



First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible



Reading Buddy Program

**Bringing Hope to
San Antonio Children**

Pastor's Pondering

Stories that Live in Our Hearts Forever

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



In this technological age, I am all too often reminded of how young I am. In other words, I am keenly aware of how much I have to learn about technology and social media. I am an iPad rookie; I still think "tweeting" is something a bird does, and I am still wondering why people are so interested in books about faces!

The other night I was reminded of all this when I arrived home to find all my "old" compact discs out on the counter in our home—there must have been 100 of them. Leslie and Luke had decided that it would be good if I looked through my collection to see if there were any CDs that I wanted—or should—dispose of. Apparently, CDs aren't as "hip" as they used to be. With the advancement in technology, you no longer need to put a disc into a disc player, but instead you simply download everything onto your phone or iPod and just listen to your favorite tunes wherever you are.

However, those CDs, at least for me, were more than discs that contained music; each of them reminds me of stories in my life. As I was looking through those CDs I found myself reminiscing of my days in college, my days in the business world, retreats with youth, and times of laughter and tears. In many ways, each of those CDs has a way of impacting my state of mind.

I ran across one of my Clint Black CDs with the song "State of Mind." The lyrics of the song go like this: *"Ain't it funny how a melody can bring back a memory; Take you to another place in time; completely change your state of mind."* That particular song reminds me of a group of friends with whom I have been getting together for more than 20 years. Hearing that song reminds me of what blessings those friends are in my life. It

Session Minutes in Seconds

The Session at the March stated meeting attended to the following business:

Received and approved the consent agenda (approved previous minutes, reviewed Deacon's minutes, approved changes to the Church Register, approved financial statements, and received minutes of Session committees)

There was no report from the Clerk

Received reports from the Stewardship and Finance Committee and the Officer Nominating Committee

Received and approved a recommendation from the 1604 Task Force

Approved a request to the Diakonia Emmaus Community (Emmaus Walk) to hold their gathering at FPC in August

reminds me of the laughs we have had together over the years. It reminds me of who they are and what they mean to me. It reminds me to be thankful for them and to pray for them.

Someone once said: *"Tell me a fact and I will learn. Tell me the truth and I will believe. But, tell me a story and it will live in my heart forever."*

Friends, regardless of the advancements of technology, stories still live in our hearts forever. So I wonder: Are you listening to the stories your children are telling you? Are you listening to the stories your spouse is sharing with you? Are you hearing the stories of your co-workers, friends, and neighbors? Is the story of God's love for you in Jesus Christ a "favorite" on your playlist?

In the near future, don't be surprised if I learn how to "tweet" or if you actually see my face on Facebook! But also, don't forget that the Lord is writing an amazing story for us here at First—a story that I am convinced will not only impact our state of mind but also the condition of our hearts.

In the meantime, keep smilin' and keep lovin'—and keep singin'.



Church Register

DEATHS:

David C. Campbell
February 17, 2013

BAPTISMS:

Anna Elizabeth Jenné, daughter of
Joela nd Ashley Jenné
February 17, 2013



Connect with Us Sundays

Worship Times:

Traditional worship in the Sanctuary at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.

Contemporary worship in Westminster Hall at 11:00 a.m.

Christian Education for all ages 10:00 a.m.

Worship Service Schedule for April

April 7	Rev. Trey H. Little
April 14	Youth Sunday
April 21	Rev John Seiders
April 28	Rev. Trey H. Little

First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church Communications Team, 404 N. Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78205.
Send submissions to judson@fpcsat.org by the 10th of the month.

Thanks for making Jesus visible at Project 240

Thank you for being generous with your time and your financial resources as we served together at Project 240.

Held March 3 in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot, Project 240 was a tremendous success! More than 600 people, including First Presbyterian members, Habitat staff, and future Habitat homeowners built framing for five Habitat homes and we reached our goal of raising \$25,000 for Habitat.

Project 240 was supposed to take 240 minutes, but only took

3.5 hours! The media came out and covered the build, including KENS, KSAT, WOAI, and Univision. All ages participated, with kids alongside parents and grandparents. KEYS Older Adults, Presbyterian Women circles, Cub Scout Pack 502, Trinity University students, and friends of First Presbyterian members all built the frames together.

Thanks to you, families in need of affordable housing can not only experience the blessing of shelter, but they will also receive the blessing of God's love demonstrated through your joyful service in the name of Jesus Christ.





Living to Make Jesus Visible

Making Jesus Visible at Schools

By Joe Rust

Many dedicated San Antonio teachers have a certain special plaque in either their home or in their classroom.

The plaque carries the “One Hundred Years From Now” words of poet Forest Witcraft, to wit:

One hundred years from now
It won't matter
What kind of car I drove
What kind of house I lived in
How much money I had in the bank
Nor what my clothes looked like
But
The world may be a little better
Because I was important
In the life of a child.

The same kind of dedication to the future of our young people is exemplified in the participation by 23 people working with a local educational program of San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL) and under sponsorship of our church. Most of the participants are members of the church, with a few being friends or co-workers with church members.

It is the SAYL second grade Reading Buddy Program, an early intervention program focused on promoting the literacy skills of elementary school-aged children who are at risk of school failure due to poor reading skills. Reading Buddies is just one of the SAYL programs in which volunteers are trained to work one-on-one with youngsters who are in need of educational help.

