

The Alert First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Texas

June, 2018

Cliff's Notes



Summer is upon us. For many of us it is a time to travel - somewhere. A change of climate can help one with perspective. Here is a story told by Quaker theologian Parker Palmer in the pulpit of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Read it...and I think it will give you a new perspective.

The story takes place in the far distant past . . . before airport security lines, before TSA, way back in the days when you could take anything you wanted on the plane with you. Parker Palmer was on a flight from O'Hare to Denver that pulled away from the gate, then taxied and taxied and taxied for a long time.

You know the feeling. You look out the window and you're not near a runway in line to take off but are out in a remote corner of the airport looking at a chain-link perimeter fence. Your heart sinks as the engines wind down. The pilot came onto the intercom, "I have some bad news. There is a storm front in the west, exactly where we are headed. Denver is socked in and shut down. There are no alternatives. So we'll be staying here for a few hours. That's the bad news. The really bad news is that we have no food on board." (This story is from that blessed time long ago when there was real food on board and passengers actually looked forward to a nice tray of real food with cloth napkins and silverware). Everybody groaned. Some passengers became angry.

But then, Parker Palmer said, one of the flight attendants stood up in the aisle and took the mic. "We're really sorry here, folks. We didn't plan it this way, and we can't do anything about it. We know that for some of you this is tough. You're hungry and were looking forward to a nice lunch. Some of you have a medical condition and really need to eat. Some of you may not care. So I have an idea. We have a couple of empty bread baskets up here, and we're going to pass them around. Everybody put something in the basket. I know some of you have brought a little snack along, just in case – peanut butter crackers, candy bars. Some of you have Roloids, Life Savers, chewing gum. And if you don't happen to have anything edible, you have a business card or a picture of your kids or a bookmark. The thing is, I hope everybody puts something in the basket. And then we'll reverse the process. We'll pick the baskets up at the back of the plane and pass them around again and everybody can take out what he or she needs."

"Well," Palmer said, "what happened next was amazing. First, the complaining and griping stopped. People started to root around in pockets and handbags and briefcases. Some stood up and retrieved luggage from the overhead racks and got out boxes of candy, a salami, Italian sausage, cheese, crackers. Now people were laughing and talking.

The flight attendant had transformed a group of anxious people focused on their needs, deprivation, and scarcity into a gracious community, sharing and in the process creating an abundance of sorts.

The flight eventually took off and landed, and as he stepped off of the plane, Palmer found the flight attendant and said, "You know there's a story in the Bible about what you did." She said, "I know that story.

That's why I did it."

Glad to be sharing life with you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Cliff' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Around First Central

Summer Camps at Buffalo Gap

Staff Training: June 10-13

(Staff Only)

Mini-Camp: June 13-15, \$165

(Completed grades 1, 2 or 3)

Elementary: June 17-22, \$275

(Completed grades 4 or 5)

Middle School: June 24-29, \$275

(Completed grades 6, 7 or 8)

High School Retreat: July 1-5, \$220

(Completed grades 9-12]



It's not too late to register for camp! Please do not let finances keep your child from attending camp. FCPC pays part of the fee toward each child attending from our church—please pick up a form at the information desk or call the church office for more information. Additional Camperships may be available through the Presbytery, the Camp itself, or through FCPC if needed.

New this year—you can register and pay online!

Visit the Buffalo Gap Camp website at www.buffalogapcamp.org for more information!

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, 2018.

Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis

The Walk to Emmaus and Chrysalis events are 3 day retreats to bring participants a new awareness of God's love and plan for their lives. The Walk is for adults and Chrysalis is for young people ages 14-17. This



retreat is fun and meaningful. Participants get to know Jesus much better, and understand how He has been blessing their lives all along, even though they may not have realized it. (See Luke 24: 13-35). The Chrysalis will be held July 19-22. The next men's Walk is August 22-25, and the next women's Walk is September 12-15. If you would like to participate in this wonderful experience, or would just like more information, go to www.bigcountryemmaus.org, or visit with Sara or Bill Core.

Christian Education News



Perhaps you have seen a common typo in the bulletin the last several weeks. There was a "Short Term Sunday School" aimed at those who had not found a Sunday School Class. That class was supposed to end two weeks ago, yet it persists. The "Short Term" is approaching "medium term" and might even become permanent. So if you are not part of a Sunday School class or if you are looking to try something different, then you are encouraged to test the Sunday School class in the movie room just past the Perkins Chapel. Class begins promptly at 9:45am and we have choir members who are able to leave by 10:30. This nameless class will finish a three week unit on the Holy Spirit on June 10th and will then begin the Animate: Faith series for six sessions.

