



First Press

COVENANT CAMPAIGN OF 2016

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



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Here are some of my favorite quotes about the Bible:

Mark Twain—a wayward Presbyterian—said that he did not read the Bible. When asked if it was because he didn't understand the Bible, he said, "No, I don't read it because I DO understand it."

"The Bible is an anvil that has worn out many hammers."

WC Fields—no champion of the Christian faith—was once "caught" reading the Bible. His response? "I'm looking for loopholes."

When Charles Spurgeon was once asked, "How do you defend the Bible?" he replied, "You defend the Bible the same way you defend a lion: you let it loose."

During my first year in seminary I read a lecture by Martin Luther to his preaching students. He told them that they would never be good preachers until they mastered the Bible, and the best way to do that is to read through the entire Bible every year of their ministries. Luther convinced and convicted me. I'm finishing up my 39th straight time of reading through the entire Bible. For the past 26 years, I have been challenging whatever congregation I was serving (Central/Baltimore and Highland Park/Dallas) to join me on that journey. Hundreds of people have taken the challenge. Lives have been transformed. Now it's FPC's turn. Beginning on "Bible Sunday" (always the 3rd Sunday of November) which is 11/15, I will start challenging you to read through the Bible with me in 2016. I'll keep issuing the challenge every Sunday through the end of this year. To help you take the challenge, there will be pocket-sized Bible reading calendars in the pew racks, and on tables in Westminster Hall, the Mauze Lobby, etc. It will give you your readings for each day of the year. An investment of about 25 minutes a day in God's Word will mean that this time next year you will be coming down the home stretch, and I guarantee you: you will not be the same. But I hope this time next year will not be the "finish line" of a "bucket-list item," but the beginning of an every-year investment—from here on out, an investment that will take you on a deeper walk with Christ. Folks who study these sorts of things say that you and I are living amidst an unprecedented Biblically-illiterate culture, both outside and within the Church. The purity, peace, and unity of any congregation is always in direct proportion to its Biblical literacy, and its commitment to the Bible as its marching orders for its everyday life. I dare you. Take me up on my challenge and see if the Lord doesn't use it to ignite your faith, anchor your soul, and benefit FPC and the larger Kingdom—all to His glory.

Stay strong in the Lord,

Ron

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PG.

4-5 SAVE THE DATE

- 4 YOUNGLIVES GARAGE SALE
- 4 PROJECT 240
- 4 MARKET OF HOPE
- 4 WORLD VISION MARATHON
- 5 MEDICAL MISSION TRIP
- 5 LITERATURE CIRCLE
- 5 HILL COUNTRY LIGHTS TRIP

PG.

6-13 SPECIAL STORIES

- 6-7 COVENANT CAMPAIGN
- 8-9 NAMI WALK
- 10 WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY
- 11 SHERIFF'S ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE
- 12 ADVENT FESTIVAL
- 13 PRAYERS FOR OUR VETERANS

PG.

14-21 MINISTRIES

- 14-15 FOSTER/ADOPTION
- 16-17 MALAWI TRIP
- 18-19 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
- 20-21 KEYS

PG.

22-25; 27 INSPIRATION

- 22-23 HISTORY CORNER
- 24-25 FIRST CUP
- 27 MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE

PG.

26-27 CHURCH UPDATES

- 26 FINANCIAL SUMMARY
- 26 CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SCHAICKS
- 27 POINSETTIA ORDER FORM

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

Hank Cherry: Director of Communications
Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer
Morgan Ford: Media Coordinator
Richard Flores: Press Manager & Production

Contact:
Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org) or
Sarah Clower (210-271-2777/sarahc@fpcsat.org)
with any questions.

SAVE THE DATE

YOUNGLIVES GARAGE SALE

Get ready for the holidays and clean out any unwanted household items FOR A GREAT CAUSE! Our annual YoungLives garage sale will be held at 119 Bushnell Avenue on November 6th and 7th. Donations will be accepted at that location any time AFTER October 15th. Call Nina Jordan (219-9111) for more details. THANK YOU for being the hands, feet and generous heart of Jesus for teen moms and babies. ALL proceeds will directly impact the YoungLives ministries at Seton Home and Healy Murphy.

NOVEMBER 6-7 • DONATIONS ACCEPTED!

PROJECT 240

Save the Date for the 5th Annual Project 240 coming April 3rd, 2016! The Session has already approved a gift of \$10,000 to kick start our fund-raising, so we are on our way to building the frames of five homes once again. However, we still need to raise an additional \$25,000 to complete all five homes. Registration is now up online and the first 50 people that register will receive a FREE, newly-designed, Project 240 T-shirt. You can also donate online to help us reach our goal.

APRIL 3, 2016 • HELP US RAISE FUNDS!

