

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



GREETINGS:

Yesterday while waiting for Brenda to finish up some tests from her doctors, I texted my kids to see if they were going to watch the Democratic Party debate on June 26. The answers were somewhat depressing; none of them intended to do so. News and politics were too depressing. What difference would it make anyway?

The negative response was disturbing. I know many Americans feel that way. Politics has gotten so rotten and so extreme that too many people are completely turned off. This attitude is quite dangerous for a free country to have. It opens the door to tyranny.

In discussing the problem with the kids the question was asked, how did we get to this point? What has happened to our country? Different answers were given. All good possibilities. My family has always been involved in the political happenings of our nation.

As I struggle to try and answer that question I can boil it down to just one thing: we have shifted away from a sense of morality and its importance. Loss of morals can create a fallen state in many aspects. Rome and Israel are two good examples.

Historians claim 5-8 reasons Rome fell. Several have direct significance for us today.

One: Corrupt Government. Roman Senate failed to control the emperor in excessive living and decisions. Immorality was part of that excessiveness. Their own lifestyles were also corrupt. People lost faith in government. Today the immorality of many leaders in Washington is unbelievable. There seems to be little or no morality about anything. This tragedy has far reaching effects on the public especially children and young people. What terrible examples are being set for the next generation as they look at political leadership as well as leaders in corporations, businesses, sports, entertainment and unfortunately churches. As we point one finger at others, three are pointing back at us (Chinese saying). Who put them in office, who supports them, who looks the other way when things happen? I'm not talking about being a "prude", just a good moral person.

Two: Turning Away From Their Religion and Gods. Their religious beliefs were a stabilizing force in Roman culture. That became less and less important. Today clergy and churches are slipping from their importance. The abuse of people and churches wanting "religious freedom" to hate other people has diminished the importance of church. When those who are supposed to teach morality are immoral themselves there is a huge falling away and the integrity of the church is destroyed.

Three: Breakdown of Families. The Roman family was everything. It was the core of their society. Jesus would constantly get in trouble with some of his teachings about the family that conflicted with Roman understanding. Today the definition of family has drastically changed from what it use to be. Family life is no longer simple. Major problems have surfaced that never existed before on a major scale.

Some folks see issues as political. I have always seen issues as moral. What does my faith have to say about problems we have as a society?

Israel was totally destroyed as a nation over some of the same issues. They forgot their God and what was expected of them as God's people. Even the prophets God sent couldn't bring them around.

As Christians we know the Way. Not the political party way but Jesus' way. We know the Truth, not made up stuff. We know the Life. It's the life in Christ. In the Bible, God was not just a God for individuals, but a God of the nation. God promised, "I will be your God and you will be my people!" It's time for God's people to be just that. It's never too late!

Peace,

C.O.

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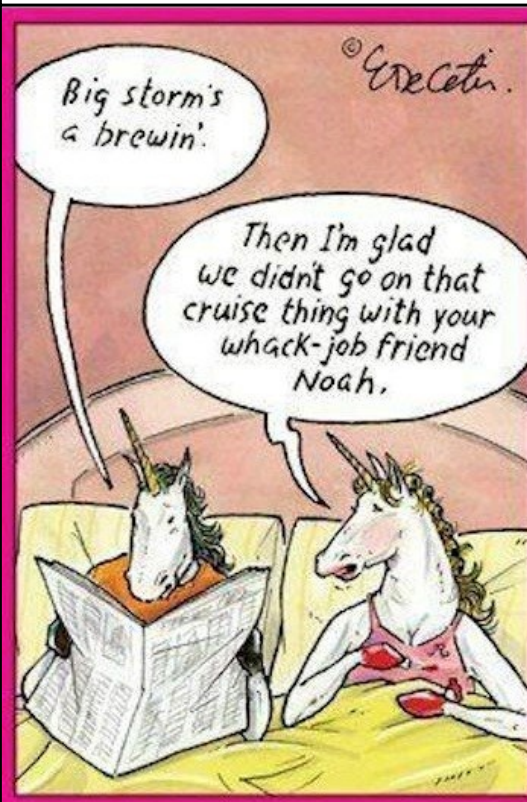


SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Meeting of the Session was held on June 17, 2019. Present were five Elders, Rev. Magee, Treasurer Cindy Waggoner, Church Secretary Mandi Bowers, and Martha Phipps, Clerk of the Session. The meeting was opened with prayer and a devotional was given by Janet DeLeon. C.O. shared that he is still developing the questionnaire for the congregation, regarding their vision of what they would like to see in a Pastor. He also discussed his meeting with Rev. Lynn Hargrove, Stated Clerk of the Presbytery in Houston, where they talked about our options for pastoral choices. Rev. Hargrove will be coming to our church on a future Sunday to preach and talk with the Session. There are basically nine options for the kind of Pastor the Congregation chooses; these will be discussed with the Congregation. C.O. shared with the Session the range of possibilities. He is also still working on the plan for a Confirmation class. There will be a training in Alvin on July 29, 2019 from 9-12:00 for those interested in volunteering with the Gathering Place. There is no cost to this, and since it is local, easy to attend. Two members will be participating in this training, Mandi Odom, and Martha Phipps. There will be three of our youth attending PYCC. There were 59 contacts made to congregation members. The Payte Fund balance as of April 30th was 371,544.67. The Session will not meet in July in a stated meeting but will meet in a special called meeting as needed. The next Stated meeting will be August 19, 2019.

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

1 John 3:1



Volunteer Training

RSVP by July 15th

Ph. 979-308-4525 or

Email- office@gatheringplacebrazoria.org

FPC Angleton Mon 7/22 9a-12p

130 S Arcola, Angleton 77515

OR

FCC Alvin Mon 7/29 9a-12p

1212 S Durant, Alvin 77511

Strengthening Families affected by Dementia

find
JOY
in the
ORDINARY



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 10, 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 glue sticks and bottles of 4 oz. glue. This year, we could use **glue sticks** and bottles of **4 oz. glue** (they're both fairly inexpensive) again. Thank you!!

Blessings and peace.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

July 8-12



Online Registration is at:

<https://tmab.cokesburyvbs.com/FPCAlvin>

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Contact Adrienne Thomas!

Glory to God who is able to do far beyond all that we could ask or imagine by his power at work within us!



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

Romans 5:8





Ongoing Prayers : Kathryn Wilkerson, Belinda Busscher, Barbara Passmore, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Bill Pannell, Louisa Vera, Cathy Gross, Joe Rossano, Nancy Williams, Ralph Varenkamp, John Shaw, Cody Langley, Brandy Brooks, Candice Strong, Pat Carpenter, Linda Estes, Janette Arterburn, Cheryl Martin, Margie Martin, Maurdine Moffet, Roy Case, Genie Hayes, Margaret Gibson, Shirley Brothers, Ashley Burns, Avery Jones, Alan Gray, Jill Wheatley & Family, Jackson Daniels, Bonnie Bennett & newborn son,

Delia Carrillo, Julia Ferraro, and baby Katie.

Immediate Concerns : Lisa McCalla & Family, the family of David Cunningham.

Please call the church office with updates.

SUMMER MISSION SALE

Donations are needed for the **Summer Mission Sale** that will take place on Saturday, July 20th, 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 before 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 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.



JULY 20, 2019
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
- 16 Edith Rockwell
- 17 Norman Rowsey
- Scott Thomas
- 19 Kimberly Doughty
- 20 David Williams
- 26 Raia Stanley
- 27 Lily Bower



Special Musical Guests for Gathering Place

Together in Voice is a choir especially designed for people suffering early stage memory lost and their caregivers. On Wednesday, June 12, this ensemble sang for the Gathering Place in the Fellowship Hall. They welcome new singers to join them in the Fall. To learn more about the group please visit their facebook page at www.facebook.com/togetherinvoice. Together in Song rehearses every Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at Chapelwood United Methodist Church, 11140 Greenbay St., Houston, TX 77024.



Picture above: Together in Voice Choir rehearsing in the FPC Alvin, Choir Room.

4G's

The 4G's will meet Wednesday, July 17th in the Fellowship Hall to play Chicken Foot. Light refreshments are welcome. During the June gathering the 4G's met at the new Red Oak Café location in Alvin. About eight members attended and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Red Oak Café is located at 1200 Bypass 35 North, Alvin, Texas 77511. They are open Tuesday through Sunday 7am - 3pm.



