



First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

Press Bytes



Life Together

I've got an idea – let's celebrate!!!

One of my favorite readings by Presbyterian Ruling Elder and author Ann Weeks is entitled *Happy Birthday Church!* In this story, she tells about a church that ***“only had party rooms: The Session's Party Room, the Music Party Room, the Feasting Party Room, the Do Justice Party room, the Love Mercy Party Room, the Touch Lepers Party Room. In the center of the building was a large round room with an altar and a cross: God's Party Room.”***

You can probably guess where it went from there. The ones in the church had a lightness about them and celebrated all the time. Those outside the church? Well...they would come to visit and oftentimes would comment first and foremost about how sacrilegious they found things – all that singing and dancing around, don't you know!

But the church kept holding canned food drives and then taking the food to the poor, along with take-out pizza. They held picnics at the nursing home and joined in races – young and old alike. They took flowers to the sick and visited the prisoners in jail – and one Sunday they took the bread and wine to the hospitals and asked to see the dying patients. ***“They held their hands and mopped their brows and spoke to them of life.”***

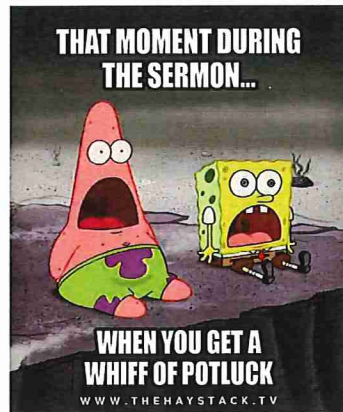
They were then brought up on charges of heresy, And when the stern, red-faced committee came to accuse them, the church brought the committee to the Birthday Cake Party Room. Yes, a huge birthday cake, full of lit candles – *Happy Birthday Church!* Someone offered the chairperson a glass of wine. He sputtered: ***“Can't you take anything seriously?”***

The kicker was this – they were serious. They wanted to share in communion – with birthday cake and wine. They said: ***“We are celebrants of the gift of life. We are community. Why are your faces red when we are trying to do justice and love mercy? Why do you shake your fists at us when we are trying to discover the hurting and begin the healing...When we weep there is someone to weep with us and to affirm us and to take us to a party...When we see injustices, we must be about God's business of freeing the oppressed...Isn't it remarkable that we can be God's Good News? Is it any wonder we have a church full of party rooms? There is so much love to celebrate!”***

It is time for us to celebrate the faith, love, and hope which we share together as the members and friends of the First Presbyterian Church of Alvin. It's time to celebrate where we've been and where, by the grace of God, we're going. It's time to celebrate, for we are a people who know a richness of faith, a fullness of hope, and a deepness of love. And we too, have a church full of party rooms! Peace,

Craig





On Sunday, October 7 (World Communion Sunday), there will be a potluck lunch right after church to welcome our new members:

James & Margie Hill, Jerry & Lisa McCalla, Helen McCarty, Jessica Napoleon, Mandi Odom, Sara Pannell, Nikki Stafford, Josh Tidwell, & Damon Thomasie.



Please join us for a wonderful time of food and fellowship!

LOVE GROW SERVE



“My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”

John 15:12

“Why do you see the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?”

Luke 6:41

The new Christian Education year has begun! This is always an exciting time of the year! We honor our third graders with a bible, commission Sunday School teachers, and bless backpacks. Everyone is always excited to begin new lessons and learning more about Jesus. Mission, Outreach and the Church’s Ministries restart each January but get refueled at this time of the church year. With summer ending and fall beginning we are also fast approaching the Advent Season. As you begin studying your new lessons also take a few moments to see how you can better serve your church in our Outreach and Ministry opportunities. Below is a list of opportunities to serve our church and community. If you see something you would like to volunteer or serve please contact a Session member or Pastor Craig.

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gathering Place | Clothing Outlet | Sunday School |
| Potlucks setup | Children’s Christmas Party | Mega Brain |
| Christmas Families | Headstart Christmas | Nursery Volunteer |
| Children’s Worship Bags | | Choir Christmas Cantata |
| Refreshments after worship | | Decorating for Advent |
| Preparing Advent Devotion packets | | Mission Christmas Sale |
| Watering Poinsettias during Advent | | Baking Cookies for Advent Season |
| Hanging of the Greens | | Ringling Salvation Army Bell |



About World Communion Sunday

“All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.” (1 Cor. 11:29)



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our oneness in Christ with all our brothers and sisters around the world. Paul tells us that we are to **“discern the body”** when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (1 Cor. 11:21). This is scandalous behavior opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the annual Peace and Global Witness Offering as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with brothers and sisters in need.

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in 1933 where Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr served as pastor.

