

# First Press

# THE CHURCH AT 4TH AND ALAMO

APRIL 2016 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS



# DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

You know that little neon yellow parking sticker on your back window? That's one of the perks of being an FPC member. Have you ever thought how that sticker might make Jesus visible—or not? I see those stickers all over town. We have 2,100 members, but it seems that half of SA has a bright yellow sticker on their car. They're all over the place! I guarantee you, if I were not a member of FPC I would wonder what those stickers are all about and do some investigating. "Ah...the yellow sticker people are members of FPC wonder if it affects their driving?"

A few years ago, the fad was all about "WWJD: What Would Jesus Do?" Environmentalists soon morphed that into the question "WWJD...What Would Jesus Drive? Why a Prius, of course!" (Actually, since His Palm Sunday mode of transportation was a donkey, I figure the closest car to that today—species wise—would be a Mustang).

The other day, I was driving the up ramp onto 281 by the church and a car zoomed up right on my tail—as close as you can get—obviously perturbed that I wasn't going fast enough for them. When we finally reached 281, they roared around me letting me know, in no uncertain terms, that they were angry at my lack of speed, and yelled something at me—I couldn't tell what they said. But I saw their bright shiny yellow sticker, so I figure they yelled something like, "Jesus loves you...to go faster!" They didn't see my yellow sticker, as mine has faded to white. They had no idea that they had just dissed their pastor.

"HWJD: How would Jesus drive?" Don't ever think that how you and I drive our cars doesn't have a spiritual dimension to it. How you and I drive is a witness to who we think is Lord of the road. And our yellow stickers give us away. If you're an FPC member, you can't hide on the highway. Don't think that no one is watching. How you and I drive gives a message to folks all over town—about FPC and about Jesus. Think about that next time you're tempted to...

Texas wants you and me to "Drive Friendly." Jesus wants you and me to "Drive Graciously." Our yellow stickers might just make Jesus visible during rush hour—or not.

+ Ron

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

# PG.

### 4-5 SAVE THE DATE

- COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES
- BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR/GROUP
- VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
- LITERATURE CIRCLE
- FIESTA MEDALS
- AARP DRIVING COURSE
- FIESTA AT FIRST
- PROJECT 240

### 6-9 **MINISTRIES**

- PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
- 8-9 KEYS

### 10-15 **INSPIRATION**

- HISTORY CORNER 10-11
  - BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS
  - MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE
- 14-15 FIRST CUP

# PG.

### 12-13 **CHURCH UPDATES**

- FINANCIALS
- NEW STAFF MEMBER

First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team. Deadline to submit content: the 10th of the previous

Hank Cherry: Director of Communications

Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer Morgan Ford: Media Coordinator

Richard Flores: Press Manager & Production

Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org) or Sarah Clower (210-271-2777/sarahc@fpcsat.org)

with any questions.

First Press is published monthly by the

# **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES**

Open Invitation to those who Love our FPC College Students!

It is College Care Package time! We need your help to stuff our boxes with delicious, fun treats to encourage our students until the holidays. Our students love cookies, brownies, fudge, gum, candy, cheese crackers, chips, cough drops, toys and San Antonio mementos.

Will you bring treats to help fill College Care Packages? A collection cart will be at the FPC parking lot entrance on Sunday morning, April 17th, or you may drop them before 9:30 AM on Monday, April 18 to Lynn Thompson at 7619 Vinewood Ct. 78209 / (210) 771-7619

Join us at the FPC Student Center to pack the boxes on Monday, April 18th from 11:45-1:00 PM. It is great fun to visit while we "work" and pray for the students! Lunch will be provided!

We pack up to 100 boxes, so we need all of the help and goodies we can get. Please forward this to other FPC college parents, grandparents, and friends to be sure they know how to participate. If you have a student's mailing address, send it ASAP to Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org.

We hope to see you at our packing party on April 18 at 11:45 AM in the FPC Student Center. Let's keep making Jesus visible to our students!

Vaya con Dios, University Ministry Team Brian, Sheila, Chris, Alex, Lynn, Jane, Christy, Ed, Carter, Debra, Jobe, Nancy, Martha

APRIL 18 • 11:45 AM • ACCEPTING DONATIONS!

