



First Press

MO-RANCH ALL CHURCH RETREAT

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



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

G K Chesterton once quipped that, “Angels fly because they take themselves lightly”. I think it might be because they have two wings—one called “Truth” and the other called “Love”. In one sense, you and I are “angels”—as the word literally means “messenger”. You and I are indeed messengers of the Gospel wherever God has placed us, and the Gospel message always involves “Truth” and “Love”. If our Gospel message is to be faithfully presented to whom-ever the Lord brings across our path, and if it is to have wings, it must be a message that embodies both truth and love. This is way much harder than it sounds. The temptation is to always give someone one without the other.

If I tell you the Gospel truth without loving you, I risk bludgeoning you with cold, hard, Biblically-orthodox facts. If I love you, but fail to tell you what God reveals as best for your life in Scripture then I am not really loving you, but merely pandering to you so you'll like me or think me "cool". In today's current cultural climate, the world is demanding that Christians love everyone, but keep the Gospel truth to themselves (impossible as the Bible knows nothing of "privatized faith"). And, unfortunately, there are too many Christians who are responding by doing just that. This leads to a cultural captivity of individual believers, and an increasingly impotent and irrelevant Church. Then there's another group of believers who are responding, at the other end of the spectrum, by dumping Biblical truth on people without loving them as Christ calls them to love them. Truth without love usually makes for a hostile recipient, not a disciple of Jesus.

In His written Word—and in His Living Word (Jesus)—God never speaks to you and me without telling us the whole truth, while loving us unconditionally at the same time. There’s a paradigm there for you and me to emulate. Its never either/or, it’s always both/and. That’s the difficult calling of every disciple: to speak the truth in love. It is always difficult, risky, and costly. So many shy away to do only one or the other. FPC is committed to not shying away from being faithful ministers of the Gospel amidst a culture that says there is no such thing as “absolute truth” and increasingly confuses “love” with a libertine permissiveness that is antithetical to God’s best for our lives.

This Fall, on Wednesday nights, I will be leading a Bible study entitled “Truth and Love” where we will wrestle in-depth with Scripture texts that bring both truth and love together in life-transformative ways. We will discuss how you and I can embody those two traits of the Gospel in our own lives—in other words, how you and I can be authentic and winsome messengers of the Gospel to those God places around us. Think about joining us for dinner and Bible study on Wednesday nights. I’d love to see you fly!



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First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team. Deadline to submit content: the 10th of the previous month.

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WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

Participants will meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30-11:30 AM in Covenant Hall (3rd floor) and read from *Hosea: Unfailing Love Changes Everything* by Jennifer Rothschild. Meetings will begin on September 8, 2015, and will continue until October 20. Workbook is available in preparation for weekly small group meetings and video sessions. Suggested donation for workbook is \$13. Child care is available by reservation. Women of all ages are encouraged to attend. If you have questions or want to register, call Judy Kruger (210) 857-0122.

TUESDAY MORNING • 9:30-11:30 AM • COVENANT HALL

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

An Introductory Reception for Stephen Ministry Training will be Sunday, September 13, 2015 at the Alamo Heights UMC in Room 100, West Wing.

AGENDA

- Registration and Fellowship
 - Welcome and Introduction (Hugh Boyd)
 - Spiritual Basis for Caring (Dinah Shelly)
 - Testimony for Former Care Receiver (Video)
 - Stephen Ministry at Alamo Heights (Hugh Boyd)
 - Stephen Ministry Training (Julie Leathers)
 - Questions and Answers
 - Informal Discussion
- (Stephen Ministers will be available to discuss what this ministry really is and what it is not.)

SEPTEMBER 13 • 5:30-6:30 PM • ALAMO HEIGHTS UMC

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Join us for kick-off Sunday on September 13!

SEPTEMBER 13

PW FALL LADIES’ NIGHT OUT

Please join us in Susan DeKoch’s lovely home (207 Hillview Dr.) for a delightful evening of fellowship, food, and fun at our annual fall PW Ladies’ Night Out. Our guest speakers will be Carol Hebdon and Cindy Ochse, wreath-makers extraordinaire. They will ensure well-dressed doors for us all as they inspire us with their creative ideas for making fabulous seasonal wreaths. All First Presbyterian Church women are invited. You do not have to be a circle member to participate. Come join in the fun!

OCTOBER 8 • 7:00 PM • DEKOCH HOME

CARE AND CONCERN LINE

The Care and Concern Line dates back to early 1988. It gave the congregation information that was accurate and up to date in a central place accessible to everyone. It has served as a link for the congregation to assist with compassion and caring of members and non-members alike.

Elaine Dunlap is responsible for maintaining the Care and Concern Line which is updated every weekday with current information. All the information Elaine gets is verified for accuracy and only published after she is given permission by the member or their family.

Some Care and Concern areas might be:

- Someone is hospitalized
- Someone needs rehabilitation in a facility
- Someone is moved to a skilled nursing facility
- Prayer requests for healing, praise and thanksgiving
- Any prayer requests

The telephone number is 210-222-2273 where you can call 24/7 and listen to the days report.

I encourage everyone to get their email on our daily email distribution list by contacting Elaine Dunlap at 210-226-0215 or via her church email at elained@fpcsat.org. You won’t regret it!

