



First Light

Volume 28, Issue 19

October 2019



FPC 2020 VISION QUEST RELAY

**NOW YOU CAN BECOME
A MUSER IN
THE 2020 VISION QUEST**

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

Our Church is using the "2020 Vision Quest" theme to build interest and enthusiasm for this year's stewardship Campaign. We decided on this novel approach primarily because of the fine example set by the highly dedicated mushers in the Yukon Quest.

- Each is willing to overcome whatever obstacles might be in the way to complete the race.
- Each carefully plans the resources to run the race.
- The only way to win is to participate
-

HOW CAN YOU TAKE PART?

Our church's 2020 Vision Relay will start on Sunday October 13th. Sometime in that week or two, a fellow member will deliver to you a **SPECIAL GEAR BAG**.

Here is all you need to do:

1. Open the Gear Bag and remove the stewardship reading material you will find there. Reflect on the scripturally based message it contains. Then return the printed material to the gear bag.
2. Next, remove from the green container the envelope bearing your name. Inside you will find an "ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARD". Fill in the amount of tithes and offerings you expect to present to God through your church during the coming year. Cut off and keep the stub. Seal the card securely in the envelope and place it in the large brown envelope. Return all materials to the gear bag.
3. Now - and extremely important - complete your part of the quest by quickly relaying the gear bag to the next family on the CHECKPOINT LIST. You may want to phone ahead to make sure they are home. Please make every effort to complete your part of the quest within 24 hours of receiving the gear bag....and sooner if possible!

(continued on next page)



Brenna McConnell-Booher and the team

(continued from previous page)

4. After you have delivered the gear bag, immediately call the TEAM HANDLER whose name and phone number are at the top of the checkpoint list. Tell the team handler that you have just completed your part of the relay . (If your team handler does not hear from you within one day, this person will be calling you).

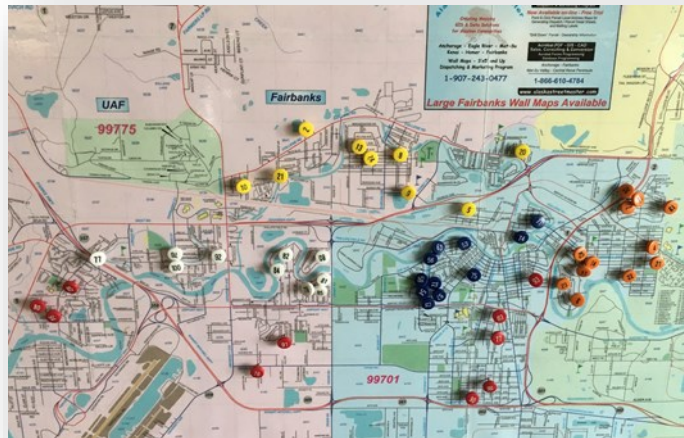
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE FOR THIS IMPORTANT ASSIGNMENT?

Between now and the moment you receive the gear bag, reflect on the gratitude you feel toward God for His goodness to you. Become aware of the financial resources He has entrusted to you. And consider the Christian stewardship giving response that is appropriate for you to make at this time. Then in prayer ask:

**"LORD, WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE ME DO
TO BECOME THE CHRISTIAN STEWARD YOU WANT ME TO BE?"**

Then when your Estimate of Giving Card arrives, let your answer that the Lord has given you guide your hand as you write on the card the amount He is calling you to return to Him and invest in His work.

Trail Builders\Head Groomers Wanda Bowder and Barbara Schneider spent an entire day placing stickpins on a map of the greater Fairbanks area. The maps below show some of the trails they created.



CHECK POINTS FOR 5 RELAY TEAMS



DANIEL AND KATIE GRIGGS ARE HANDLERS FOR WILDLY-SPREAD CHECKPOINTS

Message from the Pastor

Since coming to Fairbanks, I have done a bit of traveling so when I heard this story it struck a nerve. It seems that on a flight one pastor was on, the plane developed engine trouble. As the plane tossed and turned, the passengers began to panic and, as a stewardess passed by, the pastor reached out and asked her if there was anything he could do to help. In her exasperation she turned to him and said, "You're a minister, do something religious." So the minister took up an offering.

