

THIS WEEK AT FPC WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday, February 5, 2012

9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Scripture Lessons: Isaiah 40:21-31
Mark 1:29-39

Sermon Title: “Everyone Is Searching” The Rev. William Proctor

On Sunday the congregation will sing the following hymns: “O Worship the King, All Glorious Above” “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” and “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight.”

The special music will be provided by the Chancel Choir. They will sing “Seek the Lord” by John Carter.

As a follow-up to this month’s newsletter article on congregational singing, this week we are providing some history on each of the three hymns that will be sung in worship. The hymns we sing each week may not always seem to you to be very interesting – or even easy to sing – but the songs in our hymnbook have a real life behind them, and are often the result of great trials and challenges of faith.

This week’s set of hymns reflect the reality that Jesus is Lord – and that he is worthy of our time, attention, love and life. People still seek the King of kings and Lord of lords. May you be among those who seek him too.



Below is an excerpt from “*Then Sings My Soul*” *150 of the World’s Greatest Hymn Stories* by Robert J. Morgan:

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praise to my God while I have my being.
Psalm 104:33

“O Worship the King”

Charles Grant, director of the East India Company, was respected throughout India as one of Britain’s finest statesmen. He was also a deeply committed Christian, an evangelical in the Anglican Church, who used his position in India to encourage missionary expansion there.

In 1778, just as England was reeling from the American Revolution, Charles returned to Britain to become a Member of Parliament from Inverness, Scotland.

His son, Robert, six years old at the time, grew up in a world of power, politics, and privilege. But he also grew up as a devout and dedicated follower of Christ. As a young man, Robert attended Magdalene College, Cambridge, and then entered the legal profession. His intelligence and integrity were obvious. He became Kings’ Sergeant in the Court of the Duchy of Lancaster and, in 1818, he entered Parliament. Among his legislative initiatives was a bill to remove civil restrictions against the Jews.

One day in the early 1830's as Robert studied Psalm 104, he compared the greatness of the King of kings with the majesty of British royalty. Psalm 104:1 says of God: "O Lord my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty." Verses 2-3 add that God covers Himself "with light as with a garment" and "makes the clouds His chariot." Verse 5 reminds us that God "laid the foundations for the earth." All of creation reflects God's greatness, verse 24 proclaiming, "O Lord, how manifold are Your works!" Verse 31 says, "May the glory of the Lord endure forever."

Robert filled his heart with these verses, and from his pen came one of the most magnificent hymns in Christendom:

*O worship the King, all glorious above,
And gratefully sing His power and His love;
Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.*

In 1832, Robert was appointed Judge Advocate General, this hymn was published in 1833, and he was knighted in 1834. Soon thereafter, at age 30, Sir Robert returned to India, land of his early childhood, to be Governor of Bombay. He died there on July 9, 1838. A nearby medical college was built in his honor and named for him. But his most lasting memorial is this majestic hymn of praise, calling us to worship the King of kings.

"What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

...the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
Philippians 4:6-7

Joseph Scriven watched in shock as the body of his fiancée was pulled from the lake. Their wedding had been planned for the next day. Reeling from the tragedy, he made up his mind to immigrate to America. Packing up his belongings in Dublin, Ireland, he sailed for Canada, leaving his mother behind. He was about 25 years old.

Ten years later, in 1855, he received word that his mother was facing a crisis. Joseph wrote this poem and sent it to her. Mrs. Scriven evidently gave a copy to a friend who had it published anonymously, and it quickly became a popular hymn, though no one knew who had written it.

Meanwhile, Joseph fell in love again. But tragedy struck a second time when his bride, Eliza Catherine Roche, contracted tuberculosis and died in 1860 before their wedding could take place.

To escape his sorrow, Joseph poured himself into ministry, doing charity work for the Plymouth Brethren and preaching among the Baptists. He lived a simple, obscure life in Port Hope, Canada, cutting firewood for widows, giving away his clothes and money to those in need. He was described as "a man of short stature, with iron-gray hair, close-cropped beard, and light blue eyes that sparkled when he talked." Ira Sankey later wrote:

Until a short time before his death it was not known that he had a poetic gift. A neighbor, sitting up with him in his illness, happened upon a manuscript copy of "What a Friend We Have in Jesus." Reading it with great delight and questioning Mr. Scriven about it, he said that he had composed it for his mother, to comfort her in a time of special sorrow, not intending that anyone else should see it. Sometime later, when another Port Hope neighbor asked him if it was true he composed the hymn, his reply was, "The Lord and I did it between us."

