

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



## Press Bytes



### Life Together

*“What God does first and best and most is to trust...people with their moment in history.”* Walter Brueggeman, *The Trusted Creature*

*“It is extraordinary how extraordinary the ordinary person is.”*  
George Will in Julia Cameron’s book, *The Vein of Gold*

I came across these 2 statements in some reading I have been doing. Although they are found in different sources – they seem to be connected in how we might understand our own relationship with God and with our future. The first adjective to describe God’s trust is ‘first’. God trusts us first. The act of trusting is at the heart of all good relationships. In fact – it determines the strength of a relationship. For in any meaningful relationship – there needs to be a certain level of vulnerability between participants – and being vulnerable to one another requires trust in the other person. Friends trust each other as they share who they are and problems with each other. Spouses and families trust each other as they share their lives together with each other. Business partners trust one another with their financial security. In a society - we trust each other to obey laws – to respect our property and privacy. We trust doctors, dentists, and other professionals with our health and different aspects of our lives. We do a lot of trusting in a day. Sometimes we are very careful and other times we put no thought into it at all. Why even crooks operate under that notion of trusting their partners not to be a witness against them. There can be no relationship without trust. But it is God Who trusts first. In the act of creation – God trusts us and gives us the freedom to receive and respond to it. This trusting is the beginning of the relationship between Creator and the created.

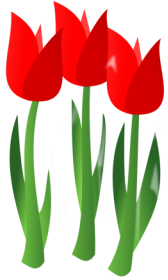
The second adjective is ‘most’. God trusts us most. This seems to have a dual meaning. Does God trust us more than we can trust anyone or anything? Or because of our own failure to be trustworthy – does God end up having to repeatedly display trust over and over? Does ‘most’ describe the degree to which God trusts – greater than anyone else? ‘Does ‘most’ describe the progressive amount of God’s trust offered to us? ‘Or is it both?’ God is always steadfast in God’s trust in us. Maybe the third adjective – ‘best’, will settle the ‘most’ question. ‘God loves best.’ God in fact defines what trust is – as God is open or vulnerable to us – and seeks us out - that we can know and love God.

So as we relate to God – our first question might be: “Can I trust God?” With God – we know the answer is yes. God trusts us. God wants to trust us – despite the fact that this trust has been broken time and time again, God is willing to trust us when we come back and seek forgiveness. We know how difficult it is for us to trust again after someone violates our trust in them. But in forgiveness – God offers to trust us – restoring our relationship and making it whole. It is in the act of trusting us that God offers for us His Son to die on the cross for our sin. To forgive is a witness of God’s willingness to trust us again. God trusts us to accept and to receive this offer as an ultimate act of love. God trusts us to respond by seeking to offer our best to this relationship. Just as we learn to love from God – we learn what trust is from God. “Can I trust you?” Everything we know about God gives us a big YES – and an AMEN!

The next question is: “Will we trust God?” This is our moment in history. Will God’s big YES lead us to the extraordinary? Because in living in trust with God and following God’s instruction – God will lead us ordinary people to do extraordinary things – and that according to George Will – is extraordinary in itself. Think of the many examples from Scripture that reveal how God trusts first – most – and best. God turns over care of the earth to humans. God trusts Noah with the care of all the animals to survive the great flood. God trusts Moses to lead Israel out of Egypt. God trusts a young shepherd boy named David –as he becomes the greatest king of Israel. God trusts 12 disciples to be the foundation of the church. The story of the Bible is how God trusts us – and invests in us – that trust to lead us in extraordinary ways.

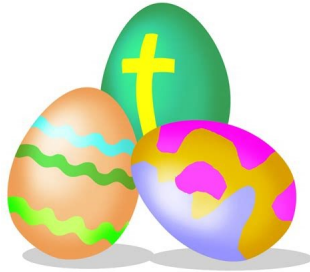
*Pray Often*  
**WORK HARD**  
**TRUST GOD**

*Continued on Page 3*



### Children's Easter Celebration

On Easter Sunday, April 1 at 9:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall, the children will celebrate the resurrection of Jesus by doing crafts, listening to a story and participating in an Easter egg hunt. A light breakfast will be served. Don't forget to bring your Easter basket!



### Confirmation Class

Confirmation is a time for students to learn about the Christian faith and explore what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. At the completion of the class and in front of the church, students have the opportunity to either confirm their baptism or be baptized. They also have the opportunity to become a member of the church.



Parents of 8th graders and higher – If your child is interested in participating in the confirmation process, please contact Pastor Craig or Barbara Bennett (281-703-0445, [tebeb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tebeb@sbcglobal.net)).