#### BEREAVEMENT SEMINAR AND SUPPORT GROUP

Dealing with the death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult and stressful experiences. During the grieving process, many people find it helpful to meet with others who understand. That includes others who are dealing with the death of a loved one and a trained bereavement specialist experienced in helping people work through their grief.

To help meet this need in our congregation and in the San Antonio community, First Presbyterian Church is offering a six-week seminar and support group to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

The Life after Loss Bereavement Seminar and Support Group will begin on Tuesday, April 5-May 10, 2016 from 1:00-3:00 PM in room 300 of First Presbyterian Church. Class size is limited to 15 members. No new members will be admitted into the group after the second week. Rev. Scott Simpson will serve as group facilitator.

To learn more about this opportunity or to register, contact Rev. Scott Simpson at (210) 226-0215, ext. 212.

APRIL 5-MAY 10 • TUESDAYS • 1:00-3:00 PM

#### **SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS 2016!**

Join us from Monday, June 20 through Friday, June 24 as we "Dive Deeper into God's Word"! 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 5th grade. Contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org for more information and go to our website to register online! Deadline to register is June 1.

JUNE 20-24

#### LITERATURE CIRCLE

The FPC Literature Circle will meet Tuesday, April 12, at 1:00 PM in the McCullough Room when member, Ann Smith, will review the book, "Under the Wide and Starry Sky," by author, Nancy Honan. It is the story of 19th century Scottish lawyer and writer, Robert Louis Stevenson, and his older American wife, Fanny Osbourne's life. The novel centers on their marriage, his poor health and his struggles to achieve literary success, plus the idea that love and marriage can both offer inspiration and encumbrance! Their married life was spent traveling and setting up households in numerous countries: France, Switzerland, America, Scotland, England and finally Samoa where he died at age 44 of a cerebral hemorrhage.

Stevenson was best known for writing the classics "Treasure Island" and "The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." He also wote an epitaph, when once gravely ill, with the opening line becoming the title of this novel.

APRIL 12 • 1:00 PM

#### **FPC FIESTA MEDALS ARE HERE!**

Get your Fiesta medal in the lobby on April 3 and show off your FPC spirit! Medals are \$8, and they'll go fast, so get yours quick!

APRIL 3

#### **AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE**

Read more on page 9.

APRIL 5

#### FIESTA AT FIRST

Read more on page 9.

APRIL 8

#### PROJECT 240 IS HERE!

It's not too late to sign up or make a donation for our 5th annual Project 240! Once again our goal is to complete framing for five houses. Through your generosity we have already received donations to cover three of those houses. Please consider a special donation during the Offertory that is marked "Project 240." You can also donate and register at our website fpcsanantonio.org/p240. Please register now and encourage others to sign up for this wonderful event. Contact Fred Wall 210-887-2434/fredwall@aol.com, for more information.

APRIL 3

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BY ANN DENNIS

House of Neighborly Services Gala

I hope everyone had a joyful Easter filled with the blessings of the Risen Christ. I am reminded of touring the Garden Tomb in Jerusalem and, upon exiting, reading the profound message above the door, "He is not here. He is risen." He is risen. He is risen, indeed.

PW enjoyed many opportunities to help provide food during this Easter season, including the children's Easter Program. What a wonderful celebration with the Easter story retold and the joy of new life and renewal. Many thanks to Bunkie Shed, Circle 20, and numerous PW members for their faithful service in so many aspects of our church life.

For almost one hundred years, the women of FPC have provided support to the House of Neighborly Services. We are fortunate to have three chairmen, Rosemary Engstrom, Pat O'Neill, and Ann Fryburger, who, for many years, have devoted hours of love and service to this worthwhile ministry. The annual HNS Gala, held on February 26, was a Roaring 20's party, raising significant funds and providing a fun evening for all. PW contributed a basket featuring a golf theme to the silent auction. Many thanks to Loretta Patterson for creating this wonderful and unique gift.

With spring in the air, PW is preparing for some of our favorite events. Our PW Spring Luncheon is only a few days away. We are excited to hear our speaker, Melanie Shankle present, "Thoughts on Being a Friend," and to view the spectacular decorations created by our talented luncheon decorators. Though this is their sixth



luncheon, they continue to astound us as they transform Westminster Hall into a glorious setting. I would like to thank the following members of the PW Luncheon Committee: Cheri Stith, Robin Hudnall, Blaire Perry, Chaney Stuart, Holly Youngquist, Judy Kruger, and Jan Fischer. Please be prepared to shop as the decorations will be for sale as well as items from Sus Hijas, Guatemalan Crafts, and the sale of books by our speaker.

#### PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE FOLLOWING AND PLAN TO PARTICIPATE:

April 4, 2016 PW Spring Luncheon

Doors open at 11:00. The luncheon begins at 11:30.

**ECCLESIASTES 3:4** 

April 14, 2016 Invisible Angels Staff Appreciation Lunch

Chairman - Pat Krueger

**April 16, 2016** PW will provide lunch for Habitat for Humanity

Coleman Ridge Building Site

Chairman - Pat O'Neill

May 4, 2016 PW May Coffee

10:30 - 12:30

Home of Amy Robinson Chairman - Jane Buchek

# **PW CIRCLES**

#### **BIBLE CIRCLE 112**

- Monday, April 18 10:30 AM
- FPC Geneva Rm
- Lunch \$8.00
- Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245
- Moderator: Grace Labatt

#### **BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4**

- Monday, April 18 1:30 PM
- FPC Rm 226
- Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

#### **CIRCLE 5** SHAWL MINISTRY

- Friday, April 15 12:00-1:00 PM
- FPC Rm 228
- Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
- Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 414-9956

#### **BIBLE CIRCLE 6**

- Tuesday, April 19 1:30 PM
- FPC Geneva Rm
- Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

#### **BIBLE CIRCLE 7**

- Tuesday, April 19 11:30 AM
- Fiesta lunch at 227 Abiso Ave 78209
- Hostess: Judy Spencer
- Moderator: Jeannie Dullnig
- Chair: Linda Delano, 614-208-3600

#### **CIRCLE 8 MOM'S GROUP**

- No Meeting in April
- Chair: Sara Parish, 394-0865

#### BIBLE CIRCLE 9

- Tuesday, April 19 10:00 AM
- Meeting at FPC
- Hostesses: Pat Brannen
- Chair: BJ Neal, 210-260-9638
- Co-Chair: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414

#### **BIBLE CIRCLE 11**

- Monday, April 25 6:30 PM
- 22255 Morin Rd. 78073
- Hostess: Sonia Garcia
- Chair: Suzanne Norton, 287-1392

#### **CIRCLE 13** LITERATURE CIRCLE

- Tuesday, April 12 1:00 PM
- McCullough Room
- Book Review:
- Author: Nancy Honan
- Reviewer: Ann Smith
- Chair: Jeanne Browning, 824-3921

Under the Wide and Starry Sky

#### **BIBLE CIRCLE 14**

- Monday, April 18 12:00 PM
- St. Andrew's Room
- Lunch \$8.00
- Contact Chair: Marti Taylor, 334-9684

### **CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING**

- Wednesday, April 20 9:30 AM
  - FPC Rm 228
  - Chair: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

#### **CIRCLE 17** EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

- Wednesday, April 13 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, April 6 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, April 18 6:30 PM
- For location contact Co-Chairman
- Co-Chair: Francis Warrick, 408-1775



**MINISTRIES** 

# KEYS NEWSLETTER | BY BUD DAVENPORT

It is with a sad heart and a heavy hand that I write this article. Our fearless leader, Pat McCleary has retired as Director of the Older Adult Ministry or KEYS. However, on a brighter note, Pat isn't going anywhere. She continues to work with the KEYS Council and will help train her replacement when he or she is selected.









#### Dear Friends in Christ,

I would like to add to Bud's note that it has been a wonderful 16 years filled with joy and blessings. I am grateful and thankful for all the wonderful people who have blessed and supported me with love through the years! The KEYS group has made "Jesus Visible," and has enriched my life with blessings and memories to treasure, along with a lifetime of friendships. I will still be here at church and am looking forward to service in many different ways.

Grace and Peace,

Pat

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR OUR APRIL HAPPENINGS!