The First Presbyterian folks are working at W.W. White Elementary School and Douglass Elementary School on the East Side and Barkley-Ruiz Elementary School on the West Side. Each spends an hour at their assigned school each week,

divided into two 30-minute periods in reading with a different assigned child.

The reading is important, but perhaps the greatest asset is the working relationship with each child, testified by the smiles on the faces of each youngster when their Reading Buddy arrives and in the swells in the loving heart of each adult reader as she or he leaves each session. Educational regulations prevent the adult readers from discussing religion with the youngsters, but there is no doubt that each reader exhibits, as Christian examples, living to make Jesus visible in each reading session. There is also no doubt that each adult reader has benefitted as much, or more, from this program than have their mentees.

First Presbyterian readers are Mary and Craig Bell, Nancy and Harold Black, Kirby Carpenter, Amanda and Jeff Hochenedel, Robin Hudnall, James McCann, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Puckett, Gordon Richardson, Clinton Rogers, Joe Rust, Austin Walker, Holly Youngquist and Amy and Hal Zesch, White Elementary; Irma Martinez, Teresa and Ben McCaleb and Jan Zeppelin, Barkley-Ruiz Elementary, and Kristin Zeppelin, Douglass Elementary.

Our church first became involved in the Reading Buddy Program last fall, when church member Kirby Carpenter, whose business is near White Elementary, brought attention to the church about the program and arranged training sessions at the church for the program. Kirby is the program's angel for First Presbyterian, and he is due plaudits for determining to make Christ visible to these schoolchildren.

Witness some of the comments made by readers regarding this valuable program:

Craig: “Both Mary and I are blessed to be in a church group that decided to step out. Kirby found the place and the group to work with San Antonio Youth Literacy. We have worked at White Elementary since October. Each week is not filled with miracles, but it is an opportunity to give our love to four individuals on a weekly basis.

We'll be ending our time together with these students, and, for sure, we're hoping we have made an impact on their future, mainly because they've made an impact on ours. I see it as a 'trust God' thing. Mary was a teacher, but that was never my job. She helped me when I needed it,



but most importantly, our goal was to 'love our neighbor as ourselves,' especially when they lived more than 20 miles from where some of my 'other' neighbors live. Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow, realizing that it make 'living to make Jesus visible' something closer to my heart."

Amanda and Jeff: "We look forward to seeing our Reading Buddies each week, and we are so amazed at the progress they have made and the relationships that we have developed."

Nancy and Harold: "We agree with Marlon Davis, principal at W.W. White, when recently he said that reading literacy is the stated purpose of the SAYL program, but the true first function of the Reading Buddy Program is relationship a one-on-one relationship that encourages improvement in reading skills."

Gordon: "On my students' parts, there is a real interest, even an eagerness, in learning to read. In one semester, they've improved from 1.6 (a little over halfway through the first grade reading level) to 3.1 (more than into the third grade) and 1.5 to 2.7. They are a blessing to me. I love them."

Joe: "Each time I am with my two Reading Buddies, I see renewed hope in our future generation, as opposed to the depression I often feel in being a substitute teacher in some local schools."

Ben: "Teresa and I recently each have been blessed with two pony-tailed Reading Buddies at Barkley-Ruiz Elementary on the West Side. The girls and us obviously are mutually benefitted by our time together and Teresa and I get the extra benefit of serving alongside each other, while enjoying a

weekly 'lunch date.' The not-so-obvious benefit is a tiny foothold for First Presbyterian Church in the zip code with one of the highest teen birthrates in the country and the highest crime rate in the city. What an opportunity for FPC to expand our presence in this neighborhood and dream about how we could 'make Jesus visible' there!"

Nancy Puckett: "Reading can help a child soar to new levels. Some children need extra help or encouragement to be a successful reader. Each week when I enter the doors of W.W. White

Elementary School, I realize I am offering that help and encouragement. The big smiles I am greeted with make me know I am making a difference, being visible and stepping up to develop those needed reading skills. One of my students summed it up by saying, 'I wish you could come every day.'

The other child told me she now has her entire family reading with her and she reads to her younger sister each evening. Yes, just a few hours each week changes lives."

If you want to help change lives in participating in the Reading Buddy Program at a local school this coming school year, beginning in late August or early September, call Kirby Carpenter at 210-495-2275 or 210-333-8000. Or call Robyn Myers, the SAYL program manager, at 210-862-2235.

You will be trained and must undergo a basic criminal check and you will select the day you will serve to help make Jesus visible through education in this program.





Missions

The Quiroga Family is Home!

By Louis Peters

The fence is installed. The landscape is completed. Working together San Antonio Presbyterian church members (Cluster Build volunteers) and the Quiroga family have completed the 2013 Habitat Home!

What joy there was at the Quiroga's home dedication and blessing on March 23: Lilana (6) Giovanni (5) and Aidne (4) now have their very own home! Mom and Dad will be paying \$450 per month until their mortgage is paid off. Juan (a maintenance man) and Nancy (a food server) were determined to become homeowners and today they are living that dream!

Now it is time to look toward the Presbyterian Cluster 2014 Habitat Home. Habitat families on average: have a family income of \$25,000; an income equal to 44% of our San Antonio median income; furthermore, 50% of the families are single parent families. The families must give 150

hours of "sweat equity" to other Habitat homes, the Habitat warehouse, home store or office before their home is started. They must attend 12 classes that prepare them for home ownership – everything from maintenance, to conflict mediation, to landscaping. They must earn a total of 300 hours of "sweat equity."

