



First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible

Transforming Our City Together



San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic staff and volunteers gathering for voluntary prayer



Living to Make Jesus Visible.

Pastor's Pondering

We're Glad You're Here!

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



I hope this newsletter finds you having had a wonderful summer. Did you catch that—having “HAD” a wonderful summer. Sorry to be the “joy stealer” but summer is over. School is back in session. Many of you have made your way back to church! By the time you read this newsletter many of you will no longer be able to wear that favorite pair of white shoes because it will be after Labor Day (don't ask me why I know that—I'm just sayin').

Perhaps you are like me and find yourself reflecting on where you have been and not been this summer. I recently ran across a humorous look at that very topic:

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favorite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenalin flowing and pumps up the old heart!

Friends, I have some great news. You are welcome here at First whether you come alone or with someone. We want to not only recognize you here but we long to get to know you. Although it may appear that we are doing some “crazy” things around here you can be confident that all we do, whether in word or deed, is done for the Glory of God. There are many different ministries and Christian education opportunities for you to “jump” into this fall. And here at First, we are committed to TRUSTING our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in all aspects of our lives.

However, there are times that we will all need to be flexible—after all, if this was a perfect place, filled with perfect people, none of us would be able to be here. So now is the time for you to use your God given capabilities and join us for exciting worship, engaging study, and energizing service.

You see, there is no “suspense” in what we are about here at First: we are Living to Make Jesus Visible!

Summer may be over, but “Living to Make Jesus Visible” is available every day!

I look forward to seeing you on September 8 as we “kick off” the fall together.

Keep smilin' and keep lovin'.

Peace,



Kick-off Sunday is September 8

Blended worship at 9:00 and 11:15 a.m.
Dress comfortably
Bring a friend

The entire church will become a grocery store!
No Sunday School at 10:00 a.m.



Join us September 11

Children's Choirs 5:00-5:45 p.m.
Full-meal dinner at 5:30 p.m.

Special program at 6:30 p.m. (see back cover)
Children's program 6:30-7:30
Monthly youth group for all 6th-12th-graders in the First Pres Student Center, 5-7:30 p.m.
Childcare available throughout the evening during programming times.



BIRTHS:

Isabella Victoria Diggs, daughter of John and Victoria Diggs
July 10, 2013

Robert Conrad Fry, son of Casey & Elizabeth Fry
July 21, 2013

BAPTISMS:

Ella Estelle Johnson, daughter of Clyde and Kim Johnson IV
August 11, 2013

Rainey Vaughn Janke, daughter of Kirby and Paula Janke
August 11, 2013

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

Discover First!

Want to Know More about First Pres and Explore Membership?

Four-week Class Begins September 15, 2013
In the Geneva Room (second floor)

Interested in discovering more about the faith, mission and people of FPC? Attend Discover First! On four consecutive Sundays, meet for a class to learn more about the joys of following Christ and of being a member of this family of God. Explore the mission and defining values of First Presbyterian. Get to know others who are new to the congregation, meet staff and members, learn ways to get involved and realize how important you are to the church. Attendance at Discover First! does not obligate you to join, but it does prepare you to become a member should you choose to do so. New members will be received on October 13 at one of the worship services.



Sun, Sept. 15 – What does it mean to be a Christian?

Sun, Sept. 15 – Dinner at Pastor Trey Little's house - 6:30 p.m.

Sun, Sept. 22 – What does it mean to be a Presbyterian?

Sun, Sept. 29 – What does it mean to be a disciple?

Sun, Oct. 6 – What does it mean to be a member?

Sun, Oct. 13 – New members received.

Information cards are available in the narthex and Mauze Lobby—please share them with visitors and friends.

To register for the class or questions: Stacie Rodriguez
stacier@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2759

Back to School BBQ

Sunday, September 8, 2013

1:00-3:00 p.m.

San Antonio Campus of the Girls' Home
6355 Whitby Road, 78240
Rain or shine!

**You are invited to attend the Presbyterian Children's
Homes and Services Back-to-School Barbecue**

Presbyterian Women and Local Missions have long supported Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS), and many of the children who are a part of the PCHAS family attend First Presbyterian Church. The entire congregation is warmly encouraged to come to this back-to-school barbecue for the food and the fun.

About PCHAS: Since its beginnings in 1903 as an orphanage in Dallas, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services has been providing residential care and other services to children and families with no place else to turn. They serve children from birth to age 17 who have suffered from neglect, abuse and



abandonment, or children whose families are experiencing some type of crisis, such as the death of a parent, divorce, illness, violence, homelessness, parental drug/alcohol abuse and other issues that threaten family stability. Whether it's through one of the group homes, a foster home, the Child and Family Program, or the Advanced Education and Aftercare Program, they do all they can to help show the children in their care that they are beloved children of God. PCHAS has a group home in San Antonio that currently houses six boys and four girls, and has a child and family counselor working in the area, seeking to provide stability within the home and the family, to prevent the removal of children from their family unit. Learn more at pchas.org.

For more information, contact Betsy Zachry at 210-262-1236.

Transforming Our City Together

Why San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic Says “This Is My FPC”

By Gloria Z. Canseco, Executive Director, San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic



Clinic volunteers Ricardo and Anita Ramirez

This summer, San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic received a call from a woman at a corporate dental chain who asked if we could see a patient who needed twelve extractions. The worker told us Monica's insurance only covered three and that the corporate supervisors would not provide any care without compensation.

Normally, a patient with dental insurance would not qualify for services at our clinic, yet Monica was in such pain that she was unable to eat. The resulting malnutrition prevented her from reaching the healthy weight level she needed in order to proceed with treatment for multiple sclerosis. An executive decision was made and Monica was treated immediately.

Our staff juggled to squeeze in an appointment. Our dentist came in on an “off” day just to see Monica. Our First Pres volunteers processed paperwork even as Monica was in triage. The clinic was able to successfully provide Monica the extractions and dentures she needed.

Shortly afterward, Monica sent us a lovely thank you note, joined our prayer circle picture, and blessed us all. She then made a personal donation that we are certain was excessive for her situation. Monica told us the gift was the result of a calling from Christ.

As I write this story, Monica is sitting in the patient recovery area where everyone is greeting her by name. One of our docs stopped by to give her a hug. Another dental assistant offered coffee. Our Executive Director chatted for a bit and found that she is gaining weight, getting MS treatment, and grinning from ear to ear as she noted that her daughter is now receiving dental care.

One life: one world—all begun with seeds of love planted by members of First Presbyterian Church.

The San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic (SACDC), a Christian ministry founded in 1986 under the auspices of First Presbyterian Church, puts faith into action by providing free dental care for impoverished and homeless Bexar County adults who lack access to oral healthcare. The work of the clinic is truly God's work, relieving pain and restoring health for many adults who do not qualify for government programs and might otherwise go without care.

Our FPC church has been the backbone of SACDC since the clinic's birth under the leadership of Vicky Le Pere, Orvis Meador, and Louis Zbinden. Since then, our FPC ladies (and a few men) have led the clinic from two chairs and a single staff member to 12 chairs, four private operatories and a full-fledged team of over 16 personnel and contractors and over 250 volunteers.

SACDC is unique to Bexar County in that all services are provided at no cost to the patient. Prosthetics are provided at minimal cost, yet are sometimes free for patients meeting qualifications associated with donor-restricted support. While similar Bexar County agencies offer dental programs with sliding scale fees, the clinic relies on private support and boasts no taxpayer impact since it accepts no government funding.

Our FPC has helped us to offer a full range of dental services, and to offer clinic volunteers an outlet for personal service. As Haven for Hope partners, we are helping to foster personal responsibility while playing a key role in helping homeless adults toward independence and self-sufficiency; sometimes through recovery; and especially to employability.

In 2012, 2,941 unduplicated patients were treated over the course of 8,969 patient visits. One or more procedures were performed per visit for a total of 55,077 procedures with a retail value of \$2,880,848. The clinic hosts a tuition-free Registered Dental Assistant (RDA) training program to prepare disadvantaged young adults for employment.

With revenues based uniquely on private support and largely dependent on foundations and in-kind professional services, the SACDC funding model succeeded for many years. Although the move to Haven for Hope and the partnership with UTHSC Dental School have provided exciting opportunities for growth, 2012 presented a dip in the financial support that drives our mission.

