



First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible



Making Jesus Visible to ...
Summer Day Camp Kids

Pastor's Pondering

"Under the Circumstances" vs. "Under God's Grace"

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



I can't wait for winter!

In recent days, I admit, those words have crossed my mind. When the South Texas heat rises and the air conditioning doesn't cool as quickly as I would like, and I break a sweat on the walk from the parking lot to the entrance to the church—I can't help but long for cooler temperatures.

Yet, I must also admit, it was only a few short months ago, when temperatures were below freezing, that I was saying something like: "I can't wait for summer."

Perhaps it's not the weather for you today—perhaps it is finances that have you longing for something different. If only you could have more money, things would certainly be better in your life. Perhaps it's appearance—if only you were more beautiful you would be happier. I suppose it is just human nature. We seem to live in the tension between "living in the moment" and "longing for something different." We allow circumstances to dictate our attitudes rather than allowing our attitudes dictate our circumstances.

I recently read the following in one of my devotionals—it is basically a brief discussion between two friends:

"How are you doing?" the one friend inquired. The other friend responded: "Well, under the circumstances, I'm doing okay." To which the other questioned: "What are you doing under there?"

Reading this brief dialogue served as a reminder to me that we don't have to live "under" our circumstances rather, as Christians, we can live "under" the power, authority, and promises of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28: 18 reminds us: *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me (Jesus)."* Jesus goes

on to say in verse 20: *"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

Lamentations 3:19-23 reminds us: "I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

Each of us has "circumstances" in our lives. There are circumstances at First Presbyterian Church. There are circumstances at your work or school. There are circumstances in your relationships. Yet, in the midst of them all, today is still a gift from God. And we may not be able to control our circumstances but I am convinced we can choose the attitude in which we will face them.

Will you live "UNDER" your circumstances or will you LIVE under the grace of God? Will your circumstances master you or will your Master carry you through them?

My prayer for us all is that the promised joy of the Lord will flood our hearts—regardless of our circumstances. My hope is that, together, we will trust in His power, authority, and promises.

It's like Max Lucado once said about the forecast: "God reigns. Son shines."

You know—come to think of it, I CAN wait for winter! May you be refreshed, once again, by the mercies of God.

Keep smilin' and keep lovin' and keep remembering'.
Peace,



Church Register

BAPTISMS:

Crawford Cotton Banks, May 19, 2013
Taylor Ellie Cleaveland, May 19, 2013
Amanda Nicole Jasper, May 19, 2013
Thomas Carlisle O'Brien, son of James Joseph and Carlisle Maxwell O'Brien III
June 9, 2013
Anissa Maxine Shuptrine, June 9, 2013

Isabella Ann Nicole Garza, daughter of Anissa Shuptrine, June 9, 2013
Axel Lee Christiansen, son of Nels and Sara Christiansen, June 9, 2013
Gracelyn Belle Vasquez, daughter of David Ernesto and Tamara Leigh Vasquez, Sr., June 9, 2013
Daniel Ernesto Vasquez, son of David Ernesto and Tamara Leigh Vasquez, Sr., June 9, 2013

MARRIAGES:

Wesley Clarke Lavender and Nicole Marie Salazar, May 25, 2013

DEATHS:

John D. Cochran,
April 27, 2013
William (Bill) Baumann
May 28, 2013
Aubrey (Buddy) E. Beverly
May 29, 2013



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Pay it Forward: An Approach to Small Groups

By David and Holly Youngquist

Years ago David and I were blessed to be a part of a vibrant young adult group here First Presbyterian Church. Some of our closest friends were part of this fellowship and journeyed alongside us as we struggled to find our way in our new adult world. We both remember those days as our “Camelot years”. We were on our own and had extra time and few responsibilities. We also had the wisdom and encouragement from some friends—Will and Rachel Morriss. They challenged us in our faith, opened their home for evenings of Bible study and fellowship and by example showed all of us what it meant to be a follower of Jesus Christ. They made us feel more a part of the larger church and their investment in us continues to this day.

Will and Rachel were the first people we told (after our par-

ents) that we were engaged. They hosted an engagement party for us and even did some pre-marital counseling with us; the most memorable being Rachel saying “Divorce...never. Murder...maybe.” We remained friends with them after we were married and David served as a pall bearer in Will’s funeral. Their friendship had a huge impact on our lives and our marriage despite being 40 years our senior! We always felt so indebted to their kindness and generosity towards us and wished that we could somehow pay them back. Instead we decided to pay it forward.

