



First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible



Find Out Why Mission Road Says

This is My



Living to Make Jesus Visible.

Skin in the Game

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



One of the best books I have read in recent months is a book entitled *Love Does* written by Bob Goff. It is a New York Times Best Seller and it is one of those books that, at least for me, I just never wanted to end. I highly recommend you read the book if you haven't already, and be challenged to "do" love.

One of the stories Bob shared in the book was "Skin in the Game." In particular he talked about a character in the Bible named Joshua and how over and over again God told Joshua to be strong and courageous. Goff writes, *"The way I read it, it sounds an awful lot like God is calling us out and telling us to pick a fight."* Now, before you think this is about "fighting" let me share with you the rest of the story. Goff continues:

As Joshua was about to enter the land God promised him, he met an angel with his sword drawn in front of him. Joshua must have had some lawyer in him because he asked the angelic warrior something I would ask: "Whose side are you on?" No doubt, Joshua was hoping the angelic warrior was for them. That's what I'd hope for. I love the warrior's answer to Joshua's question. It was simple: "Neither. Take off your shoes." The angel wasn't interested in picking sides; he wanted them to pick God. The angel told them to take off their shoes because they were on holy ground, just as we are today.

Imagine if we all walked around barefooted! Imagine if we sincerely viewed the ground we walked on was holy—that everywhere we were was God's dance floor. I am convinced this is what the Lord desires from each of us as followers of Jesus Christ. Of course, you are not literally going to walk around shoeless—but the reality is, some do. The point is, we must "pick God" in response to Him choosing us.

Make a Tangible Difference

One way we can "take our shoes off" is in our giving. I love how Goff put it: *"God wants us to get some skin in the game and to help make a tangible difference."* On October 27 you

will be given an opportunity to make a tangible difference. October 27 will be "Commitment Sunday" here at your FPC, and you will be given the privilege to get some "skin in the game" by making a financial commitment to the life and ministry of FPC. We will gather in the Sanctuary for two blended services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., much as we did on Kick-off Sunday September 8, when we inaugurated the sermon series "This Is My FPC." You will be able to bring your pledge card and turn it in during worship as an act of discipleship and service. I am convinced this should be the natural response to God's grace in Jesus Christ. However, I also believe this should be a privilege that we take seriously as we consider how "This is my FPC."

I pray that, together, we will run barefoot toward the Lord on October 27. My hope is that we will be strong and courageous and pick God rather than a fight or sides. My heart's desire is for each of us to get some "skin in the game" as an act of rededication of our love and devotion to Jesus Christ. Ultimately, this is His FPC and yet we have been given an incredible opportunity to take an ownership stake in what He is doing here. That's what love does—it moves us to respond.

In advance, thank you for your faithfulness and generosity. Together may we strive for Kingdom giving as we continue living to make Jesus visible. Keep smilin' and keep lovin'.

Peace,



Commitment Sunday is October 27

Prayerfully consider your financial commitment to First Pres, and during one of two blended worship services at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m. in the Sanctuary, you will have the opportunity to return your commitment card as an act of discipleship.

You will receive your commitment card in the mail and extra cards will be available at the church on October 27.



Church
Register

BIRTHS:

Luke Forester Lyons, son of John and Lauren Lyons
July 30, 2013

BAPTISMS:

Robert Wilson Landrum Altmeyer, son of Wilson Brann and Mary Dennis Altmeyer
August 25, 2013

MARRIAGES:

Harry Simon Gates and Katelyn Ann Meyers
August 24, 2013

Shane Ryan Sirotiak and Leila Leftwich
September 7, 2013

DEATHS:

Lowell David Embs
August 27, 2013

Early Childhood Center

Come to the FPC Children's Center Mini-Fiesta Event Oct. 25



Sandy Blanco, Director of the First Pres Children's Center

Please make plans to join us for food, games, and a silent auction at the FPC Children's Center Fall Mini-Fiesta Friday, October 25, 2013, 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the church parking lot and playground. The funds from this event enable us to send our teachers to the National Association for the Education of Young Children conference for training. Bring your young children, family and friends for an evening of fun activities and fellowship.

We are in need of volunteers to help work the booths (students are encouraged to help). We appreciate any donations for the silent auction or door prize ticket. If you would like to help, please Sandy Blanco, Children's Center Director, at 210-225-0960, or sandy@fpcsat.org.

Gently used children's books, toys and videos also needed

The Children's Center is in need of gently used children's books, toys and videos for their annual Book and Toy Sale. This sale is the kickoff event for the Fall Mini Fiesta that is scheduled for October 25, 2013. The proceeds from this sale go towards sending the teachers to the annual conference of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). This training enables the teachers to stay abreast of the latest research and learn how they can best apply it in a Christian early childhood setting. Please bring your donations by the Children's Center office downstairs. Deadline for items is October 18.



Session Minutes in Seconds

The Session at its regularly Stated Meeting on Sept. 9:

Approved the Consent Agenda (approval of minutes from previous session meetings, received the Deacon's minutes, approved changes to the Church Register, approved April's financial statements, and received committee minutes).

Broke into small groups to respond to questions on the Narrative on the Health and Mission and Ministry (The Fellowship of Presbyterians).

Received the Clerk's Report.

Received report from Stewardship and Finance noting that Benevolences will be held in September because of cash flow issues.

Dealt with two items of unfinished business

Voted to host Mission Presbytery on October 24-25, 2015

Addressed issue of committee function, structure and assignments

Called a meeting of the congregation on September 22, 2013 after the 11:15 service for the purpose of electing Tim Lewis to fill an unexpired term as a deacon in the class of 2016.

Adjourned with prayer

Church-wide Health Reminder: Remember the Annual Flu Shot Clinic Sunday, October 13, 2013 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Geneva Room

There is no charge for flu and pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Vaccines are not provided for children under four years of age, and children aged four-six must have a valid prescription. Cost per person for those who do not have insurance coverage is \$25 -Flu; \$85 - Pneumonia; \$38 - Tetanus (Tenivac); and \$60 - Tetanus (Boostrix). Sponsored by KEYS Adults.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY AUGUST 2013

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/ (UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,548,963	\$2,835,555	(\$286,592)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$2,374,030	\$2,479,488	(\$105,458)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$448,805	\$517,449	(\$68,644)
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	150,000	0	150,000
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$123,873)	(\$161,382)	\$37,510

Thank you for your past generosity. The ministries and benevolences of FPC depend on your gifts so that we can fulfill our obligations to our mission partners. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Janet Slayden, Church Business Manager, at 210-271-2751, or Butch Gerfers, Church Treasurer, at 210-862-9998.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO
Living to Make Jesus Visible

Kick-off Sunday September 8 Showed Great Things “in Store”



On Kick-off Sunday, September 8, the First Pres campus was transformed into a grocery store-like atmosphere of delicious food, opportunities to meet up with old friends and make new ones, and learn about various opportunities to worship, grow, and serve through the ministries of the church.

People were able to go to different sections of the grocery store, from the produce and dairy sections to the bread section, to explore tons of ways to make Jesus visible.



The entire day, and indeed the entire fall sermon series, was inspired by the advertising slogan “This is my H-E-B,” used by the well-known local grocery store chain, H-E-B. In our case, we are saying “This is My F-P-C” to underscore the fact that together, we have a commitment to worship, grow, and serve one another, our neighborhood, the entire city, and the world around us by making Jesus visible. First Presbyterian Church belongs to all of us; we have a role to play in God’s mission of love to the world, and this congregation needs each and every one of us working together in order to make that happen.



Yes, this is our FPC because we are privileged to make Jesus visible collectively and individually. We’ll be telling stories to celebrate ministry that has started through the committed efforts of First Pres people, and dream about ways that God continues to use First Pres people to begin new ministry initiatives that are desperately needed in our community and around the world. We have heard from many of our local mission partners, who have shared stories of gratitude about the ways that the people of First Pres have made Jesus visible in their ministries, and for that reason, they also are proud to say, “This is My F-P-C.”



Where do you fit in to First Presbyterian’s mission of making Jesus visible?



Once in our care here at Mission Road, Jeremiah's life slowly began to turn around. His remarkable caregiver, Eddie, a strong, gentle African American man, made Jeremiah his priority. When Jeremiah could not sit still for a barber, Eddie took time after work hours to painstakingly cut his hair. He carefully dressed him in new clothes. He even bought some things for him with his own money. Eddie was making Jesus visible. He loved and respected Jeremiah and gave of himself to him.

At school, Jeremiah was taught to use a stander—a device that supports him in a standing position. He saw himself for the first time in a mirror—standing. He was fascinated. Who was that tall, handsome, clean-cut young man? ***New hope began to come alive in Jeremiah. His caregivers were making Jesus visible, opening his eyes to who he is in Christ.***

Now Jeremiah is making great strides. His atrophied muscles are gaining strength and he is learning new skills. Jeremiah is healing; body, mind and spirit. *He is learning to take responsibility for his actions and make good choices about his behavior. Jeremiah is gaining independence and self-respect. He is seeing Jesus in the Mission Road family a part of which is First Presbyterian Church.*

At Mission Road, Jeremiah has been given hope, a new family and friends. He is loved. One of his most touching changes is that he now lets others caress him and put their faces next to his. Before, he would throw up his hands to protect himself, but now he trusts. ***Jeremiah responds to the visible Jesus with trust and love. Jesus has come into his heart. Jeremiah is now beginning to make Jesus visible to others.***

Why Mission Road Says “This Is My FPC”

First Presbyterian Church is a vital part of the Mission Road Family, made up of children and adults with special needs, their families, their dedicated staff, the MRM governing boards, and its donors. FPC is Mission Road's FPC because its congregants make Jesus visible to every member of the MRM family through their gifts of time, talents and treasure. Directly or indirectly the church provides a Christ-like atmosphere of love, care and forgiveness that says to our clients that they are worthy of love; excellent care; beautiful, safe surroundings; delicious, nutritious food; nice clothes and fun with friends. FPC ensures that the Mission Road clients are respected, included in the life of the community and helped to reach their God-given potential.