The Presbyterian Cluster Presents

HOLY SMOKE 2013

**A fundraiser for the Presbyterian Cluster 2014 home build for a deserving family
in cooperation with Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio**

**Sunday, May 5, 2013 Dinner 5:30 - 6:30 PM
(Provided by cluster pastors and/or their staffs)**

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
211 Roletto, San Antonio, Texas 78213**

Program begins at 6:45 PM

Featuring the Quiroga Family and musical entertainment

**Tickets: adults \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, children 4-5 -\$5, 3 and under free
Contact Nancy Berger at nancyb@fpcsat.org for details.**

(Checks payable to "SA Presbyterian Cluster Habitat" - write "Holy Smoke" on memo line)

Church and Water Ministry Sign Covenant

For years, First Presbyterian Church has had a relationship with Living Waters for the World, the global mission resource of the Synod of Living Waters of the PC(USA). Living Waters provides sustainable clean water for communities in need. Recently, Living Waters and Roots and Wings International, a non-profit organization that promotes elementary through university education in rural Guatemala, partnered to create a water purification and bottling system that will provide communities in and around Pasac, Guatemala, with clean water. Here, Cristobal Guarchaj (left), Director of Roots and Wings, Katy BeDunnah (center) of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio, and Erik Swanson (right), founder of Roots and Wings, sign a three-year covenant between the church and Roots and Wings covering installation and operation of the Living Waters clean water system installed in Pasac on February 10, 2013. Learn more about Living Waters for the World at www.livingwatersfortheworld.org.



Deacons Ministry

Spirituality and Aging

In January and February, many First Presbyterian Church members enjoyed a five-week class on *Caring for Aging Parents* in Covenant Hall. The topics covered included how to begin difficult conversations, legal and financial issues, medical and living issues and finally spiritual care and end of life issues. Many great resources were shared over the five weeks including this wonderful website mmLearn.org. Morningside Ministries, using funds provided by First Presbyterian Church, created this resource. Many thanks go to Virginia Valenzuela, Director, Georgie Briscoe Resources for Caregivers, for writing this article that explains more about the mmLearn.org resources.



“Each period of life has its own purpose. The task of this period of life is not simply to endure the coming of the end of time. It is to come alive in ways I have never been alive before.”

- Joan Chittister, *The Gift of Years*

Joan Chittister’s book, *The Gift of Years*, explores many themes about aging and how spirituality may influence how we live out those golden years. For many, that time of life offers those much-anticipated years of travel, enjoying hobbies and friends or just sleeping late on weekday mornings! But for others—and what is becoming more the norm—is the role of caregiver for a spouse or aging parents. Whether this is perceived as an increased burden or a blessing, the caregiver must now learn a new role. A role in which, not only are the responsibilities great, the focus has changed from the caregiver’s own life to providing care for someone who once was independent. Depending on how well the caregiver copes in this new role will determine how they manage their caregiving status. Regardless of how well the caregiver is coping, spirituality may be one way to come to terms with the inevitability of aging and all that comes with it.

We often hear that the caregivers need to take care of themselves in order to be better in their caregiving role. But how do they manage this when the reality of emotional overload can be overwhelming? How does the caregiver find the time or energy to deal with both the physical and psychological demands of caregiving? Using spirituality through prayer, reflection or meditation can sustain the caregiver during difficult times. Another way is to become an advocate for those in their care by learning the latest caregiving techniques and practices. Increasing their caregiving knowledge and skills provides the caregiver with confidence in their ability to effectively care for their loved ones.

Since its inception in 2006, mmLearn.org, a web-based program of Morningside Ministries in San Antonio,

Texas, has held on tightly to the core belief that all caregivers need and deserve the most up-to-date, top quality training available when it comes to caring for their aging family members. It is with this conviction that the [mmLearn](http://mmLearn.org) staff works to bring caregiver instructors who are all experts in the field of aging. These include geriatricians, nurses, social workers and many others who offer accurate, insightful and meaningful information for family and pastoral caregivers.

Whether it is a discussion on depression among the elderly, a video showing how to transfer someone from a wheelchair into a car, or a short spiritual meditation and prayer, mmLearn.org makes available over 200 free online videos. Visit this easily accessible website at www.mmlearn.org.

Are you a caregiver or know a caregiver? Help spread the word about mmLearn.org to shine the light on interactive training that provides caregivers with realistic and straightforward recommendations for a hope-filled future while caring for the body, mind and spirit of those they love. Please contact us at info@mmlearn.org for additional information.

Pastor’s Sunday School Class

John Seiders



In April John Seiders will lead the Pastor’s Class. The class will be looking at the post-resurrection passages in the Gospel of Luke:

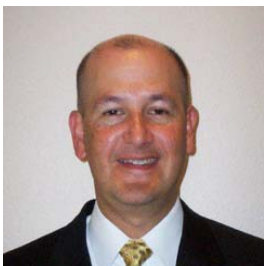
April 7 – “On the Road, Again” (Luke 24:13-35)
April 14 – C.S. Lewis Class in Covenant Hall
April 21 – “A Troubling Appearance” (Luke 24:36-49)
April 28 – “Up, Up and Away” (Luke 24:50-53)

Pastor’s class will not meet May-August.

