



First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible



Families Serving Together

Pastor's Pondering

Searching for the Golden Arches

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



Can you see the "Golden Arches?"

That was often a question we asked our kids when we would travel on family vacations this time of year. Whether it was driving to the mountains of Colorado or the beaches of Florida, we would often look for the "Golden Arches." Of course, people are still looking for

them—and people are still stopping at McDonald's for a little "fuel" as they travel the countryside.

However, I recently read an interesting article that gave me a new appreciation for looking for the "Golden Arches." In fact, I think it is something that we can apply to our vision here at First Presbyterian Church. Looking for the "Golden Arches" may indeed contribute to us living to make Jesus visible. I know...it sounds a little strange. But stay with me on this.

The article is entitled "McDonald's Theory." The author writes: *"I use a trick with co-workers when we're trying to decide where to eat for lunch and no one has any ideas. I recommend McDonald's. An interesting thing happens. Everyone unanimously agrees that we can't possibly go to McDonald's, and better lunch suggestions emerge. Magic! It's as if we've broken the ice with the worst possible idea, and now that the discussion has started, people suddenly get very creative. I call it the McDonald's Theory: people are inspired to come up with good ideas to ward off bad ones."*

Brilliant, don't you think? The premise of the "McDonald's Theory" is that someone has to take the first step. However, as

the article states, *"There's no defined process for all creative work, but I've come to believe that all creative endeavors share one thing: the second step is easier than the first. Always."* The point is, many of us never take the "first step."

Therefore, I have a challenge for you this summer. I want to encourage you to look for the "Golden Arches." In other words, I want you to share your ideas on how you/we are living to make Jesus visible. I want to invite you to take the first step by emailing your ideas to judsont@fpcsat.org, post them on our Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/FirstPresbyterianChurchSanAntonio, or tweet them to @FPCSanAntonio and be sure to include the hashtag #MakeJesusVisible. The hope is that when we share these ideas, perhaps it will be the catalyst for others to join in the action.

Ephesians 3:20 says: "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."

Dream a little this summer! Trust the Lord can and will give you ideas on how you can make Jesus visible. Then, share them and invite others to join you. This may just be the best summer you have ever had—even if you don't eat a single McNugget!

Keep smilin' and keep lovin' and keep dreamin'. Can you see the "Golden Arches?"

Peace,



Church Register

MARRIAGES:

Joshua Robert Jaco and Kelsey Ann Ray
April 6, 2013

John Franklin Summers and Virginia Lamar Spencer
April 27, 2013

Bryan Gee Anderson and Shelly Christine Jewett
May 4, 2013

Steven Andrew Beeler and Tracie Lynn Satel
May 18, 2013

BIRTHS:

Anna Nadine Evans, daughter of Katy and Todd Evans
March 30, 2013

BAPTISMS:

Cara Marie Mustol, daughter of David and Anna Mustol
April 28, 2013

Aiden Rivera, Son of David Rivera and Raven Chapa
April 28, 2013

Flora Jewel Mya Esquivel, daughter of Tara Esquivel
April 28, 2012

Jamal Daniel Hodge son of John Hodge and Christina Rivera
April 28, 2013

Christina Monique Rivera—April 28, 2013

Raven Christina Chapa—April 28, 2013

Lundia Lave Koch, daughter of Joseph and Rebeka Koch
May 12, 2013

Tristan James Clark, son of Daniel and Caroline Clark
May 12, 2013

Fellowship and Fun for the Fourth

By Kay Kutchins

It's time for FPC's **Fourth 4th of July Picnic**, only this year it'll be part of our Sunday, June 30, worship services and fellowship celebrations.

Yes, friends, it's on **June 30!**

The calendar is really messing with our minds; for at least the next four years, July 4 is a non-Sunday weekday. But that just means First Presbyterian Church celebrates our freedoms, our church community, and our many blessings with great music, fantastic food, and hearty fellowship on the Sunday *before* July 4.

So, once again the Sanctuary Choir will host the fried chicken lunch. Salads, veggies, desserts come from the best kitchens in San Antonio—YOURS! Our friends from KEYS will again have its Ice Cream Social as part of the dessert offerings. The church will provide water and lemonade.

Food will be served buffet style in the Nowlin Tower area and on the patio following worship services. We'll have seating in Westminster Hall, as well as on the patio.

Sanctuary Choir began this FPC event in 2010, when the Fourth of July fell on the Fourth of July. We thought an all-church picnic would be a great way to continue a holiday that is especially meaningful. That first year, we had 300 pieces of chicken and 225 people. In 2011 we feasted on July 3 and had 300+ people attending. Last year, it was July 2, and we counted 430 people who devoured 500 pieces of chicken. We're hoping to have 500 friends join the event this year.



So, here's the drill...

Wear patriotic colors: red, white, blue.

Bring food—salads, fruit, beans, veggies, dessert when you come to church. There will be Sanctuary Choir and KEYS members at the Avenue E and Alamo Street entrances to receive your food and keep it cold or warm in the kitchen.

Worship and enjoy familiar and new music from our worship teams in traditional and contemporary services.

Pick up a plate and service, help yourselves to food and drink, find a place to sit - hopefully with someone you may not already know well, and enjoy.

Get dessert: Ice cream, cookies, brownies, lemon bars, pies, cakes—we'll have 'em all.

