

The Alert

First Central Presbyterian Church
Abilene, Texas

November, 2018

Cliff's Notes



Dear Friends,



My beloved predecessor here at First Central, Dr. Roy Zuefeldt, once made a memorable announcement in church. He said "This morning I have some good news and bad news about our stewardship campaign. First, the good news: we have all the money we need!." Then Roy paused and said: "The bad news is that a lot of what we need is *still* in your pockets!"

It is stewardship time and we are headed for Consecration Sunday on November 11 when you will make an important decision about your giving in 2019. *It is an important decision.* And I hope that the decision you make is one that comes from your thankful heart.

Do we need your support? Absolutely. Highlights for the coming year include a mission trip/water well in Africa, energetic and inspirational youth programs, our community garden, an enhanced church library, a wonderful Festival of Faith in September, emerging adult and young adult opportunities for fellowship and learning, Logos, intergenerational mission trip to Austin, young adult mission trip to Romania, sanctuary choir specials and more!

There are three kinds of giving:
grudge giving,
duty giving,
and thanksgiving.

Grudge giving says, "I have to,"
duty giving says, "I ought to,"
thanksgiving says, "I want to."

The first comes from constraint,
the second from a sense of obligation,
the third from a full heart.

Nothing much is conveyed in grudge giving since
"The gift without the giver is bare."

Something more happens in duty giving,
but there is no song in it.

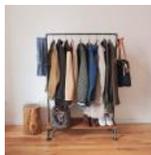
Thanksgiving is an open gate into
the love of God.

We do not ask you to support a budget, however. We ask you to give with thanksgiving to God and his work through our church. Then our promise is that we will include you in the budget process when we know the results. Don't give to a budget - give what you give to your Lord.

And don't miss our Celebration Lunch at noon on November 11. Joe Allen's barbeque is once again providing a delicious meal for us. Have you made your reservation? If not - call the church office at 677-3501. Reservations are not necessary, but we would like a good guesstimate as to how much food to order. This event is for the entire church family.

Around First Central

Coat-Off-Your-Back Clothing Drive



Clean out those closets! We are still preparing for the Clothing Give-Away on Sunday, November 11 from 2-4 pm in Faith Hall. Bring your no-longer-needed fall and winter clothing--all sizes, all ages--and see them put to good use again! Don't have any? Bring some warm socks, hats, scarves, underwear!

Also, help is needed to sort clothing and place on the appropriate tables! COME 8am - 5pm on weekdays THIS WEEK to lend a hand... very necessary for a successful event! MAWA - Make Abilene Warm Again this winter!

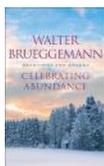
Garden News

Dedication of the Rosemary Young Memorial Chapel, labyrinth, and Thank Offering will be held Sunday afternoon, Nov. 11, at 2:30 p.m. in the Meditation and Community Garden, hosted by the Presbyterian Women. Many volunteers have given of their time and effort over the past four years to create the garden. The addition of the outdoor chapel area and labyrinth offers visitors to the garden enhanced meditation opportunities. The mission of the garden is to nourish both body and soul; nurture healthy relationships with nature and neighbors; and sow seeds of gratitude for God's creation. PW appreciates the time, effort, and expertise of Danielle Delhomme and several Master Gardeners, who have proven that it's possible for flowering plants to flourish in West Texas.



"WHAT IS A LABYRINTH?" This question has been asked for more than 4000 years by people worldwide. There are numerous labyrinth designs, but one that has passed the test of time is referred to as the "Classical" and is the design of the labyrinth in the meditation and community garden. Unlike mazes, labyrinths offer no chance of a wrong turn. There are no dead-ends, allowing walkers of this sacred path to freely devote all their attention to prayer and contemplation as they make their way to the center then out again. The Presbyterian Women invite you to experience this ancient path at any time, which has been made possible by a partial grant from Synod of the Sun.

Phoebe's Friends



Phoebe's Friends invites you to participate in a pre-Advent study beginning Monday, November 5, at 10 a.m. in the Minter Room. The four-week study will be based on selected devotionals from Walter

Brueggemann's latest book, *Celebrating Abundance: Devotions for Advent*.