On October 10, 1896, Joseph became critically ill. In his delirium, he rose from his bed and staggered outdoors where he fell into a small creek and drowned at age 66. His grave was arranged so that his

feet were opposite those of his lost love, Eliza Catherine Roche, that at the resurrection they might arise facing one another.

“We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight”

Henry Alford (7 October 1810 – 12 January 1871), the author of our third hymn this Sunday, “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight,” was an English churchman, theologian, textual critic, scholar, poet, hymnodist, and writer.

Born in London, of a Somerset family, which had given five consecutive generations of clergymen to the Anglican church, his early years were passed with his widowed father, who was curate of Steeple Ashton in Wiltshire. He was a precocious boy, and before he was ten had written several Latin odes, a history of the Jews and a series of homiletic outlines! After a peripatetic school course he went up to Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1827 as a scholar.

He had already taken orders, and in 1835 began his eighteen-year tenure of the vicarage of Wymeswold in Leicestershire, from which seclusion the twice-repeated offer of a colonial bishopric failed to draw him. He was Hulsean lecturer at Cambridge in 1841-1842, and steadily built up a reputation as scholar and preacher, which might have been greater if not for his excursions into minor poetry and magazine editing.

In September 1853 Alford moved to Quebec Chapel, Marylebone, London, where he had a large congregation. In March 1857 Lord Palmerston advanced him to the deanery of Canterbury, where, till his death, he lived the same energetic and diverse lifestyle as ever. He had been the friend of most of his eminent contemporaries, and was much beloved for his amiable character. The inscription on his tomb, chosen by himself, is *Diversorium Viatoris Hierosolymam Proficiscentis* ("the inn of a traveler on his way to Jerusalem").

Alford was a talented artist, as his picture-book, *The Riviera* (1870), shows, and he had abundant musical and mechanical talent. Besides editing the works of John Donne, he published several volumes of his own verse, *The School of the Heart* (1835), *The Abbot of Muchelnaye* (1841), *The Greek Testament. The Four Gospels* (1849).

Most importantly, Alford also wrote a number of hymns, the best-known of which for us Presbyterians is this hymn, “We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight,” as well as the wonderful Thanksgiving hymn, “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come.”

THIS WEEK AT FPC:

SUNDAY, February 5: **Sunday School**, 9:30 a.m.; **Worship Service**, 10:30 a.m.; **Youth Fellowship Super Bowl Party**, 5:00 p.m., Brooks’ house; **No Family Faith Class**

MONDAY, February 6: **Angel Academy**, 9:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, February 7: **Church Staff Meeting**, 8:45 a.m., CR; **WOW**, 12:00 p.m., Rm. 107

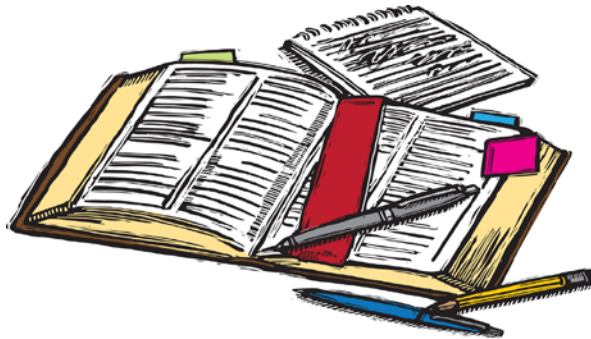
WEDNESDAY, February 8: Men's Bible Study, 6:45 a.m., Rm.210; Angel Academy, 9:00 a.m.; Youth Lunch, 12:35 p.m., YC; Diaconate, Youth Valentine Boxes, 4:30 p.m., Rm. 107; Diaconate Meeting, 5:00 p.m., Rm. 107; Praise Team, 5:15 p.m.; Handbells, 5:30 p.m.; Catered Dinner, 5:30 p.m., WHO; Mid-Week Study, 6:00 p.m., Rm. 210; Chancel Choir, 7:00 p.m.; Sr. High Youth Bible Study, 7:00 p.m., YC

SUNDAY, February 12: Guest Speaker, Dr. Tim Wardlaw: Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.; Worship Service, 10:30 a.m.; Valentine Luncheon; Youth Fundraiser, immediately following worship, WFH; No Youth Fellowship, 5:00 p.m., YC; Family Faith Class, 5:15 p.m., Bates' home



We are always in need of volunteers to serve as usher/greeters for the worship service. If you would like to serve in this way please contact Donna, 655-5694 or choffice@gte.net.

