



First Press

CLEANING UP IN SAN ANTONIO

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

DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

As I write, it is Preakness week in Baltimore. Having lived 11 years in Baltimore, guess how many times I went to The Preakness? Exactly zero! I have absolutely no interest in horse racing.

For the 15 years I lived in Dallas, even being the sports nut that I am, I always skipped over the horse page in the sports section of the Dallas Morning News. But what if, out of the blue, you emailed me and said that you had hacked into my bank account and put all of my life's savings on one particular horse in this weekend's Preakness? Suddenly, I would be

passionately interested in the outcome of that race.

Why? Because now I'm invested...

When people tell me they're bored with church, or their spiritual life is out of gas, I always ask, "Do you tithe? Are you investing 10% of your gross income in God's worldwide Kingdom enterprise?"

They never say, "Yes." They usually tell me they can't afford to.

I always respond, "You can't afford not to. Do it anyway, and then hold on and watch what happens!"

That challenge was put before a Bible study I was connected with. It was made up of about eight guys fresh out of college, some had first jobs, some were married and some were buying first houses.

They all said, "Impossible!"

They were told, "Try it for six months, and if you get in trouble, the Session will bail you out." Of course, we hadn't told the Session about this...

In six months, we had eight fervent evangelists for tithing running around saying, "I don't know what's going on, but a lot of strange and wonderful things are happening in my life!"

That's because God's economy doesn't follow Harvard Business School paradigms. Reality is, tithing is a part of what makes up God's best for our lives. The Lord has actually designed you and me to live better on 90%, rather than 100%, of our income. Jesus says, "For where your treasure is, there your heart [passion] will be also." (Matthew 6:21 ESV).

Imagine if everyone at FPC took this challenge and were faithfully, healthily and joyously invested in God's worldwide Kingdom enterprise. My oh my... how the Lord would impact San Antonio, and the entire globe, through this congregation. It would be mind-boggling, and fun!

Do you believe in miracles? Take my challenge, and watch them unfold in and around you. I dare you!

Ron

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CONSTRUCTION MISSION TRIP TO MEXICO

First Presbyterian Construction Mission Trip to Mexico this October! Later this Fall, we will be joining with Grace Presbyterian Church Houston to take a trip to the Yucatan to work with our partners there, Yucatan Peninsula Missions. This trip will be led by Leslie Little and is open to anyone that is willing to do a little hard work! The trip will be October 28-November 2, 2015. FPC has about 6 spots, so sign up soon! The cost is \$500, but scholarships are available if needed. If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact alyssap@fpcsat.org or call 210-226-0215.

OCTOBER 28-NOVEMBER 2

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 or contact Lindsay Blackmon at lindsayb@fpcsat.org.

AUGUST 7-9 • MO-RANCH CONFERENCE CENTER

PATRIOTIC DAY PICNIC

Bring a dish and join us on July 5 after the 11:00 AM worship services for a patriotic celebration. Watch for more information in the bulletin announcements

JULY 5

HOW YOU CAN HELP NEPAL

A magnitude 7.8 earthquake struck the nation of Nepal on April 25, the biggest earthquake in over 80 years. It is estimated that more than 4,600 people have died, and thousands are in critical need of emergency supplies and shelter. FPC will be partnering with Food for the Hungry to collect and send money to help the people of Nepal get food, fresh water and other supplies that they need. If you would like to donate to this effort, please make checks payable to FPC, and on the memo line write "Nepal Relief."

VBS 2015 IS COMING!

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.

Contact Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org.

THIS YEAR WE WILL BE OFFERING VBS AFTER CARE!

WHEN: Monday, June 22-Friday, June 26 (After VBS!)

TIME: 12:00PM-5:30PM

WHO: Anyone participating in VBS from ages 2 years old-5th grade.

COST: \$25/day or \$100 for the entire week.

VISIT: The website to register your children!

JUNE 22-26

BLOOD DRIVE

The South Texas Blood & Tissue center would like to thank FPC for another great blood drive on April 27th! Because of your sacrifice and donations they were able to collect 8 units of blood which is a huge blessing to those in need. Our next blood drive is scheduled on July 26th from 9:30am-12:30pm, in the Geneva room. We encourage anyone and everyone to take a few minutes out of your day to give to such a worthy cause. Please contact Alyssa Payne at alyssp@fpcsat.org if you have any questions or would like to donate.