### FRIDAY, APRIL 1 • 9:45 AM • STUDENT CENTER, SECOND FLOOR FITNESS CLASS BY LINDA OSBORNE

Please come join us for strength training classes. These classes are put together by a physiologist and a professional choreographer. All major muscle groups of the body are worked in each 45 minute session. Resistance training is a major component in fitness as it helps maintain healthy bone density levels, increases your good cholesterol and among other perks can help in the control of your blood sugar levels. This class is offered with no charge to all church members. Enjoy the workout with all of today's newest hits and pace at your own level.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 1 • 11:00 AM BEXAR COUNTY SHERIFF'S UPDATE

Come listen to First Pres' own Sheriff Susan Pamerleau as she tells what has been happening in Bexar County and her plans and vision for the future. A short Q&A will follow. No reservations are required to attend the presentation. However, if you wish to remain for lunch, reservations are required (\$8). Call Phyllis at 210-226-0215.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 3 • 12:00 PM Project 240 Build

Our KEYS members have their hats, gloves and hammers ready to participate in the Project 240 Build. Whether you are a "go fur" or a "nailer," all are invited to participate. This year, KEYS has purchased half of one house.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 5 • 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM AARP SMART DRIVER COURSE

Sign up for the AARP Smart Driver Course taught by our own Kay Kutchins. AARP members pay \$15, non-members pay \$20. Most insurance companies will give a 5-10% reduction in premiums for completion of the program. Call Pat at 210-271-2726 for reservations.

# FRIDAY, APRIL 8 • 9:45 AM FITNESS CLASS

# FRIDAY, APRIL 8 FIESTA @ FIRST WITH KING ANTONIO XCIV, MARIACHIS, AND CELEBRATION OF APRIL BIRTHDAYS

The annual celebration of Fiesta San Antonio at First Pres will kick off with a visit and short presentation by the Texas Cavaliers King Antonio XCIV, Hunt Winton, a member of our church. He will be accompanied by his Aides, Triple Fuhrman and Phil Bakke. In addition, the Commander of the Texas Cavaliers, Michael Casillas, will also attend. (Do I hear medals clinking?)

Festivities for this KEYS sponsored event will begin with refreshments, including non-alcoholic margaritas, and strolling Mariachis on the patio followed by King Antonio's arrival. April birthdays will be celebrated in the McCullough Room followed by lunch. Birthday guests are

complimentary; others are \$12 per person. Reservations requested no later than Tuesday, April 5. Bridge and Mah Jongg will be played after lunch.

# FRIDAY, APRIL 15 • 10:30 AM SAN ANTONIO FOOD BANK

Tour the huge S.A. Food Bank with a staff member. Enjoy a box lunch (\$8-\$9) while being briefed on the operation by its Director, Eric Cooper and then spend the next hour doing a service project there. A van will be provided for those desiring transportation. It will depart the church at 10:00 AM. Please sign up if you want a ride.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 22 Battle of Flowers Parade

No activities as the church will be closed for the Battle of Flowers Parade. Enjoy the parade and Viva Fiesta!!

# SATURDAY, APRIL 30 GALLAGER RANCH PICNIC

Judith and Doug McNeel have again graciously offered their beautiful ranch house for a KEYS picnic. As you remember, the October dates were rained out. There will be good food (provided by Bill Miller again), fun games with prizes for the winners, good fellowship and wonderful entertainment provided by Doug who will play and sing some of his own compositions. People who wish to go by van are to be at the church no later than 10:30 AM on Saturday. Lunch will be served around noon and we will start back around 3:30 PM. Sunday, May 1st will be the back-up date. A big thank you once again to Judith and Doug for their wonderful hospitality.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR MAY

#### FRIDAY, MAY 6 • 11:00 AM

Sheryl Sculley, San Antonio City Manager will be our guest speaker.

#### FRIDAY. MAY 6 • 1:00 PM

**KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting** 

#### FRIDAY, MAY 13 • 11:00 AM

Judge Nelson Wolff will speak about our "unique" Bexar County Government

#### FRIDAY, MAY 13 • 1:00 PM

Bridge and Mah Jongg

#### FRIDAY, MAY 20 • 11:00 AM

May birthdays will be celebrated at the Botanical Garden's Carriage House.

#### FRIDAY MAY 27 • 11:00 AM

A Memorial Day Program will be held. Watch for details in the May newsletter.

#### FRIDAY, MAY 27 • 1:00 PM

Bridge and Mah Jongg

S MINISTRIES !

