



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

Wilderness. Lent is a time of wilderness—which means that, this year, March is a month of wilderness. Lent is the 40 days (excluding Sundays) from Ash Wednesday to Easter, a time when we are encouraged to remember and think upon the 40 days that Jesus spent in the wilderness as He began His earthly ministry (Luke 4:1-12). But if you're like me, you also have an unwanted familiarity with wilderness experiences of your own. You may call them "being down," or being spiritually dry, or the dark night of the soul. Your wilderness times may be intentional (delayed gratification), or something you didn't sign up for. Wilderness just happens. No one is exempt—no matter how solid in

the faith. In fact, all the great saints (and this is why it can be so edifying to read the biographies and autobiographies of well-known Christians) talk of their inevitable times of dryness, spiritual poverty, struggles with doubt and sin, and their dark nights of the soul.

Not to trivialize anyone's pain, but a "wilderness time" occurs for me each year as soon as the Super Bowl ends. GO SPURS and all that, but I'm just not a basketball guy. So when the NFL championship trophy is hoisted by the winning team, a darkness settles in on me that won't be lifted—a sports wilderness journey begins that will not end until that first pitch on Opening Day in April. Then, once again, all's right with the world.

Yet, over the years, I've discovered that the wilderness can be quite starkly beautiful. It's when I'm in pain, it's when I am most fragile and vulnerable, it's when not all is going well and sweetness and light take a backseat to darkness and depression that I find myself drawn toward, and most connected to, Christ—which is really the best place one can be. Once, in the darkest night I've ever experienced, I actually went all the way to the bottom. The fear and the horror were all-consuming—something I cannot express in words—and there, on the bottom, was Jesus. "I am with you always..." is a promise that nothing can stop Him from keeping. The Good News of the Gospel, my friends, is this: the bottom holds.

I believe it's in the wilderness that you and I are honed most effectively toward the mind of Christ, not when we're on the verdant mountaintop on the sunniest of days. Indeed, it appears that there just might be a Good Friday prerequisite before you, and I can really celebrate an Empty Tomb. Sometimes, it's in the plainness and aridity of the desert, when we're least distracted by all the world's glitz and glam, that you and I truly can see the face and hear the still small voice of the Savior. C S Lewis talks about God whispering to us in our joys but shouting to us in our pain. That's when I've heard Him most clearly.

This Lent "enjoy" the wilderness journey. It can shape you and equip you for real life—and death. Immerse yourself in the very things the happy world shuns: repentance and confession. Take a hard, long, stark look at your own mortality, and then remember: this, too, will pass. Easter is coming and cannot be stopped. In the wilderness, Jesus stared death in the eye—and death blinked. Wilderness is only for a season. Have a most blessed and joyous Resurrection Day!

Ron

4/ fm

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MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE

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

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SAVE THE DATE

EASTER SCHEDULE

This year we are pleased to hold a number of events at FPC for Holy Week:

MAUNDY THURSDAY MARCH 24

12:00 PM and 7:00 PM • FPC Sanctuary Traditional Communion Service

GOOD FRIDAY MARCH 25

12:00 PM • FPC Sanctuary Good Friday Service

7:30 PM • FPC Sanctuary Evening Concert

EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 27

6:45 AM • FPC Courtyard Contemporary Sunrise Service

8:00, 9:30, and 11:00 AM • FPC Sanctuary Traditional Service

11:02 AM • FPC Courtyard Contemporary Service

We hope to see you this Easter, and encourage everyone to bring a friend!

MARCH 24, 25, 27

CHILDREN'S EASTER PROGRAM

Join us on Saturday, March 26 in Westminster Hall for our Easter Program! Children ages 2 years old to 5th grade are invited, with their families, to join FPC Children's Ministry for music, food and an egg hunt, as well as a dramatic reenactment of the Easter Story. So bring a friend and bring a basket! Contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org for more information or if you have any questions.

MARCH 26 • 10:00 - 11:00 AM

EXCITEMENT IS BUILDING FOR PROJECT 240!

2016 will be our fifth year to partner with Habitat for Humanity in our annual all church service event.

On April 3rd after worship, we'll share lunch together then transform our FPC parking lot into a construction site filled with fellowship, framing materials, and fun. Our goal is to build the frames of 5 houses in 240 minutes (or less!). No construction expertise is necessary and everyone is welcome to participate. Children over age 5 are welcome to build alongside parents, and childcare is provided for the event if you register online. God has blessed our initial fundraising efforts, so we only need another \$15,000 to reach our goal of \$38,000 for this event.