When First pres decided to embrace small groups 2009, David and I knew we wanted to gather some young couples together and embrace them. We didn’t know very many but asked around and within six months had a group of six couples who had been married one year or less (actually one couple was only engaged). We *loved* being with them, connecting with the younger generation and watching their families blossom: Between those couples there are now seven babies and at least two more on the way. Our desire was to bless them, but the reality is that we were blessed tenfold through our service.

I now know why Will and Rachel invested in our generation. Our investment in the next generation has paid huge dividends and we will never be the same. To God be the glory! Step out for God and you will be surprised, blessed and transformed. Step into the world of small groups. Join one. Start one.

Church-wide sign-ups will be on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8. Groups begin meeting for the fall semester the week of Sunday, September 15, and run to the week of Sunday, November 17. For more information contact either Stacie Rodriguez 210.226.0215, ext. 259, smallgroups@fpcsat.org, or Kay Gerfers, 210.479.9773, kgerfers@flash.net.

Scripture for Small Groups—July 2013

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.

⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common.

⁴⁵ They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need.

⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts,

⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved. (Act 2:42-47 NIV)

This Scripture describes life in a church that sounds like what church ought to be. As we search for an Acts 2 kind of church we are often disappointed because life in the twenty-first cen-

tury is complicated. There is so much required of us and so many activities inside and outside of church from which to choose. Is it even possible to have first-century life here at 21st-century First Presbyterian Church?

It is easy to get lost just sitting in pews on Sunday morning. There are too many people and a worship service is not the place to have a meaningful conversation. But among a smaller number of people and in a setting that encourages conversation, 1st-century life is feasible. The followers of Jesus in Acts did not have large houses of worship like we have today; they met in homes. In smaller numbers, they experienced community that was marked by study, prayer and service. The result was true worship.

Yes, it is possible to have 1st-century life in the 21st-century, even at First Pres. It happens in small groups.

Stephen Ministry Provided Loving Support

By Nora Lee Peterson



Nora Lee Peterson and her late mother, Shirley Peterson.

We are grateful to our church for providing our congregation with the Stephen Ministry. As I learned more about the service the Stephen Ministers provide, I thought that my Mother would truly benefit from such a relationship. That is indeed what happened.

My 90-year-old Mother was being well cared for in assisted living and I visited her almost daily. She was widowed, blind and wheelchair-bound and her stimulation and ability to participate in activities was very restricted. I contacted Scott (Rev. Scott Simpson) and requested a minister for my Mom.

Mom very quickly began to look forward to her weekly visits. She especially loved to talk about her family, her life history and the Elderhostel trips she took with my Dad after he retired. They often shared a cup of coffee and a cookie during the visit.

When Mom needed to move into the nursing wing, and eventually received hospice care, the Stephen Minister provided loving support and continually during these transitions Mom knew that it was Tuesday, she would have a good visit to look forward to. Although the visit was an hour or two, Mom would tell me the minister was there all day. I think that is because their time together filled her up fully.

When I was out of town, Mom's caring friend gave her extra attention and kept in contact with me. This was very helpful as Mom entered her end days. My sister and I are extremely grateful for the love and support that Mom's Stephen Minister faithfully gave to her and, by extension, to our family as well. Thank you and God bless you as you all continue your valuable ministry.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential minister which provides loving care for those in need of someone to listen to their needs, matching women with women and men with men on a one-on-one basis. Stephen Ministers never divulge the names of their care receivers. If you would like more information on the new Stephen Ministry class to begin the last weekend of September, and continuing each Tuesday through 50 hours of instruction over four to five months, or if you have a recommendation of a person who would benefit in being provided a Stephen Minister, contact the Rev. Scott Simpson, 210-271-2712, or scotts@fpcsat.org, or one of the church's two Stephen Leaders, Karin Gabrielson, at 210-333-4239. or Karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com, or Joe Rust, at 210-824-5948, or texwriter@grandecom.net.

Sing with the Sanctuary Choir in July!

By Tom Dooling
Minister of Music

If you have ever wanted to sing with the Sanctuary Choir, but for a variety of reasons have not, here is your big break! The **Sanctuary Choir** takes the month of July as a well-earned respite from Wednesday night rehearsals, opting to sing familiar pieces that we rehearse on Sunday mornings just prior to each of our traditional worship services.

Our July anthems for this year will include:

July 7 - "I Need Thee Every Hour" – a beautiful hymn setting

July 14 - "The Heavens are Telling" – Who doesn't love Beethoven!

July 21 - "Unto Thee O Lord" – sung many times at FPC over the years



July 28 - "The Lord is a Mighty God" – great music from the Romantic Era by Mendelssohn

Have you sung these anthems before? Would you be interested in joining us for a Sunday service or two? If so, we'd be glad to have you. We rehearse the anthems and responses approximately 30 minutes before each worship service in the choir room on the third floor. Choose one (or more) Sundays to sing with us – no advance notice or reservations are required!

