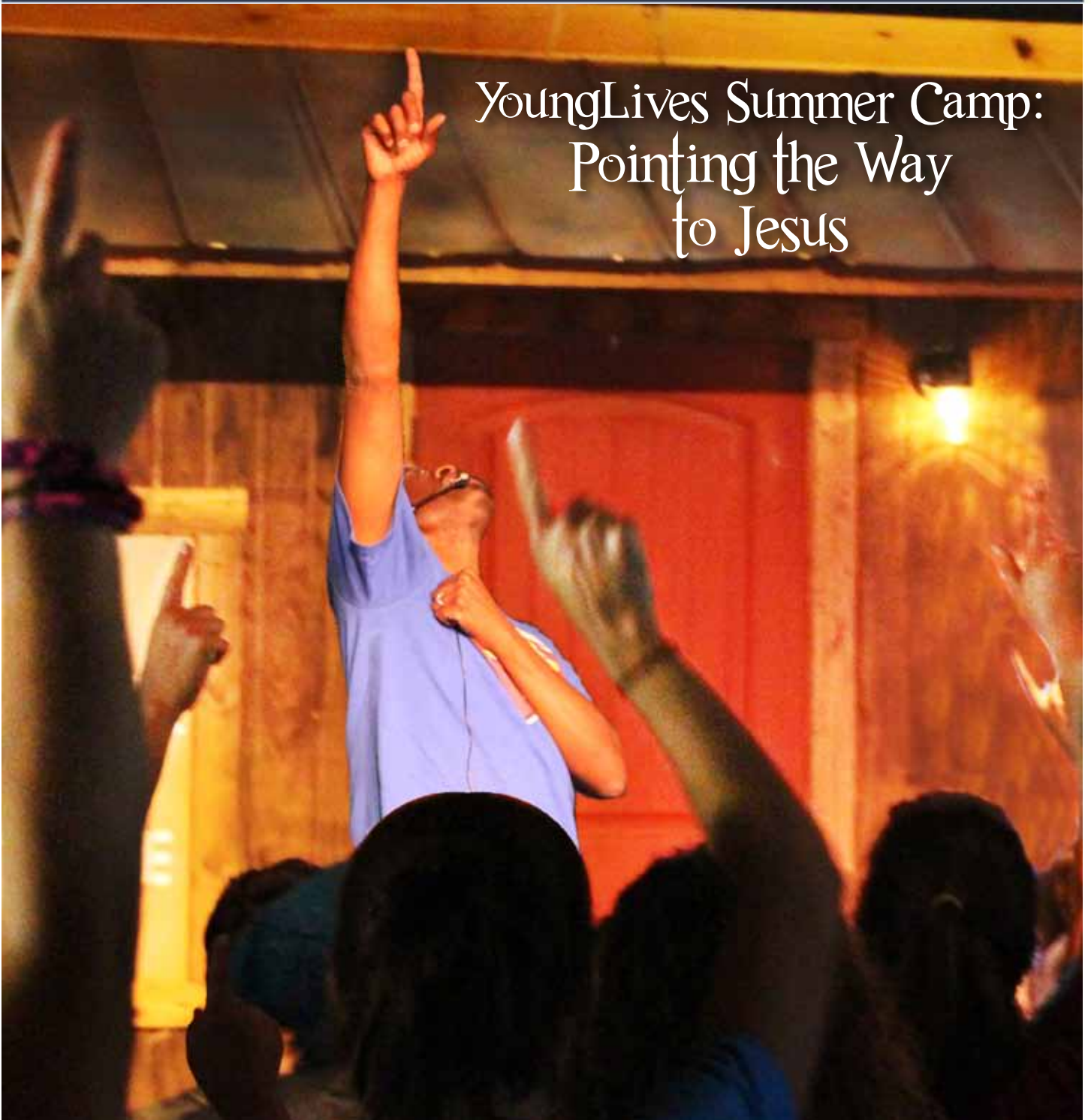




First Press

Living to Make Jesus Visible

YoungLives Summer Camp:
Pointing the Way
to Jesus



Pastor's Pondering

A Time to Say Thank You

By Rev. Trey Little, Senior Pastor



"Time is significant because it is so rare. It is completely irretrievable. You can never repeat it or relive it. There is no such thing as a literal instant replay. That appears only on film. It travels alongside us every day, yet it has eternity wrapped up in it. Although this is true, time often seems relative, doesn't it? For example, two weeks on a vacation is not at all like two weeks on a diet. Also, some people can stay longer in an hour than others can in a week! Ben Franklin said of time, '...that is the stuff life is made of.' Time forms life's building blocks. The philosopher William James once said, 'The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it.'" (Lloyd Cory, Quote Unquote).

As I write this final newsletter article, I find myself very conscious of time. I realize the end of my time here at FPC is drawing near. I recognize that the time has come for me to say goodbye but I do so with the assurance that it is only for a time. It is also time for me to say "Thank You" to so many of the wonderful people of FPC.

Thank you for the love and affirmation so many of you have shown my family and me during our time here.

Thank you for the hospitality.

Thank you for the generosity.

Thank you for the prayers.

Thank you to the many children who have drawn pictures of me and for me during worship—priceless treasures to say the least.

Thank you to the wonderful staff of FPC for your incredible support and love and for making Jesus visible to me on a daily basis.

Thank you for the various "fun gifts" that have made their way onto my book shelves.

Thank you for the opportunities for growth.

Thank you for the many laughs; and thank you for allowing me to share a few tears.

Thank you for your patience.

Thank you for reaching out to my kids and loving them and including them.

Thank you for graciously encouraging my "sweet bride."

Thank you for allowing me to be a part of your family; thank you for choosing to be a part of my family.

Thank you for having us into your homes.

Thank you for the many tangible gifts you have given us over the years but also thank you for the countless intangible gifts as well.

Thank you for welcoming us here but also thank you for graciously releasing us to go where God is leading.

The truth of the matter is, there is not enough TIME to adequately express our THANKS to the great people of First Presbyterian Church. Therefore, please know you all will remain in our hearts and prayers as we continue to lift up FPC to the Lord. We will pray for the Lord to continue to richly bless you as you continue living to make Jesus visible.

Keep smilin' and keep lovin'!

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Trey".





It's summer time! Are you planning a trip or two this year? Maybe a road trip along the interstate to a beach, a lake, or further afield?

Wherever you go, you know you need directions. Whether it's a piece of paper or a GPS app on your smartphone, maps help orient us and guide us so we can arrive at our destination. And as we travel we look for road signs along the way so we can be sure we are headed in the right direction.

God has given us "road signs" to steer us in the right direction through life—the 10 commandments. Sometimes called the "Decalogue" in Greek (for "10 words"), these commandments are incredibly relevant to us as followers of Jesus today! Living out the 10 commandments strengthens our faith from the inside out, so that we can live a fulfilled life of love, service, and discipleship as God has called us to do. In this way our "inner faith" is outwardly expressed.

Beginning July 6, 2014, join us on Innerfaith 10—a journey through the 10 Commandments. Together we will learn from the wisdom of our God as we continue to strive to

travel toward him and with him in our daily lives. Worship with us Sundays or, if you are traveling and can't make it to First Pres on Sundays, listen to the messages online at www.fpcsanantonio.org/media.

