Dear Jacksboro Parish,
In Ecclesiastes we see there is a time for everything:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;
3 a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down and a time to build up;
4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5 a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6 a time to seek, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 a time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace.

Through our ministry together, we had these times. We had times of birth and death; times of weeping and laughing; time of tearing and sowing; and other times that deeply touched our spirit. In these times, we built relationships we loved one another, and we built the kingdom of God right before our eyes. We shared meals, we provided food in the community, we offered words of healing, and we were the hands and feet of to those in need. In ministry together we served at the Food Pantry, Concerned Citizens, Clothes Closet, and other community events/organizations. Through Lord’s Acre, we provided food, shelter, utilities, and medication to those in need. Backpack Buddies is off and running—by God’s grace, we send food home with children on the weekends who are food insecure. With God’s help and thanks to the respective directors, we cared for more children through our youth ministry and our MDO Xtreme ministry. We even had art classes, started Men’s Group and Bible Babes, and participated in fellowships that fed our spirits.

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As a Presbyterian I am still thinking about the changes the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, USA made but I am very pleased at the way the church arrived at these decisions—through much discernment, prayer, and discussion. We Presbyterians will be considering some of the decisions for years to come. Below is a quote from a letter from the Stated Clerk, Moderator and Executive Director, Presbyterian Mission Agency of the General Assembly.

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
Earlier today, the 221st General Assembly (2014) of the Presbyterian Church (USA) approved a recommendation from its Assembly. Committee on Civil Union and Marriage Issues allowing for pastoral discretion to “perform any such marriage they believe the Holy Spirit calls them to perform,” where legal by state law.
They also approved a recommendation to change language in the Book of Order to indicate that “marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman.”

The second recommendation goes before all the presbyteries in the PCUSA, and each presbytery has a year to discern, pray, and discuss this recommendation, and then each presbytery must vote YES or NO (and a presbytery that does not vote will automatically be recorded as a NO vote). Before any change regarding the language can be made, it must be ratified by a majority of our church’s 172 regional presbyteries.

These were not the only actions of the General Assembly contrary to what the media has reported. The 221st General Assembly also said YES to the divestment of three US Companies (Caterpillar, (continued on page 9)
I’m sure we’re all sad at the loss of our dear grocery store, Diamond. Well, you guys might be sad. I’ve only lived here for 3 1/2 months and could honestly care less. But, if you were one of the lucky ones like I was you got in the doors during the “legal looting” phase of the store closing. I filled up a grocery cart to the point where the goods were stacked taller than me. I paid a whopping $30 for a good 100lbs of groceries. Needless to say, I made out like a bandit. During my kid-in-a-candy-store phase of grocery shopping I had the most bizarre Deja-vu. Then I remembered; this was not the first time that I’ve done something like this.

In 2008 I was put on title 10 orders to aid in the relief efforts in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike which virtually leveled Galveston. It was my job to search for any shut-ins on the island and provide them food, ice, and water. Anyway, one of the victims of the hurricane was the Super Wal-Mart. Usually, you imagine Wal-Mart as a loud, bright, obnoxious place (which it is!!!), but on this particular occasion Wal-Mart was something else entirely. It was completely empty. There was no power hence there were no lights except from the sun roof tiles. Next time you’re in one just look up and you’ll see what I’m talking about. The only sign of electricity was the sound of a dying alarm beeping every 2 minutes or so (beep...beep...beep...). During the storm the store had been submerged in a foot of water. What remained was the smell of stagnant salt water, meat, and cheese that had been left without a cold source for something like 10 hours (not quite rotten yet, but still unpleasant). I remember standing on one side of the store and being able to talk to my buddy at the very opposite end. That’s how quiet it was. There were only 3 employees of Wal-Mart there. Their job was to sit at a small table at the main entrance and take down USP codes of everything we took out of there. Everything in the store was free! My favorite pair of

(continue on page 5)
Socks which I still own to this day came from this trip. I lacked socks so for my own health I got socks. Stagnant water = mosquitoes; I got bug spray. Sun = sunburn; I got sunblock, and so on. I could have loaded up on DVDs, gotten a new flat screen TV, and maybe I could have gotten a few accessories for my apartment, but I didn’t (I did see some locals walking out with some of those items). I got what I needed and nothing else. They wrote down the barcodes and I was on my way. But I remember the feeling of looking at all that Wal-Mart had to offer and only taking what I needed. During the “legal looting” at Diamonds I would have loved to have taken every box of Frosted Flakes that they had and be set for the next several months, but that same feeling of restraint came over me and I refrained from clearing the shelf; I had a hunch that maybe I’m not the only one that likes frosted flakes in Jacksboro. At the same time I realize this was just business, and got a couple of frozen pies. But that’s beside the point! While I was there I thought, “what can I grab that would be good for the food pantry, or what might the MDO program need more of that I can grab while I’m here?” So I grabbed an industrial size box of tissues for the church and more than a few cans of peas for the pantry. It only took a few hours for Jacksboro, a town of 4,000 people, to clear out an entire grocery store. If this were an actual crisis, you might want to hope that more people would only take what they needed. If food production stopped tomorrow Americans would have enough food to feed ourselves for a week. Food for thought (no pun intended): conservative estimates say we waste up to 40% of all of our food annually; this includes, but is not limited to, what doesn’t get sold at the grocery stores, what we don’t finish at a restaurant, and what we take home that doesn’t get consumed. But to most of us this isn’t new news. We’ve been talking about this issue for decades and now there are over

(continued on Page 10)
MDO Xtreme IS Now Enrolling Students!

