



First Press

THE SILENT ELOQUENCE OF GLASS

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



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

The “Realtor’s Mantra”—“Location, Location, Location”—has been a very existential part of our family’s life of late. If you were asked to come up with a similar three word repetitive phrase for the church—other than the obvious “Jesus, Jesus, Jesus”—what would it be? One of our Associate Pastors at HPPC, Woody Strodel, used to always say that the key to church health was “Balance, Balance, Balance.” I’m with Woody on that, and that’s why I believe FPC has such a bright future ahead of her: she’s so balanced. This has always impressed me about our congregation—for decades. Some churches are known for being very evangelistic, others for being social justice oriented. Some churches are all about saving souls, but don’t do much for the poor. Others emphasize meeting the physical needs of people, but seem almost embarrassed to publicly talk about Jesus.

FPC is both a “Great Commission Church” (making disciples of Jesus Christ) and a “Great Commandment Church” (loving God through lovingly ministering to the needs of the poor and disenfranchised). Which is more important? Well, that’s like asking which blade is more important when you’re using a pair of scissors, or which wing is more important as a plane is lifting off the runway? It’s never an either/or with those things...nor with the Body of Christ. I’m excited because FPC “gets it” as a healthy, balanced congregation!! She’s never so heavenly-minded that she’s no earthly good, and she’s never so wrapped up in meeting the social/physical needs of folks that she gets mistaken for a social service agency rather than a life-transformational worshipping community of the Risen Christ.

FPC’s Biblical orthodoxy is a Biblically balanced orthodoxy: realizing that Amos 5:24 (look it up) is just as inspired and infallible—and authoritative for her life—as is John 3:16 (I hope you don’t have to look this one up!).

You can’t ride a bike without a good sense of balance. So ride on, ride on, FPC!! You’ve got it, and let’s keep it—for Christ’s sake and for the sake of the broken world He came to save. The more balanced we are, the more Jesus becomes visible.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE 6-7
SPECIAL STORIES
SILENT ELOQUENCE OF GLASS
PASSOVER SEDER

PAGE 4-5
SAVE THE DATE
4 SPRING FLING
4 LITERATURE REVIEW
4 PW LUNCHEON
5 WOMEN’S RETREAT
5 VBS
5 WALKING TOUR
6 MEN’S RETREAT

PAGE 20-21, 24-26
INSPIRATION
20-21 HISTORY CORNER
24-25 FIRST CUP
26 MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE

PAGE 22-23, 26-27
CHURCH UPDATES
22-23 NEW MEMBERS
26 SESSION MEETING MINUTES
26 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
27 RETRACTION
27 EASTER LILIES FORM

PAGE 8-19
MINISTRIES
8-9 GLOBAL MISSIONS
10-11 LOCAL MISSIONS
12-13 KEYS
14-15 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
16-17 PRAYER MINISTRY
18-19 LIBRARY

First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team.
Brian Fitzgerald: Director of Communication.
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 Brian Fitzgerald at 210-271-2778 or brianf@fpcsat.org if you have questions.
Image on pg. 5 credited to Flickr artist, Mirsasha. CC license <http://bit.ly/OJZNiI>

SAVE THE DATE



2ND ANNUAL SPRING FLING

Spring Fling is a fun, grown-up evening of food, wine, music, and fellowship—all for a good cause. Enjoy a delicious dinner, and two drink tickets with your \$50 per person purchase. Additional drink tickets and wonderful auction items will be available for purchase at the event. All proceeds will benefit First Presbyterian Church Children's Center. The evening is open to all church members, Children's Center families, and guests.

The event will be held at the home of David & Karen Zachry. Please RSVP by March 8 to FPCCEvents@gmail.com.

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2015 • 6:30-9:30 PM

LITERATURE CIRCLE REVIEWS "AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED"

On Tuesday, March 10 at 1:30 PM in the McCullough Room, Jane Hansen will review a novel by Afghan-American author, Khaled Hosseini, **AND THE MOUNTAINS ECHOED**. The novel is written similarly to a collection of short stories with different characters. The main theme centers on the rapport between sibling relationships, how we love, take care of one another, even betray, and how the choices we make resonate through generations. Bring a friend and join us for refreshments prior to the meeting.

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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING LUNCHEON

Make plans to join us at 11:30 AM on March 23 for fun-filled fellowship at our **FIESTA OF FAITH** luncheon sponsored by Presbyterian Women. Our guest speaker will be nationally acclaimed author and Bible study leader, Kelly Minter. Kelly will speak to us where we are, in the midst of transition, but will point us to our source of hope and joy which is found in Jesus Christ. Festive centerpieces will once again be sold for \$50 each. They will be easy to transport and reassemble on your table at home to get it ready for the city's celebration of Fiesta in April. Doors will open at 11 AM for those who want to come early and purchase a centerpiece.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$20, and reservations are required. Your check is your reservation and may be paid at your circle meeting, placed in the PW box in the workroom at church, or mailed to Holly Youngquist at 109 Cobblestone Court, San Antonio Texas 78213. Please make your check payable to FPC and put PW Luncheon in the notation line. If you would like to reserve a table for 8 or 10, a limited number will be available on a first-come basis. Deadline for reservations is Wednesday, March 18th.

MONDAY, MARCH 23

LAITY LODGE WOMEN'S RETREAT

Some people are good with directions. Others have navigational challenges on the road.

As Christ followers, we are often negotiating turns and picking the fork in the road between God's good, better or best for us. How? By looking into God's word, seeking wise God-guided counsel and listening to His Holy Spirit speaking to us about a myriad of topics and daily decisions. (That is if we unplug from the routine, the "urgent business" and deadlines that we face each day.)

On Sept 27-29 ladies will have the opportunity to unplug, relax and enjoy God's creation at Laity Lodge. They can listen to what he might have to say to us—right in the middle of our busy lives—as we are led by celebrated author, Lisa Burkhardt Worley from Pearls of Promise Ministry.

The women's retreat is about fellowship and seeking God where He may be found. But you don't have to take my word for it! Here's what others have said after past retreats:

"My weekend at the Women's Retreat was awesome on so many levels – so much fun with new friends and with friends I knew, growing in my relationship with God, time to reflect and 'to be' rather than 'to do'. The diversity of women gave the retreat a depth that I had not known before!" ~ J.D.

"My reasons to retreat: Relax. Refresh. Reconnect. Recharge. Revitalize. Rebuild. Renew. Rededicate. I can't wait!" ~ C.W.

"I think it is important for every woman to be able to attend a women's retreat. It is very relaxing, we learn something, we laugh, we eat very well, we sleep in beautiful surroundings. I don't think many of us take time to really enjoy all that God has created. Shame on us!" ~ S.F.