MARKET OF HOPE

FPC's Market of Hope Returns December 2015. During the month of December, our FPC Market of Hope will be open for you in the Geneva Room. Enjoy the opportunity to shop for Fair-Trade items that will not only bless the gift recipient, but also bless the artisans and producers of each product. Fair Trade is a model rooted in people-to-people connections, justice, and sustainability. Your purchase provides hope and encouragement for Christian ministries in San Antonio and around the world. The Market will be held on Dec 6, 13, and 20th. Don't do all your Christmas shopping yet, but wait to shop the Market of Hope for a gift that has meaning and a lasting effect around the world.

DECEMBER 6, 13, AND 20

TEAM WORLD VISION ROCK 'N' ROLL MARATHON

First Presbyterian Church is launching a team for the San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon and Half-marathon to raise support for clean water projects in Africa. Our church family is partnering with Team World Vision to run, run-walk, or crawl the San Antonio Rock 'n' Roll Marathon or Half-marathon, on Dec 6th, to help provide clean water to children who desperately need it in Malawi. Is your sweat worth it? We think so...consider joining our team and help some of the world's most vulnerable children! To join the team or to learn more, contact Christy Custer at 210-475-2077.

DECEMBER 6

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

Registration is now officially open for the FPC Medical Mission Trip in February 2016! If you are a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or dentist, or fluent in Spanish, please prayerfully consider if God might be calling you to serve on this mission trip to Mexico. For the past 20 years we have partnered with Yucatan Peninsula Missions and set up a three-day medical clinic. This is an amazing opportunity to use your gifts and skills to make Jesus visible in Mexico. For more information or to request an application, please contact Alyssa Payne (210-271-2742).

FEBRUARY 2016 • REGISTRATION OPEN!

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Author, Jan Jarboe Russell, will review her dramatic story in the book, "The Train to Crystal City," at the combined meeting with KEYS and the Literature Circle. The book reveals the secret American family internment camp located in Texas during WWII. Ms. Jarboe is a local author and a graduate of U.T. Austin, and received a fellowship to Harvard. She is one of the six authors chosen for the Express News Book and Author Luncheon on November 5 at the Marriott Rivercenter (a cost of \$80 for lunch and program, and you get to hear it for free!).

An optional luncheon will be served after the review. Make your luncheon reservation (\$8) by calling Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215 by Tuesday, November 10.

Note: There will not be a Literature Circle meeting on Tuesday, November 10. Next meeting will be December 8 when Carol Coffee Reposa will give a presentation of her poetry from her book "Underground Musicians."

Everyone is invited to attend!

NOVEMBER 13 • 11:00 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL

HILL COUNTRY LIGHTS TRIP

Everyone needs time once in awhile when someone else to take care of the details. Take one evening in December when the 55-plus crowd will sit back and let the Holloways guide our coach through the area's holiday lights.

They light up the hills in December! After dinner at Popo's in Welfare on I-10 West, we'll be on our way to a Hill Country Christmas Lights Odyssey, starting at Bandera where the old courthouse square is surrounded with the silhouettes of Cowboys at Christmas.

The lights on Old Main Street lead us northward as we head cross-country deeper into the hills of Kerrville for hot chocolate at Starbucks, and 40-ft. lighted Christmas tree amid 100,000 lights on the courthouse lawn. But wait! Schreiner University lights up the campus with more displays.

Then, with bedazzled eyes we lean back for the ride through Fredericksburg (yes, more lights and a wondrous Christmas Pyramid at the Marktplatz), finally heading for Johnson City and the hard-to-believe display at the Perdarnales Electric Co-op. From here we take 281 South toward home, caroling all the way.

Cost \$66.00. Includes charter Regent Coach, supper, hot chocolate at Starbucks, driver tip, escorts Susan & Henry and Spectacular Hill Country Lights.

Departs 4:00 PM from FPC
Returns 11:00 PM

Make checks payable to FPC with "Trip" in the memo line and send to the "attention of Pat McCleary" no later than Tuesday, November 27.

DECEMBER 7 • DEPARTS 4:00 PM

REDISCOVERING OUR FUTURE

THROUGH A RENEWED FOCUS ON THE VALUES WHICH HAVE SUSTAINED THIS CONGREGATION FOR NEARLY 170 YEARS!

WORSHIP...



...WHICH LIFTS UP GOD'S WORD AND THE SAVING GRACE OF JESUS CHRIST IN ALL THEIR MAJESTY AND GLORY

SERVE



...THROUGH FOCUSED MISSION OUTREACH AND SUPPORT!

GROW



...THROUGH CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND DISCIPLE-MAKING WITHIN AND ACROSS ALL AGE GROUPS!

SUPPORT



...THROUGH PRAYER WHICH UNDERGIRDS ALL OUR ACTIONS!



The theme for our 2016 Covenant Campaign is “Rediscovering Our Future!” This simple theme involves far more than looking back to the success of prior programs and mission activities. Many of the conditions which enabled their success have changed

over the years, as have the nature and scope of societal and spiritual challenges each was structured to meet. However, what has not changed since our founding in 1846 are the timeless and Christ-centered values at the core of this congregation. During the intervening years, the congregation relied on those values to guide, shape and reshape its vision of what it meant to be the church of Jesus Christ in its time and place. In turn, those timeless values have undergirded every meaningful activity and success this congregation has achieved in its nearly 170 years of loving service to our Lord—and to the people for whom Jesus gave his life for their salvation.

