

WILDERNESS ESCAPE: VACATION OF A LIFETIME!
AUGUST 2014 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY THE OPPORTUNITIES THAT EXIST

BY REV. JOHN SEIDERS - EXECUTIVE PASTOR



Dear Friends of FPC:

As we enter the month of August, many of us have already had vacation. Some may still be looking forward to a brief vacation or getaway. The opportunities exist. The question is, "What we will do with the opportunities that exist?"

In the summer, I like to take the opportunity to read. A few weeks ago I began to read a book that was written several years ago – *A Door Set Open*. In it, Peter Steinke, a well-respected consultant, pastor, educator, and therapist, describes the rapid changes and the challenges that the church faces today. He identifies these changes and challenges as rich opportunities for the church. He believes God, in Jesus Christ has allowed "a door set open" for us to follow him faithfully into the midst of the changes and challenges, the experiences and the exciting future that is before us. The question is whether or not we will go through the door that is set open before us.

These words resonated with my soul as I considered the changes and challenges that we are facing in our journey together as FPC – first and foremost the transition in pastoral leadership. We have an opportunity as a congregation to follow Jesus Christ through a door set open with regard to these changes and challenges. The best way to do this is together – not separately. We need each other. We have been given the unique gift of being FPC together. And so we have the opportunity to listen to each other. We have the opportunity to listen to Jesus Christ.

A door is set open. Thank you for your commitment in the past to journey into the future that God had for FPC. And thanks in advance for your commitment to journey into the future that God has for us!

Peace,

John

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First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team.
Judson Taylor: Director of Marketing/Communications & Editor. Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer.
Richard Flores: Press Manager & Production. Taylor Brandesky: Media & Technology Coordinator.

Save the Date

REGISTER FOR FELLOWSHIP OF PRESBYTERIANS NATIONAL CONFERENCE



What does it look like to go from consumerism to community in our churches and our lives? Find out! Visit www.2014national-gathering.com. First Pres can provide scholarship funds for those who would like to go and need assistance.

Contact Janet Slayden
(janets@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2751)

AUGUST 18-20 • DALLAS, TX

PSALMS FOR THE SOUL THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

This study includes lectures and small group discussions.

Each Bible Study participant will be placed in a small, cohesive discussion group to allow time for answering Bible Study questions and personal sharing. Group composition will be based on various factors, including group size, age, experience in Bible study and length of time at First Presbyterian Church (if applicable), in order to bring together a variety of backgrounds and experiences in each group.

Contact Ann Smith (210-822-2440)
or Lisa Snow (lisas@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2760)

SEPTEMBER 11 - NOVEMBER 20

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Ready to kick-start your fall?

Back from vacation, back to school,
back to work, back to church!

We have special plans to share soon!

Keep watching www.fpcsanantonio.org for details
Like us on Facebook

SEPTEMBER 7

CHILDREN'S PARENT MEETING



Parents of preschool and elementary-aged children are invited to come learn about what is going on in the children's program for the 2014-2015 school year!

Join us as we fellowship together, learn

about the Gospel Project curriculum, and talk about our Wednesday night Intersection activities: Crosswalk and Sidewalk. This is a great opportunity to get to know the children's staff and discover the fun plans for the children's program at FPC!

Contact Becky Prichard
(beckyp@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2731)

AUGUST 24 • 9:30-10:30 AM
ASSEMBLY ROOM ON FIRST FLOOR (ROOM 136)

DISCOVER FIRST!

Before becoming a member, Discover First! Learn about the faith, mission, and people of First Pres and how you can be a vital part of making Jesus visible in San Antonio. Attendance at Discover First! does not obligate you to join, but it does prepare you to become a member should you choose to do so.

Contact Stacie Rodriguez
(stacier@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2759)

SEPTEMBER 14

YOUNG LIVES MENTOR INFORMATION MEETING



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

Contact Alyssa Payne
(alyssap@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2742)

AUGUST 12 • 1:30 PM

WOMEN'S TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY CHILDREN OF THE DAY BY BETH MOORE

The New Testament believers carried the Spirit of God as they walked along the shores of Thessalonica, just as you carry that light today. Your circumstances and conditions are not coincidental in your journey. Over the course of nine weeks, we will examine 1 and 2 Thessalonians and will encounter biblical truth as we face real crises, real medical diagnoses, real afflictions, real relationships, real doubts, real concerns, and real fears.

Workbook is available in preparation for weekly small group meetings and video sessions. Suggested donation for workbook is \$13. Childcare is available by reservation. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend. If you have questions or want to register, contact Judy Kruger (210-857-0122.)

SEPTEMBER 9-NOVEMBER 14 • 9:30-11:30 A.M.
COVENANT HALL (THIRD FLOOR)

OFFER A MEAL TO THE HOMELESS



Bring a side dish to church, and store it in the refrigerators or on the counter-tops downstairs in the Nutrition Center labeled "Loaves and Fishes." Serve from 3:30-5:30 p.m.

Contact Alyssa Payne
(alyssap@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2742)

AUGUST 31

WEDNESDAY MEANS INTERSECTION

Intersect your faith with your family and friends!

Children begin with choir rehearsals, then we join together to share a meal, make new friends, celebrate one another, grow in discipleship, and worship in song, prayer, and spoken word. Crosswalk and Sidewalk are where kids can have fun at the Intersection! A combination of Bible study, crafts, and games, it is a mid-week "oasis" for children to remember who they are and Whose they are. Adult small groups and special educational programming may follow dinner.

SCHEDULE:

- Children's Choirs 5:00-5:45 p.m. (ages 3 - 5th grade).
- Full-meal dinner 5:30 p.m.
- Special programs and/or small groups 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Sidewalk (preschool ages) 6:30-7:30 p.m. following choir rehearsal and dinner.
- Crosswalk (1st-5th grades) 6:30-7:30 p.m. following choir rehearsal and dinner.
- Middle schoolers and high schoolers assist in Children's Ministry.
- Childcare for birth-2 years available throughout the evening.

Contact Rev. Ruthie Seiders
(ruthies@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2714)

SEPTEMBER 3



WILDERNESS ESCAPE 2014: VACATION OF A LIFETIME!

BY CARRIE JOWERS • ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We welcomed more than 140 children to FPC for Vacation Bible School last month. Thankfully, we had over 40 volunteers. Wow! We couldn't make VBS happen without all our wonderful volunteers. A huge thank you to Catherine Whitsett that turned FPC into the Great Wilderness Escape.

Each day, the children came to be a part of history as they would see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in the Biblical times! The children explored the Israelite Camp, visited Moses and the Wilderness Whiner, took part in games guided by our youth department, worshiped by singing and dancing and then ate tasty snacks and completed different mission projects in the snacks and missions area.