How Mission Road staff member Eddie made Jesus visible to Jeremiah

Jeremiah is a 15-year-old African-American child who came to live at Mission Road. Profoundly intellectually and developmentally disabled (IDD), he had never been taught basic life skills by his alcoholic, sadistic mother. In place of love, he was beaten and burned. In place of care, he was left in bed to wallow in his excrement. He was not regularly fed, and at age 13, weighed just 56 pounds. He arrived in a wheelchair – unable to walk or speak. Unkempt and slumped over, he could not hold himself upright in his wheelchair. He had few clothes, matted and unruly hair, and did not want anyone to touch him. As one might expect, he trusted no one.



1st Wednesdays @ First Pres

On the first Wednesday of each month, come share a meal, make new friends, celebrate one another, grow in discipleship, and worship in song, prayer, and spoken word.

Schedule:

Children's Choirs 5:00-5:45 p.m. (meeting weekly)
Full-meal dinner 5:30 p.m. in Westminster Hall
Special program 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Tadpoles (preschool ages) 6:30-7:30 p.m. following choir rehearsal and dinner
First Kids (1st-5th grades) 6:30-7:30 p.m. following choir rehearsal and dinner
Youth group for all 6th-12th graders in the First Presbyterian Church Student Center 5:00-7:30 p.m.

Childcare for birth-2 years available throughout the evening during program times. Childcare for birth-5th grade available weekly for small groups who meet at the church Wednesday nights.

Future Adult Programs for First Wednesday @ First Pres:

Here's what's coming up at future adult programs at First Wednesdays @ First Pres. All programs are from 6:30-7:30 p.m.



October 2 – What's Trending @ FPC with Senior Pastor Trey Little. This will be a "state of the church"-style question-and-answer time where you can submit your questions to Trey and the other pastors to address. In Covenant Hall.

November 6 – Dateline: Malawi with Senior Pastor Trey Little, Director of Missions Alyssa Payne, and the Malawi mission team. A First Pres mission team will have just returned from Malawi and you can learn about the vision for First Pres' partnership with Malawi through World Vision and how you can be actively engaged in this exciting new chapter of making Jesus visible in the world.



December 4 – Home for the Holidays with Minister of Music Tom Dooling. This will be a wonderful mix of sacred and secular Advent and Christmas music with some carol singing.

For more information on First Wednesdays, contact Rev. Ruthie Seiders (ruthies@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2714).



Men's, women's and children's underwear of all sizes are needed at Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) as this local mission partner of First Presbyterian Church seeks to help our downtown neighbors with basic necessities.

Imagine your mornings, pulling a clean pair of underwear out of your drawer as you get dressed for the day. For many of those served at CAM this is a luxury. They see clients who have nothing and children who are ashamed to change clothes during PE because they don't have what they need.

Dignity Begins with the Basics Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) Underwear Drive October 6

Please help us serve the men, women and children who walk through CAM's doors by bringing bags of new and clean underwear (in original packages) to church on World Communion Sunday, October 6, for the "Dignity Begins with the Basics" drive. If you have children, perhaps you might want to have them "shop" for the items to donate as a means of them realizing how blessed we are to have our necessities, and how it is a blessing for each of us to help others when we can. Help us to share the love of Christ by clothing and loving those in need.

Contact Alyssa Payne at alyssap@fpcsat.org or Claire Plantenga at clairep@fpcsat.org if you have questions.

Reflections on Stewardship and Church: A Match Made in Heaven!

By Elder Ron Baker



In our daily lives and various encounters with other people, we may often and proudly claim First Presbyterian as “my church, my FPC!” But, what exactly do we mean by that statement and what is its significance for how we view stewardship? Here are a few thoughts on how to make that proclamation a truly joyous reality!

A deeper understanding of stewardship and church must always begin as the Bible does: *“In the beginning God created Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’ God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. ... The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.”* (Genesis 1:1, 26, 31a; 2:15) Simply put, God’s creative pattern for humanity, for us, is focused on his boundless blessings and our attendant responsibility to be good stewards so we might glorify God and enjoy him forever.

Scripture also reminds us how that pattern got messed up by our human propensity to serve self first. We are familiar with scriptural accounts of how many *“did not do what was right in the eyes of the LORD”* and, by failing to be good stewards, ended up alienated from God and even from self and others. But we are even more familiar with and ever thankful for the sheer grace of God in Jesus Christ and how he overcame that alienation by offering his life on our behalf. This is where a full understanding of “church” becomes so important to faithful stewardship. Little children get it right when they sing, “Here is the church, and here is the steeple; open the doors and see all the people.” The simple scriptural truth is that church is always about people and their needs; property is secondary. Moreover, Jesus chose his followers; they did not choose him. And through his death, all who are led by the Spirit to proclaim *“Jesus is Lord”* realize that they are not their own but have been *“bought at a price.”* (1 Corinthians 6:19) Faith then leads us to accept that the church is God’s church; it exists and is set apart to serve his purpose.

How well we understand and respond to that purpose is what our stewardship is all about. These timeless words of God through the prophet Malachi bear witness to God’s steadfast

love of his church and how we might respond: *“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this”* says the LORD Almighty, *“and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.”* (Malachi 3:10) As humans, we like to say that we “own” things, such as a home or other property. But, we never say that we “own” our spouses or children. Rather, when we lovingly say “My wife or my husband or my son or my daughter,” we are proclaiming both the sacredness of those relationships and our willingness to put their concerns and welfare above self, to love them unconditionally and to take care of them to the best of our abilities. That is relational stewardship at its finest!

May that same stewardship mindset and level of spiritual insight undergird our proclamations of “my church, my FPC!” Because God in Jesus Christ has laid claim to our lives, individually and as a congregation, we are to approach our stewardship of his church with a deep and sincere trust in the promises of God. And, we are to do so in the manner offered by the apostle Paul to the early church: *“As God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”* (Colossians 3:12-17)

May it always be so in our life together—in worship, fellowship, prayer, service and, yes, even stewardship!



Care Ministries

City-wide Ecumenical Worship Service Focusing on Mental Health October 6, 2013

First Presbyterian Church has a heart for those who suffer from mental illness and for those who provide comfort and care for them. The mission of FPC Mental Health Ministries is to: (1) provide educational resources to help erase the stigma of mental illness in our community; (2) help FPC become a caring congregation for persons living with a mental illness and their families; and (3) to help encourage those affected by mental illness to call upon their faith for strength and healing. Mental Health Ministries also collaborates with other churches, advocacy groups, community organizations and mental health professionals to lift up the importance of using a person's faith and spirituality as part of the overall treatment and recovery process.



As a part of this ministry, you are invited to attend a special candlelight worship service that focuses on Christian faith and its impact on those affected by mental illness. This city-wide ecumenical service will be held at St. Brigid Catholic Church October 6, 2013, 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Christians from throughout San Antonio will join together to worship for the first time as a community to pray for hope, healing, strength and comfort. Church leadership from FPC and San Antonio will lead families and caregivers of those who suffer from mental illness in prayer, worship and fellow-

ship. All people are welcome to participate.

Contact: Doug or Barbie Beach (doug.beach@ymail.com / 210-821-5765)

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Training



You are invited to attend an educational program designed to equip family caregivers with effective self-care tools. This program focuses on the caregivers, not the care recipient. You will benefit from this class whether you are helping a parent, child,

spouse, friend, neighbor, or someone who lives at home, in a nursing home or across the country.

2013 Class Leader Training
November 6-7, 2013
8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church

How do you know if you are a caregiver?

If you are responsible for assisting a family member, loved one, or friend with meeting the demands of a chronic illness or disability.

Studies have shown that caregivers:

- Use 71% more prescription drugs
- Have a higher rate of depression

Have 46% more physician visits

Become isolated

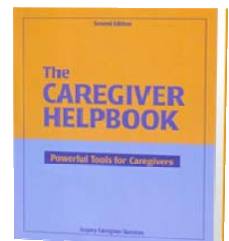
Have a 63% higher mortality rate than non caregivers of the same age

What does the six-week class cover?

- This class will give YOU, the family caregiver, tools to:
- Help you reduce stress
- Communicate effectively with other family members, your doctor, healthcare and service providers
- Take care of yourself
- Reduce guilt, anger, and depression
- Help you relax
- Make tough decisions
- Set goals and problem-solve

Please note that this class will NOT focus on specific diseases or hands-on-caregiving for the care receiver.

Class size is limited. Contact Susan Dullnig at susand@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2753. You may also contact Michele Shultz Hendrix for additional information on the Class Leader Training at 832-731-6127 or terryhendrix@earthlink.net.



"The Best of Bess" Concert Honors a First Presbyterian Church and San Antonio Music Legend

By Don Drummound, Sanctuary Choir Librarian and Elder on Rotation

Mark your calendar for a very special Fall Choral Concert at First Presbyterian Church, Sunday, October 27, at 3:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary.



Our Sanctuary Choir will join with the UTSA Concert Choir to present "The Best of Bess!" It's an afternoon of choral and organ music recognizing the outstanding talent of the late Dr. Bess Hieronymus who was Organist/Choir Director at First Presbyterian Church for 28 years and UTSA's emeritus professor of organ performance.

Organ concert works will be performed by Dr. Jae Ha and by Dr. David Eaton, The Bess Hieronymus Fellow of Organ and Harpsichord at UTSA. The UTSA choir will be directed by Dr. John Silantien and our own Sanctuary Choir will be conducted by our Minister of Music, Tom Dooling. Works include several "favorite anthems" from our music library, chosen by those of us who sang them under Bess' direction.

Bess Hieronymus was once credited with having said, "If you believe in a God, you should offer the best to the worship of that God. Classical music lifts us all up and inspires us. That's what art is supposed to do." She not only firmly believed and practiced this principle; she also urged her students and her choirs to share in this belief.

While many FPC Members may recall Bess' tenure and got to know her during her years at the church, most people are not aware of her many accomplishments and her "draw" to quality church music and musicianship. As our choir members have gotten to know more about Bess and her long service at FPC, we'd like to take you on a "trip" through her music history ... please read on!

