

First Press

February 2013

Living to Make Jesus Visible



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO

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Pastor's Pondering

Living to Make Jesus Visible



What an exciting time to be part of the FPC Team—don't you agree? Of course, I realize that I can't hear your response because you are reading this Newsletter and I am sitting in my study writing this article. Yet, I sincerely believe this is an exciting time to be part of the FPC Team.

By the time you read this article we will be just a couple of weeks away from the beginning of the Lenten Season. I am excited about our Lenten study of Richard Stearns' book entitled "The Hole in Our Gospel." If you have not purchased a copy please do so, my hope is we will all read this masterful book.

I am also excited about March 3 which is the day for our Second Annual Project 240. Last year at Project 240 we had around 250 people participate and we built enough walls for three Habitat Houses. Wouldn't it be great if we could double both participation and the number of walls we build? You are just the person to help make that become a reality.

Yet, what excites me the most, at least at this very moment, is what happened at our Officer Retreat on January 11-12. The Deacons and Elders gathered together Friday night and all day on Saturday. We had the privilege of having Dr. Reggie McNeal join us and lead us in discussion throughout the day on Saturday—what a treat. The result of our time together was a new mission and vision for FPC—both of which I think will continue to stir excitement in all of us.

Our "new" mission is really not new. Our mission was given to us by Jesus when He said: Matthew 28:16-20. In particular, I like this translation of it: **"I have been given say over all things in heaven and in earth. As you go, therefore, make disciples of all kinds of people, submerge them in Trinitarian Presence, and show them how to do everything I have commanded. And now look: I am with you every minute**

until the job is done" ("The Great Omission", Dallas Willard). The key for us is the phrase: **"As you go."** The implication of that phrase is that it doesn't matter where you are or where you go—but instead "as you go" you are being a disciple and making disciples.

Which leads me to, what I believe is God's VISION for us—**"Living to make Jesus visible."** Write it down, memorize those five words, shout them from the rooftops, wake up each morning asking the Lord to equip and empower you to do this every day, when people ask you to tell them about First you will tell them this, and the beautiful thing about this vision is it is **RATED E**—it is **FOR EVERYONE!** As you go to the store—you do so "living to make Jesus visible." As you go to school you do so "living to make Jesus visible." As you go into your home to be a mother or a father you do so "living to make Jesus visible." As you go to First you do so "living to make Jesus visible." As you go to the golf course, you do so "living to make Jesus visible."

Can you see it? Do you get it? Can you catch it? Will you share it? Will you live it?

Over the course of the next several weeks, the Officers of First will continue to gather and prayerfully discern how this new vision will begin to take shape in this congregation. But also how, together, we will live to make Jesus visible in this city and throughout this world. The Officers will strive to discern how God's vision for First will become a reality—through various initiatives and ministry opportunities. Trust me, you will be informed and invited so stay tuned for more to come in the near future.

In the meantime, I am very excited about seeing you "living to make Jesus visible!"

Keep smilin' and keep lovin'.



Ash Wednesday Service Feb 13 - 6:45 p.m.

Ash Wednesday begins our journey through Lent, including Holy Week and culminates in the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter. We will gather for worship which will include the Lord's Supper and the imposition of ashes (for those who desire it).

Rev. John Seiders—"Going to Fast?"—Isaiah 58:1-14

Discover First!

New Members Class Four Week Class begins Feb 10 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Interested in discovering more about the faith, mission and people of FPC? Attend Discover First! Attendance at Discover First! does not obligate you to join, but it does prepare you to become a member should you choose to do so. Register by contacting Stacie Rodriguez (stacier@fpsat.org / 210-271-2759).

Session Minutes in Seconds

The Session at its regularly stated meeting on Monday evening, January 13...

Approved the Consent Agenda including the approval of the minutes of previous Session meetings, reviewed the minutes of previous Deacons' meetings, approved of changes to the church register, approved of the year-end financial statements and received the minutes of Session committees.

Heard the Report of the Clerk

Voted to send a congratulatory letter to St. Mark's Episcopal Church for their Feb. 3rd rededication of their restored sanctuary
Determined to move forward with a new vision statement: "Living to Make Jesus Visible"

Discussed possible initiatives for us to make Jesus visible through our activities

Nominations for the offices of Deacon and Elder are now being accepted

If you would like to nominate someone to be a church officer, please complete the officer nominating form, available in Mauzé Lobby, the Narthex, or in Westminster Hall, on the FPC Website (www.fpconline.org) or send a letter to the attention of the Officer Nominating Committee, c/o FPC (404 N. Alamo St, San Antonio, Texas 78205-1918).

Nominations should include a description of the member's experience in the church and qualifications to be an officer. In considering members for church office, please consider the person's service, participation, and giving at FPC, as well as the qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:2-7 and the Book of Order, G-2.02, G-2.03 and G-2.04.

Completed forms may be placed in the "OFFICER NOMINATION FORMS" mail slot in the workroom. Deadline to submit a nomination is Sunday, February 3.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY DECEMBER 2012

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	VARIANCE
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,368,240	\$4,537,937	(\$169,697)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$3,279,692	\$3,403,453	(\$123,761)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$1,104,140	\$1,1347,484	(\$30,344)
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$15,592)	\$0	(\$15,592)

Although we ended the year of 2012 with a modest shortfall in our operating budget, we are thankful to God for the faithfulness of all those who gave so generously throughout the year. As we move into this new year, we do so with complete trust that God has great plans for His people at FPC and that He will provide for all of our needs. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

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

Worship Service Schedule for February

February 3	Rev. Scott Simpson
February 10	Rev. Ruthie Seiders
February 13	Rev. John Seiders
February 17	Rev. Trey H. Little
February 24	Rev. Trey H. Little

2013 Lenten Season Study Book

"What does God expect of us?" What a piercing question posed by Richard Stearns in his masterful book "The Hole in our Gospel."

