

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



Life Together

Greetings:

Who runs the church?

The Bible answers that question very clearly: Jesus is the head of the church – which is His body (Colossians 1:18). Jesus is the Great Shepherd Who preserves and cares for His flock (Hebrews 13:20). In every circumstance – good or bad – Jesus guides and governs His church by His Holy Spirit **“and the gates of hell will not overcome it”** (Matthew 6:18).

Still, that leaves us with a practical question: how does Jesus govern His church? In the day-to-day life of the church, who has the authority to make decisions about the budget and other concerns of the church?

In the Roman Catholic Church – the Pope has ultimate authority. In the Episcopal and Methodist tradition – the church is governed by bishops. In congregational churches – decisions are made by the entire congregation. In some churches – the pastor has the final authority.

However, our Presbyterian form of government is very different from any of those. We are ruled by elders – men and women chosen by the congregation to guide and govern the life of the church. The word **“Presbyterian”** actually comes from the Greek word for **“elder.”**

Why are we governed by elders? Because that is model we see in the New Testament. In the early church – elders were chosen to be shepherds to the flock. Elders were not chosen because of their power, wealth, or social standing – but because of their faith, integrity, and Christ-like character.

Being an elder in the church does not give us power to lord it over people or throw our weight around. Rather, it gives us power to serve. As elders, we are servants to the servants of God.

Once a year – we elect new elders to serve on our leadership board which is called the Session. Elders are elected to a 3-year-term which means that people are constantly rotating on and off of Session. In this way, many people have the opportunity to share in leadership.

Candidates for elder are chosen by members of a Nominating Committee – which is also chosen by the congregation.

Currently, we have 9 ruling elders serving in the leadership of FPC. As pastor, I also serve on the Session as a teaching elder and moderator. Session meetings are open to anyone who wishes to attend and minutes from our monthly meetings are available in the church office. In addition – we report highlights of the Session meetings in *Pressbytes*. The Session makes decisions by voting. Although a simple majority is needed to approve a motion – we make our decisions by consensus. If the Session is sharply divided on an issue (which happens) – we take time to step back – reconsider and pray about it. Instead of one group getting their way – we believe it is far more important to preserve the unity of the church. It isn't easy being an elder. Sometimes, they have to make tough decisions. Sometimes, they – along with the pastor – are criticized. However in all of the decisions the Session makes – only one thing matters: to seek and to do the will of God.

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LIFE TOGETHER

(Continued from Cover)

What if you happen to disagree with a decision made by the Session? In that case, you should speak with the Elders or pastor directly and share your questions or concerns. Ultimately however, we must work for the unity of the church and support the decisions of the Session.

When elders are ordained in the church – the congregation makes a solemn vow to **“yield”** to our officers **“all that honor, encouragement and obedience in the Lord, to which the ordination as an officer entitles them...”** By respecting the decisions made by our elders – we help to preserve the peace and unity of the church. Here at FPC, we are blessed with a wonderful group of elders. These folks give so much to the life of this church and they deserve your respect, support, love, encouragement, and prayers. Peace,

Craig

“I will look from
My dwelling
place quietly
like dazzling
heat in the
sunshine, like a
cloud of dew in
the heat of
harvest”.

Isaiah 18:4

Session did not meet in July

A Thought...

Each of us knows that prayer is very important. In our own lives we will pray at different times and for different reasons. We pray at meal times, or when someone is having troubles in their lives (such as sickness, death or making difficult decisions).

We also know that Jesus prayed. In all 4 Gospel accounts – Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John — there are 62 instances of the word “pray” or “prayer.” Jesus prayed at the same time we pray: before making a decision, when someone was sick, when someone was distraught over the death of a loved one, and before eating.

As I was thinking about this, I remembered the following prayer I had tucked away in one of my sermon notebooks. Just a good reminder for each one of us who are parents, grandparents or a person who just cares about and loves kids.

