greater and greater.

And then I read Luke's account of the early church in Acts 2:44-45: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need." I read this text and I think about how the way we give today is so different than the way it was for the early church. I think about how when things were so bad for them, far worse than they are for us today, these early Christians reached in their pockets a little deeper and gave to one another – even to the ones they didn't even know.

And do you know what happened? They didn't go into the red. They didn't lose everything. They didn't close their doors. They didn't die. Instead, they thrived. Luke tells us: "And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47). They grew – not only in numbers, but also in faith – in their discipleship to Jesus Christ.

There's an old story about a person of faith who had an audience with God. One day, this follower said to God, "God, I would like to know what heaven and hell are like." In a vision, God showed this disciple two doors. Inside the first one, in the middle of the room, was a large round table with a large pot of stew. It smelled delicious and made the person's mouth water, but the people sitting around the table were thin, emaciated, and sickly. They appeared to be starving. They were holding spoons with very long handles and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful, but because the handle was longer than their arms, it was impossible to get the spoons back into their mouths. Even if they set their spoons down on the table to pull it closer, everything spilled out. This startled disciple shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering, and God said, "You have just seen hell."

Behind the second door, the room appeared exactly the same. There was the large round table with the large pot of delicious stew. The people had the same long-handled spoons, but they were well nourished, healthy, and plump, laughing, singing and talking – enjoying themselves. The follower said, "I don't understand." "It is simple," God smiled and said, "Love requires only one skill. These people learned to feed one another. Those who are greedy think only of themselves."

And Luke wrote: "All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day, the Lord added to their number those who were being saved" (Acts 2:44-47).

May it be so for us.

## Interim Pastor Search Committee Update

In their meeting Tuesday, April 20, the first major set of required paperwork, the Ministry Information Form (MIF), was completed. The form was submitted and approved by session Thursday, April 22.

The process continues as the MIF goes to PC(USA) in Lexington, Kentucky. Pastor Information Forms (PIF) from candidates for interim pastor will be received there and forwarded to APC Interim Pastor Search Committee for review.

Please keep the committee and their work in your prayers.

## Comforting those who grieve

by Donna Frischknecht Jackson, Editor, Presbyterians Today

One day, as the Rev. Susan Brasier explored the nooks and crannies of her new church in Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada, she discovered two prayer shawls stashed in the back of a cupboard. The interim pastor found herself north of the U.S. border thanks to her Canadian husband. "When the pandemic hit, we decided to ride it out in Canada, and so I took an interim position," she said. Brasier began at Saint Andrew's Presbyterian in September 2020.

The discovery of the shawls reminded Brasier of a "grief relief kit" she made years ago when a young woman's husband died. In that kit was a prayer shawl just like the one she now held in her hands. Also included in the kit were food items. "When we stand in that suspended space between life and death, we need food made with love," said Brasier. "We need friends to feed us during the days of shadows and sorrows." Brasier filled her first grief relief kit with chocolates and chips. "For whatever reason, the salty crunchiness of corn or potato chips is deeply comforting," she said.

Brasier then adds something playful that is connected to the person who has died. Items have included Legos, coloring books, and even a Matchbox car. With the resurrection of the grief relief kits came the call among the knitters in Saint Andrew's ladies group to create more shawls.

"I am now awash with prayer shawls – and more are still coming," said Brasier. Congregations that have found themselves with many prayer shawls turn to a hospitals and memory care facilities to share the knitted comforts with others.

Of course, the shawls at Saint Andrew's will always find a home in a grief relief kit. "As we stand beside our friends and watch them in pain, it is nice to have something to do that is meaningful," said Brasier.

# Wacky Wednesday, April 28



Next Wacky Wednesday, May 19  
Sign-ups coming soon!





## KIDS! SIGN UP!

**Three summer camps are scheduled in June for children entering 1st grade through exiting 5th grade!**

**Each camp will be Tuesday through Thursday from 9:30 am until 2:30 pm at APC.**

**Music Camp - June 8 - 10**  
**Art Camp - June 15 - 17**  
**Science Camp - June 22 - 24**

Snacks will be provided, please bring a lunch.

Tuition is \$50 per child, or \$45 each with two or more signing up in one family. Tuition is due at the time of registration and can be mailed with your registration form to:

APC, 19426 Atasca Oaks Dr, Humble 77346.

The registration form (one form per child please) and payment should be returned ...

- by emailing the completed form(s) to [apc@apchumble.org](mailto:apc@apchumble.org) and making payment online by check, credit card, or debit card to apchumble.org
- or by mailing your form(s) and check to Atascocita Presbyterian Church,
- 19426 Atasca Oaks Dr, Humble, Texas 77346.

## Don't be "spoofed" by an email from APC!

Recently, some of our congregation were "spoofed" by an email purportedly from Gayle Grubbs asking for gift cards. This was a bogus request...Please don't respond! Read on to learn more.