It is not often that we think of "taking up an offering" as particularly religious, yet that is precisely what the Bible says. Did you know that the Bible talks about giving three times more often than it does about praying? The New Testament is particularly saturated with this subject, telling us that when we give we begin to experience the fullness of God's Grace. 2 Corinthians 8:9 tells us that Christ is our example for giving. Extraordinary promises are made to those who give, **"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over (Luke 6:38)."** **"It is more blessed to give than to receive (Acts 20:35)."** **"He who soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully (2 Cor. 9:6)."** "God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love" (Hebrews. 6:10), to mention just a few of them.

Your Session is calling our annual focus on giving **"2020 VISION QUEST"**, harnessing the image of Fairbanks' **YUKON QUEST**. I love it! Our giving is a critical part of our "quest" for righteousness, our quest for the fullness of life in Christ. 2020 is our next opportunity to join in First Presbyterian's quest for being a "beacon for Jesus Christ." When you give your money to Christ it stops being money and starts being Love - sick people get well, desperate people get hope, hungry people get food and lost people get saved. How big can you dream? How large is your Love? How clearly do you see the Vision God has for you, First Presbyterian, Fairbanks and this world?

Have you heard of the "Butterfly Effect." The Butterfly Effect is a fundamental part of "Chaos Theory" that is generally defined as **"sensitive dependence on initial conditions"** discovered by Edward Lorenz in 1961.

Basically, this means that very small differences in early conditions give rise to large differences in later stages. Lorenz coined this term because in essence, the flapping of a butterfly's wings in China could alter the weather in the United States a few days later by creating a chain reaction of turbulence in the atmosphere. Tiny changes in one area of the world could affect the weather in another part of the world. Lorenz posed the question, "Could the flap of a butterfly's wings in Singapore affect a hurricane in North Carolina?" Lorenz answered, "Yes!" I would ask, "Could your estimate of giving in 2020 bring the Kingdom of Heaven closer to Fairbanks?" I'd answer, "Yes!"

When the 2020 Vision Quest gear bag comes to your home October 13, do something radically religious...generously fill out the "Estimate of Giving" card and test the promises of the Bible.

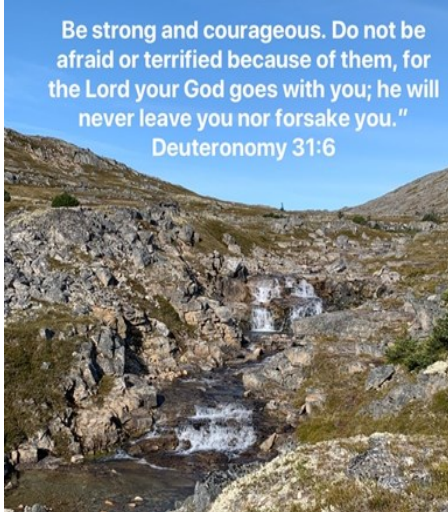
God Bless,
Dr. Donald Baird

Thank You

Words cannot express how grateful I feel because of the surprised birthday cake and flowers. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness.

