



First Press

VOLUNTEER AT THE LIBRARY

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



IMMIGRATION ISSUES

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Fellow FPC'ers, recently the board of The World Reformed Fellowship asked me, along with a number of other pastors from around the world, to write a piece on the current “hot” topic of immigration from our particular contexts. It will be placed on the WRF website (wrfnet.org). I thought I would share with you what I wrote—not because what I write is suitable for framing, but so that you might see how (not an academic, but) an in-the-trenches-on-the-move-grunt-pastor tackles such an important, but thorny, issue. Hope it is in some way helpful. I love the privilege of being your interim Sr. Pastor. Stay strong in the Lord.

ONE PASTOR'S STRUGGLE WITH THE ISSUE OF IMMIGRATION

Immigration is more than a theoretical, economic, or political issue for me. It's on my doorstep. I pastor a center-city congregation in a bi-cultural city: San Antonio, Texas—the 7th largest city in the US. San Antonio is the first big city north of the Mexican border which is three hours away by car. The US Interstate highway system makes the “sign of the cross” just blocks from our congregation: I-35 running from Mexico to Minneapolis; I-10 running from Los Angeles to Miami. As such, San Antonio is a literal trafficking hub for both drugs and people. Six months ago, a top news story was about the thousands of children and youth from Guatemala and Honduras that were flooding across the border into the US. Many are right here in our city. Some have come to First Presbyterian Church seeking help. Some even worship with us.

First Presbyterian Church is a Biblically orthodox, missions-driven congregation of the PC-USA. As a congregation historically known for its balance between personal evangelism and social justice, we cannot be silent, nor inactive regarding this volatile issue. It sets an integral part of the context of who we are, and what Christ has called us to do and be in regard to the least, the last, and the lost. It is part of the mission field that we cannot ignore and still be faithful to our mission statement of “Living To Make Jesus Visible.” We are the oldest Protestant congregation in the city, originating at just about the same time Texas became a state (1846). Our history is one of immigrants. The church was planted by immigrants from the US into what was originally a part of Mexico, then becoming the Republic of Texas in 1836, then finally a part of the US. When it comes to immigrants and Texans, the reality is: them is us.

As a working pastor in the midst of an immigration crisis of displaced people, I approach the issue firstly from a pastoral and Biblical perspective. The immigrants are here, now, with dire needs of food, clothing, shelter, protection, etc. There is nothing potential or theoretical about it. They're here. I am so proud of our congregation: men, women, boys, and girls who—without prodding (except from the Holy Spirit)—put all politics aside and immediately met the flood of Honduran and Guatemalan refugees with the love and compassion of Christ. They come alongside them not only with basic staples of life, but with the love of Jesus. We are a Reformed congregation with an emphasis on the sovereignty of God. We had a choice: look at this as an unfortunate turn of events which displaced thousands of children and youth from their families and native lands and left a big burden on our doorstep, or—in God's strange providence—see this as the mission field being brought to us and as an opportunity and privilege to be the hands and feet of Jesus. It became for many of our people a situation of “meet them with the Gospel of grace now—ask questions later.” When Jesus was a child, He became an immigrant in Egypt. Now He was in San Antonio, asking our congregation to live out Matthew 25. As a congregation that takes the Bible seriously as our primary authority as to what we are to believe and how we are to act, we could not bypass Hebrews 13:2, “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.” Were some of these immigrants angels? I don't know. What we could discern was that, as we ministered alongside needy immigrants, we could see the Great Commission and the Great Commandment intersecting and forming another cross that was being raised in the public square that Jesus might be high and lifted up.

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Our apologies to Presbyterian Women and PW President, Ann Dennis, as the dates in her last article were listed as:

Friday, September 25 - Saturday, September 27
Women's Retreat at Laity Lodge
Monday, October 8
Fall Ladies' Night Out
Thursday, October 26
Second Annual PW Fall Legacy Luncheon

The correct dates are:

Friday, September 25 - Sunday, September 27
Thursday, October 8
Monday, October 26

We apologize for any confusion this may have caused.

CAM FOOD DRIVE

Each year on World Communion Sunday we do a food drive for our faithful local ministry partner Christian Assistance Ministry—CAM. **This year they are requesting small jars of peanut butter and canned fruit.** Please bring these items to the church lobby on October 4 so that we can bless our downtown homeless friends. While food is a blessing, CAM is also in desperate need of volunteers. If you have a few hours in your week to help out, please contact Christina Via at 210-226-0215 or Mary Henderson at 210-223-5203.