Sign up via Laity Lodge for a spot at the women's retreat. Go online to www.fpcsanantonio.org/grow/retreats-and-events/ and scroll down to "Fall Women's Retreat" to see more information and sign up.

SEPTEMBER 27-29

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 Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org for more information.

JUNE 22-26 • FPC

THE KING WILLIAM HISTORIC DISTRICT TOUR

Join KEYS for a walking tour of the King Williams District. See page 13 for more details.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31 • 9:00AM -11:00 AM

MEN'S RETREAT AT T BAR M

Join the men of First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio for a retreat on "Being Christ's Men: Grace, Forgiveness and Our Walk," facilitated by Rev. Dr. Ronald Scates, Interim Senior Pastor. Whether you are new to FPC or have been a long-time member, you will be blessed and enriched by what Ron has to say and by the warm fellowship which you will experience at this year's men's retreat. The cost is \$195 and includes registration, food, program, room—based on double-occupancy, recreation, etc. Sign up online at www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/adults/men/ or in Mauze Lobby.

Contact: Stacie Rodriguez at stacier@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2759.

MAY 1-3

THE SILENT ELOQUENCE OF GLASS

MEDITATIONS ON STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SAN ANTONIO

In the glorious set of stained-glass windows which
Adorn the downtown Presbyterian Church,
Great actions of the Gospels are stationed at the front—
Where Christ, transfigured, ascends above
His astonished fishermen: Peter, James, and John—
And to the sides, Jesus kneeling in the Garden of Gethsemane,
Across from Christ sending his Apostles out into the world.

My quieter favorites hold their places at the back,
Where the truest Presbyterians humbly sit.

On the right, Mary, sister of Lazarus,
Sits quietly with Jesus, the beloved guest
And teacher to her ardent soul.
Her face intent, her mind is focused on his words,
To her, he already is the Word of God.
But there's no trace of hard-working sister Martha.
No doubt she's just around that glass corner,
Cleaning up after all those disciples,
And that hard-eyed Mr. Judas who didn't even
Touch his purse to help pay for all that food.
Don't bother asking Jesus, Martha,
He's got Heaven on his mind,
But God bless you, Martha; and your unseen chores
Which sustain our human church which people use...

Across, on the left wall (your right if lunch awaits)
Is the image of another, and far greater, absence.
It has the aura of a mystery, the gloom of death,
Though we well know just what it represents:
A solitary waiting angel sits upon smooth rocks.
Waiting for Mary and her women and for us...
A lonely figure, her expression seems remote.
Her face is tranquil as she looks out at us.
She points above, knowing we too seek the truth.
She knows the truth, feels neither sorrow for the executed Son
Nor anxious care for his bereaved mother,
For in this captured moment there is only peace.
The agony of Jesus, Mary's desperate tears
Are past. Dawn is breaking.
Mary and the women soon will come,
But in the angel's moment, time remains for us “forever”
Beside the tomb which could not hold our Lord.

I look at this great silence as I leave,
Enlightened by the mystery I believe...

– John T. (Tim) Lewis 2015

PASSOVER SEDER

WHAT:	Passover Seder
WHEN:	Wednesday, March 18th
WHERE:	Westminster Hall
HOW:	Sign up by contacting Lindsay Blackmon at lindsayb@fpcsat.org

Can you imagine it? A wall of water on your right taller than the Empire State Building filled with swimming creatures of every shape and size. On your left, an identical shear-faced cliff of water, the same height and breath, roaring to stay back. You're a survivor of over four generations of slavery and a recent witness to a series of death-defying disasters like none the world has seen. You've seen a giant cloud move from the front to the back of the crowd, and hear the rumble of the Empire's warriors chasing you. You're walking to freedom along a path with three million others, give or take, and the ground is dry.

This historical account is the defining event of God's people. The first act He performed for them as a nation was to give them freedom. God took his people from physical bondage to freedom.

So important is the story, it is considered the first of the 10 commandments in Judaism, “I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.” The fourth commandment institutes the Sabbath day because of this event, ‘the Lord brought you out of slavery therefore observe the Sabbath’. The day of remembering the story came to be known as Passover.

Jesus remembered the story throughout his life, most notably the night before he died. The Last Supper was a Passover Seder. Jesus' death the next day, on Passover, offered the world freedom from a different kind of bondage, that of sin and death. Same ancient story, same commemoration, but much more to celebrate.

This year First Presbyterian will gather to recall, remember and reenact the event as it has become our tradition too. We'll celebrate a Passover Seder. Come join us.



THE FOCUS FOR YOUR GLOBAL MISSIONS COMMITTEE

in 2015 is to educate, train, fund and equip you, the congregation, to GO...DO...BE the hands and feet of Jesus wherever and however He might be calling you.

As one step in this effort, we invite you to come and view this powerful story of hope and then listen for His call in your life. As Focus on the Family President, Jim Daly, says, “Even in the midst of a heart-wrenching situation, we see the heart of a father’s love in Pastor Lee. Not everyone is called to do what he’s doing or adopting a child themselves, but all Christians are called to care for orphans. Watching this documentary changes a person – it draws you to care even more deeply for the most vulnerable among us.”

The Drop Box tells the story of South Korean pastor Lee Jong-rak and his heroic efforts to embrace and protect the most vulnerable members of society. It is a heart-wrenching exploration of the physical, emotional, and financial toll associated with providing refuge to orphans that would otherwise be abandoned on the streets. But “The Drop Box” movie is also a story of hope – a reminder that every human life is sacred and worthy of love.

South Korea is not the only country grappling with the issue of orphan care. Around the world, there are more than 150 million orphans waiting for forever families to call their own.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WILL HOST ITS OWN SCREENING OF THIS WONDERFUL FILM
THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015 • 7:00 PM

- Regal Huebner Oaks Stadium 14, 11075 IH 10W
- Tickets will be available through FPC members for a discounted price of \$5
- To view “The Drop Box” trailer, go to www.thedropboxfilm.com/videos

“Christ has no body now on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours, Yours are the eyes through which to look out Christ’s compassion to the world Yours are the feet with which he is to go about doing good; Yours are the hands with which he is to bless men now.”

– Teresa of Ávila

THE DROP BOX

JAMES 1:27 “RELIGION THAT GOD OUR FATHER ACCEPTS AS PURE AND FAULTLESS IS THIS: TO LOOK AFTER ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR DISTRESS...”