Today, our congregation faces new challenges as it seeks to “make Jesus visible” within this city and beyond. Throughout our nation today, “old and time-proven values” are often ignored or rejected as inadequate to meet the challenges of our modern, technology-driven world. While we are more “connected” than ever, at the same time we are more separated as persons than we care to admit. Yet, with all the conveniences of modernity at our beck and call, very little has changed in terms of human needs. Our common need for the basic necessities of life, and for personal and group safety, remains constant. Very little has changed in terms of our common search for meaning, for having a clear purpose for our lives, and a meaningful sense of identity and worth and significance beyond self. Moreover, nothing has changed regarding our very human need to experience the joy and peace of true community. This need is common to all humanity, and one which can truly be filled only through a personal relationship with the living God. How we respond to this need clearly shapes our individual and corporate lives of faith. But, responding to this need also shapes and defines the ongoing work of God’s church! Led by the Spirit, this congregation and its members have sensed—for our time and place—a renewed focus on the timeless truths of God’s Word and the grace of Jesus Christ.

Accordingly, in preparing next year’s activities and related budget needs, your staff has been busy revisiting those core values which have served this congregation so well since its beginning in 1846. Those 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. A consistent personal and corpo-

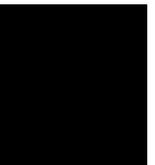
rate life of prayer is woven into each of these time-tested values. Throughout our history, various approaches have been used to describe how those values have structured our activities. Our current approach uses Worship-Grow-Serve-Support terms. For example, the many offerings described in this year’s “Re-Connect” booklet are expressed in those terms. At the heart of each offering is a carefully structured current application of our core values. Take time for a closer look at the many opportunities to worship, grow and serve described throughout that booklet.

Commitment Sunday on November 8 presents each of us with a choice! Be assured your entire FPC staff is committed to the success of this congregation. In turn, they need your support and involvement of time, talents and treasures to fully realize our common goals. The lesson is clear: when we—individually and as a congregation—stand firm on our core values with Jesus as our focus and foundation, all kinds of good things happen. For it is in holding fast to those core values that we once again encounter God’s call to us. And when we truly hear and respond with faith and hope, we rediscover at a deeper level who we are and whose we are—called by God to experience and share the grace, joy, and love of Christ as we “Make Jesus Visible” in our own time and place.

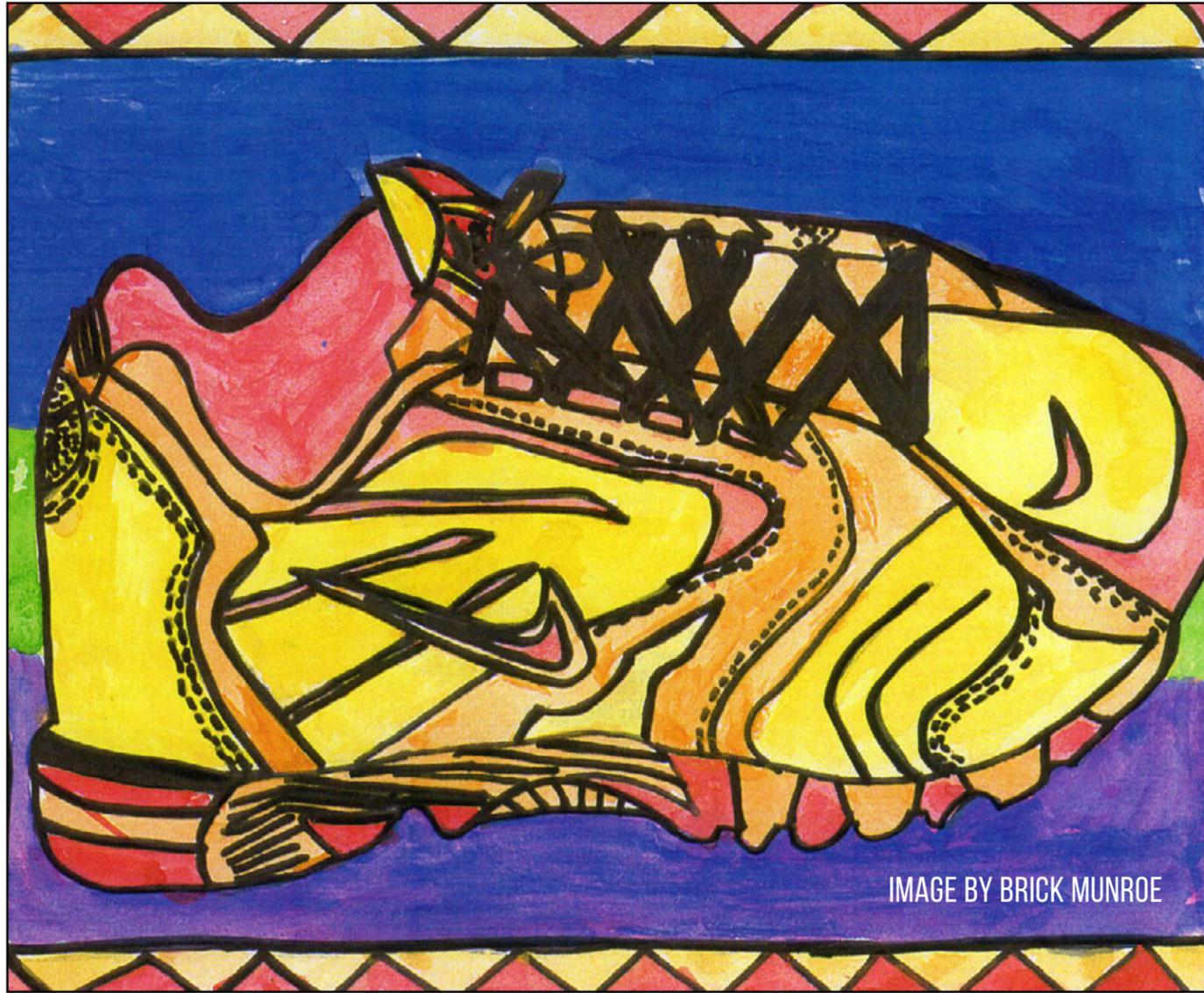
By the time you read this message, you should have received a small brochure with information on next year’s budget needs. Please take time to read it carefully and then prayerfully consider the challenge before us: to respond faithfully to God’s call and revealed path of life, and to commit our time, talents and treasures toward building His church on our risen Lord and God’s Word—the only foundation that can withstand the storms and challenges we will encounter along the Way.

