

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



Greetings:

A couple of questions we folks often ask and have been asking ever since Adam and Eve are, “Who am I?” and “Why am I here?”

We see a lot of disillusioned people today and way too many suicides, especially among young people. It’s as if a lot of people are lost and searching for meaning. I think we all go through this sometimes in our lives. It’s a good thing to ask, especially if we find some answers.

In our Book of Confessions, several confessions provide answers.

The confessions make it quite clear, first of all, that we are children of God who created us in God’s image. Westminster Confession states: “After God made all other creatures, he created man, male and female, with reasonable and immortal souls endued with knowledge, righteousness, and true holiness after his own image, having the law of God written in their hearts and power to fulfill it...” Psalm 8 tell us we are made “a little less than God and crowned with glory and honor” The Heidelberg Catechism tells us, that our only comfort in life and death is, “that I am not my own, but belong body and soul in life and death, to my faithful Savior Jesus Christ.” We are somebody! We are God’s!

There will be times we feel alone and maybe forgotten, but in reality we “have a friend” in Christ who is always there. That means that there is always hope.

Secondly, we are here for a purpose. First question in our catechism asks, “What is the chief and highest end of man?” Why are we here? Answer, “man’s chief end is to glorify God and fully to enjoy him forever” Another answer would be, “to love and serve the Lord and enjoy Him forever”.

Our lives are to be God centered. God’s presence is within all humans whether we realize that or not. We are invited to love God. Don’t know any other religion that would make such a statement. Love God? Enjoy God? Awesome! We love a God who first loves us. Enjoying God is something else. We enjoy God because we know he forgives us when we mess up, he is patient when we go astray, he gives a plan for our lives, he has a sense of humor when we try and take life too seriously. He will have the final say in matters of our salvation and eternity. Christ calls us his friend. We can enjoy that closeness and love. Serving God is our mission in life and we can do that in so many ways, through our work, our play, all that we do in life. It’s who we are. God gives us the power and ability to accomplish these things. We can be who God created us to be, and enjoy the life God gave us. God will be there to walk with us for He is the Way, the Truth and the Life!

Peace,

C.O.

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Great news! The summer Mission Sale brought in \$ 1,385.54.

These funds will be used to cover the costs of our numerous Mission and Outreach efforts, and if necessary, supplement our 4 Special Offerings. Thanks to everyone who donated their gently used treasures and those who helped by working the sale or shopping. So, why do we do this?

Jesus came on mission, lived on mission, died on mission, and left His disciples — including all of us who follow him today — on mission. It's an answer to the Great Commission and Great Commandment. It's about conversion — not just salvation — because we're don't receive salvation just to be saved — but we're saved to be sent. We are called to go out into the world for the glory of God — and to make Jesus known to others. May it continue to happen through us.

Session did not meet in July

Organist's Musings

By Chris Lo

On April 15, 2019, a fire gutted Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris ("Our Lady of Paris"). Much of its religious imagery was damaged or destroyed, and the roof collapsed under the immense heat.

Notre Dame is a medieval Catholic cathedral whose construction was begun in 1160 and was largely complete by 1260. The Grand Organ was one of Notre-Dame's most important objects, with five keyboards, a pedal board and almost 8,000 pipes. It traces its origins to the 1400s, though the current organ is mainly from 1868 and had been added to and improved many times. The organ loft at Notre-Dame is 84 steps above the cathedral's entrance. It survived the fire with only minor damage thanks to being at the front of the cathedral beneath a stone roof, rather than beneath the 800-year-old wooden one that covered most of the building. And the roof above the organ is sloped, which meant water from firefighters' hoses ran off it and also protected the instrument.

On April 29, Olivier Latry, 57, one of the three Organists at Notre Dame Cathedral, sent a statement to friends and supporters after he learned that the organ was probably safe. "It is very dusty, but will continue to move us as soon as its case is restored," he wrote. "When? No one knows yet." He then quoted a passage from the Bible in which Jesus says he will raise a new temple in place of a destroyed one in three days. "It will surely take longer for Notre-Dame, but I am confident and hopeful," Mr. Latry wrote.

On October 16, 2015, Olivier Latry gave a recital of music by de Grigny, Liszt, Mobblerly, Saint-Saëns, Duruflé, and his own improvisation on the organ in the Edythe Bates Old Recital Hall at Rice University in Houston.

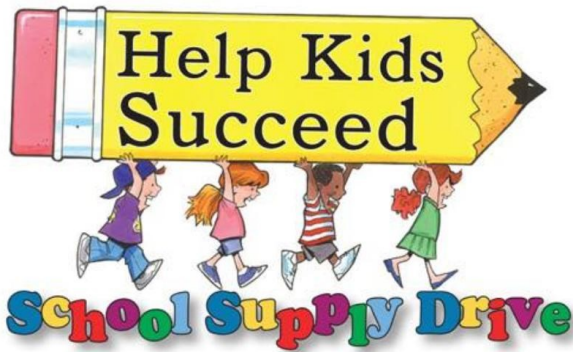


Pictured above: Philippe Lefebvre, 70, one of the three Cathedral Organists at the console of the Grand Organ of Notre Dame Cathedral in 2013.

"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





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 Communities In Schools to better serve our community. This year, this combined group will host a one day extravaganza at Grace Ward Harby Junior High on **Saturday, August 10 from 9 am to 12pm**

The supplies will be delivered to Harby Junior High on August 2nd by the AISD Maintenance Dept. **The bags will be put together August 6th or 8th from 4pm-8pm or August 9th from 10am-5pm, and we need your help!** A sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

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

Genesis Sunday

Come celebrate the beginning of another fantastic year of fun and learning! Genesis Sunday will be August 18th which is Youth, the Church and the World Sunday.

