



THE COMMUNICATOR

Newsletter of Atascocita Presbyterian Church



MY CHURCH

I'm writing this article the day after had the amazing privilege and honor of baptizing our grandson, Henry Crenshaw Eberly. Before heading to church Sunday, February 23, the Sunday of the baptism, Julie said, "This is a special day." Indeed. To hold our grandson, to have our son and his wife express their desire to have Henry baptized and confess the faith they have in Jesus Christ, to have you all stand up and take vows to support and encourage Henry as he grows in faith, that will forever be a moment we treasure. And it is a moment we shared with you, our family at the Atascocita Presbyterian Church.

The church has been with me since I was a child being held in my own pastor's arms and receiving my own baptism. Julie and I were married in the church. Our children were born into the church. We have joyfully served the church. And the church has been there for us in the loss of, first, my father, then Julie's mother, my mother, and finally Julie's father. We were never alone. We have always had the Body of Christ standing with us, encouraging us, celebrating with us, calling us, challenging us, weeping with us and rejoicing with us.

When my dad died, we traveled to California for his funeral. When we got back to our previous church in Houston, someone gave me a framed poem. The poem is titled, "My Church." As that poem comforted me in the death of my father, the same poem brings joy to my heart as I recall walking among you on the Sunday of the baptism, holding Henry in my arms, singing with you about being one in the Spirit and one in the Lord. Thank you for being our family, for being our friends, for being our support, for being our source of strength and encouragement. Thank you for being our church.

I pray your heart may be filled with gratitude for the church as you read the poem that has meant so much to me.

With the love of Christ,

Wayne

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**Move your clocks forward one hour
Sunday, March 9**

What's inside the latest issue

- "My Church"
- Worship in March
- Faith Formation Classes
- Wednesday Bible Study
- Upcoming Events
- Kids Summer Camps
- Jubilee at APC
- One Great Hour of Sharing
- Earth Care
- Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch
- Birthdays, Attendance Report, Prayers
- A little potpourri

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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MY CHURCH

written by William Henry Boddy

Before I was born my church gave to my parents ideals of life and love that made my home a place of strength and beauty.

In helpless infancy my church joined my parents in consecrating me to Christ and in baptizing me in his name.

My church enriched my childhood with the Romance and Religion and the lessons of life that have been woven into the texture of my soul. Sometimes I seem to have forgotten and then, when else I might surrender to foolish and futile ideals of life, the truths my church taught become radiant, insistent, inescapable.

In the stress and storm of adolescence my church heard the surge of my soul and she guided my footsteps by lifting my eyes toward the stars. When first my heart knew the strange awakenings of love my church taught me to chasten and spiritualize my affections. She sanctified my marriage and blessed my home.

When my heart was seamed with sorrow, and I thought the sun could never shine again, my church drew me to the Friend of all the Weary and whispered to me the hope of another morning, eternal and tearless.

When my steps have slipped and I have known the bitterness of sin, my church has believed in me and woefully she has called me back to live within the heights of myself.

Now have come the children dearer to me than life itself and my church is helping me to train them for all joyous and clean and Christly living. My church calls me to her heart. She asks my service and my loyalty. She has a right to ask it. I will help her to do for others what she has done for me. In this place in which I live, I will help her keep aflame and aloft the torch of a living faith.

Let love be genuine, hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Romans 12:9-13 NRSV

Worship in March

3/2 "He called his disciples"

Luke 6:12-16

3/5 Ash Wednesday

"Lenten spending habits"

Isaiah 58:1-12

3/9 "Jerusalem, Jerusalem"

Luke 13:31-35

3/16 "The compassion of Jesus"

Luke 7:11-17

3/23 Guest Preacher

Rev Barbara Retzliff

3/30 "Remember your first love"

Revelation 2:1-7

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

Children's Faith Formation Classes

Children's class (grades 1-5) meet in the orange classroom.
Children's class (age 4-K) meet in the teal classroom.

Nursery care will be open each week during FF and worship hours for children ages 0-3. 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 classes meet at 9:30 am in the youth room with Julie Eberly.

Please be in prayer for APC Youth as they participate in Conclaves at Trinity Pines Conference Center in Trinity TX Friday, February 28 and returning Sunday after dismissal at midday.

Contacts for the Youth program are Julie Eberly, Lisa Clark, and Terri Thomson.

Adult Faith Formation

***9:15 am Doug Kennard's class in the library. A new study began in February, "a look at the essence of Christianity."

***9:30 am Sermon Scripture Study, with Rev Shelley Craig in classroom 102. Topic is the sermon scripture.

***9:30 am Christian Chat and Coffee in classroom 104. An informal discussion of a variety of topics.

Wednesday Bible Study

Join Pastor Wayne **March 5, noon**, classroom 102 in "Roots and Revelation," an exploration of the relationship between the Old and New Testament.