Join your fellow members on Sunday, November 8, as together we recommit ourselves fully to “Making Jesus Visible” within this body of believers, this city and beyond.

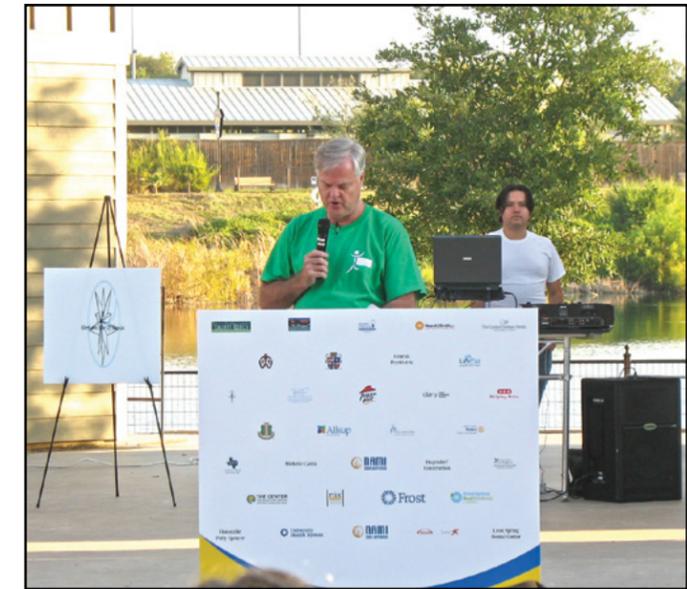
— Elder Ron Baker, on behalf of your Stewardship and Finance Team



FPC'S TEAM BRICK WALKS



ROCKS AT NAMI WALK!



Great weather and record turnout for the October 3, 2015 NAMI San Antonio Walk made this year's NAMI fundraiser at Morgan's Wonderland a great event. FPC members Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau and NAMI San Antonio President Doug Beach were among the people who helped kickoff this year's walk to fund the education and advocacy of NAMI San Antonio. The challenge for the walk is to stamp out the "stigma" of mental illness. NAMI is the nation's largest grass roots organization to advocate for individuals living with a mental illness.

FPC's "Team Brick" walked to remember "Brick" Munroe, a young man who grew up at FPC and whose family (Tom III (Chip), Karen, Will, Tom Jr., Elizabeth, Virginia and Mike) are members of FPC. Brick Munroe was tragically killed on July 5 of this year in Austin after calling 911 for help. His family asked that memorials to Brick go to NAMI, so FPC formed a walk team in honor of Brick. The FPC TEAM BRICK exceeded its fundraising goal of \$5,000, thanks to the generous support of FPC members

and the family and friends of Brick.

"One out of four people will experience a mental health disorder in any given year," said Beach. "Yet 60% of people don't get treatment, and the primary reason is the stigma associated with mental illness." Beach encouraged everyone to help overcome the stigma by supporting the Munroe family and NAMI San Antonio, and especially thanked First Pres and its members for their support of this event.