JULY 26 • 9:30-12:30 PM • GENEVA ROOM

PRAYER MINISTRY ROOM CHANGE

Prayer Ministry convenes a half-hour prayer service each Sunday from 8:30 to 9:00 AM in Room 228 (the Bride's Room), across from the pastors' access to the sanctuary. This informal service provides a time for shared prayers with Rev. Ron Scates, our Interim Senior Pastor. All are welcome to come and pray with and for our pastors, the congregation, the church universal and more. Invite others to join you!

SAN ANTONIO GRAFFITI CLEAN UP DAY



FPC teamed up with Childress Memorial Church on Saturday, May 2, to help clean up our city! We gathered north of town under Old Babcock road to clean up and paint over graffiti that covered the concrete culverts under the road. From four year olds, to high school students, to adults, we had people of all ages come together to fellowship and serve our city.

When we arrived at the site, we were unsure we would be able to complete the project as each section of the concrete culverts was covered in graffiti. But as we grabbed our supplies and started painting, the time flew by and before we knew it, every portion of graffiti was covered and the area looked as good as new! Some of us ended up with a little more paint on us than on the concrete walls themselves, but we had a great time getting to know our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ right from our own city. It was such a joy to watch our churches work together as we continue to build a partnership with Childress Memorial Church (now called Praise Cathedral).

Childress Memorial is the eastside church whose building was destroyed by fire a few years ago. Their new church is under construction and is projected to be completed in July! We are looking forward to continuing this partnership with Childress Memorial Church and Making Jesus Visible across our city.

— Becky Prichard, Director of Children's Ministry

Who says that graffiti and fellowship can't go together! On May 2nd, children, youth and families from FPC and Praise Cathedral Church (formerly Childress Memorial Church) gathered in Northwest San Antonio to clean-up graffiti and make new friends. Jake Carter, 13 year old member of FPC, wrapped it up when he said, "It's a fun day when you get to spend time with other Christians, help the city and eat breakfast tacos!"

Praise Cathedral is the east side church whose building was destroyed by fire a few years ago. A new church building is under construction with completion scheduled for July. More details to come on the church dedication celebration.

— Dana Carter

CONGRATULATIONS HARVEY H. HOWELL



Harvey H. Howell was recently named the 2015 National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) Volunteer of the Year. National VOAD is a nonprofit, non-partisan, membership-based organization that builds resiliency in commu-

nities nationwide. It serves as the forum where organizations share knowledge and resources throughout the disaster cycle

Harvey's contributions to VOAD stem from his membership in the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) organization. With PDA, he has facilitated valuable collaborations with the greater network of VOADs, on both a state level and a national level.

A lifetime resident of San Antonio, Texas, Harvey joined the National Response Team of PDA in 2006, and since then has made over 100 deployments to over 25 states. In these deployments he has provided training in disaster preparation and response, and assisted communities in organizing for long term recovery in the aftermath of major disasters.

In explaining how his faith influences the work he does, (as stated in a September 2014 issue of Community Support Network eNews), Harvey says, "My faith drives everything I do, including the work through PDA. In my Reformed Faith tradition, I affirm the priesthood of believers; and I believe every good thing that comes from 'my' work, I attribute not to my own initiative, but rather from God, in the love of Jesus Christ, through the power of the Holy Spirit."

In the Photo: Harvey H. Howell (center), James R. McGowan, National VOAD Senior Director (left) and Mike Manning, National VOAD Chairman (right)

Photo Credit: Rick Turner

MIRACLE AT MISSION ROAD

For the last year, a miracle has taken place at Mission Road Ministries. It started with one Godly woman, Virginia Munroe, sharing her dream with another Godly woman, Lou Womack; both members of First Presbyterian Church (FPC). Virginia's dream was of olives! Lou saw its promise and joined hands with Virginia as one miracle after another unfolded.

THE INSPIRATION:

Virginia knew of Mission Road Ministries through her membership at FPC, which has played a significant role in the life of Mission Road since 1976. She had a fondness for Mission Road Developmental Center (Mission Road campus) special-needs resident Brandon Smith, who attended worship services at FPC. When Brandon died at age 71, Virginia had a little olive tree planted in front of his home on the Mission Road campus.

Fast-forward 11 years and Virginia was visiting the Mission Road campus and spied the olive tree. It was huge and thriving, producing hundreds of olives. Virginia was inspired to believe that many more olive trees could be planted on the campus, so that the 800 + clients cared for by Mission Road could see the trees grow, help them grow, enjoy their immense beauty, run and play around them, harvest their olives and make them a source of revenue.

