



First Pres
DIVE DEEP INTO VBS!
MAY 2016 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

In the three churches I’ve served, I’ve always been asked, “What’s your vision for our church?” I always reply, “I come with no vision. That would be presumptuous. Instead, I’m encouraging the Session to pray and discover what the Lord’s vision is for the congregation. That’s the only vision that really matters.” Your Session is now trying to do that as we find ourselves in a new denomination—the Evangelical Covenant Order Of Presbyterians—and with the distinction of being the newest oldest Presbyterian congregation in the city...170 years young.

Whatever, the Lord’s vision is for us, I’m convinced of four things that need to undergird that vision:

- 1) We must become an evangelistic church, not just an evangelical church
- 2) We must become entrepreneurial in our thinking
- 3) We must be chiefly energized by prayer
- 4) Excellence should mark everything we do

Over the next four months, I am going to unpack each of these key vision-drivers.

So, this month let’s talk about being an evangelistic congregation, as well as being evangelical. We are a Biblically orthodox/Reformed evangelical congregation—meaning that we enthusiastically give assent to the ten “essential tenets” that ECO lifts from our Book of Confessions. But its not enough just to believe the right things. Reality is that we have lost somewhere around fifty percent of our worshiping community due to denominational issues, and a few other factors. Every Sunday, I look at empty pews or seats in each of our three services. Some of our folks who left are trickling back. We are attracting some from other local congregations. And we will welcome and embrace anyone whom the Lord leads our way. But we will miss the boat unless we become intentional about filling in those empty seats with new believers.

Eighty-eight percent of American churches are stagnant or in decline. Of the twelve percent that are growing, only one percent are truly growing the Kingdom (professions of faith outnumbering transfer of letter). I believe that whatever the Lord’s vision is for FPC, we are to be a Great Commission church and become one of the 1%. So, what might your roll be in that enterprise? Studies show that most people become Christians by a friend inviting them to come to worship. They hear the Gospel proclaimed, the Holy Spirit opens their hearts, and they become believers.

This is why I intentionally preach the Gospel from one angle or another every Sunday. Who are the unchurched in your circle of acquaintances? What might happen were you to invite them to come to worship with you one Sunday? Then maybe take them to lunch afterward and talk about what they heard/experienced? In 19th century London, a member of Charles Spurgeon’s congregation invited an unchurched friend to come with him one Sunday to hear that great preacher. All week long, the young man prayed that Spurgeon would be at the top of his game and indeed, he was on that particular Sunday. The young man took his friend to lunch afterward and asked him, “Well, what did you think of Spurgeon?” Deep in thought, the friend replied, “To be honest with you, I hadn’t been giving Spurgeon a thought. I’ve been thinking about his Jesus.” That’s good preaching. That’s what I aim at every Sunday. That’s one way to do good evangelism. That could be a friend of yours. Miracles have, and continue to happen in our sanctuary.

Stay strong in the Lord,

+ Ron

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

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LITERATURE CIRCLE

The FPC Literature Circle will meet Tuesday, May 10, at 1:00 PM in the McCullough Room when Jane Hansen will review the non-fiction book, “The Boys in the Boat,” by author, Daniel James Brown.

Set in 1936, students at the University of Washington, nine young men from lower, middle class families formed the eight-oar crew team which raced its way to the Berlin Olympics. These young rowers shined as freshmen, grew together as a rough and tumble group, not very worldly, but earnest and used to hard work. They had struggled to earn their way through school during the depth of the Depression. Reaffirming the American notion that merit, in the end, outweighs birthright.

This book is a combination of history and the personal, heartwarming story of Joe Rantz, a teenager without family or prospects. Bring a friend to hear this story of fortitude and achievement as these young men rowed to victory over their adversaries.

MAY 10 • 1:00 PM

MO-RANCH RETREAT

Registration is now open for the annual Mo-Ranch Retreat on August 5-7! Join us for the All-Church Retreat with guest speakers, Steve and Twyla Lee. This is sure to be a weekend you won’t want to miss! Housing will be first come first served, so make sure to get your registration in quickly! Learn more or sign up by printing out a form online at www.fpcsanantonio.org/grow/retreats-and-events.

AUGUST 5-7

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 four 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

CONFIRMATION

We have a tradition of celebrating our young people when they are ready to make a commitment to the life of the church in a formal way. Joined by their parents, mentors and officers of the church, we will celebrate them at a Confirmation Banquet on Monday, May 9 in Westminster Hall. At this dinner, students read their faith statements and take their vows of membership. The students will be received publicly in worship on Confirmation Sunday, May 15, 2016.

