

The Alert

First Central Presbyterian Church
Abilene, Texas

May, 2019

Cliff's Notes



Dear FCPC family,

Just returned today from Evie's and my 50th college reunion. Thought you might enjoy this picture. The younger of the two of us has a star over her head.

But as fun as it is to go to such an event, I am reminded of the biblical concept of not retreating to the past. Of course, there is much to be said of our roots, our memories...but I write to you today to remind you that the direction for the best in life is ahead – not behind.

Ran across this letter written by our son, Josh. Josh is now 39 and this letter was written at age 9, from a two-day camp he took with his elementary school class to Pine Mountain, Kentucky.

Dear Mom, Dad and David,

I hope you miss me because I have being magor homesick. Be on time (for picking him up) when I get back to school.

(Now here is his food list that he wanted when we picked him up at the bus!)

Get ABC's and 1,2,3's
or packman meatballs
...or no meatballs
...I don't care.

I love you all a lot. Wright back!!! Please.

Love you so,
Joshua Jon Stewart

(I guess he wrote his full name so we wouldn't think it was another Josh who was writing!)

What if I tell you today that we are really homesick for what is ahead. Looking for the best in life – don't look behind. You know the good old days were not always that good!

John Gardner said once: It's never wise to be nostalgic about something unless you are absolutely certain that it won't happen again!

I like to think that we are drawn not by memory *but by promise*. In this season of Easter tide may the promise of resurrection hope draw you to the future and not to the past.

Around First Central

Director of Music Search



We have begun our search for a new director of music. A job description and additional information is available on the church website at fcpc.net under the 'News & Events' section (click the entry for Job Openings). This page also has a link to upload your resume directly through the website.

Mother's Day Roses

Honor your mother by helping others by contributing to our Rose Reflections in 2019. This FCPC tradition donates the money collected from the sale of long-stemmed red roses to the Noah Project, which provides a safe refuge for victims of family violence and their children. Roses are available for \$3 each and may be purchased in memory or honor of that special mother or grandmother in your life. These roses will be used to help decorate the sanctuary on Mother's Day, May 12th, and may be taken home following the worship service. To order roses, please use the form included in your bulletin. Additional forms are available in the church office. Please return all forms to the church office by May 8th.



Organ Dedication Recital by Larry Wolz



All are invited to our second organ dedication recital on Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m. featuring FCPC's own organist, Dr. Larry Wolz. This recital is a celebration of 50 years of Dr. Wolz's church music career.

Diamond Solitaires Spring Fling

A "Spring Fling!" party for FCPC's "Diamond Solitaires" (FCPC members who are 60-and-up and are living alone) will be held on Wednesday, May 15, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.! Location is the home of Janice and Gene Six; hosts are the LifeLine Council. Those who come will enjoy tasty food, an opportunity to visit with friends, and a program! Please RSVP to the church office. Indicate if transportation is needed. Questions? Ask Garrett or Marlene Briggs (701-4709) or any LifeLine Council member.



Christian Education News



Just next month is Buffalo Gap Summer Camp! The theme this year is *Callings*, where students will consider how their great desires meet the world's greatest needs. Moses hears a voice as he is drawn to a burning bush that isn't consumed. Samuel hears a voice as a child, even as the priest Eli didn't recognize the voice. Jonah knew what he was to do but sailed away from it.

What might your campers be hearing from God? How can they become attuned to their callings and prepared to respond? Buffalo Gap Camp is geared to make a positive impact in the lives of its campers at a very reasonable summer camp price. Registrations should be available any day now, so check the camp website buffalogapcamp.org and know that you will be getting texts and emails as soon as registration is live! The dates for camp are below.

Mini Camp (1-3 grade):	June 11-14
Elementary (3-5 grade):	June 16-21
Middle School:	June 23-28
Sr. High Retreat:	June 30- July 5

Camps are determined by the last grade completed. Parents and campers completing the third grade may choose to attend Mini-Camp or Elementary Camp.

In other summer news, Vacation Bible School is not forever away! This year, we are hosting a two-day VBS. Yee-Haw! Is the theme, so come in wranglers and boots, and if you are looking for ways to volunteer, toss your name in the hat by calling, emailing, or talking to Jacob Snowden, Kami Fleming, or Melissa Russell.



Senior Sunday



We will honor FCPC's graduating seniors on Sunday, May 26. 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.

Clean-Up Day Thank You!

We had a great turnout! Thanks to these and more who participated in our Spring Cleanup at church on April 6. We got a lot done and enjoyed the fellowship:



Don Paige	James Myers
Linda Myers	Bill Bedford
Jan Bedford	Irv Brown
Lynn Beal	Janice Six
Gene Six	Kenneth Barr
Yvan Randria	Brigitte Randria
Ed Kerestly	Barney Arnold
Adele Rumley	Tommy McAlister
Janis Test	Ralph Hoover
Ron Pope	Cheryl Mendenhall
Mirana Randreza	Ricky Randreza
Mickey Randreza	Yvan Randreza
Anca Pacuraru	Nancy Diggs
Judy Powell	Norm Ward
Martha Ruelas	Jacob Snowden
Sara Snowden	Marlene Briggs
Garrett Briggs	Evie Stewart
Cliff Stewart	

Food Pantry News



Thank you very much for your generous donations of snacks last month.