Who responded to our first outcry during this challenge? Our FPC! With an immediate response from FPC direct patient care continued undiminished. As such, we are able to move forward to 2013, SACDC's goals include providing onsite dental care disadvantaged Bexar County adults.

Thank you FPC: the genesis of our family of faith and service at San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic!

Treasures Galore Behind the Library Door

By Pat O'Neill

Learning Resources Galore

With a new program year about to begin, many members will be involved in teaching, facilitating, or attending Sunday School Classes, Bible studies, or small groups. Our First Presbyterian Church library has many resources available to assist you. For example, you will find a wide selection of Bible commentaries including all of Barclay's commentaries. In fact, there is a commentary in our library for every book of the Bible. In addition, there are many resources for small groups to use such as Max Lucado's *Life Guide Bible Studies*, and several series by Willow Creek and Intervarsity Press. If you are teaching a class, or just teaching your children at home, you may also want to check out the library's collection of Bible dictionaries, Bible Atlases, and Bible encyclopedias.



the library as well. We also have audio books and an extensive collection of CD's and DVD's related to a variety of Christian topics.

FPC Bookstore

The FPC Bookstore, located right next to the library, is open on Sunday mornings. It's a great place to pick up a small, meaningful gift to take on a hospital visit, or to give to a special friend or family member.

We have one-of-a-kind items for sale from Sus Hijas, made by the women of House of Neighborly Service, one of our local missions, and also from Viva Bookstore on Broadway.

We would also love to give you information about volunteering in our library! Please call or e-mail Pat O'Neill; 210-822-2393 or peoneill@sbcglobal.net.

Recreational Reading and Tons of Kids Books

Our library is not just about reference material. There is also a wonderful collection of fiction and nonfiction books available for check out. Books are available for all ages, with special sections of the library set up especially for children and for teens. The Literature Circle has already chosen its reading selections for the upcoming year and all of those books are available in

Free WiFi in the Library!

As you may know FPC is now fully wired for WiFi. The library is the perfect spot to curl up in a cozy setting and enjoy browsing on your favorite internet device. The library is generally open when the church is open. So come on in and discover the treasures galore behind the library door!



Moments to Hold Close Pearls of Wisdom

By Manuel Rodriguez

Have you ever stopped to think about how fascinating pearls are? The finest quality natural pearls have been highly valued as gemstones and objects of beauty for many centuries, and because of this,

the word pearl has become a metaphor for something very rare, fine, admirable, and valuable. Here is where it becomes a little strange, the only reason that pearls exist is that an irritant has formed inside the mouth of the mussel and a pearl is formed in an effort to overcome the irritation. But it gets better: pearls are so desired that if an oyster is fortunate enough not to have an oral annoyance, farmers place one inside their mouth so that they are forced to create a pearl. Imagine this animal, having a great day just happy as a clam and boom, something uncomfortable placed in his mouth.

What annoyances or irritations are you facing in your own life? Is it possible that once you overcome them, you too will have created a pearl that otherwise would have never existed? I encourage each of you to reflect upon any trials and tribulations and embrace them knowing full well that if God is with us, then who can be against us. I feel confident that eventually something wonderful and glorious will emerge, even more wonderful than a pearl.

Pastor Emeritus Louis Zbinden Celebrates 50 Years of Ministry



First Presbyterian Church Pastor Emeritus Louis Zbinden was ordained 50 years ago, August 18, 1963.

Congratulations, Louis, and thank you for your years of wisdom, kindness, encouragement and great love for Jesus Christ.

Saying Goodbye to La Meseta and the Dominican Republic

Written by Candy Wagner

This last trip to the DR was amazing. We all bonded so beautifully as a team (nine women and three men with an age span of 16 to mid 70s!) and we felt God's presence from the moment we gathered at the airport. Once there, we built latrines, did home visits, visited the AMO Christian learning program and held VBS at the Community Church. There are so many wonderful memories that I came home with, but one very special memory is of a grandmother I met on our first work day. I was on the a.m. latrine team, and we headed out walking to this house that was about a mile away. When we arrived, the woman of the house came out to greet us – this beautiful grandmother who I imagine was about 75 but looked much younger, with this beautiful skin, white hair and a baby on her hip. After chatting with her for a while, we got on to our work but were noticing some really black clouds building up. We were just about through with the form for the foundation when the rains came. The house had a small covered porch and our sweet friend ushered us all over there. A little rain turned into a downpour and she insisted that we come inside her home. The living area was about 12'x6' and with the two overstuffed chairs, it was a tight squeeze! I was thankful to be out of the rain but was really thinking that surely God would make it stop so we could keep working and finish the latrine for this woman who really needed it!



It was then that I started visiting with my friend, the grandmother. She told me about her family and that she only had four grandchildren and that the other six or seven running around were cousins or neighbors that she took care of. I told her I was so sorry about the rain and that I was afraid we would have to come back the next day because everything was too wet! She looked at me with those beautiful bright eyes and a smile and said "Oh, no! This rain is a blessing from God! If it doesn't rain, our crops don't grow and we don't eat! There will be time for the latrine!" This was a perfect example of being more blessed than I could ever bless! I can still see her as if it were yesterday. Her face may fade in my memory, but I will carry her and the lessons she reminded me of in my heart forever. She was living God's agenda, not ours! She was living "Give us this day our daily bread" and that all things happen "in God's time." What wisdom and faith!



I could tell you story after story – of special moments, sad moments, precious children and holding little babies. We were welcomed like royalty and loved so beautifully and unconditionally and thanked profusely and joined them in their unreserved worship and praise! But in all that, we all received so much more than we could ever have given. My heart is so full of joy, love, hope and some sadness in leaving and some frustration that we can't do more. But then, I remember my friend who reminded me of her blessings and "in God's time!"



Imagine looking through a pair of glasses with red stripes on the lenses. The entire world would seem to be covered with red stripes, and a person may not be able to imagine that the red stripes could ever be removed and allow clear vision. ***Our worldview, the ways in which we view the world, impacts EVERYTHING in our lives.***

Before a worldview of Biblical truth existed in La Meseta, Satan clutched onto families for generations and entrapped them into poverty through the worldviews of syncretism, Voudou mixed with Roman Catholicism, animism, the idea that all things both animate and inanimate have a soul and are spiritual, and fatalism that humans live in submission to an evitable fate.

These beliefs paralyzed the community and prevented them from taking responsibility for their actions and seeking to improve the world around them. As Food for the Hungry came into the village, they sought to change the old worldview of the residents, removing the red stripe and allowing them to see clearly, by the truth of the gospel.

Now, many residents have entered into relationship with Jesus Christ, there is a thriving church and children's ministry there, and the community knows how to improve sanitation and health by building their own latrines. God has transformed this village, and we are thankful that He has allowed us to be a part of that as we have witnessed this growth these last 10 years of taking trips there!



The Transformation of the Community of La Meseta

Food for the Hungry (FH) responds to God's call to walk with churches, leaders, and families in overcoming all forms of human poverty.

Residents of La Meseta and FH join together to **identify critical needs** and to **develop a long-term plan** for sustainable, holistic community transformation.

FPC responds to God's call to make disciples of all nations by partnering with La Meseta, **supporting and encouraging** each other, learning how to live in healthy relationship with God.

FH employees work with the local church, school, government, community leaders, and families to identify and address spiritual and physical needs. **FPC sends on average two mission teams per year to support specific goals.**

FPC members begin to develop **awareness** of community needs and **advocate** in a variety of ways (examples: writing letters of encouragement, fundraisers selling Dominican coffee, hosting a "Hunger Banquet" and funding a community water well)

FPC commits to faithful prayer and financial support of God's work through FH in the following areas: community sponsorship, spiritual growth, training and leadership development, nutrition, church strengthening, health, sanitation, education, agricultural practices, and basic infrastructure.

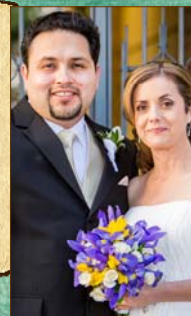
Community begins to replace lies from Satan with worldview that reflects Biblical TRUTH, including the following:
God is real. God loves us. He created each of us for a unique purpose. Children are a gift from God, and we are all created in His image. Human life has value. God has chosen humans to be dominant over animals. Work is a blessing, not a curse. Ideas have consequences.
(note: these are just a few examples of Biblical worldview)



"Although I was able to help build a house and feel the accomplishment of helping others, I received far more than what I gave. Their definition of compassion, love, and generosity exceeds what any dictionary could ever define. I learned that even though their village is poor and small, the community is rich in love."