During the Lenten Season this year, I invite you to join me on a journey to explore how to answer this question and others as together we explore "The Hole in Our Gospel."

You will have the opportunity to pick up a copy of "The Hole in Our Gospel" for a suggested donation of \$10. Each Sunday during Lent we will highlight various aspects of this book, we will present opportunities for ways in which our "holes" might be repaired, and we will continue to explore what it means to be people *living to make Jesus visible*. But also, I want to encourage you to become part of a small group during the Lenten season. Every small group will be reading Stearns' book and discussing the book in their weekly gatherings.

Actually, I would love it if the entire congregation read this powerful book—I am convinced it will be transformative in your life.

To quote Stearns: "The idea behind The Hole in Our Gospel is quite simple. It's basically the belief that being a Christian, or follower of Jesus Christ, requires much more than just having a personal and transforming relationship with God. It also entails a public and transforming relationship with the world. If your personal faith in Christ has no positive outward expression, then your faith—and mine—has a hole in it."

I pray you will choose to join me on this journey.

Tim

February Pastor's Sunday School Class Boundaries



The Third pastor's class will start on February 3 and continue through February 24. Rev. Rich Lounsbery will lead the class that will explore Boundaries. When do we say no, so that we can say yes? One of our sources will be scripture. Another source will be the book, BOUNDARIES, by Dr. Henry Cloud and Dr. John Townsend. The class will explore: What a boundary is; How Do We deal with boundaries; Resistance to boundaries; and, the blessings of boundaries.

In our busy world, we cannot do everything, so how do we choose what to do? Let us discover together how we can be our best.

Church Register

DEATHS:

Shirley M. Peterson
December 20, 2012

Lorraine D. (Sissy) Orsinger
December 21, 2012

Elaine Gordon
January 6, 2013

Edward "Ed" Williams Crane
January 12, 2013

Donald G. McCain
January 14, 2013

BAPTISMS:

George Watts Mauzé, son of David Keene Mauzé and Amelita Moorman Mauzé
January 13, 2013





FPC is partnering with Habitat for Humanity again in 2013 to offer Project 240, an all church service project where everyone is welcome, everyone is included, and everyone is needed to help accomplish our goal! We will be gathering after worship in our church parking lot on March 3rd and attempting to build the walls to frame at least 5 three-bedroom homes this year – a total of 170 walls - and doing this whole project in just 240 minutes! We will have lunch provided for a small fee from 12 – 1, and the hard work will happen from 1-5.

Project 240 is an opportunity for you to set aside 240 minutes in service to others. Maybe you don't know much about hammers and nails and saws, but you really believe that you could help out in some way – carrying nails to those who know how to use the hammer; bringing a bottle of water to a thirsty worker; measuring and marking a length of lumber; writing a message of hope for a recipient family on one of the boards (we had some great children's artwork on several 2 x 4's last year!). Habitat for Humanity will have supervisors on each site to help instruct you on exactly what to do, so come and help whatever your skill level may be. And the extra benefit of the day besides the joy of helping those in need is getting to spend some time with some other wonderful FPC people who are willing to give of themselves! This is an amazing opportunity for our whole church to serve together, and spend time in true community and fellowship, so we invite EVERYONE to join us – even if you just choose to walk around and encourage others – your presence will be valuable!

WHO: Everyone! All ages welcome to participate!

This year, all ages are welcome. We will provide childcare for the little ones, have children's activities for the older kids, and those 14 and up will be welcome to work building the walls. We want all our members to participate, from children to seniors, to help build, serve lemonade, or offer words of encouragement.

WHERE: The Back Forty – FPC's parking lot

If you don't know the exact area, it is towards the back of our big parking lot - just look for stacks of wood, Habitat trucks and staff. You may start heading over there after 12:45.

WHEN: Sunday, March 3 following the 11 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. church services and a "working lunch." Build starts at approximately 1:00 p.m. and continues until approximately 5:00 p.m.

Come to church in "work clothes." Join us for lunch in the New Covenant Building (or come back after you finish lunch elsewhere, if needed). FPC will provide water and lemonade, but feel free to bring your own water bottle and some yummy snacks to share.

HOW: Here's how Project 240 Works

Habitat brings the worksite to FPC. All tools, materials, and Habitat staff will arrive at The Back Forty while we worship. You may bring your own tools and gloves, but they are not necessary.

FPC will have lunches for a small fee in the New Covenant building. We will eat and enjoy fellowship. If you prefer, eat elsewhere and join the build after lunch.

Habitat and our own Habitat leadership/build team members will provide supervision and direct the assembly of wall panels for FIVE complete Habitat homes. Our volunteers will keep water and lemonade handy throughout the build.

When the work is completed, Habitat will remove and store the panels for use at a future build.

WE provide prayer, workspace, AND VOLUNTEERS.

WHY: We believe that Jesus commands us to live our faith each day and to work for the Kingdom of God.

Working together and in partnership with other church friends will grow our faith, our sense of community, and our commitment to serving. Physically we will "build" walls, but we will also "build" our commitment to missions and to loving one another.

So what do you need to do?

There will be sign-up tables in Mauze Lobby this February. Our goal this year is to have at least 300+ volunteers. We'd like for everyone to participate for the entire work period, but we recognize that may be difficult for some. Please join us as you are able, and sign up as soon as you can!

FPC Welcomes Three Special Members into its Fellowship



On October 28, Brett Bolte, young adult son of Rosemary Bolte, met with ruling elders Paul Smith, Becky DeWees and Associate Pastor Ruthie Seiders to be received into membership. Brett expressed a very personal and unique relationship with Jesus through his notes on his computer. He enthusiastically affirmed the questions for membership and is very excited to be a member of First Presbyterian Church. He is transferring his membership from

Northwoods Presbyterian Church where he was an active participant in the prayer ministry. You can find Brett worshipping with his mom, in the wheelchair section of the sanctuary. Please be sure to look for Brett and welcome him into the FPC family!