AGAPE BIBLE CLASS SUNDAY SCHOOL

You’ve heard it said, “It’s in the genes!” Or “He is a product of the culture.” Or “I am the way I am because I come from a dysfunctional family.” Yes, right on all counts. When we look at our family tree, going way back to Genesis, we find the same characteristics in people and families as we find today, just in a different setting—people chosen by God to carry his message of redemption to the world. It matters little what century, what country, what family—dysfunction really is in the genes, in our DNA. But in studying our ancestors in Genesis, we gain insight into our own sin, and we see the mercy and grace of God always ready to forgive and transform into his likeness. This is a Bible study for all ages, with discussion and fellowship. No one is too young and no one is too old to be part of the family. All are welcome.

SEPTEMBER 20 • 9:30-10:30 AM • COVENANT HALL

FPC LITERATURE CIRCLE

The FPC Literature Circle will review the highly publicized new novel by author, Harper Lee, “Go Set a Watchman,” on Tuesday, September 8, in the McCullough Room at 1:00 PM. Published as a sequel in July 2015, the novel is actually the first draft of her classic book, “To Kill A Mockingbird.” The new novel has been unexpected and a controversial discovery decades after it was written. The story relates to Jean Louise’s (Scout) return home to Alabama to visit with her aging father (Atticus) and her struggle to understand his personal and political issues toward society. The books title comes from Isaiah 21:6, “For thus hath the Lord said unto me, go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.”

Refreshments served prior to the meeting. Visitors, men and women, are encouraged to attend.

SEPTEMBER 8 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH RM

CHRISTIAN-THINKERS SUNDAY SCHOOL

Christian-Thinkers will be on the topic “Celebration of Discipline” by Richard Foster with the leaders Doug McNeel, Jill Hernandez, Michael McMains, Raley Marek and other class members. You are invited to join us for this rich study, stimulating discussion and warm fellowship.

STARTING SEPTEMBER 20 • 9:30 AM • ROOM 308

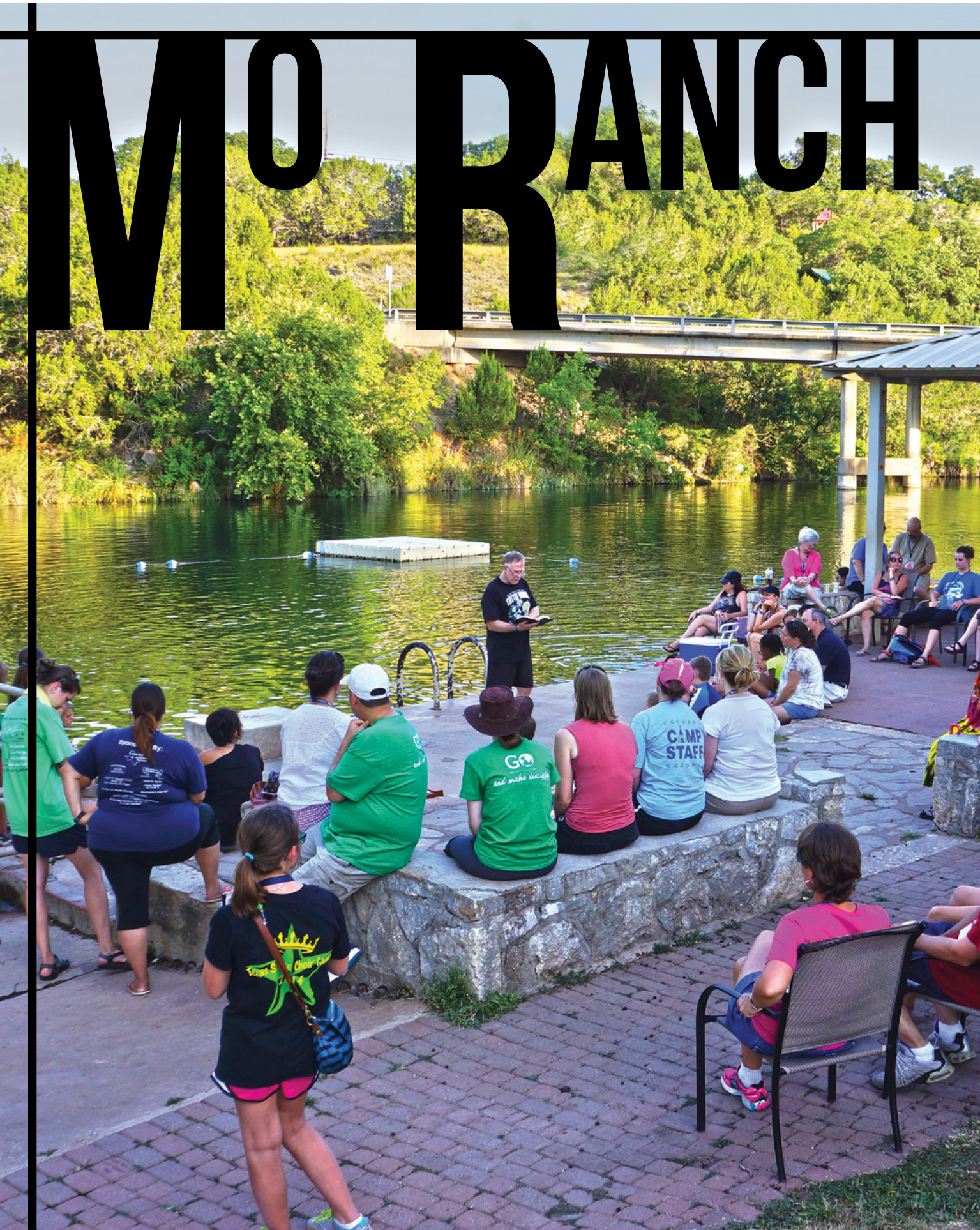
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS WITH RON