Now about that music...

In traditional services the Sanctuary Choir will be joined by a brass ensemble for anthems, hymns, prelude/postlude and, of course, "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" as a benediction response. Get ready to sing such hymns as "God of Our Fathers," "Eternal Father, Strong to Save," and "My Country 'tis of Thee."

Plan to stay after worship and enjoy this free church-wide event. Bring friends to worship and stay for lunch. You'll be glad you did.





Carl Medearis

Attend the Connecting Mission Leaders Conference in September

First Presbyterian Church San Antonio is proud to let you know that registration is now open for Connecting Mission Leaders, a conference for Presbyterian congregational mission leaders from the ECO, EPC, Fellowship of Presbyterians and PC(USA), held at First Presbyterian Church San Antonio **September 19-21**. The conference is sponsored by The Outreach Foundation, The Antioch Partners and Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship. Carl Medearis will be the featured speaker; he is the author of *Speaking of Jesus: the art of not-evangelism* and *Muslims, Christians and Jesus: Gaining Understanding and Building Relationships*.

Beginning with dinner at 5:30 pm on Thursday, September 19, and concluding with lunch on Saturday, September 21, the conference will include four talks by Carl, worship, breakouts, free time and networking opportunities.

See www.connectingmissionleaders.com for more details and registration.

Got Room for Mission?

Do you feel called to the ministry of hospitality? First Presbyterian Church Missions is looking to build a list of potential host homes for when our missionaries come in town. If you are an empty nester, a retiree, an at-home mom, someone with a garage apartment, or even just an open bedroom, please let the Mission Department know that you might be willing to donate your space!

There is no obligation on your part, and we would call upon you maybe once a year for a day or so depending on your availability. This is a great way for you and your family to build a friendship with someone from another culture or someone serving in another part of the world.

Please let Alyssa Payne know if you are willing to consider this as an occasional possibility in your home by emailing her at alyssap@fpcsat.org.



Stephen Ministry: Celebrating the Summer

Summer is upon us, and many church members will be taking it easy in the sun.

But, for the Stephen Ministry corps of First Presbyterian Church, the lazy days of summer present a challenge to get an aggressive program ready for a busy fall.

Our Stephen Ministry group is launching a new awareness campaign at the end of summer, and a special workshop on what opportunities Stephen Ministry offers will be planned. Stand by for details.

The Stephen Ministry Network in San Antonio, in which First Presbyterian is an active member, will be participating in a more extensive workshop for prospective Stephen Ministers on Saturday, Sept. 14. The workshop will be held at Zion Lutheran Church. Once again, be watching for more details.



Finally, First Presbyterian again will be partnering with Alamo Heights United Methodist Church in offering the full 50-hour Stephen Ministry class for prospective new Stephen Ministers. The class will kick off the last Friday night and Saturday of September and will continue once a week until shortly after the beginning of the year. Watch this space and the church bulletin for details.

We know many church members are interested in becoming Stephen Ministers or recommending someone who might benefit by having a Stephen Minister as a caregiver. Contact the

Rev. Scott Simpson at 210-271-2712 or scotts@fpcsat.org, or one of the Stephen Leaders, Karin Gabrielson, 333-4239, or Karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com, or Joe Rust, 824-5948, or texwriter@grandecom.net, for more information. The door is open for blessed service as a Stephen Minister. Come on in.

TEAM NEW JERSEY



**Travel to
Toms River, NJ
AUGUST 2-7, 2013
to rebuild homes
destroyed by
SUPERSTORM SANDY**

Cost: \$300

**For more information contact
Claire Plantenga, clairep@fpcsat.org**



Rebuilding, Resilience, and Restoration in Toms River, New Jersey

An interview by Claire Plantenga with FPC member Candy Wagner

When Hurricane Sandy hit New Jersey last October, our brothers and sisters in Christ at Toms River Presbyterian Church witnessed the 820-mile wide storm devastate every aspect of their lives. Even though many of those affected continue to suffer immense, ongoing feelings of grief and loss, they have chosen as a congregation of believers to accept the reality that a God who loves, redeems, and restores can work even in the midst of their brokenness to make Jesus visible to their community.

Our congregation had the privilege of participating in their ministry of rebuilding homes and restoring hope in New Jersey earlier this year. FPC member Candy Wagner shares her experiences in New Jersey in the interview below. A second group of FPC members will travel to Toms River in August to continue in this outreach. Thank you, to all who have supported our FPC members through your finances and prayers to serve Hurricane Sandy survivors in New Jersey.

What image will remain in your memory when you think about this trip? Describe what you are thinking of and why the image is so clear and lasting.

Actually, there are two images. The first is the image of walking into the house we were going to work on for the first time. I can still see the destruction and smell the smell from the damage the water had done and feeling so overwhelmed and just trying to imagine what the people who lived there were feeling and going through! My heart just broke for them, especially as we moved out their remaining belongings to begin to work. The second image is, of course, of the house four days later. The house was all cleaned out with new sheetrock and subflooring. It was so amazing to be a part of it all and see it happen and to see how God worked through all of us! The memory is so clear and lasting because none of us knew what we were in for and God gave each of us special strength and skills to make it happen! There are so many

other things like being part of a team, making new friends and building special relationships. And of course, John's leadership (and patience) was amazing!

