



First Press

MAKE JESUS VISIBLE IN MEXICO

JANUARY 2015 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Anne and I could not be more excited as we re-join the FPC family this month. Our youngest son, Michael, is moving to San Antonio with us. Katie (with husband Chad and son Will), Andrew, and Emily are well embedded in Dallas, so will be staying in Big D. Many of you have expressed to me your hopes and dreams for FPC’s present and future. I greatly appreciate and welcome your input in that area—and encourage you to be in daily prayer for your staff and Session as we listen collectively to the Lord’s voice and seek to follow only His lead as we navigate this interim time together.

To be honest with you, I’ve never wanted to be an interim. I turned down a number of interim offers over the past year. I’ve felt that I have one church left in me, and have been seeking my next call as a senior pastor. Then you all came along. A few of you asked if I would throw my hat in the ring for the interim position. Only because I dearly love you all, did I pray about it and even consider it—and then actually go through the interview process. In the midst of that process, the Lord lit the “fire in my belly” which has only ignited previously with this church, Central/Baltimore, and HPPC/Dallas. When your IPNC, and then Session, issued me the call, I knew this is where I was supposed to be.

I am coming to do chiefly three things as your interim, with God’s help:

- 1) Passionately preach the Gospel of grace. I’m an expository, lectio continua (preaching straight through books or sections of Scripture) preacher...so get ready immediately for a series going all the way through Romans.
- 2) Attempt to build up the Body of Christ at Fourth and Alamo: its purity, peace, and unity amidst an evermore toxic surrounding post-Christian culture. Healing, reconciliation, and restoration are key in this, but only so that we might then look outward to serve the least, the last, and the lost. We’ll be healthiest when we are more and more missions-driven.
- 3) Help the Session and congregation discern what the Lord is calling this particular church to be and do, and then carry out that vision—to His glory.

I’m totally convinced that the Lord is up to something wild and wonderful for FPC—something up His sleeve that none of us can probably imagine at this point. A recent Dallas Morning News article says that San Antonio is the number-one destination in Texas—not Dallas or Houston—for recent college graduates across the country. And that by 2020, San Antonio will be the fifth largest city in the U.S. What does that mean for FPC? God knows. As a former-insider-then outsider-now becoming-insider once again, the revitalization of downtown is obvious to me. I firmly believe that the Lord has a strategic Kingdom role for FPC to play in this revitalization as a winsome Biblically orthodox/Reformed witness for Jesus right smack dab in the middle of this great city, and beyond.

I’m titling my monthly column “Do You Believe In Miracles?!” (after Al Michaels’ famous exclamation at the 1980 Winter Olympics as the US hockey team was seconds away from upsetting the thought-unbeatable Soviet team) because I’ve been told by the IPNC that a number of miracles have occurred throughout their search process....but also as a monthly reminder that the Christian faith...in its very essence...is chiefly supernatural...that wherever God is authentically at work, it is always messy, mysterious, and miraculous—and because I am convinced that He has a few more heading FPC’s way as she faithfully follows His marching orders—even against all odds. Do you believe in miracles? I do. I wouldn’t be coming here if I didn’t.

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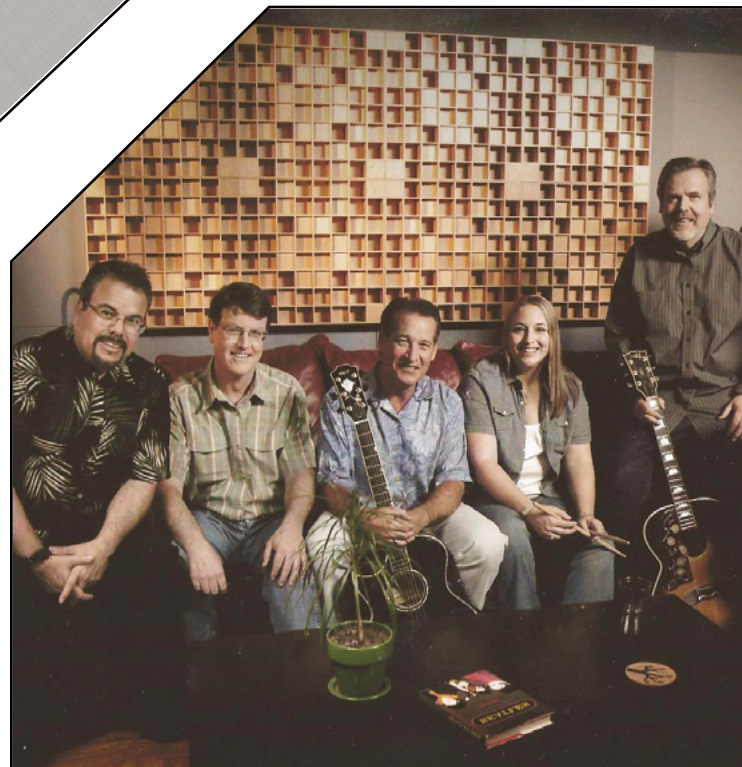
SAVE THE DATE



BOOK IT TO LITERATURE REVIEW

Literature Circle will meet on Tuesday, January 13, at 1:30 p.m. in the McCullough Room when Patty Strong will review the book, *The Art Forger*, by B.A. Shapiro. *The Art Forger* is a thrilling novel about seeing— and not seeing—the secrets that lie beneath the canvas. The story delves into the art heist at the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum— the largest unsolved art theft in history 25 years previously. A young artist has agreed to forge one of the stolen Degas paintings in exchange later for a one-woman show at an owner's gallery. She suspects, however, as she begins work, that this long-missing masterpiece may itself be a forgery. Bring a friend and be inspired to read this novel to learn more about the art world and its' history. Refreshments served prior to the meeting.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 • 1:30 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM



RICK CAVENDER PERFORMS FAVORITES BY THE GREATEST CLASSIC COUNTRY SINGERS OF ALL-TIME — AND EVEN A LITTLE SINATRA, TOO!