“Two hallmarks of the Gospel is that it is both true, and at its heart, it is love. Those two traits are also at the heart of being an authentic disciple of Jesus Christ. If I tell you the truth about the Gospel, but do not love you, at best, I have left you with a dry and dead orthodoxy. If I love you, but don’t tell you the truth, I am merely pandering to you, not really loving you. The difficult challenge, as a follower of Jesus, is to always do both—to integrate both into how we deal with any and all people and situations that the Lord brings across our paths.” Join Ron this fall for a study that looks at various incidents in Scripture where truth and love come together.

STARTING SEPTEMBER 9 • 6:30 PM • COVENANT HALL

PW FALL LUNCHEON DECORATIONS NEEDED

The decorations committee for the second annual “Ties that Bind” fall luncheon is already hard at work. They would love help from anyone who has access to produce, especially pumpkins and pomegranates, that they would preferably donate or give to us at cost. Also, we would appreciate the donation of medium to large pinecones that FPC members may have on their property. If anyone can provide the above donations, please contact Robin Hudnall at rhudnall@satx.rr.com.”



Despite the 100 degree temperatures, this year's All-Church Retreat at Mo Ranch was tons of fun! We had FPC families of all ages join us in Hunt, Texas for a weekend of worship, intergenerational activities, Scripture teaching, and relaxation in the Texas Hill Country. Thankfully, the Guadalupe River kept us all cool as we had the chance to swim, ride the famous "Mo Slide", and wade in the rapids. In addition to all that swimming, families played

tennis, golf, volleyball, braved the ropes course, and enjoyed delicious BBQ and s'mores. Mo Ranch weekend was the perfect time to get away from the busyness and enjoy time with church family and friends, connecting as a discipleship family. The weekend was capped off by a beautiful Communion Service at the chapel on the hill where we sang together, heard the Word of God proclaimed, celebrated the Lord's Supper, and prayed over our college freshmen who are preparing to go off to college in the fall. The Family Ministry Staff would like to thank Ron Scates for being our speaker and to all who helped make this weekend such a fun retreat! We look forward to seeing everyone out at Mo Ranch again next summer!



UPDATE ON FLOOD RELIEF



Our presence and partnership with the Presbyterian Churches in Wimberley and San Marcos continues to grow. I was able to hand deliver our second set of relief funds to each church a few weeks ago, and I am thankful that our friendship is growing among both churches as well. FPC split an initial \$10,000 between the two churches in June, given from the Benevolence Committee, and then we split another \$15,000 in July raised from our individual members!

I visited with Pastor Clint at Wimberley Presbyterian Church and he was very humbled and thankful for our donation, and stunned that the second one was even larger than the first donation! The two families that lost everything in his church are continuing to stay with other church families as they figure out what they are going to do in the future. Their families and the church have surrounded them with love and support and are helping them through the grieving process. Pastor Clint and I discussed the possibility of one of the families visiting FPC in the next few months to share a bit of their story. While all of their material possessions are gone, they certainly have experienced God's grace and vision for community in a whole new way through this tragedy. Many in the community have had their faith deeply affected by this event, and have amazing stories to share. We hope to have a visit with some of them at FPC soon.



The pastors of First Presbyterian Church San Marcos are also very grateful for our friendship with them. Joshua and Amy Sutherlun took our initial gift, and then the session of FPC San Marcos challenged their congregation to meet and exceed our gift – which they did! They are using this new fund to respond to those deeply affected by the floods, including their church members, members of Memorial Presbyterian Church (a struggling church nearby), and members of the Mendez Community. The church has also started a shepherding program, which will emotionally and spiritually support those who have been affected by the floods through mentoring relationships, seeking to meet their needs by connecting them to helpful resources.

While neither church is yet ready for volunteer teams or trips directly (though they hope to receive us much later in the fall or possibly host us in the Spring), there are still current opportunities for us to volunteer in relief efforts. If you would like to volunteer to help families affected in Wimberley, please call the Wimberley Volunteer Resource Center at 512-715-4134. There are all sorts of jobs that still need to be done, and the VRC can accommodate you (or a small group if you prefer) with even just a few days notice. If you are willing to organize or participate on a team of FPC folks to travel down there on an upcoming Saturday, please contact Alyssa Payne at alyssap@fpcsat.org.

SAN ANTONIO YOUTH LITERACY

San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL) is a non-profit organization that provides one-to-one reading assistance to elementary children. In 68 elementary schools across San Antonio, SAYL Reading Buddies read with children who struggle with basic reading and comprehension skills.