—FPC member Courtney Biggs

Local church begins to embrace their role within the community, **Families** begin to incorporate the truth of the Bible into daily life, **Leaders** are encouraged and empowered to love their neighbor as they work to reach shared goals.



Ernesto and Michelle Rocha met briefly in 2005, but became reacquainted during the 2010 mission trip. They were married at FPC in 2013 by their trip leader (Rev. John Seiders) and will always hold a special place for the DR in their hearts!



Derek and Claire Plantenga served as missionaries with Food for the Hungry as a response to God's calling during their mission trip to La Meseta.



Laura Abrams, missionary with InterVarsity, initially participated on the 2009 mission team. She's working on a new partnership with FH near La Meseta.

Over 100 FPC members witness God's transforming power in La Meseta during short-term mission trips. **God also transforms FPC through this relationship** into a more compassionate group of believers, **eager to faithfully participate** in God's story of redemption for all nations. **Several members also respond by serving Him as international missionaries.**

FPC and FH begin to "phase out" of active involvement. **God has always been in La Meseta, the residents now worship His holy name, and God will be with them always.** Through partnership, we have all learned together what God asks of us, no matter where we live: **to seek justice, love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.**

Testimonies from La Meseta

My name is Everluz Urbáez Rosario, FH Coordinator of Child Transformation for the Border Region of the Dominican Republic. When I began working in the community of La Meseta in 2004, I felt sad to go there because I knew the habits of the community. Upon arrival, I would always see groups of children and teenagers hanging out on street corners playing betting games for money, getting high on drugs, and generally up to no good. This caused a lot of anxiety for me, and I worried that my own life was in danger.

I went to the school requesting to use a classroom for the initiation of a Christian education curriculum [introduced to the community by First Presbyterian Church] known as "AMO" (Apacienta Mis Ovejas). The teachers told me very bluntly, **"Everluz, we feel sorry for you. You obviously don't understand that these are kids from La Meseta; they cannot control themselves, they behave terribly, and they don't obey anyone."** I left my first session of AMO with a sore throat and a headache, but I didn't let myself get discouraged, because I was confident in my belief that God could do something within these children through AMO.

About a month later, it was clear that God was transforming the heart of the children. People who walked by the open windows of the classroom didn't even realize there were kids in there because they had been able to develop an appropriate attention span and had learned to have self-control. The students began to incorporate Biblical worldview into their everyday life. **I rejoiced that the messages of the AMO classes were making a positive impact and I felt even more motivated to keep working for the Kingdom of God through this curriculum.**

After only one year of AMO, **my two classes (around 90 total) accepted the Lord.** They have become leaders within the congregation, with some leading Sunday School classes for the younger kids of the community and others preaching the gospel, all for the purpose of winning more souls for Christ. **There are also many parents of these children who have accepted Christ** after seeing the lives of their children transformed through this program.



My name is Hilda Lima Roa, FH Child Development Worker from the Border Region of the Dominican Republic. Georgina, age 13, grew up with a worldview resulting from her environment. In Georgina's rural community near the border of Haiti, young girls were raised in dysfunctional families, completely immersed in poverty, witchcraft, disease, substance abuse, and gambling. Her parents and teachers called her disobedient. Her older brothers called her violent. Even the neighbors complained about her poor behavior. **What possible hope exists? Does God know her? Does He care about her life? Is there anyone out there who will live to make Jesus visible in her life?**

After noticing the dramatic positive changes in other neighborhood kids, Georgina's parents decided to enroll their daughter in FH's youth programs. Georgina began to understand through studying the Bible that her disrespectful actions were not in line with God's desires for her life. She began to pray and to trust in God. She returned home from each meeting with "Blessing Cards" which listed her specific prayer requests with a note asking her parents to pray for her as well. She gave them to her mother, who quickly dismissed the power of prayer and casually tossed the cards aside.

One day, a medical crisis shocked the family and Georgina's distraught mother nearly followed the advice of her neighbors to seek a cure from Voodoo witches. Then she remembered her daughter's Blessing Cards. She reflected upon how much Georgina's life had transformed through prayer, how she developed hope and faith in the one true God and firmly trusted in Him, rather than in rituals of witchcraft. Taking a first step of faith, Georgina's mother began to pray. **In God's own perfect timing, He was able to use Georgina's faith developed during an after-school program to eventually bring her entire family into a relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.**



Georgina and her family are grateful to God for the changes that he has brought to the community through FH working in partnership with a group of believers in San Antonio, Texas. She now has hopes and dreams: **"When I grow up, I would like to be a teacher so that other children can be transformed like me."**





Over 100 Mission Trip Participants from First Presbyterian Church have witnessed God's Power to transform an entire community in the Dominican Republic, over the last 10 years, including:



Laura Abrams • Matthew Anderson • Anna Claire Beasley • Craig Bell • Courtney Biggs • Jeremy Black • Leslie Boyd • Helen Boursier • Mike Boursier • Michael Bova • Andrew Carter • Marshall Carter • Nic Castro • Grace Cox • Brady Davis • Ronni Davis • George Davis • Becky DeWees • Edward DeWees, Jr. • Susi Ecklemann • David Faber • Shane Fitts • Candace Foxworth • Allison Fredrick • Byron French • Chelsea Garcia • Craig Goedecke • Phyllis Griffin • Ruth (Anderson) Harbaugh • Brock Hewitt • Annbelle Hochenadel • Daniel Hogberg • Amy Howe • Roland Jellett • Margaret Judson • Amy Kerkhoff • Josh Kerkhoff • Chelsea Kujawa • Sherry Kusenberger • Emily Lane • Minnie Lane • Madison Madrid • Sarah Mallow • Ben McCaleb • Matt McCaleb • Teresa McCaleb • Ken McCollister • Vija McDill • Meara McMains • Christy Moore • John Scott Mooring • Suzanne McNeel • Jaclyn Metcalf • Anna (Dutcher) Mustol • Pamela Neumann • Arturo Ortiz • Susan Pamerleau • Karen Pappas • Shannon Pappas • Frank Patton, Jr. • Jacalyn Patton • Claire Plantenga • Derek Plantenga • Alexandra Ponton • Amy Poole • Jennifer Pruessner • Bianca Quezada • Ben Quirk • David Ribble • Zachary Richter • Ernesto Rocha, Jr. • Michelle (Montanio) Rocha • Corrie (Costenbader) Roehm • Robert Roehm • Bob Rhynsburger • Lauren Sadler-Davis • Corey Sanders • Courtney Schultz • Brian Sherman • John Seiders • David Smith • Janelle (Heim) Smith • Josh Smith • Lexi Smith • Merle Smith • Rachel Spencer • Judson Taylor • Sean Tefteller • James Thompson, Jr. • Hudson Thrift • Mary Tobin • Sonia Torres • Yvonne Torres • Carolyn Tuley • Candy Wagner • Heather (Hooker) Wauchope • Allison Weaver • Anna Wise • Bob Wise, Jr. (and many more!)

Making Jesus Visible in Malawi, Africa



Our journey with La Meseta has reached a conclusion. ***However, this is not the end of us making Jesus visible around the world!*** Our next partnership will begin a new chapter in Africa, in the village of Mutendere, Malawi.

On Palm Sunday of 2013, we joined as a community of believers to faithfully commit to sponsoring over 250 children. At the time, it was announced that there may be the possibility of visiting sponsored children in the future. **In less than six months, God placed a desire within the hearts of many congregation members to become a new group of witnesses to God's work of transformation and redemption around the world.** The community of Mutendere has invited us to visit at the end of October 2013, and with joy we will send twelve team members into our next exciting adventure of faith, to begin a new partnership with a new group of friends. Our hope is that both the community of Mutendere and the community of FPC will be forever changed, transformed, and blessed by our relationship with one another.

The 2013 team consists of Trey Little, Carrie Jowers, Elizabeth Tichy, Bill Tichy, Josh Fenoglio, Holly Youngquist, Lindsay Blackmon, Mike Munroe, Anna Claire Beasley, John Culp, and will be led by Alyssa Payne. Each team member is being asked to raise at least \$1000 to help cover the cost of their trip. If you would like to give towards one of these team members, or to the group as a whole, please write a check to FPC, and in the memo line write Africa 2013, as well as the name of the person you would like to contribute towards. Any donations raised over each person's goal will go towards the overall cost of the team. We appreciate everyone who will partner with us through your investment of prayer, encouragement, and/or finances.

