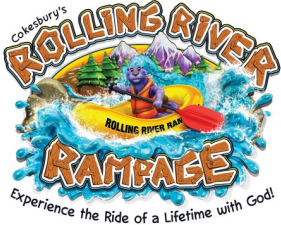


First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



Life Together

Greetings:

Recent world and national events have been disturbing. Maybe you are also dismayed by some of the things that you have seen or read recently in the media. There is an atmosphere of distrust, discontent, and anger. I have found myself drawn into the drama – alarmed by the lengths at which people will go to express their prejudices and anger. I have been captivated by the near constant stream of bad news broadcast through the various news outlets.

I would like things to be different, wouldn't you? I would like to see less anger and more understanding – less bitterness and more forgiveness – less prejudice and more understanding – less hate and more ... well... more love. It occurs to me as I think these thoughts that there has to be a way forward.

I believe the way forward is through being the change we want to see.

Maximilian Kolbe (1894 -1941) was a Polish priest who provided shelter for thousands of Jews in his monastery and was an active voice against the Nazi violence. He was arrested by the German Gestapo and imprisoned at Auschwitz. When a fellow prisoner escaped from the camp – the Nazis selected 10 other prisoners to be killed in his place as a deterrent to future escapes. As they were lined up to die – 1 of the 10 began to cry: **“My wife! My children! I will never see them again!”** At this, Maximilian stepped forward and asked to die in his place. His request was granted – and he led the other men in song and prayer as they awaited their deaths.

Chances are, you may never be called upon to display your faith in so overwhelming a way as Maximilian – but you can still model your faith through the way you live your life. As a person of faith, you can step forward to help out in many situations in which others are being mistreated. You can use your voice to speak out for peace and against hate. You can use your actions to bring light into dark places – and you can forgive as you have been forgiven.

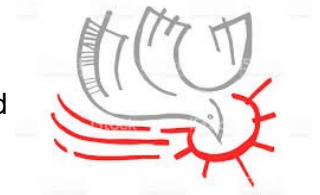
I believe the way forward is through Christ.

Through Christ we are given the example of perfect love and are also given a mandate to love one another (Matt 22:37-39). We cannot say that we love God and hate our brothers and sisters. In his book, *Come Thirsty*, Max Lucado suggests that every person from cabbies to presidents – from preachers to truck drivers should be required to begin the day by standing beneath the cross to receive God's love. What a change we would see! Max says: **“Less honking and locking horns, more hugging and helping kids...God's love can't be legislated – but it can be chosen. Choose it, won't you? For Christ's sake, and yours, choose it.”**

“I pray that you will have the power to understand ... the greatness of Christ's love – how wide and how long and how high and how deep that love is” (Ephesians 3:18).

Peace,

Craig





“Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God.”

1 John 3:1

find
JOY
in the
ORDINARY

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. on June 18, 2018 in the church library.

Treasurer’s report: All records have been reconciled and are in good order.

Session heard reports from committees and on projects that are in the works. Brandi Bowers shared that the second draft of the new church directory still has many mistakes. Additional corrections have been made and forwarded to LifeTouch. 71 contacts were made to the congregation by the Congregational Care Team, including memorial lap quilts made and given to the families of the Santa Fe shooting victims. Project reports: The video from CGI was reviewed and approved by the Session. Pastor Craig advised that CGI made all the necessary corrections. The video should be on the City of Alvin website soon, along with our website and Facebook page.

The Session also discussed a possible change to the church’s Policies and Procedures Manual regarding the term served by Trustees. The Board of Trustees has the responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of the land and buildings (including the church manse) and its preservation and repair, and recommendation for policies for the use of property which the church holds. The Board of Trustees also fill the roles of President and vice-President of our corporation. Traditionally, Trustees have served 3 year terms, which is similar to Session members. The Session feels the 3 year term should be waived and Trustees be allowed to serve an indefinite period. The rationale for this is, each year, when the church looks at prospective service providers for electricity, phone, internet, etc., or to change signatures on church bank accounts, we have to present a list of officers. It has become increasingly difficult and tedious to constantly change names and other information.

