

# The Alert

First Central Presbyterian Church  
Abilene, Texas

February, 2018

## Cliff's Notes



Dear Church Family,

*"When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping." To this day, especially in times of "disaster," I remember my mother's words and I am always comforted by realizing that there are still so many helpers -- so many caring people in this world." - Fred Rogers (aka Mister Rogers)*

On Saturday, March 3 at 8 AM we are hosting a **"Helping Hands Breakfast."** It's a free breakfast – and you will enjoy our time together that Saturday morning.

Not only a delicious breakfast but also an inspiring program.



We want you to join with others in our church who are part of what we call "Helping Hands". This is an informal organization of men and women, boys and girls who agree to help with a wide assortment of needs that include both our congregation and a wider circle of friends in the community.

The apostle Paul writes that *"there are different spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, and yet the same Lord is served. There are different types of work to do, but the same God produces every gift in every person."*

In the Bible, these special abilities are called spiritual gifts, which makes them different from material or physical gifts. They are the abilities you need to get the job done that God wants you to do. Most people who are believers don't even know they've got them, much less know what they are. But you have them, I promise!

Could you come to this breakfast and let's consider good ways that we can help others who are in need. There are special things that you can do that will make a difference.

When I use my spiritual gift of helping and you give your spiritual gift of helping (perhaps in a different way?) then the people around us get blessed. It's like a puzzle. We need each other. If you have one jigsaw piece missing – what's the first thing you notice? Yes – that's right – the missing piece! Don't be missing on Saturday, March 3, for our Helping Hands Breakfast.

Come be a part of the puzzle of helping others.

Previous members of "the Helping Hands" should come. Wear your special cross handcrafted by Phyllis Baum. There will be an opportunity for those who want to become an official member to receive your own "Helping Hands Cross." (PS. If you have misplaced yours we have extras available at a nominal price.)

So mark your calendar now for this important event. Come be a part of the "Order of the Helping Hands."

## Around First Central

### Don't miss Sunday School...unless the Director of Christian Education encourages it.



Sunday, February 11th, is a very special day with a slightly different schedule. At your own discretion or the discretion of your class, I encourage you to move your class to Faith Hall for a very special presentation. Rev. Dr. Robert Ngugi, a minister with the Presbyterian Church of Eastern Africa, will be with us at First Central. He has completed his PhD at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa and serves currently as the Nation Director of the Missions and Social Responsibilities Board in PCEA. He has been working with First Central's mission team to see that good water is available in Eastern Africa.

This Sunday will be an opportunity to see the work that has been done and can be done by a partnership between FCPC and the PCEA. Ask about Africa, ask about what faith looks like in Kenya, and ask how we can be a part of God's compassionate work all around our globe. Discuss with your Sunday School class. I hope to see you there!

-Jacob Snowden, DCE

### Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, February 25, we will have a congregational meeting for the purpose of hearing the annual report. We will also hear from each of our committee chairpersons who will share highlights of 2017 and some of our goals for 2018. We will also be asked to approve changes in the pastors compensation. The congregational nominating committee for 2018 are to be elected at this meeting.



SAVE  
THE  
DATE

### Join us for Logos!

Logos has already started for the spring semester, but it's not too late to join in! This fun program meets at 4:30 p.m. on Sundays and is an opportunity for elementary kids, five years old through fifth grade, to gather



together on Sunday afternoons to worship, pray, eat, and play together. We welcome all of our Logos attendees to bring friends to share in the fun! This coming Sunday's theme is Valentine's Day, so wear something red!

### Young Adult Bible Study

Our Young Adult Thursday night group (YANC) meets at 7:30 pm every Thursday at the home of Cliff and Evie Stewart. We are starting a new 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!



### Committees for 2018



Ever wonder who serves on the various committees of FCPC? Here's a list of our committees and their members for the coming year:

**SESSION:** Chairperson: Doug Williamson, Sue Lucas, Barbara Kelly, James Myers, Charlene Bevill, Jonathan Roach, Susan Pate, Nancy Diggs, Richard Burdine, Norm Ward, Don Wright, Lynn Beal, Kay Staton, Angela Wright, Tiffany Lamb.

**DEACONS:** Chairperson: Bob Nethery, Sidney Levesque, Sharra Longhofer, Symphorien Angha, Sara Butler, Carlton Bell, Michael Miller, Audrey Perry. Sara Snowden, Erlene White, Scott Andrews, Pierce LoPachin, Melissa Russell, Tyler Edwards, Jacob Matta, Martha Ruelas, Charlie Russell, Tommy McAlister, Cynthia Hale, Adele Rumley, Elizabeth Barr.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Charlene Bevill, Bob McMillan, Frances Williamson, Barbara McLean

**CE COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Jonathan Roach,

Tiffany Lamb, Evie Stewart, Claudia Walker, Melissa Russell, Tyler Edwards, Susan Pate, Laura King, Sue Lucas.

**LARGER CHURCH MISSION CONCERNS (LCMC) COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Richard Burdine, Bill Bedford, Carlos Talley, Don Wright, Frances Williamson, Fred White, Garrett Briggs, Lynn Beal.

**M&E COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Angela Wright, Adele Rumley, Barbara Kelly, Charlene Fleener, Sally Callahan, Cynthia Hale, Erlene White, Fran White, Gayle Wilson, Joy Hollowell, Karyl Rister, Kristy Roach, Paula Fleener, Susan Nethery, Suzy Carroll, Tommy Downing, Valerie Bennington, Kay Staton, Tommy McAlister.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Don Wright, Doug Williamson, Phyllis Baum, Pam McComas.

