



# THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



## LORDY, LORDY, LOOK WHO'S 40!

Forty...now that's a biblical number. Some of these forties you will recognize, and some might be new, but here goes...

- How many days did it rain when Noah had all those animals who embarked on the Ark?
- How many days did it take to embalm the body of Jacob? (Look this one up in Genesis 50:3)
- Moses knew about forty. In Acts 7 Stephen tells us when Moses was forty years old he left the palace of Pharaoh to visit the Israelites, when forty years passed the angel appeared to him in the burning bush, we all know he led the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years, and just to make sure we know the number forty is written in stone, Moses was up on Mount Sinai forty days receiving the Ten Commandments.
- David, Solomon, and several other kings reigned forty years
- Elijah took forty days to get to Mount Horeb
- Jesus faced off against the devil for forty days of temptation
- And after the resurrection he appeared among his disciples showing many convincing proofs that he was alive for...you guessed it: Forty days!

If the Bible finds the number 40 so appealing, who could blame a church for rolling out the red carpet when that same church turns 40 years old? Back in February of 1983 Atascocita Presbyterian Church was organized with a membership of 45 families. If our church was organized in 1983, and we are currently in the year 2023, when you do the math you will understand the title of this newsletter article.

Yes indeed, "LORDY, LORDY, LOOK WHO'S 40!" We are. We are forty, and in recognition of this milestone that is of biblical proportions, we are going to celebrate and give thanks to God for the forty years with which we have been blessed.

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### What's inside the latest issue

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- Community Garden
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- Teacher of the Year!
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### 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

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**Save the Date: Sunday, November 12**

APC will have a celebration on the second Sunday in November, complete with displays capturing the wonderful history of our congregation, displays telling of our current ministries, and the many blessings God is pouring out on us right here and right now, and a service of worship that will lift high the name of the Lord as we give thanks for the life of this vibrant community of faith.

A committee is being formed to plan all of the celebrations for our 40th anniversary. If you are interested in helping us plan, if you have some fun articles, artifacts, or ancient photos, if you have stories and remembrances you want to share, bring it on! We want this to be an event for the entire congregation, and that includes charter members, former members, pastors and staff, and definitely all of our current members and friends.

Even though we are new on the scene, and even though we are just beginning to build our own memories with all of you dear friends at APC, I already know some of the words I will share when we come to that great day of celebration on November 12, 2023. They are words that are heartfelt and words that come right from the mouth of another pastor. The Apostle Paul wrote to his beloved friends in Philippi, "I thank my God every time I remember you..."

That's how we feel about this warm and loving community of faith at the Atascocita Presbyterian Church. We thank God for you. We thank God every time we remember you. And we can't wait to join with you as we celebrate the 40th anniversary of this wonderful church.

With the love of Christ,

*Wayne*

Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. 10)She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. 11)But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. 12)After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. 13)And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. 14)Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. 15)And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

Mark 16:9-15 NRSV

**Worship in September**

**9/3**

Sermon: "God is good...all the time"  
Genesis 1

**FALL SERIES "The King and His Kingdom**

**9/10** "The kingdom of heaven has come near"  
Matthew 4:12-23

**9/17** "The blessings of the kingdom"  
Matthew 5:1-12

**9/24** "Seek first the kingdom"  
Matthew 6:25-34

**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.

**Gospel of Matthew Bible Study Schedule**

Wed, Sept 6 BIBLE STUDY: Readings 1-5 noon

Wed, Sept 13 PW, Men's Time Out (11:30 am)

Wed, Sept 20 BIBLE STUDY: Readings 6-10 noon

Wed, Sept 27 BIBLE STUDY: Readings 11-15 noon

## Children's Faith Formation Classes

**Children K - 5th grade.** Classes resume Sunday, September 10, 9:30 am in the orange classroom.

**Nursery care will be open each week during FF and worship hours for children who haven't yet entered Kindergarten. 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!

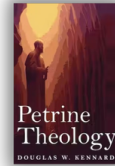
**Sunday, September 10, 9:30 am**, in classroom 104.

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 meets at 9:15 am in the library.**

Discussion of Doug's recent book: *Petrine Theology*. Study from a new book begins September 10:



*Ancient Near Eastern Thought and the Old Testament*, by John Walton.

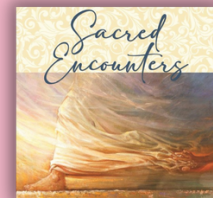
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**\*\*\*Shelley's class will return Sunday, September 10.**

Meeting at 9:20 am in classroom 102. Everyone is welcome to prepare for a deepened worship experience by spending time with the "who/what/where?" of the sermon scripture.

## Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

The Bible study resumes **Wednesday, September 13** with the next book in the Horizons series: *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahabir.

Attendants will meet at 11:30 am for a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall before starting Chapter 1 at noon. For more information, please contact Judi Anderson (jla.lpc55@gmail.com).



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Mission Dinner

Come join the APC family for an end of summer Mission Dinner, **Wednesday, August 30, 6 pm** in the fellowship hall. We will share about all the meaningful ministries our Mission Committee and congregation support.

