



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

May, 2018

## *Cliff's Notes*



Dear FCPC family,



American Idol is one of the most popular television shows of all time, and for the contestants, one of the most nerve wracking. A single missed note or a forgotten line could cost you the competition. But, on the other hand, winning could change the course of your life.

At the end of each season, at the end of the final show, when the competition was over and the winner had been crowned, she/he took up the microphone and sang one more time. But this one singing was no longer singing to win; instead it was singing because she/he had won! It was no longer a contest. Nothing more to prove or earn. Instead, the chosen and honored performer could sing with all one's heart, delighting in one's gifts for the benefit of others.

Now that is what I think the gospel of Jesus gives to us. A freedom from anxiety because you have already been chosen and crowned in Christ, so now you can do what you do with all your energy, delighting in whatever gifts God has given you for the benefit of serving others.

## **Around First Central**

### **Pentecost Party at FCPC**



Hot Dog! May 20th is Pentecost and we are going to have a Pentecost Party that begins with worship at 8:30 and 11:00 am. Be sure to wear something **RED!** We pray that worship will have a sense of vibrancy that is unmistakable.

The reason for the color **RED** is that it symbolizes the Spirit of Pentecost. Do you remember reading in Acts Chapter 2 about what seemed like flames of fire over the heads of those who gathered in the upper room? They gathered to pray – as the Spirit of God descended – and life has never been the same since.

At noon on the 20th we are hosting a free lunch in Faith Hall which is meant to be fun as we fellowship together. Yes, the menu includes hot dogs and is sure to be enjoyed by all. No reservations necessary. Friends are invited.

### **Summer Camp is Coming Soon!**

Camp is made by campers. For all of the planning that adults do to make camp successful, from camp directors who plan activities to parents who pack, camp success is dependent on campers. Campers are the ones who are creative during crafts, funny during meals, thoughtful during discussion, and competitive during recreation. And church camp is particularly dependent on campers to feel a sense of what God might be doing during the few days gathered under the oaks at Buffalo Gap.



Camp is just about one month away. The theme for 2018 for all camps is “Created in the Image,” where students are encouraged to think about what creation in the image of God means for how campers think about and act towards themselves and others. In the words of Gandhi, unless we can see the divine in those we meet, we cannot see God. Perhaps Jesus was saying something similar when, in Matthew 25, he claims that those that see him are those who act lovingly towards “the least

of these my brothers and sisters.”

Camp registration is available completely online this year at [buffalogapcamp.org](http://buffalogapcamp.org). This includes online payment. Every camper has something to contribute, and camp would not be the same without him or her. All First Central students receive automatic scholarships. Paper registrations are available in the church office or at the information desk.

Call with any questions. I hope to see your camper soon!

### **Youth and Emerging Adults News**

#### **Senior Sunday**



We will honor FCPC’s graduating seniors on Sunday, May 20. The younger Youth Group members and their parents are throwing the seniors and their families a brunch in the Austin Youth Center during the Church School hour. Our seniors will also participate in the 11 AM worship service. We hope you will come to worship with us and say, "Congratulations" to these soon-to-be grads in the receiving line after the service.

#### **End-of-Year Youth Party**

To celebrate the end of the school year, we will be jumping for joy at Max Air! The Youth will meet at Max Air (on Judge Ely next to Lytle Land and Cattle) at 3:45 on May 20. The party time will begin at 4 PM and end at 6 PM. Cost per person is \$20 which includes jumping time, pizza, and drinks. Send Kristen a text at 325-260-5188 or an email at [kbridwell@fcpc.net](mailto:kbridwell@fcpc.net) by no later than May 16 to reserve your spot. Scholarships are available upon request.



#### **Church Cleaning Day Report**



Many folks seized the opportunity to make an impression on the church facilities on Spring Cleaning Day, Saturday, April 21. The results included trimming and clearing away of tree branches and shrubbery,

clearing out flower beds at the front of the building, power washing playground equipment; vacuuming-wiping down every inch of Fellowship Hall, clearing out closets and rooms which had become "collectors" over time, discarding or repurposing items, straightening classrooms, wiping fingerprints and pollen off walls, and other things I don't know about! Among those pitching in: Barbara McLean, Mike & Sally Shelton, Irve Brown, James Myers, Kenneth & Elizabeth Barr, Don & Bev Wright, Lynn Beal, Janis Test, Margaret Beasley, Jeannette & Andy Potter, Garrett & Marlene Briggs, Adele Rumley, Barney Arnold, Janice Six, Linda Williams, Lynn & Kay Wilson, Cliff & Evie Stewart, Don Paige, Dee & Tom Lackey, Steve Daniel, Carolyn White, Francine Maombi, and Dick Lemons. Our apologies if we missed your name—not everyone signed in! Thanks for the wonderful work accomplished!

