



First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible



Living to Make Jesus Visible in the Yucatán

May 2014 | Your monthly connection to First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio

Pastor's Pondering

A Place Where Things Happen

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



"He is Risen, He is Risen Indeed!"

I'm sorry; did I just say that out loud? I can't believe I just did that—Easter Sunday was last month. I must have inadvertently used a newsletter article from last month. How could I have been so irresponsible? Here I am shouting out the Good News a month late (or a year early, depending on your perspective). Please forgive me—just act like you didn't read that first line.

Of course, I am being a tad bit facetious. But sometimes I wonder if the church realizes that it is perfectly acceptable to shout out the Good News of our Risen Lord even on days other than Easter Sunday.

I recently was reminded of an interesting newsletter article a pastor friend of mine wrote. I want to share with you a portion of it:

"Recently I was reading an article titled 'Sizing Up the Shape of the Church.' It spoke of challenges facing the mainline churches, of which Presbyterians are a part. I was struck by the following:

'[W]e Protestants have inherited a particular view of the church—the right preaching of the gospel, the right administration of the sacraments, and the exercise of church discipline—have bequeathed to us an understanding that the church is a **place where certain things happen.**' However, in this century this view has been changing. The fruits of the missionary movement and the emergence of a global church have led us to see that the church is essentially **a body of people sent on a mission.**' (Jim Wallace, *The Westwind*)"

There's a lot to that. But what really caught my attention was the challenge to consider our view of the church. We speak of church as, "I'm going to church." We ask, "Where is your church?" Is the church nothing more than a building

or buildings that we pull up to, walk in, get what we want, and then drive off to the next "getting" place?

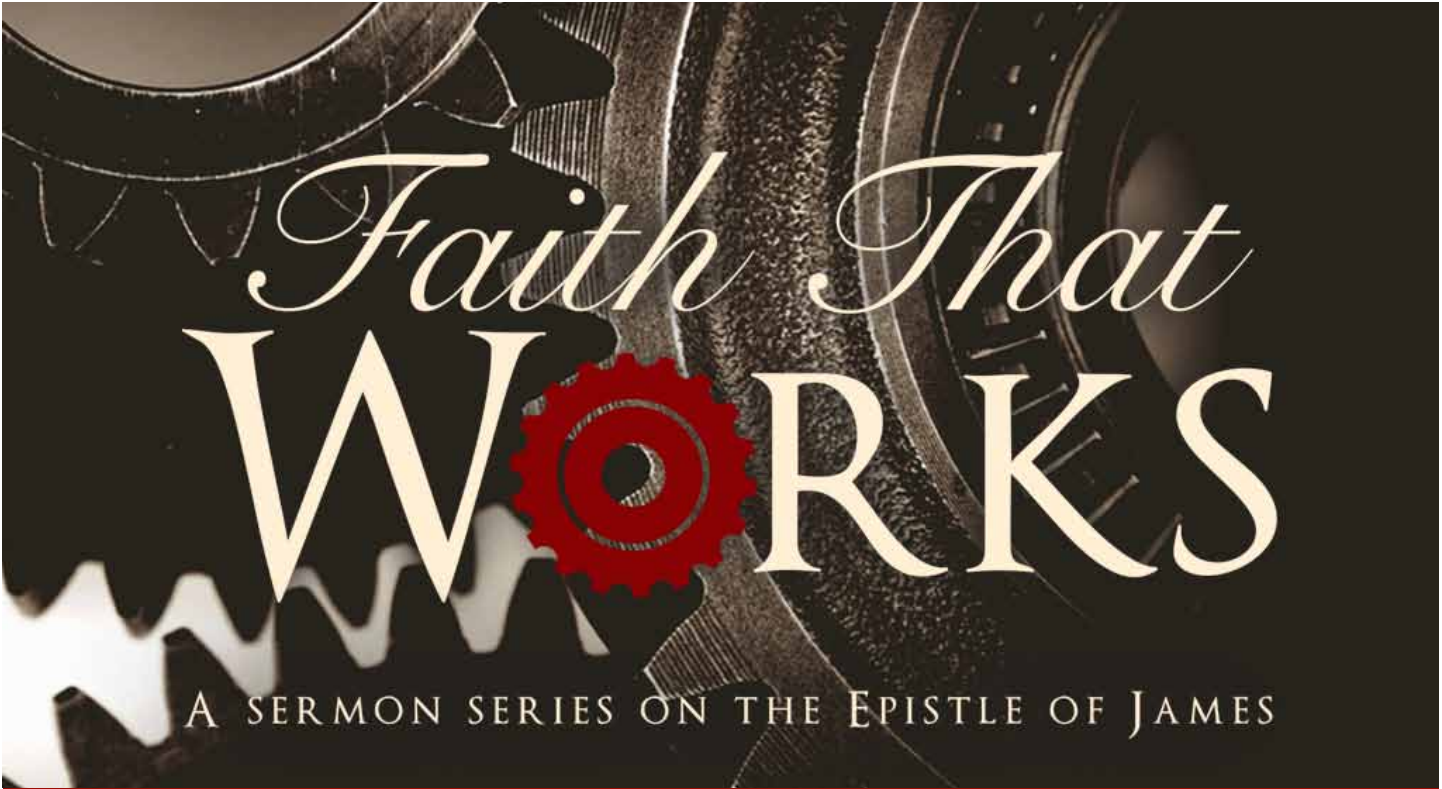
Friends, I pray First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio will forever be a "place where certain things happen." And I pray we will claim the truth that being church is being a body of people sent on a mission. Jesus did not take His journey to the cross in order that we could "go" to church. Jesus took His journey in order that we might "be" the church.

We are Easter people—what we celebrated on Easter must be lived out every day of our lives. The empty tomb promises that your heart will forever be full. As Christians we are to walk with the Risen Lord and we are to invite others to walk with us. However, as one author so aptly put it, **"If evangelism means those who know Christ introducing him to those who don't, then those who are seeking to make him known must themselves reflect an intimate relationship with the Lord. Otherwise the introductions are likely to prove abortive. We cannot convincingly introduce people to someone we knew a long time ago or to someone we simply read about (Eddie Gibbs)."**

As we begin to get excited about our summer plans—may we also remain excited about the plans the Lord has for FPC. We have a mission to be and make disciples as we live to make Jesus visible to the world around us. Let's not wait until next year to do so—do it today.

Keep smilin' and keep lovin' and keep making things happen for the glory of God!

Peace,



Faith That WORKS

A SERMON SERIES ON THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

Apple likes to say about its technology, “It just works.” And most of the time, it does. Do you ever wonder how it all works? For that matter, are you interested in how most things work? For example, what really makes a watch tick or what makes an engine run? There’s even a website called www.howstuffworks.com.

How about your faith? Have you ever considered what would really make your faith “tick” or “run” according to God’s masterful design?

In the sermon series Faith that Works, we will learn from the Epistle of James how we can most effectively put our faith to work. Works don’t save us, but our salvation in Jesus Christ influences our works.

**Join us on Sundays in all worship services and
online at www.fpcsanantonio.org, May 4-June 29, 2014.**

May 4: Faith that Works
Stands the Test
James 1:1-18

May 25: Faith that Works
Needs Deeds
James 2:14-26

June 15: Faith that Works
Submits to the Father
James 4:1-12

May 11: Faith that Works
Just Does It
James 1:19-27

June 1: Faith that Works
Watches Words Wisely
James 3:1-12

June 22: Faith that Works
Makes the Most of Today
James 4:13-17

May 18: Faith that Works
Prefers to Honor Others
James 2:1-13

June 8: Faith that Works
Reaps a Harvest
James 3:13-18

June 29: Faith that Works
Prays with Purpose
James 5:13-20

"YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS."

Simple, wise, and powerful words. We each face unique life circumstances. Yet, as we have discovered in our recent sermon series at FPC, we all share a common call to respond in some way to the healing and the hope we have through Jesus Christ.

How does our FPC Mission Team to Mexico help people suffering with pain to experience hope, healing, and joy?



