

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

February, 2019

## *Cliff's Notes*



Dear FCPC family,

On Tuesday of last week a very sweet woman came by the office where Doreta greeted her with her usual warm smile. "How can I help you?"

Doreta said she expected that this unfamiliar woman was going to ask for directions or perhaps for the location of Thelma Gray's office (PCHAS - Presbyterian children's homes and services.)

Doreta then noticed that she was carrying a large "wad" of money!

And this is what our visitor then said: "I want to give this donation to the Food Pantry.

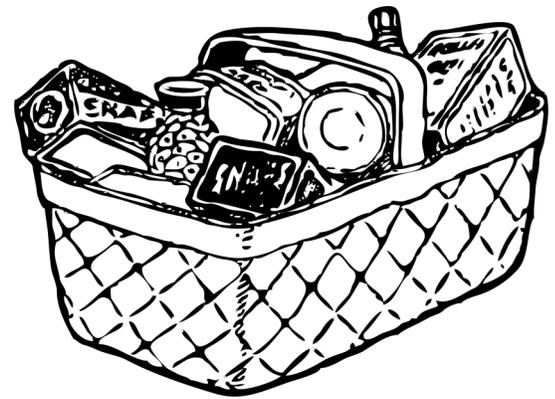
Speaking for her family she continued: "We just want to give back to your Food Pantry because we were there for them last week!"

The roll of bills totaled \$150!

She didn't want to leave a name - she just wanted to say "thanks".

This sincere appreciation is evidence that she received far more than a few sacks of groceries. We give thanks for the kindness and respect extended by our food pantry volunteers to the men and women being served each Tuesday. Thanks to our many volunteers.

And thank you sweet lady for the generosity reflecting your heartfelt thanks.



Way to go FCPC,



# Around First Central

## Women's Retreat



One in Christ, One in Mission is the theme for the annual Women's Retreat, March 1-2, Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo. We are excited to be focusing on what God is doing through FCPC and other congregations in both Palo Duro and Tres Rios Presbyteries for the Maasai people of Kenya. The retreat begins Friday evening and closes with lunch on Saturday – still leaving some “weekend” time with your family. Pick up a brochure/registration form from the information area in the foyer for all the details!

## Meditation Garden Bricks

Honor someone you love with a personalized brick in the meditation garden. The bricks will be used to create a path that will lead past the waterfall and pergola on your way to the gazebo. “What waterfall, pergola and gazebo?” you may ask. The ones that are part of the master plan that will transform the corner of Beech St. and N. 4th into a beautiful meditation garden for our friends in the community as well as ourselves. Proceeds from the bricks will be used to create this reality – starting with concrete sidewalks throughout the garden. Stop by the display in the foyer to see the master plan and consider who you will honor or memorialize with a commemorative brick.



## Helping Hands Breakfast



Saturday, February 23 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. 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. 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.” So mark your calendar now for this important event. Come be a part of the “Order of the Helping Hands.”

## Batter Up!

The Hard Knox Softball Team will begin spring training soon! If you are interested in playing on the church softball team, please fill out a contract on the information desk near the elevator. Anyone over 18 is welcome. Registration fee is \$20 per player. A glove is all that is needed, and some extras will be available from game to game.



## 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 Inquirer's Class is happening now! Missed the previous class? Not a problem – join us anyway! This class meets during the Sunday School hour (9:45-10:45 a.m.) in the office suite across from Faith Hall and lasts for several weeks. We hope you'll consider joining us!

## Youth and Emerging Adults News

### **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. The sign-up period for this trip will begin on February 2.



### **Emerging Adults – Save the Date! Tuesday, February 19**

Emerging Adults will have their first “Simple Church” meeting on Tuesday evening, February 19. We will gather in the kitchen and around the table to prepare and eat a meal together. We will also sing a few songs, pray, and study together. The exact timeframe for the meeting will be determined soon. Text or call Kristen to RSVP at 325-260-5188 if you would like to attend!

## Twelve Angry Jurors



A play by Reginald Rose called Twelve Angry Men was filmed for television in 1957. It starred Henry Fonda and Lee J. Cobb, and was about a jury of twelve men who, after listening to six days' testimony about a crime where a 19 year old boy was accused of stabbing his father to death, will decide the young man's guilt or innocence.

The point of the play is that men and women who serve on juries do not leave their biases and/or prejudices "at the door" when deciding the fate of a young man's life.

The Presbyterian Medical Care Mission is sponsoring a production of Twelve Angry Jurors – four women on this jury. It will run on Friday and Saturday, February 15 and 16, 2019, at the Historic Paramount Theater. Regular admission tickets are \$40. Tickets are also available for a cocktail party at the Theatre before the play, and dinner tickets for a meal at Cypress St. Station Restaurant before the play. The plays starts each night at 7:30 PM. There is free parking across the street.

The director is Steve Faehnle and cast members include Forrest McCray, Doug and Pierce LoPachin, and Betty and Charlie Hukill, KO Long, Kerry Goff, Kayla Weinkauf, Chuck Rogers, Brittany Morrison, Lorna Ayers, Allison Bredemeyer, Gary Goodnight, and Lee Hamilton.

