



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



## A Good Letter

I have a mailbox in my office. It is a mailbox that was given to me many years ago. Our youngest son, Alex, had stapled some papers together to make a mailbox that he taped up to the bookcase in my office. At that time, he was attending preschool at our church, and sometimes he would write me a little note during class. You can imagine the joy it brought to find a small letter, scratched out in the hand of a four-year-old, stuffed into my personal mailbox.

Henri Nouwen spent time at an Abbey on an extended retreat. His plan was to completely withdraw from his normal life. He writes, "My original idea was: no telephone, no letters, neither outgoing nor incoming, no visitors, no contact with guests—a real retreat, alone with God." As he writes of his experience he says most of his plans were coming through except the letter writing. He found himself both writing and receiving letters. It turns out he was glad for the letters he received. Reflecting on the importance of letters he writes, "A good letter can change the day..."

One of my closest friends in high school was Rudy. We played basketball together and spent countless hours on the court, in the locker room, on the bus, and even in the classroom. When I moved away from my hometown in California at the age of 19 I lost touch with Rudy. Many times I would think of him and how much he meant to me, but I never acted on those feelings to reach out. Then when we moved to Rhode Island, when we were living on the other side of the nation from California, I found out Rudy was attending church with a classmate of ours named Tina. Rudy told Tina, "Say hi to Wayne. When Tina passed on the greeting from Rudy, she gave me his address. So I wrote Rudy a letter.

And then it happened. On a crisp and cool fall day I was bringing in the mail. A plain white envelope had my name on it, written in pencil. The return address said, "Rudy". Before I even opened the letter I smiled. I did more than smile. I had tears in my eyes. I had tears in my eyes and joy in my heart. For the few minutes I read Rudy's letter the years collapsed and there we were, two old friends sharing the gift of friendship. Henri Nouwen writes, "A good letter can change the day..." I know exactly what he means. My guess is that so do you.

continued on page 2



## What's inside the latest issue

- "A Good Letter"
- Worship in August
- Faith Formation Classes Update
- PW Special Summer Meeting
- Upcoming Events
- Peace & Global Witness Special Offering
- LHCS Concert
- New Crepe Myrtle Trees
- Earth Care Corner
- Birthdays, Anniversaries, Attendance Report, and Prayers

## Stay Connected!

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

Make sure you are subscribed to *The Communicator* newsletter and Narthex News email.

Check us out on Facebook!  
facebook.com/AtascocitaPresbyterianChurch

continued from page 1

When Nouwen writes about a good letter changing the day, he is advocating for letter writing as a form of ministry...an important form of ministry. "A good letter can change the day for someone in pain, can chase away feelings of resentment, can create a smile and bring joy to the heart." Knowing these things to be true, Nouwen continues, "After all, a good part of the New Testament consists of letters, and some of the most profound insights are written down in letters between people who are attracted to each other by a deep personal affection. Letter writing is a very important art, especially for those who want to bring the good news."<sup>[1]</sup>

I like that. If you are looking for a form of ministry that can change the day for someone and is an important art for those who want to bring the good news, the answer might literally be right at your fingertips. Write a letter. It might be the very thing someone else needs. It might be the thing that changes their day.

As a postscript of sorts to these thoughts about the blessing of receiving a letter, I found among the mail that had arrived over the weekend of July 16 a postcard. The previous week had been a rough one. Tom Olson passed away on Monday, July 10. What a loss for Joyce and her family. What a loss for the church. It is hard to describe the feeling I had when I read the postcard that arrived on Monday, July 17, a week after Tom died. The postcard was from Tom, mailed in early July, wishing me a Happy 4th of July, and assuring me he was enjoying the Great North. Tom had addressed the letter to Father Wayne, which is how he would greet me each Sunday at church. It was strange to receive Tom's letter. And yet it was also very comforting, almost as if Tom was reaching across the great chasm of death to let me know he was still with us. And so once again, Henri Nouwen had described things perfectly when he wrote, "A good letter can change the day." Thanks for the letter Tom. It was just what I needed.

With the love of Christ,

*Wayne*

<sup>1]</sup> Henri Nouwen, "The Genesee Diary", pages 86-88.

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the Lord is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name. For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Psalm 100 NRSV

## Worship in August

### 8/6 Communion Sunday

Sermon: "The next generation"

Psalm 78:1-8

### 8/13

Sermon: "I cannot tell"

Job 19:21-27

### 8/20

Sermon: "The love of Christ that surpasses knowledge"

Ephesians 3:14-20

### 8/27

Sermon: "Loud sounds of joy"

I Chronicles 15:16

Sunday, August 27, is our hymn sing. Thanks to all who submitted their favorite hymns!

## Your Favorite Hymns in August worship

The favorite hymns that you generously shared in this past month will be incorporated into APC worship services throughout August.

## CHURCH STAFF

Pastor.....Pastor Wayne Eberly  
Office Coordinator.....Carroll Hebert  
Director of Music.....Joe Weir  
Pianist.....Carl Braden

Pastor Wayne is in the office Monday through Wednesday, from 9 am until 2 pm.

