

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin



## *Press Bytes*



### Life Together

Greetings,

When I was a child, May was one of my favorite months of the year. There were the usual reasons of course: budding trees – shrubs – and flowers – the end of the school year and summer vacation was close – which meant warm weather and staying outside. And, I've always been partial to Memorial Day.

As life goes on, things change. I still enjoy the warmer weather and outdoor activities – and beauty of the unfolding variety of flowers through spring and summer. But these joys are mixed with sorrow – grief – and the separation that comes as we grow and move apart. Friends and family get sick – move away – or pass away – and there's a void in our lives.

None of this is unique to me – this is what life is like – this is how our lives unfold – individually and as members of a community of faith. In the past months I've had the joy of meeting new people – presiding at several funerals – the wonder of baptizing a young child – and the privilege of visiting people at home – at the hospital – and in other health care facilities. During this time I have talked with several people about how amazing prayer can be. I remember back to my father's last days – and recall that I felt my family was being firmly supported on a cloud of prayer. That sounds like an oxymoron – how can a cloud be a secure foundation? Yet it was – and those in our faith community who are experiencing the support of family – church family – and friends through prayer agree that although it seems as though it must be insubstantial – this cloud of prayer is actually felt as tangible, firm support, surrounding, enfolding, and carrying them securely through this time. I think of the comfort of the 23rd psalm: ***“The Lord is my shepherd. He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters; and He also comforts me and guides me securely through the valleys of dark shadows.”*** I also turn to Psalm 27: ***“The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom (or what!) shall I fear? Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!”***

Through all the joys and sorrows – the green pastures and dark valleys in our lives – we are surrounded, enfolding, comforted, and cared for by Jesus – and through Him we share love, comfort, and faith with one another. I can wait for the Lord because of my faith. I can try to be strong and let my heart take courage because of the love, prayers, and support of all of you. That is what we do for one another as a family of faith. And the loving arms of our Good Shepherd and the cloud of prayer support us and carry us through.

As we move into May, let's celebrate on Mother's Day and Memorial Day. Let's share our joy! And may we share our prayers for those in our church family who are dealing with health and other concerns in their lives. May we love and pray for one another – sharing our joys and celebrations – sorrows and concerns – by sharing our prayers. We can trust that in all of this – we are supported, empowered, loved, and cared for by our Good Shepherd – and held securely on that cloud of prayer. Peace,

*Craig*

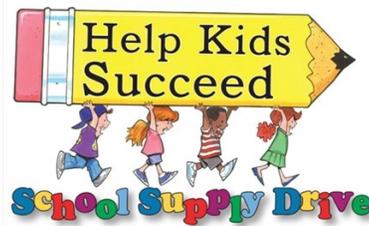




## SCHOOL SUPPLY MINISTRY

Last year, the combined efforts of FPC Alvin, our Clothing Outlet, Alvin Family Community in Schools, and the local YMCA combined to provide backpacks and school supplies to almost 1,600 students. By intentionally choosing to collaborate with one another, we served more and greatly reduced the chance for people to take advantage. The one day “fair” at Grace Ward Harby Junior High was a time of joy, commitment, love, and mission. Recipients of school supplies and volunteers alike were part of a life-changing experience.

Once again, we’re joining forces to help families in need with the challenge of providing school supplies for their children, The School Supply Fair will be held, Saturday, August 11 at Harby Junior High – what a fitting honor for the lady from this church who started it all.!



We will need your help prior to August 11, and we’ll have updates in subsequent newsletters. The work is not too strenuous and we do have a lot of fun.

## ALVIN MANVEL 2018 RELAY FOR LIFE

**June 2, 2018 at Manvel Jr. High School**

**11:00 am to 11:00 pm**

**GAME ON, GAME OVER CHALLENGE IS ON!**

**TEAM:** The Angels in the Outfield team is now at 14 members. There is still time to join the team!

**FUNDRAISER:** The team is raffling off a pair of wooden rocking chairs. The tickets are \$5.00 a ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.00. :

**SURVIVORS:** The Survivor's and Caregivers dinner will be held on Friday, May 18, 2018, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 pm. At Heights Baptist Church—Fellowship Hall. (1591 CR 144. Alvin 77511) This special dinner to recognize all cancer survivors and caregivers will include a free meal, door prizes, speaker, and entertainment.

