



*First Press*

# **MEDITATION IN THE GARDEN**

**APRIL 2015 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS**





# DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Easter. Is it the stuff of Hallmark cards or truly the hinge point of human history? Dare we “spiritualize” Christ’s resurrection or relish in getting its organic earthiness under our fingernails? Sometimes plain Truth is best captured poetically. As we prepare to celebrate the uniqueness of an empty tomb, let me share my favorite Easter poem with you by a noted novelist.

## “SEVEN STANZAS AT EASTER” BY THE LATE JOHN UPDIKE

Make no mistake: if He rose at all  
It was as His body,  
If the cells’ dissolution did not reverse,  
The molecules reknit,  
The amino acids rekindle,  
The Church will fall.

It was not as the flowers,  
Each soft spring recurrent;  
It was not as His Spirit in the mouths  
And fuddled eyes of the  
Eleven apostles;  
It was as His flesh; ours.

The same hinged thumbs and toes  
The same valved heart  
That—pierced—died, withered,  
Paused, and then regathered  
Out of enduring Might  
New strength to enclose.

Let us not mock God with metaphor,  
Analogy, sidestepping transcendence,  
Making of the event a parable,  
A sign painted in the faded  
Credulity of earlier ages:  
Let us walk through the door.

The stone is rolled back, not papier-mâché.  
Not a stone in a story.  
But the vast rock of materiality  
That in the slow grinding of  
Time will eclipse for each of us  
The wide light of day.

And if we have an angel at the tomb,  
Make it a real angel,  
Weighty with Max Planck’s quanta,  
Vivid with hair, opaque in  
The dawn light, robed in real linen  
Spun on a definite loom.

Let us not seek to make it less monstrous,  
For our own convenience, our own sense of  
Beauty, lest, awakened in one unthinkable hour,  
We are embarrassed by the miracle,  
And crushed by remonstrance.

He is risen!! He is risen indeed!! Have a most blessed Easter.

Ron

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Brian Fitzgerald: Director of Communication.  
Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer.  
Richard Flores: Press Manager & Production. Taylor Brandesky: Media & Technology Coordinator.

Contact Brian Fitzgerald at 210-271-2728 or [brianf@fpcsat.org](mailto:brianf@fpcsat.org) if you have questions.

GOOD FRIDAY WITH MUSIC OF GABRIEL FAURE  
10TH ANNUAL MARY JEAN ROGERS MEMORIAL CONCERT

Join us as we experience music of the famed French composer Gabriel Faure. Our musical observance of Good Friday reminds us of the unspeakable gift of Christ’s suffering, death and glorious resurrection.

This year, our Sanctuary Choir will be joined by a professional orchestra and baritone soloist Dr. Chia-Wei Lee to present two outstanding compositions of Gabriel Faure: ‘Cantique de Jean Racine’ (a hymn translates to a petition for God’s grace and favor) and ‘Requiem’ of Faure (a masterpiece in choral orchestral composition comprised of multiple movements that reassure us of the eternal rest found in God).

This concert offering is made possible through the Mary Jean Rogers Choral Endowment of First Presbyterian Church. Each year the Endowment honors the memory of Mary Jean Rogers, the mother of our own Jean Rogers Winchell, and their shared love of the church and great choral music.

We hope you will join us for this one hour concert as we direct our hearts and minds to the suffering and death of Christ on the cross.

APRIL 3 • 7:00 PM • FPC SANCTUARY

CHILDREN’S EASTER PROGRAM

Join us for the Children’s Easter Program with singing, food, a retelling of the Easter story, and Egg Hunt! Kids of all ages and their families are welcome to attend. Bring a friend and an Easter basket!

Contact Lindsay Blackmon at [lindsayb@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsayb@fpcsat.org).

APRIL 4 • 10:00 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL

ANNUAL FPC BABY BRUNCH

If you have had a baby in the past twelve months, the Children’s Ministry would like to celebrate with you!

RSVP to [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org) or 210-271-2720

APRIL 19 • 9:30-10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY EVENING LADIES BIBLE STUDY  
WHAT LOVE IS, THE LETTERS OF 1, 2, 3 JOHN

The letters of 1, 2, & 3 John were written to encourage followers of Jesus to remain faithful to the truth. In this study by Kelly Minter, believers are challenged to look at contrasting themes such as walking in the light instead of darkness, loving God more than loving the world, and the meaning of true fellowship and community rather than shallowness. This study reveals not only the heart of John but also the heart of Jesus.

Contact: Sheila Figueroa ([shefig@earthlink.net](mailto:shefig@earthlink.net) / 210-822-4082) to reserve a book. Cost of book is \$13.00. There is weekly homework and videos

APRIL 8 - JUNE 3 • 6:30 - 8:15 PM • ROOM 302

LITERATURE REVIEW

If you are a dog lover and one who yearns to travel the open road meeting new people and viewing new scenery, then “Travels with Charley” will fulfill all your longing. The classic novel is authored by John Steinbeck and depicts a 1960 road trip around the U.S. accompanied by his standard poodle.

The Rev. Leslie Ellison will review this book on Tuesday, April 14. Bring a friend and join us for refreshments prior to the meeting.

APRIL 14 • 1:30 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

MO RANCH ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

Join us on the All-Church Retreat to Mo Ranch Conference Center in Hunt, Texas! Ron Scates will be our speaker this year and he will be discussing “The Three Ordinary Means of Grace,” while we discover some practical ways of deepening our walks with Christ. Housing is decided on a first come, first served basis so sign up soon to reserve a spot for your family!

Sign up at: [www.fpcsanantonio.org/church-retreat](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/church-retreat) or contact Lindsay Blackmon at [lindsayb@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsayb@fpcsat.org).

AUGUST 7-9 • MO RANCH CONFERENCE CENTER

FAMILY SERVE DAY

On Sunday, April 26, families will have the opportunity to serve together at Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM) and Respite Care San Antonio during the Sunday school and worship hours! Kids of all ages and their families can serve!

Contact Becky Prichard at [beckyp@fpcsat.org](mailto:beckyp@fpcsat.org) for more.

APRIL 26

SPRING CARE PACKAGES

Twice every year, your University Ministry sends out boxes filled with baked goods, candy, and encouraging notes to college students across the globe. We will put care packages together in the Student Center at Noon on April 20, so please join us! We need as many volunteers as possible! A light lunch will be provided.

If you want to bring goodies for the boxes, drop them off at the front desk by the morning of April 20th. Email Lindsay Blackmon ([lindsayb@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsayb@fpcsat.org)) to let her know where to send packages to your student. Even if they’re studying abroad, we still want to send them a box!

Questions? Contact Ann Smith ([clsmith@jw.com](mailto:clsmith@jw.com)) or Meghan Dougherty ([meghand@fpcsat.org](mailto:meghand@fpcsat.org)). Thank you in advance for all of your help in letting our University students know how much FPC cares for them and wants to encourage them in their faith!