HOPE AND HEALING IN MEXICO



This spring, our congregation commissioned a large group of eager servants to the southern-most area of Mexico to partner with the organization Yucatan Peninsula Mission (YPM) in bringing encouragement, medical assistance, and comfort to the descendants of the Mayas.

For this marginalized people group with limited access to medical care, minor illnesses easily develop into chronic, painful, or debilitating conditions. However, God is working through the people of our church, planting within this team a passion for service and a desire for "living to make Jesus visible" worldwide.



Motivated by faith to seek out the hurt and the forgotten (Matthew 25:40), and to comfort others with the comfort we have received (2 Corinthians 1-4), the team seeks to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19) and most importantly, to bring glory to our Father in Heaven (Matthew 5:16).





This sweet mother and her daughter share a condition known as cleft lip and palate. Over 3,200 babies per year in Mexico are born with this condition, which occurs when the two plates of the skull that form the roof of the mouth are not completely joined. The team was able to meet with this family, hear their concerns, and assist in seeking partnership with a non-governmental organization called “Smile Train” to provide follow-up patient care. Smile Train is an international organization, offering services in Mexico since 2001. More than 70 specialized surgeons in Mexico work in coordination through 38 partner hospitals to provide the important resource of high-quality medical care and speech therapy from across the country. **Praise God for the opportunity He provided to work through the team members in this way. Please join with the team in praying that the follow-up care for this family would bring the physical healing this young mom desires for herself and for her daughter.**

NOTES FROM OUR TRIP LEADER

“March 20-25, 2014 was an amazing five days! FPC San Antonio sent a team of 17 people to the Yucatan for the 30th annual Medical Mission Trip, to make Jesus visible to the indigenous Maya people there. We were joined by a team of 6 from FPC (Birmingham, MI), a team of 2 nurses from Northminster Presbyterian Church (Peoria, IL), plus two Mexican dentists and two Mexican medical students. Physicians, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, translators, an optician, and various helpers came together as a team and brought medical care, medicines, comfort, hugs and smiles to the people in the two villages of San Cosme and Leona Vicario.

The mission spirit was so readily visible in this team. It was an incredible blessing to watch as 25 people from different churches and different regions of the U.S. came together and blended seamlessly into a very effective team. Each person found his or her niche quickly, traded jobs with someone else as needed, learned the Mexican version of “Duck, Duck, Goose”, organized arts and crafts with the children, agreed to sleep in a hammock (lessons on getting in and out were given), washed dishes after our meals, celebrated two upcoming marriages and a baby who is on the way, and just generally were the faces of the love and grace of Jesus Christ to those whom we went to serve and to each other.

This year was different in a couple of ways. First, we were there over a weekend, so we were able to attend church on Sunday and worship, sing and pray with that congregation. We also visited a respite house for children with cancer, bringing toys and words of encouragement to the children there. Another difference was that we served in two different clinics this year. On Friday, thanks to the hard work and planning of Craig Bell and his pharmacy team, we moved the entire pharmacy to San Cosme, to the Pan-American Clinic there. The people of San Cosme and four surrounding villages would not have been able travel to Leona Vicario to receive the care and medicines the team brought, so we went to them. And according to the figures we were given, about 120 people were seen that day and many, many prescriptions and eyeglasses were given out. At the end of the day we moved everything back to Leona Vicario, and Saturday and Monday we worked at the government Health Center Clinic there, where some 300+ patients received care, medicines and eyeglasses in those two days. **All in all it was an extremely successful mission trip, and a tremendous blessing to all who participated.**

We are so very grateful to Pastor William and Erly Cen, who are the loving and gracious faces of YPM Mexico, and who made everything ready for us and made us so welcome. And we are especially grateful to the congregation of First Presbyterian Church for your loving support—for the medicines and money you donated, and most of all for the prayers that lifted us up and gave us the energy and joy to go and make Jesus visible. Thank you!!” (Cynthia Robinson, 2014 Medical Mission Team Trip Leader)



OUR TEAM, IN THEIR OWN WORDS:

What do you enjoy about going on the Medical Mission Trip?

"...Realizing that each of us, those serving and those being served, are children of the same God, whose love is given freely to all of us." (Craig Bell)

"..I enjoy the fellowship as we work together. There always seems to be an immediate bonding because we are there for the same purpose – to serve others in any and every way we can. I love being able to talk to the local people who come for help, to learn a little about their lives and to help determine if and how we can help them. It is in these conversations that I can briefly and naturally speak about why we come and of our faith. A mission trip always makes me aware of how amazingly blessed I am, especially of things that I just take for granted or feel entitled to – it helps give me a 'perspective adjustment' of my everyday busyness, to-do lists, even the various volunteer things I do. " (Rosemary Engstrom)

"If you have ever wanted to go on a medical mission trip, consider praying about going on this one. I'm a pediatric emergency nurse and this was my first year to go with FPC on the Yucatan Peninsula Mission. I immediately felt welcomed and fully part of the team. FPC has been involved in this medical for over 30 years and the organization and detail is evident. From flights and accommodations to email communication and supplies, this trip was well-planned and purposefully executed. Because of this, we were able to bring much needed care to the people of Leona Vicario and the surrounding region in the name of Jesus." (Leslie Stephens)

The Global Missions Committee invites you to **Celebrate our Missionary Moms**

In the United States, we celebrate mothers during the month of May. We asked a few of our FPC missionary moms living in different areas of the world to share with our congregation their thoughts about motherhood. Let's support each of their ministries within their family and within their communities by offering our prayers during the month of May for our international sisters in Christ!



I'm a mom and I'm raising my children... in Cambodia. I once felt this self-imposed pressure to be doing something "radical." But my days look much like they would in America. I feed my children, change their diapers and try to keep my house clean. My husband's job is changing children's lives here, but what am I doing? Yes I think it is very important for me to raise our young children, but I could do that in America. What am I doing to show Christ's love to Cambodia?

I read something from an Anglican Bishop in New Zealand, Bishop Justin Duckworth "The church would, he says, be revolutionized if every parishioner had two shared meals every week, one to support a church member and one to spend time with someone on the edge."

My time is very limited, but I know I can make room for two people. So twice a week I and my daughters spend time with my two friends, to encourage one in her faith, and show Christ's love to the other. There's nothing radical about our conversations, we often talk about our family, but it's something. And then before I fall asleep, I pray for them.

My day to day job isn't working at a church or a ministry, but that doesn't mean I can't do something to help further God's kingdom, even if it's just a small thing.

"For if the willingness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what he does not have." (2 Corinthians 8:12)

Sarah Blaine (in Cambodia)

What is the typical role of a mother within the people group you interact with most closely?

"Most Spanish mothers in the current generation work full-time from the time their babies are 3 months old. (the children are in daycare or stay with grandparents until they are 3 years old, when they go to preschool). This is very different from past generations when women stayed at home with the children and played the role of a traditional housewife."

Describe a "day in the life" for you as a missionary mom.

"Every day is different: Monday I go with Ashraf and the kids to our base for worship and odd jobs. Tuesday, the 4 year old goes to preschool and I spend the morning outside with the toddler, or doing errands, cleaning, or cooking. Wednesday is our "fun/educational" day so I take both children to the aquarium, the library, a fun playground, etc. Thursday and Friday are similar to Tuesday. About 2 afternoons or evenings per week, we have visitors at the house for a meal. Sometimes we go visit others in their homes or meet at a playground."

What is it like to observe your kids grow up in a culture that may be different than your own? How has that impacted you as a mom?

"Spain (Europe generally) is far more liberal than the USA—or at least the USA I grew up in. :) It has been very challenging to decide how to react when our 3 year old has been exposed to sexual behavior at preschool (thankfully, not directly!) and how to coach him in that."

Naomi Abdou (in Malta)



What is it like to observe your kids grow up in a culture that may be different than your own? How has that impacted you as a mom?

