



Sept 2025 Edition



# ATASCOCITA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH THE COMMUNICATOR

## This Month from Pastor Wayne *Where There is No Vision, the People Perish*

The Proverbs have always been of great interest to me. When I was first serving as an intern in my home church, one of the members gave me a little keepsake that I could place on my desk. The keepsake had these well-known words from Proverbs 3:5-6: *Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

My dad had a favorite saying of his: "Tis better to be thought a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt." When he found himself in a difficult situation, in a place where saying something would only dig a deeper hole, he would smile and say his famous saying. He used it countless times. He was a high school math teacher, and he must have said it often in his classroom as well as in our home, because one of his classes presented him with a plaque that had his famous words written on it. Only later in life did I discover he had borrowed his saying from the wisdom sayings in Proverbs. Now when I am reading through Proverbs and come to chapter 17, verse 28, it always tickles my heart as I remember my dad. The Proverb says: "Even fools who keep silent are considered wise..."

I was spending time with a brother in Christ. We were trying to grow in our faith and, specifically, to be better husbands and more faithful fathers. Time and time again my friend Skip would talk about the importance of having people in our lives who challenge and encourage us to grow. Skip's go-to verse was from Proverbs 27:17: *As iron sharpens iron, so one brother sharpens the other.*

We all benefit from the wisdom of these words regarding how we speak to one another: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

President John F. Kennedy once quoted the Proverbs as he said, "Where there is no vision, the people perish." That proverb resonates with me. When God fills our hearts with a sense of vision, and when we embrace that vision, a great sense of purpose and direction begins to grow within us. Without that sense of purpose, that sense of direction—well, as the Proverb says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish."

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## Letter from Pastor Wayne

I believe God has a vision for us, the members and friends of Atascocita Presbyterian Church. Having joined our hearts together in our Jubilee Campaign, we are on the verge of completely retiring the debt that we carried for so many years. The theme of Jubilee also provides a vision for our future—a future where we embrace the words of Jesus when he stood to preach in his hometown synagogue. Quoting a passage from Isaiah that is linked to the Jubilee, to the year of God's favor, Jesus said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." (Luke 4:18–19)

That same Jesus calls us to be a people who hunger and thirst for righteousness, a community that joins Jesus in seeking out those who are lost and lonely, followers of Christ who joyfully embrace the call to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, disciples who humble ourselves as we hear Jesus saying, "If you want to be great in the kingdom of heaven, learn to be the servant of all," and a church whose deepest desire is to let the light of Christ shine so brightly through our kindness and compassion that others would see us and say, "See how they love one another."

God has a vision for us. We are ones who have been called to make disciples of all nations. We have been sent by Jesus to be his witnesses in the world.

We are at a special and strategic moment in our life as a congregation. God's vision does not come to just one person. I pray and ask God for wisdom as your pastor, for vision for how we live out our life as a community of faith. But God's vision is not for one person. We are all in this together. God speaks into each of our lives.

As we enter the fall—as a new season of ministry takes shape, as we join our hearts in worship, in faith formation classes on Sunday, with gatherings for the men and women of the church, as the Disciple Bible Study is launched, as a new young adult group has come into being, with our children and youth, and in our personal devotions with our precious Lord Jesus—let us all pray for God to give us a clear and compelling vision that will ignite the fires of faith within our hearts.

Where there is no vision, the people perish. But where there is vision—where the vision comes from the Lord, where the people of God proclaim, "Here I am, Lord"—when there is that type of vision, amazing and incredible things come to life. So we pray: "Lord Jesus, please pour your vision out upon us, for we long to be your faithful servants."

With the love of Christ,

*Wayne*



## Messages for September

September 7: *Fulfilling the Law of Christ* (Galatians 6:2)

September 14: *He Dries Our Tears* (Luke 7:36-50)

September 21: *Sitting at the Feet of Jesus* (Luke 10:38-42)

September 28: *Our Good Shepherd* (John 10:11-15)

Apples are in peak season in  
September – perfect for pies and cider.



### Office Hours

**Pastor Wayne Eberly**

Mon-Wed  
9 AM – 2 PM

**Gail Mayers-Tran**

Mon-Fri  
9 AM – 2 PM

## Church Staff

**Pastor** - Reverend Wayne Eberly

**Office Coordinator** - Gail Mayers-Tran

**Director of Music** - Joe Weir

**Pianist** - Carl Braden

**Director of Creative Learning Center** - Cathy Gerald





**Blessing of the Backpacks**



**Church Supper**



**Mission Committee Sponsored Lunch**



# AUGUST HIGHLIGHTS



AUGUST 3, 2025

## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS



### KIDS HOPE - SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

The school supply drive wagon was overflowing—thanks to your incredible generosity! We're so grateful for your selfless donations to support the children of our Kids Hope partner school, The Oaks. Because of you, many students and teachers will be smiling, deeply appreciative of your kindness and care. -Lizzy Frye



THANK YOU!

