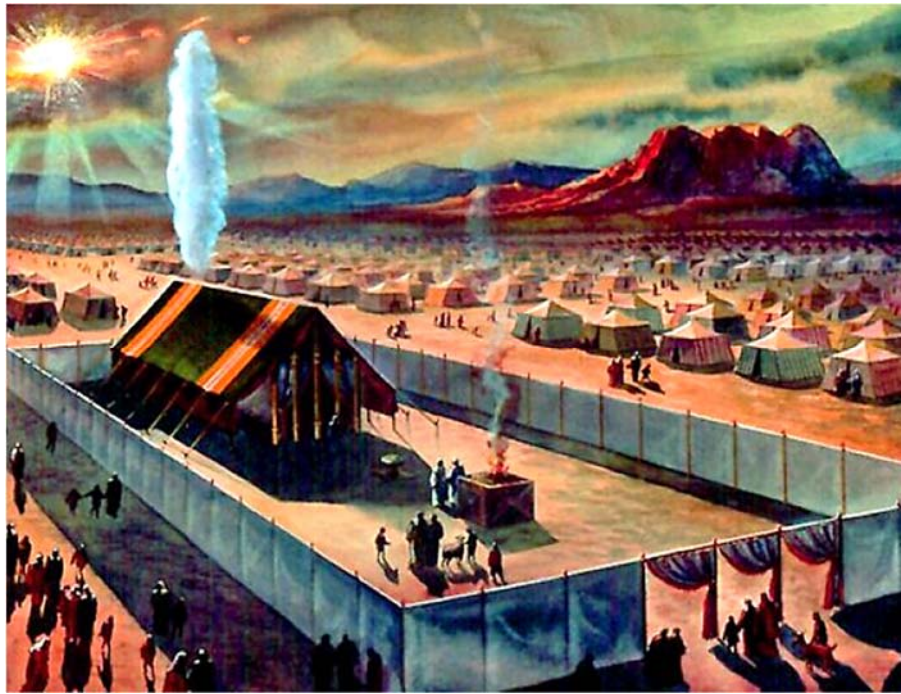


FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

*With thanksgiving to God for the life and ministry of The Rev. Dr. Robert H. Leslie, Jr.
(July 31, 1934 to March 13, 2022)
Pastor of FPC-Bryan 1981-1999 and Pastor Emeritus since 2003*

March 27, 2022
10:45 a.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Bryan, Texas
Link to worship videos available at: www.fpcbryan.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

O God, Our Help In Ages Past

setting, Benjamin M. Culli

OPENING SENTENCES

from Hebrews 12:1-2

The writer of Hebrews has written:

"We are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses. So let us live beyond the sin that weighs us down and run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who gave his all from and in God's eternal love."

* HYMN NO. 385

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

OLD HUNDREDTH

**All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell. Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk; he doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto;
praise, laud, and bless his name always, for it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.**

* Please stand in body or spirit.
Text in **bold face type** is to be read by all.

PRAYERS OF PRAISE, CONFESSION, ASSURANCE OF PARDON, AND JOYFUL RESPONSE

Let us pray together . . . **Holy Sovereign, from your very being the creation was born to evolve. From your gifts for life, generations rise and pass away. In randomness and in order, your universe exists, and every being has value in your sight. Blessed be your name! Forgive us, we pray, for every failure, wandering, and transgression of your desire and intent. Reconcile person to person and each one to you. Restore, prompt, and guide us every day in the newness of life made possible through your steadfast love, which we sense and affirm in the person, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ . . .**

(We pray in silence.)

Sisters and brothers, let us hear and share with gladness the blessed news of the Gospel:

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

* HYMN OF RESPONSE NO. 606

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

OLD HUNDREDTH

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 25:1-8; John 1:14

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL PROCLAMATION

Why Some Details Matter –
Even As “Beneath (and Beyond) Are the Everlasting Arms”

* HYMN NO. 801

The Lord’s My Shepherd, I’ll Not Want

CRIMOND

**The Lord’s my shepherd, I’ll not want. He makes me down to lie
In pastures green; he leadeth me the quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again, and me to walk doth make
Within the paths of righteousness, e’en for his own name’s sake.**

