



First Press

SERVING ALONGSIDE SETON HOME

NOVEMBER 2014 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



NOTES FOR THE JOURNEY

BY REV. JOHN SEIDERS • EXECUTIVE ASSOCIATE PASTOR

Dear Friends at FPC:

November has always been one of my favorite months of the year. The weather is cooler. Leaves begin to fall. And Thanksgiving is not far away – I can almost taste it, can't you? Turkey and stuffing, cranberry sauce and gravy, vegetables and pies. Over the years I have learned that there are specific traditions and foods that individuals need for Thanksgiving to be Thanksgiving.

In some ways it is the same thing in the church. There are specific traditions or practices that we need for the church to be the church. Over the past few months, I have been reading a passage of Scripture from Colossians 3:12-17 with the Session. It is a passage which highlights the practices in which

we need to engage together to be the church. While this passage includes many different directives, the one which specifically caught my attention recently is at the end of verse 15 – “And be thankful.”

I am thankful for many things: for the community of believers we call FPC; for the deacons who minister daily to members; for the elders who take leadership and make decisions for the well-being of the congregation; for people who faithfully serve on committees; for those who serve the homeless and hurting; for teachers, small group leaders and caregivers; for musicians who lead us in worship; for volunteers who usher, greet, deliver flowers and communion; for those who have responded and those who will respond with stewardship gifts of time, talents, and treasure; and, for a dedicated, incredible staff team. I am thankful for my family – my wife, our daughters and our son-in-law. I am thankful for sins that are forgiven, new life in Christ, the Scriptures and the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the midst of congregational transitions. I could go on, but you get the idea.

For what are you thankful? Why not take some time, consider what Paul writes in Colossians 3:12-17, and write down some things or people for which you are thankful. In fact, why not take a moment and write a prayer to God or a note to someone expressing your thankfulness.

In addition, I want you to know that we will have several guest preachers during the month of November. They will include David McKechnie, Sam Knight, and Ron Scates. You can find information on pages 8-9 regarding when they will be with us.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Peace,

John

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 6-9
SPECIAL STORIES
6-7 GUEST PREACHERS
8-9 GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

PAGE 4-5
SAVE THE DATE
4 GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS
4 EARLY DEADLINES
4 CHILDREN'S CENTER SPRING FLING
4 CHILDREN'S BIBLE WORKSHOPS
5 MUSIC EVENTS
5 MOM'S GROUP
5 ADVENT FESTIVAL

PAGE 24-25
CHURCH UPDATES
24 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
24 STEWARDSHIP REMINDER
25 CHURCH REGISTER

PAGE 23-27
INSPIRATION
23 VETERANS
24 MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE
26-27 FIRST CUP

PAGE 10-22
MINISTRIES
10 GLOBAL MISSION AND MEXICO
11 GLOBAL MISSION AND IRAQ
12-13 LOAVES AND FISHES
14 SETON HOME
15 COLLEGE ROAD TRIP
16-17 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
18-21 KEYS
22 LIBRARY

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Contact Judson Taylor at 210-271-2728 or judsont@fpcsat.org if you have questions.

Save the Date

EARLY DEADLINES FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER FIRST PRESS

Due to the holidays, there are early deadlines for submitting information for future editions of First Press this year:

DECEMBER ISSUE

November 7

JANUARY ISSUE

December 5

Thanks for your flexibility with the deadlines!

TASTE OF THE ORIENT

Proceeds to benefit First Presbyterian Church Children's Center A fun, grown-up evening of food, wine, music and fellowship — all for a good cause. Evening is open to all church members, Children's Center families and their guests. Off campus location and details will follow.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015 • YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR THE 2ND ANNUAL SPRING FLING EVENT

CHILDREN'S BIBLE WORKSHOPS

We believe that the story of God and God's people found in the Bible is an important one for our children to hear and experience at a young age. We desire to partner with parents for the spiritual nourishment of children through the reading and study of God's Word. The 3rd graders will receive their Bibles at the 11:00 a.m. traditional service in the Sanctuary and the 2-year-olds will receive their Bibles in the 11:00 a.m. contemporary service in Westminster Hall. RSVP so we know you are coming (see contact information below)!

- Children's Bible Workshop (for 3rd Graders)
9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Geneva Room
9:30 – Class taught by Becky Prichard
10:30 – Class photo in the courtyard
11:00 – Traditional Service – Receiving of the Bibles
Contact: Becky Prichard
(beckyp@fpcsat.org/210-271-2732)
- Children's Bible Workshop (for 2-year-olds)
9:30-10:30 a.m. in the St. Andrew's Room
9:30 – Class taught by Holly Youngquist
11:00 – Contemporary Service – Receiving of the Bibles
Contact: Holly Youngquist
(hollyy@fpcsat.org/210-271-2720)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9

"GRIEF AND THE HOLIDAYS" WORKSHOPS FOR ANYONE WHO IS GRIEVING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

Grief can be a very powerful and overwhelming emotion that changes your life. Understanding, compassion from others and a commitment to allowing the experience to heal you, can take you on a journey of discovering meaning in life again.

The holidays are an especially hard time. The season renews memories, family ties and traditions. We become painfully aware that our special loved one is no longer present. This is often difficult for families. The pain of the loss is confused with the spirit of the season. "Grief and the Holidays" is a workshop designed to help those who are grieving and their families to better understand the grief process, how it affects us during the holidays and how we can use this special time to continue to heal.

Dr. Margaret Berton, Licensed Psychologist, will facilitate. Please contact Susan Dullnig at 210-271-2753 or susand@fpcsat.org to reserve a spot.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014 • NOON-1:30 PM
GENEVA ROOM**

FOR ALL THE SAINTS: MUSIC OF REMEMBRANCE

Highly skilled singers from our Sanctuary Choir form a chamber ensemble to present music that commemorates loved ones that have joined the "church triumphant" in heaven. The performance will feature the newly conceived Requiem for the Living by composer Dan Forrest. This concert is a collaboration with the Motherhouse

Chapel of the Incarnate Word, a magnificent Romanesque worship space that was built in 1906 with renovations completed in 2007.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014 • 3:00 PM • UIW CAMPUS
MOTHERHOUSE CHAPEL OF THE INCARNATE WORD**

MIDDAY NOELS CONCERT SERIES A SEASONAL CELEBRATION OF MERRY MELODIES AND HOLIDAY HARMONIES

Once again, FPC offers its holiday "gift to the city" through a variety of creative musical offerings. Each of these 30-40 minute concerts is followed your choice of either "Grab and Go" lunch (\$3) or a full hot lunch served in Westminster Hall (\$8).

SHIMMERING SOUNDS AND SPARKLING SINGING
The UTSA Chamber Choir
Thursday, December 4

TRANSCENDENT TRANSCRIPTIONS
On the organ, featuring Dr. Jae Ha
Thursday, December 18

DIXIELAND JINGLES
New Orleans style jazz
Thursday, December 11

**THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 4, 11, AND 18, 2014
12:10-12:45 PM • SANCTUARY OF FPC**

GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST MUSIC FROM THE VIVALDI GLORIA

Our Sanctuary Choir and String Quartet present music from the Gloria of Antonio Vivaldi during both Traditional worship service.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2014 • 9:30 & 11:00 AM • FPC
TRADITIONAL WORSHIP**

MOM'S GROUP

Did you know that FPC has a group specifically for moms? Whether you are a new mom or have kids in high school, you are invited to come and spend time in fellowship with other moms!