Thank you to all of you who have volunteered in the past several weeks!



MID-WEEK BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

in Rm. 210

beginning February 1

(The Class will meet Feb. 1, 8, 15, 29, and March 7.)

“The King and I”

Learning about our Life of Faith from the Life of King David.

This Wednesday's topic will be “Faith like a Shepherd.”

This five week study will be lead by Rev. Bill Proctor

You are also invited to join us for a catered supper at 5:30 p.m., in the WFH.

(\$5.00 per person)



This Sunday the youth will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Since its beginning, more than 20 years ago, the Souper Bowl of Caring has raised millions of dollars for local charities. It has become a powerful movement that is transforming the time around Super Bowl weekend into the nation's largest celebration of giving and serving.

Every dollar donated will be given to the local Food Bank to help fight hunger in our area.



Valentine's Luncheon Fundraiser February 12

The youth group has a church-wide luncheon planned to raise funds for their Compassion International sponsored children in Africa, Simbi and Agness. The luncheon will be held in the Wood Fellowship Hall immediately after the morning service on February 12. Plates will be served on a donation basis. Please plan to enjoy this good meal and great service from our youth.

*The menu will consist of:
spaghetti with meat sauce,
salad, garlic bread,
and cheesecake.*

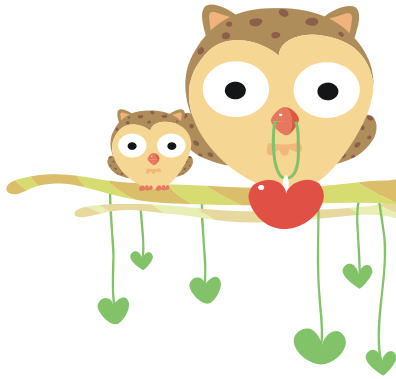


Dr. Ted Wardlaw
Sunday, February 12

Dr. Ted Wardlaw, President of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary will be our guest preacher on Sunday, February 12. Dr. Wardlaw is a graduate of Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina; Yale Divinity School, New Haven, Connecticut and Union Theological Seminary, Richmond, Virginia. Prior to becoming President of APTS in 2002, Dr. Wardlaw was pastor of Atlanta's Central Presbyterian Church, a historic congregation directly across the street from the Georgia Capitol.



THE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY of FPC Announces Parents Night Out!
This will take place Friday, February 10 from 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. Please enter through the gym when bringing and picking up your child. This event is for children ages 3 months thru 11 years-old (no one over 5th grade). Our Church Nursery staff will provide the loving care your children are accustomed to receiving! The cost is \$10 per child or a \$20 family maximum for the evening. We will provide a Pizza supper for the children however; babies should come already fed and sent with proper baby sustenance! Please make a reservation on or before February 9 by calling the church office, 655-5694 or emailing Susan Gober:
childrensministrydirector.fpcs@verizon.net



Valentine's Party

On the same evening as Parent's Night Out there will be a Valentine's party for elementary children as well! You can come for the entire party to include a pizza supper, crafts, games, & a movie (6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.) or just come for the arts & crafts time (6:45—8:15ish). If you come for the full 4 hours—the cost is \$10. If you come only for the arts & crafts time, there is not a charge. The maximum a family would pay is \$20. This is for children kindergarten through 5th grade. We will make the table center pieces to be used for the Youth's Spaghetti Lunch fundraiser on February 12. And, other things too! Call the church office to reserve your child's/children's spot, 655-5694. Or, email Susan at childrensministrydirector.fpcs@verizon.net