If you would like us to visit with your sponsored child, or take a very small light-weight gift to your child for you, we are happy to do so. For more information on this or financial donations, please contact **Alyssa Payne**, alyssap@fpcsat.org or call (210) 226-0215, ext. 242. **Many of us are already amazed at the ways God is working and moving in the hearts of the congregation to invest ourselves in this Africa partnership.** The 2013 trip is full—and in fact, we have over 30 people already hoping to join the team going out in 2014! Please pray for our group and our trip over the next few months that we will do our best both to SEE Jesus as we go—and to make him SEEN!



Names Matter—Building Relationships Like Jesus

By Amy Zesch

One of the final classes I had to take in business school was referred to in hushed tones as “Integrative.” It was a challenging course designed to pull together many concepts we had previously studied and prepare us for success in the business world. On the first day the professor strolled in, surveyed the room, and began to call roll. There was not a note in his hand – he had already learned our names. As he called them one by one he studied our faces. From that day forward he knew all fifty of us on sight! You can imagine the kind of respect he earned from students in those first few moments. Lesson one in “Integrative” was unmistakable and powerful: *Names matter; making the effort to learn them and use them would be important to our success in business.*

Jesus understands the importance of knowing people – not just their names, but also something about them. In John 1:47–51, Nathanael is eager to follow Jesus because Jesus clearly demonstrates that he already knows and cares for Nathanael the instant they first meet. Likewise, Jesus calls to the tax collector Zaccheus by name and encourages him to come down from the tree. Zaccheus responds by welcoming Jesus into his home for dinner (Luke 19:1–6). The Samaritan woman at the well is astounded to discover that Jesus knows her story. When Jesus reveals himself to her as Messiah, she runs back to her village to spread the word about him (John 4:7–30). Jesus describes how a shepherd “calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.” He then tells us “I am the good shepherd. I know my own and they know me.” (John 10:3, 14). Jesus’ invi-

tation to follow him is much more compelling because he knows us intimately and yet loves us faithfully.

Just as my professor taught and Jesus demonstrates, *making the effort to learn names and use them will be important to our success in making Jesus visible as a community of faith.* I want to challenge us to be intentional about getting to know one another by name. I confess that I struggle with this, but I believe that I am not alone. The good news is that greeting someone by name is a skill that can be learned. It requires discipline, practice, and sometimes humility! Here are some ways we can begin:

Wear your FPC nametag whenever you attend a church function. If you don’t have one or need an extra, visit the church reception desk or stop by the “Connecting” booth on Kick-off Sunday to purchase one. (\$4 normally, \$3 Kick-off Sunday)

Introduce yourself to people. Do it more than once if you have to and don’t feel embarrassed or surprised when they tell you they have been coming to church for years!

Introduce people you know to one another. You will be surprised by how often people who should know one another do not. Facilitate new friendships!

Names matter. Learning names is the first step toward building more meaningful relationships as brothers and sisters in Christ and, even better, making Jesus visible in our midst!

Session Minutes in Seconds

The Session at its regularly Stated Meeting in August:

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

Took time in two groups to discuss Questions 1 & 2 of The Fellowship of Presbyterians “Narrative on the Health of Mission and Ministry.”

Received the Clerk’s Report including correspondence.

Received reports from various committees:

Stewardship and Finance reported that our revenues are falling behind our budgeted plan and noted that money was transferred into the Operating Reserve from undesignated funds so that bills can be paid.

Trey reported on the progress of the Sunday Morning Task Force.

Discussed status of Committees and the need to update committee descriptions and functions.

Discussed worship attendance for 2013.

Adjourned with prayer.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY JULY 2013

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/ (UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2,270,794	\$2,532,508	(\$261,714)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	\$1,977,870	\$2,088,211	(\$110,341)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	\$391,570	\$452,081	(\$60,511)
NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$98,647)	(\$7,785)	(\$90,862)

Thank you for your past generosity. The ministries and benevolences of FPC depend on your gifts. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Janet Slayden, Church Business Manager, at 210-271-2751, or Butch Gerfers, Church Treasurer, at 210-862-9998.



SAN ANTONIO
Living to Make Jesus Visible

Meet Matt Fricker!



Matt has been hired as our new **Director of Youth Ministry**. Matt is a graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and has served several churches in the Pittsburgh area. Matt also served in the United States Army for eight years prior to attending college and seminary. Matt is married to Cheri, also from Pittsburgh, and they have a 2-year-old daughter, Emma. Matt and Cheri are very excited to be coming to San Antonio and are looking forward to joining Wilson Nicholson and Jerren Jafarbay on the youth ministry department team. Matt began his ministry on staff Sunday, August 25.

Mark Your Calendars



*Trunk
or Treat*

Wednesday, October 30, 6:00 p.m.

After children's choir practice we will have time for children to go around to different trunks and get treats in the small parking lot on Avenue E.

***Children are encouraged to wear costumes, but nothing scary please!**

High School Mission Trip Transforms Lives

By Jerren Jafarbay



We had a great time making Jesus visible in Mendenhall, Mississippi this summer. The students worked so hard that we were running out of service projects for them! One of the bigger tasks we had was to prepare a school so that it can open this fall. We had to clean, paint, refinish floors, organize, do yard work, and even paint a mural. The eve-

ning worship/lesson times were awesome. Many of the students connected with God more deeply this trip. I especially saw God at work during our small group time each night as the students opened up and shared what God is doing in their lives. Overall, the trip was great! Can't wait until next summer!

How to Help Elementary Children through the Snack Pak 4Kids Program

Thousands of children around San Antonio qualify for free breakfast and lunches at schools, though for many of them, those are the only “meals” that they have, leaving them hungry in the evenings and especially through the weekend. Many children go home to empty spaces, and have no one to feed them a meal. Others may have parents that want to feed their children, but cannot afford to buy food.

So let’s kick off the school year well by beating hunger in our schools! The Snack Pak 4Kids program sends food home on the weekend to kids who regularly arrive “food-deprived” on Monday mornings at school. We are partnering with other local churches to make Jesus visible and reduce hunger right here in San Antonio.

Want to help? Bring a 18-ounce jar (or two!) of creamy, regular, no-stir peanut butter on Kick-off Sunday, September 8. Contact Shara Ward (four-ward@sbcglobal.net) or Nina Jordan (ninabjordan@att.net) for more information.

A Message from Pam Colbert

Parent and Volunteer at Cambridge Elementary School

For dozens of children in Alamo Heights ISD, the meals they eat at school will be the only ones they eat all day. This carries into the weekend where these children often go without adequate food and nutrition until they eat a “free” breakfast back at school on Monday. This heart-breaking problem is labeled “food insecurity” and like you, I was shaken to find that it exists right here in my own backyard.

My name is Pam Colbert and I am a parent and volunteer at Cambridge Elementary. I am also the coordinator for the “Cambridge Cares: Snack Paks 4 Kids” program. This program is designed to address the desperate need of a small group of Cambridge students and ensure that they do not have to endure being “food-insecure.” Like all volunteer programs, “Cambridge Cares: Snack Paks 4 Kids” cannot succeed in helping these children without the help and assistance of people like you. There are two ways in which you may help make a difference.

First, I am asking for volunteers to donate the gift of their personal time to aid these children. It will only require about an hour of your time once a month, or once a week as outlined below in the three phases of “Snack Paks”:



1. First, volunteers are needed to unpack donated food from boxes and build the “Snack Paks” one Monday a month (approximately one hour).
2. Second, volunteers will pack the “Snack Paks” into plastic bags the Wednesday of the same week (approximately one hour).
3. Finally, volunteers will discreetly place the Snack Paks into the classrooms of the children in need, while the students are attending music or PE out of the classroom. This will happen every Friday and should only take about an hour.

The second way you may make a difference is through donations of food. Specifically, we need 16-oz. jars of creamy peanut butter for once a month distribution to those families in need. These jars of peanut butter will augment the “Snack Paks” of donated food that will be sent home with the children each week on Fridays.

Volunteer sign-up sheets will be available on your church websites with a link to the program, volunteerspot.com. This website will help us organize and manage volunteers and donations from the wonderful people of Grace Fellowship Church, First Presbyterian, Kingdom Of Life House, and Alamo Heights United Methodist Church. These four wonderful communities are the first to offer their support to the children in need of this program.