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to talk to anyone in the music office (Tom, Jae, or Anthony). We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to "sing with the Sanctuary Choir in July!"



How Session Works

How is the Presbyterian Church Governed?

By Rev. John Seiders

How is the Presbyterian Church Governed?

That is a great question! I am glad you asked it.

The Presbyterian Church is governed by elders. The word “elder” in the Greek is “presbuteros” which refers to an elder, overseer or presbyter. In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) we have two types of elders—teaching elders and ruling elders. Teaching elders are ordained and serve as pastors. Ruling elders are ordained as well and serve in various roles to help a congregation fulfill its ministry and mission.

In the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) there are four levels of government, each with various functions and responsibilities—Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly. Each of these levels is referred to as a council. The session has responsibility for a congregation, the Presbytery for congregations in a specific region. The Synod is composed of several Presbyteries and the General Assembly is the national and largest council in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Each council is composed of ruling elders and teaching elders.

The session of First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio is composed of 24 ruling elders—in three classes of eight elders each—and four teaching elders. The ruling elders are elected by the congregation and each serve a three year term. The teaching elders consist of a senior pastor and three associate pastors. This group is led by the senior pastor who serves as the moderator of the Session.

The function of the session is to govern the congregation and guide the witness of the congregation so that it becomes a community of faith, hope, love, and witness (Book of Order, G-3.0201). More specifically, “the session has the responsibility

and power to” oversee and direct the ministry of a congregation with respect to the following broad categories: “provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard, provide that the Sacraments may be rightly administered and received, and nurture the covenant community of disciple of Christ” (G-3.0201 a-c). Without simply quoting the details of the Book of Order, suffice it to say that the session has responsibilities which range from planning and providing for worship and education for all ages, to appointing times for administering Baptism and the Lord’s Supper, providing for pastoral care and overseeing membership rolls, encouraging generosity and faithful stewardship, managing the finances and the property of the church, overseeing all personnel and leading in witness and mission, both locally and globally.

These various functions are accomplished by the work of many standing committees as well as some task forces all of which involve a number of members of the congregation. In addition, the pastoral care function is provided for in large part by our Board of Deacons and our Stephen Ministers.

The members of session desire and need your prayers often as they seek to be open to what God is doing in this congregation, the larger community and the world. In addition, they pray for our members, our congregation, offering thanks for the rich heritage and blessing that we have received while desiring to be faithful to our Triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—who has uniquely gifted and called each member of this congregation to bear witness to new life in Christ.

Session Minutes in Seconds

The Session at its regularly scheduled Stated Meeting on June 10, 2013:

Approved the Consent Agenda (approval of minutes of previous Session meetings, reviewed/approved minutes of previous Deacons’ meeting, approved changes to the Church Register, approved financials, and received minutes of Session committees).

Heard a report from Senior Pastor Trey Little about narrative questions from the Fellowship of Presbyterians that will be discussed at the August Session meeting.

Received the Clerk’s Report and discussed and acted on a communication from another local Presbyterian church.

Received reports from various committees:

Mental Health Ministry – heard an inspiring report on the progress of this ministry’s work at First Presbyterian Church and throughout San Antonio and prayed for Doug and Barbie Beach as they continue to serve.

Personnel and Property – approved a motion to dissolve that committee and form two separate committees.

Elected Butch Gerfers as Treasurer effective June 10, 2013.

Heard a report from the Treasurer regarding a master policy regarding gifts to the church; approved the policy.

Discussed a motion regarding committee responsibilities, withdrew that motion and reaffirmed the Session’s commitment to upholding those responsibilities.

Approved a motion to allow a co-officiant at a scheduled wedding.

Deacons Ministry

Modeling Your Faith for Others

By Gordon Smith

Summer is a time of transition. Even if we graduated years ago, we are still affected by the cycle of the school year. We see the excitement and enthusiasm of new graduates, anticipating the next step in their education or in their careers. We hear the sounds of laughter and splashing at the pool, as others relax after a long year of hard work. We feel the warmth of the sun as we drop off children or grandchildren for summer camp or summer mission trips.

Summer is also a time of transition at First Presbyterian Church. Plans are made for the coming year as a new class of elders and deacons completes training and begins to serve. We also pause to thank the officer class of 2013 for its service. The confirmation class completes, and we welcome and celebrate our newest church members with a confirmation banquet, as they share their faith statements. Their commitment and enthusiasm inspires us to renew our own commitment to spiritual growth.