APRIL 20

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. Sign up and see more online at [www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/adults/men](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/adults/men).

Contact Stacie Rodriguez at [stacier@fpcsat.org](mailto:stacier@fpcsat.org) or 210-271-2759

MAY 1-3

VBS 2015 IS COMING!

Save the date for VBS! Join us this summer for Vacation Bible School as we study God’s Word, learning Biblical truths to guide kids through life’s challenges and display God’s power! Children ages 2 through incoming 5th grades are welcome!

Online Registration is NOW OPEN! Visit [www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/children](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/children).

Contact Becky Prichard at [beckyp@fpcsat.org](mailto:beckyp@fpcsat.org).

JUNE 22-26

GLOBAL IMPACT ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On May 1, 2015, in conjunction with our Worship Nights, FPC will be hosting a night of justice awareness at the Pearl. Developed in partnership with the FPC-sponsored group International Justice Mission, an organization that strives to bring about powerful changes that protect the poor from violence, the purpose of this outreach event is to raise awareness regarding human trafficking. This will be an outreach event to young adults living in the Pearl area of San Antonio, and will include opportunities to raise funds for International Justice Mission — to further their global impact on human trafficking.

To make this event happen, we need your help!

Along with our mission to raise awareness, we will place a heavy focus on expression through creativity. We will be looking for talented poets, spoken word artists, musical performers and other talented individuals. We will also be looking for artists to donate art pieces, to be put on display and to help raise funds for International Justice Mission.

If you are an artist, have connections to artists, have a passion for young adults, or putting an end to human trafficking, we would love to have you partner with us. You can contact Meghan Dougherty at [meghand@fpcsat.org](mailto:meghand@fpcsat.org). Contact her at anytime with how you would like to be a part of this outreach to our surrounding San Antonio community.

MAY 1



**But I am like a branching olive tree  
in the house of God;  
I have put my faith in his mercy  
forever and ever.**

**Psalm 52:8**

## SWEENEY MEDITATION GARDEN RENOVATION

Imagine yourself sitting in a comfortable courtyard, in a quiet and peaceful environment—a place for personal reflection, relaxation, meditation and spiritual renewal. Such a peaceful place is available to you right here in San Antonio, in the Sweeney Meditation Garden at First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio.

For those that were not able to attend, on Palm Sunday (March 29), following the 11:00 worship service, a brief dedication ceremony was held for the recently renovated Sweeney Meditation Garden. Edith and Anita Sweeney gave the garden to the Glory of God in memory of James D. Sweeney.

Like many others that attend First Presbyterian, giving to the church is part of Edith and Anita Sweeney's family legacy. In fact, Chief Justice William Seat Fly, the great, great-uncle of Anita Sweeney (Edith Sweeney's daughter), was instrumental in making the current

First Presbyterian church building a reality, after the congregation moved from N. Flores & Houston Streets in 1910. In addition, Anita's grandmother, Edith Fly Jarrell, gave the library, and the Ryan Foundation gave two stained-glass windows, located across from the McCullough Room, depicting the sacraments in honor of James D. Sweeney. Four generations of the family have called First Presbyterian Church San Antonio home.

Almost twenty years ago, Dr. Louis H. Zbinden, Jr. (Senior Pastor from 1971 to 2003) suggested the idea of a meditation garden for First Pres, as part of his church expansion efforts. James and Edith Sweeney were able to develop that idea into the Sweeney Meditation Garden in 1997. Rev. Ronald Scates served as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry during much of the time that Dr. Zbinden served as Senior Pastor, so it was a real

treat to have him back as Interim Senior Pastor for the March dedication of the garden.

Renovation work on the garden began in January of 2014, after Edith and Anita realized that enhancements to the original space were needed to keep up with the growing needs of the church. The project was completed at the beginning of this year.

One of God's most wonderful creations is the beauty of nature and art. The garden consists of several plant beds, each with a variety of beautiful, water-saving plants and trees. The space also features a hand-sculpted bronze olive tree by world-renowned artist and sculptor Alberto Saucedo, which was commissioned for the renovation project. The San Antonio native drew upon Biblical references to the olive tree as inspiration for the sculpture. The hand carved Bullock cross remains a focal point as well.

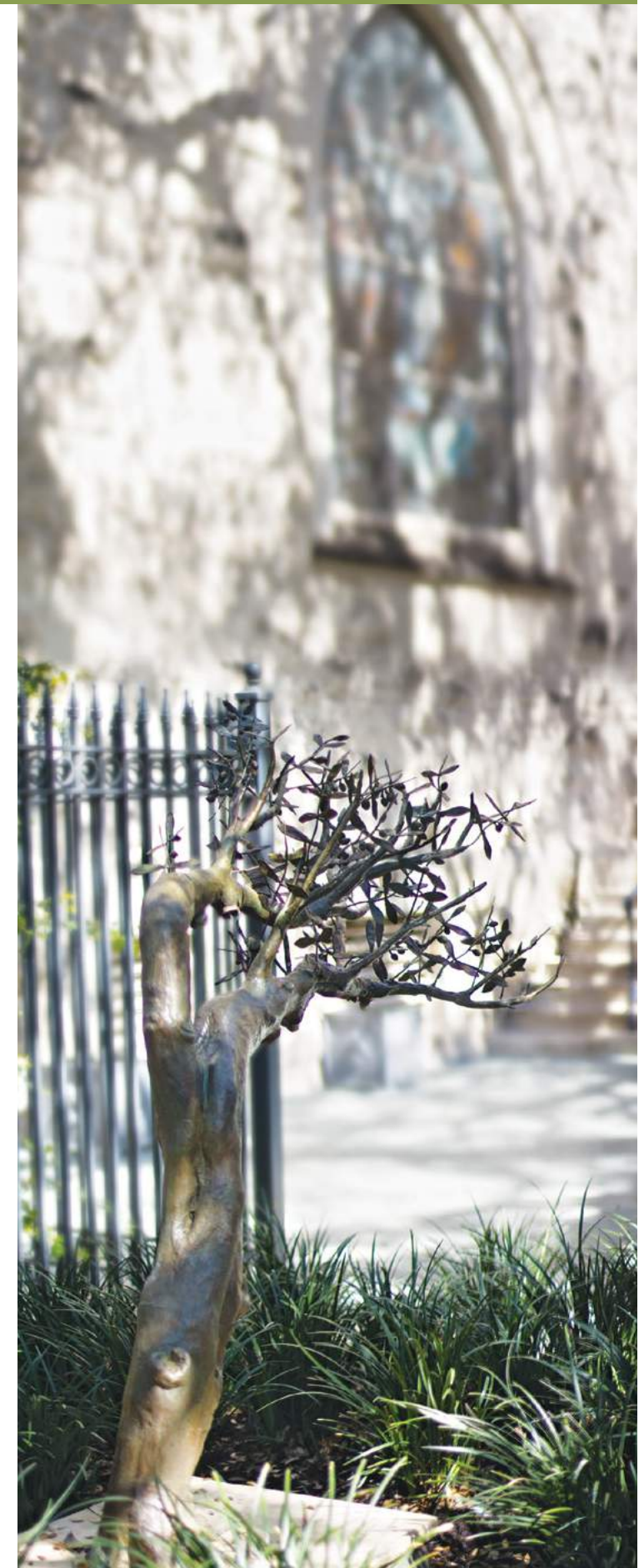
The newly laid gray-green slate, and the simplicity of the garden and its beautiful furnishings, enhances the church's Gothic architecture. This was the vision of the project's architectural advisor, award-winning architect Chris Carson of Ford, Powell and Carson. Many of the iconic buildings and places in San Antonio have been designed or restored by Ford, Powell and Carson.

