



# Press Bytes

November Issue

## Life Together

If you'll remember, I started naming my pastor column **Life Together** about 2 years ago. I got this idea from a book title by the great 20<sup>th</sup> century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer. In this book – we are called to the Christian community.

I'm now re-reading another of Bonhoeffer's books *The Cost of Discipleship*. This is a classic, and is considered to be one his best books. It continues to be read by people interested in following Jesus Christ – especially because of his focus upon the difference between "**cheap grace**" and "**costly grace**." Listen to the distinction: "*Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.*" Then Bonhoeffer continues: "*Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field...it is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods...Costly grace is the gospel which must be sought again and again, the gift which must be asked for, the door at which a person must knock. Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. It is costly because it condemns sin, and grace because it justifies the sinner. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us."*

We all know that true love – the kind that God gives – is costly love. We know this from our own important relationships as well – just as we learn of it in reading the Biblical story. Theologian Karl Barth once commented on the relationship between grace and gratitude: "*Grace and gratitude belong together, like heaven and earth. Grace evokes gratitude like the voice an echo. Gratitude follows grace like thunder lightning.*" Whenever I read these remarkable words by Karl Barth – I am also reminded of Bonhoeffer's words about cheap versus costly grace. It follows that cheap grace leads to cheap gratitude – gratitude that costs us nothing. Because it costs us nothing – it has little power to bless or to change us. It is grace, but hardly amazing! Costly grace calls us to costly gratitude – thanksgiving that costs us something to offer.

As we continue into another autumn in the life of our church, I would invite you to reflect upon the grace of God – a costly grace that also has the power to bring you joy and passion in believing. When King David came to build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah – something God commanded him to do, Araunah tried to give it as a gift to the King. David refused, saying: "*I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God which cost me nothing*" (2 Samuel 24:24). David understood that costly grace calls for costly gratitude. As we move forward – I hope and pray that we will explore this powerful and life-giving idea more fully. Meanwhile, ask yourself what David often asked: "*What shall I render unto the Lord for all God's benefits toward me?*"

Peace,

Craig

**B**LESSED  
by the amazing Grace of God

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Insert  
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Poinsettia Order Form



## PRAYER REQUEST



**Ongoing Prayers** Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, 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, 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, Heidi Young, Bill Steckert, Nancy Williams Roles Family, and Bill Von Restorff, Terry, Mary, & Sam (friends of Faye), Allie & Lexi Roles.

**Immediate Concerns** : Family of Camille King, Lee Regotti, Gina Ruskey, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Sharon Roberts, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Gary Miloradovich, The Dean Family, and the family of Jessabell "Jessie" Williams.

*Please call the church office with updates.*

You have turned for  
me my mourning into  
dancing;  
you have loosed my  
sackcloth  
and clothed me  
with gladness,  
that my glory may  
sing your praise and  
not be silent.

O Lord my God, I  
will give thanks to you  
forever!

Psalm 30:11-12

## BRAZORIA COUNTY ALZHEIMERS AWARENESS PROJECT (BCAAP)

November is Alzheimer's Awareness Month! Each November BCAAP offers Memory Screenings at the Library's in our county. Screenings will be offered at the Alvin Library on Gordon Street, November 13-17. These screenings are very important due to the fact the earlier this terrible disease is discovered the better treatment plan can be developed.

Each of the past five years, BCAAP screenings have identified more than 60 people who had severe cognitive deficits and were able to share that with family members so they could seek professional help. The BCAAP Memory Screenings have been the largest community-based screenings in the United States.

If you have not been screened please plan to go on the dates listed above. If you have time to volunteer to be a Screener please call the church office. The more volunteers there are, the less time involved for everyone.

**You do not have to be a trained Gathering Place Volunteer to be a Screener.**

## CLOTHING OUTLET

Exciting things are happening at the Clothing Outlet. I know you keep being told this but it really is exciting. The first exciting thing is more FPC members are getting engaged at the Outlet. Grace Ward Harby would be very happy about this. Second, with all the additional volunteers we are able to sort better, allowing us to tag the "Neiman Marcus" or name brand quality items with special tags which allows us to get more money for those items. Third, we are also able to open the Outlet more days a week, which generates more income for helping the community. Next, we are able to take more donations. Then finally we are reaching more and more people not only in our community but also Manvel, Rosharon, and Santa Fe areas.

We now have everything priced as \$1.00 with the exception of baby clothes and the "Neiman Marcus" items. There are signs in the Outlet letting customers know the prices. The prices will remain the same no matter what organization is staffing the Outlet. Now we have consistency also!

