



## Press Bytes



### Life Together

### January Issue

#### Greetings:

Someone once said: ***"The past is what is behind us. The future is what is before us. And, today is a gift which is why we call it the present."*** There is a bit of wisdom in that observation. We cannot change the past – though its influence may impact our lives today. Likewise, we cannot foresee all that may be in the future for our lives.

As I enter the year 2018 – I find myself entering this New Year without my friend Doug for the first time in 18 years – yet – I carry some of his sage wisdom with me. In the last few months – I would often ask him: ***"How are you today?"*** With his dry sense of humor Doug would say: ***"Well, I woke up this morning and didn't bump my head on any wood lifting my head from the pillow. When I wandered into the kitchen for my morning tea, I saw I was on the green side of the lawn. And, when I opened the paper, I didn't find my name in the obituaries. It's a great day."***

Doug said those things even though he had many different health issues. But his point was that he woke up to the gift of a new day – the present. Each day we have is a gift – a present from God. Each day of each year we have is to be lived in gratitude to the Lord our God Who made us – and called us each by name before our birth.

I invite you to consider each day a gift from God – because it is a "present." Therefore, I'd like to suggest some resolutions to express your gratitude and faithfulness in following the Lord. Grateful for the gift of life and wanting to follow Jesus more closely in this New Year I resolve:

- ◇ To make Sunday Worship a higher priority, because God desires our worship and praise;
- ◇ To make Sunday School attendance for myself and my children a high priority because my kids are as important as sports practice, because Jesus studied in the temple;
- ◇ To pray for our congregation, its leadership, and its mission that we may all be faithful stewards of God's love, because Jesus prayed for and with His disciples;
- ◇ To get to know 5 people at church that I do not know now, because Jesus was always reaching out to others beyond His immediate circle of friends and family;
- ◇ To be willing to have my routines interrupted when the church needs my help, because Jesus' encountered interruptions by others and saw those interruptions as opportunities for ministry;
- ◇ To forgive others who may have offended me whether in the church or elsewhere, because Jesus forgave others;
- ◇ To let the Lord and the teachings of Scripture guide my understanding of what is going on in the world, and influence my opinions because Jesus was led by the teaching of Scripture;
- ◇ To not dread or fear change, because God may be making a new heaven and a new earth; and
- ◇ To resolve that when life seems overwhelming to me not to give up, because God's grace got me through other times when I felt life was more than I could endure.

May we all know the love, joy, hope, and peace God offers us with the "present" of each new day. Have a blessed New Year in Jesus Christ. Peace,

Craig

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#### Insert

#### January Calendar





**"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another."**

**John 13:34**



My dear friends,

This past month, I received so many gifts, greetings, cards and notes in celebration of Christmas. I am so very grateful for folks thinking about me and caring enough to shower me with kind thoughts, words of love, and gifts. And although these are all special, I thank you even more for simply continuing to walk with the Lord.



This past year, we have done so much good work. The easiest place to start is Hurricane Harvey. In the aftermath of that terrible storm, we gave out close to 50,000 pieces of clothing – not to mention toiletry items, food, and a host of other essentials. Our volunteers worked tirelessly to sort clothes, help people in need, and transport more donations. We had such an impact on our community that other churches and local businesses came to help us. We even got help from people in New York State, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, and other parts of Texas. The Great Commission and Great Commandment in action!!

Then there's the continued work with our Gathering Place ministry. This year marks our 4<sup>th</sup> year of helping caregivers of those with dementia. The MEGA Brain made over 20 appearances around our area this past year – educating young and old alike about the various maladies associated with the human brain.

Let me see....Relay for Life, School Supplies, Christmas Families, Alvin/Manvel Food Pantry, Vacation Bible School, the Back-to-School Bash, Special Offerings, the Angel Fund, Fairy Godmothers, and the list goes on. Then in service to our own, we empowered our members to serve communion to our members and friends who are homebound. We adopted a few families that needed a little TLC and a shoulder to cry on. Give yourselves a much-deserved pat on the back! Can I get an "Amen"?