Blood Donation Drive

You're our type! Please consider donating blood Sunday, November 11. The Meek Blood Center Bloodmobile will be at FCPC and St. Paul UMC that morning from 8:30 to 11:30 am. Donors get a t-shirt! Please allow at least 45 minutes for blood donation. This includes registration, a mini-physical, health questions, the donation process, and post-donation refreshments. Please bring a photo ID. The time you spend giving blood can give someone else a lifetime!



Mission Trip to Africa



Planning goes on for a mission trip to serve the Kenya Water Well and Mother Esther School and Rescue Center Project. Here are details developed thus far. Dates - March 7-18, 2019. Group size - 8 or 16 people. Among our activities - dedication of water well to be drilled in Namelok village; worship and celebration with Namelok community; four days of mission service (provide medical clinic; assist in building classrooms and staff house at Mother Esther school); two days on safari. Cost - estimated cost including travel is \$3200. Questions may be directed to Garrett Briggs or the church office, (325) 677-3501.

Driver Needed

The deacons are seeking someone to help drive those who need rides to church on the fifth Sundays when necessary. As most months only have four Sundays, this is an irregular volunteer opportunity – but still a great help to those in our church who need help getting to Sunday services. If you are interested in helping out in this way, please contact Charlie Russell for more information.



Christian Education News



Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. Just as Mary prepared for nine months for the first Christmas, we can take time to look forward with hope to the year ahead. Christian Education does two things to help this process along. On the first Sunday of Advent, December 2nd, we will be hosting our annual Advent Fair. However, there are some changes to the fair that you should be aware of.

In the past the Advent Fair was comprised of two main pieces, crafts for young children and a cake auction that helped to raise funds for youth mission trips. Neither of these pieces are going away. However, this year's fair seeks to draw from and cater to all members of First Central, not only youth and young families. We are putting out a call to all to find ways to enjoy and participate in this year's fair. For instance, if you would like to offer a baked good to be sold, that would be wonderful. Be creative! Show off your flair and panache! Like other fairs, we want all of the skills, gifts, and talents to be on display—it is the season to share your gifts after all. Woodworking, knitting, baking, painting, photography, music, dancing, and other crafts and skills are welcome. Simply call the office so we can arrange to make a space and place for you to share your gifts.

When the big day arrives, hopefully all people will come to see how our church exchanges our talents as gifts. Perhaps you will be able to walk away with a good Christmas spirit as well as something in wrapping paper.

The second event that always helps to put me in the Christmas spirit is our children's Christmas pageant, which will follow the Christmas dinner on December 9th. Rehearsals for the pageant are a part of the last Logos rotation—worship skills. If you have a student who would like to be a part of the pageant they can come for the whole of Logos or just the worship skills portion, which begins at 6:30 pm each Sunday night. There will also be a rehearsal before the Advent Fair on December 2nd, and a dress rehearsal immediately preceding the pageant on the 9th. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to call the church office. We are also looking for "friendly beasts," children younger than kindergarten to add additional adorable-ness to the evening. Younger children are welcome to be fit for friendly, furry costumes before the Advent Fair.

Christmas is a wonderful time to give thanks for the gifts we have received and to share our gifts with others. I hope you will begin to think about how you might be able to give and receive this year at First Central.

Children's Christmas Pageant



We are on a countdown for our wonderful Christmas pageant that is performed by our children every year. Practice will be during Logos on November 4, 11, 18, December 2 with the final practice and pageant on December 9. On December 9 practice will start at 3 PM and go to 5 PM. Then we will have a pizza party followed

by the pageant. It is an extraordinary event and I hope you make it a priority.

Would you like for your child to participate in the pageant? You don't have to attend Logos—just come to the practices. Toddlers to fifth graders are welcome. Contact the church office for more information.

Youth and Emerging Adults News

Progressive Dinner

To celebrate Thanksgiving as a group, the Youth will participate in our annual Progressive Dinner on November 11th. During this Thanksgiving themed dinner, each course will be served at a different home of a Youth parent or church member. Host homes are still needed. Email Kristen at kbridwell@fcpc.net if you are interested in helping!



Camp Romania - Coming Summer 2019!

