



First Press

BUILDING HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS
FEBRUARY 2015 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Aahhhh February, when thoughts turn to love and marriage. Marriage is on my mind a lot lately as I watch, with incredulity, state after state re-define marriage; not because that is the will of the majority of the inhabitants of those states, but usually due to a single activist judge ruling that the state’s current definition of marriage is mysteriously “unconstitutional” over and against the will of the people. I have never witnessed anything like this before in the history of our nation. A lawyer friend of mine has assured me that this juggernaut will roll over Texas sooner than later.

Although I’m alarmed at HOW they’re doing it, I realize that a secular government is free to re-define whatever they think marriage is, but is the Church free to do that as well and still be faithful to God’s Word? I have been informed that at the March meeting of Mission Presbytery, we will be asked to vote on the recommendation of the PCUSA General Assembly that our denomination join with the secular culture in re-defining marriage as no longer being restricted to a man and a woman, but now between two people, regardless of gender.

I plan on speaking on the floor of presbytery against this proposal—and to do so graciously—attempting to speak the truth in love. Because, as a Christian, and as a pastor, I am committed to what is God’s best for people, and to what is eternally and Biblically correct, rather than what is politically and culturally correct at the moment. I will spend little, if any, time talking about current human sexuality issues—for that is merely symptomatic of a greater theological aberration that is behind all of this. I will try to help folks understand that if the PCUSA referendum passes, the denomination will not only have re-defined marriage (something that God initiated, and only He can define), but that the PCUSA will also have re-defined God Himself—which amounts to idolatry. How so? There is no sin as severe as idolatry. A key to God’s self-revelation in Scripture is Genesis 1:27—part of the creation story—where the Lord makes clear that humanity most faithfully reflects His image through the complementariness of male and female, a sacred relationship between one man and one woman: “So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them.” (ESV)

This is God’s definition of what exclusively reflects His image—and what the vast majority of the worldwide Body of Christ has recognized as the basis of authentic marriage for two millennia: a covenant between the Lord Himself and one man and one woman.

In one sense, you and I shouldn’t be surprised that the State is on a tear toward moral and institutional aberration (welcome back to the first century!!). After all, John Calvin once said that “The human heart is a factory of idols.” What should alarm you and me is that a segment of Christ’s Church has become so culturally-captive that she would go wildly chasing her cultural tail rather than holding forth what is clearly God’s best for men and women everywhere regarding marriage and, above that, who God really is according to His inspired, infallible Word. And that’s the bottom-line issue here—not what expressions of human sexuality are legitimate or not, but can the Church (or a part of it, like a denomination) legitimately and faithfully re-define Who God is by saying that man/man or woman/woman reflects the image of God on par with God’s choice of male/female—without plunging headlong into idolatry (creating God in one’s own image)? I believe not. I believe you have to be an Olympic-level Biblical/theological gymnast to stick that landing.

Be assured if the PCUSA, and the State of Texas, re-define marriage—and, ultimately by doing that, Who God is—First Presbyterian Church will not be going down that path with them. We will continue our calling of graciously and lovingly holding out to all people Who the One True Living God is, and what He has clearly revealed to be His best for all of us, not a facsimile of the real thing. Keep the faith and Happy Valentines Day!!

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First Press is published monthly by the
First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team.
Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer. Richard Flores: Press Manager & Production.
Taylor Brandesky: Media & Technology Coordinator.
Deadline to submit content: the 10th of the previous month.
Contact John H. Seiders at 210-271-2715 or johns@fpcsat.org if you have questions.

SAVE THE DATE



2ND ANNUAL SPRING FLING

You are invited to join us for the 2nd Annual Spring Fling Event: “Taste of the Orient”! It will be a fun, grown-up evening of food, wine, music, and fellowship—all for a good cause. Proceeds to benefit First Presbyterian Church Children’s Center. Evening is open to all church members, Children’s Center families and their guests. Details and location will follow soon.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING LUNCHEON

Our guest speaker is Kelly Minter who “is an acclaimed author, musician, Bible study creator and teacher passionate to see women impacted by Jesus and His word”. The cost to attend is \$20.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

AMBASSADOR SICHAN SIV, AUTHOR OF “GOLDEN STATE”, TO SPEAK

Join KEYS and come listen to the former Ambassador to the United Nations, FPC member, and international best selling author of Golden Bones. Ambassador Sichan Siv will be telling us about his recently published political thriller “Golden State.”

“Golden State” is filled with intertwining relationships between world leaders, behind-the-scenes actors, and family members, all of whom have some involvement, either direct or tangential, with the turmoil developing in a west African nation (the “Golden State” of the book’s title). The story includes many fictionalized details from the author’s real life, including Ambassador Siv’s experiences with the Civil Air Patrol, motorcycle touring, and being inducted as an honorary commander of a C-5M squadron in San Antonio, Texas. These accounts play well with the complexities inherent in numerous powerful countries (e.g., Russia, China, France, and the U.S.) all vying for influence and power in a remote but resource-rich part of the world. If you’re interested in a fictional account of global politics, written by an author who has done it for real, this book is for you. Learn more from the author himself on Friday, February 27.

His wife, Martha, will have a display of South China Seas beautiful handcrafted items from women’s groups and community development groups from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

Bridge & Mah Jongg will be played after lunch (\$7). Please make your reservation by calling Phyllis at 210-226-0215.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 • 11:00 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL



PROJECT 240

Registration is officially OPEN for our 4th Annual all-church event to fight homelessness in San Antonio!

THE CHALLENGE: Build the frames of 5 houses in 240 minutes (or less!)

THE STRATEGY: The cost of materials for each home is \$7000, and we plan to complete 5 homes. Thanks to some previous donations, we currently need \$17,000 to reach our goal of \$35,000 for all 5 homes.

THE EVENT: March 1, 2015, following our worship services and lunch.

HOW TO SIGN UP: Register or donate online from our website, www.fpcsat.org. Please be sure to indicate if you need childcare, a t-shirt, and a lunch. If you are not at ease on a computer, please call our receptionist Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215 to register.

WHAT DO WE LOVE ABOUT PROJECT 240?

