

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Presbyterian

Greetings:

With so much craziness going on in our country and world, it is easy to find subjects on which to write. One issue I find unsettling is the “name calling” problem we seem to have. One must really watch our language today for we can use the wrong word to describe someone and get somewhat in trouble even without knowing we did wrong.

I thought of some of the words used to describe me over the years. Some carry negative feelings and some just descriptive. Here are a few: redneck, cracker, southerner, whitey, old man, heretic, infidel, male, liberal, intellect, protestant, privileged, preacher and my favorite, honkey! I’m sure there are more and some can’t really be printed here in this message, but these are a few collected over the years. I like the joke that says, “call me what you want but be sure to call me for supper”!

So, what do we do with things like this? Name calling isn’t new. What I have tried to do is just laugh them off. You see, we have a choice of what to do with things like this. We can get offended and lash out or just blow it off. No one can make these words stick or affect you if you don’t let them. Name calling is a sign of weakness by the one doing the name calling. They are trying to pull you down rather than try and raise themselves up. It is an attempt to categorize you and put a handle on you for control.

Whether or not you are offended depends on how you feel about yourself. It’s about self-esteem and who defines us. I may well be a lot of those things, but I won’t claim them as who I am. They won’t define me. People who get all upset about being called a name lets that name stick. They don’t have to claim that word as who they are. If we see the name caller a weak, insecure individual, then we take away that person’s weapon to hurt us. Sometimes we deserve a name: stubborn, hateful, selfish, arrogant, etc. You get the picture. There may be things about us that are derogatory, but it’s the ones we don’t claim that we can dismiss.

Jesus was called names throughout his ministry. The religious critics called him a drunkard and a glutton, to mention a couple. The passage from Mark 3 had people thinking him crazy in so many words and telling his family members to do something with him. Jesus knew exactly who he was and words and accusations didn’t bother him.

As Christians we are defined by God. God tells us who we are and that is what matters. We are his child, a very special person. See what I Peter says about us: “Once we were not a people, but now we are God’s people. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have

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Insert
June Calendar



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

Psalm 86 1-2

“Ubi Nunc (Where now?)”

– Christopher Lo

Text: Psalm 84:1-4

On Ascension Day, we cannot know what the disciples thought when they saw Jesus ascending into heaven, although the Latin phrase “Ubi nunc? (Where now?)” or colloquially, ‘What do we do now?’ may well have been on their lips.

A rhetorical question taken from Latin is “Where are those who went before us?” This ancient meditation on mortality and life’s transiency is based on a passage from Baruch 3:16–19 in the Apocrypha (in the 1611 King James Bible, these apocryphal books were positioned between the Old and New Testament), “Where are the princes of the nations?”

This “ubi nunc” feeling of nostalgia has been used by Boethius, St. Augustine of Hippo, in the Anglo-Saxon text of Beowulf, medieval poets of Europe and Persia, William Shakespeare, Mozart in his opera “The Magic Flute,” in Richard Wagner’s cycle of four German-language epic music dramas the “Ring Cycle,” Robert Louis Stevenson’s “Treasure Island,” and even Pete Seager’s 1955 song “Where have all the Flowers Gone?”

In like manner, Sir Tim Rice, who penned the lyrics “Gee Seven” (youtu.be/x2fUdLvSa3k) to the music by Peter Hobbs and sung by the

young choristers of Truro Cathedral in the United Kingdom, pleads with the G-Seven leaders, the equivalent of our modern princes, due to meet in June 2021 in Cornwall, to:



*Look up and see the seven stars, look
down and see our world
Its seven mighty continents
Our only earthly home
Of gold and silver, copper, tin, of iron,
lead and mercury
Seven metals of antiquity
And seven hills of Rome*

*Gee Seven – let nation speak to nation
Gee Seven – don’t let the others down
Gee Seven – don’t forget the not so
fortunate*

Gee Seven – or we’ll run you out of town

In a meditation on Psalm 84, written as part of the Thy Kingdom Come” (www.thykingdomcome.global) prayer initiative, the author reflected on this “ubi nunc” longing.



The author wrote “the writer’s [or the psalmist’s] journey towards God’s temple and altar is a journey towards the heart of God, a pilgrimage into God’s presence. It is a psalm about





Ongoing Prayers : Wanda Cunningham, Evelyn Robison, Patty Costanzo, Michael DeLeon, John Shaw, Herb Myers, Ayla Busscher, James Hill, Kim Hill, Bill Murff, Kathryn Wilkerson, Donna Henson, Bobby Mayfield, and Wayne Williams.

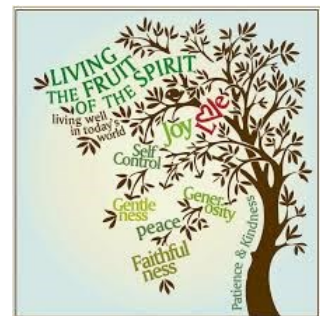
Immediate Concerns : Martha Phipps, Patricia Carpenter and Family

Please call the church office with updates.

Elder of the Month - Marisa Whitfield & Cindy Waggoner



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 23	Adrienne Thomas
June 24	Randy Phipps	June 25	Rhonda Newell
June 25	Melissa Pounds	June 26	Braiden Anderson
June 30	Sue Kelso		



Cont. from Cover

received mercy.” We don’t have to let negative words hurt us. A lot of the anger we have towards each other today is the name calling that so many find offensive. It doesn’t have to be that way. Just don’t choose to let others tell us who we are. It may not be easy but we do know who we are. God has spoken through our Lord, Jesus Christ. Believe it!