MDO Xtreme is now enrolling students for the upcoming school year with limited spots available. MDO Xtreme will begin Tuesday, September 2. We will be hosting an Open House on Thursday, Aug. 28, from 5:30-6:30pm. Please call Shilo Cornish at 940-567-3735 for more information.

Mark your calendar! August 15

Parent’s Night Out

5:30-11PM
All children Nursery School age through 5th Gr.
$25/Child-$10 for additional children
MOVIE ROOM - GAME ROOM
CRAFT ROOM
PIZZA & ICE CREAM PROVIDED

Contact Shilo Cornish at 940-567-3735 to reserve your spot!

All proceeds go to MDO Xtreme Scholarship Fund.
YOUTH SUMMER UPDATE

I think it’s safe to say we’ve had a fairly productive summer with 2 trips to camp in Athens, TX, a mission trip, and several events here locally. Along with 300+ other Disciples we painted 30 houses in 3 days in El Reno, OK! The boys and JoAnn worked their tails off and accomplished something pretty incredible. A select brave few joined me at camp this summer. 2 of them even went to “Sex Camp” (A scripturally based sexual education program also known as ‘Eighters’). A small group went up to Wichita Falls for a night of go carts, laser tag, and roller blading at the Plex. But when the Lord’s work is being done, we of course found time to worship our Savior, Jesus Christ. Those of us who attended the mission trip participated in a moving service surrounding “the Survivor Tree” led by a minister whose mother was lost in the attack. Those who went to Eighters had their souls molded and transformed in an equally moving worship service.

And that was our summer so far in a nutshell!!!

We give thanks to God for all that He has done and will continue to do in our lives. Amen.

“Mullet”

-Jon

Hunter
Levi

OKC Memorial
Unwavering Conformity— a yearlong study in stewardship

**Stewards of Prayer—Romans 8:18-27**

As stewards we have both the privilege and the responsibility to pray for others and for ourselves. Prayer is not a gift to be taken lightly or used irreverently, says stewardship writer Luther E. Lovejoy (1864-1936).

The power of prayer is a most sobering responsibility. It is a stewardship for which we must render a strict account. We may not handle lightly this grave trust, as innocent children handle sharp-edged tools, or careless workman high explosives! For to the Christian disciple is given the duty not only to pray, and to pray for worthwhile objects, to pray for fellow men, but to prevail in prayer. ‘Render an account of your stewardship’ is as applicable to prayer as to money or time. What have you done with the power of prayer? It was given you as spiritual capital, with which to achieve, to produce, to create.

And we have a powerful helper in the Holy Spirit. Pastor and devotional writer E.M. Bounds (1835-1913) expounds on the Holy Spirit’s role of intercession, as discussed in Romans 8.

This text is most pregnant and vital, and needs to be quoted. Patience, hope, and waiting help us in prayer. But the greatest and the most divine of all helpers is the Holy Spirit. He takes hold of things for us. We are dark and confused, ignorant and weak in many things, in fact in everything pertaining to the Heavenly life, especially in the simple service of prayer. There is an ‘ought’ on us, an obligation, a necessity to pray, a spiritual necessity upon us of the most absolute and imperative kind. But we do not feel the obligation and have no ability to meet it. The Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses, gives wisdom in our ignorance, turns ignorance into wisdom, and changes our weakness into strength. The Spirit himself does this. He helps and takes hold with us as we tug and toil. He adds his wisdom to our ignorance, gives his strength to our weakness. He pleads for us and in us. He quickens, Illumines, and inspires our prayers. He invites and elevates the matter of our prayers, and inspires the words and feelings of our prayers. He works mightily. He enables us to pray always and ever according to the will of God!