- Habitat for Humanity is a Christian organization driven by a desire to not give people a hand out, but a hand up! Each house gives a family simple, affordable housing, that they help build themselves alongside other volunteers.
- Building as an all-church team allows us to have fellowship with each other.
- No construction experience is necessary!
- All ages and skills are included. There’s something for everyone!
- Do you prefer to not swing a hammer? Call Christina Via at (210) 226-0215, ext. 282 and she’ll help you find another opportunity so that you can use your own unique gifts.
- We’ll have childcare available for kids ages 0-10. They’ll have a great time playing and making crafts for the future homeowners. (And kids 10+ can participate in the build, if accompanied by an adult.)

MARCH 1 • SIGN UP NOW!

LITERATURE CIRCLE REVIEWS “THE AVIATOR’S WIFE”

Literature Circle will review Melanie Benjamin’s historical novel, “The Aviator’s Wife” with Jan Clayton. The novel is about Anne Morrow Lindbergh, a woman trying to find her own voice and life while married to a controlling and unexpressive hero, Col. Charles Lindbergh. The story relates their romance, marriage, loss of their first son, the joy of flying and the intrusiveness of fame. Bring a friend to learn more about their history making life together and apart! Refreshments are served prior to the meeting.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10 • 1:30 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM



VBS 2015 IS COMING!

Save the Date for VBS 2015! Join us this summer for Vacation Bible School as we study God’s Word and learn Biblical truths that will guide kids through life’s challenges and display the mighty power of God!

When: Monday, June 22-Friday, June 26

Where: First Presbyterian Church

Who: All children ages 2 through incoming 5th graders

Contact Fabian Serrano at Fabians@fpcsat.org for more information!

JUNE 22-26 •
FPC



IT'S HNS GALA TIME! MARDI GRAS MASQUERADE AT THE PEARL STABLES!

Join us for the TENTH Annual Celebration to raise funds for the mission of House of Neighborly Service on Friday, February 27 at 6:00 p.m. Dinner, Silent and Live Auctions and Dancing complete this festive evening. All funds from ticket and auction sales will be used to benefit the many programs and activities of HNS. Tickets are \$75 per person and \$140 for couples. You are encouraged to wear Masquerade attire, but not required.

House of Neighborly Service has been serving the westside community for almost 98 years. First Presbyterian Church has supported the many programs such as Kid's Place, a child development center to help children under the age of five who have emotional or behavioral challenges. Respite care is provided to families who are enrolled in the parenting program. In-home parenting classes are provided to families in the community, as well as CPS-referred families who need to improve their parenting skills. The Senior Program provides healthy, nutritious meals for Seniors three times each week. Bible Study, exercise classes, health screenings and informational classes, crafts and other activities are some of the opportunities for learning and socialization. HNS is a welcoming place for Seniors to enjoy fun and fellowship and make new friends.

The Food Distribution Program provides boxes of food for persons or households in need through the weekly Breadline.

The Food Pantry also provides assistance for emergency needs of families facing financial struggles. The families served with food assistance live primarily in zip codes 78207, 78228 and 78237.

Sus Hijas (His Daughters) was started by two members of First Presbyterian Church and later assisted by many other First Pres volunteers. This program has provided opportunities for ladies of the HNS community to learn to sew and earn money from their own handiwork. Each week you can find them diligently sewing everything from tote bags, clothing, home décor, gift items and jewelry. Each item is unique and one-of-a-kind, not to be found in any store and has become a cottage industry for the ladies of HNS. The items are sold at various Presbyterian church events and activities.

The mission of House of Neighborly Service is to provide opportunities which encourage, educate and empower families of the Westside community. HNS is a community where basic needs are met, where dreams are nurtured and where neighborly support is a way of life. HNS serves others while preserving their dignity and building community together.

Please join us at the Tenth Annual GALA to continue the mission and ministry of House of neighborly Service. Contact Pat O'Neill (822-2393), Mary Bell (696-7850) or Rosemary Engstrom (699-0408) for tickets. There will be a table with tickets in the Mauzé Lobby each Sunday morning in February.

A FIRST AT FIRST BY THE PRAYER MINISTRY TEAM

One of the first initiatives that Pastor Ron Scates, our Interim Senior Pastor, has put into place is a weekly prayer service. This service, from 8:30-9:00 every Sunday morning, will be in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel and is open to all members and friends of FPC.

The prayer life in our church is an active one, with many opportunities to come before God in prayer. These opportunities have increased over the years, as we intentionally strive to make First Presbyterian Church a true "House of Prayer." At the first weekly prayer service held on January 4, Elder Ron Baker, chairman of Prayer Ministry, gave a few remarks about how prayer has evolved in the life of our church. He reminded us of the faithfulness of Sissy Orsinger who was a truly great prayer warrior within First Pres. She was one of a small group of faithful women in this congregation who met for many years to pray for our pastors, the congregation, and a wide range of concerns. Prayer was at the core of Sissy's worship and service to her Lord. Lois Elson is the only remaining member of the initial group. Today, we have a Prayer Ministry team which meets monthly to pray for and ensure that the prayer life in

our church is vibrant and ongoing. Their goal is undergirded by Christ's hope: that more and more members of every age will "abide in Him" and make prayer a part of their daily lives.

When Sissy Orsinger died, she left a bequest to First Presbyterian Church to be used to further prayer ministry in our congregation. Certainly, having a weekly prayer service will help to keep us focused on this goal. Pastor Scates has seen personally the results that come from a service such as we are initiating here at FPC. He described this weekly meeting as "the engine room of the church" because of the positive results that occur when people come together to pray. He will be with us each Sunday, but the service itself will be led by laity.

The format of the service is simple and the time frame will be kept to 30 minutes. The leader will offer an opening prayer and announce specific prayer needs for the day and the week ahead. Following this is a time for voiced or silent prayers to include the needs of our pastors and our congregation; for our denomination and the larger church; for our city, state, nation, and the world; and prayers of healing for specific individuals/families. Silent prayers are heard by God just the same as those spoken aloud! The service will then end with a closing prayer.

It is our fervent hope that members and friends will take advantage of this prayer service to enrich their own lives immeasurably and strengthen the community of faith in this congregation and beyond. In doing so, we will realize the truth in the words from Isaiah 56:7, "My house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples."

GIFT OF CHRISTMAS BY MIMI HART

The Gift of Christmas is a yearly advent program put on by Presbyterian Women, in which groups from FPC (Sunday schools, staff, PW circles, small groups) take on a family to "adopt" for Christmas. Families are screened and recommended to us by our local mission agency partner, House of Neighborly Service. We are then able to help meet their list of Christmas wishes and give them a double blessing for the holidays, by providing for some of their needs, and offering hospitality, joy, and hope while we serve them.

