

# First Presbyterian Church of Alvin

## *Press Bytes*



### To the Saints at First Presbyterian:

Greetings.

We have finished our first year together and some really good things have happened. We are moving towards the search process that takes a pretty good amount of time. I would like to say a few things about the process so far.

One, I was to be here as the “new kid on the block.” There had to be a transition period from Craig to someone else. Craig was no longer here. Knowing how popular he was and is, and all the really great things he accomplished with your help, following him would not be an easy job. The new person would obviously be different. Some would like the difference and some maybe not, but the transition had to be made. I would receive the good, the bad and the ugly so to speak. Turning loose is never really easy but it is necessary to prepare for the next pastor you will call.

Two, I created a different office setting. It looks quite different from before, another transition change that is visual.

Three, I made some very different changes in worship. Added more liturgy and a lot more music. Added the guitar and different hymns from different sources. Worship took on a different setting and experience. The new pastor would make changes as he or she felt necessary, so adjusting to my style was something that would also come with a new person who would change what I implemented.

Four, we made some major adjustments in our financial situation. Mandi has helped us see that the Payte fund was losing \$15K each year from interest against the loan taken out in the church’s past. The loan wasn’t being paid back and the interest was draining the account. Eventually the fund would be totally gone. We moved it to Edward Jones and a totally different type account, paid off the loan with some of the money in the account and now we are making money, restoring the fund. Last count since December was over \$6K.

Five, I have worked with the Session to strengthen it so they would have a better understanding just what their role is in church government. We had a really good officer training session for the new elders and anyone else who wanted to come to the class.

Six, I have made it my position that all matters of the church will be visible to all members. Everyone needs to know what transpires when decisions are made unless of course it’s personal or confidential. I believe in our system of government and I follow the Book of Order. I suspect this attitude comes from the fact that I came from another denomination with a totally different system of government. I really like our way of doing things. It’s good to be back in the Presbyterian system.

Seven, I have given the worship committee and Session a comprehensive worship questionnaire. It’s quite detailed and after I get their response, I plan to give it to you to fill out and return. This will give us the thoughts you have about worship and something the new person will be interested in knowing. You will also want to know the results. I wanted to do this to not only get information but to introduce you to the detailed process you will need to go through to complete the Church Information Form that ministers will read as they are looking for a church to serve. Some of you have done this before.

Finally, I am looking forward to a Communicants Class next month. Several young people have shown interest in looking into church membership. Class is open to anyone who would like to learn more about our faith and church.

I hope if any of you have questions or thoughts about anything that I have said, you will drop by the office for a visit. My door is always open.

I have truly enjoyed being part of your life here at First Presbyterian and look forward to another great year as we move into the future where Christ awaits.

Peace,  
C.O.

### March Issue

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### Inserts

March 2020 Calendar  
Easter Lily Order Form

### PYE Happenings

The Youth welcomed four more young people to the group on Wednesday, February 12th. The kids enjoyed Wings and Fries for dinner before heading over to the Clothing Outlet to help our mission. The kids have learned how to determine if donated clothing is a “keeper” or if it needs to be sent to South America to be turned into wash cloths, how to determine the size of blue jeans if the tag is missing, and the difference between “Neimann Marcus” items and regular items. The Youth are looking forward to participating in Conclaves, February 28-March 1.



Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 8, 2020.

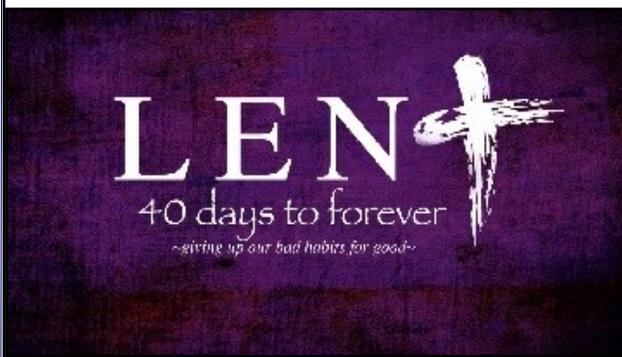
Don't forget to move your clocks **ahead** one hour.

And Jesus answered them, "Have faith in God. Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, 'Be taken up and thrown into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will come to pass, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

Mark 11:22-24

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Carol "Sissy" Gross
- 4 Rachel Watkins
- 13 Laura Dantzman
- 14 Carol Warych
- 16 Dorothy DeWalt
- 24 Cathy Rayburn
- 26 Lewis Rockwell
- 27 Evan Gondesen



February 26th started the Lent season. Starting March 4th and the following four (4) Wednesdays, we will have our Lenten Soup and Devotionals.

Please see Pg 6 for the schedule.

**Lent**

**By Christopher Lo**

On Ash Wednesday, February 26, 2020, we were marked in church with an ashen cross on our forehead. When this was imprinted, we were reminded that “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return” (Ecclesiastes 3:20). In addition to imprinting foreheads within church walls, each year clergy from many churches throughout the world, including Grace Episcopal Church in Alvin, took to the streets during the lunch hour, looked complete strangers in the eye, smudged some ashes on their forehead, and told them that they will die!