In San Antonio, the illiteracy rate is 25%. Research shows that a child who is not reading successfully by the end of third grade is ten times more likely to drop out of school prior to high school graduation. We know that approximately 5,800 students scored Level 1: Unsatisfactory on the 3rd grade reading portion of the STAAR test (2013/2014 school year) in 15 San Antonio school districts. But behind these statistics are individual children who need a little help to become successful readers.

SAYL provides the opportunity for volunteer Reading Buddies to work one-to-one with a student who is struggling with reading. The time commitment is one hour a week and volunteers choose from a variety of locations and tutoring times. This past school year there were 32 FPC Reading Buddies who worked

with 63 students helping them to be more confident, successful readers!

The 2014-2015 school year was FPC's third year partnering with SAYL and during that school year, FPC provided 32 Reading Buddies who worked with 68 second graders at ten different San Antonio Title One schools. Not only is FPC SAYL's largest faith-based partner, they (or "we") were also SAYL's first faith-based partner, creating the model that eight other San Antonio churches have followed as they joined the SAYL team. The impact that the FPC commitment has made to SAYL and our students has been instrumental as we work together towards our long term goals.

It is time to plan for the 2015-2016 school year and volunteers are needed! A SAYL staff person will be at First Presbyterian Church on Sunday September 20th to host a training for any new volunteers. If you have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact Pat O'Neil at peoneill@sbcglobal.net or Robyn Myers at robyn.myers@sayl.org.



FOSTER/ADOPT

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. Closer to home, nearly 850 children and youth in South Texas foster care are waiting for adoptive families. 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 WE 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
- Caring for children that have been removed from their homes during short term emergencies and have not been placed in a foster home yet

If you are interested in being a part of a new Foster & Adopt ministry, we invite you to come to our first community group! We will meet at the home of Teresa McCaleb Tuesday, September 1 at 5:00 PM to begin to explore and plan how the congregation at First Presbyterian Church might grow to Make Jesus Visible to these most vulnerable members of our society. Please contact Teresa McCaleb at (210) 632-3723 or Alyssa Payne at (210) 226-0215 if you are interested in joining!

We would also like to invite you to join Focus on the Family at the Wait No More event on Saturday, September 19, 2015 from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at Grace Point Church. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear different perspectives on adoption from foster care from adoptive parents, adopted youth, sibling and social workers. In addition, adoption agencies are on site to answer questions and help families take the next step in the process. Most importantly, families have the opportunity to start the process of adoption from foster care before they leave the event.

Again, not all of us will feel called to adopt, but we can all do something to change kids lives forever!

A PERSONAL NOTE

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 feel a call to help in some way in showing children in foster care that the unconditional love I have experienced.....and perhaps, in doing so, give them a tiny window into the love of the Father. Perhaps you too feel a nudge to join in this effort. If so, please come to my home for the exploratory meeting September 1 or contact me or Alyssa, as we begin a group to pray, explore and plan

Register at iCareAboutOrphans.org

By Teresa McCaleb

Every child has
a future worthy
of being framed.

.....

With the love and support of family, there is a bright future for all children — be the strong foundation on which a child in foster care can build a new forever.



Wait No More®:
Finding Families for Texas' Waiting Kids

.....

Saturday, September 19, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.
Grace Point Church in San Antonio, TX
Register at iCareAboutOrphans.org

Although the children on this poster are fictional, there are thousands just like them waiting to be embraced by the love of your home. Focus on the Family is not an adoption agency, but rather an educational resource for adoptive families.





PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
BY ANN DENNIS • PW PRESIDENT

With fall approaching, FPC will soon celebrate Kick-Off Sunday on September 13th. Please stop by the PW table to obtain information on our circles as well as our many activities.

Our fall is a very busy time. Please mark your calendars for the following three important events and read the individual articles for detailed information about the Ladies' Night Out and the PW Luncheon. If you have not signed up for the Women's Retreat, we would love to have you join us. There is a place just for you. Please contact Lindsay Selli for additional information.

Friday, September 25 - Saturday, September 27
Women's Retreat at Laity Lodge

Monday, October 8
Fall Ladies' Night Out

Thursday, October 26
"Ties That Bind"
Second Annual PW Fall Legacy Luncheon

In addition to the articles on the above events, please note the list of September PW Circle meeting dates. With the wide variety of interest, dates, and times, I do hope you will find a group that is perfect for you. For further information, please contact Vice President of Circles,

Georgia Heath, gkhymheath@earthlink.net; Vice President of New Members, Linda Delano, ldelano@sbcglobal.net; or myself, Ann Dennis, eacd100@att.net.

I am very thankful to the dedicated PW Officers, Chairmen, Moderators, and Committee Members who have worked all summer to prepare for the coming year. Each year one of our large summer projects is the revision and updating of the PW Directory. Our new directory has been printed and will be distributed at your first circle meeting in September, or, if you are unable to attend, you may pick up a directory from the front desk. Many thanks to Linda Wright, Vice President of Directory, as well as our FPC staff members Sarah Clower, Lindsay Selli, Lisa Snow, and Richard Flores, who, throughout the year, so graciously assist PW with printing and publication needs.

