

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



## Press Bytes



### Life Together

### February Issue

Greetings,

In his book, Radical Spirituality, Eugene Peterson tells a story of an experience he had while learning to be a grandparent. His son Eric, his daughter-in-law Lynn, and grandson Andrew were visiting for a few days. It had been 25 years since they had had a baby in the house. Eugene was taking it all in and was determined not to miss anything.

One day it was just Eugene, Lynn, and Andrew in the living room. Lynn was reading a book (probably something she didn't get to do at home alone with Andrew) and Eugene was watching Andrew play with a tennis ball. Eugene wondered at the complex muscular operations and the eye hand coordination as Andrew would pick up the ball and throw it. The ball **"caromed nicely off walls and furniture, providing challenge and variety for showing off to his grandfather his finely honed skills of crawling."** The game went on for a while. Then the ball Andrew was crawling after rolled under the couch out of sight. It disappeared from view. The moment it disappeared, Andrew stopped and sat back on his **"well diapered bottom and looked for something else to do."** To Eugene's surprise, he acted as if there had never been a tennis ball to chase.

Anxious about Andrew's sudden change in interest, Eugene asked his daughter-in-law some questions. **"Why isn't he chasing the ball? Was there a missing gene in his DNA? Was little Andrew showing signs of dyslexia or short attention span?"** Eugene's profuse admiration for Andrew seemed shattered, and so Eugene responds with overdone concern. But his daughter-in-law does not even look up from her book and says: **"Andrew has not yet acquired 'object permanence'"**. Eugene wonders: **"What is that?"** For Eugene, those terms weren't around 25 years ago. Lynn explains that if Andrew can't see it, it doesn't exist. As they talk about the **"object permanence"** issue, Lynn explains that in the early months, virtually everything in Andrew's life was immediate gratification. Things like feedings, comforting, and diapering were expected to be satisfied immediately – or Andrew would cry to let everybody know he needed something. There was no reality for Andrew except for what was now – what he could taste, smell, feel, or hear. Lynn pointed out that a good parent was to be there physically around the clock night and day. But she also said that if she continued to be a good mother in that fashion past a certain point, she would be a bad parent. Lynn explained that her good mothering could become bad mothering if Andrew never learned **"object permanence"** – if he never had to deal with her absence in the same way he had to deal with her presence. She could end up narrowing his world to only what he could see – thus losing out on all that was around him. He would not learn to go and search. He would not believe something existed if he could not see it.

Now if one carries this story and all its implications as a parable for Christian living and spirituality, there are many areas open for reflection. But just for a moment, think about the notion of **"object permanence"**. What is it we say? **"Out of sight, out of mind."** It's so easy nowadays with schedules over-filled and often conflicting that we suffer in our spiritual lives of having no **"object permanence"** in our relationship with God. In going from place to place – being here and there – doing this or that – meeting one deadline after another – soon our vision of God's presence is shortened to our immediate need, task, or responsibility. God? **"No I haven't seen God yet. I have all these things to do."** **"God?"**

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Insert

February Calendar





## FAIRY GOD MOTHERS

Meeting under our new name, the Fairy Godmothers began their newest mission project. We are making lap quilts for the veterans who reside at DeGeorge Center at Union Station. Carol Warych is teaching us to assemble the lap quilts. There is a story behind the quilt tops Carol donated. Carol is a Gold Star Widow which means her husband passed away due to injuries he sustained in combat. Another Gold Star Widow purchased the quilt tops from the estate of an 88 year old Gold Star Widow whose collection of quilt tops were from her grandmother. She passed the quilt tops to Carol with the understanding that they would go to veterans. The FPC Alvin Fairy

Godmothers consider it a privilege to show support of our veterans in this way.

Thank you to Carol, Jo Myers, Janet DeLeon and Jill Wheatley for joining me in this project. We welcome all of you to join us on Saturday, Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to get involved.



“Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.” Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love, and he relents from sending calamity. Who knows? He may turn and relent and leave behind a blessing — grain offerings and drink offerings for the Lord your God.

Joel 2:12-14



February 14 marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. For Christians, Lent is a 40-day season of fasting, reflection and penance culminating in Holy Week and the Easter Sunday celebration of Jesus’ resurrection. This year, instead of an Ash Wednesday service in the evening, I will be available in the sanctuary from 7:30 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., and then from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Communion will be served and ashes imposed on those who attend at these times,

Starting February 21, we will gather at 6:30 pm on Wednesday nights to share fellowship over a

simple meal of soup, salads, and desserts and reflect on the meaning of Christ’s passion as seen from Simon Peter’s point of view. This year’s skits are entitled **The Simon Peter Chronicles**. The messages are simple, but profound. Here is the schedule:

February 21: First Presbyterian Church

February 28: First Christian Church

March 7: The Church of the Nazarene

March 14: First Presbyterian Church – soup provided by the church

March 21: First Presbyterian Church



Soup will be served from 6:30 until about 7:15 p.m. in the various fellowship halls. We will then proceed to the sanctuary for the skits and a song. *If you are willing to serve by preparing soup for either February 21 or March 21, please contact the church office.* Come and join us on Wednesday nights for soup, conversation, and a deepening of our reflections on faith and life during this season!