CLUSTER

PRESBYTERIAN CLUSTER HOUSE BUILD UPDATE

FPC is one of 20+ local Presbyterian Churches making up the Presbyterian Cluster. In 2015, the Cluster will sponsor, fund and build our 20th Habitat home for a deserving family from our community. This year we will be providing a home for the Perez family, a family of 6 living in San Antonio. The building of the Habitat home sponsored by the Presbyterian Cluster will occur February 20th - May 2nd. The Cluster has already raised the necessary funds, so now we need to fulfill our requirements for build-site volunteers. Volunteers are needed each Friday and Saturday during that time frame. Each build day is from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM, and lunch will be provided. The daily schedule below lists the tasks for each day. We ask Sunday School classes, Bible Study groups, women's groups, men's groups, young adult organizations and individuals or families to prayerfully consider volunteering for a specific day or task that is of interest. If you would like to come together as a group alongside other FPC members, please consider serving on March 13th which is the First Pres sponsored build day! You are welcome to join the build on any day, but we especially welcome you on our designated date. We need to make sure our church has a strong representation on March 13th so gather your small groups and friends and come on out for a great day of service! Once you take a look at the following build schedule and identify a date or specific task that interests you, contact Fred Wall to volunteer at fredkwall@aol.com. You can also call or text him at 210-887-2434. For insurance and safety reasons, note that each task on the build schedule has a minimum age requirement. Should the weather be "iffy" on the day you volunteer, you can call the Habitat weather update line at 210-223-5203 extension 183 to determine if the build will proceed that day. Please come out and support this amazing ministry!

MEET THE PEREZ FAMILY



NAME:
Epifanio Perez &
Lourdes Arellano
EMPLOYER:
Hardies Fruit & Vegetables/
Warehouse laborer
PREFERRED LANGUAGE:
Spanish
CHILDREN/DEPENDENTS:
Vanessa 18yrs, Eric 15yrs,
Esmeralda 7 yrs, Sandra 1yr

The Perez family is a family of six. They have been renting for quite some time now. With their growing family all they desire is to own a stable home. The Perez family is very grateful for the Habitat program, now they will have the opportunity to raise a family in a safe and stable home.

BUILD

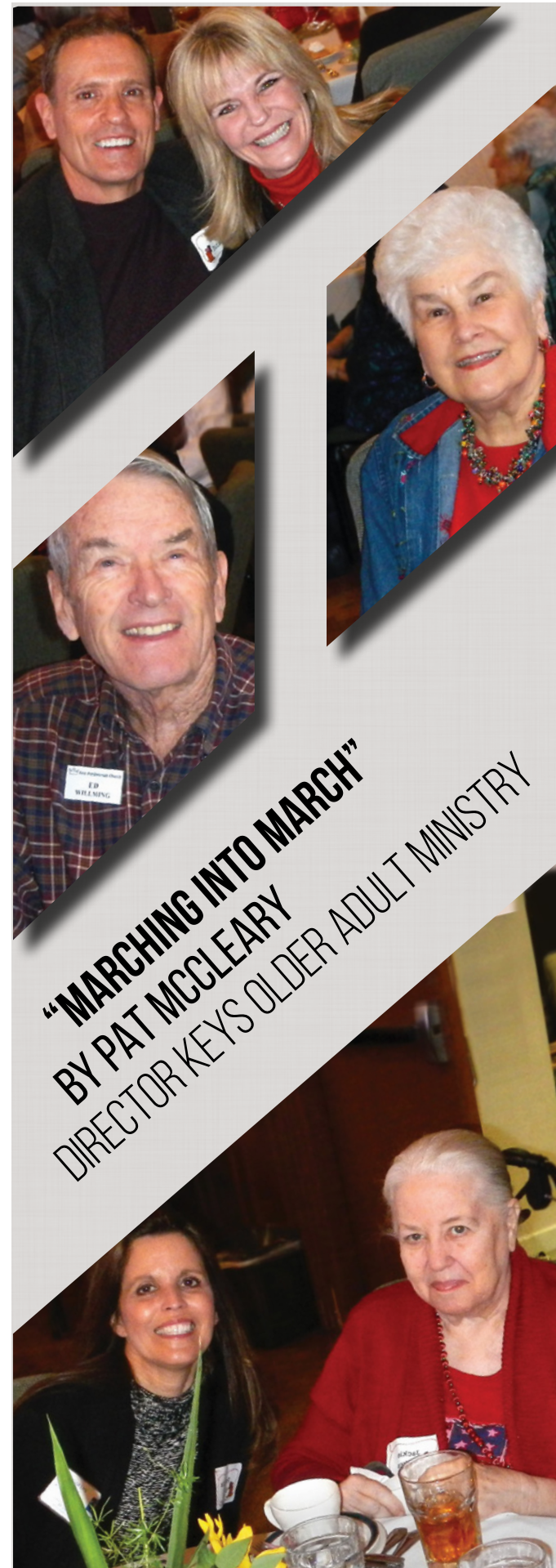
2015

BUILD SCHEDULE

The 2015 Presbyterian Cluster Habitat build schedule is finalized! We need individual members of the congregation, or organizations within our congregation, to volunteer for specific dates and/or construction activities that would be of interest. Below is this year's build schedule:

Fri Feb 20	Stand exterior & interior walls ² ; Prime/paint ext. walls ³
Sat Feb 21	Roof decking ¹ ; wall sheathing ³ ; snap lines for siding ³
Fri Feb 27	Felt paper roof ¹ ; install windows & ext doors ² ; start siding ²
Sat Feb 28	Complete siding ² ; install furnace flue & vents ² ; install A/C housing unit ¹
Fri Mar 6	Paint ext ³ ; start shingles ¹ ; install flashing & ridge vent ¹ ; start soffit install ²
Sat Mar 7	Finish ext paint ³ & shingles ¹ ; install windows & ext trim ² ; touch up ext trim ³
Fri Mar 13	Assemble shed ²
Sat Mar 14	Assemble cabinets ² ; prime int. doors & trim ³
Fri Mar 20	Paint int. ³ ; prep floors for tile ³ ; clean up site ³
Sat Mar 21	Install tile ² ; Install cabinets ² ; 2nd coat on doors & trim ³
Fri Mar 27	Install int doors & trim ¹ ; install wire shelving ² ; install int. hardware ²
Sat Mar 28	Touch up int. paint ³ ; install fence posts ² ; clean house ³ ; pre-landscape ³
Fri Apr 10	Catch up day ³
Sat Apr 11	Install fence ² ; complete all remaining tasks ² ; clean house ³
Sat May 2	Landscape ³

PLEASE NOTE: Due to insurance requirements, all activities above have a minimum age as annotated: 1-18 and up; 2-16 and up; or 3-14 and up. The landscaping minimum age is 12. The work day is 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM with lunch provided. Maps to the build site are available on the Local Missions' bulletin board. For more information, suggestions or to volunteer, please contact Fred Wall at fredkwall@aol.com or Christina Via at christinav@fpcsat.org. You can call or text Fred at 210-887-2434



"MARCHING INTO MARCH"
BY PAT MCCLEARY
 DIRECTOR KEYS OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

In spite of light artic blast, February started out with The Rick Cavender heating us up with another memorable performance—the best yet!! They seem to just keep getting better every year. This was followed by J. Bruce Bugg, Chairman of both the Tobin Endowment and the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, telling us of amazing success of the Center. We once again had a delightful time celebrating our annual February birthdays at the beautiful Oak Hills Country Club. The month ended with Ambassador Sichan Siv presenting his new book "Golden State," along with a Display of South China Seas beautiful handcrafted items from Cambodia, Thailand and Vietnam.

