



# *First Press*

**ALL-CHURCH RETREAT AT MO-RANCH**

**SEPTEMBER 2016 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**





# DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

As we pull out the stops to celebrate FPC’s 170th Anniversary on September 18, I’d like for all of us to pause and ponder what San Antonio was like in 1846—the year FPC began. In 1846, the Mexican War had just begun, and San Antonio was immediately transformed from a sleepy backwoods hamlet into a bustling military depot and into a town of about 1000 inhabitants, consisting of Mexican nationals, Indians, soldiers, Anglo-American settlers, and European immigrants. 170 years later, FPC is about twice the size that San Antonio was when FPC was founded. In 1846, the iconic shape of our great state had just been put on the map—literally—as Texas had just been

admitted to the Union, and the Stars and Stripes started flying over our city for the very first time. There was one functioning church in the town at the time: San Fernando Cathedral. But there were dozens of bordellos and saloons operating ‘round the clock. San Antonio was frontier—wild, wild, very wild west. And then, the Rev. John McCullough rolled into town.

What kind of miracle—what kind of faith, spirit and courage—would impel and draw a man like John McCullough into the almost God-forsaken, boisterous amalgam of land speculators, soldiers, shady women, gunslingers, horse thieves, and honky-tonks that San Antonio was in 1846? I’m pretty sure it took a miracle to get him here—then to stay as he faced some formidable opposition. In each of my offices — San Antonio, Baltimore, Dallas, and now San Antonio again—has hung the following framed quote. I found it years ago in the book entitled VOICE IN THE WILDERNESS by former FPC Sunday School teacher, Trinity University prof emeritus, and good friend Doug Brackenridge. It was first spoken at a General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (the denomination that founded my alma mater, Trinity University) in the 1830s, to describe the kind of Presbyterian pastors the mission field of Texas would need in the coming years of the mid-19th century. I read and re-read this quote often to remind myself of what is the essence of my own calling, even in the 21st century, and I can’t help but believe that this captures—to some extent—the faith and spirit of John McCullough. This is the same sort of Biblical, Christ-Centered, missions-driven faith that propelled him to Texas, and enabled him to plant this church. It is the same kind of faith that enabled FPC to take root and flourish—and has brought her faithfully through the past 170 years. It is the same caliber of faith that now carries her and us into the future as a congregation of The Covenant Order Of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO).

Take this quote to heart as you celebrate our 170 years: “If your heart is drawn out by the love of souls, and if you want a field where your labors will tell to the next generation how, and for what purpose you have lived, then go to Texas. But note this fact—the Texans are, and will be (with some desperate exceptions) a race of high-minded, ardent, enterprising freemen of the genuine southern stamp—very different from the rude simple-hearted backwoodsmen of the west: and therefore it is desirable that he who would minister to such a race in holy things should possess not only ardent piety and a meek Christ-like spirit, but such intellectual advantages as will enable him to grapple with minds of the first order. Yet let it never be forgotten that the prime ministerial requisite in every land, is, crucifixion to the world and consecration to the cause of Christ. Let Texas have her portion of evangelical, devoted ministers—men that will love souls more than lands, and fear God more than Bowie knives. But fortune-hunting, land-speculating preachers are a curse to any country.”

The Lord has strategically positioned us as a congregation that is smack-dab in the middle of a renaissance that is transforming inner-city San Antonio. And we have the honor and privilege of winsomely and compellingly making Jesus visible amidst the transformation. So, I really believe that FPC’s best days still lay ahead as we claim that same faith that inspired the quote above, the same robust Biblical, Christ-centered, missions-driven faith that brought John McCullough to San Antonio, and that same faith which will fuel our worship, discipling venues, and servanthood ministries until the Lord returns. Happy 170th Anniversary to all the family and friends of this great and gracious congregation!! Stay strong in the Lord.

  
+Ron

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FLOWER VASE NOTICE

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THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

Chariots of Fire: A Study of the Prophet Elijah

Starts: September 15 – November 17  
Small group: 9:30 – 10:30 AM  
Lecture: 10:30 – 11:15 AM  
Note: This time schedule is reversed on the first meeting date.