Hear some moving testimonies and learn how you can be involved. The special focus at the dinner will be the new Community Garden that the EarthCare group is getting started. We need \$1,000 of "seed" money to fund the garden.

Come have dinner, learn about the garden and so many other ministries, and help us start the fall with a focus on Missions.

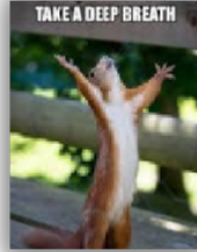
Dinner menu: Julie Eberly's tasty pulled pork, Pastor Wayne's twice baked potatoes, salad, and, of course....dessert!

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## 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.

**Deadline for sign-up is Monday, September 11**, or for more information please contact Linda Andrus (call 281-852-1668 or text 281-923-6286).



## Yoga for all!

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

## Seniors and Friends



Meet for lunch and fellowship

on the third Thursday of the month. Join us **Thursday, September 21, 11:30 am** at The Catch, 6730 Atascocita Rd Ste 115, 77346.

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

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## Empty Nesters

Meeting the fourth Tuesday at 6:00 pm. The group will meet **Tuesday, September 26** at a location to be determined. For more information, please contact Ellen Nipe (enipe@comcast.net).

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## Game Day for Grownups!



Gather for a potluck lunch and fellowship **Thursday, September 28, 11:30 am**, in the fellowship hall and stay for games of Mexican Train or Bingo.

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

## Peace and Global Witness Special Offering

The Peace & Global Witness Offering is one of four annual special offerings. The campaign begins Sunday, September 3 and runs through October 1. 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 & Global Witness Offering draws Presbyterians together as active peacemakers, and provides education and interaction with those who show us how to do this work well. It allows us to create resources for dealing with conflict while nurturing reconciliation, and standing in support of our siblings around the world, because the peace of Christ belongs to people everywhere.

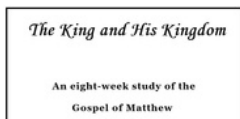
Twenty-five percent of this Offering stays with APC to support peacemaking and reconciliation in our own community. Twenty-five percent goes to our mid-council to join with other congregations to support peacemaking work in our region. Fifty percent supports the work being done by Presbyterians across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



## Fall Bible Study - Gospel of Matthew



Beginning Wednesday, September 6, Pastor Wayne will lead a discussion of the Gospel of Matthew. A booklet has been prepared dividing the Gospel into 40 readings. The schedule in the book shows when each set of readings will be discussed at the weekly study. Pick up a copy of the booklet in the narthex.

**NOTE: The Bible study group will not meet on the second Wednesday of each month.**

Every second Wednesday, we will offer something for both the women and men of the church.

- **Women:** The Presbyterian Women's Horizon Bible Study is titled, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus in Luke-Acts*, by Olive Mahaabir.
- **Men:** The men of the church will meet for a program called "Time Out for Men." This will be a chance for the men to have fellowship, share a meal, and grow together in faith.

Matthew Bible study will start at noon.

Presbyterian Women and Men's Time Out will start at 11:30 am.

## Community Garden

APC's EarthCare Committee is putting forth an effort to cultivate God's earth and share its bounty with our neighbors. Work has begun to prepare the grounds and create the beds on the west side of the church for a community garden. 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!



David Gerald and Mike Cruz  
(In this heat, no less!)

## Why it is Important to Use "Green" Cleaning Products at Church and at Home

I have been trying to be more earth friendly in my daily life over the past few years. In our house we do the usual: recycling, reduce the use of single use water bottles, eat organic products as much as possible, and..... the list can be quite long. The last time I attended an EarthCare Committee meeting at church, we were bouncing ideas on what we could do to improve our commitment to the EarthCare label. I suggested that we could use more "green" cleaning products, and I was then asked to do a little research and write an article about it.

For me, using green cleaning products is a no brainer, but it was interesting to find more legitimate reasons. I will start with the obvious - everyday cleaning products. You can revert to using vinegar, baking soda, or castile soap, with tea tree oil. There are lots of DIY recipes for cleaning products online. If you don't have time to play chemist in your kitchen, you can just buy safe-to-use products from almost any store. According to the site, "Clean Water Action (1)," you may want to consider the following when buying green cleaning products:

- Non-toxic
- Biodegradable
- Phosphate Free
- Recycled content containers
- Bulk packaging
- Natural fragrances
- Contains no dyes, chlorine, or hypochlorite (bleach)
- Full disclosure or labeling of "active" and "inert" ingredients.

But the real reason for using green cleaning products is geared more towards health and safety. Traditional chemicals found in cleaning products have been found to trigger or reinforce several medical issues like asthma, cancer, and of course, accidental burns or poisoning (2).

They are also linked to reproductive and developmental toxicity, allergies, and irritations. The thought of having a lot of children being present at church during the day at CLC or during the quarterly visit of families with children during our Family Promise rotation, are reasons enough to want to switch to less harmful cleaning products.

Although this would be ideal, there is one important factor why the switch to less harmful cleaning products has not happened yet, and it is the cost. The price of green products could be considerably more than regular products. This is due, in part, to high manufacturing costs. For example, it costs more to extract ingredients from plants than using synthetic ones (3). The resources used can also be limited.