What were your favorite activities during the day? During the evening?

Working with the team was wonderful! But, as crazy as it sounds, our lunch break was wonderful. We drove to the WaWa, which is the local convenience store, bought our lunch and all sat in our suburban where we said grace, ate our lunch and talked about the morning's work and shared together. It was a special and fun time! John got us all together each evening to go over our day, to pray and to share with each other about where we had seen Jesus that day. A very special time!

Were you able to use gifts from God that you already knew you had been given? Did you feel like you excelled in an area that you didn't expect?

I do have a God gift of being an encourager and I was certainly able to use that. God surprised me everyday giving me strength I never knew I had and abilities I never had before! Who would have ever thought that I would be hanging sheet rock?

What advice would you give to others who may want to participate in mission trips?

GO! If you feel God's call, answer Him and go. He will give you the skills you need beyond your imagination and He will use you in ways you have never imagined! And, you will receive so much more than you give. You will be blessed to be a blessing!

For more information on how you can participate in disaster relief locally and globally, contact Claire Plantenga at clairep@fpcsat.org.



Reading Buddy Program Continues to Make Jesus Visible

First Presbyterian Church member Amy Zesch volunteers with a local educational program of San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL), under sponsorship of our church. She participates in the second grade Reading Buddy Program, an early intervention program focused on promoting the literacy skills of elementary school children who are at risk of school failure due to poor reading skills. The monthly First Press church news magazine featured this initiative in the April issue.

Amy recently received this thank-you note from Yvonne Clemons, second grade teacher at WW White Elementary School, and we wanted to share it with you.

May 9, 2013

Dear Mrs. Zesch:

Thank you for taking time to work with my students. Each of them looked forward with excitement to the days that you came not only to read with them, but perhaps more importantly, to spend one-on-one time with them.

I know your presence made a huge difference in their progress this year. Your flexibility and willingness to work on assignments in which we were engaged when you arrived, in addition to helping with planned reading activities, magnified my own effectiveness as well.

Children who love reading become lifelong readers and learners. That is a precious gift you have cultivated in your young protégés. Your impact on the children also has a positive impact on the community and your continued support will help lay the foundation necessary to ensure their bright futures. Thank you for being dedicated and working to bring hope to my students and the community.

The light and love of our Lord Jesus Christ is visible through your work with his children. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Yvonne Horne Clemons
2nd Grade Teacher
WW White Elementary School

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 April 2013

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/ (UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$1,467,192	\$1,591,365	(\$124,174)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$1,218,715	\$1,259,492	(\$40,777)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$204,285	\$211,251	(\$6,966)
NET INCOME/LOSS	\$44,192	\$120,622	(\$76,430)

Giving in April was well below budget while expenses were slightly above budget, resulting in a negative net operating result for the month. We believe that God has amazing plans to continue to bless the people of this city through the generosity of His faithful servants at FPC. Please pray that God will reveal to you how He is calling you to participate in His plans for us to live to make Jesus visible in the city and throughout the world. If you have any questions please contact the Finance Office at 271-2755.

Small Groups, Food Bank and Braggin' Bucks: Nowhere Else But FPC

By Kay Gerfers

On Friday, April 12, participants of the small group ministry at First Presbyterian Church connected at the End of the Year Celebration. Small groups usually meet in homes as a, well, small group. They study the Scripture and pray together. Each semester they undertake a service project. They do a lot of things together, but they do it in small groups. The End of the Year Celebration was their chance to come together under one roof as a large group and celebrate all that occurred since last September.

However, the event wasn't just a social time; it was also an opportunity to make Jesus visible to the people served by the San Antonio Food Bank. It began with a scrumptious dinner that was catered by Catalyst Catering, the social enterprise of the Food Bank, which generates funding with its services. A food donation competition gave individual groups the opportunity to win the "Distinguished Honor of Winning" by bringing the most food to donate, measured in pounds. Bill and Linda Ruhmann's group won with almost 200 pounds of food. Food collected and donated by all groups was almost 500 pounds. Eric Cooper, president and CEO of the Food Bank, gave back to the gathering by delivering an inspiring story of hope, forgiveness and redemption as he described the work of the Food Bank and how hunger had touched his own family.



The food competition was only one way for a group to show that they were the best, all in fun, of course. A donation to the Food Bank of at least a dollar bought Braggin' Bucks which gave group members the opportunity to extol the virtues of their particular group. It seems several groups have the best snacks. Other groups told how their service project helped the community as well as brought members closer together. There were stories about friendships made and strengthened and the care given to members in times of crisis. It was clear that for each member the best group is their own group because it is the place where they are accepted and cared for just as they are.

The next year of small groups begins in September with sign-ups on Sunday, September 8. More information will be publicized during the summer. We also need facilitators. If the End of the Year Celebration sounded like fun to you, give small groups a try. And we'll hear from you next year during Braggin' Bucks.

For more information, please contact Kay Gerfers, kgerfers@flash.net or 210-862-9999.

Moments to Hold Close

Now

By Manuel Rodriguez



Our family has just concluded track, the last activity of the school year. It makes me recall my cousin's last track meet years ago. He ran the 800 meters, once believed to be an endurance race, and now has become an all-out grueling two lap sprint.