MAKE A DONATION BY OCTOBER 4

PROJECT 240

Fall is here but spring is near! Mark your calendars now for the 5th Annual Project 240, coming April 3rd, 2016! **Our goal is five homes to celebrate five years of this great ministry, but we need to raise \$35,000 by next March if we want to meet our goal.** The Session has already approved a gift of \$10,000 to kick start our fundraising from the Foundation, so if you would like to give to this effort, please send a check to the church marked Project 240. Look for more details coming soon!

APRIL 3, 2016 • HELP US RAISE FUNDS!

BLOOD DRIVE

First Presbyterian Church’s blood donor program is extremely important. Every day there is a need for over 600 life-saving units of blood. One donation can save up to three lives. Thanks for considering this quick and easy way of helping to save lives.

OCTOBER 25 • 9:30 AM -12:30 PM • GENEVA RM

MEXICO CONSTRUCTION CREW

Our first ever Construction Mission Trip will partner up with Grace Presbyterian Church Houston and head out to Mexico from October 28 until November 2. Please be in prayer for the team members: Fred Wall (team leader), Candy Wagner, Courtney Biggs, Mike Munroe, Andres and Rebecca Andujar, and Raely and Candy Merek. They will be adding an additional room to Casa Aitana, which is a respite care center for children with cancer. Join us October 11 as we commission them in our services and send them out to be the hands and feet of Jesus in Mexico. Please pray for safety, health, good weather, and meaningful conversations and relationships to develop with the locals. If you would like to give a donation to help cover the construction costs, you may do so by sending a check to FPC, and in the memo line writing Construction Trip 2015. Many thanks to this CREW for representing FPC and making Jesus visible!

COMMISSIONING OCTOBER 11

SEE INFO ABOUT FLU CLINIC ON PAGE 14!

TEAM WORLD VISION ROCK ‘N’ ROLL MARATHON

FPC is launching a team for the San Antonio Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon and half-marathon to raise support for clean water projects in Africa. Lack of access to safe drinking water is the number one cause of preventable death in the world. Our church family is in partnership with Team World Vision to run, run-walk, or crawl the San Antonio Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon or half-marathon to help provide clean water to children who desperately need it in Malawi. Consider joining our team and help some of the world’s most vulnerable children! Contact Christina Via at 210-226-0215 or Christy Custer at 210-475-2077.

DECEMBER 6

NAMI WALKS

FPC will sponsor a walk team in memory of “Brick” at the annual NAMIWalks San Antonio event, an opportunity for FPC and friends in the community to both remember Brick and support all of the Munroe family. The fundraising goal for “Team Brick” is \$5,000. See www.fpcsanantonio.org/mentalhope or contact Doug/Barbie Beach at 210-602-2055.

OCTOBER 3 • 7:30 - 9:30 AM • MORGAN’S WONDERLAND

FPC LITERATURE CIRCLE

Set in Western Indian territory, outside the town of Claremont, Oklahoma in 1906, “Oklahoma,” is a rivalry between the local farmers and cowboys, with Curly, the handsome cowboy, wooing Laurie, the winsome farm girl. The first musical written by Rodgers & Hammerstein II, it became a box-office hit featuring songs such as “Oklahoma,” “Oh, What a Beautiful Morning,” and “The Surrey with the Fringe on Top.” Join the FPC Literature Circle for a rousing rendition of this musical story presented by our own FPC duo—Bill and Patrice Hensley. Refreshments served prior to the meeting. Save the date for our next review on Friday, November 13!

OCTOBER 13 • 1:00 PM • COVENANT HALL

CARE PACKAGES

CARE PACKAGES ARE COMING!! CARE PACKAGES ARE COMING!! We need your college student’s address. Whether they’re across town or across the world, we want to make sure that they know how much they are loved at FPC. So get addresses to Chris (chrisv@fpcsat.org) by November 10!

NOVEMBER 10

PW LADIES’ NIGHT OUT “WE GATHER TOGETHER”

Please join us in Susan DeKoch’s lovely home 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 • 207 HILLVIEW DR.

TRUNK OR TREAT

FPC Children’s Ministry invites you to our annual Trunk or Treat event! Children of all ages and their families are invited to wear their Halloween costumes (nothing scary please) and come enjoy games, treats, fellowship and much more! Join us for dinner in Westminster Hall from 5:30-6:30 PM and then head down to the small parking lot on Avenue E for Trunk or Treat!

OCTOBER 28 • 6:30-7:30 PM

ADVENT FESTIVAL

All are invited to the annual Advent Festival! At the festival, you will have the opportunity to make an Advent wreath, take a “selfie” at the Manger, decorate delicious Christmas cookies, participate in fun family games and activities, support a local mission, and much more! You do not want to miss this great time, so mark your calendars and bring a friend!