PROJECT 240
4TH ANNUAL ALL-CHURCH EVENT TO FIGHT HOMELSSNESS
SUNDAY, MARCH 1

KEYS once again look forward to volunteering and helping to donate to this very vital project so that we can help a family have a home of their own. If you would like to participate, you can now register online or if you are not at ease on a computer, please call our receptionist Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215. Details in February newsletter.

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

Come and hear the Rev. Dr. Ron Scates, deliver the annual State of the Church Address. He is keeping up the annual tradition that began many years ago by pastor emeritus Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden. Be sure to make your reservation for this excellent program, as this is the only meeting at which it will be presented.

SUSAN KERR TO SPEAK ON NEW BOOK
FRIDAY, MARCH 13 • 11:00 AM

Susan Kerr will speak about her book, "Intersections of Grace," which was published in 2014. Her writing is inspired by the study of Scripture, observing nature, reading literature, traveling, laughing at the antics of her dogs and pursuing her interest in photography. Her story of faith involves a growing attentiveness to see God intersecting her path. Seeing God's hand moving in a soft, sweet and tender way in the ordinary course of our lives enables us to find joy for the journey, peace in difficulties and grace in every present moment. She believes that at any stage of life, God still may surprise you by revealing a hidden gift that He wants you to have the courage to discern and use. Susan is currently serving on the Session, and she is Chairman of the Local Missions Committee. She has been a Bible Study leader at FPC for many years. Bridge & Maj Jongg will be played afterwards.

BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS
FRIDAY, MARCH 20 • 11:30 AM

Restaurant to be announced for birthday celebration

CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM
WANTED: CANDY & VOLUNTEERS
FRIDAY, MARCH 27 • 11:30 AM

KEYS once again have the opportunity to work with the Children's Easter Program. We are responsible for providing individually wrapped Easter Candy for filling approximately 1500-2000 plastic Easter Eggs. If you would like to donate candy or money to purchase candy, please bring it to the KEYS meetings or leave at the receptionist's desk. Have lunch and fill the eggs afterwards. This is always wonderful fun for all!

KING WILLIAM HISTORIC DISTRICT WALKING TOUR
WALKERS WANTED
TUESDAY, MARCH 31 • 9:00 AM-11:00 AM

Start your morning off with Bill Perryman, master teacher, historian and certified tour guide who will offer a walking experience as 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 wireless headsets – 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 AM. Please arrive by 8:45 AM. 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 for a nice lunch. Contact Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726 for your reservation. There is no charge to you!

RESERVATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!
 If you ARE NOT on the permanent KEYS list, please make your lunch (\$7) reservation by Tuesday before the Friday program by calling Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215. If you are on the permanent lunch list, you only need to call if you cannot attend.



KEEP MOVING FITNESS
FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 13, 20, 27 • 9:45 AM
STUDENT CENTER 2ND FLOOR

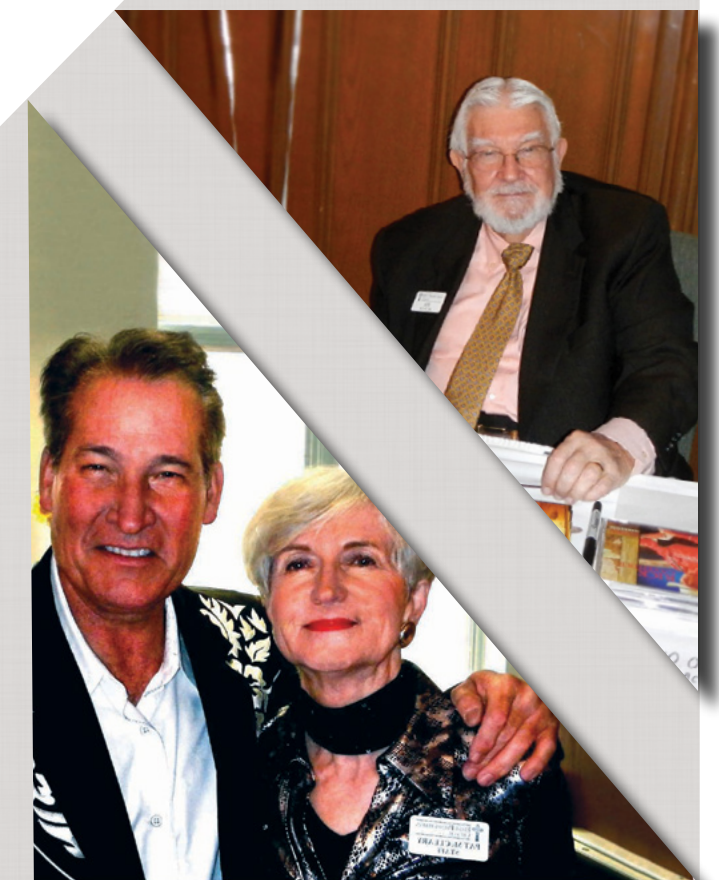
Stick to your New Year's resolution to exercise by joining our Friday morning fitness class at 9:45 AM. It's not only good for you, but it's fun, too! Classes are led by our "exercise guru," Linda Osborne. THERE IS NO COST! NO RESERVATIONS! NO PAIN, NO GAIN!

MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR FIESTA PARTY & BIRTHDAYS
APRIL 10

King Antonio will be here

MARK YOUR CALENDER FOR TRIP TO BULLOCK MUSEUM
APRIL 27

Travel to see the La Belle Exhibit in Austin. Lunch at Green Pastures
 Details in FPC April Newsletter



IT IS HARD TO BELIEVE IT IS ALMOST MARCH. The first fruit trees have already flowered and soon we will be seeing “spring green” in all of the landscape. Presbyterian Women are ready to “spring forward” to a busy spring.