Please register online now and make sure to indicate if you want a \$5 lunch, and one of our NEW 5-year anniversary t-shirts for \$5!

www.fpcsanantonio.org/serve/missions/local-missions

APRIL 3

SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2016!

Join us from Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24 as we dive deep into Submerged VBS! Throughout the week we will be finding truth below the surface as we learn how Jesus taught people about the Kingdom of God. Vacation Bible School is open to children from 4 years old through rising 5th graders. Contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org for more information and go to our website to register online!

JUNE 20-24

LITERATURE CIRCLE

If you have taken Texas highway 87 from Fredericksburg to Mason, you have driven through what once was Comanche tribal land. Jan Clayton will review the book, "Empire of the Summer Moon," for the FPC Literature Circle. The story covers two historical events. The first, the rise and fall of the Comanches, the most powerful Indian tribe in American history. Incensed by the invasion of their tribal lands by the white settlers, they forced the creation of the Texas Rangers and the six-gun. The second event is the saga of Cynthia Ann Parker, a 9 year-old girl kidnapped by the Comanches in 1836. She grew to love her captors and produced a famous mixed-blood son, Quanah, who became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches.

Bring a friend and join us Tuesday, March 8 in the McCullough Room for a great review of American and Texas hill country history.

MARCH 8 • 1:00 PM

SPRING FLING TASTE OF THE ORIENT

On April 2, 2016, First Presbyterian Church will be hosting the third annual fundraiser for the Children's Center at the home of Sarah and Will Quirk at 110 Lynwood Ave, 78212. This promises to be a fun evening of food, wine, music, and fellowship—all for a great cause! The evening is open to all church members, school families, and their guests. One hundred percent of the proceeds benefit the Children's Center. Come out for dinner, drinks, music, silent auction, large item raffle, and Children's Center Parent Only Raffle. Awesome classroom projects will be available from each classroom for bids!

Ticket sales are closing soon, so go to www.fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center and click on the "Spring Fling" tab to get yours!

FINAL TICKET SALES CLOSE MARCH 10!

AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

Read more on page 13.

APRIL 5

FIESTA AT FIRST

Read more on page 13.

APRIL 8

PW SPRING LUNCHEON

Save the date for the Presbyterian Women's Spring Luncheon 2016! Melanie Shankle, author, blogger, and native Texan, will be the featured guest. Tickets are \$20 and reservations are required. Contact Holly Youngquist at youngquist.holly@gmail.com or 210-857-8180. Monday, April 4 at 11:30 AM (doors open at 11:00) Westminster Hall.

APRIL 4 • 11:30 AM

LIFE AFTER LOSS BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Dealing with the death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult and stressful experiences. FPC is offering a chance to meet with others who have the same struggle and a trained bereavement specialist experienced in helping people work through their grief. If you are struggling with the death of a loved one, join Rev. Scott Simpson for a six-week seminar and support group every Tuesday in Room 300 starting April 5. Call 210-226-0215 to reserve.

APRIL 5-MAY 10 • 1:00-3:00 PM

4 SAVE THE DATE



WHAT IS 11:02?

WHAT IS 11:02?

This is an answer seven months in the making.

I'm originally from the Houston area and my family and I had just spent two years in rural Washington State. I had accepted a call to be the Contemporary Worship Director at First Pres, which brought us back to the great state of Texas and to one of our favorite cities. One of the reasons we accepted the call to the church was how multi-faceted the community of the contemporary service was. It was a beautiful gumbo of races, genders, and backgrounds. People from different stages of life and varied stories. There was a unique setup that valued and invited families to worship together, led by a brilliant group of volunteers who loved the church, and loved the unique makeup and mission of this service.

The idea behind 11:02 was to share with and invite people to experience this community. We wanted to give it a unique identity. The concept was simple; there's this great community at FPC and we want to let people know they were welcome, as they are to experience great worship, topical teaching and warm community.

We are excited to introduce the new name and logo. We have updated our connection cards and welcome bag for new visitors to help everyone feel welcome, and at home.