## Young Adult Bible Study

Our young adult Thursday night Bible study group is meeting earlier than before! Join us at 7 pm every Thursday at the home of Cliff and Evie Stewart. We begin with a study and end with snacks! 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!



## Garden News



Our Meditation Garden needs 8 volunteers to help maintain the garden during the winter months. Four volunteers, each taking a week

during the month to walk the labyrinth ONE time during his or her week and pull anything growing on the path or among the stones. Also needed are 4 volunteers each taking a week during the month to pull any weeds growing on the grassy lawn around the chapel ONE time during his or her week. Estimated time: Less than an hour. The sign-up sheet is in the foyer at the information counter.

## Food Pantry News

Dear Friends of the Frances Buzard Presbyterian Food Pantry, thank you so much for your generous soup and cracker contributions during the month of January. Our terrific patrons really appreciated getting to enjoy warm soup during some of our coldest days. You could help us in February by providing a large box of cereal and/or a large package of cookies. These are items we have not been able to get from the food bank for a while. We are privileged to serve and provide for nearly 40 or more families each week. As always, your prayers and support for our pantry are much appreciated.



In January, the Food Pantry served 137 families, for a total of 379 people – 226 adults, 54 senior citizens, and 99 children ages 1-18.

## Breakfast on Beech Street (B.O.B.S.)

B.O.B.S. is serving a need! In January, 2019, 1416 people received breakfasts (54 were under 18 years old) and 2213 sandwiches for sack lunches were handed out.

If you want to be part of a FCPC Thursday team, please call the church office (677-3501). Your monetary contributions are always appreciated.

## Knit & Crochet Group

Our Knit and Crochet group welcomes you to stop by any Wednesday between 10 a.m. and noon. If you've ever wanted to learn to knit or crochet, this is a great group to show you how. Yarn and needles are available. A bonus is the delightful conversation, hot coffee and usually homemade cookies. Several participants are currently working on caps for the children served by N.O.R.O.C. in Tulcea Romania. The motto of the group is, "Come when you can. Leave when you must!"



## Sermons Available Online



Did you know that Sunday's sermon is available on the website for a week after it was preached? If you happen to miss a Sunday, or maybe just want to share the sermon with someone near or far, just go to [www.fcpc.net](http://www.fcpc.net) and click on the 'Sermon' button on the homepage. Each week, the sermon is replaced with the newest sermon. Recordings of past sermons are available on CD. Contact the church office for help or more details.

## Gratitude

Dear FCPC,  
While your congregation has always been known for outstanding hospitality to all, and especially for gatherings of your fellow Presbyterians, your latest hosting of Palo Duro Presbytery's stated meeting went far "above and beyond". Working on a very short timeline, and with extra elements added to the weekend (retirement reception), FCPC showed the love of Christ in every way. Thank you all.

Sarah Lee Morris  
Certified Christian Educator

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,  
Thank you for your gift to this ministry we share here at Presbyterian Children's Homes and services! Children and families throughout the year will benefit from your kindness. As we give thanks for you, please join with us in giving thanks to God for this privilege and opportunity to serve children and families in the name of Jesus Christ. May God's blessings be with you and your loved ones throughout the year.

Blessings,  
The Rev. Pat D. Crouch, CFRE  
Senior Vice President of Development, PCHAS

Thank you from FCPC's Youth!  
We have so much for which to be grateful in FCPC's Youth Group, but we would like to

highlight two things. First, we are very thankful for the love and support we received on Youth Sunday, January 27. To all those who came to church and worshiped with us, to all those that sent kind notes of encouragement, to all those who helped provide breakfast for us, and to those who helped make the worship service go off without a hitch, we say a BIG "Thank you!" I'd like to specifically thank Clell Wright for your expert musical leadership, Kori Barr for your hard work on the bulletin, Jacob Snowden for the advice you gave on the Children's sermon, Tim Singiser and Kevin Smith for teaching us how to move the banisters before the service, Gene Six (and anyone else that helped with sound on Sunday) for your sound system expertise, Janice Six for your assistance with the Prayers of the People, and Cliff Stewart for putting together the announcements for us. Second, we are grateful for FCPC's continued support for the Souper Bowl of Caring. I do not have the official count of how much we raised yet, but we are thankful for the money you all gave to help support FCPC's food pantry. It is obvious to me that our Youth members are VERY LOVED by this church.

Sincerely, Kristen Harris-Bridwell

## Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to Beverly Ellison and family on the death of her sister Donna O'Bar, to Erlene White on the death of her ex-husband, and to Barry Byrd and family on the death of his mother.

## Celebrations

We congratulate Courtney & Bryce Bevill on the birth of their daughter Cara Mae Bevill, born January 27, and Janelle & Tyler Edwards on the birth of their daughter Lucy Kay Edwards, born on January 29. We also celebrate the birth of Nash Kent Bowden, son of Sandra & Dusty Bowden; proud great-grandparents at FCPC are Jim & Sue Sullivan.