Please see the “Save the Date” section for information on the Presbyterian Women’s Spring Luncheon! All the details that you need to know are in the article. Please sign up early because space is limited. We are really looking forward to the presentation by Kelly Minter, nationally known author, bible study leader, speaker and musician. Sus Hijas and the Guatemalan Connection will be there to sell their special gifts. Once again, the centerpieces will be for sale. We hope to see you there!

Last month we highlighted our Service Circles and this month we would like to highlight our other circles.

THE MOM’S GROUP (AKA CIRCLE 8)

Are you a mother of young children but cherish adult company? Do you need a group of peers to visit with and share experiences about raising children? Would you like to make friends with other moms at FPC? If so, then this group is for you! You do not have to attend every time. For those who work 9-5, consider joining this group for the Mom’s Night Out, a Play Date and an occasional Mom’s Lunch. Circle 8 is a group of moms who have a chance to have “friendship” time with one another as they participate in various activities. The Mom’s Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 9:30-11:30 AM. Childcare is provided by advanced reservation. They enjoy a bible study on one of the Wednesdays and enjoy serving others, crafts, and other activities on the other Wednesday. This past month, the Mom’s group made Valentine Surprises for the FPC household staff. Mom’s Night Out and Playdates are held monthly. Please contact Sara Parish (394-0865 or sara23sc@hotmail.com) for more information, to visit, or to join this special group.

BIBLE STUDY CIRCLES

The members of Circles 112, 2/4, 6, 7, 9, 11, 14, and 21 have all been studying 2nd Corinthians this year. Each month there is a Moderators’ Meeting where all of the moderators learn about the current lesson. Ruthie Seiders has been leading the moderators with an in-depth study of the scripture (Ruthie has prepared the study for the remainder of the spring). Additionally, the moderators are given Sandy Sturch’s in-depth bible study notes to review. Each moderator prepares and presents the lesson to her circle. Approximately 220 FPC women each month are studying this way. We are thankful for the work of Ruthie Seiders and Sandy Sturch, the Moderator Chairmen: Kay Case and Barbara Winship, and all of the moderators: Grace Labatt, Betty Smith, Jane Buchek, June Eubank, Shirley Kline, Angie Richmond, Janice Wilson, Amy Robinson, and members of Circles 7, 11 and 21. Circle meeting times and locations are listed in First Press and on the FPC website each month. Please feel free to visit and/or join one of these circles!

THE LITERATURE CIRCLE (AKA CIRCLE 13)

The Literature Circle Meets on the Second Tuesday of the month, September through May, in the McCullough Room. Each month a different book is reviewed. Refreshments are served and childcare is provided by reservation. Visitors (men and women) are always welcome. The books to be reviewed over the next few months are: March 10th: And the Mountains Echoed, April 14th: Travels with Charley, and May 12th: Unflinching Courage. Please contact Jeanne Browning (824-3921 or Jeanne.browning@earthlink.net) for more information.

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
ANN BUNN • MARCH 2015**



PW LADIES’ NIGHT OUT

Seventy PW Women enjoyed a delightful evening at the PW Ladies’ Night Out on January 29th at La Fonda on Main. Delicious food, fellowship, and fun were enjoyed by all. Over thirty door prizes were given to the lucky recipients. Thank you Lilly Gretzinger, Elizabeth Kreager, Michele Barker, and Linda Gail Dullnig for all they did to make the evening such a success.

THANK YOU!

A “thank you” goes out to all of the Presbyterian Women who helped with a Valentine’s Brunch for all of the FPC Staff on February 11th. Pat Krueger was the leader for “Invisible Angels” who put on this event.

Thank you for all that you do to make Jesus visible in our church, our community and throughout the world!

PW CIRCLE MEETING INFORMATION MARCH 2015

- CIRCLE 112:** Monday, March 16 • 10:30 AM • Geneva Room • Chair: Suzanne Thomas (210) 820-3245
- CIRCLE 2/4:** Monday, March 16 • 1:30 PM • Room 226 • Chair: Char-An Witten (210) 341-1856
- CIRCLE 5:** Friday, March 20 • 12:00-1:00 PM • Room 228 • Chairs: Caryl Gaubatz (210) 651-0208; Jane Ann Temple 414-9945
- CIRCLE 6:** Tuesday, March 17 • 1:30 PM • Geneva Room • Chairs: Mimi Hart 822-0809; Alice Nichols 826-4385; Linda Rittenhouse 824-2877
- CIRCLE 7:** Tuesday, March 17 • 11:30 AM • Bring sack lunch • Moderator: Jeanne Browning • Chair: Meredith Park (210) 373-8180
- CIRCLE 8: (MOM’S GROUP)** Wednesday, March 11 and 25 • 9:30-11:30 AM • Room 108 • Chair: Sara Parish (210) 394-0865
- CIRCLE 9:** Tuesday, March 17 • 10:00 AM • FPC • Hostess: BJ Neal • Chairs: Lucille Lammert 832-8414 and B.J. Neal 492-3188
- CIRCLE 11:** Monday, March 30 • 6:30 PM • Hostess: Sheila Figueroa • Chair: Suzanne Norton 344-7333
- CIRCLE 13:** Tuesday, March 10 • 1:30 PM • McCullough Room • Chair: Jeanne Browning 824-3921
- CIRCLE 14:** Monday, March 16 • 12:00-1 PM • St. Andrews Room • Chair: Lady Romano 828-5313
- CIRCLE 16:** Wednesday, March 18 • 9:30 AM • Room 228 • FPC
- CIRCLE 17:** Wednesday, March 11 • 9:30 AM • Room 309 • Chair: Jeanne Baker • Co-chair: Gigi Duke
- CIRCLE 19:** Wednesday, March 4 • 9:30 AM • Room 309 • Chair: Janet Beauch 673-3251
- CIRCLE 21:** Monday, March 16 • 6:30 PM • Hostess: Sallie Riester • Chair: Andrea Taylor 403-9442

PRAYER MINISTRY

IF GOD IS CALLING YOU TO HELP MAKE PRAYER FOR FPC AND ITS MEMBERS MORE EFFECTIVE? JOINING THE PRAYER MINISTRY COMMITTEE, WE MEET ONCE PER MONTH ON THE SECOND WEDNESDAY AT 10:00 AM. TO JOIN OR FIND OUT MORE, PLEASE CALL REV. SCOTT SIMPSON (226-0215), RON BAKER (494-0972), OR CHUCK BEATTY (826-3386).