John A. Dalles, a PCUSA pastor who has researched the history of World Communion Sunday notes this in his blog entry, reprinted from the October 7, 2002, issue of Presbyterian Outlook:

Davitt S. Bell (the late Clerk of Session and church historian at Shadyside) recalled that Dr. Kerr first conceived the notion of World Communion Sunday during his year as moderator of the General Assembly (1930). Dr. Kerr’s younger son, the Rev. Dr. Donald Craig Kerr, who is pastor emeritus of the Roland Park Presbyterian Church in Baltimore, was sixteen in 1933. He has related that World Communion Sunday grew out of the Division of Stewardship at Shadyside. It was their attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity—in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how each congregation is interconnected one with another. When I asked Donald Kerr how the idea of World Communion Sunday spread from that first service to the world wide practice of today, this is what he replied,

“The concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the Second World War that the spirit caught hold, because we were trying to hold the world together. World Wide Communion symbolized the effort to hold things together, in a spiritual sense. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

Celebration of World Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches in other denominations were invited to celebrate with us from the beginning, but it wasn’t until 1940 when the Department of Evangelism of the Federal Council of Churches (a predecessor body of the National Council of Churches) promoted extending the celebration to a number of churches around the world that the practice became widespread. Today, World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world, demonstrating that the church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

This year, World Communion Sunday is October 7. Hope to see you there!



©2013

“There is nothing that enters a man from outside which can defile him; but the things which come out of him, those are the things that defile a man.”

Mark 7:15





Ongoing Prayers Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Camille King, Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, Kay Tucker, Sofia Muzzafar, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, 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, Gayle Cross, 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, Jessie Williams, Heidi Young, Bill Steckert, Nancy Williams, Roles Family, and Bill Von Restorff.

Immediate Concerns : Alfred Froberg, Family of Ken Clark, Family of Mary Tidwell, Greg Copeland, Vincent Naranjo, Susan Armstrong, Lee Regotti, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Robert Bowers, Sharon Roberts, Larry Allen, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Joy Dell DeWitt, Hayes, Emily Green, and Norman & Patty Hirsch.

Please call the church office with updates.

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 2018

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening at 6:30 p.m. on September 17, 2018 in the church library.

Treasurer's report: In the absence of the Treasurer, Pastor Craig presented the Treasurer's report. All records have been reconciled and are in good order.

Session heard reports from committees and ongoing projects. The Mission Room has been divided to create more space which will be utilized by the Education Team and the Mission and Outreach Team. All construction costs involved in the creating of this room were paid by the Clothing Outlet. The former Resource Room was given to the Clothing Outlet. Brandi Bowers shared that the Chili Cook-off is scheduled for Sunday, October 28 following worship. The Youth has several events planned over the coming months. Along with the pastor and other members, many contacts were made to the congregation by the Congregational Care Team, including celebrating the Lord's Supper with those unable to attend worship services. The Officer Nominating Committee is still seeking one person to serve on the Session and one on the Trustees. Wanda Cunningham and Helen Escobedo have expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Session after both fulfilled one year of service. A Congregational Meeting will be scheduled to elect new officers, along with presenting the proposed change in the Church's Policies and Procedures, which has been outlined in 2 previous newsletters.

In other business, the Session voted to send a love offering of \$ 250 to the Presbytery of New Covenant to recognize their generosity in paying for Lexi Hunt's expenses when she traveled to St. Louis to attend the latest General Assembly. Session also voted to award a \$ 650 scholarship to Lexi Hunt to help her defray the costs of tuition and books at Sam Houston State University.

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

Blessings, Your Session

GENESIS SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS 2018

Thank You Education Committee!

The Sunday School year is off to a great start!

During worship, the teachers were commissioned, bibles were presented, and backpacks were blessed. After worship everyone enjoyed fun and fellowship at the potluck lunch.



Trick or Treat trail

For the past few years, the Parks and Recreation Department of the City of Alvin has sponsored the Trick or Treat Trail event as an alternative to the traditional going from house to house on Halloween to trick or treat. In keeping with First Presbyterian Church's focus on mission, we will once again be sponsoring a booth along the trail where goblins, ghosts, and other Halloween creatures can get their candy in a safe environment. The Trick or Treat Trail will be held on October 31 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the National Oak

Park by the railroad station in downtown Alvin.

In order to accomplish this, the church needs your help. This can be done in several ways.

First, we need CANDY, CANDY, CANDY! *Please remember as you shop for candy that allergies to peanuts are much more common than they were when you and I were young, so try to stay clear of candy containing peanuts. Please bring your candy to church beginning on the first Sunday of October. We will have boxes set up in the foyer for you.*

Second, we need people to transport tables and other items from the church to the National Oak Park by 5:00 pm and back to the church after the event ends at 8:30 pm.

Third, we need people to help set up our canopy, lights, and tables. These people need to be at the National Oak Park at 5:00 pm.

Fourth, we also need people to work the 2 hour event.

Fifth, we need people to take down our canopy, lights, and tables when the event is over.