In addition, Thomas Bradley & Associates completed the landscape design and construction. They were able to turn the vision of the meditation garden into reality, transforming the small patch of land into a more open, welcoming space.

Making a daily appointment for meditation is one thing; keeping it is something else entirely. The vision for the Sweeney Meditation Garden is to serve as a place where FPC members and visitors can go to keep their daily appointment with God.

Please come and let peace enfold you in our wonderful new Meditation Garden, where you can find a bit of heaven right here on earth!

"Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:16)







# PROJECT 240 THANK YOU

To all those who participated in Project 240 – 2015, we want to say a BIG thank you for your time, service and dedication. It was truly amazing to watch so many people come together, braving the cold and rain, working towards one purpose and goal; to provide adequate and affordable homes for five low-income families in San Antonio.

We had close to 300 volunteers participate and we were able to complete the project in only 200 minutes—40 minutes less than our original goal! Because of your generous donations, we also were able to raise the necessary funds to cover the cost of all five homes, coming in just shy of the \$35,000 goal! Wow! Thank you FPC for your outstanding dedication and commitment to Habitat for Humanity.

There were so many people that made this day happen but we especially want to acknowledge a few that were instrumental in making

this day a success: Presbyterian Women, KEYS, Our Amazing Household Staff, Boy-Scouts, Americorps, Local Missions Committee, The Family Ministry Team and Children's Committee, Fred Wall, Susan Dullnig, Sarah Clower, Taylor Brandesky, Jae Ha, Ron Scates, Habitat for Humanity Staff, and FPC Pastors and Staff!

Thank you once again to everyone for volunteering, donating, and praying for this event. From five to ninety-five, you came out with unparalleled excitement to accomplish the task before us and helped to make Jesus visible in San Antonio. Please know how much we appreciate each of you participating!

Please save the date for next year's Project 240, March 6, 2016, where we will celebrate our 5th year partnering in this way with Habitat for Humanity in San Antonio. We can't wait to see what we can build together next year!





# DROPBOX FILM SHOWING FOLLOW-UP | BY TERESA MCCALED

Last week over 200 FPC members and their friends gathered to watch the movie *The Drop Box*. It was an amazing night! The film tells the story of South Korean pastor Lee Jong-rak and his heroic efforts to embrace and protect the most vulnerable members of society. While 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, *The Drop Box* 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. Here in the United States, more than 100,000 legal orphans languish in foster care, waiting for adoptive families. The US also has more than 300,000 churches.

Dream with me for a moment—what if every third church across the nation wrapped its arms around just one family adopting a foster child. What if the American church provided care to every single child in this country longing for it? What a testimony that would be to our nation!

God's compassion for orphans is repeated over and over in the Bible, and God has given clear commands for us to take care of His orphan children. While adoption is vital and

necessary, not all of us are called to adopt—but we are called to do something!

There are many ways members of our church might choose to help:

- Praying for the orphans and praying for those seeking to adopt or foster children.
- Supporting families in our church who are fostering or have adopted children, providing meals, babysitting and other needs.
- Preparing care bags for foster families full of essentials needed when a child first arrives.
- Hospital sitting—volunteering to sit with foster children during hospital stays, at times when their biological family is prohibited.
- Caring for children that have been removed from their homes during short term emergencies and have not been placed in a foster home yet.

I know from experience how important it is to have a forever family. I was adopted as an infant and loved unconditionally by my mom and dad, as were my three siblings. It was through their constant, steady love of all of us, but especially my older brother that I was able to understand God's grace.

My brother, also adopted, suffered with mental illness and caused our family much pain. Witnessing their unconditional love for my brother helped me to be able to accept God's unconditional love for me. I saw that

He loved me just as I was, with all my faults and sins. I didn't need to be "perfect" or even "good" to receive His love and forgiveness.

I feel a call to help in some way, by showing children in foster care the unconditional love I have experienced. Perhaps in doing so, I can give them a tiny window into the love of the Father.

I'll close with this though; when God says in James 1:27 to "care" for the orphan, the word used for care also implies "visit." There's a sense where we can't just stay in our comfortable world, but we've got to go out as a light into the darkness. We must go to the waiting children who need hope and care for them in their distress. How will you "go" to care for orphans?

Perhaps you too feel a nudge to join in this effort. We are just now starting a group to pray, explore and plan how the congregation at First Presbyterian Church might grow to Make Jesus Visible to these most vulnerable members of our society.

If you would like to be a part of this group, ask any questions, or share any insight with us, please contact me at [tbmccaleb@gmail.com](mailto:tbmccaleb@gmail.com) or 210-632-3723, or contact our Director of Missions, Alyssa Payne, at [alyssap@fpcsat.org](mailto:alyssap@fpcsat.org) or 210-271-2742.

Related Verses:

- Psalm 68:5-6—A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows is God in his holy dwelling. God sets the lonely in families.
- James 1:27—Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.
- Isaiah 1:17—Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.



## REFUGEE OUTREACH BY MIKE MUNROE

"DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW  
HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS,  
FOR BY DOING SO SOME HAVE  
ENTERTAINED ANGELS  
UNAWARES."

HEBREWS 13:2

On any given Friday night at the downtown San Antonio bus station some pretty interesting fodder for human interest stories can be discovered. For FPC member Katy Bedunnah, Friday, February 28th was especially memorable. Katy was at the bus station as a volunteer for the Interfaith Welcome Coalition, a city-wide, multi-church effort to minister to women and children who have made the long trek from violence and poverty in Central America to the United States.

The women and children coming through San Antonio have traveled over 2,000 miles, for several weeks, and often under arduous conditions. At the U.S. border, they generally turn themselves in to seek asylum and then are incarcerated in one of two South Texas federal detention facilities. Some stay locked up there for 6-8 weeks, others for months. After their initial hearing, the women and children are released and driven to the San Antonio Greyhound station. This is their first stop for another long journey to be reunited with family members who live throughout the United States (and who have paid for their bus ticket).

