

The Alert

First Central Presbyterian Church
Abilene, Texas

October, 2018

Cliff's Notes



Dear FCPC family,

There is a legend that Martin Luther once said, *"Even if I knew that tomorrow the world would go to pieces, I would still plant my apple tree."*

There is no evidence Luther ever said that, but it's still true: by planting an apple tree, we go about our calling. Our calling is to do well what we have been called to do.



Our stewardship theme for 2018 is **"Sowing Seeds of Hope."** We are going to run with that thought during the month of October and early November.

One of the parables that Jesus told his disciples shares a sense of who God really is and the way God really works. It is the parable of the sower who scatters seed everywhere, knowing that many seeds will be lost, but confident that some will grow to produce a plentiful harvest. (Matthew 13:1-9 and 18-23)

I want to lift up two implications, which run counter to conventional thinking, of this parable for our understanding of who God is and the way God works.

First, the parable suggests that God's style is one of extravagance. Seed in those days was precious. You rationed your consumption of grain all year long so as to make sure you have enough grain left to plant as seed for the next growing season. The injunction to not eat your seed corn was not merely a metaphor but a matter of survival.

Yet in Matthew's parable, the seed is scattered everywhere, the likely places and the unlikely places, and the knowledge that much will be wasted, but with confidence that some will take root, and grow, and flourish, and produce a bumper crop.

In Matthew's parable, the seed is the word of God which is God's love.

The implication of the parable is that God's love may often be wasted. But I remind you that God's love is often wasted, nevertheless God style is to love extravagantly.

And a portion of God's love falls on good soil in our hearts and grows and flourishes and brings forth grain sometimes 100-fold, or 60-fold, or 30-fold.

In this parable, the problem is not an insufficiency of love on God's part. The difficulty is in our inability to receive it! Someone pointed out that this parable really ought to be called "the parable of the soils" rather than "the parable of the sower." The problem was not the sower or the seed but the soil.

The second, and perhaps more difficult, implication of this parable, is that God has decided to trust the process. And God has decided to trust us. God has decided that love will work. According to this parable in Matthew 13, God has decided to do that by loving extravagantly. You see God really really believes in love!

I believe in love too, but I'm not sure I really trust it. I believe in love *and* a signed contract! I believe in love *and* strong national security. I believe in love *and* a good padlock.

But according to this parable the way God has chosen to work in the world is by planting seeds –and the seed is love.

Our stewardship campaign is one filled with hope. We trust that when we love extravagantly – the seed will make a difference in this world. God will plant seeds of love so extravagantly that they will work their way past the hard and thorny places of our hearts and find tender soil to take root in the harvest which will be the kingdom of heaven.

Sowing seeds and hope with you,

Around First Central

Weatherization Day 2018



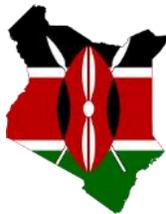
Abilene Volunteer Weatherization Day has been selected. Saturday, October 20, is the date! It is when FCPC has teams, who join in with many others all over Abilene, to weatherize homes of local elderly and disabled folks. We do such things as caulk windows, weather strip doors, repair holes or gaps in walls, apply putty to loose window panes, replace broken glass, and others.

On the 20th, be at the church at 7:30 am to meet your team and get necessary information. Plus, get fueled up at our tasty continental breakfast counter! Work teams will depart shortly after 8 o'clock.

"Hey, I want to help... but I don't know how to do some of those things? Is there help?" - Yes, there is! A training session will be held on Saturday, October 6, from 10-11 am, at the West Texas Rehab Board Room, 4601 Hartford, in Abilene. No sign up is necessary for the training... just get a friend and go! Or, if you have questions, call Bill Bedford (325-669-8850), coordinator of FCPC's Weatherization Day teams. To let us know you want to help on Oct. 20, you can sign up at the Information Desk, or tell Bill, or inform the church office. It is a wonderful time for helping and sharing!

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

This is the month when a bump in the night is more than a bump in the night! Looking for horror stories? Have you considered when Saul consults a witch at Endor who brings back the spirit of the deceased Samuel (1 Samuel 28)? Spooky.

If you enjoy little frights in your October nights, consider Family Fright Night on October 31st this month. Instead of Trunk N Treat, come for a family friendly frightening movie (think Shrek). There will be popcorn. Come in costume. And undoubtedly there will be some candy to pass around. Bring a lawn chair, a tailgate, and a few snacks and it should be a hauntingly happy occasion.



