



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 12

March

ACTS Sermon Series

“Acting Out Our Faith”

Presented Each Sunday During the 8:30am and 11:00am Church Services

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Ash Wednesday Services
Wednesday, March 6, 2019
7pm

Church Potluck
Sunday, March 10, 2019
12:30pm

Church Congregational Meeting
Sunday, March 24, 2019
12:45pm



DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS TIME
2019 WILL
BEGIN AT
2:00 AM ON
SUNDAY, MARCH
10

From the desk of
The Pastor

MORE THAN YOU EXPECTED. It is not logical nor can it be scientifically proven. It is just a strange kind of math, unique to Christianity.

I heard an illustration of this in the past week. There are these two dim-witted hunters who are out hunting for wolves in the mountains. These men are being paid to capture the wolves alive – and if they do – they will be paid \$5,000 a wolf. One night, the two hunters go to bed in their sleeping bags in their tent, and one of them is awakened at 3:00AM to the sound of a pack of growling animals around them. One of the men gets out of his bag and tent to find that they are surrounded by 50 snarling, angry, seething wolves. One guy shakes the other and says, “Hey Ned, wake up, You’re not going to believe this, but we’re rich.”

More than you expected is what Jesus offers. Consider your **GIVING** to the Church. Some may suggest that you are the poorer for doing so. You may think you are simply supporting the Church. Instead, you are the recipient of three things unexpected. The **JOY** of knowing that you were a part of the solution to the needs of others is one. What you have done mattered in big ways: the hunger of others, the teaching of Christ to children, the worship of hundreds and your faithfulness to the Gospels. Second, there is the **JOY** experienced by those who have received from your giving. They were helped when they knew that they could not help themselves. And there is God’s **JOY** in watching you fulfill His Will.

One of the things I have discovered and have had regularly reinforced is that when you live your life in Christ you always get

Or consider your gift of **LOVE** to another. Some might suggest that we are simply being a patsy. You may think you are simply expressing your feelings. Instead, you are the recipient of the **FULFILLMENT** that comes with watching another person built up, encouraged and feeling accepted. Second, they are grateful and comforted that there is someone out there who cares about them. Third, God is pleased when we have obeyed His Commandment, “Love one another as I have loved you.”

Or consider your gift of **FORGIVENESS** to another. Some might say that you are wasting your time or letting another off too easy. You may think you are simply letting “bygones be bygones.” Instead, you are the recipient of the **BLESSINGS** that come with forgiving another. First, you take the burden of anger and hate off your own shoulders for another. What a relief. Second, the one you have forgiven has the guilt of their actions taken off their conscience. A relationship they valued and then lost is restored. Finally, God is pleased when we do what we say every time we recite the Lord’s Prayer, “Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.”

It is a strange kind of math; $1-1=3$. You may feel lesser for your giving, loving, forgiving, like wolves circling your camp. Instead, you are so much richer than you ever expected. Think about it. May God make you rich in all things.

God Bless,
Dr. Donald Baird

Mission

Our Mission is to welcome all people, equip them for a deep and living faith in Jesus Christ, and send them into the world to share God’s love.



Vision

Our vision is to be a beacon for Jesus Christ. With His love and joy, we will draw people into a safe harbor where they are welcomed, healed, restored, and nurtured, becoming radiant witnesses.

Worship the Lord with Your Tithes and Offerings

(A meditation on Psalm 107)

Psalm 107 (NIV) exhorts the people of God to express thanks and to bring thank offerings to the Lord.

"1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
"

"2 Let the redeemed of the LORD tell their story— those he redeemed from the hand of the foe, "

Who are the redeemed of the Lord? In the OT it was the nation of Israel. We, the Church, are also the redeemed of the Lord.

This refrain appears at the start of each of the five sections of this Psalm. "Let them (the redeemed of the Lord,) give thanks to the Lord..." In the first four sections the psalmist describes many ways God delivered Israel and ways he delivers us today. In the fifth section the psalmist observes many of God's loving acts.

"8 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind,
"

"9 for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

God is the source of our very being and of the resources that we enjoy

"15 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, "

"16 for he breaks down gates of bronze and cuts through bars of iron."

God sets us free from the prison of sin.

"21 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."

"22 Let them sacrifice thank offerings and tell of his works with songs of joy."

Let us worship God with our tithes, offerings and our songs of praise.

"31 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind."

