



Press Bytes

To the Saints at First Pres:

With our semi-cold weather I like to drink hot chocolate. Don't drink it in summer but in front of fire in winter, it's pretty nice. Found this story about hot chocolate I'd like to share with you. It goes like this:

A group of graduates well established in life in their careers were discussing their lives at a class reunion. They decided to go visit their old university professor, now retired, who was always an inspiration to them. During their visit, the conversation turned to complaints about stress in their work, lives and relationships. Offering his guests some hot chocolate, the professor went into the kitchen and returned with a large pot of hot chocolate and an assortment of cups. Some cups were porcelain, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite! He invited each to help themselves to the hot chocolate. When they had a cup of chocolate in hand, the professor shared his thoughts. Noticing that all the nice looking, expensive cups were taken leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. He said, while it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. The cup you are drinking from adds nothing to the quality of the chocolate. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases hides what we drink. What each of you really wanted was hot chocolate. You did not want the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups and soon you began to eye one another's cups. Now friends, consider this: Life is the hot chocolate. Your life, job, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life. The cup you have does not define nor does it change the quality of your life you are living. Sometime by concentrating on the cup we fail to enjoy the hot chocolate God has provided us. Always remember this, God brews the hot chocolate. He does not choose the cup. The happiest people don't have the best of everything. They just make the best of everything they have.

Live simple, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly. Leave the rest to God. Enjoy the hot chocolate. Trust! Honesty! Kindness! Caring!

Peace,

C.O.

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Insert

February Calendar



**February 20,
2020**

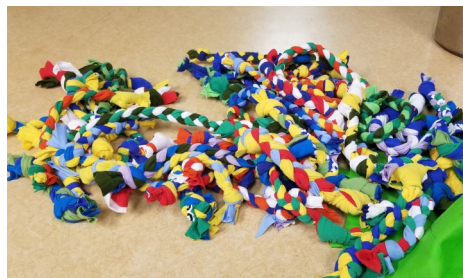
P.Y.E.

**DINNER & DEVOTION
(JAN 8TH)**

The Youth enjoyed spaghetti with meat sauce, Texas toast, and ice cream for dessert. As they ate, Mandi read the devotion "Four Boyfriends". The kids got pretty emotional with this one. After dinner and devotion the youth and one visitor went to the Clothing Outlet to help them run the store for the night. The kids separated and hung clothes.

**DINNER & DEVOTION
(JAN 22ND)**

The Youth enjoyed smothered pork chops, mashed potatoes, corn, green beans and ice cream for dessert. During dinner, Brandi read a daily devotion. Their mission project this month was dog toys. They have several T-shirts from donations in the past. The kids made 55 braided dog toys to donate to the Alvin Animal Alliance Center on Hwy 6.



CONCLAVES 2020

On the weekend of January 25th, Eric Odom, Andrew Hunt, Brandi Bowers, and Mandi Odom went to Camp Cho Yeh as part of PYCC to practice the lineup that has been planned. It was a fun and busy weekend working out all of the kinks to have a successful Conclaves this year.

CONCLAVES 2020 Cont.

The youth will attend Conclaves at Camp Cho-Yeh February 28 – Mar 1. A HUGE Thank You goes out to the congregation for helping fund the kids to attend.

Each year at Conclaves all the youth and their church families participate in a Mission Project. This year the kids decided to make boxes for children who have to stay at Texas Children's Hospital for extended amounts of time. The boxes will consist of items to make their room at the hospital more "homey". The kids could use your support to help gather the following items:

- Decorative Pillowcases
- Pop Culture Decorations
- Blankets &/or Quilts
- Shower Curtains
- Bath Sets

All items need to be brought to the church by our Ash Wednesday service February 26th. Items will be taken to Camp Cho Yeh, for the kids to box them. The kids will also be decorating the boxes that items will be placed in so they could use decorating items such as:

- Stickers
- Markers
- Paints
- Stencils

The Youth truly appreciate all of your support with this project.

Let love and
faithfulness
never leave you;
bind them
around your
neck,
write them on
the tablet of your
heart.
Then you will
win favor and a
good name
in the sight of
God and man.

