

Greetings to the Saints of Mission Presbytery!

You may or may not know that I find Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys to be one of God's greatest gifts to music. Indeed I do. I haven't exactly gotten into writing about "the theology of Bob Wills;" in fact, I doubt I will do so! But Bob Wills songs - and, in his passing, Asleep at the Wheel songs - are absolutely and eminently quotable.

For our purposes today: I look at all the good things going on around Mission Presbytery and am reminded of the song "What Makes Bob Holler?" So this will be the "What Makes Sallie Holler?" edition of Presbyterian Ponderings.

Sallie hollers when she hears that **Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana** in Brownsville is planning to have TWELVE professions of faith and baptisms on Easter Sunday! Their partnerships with Texas A&M and UT Health for classes related to diabetes education, asthma, sewing and Zumba are also holler-worthy. Amazing ministry!

Sallie hollers when she hears that **Rockport First** is back worshipping in the sanctuary! AND, that there have been so many volunteers and other gifts that **Refugio First** won't be far behind. AND, that **Parkway Prez** and **El Divino Salvador Prez**, both in Corpus, have agreed to be sites to host long-term recovery teams. I holler when we work together to support each other as we recover from disaster.

Sallie hollers when she hears - and sees - that at least 8 of the San Antonio-area congregations got together on a sunny January afternoon for a "**Joshua Build**," for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity. I've never heard such a cacaphony of hammers, or seen such a large number and wide variety of Presbyterians having fun doing manual labor!

Sallie hollers when she sees date upon date for **ordinations and installations** of new pastors in Mission Presbytery. We are adding some wonderful folks to our number, and the vision of ministry ahead just causes me to click my heels. AND, the prospect of traveling to **Cuba** with 11 members of Mission Presbytery in October - four of whom are either under 30 or not much over it, is absolute reason for glee.

Sallie hollers when she gets to spend a Saturday with our **General Council** - honestly, I do. Your leadership is solid and strong, unafraid to tackle hard discussions, and focused on the success and health of Mission Presbytery. We are so lucky to have such great folks in our leadership!

Sallie hollers at the prospect of the Winter Olympics Opening Ceremony, which means **CURLING!** (but I digress)

Sallie hollers at the prospect of a bustling **upcoming Presbytery meeting**, chock full of workshops, national speakers, workshops on a variety of topics, and even some surprises. This is one you're not going to want to miss.

I could go on. And I know you wish I would! But if I keep going on, you might not believe me. You should. There are plenty of holler-worthy things going on around Mission Presbytery, much of which is due to YOU - your creativity, your willingness to try new things, your willingness to share the gospel in your lives and your congregations. That zany Spirit is alive and well and loose in South Texas - thanks be to God!

PRESBYTER SIGHTINGS

February 9 - Meet with Committee on Preparation for Ministry

February 10 - Memorial service for Jane Johnson, Smithville First

February 11 - Installations for Holly Hoppe (Round Rock Grace) and Trey Haddon (Austin St. John)

February 14 - Spend Valentine's Day with Fiscal Oversight Committee

February 15-17 - In Richmond, VA for Presbyterian Outlook board meeting

February 18 - Preach for Fredricksburg Memorial

February 18 - Installation for Katheryn Barlow-Williams, Austin Central

February 21 - Meet with H.M. King Trustees

February 25 - Worship with Harlingen Treasure Hills

March 1 - Lunch with students, Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

March 2-3 - Presbytery meeting, Austin Westlake Hills

March 8 - Lunch with Corpus Christi region members

March 10 - "Anxious to Talk About It," Carolyn Helsel, San Antonio Crossroads