As we travel into 2018, let's continue to be strong in our commitment to service to others and ourselves. Let's continue to build each other up. Let's continue to reach out to the lost and lonely. Let's continue to put our time, talents, and treasure to work, and let's all together – get ourselves ready for the new miracles God will do in our midst this coming year. Thank you again.

Grace and Peace, *Craig*

## PYE and PYCC NEWS

The Youth continue to meet each second and third Sunday afternoon. They have traveled to the Presbytery Fall Youth Rally, been bowling, had a Scavenger Hunt, participated in Hanging of the Greens, prepared the trays for our Homebound members, and participated in the Nativity Scene. In January they hope to go Roller Skating, have a Lock-In, and go to Moody Gardens.

In February (23-25) the youth will attend Conclaves at Camp Cho-yeh. Conclaves are fun, faith-filled weekends at Camp Cho-Yeh that will enable you to grow closer to God and connect with other young people from all over our presbytery. The youth will engage in Bible Study and small groups, experience dynamic worship, participate in a mission project, explore ways to connect with God in the Spirituality Center, and of course have a blast



playing games, and making new friends. The cost is \$140.00 per youth. Adult sponsors will be Brandi Bowers and Steven King. The Conclaves Mission Project is Dog toys and Pet care packages. Donations needed: dry & wet cat and dog food, non-scoopable kitty litter, and old t-shirts to make dog toys. Donations will be given to local animal shelters for animals who were displaced during Hurricane Harvey. At this time we have anywhere from 8 to 12 youth attending. While the church can assist with the down payment for the event further assistance will be needed to fund the entire \$140.00. The youth plan on hosting several fundraisers during 2018. If you would like to help the Youth now you may put a check in the offering plate and note "Youth Fund" on your check or you may adopt a "youth" member attending the event. All help will be appreciated.

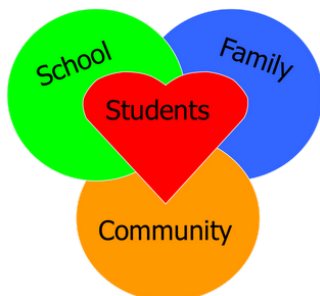
### CONGRATULATIONS TO LEXI HUNT!

Lexi was selected to be a Young Adult Advisory Delegate from our church and Presbytery. Lexi will have the opportunity to travel with those from Presbytery to the General Assembly Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri this next summer.



The Christmas Mission Sale, held on Saturday, December 9, brought in a total of \$902. This 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, price and arrange the tons of items that were donated, those who spent a portion of or all of the 6+ hours on Saturday assisting shoppers with their purchases and those who helped Sunday afternoon to box up the unsold items and deliver those boxes to Goodwill. We, of course, appreciate all of you who cleaned out your attics, closets and drawers to supply us with your unneeded treasures. There were even some of you who purchased some of those treasures. A great big "THANK YOU!" goes out to everyone for your part in making this such an awesome sale.

In past years, FPCA has provided (free-of-charge) the Fellowship Hall for the children of the Alvin Head Start Program. In addition, the 80+ children were given a small goody-bag. This year, however, the Director of Head Start was notified in November that the refreshments and gifts for the children would not be supplied as they had been in the past. FPCA was contacted for assistance and, without hesitation, we said "Yes". Assorted gifts, one for each of the 88 children in the program, were purchased by our church and distributed at the December 15th party. Many thanks to Henrietta Meyer and crew for making sure the gifts were wrapped in time.