During the month of May, we would like to ask you to donate beverages. We use tea, coffee, and juice each week. Juice boxes and lemonade packets would be nice for children as the weather gets warmer. We are also still in need of plastic grocery bags. We are picking up lots of fresh produce now and use more bags. Devotional books are very popular at the pantry and people take them as soon as we put them out. As always, your prayers and support are deeply appreciated as we serve the hungry in our community.

In March, the Food Pantry served 89 families, for a total of 209 people—136 adults, 32 senior citizens, and 41 children ages 1-18.

Recycling Colored Markers

Please bring any dried up, old markers and we will send them back to Crayola to be recycled and reused. They can be any brand. There will be boxes in the children's Sunday School room, one in Godly Play, and one in the foyer in which to place your old markers.



Stretch Your Dollars for Breakfast on Beech Street with our Spring Fundraiser!



On Tuesday, May 7, 2019, B.O.B.S. is participating in the Community Foundation of Abilene's third annual Abilene Gives event, a 24-hour online giving extravaganza. We invite you to be part of this giving day and help support B.O.B.S. Community Foundation of Abilene will provide amplifying funds for donations made in any of the THREE following ways:

1. Give where you live on May 7! Donate to B.O.B.S. online at abilenegives.org on May 7 between 12 a.m. and 11:59 p.m., and your dollars will be stretched with bonus funds and prizes raised by the Community Foundation of Abilene!
2. Schedule your gift in advance! You can also schedule your gift in advance of the giving day between April 29 and May 6 by giving to B.O.B.S. at abilenegives.org.
3. Rather not give online? If you prefer to write a check, please date the check May 7, make it out to Community Foundation of Abilene with the memo "Abilene Gives - Breakfast on Beech Street," and mail your check to B.O.B.S., P.O. Box 5911, Abilene TX 79608. Checks MUST be made out to CFA with the memo specified and received by noon on May 7 in order to count toward the Abilene Gives event. All donations will help feed hungry folks in the Abilene community!

For more information, email us at breakfastonbeechstreet@gmail.com or call (325) 267-4284. And please visit the B.O.B.S. Facebook page for updates, and give us a "like" at facebook.com/breakfastonbeechstreet.

Breakfast on Beech Street

B.O.B.S. keeps on serving! In March 1220 guests received breakfasts and 1902 sandwiches were put in sack lunches.



If you want to be part of a FCPC Thursday team, please call the church office (677-3501). As always, your donations will be put to good use.

Wedding Invitation



Church members are invited to the wedding of Nancy Smith and Dwight Brisbin, which will be held on Saturday, May 11th, at 2 p.m. at the church.

FCPC Garden News



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 planned waterfall and pergola on your way to the gazebo. Proceeds from the bricks will be used to create this reality. Stop by the display in the foyer to see the master plan and consider who you will honor or memorialize with a commemorative brick.

Also, we are looking for a few good people who will volunteer to be part of a mowing team for the grassy area  surrounding the garden chapel. Each volunteer would mow once during the month.

We have two volunteers already signed up and are looking for at least two more. Note: The church has a mower that can be used, or you can bring your own. Contact the church office if you're willing to help!

Everyone Loves a Gift!



NOROC is collecting some items to send to our Romanian grannies and teen girls. Please consider donating cosmetics, soaps, cosmetic travel bags, small samples of cosmetics or perfume, and jewelry. Bonus gifts received when you purchase cosmetics such as Clinique are also welcome, as are other small gifts, purses, and tote bags. We are asking for unwanted items that might not otherwise find a use. You may take items to Carolyn White directly or leave them at the church office.

Gratitude

Dear Kenyan Mission Team and FCPC,
On behalf of Mother Esther Girls Boarding and Rescue Centre, thank you for dedicating your time, energy and resources to be with us for a period of four days to help put up the classrooms for our children and houses for our teachers.

Thank you for your continuous support and even for the gift of balls among other things.

May the Almighty continue to expand your territories and grant you more years.

Yours Faithfully,
Victor Oloo, Head Teacher

Dear FCPC,

We want to thank each and every one of you for your prayers and friendship while we worked our way through dad's sudden illness and untimely passing. So many of you were amazing with spending time with dad and seeing to the family's needs. The service was so special to us, an awesome send off. Thank you for the family meal, it was much appreciated! Cliff and Janice were and are simply amazing as they walked us through this journey. This church has an amazing gift in their two pastors.

God Bless,
Marie, Bruce and Kristy Snelgrove

Dear FCPC,

Thank you for all your thoughts and prayers during my surgery.

Cassandra Wong

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to Vickie Burdine on the loss of her mother, to Lynn Roeder and family on the loss of Carl Roeder, and to Linda Moffatt on the loss of her mother.

Celebrations

We would like to celebrate the baptism of Pierson Kyler White, son of Misti & Jeff White. Pierson was baptized on April 14. Proud grandparents at FCPC are Fred & Carolyn White.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Symphorien Jean Angha, who was awarded the Prevost Ministry Award from Logsdon Seminary at Hardin-Simmons University. The Prevost Ministry Award is presented to a graduating Master of Divinity student who exemplifies commitment and sacrifice in preparation for ministry.