A Bit of Bess' Background

Bess' family first became aware of her musical ability when she was three years old and rewarded her with a ukulele, her first instrument. She was first hired as a church organist in her hometown of Temple, Texas when she was just 13 years old, and for a while she commuted to Waco to study the organ.

Despite this early experience, she was principally a pianist in

the first 30 years of her life. She studied with Walter Gilbewicz at Mary Hardin-Baylor, an institution that awarded her a scholarship based on her proven musical ability. Somewhat later she studied with Heinrich Gebhard (who also taught Arthur Schnabel and Leonard Bernstein) in Boston, and, after Arthur Rubinstein suggested it, with Alexander Libermann (who also taught Vladimir Horowitz) at Mills College.

While at Smith College she wrote her thesis under the direction of Alfred Einstein, who was at that time the world's leading authority on Mozart. Subsequently, she was the first person to earn the doctorate in organ performance after the University of Texas at Austin began to offer that degree. At various times, she also pursued other musical interests in Germany and at the University of London. At age 32 she suffered a finger injury and decided to make the organ her principal instrument.

Beginning in 1950, Bess held academic positions at Trinity University, San Antonio College and the University of Texas at San Antonio while also filling posts at several religious institutions, as well. True to Bess, this busy schedule of teaching and participating in religious services still offered time to concertize extensively in the U.S. and in Europe. As a pianist, she performed with the Boston Pops Orchestra, the San Antonio Symphony, and the San Antonio Little Symphony. As an organist, she was twice invited to play recitals at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris and also performed on the organ of Saint-Saens' church, the Madeleine.

In 1991, her international stature as an organist was confirmed as she performed a concert in Tchaikovsky Hall of the Moscow Conservatory under the aegis of the National Russian Music Society. Following the concert she was inducted as a member of the National Russian Music Society, becoming the first woman, the first American, and only the third non-Russian to be so honored. Thus her name was added to a list that included such names as Rachmaninoff, Rimsky-Korsakov, Stravinsky, and Prokofiev. She was invited to return the following year for still another recital.

Bess at FPC

Bess led the First Presbyterian Church Music Department from the organ bench and the choir loft. Hired as the church organist, she expanded the church's music offerings and its role in the greater San Antonio community. At the same time, she instilled in volunteer and professional singers the importance of music in worship and musicality in their worship offerings.

She rarely said much about her personal spiritual beliefs,

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fpconline.org

A Fabulous Fall at First Presbyterian Church

A Tribute to Bess Hieronymus – Sunday, Oct. 27, 3 p.m.

First Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir and UTSA Concert Choir

A tribute to the late Dr. Bess Hieronymus, former First Presbyterian organist and UTSA organ professor. Presenting sacred anthems and organ works championed by Dr. Hieronymus during her storied career.

Midday Noels – Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 12:10-12:45 p.m.

Our annual *Christmas Gift to the City* features great performances and a seated or “grab-and-go” lunch.

Come be a part of great music and worship! If great choral music is an important part of your worship experience, we invite you to consider singing with the Sanctuary Choir at First Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals are from 7-8:45 p.m. each Wednesday. For more information, contact Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, at 271-2717 (or Tomd@fpcsat.org).



which may have led some people to doubt her commitment to such things. If so, those people were mistaken. Her prayers were spoken by the keyboard, and they were both eloquent and sincere.

Bess was a part of the group of organ enthusiasts who assisted the late Bill Hall in launching the organ competition that now bears his name (and continues to be a part of Music@First's annual community offerings), serving as one of its first judges.

She started the Mid-Day Noel series at First Pres nearly 40 years ago, bringing a noon series of vocal and instrumental music to Downtown San Antonio and drawing nearby office workers, church members, tourists, and passersby into our Sanctuary for a welcome holiday respite. The series has continued and will continue as a holiday gift to San Antonio.

One of the first faculty members when the UTSA Music Department of the University of Texas at San Antonio began, she was the first faculty member to be awarded a full professorship. At UTSA, she also supervised the installation of a Casavant organ which was subsequently named in her honor. In 1989 the Bess Hieronymus Scholarship Endowment was established, and in 1994, by the Bess Hieronymus Faculty Endowment at UTSA offered additional recognition. She served on the national board of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians, and directed the Music Conference at Montreat, North Carolina, in 1983.

Some Final Remembrances

Bess Hieronymus had a strong will, great self-confidence, and a self-deprecating sense of humor. (She often referred to the “Ethel Merman” quality of her singing voice.) Her self-confidence was based on a rock-solid foundation of thousands of hours of practice and study, and it surely was transmitted to the other musicians, whether singers or instrumentalists, with whom she was working. It told them that no matter what happened, Bess would get them through. And it told them that they had a responsibility to offer their best musical skills and talents.

For someone with such a varied background and such impressive abilities she never showed signs of ego or superiority. This woman of legendary accomplishments never relied on them to bolster her position. To virtually everyone who came in contact with her, she was simply “Bess.”

She also once said, “I admit that I’m a ham.” She seemed to love to perform, but she sometimes showed an unexpected shyness. After her death on March 22, 2008, the *San Antonio Express-News* stated that “the life she lived inspired those she loved so deeply their lives are forever changed.”

Our October 27 concert is a witness to the truth of those words.



New Beginnings

By Matt Fricker and the Youth Ministry Team

Hello Everyone,

As I am writing this I must say how thrilled and blessed I am to have joined such an awesome community as First Presbyterian Church. Having moved from Pittsburgh to San Antonio has been challenging, but I have had the support of some amazing brothers and sisters in Christ from this congregation! If you have not noticed, we have a newly remodeled youth center and it is incredible. Needless to say we are loving it and thankful to everyone who has made it possible. The building has become a wonderful place to gather and come together as a community of believers. As I thought about the community here I was drawn to Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the day approaching."

There are a few things that may strike you when you read this passage. First it says spur (like San Antonio Spurs), could this be a prophecy of the Spurs dynasty....the answer is no. Secondly, it is a warning that we must appreciate the time we have together and spend it with one another. Previously in Hebrews the author stresses who Jesus is and how important the new covenant is in Christ. Now he is telling us that we must meet in light of knowing Christ and the hope we have in him. However, inside that warning are essentials of Christian living; loving, encouraging each other, and spending time together (meeting together)! This has been important for all believers and communities as they have read the word of God.

So here we are in San Antonio, Texas as a community of believers with a new youth building. We know that we are called to love and encourage each other, as well as meet together. You may be asking where you fit into this picture, especially if you are not a youth. Well, I am glad you asked because there are so many places for you to be part of the youth ministry here. We will be meeting every Wednesday from 5:00-7:30 pm (if you can't make all of it, come to part of it...no worries) to come together and play games, share our faith, and, of course, eat. We are meeting Sunday mornings for Sunday School. We also have small group Bible studies throughout the week. If you are a youth in 6-12th grade you fit in all of these programs and we hope to see you there. If you are an adult of any age we would love for you to join us!

There are so many different ways to be a part of our community and we would love to have you. No experience is necessary; a love for youth is all you need. Remember there are always 100 reasons to not do something, but there is one great reason to join us- "community" (see Hebrews 10:24-25 if you forgot already)! The youth will also be going out as a community for several different events such as our **Middle School retreat on October 11-13**. If you are interested in joining us in any capacity please e-mail mattf@fpcsat.org. We look forward to seeing all youth and adults (only ages 18-147, sorry I don't make the rules) in meeting together, and loving and encouraging each other!

Peace in Christ,
Matt, Jerren, Suzanna, Wilson
The youth folks

University Ministry And We're Off!

By Hanna Monroe, U-Min Intern



This past month has been a whirlwind as Nate and I started to work with university students and young adults. August and September have been months of transition for university students as they often change locations to go to school. We said “see you later” to our First Pres students who are away at school. Our plan is to be in touch with as many students as possible by updating the contact information for

all college students. Parents of students, you may have already received a phone call!

We’ve also welcomed university students from Trinity and Incarnate Word who chose to attend First Pres on Sunday mornings with newly made welcome jars and drawstring backpacks. These packets include information about the regular events that we hold for these two groups and invite students to join us. We are inviting these students to be a part of the College and Career Class being taught by Rev. Steve Schaick. Steve is a chaplain in the Air Force and he and his wife, Denise, have made First Pres their home church. Steve will be teaching from *The Red Letter Revolution*, a book by Tony Campolo and Shane Claiborne.

A new partnership between First Pres and Trinity University’s InterVarsity Christian Fellowship chapter began as we hosted a luncheon for 20 of the student leaders. Through this lunch we built relationships and talked about discipleship groups. These groups are led by adults at First Pres and consist of 2-4 university students. Discipleship groups are a way to facilitate growth in students’ relationships with God. They involve scripture study, living life together, sharing struggles, and seeking God in a smaller, more intimate community focused on growing to be more like Him.

Additionally, Nate and I volunteered at InterVarsity’s Fall Re-

treat (IVFR) in Corpus Christi, Texas toward the end of September. The theme of the weekend was “Being Disciples, Making Disciples.” The retreat focused on what it means to be a disciple of Christ and how to invite ourselves and other students into taking steps of faith closer toward Jesus.

Most recently, we’ve welcomed Chris Via, the director for University and Young Adult Ministry, to the team and we’re excited to continue growing in relationship with each other, university students, young adults, and the Lord.

On the last weekend of September we co-sponsored a Joshua Build (like our Project 240) with Habitat for Humanity on the campus of Trinity University. Students and staff from InterVarsity teamed up with our staff team, members of our Umin/Young Adult Committee and some of our Discipleship Group leaders to build relationships with students while building the walls of a home. It was a great outreach to both the student involved in IVCF as well as to the students who stopped to see us while walking by on campus!

It’s been a thrilling time for us in University Ministry and it has been incredible to see God at work!

If you are interested in being a part of what God is doing through First Pres on University campuses, contact Chris Via (chrisv@fpcsat.org) Director of University and Young Adult Ministry or Hannah Monroe (hannahm@fpcsat.org) or Nate Rawlings (nater@fpcsat.org), the University and Young Adult Ministry Interns.