Miraculously, on Saturday, May 2, 2015 over 80 volunteers planted 250 olive trees on the campus of Mission Road campus in just 1.5 hours. It was amazing to see so many people from a variety of backgrounds come together with trowels, wagons, buckets, hammers and gloves to plant the Mission Road Olive Orchard.

On the fringes of the orchard will soon be a beautiful meditation garden, with a stunning bronze statue of two special needs children and their beloved dog Oreo. A children's book will be written, telling the story of Oreo and the Olive Orchard, and a documentary about the entire project will be created.

Then, in a few years, the Mission Road clients and staff will harvest thousands of olives to be sold to Sandy Oaks Olive Orchard. Other olive orchard products will be made and packaged by the special clients at Mission Road, creating a new source of revenue.

The Board, Staff and Clients of Mission Road Ministries would like to thank all of the FPC volunteers for coming out to the planting day on May 2nd. They especially

thank Lou Womack and Virginia Munroe, who helped to bring this dream into fruition.

Mission Road would also like to invite FPC to be a part of our upcoming dedication of the orchard and meditation garden in the fall. They look forward to partnering together as FPC continues to make Jesus visible in San Antonio. Details of the dedication will be publicized soon.

Mission Road Ministries (MRM) is a non-profit organization serving more than 825 children & adults with intellectual & other developmental disabilities (IDD) each day with residential, day services & vocational programs in San Antonio, Texas helping clients reach independence, productivity & inclusion in the community.



On Friday May 1, 2015, we held Traffick Light at the Pearl Studio. After coordinating the event for multiple months, it was quite a blast to see it in action. For those of you who are not aware, this was an event to spotlight human trafficking in partnership with the creative arts. There was art sold, musical performers, spoken word artists, interactive experiences and a speaker from International Justice Mission, a relief organization combating human trafficking around the world.

We can proudly say this event was a great success. We saw near 200 unique people who have (as far as we know) never entered the doors of FPC and we raised over 1,500 dollars the night of the event. The money we raised will be going directly to International Justice Mission (IJM) to help search and rescue operations for victims, as well as aid in their recovery. The IJM representative who joined us during the event described Traffick Light as one of, if not, the best independent event she has ever been to in honor of IJM. As she attends fundraising events very often representing IJM, we took that as a great compliment!

From the FPC perspective, we feel that this was most likely our most successful outreach to the Pearl community. We gave them a space to commune with one another, educate themselves about the realities of trafficking and what they can do to help fight it, and time to enjoy God's

gifts of art and creativity amongst various channels. Also, we strengthened our relationship with IJM, which will be very helpful as our church hopes to increase our partnership with them in various ways.

One of my best memories of the night was when a group of college students really became invested in the evening and the interactive art experiences we provided at the event. One of the students was very moved by the opportunity to put yourself in the place of a victim, and even for one brief second, to contemplate how one might feel to be "sold." This student came up to me after he had visited every station and showed me a post he created for Instagram telling the story of his time at Traffick Light. He was clearly impacted by the message we were sharing, and wanted to share that message with all of his friends and contacts. For that reason alone I can call this event a major success. I especially want to thank all of our volunteers, the Local and Global Missions Committee, and the entire congregation for your support and prayers. It is without a doubt that without Jesus working through each of you, this event would have never happened. Thank you for making Jesus visible to the community at The Pearl, as well as for trafficking victims around the globe!

— Matthew Curcio University and Young Adult Ministry Intern

MICHAEL AND JERREN WADSWORTH

FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL ACROSS THE POND

Meet Michael and Jerren Wadsworth, they are the newest addition to the First Presbyterian Missionary team. Jerren first came to FPC three and a half years ago as a youth intern, and was then hired as the Youth Associate. Michael has been attending FPC for the last two years and has been volunteering with the youth as a Sunday school small group leader and a confirmation mentor.

About six months ago they felt God calling them into missions. Pursuing that call, they were accepted to be missionaries with Operation Mobilization (OM). OM exists to mobilize people to share the knowledge of Jesus and His love with every generation in every nation. They have been doing ministry for over 50 years and are in 110 different countries with 6,100 workers. Michael and Jerren will be serving with OM in Birmingham, England.

England isn't a country you would normally associate with mission work, as Europe was once a largely Christian continent - a place where apostles preached and countless Christian leaders hailed from. However, today, only a small percentage of Europe is saved. Christianity has been described as a closing door in much of Europe, nearly defeated. OM has a heart for Europe and a longing to see the gospel reach the unsaved across the continent, and Michael and Jerren are excited to partner with OM in that goal.

During their time on the mission field, Michael will lead a weekly sports ministry, as an outreach to at risk youth, and build relationships with adults using sports as a platform to share the Gospel. Jerren will be a Global Action team mentor, which will place her in charge of a team of young, international missionaries (18-25) who are joining the community impact ministry. She will be teaching Bible and apologetic classes, as well as mentoring students in evangelism. With her strong youth ministry background, she will be able to mentor those interested in pursuing this type of calling. Both Michael and Jerren will partner with the local church and continue to build relationships with the community. They are excited to use their gifts and talents to make Jesus visible in England.

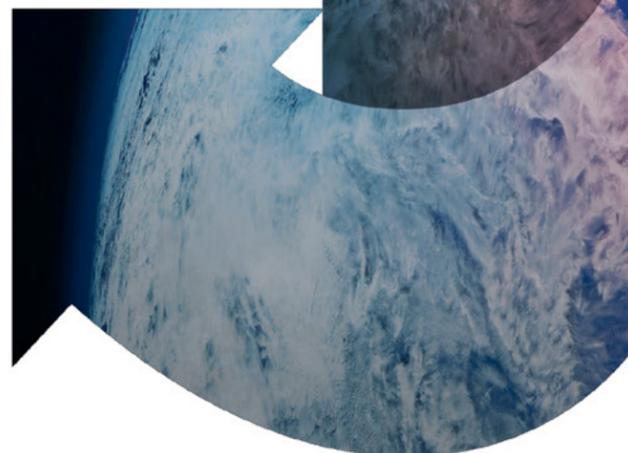
Michael and Jerren would be honored to have you partner with them through prayer, encouragement and/or financial support. Each member of their team is required to raise 100% of support for their ministry. They are looking for a dedicated team, committed to reaching the people of Europe with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider coming alongside Jerren and Michael during this next journey of their calling, and please pray that God will be honored and glorified through their ministry serving in England with Operation Mobilization.

TO FIND OUT MORE INFORMATION:

To find out more about the ministry of Jerren and Michael Wadsworth you can read their blog and prayer requests at: www.jerrenandmichael.wordpress.com.

TO SUPPORT THEM FINANCIALLY

To support them financially with a special offering, please write a check to First Presbyterian Church (Memo: Jerren & Michael Wadsworth). To become regular financial supporters, please visit www.omusa.org/give or write a check to Operation Mobilization (Memo: Jerren & Michael Wadsworth) PO Box 444 Tyrone, GA 30290.



LAURA ABRAMS

Thank you FPC for being my family, and for supporting the Lord's work in the Dominican Republic with InterVarsity Link and la Asociación Dominicana de Estudiantes Evangélicos (ADEE) for the past three years. As I've transitioned back to the States, I wanted to say "MUCHISIMAS GRACIAS," and share some of the fruit that you helped develop among university students through your prayers, encouragement and financial support.

As I felt called to work with students in the Dominican Republic, I sensed God highlight part of Isaiah 62 - "remove the stones...raise a banner for the nations." In several areas I witnessed the Lord accom-

plish that work. A few examples of that are the following:

- Several evangelism tools that I learned in InterVarsity fit the Dominican context perfectly, and now ADEE students have more capacity to be faithful, flexible, intentional and creative to move with the Spirit and proclaim the Gospel. We translated and developed evangelistic bible studies and a leader's training guide, along with teaching students how to raise current issues on campus in a way that evokes deeper spiritual questions, and opens the door to talk about Jesus.
- Inductive bible study is a core value of all InterVarsity's sister movements in 150+ countries, and 75+ students have been discipled and trained to lead that kind of bible study. Collaborating with the local director, I was able to develop a solid inductive bible study training that is easily replicable and very practical. This is part of a 350 page Spanish resource guide that I was able to compile and leave for ADEE as my parting gift.
- Right before I arrived to Santo Domingo in January 2012, ADEE and InterVarsity New England made an agreement to do a month-long joint mission trip for three summers. This was a service-learning evangelistic project centered on God's reconciling work among people groups. The fact that Jesus' sacrifice enables restoration with God, also means that the brokenness among people can be healed. We worked with former child slaves in Haiti and Food for the Hungry in Elias Pina (that's because of my experience on the FPC mission trip to La Meseta! That's a jewel in your crown, FPC!), and hosted specific outreach opportunities to Haitian students on campus. These were incredibly formative experiences that have led to more Haitian leaders within ADEE and renewed local connections between Food for the Hungry and ADEE. It is exciting to think about the future between these and other partnerships.