MAY 15

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN MAY COFFEE

Join the Presbyterian Women for the annual May Coffee event, honoring past presidents. It will be held at the home of Amy Robinson (237 W. Hu-isache Ave.) on Wednesday, May 4 at 10:30 AM. Please note that elevator access is available.

MAY 4 • 10:30 AM

URBAN PLUNGE

Each summer the middle school blocks out a week and dedicates it to serving others in the loving name of Jesus Christ. The week is filled with service, fun, games, studying scripture, great speakers, and more fun and games. Our Urban plunge this year will be Saturday June 11th-Thursday June 16th. Drop off will be 11:00 AM on Saturday, and pick-up will be Thursday at 8:30 AM. Cost is \$150. We will be serving with local mission partners such as:

- Christian Assistance Ministry (CAM)
- Servant Partners—East Side Ministry
- Mission Road Ministries
- San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMM)
- The San Antonio Food Bank

JUNE 11-16

HAMMERS, NAILS AND SUNNY SKIES MAKE THE 5TH ANNUAL PROJECT 240 A SUCCESS!

Over 400 Volunteers from First Pres, Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio (HFHSA), and the surrounding community once again partnered for our 5th Annual Project 240—successfully constructing the frames of five houses on Sunday afternoon, April 3rd.

The event reflected the positive, long-term relationship between both organizations, and was a chance to pull together in order to make Jesus visible in the lives of those less fortunate who will receive these homes.

“Project 240 is an exciting experience to be a part of,” said Natalie Griffith, President and CEO of HFHSA. “Not only is it equally fast and fulfilling for the helping hands that unite in service to support Habitat’s mission, but it’s an eye-catching opportunity to bring awareness to passersby about San Antonio’s need for affordable housing. We are extremely grateful for the hand-up First Presbyterian Church will provide five more hardworking families in need.”

Thanks to everyone who was part of this important ministry! We are particularly thankful to Fred Wall and the entire Project 240 Committee. Look for this great event again in 2017!



FAMILY MISSION TRIP 2016



Ten FPC families were called to Harlingen, TX over Spring Break to be used by God as His hands and feet in the world. FPC partnered with Valley Baptist Mission Education Center to serve the people of Harlingen in numerous ways. Throughout the week, our families painted alongside one another inside and outside of local churches, hung dry wall in a youth center, ran a Kids Club at a neighborhood church, cleaned up a parking lot, and worshipped together as a community of faith. From seven years old to seventy years old, there were projects

for everyone and we all came together to share the name of Jesus Christ with those we met. It was a powerful week as we learned to expect the unexpected and anticipate that God would do great things while we were there. And boy, did God show up BIG TIME!

We had the opportunity to worship at Iglesia Bautista Los Vecinos and continue to work at that church all week. Our FPC kids and families developed relationships with Pastor Jorge and his wife, Coco, as well as with many of the church members and children.



We were blessed to continue our relationship with the church that was established during the Family Mission Trip in 2015, and we look forward to a continued relationship in the future as we connect as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thank you to the congregation for all of your prayers for safe travels, strong health, meaningful work, and deepening connections with Christ, both individually and as a team. We certainly felt your prayers and hope that you will join us next year for the Family Mission Trip!



"The FPC Family Mission Trip is a great opportunity to help our brothers and sisters in Christ living in Harlingen. In addition to being the hands and feet of Jesus, we also get to enjoy extended fellowship with our fellow FPC family. Our family has enjoyed the work we have been able to do as well as meeting new people in the Harlingen community. This year I even learned a new skill and now know how to hang drywall! This trip is a great opportunity to serve as a family."

– Mike Meadows

"I learned a lot from the trip. One of the highlights was attending the worship service at Iglesia Bautista Los Vecinos church. It didn't matter that most of us spoke a different language, there was still a strong connection."

– Jake Carter

"One blessing from the trip that I didn't expect was the friendships that I made. I loved getting to know more kids and parents from our church. We have a cool congregation!"

– Mattie Carter

"It was our first mission trip as a family. What a huge blessing! Not sure who was blessed more, us or the people we served. Our family was very grateful for the opportunity and look forward to participating again next year!"