Points of Prayer: Please support us through prayer.

That God would be at work through us as we build relationships with university students and would be evident in our conversations and interactions with others.

That university students and young adults would be engaging in what it means to follow the Lord with their whole heart and life, daily making decisions to take steps closer to Him.

That discipleship groups would be fruitful and transformative for students and leaders.

“Book” It to October Literature Circle Meeting

The Literature Circle of First Presbyterian Church is a group of men and women who enjoy literature. The meetings take place on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. from September through May in the McCullough Room. A social half hour is held prior to the meeting with refreshments.

The books are available in the library to check out. If you love to read or just listen, want to be introduced to new ideas and great stories, bring a guest or potential new member and join us for another great year of literature.

October 8:

Tumbleweeds

by Leila

Meacham

Reviewer: Leila Meacham

Celebrating 30 Years of Partnership

1981

One cold November morning in 1981, the custodian at First Presbyterian Church discovered a homeless man lying lifeless near the front steps of the sanctuary. This prompted senior pastor Dr. Louis Zbinden to call an emergency meeting of the Downtown Ministers Alliance.

1982

On January 1, 1982, an old USO building, owned by adjacent First Presbyterian Church was opened as a shelter to the homeless, and thirty-nine men sought shelter that first night.

1983

On August 31, 1983 eleven ministers decided on the name San Antonio Metropolitan Ministry, and the organization was incorporated as a 501(c)3.

1983

1998 Housing and Urban Development Award
"Outstanding Contributions"

1991

SAMMinistries begins its transitional housing program serving 10 families at the Community Ministry Center.

2000

SAMM's 4-acre Transitional Living and Learning Center opens with accommodations for 40 families, who may reside at the center for up to 24 months while working or attending school.

2004

Furniture For A Cause, a used and new furniture store, is created in March 2004 as an additional way to support SAMM programs. Proceeds of all furniture sales go directly to SAMMinistries.

2010

Haven for Hope is opened in downtown San Antonio. SAMM becomes one of more than 70 partner organizations offering services to homeless individuals on the Haven for Hope campus.

2011

Within three years from its conception, SAMM's Homeless Prevention Program kept more than 10,000 people from becoming homeless.

2012

SAMM increases its focus on helping families in crisis by strengthening its homeless prevention, rapid re-housing, education assistance and workforce development programs on the Haven for Hope

2013

SAMMExpress Donation Station opens at 5246 Blanco Road. The new location will allow in-kind supporters a second location to make donations. All donations support families transitioning to

SAN ANTONIO 3,211 Homeless people are in San Antonio daily.

50% of San Antonio homeless seniors (65+) are veterans.



SAMM SUCCESS STORY **House Fire** to New Home

On Christmas Day 2012, after Frank and Jessica Valdez and their three children went home to wrap last minute Christmas gifts, Jessica began to smell smoke throughout the house. Shortly after, she walked into the kitchen only to see the entire back of the house on fire.

"I was concerned about my husband," Jessica said. "He was in the back of the house trying to put the fire out." Luckily everyone escaped safely, but all of the Valdez's valuables and possessions were lost.

"I was worried about my kid's things, because it means a lot to them," said Jessica, explaining how many of her children's toys were hers when she was little and could never be replaced.

"The day after the fire I felt so hopeless and broken down. I've never been homeless before, and it made it even harder that it was Christmas time. Usually when you move into another place, you have all of your things, but we had nothing," Jessica explained.

The American Red Cross provided the Valdez's a five-day stay in a hotel. But, at the end of the five days with no prospects for a new home, they had to move in with family. It was then that Frank's mother called SAMMinistries for

between FPC and SAMMinistries

1987 Housing and Urban Development Award
"Model for the Nation"

1986

After moving to a new shelter location at 910 W. Commerce Street in 1985, the SAMM board (realizing that homelessness is not just a winter problem) voted in 1986 to keep the shelter open year-round.

1990

The SAMM Housing Corp. was established in 1990 to help provide long-term transitional housing to shelter residents.

2008 First Charity Navigator
4-Star Rating

2008

SAMM's Homeless Prevention Program is jump-started with a \$600,000 grant. Shortly thereafter, the City of San Antonio and the State of Texas funded the expansion of SAMM's program.

2010

SAMMinistries establishes the "Helping Hands Fund," which helps SAMM clients pay for educational opportunities, as well as incidentals, which might derail a person's path to education.

2013 Sixth Consecutive Charity Navigator 4-Star Rating
Places SAMM in 97th Percentile Nationally

2013

SAMMinistries opens a new office location for Homeless Prevention Services to better meet the needs of San Antonio. This new space will allow SAMM to keep more families than ever before from entering

SAMMinistries
OVERCOMING HOMELESSNESS
DONATION
DROP OFF

2013

I am so grateful for the community members who have helped SAMMinistries grow over the past 30 years. Each donor, volunteer, staff member and supporter has been vital to our success as a Ministry.

However, our work is not finished. Last year, because of you, we were able to keep 583 families from becoming homeless, and support more than 4,000 San Antonians as they transitioned to permanent housing. Your support of SAMM made this possible!

As we look toward the future, we hope to keep more families from entering the stress of homelessness. This is why we opened a new office location for our Homeless Prevention Services in July. This space allows us to serve more families than ever before, and maintain our role as the largest provider of homeless prevention services in San Antonio.

We hope you will share in our excitement for the future, and celebration of the past as we celebrate our 30th year of service to San Antonio.

Thank you time and again for your support of SAMMinistries.

God bless,

Navarra R. Williams

Navarra R. Williams
President and CEO
SAMMinistries



6 the average age of a homeless child in San Antonio.

51% of San Antonio homeless families list loss of income as their reason for homelessness.

help. Filling all requirements, the Valdez family was immediately enrolled in the Rapid Re-Housing Program.

Over a two and a half week period, SAMM began to help the Valdez family replace important documents lost in the fire such as social security cards and birth certificates. SAMM also worked with them in contacting several rental homes within their price range.

SAMM secured a home suitable for the family and SAMM's City of San Antonio Rapid Re-Housing Program paid their initial deposit, as well as, the first month's rent. "It was a relief that the Rapid Re-Housing Program was able to help. **I didn't feel alone. If I needed help with something, I knew I could call SAMMinistries.**"

On January 13, 2013, less than three weeks after the fire, the Valdez family moved into their new home. Within two months,

they no longer needed financial assistance from SAMM.

Because of your help, Jessica says that the Valdez family is returning to a normal life; a feat that could not have been accomplished without SAMMinistries.

The Rapid Re-Housing program is designed to reduce the amount of time people experience homelessness and re-house families into permanent homes. SAMM was able to save the Valdez family from homelessness, and helped them back on their feet in their time of need. It is SAMM's mission to help, serve, and provide for people in need, and we are proud to have taken part in the Valdez's new life.



www.samm.org

210.340.0302



SAMMinistries is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization

SAMMinistries
OVERCOMING HOMELESSNESS

30 YEARS OF SERVICE
1983-2013

FPC Supports Fearlessly Faithful Believers

The Global Missions Committee invites you to learn about fellow believers facing persecution for their faith in Jesus Christ

Have you ever wondered why some of our missionaries are only identified by their first name and a vague description of their location? Some of our FPC missionaries are currently serving in countries in which their lives, their ministry, or the lives of the locals who have chosen to follow Christ could be in imminent danger if they are discovered by people who would wish to cause them harm. ***In fact, 75% of the world's population currently lives in areas with severe religious restrictions or persecution of Christians.***

What is persecution?

Persecution is defined as a policy or campaign to exterminate, drive away, or subjugate a people because of their religion, race or beliefs. Some who believe in Christ endure persecution in the form of violent threats, imprisonment, interrogation, and even torture for refusing to deny their faith.

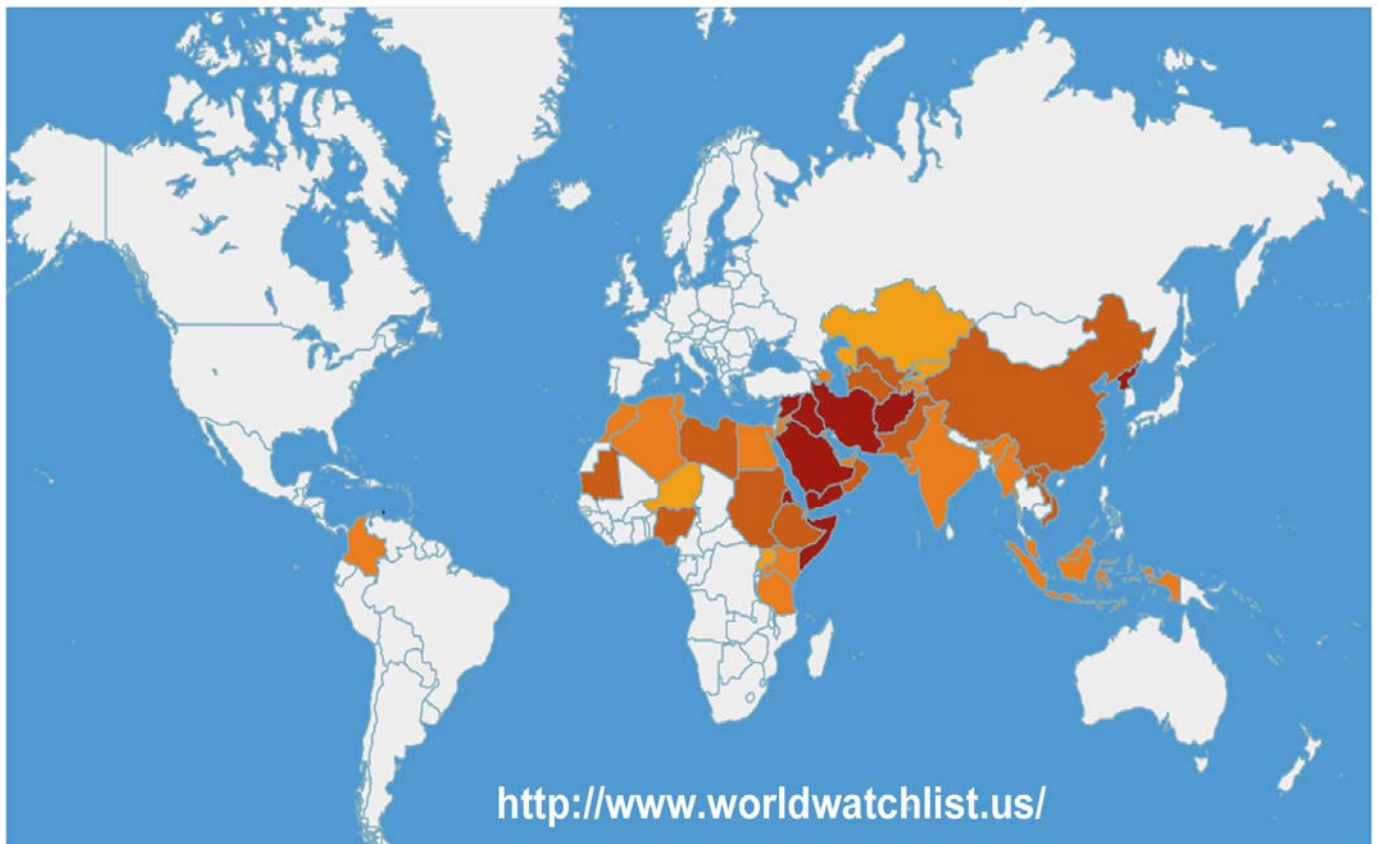
2013 Christian Persecution World Watch List