In December, one of our college students, whose family came to First Pres after her confirmation year, decided she was ready to make First Pres her home. Margaret Elizabeth Jonas (who likes to be called M.E.) is currently a junior at Princeton University. She became quite active in the life of the church during her senior year in high school.



When she discovered her younger brother, William, one of our autistic students in the JOY program was also ready to join the church, she inquired about joining with her brother while home on her Christmas break. A special Session meeting was held with ruling elders Paul Smith, Chuck Beatty, Sandy Sturch, David Youngquist and Associate Pastor Ruthie Seiders, who talked with both M.E. and William. William and his mom, Charlotte Pawel, had prepared

answers to questions, through which the elders were able to read and discern his special understanding of God, God's love, and the person of Jesus Christ. William joined M.E. in answering questions for membership and they were received into membership on Sunday, December 16, 2012, in the contemporary service. M.E. has returned to Princeton as she is a member of the women's swim team, but you may see William around the church any Sunday morning with his JOY shepherd Andrew Brewer, whom he lovingly calls "Coach!"

The History Corner....Bill Cogburn

“In Spirit and in Truth” – Scripture in Stained Glass

As Christians, we stand on the shoulders of a multitude of believers who have gone before us. Our local church history began over 160 years ago when San Antonio was a dangerous, lawless frontier town. Today, when we look at our beautiful church building with its glorious stained glass windows, let us always be mindful of the years of hard work and sacrifice that has brought us to where we are today.

One of the oldest and most beautiful stained glass windows at First Pres memorializes George Findlay. This 100 year-old window on the south side of the sanctuary proclaims Christ's words found in John 4:24, "In Spirit and in Truth". The glass artist depicts Christ sitting on a low stone wall at Jacob's well in Samaria. Water is issuing forth from the vine covered well house in the background. The Samaritan woman has come to the well to draw water. Christ is pointing toward heaven and proclaiming to the woman that God is spirit and his worshippers must worship him in spirit and in truth.

George Findlay was born in Patna, Ayrshire, Scotland on November 30, 1839. He married his wife Elizabeth about 1863 and after a few years, moved his family to Manchester, England. As their family grew, George's construction business also prospered.

Like many Brits in the late 19th century, George and his family decided to come to Texas to start a new life. The family arrived in San Antonio on May 4, 1882. Just six weeks after their arrival, their nineteen year-old daughter, Elizabeth, died. Before leaving England, Elizabeth had been associated with the Congregational Sabbath School in Longsite, Manchester, England.

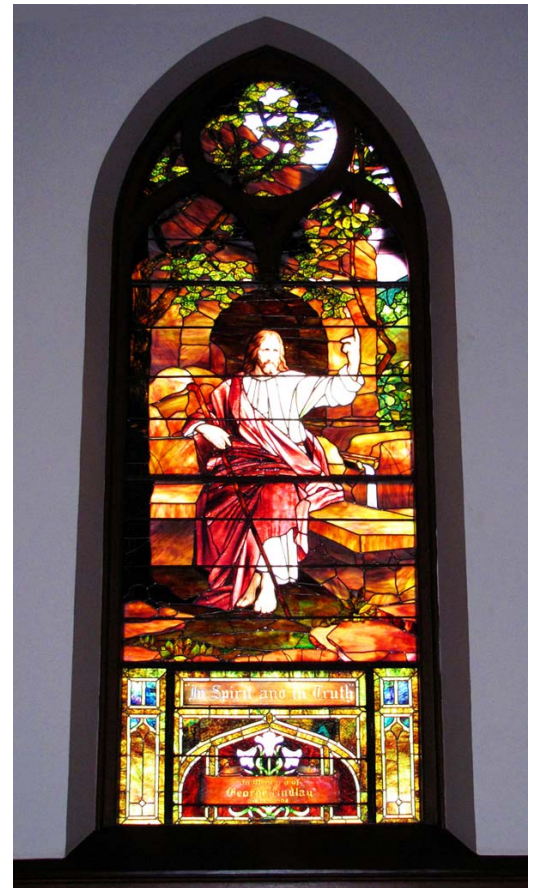
Soon after arriving in San Antonio, George established the Findlay Manufacturing and Contracting Company at 733 E. Houston Street. He went on to become one of San Antonio's most prominent contractors, building some of the largest buildings of the day, such as Central Christian Church, Physicians & Surgeons Hospital, Westminster Presbyterian Church and The Carnegie Library.

George Findlay died Christmas Eve, 1908, at his residence at 904 St. Charles Street. Rev. Dr. Arthur Gray Jones of First Pres and Rev. Brooks Dickey of Westminster Pres officiated at the funeral.

"Mr. Findlay was one of the most prominent contractors of this city and one of the most successful. He constructed some of the largest and most beautiful buildings in the city", reported the December 25, 1908 *San Antonio Light*.

George Findlay was survived by his widow, a daughter, Jean, two sons, James and Ivie and two grandsons. George and his family members are interred at City Cemetery #1.

Source: First Pres archives; SAPL Texana Room; *San Antonio Light*, *San Antonio Gazette* & *San Antonio Express*.



Presby Profile-Rev. John Seiders

San Antonio Fire Department Chaplaincy – Another Call to Service

On Sunday morning you'll see him in pastor's robe or in a suit. During the week – early morning to late night – you'll find him in meetings, monitoring progress in a variety of ministries, talking with staff and FPC members.

But . . . in addition to answering his call to ministry at FPC, John also answers another call . . . to serve the community and, in particular, the San Antonio Fire Department as a chaplain.