THE PURPOSE OF INTERCESSORY PRAYER

■ Intercessory prayer is a working partnership with God. “As such, intercessory prayer is important. Jesus Christ taught it, lived it, and died on the cross for this grace. Intercessory prayer was encouraged in the New Testament as a necessary part of a Christian’s journey of faith. There have been dramatic and supernatural results of intercessions throughout history. Some true and amazing accounts have been authentically documented. The basis of all intercessory prayer is a deep trust in Jesus’ promise that God hears and answers each prayer, and that God’s power is released into human lives through this channel of his grace.”¹

■ Intercessory prayer is not a petition to change God’s mind or to get God to focus on an unknown problem. Nor is it a magical incantation of human needs that require God’s closer attention. “God already knows what is going on in human lives. He’s always there, waiting for us to recognize his presence and call upon his power to heal within his holy will. While our prayers on behalf of others—offered in humility and trust—are a necessary step, they are not the operative force in healing. Rather, it is God himself and the power of his love in Christ that brings healing. Yet, in the mystery of God’s grace there is a healing power released through the request of one who prays for others. That call for intercession goes to and through God, is multiplied by the love of God in Jesus Christ, and ultimately flows into the life of the person or persons who are the subject of intercession.”¹

■ Intercessory prayer brings the intercessor into a deeper awareness of God’s presence and healing power. “Insightful prayers on behalf of others bring the discernment of mind and heart into sharper focus, enabling . . . the intercessor . . . to see more clearly the design of God’s love and to accept the wisdom of God’s holy will.” Offering prayers for others is truly a holy process. Prayer opens up a stream of grace with its resultant “strength, worth, love and peace that flows from the believing intercessor through God and into the life of the person or persons in need.” In essence, when we offer a prayer of intercession, we “pray ourselves into the center of God’s will as revealed to us in Jesus Christ.”¹

■ Intercessory prayer involves a sense of cooperation. “As Saint Augustine stated: ‘Without God, we cannot; without us, God will not.’ God waits for our cooperation before his will is done in many situations. Sure, God wills wholeness and happiness for everyone; but, we must accept our role in the healing of our own brokenness and that of others. This is often at great personal cost to us, and is done through a faith and a love that is demanding in its discipline. Jesus went to the cross. He did not choose the most convenient way to heal mankind—nor can we, if we are to be like Christ.”¹

FOOTNOTES:

1. INTERCESSORY PRAYER: A WORKING PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD. A MANUAL FOR INTERCESSORS. ROBERT E. MCPHERSON. SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS. THIRD PRINTING, 1993.
2. CELEBRATION OF DISCIPLINE: THE PATH TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH. RICHARD FOSTER. HARPER COLLINS. SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA. THIRD PRINTING, 1998.

THE CALL OF INTERCESSORS

■ The Call of an Intercessor. “Intercessory prayer is a priestly ministry, and one of the most challenging teachings in the New Testament is the universal priesthood of all Christians. As priests, appointed and anointed by God, we have the honor of going before the Most High on behalf of others. This is not optional, it is a sacred obligation—and a precious privilege—of all who take up the yoke of Christ”² “God needs people He can talk to and who will listen to him; in turn they need to discern His will, Word and Spirit, and be sensitive to the material and spiritual needs of the world.”¹

■ Praying with vision. As we pray, either as a petition for our own needs or an intercession for another, we need to have within our spiritual vision an image of ourselves or that person for whom we are praying, living in wholeness – every physical and spiritual need fulfilled. As a part of the listening process of prayer, we need to discern in what way God is commissioning and empowering us to help fulfill that vision. To pray without this vision of wholeness is to pray without hope and faith. To pray without trying to discern the mission God presents to us, or to fail to see ourselves as a channel of God’s grace to that person, is little more than wishful thinking, at best, or prayer without committed love, at worst.¹

SCRIPTURES ON INTERCESSORY PRAYER

■ “You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.” John 15:16

■ “Believe me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.” John 14:11-14

■ “If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it shall be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples.” John 15:7-8

■ “For nothing is impossible with God.”

VOICE in
the WILDERNESS



A HISTORY OF THE CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN TEXAS
by R. Douglas Brackenridge

IT'S TEXAS HISTORY MONTH

Our next door neighbor, the San Antonio Express News, is celebrating its 150th anniversary, a few years younger than Old Adobe and the state of Texas. Every day since mid-January the Express News has been featuring stories about many different aspects of Texas history.

There are many men and women who have contributed their lives to our great state: among them were Sam Houston, William Travis, James Bowie and Davey Crockett. Our library has a special section dedicated to Texas and Texans. We call it "Texana."

You can access the collection thru either door beside the circulation desk. It is well-marked and contains both fiction and non-fiction books; additionally there are Texana books in the Juvenile and Youth sections—and even one in the Easy or very young reader section.

Here's a small taste of the interesting books available to you: "Ghosts and Phantoms of Texas" by Doris Schultz Williams; Doug Breckenridge's "Voice in the Wilderness," "Iglesia Presbyteriana," and "Trinity University"; T.R. Fehrenbach's "Texas"; "Lone Star"; and "The Mustangs" by J. Frank Dobie. A special section of books about San Antonio can be found shelved using the Dewey Decimal number TX 976.4351 found on the spine label of the book.

The history of First Presbyterian Church in San Antonio is rich with its contributions and involvement with the greater San Antonio area for over 150 years. This is reflected in its archival collections. A group of church members have been working for nearly ten years to identify, file, protect and preserve the historical records, led by our former librarian Nancy Johnson and several volunteers. Their efforts have resulted in the formation of the current Archive Committee, aptly led by Bill Cogburn. A generous anonymous donation enabled the church to hire a professional archivist and to prepare a safe place for the permanent home for the documents. You will be hearing more about how you can view these docu-

ments using the existing computer systems in the church.

So this month—as the 13 days of the Alamo come to a close on March 6—we look back to the days in 1836 and remember all of the brave men and women whose sacrifice at the Alamo, at Goliad and at San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. Those who gave birth to a new nation—the Republic of Texas—and in 1845 to statehood.

Hopefully this has in some way triggered your desire to know more about the great state of Texas and its history and the history of our church.

Touring Texas
Through the Eyes of an Artist



by
LILLIE MAY HAGNER
664.3

Just four years after the First Pres congregation moved from their old church building at N. Flores & Houston Streets into their new building at 4th and N. Alamo, World War I was declared. Tens of thousands of young men flooded into San Antonio's military bases. First Pres soon found itself involved in all types of programs to assist these "doughboys" who were being trained at local military facilities.

Not surprisingly, the women of the church took the lead. They regularly served dinners to military visitors after morning worship – often more than 200 meals on any given Sunday. This was before the advent of the USO, so reading and writing rooms were kept open in the church for use for the soldiers. These young men, lonely and separated from their loved ones, found these accommodations to be a safe, comfortable place to relax in the downtown area.