This particular night began with Katy, Mary Claire Munroe and me. Seven volunteers from other churches and a high school joined us, and there was some concern that our large group might overwhelm any refugee we happened to meet. Within a short amount of time, we saw our first Central American traveler, a young Guatemalan mother named Glenda and her four-year-old son named Lukas. Glenda and Lukas had been locked up in Karnes City for six weeks, and they were

trying to get to Los Angeles on a night that buses were unable to drive north and west due to icy roads. The pair was sitting at a corner table in the bus station café, away from the burgeoning crowds in the waiting room. Picking them out as refugees was not difficult; they were traveling on a cold night with light jackets and all their possessions in small plastic bags.

At first, Glenda was very reluctant to talk to the Spanish-speaking member of our group. "Somos de una iglesia" ("we are from a church") is usually our opening line. After some conversation, and our offer of a backpack stuffed with snacks and travel necessities, she began to open up and smile and relax.

Within roughly 30 minutes of meeting Glenda, we noticed another mother with a 16-year-old son. Again, one or two members of our host group approached them, hoping to build some trust. As those conversations were under way, another group of three families, all the children were boys, appeared at the ticket counter, intently studying their tickets. One very young mother with a kind face had a coughing 3-year old strapped to her back. It was very apparent that the instructions the women had just been given about their multi-segment bus journeys were confusing them. (The tickets are confusing enough in English; the women speak Spanish or a Mayan dialect).

Our group had now swelled to eleven. Slowly, we moved all the Central Americans to the café, and between the refugees and the hosts, there was quite a crowd. As the night wore on, it was clear there were still no buses going to points north or west, and so we faced a challenge of housing this group somewhere for the night and getting them back to the bus station very early the next morning. Thankfully, a local house operated by the Mennonite Church has arrangements with the coalition for refugee housing. The bus station hosts divided the group, piled into cars, and took them to the Mennonite house.

The volunteers at the house were surprised to see such a large group, it was the largest they had ever served, but they set about cooking some food for the refugees—who had not eaten all day. After confirming the logistics for the next morning and pulling some extra coats and sweaters from the cache of donated clothes, we said goodnight.

Throughout the next day, after several weather delays, all the Central American families boarded their buses for long journeys to meet family members in Louisville, Los Angeles and other cities. As these families departed, Katy and Mary Claire encountered three new families (seven new travelers) going to St. Paul, Indianapolis and Grand Rapids.

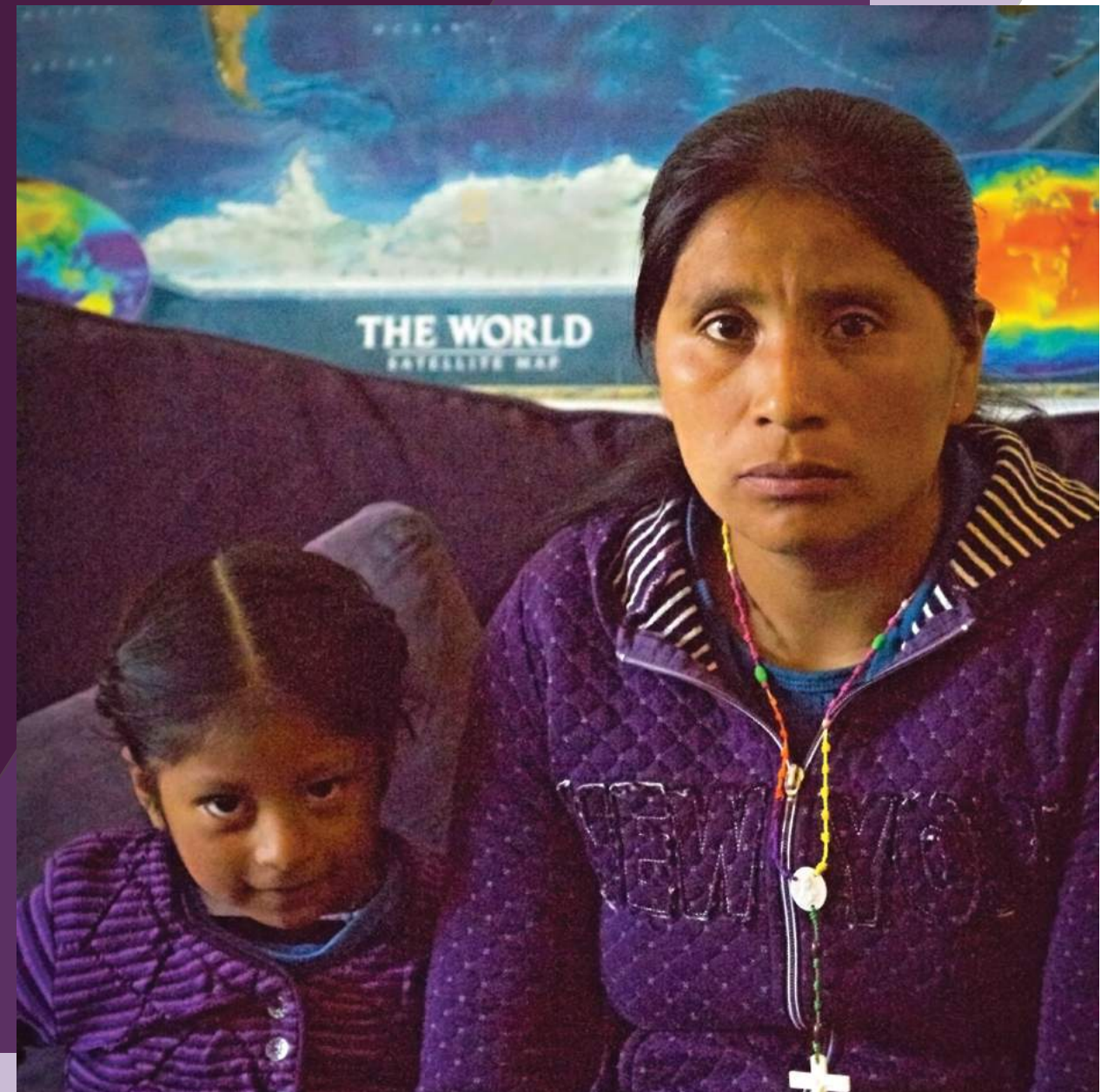
One of the mothers Mary Claire and I helped had lost both her parents and her husband. She was going to see her brother in Michigan for the first time in over a decade. As Mary Claire and I put her on the bus, she had tears in her eyes, and her son shook our hand like a little man.

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some have entertained angels unawares," is the instruction given in Hebrews. That passage echoes God's commandments in the Old Testament to treat kindly aliens in the land (because the Hebrews themselves had been aliens).

If you would like to participate in this ministry to help these Central American women and children, here are some ways to help:

- Participate in Interfaith Welcome Coalition meetings, which are held every other Thursday from 10-11:30 AM in Westminster Hall at the church. Meeting dates are posted on the church calendar.
- Volunteer at the bus station – Some fluency in Spanish is necessary. A typical shift runs from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM on weeknights. Contact Katy Bedunnah (KatyBedunnah53@gmail.com) or Mike Munroe (mcmunroe@gmail.com) to get an orientation about how to serve at the bus station.
- Purchase items for travel backpacks or assemble packs – No Spanish proficiency required here! This process has become well organized, and the Interfaith Welcome Coalition has a mini-warehouse of items and assembled backpacks that are carried to the bus station. Again, contact Katy or Mike for more information.