NOVEMBER 29 • 3:00-5:00 PM • WESTMINSTER HALL

GLOBAL MISSIONS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD



Right before the devastating floods of 2015 came ravaging up the I-35 corridor, a small town on the Texas/Mexico border experienced one of the first punches of the storm. On May 28th, Ciudad Acuna, about 160 miles west of San Antonio and across from Del Rio, Texas, was hit with an F4 tornado and the accompanying rains and flooding.

FPC, through the Global Missions Committee (GMC) has a long history of being involved in this area with building projects, Vacation Bible Schools and various goodwill visits. Because of the situation at the border, we no longer visit the area but support them through FPC missionary, Roberto Medina, and Proyecto Amistad (Friendship Project) with financial and prayer support. When we heard about the tornado, the GMC agreed to quickly send a financial contribution to help at the onset, but because of the widespread devastation in our

own area, we concentrated our efforts partnering with churches in the Hill Country area.

We continued to keep an eye on the border and kept them in our prayers. Then after about a month, we checked in with Sr. Medina to see how the relief effort and clean up was coming along, only to find out that they were still in dire need of help. We asked him if he would send us a list of items that would help or were the most needed and told him we would do what we could.

Once again, we came to our congregation. After putting a notice of the need in the Sunday bulletin, we set up an "Acuna Relief" table in the Mauze Lobby for just three Sundays in July. To say the drive was a success is an understatement! You all opened your hearts and were so generous to bring so many needed items that will make a real difference to the people of this area of Acuna. The

donations also enabled Sr. Medina and Proyecto Amistad to continue to be the hands and feet of Jesus.

In late August, several members of the GMC drove to the border of Mexico to personally deliver all of the donated goods, plus a significant check for tornado relief efforts. While there, they were able to see the progress of the recovery but determined that there are still more needs to fully recover. They were able to hear personal testimonies of those families that were trapped in the storm and pray for them. The families were extremely thankful that someone was thinking of them nearly three months later. The pastor reminded our FPC members that the spiritual recovery is more important than the physical recovery so each place they visited, they would make a priority to stop and pray. They were also blessed to visit with Roberto. The GMC would like to continue to pray about further efforts in Mexico.

Your continued support has made such a difference again, and many thanks to all of you who helped with this project and the work of the Global Missions Committee. This is truly an example of joining together to help Global Missions assist those right here in our own backyard.

To God be the Glory!
Candy Wagner
Christina Via



CAREER MISSIONARIES DRS. GEORGE AND ANNE HARPER

George and Anne Harper have been career missionaries with Action International Ministries since 1994.

George grew up in Birmingham, AL. He committed his life to Christ while a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Cambridge, MA. Anne grew up in suburban New Jersey, gave her life to Christ as a high school senior, and then went to Boston University for her undergraduate work. They met and married at Park Street Church in Boston. Park Street had a very active missions program with a 10-day missions conference every year. That exposure to mission work around the world and their own participation in InterVarsity Christian Fellowship's Urbana missions conference in 1979, were important to them in discerning the Lord's call into overseas missionary service.

George attended Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, north of Boston, and interned at First Presbyterian Church, Quincy, MA, where he was ordained in 1986. He is currently a member of Mission Presbytery in South Texas. Their home church in the US is First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio.

While George was in seminary and then pursuing his Ph.D. at Boston University, Anne worked in higher education administration at the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions, and then at Gordon College as Director of Publications. She completed her master's degree at Alliance Biblical Seminary in the Philippines and then her Doctor of Missiology degree at Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines.

In 1994, Anne and George began their ministry in the Philippines. They have taught and trained many pastors and church workers, and developed and directed advanced degree programs to equip faculty for Asian seminaries and Bible colleges. They have two daughters who were raised in the Philippines. Ruth is in her final year at Northeastern University School of Law, in Boston. Meg is in the final stages of a doctorate in organ per-

formance at the Eastman School of Music, in Rochester, NY, and works as Director of Music and Organist at a church in New Hampshire.

The Harpers' calling is to help train and mentor Asians who will in turn train a new generation of pastors and leaders for the region's rapidly growing churches. They currently work with the Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines (AGST). George serves as Professor of Christian History and Thought and Program Director for Theological Studies. He is also editor of the Asia Theological Association's journal, the Journal of Asian Evangelical Theology. Anne is Director of Spiritual Formation and Associate Professor of Missions. She is the editor of the AGST's journal, the Journal of Asian Mission. She has written a book for the Philippine evangelical community about how best to present the gospel to members of the Iglesia ni Cristo, a Philippine New Religious Movement (cult) which has more than two million members. She is often asked to write and speak about that group.