Moments to Hold Close

Trix are for Kids (and God)

By Manuel Rodriguez



A co-worker of mine was explaining to me his family's journey to escape the persecution of Communist Romania for the freedoms of the United States. He told me that their father had escaped prior to the rest of the family and remained in the United States for a long period of time before he was able to send for them.

He described a frightening course for a six-year-old boy to leave everything he had known for a land he had never seen and a language he did not understand. He stated that upon arriving in a huge American city with his mom and sister, a strange man was waiting for them with open arms. His smile

spread from ear to ear and he ran to hug each one of them. My friend said, I did not know this man yet he knew everything about me and loved us so much. He immediately took us to something called a grocery store, where I saw something I will never forget, cereal. Aisles and aisles of cereal. Bright colors, and vivid boxes beyond anything neither my sister nor myself dreamed possible. The man told me to choose, and even better, to choose two. The only one happier than myself that day could be the one making this fantasy of goodness become a reality, the man, my father.

Cannot the same be said of us? We are so content with what this life offers, and fear the supposed unknown of death. But in reality it is no different than escaping the suppression of a communist regime right into the loving arms of a Father, waiting, excited to share all the wonderment of an eternal life where happiness is unending, and the only individual happier than the new arrival, is the one that created it for you in the first place.



Tuesday and Wednesday Women's Bible Studies Discovering Missing Pieces

Does God care? Is He fair? Is He even there? Although you may know all the right answers, they don't always feel right. Explore these and other questions as we take a realistic look at the messy, mysterious uncertainties of faith through the book *Missing Pieces* by Jennifer Rothschild. God's ways don't always make sense, but He is trustworthy. Come close to Him. Experience unexpected peace despite your heartache. Trust Him more than your feelings.

Participants will meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in Covenant Hall (on the third floor). Meetings continue until April 30. Workbook is available in preparation for weekly small group meetings and video sessions. Suggested donation for workbook is \$14. Childcare is available by reservation. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend. If you have questions or want to register, call Judy Kruger at 210-857-0122.

The Wednesday Women's Bible Study is also going through this book. Participants will meet Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Room 302 April 3-May 29. The suggested donation for the workbook is \$13. Contact Sheila Figueroa at 210-822-4082 or shefig@earthlink.net.



If you have a baby ages newborn-18 months old, then you and your family are cordially invited to
the FPC Annual Baby Brunch



Where: First Presbyterian Church Courtyard
(rain plan: Geneva Room)

When: Sunday, April 14 at 10 a.m.

RSVP: Hilary Hamilton (hqcaruth@yahoo.com)
or Catherine Bell (catherinerbell@gmail.com)



Are you expecting?

Hi Parents,

If you are expecting, or know of someone who is, please let us know!

Email carriej@fpcsat.org with the family's name and due date so we can welcome God's little angel into our church family!



FPC Has Joined The Fellowship of Presbyterians

Questions and Answers

By Tripp Stuart



Q. How do we relate to the PC(USA) now that we have joined The Fellowship?

A. The decision, affirmed by vote of the session, was to join The Fellowship *and* remain within our denomination. We have not left and are still a part of the PC(USA). We have joined a group of churches *within* the PC(USA) who continue to actively affirm what the Bible and our current Book of Confessions teaches. We will cooperate with these churches, learn from them, and reach out with them to the World for Christ.

Q. Are we no longer a “big tent” church now that we have joined The Fellowship?

A. Our church doors are open to all who seek a place of worship and an opportunity to grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. We are still a “big tent” church in terms of membership, but have chosen to limit and unify our official beliefs and acceptable teaching to what our denomination has traditionally taught. This mirrors what the PC(USA) has traditionally practiced in terms of beliefs: visitors are not asked to agree to anything. New members are simply asked to turn from evil and to affirm that Jesus Christ is the Lord of their lives. Candidates for ordination to church office are held to a still higher standard. They are additionally required to affirm the essential tenets of the reformed faith as found in The Book of Confessions, subordinate to the Bible itself. By joining The Fellowship, we stand united with other PC(USA) churches who intend to believe and to teach the tenets of our faith as found in The Book of Confessions, as further *highlighted* by the “Essential

Tenets” section of “The Fellowship Theology Project” found on pages 5-8 at:

fellowshippres.wpengine.netdna-cdn.com/wp-content/uploads/Theology10.pdf

Officers are charged with overseeing the faithful biblical teaching of our congregation, and therefore it is important that the teaching at First Presbyterian continue to be biblical and unified.

Q. But doesn’t the PC(USA) as a whole affirm its own Book of Confessions?

A. The PC(USA) says that it does. However, the PC(USA) is in the process of actively embracing beliefs which are contradicted in The Book of Order and The Book of Confessions. It has begun teaching that The Book of Confessions is merely a historical record of what the church has believed over time. Our Book of Order states that the confessions, though subordinate to the Bible, “are nevertheless standards.” We believe this mishandling of our constitutional beliefs is tearing our denomination apart and presenting a poor witness to “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” found only in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want to draw a line in the sand to stand with the Bible and with our current Constitution as Presbyterians.