Peace,

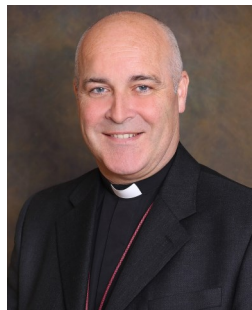
C.O.

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intimacy, and the yearning for that. It is a song of invitation: ‘Come with me,’ it says, ‘on a journey of discovery, of exploration, of meeting.’ Between Ascension and Pentecost, as Christians in 172 countries in eighty different denominations prayed ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ for ourself and for those we love, we prayed that God may have used us as letters of invitation to be sent towards those people he is calling, through whom they hear God’s welcome perhaps for the very first time.

St. Luke reminds us that the disciples’ experience at Ascension made them ‘witnesses,’ but they would have to wait until Pentecost when the Spirit descended. This wait was not passive, with life on hold. It was active and engaged: ‘they were continually in the temple blessing God.’

Stephen Cottrell, the Archbishop of York, suggested: “God knows we can’t manage on our own. Of course, we can’t. After all, we are made for community with God and with each other. Jesus makes this possible by uniting our humanity with God in his own person. The Spirit is the spirit of Jesus, helping us become like Jesus and uniting us to God.” Amen.



Summer Mission Sale

Donations are needed for the Summer Mission Sale that will take place on Saturday, June 26th, 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 June 24th. If you need any assistance, or need to drop off your donations please call the church office, 281-585-3406, . 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, Relay for Life, the Women’s Center of Brazoria County, Joy Gift Offering, One Great Hour of Sharing Offering, Christmas families, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and Pentecost Offering. Thank you for your help.



June 26th
8am-2pm

Vacation Bible School

NORTH CASTLE IS HIDDEN IN A FROZEN LAND. THE KING'S VALIANT KNIGHTS ARE ON A QUEST IN SEARCH OF THE KING'S ARMOR. BUT THE ARMOR ISN'T WHAT THEY THINK IT IS.

COKESBURY'S VBS, KNIGHTS OF NORTH CASTLE: QUEST FOR THE KING'S ARMOR, INVITES CHILDREN TO BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE STRENGTH OF GOD'S POWER BY EXPLORING HOW WE PUT ON THE ARMOR OF GOD. KIDS WILL TAKE ON THE ROLE OF BRAVE KNIGHTS AND BEGIN THEIR QUEST EACH SESSION BY OPENING THE KING'S BOOK. THEY'LL EXPLORE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STORIES AND DISCOVER DIFFERENT PIECES OF PROTECTIVE ARMOR—THE BELT OF TRUTH, THE BREASTPLATE OF JUSTICE, THE SHOES OF PEACE, THE SHIELD OF FAITH, AND THE HELMET OF SALVATION—AT WORK IN THE LIVES OF FAMILIAR BIBLE CHARACTERS, AND EXPLORE HOW THAT ARMOR WORKS IN THEIR OWN LIVES AS THEY FOLLOW AND SERVE GOD.

HELP KIDS TAKE UP THE GAUNTLET THIS SUMMER AND ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE TO "ARMOR UP" AND BE STRONG BY REMAINING WITH GOD AND SHARING GOD'S LOVE IN A WORLD THAT NEEDS IT MORE THAN EVER.

JOIN US JULY 19TH - JULY 23RD FOR VBS!!
REGISTRATION INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON!

IF YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER PLEASE CONTACT:
ADRIENNE THOMAS



Graduating Seniors



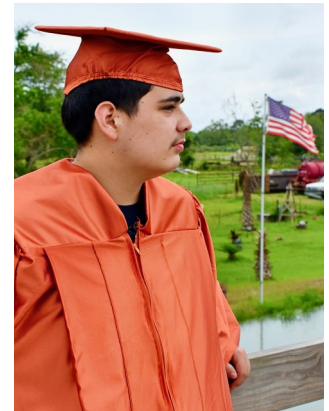
Amanda Grace Hicks, daughter of Cathy and Tom Hicks and granddaughter of Alice and Paul Sloan, graduated from Alvin High School on May 26, 2021. She is a member of the National Honor Society and member of HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America). While in high school she also took classes at Alvin Community College. Amanda's future plans include finishing her Associate's Degree at Alvin Community College then applying to Nursing School.

Congratulations, Amanda, and good luck on your future endeavors!



Martin (Marty) Silva, nephew of Sheila Follmar, graduated from Alvin High School on May 26, 2021. He was also enrolled at Alvin ISD's JB Hensler College and Career Academy where he became a certified welder. Marty plans to attend Alvin Community College.

Congratulations, Marty, and good luck on your future endeavors!



Savanna Raylene Rakowitz, daughter of Anneke and David Williams and granddaughter of Nancy and Wayne Williams, graduated from Alvin High School on May 26, 2021. She was a member of the Varsity Basketball Team, ROTC Athletic Team, DECA, and Culinary Arts School. She also received her Associate's Degree from Alvin Community College where she became a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success. Savanna plans to attend Texas Woman's University pursuing a degree in Kinesiology with an emphasis on exercise science.

Congratulations, Savanna, and good luck on your future endeavors!





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 AARSP (Alvin Area Retired School Personnel) and the Greater Houston YMCA, to better serve our community. This year, this combined group will host a drive through event at one of the AISD campuses.

Which campus? Manvel High School. 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

In the past, 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!!

We will have more information regarding volunteering for packing bags as soon as it's available.

Blessings and peace.



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."

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302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511

281-585-3406 www.fpcalvin.org