

The Alert First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Texas

August, 2018

Cliff's Notes



Dear friends,

This month I want to keep what I say to you simple and direct to the point. So in that light, how about if I share with you these simple directives of an aged Appalachian woman who lived all her life in the high hills and hollers of West Virginia? This elderly woman taught her city granddaughter this formula for a good life:

Wash what is dirty.

Water what is dry.

Heal what is wounded.

Warm what is cold.

Guide what goes off the road.

Love people who are least lovable,
because they need love the most.



Blessings on you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Cliff".

Around First Central

The Big Splash at FCPC



Make a Big Splash to start the Church School Year. August 26th, from 4-6 pm, everyone is invited to an all-church picnic at Buffalo Gap Camp. Stay cool in the pool or play in the pavilion. Deacons will be preparing Hot Dogs, Christian Education will have deserts, but you are encouraged to bring drinks, chips or other sides, and anything else to celebrate a new school year. All people are welcome, and those with students are especially encouraged to enjoy an evening that caps off both the end of summer and the beginning of all things new. You never know what surprises and hijinks might be in store. Find your flip flops; take a towel; enjoy the fellowship.

Volunteers Wanted!

Volunteers make the church go round. If you have considered a calling to work with Children or Youth. Take time to discuss the opportunities that are available or the possibility of something new with Jacob, Kristen, Janice, or Cliff. Think of the folks who have made a difference in your life, and consider the impact you could make for another. Logos, Sunday School, and Youth Events are just around the corner. Consider your gifts, interests, and how you might serve.



Garden News!

The construction of our outdoor chapel is underway, and the labyrinth is near completion! If you'd like to help out in the garden, we're meeting earlier to beat the summer heat! Join us in the garden on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 8 and 10 a.m. as members of FCPC and our Master Gardener friends put their expertise to work!

Homebound Visits

Presbyterian Women are starting a rotation of visits to our homebound members. If you are interested, please visit the information desk to sign up. Also, if anyone is interested in coordinating these homebound visits in the future, please let Phyllis Baum or Janice Six know!



Fight Night!

FCPC is jointly sponsoring a marriage enrichment event on Sunday evening, September 16 beginning at 7 pm at the Abilene Convention Center.



This is a citywide event in which our church is one of the sponsors. We are hoping that couples from our church will consider being a part of this.

There is a ticket price per person, but because of our church's generous sponsorship your cost will be paid for! More about that later.

We will offer free child care here at the church so you can attend. More details later.

Dr. Parrott calls this "Fight Night" because the evening will deal with fighting fair in marriage. The evening is meant to be inspirational, informative and fun. Save the date.

Dr. Les Parrott is a master communicator, having impacted people from all walks of life including executives, international government officials, professional athletes and college students. His charisma, humor and practical advice have placed him in high demand as a conference and seminar speaker. Les Parrott has spoken internationally to a variety of groups including corporations such as Johnson & Johnson, Price Waterhouse, the armed services, and associations of professional athletes. His breakneck schedule takes him across North America and around the world.

Dr. Parrott has been a guest on many radio shows and featured on national television including "CBS This Morning", "Good Morning America", "NBC Nightly News with Tom Brokaw" "Oprah," "The View" and CNN. His work has been written about in newspapers such as USA Today and the New York Times and many magazines including Men's Health, Family Circle, Redbook and Women's Day.

Dr. Parrott is founder of RealRelationships.com and a Professor of Psychology at Seattle Pacific University. He is also co-creator, with his wife Leslie, of eHarmony Marriage.

Dr. Parrott is an award-winning author of more than a dozen best-selling books including *High-Maintenance Relationships*, *The Control Freak*, *3 Seconds*, *Becoming Soul Mates*, *Your Time Starved Marriage* and *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*.

Organ Project Update

Praising God with Organ and Song

Progress is being made with our sanctuary/organ project. Of course, we have had a few delays. Next step is the actual installation of the organ. Estimates are that it will take a month or so to do the actual install...and then this will be followed by several months of tuning, adjustments, etc. When we began this project we predicted the first of December as our completion date. At this point in time this is still our target. Of course, we would like to get in earlier...and will if the way is clear.

The second floor choral practice room, robing room and choral library is also shaping up into a very usable space.

Directly above the new choir room are the brand new air handlers which promise to more efficiently cool/heat the sanctuary.

What a great addition all of this will be to our church's worship. We give thanks to God...and also to you for your generous support.

Some have asked if they can still contribute? Yes! At the end of our campaign we were still \$100,000 short of our contributions funding the total project. Your new gift would be most welcome. Make checks payable to FCPC with "Organ Project" on the memo line.