## Recycling Makes Sense/Cents

Recycling is good for the environment, but also good for the economy by creating jobs and increasing tax revenues. The Recycling Economic Information (REI) Study reports that recycling and reuse activities in the United States account for 681,000 jobs, \$37.8 billion in wages, and \$5.5 billion in tax revenues in a single year. For every 1,000 tons of material recycled, 1.17 jobs, \$65.23 in wages, and \$9.42 in tax revenues are created.

When we recycle, we also help conserve natural resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. For example, recycling just 10 plastic bottles saves enough energy to power a laptop for more than 25 hours. Recycling also reduces pollution by minimizing the need to extract and process new raw materials, and it diverts waste from landfills.

We help close the recycling loop by buying products made from recycled materials. When shopping, avoid single-use plastics. Instead, look for recyclable products and items made with recycled content. More and more of today's products are manufactured with recycled materials.

When we add up all the benefits of recycling, it's a win for both the environment and the economy.



The APC Safety Team is launching a series of monthly safety topics designed to help individuals and families prepare for a variety of emergencies. We began in August with a focus on general emergency preparedness, and this month's topic is hurricane readiness.

Copies of the current discussion, along with previous topics, will be available in the Narthex. Upcoming topics may include fire prevention, flood preparation (covering both flash flooding and low-level flooding), extreme heat and cold, and food and water safety during emergencies.

Tommy Russell will be available after Sunday services to answer any questions, or you can reach him directly at 936-203-1610 (call or text).

Let's work together to keep our families and community safe—preparedness makes all the difference.

The Nominating Committee is gathering names to fill open positions for Elders and Deacons during the month of September. We encourage the congregation to join us in this capacity. You can submit those names to Frank Fitzpatrick, Gary Denmon, Doris Fisher, Cathy Gerald, Allen Griffin, Ellen Nipe, Joyce Olson or Pastor Wayne.

Thanks,

Frank Fitzpatrick  
Chairman of the Nominating Committee

#### August Donations

|                                          |     |    |     |     |           |
|------------------------------------------|-----|----|-----|-----|-----------|
| 3-Aug                                    | 119 | 28 | 154 | 301 | \$1,355   |
| 10-Aug                                   | 91  | 22 | 87  | 200 | \$3,650   |
| 17-Aug                                   | 167 | 26 | 67  | 260 | \$6,829   |
| 24-Aug                                   | 100 | 23 | 67  | 190 | \$2,071   |
| 31-Aug                                   | 85  | 22 | 100 | 207 | \$1,174   |
| August End of Month Credit Card Receipts |     |    |     |     | \$6,700   |
| AUG TOTAL                                |     |    |     |     | \$21,779  |
| Total Offerings for Year-to-Date         |     |    |     |     | \$210,861 |
| Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-Date      |     |    |     |     | \$243,210 |





Trey Bosard - Sep 01  
Spencer Denmon - Sep 02  
Nancy Morrison - Sep -2  
Jasper Stanley - Sep 03  
Will Douglas - Sep 05  
Kim Humlick - Sep 06  
Pat Litzinger - Sep 06  
Kevin Stacy - Sep 06  
Terri Thomson - Sep -6  
Chinelo Fangtang - Sep 08  
Adrianna Burleigh - Sep 09  
Jennifer Frye Doolittle - Sep 11  
Maggie Pritchett - Sep 12  
Steve Coleman, Sr - Sep 13  
Barbara Gable - Sep 13  
Eunice Munoz - Sep 13  
Jenni Strader - Sep 13

Rosemary Mumford - Sep 14  
Michelle Bennett - Sep 15  
Shelley Craig - Sep 15  
Ashley Vance - Sept 16  
Melissa Frye-Saathoff - Sep 18  
Nikisha Williams - Sep 18  
Kari Lauer - Sep 19  
Maureen Allen - Sep 20  
Jackie Hannan - Sep 20  
Elisa Mahone - Sep 20  
Gail Mayers-Tran - Sep 20  
Ryan Mills - Sep 21  
Doris Fisher - Sep 23  
Cameron Strader - Sep 24  
Susie Akrong - Sep 27  
Katherine Ann Munoz - Sep 27  
Bonnie Russell - Sep 29

### Happy Anniversary!

Melissa & Joe Breda - Sep 01  
Janet & Allan Griffin - Sep 02  
Judy & Harry Brookby - Sep 03  
Paul & Carol Curtis - Sep 07  
Barbara & Frank Gable - Sep 09  
Richard & Eunice Munoz - Sep 10  
Sue & Bobby Grawl - Sep 20  
Steve & Linda Coleman, Sr. - Sep 23  
Don & Claudia Nelson - Sep 27  
Robert & Heather Pritchett - Sep 27