On behalf of the Mission and Outreach Team, I say "Thank you" to our very generous congregation who responded in a big way to the Christmas Family Outreach this year. Because of you, we were able to provide Christmas gifts to 8 families, which totaled 23 children. Everyone was moved by the generosity and love felt through the gifts. Parents and children alike thanked us. Again, the Mission and Outreach Team is very grateful for those of you who shared their time, treasure and talent to brighten the lives of others

## FAIRY GODMOTHERS

New Name,

New Mission

The Fairy Godmothers (and others like Fairy Godfathers) are adopting the comfort of our military veterans. We will be making lap quilts for residents of the De George Center at Union Station in Houston. Carol Warych is donating the quilt tops, fabric backing and batting for this endeavor. All are invited to help... there will be a job for you!

We will be meeting on the second Saturday of each month beginning January 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. We will enjoy each other's company as we serve others.



**"Do not lag in zeal,  
be ardent in spirit,  
serve the Lord.  
Rejoice in hope, be  
patient in suffering,  
persevere in  
prayer."**

**Romans 12: 11-12**





## 2017 Memorial Poinsettias

### **Barbara & Tom Bennett**

#### **In Memory of**

Earl Bennett Natalie Bennett

Joe A. & Viola Klinkovsky, Jr.

Chad Marek

Georgia & Perry Marek

Mike Neff

### **Marietta Benson**

#### **In Memory of**

Henry Benson

Laura Benson

John Williams

Norma Williams

### **Cathy & Greg Copeland**

#### **In Memory of**

Allen & Bobbie Copeland

Charlie King

#### **In Honor of**

Alyssa, Madizen, Isabella, Emma, Lilliana,  
Adam, Max, Nolen & Evan

### **Sheila Follmar**

#### **In Memory of**

Chris Cordova Martin Cordova

Rachel Cordova Randy DeLeon

Virginia Kernaghan

### **David Gonzales**

#### **In Memory of**

Raquel & Rip Gonzales

### **Jackie Hnat, David Hoon, & Donna Reynolds**

#### **In Memory of**

Jack & Jane Hoon

### **Eric & Rachel Grimmert**

#### **In Memory Of**

Bob & Wanda Buck Gene E. Grimmert

Gene Grimmert Vance Grimmert

Arthur & Doey Laughrey

Abby & George Roberts

Agnes & Tom Williams

### **Cathy & Craig King**

#### **In Memory of**

William Lloyd Bridges

Charlie King

Alice & Harbin Bridges

Bessie & Joe King, Sr.

Josephine & Steve Kotlarich, Sr.

Charlie & Virginia Meyer

#### **In Honor of**

Shirley Bridges

Camille King

Key, Meredith, Soren, Camille, & Dani Hasselmeier,

Steven King

### **Joan McNabb**

#### **In Memory of**

The Canady & McNabb Families

### **The Mercers**

#### **In Memory of**

Joe Perkins

### **Kathy Miller**

#### **In Memory of**

Chuck Miller Betty & Charles Miller

Leno & Mary Regotti

### **Henrietta Meyer**

#### **In Memory Of**

Wayne Meyer

**Bill & Dianne Murff****In Memory of**

Linda Jane Hand  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Murff  
Jean Pemberton Russell Pope  
Shirley Jean Selman

**Rhonda Burks Newell****In Memory of**

Dolores & George Burks  
Mary Burks Marek Cheryl Burks Proctor

**The Pannell Family****In Memory of**

Al & Virginia Bossley  
Jamie & John Pannell

**Howard Pittman****In Memory of**

Carla H. Pittman

**Nora Richardson****In Memory of**

Edna Adams James P. Adams  
G.D. Allen Marie Allen  
E. Floyd Richardson

**Ruskey Family****In Memory of**

Jerry L. Gregory, Sr.

**In Honor of**

Donna J. Gregory

**Ruskey Family****In Memory of**

Annie & Oliver Ruskey  
Clarence & Pauline Ruskey  
Edwin & Elaine Siers

**Pat Spiller****In Memory of**

Charles A. Spiller

**Bill & Faye Steckert****In Memory of**

Chris Frantz  
Bill & Olive Lubinsky  
Ann & Wilson Lord  
John & Mae Steckert

**Bill & Cindy Waggoner****In Memory of**

Darline & Lee Petersen  
Jane Hoon Melba Passmore

Reba Russell

William "Dub" Waggoner

**In Honor of**

All Men and Women Who are serving or  
have served in our military.

