

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



Press Bytes



To the Saints at First Pres:

Greetings:

Throughout my ministry there have been certain writers who have made a deep impression on me and my faith. These writers have expressed the gospel in very new, different and exciting ways. All have been very unconventional; told in ways one would not expect. Fr. Martin Bell was one of those writers. He is, maybe was, the Episcopal Vicar of St. John's Church near Indianapolis, IN. His first book is entitled, The Way of the Wolf. It's a collection of short stories, poems, and songs, all written by him. The Holy Spirit is portrayed by a great silver wolf. They all tell the gospel stories but in very different ways. One story I would like to share with you is entitled, "Colored Nails". It's about Easter. He writes:

"Some human beings are fortunate enough to be able to color eggs on Easter. If you have a pair of hands to hold the eggs or if you are fortunate enough to be able to see the brilliant colors, then you are twice blessed".

This Easter some of us cannot hold eggs. Others of us cannot see the colors; many of us are unable to move at all, so it will be necessary to color eggs in our hearts.

This Easter, there is a hydrocephalic child lying very still in a hospital bed nearby with a head the size of his pillow and vacant, unmoving eyes and he will not be able to color Easter eggs and he will not be able to color Easter eggs in his heart and so God will have to color eggs for him.

And God will color eggs for him. You can bet your life and the life of the created universe on that.

At the cross of Calvary, God reconsecrated and sanctified wood and nails and absurdity and helplessness to be continuing vessels of His love. And then He simply raised Jesus from the dead. And they both went home and colored eggs."

There is a saying, "God helps those who help themselves". Well, that's not at all true. Actually it's the opposite, God helps those who can't help themselves. At times in our lives, we sometimes reach that state where we realize we can't "color Easter eggs". Easter-the Resurrected Christ, means that God is there with His redeeming love to surround us and see us through those tough times; that's unconditional love. In those tough times, Christ, "eggs" us on. We will make it. Remember, the Tomb is empty! Christ is risen!

Peace,
C.O.

May Issue

Message from the Pastor C.O. Magee (on Cover)	
Blooming Cross Mother's day	2
Session Highlights Class of 2019 Vacation Bible School	3
Pentecost Offering	4
Ways to Serve	5
Prayer Concerns May Birthdays	6
Bible Quiz	7