Mom's group meets on the second and fourth Wednesday morning of each month from 9:30-11:30a.m. in room 108 at FPC. Sara Parish is a mom of two young boys and is the leader of Mom's Group this year. Sara writes, "We are just a laid back group who like to fellowship and share our mom experiences together." The group spends time studying scripture as well as doing fun art projects or cooking classes together.

On November 12 from 9:30-11:30 a.m., Mom's Group will assemble the annual Christmas Craft for the Presbyterian Women nursing home parties. This is a great opportunity to stop by and meet the other moms and do a fun craft together! Our paid caregivers provide childcare during Mom's Group. Please contact Sara Parish at sara23sc@hotmail.com for more information; contact Terry Payne at terryp@fpcsat.org to reserve childcare.

NOVEMBER 12 • 9:30-11:30 AM

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Join us on Sunday, November 30 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Westminster Hall for a wonderful time of fun and fellowship as we joyfully celebrate the start of Advent and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King. There will be crafts, games, Christmas music and Advent Wreaths for children and families to create!

**NOVEMBER 30 •
3:00-5:00 PM •
WESTMINSTER
HALL**



Welcome Special Guest Preachers in November

WE ARE PRIVILEGED TO WELCOME A FEW SPECIAL GUEST PREACHERS TO OUR PULPIT IN NOVEMBER. ALL THREE PREACHERS ARE FRIENDS OF FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH SAN ANTONIO AND WE ARE DELIGHTED THEY WILL BE WITH US. THEY WILL PREACH AT ALL TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICES IN THE SANCTUARY, AND THEIR SERMONS WILL BE LIVE-STREAMED TO THE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE IN WESTMINSTER HALL.



REV. SAM KNIGHT

“My full name is James Michael George Knight, but to most I am known as Sam. I had the blessing to be born to wonderful, faithful parents. My father is a retired Baptist minister and my mother was a nurse. I grew up in a village called Griffithstown outside of the market town of Pontypool in the eastern valley of South Wales.

“I had the privilege of being educated at West Monmouth School, Pontypool College and Oxford University.

“I grew up playing Rugby. Starting at junior school level playing throughout my school life and following school for some local club sides. I also played cricket for local clubs and through school. While at Oxford I continued to play rugby for New College, Oxford but I found another sporting passion, Rowing. I captained the Regent’s Park Men’s Boat Club and was Captain of Boats in my final year. I coached three very successful crews and I rowed in a crew that won ‘Blades’ at the summer regatta of 1995. I continued with my passion for Rugby in Texas coaching the Rugby Team at Lamar University, Beaumont.

“I began preaching at the age of fourteen and by the age of eighteen had preached in many different area churches and several different conferences in the UK. At age sixteen I sensed a call to fulltime ministry. I began ministry in the USA in the summer of 1997, serving as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Orange Texas, as an Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian Church of Orlando, Florida, and most recently as Interim Senior Pastor at Grace Presbyterian Church of Houston.

God’s grace enabled me to meet a beautiful Texan girl who agreed to be my wife just four days after we met. Jennifer and I were married just five months later in January 1998. We have been blessed with two daughters, Cinnone (14) and Gwyneth (10), and a son Gethin (12). The family is completed with a Great Dane called Murphy and a Bichon-poodle mix called Wags.

REV. DR. DAVID AND LINDA MCKECHNIE

Linda and Dave McKechnie have shared the love of Jesus Christ through the ministry of music and the Word in Presbyterian churches in New York, Tulsa, Beaumont, Houston, Wichita, and Los Angeles as well as leading retreats and conferences throughout the United States and Canada.

For three years, Dave served First Presbyterian, Houston, as Interim Pastor. He recently finished a 1½ year ministry as Interim Pastor of Bel Air Presbyterian Church in Los Angeles, California.

Under Dave’s leadership, Houston Christian High School moved from a dream to a reality. Today, that 50-acre educational institution embraces 550 students with equal emphasis on the Arts, Academics, and Athletics.

After 25 years as pastor of Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston, one of the largest congregations in the denomination, Dave retired and was honored as Pastor Emeritus. He continues to have a passion to educate and mentor young pastors for the 21st century, serving as President of the Texas Theological Foundation and launching the Houston regional campus of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California.

The music of pianist, arranger, and recording artist, Linda McKechnie has inspired countless people around the world through her piano and orchestra recordings and personal appearances. She succeeds with dramatic flair in breathing new life into traditional hymns, praise choruses, Christmas carols, and love songs by blending these familiar melodies with powerful themes of the great Classical composers. Linda is also well known for her handbell arrangements and helping the functionally challenged discover joy in ringing handbells.

Linda and Dave have two married children and four grandsons. They are uniquely blessed to enjoy their family, experience God’s world through travel, and continue to energetically serve their Lord together in ministry. Charlotte, North Carolina is their new home!

REV. DR. RONALD SCATES

Dr. Ron Scates, a lifelong Presbyterian, grew up in Bethesda, Maryland. He attended Trinity University in San Antonio on a baseball scholarship and later accepted a position as an assistant baseball coach while attending graduate school. His pursuit of a career in veterinary medicine was permanently interrupted when he responded to the Lord’s call to the ministry.

Ron’s call to the ministry also led him to Anne. While a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, he met Anne, who was enrolled at the nearby Presbyterian School of Christian Education. Anne, a Memphis native, was attracted to Ron by his intellect, his sense of humor and his commitment to the Lord. She is both his strongest supporter and his greatest asset.

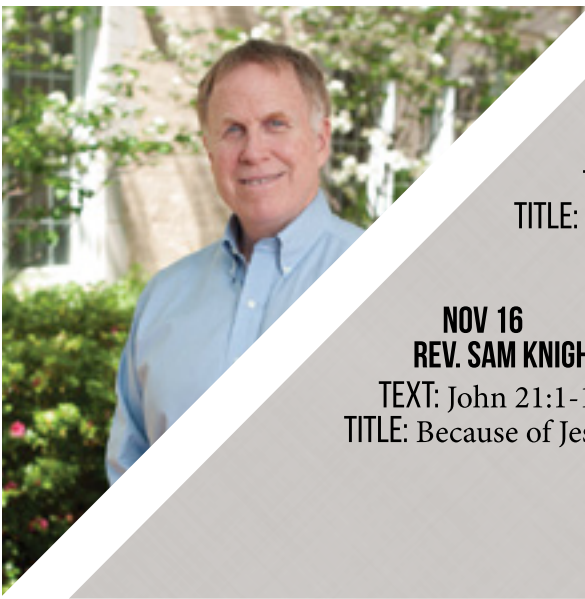
After earning a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union, Ron’s first pastorate was as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry at San Antonio’s First Presbyterian Church, under Senior Pastor Louis Zbinden. In 1989 Ron and Anne accepted a call to Central Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. During Ron’s tenure there, Central’s worship attendance tripled and the church completed a major building program. In 2000 Ron and Anne accepted a call to Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas, Texas, as its Senior Pastor completing his tenure in December 2013. Currently, Dr. Scates is supply preaching at Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Austin, TX while seeking his next call.