June is here, which is the month for Buffalo Gap Church Camp. Registration is all online, and you can even register at the door. Just bring an insurance card and a vaccination record. The theme this year is plucked from Genesis 1 – *Created in the Image*. Each camp will discuss what being created in the Image of God means for how people can think about themselves and others. To consider all people created in the image of God is a guard against racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, bullying, body-image difficulties, and low self-esteem. I hope your campers have a great time at camp where they can feel closer to God and grow closer to one another.

Plans are also underway for Vacation Bible School, which is scheduled for July 22-26, Sunday-Thursday. We are looking for volunteers and

participants to create an amazing week. The theme this year is "Shipwrecked: Saved by Jesus." There is a good chance that FCPC's VBS is the last VBS in town, so if you want to cap off the summer in a great way, be sure to send your kids, grandkids, or come yourself to see what all the fun is about.

Summer is off to a great start. But even with school being out of session, there is no shortage of Christian Education opportunities. Have a great summer.

Jacob Snowden, D.C.E.

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!

VBS at FCPC

Save the date for Vacation Bible School at FCPC! This year we'll be having some tropical island fun with Shipwrecked VBS starting on the afternoon of Sunday, July 22, and continuing on weekday mornings through Thursday, July 26. More information and registration forms will be available soon!



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.

Mid-High Mission Trip

FCPC's Mid-High Youth Group will head to Fort Worth on June 4 for a 3-day mission trip with Urban Gaps, a



mission of First Presbyterian Fort Worth.

Visit <http://fpcf.org/urbangaps/> to learn more about what our middle-schoolers will be up to on this trip!

Church Directory Update



We're going to update our church directory this fall! It's time for us to update our church photo directory. 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.

Breakfast on Beech Street

B.O.B.S. continues to serve a need. In May 1583 guests were served breakfast (77 being youth). The sandwich total was 2,641.



In 5 months our total breakfasts served came to 6,896 (283 being to youth) and 11,083 sandwiches were made and distributed.

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.

Meditation and Community Garden News



Preparation of the Meditation and Community Garden for the summer is underway! Join us in the garden on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 9 and 11 a.m. as members of FCPC and our Master Gardener friends put their expertise to work!

Food Pantry News

We need you! If you could provide a case of cereal, canned vegetables, canned fruit, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, or jelly we could really use it. Additionally we need breakfast bars, soup, crackers, and snacks. Coffee is always appreciated.



Periodically the Food Pantry goes through cycles of needing new volunteers. Now is the time to volunteer. We especially need people to work in the repackaging room. We also need 2 more people to step up as coordinators for the summer and fall while vacations take some of us away. Additionally, we could use subs for all shifts. Remember, give thanks if you have plenty to eat and help those who do not!

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. We are continuing our study on *Unafraid* by Adam Hamilton. 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!

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, there are a variety of Sundays available over the course of the next few months and further into the year. Check the form at the Information Desk or contact Doreta in the church office for specific dates.



Celebrating our Graduates

Congratulations to Francine Maombi, who received her GED on June 4th.

Congratulations to Denyse Kanayo, who graduated from Cisco Junior College, and to Diane Kanayo, who graduated from Texas Tech University.

Congratulations to Emmanuel Bakundukize on his graduation from the University of North Texas on May 12th.

Congratulations to Ruben Rodriguez, who graduated from Cooper High School on June 2nd. Ruben plans to enlist in the Navy and become a chef on a submarine. He is the son of Hope Williams and the sister of Victoria Rodriguez. His FCPC grandparent is Linda Williams.

Congratulations to Jordan and Zachary McNair and John Michael Jameson on their high school graduation.

Congratulations to Connor Robertson, who graduated from high school. Connor is the son of the late Spud Robertson, who was a member of FCPC, and the grandson of Sterling and Linda Robertson, also of FCPC.

Additional congratulations to all those in the FCPC family (or extended family) who have graduated this year! If you have additional graduates you would like to include in the next Alert, please contact Kori in the church office.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the family of Keri Nard, who passed away on May 11th, to Lynette Tatum and family on the death of her husband Larry Tatum on May 20th, and to Bob Nethery and family on the loss of his nephew.

New Members

We warmly welcome Fedna Clark, Cheryl Loflin, and Allison Wertz to the FCPC family!

Celebrations

We celebrate the confirmation of Cayden Franklin and BryLan Heathington, and the baptism of Cayden Franklin and Allison Wertz.

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.