PW is a faithful servanthood of women of all ages and various talents who joyfully share their gifts to make Jesus visible. FPC is blessed to have a rich heritage of women who are the heartbeat and source of joy that reaches deep into our church family as well as our community.

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1

We are celebrating your season and invite you to participate in the many opportunities to grow and serve our Lord through Presbyterian Women.



PW FALL LUNCHEON
ANNE SCATES TO SPEAK

Come count your blessings at the Second Annual "Ties that Bind" PW Fall Legacy Luncheon on Monday, October 26, 2015, in Westminster Hall.

The Fall Legacy Luncheon began last year to encourage members by giving them an opportunity to hear the faith journeys of other believers at FPC. This year's speaker is Anne Scates, wife of the Reverend Doctor Ronald Scates, Interim Senior Pastor.

"I'm pleased to be able to share my love for Christ, my faith journey, and the wonderful blessing First Presbyterian Church has been and continues to be for me. Ron and I both feel like we are 'back home,' and I'm blessed with your friendship!" said Anne in accepting the invitation to be our speaker.

A Memphis native, Anne met Ron while he was a student at Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, and she was enrolled at the nearby Presbyterian School of Christian Education. After earning a Doctor of Ministry degree from Union in 1979, Ron's first pastorate was as Associate Pastor for Youth Ministry at FPC. In 1989 Ron and Anne left San Antonio to accept a call to Central Presbyterian Church in Baltimore. The "ties that

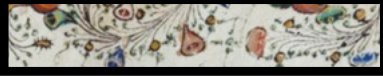
bind" brought the Scates back to FPC in January 2015.

Ron and Anne have been blessed with five children: Katie (29) Andrew (24) twins Michael and Emily (21), and Anna who passed away as a young child while the Scates lived in San Antonio.

Please join us for the PW fall luncheon and bring a friend or two! The Legacy Luncheon will provide a time of fellowship around the table to strengthen old friendships as well as develop new ones. It will be a time to rejoice in all that God has done and promises to do in us and through us as we faithfully look to Him to guide our church in the future.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM. Doors will open at 11:00 AM if you would like to come early to view and purchase a centerpiece.

Tickets for the luncheon are \$15, and reservations are required. We will no longer accept payment at the door the day of the luncheon. Your check is your reservation and may be paid at your Circle meeting, placed in the PW box in the workroom at church, or mailed to Judy Kruger (124 Parklane Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78212). Please make your check payable to FPC and put "PW Fall Luncheon" in the notation line. Reservations for tables of eight or 10 are available on a first-come basis. The deadline for reservations is Monday, October 19.



SEPTEMBER PW CIRCLES

BIBLE CIRCLE 112
Monday, September 21 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva RM
Food: Lunch \$8.00
Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245
Co-Chair: Lynn Thompson, 824-2815

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4
Monday, September 14 • 12:00 PM • FPC RM 226
Food: Bring Pot Luck
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 | SHAWL MINISTRY
Friday, September 11 • 12:00 PM • FPC Geneva RM
Food: Pot Luck Luncheon to celebrate 10th Anniversary
Reservations Required
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 414-9956

BIBLE CIRCLE 6
Tuesday, September 15 • 1:30 PM • FPC Geneva RM
Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

BIBLE CIRCLE 7
Tuesday, September 15 • 11:30 AM •
Home of Becky DeWees, 326 Cloverleaf 78209
Food: Bring a Salad
Moderator: Barbie Beach
Chair: Linda Delano, 614-208-3600

CIRCLE 8 | MOM'S GROUP
Wednesday, September 16 • 9:30-11:30 AM • FPC RM 108
Food: Snacks Provided
Childcare: RSVP two days prior to sonyaw@fpcsat.org
Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

BIBLE CIRCLE 9
Tuesday, September 15 • 10:00 AM • Geneva RM
Chair: BJ Neal, 210-260-9638
Co-Chair: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414

BIBLE CIRCLE 11
Monday, September 28 • 6:30 PM •
Home of Suzanne Norton, 608 Antler Dr. 78213
Food: Bring item for Pot Luck
Chair: Suzanne Norton, 287-1392

CIRCLE 13 | LITERATURE CIRCLE
Tuesday, September 8 • 1:00 PM • McCullough RM
Book Review: Go Set a Watchman by Harper Lee
Book Reviewer: Jane Hansen
Chair: Jeanne Browning, 824-3921

BIBLE CIRCLE 14
Monday, September 21 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew's RM
Food: Lunch \$8.00
Chair: Marti Taylor, 826-6505

CIRCLE 16 | MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, September 16 • 9:30 AM • FPC RM 228
Chair: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, September 9 • 9:30 AM • FPC RM 309
Chairs: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972; Gigi Duke, 695-4363

CIRCLE 18 | CARE AND CONCERN
Chairs: Char-An Witten, 341-1856;
Georgia Heath, 695-9511

CIRCLE 19 | WHITE CROSS CIRCLE
Wednesday, September 2 • 9:30 AM • FPC RM 319
Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

CIRCLE 20 | CIRCLE OF SERVICE
Chair: Bunkie Shed, 824-6690

BIBLE CIRCLE 21
Monday, September 21 • 6:30 PM
Chair: Andrea Taylor, 403-9442 (contact for location)



KEYS

SEPTEMBER '15
BY JOE RUST • MEMBER AT LARGE



First Presbyterian Church's older adult program, KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit), has exciting plans for an active inauguration of fall this month.