“Heavenly Father, make me a better parent. Teach me to understand my children, to listen patiently to what they have to say, and to answer all their questions kindly. Keep me from interrupting them or contradicting them. Make me as courteous to them as I would have them be to me. Forbid that I should ever laugh at their mistakes, or resort to shame or ridicule when they displease me. May I never punish them for my own selfish satisfaction or to show my power. Guide me hour by hour that I may demonstrate by all I say and do that produces happiness. Reduce, I pray, the meanness and selfishness in me. And when I am out of sorts, help me, my Lord, to hold my tongue. May I ever be mindful that my children are children and I should not expect of them the judgment or decisions of adults. Let me not rob them of the opportunity to wait on themselves and make decisions. Bless me with the bigness to grant them all their reasonable requests, and the courage to deny them privileges I know will do them harm. Make me fair and just and kind. And fit me, Oh Lord, to be loved and respected by my children. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Prayer is a beautiful thing. Peace,

Craig





In 1967 Grace Ward Harby had a vision to provide inexpensive, serviceable clothing to school-age children and their families. What started as a ministry in her car evolved into what is now the Clothing Outlet, located on our church campus. As it was back in Ms. Harby's day, the proceeds from the Clothing Outlet still provide school supplies for children/families in need.

Now, over 50 years later, this ministry is still going strong, and we have joined with the Alvin Independent School District, the Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA, and the Alvin Family Community Center to better serve our community. This year, this combined group will host a one day extravaganza at Grace Ward Harby Junior High (pretty neat, huh?) on Saturday, August 11 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The bags were loaded on Tuesday, July 24, but we still need your help! We will transport the supplies to Harby Junior High either on August 9 or 10. Please let Martha Phipps or Pastor Craig know if you are available.

What a joy and privilege to continue this vital ministry to our community.

Blessings and peace.

“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”

Galatians 5:13





Ongoing Prayers Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Camille King, Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, Kay Tucker, Sofia Muzzafar, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, Bill Pannell, Freddie Keene, Ruth Anderson, 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, Cathy Carvin, Dana Shackelford Evans, Cathy Gross, Charles Harrison, Chris

Henry, Gayle Cross, Shelly Jenkins, Ima Jane King, Dave Krauskepf, Bobby Loveless, 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, Bill Steckert, Nancy Williams, Roles Family, and Bill Von Restorff.

Immediate Concerns : Family of Cynthia Briones-Wolf, Family of Bill Duesing, Family of Wayne Petersen, Family of Johnnie Waggoner, Greg Copeland, Vincent Naranjo, Susan Armstrong, Lee Regotti, Gina Ruskey, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Robert Bowers, Sharon Roberts, Larry Allen, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, and Norman & Patty Hirsch.

Please call the church office with updates.

SUMMER MISSION SALE

Donations are needed for the **Summer Mission Sale** that will take place on Saturday, August 4th, 8 am - 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Accepted items should be gently used and may include tools, kitchen ware, household objects, toys, bags and purses, and small electronics in working condition. **In addition to clothing and shoes, we are no longer accepting books, DVD's, and VHS tapes.** You may donate your treasures any time before August 3. If you need any assistance, please call the church office, 281-585-3406, before dropping off your donations. Remember that the proceeds from this sale will supplement the offerings collected for our local and world outreach efforts. These include Campus Crusade for Christ, Clothing Outlet/School Supplies, Heifer Project, Hope Dental Clinic, Relay for Life, the Women's Center of Brazoria County, Youth Reach, Joy Gift Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Christmas families, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and Pentecost Offering. Thank you for your help.



AUGUST 4, 2018
8am to 2 pm

AUGUST 2018

- 2 Adam Wells
- 2 Bill Pannell
- 3 Caitlin Melchor
- 3 Gabby Dantzman
- 3 Kim Froberg
- 8 Brendon BuPane
- 8 Violette BuPane
- 9 Alice Sloan
- 10 Marie Petersen
- 11 Lexi Hunt
- 12 Kathy Miller
- 14 Michael DeLeon
- 20 David Gonzales
- 22 Emma Gondesen
- 23 Herb Myers
- 24 Brandy Carlson
- 26 Wayne Williams
- 31 Dianne Murff