Someone has said that wherever God’s hand is at work, things are always messy, mysterious, and miraculous. Take a look at the life of Elijah the Tishbite, and that’s pretty much what you’ll find—in spades. Called of God, Elijah’s call resembles a roller coaster of ups and downs, of supernatural and mundane events, and the Hand of God working in and through his life in some very mysterious ways. At God’s bidding, Elijah takes on other prophets, pagan priests, and powerful kings. He raises people from the dead, speaks truth in power, and high-tails it for his life. He knows both elation and depression. For Elijah, life is not all victory, but even out of defeat the Lord is always glorified. In this Bible study, we will not only learn about Elijah’s life and ministry, but particularly the role of the prophet in God’s Kingdom—both then, now, and what that might mean for us as we attempt to faithfully follow the Messiah.

Childcare is available. RSVP to Sonya Wright at [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org) or 210-271-2720 no later than two days prior to class date. Unfortunately, drop-ins for childcare cannot be accommodated.

Pick up a form in Mauze Lobby or register online at: [www.fpcsanantonio.org/thursday-bible-study](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/thursday-bible-study)

DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 8 • SEPTEMBER 15-NOVEMBER 17

PW FALL LADIES’ NIGHT OUT!

Please join Presbyterian Women in Sallie Guy’s lovely home at 101 Paseo Encinal for a delightful evening of fellowship, food and fun at our annual Fall PW Ladies’ Night Out. The date is September 29, 2016, so mark your calendar. You do not have to be a circle member to participate. If you are a woman and a member of FPC, YOU ARE INVITED! Come join in the fun!

SEPTEMBER 29 • 7:00 PM

DAVE RAMSEY’S FPU IS COMING!

Learn God’s way of handling money with Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.  
  
This isn’t your typical “money class,” but a practical, entertaining and fun course. More than 1.5 million families have taken FPU, and results are life-changing. The average family completing the course pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in just 90 days. That’s an \$8,000 change in financial position!

Whether you’re struggling to make ends meet or you’re a millionaire, FPU has something for you. Based on 800 verses of Scripture, the course is a proven plan that will work for you to change everything – your money, your story, your life.  
  
The 10-week course will be Wednesday evenings starting September 14. There will also be a special promotional/informational introductory class on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:00 PM. The cost for the course kit is \$93.00 Childcare is provided.

For more information, email [Walter.Walthall@FPCRamsey@gmail.com](mailto:Walter.Walthall@FPCRamsey@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAYS 6:00 PM • SEPTEMBER 14-NOVEMBER 16

LITERATURE CIRCLE

The 43rd year of the First Presbyterian Literature Circle will kick off on Tuesday, September 13, at 1 PM in the McCullough Room. Local author and repeat reviewer, Leila Meacham, will present her novel, TITANS. Set in the early 1900s, this is a story of secrets, lies, betrayal, Texas cattle ranches and the ultimate discovery of liquid gold, OIL! Two Texas families share a connection with the birth and separation of fraternal twins to a cold, unloving mother and an absent biological father. TITANS offers not only Texas history but many twists and turns to hold your interest. Bring a friend and join us for refreshments prior to the review.

SEPTEMBER 13 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

PW FALL LUNCHEON

Presbyterian Women will hold its annual Fall Luncheon on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 11:30 AM in Westminster Hall. Our speaker will be Jonathan Sandys, great-grandson of Britain’s wartime Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. Mr. Sandys will talk about Churchill’s belief in the protection and guidance of God in his life that prepared him for his crucial role as world leader in the fight for “Christian civilization” during World War II.

Please join us for this fascinating and meaningful narrative as related by Mr. Sandys. His recently published book, God and Churchill, will be available for sale and autographing at the event. Please see page 13 on the PW Fall Luncheon for more information.

OCTOBER 24 • 11:30 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL

LUNCHEON TO HONOR REV. ZBINDEN, HEMINGWAY TO SPEAK!

The Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, located at the Medical Center, will host their annual Legacy of Hope Luncheon to be held on Thursday, October 6, 2016.  
  
The guest speaker will be actress and author Mariel Hemingway, and we are excited to announce that this year’s honoree is our very own Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden!  
  
Many of you may have already received an invitation to this wonderful event, but if you haven’t and would like to join in celebrating Louis’ dedication to The Ecumenical Center, please e-mail Suzanne Terry with your name(s) and mailing address to [suzan-terry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzan-terry@sbcglobal.net), or call her at (210) 828-4518.  
  
Either method of contact will ensure you’re placed on the invitation list.  
  
Thank you!  
Suzanne and Ted Terry, Chairs  
Carol and Dave West, Co-Chairs

OCTOBER 6

170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 18, as First Pres will celebrate 170 years since its founding in San Antonio, as well as our new affiliation with ECO! In addition to a special luncheon that day, look for more information to come regarding worship and activities for the whole family.  
  