- July 6:** God First (Exodus 20:1-6)
- July 13:** God Bless (Exodus 20:7)
- July 20:** God's Day (Exodus 20:8-11)
- July 27:** God's Promise (Exodus 20:12)
- August 3:** God's Life (Exodus 20:13)
- August 10:** God's Love (Exodus 20:14)
- (Note: No contemporary worship service August 10 due to Moor Ranch church retreat weekend)*
- August 17:** God's Passion (Exodus 20:15)
- August 24:** God's Truth (Exodus 20:16)
- August 31:** God's Desire (Exodus 20:17)

FINANCIAL SUMMARY MAY 2014			
Operating Fund Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Over/(Under)
Total Revenues	\$1,801,890	\$1,844,637	(\$42,748)
Total Operating Expenditures	\$1,402,685	\$1,447,634	(\$44,949)
Total Benevolences	\$250,488	\$256,947	(\$6,459)
Net Income/Loss	\$148,717	\$140,056	\$8,661
Giving for the month exceeded budget. Thank you. As we enter the summer vacation season, please remember that 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.			

THE WEEKLY IMPACT OF YOUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

Your Giving is Helping Teenage Moms

It's no secret that the teen years can be tough. And for some girls, the standard turbulent emotions and raging hormones are just a small part of the struggle.

Did you know that in Bexar County, there were 2,755 babies born to mothers between the ages of 10-19 in the year 2012?¹ In fact, the rate of teen pregnancy in Bexar County is 46% higher than the rest of the nation.²

When you give to First Presbyterian Church, your tithes and offerings are helping to share the love of Jesus Christ with teenage moms. Childbearing among adolescents is a complex problem, and FPC has been at the forefront of supporting ministries for teenage moms who struggle to understand God's plan for their future. We have been blessed to host the group YoungLives since their very first days of ministry in San Antonio, working to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to teenage moms and their children.



1) <http://www.sanantonio.gov/Portals/0/Files/health/HealthyLiving/TeenHealth/FactSheet-Teen.pdf>

2) http://www.mysanantonio.com/news/local_news/article/Local-teen-pregnancy-rate-falls-but-above-U-S-4480697.php

What is YoungLives?

YoungLives is a unique, cutting-edge Christian organization designed to empower and equip teen moms through teaming up mature Christian women to provide teen girls in crisis with timely encouragement, guidance and ongoing support.

How does FPC help the mission of YoungLives in San Antonio?

A portion of each Sunday's offerings are used to financially bless a variety of valuable local organizations. This year, the Local Missions Committee met with Chris Shipman (YoungLives Area Director) and developed a great appreciation for her hard work in pursuing mentors for young women at Seton Home and Healy Murphy High School who are in need of strong, faithful women in their lives. The Committee decided to support YoungLives in order that Chris may continue to lead volunteers in this important ministry within our community. This year, our church also offered a special gift to help pay for some of these young ladies and their child to attend an amazing week of church camp where they will each experience fresh opportunities to hear the message of Christ's unconditional love. In addition, for many years FPC has provided childcare and a meeting room for a YoungLives group to meet throughout the school year downstairs by our nutrition center.

How does a YoungLives "mentor" serve?

The ideal candidates would be willing to share some laughs and have fun at YoungLives youth group meetings and to build a positive relationship while getting to know a teenage mom. We're looking for a mentor who will walk alongside her during her journey as a young mother, bringing compassion and spiritual direction. We're not looking for those who will cast stones, but those who will write a message of hope in the sand.

What if I've never been a mentor before?

Don't worry—you won't be *figuring things out alone!* You'll be surrounded by the support of our current volunteers from FPC, as well as the leadership of YoungLives, who will be with you every step of the way to answer all of your questions.

Find out how ONE mentor from FPC can change TWO lives!



**Mentor Information Meeting
Tuesday, August 12 at 1:30 PM at FPC**

7 STEPS TO BEING A BLESSING FOR YOUR SPONSORED CHILD:



STEP 1:

Buy a 6"x 9" bubble-envelope. You can buy these at the USPS, Office Max, Walgreens, etc.

World Vision Malawi
The SRD Manager
Private Bag 30
Lilongwe, Malawi

STEP 2:

Write the address above on the **FRONT** of the envelope. You can write your home address in the top left corner.



STEP 3:

Write your sponsored child's ID # on the **BACK** of the envelope. (*Don't know the number? You'll find it on your World Vision statements.*)



STEP 4:

Send a note of encouragement. You could also send stickers, colored pencils, balloons, your favorite verse, or a family photo.



STEP 5:

Pray for your sponsored child—*this is probably the most important step!*



STEP 6:

Take your envelope inside your local USPS. They'll need to weigh it and add a special stamp to send it to Malawi.

STEP 7:

Take a moment to praise God for the incredible opportunity to serve Him through sponsoring a child with World Vision!



The Power of Prayer



How to Be Aware of and Respond to Congregational Prayer Needs

Years ago, FPC established the Care and Concern Line (210-222-2273) as an easy way for members to be aware of prayer requests within the congregation. That information is updated daily. The system is very easy to use. Just dial the number to hear the various requests and pray for them at your convenience. When you call, you also are offered an opportunity to leave a request for prayer; just follow the menu instructions. More recently, an e-mail listing of

the prayer requests is now sent twice daily to officers, staff and members who have asked to be notified. If you wish to be included as a prayer partner and receive the e-mail listing, please contact Susan Dullnig at susand@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2753 or Nancy Berger at nancyb@fpcsat.org or 210-226-0215. Please consider prayers for our congregation an everyday part of your prayer life. "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18).

Moments to Hold Close *Free Fallin'*

By Manny Rodriguez



Our second daughter has very eclectic musical taste for a teenager in 2014. Amongst her favorites are Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Dean Martin, Clarence Clear Water Revival, and Foreigner. Back in 2008 Tom Petty performed for the Super Bowl halftime show. I implored Madeline to sit down and listen, assuring her she would love it. "This is awful" she exclaimed. I continued to encourage her to listen knowing this is the type of performance that she would enjoy. Madeline classified it as the worst halftime show in Super Bowl history. Now fast forward six years later, you guessed it, Tom Petty is one of her favorite artists. I never

shy away from reminding her that I had told her she would love it and she could have been enjoying it for years had she listened to me. Her response, "Forgive me Father, for I was ignorant and did not know." How many Tom Petty moments have you experienced in your own walk with God? He knows better, He wants us to experience something better, something that is great for us. The good news is, once you finally come around, all you have to do is be grateful and exclaim, "Forgive me Father" and proceed to enjoy the rest of the ride.



History Corner

First Presbyterian Begins to Expand

By Bill Cogburn, FPC member

First Presbyterian Church began to expand early in its history. Their first daughter church was organized in 1889. Since the total congregation of First Pres numbered only 260 at this time, it might be seen as an ambitious venture. A fledgling group of forty members first met in the Presa Street School located at South St. Mary's and King William Streets to constitute their new church which they named Westminister Presbyterian.

In 1928, Westminister's growing congregation led by pastor Rev. David F. Murphy, moved a few blocks south to their new white stucco mission-style building with red tile roof at South St. Mary's and Temple (now Eagleland) Streets. By 1946, their membership numbered 450.

The church flourished for the next forty years or so. In the mid-1980's, they invited a group of Mennonites to hold their worship services in the fellowship hall. After a few years, Westminister's membership began to decline and they decided to sell the church to the Mennonites.