Carroll Hebert is in the office Monday through Thursday, from 9 am until 2 pm.

## Children's Faith Formation Classes

**Children 1st - 5th grade. Classes are on summer break from June 4 through July 30.** Classes resume Sunday, August 6, 9:30 am in the orange classroom.

**Nursery care will be open each week during summer months for children who haven't yet entered first grade. Sundays 9:30-11:30 am in the nursery.**

Please feel free to contact Terri Thomson with any questions or concerns related to APC Children's Ministries by email (apcchildrenscommittee@apchumble.org).

## Youth Faith Formation

**Youth 6th - 12th grade.** Come and join our exciting new Sunday morning meeting time during the Faith Formation time beginning Sunday, September 10 at 9:20 am.

We will be studying God's word, building friendships and faith, and exploring how we can reach out with God's love.

Contacts for the Youth program are Terri Thomson, Joe Breda, and Julie and Wayne Eberly.

## Christian Chat & Coffee Returns!

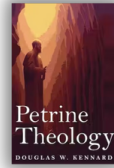
**Sunday, August 20, 9:30 am**, in classroom 104.

Everyone is welcome! Join us for an easy hour of discussions and fellowship. For more information, please contact Terri Thomson (tallaint@yahoo.com).

## Adult Faith Formation

**\*\*\*Doug's class is on summer break from Sunday, July 23 through August 13. Class resumes August 20 at 9:15 am in the library.**

Discussion of Doug's recent book: *Petrine Theology*.



**\*\*\*Shelley's class is on summer break but will return Sunday, September 3.**

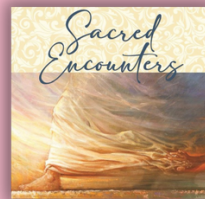
Meeting at 9:20 am in classroom 102.

## Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The Bible study resumes in September when study will begin with the next book in the Horizons series (see below!).

In the meantime, the group will continue to meet on the second Wednesday of the month.

Attendants at the **August 9** meeting will meet at 11:30 am for a potluck lunch before a special program at noon. For more information, please contact Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).



Presbyterian Women, good news! The 2023-2024 PW/Horizons Bible study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts* by Olive Mahabir, will begin at the September 13th meeting.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Blessing of Backpacks

**Sunday, August 6**, during the 10:30 am worship service, students (all ages) and teachers are encouraged to bring backpacks or notebooks. APC wants you to start the new school year with blessings.

## Empty Nesters

Meeting the second Tuesday every other month at 6:30 pm. The group will meet **Tuesday, August 8** at a location to be determined. For more information, please contact Ellen Nipe (enipe@comcast.net).

## Seniors and Friends

 Meet for lunch and fellowship on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **Thursday, August 17, 11:30 am** at Iguana Joe's, 18319 W Lake Houston Pkwy, 77346.

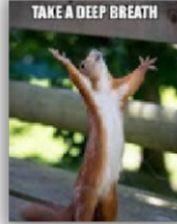
For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrr1@gmail.com).

## Game Day for Grownups!



Gather for a potluck lunch and fellowship **Thursday, August 24, 11:30 am**, in the fellowship hall and stay for games of Mexican Train or Bingo.

For more information, please contact Terri Parmerlee (tpparmerlee@gmail.com).



## Yoga for all!

Meet Monday mornings at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall. Bring your exercise mat.

## Ancient Mariners

Mark your calendar!

**Monday, September 18** we depart APC parking lot at 8 am to George H W Bush Library and Museum via Harris County precinct bus. The cost of admission to the library is \$7 per person. Lunch on your own at a local restaurant TBD. Last stop is Veterans Memorial Park in College Station before heading back to APC. A sign-up sheet will be provided soon.

Linda is working on another trip for **Sunday, April 28**. TUTS has a 2 pm performance of "The Cher Show," a musical that celebrates all of the spectacle and glamour that is Cher wrapped in 35 smash hits for a nonstop musical celebration of her life. The Harris County precinct bus cannot be reserved until October, but Linda is on it!

Please take the opportunity to research TUTS.com for seating. Each person will need to purchase their own tickets to be picked up at Will Call, emailed, or mailed to you. Booking your own tickets will allow you to sit where you like.

The bus will take our group downtown for the show, then afterward enjoy dinner at Birraporetti's.

For more information, please contact Linda Andrus (call 281-852-1668 or text 281-923-6286).



## Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The church-wide Special Offerings of the PC(USA) play an important role in defining what it means to be a connectional church in the twenty-first century, bringing together the diversity of the PC(USA) to focus and take faith-based action on shared concerns.

The Peace and Global Witness Offering offers light to those in the shadows and guides us all into the ways of peace. We come together to promote the peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice in our own communities and around the world.

Twenty-five percent of this Offering stays with APC to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. Twenty-five percent goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region. Fifty percent supports the work being done by Presbyterians across the globe.