It's not too late to send a contribution to TEAM BRICK at NAMI San Antonio (510 Belknap Pl, SAT 78212, Attn: TEAM BRICK). 95% of the money donated stays in San Antonio to fund educational classes provided by NAMI. Over 300 people have taken NAMI classes held at FPC, and three NAMI classes and a family support group attended by almost 80 people are currently underway this fall.





WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



On Sunday, October 4th, FPC had some great ways to celebrate World Communion Sunday. In our traditional services, Jack Sara, president of Bethlehem Bible College, came and delivered an inspiring sermon to our congregation in those services. In our Contemporary service, we had FPC missionaries and mission partners from across the world submit short videos that spoke to how they each see John 3:16 played out in their context. Incredible testimonies were given, and it was thrilling to see how God was working everywhere from Cambodia to CAM right down the street. Additionally, FPC families made international bread that was used for the Lord's Supper, representing Thailand, Morocco, and Turkey. Being able to partake in the same elements that our Christian brothers and sisters all over the world truly brought home our oneness in Christ, regardless of how many physical miles may be between us. What a great Sunday!



Jennifer and Tom Dooling sing the National Anthem.

FPC MEMBER, MINISTER FEATURED AT 2015 SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

The 137th Annual Conference and Expo of the Sheriffs' Association of Texas (SAT), held this summer in San Antonio, had special significance for First Pres. FPC's own Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau was the official host of the event and provided the Welcome Address. Additionally, FPC's Music Minister Tom Dooling and his wife, Jennifer, had the honor of singing the National Anthem during opening ceremonies, while the Bexar County Sheriff's Office Honor Guard presented the colors. The event was attended by over 1,200 members and associates of the law enforcement community statewide.



Sheriff AJ Louderback, SAT President, honors Susan Pamerleau and her staff for hosting the event.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

All are invited to the annual Advent Festival in Westminster Hall on Sunday, November 29 from 3:00-5:00pm. Whether you are 1 or 101, come celebrate the start of Advent with a Church-wide Festival. At the Advent 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, much more!

The pastors and staff at FPC are so excited for the Advent Festival that they have already dressed up as angels, shepherds, wisemen and livestock before taking their own selfies! Now it is your turn! You do not want to miss this great time of food, fellowship and anticipation, so mark your calendars and bring a friend!

THE PASTORS AND STAFF ARE SO EXCITED FOR ADVENT THEY'VE ALREADY DRESSED UP!



PRAYERS FOR OUR VETERANS

Our Gracious Lord, we give thanks for all who have given of themselves in the military service to our nation from the Revolutionary War through the conflicts of today.

We commit to your eternal and loving care of all those who have fallen in battle; for their love of country and giving their very lives to gain and preserve our freedoms. We especially lift up for your care and support their families: the wives, the children, the mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, who will forever miss them.

Lord God, we also pray for our wounded returning veterans as we see their images on the television, or even in person. Sometimes their wounds are very obvious and other times not visible at all. Many scars from the trauma of war are never seen but are very real to them.

We pray for your healing touch in mind, body and spirit. Bless them and their families as they go forward in life.

It is our prayer that you will guide our current military personnel in their daily service and be their protection. Comfort those who are alone in far-away places by your presence and shepherd their families during times of separation. We ask your blessings and guidance for those transitioning out of the military services back into civilian life.

Again, O Lord God, we intercede with grateful thanks on behalf of all veterans who have served and those presently in the military for their courage and valor in times of world tension and times of peace. All this we pray in Jesus' name.

"HERE RESTS IN HONORED GLORY AN AMERICAN SOLDIER KNOWN BUT TO GOD"





FPC ANSWERS CALL TO SUPPORT ADOPTION AND FOSTER CARE

This fall has ushered in a new and growing ministry at First Presbyterian—a ministry to support families who have, or are considering adoption and fostering both local and international displaced children. On Saturday, September 19, members of the new First Presbyterian Foster and Adopt Ministry attended a beautiful event hosted by Focus on the Family called Wait No More. Potential and current adoptive and foster families celebrated God's heart for orphans and learned how they can serve by fostering and adopting over 850 South Texas children waiting for their forever home. Almost 450 were in attendance at Grace Point Church, and as a result 101 families initiated the process of adoption from foster care! This means that many children in south Texas will “wait no more” for the families they deserve.

Focus on the Family brought together a variety of speakers to share their experience with fostering and adoption. Some speakers focused on the facts—the statistics of South Texas children in foster care, as well as how someone considering fostering or adoption can begin the process. Others shared their experience living through the foster system and the adoption process, either as child, parent, or sibling. The stories were real, they were heartbreaking, they were inspiring, but most of all, they were a call to action for the body of Christ to do something to change the statistic of these modern day orphans. Right now, more than 100,000 legal orphans in United States foster care are waiting for adoptive families. The US also has more than 300,000 churches, and God has given clear commands for Christians to take care of His orphan children (James 1:27). We believe it is the responsibility of the Church to take care of these children—to show them the love of Christ by becoming the arms of a forever family.