First Pres member, Mrs. Floyd McGown chaired the woman's committee for war bond sales for Bexar County. She and her committee opened subscription booths in banks and department stores throughout the downtown area. At the same time, they paid calls to businessmen throughout the city, describing advantages of bond investments. They distributed literature on downtown street corners and house-to-house in residential areas with the rallying cry, "Give 'till it hurts."

The overwhelming success of war bond sales by women—not only in San Antonio but throughout the nation—became a wake-up call to businessmen of the huge potential of female involvement in the commercial world. Mrs. McGown's daughter, Marjorie assisted her mother in the bond sales movement. She and her fellow Young Women's Christian Association members also met in the church basement to learn basic automobile mechanics such as how to change a tire. They rolled bandages and prepared care packages for young service men overseas.

In the June 5, 1918 church bulletin, Rev. Fred L. McFadden, director of "Soldier Work" announced: "Our Church extends a hearty welcome to all army men. We are glad to have you and wish you to feel at home in all phases of our church life. On Friday night, there will be a special social entertainment for the soldiers and our church people. We request that our army friends carry our invitation to their com-

rades at camp to be with us at this time." A flag pole was erected on top of the tower over the church entrance. Old Glory was raised every Sunday morning and other special occasions throughout the war.

Source: Muriel Forbes', "One Hundredth Anniversary brochure", Donald Everett's, Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice, First Pres Archive Room.



HISTORY CORNER

FIRST PRES DURING THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918

BY BILL COGBURN



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS OF FIRST PRES SAN ANTONIO!

TOM AND ANITA BRIGGS

They join by transfer of letter. Tom is employed by Southwest Research Institute as a manager – R&D. As members of FPC, they are looking forward to connecting and serving as part of the FPC community. Tom loves cars so much that he made them his career and Anita enjoys all things sewing and crafting, especially scrapbooking. They have three children: Caedmon (12), Cecily (10) and Corwyn (8).



PATRICIA FLORES

She joins by profession of faith (pending baptism February 15, 2015). As a member of FPC, Patricia is looking forward to getting involved and volunteering as much as possible. She is thanking Jesus everyday for showing her the way home to him.



MARYBETH BUFFINGTON

She joins by reaffirmation of faith. Marybeth is employed by Broadway Bank as a senior vice-president. As a member of FPC, she is looking forward to meeting more Christians and serving the Lord as he guides her. Marybeth is blessed to have many humorous stories.



TODD AND ELIZABETH CIONE

They join by reaffirmation of faith. Todd is a chief revenue officer Rackspace. They look forward to joining the FPC congregation of committed believers, serving and growing in their faith. Their family worshiped at a church while living in Singapore with a congregation of 745 nationalities represented. Todd and Elizabeth have three children: Connor (18), Nick (15) and Elaina (11).



ERIC AND AMANDA HARGROVE

Eric joins by profession of faith and Amanda joins by transfer of letter. Eric is employed by Yantis as a foreman and Amanda is employed by Pleasanton ISD as an Ag Science teacher. As members of FPC, they are looking forward to fellowship with other Christians who will help them grow. Eric enjoys watching his son play baseball and playing golf as a family. Amanda enjoys camping. They have one child: Ethan (14).



NICHOLAS VALENTI

He joins by profession of faith. Nicholas is employed by Platinum Wealth Solutions of Texas as a financial planner. As a member of FPC, he is looking forward to growing his faith, learning more about the gospel, being a part of the community and making friends. Nicholas likes to water ski, is interested in Texas history and his whole family is relocating to San Antonio.



ASHLEE FILKINS

She joins by transfer of letter. Ashlee is employed by Judson ISD as a teacher. As a member of FPC, she is looking forward to digging deeper and getting connected. Ashlee has met every president during her lifetime!



KIM STORM

She joins by reaffirmation of faith. As a member of FPC, Kim is looking forward to growing in faith with fellowship. Kim and her husband Richard have three children: Samuel (13), Henry (9) and Nina (7).



LANE AND TASHYA RIGGS

Lane joins by profession of faith and Tashya joins by reaffirmation of faith. Lane is employed by Valero Energy as an EVP Refining Operations. They look forward to reconnecting with FPC Christian community. Lane is originally from Oklahoma and Tashya is from Canada. Both chemical engineers, they met while working for a refinery in north Texas. Lane and Tashya have two children: Sam (12) and William (9).



First Cup Readings – March, 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

Cast thy burden on the Lord, Lean thou only on His word; Ever will He be thy stay, Tho' the heavens shall melt away. Ever in the raging storm, Thou shalt see His cheering form; hear his pledge of coming aid: "It is I; be not afraid." Cast thy burdens at His feet; linger near His mercy seat; He will lead thee by the hand gently to the better land. He will gird thee by His power, in the weary, fainting hour; Lean thou strong upon His Word; Cast thy burden to the Lord. (Baptist Hymnal, #254)

- 1 Deuteronomy 6:4-8; Psalm 119:89-112;
2 Timothy 2:10-19
- 2 Mark 4:35-41; 2 Samuel 22; Psalm 65
- 3 Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16-17;
Acts 19:11-20; Revelation 20:1-10
- 4 Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 103
- 5 Mark 6:1-29; Luke 9:7-9; 14:25-33; Acts 21:10-14
- 6 Mark 6:30-56; Ephesians 3:20-21; Psalm 37
- 7 Mark 7:1-23; Jeremiah 17:9; Micah 6; James 1:21-27

Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care; In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for Thy use our folds prepare. Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be; Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free. Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us loved us still; Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, loved us still. (The Hymnbook, #380)

- 8 Mark 7:24-8:10; Colossians 1:15-23;
Ephesians 1:2-23
- 9 Mark 8:11-38; John 10
- 10 Mark 9:1-13; Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:7-15;
17:1-13
- 11 Mark 9:14-29; James 5:13-20; Philippians 4:6-7;
Ephesians 6:18
- 12 Mark 9:30-41; Numbers 11:26-30; Matthew 18:1-9
- 13 Mark 9:42-50; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Peter 1:13-25
- 14 Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:1-16; 1 Corinthians 7;
1 John 1:9-10

Work, for the night is coming, Work through the morning hours; Work while the dew is sparkling, Work mid spring-flowers; Work when the day grows brighter, Work in the glowing sun; Work, for the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work for the night is coming, under the sunset skies; while their bright tints are glowing, work for the daylight flies. Work till the last beam fadeth,

*fadeth to shine no more; Work while the night is darken-
ing, when man's work is o'er. (The Hymnbook, #297)*