(Taken from Peace and Global Witness brochure)

Giving envelopes are in the pew pockets for your convenience. You may drop your envelope in the offering plate on Sunday. If you prefer to donate online, go to the APC website ([apchumble.org](http://apchumble.org)), click on "Give Now" and follow the instructions on the next page.



## Lake Houston Chamber Singers Concert

**Sunday, August 20, 6 pm**, in the sanctuary, LHCS will present *The Last Rose of Summer*, their season four finale. The concert will feature the music of composer, Elaine Hagenberg, and highlight songs of the Celtic, English Folksong, and Bluegrass traditions. Tickets are \$15 each and available through Eventbrite ([eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com)) or see Joe Weir on Sundays.

## Crepe Myrtle Trees

These six beautiful Crepe Myrtle trees have been donated by Joe Weir in memory of his mother, Doris Jean Weir.

Thank you Joe, for allowing APC to be a part of your tribute to your mother.



## Earth Care Corner

Are you a gardening enthusiast, or simply enjoy being outside and part of nature? If so, keep an eye out for some new opportunities coming soon. In an effort to cultivate God's earth and share its bounty with our neighbors we are planning a community garden!



Very soon we will be prepping the grounds and creating the beds on the west side of the church. We hope to plant our first crops in mid-September. We would love to see young and old alike, working side by side in community to help weed and tend to all kinds of plants such as broccoli, onions, spinach and herbs.

God willing, with some hard work, good weather and a sprinkle of love and patience, we'll be able to share our healthy blessings with others!

.....

### Five Easy Ways each of us can celebrate Earth Day every day:

- Follow 3 Rs: Reduce/Reuse/Recycle to save natural resources, energy, and money and reduce waste sent to landfills.
- Conserve energy at home: Turn off lights and electronics not in use, use a programmable thermostat, change air filters regularly and save money on utility bills.
- Reduce paper waste and junk mail: Think twice before printing things at work and home. Reduce mail by using online payment options to avoid paper bills. There are services that will remove your name from unwanted mailing lists to reduce junk mail.
- Recycle electronics: Old, unused or broken computers, tablets, phones, and other electronics can often be recycled for free by stores, manufacturers, and local governments, which saves natural resources while also reducing pollution.
- Turn off the tap: Whether brushing your teeth, washing dishes, or taking a shower, turn off the water when not needed.

.....

The *Free From Plastic Pollution* webinar as introduced in the July *Communicator* is now available to view, download, and share at this [link](#).

.....

**APC is a certified Earth Care  
Congregation of the PC(USA).**

## Birthdays

8/2 Garrett Clary  
 8/4 Jim Hannan  
 8/4 Jeanne Wilkinson  
 8/5 Rene Lemer  
 8/5 Tommy Russell  
 8/7 Jamie Hannan  
 8/9 David Lasinsky  
 8/10 Sydney Boyenga  
 8/10 Lisa Cruz  
 8/11 Gary Frieders  
 8/14 Nancy Anderson  
 8/15 Lisa Clark  
 8/23 Gene Andrus  
 8/23 Elaine McCool  
 8/28 Ed Cooke  
 8/29 Bob Strader  
 8/30 Ron Lemer

## Anniversaries

8/9 Vicki & David Lasinsky  
 8/10 Jan & Doug Kennard  
 8/13 Terri & John Parmerlee  
 8/20 Julie & Wayne Eberly

Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
June End of Month Credit Card Receipts					\$4,646
2-Jul	77	14	60	151	\$4,047
9-Jul	85	9	62	156	\$2,593
16-Jul	80	22	33	135	\$1,605
23-Jul	80	10	13	103	\$2,446
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$179,916
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$160,529

## Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Peace and safety for the people of Ukraine, the Middle East, and in other parts of the world.
- Victims, families, and communities affected by gun violence.
- Travel mercies to those on summer vacations.
- Michael Burgos, continued treatment. Strength and peace for Grace and the family.
- Jerry Sessions, health concerns.
- Peace and comfort for Kevin, Michelle, Sarah, and Laura Bennett.
- Ann Owen, health concerns.
- Prayers of comfort for family and friends of Ed Hinson, family friend of Will and Charis Nees, in hospice. Prayers of thanksgiving for a wonderful life well lived and comfort for the family.
- Joe Weir, strength and healing from surgery.
- Betsy Gould is in hospice care.
- Carrie Anne Murphy, Emily's daughter, has covid
- Randi, stepdaughter of Kathy Gava's friend, diagnosed with cancer, no insurance.
- Sharon Frye, Don Frye's cousin, had knee replacement surgery and is having difficulty.
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Patricia Givans, Ed Cooke's wife, she has passed away.
- Carole O'Brien, Judi Anderson's friend, recovering from a heart attack and 7 weeks in hospital.
- Don Frye, health concerns.
- Sine McCarty, Anne Wallace, Garland McCarthy

**Please email prayer requests to the church office (apc@apchumble.org).**

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for August, Gary Denmon (832-497-7895).