Have you thought about your faith recently? New church offi-

cers and confirmation students complete a faith statement as part of their training. For me, preparing my faith statement last summer was a rewarding process. As I reflected on what and why I believe, I also traced the development of my faith through prior experiences and influences. I remembered specific individuals who either shared their faith with me or modeled their faith through their lives. Some were ordained ministers, but many were not.



Consider that you might be the one modeling your faith for others. You may be an influence in someone else's faith statement, maybe without even realizing it. In this summer time of transition, I

encourage you to pause and reflect on your own faith—what and why you believe and what that means for the way you live your life. The following passage was read at the confirmation banquet. I believe it is a good reminder for us all:

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15).

Be a Reading Buddy

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 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.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY MAY 2013

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/ (UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,719,269	\$1,920,862	(\$201,592)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$1,466,193	\$1,517,468	(\$51,276)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$272,370	\$268,700	\$3,670
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$19,293)	\$134,694	(\$153,987)

Thank you for your past generosity. As we enter the summer vacation season, please remember that ministry continues at FPC. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Janet Slayden, Church Business Manager, at 210-71-2751, or Butch Gerfers, Church Treasurer, at 210-479-9773.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SAN ANTONIO
Living to Make Jesus Visible

Love Handles—Making Jesus Visible in West

By Pat Brodeen

On April 22, God “nudged” me to collect tote bags for the people of West, Texas, who were so very devastated by the fertilizer factory blast. I sent out an email to members of the San Antonio American Sewing Guild and First Presbyterian Church San Antonio, requesting any sturdy tote bags or handcrafted pillowcases or tote bags for delivery to West in 48 hours. I was humbled by the response and the continued urging to continue this project for future Texas disasters.

Ken and I left on April 24 with more than 200 tote bags of every size and description—some brand new—and 10 of the most beautiful children’s pillowcases made by American Sewing Guild member Carol Coulter. The trip was difficult since the small town of 2,400 people had grown overnight to thousands attending the funeral of the Dallas firefighter who lived in West and died as a first responder. All of the roads we were told to take were closed, but one place of business was open and told us how to take the back roads to the fairgrounds where donations were being accepted. We found a very helpful state trooper who was speechless when I told her what we had brought. You have no idea how much the volunteers appreciated those tote bags! When I gave the pillowcases to a minister who promised to see that they were given to the youngest children most affected by the blast, he cried, and that made me cry too.

Since that day I have partnered with the Salvation Army who will see that future tote bags collected will go on the canteen

truck to Texas disasters and given to people searching for personal belongings. Those that are not hand crafted will be used to help distribute food and clothing. The hand-crafted pillowcases will continue to be given to youngest children most affected by the disaster. Pat Krueger, a friend from church, came up with the name “Love Handles,” which has become the name of this project.



In May, a friend of Debbie McCullough’s, Terry Fikes, drove hand-crafted tote bags (67) and children’s pillowcases (51) donated by members of the San Antonio Chapter of the American Sewing Guild to Norman, Oklahoma, where 100 families were given a place to live in the Walker Dormitory at the University of Oklahoma. Love Handles

is continuing to grow in several directions as God provides a way to deliver them to where they are needed most.

I am still a little overwhelmed by the whole project, and I have lots of things still to get organized...like where to keep all of these bags and pillowcases! But I do want to encourage everyone who can to participate in making the handcrafted items and to encourage everyone you know to begin gathering tote bags that are attractive and durable. This project, I hope, will continue for years to come. This is a small way to be a blessing to fellow Texans.

A box for donations will be at the Avenue E entrance and you can leave **canvas or vinyl tote bags on the first Sunday of the month.**

Moments to Hold Close

Overfed Yet Starving to Death

By Manuel Rodriguez



I was discussing nutrition with a co-worker of mine. He advised me that currently in our nation we are “overfed yet starving to death.” He went on to explain that our food sources have become sullied. Clean and pure fruits and vegetables have been replaced by processed foods and chemical induced produce. He further stated that we continue to eat more and more in hopes of

feeling better and filling an empty void in our stomachs, yet are left unfulfilled with the consumption of empty meaningless calories. What was once a country of clean agriculture has evolved into a land of filthy food sources.

Sadly, I think the same can be said of our nation's spiritual path. A nation once founded upon "In God We Trust" now turns to sexual depravities, drugs, alcohol, tattoos and foul language as a guiding path to our cultural existence. And much like our current food choices, we continue to consume more and more of these "empty caloric" depravities in hopes of filling the emptiness in our soul where our Father belongs. But when God is involved, there is always hope. As our nation seems to be attempting to make a conscientious choice towards a healthier diet, could it also be that we could elect to choose the same for our spirit? Certainly eternal life is of far more value than an earthly body which will eventually decay regardless of diet. I honestly pray for the fate of our nation, and encourage you to do the same, because right now spiritually, I feel that we are overfed, yet starving to death.