Rick Cavender and his band return for another memorable performance. We've packed the house on his last visits so don't delay in making your reservation and inviting your friends.

According to reviews, "For over 20 years, Rick has livened up many a party on the local, national and world scene. He and his band provided memorable entertainment for the largest convention ever to visit the city and performed with the hottest stars in the music scene. Rick is also a respected community leader and known to many as the voice and personality behind the Cavender Auto Family of dealerships." Band members will be Rick Ramariz, Keith Harter, Tammy Harter, and Pete O'Jeda.

Your check is your reservation and should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Rick Cavender" notation on the memo line. \$15/per person includes the performance and lunch—what a deal! Feel free to wear your best boot-scootin' gear! Make your reservation by Friday, January 30. No refunds after that date! Call 210-226-0215 to RSVP. Contact Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726 for more information.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 10:45 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL



THE BLESSINGS OF MODERN MEDICINE

Come and join KEYS Adults for a special program by Doctor Fred Brown—medical education and member of First Presbyterian Church. Fred will speak about the phenomenal blessings of modern medicine in the past 125 years that have resulted in dramatic decreases in suffering and death and also a significant increase in longevity. He will share the impact of these blessings on his journey as a Christian physician.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 • 11:00 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL

POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

Powerful Tools for Caregivers, a program that teaches you how to take care of yourself so you can continue to care for your loved ones. The program equips you with tools to help you maintain your physical health and mental well being while giving you the confidence to handle difficult situations, emotions and decisions. This is an evidence-based program for family and friends caring for children, adults, or older adults with cognitive and chronic impairment.

Approximately 34 million Americans currently care for a family member or friend. Caretaking responsibilities can take their toll, and developing tools to help maintain your own physical and mental health is critically important. Powerful Tools for Caregivers offer a free six-week Caregiver Class Series at no cost to the caregiver participants. The program focuses on the self-care of family caregivers.

First Presbyterian Church will offer the six-week caregiver class series beginning on Thursdays, February 5 – March 12, 2015 from 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. For additional information and registration, please contact Class Leaders Janice Wilson at janicew1541@sbcglobal.net, Flo Creighton at flostillinsa@gmail.com, or Michele Hendrix at tmichelehendrix@icloud.com.

FEBRUARY 5 - MARCH 12, 2015 • ROOM 226



NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR SACRED MUSIC

First Presbyterian Church plays host to church musicians from around the country, participating in events to encourage and inform leaders of music ministry. We invite you to participate through two public events:

OPENING CONFERENCE WORSHIP

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 2015 • 6:30 PM
Sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church
Featuring the FPC Chamber Singers

FESTIVAL CONCERT

FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2015 • 7:30 PM
Sanctuary of First Baptist Church,
515 McCullough Avenue
A concert featuring a combined choir from First Presbyterian, First Baptist, and conference attendees, all under the direction of renowned conductor and composer, Dr. Z. Randall Stroope.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY CHAMBER SINGERS IN CONCERT

Trinity University's Chamber Singers present a varied program including early and modern works by Sweelinck, Pärt, Ravel, Mäntyjärvi, Forrest, and others.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2015
• 4:00 PM •
SANCTUARY OF FPC**



CELEBRATING THE COMING OF THE BABY KING AT THE ADVENT FESTIVAL

THE KING IS COMING!

That was our theme at the 2014 Advent Festival, held on November 30. It was a great success! Kids, parents, friends, families, volunteers and staff all gathered in Westminster Hall for a fun-filled festival to kick off the Advent Season. Children had the opportunity to decorate a Christmas cookie, make an Advent Chain, play games, get their faces painted and make a variety of Christmas crafts and ornaments. In addition, families were able to make their very own Advent Wreath to take home with them and light as a family throughout the Advent season.

Ruthie Seiders led the group through an Advent litany and lit the first Advent candle and then the children's choir sang a beautiful song for everyone. Throughout the festival we were blessed to have many children and youth play Christmas tunes on the piano, which provided lovely background music to the festive event. The Children's Ministry Committee and Children's staff extend a big Thank You to all those volunteers who helped to make this such a wonderful event!





CHILDREN PORTRAY THE NATIVITY STORY AT CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

If you saw little mice scurrying through the Sanctuary on December 7, your eyes were not playing tricks on you! The four-year-old children of FPC played the part of mice in the 2014 Christmas Pageant, along with kids of all ages as sheep, shepherds, angels, stars, the Magi and of course, Mary and Joseph! The kids enjoyed learning more about the story of the birth of Christ from Scripture and sharing it with the congregation through their acting in the Christmas Pageant.

In addition, the Children's Choir sang beautifully to start off the worship service and Christmas Pageant. What a blessing it was to see all of the kids' joyful faces as they proclaimed the birth of our Savior.



PRAYING WITH OUR PASTORS: A MINISTRY FOR EVERYONE

BY LOUISE PETERS

Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to prayer made in this place. For now I have chosen and sanctified this house that my name may be there forever; and my eyes and my heart will be there perpetually. (2 Chronicles 7:15-16)

It's always been amazing to me that the God of all creation actually speaks directly to people in the Old Testament. Prior to the time of this Scripture, the temple in Jerusalem has been completed; the people have made their sacrifices; the temple has been dedicated; and everyone has felt the glory of God's presence!

Then God speaks directly to Solomon about the future, telling Solomon that he will send pestilence. But, if the people will humble themselves and turn from their sin, His "eyes will be opened" and "His ears attentive to prayer in this place."

First Presbyterian Church has a history full of answered prayer. In our hearts we know that none are pure enough to speak to our God. Nonetheless, we come to Him in confident anticipation knowing that Jesus made it possible for us to come.

