

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



Life Together

Greetings,

I had an interesting conversation with a friend who worships in one of the many congregations in Houston who use public schools on Sunday for worship and education. I asked how their church was doing and whether they were getting closer to having a space of their own for worship and service. His answer surprised me just a bit. He told me that the congregation was doing just fine, but they had no interest whatsoever in having a building of their own. He explained that they liked being itinerants who came and went as they pleased with no building to worry about.

At first thought, I wondered if maybe they were right. But then, I considered our campus. Just a week or two ago, I was privileged to speak with a group of folks in our fellowship hall about the suicide rate among first responders. (They are number two behind our military for rates of suicide!) It was a great conversation, and hopefully we will come up with a few ideas of how to curb this disturbing trend. I also had the opportunity to talk with some pastors who, like myself, are concerned about the homeless families (especially children) in our community. In some small way, I believe we witnessed to the Good News of Jesus' love for all people.

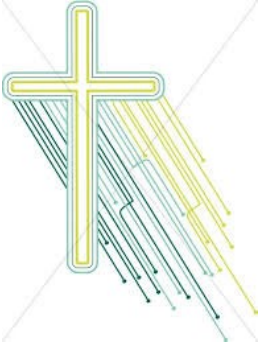
Time and time again, this facility of ours is such a blessing to so many. We host so many different opportunities to serve our community and to share the love of God in ever so subtle ways. I would really have to look at a calendar of activities to tell you how many different groups and individuals use our buildings to celebrate, to weep together, to learn together, to serve together. Groups as varied as ADK, Alvin H.O.P.E. (Helping Other People Everyday), Brown Hearing, Meals-on-Wheels, the Clothing Outlet, Cub Scouts, the Gathering Place, the 4 G's, and several others. This space is such a blessing and such an avenue of service and outreach to our community.

So with all due respect to my friend, I can't agree with him and the congregation he worships with. We are blessed with a wonderful facility in a wonderful location and we are using it to bring glory to God. I for one am very grateful that the folks who came before us had the wisdom, insight, and courage to hear God's call to serve Jesus Christ in and through this place on South Johnson Street. Thanks be to God for their faithfulness – which allows us to be faithful in this time and in this place.

Peace,

Craig

*Great is
thy*
FAITHFULNESS



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening, April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library.

Treasurer’s Report: All records have been reconciled and are in good order. The volunteers who have assumed some of our financial duties are doing well. So far, the Pentecost Offering is at \$ 601, which exceeds the anticipated amount. As stated in the worship service on May 20, 40% or \$ 240 will go to the new Cub Scout Pack for special needs children meeting at our church.

Session heard reports from committees and projects that are in progress. A final timeline review will be done soon so that we may proceed with updating the Timeline in the church narthex. Session viewed the first “draft” of the CGI Video that was done on April 29. This is the video that will be on the City of Alvin website, along with the church’s website and Facebook page. Pastor Craig also gave a list of the edits he reported back to CGI. We should receive the new video “draft” in 2 to 3 weeks. The church pictorial directory is still in the editing process, and we will finalize it soon.

Session action items:

- + The interior furnace/air conditioning system in the Fellowship Hall is rusted and leaking water into the building. At the recommendation of Building and Grounds, it will be replaced by our HVAC contractor C&K Mechanical LLC. The cost for this work is \$ 10,300. Funds from the Pagel Trust Maintenance Fund will be used to pay for this work.
- + Session recognized the service, dedication, and professionalism of our former church secretary Gina Ruskey.

If there are any questions, please contact Martha Phipps or Pastor Craig.

“Shout joyfully to God, all the ear; Sing the glory of His name; Make His praise glorious.”

Psalm 86 1-2

ALVIN MANVEL 2018 RELAY FOR LIFE

June 2, 2018 at Manvel Jr. High School

11:00 am to 11:00 pm

GAME ON, GAME OVER CHALLENGE IS ON!

TEAM: The Angels in the Outfield team is now at 14 members. There is still time to join the team!

FUNDRAISER: The team is raffling off a pair of wooden rocking chairs. The tickets are \$5.00 a ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.00. :

SURVIVORS: The Survivor’s and Caregivers dinner will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. At Heights Baptist Church—Fellowship Hall. (1591 CR 144. Alvin 77511) This special dinner to recognize all cancer survivors and caregivers will include a free meal, door prizes, speaker, and entertainment.

LUMINARIA: Light up your community and honor every life touched by cancer. Dedicate a luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who has overcome cancer. (Forms can be found online.)

If you have questions, need forms, or want to get more information please contact Jill Wheatley or go to the link at: <http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/> - put in 77511 zip code to search for our page.



More thoughts from Our Pastor

“May we all choose to imitate goodness...”