There are countless things I could report - how Dominican and Haitian students admitted sins of racism to one another and now count one another as family, how they've encouraged other students to see their campus as a mission field or how they battled discouraging situations with deep faith. I hope that God will open the doors for me to share these and many more stories with you on a personal level. Thank you for enabling me to witness, and fan into flame part of God's work in the Dominican Republic.

I wish I could be in two places at once, so that I could see you more often. However, after nearly 9 years working for InterVarsity, I felt called to move in a new direction, which led me to Houston. I am currently living in Houston, and negotiating a job position with a non-profit that provides services to a predominately Hispanic, immigrant community. I am grateful for my experience abroad, which helps me to love people more like Jesus here - in their mother language.

And it gets better...I am recently engaged! My fiancé, Nathanael, is from the Dominican Republic, and after we receive a visa and get married, we plan to start our marriage in the States, and then we'll see where God leads us.

I do not plan to be a stranger, so please keep in touch with me, too. Dios les bendiga mucho!



KEYS NEWSLETTER | JUNE 2015
BY PAT MCCLEARY, DIRECTOR | OLDER ADULT MINISTRY



KEYS PROGRAMS TAKE SUMMER BREAK

It's time for our summer vacation! Our regular Friday luncheons and speaker programs ended on May 29, when we celebrated with a patriotic Memorial Day Program. However, don't think that puts an end to KEYS activities. We are continuing our "Keep Moving" fitness class, birthday luncheons, games and movies. Plus, we are planning some special summer events to be announced later.

KEYS GAME DAYS

Come enjoy fun and laughter, and help keep your brain active - don't forget to bring a lunch!

- BRIDGE will be played on Friday, June 12 and June 26 from 11:00 AM - 2:30 PM. Please contact Katy BeDunnah at 210-994-5998.
- MAH JONGG will be played on Friday, June 12 and June 26 from 11:00 AM - 3:00 PM. If interested in learning and playing, please contact Nancy Black at 210-493-1609.

KEEP MOVING FITNESS CLASS

FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 12, & 26 • SECOND FLOOR STUDENT CENTER
Daily exercise is highly recommended! If you can't (or don't) exercise daily, we have a weekly alternative. Join us at "Keep Moving" where you'll enjoy the fellowship of others while also improving your health. Certified Trainer Linda Osborne leads us in improving flexibility, balance, strength and cardiovascular health. There is NO COST and no reservations required—dress comfortably for this program. "We do not stop exercising because we grow old, we grow old because we stop exercising!"

CELEBRATE JUNE BIRTHDAYS

FRIDAY, JUNE 19 • 11:30 AM • MILANO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT
Join us at Milano's Italian Restaurant, located at 11802 Wurzbach Road. You will have a selection of menu items. Virginia Nilsson is serving as chairman. Cost is \$12/person, except for our birthday honorees who receive a complimentary meal. Please make reservations by calling the church office (226-0215) no later than Tuesday, June 16.

SUMMER MOVIE & HAMBURGER LUNCH

FRIDAY, JUNE 26 • 11:30 AM • "HEAVEN IS FOR REAL"
We'll start our summer movie off with "Heaven is for Real," which we postponed in April due to a "rain scare." The movie is about "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 their movie expertise.

COMING JULY 5

PATRIOTIC DAY PICNIC — ALL-CHURCH PICNIC & SOCIAL
KEYS are teaming up with the Sanctuary Choir to host the All-Church Picnic that will follow worship services. KEYS volunteers are needed to help receive food brought in for the event, help host, and for the Ice Cream Social to celebrate the Fourth of July. Sign-up sheets available at the June luncheon. This is a great celebration you won't want to miss!





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



CELEBRATING PAST PRESIDENTS AT BIRTHDAY COFFEE



The Presbyterian Women of the First Presbyterian Church held their annual Birthday Coffee honoring past presidents on Wednesday, May 6, 2015 at the home of Susan Kerr.

The coffee was held in conjunction with the annual spring Birthday Offering collected by Presbyterian Women organizations across the country. This year's recipients of the Birthday Offering were the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux in Memphis, Tennessee and the Bethesda Christian Community Center of the Seventh Presbyterian Church in Barranquilla, Columbia.

The first beneficiary, the Community of St. Therese of Lisieux, is a non-profit two-year residential community created to address the needs of women seeking new ways of life after experiencing human trafficking and addiction. The center provides education, food, clothing and shelter. It coordinates medical care for the women and works with them to transition to independ-

dence. The PW gift will allow the center to purchase the property it is currently leasing, and buy equipment for training and vocational skills development.

