

The Alert First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Texas

January, 2018

Cliff's Notes



Dear FCPC family,

This inscription was on a church wall in Sussex, England (c. 1730):

A vision without a task is but a dream.

A task without a vision is drudgery.

A vision and a task are the hope of the world.

— Inscription on a church wall in Sussex, England, c. 1730

So maybe if you have a great vision but are not doing a thing about it...then you are just dreaming.

So maybe if what you are doing is sheer drudgery....then you lack a vision

How about our church?

Do we together have a vision as to what we are doing?

Remember some of what we do — we will never see the benefit.

And some of what we do is taken for granted - but we do it because we know the One who appreciates.

Wonder what Jesus did that went un-noticed? I bet a lot. What went on behind the scenes as our Lord related to people and situations on a daily basis?

Let us pray:

Lord, what we do, I pray is not for applause by anyone but you. In fact, Lord we find it a privilege to do those quiet humble things that no one notices. We serve you. Give us today a vision and a task. We thank you for using us in your great purposes. Amen.



Around First Central



Wednesday Night Programs

Wednesday Night Suppers begin January 17. Our first speaker is Dr. Jeff Key who will give his annual State of the World address! Jeff is the chair of the government and international affairs program at Sweet Briar College in Virginia.

He has lectured at notable institutions, including Chatham House in London, the Woodrow Wilson Center and the National Foreign Affairs Training Center. He has presented papers at international conferences from Toronto, Canada, to Dhaka, Bangladesh. He has also participated in briefings and policy sessions on South Asian affairs at the United States Department of State. He has published works in journals as diverse as Asian Affairs, German Life and Practicing Texas Politics.

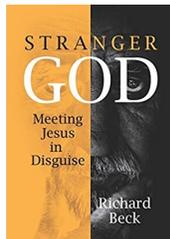
He is an expert on the politics of South Asia (the area stretching from Afghanistan to Myanmar) and has conducted research in the region for three decades beginning with his doctoral work on voluntary organizations in Pakistan in 1988. His most recent research focuses on the Maoist movement and civil war in Nepal.

Phoebe's Friends

Phoebe's Friends new study for this spring is *Stranger God: Meeting Jesus in Disguise*, by Richard Beck. Richard spoke at one of our Wednesday night programs last fall and this is his latest book! In addition to discussing a portion of the book each week, Phoebe's Friends devote time to praying together, enjoying a cup of coffee, and getting to know each other better. All are welcome to attend.

Phoebe's Friends meet each Monday morning, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. in the Minter Room. Our motto: "You can never be too late or leave too early as long as we get to see you."

Childcare is available by contacting the church office.



Annual Women's Retreat

The 21st annual Women's Retreat begins on Friday evening, February 2 at 5 p.m., and concludes with lunch on Saturday. This year's guest speaker is Janet Theus from Oklahoma City. Her timely topic is

"Stranger Danger in God's World Today." Janet's enthusiasm for what she learned while participating in the 2016 USA Mission Experience in San Francisco will open our eyes! The threat of human trafficking isn't limited to foreign countries and big cities. The topic is sobering yet very timely and relevant—even in West Texas. The retreat offers an opportunity to enjoy the company of longtime friends and friends we have yet to meet! The worship time and fun activities promise to be hope-filled, making this retreat worthwhile in every way. Mark your calendar and plan to attend! Friends from the community or family members from far away are always welcome to attend! Registration brochures are available at the church office!

Logos Starts Soon

Get ready for Logos! This fun program 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. This semester's Logos sessions begin on January 21st at 4:30 p.m. with a Breakfast Club theme, so get your P.J.'s ready and look for more information in the coming weeks!



Church Officers

Our committees are up and running for 2018.

Committee chairs are:

Worship	Nancy Diggs	
Mission and Larger Church	Richard Burdine	
Personnel	Don Wright	
Finance	Charlene Bevill	
Membership and Evangelism	Angela Wright	
Property	James Myers	
Nominating	Tiffany Lamb	

Officers to be ordained and/or installed for 2018 are:

Elders:

Doug Williamson
Lynn Beal
Kay Staton
Angela Wright
Tiffany Lamb

Deacons:

Jacob Matta
Martha Ruelas
Charlie Russell
Tommy McAllister

Cynthia Hale
Adele Rumley
Elizabeth Barr
Michael Miller (1Yr Term)

Bequests and Planned Giving:

Tim Singiser

Trustees:

Carl Trusler

Lale Estes

David Baum

Congrats to Cliff



Congratulations to Cliff Stewart who is the new president of the Abilene Association of Congregations. The AAC is a unique organization in Abilene that was formed by Dr. Roy Zuefeldt over 30 years ago. It is different from a ministerial Association of which only ministers can be members. Perhaps you'd like to attend the next meeting which will be February 28, 2018 at Holy Family Catholic Church. There is a small cost for lunch and always a good speaker. Presbyterians value our ecumenical relationships and this is a wonderful way to rub shoulders with other Christian churches in our city.