Mimi Hart's circle took on a family this last Christmas and had a tremendous experience with it:

It was a most memorable and joyful experience. We loved working with this family.

We shopped carefully for what the family had asked for (with a few surprises) and had the funds from our generous circle. Our trip to visit the family in advance was very helpful. Their needs were evident. We'll always remember their joy and gratitude when we delivered all the gifts. Shelly received a spontaneous hug from the son she'll never forget. They could use everything we gave them, and they were so very appreciative of everything. So much more could be said about this—truly a gift of Christmas for the giver.

If you would like to sponsor a family in 2015 please contact, Phyllis Griffin (210) 226-0215.



COME TO YOUR LIBRARY

Now that the holidays are over and you need something interesting to fill your spare time—what about a good book? Although some of our books are rather old they are still very readable and relate to our current ideas and problems. By the way, while you are rearranging your homes after the holidays, please look around at the places where you or your children keep your books and AV media. If you see books with labels on the spine they are more than likely library books which need to be returned to the appropriate library. You may find books you no longer want; please consider donating them to our library. If we cannot use them we will return them to you or donate them, with your prior approval, to Haven for Hope, the Salvation Army, the Veterans Hospital, or the Jail Ministry.

If you enjoy reading, please come by your library where you can chose from the 11,500 books or the 640 audio-visual items on the shelf and ready for check-out at the circulation desk. Instructions are there to guide you in the check-out process in case a volunteer is not available. Let me emphasize a few points in this process which greatly helps the volunteer staff to keep the library orderly:

- 1** PRINT clearly your name, telephone number and computer address (important if you are not a member of First Presbyterian Church). Help your children fill out the information sheet legibly.
- 2** PRINT the title of the item you are checking-out and MOST IMPORTANT—
- 3** ENTER all numbers on the bar code of the item. The barcode is usually found on the left front cover of most items or on the inside of the back cover of books, or the inside of the AV item. The barcode is always a white label with black numerals. The barcode number is VERY important!
- 4** CHOOSE a white card for books or a green card for other media. Put the card in the book/media pocket as a reminder which day the item is due for return. WE DO NOT PLAN TO SEND OVERDUE CARDS DUE TO THE TIME NEEDED TO WRITE THEM AND THE COST TO MAIL THEM. We do not charge overdue fees, even if your items were due for return years ago! Breathe easy, just drop your items in the return box at the circulation desk; you will not be billed but may be hugged for your effort to keep your library items available for all to enjoy! If we have your e-mail address we may send you an e-mail but mostly we hope you will look around from time to time and return items promptly.
- 5** Finally, PLEASE DO NOT RESHELVE BOOKS OR AUDIOVISUALS. Leave them on a table or put them in the return box so we can check them in.



BY SUSAN KERR



THANK YOU FOR LOAVES AND FISHES

When my husband and I left church one recent Sunday, we were approached by a man with a backpack and blanket on his back. We assumed, correctly, that he was homeless and thought that he might ask for money. God apparently thought we needed a reminder that quick judgments are often incorrect. With a winning smile and a hand shake, this man asked if we were members of First Presbyterian Church. We told him that we were. He then expressed his gratitude for the ministry of Loaves and Fishes, saying how much he looks forward to the wonderful meal each month at FPC. He also appreciates the coffee he gets from the church every morning. (Many of us do not realize that alongside our monthly feeding ministry, we have a daily ministry to the homeless, providing them with free coffee at our Avenue E entrance.)

What a blessing to have such a direct affirmation for the importance of one of our ministries as a downtown church! If you volunteer for Loaves and Fishes, you will get to experience a similar blessing – the gratitude of people who see Jesus being made visible at the corner of Fourth and Alamo. As the chair of local missions committee, I want to say a word of “thanks” to all of you who help make this important ministry happen each month. I also want to encourage new volunteers to go check out the ministry and offer a few hours of time to provide hospitality and nourishment to our downtown neighbors. Loaves and Fishes happens the last Sunday of each month, volunteers meet in the downstairs kitchen at 3pm, we begin serving food by 3:30, and are usually done by 5pm. All ages are welcome to serve, and we even provide childcare for the little ones, so families can be a part of this special event. If you have any questions, or would like to reserve childcare, please contact Christina Via at christinav@fpcsat.org or (210) 271-2782.

KEYS IN FEBRUARY

BY JOE RUST KEYS
LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE
AT-LARGE MEMBER

For February, First Presbyterian Church's KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit) group is offering, among other features, special presentations involving a duo from San Antonio's many cultural icons.

One program features a nationally-known San Antonio singing star from a leading Alamo City business family, bringing his annual First Presbyterian only pre-Stock Show performance to us. Another program features a prominent member of our church discussing the phenomenal success of the rebirth of the 1926 Municipal Auditorium into a \$203 million reconstruction as the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, highlighting the artistic achievements of another San Antonio first family, the Tobins.



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6 • 10:45 AM • RICK CAVENDER PERFORMS FAVORITES • THE WORLD GOES ON SINGING

The ever-popular Rick Cavender, known both for his musical abilities and his television presentations on behalf of the Cavender Auto Family of dealerships, returns with his band to offer tunes from some of the greatest classic country singers of all time, along with some popular songs of crooner Frank Sinatra. Your check is your reservation and should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with a "Rick Cavender" notation on the memo line and mailed to Pat McCleary at the church. \$15 per person includes the performance and lunch. Make your reservation by Sunday, February 1. There are no refunds after that date. Questions, call 210-226-0215 to contact Phyllis Griffin or Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726 if you need more information. So, put on your boot-scootin' gear and come on down!