The children and volunteers also collected money for Operation Kid-to-Kid. We discussed how the children in Malawi need clean water in their communities and how we can help. Each morning during celebration time, the children had the opportunity to give to the children in Malawi by dropping a blue balloon into our big plastic cup for every \$2.50 they brought in. By the end of the week our cup was spilling over. We collected a total of \$550.00 for the children in Malawi! What a great way for the children to make Jesus visible in Malawi.

The biggest highlight was visiting Moses and the Wilderness Whiner. Each day Moses told his story from the departing of the Red Sea to the Ten Commandments. The children learned to always remember: God Guides Us, So...Trust God!

We hope to see all our friends again next year.

Save the date for VBS 2015, June 22-26.

Thank you again to all our wonderful volunteers and families for making Jesus visible at VBS!

General Assembly

In June, Ruling Elder Walter Walthall and Teaching Elder John Seiders attended the 221st General Assembly in Detroit, MI as observers. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is the highest council of our denomination. It meets every two years. The General Assembly is composed of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders whom each presbytery sends as commissioners. The number is based on the total membership of the respective presbyteries. Each commissioner is asked to consider a vast amount of information and subsequently vote their conscience as decisions need to be made. Over the week commissioners meet in committees to consider various issues and make decisions which are then sent to the floor of the General Assembly for a vote. Many decisions are made in the course of the week. A large number of these decisions are minor in nature, but some are quite significant.

In the following paragraphs, both Walter and John share their experiences. These are their personal observations and opinions and do not necessarily reflect the position of FPC.

Walter

I did not know what to expect prior to going to the 221st General Assembly, so I went with an open mind, determined to find the Holy Spirit in any and every crook and cranny of the Cobo Center. I left Detroit and the assembly with a mixture of hope and disappointment for our denomination, but nonetheless much wiser on the intricate workings of our upper level of government.

It is at this level that one can observe Presbyterian polity in action, where the ideas of man clash on center stage to determine how our denomination can best serve and support the world around us. It is at this level that all of the overtures, commissioners' resolutions, and authoritative interpretations submitted and voted on at the presbytery level come to have their fate determined.

The first three days were spent in committees, where each item is discussed, amended, and then voted on. Before the day began, John Seiders and I discussed where the two of us should go. We decided that Middle East Issues and Civil Union and Marriage Issues were the two we needed to attend as they appeared to have the most controversial topics.

My first experience with the committee process can best be described as "a funny thing happened on my way to the Middle East Committee room" when I accidentally stepped into room 320A rather than 320B. Room 320A was where the committee on Peacemaking and International Issues was meeting. Immediately I ran into John Kaiser in full dress uniform. (John is an army chaplain who spent some time at FPC several years back when he was stationed in San Antonio.) He is currently stationed in Alaska and had spent 20 hours the day before travelling to the GA to speak on a specific overture "Risking Peace in a Violent World: Affirmations for Presbytery Consideration." When he saw me in the room, he immediately came over, thanking me for being there. He asked for my support, stating that he wanted to speak about some concerns he had regarding the language of the overture, but that there were some in the room who did not want to hear what he had to say. Because of layovers and delays on his way to

Detroit, he had missed the deadline to sign up to speak. However, after petitioning the committee to allow him to talk, and the subsequent protests that came from two or three in the crowd, John got to make his statement. In short, his concern about this overture declaring peace to be the PC(USA)'s stance for the conflicts throughout the world was what kind of message it would send to our military men and women, their families and our veterans. At the next break, many committee members came over to him to ask him questions. Despite being told by the resource member that he could not "lobby his position in this room," John answered any and all questions that were asked of him. His efforts were later rewarded by an amendment to the overture that stated, "even as we actively engage in a peace discernment process, we affirm our responsibility of continuing the long tradition of support by the PC(USA) for our sisters and brothers who serve in the U.S. military, veterans, and their families." This overture (11-11) was passed by a hand vote on the floor of plenary.

It was also in this room that I ran into our very own Cara Taylor who was an advocate for an overture commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. This particular overture passed through the committee unanimously and then was passed on a hand vote two days later.

After my morning in the wrong room, I managed to find a seat in the crowded gallery of the Middle East Committee. I knew that this was going to be a controversial committee, but I was astounded at the emotion-charged atmosphere that carried over from the committee floor to the onlookers in the gallery, many of whom were wearing the purple, white and green stoles which I would later determine where in support of divestment. The largest part of this committee's time was spent debating whether or not to divest from three multi-national companies (Caterpillar, Motorola Solutions and Hewlett-Packard) who many at the General Assembly felt supported Israel's oppression of the Palestinian people. The divestment overture came at the recommendation of the PC(USA)'s investment group MRTI (Mission Responsibility Through Investment) and had Advice and Counsel reports from five committees supporting divestment, the most Advice and Counsel reports I saw attached to any one overture. (The advice committees supporting divestment were: Advocacy Committee for Racial Ethnic Concerns, Advocacy

Walter

Committee for Women's Concern, Board of Pensions, Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency.)

"The committee consisted of 66 people, one of which was a Palestinian Christian. It did not take long for me to realize that this debate was mainly one-sided. There were many stories shared about the occupation of Palestine and many atrocities that occurred there. One such story talked about how olive trees were being uprooted on Palestinian land to make way for Israeli settlements and roads. On the other side, one member of the committee spoke of an Israeli kindergarten that was being targeted with RPG's (rocket propelled grenades) on a weekly basis. Any attempt to sway the focus from Israeli atrocities to Palestine to terror activities being carried out on Israeli citizens was quickly squashed by the Palestinian Christian, stating that while atrocities were occurring on both sides, the Palestinian plight was far worse than that of Israel. When the topic of Hamas and Hezbollah, terrorist groups entrenched in the occupied territories working towards the total annihilation of Israel, was addressed there was a quote from one of the committee members, "who some may call terrorists, others would call freedom fighters." This debate went on long into the night and much longer than my brain could handle.

Upon walking into the same room the next morning, it was apparent to me that I had not missed much as they were still discussing divestment. The point was made that the amount of money invested in these three companies was insignificant (less than 1/100th percent of outstanding shares in all three companies) and that divestment meant no longer having a seat at the table for negotiations. There was also concern that divestment would be viewed by many as a link to BDS (Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions,) a radical, secular group whose goal is a non-Jewish, one state solution to the Israel/Palestine situation. There was also concern that divestment would further damage our relationship with our Jewish brothers

and sisters both at home and abroad, especially after a group within the PC(USA) called the Israel Palestine Mission Network (IPMN) released a study guide entitled "Zionism Unsettled" earlier this year. This study guide has been a source of contention for many Presbyterians, as it describes Israel as working "towards a single Jewish, apartheid state" and "ethnic cleansing."

