

The Alert First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Texas

April, 2018

Cliff's Notes



Dear Church Family,

One of the real fun times of last year was the "Spring Cleaning" day at the church where a whole lot of us came to spruce up our church building and grounds. We are going to do it again this year. We will start on Saturday, April 21 at 8 am and conclude after we eat lunch together. Come any time during the morning hours.

This is for the whole church family. In particular, we like it when families bring their children. Middle school and high school youth are also encouraged to come and lend a hand. Believe me - we can find a job for everyone.

Some of the kinds of things we can do include cleaning kitchens, washing windows, outside work including tree trimming and raking, cleaning out closets, cleaning classrooms and painting. If you have any special projects please let Barbara McLean know in the church office. We can't do everything but will give it a try! We what we do - **together**.

Here is a parable of what happens when we decide not to work together in the church.

Two men are on a wooden ship well out into the ocean. Suddenly, one of the men began drilling under his seat. The man sitting next to him became alarmed and asked for an explanation. The other stopped drilling just long enough to say that this was his seat and there he will do what he wants, and demanded that the questioner just mind his own business.

*It's better to have a partner than go it alone.
Share the work, share the wealth.
And if one falls down, the other helps,
But if there's no one to help, tough! . . .
By yourself you're unprotected.
With a friend you can face the worst.
Can you round up a third?
A three-stranded rope isn't easily snapped.
Ecclesiastes 4:9-10, 12*

I think this is a wonderful illustration of the effect of our individual actions on the larger community. We may think that what we do is our own business, but the fact of the matter is, what we do on our own makes a difference to everyone. I think this is true in the church - and it means a lot when we do things together as sisters and brothers in Christ.



Around First Central

Flowers from the Cross



Ever wonder what happens to the flowers from our annual Flowering of the Cross after the final Amen of the Easter Sunday worship services? They do not just go into the trash bin! They are taken from the cross and arranged in numerous small bouquets. They are then delivered to "side-lined saints" – homebound or hospitalized members who could not attend services on Easter. Thank you to everyone who contributed the flowers. They are now being enjoyed by many folks who could not attend an Easter Sunday worship service.

Bequests & Planned Giving

The Bequests & Planned Giving Committee oversees, for the Session, special gifts that have been given to the church that are not designated for a specific purpose. Each year the committee seeks mission oriented requests from members of our congregation. The Bequest Committee reviews the requests and makes a recommendation to the Session who approves the distributions. To apply for a portion of these funds, a one-page written request must be received from a member of the congregation, stating the suggested amount requested, along with an explanation as to how these monies will be used in the cause of Christ. Your written requests should be sent to the church office - Attention: Bequests and Planned Giving. Requests due by April 15.



Blessing Bags



Presbyterian Women will be having their annual Birthday Offering celebration on Sunday, April 15th at 2 pm at the home of Janice Six. We will be putting together blessing bags that consist of the following items: granola bars, canned meat, new socks, small bottles of water, rain ponchos, lip balm, unopened travel-sized toiletries, toothbrush, floss, razors, and feminine hygiene products. If you would like to donate any of these items to help us put together the blessing bags, please place them in the basket under the Presbyterian Women bulletin board by the elevator.

Dinner for 7

Don't miss out – Dinner for 7 is returning on Saturday, April 14. This is a GREAT opportunity to get to know other FCPC family members.



One person provides the main course and opens up their home for 5-6 others who will bring the sides and desserts. Breaking Bread has always been one of the best ways to get to know others and that's what this is all about – Food and Fellowship. If you would like to participate, there are sign-up sheets for hosts and guests on the Information Desk in the foyer. Be sure to sign up by this Sunday, April 8—hosts and their guests will be notified on Monday, April 9. Childcare is available by contacting the church office.

Youth and Emerging Adults News

Youth Room Technology Update



Thanks to an anonymous donation, the technology in FCPC's Youth Room was given a facelift/update. The main star of this update was the mounting of the projector to the ceiling. The room feels so much bigger without the bulky cart and chords in the way. Other additions to the Youth Room technology include: a new digital receiver with Bluetooth capabilities, a blue ray player that can also be used for streaming video, a better router for faster internet speeds, and a shelf to get all of this great technology off of the floor and out of the way. The team from Best Buy also ran the cables through the walls and ceiling to make the set-up as streamlined and organized as possible. Come stick your head in the Youth Room sometime soon to see these improvements in person!

New Emerging Adult Church School Class!

March 4 marked the first ever meeting of the Emerging Adult Church School class - The Lectionary Breakfast! Each Sunday morning from 9:45 - 10:50 AM, the group will gather at the couches on the second-floor landing by the piano and the donut/coffee station. There will be a small breakfast offered every Sunday that group members can eat while they read through and discuss the weekly lectionary passages. Senior-High Youth to Lead Small Groups of Mid-High Youth
There are two more weeks left in the four-week series for FCPC's Mid-High Youth to be led by FCPC's Senior-High Youth. As those of you who



attended our Youth Sunday worship service probably noticed, we have a wonderfully mature and intelligent group of Senior-High Youth! They are happy to take on this challenge, and we look forward to watching them step into these leadership roles.

Mo Ranch Dreamin'



The Youth will leave for their annual spring retreat to Mo Ranch on April 20th and return the 22nd. The speaker for this year is Tim Palmer, the College Minister at Aldersgate UMC. He is a VERY creative and energetic guy that our Youth will enjoy greatly. Tim is also a friend to many in our congregation. He has come up with the theme "Dream On" which will be a fun topic for the Youth to explore. Registration for this event has closed because ALL 40 BEDS in the Guest Lodge have been accounted for! This full house should make for a fun weekend away. Do you feel led to financially sponsor a youth scholarship to the spring retreat? Contact kbridwell@fcpc.net for more details.

Confirmation at FCPC

Confirmation Classes will begin April 8th at 3:45 and will run until 5:00. These classes could be very important to you or your students. Every year, all 6th graders and some others are invited to join a seven-week confirmation class. Confirmation is an important time in the life of faith when confirmands are invited to make public professions of faith in their own words and accept the responsibilities that come with life in the church. Confirmation marks a time when the church recognizes how you've grown not just in stature but in wisdom and faith. Please call with any questions.



Young Adult Bible Study



Our young adult Thursday night Bible study group meets at 7:30 pm every Thursday at the home of Cliff and Evie Stewart. We are continuing our study on *The Answer to Bad Religion Is Not No Religion* by Martin Thielen. Our study begins at 7:30 followed by snacks at 8:30 pm. This is a very healthy face-to-face group that continues to build relationships with a spiritual undergirding. Besides that - it is a lot of fun. Come give it a try. 1125 Glenwood Drive is the place to be on Thursday night!

Logos Thank You!

The Logos school year ended with a great big THANK YOU to everyone. It takes a lot of people to help Logos be a formative Christian education experience for our K - 5th grade children. We meet on Sunday evenings at 4:30 PM and conclude at 7 PM. It is certainly a holistic experience which includes noncompetitive games, graded Bible study, a theme-based meal and worship skills.



Here's a list of people who made a difference in the lives of our Logos children. As they say "it takes a village." Apologies in advance for any helpers that we miss. Every Sunday lot's of people pitch in to help with all sorts of things like clean-up.

Dinner Crew:

Charlie Russell
Bill Keeble
Nancy Smith
Sally Arispe
David & Diane Lundgren
Evie Stewart
Sharra Longhofer

Worship Skills:

Claudia Walker
Sarah Butler
Diane Keeble

Teachers:

Marie Mickey
Linda Moffat
Sara & Jacob Snowden
Linda & James Myers
Shannon Diggs
Thelma Gray
Sidney Levesque

Table Parents:

Audrey Perry
Susan Pate
Jacob Matta
Nancy Smith
Sally Arispe

Dinner Dean

Dean Jameson

Coordinators

Jacob Snowden
Cliff Stewart

Games

Jayton Voss
Jacob Snowden

Inquirer's Class



The Inquirer's Class answers questions new members and visitors might have about FCPC and the Presbyterian faith. What do Presbyterians believe? How does our church work? A great class for those interested in joining, new members, or just those who want to know more about the church! All are welcome. This class, led by our senior pastor, Cliff Stewart, is an informal gathering that takes place over the course of several weeks. The class meets during the Sunday School hour (9:45-11 a.m.) and is still meeting, so feel free to join us this Sunday.

Breakfast on Beech Street



BOBS is still feeding the hungry. In March, 1297 people came for breakfast, 45 being youth. We made up 2006 sandwiches which totaled 1003 sack lunches handed out.

Come be a part of one of our Thursday FCPC teams! Call Margaret Beasley at 692-4149 for more information.

Stretch Your Dollars for Breakfast on Beech Street with our Spring Fundraiser!

This year on Tuesday, May 1, 2018, B.O.B.S. is participating in the Community Foundation of Abilene's second annual Abilene Gives event, a 24-hour online giving extravaganza. We invite you to be part of this giving day and help support B.O.B.S. Here's how you can join the movement:

Give where you live on May 1

On May 1, if you donate to B.O.B.S. online at abilenegives.org between 12 a.m. and 11:50 p.m., your dollars will be stretched with bonus funds and prizes raised by the Community Foundation of Abilene! Your donation will help us feed hungry folks in our area. You can also schedule your gift in advance of the giving day between 12 p.m. April 24 and 12 p.m. April 30 by giving to B.O.B.S. at abilenegives.org. If you wish to write a check instead of making a donation online, please date the check May 1, make it out to Community Foundation of Abilene with the memo "Abilene Gives - Breakfast on Beech Street," and mail your check to B.O.B.S., P.O. Box 5911, Abilene TX 79608. Checks MUST be made out to CFA with the memo specified and received by noon on May 1 in order to count toward the Abilene Gives event. For more information, contact Margaret Beasley 325-692-4149.

FCPC Meditation and Community Garden



How does your garden grow? Take time to stroll through the FCPC Meditation and Community Garden. Flowers are starting to bloom and evidence of fruit and vegetables are beginning to show! Gardening days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9 to 11 a.m. The garden is a ministry of Presbyterian Women.

Diamond Solitaires Spring Fling

A "SPRING FLING!" party for FCPC's "Diamond Solitaires" (FCPC members who are 60-and-up and are living alone) will be held on Wednesday, May 2, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.! Location is the home of Janice and Gene Six; hosts are the LifeLine Council. Those who come will enjoy tasty food, an opportunity to visit with friends, and a program! Please RSVP to the church office. Indicate if transportation is needed. Questions? Ask Garrett or Marlene Briggs (701-4709) or any LifeLine Council member.



Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to Fred White on the death of his brother, Tom White, and to Mary Lapham and family on the death of Bob Lapham.

Gratitude

Dear FCPC,
Thank you so much for allowing us to use the gym for play rehearsals!
Presbyterian Medical Care Mission

New Members

We warmly welcome Randle Morriss to the FCPC family!

Celebrations

We celebrate the birth of Emma Madeline Gibson, born March 4th to Bennett & Jamison Gibson; grandparents at FCPC are Ralph & Barbara Gibson; the birth of Gavin Thomas Crawford, born March 7 to Blake & Lindsey Crawford; grandparents at FCPC are Gary & Claudia Walker; and the birth of Kit Isabell Nickel, born March 14 to Mark & Kaila Nickel; sharing in the celebration of Kit's birth are her big sister Harper, and proud FCPC members, her grandparents Dave & Clare Nickel, great-grandmother Barbara Nickel, and aunt, uncle & cousin Allison, Nick, & Blaine Gonzales.