We come to our amazing God in worship, Sunday School, Bible studies, Life Groups, Circles, and more. One special time we come before our God is just before each service of worship. Before the traditional worship services, one or more members gather with our pastor and laid assistants. We pray, thanking God for the sermon He has given our preaching pastor. We ask that the Holy Spirit will touch the minds and hearts of the congregation. We pray that the liturgy, the music, the stained glass windows, and more will encourage and comfort the congregation. Those praying are encouraged to pray as the Holy Spirit leads. Our prayers are intentionally short and focused on the worship service. Some pray spontaneously, some write their prayers. Later, we have the joy of going to worship to watch and feel our God at work!

Typically, officers of the church pray with our pastors before each traditional worship service. However, all members are welcome to join this ministry. If you are interested in praying with our pastors before a traditional worship service, contact Louise Peters at 210-408-1878 or loupeters2427@satxx.rr.com.



GLOBAL MISSIONS • 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, 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

PARTNER WITH OUR MEDICAL MISSION TEAM TO THE YUCATAN

MEDICAL SUPPLIES DONATIONS NEEDED • JANUARY 11-FEBRUARY 8, 2015

The First Pres Medical Mission Team is leaving for the Yucatan February 18, 2015! The team really needs your help by providing medical supplies. All over-the-counter medicines are provided by church members! Please help make Jesus visible to the people of Mexico by donating the following important items:

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| 1. ADULT VITAMINS (TABLET OR GUMMY) | 7. ACETAMINOPHEN LIQUID | 11. CHILDREN ANTIHISTAMINE LIQUID |
| 2. CHILDREN VITAMINS (CHEW OR GUMMY) | 8. VAGINAL INFECTION TREATMENTS (SUCH AS MONISTAT) | 12. LUBRICATING EYE DROPS IN SINGLE-USE CONTAINERS |
| 3. ANTIBIOTIC OINTMENTS (TRIPLE ANTIBIOTIC, E.G.) | 9. GUAIFENESIN DM LIQUID | 13. ANTIFUNGAL CREAMS (SUCH AS TINACTIN OR SIMILAR) |
| 4. ANTI-ITCH CREAM & OINT. (HYDROCORTISONE 1%) | 10. CHILDREN LIQUID COLD MEDICINES (SUCH AS ROBITUSSIN) | 14. DANDRUFF SHAMPOO – THIS IS USED TO TREAT WHITE SPOTS ON THE SKIN IN CHILDREN |
| 5. IBUPROFEN LIQUID | | 15. GENERAL BODY LOTION OR CREAM |
| 6. IBUPROFEN DROPS | | |

Please note that we can only accept unopened/sealed, unexpired medicines that have not been prescribed to an individual. Drop off items in a special donation box in the Mauze Lobby January 11-February 8. You may also donate financially toward the purchase of these medical supplies. Write your check to FPC and in the memo line indicate “MMT Medicines.” Need more information? Contact Christina Via at 210-271-2782 or christinav@fpcsat.org.

KEYS OLDER ADULT MINISTRY • JUMPING INTO JANUARY • BY PAT MCCLEARY, DIRECTOR, KEYS OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

Here we are at the beginning of another year having wrapped up December with a flurry of Christmas events and projects. KEYS started off by having fun participating in the Advent Festival with Children’s Ministry.

Then a couple days later, we were off wrapping for Elf Louise that gave us the opportunity to select and wrap gifts for the children of our city. Also, we provided a Christmas basket of presents and food to a family of five.

Next came our wonderful Christmas party and luncheon for the KEYS and guests with entertainment by the Toro Flores Trio—what a great sing-a-long! Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch prepared by Chef Maurilio Garza, Jr. and his staff. Last but not least, our dinner and evening tour of the San Antonio Riverwalk Christmas Lights. What a delightful evening!

I would like to take this opportunity to say “thank you” to everyone who generously donated money, gifts, and their time shopping, preparing, and delivering the Christmas Basket to our family. Also thanks for the beautiful decorated party tables done by Virginia Nilsson, Ginger Davenport, and Janet Beauch!

What a great 2014 we’ve had with a wide variety of programs, trips and service projects to say nothing of the SPLENDID FELLOWSHIP TIME together! If you are not on the permanent Friday list, please make your reservations to join our great upcoming programs.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2 AND 9
NO PROGRAM

KEYS Leadership Committee, however, will meet at Geri & Don McCorkindale’s home January 9 at 11:00 a.m. to finish planning the Spring Programs. Please let me know of any speakers, movies, trips, service and volunteers ideas you would like to see the KEYS plan: patm@fpcsat.org.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16 • 11:30 AM
BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Come celebrate January Birthdays at the Spaghetti Warehouse, 1226 E. Houston Street. Cost is \$12 per person and birthday members will be our guests. Your check is your reservation and is due no later than Tuesday, January 13. Please make it payable to FPC and put “KEYS lunch” on the memo line. Join us for a delicious Italian lunch and a good time. Please let me know if you would like a ride from the church to the restaurant.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23 • 11:00 AM
THE BLESSINGS OF MODERN MEDICINE

Come and join KEYS Adults for a special program by Doctor Fred Brown—medical education and member of First Presbyterian Church. Fred will speak about the phenomenal blessings of modern medicine in the past 125 years that have resulted in dramatic decreases in suffering and death and also a significant increase in longevity. He will share the impact of these blessings on his journey as a Christian physician.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30 • 11:00 AM
GINNY FUNK – ALZHEIMER’S ASSOCIATION

Conversations about Dementia: Tips to Help with Family Conversations
This education workshop is offered by the Alzheimer’s Association to help address the fear or lack of awareness that often accompanies having these conversations that can result in delays that have serious consequences for the entire family. This program will offer helpful tips to assist families with difficult conversations related to dementia, including going to the doctor, deciding when to stop driving, and making legal and financial plans for future care needs.