"You can simply say that firefighting and the fire service are in my blood," he begins. "My Dad was on a fire brigade at work and the local first aid squad – a predecessor to today's emergency medical services. My brother spent 20 years as a volunteer firefighter in New Jersey. I began as a volunteer firefighter when I was 18 years old – through my years in college and seminary.



"Giving time for serving others through public safety has always been a Seiders family value and – providentially – Ruthie's father was a volunteer firefighter, so she understands the culture" he continues.

"But after seminary when serving in New Providence, I ran out of time to be actively involved. Ruthie and I had two young children and a church to serve, so even though the fire house was directly across the street from our church, being a volunteer firefighter didn't fit in the picture. After the girls grew older and we had settled in Bethlehem, PA, I started wondering if I should/could/would reenter community service through the fire department.

"When we got here, I had lunch with Chief (Charles) Hood, having learned that SAFD had a department chaplaincy program. At the end of lunch, Chief Hood said 'You In or You Out.' The answer was pretty simple – the family tradition would continue – and for the last nearly four years I've been 'In.'"

John is one of seven SAFD Chaplains who work under the Department's Office of Health and Wellness which is dedicated to not just the mental and physical readiness of the fire department, but also their emotional and spiritual well-being. SAFD chaplains respond to multiple alarms and critical incidents, visit stations, go on calls, and sometimes, just hang out to have a cup of coffee.

"It's clearly understood by both the church and SAFD that my volunteer involvement is based whether I have the time – my church responsibilities are always the priority," John continues. "But there is a strong correlation between Christian faith and the very real culture of the fire service. Gary Chapman wrote a book *The 5 Love Languages* in which one of those languages is expressed through acts of service.

It's my opinion that many firefighters would define their motivation as doing things for others – performing acts of service."

So, on a Friday or Saturday, John dons his SAFD Chaplain's uniform and credentials and makes his way to several stations throughout the City. "Each station – in fact, each shift – has its own personality. Sometimes there's time to have a cup of coffee and just visit. Other times the station may be vacant – the crew is out on a call or in training or at a demonstration. Sometimes there's banter and sometimes there's the heartbreak that follows a devastating or deadly incident. Sometimes everyone is busy attending to a task – continuing education, training updates, equipment inspection, paperwork, or routine repairs.

But always – ALWAYS – there's the cohesion of a team that has performed an act of service. Always there's the awareness of keeping another's back. There's always a readiness to respond.

"I've been in the firehouse when a call comes in and the captain says 'Want to ride?' And I'll go. I've gotten an all-call text message alert that there's a multiple alarm fire and, if I can, I'll go – day or night. I believe the Lord has given me unique gifts and training so that I can care for the first-responders as well as minister to people in crisis."

"What's important is that I get to meet and serve people where they're at. I'm entering people's lives in a way that's different, and responding to day-to-day issues as well as the fears, the stresses, the adrenalin rushes, the challenges during – and often after – a disastrous event in their lives. It gives new meaning to ministry, firefighting and serving."

KEEP—Health Screening

According to the National Kidney Foundation, approximately 26 million American adults have Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD). Of the millions more who are at risk, most are not even aware that they could have CKD or even be at risk. Those at higher risk are among anyone 18 years or older with high blood pressure, diabetes or a family history of kidney disease. As CKD is relatively common, generally asymptomatic until advanced stages, and can ultimately lead to end-stage kidney disease (ESKD), early diagnosis is a key.

Kidney Early Evaluation Program (KEEP) is a free health screening program offered by the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) for individuals at increased risk of developing kidney disease, anyone 18 or older with high blood pressure, diabetes, or a family history of chronic kidney disease.

KEEP screenings are designed to raise awareness about kidney disease, provide educational information, and complete three simple tests to determine kidney function, with an opportunity to discuss and review results with the onsite clinicians. The screening process aids in finding kidney disease at the earliest stage possible, which aids in prevention or delay of the disease, and the many complications associated with CKD.

KEEP will be conducting free screenings at First Presbyterian Church on Saturday, February 2, 2013 between 9:00am – 1:00pm. Registration is not required but highly encouraged. For more information about the screening process, kidney disease, and the KEEP, please visit www.keeponline.org, and to register for your free screening, contact Dathan Johnson at 877-543-6397 or email dathan.johnson@kidney.org.



Literature Circle

New Reviewers . . . In the Garden of Beasts

Two new reviewers to the FPC Literature Circle, Marcia Waldgeir with Marsha Greenberg, will relate the disturbing book, *IN THE GARDEN OF BEASTS*, on Tues., February 12, at 1:30 PM in the McCullough Room. The year is 1933, in the city of Berlin, when Wm. E. Dodd, was posted as the U.S. Ambassador in Hitler's Germany. Accompanied by his family, his flamboyant daughter is entranced by the parties, pomp and handsome young men of the Third Reich who are enthusiastic for the restoration of Germany to world prominence. Jewish persecution mounts with Dodd's increasingly frantic telegraphs to the U.S. State Dept. largely ignored causing delay by our government and president to act. The violence and murder reveal Hitler's true character and ruthless ambition. A time in history never to be forgotten!

Bring a friend and join us for refreshments prior to the meeting.

Youth Mission Trip—Get involved!

by Katy Evans

I distinctly remember my first mission trip as a youth. I had plenty of mission experiences leading up to it, including a family mission trip with my brother and parents to Mendenhall, Mississippi when I was in 5th grade. But it was that first mission trip on my own as a student that had what I'll describe as "long-lasting side-effects."

The summer after 9th grade, I took an incredible risk and signed up for the High School Mission Trip to Jamaica. My older brother had attended the trip once before, and I always loved doing service projects, so it seemed like the natural thing to do.

As the trip approached, I became incredibly anxious and wondered if I'd made a *terrible* mistake. I didn't have any friends going on the trip, or even attend school with any other participant. I'd gone to camp a couple of times in the summers, but getting on a plane and flying to a little island in the Caribbean without my parents – that's crazy.