Today, the Mennonite congregation is very active. They have recently obtained a San Antonio Conservation Society grant to rebuild one of their stained glass windows and repair others. Included in the grant are funds to pay a master carpenter who specializes in historic preservation to rebuild a set of wooden doors.

Besides Sunday services, the building is well used for neighborhood events, accommodating meetings for such organizations as peaceCenter, P.E.A.C.E. Initiative, various support groups, free yoga classes and the DOOR program which facilitates urban mission trips for young people visiting San Antonio. They also maintain a community garden inside their white picket fence.

Source: First Pres archives; King William Assn. newsletter

Celebrate with Your First Pres Family

Patriotic Weekend All-church Picnic & Ice Cream Social **Following worship services**

July 6, 2014

Want some great picnic food from church members' kitchens? You'll find it at the All-Church Independence Weekend picnic. Sanctuary Choir and KEYS are teaming up for chicken and ice cream. There will be lemonade and water to drink. Bring your best "picnic food"—hot or cold, desserts or salads or veggies. We'll be ready to receive food at the Avenue E entrance and in the Mauze Lobby before each worship service and before Sunday School. When worship services end, the feast begins. Come to church comfortably dressed and in red, white, and blue! Bring your appetite, and stay for food and fellowship.

Fried chicken and ice cream are provided. The best cooks in SA (FPC Members and friends) are invited to bring the side dishes: salads, veggies, fruit, and desserts.

Contact Kay Kutchins at 210-228-0094.



First Cup Readings — July, 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 Avery

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

- 1 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; Deuteronomy 15:7-11;
Acts 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 8:16-21
- 2 1 Corinthians 16:5-24; John 15:1-17
- 3 2 Corinthians 1:1-11; Psalm 71:34
- 4 2 Corinthians 1:12-2:11 (see 1 Cor. 5);
1 John 2:1-11; 3:7-10; 1 Peter 5:8-11; Psalm 130
- 5 1 Corinthians 1:18; 2 Corinthians 2:12-16;
John 3:16-18; 5:24; Romans 5:12-21

Standing on the promises of Christ, my King! Through eternal ages let His praises ring. "Glory in the Highest!" I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. Standing on the promises that cannot fail! When the howling storms of doubt and fear assail, by the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God. Standing on the promises of Christ, the Lord, bound to Him eternally by love's strong cord, Overcoming daily with the Spirit's Sword, standing on the promises of God. (Worship in Song, #472)

- 6 2 Corinthians 2:17-3:18; Exodus 34:1-28;
Jeremiah 31:31-37; Hebrews 8
- 7 2 Corinthians 4; Hebrews 11:1, 6; Romans 8:18-27
- 8 2 Corinthians 5:1-10; 1 Corinthians 3:11-15;
Romans 14:10-12; Colossians 1
- 9 2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2; Romans 5:1-6:14; 4:7-8
- 10 2 Corinthians 6:3-7:1; Ephesians 5:1-21;
1 Corinthians 5:9-13; Psalm 1
- 11 2 Corinthians 7:2-16; Proverbs 28:13-14; Psalm 32
- 12 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Philippians 4:10-20;
James 2:14-17; Matthew 6:25-34

Be not dismayed whate'er betide: God will take care of you. Beneath His wings of love abide; God will take care of you. Through days of toil when heart doth fail; God will take care of you. When dangers fierce your path assail, God will take care of you. All that you need, He will provide; God will take care of you. Nothing you ask will be denied, God will take care of you. God will take care of you, through every day, o'er all the way. He will take care of you. (Worship in Song, #450)

- 13 2 Corinthians 8:16-9:15; Proverbs 11:24-25; 22:9;
Luke 6:38
- 14 1 Corinthians 1:20-31; 2 Corinthians 10;
Jeremiah 9:23-24; Galatians 6:14
- 15 2 Corinthians 11:1-15; 1 Corinthians 2:1-5;
Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1-3

- 16 2 Corinthians 11:16-12:10; Hebrews 11:32-34;
Romans 8:26-39; Philippians 3
- 17 2 Corinthians 12:11-21; Ephesians 5:1-21;
Galatians 5:13-26; Colossians 3:5-17
- 18 2 Corinthians 13; 1 Peter 4; Romans 6:15-18;
Ephesians 6:10-18
- 19 1 Timothy 1; Romans 5:21; 7:7-8:17; Hebrews 5:11-14;
James 3:1; 1 Peter 2:1-3

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater, He sendeth more strength when the labor increases; to added affliction He addeth His mercy, to multiplied trials, His multiplied peace. His love has no limit, His grace has no measure, His power has no boundary known unto men; For out of His infinite riches in Jesus, He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again! (Hymns for the Family of God, #112)

- 20 1 Timothy 2; Genesis 3; Proverbs 31; 11:16, 22; 14:1
- 21 1 Timothy 3; Romans 12; Hebrews 13:17
- 22 1 Timothy 4; 1:7; John 13:1-17; 1 Corinthians 11:1
- 23 1 Timothy 5:1-6:2; 1 Corinthians 7:8; James 1:27;
Ephesians 6:5-9; Psalm 68:4-5
- 24 1 Timothy 6:3-21; Ecclesiastes 4:4-8; Luke 12;
Revelation 3:14-22
- 25 2 Timothy 1; Mark 8:34-38; Romans 1:8-17;
Philippians 1:12-30; 1 Peter 4:12-19
- 26 2 Timothy 2; Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:1-3

A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify, A never dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill; O may it all my powers engage To do my Master's will! Help me to watch and pray, And on Thyself rely, And let me ne'er my trust betray, But press to realms on high. (The Hymnbook, #301)

- 27 2 Timothy 3; Jeremiah 12:10-11; 23:1-4; John 10:1-16;
Acts 20:25-31
- 28 2 Timothy 4; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 3:7-4:1
- 29 Titus 1; 1 Timothy 1:1-7; 1 Corinthians 4:1-2;
Philippians 1:11
- 30 Titus 2; Deuteronomy 6:1-9; 11:18-21; Psalm 25;
Proverbs 9:9; 22:17-21
- 31 Titus 3; Romans 13; 1 Peter 2:17



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]

*Join us for a Reception Honoring
Rev. Trey Little*



Sunday, July 13, 2014
After the 11:00 a.m. worship services
In Westminster Hall

Thank you, Pastor Trey, for everything you have done for First Pres!



Temporary Changes to Worship Schedule

June 22

Two blended worship services
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Join us as we all worship together and be sure to visit
Wilderness Escape Vacation Bible School in Westminster Hall

July 13

Two worship services
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
Reception honoring Rev. Trey Little to follow in Westminster Hall

August 10

Two traditional worship services
9:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary
No Contemporary Worship Service due to Mo-Ranch weekend

Reaching Millennials for Jesus

By Chris Via, Director of University and Young Adult Ministry



Over the last few months, my staff and I have been delving into different characteristics of the Millennial generation. In many cases, we have highlighted passions that, while might be appreciated by those that are older, aren't exactly part of what makes them tick. This month, however, we wanted to look at something that Millennials are just as passionate about as any other generation – the person of

Jesus. When they come into any church setting, they are looking for a true encounter with the risen Lord. Some do that through formality and ritual, while others appreciate spontaneity and expressiveness. I've met Millennials who love Taize services in the Anglican church and love meeting with Jesus there, as well as many who find more contemporary atmospheres an amazing place to worship. Regardless of the setting, however, what they are yearning for is an authentic time to give praise to the Almighty God.