The Harpers own a house in San Antonio, and when they return home to Texas they attend First Presbyterian Church, where Anne is an affiliate member. They are currently in Texas on furlough traveling, speaking and raising support. They plan to go back to the Philippines in 2016 for another several years before retirement.

To learn more about the Harpers, go to their webpage, www.actioninternational.org/missionaries/harper.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

What a wonderful season for the women of First Presbyterian Church to gather together. Circles have begun the year with their September meetings. We have had an inspiring and renewing retreat at beautiful Laity Lodge, and now, for the month of October, we look forward to two of our favorite annual events:

Thursday, October 8
Fall Ladies' Night Out

Monday, October 26
Fall Legacy Luncheon

For more information, please see pages 3 and 12 in this issue of First Press and mark your calendars. We would love to have you attend both events.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN IN CIRCLE 19 EXHIBIT THE VALUES OF ECCLESIASTES 3:7

"A time to rend"



and *"A time to sew"*

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

It is PW's season to showcase our Circle 5 Shawl Ministry, who has recently celebrated a special anniversary.



On a hot Friday in August, 2005, inspired by the book, "Knitting into the Mystery," Pat O'Neill, Charlotte Hains, Lee Pressly, Julie Harper Hill, and Caryl Gaubatz sat down over lunch at the Oasis and discussed a ministry opportunity that has proven to be truly vocational for so many. Now 10 years and 1190 shawls later, the Shawl Ministry celebrated their ten years of service with a birthday luncheon in the Geneva Room on September 11, 2015. Over the years, 72 women have knitted, crocheted or woven shawls and afghans for those who need to feel God's love, whether it be in sorrow or in celebration.

Currently, there are 17 active shawl ministers, under the leadership of co-chairs, Jane Ann Temple and Caryl Gaubatz. New members of all skill levels are welcomed at the monthly meetings on the third Friday of each month from 12 to 1 PM in room 228. If you would prefer to contribute monetarily, donations for the purchase of yarn are gratefully accepted.

We wish many blessings upon the Circle 5 Shawl Ministry as they continue to make Jesus visible by the work of their hands.



FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON



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 ten are available on a first-come basis. The deadline for reservations is Monday, October 19.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN CIRCLES FOR OCTOBER

BIBLE CIRCLE 112
Monday, October 19 • 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, October 19 • 1:30 PM • FPC Rm 226
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY
Friday, October 16 • 12:00-1:00 PM • FPC Rm 228
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 414-9956

BIBLE CIRCLE 6
Tuesday, October 20 • 1:30 PM • FPC Geneva Rm
Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

BIBLE CIRCLE 7
Tuesday, October 20 • 11:30 AM •
Home of Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Pl. 78209
Food: Bring a “Sack Lunch”
Moderator: Barbie Beach
Chair: Linda Delano, 614-208-3600

CIRCLE 8 MOM’S GROUP
Wednesday, October 14 • 9:30-11:30 AM • FPC Rm 108
Food: Snacks Provided
RSVP for childcare two days prior to
Sonya Wright at sonyaw@fpcsat.org
Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

BIBLE CIRCLE 9
Tuesday, October 20 • 10:00 AM • FPC Geneva Rm
Chair: BJ Neal, 210-260-9638
Co-Chair: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414

BIBLE CIRCLE 11
Monday, October 26 • 6:30 PM •
Home of Pat Brodeen, 2307 Oak Trace St. 78232
Chair: Suzanne Norton, 287-1392

CIRCLE 13 LITERATURE CIRCLE
Tuesday, October 13 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Rm
Book Review: “Oklahoma” by Rogers and Hammerstein
Presenters: Bill and Patrice Hensley
Chair: Jeanne Browning, 824-3921

BIBLE CIRCLE 14
Monday, October 19 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew’s
Food: Lunch \$8.00
Chair: Marti Taylor, 210-334-9684

CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, October 21 • 9:30 AM • FPC Rm 228
Chair: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, October 14 • 9:30 AM • FPC Rm 309
Chairs: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972;
Gigi Duke, 695-4363

CIRCLE 18 CARE AND CONCERN
(No date)
Chairs: Char-An Witten, 341-1856;
Georgia Heath, 695-9511

CIRCLE 19 WHITE CROSS CIRCLE
Wednesday, October 7 • 9:30 AM • FPC Rm 309
Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

CIRCLE 20 CIRCLE OF SERVICE
(No date)
Chair: Bunkie Shed, 824-6690

BIBLE CIRCLE 21
Monday, October 19 • 6:30 PM
Chair: Andrea Taylor, 403-9442
For location contact Chairman.

KEYS

UNLOCK AWESOME OCTOBER PROGRAMS!
BY PAT MCCLEARY DIRECTOR OLDER ADULT MINISTRY



Summer has sped by and fall is finally upon us, so get ready to enjoy some cooler weather events. The best of all is the wonderful fellowship we enjoy with other. Invite a friend and join us in October! Here what lies ahead....