Note: Pastor Wayne is leading a group to Greece and the Greek Islands in March. After the March 5th meeting, our Bible study will take a break until we gather again on Wednesday, April 16.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Delivery

Meet in the APC parking lot, Saturday, March 1, 8:30 am - usually done by 1 pm. Adults and teens are welcome - no previous experience is required.

It began with a startling realization:



dozens of children in a small Idaho town fell asleep each night without a bed to call their own. This discovery in 2012 sparked what would become Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP), an organization born from the simple belief that every child deserves the comfort and security of a warm bed.

What started as a local mission to help neighbors became an international movement. Today, SHP has grown to 350 chapters, with thousands of dedicated volunteers who have built and delivered more than 250,000 beds to children in need. Yet, as our reach has expanded, so has our understanding of this hidden crisis. APC is a part of SHP Houston North that is doing their fair share of alleviating child bedlessness.

Sign up on the SHP website (volunteer.shpbeds.org) or this [link](#). For more information please contact Rick Anderson (andericl@me.com). Twin-size bedding sets are welcome anytime at the display in the narthex.

Ash Wednesday Service and Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 5, 5:30 pm, in the fellowship hall. No charge!

Enjoy a meal before the **Ash Wednesday worship at 7 pm** in the sanctuary.

The Ash Wednesday service is a time of preparation as we begin our Lenten Journey, walking with Jesus as he makes his way toward the cross. You are invited to join us as we offer our hearts to the Lord and receive the imposition of the ashes, reminding us that from dust we have come and to dust we shall return.

Email your RSVP to rsvp@apchumble.org or sign up in the narthex.

UPCOMING EVENTS

APC Needlers

Meet the second Tuesday each month. The next meeting is **March 11, 7-9 pm** at Karen Frye's house, 8335 Atascocita Lake Way, 77346.

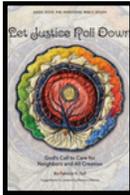
For those who knit (or want to learn), crochet, or sew, there are projects to do. Currently we are working on baby booties and caps for a charity organization.

For more information, please contact Karen Frye (vkfrye62.kf@gmail.com) or Rosemary Mumford (rosesmum@aol.com).

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Presbyterian Women Horizons Bible Study

Meet Wednesday, March 12, 11:30 am in the fellowship hall.



Please bring a simple dish or salad to share for a potluck lunch. The Time Out for Men group will join us for lunch before they move to classroom 102 at noon for their fellowship with Pastor Wayne.

PW will continue at noon with the next chapter in *Let Justice Roll Down: God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation*. For more information, please contact Linda Andrus (harley3064@aol.com).

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Time Out for Men

The second Wednesday of each month, APC men are invited to join Pastor Wayne in a program that gives everyone a chance to have fellowship, share a meal, and grow together in faith.

We look forward to our time together **Wednesday, March 12. Meet at 11:30 am** in the fellowship hall to share a potluck lunch with Presbyterian Women who meet for their monthly Bible study. At noon, the men's group will gather in classroom 102 for their fellowship.

Seniors and Friends

Meet for lunch on the third Thursday of the month at a local restaurant. Join us **March 20, 11:30 am** at a location to be determined.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or RSVP by email to rsvp@apchumble.org. For more information, please contact Bonnie Carr (bncrrl@gmail.com)

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Empty Nesters

Meet for dinner the last Tuesday of each month at a local restaurant. The next gathering is **Tuesday, March 25, 6 pm** at a location to be determined.

A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or RSVP by email to rsvp@apchumble.org. For more information, please contact Nancy Anderson (nancy.anderson56@yahoo.com).

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Game Day for Grownups



Meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The next gathering is **Thursday, March 27, 10 am**, in the fellowship hall.

Treats are provided by one of the attendees on a rotating basis. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex or RSVP by email to rsvp@apchumble.org. For more information, please contact Linda Buchanan (buchananl2246@gmail.com).

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Yoga for all!

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

DON'T MISS OUT!



KIDS CAMP SUMMER

JUNE 10 - 12
JUNE 17 - 19
JUNE 24 - 26

CREATIVE LEARNING CENTER

- T/W/TH 9:30 - 2:30
- 18 Months - Children completing Kindergarten
- Early Bird Registration \$150 per week;
- Price Increases to \$165 after May 1st Deadline
- If registered for all 3 weeks, \$25 discount

REGISTER HERE!
OR AT:
www.creativelearningcenteratapc.org



SIGN UP & TELL YOUR FRIENDS!



ATASCOCITA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ELEMENTARY DAY CAMP

early bird pricing!
\$60
per week
price increases to \$75 on 5/1

june 10-12, june 17-19, and june 24-26
9:30am-2:30pm



register here!