## LIFE TOGETHER

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**“Where was God when I needed God today?” “God? I cried out and I did not see God in my need.” “God? I am alone. Where do I turn to now?”** Spirituality is knowing that God is here and God is accessible. We need to overcome moments of having no *“object permanence”* and move on as if God vanished. When a young child grows up to know the tennis ball rolled under the couch and is still there – a whole new world opens up for exploration. Rather than wandering off looking for the next interesting activity or event – the child instead goes after the ball and pursues it. The child seeks to find it. The life of **‘out of sight, out of mind’** no longer applies. It becomes **‘out of sight’** – but no longer **‘out of mind or out of existence.’** It becomes a new adventure of seeking and finding – of searching and discovering. For the maturing child, the tennis ball has permanence and is now something to pursue and to seek out.

So it is with God. Spiritual disciplines are those things we do that help us to see God’s permanence in our lives that God is with us. They are those practices that help us to see God as permanent in our lives. Prayer, Scripture, worship, fellowship, confession, singing of hymns and spiritual songs are all spiritual disciplines that help us to know God is our permanent source of faith, hope, and love. Jesus reminds us: **“Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will be opened.”** God is present, even if we don’t see God. We know God is around us because we have read Psalm 139 and have asked: **“Where can I flee from your presence?”** The answer is nowhere. Each one must at times ask: **“What am I doing to mature in faith that God’s permanence is always known?”** How can we find ways to encourage each other? Today is the best time to start to develop our awareness of God’s permanence in our lives. Let’s find those ways of developing our **“God permanence”** together. Hope to see you in worship. Peace,

Craig

## JOHN CHRISTOPHER (Chris) LO

### “Welcome” to our new Church Musician!

If you get a chance, please welcome our new organist/pianist John Christopher (Chris) Lo. Chris has extensive experience playing and directing choirs. He was born in England and spent many years living in Australia before coming to the United States. He holds a Master’s Degree in Choral Conducting and a Master’s Degree in Music Education from Florida State University. He has also completed the coursework for the Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education from the University of Houston. Chris is single, and lives in League City. Welcome Chris!!!!



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“Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.”

1 Peter 5:6



## 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 CAMP

February 1, 8, 15, & 22

The Gathering Place will be holding a Brain Camp at First Christian Church in February. This will be Brain Camp Version IV which introduces the results of more than two dozen recent clinical trials and studies on a format that is user-friendly and fun. In addition to the new version you will also learn how to build your cognitive reserve to avoid or delay having symptoms of Alzheimer's disease. Classes are held for two hours each week for four weeks in a fun and informative atmosphere.



The trainer will be Dr. Dawn Logan. Materials fee for camp is \$25.00. The fee is waived for returning students continuing their lifelong learning to optimize brain health.

Call Education Coordinator, Erika Longoria for information or to register at (979) 235-9195.



Jerry & Lisa McCala  
Susan Bennett  
Nikki Stafford  
Damon Thomassie  
Rick & Pam Powledge  
Audrey Hatley  
Jud Jarboe

## CONCLAVES 2018

*"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair, persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down but not destroyed."*

2 Corinthians 4:8-9

This scripture will be the lead as the kids attend Conclaves. Please keep the youth in your prayers as they hope to reclaim the strength of their faith.

The youth will attend Conclaves at Camp Cho-Yeh February 23 – 25. A huge Thank You goes out to the congregation for helping for funds for the kids to attend.

Each year at Conclaves all the youth and their church families participate in a Mission Project. This year the youth will be collecting Dog Toys and Pet Care Packages. Donations needed: Dry & Wet Cat and / or Dog Food, Non-scoopable kitty litter, and old t-shirts to make dog toys. Donations will be given to animal shelters in the Houston area for animals who were displaced during Hurricane Harvey. You may give your donations to any youth member or there will be a box in the Narthex for donations to be placed in.



This year the youth will be participating in the Superbowl—SouperBowl of Caring!

On Sunday, February 4, 2018 before worship in front of the Sanctuary the youth will be receiving canned goods for the SouperBowl of Caring. The canned goods will be donated to our local Alvin Food Pantry. If you would like to make a monetary donation please note Souper Bowl on your check or envelope and place it in the offering during worship.