"32 Let them exalt him in the assembly of the people and praise him in the council of the elders."

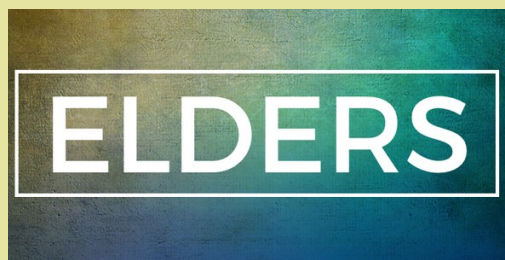
Let us share the good news of God's salvation.



Barbara Page

Elder Finance and Stewardship

The Session of First Presbyterian Church meets on the third Tuesday of each month in the church's conference room. The February Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 19, 2019. The meeting was opened and closed with prayer.



- Pastor Baird read from 1 Corinthians 12: 12-26, which speaks of the church being one body with many parts. Each part has its own gifts and abilities to be used in the way that they have been called to by God. This led into a discussion on the composition of the Session's Ministry Teams and how they could be used more effectively.
- The Worship Committee moved to approve Communion being served on the second Sunday of each month of 2019, beginning in March. The motion passed.
- The Worship Committee moved to approve combined worship services on Sunday June 9th and Sunday July 14th to include Communion. The motion passed.
- The Worship Committee moved to postpone making a decision on how to utilize the hour between services until a new Children's Ministry Director and/or a new senior pastor are in place. The motion passed.
- The Personnel Committee moved to increase the Youth Ministry Director's salary in order to compensate him for his increased duties. His Job Description was also changed to outline these new duties. The motions to increase his salary and to approve his updated Position Description passed.
- The Stewardship and Finance Committee moved to approve minor changes made to the 2019 Budget at the January Session Meeting.
- The Hospitality and Fellowship Committee moved to approve a potluck after the second service on Sunday March 10, 2019 at 12:30 pm.
- A Congregational Meeting for Healing and Reconciliation has been scheduled for March 24, 2019 at 12:45. A fundraising lunch will be provided by the youth, between the end of the second service and the beginning of the meeting.
- Session voted to realign the Ministry Teams of FPC to better cover all the ministry responsibilities set out in the Book of Order. Starting in June 2019, one Ruling Elder will be responsible for each of the following Ministry Teams; Stewardship & Finance, Worship, Facilities, Congregational Care, Adult Ministry, Youth Ministry, Children Ministry, Personnel, Fellowship & Hospitality, Special Ministries, Nominating, and Mission, Outreach & Evangelism.
- Session began the discussion on the process by which they will gather names of members to be nominated to the Pastor Search Committee.

The next meeting of the Session will be at 6:00 pm on March 19, 2019.

**David Dreydoppel
Clerk of Session**



Worship Committee News

The Worship Committee has adopted several changes to worship services at the Fairbanks First Presbyterian Church.

Communion

Since an ordained pastor is required in order to serve communion, Session has approved moving our regularly scheduled communion to the 2nd Sunday of each month for the foreseeable future. This change will accommodate Pastor Baird's scheduled time in Fairbanks.

Contemporary Service Worship

Pastor Baird has recommended changing worship elements and wording of the Lord's prayer, specifically using the word DEBTORS rather than SINS. He has a number of Biblical references to support this change. He would be happy to talk to you about them if you are interested.

Ash Wednesday

David McConnell-Booher and Jake Sirevaag are putting their heads together in planning a service for Ash Wednesday. Put it on your calendar for March 6.

Long Range Planning

Combined services are scheduled for June 9 and July 14. Communion will be served possibly with a social event following.

Organ Training

Russ Vander Lugt has eight students in his elementary organ class. These brave keyboardists are learning the basics of the organ with an eye toward playing for the traditional service as their confidence and skills grow. Already Nathan Vander Lugt has played the prelude and offertory to the surprise of worshipers. Well done, Nathan! Keep up the good work.

June Champlin, Chair
Elder of Worship



Therefore, let us be grateful for receiving
a Kingdom that cannot be shaken, and
thus let us offer to God acceptable
worship, with reverence and awe.

Hebrews 12:28



WANTED at FPC!! DEACON AND ELDER SUGGESTIONS



The Nominating Committee is soliciting recommendations for men and women to be Elders or Deacons. Our church calls all members to ministry and some are called to special offices of service and leadership as Elders and Deacons. We believe that God acts through us collectively and calls leaders through the voice of the congregation. If you feel led to suggest someone to be considered for those roles, please let the Committee know.