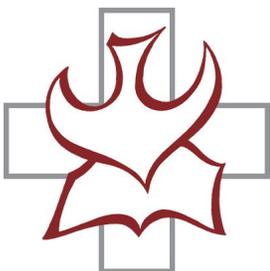
**LUMINARIA:** Light up your community and honor every life touched by cancer. Dedicate a luminaria to a loved one lost, someone currently battling, or anyone who has overcome cancer. (Forms can be found online.)

If you have questions, need forms, or want to get more information please contact Jill Wheatley or go to the link at: <http://relay.acsevents.org/site/TR/RelayForLife/> - put in 77511 zip code to search for our page.



“Building a Life of Faith God, from youth you have taught me.”

Psalm 71:17



### SESSION HIGHLIGHTS

The Stated Session meeting was held on Monday evening, April 16, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the church library.

Treasurer’s report: All records have been reconciled and are in good order.

The Session heard reports from the committees and on current projects. The new website is being administered by Adrienne Thomas and is proceeding well. The CGI Video group will be here on Sunday, April 29 at 9:30 a.m. to observe and record different aspects of our ministries here as they prepare the video for the City of Alvin and church website.

The Congregational Care Team made 80 contacts for the month, and has requested that another Homebound Communion training be held in the near future. The 2018 Officer Nominating Committee that will be presented to the congregation for consideration and election on April 22 are as follows: Robert Escobedo, Jason Elkins, Brandi Bowers, Cindy Waggoner, and Scott Thomas.

Session action items:

Approved usage of the Fellowship Hall for Sara Pannell on Saturday, May 5, 2018.



### Sr. High School Graduation Recognition

### Sunday, May 20, 2018



On Sunday, May 20, during our morning worship we will honor our high school graduating seniors. After worship please join us for refreshments and fellowship and enjoy visiting with the graduates and their families.

“We have seen the Lord.”

John 20:25

### Alzheimer’s Caregiver Conference & Resource Fair

Friday, June 8, 2018  
11am to 3pm

Alvin Family Community Center  
located at 1031 West Sealy, Alvin

There will be two speakers at the Conference and a host of healthcare affiliates and community partners. The speakers will focus on Caregiver stress and an update on the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s Disease.

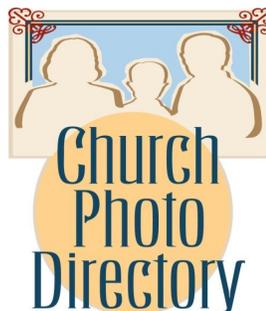
Please RSVP by June 6 to 979-236-5393 or by email to [djjalibby@hotmail.com](mailto:djjalibby@hotmail.com)

The Brazoria County Alzheimer’s Awareness Project is a partnership of Brazoria County Health Department and the Gathering Place.

### FPC Pictorial Directory

April 23 another “proof” was submitted to Life touch with corrections.

We “Thank You” for all your patience and long-suffering that has happened to get a Pictorial Directory that is correct and in good order. This has been a journey!



Please give Brandi Bowers a big hug when you see her! This project has been quite a challenge, and she has remained focused.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Kids, Mark Your Calendars!

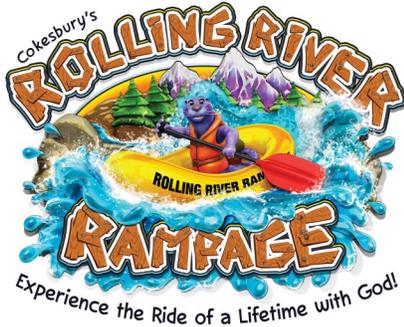
July 9—13

Come ready to experience the Ride of a Lifetime with God!

You will find adventure on the river and get to meet Romper the River Otter! Online Registration is:

<https://rrr.cokesburyvbs.com/FPCAAlvin>

*"When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." Isaiah 43:2*



## THE PENTECOST OFFERING -- BUILDING A LIFE OF FAITH

The Pentecost Offering unites us in a church wide effort to support young people in Christ and inspire them to share their faith, ideas, and unique gifts with the church and the world.

**BY GIVING TO THE PENTECOST OFFERING**

you're supporting ministries that unite young people and inspire them to share their faith in Christ.

Each year on Pentecost Sunday, we

celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit and the birthday of the church. The Holy Spirit remains with us still, connecting us with the church of the past, continuing to inspire the church of today, and *pointing us to the church of the future.*



Studies show that a foundation of faith established during childhood through young adulthood, helps ensure lifelong faith and service. Psalm 71 testifies to this same truth. Verse 17 says "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds." The patterns and lessons established during these formative years continue to bear fruit throughout a person's life.