EXTREME PERSECUTION

SEVERE PERSECUTION

MODERATE PERSECUTION

SPARSE PERSECUTION



Pray for the 20 countries in which Christians face the highest risk of SEVERE to EXTREME PERSECUTION:

- | | | | |
|----------------|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 North Korea | 6 Maldives | 11 Syria | 16 Uzbekistan |
| 2 Saudi Arabia | 7 Mali | 12 Sudan | 17 Libya |
| 3 Afghanistan | 8 Iran | 13 Nigeria | 18 Laos |
| 4 Iraq | 9 Yemen | 14 Pakistan | 19 Turkmenistan |
| 5 Somalia | 10 Eritrea | 15 Ethiopia | 20 Qatar |

What does the Bible say about persecution?

During his ministry on earth, Jesus warns his friends many times of the risks for those who choose to follow him. In John 15:18, Jesus says, *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first.."* He also teaches how to respond to persecution. *"But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."* (Matthew 5:44)

Many accounts are recorded in the Bible of people who were persecuted because they shared their testimonies of the life, miracles, death, resurrection, and divinity of the person they called Jesus from Nazareth. The book of Acts tells of a man named Saul whose career ambitions included finding, torturing, and killing believers. This highly-feared persecutor was walking to Damascus (in present-day Syria) when Jesus miraculously appeared to him. After that experience, he could no longer deny that Jesus was the Son of God. He changed his entire life and devoted himself to spreading the teachings of Jesus with people near and far. This person, also known as Paul, became a missionary who shared the truth of Jesus Christ across thousands of miles. The formerly feared Paul was now himself a target, however he continued to spread the gospel despite all circumstances. His writings to fellow persecuted believers help us to understand how Christians can react when persecuted. *"If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together."* (1 Corinthians 12:22) *"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."* (Romans 12:21) *"...God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation."* (2 Corinthians 5:17)

*"For I am not
ashamed of the
gospel, because it
is the power of
God that brings
salvation to
everyone who
believes..."*
Romans 1:16



How does FPC support Christians in persecuted locations?

Each year, an organization called Open Doors publishes a "World Watch List" to raise awareness and prayer support for our persecuted Christian brothers and sisters around the world. **Through your tithes to First Presbyterian Church, in 2013 the Global Missions Committee has been able to financially support the ministries of Christian missionaries in four of the countries listed on the World Watch List.**

Our faithful brothers and sisters in Christ are building relationships with Muslims, sharing their faith in the one true God, praying for the Holy Spirit to move powerfully in the community, baptizing those who want to be free of their sins and invite Jesus Christ into their hearts, planting discreet or hidden churches, and encouraging discipleship among new believers. God is working powerfully through very creative methods, including coffee groups, medical care, business as mission, community development, teaching English, and more! ***As a congregation, let us pray for those who bravely take the words of the Gospel along with their own families into hostile environments for the sake of bringing the transforming message of forgiveness and hope to all nations!*** For more information, visit www.opendoorsusa.org.

Local Missions

Volunteering at Dental Clinic Brings Smiles to All

By Leslie Little



"Thank you so much!" "God bless you!" "You don't know how much this has helped me!" "Now I can go out and look for a job with confidence." These phrases are often heard by the volunteers and staff at the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic (SACDC), where hundreds of homeless and low-income individuals receive professional dental care for very little or no cost.

I started volunteering at the SACDC almost two years ago and have witnessed many scenarios in which someone received a new smile, was relieved of excruciating mouth pain, or became able to eat again through the help of the kind volunteer dentists and hygienists there. I so look forward to my shift on Thursday mornings! Sometimes I get to practice my Spanish (which needs lots of practice!), have met some beautiful, spirit-filled, funny, and interesting people there at the clinic. I even had one patient offer to teach me piano lessons! It's a busy place, always buzzing with activity and chatter. I have become close enough with some of the staff that it feels like an extended family. I've come to care about these people that I most likely would not have ever crossed paths with in my regular days of school pick-up and drop-off, to and from the church for meetings or bible study, and the never-ending errand running (I know some of you are saying "that's my schedule too!") I sometimes wish I could volunteer there everyday, and really get to know the patients by name and know their stories, like the staff does. Maybe someday...

As volunteers, we help with patient check-in and check-out, scheduling new appointments, answering phones, filing, preparing patient folders, and any other clerical type duties that the clinic's staff needs help with. The staff there is wonderful, so kind and caring with not only the patients, but also with us volunteers. One of the very special duties we have as volunteers is to pray for our patients and staff. We gather regularly and pray in a group at the clinic, but also have notes that the patients can fill out with their personal prayer requests. The notes are collected in a jar and the volunteers and staff can pick up a few and pray for those patients throughout the week. Most of the requests ask for prayers for job search and family matters, but there are some that I've seen that I will carry in my heart for a long time – even if I don't know the person who made the request, it is a privilege to carry those specific prayers to God while sharing my own. The SACDC is a very special place doing its part to help make Jesus visible to many San Antonio residents.

We are always looking for new volunteers! The shifts are half day, morning or afternoon, whichever fits into your schedule. We have training manuals and new volunteers go through a training period with another volunteer who is familiar with the system. There are usually 2-4 volunteers per shift, plus the staff, who are so grateful that we are there! If you are looking for a new way to make Jesus visible and would like to share some of your time and talent, please consider volunteering at the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic. YOU may just be the one to help bring that new smile to a person's face. Call Leslie Little at 210-404-9027 or Frances Warrick at 210-344-6454 for more information.





KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit)

KEYS Unlock Awesome October Programs

By Pat McCleary, Director, Older Adult Programs

Edward Heath on the Mexican Drug Cartel

Friday, October 4, 11:00 a.m – Lunch at noon (\$7)

Mr. Heath will speak based on his experience and long career that began when he was sworn in as narcotic agent in Houston, TX in September 1962. During his career he served in many capacities including undercover agent in Houston, Los Angeles and Mexico, supervisor, Regional Director Mexico, Chief of Heroin Section DEA HQ with assignments in Miami, Panama, Dallas, San Diego, and Country Attache Mexico. **Also on October 4: KEYS Leadership Committee** meets at 1:00 p.m. Submit any program suggestions or places to visit.

Michel Leary on the Future of Newspapers in the Internet Age

Friday, October 11, 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Leary is the **editor of the San Antonio Express-News**. He started at our local paper in August, coming from the Philadelphia Inquirer, where he was deputy managing editor of news and investigations. In 2012, he directed and edited a print and online series on school violence that won the Pulitzer Prize gold medal for Meritorious Public Service.

Tour and Lunch at Adante Retirement Community

Monday, October 21, time to be announced

KEYS have been invited to visit this retirement community located on N.W. Military Drive. Adante has rental custom built cottages, independent living apartments, assisted living and memory care apartments located on a 26-acre beautifully designed community. Contact Pat McCleary at 210-271-2716 to R.S.V.P.

Edward E. Whitacre on His Book *American Turnaround*

Friday, October 18, 11:00 a.m.



Don't miss this opportunity to hear First Pres member **Edward E. Whitacre, Jr, former Chairman & CEO, General Motors Company and Chairman Emeritus, AT&T Inc.**, speak about his book, *American Turnaround: Reinventing AT&T and GM and the Way We Do Business in the USA*. We feel extremely honored to have him speak to KEYS.

This is an opportunity to invite your friends for this excellent program and lunch (\$7)

NOTE: No program Friday, October 25, because...

KEYS' ANNUAL FALL PICNIC IS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26!

Join us from noon-3:30 p.m. at the Gallagher Ranch and Judith and Doug McNeel's beautiful home—La Casita. It's the perfect place to spend a fall day in the country, so come and join the fun! We'll celebrate October birthdays with a barbecue lunch on the patio, then have a variety of games and fellowship opportunities. If you plan to drive, please check with Pat McCleary for directions. Van transportation to and from the

church will be available. Further details will be available in a separate flyer. Deadline for reservations (\$12/person) is Tuesday, October 22. Reservations may be made by check payable to FPC with "picnic" notation in the memo line. Send reservations to Pat's attention. And, just in case: **rain date is Sunday, October 27 (2:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.)**



**Church-wide Health Reminder:
Remember the Annual Flu Shot
Clinic at First Pres
Sunday, October 13, 2013
8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.
Geneva Room**

There is no charge for flu and pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Vaccines are not provided for children under four years of age, and children aged four-six must have a valid prescription. Cost per person for those who do not have insurance coverage is \$25 –Flu; \$85 – Pneumonia; \$38 – Tetanus (Tenivac); and \$60 – Tetanus (Boostrix). Sponsored by KEYS Adults.