Ron and Anne have been blessed with five children: Katie (29) Andrew (24) twins Michael and Emily (21), and Anna who passed away as a young child several decades ago. The Scates family enjoys sporting events, music

recitals and concerts, and traveling together to their favorite places, which include the beach and Civil War sites (Dad’s favorite). Ron is also an avid weight trainer.

The principal focus of Dr. Scates’ ministry is his preaching. He devotes time daily to sermon preparation and translates his scriptural text from the original language.


Dr. Scates holds or has held positions on the boards of The World Reformed Fellowship, Presbyterian Healthcare System, and The Dallas Council for Life, US Lausanne Committee, American Tract Society, and the Presbyterian Children Homes and Services.



NOV 9
REV. DR. DAVID AND LINDA MCKECHNIE
TEXT: Isaiah 40:27-31
TITLE: A Passion for the Possible

NOV 16
REV. SAM KNIGHT
TEXT: John 21:1-15
TITLE: Because of Jesus

NOV 23
REV. DR. RONALD SCATES
TEXT: Ezekiel 34: 20-24
(based on lectionary text for Christ the King Sunday)



The Gift of Christmas



The "Gift of Christmas" is a mission project coordinated by the Presbyterian Women at First Presbyterian Church.

This Christmas project is an opportunity for individuals or groups in our church to share Christ's love with others by giving food, clothes and gifts to families in need. Each family is referred by House of Neighborly Services. Some are large, multi-generational families, while others are smaller family units. All are appreciative of the gifts and the givers.

HNS is a non-profit, multi-service neighborhood center founded in 1917 by Presbyterian missionaries, serving 900 families on San Antonio's west side. HNS has provided a wide range of social, educational, and health related programs throughout its 96 year history, with an emphasis on helping families move toward independence and self-sufficiency. Our church and PW has been actively involved in supporting Sus Hijas and other programs.

We encourage PW circles, Sunday School classes, small groups, various church organizations, families and individuals to share in this effort to include these HNS families in your Christmas giving this year. We will provide all the information on the family and attempt to match family sizes with your request. You might even consider sharing with an extra family or two if your groups' collections are always large! Your caring outreach and expression of Christian love will make an enormous difference for these families.

Here is an example of the blessings that can be gained from giving. Circle 9 adopted a family, who not only appreciated their generous gifts, but reciprocated with a simple, but delicious meal for those that delivered the gifts. The family then came to FPC to thank the Circle as a whole, and then wanted them to attend the mother's citizenship ceremony. God had blessed both the family in need, but even more the members of Circle 9.

Gift of Christmas Family Request Forms will be available in the Mauze Lobby throughout November. Please return the completed form to the Gift of Christmas mailbox in the church workroom, or mail to:

Darcy Collins
8801 Cavalry Drive
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX 78015
210-834-8320

or

Barbara Dorsey
107 Pike Road
San Antonio, TX 78209
210-363-6984

This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God.
2 Cor. 9:12



2014



*Is God
calling you
to participate in
the 2015 Medical
Mission Trip?*

First Pres Medical Mission Trip
February 18-23, 2015

Registration is now officially open for our FPC Medical Mission Trip to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico, where we will work for three-to-four days in a medical clinic setting, usually in or near the community of Leona Vicario.

We need doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists and/or Spanish-speaking translators. We are also always open to other medical personnel and some non-medical "go-fers."

Each year we are hosted by YPM-Yucatan Peninsula Ministry, headed up by Rev. Wilian Cen and his wife Erly. Our time with them is always a blessing, and we look forward to working with them once again.

The cost for this year's trip is \$600 per person, and scholarship and fundraising help is available. The deadline to turn in an application along with a \$200 dollar deposit is December 10.

We encourage all adults to prayerfully consider participating in this trip. Is God calling you to come help us make a difference in the Yucatan? We hope so.

For more information and an application, please contact Christina Via at christinav@fpcsat.org or call her at 210-271-2782.

Blessings and Peace,
The 2015 MMT
planning
team



On June 10, the Islamic terrorist group called ISIS, ISIL, or the Islamic State, entered Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq. Before 2003, Mosul was home to 35,000 Christians and one of the five Presbyterian churches in the country. The Nineveh Province, in which Mosul is found, includes the largest concentration of Christians (many in small villages), churches and monasteries (some dating back to the fourth century). Many other ethnic and religious minorities, such as the Yazidis (a special target of ISIS), also made their home in Nineveh Province.

Soon, many of the remaining 3,000 Christians made their way to Erbil and Kirkuk, perhaps anticipating what would be the devastating pronouncement by ISIS on July 19: convert to Islam, pay an unspecified tax or be killed. In the weeks leading up to that announcement, the homes and businesses of Christians were marked with the Arabic letter "n" for "Nazarene," the designation for Christians in the Quran.

The mass exodus of Christians, religious minorities and moderate Muslims from Mosul was heavily monitored by ISIS, and no one was permitted to leave with any possessions or money. By the end of the month, ISIS had complete control of the city, and the Assyrian News Service published a list of 45 churches or religious sites destroyed or taken over by ISIS. On that list was the historic Presbyterian Church, one of the oldest Protestant churches in the Middle East.

On July 26, the pastor of the Kirkuk Presbyterian Church appealed to partners like The Outreach Foundation, a Presbyterian mission sending agency, for help as the internally displaced made their way along the 100-mile road from Mosul to Kirkuk:

We, the Presbyterian Church in Iraq, value your shared concern and partnership. And now we need your im-

mediate financial support in order to better respond to this tragedy. We ourselves, from among our members, have already started to raise a collection for this. We plan to gather critical relief supplies to distribute (food, water, fuel, sleeping mats and pillows, clothes, towels, hygiene items, prayer rugs, etc.). We will also be working to help those displaced find housing and possible employment.

Their main efforts now are focused on 12 Christian families who are living at the Kirkuk Presbyterian church, spread out through their classrooms, offices and fellowship center. They are also assisting another 50 families at other churches in Kirkuk.

**WHAT IS FIRST PRES DOING TO HELP?
DONATING...AND PRAYING.**

First Presbyterian Church cares about our brothers and sisters in need around the world, and the Global Missions Committee is giving

\$25,000 on behalf of FPC to

support displaced Presbyterian Christians in Iraq through The Outreach Foundation. The committee also asks members of FPC to continue to pray for hope and healing for all of those affected by this tragedy. Pray that God brings wholeness back to each family that is suffering for their Christian faith.

If you would also like to donate to this important effort, please give checks to FPC and in the memo line, write "Iraq Relief," or send checks directly to The Outreach Foundation, 381 Riverside Drive Suite 110, Franklin, TN 37064.

You can also give online at www.theoutreachfoundation.org, and under "Designation," select "Iraq Appeal."



*Solidarity
with Christians
in Iraq*

Loaves & Fishes Continues Making Jesus Visible to the Hungry and Homeless

LOAVES & FISHES IS A MISSION OF LOVE that takes place the last Sunday of every month, and every Sunday in December. We welcome hundreds of our downtown homeless and hungry neighbors into our church, and give them a choice of dozens of wonderfully prepared dishes, adding up to a tasty, bountiful meal. As our number of guests continues to grow, so do our volunteer needs. We need many people to help make food, help serve food, welcome guests, and help clean up afterwards. We meet in the nutrition center at 3:00 p.m., and finish cleaning up around 5:00 p.m.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT to provide this ministry? Texas is second most food insecure state in the nation. Defined, food insecurity is when you are so limited in resources to buy food that you are running out of food, reducing the quality of food that your family eats, feeding your

children unbalanced diets, or skipping meals so your children can eat. According to a state report, three million Texans, or one in eight, (including 1.2 million children) were forced to visit a soup kitchen or food pantry to feed themselves in 2009. Even more concerning is the fact that Texas has the highest rate of childhood hunger and food insecurity in the nation at 22.1%, and in our own Bexar County, 23.5% of children are living in poverty.