“KEEP MOVING FITNESS”
FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 23, 30

Try our fitness class on Friday mornings at 9:45 a.m. on the second floor of The New Student Center and you won’t stop coming! Get results for that New Year’s resolution!
The class is lead by our “exercise guru” Linda Osborne. The goal is to improve strength, toning and cardio-vascular conditioning with different levels of intensity. There are no reservations and no cost. Bring a friend!!

GAME DAYS
Bridge and Mah Jongg will only be played at church on Friday, January 23 after lunch.
Normally, games are played on the 2nd & 4th Friday; however, due to a Conference being held here on the second Friday, we will play once this month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FEBRUARY
Friday, February 13 - J. Bruce Bugg, chairman of the Tobin Endowment and chairman of the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts

Wishing You Health, Happiness, and Many Blessings in 2015!



A WALK WITH JESUS TRUMPS A WALK ON THE MOON • BY JOE RUST, KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE AT-LARGE MEMBER

To most of us ordinary earthlings, a walk on the moon would cap a successful life.

To Charles Moss Duke Jr., a lunar trek represented the highlight of a successful military career, but it was not the most-satisfying adventure in his life. Similar to the experience of many of us, a walk with Jesus Christ fulfilled that need.

Charlie Duke, following being valedictorian of his high school military academy, graduation from the Naval Academy and a career as a fighter pilot, was selected as one of 19 astronauts by NASA in April 1966. He served as the lunar module pilot for Apollo 16 in April 1972 on the fifth moon mission. Apollo 16 was the first scientific expedition to inspect, survey and sample materials and surface features in the Descartes region of the rugged lunar highlands.

Today, Charlie Duke is a retired Air Force brigadier general operating private businesses in nearby New Braunfels. He and Dorothy, his wife of 51 years, often speak to groups not only of his adventures in space, but also of their walks of faith with Christ.

Duke honored First Presbyterian Church’s KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit) program one Friday in November by sharing these experiences with more than 90 members and guests. His message not only was valuably informative about his moonwalk, but also highly inspirational in witnessing the grace of our Savior. Dorothy accompanied him to the talk.

As his spaceship neared the moon, Charlie Duke marveled over the wonders of space as he observed his home planet in space outside his module. However, even though he considered himself a Christian, he did not muse over the presence of God in that marvel, nor did he think of God or His Son as he walked and rode on the moon.

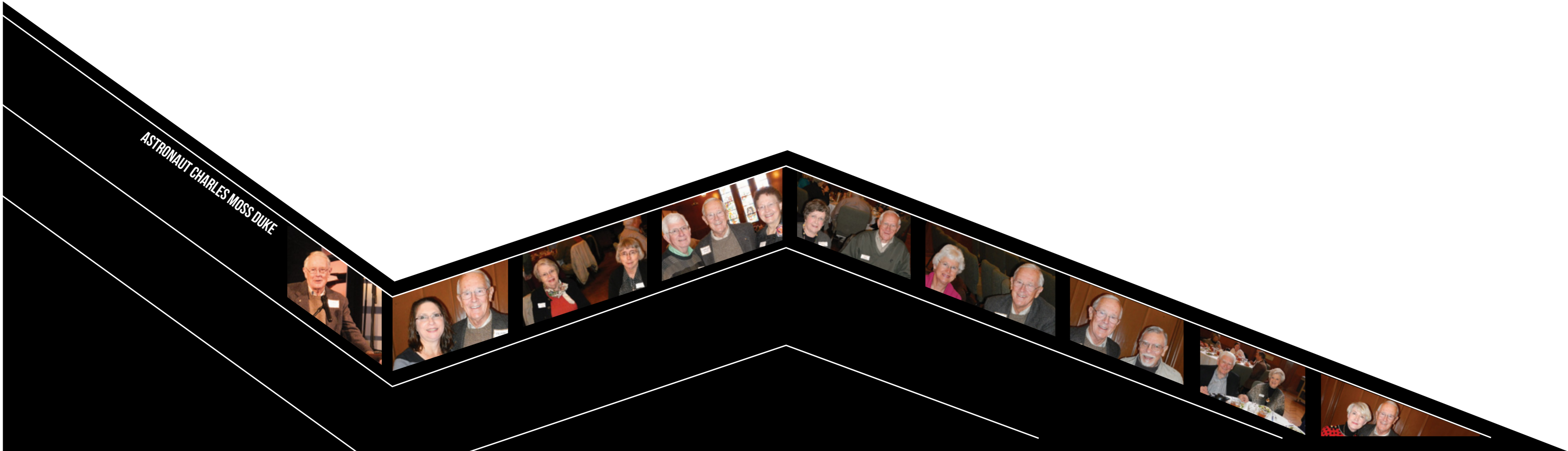
Not until seven years later, following a religious service in San Antonio, a series of inspirational dreams, much prayer and Dorothy’s turn to Christ, did he accept Jesus as his Savior. Since then, the lives of the Dukes have been enriched daily as they have spread the Word. They co-authored MoonWalker, a book listed as “the true story of an astronaut who found that the moon wasn’t high enough to satisfy his desire for success.”

Dorothy’s story is one of great hope and discovery. As the fame of her astronaut husband grew, she found herself depressed over neglect and indifference. She even contemplated suicide. The change in her life came after she attended a Faith Alive renewal gathering and she, also a person she thought was a Christian, gave her life to Christ, by example helping to lead to her husband’s turn to Jesus.