As a mom who has previously adopted, my heart was refreshed all over again by Ephesians 1:4-6, reminding me that adoption was originally God's idea to bring each of us to Himself. The words to one of the songs we sang in worship were “Who makes the orphan a son and daughter? The King of glory”—just as so many in the room were eager to make one of South Texas' orphans their own son or daughter. Through a video, John Specia of the Department of Family and Protective Services shared his enthusiasm for the event, as well as his perspective that often the support of a church community makes foster and adoptive placements more successful. What encouragement to First Pres as the new Foster and Adopt Ministry takes off! To find out how you can be involved, either by praying for families fostering or adopting, supporting them or responding to God's call on your life to adopt your own, please contact Christina Via (christinav@fpcsat.org) or Teresa McCaleb (tbmccaleb@gmail.com). Perhaps there is a child waiting for you to bring them home forever.

— Anita Briggs and Melissa McKenzie

MALAWI:



A MISSION TO TRANSFORM...AND BE TRANSFORMED



**APRIL 22-29
2016**

Three years ago, FPC hosted an event called “Hope Sunday,” in which we offered the church the opportunity to sponsor a child in Malawi through World Vision. Several hundred of you stepped up and committed to offering a monthly investment to a child to help pay for their family’s health care, school supplies, and other needed resources, offering them the opportunity for a better life and a better community. Thank you for your continued investment and relationship with these children! Three years later, FPC members still sponsor about 275 children in a geographical area known as Mutendere, Malawi.

We sent our first FPC trip to visit our community about a year and half ago, and the hearts of all seven participants were deeply inspired from visiting “the warm heart of Africa.” Malawi prides itself as being known as “the warm heart of Africa” while the entire continent is known for its great hospitality, Malawi in particular is said to have some of the warmest, most welcoming, and most gracious people on the planet. We spent five days with World Vision staff and volunteers on the ground in Mutendere, learning about each other’s culture, discussing ways that communities are rising out of extreme poverty, and observing the transforming work of World Vision and their stellar influence on the community around them.

While I have been on over 20 mission trips in my 36 years of life, I would say this Africa mission trip stands out as one of the most influential. The people we encountered in each village we visited would be out on the road waiting for us – dancing and singing as our bus arrived, leading us through dance and song down the paths into their communities, singing spontaneous choruses of joy and praise to God for the visit from these Americans. That kind of welcome and lavish display of joy was beyond humbling to many of us, and continues to influence the way we seek to obey God’s call to offer hospitality to others.

Another major highlight from the trip was getting to meet our sponsored children. It is amazing to meet the child that you see in the pictures and letters you receive from World Vision. This special child that you have written to, prayed for, and received updates on - is now right in front of you and you are able to make the leap from paper to real life. That meeting transforms the relationship on both sides – for now the sponsor too is a real person to the child – not

just a monthly donor, or far away pen pal, but a real actual person, offering a hug, a handshake, a smile – a real and enduring friendship. These visits may not have been lengthy, but they certainly had a depth of meaning that was beyond measure.

And now we have the opportunity to take a second trip to Malawi with World Vision! This trip will be April 22-29, 2016 (with some additional travel time on either end of those dates). The Global Missions Committee welcomes anyone to apply to go, but is seeking applicants that have some sort of sphere of influence at FPC, in hopes that this trip’s effects will reach far beyond only the trip participants, and end up truly inspiring and transforming our whole congregation in meaningful and important ways!

If you think you might be interested to participate in this trip, or if you would like to nominate someone who you think might be a good candidate, please email me at alyssap@fpcsat.org. We are now accepting applications through November. Ben and Teresa McCaleb will lead this trip, and Rev. Dr. Ron Scates will be participating as well. We have an additional seven spots – so please pray and see if God is calling you to join this amazing journey! Please join us in making Jesus visible in Mutendere, Malawi!

— Alyssa Payne

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



“A TIME TO KEEP” | FALL 2015

The FPC Women's Retreat was truly a time to Retreat, Refresh, Renew at the beautiful setting of Laity Lodge. This inspiring two and a half day adventure included three Grammy award-winning singers from Nashville; a workshop for memoir writing; challenging rappelling opportunities; a drive through the Frio River (literally); an inspiring speaker, Lisa Burkhardt Worley; delicious and ample meals; as well as a quiet time to reflect, renew, recharge, and share fellowship.

Our annual fall Ladies' Night Out was celebrated at the lovely home of Susan DeKoch, to whom we extend a sincere thank you for her generous hospitality. We also want to thank the Evening Events Committee, comprised of Anne Scates, Cynthia Robinson, Becky DeWees, Michele Barker, and Linda Gail Dullnig for planning a perfect party. Everyone enjoyed the fun and festive autumn crafts demonstrated by Bunkie Shed (thank you, Bunkie!); the beautiful and delicious food; and the opportunity to “gather together” with treasured friends.