BRING A DISH BASED ON THE FIRST LETTER OF YOUR LAST NAME:

Jan, April, Jul, Oct: A-I main dish, J-Q veggie/salad, R-Z dessert.
Feb, May Aug, Nov: A-I veggie/salad, J-Q dessert, R-Z main dish.
Mar, June, Sept, Dec: A-I dessert, J-Q main dish, R-Z veggie/salad.

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FOR ALL LOAVES & FISHES:

If you have a child between the ages of 0-7 (children 5 or 6 and older can serve at Loaves & Fishes with a parent), please RSVP one week in advance with Becly Prichard, Director of Children's Ministry, at beckyp@fpcsat.org or

210-271-2732. Sorry, drop-ins cannot be accommodated.

WE WILL CONTINUE TO HOST this wonderful program that feeds our homeless and hungry downtown neighbors the last Sunday of each month, November 30 and December 28.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BRING FOOD or volunteer to serve food on the last Sunday in November or December, please contact Christina Via at christinav@fpcsat.org.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SERVE FOOD on other Sundays throughout the month of December, there are opportunities to do so:

- Church Under the Bridge hosts feedings every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday at 6:00 p.m. Many Loaves & Fishes patrons go from our meal over to Church Under the Bridge and then eat there as well. They feed three times a week, every week, so they will be

feeding every Sunday in December. Learn more: www.cubsa.org

- Taking It to the Streets feeds people every Friday night at the Church Under the Bridge property on Chestnut Street. Call 210-859-4735.
- Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) gives out sack lunches every weekday morning in December. They are located across the street from FPC. Learn more: www.christian-assistanceministry
- Haven for Hope serves meals in the courtyard every day. They are located 1.5 miles away from FPC. Learn more: www.havenforhope.org
- The Catholic Worker House serves a hot lunch daily. Learn more: www.sa-catholicworker.org.

CURRENTLY, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES for four dinners and five daily lunches each week in December within about a mile or so of FPC. All of these ministries welcome any and everyone that wants to come to eat and to serve. We recommend them to clients and to those who want to volunteer in December as well.

FPC MEMBER PAT O'NEILL tells this story about how Loaves & Fishes grew to become the ministry it is today:

"ROBERT AND LINDA O'NAVE joined the church in the late 1990s and started helping coordinate Loaves & Fishes," she says. "They have been serving ever since, expanding the ministry with a homemade birthday cake—which Robert has made for years—decorations at holidays, blankets, and performing untold works of mercy to serve people who come to eat every month.

"LINDA WAS THE PERFECT HOSTESS," Pat continues, "calling guests by name, asking about their health, encouraging them, and making a pleasant atmosphere for our guests to enjoy their meals. Robert has faithfully showed up Sundays to prepare food, bring huge roasting pans of meat, chili, or some kind of main entrée, and giving volunteers directions and information; always pointing out these folks are our guests and should always be treated as such.

"THIS IS THEIR MINISTRY," Pat concludes, "and they have been making Jesus visible and set a great example to follow."



Serving Alongside Seton Home

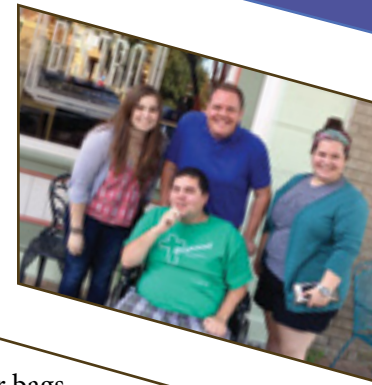
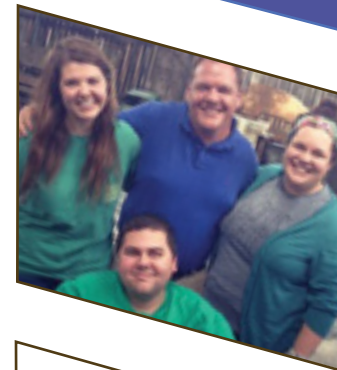
This past summer, the news outlets were largely dominated by stories of the Latin American unaccompanied minors fleeing violence and turmoil from their home countries and seeking a safer existence in the United States. Many children that have relatives here are being transferred, but San Antonio has several facilities housing children that have nowhere else to go. One of FPC's treasured local mission partners, Seton Home, has started a program called Casa De Milagros (House of Miracles) for young girls who became pregnant (many of them against their will) on their difficult journey from their home country to the U.S. In Deuteronomy 10:19, God tells the people of Israel, "So show your love for the alien, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt". FPC wants to continue to reach out in love to our neighbors, and we hope you will join us in showing hospitality to these girls who are in very difficult circumstances.

FPC has been partnering in service with the young women that live at Seton Home's main campus for years, and we value our ministry and relationship with these pregnant and parenting girls. We now have an opportunity to expand our service at Seton Home to the young girls who have made the difficult trek from Central America to South Texas, and we hope you will consider being a part of this new ministry.

Seton Home has invited us to have a monthly fellowship time with 10-12 Central American girls who are teen moms (or expecting) during the months of November and December. These girls are in short-term stays with Seton while placement arrangements are made for a host family until their immigration status is resolved.

Our invitation is to have fellowship with the girls on the second Sunday of each month, from 12:30-2:00 p.m. The first fellowship time, on November 9, would be either a baby shower or an ice cream social with paletas. Spanish-speakers are especially encouraged, though language skills are not required. Men and women are both welcome. FPC will provide you lunch and transportation after the Sunday service over to Seton Home and back. The second service day would be December 14, and we will host a Christmas-themed party for the girls and babies there. If you are interested in serving either of these days, or for more information, please contact the Missions Assistant, Christina Via, at christinav@fpcsat.org or call 210-271-2782.

College Road Trip



During the week of October 7, the University Ministry team packed up their bags and headed to Houston, College Station, Waco and Austin to visit our college students away at school. We grabbed lunch off campus, coffee on campus and attended a massive Christian outreach program called Breakaway. It was such a fantastic trip. We always look forward to meeting up with our students and hearing about how we can be praying for them. It is amazing how these students are seeking out Christ in their studies and daily lives! Take a look at some of pictures to see who we got to visit.

THE U-MIN TEAM IS SENDING OUT CARE PACKAGES TO OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS!

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 16
DONATE HOMEMADE BAKED GOODS FOR CARE PACKAGES

MONDAY NOVEMBER 27
ASSEMBLE AND SEND OUT CARE PACKAGES

QUESTIONS?
CONTACT MEGHAN AT MEGHAND@FPCSAT.ORG





Presbyterian Women • Ann Bunn

At last, fall is in the air, the leaves are beginning to turn colors, and we will soon be celebrating Thanksgiving. This Thanksgiving, I am especially thankful for all of the women of FPC who share of their time and talent as they live to make Jesus visible.