New Church Directory

We're going to be updating our church directory this fall! We'll be starting sign-ups for photography in September! For planning purposes, we just need you to "Save the Date." We will be photographing all families October 8-11, 2018 right here at First Central Presbyterian Church. Our directory won't be complete without you! Watch our bulletin/the Alert/etc. for more information in the coming weeks.



Parents Night Out



Twice a month, on the second and fourth Fridays, we offer childcare at FCPC from 6 to 9 pm. This program, called Parents Night Out, allows you to drop off your kids and have a night out. Dinner is provided for \$3 per child. Why not give it a try? Contact Kori in the church office to sign up your children or for more information.

Breakfast on Beech Street

B.O.B.S. continues to serve a need. In June 1488 guests were served breakfast (55 being youth).



That brings our year's total to 8384 breakfasts (338 being to youth). In addition, sack lunches including 13,616 sandwiches have been given out so far this year.

Your monetary donations are always appreciated, and if you would like to be a part of a FCPC Thursday morning team, please call 325-267-4284 or email breakfastonbeechstreet@gmail.com.

Your monetary donations are always appreciated, and if you would like to be a part of a FCPC Thursday morning team, please contact Margaret Beasley at 692-4149.

Food Pantry News



The Food Pantry has really had an increase in the number of people who are coming to us for help.

We could really use donations of plastic shopping bags and peanut butter, as these items are in high demand.

Would you like to volunteer? Contact Judy Powell or Charlene Fleener for more information, or stop by the pantry on a Tuesday afternoon from 1 to 4 p.m. We will put you to work!

Be thankful for what you have and give generously to help those who need us at the pantry.

In July, the Food Pantry served 156 families, with 465 people receiving food for a week. This includes 167 children, 257 adults and 46 seniors. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry. generously to help those who need us at the pantry.

Bible Study for Young Adults



Our Young Adult Thursday Night Bible Study group meets at 7:30 pm every Thursday at the home of Cliff and Evie Stewart. 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!

Gratitude

Dear FCPC,
I want to thank you for your generous donation from Bequests and Planned Giving to support Big Brothers Big Sisters and, through us, the children of Abilene. Friends like you are critical to our success in changing children's lives and futures, and we are sincerely grateful for your support.

With hope and gratitude,
Pierce Bush, CEO

First Central,
Thank you for your continued support of my ministry work with student missions in DC. I'm so grateful for your support and encouragement! Please pray for my summer mission program - I'll be leading 10 students and 1 young staff member to live, learn and serve in an under-resourced area of DC. Student internships include architecture, working at a homeless clinic, a faith-based camp and a young adult computer science based job training program. I'm so blessed to be able to continue this amazing work!

Blessings, Kate Perkins Denson

Dear FCPC,
Receiving your gift brightened our day. We sincerely appreciate your gift to the mission of Cancer Services Network. Because of your generosity, we are able to continue providing services to underserved cancer patients and their families during one of the most difficult times in their lives. Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to say yes to more cancer patients who are struggling during their battle with cancer.

Sincerely,
Nancy Tyler, Executive Director

Dear FCPC,

Thank you so much for the wonderful meal that you provided to the family of Louise Mohr. We deeply appreciate your time and thoughtfulness during our time of loss.

Respectfully, Lisa Mohr

Dear FCPC Family,

A very sincere thanks for the prayers and visits to my sister, Louise Mohr, during her stay at Chisholm Place, and for the expressions of comfort to me and members of the Mohr family. Also, thank you to the Bereavement Committee and others who prepared the sanctuary for her memorial service. It was deeply appreciated.

In Christ's Love, Jo Bright

Dear FCPC,

From the bottom of my heart, thank you all for giving so generously of your time, energy, and loving spirits to help unpack and settle at my parents' new place at Mesa Springs. I couldn't have done it without your kind efforts. I know mom and dad are grateful, too. And special thanks to Lynn Beal for fixing dad's chair.

With prayers, gratitude, and love,
Guy Molnar

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the family of Barbara Nickel, to the family of Sandy Martin, to the family of Jo Near, to the Faehnle family on the death of Steve's sister Polly Poindexter, and to the Lackey family on the death of Dee's father R.H. Wertz.

Celebrations

We celebrate the birth of Ella Grace Downing, born July 20 to Jonathan & Tess Downing. Ella's big sister is Harper, and her grandparents at FCPC are Tommy & Donna Downing.

We also celebrate the baptism of Bernice Rony Imena, who was baptized on August 12.