I went anyway, and God honored my commitment by challenging me and blessing me in more ways than I could have imagined. I developed new friendships that were deepened by our shared experience and offered support and encouragement throughout my high school years. For the first time in my youth group experience, I felt confident and safe enough to talk openly about my struggles to "fit in" and even challenged the other students to get beyond their "cliques" and make an effort to be more welcoming to students like me who didn't have a place in the group.

I had the opportunity to get outside of my comfort zone – working construction alongside impoverished Jamaicans and holding the hand of patients who were spending their last days in the community's "infirmary." God surprised me with quick and easy friendships with these Jamaicans who came from such a very different life than mine, yet shared the same love for our Savior.

It was on this trip that I heard myself described as a "leader" for the very first time – and after my youth leader named that in me, I was never again "a follower." After returning from the trip, I was asked to serve on our student leadership team, where I led Bible Studies and taught Sunday School for middle school students, and served as a leader for retreats and trips. I went on to serve in ministry wherever I

could, working at camps in the summer, leading worship for my college InterVarsity fellowship, and interning here at First Pres in our youth ministry before accepting a full-time position on staff.

God can use experiences like these in our student's lives in HUGE ways. I've watched Him use our summer mission trips here at First Pres to draw students closer to Himself, to develop a heart for serving, to make and strengthen friendships with other students and leaders, and to discover the unique ways God has gifted them to make Him visible.

If you are a student – take a risk and sign up for a trip! And when you go – go with an openness and an expectation for God to work. If you are a parent – encourage your student to go, find ways to make it happen, and support them every step of the way. And when they get back – ask them questions – lots and lots of questions!

Other adults – pray, pray, pray for our students and leaders during these months leading up to our trips, that God would prepare hearts. Pray during our trips, that God would move in mighty ways. Pray after our trips, that God would continue the great work He started in our students' lives. And if you feel a tugging on your own heart to get involved – give us a call! We are excited to see how God moves during our trips this summer!



FPC Youth Mission to Mendenhall 2012

Children's Center News

Children's Center Book and Toy Sale



The First Presbyterian Church 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 Mini Fiesta that is scheduled for March 1, 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. This training enables the teachers to stay abreast of the latest research and learn how they can best apply it in an early childhood

setting. Please bring your donations by the Children's Center office downstairs or call Sandy Blanco, Director of the Children's Center, at 225-0960. Deadline for donations is Feb. 15.

General Mills Box Tops for Education

The Children's Center is collecting box tops from General Mills products. The General Mills box tops are redeemable for cash back for the school. A complete list of products is posted on the bulletin

board by the Children's Center office downstairs. Just place the box tops in the white box under the bulletin board. We appreciate your help and support. For more information or a list of products contact Sandy Blanco, Director of the Children's Center, at 210-225-0960.

Children's Center Mini Fiesta - Friday, March 1, 2013 5:00pm-7:00pm



Yes, the date of the Mini Fiesta has changed from May to March 1, 2013! Please make plans to join us for food, games, and a silent auction at the FPC Children's Center Mini Fiesta. 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 also appreciate any donations for the silent auction. If you would like to help, please call Sandy Blanco, Director of the Children's Center, at 210-225-0960.

Recollections: Shaped by His-Story

Mo-Ranch All Church Retreat

June 14-16, 2011

Register Now

Come join your brothers and sisters as First Presbyterian Church gathers for our all-church retreat, June 14-16. Through our Recollections: Shaped by His-Story theme, we will engage in the telling of our family stories. Our stories entertain us, teach us, connect us, and define us. By telling our stories, we get to know others – and ourselves – more deeply. As we discover our common joys, sorrows, hopes, and dreams, we grow into deeper relationships, both in our natural families and in the family of God.

This retreat will give us a chance to remember our family stories, think about them, share them with others and discover God's presence in them. As members of God's family, we share together in His story. By hearing afresh the grand biblical story, we will find new themes for the stories of our lives.

Three years ago, the theme for the retreat was "One MO Story." This year we will focus more on seeing God in our personal stories, and work to discover connections between them and God's grand story (creation, fall, redemption, restoration).

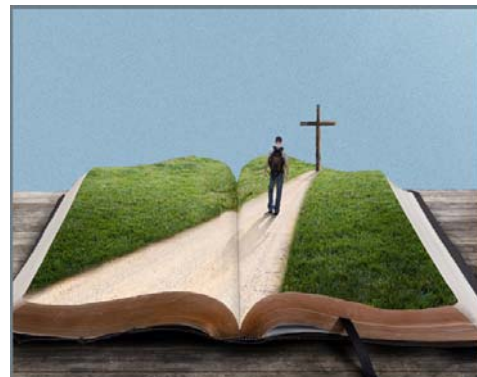
We will approach this theme from a variety of perspectives, through Scripture, guided by Dr. Mark and Linda Roberts. Mark's teaching will be expository as we focus on the grand Biblical story of God and our personal connection to it. Linda will maintain a more reflective leadership as we share our stories, discover God's work in them, and grow into a deeper relationship with each other and God.

For some extra family time, pack a lunch and head on up to Mo-Ranch early on Friday afternoon. Enjoy the river, pool, slide, rapids, etc. Room check-in begins at 4 p.m. and the church family cookout at the river will be at 5:30 p.m.

Take advantage of only one price for housing per family and one price for meals per person.

Can't get away for the whole weekend? Then choose the Saturday only option for just \$25!

Childcare will be provided for infants and toddlers by our very own FPC caregivers. For more information, contact Lindsay Blackmon at 210-271-2758 or lindsayb@fpcsat.org.