**Yea, though I walk in death’s dark vale, yet will I fear no ill,
For thou art with me and thy rod and staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes.
My head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me,
And in God’s house forevermore my dwelling place shall be.**

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING, INTERCESSION,
AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

based on a prayer by John Knox from 1556

Let us pray . . . O Blessed Sovereign, Most Holy and Most Compassionate of all, Author of amazing steadfastness, Giver of love, justice, and kindness – always beyond our deserving – able to change your people at every point in life: as we are, having been lost, then being found, blind, then being able to see. To you, we give all thanks: for gifts so many we cannot count, for wonders too magnificent to describe, for blessings daily so ordinary we fail to notice. Receive our gratitude: for heritages of faith so rich; for those across the ages who have perceived your call and set forth on a life-journey, guided by your wisdom, healed by your mercy, sharing respect and care, engaging those similar and different – your people of north and south and east and west – including among this vast company whom you have claimed and led, your servant,

Robert Leslie. O Great Steward of the Universe. Grant that the seeds sown by those who are ambassadors of your peace and well-being take deep root among all your people, young and older. Grant that the burning heat of hostilities and harm, of thorn-laced deceptions, of coercive influences, and of anguished grief in this life cannot cause the choking of your plantings; but that the seeds of equity and righteousness which you nourish bring forth thirty, sixty, a hundred-fold. For your undaunted earnestness has taught us: the need to bow before and honor you, forgiving enemies and self, even beyond seven times seventy; the possibility of your will transforming our reluctance and resistance; the responsibility to advocate for the disregarded and the marginalized – because your strength and consolation can dry human tears, fortify sacred values, and all our fears relieve, precious when first appearing, precious still, and ever more. For all who find themselves amid dangers, toils, and snares – those we know and those to us unknown – we pray your life-changing power: to fill, anoint, lead, enlighten, encourage, and enfold, so that however long before death and however long after, we, with others, are privileged to serve in your name and sing your praise, that we may do so according to your faithfulness, which is from everlasting to everlasting,

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

Amazing Grace

AMAZING GRACE

* HYMN NO. 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unchanging love!**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I'm come;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

* DISMISSAL AND BLESSING

* POSTLUDE

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

setting, Jerry van der Pol

+ + + + +

At the conclusion of worship today, Rev. Foote will be in the narthex.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available in the narthex.
Please help yourself or ask an usher for assistance.

CHILDREN ARE WELCOME IN WORSHIP. Worship related activity sheets and markers are available on the tables in the Narthex. Room 108 is available for your nursery needs. If you are unfamiliar with our building and need assistance, an usher will be pleased to help you. Also, two rocking chairs are located in the narthex, where the worship service can be heard via a ceiling speaker.



A WARM WELCOME!

We are delighted that you are worshiping with us today.



Journey Through Exodus Lent 2022

WORSHIP NOTES

PREACHER

Rev. Ted Foote

LITURGIST

Rev. Emily K. Béghin

USHERS | GREETERS

Leigh Gathings; Gilbert Gonzalez;
Sherry Hinnant; Tom Reed

MUSICIANS

Christine Larsen, *organist*
Jessica Sahn Petersen,
song leader
Jackson Herrscher, *bagpiper*

AUDIO-VISUAL | SOUND

Yesdel Benitez Posada
Nicole McKinley
Jerry Norris; Bobby Randolph

CHANCEL FLOWERS

In loving memory of
my mother, Helen Krehbiel,
by Kathrine MacNeil

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The Presbyterian Hymnal
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THIS WEEK AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

4TH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 27, 2022

9:20am Adult Church School-VC *
9:20am Church School: Children's Class-13
9:20am Church School: Youth Class-403
10:45am Worship-S *

Live-streamed worship will be viewable via www.fpcbryan.org,
with a click on the homepage "sentence about worship"
or small red YouTube icon in far top right of homepage screen

5:00pm Stated Session Meeting-Pt

MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2022

12:30pm Circle I-P
5:30pm Cub Scout Pack 350-FH
5:45pm Worship Committee-L
6:00pm Christian Education Committee-304
7:00pm Boy Scout Troop 976-FH

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022

11:30am Men's Luncheon-Chicken Oil Co, Bryan
6:00pm Handbell Choir Rehearsal-BR

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 2022

11:30am Staff Meeting-L
6:00pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal-S
6:00pm Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinner-Fritella's, Bryan

THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 2022

FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 2022

7:00pm Concerts on Carter Creek and Friends of Chamber Music present
Arod String Quartet-S

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2022

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT APRIL 3, 2022

"STOCK THE PANTRY" SUNDAY

Pantry needs are: **CEREAL, CANNED FRUIT, and PEANUT BUTTER** (16 oz.)

