

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

July, 2019

## *Cliff's Notes*



Dear Friends,

Are you ready for some straight talk? Here's what I want to say in this letter - and keep in mind I am writing specifically to you (yes, YOU!)

I'm not going to mince words - I'm going to tell you like it is. Ready?

**"God put you where God needs you."**

You are where you are supposed to be. I always thought I was supposed to be somewhere else, being someone else. But now I realize that I was very wrong.

The job you are doing right now may not be any easier on account of these words I write to you today. In fact, life may be harder if you take these words to heart. But if you take them to heart - you will be more centered, focused, clear.

Say it aloud:

**"Just right now - I am where God wants me to be."**

This is one of your favorite benedictions. You have told me so. Here it is:

You go nowhere *by accident*,  
Wherever you go, *God is sending you*,  
Wherever you are, *God has put you there*,  
God has a purpose in your being there.  
Christ who indwells you has something  
He wants to do through you  $\frac{3}{4}$  *where you are*.

*Believe this and live in His grace and love and power.*



# Around First Central

## One-Day VBS at FCPC!



**It's time to register for Vacation Bible School at FCPC!** This year, we'll be having a one-day VBS on July 20 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. using the Yee-Haw curriculum. On Sunday, July 21 there will be a VBS Celebration in the Fellowship Hall for anyone that would like to attend to see what the children learned on Saturday. The whole weekend will be a real hoedown, so make sure and mosey over to the sign-up table in the foyer to register your child, niece or nephew, sister or brother, or grandchild. You can also register your child online at <https://vbspro.events/p/events/fcpcvbs/>.

## A Letter from Jacob Snowden, DCE

To my church family and friends,

With mixed emotions I am resigning from the Director of Christian Education position at First Central Presbyterian, effective July 7th. I have accepted a call as the Associate Pastor of Christian Education at Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, Maryland, in Baltimore Presbytery.



First Central has and will always have a special place in my heart. My introduction to the Presbyterian church was here. Gwyneth was baptized here. I still remember my first conversation with Cliff in the fellowship hall nearly eight years ago. I have been allowed to learn and grow here, and I will be ordained here. While I am excited for new opportunities that lie ahead, leaving will be no easy task. I am deeply appreciative to First Central and all of its members for the opportunity to serve, and the ways Sara, Gwyneth, and I have been served in our time here.

Thank you to everyone for fond memories and excellent opportunities.

Sincerely,  
Jacob Snowden

## Thank you to Jacob and Sara Snowden



A great big thanks to Jacob and Sara Snowden for their service here at First Central Presbyterian Church. Our final goodbye will be on

Sunday, July 7. Jacob preached this past Sunday, June 30th and we appreciated his parting words. Did you know that Jacob has been hired twice at our church? Of course, you know that he has recently been Director of Christian Education. But, before that he was our youth director before he decided to pursue his master's degree at Boston University. We give thanks for Jacob's service. And we also acknowledge the contribution of Sara in our church's ministry. Jacob will be back on September 8 to be ordained here in his home church.

## Mid-High "Stay-cation" Mission Trip Report

8 Mid-High Youth Group members arrived at FCPC on Tuesday Morning, June 4 for a three-day, two-night FCPC-centric mission trip!



During the hours dedicated to rest and renewal at the church the group prepared their own meals in the church kitchen, studied the book of James during devotional times, watched movies, and played games. Work hours were dedicated to the Frances Buzard Presbyterian Food Pantry and to Breakfast on Beech Street (B.O.B.S.).

At the pantry, each Mid-High Youth member shadowed one adult volunteer throughout their Tuesday afternoon shift. The stock room was alive with energy and conversation while the Youth learned from seasoned workers! The group also was able to experience first-hand the fantastic quality of food distributed to our neighbors by the pantry. All dinner ingredients that evening for spaghetti, garlic bread, green beans, and desert were selected at the food pantry and prepared in the church's kitchen by the youth. It was delicious! On Wednesday morning, the Youth walked across the street to clean the outer windows of the pantry. The main lesson absorbed during this time pertained to hospitality. It takes hard work to create a welcoming space for pantry guests to enjoy but that hard work is worth the effort!

Wednesday afternoon also included a cleaning project - this time it was completed at B.O.B.S. After receiving a tour of the facility and learning about the mission of B.O.B.S., the young Presbyterian missionaries rolled up their sleeves to give the kitchen a deep clean. This project not only showed love to the people who eat at B.O.B.S., but it also showed love to the dedicated volunteers who use that kitchen to serve their community every morning. It is hard enough to get to B.O.B.S.

on a work-day morning to prepare and serve breakfast. It is harder still to find time to come and clean the facility later in the day or on the weekend. Our youth provided a much needed service to regular B.O.B.S. volunteers so that they could take one major project off their to-do-list! The final project was a tough one. The trip participants woke up at 4:30 am to get ready to serve at B.O.B.S. by 5:15 am! Sack lunches were prepared, coffee was brewed, biscuits and gravy were made, juice was poured, and breakfast was served.

We are thankful to the dedicated volunteers who work at both of these ministries year-round! Because of their guidance, we learned that service, though it requires the sacrifice of time and energy, is rewarding and impactful.