### FPC "MEALS ON WHEELS" Volunteers

This month the volunteers for our Church prepared the meal in our own Fellowship Hall. The group prepared 49 meals for the scheduled routes and 6 meals for those in our church family that are home bound. A huge "Thank You" to our Volunteers and to those who help fund this wonderful ministry! [The containers for this month's meals were donated by the H.E.B.in Alvin.]



"We love Him because He first loved us."

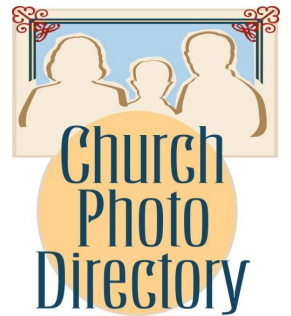
1 John 4: 9-10

### APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Sheila Follmar
- 5 Amber Bennett
- 8 Natalie Aparicio
- 10 Chris Odom
- 11 Audrie Gondesen
- 14 Alan Ruskey
- 17 Jo Myers
- 17 Martha Phipps
- 19 Ruth Frerking
- 22 Eric Grimmett
- 23 Shirley Brothers
- 28 Joan Rossano
- 29 Jim Dallas

### FPC Pictorial Directory

Good News! The final touches are being put into the directory and we hope to have them in your hands within the month of April. Remember if you had your picture made you will receive a free copy of the directory. Additional directories will be purchased! Please call the church office if you did NOT have picture made but would like a copy of the directory. The Session will make sure there is enough copies for the membership.







## RELAY FOR LIFE 2018

Date: Saturday, June 2, 2018

Where: Manvel Junior High School, 7302 McCoy Road, Manvel

Our church Relay for Life team is getting their "scouts" out to recruit for the team. With the event being moved to summer we hope to get our numbers up on our team and fundraising. Cancer is such a horrible disease.

The theme this year is "Game Over", lets help Wipe out the Cancer!!!!

If you would like to join the team, "Angels In The Outfield", donate funds, or purchase a luminary please go to [http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY18SOR?pg=entry&fr\\_id=88304](http://main.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/RFLCY18SOR?pg=entry&fr_id=88304) to do so or you may just go to Google and search for Alvin Manvel Relay for Life. If you have questions please contact Jill Wheatley at 281-701-9013.



## BRAIN HEALTH FAIR 2018

Brazoria County Alzheimer's Awareness Project and The Gathering Place will host the Annual Fair on Saturday, April 7, 2018 at the Brazoria County Fair Grounds in Angleton.

There will be exhibits, screenings, information and resources on all types of health issues mainly pertaining to brain health. Dr. Mark Kunik, M.D., MPH and Dr. Kelly Dineley, PhD will speak on Alzheimer's and Neurogenerative Disorders. There will be exercise demonstrations by Merie Abercrombie from Best Body by Merie. This event is free to the public!

Volunteers are needed for the event. You do not have to be a trained volunteer, anyone can help! If you are interested in volunteering please contact the church office.

Our church and Pastor Craig were instrumental in starting the 4 Gathering Places in Alvin. Since we began our Gathering Place, 4 years ago, the entire ministry has grown.

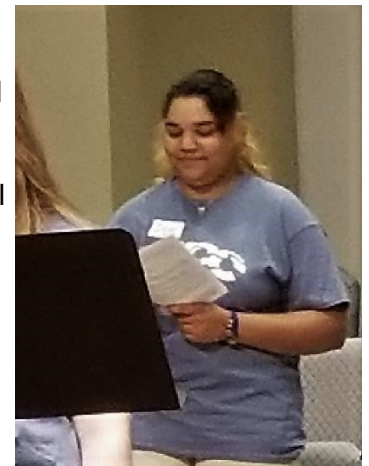


In the picture below, our youth are stuffing Easter eggs for an upcoming fundraiser for

"Alvin Hope," a new non-profit serving our community. The youth love helping especially when it involves helping other youth and children. The youth are striving to make time for community and/or mission work each month. Please contact Brandi Bowers if you are interested in helping the youth or if you have a project that needs their help.

## Lexi Hunt,

one of our youth members was recognized and commissioned at Presbytery on Saturday, March 17. Lexi will travel this summer and represent our church and Presbytery at the 223rd General Assembly in St Louis, Missouri.