Alston Anthis



Crawford Banks



Kris Barton



Caroline Biggs



Ben Burkholder



Alex Enderlin

Abbie Farrimond – *I am ready to join FPC because I want to be a part of the bond that holds us together, all the believers of the one body of Jesus Christ, the Church. I want to help hold this church up, make decisions about where this church wants to go in the future, and I want to be a member sharing the love of Jesus Christ.*

Michael White - *I believe in this life to live for our neighbor.*

2013 Confirmation

Holly Higgins - *It's comforting to know that Jesus felt the pain we've felt. He wasn't treated like the King of kings. He was persecuted, humiliated and judged. Something I guarantee we have all dealt with. I believe that Jesus is God's one and only Son, that there is eternal life in heaven, and that the Holy Spirit is within us all.*



Abbie Farrimond



Maddie Guy

Luke Little - *One of the things that I believe is that Jesus is our Lord and Savior. He did not hesitate one bit on whether or not to die on the cross.*

Ben Burkholder – *My relationship with Jesus Christ is important to me because He guides me, answers my prayers and makes me proud to be a Christian. I am thankful that God gave me a family that loves me and cares for me.*



Sarah Howie

Taylor Cleaveland - *When I started coming to church, I realized that God was real. He started coming alive in ways that I haven't ever seen or felt before. I know that God is always there for me and will always have an unconditional love for me. I believe that through him all things are possible.*

James Taylor - *God wants us not only to study his Word and praise him, but he also needs us to apply our faith as Christians to the world.*



Photos by Shan



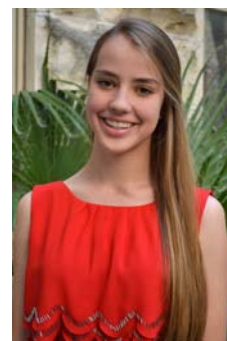
Jonathan McCutchen



Elliot Nash, Jr.



Sterling Rios



Ramsey Robinson



Aubrey Rosilier



Matthew Butler



Hatch Campbell



Taylor Cleaveland



Amanda Jasper



Ryan Dilling

*lieve God didn't just give
selves, but to live it in his
me.*

mation Class



Maddie Guy - *You don't need to have great faith in God, just have faith in a great God. And, luckily, for us, that's the only kind of God that we have. To have this faith, we are called to pray to our God and ask for our forgiveness for our sins because no matter how large or how bad our sins seem, I believe that God always forgives them.*



Hunter Farrimond

Caroline Biggs - *He leads me to the right paths, even if it doesn't seem like it at the time. I just need to stay open minded and trust that he has my best interests at hand. The Lord is my coach, the Bible is my manual and I plan to always be his player.*

Elliot Nash, Jr. - *When I do something good it makes God smile. Jesus is my friend. He has helped me when things become too hard for me. I accept him as my Savior.*



Holly Higgins



Parker Howie

Hunter Farrimond - *God's love is incredible, he loves everybody even though some people don't know he exists or they ignore him. It's hard enough for me to love my friends and some of my family sometimes and he does it constantly even when you turn your back on him.
Amazing.*

Parker Winton - *I believe that our church and our class have given me a better understanding of God and enabled me to make the best choices in life.*

Alston Anthis - *How I think of temptation is that we are a sticker, God is the wall, and Jesus is the glue. Satan is trying to remove us from the wall. He is just trying to get a little part of us up because if you get just an edge of a sticker off it is easier and easier to peel away. The cool thing about it is forgiveness it is like God just reattaches us to himself.*



Luke Little

non Beasley



Emily Stevens



Matthew Stevens



James Taylor



Parker Winton



Carson Wolff

Write to Your Sponsored Child in Malawi

Thank you to all of our congregation members who support kids and their families in Malawi! Together, we are taking a step of faith that God is able to work through us to help lead others to Him for His glory. What a great opportunity! This month would be a great time to write a letter of introduction and send a word of encouragement. Your sponsored child will feel thrilled and delighted when they feel your love and support in a message directly from you. Let them know they're in your thoughts and prayers!

Afraid of a blank page? Here's an example to help you start your own letter:

Afraid of a blank page? Here's an example to help you start your own letter:



why World Vision?