This was an exciting month with “We Gather Together” Ladies’ Night Out, helping with the Mission Presbytery Meeting and the “Ties That Bind” Fall Legacy Luncheon.

Many thanks to Trudy Moore who opened her home for the Ladies’ Night Out, Candy Wagner who entertained us with recipes and the art of making gift baskets, and Michelle Barker, Linda Sue Dullnig, Lilly Gretzinger & Elizabeth Kreager who organized this wonderful evening with over 70 women in attendance. Thank you also to those who brought food and beverages for us to enjoy. It was an exciting evening of fun and fellowship.

FPC was home to the Mission Presbytery Meeting this month. Thank you to Pat Krueger who organized PW volunteers for this event. Thank you to the volunteers who greeted attendees with warm smiles and gracious hospitality.

Our First Annual “Ties That Bind” Legacy Luncheon was a really special time to celebrate as we witnessed how Christ through FPC and the women of FPC have

made a difference in so many lives. We were encouraged by our wonderful speakers Victoria deDiggs, Cheri Stith, and Barbara Ann Stephens. We owe many thanks to these women who shared their stories with us. Thank you to the Luncheon Committee of Judy Kruger, Chaney Stuart, and Holly Youngquist who with their organizational skills, attention to detail, and “can do” attitude made this a luncheon to remember. Thank you to the Luncheon Decorations Committee of Robin Hudnall, Blair Perry, and Cheri Stith for the fantastic fall decorations. Once again, these amazing women searched for treasures at Round Top to design beautiful, one-of-a-kind arrangements. This was a luncheon we will remember for a long time.

Circle 20 members provided a delicious Taco Salad Supper to the women of Young Lives. Thank you to Bunkie Shed who organized this meal and to all who brought food for this wonderful event.

We give thanks to the women of Circles 5, 16, 17, & 19 who through the gifts of their hands have made prayer shawls, precious pajamas, dresses, pillowcases, layettes, adult bibs, stuffed animals, and rolled white cross bandages to share the love of Christ with the recipients. We also give thanks to the members of Circles 18 & 20 who share their cooking talents and love to those that they serve.

Looking forward, Christmas is just around the corner. PW members will join the Moms in Circle 8 on November 12 at 9:30 to make the Christmas Craft ornaments for the Christmas Parties at the Chandler Home and Morningside Manor in December. Please come if you can! Contact Sara Parish, 394-0865 or Sara23sc@hotmail.com. Circle 20 will be making food for the Advent Festival. Please call Bunkie Shed, 824-6690 or bshed@grande.com, if you can help.

As you gather around the Thanksgiving table with family and/or friends, please include members of FPC, our ministers, and staff in your prayers of thanksgiving. We are truly blessed to be a part of this church family.

CIRCLE 112:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH • 10:30 AM • GENEVA ROOM
CHAIR: SUZANNE THOMAS (210) 820-3245

CIRCLE 2/4:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH • 1:30 PM • ROOM 226
CHAIR: CHAR-ANN WITTEN (210) 341-1856

CIRCLE 5:
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST • NOON-1 PM • ROOM 228
CHAIRS: CARYL GAUBATZ (210) 651-0208;
JANE ANN TEMPLE 414-9945

CIRCLE 6:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH • 1:30 PM • GENEVA ROOM
CHAIRS: MIMI HART 822-0809; ALICE NICHOLS 826-4385;
LINDA RITTENHOUSE 824-2877

CIRCLE 7:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH • 11:30 AM • SERVICE PROJECT AT CHURCH • MODERATOR: SUSAN DEKOCH 822-0367
CHAIR: MEREDITH PARK (210) 373-8180

CIRCLE 8 (MOM'S GROUP):
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH • WILL BE OUR CHRISTMAS CRAFT SERVICE PROJECT • ROOM 108 • 9:30-11:30 AM
CHAIR: SARA PARISH (210) 394-0865

CIRCLE 9:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH • 10:00 AM
AT THE HOME OF ANN SMITH 822-2440
CHAIRS: LUCILLE LAMMERT 832-8414 AND B.J. NEAL 492-3188

CIRCLE 11:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24TH • 6:30 PM
HOSTESS IS SUZANNE STURDIVANT 494-5658
CHAIR: SUZANNE NORTON 344-7333

CIRCLE 13:
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11TH AT 1:30 P.M., MCCULLOUGH ROOM
CHAIR: JEANNE BROWNING 824-3921

CIRCLE 14:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH • NOON-1 PM • ST. ANDREWS ROOM
CHAIR: LADY ROMANO 828-5313

CIRCLE 16:
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH • 9:30 AM • ROOM 228
CHAIRS: LEE PRESSLY 735-0978 AND CORIE BARLOW 481-1337

CIRCLE 17:
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH • 9:30 AM • ROOM 309
CHAIR: JEANNE BAKER 494-0972

CIRCLE 19:
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH • 9:30 AM • ROOM 309
CHAIR: JANET BEAUCH 673-3251

CIRCLE 21:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH • 6:30 PM
HOSTESS IS ROSEMARY ENGSTROM 699-0408
CHAIR: ANDREA TAYLOR 403-9442

PW Circle Meetings in November





KEYS OLDER ADULTS
Count Your Blessings in November
 BY PAT MCCLEARY, DIRECTOR, KEYS OLDER ADULT MINISTRY



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 • 11:00 AM • LUNCH (\$7)

THE "HISTORY OF THANKSGIVING" • BY TOM JACKSON

This program involves the unique chain of historical events from Henry VIII, through Elizabeth I, the Mayflower voyage of 1620 and Plymouth Colony, through Abraham Lincoln, and ending with FDR and all that went into why we Americans celebrate Thanksgiving. It has some surprising facts that most people do not know about. He will be dressed as a typical, poor Englishman ca. early 1600s. Tom has previously performed here as Theodore Roosevelt and as an American Cowboy. You won't want to miss this presentation!

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14 • 11:00 AM • LUNCH (\$7)

CHARLES MOSS DUKE, JR.—ASTRONAUT • BRIGADIER GENERAL USAF (RET)

Come and join us for this special program by General Duke. Astronaut Duke is one of the 19 astronauts selected by NASA in April 1966. He served as lunar module pilot of Apollo 16, April 16-27, 1972. He will speak about the adventure of walking on the moon and also some words about his walk of faith that will encourage others on their journey with the Lord. He will also show a special video. He and his wife, Dorothy, reside in New Braunfels, Texas. They have co-authored the book, Moonwalker, released by Oliver Nelson Publishers in March 1990.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18 • 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

AARP SMART SAFETY COURSE • ROOM 302

This is the new and improved AARP Driver Safety Course that was launched on January 1, 2014. Due to the higher cost and quality of the new materials, there is a moderate course fee. For AARP members, the new course fee is \$15. For non-members, it is \$20. For reservation, call Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726. As B. J. Laymon has retired after many years of teaching the class, we are happy to announce that own Kay Kutchins will be our new instructor. Please check with your insurance company about the amount of discount. As we have a limit of only 25, please do not delay in making your reservation.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21 • 11:30 AM

Come and celebrate November birthdays at Crumpets Restaurant on Harry Wurzbach. Your check for \$12.00 is your reservation and is due by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 18. Birthday honorees are complimentary. Come and join the fun!