My cousin had raced against the same boy for four years, always coming up short; this would be their last encounter. The other boy was ranked number one in the state. My uncle could barely contain himself as the coach explained the strategy for this final race. My cousin would remain right on the other boy's heels, just a hair away from clipping him with every stride. The idea was to wear the other kid out, and for the last two hundred meters my cousin would kick with everything he had for the finish line. My uncle stated, "Sounds good," and invited the coach to join him at the finish line. The coach declined. My uncle was shocked and asked why. The

coach responded, "Because that's not where he's going to need me. On the last curve he will feel abandoned, lonely, and hurting the most, and at this point he will begin to doubt my plan. That's where he will need me, so that's where I will be."

The race unfolded just as the old coach predicted, and on the last 200 meters you could begin to see my cousin shake in agony and it looked as though he was losing faith. It was at that moment the coach was standing right beside him and bellowed "NOW! NOW!" Almost in total obedience and with a new sense of strength, my cousin sprinted to the finish line, completely defeating the entire competition. Everyone minus the coach was waiting at the finish line to celebrate.

Is it any different in our own lives? Everyone wants to be there waiting for us to celebrate when we win, but our Father is the one who has a winning plan for us, knows when we will feel the most desolate, the most abandoned, the most lacking in faith, and He is there standing beside us yelling NOW. I encourage you to evaluate your own life and for just a small moment not concentrate on the pain or doubt you may be experiencing, and I actually believe you will hear our Lord telling you, NOW.

SUMMER INTERNS 2013!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



Hi! My name is **Elizabeth Ellery**. I am originally from San Angelo, Texas, where my parents still live and I call home. I graduated this May from Abilene Christian University in Abilene, Texas with a degree in Psychology and minor in Biblical Studies. My dream is to become a School or Child Psychologist, so graduate school will be in my near future. I am so excited to be working in San Antonio at First Pres this summer! I am excited to work in the children's ministry this summer, and I pray that God uses, challenges, and grows me in ways I never thought were possible. I look forward to meeting you and having a great summer together!



My name is **Bianca Cruz Peralta**, born and raised in El Paso, Texas. Faith has been and forever will be my foundation. I attend the University of the Incarnate Word where I am studying marketing and minoring in communication arts. I love connecting to my new community here in San Antonio. I really enjoy meeting and interacting with new people. I am passionate about fashion and expressing myself.

YOUTH MINISTRY



My name is **Hannah Zesch** and I am a sophomore at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington. At Whitman, I volunteer with the Buddy Project, am in a sorority, and I enjoy studying outside. I have called FPC my home church for all 19 years of my life and I am very thrilled to come back for another summer with the youth group.



Hi my name is **Josh Kettles** and I am a senior at the University of San Diego in California. I am originally from Lake Forest California. I am an English major with a creative writing emphasis and a classical studies minor. At school I am an Intervarsity leader, I volunteer with various programs at my church, and I lead a Bible study at a local high school. I am excited to learn about the culture of San Antonio and to have the opportunity to show the youth how much God loves them!

Day Camp Ministry



My name is **Sydney Franklin**; I am coming from Columbus, Ohio. I was born and raised in Fort Pierce, Florida, where I attended Indian River State College majoring in Criminal Justice. I love spending my time singing, writing music, and mentoring troubled teens. I am in love with Jesus Christ and have served him as my Lord and Savior for 12 years. I am very excited to be a part of the 2013 Day Camp with these awesome kids. I come with experience in child care bringing tons of energy, humor, loving, and care. I am enthused about spending the next 12 weeks with your children.



My name is **Lees Romano** and I am a sophomore at Rhodes College. Given that I grew up in the Children's Center and at First Pres, I am so excited to be "coming home." I love being outdoors, knitting, reading, and spending time with family and friends. I have wonderful memories of being at camp and am looking forward to making this summer special for some new campers.



Families Serving Together

On Sunday, April 21, families gathered together for our Family Serve Day. This was a great opportunity to not only learn about mission work, but to actually be a part of serving others. Families had the opportunity to choose to visit one of three places for the morning.

There were 43 people who made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, and walked them over to CAM. Once there, they toured the facility to learn what services are provided there, and then were able to serve again by making more sandwiches, sorting clothes, and

putting food on shelves. The families who went to CAM said they appreciated being able to work together.

Several other families drove to Respite Care, where they learned about the facility, the children who live there and the needs they have. Then they were just able to offer the children and their caretakers a break by just playing with the children. This was an eye-opening experience for many as they learned of the difficulties of caring for a child with special needs.

Other families went to the Children's Bereavement Center to take a tour. They learned of the services provided for children who are suffering the loss of a loved one, and they were able to take some teddy bears to add to their supply.

Many thanks to Mike Charlton, Mary Henderson, Kenda and Roger Crider, and Dana Carter for making arrangements for our families to serve others.



Youth Sunday 2013 Was a Blessing

By Rev. Ruthie Seiders

On April 14, 2013 seven seniors and a group of other middle and high school youth arrived at church to serve as ushers, greeters, preachers, worship leaders, singers, musicians, and liturgists. These fine

young men and women led us in worship for our annual Youth Sunday. Preaching from the same sermon series which had launched just the week before by Senior Pastor Trey Little, the seniors brought their own experiences and thoughts to the text from Matthew 5:13-16, the salt and light passage from the Sermon on the Mount.