This committee also addressed a separate overture that called for the denouncement and separation of the views expressed in "Zionism Unsettled," stating that these views were not the stance of the PC(USA) as a whole. It also called for immediate removal of the book from the PC(USA) website. This Commissioners' Resolution (04-10) was challenged by three Advice and Counsel Reports from the committees on Racial Ethnic Concerns, Social Witness Policy and the Israel Palestine Mission Network one of which stated, "Presbyterians have a time-honored tradition of study and dialogue and we value looking at difficult issues of our times from all sides and through different lenses."

Despite the three committee's recommendation to not pass 04-10, it was passed by the Middle East Issues committee with an amendment striking the call for removing the study guide from the PC(USA) website. It is important to note that since the General Assembly met, "Zionism Unsettled" has been taken off of the website anyway.

Moving from committee meetings to plenary sessions was quite interesting. I was concerned that many of the same arguments that were heard in the committees would be regurgitated onto the larger body. While some were, there were many new and fresh approaches taken to the discussion. Now interspersed through the crowd of on-looking observers in green, white and purple stoles was a contingency of Detroit Jews wearing grey shirts which said "Divestment leaves me out" and "Love us, don't leave us." They were there not in active protest, but as advocates for Israel, telling any who would listen about the shared community efforts that are ongoing in the region striving for peace and unity. They told an entirely different story than the one heard on the committee floor, where Palestinian women were being educated and trained by Israel for jobs to help take care of their families, and of a college where Palestinian and Israeli students attend together peacefully. They too were in favor of a two state solution,

and were hoping that by not divesting, they could work with any in the PC(USA) who were willing to advance this agenda.

The divestment issue took on a whole new angle when Rabbi Rick Jacobs, president of the Jewish evangelism and discipleship organization Chosen People Ministries, spoke on the plenary floor stating that he was flying to Israel that night and would arrange for Presbyterian moderator, Heath Rada and Stated Clerk Gradye Parsons to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu the next week to discuss the fact that the occupied settlement solution was not working and to advance the cause for a two state solution, but this could only happen if the assembly voted against divestment. This became an amendment to a minority report generated by some members of the Middle East Issues committee that called for peaceful solutions but not divestment. However, after long debate, it was voted down, shortly before the minority report failed.

Attention was then turned to the majority report, calling for divestment. After further debate, the motion was called to question and voted on, passing by a narrow margin of 7 votes (310-303,) leading Heath Rada to make the comment that "In no way is this a reflection of our lack of love for Jewish sisters and brothers" and asking members of the press to let our Jewish neighbors know "how much we love and care for them."

I had a hard time viewing the response to this from observers in the gallery. Some were crying while others celebrated with fist pumps and hugs. The concern that was generated by some in the committee hearings and on the floor of plenary that the PC(USA) would be linked to BDS was affirmed within minutes of the vote as national publications and news stations picked up the story and ran with it. This spurred one of the commissioners who voted in favor of divestment to come back to the floor of plenary the next day in tears, asking that the decision be reconsidered. He stated that he left the Cobo Center the night before elated about the decision but when he got to the room and turned on the news he "realized that we had just sent the wrong message." Despite his pleas, the motion to reconsider divestment was defeated.

On the bus ride to the airport, I can remember thinking that it would take some time for me to

process all that I had seen and heard over the week. One thing left unsaid here was the wonderful sermons and devotionals I heard throughout my stay in Detroit. I bring back with me some friendships made while there, and a general understanding of our parliamentary procedure called Robert's Rules, which in their order sometimes lead to chaos when our moderators forgot what was actually being voted on. I was encouraged with some I saw working at the level of the General Assembly to place the focus on Christ rather than politics, but I am still trying to understand some of the decisions that were made there. My hope is that time and prayer will get me to the closure and the understanding that I seek.



John

In almost thirty years of pastoral ministry I have never had the opportunity to attend a meeting of the General Assembly. While I was curious about attending, I didn't really know what to expect. The experience could be described as trying to take a sip of water out of a fire hose. There are large plenary sessions, committee meetings, an exhibit hall, overture advocates, commissioners (who have the responsibility to serve on committees and vote), youth and young adult advisory delegates, missionary advisory delegates, theological student advisory delegates, and observers – like Walter and me.

The time was divided into several different parts – worship, plenary business sessions and committee meetings. I will focus specifically on the worship which took place during the Assembly and the Committee on Civil Unions and Marriage Issues.

The worship services during the General Assembly were wonderful. Each service included a celebration of the Lord's Supper and different styles of music. What was most significant to me was the preaching and the preachers. A few preachers in particular stood out – Neal Presa, Mark Labberton, Craig Barnes, and Anne Zaki.

Rev. Neal Presa served as the Moderator of the General Assembly since 2012. In the opening worship service he made two statements that rang true for me. First he said, "There is no amount of votes and overtures that can set us right with God. We are broken. We need Christ." This is true not only of the work of the General Assembly. This is true for us. The only way that we are set right with God as individuals, as a church and as a denomination is by the work of God in and through Jesus Christ. We are broken because of sin and we need Christ. He followed that up by focusing on the theme of the 2014 General Assembly, stating, "Abound in hope, for you see what God has done, is doing, and promises to do!" I cannot help but think that his service in the prior two years informed his words and reflections. God is at work and we need to see what God has done and is do-

ing. We also need to see what God promises to do.

Mark Labberton spoke twice, once at a breakfast hosted by Presbyterians for Renewal and the Fellowship of Presbyterians and once preaching at a worship service. He spoke powerfully about the role that we as followers of Jesus Christ have in our current culture. By focusing on the story of Daniel living as an exile in the land of Babylon he challenged us to live out our faith in a culture that no longer embraces Christianity. We are therefore called, says Labberton, as the Church of Jesus Christ – both as individual followers and as a community – to live out our call as followers of Jesus Christ where we are. We are called in our current situation not to wish for the way things were in the past, but to meet the challenge of the present to know Christ and to make him known.

When Rev. Dr. Craig Barnes was recognized as the new President of Princeton Theological Seminary he spoke briefly to the General Assembly. In his remarks he noted his graduation from Princeton Seminary at which Henri Nouwen was the keynote speaker. Nouwen focused on John 21 and asked the graduates if they loved Jesus, repeatedly. His point was that Jesus calls us each day to respond in love and follow Jesus. Jesus may indeed lead us to places that we do not want to go. The question is, "Will we go where Jesus leads us?" We each want to draw up what our lives will look like, but we need to be open to follow where Jesus leads—even if it is different than what we think it might be.

And finally, I was stunned by the sermon of Rev. Anne Zaki from a theological seminary in Egypt. Her text was Mark 5:24-34. In speaking about the woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years, she talked specifically and sensitively regarding what it was probably like for this woman. She probably was shunned from the life of the community and not allowed in worship. But, she noted clearly, "Blood is a sign that something serious is at stake." This wasn't something serious only for the woman in the passage, but for the community of faith and for Jesus. Jesus touched this woman and brought healing to her. He also shed blood himself, because something serious was at stake—that is redemption. It is because of the shed blood of Jesus Christ that each one of us can experience the reality of new life. Blood was shed on the cross because something serious was at stake, the forgiveness of sin.