The Spirit, when he prays through us, or helps us to meet the mighty ‘oughtness’ of right praying, trims our praying down to the will of God, and then we give heart and expression to his unutterable groanings. Then we have the mind of Christ, and pray as he would pray. His thoughts, purposes, and desires are our desires, purposes, and thoughts! It is the unfolding of the word by the Spirit’s light, guidance, teaching enabling us to perform the great office of intercessors on earth, in harmony with the great intercessions of Jesus Christ at the Father’s right hand in Heaven.
(Continued from page 3)

Hewlett-Packard, and Motorola Solutions) whose business practices are contributing to non-peaceful pursuits in Israel-Palestine. Action was also taken to add more money to the 2015 and 2016 General Assembly mission budgets. “Educate a child, Transform the world” was adopted to educate 1 million children in the US and around the world for the next 4 years as a way to alleviate poverty, esp. For women and children. The Assembly also voted to expand the Peacemaking Offering to include global witness after the year 2016. The Belhar Confession (having to do with the struggle against apartheid) will be sent back to the presbyteries for study and a vote by 2/3 of the presbyteries and if passed by the presbyteries, then to be voted on by the 2016 General Assembly in order to be included in the Book of Confessions. Preventing gun violence was overwhelmingly approved by the General Assembly. Working for the common good with other people of faith was yet another decision approved by the General Assembly. This was not the only business the General Assembly did, but it would be redundant to list all of the actions here.

If you are interested in more information on any of the actions listed above as well as other actions taken by the 221st General Assembly of the PCUSA, please go to these websites:


In Christian Service,

Anne Dyer
Elder First Presbyterian Church
Jacksboro, Tx
7,000,000,000 mouths to feed globally. This is not meant to guilt anyone who reads this into more food conservation. It’s just another reminder to pray for those who are hungry. Although, if you’re looking for examples on how to cut back you can follow in the disciple John’s footsteps and fast twice a week! Or you can be like the Christians locked up in the Gulag who used to give up their one piece of weekly bread every 10 weeks to the weakest Christian comrade as their way to tithe while incarcerated.

The people of Jacksboro have been a wonderful example as to what it means to love your neighbor. Since moving here I’ve seen several food pantries of which our youth program is actively involved in under the leadership of Sheri Kettlety. The youth center has a store room full of food donations that our wonderful Dianna Stockdale has used to feed dozens of young ones with the Backpack Buddies program. I want to help these programs continue to grow and flourish, and I encourage you to contribute what you can when you can to these wonderful ministries. That is after all what we as Christians are called to do.

Matthew 25:35-40

35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ 37 “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ 40 “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Let’s continue the good work that our church does for our community and for others and remember to pray for those in need. And may it be pleasing in His sight. Amen.

-Jon
Over the years, I had the extreme pleasure of walking with you during your spiritual journey. It was my honor to preside over weddings and funerals; join you in crisis, and make hospital visits. We shared laughter and tears, joys and concerns, disappointments and excitement and we experienced the ordinary and extraordinary in life together. You all have touched my heart in ways I cannot express and I offer you my heartfelt thanks and deep appreciation for trusting me to be your pastor.

As stated, there is a time for everything and our time together is at its end. The calling God gave me for this church came to fruition. It is now time that I move on to another church who needs me as much as I need them...just as it is time for Jacksboro Parish to move forward into your next step of ministry. I invite you to look to the future in ministry with great expectation as God leads you and guides you.

The difficult part of leaving ministry is that I am no longer your pastor; however, I can now call you friend. When being ordained, we, as clergy, sign an ethical guideline that we are bound to….that boundary states when we leave a ministry, we cannot act in anyway as a pastor so that you can bond to your next pastor. So, even though we will be in the community until December, we will not be able to attend church at the Parish or participate in any ministries of the Parish.

Jacksboro Parish, you will always have a piece of my heart. Please know in the years to come, my prayers surround this church and each of you that I’ve grown to love. Though my heart breaks, I am confident it is time for me to leave. May God bless each of you and may you love in even larger circles...from your center to the margins.

Much love, Pastor Ana
With Ana’s departure on August 15th, there are some Leadership opportunities available. We encourage those who would like to take on these leadership opportunities to call the office and let Kim know how you will help. These ministry needs include:

**Bible Babes**—a monthly meeting with the “Babes” (all women aged 18-100+) of the church and community. A meal is provided. This is a great group who built relationships over the last two years holding each other in prayer and love. They meet on the third Wednesday of the month and also join together in Biblical discussions that are pertinent to women.

**Elder Enrichment**—a monthly meeting where the Elders join together to learn something new and strengthen their skills as Elders. It is also a great time of praying for the church and community.

**Book Club**—meets monthly on the second Sunday in the evening with a new book that touches us spiritually, theologically, and makes us think about our faith and our spiritual journey. September’s planned book is “Proverbs of Ashes” by Rita Nakashima Brock who is a professor at Brite Divinity School and focuses her ministry on Moral Injury at the Soul Repair Center.

**Men’s Ministry**—meets monthly on the second Tuesday at 6:30AM. The two men who led this Men’s Group are no longer doing this ministry.

There may be other times of leadership needed, so please keep your eyes and ears open for places where you can offer your time, talents and creativity. Where is God calling you...right here at the Parish!

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Jacksboro Parish brings Tammye Isbell back for one more summer art class. We hosted her twice and both times the classes loved her. She fosters confidence in the students and offers a place of being creative. It is amazing watching the unique talents of each person. Join us on August 11, from 9am-12 noon for a class in acrylics. The cost of the class is $40.00 per person and open to all going into 9th grade and up.