Hire-A-Student 2 weekends available

University Ministries is sending a number of students to serve in the Dominican Republic over Spring Break and also several students to serve in Budapest, Hungary over the summer. We are looking for ways to help our students raise money for these mission trips. Therefore, we are giving the church family the opportunity to partner with our students! Two upcoming weekends are being designated to hire our students for work to be accomplished around your home or business. If you need help with yard work, painting, moving, organizing, any reasonable tasks around the home or business, please consider hiring our students. The two weekends we have set aside are January 26-27 and February 9-10.

If you are interested or need more information contact University Ministries Director, Scott Fleming. (scottf@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2723)

Save the Date!

6th Grade Urban Plunge Weekend (for current 5th graders)

San Antonio, Texas

Friday, June 7-Sunday, June 9, 2013

MIDDLE SCHOOL MISSION TRIP (FOR CURRENT 6-8TH GRADERS)

DALLAS, TEXAS

SUNDAY, JUNE 23-FRIDAY, JUNE 28, 2013

High School Mission Trip (for current 8-12th graders)

Mendenhall, Mississippi

Sunday, July 14-Saturday, July 20, 2013

FPC's Summer Day Camp!

June 3-August 2, 2013

Registration will begin on
February 18, 2013


Contact
carriej@fpcsat.org



VBS 2013 at FPC June 23 - June 27

The FPC Children's Ministry Staff is excited to announce this year's VBS theme is Athens! We will be traveling to Ancient Greece to learn about the Apostle Paul and his teachings. Mark your calendars for this exciting adventure!





Mamma Mia!

Come to the Youth Spaghetti Supper and Talent Show!

Sunday, February 17 @ 5:30pm | Westminster Hall

- FPC's Youth have a long-standing tradition – they feed you, then they entertain you. And 2013 will be another chance for all of us to satisfy our cravings for excellent pasta and for the special talents of our youth.
- There is no cost for dinner, but you will have the opportunity to give a donation that will help send our youth on mission trips and retreats during this church year. For more information, contact Katy Evans at katye@fpcsat.org.

Annual Hall Organ Competition Saturday, March 2

The Annual William B. Hall Pipe Organ Competition will be held Saturday, March 2, in the Sanctuary at FPC.

This promises to be a great year of competition in our Graduate Division with 10 contestants competing for a first prize, second prize, and hymn playing prize. In the 40-plus year history of the competition, there have only been a few occasions in which we have had this many Graduate contestants competing in one year.

As is our tradition, the competition performances are free and open to the public. The competition will begin on Saturday, March 2, between 8:00-8:30 a.m. and will conclude around 2 p.m. (hour break for lunch around 12 Noon). Feel free to quietly enter the sanctuary between pieces as our contestants perform throughout the day.

Most years, we ask one of our competition judges to perform a recital on the Sunday afternoon following the competition. This year, however, we are encouraging all 'organ enthusiasts' in our congregation and community to attend a recital program sponsored by Trinity University and organized by Dr. David Heller (Dr. Heller is an integral part of the planning process each year for the Hall Competition). On Tuesday, March 4 (just a few days after the Hall Competition), organist James O'Donnell, Organist and Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey, London, will present a recital program at 7:30 p.m. in the Margarite Parker Chapel on the campus of Trinity University.

We look forward to seeing you at these great pipe organ events!

Show Jesus' Blessing to 1 Family of 5

by Louise Peters

On each Friday and Saturday beginning February 2, and continuing through March 23, you have an opportunity to help build an affordable home for a San Antonio family. Our build days are February 8, 15, and March 9. First Pres is the coordinating church on February 8 – we especially need your help!

Our family this year (Juan and Nancy) is thrilled to have been accepted into the program! "We were determined to become homeowners and have worked very hard to be approved. We cannot wait until we let our children choose their bedrooms." (Giovanni is 5, Lilianna is 6 and Aidne is 4.)

Habitat families on average:

have a family income of \$25,000

have an income equal to 44% of the area median income

In addition 50% of families are single parent families.



February 8, FPC is the Coordinating Church for the Presbyterian Cluster House build from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 1001 Harriman Place, San Antonio, TX 78207. Fellow Presbyterians from Good Shepherd, St Andrew and Northwood will be there too. Wear your worn-out-jeans and most importantly bring a heart to join in blessing this family. Come for the morning, the afternoon, or all day!

Habitat staff will be ready for you with tools, supplies, and most importantly directions for what needs to be accomplished and how to go about it. Please RSVP to Alyssa Payne at 226-0216, ext. 242.

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings February 2013

Circle 112

Monday, February 18, 10:30 a.m.
FPC, Geneva Room
Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182
Co-chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

Circle 2

Monday, February 18, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 226
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Circle 3

Monday, February 18, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chair: Ann Fryburger 490-3566

Circle 4

Monday, February 18, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 226 (with Circle 2)

Circle 5 - Shawl Ministry

Friday, February 15, Noon-1:00 p.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 6

Tuesday, February 19, 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, February 19, 11:30 a.m.
TBA
Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 8 - Moms' Group

Monday, February 4 & 18, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 108
Chair: Julie Walthall 829-8332

Circle 9

Tuesday, February 19, 10:00 a.m.
FPC, St. Andrew's Room
Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

Circle 10

Monday, February 11, 1:30 p.m.
Towers at Park Lane, The Club (22 Floor)
Chair: Janice Magnus, 829-5866

Circle 11

Monday, February 25, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Pat Brodeen
2307 Oak Trace St 78232
Chair: Jean Swanson, 826-0766

Circle 13 - Literature Circle

Tuesday, February 12, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, McCullough Room
In The Garden of Beasts, author Erik Larson
Chair: Becca Price, 824-2603
Reviewers: Marcia Waldgeir and Marsh Greenberg

Circle 14

Monday, February 18, Noon
FPC, St. Andrews Room
Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

Circle 15 - Talking, Sharing Circle

Sunday, February 17, 11:00 a.m.
FPC, St. Andrews Room
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