# HISTORY CORNER | BY BILL COGBURN | THE CHURCH AT 4TH AND ALAMO

The church building that we know and love today was actually built in three major stages. The original structure, completed in 1910, consisted of a sanctuary and pastor's office as well as a two-story Sunday school annex. It had a full basement which housed a kitchen, rest rooms and a boiler room. The building was designed by architect, Atlee B. Ayres and cost approximately \$75,000.

Soon after the arrival of Rev. P. B. Hill in 1921, plans were made to enlarge the sanctuary and build the "Young People's Building". This addition, completed in 1924, abutted the sanctuary on the north side and consisted mainly of classrooms and a gymnasium which could be converted into an auditorium. The building committee followed a local trend in the 1920s popular in the Gunter and St. Anthony Hotels—a roof garden on top of the new addition that seated about thirteen hundred people. The architect was Paul G. Silber, Sr., and it cost about \$250,000.

In 1984, the church unveiled plans for a \$6 million capital campaign to double the space of the church by building Westminster Hall, staff offices, a kitchen, youth center, new air conditioning, modern classrooms, a courtyard and an east entry on Avenue E. The new modernized church—basically what we still see today, was dedicated in 1988.

This article, however, focuses on the 1924 "Young People's Building" as it was called at the time. The architect was First Pres member, Paul G. Silber, Sr. Besides being the church's architect, he also donated the magnificent stained glass window on the north side of the sanctuary depicting the bible verse, "He is not here, but is risen". It honors his mother, Elise Silber and his brother, Hans Silber.

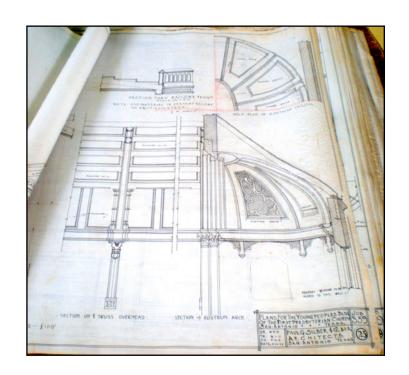
While doing research for an article on the window in 2013, I contacted First Pres member, Paul Silber, Jr., son of the architect. Paul not only provided me with

information about his family, but also offered to donate his father's original 1923 architectural plans which were drawn in ink on linen. At that time, the church's archives were in storage awaiting completion of the new archival space. During the intervening time, Paul Silber, Jr. passed away.

I recently made contact with Paul Silber, Jr's daughter, Susanne Silber Schieffer, and she graciously honored her father's wishes to have her grandfather's architectural drawings housed in the First Pres Archives. They have been placed in an acid-free archival box and will reside in the Archival Room in perpetuity.

The Archival Committee is grateful for this new acquisition and requests that other First Pres members continue to make contributions of church related records and artifacts to our archives.

Source: First Pres Archives, Donald Everett's Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice.





10 INSPIRATION

#### BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS | BY CHRIS VIA



Welcome to "Beyond the Stained Glass"! My name is Chris Via and I'm the Director of University and Young Adult Ministries here at FPC. I'm really excited to begin this column with y'all, which I hope will be a great place to discuss the world around

us from a millennial point of view. Whether you're married or single, chasing after kids or relaxing on the couch, living your dream job or punching a time clock, I want this space to be something that can inform how you live your life on a day-to-day basis.

"Great," you might be thinking, "one more person who's telling me how to live." I don't blame you for your frustration. In our hyper-connected world, it's exhausting the number of avenues that are telling us how to live, why to live, and what to live for. Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Apple News, People Magazine, Presidential candidates, and many others compete for our attention. For many of you, your parents grew up in a world where the Church would be an obvious part of this used-to-be-much-shorter list. However, in this "post-Christian" society, the Church has lost its status, its relevance. The Church no longer dictates culture, or even influences it, really, for that matter. Not only

is orange the new black, but up is the new down, left is the new right, and reality stars are the new presidential candidates. And the Truth that we know from Scripture, from what the culture tells us anyway, is seemingly more and more "out of touch."