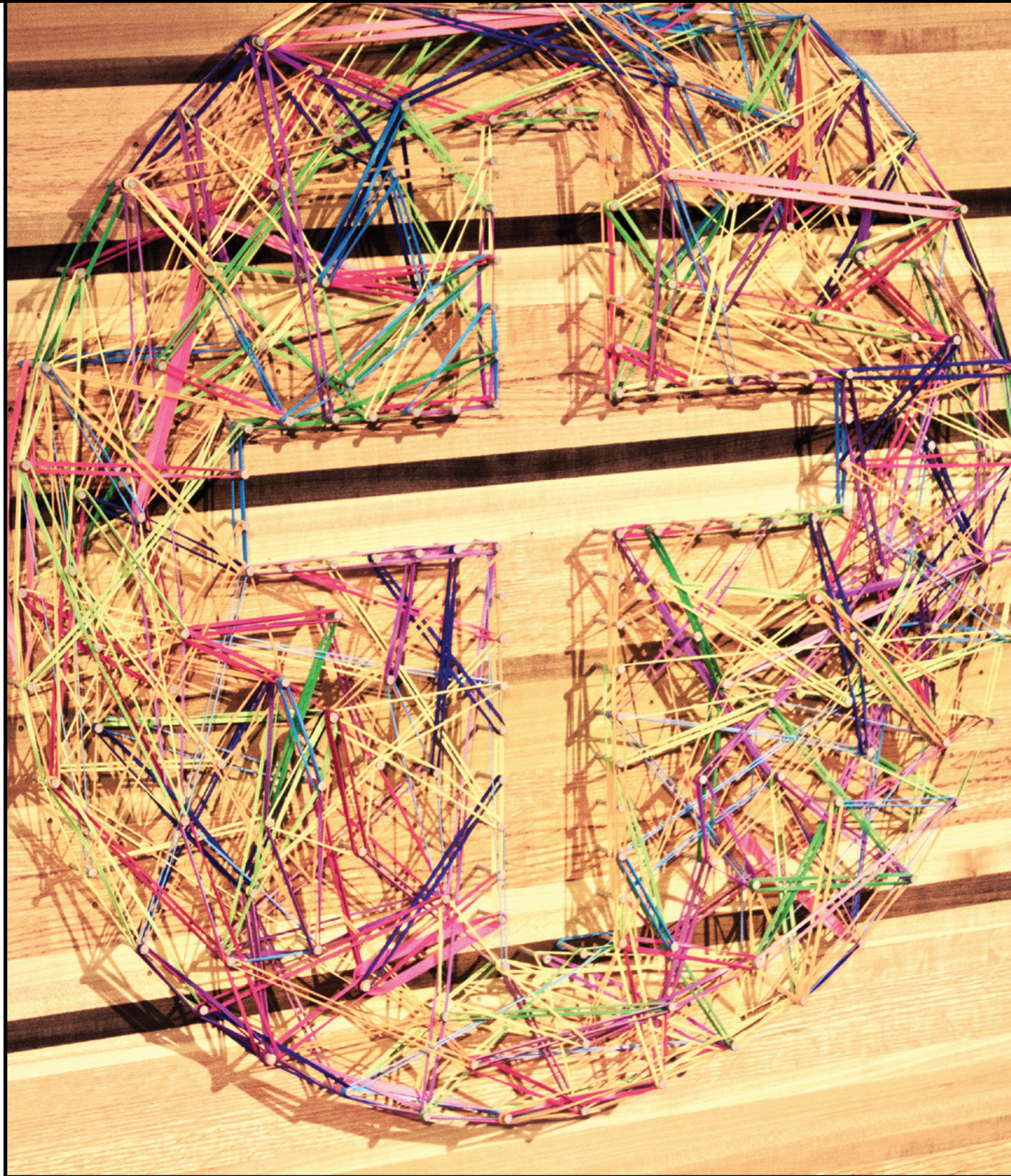
– Dana Carter

"It [The Family Mission Trip] was a great way to experience teamwork within the FPC family. I enjoyed meeting church members I didn't know while being able to help others."

– Vello Selli



EASTER PROGRAM | BY RACHEL MAURER AND JULIE WALTHALL



“CHRIST DIED FOR OUR SINS ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES” 1 CORINTHIANS 15:3

We had a wonderful Easter Program for families on Saturday, March 26th! The theme was “Jesus is our Passport to Salvation”. Over 60 children attended with Easter baskets in hand. They had fun in the Passport Market coloring cards for our Loaves and Fishes guests, placing flowers on the cross, taking pictures with the Empty Tomb and putting rubber bands on a wooden cross. Vello Selli crafted this beautiful rubber band cross that will be displayed in the Children’s Ministry area. Catherine Whitsett shared her artistic talents with us by creating the Empty Tomb.

An amazing play reminded us of the true meaning of Easter; Jesus died on the cross for our salvation. We are grateful for the actors who took the time to make this play special for the children: Tom Shute, Bob Esquenazi, Greg Hiller, Jamie Whitsett, Colby Prichard, Jamie Johnson, Meg Walker, Allie Byrd, Leah Dooling

and Joyce Ha. Kevin Dailey led the group in fun dancing and singing. Then the moment they had been patiently waiting for finally arrived - The Egg Hunt. The children raced to find over 1,600 eggs filled with candy and prizes.

