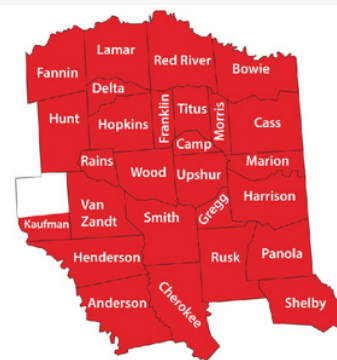




from the...

EAST REGION

of Grace Presbytery



MICHELE'S MUSINGS

Dear Saints of the East and South East,
May the peace of our God be with you!

I've enjoyed another productive month with visits to Hooks, Athens, Tyler, and Longview. One of the highlights was spending my lunch time at a cooling shelter in Longview. The cooperative effort created a safe space where folks were provided with food, clothing, medical support, showers, activities, and a place to rest in a climate-controlled environment – which is critical on these 100 degree days.

Cooperative efforts between churches, organizations, and concerned individuals make this ministry possible.

This month I am excited to announce some upcoming opportunities! First, welcome to Cindy Miller who is our new RMA for the South! The south is in good hands!

Second, our Small Church Zoom Group is joining a larger discussion this month with Church Growth Specialist John Fong. The mini workshop is "How Small Churches Grow" and promises to be practical and informative. Join us on Zoom September 14 at 7:00 pm for this event. See more information and registration below.

Then, on October 22, East Texas Pastors are hosting a luncheon with Ted Foote, Jr., author of *Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America*. This is a hybrid event with limited in-person attendance available. See more information and registration details below.

Both events are free! I look forward to seeing you there.

In grace and peace, Michele

Please post or forward our newsletter to your session or congregation. This is news to share!

Rev. Michele Goff, Regional Ministry Associate, East Region

IN THIS ISSUE

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HAPPENINGS

SEPT 6, 10:30 AM

MICHELE PREACHING AT
HIGHLAND IN TYLER

SEPT 14, 7 PM

SMALL CHURCH ZOOM WITH
GUEST JOHN FONG

SEPT 20, 9 AM

MICHELE PREACHING AT
FIRST IN HOOKS

SEPT 26, 11 AM

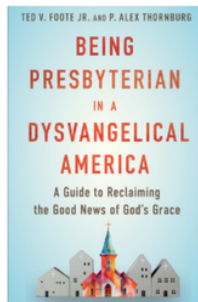
COMMUNION TRAINING
HOSTED BY SALADO

OCTOBER 5-7, ALL DAY

FLOURISHING IN THE SPIRIT

OCTOBER 8, 9 AM

PRESBYTERY MEETING AT
GRANBURY



EAST TEXAS PASTOR'S COHORT Lunch & Book Discussion



REGISTER HERE

bit.ly/4xiDBBJ



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22 AT NOON *Join us for lunch and conversation!*

Rev Ted V. Foote Jr, co-author of "Being Presbyterian in a Dysvangelical America" will be joining the East Texas Pastors Cohort for lunch on October 22, 2026 at Longview United Presbyterian Church, 301 N Center St, Longview, TX. Lunch will be served at noon, with the program starting at 12:30. We have reserved space for three people from each of our East Texas congregations to attend the lunch in person.

Register through the QR code, or short link above to attend and participate in lunch. Wish you could attend virtually? Indicate so on the registration, and the Zoom link will be sent in your confirmation email.

Brought to you by East Texas Pastors Cohort and the Congregational Vitality Committee.

Questions? Please contact Michele Goff at michele@gracepresbytery.org or call her at 918-232-6422.



**A RETREAT FOR
COMMISSIONED
PASTORS AND
SMALL CHURCH
LEADERS**

Flourishing in the Spirit Retreat
REGISTER HERE by September 15!
October 5 - 7, 2026
Gilmont Camp and Conference Center
6075 State Hwy 155, Gilmer, TX
Church leaders are invited to step away
and reconnect. This Synod of the Sun
retreat gathers Commissioned Pastors
and small church leaders for worship,
prayer, workshops, and fellowship,
offering a space for spiritual renewal and
meaningful connection.



Are you playing Grace Presbytery Participation Bingo???
If you enter, not only do you have a great chance to win
lunch or dinner with our EP, you also will receive a
donation to the charity of your choice! Email Emily
Adams at emily@gracepresbytery.org if you would like
a physical Bingo card mailed to you, or you can print
your own and read more about it here on our website's
[Fun & Games Page](#).

Five in a row is all it takes for YOU to be a winner!



October Presbytery Meeting

Next month Grace Presbytery will
be meeting on Thursday, October 8
at First in Granbury. Registration
details coming soon. Mark your
calendar!