## February Activities

February 11

February 18

February 23-25  
Conclaves



## CLOTHING OUTLET

Most of you know that The Clothing Outlet is the main source of funds for the School Supply Ministry. It is wonderful that due to hard working volunteers the Clothing Outlet continues to progress at a fast pace. As of this newsletter the Outlet has already raised enough funds for 2018 School Supplies Ministry. Our volunteers are very committed to helping others. Although we remain steadfast in our mission to carry out the work of Grace Ward Harby and others, we welcome the opportunity to expand this ministry to our community. However, we will need your



help. If you have any time to share with us, please contact Sheila Follmar and she will give you a time that is convenient .



Thank You!

## EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



As always there are lots of things happening at First Presbyterian Church.

Please see the events listed below and chose your opportunities to serve.

Listed is the month and date the event will happen; the name of the event; and the person or group to contact.

### February and March

|                           |                         |  |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| Lent Soup and Devotionals |                         |  |
| Feb. 21st                 | Contact Jo Myers        |  |
| Mar. 14th                 | Soup provided by church |  |
| Mar. 21st                 | TBD                     |  |

### May

|                       |              |                   |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Mother's Day Luncheon |              |                   |
| May 13th              | Pastor Craig | Men of the Church |

### June

|                       |                   |                     |
|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Father's Day Luncheon |                   |                     |
| June 17th             | Brandi Bowers and | Congregational Life |

## PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

Spiritual Leadership: The Gift the Church Needs Today

Presbyterian Leadership Enrichment 2018  
Saturday, February 17, 2018

8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, Pasadena, 4647 Preston Road, Pasadena

Cost is \$16.00 per person (if registered by 2/5/18) and includes a continental breakfast and lunch.

Join our friends and Presbytery church family for this annual leadership training event. Whether you are newly ordained or have years of experience you are invited to attend.

Keynote Presentation by  
*Rev. Dr. Joan S. Gray*

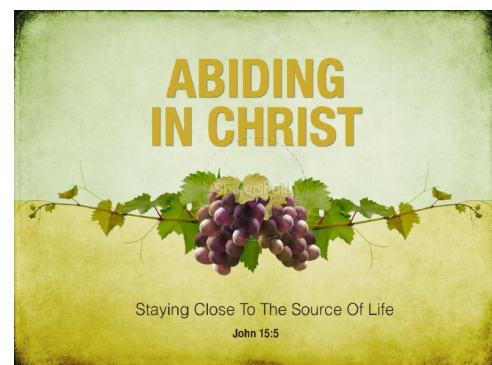


Being an Effective Spiritual Leader....Elders and deacons are made spiritual leaders when they are elected by the congregation. Due to the nature of our polity, no Presbyterian church will ever rise above the level of its elected officers. Joan's keynote presentation will explore what it means to be a spiritual leader, some characteristics of effective spiritual leaders, and how we can access God's power to do God's will in the church and to the ends of the earth.

Several Session members will be attending the event. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like a brochure or more details please call the church office at 281-585-3406.

You may register online by going to : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/presbyterian-leadership-enrichment-tickets-39786063186>

Or you may mail in your registration and form to : Carrie Walker, Presbytery of New Covenant, 1110 Lovett Blvd., Houston, Texas 77006





**Ongoing Prayers** Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, Bill Pannell, Freddie Keene, Ruth Anderson, Juan Petty, Wade Vance, Ana Petersen, 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, Ron Bible, Cathy Carvin, Bill Crider, Dana Shackelford Evans, Cathy Gross, Charles Harrison, Chris Henry, Diane Howard, Shelly Jenkins, Jay

Jones, Ima Jane King, Dave Krauskepf, Bobby Loveless, Susie Klinkovsky, Paige LeJune, Judy Martel, 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, Helen Watson, Stephanie Wilson, John White, Jessie Williams, Heidi Young, and Bill Von Restorff.

**Immediate Concerns** : Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Johnny Davis, Larry Allen, Kay Tucker, Family of Eric Watson, Sofia Muzzafar, Jeanine Richey, D.J. McClendon, Camille King, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Bill Steckert, Bill Duesing, Family of Dottie Lee, Travis Tidwell, Family of Louanne Schultz, Montemayor Family, Bill Howell, Family of Simone Shelton-Anderson, Wanda Cunningham, Jim Berger, Diane Murphy, Jim Hilton, Johnnie Waggoner, "Harvey" victims, Ally Roles, Gayle Cross, Brett Cotton and Norman Hirsch.