Writer and pastor Michael Lindval, relates the following story from Max Beerbohms’s classic short story *The Happy Hypocrite*. The tale is about a terrible person named Lord George Hell who falls madly in love with a saintly young girl. To win her love, Lord George covers his bloated features with a mask of a saint. The girl is deceived and becomes his bride. They live together happily until a woman from Hell's wicked past turns up and exposes him. She challenges him to take off his mask. Sadly, and having no choice, he takes it off only to find that beneath the saint's mask is the face of the saint he has become by wearing it in love. (Lindvall, Michael L. 2001. *The Christian Life: A Geography of God*. Louisville: Geneva Press, 95)

Something miraculous and transformative occurs within us and around us when we imitate goodness. We have before us the opportunity to imitate all sorts of attitudes and behaviors. Many attitudes and behaviors we choose have unsavory outcomes...very unsavory. The Christian tradition encourages us to revere the saints – but this doesn't mean we worship them. It means we look to folks around us as examples of goodness and virtue. And as we do this over and over again we find ourselves becoming the saints we have "worn" in love. May we all choose to imitate goodness...to the glory of God.

Craig

P.S. As noted in the Session highlights, after over 30 years of faithful service, the interior furnace and cooling system in the Fellowship Hall was replaced. The total cost of this work was \$ 10,300. Thankfully, the Session had the foresight to accrue these funds in the event of just such an occurrence. We also realize that we have other repairs and replacements on the horizon, so if you are so moved, please prayerfully consider making a donation to replenish these Pagel Maintenance Trust Funds. Thank you.



Alzheimer’s Caregiver Conference & Resource Fair

Friday, June 8, 2018
11am to 3pm

Alvin Family Community Center
located at 1031 West Sealy, Alvin

There will be two speakers at the Conference and a host of healthcare affiliates and community partners. The speakers will focus on Caregiver stress and an update on the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease.

Please RSVP by June 6 to 979-236-5393 or by email to djjalibby@hotmail.com

The Brazoria County Alzheimer’s Awareness Project is a partnership of Brazoria County Health Department and the Gathering Place.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids, Mark Your Calendars!



July 9—13

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

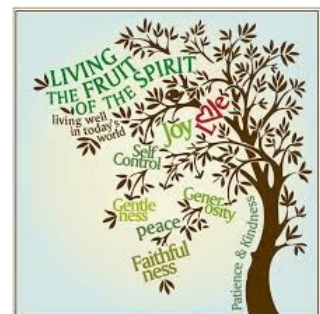
You will find adventure on the river and get to meet Romper the River Otter!



Online Registration is:

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

“When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.” Isaiah 43:2





Ongoing Prayers Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Johnnie Waggoner, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Camille King, Jim Berger, Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, 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, Cathy Carvin, Dana Shackelford Evans, Cathy Gross,

Charles Harrison, Chris Henry, Diane Howard, Shelly Jenkins, Ima Jane King, Dave Krauskepf, Bobby Loveless, Susie Klinkovsky, 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, Sloan & Hicks Family, and Bill Von Restorff.

Immediate Concerns : Lee Regotti, Gina Ruskey, Nancy Williams, J.D. Stephens, Sharon Roberts, Larry Allen, Bill Steckert, Bill Duesing, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Roles Family, Gayle Cross, Judy Martel, Brett Cotton, Bob Cotton, Gary Miloradovich, William Bowers, Wayne Williams, Sally Goudin, Santa Fe, Alvin ISD, Barbara Pickett, Eric Wells, and Norman & Patty Hirsch.

Please call the church office with updates.



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|---------|------------------|
| June 1 | Helen Escobedo |
| June 2 | Janet DeLeon |
| June 6 | Faye Steckert |
| June 9 | Chris Pounds |
| June 10 | Caleb Petty |
| June 12 | Joann Froberg |
| June 20 | Marion Rowsey |
| June 21 | Louisa Vera |
| June 23 | Adrienne Thomas |
| June 24 | Randy Phipps |
| June 25 | Rhonda Newell |
| June 25 | Melissa Pounds |
| June 26 | Braiden Anderson |
| June 27 | Ingrid Holdorff |
| June 30 | Sue Kelso |

MISSION AND OUTREACH

Thank you so much for the wonderful Pentecost Offering. Thanks to your generosity, we collected over \$ 600. As stated before, 60% goes to the Presbytery of New Covenant and 40% stays locally. This year, the Mission and Outreach Team designated Cub Scout Pack # 427 as the recipient of our local benevolence. This is the pack designed specifically for children with special needs that our church sponsors.

Remember on the **first Sunday** of each month, FPC collects a special offering that is in addition to our normal financial offering. These funds support our Clothing Outlet, the DeGeorge Center, and HOPE Dental Clinic.



Also, on the first Sunday of the month, we also receive **non-perishable food items** which are given to the Alvin/Manvel Food Pantry.

