

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings. What I want to share with you may seem trivial, strange, even self-righteous. I can fully understand all these thoughts. It's about praying at the schools one evening by the ministerial alliance here in Alvin.

As I understand it, they have been trying to get individuals and clergy to go to all the schools and praying for the schools one evening when the schools are closed sometime in August. I really don't fully understand the situation but don't get it for what little I know. Probably know just enough to sound misinformed.

I am not part of the ministerial gathering for certain reasons, so I don't know the details, but I don't think this is a proper thing to do as clergy. Here's why: Jesus deals with public prayer in the Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 6. This is the text I chose in seminary to write my Greek exegesis paper which is required for graduation. One must show a mastery of Greek and Hebrew as a graduation requirement.

Jesus said, "Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them for you will have no reward from your father who is in heaven." God has a problem with public show of piety! Again, "when you pray you must not be like the hypocrites for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners that they may be seen by men. Truly I say to you they have their reward. But when you pray, go into your room, shut the door and pray to your Father in secret and your Father who sees in secret will reward you."

There are times when public prayer is acceptable and maybe even necessary, like after 9/11 and national crises. Different religions and denominations gathered and prayed for those killed and for this nation. It was a coming together of our nation in a godly way.

The Ministerial Alliance here in Alvin wanted to have a prayer gathering in one of the parks in Alvin last year. Don't know if they did it or not. I see this is a display of practicing your piety before people and not impressing God.

Several of these denominations represented are guilty of terrible sexual abuse of children and adults and hiding the problem. They also do not consider women eligible for leadership in the church and should be submissive to their husbands. Let's not forget their rejection of anyone whose sexuality is different.

I know I can sound really self-righteous and "goody two shoes," but for me personally, I have to draw the line in my belief as a Christian and as a Presbyterian for I reject these beliefs that hurt or discriminate against other children of God's creation. Unfortunately, I must reject the activities of those

August Issue

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Insert:

August 2023 Calendar

Deadline for submissions:

August 23rd



Ongoing Prayers : Kristy Myers, Mona Taylor, Stevie Pearce, Keith Davis, Larry Phillips, Irene Peltier, Brian Wiltshire, the Williams Family, Jeanine Richey, Margie Hill, Brandi Bowers, Janet & Stanley Fontenot, Melissa Pounds, Charles Pounds, Michelle Petersen, and Barbara Whitfield.

Immediate Concerns : The Teachers, Administrators, Support Staff & Students returning to school this month.

Please call the church office with updates.

**Elder of the Month - Janet DeLeon
Refreshments - Education**

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 2 Adam Wells | 2 Bill Pannell |
| 3 Gabby Dantzman | 9 Alice Sloan |
| 11 Lexi Hunt | 11 Colton Rogers |
| 12 Kathy Miller | 12 Thomas Lewis |
| 14 Michael DeLeon | 22 Emma Gondesen |
| 23 Herb Myers | 24 Harper Aparicio |
| 26 Wayne Williams | |



who perpetuate these beliefs. A public show of prayer is not impressing God if we are to believe what Jesus told is in the Matthew passage.

I believe in prayer as you do. Calvin’s prayers could raise you from the pews. There is a time and place for prayer to be experienced. Public display and public approval is not the way God wants it to be done.

If I WAS to pray for the schools, I would go to Austin and pray on the steps of the Texas legislature for them to do something about our schools: No vouchers, financial support to poor schools, gun legislation to limit the type guns and who gets guns would be a start. Aid for poor students who struggle financially, raises for teachers and staff that makes education happen, stay out of libraries and quite banning books that educators believe to be ok. The list could go on.

Like I said, you might really disagree with all I have written. That’s ok. I have been struggling with when and where to pray for a very long time.

Would certainly be open to discuss this further if anyone is interested.

Prayerfully,

C.O.

Genesis Sunday

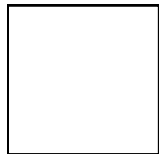
Come celebrate the beginning of another fantastic year of fun and learning at First Presbyterian! Genesis Sunday is on August 7. During the worship service the 2023 – 2024 church teachers/leaders will be recognized and commissioned and the students and their backpacks blessed. Remember to bring your backpack. 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.

After church the celebration will continue with a Pot Luck Luncheon. So bring your favorite dish and enjoy delicious food, fun and fellowship with your church family. We’ll have a great time!

MISSION



Once again, we have been blessed by a tremendously successful sale. As of Sunday, August 7th, we collected a total of \$1215.25 that will be used to supplement the offerings collected for our local and world outreach efforts. All this would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all those who volunteered their time to sort and arrange the massive amount that was donated, those who spent a portion of or all of the 6+ hours on Saturday assisting shoppers with their purchases, those who boxed up the unsold items and delivered those boxes to Goodwill. We, of course, appreciate all of you who cleaned out your attics, garages, closets and drawers to supply us with your unneeded treasures. A great big “THANK YOU!” goes out to everyone for your support in making this such an awesome sale.



*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."*

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