Young Adult Study Group

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 up again this Thursday, January 11th! 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!

Handbell Choir

Our handbell choir is starting back up again with rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in joining the choir, we would love to have you. Just let the church office know or email Tim Singiser at tsingiser@gmail.com. We recently acquired the 4th and 5th octaves of bells so we could use a few more ringers!



Christian Education News

Happy New Year!

At the onset of a new year, a popular passage from

II Corinthians comes to mind. "So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All of this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation."

The newness of the 2018 is not hopeless, hapless, or heartless. It is not the case that [all] things fall apart because the center cannot hold. If one imagines God at the center, all things are being reconciled, pulled together by love into intimacy. This is how I imagine what the hope of new creation is—things being drawn together like siblings being forced to "hug it out" after a spat. At the outlook of a new year, if you are the resolute type, perhaps this could be a year of things coming together and being reconciled.

Speaking of what is coming together for Christian Education, we have an excellent year ahead of Logos, Sunday School, Youth Activities, Wednesday Night Programs, and much, much more. Look for the dates below for how you might be involved:

Logos:

January 21: Breakfast Club Night

January 28: Winter Night

February 4: Super Bowl Night

February 11: Valentine's Night

Wednesday Supper Studies:

January 17: Jeff Key

January 24: Miles Werntz, Ethics Professor
for Logsdon

January 31: Garrett Briggs and Lynn Beal,
Africa Report

February 7: Richard Beck, Stranger God

February 14: Ash Wednesday Service

New to 2018 will be Christian Education Family Nights, evenings for people of all ages to do something fun together. Be sure to check the pew sheet for dates and details.

Happy New Year, everyone! Look for the ways that God is making all things new, and how that newness might come to you!

Youth News

Kristen, FCPC's Director of Youth and Emerging Adult Ministries, will spend the majority of the month of January in Austin at Austin Presbyterian Seminary taking a



course to meet the requirements for her ordination process. She is excited for this chance to learn and to grow as a minister! Even though Kristen will be out of town, Youth and Emerging Adults meetings will start up in January. Her study leave provides an exciting opportunity for our Youth to experience other teachers in our congregation. James Myers will lead a three-meeting series over the book of Ecclesiastes and Jacob Snowden will lead a lesson on the topic of his choosing on Wednesday, January 24. The first Youth meeting after the break will be a Wednesday, January 10 and the first Emerging Adult meeting will be January 25.



Presbyterian Women News

FCPC Presbyterian Women raised \$795 at our Thank Offering event. In addition to that amount we will add another \$500 from the PW budget. That totals \$1,295 we sent in December to this world wide mission.

Food Pantry News

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.



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.

FCPC Garden News



Our Meditation and Community Garden at FCPC continues to bloom and prosper. If you'd like to help work in the garden, the gardening hours have been updated for the winter to Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 3 pm.



Important Notice

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, please do not file your 2017 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. You may lose a deduction for some contributions if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to Steve Daniel and family on the death of Judy and Jonathan Daniel, to Sharra Longhofer on the death of her mother, to Chuck Martin on the death of his father, to Eula Bailey on the death of her nephew, and to Chris McNair and family on the death of his mother.

New Members

We warmly welcome Kay & Lynn Wilson and Winona Somerville to the FCPC family!

Congratulations and Celebrations

We would like to celebrate the birth of Wade Syllas Strong, child of Emily & Matthew Strong; grandparents are Steven & Tricia Thompson and great-grandparents are Charleen & George Thompson; the birth of Comfort Liza Abakirih, child of Nadine and Symphorien Angha; the birth of Zoellah Providence, child of Delphine Kanayo, and the birth of Luca Clell Juanillo, child of Laura and Drew Juanillo; grandparents are Clell & Angela Wright.

Congratulations to Katie Brokovich on her graduation from A&M University! Katie graduated on December 11th with a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Park and Tourism Sciences.

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.