The preachers were Sarah Howie, Virginia Seal, Sarah Monroe, Austin Henderson, Isabel Haring, Brock McKelvey and Jim Bugg. All are graduating seniors and each had a different perspective on the text. We were blessed to hear their insight and to celebrate how God is at work among our youth at First Pres. Senior Kathleen Keahey also played an important role by being present to open both traditional worship services with the call to worship and confessions.

In addition we were blessed to be led by underclassmen reading parts of the service, prayers, prayers and liturgy. Many thanks to Allison Coe, Lucy Youngquist, Katie Shute, Carter Shute, JT Garcia, McNeilly Hays, and Sophia Gilmour. Thanks go out to the Youth Choir as well: Katie, Clara, and Carter

Shute, Allie Byrd, Emma Whitworth, and Sarah Monroe with Tom and Jae directing and accompanying them. Senior Jayme Greene played her oboe beautifully during the offertory. And we are thankful to worship leader Josh Fenoglio for leading the youth worship band in contemporary with Jim Bugg, Tom Bugg, Sterling Rios, Rebecca MacNair, and Will Berton. People were greeted warmly in contemporary by Grace McKelvey and Austin Garcia as well as in traditional by Elizabeth and Camilla Kampmann.

After worship the families of our seniors gathered in the downstairs of the New Covenant Building for a delicious meal served by the junior parents. We celebrated each senior, shared stories with one another, and signed the mats to the beautifully framed black and white prints of the church that each one received as a gift. Ruthie Seiders spoke briefly about how this was her first Confirmation class she had for a full year (of which 18 of the 27 still actively engaged in church!) and shared quotes from their statements of faith to encourage them that they have grown in their journey and to continue to find a place to grow and serve as they move on to college. After a time of sharing where they are heading Youth Ministry Associates Wilson Nicholson and Jerren Jafarbay gave each student a copy of the devotional *My Utmost for His Highest* by Oswald Chambers and a stone with a cross on it for their parents to hold, knowing they place their sons and daughters in God's hands as they go off to college in the fall. After a time of prayer for the seniors our Youth Sunday left everyone feeling loved and blessed by God's faithfulness in the lives of our young people!



How Session Works

The Purpose of All Worship

By Amy Zesch

Worship is a multi-faceted and miraculous practice of Christian discipleship. In the act of worship we hear God's Word read, sung, and proclaimed. We confront and confess our sins, voice our prayers, affirm our beliefs, and offer our gifts to God. We learn ways to apply scripture in our lives and, by the work of the Holy Spirit, are transformed to better serve God in the world. It is in worship that we observe the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper, acknowledging our need for God's grace and remembering Jesus Christ's sacrificial love for us. Despite all of the benefits we receive, we must never forget that **the purpose of all worship is to praise and glorify God!**

The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or "Book of Order" dedicates an entire section to the practice of worship. Known as the "Directory for Worship" (Directory), it is *not a service book with fixed orders of worship, a collection of prayers and rituals, or a program guide. Rather it describes the theology that underlies Reformed worship and outlines appropriate forms for that worship.*¹ This theology is based on the Bible and instructed by the Book of Confessions.² Recognizing that there are many ways for devoted Christians to express love and praise for God, the Directory offers congregations a great deal of leeway in styling appropriate worship. Decisions about how worship is practiced in each Presbyterian church are the responsibility of the session of that church--the pastors (teaching elders) and the elders (ruling elders). In making decisions, the session is charged to *seek openness to the creativity of the Holy Spirit, who guides the church toward worship which is orderly yet spontaneous, consistent with God's Word, and open to the newness of God's future.*³

As you can imagine, many elements combine to create meaningful and powerful worship. Sessions refer to the Directory for guidance about all kinds of details: time, place, materials, and music, for example. There are explanations about activities that should be included in Reformed services and suggestions for how to order them appropriately. There are clear instructions about the session's responsibilities for Baptism and the Lord's Supper. The Directory also addresses many types of worship services besides those on Sunday mornings: healing services, weddings, memorial services, ordinations, etc.

You might be interested to know that the scope of worship, as it is addressed in the Directory, reaches far beyond formal

church services. Section W-1.1005b states: *The Christian Community worships and serves God (1) in shared experiences of life, (2) in personal discipleship, (3) in mutual ministry, and (4) in common ministry in the world.* Accordingly, the session is charged with responsibility for educating and nurturing church members in practices of personal worship and discipleship. With the deacons, the session is called to extend pastoral care to those in need. In fact, everything that a congregation is led to undertake in mission and evangelism is regarded as a worship opportunity!

On behalf of the Session, I encourage you to explore what the Book of Order's Directory of Worship has to teach us about praising and glorifying God. Specifically, Chapters V, VI and VII contain wonderful information about worshipping the Lord in personal quiet time, in our homes, in our service within the church, and as we seek to make Jesus visible in the world. You can access The Book of Order online and free of charge by visiting <http://store.pcusa.org/OGA11010>.

All citations from the *Book of Order: The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)*; 2011/2013.

- ^{1,2} Preface to the Directory for Worship
³ Chapter III, W - 3.1002

Session Minutes in Seconds

The Session at its regularly Stated Meeting on 5/13:

Had dinner with this year's Confirmation Class (students and parents), listened to faith statements and voted to receive all 28 as the newest members of our congregation.