The second beneficiary, Bethesda Christian Community Center of the Seventh Presbyterian Church, promotes social change in the lives of women and children fleeing brutality related to the drug trade. The PW gift will help build a new community center and a kitchen, so that the center can provide meals to the expanding number of women and children. In addition, the funds will support programs in tutoring, sports, culture and Bible study.

PW extends a heart-felt thank you to the Birthday Coffee Chairmen Linda Rittenhouse and Amanda Williams, as well as to their committee for a lovely event. We thank Susan Kerr for her hospitality and our four valet parkers, Mike Heath, Bill Dennis, Bill Chandler and Jean Mauze.



CONFIRMATION

2014 - 2015



KATIE BULEN
MENTOR: LINDSAY BLACKMON

Katie, daughter of Stacy and Rebekah Bulen, attends Briscoe Middle School. She enjoys singing, playing her guitar, and writing stories. She enjoyed confirmation because she was able to build relationships with people from the church while growing in her own faith walk.



HUNTER CAMPBELL
MENTOR: MARK BUTLER

Hunter is the son of Shane and Anne Campbell. He attends Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys hunting, fishing, and sports. Hunter was excited for confirmation so that he could make his faith stronger and become a member of First Presbyterian Church.



MAKI CARABIN
MENTOR: TRIPLE FUHRMANN

Maki is the son of Chris and Melissa Carabin and attends Alamo Heights Junior School. His hobbies include sports, hunting, and fishing. He enjoyed confirmation because he was able to strengthen his relationship with God and become a member of First Presbyterian Church.



MADLINE CARTER
MENTOR: KENDA CRIDER

Maddie, daughter of Eric and Kathleen Carter, attends Saint Mary's Hall. She enjoys swimming, horse-back riding, reading, and art. Maddie is excited for confirmation because she will be able to be a member of the congregation and wants to be closer to God.



BEN CHAPMAN
MENTOR: TRIPP STUART

Ben is the son of Nick Chapman and attends San Antonio Academy. His hobbies include sports, hunting, and fishing. He was excited to join the confirmation class because faith is an important part of his life.



JACK CHAPMAN
MENTOR: DAVID ROGERS

Jack, son of Nick Chapman is a student at San Antonio Academy. He enjoys golf, basketball, and fishing. Jack was excited to be in the confirmation class because he wanted to learn more about Christianity, and because of the great experience his older brother had when he was confirmed.



REED DEMING
MENTOR: BRANT GILKISON

Reed is the son of Mitch and Jane Deming. He attends TTUUSD. Reed's interests include music, technology, and sports. Reed was excited to join the confirmation class so he could make an educated decision about his faith, learn more about FPC, and potentially influence others to do the same.



CAMILLE DEWEES
MENTOR: JOY FUHRMANN

Camille, daughter of Edward and Robin DeWees attends Alamo Heights Junior School. Camille's hobbies include cheerleading, gymnastics, sports, baking, and movies. She was excited to join the confirmation class so she could learn more about God and better understand FPC.



COLLIN DILLING
MENTOR: REAGAN WILLIAMSON

Collin is the son of David and Tricia Dilling. He attends Alamo Heights Junior School and is interested in sports and video games. He enjoyed confirmation because he was able to learn more about FPC and grow in his faith.



SERENA DOMINGUEZ
MENTOR: JENNY CRIDER

Serena is the daughter of Mark and Jennifer Johnson. She attends St. Luke's and enjoys volleyball, track, and fashion. She was excited to join confirmation in order to strengthen her faith and learn about FPC.



CAMERON DUDLEY
MENTOR: MICHAEL WOOD

Cameron is the son of Patrick and Julie Dudley. He attends San Antonio Academy and enjoys sports, fishing, and hunting. Cameron was excited to join the confirmation class because he wanted to learn more about God and wants to be more involved in the church.



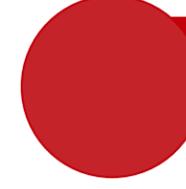
CARLYLE FUHRMANN
MENTOR: ROBIN DEWEES

Carly, daughter of Triple and Joy Fuhrmann is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School. Her hobbies include cheerleading, sports, hanging out with friends, music, movies, and travel. She was excited to be a part of the confirmation class so she could become a member of FPC and learn and grow in her walk with Christ.



NOBLE GILMOUR
MENTOR: MICHAEL WADSWORTH

Noble is the son of Doug and Amy Gilmour, and grandson of Will and Marilyn Etheredge. He attends Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys golf, basketball, and school. Noble looked forward to confirmation because he wanted to grow in his faith and learn more about FPC.