In the end, it is about the balance of what you can do for the environment, and making sure it fits your budget. You can start small and switch one green product for a regular product in your household and see if that can be sustainable for you.

Resources:

1) [cleanwater.org/green-cleaning-guide](https://cleanwater.org/green-cleaning-guide)

2) [ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/cleaners\\_and\\_health/](https://ewg.org/guides/cleaners/content/cleaners_and_health/)

3) [forbes.com/sites/joanmichelson2/2019/10/31/are-sustainable-house-cleaning-products-worth-the-price/?sh=5a0472eb7622](https://forbes.com/sites/joanmichelson2/2019/10/31/are-sustainable-house-cleaning-products-worth-the-price/?sh=5a0472eb7622)

Submitted by Claudia Nelson

Presbyterians for Earth Care presented a webinar, *Earth's Natural Systems at Risk of Tipping, A Critical Climate Science Update*, August 1, by Colin Evans, PhD. The webinar recording and accompanying resources are now available at [presbyearthcare.org/earth-systems-tipping-risk/](https://presbyearthcare.org/earth-systems-tipping-risk/) or this [link](#).



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

## Teacher of the Year

Congratulations, Lisa Cruz! She was voted "Teacher of the Year" at Maplebrook Elementary in Humble ISD!

Turns out, she also likes llamas.



## Birthdays

- 9/1 Trey Bosard
- 9/2 Spencer Denmon
- 9/2 Nancy Morrison
- 9/3 Jasper Stanley
- 9/6 Kim Humlick
- 9/6 Pat Litzinger
- 9/6 Kevin Stacy
- 9/6 Terri Thomson
- 9/8 Chinelo Fangtang
- 9/9 Adrianna Burleigh
- 9/12 Maggie Pritchett
- 9/13 Steve Coleman
- 9/13 Eunice Munoz
- 9/13 Jenni Strader
- 9/14 Rosemary Mumford
- 9/15 Michelle Bennett
- 9/15 Shelley Craig
- 9/18 Melissa Frye-Saathoff
- 9/19 Kari Lauer
- 9/20 Maureen Allen
- 9/20 Jackie Hannan
- 9/21 Ryan Mills
- 9/23 Doris Fisher
- 9/24 Cameron Strader
- 9/27 Susie Akrong
- 9/27 Jean Treleaven
- 9/27 Katherine Ann Munoz
- 9/29 Bonnie Russell
- 9/29 Lawrence Martin

## Anniversaries

- 9/1 Melissa & Joe Breda
- 9/2 Janet & Allan Griffin
- 9/3 Judy & Harry Brookby
- 9/4 Carroll & Doug Hebert
- 9/7 Carol & Paul Curtis
- 9/10 Eunice & Richard Munoz
- 9/16 Sharon & Jerry Sessions
- 9/20 Sue & Bobby Grawl
- 9/23 Linda and Steve Coleman
- 9/27 Claudia & Don Nelson
- 9/27 Heather & Robert Pritchett

## Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- The people of Lahaina, Maui in the wake of recent fires bringing devastation to the area.
- ---Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with the Presbytery of the Pacific to offer assistance where needed.
- ---Donations to PDA may be made at this [link](#). To send a check, please designate where you want your gift to go on the memo line and mail to: Presbyterian Church (USA), P O Box 643700 Pittsburgh PA 15264-3700
- Safety for Floridians experiencing hurricane damage and loss.
- 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. I almost removed this last week but unfortunately, it is still relevant.
- Peace and comfort for Kevin, Michelle, Sarah, and Laura Bennett.
- 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.
- Don Frye, health concerns.
- Deborah Fife, strength as she recovers from multiple health concerns. Open heart surgery and stroke. Submitted by Frye family.
- Akiva, Emily Murphy's friend, a cancer survivor. Akiva's daughter has ketoacidosis from juvenile diabetes.
- Petra, friend of Heather Pritchett and Sandy Lee, safe delivery of her baby due anytime. Petra is also being treated for cancer and other high risk factors.
- Lynn and Mike Boyd, friends of Judi Anderson, health concerns.
- Richie, cousin of Lisa Stacy's friend, diagnosed with cancer, now in treatment at MD Anderson.
- Comfort for Patsy Hurt, Ellen Nipe's friend, diagnosed with cancer
- Peace and comfort to family and friends of Mary Skinner, friend of Emily Murphy, she passed away last week.
- Ongoing concerns: Sine McCarty, Anne Wallace, Garland McCarthy, Betsy Gould in hospice, Anne Wallace, Jerry Sessions, Michael Burgos, Ann Owen.

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

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for the first week of September, Libby Boyce (281-630-6347). The remainder of the month, Joe Weir (713-502-2084).

Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
30-Jul	93	15	60	168	\$1,094
					\$4,921
6-Aug	119	11	68	198	\$3,471
13-Aug	103	9	34	146	\$2,808
20-Aug	111	9	50	170	\$7,456
Total Offerings for Year-to-date					\$204,585
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$181,933