During the worship service the 2019 – 2020 teachers/leaders will be commissioned and the students' backpacks blessed. So remember to bring your backpacks. We will also present Bibles to 3rd graders. If you know of any 3rd graders and higher who are active in our church and have not previously received a Bible from us, please contact the church office. We don't want to miss anyone.

We'll have a Pot Luck Luncheon after church with a slide show of church events. We'll have a great time!

SAVE THE DATE

Blessing
of the
Backpacks!



“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 : Kathryn Wilkerson, Belinda Busscher, Barbara Passmore, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Bill Pannell, Louisa Vera, Cathy Gross, Joe Rossano, Nancy Williams, Ralph Varenkamp, John Shaw, Brandy Brooks, Candice Strong, Pat Carpenter, Linda Estes, Janette Arterburn, Cheryl Martin, Margie Martin, Mauridine Moffet, Roy Case, Genie Hayes, Margaret Gibson, Shirley Brothers, Ashley Burns, Avery Jones, Alan Gray, Jill Wheatley & Family, Jackson Daniels, , Delia Carrillo, Julia Ferraro, Lisa McCalla, Susan Armstrong, Joy Dell DeWitt, Amy Shlensky, Tina Kennedy, and Taylor Bailey .

Immediate Concerns : The Henry family.

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month — Janet DeLeon

Refreshments for - Buildings & Grounds

Presbyterian Youth Connection Council



Congratulations to Natalie Aparicio, Andrew Hunt, & Eric Odom for being chosen to participate in the Presbyterian Youth Connection Council (PYCC). Brandi Bowers and Mandi Odom will be Adult Volunteers. PYCC is a team of youth, in partnership with mentoring adults, who work together to plan and lead events and activities for the youth of the presbytery. These young people develop leadership skills, grow in their spiritual life and their ability to articulate their faith, and experience the connectional church. They form close friendships with youth from other congregations while sharing and exploring their God given gifts. Meetings are typically held on the 2nd Saturday of each month.

Please keep these folks in your prayers as they attend a Planning Kick-off August 10 & 11 at Camp ChoYeh.

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
- 11 Lexi Hunt
- 12 Kathy Miller
- 14 Michael DeLeon
- 20 David Gonzales
- 22 Emma Gondesen
- 23 Herb Myers
- 24 Brandy Carlson
- 26 Wayne Williams

GENESIS

The True Beginning of Salvation for Men

Genesis 1:1

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

CREATED

ADAM

EVE

CAIN

ABEL

ENOCH

METHUSELAH

NOAH

ARK

RAINBOW

GOPHER

SERPENT

ARARAT

BABEL

ABRAHAM

ISAAC

JACOB

ESAU

JUDAH

SARAH

HAGAR

MELCHIZEDEK

ISHMAEL

CIRCUMCISION

GOSHEN

LADDER

PROMISE

EGYPT

SODOM

LOT

JOSEPH

ISRAEL

PHARAOH

GOD

2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The 2019 theme, "To Mars and Beyond" invited Voyagers of all ages on a space travel adventure to explore where God's power can take them! Along the journey, Voyagers discovered a new realm of possibilities as they reached for the stars and encountered the limitless power and love of God!



2019 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL cont.



Special Musical Guests in July

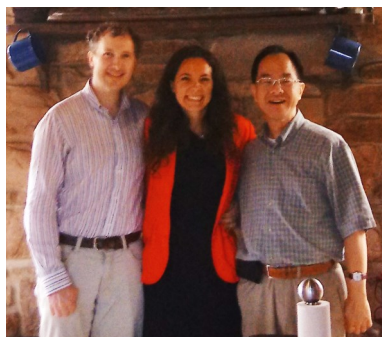
By Chris Lo

☪ On July 14, we welcomed Dr. John-Eric Gundersen, Clinical Assistant Professor of Music at Sam Houston State University and his wife, Dr. Laura Avery, the Head of the Musical Theatre Program at Sam Houston State University as our guest organist and soloist.

For the Anthem, Laura sang "My Heart Ever Faithful" (from Cantata No. 68) - J. S. Bach. Bach composed this cantata in Leipzig and it was first performed on May 21, 1725. For the offertory, Laura sang Children's Suite - Mark Hayes (b. 1953). This composition included traditional hymns "Praise Him, All Ye Little Children", "All Things Bright and Beautiful" and "Jesus Loves Me."

For the postlude on July 14, Eric played Toccata on "Nu la oss takke Gud (Now thank we all our God)" - Egil Hovland (1924-2013). The Toccata 'Now thank we all our God' (TPH 555) presents the lines of the chorale in canon between the outer parts, while the brilliant manual figuration alternates three distinct musical ideas. The choppy alternating chords of the final page gradually become note clusters, bringing the piece to a whirlwind conclusion.

☪ On July 28, we welcomed Chloe Vale who sang at our morning service. Chloe sang a portion from the anthem "Hear My Prayer" (Psalm 55) composed by Felix Mendelssohn in Germany in 1844. The first performance of this anthem took place in Crosby Hall, London, on January 8, 1845.



During the Offertory, Chloe sang a portion of the Benedictus (Luke 1:68-79) from Joseph Haydn's "Kleine Orgelmesse (Little Organ Mass)." This composition was written around 1775 for the order of the Barmherzige Brüder (Brothers Hospitallers) in Eisenstadt. In the Habsburg Empire's Kingdom of Hungary, Eisenstadt was the seat of the Eszterházy Hungarian noble family. Joseph Haydn worked as the court composer to the Eszterházy family.

Chloe Vale works as the Operations Development Manager at BP LNG in the Energy Corridor of West Houston. Both Chloe, and her accountant husband, Tim, are graduates of the University of Cambridge in the UK. Together with Chris Lo, both Chloe and Tim sing with the choir of Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston.