



# *The Alert* First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Texas

April, 2019

## *Cliff's Notes*



*'Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.'* I like that saying. For I think I have a tendency to do this in my everyday life. Maybe you are like me who laments after all is said and done - *'Doggone it, I have just spent a dollar on a nickel issue.'* Making a big deal out of something that for all intents and purposes is a small deal can be detrimental to living life in all its fullness.

When I stop to think about it I discover that some of these molehills I have made into mountains are actually smokescreens for unresolved issues in my own life. Ouch.

Okay, let me put it down in black and white on this newsprint - I will try my best to not kill the proverbial termite on the wall with a double-barreled shotgun. I am going to try not to magnify trifles until they look like the Alps!

Someone observed that we judge others by their actions and ourselves by our intentions. Yes, I will try to reverse that in my attempt to minimize molehills. I will judge myself by my actions and others by their intentions. Give em' a break, Cliff!



But I think there is something worse than making a molehill into a mountain. Turn the phrase around and ask yourself if you ever make mountains into molehills! This is to take great big important things and treat them like they are of little importance.

I have a great big filing system where I put sermon illustrations, inspirational ideas, and corny jokes (yes, I have a lot of them!) My filing system takes up six full file cabinets. There is a mountain of ideas stored in these files. All this to say - I was looking up the file subject on 'justice' and found almost nothing! Shame on me. 'Justice' in this world is a mountainous subject of importance and I have really neglected it. I play down injustice around me. It continues to be easy to ignore how certain people have been treated unjustly in this broken world. But I made a molehill out of their plight and continue on minding my own business.

I am just asking - have we gotten our magnitudes mixed up? How do my mountain sized priorities compare with the large priorities of the Bible? How do my petty issues compare with what the Bible considers petty and small?

Here is my prayer - that the things which were great to Jesus be great to me, and the things which were small to him be small to me. Should I pray this prayer for you too?

Your friend,

# Around First Central

## Church Work Day



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 this Saturday, April 6 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 do best what we do together.

## New Member/Visitor Luncheon

A new member and visitor luncheon will be held this coming Sunday, April 7, at 12 p.m. in Faith Hall. Are you new to FCPC? Just visiting, and want to learn more about the church? Join us for lunch and learn a little bit more about activities, committees, and more at FCPC!



## Easter Lilies



Memorial and Honorary Easter Lily forms are available in Sunday bulletins and at the church office, with one included in this Alert for your convenience. Easter Lilies will decorate our sanctuary on Easter Sunday and then be distributed to our homebound members. These lilies are a beautiful way to honor or provide a memorial for loved ones. Please return all forms by Wednesday, April 17.

## Christian Education News from Jacob Snowden

What do eggs have to do with Easter? They are signs of new life, and those signs are all around us if we only have our eyes peeled for them. Every Easter morning, this year at 10 am, there will be an Easter Egg hunt through our church courtyard and playground. All Sunday School classes are encouraged to eat at the Deacons' breakfast, and then watch our older students hide and our younger students hunt some eggs!



There are other Easter opportunities for our children this time of the year. Our children are invited to pass our palms on Palm Sunday and to

process down the aisle, palms a-waving during the first hymn of the 8:30 and 11:00 o'clock services. Then, on Easter Sunday, I find it moving every year to flower our cross. Consider bringing a bouquet of flowers.

Here are a couple of other reminders:

A one weekend confirmation retreat is scheduled that we hope will mark a memorable time in the faith formation of our sixth graders. The dates for the retreat will be May 3-4. All sixth graders, and any older students who are interested in this retreat are encouraged to **SAVE THE DATE!**

Preparations are also beginning for Buffalo Gap Summer Camp. The theme this year is Callings, where students will consider how their great desires meet the world's greatest needs. The dates for camp are below.



<b>Mini Camp (1-3 graders):</b>	<b>June 11-14</b>
<b>Elementary (3-5)</b>	<b>June 16-21</b>
<b>Middle School</b>	<b>June 23-28</b>
<b>Sr. High Retreat</b>	<b>June 30- July 5</b>

Camps are determined by the last grade completed. Parents and campers completing the third grade may choose to attend Mini-Camp or Elementary Camp.

As for preparing for Easter, would you consider committing to studying Practice Resurrection as part of the Wednesday Night Supper Study Series. Give up an hour a week to consider the book of Ephesians and how we can think about Christian maturity and how we grow in the ways we Practice Resurrection.

The signs of new life are all around. I hope you take the time to awaken to God's work in and around you.

## Mo Ranch Spring Retreat



The annual All- Youth Spring Retreat to Mo-Ranch is April 5-7. This year's speaker is JR Cochran, one of the ministers at The Well in Abilene, and he will focus his energy around the topic "Epic." Please keep us in your prayers this week as leaders prepare for the event, as we travel to and from Mo Ranch, and as we work to grow together as a youth group while at Mo Ranch.

## Family Mission Trip

The Christian Education committee is sponsoring a family mission trip to Ft. Worth on April 12 & 13. The group will help with a fundraising event for The Women's Center, the Victory Over Violence 5K. The only cost to your family



will be a \$25 donation to The Women's Center and your gas to get there. Your meal on Friday night, hotel, breakfast, lunch, and dinner will be covered. We are flexible with the term "family." Our main request is that children are accompanied by at least one adult family member - a grandparent, aunt, uncle, adult sibling, etc. If you want to join us on this trip, email Susan Pate at [thepates@suddenlink.net](mailto:thepates@suddenlink.net) or sign up at the information desk.

### Confirmation Retreat



There will be some fun and exciting changes to Confirmation at FCPC this year! We will have a two-day retreat for our confirmands that includes time for study, reflection, a couple fun field trips, and an opportunity to meet some of FCPC's elders. This year's retreat will be here at the church May 3rd (6-9 pm) and 4th (8:30 am- 7:30 pm). Confirmation at FCPC is traditionally for 6th grade students who are interested in becoming an active member of FCPC and/or wishing to be baptized, but we welcome other youth-aged individuals to join us. Do you know someone interested in participating in this confirmation retreat? Contact Kristen at [kbridwell@fcpc.net](mailto:kbridwell@fcpc.net) for more details.

### Mug Stop Hours in April

The Mug Stop, a fundraising coffee shop run by FCPC's Youth Group, will be closed April 7 for the All Youth Spring Retreat and it will be closed on April 21 for Easter Sunday. We will be open the 14th and the 28th. We hope you will come by when we are open to meet our awesome youth baristas and to help us raise funds for our mission trip to Colorado this summer. We are so thankful for the continued support from the FCPC family for Mug Stop and the Youth Group members that run it!

### Recycling Colored Markers

Please bring any dried up, old markers and we will send them back to Crayola to be recycled and reused. They can be any brand. There will be boxes in the children's Sunday School room, one in Godly Play, and one in the foyer in which to place your old markers.



### Breakfast on Beech Street



B.O.B.S. keeps on serving! In March 1220 guests received breakfasts and 1902 sandwiches were put in sack lunches.

If you want to be part of a FCPC Thursday team, please call the church office (677-3501). As always, your donations will be put to good use.

### A BIG Logos Thank-You!



We would like to extend our thanks to all our Logos helpers!

#### **Kitchen/Arrangements**

Evie Stewart  
Bill Keeble  
Charlie Russell  
Nancy Smith  
Sally Arispe  
Sharra Longhoffer  
David Lundgren  
Gail Allen  
Josh Fleming

#### **Teachers**

Jacob Snowden  
Sara Snowden  
Linda Moffatt  
Linda Myers  
Courtney Epstein  
Melissa Russell  
Barbara Gibson

#### **Table Parents**

Audrey Perry  
Kami Fleming  
Diane Lundgren  
Cliff Stewart

#### **Dinner Dean**

James Myers

#### **Worship Skills**

Claudia Walker  
Sara Butler  
Diane Keeble

### Holy Week Luncheons

Each year, five Abilene churches gather to enjoy lunch on Holy Week, meeting each day at a different church with a pastor away from their home church presenting a message. 2019 is no exception, and we will enjoy this ecumenical series during the noon hour of Holy Week. This is a tradition that has been held yearly for over 35 years. It reflects the good spirit that exists between churches in our city. FCPC's luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 16, and our pastor, Cliff Stewart, will be speaking at Highland Church of Christ on Wednesday, April 17. Watch the pew sheet and website for more details!



### Maundy Thursday Service



Join us on Maundy Thursday, April 18, for our traditional Maundy Thursday service. This is a unique contemplative service that is a favorite for many of our members. The service begins at 7 p.m. and Communion will be served.

### Easter Breakfast

Be sure and join us on Easter Sunday, April 21, for our traditional FCPC Easter Breakfast, served between 9 and 10:30 a.m. in Faith Hall. The Deacons provide this delicious breakfast with all the fixings for just \$3 per person. Please sign up at the information desk if you can so we know how many to expect!



## Easter Egg Hunt



Easter Sunday at 9:45 the hunting commences! Bring your kids, grandkids, and friends to FCPC's annual Easter Egg Hunt. There will be some light refreshments and plenty of treats hidden around FCPC's playground for the grabbing. If you would like to donate candy to make the egg hunt even sweeter, please bring it to the church by Palm Sunday, April 14.

## Flowering of the Cross

The Flowering of the Cross will take place on Easter Sunday, April 21, at both services. Members are asked to bring fresh flowers that morning and place them in the baskets in the foyer near Fellowship Hall. Have your child meet in the parlor prior to either service if they would like to participate. We hope you will join us in this FCPC tradition!



## Kenyan Mission Trip Report



Our Africa mission group is back home. It was quite an adventure. Our church gave a lot - but we all admit that we received much more than we gave. Accomplishments included a water well (borehole), construction of both a classroom building as well as living quarters for 3 teachers. Our medical mission team treated over 500 patients.

Participating in the trip were: Lynn Beal, Brenda Church, Cynthia Hale, Misty Harrison, Les Campbell, Françoise Alexander, Carolyn White, Fred White, Austin King, Garrett Briggs, Marie Alexander, Stephanie Munshower, Evie Stewart and Cliff Stewart.

## Everyone Loves a Gift!

NOROC is collecting some items to send to our Romanian grannies and teen girls. Please consider donating cosmetics, soaps, cosmetic travel bags, small samples of cosmetics or perfume, and jewelry. Bonus gifts received when you purchase cosmetics such as Clinique are also welcome, as are other small gifts, purses, and tote bags. We are asking for unwanted items that might not otherwise find a use. You may take items to Carolyn White directly or leave them at the church office.



## Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering



Mark your calendars for the PW Birthday Offering on Sunday, April 14, 2019. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at 12:15 pm right after the late service for a light lunch and dessert. All Presbyterian Women are encouraged to attend! During the celebration we will have a "pounding" for the food pantry and will also make Blessing Bags again. There is a labeled box to the right of the elevator to donate items: granola bars, canned meat, new socks, small bottles of water, rain ponchos, lip balm, toothbrushes, floss, razors, feminine hygiene products, and travel sized toiletries.

## **Gratitude**

Dear FCPC Family:

We appreciate and are grateful for all your prayers, cards, and visits to the residents at Silver Spring Rehab/Skilled Nursing.

-- Gladys Dillard and family

## **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathies to Melissa Russell and family on the death of her grandmother, to Lance Lapham and family on the death of Mary Lapham, to Leslie Andrews and family on the death of her aunt, and to Marie Snelgrove and family on the death of Jim Snelgrove.

## **Celebrations**

We would like to celebrate the birth of Greer Louise Six, daughter of Trudy & Greg Six, born March 26. Proud grandparents at FCPC are Janice & Gene Six.

We also celebrate the baptism of Gavin Thomas Crawford, son of Lindsey & Blake Crawford. Gavin was baptized on March 31.

Please join Gladys Dillard and family at an Open House- Sunday April 28th, 1 to 3 PM in celebration of her 90th Birthday at Silver Spring Rehab/Skilled Nursing Center 1690 N. Treadaway Blvd. Abilene, TX 79601. (Family Room/Foyer Area).

No Gifts Please. Cards and Smiles Welcome. If unable to attend please send a card % Silver Spring (Room 104A).

## **New Members**

We warmly welcome David & Janice Herd and Melina and Devina Sterry to the FCPC family!