MARBURGER FARM ANTIQUES SHOW

Thursday, October 1, 2015 • 8:15 AM

If you have a paid reservation, we'll be on our way to Marburger Farm Antiques Show to spend an early fall day browsing and buying from dealers from all over the world. Guides Susan and Henry Holloway.

TOXIC DONORS

Friday, October 2 • 11:00 AM

Our own Polly Spencer, retired probate judge and former clerk of the Session will speak on "Toxic Donors" which has to do with charities and the people from whom they are willing to accept donations. Polly became interested in this topic about the time that Donald Sterling—the owner of the NBA team the Clippers—made his highly inflammatory remarks about blacks and was then "unasked" to be honoree at an NAACP dinner about a month later. You won't want to miss her discussion on Sterling, Bernie Madoff, Lance Armstrong and the concept of toxic donors.

KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

1:00 PM • Rm 226

CHURCH-WIDE HEALTH REMINDER REMEMBER THE ANNUAL FLU SHOT CLINIC

Sunday, October 4 • 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM • Geneva Rm

There is no charge for flu and pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Vaccines are not provided for children less than four years of age, and children ages four through six must have a valid prescription.

NOTED EDUCATOR BILL PERRYMAN PRESENTS THE MYSTERIOUS CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS – MAN OF THE OCEAN!

Friday, October 9 • 11:00 AM

Who was Christopher Columbus? Over 500 years after his death, Christopher Columbus remains shrouded in mystery and historians continuously find Columbus great fodder for debate! Never known to Columbus, his works marked a turning point in the world's history. Filled with suspense, mystery, and intrigue, award-winning teacher, Bill Perryman, brings to life the tantalizing tales of a renaissance mariner named Christobal Colon! Bridge and Mah Jongg will be played after lunch at approximately 1:00 PM.

NO KEYS PROGRAM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

There is No KEYS Program because NESAs are holding their annual luncheon at FPC.

NOTE: No program Friday, October 23, because...

KEYS ANNUAL FALL PICNIC IS AT JUDITH & DOUG MCNEEL'S RANCH

Saturday, October 24 • 12:00 – 3:30 PM

Join us at the Gallagher Ranch and Judith and Doug McNeel's beautiful home—La Casita. It's the perfect place to spend a fall day in the country, so come and join the fun! We'll celebrate October birthdays with a barbecue lunch on the patio, and then have a variety of games and fellowship opportunities. If you plan to drive, please check with Pat McCleary for directions. Van transportation to and from church will be available. Further details will be available in a separate flyer. Deadline for reservations (\$12/person) is Tuesday, October 20. Reservations may be made by check payable to FPC with "picnic" notation in the memo line. Send reservations to Pat's attention. And, just in case: rain date is Sunday, October 25 (2:30 – 6:00 PM).

HAMBURGERS & MOVIE

Friday, October 30 • 11:30 AM

A hamburger lunch will be served followed by the movie "The Book Thief" that is based on the novel by Markus Zusak. The film is about a young girl living with her adoptive German family during the Nazi era. Taught to read by her kind-hearted foster father, the girl begins "borrowing" books and sharing them with the Jewish refugee being sheltered by her foster parents in the home. It is a moving story of a young girl who transforms the lives of many people around her during WWII. There is no cost for the movie. Lunch is \$8 and make your reservation by calling Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215.

GAMES

BRIDGE

Friday, October 9 • 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Friday, October 23 • 11:00 – 2:00 PM

MAH JONGG

Friday, October 9 • 1:00 PM

Friday, October 23 • 11:00 AM

KEEP MOVING FITNESS

Friday, October 2, 9, 23, 30 • 9:45 AM

LOOKING AHEAD

HARDBERGER PARK – PRIVATE TOUR

Tuesday, November 3 • 10:00 – 11:30 AM

We will meet at the Salado Greenway Trail Parking lot, 1021 Voelcker Lane. This is from the Blanco Road entrance. Short walk to Voelcker Homestead where we will see inside of the dairy barn and the outside of the renovated old stone house built in the 1840's, the restored windmill and cistern, Master Naturalist native plant garden and future Children's Garden. Donations \$3/person. Bring a lunch and we'll picnic afterwards. Make



your reservation with Pat McCleary at patm@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2726. Map will be available.

VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM

Friday, November 6 • 11:00 AM

Details to come

FPC LITERATURE CIRCLE AND KEYS JOINT MEETING REVIEW "THE TRAIN TO CRYSTAL CITY" BY JAN JARBOE RUSSELL

Friday, November 13 • 11:00 AM • Westminster Hall

Author Jan Jarboe Russell will review her dramatic story in the book, "The Train to Crystal City." The secret American internment camp, approved by president Franklin Delano Roosevelt, was located in Texas during World War II and had the distinction of being the only family internment camp in the states. The trains carried Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants and their American born children to their destination. Some of these prisoners were exchanged during the war for more important Americans trapped overseas—primarily government and professional men. You can imagine the struggle of the prisoners in not only accepting life in an internment camp, but in surviving when exchanged and transported to war-devastated Germany and Japan. Their stories of day-to-day life at the camp, from the ten-foot-high security fence to the armed guards, daily roll call and censored mail, have never been told previously. Their goal was to survive and return to the United States. Ms. Jarboe is a local author and a graduate of U.T. Austin, and received a fellowship to Harvard. To make your luncheon reservations (\$8), please call Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215 by Tuesday, November 10.

KEYS GROUP MAKING JESUS VISIBLE IN THE COMMUNITY

UNIVERSITY MINISTRY

Your University Ministry staff is hitting the road later this month! Chris Via, Alex Solorio, and Matt Fricker will be visiting our FPC students at Rice, Texas A&M, Baylor, UT, and all points in between on October 20th and 21st. If you have a son or daughter on any of these campuses, make sure we know so we can get in touch with them while we're there. You can contact Chris at chrisv@fpcsat.org or Alex at alexs@fpcsat.org. We're excited to see how they're making Jesus visible on their own campuses!

Hopefully by now you've seen some new younger faces in and among our worship services at FPC. Trinity University has started back, and with it brings many, many new students looking to be a part of what God is doing in and through a congregation. With that, our FPC University Ministries has ramped up our partnership with the InterVarsity (IV) chapter at Trinity, with 50+ students at-

tending large group at IV, and 10-20 worshipping with us at FPC! By now, you must be thinking—how do I get involved with this awesome group? What a great question!! We are looking for mentors here in the FPC congregation to walk with these students as they try to navigate the sometimes treacherous waters of a college atmosphere. Don't worry. You don't have to be as wise as Solomon, as strong as Samson, or as powerful as David to be a mentor. All you need is the willingness to share with one of these college students about your relationship with the Lord, how it changes how you live, and how it could change how they live. If you want to hear more about how to get involved in something like this, contact Chris Via (chrisv@fpcsat.org). Thanks so much!

Also, check out information about our care packages on page 5!

LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Your Library needs HELP that only YOU can give! Currently there are five adult volunteers who are maintaining your church library (there is no paid librarian). Three of us are in our 80s and, as you may have guessed, we are the ones who have given over twenty years each in your service. We are not ready to move on, but we do see the need to begin training our replacements.

Who do we need? Several people who are retired or do not have to be gainfully employed, who are willing to donate at least one half-day each week. They would first learn how to operate our small library computer program, and then develop an understanding of our collection philosophy – that is what books or digital materials we select to keep within our limited area. So, right away our hopeful volunteers will need minimum basic computer literacy. We use Windows 7 Professional to operate our old, but still reliable, program named Athena.

For more than twenty years the several library groups have chosen to work in the library on Thursdays, right after the Thursday Morning Bible Study programs. Traditionally, we bring our lunch and work for four to five hours until mid-afternoon, depending on our work load.

Believe me library work is not dull and boring, especially if you are a person who likes to read and share your reading experiences with others. Our goal is to provide both a place and materials that are interesting to, and are used by ALL of our church members. We know that reading materials are changing, and we need input from the younger members of our church—not only children, but younger adults also—as to what your interests are and how we can meet your needs on our very limited budget. We must also remember that we are a church library, with a goal of providing access to religious materials not normally found in public libraries.

So, if I have piqued a latent interest in library work, please contact one of us: Jim or Nancy Johnson, Janet Beauch, Suzanne West, or Ann Smith. You can always leave a message for us with our Church Receptionist, Phyllis, or leave us a note in the Library Box in the workroom. In case you might have an interest in our church library but cannot fit working there into your schedule, you might consider our Library Committee. We meet typically on the last Thursday of the month, and we would welcome your presence and interest.

Jim Johnson

HISTORY CORNER

FREE CHILDREN'S CLINIC AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BY BILL COGBURN

As First Pres began to grow in numbers and prosperity in the 1920s, so did its social conscience. Under Rev. P. B. Hill's pastorship, community service began to take on a larger and more important role. Cooperation between First Pres and the newly formed Junior League of San Antonio provided a much needed medical program when a free children's clinic opened in the First Pres basement in October 1924.