NOVEMBER 27 • HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Now Our God, We Give You Thanks, and Praise Your Glorious Name – 1 Chronicles 29:13

NOVEMBER 28 • NO PROGRAM • CHURCH CLOSED.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14

GAME DAYS

Bridge and Mah Jongg will be played on after lunch.

NOVEMBER 7 AND 14 • 9:45 AM

"KEEP MOVING" FITNESS CLASS

Come and get in shape for the upcoming holidays!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER

KEYS ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6

This is always a special day filled with the holiday spirit! Program to be announced

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9

FPC ADULTS TOUR CHRISTMAS LIGHTS OF THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER

It never gets old, it just gets better – Christmas lights on the San Antonio River viewed as we float lazily along on a barge. We start with dinner at Paesano's in the Quarry, then we board our barge at the top of the Museum Reach of the River amid splashing waterfalls and subdued lighting, through the lock to begin to see extravagantly lighted cypress trees which line the Riverwalk and on through the convention center channel to our disembarkation point in River Center. Our bus will meet us here to complete our San Antonio lights tour passing the Alamo and on to the dazzling lights of the University of the Incarnate Word, through Olmos Park and Monte Vista where many homes are decked out for the Season and back to church where we began our traditional Christmas evening on the River.

Cost \$75 includes charter Coach transportation, dinner, river barge tour, driver tip and escorts Susan & Henry Holloway. Your check is your reservation—don't delay and not have a space. Please make your check payable to FPC and mark Christmas Lights in the memo line and send to the attention of Pat McCleary no later than December 1.

Depart First Presbyterian Church 5:00 p.m. Return 10:30 p.m.

FPC Member Is New President of Presbyterian Older Adults Ministries Network

“We are excited that that First Presbyterian Church is the home of the new President of the Presbyterian Older Adults Ministries Network (POAMN). Michele Hendrix was installed at the October conference held in Kansas City, Missouri, and will serve a three-year term. POAMN is a national network of persons who are engaged in ministry with older adults and work in presbyteries and synods, leaders in their congregations and some serve in specialized ministries. In her new capacity, Michele will preside at all meetings of POAMN board and represent POAMN to other entities and organizations. Michele has a true calling in her work with older adults and we feel very privileged to have her expertise in our congregation. The attached letter will tell you more about her calling and experience. Congratulations Michele!”

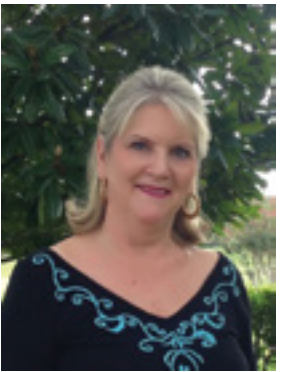
– Pat McCleary, Director of Older Adult Ministry,
First Presbyterian Church San Antonio

“Life often leads you to unexpected places. My husband Dale and I joined FPC in October 2013. We moved to New Braunfels in 2011 after purchasing our home in 2009. I volunteered and served on staff at Grace Presbyterian Church as Director of Older Adult Ministries and Congregational Care Assistant in Houston for nearly 18 years. I also had the privilege of serving as a Bible Moderator for Presbyterian Women for nearly 10 years. Grace was my church home and “family of faith” for 30 years. I did not have a job – I had a joy, a true calling, in my life!

“Contrary to what we often hear in our culture and our churches Older Adult Ministry is exciting. The graying of the church can be a wonderful opportunity for the “growing” of the church. Older Adult Ministries is more than just another group whose needs we must learn to meet. Many of the “new seniors” and “older adults” with their experiences and expertise offer congregations incredible gifts, resources, time, talent, and leadership.

“After we relocated, we intentionally spent time looking for a new church home. There were many reasons we felt we called to FPC. One of the primary reasons was that my daughter, Alyssa Payne, serves as your Mission Coordinator. Dale and I are very extremely family-oriented. We are blessed to have five adult children who are married to five wonderful spouses. This October we will welcome grandchild number 12 into our family! Some other tugs were my relationships with Pat McCleary, Scott Simpson, and Trey Little over the years. We were also fortunate to be guided to a Small Group close to our home by Butch and Kay Gerfers and we quickly connected and made strong friendships.

“We both retired from full time ministry when we made the move, but as fate often occurs that lasted only a few months. Perhaps we failed retirement or we just were not ready to stop serving. At any rate Dale is now working part time at First Baptist Church in New Braunfels, doing consulting work for Bluebonnet Baptist Association, and serving on the Finance Committee at FPC. When I moved into the area I became the only Master Trainer for Powerful Tools for Caregivers located in the Central Texas Hill Country. I was asked to help raise awareness of Powerful Tools for Caregivers in the Central Texas Hill country.



“This is a program we brought to Texas (when I lived in Houston) to meet the often challenging and overwhelming needs of caregivers. We now have Powerful Tools for Caregivers being offered in communities from Georgetown to San Antonio, Bastrop to Dripping Springs. This past year we began to offer the Powerful Tools for Caregiver Six-Week Class series through Congregational Care and now have three trained class leaders at FPC. There is a new PTC Six-Week Caregiver Class series being offered beginning on Thursday’s September 18 – October 23, 2014 from 1:00 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

“I am about to enter a new period in my life serving as President of Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network. I have been a member of POAMN since 1994 and served as the Conference Chair on its Executive Committee for three years. When we held our annual conference in San Antonio in 2011, many wonderful volunteers from FPC attended that conference, volunteered in various capacities, FPC hosted our Conference Banquet and were welcoming and gracious hosts.

“As a matter of fact, it was Pat who offered up my name as a candidate for this position. Presbyterian Older Adult Ministries Network (POAMN) was my lifeline when I began my ministry at Grace Presbyterian Church. The reality is that we are an aging society, in an aging denomination and congregation. Dale and I feel we have found a new church home and family of faith. I look forward to getting to know more people at FPC as Dale and I continue to serve and worship with this congregation.

Blessings,
Michele Hendrix

LET'S HEAR IT FOR CIRCLE 13, the Literary Circle for both men and women. Established many years ago, the Circle meets nine times during the church year between September and May to review a selected book which each member is encouraged to read prior to the meeting. The review is given by a Circle 13 member or, when possible, by the author. The meetings are held in the McCullough Room at 1:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month.

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR IS AS FOLLOWS:

NOVEMBER 11:
Countdown to Christmas
by Theresa Seidlitz
From Lanterns to Liberty
by Bill Perryman

The Literature Circle is presenting a tale of two books this month from Bill Perryman and Marguerite Hartill. Both books are published by Seidlitz Education, located here in San Antonio.

First you will be treated to the behind-the-scenes research and writing techniques for *From Lanterns to Liberty*, the story of Midnight Rider Paul Revere. Written by Bill Perryman and Marguerite Hartill, this book relates the patriotism and heroism of the iconic Paul Revere. During the presentation, you will see slides of the Boston area where Revere galloped into American history.

Next, *Countdown to Christmas*, 24 days of the Jesse Tree Tradition, written by twelve year old Theresa Seidlitz. As Advent begins, the Bible stories in this book unfold...the stories of those who populate the tree of life in God's family. Theresa's family observes the Jesse Tree tradition every year and she wanted to share the stories of God and family with others. Copies of the books will be available for purchase after the presentation and in the bookstore.