As the “oldest, newest” Protestant church in San Antonio, we welcome everyone to join in this event as we continue to make Jesus visible to our community and to grow in His Word.

SEPTEMBER 18



# MO RANCH 2016

## DELIVERS FUN, FELLOWSHIP, INSPIRATION

People of all ages had a great time at the FPC All-Church retreat at Mo Ranch this past August. It was a time of fun and fellowship for all involved as we worshiped, played, and grew closer together as God's family. Our speakers, Steve and Twyla Lee, from Colorado Springs, spoke about unity in Christ and becoming one as a body of believers. They offered great insight into how to love one another in the church and work together for the glory of God.

The kids and youth enjoyed learning about all the different parts of the body of Christ and how they fit into God's design for the church. The kids also enjoyed sliding around on a humongous slip-n-slide covered in soap! Throughout the weekend, families had a chance to swing through the trees at the Ropes Course, swim with the fish in the Guadalupe, play a competitive round

of sand volleyball, and of course ride the famous "Mo Slide."

We were blessed to celebrate the sacrament of Baptism as one of our third grade children, Corwyn Briggs, was baptized by Rev. Dr. Ron Scates in the Guadalupe River! This was a meaningful experience for all involved to witness the commitment and trust that Corwyn displayed in Jesus Christ, in addition to the love and grace poured out by the Holy Spirit through Baptism.

The weekend ended with a beautiful worship service at the chapel on the hill overlooking the Texas Hill Country, as we gave thanks to God for His generous blessings. Spending time at Mo Ranch was a great way to end the summer and prepare for what God has in store for us this fall. Thank you to all who made this retreat such a great success!





# HAITI MISSION TEAM CREATES, SHARES LASTING MEMORIES



**THIS** summer FPC took a group of 34 individuals down to Petit Goave, Haiti for a week of serving, working and fun. We partnered with Experience Mission, an organization that has been involved in Haiti since 2010. Throughout the week, we helped put on Kids Clubs as well as worked alongside locals putting up a roof for a church and walls for several houses. In addition, the team enjoyed a market day, beach day and a special afternoon spent playing and loving on some kids at an orphanage. The economic and social situation of the majority of Haitians is considered extremely impoverished, yet their spirits are joyful and content. We were challenged by this when thinking about our own lives of comfort and dissatisfaction. Lastly, the faith of each team member was tested and made stronger through this experience in ways that can never be forgotten.

**DAY 1:** The first full day in Haiti was

full of excitement! This morning we attended a church service and were warmly welcomed by the Haitians in the church. Although the service was mostly done in creole, the love for God was clearly displayed. Next we visited an orphanage, and the children were very welcoming as we introduced ourselves. After introductions, we split up into groups of children and played an assortment of games. I got to play a fun soccer game with the children, and I was happy to see the smiles on the kids' faces while they played with the new soccer ball we had just brought them. Even though the language barrier can be difficult at times, the overall experience so far has been amazing. Seeing God work in so many ways has been a wonderful sight to see and I can not wait to see what else he has in store.

– Benson Meadows

**DAY 2:** Our team (Colton, Margaret, Susan, Josie Nash, Michael, Cassan-

dra, Hunter, Dean) went to the home of a family. From what we could tell, they had one bedroom, a kitchen, and a non-plumbed bathroom. There was a mason there to stucco the living room which was simple cinder blocks. We made concrete by first sifting rocks into sand, filling eight huge buckets full of sand, and mixing those with bags of concrete and water. The guys – with shovels – would mix the cement, and then we would pass buckets of cement into the house where the mason would sling it on the walls and level it to create a smooth wall. Margaret was the only one brave enough to attempt slinging the cement onto the walls and did a very lousy job. It's really hard. We were amazed at the skill of the mason who worked for five or six hours – HARD – without a break, without water, and without lunch. We realized how easy we have it at home! We are blessed!

- Margaret Berton

**DAY 3:** Today we went to a local church that we had attended on Sunday and finished the roofing for it, and during the rest of our working time we got to build relationships with a bunch of kids that were hanging out there by playing cards, kicking the ball around, and the girls playing hair salon with my hair. After that we went to the beach and I had an amazing time cooling off.