What hasn't changed is the heart of the service. This is still a wonderful, family-like atmosphere, full of stories of victory, some of defeat, happiness and grief, and most importantly, stories of grace, healing, and reconciliation through Jesus.

Kevin Dailey Contemporary Worship Leader





SPECIAL STORIES



SPECIAL STORIES !

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BY ANN DENNIS



"A TIME TO PLANT" ECCLESIASTES 3:2

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN AT MISSION ROAD MINISTRIES













to spring! As we look forward to our upcoming events, we encourage you to mark your calendars

for one of our favorites, the PW Spring Luncheon. We are delighted to have New York Times bestselling author, Melanie Shankle, as our speaker. Please note that reservations are required. Your \$20 check may be mailed to Holly Youngquist, 109 Cobblestone Court, San Antonio, TX 78213. Please make your check payable to FPC with "PW Luncheon" in the memo line. For further details, please see the Save the Date notice included in this edition of First Press. We anticipate a beautiful and joyful day and do hope that you will join us on April 4th. The doors will open at 11:00 AM with the luncheon to begin at 11:30.

Though our January 28th Evening Event was held on what could have been a shivering winter night, we were blessed with a beautiful spring-like evening at La Fonda on Main. The eighty ladies who attended were treated to a delicious dinner, great door prizes, and a wonderful time to visit with one another. Many thanks to the Ladies' Night Out Committee consisting of Anne Scates, Cynthia Robinson, Becky DeWees, Linda Gail Dullnig, and Michele Barker. Also, we owe deep gratitude to Mr. Cappy Lawton for his generous hospitality as well as to his staff for their excellent and cheerful service.

As our year enters the spring season, I would like to showcase our circle moderators, who faithfully have taught our current study, "The Liturgical Calendar". Sincere appreciation is extended to Kay Case and Pat Brodeen, who serve as the PW Moderator Chairmen; to Sandy Sturch, who has written the study notes; and to all the moderators, who attend the monthly meetings where they review and discuss the lesson. Afterward, using their individual teaching gifts, they instruct the members of their respective circles. Thank you, moderators, for making Jesus visible through the teaching of God's word.

I would also like to showcase The Christianity and Literature Circle where members and guests are treated to an always wonderful book review on the second Tuesday of each month at 1 PM in the McCullough Room. Included is a picture of Circle Chair Jeanne Browning and Becky Crouch Patterson (top middle on the opposite page), author of the award winning book, "The Ranch That Was Us". The three remaining presentations for this year are as follows: "Empire of the Summer Moon" on March 8; "Under the Wide and Starry Sky" on April 12; and "The Boys in the Boat" on May 10. Visitors (men and women) are always welcome, and delicious refreshments are served.

Wishing you a beautiful spring ~



BIBLE CIRCLE 112

- Monday, March 21 10:30 AM
- FPC Geneva Room
- Lunch \$8.00
- Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245
- Moderator: Grace Labatt

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

- Monday, March 21 1:30 PM
- FPC Room 226
- Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY

- Friday, March 18 12:00-1:00 PM
- FPC Room 228
- Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
- Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 414-9956

BIBLE CIRCLE 6

- Tuesday, March 15 1:30 PM
- FPC Geneva Room
- Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

BIBLE CIRCLE 7

- Tuesday, March 15 11:30 AM
- Bring "sack" lunch
- Hostess: Cynthia Robinson 7902 Woodridge Dr. 78209
- Moderator: TBD
- Chair: Linda Delano, 614-208-3600

CIRCLE 8 MOM'S GROUP: MOM'S NIGHT OUT

- Tuesday, March 1 7:00 PM • Piatti Kestaurant
- Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

BIBLE CIRCLE 9

- Tuesday, March 15 10:00 AM
- FPC
- Hostesses: Janice Magnus and B.J. Neal
- Chair: B.J. Neal, 210-260-9638
- Co-Chair: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414

BIBLE CIRCLE 11

- Monday, March 28 6:30 PM
- Hostess: Pat Brodeen 2307 Oak Trace St. 78232
- Chair: Suzanne Norton, 287-1392

CIRCLE 13 LITERATURE CIRCLE

- Tuesday, March 8 1:00 PM
- McCullough Room
- Book Review: Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanche
- Author: Ś.C. Gwynne
- Reviewer: Jan Clayton
- Chair: Jeanne Browning, 824-3921