A huge thank you to the FPC Mom’s Group and KEYS for filling ALL of these eggs. Bunkie Shed and Circle 20 graciously provided yummy and healthy snacks for the families. Becky Prichard, Sonya Wright and Lindsay Selli provided support in so many ways, big and small. Susan Dullnig and the household staff were great in setting up Westminster Hall. We are thankful for the adults and youth that helped with the play, music, food and activities (over 50 volunteers)!

The Lord is so good and we had a faith-filled morning of fellowship and fun!





PJ'S AND PANCAKES!

You might have noticed some kids running around church in pajamas on Sunday, April 10 as the Children's Ministry had their second PJ's and Pancakes event of 2016! There were slippers, robes, and footie pajamas (even in adult sizes as worn by our Director of Children's Ministry!). The kids enjoyed attending church in their comfy PJ's and there were plenty of pancakes eaten. You also might have smelled the delicious scent of bacon being crisped

up in the courtyard by our dedicated dad, Luke Parish. We want to give a big thank you to Bolner's Meat Company for donating ten [10] pounds of BACON for this fun event. We would also like to thank the Children's Ministry Committee, Children's Sunday School Teachers, and all the parents who flipped pancakes, poured juice and cut fruit to make this such a great event for our FPC kids.



MAY 30, 2016 MEMORIAL DAY IS A NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

BY LEN MARTIN

Originally referred to as “Decoration Day,” it was a day that many people around our country decorated the graves of those who had given “their last full measure of devotion” while serving in uniform. It probably started in the South during the Civil War, but a notable Northern leader of a veterans organization called for Decoration Day to be held on May 30. There was no significant battle fought on that day and it was a prime date for blooming flowers. The preferred name of the holiday gradually changed from “Decoration Day” to “Memorial Day” which was first used in 1882. It became more widespread and especially after World War II. In 1967 it became an official Federal holiday. In 1915, inspired by a poem authored by a British doctor, (“In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row...”) Moina Micheal started a movement that would result in charitable organizations selling artificial red poppies for the benefit of veterans. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniform Monday Holiday Act which moved the holiday to the last Monday in May.

Two members of the U. S. Army who have a special relationship to our church will be honored on this May 30th. Gregory C. Clement, Jr. is the father of John Carter, an active member of our church. John lost his father when he was two and a half years old. He was killed during an active combat operation as he tried to rescue three wounded Vietnamese soldiers under his command. I was serving in Vietnam at the same time.

Floyd Olsen is the brother of Sandy Sturch, an Elder and long time member of our church. Floyd and I both graduated from Wheaton College and received our commissions through ROTC and were both helicopter rated Army Aviators. On April 21, 1998, thirty years after Floyd and five crew members crashed near the village of Hong Ha, Vietnam, I was with a group including Sandy and George Sturch when we dedicated a new medical clinic to the memory of Floyd and his five crew members, just half a mile from the suspected crash site. They are still officially Missing in Action.

CAPTAIN FLOYD W. OLSEN, USA



“Shot-down April 21, 1968, over the Village of Hong Ha, Captain Olsen and his five man crew remain Missing-In-Action today. Vets With a Mission

built a clinic, in his and the crews memory and honor, near the location of the crash. It is near the northern tip of the infamous A Shau Valley and the Ho Chi Minh trails.”

GREGORY C. CLEMENT, JR. 1960

CULLUM NO. 22932 • FEB 23, 1967 • DIED IN VIETNAM • INTERRED IN FT. SAM HOUSTON CEMETARY, SAN ANTONIO, TX

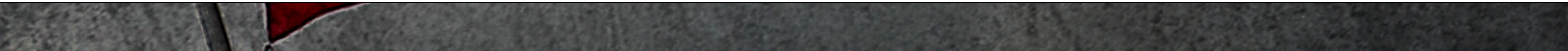


“Gregory Charles Clement, Jr., died in Viet Nam while serving as an advisor to a company of Vietnamese irregular troops. During an attempt to take a well-fortified Viet Cong hamlet, his company was pinned down by hostile fire. When the company

withdrew, three seriously wounded Vietnamese soldiers were left lying in an open field. Twice, Greg ran 150-meters across an open field under heavy fire to rescue two of the men. On his attempt to rescue the third soldier, he was mortally wounded. For his heroic efforts to save the Vietnamese soldiers, Greg received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Purple Heart, the Vietnamese Gallantry Cross with Palm, and the

Vietnamese National Order Medal, Fifth Class. This heroic action speaks volumes about Greg, one of the most courageous and humane persons to ever attend West Point. I am sure there was not a second of hesitation in his rescue effort, and there is no doubt that Greg’s actions in everything he did in his short life were influenced by his strong Christian faith. I was his roommate, teammate, and friend. Truly, there was no one for whom I had more respect.