- Volunteer to visit detainees in Karnes City or Dilley. Background checks and government permission is required. Contact Katy.
- Include these families in your prayers – Pray for smooth bus connections and kindness from other travelers, and for their successful homecoming with their families. Pray also for significant changes in their home countries that would alleviate the need to migrate in the first place.





# MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

Imagine not having the ability to access health-care when you really need it? Picture having tapeworms engulfing your intestines, being pregnant and not having access to prenatal vitamins, or having a big, gashing wound on your arm struck by infection and you don't have any extra money to see a doctor. Picture being a 55 year-old, never having been able to see further than an arms length away your entire life, because you never had money to see an optometrist. Imagine experiencing excruciating pain from a toothache and not having access to a dentist.

These conditions and symptoms are easily treated in the United States, but in the small village of Leona Vicario these might as well be untreatable conditions. It is definitely easier said than done to get even minimal healthcare in the village.

The scenarios depicted above are just a few of the cases that First Pres has treated annually, through its 25-year relationship with the Yucatan Peninsula Medical mission trip.

I have dreamt of going on this medical mission trip since I was a sophomore in high school- I can't believe it's been 8 years! Every year, I prayed that God would send me where I could be of some help to others. Selfishly I was wishing that I could get my hands wet in the medical field, and was hoping to go on this trip. I always felt a slight sense of disappointment when the trip dates never worked with my school schedule.

This year, God answered my prayers and literally put this trip on my plate three weeks before departure. I was in awe and thrilled by the opportunity to serve.

Between seeing about 500 patients, providing dental care to roughly 40 patients, passing out 200+ eye glasses, and filling over 900 prescriptions, our team provided outstanding care and had an immense impact on the community over a short 3 day period. Further than the impact our team had on the community was the impact the community had on me. To see the way that Jesus was being made visible through this community was exceptional. Seeing loving friends help bring the sick kids of their neighbors to wait in line and get care (while the kids' parents were at work) was heartwarming. To see how our team, working with a team from Michigan, could work so well together, as one unit, in constant communication was miraculous.

As you can tell, our annual First Pres Medical Mission trip was, again, a tremendous success, and I can't wait to go back. It was life changing for the community, as well as those serving.

Special thanks to those who donated eyeglasses, vitamins, antifungal creams, antibiotics, bandages, toothbrushes, bibles, etc. Whether it is through supplying donations, coming on the trip, or praying for those attending, I would like to encourage you to participate next year.

-Courtney Biggs



# FAMILY MISSION TRIP

"Welcome from Harlingen Texas! The family ministry team has been here since Sunday and it has been an incredible time so far. God is working in so many amazing ways and we have been blessed to serve here. We are so excited at the

"We finished an amazing breakfast early this morning, then split into three groups for a service project. The projects included painting a home, handing out flyers for a block party and settling the stakes for concrete. While handing out flyers for the party, I discovered the diverse community in Harlingen. It was tons of fun and so far this trip has been amazing!"  
- Sara Beth Beasley

"The Family Mission trip to Harlingen, TX has been an amazing new opportunity to serve a community with the heart of Jesus. Never before have I been able to see FPC's passion for intergenerational activity enacted so fully. I was able to serve alongside a toddler, a first grader, a third grader, a few middle schoolers, some high school teens, parents and grandparents. It has been one of the most unique and powerful experiences to see diverse families coming together as one family under Christ. We were able to serve strangers humbly and we were able to serve each other consistently. I cannot wait until next year and hope you can join us!"  
- Matt Curcio

"What a blessing it has been to be a part of the family mission trip. Being part of an intergenerational team has made our time together extra special. Serving together has strengthened our ties as a church family and bound us together through our shared experiences. From worshipping en espanol and witnessing some of our youth sharing their faith stories to painting Sunday school rooms for a small needy iglesia, we sang, laughed and served with joy. The bonus was fantastic accommodations and delicious meals! We head home more aware of both the great needs in this community and just how very blessed each of us is. To God be the glory!"  
- Ellen Meadows

possibilities for the coming years and we hope that you will join us! Below are some stories and pictures from the team about the trip, thank you for all your support!"  
- Matthew Fricker

"Take a different kind of vacation trip next Spring Break and enjoy a great opportunity to get to know church members from all age groups while serving God in various communities in and around Harlingen. On this year's trip as we connected with individuals in small colonias, worshiped with a small iglesia, heard faith stories of their members and ours, and brightened the classrooms of a small iglesia with fresh paint, we became a family—brothers and sisters...serving together—God's family. Inspired by the witness of the youth of our church and by the work and witness of the individuals who we served, we were encouraged for our church and our future together. Be a part of this renewing and recharging mission trip. Plans are already in the works for 2016. Sign up—and be prepared to be blessed!"  
- Jacque Patton

"These past few days of service have been very amazing because of the ability to see God's love being shown to people in need of a savior, and another try in life with Jesus. We have been able to have parties with the kids, learn about missions created for them, and spread the word around their neighborhoods about an upcoming bible school, which they're very excited about. We also got to visit a small Baptist church, and I was able to share my testimony, and talk about my walk with God along with some others that also shared. Finally, I got to work with some other men and build a frame to pour concrete for trailer platforms. I believe we all enjoyed our time here worshipping God through acts of service, and worship. This trip has brought me much closer to God and he has really worked in me through this trip. I can't wait for next year, and I hope we are able to come back to the Valley Baptist Mission Education Center again."  
- Benson Meadows





# KEYS APRIL 2015 | BY PAT MCCLEARY DIRECTOR KEYS OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

March DID blow in like a lion... and it was a busy month for KEYS members. We began with our new Interim Senior Pastor, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates delivering the annual State of the Church Address and answering our questions. Then Susan Kerr, FPC member and author spoke about

her book, "Intersections of Grace," which was published in 2014. We celebrated March birthdays at Scuzzi's Italian Grill and a good time was had by all! In addition, we kept in shape with our fitness classes, kept our minds active with bridge and Mah Jongg and enjoyed won-

derful fellowship. KEYS were also involved in three service projects—we donated money for the 240 build, partnered with Children's Ministry filling approximately 2,000 Easter Eggs, and filled Mom's backpacks for the Interfaith Welcome Coalition Ecumenical Group. If all that wasn't

enough, we ended the month with an interactive walking tour of King William, led by Bill Perryman!! A big thank you to everyone who donated candy, money, and filled the Easter Eggs and backpacks. It's time to slow the pace down for April!!