Q. What is ECO and are we a part of it?

A. ECO, “A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians,” is a new and separate presbyterian and reformed denomination. ECO happens also to exist within the greater umbrella of The Fellowship of Presbyterians. We, however, have voted to remain within the PC(USA) and have no plans to leave. Being a member of The Fellowship does not obligate us to join ECO in the future.

Q. But what will all this accomplish?

A. One valuable thing it will accomplish, besides taking a stand for the truth, is that it will release us from concentrating on theological arguments and free us to get back to the work of the Church: to fulfill the Great Commission given to us by Christ and to “Live to Make Jesus Visible” to our neighbors and our World. Please find out more by visiting the Fellowship of Presbyterians website at: www.fellowship-pres.org

Money Matter\$ at FPC

By Rev. John Seiders
Executive Associate Pastor

Ever wonder about finances at FPC?

If you do, you are not alone. In fact, a few weeks ago a handful of people from our congregation questioned the \$100,000 gift that our elders gave to Childress Memorial Church of God in Christ after their building was destroyed by fire. The concern arose in light of the information published in the bulletin and the First Press newsletter that we had received \$139,000 less than expected in the month of January. This question gives a great opportunity to bring clarity and transparency.

What is important to understand is that FPC has an operating budget and special funds. The operating budget is prepared each year as a plan for how we believe the Lord is calling us to carry out ministry and mission. Our budget is determined much like a household or a business would prepare a budget for both income and expenses. At FPC we operate on a fiscal year that runs from January thru December. Each year, in the late spring, committees and staff members begin to work on plans for the next year and submit budget proposals. Those are reviewed and edited by the Stewardship and Finance Committee and submitted to the Session in October as a

draft. In November a final form is submitted to the Session for approval. The annual budget includes: employee compensation (salaries and benefits), program expenses, facility and utility expenses, administrative expenses and benevolences. The operating budget for 2013, as approved by the Session is \$4,792,200. It is supported by pledged giving and unpledged giving.

In addition to the operating budget, we have special funds. Special funds are gifts that are received such as bequests, estates, and memorial gifts. These gifts are approved by the session and put into special accounts which have restricted or unrestricted purposes. The restrictions, if any, may be set by the donor and/or the session. The gift to Childress Memorial was taken from a special fund—The Ferguson Fund, which was established with a gift in excess of \$300,000. There were no restrictions on this gift other than that it be used at the discretion of the elders. In fact, when Ferguson family members were informed about the use of this gift, they were delighted.

The staff and the elders at First Presbyterian desire continually to be good stewards of the gifts which are received. Our ministries and our mission, both locally and globally, are supported because of your continued generosity. If you have any questions regarding our finances, please feel free to contact our Finance Office.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2013

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/ (UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$705,713	\$829,151	(\$123,439)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$642,584	\$673,809	(\$31,224)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$56,746	\$51,813	\$4,933
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$6,383	\$103,529	(\$97,147)

Giving in February exceeded budget, while expenses were below budget, providing a positive net operating result for the month and bringing significant progress toward a return to our year-to-date net operating plan. We again give thanks for the generosity and faithfulness of all of our brothers and sisters in Christ who are living to make Jesus visible.

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Office at 271-2755 or any member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

C.S. Lewis Conference Focuses the Holy Spirit

April 13, 2013

Laurie Auditorium, Trinity University

Hill Country Institute, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship of Trinity University, and First Presbyterian Church San Antonio bring you *C.S. Lewis and the Divine Presence: Living the Mystery of the Indwelling God*, a daylong conference on the author's reflections on the Holy Spirit.

Tickets: Adults - \$65; Students - \$25; Concert only - \$15. Full registration includes full-day program, two meals, refreshments, and live concert ticket.

Visit www.hillcountryinstitute.org for tickets and information.

C.S. Lewis Scholar Speaks April 14

Jerry Root, professor at Wheaton College, Marjorie Mead of Wheaton College, will lead a related conversation about C.S. Lewis at 10 a.m., Sunday, April 14, in Covenant Hall (third floor), First Presbyterian Church, on Sunday, April 14. Everyone is invited! Following the 11 and 11:15 a.m. worship services that same day, you are invited to attend a lunch with Professor Root in the Geneva Room (second floor). Lunch is \$6 per person. Please R.S.V.P. for lunch by contacting Nancy Berger at nancyb@fpcsat.org or 210-226-0215. There is only space for 40 people at lunch; your check is your reservation.

PW News

Flowers are blooming, birds are singing and we are ready to celebrate the beauty of God's blessings. Presbyterian Women continue to offer opportunities for fun and fellowship. You are invited to our annual Birthday Coffee to be held in the beautiful home of Linda Whitacre on Thursday, May 2nd. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. All women of the church are invited. Childcare is available, if needed, by contacting Carrie Jowers at 226-0216 ext. 220 or carriej@fpcsat.org.

Our Birthday Coffee is held in conjunction with the Birthday Offering. This is a PW offering collected in the spring of each year to celebrate the blessings in the lives of Presbyterian Women. The offering funds projects that are not included in ongoing General Assembly mission support. This year our offering recipient will be Westminster Neighborhood Ministries in Indianapolis. They are a welcoming, safe and loving Christian Community that partners with neighborhood families, Presbyterian churches and community organizations to serve local families through the provision of food and clothing, children's programs and supportive services, e.g. legal clinics, adult education, support groups and resource

and referral in partnership with other community organizations.