ETHAN HARGROVE
MENTOR: BOB ESQUENAZI

Ethan is the son of Eric and Amanda Hargrove. He is a student at Pleasanton H.S. and enjoys golf, baseball, hunting, and fishing. Ethan was excited to be a part of the confirmation class so he could learn more about Jesus and continue to build his relationship with Jesus Christ.



MICHAELA HARLEY
MENTOR: AMY WHITE

Michaela, daughter of Dewey and Kim McTee, is a student at St. Mary's Hall. Michaela looked forward to confirmation so she could grow in her faith walk.



BRAMLETTE LABATT
MENTOR: GRACE LABATT

Bramlette, daughter of Fred and Raven Labatt, is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School. She enjoys tennis and joined confirmation so she could learn more about God.



PRESTON MILLER
MENTOR: ED MOORE

Preston, son of Gregg and Catherine Miller, is a student at Tejeda Middle School. Preston's hobbies include basketball, football, and other sports. He wanted to join confirmation to make new friends and get closer to God.



SAXTON RIOS
MENTOR: RALEY MAREK

Saxton is the son of Raul and Sabrina Rios. He is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys golf, piano, Frisbee, videogames, movies, and friends. He joined confirmation to grow closer to God and to become a member of FPC.



ALATHEIA HERNANDEZ
MENTOR: LOUISE PETERS

Allie, daughter of Gustavo and Jill Hernandez, is a student at Hobby Middle School. She enjoys playing and watching basketball, writing, and drawing. Allie was looking forward to confirmation so she could fully confirm her faith.



HANNAH MAURER
MENTOR: KATHLEEN CARTER

Hannah is the daughter of David and Rachel Maurer. She is a student at Lopez Middle School and her hobbies include soccer, reading, and tennis. Hannah was excited to join confirmation so she could grow closer to God.



CHRISTOPHER MORSE II
MENTOR: BOBBY BAUGH

Chris is the son of Michael and Stacia Morse. He attends Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys football, tennis, hunting, fishing, and boy scouts. Chris was excited to join the confirmation class to learn more about church and to share his love of Christ in his class.



HARRISON STUART
MENTOR: BARRY KRUGER

Harrison, son of Tripp and Chaney Stuart, is a student at San Antonio Academy. His interests include tennis, music, and singing. Harrison joined the confirmation class to grow in his faith and learn more about FPC.



KINSLIE JOHNSON
MENTOR: ANNE HILLER

Kinslee is the daughter of Mark and Jennifer Johnson and attends Winston. She enjoys softball, golf, deep sea fishing, and hunting. Kinslee enjoyed confirmation because it helped her build her relationship with Christ.



GRACE MCKELVEY
MENTOR: MARY HENDERSON

Grace, daughter of Yogi and Shannon McKelvey, is a student at Hobby Middle School. Some of her interests include Jesus, tennis, Nutella, Netflix, and sleeping. Grace was excited to join confirmation so she could learn more about Jesus.



KATE MORSE
MENTOR: NANCY SCHEIFELE

Kate is the daughter of Michael and Stacia Morse. She is a student at Alamo Heights High School. Kate was excited to join confirmation so she could learn more about God and become a member of FPC.



JOHN HANSFORD WHITE IV
MENTOR: SCOTT CAMPBELL

John IV is the son of John and Amy White. He is a student at San Antonio Academy and enjoys sports statistics and playing golf. John IV joined confirmation to become a member of the church and affirm his Christian beliefs.



MYLES JONAS
MENTOR: BRIAN BIGGS

Myles, son of Charlotte Pawel is a student at San Antonio Academy and enjoys swim team and robotics. He wanted to join confirmation so he could learn more about who he was and where he stood with his faith.



CAITLIN MCKNEELY
MENTOR: DANA CARTER

Caitlin is the daughter of Phillip and Shelly McKneely. She is a student at Bradley Middle School and her hobbies include viola, drawing, painting, running, and biking. Caitlin wanted to join confirmation to strengthen her relationship with God, and to get closer to understanding her role as a follower of Christ.



COKER NOVOSAD-WAGNER
MENTOR: ANDREW BREWER

Coker is the son of Christopher Novosad and Jill Wagner. He is a student at St. Mary's Hall and his interests include playing sports. He was excited to join confirmation so he could strengthen his faith in Christ.