On behalf of those involved, I personally thank you in advance for whatever you may offer to give. Your kindness and compassion will certainly make a difference in the quality of life for these students in need and will absolutely enrich the classrooms and the communities in which we live.

If you have questions, please contact me at colbertfamily4@yahoo.com. Thank you for making a difference in food insecure children at Cambridge Elementary.



SAVE THE DATE:

***FPC Middle School
Fall Retreat 2013***

**Camp Honey Creek Hunt, TX
October 11-13, 2013**

Contact Suzanna Frey at suzannaf@fpcsat.org



Stephen Ministry

The Best 50 Hours of Training You'll Ever Experience

By Mary Wofford



When I joined the Stephen Ministry class five years ago, I wanted to become more active in First Presbyterian and give something back. Little did I know that I would be the receiver of more than I could imagine giving to others.

I was one of the “fixers” in life, always ready with advice and trying to fix things for others—just the opposite of what a Stephen Minister is supposed to do.

As a Stephen Minister, I've learned that God is the true healer and all healing comes from Him.

The Stephen Minister training program has been called “the best 50 hours of training you'll ever experience” and I agree with that. It is conducted by Stephen Leaders and other Ministers to help us learn how to provide one-to-one Christian care to people going through difficult times. A bonus of the training is the friendship of the wonderful people you meet in your classes.

My role as a Stephen Minister is to be there for my care receiver, to listen, to pray and to be someone safe she can talk

to. I love my weekly visits, where we talk and pray. It was always difficult for me to “improvise” a prayer, but with the grace of God, it has become a welcome part of each visit. Our care receivers all have different problems and concerns, but each has a need for the comfort of God.

When people reach out to our leadership team and request a Stephen Minister, they begin the wonderful cycle of giving and receiving the love of God through this program.

Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry that 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, you are invited to attend a reception at Alamo Heights United Methodist Church at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, September 8 (First Presbyterian is partnering with this church for our new class), or contact Rev. Scott Simpson, 210-271-2712, or scottsfpcsat.org, or one of the church's current Stephen Leaders, Karin Gabrielson, at 210-333-4239, or Karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com, or Joe Rust, at 210-824-5948, or texwriter@grandecom.net. Information also can be found on bookmarks in the pews in the Sanctuary or in the Mauze Lobby.

Men's Ministry at First Pres

Join us for discipleship, fellowship, and service opportunities in Men's Ministry!

Monthly Men's Breakfasts at The Quarry: Each month men at FPC gather at the Quarry Golf Club meeting area for breakfast, fellowship and to hear a speaker talk about their walk with Christ, how men can impact our community and the body of Christ. **Dates: September 18, October 23 and November 20,** 7:00-8:00 a.m. at The Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Rd. \$10 per person at the door. Contact: Doug Beach doug.beach@ymail.com or the church office, 210-226-0215.

Men's Bible Studies: Each Thursday morning men gather to study the Word and talk about how God is speaking to them and working in their lives. Breakfast is available and all men are invited to participate in the fellowship and discussions.

EARLY MORNING MEN'S BREAKFAST AND STUDY GROUP, 7:00-8:00 a.m., St. Andrew's Room (2nd floor, just off the Mauzé Lobby). Contact: Bill Lyons (210-229-1646)

MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST, 7:15-8:30 a.m., Geneva Room (2nd floor, just off the Mauzé Lobby). Contact: John Seiders, executive associate pastor (210-271-2715/ johnsfpcsat.org).

Golf Tournament: Men from FPC gather at The Quarry Golf Course for a round of golf and the chance to be together in fellowship. **This year our tournament will be Oct. 18** with a shotgun start at 1 pm. Contact John Thomas at aok@flash.net or by calling the church office at 210-226-0215. More information soon.

Men's Discipling: Men at FPC will be discipling each other throughout the Fall 2013 and Spring of 2014 using “Four Priorities” by John Tolson. Meeting in pairs, men will learn what it means to become a man of Christ and will learn how to disciple others. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a disciple or about discipling others, contact Doug Beach (doug.beach@ymail.com). New discipling groups will begin January 2014.

Deacon Ministry

After-Worship Prayer and Care

By Gordon Smith

Recently I came across an old Dashboard Ministry card with the following passage from Habakkuk 3:17-18:

"Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior."

That passage seems appropriate to our San Antonio summers, with 100 degree days and not much rain. But even if we have not had any rain in a while, we always have much to be thankful for.

What are you concerned about? Or what are you thankful for? We may not be farming our own food, but perhaps we have concerns about a job, upcoming surgery, a move, or something else. Or we may have just come through a trying time and want to offer our thanks. I would like to remind you of "After Worship" prayer, one of the ministries of the Deacons. After each Contemporary or Traditional worship service, a Deacon is available to hear any concerns, prayer requests or praises you may have and to pray with you and for you.



Or perhaps you feel inspired by the service just ended and want to tell someone. Whatever the reason, please feel comfortable taking advantage of this After-Worship ministry.

These days we are more likely to shop at the grocery store for our figs, grapes, and olives than to gather them from our own fields, but in either case we have abundant blessings in our neighborhood, city, country and world. Whether you have concerns, prayer requests or thanks to give, please remember the After-worship Prayer and Care ministry.

"Book" It to the Literature Circle Meetings This Year



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

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

September 10:
The Old Man and the Sea
by Ernest Hemingway
Reviewer: June McManus

November 12:
Fiddler on the Roof
by Sholem Aleichem
Reviewer: Bill Hensley
with Patrice Hensley

January 14:
Suite Francaise
by Irene Nemirovsky
Reviewer: Jan Clayton

March 11:
The Paris Wife
by Paula McLain
Reviewer: Jane Hansen

May 13:
A Girl from Texas
by S. J. Wolf
Presenter: S. J. Wolf

October 8:
Tumbleweeds
by Leila Meacham
Reviewer: Leila Meacham

December 10:
The Outliers
by Malcolm Gladwell
Reviewer: Joe Carroll Rust

February 11:
Killing Kennedy
by Bill O'Reilly & Martin Dugard
Reviewer: Rev. Leslie Ellison

April 8:
A Dog's Purpose
by W. Bruce Cameron
Reviewer: Rev. Scott Simpson



KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit)

KEYS Adults Kick Off Fall Programs

By Pat McCleary, Director, Older Adults

The KEYS Committee has been very busy planning Friday programs with excellent speakers, luncheons, movies, bridge, day trips, and service projects to mention a few.

Join me as we welcome our new and returning officers and chairpersons. A big thank you to Nominating Committee Chairman Harold Black.

Co-Presidents - Jane Warren & Janet Beauch; Vice President - Harold Black; Secretary - Geri McCorkindale; Treasurer - Don McCorkindale; Assistant Treasurer - Jim Falconnier; Member at Large - Joe Rust.

The following members have agreed to chair KEYS committees: *Prayer Committee - Isabel & George Smith; Special Event Planner - Virginia Nilsson; Bulletin Board - Suzanne West; SA Reads Book Bank - Jane Warren; Calling Committee - Virginia Nilsson and Liz Wright; Bridge - Katy BeDunnah; Mah Jongg - Nancy Black; Introductions - Nancy Black; Membership - Geri McCorkindale; Care & Concern - Elza Crump; Transportation - Ginger Davenport; Session Liaison - Anne Folkes.*



A big round of applause to Jim Witten for his dedication and loyalty for his many years as KEYS Treasurer and to Betty Frazee who always made sure we had the appropriate prayers and blessings.

Char-An Witten receives plaque for Jim.

KEYS Fall Kick-off

Friday, September 13, 2013, 11:00 a.m. – Lunch @ Noon (\$7)

In honor of Constitution Week, September 16-20, listen as noted educator **Bill Perryman** brings to life the life story of American's first Constitutional President, George Washington! Bill Perryman is an award-winning teacher and is known throughout Texas for his historical portrayals of pivotal people in American history and for his teacher trainings, seminars and entertaining professional tours of San Antonio. Reserve by noon on September 10, by calling 210-226-0215.

September Birthdays

Friday, September 20, 11:30 a.m.