BIBLE CIRCLE 14

- Monday, March 21 12:00 PM
- St. Andrew's Room
- Lunch \$8.00
- Contact Chair: Marti Taylor, 334-9684

CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING

- Wednesday, March 16 9:30 AM
- FPC Room 228
- Chair: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

- Wednesday, March 9 9:30 AM
- FPC Room 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, March 2 9:30 AM
- FPC Room 309
- Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

CIRCLE 20 CIRCLE OF SERVICE

- No date
- Chair: Bunkie Shed, 824-6690

BIBLE CIRCLE 21

- Monday, March 21 6:30 PM
- For location contact Co-Chairman
- Co-Chair: Francis Warrick, 408-1775

10 MINISTRIES

KEYS BY PAT MCCLEARY

February started with another memorable performance by Rick Cavender and His Band. This is the tenth year that he's entertained us with an unofficial Rodeo kick-off. Once again we had a delightful time celebrating our annual February birthdays and Valentine's Day at the beautiful Oak Hills Country Club. We slowed down for one of Maurilio's hamburger lunches and watched the movie, "The Book Thief." Our month was completed by Manuela Stafford reviewing her book, "Searching the Ruins" that completed our month. Now come and join us as we move on to March.









KEYS MARCH HAPPENINGS

HISTORY OF FIESTA MEDALS

FRIDAY, MARCH 4 • 11:00 AM

Come and learn about FPC'S Fiesta medal history and a "show & tell" from years gone by presented by Anne Folkes who is regarded as the "Queen of Fiesta Medals."

"WHAT'S GOING ON DOWNTOWN"

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 • 11:00 AM

Program to be presented by Ed Cross, FPC member.

WANTED — VOLUNTEERS AND CANDY

After lunch today that we have the yearly opportunity to work with the Children's Ministry for their special Easter Program. We are responsible for providing individually wrapped Easter candy for filling approximately 1500-2000 Easter Eggs. If you would like to donate candy or money to purchase candy, please bring it to KEYS meetings or leave at the receptionist's desk.

MARCH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, MARCH 18 • 11:30 AM

We'll celebrate March birthdays at Scuzzi's Italian Grill where you will enjoy a delicious lunch. Cost is \$12.00 per person, except for our birthday month guests who will receive a complimentary meal. Reservation and preordering must be made by noon on Tuesday, March 15. You are responsible for your reservation if you cancel after that date. Menus to make your selection will be available from Phyllis Griffin. Please make check payable to FPC, and on the memo line write KEYS lunch.

GOOD FRIDAY - NO PROGRAM

MARCH 25

GAMES

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 • 1:00 PM

BRIDGE

NONE THIS MONTH

FITNESS

MARCH 4 AND MARCH 11

Held in the Student Center Second Floor

RESERVATIONS ARE VERY IMPORTANT

If you ARE NOT on the permanent KEYS list, please make your lunch (\$8) reservation by Tuesday before the Friday program by calling Phyllis Griffin at 210-226-0215. If you are on the permanent list, you only need to call if you cannot attend.

WINE AND WILDFLOWERS TRIP

MARCH 29 201

Spring offers the best chance for viewing wild flowers in the Texas Hill Country, and the Hill Country offers

some of the best wineries in Texas – guaranteed, not counting on chance. Visit the Bell Mountain Winery near Fredericksburg. Bell Mountain Winery opened in 1976 and was designated in 1986 by the Federal government as Texas' first winegrowing area. Drive the Willow City Loop. Wildflowers are guaranteed at Wildseed Farms. Lunch at the Peach Tree in Fredericksburg. Stop at Sister Creek Vineyards on the way home for another tasting. Sister Creek Vineyards was established in 1988 and is located between the East and West Sister Creeks in a restored 1885 cotton gin. An additional treat on this tour is a visit to the Willow City School for a look at the newly restored painted stage back-drop - beautifully painted with Texas hill country scenes and local business advertising – which has hung for many years on the stage of the school.

Cost \$75/person includes charter Regent Coach transportation, morning coffee, 2 wineries, lunch, driver tip and guides Susan & Henry Holloway. Departure time 8:00 AM. Return 5:30 PM.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL

UPDATE ON THE BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

RESCHEDULED TO FRIDAY, APRIL 1 • 11:00 AM

Sheriff Susan Pamerleau will speak on the state of the Bexar County Sheriff's Office. During her first term, she has worked through several public issues and will share the work and her vision for the future of the Sheriff's department. A short Q&A will follow.