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13 • 11:00 AM • A CULTURAL MILESTONE • TOBIN CENTER & ENDOWMENT

J. Bruce Bugg Jr., a First Presbyterian member who is chairman of both the Tobin Endowment and the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, will discuss how the overwhelming effect of the endowment has been such a blessing to the San Antonio cultural community and how the amazing success of the center since its opening last fall has given new life to a treasured Alamo City artistic landmark. Please arrive by 10:45 a.m. in order to be seated by 11:00 a.m. for the presentation. Mah Jongg and bridge will be offered after lunch(\$7)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20 • 11:30 AM • A SUMPTUOUS BUFFET & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Oak Hills Country Club, 5403 Fredericksburg Road, will be the site of the monthly celebration of members having birthdays during February. The cost of the \$16 lunch for this month however, WILL NOT be complimentary to birthday celebrants. Your check should be payable to FPC, with an "Oak Hills" notation in the memo line. Reservations deadline is noon Monday, February 16. There will be no refunds after that date. There will be a limit of only 50 people for the luncheon. Mah Jongg and bridge will be offered after lunch.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27 • AMBASSADOR SICHAN SIV SPEAKING ON HIS BOOK "GOLDEN STATE" SEE SAVE THE DATE SECTION FOR MORE INFO

KEEP MOVING FITNESS • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 13, & 27 • SECOND FLOOR OF STUDENT CENTER

Did you make a New Year's resolution to exercise? We want to help you keep that resolution on Fridays at 9:45 a.m. Bring a friend, there is no charge. Join the fun and socializing while improving strength, flexibility, toning and cardio-vascular conditioning. This class is led by professional trainer, Linda Osborne.

FRIDAY, MARCH 6 • 11:00 AM • THE STATE OF THE CHURCH ADDRESS

The Rev. Dr. Ron Scates, interim senior pastor, will present the annual State of the Church address, a tradition initiated by pastor emeritus the Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden Jr. This is the only meeting at which this address will be presented. Attendees not on the permanent KEYS membership list should call Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215 to make reservations for this \$7 per person luncheon. Please arrive by 10:45 a.m. in order to pay and be seated by 11:00 a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 • 9:00AM -11:00 AM • REFLECTIONS OF OPULENCE • KING WILLIAM HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR

Bill Perryman, master teacher, historian and certified tour guide who speaks often at First Presbyterian, will offer a walking tour of the beautiful King William Historic District. Prepare for an experience! He blends entertainment and FUN in a walking tour. Learn fascinating facts and details regarding the people who occupied the mansions in San Antonio's first fashionable neighborhood. This highly interactive tour includes audio listen 400 series technology – you will not miss a word!

The tour begins and ends at the Guenther House, 250 E Guenther. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress appropriately for an eight block tour. Tour begins at 9:00 a.m. Please arrive by 8:45 a.m. Maximum participants for this tour will be 24. Parking is available on the street in the area and you may want to dine on your own after the tour for a nice lunch. Contact Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726 for your reservation and for any additional information.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN ANN BUNN

As I think of February with sometimes bitterly cold weather, I am grateful for the warm hearts we find in the circles that show the love of Christ through their service. All of the Presbyterian Women Circles participate in some type of service, from making cookies for the Chandler Home and Morningside Manor Christmas Parties to adopting a family for the Gift of Christmas Family Ministry. This month I am spotlighting some of the circles whose sole purpose is to serve others. If you are looking for a way to serve, please consider joining one or more of the following circles. You will find that you will receive the blessing when you bless others. Even if you have limited time, please read on because you'll find some circles allow for a flexible time commitment.

Circle 5: Shawl Ministry. Meets Noon-1PM in Room 228 on the third Friday every month of the year. In 2015 the FPC Shawl Ministry (aka Circle 5) will begin its tenth year of service. Last year 125 shawls were knitted, crocheted or woven. Circle 5 also supports Christus Hospice, San Antonio's only not-for-profit hospice through frequent shawl donations. Circle 5 meets every month all year long because the need for shawls to comfort those going through crisis, challenge or change is year round. This circle has come a long way since the organizational lunch at the Oasis in August 2005, which was attended by Lee Pressly, Pat O'Neill, Nancy Nowak, Charlotte Hains, Julie Harper Hill & Caryl Gaubatz. That day they prayed over their first shawl, which was given to Bev Flanagan. To God be the glory for the growth in this circle. New members of all experience levels are welcomed! Contacts: Caryl Gaubatz (651-0208) and Jane Ann Temple (414-9945)



Circle 16: The Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle. Meets 10:00-Noon in Room 228 on the third Wednesday of the Month, September through May. If you don't sew, there are still ways that you can participate. Members cut out patterns, iron, hand sew on buttons and whip seams closed, in addition to machine sewing and serging. If you need to refresh your sewing skills, members will be happy to help you learn. Sewing machines are provided. This circle sews children's pajamas, jumpers, and pillowcases for the Children's Shelter. This past year, Circle 16 was able to donate approximately 90 sets of pajamas and 32 lined jumpers. Contact: Lee Pressly (735-0978) or Corie Barlow (481-1337)

Circle 17: Edna Ralston Sewing Circle. Meets 9:30 to noon in Room 309 on the second Wednesday of the Month, September through May. Sewing skills are not required! In addition to machine sewing, members are needed to stuff animal toys and whip the seams closed. Last year the following items made by this circle were donated to: Mission Road: 100 Adult Bibs; FPC Children's Center: 50 bibs; and San Antonio Children's Shelter: 160 pajama sets, 100 nighties, 300 bibs, 100 burp cloths, 200 stuffed toys. Additionally, some members sewed in their homes and provided 100 pr. pants, 53 shirts, 11 dresses, 43 jumpers, and 13 blouses for the Children's Shelter. Contact: Jeanne Baker (494-0972)

Circle 19: White Cross Circle. Meets 9:30 to noon in Room 309 the First Wednesday of the Month, September through May. Sewing skills are not required! Strips of sheets are torn into 3 inch strips and sewn together. The strips are rolled with the help of a round stick, tacked closed and packed in a box that is mailed to Houston Medical Supply Center. Approximately two large boxes are sent each year. From there they are sterilized and sent to third world mission hospitals. A woman on a mission trip to Haiti was told that these strips were preferred to gauze strips because they can be washed and reused. Contact: Janet Beauch (673-3251)

Circle 18: Circle of Concern. Meets as needed. This circle provides the food and reception for the funerals and memorial services at our church. Members prepare some of the food and act as hostesses during the reception. This provides a much needed service to grieving families. Contact: Char-An Witten: (341-1856)

Circle 20: Circle of Service. This circle does not meet, but communicates by email. Circle 20 is responsible for providing food for some of the YoungLives dinners, the Advent Festival, the Easter Egg Hunt/Program and other occasions as the need arises. An email is sent listing what food items are needed and members sign up for what they will bring. Each member usually helps provide food for one or two functions a year. This is a great way to serve others and is great for those who need a flexible schedule. Contact: Bunkie Shed (824-6690 or bshed@grandecom.net)

I hope that you will consider joining one or more of these circles. We are blessed that there are so many ways to serve at FPC.