"Our two girls were in 2nd and 3rd grade when we went to the Philippines in 1994. They both now are in graduate school in the U.S. I think the most important thing about their growing up in a different culture is that they do not take American culture and values for granted. While they were growing up we often discussed Filipino life-style and values. Of course the initial focus would be on how these differed from those in the U.S., but then we were able to discuss how these compare with or are similar to biblical values and the lifestyle and attitudes that Christ calls us to have.



Now that America is their home and our girls are in the mid-twenties, it's encouraging to see them apply those same analytical skills to assessing American culture. For both our daughters that has affected how they view current issues, vote, with whom they make friends and their career choices. Now my kids challenge me about values and priorities I have always assumed and just accepted. This makes me a better Christian. They and I also recognize that America has much to offer the world, but also much to learn from the world."

Anne Harper (in the Philippines)

**YOU ARE WARMLY
INVITED TO ATTEND**

A MALAWI MISSION TRIP CELEBRATION!

**HEAR TESTIMONY OF HOW GOD IS WORKING THROUGH WORLD VISION
AND THE MEMBERS OF FPC TO BRING HOPE TO MALAWI**

WED. MAY 7, 6:30 PM

AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

**FIRSTHAND TESTIMONY OF VISITS
WITH SPONSORED CHILDREN**

**PHOTOS AND STORIES OF
THE TEAM'S ADVENTURES**

**HEAR PRAYER REQUESTS
DIRECTLY FROM THE
PEOPLE LIVING IN
MTENDERE**



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** SAN ANTONIO
Living to Make Jesus Visible

CELEBRATION EVENT WILL BE HELD FROM 6:30 PM TO 8:30 PM
HOSTED BY THE 2013-2014 GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT CLAIRE PLANTENGA
BY EMAIL, CLAIREP@FPCSAT.ORG, OR CALL 271-2724.



PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN: PLEASE NOTE THAT CHILDCARE IS AVAILABLE
BY ADVANCE REQUEST ONLY. PLEASE CONTACT SUZANNA FREY
BY EMAIL, SUZANNAF@FPCSAT.ORG, OR CALL 226-2721.

Support Affordable Housing in San Antonio through Habitat for Humanity

You are invited to the **Holy Smoke Fundraiser Dinner**

Every year, Presbyterian churches throughout San Antonio gather to share a meal, unified by the goal of raising funds to build a Habitat house.

Be a part of FPC's long-standing tradition partnership with fellow believers at the Holy Smoke Fundraiser.

Meet the 2014 recipient family of the Presbyterian Cluster House Build and learn more about the joyful planning for working together in 2015!



MAY 4, 2014

Dinner at 5:30 PM, followed by entertainment

New Location This Year: First Presbyterian Church

TICKETS ON SALE AT FPC FRONT DESK

Checks made payable to "SA Presbyterian Cluster House Build" with the memo line: HOLY SMOKE

\$10 (in advance), \$15 (at the event)
\$5 for Kids (ages 3-5), FREE FOR AGES 0-3!

For more information, please contact
Loren Peters at (210) 408-1878

Your Garage Sale Donations Can Help Minister to a Teenage Mom

Nina Jordan, Barbara Anne Stephens, Teresa McCaleb (and many other wonderful volunteers from FPC) invite the congregation to help send teenage moms in our city to an unforgettable week of Christian camp this summer by donating items for a fundraiser garage sale.

More than 20 years ago, an international youth ministry called YoungLives, which seeks to introduce adolescents to Jesus Christ and help them to grow in their faith, answered God's call to run headfirst into the chaos of teenage motherhood with the hope of Jesus...and YoungLives was born.

Their powerful approach to ministry begins with adults from FPC and other churches in San Antonio who are concerned enough about kids to go to them, on their turf and in their culture, building bridges of authentic friendship. These relationships don't happen overnight—they take time, patience, trust and consistency.

One of the highlights of the year for teen participants in YoungLives is the opportunity to go to camp, where they have a chance to relax, build relationships with mentors, and most importantly, to learn about Christ's unconditional love for each of them and for their baby as well. Camp provides the opportunity and environment for these young women to open up and share their struggles, fears, and thoughts about God.

Nina Jordan and her fellow volunteers at YoungLives would like to help as many teen moms as possible receive a scholarship to be at the 2014 YoungLives Camp in Burnet, Texas where a message of hope awaits their arrival.



How to Offer your Donations to the Garage Sale:

**Call Nina Jordan
at (210) 805-9968**

WHAT THEY NEED:

Household goods (NO CLOTHING)

DEADLINE:

Arrange a drop-off at Nina's house
by May 1st.

GARAGE SALE LOCATION:

May 2nd and 3rd at 119 Bushnell,
78212.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

**DO NOT BRING ITEMS TO FPC!
All donations must be delivered
directly to 119 Bushnell, 78212.**

GREAT PARTNERSHIPS ARE HAPPENING IN SAN ANTONIO!

In addition to our own FPC service event called Project 240 to support the mission of Habitat for Humanity, our congregation also works in partnership with Presbyterian churches around the city to build a house together. We call this longstanding tradition the **"Presbyterian Cluster House."**

This year, we are very happy to announce that our collaborative efforts raised \$55,000 and provided volunteers to help build a home for a San Antonio family in need. The upcoming annual Holy Smoke Fundraiser Dinner is the perfect opportunity to enjoy fellowship with our brothers and sisters in Christ around the city while also raising the funds necessary for next year's Presbyterian Cluster House build.

***FPC would like to thank the following local Presbyterian churches
for providing volunteers, lunches on the construction site, and financial support.
We make a great team in supporting Habitat for Humanity—to God be the glory!***

Alamo Heights, Bethany, Boldtville, Covenant, Crestholme, Emmanuel, First Korean,
Forest Hills, Grace, Good Shepard, Holy Trinity, John Calvin Trinity, Los Angeles,
Madison Square, Northminister, Northwood, Oak Hills, San Pedro, St. Andrew, University

The Prayer Corner

What's on your heart?

by Rick Lane



What's on your heart? Has the Lord called you to have a passion for something that is much bigger than you can address alone?

Share your concern with the Prayer Ministry Committee. The Committee facilitates for members of the congregation their call to invoke prayer for what the Holy Spirit has put onto their hearts. We know from scripture that praying brings us joy and blessings: *"Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus."* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

At First Pres we have a myriad of regular opportunities to grow in daily prayer and to join with others in prayer. We pray in groups at Sunday School, Bible Studies, Life Groups, and Presbyterian Women Circle groups. We pray two-by-two or in groups in After Worship Prayer, and individually or as part of a group through the listings on the Prayer and Concern Line (210-222-2273).

We also have specialized and as-needed team efforts. Church officers and other members meet with and pray for our pastors before worship services. Other members on teams pray for the ongoing work of pastors, committees, the Session and Diaconate, and the larger church. There are informal e-mail groups praying for truth, purity and grace in the church. Other organized and publicized teams pray for a local or international ministry, or area of crisis or ongoing need. First Pres also offers special activities like Sunday services for healing and wholeness, and sometimes a season of prayer by or for the entire church.

The Prayer Ministry Committee is ready to assist you or a group of members with finding the best ways to ensure that our congregation is active in prayer for what God is calling us to in every season. Remain open to the possibility of praying more, whether privately or by inviting others into prayer with you, and to receiving and praying as well for what's on the hearts of other members.

If praying alone, these simple guidelines have proven helpful. Pray as the Holy Spirit is leading you! Pray, simply stating the issue! And thank God the Father, Jesus the Son and the Holy Spirit for their love, care and power in the issue.

If you would like to discuss how you can grow in prayer, share the prayer focus to which you are called, or join others in prayer, please inform the Prayer Ministry Committee by contacting Ron Baker (210-494-0972 or rbaker127@sbcglobal.net), Rick Lane (210-494-6877 or ricklan@aol.com) or Louise Peters (210-408-1878 or loupeters2427@satx.rr.com).

PRAYER MINISTRY'S PURPOSE: To encourage a passion for prayer within the congregational life and ministries of First Presbyterian so that the power of Christ's love is made manifest in all we are and do!