What a great and unifying desire that is! It makes me think of Ephesians 4, where Paul reminds his church in Ephesus what exactly it is that brings them together when he states, "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all" (vv. 4, 5). Whether you're a Buster, Boomer, Gen X, or Millennial, we all are a part of that body. We all worship one Lord and have one faith, and one baptism. And God is over all of us, through all of us, and in all of us, whether you just received your Bachelor's degree or your AARP membership card.

Here at FPC we are blessed with some amazing worship





leaders. Whether you attend traditional service or contemporary, you have the opportunity and blessing to be ushered into the presence of the Lord by men and women of God who are incredible musicians and speakers. And so the next time you're opening your hymnal or reading the lyrics on the screen, know that that Millennial sitting around you is excited that they are being ushered into that presence as well. And as you lift your voices together, or speak a prayer together, or listen to a sermon together, know that you are unified together in the body of believers here at FPC.

Tuesdays throughout the Summer

CHOW is now Food Truck! FPC has a great tradition of feeding our college-age students during the summer months and Christmas break, a program that has been called "CHOW" since its inception. To give it an even stronger tie to San Antonio, however, we've renamed the it "Food Truck." It will still be a place for our university-age students to get a great meal and great fellowship, so make sure to spread the word! And as with every Food Truck in town, we move around constantly, so make sure to find us on Facebook (FirstPresUMin) or follow us on Twitter (@FPC_U) or at #FirstPresFoodTruck!

Contact Chris Via at chrisv@fpcsat.org details. Come hungry! We can't wait to see you and catch up!



What is Faith Parenting?

By Rev. Ruthie Seiders



When Moses told the Hebrews as they were about to enter the Land of Promise, “Impress these commands upon your children...” in Deuteronomy 6, he was not just speaking to the parents about their own children, he was speaking to the community about their children. It was an “all y’all” moment!

You may have noticed in our bulletins, in our language during baptisms, in newsletter articles, the use of the term “faith parenting.” This term has evolved out of my research over the last 3½ years while studying for my Doctor of Ministry degree and specifically in the writing of my dissertation. Basically a faith parent is any adult in a congregation assuming responsibility for the spiritual nurture of a child or young person. Faith parents are biological and/or adoptive

parents of children as well as any adult who answers the baptism vow to come alongside a family as they bring a child for baptism.

God has called his people to live in covenant community where faith is passed from one generation to another. Baptism vows call parents and church members alike to commit to the nurture of the church’s children. *Renewing Our Vow: Parents and Faith Parents in the Church* (the dissertation) is a project designed to encourage this generation of parents and faith parents who will have a heart for the emerging generations in the church, who will actively walk with them helping them see where their story intersects with God’s grand narrative, and teach them to look at life with a Christian worldview.



The task before us today, is to help children, youth, young, middle, and older adults grasp and understand that our lives are being shaped. If not by the biblical worldview of the grand narrative of God’s story, than by the forces and powers of the postmodern contemporary culture which would have us look at life through a completely different lens. Be-



fore we can draw our emerging generations back to God's story, before we can reintroduce them to the One by Whom and for Whom they were created, we need to understand where they are today and what are the forces at work shaping their story, forming their worldview, from their childhood, through their adolescence and on into young adulthood.

It is my hope, beginning in the fall, to offer a 6 week class on faith parenting – for both parents and church faith parents – to educate adults in every age and stage on the history of our covenant theology, the cultural changes our young people face today, and how they can be active faith parents in the lives of our children, youth, and young adults. Once commissioned, these faith parents would be paired up

with interested families of baptized children to live out the baptism vow taken by the congregation.

In addition, each week in the bulletin you will find a “faith parenting tip,” a suggestion of how every adult sitting in our pews can be actively engaged in the lives of our young people either through prayer, supporting events, learning names, welcoming families parenting in the pew, attending all-church events where the generations can mingle, etc.

So, look for the “Faith Parenting Tip of the Month” in your bulletin the next time you join us for worship, learn the name of a new young person each week, and help our children and youth begin to feel more a part of the larger church family!

KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit) Older Adult Ministry

KEYS Are Jumping into July

By Pat McCleary, Director, Older Adult Ministry



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



Thursday, July 3 – KEYS Leadership Committee will meet at 11:00 a.m. for lunch and meeting. Please submit any suggestions for programs that you would like to hear this fall.

Sunday, July 6 – All-Church Picnic & Ice Cream Social – KEYS is teaming up with the Sanctuary choir to host the All-Church Picnic that will follow worship services. Volunteers are needed to help receive food, assist with ice cream, and we'll also help Sanctuary Choir members in "hosting" other church members.

Don't forget to wear your red, white & blue!!

Tuesday, July 8 – Tour of the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, opening in September will begin at 10:00

a.m. and last approximately 30 to 45 minutes. There will be two tour groups of 12 people at a time. There will be lot of walking and you must wear closed toe shoes, boots, or sneakers. As ramps are not yet built so no canes, walkers or wheel chairs are allowed. In case of rain, you will need rain boots. There will be van transportation from the church to the site so to be assured of a place, please make your reservation by July 1 by calling the church receptionist, Nancy Berger. Tentative plans for lunch afterwards are being planned so please watch the Sunday announcements for details.

Friday, July 18, 11:30 a.m. – Celebrate July birthdays with us at Milano's Restaurant located in The Elms at Wurzbach and Lockhill-Selma. Virginia Nilsson is serving as Chairperson and has selected a delicious menu to select from. Cost is \$12/person except for our birthday honorees who receive a complimentary meal. Reservations and menu selection must be made no later than noon Monday, July 14.

KEYS Game Days – Don't forget to bring your lunch

Bridge happens during July on Friday, July 11 and Friday, July 25 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Please contact Katy Bedunnah at 210-945-9789 or katy.bedunnah@att.net.

Mah Jongg group will play on Friday, July 11 and Friday, July 25 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. If interested in learning and playing, please contact Nancy Black at 210-493-1609.





Thursday, July 31, 11:30 a.m. – Movie & Hamburgers

Come and enjoy hamburgers (\$7) and relax while watching the 2014 movie *Monuments Men* starring George Clooney & Matt Damon as part of an unlikely WWII Platoon that is tasked to rescue art and masterpieces from Nazi thieves and return them to their owner.

Remember Reservations

Please make reservations by the Tuesday before each Friday program unless otherwise specified by calling the church office at 226-0215. If you are on the permanent list, you need to call if you cannot attend.



Keep Moving Fitness Class Fridays throughout summer

9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Don't forget we continue to start our Friday mornings with "Keep Moving" Fitness with certified instructor, Linda Osborne. The summer months are a great time to give it a try! Dress comfortably and bring a friend. There is no cost and no reservations necessary.

WANTED – BOOKS & MAGAZINES

KEYS will continue to collect books and magazines for the VA Hospital. The items can be dropped off in my office (Pat McCleary) or the front desk. Volunteer Bud Davenport will deliver them to the VA

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR AUGUST

**Wednesday, August 20 – "Learn @ Lunch
HEB Central Market." 11:00 a.m.**

This has become an annual private event for us and Mary Martini, Director of the School, will provide the menu at a later date. We can only accommodate 30 people for this special event so make your reservation early by calling Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726. Cost is only \$25/person.