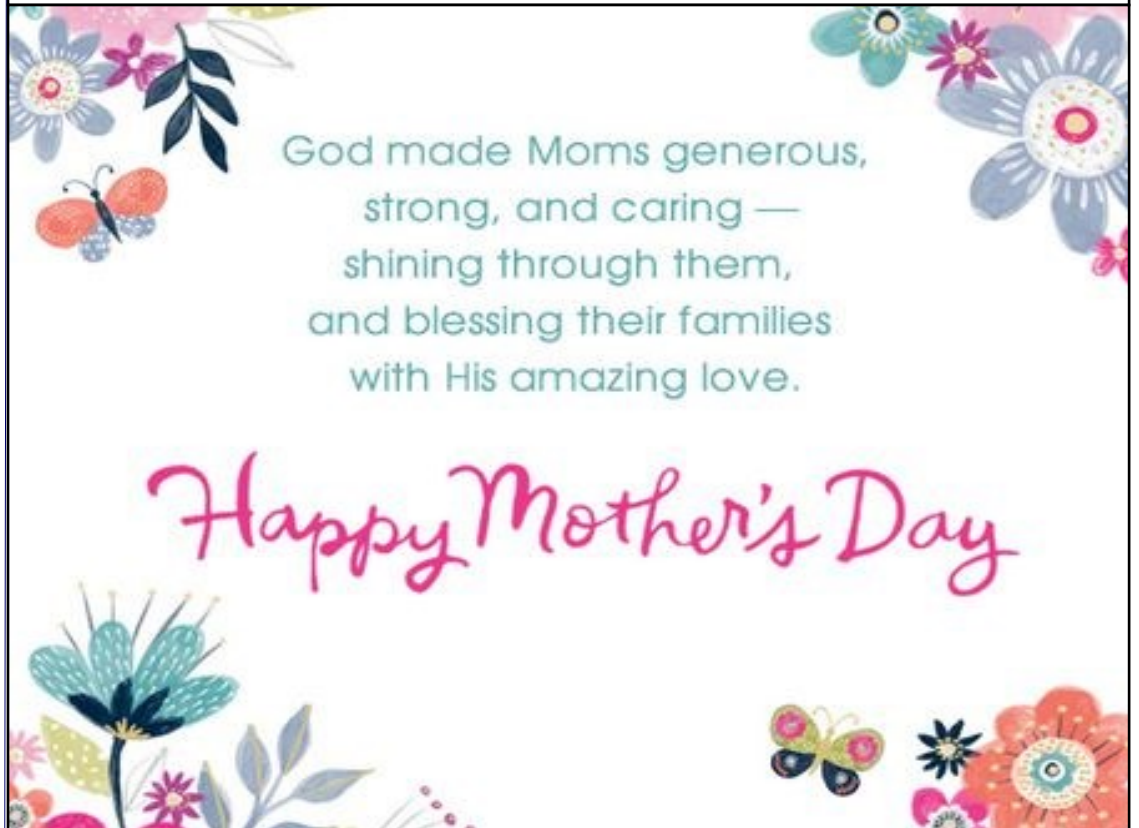
The Blooming Cross

The Blooming Cross looked absolutely stunning this year. Special Thanks to everyone who was able to bring flowers to place on the cross. It was also lovely seeing so many friendly, familiar faces.



“As one whom
his mother
comforts, so I
will comfort
you.”

Isaiah 66:13



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated meeting of the Session was held on Monday, April 15, 2019. Pastoral concerns included concern for all those experiencing difficult times right now, ranging from illness, and losses, as well as those experiencing financial struggles. Rev Magee reported that he was still receiving favorable comments on worship, along with a request for more guitar music. He said he hoped that anyone who has a criticism of his leadership, or the service itself, come and talk with him personally. He was able to visit with Dave Powledge and pray for him, prior to his passing. He also gave his approval for Rev. King to return to perform the funeral service for Dave. C.O. is working on a letter to our youth concerning confirmation, and he hopes to lead a class for this. Cathy King reported that the next Mission Sale will be on July 20th, that donations (no books, glassware, or dvd's, please) are welcome now, but anyone donating should contact Mandi in the office prior to bringing the donation to make sure someone is there to put items where they will be kept until July. There were 82 contacts made to church members by Janet Deleon, for this month. C.O. reported that we will be using the blue hymnals until Pentecost. The Mission and Outreach Committee, and the Clothing Outlet, will be helping one of our youth with some end of semester expenses, in order to complete their year and not have to drop out. There will be a baby shower during Fellowship on May 5 for C.O. and Brenda Magee's recently born twin grandchildren, with a Mexican food based pot luck. The Payte Fund balance as of March 31, 2019, is \$371,544.67.



“God has a great plan for you.”

Jeremiah 29:11

Sr. High School Graduation Recognition

Sunday, May 19, 2019

Class of
2019

On Sunday, May 19, during our morning worship we will honor our high school graduating seniors. After worship please join us for refreshments and fellowship and enjoy visiting with the graduates and their families.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids & Parents - Mark Your Calendars!

July 8 - 12

The dates have been chosen.....more information to come.



THE PENTECOST OFFERING -- BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING

you're supporting ministries
that unite young people and
inspire them to share their
faith in Christ.



Who was the first person to teach you about Jesus? Who was the first person to show you how to honor God with your life? Who helped you open the doors to new understandings of God and of faith? When did these things happen? For many of us, they happened during our childhood. They happened at home, at Sunday School, at church, at camp, or, perhaps through mission trips or experiences of service.