**Barbara Whitfield****In Memory of**

The Wyland Girls  
Clara, Dorothy, Florence, & Ruth

**Kathryn Wilkerson****In Memory of**

Rebecca Sue & Roy Wilkerson  
All Loved Ones Gone Before Me

**Pastor Craig****In Memory of**

Raquel Gonzales  
Jean Laucher  
Wayne Meyer  
Darline Petersen  
Laura Benson  
Viola Klinkovsky  
Sam Passmore  
Meg Raeburn  
Elizabeth Stinson

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM— Prayer Concerns

**Ongoing Prayers** Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumelow, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, Bill Pannell, Karen Hering, Freddie Keene, Ruth Anderson, Juan Petty, Wade Vance, Ana Petersen, Dianne Howard, Daniel Vaughn, Louisa Vera, Jimmy Abney, Danny Arena, Jean Barrow, Camille King, 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, Lewis and Edith Rockwell, 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** : Bill Steckert, Bill Duesing, Dottie Lee, Mike Case's great nephew, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Family of Simone Shelton-Anderson, Wanda Cunningham, Jim Berger, Diane Murphy, Jim Hilton, Johnnie Waggoner, "Harvey" victims, Ally Roles, Gayle Cross, and Norman Hirsch.

*Please call the church office with updates.*

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Fleo Pannell	1
D.J McClendon	3
Dennis Ashley	3
Dick Tyson	3
Dave Powledge	4
Dustin Farris	6
Becca Farris	6
Barbara Passmore	9
Howard Pittman	10
Dick Frerking	15
Jesse Frantz	17
Stephanie Meystedt	20
Susanne Wilson	20
Cheryl Case	21
John Melenric	30
Ron Mercer	30



Please take a few minutes before worship to greet our visitors and new members.

#### VISITORS

Jerry and Lisa McCalla	Karen Aguilar
Nikki Stafford	Edwardo Shirley
Christy Alexander	Elora Alexander
Latice Owens	Jeremiah Owens
Kalaya Vest	Angelica Black
David & Amy McCarty	Jo Stallings
Dick & Lisa McGonigle	

#### NEW MEMBERS

Sara Pannell                      Helen McCarty

#### TRANSFER OF LETTER

James & Margie Hill

### 4 G's

The 4 G's met the 20th. of Dec. in Fellowship Hall. There was a gift exchange and refreshments were served. The gifts were interesting, and the food was delicious. We will meet the 17th. of January in fellowship hall for a very shrewd round of Chicken Foot.

Hope to see you there.                      Kathryn Wilkerson

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS****DECEMBER 2017**

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. on December 20, 2017 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.

Session heard reports from the church officers and committees. Mission and Outreach Committee Mission Sale made \$902.00 and Joy Gift Offering will be collected on Sunday, December 24, 2017. Worship Committee finished plans Christmas Eve Service. Janet reported from Congregational Care to Session that 71 contacts have been made over the past month to members of the church family. Homebound Communion was administered to 4 different groups/ individuals. Buildings and Grounds shared that the remodeling on the church manse continues, along with projects around the church campus.

Session action items:

- \* Approved 2018 Communion Dates.
- \* Approved upgrade quote on Sound System.
- \* Approved 2 new membership requests and 1 transfer of letter.
- \* Approved Youth to attend Conclaves weekend of February 23 – 25 2018.

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

Blessings, Gina Ruskey

**Elder of the Month - Brandi Bowers**

**Refreshments for January - 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 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 Gondesen 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

Missions / Outreach—Cathy King Education—Barbara Bennett Buildings & Grounds—David Gonzales

**First Presbyterian Church**  
**302 South Johnson Street**  
**Alvin, TX 77511**



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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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