*Peggy Nicholas
Nursery*

Life Changing Events—Experiencing Joy and Fear Combined



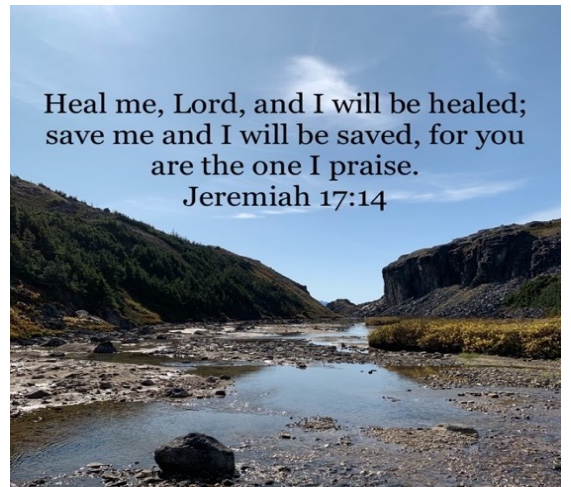
What is a life changing event? Everyone experiences them throughout their life journey. Most of these life changing events involves a bit of trepidation or fear of the unknown and suddenly an incredible joy when you face this fear, especially with the guidance and belief in our Lord Jesus Christ. Recently, I was moved by a sermon about the fear that Mary Magdalene and the other Mary experienced when they went to search the tomb where Jesus was laid and then the joy that they experienced from the realization that Jesus was risen indeed!

One of my life changing events is my marriage to Keith Allen Nore with the joy of 35 years of love and partnership that we have developed. The first year was the hardest, but together with God's help you build a life that intensifies with each new event. The next life changing event is all about growing a family of three beautiful children and how to lead them into a world filled with fear, joy, and the love of Jesus Christ our

Savior. In 2014, Keith and I started a new challenge of becoming Deacons at First Presbyterian Church – together. This was another event filled with a bit of fear of the unknown and then rewarding with unsurmountable joy in learning to serve others.

Last year I encouraged my family to hike the Chilkoot Trail and we completed it! That adventure was filled with lots of fear and awe-some joy! Some people see the Aurora Borealis and have an initial fear of the

spectacular phenomenon, but then they are overcome by its beauty and become amazed at His creation. Recently, Keith and I hiked to International Falls, which is just north of Skagway, and the terrain was quite challenging, but Jesus made me strong and courageous! He is with us always. "Do not be afraid."



In His service, Barbara Nore, Moderator of FPC Deacons

What follows is a short summary of the decisions and actions of the Session, at the September 17, 2019 Session Meeting. The minutes of the meeting will contain a more complete record.



- The meeting was opened by Pastor Don, who presented a "Pastor's Study" on preaching the Word. The reading of scripture and preaching the Word are always part of worship. Whenever the early church gathered to worship, there was preaching. It is the Holy Spirit that prepares the soil, opens our ears and hearts and teaches us through the reading and proclamation of the Word.
- The Chairperson of the Pastor Search Committee (PSC) presented a brief report. The Church Information Form (CIF) is almost complete. Several motions were made and passed to edit the Church Information Form. These changes included editing wording, and setting the senior pastor's pension percentage of gross effective salary to 11% to match EPC requirements.
- Session received a financial report from Treasurer Dave Stephenson.
- Reports from the Ministry Teams were received.
- A motion from the Mission, Outreach & Evangelism Team was brought, to amend the 2019 Budget, by increasing support to the Jordan's ministry in Afghanistan, by \$3,000. The motion passed.
- Requests to use storage space in the new closets in the main entry way are to be referred to Ruling Elder Mike Repasky of the Facilities Team.
- A request by Al-Anon for an additional meeting time, on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:00 pm was turned over to Ruling Elder Mike Repasky.
- Elders spent time in prayer. After making prayer requests known, elders prayed for one another and for First Presbyterian.

The next Session Meeting will be held on October 15th at 6:00 pm in the Church Conference Room



Love INC needs our help! Please bring laundry pods, conditioner, razors, men's deodorant, tampons or shaving cream to church to donate to families in need.



The Rescue Mission is in dire need of pillows and blankets.

Points of contact is Jim Williams at jimw101591@gmail.com and Christina Repasky at christinarepasky@gmail.com. Please feel free to drop off items at the front desk.

Loving Families

FPC's next Loving Families host week is October 27th through November 3rd. FPC partners with Love INC to host families facing homelessness for one week. We have three service needs:

- Couples to stay the night in the church
- Prepare an evening meal; and,
- An FPC program coordinator

MARK YOUR CALENDARS! Loving Families volunteer training is tentatively set for October 16th from 6 to 7 pm in the Fireside Room. If you are interested in an easy way to share God's love in service to others, please contact Jim Williams at 907-978-3320 (phone or text) or by e-mail at jimw101591@gmail.com.

