

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes

To the Saints at First Presbyterian:

Greetings! This month begins my third year with you as pastor. It has been a year that no one would ever expect. We haven't seen a year like this ever with all the crises that we have experienced and them happening all at once.

I have deeply enjoyed my time here with you. You are a terrific congregation. Never have I found a congregation with such loving and caring folks.

We are somewhat progressing towards the search process. I say somewhat in that this pandemic has made the effort even more difficult that it would normally be. Getting together to do what is necessary as a congregation has been all but impossible. So we are just "hanging in there" until times are better. I am committed to being with you until we can accomplish our task.

It has been very frustrating in being "cut off" from so many of you. Can't visit or make hospital calls. The hospitals that have opened are only allowing two visitors a day so I have passed on visits since my visit will take the place of a family member who might want to visit. Handshakes and hugs are also out. Christianity is a social faith. We need each other and aren't designed to go it alone". I have been impressed at how we are getting around the pandemic to touch base with our fellow members and show the love and care of our Lord.

In all this mess, we will continue being the church. I know the virus has kept many of you home. Being safe is the utmost importance. We have church on Sundays "very carefully." Masks are worn by members who come and also worn by the choir. Coffee with C.O. is done with masks and spread out in Fellowship Hall and Tai Chi is also with masks and social distances. Looks like we will be doing this for some time now.

I look forward to a new and better year as I know you are too. I continue to be honored to be here with all of you. My door is always open and there is a coffee pot ready to make a cup whenever needed.

Again, thank you for inviting me to be with you these two years. It has been a wonderful experience. Whatever happens in 2021 we will persevere together. God is always with us and guiding us into the future!

Peace,

C.O.

February Issue

Message from the Pastor C. O. Magee (on Cover)	
P. Y. E. Easter Lilies Notice	2
Organist Musings: Lent	3
Souper Bowl of Caring Tai Chi	4
Session Highlights Elder of the Month Lent Cont.	5
Prayer Concerns February Birthdays	6
Church Leadership	7

Insert

February Calendar



February 24,
2021

P.Y.E.

**DINNER & DEVOTION
(JAN 13TH)**

The Youth enjoyed chicken nuggets and fries. As they ate, Mandi read the devotion. After dinner and devotion the youth watched the new Disney film "Soul". It answered some questions and left plenty of room for additional questions about our soul before and after life on earth.

**DINNER & DEVOTION
(JAN 27TH)**

The Youth enjoyed pizza rolls, french fries and ice cream for dessert. During dinner, Mandi read a daily devotion. Their mission project this month was Gnome friends (see picture below). These "friends" will be given to homebound members to remind them that they are not forgotten by the congregation.



**Congregational
Meeting**

**February 21, 2021
After Worship Service**

EASTER LILIES

As we've done the in past, you will be able to purchase Easter



Lilies to decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday 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 Sunday, March 20th. You will be able to pick up your plant(s) after worship Easter Sunday, April 4th, or Monday, April 5th. If you prefer, you may donate your lily to one of our homebound members with a note that says: "Happy Easter!" The proceeds from the lily sales will go to the Youth Fund to help expand the Youth Program.

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

Lent: A New Beginning in humility – Christopher Lo

During the Christmas holidays, I was able to finally watch “Hamilton,” a hip-hop musical by Lin-Manuel Miranda. In the first half of this musical, a character named Samuel Seabury sings a short song entitled “Farmer Refuted.” Seabury was a loyalist to the crown and for years through letter writing, carried on a vigorous debate with Alexander Hamilton.



In “Hamilton” the musical, Miranda paraphrases Seabury’s warning to the revolutionaries. This same warning may even be relevant today:

“Heed not the rabble who scream revolution. They have not your interest at heart. Chaos and bloodshed are not a solution, don’t let them lead you astray.”

In November 1775, Seabury was arrested and imprisoned for six weeks by local patriots of Connecticut. However, after the American Revolution, this same Samuel Seabury became an American citizen and on March 25, 1783, went on to become the first Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut. From 1789 to 1792, Seabury served as the Second Presiding Bishop of a new denomination which became autonomous from the Church of England.



On September 17, 1792, controversy over his tenure as Presiding Bishop led Samuel Seabury to concede the position to Samuel Provoost, the Bishop of New York. In doing so, Seabury wrote “I had no inclination to contend who should be the greatest in the kingdom of heaven, I thank God for his grace on this occasion, and beseech him that no self-exaltation or envy of others may ever lead me into debate and contention, but that I may ever be willing to be the least when the peace of his Church requires it.”

Abraham Lincoln’s first inaugural address echoed Seabury’s ideal of humility. On March 4, 1861, Lincoln ended with these words, “We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break, our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.”



I think the contemporary American novelist Anne Lamott (b. 1954) put the theology of our relationship with God best in her book



Do
Everything
In
Love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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. With Covid-19 coming in to play, these numbers have increased exponentially.

What are common characteristics of food insecurity?