WE
believe
IN CHILDREN

Reaching their *full potential*

Free from poverty & injustice

Alongside families & communities



Motivated by our faith in Jesus Christ, World Vision serves alongside the poor and oppressed as a demonstration of God's unconditional love for *all people*.

OUR VISION FOR EVERY CHILD

Life in all its
fullness



OUR PRAYER FOR EVERY HEART

the

will

to make it so

Hundreds
of corporations

More than
1 million
supporters

Thousands
of churches



healthy



educated
for life



loved
& protected

we ARE

RESOLUTE

effective

compassionate

Christian

COLLABORATIVE

honest



hopeful



First Cup Readings — July, 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

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts to me! My thirsty soul desires and longs within Thy courts to be. My very heart and flesh cry out, Oh loving God, for Thee. Beside Thine altars, gracious Lord, the swallows find a nest; How happy they who dwell with Thee and praise Thee without rest; How happy they whose hearts are set upon the pilgrim's quest. One day within Thy courts excels a thousand spent away; How happy they who keep Thy laws nor from thy precepts stray, for Thy shall surely bless all those who live the words they pray. (Baptist Hymnal 1991, #523)

(Hint: In reading O.T. history, look for *principles* to apply today.)

- 1 (1 Chronicles 1-9: Genealogies - optional); 1 Chronicles 10; 2 Samuel 1; Matthew 5:43-48
- 2 1 Samuel 15:17-23; 16:1-13; 2 Samuel 3:1; 1 Chronicles 11:1-25; Psalm 33:12-22
- 3 Deuteronomy 7:1-6; Numbers 4:5-15; 1 Chronicles 13-14
- 4 1 Chronicles 15-16; Psalm 106
- 5 Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Chronicles 17; Hebrews 1:1-12; 1 Peter 2:4-10; Hebrews 12
- 6 1 Chronicles 18; Romans 12

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known. Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord, and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. Let those refuse to sing, who never knew our God; But children of the Heavenly King, but children of the Heavenly King, may spread their joys abroad, may spread their joys abroad. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion! We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful City of God. (Worship in Song, #325).

- 7 1 Chronicles 19:22:1; Psalm 119:65-80
- 8 1 Chronicles 23:1-5; 24-32; Psalm 134; Hebrews 8
- 9 1 Chronicles 28; Hebrews 9
- 10 Hebrews 10
- 11 1 Chronicles 29:1-20; 2 Corinthians 9
- 12 1 Chronicles 29:21-30; Acts 13:13-52
- 13 Deuteronomy 4:1-40; 2 Chronicles 1; Proverbs 3:1-18

I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold; I'd rather be His than have riches untold; I'd rather have Jesus than houses or land; I'd rather be led by His nailed pierced Hand than to be the king of a vast domain and be held in sin's dread sway. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today. I'd rather have Jesus than men's applause; I'd rather be faithful to His dear cause; I'd

rather have Jesus than world-wide fame; I'd rather be true to His Holy Name. I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today. (George Beverly Shae, #1965).

- 14 2 Chronicles 2; 1 Corinthians 12
- 15 2 Chronicles 3-5:1; Ephesians 2:19-22
- 16 2 Chronicles 5:2-6:42; 1 Corinthians 3:10-17
- 17 2 Chronicles 7; 1 Kings 9:1-9; Ephesians 4:17-32
- 18 2 Chronicles 8; Psalm 62
- 19 2 Chronicles 9; Matthew 6:19-34; 1 Timothy 6:13-19; Revelation 3:14-22
- 20 2 Chronicles 10-11:1-17; Exodus 20:1-6; Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 30:11-20

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? Fierce may be the conflict, strong may be the foe, but the King's own army none can overthrow. 'Round His standard ranging, vict'ry to secure, for His truth, unchanging, makes the triumph sure. Joyfully enlisting, by Thy grace divine, we are on the Lord's side, Saviour, we are Thine. (Worship in Song, #318).

- 21 2 Chronicles 12; Isaiah 55:6-11
- 22 2 Chronicles 13-14:1; Deuteronomy 20:1-4; Ephesians 6:10-18
- 23 2 Chronicles 15; 1 Chronicles 7:14; Psalm 81:8-16
- 24 2 Chronicles 16; 1 Corinthians 10:11-14; James 4:4-10; 5:13-19
- 25 Deuteronomy 11:13-32; 2 Chronicles 17
- 26 2 Chronicles 18-19; 2 Samuel 23:1-4
- 27 2 Chronicles 20-21:3; Exodus 14:13-14; Psalm 28:6-7

Blest are the pure in heart, for they shall see their God. The secret of the Lord is theirs; their soul is Christ's abode. The Lord, who left the heavens our life and peace to bring, to dwell in lowliness with men their pattern and their King; He, to the lowly soul doth still Himself impart, and for His dwelling and His throne chooseth the pure in heart. Lord, we Thy presence seek; may ours this blessing be. Give us a pure and lowly heart, a temple meet for Thee. (The Hymnbook, #226).