The demographics of our church have become more diverse (and younger) over the past few years. New leadership must be cultivated from this new influx of people if we are to continue our various missions and ministries. Our current Session is comprised of folks who have a wide range of experience in a Presbyterian church. 2 have less than 6 years as members of the PCUSA, 2 have 20 years as members of the PCUSA, and 5 have 35 plus years. Since the Trustees are charged with the care, preservation, acquisition and/or selling of church property, it would be in the best interest of the church to have “more mature” members who have been a part of this congregation for a long time. We need their knowledge of church history and tradition as these issues are discussed. This may have proved helpful when we discussed the sale of the church manse last year, and prevented some hurt feelings and acrimony.

It also provides a way for some folks to continue to serve and offer their expertise without the constant responsibility of the day-to-day operations of the church.

At their next meeting, the Session will decide whether or not to present this proposal to the congregation at the next congregational meeting.

As always if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact Martha Phipps or Pastor Craig.

Blessings, Your Session



In 1967 Grace Ward Harby had a vision to provide inexpensive, serviceable clothing to school-age children and their families. What started as a ministry in her car evolved into what is now the Clothing Outlet, located on our church campus. As it was back in Ms. Harby's day, the proceeds from the Clothing Outlet still provide school supplies for children/families in need.

Now, over 50 years later, this ministry is still going strong, and we have joined with the Alvin Independent School District, the Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA, and the Alvin Family Community Center to better serve our community. This year, this combined group will host a one day extravaganza at one of the AISD campuses. Children will get to select their backpack, then proceed to a table and get the necessary supplies for school.

Which campus? Why, the Grace Ward Harby Junior High, of course! How appropriate. With this group effort, we hope to:

- * Provide school supplies to children who cannot afford them
- * Get the whole family involved in "serving others" in need
- * Make a difference in a child's educational experience by setting them up for success

The date for this event is Saturday, August 11, from 9 am until 12 pm. We will "pre-load" the supply packages starting in mid to late July, so make plans to help.

Last year, you all were kind enough to provide erasers and glue sticks. This year, we need **glue sticks** and bottles of **4 oz. glue** (they're both fairly inexpensive).

Blessings and peace.



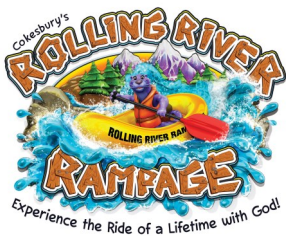
"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids, Mark Your Calendars!

July 9—13



Come ready to experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

You will find adventure on the river and get to meet Romper the River Otter!

Online Registration is at:

<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/FPCAAlvin>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact Adrienne Thomas!





Ongoing Prayers Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Johnnie Waggoner, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Camille King, Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, Kay Tucker, Sofia Muzzafar, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, 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, Jessie Williams, Heidi Young, Bill Steckert, Bill Duesing, Nancy Williams Roles Family, and Bill Von Restorff.

Immediate Concerns : Lee Regotti, Gina Ruskey, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Robert Bowers, Sharon Roberts, Larry Allen, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Wayne Petersen, Ana Petersen, Johnnie Waggoner, Gary Miloradovich, Poole family, Cathy King, and Norman & Patty Hirsch.

Please call the church office with updates.

SUMMER MISSION SALE

Donations are needed for the **Summer Mission Sale** that will take place on Saturday, August 4th, 8 am - 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Accepted items should be gently used and may include tools, kitchen ware, household objects, toys, bags and purses, and small electronics in working condition. **In addition to clothing and shoes, we are no longer accepting books, DVD's, and VHS tapes.** You may donate your treasures any time after July 13th. If you need any assistance, please call the church office, 281-585-3406, before dropping off your donations. Remember that the proceeds from this sale will supplement the offerings collected for our local and world outreach efforts. These include Campus Crusade for Christ, Clothing Outlet/School Supplies, Heifer Project, Hope Dental Clinic, Relay for Life, the Women's Center of Brazoria County, Youth Reach, Joy Gift Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Christmas families, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and Pentecost Offering. Thank you for your help.