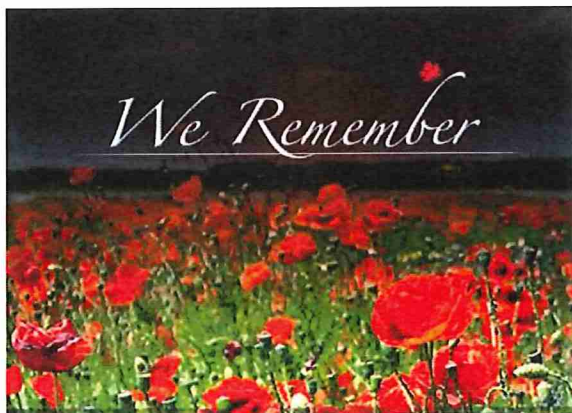
As you can see, there is a lot to do to make the Trick or Treat Trail a wonderful and safe experience for the children of Alvin. To get an idea of who can work the event, there will be a signup sheet in the foyer of the sanctuary beginning the first Sunday of October for those who can help with the last four items needed.



- 1 Joan McNabb
- 3 Jeanine Richey
- 3 Mark Busscher
- 5 Paul Rayburn
- 8 Megan Melchor
- 8 Robert Escobedo
- 9 Cory Day
- 14 Mike Case
- 14 Buddy Ruskey
- 16 Karen Hering
- 20 Nan Self
- 24 Ayla Busscher
- 24 Pam Bates
- 24 Pat Carpenter
- 26 Alex Pannell
- 28 Barbara Whitfield

**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, 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), and Johnnie Waggoner (Cindy Waggoner's mother-in-law).

Heads Up!

As in the past, you will be able to purchase poinsettias to remember and honor your loved ones. Once again, we're asking for a love donation to help defray the cost of poinsettias and other decorations. The proceeds from the poinsettia sales will go to the Youth Fund to help our young people with their activities for the coming year. Order forms will be in next month's newsletter. Thank you!



**Our Annual Chili Cook-off will be
Sunday, October 28 following
worship**

The Congregational Life Team invites you to bring your best Chili, Cornbread, and Desserts! This will be another great time for fun and fellowship with our church family!



Bible Game Trivia

First Presbyterian Church



PEOPLE WHO GOT TO SEE JESUS

Jesus knew many people besides his disciples during his brief ministry. See if you can put the names of these incredibly blessed people with their descriptions.

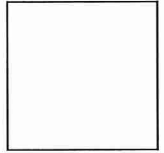
1. **Jesus raised me from the dead after he had become my friend.** *(John 11:40-44)*
2. **He climbed a tree to see Jesus because he was short, and then Jesus ate at his house.** *(Luke 19:1-6)*
3. **I was promised by God that I would see Jesus before I died, and I did!** *(Luke 2:25-35)*
4. **Jesus brought seven demons out of me before we became good friends** *(Luke 8:1-2)*
5. **We were curious and asked to see Jesus, shocking his disciples.** *(John 12:20-24)*
6. **I was so grateful for my healing that I asked to follow Jesus. But Jesus sent me home.** *(Mark 5:1-19)*
7. **I was one of 10 healed, but only I came back to thank Jesus.** *(Luke 17:12-19)*
8. **I had been praying for Israel every day in the Temple for more than 50 years when I finally saw the Messiah.** *(Luke 2:36-38)*
9. **I carried Jesus' cross.** *(Mark 15:21)*
10. **Jesus was responding to my question when he first spoke his famous words, "You must be born again."** *(John 3:1-3)*

Choose from:

Lazarus Mary Magdalene Nicodemus Simeon Simon the Cyrene
 Group of Gentiles The demoniac Anna The leper Zacchaeus



First Presbyterian Church
 302 South Johnson Street
 Alvin, TX 77511

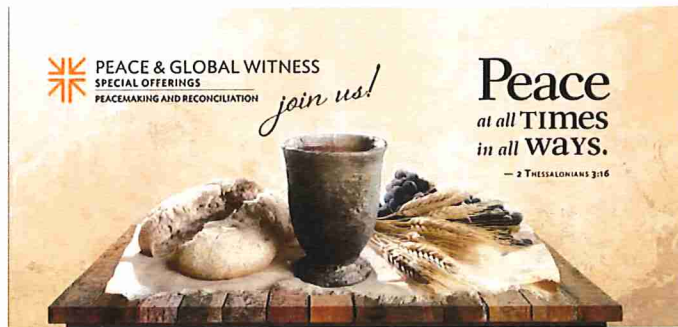


Address Service Requested

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



October Issue



Elder of the Month — Helen Escobedo
 Refreshments for - Congregational Life

"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."

First Presbyterian Church of Alvin
 302 South Johnson Street, Alvin, Texas 77511
 281-585-3406 www.fpcalvin.org
 email - fpcalvin@fpcalvin.org

Life Together by Pastor	
Potluck with New Member Celebration	2
Love, Grow, Serve	
World Communion Sunday	3
Prayer Concerns	4
Session Highlights	
Genesis Sunday	5
Trick or Treat Trail	
October Birthdays	6
Remembrance Sunday	
Chili Cook-off	
Heads Up!	
Bible Game	7