Look for specifically marked offering envelopes in the pews in the sanctuary or at the Coffee itself. Please join us for this wonderful time of fellowship and celebration of our many blessings.



PW Annual Birthday Coffee
Thursday, May 2nd
10:30am - 12:30pm

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings April

Circle 112

Monday, April 15, 10:30 a.m.
FPC, Geneva Room
Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182
Co-chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

Circle 2

Monday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 226
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Circle 3

Monday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chair: Ann Fryburger 490-3566

Circle 4

Monday, April 15, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 226 (with Circle 2)

Circle 5 - Shawl Ministry

Friday, April 19, Noon-1:00 p.m.
FPC, Geneva Room
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 6

Tuesday, April 16, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Geneva Room
Chairs: Patsy Johnson, 828-3852
Joan Stratton, 826-0965
Jane Warren, 493-5187
Edwyna Yarbrough, 822-3053

Circle 7

Tuesday, April 16, 11:30 a.m.
Home of Mary Ellen Mauze
203 Primrose 78209
Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 8 - Moms' Group

Monday, April 1, 15 and 29, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 108
Chair: Julie Walthall 829-8332

Circle 9

Tuesday, April 16, 10:00 a.m.
FPC, St. Andrew's Room
Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

Circle 10

Monday, April 8, 1:30 p.m.
Towers at Park Lane, The Club (22 Floor)
Chair: Janice Magnus, 829-5866

Circle 11

Monday, April 22, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Karen Gabrielson
129 W. Wildwood Drive (12)
Chair: Jean Swanson, 826-0766

Circle 13 - Literature Circle

Tuesday, April 9, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, McCullough Room
The Outside Boy, author Jeannie Cummins
Chair: Becca Price, 824-2603
Reviewer: Pat Wood

Circle 14

Monday, April 15, Noon
FPC, St. Andrews Room
Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

Circle 15 - Talking, Sharing Circle

Sunday, April 21, 11:00 a.m.
FPC, St. Andrews Room
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

Circle 16 - Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle

Wednesday, April 17, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978
Corie Barlow, 481-1337

Circle 17 - Edna Ralston Sewing Circle

Wednesday, April 10, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 309
Chair: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972
Gigi Duke, 695-4363

Circle 18 - Circle of Concern

Chairs: Paula Bondurant, 736-6632
Georgia Heath, 695-9511
Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Circle 19 - White Cross Circle

Wednesday, April 3, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 309
Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

Circle 20 - Circle of Service

Chairs: Sabrina Rios, 822-5707
Leah Butler, 804-1934

Circle 21

Monday, April 15, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Cindy Stephens
305 Tuttle Road (09)
Chair: Karen Gabrielson, 333-4239
Andrea Taylor, 403-9442

KEYS NEWS

By Pat McCleary
Director, Older Adults



Welcome to spring—a season of hope and renewal! Fridays found us with excellent speakers—we began March with Rev. Trey Little delivering the “State of the Church Address” and answering all our questions! Then former U.N. Ambassador Sichan Siv, author of *Golden Bones* and his new book *Golden Words*, spoke of his journey escaping from the killing fields of Cambodia to the White House. His wife, Martha, had a display of South China Seas beautiful handcrafted items. Dr. Kleinguenther spoke to us Alzheimer’s Disease including the current research and clinical trials being conducted.



Mark Your Calendar For Our April Happenings!

April 5 (Friday) —Tour of Villa Finale and Lunch

For members holding a paid reservation and riding in the van, please be at the church by 11:30 a.m. We will begin with lunch at the Hyatt Riverwalk Hotel and then head for King William District to tour Villa Finale.

April 12 (Friday) — 11:00 a.m.— Texas Revolution

Tom Jackson, internationally-known historical entertainer, sixth generation Texas, and local SRT member, will present a fun and engaging Power Point program on the Texas revolution. Since 1995, his performances have entertained and educated audiences of all ages and nationalities at conventions, seminars schools, historic sites, private parties and festivals. Bridge will be played after lunch.

April 19 (Friday) —11:30 a.m.—FIESTA @FIRST!

We’ll celebrate **APRIL BIRTHDAYS** and Fiesta, beginning with a social hour on the patio while we listen to music by the Mariachis. Then we will move to Westminster for one of Maurilio’s delicious Mexican lunches. Birthday guests are complimentary; others \$10/person. Remember to wear your **FIESTA CLOTHES!** Reservations requested by Tuesday noon, April 16.

April 23 (Tuesday) —10:00 a.m.—12:00—Trip to Holocaust Memorial Museum of San Antonio

We will be toured by a docent and then a survivor will talk to us. Details cannot be completed until we have at least 20 people. When we are sure that we have the required number of people, we will finalize lunch and transportation plans. Please contact me at 271-2726 to indicate your interest.

April 26 (Friday) – No KEYS luncheon & program. Only Step & Stretch Class. Church closed for the Battle of Flowers Parade.

STEP AND STRETCH CLASS is held each Friday morning at 9:45 a.m. unless indicated. This is the time to get in shape for summer. Wear comfortable clothes and come join your friends for an hour of fun!