Thursday will continue to be FPC's day to volunteer to sort and hang. Thank You to everyone who has been volunteering! If you have any questions please direct them to Sheila Follmar.



**Sunday, November 4, 2018 is Remembrance Sunday**



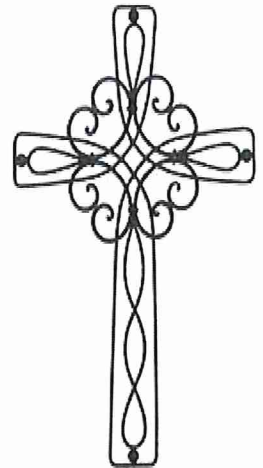
During the morning worship service we will have a time of remembrance for those church members, and those close to our church members, who have passed away this past year.

**Members:**

***Gordon Davenport, Donna Rae Harris, Camille King, and Elizabeth McQuarrie***

**Those close to us:**

***William Bowers (Brandi & Mandi's father), Bill Duesing (Alice Sloan's brother), Ashley Hicks (Alice & Paul Sloan's granddaughter), Steve Kotlarich & Mary Mezzino (Camille King's brother and sister), Wayne Petersen (Cindy Waggoner's brother), Dorothy Spoerhase (Nancy Williams' sister), Johnnie Waggoner (Cindy Waggoner's mother-in-law), and Jessabell "Jessie" Williams (Joan McNabb's sister).***



**Presbyterian Youth Evangelists (PYE)**

PYE is collecting recipes for a cookbook fundraiser. All recipes are welcome. Please submit recipes via email to [fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org](mailto:fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org) or give them to Brandi by December 2nd. Fall Youth Rally is November 11th. All Youth is encouraged to attend. Please have permission slips turned in by November 4th. It is great to see the Youth Group active, serving and involved in our church's mission. We have a great group of youth.

Session has approved the calendar of events ! They are ready to rock and roll or maybe serve and evangelize!

Brandi will be seeking volunteers to help her with off campus events. Be sure to stay up to date on the PYE events because there might be one that you enjoy or would like to be involved in, Please do not hesitate to request the nursery if you would like to help but have small children.

PYE hopes to involve mission and outreach within their activities and events. If you know of a need in the community please share this with Brandi so she can communicate to PYE. PYE meets in the fellowship hall on second and third Sundays after Fellowship.



**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER YOUTH EVENTS**

November 11, 2018  
Fall Youth Rally with PYCC  
Flyers and more information available.

December 2, 2018  
Hanging of the Greens

December 9, 2018  
TBD

If you would like to follow the youth, please download the Remind 101 App and add our class using Class code @FPCPY

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.

Colossians 3:15

**Daylight Savings Time ends November 4th**



**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

**1 Debbie Nance**  
**2 Barbara Bennett**  
**4 Max Gondesen**  
**4 Scott Gondesen**  
**6 Morgan Stanley**  
**9 Clayton Ruskey**  
**16 Sara Pannell**  
**20 Cathryn Watkins**  
**21 Annette Williams**  
**23 Cathy Copeland**

**ALVIN FOOD PANTRY**

The first Sunday of every month we ask for a donation from the congregation for the Alvin Food Pantry. Since Hurricane Harvey the Food Pantry has been very low. The next two months please remind yourself to bring a few items from your pantry to help fill this need. Items can be canned meat, cereal, canned vegetables, or peanut butter. The first Sunday in November is on the 4th. Monetary donations may also be given. Thank You!



**Elder of the Month - Cathy King & Randy Phipps**  
**Refreshments for November - Congregational Care**

**SESSION HIGHLIGHTS**

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. on October 15, 2018 in the church library.

Treasurer's report: Each Session member received a copy of the financials along with the Treasurer's report, all accounts have been reconciled.

Pastoral Concerns and Leadership: Rev. King continues visiting with folks who are hospitalized and home bound. Received an award on behalf of the church from Alvin ISD. Mission and Community Leadership opportunities in the Alvin area: Clothing Outlet, Gathering Place/BCAAP, and the Angel Fund.

Session heard reports from the church officers and committees. Mission and Outreach Committee is working on plans for the Christmas Family Ministry, the Joy Gift Offering, and the Mission Sale. The Mission Sale will be moved to Saturday, December 8, 2018. Worship Committee finished plans for Remembrance Sunday that is on November 4, 2018, Hanging of the Greens on December 3, 2018 and Christmas Eve Services. The Christmas Eve Service will be at 7:30 p.m. Elder Janet DeLeon reported from Congregational Care to Session that 88 contacts had been made over the past month to members of the church family. Homebound Communion was administered to 4 different groups/individuals. Buildings and Grounds shared that various needs have been addressed around the church campus. Session action items:

- Approved to train the new church secretary on the Church Windows software.
- Scheduled a meeting of the congregation for November 18, 2018 following worship. We will elect new church officers and vote on a proposed change to the church's policies and procedures, which has been outlined several times in previous publications.