While space does not allow me to elaborate further on the messages of these individuals, I can tell you that both Walter and I were moved. There was power in what was preached. The Holy Spirit was present. We were both grateful for making worship a priority in our experience at the General Assembly.

The committee that I chose to attend was the one which dealt with Civil Unions and Marriage Issues. This committee, like others, met for several days to address a number of overtures and a few Authoritative Interpretations which came from various presbyteries. The committee began in executive session on Sunday evening to outline the work ahead of it and to spend some time getting to know each other. After that, the committee meetings were open to observers.

On Monday morning advocates had a chance to speak addressing the overtures and Authoritative Interpretations which were being considered. The advocates provided testimony for and against the various proposals—some with Scripture, some with personal experience, and all with emotion. After a morning of testimony from groups and individuals, the committee began its work with amendments and committee members speaking in favor and against proposals. The proposals sought to change the definition of marriage by changing the language from "between a man and a woman" to between "two people." This work continued for the rest of Monday and most of Tuesday.

The committee recommendations came to the floor of the Assembly. At that time there were discussions about Scripture, constitutional and parliamentary procedures, and more amendments. Some motions passed and some failed. In the end, the Assembly passed an Authoritative Interpretation and an amendment which would change the wording in the Book of Order. The Authoritative Interpretation went into effect immediately at the close of the Assembly on June 21. It effectively allows Presbyterian clergy to officiate at same gender weddings in states where such weddings are legal and where a particular church's Session approves the practice. In addition, an amendment which proposed to change the language in the Book of Order to allow same gender weddings will be sent to each presbytery for ratification. This change requires a simple majority for approval and inclusion in the Book of Order. Whether or not this amendment passes, a Session may still

determine how facilities may or may not be used.

Rather than quote the text of these actions in this document I invite you to find the details regarding the wording of the Authoritative Interpretation and the amendment on PC-biz through the PC(U.S.A) website. In addition, various social media and interest groups have their various opinions on these decisions, all available online.

These actions were not in accordance with my understanding of the Scriptures, the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions. I would be happy to talk further with any member of our congregation about my experience at General Assembly, but because of the complexity of the issues and the depth of emotion quick hallway conversations are not adequate. I am happy to schedule an appointment to do to talk as time allows.

Please know that I am grateful to God for this congregation, for the strong witness it has made over the years to Jesus Christ and his grace, and for its desire to make Jesus visible by the power of the Holy Spirit.



HOW TO GROW AN OLIVE ORCHARD WITH \$100 AND FAITHFUL PARTNERSHIP



If you received an unexpected blessing of \$100, how would you invest it into “living to make Jesus visible” in San Antonio? If you could share your passion for a local ministry with one friend, could God use your friendship for His purposes in our community?

Two of our FPC members, Lou Womack and Virginia Munroe, have worked together as sisters in Christ to turn \$100 into an olive orchard at our local mission partner Mission Road Ministries (MRM), with the potential to benefit the clients and families for years to come.

The very first tree of the olive orchard on the campus of MRM was planted about 10 years ago. Virginia became impressed with the outreach potential of MRM, which ministers to San Antonians with intellectual and other developmental disabilities by challenging them to achieve their full potential for independence,

productivity, and inclusion in the community. An FPC member named Brandon Smith experienced the caring environment of Mission Road’s residential services, and when he died, Virginia Munroe offered an olive tree to be planted in his memory.

Over the years, this gift, along with MRM’s ministry, has thrived through God’s provision of financial blessings through churches like FPC, as well the many donors, volunteers, and staff who faithfully offer their time and talents. FPC was the honored recipient of Mission Road’s “Golden Rule Award” at a luncheon ceremony in March 2014. When Virginia visited the campus to participate in the joyful event, she noticed something special: the plant she had given in memory of a life lost continued to thrive under the care of Mission Road, growing into a strong, beautiful 20-ft- tall olive tree.

Virginia was inspired with an idea: why not plant more olive trees and see how God might continue to provide for Mission Road? Maybe with the help of her friend Sandy Winokur, the owner of Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard, they could grow enough olives for clients to harvest for olive oil. Virginia shared her enthusiasm for the project with others, including Lou Womack, one of her FPC friends.

Not long after, Lou was walking on the sidewalk in front of FPC when she found a \$100 dollar bill. When she couldn’t find the owner, she decided to invest the money into the olive orchard project of MRM and transform \$100 into literal “seed money” for this great endeavor. Her faithful confidence in this organization’s mission to share the love of Christ with the developmentally disabled in our community led her to broaden her commitment to an even larger investment: she decided to provide an additional 250 olive trees and everything necessary to get the orchard started! This abundant blessing includes funding for the installation of an important irrigation system, the purchase of fertilizer, the lease of hole-digging equipment, funding for city fees, materials to stake each tree, and more.

Even after the initial stages of orchard development were planned, Lou and Virginia continued to pray and dream of this unique project. They envisioned the beauty that could be provided if the campus also featured a peaceful sculpture garden, and Lou has very generously commissioned a bronze sculpture to be created by the sculptor Donna Dobberfuhr featuring two children and the beloved MRM therapy dog, Oreo.



Lou and Virginia see the hand of God at work in their growing orchard. Their prayerful partnership of listening to the needs of Mission Road has led to the satisfying peace of watching God work through them to provide beauty to the campus of MRM, offer meaningful work for clients, develop a new source of sustainable revenue for the organization, and design a peaceful garden area of respite with a beautiful work of art depicting hope and peace to honor the special needs of those served every day by MRM.

We praise God for the inspiring example of Lou and Virginia! Surely He has more unexpected blessings in store for His people when friends within our congregation can join together in partnership with a local mission organization and truly live to make Jesus visible.

To learn more about Mission Road Ministries or to discover our local ministry partners in San Antonio, visit our website:
www.fpcsanantonio.org/serve/local-missions

A PLAQUE WILL BE PLACED AT THE SITE WHICH WILL READ:
“THIS OLIVE ORCHARD AND MEDITATION GARDEN IS LOVINGLY GIVEN BY MRS. JESS Y. WOMACK, II IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA AND CLARK MUNROE – FAITHFUL AND DEVOTED SERVANTS OF THE LORD, MENTORS, FRIENDS, INSPIRATIONS TO ALL WHOSE LIVES THEY HAVE TOUCHED.”