### Senior-High Mission Trip to Leave July 7



High School Youth members will hit the road early in the morning on July 7 to head to Nederland, Colorado for one week to participate in a Rocky Mountain Mission through Nederland's Community Presbyterian Church. They will complete construction projects for elderly community members on fixed incomes and serve as volunteers in a food pantry. This experience will not be glamorous in that the youth participating on this trip will sleep in sleeping bags on the church floor, prepare their own meals, and use a shower facility off-site. However, much of their time will be spent in the great-outdoors, breathing in mountain air and seeing a new vantage point of God's beautiful creation. The group will also study a creation-centric curriculum curated by the dedicated staff of Rocky Mountain Mission. Please pray for them as they travel to and from Colorado and serve the people of Nederland!

### Prayer Partners Needed!

*Why should I become a Prayer Partner and/or a Financial Supporter for a young Presbyterian missionary?*



**Two mission trips involving extensive travel are occurring this summer.** One is for the Senior-High members of the Youth Group to Nederland, Colorado from July 7-14, and the other is for Emerging Adults to Tulcea, Romania from July 25-August 6.

**Our first need is for prayer.** We need your prayers for safe travels, energy, good attitudes, open hearts ready to serve, and healthy bodies while these

young Presbyterians are on their service trips.

**Another need is for financial support.** Not every Youth or Emerging Adult member can pay the full amount for the trip even after FCPC subsidizes the costs (\$300 to go to Colorado and between \$1000 and \$2000 for Romania). Both the Youth and Emerging Adults have mission trip scholarship funds from which we draw so that trip costs can be reduced for each participant.

### *What does being a Prayer Partner entail?*

**When you sign up as a Prayer Partner and/or Financial Supporter, you will be assigned one of the young Presbyterian missionaries (YPM) via email.** We are asking you to commit to pray for your assigned YPM everyday of his or her service trip. To help you do this, you will receive a photo of your YPM, a short bio letting you know a little more about the YPM you are supporting, and details about the service trip he or she is attending so you will know what days to pray and have some ideas of what to pray about.

**To these ends, it is our goal to have at least 19 prayer partners (with the option of financial support towards scholarship funds)** so that each Youth and Emerging Adult is lifted up in prayer while they are serving in Nederland and Tulcea.

*If I am choosing to be a Financial Supporter along with being a Prayer Partner, how much should I give?*

**We would like each financial supporter to give at least \$100.** Of course, larger or smaller sums are appreciated! Here is some information to help you decide how much you would like to give if you want to give more than \$100:

- The cost burden for an Emerging Adult to go to Romania is between \$1000 and \$2000 depending on where this person attends church. The actual cost per person for Camp Romania is around \$4000 leaving between \$3000 to \$2000 to be covered through fundraising and scholarships.
- The cost burden for a Senior-High Youth Group member to go to Nederland, Colorado is \$300. The actual cost per person is around \$600 leaving \$300 to be covered through the Youth Missions special giving account.

To sign up to be a Prayer Partner and/or Financial Supporter for a young Presbyterian missionary, visit [www.fcpc.net/serve/prayerpartner](http://www.fcpc.net/serve/prayerpartner).

## FCPC Student Assistance



The Student Assistance Fund at FCPC provides funding assistance to FCPC members that will allow them to pursue undergraduate or technical studies. These funds are open to all eligible church members who maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher while attending any accredited college, university, junior college, nursing school, or trade school with a minimum 2-year graduation requirement. Forms are available in the church office. Please submit your application form by the deadline on August 15, 2019.

## Breakfast on Beech Street

B.O.B.S. continues to serve a need. In May, 2019, 1440 guests were served breakfast (60 being youth). Lunches included 2368 sandwiches.



That brings our year's total to 6634 breakfasts (270 being to youth). In addition, sack lunches including 10,425 sandwiches were made and disbursed.

Your monetary donations are always appreciated, and if you would like to be a part of a FCPC Thursday morning team, please contact the church office (677-3501).

## Food Pantry News



We would like to thank the mid-high group at FCPC for volunteering at the pantry in early June. They worked alongside our volunteers filling orders, stocking shelves, and repackaging. They returned the following day to clean windows. We appreciate these hard working mid-highs and Kristen very much.

In May, the Food Pantry served 118 families, for a total of 311 people—174 adults, 45 senior citizens, and 92 children ages 1-18.

## Sanctuary and Foyer Flowers

Sanctuary and foyer flowers are a lovely way to provide a memorial or honorarium for someone special. The cost is \$80 and the flowers may be taken home after the Sunday services or you may choose to



donate them to homebound members. If you are interested in purchasing flowers, please check the form at the Information Desk or contact Doreta in the church office for specific dates.

## Change of Address? New Phone Number?



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!



## **Gratitude**

I want to thank all my FCPC family members for all the cards, visits, flowers, and phone calls during the time I was in the hospital and rehab. They all brought much joy, and I know it helped me on the road to recovery.

Thank you so much, Carol McClellan

## **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathies to Margaret Beasley and family on the passing of her father, Jim McAndrew, and to Dick Hartwig and family on the passing of his wife, Dorothy Hartwig.

## **Celebrations**

We would like to celebrate the baptism of Greer Louise Six, who was baptized on June 23. Greer is the daughter of Trudy & Greg Six and proud grandparents at FCPC are Janice & Gene Six.

## **New Members**

We warmly welcome Billie Alderman to the FCPC family!