Just a few words from MoonWalker set the tone of the lives of the Dukes over the past quarter century. Of his feelings at the religious service in San Antonio, Duke wrote of a call to prayer to the altar: “Suddenly it was like being in zero gravity again. A lightness and a wonderful feeling of joy and love came over me, and I began to sob as waves of love flowed through my body. I knew that something wonderful had happened, and God had touched me!”

Finally, among the concluding words from the book, by Duke: “Even my walk on the moon has been used for God’s glory. At a Christian meeting in 1979, a prophesy was given that every step I took on the moon would be multiplied many, many times over my walk with Jesus. This has come true in the miles I have traveled all over the world giving testimony of what God has done in my life.”

Praise the Lord!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN NEWS BY ANN BUNN, PW PRESIDENT



Happy 2015! It is hard to believe that it is the beginning of the New Year!

I want to first express my gratitude to all of the Presbyterian Women who made Jesus visible throughout the Christmas Season! To review some of the special ways they served:

Thirty families were “adopted” by various families, circles, and groups as we shared the “Gift of Christmas” with needy families. Thank you to Darcy Collins and Barbara Dorsey for their time and talent as they joyfully placed these families. Love and Generosity were once again evident in this ministry.

The residents of Morningside Manor and Chandler Home were the beneficiaries of Christmas Parties organized by Pat Johnson and Janet Wernli. Thank you to these talented women and all who participated! Members of Circles provided delicious cookies and served as hostesses. Circle 8 Mom’s Group made precious “donkey” ornaments for each resident. The Friday Singers and the sweet children from the Children’s Center serenaded the residents with Christmas Carols. Scott Simpson and Ruthie Seiders shared the Christmas Story. It was a festive time that brought joy to the residents’ hearts, as well as to those who were present.

On Christmas Eve, Presbyterian Women were blessed to provide dinner to the pastors, choir, and staff. This respite from all of the activity at the church on Christmas Eve has become an annual tradition. I especially want to thank Karin Garbrielson who coordinated the Christmas Eve dinner and served as hostess again this year. Thank you also to the Circles that provided the delicious food and to all who helped serve the meal and clean up.

Circle 20 continued to provide dinner for some of the Young Lives meetings. Many thanks to all who participate in that ministry.

Presbyterian Women have a busy New Year planned! Mark your calendar for FPC Women’s Ladies’ Night Out on Thursday, January 29, 6:30 p.m. at La Fonda on Main. Please see the article about this annual event in this issue of First Press.

Please “Save the Date” for other special PW events this year:

- March 23—Spring Luncheon featuring Kelly Minter as our speaker
- May 6—PW Birthday Coffee
- Sept. 25-27—First Presbyterian Church’s Women’s Retreat at Laity Lodge

Look for more information on these events in future issues of First Press.

Blessings for today and for the New Year full of opportunities to serve our Lord!

PW CIRCLE MEETING INFORMATION FOR JANUARY

CIRCLE 112 - Monday, January 26 • 10:30 AM • Geneva Room • Chair: Suzanne Thomas (210) 820-3245

CIRCLE 2/4 - Tuesday, January 20 • 1:30 PM • Room 226
Chair: Char-Ann Witten (210) 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 - Friday, January 16 • noon-1 PM •
Room 228 • Chairs: Caryl Gaubatz (210) 651-0208; Jane Ann Temple 414-9945

CIRCLE 6 - Tuesday, January 20 • 1:30 PM • Geneva Room
• Chairs: Mimi Hart 822-0809; Alice Nichols 826-4385; Linda Rittenhouse 824-2877

CIRCLE 7 - Tuesday, January 20 • 11:30 AM • Bring sack lunch; Moderator: Georgia Heath, at the home of Lynnda Barnes 408-1678, Chair: Meredith Park (210) 373-8180

CIRCLE 8 (MOM’S GROUP) - Wednesday, January 7 and 21 • 9:30-11:30 AM • Room 108 • Chair: Sara Parish (210) 394-0865

CIRCLE 9 - Tuesday, January 20 • 10:00 AM • in the break-fast room at FPC • Hostesses: Billie Bessellieu and Jan Magnus • Chairs: Lucille Lammert 832-8414 and B.J. Neal 492-3188

CIRCLE 11 - Monday, January 26 • 6:30 PM • Hostess is Jean Swanson • Chair: Suzanne Norton 344-7333

CIRCLE 13 - Tuesday, January 13 • 1:30 PM • McCullough Room • Chair: Jeanne Browning 824-3921

CIRCLE 14 - Monday, January 26 • 12-1 PM •
St. Andrews Room • Chair: Lady Romano 828-5313

CIRCLE 16 - Wednesday, January 21 • 9:30 AM •
Room 228 • FPC

CIRCLE 17 - Wednesday, January 14 • 9:30 AM •
Room 309 • Chair: Jeanne Baker; Co-chair: Gigi Duke

CIRCLE 19 - Wednesday, January 7 • 9:30 AM •
Room 309 • Chair: Janet Beauch 673-3251

CIRCLE 21 - Monday, January 19 • 6:30 PM • Hostess is Lana McMains; Chair: Andrea Taylor 403-9442

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN PRESENT: LADIES NIGHT OUT JANUARY 29 • 6:30 PM • LA FONDA ON MAIN

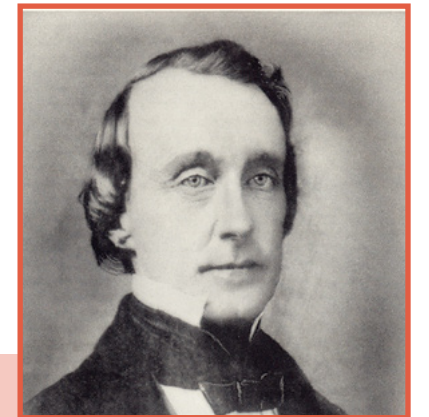
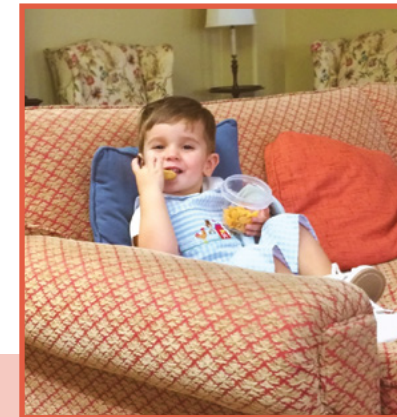
Please join the women of FPC as we enjoy our annual winter evening out. We will gather for delicious traditional Mexican food, fun, and fellowship. There will even be door prizes!