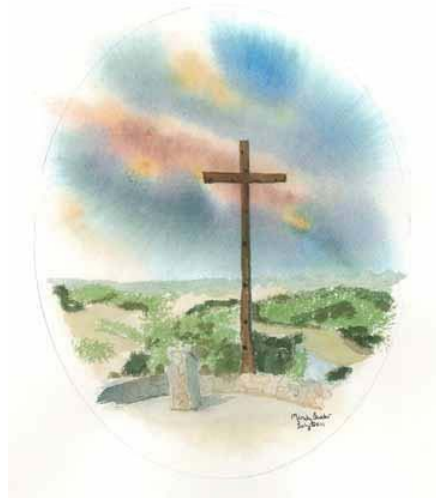


WEDNESDAY

*Sr. High Bible Study
7:00 p.m.,
in the Youth Center*

SUNDAY

*Middle School & Sr. High Youth Fellowship
5:00 p.m.,
in the Youth Center.*



MoRanch FPC Family Retreat June 22-24

You've been reading about our upcoming all-church retreat to Mo-Ranch over these past several months! Now it's time to make a commitment if you want to attend! It is a wonderful opportunity to relax, enjoy fellowship with your church family, and grow spiritually all in the scenic Texas Hill Country this June 22-24. This retreat is for families and it's for individuals. It's for someone who is 9 or 99. There are no limits.

Activities will be provided for one and all! If you and/or your family would like to attend, a deposit of \$50 is required by Friday, February 17, 2012. This will hold your spot! Please call the church office for more information, 655-5694.



Local Mission Opportunities



NEW BRIDGE FAMILY SHELTER

The Mission Service Outreach Committee has announced plans to help the ICD Newbridge Family Shelter by collecting personal hygiene items to be used by clients of the shelter. The committee, after collecting the donations you provide, will purchase portable shower caddies and fill each caddy with items such as shampoo, conditioner, body wash, disposable razors, shaving cream, combs, hairbrushes, tooth brushes, tooth paste, mouth wash, body lotion, soap, deodorant, etc. Look for a table in the Commons where your donations will be received. Items will be collected through Sunday, February 12.



FPC is at the Wesley Daily Bread Soup Kitchen the 4th Monday of every month. If you would like to join this fun and enthusiastic ministry team, give Susan Gober a call at church, 655-5694.



FPC will continue with its ministry to Lamar Elementary school during the 2011-2012 school year. Volunteers are needed to contribute goodie items to the cause! Johnna Page is coordinating the Lamar teacher appreciation ministry, so if you have questions, or would like to contribute to the effort, you can reach her at 325-669-1149 or johnnapage@yahoo.com.

TUTORS NEEDED:

Currently, we are in need of tutors to help the children at Lamar. One activity where help is needed is the simple, yet very important task of reading to the children. It seems unfathomable that some children are never read to in their home. However, that is the stark reality for some of our city's children. Prayerfully consider your involvement in this ministry. A moment of your time is an investment in a child's future. Call Janet Phillips for more information, 949-4350.



WOW (WOMEN OF THE WORD):

The WOW group meets on Tuesdays, 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. in Rm. 107. The group is using the book study "The Good and Beautiful Life," by James Bryan Smith.

THE WOMEN'S IN DEPTH BIBLE STUDY

The study meets on designated Thursday's, in Rm. 107, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. They will meet on February 2, 16; March 1, 15, 29; April 5, 19; May 3, 17, 31. Their study is on Heaven, loosely based on the book "Heaven" by Roy Alcorn.

It will be a multimedia presentation led by Dr. Sharon Kulig.

For more information call the church office, 655-5694.



The Community-Wide Men's Bible Study meets on Wednesday mornings at 6:45 a.m., in Rm. 210.



College Valentines Boxes

Each year we send our college youth a care package from the church filled with goodies. We are in need of candy, cookies or individually wrapped treats to fill around 50 boxes. Spiritual food such as scripture cards, poems, etc., would also be appreciated. Please bring your goodies to the church office by noon Tuesday, February 7.



DINNERS FOR EIGHT will take place Sunday, February 19. Sign-up sheets are located on the wall as you enter the gym from the Commons. This is a wonderful way to get acquainted with members of your church family. We would like to thank Johnna Page who coordinates the hosts and their guests to ensure a pleasurable evening!