We'll celebrate September birthdays at the Fort Sam Houston Golf Club where you will enjoy a delicious lunch. Cost is \$12/ person except for our birthday-month guests who will receive a complimentary meal. Reservations must be made by noon on September 17, by calling Nancy at 210-226-0215. Menus to make your selection will be available in the Mauze Lobby and



August Birthdays at the Hyatt

at our September 13 KEYS meeting. This will be a good time to catch up with everyone after the summer! Cancellations must be made no later than September 17, or you will be responsible for payment. Please make check payable to FPC and on the memo line, please write "KEYS Lunch."

"Deep in the Heart of Texas" Trip to Austin Monday, September 23, 9:00 a.m.

This is a very special trip to visit the restored Texas Governor's Mansion, lunch at Green Pastures restaurant and then a special visit to the "hidden jewel" of the Capitol – the House Speaker's apartment. The Speaker's Apartment in the Texas Capitol is the only residence in ANY Capitol in the entire United States. This is being made possible by the invitation of Mrs. Julie Strauss, FPC member. If you are taking the trip, you must be able to walk and do steps. Deadline for reservation and payment is Monday, September 9. **See details on the back cover.**

Friday, September 27 – Program to be announced.

KEYS Game Days

Bridge will be played on Fridays, September 6, 13, and 27. Please contact Katy BeDunnah at 210-945-9789 or Katy.bedunnah@att.net. **Mah Jongg** now has 10 players and would invite others to join, with ongoing help and instructions at every session. Both men and women are having great fun learning how to play Mah Jongg using Wright-Patterson rules. Please contact Nancy Black at 210-493-1609 for playing dates in September. **Step & Stretch Class** will be held every Friday at 9:45 a.m. in September except for September 20.

Also...save the date!

October 13 – Flu Shot Clinic – 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

October 18 – Mr. Ed Whitacre will discuss his book *American Turnaround*.

October 26 – Fall picnic at Judith and Doug McNeel's ranch.

REMINDER – Sunday, September 8: Happy Grandparents' Day – count your blessings, enjoy your grandchildren and have a great day!

Encourage Your Child to Sing in Children's Choir This Fall

By Kathie Jamison



The first Children's Choir rehearsal of the 2013-2014 church year will be held Wednesday, September 11, from 5:00 – 5:45 PM. Singers ages 3 thru 5th grade are invited to attend. The choirs share space with the Godly Play Sunday School rooms on the first floor. The choir directors are trained musicians, working to enrich children's lives in the areas of spiritual formation and growth, musical skills, and personal growth.

Beginning this September, the Wednesday evening program as we have known it for the past few years will follow a new

schedule and format. **Children's Choir (ages 3 thru 5th grade) will continue to meet every Wednesday as we have in the past;** however, the dinner, special presentations for adults, children's programs, and on-campus youth group activities only happen one Wednesday a month (usually the first Wednesday of each month, hence we are calling it "First Wednesdays @ First Pres"). Dinner will be available only on these nights.

To enroll your child in Children's Choir, you need to complete a registration form prior to the first rehearsal on September 11. You may register on-line at www.fpcsatmusic.com or drop by our registration table in the Mauze Lobby on Sunday, September 8.

Welcome new Directors!

We are pleased to welcome Kyrenda King and Megan Martin to our Children's Choir leadership team. Kyrenda King will serve as the interim director for the first and second grade choir while Beth Ann Carnes is on maternity leave. She is a graduate of the University of the Incarnate Word, an active musician, and a teacher at Highlands High School. Megan Martin will work with the four-year-old and Kinder choir. She is a graduate of UTSA and teaches at Hartman Elementary in Judson ISD.

Sara Braisted returns to the three-year-old class and Kathie Jamison directs the third, fourth, and fifth grade choir. We look forward to a wonderful year of singing and fellowship. Contact Kathie Jamison at kathyj@fpcsat.org with questions.



Music at First
Celebrating Our Ministry of Music

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAN ANTONIO

fpcnline.org

A Fabulous Fall at First Presbyterian Church

A Tribute to Bess Hieronymus – Sunday, Oct. 27, 3 p.m.
First Presbyterian Sanctuary Choir and UTSA Concert Choir
A tribute to the late Dr. Bess Hieronymus, former First Presbyterian organist and UTSA organ professor. Presenting sacred anthems and organ works championed by Dr. Hieronymus during her storied career.

Midday Noels – Thursdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19, 12:10-12:45 p.m.
Our annual *Christmas Gift to the City* features great performances and a seated or "grab-and-go" lunch.

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



NAMI Family Course Begins Sept 10

Helping Families Deal with Mental Illness

Over the past three years, over 100 families have attended the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) Family-to-Family classes hosted by FPC. During that time people trying to learn more about mental illness and how to help a loved one dealing with mental illness have come from throughout Bexar County and surrounding communities. They have travelled from as far away as Flatonia, Beeville, Devine and other cities and towns near San Antonio, travelling up to 1½ hours each way once a week for the 2½ hour class taught over 12 weeks.

The Family-to-Family class covers the following serious mental illnesses: Major Depression; Bipolar Disorder; Schizophrenia; Schizoaffective Disorder; Borderline Personality Disorder; Panic Disorder and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder; Post Traumatic Distress Disorder; Co-occurring Brain Disorder and Addictive Disorder.

Family members learn about the illnesses of the brain, their treatment and coping skills including: Up-to-date information about medications, side effects and strategies for medication adherence; Current research related to the biology of brain disorders and the evidence based, most effective treatments to promote recovery; Gaining empathy by understanding the subjective, lived experience of a person with mental illness; Learning in special workshops for problem solving, listening, and communication techniques; Acquiring strategies for handling crisis and relapse; Focusing on care for the caregiver and Coping with worry, stress, and emotional overload.

So why do people take this much time to attend a class over a three month period? One class participant shares her views with us *as we prepare to begin another class on Sept. 10.*

First Press: What first brought you to the Family-to-Family class at First Presbyterian Church?

Class Member: I was referred by my cousin who is a researcher at the UTHSC in schizophrenia. She knew I was struggling to help my family and knew about the classes at FPC.

First Press: Tell us about your family situation.

Member: I had two parents who I knew dealt with mental illness. My father was diagnosed with schizophrenia and spent time in a VA hospital being treated while I was growing up. My mother suffered from deep depression. Then when I began my own family I saw the same signs of schizophrenia in my daughter as she entered her teen years. I also have another daughter who suffers from serious depression.

First Press: How did your family deal with mental illness?

Member: As a child I prayed for my parents. I didn't know how to separate the illness from the person. As a parent I still didn't know how to handle it. I would ask myself, "Why my kids? What can I do to help them?" Other family members told us to get help and there was no help and I didn't know what to do.

First Press: How did other family members react during the time you were trying to get help for your daughters?

Member: They judged me as an unfit parent. I saw how mental illness affects the whole family...the aunts, uncles, cousins, siblings and grandparents. It tears families apart at the same time that you need more support than you can imagine.

First Press: What did you learn from the Family-to-Family class that helped you help your family?

Member: I finally understood that mental illness is a brain disorder. I thought back about my dad and saw how he had raised our family, provided for us and loved us in spite of his own mental illness. For the first time I was able to separate the mental illness from the person. We are not our illness any more than a person with a physical disability is his illness. Taking the Family-to-Family class saved my family! With my guilt taken away I got my life back and I saw how to help my family. The class gave me knowledge, understanding, resources, tools and hope I needed. I began to see how I could help my daughters manage their illness.

First Press: Who would you recommend taking the Family to Family class at FPC?

Member: Anyone who wants to learn about and understand mental illness. In fact, everyone can benefit but especially families dealing with mental illness. But most of us know of a friend, a neighbor or a relative that is living with mental illness, exhibiting thoughts and behaviors we do not understand. Everywhere I turn I encounter someone with a mental illness in their immediate circle of friends, family and acquaintances who needs our understanding and our love.

First Press: Anything else you'd like to add?

Member: Being in a class with other families dealing with mental illness helped give me the boldness to be able to speak up and encourage other people to get help. This class changed my life and saved my family. It can help other families too.

Postscript: Our class member has now been trained to teach the NAMI Family-to-Family class and will begin teaching this fall at Oak Hills Church. Her family life has a new order about it and her daughters are better managing their own mental illness. Her faith in God is stronger than ever and her faith that God works through all circumstances is at the center of her life. Life's circumstances are just as challenging, but she has a joy about her life and helping others. She is living to make Jesus visible to others.