These lessons might be taught through a congregation's commitment to *Educate a Child, Transform the World* in ministries that shape a child's academic achievement, setting them on a path toward a stable future. They might be taught through one of the youth events sponsored by *Ministries with Youth* at the national church that brings together young people from all over the country to share their experiences of faith with one another, and learn how their faith can help them address challenges all over the world. Or our young adults may be guided through a year of intentional service where they discern God's call upon their lives by our *Young Adult Volunteer Program.*

And there is more -- Presbyterian congregations are finding new ways to minister to children at-risk in their own communities. General Assembly programs are advocating for children and developing youth and young adult leaders.

By giving to the Pentecost Offering, one of the four Special Offerings of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), we are nurturing the faith of those who are the church to come; children, youth, and young adults. We invite your congregation to join with the worldwide church in building for our future, in building individual lives of faith. Won't you join us? If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot.



First Presbyterian always has plenty of places and opportunities to serve either within our own church family or the community.

Please contact a Session member or Pastor Craig if you have some time to help in the following areas:

- |  |                              |
|--|------------------------------|
| Homebound Communion                                | 4 G's                        |
| Gathering Place                                    | Relay for Life               |
| Delivering to Alvin Food Pantry after first Sunday |                              |
| Sound System                                       | Special Music during worship |
| Vacation Bible School                              | Mother's Day Luncheon        |
| Setting up the fellowship hall for events          |                              |
| Meals on Wheels                                    | Father's Day Lunch           |
| Clothing Outlet                                    | School Supplies              |

## FAMILY PROMISE

Janet DeLeon and Cathy King delivered our donations to the Family Promise Day Center. The Day Center is located at 1101 South Erget Bay Blvd., Building B, League City, Texas 77573. Below Janet and Cathy are pictured with our churches donations and Program Coordinator, Gayle Smith.



The Day Center is always in need of supplies. Items needed: toothbrushes, toothpaste, toilet paper, paper towels, hand wipes, Windex and 409 cleaners.



Monetary Donations can be mailed to: Family Promise of Clear Creek, P. O. Box 2723, League City, Texas 77578 or you can go online at: [treasurer1@ccfamilypromise.org](mailto:treasurer1@ccfamilypromise.org)



“O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds.”

Psalm 71:17





**Ongoing Prayers** Julie Thompson, Mary Leah Miller, Johnnie Waggoner, Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Jeanine Richey, D. J. McClendon, Camille King, Donna Rae Harris, Diane Murphy, Jim Berger, Pera Valdez, Paulette Brumbelow, Kay Tucker, Sofia Muzzafar, Oliver Cochran, Tina Moore, Evelyn Monk, Linda Allen, Ann Prestwood, Bill Pannell, Freddie Keene, Ruth Anderson, Juan Petty, Dianne Howard, Daniel Vaughn, Louisa Vera, Jimmy Abney, Danny Arena, Jean Barrow, Lacey Famil, Lee Syrett, Danielle Kline, Estelle Blackwell, Terri Bell, Barrett Blackwell, Janet Brown, Dianne and Bill Murff, Cathy Carvin, Dana Shackelford Evans, Cathy Gross, Charles Harrison, Chris Henry, Diane Howard, Shelly Jenkins, Ima Jane King, Dave Krauskepf, Bobby Loveless, Susie Klinkovsky, Paige LeJune, Margie Martin, Traci Owens, Marie Petersen, Lupe Rodriguez, Jason Poole, Joan and Joe Rossano, Don Roy, Elsie Smith, Clyde Scott, Theresa Stegman, Winona Temple, Karen Van Horne, Kathy Veigt, Barry Ward, Stephanie Wilson, John White, Jessie Williams, Heidi Young, and Bill Von Restorff.

**Immediate Concerns** : Lee Regatti, Roy Powell, Herb Myers, Gina Ruskey, Sloan & Hicks Family, Nancy Williams, Kaye McDonald, J.D. Stephens, Robert Bowers, Sharon Roberts, Larry Allen, Bill Steckert, Bill Duesing, Travis Tidwell, Bill Howell, Jim Hilton, Roles Family, Gayle Cross, Judy Martel, Brett Cotton, Bob Cotton, and Norman & Patty Hirsch.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS**

- 2 Wendy McGhee
- 3 Betty Montgomery
- 9 Bill Murff
- 11 Alyssa Wells
- 11 Diane Dallas
- 15 Lucy Pannell
- 19 Zach Thomas
- 20 Matt Ober
- 27 Phillip Escobedo
- 28 Belinda Busscher