Presbyterian Women

A Wonderful Year with PW



It is with a grateful and full heart that I write my last newsletter article as President of this amazing group of women. The year has been one of abundant blessings and I will be forever thankful for all of you and the incredible and selfless way you have served our church and each other. Each of you has gone beyond the call of duty to do not only your own job, but to assist in any way you can to help everyone and anyone else. You are all great blessings!

I cannot end the year without thanking the following officers—Ann Bunn, Darcy Collins, Ann Dennis, Amy Hendrick, Judy Kruger, Barbie Beach, Pat Brodeen, Jeanne Douglas, Annie DeKoch, Barbara Dorsey, Linda Gail Dullnig, Lynn Thompson, Sallie Guy and Bonnie Diehl. Your support and your grace and your outstanding and excellent work will never be forgotten.

The Spring Luncheon was beyond what we dreamed it could be! Over 300 women witnessed an inspirational and joyful gospel message from Jennifer Rothschild. Amid colorful decorations of begonias, daisies, sparkly votives and bright tables, Jennifer spoke God's Word—"I am...a child of God, I can....do all things through Christ, I will....choose joy!" The day WAS joyful and we ended it with a much-needed and welcomed rain storm!

We also unanimously elected a wonderful new slate of officers for 2014-2015. The following women have said "yes" to God's call in a special way:

President: Ann Bunn
President-Elect: Ann Dennis
Vice-President, Circles: Julie Walthall
Vice-President, Directory: Georgia Heath
Vice-President, New Members: Meredith Park
Recording Secretary: Pat Brodeen
Corresponding Secretary: Nancy Puckett
Treasurer: Jeanne Douglas

Asst. Treasurer: Barbara Wood
Historians: Amy Foster and Sara Parish
Parliamentarian: Candy Wagner
Church Officer Nominating Rep: Manette Owen
Immediate Past President: Susan DeKoch
Chairmen of Moderators: Kay Case and Barbara Winship
Christian Community Action:
• House of Neighborly Service: Mary Bell and Pat O'Neill
• Presbyterian Children's Home: Barbara Baldrige and Nancy Puckett
Nominating: Cynthia Robinson
Gift of Christmas: Darcy Collins and Barbara Dorsey

Don't forget to attend the Birthday Coffee on Wednesday, May 7, from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.. Leslie Bennett has graciously opened her beautiful home to us. Her address is 615 Ciruela. All women who belong to First Pres are invited and we want to see you there. It is a lovely way to visit and celebrate the end of the year together.

Thank you for the past year and many, many blessings to all of you.

Love,
Susan







*Please join us for the
Presbyterian Women's Birthday Coffee*

honoring

Our Past Presidents

Wednesday, May 7, 2014

10:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m.

at the home of Leslie Bennett

645 Ciruela Street

Please reply to Manette Owen

210.930.4686 or dowen1@sata.rr.com

PW Circle Meetings in May

BIBLE Circle 112

Monday, May 19, 10:30am

FPC Geneva Rm

Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182

Co-Chair: Suzanne Thomas,
820-3245

BIBLE Circle 2/4

Monday, May 19, 1:30pm

FPC Rm 226

Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

BIBLE Circle 5 Shawl Ministry

Friday, May 16, 12pm

FPC Rm 228

Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208

Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple,
828-7542

BIBLE Circle 6

Tuesday, May 20, 1:30pm

FPC Geneva Rm

Chairs: Martha Pigeon, 828-8993

Betty Anderson, 828-8838

Jane Warren, 493-5187

BIBLE Circle 7

Tuesday, May 20, 11:30am

Home of Ann Dennis,

227 W. Mulberry Ave.

Chair: Meredith Park, 373-8180

Circle 8 Mom's Group

**Wednesday, May 7, 14, 21 & 28,
9:30am-11:30am**

FPC Rm 108,

Chair: Brenda Leonard,

910-578-7104,

Co-Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

BIBLE Circle 9

Tuesday, May 20, 10:30am

Oak Well's Farms Club House

Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

BIBLE Circle 11

Monday, May 19, 6:30pm

Home of Linda Ruhmann,

127 W. Elmview Pl.

Chair: Jean Swanson, 826-0766

Circle 13 Literature Circle

Tuesday, May 13, 1:30pm

FPC McCullough Rm

A Girl from Texas by S. J. Wolf

Reviewed by S.J. Wolf

Chair: Becca Price, 824-2603

BIBLE Circle 14

Monday, May 19, 12pm

FPC St. Andrew's Rm

Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

Circle 16 Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle

Wednesday, May 21, 9:30am

FPC Rm 228, Chairs: Lee Pressly,

735-0978, Corie Barlow, 481-1337

Circle 17 Edna Ralston Sewing Circle

Wednesday, May 14, 9:30am

FPC Rm 309, Chairs: Jeanne Baker,

494-0972; Gigi Duke, 695-4363

Circle 18 Care and Concern

Chairs: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Paula Bondurant, 736-6632

Georgia Heath, 695-9511

Circle 19 White Cross Circle

Wednesday, May 7, 9:30am

FPC Rm 309

Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

Circle 20 Circle of Service

Chair: Shannon McKelvey, 455-4520

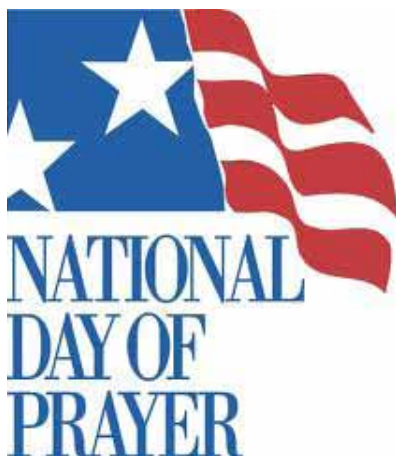
BIBLE Circle 21

Monday, May 19, 6:30pm

Home of Cynthia Stephens,

305 Tuttle Road

Chair: Andrea Taylor, 403-9442



Thursday, May 1, 2014

Members of FPC's Prayer Ministry plan to join other believers at the steps of San Antonio City Hall on May 1 to worship the Lord, pray for our nation, and call upon Him for mercy and forgiveness. The observance is at NOON. Pre-service music by Community Bible Church begins at 11:30. City Hall is in downtown San Antonio, corner of Commerce and S. Flores. If you are unable to attend, please pray in your homes or workplaces or wherever you are. Pray for God's presence and peace throughout our land!

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Family and Student Ministry Announces



New Children's Ministry Team

Last October Session and Personnel voted to reinstate the position of an overall Director of Children's Ministry, to be complimented by a full time Associate Director of Children's Ministry. During the ensuing months, a committee has been at work receiving resumes, calling references, and conducting interviews.

We are pleased to announce the hiring of Becky Prichard (daughter of former Associate Pastor Kristin Huffman) as our new Director of Children's Ministry, and our own Carrie Jowers as the Associate Director of Children's Ministry. Please take the time to read about these two amazing women who have both demonstrated a deep faith in Jesus Christ and a passion for children, their families, as well as for the whole church to embrace a holistic family ministry. Be sure to congratulate Carrie on her continued growth in her ministry here at First Pres, and watch for Becky to arrive at the end of May and welcome her back into our church family,

along with her new husband, Colby.



Meet Becky

"My name is Becky Prichard, and I am blessed to serve as the Director of Children's Ministry at First Presbyterian Church. I was born in northern California, but spent the majority of my childhood in San Antonio attending First Presbyterian Church as my mom served as an Associate Pastor.

After middle school and high school in Houston, I became a Sooner and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and a minor in Spanish. After college I worked in youth ministry for several years and through that experience I felt God's call to pursue theological education and to learn more about how to serve God's people.

I attended Fuller Theological Seminary, where I recently completed a Master of Divinity degree.

I married Colby in August 2013 and we have been living in Augusta, Georgia as he finishes his service to the US Navy. I am excited to return to the Lone Star State and to be a part of the church that had such a huge impact on my faith as a young child. I look forward to partnering with the congregation to serve children and teach them about the love and grace of Christ.