– Josie Nash



**DAY 4:** Our group worked at what we call “the Wall” which is where we are helping build one of the walls of a family's future house. We first helped to mix concrete and carry it to where the mortar was working and later we strained out sand. I worked at this site the previous day, and the kids who we played with yesterday ran up to me and started to hug me. They were really interested in Allie Byrd's teal hair and started to braid it. Later



a machete, and passed them around. We drank the fresh milk which was AMAZING. Then he whacked them in half so that we could eat the meat. Wow! We were barely hungry for lunch!...

Some folks went to the beach this afternoon. Those of us who were old or tired or both declined the treacherous journey again but relaxed instead. The merchants came in this afternoon for some local artisan

we went to the kid's club were Kate, a member of our team, lead part of it. It then later started pouring down rain which was really cool.

– Clara Shute

**DAY 5:** Team Margaret, Susan, Sarah, Kaitlyn, Kate, Josie Nash, and Abbi... went to the Clinic (some or most of us again) to do a last shift of sifting sand. It was a “light” day, and some big, husky young men gave up their spot to allow the “old people” (hmm-UMM) to have the easier day—allowing the guys to share their physical gifts elsewhere. It was a beautiful day on the water front. Late in the morning, the water turned a deep, beautiful blue. We got to watch Jacky climb two-thirds of the way up a 40-foot coconut tree. Later, we got to watch his friend climb all the way up into the stratosphere where we lost sight of him. We moved out of the way as the coconuts rained down. Then a local man whacked them open with



shopping. This evening we made a prayer circle around our new Haitian friends and blessed the work they are doing here. They challenged US to continue serving and loving others at home as we have here. This has been an awesome week. Please everyone buy Epson salts because we will be ready for a nice long SOAK!

- Margaret Berton







## SPIRIT MOVING IN RUSSIA | BY LINDSAY SELL

**WHEN** most people think of mission work, Russia is not the first place they tend to think of. This summer, however, that's exactly where my husband, Vello, and I went. For nearly a decade I had felt a calling to go and work with this mission group, and the time finally came. While Agape is primarily a medical mission, their outreach extends beyond just medical work. Vello and I were unable to stay in Russia for a full two-week expedition, which enabled us to see and share in the work that Agape is doing in the Moscow area, and at their farm in the Tula region.

**OUR** journey included visits to a gypsy village where Agape partners with YWAM, an African refugee clinic where Agape partners with the Moscow Protestant Chaplaincy, the Agape clinic, elderly homes, and the Agape Farm for an orphan camp. This was only a small sampling of the Agape footprint in Russia, however, it was incredible! Vello and I were able to share testimony, pray with and, for the people we visited, learn about the different partnerships and ministries that Agape has and truly feel the Holy Spirit at work.

**ONE** of the most Spirit-filled moments of our journey was at the elderly home. Through two houses, three floors each, and about 50-60 people, I sang and Vello played games of catch, and we talked. We heard stories from residents and shared our own stories. We prayed with the people in each room and I was able to sing old hymns to them. As I sang, the words were translated and we saw joy,

comfort, and hope on the faces of the residents. **VELLO** and I experienced a bit of the opposition that Agape faces as Russian law becomes stricter in regard to ministry work. Dr. Bill spoke with me to assure me that though many mission agencies have left and continue to leave Russia, he and the Agape staff will continue to push through opposition, without fear, because they are so committed to the work they've been called to do. While we truly felt we were able to do some great work in Russia, we also left knowing that we have much more room to grow when it comes to being fearless when living into God's calling for our lives. We were absolutely blessed through this journey and look forward to a continued partnership with the Agape team.



## URBAN PLUNGE PROVIDES HANDS-ON COMMUNITY SUPPORT!

**SEVERAL** youth participated in a meaningful, week-long event earlier this summer at FPC, Urban Plunge. Here are a few of their enlightening stories!

**DAY 1:** So when we got there, we came out into a really nice lobby, and there was a room as we looked straight ahead where there were a bunch of senior citizens watching a movie since it was movie day. We saw a lot of people in wheel chairs. They were really nice, and two of the boys actually had a conversation with them and got lost afterwards. We walked to the medical center, and we got instructions on who to see. There was a guy who would come in to pray and sing songs, and one of the ladies was so touched she cried. After that we were introduced and walked around to everyone. We were told to then serve them popcorn and water, and we filled up cups of water and giving them little cups of popcorn. We then sat down next to a specific person so we could help if they needed anything. I had to help feed this one lady, who seemed paralyzed, with a drink and some of the popcorn. It was really touching and I had a really good time.