“After graduation from the Artillery and Missile School at Ft. Sill, he completed Airborne and Ranger training. An assignment to the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell followed, where he served as an aide to LTG Patrick Cassidy. Greg met Jean Foxhall during his tour at Ft. Sill, and the two married in June 1962. They became the parents of two exceptional children—Kathleen, born in August 1963 and John Gregory, born in September 1965.”



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN | BY ANN DENNIS, PRESIDENT

The PW Spring Luncheon held on April 4, 2016 was a wonderful success and a joyous occasion for all in attendance. Our faithful luncheon committee once again outdid themselves with exquisite stage and table decorations. I would like to thank Cheri Stith, Robin Hudnall, Blaire Perry, Chaney Stuart, Judy Kruger, and Holly Youngquist for so generously sharing their God-given talents, not only for this occasion, but also for the five previous luncheons. We once again were blessed with a beautiful day and a sell-out crowd. Our speaker, Melanie Shankle, delivered a very inspirational and heart-warming message on the gift of friendship. It was a presentation we will long remember, and I would like to thank Susan DeKoch for making the arrangements to secure this great speaker and, also, for introducing Melanie to PW. It was a great day of celebration. Many thanks to Maurillo Garza, Jr. and his excellent kitchen staff for a delicious lunch; to Janie Jimenez and her equally excellent household staff for setting up the rooms; to all the valued staff members at FPC who helped in numerous ways; and to our many PW members, who served in various capacities, including our wonderful waitresses. As always, we enjoyed fun shopping opportunities with the lovely spring decorations as well as beautiful gifts from Sus Hijas, and the Guatemalan Connections. Also, we were grateful to have an opportunity to purchase Melanie's books, signed and personalized by the author.

One of the highlights of the day was the unanimous election of an impressive slate of PW Officers and Program Chairmen for 2016 - 2017. PW is very thankful that the following women have answered God's call to serve:



OFFICERS

President	Linda Rittenhouse
President-Elect	Pat Brodeen
Vice-President, Circles	Linda Delano
Vice-President, Directory	Linda Wright
Vice-President, New Members	Georgia Heath
Recording Secretary	Holly Youngquist
Corresponding Secretary	Barbara Wood
Treasurer	Debra Sirakos
Assistant Treasurer	Sue Cunningham
Historians	Julie Walthall Amanda Williams
Parliamentarian	Ann Bunn
Church Officer	
Nominating Representative	Susan DeKoch
Presbyterian Women	
Nominating Committee	Jane Ann Temple
Immediate Past President	Ann Dennis

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Personal and Family	
Life (Moderators)	June Eubank
House of Neighborly Services	Ann Fryburger Pat O'Neill
House of Neighborly	
Services Gala Basket	Maggie Burnett
Presbyterian Children's Home	Lellan Lane
Christmas Families Ministry	Anne Scates Judith McNeel



With PW, we are blessed to always have an exciting event on the horizon, and, therefore, we now look forward to the May Coffee to be held on Wednesday, May 4, from 10:30 to 12:30. Amy Robinson has graciously offered to open her lovely home, 237 West Huisache Avenue (corner of Huisache and Belknap, in Monte Vista). All women who belong to the First Presbyterian Church are invited, and we would love to see you there. It will be a joyous occasion as we celebrate our Past Presidents and another year filled with multiple service projects, treasured friendships, and many blessings. Our beneficiaries for this year's offering are the

FPC Children's Center and the Christian Dental Clinic. We thank the gracious ladies who are working to ensure a beautiful day, Jane Buchek, our May Coffee Chairman, as well as her committee, and we extend sincere appreciation to our hostess, Amy Robinson.

It has been a great honor to serve as the President of Presbyterian Women. Thank you for the love and support that you have bestowed upon me throughout the year and for never failing to make Jesus visible. What a year of blessings we have had in PW—truly, a Time to Keep. Ecclesiastes 3:6

BIBLE CIRCLE 112

Monday, May 16 • 10:30 AM
FPC Geneva Room • Lunch \$8.00
Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245
Moderator: Grace Labatt

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

Monday, May 16 • 1:30 PM
FPC Room 226
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, May 20 • 12:00-1:00 PM
FPC Room 228
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
Co-Chair: Jane Ann Temple, 414-9956

BIBLE CIRCLE 6

Tuesday, May 17 • 1:30 PM
FPC Geneva Room
Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