I am an avid college football fan and I enjoy warm weather, Tex-Mex food, running, and sharing life with those around me."



sumed the nursery ministry as well as her responsibilities with JOY and began working 20-25 hours per week. Then in the summer of 2011, when Kathy Timberlake retired, Carrie was named Director of Nursery and JOY and moved to 30 hours per week, developing and running our first summer day camp.

After a year with three individual directors in the various areas of children's ministry it was decided to return to the model of an overall director accompanied by a full-time associate director. Carrie was offered the associate position and accepted it. We are delighted to have Carrie remain on our staff and continue to serve our children and their families.



Get to Know Carrie

Carrie Jowers grew up at First Pres and came on staff five years ago as the Coordinator for JOY Ministry in a 10-12-hour-a-week position. Carrie quickly began to educate herself and get training needed to understand the particular demands that a

ministry to special needs children, specifically those on the autism spectrum, would place upon our ministry.

Carrie has become a vocal advocate for children and youth with autism, has developed wonderful relationships with those families and has a vision for how we can be doing even more to come alongside these special families.

Three years ago with the departure of Shelley Craig, Carrie as-

We believe she and Becky will make an outstanding team, supported by Suzanna Frey, our Administrative Assistant for Children and Youth Ministry.



Deacons

New Officers a Diverse Group, United in Making Jesus Visible

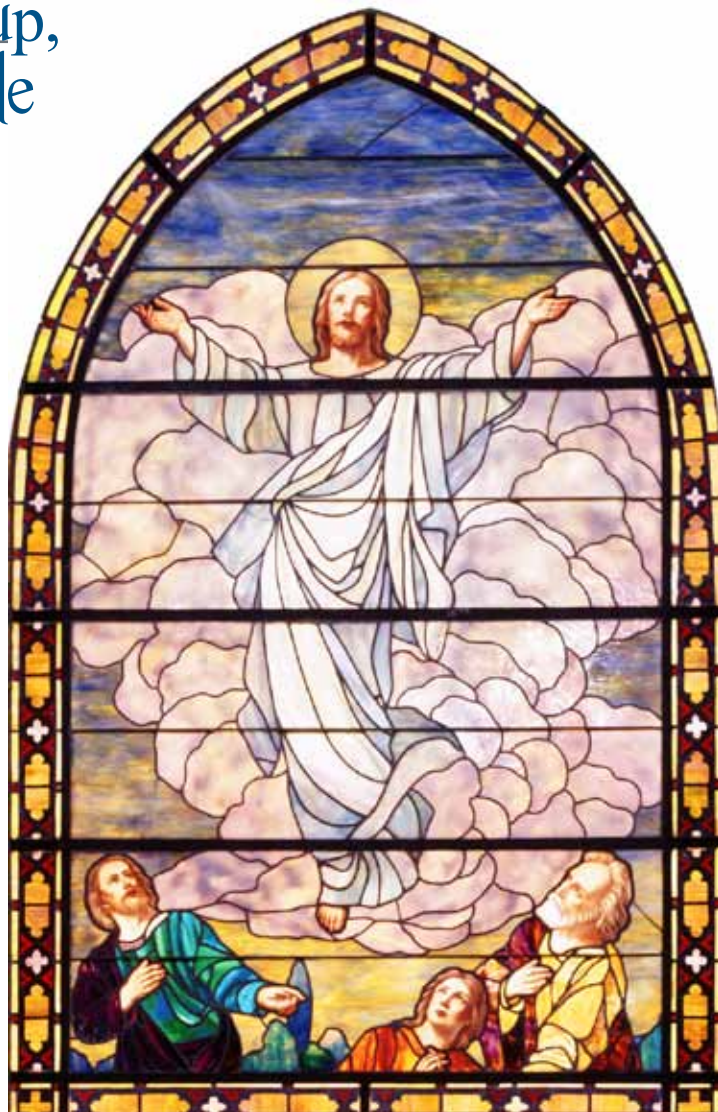
By Gordon Smith

At the recent congregational meeting on April 6, Sandy Sturch thanked the congregation for submitting so many nominations to the 2014 Officer Nominating Committee and especially for praying for that committee during the nomination process. She was the Chair of the nominating committee and did a great job of leading that group. As Vice Moderator of the Board of Deacons, I also had the privilege of serving on that committee, as the representative of the current deacons.

After several months of meeting and praying, the nominating committee presented a slate of officers that was approved by the congregation at the congregational meeting. Having seen the process up close for the first time, I can report that it was an inspirational process to me. Reading and discussing the many nominations submitted reinforced for me how blessed First Presbyterian Church is in its members. It was a pleasure participating in the nomination process for that reason.

If you had a chance to read the handout with the information on the twenty-six elders and deacons presented to the congregation, you would have noticed that we have a diverse group. Some have been members of the church for just a few years; others have been members for much longer. You probably know several of the new officers personally, from Sunday School, a Bible study, small group, Project 240, or some other way. I would encourage you to keep the handout on the new officers and maintain contact with them during the coming year.

Although the new officers are a diverse group, they are unified in two key ways. First, they have each been involved in making Jesus visible to others. Whether going on mission trips, teaching Sunday School, attending retreats, serving



on committees, or serving in other ways, this group is making a difference. Second, they are enthusiastic and excited about their call to serve as church officers.

If you were nominated but not called this year, or if you are thinking that you might be interested in serving as a church officer in the future, remember that each year we replace one third of the church officers. So we will repeat the whole process next year! In the meantime, let us all continue to live to make Jesus visible.

First Cup Readings — May, 2014

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 our libraries. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.



Blessings and love in Christ,

Sandy Sturch & Claire Averyt

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

- 1 Isaiah 53; John 1:24-34; Matthew 28:16-20;
Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 32
- 2 Acts 9:1-31; Galatians 1:11-21; 2 Timothy 2:15;
2 Corinthians 5:17
- 3 Acts 9:32-43; John 1:43-51; 5:19-27; 14:8-14;
1 Corinthians 12:1-11

I cannot tell why He, whom angels worship, should set His love upon the sons of men. Or why, as Shepherd, He should seek the wanderers to bring them back. I know not how or when. I cannot tell how He will win the nations, how He will claim His earthly heritage, how satisfy the needs and aspirations of East and West, of sinner and sage. But this I know, He heals the broken-hearted, stays our sins and calms our lurking fear, and lifts the burdens from the heavy laden. For yet, the Savior, the Savior of the world is here! (William Young Fullerton-1857-1932)

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

Come into my heart, O Lord Jesus, come into my heart I pray. My soul is so troubled and weary, come into my heart today. Come into my heart, O Lord Jesus, I need Thee through life's dreary way. The burden of sin is so heavy, come into my heart to stay. Come into my heart, O Lord Jesus. Now cleanse and illumine my soul; fill me with Thy wonderful Spirit, come in and take full control. (The Baptist Hymnal, 2008, # 418)

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

"Almost persuaded" now to believe: "Almost persuaded" Christ to receive. Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go Thy way. Some more convenient day on Thee I'll call. "Almost persuaded" come, come today. "Almost persuaded" turn not away. Jesus invites you here; Angels are lingering near; Prayers rise from hearts so dear. O wanderer, come! "Almost persuaded", harvest is past! "Almost persuaded" doom comes at last! "Almost" cannot avail; "Almost" is but to fail! Sad, sad that bitter wail, "Almost", but lost! (Worship in Song, # 233)

- 18 Acts 20; Ephesians 6:10-20; Romans 15:13;
2 Peter 2:1-10; Revelation 2
- 19 Acts 21:1-26; Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 15:18-16:4;
Philippians 1:21-30
- 20 Acts 21:27-22:29; Psalm 109; 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- 21 Acts 25:23-26:32; Psalm 7; Psalm 119:41-48
- 22 Acts 27-28:10; Psalm 69
- 23 Acts 28:11-31; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-12:10;
Romans 5:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:8-2:13
- 24 Acts 9:10-16; Galatians 1; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 15:1-19;
Romans 1:16-17

Marvelous grace of our loving Lord, grace that exceeds our sins and our guilt; Yonder on Calvary's mount outpoured, there where the blood of the Lamb was spilt. Marvelous, infinite, matchless grace, freely bestowed on all who believe: You who are longing to see His face, will you this moment His grace receive? Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that will pardon and cleanse within; Grace, grace, God's grace, Grace that is greater than all our sin. (Baptist Hymnal, # 200)

- 25 Galatians 2; Acts 9:16; Philippians 3:1-16
- 26 Galatians 3:1-14; Romans 4; John 8:31-59
- 27 Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:15-4:7; Ephesians 1:3-14
- 28 Genesis 16:1-4; 17:1-27; Galatians 4:8-31
- 29 Galatians 5; Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17
- 30 Galatians 6; Romans 6:19-23; 8:1-17
- 31 Ephesians 1:1-14; 1 Peter 1



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 Ministry Welcoming Well

*By Matthew Curcio
University Ministry Staff*

The month of May at almost every college means the end of spring semester and a transition back home for three months. By Memorial Day weekend our Sunday services at First Pres will have many new faces. Faces that have grown up in our church, but have just experienced a year at college where life is just a bit different.