The “Ties that Bind” Legacy Luncheon was truly a day to be remembered as Anne Scates shared her walk with Christ and her love of First Presbyterian Church. We are very grateful to Anne for serving as our gracious speaker. We also owe appreciation to our wonderful FPC staff and to the women on the committee who truly thought of every detail and worked tirelessly to ensure a perfect luncheon. A heartfelt thank you is extended to our very talented Cheri Stith, Robin Hudnall, Blair Perry, Chaney Stuart, Holly Youngquist, Judy Kruger, and Jan Fischer.

Wishing each of you a Thanksgiving season filled with many blessings ~

*Enter into His gates with thanksgiving
And into His courts with praise.
Be thankful unto Him, and bless His name.
For the Lord is good.
Psalm 100:4-5a*



PW CIRCLES | NOVEMBER

BIBLE CIRCLE 112

Monday, November 16 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Rm
Lunch \$8.00

Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

Moderator: Grace Labatt

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

Monday, November 16 • 1:30 PM • FPC Rm 226

Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 • SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, November 20 • 12:00-1:00 PM • FPC Rm 228

Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208

Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 414-9956

BIBLE CIRCLE 6

Tuesday, November 17 • 1:30 PM • FPC Geneva Rm

Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

BIBLE CIRCLE 7

Tuesday, November 17 • 11:30 AM •

Hostess: Nancy Puckett 3106 Iron Stone Ln 78230

Bring a “Sack Lunch”

Moderator: Jeannie Dullnig

Chair: Linda Delano, 614-208-3600

CIRCLE 8 • MOM'S GROUP

Wednesday, November 18 • 9:30-11:30 AM • FPC Rm 108

Snacks Provided

RSVP for childcare 2 days prior to Sonya Wright

at sonyaw@fpcsat.org

Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

BIBLE CIRCLE 9

Tuesday, November 17 • 10:00 AM •

Hostess: Ann Smith 2626 Country Hollow 78209

Chair: BJ Neal, 210-260-9638

Co-Chair: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414



BIBLE CIRCLE 11

Monday, November 23 • 6:30 PM •

Hostess: Sheila Figueroa 335 E. Melrose Dr. 78212

Chair: Suzanne Norton, 287-1392

CIRCLE 13 • LITERATURE CIRCLE + KEYS

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

Book Review: The Train to Crystal City

Author: Jan Jarboe Russell

Presenter: Jan Jarboe Russell

Chair: Jeanne Browning, 824-3921

BIBLE CIRCLE 14

Monday, November 16 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew's Rm

Lunch: \$8.00

Chair: Marti Taylor, 210-334-9684

CIRCLE 16 • MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, November 18 • 9:30 AM • FPC Rm 228

Chair: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

CIRCLE 17 • EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, November 11 • 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, November 4 • 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, November 16 • 6:30 PM

For location contact Chairman

Chair: Andrea Taylor, 403-9442





**JOIN NOVEMBER PROGRAMS AND
COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS!**



HARDBURGER PARK — PRIVATE TOUR

Tuesday, November 3 • 10:00-11:30 AM

This is an opportunity to tour the Voelcker Homestead where we will see the inside of the dairy barn, the outside of the renovated old stone house built in the 1840's, the restored windmill and cistern, and the Master Naturalist native plant garden. We will meet at the Salado Greenway Trail Parking Lot, 1021 Voelcker Lane. Take Blanco Road to Longfield Road at the side of Blanco BBQ, then left on Old Blanco Road that winds around into the back of the park, which turns into Voelcker Road. Bring a lunch and we'll picnic afterwards. Make your reservation with Pat McCleary at patm@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2726. Donation \$3/person. Maps are available. What a great way to spend a fall morning!!

VETERANS' DAY PROGRAM

Friday, November 6 • 11:00 AM

Mark your calendar for a special Veteran's Day Program that will be presented by FPC member, Col. Hazel Zacher, USA (Ret). Hazel was a Cadet Nurse at the University of Colorado during WWII and later joined the Army. Her many assignments included Europe and the Far East. She will share some memories of her years as an Army nurse. This program is to honor all of our military personnel—past and present. Bring a photo of yourself or a loved one taken during their military career to display at the program.

KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

1:00 PM • Room 226

AARP SMART SAFETY COURSE

Tuesday, November 10 • 9:00 AM-1:00 PM • Room 302

Get a discount on your automobile insurance by attending this class at FPC! Come and join Kay Kutchins as she instructs the new and improved AARP Driver Safety Course. For AARP members, the course fee is \$15. For non-members, it is \$20. For a reservation, please call Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726.