KEYS Game Days

Bridge will be played on Fridays after lunch on October 11 and October 18. Please contact Katy BeDunnah at 210-945-9789 or Katy.bedunnah@att.net. **Mah Jongg** has been growing and would invite others to join with ongoing help and instructions at every session. It will be played on October 11 and 25 beginning at 1:00 p.m. until approximately 3:30 p.m. Please contact Nancy Black if you need more information at 210-493-1609.

Step & Stretch Class will be held on Oct. 4, 11, and 18 at 9:45 a.m. **NO class on Friday, October 25.**

Veterans' Day Program November 8, 2013

Be sure to mark your calendar for this event complete with S.A.R Color Guard. Historian and genealogist Peter Baron will be in historical dress as he presents a program on **The Evolution of the Continental Army**.

Save the Date: Friday, December 13 is the Salado Christmas Stroll Trip! Be sure to bring your Christmas list! **Complete details in FPC November Newsletter.**

Regular programs begin at 11:00 a.m. (unless otherwise specified), followed by lunch (\$7)

Reminder—KEYS are still collecting books and magazines for the VA hospital which are delivered by Bud Davenport. They can be dropped off at the reception desk or my office (Pat)

Presbyterian Women

Fall Is Finally Here!

By Susan DeKoch, Presbyterian Women President



Fall is finally in the air and all of our Circles are now in full swing. Along with our regular monthly Circle meetings, we have planned several wonderful events that are just around the corner. Before your calendar fills up, be sure to mark down the following dates:

Our first event will be the **Fall Ladies Night Out** on **Thursday, October 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

Author Elizabeth Stone will be our guest speaker. Her new book, *An Invitation to Entertain* will be available to purchase and autograph. The theme will be **Fall Entertaining--The Bountiful Harvest Table** and Elizabeth will have several tablescapes for us. Meredith Park has graciously opened her home for the evening. The address is 1802 Cactus Bluff. If you would like to carpool, please call Julie Walthall (829-8332) or me (822-0367).

Our Fall Luncheon will be later in October and will honor the

Church Staff. We are excited to announce that Sharon Glasgow will be our guest. Sharon is a nationally known Bible teacher and speaker who is affiliated with Proverbs 31 Ministries. Her topic is **"The Perfect Holiday Hostess"**. Join us for a humorous look at how to prepare for the holidays and keep Christ in the center. Mark your calendars for **Monday, October 28, at 11:30 a.m.** Note our earlier starting time at 11:30. For more information about Sharon, go to www.proverbs31.org/speakers. Reservations are required.

If you are not yet a part of Presbyterian Women, it is never too late to join us as we worship, serve and "make Jesus visible" in our daily lives. There is a list of all Circles, their meeting dates, times and locations in each issue of First Press and on the church website www.fpconline.org. If you have any questions or would like to visit any of our Circles, please call or email me and I will be happy to help you.

Lord, God, thank you for the privilege of serving You alongside these women. Grant us the daily joy of Your salvation. Bless us as we journey through the year together. Amen.

"Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings..." Psalm 17:8

Meet Chef and Author Elizabeth Stone at PW Fall Event Oct. 10

Featuring award-winning chef, caterer,
businesswoman and author

Elizabeth Stone

Thursday, October 10

7:00 p.m.

At the home of Meredith Park
1802 Cactus Bluff

Elizabeth's latest book is *An Invitation to Entertain* and will be available to buy. She will be speaking about holiday entertaining and tablescapes, and then answering questions and signing books afterward.

If you would like to carpool, please call
Julie Walthall (829-8332) or Susan
DeKoch (822-0367)



Sharon Glasgow to Speak at PW Luncheon October 28

If you've ever dreamed of being the perfect hostess, yet you don't have the time, money, a clean house or the perfect family to fulfill it—come to the Presbyterian Women's Fall Luncheon. You'll laugh, identify, and cry as Christ is magnified in a message entitled "The Perfect Holiday Hostess" by speaker Sharon Glasgow of Proverbs 31 Ministries.

This year's luncheon will be held Monday, October 28, at 11:30 a.m. in Westminster Hall. Doors will open for the event at 11 a.m. We will again honor our pastors, program directors, and administrative staff. If you have been touched by someone on the staff, let your attendance show your love and gratitude for their faithfulness and service to First Pres.

In women's ministry for over 20 years, Sharon Glasgow is an energetic, motivational Christian speaker whose messages touch the heart and soul of every age. She and her husband of 30 years live on a farm in Virginia with their milking goats,



chickens, and organic fruit and vegetables gardens. She is the mother of five daughters, the mother-in-law of three godly men, and the "grammy" of three grandchildren.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$7 and reservations are required. However, we will no longer be taking payment at the door the day of the luncheon. Your check is your reservation and may be paid at your circle meeting or mailed to First Presbyterian Church at 404 N. Alamo, San Antonio TX 78205-1918. Please make your check payable to FPC and put PW Luncheon in the notation line.

You may also leave your check in an envelope marked "PW Luncheon" in the PW box in the workroom or with our receptionist, Nancy Berger.

If you are a woman (men welcome too!), if you are a member of First Pres, and if you eat lunch, you are the perfect person to attend this fun and spirit-filled luncheon!

PW October Circle Meetings

Circle 112

Monday, Oct. 21, 10:30am

FPC Geneva Rm

Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182

Co-Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

Circle 2 and 4

Monday, Oct. 21, 1:30pm

FPC Rm 226

Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Circle 5, Shawl Ministry

Friday, Oct. 18, 12pm

FPC Rm 228

Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208

Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 6

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 1:30pm

FPC Geneva Rm

Chairs: Martha Pigeon, 828-8993

Betty Anderson, 828-8838

Jane Warren, 493-5187

Circle 7

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 9:30am

Service Project at the Presbyterian

Children's Home, 6355 Whitby

Lunch will follow at a restaurant

Chair: Meredith Park, 373-8180

Circle 8, Mom's Group

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

(Oct. 23 is Christmas craft day and all PW members are welcome)

9:30-11:30am

FPC Rm 108

Chair: Brenda Leonard, 910-578-7104

Co-Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

Circle 9

Tuesday, Oct. 15, 10am

FPC St. Andrew's Rm

Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

Circle 11

Monday, Oct. 28, 6:30pm

Home of Pat Brodeen, 2307 Oak Trace St.

Chair: Jean Swanson, 826-0766

Circle 13

Literature Circle

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 1:30pm

FPC McCullough Rm

"Tumbleweeds" by Leila Meacham,

reviewed by Leila Meacham

Chair: Becca Price, 824-2603

Circle 14

Monday, Oct. 21, 12pm

FPC St. Andrew's Rm

Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

Circle 16

Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle

Wednesday, Oct. 16, 9:30am

FPC Rm 228

Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

Corie Barlow, 481-1337

Circle 17, Edna Ralston Sewing Circle

Wednesday, Oct. 9, 9:30am

FPC Rm 309

Chairs: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972

Gigi Duke, 695-4363

Circle 18, Care and Concern

(no date)

Chairs: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Paula Bondurant, 736-6632

Georgia Heath, 695-9511

Circle 19, White Cross Circle

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 9:30am

FPC Rm 309

Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

Circle 20, Circle of Service

(no date)

Chair: Shannon McKelvey, 455-4520

Circle 21

Monday, Oct. 21, 6:30pm

Home of Karin Gabrielson

129 W. Wildwood Dr.

Chair: Andrea Taylor, 403-9442

"Not My Will but Thine be Done"—Scripture in Stained Glass

By Bill Cogburn

On the north side of our sanctuary near the chancel is one of the most powerful scenes depicted in our stained glass windows. Jesus is shown earnestly praying in the Garden of Gethsemane as a golden beam of light from heaven lights His face. This beautiful window was a gift from Dr. Frederick Llewellyn Thomson in memory of his parents, Walter and Christina Thomson. The window was installed when the sanctuary was remodeled and enlarged in 1924. Since the window is on an inside wall, it is illuminated by use of a light box.

According to Luke's gospel, on the night before his arrest, Jesus went with his disciples to the Mount of Olives. Upon reaching the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not come into the time of trial." Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw away, knelt down and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him and gave him strength. And being in anguish, he prayed more earnestly until his sweat was like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Frederick Llewellyn Thomson was born in Canada about 1875 near the Lake of the Woods in Ontario. He attended McGill University in Montreal and then medical school in Scotland, his father's native country. Although he became a licensed medical doctor, he apparently never practiced medicine but was referred to as Dr. Thomson for the rest of his life.

In 1897, Dr. Thomson immigrated to the U.S. making his home in the East Texas town of Grayburg in Hardin County near Houston. Since he had worked in the timber industry as a young man in Canada, there is speculation that the pine for-



ests of East Texas are what drew him to that area. After moving to Texas, he married and in 1910, his wife, Eddie, gave birth to their first child, Dorothy. Their son, Frederick Llewellyn Thomson, Jr. was born about six years later.

Always an active entrepreneur, Thomson became involved in oil exploration which led to his formation of the Grayburg Oil Company which was involved in the oil boom in the Spindle top area of East Texas in the 1920's.

After moving to San Antonio, Thomson continued in the oil business as president of the Grayburg Oil Company. The Church Register indicates that the family joined First Presbyterian Church April 2, 1922; Dr. F. L. Thomson by profession of faith, Mrs. F. L. Thomson by statement and their daughter, Miss Dorothy Thomson by profession of faith.

On November 16, 1942, the Express-News announced that Dr. Thomson died at his home at 322 Rosemary in Alamo Heights. He was sixty-eight years old. He was survived by his widow, Mrs. Eddie N. Thomson, daughter Mrs. Aden Stiles (Dorothy Thomson Stiles) and son Frederick L. Thomson, Jr. Services were held at First Presbyterian Church with Rev. Dr. Patrick D. Miller officiating. Interment was at Mission Burial Park.