Day Camp (Tues, Weds, Thurs)
Week 1 Theme: Music
Weeks 2 & 3 Themes: TBD (Science or Art)

Daily Schedule:
9:30 AM - 12:00 PM: Bible Time & Classes
12:00 PM - 12:30 PM: Lunch (BYO)
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM: Sportzball

for students who have completed 1st-5th grade,
siblings receive 10% off!

for more information
call (281) 852-8990

Jubilee at APC!

The Session approved on January 19 a motion from our Commitment Committee to embark on a campaign to retire the debt at APC and to dream about the bright future ahead of us as a congregation.

- The campaign will be called “Jubilee at APC.” Following the theme of Jubilee, the campaign will run for 50 days. We will kick off the campaign on Easter Sunday and conclude the campaign 50 days later on Pentecost Sunday.
- The purpose of the campaign is to raise funds to pay off both the building loan and the roof loan, to provide additional funds for the Capital Maintenance Fund, and to provide additional funds for Missions. Debt service on the two loans is \$47,600 per year, accounting for 12% of the operating budget. Eliminating the debt would allow APC to focus more of its resources on the mission of the church.
- The total amount to be raised would be \$425,000: \$320,000 to pay off the loans, \$65,000 to fund Capital Maintenance, and \$40,000 to be used for Missions.
- Pledges can include an immediate contribution and/or payments over a three-year period.
- A steering committee has been established to run the campaign.

Charis and Will Nees will be the campaign chairs. These others have stepped forward to help guide us through the Jubilee at APC campaign.

Janet and Allan Griffin (Advance Gifts), Joyce Olson (Celebration event), Sue and Bobby Grawl (Secretary), Gary Denmon (Publicity), Marilyn and Chris Friedersdorf (Treasurer), and Julie and Wayne Eberly (Pastoral support).

The campaign will include publicity and mailings, Minutes for Mission, testimonies, special celebration events, and sermons inviting us to share together in the joy of our jubilee journey.

Watch for more information. We look forward to celebrating a successful campaign as we join together to support the Jubilee at APC!



One Great Hour of Sharing Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing connects us with the story of Jesus who joined with humanity and then rushed to society’s margins to proclaim that God’s presence and God’s justice are right here, right now. Received during the season of Lent (March 5 through April 20), each gift to OGHS moves us in solidarity with our neighbors in need around the

globe in over 100 countries and right here at home. In fact, OGHS is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world.

Here are a few ways your offerings make a difference:

- Providing aid and opportunity to people living on the margins in Nepal.
- Standing in solidarity with Indigenous women in New Mexico who work for food and seed sovereignty.
- Working for justice-centered change in Chicago for people living with disabilities.

These are just a few of the places where the Presbyterian Church (USA) uses One Great Hour of Sharing offerings to bring about healing, food for the hungry, and rest for the weary. Your gifts matter because we are privileged to join God in God’s ministry of justice, love, and peace through the work of our hands and the giving of our offerings.

Earth Care Corner

Get Outdoors and Appreciate Our Natural Resources

Spring is a great season in Humble and Houston to enjoy the outdoors and spend more time in local parks and attractions.

- **Jesse H Jones Park & Nature Center**, 20634 Kenswick Dr, Humble. Discover the enchanting blend of nature and recreation. With ample picnic tables inviting outdoor gatherings, a dynamic basketball court, and a playground. Explore the trails, learn about the local wildlife at the nature center, and make lasting memories in this idyllic oasis that celebrates both the serenity of nature and the joy of community engagement.
- **Lake Houston Wilderness Park**, 25840 FM 1485, New Caney. A beautiful, lushly forested expanse of nearly 5,000 acres. LHWP is the only park in the Houston Parks Dept that allows overnight stays in cabins and campsites. Over 20 miles of trails provide a quiet escape from the bustling city. Also available are a variety of outdoor experiences for people of all ages.
- **Mercer Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**, 22306 Aldine Westfield Rd, Humble. A tranquil 393-acre oasis founded by Thelma and Charles Mercer and preserved as a Harris County Park in 1974. This serene space has themed gardens with a diverse array of plants plus miles of scenic trails through natural formations like the Bald Cypress Swamp, Oxbow, and Hickory Bog.
- **Armand Bayou Nature Center**, 8500 Bay Area Blvd, Pasadena. Founded in 1974 by Armand Yramategui, this 2,500 acres of land has been preserved as a wilderness. The mission of ABNC is preserving and restoring three diverse and imperiled Gulf Coast habitats. As one of the largest urban wilderness preserves in the United States, ABNC strives to educate and inspire people of all ages to explore, respect, and protect nature and our vital local ecosystems.

This is a very small sampling of parks and natural preserves that we are blessed to have in our area. These are the types of areas that we appreciate in Earth Care. We are (hopefully) past the harsh days of winter and (hopefully) not yet experiencing the oppressive days of summer so now is the perfect time to take notice of God's handiwork.

