

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

September, 2018

## *Cliff's Notes*



### **What's right about my church?**

The very first,  
and best thing "right" about my church  
is that it's not my church at all.

If it was I would be in the deepest trouble,  
that's for sure.

"First Church of Me"  
may sound, at first, appealing,  
but I fear the worship soon would turn monotonous  
and the offerings and mission trips  
- selfish and self-centered.

Church school would lack for content  
Sermons would be filled with "I, me, my".  
Fellowship would be great  
- if it was all centered around me.

So what is right and true and even holy about "my" church  
is that it is not,  
and never has been - mine.

What's really right about the church  
is that it remains the church of One  
whose grace and mercy reaches  
wide and deep to welcome one and all

Invites all to belong  
and be at home together  
with One who is bigger than all of us.



## Around First Central

### Fight Night!



FCPC is jointly sponsoring a marriage enrichment event on Sunday evening, September 16 from 7 to 9:30 PM., to be held at the Abilene Convention Center. This is a citywide event in which our church is one of the sponsors. We are hoping that many from our church will consider being a part of this.

There is a ticket price per person, but because of our church's generous sponsorship your cost will be reduced! Here is the way we are going to work this. Go to the website [LESANDLESLIE.COM](http://LESANDLESLIE.COM). Click on "Attend an event" then "View events and register". Then choose FightNight Abilene, Texas "view details and register". Then click on "Register Now." Then "tickets". Then at the top right hand side click "Enter Promotional Code." For FCPC members and friends only the code is "SponsorChurchSpecial". Ticket prices have increased slightly, but you may still register and use the special code for a discount. FCPC will also offer free child care here at the church so you can attend.

Dr. Parrott calls this "Fight Night" because the evening will deal with fighting fair in marriage. The evening is meant to be inspirational, informative and fun.

Dr. Les Parrott is a master communicator, and has spoken internationally to a variety of groups including corporations, the armed services, and associations of professional athletes.

Dr. Parrott has been a guest on many radio shows and featured on national television. His work has been written about in newspapers and many magazines.

Dr. Parrott is an award-winning author of more than a dozen best-selling books including *High-Maintenance Relationships*, *The Control Freak*, *3 Seconds*, *Becoming Soul Mates*, *Your Time Starved Marriage* and *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*.

### Homecoming at FCPC

"Let's Have A Picnic" is the theme of Homecoming 2018. September 23 is the date. This is our 137th anniversary. So let's celebrate.



This is a wonderful Sunday to dress casually. At noon we will have our "picnic on the grounds!" Faith Hall will be the location of some delicious food as well as fabulous friends. The M&A committee will furnish finger licking good fried chicken and drinks. We are asking our members to bring veggies and/or salads (enough to feed 8). We are asking our "sweet" deacons to bring desserts.

Homecoming means coming home...and we pray in advance that everyone who comes will feel the warm welcome of our church family as well as the embrace of our loving Heavenly Father.

So remember to dress casually! Bring a dish...and bring a friend.

### A Word from Jacob Snowden, DCE



#### **The Value of Christian Education (and Logos)**

The significance of Christian education was firmly established by leaders of the Protestant Reformation. The Reformation is inseparable from an educational revolution made possible by the printing press. Just consider that to take pride in being "people of the Book" requires pride in being a book-ish, literate people. Luther and Calvin agreed that every believer ought to be able to read and study scriptures personally – which required a literate church.

Before the Reformation, education was a privilege of aristocrats and priests, but the reformers argued that it should be made available to all. Luther and Calvin were both responsible for opening schools. Calvin even made Geneva University tuition-free!

Today, Presbyterians still take pride in being people of the book and people of education. There is a reason virtually every Protestant church holds Sunday School. First Central regularly considers how to provide more Christian Education opportunities. If you are not part of a Sunday School class, a small group, a book study, or other Christian Ed opportunity, please consider what is offered, or contact the church office to see what new opportunities might be available to you.

For children, one the best educational opportunities is LOGOS, our Sunday night program. For three hours, students are able to play, eat, study, and worship—each of which is a learning opportunity. In play students learn cooperation and teamwork. In eating, students learn manners and friendly discussion. In study, students learn scripture. In worship, students learn the parts of Presbyterian worship including singing, prayer, and giving. Logos is starting very soon. We have excellent teachers, all committed to nurturing our young students in a host of ways.

In a month when Presbyterians across the nation celebrate education, I encourage you to consider your Christian Education—what you have to offer and places where you can grow. Logos begins Sunday, September 23rd at 4:30. Encourage someone to come and bring a friend.

Philip Hughes writes about Calvin's school, "[In Calvin's academy] human vessels were equipped and refitted in this haven...that they might launch out into the surrounding ocean of the world's need, bravely facing every storm and peril

that awaited them in order to bring the light of Christ's gospel....They were taught in this school in order that they in turn might teach others the truth that had set them free."

### Wednesday Nights Beginning Soon!

 Wednesday nights at First Central Presbyterian are tasty, interesting, informative and inspirational.

Why don't you join us at 5:45 PM for dinner? We have a box "dinner" from Jason's Deli for you (\$6.50.) Reservations need to be made by noon on Tuesday. Many bring their own sandwich - and we have a place at the table set for you.

We are beginning our Fall season on Wednesday, September 19 with one of our favorite speakers. Glenn Dromgoole is an author of more than 30 books, bookseller, publisher, newspaper columnist and a Presbyterian! Although if you push him about being a Presbyterian - Glenn will tell you of his strong Baptist roots in Sour Lake Texas where his dad was the preacher.

Glenn's presentation to kick off our season will be both inspirational and fun. Come and hear.