Current

Events

Michael Repasky, Elder of Facilities, has taken on the project of de-cluttering the workroom. There will be a table set up in the Narthex for the next three weeks,

and tags will be distributed. Church members should visit the storage room and tag their items. Tagged items will be kept in cold storage for one year. Untagged items will eventually be donated to the

use of someone else. If you are having difficulties locating your item of interest, please contact Michael at 699-3733.

PROJECT
DECLUTTER



Growing Vegetables Class

September 30, 2019 —
November 18, 2019

Each Monday, 6-8pm

If you are interested in enrolling
in the class, please contact
Marta in the front office at
452-2406.



THROUGH AUGUST 2019	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	355,873
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	<u>361,773</u>
NET	<u>(5,900)</u>



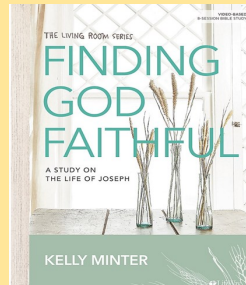
[bible studies]

The Gospel According to Matthew

Please join us every Sunday at 10am as we study the Gospel of Matthew. Classes will be held in the Conference Room (upstairs) and led by Brian Rozell. For additional information, please call Brian at 907-687-9792.

Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study

10-11:30am in FPC Conference Room
Childcare Provided



Additional information, please contact Donna Brewer ASAP! (billanddonnabrewer@gmail.com)

Life Group Bible Studies

Paul and Terry Reichardt, Friday Evenings, bible studies, from 6:30-8:30, supper is provided. All are welcome. Call 455-6703 for additional information and directions.

Joan and Ted Riggs, Thursday Evenings, beginning at 6pm, a light dinner is served. For additional information, please contact Ted Riggs at 907-371-9234.

Brian and Amber Sunderland, Thursday Evenings, Meal Provided, Bible Study, Prayer, Monthly Service Project, Fellowship and Friendship. For additional information, please contact Amber at amberbug@spu.edu.

Music Life Group, Thursday Evenings, Meal Provided, Devotion, Topical study, Music, Fellowship and Friendship. For additional information, please contact Rick Stovarsky at

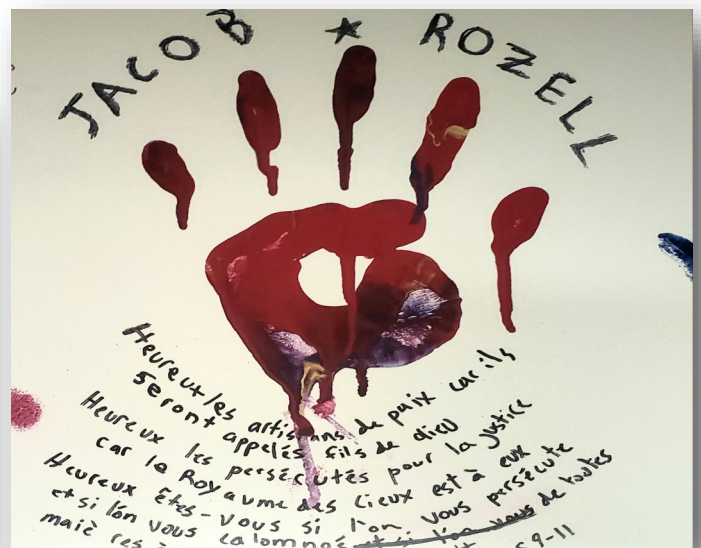
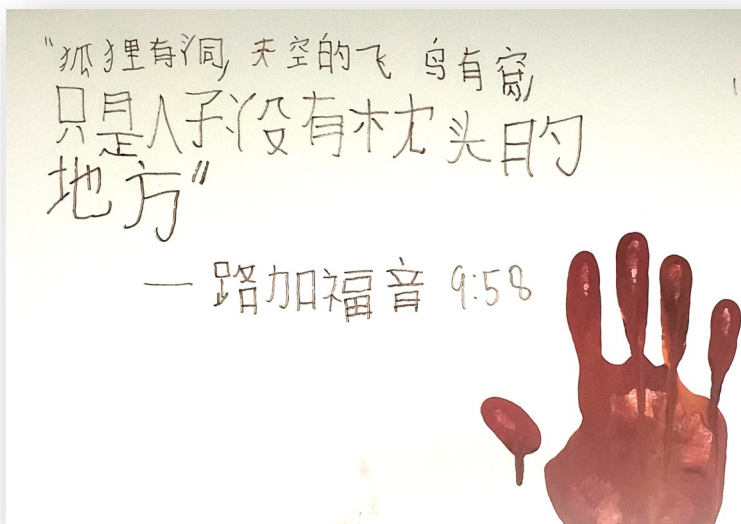
Leaving Your Mark