Organist's Musing by Chris Lo

On Trinity Sunday, June 16, Pastor C. O. selected Hymn 132 "Come Great God of All the Ages" as the Hymn after the Affirmation of Faith. In the Presbyterian Hymnal, the lyrics of this hymn were written by Mary Jackson Cathey in 1987. Mary Jackson Cathey was born at Florence SC in 1926, and received her undergraduate degree from Winthrop University, Rock Hill SC and an advanced degree from Union Presbyterian Seminary in Richmond VA. As a Christian Educator she finds hymn text writing a profound way to express her faith. She has four hymns to her credit in The Presbyterian Hymnal (1990).

In the Presbyterian Hymnal, Hymn 132 is set to the tune "Abbott's Leigh." Abbot's Leigh is a village and civil parish in Somerset, about 3 miles west of the center of Bristol in the United Kingdom.

In 1942, during World War II, the Reverend Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907–1991), then a producer of Religious Broadcasting at the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), was stationed in the village of Abbot's Leigh, and wrote a hymn tune which he named after it.

The tune was originally written for the hymn "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken" (TPH 446). This hymn had usually been sung to the tune "Austrian Hymn," or *Gott erhalte Franz den Kaiser* ("God save Francis the Emperor"), but since the German national anthem was also sung to that tune, new music was needed in war-time Britain.

In the Presbyterian Hymnal, apart from Hymn 132, other hymn texts sung to "Abbot's Leigh" include "Lord of Light, Your Name Outshining" (TPH 425), "God is Here" (TPH 461), and "Lord, You Give the Great Commission" (TPH 429).

Sea Sunday

By Lynn Hargrove

Sea Sunday is a time to pray for the work of seafarers, and for the families that are left at home. Here is a link to an article from Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sea_Sunday

The Port of Houston provides \$339 billion in state economic impact, and 20% of the Texas Gross Domestic Product. Each of the almost 10,000 ships that come into the port is visited by a chaplain. Currently there are four chaplains at the Houston International Seafarers Center, 2 Presbyterians and 2 Roman Catholics, along with a few volunteers. There used to be twice that many but we have seen other denominations pull out of the ministry to seafarers due to budgetary constraints.

My son had to do a project in middle school and find 25 items in our house that came from other countries. Look around your own house. How did those appliances, automobiles, cell phones, clothing, and many other items get to you? They came across an ocean to a port where they were loaded onto a train, and then a truck to get to the store where you made the purchase. Many of those items come through our port.

Financial pledges for our two chaplains have fallen off over the past few years, as they are for many deserving "outside" organizations. We just saw Interface Samaritan Counseling Center close their doors after 40 years of ministry. What I am asking you to do is to take up a special offering (can be in addition to your regular offering) on Sea Sunday, July 14, to support the ministry of David Wells and Tom Edwards, our two Presbyterian chaplains. It is difficult and demanding work which they do joyfully. The funds can be sent here to the presbytery office where we administer their payroll.

Here is a link to a video which can be shared that gives some history of the Houston International Seafarers Center, which celebrated 50 years of ministry in February.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXV0wEAT0EU>

I realize that some of you are struggling with your own budgets, and that I may be asking a lot. Please consider including this special offering in your worship service on Sunday, July 14.



Will you join us in prayer for the men and women at sea?

A day to remember and pray for international seafarers and Global Maritime Ministries.

Movie Night with the Youth

When: Friday, July 26, 2019

Moana: 6pm

Pete's Dragon: 8pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

Cost: FREE

Concessions will be offered for a small donation.

- Popcorn
- Cotton Candy
- Variety of 'Movie' Candy
- Water & Lemonade
- Pizza
- Snow Cones

***Children 3 & under must be accompanied by parent or guardian



Books of the New Testament

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

Matthew

Mark

Luke

John

Acts

Romans

Corinthians

Galatians

Ephesians

Philippians

Colossians

Thessalonians

Timothy

Titus

Philemon

Hebrews

James

Peter

Jude

Revelation

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302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511

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."

Elder of the Month — Sheila Follmar
Refreshments for - Worship



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

Address Service Requested

First Presbyterian Church
302 South Johnson Street
Alvin, TX 77511