At least two descendents of Dr. Frederick L. Thomson and Eddie Thomson continue as members of First Presbyterian... their grandchildren, Trisha Chilcutt and Ethel Runion.

Source: John Thomson Stiles, Tricia Thomson Chilcutt, First Pres Archives, SAPL Texana Room, Express-News



Moments to Hold Close Boy's Day

By Manuel Rodriguez

I was sitting with my father on a summer afternoon asking various questions that a toddler does. What keeps the moon from falling to the ground? Why is grass green? And then I asked this question, "When is boy's

day?" My dad paused and asked for clarification. I went on to explain that we had celebrated Mother's Day, we had just concluded Father's Day, when is Boy's Day. My father simply smiled, and muttered an incoherent response.

Later in the summer, my father woke me up in the middle of the week. A day that he should have been at work. He woke me up and asked if I knew what day it was. Before I could answer, he informed me, today is boy's day. The entire day was about me. Miniature golf, movies, and swimming. We ate my favorite foods, and at the end of the day we had presents and cake. My parents had boy's day for me every summer until my junior year in college. It was not until I was well into grade school that I realized my friends did not have a boy's day, it was something my father did, and he did it just for me.

How many things has your Father provided just for you that we assume everyone experiences? I feel confident that when you finally get to see the heavenly calendar you will see in bold letters your name, and the inscription I did this just for you.

First Cup Readings — September, 2013

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ,
Sandy Sturch & Claire Averyt



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.—Psalm 143:8

I know a name, a beautiful name that angels brought down to earth; they whispered it low, one night long ago, to a maiden of lowly birth. I know a name, a beautiful name that unto a Babe was given, the stars glittered bright throughout that night, and angels praised God in heaven. I love that blest name, that wonderful name, made higher than all in heaven. 'Twas whispered, I know, in my heart long ago; that matchless name is Jesus! (Worship in Song, No. 118)

- 1 Luke 1:1-25; John 1:1-34
- 2 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Genesis 17:19; Psalm 132:11-18; Galatians 3:16
- 3 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23; Isaiah 43:1-3; 45:22
- 4 Leviticus 12; Luke 2:21-40; Isaiah 42:1-9; 8:13-17; John 10:11; Psalm 23
- 5 Micah 5:1-5; Matthew 2
- 6 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 7 Luke 3:1-22; Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:1-11; 16:15-16; Acts 1:5, 2:38-41

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; like sunshine at noon-day His glory shone in; No darkness have we who in Jesus abide; We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide. Ye dwellers in darkness with sin-blinded eyes, Go, wash at His bidding, and light will arise. Come to the Light; 'tis shining for thee. Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me. Once I was blind, but now I can see, the Light of the world is Jesus. (Worship in Song, No. 96)

- 8 Luke 3:23-4:13; Hebrews 2:10-18; 4:14-16; 1 Peter 5:5-10
- 9 Isaiah 40:1-11; 52:7; 58; 61:1-3; Luke 4:14-21
- 10 Luke 4:22-30; John 1:9-14; 15:18-16:15
- 11 Luke 4:31-37; Isaiah 14:12-15; Luke 10:18; James 2:19; John 12:27-50
- 12 Luke 4:38-44; Psalm 103
- 13 Luke 5:1-11; Matthew 10:34-39; 16:24-28; 19:16-30
- 14 Numbers 12; 2 Kings 5; 2 Chronicles 26; Luke 5:12-26; Psalm 147:3

Oh young and fearless Prophet of ancient Galilee, Thy life is still a summons to serve humanity; to make our thoughts and actions less prone to please the crowd; to stand with humble courage for truth with hearts uncowed. Oh young and fearless Prophet, we need Thy presence here, amid our pride and glory to see Thy face appear; once more to hear Thy challenge above our noisy day, again to lead us forward along God's holy way. (The United Methodist Hymnal, No. 444)

- 15 Luke 5:27-32; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 John 3:1-10
- 16 Luke 5:33-39; Leviticus 16:29-31; Joel 2:12-14; Nehemiah 9:1-3; Matthew 6:16-18
- 17 Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 16; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Matthew 5:17-20; Luke 6:1-11
- 18 Psalm 7; Luke 6:12-36; Proverbs 16:7; Romans 12:17-21
- 19 Luke 6:37-45; Romans 2; 14; James 4:11-12; Matthew 18:15-35
- 20 Luke 6:46-49; James 2:14-26; John 15:1-17
- 21 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:1-37; Luke 7:1-17; Jeremiah 32:17-27; Psalm 107:20-22

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear, things I would ask Him to tell me if He were here: Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea—stories of Jesus, tell them to me. First let me hear how the children stood round His knee; And I shall fancy His blessing resting on me: Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace, all in the love-light of Jesus' face. Tell me in accents of wonder, how rolled the sea, tossing the boat in a tempest on Galilee; and how the Master, ready and kind, chided the billows, and hushed the winds. (Worship in Song, No. 116)

- 22 Luke 7:18-35; 1 Kings 17; Luke 9:18-19
- 23 Psalm 38; Luke 7:36-50; Psalm 32
- 24 Luke 8:1-18; Psalm 119:1-16; 89-112; James 1:22-25
- 25 Psalm 119:33-88; Luke 8:19-21; John 14:15-21
- 26 Luke 8:22-25; 2 Samuel 22; Jonah 2; Psalm 3:5; 4:8; 73:23-26
- 27 Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Psalm 106; Luke 8:26-39; James 4:7
- 28 Luke 8:40-48; Leviticus 15:25-27; Mark 3:10; 6:56; Luke 8:49-55; Hebrews 11:6

It may not be on the mountain height, or over the stormy sea; It may not be at the battle's front my Lord will have need of me; but if by a still, small voice He calls to paths that I do not know, I'll answer, dear Lord, with my hand in Thine, "I'll go where you want me to go." Perhaps today there are loving words which Jesus would have me speak; there may be now, in the paths of sin, some wanderer whom I should seek. O Savior, if Thou wilt be my Guide, tho' dark and rugged the way, my voice shall echo the message sweet, I'll say what you want me to say. (Worship in Song, No. 354)

- 29 Luke 9:1-9; Matthew 14:1-12; 17:9-13; Matthew 10:17-31
- 30 Exodus 16; Luke 9:10-17; Mark 11:22-25; Proverbs 30:7-9; John 6:48-51



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- 1 Luke 9:18-27; Matthew 10:32-33; 16:24-28; Philippians 1
- 2 Luke 9:28-36; Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:16-17; 5:17;
2 Peter 1; Psalm 119:105
- 3 Luke 9:37-45; Mark 9:14-29; Matthew 21:21-22;
James 5:15-16
- 4 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 9:46-62; Matthew 4:18-22;
Mark 10:17-31; Matthew 6:33
- 5 Luke 10:1-24; Matthew 4:10; Revelation 9:1-11; 12:7-12;
13:5-10; Daniel 12:1-4

Out in the highways and byways of life, many are weary and sad. Carry the sunshine where darkness is rife, making the sorrowing glad. Tell the sweet story of Christ and His love; tell of His power to forgive. Others will trust Him if only you prove true every moment you live. Give as 'twas given to you in your need; love as the Master loved you. Be to the helpless a helper indeed; unto your mission be true. Make me a blessing—make me a blessing! Out of my life may Jesus shine. Make me a blessing, O Savior, I pray. Make me a blessing to someone today. (Worship in Song, No. 342)

- 6 Luke 10:25-37; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18;
Matthew 10:5-7; 19:16-30
- 7 Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 12:1-13;
Psalm 27:4; 119:97-112
- 8 Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 26:31-46; 69-75;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 9 Luke 11:14-28; 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6
- 10 Luke 11:29-32; Jonah 3; 2 Chronicles 9:1-12;
Matthew 12:38-45; John 3:18-21
- 11 Luke 11:33-36; Psalm 101; Psalm 18:25-29; Titus 1:15-16
- 12 Luke 11:37-54; Genesis 4:1-16; 2 Chronicles 24:17-22;
Acts 13; Romans 2

Brightly beams our Father's mercy from His lighthouse evermore. But to us He gives the keeping of the lights along the shore. Let the lower lights be burning! Send a gleam across the wave! For to us He gives the keeping of the lights along the shore. Lo, the night of sin has settled, loud the angry billows roar; eager eyes are watching, longing, for the lights along the shore. Trim your feeble lamp, my brother, some poor sailor tempest tossed, trying now to make the harbor, in the darkness may be lost. (Worship in Song, No. 355)

- 13 Luke 12:1-12; Acts 6:8-7:60
- 14 Luke 12:13-34; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Isaiah 57:14-21;
Ephesians 5:1-20
- 15 Luke 12:33-48; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11;
2 Thessalonians 2:1-16
- 16 Luke 12:49-53; Mark 10:28-31; 13:3-13; Matthew 10:17-42
- 17 Luke 12:54-59; Matthew 16:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; 2 Peter 3;
1 John 2:18-27
- 18 Luke 13:1-9; Isaiah 5:1-10; John 15:1-17
- 19 Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 4:23-25; 12:1-14; Luke 13:10-35

There were ninety and nine that safely lay in the shelter of the fold; but one was out on the hills far away, far away from the gates of gold—away on the mountain, wild and bare; away from the tender's Shepherd's care. "Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine; are they not enough for Thee?" But, the Shepherd made answer: "This, of Mine, has wandered away from Me. And although the road be rough and steep, I'll go to the desert to find my sheep." And all through the mountains thunder driven, and up through the rocky steep, there arose a glad cry to the gates of Heaven, "Rejoice! I have found my sheep!" (Elizabeth Clephane, 1868)

- 20 Luke 14:1-24; Matthew 22:1-14; Zachariah 3
- 21 Luke 14:25-35; Philippians 3:7-4:1
- 22 Luke 15; Proverbs 20:9; 21:17, 25, 26; 22:6; Psalm 51;
Hebrews 12:4-13
- 23 Luke 16:1-18; 12:33-34; Matthew 6:19-34
- 24 Luke 16:19-31; 6:17-26; Matthew 25:31-46
- 25 Luke 17:1-10; Matthew 6:9-15; 18:21-35
- 26 Luke 17:11-19; Leviticus 13:29-37; Matthew 10:5-8;
Acts 14:8-10; James 5:13-16

My Father is rich in houses and lands; He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands! Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full—He hath riches untold. My Father's own Son, the Savior of men, once wandered o'er earth as the poorest of them; but now He is reigning forever on high, and will give me a home in heaven by and by. A tent or a cottage, why should I care? They're building a palace for me over there! Though exiled from home, yet still I may sing: "All glory to God, I'm a child of the King!" (Worship in Song, No. 377)

- 27 Luke 17:20-37; Genesis 7:6-24; 19:1-28; 1 Thessalonians 1-2;
Revelation 6:15-17
- 28 Deuteronomy 14:28-29; Isaiah 1:16-17; Luke 18:1-8;
Isaiah 58
- 29 Luke 18:9-14; Matthew 18:1-14; 23:1-12;
2 Timothy 3:10-17; Proverbs 22:6
- 30 Luke 18:15-17; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 John 2:28-3:10
- 31 Luke 18:18-30; Exodus 20:1-17; Job 34:16-19;
1 Peter 1:3-9



Grow Ministries

Lifesavers!