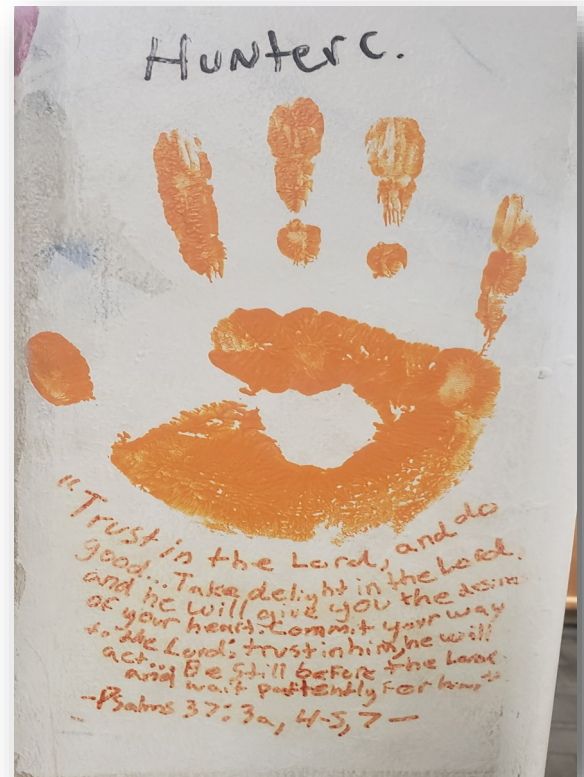


One of the traditions to develop as part of our new youth room is students leaving a painted handprint and a favorite bible verse on the wall as a permanent mark. Much in the same way the paint will stay in the youth room for years to come, the Bible verses they love and the ministry they take part in will leave a lifelong impact on these students. Here at First Pres, we believe that by investing in our young people, we are not just raising up a generation as followers of Jesus Christ - we are also making a radical investment in our community! The young people that take part in

our church are being given the gospel, leadership training, life skills, community service roles, trustworthy friendships, and critical thinking tools. As you look at these students' marks on our walls, would you please pray about how you might provide a positive impact for our young people as well?

David McConnell-Booher
Youth Director





*Train Up a Child in the Way He Should Go
and When he is Old, He Will Not Depart From It.
Proverbs 22:6*



- 1 Adam Benson
- 1 Micah Rozell
- 2 Brenda Satterberg
- 2 Ray Karns
- 3 Leah Mackey
- 4 Canon Cogan
- 5 Michelle Harpole
- 9 Carol Gray
- 13 Dave Henry
- 15 Lynn Hull
- 16 Bunnie Boykin
- 18 Stuart Young
- 21 Oki Albrecht
- 21 Jenna Dreydoppel
- 21 Linda Wells
- 21 Rebecca Sirevaag
- 24 Dawn Cogan
- 24 Darlene Lundberg
- 24 Marcus Cogley
- 27 Bill Brewer
- 29 Glenn Brummond
- 29 Emily Kohl
- 31 George Repasky