The clinic was staffed by medical professionals who provided free medical service to children under 12 years of age whose parents could not afford proper medical care. Doctors and medical professionals who were members of First Pres were well represented in the program and many First Pres Women's Auxiliary members performed non-medical duties such as record keeping, manning the intake desk and maintaining order.

The October 4, 1924 San Antonio Express announced:

First Presbyterian Free Clinic to open.

A free children's clinic will be opened at First Presbyterian Church at 12:30 Monday afternoon. It will be financed and controlled by a board from the church and administered by the Junior League.

Dr. Mary Harper will be in charge assisted by Dr. Lucius D. Hill and Dr. George B. Cornick. They

will be assisted by consulting physicians including Drs. Charles Boehs, Eldridge Adams, P. I. Nixon, Frank Paschal, W. S. Hanson, C. F. Lehman and F. H. Rosebrough. Operations will not be performed at the clinic but provisions for them will be made when necessary. The clinic will be held on Monday and Friday between 12:30 and 2 o'clock and is non-sectarian. Children must be accompanied by a parent."

During the great depression, history tells us that basic medical care of young children was often neglected. The free clinic, which continued until the mid-1930s, served up to 100 children each month. It was undoubtedly a Godsend to the city's poor. During this ten-year period, untold thousands of parents and children walked down those basement steps from 4th Street to avail themselves of health services offered by First Pres.



Source: First Pres Archives; San Antonio Express; Donald Everett's, Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice; Photo by Fine Art Studio

IMMIGRATION ISSUES BY REV. RON SCATES

...Continued from page 2

At the same time, I do—I must—ask questions. One is theo-political: “How does the sovereignty of an unbounded God inform the idea of nations having sovereign borders?” I don’t have a definitive answer. I worry that our porous borders are being used by politicians merely to create an enlarged “voter base” by making immigrants dependent on governmental handouts. I know that I am not to make an idol out of the US, but shouldn’t she have some sense of sovereignty as a nation with controlled borders, especially in a day and age of increasing global terrorism? The US is a nation of immigrants. We are always receiving new immigrants and assimilating them into our land, but in ways carefully laid out in our immigration laws. Do we just let folks pour into our country over and against those laws? My theo-political gut says, “No.” Sometimes, I worry that I am not compassionate enough. Other times I worry that I’m a bleeding heart.

Another question is economic. I’ll never forget my shock at seeing elders smoking cigarettes when I was a seminary intern in Charlotte, NC back in the late 70s. In the evangelical Presbyterian Church, which I had grown up in, no one smoked—at least not in public—let alone an elder. This was right about the time the Surgeon General (Presbyterian Dr. C. Everett Koop) had come out with his warning about the health risks of smoking—a warning required by law to go onto the sides of every cigarette pack. I remember listening to those elders—college-educated, godly men—berate the Surgeon General’s warning as a bunch of malarkey. It made no sense to me how they could do so until I connected the dots revealing that tobacco was a chief engine of the North Carolina economy. As a Southern Presbyterian, I had always taken pride in the insightful and robust Reformed theology of perhaps the PCUSA’s greatest theologian, James Henley Thornwell, while hiding my embarrassment that he was the chief champion of a “Biblical” argument FOR slavery during the mid-nineteenth century. As the direct great-grandson of Capt. James Madison Scates of the 40th Virginia, I’ve always said that the War Between The States was chiefly over states’ rights—when deep down inside, I knew that that banner was being fueled by a desire to preserve “the peculiar institution.” Without a slave-based economy, the South would crumble. My point is that, as a pastor, I have a hunch that nothing is as powerful an influence on our faith as is economics. It’s amaz-

ing how you and I will be gung-ho for Jesus—until it hits our pocketbooks. Then we begin to rationalize, which is to simply tell yourself rational lies. How many Bible-believing Christians make their decisions regarding immigration/immigrants based on their pocketbooks rather than Scripture? I’m not sure. I’m just raising the question.

But a third question that is always staring me in the face is the one of “sustainability.” How many immigrants can this great, affluent nation take in—and grant free health care, education, food, shelter, etc—before “The Goose That Laid The Golden Eggs” can’t lay any more eggs, and the whole system collapses, and everyone is impoverished? I’m not sure where that tipping point is, but shouldn’t we be vitally concerned about where it might be? There is a limit to how well and how much First Presbyterian Church can faithfully, and sustainably, care for those in need around her. Jesus told the rich young ruler to give away all he had and then follow Him. I’ve preached that text, telling the congregation that Christ does not call every Christian to do that, and that this was a particular instance where Jesus was trying to liberate a man who had made an idol—a barrier to faithfulness—out of his possessions. Has the Lord called the US to a unique and compassionate roll amidst our needy 21st century world? I like to think so. So, how do we do that without “giving away the farm” and creating an internal national economic burden that is not sustainable in regard to immigration? How does that play out with the Church, and particular congregations like ours, and with individual believers like you and me? I’m not exactly sure. I guess it all boils down to call. What is the Lord calling us—in our unique situations—to be and do with our resources in regard to the alien, the stranger, the immigrant? I’m not always sure. How does my sin deafen me to Christ’s call? Bottom line: I’m forced to my knees to pray Augustine’s prayer, “Lord, give what you command.”