*Please call the church office with updates.*

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Cathy King
- 1 Kathryn Wilkerson
- 1 Wade Vance
- 7 Marsha Watkins
- 8 Gracie Pannell
- 10 Alice Goyens
- 12 Arian Hunt
- 16 Ron DeWalt
- 19 Rachel Grimmett
- 22 Cindy Waggoner
- 25 Andrew Hunt
- 25 Nina Froberg
- 26 Jason Roles

**LENT SEASON DEVOTIONS**

This year the church will not be purchasing and mailing out family Lent Devotion packets. This year and in years past, Pastor Craig has written devotions for Lent and posted them on the churches Facebook page. This year we will make those devotions available to you each week in the Narthex at the Sanctuary. Another option is also email. If you would like to receive the devotions by email please call the church office. Thank You!

**ALVIN FOOD PANTRY**

Please do not forget that each first Sunday we have the opportunity to help the Food Pantry by bringing canned items, peanut butter, or ramen soup to worship with us and then all is delivered for us to the Food Pantry by our Pastor. You may also give a monetary donation by simply noting Food Pantry on your check and placing it in the offering plate.

**EASTER LILIES**

As we've done the past two years, you will be able to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus. You can honor and/or remember a loved one by completing a form and placing it in an envelope, along with your donation in the form of a check or cash. The envelope containing your form and donation may be placed in the collection plate or taken to the church office during office hours. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex. The forms need to be received by Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to pick up your plant (s) after worship either Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>, or Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Or if you would prefer, you may donate your lily for delivery to one of our home bound members with a note that says: "Happy Easter!" This year the proceeds from the lily sales will go to the Youth Fund to help our young people with their activities.



## SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 2018

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. on January 15, 2018 in the church library.

Treasurer's report: Each Session member received a copy of the financials along with the Treasurer's report, all have been reconciled for the month of December. The balance in the church accounts are as follows: Checking \$ 8,693.61; Self-Insurance \$ 25,099.91; Money Market \$ 89, 042.41 and Payte Fund \$418,384.14.



Due to the holiday season, many committees did not meet. Session heard reports from the church officers and committees that did meet. Worship Committee is coordinating Lent activities. Janet reported from Congregational Care to Session that 69 contacts have been made over the past month to members of the church family. Congregational Life reported that work on the new Pictorial Directory is being finalized. The Youth Group – PYE – is active and planning their trip to Cho-Yeh for Conclaves in February. The congregation has contributed \$670.00 to assist with the fees for Conclaves. Scott Thomas volunteered to help with the new church website. Adrienne Thomas has volunteered to be the Vacation Bible School Coordinator.

Session action items:

- ◇ Approved Building Usage for Wanda Cunningham for February 10, 2018. Fellowship Hall.
- ◇ Selected and approved the Session members for the 2018 Officer Nominating Committee.

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

**Elder of the Month - David Gonzales**

**Refreshments for February - Buildings & Grounds**

Note to Congregation: Please remember that the Committee is only responsible for coordinating the refreshments. Please consider helping our committees in supplying refreshments for our after church fellowship. Its an easy and great way to be involved. Thank You, Your Session

## CHURCH LEADERSHIP

**Class of 2018**

Wanda Cunningham  
 Scott Thomas  
 Helen Escobedo

**Class of 2019**

Brandi Bowers  
 Sheila Follmar  
 Cathy King

**Class of 2020**

Janet DeLeon  
 David Gonzales  
 Randy Phipps

**Trustees**

Lucile Beasley

Herb Myers

Bill Steckert

**Moderator - Rev. Craig S. King, Sr. Clerk of Session - Gina Ruskey Treasurer - Dianne Murff**

**Clerk In Training - Martha Phipps Asst. Treasurer - Cindy Waggoner**

**Asst. Treasurer—Mary Aparicio Giving Coordinator - Barbara Whitfield**

**Music Director—Scott Gondesén Organist / Pianist - Chris Lo**

Meals On Wheels —Linda Byrd      Gathering Place —Janet DeLeon      4 G's —Kathryn Wilkerson  
 School Supplies —Martha Phipps      Youth Sponsor—Brandi Bowers      Relay for Life —Jill Wheatley  
 Fairy God Mothers—Cindy Waggoner      MEGA Brain—Pastor Craig      Scrapbooking—Maris Whitfield  
 Clothing Outlet Coordinator—Sheila Follmar / Lucile Beasley      Worship — Cindy Waggoner  
 Missions / Outreach—Cathy King      Education—Barbara Bennett      Buildings & Grounds—David Gonzales


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First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

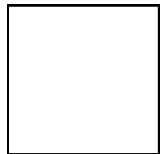
*"The First Presbyterian Church of Alvin has been called by God and organized to share the Gospel message of Jesus Christ in our community and world."*

LOVE LIFE  
LIVE!  LENT  
TRANSFORM YOUR WORLD



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

Address Service Requested



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Alvin, TX 77511