This makes it much more difficult for us, as believers, to know how to navigate this culture. If you're anything like me, the answers seem much easier when I'm worshipping on a Sunday. But once I go to the grocery store, talk to the fourth (or fifth...or tenth) internet company representative in the same call, or have a quick chat with another parent as we're picking up our kids from school, it seems tougher. How do we interact with, and even more importantly, love a world that continually tries to deny its brokenness? It's one thing to sing about it or pray prayers about it on a Sunday morning, but it's another thing entirely to put it into practice on a Monday morning with coworkers, a Wednesday afternoon running kids to practices and lessons, or a Friday night when we're out with friends.

Once we get "beyond the stained glass" of the church, what do we do? That's what I hope to wrestle with in this monthly column, because we can't stay insulated anymore. This faith thing that we engage in must carry us out. A relationship with the Lord only works if it's happening on days other than Sunday as well. Jesus' call is for us to go. So…let's go.

#### FINANCIAL SUMMARY | FEBRUARY 2016

OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	+/-
TOTAL REVENUES	667,991	690,699	- 22,707
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	446,422	520,832	- 74,410
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	35,669	44,936	- 9,267
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	185,900	124,931	+ 60,970

We are off to a good start for 2016, thanks to your continued faithful support and commitment. The actual year-to-date (YTD) surplus is particularly important, since searches are underway to fill the budgeted positions of Associate/Assistant Pastor for Christian Education, Director of Youth Ministry, Director of Older Adult Ministries, and Director of Missions. In addition, we welcome Rev. Dr. Steve Walsh as our new Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care. To God be the glory!

# MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE WHAT'S COOKING? | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



Since two of our younger children are now in college, I suppose Stacie and I can be categorized as "empty nesters." As such, we have looked to find new activities to embark upon together. One of our favorites

is working together in the kitchen in hopes of creating the perfect meal. Amazingly, through our trials and tribulations, internet searches, cookbooks and cooking shows, we have come to the realization that some of our favorite foods were originally considered undesirable. Cheap cuts relegated to the impoverished and slaves. I am talking about popular foods such as gumbo, brisket, tacos, catfish, chicken wings, fajitas and countless others. These were considered the worst of foods and completely unwanted. So what happened? Well, those that could only afford such "detestable" foods realized that these dishes had real value that had yet to be uncovered. They discovered that through patience, creativity, love and dedication, the true greatness of the delicacies could be revealed, and become one of the most desired and sought after of meals. Don't we see the exact same thing with our Father when He takes the worst and transforms it into the most sought after? A murderer becomes a deliverer, a poor goat herder a king, a sinless man on the cross becomes a savior. And He does the same in our everyday lives. He takes the parts of our lives that everyone else wishes to discard and through patience, creativity, love, and dedication prepares it just perfectly, until the true greatness of what we have to offer is ready to be revealed to the world in His glory. So I ask you, what do you have cooking?

#### **WELCOME NEW STAFF** STEVE WALSH



Steve Walsh, Assistant Pastor of Congregational Care

Steve grew up in Thousand Oaks, California. In 1970, he enlisted as an infantryman in the California

National Guard and later became an officer. After earning his Green Beret from the U.S. Army Special Forces School at Ft. Bragg, N.C., he served in a variety of Special Forces Groups. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California film school with experience in radio, television, and later newspapers. After earning his M.B.A. from Pepperdine University, he started his own company and published magazines until his calling to the ministry.

While attending Fuller Theological Seminary, he started the chaplaincy of the Bakersfield City Fire Department where the Lord gave him hands on experience in crisis ministry. After ordination in 1988, he returned to uniformed service as a PCUSA chaplain in the U.S. Army. His military career took him all over the world including the Panama Invasion, Gulf War I, two tours in Iraq and seven months in Haiti as part of a UN peacekeeping force. In 2002 he earned his D. Min from Columbia Seminary.

His wife Lisa hails from the great state of Oklahoma and is a certified Texas elementary school teacher. She has taught students in both Texas and North Carolina. She currently spends time volunteering and working for the Boerne Independent School District. An adult son Michael works in California, their daughter Caitlyn is a sophomore at Schreiner University in Kerrville and their youngest son Joseph is a fifth grader at Fabra Elementary school in Boerne where they make their home. The family enjoys attending a variety of sporting events (Go Spurs!), travel and visiting local attractions.