May the favor of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for us—yes, establish the work of our hands. Ps. 90:17



CIRCLE MEETINGS

CIRCLE 112 - Monday, February 16th • 10:30 AM • Geneva Room • Chair: Suzanne Thomas (210) 820-3245

CIRCLE 2/4 - Monday, February 16th • 1:30 PM • Room 226 • Chair: Char-Ann Witten (210) 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 - Friday, February 20th • 12:00-1:00 PM • Room 228 • Chairs: Caryl Gaubatz (210) 651-0208; Jane Ann Temple 414-9945

CIRCLE 6 - Tuesday, February 17th • 1:30 PM • Geneva Room • Chairs: Mimi Hart (210) 822-0809; Alice Nichols 826-4385; Linda Rittenhouse (210) 824-2877

CIRCLE 7 - Tuesday, February 17th • 11:30 AM • Joseph's Storehouse Rest. • Moderator: Barbara Baldridge • Chair: Meredith Park (210) 373-8180

CIRCLE 8 (MOM'S GROUP) - Wednesday, February 11th and 25th • 9:30-11:30 AM • Room 108 • Chair: Sara Parish (210) 394-0865

CIRCLE 9 - Tuesday, February 17th • 10:00 AM • FPC • Hostess: Betty Carpenter • Chairs: Lucille Lammert (210) 832-8414 and B.J. Neal (210) 492-3188

CIRCLE 11 - Monday, February 23rd • 6:30 PM • Hostess: Ginger Davenport • Chair: Suzanne Norton (210) 344-7333

CIRCLE 13 - Tuesday, February 10th • 1:30 PM • McCullough Room • Chair: Jeanne Browning (210) 824-3921

CIRCLE 14 - Monday, February 16th • 12:00-1:00 PM • St. Andrews Room • Chair: Lady Romano (210) 828-5313

CIRCLE 16 - Wednesday, February 18th • 9:30 AM • Room 228

CIRCLE 17 - Wednesday, February 11th • 9:30 AM • Room 309 • Chair: Jeanne Baker • Co-chair: Gigi Duke

CIRCLE 19 - Wednesday, February 4th • 9:30 AM • Room 309 • Chair: Janet Beauch (210) 673-3251

CIRCLE 21 - Monday, February 16th • 6:30 PM • Hostess is Rosemary Engstrom • Chair: Andrea Taylor (210) 403-9442



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

“LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE”

What a simple, concise statement to define the path and priorities of First Pres! It's a motto, goal, objective and mission statement all rolled into one...and it's equally applicable to our congregation as a whole as well as each individual worshiper. It is reflective of our past endeavors as well as a beacon to light the way forward. Powerful!!

There are many facets incorporated into that first word, Living. How we act, how we interact with others, how we tacitly and openly proclaim our faith in Jesus, and our personal level of commitment. That level of commitment is continually revealed through the wide array of projects and programs supported by the financial donations and incredible volunteerism of our members. From providing food, clothing, housing, tutoring and counseling, to medical and dental care, disaster relief and providing basic necessities to our adopted children in Malawi, the members and congregation of First Pres are awesome! By making one small letter change to the motto, we can summarize the works of our church, through the Missions Committees: “Giving to make Jesus visible”.

Most of us are familiar with the support First Pres provides to Habitat for Humanity-San Antonio through participation in Project 240. Over the past three years our members have financed and constructed framed walls for 12 Habitat houses. This remarkable achievement represents over \$70,000 of financial donations as well as thousands of volunteer hours. The Local Missions Committee is pleased to announce First Pres has once again committed

our support to HFH-SA for the framing of 5 more homes on Sunday, March 1st, 2015.

Project 240 has quickly become one of the most popular and supported mission events at First Pres. Last March we saw over 500 volunteers make their way to the parking lot, allowing us to complete 5 houses in 2 ½ hours! Many would attribute this tremendous response to the “whole family, whole congregation” nature of Project 240. Where many of our church programs are targeted toward specific groups...Presbyterian Women, Men's Breakfast, Youth Choir, KEYS...Project 240 welcomes volunteers of any age, gender and skill level. But did you know First Pres' commitment to and history with Habitat for Humanity goes well beyond Project 240?

Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio is the first Habitat affiliate established in the U.S. opening its doors and hearts in 1976. A Christian non-profit, HFH-SA has built 897 homes in our community since then. In 2014 alone, over 14,000 Habitat volunteers constructed 44 houses in San Antonio, providing an affordable housing opportunity to 82 adult family members and 124 children. The goal for this year is 55 homes. It's important to note these families are presented with an opportunity, not a giveaway. Habitat's credo is to “provide a hand-up, not a hand-out”, making affordable houses available to qualifying low-income families. Owners are provided a 20-25 year, no-interest mortgage, and approved families must invest a minimum of 300 volunteer hours working on their house.

First Pres' association with Habitat began shortly after Habitat opened their doors in San Antonio, even providing office space in

our church for several years before they were able to procure their own offices. In years past First Pres had generously stepped up to full sponsorship of an entire house. For the past several years, however, we have combined our giving with over 20 Presbyterian churches in the area to sponsor the Presbyterian Cluster House each year. This sponsorship encompasses a significant commitment of dollars and volunteer support hours. To provide a full-house sponsorship in 2015 (the Cluster's 20th house!!) requires a benevolence of \$55,000. Though never an easy bar to reach, each year the monies do come together through the generosity of the congregations and the Lord's grace! What is becoming increasingly difficult to meet is the requirement for on-site volunteers to complete the Cluster House.

HABITAT'S BUILD SCHEDULE IS AMAZINGLY FAST AND EFFICIENT!

Once the infrastructure is in place (streets, water, electricity, foundation, etc.) a house is completed in 7 weeks, from erecting the framed walls (which we helped build!!) to landscaping and dedication! Though some construction activities are occurring each day (Tuesday-Saturday), the sponsors' volunteer activities are planned for 13 days... Friday and Saturday each week. Each one of those days has specific tasks and objectives; erecting walls, roofing, installing doors and windows, sheet rocking, painting, interior trim work, landscaping, etc. Within the Presbyterian Cluster, churches commit to being the “Coordinator” for one or more of those construction days, assuming responsibility to provide a majority of the needed volunteers.

Soon the Presbyterian Cluster will finalize the 2015 build schedule with Habitat for our sponsored house. At that time First Pres will be asked to step up as the Coordinator for one or two of the 13 volunteer build days (we are the largest church in the Cluster!!). If we can garner support from just 2-3% of the 500+ Project 240 volunteers for each of those days...