In an article in this February edition of the “The Bulletin,” the Reverend Becky Zartman, the Canon for Welcome and Evangelism at Christ Church Episcopal Cathedral in downtown Houston, reminded her readers that “Yes, we will die. Yes, we screw up. And yes, God still loves us beyond all rhyme or reason, we frail mortals that we are. Declaring our frailty, declaring our dependence on God, declaring that our time is short all sets us free to recognize that we are always held in God’s loving embrace, every day of our lives, no matter how we’ve failed, no matter how much or little time we’ve been given.”

On Wednesday, February 12, 2020, the Reverend Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Associate Pastor at Fairmount Presbyterian Church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, preached during opening worship of the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board on the text of Micah 6:6-8, (“what God requires”). Pastor Lindsay reminded those gathered that “it’s not their

**The mark of SIN  
The mark of CHRIST**



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.  
✧ Ecclesiastes 3:20 ✧*

worship practices God cares about, but their relationships with others. And since God cares about those in the margin, we are to walk with God in a way that brings justice, humility and love for all others.”

At this same Presbyterian Mission Board meeting, the Reverend Dr. Kathryn Threadgill, Associate for Vital Congregation for the Presbyterian Church (USA), spoke on Matthew 25:31–46 (the parable of the sheep and the goats). She likened it to the seven marks, defining what a vital congregation is and isn’t.

Lifelong discipleship formation vs. complacent “Christian” piety, simply teaching good morals or offering the latest programs.

Intentional, authentic evangelism vs. “Jesus freaks;” “Christian” hypocrisy; a committee.

Outward incarnational focus vs. inward institutional survival; closed communities of assimilation/exclusion.

Empower servant leadership vs. the pastor’s job; monopolized leadership; hiring the young,

Cont. on Pg. 5

For we walk by  
faith, not by  
sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7

## EASTER LILIES

As we've done the past three years, you will be able to purchase Easter Lilies to decorate our sanctuary Easter Sunday morning to celebrate the resurrection of our Savior Jesus. You can honor and/or remember a loved one by completing a form and placing it in an envelope, along with your donation in the form of a check or cash. The envelope containing your form and donation may be placed in the collection plate or taken to the church office during office hours. A form is included in this newsletter for your convenience. Additional forms can be found in the Narthex. The forms need to be received by Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. You will be able to pick up your plant(s) after worship Easter Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, or Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. If you prefer, you may donate your lily to one of our home bound members with a note that says: "Happy Easter!" The proceeds from the lily sales will go to the Youth Fund to help expand the Youth Program.



**Elder of the Month - Jason Elkins**

**Refreshments - Worship**

## Session Highlights

**February 2020**

The meeting was opened in prayer by C.O. After a Devotion from Janet DeLeon, C.O. shared with the Session the creation of a questionnaire that will give the congregation an idea of what they like and don't like concerning their church, worship, and Minister. The document will be completed by the Worship Committee, then the Session, and after fine tuning, will be shared with the congregation. The Session discussed the need for a safety plan for the church. Jason Elkins will be organizing a safety informational session for the congregation. The dates for Vacation Bible School will be June 22-June 26. C.O. will lead the youth and anyone else interested in a Confirmation Class on March 9, from 10 a.m. to noon. There was a great turnout for the Souper Bowl fellowship and the Chili Cook-off. C.O. will lead a Tai Chi class on Saturdays during Lent. The washer-dryer work has been completed, except for painting, which will be done by Building and Grounds Committee members. The next Mission Sale will be June 6, 2020.

The Sewing and ESL Class members are truly excited to be able to use our facilities to attend their classes. They donated toilet paper and paper towels to help offset the cost for the church.



Cont. from Pg. 3

energetic pastor.

Spirit-inspired worship vs. self-gratifying worship, stale ritual divorced of meaning, or consumer entertainment worship.

Caring relationships vs. any other social club; façades, hypocrisy, and judgment of “church” and “religion.”

Ecclesial health vs. unhealthy dysfunction; toxic environments; obsolete and irrelevant buildings

“We believe that if we show these marks — like Thomas needed to see the marks of Jesus and feel them in order to believe that was the risen Christ — we believe that if people can see and feel these marks within their congregations then they will come to know and believe their Lord and Savior is in Jesus Christ,” Threadgill said. “That’s what we’re after in congregational vitality.”

*Accomplish in us the work of your salvation, that we may show forth your glory in the world. Amen.*



# Operation Backpack Update

After all the hard work we put in and numbers finally settled, we, along with many other entities, were able to help 3,080 children with school supplies for the 2019-2020 school year. This wouldn't be possible without YOU our congregation members. Special Thank You goes out to Sheila Follmar and Lisa McCalla for all their hard work over the last year at the Clothing Outlet!! They could really use any additional help. Please let either of them know if you have a free morning or afternoon available.