Reserve your place by writing a \$19 check payable to First Presbyterian Church with “Ladies’ Night Out” in the memo line. You may leave your check in the PW box in the workroom at church or mail it to: Lilly Gretzinger, 1032 Garraty Road, San Antonio, Texas 78209. If you have any questions, please email Lilly at lilly@bunnngroup.com or call her at 210-601-0575. Deadline for reservations is January 25. We hope to see you there!

FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

This cute kid is John McCullough DeKoch, Jr. (“Mac”) in the McCullough Room on a recent Sunday in December. He is the great-great-great-grandson of Rev. John McCullough, founding pastor of First Presbyterian Church San Antonio!

To learn more about Rev. McCullough, visit the church library to check out the wonderful book, *From Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice* by the late Don Everett, longtime First Pres member chair of the History Department at Trinity University. Rev. McCullough’s portrait also hangs in the Heritage Room, adjacent to the McCullough Room.



WEDNESDAY NIGHTS INTERSECTION

• 5:00-5:45 PM •

ADULT BIBLE STUDY • ROOM 124

Title: "Proverbs and Parable: God's Wisdom for Living" by Dee Brestin
Leader: Maggie Hardwick

CHILDREN'S CHOIRS • AGES 3 - 5TH GRADE

The Children's Choir program at FPC strives to enrich children's lives in three core areas: spiritual formation and growth, musical skills, and personal growth. The choirs sing for the children's Christmas pageant, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday, and other worship services and events during the year.

ANGEL CHOIR • ROOM 125

3 years old by Sept. 1
Sara Braisted
sarabraisted@gmail.com

CHERUB CHOIR • ROOM 127

Pre-K and Kinder
Megan Martin
megan.martin08@gmail.com

MUSIC MAKERS CHOIR • ROOM 128

Grades 1 and 2
Kyrenda King
coachkyrenda@gmail.com

JUBILATE CHOIR • ROOM 126

Grades 3, 4, and 5
Kathy Jamison
kathyj@fpcsat.org

Contact: Kathy Jamison (kathyj@fpcsat.org/210-403-3507)

• 5:30-6:30 PM •

INTERSECTION DINNER • WESTMINSTER HALL

Come together for a relaxed meal served buffet style prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff. Join with other families for a shared meal and fun conversation. Each week we'll have table decorations around a theme – let your kiddos dress according to the theme for added fun. This is a great time for the different generations of the church to be gathered together to break bread and be the church family.

PRICES: \$8 for adults, \$3 for children (5-12 yrs old), free for 4 and under.

• 5:30-7:30 PM •

MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH MENTORING GROUPS

- Dinner at 5:30 p.m. Westminster Hall
- Mentoring Groups 6:30-7:30 p.m. FPC Student Center

Middle School Youth Mentoring Groups are smaller and more intimate than Sunday School. They provide a unique atmosphere where students can relax, be themselves, play, study Scripture and talk about life.

Contact: Matt Fricker (mattf@fpcsat.org / 210-2712794), Colton Willis (coltonw@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2791) or Jerren Wadsworth (jerrenw@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2792)

• 5:45-6:45 PM •

SANCTUARY HANDBELLS REHEARSAL • ROOM 309

Bell ringing is fun, therapeutic and develops musicianship and teamwork while at the same time adding an exhilarating dimension to worship services. Thirteen bell ringers are needed at all times to be able to utilize all five octaves of handbells. Handbell ringers should have the ability to read music, as well as basic hand/eye coordination.

Contact Dr. Jae Ha (jaeh@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2729)

• 6:30-7:30 PM •

ADULT CLASSES

(See "Adult Classes" Chart)

SIDEWALK FOR KIDS • ROOM 138 • PRESCHOOL-2ND GRADE

Contact Sonya Wright (sonyaw@fpcsat.org/210-271-2720)

CROSSWALK FOR KIDS • ASSEMBLY ROOM • 3RD-5TH GRADES

Contact Becky Prichard (beckyp@fpcsat.org/210-271-2732)

• 6:45-8:30 PM •

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TEAM REHEARSAL • WESTMINSTER HALL

This team of rotating volunteers provides passionate musical leadership for the contemporary worship service at 11:00 a.m. in Westminster Hall. The team is made up of singers and instrumentalists, and offers a mix of hymns, new music and original songs.

Contact Samuel Pitamber (samuelp@fpcsat.org)

• 6:45-8:30 PM •

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL • CHOIR ROOM/318

The Sanctuary Choir sings in the traditional worship services each Sunday. They prepare music for major liturgical observances and present periodic concerts as musical offerings to the larger community. It consists of singers at varying levels of musical ability, each of whom enjoys singing and leading in musical worship. Professional section leaders and soloists enhance the quality of the Sanctuary Choir. The Choir is always open to new members including adults, college students, and advanced high school students. No auditions necessary, although prior experience and ability to read music are helpful.