 **ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING**  
SPECIAL OFFERINGS  
HUNGER • DISASTER • DEVELOPMENT

You shall be called repairers of the breach  
— ISAIAH 58

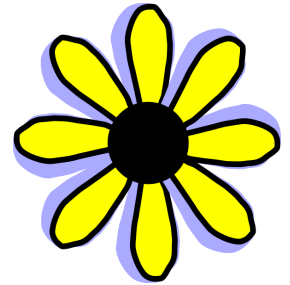
of viable water sources within each community to at least two. This helps protect them from water shortage crises, as well as reduce conflicts among various users. There are a few other elements that help holistically improve water access and management in

Access to safe, clean drinking water and sanitation is a basic human right. Globally, wide ranging successes and reforms has been achieved in making this a reality, including the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals. [Goal 6](#) seeks to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

Despite the progress, available statistics from [UN agencies](#) shows that 2.1 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water services. Additionally, water scarcity affects four out of every 10 people. In light of the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of disasters associated with climate change – combined with a host of social and economic factors – it is anticipated that the number of our neighbors facing water scarcity worldwide will definitely increase. We are already seeing intensified competition over scarce water resources in some parts of Africa. This has profoundly compromised pastoralism and small scale agriculture as a forms of rural livelihoods. Vulnerable populations have been further exposed to a vicious cycle of famine, endemic conflicts and severe poverty. These groups will be in need of humanitarian assistance for decades or, in some areas, generations to come. In the drylands of East Africa, though, water scarcity no longer seems to be an impediment to development for communities participating in the CWS Water for Life program. Instead, it serves as an inspiration. Communities have invented innovative solutions that are progressively transforming communities. So how does this work in practice? At the core of our Water for Life approach is the commitment to increase the supply of potable, or drinkable, water to families and communities. We work to ensure that more families have the water they need to at least meet minimum needs for domestic consumption and hygiene. We also help go above the minimum to improve availability of supplemental levels that help facilitate livelihood-related activities such as animal-husbandry and small scale agricultural irrigation. We also work to increase the number

these drylands. We help community members build their knowledge of and capacity to manage water and water-related environmental resources. This helps ensure that water systems become more sustainable and communities become more directly engaged in the effective management and non-discriminate provision of water to their own populations, as well as more sustainable management of their natural resources and local watersheds. Lastly, we work to increase government recognition and support for community-based water and water-related development initiatives within targeted communities. This empowers local advocacy networks and supporting communities to successfully advocate for government funding of follow-up community development plans by leveraging CWS-invested water development funds. A significant milestone of the program, which launched in 2008, was the recent [external evaluation](#). The evaluation affirmed our effectiveness in empowering water stressed communities to sustainably harness water resources to generate both shared and long-term prosperity, and reducing the disparities that for far too long, have stood in their way of meeting their basic needs. The evaluation findings continue to shape our strategic direction in enhancing access to water, including the development of WASH knowledge management materials. Thank you for your continued partnership and support in enhancing access to water and sanitation among the water-stressed communities of East Africa.

*Caleb Wafula is the Information Specialist with the CWS Africa team.*



“Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.”

Romans 12: 11-12





**Ongoing Prayers** Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Johnnie Waggoner, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Camille King, Donna Rae Harris, Peggy Krampota, Diane Murphy, Jim Berger, Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, Kay Tucker, Sofia Muzzafar, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, Bill Pannell, Freddie Keene, Ruth Anderson, Juan Petty, Dianne Howard, Daniel Vaughn, Louisa Vera, Jimmy Abney, Danny Arena, Jean Barrow, Lacey Famil, Lee

Syrett, Danielle Kline, Estelle Blackwell, Terri Bell, Barrett Blackwell, Janet Brown, Dianne and Bill Murff, Cathy Carvin, Dana Shackelford Evans, Cathy Gross, Charles Harrison, Chris Henry, Diane Howard, Shelly Jenkins, Ima Jane King, Dave Krauskepf, Bobby Loveless, Susie Klinkovsky, Paige LeJune, Margie Martin, Traci Owens, Marie Petersen, Lupe Rodriguez, Jason Poole, Joan and Joe Rossano, Don Roy, Elsie Smith, Clyde Scott, Theresa Stegman, Winona Temple, Karen Van Horne, Kathy Veigt, Barry Ward, Stephanie Wilson, John White, Jessie Williams, Heidi Young, and Bill Von Restorff.

**Immediate Concerns** : Roy Powell, Herb Myers, Gina Ruskey, Kelly Sloan, Nancy Williams, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Robert Bowers, Donna Gregory, Sharon Roberts, Larry Allen, Bill Steckert, Bill Duesing, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Roles Family, Gayle Cross, Judy Martel, Brett Cotton, and Norman & Patty Hirsch.

## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. on March 19, 2018 in the church library.