...OUR COMMITMENT WOULD BE MET AND FIRST PRES WOULD AGAIN EMBRACE A WONDERFUL OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE IN SAN ANTONIO.

When the Cluster schedule is finalized, we will publish it in a future edition of First Press and in the bulletin. Our hope is for individual members of the congregation, or organizations within our congregation, to find specific dates and/or construction activities that would be of interest. For example, an organization might want to collectively volunteer to raise the walls, a particular Sunday School class might want to accomplish trim work, or a group of friends/families might volunteer to come together to paint or landscape. The Cluster will also seek churches to provide lunch for the volunteers on each of those 13 build days, a great opportunity for one of our groups to participate in the Cluster House without hammering, climbing or lifting! PLEASE NOTE: Due to insurance requirements, on-site volunteers must be 14 or older, except for landscaping day when volunteers are accepted as young as 12 years old.

It goes without saying that we need not limit our support to our days as “Coordinators”. The Cluster will need volunteers for any and all 13 build-days. And Habitat has on-going builds throughout the year that require volunteer support from the community. Construction is occurring every week, Tuesday-Saturday, so please give some thought and prayer to volunteering this year beyond Project 240. Our support to Habitat is an excellent example of how First Pres is “Living to make Jesus visible” in our community.

For more information, suggestions or to volunteer, please contact Fred Wall at fredkwall@aol.com or Christina Via at christinav@fpcsat.org.





IN HONOR OF:

Greg & Janet Anderson Elizabeth & William Anderson	Cindy & Chip Lutz Anne & Ron Scates Our parents & grandparent
Elizabeth & William Anderson Dennis Jones Frances Messer	Walt & Janice Magnus FPC Pastors & Staff
David & KayBeth Barr Our grandson, Lane William Barr	David & Emily Peeples Anne & Paul Smith
Field & Lynnda Barnes Rev. Dr. Ruthie Seiders, Rev. John Seiders Their faithfulness to this congregation Rev. & Mrs. Scott Simpson & Family His Faithfulness to this congregation	From her Thursday morning Bible Study group Emily Peeples
Leslie & Richard Bennett Georgia Lesesne	Nancy Puckett Ann Bunn, PW President John & Ruthie Seiders
Pat Brannen John, Ruthie & Scott	Anne & Paul Smith The Staff of FPC
Bridges Sunday School Class Rob Shelton & Family His Faithfulness to the Bridges S.S. Class	Gordon Smith Our deacons
Jane & Bill Burnett Harriett & Doug Raney	George & Polly Spencer Our past & present pastors
Ron & Genie Calgaard Grandchildren, Eliot & Kathleen	Jud & Barbara Taylor Our children, Judson, Cara, Jeremiah & Mercy
Tony & Karen Coe Our 30th Wedding Anniversary	The Matt Terry Family The Interim Pastor Nominating Committee
His Sunday School Class Don Crews & his faithful leadership	Suzanne & Ted Terry Our Children & Grandchildren
Linda Gail & Robert Dullnig Our Parents: Bobby & Jeannie Dullnig Charles & Frankie Dicke	Barbara S. Warren My Life Group friends & Linda & Bill Ruhmann
Ann Fryburger The David Maurer Family	Kaye & Sidney Wilkins Our Ministers & Staff
Genesis II Sunday School Class Mary Ann & Len Martin	Karen Lee & David Zachry Mr. & Mrs. Bartell Zachry Mr. & Mrs. William Johnson Mrs. Louis H. Stumberg
Phyllis & Morris Griffin ALL the members of FPC! Love you all	
Mr. & Mrs. Henry G. Hadigian Our Parents	
Peter & Charlotte Hains Our Children	
Barry & Nona Hall Our children, Jeff & Kim	
Kim & Clyde Johnson, IV Shelly Vescoro	

IN MEMORY OF:

Greg, Janet, Elizabeth & William Anderson Mr. & Mrs. C. J. Anderson Dr. James E. Bauerle Bill Baumann	Jeanne & Gary Douglas George A. Knapp
The Archer Family Robert R. Archer Anita N. Lindsay Pearl N. Nordan	Linda Gail & Robert Dullnig Frank Weed, Jr.
Claire Averyt, sister Ellen Averyt & Dr. John Averyt, niece & nephew Seagal Wheatley	Their Family Lowell D. & Sallie W. Embs
Field & Lynnda Barnes Robert F. Barnes Helen Buescher Forrest H. Sparks	Will & Marilyn Etheredge My Father, Paul Morris Our Parents, Rev. Bill & Helen Etheredge
The Beckwith Family Dr. & Mrs. Norman Jacob & Gloria Beckwith	Ken Finch Jeannette “Jenny” Finch Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Stolte
Debby & J. D. Bowen Dr. Richard G. Ryan	Margaret & Jess Gragg Lucy Gragg King
Lollie & Bob Brusenhan Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Brusenhan, Sr. Kendall Youngblood Simon Dr. & Mrs. Jack M. Wright	Mr. & Mrs. Henry G. Hadigian Dr. Thomas Burns
James Bruton My wife, Helen and Sons Mark & Peter Bruton	Charlotte & Peter Haines Elizabeth Dee Pappas
John & Jane Buchek Our parents: Mr. & Mrs. Harvey Buchek Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Coker	Barry & Nona Hall Our parents: Bill & Beverly Hall & Goldie Booher Betty, Jane & June, our guardian angels
The Bulen Family Danae Donald	Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Johnson, III Mr. Clyde Johnson, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. William Rainey
Ann & Chuck Bunn Charles Bunn	Ruth Kutnic My husband, Paul J. Kutnic My Father, Melchor Lopez My Mother, Josefa Lopez
Bob Collins, her husband Elizabeth Attwood “Betty” Collins	Cindy & Chip Lutz Our grandparents no longer with us
Anne, Shane, Hatch & Hunter Campbell Kendall Youngblood Simon Dr. & Mrs. Jack Wright & Mr. & Mrs. R. L. Brusenhan, Sr.	The Macaulay & Howell Families Dr. Leroy Yarbrough (Opa)
Rosalie Carter Paul & Bobbie Jornayvaz Wilson Carter	Walt & Janice Magnus Parents & Grandparents
Circle 9, Presbyterian Women Carolyn Loizeaux	Pat & Richard McCleary Our Loved Ones
His family Bond Davis	Rinda & Ken Miller Frances H. Atkinson
	Diana Morehouse Foard Townsend
	Dr. & Mrs. Claude L. Nabors Mr. & Mrs. Marquis G. Eaton
	Kathy & Mel Nix Mildred Wennerlund