Circle 16 - Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle

Wednesday, February 20, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978
Corie Barlow, 481-1337

Circle 17 - Edna Ralston Sewing Circle

Wednesday, February 13, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 309
Chair: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972
Gigi Duke, 695-4363

Circle 18 - Circle of Concern

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

Circle 19 - White Cross Circle

Wednesday, February 6, 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, February 18, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Lana McMains
350 Fantasia St. 78216
Chair: Karen Gabrielson, 333-4239
Andrea Taylor, 403-9442

First Cup Readings — February, 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

- 1 Joshua 1:1-9; 2 Chronicles 34; Psalm 119:137-144
- 2 Deuteronomy 16:1-8; 2 Chronicles 35;
1 Corinthians 5:6-8; 11:23-32

The Lord I will at all times bless, my mouth His praises shall express; In Him shall all my boasting be, while all the meek rejoice with me. O magnify the Lord with me, let us to praise His name agree; I sought the Lord, He answered me, and from my fears He set me free. Who look to Him shall walk in light, with joy their faces shall be bright, distressed they cried; the Lord arose and saved them out of all their woes. (The Hymnbook, #412)

- 3 2 Chronicles 36; Jeremiah 52; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17;
6:18-20; Ephesians 2:19-22
- 4 Esther 1; Proverbs 23:19-35; Ecclesiastes 2;
Ephesians 5:1-20
- 5 Esther 2; Psalm 45
- 6 Esther 3; Proverbs 14:16; 26:8; Psalm 91
- 7 Esther 4; Psalm 34; 125
- 8 Esther 5-6; Proverbs 26:1; 3:29-35; Psalm 62
- 9 Esther 7; Psalm 52; 55; Proverbs 16:18; 29:23; 31:8-9;
Galatians 6:7-10

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation! O my soul, praise Him, for He is thy health and salvation! All ye who hear, now to His temple draw near; join me in glad adoration! Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth, shieldeth thee under His wings, yea so gently sustained. Hast Thou not seen how the desires e'er have been granted in what He ordaineth? Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore Him! All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him! Let the amen sound from His people again; Gladly forever adore Him. (The Methodist Hymnal, #55)

- 10 Esther 8-10; Psalm 7; 71; 73
- 11 Ezra 1-2; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11
- 12 Ezra 3; Psalm 126; 103
- 13 Ezra 4; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18;
- 14 Isaiah 2; Haggai 1-2; Hebrews 12:22-29
- 15 Ezra 5-6; Exodus 12:17; 1 Corinthians 11:23-34
- 16 Ezra 7; Deuteronomy 28:58-68; 2 Timothy 2:15;
Acts 17:10-12

How I love Thy law, O Lord! Daily joy its truths afford; on its constant light I go, wise to conquer every foe. Thy commandments in my heart truest wisdom can impart; to my eyes Thy precepts show wisdom more than sages know. While my heart Thy word obeys, I am kept from evil ways; from Thy law, with Thee to guide, may I never turn aside. Sweeter are Thy words to me than all other good can be; safe I walk, Thy truth my light, hating falsehood, loving right. (The Hymnbook, # 253)

- 17 Ezra 8; Joel 2
- 18 Genesis 28:1-4; Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Joshua 23:9-14;
Ezra 9; Malachi 2:10-3:5
- 19 Ezra 10; 2 Corinthians 6:14-18; 1 Corinthians 7:10-24
- 20 Nehemiah 1-2; Matthew 21:21-22; Mark 11:22-25;
Philippians 4:4-7; 1 Peter 3:12
- 21 Nehemiah 3; Romans 12:1-8; Ephesians 4:1-16;
1 Corinthians 12
- 22 Nehemiah 4; Romans 8:18-39; 1 Thessalonians 5:24
- 23 Nehemiah 5; 2 Thessalonians 3:1-15; Luke 14:25-35

We would be building; temples still undone. O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift; waiting till love can raise the broken stone and hearts creative bridge the human rift. We would be building; O Master, let Thy plan reveal the life God would give to man. Teach us to build; upon the Solid Rock we set the dream that hardens into deed, ribbed with the steel that time and change doth mock. The unfailing purpose of our noblest creed; teach us to build; O Master, lend us sight to see the towers gleaming in the light. Oh grant enduring worth until the Heavenly Kingdom comes on earth. (The Hymnbook, #470)

- 24 Nehemiah 6-7:73; Romans 12:1-13
- 25 Nehemiah 8; Joshua 1:6-9; Psalm 126
- 26 Nehemiah 9-10:39; Exodus 20:8-10;
1 Corinthians 16:1-2; Matthew 6:2-4
- 27 Nehemiah 12:27-47; Psalm 27; Colossians 3:16;
Romans 15:5-13
- 28 Nehemiah 13; Exodus 31:14-17; Matthew 12:1-12;
Psalm 103



Happy
Valentine's
Day!

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]

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY, HAPPY PRESIDENT'S DAY & HAPPY GROUND HOG DAY! by Pat McCleary



I hope everyone has had a good start to the New Year and has stayed well! Step & Stretch Class has resumed so that everyone can carry out their New Year's resolution to exercise; we've learned "Divine Organization" so we know what to do with all of last year's paperwork to simplify our environments; we've found out who is a year older when we celebrated January birthdays at Fort Sam Houston Golf Club; and ended the month with the return of local author Leila Meacham who discussed her newest work, *Tumbleweeds*. What a great month and now on to February!

Thanks for your donations of books and magazines for the Veterans Administration Hospital and to volunteer Bud Davenport who delivers and distributes them. This past year we turned in 1,893 books and magazines. WOW—keep them coming. They can be dropped off at the front desk or in my office.



January Birthday Celebration
Hazel Zachar, Mark Carrigan, Eva Cox, Joe Rust, Tom Munroe

Coming up in February

Step and Stretch Class – February 1, 8, 15, & 22 (Friday) 9:45 a.m.