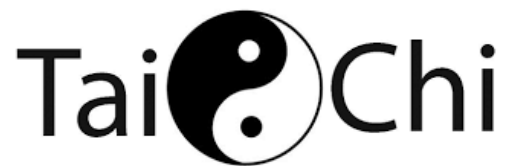
- Limiting the amount of money spent on food - buying less
- Eating less food because of low money
- Inability to participate in a Food Assistance Program
- Using coping mechanisms when food is scarce: e.g., buying cheaper, lower nutritional quality food
- Two-thirds of food insecure households have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

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

On Sunday, February 7th baskets will be placed in the Narthex to receive canned and nonperishable goods for the SouperBowl of Caring. The items will be donated to our local Alvin/Manvel 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.

.....

To continue helping the Food Pantry in the future, we will be placing the baskets in the Narthex each month on the First Sunday to collect nonperishable food on their behalf, as we have done in the past.



The first Tai Chi class was a success! We had 14 individuals participate. We spent about an hour learning positions and their names. Please join us on the First and Third Saturday of each month at 10am to learn the movements and have fellowship.

February dates:

2/6/21 & 2/20/21

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**JANUARY 2020**

The Session met on Sunday, January 24th just after service. Cindy updated everyone on the status of our Payte endowment fund, which is heading back in the right direction with a positive return for the 4th quarter of 2020. Education is planning on having Easter breakfast (that is a little different from years past) and Easter egg hunt on Easter morning. Mission team had some changes to their budget due to new information. Worship will have Lent information come out as soon as it is finalized. Congregational Care had 75 contacts since the last meeting. Buildings and Grounds asked for additional cameras to be placed around the Clothing Outlet, on their behalf, at their expense. Toilets in the education bldg. will be installed once we have the correct size. The Youth is meeting on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, participation is slowly building. Congregational Life reported a complete success for the Chili Cook-off with 8 participants. They are considering a new category for 2022. Personnel also had changes to the budget to be approved by Session. After discussion, the budget for 2021 has been finalized and will be presented to the congregation February 21st for approval. In January, the Session nominate and vote on the new Treasurer and Clerk of Session. With the support of the Session, Cindy Waggoner and Martha Phipps will retain their positions.

Elder of the Month - Cindy Waggoner

Refreshments for February - Postponed until further notice

Cont. from pg 3

“Travelling Mercies.” She wrote, tongue in cheek, “You can safely assume you've created God in your own image when it turns out that God hates all the same people you do.”

As we seek God’s guidance on this nation, on our churches, and upon each other, let us be reminded of what St. Teresa of Avila (1515 – 1582), a Spanish noblewoman who felt called to convent life, taught “For prayer is nothing else than being on terms of friendship with God.”



As we approach Lent, let us be spiritually challenged by the words found in the Apostle Paul’s Epistle to Philemon, “When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ” (Philemon 1:4-6). Amen.



CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

Ongoing Prayers Jill Wheatley, Mark & Belinda Busscher, Rachel Grimmett, Cathy King, Martha Phipps, Helen Escobedo, Betty Montgomery, Mike Wheatley,

Wanda Cunningham, Evelyn Robison, Joy Dell DeWitt, Shelli Darnell, Patty Costanzo, and Diane Mize.

Immediate Concerns : The family of Cathy Wise, and the family of Karen Tidwell .

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 |

CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Class of 2021

Helen Escobedo
Wanda Cunningham
Jason Elkins

Class of 2022

Brandi Bowers
Sheila Follmar
Martha Phipps

Class of 2023

Marisa Whitfield
Cindy Waggoner
Randy Phipps

Trustees

Lucile Beasley Herb Myers Barbara Whitfield

Church Personnel

<i>Moderator - Rev. Dr. C. O. Magee</i>	<i>· Clerk of Session - Martha Phipps</i>
<i>Treasurer - Cindy Waggoner</i>	<i>· Asst. Treasurer - Mary Aparicio</i>
<i>Giving Coordinator - Barbara Whitfield</i>	<i>· Music Director - Scott Gondesén</i>
<i>Organist / Pianist - Chris Lo</i>	<i>· Secretary - Mandi Odom</i>

Committee Leadership

<i>Meals On Wheels - Barbara Whitfield</i>	<i>· Gathering Place - Janet DeLeon</i>
<i>4 G's - Kathryn Wilkerson</i>	<i>· School Supplies - Martha Phipps</i>
<i>Youth Sponsor - Brandi Bowers</i>	<i>· Relay for Life - Jill Wheatley</i>
<i>Fairy God Mothers - Cindy Waggoner</i>	<i>· Scrapbooking - Marisa Whitfield</i>
<i>Buildings & Grounds - Jason Elkins</i>	<i>· Worship - Cindy Waggoner</i>
<i>Missions / Outreach - Janet DeLeon</i>	<i>· Education - Barbara Bennett</i>
<i>Congregational Life - Brandi Bowers</i>	<i>· Congregational Care - Janet DeLeon</i>
<i>Clothing Outlet Coordinator - Sheila Follmar</i>	