Our Summer Mission Sale will be held on Saturday, August 4 in the Fellowship Hall. We will start collecting your donations after July 1. Please contact the church office or Pastor Craig about dropping off your gently used treasures.

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE 12 DISCIPLES!

Directions: Read the statements and questions then choose the disciple the best fits or answers the question.

PETER
PHILIP
JAMES (older)

JOHN
BARTHOLOMEW
THADDAEUS

JAMES (younger)
THOMAS
SIMON

ANDREW
MATTHEW
JUDAS Iscariot

1. This gentleman was a tax collector before he became a disciple of Jesus. _____
2. This disciple was the half brother of Jesus and a writer of one of the 66 books of the bible with the exception of Jude. _____
3. John was a disciple of Jesus and so was his brother. Who was John's brother? _____
4. Peter was the first disciple that Jesus called. Peter has a brother who was also a disciple and his name was _____.
5. Peter, Andrew, James and _____ were fishermen before they became disciples of Jesus.
6. The three disciples that wrote books of the bible were: Matthew, John and _____
7. This disciple was also known as Nathaniel. _____
8. Which disciple hung himself for betraying Jesus? _____
9. This disciple was a brother of James (younger). _____
10. Which disciple would not believe Jesus was resurrected until he could see for himself? _____
11. Which three disciples witnessed the transfiguration? _____, _____, & _____
12. What disciple was beheaded for the gospel sake? _____
13. What disciple also known as Cephus cut off the right ear of the high priest's servant? _____
14. This disciple was also known as Lebbaeus. _____
15. This disciples name means "rock". _____



2018 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES RECOGNIZED

Lexi Hunt



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#98242316



Alexandra (Lexi), daughter of Brandi Bowers and Antonio Hunt and granddaughter of Dorothy and Ronald DeWalt, is graduating from Alvin High School. She is a two year member of the National Honor Society and a seven year member of Alvin bands in which she was an officer and in leadership positions. She participated in the Academic Decathlon and Debate. She was Vice President of Dungeons and Dragons Club and Vice President/Manager of [Blank Space] (Videogame Design Club). Lexi is a member of the Presbytery of New Covenant's Presbyterian Youth Connection Council and will be a youth representative to General Assembly in June this summer. Lexi also received her Associate of Arts degree in General Studies from Alvin Community College on May 12, 2018. She will attend Sam Houston State University in the fall, majoring in psychology with a minor in American Sign Language. After college graduation Lexi plans to enroll in The Commonwealth Mortuary Institution and become a mortician.

Chris Odom

Christopher (Chris) Odom, son of Mandi Bowers and Jeremiah Stanley and grandson of Dorothy and Ronald DeWalt, is graduating from Alvin High School. His high school accomplishments include Silver and Bronze District Medals and a Bronze State Medal in Information Technology Services-



Skills USA. He received Comp TIA (Computer Technology Industry Association) A+ Certificates. Chris's future plans include traveling during part of the summer and working on upgrading his car.



Alyssa Sanchez

Alyssa Sanchez, daughter of Ryan Silva and Sandra Sanchez and niece of Sheila Follmar, is graduating from Alvin High School. She was involved in the Ready, Set, Teach Program. As part of that program she had the opportunity to teach first graders at Alvin Primary. Alyssa plans to pursue nursing at Alvin Community College.



Taylor Steckert

Taylor Steckert, daughter of Andrea and Bobby Steckert and granddaughter of Faye and Bill Steckert, graduated early with honors from Wallace Accelerated High School in Colorado City, TX in 2017. She hopes to move to the Houston area soon. Taylor plans to enroll in an online college when she decides on a career.



Nickolas Cunningham (picture unavailable)

Nicholas Cunningham, son of Shawna Cunningham and Eric McGill and grandson of Wanda and Paul Cunningham, is graduating from Santa Fe High School. He plans to enlist in the Navy.

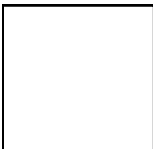
Brandon Day (picture unavailable)

Brandon Day, son of Tosha and Chris Day and grandson of Wanda and Paul Cunningham, is graduating from Santa Fe High School. He plans to be a history teacher.





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.

June Issue

| | |
|-------|--|
| 2 | Life Together by Pastor Craig (on Cover) |
| 2 | Session Highlights |
| 2 | 2018 Relay for Life |
| 3 | More thoughts |
| 3 | Alzheimer's Caregiver-Conference |
| 3 | Vacation Bible School |
| 4 | Prayer Concerns |
| 4 | June Birthdays |
| 4 | Mission & Outreach News |
| 5 | Bible Puzzle |
| 6 & 7 | Class of 2018 |

"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 — Cathy King
 Refreshments for - Mission & Outreach

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