"The Endorian Sorceress"
Dmitry Martynov, 1857

Logos and the Wednesday Night Supper Studies are in full swing. October is prime time to enjoy these excellent programs. Check below for a schedule of speakers and Logos themes.

Logos

- Oct 7 Football
- Oct 14 Superheroes
- Oct 21 Mr. Potato Head
- Oct 28 Halloween/Harvest
- Nov. 4 Pumpkin Patch
- Nov. 11 Legoland

Supper Studies

- Oct 3 Chris Hutson The Gospel According to Little Red Riding Hood Part I

- Oct 10 Chris Hutson The Gospel According to Little Red Riding Hood Part II
- Oct 17 Terry Cagle Connecting Caring Communities
- Oct 24 Jonathan Roach
- Oct. 31 Family Friendly Fright Night
- Nov. 7 Marie Mickey
- Nov. 14 Fred Bailey

You also should be aware of upcoming changes in the Advent Fair. To create a larger fair-like atmosphere, we want to draw on YOUR skills and hobbies. If you can craft in any way, shape, or form—baking, photography, sketching, knitting, woodwork, crafting, singing, or other hidden talents—we want you to showcase those skills. There will be opportunities this year to auction or sell your goods to benefit youth and emerging adult missions. Please contact Jacob Snowden or Kristen Harris-Bridwell for more information!

Youth News

All Youth Lock-In



The Lock-In will begin on Friday, October 12th at 9 PM and will run until 6:30 AM the next morning.

Come ready to watch some movies, play games in the dark, eat tasty treats, and to fight back the sun by staying up ALL NIGHT! We will end the evening with a home-cooked breakfast.

Emerging Adult News

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.

Food Pantry News



Dear Friends of the Frances Buzard Presbyterian Food Pantry, as we enter the fall season we start to think of our efforts to collect lots of extra food for our Thanksgiving project at the pantry. For many years we have provided our families everything they need to prepare a Thanksgiving feast. In the month of September we would like to collect 400 cans of green beans and 400 cans of corn. Consider purchasing a case (24 cans) of these for us, or make a donation to us for our Thanksgiving purchases. These are above and beyond our regular needs at the pantry.

Be thankful for the food you have and generously give to those who need our help.

In August, the Food Pantry provided food for a week to 127 families, for a total of 385 people: 205 adults, 130 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.

Disney Dinner Theatre

The choirs of Hardin-Simmons University are hosting a Disney themed dinner theatre in Faith Hall the evening of October 19 and 20. Students will perform favorite songs from Disney and Pixar movies – some in costume – over a wonderfully catered dinner. This is perfect for families with young children or just people who love great entertainment. Funds from the Dinner Theatre will help our students raise money for their tour to Florence, Italy in June of 2019. Ticket prices are \$20.00 for adults and \$10.00 for children and students. Children under 4 are free. To purchase a ticket, see Clell Wright.



Garden Work Day

We will be working in the FCPC garden on Saturday, October 27th from 1-3 pm. Everyone is welcome – the more hands, the better! Can't make it on the 27th? You can join us on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between 8 and 10 a.m. as members of FCPC and our Master Gardener friends put their expertise to work!

Caps for God's Children

Caps for God's Children is the current project of the Knit and Crochet group that meets Wednesday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon in the Minter Room. Come join us! We also accept donated yarn of any color.



Gratitude

I don't have words to explain how meaningful the worship service/sermon CDs have been to me since June 4, my last time in worship.

In the quietness of my den and listening through my hearing aids, I feel God's presence as I worship Him in my own home, with help. I sometimes listen several times and hear things I had missed earlier. One time, I heard a person selling audio cassettes say that it takes five times listening to get the full message.

The CDs are especially helpful because of my hearing loss. I have now learned to turn the volume from 25-30 to 90+ to hear the music and children's sermon!

Thank you to Kori for making the cd available for me on Monday mornings. This service is available to everyone, especially shut-ins and those who are unable to attend worship. The library packet includes the bulletin, pew sheet, hymns and announcement flyers so I keep current with what's happening and I like having this in my hands as in worship.

Barbara Kelly

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to Jim & Sue Sullivan on the death of their granddaughter Stacy Horton Sanchez and to Thelma Gray on the death of her sister Rita Meshun McDow.

New Members

We warmly welcome Josh, Kami, Brock & Gunner Fleming, Andrea Jensen, Chuck & Mary Jane Chambers, and Panya Bender to the FCPC family!