12 CHURCH UPDATES | INSPIRATION CHURCH UPDATES | INSPIRATION

### First Cup Readings - April, 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

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)

- 1 Acts 6:1-8:3; Mark 8:34-38; Revelation 6:9-11; 14:13
- 2 1 Kings 16:23-33; Acts 8:4-25; Matthew 10:7-8

"Take up thy cross and follow Me," I heard the Master say. "I gave My life to ransom thee; Surrender your all today." It may be through the shadows dim, or o'er the stormy sea. I take my cross and follow Him, wherever He leadeth me. My heart, my life, my all I bring to Christ, who loves me so. He is my Master, Lord, and King; wherever He leads I'll go. (Worship in Song, #248)

- 3 Isaiah 53; John 1:24-34; Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 8:26-40; Psalm 32
- 4 Acts 9:1-31; Galatians 1; 2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Corinthians 5:17
- 5 Acts 9:32-43; John 1:43-51; 5:19-27; 14:8-14; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
- 6 Acts 10-11:18; Romans 14-15:13; Colossians 3:12-14
- 7 Acts 11:19-30; Romans 15:14-33; 1 Peter 5:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8:1-7
- 8 Hebrews 1:14; Genesis 19:1-26; 32:1-2; Psalm 91:9-12; Acts 12:1-19a
- 9 Acts 12:19b-25; 1 Samuel 25:1-39a; Job 34; Psalm 2; Daniel 7:20-28

Fight the good fight with all thy might; Christ is thy strength and Christ thy Right: Lay hold on life, and it shall be thy joy and crown eternally. Run the straight race through God's good grace, lift up thine eyes, and seek His face; Life with its way before us lies, Christ is the Path, and Christ the Prize. Faint not nor fear, His arms are near; He changeth not, and thou art dear; Only believe, and thou shall see that Christ is All in All to thee. (The Hymnbook, #359)

- 10 Acts 13:1-52; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31; 2 Corinthians 2:14-17
- 11 Acts 14; Matthew 10:5-42; Acts 9:15-16
- 12 Acts 15:1-35; Romans 12:18; 14; 1 Corinthians 10:31-33

- 13 Acts 15:36-16:5; Romans 12:16; 1 Peter 3:8; Colossians 3:12-17; Ephesians 4:1-3
- 14 Acts 16:6-15; Galatians 3:26-29; Revelation 3:20; Romans 1:14-17
- 15 Acts 16:16-40; Mark 1:21-28; Psalm 42:8-11; 32:7; 1 Peter 2:19-25
- 16 Acts 17:1-15; Deuteronomy 29:29; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17

Who is on the Lord's side? Who will serve the King? Who will be His helpers other lives to bring? Who will leave the world's side? Who will face the foe? Who is on the Lord's side? Who for Him will go? By Thy call of mercy, by Thy grace divine, We are on the Lord's side. Saviour, we are Thine. (Worship in Song, #318)

- 17 Acts 17:16-34; 2 Kings 17:1-15; Isaiah 42:8; 1 John 5:19-21
- 18 Acts 18; Titus 3:1-11; Romans 12:9-21
- 19 Acts 19; Romans 1:18-32; Ephesians 2
- 20 Acts 20; Ephesians 6:10-20; Romans 15:13; 2 Peter 2:1-10; Revelation 2
- 21 Acts 21:1-26; Jeremiah 13:1-11; John 15:18-16:4; Philippians 1:21-30
- 22 Acts 21:27-22:29; Psalm 109; 2 Timothy 2:8-13
- 23 Acts 9:10-16; Galatians 1; 1 Corinthians 3:11; 15:1-19; Romans 1:16-17

The Church's one Foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord; She is His new creation by water and the word: From heaven He came and sought her to be His holy Bride; With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died. Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth, her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth. One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food, And to one hope she presses, with every grace endued. (The Hymnbook, #437)

- 24 Galatians 2; Acts 9:16; Philippians 3:1-16
- 25 Galatians 3:1-14; Romans 4; John 8:31-59
- 26 Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:15-4:7; Ephesians 1:3-14
- 27 Genesis 16:1-4; 17:1-27; Galatians 4:8-31
- 28 Galatians 5; Romans 12:1-2; 1 John 2:15-17
- 29 Galatians 6; Romans 6:19-23; 8:1-17
- 30 Ephesians 1:1-14; 1 Peter 1

### 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

14 INSPIRATION 15

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

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**