Contact: Tom Dooling (tomd@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2717)

CHILDCARE

Childcare available all evening for children from 2 months-2 years in Room 101

ADULT CLASSES • 6:30-7:30 PM

DATE	BIBLE STUDY ROOM 300	LIFE APPLICATION GENEVA ROOM	HELPING OTHERS ROOM 224	WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY ROOM 302
JANUARY 7	MUSIC WORSHIP CONFERENCE EVENT – ADULTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND			
JANUARY 14	TITLE: CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS: WHAT MAKES US THE SAME AND WHAT ARE THE DIFFERENCES TEACHER: JOHN CARTER LENGTH: 5 WEEKS	TITLE: PARENTING WITH A PURPOSE TEACHER: RUTHIE SEIDERS LENGTH: 3 WEEKS	SERVANT PARTNERS SPEAKER: CARRIE EVERS	TITLE: VICTORY IN SPIRITUAL WARFARE TEACHER: SHEILA FIGUEROA LENGTH: THROUGH JUNE 3
JANUARY 21			PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOMES SPEAKER: VALERIE LESTER	
JANUARY 28			CAM SPEAKER: MARY HENDERSON	
FEBRUARY 4		TITLE: GETTING INSIDE THEIR HEAD: UNDERSTANDING THE TEENAGE MIND TEACHER: DUFFY ROBBINS DIFFERENT TIME: 6:30 - 8:30 PM	FOOD FOR THE HUNGRY SPEAKER: BETH ALLEN	
FEBRUARY 11		TITLE: ORGANIZING TIPS FOR BUSY LIVES TEACHER: MAGGIE BURNETT	HABITAT FOR HUMANITY SPEAKER: BARRETT MEYERS	
FEBRUARY 18	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE – NO ADULT CLASSES			
FEBRUARY 25	TITLE: UPPER ROOM DISCOURSE: STUDY OF JOHN 13-17 TEACHER: CHRIS VIA LENGTH: 5 WEEKS	TITLE: LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY TEACHER: GEORGE STURCH LENGTH: 2 WEEKS	SETON HOME SPEAKER: KATIE RING	
MARCH 4			MISSION INDIA SPEAKER: ROBERT ADAMS	
MARCH 11	SPRING BREAK – NO INTERSECTION			
MARCH 18	SEDER SUPPER – NO ADULT CLASSES			
MARCH 25		TITLE: TRANSITIONS: OFF TO COLLEGE SPEAKER PANEL: TERESA MCCALEB, NINA JORDAN, CAROL BAUGH AND SHEILA FIGUEROA	INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION SPEAKER: WAYNE BERNARD	
APRIL 1	HOLY WEEK – NO INTERSECTION			
APRIL 8		WOOD WORKING WORSHIP TEACHER: BUDDY JOHNSON LENGTH: 2 WEEKS DIFFERENT LOCATION: 1ST FLOOR NUTRITION CENTER	MISSION ROAD SPEAKER: LYNETTE NELSON	
APRIL 15			MISSIONARIES - PHILIPPINES SPEAKERS: GEORGE AND ANN HARPER	

INTERSECT WITH FRIENDS & FAMILY EACH WEDNESDAY NIGHT AT FPC



MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE • DOWNSIZING DEVIANCY • BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ

I was having an interesting discussion with my daughter the other night regarding the appropriate usage of commas and apostrophes. To my amazement, the rules have changed from what I was taught in grade school. My daughter went on to explain to me that so many people were using them incorrectly, that the rules have been changed so that both ways of using them are now acceptable.

The same thing happened to me in my previous employment, standards were put in place for minimum acceptable performance limits to be successful at the job. Many people were not putting forth the effort, and a high failure rate was the result. As opposed to holding people accountable, the Agency took the path of least resistance and lowered the performance standards, that way everyone passed. Irregardless, which isn't even a word, is now listed in the dictionary since people used it so often it was determined to just accept it.

This downsizing of deviancy is not limited to punctuation, job performance, or grammar. It has seeped its way into every aspect of our lives to include our walk in faith. God has established certain principles and laws for us to follow. Will we fall short? Yes. But that is not what is transpiring; we are lowering standards and ignoring many of God's teachings so that we can be accepting to all despite how they choose to conduct their lives, and that is not what was intended.

My grandfather taught me a long time ago, you cannot break God's laws—you can only break yourself on His laws, for God's word will remain forever. I implore you brothers and sisters, do not allow a downsizing of deviancy within the confines of our faith.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY
NOVEMBER 2014

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	3,583,017	3,739,370	(156,353)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	3,098,854	3,271,559	(172,705)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	675,241	694,655	(19,414)
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	300,000	0	(300,000)
NET INCOME/LOSS	108,922	(226,844)	335,766

We had a good month in November. Thank you for your generosity. Please prayerfully consider your year-end giving. The ministries and benevolences of FPC depend on your gifts so that we can fulfill our commitments. 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
AS OF DECEMBER 2014

BAPTISMS

- William Alexander Whittington, son of *Alex and Emily Whittington, born March 17, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in Traditional Worship Service on November 23, 2014. Scott Simpson, officiating pastor.
- Jane Carter Altmeyer, daughter of *Wilson and Mary Altmeyer, born on January 30, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in Traditional Worship Service on November 30, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Jackson Keppler Green, son of John and Margaret Green, born on November 28, 2013, in Fort Worth, Texas. Baptized in Traditional Worship Service on November 30, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.
- Emmett Mitchell Carnes, son of Cameron and Elizabeth Carnes, born on September 20, 2013, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in Traditional Worship Service on November 23, 2014. Scott Simpson, officiating pastor.
- William West Dennis, son of William Carter Dennis and Morgan Helfrich-Dennis, born on August 15, 2014, in San Antonio, Texas. Baptized in Traditional Worship Service on November 30, 2014. Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor.