Elders serve on the Session, which is responsible for the total operation of the church including the spiritual quality of programs, the ministry and mission of the church and the financial affairs.

Deacons serve on the Board of Deacons, which is responsible for ministering to needy people (financially, personally, spiritually) in the congregation.

Based on the following Leadership Qualities, you may recommend people by copying and completing the form that follows the list of qualities. Please return the completed form to the church office, or, if you prefer, copies of the form may be obtained at the front office. Thanks for participating in our congregation's life and work!

June Champlin
Chair Nominating Committee

Leadership Qualities

In addition to being a church member for at least two years and in consideration of both natural talents and spiritual gifts (Rom. 12:3-8; I Cor. 12:8-10; 28-30; Eph. 4:11-12; I Peter 4:9-11), a nominee for Elder or Deacon can be expected to exemplify the following qualities:

Faith - A definite, unreserved response of faith to Christ in surrender of one's life (past, present and future) with evidence of the Holy Spirit in life's relationships.

Freedom - Ability to love oneself and warmly love others with affirmation and encouragement. Ability to communicate what Christ means personally, to help people give their lives to Christ, to counsel them about problems and pray with and for them.

Flexibility - Openness to God's will above customs, cultural patterns and church heritage evidenced in the desire to focus on the Word of God to be liberated from secondary loyalties so our church can act, not react; and can lead, not reflect our culture.

Finances - Evidence of leadership in giving to the church.

Fellowship - Ability to give oneself in deep, Christ-centered relationships so the Session and Board of Deacons can be the church in miniature. Times of study and fellowship are not an optional adjunct to business matters, but the essential ambiance in which we seek the mind of Christ for the church together.

Nominating Committee Members Mark Lawson, Dan Wells, Barb Schneider, Janice Cleworth, Kathy Rahmandar-Halfhill, Linda Wells, June Champlin, Moderator, Russ Vander Lugt, Moderator Elect.

"Continue on Next Page"

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
RECOMMENDATION FORM FOR ELDER AND DEACON**

I recommend to the Church Nominating Committee that consideration be given to the following person for nomination as: ELDER or DEACON (circle one)

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Number: _____

Occupation: _____

What SPIRITUAL GIFTS does this person possess? (See Romans 12:3-8, Ephesians 4:11-12, I Peter 4:9-11; I Corinthians 12:8-10, and 28-30):

What special talents or abilities does this person have?

Why do you think this person should be nominated?

Recommended by: _____ Phone: _____

Women's Bible Study

Please make plans to join the Women's Bible Study, each Tuesday from 10-11:30am in the FPC Conference Room. The current study, ***A Woman God's Spir-it Can Guide***, examines the lives of Dorcas, Lydia, Phoebe (and many other less frequently mentioned women in the New Testament). Child-care is provided. POC is Donna Brewer at billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com and/or 378-3351.

NOTE: Due to Spring Break, Women's Ministry Bible Study will not meet on March 12.



Thursday Nights

Downtown

All ages
Supper/Fellowship/Bible Study
6 – 8 p.m.
Children Welcome
(907) 699-3733
mikerepasky@gmail.com

North Side of Birch Hill

5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Young Families
Supper / Fellowship / Prayer
(970) 457-4050
amberbug@spu.edu

College Road, Near University

Adults
Supper / Fellowship / Bible Study
(907) 374-9394
tedjaon@ak.net

Friday Nights

Goldstream Valley

Mostly Adults
6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Supper / Fellowship / Bible Study
(907) 455-6703
reich@alaska.net

**Call or email us.
We want you to come.**

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Come, walk through the Book of Acts and find out how the church started. Please join us at 10am upstairs in the FPC Conference Room. The POC is Jerry Cleworth at akcoins@mosquitonet.com.

ROOTS

A Bible Study and Fellowship for Grades 4-6, meets each Sunday, from 4-6pm. Dinners are provided. If you have a desire to sign up for a meal, please refer to the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1exrlu7ft56bOY3sHV-ND6P2gPajdqaN7q6BZceE2row/edit?usp=sharing>

Led by Brian and Stephanie Rozell
907-687-0702 or 907-687-3730
brianrozell@gmail.com
Stephanie.a.rozell@gmail.com

NOTE: ROOTS will not meet on March 10.