KUDOS FOR THE BOOK BANK VOLUNTEERS:

“...I’ve been told of the wonderful volunteer effort made by the KEYS to get the books collected by Barnes & Noble to the students in Harlandale ISD, Southwest ISD and SA Youth centers. I cannot tell you how appreciative SAReads is to have all of you come and volunteer your time to this great effort!” (Becki Olivares, Director of Operations, SAReads)

This volunteer group Chairman is Jane Warren who with the volunteers meet every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month and spends the morning (9:30 a.m.–12:00) labeling books, freshening them up and sorting for distribution to children in needy schools and in after-school programs. Enjoy the fellowship of working around the table and visiting and browsing the books as they are being prepared for young people to own. Please call Jane Warren at 493-5187 for location.

LOOKING FORWARD TO MAY

May 3 (Friday)—11: a.m.—Nyta Brown, TX Parks and Wildlife

May 5 (Sunday)—Come MEET, GREET and HAVE A TREAT

Each year the Presbyterian Church (USA) sets aside the first Sunday in May to acknowledge older adults as one of the gifts with which God has blessed us. On Sunday and in honor of this special day, KEYS Older Adults will host a special church-wide fellowship reception with flowers, greeters and special goodies following the 11:00 a.m. services. Come and bring your friends!

REMEMBER RESERVATIONS – Please make reservations by the Tuesday before each Friday program by calling the church office at 226-0215. If you are on the permanent list for lunch, you only need to call if you cannot attend. Regular programs begin at 11:00 a.m. (unless otherwise specified), followed by lunch (\$7).

First Cup Readings — April, 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 Avery



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 serve a risen Savior. He's in the world today. I know that He is living whatever men might say. I see His hand of mercy; I hear His voice of cheer; And just the time I need Him He's always near. Rejoice, rejoice o Christian; lift up your voice and sing eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King! The Help of all who seek Him; the Hope of all who find; none other is so loving, so good and kind. He lives, He lives, Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me along life's narrow way. He lives, He lives, salvation to impart! You ask me how I know He lives? He lives within my heart! (Hymns in American Protestant Theology)

- 1 Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53; Acts 1
- 2 Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 7:37-39; Acts 2; Romans 8:5-17
- 3 Acts 3; Romans 1:16-32; Revelation 3:14-22
- 4 Acts 4:1-22; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 18:19-20; Mark 9:35-41; John 14:1-14
- 5 Psalm 2; Acts 4:23-31; Romans 8:26-28; Psalm 4; 17:6-7; Ephesians 6:18-20
- 6 Acts 4:32-37; 2:44-45; Deuteronomy 15:1-18; Proverbs 3:27-28; Psalm 145

Years I spent in vanity and pride, caring not my Lord was crucified, knowing not it was for me He died on Calvary. By God's Word at last my sin I've learned; then I trembled at the law I'd spurned--till my guilty soul imploring turned to Calvary. Mercy there was great, and grace was free; pardon there was multiplied for me. There my burdened soul found liberty, at Calvary. (Worship in Song, # 391)

- 7 Acts 5:1-11; Proverbs 25:14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Ecclesiastes 5:6; Psalm 15
- 8 Acts 5:12-42; Psalm 40; Romans 8:31-39
- 9 Acts 6:1-8:3; Mark 8:34-38; Revelation 6:9-11; 14:13
- 10 1 Kings 16:23-33; John 4:1-42; Acts 8:4-25; Matthew 10:7-8
- 11 Isaiah 53; John 1:24-34; Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 32
- 12 Acts 9:1-31; Galatians 1; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 13 Acts 9:32-43; John 1:43-51; 5:19-27; 14:8-14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11

"Take up thy cross and follow Me," I heard the Master say. "I gave My life to ransom thee; Surrender your all today." It may be through the shadows dim, or o'er the stormy sea. I take my cross and follow Him, wherever He leads I'll go. My heart, my life, my all I bring to Christ, who loves me so. He is my Master, Lord, and King; wherever He leads I'll go. (Worship in Song, #248)

- 14 Acts 10-11:18; Romans 14 -15:13; Colossians 3:12-14
- 15 Acts 11:19-30; Romans 15:14-33; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
- 16 Hebrews 1:14; Genesis 19:1-26; 32:1-2; Psalm 91:9-12; Acts 12:1-19a
- 17 Acts 12:19b-24; 1 Samuel 25:1-39a; Job 34; Psalm 2; Daniel 7:20-28
- 18 Acts 12:25-13:52; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
- 19 Acts 14; Matthew 10:5-42; Acts 9:15-16
- 20 Acts 15:1-35; Romans 12:18; 14; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

Fight the good fight with all thy might. Christ is thy strength and Christ thy Right. Lay hold on life and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally. Run the straight race through God's good grace. Lift up thine eyes and seek His face; life with its way before us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize. Faint not from fear, His arms are near; He changeth not and thou art dear. Only believe and thou shall see that Christ is All in All to thee. (The Hymnbook, No. 359)

- 21 Acts 15:36- 16:5; Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8; Colossians 3:12-17; Ephesians 4:1-3
- 22 Acts 16:6-15; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 3:20; Romans 1:14-17
- 23 Acts 16:16-40; Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 42:8-11; 32:7; 1 Peter 2:19-25
- 24 Acts 17:1-15; Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17
- 25 Acts 17:16-34; 2 Kings 17:1-15; Isaiah 42:8; 1 John 5:19-21
- 26 Acts 18; Titus 3:1-11; Romans 12:9-21
- 27 Acts 19; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 2

Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the King? Who will be His helpers other lives to bring? Who will leave the world's side? Who will face the foe? Who is on the Lord's side? Who for Him will go? By Thy call of mercy, by thy grace divine, We are on the Lord's side. Saviour, we are Thine. (Worship in Song, No.318)

- 28 Acts 20; Ephesians 6:10-20; Romans 15:13; 2 Peter 2:1-10; Revelation 2
- 29 Acts 21:1-26; Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 15:18-16:4; Philippians 1:21-30
- 30 Acts 21:27-22:29; Psalm 109; 2 Timothy 2:8-13



First Cup Prayer List



In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).