By Jim McCann

What started out as a Life Group in 2009 has evolved into what the members of our small group call “Lifesavers”. It has been a tremendous comfort to share our walk with Christ and our life experiences with this group of believers and friends sometimes looking for advice, sometimes just looking for someone to listen and sometimes sharing exciting joys and successes. It is hard to count all the times the members of our small group have been blessed by the prayers and support offered by other group members.

We have been through the deaths of family members; births of grandbabies; continuing issues and dilemmas of aging parents; the joys as well as the challenges of children; the successes and challenges of jobs; the excitement of medical successes; almost irresolvable issues within extended families along with other life changes. There have been times where just fellowship, food and fun were the agenda. We have also had the opportunity to work with some of our local mission partners in service projects. It is hard to imagine life’s journey without this group by our side.

We have been blessed to have a group that has grown spiritually and supports each member while holding each one accountable. We all have learned to share both the exciting, good events in our lives as well as the difficult, heart-breaking,



challenges we all face. This type of sharing is not easy. It takes time to be able to do so within the group. To create a safe place to open up like this, we have a commitment: what is talked about in the group stays in the group. This commitment is essential for all groups and encourages sharing those issues that are not easy to discuss.

This fall, we began a new season for small groups. Groups come in many flavors. There are several existing groups looking for new members. New groups are also forming. Some groups are made up of just women; others are just men and others are a mixture of both. Some are geared towards the same general age group while others are multigenerational. Need a specific day? Groups meet almost every day of the week, even on Sunday. Some meet early in the

morning before work, some at lunch while others meet early in the evening. Need a certain area of town? There are groups meeting at the church, in Alamo Heights, Castle Hills, far north on 281 and near Randolph just to name a few.

Find a group to join this fall or start a new group. We think you will find that investing a small amount of time with new (or old) friends within the church will be very rewarding. For more information, contact either Stacie Rodriguez at 210-226-0215 ext. 259, or small-groups@fpcsat.org; or Kay Gerfers at 210-479-9773, or kgerfers@flash.net.

Big Thoughts about Small Groups

By Kay Gerfers

²² *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Gal 5:22-23 NIV)*

A careful reading of Paul’s letter to the Galatians will reveal that he is speaking to a community of Gentile Christians much like us. In chapter five, we stumble upon a list of vices that we are quick to pass over because they are not pleasant to contemplate. However, upon close inspection the reader will notice that all of the vices are ones that are committed in community. Then we breathe a sigh of relief when we come to the lovely list of fruits. Taking this list into our closet, we take stock of our spiritual well being, ticking off the fruits we surely pos-

sess. Keep in mind that Paul is addressing a community, not individuals. These fruits are to be characteristic of how followers of Jesus behave in community.

As a novice gardener, it’s always best to begin growing fruit in a small garden and progress up to a large orchard. At FPC we have such small gardens; they are called small groups. Within the community of a small group the Spirit can sow and nurture his fruits until the fruit produced is as sweet as it can be. As each small group sweetens its community with its own bounty of fruit, the whole of our FPC congregation is sweetened. Now that’s the way to make Jesus visible. Won’t you join a small group and help grow some fruit? Mmm-mmm, how sweet it is!

Deacon Ministry

Freedom to Serve

By Gordon Smith

The deacons at First Presbyterian Church meet once a month for dinner, study, and fellowship. Typically the meetings include among other agenda items a discussion in large or small groups of a reading assignment related to the deacons' caregiving mission. Currently, we are reading *Christian Caregiving--a Way of Life*, by Kenneth C. Haugk. Last month, we read and discussed the chapter "Servanthood vs. Servitude," which I found very practical.

The author begins the chapter by quoting Martin Luther: "A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all." At first, that seemed like a contradiction or a paradox—how could we be a lord of all and a servant of all at the same time? Then he contrasted **servitude** vs. **servanthood**. Servitude is involuntary work done out of compulsion, perhaps motivated by a sense of duty, guilt or fear of not pleasing God enough. It is what we do

because we have to. However, servanthood is work done voluntarily, not out of compulsion but rather willingly out of a sense of commitment and love. It is what we do because we choose to.

What a different perspective we have when we realize we have freedom to share God's love with others rather than having to earn God's grace through our good works. Another point the author makes is that we each have been given different gifts as Christian servants. Therefore we cannot each expect to serve every person in need. But we are each called to use our gifts as best we can.

Haugk quotes Jesus as defining servanthood, "the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).



Richly Blessed

Last October we welcomed Rich Lounsbery on our staff in a temporary position as a Congregational Care Assistant. Over the past year he has visited many people in our congregation in hospitals and care facilities as well as in homes. He has spoken with many of you on the phone and in person. He has sung in our choir and attended a number of church activities. We are grateful for the ministry he has had at First Presbyterian Church.

Rich's contract was for a year. As such, Rich ended his formal ministry with us at the end of September. What a joy it was for us to celebrate Rich and his wife Ann, on Sunday, September 29. We wish them God's blessing.

Have You Been Affected by the Loss of a Loved One?

Two "Grief and the Holidays" Workshops For Anyone Who is Grieving the Loss of a Loved One

October 20, 2013

10:00-10:45 a.m. (during the Sunday School hour)
in the Saint Andrews Room (second floor)

Led by Margaret Berton, Ph.D.

(Offered through Porter Loring Family Care Services)

November 5, 2013

11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. (brown bag lunch)
in Room 224

Led by Fay Green, MA, LPC, LMFT, NCC, CT

Grief can be a very powerful and overwhelming emotion that changes your life. Understanding, compassion from others and a commitment to allowing the experience to heal you, can take you on a journey of discovering meaning in life again.

The holidays are an especially hard time when grieving the loss

of a loved one. The season renews memories, family ties and traditions. We become painfully aware that our special loved one is no longer present. This is often difficult for families. The pain of the loss is confused with the spirit of the season.

Are you asking any of the following questions?

How am I going to face the holidays and handle all those first times?

What are some things that I can do to eliminate unnecessary stresses?

Do I even want to attend social gatherings?

Do I need to develop a game plan just to get through?

Grief and the Holidays is a workshop designed to help those who are grieving and their families to better understand the grief process, how it affects us during the holidays, and how we can use this special time to continue to heal.

Please contact Susan Dullnig at susand@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2753 if you are interested in attending.

You are Invited to a Habitat House Dedication Oct. 5

Project 240 House is Complete



*FPC will welcome
a family into the
house we helped to
construct during
Project 240!*



The house is complete and it's time to celebrate! Be a part of the Habitat house dedication and welcome a family into the home we helped construct during Project 240!

WHO: First Pres members and friends of all ages

WHEN: Saturday, October 5, 10:45 a.m.

Gather at the construction site by 10:45 a.m. Habitat for Humanity will introduce the family. We can pray for them as they receive the keys to their new home.

The house is not yet on GPS systems, so contact 210-223-5203, ext. 184, or Claire Plantenga at clairep@fpcsat.org.

From north/downtown

Take 35 South (toward Laredo)
Take 410 North
Take Exit #2 (Old Pearsall Road)
Turn Left and go under bridge
Turn Right on Excellence Drive
Follow the parking signs

From East San Antonio

Take 37 South
Take 410 West, which turns into 410 North
Take Exit #2 (Old Pearsall Road)
Turn Left and go under bridge
Turn Right on Excellence Drive
Follow the parking signs

From north-central San Antonio

Take 281 South (toward Corpus Christi)
Take 35 South (toward Laredo)
Take 410 North
Take Exit #2 (Old Pearsall Road)
Turn Left and go under bridge
Turn Right on Excellence Drive
Follow the parking signs

From Northwest San Antonio

Take 410 South
Take Exit #2 (Old Pearsall Road)
Turn Right on Old Pearsall Road
Turn Right on Excellence Drive



For more information,
email Claire Plantenga
clairep@fpcsat.org





404 North Alamo Street
San Antonio, Texas 78205-1918
210-226-0215 www.fpconline.org



Pastor Trey Little's Twitter Handle: @treyhlittle

First Presbyterian Church's Twitter Handle: @FPCSanAntonio



Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchSanAntonio

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Come Trunk or Treat at FPC!

Annual Event October 30 at 6:00 p.m.

Trunk or Treat is a fall event that First Presbyterian Church hosts annually. During this event people gather and park their cars in the lot in front of the church. They decorate their cars and dress up for the event, and they host an activity for children to play before receiving a prize or some candy. This event is a great time for children to fellowship with adults and for the whole community to get involved. Children are encouraged to wear their Halloween costumes to the event.

This year FPC will host their Trunk or Treat Wednesday, October 30, at 6:00 p.m. in the small parking lot closest to the office entrance and the playground off Avenue E. We hope that you will feel free to come by for this family-friendly community event.