— Ron Scates

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | AUGUST 2015

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	2,476,378	2,792,656	(316,277)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	1,985,862	2,449,019	(463,157)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	429,653	429,653	0
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	60,862	(86,017)	146,879

This is truly a special congregation! For the first summer in several years, we have closed each of the past three months with a surplus—without having to draw on Operating Reserve funds. Thank you! Your continued faithfulness and generous support provides great encouragement to our staff and leadership as they seek to share God’s truth and grace in Jesus Christ. A point of clarification: PC(USA) member churches typically are asked to contribute (based on total membership) a small amount of funds to support presbytery and PC(USA) activities. Five months ago, your Session ceased all such support and redirected those funds to the Fellowship Community. If you hear comments to the contrary, please share this message. To God alone be all the glory!

COVENANT CAMPAIGN

It is that time of year again! Our theme for the 2016 Covenant Campaign is “Rediscovering Our Future!” In preparing next year’s budget, your staff has been busy revisiting the core values that have undergirded and guided this congregation for nearly 170 years. For it is in holding fast to those values that we once again encounter God’s call on our life together. Those core values have always included solid worship based on an unwavering faithfulness to God’s Word and our risen Lord, consistent emphasis on spiritual development and personal growth in discipleship for members of all ages, and a strong emphasis on local and global mission outreach. Throughout our history, various organizational approaches have been used to describe how those values have structured our many activities. Our current approach uses Worship-Grow-Serve-Support terms. For example, the many offerings described in this Fall’s “Re-Connect” booklet are expressed in those terms. Yet, at the heart of each offering is a carefully structured current application of our long-standing core values. The lesson is clear: when we—as a congregation and individual members—stand firm on those values with Jesus as our focus and foundation, all kind of good things happen. May it be so once again! Accordingly, Commitment Sunday this year is scheduled for November 8 when, at all worship services, our members come before the Lord with their stewardship commitment for the year ahead. Toward the end of October you will receive a pamphlet with additional information—program and budgetary—to help you in making your commitment decision for 2016. Look for it in the mail and make time to review its contents.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | HOMERUN | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



Spoiler alert, I am about to discuss the movie Moneyball—so if you have not seen it yet I encourage you to do so prior to reading further. Towards the end of the movie, the Oakland A’s general manager is very down, his team just got knocked out of the playoffs. His right hand man tries to cheer him up, the GM has no interest. Eventually he gives into his protégé’s pleas to watch some baseball game tape. They watch tape of an extremely obese minor league baseball player up to bat. It is explained that his biggest fear is hitting beyond a single because he probably is not

fast enough to reach second. As they continue to watch, his worst fears are realized as he has a huge hit. As he rounds first base he elects to go for it but just a few steps towards second he falls down to the ground. In embarrassing desperation, he crawls back to first base fearful of being thrown out. As he humbly looks up at the first baseman he realizes everyone is laughing, and cheering. He had hit a homerun, and didn’t even know it. Has this ever happened to you? I promise it happened to the original disciples. Their hearts were completely broken as their Master was dying on the cross, yet He had hit a homerun and they didn’t even know it.

WELCOME NEW STAFF!



Hank Cherry joins us as our new Director of Communications. Hank is a native of San Antonio and a marketing communications veteran. After over two decades in management positions with agencies, serving numerous clients in for-profit and not-for-profit industries in San Antonio and abroad, Hank brings a wealth of knowledge and leadership to our team. He holds a Bachelors degree in Journalism from the University of North Texas, and has served as President of the American Marketing Association’s local chapter. With strong family roots in our city, Hank and his wife, Debbie, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary earlier this year, and have two grown sons, Collin (23) and Cody (22). In his free time, Hank enjoys running, guitar, outdoors, hunting and fishing, as well as being a die-hard Spurs fan.



Morgan Ford recently joined our Communications team in the role of Media Coordinator. She comes with over 10 years of media background, including six years as a Producer at the Christian Broadcasting Network. Morgan and her husband Scott moved to San Antonio a year ago and have two beautiful daughters, Willa (3) and Dakota (6 months). She is a southern girl at heart, born and raised in Virginia, so she has adapted well to Texas life. During her free time, she loves DIY projects and exploring the area with family and friends.



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