9:20am Adult Church School-VC *
9:20am Church School: Children's Class-13
9:20am Church School: Youth Class-403
10:45am Worship-S *

Live-streamed worship will be viewable via www.fpcbryan.org,
with a click on the homepage "sentence about worship"
or small red YouTube icon in far top right of homepage screen

5:00pm Stated Session Meeting-Pt

** Loving childcare provided.*

First Presbyterian Church | 1100 Carter Creek Parkway | Bryan, Texas 77802

PH. 979.823.8073 | FAX. 979.822.7063 | Website: www.fpcbryan.org | Email: office@fpcbryan.org

Find "First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas" on FACEBOOK

NEW MEMBERS may be received any Sunday by profession of faith, reaffirmation of faith, or transfer of membership. If you feel led to inquire about becoming a church member or deepening your commitment as a disciple of Jesus Christ, please indicate your desire on the fellowship folder or call the church (979.823.8073) or email Pastor Ted Foote (tfoote@fpcbryan.org) or Associate Pastor Emily Béghin (ebeghin@fpcbryan.org). They will be glad to arrange a mutually convenient Sunday when you can be received by the Elders and introduced to the congregation.

SHARE AN EASTER MESSAGE!

All are invited to add an Easter card/note to Easter bags for our place-bound church members to let them know we are thinking of them. Empty Easter Bags for place-bound church members are ready and waiting on the Indoor Patio for an Easter greeting from you. Congregational Care Committee members will add Easter candy and cards as well. Thank you in advance for participating and sharing your love. Committee members will deliver the bags during Holy Week.



THE AROD QUARTET IN OUR SANCTUARY, APRIL 1

Concerts on
CARTER CREEK



Concerts on Carter Creek and Friends of Chamber Music invite all to our sanctuary **Friday, April 1, at 7:00pm**, to hear **THE AROD QUARTET**, featuring: **Jordan Victoria, violin; Alexandre Vu, violin; Tanguy Parisot, viola; Jérémy Garbarg, cello.**

With all four members only in their twenties, the Paris-based Arod Quartet has already dazzled awestruck chamber-music lovers in concerts at such prestigious venues as the Auditorium of the Louvre in Paris and the Verbier Festival in Switzerland. The ensemble skyrocketed to international attention when they won the coveted First Prize of the 2016 ARD International Music Competition in Munich, having already taken First Prize at the Carl Nielsen Chamber Music

Competition in Copenhagen. In April 2019, the Quartet undertook its American debut tour, which featured its inaugural Carnegie Hall performance—the only European chamber ensemble ever to make its Carnegie Hall debut on its first trip to the United States.

The concert is free. Following the concert, all are invited to remain in the sanctuary for a (Q&A) forum with the artists. Registration is not required for in-person attendance. To view livestream, please register on the Friends of Chamber Music website at: www.fcmtx.org/.



On **APR 6**, all are invited to Fellowship Hall at 6:00pm for the first “First Wednesday Dinner.” This delicious meal will be sponsored by Community Building & Engagement Committee. The April 6 dinner features Cavatini, Salad, & Bread. This is a great opportunity for FPC members and friends to get to know each other. We hope you’ll join us!

To help organizers plan for food, on the reverse side of the yellow slip included with today’s bulletin, write “DINNER” and the number attending from your household OR RSVP by **MON, APR 4**, to Julie Truax, julie_truax@outlook.com.



NEW! Find all of our social media in one place!

- ★ Visit <https://linktr.ee/fpcbryan> or scan the QR Code (to your left)
- ★ On the web www.fpcbryan.org (newsletter, announcements, worship bulletin, calendar, ...)
- ★ Facebook www.facebook.com/FPCBryan
- ★ Instagram www.instagram.com (fpcbryantx1867 and fpcbryan_youth)

BE THE FIRST TO KNOW when **WORSHIP** and **ACTIVITY** videos are uploaded to our YouTube channel!

