

**CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH**

9191 WOODWAY DRIVE WACO, TX 76712
(254) 754-3544 CPCWACO.ORG



January 24, 2019

This Sunday:

9:30 am - Sunday School - Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10; I Corinthians 12:12-31

10:45 am - Worship

Rev. Judith March Hardie preaching

Annual Congregational Meeting following worship

Call to Congregational Meeting

Session has called a congregational meeting after worship on Sunday, January 27, 2019 for the purpose of electing elders for the class of 2020 and 2021; electing ushers for the class of 2021; electing the nominating committee; receiving the 2019 budget; and approving the terms of call for the pastor.

Greetings from Pastor Judith



I wore my colorful Guatemalan stole again last Sunday for the first time since last Fall, and so many people have stopped by or called to ask about it I figured I ought to write an article about it! While I have often preached in both street and church attire, I regularly wear a Geneva gown and stole in the pulpit. These are the traditional liturgical vestments worn by ordained Reformed pastors. The "rainbow" stole has a special, personal significance for me-more about that in a moment.

John Calvin, a 16th century reformer, wore an academic robe when working as a pastor-theologian in Geneva, Switzerland. The idea was both to put on the academic authority of a degreed cleric and to conceal any clothing that might be distracting. Our early American Presbyterians adopted the Geneva gown in contrast to other clergy vestments that were much more ornately decorated.

The cloth scarf worn around the neck is called a stole. It symbolizes our being yolked with Christ (Matthew 11:30), and is usually brightly colored and may have various designs and patterns. In general, the basic colors of stoles are liturgical in nature: white for sacraments and special Sundays (like Christmas); red for Pentecost and ordinations/installations; green for "ordinary" Sundays (ordinary meaning "counted," like the "Fourth Sunday after Epiphany"); and purple for Advent and Lent. There are also tartan stoles for Reformation Sunday or Kirkin' of the Tartans, and pink stoles for Annunciation Sunday or even Breast Cancer Awareness Sunday.

I once had a large collection of stoles, each one had a story and a purpose. My first stole was given to me by my first church; it was embroidered with the faces of children from all nationalities. I was given a set of purple, green, and white Guatemalan stoles by a close family friend who did mission/charity work there. A church knitting group made my fuzzy pink stole when I was undergoing radiation treatment for breast cancer. I was gifted two white stoles, one embroidered by the mother of a young spina bifida baby I baptized the day after he was born and the other quilted with gold and purple wedding rings for me to wear for a wedding.

Now the Rainbow Stole. This was given to me by my father. It is also Guatemalan. As a child, I traveled all over Texas with my dad as he preached in big and little churches. I still have dear and fond memories of my first favorite hymn (Holy, Holy, Holy, which I thought he always included for me), my first favorite scripture (Psalm 46, because he would have the whole congregation read aloud and act out the roaring and quaking, etc.), and my favorite sermon (the Rainbow Sermon, I called it). In the wee hours of the morning as we drove across Texas, playing the "how far to the horizon" game, I would often beg him to preach that sermon because I loved how he would use me as an example of how "bad" my behavior might be and even still I was powerfully loved because like God, my dad had chosen to promise me that nothing I could ever do would separate me from his love. And so, this stole both connects me to the love of my father and the love of God,

proclaiming God's promise-that God would never destroy us in anger again (Genesis 9:13-16). So, I wear this stole for the memories, the proclamation, and because I lost all of my other ones (I have recently purchased some inexpensive ones on Amazon, but do not yet have a green one).

I am grateful for God's Promise, for my dad, and for my "rainbow stole".
Grace and Peace, Judith

150th Anniversary

Save the DATES! We hope all of you have already marked your calendars for **Sunday, February 17, 2019**, when we will celebrate Central's 150th anniversary with a special worship service and festive luncheon. To highlight Central's many years of faithful service to the community, there will be an All-Church Service Day on **Saturday, February 2, 2019**. We hope that EVERY member, together with friends and family will participate (wearing the new anniversary t-shirt or polo --order forms are in Narthex) in one of the planned service events:

- Caritas Hidden Treasures Resale store -- Sort donated items with Don Wall and others. (adults, older youth, ages 10-15 with a parent)
- Children Serving the Community -- Assemble blessing bags for the homeless and make cards to deliver along with homemade cookies to Woodway firefighters and police. (children, youth and adult leaders, and bakers)
- Sewing for Hospitalized Children and People Using Walkers -- Sew colorful pillowcases and pocket bags for walkers with Laura Clifton and Tricia Tolbert. (adults who can cut fabric, iron, or sew)

Sign-up sheets are now available in the Narthex. Please sign up, and join us as we celebrate our history of service. And, more importantly, join us as we celebrate our New Beginning through Christ, as we step out to serve and follow Christ, who is Central to All we Do in God's Name!



January 27 - Annual Congregational Meeting, following worship

January 27 - World Religion Day - Greater Waco Interfaith Dialogue, 3 pm, Providence Pavillion (building closest to Hwy 6 Post Office)

February 2 - All-Church Service Day - sign up in the Narthex (wear your church shirt)

February 9 & 16 - Church Clean-up Days (watch for details, projects, and improvements) in preparation for welcoming guests and celebrants for our 150th

February 17 - 150th Church Anniversary Celebration



Celebrating Birthdays

Rita Smotherman - January 28

Judy Riley - February 1

Caroline Smith - February 11

Granger Smith - February 11

Carl Kuhnle - February 14

(We are missing many birthdays in our database; please let us know yours!
We need the year to enter the date in the database, but will never print it!)



The Weekly News is published each Thursday and sent to members via email. It is also mailed to members who do not have email or desire a printed copy. Printed copies are also available in the church narthex. Church activities and pertinent event information is available on the church website: cpcwaco.org