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

Received the Clerk's Report.

Received reports from various committees:

Seminarian Oversight Committee – visit from seminarian Ashley Drake Mertz

Personnel and Property

Presented plans for upgrades and improvements to the New Covenant Building (passed)

Presented motions regarding the merger of the University Ministries Committee and the Young Adults Committee (passed)

Presented plans to search for a Director of University Ministry and Young Adults Ministry (passed)

Approved a request to provide opportunities for members to Renew Baptism Vows.

Elected Tripp Stuart as the new Clerk effective June 2, 2013.

Called a Special Meeting of the Session for June 2 to approve the examination of new officers.

Recognized and thanked outgoing elders for their service.

Thanked Polly Spencer for her service as clerk.



Words from our Deacons

By Lynn Thompson

I want to share with you some special words from our Deacons. Recently, Deacons responded to what we enjoy the most about serving at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio. Enjoy this sample of comments:

I enjoy...

- ... seeing a smile, making a difference, seeing someone through a tough time or being there to listen.
- ... visits with individuals.
- ... showing Jesus to someone who needs to see Him.
- ... visiting and sharing with members.
- ... meeting others and serving together.
- ... being a part of a vital and needed ministry that truly touches members' lives.
- ... home visitation ministry is truly a blessing.
- ... calling on people at home and in the hospital.
- ... the privilege of visiting and praying with members of our church who are ill, confined, or grieving.

I enjoy ...

- ... prayers in the chapel.
- ... after worship prayer in the chapel following the service.
- ... prayer after worship encourages me to have an open heart because any need may be coming our way.

I enjoy ...

- ... serving communion as it is a privilege.
- ... being a server for communion.
- ... one of the great joys of being a Deacon is the honor and opportunity to serve communion during the church service.

I enjoy ...

- ... having such wonderful flower arrangements to take to our members.
- ... such a delight to have flowers to take on hospital visits.

I enjoy ...

- ... learning so much from the monthly book studies, especially for grief situations.
- ... the fellowship and testimonies of other deacons.
- ... being in the same room with such a caring group of people has opened my heart and allowed me to see Jesus.
- ... updates at Officer meetings.
- ... working with the Elders on the church vision and mission.

I enjoy ...

- ... delivering seasonal flowers like poinsettias and lilies to our at-home members.

Finally, this deacon seems to speak for us all: *"It is truly a blessing to be able to serve the Lord in this small way. I am humbled and honored to be able to serve as a Deacon at First Presbyterian Church."* To the members of our congregation, thank you for letting us into your lives. You make Jesus visible to us. We just hope to help others along the way.



Age Is Just All in Your Mind

Intergenerational relationships blossomed in First Presbyterian Church's McCullough Room on Sunday, May 5, as KEYS hosted the church's second annual "Meet, Greet & Treat" reception to honor Older Adult Week. This special week each year is designated by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Between 100 and 125 people of all ages attended the reception, proving that age is just a state of mind.

Char-An Witten and Virginia Nisson co-chaired the fancy reception, in which guests were treated to all sorts of cookies, cheeses and vegetables.

Helpers in the KEYS-sponsored all-church event included Mary Kincaid, Jane Warren, Liz Wright, Katie Bedunnah, Mary Alice and Paul Fuller and Joe Rust. A special cheer goes to Kay Kutchins, who last year gave the first annual event its cheerful name. Older adults can have fun, too!



KEYS News

By Pat McCleary
Director, Older Adults

KEYS Programs Take Summer Break

It's time for our Summer "vacation"! Our regular Friday luncheons and speaker programs ended May 31, but don't think that puts an end to KEYS activities. We continue our Step & Stretch, birthday luncheons, and movies. Plus we are planning some special summer events, to be announced later.



Step & Stretch Fitness Class continues during the summer! Join us each Friday at 9:45 a.m. June through August.

KEYS Bridge will continue during the summer months with play on Fridays (except the third Friday) beginning at 11:00 a.m. If there is sufficient interest in a "refresher" bridge table, please contact Katy BeDunnah at 210-945-9789 or Katy.bedunnah@att.net.

Mah Jongg will be played on June 14 and 28 at 11:00 a.m. Please contact Nancy Black if you are interested in playing at 210-493-1609.

AARP Driver Safety Classroom Course Tuesday, June 18, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Designed for drivers 50 years and older. Cost is \$12/AARP members and \$14/for nonmembers. For reservation, call Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726.

June Birthday Celebration Friday, June 21, 2013, 11:30 a.m. at Paloma Blanca, 5800 Broadway. June 21 Cost is \$12/person except for our birthday honorees who receive a complimentary meal. Reservations must be made no later than Monday, June 17.

4th of July Picnic Sunday, June 30, 2013, following worship services. KEYS volunteers needed to help receive food brought in for the All-Church Picnic and Ice Cream Social to celebrate the Fourth of July. Sign-up sheets available at the June luncheon.



Remember reservations: Please make reservations by the Tuesday before each Friday program by calling the church office at 210-226-0215. If you are on the permanent list for lunch, you only need to call if you cannot attend. Regular programs begin at 11:00 a.m. (unless otherwise specified), followed by lunch (\$7).