Dear friends,

Seems that sometimes, we get so caught up in the busyness of life that we fail to stop and give thanks to folks who are doing great and wonderful things here at FPC Alvin. Sometimes, I feel like Larry the Cable Guy and I just want to **“Git-R-Done!”**

Please bear with me as I stop to give thanks to Adrienne and Scott Thomas for their work with our new sound system and website; to Brandi Bowers and Gina Ruskey for their work with our pictorial directory; to Gina Ruskey for coordinating with CGI as they prepare to video various aspects of our church to be presented on the City of Alvin and church websites; to the Session for staying the course on the manse remodel (which is completed); to Chris Lo for coordinating efforts to repair our church organ, and the folks who donated to this cause; to Building and Grounds, Kim and Paul Froberg and others for sprucing up our church campus; and to Lisa McCalla for her dedication to improving the Clothing Outlet. Thank you all so much. It is a pleasure to serve alongside all of you.

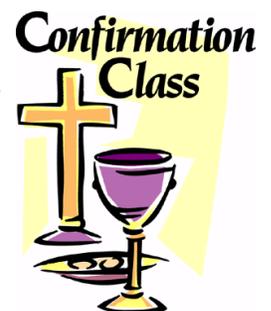
*Craig*



**Confirmation Class**

Confirmation is a time for students to learn about the Christian faith and explore what it means to live as a follower of Jesus Christ. At the completion of the class and in front of the church, students have the opportunity to either confirm their baptism or be baptized. They also have the opportunity to become a member of the church.

Parents of 8th graders and higher – If your child is interested in participating in the confirmation process, please contact Pastor Craig or Barbara Bennett (281-703-0445, [tebeb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:tebeb@sbcglobal.net)).



# The Gift from God

Acts 2:1- 47 (NIV)

The last time Jesus appeared to the disciples he instructed them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the gift that God promised them.

Read Acts 1:5 and fill in the blanks to see what they gift was.

"You will be baptized with the

\_\_\_\_\_."

That gift came on the day of Pentecost. Read about it in Acts 2:1-43 (NIV) and complete the cross word puzzle below.

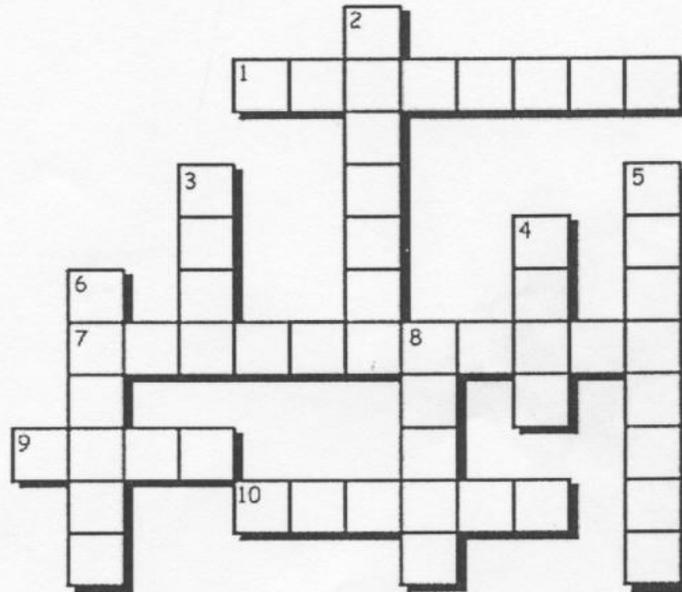
**Across:**

1. Many miraculous signs and wonders were done by the \_\_\_\_\_ vs.43

7. All of they were filled with the \_\_\_\_\_ vs.4

9. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent \_\_\_\_\_ came from heaven. vs.2

10. Peter said that the people should \_\_\_\_\_ and be baptized. vs.38



**Down:**

2. They began to speak in other \_\_\_\_\_ vs.4

3. Peter said that the gift of the Holy Spirit was prophecied by the prophet \_\_\_\_\_ vs.16

4. They saw tongues of \_\_\_\_\_ come to rest on each apostle. vs.3

5. In response to Peter's words 3000 people accepted Jesus as their savior and were \_\_\_\_\_ vs.41

6. Peter told the people that God had made Jesus both Lord and \_\_\_\_\_ vs.36

8. \_\_\_\_\_ got up and addressed the crowd. vs.14