Mel Nix family James Askey, Sr.	Carrie, George & Warren Spencer & Ginny Summers Our Grandmother Ruth Jackson
Margye & McCann Northington Margaret Dullnig & Dorothy Debona	Campbell, Harrison & Jennings Stuart Joe Harrison Sue Stuart
Sandra O’Connor Theodore E. O’Connor, husband	The Stuart Family Brad Pigeon
David & Emily Peeples Mrs. Harvey Smith	Jud & Barbara Taylor Our parents, Frank & Sarah Guido & Jud & Myra Taylor
Dolores Perrine Robert E. Perrine Ruth & John Stiehler Ann & Everett Perrine	Julia & Mike Troy Col. & Mrs. Malcolm Norton Honoring their wedding anniversary
Micki, Don & Kate Philbin Donald R. Philbin, III Sharon K. Philbin	Bette Turner John W. Turner
Martha Pigeon My husband, Brad Pigeon	Debbie & Fred Wall Our Parents
Mr. & Mrs. Robert B. Price David Coles Price	Barbara S. Warren My sister, Becky Patton
Nancy Puckett Mary La Von Lysne	Jane, Robert & Liam Warren Spence Warren Bryan C. Warren
Nancy & Courtenay Puckett Glenn Pluckett, dear husband & dad	Richard & Barbara S. Warren Our Parents: Harvey & Jean Smith Les & Marjorie Warren
Mary Redpath Donald & all my other Loved Ones	Neil E. Williams My parents, Paul & Helen Williams
Sallie Riester Al Riester Eric Riester	The Williams Family Walter H. Williams
Dr. & Mrs. Mark C. Rittenhouse Dr. & Mrs. Norman H. Jacob, Jr.	Bob & Anna Wise Jason Michael Byrd Jack Taguiam
Bill & Linda Ruhmann Our son, Brad Ruhmann Jean Smith	Jean Rogers Winchell My parents, Napier & Mary Jean Rogers
Frank & Jennifer Sammis Col. & Mrs. Malcolm E. Norton Dr. & Mrs. Frank C. Sammis, Jr.	Garrie A. & Ruth A. Wood Timothy Michael Wood
Fred & Kathy Shussler Richard Shussler & Jack Durkee	Edwyna Yarbrough Dr. Leroy Yarbrough
Martha Smith Chupa Scott	Karen Lee & David Zachry Mrs. Harold Wichmann Mr. & Mrs. Norman Webb Mrs. Sidney A. Lindsay Mr. Robert Archer Mr. Louis H. Stumberg
Lizbeth Smith-Leach Grandparents: Mr. & Mrs. Harvey P. Smith, Sr. & Col. & Mrs. Frank E. Barber Parents: Mr. & Mrs. Harvey P. Smith, Jr. Sister: Rebecca Smith Patton	



PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

THE FOLLOWING ARE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO RECEIVE PRAYER SUPPORT FROM THE BODY OF CHRIST AND FOR YOU TO JOIN IN PRAYER FOR YOUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST HERE AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

1. THE CARE AND CONCERN LINE (C & CL)

The C&CL is available in two ways; first by phone at 222-2273 and second by email. At anytime you may call on the phone and hear the recorded prayer requests. Join in praying for those requests. After listening to the prayer requests you will also have an opportunity to leave a prayer request that will be added to the recorded prayer requests by the next day. In order to receive the C&CL by email, call Stephanie Lopez at 226-0215. The C&CL will be sent to your email address once or twice per day. If you want to add a prayer request to the C&CL, you must have specific permission to do so from the person or their responsible representative. PRAYER MINISTRY encourages you to participate in the C&CL to receive prayers from the Church and to pray for others in need. Please sign up to receive the daily emails or call in to listen to the prayer requests as a part of your daily devotionals.

2. CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER SUPPORT FROM THE PASTORS

There are Prayer Request cards in the pew racks that you may use to request prayers. These are confidential requests and are only shared with the pastors who will pray for them.

3. AFTER WORSHIP PRAYERS

- After the traditional services in the Griffith Chapel
 - After the contemporary service on the side near the stained glass window.
- Church officers are available and ready to pray for your needs at these times.

4. BEFORE WORSHIP PRAYERS WITH THE PASTORS

- 8:30 – 9:00 am each Sunday morning in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel. You are invited to meet with Ron Scates, other pastors and lay leaders to pray for the church and the worship services as led by the Holy Spirit. Ron said, “The Sunday prayer meeting from 8:30-9:00 am became the ‘engine room’ of Highland Park PC during my 13 years there. It would fire me up to preach boldly each Sunday. I’m hoping that will be the case beginning each Sunday at FPC”. Please adjust your schedule and come join in these prayers. NOTE: If you cannot join in at the church, please make a commitment to join in these prayers from home.
- 9:20 and 10:50 with the pastors for the traditional services in the pastor’s robe room. Church members meet with the pastors for a short prayer time before each service. To sign up for this prayer time, please call Louise Peters at 408-1878.
- 10:45 with the Contemporary Worship Team in the Breakfast Room. Come and join in the prayers.

5. YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONALS.

This is a great opportunity to use the First Cup Bible readings and pray through your First Cup Prayer List.

Roman 8:26 – 28 says, “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 through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God. And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

DEVOTIONAL

Mark 2:1-12, “A few days later, when Jesus again entered Capernaum, the people heard that he had come home. They gathered in such large numbers that there was no room left, not even outside the door, and he preached the word to them. Some men came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus by digging through it and then lowered the mat the man was lying on. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralyzed man, “Son, your sins are forgiven.” Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, “Why does this fellow talk like that? He’s blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?” Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, “Why are you thinking these things? Which is easier: to say to this paralyzed man, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up, take your mat and walk’? But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the man, “I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.” He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, “We have never seen anything like this!”

We as a congregation need the faith of those four men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus for healing. Are we willing to bring people to Jesus knowing that “All things are possible with God.”

PRAYER MINISTRY COMMITTEE

If God is calling you to help make prayer for FPC and its members more effective by joining the Prayer Ministry Committee, we meet once per month on the second Wednesday at 12:15 pm. To join or find out more, please call Rev. Scott Simpson at 226-0215, Ron Baker at 494-0972, or Chuck Beatty at 826-3386.