Grace Presbytery Announcement



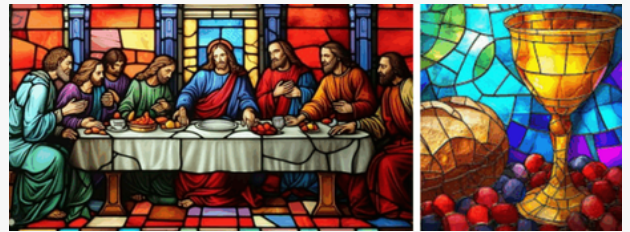
South Region
Regional Ministry Associate

Cindy Miller

**Grace Presbytery is delighted to announce
Cindy Miller as our new Regional Ministry
Associate, South Region!**

Cindy will begin her service as the South Region RMA on September 8, 2026.

Cindy brings a wealth of gifts, a strong sense of call, and a deep commitment to building relationships as we build up the Body of Christ together. Read more about Cindy by following [this link](#). Welcome Cindy Miller!



Communion Training

September 26, 11AM-3PM

Salado Presbyterian Church

105 Salado Plaza Drive, Salado, TX 76571

Is your church without pastoral leadership? Communion training is available for approved ruling elders serving congregations in transition. This session covers theological and practical leadership, including a resource binder and lunch. Please prayerfully discern with your Session if you are called to this ministry. Contact Michele Goff michele@gracepresbytery.org, Sharon Curry sharon@gracepresbytery.org, or Lisa Wraith lisa@gracepresbytery.org. Registration due by September 14.



Battle of the Bags

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER](#)

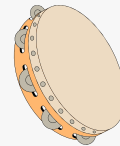
[VIEW AND SHARE THE FLYER](#)

Saturday, October 10, 2026

Gilmont Camp and Conference Center

6075 State Hwy 155, Gilmer, TX

Proceeds from the "Battle of the Bags" directly support Gilmont's ongoing ministries and ensure our programs continue to thrive for generations to come.



SCRIPTURE NOTE

"Then the prophet Miriam, Aaron's sister, took a tambourine in her hand; and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing."

~ Exodus 15:20

This is one of my favorite moments in scripture. It comes right after God has helped the Israelites escape from Egyptians by parting the Red Sea. But the reason it is my favorite is because Miriam had the foresight of a prophet. While she was gathering a few precious items to escape, she packed her tambourine. She may not have known when, but she knew there would be a day to celebrate in the future. In the face of uncertainty, she trusted God.

INSPIRATION

"The divine communicates to us primarily through the language of the natural world.

Not to hear the natural world is not to hear the divine."

~ Thomas Berry,
The Sacred Universe



Small Church Gathering
Monday, September 14, 2026
at 7:00 PM via Zoom

SPECIAL MINI WORKSHOP WITH JOHN FONG

How Churches Grow:

2 Case Studies + 3 Doable Growth Steps

A 40-minute presentation with a live 20-minute Q&A for small congregations looking for simple, doable steps toward new energy and growth you can begin in a week.

To register, send the following information to johnchoufong@gmail.com.

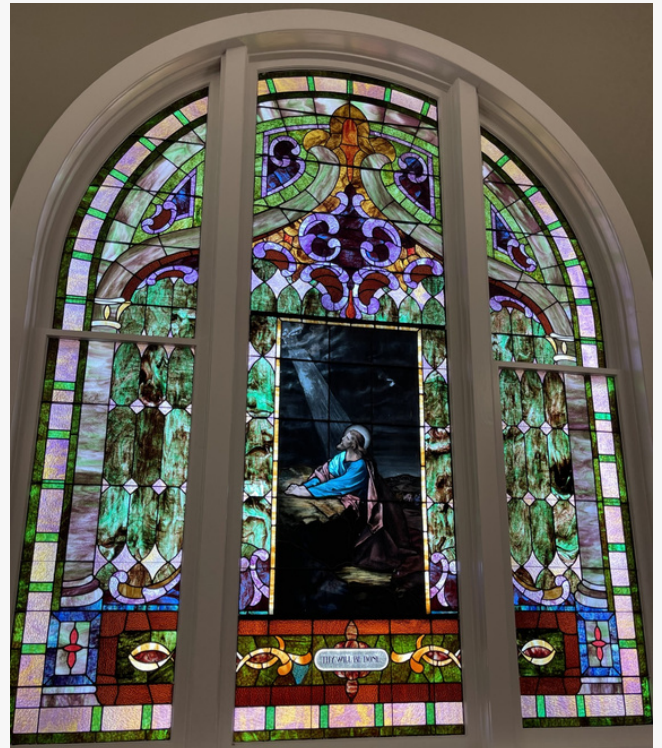
Name / Church Name

Presbytery / Email

Church Address

Number of members / Average Attendance

Once you are registered, John will provide the Zoom link.



GUESS WHERE

Which East Texas church is home to this stained glass window? Guess correctly and win free lunch with Michele. Email your response: michele@gracepresbytery.org. August's window belongs to First Presbyterian in Paris.



Do you have news or an event to share with the region? Do you have a question for presbytery? Call me at 918.232.6422 or email michele@gracepresbytery.org. I'm available for coffee, tea, or lunch!



IMPORTANT LINKS

GracePresbytery.org ~ Visit the Presbytery's [Events Calendar](#)

[Subscribe to Grace eNews](#) for weekly updates and resources

Go to the [East Region Page](#) for a Directory of churches and our regional news archive