## FRIDAY, APRIL 3

9:45 AM FITNESS CLASS | 11:00 AM KEYS LEADERSHIP MEETING, ROOM 226

## FRIDAY, APRIL 10

11:00 AM FIESTA @ FIRST WITH KING ANTONIO XCIII | BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

The annual celebration of Fiesta San Antonio at First Presbyterian Church this year will take on a royal flair. The Texas Cavaliers' King Antonio XCIII (that's the 93rd for all you non-Romans), a member of our church, will make a visit and make short presentation on the history of Fiesta and the Cavaliers' contribution to it. He will be accompanied by his aides and the commander of the Cavaliers, who is also a member of our church.

Festivities for the KEYS-sponsored event will begin with refreshments, including margaritas (non-alcoholic, of course) in the second floor courtyard, followed by the royal presentation and a celebration of April birthdays in the McCullough Room. A delicious lunch will follow.

So don your Fiesta finest—we'll pick a few examples of sartorial splendor and reward those winners with special Fiesta medals. Come give an ole for San Antonio's greatest yearly civic-social celebration!

Birthday guests are complimentary, others are \$12 per person. Reservations requested no later than noon, Tuesday, April 7.

Bridge and Mah Jongg will be played after lunch Please contact Katy Be-dunnah (210-945-9789) for bridge and Nancy Black (210-493-1609) if you are interested in Mah Jongg.

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17

11:30 AM HAMBURGER LUNCH | 1:00 PM MOVIE

Come and enjoy Maurillo's hamburgers (\$8) and relax while we watch the movie "Heaven is for Real," a true story of a four-year son of a small town Nebraska pastor who experienced heaven during emergency surgery. When four-year-old Colton Burpo made it through an emergency appendectomy his family was overjoyed at his miraculous survival. What they weren't expecting, though, was the story that emerged in the following months—a story as beautiful as it was extraordinary, detailing their little boy's trip to heaven and back. Thanks to Liz & Jack Wright for being our movie experts!

## FRIDAY, APRIL 24

NO KEYS | CHURCH CLOSED FOR BATTLE OF FLOWERS PARADE

## REMEMBER RESERVATIONS

Please make reservations by the Tuesday before each Friday program by calling the church office at 226-0215. If you are on the permanent list for lunch, you need to call if you cannot attend. Regular programs begin at 11:00 a.m. (unless otherwise specified). However, we encourage you to arrive by 10:45 a.m. in order to have time to park, pay and find your seat.

## MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2015

8:00 AM DEPART | 3:00 PM RETURN

FPC ADULTS SPRING TRIP

BULLOCK MUSEUM IN AUSTIN MOUNTS MAJOR LA BELLE EXHIBIT

Plagued by piracy, murder and miscalculation, La Salle's North American colonization expedition seemed destined for failure. Setting sail from France in 1684, La Salle intended to land at the mouth of the Mississippi River. He instead sailed into Matagorda Bay, 400 miles to the west. Having started with three ships, he was left with one remaining ship, La Belle, listing and abandoned in the bay's shallow waters where it sank and was lost until 1995. The ship's unprecedented conservation and preservation pushed science and technology to new frontiers.

Now we can witness the rebirth of La Belle at the Bullock Museum in Austin. Three hundred years after sinking, the ship has been raised from its watery grave and brought back to life. Extraordinary artifacts and the even more extraordinary story of the ship's discovery, excavation and conservation is a compelling story. More than 115 artifacts are on display at the Museum including a bronze cannon, a swivel gun, navigational tools and trade goods. An added attraction is the film Shipwrecked, an original 4D film that follows Pierre Talon, 14, who accompanied the expedition. The film, told from his point of view and shown in 4D will take you aboard the ship and give you an intimate view of the trip and its aftermath.

After sufficient time to view the exhibit and the film we'll have lunch at Green Pastures before returning to San Antonio.

Cost \$80.00 Includes charter Regent Coach, Exhibit, Film, Lunch, driver tip and escorts Susan & Henry Holloway. Payment is due no later than Monday, April 20, and there will be no refunds after that date.

For reservation please call Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726

## MAY CHRIST'S PROMISE BE WITH YOU

...as we celebrate Holy Week and Easter with renewed energy and awareness of God's love for us. May each of you find love as you celebrate with your families and friends or wherever you may be.







# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN | ANN BUNN

Spring is here! Easter morning is almost here as we celebrate the Risen Christ! He is Risen Indeed!!

The PW Women continue to work hard helping in our Church and the community. Thank you to the PW House of Neighborly Service Program Chairman, Mary Bell and Pat O'Neill, and to Rosemary Engstrom for all of their hard work to make the House Of Neighborly Service Masquerade Ball such a success.

Additionally, thank you to Judy Kruger for assembling the beautiful PW HNS Gala Basket that was donated to the Masquerade Ball's Silent Auction.

As I write this article, I am anticipating with excitement the PW Spring Luncheon, "Fiesta of Faith!" We will be voting on the slate of PW Officers for 2015-2016 and listening to the words and music of Kelly Minter. I would like to thank the wonderful PW Luncheon Committee for all they have done to make this possible: Holly Youngquist, Judy Kruger, and Chaney Stuart. Additionally, I would like to thank the PW Luncheon Decorations Committee: Robin Hudnall, Blair Perry, and Cheri Stith. These women have worked tirelessly throughout this year to make the lun-

cheons such successes. It is our hope that Jesus has been made visible to all that attended.

May is just around the corner and we will celebrate the end of the PW Calendar Year with the annual Presbyterian Women's Birthday Coffee. This year's coffee will be held on Wednesday, May 6th, from 10:30-12:30, at the beautiful home of Susan and John Kerr, 401 Terrell Road, in Terrell Hills. All women of First Presbyterian Church are invited to attend. You won't want to miss the opportunity to enjoy fellowship and celebrate with each other before summer begins. Childcare will be provided at the church with advance reservation (contact Sonya Wright: Sonyaw@fpcsat.org or 271-2720).

The "Birthday Coffee" is so named because it is an event where PW Women have the opportunity to participate with PW Women throughout our country by contributing to the PW Birthday Offering. In 1922, in celebration of their tenth anniversary, the Women's Auxiliary (PCUS) decided that an offering should be made to a definite cause. That year, the members of the Women's Auxiliary were challenged to give one penny for each year of their life as a "birthday gift" to their chosen cause. Over the years,

through this tradition known as the "Birthday Offering", Presbyterian Women have given more than \$29 million in support of mission projects throughout the world.

This year, the 2015 PW Birthday Offering will benefit the Bethesda Christian Community Center and the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux.

The Bethesda Christian Community Center is located in the impoverished neighborhood of El Por Fin in Barranquilla, Columbia. Your gift to the 2015 Birthday Offering will help to build a new community center to replace the inadequate structure that is now used for its programs. The mission of the Bethesda Christian Community Center is to promote social change in the lives of the women and children fleeing brutality related to the drug trade. Many take up residence in this area where they live in abject poverty. Your gift will also support expanded programs in tutoring, sports, culture, and Bible study, and help build a kitchen and storeroom so that the community center can provide meals to more women and children.