BIBLE CIRCLE 7

Tuesday, May 17 • 11:30 AM
La Madeline 4820 Broadway
Moderator: Claire Averyt
Chair: Linda Delano, 614-208-3600

CIRCLE 8 MOM'S GROUP

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

BIBLE CIRCLE 9

Tuesday, May 17 • 10:00 AM
Oakwell Farms Club House
Hostesses: Pat Brannen, Joyce Clark
and Lucille Lammert

Chair: BJ Neal, 260-9638

Co-Chair: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414

BIBLE CIRCLE 11

Monday, May 23 • 6:30 PM
3806 Park Gate St. 78230
Hostess: Laura Johnstone, 723-3700
Chair: Suzanne Norton, 287-1392

CIRCLE 13 LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 10 • 1:00 PM
McCullough Room
Book Review: The Boys in the Boat
Author: Daniel James Brown
Reviewer: Jane Hansen
Chair: Jeanne Browning, 824-3921

BIBLE CIRCLE 14

Monday, May 16 • 12:00 PM
St. Andrew's Room
Lunch \$8.00
Chair: Marti Taylor, 334-9684

CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING

Wednesday, May 18 • 9:30 AM
FPC Room 228

Chair: Lee Pressly, 735-0978

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING

Wednesday, May 11 • 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, May 4 • 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, May 16 • 6:30 PM
For location contact Co-Chairman.
Co-Chair: Francis Warrick, 408-1775

PW CIRCLES



KEYS

BY THE KEYS COUNCIL



The Keys Council decided to skip the month of April since Pat was gone. APRIL FOOLS!!

SHERIFF PAMERLEAU

We started the month on April 1st with a very informative presentation by Bexar County Sheriff Susan Pamerleau. Among topics covered were the reduction of the number of people held in jail and the major reduction of mandatory overtime of Deputy's to less than twenty percent of what it was when she came to office. Several new programs dealing with mental health issues have reduced the recidivism rate considerably. The Sheriff's Department is also getting two long awaited substations which will save money and shorten response times.

AARP

The AARP Smart Driver course on April 5th was followed on the 8th by KEYS Fiesta at First Pres.—always a fun time. This year's King Antonio XCIV, Hunt Winton, III, attended with his wife Kim, parents Dr. Cary and Joan Stratton, Henry B. Gonzalez (Executive Aide), Triple Fuhrman (Night Aide), and Phil Bakke (Day Aide), along with their wives. In the McCullough Room, Hunt gave a short history of the San Antonio Cavaliers and a salute to Joe Rust, who was a Cavalier, member of First Presbyterian Church and KEYS. Mariachis, margaritas and Maurillo's meal helped in celebrating those with birthdays in April.

SA FOOD BANK AND PICNIC

A trip to the San Antonio Food Bank was held on tax day. After an informative tour of the huge facility and lunch, the group spent time completing a service project. The month ended on another high note as we enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of Doug and Judith McNeel at their Gallagher Ranch. We always enjoy the playing of horseshoes, croquet, and beanbag toss on their beautiful lawn, throwing tennis balls for the dogs, sitting on their patio with friends, enjoying the barbeque, and listening to Doug's wonderful original music. Thanks again Doug and Judith for your hospitality and support of KEYS.

WINE AND WILDFLOWERS

P.S. Not to be forgotten was our wild flower trip. Although the skies were a bit overcast, the smiles were bright as more than thirty members of KEYS and their friends enjoyed the sights and tastes of the Hill Country on the Wine and Wildflowers Trip on March 29th. What appeared to be a winding river in the valley turned out to be beautiful fields of bluebonnets! The pastries at the Blanco Café and Bowling Alley appeared to be bigger than the saucers. Interesting facts were shared at the historic Willow City School, and at the oldest winery in Texas, now named Bell Mountain Vineyards. After a delicious lunch at the Peach Tree in Fredericksburg, the group visited the Sister Creek Vineyards housed in an original cotton gin. The tour guides Susan and Henry Holloway were experienced and entertaining.

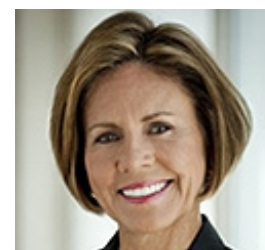
KEYS MAY HAPPENINGS OLDER ADULT WEEK

May 1-6. Be sure to hug a Senior this week.

FRIDAY MAY 6

9:45 AM: Fitness class.

11:00 AM: City Manager Sheryl Sculley will give us an update on what is happening in San Antonio. Long time members of KEYS will remember that she talked to us 10 years ago during her first year as City Manager. A few things have changed since then and many new things are planned for the future. Be sure to make reservations for the luncheon if you are not on the permanent list by calling Stephanie Garcia at 210-226-0215 or stephanieg@fpcsat.org. Following lunch, there will be a KEYS Leadership Council meeting.