Not only does KEYS provide Christian fellowship for senior members of the church, but also are involved in community projects which make Jesus more visible in our lives. A case in point is that KEYS volunteers have been gathering at North San Antonio Headquarters of the SAReads Book Bank to clean, label and sort books collected over the summer. There are about 1,200 books that need to be prepared for distribution. Up to 300 of these have gone to San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries, an agency close to the hearts and service of members of our church. KEYS volunteers work with SAReads twice a month.

Also, KEYS members are joining others in the congregation in welcoming Nancy and Harold Black as the new co-presidents of the organization, but also commend out-going co-presidents Janet Beauch and Jane Warren, who have served three years in the post. They remain on the board, Jane as assistant treasurer and Janet as an unassigned board member. New board members are Evelyn and Carley Meadows as members at large and Karin Gabrielson to head the Telecare program. Liz and Jack Wright rotate off the board, but remain chairs of the movie committee. Liz also remains on the telephone committee. Other offices are Joe Rust, vice president; Don McCorkindale, treasurer; Geri McCorkindale, secretary; Ginger and Bud Davenport, unassigned board members; Dottie Crane, president emeriti; and Virginia Nilsson, Ginger and Janet and Mary Kincaid, special event planners. Chuck Bunn is the elder representing the Session with KEYS and additional chair persons are Suzanne West, bulletin Board; Virginia and Liz, calling committee; Katie BeDunnah, bridge and games; Nancy and Jim Johnson, prayers; Bud,

introductions; Geri, membership, and Elza Crump, Care and Concern.

PROGRAM AGENDA FOR SEPTEMBER

WORLD HERITAGE DESIGNATION - SAN ANTONIO MISSIONS

Friday, September 18 • 11:00 AM

Susan Snow, an archeologist with the National Park Service, will share the good news that the Spanish colonial missions in San Antonio have been granted World Heritage status by the World Heritage Committee of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. This recognition of the five local missions, the grounds of four of them managed by the National Park Service (the exception is the Alamo—Mission San Antonio de Valero) puts them on the status with Machu Picchu, Stonehenge and the Taj Mahal. Snow is quoted thusly: "It means the missions are now on par with other great World Heritage sites, like the pyramids of Giza, the Great Wall of China, and also our own World Heritage sites, such as the Statue of Liberty and Independence Hall." Snow was among those working nine years seeking World Heritage status for our missions, which include, besides the Alamo, Mission San Jose, Mission Concepcion, Mission Espada and Mission San Juan Capistrano. Our missions are recognized as the largest collection of Spanish colonial architecture north of the Rio Grande and one of the largest collections of Spanish missions anywhere in the world.

Also, on this date, September birthdays of KEYS members will be celebrated.

'WHY WE GROW OLD'

September 25 • 11:00 AM

Robert W. Parker, M.D. past chief of Community Geriatrics and a geriatrician in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at UTHSCSA, which he joined in

2000 after 20 years in private practice, will speak on "Why We Grow Old" (Our off-the-cuff response, because that is part of God's plan for guiding our lives). Parker is a graduate of the Kansas School of Medicine. His primary interest is developing improved models of healthcare delivery for frail elders.

ANOTHER SPECIAL:

On Sunday, September 13, join KEYS members in celebrating National Grandparents' Day, an opportunity to salute all the memaws and pawpaws in the congregation. Be sure to stop by the KEYS table and enjoy some old-fashion Christian fellowship on this church's annual kickoff Sunday.

EVEN MORE SPECIAL HAPPENINGS:

Friday, September 4 • 11:00 AM

KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting

"KEEP MOVING FITNESS"

Fridays, September 4, 11, and 25 • 9:30 AM

Second Floor, Student Center

Sedentary lifestyles count as a major risk factor for chronic illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes and osteoporosis. A 2010 study found that compared to women who spend fewer than three hours a day sitting, those who sat six hours or more were 34% more likely to die. So, folks, the remedy is simple—move. Come on over and exercise. The benefits are plentiful!

BRIDGE & MAH JONGG GAMES

Friday, September 11 and 25

LOOKING AHEAD

MARBURGER FARM ANTIQUES SHOW

Thursday, October 1

Give yourself a treat by taking a KEYS bus trip to the Mar-

burger Farm Antiques Show, near Round Top in Fayette County. More than 350 highly talented antique dealers from around the U.S. and the world show their wares. The bus leaves the church at 8:15 AM and returns at 5:30 PM. The fare is only \$68.00, to include the charter fee, the tip for the driver and the input of guides Susan and Henry Holloway. Lunch is on your own at the café on the premises.

KEYS LEADERSHIP MEETING

Friday, October 2 • 11:00 AM

Our own Polly Spencer, judge and former clerk of the Session will be our speaker. KEYS Leadership meeting will be held following the luncheon.

ALL-CHURCH FLU CLINIC

Sunday, October 4 • 8:30 AM–12:30 PM

BILL PERRYMAN PRESENTATION

Friday, October 9 • 11:00 AM

Bill Perryman will present "The Mysterious Christopher Columbus."

ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, October 24

Annual KEYS picnic at the Judith and Doug McNeel ranch.

LUNCH AND MOVIE

Friday, October 30

Reservations are important for our luncheon (\$8) and speaker programs.

Please contact Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215 to make your reservation by Tuesday before the Friday program.



In 1942, members of First Pres Women's Auxiliary conducted Sewing & Knitting Classes in the basement of First Pres every Tuesday. Standing is Mrs. J. R. Aydlett, Mrs. J. E. Anderson and Lillian Warren with hat.

HISTORY CORNER

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH — THE EARLY YEARS

BY BILL COGBURN

When early pioneer families began arriving in San Antonio, it was almost always left up to the women to create a Christian atmosphere in the home. They were also the ones who were active in organizing, building and maintaining early frontier churches.

The very first women's organization at First Pres was a Sewing Society formed in 1854. This was during a time when the little congregation was struggling for its very life. The Society met regularly to sew and socialize but their main focus was bible study. Early church records tell us that this small group provided the first permanent seats for the old adobe church. Prior to the new seats, each member was responsible for carrying his or her own chair or more likely, a wooden box to sit on during the meeting.

On February 26, 1874 in the home of Mrs. W. A. (Mary) Bennett, the Sewing Society was reorganized and renamed The Ladies Aid Society. Mary Bennett was their first president. There were sixteen charter members who agreed to pay a membership fee of 25 cents monthly. They had weekly meetings where they would sew, study the bible and discuss ways to raise money to support the needs of the church.

In 1884, two additional women's groups were organized—The Women's Foreign Mission Society and The Women's Home Mission Society. Just prior to WWI, a plan was adopted to merge the three groups into one to be known as The Women's Auxiliary of the First Presbyterian Church. Mrs. Floyd McGown was named president of the new group, Mrs. M. A. Means, 1st VP and Mrs. J. W. Culver, 2nd VP.

Church history tells us that First Pres Women's groups helped to pay church debts, buy carpeting for the church, pay the janitor, buy the organ, and pay the minister's back salary. They helped the poor, cared for the sick, taught Sunday School, and attended prayer meetings. They entertained visiting ministers in their homes, held bazaars, cake and apron sales. They resorted to every imaginable way to increase their treasury—all for benefiting the church which was to glorify God.

In 1909, during the construction of our current church building, the growing costs were such that the congregation was faced with a choice: Either postpone construction of the Sunday School room or delay completion of the basement. The ladies of

the church hastily responded to the crisis by forming the "Builders Aid" group raising enough money to not only finish out the basement but enough left over to buy pews for the new sanctuary. The Sunday School construction was able to go on as scheduled.

One of the highlights and successes of the early Women's Auxiliary came from their diligent work in hosting the 1924 General Assembly. Not only did they raise all the funds for the expenses that would be incurred by the church but they played host to eighty-nine delegates, caring for many of them in their homes.

The WWII years created many opportunities for First Pres women to serve. The basement of First Pres became a hubbub of activity during the war years. The Women's Auxiliary sponsored a variety of projects such as preparing care packages for soldiers, writing letters to servicemen, First Aid classes, knitting and sewing classes and bandage-rolling classes to name a few. Women of First Pres hosted a coffee hour on Tuesday mornings for army wives which included Bible study followed by a social hour.

Informal gatherings for servicemen were scheduled every Sunday afternoon from 4 to 7 which included afternoon fellowship, a light supper and a brief vesper service. Later in the war, the session gave permission for soldiers to use the gym for games prior to the 4 o'clock gatherings.

Numerous expressions of gratitude were received from servicemen and their families who had been touched in some way by First Pres; perhaps none more touching than a letter to Rev. Patrick Miller dated January 31, 1945 from Mrs. James McWilliams of Seattle.

She described a visit which her Army Air Corps son had made to First Pres two years earlier. He called the church "beautiful beyond description and the organ music more lovely than any he had heard." Dr. Miller had preached on "The Life Everlasting" to a young man who would be killed in battle over Germany in 1944. Mrs. McWilliams wrote, "The Lord used you to convey a mighty message to our son Paul that would comfort and sustain him through unspeakable days ahead and finally enable him to die victoriously. Our son was planning to become a minister."

Source: First Pres Archives; Church bulletin, March 11, 1945; Donald Everett's, Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice; Photo: Courtesy UTSA Libraries Special Collections.



September is a perfect time to Retreat, Refresh and Renew! The FPC Women's Retreat at Laity Lodge will be held September 25-27, 2015, where you can catch up with new and old friends and sisters in Christ and hear from an inspirational speaker, Lisa Burkhardt Worley.

The retreat is a FPC sponsored event but registration is open to all women of all ages. Make it a Mother/Daughter weekend, invite a friend from another church or choose a roommate that you would like to know better.

Scholarships are available and Lindsey Selli has that information (lindsayb@fpcsat.org). Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org/womens-retreat for more information.

Just don't wait too long! Reservations are limited! Laity Lodge will be going through a major renovation right after the Fall schedule and will be closed until late Summer 2016. That's even more reason to sign up now!