- Aly Carter (Senior Home visit)

**DAY 2:** Today we picked up trash downtown around the Alamo. We wanted to make it a better place for the tourists who are coming to San Antonio to visit the Alamo. We picked up stuff like water bottles, straws, napkins, cups, and shoes. I think we helped serve God by making San Antonio a better place for others to visit and enjoy.

- Payton Wood, 7th (Trash pickup)

**DAY 3:** At CAM there was a giant pile of clothes that people had donated. There was a table in the middle that had sections that were labeled Ladies, Men, Girls, and Boys. We sorted the clothes and took certain items like children's shoes and purses to the pantry. In the afternoon I went to SA Heals, we did a lot of lawn work. SA heals helps under-privileged people. It was a lot of fun! I made Jesus visible by helping under-privileged kids get away from conflicts and helped them find God.

- Cole Dunn

**DAY 4:** First we went to the food bank with all the urban-plungers. We sorted donated food into banana boxes that had certain categories. Then, when we finished, they told us how many people we had fed, which was about 1,100 meals. Then I went to Mission Road, we got to help the adults do their crafts and then play with them. My favorite part was getting to know this man named Coby, and he was telling funny jokes and then told us his story. He was the nicest man! I felt like I made Jesus visible by talking to the people and giving them company.

- Jennings Stuart

**DAY 5:** It was a great experience because I got to see how our actions helped others and got to grow closer to God.

- Leah Dullnig

Urban plunge was a great experience because I got to strengthen my relationship with God and getting to show him to others.

- Joyce



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

## BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE, PRESIDENT

With the approach of fall, Presbyterian Women will soon be filling up their calendars with many special PW activities. Among those, I hope that you will include two of our highly anticipated events that happen at this time of year. Our Fall Ladies' Night Out of fellowship and fun will be held on Thursday, September 29, 2016 at the lovely home of Sallie Guy. Please join us as we renew old friendships, begin new ones, and enjoy an evening that will be entertaining for all. The PW Fall Luncheon will occur on Monday, October 24, 2016 in Westminster Hall. We are very pleased to welcome Jonathan Sandys, the great-grandson of Winston Churchill, as our speaker for this event. Mr. Sandys will talk to us about his new book, God and Churchill, a fascinating narrative about the wartime Prime Minister's belief that his life had been protected and guided by God in order for him to fulfill his eventual destiny. Please read the individual articles in this newsletter for detailed information about these events. In addition to these articles, please note the list of September PW Circle meeting dates. With a wide variety of interests, dates and times from which to choose, I hope that you will find a group that is perfect for you. To find out more, please contact Vice-President of Circles, Linda Delano, at [ldelano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ldelano@sbcglobal.net); Vice-President of New Members, Georgia Heath, at [gkhymheath@earthlink.net](mailto:gkhymheath@earthlink.net); or PW President, Linda Rittenhouse, at [lindar@satx.rr.com](mailto:lindar@satx.rr.com).

I am very grateful to the dedicated PW Officers, Chairmen, Moderators and Committee Members who have worked all summer to prepare for the coming year. One of our large summer projects is the revision of the PW Directory. This year's directory has been printed and will be distributed at the first Circle meetings in September. If a PW Circle member is unable to attend her group meeting, she may pick up the directory at the front desk. A huge debt of gratitude goes to Linda Wright, Vice President for Directory, for countless hours spent reviewing and updating information for the directory. Additionally, many thanks go to FPC staff members Sarah Clower, Lindsay Selli and Richard Flores who so patiently and graciously assisted in the production of the directory and in other PW design and publication needs this summer. Appreciation is also given to Barbara Wood and Debra Sirakos, former and current PW Treasurers, for working so hard on preparing a budget for the upcoming year. Thank you, also, to Linda Delano, Vice-President for Circles, Georgia Heath, Vice-President for New Members and Julie Walthall and Amanda Williams, Historians, for their efforts in their respective jobs across the summer. Mary Ellen Mauze and Barbara Wood, former and current Corresponding Secretaries, continued their work during the summer and June Eubank, Moderator Chairman, spent many hours preparing and organizing for the circle studies that start in the fall.