MEET YOUR 2014 GLOBAL MISSIONARIES

YOUR FAITHFUL TITHES ARE BRINGING THE HOPE OF JESUS CHRIST TO PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD! EVERY SUNDAY, WE COLLECT AN OFFERING DURING WORSHIP TO BE USED FOR GOD'S PURPOSES. A PORTION OF THE MONEY IS SET ASIDE INTO AN ACCOUNT SPECIFICALLY FOR GLOBAL MINISTRY. THE MEMBERS OF THE GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE MEET MONTHLY TO DISCERN HOW TO BEST USE THESE FUNDS TO ENSURE THAT FPC IS LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE WORLDWIDE. READ THE BOXES TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT HOW YOUR OFFERINGS ARE MAKING AN IMPACT!

ASHRAF AND NAOMI ABDOU



NORTH AFRICA

Ashraf builds strong relationships with new believers living in countries in which Christians encounter hostility. He serves as a mentor, teacher, and encourager of these brave disciples who are learning to live unashamed of the gospel and to bring the power of Jesus Christ into areas in which He is not yet named as King.

LAURA ABRAMS



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Laura is a member of FPC who traveled to the Dominican Republic for a mission trip and then felt God's calling to return and reach out to university students. God has recently amplified her calling to include a passionate pursuit of reconciliation ministry between Dominicans and Haitians who share the same island, but seem worlds apart.

UNNAMED MISSIONARY IN "WEST ASIA"



FPC supports a PC(USA) missionary working in a sensitive region of the world. Despite security concerns, she remains faithful in building mentor relationships with university students through small group Bible study. She is also developing a vibrant prayer group ministry and working to strengthen the outreach of the local church.

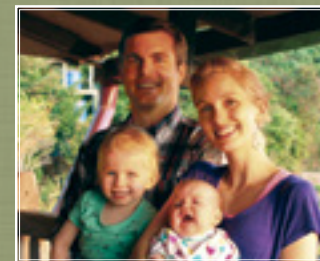
DR. BILL BECKNELL



RUSSIA

Dr. Bill left the relative comfort of being a doctor in the US to become a missionary in the frozen tundra of Russia traveling sometimes even by dogsled to pursue those who are seeking to know Christ. He brings medical expertise and faith to remote villages, providing physical healing to those in need and spiritual guidance as well.

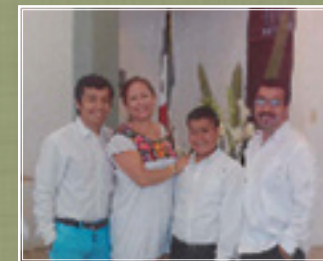
JESSE AND SARAH BLAINE



CAMBODIA

Jesse and Sarah work with the organization World Orphans in Cambodia to help provide care for over 150 kids. Their work includes developing strategy and building relationships to ensure the sustainability of their ministry and to increase the involvement of the local Cambodian church in reaching out to their community.

ROBERTO AND KASSUMY MEDINA



MEXICO

Roberto and Kassumy are embedded within a community on the U.S./Mexico border where they share their love of Christ with their neighbors through a program called "Club Amistad" (Friendship Club). Despite the difficulties of living on the border, they feel blessed to witness how God uses the Club to spiritually transform entire families.

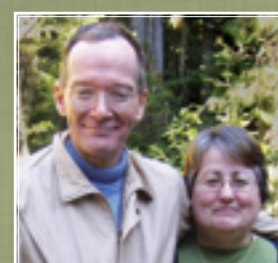
RON AND EVELYN MOYER



WORLDWIDE

Ron and Evelyn work together to recruit, train, and launch new missionaries into the world to proclaim the news of Jesus Christ through an excellent program offered by YWAM called the School of Strategic Missions. They also provide ongoing care and coaching for frontier missionaries around the world who are living out their calling.

GEORGE AND ANNE HARPER



PHILIPPINES

George and Anne have both been greatly blessed with spiritual gifts for teaching and wisdom. Their leadership within a theological school in the Philippines is helping to prepare a new generation of future pastors and church workers who are equipped to bring the good news of the gospel throughout Asia.

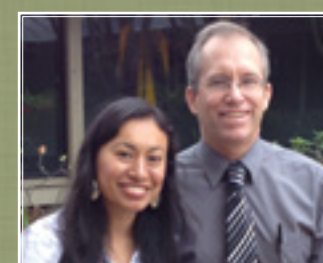
STEVE AND BARBARA JOHNSON



HUNGARY

The Johnsons are serving in the geographically and culturally strategic location of Budapest, where the fall of the Soviet Union created new possibilities for them to empower young believers to be trained and equipped to reach out and share their faith with their communities.

CHRIS AND FRANCELIA MCREYNOLDS



MEXICO

We are blessed to support two excellent Christian educators who are empowering families towards community restoration. Chris and Francelia McReynolds conduct trainings throughout Mexico using a Christian curriculum known as AMO (Apacienta Mis Ovejas).

BETH ALLEN



WORLDWIDE

God has gifted Beth with incredible gifts of leadership and administration combined with a heart for serving the most vulnerable people of the world. She works daily to bring glory to God through sharing the ongoing story of transformational holistic development of people living in communities in more than 20 countries.

News for the Women of First Pres

BY ANN BUNN, PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESIDENT



While many of us were on vacation this summer, it was such a delight to see how many women of our church made time to make Jesus visible in our church and community. It is such a blessing to be a part of such a great group of loving and dedicated women.

A special "thank you" to Susan De-Koch for her leadership and to all of the 2013-2014 PW Officers and Chairmen for such a wonderful year. Through the generosity of our members, Presbyterian Women were blessed to be able to donate funds to Young Lives, HNS, PCHAS, Living Waters of the World, Christian Dental Clinic and the FPC Children's Center.



I hope you were able to attend the PW Spring Birthday Coffee. Leslie Bennett opened up her lovely home to us. Thank you to Manette Owen, Chaney Stuart and their committee for all of their hospitality and for the delicious refreshments. Through the contributions to the Birthday Offering, we were able to make a donation to the PW Women Birthday Offering recipient, the Blue Corn Mother's Alliance.



This summer, many of our talented Presbyterian Women cooks were able to make Jesus visible by hosting a Staff Appreciation Picnic in early June. We honored the staff with fried chicken, salads, and lots of delicious desserts. Special thanks to the new PW Invisible Angels Committee that organized this event. Members of the committee include Pat Krueger, Judy Kruger, Candy Wagner, and Holly Youngquist. Thanks to all of the PW Women who participated.



We were also able to show our love to the Vacation Bible School Volunteers by providing snacks for them throughout the week. A special thanks to Bunkie Shed and the women of Circle 20, as well as many of the Presbyterian Women members who made this possible. It is hard to believe that summer is draw-

ing to a close, but I hope you are looking forward to this fall with as much excitement and anticipation as I am. Kick Off Sunday is the beginning of a new year of fresh opportunities to serve and enjoy fellowship. There are many activities that begin in September, including circle meetings, bible study, book reviews, sewing ministries, prayer shawl ministry, young mom's group, evening events, luncheons, and opportunities to serve. If you have not participated in Presbyterian Women activities in the past, I hope this will be the year you will choose to join us!