The Community of St. Therese of Lisieux; Breaking Free: Empowering Victims of Sexual Human Trafficking, Pros-

titution, and Addiction is located in Memphis, Tennessee. CSTL is a two-year residential community specifically created to address the needs of women seeking to learn a new way of life after surviving prostitution, human trafficking and addiction. Its ecumenical community-based project, Breaking Free, provides support and education for these women. CSTL provides food, clothing and shelter to the women it serves, coordinates various types of medical care for them and works with them to transition to independence. Your gift to the Birthday Offering will allow CSTL to purchase and renovate the property it is currently leasing and also to buy equipment for training and vocational skills development.

If you are unable to attend the coffee, but would like to contribute to the offering, PW Birthday Offering yellow envelopes can be found in the pews during late April and early May.

I am so thankful for all of the women of First Presbyterian Church and their support of the many Presbyterian Women Projects.

HAPPY EASTER!

<b>APRIL CIRCLE INFO</b>	<b>CIRCLE 112</b> MONDAY, APRIL 20 • 10:30 AM • THE GENEVA ROOM	<b>CIRCLE 7</b> TUESDAY APRIL 21 • 11:30 AM • CHAIR: MEREDITH PARK • HOSTESS AND MODERATOR: JUDY SPENCER • BRING A SACK LUNCH	<b>CIRCLE 11</b> MONDAY APRIL 27 • 6:30 PM • HOSTESS: KARIN GABRIELSON • CHAIR: SUZANNE NORTON	<b>CIRCLE 16</b> WEDNESDAY APRIL 15 • 9:30 AM • ROOM 228 • CO-CHAIRS: LEE PRESSLY AND CORIE BARLOW
	<b>CIRCLE 2/4</b> MONDAY, APRIL 20 • 1:30 PM • ROOM 226 • CHAIR: CHAR-AN WHITTEN	<b>CIRCLE 8</b> APRIL 8 • APRIL 22 • 9:30 AM • ROOM 108 • CHAIR: SARA PARISH	<b>CIRCLE 13</b> TUESDAY APRIL 14 • 1:30 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM • CHAIR: JEANNE BROWNING	<b>CIRCLE 17</b> WEDNESDAY APRIL 8 • 9:30 AM • ROOM 309 • CHAIR: JEANNE BAKER
	<b>CIRCLE 5</b> FRIDAY, APRIL 17 • 12-1:00 PM • ROOM 228 • CO CHAIRS: CARYL GAUBATZ AND JANE ANN TEMPLE	<b>CIRCLE 9</b> TUESDAY APRIL 21 • 10:00 AM • THE HOME OF ANGIE RICHMOND • CHAIR: LUCILLE LAMMERT AND B.J. NEAL	<b>CIRCLE 14</b> MONDAY APRIL 20 • 12-1:00 PM • ST. ANDREWS ROOM • CHAIR: LADY ROMANO	<b>CIRCLE 19</b> WEDNESDAY APRIL 1 • 9:30 AM • ROOM 309 • CHAIR: JANET BEAUCH
	<b>CIRCLE 6</b> TUESDAY APRIL 21 • 1:30 PM • GENEVA ROOM • CO-CHAIRS: MIMI HART, ALICE NICHOLS, LINDA RITTENHOUSE			<b>CIRCLE 21</b> MONDAY APRIL 20 • 6:30 PM • THE HOME OF KAY GERFERS • CHAIR: ANDREA TAYLOR





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN | OFFICERS | CHAIRMEN

2015-16 OFFICERS

<b>President-Elect</b>	Linda Rittenhouse	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Debra Sirakos
<b>VP/Circles</b>	Georgia Heath	<b>Historian</b>	Lilly Gretzinger and Mary Altmeyer
<b>VP/Directory</b>	Linda Wright	<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Susan DeKoch
<b>VP/New Members</b>	Linda Delano	<b>Church Nominating</b>	Judy Kruger
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Suzanne Norton	<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Ann Bunn
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Mary Ellen Mauzé		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Barbara Wood		

2015-16 CHAIRMEN

<b>Moderators</b>	Kay Case and Pat Brodeen	<b>PCHAS</b>	Lellen Lane
<b>HNS</b>	Pat O'Neill and Rosemary Engstrom	<b>Leadership and Resources</b>	Ann Bunn
<b>HNS Gala basket</b>	Loretta Patterson	<b>Gift of Christmas</b>	Maggie Hardwick and Sue Cunningham

2014-15 OFFICERS

<b>President</b>	Ann Bunn	<b>Treasurer</b>	Jeanne Douglas
<b>President Elect</b>	Ann Dennis	<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Barbara Wood
<b>VP/Circles</b>	Julie Walthall	<b>Historians</b>	Amy Foster, Sara Parish
<b>VP/Directories</b>	Georgia Heath	<b>Parliamentarian</b>	Candy Wagner
<b>VP/New Members</b>	Meredith Park	<b>Church Nominating</b>	Manette Owen
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Pat Brodeen	<b>Immediate Past President</b>	Susan DeKoch
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Nancy Puckett		

2014-15 CHAIRMEN PROGRAM

<b>Moderators</b>	Kay Case, Barbara Winship	<b>PCHAS</b>	Barbara Baldrige, Nancy Puckett
<b>HNS</b>	Mary Bell, Pat O'Neill	<b>Nominating</b>	Cynthia Robinson
<b>HNS Gala Basket</b>	Judy Kruger	<b>Gift of Christmas</b>	Darcy Collins, Barbara Dorsey

2014-15 CHAIRMEN COMMITTEE

<b>Evening Events</b>	Michele Barker, Linda Gail Dullnig, Lilly Gretzinger, Elizabeth Kreager	<b>Chandler Home Christmas Party</b>	Janet Wernli
<b>Luncheons</b>	Judy Kruger, Chaney Stuart, Holly Youngquist	<b>Christmas Eve Dinner</b>	Karin Gabrielson
<b>Luncheons Decorations</b>	Robin Hudnall, Blair Perry, Cheri Stith	<b>Christmas Crafts</b>	Sara Parish, Circle 8 Mom's Group
<b>Morningside Manor Christmas Party</b>	Pat Johnson	<b>Birthday Coffee</b>	Linda Rittenhouse, Amanda Williams
		<b>Special Events</b>	Pat Krueger
		<b>Invisible Angels</b>	Pat Krueger, Judy Kruger, Candy Wagner, Holly Youngquist

