



# Press Bytes



## Life Together

January Issue

### Greetings:

One disadvantage to writing an old-fashioned paper newsletter is that it throws off a person's inner clock. It means trying to convey certain feelings on paper before you (the writer) have really gotten ready for them in real life. For example, you have to write about Thanksgiving well before Halloween – and then you need to write about the extravagant joy of Christmas before you've even had a chance to truly sit and ponder on Thanksgiving thoughts. Even today, as I write – having pushed the newsletter deadline to its allowable limit – and still days before Christmas – I've got to think and talk about a world I haven't seen yet: the New Year, 2019. Nationwide Insurance reminds us: **"Life comes at you fast!"** And as we look back over the days we've been given – or even just the 365 days of the year now ending – we would have to agree. Something new is always upon us. **"Do you not perceive it?"**

One problem with welcoming a new year is that it comes at a time when nothing feels new. The Christmas decorations look ragged and sad in January's merciless light. Taking them down is a tiresome task. And not to knock a much-loved carol – but if Christmas takes place **"in the deep midwinter"** then maybe – just maybe – we're in for some really cold weather!

And yet, even in the middle of all this sameness of things – we can sometimes feel the moments passing. Their constant rumble is like a subway train beneath the ground we're standing on. If we stop to listen to the rhythm of our hours and days – if we pay attention to the sometimes-monotonous march of seconds and minutes – we'll catch echoes of their steps drawing nearer – stomping past us – disappearing into the distance. When did that hair go gray on the head of the one you love (or in my case, where did it go)? When did that wrinkle form on the familiar brow? Time passes – giving gifts richly with one hand and stealing them with the other.

In every season of life – there is a new thing that God is doing – if we will open our hearts and spirits to its unfolding. Whatever time it is in your life – whatever your age or occupation – the voice still calls out to you again from down the beach: **"Follow me"** – or as the God of Isaiah declares: **"I am about to do a new thing... Do you not perceive it?"** Sometime in this truly deep midwinter season – at a time yet to be determined – we are going to realize as a congregation these **"new things"** that we sense the Spirit doing in our midst and the directions they might lead us. Until then – I encourage you to ask yourself these 2 questions: **"What new thing am I being called to? What new thing is our church being called to?"**

Please know that I will be praying for all of you as these new discoveries unfold.

Peace,

Craig

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January Calendar

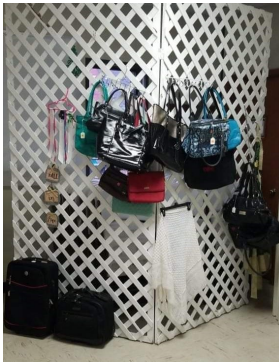




The Christmas Mission Sale, held on Saturday, December 8, brought in over \$675. This will be used to supplement the offerings collected for our local and world outreach efforts. All this would not have been possible without the combined efforts of all those who volunteered their time to sort, price and arrange the items that were donated, and those who spent a portion of or all of the 8+ hours on Saturday assisting shoppers with their purchases and helped box up the unsold items and deliver those boxes to Nami. 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.

**“For I know the plans I have for you”, declares the LORD, “plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope”.**

**Jeremiah 29:11**



This year, in addition to helping families who requested assistance for Christmas, our congregation took on 59 Headstart students . Even with the short turn around time, we pulled it together and were able to provide a gift for all 59 children by their party date. Ms. Deborah Johnson, the director for Alvin Headstart said, “Thank you so much, we appreciate everything the church has done for Headstart”. In total our congregation provided over 100 gifts for those in need this year.



## PYE

The Youth continue to meet each second and third Sunday afternoon. They have traveled to the Presbytery Fall Youth Rally and participated in Hanging of the Greens. In January, they hope to have a Lock-In, and go to Moody Gardens. In February (22-24) the youth will attend Conclaves at Camp Cho-Yeh. Conclaves are fun, faith-filled weekends at Camp Cho-Yeh that will enable the kids 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 \$150.00 per youth. Adult sponsors will be Brandi Bowers and Steven King. While the church can assist with the down payment for the event, further assistance will be needed to fund the entire \$150.00. The youth plan on hosting several fundraisers during 2019. 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.

We would like to thank all of you for your prayers, visits, and food during the 3 1/2 months Dianne was hospitalized. It is always good to count your blessings which include all of you.

Blessings,  
The Murff Family



“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps.”

Proverbs 16:9

# ALVIN HOPE

Over the last year, Alvin HOPE Charities has been using the library to conduct meetings. Even with a set back right before Christmas, the charity was able to provide Christmas gifts to over 300 Alvin ISD children. A Volunteer Appreciation party will be held on Tuesday, January 8th at 7pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!! If you'd like to learn more about our organization, join us on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the library or check out our website [www.alvinhope.com](http://www.alvinhope.com).