DECEMBER 9:
Hurricane Hole by John Kerr

JANUARY 11:
The Art Forger by B.A. Shapiro

FEBRUARY 10:
The Aviator's Wife

MARCH 10:
And the Mountain Echoed by Kahled Hossieni

APRIL 14
Travels with Charlie by John Steinbeck

MAY 12:
Unflinching Courage by Kay Bailey Hutchinson

These books can be found in the "parlor" of the Library on the window box. They can be checked out

for a three-week maximum period of time. Usually, two-four copies of each book are available. Within three weeks of each review, a DVD of the review will be available for check-out and may be kept for one week. Also, there are numerous DVD's from prior years—a quick way to discover an interesting read.

**LIBRARY, BOOKSTORE,
AND LITERATURE CIRCLE NEWS**
Let's Circle Up and Read
BY JIM JOHNSON

**THE
BOOKSTORE**

The bookstore will be open on Sunday, November 16 and 23 and each Sunday thru December. "From Lanterns to Liberty" and "Countdown to Christmas" along with other advent and Christmas items will be available.

**TEACHERS AND
SMALL GROUP LEADERS**

The Library has at least half a dozen new Teacher Kits, all Biblically based, that were donated by one of the elders. Teaching materials are located behind the check-out desk.

TEENAGERS AND YOUNG PEOPLE

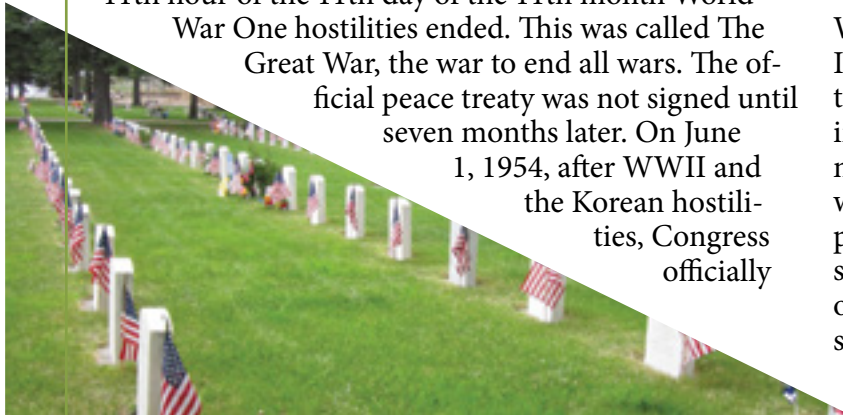
The Library volunteer staff welcome your comments concerning the Youth and Juvenile book selections. You could do us a very big favor by donating books and recordings you no longer use, and /or using the papers in the "parlor" to make suggestions for items you like. Our funds are limited but we will do our best to meet your interests. We would like to see more of you using the books and recordings!

ADULTS

Newest additions are the Bill O'Reilly history series and Louise Penny's mystery (Inspector Gamache) series, best read in the order they were published. A placard will be placed on the shelf in the Fiction section to aid you in your selection.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING INTEREST AND SUPPORT OF
OUR SUPERB LIBRARY!**

Veterans Day, November 11, will soon be with us. Originally it was called Armistice Day because on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month World War One hostilities ended. This was called The Great War, the war to end all wars. The official peace treaty was not signed until seven months later. On June 1, 1954, after WWII and the Korean hostilities, Congress officially



REMEMBERING AND HONORING

Our Veterans

BY LEN MARTIN, DEACON
LT. COL. USAR RET. VIETNAM VETERAN

changed the name to Veterans Day to honor all who have served in our Armed Forces for the defense of freedom in all wars. This is a day of remembrance

We have members in our church who have served in all of the conflicts in the last 75 years including WW II. I would like to focus on one individual who gave the "last full measure of devotion" in the Vietnam conflict, although officially he and five crew members of a Huey helicopter are still listed as missing in action (MIA). Lt. Col. (then Capt.) Floyd Olsen is the brother of member and Elder Sandy Sturch who was very active in the KIA/MIA organization for many years.

My association with Floyd began when I met him at Ft. Rucker, AL, the U. S. Army Aviation Center. He was a fellow alumnus of Wheaton College and we had several mutual friends. During his two deployments to Vietnam he was an unofficial missionary pilot because he would transport humanitarian aid (think missionaries) for official visits to several locations around South Vietnam. On April 21, 1968 following the massive TET offensive Floyd's helicopter crashed near the little mountain village of Hong Ha. It was most likely a result of enemy weapons fire. My first association to the crash site was in 1995. Dennis Stuessi, close friends of Floyd's and mine, and a career pilot with Mission Aviation Fellowship along with 10 other Vietnam Vets took the grand tour of Vietnam under the sponsorship

of a humanitarian aid organization, sometimes called an NGO (non-governmental organization).

We toured Hanoi and then went to Hue, the ancient Imperial capital and a place of bitter fighting during the 1968 TET offensive. Hong Ha was a small hamlet inhabited by indigenous mountain people about 25 miles west of Hue. The roads were rough and slow and we had to use a ferry boat at one place. Our stated purpose was to consider the site for a new clinic our unstated purpose was to search the area for any evidence of the crash and talk to witnesses. We were constantly shadowed by security personnel and the one witness we could identify had mysteriously gone to a hospital in Hue. By the time we got back to the hospital in Hue he had been released. A few nights later (about 5:00 AM) we were awakened by an intruder in our room, who appeared to be going for our cameras. When challenged he said he was taking someone to the airport.

The clinic in Hong Ha was a 10-foot-by-20-foot thatched roof, mud floor open building. One of our guys was an EMT from Killeen, Texas. He set up shop on a wooden box with his stethoscope and medications and a line of bare breasted women with babies on their hips. If he had a pith helmet it would have been the classic picture of a medical missionary.

Three years later through the help of Larry Ward, founder of Food for the Hungry, with contacts in Vietnam from his work there with World Vision and encouragement from Sandy and others who knew Floyd gathered at Hong Ha to dedicate a new clinic. The clinic was a sturdy four room concrete building with two nice modern outhouses. On that day, April 21, 1998, we dedicated this clinic to Floyd with his picture mounted on the wall with English and Vietnamese memorial statements. It was exactly 30 years to the date and about a half mile from the spot that Floyd and his crewmembers crashed and went missing to this day. But this is not the end of the story. A few years ago a much larger and more modern clinic was built on the site and continues to minister to the mountain people around Hong Ha. The site is a living memorable to a veteran with a very close association to our church.

**MOMENTS
TO HOLD CLOSE
GETTING BLOCKED**
BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ

I spend an exorbitant amount of time watching football at this time of year—many would vote I spend too much time. Every now and then something occurs during the game that transcends beyond simply watching football. The other day a commentator was breaking down the play, he described how someone was blocked, allowing the opposing team to easily score. The commentator stated, “you’re going to get blocked, but don’t stay blocked.” Genius. Can’t the same be said about our daily lives? God Himself guaranteed that we will face challenges, we will endure trials, and we will be tested. Christ had such a wonderful way of incorporating parables that people of the time could easily relate to, I just have to believe if He came down to visit us right now He might actually tell us, you’re going to get blocked, just don’t stay blocked.