Sheryl Sculley (speaking Friday, May 6) began serving as City Manager of San Antonio, Texas 10 years ago in November 2005. Appointed by the Mayor and City Council, Sculley was recruited in 2005 to transform the City administration and improve the community's public infrastructure. During her nine-year tenure, she has appointed executive leadership, reorganized City departments, streamlined City business systems, improved customer service, and elevated the professionalism of local government through the City's Core Values: Teamwork, Integrity, Innovation, and Professionalism.

FRIDAY, MAY 13

9:45 AM: Fitness Class.

11:00 AM: Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff will be our guest speaker. Judge Wolff has been involved with the political scene for more than 44 years as a Representative, Senator, City Council member, Mayor and Bexar County Judge. He will be speaking to us about some of the unique situations he has faced as Bexar County Judge and how he has handled them. Reservations for lunch (\$8) are required by Tuesday, May 10. Following lunch, there will be Bridge and Mah Jongg.

FRIDAY, MAY 20

KEYS AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

11:00 AM: May birthdays will be celebrated at the Carriage House in the beautiful Botanical Gardens. Menus will be available soon. You may want to also tour the gardens at this perfect "bloom time". Reservations are required no later than noon, Tuesday, the 17th. Lunch will be \$12.00, but complimentary for birthday folks. You should not miss this one!

FRIDAY, MAY 27

9:45 AM: Fitness Class.

11:00 AM: Memorial Day Program. Steve Walsh, our Associate Minister for Congregational Care will be our guest speaker. Steve enlisted in the California National Guard in 1970. He later became an officer, a Green Beret and served with various Special Forces units. He was ordained in 1988 and returned to the Army as a Chaplain. He earned his D. Min from Columbia Seminary. Bridge and Mah Jongg will follow lunch.

JUNE SCHEDULE

Regular programs end for the summer on May 27 and will begin again on Friday, September 2. However, we will continue with birthday lunches, fitness classes, movies, trips and special events.

JUNE 3 — 9:45 AM Fitness Class

JUNE 10 — 9:45 AM Fitness Class
11:00 AM Bridge and Mah Jongg.

JUNE 17 — Birthday lunch out –TBA

JUNE 24 — 9:45 AM Fitness Class
11:00 AM Bridge and Mah Jongg.

HISTORY CORNER

A VERY SUCCESSFUL FUND DRIVE

BY BILL COGBURN

“PRESBYTERIANS RAISE \$70,000”

This headline appeared in the October 14, 1925 San Antonio Light announcing that First Presbyterian’s annual fund drive, climaxing with a banquet in the church gymnasium, was attended by nearly 1,000 people. Rev. P. B. Hill stated that an amount of this size had never before been raised in the church through free will offerings. He said the women of the church deserved much of the credit for the success of the campaign.

When initiating the campaign, a letter was sent out explaining the plans and purposes of the campaign. Included were two cards: The first card was for current church expenses and blanks for the donor to indicate how the amount should be allocated. The other card was captioned “my stewardship covenant,” wherein the donor agreed to contribute a certain amount and “to endeavor by personal influence as well as an example to enlist others to do likewise.”



Mrs. Louis Stumberg is stirring a large pot of beans in preparation for a dinner celebration for a successful fund drive at First Presbyterian Church. Behind her holding the large mixing bowl stands Martha Hill, teen-age daughter of Rev. Dr. P. B. Hill, pastor.

“Making these offerings was like laying the money at the feet of the apostles,” said Rev. Hill, “as they were brought to the church voluntarily and placed in a box in front of the altar.” On the box was the inscription, “God gave His best. Have you?”

Rev. Hill’s sermon that Sunday dealt with the contrast between Ananias and Sapphira who sold land, the return for which had been pledged to God, and

Paul who suffered the loss of all things. “A simile which I believe was very opportune,” said Rev. Hill.

“Rev Hill said that the response had been most generous. The \$70,000 will be divided, \$50,000 to be used in church work proper, \$20,000 for work such as home missions which includes work among the Mexicans, orphan homes and Bible work. Indications are,” he said, “that this year’s budget will be fully subscribed.”