First Cup Readings — June 2013

Dear Family in Christ,

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

Blessings and love in Christ,
Sandy Sturch & Claire Avery



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

- 1 1 Peter 1; 1 Chronicles 29:15; Psalm 39:12;
Hebrews 13:13-16; Ephesians 2:1-13

Hear my words, O gracious Lord, to my thoughts attentive be. Hear my cry, my King, my God, and I will make my prayer to Thee. With the morning light, O Lord, Thou shalt hear my voice arise, and expectant I will bring prayer as morning sacrifice. Thou art holy, O my God, Thou delightest not in sin. Evil shall not dwell with Thee, nor the proud Thy favor win. (The Hymnbook, No. 48)

- 2 1 Peter 2:1-12; Romans 13:8-14; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17;
6:19; Psalm 65:1-4
3 1 Peter 2:13-3:22; Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Romans 13
4 1 Peter 4; Philippians 1:27-30; Revelation 2:10
5 Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-4; Matthew 9:36; John 10:1-18;
1 Peter 5
6 Matthew 17:1-8; 2 Peter 1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Psalm 119:105; 2 Corinthians 4:6
7 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6
8 Ezekiel 12:21-28; 2 Peter 3; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms; what a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, leaning on the everlasting arms, I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, leaning on the everlasting arms. (The Baptist Hymnal, No. 371)

- 9 James 1:1-8; Romans 5:1-5; Job 28:20-28; Psalm 90:12;
Proverbs 1:7; 8; 21:30
10 James 1:9-11; Psalm 49; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 18:18-30;
1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19
11 James 1:12-18; Matthew 6:9-13; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
10:12-13; Galatians 6:1-5
12 James 1:19-27; Psalm 119: 97-112; 4:4;
Ephesians 4:17-32; Proverbs 15:1; 29:11
13 James 2:1-13; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 3; 14:21;
Luke 10:25-37
14 James 2:14-26; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 7:21-27; 25
15 James 3:1-12; Proverbs 4; 12:19; 16:23-30; 18:6-8;
26:20-28; 27:2; Psalm 12; 141

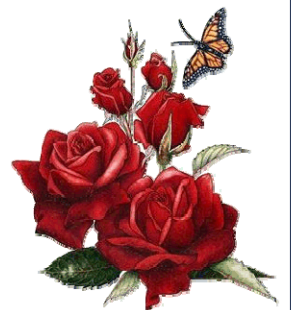
God, be merciful to me, on Thy grace I rest my plea. Plenteous in compassion Thou, blot out my transgressions now. Wash me, make me pure within; cleanse, O cleanse me from my sin. Gracious God, my heart renew, make my spirit right and true. Cast me not away from Thee; let Thy Spirit dwell in me. Thy

salvation's joy impart, steadfast make my willing heart. (The Hymnbook, No. 282)

- 16 James 3:13-18; Proverbs 29:23; Matthew 20:20-28;
23:1-12; Luke 22:24-30
17 James 4:1-12; Proverbs 10:18-21; Matthew 15:10-20;
Titus 2:11-15; 1 John 2:1-17
18 James 4:13-17; Matthew 6:34; Proverbs 3:27-28; 16:9;
19:21; 27:1; Psalm 139
19 James 5:1-6; Leviticus 19:9-13; 24:14-15;
Matthew 6:19-21; Hebrews 11:24-26
20 James 5:7-12; Job 1:1-2:10; 42; Romans 12:6-21
21 James 5:13-20; 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:1-37; Acts 9:36-43;
Romans 8:26-28
22 1 John 1:2-14; Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21; 8:12;
12:35-50

Who trusts in God, a strong abode in heaven and earth possesses; who looks in love to Christ above, no fear his heart oppresses. In Thee alone, dear Lord, we own sweet hope and consolation; our shield from foes, our balm for woes, our great and sure salvation. Though Satan's wrath beset our path, and worldly scorn assail us, while Thou art near we will not fear, Thy strength shall never fail us. Thy rod and staff shall keep us safe, and guide our steps forever; nor shades of death, nor hell beneath, our souls from Thee shall sever. (The Hymnbook, No. 375)

- 23 1 John 2:15-27; John 15:1-17; Titus 2:11-14
24 1 John 2:28-3:24; Psalm 119:1-16; 66:16-20;
Romans 8:1-17
25 1 John 2:22-23; 4:1-6; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;
Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1-3
26 1 John 4:7-21; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13
27 1 John 5; Jeremiah 7:1-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32;
James 5:13-20
28 2 John; Romans 16:17-20; Colossians 1:21-23;
2:6-8; Hebrews; 10:35-38
29 3 John; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 5:9-10;
1 Peter 4:8-10; Philemon 8-22
30 Jude; John 10:1-18; Psalm 23

