

The Alert First Central Presbyterian Church Abilene, Texas

September, 2019

Cliff's Notes



Dear FCPC family,

One of our great traditions is our Festival of Faith. This year we have invited noted author, seminary professor - Jason Byassee. This event is not only for our church but the whole community. Jason is a wonderful communicator. Come and see.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cliff H."

A poster for the Festival of Faith. The background is a close-up of an open, aged book with a hand holding the pages. The text is overlaid on the image.

Jason
Byassee

FIRST CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
FESTIVAL OF FAITH

SEPT 15—16

SUNDAY 8:30 AND 11
SUNDAY 7 PM
MONDAY LUNCH
MONDAY 7 PM

BRING YOUR FRIENDS

**SURPRISED BY
JESUS AGAIN**

Around First Central

Festival of Faith 2019



First Central Presbyterian presents noted scholar, author, speaker Jason Byassee for its annual Festival of Faith, September 15-16. Described as erudite, lucid, and in surprising ways lighthearted, Jason Byassee's theme will be the title of his most recent book: **"Surprised by Jesus Again."**

The Festival of Faith will begin on Sunday, September 15 at both the 8:30 and 11 am worship services. The title of Jason's Sunday morning message will be: **"God is Back."** And then again at 7 pm both Sunday and Monday nights with the title: **"God in Particular."**

A popular tradition for the Festival of Faith is the Monday Noon luncheon featuring Dr. Byassee "unplugged!" A box lunch is offered for \$6. Reservations are helpful – call (325)-677-3501, email signup@fcpc.net or sign up on the form available at the information desk on Sunday.

A session for clergy will follow the noon luncheon. Byassee holds the Butler Chair in Homiletics and Hermeneutics at Vancouver School of Theology. He has authored thirteen books. Author Nadia Bolz-Weber describes Jason Byassee as "a genius." Well deserved accolades emanate from Fleming Rutledge, Will Willimon, Eugene Peterson. He regularly speaks and writes on such diverse topics as theology, church history, politics, liturgy, popular culture, and spiritual practices. The entire event is open to the community. Cliff comments "We consider this an event meant to enrich the faith community of Abilene and surrounding communities. This year's speaker is particularly adept at encouraging the faith expression of a wide range of Christian traditions. His scholarship is solid and persuasive, and his arguments surprise and impress." There will be childcare during all events.

Join Us for Jacob Snowden's Ordination!

You are invited to the ordination of Jacob Snowden on Sunday afternoon, September 8 at 4pm in the sanctuary of First Central Presbyterian Church. Jacob has accepted a call to Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, Maryland. Jacob has chosen to be ordained in his home presbytery of Palo Duro. Your attendance is encouraged.



Christian Education News



New School Year – New Youth Opportunities

Each year, we look at what worked in the

previous school year and what didn't for Youth activities. We also consider the growth of the group and what sorts of content they are interested in studying. Because of these factors, we have made some fun changes to the Youth format and schedule. On Sunday nights, all youth will gather in the youth room at 4:30 for music and prayer. Then the group will split into Senior-High and Mid-High groups for a lesson tailored to each age group. Once the lessons are over at 5:45, we will come back together for a tasty dinner and for a group game in the gym.

Along with this change on Sunday night, we will also have a new emphasis for Wednesday evenings. Many of the Youth members requested more in depth and serious exploration of the Bible. Because of this request, Wednesday nights will be all about how to study the Bible! Group games will not be apart of the equation so that we can focus our energy on learning about how to read scripture and on growing together as a church family.

Emerging Adult Church School and Table Church to Begin in September



University students are back in town and beginning to come to Abilene churches. And that means FCPC is starting up it's Emerging Adult programming again! We will not have a church school class September 1. However, Emerging Adults (EAs) are invited to the Celebration of Education on September 8 during the church school hour. Then on September 15, the EA church school class will start a 4-week series entitled "How to read the Bible."

The first Table Church of the school year will be September 17 at 6 pm at Kristen's house. Table Church is a fellowship experience where EA's are invited to cook together, eat together, sing together, study together, and clean-up together. Essentially, it is a monthly family dinner held on the 3rd Tuesday of every month. If you are an EA (18-25ish), or you know an EA, please contact Kristen at kbridwell@fcpc.net to get more details about this ministry.



Godly Play and Children's Church School Update

We have GREAT news about the future of Godly Play at FCPC! Starting on November 3, Godly Play will become format we use for K-5th grade church school. This program is built to help young people learn about why we do what we do in worship, discover the stories of the faith, and explore the words of Jesus in an environment that focuses on play. At that time, we will also begin a children's church program during the 11 am worship service for K-1st grade students that will occur from when the children's sermon is over until the prayers of the people begins. Until that time, we will continue to

have children's church school with two classes – one for K-2nd graders and one for 3rd-4th graders. We hope that those of you with children will bring your kids to church to learn about their faith in fun and creative ways at FCPC.

Celebration of Education—A New Way to Celebrate!



This year's Celebration of Education will have an exciting new format. We will gather in Faith Hall (the gym) at 9:45 AM on Sunday, September 8 for a short presentation that includes information about the non-Sunday morning Christian Education opportunities at FCPC. Then we will go in tour groups, each with a Christian Education Committee tour guide, to every church school class for a progressive breakfast. Each church school class will have a small breakfast item available to you in their classroom along with a short description of what their class is like and what they are currently studying. This is an event for EVERYONE at FCPC. Even if you are not in the market for a new class, it is a wonderful way to learn about what Christian Education at First Central is all about. This progressive breakfast tour will give you talking points to share with your friends outside of FCPC and with visitors to our church that you run in to on Sunday morning. Make sure to stick around for the 11 AM worship service as well. We will continue the celebration in worship as we give Bibles to our promoting 4th grade students and journals to our promoting 6th grade students during the service.