- 15 Mark 10:17-31; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12;
Proverbs 11:24-28; 1 Timothy 6:17
- 16 Mark 10:32-45; Philippians 2:1-18; John 13:1-17
- 17 Mark 10:46-52; Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 7:7-12;
Luke 19:1-10; Psalm 27
- 18 Mark 11:1-19; Jeremiah 7; Romans 12:12;
Colossians 4:2
- 19 Mark 11:20-33; Luke 17:1-4; Matthew 5:21-24;
Matthew 18:21-35
- 20 Mark 12; Proverbs 25:14; Matthew 6:1-4;
Psalm 37:25-26; 112; Proverbs 11:25
- 21 Matthew 23; Proverbs 6:16-19; Micah 6:8

*Saviour, teach me day by day Love's sweet lesson to obey;
Sweeter lesson cannot be, Loving Him who first loved me.
With a child's glad heart of love, at Thy bidding may I
move. Prompt to serve and follow Thee, Loving Him who
first loved me. Teach me thus Thy steps to trace, strong
to follow in thy grace, Learning how to love from Thee,
Loving Him who first loved me. (The Hymnbook, #457)*

- 22 Mark 13; Isaiah 13:9-11; Revelation 6:12-17
23 Matthew 24; Revelation 16:15
24 Matthew 25
25 1 Thessalonians 4-5:11
26 John 10
27 John 11
28 John 12:1-11; Deuteronomy 15:1-11

All glory, laud, and honor, To Thee, Redeemer, King. To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the Hebrews with palms before Thee went; Our praise and prayer and anthems before Thee we present. Thou art the king of Israel, Thou David's royal Son, Who in the Lord's name comest, Thou good and gracious King! To Thee before Thy Passion, they sang their hymns of praise; To Thee, now high exalted, our melody we raise. All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King. To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! (The Hymnbook, #187)

- 29 Matthew 21:1-17; John 12:12-19
30 John 12:20-50; 3:16-21; Romans 10:9-13
31 Mark 14:10-42; John 17; Mark 14:43-72

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]

Easter Lilies

In order to compile and print this information, no checks will be accepted after Sunday, March 22, 2015

Each year the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a lily in the amount of \$15. These plants are placed in the Chancel for Easter Sunday. Participate by sending a check made payable to The Sanctuary Flower Committee and mail it to First Presbyterian Church, c/o The Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 N. Alamo, 78205-1918. You may also place completed forms and checks in the Sanctuary Flower Committee mailbox in the workroom.

In honor of:

In memory of:

On the occasion of:

Donor name:

Address:

Phone:



CUT OUT THIS FORM A TO ORDER YOUR EASTER LILIES



MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE IT WAS ALL SHE HAD BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ

Our daughter has begun working a few hours a day in a kindergarten class this semester. The other day Madeline told me she had received something very special from one of the little girls, she gave Madeline a sticker. She went on to explain to me that stickers are prized possessions amongst kindergarteners, and that this little girl gave up the only one she had, and that is what made it so valuable. I think God views it the same way. It isn't as important what our talents or even finances may be, the question is with what we have been given, are we returning in God's glory with all that we have?

FEBRUARY 9 SESSION MEETING

- The meeting was moderated by the Rev. John H. Seiders as appointed by the Rev. Dr. Ronald W. Scates.
- Elder Chuck Bunn opened the meeting in prayer.
- The Session approved the items on the Consent Agenda including: the approval of minutes from previous Session meetings, the review and approval of minutes of previous Deacons' meetings, changes to the Church Register, and received the minutes of Session Committees.
- The Clerk reported on correspondence and other details.
- Committee Reports were given by the following committees:
 - Personnel – Elder Buddy Johnson (Chair) reported on the details of the dissolution of the respective calls of the Rev. Dr. Ruthie Seiders and the Rev. John H. Seiders; reviewed the current organizational chart and noting reporting and supervision responsibilities after Ruthie and John Seiders depart; and, urged Session members to step up in their roles as we enter this season of ministry transition.
 - Stewardship and Finance – Elder Butch Gerfers (Chair) reviewed the final 2014 financial report indicating a surplus in excess of \$2,000; received approval of the Session to apply the entire overage to the previous year's deficit; and, addressed the current status of the 2015 budget.
 - Worship – Elder Ed Moore (Chair) noted the good work of the Interim Contemporary Worship Leader (Samuel Pitamber); gave an update of the search for a permanent Contemporary Worship Leader; and, spoke about the possibility of a new hymnbook.
 - University and Young Adults – Elder Brian Biggs (Chair) gave a brief report.
 - Church Relation – Elder Dirk DeKoch (Chair) introduced the report and asked committee member George Spencer to review the report which contained four separate motions: one which provides survey information for elders to review, one for authorization of committee members to meet with representatives of Mission Presbytery regarding the survey results, one which is an official Wedding Policy (see the website), and one to provide a task force to prepare and recommend a policy for the election of officers at FPC. All the motions were passed.
- New Business included approval of the 2014 Statistical Report; the setting of the date of April 12 for the Annual Congregational Meeting; and the setting of the date of May 31 at the 11:00 Traditional Service for the Ordination and Installation of new officers.
 - Several announcements were made: the March Stated Meeting of Session will be on March 16 and the Mission Presbytery Meeting will take place at the Parkway Presbyterian Church in Corpus Christi on March 6 and 7.
 - The meeting was adjourned in prayer by the Rev. Dr. Ruthie Seiders.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY JANUARY 2015

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	378,824	508,886	(130,062)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	218,972	284,272	(65,300)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	17,134	17,134	0
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	142,717	207,480	(64,763)

Giving for the month was less than budget and expenditures were below budget. The ministries and benevolences of FPC depend on your gifts. If you have questions or concerns, please contact Janet Slayden, Church Business Manager, at 210-271-2751, or Butch Gerfers, Church Treasurer, at 210-862-9998.

PLEASE NOTE:

Our story in February's First Pres, titled "A First at First" listed Louis Elson as the only remaining member of the initial prayer group. Three others remain however: Donna and Bill Whitaker and Mrs. Mary Jo Daniels. Our apologies to the other members for this mistake.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY DECEMBER 2014

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	4,364,175	4,485,325	(121,150)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	3,489,141	3,588,260	(99,119)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	872,835	897,065	(24,230)
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	2,199	0	2,199

Thank you for your generous giving in the final weeks of 2014. The final figures are in and we finished the year with a small surplus of just over \$2,000. 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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAN ANTONIO

LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE

404 N ALAMO STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205-1918
OFFICES LOCATED AT AVENUE E NEAREST MCCULLOUGH

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 169

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



210-226-0215 • www.fpcsanantonio.org