Go to www.youtube.com, search for First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, then click **SUBSCRIBE**

Share prayer needs and church group news with fellow FPC participants on Church Updates!

FPC-Bryan’s online tool for YOU to post church-related announcements, ways to serve, and your current prayer needs. While users receive a weekly reminder email on Thursdays to view new posts, this online tool is “REAL TIME.” Contact Karen in the church office, 979.823.8073 or office@fpcbryan.org to set up your account.

Then, login at <https://fpcbtx.churchupdates.org/login> to create your password-protected account.

The deadline for the next issue of the newsletter, The Chimes, is **Noon, April 3**. This newsletter will be distributed Wednesday, April 6, and cover news from April 13-27. Submit content to: office@fpcbryan.org.

The Reverend Dr. Robert H. Leslie, Jr.

July 31, 1934 to March 13, 2022



Robert "Bob" Homer Leslie, Jr. was born in Jacksonville, Florida on July 31, 1934, to Robert Homer Leslie, Sr. and Laura Strunk Leslie and he grew up in Tallahassee, Florida. He attended Florida State University (FSU) and received his Bachelor of Music cum laude with a double major in piano and organ performance in 1956. While at FSU, he met his beloved wife of sixty-five years, Candace Drummond Jones.

He attended Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary and received his Bachelor of Divinity in 1959. He received his Ph.D. from McGill University in Montreal, Canada with his dissertation concentrated on Calvin studies and Reformation thought and history. He was a member of Phi Mu Alpha; Phi Kappa Phi; Pi Kappa Lambda; and American Guild of Organists.

He was ordained by Brazos Presbytery, Presbyterian Church in the United States on July 12, 1959. He served Presbyterian congregations in Texas, Montreal, and New York retiring from First Presbyterian Church in Bryan, Texas, where he was elected pastor emeritus in 2003. While in Bryan, he founded Concerts on Carter Creek, wrote a regular column on religion for the Bryan/College Station Eagle, and served on the Housing Board of the City of Bryan and the Board of Directors Brazos Valley Symphony Orchestra. He was active in numerous community organizations throughout his career.

Reflective of his curiosity, love for learning and international engagement, Bob taught at Texas A&M University, lectured at the Florida Chautauqua Assembly, directed music conferences at Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, and designed and led a myriad of classes and seminars at the congregations he served. He was well-traveled and in 1969, he did a pastoral exchange in Scotland at West Kirk, Rothesay, Isle of Butte, followed by a second at Lochalsh Parrish, Ross-shire in 1985, which launched a decades-long interest in "all things Scottish" including playing the bagpipe, wearing a kilt and Leslie tartan trousers, drinking good Scotch, and supporting Candace's Scottish travel writing including taking regular pilgrimages to the Scottish Highlands. He played the bagpipes at numerous life cycle events and was always ready to give a piano or organ recital. He loved the mountains and camping, and while in "retirement," he and Candace spent several summers volunteering as camp hosts and guiding lighthouse tours at state parks in Oregon and Washington. He was a composer, avid reader, and born entertainer and elocutionist who was always ready to tell a story and engage an audience no matter the size or age.

Of the many things Bob valued, family was his greatest joy including being able to spend time with his great-grandson, Layton Leslie, this past Christmas. In addition to his wife Candace, he survived by his children David and daughter-in-law Leigh (Mohny); Charles and daughter-in-law Denise (Smith); and Mary and husband Ernie China; grandchildren Ian, Ryan, Julia and Michael; brother and sister in-law Grant and Mary Jones; sister-in-law Jewell Leslie; and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Larry Leslie.

The family gives gratitude to all who cared for Bob over the past few years as he recovered from a major traumatic brain injury and then addressed the challenges caused by progressive dementia. Throughout all of life's ups and downs, he never lost his sense of humor and interest in the needs and happenings of others.

Remembrances may be made to:

The Caring Place, 2000 Railroad Ave, Georgetown, TX 78626;

Mo-Ranch, 2229 FM 1340, Hunt, TX 78024;

or

a charity of your choice.