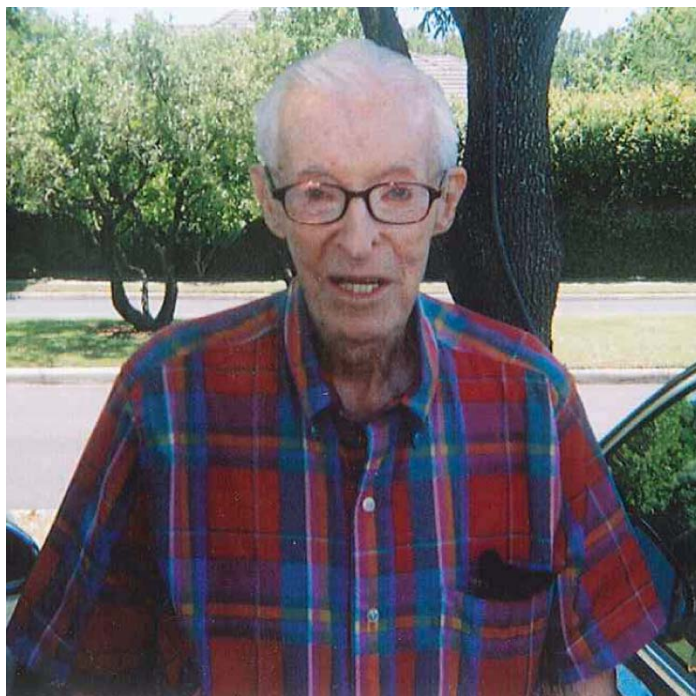


First Cup Prayer List



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]



Arthur Newton: A Century of Christian Service

By Joe Rust, Deacon and Stephen Ministry Leader

One of the most loyal attendees at the second traditional worship service at First Presbyterian Church each Sunday is a spry 100-year-old man who sports a dry wit and a contagious, almost mischievous, smile.

He is Arthur Newton, a fourth-generation First Presbyterian member, retired scientist, and friend to many.

Arthur was born the youngest of six children to Carrie Boyle Newton and Frank Richards Newton on May 27, 1913, in a no-longer-existing home on Flores Street near what now is Fox Tech High School. He attended Stephen F. Austin and Travis elementary schools, Mark Twain Middle School, old Main Avenue High School (now Fox Tech), as a member of the last graduating class in 1931, and the San Antonio Junior College before entering the University of Texas at Austin, where he majored in zoology and received a degree in bacteriology. While at UT, he was a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity and still attends gatherings of the Beta alums in San Antonio.

He joined the U.S. Army shortly after our nation entered World War II, serving in a mobile hospital in Europe. Near the end of the war, he escaped being shot by about 15 feet when a German pilot strafing a convoy overshot his target and fired (hopefully in error) on the hospital where Arthur was serving.

After the war, he re-entered UT and received a master's degree in mycology, a branch of microbiology specializing in fungi. He remained in the Army, serving during the Korean War in Tokyo, where he and a Taiwanese scientist worked on special microbiology projects. He left the Army in 1968 with the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Arthur's ancestor had been a congregational missionary in Connecticut, but traveled around the nation. He settled in San Antonio during the 1840s and joined the Presbyterian church which had been founded by John McCullough, our church.

Even though Arthur's parents were members of First Presbyterian when he was born and he grew up in the church, no record of his baptism was found. So, when he came back to join the church in 1951, he was baptized, likely for the second time. (That Chinese-design furniture in the foyer on the third floor of the church's education building was a gift to the church from a member of the Newton family, to honor Arthur's parents).

In the 62 years since this last baptism, Arthur Newton has served God and his church well. He was a deacon and ran the church library for about eight years. He now is a member of KEYS and attends the spring and fall special Bible studies as a member of Ron Baker's men's small group. Arthur recalls that the first small group in which he was a member was chaired by George Sturch when George first came to the church.

Arthur is well known for his astute observations on life and his friendly demeanor. To what does he attribute his longevity? "I don't really know," he told us. "I didn't plan it. It just happened."

He does not offer a philosophy on life, just that he has been blessed in it. His Christian service is ample evidence that he lives a life exhibiting this blessing. Wryly, he recently observed during a discussion in his Bible study on sin, "At my age, there are no sins left."

Arthur is known for being a quite active citizen at 100 years old. He still attends public events. This past Fiesta week, he was observed having a good, and quite late, time at the ball for the queen of the Order of the Alamo, in which he is quite likely the oldest member.

His health? He is doing quite well, thank you, even though walking long distances now is a bit of a problem. Recently, the doctor told him he has a "little" heart problem. How little? he asked. "I can't really say how much," he doctor replied. "But, you have to remember that your heart is 99 years old."

And, Arthur is well known as the fellow who drives that late-model green Jaguar automobile often parked in the special parking lot behind the church. He became a fan of that luxury auto brand when he first saw one in a showroom in London. He has had four of them.

We just can't help but wonder if they have Jaguar automobiles in heaven. If they do, we can be assured that when Arthur Newton gets "elderly" and God calls him home, that he will be driving one of those Jaguars in paradise.



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Pastor Trey Little's Twitter Handle: @treyhlittle

First Presbyterian Church's Twitter Handle: @FPCSanAntonio



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Global Missions Committee Now Recruiting New Members

The Global Missions committee is a group of FPC members who share a passion for making the name of Jesus Christ known and glorified worldwide. We meet monthly to learn about current events in global missions, we invite missionaries and pray for them, and we work as a team to steward the financial blessings of the church. To be a part of this ministry, contact Alyssa Payne at alyssap@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2742, or Claire Plantenga at clairep@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2724.

SERVE on the

Local Missions Team

Help steward the benevolences of First Presbyterian Church as they are joyfully given back to our community. Make Jesus visible in San Antonio! Contact Claire Plantenga at clairep@fpcsat.org for details.



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