The group Presbyterian Women of FPC became organized at our church in 1874 and was then called the Ladies Aid Society. Across the decades, the name of the organization changed to Home Missionary Society, Woman's Auxiliary, Women of the Church, and finally to its current designation. What a marvelous heritage for those of us who are privileged to be a part of the group today! We will continue the original mission of service, fellowship and learning and rejoice in our chance to follow in the footsteps of the faithful, dedicated and determined women who preceded us. What an honor and opportunity for us all!

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:16

# PW

## CIRCLES

**BIBLE CIRCLE 112**  
**Monday, September 19 • 10:30 AM**  
FPC Geneva Room  
**Lunch** (optional): \$8.00  
**Chair:** Suzanne Thomas 846-3240/  
[suzannethomas54@gmail.com](mailto:suzannethomas54@gmail.com)  
**Moderator:** Grace Labatt  
**Study:** Women of the Bible

**BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4**  
**Monday, September 19 • 12:00 PM**  
FPC Room 226  
**Lunch:** Bring Pot Luck  
**Chair:** Char-An Witten, 341-1856  
**Study:** *Her Name is Woman* by Gien Karssen

**SHAWL MINISTRY CIRCLE 5**  
**Friday, September 16 • 12:00-1:00 PM**  
FPC Room 228  
**Lunch:** Members bring food to share  
**Chairs:** Jane Ann Temple 414-9956 and Kay Weber

**BIBLE CIRCLE 6**  
**Tuesday, September 20 • 1:30 pm**  
FPC Geneva Room  
**Chair:** Mimi Hart 822-0809

**BIBLE CIRCLE 7**  
**Tuesday, September 20 • 11:30 AM**  
At the home of Becky DeWees (326 Cloverleaf Ave. 78209)  
**Lunch:** Bring a salad to share  
**Chair:** Alison Barker 822-4789/  
[barker.alison1@gmail.com](mailto:barker.alison1@gmail.com)  
**Moderator:** Jeanne Browning

**CIRCLE 8 MOM'S GROUP**  
**Tuesday, September 6 • 7:00 PM**  
Meet at Stonewerks at the Quarry (999 E Basse Rd 78209) for dinner  
**Tuesday, September 20 • 9:30-11:30 AM**  
FPC Room 108  
Kick-off information session with treats from Bird Bakery and DIY flower vase painting  
**Chairs:** Sara Parish 394-0865, Lily Gretzinger 601-0575, and Meg Walker [meg@aladdinleans.com](mailto:meg@aladdinleans.com)  
**Childcare:** RSVP 2 days prior to Sonya Wright at [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org)

**BIBLE CIRCLE 9**  
**Tuesday, September 20 • 10:00 AM**  
FPC Breakfast Room  
**Lunch:** \$8, reservations needed  
**Chairs:** Jan Magnus 829-5866 and Pat Brannen 735-4415  
**Moderator:** Angie Richmond  
**Study:** *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr

**BIBLE CIRCLE 11**  
**Monday, September 26 • 6:30 PM**  
At the home of Suzanne Norton (608 Antler Dr, 78213)  
**Dinner:** provided by various circle members  
**Chair:** Karin Gabrielson 843-2475  
**Moderator:** Linda Ruhmann

**LITERATURE CIRCLE 13**  
**Tuesday, September 13 • 1:00 PM**  
FPC McCullough Room  
**Chair:** Jeanne Browning 824-3921  
**Book:** *Titans* by Leila Meachem  
**Reviewer:** Jane Warren

**BIBLE CIRCLE 14**  
**Monday, September 19 • 12:00-1:00 PM**  
FPC: St. Andrews Room  
**Lunch:** By reservation  
**Chair:** Marilyn Morris-Etheredge 861-4314/[marilyn.morris@optum.com](mailto:marilyn.morris@optum.com)  
**Moderator:** Amy Robinson  
**Study:** TBD

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

**EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE 17**  
**Wednesday, September 14 • 9:30 AM**  
FPC Room 309  
**Lunch:** Bring \$1 for soup provided by kitchen, members bring dessert  
**Chair:** Jeanne Baker 494-0972  
**Vice Chair:** Gigi Duke 695-4363

**CIRCLE 18 CARE AND CONCERN**  
No meeting date  
**Chairs:** Char-An Witten 341-1856 and Georgia Heath 695-9511

# PW FALL LUNCHEON

## BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE

Jonathan Sandys, Winston Churchill's great-grandson, will speak at the annual Fall Luncheon of Presbyterian Women on Monday, October 24, 2016 at 11:30 AM in Westminster Hall.