BIBLE GAME — *The Kings from First and Second Kings*

L	Z	E	C	H	A	R	I	A	H	W	K	J	E	Q	Y
J	J	E	H	O	A	S	H	H	V	A	E	H	S	O	H
E	C	E	E	L	A	H	A	Z	M	H	S	A	O	J	K
H	A	T	H	A	L	I	A	H	O	I	R	M	I	Z	W
O	O	Y	A	O	K	H	E	S	S	A	N	A	M	Y	N
A	M	Q	I	E	I	M	H	U	A	J	H	A	C	I	A
H	R	Y	Z	J	Z	A	S	A	E	H	S	A	H	N	H
A	I	E	A	E	P	J	K	R	I	A	S	C	B	R	A
Z	H	M	M	H	O	I	O	I	H	K	A	A	E	P	Z
S	C	S	A	O	H	B	N	A	M	I	E	H	A	A	I
H	H	T	K	R	O	A	I	A	O	Q	O	D	H	B	A
A	A	E	A	A	O	H	I	H	D	B	V	A	E	V	H
L	K	I	M	M	A	H	E	S	O	A	O	Y	Q	Z	L
L	E	Q	Z	K	O	J	E	A	O	H	B	U	H	E	J
U	P	D	E	Z	O	N	M	J	E	J	O	T	H	A	M
M	E	P	I	A	U	Y	I	J	M	E	H	A	N	E	M

(Note: There were two kings each named Jeroboam and Ahaziah, but we've used these names just once.)

REHOBOAM
JEHORAM
AMAZIAH
HEZEKIAH
JEHOAHAZ
JEROBOAM
ZIMRI
JEHOAHAZ
MENAHEM

ABIJAM
AHAZIAH
UZZIAH
MANASSEH
JEHOIAKIM
NADAB
OMRI
JEHOASH
PEKAHIAH

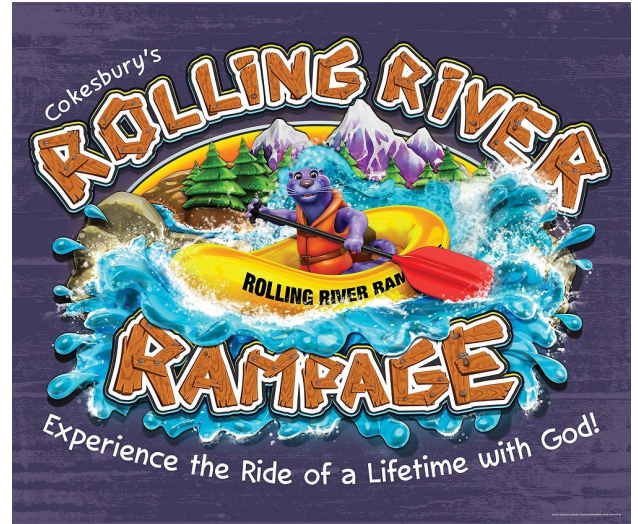
ASA
ATHALIAH
JOTHAN
AMON
JEHOIACHIN
BAASHA
AHAB
ZECHARIAH
PEKAH

JEHOSHAPHAT
JOASH
AHAZ
JOSIAH
ZEDEKIAH
ELAH
JEHORAM
SHALLUM
HOSHEA

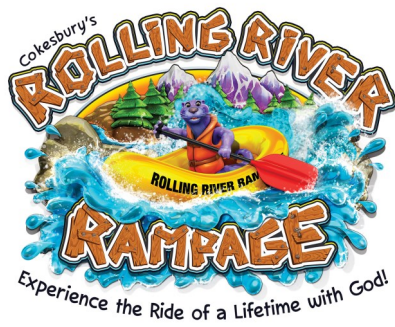
JEHU

2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The 2018 theme, "Rolling River Rampage" invited children on a white-water rafting adventure to experience the ride of a lifetime with God! Along the river, the children discovered that life with God is an adventure full of wonder and surprise, and that they can trust God to be with them through anything. Relevant music, exciting science, creative crafts, fun recreation, and memorable Bible stories helped the kids learn that God is always with them as they ride the rapids of life on amazing grace!

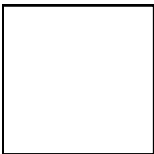


2018 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





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.

"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."

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin
 302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511
 281-585-3406 www.fpcalvin.org
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Elder of the Month — Scott Thomas
 Refreshments for - Buildings & Grounds

2	Life Together by Pastor Craig (on Cover)	Life Together continued	A Thought	3	School Supply Ministry
4	Prayer Concerns	Summer Mission Sale	August Birthdays	5	Bible Game
6	Vacation Bible School 2018			7	Vacation Bible School 2018

August Issue