CIRCLE CHAIRS AND BIBLE MODERATORS

<b>Circle 112</b>	Suzanne Thomas, Grace Labatt	<b>Circle 9</b>	Lucille Lammert, Shirley Kline, B. J. Neal, Angie Richmond, Janice Wilson
<b>Circle 2/4</b>	Char-An Witten, Betty Smith	<b>Circle 11</b>	Suzanne Norton, Members of Circle 11
<b>Circle 5</b>	Caryl Gaubatz, Jane Ann Temple	<b>Circle 13</b>	Jeanne Browning
<b>Circle 6</b>	Mimi Hart, Alice Nichols, Linda Rittenhouse, Jane Bucheck, Kay Case, June Eubank, Barbara Winship	<b>Circle 14</b>	Lady Romano, Amy Robinson
<b>Circle 7</b>	Meredith Park, Members of Circle 7	<b>Circle 16</b>	Lee Pressly, Corie Barlow
<b>Circle 8</b>	Sara Parish, Nellie Thompson	<b>Circle 17</b>	Jeanne Baker, Gigi Duke
		<b>Circle 18</b>	Paula Bondurant, Georgia Heath, Char-An Witten
		<b>Circle 19</b>	Janet Beauch
		<b>Circle 20</b>	Bunkie Shed
		<b>Circle 21</b>	Andrea Taylor, Members of Circle 21



# LISTENING AT THE GATES



**P**roverbs 8:34 says, “Blessed is the person who listens to me, watching daily at My gates, waiting at my doorposts.” Listening is an art in healing prayer, and there is a movement on to improve our skills for greater effectiveness with the “beloveds” we minister to. It shows great sensitivity to actively focus on what they are saying to us. However, I want to focus on the art of listening to the Lord and the many ways God speaks to us. To me, this is the first and most vital step in practicing true sensitivity with hurting people. Ephesians 1:17 has Paul praying for the church to receive the Spirit of Wisdom and of Revelation in the knowledge of Jesus. We are learning how important revelation knowledge is to healing spirit, soul and body. What is revelation knowledge? Revelation knowledge is not natural information. It is supernatural information. The Word of God becomes sharp and active. Revelation knowledge is a now Word, not a historical word. Revelation knowledge is God speaking creatively with authority and power to transform our lives. It is usually very simple to understand and opens doors of resolution quickly.

**H**ere is an example. In a healing line at a healing conference, a woman came up to us with a twisted spine. I “heard” the Lord say, “Ask her when her back started to twist?” She said, “When I was seven. I was attacked under a tree.” I immediately asked Jesus to come to the little seven year-old under the tree. She suddenly smiled and said, “Oh my He is dancing with me all around the tree.” Then amazingly we heard a pop in her back. A nurse praying with us checked her spine, and it was as straight as an ironing board. Wow!

**H**ere is the lesson: We could have tried to heal her for an hour and nothing happen, but with a revelatory direct encounter with the Lord Himself, she was free spiritually, emotionally and physically regarding those issues. It was so easy and fast! She heard from the Lord herself. We did not tell her anything. We did so by listening. The highest form of love is listening, being attentive and waiting on the Lord. Blessings flow. Listening to the Spirit advances a person like nothing else can. It opens gates and doors not only of healing, but of blessing and favor. Listening to Jesus takes you to places with new encounters you have never seen before. We get out of the mode of trying to get God to heal someone, and we get in a revelatory flow of how He is speaking and addressing the real issues of life and godliness.

**D**ear Jesus, speak to us, for, like Samuel, your servants are learning to listen. Open the eyes and ears of our hearts to receive revelation and wisdom from you. We can do nothing without you. Train our spiritual faculties of sight, touch, hearing, tasting and even smelling so we may freely discern what is of YOU and what simply is our own works. Open to us and the people we minister to the gates of favor and blessing! Amen.

- Dr. Jack Sheffield,  
Director of the Christ Healing Center

## 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 10:00 AM. To join or to find out more, please call Rev. Scott Simpson at 226-0215, Ron Baker at 494-0972, or Chuck Beatty at 826-3386.



LETTER OF THANKS | JOHN AND RUTHIE SEIDERS



Dear friends at FPC,

Words can hardly express the emotions that we felt on March 22 when you honored us for the past seven years. We are grateful to God for the opportunity to serve at FPC, to serve with you in ministry, and to see God at work in your lives and in San Antonio.

Thank you for your warm welcome, your words of encouragement, your insights, your friendship, and your desire to follow Jesus Christ. It is our prayer that FPC will continue to make Jesus visible, not only in San Antonio, but in the nation and in the world.

With sincere and heartfelt thanks,  
John and Ruthie Seiders



FINANCIAL SUMMARY   FEBRUARY 2015			
OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	651,706	795,544	(143,838)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	448,840	564,034	(115,193)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	20,259	23,954	(3,695)
FUND TFR FROM			
OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	182,607	207,556	(24,949)

Giving for the month was close to 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.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | HE MISSED THE SIGN | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



America recently celebrated the 35th anniversary of the “Miracle on Ice.” For those too young, this was much more than just a hockey game between two world powers that were competing with each other in the midst of the cold war. It was a modern day version of the story of David and Goliath, played out for the world to see during the 1980 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, New York.

The Russians had a professional team, the best in the world. The United States had a group of 19-year-old amateurs, which had recently been defeated by the Russians in an exhibition match in humiliating fashion. To many, the U.S. didn’t stand a chance.

As I share this story, keep in mind that thirty-five years ago the Internet and cellular telephones were nonexistent. As such, the environment of instant information that we enjoy today was only a dream. In 1980, the game was actually broadcast to U.S. households via tape delay. However, because nobody except those attending the game knew the outcome

in real time, viewing it with a delay was no different than watching it live.

Just prior to the tape-delayed broadcast, a live view from outside the arena was shown. Jubilant fans were screaming, and one individual proudly held a sign, which read, “Go for Gold USA!” As soon as my mom saw this she screamed, “We did it, we beat the Russians!!! Look at his sign!”

My father immediately responded for her not to be so foolish, there was no way we defeated the Russians, and she should not get so excited—she will only be disappointed. Well, we know what happened—the U.S. Hockey Team made history.

The real tragedy in all this is that my dad MISSED THE SIGN. It was right there telling us in advance. The U.S. won!

This makes me wonder: How many signs are we missing in our own lives? God is there, broadcasting to us in real time, letting us know what is happening, but too often we refuse to believe. We won’t allow ourselves to believe in miracles despite the signs. And even more revealing...the game has already been won.

THE GIFT OF THE EASTER LILY | JEANNIE DULLNIG | SEASONAL FLOWER MINISTRY

For many, the Easter lily, with its elegant, white, trumpet-shaped flower, symbolizes purity, innocence, hope and life. Lilies have often been referred to as “white-robed apostles of hope” as they were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ’s death and resurrection. Tradition has it that the beautiful white lilies sprung up where drops of Christ’s tears fell to the ground in His final hours of sorrow and deep distress.

First Presbyterian Church continues a tradition at Easter by lining the sanctuary with masses of Eas-

ter lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The Deacons at First Pres have also continued a tradition of delivering lilies to our members who receive the “at-home” care of a Deacon, our members who are 90+ years young and members who have experienced the death of a loved one in the past year. It is our desire that the recipients of the flowers are reminded of the love and concern of our church family for each other. The lily is also a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing in the hope of life everlasting!









# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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