

Press Bytes



January Issue

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C.O. Magee (on Cover)

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January Calendar



January 28th

To the Saints at First Presbyterian,

Greetings. The Christmas cantata this year was really great. There was one part that was different from many that I have heard before. It was Joseph's song describing how he must have felt when told of Mary's situation. I have a reading from Ann Weem's book, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*, that I would like to share with you. It's called "Getting To the Front of the Stable"

"Who put Joseph in the back of the stable? Who dressed him in brown, put a staff in his hand and told him to stand in the back of the creche, background for the magnificent light of the Madonna?"

God chosen, this man Joseph was faithful in spite of the gossip in Nazareth, in spite of the danger from Herod. This man Joseph listened to angels and it was he who named the child Emmanuel.

Is this the man to be stuck for centuries in the back of the stable? Actually, Joseph probably stood in the doorway guarding the mother and child or greeting shepherds or kings. When he wasn't in the doorway he was probably urging Mary to get some rest, gently covering her with his cloak, assuring her that he would watch the Child. Actually he probably picked the Child up in his arms and walked him in the night, patting him lovingly until he closed his eyes.

This Christmas let us give thanks to God for this man of incredible faith into whose care God placed the Christ Child. As a gesture of gratitude let's put Joseph in front of the stable where he can guard and greet and cast an occasional glance at this Child who brought us life".

What a man of faith to trust God in what God was doing. Being part of God's incredible plan must have been overwhelming. In all truth each of us are part of God's incredible plan. We to are called to follow the God who created us to "play our part", in God's hope for all humanity. As Joseph gave his life to the Christ, so we too are bid to do the same. Like the shepherds and the Magi, let us make our way to the manger to pay homage to our Lord who has come to be God with us!

Peace,

C.O.

Save a Life!!

Every Drop Helps!!

Please call Mandi @ 2815853406

to secure your time slot.

Our Goal this year:

36 pints!

GIVE BLOOD

First Presbyterian Church
of Alvin

Sunday, January 30
9:00 am - 1:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

FREE T-SHIRT FOR DONORS!

Scan Below To Sign Up:



Aiden, blood recipient

Margie Hill's family came to join us on December 19th to see the Christmas Cantata.



Our Newest Member: Miss Eleanor Lynn Del Basso



“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

THANK YOU!! Thank you to everyone for providing Christmas to families in need. We raised over \$900.00 and were able to support Five families this year!! The parents' had the biggest smiles on their faces when they saw YOUR generosity!



Christmas Walk-A-Mile was a success!!

We received many compliments about the decorations, the service, and the Chancel Choir! And look how full the pews were. Great job to all who participated!!



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

Proverbs 16:9

Thank you from Chris.

I want to thank members of FPC Alvin for the generous reception which was held in my honor after church on December 12, and not least, for the beautifully signed print drawing of FPC. This picture is now sitting proudly on top of my music bookcase. I am grateful to Pastor C. O.'s kind words and for the food which was provided for the luncheon. Thank you too for welcoming the Reverend Suzanne Smith, and some members of Grace Episcopal Church who joined us for worship and my reception. Through your prayers, thank you for blessing my ministry over the past four years.

At Dick Tyson's request, please find below my remarks from the December 12 reception.

"Some of you know that I spent my childhood in Australia. My late father was an Episcopal priest, but among my parents' closest friends, were a Presbyterian pastor and his family. On Sundays, after my father presided at the 9:00 a.m. service where he worked, we as a family, would attend the 11:00 a.m. service at the Chinese Presbyterian Church at Surrey Hills in Sydney, Australia.

As an undergraduate, I was the Organist at North Melbourne Uniting Church, located not far from the University of Melbourne. In the mid-1970s, the Presbyterian Church in Australia amalgamated with the Methodist and Congregational Churches to form the Uniting Church.

In late 2017, when Pastor Craig and Scott offered to me the position of Organist here at First Presbyterian Church in Alvin, it seemed I was predestined to

reconnect with the spiritual sojourn of my youth. For that, I am grateful for the opportunity to have served God in this sector of His vineyard.

Long ago, at the Ordination of an Episcopal Bishop in Jerusalem, the preacher reminded the bishop-elect:

"You are here because God has chosen you. God has chosen you in your strengths. God has chosen you in your weaknesses. Do not worry when your weaknesses show, people will be very eager to point them out to you, so do not be surprised. For God will use your weaknesses, for it is, as the prophet Isaiah reminded us, "then you shall see and be radiant, your heart will thrill and rejoice" (Isaiah 60:5).

Thanks be to God that God works through our weaknesses.

In 1995, the then Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Bishop Edmund Browning, wrote: "I do believe that when you live in a place, breathe deeply of the life and spirit there, love and grow, you are marked by that place. You take something of it with you, yours forever, perhaps transfixed at that time when you and that place intersected."

This Advent, as we await the coming of our Lord as a baby lying in a manger, I am reminded of a verse from a Christmas Carol by the 19th century poet Christina Rossetti (1830 -1894):

"What can I give Him,

Poor as I am?