ACTIVE MEMBERS

(PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH; CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER; REAFFIRMATION OF FAITH)

- Jean (Peckenpaugh) Alexander by Reaffirmation of Faith on November 9, 2014
- Susan Matthiessen Crank by Reaffirmation of Faith on November 9, 2014

BIRTHS

- Thomas Garrison DeKoch, son of John and Annie DeKoch, born October 21, 2014.

DEATHS

- Mary Lavone Lysne, died November 6, 2014.
- Walter Wilson Carter Jr., died December 2, 2014.

MARRIAGES

- *Mitchell Paul Lyons & *Krystina Nicole Chaya married at FPC on November 22, 2014; Scott Simpson, officiating pastor.
- Andrew Burnett & Jacqueline Dunten married at FPC on November 7, 2014; Ruthie Seiders, officiating pastor and co-officiate Michael Homan of First Presbyterian Church in Houston, Texas.

*denotes non-member

First Cup Readings – January, 2015

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 Ecclesiastes 3:1-17; Psalm 119:81-112; 103
- 2 Hebrews 1; John 1:1-14; Galatians 3:26-4:4
- 3 Hebrews 2; Philippians 2:1-11; 2 Timothy 1:8-12

*Mighty God, while angels bless Thee, May a mortal sing
Thy name? Lord of men as well as angels, Thou art every
creature's theme. Lord of every land and nation, Ancient
of eternal days, sounded thru the wide creation be Thy just
and endless praise. Brightness of the Father's glory, shall Thy
praise unuttered lie? Break, my tongue, such guilty silence!
Sing the Lord who came to die. From the highest throne of
glory to the cross of deepest woe, all to ransom guilty cap-
tives; Flow my praise, forever flow! (The Hymnbook, #10)*

- 4 Hebrews 3; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; John 3:35-36
5 Hebrews 4:1-13; Exodus 20:8-11; Ephesians 2:8-10;
Romans 4:1-8
6 Hebrews 4:14-5:10; 1 Corinthians 10:13; Romans 6
7 Hebrews 5:11-6:6; 1 Peter 2:2; 1 Corinthians 3:1-4;
Matthew 7:21-23; 26:4
8 Hebrews 6:7-20; Isaiah 5:1-7; 44; 55:10-13;
Matthew 13:1-30
9 Genesis 14:17-20; Psalm 110; Hebrews 7;
Romans 8:26-27
10 1 Peter 2; Revelation 1:4-6; 5:6-10; 20:4-6

Tis the grandest theme thro' the ages rung; tis the grandest theme for a mortal tongue; Tis the grandest theme that the world e'er sung: Our God is able to deliver thee. Tis the grandest theme in the earth or main; Tis the grandest theme for a mortal strain; Tis the grandest theme, tell the world again; Our God is able to deliver thee. (The Baptist Hymnal, #198)

- 11 Hebrews 8 (see Exodus 25-31); Jeremiah 31;
2 Corinthians 5:17
- 12 Hebrews 9:1-10; Exodus 40; Leviticus 16;
Romans 3:21-26
- 13 Leviticus 8, 17; Hebrews 9:11-28; Matthew 5:17;
Romans 8:1-17
- 14 Hebrews 10:1-25; 7:26-28; Matthew 26:26-29;
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- 15 Hebrews 10:26-39; 2 Peter 2; Matthew 12:31-32;
Ephesians 4:30-32
- 16 Hebrews 11; Isaiah 7:9b; Revelation 6:9-11;
1 Peter 1:1-12
- 17 Hebrews 12:1-3; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
Philippians 2; Galatians 6:9

Oh soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Savior, and life more abundant and free! Thro' death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there. Over us sin no more hath

dominion- for more than conquerors we are! His Word shall not fail you – He promised; believe Him, and all will be well. Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell! Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in His wonderful face; And the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. (Worship in Song, #207)

- 18 Hebrews 12:4-13; 2 Corinthians 4:5-10; Psalm 94
19 Hebrews 12:14-17; Ephesians 4:17-5:20
20 Hebrews 12:18-29 (see Exodus 19-20);
Philippians 3:7-4:1; 2 Peter 3:10-18
21 Hebrews 13:1-6; Romans 12:9-21;
1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 6:9-11; Matthew 6:24
22 Hebrews 13:7-25; 1 Thessalonians 4-5
23 James 1:1-8; Romans 5:1-5; Job 28:20-28;
Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 1:7; 8; 21:30
24 James 1:9-11; Psalm 49; Mark 4:1-20; Luke 18:18-30;
1 Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19

While passing through this world of sin, and others your life shall view, Be clean and pure without, within, Let others see Jesus in you. Your life's a book before their eyes, They're reading it through and through; Say, does it point them to the skies, Do others see Jesus in you? Let others see Jesus in you, Let others see Jesus in you; Keep telling the story, be faithful and true, Let others see Jesus in you. (The Baptist Hymnal, #348)

- 25 James 1:12-18; Matthew 6:9-13; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
10:12-13; Galatians 6:1-16
- 26 James 1:19-27; Psalm 4:4; Ephesians 4:17-32;
Proverbs 15:1; 29:11
- 27 James 2:1-13; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 3; 14:21;
Luke 10:25-37
- 28 James 2:14-26; Ephesians 2:8-10; Matthew 7:21-27; 25
- 29 James 3:1-12; Proverbs 4; 12:19; 16:23-30; 18:6-8;
26:20-28; 27:2; Psalm 12; 141
- 30 James 3:13-18; Proverbs 29:23; Matthew 20:20-28;
23:1-12; Luke 22:24-30
- 31 James 4:1-12; Proverbs 10:18-21; Matthew 15:10-20;
Titus 2:11-15; 1 John 2:1-17

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care and bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known! In seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief, and oft escaped the tempter's snare, by Thy return, sweet hour of prayer. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my petition bear to Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless; And since He bids me seek His face, believe His word, and trust His grace, I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour or prayer. (Worship in Song, #475)

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]



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