We probably don't need a study to tell us that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, the first third of life, helps ensure lifelong faith and service — but yet studies do show this to be true. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

That's why our congregation joins in support of the Pentecost Offering. This churchwide offering opens the doors to children, youth, and young adults so that they grow in the

patterns of faith meant to last a lifetime. When we give, congregations join in shaping the education provided at public schools, through the Educate a Child, Transform the World national initiative. As Presbyterians, we believe that every child deserves access to high-quality education.

When we give, young adults engage in a year of service while discerning how best to love God and neighbor, through the Young Adult Volunteer program. As Presbyterians, we believe that serving others is more than just something good to do, it's something that teaches us about God and about ourselves.

When we give, more than 5,000 youth gather at the Presbyterian Youth Triennium to worship, learn, and serve together. As Presbyterians, we believe that the Holy Spirit moves among us when we gather together and draws us into meaningful relationships and powerful understandings of what God is doing in the world.

Forty percent of this Offering stays here for our own ministries with children, youth, and young adults. [Include a 'when we give, we...' that mentions the work your congregation intends to do or support.]

During Pentecost, we celebrate that the Holy Spirit has opened the doors to faith in Jesus Christ. Just as many of us were nurtured in faith during our youth, we give to support these ministries and offer ourselves in service to the faith formation of other youth and young adults. We join with the Spirit and the whole church, so that the generations to come will still proclaim God's wondrous deeds. Won't you join in your support? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



First Presbyterian always has plenty of places and opportunities to serve either within our own church family or the community.

Please contact a Session member or C.O. if you have some time to help in the following areas:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| Homebound Communion | 4 G's |
| Gathering Place | Relay for Life |
| Delivering to Alvin Food Pantry after first Sunday | |
| Sound System | Special Music during worship |
| Vacation Bible School | Mother's Day Luncheon |
| Setting up the fellowship hall for events | |
| Meals on Wheels | Father's Day Lunch |
| Clothing Outlet | School Supplies |

“And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.”

Galatians 6:9



Elder of the Month - Cathy King
Refreshments for - Congregational Care



Ongoing Prayers Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Bill Pannell, Louisa Vera, Cathy Gross, Joe Rossano, Dave Powledge, Nancy Williams, Ralph Varenkamp, John Shaw, Cody Langley, Johnnie Martin, Brandy Brooks, Henrietta Meyer, 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, and Alan Gray.

Immediate Concerns : Joan Rossano, Travis Tidwell, Jim Hilton, Gary Miloradovich, John Hartman, Louie Schneider, and The Powledge Family.

Please call the church office with updates.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- | | | | |
|----|------------------|----|------------------|
| 2 | Wendy McGhee | 3 | Betty Montgomery |
| 9 | Bill Murff | 11 | Alyssa Wells |
| 11 | Diane Dallas | 15 | Lucy Pannell |
| 19 | Zach Thomas | 20 | Matt Ober |
| 27 | Phillip Escobedo | 28 | Belinda Busscher |



ALVIN MANVEL 2019 RELAY FOR LIFE

Bunko Fundraiser May 4th 1pm-3pm
\$20 to participate Fellowship Hall



Please see Jill Wheatley to register.



Bible Pathway Adventures

BIBLE QUIZ

MOTHERS IN THE BIBLE

Match the question with the answer on the right.

QUESTIONS

- ___ Who was Jacob's mother?
- ___ Who was the mother of Isaac?
- ___ Who was the mother of Joseph and Benjamin?
- ___ Which mother in the Bible had a set of twins?
- ___ Who was John the Baptist's mother?
- ___ Who was the first mother mentioned in the Bible?
- ___ What was the name of Yeshua's mother?
- ___ Which female judge said she was "a mother in Israel"?
- ___ Who was the mother of King Solomon?
- ___ Whose mother placed him in a basket made from bulrushes?
- ___ What relationship was Naomi to Ruth?

ANSWERS

1. Sarai (Sarah)
2. Mary
3. Elizabeth
4. Deborah (Judges 5:7)
5. Eve
6. Rebekah
7. Rebekah
8. Moses
9. Rachel
10. Bathsheba
11. Mother-in-law