No reservations are needed to attend Sheriff Pamerleau's presentation. However, if you wish to remain for lunch, please make a reservation (\$8) by Monday, March 28.

AARP SMART DRIVER

TUESDAY, APRIL 5 • 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Do you want to save money on your auto insurance and get all the latest driving tips? If so, you can sign up for the AARP smart driver course held at FPC. For AARP members, the fee is \$15; for non-members, it is \$20.00 and will be taught by Kay Kutchins. For reservations, please call Pat McCleary at 210-271-2726.

FIESTA @ FIRST WITH MARIACHIS, ROYALTY AND BIRTHDAYS FRIDAY, APRIL 8. 11:00 A.M.

Annual Fiesta celebration includes a visit by the Texas Cavaliers' King Antonio, Hunt Winton (a member of our church) his aides and the commander of the Cavaliers will accompany him. Watch for complete details in the April newsletter.

S.A. FOOD BANK

FRIDAY, APRIL 15 • 10:00 AM

Tour of the S.A. Food Bank followed by a box lunch and service project. Watch for details in the April Newsletter.

12 MINISTRIES 13

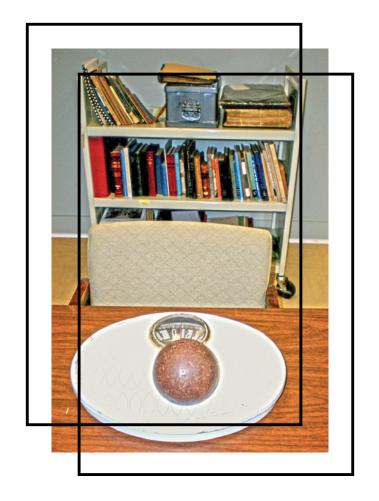


HISTORY CORNER BY BILL COGBURN

CANNON BALL MYSTERY

An inventory of the church archives has revealed an unusual item—an old rusty cannon ball. It's about a ten-pounder according to my bathroom scales.

Is it from the Texas Revolution or the Civil War? Someone in the congregation must know its history. There's a good story waiting to be told. Please help me tell it. Please respond to bcogburn@satx.rr.com



(Correction) The photo which accompanied the article on Wool Clips in the February 2016 newsletter should have been captioned as follows: This October 1942 photo shows First Pres members, Mrs. J. B. Chadwick and Mrs. Claude Williams grading and sorting wool clips in the First Pres basement workroom.

14 INSPIRATION 15

First Cup Readings - March, 2016

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in our libraries. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day



Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch & Claire Averyt

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. — Psalm 143:8

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God, my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not; Thy compassions they fail not; As thou has been Thou forever wilt be. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above, Join with all nature in manifold witness to Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! (Worship in Song, #86)

- 1 Isaiah 40; John 1:19-34; 1 John 5:11-13
- 2 John 1:35-51; Matthew 4:18-22; Luke 9:23-27; Luke 14:25-35
- 3 John 2; Isaiah 56:1-57:2
- 4 John 3; 5:24; 1 John 5:1-12
- 5 John 4:1-42; Luke 19:10; Matthew 11:28-30; Psalm 25; 1 John 1:8-10

O soul, are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see? There's light for a look at the Saviour, and life more abundant and free! Thro' death into life everlasting He passed, and we follow Him there. Over us sin no more hath dominion—for more than conqu'rors we are! His word shall not fail you, He promised; Believe Him, and all will be well. Then go to a world that is dying, His perfect salvation to tell! Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in His wonderful face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace. (Worship in Song, #207)

- 6 John 4:43-5:15; Psalm 103
- 7 John 6; Isaiah 55
- 8 John 7; 3:31-36
- 9 John 8; 1 Peter 5:8; Ephesians 6:10-18
- 10 John 9; 2 Corinthians 4:1-6
- 11 Isaiah 40:10-11; John 10; Psalm 23
- 12 John 11; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58

Father, lead me day by day, Ever in Thine own sweet way; Teach me to be pure and true; Show me what I ought to do. When in danger, make me brave, make me know that Thou canst save; Keep me safe by Thy dear side; let me in Thy love abide. When I'm tempted to do wrong, make me steadfast, wise, and strong; And when all alone I stand, shield me with Thy mighty hand. May I do the good I know, serving gladly here below, Then at last go home to Thee, evermore Thine own to be. (The Hymnbook, #458)