Report from the Church Relations Committee of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio

The Session of First Presbyterian Church voted on April 14, 2014 to accept and approve the following report from the Church Relations Committee, and to distribute it to the congregation with the clarifying statement, which follows.

This confirms that the Session of First Presbyterian Church is not initiating any process to begin leaving our current denomination, the PC(USA), at this time. Please read the following documents, distributed by your Session, so that you may keep abreast of these complicated issues, and be better informed in light of the 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA) which took place this year, June 14-21 in Detroit.

The Fellowship of Presbyterians 2014 National Gathering is being held this August 18 – 20 in Dallas. We encourage as many of our members to attend as possible. Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org to find out more.

Clarifying Statement from your Session:

While we remain within the PC(USA) at this time, we are distinct from the PC(USA) in that we reaffirm our church's longstanding commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ and the authority of the Scriptures. We also reaffirm our membership in The Fellowship of Presbyterians, which provides us an opportunity to interact with like-minded congregations as we — and they — seek to live within its essential tenets of faith. And, we strongly encourage our members' full participation in The Fellowship of Presbyterians' activities. Going forward, the Session intends to give increased scrutiny to denominational funding that does not align with our theological convictions.

The Rev. Trey H. Little
Senior Pastor

Norton A. Stuart, III, MD
Clerk of the Session
CRC Report to Session
April 14, 2014

Report from the CRC to the Session of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio April 14, 2014

At last month's Session meeting, I came before you with a report that the CRC had reached a number of preliminary conclusions that we wanted to share with you, the Session, at whose pleasure we serve. Tonight, I come before you again after the CRC has had more time to deliberate and, having reached a consensus, to present a report and to ask for direction from the Session after hearing this report.

Among the considerations and conclusions we have reached are the following:

1. While there are many wonderful things about the PC(USA), there are, nonetheless, a number of issues with which many members of FPC, including officers, have serious concerns. These issues have caused a distraction from the mission of FPC. I won't go into all of those issues now, but Kelley Terry has done an admirable job compiling many of those issues, which you can find below in Appendix I. As a result of those concerns, FPC has lost, and will continue to lose, members of this church, including a number of officers. I am happy to point out the obvious, that, so far at least, we have not lost any of our beloved pastoral staff. At our three Listening Sessions we heard from many of our members on BOTH sides of the issues. These issues have caused a distraction from the mission of FPC.

2. This church has been a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in San Antonio, the State of Texas, and indeed, throughout the world since 1846. We have an on-going rich history of preaching the saving Gospel of Jesus, which we MUST continue to do. I feel that there are very few within our membership, and I would dare say, within our city, who do not approve of what this church, this wonderful congregation at Fourth and Alamo, has been, and is still, about.

3. The Session of this church, consistently and over many years, has stood with other Presbyterians in opposition to various decisions of the PC(USA) when we felt that doing so was the right thing to do. Such

was the case when we voted to affirm our loyalty to the causes of the Confessing Church Movement, the Presbyterian Global Fellowship, and most recently to the Fellowship of Presbyterians. The CRC anticipates there will be actions coming out of the GA meeting this June with which many on this Session will not approve. Tripp Stuart has put together a highly informative presentation on these matters, which is found below in Appendix II.

4. Many Presbyterian churches have made the decision to disaffiliate from the PC(USA) in recent years because of disagreements over ecclesial and polity issues, and many of these churches have been dismissed to other denominations. Attached below as Appendix III is an informative piece composed by David West, which discusses the experiences of many churches that have attempted to leave the denomination with various degrees of success. The lesson is that those congregations which have a significant majority desiring to leave the denomination have been served well by this strategy; those which are more diverse in their beliefs have become divided and weakened. The CRC would define a significant majority – being of one mind – as somewhere in the 85 to 90 percent range. Please know we will continue to discuss and evaluate other means by which to make our displeasure with some of the actions of the PC(USA) known such as “defecting in place”.

5. The Gracious Separation Policy of Mission Presbytery is a long, complex, expensive and intentionally difficult process designed to encourage reconciliation and discourage separation. You will find an attachment I have written giving an overview on the Gracious Separation Policy of Mission Presbytery below as Appendix IV. The facts are that in order for our church to leave the PC(USA), a quorum of at least 35 percent of our membership must be present, with a minimum of 80 percent voting to leave. The CRC believes that achieving that large a quorum and that high vote level would be very difficult at this time. To attempt that process and fail would be very detrimental to this wonderful body of believers!

6. The consensus of the Church Relations Committee is that First Presbyterian Church is NOT of one mind on denominational issues, and because of that the CRC believes that FPC should NOT enter the formal discernment process at this time. We believe that to

do so would further divide and weaken this congregation and perhaps even jeopardize the very existence of many of the fruitful ministries of this church, some of which this church has supported for generations. We are unanimous in our belief that attempting to utilize the Gracious Separation Policy to leave the PC(USA) is neither productive nor viable at this time. However, if this situation should change in the future, then reconsideration might be in order.

7. The CRC feels that, in the meantime, FPC should have as our goal something along the line of “Unity in Action for the Cause of Jesus Christ.” We should proceed with our mission as we always have. Fortunately, even during the distractions and interruptions of these denominational issues, we have never stopped carrying out the ministry to which we have been called. We should focus on the things we are “for” rather than “against”. Let us now recommit to the call of the Great Commission, and to the Great Commandment to love the Lord our God with all our heart and all our soul and all our mind, and to love our neighbor as our self.

8. The CRC feels our task of educating the congregation has momentum at this time and our efforts have been fruitful. The CRC thanks the Session for the liberty to continue to meet and to monitor the affairs of the denomination and to educate and respond to the Session and congregation at the appropriate times. The CRC feels that it is important that we get this information to the congregation as quickly and effectively as possible.

The Church Relations Committee (CRC)
A Committee of the Session of First Presbyterian
Church, San Antonio

Dirk DeKoch, Chair
Trey Little, Staff
David Peebles
George Spencer
Tripp Stuart
Sandy Sturch
Kelley Terry
David West

Areas of Concern

- Areas of Concern:
 - The PC(USA) provides *Uncritical* Support for Palestine and *unilateral opposition to Israel*
 - PC(USA) has called for the purging of investment portfolios of companies that do business with Israel,
 - including Caterpillar, Hewlett Packard and Motorola
 - In the past boycotts of Nestle and Taco Bell
 - PC(USA) provided support for the *Occupy Wall Street Movement* and they advocate for the investigation of banking and financial institutions.
 - PC(USA) advocates for *labor unions* and *collective bargaining*.
 - PC(USA) supports the passage of the *DREAM act*.
 - PC(USA) *boycotts* states that enforce *federal immigration law*.
 - PC(USA) advocates for and lobbies for *gun control*.
 - PC(USA) endorses *Obamacare*.
 - PC(USA) advocates for an unconditional continuing resolution to raise the US debt ceiling without preconditions.
 - PC(USA) supports and has donated money to *ACORN* (association for community organizations for reform now)
 - PC(USA) advocates for *legal abortions* including partial birth abortions. Further, our denomination is a member of the *Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice*, which in turn supports and **donates money** to Planned Parenthood. In fact, all PC(USA) churches pay dues to the board of Pensions. Those funds are used to pay benefits including coverage of abortion of all kinds and for any reason. Those funds are also used to pay benefits to same sex partners of plan members.