LITERATURE CIRCLE & KEYS JOINT MEETING

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

Author Jan Jarboe Russell will review her dramatic story in the book, "The Train to Chrystal City," at this combined meeting. The book reveals the secret American internment camp located in Texas during WWII. The trains carried Japanese, German, and Italian immigrants to this destination—uprooting them from their everyday lives, including homes, work and schools. Some prisoners were even exchanged for Americans trapped overseas during the war. Ms. Jarboe is a local author and a graduate of U.T. Austin, and received a fellowship to Harvard. To make your optional luncheon reservations (\$8), please call Phyllis at 210-226-0215 by Tuesday,

November 10. Please plan to arrive by 10:45 AM in order to pay for the luncheon and find your seat.
Note: There will NOT be a Literature Circle meeting on Tuesday, November 10.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

Friday, November 20 • 11:30 AM

Come and celebrate November birthdays in a private room at Paloma Blanca Mexican Restaurant, located at 5800 Broadway. Your check for \$12.00 is your reservation and is due by Tuesday, November 17. Birthday honorees are complimentary. Come and join the fun!

NOVEMBER 27 — HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Now Our God, We Give You Thanks, and Praise Your Glorious Name – 1 Chronicles 29:13

GAMES

Bridge

Friday, November 6 • 1:00 PM

Mah Jongg

Friday, November 6 • 1:00 PM

KEEP MOVING FITNESS

Friday, November 6 and 13 • 9:45 AM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DECEMBER FUN AND SERVICE

ELF LOUISE CHRISTMAS WRAPPING PARTY

Tuesday, December 1 • 10:00-11:00AM • Port of San Antonio
After wrapping, we will lunch together at Acadiana Restaurant (participants will buy their own lunches). Van transportation will be available leaving from the church, with check-in time at 9:15 AM. RSVP by calling Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215. You may bring an unwrapped toy or make a donation. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve and have fun for the benefit of children of our city!

ANNUAL KEYS/ABC CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, December 4 • Time to be announced

This is always a special day, filled with the holiday spirit! We're excited to welcome Darrin Newhardt who has been the Minister of Music at Forest Hills Presbyterian Church for the past 15 years. He is also a busy voice coach and musical theater director here in town. He is planning a special music program for us. Watch for details on social hour, program times, and reservations in the December newsletter.

HILL COUNTRY LIGHTS CHRISTMAS TRIP

Monday, December 7 • 4:00 PM

Read more on page 5.



**PAT MCCLEARY, DIRECTOR KEYS
OLDER ADULT MINISTRY**



FINANCIAL SUMMARY | SEPTEMBER 2015

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
TOTAL REVENUES	2,657,790	3,121,773	(463,983)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	2,238,115	2,733,221	(495,106)
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	431,578	431,578	0
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	(11,903)	(43,026)	31,123

After a summer period of monthly surpluses and continued close stewardship of operating expenses, revenues through September fell below budget needs as shown above. We need your help to change that dynamic. Moreover, we deeply appreciate your faithful commitment to this community of faith and the Lord we all seek to serve and make known. Know also that FPC does not send any funds to PC(USA). To God be the glory!

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | PROPER PERSPECTIVE | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



Do you ever feel beat up? Abused? Taken for granted? You realize that you are not perfect, yet you do your absolute best to play by the rules, plan accordingly, be the good guy yet you're met with nothing but grief? And

in these moments of frustration, have you ever looked around you to find people that never play fair, cheat, lie and many other despicable acts you would never entertain and not only are these people never held accountable for their actions, but it seems they are literally rewarded. Yet you struggle. I feel that way, I convince myself this cannot

be what my Father has planned, things are not going according to schedule. I felt downtrodden like this the other day. Lied on the bed, looked up at our ceiling fan, and to my dismay even it wasn't going in the right direction. It was going counter-clockwise. Sure it was moving air but the blades were spinning backwards. Or were they? I sat up and realized that if I were sitting up high, perched above the blades from that perspective the blades were moving clockwise. So, in these moments of angst and despair, I remind myself to look up, and recognize that the One that sits on high, gets to see things from the right perspective and although we can't always see it from below, things are always moving in the right direction.

A SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS (AND FAREWELL) TO FPC MEMBERS STEVE AND DENISE SHAICK

First Pres is proud to announce that Steve Shaick, who for years has been as part of our congregation and an immense help as part of our preaching team, has been promoted to Air Force Brigadier General. He and his wife, Denise, will be moving to Washington, D.C., where he will lead the Air Force Chaplaincy at the Pentagon. FPC is grateful for the Shaicks' presence over the years, and we wish them well in this next phase of service to the Lord and our country.

Order your Poinsettias for Christmas

Each year during the Advent season the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel by the Sanctuary Flower Committee. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 per poinsettia, the revenues of which have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make many special gifts to beautify the church over the years. No checks will be accepted after Friday, December 11. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Mail to First Presbyterian Church, c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, 78205-1918, or placed in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox in the workroom.

In honor of	_____
On the occasion of	_____
In memory of	_____
Donor name	_____
Donor address	_____
City/State/Zip	_____
Daytime phone	_____
Preferred email	_____



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAN ANTONIO

LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE

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

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 169

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



210-226-0215 • www.fpcsanantonio.org