Our Bible Study Circles will be studying 2 Corinthians this year. Once again, we are grateful that Ruthie Seiders will be leading our Bible Moderators as they prepare each month for their lessons and that Sandy Sturch will be sharing her PW Bible Study Notes. We are so thankful to these two gifted women for leading us. Additionally, we are appreciative for the time each Moderator has committed and the teaching gifts that God has provided them. The Circle Chairmen have also spent their personal time this summer planning activities for growth, outreach, and fellowship.

So as you can see, there is something for everyone! As women of the church, we hope that you will find your perfect place with us. Please do not hesitate to call or email me (828-9454; ann@bunn-group.com), our Vice-President of New Members, Meredith Park (373-8180; meredithpark@satx.rr.com), or our Vice-President of Circles, Julie Walthall (829-8332; jgwalt@satx.rr.com) for more information or if you have a great idea. We want to hear from you.

I am looking forward to this coming year as God leads us. It is my prayer that through fellowship, study, and service that we will have a joyful year making Jesus visible.

Blessings,
Ann Bunn

2014-2015 PW CALENDAR

September 8	Monday	9:45 AM	Refreshments— Council & Moderators
October 6	Monday	10:00AM 9:45 AM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Refreshments— Council & Moderators
October 9	Thursday	10:00AM 7:00PM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Fall Ladies' Night Out
October 22	Monday	10:00AM	Christmas Craft Project
October 27	Monday	11:30AM	PW Luncheon Date
November 3	Monday	9:45 AM	Refreshments— Council & Moderators
December 1	Monday	10:00AM 9:45 AM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Refreshments— Council & Moderators
December 4	Thursday	10:00AM 3:00PM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Morningside Manor Christmas
December 11	Thursday	3:00PM	Circles 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, 21 Chandler Home Christmas Party
December 24	Wednesday	7:00-9:00PM	Circles 112, 2/4, 5, 8, 20 Christmas Eve Dinner
January 5	Monday	9:45 AM	Refreshments— Council & Moderators
January 29	Thursday	10:00AM 6:30PM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Winter Ladies' Night Out
February 2	Monday	9:45 AM	Refreshments— Council & Moderators
March 2	Monday	10:00AM 9:45 AM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Refreshments—Council & Modera-
March 23	Monday	10:00AM 11:30AM	Council & Moderators' Meeting PW Luncheon Date
April 4	Saturday	10:00AM	Easter Celebration & Easter Egg
April 6	Monday	9:45 AM	Refreshments— Council & Moderators
May 4	Monday	10:00AM 10:00AM 10:30AM 11:30AM	Council & Moderators' Meeting Moderators' Meeting Council Meeting President's Luncheon
May 6	Wednesday	10:30-12:30	PW Birthday Coffee



August Summer Fun

BY PAT MCCLEARY DIRECTOR OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

Even though this is our “slow time” of year, we are still getting together for many fellowship events and busy planning for our upcoming “busy time” that begins in September. During our “slow time” we’ve had approximately 165 people enjoying time together at our events during June that ended with a Patriot Concert in Round Top and July began with KEYS teaming up with the Sanctuary Choir to host the All-Church Picnic. Now comes August...

KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE

will meet Friday, August 1, at 11:00 a.m. to finalize fall events, speakers, birthday lunches, day trips, special programs, etc. Please let us know if you have any suggestions for speakers, restaurants or excursions to nearby places of interest. We like to have everyone’s input. Contact one of our officers or me (patm@fpcsat.org) or 210-271-2726.

KEYS GAME DAYS

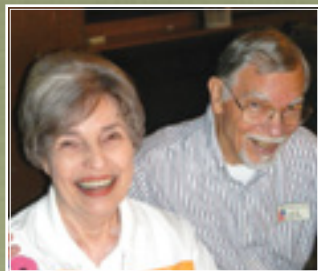
Come and spend a cool afternoon having fun with friends and don’t forget to bring a lunch!

Bridge will be played Friday, August 8 and August 22 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Please contact Katy BeDunnah at 210-9454-9789 or katt.bedunnah@att.net.

Mah Jongg group will play on Friday August 8 and August 22 from 11:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. If interested in learning and playing, please contact Nancy Black at 210-493-1609.

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

Friday, August 15, 11:30 a.m. Celebrate August Birthdays at the Riverwalk Hyatt Hotel where we’ll enjoy the complete pasta bar including choice of salads, soups, and desserts. Cost is \$12/person. IF YOU ARE NOT ON THE PERMANENT LIST, RSVP BY MONDAY, AUGUST 12.



Call Nancy Berger at 210-226-0215 to RSVP. As always, our August honorees will enjoy a complimentary lunch. Please indicate if you will need transportation from the church to the Hotel.

LEARN @ LUNCH: CELEBRATE CITRUS

Wednesday, August 20, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. Come and join us for one of our favorite summer events that originated several years ago by Dottie and Ed Crane. If you haven’t made your reservation, please don’t wait as we have a limit of 30 people. Cost is \$25, and this includes the demonstration and also a complete, delicious lunch. Mary Martini has selected the following delicious menu

- Bruschetta with Citrus Scented Ricotta & Citrus Salsa Verde
- Chicken Picatta with Lemon Caper Sauce
- Pasta with Citrus-Herb Sauce
- Lemoncello Tiramisu

Make your reservation early by calling Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726

KEEP MOVING FITNESS CLASS

Fridays throughout the summer 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Daily exercise is recommended but if you can’t (or don’t) exercise daily we have a weekly alternative.

Join us at “Keep Moving” every Friday at 9:45 a.m. where you’ll enjoy the fellowship of others while also improving your health. We are hearing more news about the importance of exercise and “Keep Moving” is a no-cost program that addresses that issue. Taught by certified instructor, Linda Osborne. Come join us!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR KEYS FALL KICK-OFF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2014 11:00 A.M

Merriam-Webster, those dictionary folk, tell us that patriotism is the love that people feel for their country.

That love exemplified itself in a major way as 19 members of Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit (KEYS), the older adult ministry of First Presbyterian Church, and their guests joined 31 members of the Super Adults from Laurel Heights United Methodist Church and their friends at the end of a Holloway Tours bus trip at a pre-Fourth of July celebration at Festival Hill in Central Texas. The venue was a rousing patriotic concert at the Festival Hill Concert Hall just outside Round Top, Texas, a small village between LaGrange and Brenham. Round Top’s top population



of 90 swells to thousands for six weeks each summer as music honor students from more than a dozen countries, more than 25 states and more than 50 colleges and universities train and then provide an impressive series of concerts involving every facet of the music world.