**YOUR GIFTS
MAKE MINISTRY POSSIBLE**

Many thanks to all who have returned your 2015 commitment card. If you have not had the opportunity to return your card or make your faith commitment online at www.fpcsanantonio.org/ give, please do so at your earliest convenience so we can plan our annual budget.

If you have any questions, contact Janet Slayden, Business Manager, at 210-271-2751, or janets@fpcsat.org.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
SEPTEMBER 2014**

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	2,971,185	3,056,459	(85,273)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,585,498	2,720,899	(135,401)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	528,021	540,718	(12,697)
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	300,000	0	(300,000)
NETINCOME/LOSS	157,666	(205,159)	362,825

WE MADE SOME PROGRESS THE THIRD QUARTER OF 2014. THANK YOU. GIVING WAS CLOSE TO BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES WERE BELOW BUDGET BUT WE STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO. THE MINISTRIES AND BENEVOLENCES OF FPC DEPEND ON YOUR GIFTS. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE CONTACT JANET SLAYDEN, CHURCH BUSINESS MANAGER, AT 210-271-2751, OR BUTCH GERFERS, CHURCH TREASURER, AT 210-862-9998.

**CHANGES IN
THE CHURCH REGISTER
OCTOBER 2014**

ACTIVE MEMBERS
(PUBLIC PROFESSION OF
FAITH; CERTIFICATE OF TRANS-
FER; REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH)

- Joni Garcia, reinstated per her request, September 10, 2014.
- Discover First Class, September 28, 2014:
 - Anne-Lorrell (Lorrell) Wright, by Transfer of Letter from First Presbyterian Church, Seguin, Texas.
- Discover First Class, October 5, 2014:
- Will Carter, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- William (Will) E. Etheredge, by Transfer of Letter from All Saints Anglican Church, San Antonio, Texas.
- Barry Charles Hall, by Transfer of Letter from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, Texas.
- Nona K. (Booher) Hall, by Transfer of Letter from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lubbock, Texas.
- Melissa Beth Johnston, by Transfer of Letter from Oak Hills Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas.
- Justin Plez McKenzie, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Gabriel Ruben Martin, by Transfer of Letter from Bracken United Methodist Church, San Antonio, Texas.
- Megan L. (Smith) Martin, by Profession of Faith.
- Kelsey Jeannette Moore, by Transfer of Letter from Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, Texas.
- Alyssa Michele (Shultz) Payne, by Transfer of Letter from Grace Presbyterian Church, Houston, Texas.
 - James Jud (Jud) Taylor III, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Barbara Ann Guido Taylor, by Reaffirmation of Faith.
- Emelia Hernandez, by Profession of Faith, October 12, 2014.
- Sandy Gonzalez, by Profession of Faith, October 12, 2014.
- Cheyenne Novosad, by Profession of Faith, October 12, 2014.

BAPTISMS

- Sylabelle Ruth Luna, daughter of *Matthew Luna and Kellie Alexandra Alcala, born April 17, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in Traditional Worship Service on September 21, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Sandy Gonzalez received adult baptism in the Contemporary Worship Service on October 12, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Emelia Hernandez received adult baptism in the Contemporary Worship Service on October 12, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Serenity Nevaeh Hernandez, daughter of *Jose R. Valdez and Emelia Hernandez, born on October 25, 2012, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Contemporary Worship Service on October 12, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Rodney Renee Longoria II, son of *Rodney Renee Longoria and Cheyenne Novosad, born on March 25, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Contemporary Worship Service on October 12, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Aveah Scarlett Longoria, daughter of *Rodney Renee Longoria and Cheyenne Novosad, born on June 4, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Contemporary Service on October 12, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Layla Anna Marie Guerrero, daughter of Julie Madrid, born August 26, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in the Contemporary Worship Service on October 12, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Megan Martin received adult baptism in the Traditional Worship Service on October 12, 2014. John Seiders, officiating pastor.

DEATHS

- John Trlica, died June 17, 2014.
- Margaret Stapp, died September 10, 2014.

*denotes
non-member

First Cup Readings – November, 2014

Dear Family in Christ,

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

Blessings and love in Christ,
Sandy Sturch & Claire Averyt



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

1 Exodus 35:30-36:7; 2 Corinthians 8:1-15; Exodus 40; Psalm 32:8

Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee. Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and Mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity. Holy, Holy, Holy! All the saints adore Thee, casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea; Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Who wert, and art, and evermore shall be. Holy, Holy, Holy! Though the darkness hide Thee, though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see, only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee, perfect in power, in love and purity. Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty! All Thy works shall praise Thy name, in earth and sky and sea. Holy, Holy, Holy! Merciful and mighty, God in three Persons, blessed Trinity. (Worship in Song, # 8)

2 Leviticus 1; 1 Peter 1
3 Leviticus 4; Romans 3
4 Leviticus 5:1-6:7; Acts 5:1-11; Colossians 3:9
5 Leviticus 11; Acts 10:1-11:18
Leviticus 13:1-45; 14:1-32; Mark 1:40-45;
Luke 17:11-19
7 Leviticus 15; Numbers 5; John 8:1-11; Mark 5:21-34
8 Leviticus 16; Hebrews 9:1-14

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forebear? Me, the chief of sinners, spare? I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face; would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls. Still for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds, and spreads His hands. God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, and loves me still. (The Hymnbook, # 273)

9 Leviticus 17; Hebrews 9:15-28
10 Leviticus 18; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
11 Leviticus 19; Matthew 5:17-20
12 Leviticus 20; Hebrews 12
13 Leviticus 26; 1 John 1
14 Numbers 6; Judges 13; Luke 1:5-55;
15 Numbers 8-9; Psalm 85

*Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through
this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold
me with Thy powerful hand. Bread of Heaven, Bread of*

Heaven, feed me till I want no more. Feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield; be thou still my strength and Shield. (Worship in Song, # 64)

16 Numbers 10-12; Hebrews 13:7; Romans 12:12;
James 5:13-16

17 Numbers 13-14; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 20

18 Numbers 15; Leviticus 4:13-14; 5:14-19

19 Numbers 16-17; Proverbs 17:11; Hebrews 9:1-15

20 Numbers 20; Psalm 95; Hebrews 12:1-13

21 Numbers 21; 25; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

22 Deuteronomy 1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10; 10:4-6

*O God, beneath Thy guiding hand, our exiled fathers
crossed the sea; And when they trod the wintry strand,
with prayer and psalm they worshipped Thee. Laws,
freedom, truth, and faith in God, came with those exiles
over the waves; and, where their pilgrim feet have trod,
the God they trusted guards their graves. And here thy
name, O God of love, their children's children shall adore,
till these eternal hills remove, and spring adorns the earth
no more. (The Hymnbook, # 523)*

23 Deuteronomy 4; 6; 8; Romans 1:18-2:29;
Proverbs 3:11-12

24 Deuteronomy 9-11; John 14:23-24

25 Deuteronomy 29-30; Psalm 1

26 Deuteronomy 31; Psalm 14:2-3

27 Psalm 107; 116

28 Deuteronomy 32; Galatians 6:7-10

29 Deuteronomy 33-34

Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known; join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with sweet accord and thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne. The hill of Zion yields a thousand sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets, or walk the golden streets. We're marching to Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion. We're marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God. (Worship in Song, # 75)

30 Joshua 1; Psalm 119:89-112; Hebrews 4:12-13

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]