Why Some Details Matter – As “Beneath (and Beyond) Are the Everlasting Arms”

Exodus 25:1-8 and John 1:14

Ted V. Foote, Jr.

March 27, 2022

First Presbyterian Church – Bryan, Texas

Here’s what many folks call “full disclosure”: From the time I was in high school in the late 1960s to this very day, two Scripture types have been slow reading for me, and, to a significant degree, not interesting to me. One Scripture type that’s slow reading and not very interesting to me is the genealogy lists, you know: so-and-so married a different so-and-so, and together they begat this child, “and so forth, and so forth.” The second Scripture type I resist is the details of the materials and the instructions for building the tent of meeting, later the Tabernacle, and still later the Temple in Jerusalem. Today’s reading from Exodus, chapter 25, is the earliest set of verses describing the intention from God to build the earliest worship structure for the journeying former slaves after their liberation from slavery. This earliest description goes from Exodus, chapter 25 to chapter 31, then from chapter 35 through chapter 40. I realize that for multiple reasons there are religious people who consider themselves to be focused students of the many details described in those 13 chapters; but I am not one of them. Said another way: Some people consider every detail described to have significant importance. Other persons judge some details to be important and other details not to be of equal significance.

Many students of Scripture believe that the Bible’s books detail an evolving revealing of God’s call in relating to God’s people on their journey through the years. Here’s the common ground of belief that does not need argument over whether all details are of equally important significance, OR that some details are generally more important as concepts than others.

For example, fairly soon after the former slaves were liberated from Egypt, Moses receives word from God to communicate to those former slaves that God will be traveling among them, seeking a relationship of dignity and honor. The first transportable symbol of God traveling with the former slaves was called “Tent of Meeting.” The call for gifts in the first eight verses of chapter 25 indicate the importance of where God could enter and dwell any time God pleased on that journey or pilgrimage. First, the “Tent of Meeting.” The upgrade to that first “tent of meeting” was called the Tabernacle. Centuries later in Jerusalem, the next upgrade is known as the Temple, which is a permanent dwelling in the city of Jerusalem, rather than a tent or tabernacle with “take down and transport” capacity.

The people could take down and transport the Tent of Meeting and the Tabernacle. They could not do that with the Temple.

The Temple was fixed in location. It did not move. You could come to it, but it could not go with you. For a certain group of faithful theologians, this was a significant short-coming of a fixed structure. To the extent that the fixed structure – the Temple in Jerusalem – was not mobile, and to the extent that it was thought to be where God met the people and where the people could meet God, then what happens when the people are displaced for a major reason, or when the Temple is burned? Where can God then be met? Where can the people then meet God?

When Joanie and I moved to Henderson, Texas, from San Antonio in 1983, Charles Norvell was a member of First Presbyterian Church. Charles was then about 70 years old. Some days he would drive to the church office about 9:30 or 10:00 a.m. and ask if I wanted to accompany him to the Post Office to check the mail. He and his wife had a post office box, and the church had a post office box, so a day or two a week I rode over there with him. Once he asked, “Ted, do you know the story of how Central Presbyterian and First Presbyterian merged? I said, “I have heard some of that story. How folks thought that a hundred members in each church could be doubled if the two churches merged, and they agreed to put each building up for sale, and whichever building sold first, the other church’s site would be the continuing site of their merged church.”

“Yes,” Charles said, “so, the First Presbyterian building, which was the more attractive sanctuary, sold to the Missionary Baptists. The Central Presbyterian building became the site of the merged church. But most significant going forward,” Charles said, “some First Presbyterians members from the church that sold thought God never moved from their more beautiful sanctuary. They hardly ever worshiped in the building of the newly merged First Presbyterian Church. Like the Jewish exiles in Babylon after the Temple in Jerusalem was destroyed in 588 BC, you can’t believe God is fixed to a building,” Charles said. “Not then. Not now.”