### **Congratulations to Pam Hrcir**

Congratulations to Pam Hrcir who is graduating with a Masters of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. Pam is a former church member who also served for a year and 1/2 as a wonderful interim director of Christian education. Some time ago Pam asked that she be considered a ministerial candidate from our church even though she started seminary after they moved. We are happy to do so and feel blessed that we had a small part in her hearing the call to ministry. Pam is the 28th seminarian from FCPC in the past 25 years. Someone from our Presbytery calls our church "the incubator church" because so many ministers from our fellowship have been birthed here! *Maybe you are next?!*



### **It's Time!**



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.

### **Help Support Buffalo Gap Camp**

The Presbyterian Women are collecting items for Buffalo Gap Camp. If you would like to help, please bring toilet paper, paper towels, 39-gallon-size trash bags, and pump hand soaps through the end of May. Place items in the Mission Barrel in the foyer area. Thank you for supporting Buffalo Gap Camp!



### **Young Adult Bible Study**



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.



### **Breakfast on Beech Street**



BOBS is still feeding the hungry. In March, 1297 people came for breakfast, 45 being youth. We made up 2006 sandwiches which totaled 1003 sack lunches handed out. Come be a part of one of our Thursday FCPC teams! Call Margaret Beasley at 692-4149 for more information.

## FCPC Meditation and Community Garden

Coming soon to the Meditation and Community Garden...the labyrinth, made possible in part by a grant from Synod of the Sun. Willow Creek Gardens will create the labyrinth during the month of May. Once complete, it will measure 56-feet across, filling the center of the garden, with the focal point of the labyrinth being the limestone cross and fountain that is a gift in memory of Dale Higginbotham, who crafted the cross as a fountain. In June, construction of the open-air chapel will begin in the back corner of the garden, bordered by the alley on one side and the parking lot on the other. The chapel will be positioned in the center of the large paved patio in the shape of a cross. Encircling the chapel will be landscaped beds featuring pink roses. The chapel is a gift given in memory of Rosemary Young, who will be remembered for her love of flowers and the beautiful table arrangements she created for PW and church-wide events.



### **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathies to the family of Jeannie Ferguson on her death, to Angela Wright and family on the death of her grandmother Dean Durham, and to the family of Dot Kendrick on her death.

### **Gratitude**

Dear FCPC,  
Thank you so much for the sweet card and always caring for Betty. I know she appreciated your love and support.

Deanna Duke and the Duke family

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
He is risen! As we celebrate the Lord's resurrection on this Easter morning, we also thank God that we are connected with you in our Presbytery family. We are so glad for your ministry in Abilene. Alleluia!

Love, FPC Lamesa

Dear Christian Family,  
Thank you so much for the beautiful Easter lily. It was such a nice surprise. We miss you all!

Love, Austin & Roxie

Many thanks for the lovely Easter lily that was given to me. I shall enjoy it very much.

Mary K. Haffner

To FCPC,

My name is Nathaniel Leveling. I am currently working on my final project for the Eagle Scout Rank for Boy Scouts of America. Thank you for providing the funding for my Eagle project. Our team renovated the bathroom shower stalls at the Presbyterian Encampment in Buffalo Gap, Texas. This makes the stay at the Presbyterian Encampment more comfortable and enjoyable. This was all possible because of your generous donation.

Thank you, Nathaniel Leveling

### **New Members**

We warmly welcome Don & Lisa Powell and Janis Test to the FCPC family!

### **Celebrations**

We celebrate the birth of Pierson Kyler White, born April 10 to Misti & Jeff White of Waco. Grandparents at FCPC are Fred & Carolyn White.

We also congratulate Emmanuel Bakundukize on his graduation from the University of North Texas. Members of the church family are welcomed to attend Emmanuel's graduation, which will take place Saturday, May 12 at 12 pm at the UNT Coliseum in Denton, TX, followed by a friends and family meeting at The Ridge of North Texas, 2700 Colorado Blvd., Denton. Emmanuel will also be participating in the Honors College Medallion Ceremony on Thursday, May 10th, at 6 pm at Murchison Performing Arts Center.