Treasurer’s report: All records have been reconciled and are in good order. Brandi Bowers shared with the Session that she and Lexi attended the Presbytery Meeting on Saturday, at First Presbyterian in Conroe, Texas. Lexi was commissioned, along with the other Young Adult Advisory Delegates, to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, June 16-23, 2018.

Session heard reports from committees and on projects that are in the works. 84 contacts were made to the congregation by the Congregational Care Team. Project reports: Sound System – This project is complete with the exception of purchasing a device to use to make adjustments remotely (within the congregation); Narthex Remodel – Wanda Cunningham and Helen Escobedo gave Session suggestions of dates to be considered for the updating of the timeline. Once dates are selected then the Timeline update may begin ; and Manse Remodel – all work is finished, a final walk through is being scheduled with the contractor.

Session action items:

- + Approved a fundraiser for the Youth Group, tentatively scheduled for April 29, 2018 in the evening.
- + Approved participation in the Alvin Frontier Day Parade for the Clothing Outlet. Jerry McCalla has volunteered his trailer. Everyone is invited to participate.
- + Approved the slate of members for the 2018 Officer Nominating Committee. Approved Called Congregational Meeting to elect the proposed slate for Sunday, April 22, 2018 following worship.
- + Approved expenses related to producing the new 2018 Pictorial Directory.
- + Approved the charter participation with Boy Scouts Bay Area Council to support a Cub Scout Pack catered towards children with special needs. All related origination fees and building usage approved by Session. Elder Herb Myers will serve as the Charter Organization Representative.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me. Blessings, Gina Ruskey



**Jerry McCalla**  
**Nikki Stafford**  
**Damon Thomassie**





**Jud Jarboe**  
**Cathy Vance**  
**Kristen Robertson**  
**Christy & Elora Alexander**  
**Betty Montgomery**  
**Norman & Ra Nell Haas**



The resurrection of Jesus Christ

from the Books of Matthew and Mark

**Bible Crossword No.3**

**Across**

- 1 where they laid Jesus after He died (Matt. 27:60)
- 4 the place where Jesus died (Matt.27:33)
- 5 Jesus and two thieves were \_\_\_\_\_ together (Matt. 27:38)
- 8 mother of Jesus
- 9 The angel said "He is \_\_\_\_\_ He is not here" (Mark 16:6)
- 10 They made Jesus wear a scarlet \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt.27:28)
- 12 Jesus was betrayed for \_\_\_\_\_ pieces of silver (Matt.27:3)
- 14 Jesus was \_\_\_\_\_ of any crime (Matt.27:4)
- 15 The 12 companions of Jesus

**DOWN**

- 2 Jesus shed His \_\_\_\_\_ for our sins
- 3 Judas Iscariot \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus (Matt. 27:4)
- 5 Roman commander of a hundred men (Matt.27:54)
- 6 Jesus said " My God, My God why hast thou \_\_\_\_\_ me" (Matt.27:46)
- 7 a title of Jesus (it means anointed one) (Matt.27:17)
- 11 They laid the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus in a tomb (Matt.27:59)
- 12 Jesus wore a "crown of \_\_\_\_\_"
- 13 our Lord and Saviour

more puzzles at <http://biblewordgames.com>

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To my church family,

Thank you. Thank you for the kind words, cards, texts, emails, and gifts I received on my birthday this past month. But my thankfulness goes much deeper than that.

I'm thankful that I feel comfortable being myself around you – showing my brokenness – doubts – and pain. I am not afraid of making a fool of myself – because you're always there – being silly right along with me. You accept me for who and what I am – including my weird quirks and obsessions. You have never asked me to be something that I am not.

So thank you for everything you have done for me – the memories – the friendship – the support – and the love. I hope and pray that I've been able to give back to you a fraction of what you have given me.

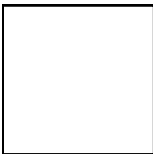
Peace, *Craig*



Thank You



First Presbyterian Church  
 302 South Johnson Street  
 Alvin, TX 77511



Address Service Requested

Please notify the church office  
 of any change of address or  
 telephone number.

Elder of the Month - Wanda Cunningham  
 Refreshments for - Worship

*"The First Presbyterian Church of Alvin has been called by God and organized to  
 share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in our community and world."*

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7	Bible Game Thank You Note
6	Prayer Concerns Session Highlights New Members / Visitors
5	One Great Hour of Sharing
4	2018 Relay for Life Brain Health Fair Youth / PYCC
3	Life Together (cont) Custer Family
2	Children's Easter Event Confirmation Classes Meals on Wheels April Birthdays
	Life Together by Pastor Craig (on Cover)

**April Issue**