This pre-July 4 concert is a highlight of the summer Festival Hill season, now in its 44th year. The magnificently carved paneled walls of the concert hall of more than 1,000 seats rocked with the drum rolls and trumpet blasts of tunes all the way from Leonard Bernstein, Mel Brooks, Louis Armstrong, Richard Rodgers and John Williams to the booming sounds of music from John Philip Sousa and Francis Scott



Key. And, the Heart of Texas Chorus out of San Marcos brought down the house with their rendition of Lee Greenwood’s “God Bless the USA.” Small American flags waved in glory from every seat in the house.

It was a day for all to swell in pride in being an American.

KEYS members donned various versions of red, white and blue duds to celebrate the occasion, showing how even age mature citizens still can display a spirit of appreciation to God for allowing us all to live in a land of the free. Some might even have thought KEYS member Bud Davenport was Uncle Sam himself. God bless America. Amen.

KEY’S MEMBERS SHOW THEIR TRUE COLORS AT PATRIOTIC CONCERT
BY JOE RUST KEYS AT-LARGE BOARD MEMBER

WOMEN BEHIND THE MEN!

We often hear about the men in America’s history, but what about the women? Filled with mystery, contemplation and intrigue, Bill Perryman brings to life some interesting details regarding the women behind some of America’s most famous men! Expect the unusual – prepare for an experience! Leave invigorated! Remember the outstanding program Mr. Perryman gave for last year’s kick-off: George Washington: A Call to Duty! Watch for more information.

*What we all can learn
FROM THE POWER OF
"POSITIVE GUIDANCE"*

BY RICHARD A. MARINI
SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

Forget "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten." A friend recently learned it all in preschool. Actually, she learned it several years ago in her son's preschool. Her son is now old enough to play in a 7- to 9-year-old YMCA soccer league. During a recent championship game, a mom from the other team became upset when a call didn't go her team's way. Well, she became a bit more than upset. According to my friend, she went nuts. The woman stormed the field, yelling at the ref, telling him he didn't know what he was doing. Actually, she wasn't the only one behaving badly. The ref removed his whistle and threw it to the ground, saying, in effect, "You think you can do better? Here."

But that wasn't my friend's concern. She was more worried that the argument might escalate and the players on both sides might, at their tender ages, see and hear more than they should. That's when she called on what she'd learned back when her sons (she also has a 13-year-old) attended the children's center day care at First Presbyterian Church downtown. She had noticed the way teachers would acknowledge a child's emotional distress and talk to them about how they might solve the problem. If, for example, a child cried when her mother left her at the center in the morning, a teacher might

say, "I see you're sad. You know your mommy will come and pick you up later, but for now do you want to go to the window and wave good-bye?"

Since she'd seen this technique work on all manner of unhappy children, my friend decided to see if it would work with an angry adult. When she got up from her seat, however, her husband told her to sit down, apparently thinking she was going to go out there and yell back at her. Instead, she approached the woman and in a calm, quiet voice said, "Ma'am, I can tell you're frustrated," and then stopped. Perhaps shocked by her demeanor, the woman stopped yelling for a moment and then said, "Well, yes, I am," before starting up again on the ref.

My friend explained, again in a soothing voice, that she understood the woman disagreed with the ref's call, but she reminded her that the game was about the children. "But I don't want the kids to have to see these bad calls," the woman responded, by now speaking normally. "I want the game to be fair."

And no one wants them to see adults behaving badly, she countered. By then, my friend's calmness had dissipated the woman's anger and the argument was over. Sandy Blanco, the director of the First Presbyterian Church Children's Center, calls the strategy "positive guidance."

"We want children to learn appropriate behavior and not simply to be told what to do," explained Blanco, who has been with the center since 1999. The strategy involves many things, from the setup of the center's classrooms to the way teachers bend down to the child's level when speaking so as not to talk to them from on high. Positive guidance isn't an immediate fix. After the game, angry soccer mom got upset all over again when her kid's team — who won, by the way — got their medals after the other team got theirs. That's not surprising,

LIVING TO MAKE
JESUS VISIBLE
THE FPC CHILDREN'S
CENTER

said Blanco. Some kids are tougher than others and have to be taught the technique several times before it sticks. But it's worth repeating. "It takes longer to teach a child to recognize his feelings and to learn to deal with them than it is to simply say 'stop that' or 'go to your room.' But once you teach them these skills and they learn self-control, life gets easier for everyone involved."

It kind of makes you wish someone would approach, say, Vladimir Putin, and quietly say, "Sir, I can tell you're frustrated."

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THE CHILDREN'S CENTER AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH was opened in 1980, with five classrooms. Since then, the Children's Center has adopted the mission to show the children, on a daily basis, aspects of Christian living and God's love for each child through the teaching and example of the teachers, staff and members of the church staff. It is because of the excellent staff and mission that the center has grown and become one of the best in San Antonio. If you would like more information about fees and enrollment, please contact Sandy Blanco, Director, at sandyb@fpcsat.org or call 210-225-0960.



The History Corner FIRST PRES TAKES TO THE AIRWAVES

BY BILL COGBURN



First Pres has been a leader in radio broadcasting Sunday services since the 1920s. Rev. Pierre Bernal Hill, First Pres senior pastor from 1921 to 1940 was one of the pioneer radio preachers of the Southwest. The following news item appeared in the San Antonio Express dated April 16, 1923:

PRESBYTERIAN SERVICE BROADCAST HERE SUNDAY RECORD CONGREGATION HEARS SERMON OF DR. HILL VIA WOAI

First Presbyterian Church Sunday morning was crowded to overflowing as the entire program was broadcast from the church over the giant radio-phone station of the Southern Equipment Company. Through much extra work on the part of the radio staff of WOAI in testing and stringing wires to the church, the services were successfully sent to the outside world with the result that a number of local and long

distance telephone calls were received Sunday afternoon telling how much the program was enjoyed.

The sermon was delivered by Dr. P. B. Hill, pastor of First Presbyterian Church. The people who were forced to stand at the opening of the program Sunday were soon taken to the church basement where a radio receiving set with loud speaker was installed for their benefit. In this manner, they were able to hear the program almost as well as if they had been sitting in the front pew of the church.

For the next few years, Dr. Hill's radio ministry grew steadily. He saw the radio as a way to extend his ministry far into the rural areas of Texas. Dr. Hill's casual delivery was ideally suited to radio. His voice was described by some as "spellbinding." His name became familiar to families living on remote ranches in the Hill Country where his radio ministry was referred to as "The Church in the Hills."

The church received thousands of letters from listeners. "After listening to your sermon", a hill country cowboy wrote, "I knelt before the radio as if before an altar and gave my heart to Christ". Another wrote, "I thought that I could not bear my tribulation anymore. Then I heard you preach. Now I have learned to be content in whatever state I am."