Echo the Story!

We are excited to be starting a new Bible Study Series called Echo the Story! Echo the Story is a fantastic walk through the entire arc of scripture: exploring the story of God's creation of the universe, God's relationship with us, our broken and sinful history of forsaking God, and finally God's ultimate plan for redemption and salvation that begins with Jesus Christ and expands to the world through the work of the Holy Spirit and the Church! We will begin this excellent new series at Youth Group, 1pm on March 10. For more information, please contact [David McConnell-Booher](#) or check out <https://www.wearesparkhouse.org/store/category/286829/Echo-the-Story-36>



Parents' Corner

I want to share a wonderful resource for parents, young people who love video games, and anyone interested in seeing Christ engaged and praised in pop culture. There is a great ministry called 'Love Thy Nerd'.

They see the gamer subculture as a place where very few people are told that Jesus loves them or that there is more to life than here and now. The founders and supporters of the group are themselves gamers and enthusiasts of pop culture. They're not interested in waging a culture war in the name of Jesus, but rather find it far more fruitful to (like Reinhold Niebuhr last century) engage the culture, bring analysis and critical thinking, and finally point out places and values within the pop culture that point to the transcendent truth of God's grace in Jesus Christ. They do this with excellent writing on their website, visiting conventions like Comic Con where they proclaim the good news of Jesus in fun and engaging ways, and by hosting social media groups that foster thoughtful discussion and Christian fellowship. One valuable piece recently published on their website is a list of games to play with your kids that are more fun and meaningful than Fortnite. Please give it a look. <https://lovethynerd.com/8-better-games-for-kids-than-fortnite/>

Where else do you see the church bringing the Gospel in new and powerful ways? Let us continue to pray for Christ's church and all of it's arms reaching out to a lost and broken world!

Meal Train!



We want to make sure every student who comes to our youth ministry programs feels warm and welcomed and part of our church family. One of the best and easiest ways to do that is to provide them a hot meal and 'break bread' together. Would you consider providing a meal once a quarter to help our youth ministry thrive and grow? [Sign Up Now!](#)

David McConnell-Booher
Youth Director

Certificate of Appreciation



AWARDED TO

First Presbyterian Church

For bringing Christmas joy to needy children around the world by sending

52 shoebox gifts in 2018

Every shoebox gift you pack enables us to reach children worldwide with the good news of God's love and the true meaning of Christmas

Thank you for your participation in Operation Christmas Child. By partnering with the Fairbanks community, 4,537 shoebox gifts were collected this past year in our area alone. We collected 8,811,607 boxes in the United States and 10,623,776 worldwide. Numbers were down for a variety of reasons, but we praise God for every gift box received as each one represents a child who will hear the Good News. Every shoebox gift, which becomes a Gospel opportunity, is so important. The 2018 shoeboxes from Alaska went to Colorado and California to be processed and they were processing for Indonesia, Native America, Togo, Mexico, Haiti and the Philippines.

Ellen Leetch
Area Coordinator
Operation Christmas Child
Interior & Northern Alaska

www.samaritanspurse.org/occ
[907-488-0619](tel:907-488-0619)

Providing Christian Relief to a Hurting World



March

BIRTHDAYS



1	Derald Johnson	17	Jay Quakenbush
	Jeanne Maddux		Collin Cogley
2	Travis Brown	20	Terry Reichardt
3	Debby Foster	21	Barbara Page
	Michael Theis	25	Ian Moody
5	Linda Stephenson		Ted Riggs, Sr.
6	Jonas Huffaker	26	Dave Moody
7	Holden Jones	27	Julie Benson
8	Gwendolyn Bunch	28	Debra Brady
9	Marjorie Howard		Ainsley Benson
	Sig Ericklook	29	Adalie Mackey
10	Sandy McKee	31	Seth Wietgreffe
13	Robert Kent		Anders Brown
14	Evelyn Sites		

FLOWER DONATIONS

There are plenty of spots available throughout 2019. if you would like to donate flowers in memory of someone or in honor of one of your loved ones, a birthday, anniversary or any special occasion! Please see the bulletin board in the atrium to sign up. Flowers cost \$40 per week.

SEW SOCIAL

The next Sew Social is scheduled to take place on Monday, March 4. Bring a dish to share during the Potluck. Lets work on completing those unfinished projects! POC is JoAnn Mills