- 28 2 Chronicles 21; Galatians 6:7-10
- 29 2 Chronicles 22:1-9; Psalm 1; Proverbs 3:1-18
- 30 2 Chronicles 22:10-23:21; Proverbs 9:13-18; 14:1
- 31 2 Chronicles 24; Luke 11:33-54



First Cup Readings — August, 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 2 Chronicles 24:17-27; Leviticus 26; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
- 2 2 Chronicles 25; 32:7-8; Psalm 118
- 3 2 Chronicles 26; Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; Ecclesiastes 7:8-9

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore! Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore: Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, Rejoice! The Lord, the Saviour reigns, the God of truth and love: When He had purged our sins, He took His seat above. Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, Rejoice! Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come and to glorify the saints for their eternal home. Lift up your heart, Lift up your voice! Rejoice! Again I say, Rejoice! (Presbyterian Hymnal, #155)

- 4 2 Chronicles 27-28; Proverbs 13:5-6; 18:3
- 5 2 Chronicles 29; Psalm 66
- 6 2 Chronicles 30:1-31:1; Isaiah 55
- 7 2 Chronicles 31:2-21; Malachi 3
- 8 2 Chronicles 32:1-23; Psalm 68
- 9 2 Chronicles 32:24-33; 2 Kings 20; Proverbs 11:2; 16:18; 29:23
- 10 2 Kings 21:1-18; 2 Chronicles 33; Psalm 86

God is my strong salvation: What foe have I to fear? In peril and temptation my light. my help is near. Though hosts encamp around me, firm to the fight I stand: what terror can confound me, with God at my right hand? God's might my heart shall strengthen, God's love my joy increase. Mercy thy days shall lengthen; the Lord shall give thee peace. (Presbyterian Hymnal, #179)

- 11 Joshua 1:6-9; 2 Chronicles 34; 2 Corinthians 7:10
- 12 2 Chronicles 35:1-36:1; Jeremiah 22:1-12
- 13 2 Chronicles 36:2-23; Micah 7
- 14 Isaiah 3:1-4:6; 1 Peter 3:3-4; 1 Timothy 2:9
- 15 Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 3; Matthew 13:1-23
- 16 Isaiah 13; Matthew 24
- 17 Isaiah 14; Ephesians 2; Psalm 126

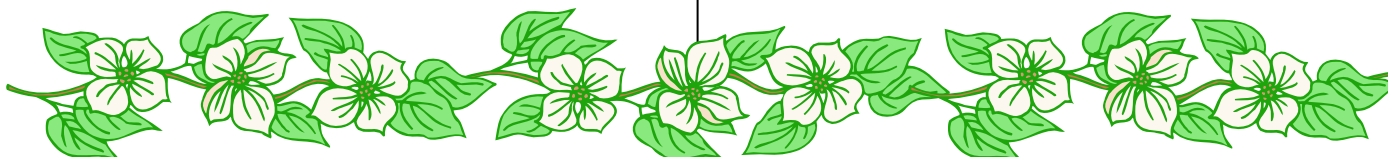
God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform; He plants His footsteps in the sea and rides upon the storm. You

fearful saints, fresh courage take: the clouds you so much dread are big with mercy, and shall break in blessings on your head. Judge not the Lord by feeble sense, but trust Him for His grace; behind a frowning providence He hides a smiling face. Blind unbelief is sure to err and scan His work in vain; God is His own interpreter, and He will make it plain. (Baptist Hymnal 1991, # 73)

- 18 Isaiah 49; 1 Peter 1:1-2:11
- 19 Isaiah 53; 1 Peter 2:12-4:19
- 20 Habakkuk 1-2:1; Psalm 13; 25; 85
- 21 Habakkuk 2:2-20; Romans 1:18-32; Hebrews 10:19-39
- 22 Habakkuk 3; Psalm 46
- 23 1 Thessalonians 1; 1 Corinthians 4:15-16; 11:1; Hebrews 6:12; 13:7
- 24 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16; 2 Corinthians 11:7-9; James 1:1-3; Romans 5:3-5

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. When darkness seems to hide His face, I rest on His unchanging grace; in ev'ry high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the vale. When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in Him be found; dressed in His righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne. On Christ, the solid Rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand, all other ground is sinking sand. (Presbyterian Hymnal, #379)