- The PC(USA) has supported Marxist rebels in Latin America and has supported Castro in Cuba.
- At the 2001 General Assembly, one commissioner offered a motion that the assembly declare "*the singular saving lordship of Jesus Christ*". It was defeated because it was considered "disrespectful to other religions".
 - In a survey done by PC(USA) in 2011, 45% of PC(USA) pastors do not agree with the statement "only followers of Christ will be saved". Further 56% of special ministers *do not believe that Christ is necessary for salvation*.
- At the 2012 General Assembly, the assembly was prayed over by a Hindu priest and took counsel from a Muslim.
- In the 2010 General Assembly, what has become known as **10A** passed. It was later ratified by a majority of the presbyteries in May of 2011. Amendment 10A removed the "fidelity in marriage" and "chastity for single persons" language from our constitution. This allowed local presbyteries to ordain as pastors and elders practicing homosexual persons engaging in homosexual behaviors.
- These are some examples of the theological drift.
 - Is not a complete list.
 - All are encouraged to do further investigation.
 - There is a great deal of information available.
 - We all need to increase our awareness.

Sources:

- *pcusa.org*
- *presbyterianmission.org*
- *rcrc.org*
- *layman.org*
- *ppl.org*
- *officeofpublicwitness.blogspot.com*

What has First Presbyterian, San Antonio been doing to stand up for:

The Lordship of Jesus Christ,

The Authority of Scripture, &

Traditional Presbyterian Beliefs as expressed in the PC(USA) Confessions?

In **2001**, The Session of FPC San Antonio voted to join the **Confessing Church Movement** within the PC(USA), which advocated three main beliefs:

- 1) Jesus Christ alone is Lord of all and the way of salvation,
- 2) The Bible is the Church's only infallible rule of faith and life,
- 3) Christians are called either to sexual abstinence in singleness or to sexual purity within the confines of marriage between one man and one woman.

In **2006**, The Session of FPC San Antonio voted to become one of the founding members of the **Presbyterian Global Fellowship**, a group of like-minded PC(USA) churches, who in concert with renewal groups already within the denomination, purposed to turn their backs on denominational struggles, and concentrate on missional church work, i.e. fulfilling the Great Commission, while holding to traditional belief in our confessions.

In **2011**, The Session of FPC San Antonio voted to join the **Fellowship of Presbyterians**, a group within the PC(USA) which seeks to differentiate itself by:

- 1) Stopping all fighting about denominational issues
- 2) Concentrating on Missional work as directed by the Great Commission
- 3) Defining and teaching the “Essential Tenets” of the Reformed Faith
- 4) Working and cooperating with like-minded similar churches within the umbrella of the Fellowship and the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO)

To clarify, The Fellowship of Presbyterians is a group wholly within the PC(USA) denomination. ECO is a new Presbyterian denomination which works closely with The Fellowship. Membership in the Fellowship does not encourage nor require leaving the PC(USA) and joining ECO.

Overtures Coming Before the 221st General Assembly of the PC(USA) in Detroit, this June 14th – 21st

- 5 have to do with pro-Palestinian, anti-Israel actions
- 3 have to do with Cuba
- 2 have to do with gun violence, limiting possession of firearms
- 1 has to do with divestment from fossil fuel companies
- 1 has to do with halting the use of drones for any purpose
- 1 has to do with stopping all executions

It would seem that our denomination, instead of concentrating on the Great Commission we received from Christ Jesus, has become a liberal political action committee, and has lost its first love.

Two overtures seek to redefine marriage from between a man and a woman to two non-gender specific people:

1. Ovt 011: Would separate the civil marriage and the blessing of a Christian Covenant, the latter of which is defined as a couple as opposed to a man and a woman.
2. Ovt 021: Strikes the entire BOO text of W-4.9000 and replaces it with inclusive language of marriage as a unique commitment between two people.

Authoritative Interpretations become church law immediately, they do not require the assent of a majority of the presbyteries to become church law. Two overtures seek to issue Authoritative Interpretations allowing teaching elders (pastors) the discretion to perform any marriage that is legal in their particular state:

1. Ovt 024
2. Ovt 027

Both refer to the participants as “a couple.” Both require the session to approve the use of their building for such purposes. Both require that the laws of the particular state allow such a marriage. Both require that the conscience of the teaching elder be bound by only their understanding of the Word, and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

One seeks to strike the Authoritative Interpretation of 1991 which prohibits teaching elders from performing marriages for same gender couples, and prohibits Sessions from permitting the use of church facilities for this purpose.

Ovt 036

By striking an authoritative interpretation, this overture essentially functions as a new authoritative interpretation allowing such activities.

One overture seeks to stop all action on same gender marriage until after more study by a task force, and more discussion by the General Assembly.

Ovt 047

The task force would study the Biblical and Confessional understandings of same gender marriage and seek to identify common ground and reconcilable differences before any further action on the subject is taken.

Websites which may be of interest:

www.pcusa.org

www.fellowship-pres.org

www.eco-pres.org

www.epc.org

www.pcanet.org

PC(USA)

The Fellowship of Presbyterians

The Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians

The Evangelical Presbyterian Church

The Presbyterian Church in America

How Other Churches in the PCUSA are Responding to Denominational Issues

Background. The Presbyterian form of government is a “connectional” system. Presbyterian churches do not operate as independent units, but are connected with other churches through presbyteries, synods and the General Assembly. While Presbyterians are “connectional,” splits and mergers are not new to Presbyterians.

The major split relevant to what is going on today was in 1861, when the civil war split the northern and southern churches. The northern churches became known as the United Presbyterian Church of the USA or **UPCUSA**. The southern churches became the Presbyterian Church of US or **PCUS**. They remained separated for 122 years. First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio (FPC) was part of the PCUS for 122 years of its history. In 1983, the northern and southern churches merged to form the current denomination, the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America, or **PCUSA**.

Recent History. In the past three years, over 400 churches either have left or are in the process of leaving the denomination. See www.layman.org/wp-content. These churches have left the denomination in one of three ways: (1) the “gracious separation” process issued by each presbytery; (2) through legal proceedings; and (3) “renunciation of jurisdiction.” The “gracious separation” process (authorized by General Assembly) varies from presbytery to presbytery. Legal process also varies by state. Although the courts cannot get involved in theological or polity issues under the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution, they can decide property disputes. Renunciation of jurisdiction means the members of the churches reject the authority of the church and leave the denomination, abandoning their church property.

Where Are They Going? Presbyterian churches must be dismissed to another denomination. Initially, most churches seemed to be joining the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, or **EPC**, a denomination that broke away from the UPCUSA in 1981. Recently, more churches are joining a new denomination formed in 2012, called the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians, or **ECO**. Jim Singleton, former associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio was instrumental in forming that new denomination. A few churches have joined the Presbyterian Church of America or **PCA**, which split off from the PCUS in 1972, and others have joined other denominations.

Note: The Fellowship of Presbyterians is not a separate denomination. It is an affiliation of Presbyterian churches that may be members of the PCUSA, EPC or ECO, but who hold certain theological views in common. Churches can join the Fellowship without ever leaving the PCUSA.