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

Blessings,

Martha Phipps, Clerk of Session

A Note of Thanks:

On behalf of our family, I'd like to express my gratitude and thanks for all the cards, emails, texts, and phone calls following the death of my mother this past month. We are so humbled by the love shown to us. Also, many thanks for those who made food for the reception following her memorial service and those who served and cleaned up. Much love, and then some,

*Craig*

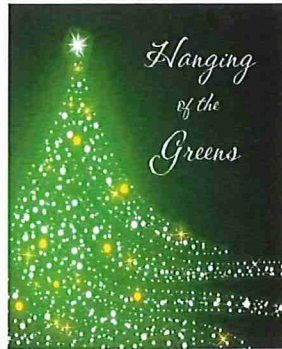


# Poinsettia Orders

As in the past, you will be able to purchase poinsettias to remember and honor your loved ones. Instead of asking for a specific price, we're asking for a love donation to help defray the cost of poinsettias and other decorations. As in the past, the proceeds from the poinsettia sales will go to the Youth Fund to help our young people with their activities for the coming year. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex. The completed form, along with the donation in the form of a check or cash in an envelope, can be placed in the collection plate or taken to the church office during office hours. The poinsettias need to be ordered by November 18<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to pick your plant(s) up after worship either Christmas Eve or Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup>. Or if you would prefer, you can donate your poinsettia for delivery to one of our home bound members with a note that says: "Merry Christmas!"

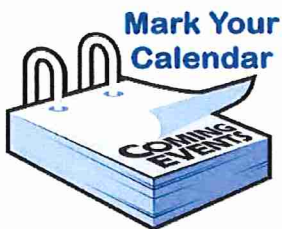
## A SPECIAL TIME OF YEAR!

COLLABORATING TO SHARE THE STORY OF OUR SAVIOR WITH THE HELP OF OUR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



As we begin the Advent season, The Education Team is collaborating with the Worship Team in making this year's Hanging of the Greens Service one that you will not want to miss. This is a truly special time of year! On Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 p.m., we hope you will join us for a dinner of pizza and salad in the fellowship hall. We will then proceed to the sanctuary

for our Hanging of the Greens service. We are looking for maximum participation from our children and youth, with the hopes of transitioning back to a Christmas Pageant or play. Following the service everyone will return to the fellowship hall to enjoy dessert and a special appearance from Santa. Mark your calendars now. Please contact Barbara Bennett if your child/youth wishes to participate. You don't want to miss this special event!



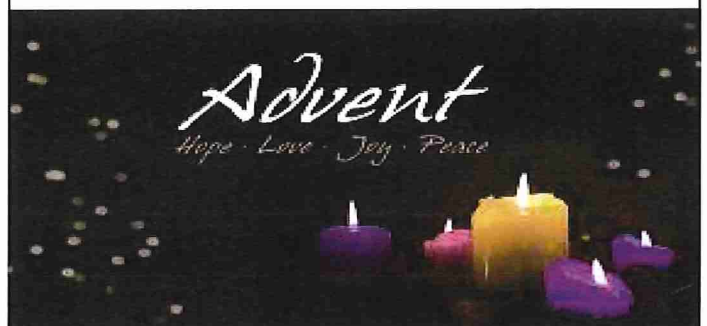
## UPCOMING DATES !

November 4	Remembrance Sunday
November 11	PYE meets / attends PYCC Fall Youth Rally
November 13-17	Memory Screenings at Alvin Library
November 18	Have your Poinsettia Ordered
November 19	Session Meeting
December 2	Hanging of the Greens
December 8	Mission Christmas Sale
December 10	Christmas Walk
December 15	Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

## Season of Advent

We will begin this festive season in preparation of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ during worship on Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The sanctuary will be adorned with the beginnings of the seasonal decorations, and we will complete the decorating with our Hanging of the Greens service that evening. It is a joyful time when we, as a church family, decorate the tree with Chrismons and remember and honor loved ones with the poinsettias. Be sure to be a part of these services.

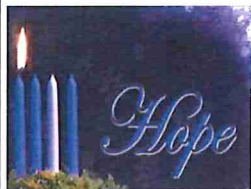
We will continue with the Advent worship services each Sunday as we approach Christmas. On December 23, we will celebrate the 4th Sunday of Advent with our choir sharing the cantata: *Silent Night! Holy Night!*. On December 24<sup>th</sup>, we will have our traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service at 7:30pm.