**THANK YOU FOR HELPING KIDS MAKE THE GRADE**

The Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA in partnership with First Presbyterian Church served 2,905 Alvin area youth with school supplies and backpacks for the new school year. In addition, we also served the following:

- Santa Fe ISD – 75 school supplies/backpacks
- Alvin Community College – 20 backpacks
- Angleton Day Care Center – 80 backpacks/school supplies

Overall, we were able to serve 3,080 children this school year! Thank You to everyone that donated supplies, backpacks and time to YMCA Operation Backpack. Together, we helped kids make the grade!



- DONORS**
- Ascend Performance Materials
  - Alvin Sunrise Rotary
  - Marquerite Edwards Civic Improvement Trust
  - Soroptimist International of Alvin
  - Communities in Schools
  - Davis Day Foundation
  - HEB
  - Alvin ISD
  - First Presbyterian Church

- COLLECTION SITES**
- Alvin Skating Rink
  - New Hope Church
  - Affinity
  - Alvin ISD
  - ACU Federal Credit Union
  - Brazoria County Counseling Center
  - City of Alvin
  - First Methodist Church
  - First Choice Emergency
  - South Park Baptist
  - The Caboose
  - The Harbor



Thelma Ley Anderson Family YMCA  
3201 S Hwy 35  
Alvin, TX 77511  
281-585-2112  
ymcahouston.org/thelma-ley-anderson

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.  
  
Ephesians 2:8-9



## CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

**Ongoing Prayers** Lewis & Edith Rockwell, Nancy Williams, DJ McClendon, Lisa Polinard, Lane McGee, Becca Blanchard, Toney Crainer, Shelley Steckert, Harold Petersen, Konner Ortiz, Martha Phipps, Lucy Pannell, Larry Petersen, Ana Petersen, Amelie Grefenstette, the troops killed in

Afghanistan and their families, Jill Wheatley, Terry Johnson, Doris Rasmussion, Ed Wells, Belinda Busscher, Matt Ober, people suffering from the COVID-19 Corona Virus, and the members of the Alvin High School Colorguard.

**Immediate Concerns** : The Family of Louisa Vera, and Terry Johnson

*Please call the church office with updates.*

## Lenten Soup & Devotion

On March 4, 2020 FPC will host the Lent Soup and Devotion. Cindy Waggoner is the lead on this event. If you can help by making and bringing a soup, salad, bread or dessert please contact Cindy or you can sign up in the church Narthex. She will also need assistance with the setup and cleanup that day. Please give Cindy a call if you can help!

Here is the schedule:

Date	Time	Location
March 4, 2020	6:00 p.m	FPCA
March 11, 2020	6:00 p.m	FPCA
March 18, 2020	6:00 p.m	FCC
March 25, 2020	6:00 p.m	GEC
April 1, 2020	6:00 p.m	FCC

Legend: FPCA - First Presbyterian Church of Alvin - 302 S Johnson St.

The Reverend Dr. C. O. Magee

GEC - Grace Episcopal Church - 200 W Lang St.

The Reverend Suzanne Smith

FCC - First Christian Church - 1212 S Durant St.

The Reverend Loretta Smith

**Answer Key to Page 7**

21. EUCHARIST	14. ORDINATION	7. ABSOLUTION
22. RECONCILIATION	15. FORGIVENESS	8. CONTRITION
23. CONFORMATION	16. CHRISM	9. SIN
24. BAPTISM	17. SIGN OF THE CROSS	10. ANOINTING
25. MATRIMONY	18. MARRIAGE	11. LAYING OF HANDS
26. HOLY ORDERS	19. SPIRIT	12. OIL
27. ANOINTING OF THE SICK	20. DEACON	13. WATER
		6. PENANCE
		5. COMMUNION
		4. WINE
		3. BREAD
		2. CHALICE
		1. HOST

### Sacraments: Word Jumble

Can you unscramble the words below about the sacraments?

- 1. TSHO \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. LICEACH \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. EADRB \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. EIWN \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. NNIOUOCMM \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. EAECNNP \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. ULIONTABSO \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. TRITIONCON \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. NSI \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. NOINNGITA \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. YGNIAL OF NDSAH \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. ILO \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. ERAWT \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. IONATINORD \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. VEIGFORNESS \_\_\_\_\_
- 16. RIMSCH \_\_\_\_\_
- 17. NGSi OF ETH SRCsO \_\_\_\_\_
- 18. RIAGAMER \_\_\_\_\_
- 19. IITRSP \_\_\_\_\_
- 20. ONCDEA \_\_\_\_\_
- 21. STIRAUHCE \_\_\_\_\_
- 22. CONCILREIONTIA \_\_\_\_\_
- 23. MAIRFONTIONC \_\_\_\_\_
- 24. SMITBAP \_\_\_\_\_
- 25. RTIMYONMA \_\_\_\_\_
- 26. LYOH DERROS \_\_\_\_\_
- 27. OINANGNIT OF HET IKCS \_\_\_\_\_