AUGUST 4, 2018
8am to 2 pm

July Birthdays

- 3 Rebecca Farris
- Steven King
- 5 Ashley Burke
- Roy Carpenter
- 7 Lucas Meystedt
- 11 Chloe Davis
- Lucile Beasley
- Owen Wilson
- 13 Brandi Bowers
- Mandi Odom
- 15 Bill Steckert
- 16 Edith Rockwell
- 17 Norman Rowsey
- Scott Thomas
- 19 Kimberly Doughty
- 20 David Williams
- 26 Raia Stanley
- 27 Lily Bower



FAIRY GODMOTHERS AT WORK — Random Acts of Kindness!

These lap quilts were made by Carol Warych, Janet DeLeon, and Martha Phipps for the families of the victims of the Santa Fe High School tragedy. They were dedicated during our worship service on June 3 and then delivered to the school.

**Supporting our
neighbors in Santa Fe**



Quilts dedicated on Sunday, June 3



**Quilts delivered to Santa Fe High School by members of the
Fairy Godmothers & Mission Team!**

223rd General Assembly

Lexi Hunt (Young Adult Advisory Delegate representing Presbytery of New Covenant) spoke before the plenary at the 223rd General Assembly, regarding adopting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr’s “Letter from Birmingham Jail” as a contemporary statement of faith (but not with constitutional standing.). (See picture below), You can read more details in the Presbyterian Outlook at<https://pres-outlook.org/2018/06/assembly-affirms-churchs-commitment-to-public-witness>.



“Black women and girls. This overture, A Resolution to Respond to Disparities Experienced by Black Women and Girls, seeks to extend to black women and girls efforts similar to those made by the 222nd General Assembly through The Worsening Plight of the African American Male.”

Presbyterian Outlook

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

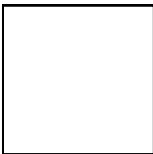
The following books can be found on the word search grid below. Circle the letters that make the word. The letters must be in straight lines, vertically, horizontally, or diagonally. Words may be spelled either forward or backward.

GENESIS	KINGS	SONG OF SOLOMON	OBADIAH
EXODUS	CHRONICLES	ISAIAH	JONAH
LEVITICUS	EZRA	JEREMIAH	MICAH
NUMBERS	NEHEMIAH	LAMENTATIONS	NAHUM
DEUTERONOMY	ESTHER	EZEKIEL	HABAKKUK
JOSHUA	JOB	DANIEL	ZEPHANIAH
JUDGES	PSALMS	HOSEA	HAGGAI
RUTH	PROVERBS	JOEL	ZECHARIAH
SAMUEL	ECCLESIASTES	AMOS	MALACHI

M C R O M A D A H A I M E H E N D
 A L E V I S K U K K A B A H A S E
 L E X O A N I E Z E K I E L L O U
 A V C H R O N I C L E S A E H N T
 C I H O Z I G C R O M E O U A G E
 H T A P E T S E G D U J O M C O R
 I I I R A A H O S A M O S A I F O
 H C M O E T A G E N E S I S M S N
 A U E V S N I O X E X H T U R O O
 I S R E O E A B O J M U H A N L M
 R Z E R H M S P D A N A L R Z O Y
 A A J B E A I N U M B E R S N M E
 H C P S A L M S S L E I N A D O S
 C H G S E T S A I S E L C C E N I
 E A O B A D I A H A N O J A S P S
 Z M I A G G A H A I N A H P E Z M



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.



But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. — ROMANS 5:8 NIV

Elder of the Month — Brandi Bowers
 Refreshments for - Worship

"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
 302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511
 281-585-3406 www.fpcalvin.org
 email - fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org

2	Life Together by Pastor Craig (on Cover)	Session Highlights
3	School Supply Ministry	Vacation Bible School
4	Prayer Concerns	Summer Mission Sale July Birthdays
5	Fairy Godmothers	(Quilts for Santa Fe)
6	223rd General Assembly	(Lexi Hunt)
7	Bible Puzzle	

July Issue