

From Ben's Pen

Even though my final Sunday in the Sanctuary was last Sunday, we decided that with our skipping a week of worship in the sanctuary and with it being the July 4th weekend that for Greg to have a good crowd and be able to worship in the sanctuary that I would have one last worship service from home. With that being the case, that meant I had one last From Ben's Pen to write. So this is it.

In *A Brief History of the United States* (1871) you read:

"During the day, the streets of Philadelphia were crowded with people anxious to learn the decision. In the steeple of the old State House was a bell on which, by happy coincidence, was inscribed, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof."

In the morning, when Congress assembled, the bell-ringer went to his post, having placed his boy below to announce when the Declaration was adopted, that his bell might be the first to peal forth the glad tidings. Long he waited while the deliberations went on. Impatiently the old man shook his head and repeated, "They will never do it! They will never do it!" Suddenly he heard his boy clapping his hands and shouting, "Ring!

Ring!" Grasping the iron tongue, he swung it to and fro, proclaiming the glad news of liberty to all the land. The crowded streets caught up the sound. Every steeple re-echoed it. All that night, by shouts and illuminations, and booming of cannon, the people declared their joy."

In June 1993 I was privileged to walk the streets of Philadelphia. My oldest daughter, Ruth Anne, and I had driven across half of the continent to look for a place for her to live while she attended Temple University in Philadelphia. As we looked for a place for her to live we drove down the old cobblestone streets. The streets were narrow and history seemed to emanate from every corner.

Late on a Friday afternoon, after Ruth Anne and I had spent a day finding her a one bedroom apartment in the heart of the city, Ruth Anne rested in our motel room while I went out looking for souvenirs to bring back to Dallas. The historic district was not far from where we were staying. I walked from our motel under a highway bridge and was in the central city.

As it was late in the afternoon, the flow of people had dwindled. As I walked the streets toward the heart of the city, I found that I walked through an area where the tomb of

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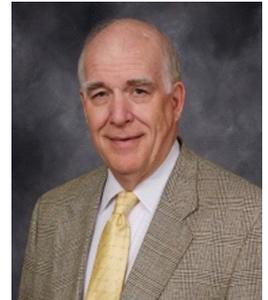
Forestburg UMC Welcomes Reverend Greg Parr.
Reverend Parr's first Sunday in the Pulpit will be July 12,

Go to our website to view Reverend Parr's Bio. <https://www.forestburgumc.com/>

Pastor Parr and his family have moved into and are making our parsonage their permanent home.

If you have a prayer concern/praise or any information for the congregation, please call or text Pastor Greg. His cell number is 940-841-3183, the parsonage number is 940-964-2278, or leave a message on the church phone, 940-964-2370, Pastor Parr will be checking messages on a daily basis.

He is looking forward to serving Forestburg UMC!



Pastor Ben Shinn

This will be our last weekly update.

Starting next week we will go back to having monthly newsletters with July being our first one.

Special points of interest:

- Ben's Pen
- Welcome Pastor Parr and Family!
- Info from SPR Chairperson
- Weekly/Monthly Stats
- Grant Money
- Prayer Concerns/Joys
- Mission Statement
- Order of Worship
- Birthdays/Anniversaries
- Our online worship service can be found each week on our on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/ForestburgUMC/) or on our website (www.forestburgumc.com)

Ben’s Pen Continued.

Benjamin Franklin is to be found. I walked into a wonderful park and two blocks down was the Hall of Independence with the Liberty Bell outside. As I walked through the quiet park I was very much aware of the history that surrounded the pathways on which I trod. These were areas that were familiar to the feet of the founding fathers of our country. There was a special awe and reverence to be walking on those pathways.

Obviously the city has changed over the years. It is now a hustling bustling metropolitan city with all of the urban problems that we face in the City of Dallas. It has homeless people with cardboard boxes for homes. It has churches struggling for life and a future in the central city. The times have changed, but the needs of people and the world have not. As I sat on a bench in the park, I could imagine what it must have been like that first Fourth of July in 1776 when the bells rang and the cannons boomed and the people declared their joy. Samuel Smith’s words were my prayer on that bench and will be my prayer this weekend as we celebrate our country’s birthday once again.

“...long may our land be bright with freedom’s holy light, protect us by thy might, Great God our King.”

“Good-Bye” to Pastor Ben and Mary....but “Hello and Welcome” to Pastor Greg, Melody, and family!