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



ATTENTION APC MEN 2025 Men's Conference at Mo-Ranch

Please join several of us who will be attending this year's conference which will begin on Friday, May 2 and end on Sunday, May 4. The cost is \$425 per person which includes tuition, meals, and housing. Please register by April 1, 2025.

Men's conference is a gathering of men for fellowship and spiritual renewal. Activities include keynote presentations, worship, song, workshops, relaxation, and recreation. Saturday afternoon optional free time includes recreational activities and sports. Saturday dinner is "not to be missed" BBQ.

The APC men, traditionally, stay in a Triplex which is comprised of two bedding areas, a family/dining room, and a full-sized kitchen. We have reserved Triplex 1, 2, and 3 for this year. Each Triplex sleeps at least five people - more if someone is willing to sleep in the upper bunk beds. Each evening, we enjoy games, libations, sitting outside by the fire pit, and viewing the Constellations.

Also, several of us leave on Wednesday before the conference to play golf or explore the local sites on Thursday and Friday morning. There will be an extra cost for housing and meals.

Fellow golfers/Early arrivals

Registration Options:

Arriving before dinner on Thursday, your room, Thursday dinner, and Friday breakfast and lunch = \$150

Each individual is responsible for registering for the conference. Under lodging option, select Hotel/Premium Lodging. If contacted by a MO representative, tell them you are with the APC men and staying in the Triplex.

The Registration Form and more detailed information may be found at moranch.org. Follow the link under Programs & Events.

If you have questions, are interested in attending the conference, or want to play golf, please contact George Williams (281-772-4706) before April 1, 2025.



- 3/1 Lorena Pritchett
- 3/4 Gwen Poirier
- 3/6 Karen Frye
- 3/6 Scott Mayer
- 3/7 Laura Bennett
- 3/8 Roy Garcia
- 3/8 Ron Morrison
- 3/9 Forrest Craig
- 3/9 Carol Hedgepath
- 3/10 Terri Parmerlee
- 3/13 Melissa Williams
- 3/15 Russ Nipe
- 3/16 Ellen Taylor
- 3/17 Minerva Renteria
- 3/20 Daryl Munoz
- 3/21 Steve Hlavaty
- 3/22 Linda Buchanan
- 3/24 Lee Merrick
- 3/26 Tom Hedgepath
- 3/27 Bonnie Carr

2025 Worship Attendance and Offering Summary					
Date	In Person	BoxCast Live	Facebook Live	Total Viewers	Offering Total
2-Feb	116	17	141	274	\$2,606
9-Feb	109	31	83	223	\$2,141
16-Feb	95	10	75	180	\$3,666
23-Feb	120	22	96	238	\$8,503
February End of Month Credit Card Receipts					
Budgeted Offerings for Year-to-date					\$62,540

Prayers, Concerns, & Condolences

We lift prayers to the Lord for friends and family:

- Praying for peace where there is war.
- Those impacted by recent floods and other natural disasters and weather extremes.
- Victims and families caught in recent gun violence.
- Peace and safety for all who are serving in the military away from home.
- Gwen Poirier surgery rescheduled for 2/26. Speedy recovery.
- Denis Poirier has health issues.
- Ed Guetens, Judi Anderson's husband, being treated for pneumonia.
- Danny Eberly, brother of Wayne, in chemotherapy.
- Betty Shipley in hospice.
- Ann Owen being treated for COPD.
- APC Youth and Youth Leaders in Conclaves, Trinity TX, Friday through Sunday, February 28 through March 2. Travel mercies and a fulfilling weekend.
- Dede Murphy, Emily Murphy's sister-in-law, has a breast cancer diagnosis.
- Dick Holmes, friend of Don Frye, in hospital with cancer and pneumonia.
- Chris Glover and Debbie Kevlin, family of Elaine McCool, health issues.
- Krista Sherwood, daughter of Carol and Paul Curtis, health concerns.
- Ongoing concerns: Sine McCarty, Garland McCarthy, Anne Wallace, Michael Burgos, Ann Owen, Connie Brown, Carl Braden, Russ Nipe, Judi Anderson, Jane Church, David and Vicki Lasinsky.

Please email prayer requests to the church office (apceapchumble.org).

For pastoral care emergencies, please contact your deacon or elder for March, Joe Breda (281-782-1576).



An entire week was designated as a sincere thank you to CLC teachers for their love and devotion to their students. Many gifts and treats were shared by CLC students and parents to show how special are the teachers.



APC Youth sponsored Souper Bowl of Caring was a great success that culminated on Super Bowl Sunday, February 9.

All proceeds were given to **HAAM** in their efforts "to provide help and hope to Northeast Harris and East Montgomery Counties!"