[illegible]

Care Ministry

When Grief Turns to Grace

Families With Mental Illness Helping One Another

By Doug Beach

Barbara and Mike drive an hour and fifteen minutes each way to attend the NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness) Family-to-Family class taught every Wednesday evening at FPC. After attending the second class of twelve last fall Barbara said, "We had no idea until we started taking this class that our daughter had an undiagnosed mental illness. One of our friends told us about the course and that it might help us understand our daughter's difficult behavior. Now that we understand the illness better and we have learned how to help our daughter, we have hope for her future and ours". Barbara and Mike are now taking the class a second time to help continue to educate themselves and to learn from the other class participants who are also struggling to help their family member with a mental illness.

Barbara and Mike are unique only in that they drive such a long distance from their home to attend the class once a week. They are just one of the over 100 families who have taken the course at FPC over the past three years. They are just two of the many parents and family members who have gone to extraordinary lengths to educate themselves, to help their loved one who is ill and who have been willing to share their story so that others may not feel the isolation and hopelessness that so many families feel.

FPC has opened its doors and extended a hand to comfort

those with burdens greater than most people can imagine. Besides the once a week course during the fall and spring that is taught to families, FPC sponsors and conducts a Mental Health Family Support Group on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Calls come into the Support Group leaders from parents desperate to find a place where someone will listen and where they can unload their burden for an hour and a half. Mothers and dads and siblings and aunts come together for healing and find that they often help heal others who are similarly broken with grief and despair.

But grief and despair are funny things. In the company of others who suffer and who have had little hope, their own grief often turns to grace and their despair to hope. The miracles of healing and the blessing of sharing their hurts with others helps lift families up, helps make their faith even stronger and leaves them in a place where they feel loved and accepted.

FPC. Caring for others, rebuilding lives through faith and giving hope to families that had all but given up. Living to make Jesus visible.

For more information, contact Doug and Barbie Beach, 210-821-5765, doug.beach@ymail.com. Visit www.namitexas.org for information on courses under "Education and Support."

"In His Steps" Israel Trip

December 27, 2013 – January 5, 2014

A message from Trey Little:

I am pleased to announce that I will be leading a trip to Israel December 27, 2013—January 5, 2014. I'm looking forward to walking where Jesus walked and visiting many of the sites that have shaped my journey of faith. I get excited thinking about visiting Jerusalem, the Mt. of Olives, Garden of Gethsemane, Sea of Galilee, Capernaum, and so many other sites in the Holy Land. I can only anticipate how my faith and relationship with Jesus will be renewed, strengthened and inspired by experiencing the Holy Land.

I am also pleased to announce that Mike Fanning, who has led many trips to the Holy Land over the years, will not only organize and plan the trip, but he will accompany our group on the trip as well. Mike lived in Israel for several years while studying biblical archaeology, then earned a Ph.D. in Old Testament from Baylor University. He has been organizing and leading groups to the Holy Land for the past 25



years. Mike knows the culture and the sites, and will take us to the most significant and memorable places in Israel.

If you are interested in learning more about the trip, we will have an informational meeting on Sunday, April 28, at 12:30 p.m. in Covenant Hall (third floor) at First Presbyterian Church. Mike will be here to review the itinerary and answer any questions you may have about the trip. In addition, there is an online brochure available that will give you information you'll need in considering the trip. You'll find our day-to-day itinerary, pricing and answers to your other questions. You can find this information at www.mikefanning.com/First_Pres.html. Mike is also available to discuss the details of the trip with you by phone or e-mail. I hope you'll join us!



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Congregational meeting Sunday, April 7

There will be a meeting of the congregation to elect church officers and approve the changes in the pastors' terms of call. Everyone may attend the meeting but only members of First Presbyterian Church may vote. The meeting will take place in the Sanctuary, immediately following the 11:00 and 11:15 a.m. worship services.

First Presbyterian Church Men's Retreat

May 3-5, 2013

Laity Lodge

Men, learn how you can be free to live authentically and take the next step in your journey toward purpose and service at the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Men's Retreat at Laity Lodge. Steve Cooper, the founder and Executive Director of a ministry called Waking the Passion, is the speaker. A certified fly-fishing guide will be on hand throughout the weekend to offer afternoon expeditions on the Frio River (equipment provided). Housing/fees (per person): \$240 (standard), \$290 (premium). To register, visit <http://bit.ly/fpcs>



Youth Sunday is April 14

Our graduating seniors will be preaching at all three worship services. Students from grades 6-12 will assist in worship, usher, and greet. Student musicians will also help lead worship in the contemporary service and in the traditional services. Attend the annual luncheon for all our graduating high school seniors and their families in the New Covenant Building next door to the main church building following the services. See you there!