We had 21 to attend the “in-sanctuary” worship this past Sunday, June 28. It was Pastor Ben’s last Sunday to preach in the sanctuary as we prepare to welcome our new pastor and his family, Pastor Greg Parr and Melody on Sunday, July 12th. As always, Pastor Ben delivered a very inspirational message. Pastor Ben will deliver one final worship service via Facebook/Internet. Thank you to Pastor Ben and Mary for the time spent with us here, at Forestburg UMC for these past eight months. It certainly has been a very different time than we had expected last November when Pastor Ben became our Intentional Interim Pastor. We wish Pastor Ben and Mary a very restful and enjoyable rest of the summer.

On July 12th, we will continue to practice “Social Distancing” as Pastor Greg delivers his first sermon in the sanctuary. We have made a few changes to our guidelines. I will publish those in next week’s update. Please make plans now to attend if you feel healthy and safe. We will continue to do all we can to keep everyone healthy.

God Bless All!

Liz Johnson, SPR Chairperson

Weekly Giving

Date	General Fund	Designated Funds
Week of June 1	\$1,000.00	\$300.00
Week of June 8	\$200.00	\$50.00
Week of June 15	\$3,036.00	\$50.00
Week of June 21	\$1,198.00	\$0.00
Week of June 28	\$1,907.00	\$250.00
Total for June:	\$7,341.00	\$650.00

With our not worshipping together on Sunday mornings, we still have operations and bills to pay at the church. We encourage you to:

- ◆ Mail your gifts to the church.
- ◆ Our mailing address is: P. O. Box 374, 76239.

Grant From the North Texas Conference

As reported in May, we received a \$500 grant to be spent towards equipment to help with online streaming of our services and other events. These grants were awarded to applicants by the North Texas Conference.

With the grant money we received, we were able to purchase an iPad, tri-pod, and cords needed to be able to “live stream” our services and other events via FB/Internet.

Thank you to Theresa for researching the equipment we needed, getting it purchased, and set up for use.

We will start using the new equipment Sunday, July 12th.

Also, we have been given funds by an individual to “Boost” our live-streamed video on Facebook for three months starting July 12th. Thank you to this individual.

Submitted by Liz Johnson, SPR Chairperson

Prayers/Praises

For those lifted up last Sunday:

Margie Hess, John Brim, Family and Friends of Jake Tolar, Pastor Ben and Mary Shinn, James Baber, Cass Skinner, All pastors and churches as they make pastoral changes effective July 1, Pastor Greg Parr, Melody, and Family

For those in need of continued prayer:

Myrt Denham, Helen Ellzey and Family, Harriett Nauert, Bobbie Jo Wiley, Wassie and Rosemary Reynolds, Trent Tipton, Treaver Freeman, Chance Fox, Jim Bob Roberts and family, Our Church and Church Family, Mary and Glenn Whatley, Clara Tipton and Family, Stella Crowsey and Family, Rex Larkey, Carol and Wilbourn Smith, Bill Scott, Veronica Greanead, Lisa Trussell, Peggy Cain, Larry Bailey, Keen Johnson and all our service men and women, Our law enforcement, **Our World, Government Officials/Decision Makers, and Those Concerned with the Coronavirus**, Kathy Guier and Family, Rand and Omar and Family, Carolyn Hawk, Abby Hyde and Family, Karen Martinez, All those involved in trying to control the protests and riots, and keep the public safe from these events, Family of Van Lazaroff, Gene Wisdom & Family, Trent Tipton & Family, Vic Sieffert, Law Enforcement & Families

Places we’ve seen God at work:

Healings, Family, Friends, Children, Grandparents, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren, Veterans, Answered Prayers, Graduating Seniors, Our new pastor and family, our Church

The Mission of the
Forestburg United Methodist Church
is to joyfully praise and worship the Lord;
while unconditionally sharing God’s truth,
grace and love with everyone God puts in our path.





Forestburg United Methodist Church

16846 FM 455

P. O. Box 374

Forestburg, TX 76239

Happy Birthday

July 4

Happy Birthday America!

July 11

Tatum Jones

July 18

Theresa Gentry

July 30

Beth Dill

Faith Moore

Happy Anniversary

July 2

Rosemary & Wassie Reynolds

July 9

Vicki & Doyle Smith

July 15

Sheree & Jim Bob Roberts