Wednesday, September 26 will feature Beth Reeves, the chaplain of the Abilene Police Department.

### Youth and Emerging Adults News



#### **Dollar Day At Mug Stop - Sunday, September 15 @ 9:45 AM**

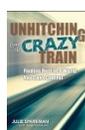
Each year we train the incoming 9th grade students in the ways of the Mug Stop - espresso pulling, milk foaming, money exchanging, and customer appreciating! On Dollar Day every drink on the menu is only \$1. We want AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE to come see the shop and help our new baristas learn the ropes. If you want to support youth missions, bring your dollars and your drink orders to the Mug Stop on Sunday, September 15 between 9:45 and 10:45 AM.

#### **WE'RE BACK! - Emerging Adult Church School Class and Wednesday Night Meal!**

With university classes back in session, the Emerging Adult church school class and the Wednesday night fellowship meal are back on the calendar. The Sunday morning meeting, called the "Lectionary Breakfast," consists of sitting on the couches on the second-floor landing, reading the lectionary passages of the day, and eating a free breakfast together. Wednesday nights from 5-6:30 PM are reserved for a free dinner, fellowship, and a lesson all in the Austin Youth Center. If you are an Emerging Adult or if you know an Emerging Adult, let Kristen know by sending her an email at kbridwell@fcpc.net or calling the church office. If you feel led to show some hospitality and help feed some hungry young people, also contact

Kristen to place you on the schedule for a Sunday morning breakfast or a Wednesday night dinner.

### Phoebe's Friends



*Unhitching from the Crazy Train: Finding Rest in a World You Can't Control* is the title of the book Phoebe's Friends will be studying each Monday, 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. in the Minter Room. The conversation revolving around the study and time of prayer have kept women coming back year after year. If childcare is needed, please contact Kori Barr, C.E. Admin. Assistant, kbarr@fcpc.net or call the church office, 677-3501.

### Sign-ups for Directory Photography Have Begun!



In-person sign-ups are available before and after our 8:30 and 11 a.m. church services. Sign-ups will be available every Sunday in September at church. You can also make an appointment for directory photography online—a link is available on the church website at fcpc.net—or we can sign you up over the phone. To do so, please call Kori in the church office at 325-677-3501 and she will assist you.

Your photography session is FREE, and your photo will appear in the directory at no charge. You will also receive a complimentary 8"x10" photo. If you wish to purchase additional photos, the Lifetouch representatives will be happy to assist you. There are discounts available--Military, First Responders, and Seniors receive 20% off their order, and all our members will receive a \$10 off coupon prior to their photography session.

Please make your appointment soon! If you can't find a day or time that works for you, let us know. You will need to allow about an hour for your session. If you have small children, we recommend earlier time slots to make sure the Lifetouch photographers can adequately serve your needs.

### Presbytery-Wide Ultreya at FCPC

A Presbytery-wide Ultreya will be held here at FCPC on Saturday, October 20 from 10 am to 4 pm. This event is open to anyone in our Presbytery, whether or not they have been to Cursillo. Be sure and join us for singing, visiting, and special 4th Day talks from Edy Morningstar and Sally Brantley. We hope to see you there!



### 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.

In August we served 127 families, providing food for a week to a total of 385 people; 205 adults, 130 children, and 50 senior citizens.

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

### **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](mailto: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.

### **Gratitude**

Dear FCPC,  
The family of Barbara Nickel wishes to thank everyone for their prayers and support following the recent death of my mother. It is a blessing to be part of a loving and caring FCPC family.

Dave Nickel

Dear FCPC,  
The family of Frances Buzard would like to thank you for all of the cards, calls, and prayers during her time in a Midland. She was so blessed to be a part of such a loving, caring church family and we appreciate all of you. Mom was very humbled to have the food pantry named for her and always said that if it wasn't for all of the volunteers, it would never be what it is today.

Thank you!

The Buzard Family

Dear FCPC,  
Many, Many Thanks for all the get well cards, the visits, the meals and the flowers during the time I had knee surgery. I feel very Blessed by all of you. Thanks so much.

Doreta Higginbotham

Dear FCPC,

Appreciate all the acts of kindness shown at the time of our love one passing. The cards, calls, flowers, memorials, and prayers were sincerely appreciated.

Your thoughtfulness and care brought comfort during a challenging time.

Thank you and blessings.

Tom and Dee Lackey

Dear FCPC,

Thank you so much for the wonderful card! It is truly a great ministering y'all are doing.

With Christian Love,

Roxie Schussler

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation to the Presbyterian Medical Care Mission. On behalf of the patients, the volunteers, staff and Board of Directors, thank you. We appreciate you! Many thanks for all you do in support of our mission and ministry.

Sincerely,

Debra Burchett, Executive Director

Dear FCPC,

Extending sincerest thanks to all the friends at FCPC who ministered to our family in our time of sorrow in the loss of my brother, Buddy Fincher of Albany. We appreciate the words of comfort, prayers, calls, cards, Facebook postings and other acts of kindness. Your prayers and support made our loss easier to bear.

Barbara Craig Kelly

### **Sympathy**

We extend our sympathies to Melinda Rausch and family on the death of her mother Chere McNair, to the family of Jerry Johnson, to the family of Frances Buzard, to the family of Ray King, and to Barbara Kelly and family on the death of her brother, Buddy Fincher.

### **Celebrations**

We celebrate the birth of Charlotte Collins Roeder, born September 5 to Callie & Austin Roeder.

We also celebrate the baptism of Gwyneth Mae Snowden, daughter of Sara & Jacob Snowden, who was baptized on August 26.