FACT: "One in four adults experience a mental health disorder in a given year." (Source: National Institute of Mental Health.)

Class Information: Begins Sept. 10 through Dec. 3, each Tuesday, 6:30 pm to 9 pm. To register, call Doug or Barbie Beach at 821-5765 or doug.beach@ymail.com. Classes are free and all materials are provided.

Small Groups Are a Great Way to Start Making Jesus Visible

By Jeff and Amanda Hochenedel

You are probably familiar with the children's finger game where you interlace fingers together to make the church, raise two fingers for the steeple, then open the doors and see all the people. When showing this to our grandson recently we realized this is a true illustration of the church; without the people bonded together you just have empty space.

We have been members of First Presbyterian Church for 25 years and have been involved in all kinds of groups from Sunday School and Bible studies to dinner groups, but by far our small group has been the most supportive and inspirational of all of them.

Our group started as a pilot group that was meant to be a launching pad for more groups but found that we had such a rapport that we wanted to stay together. We have shared all kinds of life changes from births to marriages to deaths and through it all we have been there for each other. This became most obvious to us last January when Amanda's mother passed away and our group members were the first to call and take charge of hosting a post-service reception at our home. We felt like we should be a poster for the importance of small group membership!



Our group has a great heart for stepping out of the comforting walls of the church. We have not only found many ways to serve others together but have encouraged each other to also use our individual gifts to find our own niche of service in the community.

We hold firmly to the belief that as followers of Christ we are called to be in relationship with others. It is a great blessing to belong to a small group. It is a place where you can develop deeper relationships with fellow believers as well as with Jesus. Small groups provide both support and accountability, which is vital to our flawed human character. A small group is definitely a good place to start making Jesus visible.

Church-wide sign-ups will be on Kick-Off Sunday, September 8. Most groups will 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, small-groups@fpcsat.org, or Kay Gerfers, 210-479-9773, kgerfers@flash.net.

Big Thoughts about Small Groups

By Steve Schaick

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe." Psalm 133:1-2

It's not hard to imagine a faint smile on the face of the Psalmist as his regret gives way to hope. You see, disunity had met its match. No longer was public politeness the best you could hope for. Even though the Old Testament is brimming with examples of deep-seated divides, the Psalmist envisions something *"good and pleasant."*

Unity ripens when the head (North) finds alliance with the heart (South). Good and pleasant harmony in the family of God comes as the precious oil of God's Word flows from the "beard" to the "collar," from North to South, from head to heart.

It is hard to overstate the joy of unity; especially when it occurs between strangers. But that's what happens in small groups. Acquaintances become trusted friends as the intersection of life and faith matures in the safety of a small

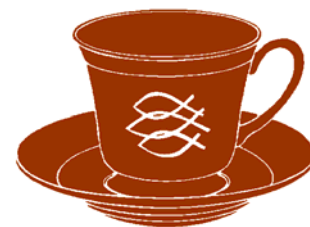
Got a group? There's one waiting to welcome you...today!

First Cup Readings — October, 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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]

University and Young Adult Ministries Gets New Director

By Rev. Ruthie Seiders



Meet **Chris and Christina Via**! Chris is coming to First Presbyterian to serve as our Director of University and Young Adult Ministry. Chris is a graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary and has served in student ministries in Pennsylvania, South Africa, and Colorado. Chris is an ordained PCUSA pastor with a strong call to ministry to students and young adults. He and Christina (also a Fuller grad with a degree in missions) will be moving in mid-September and Chris begins his ministry with us September 15.

Last spring Session approved the request to merge the University Committee and Young Adult Committee into one committee that would support the incoming director who will serve both our college ministry and growing number of young adults. This committee is newly formed and currently being co-chaired by David Youngquist and David Rogers.

As we approach the fall the committee is committed to keeping in touch with our college students who go away to school, so please be sure we have all updated addresses by sending them to Lindsay Blackmon at lindsayb@fpcsat.org. In addition, we are in conversations with the staff of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship on the campus of Trinity University to begin a partnership with them, linking arms to better impact the campus. It is our mutual desire to help students get connected to worship (we have students currently attending both the 11 and 11:15 services), growth opportunities in CORE groups led by our church members, and service opportunities with our local mission partners. We are excited about how this partnership will bless both the campus and our church family. If you would like to adopt a college student, invite students to lunch after worship, help lead a CORE group in your home of 3-4 students, work alongside students on a service project, or serve on the new UMin/Young Adult committee, contact Ruthie Seiders at ruthies@fpcsat.org.

First Pres is poised to have an impact on young adults who are coming out of college or who are already in the marketplace

and living in San Antonio, some are living within a mile or two of the church in all the new apartment housing up and down Broadway. We want to reach out to these young adults where they are and also be ready to provide a place for them to come and get connected. This was the main reason for expanding the ministry description of the Director of University Ministry as well as merging the two committees. Plans are being made for continuing the College and Career Sunday school class, as well as expanding and growing the class for young marrieds on Sunday morning.

We are pleased to welcome two new University Ministry Interns – Hannah Monroe and Nate Rawlings.



Hannah Monroe is a graduate of Trinity University where she majored in Urban Studies. She is a member of First Pres and the daughter of Phyllis and Steve Monroe. Hannah has a deep and passionate faith in Jesus coupled with a heart for the city. She is excited to look for ways to help students put their faith into action by getting involved in issues of social justice through our mission partners.

Hannah spent a semester in Spain as well as a summer on the New York City Urban Project through the ministry of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Hannah was very involved in IVCF during college and is excited to help build a partnership between our University Ministry and the IVCF chapter at Trinity.

Nate Rawlings is a student at DeSales University in Bethlehem, PA. After two years at Lehigh University, where he was actively involved with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, he transferred to DeSales to major in Sports Management. After two years he still has a few remaining credits needed for graduation and so will be receiving credit for his internship among us. Nate



grew up at First Presbyterian Church in Bethlehem where he was actively involved in the youth group led by Ruthie and John Seiders! Nate is passionate about sharing his faith in Jesus with his friends and is excited for this opportunity to serve as an intern on our local campuses as well as with our seniors preparing for college and our students from FPC who are away at school.

News for the Women of First Pres

By Susan DeKoch, Presbyterian Women President



This newsletter article is a “thank you note” to all the amazing women whom God has richly blessed us with this year on the PW Council. Vice-President of the Directory, **Ann Dennis**, has tirelessly and expertly reworked our Directory to ensure that names, phone numbers and emails are correct and up-to-date. This has been an ongoing, three-month-long job of tremendous proportions

and I think you will be pleased when you see the outstanding results. Thank you, Ann!

If you are in a Circle, you will receive your Directory at your first meeting in September. If you are not in a Circle, they will be available at the Reception Desk after September 9th or you may call me and I will be happy to get a copy to you.

Vice-President of Circles, **Darcy Collins**, and Vice-President of New Members, **Amy Hendrick**, have been hard at work contacting Circle Chairmen, updating the New Member letter, getting information to all the right people and communicating with our Circles and Council members. Darcy has hosted a lovely Coffee for the Circle Chairmen. Moderator Chairmen **Barbara Winship** and **Kay Case** have hosted a delicious brunch for the Moderators. All of our Circle Chairmen and Moderators have spent the summer planning for and setting up schedules and hostesses for the coming year. Darcy, President-Elect **Ann Bunn** and I will be visiting all the Circles in the coming year. I would like to invite those of you who may be interested to join us as we visit. This is a wonderful way to see firsthand what the different Circles do and to meet new friends.

Treasurer **Pat Brodeen** and Assistant Treasurer **Jeanne Douglas** have prepared a Budget and met with the Circle Chairs to

help them get ready for the coming year. Pat is doing a wonderful job keeping all of our finances in order.

Annie DeKoch and **Linda Gail Dullnig** are responsible for the bright and happy bulletin board by the Workroom. Be sure to check out the board when you walk by as they will be updating it with new events and activities. Let them know if you have something you would like to have on the Bulletin Board. Historian **Barbara Dorsey** has her camera ready to record the year. If you have any activities you would like to have immortalized for our scrapbook or just to have pictures, please let her know (828-9862 or bgd101@msn.com)

Corresponding Secretary **Barbie Beach** has been kept busy this summer writing her lovely and gracious notes to members of the Presbyterian Women. A special thanks to **Candy Wagner** and **Bonnie Diehl** for their wonderful support and advice.