A tremendous amount of growth happens during a single year at college, for most students. Especially for students who live far from home college tends to place a sense of independence and maturity on students. By the time May rolls around countless memories have been made and numerous papers have been written. It is never really easy for a college student to transition from a world of constant academia and socializing to a home life that may look quite different. Even a transition from cafeteria food to home cooking is quite a culture shock (not a bad one I might add)



So as a church body, as faith parents and as the family of God, how do we proceed to welcome these students back?

To answer that question I have compiled a list of five things that will help us as a church to build better relationships with our college-aged members. This list is neither exhaustive or authoritative, but rather this is meant to be a starting point towards making our church a welcoming and loving force for people of all ages.

1. Assume they have experienced more in the past year than writing papers and sleepless nights. College is a jam-packed with lectures, tests, sub-par food and independence. Even one semester away at college is filled to the brim with navigating relationships, making minor and major personal decisions, exploration of faith and many other life-shaping experiences. Looking back on college may bring up fond memories filled with fun and maybe even irresponsibility, but college is a true test of maturity. We have to assume that these students have experienced more in a year than they can easily sum up with short phrases such as “it’s been good”.

2. Make sure they know they were missed. If we want to welcome our students back with open arms and help them integrate back into our church we must show them that they are desired and were missed as a member of our church. Along with this expression of missing a student we must take it a step further and express our excitement that we have them and all of their gifts/talents back home. There is no part of the body of Christ that is more important than another and our college-aged students are integral parts of our family at First Pres.

3. Take them out for lunch. College students learn a lot of things, but one of the most valuable life lessons they are taught is to excitedly accept free food. Something simple like taking a student out for a meal does so much to tell that person that they were missed and are desired. Food is a great way to sit down and have a conversation with

someone who will be soon headed into the workforce and “real world.” These students will be drastically affecting our country’s culture the moment they step off of the stage with their new degree, they deserve the time and wisdom of the body of Christ.

4. Pray with and for them. One of the most valuable things for a college-aged student is for them to know that they are not only being prayed for, but also being prayed with. College is a time of great discernment. What relationships to pursue, what major, what career choice and so on. These students need to be walked next to on their journey, they need the encouragement of knowing that their struggles and decisions are important, which they are. Begin to pray with our students and not just for them.

5. Discover who they are apart from their parents. Some students feel a lot more like themselves while they are at school and are even stressed about who to be and how to act while they are home. As the body of Christ it is our responsibility to discover who our students are in Christ, not who they are as a son or daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith. Our culture is in a constant battle over identity and we need to be able to see our young men and women as the unique son and daughter of God that they are. No one feels as welcomed as they do when others see them for their true selves. It may be a hard habit to break, especially when you have seen this student grow up from a toddler, but they have been on their own at school for months. There is surely more to who they are than their last name. Allow them to be the man or woman of God that they are becoming daily.



**VBS 2014 Coming
June 22-26, 2014**

For details info contact Suzanna Frey at
suzanna@fpcsa.org or 210-271-2721

Register at
fpcsanantonio.org/vbs2014

Recognizing Our FPC Staff

Each month, the Personnel Committee publicly recognizes and thanks the church staff who work so hard to serve the congregation and the larger Body of Christ. The committee recognizes all staff members, both full-and part-time, on significant anniversaries of their service to the church. Recognition begins on their fifth anniversary and additional recognition takes place on each subsequent five-year anniversary.



Tom Dooling

This month we recognize and thank Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, celebrating his fifth anniversary at the church. Please congratulate Tom when you see him!



Anna Esquivel

We also recognize and thank Anna Esquivel, Children's Center Teacher. She is celebrating her 20th-year anniversary at First Pres! Please let her know how much you appreciate her dedication and hard work on behalf of the church.

Powerful Tools for Caregivers Classes Scheduled

May 21-June 25, 2014

Powerful Tools for Caregivers is a series of classes designed to empower family caregivers of older adults and those with chronic illness to take better care of themselves. The “tools” learned in the six-week series benefit caregivers by helping them reduce stress, improve caregiving confidence, establish balance in their lives, communicate their needs, make tough decisions and locate helpful resources. Dr. Kate Lorig and her colleagues at Stanford University developed the evidence-based curriculum.

Participants from the 1st Powerful Tools for Caregivers February Six-Week Class Series

Participants from the 1st Powerful Tools for Caregivers February Six-Week Class Series

Certified class leaders lead classes. Topics include:

- Taking Care of You
- Identifying and Reducing Personal Stress
- Communicating Feelings, Needs and Concerns
- Learning from Emotions
- Communicating in Challenging Situations
- Mastering Caregiving Decisions

A new PTC Six-week caregiver classes series will be offered free to the church and community beginning on Wednesdays, May 21-June 25, 2014, from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m. Class size is limited. If you would like additional information or to register contact Michele Hendrix at tmichelehendrix@icloud.com or 832-731-6127, or Flo Creighton at floinsa@yahoo.com or 210-290-8090.

There is a Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class Leader Training being offered at First Presbyterian Church/San Antonio, 404 N. Alamo, San Antonio, TX on Wednesday and Thursday, July 30-31, 2014 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. If you are interested in learning more about the PTC Class Leader Training in July contact Michele Hendrix, PTC Master Trainer at 832-731-6127 or tmichelehendrix@icloud.com for registration information and application.

Class size is limited. Registration is now open; there are limited spaces available.



Quotes from the Recent February Class:

I learned so much from the six-week caregiver class series. The classes helped equip me to become a better caregiver for my care receiver. We both benefited from these classes.

You saved my life! I learned so much from the classes, instructors, and the materials from each of the classes. I recommend this class to all caregivers.

I especially liked class 3 and 4 – greater skills for caregiving, and life in general. I am a more confident caregiver with a better understanding of communication techniques, attitudes and processes for good caregiving.

Thank you again for your passion for the caregiver's ministry. I am a better caregiver because of my participation in the six-week class series. I also have a greater appreciation for my mother for whom I provide care.

KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit) Older Adult Ministry

Join Our "Merry Month of May" Events

By Pat McCleary, Director, Older Adult Ministry



Teaching at 30,000 Feet and .9 Mach with Major Cheryl Buehn Friday, May 2

Come and hear Major Cheryl Buehn, U.S. Air Force, who is a T-38 Instructor Pilot and Chief of Flight Safety at Randolph Air Force Base and an F-16 fighter pilot. Major Buehn is a FPC member and attends with her husband who is a former German Air Force fighter pilot (now an airline pilot). Previously, Cheryl was overseas flying in the war against terrorism.