- 13 Isaiah 6:1-10; John 12
- 14 John 13:1-17; Galatians 5:13-15; Ephesians 6:5-8; 1 Peter 4:10; 5:2
- 15 John 13:18-38; Proverbs 16:18; 11:2; Titus 1:10-16
- 16 John 14; Romans 8:1-17
- 17 John 15 16:4; 1 John 3
- 18 John 16:5-33; Romans 8:28-39
- 19 John 17; 1 John 4

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand—The shadow of a mighty Rock within a weary land; A home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way, From the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day. Upon the cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see The very dying form of One who suffered there for me: And from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess—The wonders of redeeming love and my own unworthiness. (The Hymnbook, #190)

- 20 John 18:1-27; Matthew 10:17-42
- 21 John 18:28-19:42
- 22 John 20; 1 Corinthians 15:1-28
- 23 John 21; Matthew 28:16-20; Luke 24:50-53
- 24 Acts 1
- 25 Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:31-34; John 7:37-39; Acts 2; Romans 8:5-17
- 26 Acts 3; Romans 1:16-32; Revelation 3:14-22

Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me from a world of care, And bids me at my Father's throne make all my wants and wishes known: In seasons of distress and grief my soul has often found relief, And oft escaped the tempter's snare by thy return, sweet hour of prayer. Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall my petition bear To Him whose truth and faithfulness engage the waiting soul to bless: And since He bids me seek His face, believe His Word, and trust His grace, I'll cast on Him my every care, and wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer. (Hymns for the Family of God, #439)

- 27 Acts 4:1-22; Philippians 2:5-11; Matthew 18:19-20; Mark 9:35-41; John 14:1-14
- 28 Psalm 2; Acts 4:23-31; Romans 8:26-28; Psalm 4; 17:6-7; Ephesians 6:18-20
- 29 Acts 4:32-37; 2:44-45; Deuteronomy 15:1-18; Proverbs 3:27-28; Psalm 145
- 30 Acts 5:1-11; Proverbs 25:14; 2 Corinthians 9:6-11; Ecclesiastes 5-6: Psalm 15
- 31 Acts 5:12-42; Psalm 40; Romans 8:31-39

First Cup Prayer List

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).



Date	Name of Person	Request	God's Answer

16 INSPIRATION 17

FINANCIAL SUMMARY | JANUARY 2016

	1		
OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	+/-
TOTAL REVENUES	421,044	414,271	+ 6,772
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	229,346	261,519	- 32,174
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	21,030	24,608	- 3,578
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	170,668	128,144	42,524

The net positive "actual" and "budget" data for January means we are on target to release 1st quarter benevolences in late March. Thank you for helping us return to the true work of God's church—making Jesus known through all we are and do!

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | LIFE IN THE SWAMP | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



I was speaking to a coworker of mine and listened intently as he vividly described the experiences with his previous employment. "It's a swamp—and the problem with living in a swamp is you forget about the smell

after a while. You grow accustomed and lured in by the warm waters, and you tell yourself the crocodiles are just a part of normal life."

Oh, how awful does that sound? Or more importantly, how truthfully does that description ring in your own life? Sadly I have found many people feel this exact same way, and not solely in their professional lives but more importantly in their personal life as well as their relationship with God. For those that have children I will ask, is this what you would desire for your kids? Well, your heavenly Father does not either. Start today by allowing your olfactory senses to reengage and recognize the stench of your existing swamp and

acknowledging that our Lord and Saviour is standing on the shore begging you to grab His hand so that He may remove you from your quandary so that you may stand next to Him on the pleasant prairie of peace and salvation where you belong.

Easter Lillies Each year, the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one or honor an individual by purchasing a lily in the amount of \$15. These plants are placed in the chancel for Easter Sunday. Participate by sending a check made payable to The Sanctuary Flower Committee and mailed to First Presbyterian Church, c/o The Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 N. Alamo, 78205-1918. You may also place completed forms and checks in the Sanctuary Flower Committee mailbox in the workroom. Requests received later than March 13, 2016, will miss the insert printing deadline. PLEASE RESERVE ONE PLANT In honor of: OR In memory of: Given by: Address: Email:

CUT OUT THE FORM BELOW TO ORDER YOUR EASTER LILLIES

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