This is why, in the Gospel According to John, related to the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the writer states (as Emily helped us to hear at chapter 1, verse 14), “And the eternal Word of God became flesh

and lived among us.” A more literal translation is “the eternal Word of God became flesh and ‘tented among us’ or ‘tabernacled among us’.” The point from the writer is that God visits and moves in such ways that God joins God’s people on life’s journey and has this re-locatable characteristic and relationship in Jesus, and in Spirit. So the biblical story evolves from “tent of meeting” to “Tabernacle” to “Temple” to the visiting and journeying Jesus, who, in the Spirit of his life, ministry, crucifixion, and resurrection, keeps relocating and moving, beyond the Temple in Jerusalem, beyond the old First Presbyterian Church in Henderson, Texas, and beyond even the 1966 sanctuary building of First Presbyterian Church of Bryan, Texas, where we now worship. God in Jesus is not fixed here or stuck here. The non-fixed relationship God in Jesus has with you and me and others across the years leads us forth and leads us out for the very purpose of our relating to others as Jesus taught from the Hebrew Scriptures: “You shall love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and your neighbor as yourself.”

Today we set aside parts of this worship service to give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Robert H. Leslie, Jr., pastor of this church from 1981 to 1999, and Pastor Emeritus since 2003. As I wrote in church correspondence, beginning five years after one-fifth of the congregation departed in 1976 to form a new church, Bob arrived and was used by God with the gifts God gave him – gifts of energy, caring, intellect, music, and mobilizing – for the building up of ministries through this church with a resulting momentum which is alive to this day. Bob’s death is an occasion for thanksgiving and for clear thinking – both of which were trademark-qualities of Bob’s life and ministry: thanksgiving and clear thinking. We give thanks for Bob and the leadership and friendship God has shared through him, and we think clearly that God’s visiting our lives and this church through Bob is a visiting that continues beyond Bob. God has been with this church beyond Bob’s retirement and continues with this church beyond his death, because God in Jesus is continually moving and calling, beckoning, loving, enlisting, and making life new through God’s making sacred of our many, many relationships.

The eternal God, whom we say tents and tabernacles and meets God’s people in this Jesus of Nazareth, encounters you and me and others in worship, service, reconciliation, and community along life’s way all the time. That’s the witness Bob lived and encouraged. It’s the witness God expects and works to yield through us beyond Bob. For those who knew Bob,

isn’t it amazing that God finds ways to share a witness with others which your friend Bob influenced in you, when those others never knew or heard about Bob? It is amazing that God operates that way.

Deuteronomy chapter 33, verse 27, in the Hebrew scriptures is generally translated to English as, “underneath (or “beneath”) us are God’s everlasting arms spread out.” This affirmation asserts that no foe can overcome God’s people because God has “got this.” Bob Leslie was convinced of that element of this faith we receive and practice. To close, I’ll read three quotes from 20th and 21st century ethicists and theologians with whom Bob was familiar in his own teaching of ethics and theology. (1) Presbyterian Kenneth Vaux has written: “We must relearn the ancient and blessed arts of pastoral care, leading one another to water, restoring souls in caring relationships, making to lie down in green pastures, leading beside still waters, bridging over troubled waters, preparing tables, anointing with oil. Above all, we must under-shepherd one another to that Great Shepherd of the sheep” [Being Well, p.161]. (2) Baptist Carlyle Marney wrote: “In God’s stage play of history, there is no cessation of conflict, but we sing songs in the nighttime. Despair does not destroy possibility. We know the dark night of the soul in suffering and in grief at death. Yet we have a faith – a confidence born of the Source of hope. So at the close of every page of copy in our lives, including the last page, the Author puts that word for every typesetter to see: ‘More.’ God’s witness never ends with us” [Faith in Conflict, p.82]. (3) And Presbyterian Douglas Ottati wrote: “The truth is that, after the disciples had lost Jesus through crucifixion and death, Jesus still came to them, and they mysteriously encountered him as the teacher who continues to instruct, the leader who continues to guide, and the power who continues to empower. This is God’s saving way in the world” [Hopeful Realism: Reclaiming the Poetry of Theology, p.68].

Yes, some details matter about a sanctuary where God meets God’s people. Some details in theology and church order and organization matter. What always matters most is “God so loves the world,” and “beneath and beyond are God’s everlasting arms.” Bob Leslie lived that truth in many ways. And God both seeks and makes possible the same from you and me and all others beyond every day and every relationship which lie behind us, but which are influential for God’s good in every present moment, now and always – because God re-locates wherever needed and whenever needed in every life journey. – All honor and praise be to God.