Source: October 14, 1925 San Antonio Light; First Pres Archives; photo; courtesy UTSA Libraries Special Collections



PRAYERS FOR OUR NATION, GOVERNMENT, AND MILITARY

PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES ON MAY 5, 2016, THE NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

- First Presbyterian Church will host a Prayer Vigil in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel on May 5th, from 11:45 to 1:00. Please invite friends to join us in praying for God's blessing on our nation.
- At San Antonio City Hall from 11:30 special music, and 12:00 to 1:00 prayers for the nation and to call upon the Lord for blessings, mercy and forgiveness.
- The Annual Prayer Breakfast to be held at Trinity Baptist Church's Tripoint Center. Breakfast served from 6:45 to 7:15, \$10.00, music 7:15 to 7:30, and program 7:30 to 8:30. Registration at www.dayofprayersa.com.

PRAYERS IN YOUR DAILY DEVOTIONALS FOR THE NATION

1 Timothy 2:1-6 I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life, in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.

NATION

Thank you, Lord, for our country and our freedoms. Thank you for the blessings and abundance you have poured over these United States throughout our history: our shelter, our food, our energy, and the sacrifices others have made on our behalf.

Lord, we confess our sins and our willful disobedience as a nation and we humbly ask for your forgiveness, grace and mercy in Jesus' Name.

Help us to live lives that are loving and peaceful, spreading the Good News of the Gospel throughout the land, in Jesus' name.

We pray for the Body of Christ in America and throughout the world. Put into the Church a hunger for God's Word each day, both as written in the Holy Scriptures and interpreted by Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Set a fire in the hearts of church members to be in an intimate relationship with Jesus.

We pray for our educational systems, especially our youth, that all may learn skills, respect, and responsibility. May all develop godly reasoning and behavior.

Lord, we pray for all immigrants to our nation, that Jesus Christ may be revealed to them as Lord and Savior, and as the source of the freedoms that they desire.

May all Christians in our nation be a united voice for

Christ. May our prayers be heard by our leaders, as the voice of God's wisdom and encouragement.

We pray for God's provision and hope, for all who are unemployed and underemployed.

In this election year, we pray for the U.S. electorate. Before voting may each citizen prayerfully discern the values and messages of each political candidate. We pray for fair and orderly elections.

We pray for God's protection from terror threats and acts of terror against the United States.

GOVERNMENT

We pray for the President, the Cabinet, Congress, and the Supreme Court Justices, for their moral courage, for God's leading in far-reaching decisions, which will affect future generations. May God's will prevail in the challenges and circumstances facing our leaders—the economy, national debt, education, national security, and foreign relations.

We pray boldly for godly leaders, who seek God's heart and will for America.

May our elected officials lead in a spirit of unity and civility with servant hearts, putting aside pride and self-interest.

We pray for our leaders who do not know Christ as Savior; may their hearts be filled with a desire to seek His saving grace.

May each political candidate conduct a campaign of integrity, gifted with wisdom, truth, leadership messages and moral values.

MILITARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

We pray for the safety of all U.S. troops and police, serving at home and in other countries.

We pray that you give them courage, strength, and hope for each day.

We pray that each of the troops and police will be guided by your wisdom.

May they always act in fairness and justice.

We pray for all wounded warriors, for their healing and provision, and for their families.

We pray for all returning troops, as they continue their service, or return to civilian life.

We pray for the families whose loved ones have sacrificed their lives in military service and law enforcement for our safety. May these families be comforted in Christ's loving care, during their grief, and in their future.

1 PETER 5:6-7

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | A HEAVENLY HUG | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



Not too long ago my wife Stacie was a little down. She looked at me and asked, “Would you give me a hug?” I walked over, gave her a hug, squeezed her tight, a kiss on the cheek and whispered sweetly into her ear. And she responded, “Now that’s why I love you, I ask for a hug yet I get so much more.”

I am not a box of candy to live with, nor do I think I’m a great spouse. But if even someone like me is willing to “give so much more” to someone I love, how much do you think your Heavenly Father is willing to give you? Wanting to give you? I encourage you, ask Him for a hug today, and see how much more you will receive.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY MARCH 2016			
OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	+ / -
TOTAL REVENUES	933,629	1,043,741	- 110,112
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENDITURES	693,721	802,649	- 108,928
TOTAL BENEVOLENCES	48,263	53,726	- 5,464
FUND TFR FROM OPERATING RESERVE	0	0	0
NET INCOME/LOSS	191,645	187,365	+ 4,280

Operating revenues have fallen behind budget through the first three months of 2016, but so too have expenditures as we continue efforts to fill several budgeted vacancies (Associate Pastor of Christian Education, Director of Youth Ministry, and Director of Missions). Total expenditures will increase in the months ahead as those search efforts prove fruitful. And, on April 11, the actual net income amount shown above was reduced by \$138,463 as the benevolence committees received their first-quarter allocation. Bottom line: your continued faithful support is essential as we move into the summer months. As always, To God Be The Glory!



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