Dr. Hill retired as pastor of First Pres in the fall of 1940 to his ranch home near Hunt, Texas in his beloved Hill Country but continued to record his weekly sermons at the WOAI studio for several more years. During WWII, General Dwight Eisenhower asked the BBC to provide special radio broadcasts to U. S. armed forces. A BBC technician was flown from London to San Antonio and through the cooperation of WOAI and BBC, transcriptions of Dr. Hill's sermons were returned to London where they were broadcast to the Allied troops on the Western Front. The last sermon was broadcast on May 7, 1945 – the day Germany surrendered.

Sources: *For God and Texas – The Life of P. B. Hill* by Green Peyton; *The San Antonio Express*, April 16, 1923; *The First One Hundred Years of First Presbyterian Church* by Olive Adelaide Hill Paschal

Moments to Hold Close HIGH SCHOOL

BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



Our second child recently graduated from high school. Witnessing this provided me a moment to reflect upon my own high school experience.

Those four years seemed like an eternity. Who was most popular? Am I wearing the right clothes? Have you seen the latest music video? Am I invited to the best party?

The reality is I missed out on most of these. Oh I had an okay time in high school but I spent the majority of my time preparing for my future, my life after high school. While I was enduring high school it felt like an eternity, but really it was such a small fraction of my life I hardly ever think of it anymore. What held the highest level of importance in high school did not at all translate into "the real world". I think the same is true with our experience on earth. What car should I drive? Will I get a bonus? Have you seen the latest iPhone? I urge you, enjoy your time here but keep your eye on the heavenly prize, for a true eternity awaits and when we arrive I honestly feel it will be like leaving high school.

What seemed like forever was only a fraction of time, and what seemed so important does not translate into the afterlife.

Recognizing OUR FPC STAFF

At the February monthly staff lunch 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.

JUNE

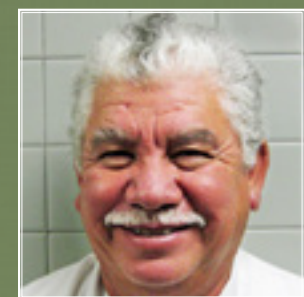


SANDY BLANCO
Director
Children's Center
15 years



MIDEA MAREZ
Children's Center Assistant
Afternoon Teacher
15 years

JULY



MAURILIO GARZA
Sr., Assistant Chef
10 years

First Cup Readings

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

Philemon 1; Peter
3:15-16;
Luke 9:26;
Matthew 6:14;
Luke 17:1-4;
Romans 16

2

Revelation 1:1-8;
John 1:1-18;
Revelation 21:6;
22:6-21

3

Revelation 1:9-20;
Daniel 7:13-14;
Matthew 5:14-16;
16:13-20;
17:1-8; 24

4

Acts 19:1-20;
20:13-38;
Revelation 2:1-7;
1 John 4:1-6;
2 John 4-11

9

Revelation 3:7-13;
Matthew 23:13-39;
1 Corinthians 3:16-
17;
Ephesians 2:19-22

10

Revelation 3:14-22;
Matthew 19:16-30;
James 1:9-11;
Hebrews 12:1-13

11

Isaiah 6:1-5;
Ezekiel 1;
Revelation 4; 1:4-
6; Genesis 1:1;
Colossians 1:15-23

12

John 1:29-39;
Revelation 5;
Psalm 33;
Philippians 2:1-11

Work for the night is coming, work through the morning hours; Work while the dew is sparkling, work 'mid the springing flowers; Work when the day grows brighter, work in the glowing sun; Work for the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work till the last beam fadeth, fadeth to shine no more; Work while the night is dark'ning, when man's work is o'er. (The Hymnbook, #297)

15

Revelation 8:6-9:21;
Romans 1:18-32;
2 Timothy 3:1-5;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13

16

Revelation 10-11;
Daniel 2:44;
7:14, 27;
Psalm 2

21

Revelation 13:1-9; 17;
John 16:33;
Psalm 33; 37

22

Revelation 18;
6:9-11;
Hebrews 11

23

Revelation 19;
Matthew 22:1-14;
25:1-13;
2 Thessalonians 2;
John 3:16-21, 36

24

Revelation 20;
Matthew 25:31-46;
Romans 2:1-16;
2 Corinthians 5:1-10

29

1 Thessalonians
2:17-3:13;
Ephesians 6:10-20;
1 Peter 5:6-11

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend. I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou will be my Guide. O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee that where Thou art in glory, there shall Thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Oh give me grace to follow my Master and my Friend. (Hymns for the Family of God, #402)

30

1 Thessalonians
4:1-12;
1 John 3;
Romans 13:8-14;
Ephesians 4:28

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

6

Revelation 2:12-17
(see Num. 22-25);
2 Peter 2

7

1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:1-4; 17-21;
19:1-4; 21:5-23; Revelation 2:18-29;
2 Peter 3:9

8

John 15:1-8; Luke 12:35-40;
Revelation 3:1-6; 7:9-17;
2 Timothy 3:1-5

13

Zechariah 1:8-17;
6:1-8;
Revelation 6;
Hebrews 11;
Matthew 10:17-42

14

Revelation 7:1-8:5;
21:3-5; Psalm 23:1;
John 10:11-18;
Colossians 2:2-4, 12

The Church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the word: From
heaven He came and sought her to be His holy Bride;
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life
He died. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the
earth, Her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one
birth; One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy
food, and to one hope she presses, with every grace
endued. (The Hymnbook, #437)

17

Matthew 2;
3:13-4:11;
Revelation 12-13:1a;
Job 1:9-11;
Luke 10:18;
1 Peter 5:8-11

18

Revelation 13:1b-18;
Luke 21:8-19;
Romans 5:1-
5; 15:4-6;
2 Corinthians 6:3-10

19

Revelation 14;
Jeremiah 25:15-38;
Matthew 13:24-30,
36-43;
Galatians 6:7-8

20

Revelation 15-16;
Luke 12:35-40;
Joel 2:13-14;
Hebrews 12:14-29

25

Isaiah 60; 62;
John 14:1-6;
Revelation 21

26

Genesis 3:21-24;
Revelation 2:7, 11,
17, 26-29;
3:5, 11-13, 21;
7:1-3; 22:1-21

27

1 Thessalonians 1;
1 Corinthians
4:15-16; 11:1;
Hebrews 6:12; 13:7

28

1 Thessalonians
2:1-16;
2 Corinthians 11:7-9;
James 1:1-3;
Romans 5:3-5

31

1 Thessalonians
4:13 - 5:11;
1 Corinthians
15:12-58;
Revelation 1:1-8

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne: Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own. Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee; and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown Him the Lord of life: who triumphed o'er the grave, who rose victorious to the strife for those He came to save; His glories now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died eternal life to bring, and lives that death may die! (Hymns for the Family of God, #345)



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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