Proverbs 3:3-4

Installation of Elders

Class of 2022

Sheila Follmar
Brandi Bowers
Martha Phipps



Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58

Do
Everything
In
Love.

1 Corinthians 16:14

Bible Trivia

1. Who in the Bible could carry the title “The Wise King”?
2. What Bible character was turned into a pillar of salt?
3. What type of animal did Aaron fashion out of gold?
4. Name the three gifts that the Wise Men from the East brought to Baby Jesus.
5. What was the name of Abraham’s wife?
6. What is the shortest verse of the New Testament?
7. Who in the Bible could be called “Mr. Patience”?
8. David’s occupation before he became a king was _____.

<p>5. Sarah - Genesis 17:15</p> <p>6. Jesus wpt. - John 11:35</p> <p>7. Job - Job 1-42</p> <p>8. A shepherd - 1 Samuel 16:11-13</p>	<p>1. King Solomon - 1 Kings 3-11</p> <p>2. Lot's wife - Genesis 19:15-26</p> <p>3. A calf - Exodus 32:2-4</p> <p>4. Gold, frankincense, and myrrh - Matthew 2:11</p>
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CLOTHING OUTLET

As you know, 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. They were able to purchase a washing machine and dryer, as well as get the plumbing taken care of in order to keep clothing donations that may need to be washed. We will again be teaming up with staff from Alvin High School to provide low-cost formal wear for students to attend Prom or the Military Ball. We are currently in need of formal wear (ie: dresses, tuxedos, suits, shoes, jewelry, and hair accessories). 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!



Food insecurity is a frightening fact of life for many in our community. On any given day, 66,000 people in southeast Texas experience the pain of hunger: 5,000 of which are children. Making the community food bank essential for so many in our community.

What are common characteristics of food insecurity?

- Limiting the amount of money spent on food - buying less
- Eating less food because of low money
- Inability to participate in a Food Assistance Program
- Using coping mechanisms when food is scarce: e.g., buying cheaper, lower nutritional quality food
- Two-thirds of food insecure households have an adult with a full-time job

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

On Sunday, February 2nd 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.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**JANUARY 2020**

The meeting opened with prayer and a quorum was noted. Our Devotion was from Cindy Waggoner and was based on Matthew 4 12-17. C.O. noted that he had been performing his usual pastoral activities, meeting with church members who needed him and providing them with prayers. He had no present concerns and encourages congregation members to contact him if they do. Cindy Waggoner reported that, since we switched investment firms, we are doing better financially. There will be a review of the Child Protection Policy on February 16th at 845 and 1215. It will take about 45 minutes and will be provides all those working with children or youth in the church to have their required yearly training. Sunday, Feb 2 will be Souper Bowl Sunday with members being asked to bring non-perishable food items which will be donated to the Alvin Food Pantry. On the second Sunday, we will have our Chili Cook Off. The Session reviewed Elder of the Month duties and revised them to bring them up to date. Our meeting was closed with prayer.

Elder of the Month -**Refreshments for February - Congregational Life**

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 2020**

Janet DeLeon

Cindy Waggoner

Randy Phipps

Class of 2021

Helen Escobedo

Wanda Cunningham

Jason Elkins

Class of 2022

Brandi Bowers

Sheila Follmar

Martha Phipps

Trustees

Lucile Beasley

Herb Myers

Barbara Whitfield

Moderator - Rev. Dr. C. O. McGee**Treasurer - Cindy Waggoner****Giving Coordinator - Barbara Whitfield****Organist / Pianist - Chris Lo****Clerk of Session - Martha Phipps****Asst. Treasurer - Mary Aparicio****Music Director - Scott Gondesens****Secretary - Mandi Odom**

Meals On Wheels - Barbara Whitfield · 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 · Scrapbooking—Marisa Whitfield
 Clothing Outlet Coordinator - Sheila Follmar / Lucile Beasley · Worship - Cindy Waggoner
 Missions / Outreach - Janet DeLeon · Education - Barbara Bennett · Buildings & Grounds - Jason Elkins



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Ongoing Prayers Jill Wheatley, Dixie Clark, Kathryn Wilkerson, Belinda Busscher, Barbara Passmore, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, DJ McClendon, Nancy Williams, Bill Pannell,

Louisa Vera, Pat Carpenter, Cheryl Martin, Margie Martin, Lucille Beasley, Lisa McCalla, Lisa Polinard, Lane McGee, Becca Blanchard Toney Crainer, the Garza family, Joshua & Justin Collins, our troops, Australia & it's people, Nancy Williams, and the Crutchfield family.