Some of the churches who voted to leave the denomination and affiliate with other Presbyterian denominations are the following:

Name	Location	Members	Vote	Denomination	Cost
First Presbyterian	Orlando	3951	90%	EPC	\$900,000
Kirk of the Hills	Tulsa	2800	96%	EPC	\$1,750,000
First Presbyterian	Colorado Sp.	4108	90%	ECO	\$700,000
St. Andrews PC Newport B.		4000	88.5%	ECO	NA (straw poll)

Name	Location	Members	Vote	Denomination	Cost
Menlo Park PC CA	CA	3010	93%	ECO	\$8,890,000

In Texas:

Highland Park	Dallas	4896	91%	ECO	in negotiations
First Presbyterian	Kingwood	1611	68.5%	ECO	unknown
First Presbyterian	Amarillo	1043	96.5%	ECO	unknown
First Presbyterian	Houston	4300	65%	ECO	see below
First Presbyterian	Longview	708	71%	EPC	see below
Iglesia Presbiteriana	San Benito	178	90%+	EPC	NA
El Principe de Pas	Mercedes	55	90%+	EPC	NA
San Pablo PC	Brownsville	20	90%+	EPC	NA
Faith PC	Brownsville	50			

In Formal Discernment Process:

Grace Presbyterian	Houston	2631	552/64	NA	NA
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See www.layman.org/wp-content.

Highland Park PC (HPPC). HPPC did not use the “gracious separation” process of its presbytery. The trustees (who held title to church property) filed suit against the presbytery to declare that HPPC owned its property free and clear from any claim of the “trust clause” in the Book of Order. The congregation then voted on disaffiliation. While the legal dispute is still pending, HPPC and the presbytery are currently in settlement negotiations.

FPC Houston. First Presbyterian Church of Houston recently voted to leave the PCUSA and affiliate with ECO. While 1085 members, or 65%, voted to leave the PCUSA, this was 36 votes short of the 67% requirement to leave under their presbytery’s “gracious separation” process. The vote failed.

FPC Longview. At First Presbyterian Church of Longview, 71% of its members present at the congregational meeting voted to leave the denomination. An administrative commission from presbytery reportedly recommended that the church property remain with the members who voted to stay with the denomination, recognized as the “true church” under the Book of Order. The 71% who vote to leave the PCUSA left the church and formed a new church under the EPC. The minority now meets at the church building, with reduced attendance.

Mission Presbytery.

Three Hispanic churches in the Rio Grande Valley (Iglesia Presbiteriana, El Principe de Pas and San Pablo Presbyterian Church) left the PCUSA by renunciation of jurisdiction. They sent a letter to Mission Presbytery renouncing the jurisdiction of the PCUSA, but asking the presbytery if it would allow them to take property with them because they were poor churches in poor neighborhoods. Presbytery required the churches to turn over all real property, bank accounts and personal property.

Conclusions.

There are more than 10,000 churches in the PCUSA. Although more than 400 churches are leaving the denomination, most churches have not.

What is important for First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio to learn is this:

1. A church should have a significant majority to leave the denomination. As the examples above illustrate, a vote of 65% or 71% to leave the denomination may not be sufficient. Most of the churches that have left successfully have had votes of 90% to 96% in favor of such action. FPC needs to be of one mind.

2. Leaving the denomination can be a difficult process. While many churches have left intact in recent years, it can be a risky business. If not handled properly, it can destroy or seriously weaken a church, as some of the examples above illustrate.
3. There is a cost. A church must be willing to go through either the gracious separation process or a legal process, which can take up to two years. There is also a financial cost, which may range from several hundred thousand to millions of dollars.
4. Whatever your view on denominational issues, the PCUSA likely will look different in the future.
 - a. It likely will be smaller. In 2012, the PCUSA lost 180,941 members and gained 78,150 members. Four new churches were added, 86 were dissolved and 110 were dismissed to other denominations. *Source: PCUSA Office of General Assembly, Statistical Reporting.* The numbers for 2013 are not yet available.
 - b. It may be more liberal in its theological and political views. With the departure of many of the more orthodox or conservative churches and members, there may be less balance on theological and political views. Many are of the opinion that the conservative voice in the denomination has been lost.
 - c. Presbyteries may exercise greater control over local churches through greater control over the selection of pastors, additional changes using the new form of government (nFOG) and additional changes to the Book of Order.

The most important lesson for FPC: We should do nothing to divide the congregation. This church has been a witness to the Lord Jesus Christ in San Antonio, the State of Texas and throughout the world since 1846. Whatever course FPC may take now or in the future, pastors and members should be of one mind. This requires treating each other with deference and respect, diligent study of the scriptures and constant prayer. Throughout this debate, First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio must continue its mission, acting as the hands and feet of Jesus Christ, and demonstrating the love of God and the love of our neighbors as ourselves.

Overview of the Gracious Separation Policy of Mission Presbytery

What do the words “Gracious Separation Policy” mean and what it could potentially mean to all of us here at FPC San Antonio?

Definition & Overview: In a thumbnail sketch, “Gracious Separation Policy” is the phrase used to describe the defined process by which a congregation may remove or “disaffiliate” itself from the PC(USA). The stated intent is that, even in times of disagreement, the congregation and presbytery can work together with respect and love to the end that the mission of Christ is fulfilled.

More specifically, according to our own Mission Presbytery, Gracious Separation is a process which occurs “when a congregation questions PC(USA) doctrine, policy or practice to the extent that disaffiliation from the denomination is being discussed or considered” and the matter is taken up with the presbytery, which holds the responsibility of providing a “ministry of reconciliation”. It is the prerogative of each individual presbytery to determine and define its own Gracious Separation Policy, with its own unique steps and requirements. There is no one-size-fits-all standard within the PC(USA); each individual presbytery makes its own rules.

Key Quotes: Mission Presbytery’s Gracious Separation Policy states, and I quote, “It is the will of this presbytery to create both a spirit and process of graciousness, in which the will of God is sought, with reconciliation as a goal, and in a manner of graciousness and forbearance befitting those who claim Jesus as Lord.” Take care to note that our presbytery clearly states the goal of its Gracious Separation Policy is reconciliation, read as meaning to prevent disaffiliation, and not to provide an easy means to leave the denomination. “Mission Presbytery asks that any session seeking or considering disaffiliation from the PC(USA) will covenant with Mission Presbytery to enter into a defined process of mutual discernment to determine God’s purpose. To seek God’s will requires significant time and energy. We believe that a matter of this magnitude deserves focused attention and prayer by the presbytery and the particular congregation whatever the specific outcome may be. This process should take no less than four months.” Mission Presbytery’s Gracious Separation Policy also states “the following question shall be paramount: How is God leading this congregation and the presbytery to walk together into a future that honors Jesus Christ and strengthens both the congregation and the presbytery?”

Complex Process: Suffice it to say that the steps in the Gracious Separation process are enumerated, long, and highly-complicated and they involve a Listening Team, a Resolution Team, Congregational Meetings, Presbytery Meetings and Negotiated Agreements and finally, a vote for or against dismissal to another Presbyterian Denomination. Furthermore, Mission Presbytery always has the option of the formation of an Administrative Commission should they determine that the leadership of the congregation is not acting in good faith. Nowhere does it state the congregation has a similar recourse, should it deem Mission Presbytery is not acting in good faith. In the end, the takeaway is that this is not a simple process; it is akin to a lengthy legal case.