If I were a Shepherd

Cont. on pg 5



CHURCH LEADERSHIP

Class of 2022

Brandi Bowers
Sheila Follmar

Class of 2023

Marisa Whitfield
Cindy Waggoner
Randy Phipps

Class of 2024

Buddy Ruskey
Janet DeLeon

Trustees

Lucile Beasley

Herb Myers

Barbara Whitfield

Church Personnel

- Moderator - Rev. Dr. C. O. Magee*** · ***Clerk of Session - TBA***
- Treasurer - Cindy Waggoner*** · ***Asst. Treasurer - Mary Aparicio***
- Giving Coordinator - Barbara Whitfield*** · ***Music Director - Scott Gondesen***
- Organist / Pianist - Nancy Melenric*** · ***Secretary - Mandi Odom***

Committee Leadership

- Meals On Wheels - Barbara Whitfield*** · ***Gathering Place - Janet DeLeon***
- Education - Barbara Bennett*** · ***School Supplies - Mandi Odom***
- Youth Sponsor - Brandi Bowers*** · ***Missions / Outreach - Janet DeLeon***
- Fairy God Mothers - Cindy Waggoner*** · ***Scrapbooking - Marisa Whitfield***
- Buildings & Grounds - TBA*** · ***Worship - Cindy Waggoner***
- Clothing Outlet Coordinator - Sheila Follmar***

Cont. from pg 4

I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what I can give him,
Give my heart.”



I will continue to pray for the success of your future ministry here at First Presbyterian Church.”

CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM— Prayer Concerns

Ongoing Prayers Jill Wheatley, Kathryn Wilkerson, Wanda Cunningham, Evelyn Robison, Patty Costanzo, Jason Elkins, Kade McGhee, Barbara Bennett, Bill Moffett, Kathy Mayfield, Anna Neff, Christy Alexander, Kristy Myers, Cathy Boyle, Mendy Davis, Abbie Farris, Mary Loreda, Nolen Garrett, Bobbie Farris, Mary Loreda, Nolen Garrett, Chuck Boyd, Billy Steckert, Jr., Diana Jones, Dorothy Steckert, and Aaron Lieber.

Immediate Concerns : Patty Costanzo & family, and the family of Cassie Obert Anderson.

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Brandi Bowers

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Marcel Pannell	1
D.J McClendon	3
Dennis Ashley	3
Dick Tyson	3
Barbara Passmore	9
Dick Frerking	15
Stephanie Meystedt	20
Susanne Wilson	20
Cheryl Case	21
John Melenric	30
Ron Mercer	30



Tai  Chi

We will have our first class of 2022 on January 15 at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. Tai Chi is a very low impact exercise program that will exercise just about every muscle in your body. It isn't Yoga and much easier to do. It is the Yang style and has 24 moves if there are those who want to learn the form. We will focus on the 28-30 exercise moves. There is a 12 move exercise for arthritis we will learn. Wear comfortable clothes. We will distance ourselves at a safe distance. You will not sweat, or lose weight, or build body mass. It will stimulate pretty much all your muscles. It is very gentle and can be done in a wheel chair. It is effective however. C.O. will provide a copy of all the exercises so you can do them each day from your home. Come and check it out.



Children's Protection Policy Training Schedule for Jan 16th

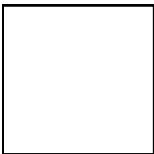
Mark your calendars for CPP Training on January 16, 2022! Two sessions will be offered at 8:30 AM, prior to Sunday School, and around 12:15, following worship. Each session will be held in the Education Building in the Jr High classroom. Per our church policies and procedures and insurance requirements, CPP training is required for all Church staff and members coming in contact on church grounds with children or youth of any age (Sunday school, nursery, youth group, choir, VBS and any other programs enlisting youth volunteers). Once initial training is received, updated training is required every three years. According to church training records, re-training is now due for all those who have received past training. If there are any questions, please call or text Rachel Grimmertt at (281) 467-3236.



Nursery Attendants Needed

Per the 2022 budget approved by the session and presented to the congregation on November 14, 2021, a nursery attendant during worship will no longer be funded. While our need for a nursery attendant has been minimal in 2021, we do want to provide the opportunity for our church families and visitors access to nursery services when needed. To meet this need going forward, the Christian Ministry Team and Session have approved a congregational member sign-up calendar to cover the nursery during worship services. All FPC members ages 21 years and older who have also completed or will complete Children's Protection Policy Training on January 16, 2022, are asked to prayerfully consider participating in this ministry to our youngest children by signing up on the calendar in the narthex. If you sign up, we ask that you report to the nursery by 10:45 on your designated day. If no one arrives by 11:10 needing nursery supervision for their child(ren), you may lock the door and attend the worship service. All nursery policies and procedures will be reviewed at the January 16th Children's Protection Policy training. If there are any questions, please call or text Rachel Grimmertt at (281) 467-3236.

First Presbyterian Church
302 South Johnson Street
Alvin, TX 77511



Address Service Requested

Please notify the church office
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."*

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

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