Come Retreat. Get Refreshed. Leave Renewed!

Powerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) is a series of classes designed to empower family caregivers of older adults and those with chronic illness to take better care of themselves. The "tools" learned in the six-week series benefit caregivers by helping them reduce stress, improve caregiving confidence, establish balance in their lives, communicate their needs, make tough decisions, and locate helpful resources. Applying these tools enables caregivers to give the very best care they possibly can to their loved one, friend, or family member. Caregivers learn how to survive and thrive during their caregiving.

PTC is a nationally-known educational program that emphasizes empowerment and self-care of the caregiver. It is based on the highly successful Chronic Disease Self-Management Program developed by Dr. Kate Lorig and her colleagues at Stanford University and has been offered since 1998 to over 80,000 caregivers.

FPC Certified Class Leaders (Michele Hendrix, Flo Creighton, and Janice Wilson) lead the classes.

Topics include:

- Taking Care of You
- Identifying and Reducing Personal Stress
- Communicating Feelings, Needs and Concerns
- Learning from Emotions
- Communicating in Challenging Situations
- Conducting a Family Meeting
- Mastering Caregiving Decisions

A new PTC Six-Week Caregiver Class will be offered free to the church and community on Wednesday evening's, September 16–October 21, 2015 from 6:30–8:00 PM. Class size is limited. For additional information contact Michele Hendrix, Registrar at 832-731-6127 or tmichelehendrix@icloud.com.



FPC Class Participants February-March 2014

"Thank you again for your passion for the caregiver's ministry. I learned so much from the six-week caregiver class series. The classes helped equip me to become a better caregiver for my care receiver. We both benefited from these classes."

"I am a more confident caregiver with a better understanding of communication techniques, attitudes and processes for good caregiving."

"I am a better caregiver because of my participation in the six-week class series. I also have a greater appreciation for my mother for whom I provide care."

WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Hi! My name is Alex Solorio, I was born and raised in Houston Texas. I am a masters graduate from Houston Baptist University and am following my calling to be a College Minister. I love playing sports as well as cheering for my hometown Houston teams, but don't worry I don't mind rooting for the Spurs! I enjoy finding good authentic eats, so I will need your help to explore your beautiful city. I love meeting new people, so if you see a jolly big Hispanic Brother, don't be afraid to say hi! I cannot wait to fellowship with you all! See you soon! Grace and Peace!



My name is Emily Yergler and I am very excited to be part of the family here at First Presbyterian San Antonio! I grew up in New Jersey before moving to Georgia when I was 14. I completed my undergrad at Palm Beach Atlantic University down in South Florida. I spent four years at the beach—I mean, studying to get my degree in History and Secondary Education. Currently, I am pursuing my Masters at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. I love being outdoors, I am a die-hard Philadelphia Eagles and Flyers fan, and am a self-proclaimed chocoholic. I'm really looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you!



After an extensive national search lasting seven months, we are pleased to welcome Kevin Dailey as our new Associate Minister of Music and Contemporary Worship Leader. Kevin is a native of Houston, TX. The past 10 years of his ministry has seen him serve churches in the Houston area and Washington State. He holds a Bachelors degree in Communications from Southern New Hampshire University. He has been married to his wife, Kendra for 15 years and has two daughters, Molly (9) and Lilly (7). In his free time he loves traveling with his family, cycling, golf and hunting for the perfect taco! Kevin will be joining our staff on August 31, leading Contemporary Worship on September 6. FPC would also like to express gratitude to the members of our search committee that have included Ed Moore (chair), Margaret Berton, Jessica Fritz, Nina Jordan, Chris Via, Sterling Rios, and Tom Bugg.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | DOG DAYS | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



I was reading a help and advisement forum the other day. Someone posted a problem regarding the behavior of their eight-week old puppy. The first few days were fine, a loving playful puppy. By day three, if they tried to move him while he slept or touch him while he ate he began growling and biting the owners. I found the expert advice intriguing. You need to address this immediately, the dog needs to understand the food is yours, the house is yours, wherever the dog sleeps is yours, the toys are yours. The dog owns nothing, he is only able to have what you allow him to have, and you can take it away whenever you desire. Otherwise the dog will erroneously believe that he is in control and that everything belongs to him. Now I hate to compare us to dogs but I find the sentiment to be true. Too often we forget and believe the house is ours, the money is ours, the possessions of this world, are ours. No, they all belong to the one true owner, and we only have what He allows us to have, and lastly it can be taken away at any time. To believe to the contrary would insinuate that we are in control, and we are not. Fortunately, we have a loving, patient master.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | JULY 2015

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	2,222,523	2,502,461	(279,938)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	1,746,242	2,149,893	(403,650)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	282,981	253,404	(11,463)
FUND TFR FROM			
OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	193,300	58,124	135,175

While expenses remain within bounds, pledge income shortfalls as a part of total revenues are partially offset by a significant increase in unpledged income. That increase points to a simple truth: the cross of Jesus Christ—and the gospel of grace it represents—is seen as the bedrock reality shaping this congregation’s worship, teaching and mission/service activities, and its giving patterns. Thank you for your support and prayers as together we seek to make Jesus visible within and beyond this community of faith!



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