Details & Numbers – What this means to us: Let us now turn to some of the details and numbers that are relevant and worth noting to members of FPC-San Antonio. In our own Mission Presbytery, if a vote should ever be taken to disaffiliate from the PC(USA), there are two critical numeric factors – hurdles, if you will – determining the outcome of the vote. (Obviously, there are many ecclesial and theological issues, which are not the purview of this discussion!) The first factor, or hurdle, is reaching a quorum, while the second factor, or hurdle, is reaching the necessary vote requirement. In order to vote to disaffiliate those two things must BOTH happen, whereas in order to vote to stay EITHER one OR the other would be sufficient to stop a move to disaffiliate. (Disaffiliation would require that both hurdles be cleared; a “stumble” on either hurdle would prevent disaffiliation.) Mission Presbytery states that there would need to be a quorum of a minimum of 35 percent of our membership, and of that quorum present and voting, the percentage needing to vote to disaffiliate is at least 80 percent. Now, let’s look at what this would mean at First Pres. To vote to disaffiliate the two things which must happen are: First a quorum of at least 35 percent of our 2100 members must be present – that’s a minimum of 735 members – AND, secondly, a minimum of 80 percent – that’s at least 588 members – must vote to disaffiliate. On the other hand, in order to stay within the PC(USA), if a vote should ever be taken by this congregation to disaffiliate from the PC(USA), only one of two things must happen: No quorum is reached – that means less than 755 members show up – OR only 20 percent of those present and voting must vote to stay – that’s only 147 members voting not to disaffiliate. I trust this gives a clear picture of what would be necessary for FPC-SA to vote to disaffiliate from the PC(USA).

Furthermore, our guidelines for "Negotiated Terms of Disaffiliation Pursuant to the Gracious Separation Policy of Mission Presbytery" call for, inter alia, “A tithe of all assets [real property and monetary!] of the disaffiliating congregation is to be made to Mission Presbytery to support the continued mission of the presbytery in that place. This tithe must be at least equal to the percentage of the congregation who voted not to disaffiliate, but no less than 10 percent.” It then goes on to say, “This tithe must be paid within 60 months of the disaffiliation. If the amount owed to Mission Presbytery is not paid by the end of 60 months all assets will revert to the presbytery.”

As you can now understand, Gracious Separation is a long and intentionally difficult process designed to encourage reconciliation and to discourage disaffiliation.

Learn More: For more details, visit the website of Mission Presbytery at www.mission-presbytery.org and click on "Resources" near the upper right corner. Then click on "Policies & Procedures" near the bottom of the dropbox. Finally, click on "Gracious Separation Policy June 9, 2012" near the top and also "Manual of Operations, Appendix I, Attach I-1 Disaffiliation & Property" near the bottom.

As you consider these matters, I remind you that the need for prayer, reflection, patience and mutual forbearance is still great, so I leave you with that task and responsibility.

BAPTISMS

- Augustus Alexander Petty, son of Christopher and Emilie Petty, born January 19, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Traditional Worship Service on May 18, 2014. Trey H. Little, officiating pastor.
- Amelia Grace MacIntire, daughter of Scott and Meredith MacIntire, born July 14, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Traditional Worship Service on May 25, 2014. Trey H. Little, officiating pastor.
- Omarie Williams, daughter of Lakendria Williams, born on June 25, 2009, in Pineville, Louisiana. Baptized in the Contemporary Worship Service on May 25, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.

ACTIVE MEMBERS (Public profession of faith; Certificate of transfer; Reaffirmation of faith)

- Confirmation Class by Profession of Faith, May 12, 2014:
- Michael Aaron Alcala
- Edward David Bass
- Allison (Allie) Abigail Byrd
- Hattie Chapman
- Amy Delano
- Addision Patee Doerr
- John (JT) Thomas Garcia
- Benjamin Henderson
- Avery Quinn Huffman
- Christian Cole Ingersoll
- Elizabeth Olive Kampmann
- Janis Blair Kruger
- Matthew Moery
- Josephine (Josie) Turner Nash
- Shelton Lane Northington
- Charles Wilson Robinson, V

- Natalie Scheifele
- Carter Shute
- Clara Shute
- Zachary Scott Simpson
- Caroline Paige White
- Amy Rickabaugh, by Reaffirmation of Faith, May 12, 2014.
- Phyllis Griffin per her request, June 1, 2014.
- Morris Griffin per his request, June 1, 2014.

Discover First Class, June 1, 2014:

- Jessica Kasell (Jeffcoat) Fritz, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Richard Lance Fritz, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Ashley Rae Nicole (Pena) Hodges, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Austin Wayne Hodges, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Gary Edward Hoffman, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Timothy John Hoy, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Lori Ann (Wiese) Jones, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Michael Leon Jones, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Christopher Michael Morse, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Stacia (Maher) Morse, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Cara Cristine (Dalton) Taylor, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- James Judson Taylor, IV, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Amy (Ehlert) Trevino, by Transfer of Letter from Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Georgia.

- Mark Joseph Trevino, by Transfer of Letter from Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church, Augusta, Georgia.
- Julia (Keidel) Troy, by Transfer of Letter from Calvary Presbyterian Church, San Francisco, California.
- Carl Tukpeyi, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Nancy Bailey (Burgher) Turnbull, by Transfer of Letter from Park Cities Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas.
- Robert Thomson Turnbull, by Transfer of Letter from Park Cities Presbyterian Church, Dallas, Texas.
- Brittany (Lacy) Winston, by Transfer of Letter from St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas.
- Grant Steven Winston, by Transfer of Letter from Chapelwood United Methodist Church, Houston, Texas.

MARRIAGES

- *Gregory Allen Bailey and *Bernadette E. Matuszewski Huerter, married at First Presbyterian Church in the Griffith Chapel, on May 22, 2014; Trey H. Little, officiating pastor.

DEATHS

- Michael Yost, died May 17, 2014.
- Kathryn H. McEwan, died May 27, 2014.
- Arthur Bedgood, died May 28, 2014.

*denotes non-member

Session Meeting Minutes June 2014

The Session at its regularly Stated Meeting on 6/9/14 conducted the following business:

- Approved the Consent Agenda (approval of minutes from previous session meetings, received the Deacon's minutes, approved changes to the Church Register, approved April's financial statements, and received committee minutes).
- Received the Clerk's Report which included correspondence, the welcome of ruling elders in the Class of 2017, and the approval of a resolution honoring the late ruling elder Ed DeWees.
- Received an update on finances from the Stewardship and Finance Committee.
- Acted upon a recommendation from the Benevolence Committee to approve a gift in the amount of \$25,000 from unrestricted special funds (non-operating) to Schreiner University for a project to renovate their chapel and enhance their ministry to students.
- Received an updated committee description from Global Missions.

New Business

- Set June 22 for a called meeting of the congregation after the 11:00 services to elect Neil Williams as a deacon and David West as an elder, both to fill unexpired terms; and, to approve a change in terms of call for the Rev. Dr. Ruthie Seiders.
- Set June 29 at the 11:00 traditional service to install Neil Williams as deacon as well as Bill Lyons and David West as ruling elders, pending the action of the congregation on June 22.
- Set June 29 for a called meeting of the congregation after the 11:00 services for the purpose of dissolving the terms of call of the Rev. Trey H. Little effective July 13, 2014.
- Acted to approve that all active elders, currently serving on Session, will be approved as commissioners for Mission Presbytery meetings. Any available spaces may be filled by elders on rotation as approved by Session.

Adjourned with prayer



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Pastor Trey Little's Twitter Handle: @treyhlittle



First Presbyterian Church's Twitter Handle: @FPCSanAntonio

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