Thank you, too, to all of the **Staff** at FPC who have also worked with us to get everything done! We could not do what we do without your help and support and you are a wonderful blessing to us.

Mark your calendars for Kick-Off Sunday, September 8th! Look for our table and come by to get information or to just say hello. We are looking forward to a wonderful year and we want you to be a part of it. Don't miss any of our opportunities to serve and to share the joy of fellowship!

Also mark down the evening of October 10. Author Elizabeth Stone will be doing a Tablescape for our Evening Event. Come join us for a festive evening of fun and fellowship, recipes and centerpieces. More to follow!

Lord, God, make us visible to those we meet and remind us daily of the joy that comes from knowing You.

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

Meet Chef/Author Elizabeth Stone at PW Fall Event October 10

By Leslie Little

Award-Winning Chef, Caterer, Businesswoman and Author Elizabeth Stone will be the guest speaker at the PW Fall Evening Event on Oct. 10. She will be speaking about holiday entertaining and tablescapes, and then answering questions and signing books afterward.

When it comes to entertaining on any scale, Elizabeth Stone knows what works and what doesn't, and she understands that every host or hostess has a different comfort zone in the kitchen. Some want to create everything from scratch; some want to have a caterer handle it all, and most fall somewhere

in between. Her trademark has always been “Your party is our privilege,” and this lavishly illustrated entertaining handbook brings her respect for hospitality to life.

Elizabeth's first book, *An Invitation to Entertain: Recipes for Gracious Parties*, guides readers how to host delicious, delightful and memorable dinner parties, holiday meals, wedding parties and casual get-togethers. It begins with vignettes of 24 very different party ideas, from a “Thanksgiving Lunch Seated

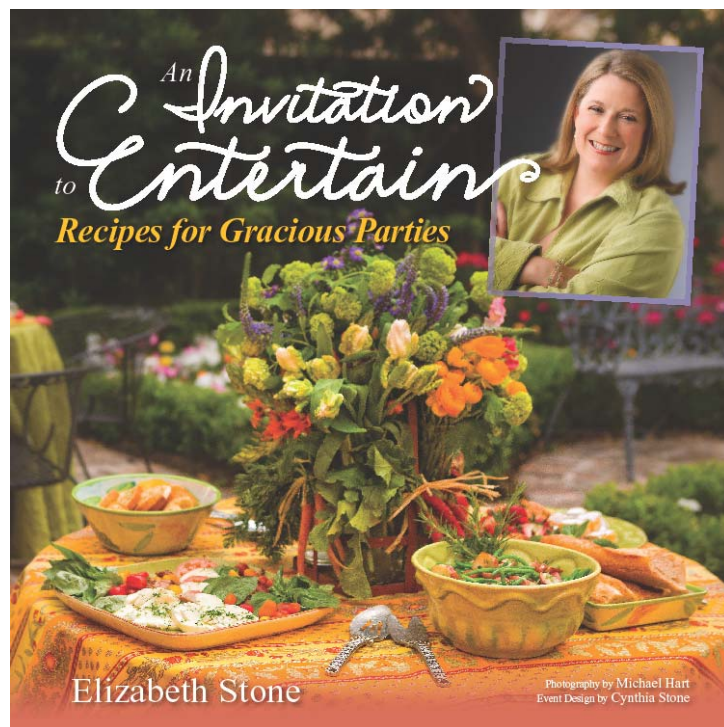
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Buffet" to an "Elegant Christmas Dinner" to a "Winter Ladies Lunch." After the inspiration of the vignettes, which include flower arranging how-tos, lighting tips, serving suggestions and more, over 200 recipes provide the reader with the ability to mix and match to perfectly tailor each gathering.

"Food, cooking and entertaining are as much about the experience as they are about creating and eating wonderful food. The taste and quality of your food are--of course--important, but the experience is what your guests remember most." - Elizabeth Stone, from her book, *An Invitation to Entertain: Recipes for Gracious Parties* (Bright Sky Press).

About the Author:

Elizabeth Stone, who lives in the same gracious Houston home where she was raised, oversees a multimillion dollar event planning company specializing in full-service events that have delighted Houstonians for more two decades. And this year, to mark 25 years in the catering and event planning industry, Stone is re-branding her popular business, the Stone Kitchen, as silverStone - ready to continue making unforgettable parties by creating unforgettable events.



PW September Circle Meetings

Circle 112

Monday, Sept. 16, 10:30am

FPC Geneva Rm

Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182

Co-Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

Circle 2 and 4

Monday, Sept. 16, 1:30pm

FPC Rm 226

Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Circle 5, Shawl Ministry

Friday, Sept. 20, 12pm

FPC Rm 228

Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208

Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 6

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 1:30pm

FPC Geneva Rm

Chairs:

Martha Pigeon, 828-8993

Betty Anderson, 828-8838

Jane Warren, 493-5187

Circle 7

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 11:30am

Home of Susan DeKoch, 207 Hillview

Chair: Meredith Park, 373-8180

Circle 8, Mom's Group

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 18, & 25

9:30-11:30am

FPC Rm 108

Chair: Brenda Leonard, 910-578-7104

Co-Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

Circle 9

Tuesday, Sept. 17, 10am

FPC St. Andrew's Rm

Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

Circle 11

Monday, Sept. 23, 6:30pm

Home of Jean Swanson

122 Medford Dr.

Chair: Jean Swanson, 826-0766

Circle 13

Literature Circle

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 1:30pm

FPC McCullough Rm

"The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest

Hemingway

Reviewed by June McManus

Chair: Becca Price, 824-2603

Circle 14

Monday, Sept. 16, 12pm

FPC St. Andrew's Rm

Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

Circle 16, Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle

Wednesday, Sept. 18, 9:30am

FPC Rm 228

Chairs:

Lee Pressly, 735-0978

Corie Barlow, 481-1337

Circle 17, Edna Ralston Sewing Circle

Wednesday, Sept. 11, 9:30am

FPC Rm 309

Chairs:

Jeanne Baker, 494-0972

Gigi Duke, 695-4363

Circle 18, Care and Concern

(no date)

Chairs:

Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Paula Bondurant, 736-6632

Georgia Heath, 695-9511

Circle 19, White Cross Circle

Wednesday, Sept. 4, 9:30am

FPC Rm 309

Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

Circle 20, Circle of Service

(no date)

Chair: Shannon McKelvey, 455-4520

Circle 21

Monday, Sept. 16, 6:30pm

Home of Sheila Figueroa

335 E Melrose Dr.

Chair: Andrea Taylor, 403-9442



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San Antonio, Texas 78205-1918
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Pastor Trey Little's Twitter Handle: @treyhlittle

First Presbyterian Church's Twitter Handle: @FPCSanAntonio



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Planning for Care: Loved Ones with Alzheimer's Panel Discussion September 11, 2013

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Please join us for an evening with a panel of experts in Alzheimer's Care that will be available for all your questions as you plan and prepare for caring for a loved one suffering from Alzheimer's Disease.

Ginny Funk - Alzheimer's Association

Karen Kosub - The Forum at Lincoln Heights

Patricia F. Sitchler - Law Office of Schoenbaum, Curphy, Scanlan, PC

Romana Kleinguenther, M.D. - Integra Clinical Research

Panelists will address your questions during this free, informative event. Coffee and water will be served. RSVP by calling 210-271-2753, or email susand@fpcsat.org.



Calling All First Pres Adults: Go on a "Deep in the Heart of Texas" Trip to Austin Monday, September 23, 2013

Take a comfortable charter coach to visit the restored Texas Governor's Mansion and a tour of the State Capitol in Austin, a national historical landmark! Enjoy coffee and snacks in the morning, a tour of the Governor's Mansion, a delicious lunch at the elegant Green Pastures restaurant in South Austin, and a special visit to the "hidden jewel" of the Capitol, the House Speaker's apartment.

Cost is \$65 for First Pres members and \$70 for non-members. Includes charter Regent Coach, morning coffee, lunch, driver tip and the guidance of Susan and Henry Holloway. Your check is your reservation and the deadline is Monday, September 9. Please make your check out to

First Presbyterian Church with "Austin Trip" in the notation line and send to Pat McCleary.

As each person must be cleared for security, please send in first and last name, driver's license number, and date of birth (date, month and year). Be sure to take a picture ID with you. **Don't delay in making your reservation as this will be a popular trip.** Contact Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726 or patm@fpcsat.org if you have questions.