A "phishing" email is an email you receive from someone pretending to be someone else and asking for something in return and it comes from a "spoofed" email address. Often it's an attempt to get you to provide gift card information (easily converted to untraceable cash), but in extreme cases, the email might ask you to click a link (granting access to your computer and private information).

The recent example of this is an email some of you received from "Rev. Gayle Grubbs" asking you to buy a gift card for her for a worthy cause. These emails are fake and you should not respond.

To spot a phony email, you can identify it by looking at the "From" email address. In this case, the email was from "revgaylegrubbs@gmail.com." In this time without a pastor, it's more difficult to identify a spoof email address, but in normal times the pastor's email would be from an apchumble.org domain, like [pastor@apchumble.org](mailto:pastor@apchumble.org).

More importantly, you can also spot these phishing emails by the content. APC staff will never ask you to provide confidential financial information, buy gift cards, or ask for your credit card information over email. If in doubt, contact the sender by telephone to confirm whether the email is valid.

Unfortunately, there is not much that can be done about spoofing and phishing. Different from hacking, spoofing and phishing simply try to emulate as closely as possible the email address of the person it is pretending to be, while hacking involves actual access to the mail server. To be clear, there has been no breach of our email servers by hackers. Phishers simply found the email addresses by web crawling public websites and are using the information to try to trick you.



## APC Earth Care

The Earth Care Committee meets on the third Monday of the month (May 17) at 12:30 pm via Zoom. Anyone interested in attending is welcome. Go to the live streaming page on the APC website. Click on "Earth Care Committee," enter the password, and join the meeting.

### Walk the Talk

Join Lisa Ryan and others who combine a pleasant walk with their concern for the environment by walking in Kingwood's East End Park **every Wednesday at 9:15 am.** Please contact Lisa ([lkwryan2@gmail.com](mailto:lkwryan2@gmail.com)) for more information on where to meet.

### Recycle Batteries

Drop your old batteries in the black bucket to the right of the front door at APC and they will be sent to recycle.

### Electronics Recycle



Drop off electronics for recycling in the church Audio-Visual room, just inside the front door on your left.

Acceptable items include: old phones, iPads, laptops, printers, cords, phones, small TV screens or monitors (Please do not drop off large items or appliances!).

Electronics recycling is also available on the first Saturday of each month at the Kingwood Park and Ride for City of Houston residents. For everyone else, items will be collected from the APC AV room on the first Friday of every month and transported to the Kingwood recycle. For more information please contact Lisa Ryan ([lkwryan2@gmail.com](mailto:lkwryan2@gmail.com)) or Forrest Craig ([frcraig3@gmail.com](mailto:frcraig3@gmail.com)).

## Birthdays

5/1 Adelaide Douglas  
 5/3 Robert Frye  
 5/4 Charis Nees  
 5/4 Jan Kennard  
 5/5 Cathy Vance  
 5/6 Valerie Phillips  
 5/7 Mazie Williams  
 5/9 Vicky Eynon  
 5/10 Connie Brown  
 5/12 Anne Wallace  
 5/15 James Moser  
 5/16 John Peterson  
 5/18 Rhonda Skaggs  
 5/18 Mary Ann Kaminski  
 5/19 Kristi Stanley  
 5/21 Kelly Shelton  
 5/22 Brent Borgers  
 5/24 Bob Arnold  
 5/24 Bart Baker  
 5/25 Laurie Coleman  
 5/26 Bradley Clark  
 5/27 Heather Pritchett  
 5/27 Alexandria Cruz  
 5/30 Carol Bixby  
 5/30 Patricia Williams

## Anniversaries

5/1 Susie & Jonathan Akrong  
 5/11 Mazie & George Williams  
 5/18 Susan & John Sheridan

## APC by the Numbers

Weekly Contributions  
 through 04/25/2021

Actual	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
\$2,381	\$102,377	\$103,822

## Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Those who have contracted Covid-19 and family and friends of those affected.
- India experiencing a high rate of Covid infections and those resulting in death
- Frontline and essential workers with increased exposure to Covid.
- Migrant children at the border.
- Nominating committee.
- The Mills family.
- Deondra, Ann Owen's granddaughter, and her young clients at CPS.
- Maddy, Ellen & Russ Nipe's granddaughter.
- Mazie Williams
- George Clark
- Bart Baker
- Dave Lasinsky
- Carol Hedgepath
- Richard Munoz
- Sandy Lee's cousin
- Sine McCarty
- Nina Petty, Carroll Hebert's sister-in-law
- Frank Zamora, Ron Powell's friend, diagnosed with cancer.
- Janice Rainer, Tommy Russell's sister, diagnosed with cancer.
- Alexis Peregoy, Ray Peregoy's daughter-in-law, diagnosed with cancer.
- Peace and comfort to the family and friends of "Kep" Kephart, upon his passing April 18.
- The Landry family and their missing son, Jason.
- Addie Kephart and Bev O'Brien.

**Please email prayers to the church office (apc@apchumble.org) by Friday for inclusion in Sunday's Prayers of the People.**

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for May, Dave Leyshon, phone 610-883-2698.