- 25 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Peter 5:6-11
- 26 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12; 1 John 3; Romans 13:8-14; Ephesians 4:28
- 27 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 1 Corinthians 15:12-58; Revelation 1:1-8
- 28 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28; Philippians 4:10-19; Proverbs 19:11; James 5:7-11
- 29 2 Thessalonians 1; Matthew 5:10-12; 10
- 30 Luke 17; 2 Thessalonians 2; Ephesians 1:3-14; Revelation 13:5-10; 14:1-13
- 31 2 Thessalonians 3; 2 Timothy 3; Deuteronomy 5:12-15; Proverbs 14:23; 28:19



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]



KEYS News

By Pat McCleary
Director, Older Adults

Welcome to Summer

While the KEYS programs are on summer break, we still are gathering for many events and the KEYS Leadership Committee is busy planning fall events and trips. We invite you to join us this summer for a time of fun and fellowship!



Friday, July 5 – KEYS Leadership Committee will meet at 9:30 a.m. Please submit any suggestions for programs that you would like to hear this fall.

KEYS Bridge happens Fridays July 5, 12, and 26 at 11:00 a.m. and you may bring your lunch (please note summertime change). Please contact Katy BeDunnah at 210-945-9789 or Katy.bedunnah@att.net. Remember studies have shown that bridge is a mind booster. To be sure you have a “full deck” later in life, play bridge!

Mah Jongg – The FPC Mah Jongg group currently is playing at the church twice a month on Fridays. All players are welcomed. Most current players are true beginners so on going instruction is available. The group uses Wright-Patterson rules and rule books will be ordered for you. Interested? Contact Nancy Black at (210) 493-1609. Come enjoy the shared laughter and stimulating play of this popular tile game.

Celebrate July birthdays with us at Milano's Restaurant located in The Elms at Wurzbach and Lockhill-Selma on Friday, July 19 at 11:30 a.m. Virginia Nilsson is serving as chair. Cost is \$12/person except for our birthday honorees who receive a complimentary meal. Reservations and menu selection must be made no later than noon Monday, July 15.

Northwood Presbyterian Church is presenting a theatre presentation of the 1940s play *Harvey*, about a woman who wants a normal life, but has a brother whose best friend is an imaginary six-foot-tall rabbit named Harvey, in July. Would you like to attend a dessert matinee performance on July 21, at 2:30 p.m.? Cost \$15. Contact Pat McCleary at 21-0271-2726 if you are interested, and she will make reservations!



Special Event: Sinful Sisters and Fallen Floozies II: The Matriarchs. Thanks to Bob Esquenazi who was the high bidder at the HNS Gala, we are winners of one performance of an **original musical by the Women Players of Northwood Presbyterian Church** so mark your calendars for Saturday, July 27, 12:30–1:30 p.m. for an entertaining afternoon followed by dessert. Cost is \$5/person including play and dessert. Call 210-226-0215 for your reservation by Tuesday, July 23.

Mark Calendars for August:

Friday, August 16 – Birthday lunch at the Hyatt Hotel, Riverwalk – Watch for details to come later.

Wednesday, August 21 – “Learn @ Lunch HEB Central Market.” 11:00 a.m. This has become an annual private event for us and the menu will be provided at a later date by Mary Martini, Director of the School. We can only accommodate 30 people for this special event so make your reservation early by calling Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726. Cost is only \$25/person.

Happy Birthday, Arthur!



Arthur Newton, profiled in the June issue of First Press, celebrated his 100th birthday after worship services on June 2, 2013, surrounded by friends and family



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Pastor Trey Little's Twitter Handle: @treyhlittle

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Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchSanAntonio

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Give Blood July 14

Did you know that one unit of donated blood can help save up to three lives? The blood you give today can help someone tomorrow. Your chance to make Jesus visible to South Texans in need of blood is Sunday, July 14, when First Presbyterian Church teams up with the South Texas Blood and Tissue Center. Give any time between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Learn about donation requirements at www.southtexasblood.org.



End-of-School Year and Spring Cleaning Time!

Do you have stylish semi-formal or formal dresses and accessories (think: prom) that you could offer to teenage girls in foster care? Our partner in serving the community, Court Advocates of San Antonio (CASA) is accepting new or dry-cleaned dresses.

CASA advocates serve kids who have come into state care not by their own fault but due to acts and/or neglect of their parents and caregivers. Most have experienced severe emotional trauma, as well as a variety of other results of their former home life.

Offer your dress to CASA and help a teenage girl to experience that even just for a day, life can be beautiful. Contact Tara Barisic, tbarisic@casa-satx.org or 210-225-7070.