MICHAEL WOOD
MENTOR: JOHN CULP

Michael is the son of Mike and Jodi Wood. He attends San Antonio Academy and his interests include hunting, fishing, sports, and the outdoors. Michael was excited to be in confirmation to learn more about Jesus and grow closer to God.



GRANT KAHL
MENTOR: BOBBY BYRD

Grant is the son of Jeff and Brenda Kahl. He is a student at Lopez M.S. and his interests include robotics, boy scouts, technology, football, lacrosse, reading, and engineering. Grant was looking forward to confirmation so he could learn more about, and deepen his faith.



BENSON MEADOWS
MENTOR: ROGER CRIDER

Ben is the son of Mike and Ellen Meadows. He is a student at Lopez Middle school and enjoys sports, robotics, video games, scouts, hunting, and fishing. Ben wanted to join confirmation to get to strengthen his faith while getting to know the members of his class better.



CHRIS RANEY
MENTOR: CLAY PAGE

Chris, son of Lee and Kelly Raney is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School. He enjoys fishing, hunting, and hanging out with his family. Chris wanted to join confirmation to learn about and grow with God.



WILLIAM ZACHRY
MENTOR: MARTY HEANER

William, son of John and Laura Zachry, is a student at San Antonio Academy. His hobbies include football, basketball, golf, hunting, and fishing. William joined confirmation to strengthen his relationship with God.



May 14, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of FPC:

On Monday, May 11, after many months of deliberation, after careful consideration of your input to the survey conducted last Fall, and following a series of meetings with Mission Presbytery—the CRC (Church Relations Committee) presented the elders of the Session with a report which included alternatives for next steps related to the future of our worshipping community at FPC-San Antonio and our church property.

Following, the Session voted *unanimously* to ask the Trustees of FPC to take decisive steps to determine ownership of our property at 404 N. Alamo by requesting that the civil court system make a ruling in this regard. This decision was a result of MUCH prayer, careful deliberation over months/years, and many hours invested exploring every possible alternative to determining the future of our church.

After the unanimous vote by the Session, the Trustees of FPC-San Antonio voted unanimously to support the recommendation of the Session to ask the courts for a declaration of the church's property interests. The Trustees also voted to engage Dykema Cox Smith to represent the church in this action.

On Tuesday, May 12, a suit was filed to declare the church's rights in its property at Fourth and Alamo and in all of its personal property. Judge John Gabriel signed an order that maintains the status quo so the court can hear the property issue, and so we can discuss freely all the issues affecting our church.

It is important to know that the court action taken by the Trustees on Tuesday is not a decision to leave the PC-USA, it is to determine who rightfully owns our church property. The civil legal system has no jurisdiction over theological and denominational matters.

We also feel it is important for our congregation to know that discussions with representatives at Mission Presbytery are ongoing. Your Session and Trustees do not take lightly the action taken these past few days.

A first of several informational meetings to allow you to ask questions and learn more will begin this Sunday during the 9:30 Sunday School Hour.

Date: May 17, 2015
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Place: Covenant Hall, 3rd floor (Room 315)

There will be multiple opportunities over the next few weeks to meet. We encourage you to take advantage of one of these meetings so that you feel fully informed. Keep an eye on our website to find out when these meetings will take place.

We covet your prayers for wisdom and guidance as we seek to follow God's will for our church and be true to His word.

Earnestly in Christ,

Norton A. Stuart, III, MD
Clerk of the Session,
First Presbyterian Church San Antonio

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | APRIL 2015

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	1,232,320	1,559,988	(327,668)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	1,003,195	1,151,168	(147,973)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	232,057	243,520	(11,463)
FUND TFR FROM			
OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	(2,932)	165,300	(168,232)

Giving for the month was less than budget and expenditures were below budget. Please remember as we approach the summer vacation season, 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 | SICK DAY | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



The other day I had to stay home from work to tend to one of our sick children. The next day I returned and a co-worker asked how my daughter was doing. I said fine, and honestly I had a great time staying home with her. I know she was sick but it was really fun...

My co-worker stated that she does not always recall the daily interactions that she had with her father, but she remembers every sick day. She never felt more loved, more nurtured or closer to him than she did on days that he stayed home from work when she was sick. I know the same

is true for me and my relationship with God. I have daily communication, ask that each meal be blessed, request guidance, and too often I take these daily interactions for granted. But when things are really bad, and I'm "sick," that is when I arrive before Him completely raw and in need, hanging on His every word. Those are definitely the moments I recall the most, and I realize that I have never been more loved, or more nurtured - begging to be close to Him.



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