Older Adult Week Sunday, May 4-Saturday, May 10

Celebrate Older Adults at HalfTime Fellowship May 4. Each year the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sets aside the first Sunday in May to acknowledge older adults in our congregation and community. "Aging is for everyone; aging is what happens as we journey from birth to death." A few years ago, Rev. Ed Walthall wrote a special prayer and an excerpt follows:

Almighty God, ageless and unchanging, hear the prayer of one whose life began a long time ago. The older years are a demanding race to be run, a tough test to pass, a baffling puzzle to solve. Thank you for each day and for each chance to love, laugh, lighten someone's mood, and lift someone's spirit, we ask courage and faith for the living of these later years...In your might, O God let us fight the good fight, finish the race, and keep the faith, in Jesus Christ. Amen.

In honor of this special day, KEYS Older Adult Ministry will host the HalfTime fellowship with greeters and special refreshments. Come and bring your friends!



Ft. Sam National Cemetery Friday, May 9

Join us as Nicole Carver, Program Support Assistant, tells the history of Ft. Sam National Cemetery and shows a video on "Sacred Trust." Learn about eligibility, burial benefits, and arranging for interment in a National Cemetery.

May Birthday Celebration at Carriage House Bistro Friday, May 16

We will sing Happy Birthday to our May birthday members at the Carriage House Bistro at the San Antonio Botanical Garden, 55 Funston at North New Braunfels Avenue. Cost of the lunch is \$12/person except for birthday honorees. Reservations required by Monday, May 12. As



we must preorder, please designate your lunch choice when you make your reservation. Menus will be available at the KEYS May meetings.

Memorial Day Weekend

Friday, May 24

No speaker program today or “Keep Moving” Fitness but join us at 9:45 a.m. on May 2, 9, 16, and 30 for “Keep Moving” Fitness by our excellent certified instructor, Linda Osborne.



Movie & Hamburgers

Friday, May 30

Come and enjoy hamburgers and relax while watching a movie that will be selected by our movie experts, Liz and Jack Wright. Watch the announcements insert in your Sunday order of worship for the movie title

Play bridge & Mah Jongg after lunch on Friday, May 9. Watch for summer dates in our June newsletter.

The State of the Denomination

with Tripp Stuart, General Assembly Commissioner

Friday, June 6

Have you been wondering what all the recent hubbub is about concerning our denomination? Our current General Assembly Commissioner, Tripp Stuart, will present an informal and informative discussion on just exactly what is going on that has gotten everyone talking. Topics covered will be our form of government, the current trajectory of the denomination, overtures coming before the General Assembly this June, why FPC chose to be a member of The Fellowship of Presbyterians, and what all this could mean to us here at Fourth and Alamo, so bring all your questions!

This will be the last of our regular scheduled Friday pro-

grams. KEYS Leadership Committee will be meeting to make plans for our upcoming summer activities. If you have any suggestions or special requests, please let me know at 210-271-2726 or patm@fpcsat.org.



Viva Fiesta!

April ended with a grand and glorious Fiesta @ First where we sang and danced to the Mariachis, celebrated birthdays and ended with one of Maurilio's delicious Mexican lunches. Special thanks to those who “made the day” and helped to foster fellowship—Virginia Nilsson, Ginger Davenport, Katy Bedunnah (decorations); Liz and Jack Wright, Mary Kincaid (greeters), Jane Warren and Jim Falconnier (registration); Harold Black (photos); Nancy Black (server); Kay Kutchin (judge); and a big thank you to Susan Dullnig who made invitations, posters, and name tags. A great time was had by all!

**Mark Your Calendars for a
Trip to Round Top, Texas
Sunday, June 29**

Patriotic Celebration at Festival Hill

Set that red, white, and blue surging in your veins with this exciting pre-Fourth of July Concert at Festival Hill near Round Top. This annual concert is presented by young musicians from all over the world who have come for six weeks of intensive study with master coaches also from all over the world. The beautiful Festival Hill Concert Hall makes for a vibrant setting for this annual event. Lunch is included at Sengelmann Hall in Schulenburg. There will be snack stop at Buc-ee's (not included) on the way home.

Cost: \$85, due no later than Friday, June 13; becomes non-refundable on that day. Includes charter Regent Coach transportation, lunch, concert, driver tip, and escorts Susan and Henry Holloway. Don't delay in making your reservation as ticket sales for the concert go fast! Several people missed out on our King Ranch Trip.

Please make your check out to FPC with the notation “Round Top Trip” and mail to the attention of Pat McCleary. Your check is your reservation.

KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit) Older Adult Ministry

KEYS Enjoy a Royal Trip

By Joe Rust



How does one enjoy royal treatment while traveling in South Texas? Well, one way is by taking a bus trip to Kings-



ville, then busing around the ranch roads of the legendary King Ranch at the edge of town. An intergenerational group of fifty-one members of FPC and their guests did just that in the first week in April sponsored by KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit) Adults.

The tour guide on the ranch was a delightful 84-year-old fellow Beto Maldonado, a third-generation kineno who has worked on the ranch since he was 10 years old. The kenenos were the ranch hands Richard King brought to the ranch from Mexico in 1853 to begin working the land which



eventually became an 825,000 acre spread, one the largest ranches in the world. The King Ranch developed the Santa Gertrudis cattle, the first official cattle breed in the Ameri-

cas and sports one of the most-impressive wildlife management programs in the nation.

Maldonado told the travelers fascinating stories of how the King and Kleberg families have developed and nurtured the ranch over these 161 years.

On the bus trip around the ranch grounds, KEYS members visited the weaving building, where workers once wove saddle blankets and other ranch items and viewed the exterior of the 17-bedroom main ranch house. Visitors no longer tour the house itself, which just might remind movies fans of the dwelling from Edna Ferber's *Giant*. Which many claim is based on the King Ranch legend.



Lunch was enjoyed at the Big House Restaurant in Kingsville and then there was a visit to the King Ranch Saddle Shop in town where saddles and all sorts of ranch-connected items—luggage, clothing, jewelry, etc., are sold.

After that visit, it was time for a well-deserved snooze on the bus for the return trip to San Antonio.

Tours guides were Susan and Henry Holloway, professional tour planners. Henry was a long-time choir director at Laurel Heights United Methodist Church and at one point was the interim choir director at First Presbyterian.

Living to Make Jesus Visible

First Pres Member Susan Kerr Joins Family of Published Authors

Through the years, being surrounded by a family of published writers had become commonplace for Terrell Hills photographer Susan Moorman Kerr. But now with the recent release of her book *Intersections of Grace*, Susan adds to the varied library produced by her family of prolific writers. From the historical novels penned by her husband John Kerr, legal thrillers written by John's brother Baine, cookbooks written by her two sisters-in-laws, her father-in-law's wartime memoir, two acclaimed books by her distinguished grandfather and a freelance writer daughter whose work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the Kerr/Moorman families have produced writers in many genres.

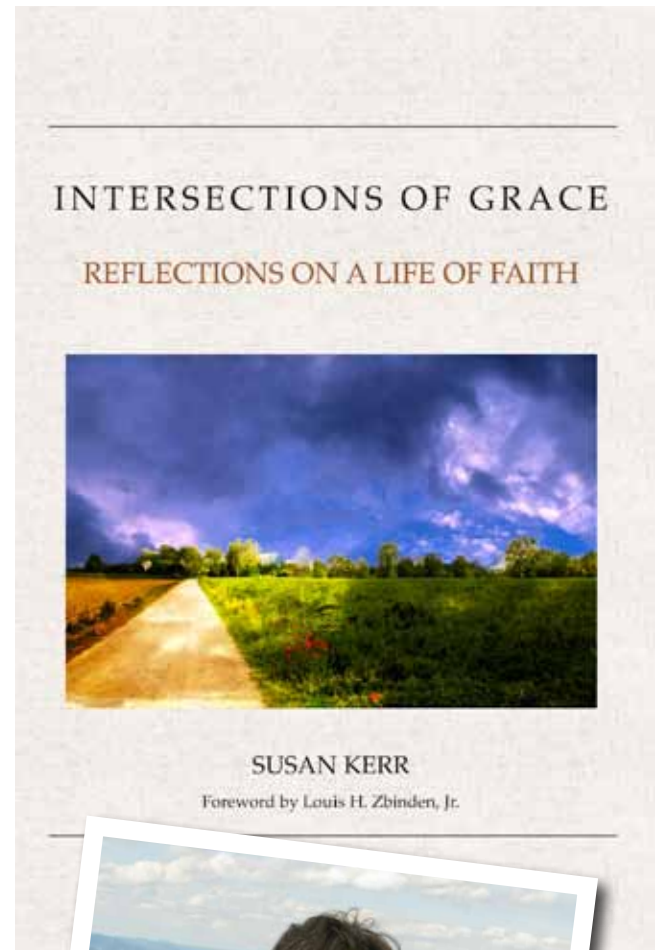
Intersections of Grace came into fruition through a series of devotional talks Susan delivered to her home Bible Study group through First Presbyterian Church. After much encouragement from the women in the group, she turned these talks into a collection of written essays and prayers. Her writings are inspired by experiences in her daily life to include God's word as a student of the Bible, nature, pets and travel. Susan also tied in her work as an accomplished photographer by including 15 of her photographs in the book.