6. MONTHLY SERVICE OF HEALING AND WHOLENESS

On the second Sunday of each month, Prayer Ministry holds a special time for healing prayers and anointing with oil at 12:15 pm in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel. We will pray for your specific needs.

**SUNDAY MORNING
CHILD CARE**

Nursery care is provided for children 2 months to two years old on Sunday mornings during the 9:30 and 11:00 worship services. Our care-givers are CPR and First Aid certified and trained on FPC Nursery policies and procedures. They have been cleared through background checks and drug testing and have the love of working with children. We have two rooms to provide care for your precious little ones.

Room 101 - 2 month olds to crawlers
Room 103 - Walkers to young two's

Those children that turn two by September 1st, of the current school year will go to Sunday school in Room 116.

Also, if you know of a family that is growing, please let the Children's Ministry know so we can celebrate the joyous event.

**FINANCIAL SUMMARY
DECEMBER 2014**

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	4,348,736	4,485,325	(136,589)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	3,488,559	3,588,260	(99,701)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	667,738	897,065	(229,327)
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	192,439	0	192,439

Above are the preliminary year end figures for 2014. Thank you for your giving in the final weeks of the year. Although we did not make our revenue budget, we were able to reduce operating expenses to help close the gap. Benevolences will be fully funded thanks to your generosity. 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.



MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE • UNTAINTED LOVE
BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ

The other day I had to get on my son for not being responsible. He knew I was disappointed in his behavior, and his response was typical. At every turn he would go out of his way to do something “extra,” take the trash out without being asked, put dishes away, extra sweet when he spoke with me, etc. He was walking on eggshells. I finally asked him, “are we going to talk about this?” He responded that he was fine, but I knew he wasn’t. I asked, “Son, aren’t you going out of your way to try and please me, almost afraid to breath because you know that I was disappointed in your previous behavior?” He broke down crying, acknowledged that to be the case and said he can’t stand it if I’m not happy with him. This is the important part, that is the exact WRONG message that I want him to receive. I explained that if he sees our relationship in those terms, then he views my love for him as conditional. He does well and I love him, he does bad and I don’t. In other words, my love can be earned.

I assured him, nothing could be further from the truth. Nicholas could engage in the most heinous acts the world has seen, I will be disappointed with his actions but he is my son and I love him. It also works the other way, Nicholas can be the greatest leader in the history of mankind and stop world hunger, I will be very proud of him but my level of love will remain unaltered. The same is true with the love we receive from our heavenly Father. We cannot earn it, we cannot lose it. He can be disappointed but only because He wants better for us, but His love is unwavering.

First Cup Readings – February, 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

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)

- 1 James 4:13-17; Matthew 6:34; Proverbs 3:27-28; 16:9;
19:21; 27:1; Psalm 139
- 2 James 5:1-6; Leviticus 19:9-13; 24:14-15;
Matthew 6:19-21; Hebrews 11:24-26
- 3 James 5:7-12; Job 1:1-2:10; 42; Romans 12:6-21
- 4 James 5:13-20; 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:1-37;
Acts 9:36-43; Romans 8:26-28
- 5 1 Peter 1; 1 Chronicles 29:15; Psalm 39:12;
Hebrews 13:13-16; Ephesians 2:1-13
- 6 1 Peter 2:1-12; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19;
Psalm 65:1-4
- 7 1 Peter 2:13-3:22; Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Romans 13

The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; The Light of the world is Jesus. Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in; The Light of the world is Jesus. No darkness have we who in Jesus abide; The Light of the world is Jesus. We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide; the Light of the world is Jesus. Come to the Light; 'tis shining for thee. Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me. Once I was blind, but now I can see. The Light of the world is Jesus. (Worship in Song, #96)

- 8 1 Peter 4; Philippians 1:27-30; Revelation 2:10
9 Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-4; Matthew 9:36; John 10:1-18;
1 Peter 5
10 Matthew 17:1-8; 2 Peter 1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Psalm 119:105; 2 Corinthians 4:6
11 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6
12 Ezekiel 12:21-28; 2 Peter 3; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2
13 1 John 1-2:14; Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21;
8:12; 12:35-50
14 1 John 2:15-27; John 15:1-17; Titus 2:11-14

My Father is rich in houses and lands; He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands! Of rubies and dia-

monds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full- He has riches untold. I once was an outcast stranger on earth, A sinner by choice, an alien by birth! But I've been adopted; my name's written down. I'm heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown! I'm a child of the King! A child of the King! With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm a child of the King! (Worship in Song, #377)

- 15 1 John 2:28-3:24; Psalm 119:1-16; 66:16-20;
Romans 8:1-17
- 16 1 John 4:1- 6; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;
Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1-3
- 17 1 John 4:7-21; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13
- 18 1 John 5; Jeremiah 7:1-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32;
James 5:13-20
- 19 2 John; Romans 16:17-20; Colossians 1:21-23; 2:6-8;
Hebrews 10:35-38
- 20 3 John; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 5:9-10;
1 Peter 4:8-10; Philemon 8-22
- 21 Jude; John 10:1-18; Psalm 23

*Tell me the story of Jesus, Write on my heart every Word;
Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was
heard. Tell how the angels in chorus, Sang as they wel-
comed His birth, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and
good tidings to earth." Fasting alone in the desert, Tell of
the days that are past; How for our sins He was tempted,
Yet was triumphant at last. Tell of the years of His labor,
tell of the sorrow He bore, He was despised and afflicted,
homeless, rejected and poor. Tell me the story of Jesus,
Write on my heart every Word. Tell me the story most
precious, Sweetest that ever was heard. (Baptist Hymnal,
#211)*

- 22 Mark 1:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11;
2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Peter 5:8; Romans 16:20
- 23 Mark 1:14-20; Luke 4:43; 17:20-21; Luke 5:1-11;
John 1:35-51; Matthew 10:37-39
- 24 Mark 1:21-45; Luke 4:14-44; John 20:29-31;
1 Peter 1:3-16
- 25 Mark 2:1-17; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 11:28-30;
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Psalm 91
- 26 Mark 2:18-3:6; Exodus 20:8-10; Jeremiah 17:19-27;
Matthew 5:17-20
- 27 Mark 3:7-34; Matthew 12:22-37; Romans 8:12-17;
Galatians 3:26-29
- 28 Mark 4:1-34; Matthew 13:24-30

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]



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAN ANTONIO

LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE

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