Mandi



Congregational Life will be hosting a Super Bowl Pre-Party during fellowship February 3rd.



# The Hanging of the Greens

Thank you to everyone who participated in the service and/or brought cookies to snack on. Special thanks to Santa for stopping by to visit the kids during his busy month.



**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS****DECEMBER 2018**

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday, December 17, 2018 in the church library.

Treasurer's Report: All records have been reconciled and are in good order. The Session is still concerned that the overall giving is down, along with church attendance. Session heard reports from committees and projects that are in progress. The Mission Sale collected a little over \$ 675 at the Mission Sale, and the Salvation Army bell ringing was a success. Worship reported that attendance was good for the Hanging of the Greens Service on December 2. We look forward to the Christmas Cantata on Sunday, December 23 during the regular worship service and the Christmas Eve service will be Monday, December 24 at 7:30 pm. Congregational Care reported 86 contacts during the month of November. Congregational Life is planning some opportunities for fellowship in the months to come. Building and Grounds was busy with ordinary maintenance of the facilities during the past month. Session action items: Approved a baptism; set a meeting of the congregation for Sunday, January 6, 2019 for the purpose of dissolving the pastoral relationship with Pastor Craig.

If there are any questions, please contact Martha Phipps.

**Elder of the Month - Brandi Bowers**

**Refreshments for January - 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

Everyone involved in Relay For Life wants to thank the church for being a big part of this year's Kickoff . It will be held here at the church on January 5,2019 starting at 11:00 am and ending at 3:00 pm. . We will have games with prizes for all that come out. It is first come first serve, due to being the first year open to so many folks. We will have a food truck available and they are giving a percentage of the funds raised back to Relay. We would love for you and all of your family & friends to come out. We look forward to have a great event.

Jill



**UNDER THE BIG TOP**

**RELAY FOR LIFE OF NORTH BRAZORIA COUNTY**

**Come One, Come All !**

**RELAY RALLY**

**January 5, 2019 ~ 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

First Presbyterian Church in Alvin  
801 W Lang, Alvin Tx 77511

**Food Trucks, Bingo, Cake Walk, Silent Auction, Games, and MUCH MORE FUN**

**for the ENTIRE FAMILY!**

Come out & learn about us & all the NEW & EXCITING things we are doing in our community!!



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM— Prayer Concerns

**Ongoing Prayers** Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Kay Tucker, Sofia Muzzafar, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Linda Allen, Bill Pannell, Freddie Keene, Ruth Anderson, 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, Cathy Carvin, Dana Shackelford Evans, Cathy Gross, Charles Harrison, Chris Henry, Gayle Cross, Diane Howard, Shelly Jenkins, Ima Jane King, Dave Krauskepf, Bobby Loveless, Paige LeJune, 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, Stephanie Wilson, John White, Heidi Young, Melodie Chandler, Nancy Williams Roles Family, and Bill Von Restorff, Terry, Mary, & Sam (friends of Faye), Allie & Lexi Roles.

**Immediate Concerns** : The family of Dianne Murff, Lee Regotti, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Sharon Roberts, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Gary Miloradovich and Bill Steckert.

*Please call the church office with updates.*

### JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marcel 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 share my sincerest appreciation to all who participated Saturday at the Alvin Wal-Mart to ring the bell for the Salvation Army.**



**I am pleased to pass along the total funds brought in from the fruits of your labor.**

**First Presbyterian Church brought in a total of \$427.33!!!**

**Thank you for your efforts!**

**Remember, these funds stay in Brazoria County to help the Salvation Army help those in need.**

**God Bless All of You. Lorilyn**

### 4 G's

The 4 G's met the 19th. 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 16th of January in the fellowship hall for a very shrewd round of Chicken Foot.

Hope to see you there.

Kathryn Wilkerson



# Bible Quiz

## The Creation

Match the question with the answer on the right.

- \_\_\_\_\_ What did Yahweh call the light?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What was created on the second day?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What did Yahweh call dry land?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What is the name of the light that rules the day?
- \_\_\_\_\_ On what day did He create swimming creatures?
- \_\_\_\_\_ On which day did Yahweh rest?
- \_\_\_\_\_ How did Yahweh water the earth? (Gen 2:6)
- \_\_\_\_\_ How did Yahweh create a man? (Gen 2:7)
- \_\_\_\_\_ How did Yahweh create a woman? (Gen 2:21)
- \_\_\_\_\_ In what image did Yahweh create men and women?
- \_\_\_\_\_ What was the name of the garden where Adam and Eve lived?
1. Sun
  2. Earth
  3. From dust of the earth, and then breathed life into him
  4. Eden
  5. His own image
  6. A mist rose from the earth
  7. Heaven
  8. Seventh day (Sabbath)
  9. Fifth day
  10. From Adam's rib
  11. Day



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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."*



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

Address Service Requested

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 Alvin, TX 77511