**PROPERTY COMMITTEE:** Chairperson, James Myers, Audrey Perry, Barbara Gibson, Barbara McLean, Barbara Kelly, Barney Arnold, Bill Bedford, Dick Lemons, Don Paige, Jim Callahan, Jim Sullivan, Norm Ward, Sharra Longhofer.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** Chairperson: Nancy Diggs, Ann Hewett, Becky Laird, Clell Wright, Larry Wolz, Phyllis Baum, Pierce LoPachin.

### Youth and Emerging Adults News

#### **Souper Bowl of Caring**

The Youth kicked off the month of February with a fundraising project and a party! On February 4, they raised \$475.67 for FCPC's food pantry as a part of the nation-wide initiative to tackle world hunger called, "The Souper Bowl of Caring."



#### **Youth to Lead Worship**

This year's Youth Sunday will be held on February 11th. FCPC's 6th-12th graders will oversee and lead every aspect of worship for both the 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM services. This year's theme is

"Scripture: a Comfort and Guide." In preparation for this event, we will have a practice in the Fellowship Hall on Wednesday, February 7 at 6:30 PM.

#### **Short Break from Regular Youth Meetings**

Starting February 11 after Youth Sunday, the Youth will take a short break from their regular evening meetings. There will not be any event that evening as we recover from all our hard work on Youth Sunday. On Wednesday, February 14, the Youth will be encouraged to attend the church-wide Ash Wednesday service. For the following Sunday evening, the youth will meet at the movie theater to catch a matinee showing of a film yet to be determined.

#### **First Weekend in March - Mid High Mystery Trip**

Make sure to save the date for our annual, Mid-High-only, Mystery Trip! We will go to an undisclosed location (the parents will know, the students will not) for a "just-for-fun" fellowship outing on March 2 and 3. The sign-up period for this trip will begin on February 7.

#### **EA Back from Break**

The Emerging Adults group has resumed their regular schedule of Thursday night meetings at 7:30 PM after the Christmas holiday. Make sure to pay attention to your pew sheets for possible changes in schedule that might occur in the future!

#### **Food Pantry News**



Thanks to FCPC and Westminster churches, we served 1,454 families for a total of 4,242 people from January 2017 through December 2017. What a blessing to so many! The Frances Buzard Presbyterian Food Pantry would like to thank the church members for their contributions of food during this season of giving. We also acknowledge the monetary donations with gratitude. As we look to the new year consider becoming a volunteer at the pantry. We provide many opportunities for service. We need about 50 people each month. Perhaps you are

available to help us in our mission to feed needy families in a dignified and supportive manner. If you can help please contact Judy Powell (217-390-8084). Additionally, we would like to express appreciation to the current volunteers for their continued work in this ministry.

### Adult Mission Trip to Romania



NOROC and Palo Duro Presbytery are organizing an adult mission trip to Romania. This trip is for ages 21 and up and will cost \$1600 per person. The trip will take place from June 7-19 of this year, and the registration deadline is February 15. For more information contact Rich Schempp at 806-790-1749.

### Breakfast on Beech Street

B.O.B.S is serving a need! In 2017 19090 people (593 under 17yrs of age) received breakfasts and 30,516 sandwiches for sack lunches were made and disbursed.



If you want to be part of a FCPC Thursday team, please call Margaret Beasley at 692-4149.

### Stay in Touch with FCPC



Would you like to receive “Cliff’s Notes” or our Mid-Week Memo via email? A good way to hear about FCPC Breaking News! Put your email address in the offering plate, visit the church website or email [signup@fcpc.net](mailto:signup@fcpc.net) and say “Subscribe to Emails”.

### Information Updates

Change of address? New phone number or cell phone? We greatly appreciate information updates at any time Please contact the church office with any new or updated information so that we can let you know about everything going



on at FCPC! Please note if a phone number is a cell number or land line—it’s very helpful to have your cell number if you have one. Email addresses are also needed!

### **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathies to Ralph Hoover and family on the death of Beverly Hoover and to the Judd family on the death of Jack Judd.

### **Gratitude**

FCPC,  
Happy Christmas! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season (looks like it according to emails I get!) Thank you for your special year-end gift toward my work with college students! I’m looking forward to all to come this year- we’re already expecting 150+ at spring break which is a big increase even from last year. Please pray committing early will help these students be even more prepared to learn and serve! These weeks of challenging service and exposure to poverty and how being a Christian really means living a life of sacrifice can change their trajectory forever—I know it did for me! Thank you for your partnership!

Blessings, Kate Perkins Denson

Dear FCPC,  
Thank you for choosing me as a scholarship recipient. I’m both honored and blessed by your gift.

In gratitude, Janelle Edwards

### **Celebrations**

We celebrate the birth of Alexander Douglass Denson. Alexander was born January 10th in Washington, D.C. to Kate Perkins Denson & Ron Denson. Grandparents are Steve & Sarah Perkins, and we also honor the memory of the great-grandparents who were members of FCPC; Jay & Sue Shields and Bill & Fern Perkins.

If you have information for the Alert, discover misinformation in any printed issue, or believe you have received this publication in error please contact Kori Barr by calling the church at (325) 677-3501 or email [kbarr@fcpc.net](mailto:kbarr@fcpc.net).