## SHARING OUR TIME, TREASURE, AND TALENTS WITH THE MISSION & OUTREACH TEAM

during this Season of Love, Peace, Joy & Hope

### Christmas Families



As has become our custom, FPCA is reaching out to families who need assistance by providing Christmas gifts. We plan to have the gift tags for the Christmas Families available beginning Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup>. Because the gift tags only identify the recipient's gender and age, the family is identified by the color of the ribbon attached to the tag. So it is very important to leave the ribbon fastened to

the tag to make the task of sorting the gifts easier. The wrapped gifts should be placed under the Christmas tree in the Sanctuary by Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. If you need additional information or have any questions, contact Cathy King (cell) 979-583-6726 or (email) [lumagi01@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lumagi01@sbcglobal.net). This is an awesome opportunity to bring joy to those who would otherwise do without at this time of the year.



### Christmas Sale

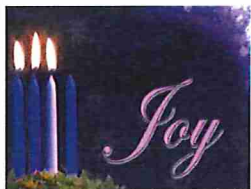


The Christmas Sale is scheduled for Saturday, December 8, 8 am – 2 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent is December 2<sup>nd</sup> this year so the sale has been moved to the second weekend in December. We ask that everyone bring their donations to the church by Wednesday, December 5. Items include kitchen ware, household objects, toys, bags and purses, furniture and small electronics in working condition. **We kindly ask that you do not donate clothes, shoes, books or VHS tapes.** Please call the church office, 281-585-3406, before dropping off your donations. As in the past,

proceeds from this sale will supplement the offerings collected for our local and world outreach efforts which, among others, consist of 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, Peace and Global Witness Offering, and Pentecost Offering. Thank you for your help.



### Salvation Army Bell Ringers Needed



Our congregation has committed to stand beside the Salvation Army red kettle in front of the Alvin Walmart and ring the bell on Saturday, December 15<sup>th</sup>, between 8:00 am and ending at 8:00 pm. in shifts of one hour. The sign-up sheet is available in the church narthex. Sign up as soon as possible to guarantee that you get the spot you want. Thank you for committing one hour of your Saturday for this outreach ministry.

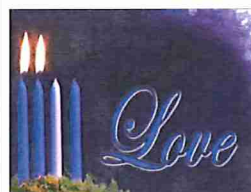


**VOLUNTEER  
BELL RINGERS  
NEEDED!**

*Ring a bell...help change a life*

### JOY GIFT OFFERING

Over the recent months we have seen first hand the real hands-on things that our special offerings do and the people they help! As a church family we responded to the Peacemaking & Global Witness Offering with commitment. Now as we approach the Season of Advent we focus on the Joy Gift Offering.



*WHAT DOES THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING DO?  
SUPPORTING OUR PAST AND  
PRESENT LEADERS*



Each year during the Advent and Christmas season, we turn our eyes to Bethlehem and celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, our Savior. By giving to the Christmas Joy Offering, you honor this gift by providing assistance to current and retired church workers in their time of need and developing our future leaders at Presbyterian-related racial ethnic schools and colleges.

*"Moses said, 'Show me your glory, I pray.'" — Exodus 33:18*



# Bible Quiz

## Animals of the Bible

Match the question with the answer on the right.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| _____ Which animal saved Balaam's life?  | 1. Samson   |
| _____ When the 12 spies visited the land of Canaan, which animal did they compare themselves to?   | 2. Cows   |
| _____ What animal swallowed Jonah?   | 3. A giant fish                                       |
| _____ What animals appeared in Pharaoh's dreams?   | 4. Solomon  |
| _____ Which king of Israel imported peacocks?  | 5. A young donkey                                     |
| _____ Who killed a lion with his bare hands?   | 6. Frogs  |
| _____ Who was Yeshua only sent to help?  | 7. Grasshoppers                                       |
| _____ After Yeshua's birth, what two birds did Mary and Joseph offer as a sacrifice at the temple? | 8. A donkey   |
| _____ Which animals appeared in the second plague of Egypt?  | 9. Two young pigeons                                  |
| _____ Before the Feast of Unleavened Bread, which animal did Yeshua ride on into Jerusalem?        | 10. The lost sheep of the house of Israel (Mat 15:24) |



# Poinsettia Order Form

**ORDER MUST BE TURNED IN BY NOVEMBER 18, 2018**

**Ordered by** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Donated:** \_\_\_\_\_

**In Memory / Honor (circle one) of:**

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

You may turn form and money in during worship service by putting them in the offering plate, designated for "Poinsettia" or you can bring them to the church office.