"During my life, I have experienced many manifestations of God's Grace," notes Susan. "Above all, I hope my writings help others recognize that if we are attentive, we may see these intersections at every step of our life journey and that we are therefore, never truly alone."

The book's foreword is written by Rev. Louis Zbinden, the former senior pastor of First Pres, a role in which he served for 30 years. In 2002, First Presbyterian Church established The Louis H. and Katherine S. Zbinden Chair of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Louis became the first to hold the chair the following year.

Louis was also directly responsible for the San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMM) and the Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM), for two outreach ministries that serve the homeless.

"I am so grateful for the words of Pastor Zbinden as he has had a tremendous impact on my journey in faith over the



years," notes Susan. "It is so fitting and I am so humbled to have his foreword as an introduction to my work."

For more information visit www.meterialmedia.net or www.susankerr.net.

Susan is eager to share her intersections of faith with audiences throughout San Antonio. If interested in setting up a book signing at your local bookstore or with your church bible study class or book club, please contact Elizabeth Cauthorn at Elizabeth@MaterialMedia.net or 210-508-5553.

Moments to Hold Close

No Pressure

By Manny Rodriguez



I have a co-worker from Cyprus, and her accent is delightfully strong. She makes a simple two-syllable word become an entertaining complex sentence. She has not mastered the concept of silent letters within a word, which I often tease her about. The last time I joked with her she quickly responded, “Give every letter a chance to be heard.” Bril-

liant. Isn’t that what our Father has for us, “his letters”? “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb.” We were created with a specific mission, a specific purpose, and no two missions are alike. No one is meant to be silent. So go out there and be heard.



Register for 2014 Fellowship of Presbyterians National Conference *From Consumerism to Community*

What does it look like to go from consumerism to community? In our churches and in our lives? That’s the theme of the 2014 National Gathering of The Fellowship of Presbyterians & ECO, which will bring together more than 1,200 people from across the Reformed family for two days of worship, connection, training, Gospel teaching, prayer, and inspiration.

Hear stories of missional communities and growth happening in both the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and ECO churches. Learn from missiologist, author, and speaker Alan Hirsch, Founder and Executive Director of Redeemer’s Center for Faith & Work Katherine Leary Alsdorf, and more. And we’ll share in life-giving worship and meaningful fellowship together.

Join fellow First Pres members August 18-20 in Dallas for two days to fuel your next year of ministry, whether you are on a committee, teaching Sunday School, volunteering through First Pres, serving as a church officer, or simply a passionate Presbyterian who cares about our faith in action. To learn more, visit the 2014 National Gathering website to learn more or register: www.2014nationalgathering.com.



Alan Hirsch, Speaker at 2014 Fellowship of Presbyterians Conference

Church Register Changes

BAPTISMS

- **Preston Bates Foster**, son of Cameron and Claire Foster, born on November 5, 2013, in Austin, Texas. Baptized in the Traditional Worship Service on March 16, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- **Nathan Todd Nichols**, son of John and Elizabeth Nichols, born on August 12, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Traditional Worship Service on March 16, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.

MARRIAGES

- *Trent George Staggers and *Meredith Leigh Timms, married at Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston, Texas on April 14, 2012; Trey H. Little, officiating pastor.
- *Megan Lea McKenty and *Christopher Michael Carroll, married at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Chapel on February 22, 2014; Trey H. Little, officiating pastor.
- *Casey Lange and *Juliana Perez, married at the Witte Museum of San Antonio, Texas on March 8, 2014; Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- *Andrew Kenneth Louis and *Rebecca Kendall Clay, married at the Discovery Green in Houston, Texas on March 15, 2014; Trey H. Little, officiating pastor.
- *Harry Halff and Eleanor Gerlinger, married at the Argyle of San Antonio, Texas on March 21, 2014; Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- *Jermaine John Malcolm and *Sophia Yvonne Young, married in the Sanctuary on March 21, 2014; Pastor Randy Mask and Rev. Scott Simpson, officiating pastors.
- William Alonzo Stanley IV and *Blake Jennifer Toups, married in the Sanctuary on April 5, 2014; Scott Simpson, officiating pastor.
- *David N. Pitts and Jennifer Quintero, married at the Oak Valley Vineyard on April 13, 2014; Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.

DEATHS

- Kendall Bradshaw Macdaniel, died on March 10, 2014.
- Doris B. Parker, died on March 14, 2014.
- Edward Emmanuel DeWees, Jr., died on March 16, 2014.
- Arthur Newton, died on March 26, 2014.
- Dorothy M. Hill, died on March 30, 2014.

*denotes non-member

Session Meeting Minutes

Session at its regularly Stated Meeting on 3/14/14:

- Was opened in prayer by Tom Dooling.
- Approved the Consent Agenda (approval of minutes from previous session meetings, received the Deacon's minutes, approved changes to the Church Register, approved November's financial statements, and received committee minutes).
- Discussed the book *Our Iceberg is Melting* (Kotter and Rathgeber) regarding principles of leadership.
- Received the Clerk's Report which included approving a resolution honoring the late Arthur Newton, approving a letter of support to be sent to Temple Beth El in response to the violence in Kansas, and letters from Ashley Drake Mertz, Becky DeWees, and Ed Bondurant.
- Received a report from the Church Relations Committee.
- Received a report from the Stewardship and Finance Committee including an update on finances and the receipt of a Promissory Note from the FPC Foundation to cover the 2013 deficit.
- Unfinished Business included an update regarding the work of the task force on Mobility and Parking and the dismissal of Matthew Bardwell as a candidate under care at his request.
- New Business included an invitation for more elders to assist in Home Communion Leadership.

Adjourned with prayer

FINANCIAL SUMMARY MARCH 2014			
Operating Fund Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/ (Under)
Total Revenues	\$1,111,421	\$1,134,928	(\$23,507)
Total Operating Expenditures	\$854,407	\$901,510	(\$47,103)
Total Benevolences	\$222,284	\$236,986	(\$14,702)
Net Income/Loss	\$34,730	(\$3,568)	\$38,298
We finished the first quarter of 2014 well. Thank you. Giving was close to budget and expenditures were below budget. We still have a long way to go. 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.			



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Hebrews was a sermon for a specific people and culture in the midst of martyrdom and persecution, but is also so relevant for us today, reminding us to continue walking toward Jesus regardless of our culture or our circumstances.

Join Lisa Harper as she journeys through this bridge between the Old and New Testaments to get to the heart of the matter: Jesus is our accessible King. He is not a faraway God, but an up-close Redeemer who draws near to us. Hebrews helps women make the connection between God the Father and God the Son and reminds us that Jesus is supreme, but He is also compassionate, empathetic, and loving to no end. Lisa Harper makes digging into Hebrews fun and doable, as only she can, without losing an ounce of depth.

Wednesday Evening Ladies Bible Study
May 7, 2014-June 25, 2014 | 6:30 p.m. | Room 302 | Study books are \$13

Contact Sheila Figueroa
210-822-4082 or shefig@earthlink.net