Every two years FCPC leads a summer mission trip to Tulcea County, Romania for college-aged young people to work with NOROC (New Opportunities for Romanian Orphaned Children). The next trip is planned for the end of July or the beginning of August of 2019! The group will be gone between 10 and 12 days. If you are between the ages of 18-25, a high school graduate, and a member (or regular attendee) of FCPC, the trip will only cost \$1000! Palo Duro Presbytery members can go for \$1500, Synod members can go for \$2000, and all others can go for \$2500. All of these prices are heavily subsidized through grants, fundraisers, and individual donors. Spaces are limited! If you are interested in this trip or if you know of an Emerging Adult that might want to participate, contact Kristen ASAP at kbridwell@fcpc.net.

The Beginning of the Holiday Season is Here!

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Youth will not have evening meetings on the 18th or the 21st of November. Emerging Adults will not meet on the 21st of November. Both groups will resume their regular schedules on Sunday, November 25th.

Stephen Ministry at FCPC



Are you familiar with the *Stephen Ministry* Program at FCPC? Would you like to find out more about this FCPC ministry AND would you like to be trained to BECOME a *Stephen Minister* at FCPC? There will be a *one hour* Stephen Ministry "Sampler" held at 5:31 p.m. Monday, November 12, 2018 in **Room 212, the DISCIPLES Classroom** hosted by Ann Giddens (214-417-5407) and Bill Core (325-665-1366) to inform you about

the Stephen Ministry Program at FCPC and to survey your interest in being trained to serve in this ministry. Please contact either Bill or Ann by no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, November 9 if you have more questions and/or if you would like to attend. We WANT your presence. It will be most helpful if we know *IN ADVANCE* of your intent to be present.

Food Pantry News



Dear Friends of the Frances Buzard Presbyterian Food Pantry, Our Thanksgiving Give Away to our pantry families is a long tradition for our church. On November 20, 2 days before Thanksgiving, we will distribute our Thanksgiving bags to 150 + families. These bags will include a turkey and all the things they would need to have a Thanksgiving feast.

We still need the following:

150 packages of cookies	100 cans of corn
150 boxes of stuffing mix	100 cans of chicken broth
100 boxes of instant potatoes	100 cans of fruit
100 cans of cranberry sauce	75 tubs of frosting

Please drop off any items in our collection bin in the foyer area. We need these items by November 10 if possible. The week of the giveaway we will also be asking for Turkeys and Pumpkin Pies to be dropped off at the pantry. Donations would also be appreciated. Be thankful and give generously. If you have questions, call Judy Powell at 217-390-8084.

In September, the Food Pantry provided food for a week to 123 families, for a total of 332 people: 159 adults, 95 children and 50 senior citizens.

Breakfast on Beech Street

B.O.B.S needs YOU! We're seeking new volunteers to join our Thursday teams. Come and give it a try! Please contact the church office (677-3501) for more information or email breakfastonbeechstreet@gmail.com. Your monetary donations are always appreciated as well.



Our numbers grew In August with 1897 guests (89 between 1-18 yrs. old) receiving breakfasts and lunches which included 3015 sandwiches plus cookies, fruit and a scripture. Year to date BOBS has served breakfasts to 11,914 guests.

Sound Investment Fund



We are now taking donations to our Sound Investment Fund. Monies from this fund will help pay for the hiring of the orchestra for our Christmas Presentation in December. You can support our Music Ministry by making donations to the Sound Investment in honor or memory of someone. Contributors to the fund will be listed on the program along with the person or persons in whose memory or honor the funds are being given. Please consider supporting our Music Ministry by making a Sound Investment.

Gratitude

Dear FCPC,
Thank you so much for my grant money for the 2018-2019 school yaer. This money will go toward paying for my textbooks for my senior year.

Blessings,
Cassidy Fala (Texas Tech '19)

To the FCPC Church Family,
The family of Rita Meshun McDow acknowledges with deep appreciation your kind expression of sympathy. Thank you all for your thoughts and prayers during our time of loss. It was and is greatly appreciated.

Always,
Thelma Gray and Family

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to John Armistead and family on the death of his wife, Teiko Armistead, to Bill Minter and family on the death of his sister, Carol Hall, to Sue Sullivan on the death of her sister-in-law, to the family of Dee Kirby, to the family of Gina Price, and to Eula Bailey on the death of her cousin, Joyce Faye Hasky.

Celebrations

We congratulate Jean Pierre Mwema and Furaha Bahati on the birth of their son on October 3rd.

We also celebrate the baptism of Karter Lukas Baum, son of Jeremy Baum and grandson of David and Phyllis Baum. Karter was baptized October 21 here at FCPC.