Immediate Concerns : Shelley Steckert, Belinda Busscher, and Margie Hill's family.

Please call the church office with updates.



February BIRTHDAYS

1	Cathy King	16	Audrey Roles
1	Kathryn Wilkerson	19	Rachel Grimmett
1	Wade Vance	20	Paul Sloan
4	Allison Roles	22	Cindy Waggoner
7	Marsha Watkins	23	Haley Stevens
8	Grace Pannell	25	Andrew Hunt
10	Alice Goyen	25	Nina Froberg
12	Arian Hunt	26	Jason Roles

Congregational Life is having a Pre-Superbowl Party.

Sunday, February 2nd during

Fellowship. Please bring your favorite Superbowl must-have snacks to share with the congregation.



“Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” - “May Christ Bless this dwelling”

by Christopher Lo

As I departed for church early on Sunday, January 12, 2020, I noticed that four police cars were parked in my cul-de-sac and that a neighbor's house was masked with yellow police tape. Later that afternoon, I learned that one of my neighbors had committed suicide. On June 29, 2019, at Christ Church Cathedral in downtown Houston, I sang at a Memorial Service for a choir member who had committed suicide. On July 27, 2019, I played the piano and directed a choir at a Memorial Service which took place at St. Cuthbert's Episcopal Church in northwest Houston. The deceased had also committed suicide.

Just over a year ago, a young graduate student, who serves as Organist at a large Roman Catholic Church in Houston, informed me that she had suicidal thoughts. Thankfully, today she is actively serving our Lord.

The word Epiphany (θεοφάνεια) – means “manifestation” or “appearance.” The etymology of our English word is derived from two Greek words, ἐπί (epí, “upon”) and φαίνω (phaínō, “I shine, bring to light”). Many Christians around the world have written an ancient yet ever-changing formula on their doors: 20+C+M+B+20. The numbers, letters and symbols have been called “holy graffiti,” and they resemble an algebraic equation.

The letters C, M, B, come from the traditional names for the wise men: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, whose arrival at Mary and Joseph's home is celebrated on the Epiphany. Their names appear in a Greek manuscript from 500 A. D. translated into Latin, which many biblical scholars consider the source of the names. The letters are also an abbreviation for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means “May Christ Bless this dwelling.” The first and last numbers refer to the current year, and the plus signs in between represent the cross.

“Chalking the door,” as it is known, is seen as invoking Christ's blessing not only on the physical house but on the people who live there and those who visit. There is a long tradition of blessing homes, especially on the Epiphany,

January 6, and the weeks that follow. For centuries, Roman Catholic Europeans have chalked their doors as part of Epiphany house blessings. Only recently, have the practice become popular in the United States. Chalking can be done simply with a short prayer or with hymns, prayers, processions, incense and holy water. Clergy or laypeople can do the chalking.

Lesbia Scott (1898–1986) published her famous hymn “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God” (Hymn 293 in The Episcopal Hymnal 1982; and Hymn 364 in The Presbyterian Hymnal 1989) in 1929. At the end of verse three, this hymnist beholden us to our Christian responsibility of caring for our brothers and sisters in Christ, “You can meet them in school, or in lanes, or at sea, in church, or in trains, or in shops, or at tea; for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too.” As we pass the homes of our neighbors, may we pray, “May Christ Bless this dwelling.”



Photo caption: The combination of numbers, letters and symbols involved in chalking the door evokes the year, the cross and the traditional names of the kings: Caspar, Melchior and Balthazar. The letters are also an abbreviation for “Christus Mansionem Benedicat,” which means “May Christ bless this dwelling.”