

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

## *Press Bytes*



To the Saints at First Pres:

Greetings. As we move towards Fall and the end of the year, there are several things that are done annually. One is elect a new class of officers. We have three names to present to you and they will be mailed out to you in a ballot. There will also be a space for you to nominate someone if that is your wish. If you nominate someone, then that ballot must be mailed to the church. If there are new nominations from the members, then a new ballot will be drawn up and you will vote for three by mail. I know this is a tedious process, but we can't ask all of you to come to church to do this. The Session will arrange for Officer Training with installation in December.

Secondly, a new budget will need to be drawn up and approved by Session before the new year. That work has begun.

Finally, I just need to apprise you as to where we are in the search process. I think there has been adequate time to move past the former pastor and a readiness to look ahead. The process is a 20 step process with the help of Presbytery guiding the church at each step. The Session has the booklet that provides the process. The Session takes the first few steps and then when a nominating committee is elected by you, the committee takes the process from there. It is a very involved process and takes a lot of work. You, the members, play a very significant role in the development of the MIF, Mission Information Form that will fully describe who you are as a church, a community, goals, visions, hopes, expectations and the kind of leadership you feel is needed in the new person. Additionally, a detailed description of who you are as a congregation (age, racial, male, female, and just a lot of other questions that will help prospective candidates see a picture of First Presbyterian Church, Alvin) is needed. Lots of meetings will be required between you and the committee as you can see. Also, all committee work will be in strict confidentiality. No one can know what is transpiring until a candidate is announced.

Since this process takes around 18-24 months on average in normal conditions, having to do this virtually will be a real challenge to getting all of you together to make these vital decisions which may mean the process will take even longer. I am good for the journey so I think if we wait a bit longer to start, there might be more opening up and God willing, a vaccine might be available. Our finances will be a huge factor in your ability to call someone. We will have to present a financial package to Presbytery and the leadership qualities before a Nominating Committee can be organized. Those two things must precede a committee being formed.

I know this must be frustrating to all of you. I can fully understand. We are all in a dilemma as to how to go about this process. We all don't have computers and Zoom abilities.

We will keep you up to date as we proceed. The Holy Spirit will have His work cut out for Him!

Peace,

C.O.

### October Issue

Message from the Pastor C.O. Magee (on Cover)	
Visiting Pastor Love, Grow, Serve	2
World Communion Sunday (WCS)	3
Prayer Concerns Special Thank You	4
WCS Cont. Trick or Treat Trail	5
October Birthdays Remembrance Sunday	6
Organist's Musings	7





On Sunday, September 6, we welcomed the Reverend Preston Weatherly who preached, and his wife Carolyn who attended for our morning worship.

In 2011, after many years of service, Pastor Preston retired as the Pastor of St. John's Lutheran Church in Angleton, and in 2012, he became the Parish Administrator at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Angleton.

In 1997, a "Formula of Agreement," an ecclesiastical agreement, was signed between the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Reformed Church in America, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and the United Church of Christ, establishing full communion with each other.



“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



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

John 15:12

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.

- |                                    |                                  |               |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------|
| Gathering Place                    | Clothing Outlet                  | Sunday School |
| Potluck setups                     | Children’s Christmas Party       |               |
| Christmas Families                 | 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     |               |





## Building God's Household of Peace, Together

*Peacemaking is active not passive, doing not waiting.*

Let's let that sink in for a moment: peacemaking is active, not passive; doing, not waiting.

And this is *A Season of Peace* when we, the church together, are focused on seeking peace and reconciliation. Together we are building God's house of peace where all are welcome, where all can find compassion, peace and justice.

*We are the peacemakers.*

Here in our community, we are ([DESCRIBE YOUR CONGREGATION'S MINISTRY SUPPORTED BY YOUR SHARE OF THE OFFERING HERE](#)). Our work is supported by your gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering. These gifts also unite us with Presbyterian peacemakers across the country and the world who are also active, not passive; who are doing, not waiting.

In Baltimore, Maryland, the Hunting Ridge Presbyterian Church used their share of the offering to promote anti-violence programs in their schools.

The Central Presbyterian Church in Dayton, Ohio, used their share to send a delegate to the World Presbyterian Peace Fellowship in Colombia to participate in conversations about the progress of the peace accords in areas of the nation wracked by revolution.

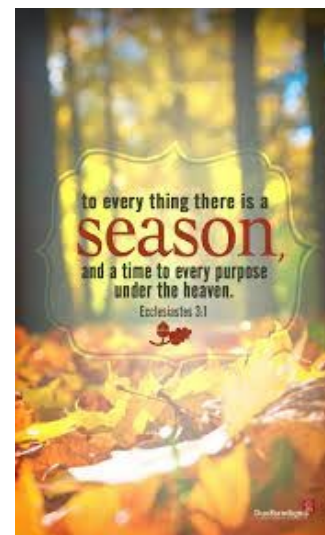
The Presbytery of the Pacific supports efforts to bring about change for low-wage workers and other vulnerable community members in the Los Angeles area.

Our gifts to the Peace & Global Witness Offering have also been combined with others to help end the forced inscription of child soldiers, to end gender-based violence and violence against women, to seek peace through nuclear disarmament, to end hunger and promote peacemaking in places like Madagascar and Rwanda.



"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** Belinda Busscher, Rachel Grimmett, Mark Clark, Martha Phipps, Helen Escobedo, Kim Hill, Betty Montgomery, Harold Petersen, Dean Putnam, Tony & Janet DeLeon, Eileen Dodds, Wanda Cunningham, Gaye & Lorrie Sauer, Lexi Roles, & David Stinson.

**Immediate Concerns** : The Family of Cynthia Brandon Dyer.

**Please call the church office with updates.**

**281-585-3406**

**Elder of the Month — Helen Escobedo**



**Special Thank You to Lisa McCalla!!**

Each season, Lisa McCalla takes the time to replace the floral arrangements at the Bell Tower. This is in addition to all the effort she puts forth in the success of the Clothing Outlet. Lisa, your dedication to the beautification of the church campus does not go unnoticed. We thank you for the beautiful arrangements you create and put on display for all to enjoy.



Cont. from pg 3.

During this season of peace, we have heard stories about Presbyterians working together to support sustainable food programs in war-torn parts of Cameroon. We've heard about the establishment of a new worshipping community in a Washington prison and a program to provide education to prevent STDs and HIV/AIDS in one of the worst-struck regions of sub-Saharan Africa.

With our gifts we are part of all these efforts, whether they are right here in Alvin or in places we've never seen and maybe never will. But these are all places that have one thing in common —the need for freedom and dignity that Christ wants for us all. Let us offer the peace of Christ at all times, in all ways.

*We are the peacemakers.*

We are the church, together. We are peacemakers, together. We are the builders of God's household of peace. Together. And when, *together*, we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.

*Let us pray~*

*Prince of peace, make us active in reconciliation as we seek to build your house. May your spirit join these gifts that all might be instruments of your peace. Amen.*



## Trick or Treat Trail

*Due to concerns over the Covid-19 Coronavirus, we will not be sponsoring a booth in the Trick or Treat Trail this year.*



### October Birthdays



- |    |                   |
|----|-------------------|
| 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      |
| 20 | Nan Self          |
| 24 | Ayla Busscher     |
| 24 | Pam Bates         |
| 24 | Pat Carpenter     |
| 26 | Alex Pannell      |
| 28 | Barbara Whitfield |

## Sunday, November 1st is



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:

**Joan Rossano, Karen Hering, &  
Bill Lewis**

*Just a  
friendly  
reminder...*

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. Our **GOAL** is to sale at least **30** poinsettias. Order forms will be due by Sunday, November 8th.



**Poinsettia  
Orders**

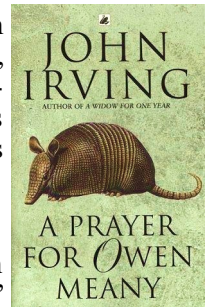
Thank you!

## Organist's Musings

### Prayer

By: Chris Lo

This summer, I read a historic fiction by John Irving (b. 1942), titled “A Prayer for Owen Meany” (1989, William Morrow & Co. Inc., New York). Although Irving’s characters are fictitious, the historical events surrounding this novel, were true. This story, seen through the eyes of the narrator Johnny Wheelwright, began in the fictitious town of Gravesend, New Hampshire, in 1953. This reader was treated to a recounting of Johnny’s sojourn and his description of the many characters who enriched his life, not least his lifelong friend from childhood, Owen Meany.



In this novel, John Irving introduced his readers to several clergyman and one clergywoman from three different denominations. All members of the clergy created in “A Prayer for Owen Meany” came laden with strengths and flaws. These attributes both aided and hindered their ability to minister to their flock. A recurring theme nurtured by Irving, was whether the clergypersons, could effectively lead their flock to God in prayer.

St. Paul bids us to “pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5.17). Scripture tells us that before meeting a great crowd from Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon, and then healing “their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured,” Jesus “went out to the mountain to pray; and he spent the night in prayer to God” (Luke 6:12-18).

Many years ago, while teaching Christian Education in an Episcopal school in Australia, I taught 7th graders to pray using the “Prayer Hand” developed by the Navigators ([www.navigators.org](http://www.navigators.org)).



The little finger represents confession – “If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

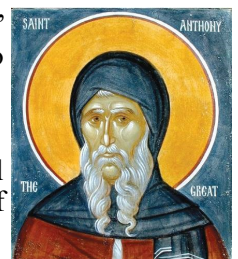
The ring finger represents petition – “For this child I prayed; and the Lord has granted me the petition that I made to him” (1 Samuel 1:27).

The middle finger represents intercession – “Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel” (Ephesians 6:18-19).

The index finger represents thanksgiving – “giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 5:20)

The thumb represents praise – “Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul! I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long.” (Psalm 146:1-2).

An ancient monk said to the Desert Father, Saint Anthony the Great (251–356), “Pray for me.” The old man replied, “I will have no mercy upon you, nor will God have any, if you yourself do not make an effort and if you do not pray to God.”



“A time is coming when men will go mad, and when they see someone who is not mad, they will attack him, saying, 'You are mad; you are not like us.'” St. Antony the Great from “The Sayings of the Desert Fathers: The Alphabetical Collection”