Phoebe's Friends



Phoebe's Friends weekly meetings at the church will begin Monday, September 9th at 10 a.m. Plan to attend! For the fall we are studying God, Improv, and the Art of Living by Mary Ann McKibben Dana. Copies of the book are available in the church office for \$17. Friends are welcome to attend and childcare will be available at the church upon request.

Logos begins on September 22!

This is an incredible opportunity for our children between the ages of 5 and 5th grade to play, learn, eat and worship together.



The fun starts at 4:30 pm on Sunday afternoon. We conclude by 7 pm. Each Sunday evening revolves around a theme that will catch the imagination of the children.

One of the strengths of this program is the number of wonderful volunteers who share their time with each of the children.

Logos is open to the entire community. We encourage friends from the community to participate.

Sanctuary and Handbell Choir



Sanctuary choir rehearsal has resumed and meets on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. under the direction of Dr. Dee Romines. If you are interested in joining the choir, this is a great time as we begin preparing for the fall and upcoming Advent season. The choir rehearses upstairs in the music room. Handbell choir rehearsal has also resumed and meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. under the direction of Josh Wright. New members are welcome. Previous bell experience is not a requirement. Rehearsal is held in the room behind the organ.

Dart Baseball is Back!

Come one, come all! We are beginning a new season in our Church Dart Baseball League. Games are Thursday evenings at 6:30 p.m. WE are in need of members to play "ball" with us.



The league has been active in Abilene for more than 30 years. It is a great time of fun and fellowship with our own members and with other congregations throughout Abilene. We will miss Jacob and Sara who were both members of our team. Contact Bob Nethery or James Myers if you are interested. There is also a signup sheet at the information desk in the foyer.

Young Adult Bible Study



Our Young Adult Thursday night Bible study group meets at 7 pm every Thursday at the home of Cliff and Evie Stewart. 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!

Help with Christmas Shoe Boxes

We will be collecting items for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoe Boxes through the end of October. If you would like to contribute, we would appreciate donations of items such as combs, hairbrushes, toothbrushes, washcloths, bar soap, band-aids (colorful ones can make children more likely to wear a bandage, but do not include antibiotic ointment), reusable plastic containers such as cups, water bottles, plates, bowls, and simple utensils, and blankets.



Garden News



Commemorative brick order forms are available in the foyer. What a lasting way to honor a loved one or mark a milestone event in someone's life!

Each brick can accommodate 3 lines of print and up to 27 characters per line. The bricks will become part of a brick lane leading to a gazebo in the Meditation Garden, a ministry of Presbyterian Women. Order your bricks today or take an order form home with you and once completed, return to the church office, along with payment of \$50 per brick.

Flower Ministry – Help Needed!

The FCPC Flower Ministry delivers vases of flowers created from our Sunday arrangements to our homebound and hospitalized members to brighten their day. We are seeking a volunteer to help deliver flowers after the second Sunday of each month. If you are interested, please contact the church office or Garrett Briggs at 325-701-4709.



Food Pantry News



Dear Friends of the Frances Buzard Presbyterian Food Pantry, We are very busy at the pantry this summer. We served around 40 families just this week. We distribute lots of food and provide a much needed service for our community. We could really use canned vegetables, especially corn and green beans. Some grocery stores sell these at reduced prices if you buy a case of 12. We also need canned fruit, granola bars, juice boxes, and bags with handles for our clients who walk. If you have enough food for yourself and your family, be thankful. Then consider donating items we have suggested or make a donation to the Food Pantry. As always we appreciate your prayers for this ministry. In July, the Food Pantry served 127 families, for a total of 436 people—257 adults, 63 senior citizens, and 116 children ages 1-18.

Breakfast on Beech Street

Breakfast on Beech Street is a daily ministry carried out by volunteers from 4 or 5 congregations, each responsible for one day per week. FCPC volunteers serve each Thursday morning, arriving at 5 a.m. in order to prepare biscuits and gravy and be ready to serve guests by 6:30 a.m. to 7:15 a.m. Volunteers are usually finished by 7:30 a.m. It's a rewarding way to get your Thursdays off to a great



start! All meals are served from the First Christian Church kitchen, on the corner of N. 3rd and Beech Street. If you are interested in serving one Thursday morning per month, call the church office at 677-3501 and ask for more information and how to get started!

We had a busy July with 1865 guests (43 were between 1-18 yrs. old) received breakfasts and lunches which included 2914 sandwiches plus cookies, fruit and a scripture.

Gratitude

Dear FCPC,

I want to thank you for your donation in support of Abilene Area Littles. Friends like you are critical to our success in changing children's lives in futures and we are sincerely grateful for your support.

With hope and gratitude,

Mark Rogers

Market President, Big Brothers Big Sisters Abilene

Dear FCPC Family,

the refugee learners of English in Zambia are every thankful for supporting this program which helps them to cope with language barrier as they struggle with life in exile. May God bless FCPC.

Symphorien Jean. EPAMAC.

Sympathy

We extend our sympathies to the family of Ok Dam and to Bill Keeble on the death of his cousin.

Celebrations

We would like to celebrate the birth of Luke Gonzales, born August 23 to Allison & Nick Gonzales. Older brother is Blaine, and proud grandparents are Dave & Clare Nickel.

New Members

We warmly welcome Michael, Jessica, Emily & Caleb Wray to the FCPC family!

If you have information for the Alert, discover misinformation in any printed issue, or believe you have received this publication in error please contact Kori Barr by calling the church at (325) 677-3501 or email kbarr@fcpc.net.