Get in shape for the New Year—if you haven't tried this class, now is the time to "get moving" and improve your core strength, flexibility, toning and cardiovascular conditioning. There is NO CHARGE and you can wear comfortable clothes. Our excellent leader is Gale Buchanan. It is said that exercise is the "fountain of youth."

February 1 (Friday) 11:00 a.m. Rick Cavender & His Band returns for another memorable performance. His theme this year is "Great Country Performers of All Time & a little Elvis, too!" Band members will be Rick Ramirez, Keith Harter, Tammy Frost, Tommy Meneses, and Tommy Detamore. We are getting a head start on Rodeo so wear your cowboy boots & hats. **Don't miss this exciting performance!** Your check if your reservation and should be made payable to First Presbyterian church with "Rick Cavender" notation on the memo line and mailed to the attention of Pat McCleary. \$15/ per person includes the performance and lunch. Please make reservations by noon on Monday, January 28.

February 8 (Friday) –Program to be announced

February 15 (Friday) 11:30 a.m. - Oak Hills Country Club



Come and celebrate Valentine's Day and February birthdays with the sumptuous buffet at Oak Hills located at 5403 Fredericksburg Road. The cost to you is only \$15/person, and this year we will recognize members with birthdays; however, they will not be complimentary. Make your reservation early as we are limited to 50 people. RSVP no later than Monday, February 11 by calling the church office 210-

226-0215. Bridge will be played at Oak Hills after lunch – be sure to reserve your spot ahead of time with Katy Bedunnah. Please contact us if you need a ride.

February 22 (Friday) – Program to be announced

*We love because
he first loved us.*

1 John 4:19

March 1 (Friday) – 11:00 a.m. – State of the Church Address



Come and hear **Rev. Trey Little** deliver the annual **State of the Church Address**. He is keeping up the annual tradition that began many years ago by Rev. Louis Zbinden. Be sure to make your reservation for this excellent program, as this is the only meeting where it will be presented. This is an opportunity to ask questions and learn about upcoming events. KEYS Leadership Committee will meet after lunch.

RESERVATIONS – Please make reservations by the Tuesday before each Friday program by calling the church office at 226-0215. It is extremely important to observe this time frame so that the kitchen staff can plan adequately. 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).

Please contact Pat McCleary (271-2726) for further information.



February 1 (Friday) 11:00 a.m.



Rick Cavender and his band return for another memorable performance. We've packed the house on his last visits so don't delay in making your reservation and inviting your friends. His theme this year is "Great Country Performers of All Time" and, of course, a little Elvis too!



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FEBRUARY

LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE

Worship Times

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



Full calendar online—www.fpconline.org

Feb 1-3 - All Middle School Retreat
Feb 1-3 - Laity Lodge Retreat
Feb 1 - KEYS—Rick Cavender Band
Feb 2 - Kidney Foundation Screening Fair
Feb 3 - Blood Drive Registration
Feb 6 - Confirmation—Going Deeper
Feb 9 - UMin Work Day
Feb 10 - DiscoverFirst class begins
Feb 10 - Blood Drive
Feb 11 - Officer's Meeting
Feb 12 - Literature Circle
Feb 13 - Ash Wednesday
Feb 14 - Valentine's Day
Feb 16 - SAMM 5K Marathon
Feb 17 - Spaghetti Supper & Talent Show
Feb 19 - Men's Breakfast at the Quarry
Feb 24 - Loaves & Fishes
Feb 25 - Mom's Group Bible Study

NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program

The NAMI Family-to-Family Education Program is a free 12-week course beginning Feb. 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., for family caregivers of individuals with mental illnesses or any family/individual who is dealing with mental illness in their family. All instruction and course materials are free to class participants.

The Family-to-Family curriculum focuses on schizophrenia, bipolar disorder (manic depression), clinical depression, panic disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD). The course discusses the clinical treatment of these illnesses and teaches the knowledge and skills that family members need to cope more effectively.

For information contact Doug Beach at doug.beach@gmail.com or 210-602-5733 or 247-4616.



Touchdown! by Manuel Rodriguez

I love sports. I mean, ANYTHING that may be remotely construed as a competitive event, and I am there. However, nothing gets me fired up in the world of sports like football, after all we do reside in the great state of Texas. Perhaps it is the fact that I am such a football fan that I feel entitled to second guess the coach on every decision he makes. "No don't punt, go for it!" "Why did you call that play?" "What are you doing timeout, timeout!!" I do not let the fact that I have never played nor coached a down of competitive football dissuade me from believing that I know better than the coach. Yet time after time, the coach's decisions are superior to my own, and before I know it, his decisions, not mine have resulted in a touchdown.

But isn't that the same attitude we hold in our walk with Christ? We go to church, read the bible, attend Sunday School and all of a sudden we have better solutions for life's problems than our Heavenly Father. We did not create the heavens and the earth, nor did we allow a perfect Son to die on the cross, yet at every turn we question our Eternal "Coach's" decisions and the plans He has for us. Wouldn't it be easier to simply allow our loving Father to take over and before we know it score a touchdown? I think so, too.



"House with a Heart Gala" Benefiting House of Neighborly Service Crowne Plaza Riverwalk Hotel Feb. 15 6:00-11:30 p.m.

Enjoy a delicious gourmet dinner, silent and live auctions, and dancing (\$65/per person). Invite your family and friends to this eighth annual celebration that helps raise funds to keep the ministry, programs and services of House of Neighborly Service a vital and active part of the Westside community. Your support will help provide a Hand Up not a Hand Out.

For information and/or to purchase tickets, contact: Sandra Morales (Sandra@hns-tx.org/314-2934) or Judy Morris (jmorris42@satx.rr.com/508-8661).