As Mr. Sandys writes, "Perceived as a failure for much of his life, Churchill was the last person anyone would have expected to rise to national prominence as prime minister and influence the fate of the world during World War II. But Churchill persevered, on a mission to achieve his purpose. God and Churchill tells the remarkable story of how one man, armed with belief in his Divine destiny, embarked on a course to save Christian civilization when Adolf Hitler and the forces of evil stood opposed. It traces the personal, political, and spiritual path of one of history's greatest leaders and offers hope for our own violent and troubled times."

Please join Presbyterian Women for the unique and exciting opportunity to hear from Churchill's descendant on his great-grandfather's morals, values

**CIRCLE 19 WHITE CROSS CIRCLE**  
**Wednesday, September 7, 9:30 am**  
FPC Room 309  
**Lunch:** The kitchen makes soup (bring \$1) and provides water and coffee, a member will provide dessert  
**Chair:** Janet Beauch 673-3251

**CIRCLE 20 CIRCLE OF SERVICE**  
No meeting date  
**Chair:** Bunkie Shed 824-6690

**CIRCLE 21 WOMEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUP**  
**Monday, September 19 • 6:30 PM**  
Contact Chair for meeting location  
**Dinner:** Members provide buffet dinner and dessert  
**Chair:** Andrea Taylor 403-9442/[paladianpl@aol.com](mailto:paladianpl@aol.com)  
**Moderator:** Member rotation  
**Study:** *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr

and leadership skills and those of the "Greatest Generation" that saved the world from the abyss of a Nazi regime. Mr. Sandys will speak to our group and autograph copies of his book, God and Churchill, after his presentation.

The luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM. Doors will open at 11:00 AM if you would like to come early to view and purchase a centerpiece.

Tickets for the event are \$20 and reservations are required. We no longer accept payment at the door the day of the luncheon. Reservations for tables of eight or ten are available on a first-come basis. The deadline for reservations is Monday, October 17, 2016.

Your check is your reservation and may be paid at your Circle meeting or mailed to Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Please make checks payable to FPC and put "PW Fall Luncheon" on the notation line. Childcare is available at the church by reservation only by calling Sonya Wright at 210-271-2720 or emailing her at [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org). We look forward to seeing you on Monday, October 24, 2016!

"I expect that the Battle of Britain is about to begin. Upon this battle depends the survival of Christian Civisation [sic]." Winston Churchill, "Their Finest Hour" Speech, June 18, 1940







# KEYS

BY JOE MOORE



Is anyone else wondering where the summer has gone!! It just doesn't seem like it should be September already. It has been an eventful summer for KEYS to say the least. The Leadership Committee has worked hard to plan and provide varied activities. The New Director, Joe Moore, is beginning to get his "boots" on the ground, and with a lot of help, is identifying what needs to get done.

KEYS members enjoyed the Mayan Exhibit at the Witte museum and sharpened their cooking skills at the HEB Cooking School. Not to mention the wonderful Salmon Wellington Lunch!!! SA Reads had a slow start this summer but a recent donation of thousands of books has picked up the pace significantly.

As is the case with most programs of the church, September is Kick-off month for KEYS. We are excited to have the "In-A-Jam" Bluegrass Band coming on September 9th for a concert to start off our programs for the fall. A BBQ lunch will follow. Sign-up forms will be out for this event and the cost is \$8.00 if you are joining us for lunch.

Other things to look forward to in September are a special treat for Grandparents Day on September 11th, a sneak peek at the DoSeum (you normally can't do this without kids) and Birthday Lunch at Earl Abel's on September 16th, an update from NAMI on September 23rd, and we are working on getting a speaker from the Alamo for the most up-to-date information on our historic landmark.

Join us in this new season of activities. You don't have to consider yourself an older adult to get involved in KEYS activities, Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit!!

## KEYS FITNESS CLASS

Have you felt like you have had more aches and pains lately? Try this for a fix: Every Friday, except for Birthday Lunch days, at First Pres a group from KEYS meets at 9:30 a.m. with a personal trainer, Linda Osborne, who has been

teaching Jazzercise strength classes for 27 years.

She says that she has always loved strength training, but it was not until she got a little older and experienced a few joint injuries that she realized just how important these classes are for ALL AGES, no matter what level of fitness or capability they may be. Unless you have been told by a doctor that you cannot do strength training, this type of exercise is exactly what will keep your body strong, your bones healthy, and your quality of life at its best.

For more information or to sign-up, contact KEYS Director Joe Moore at FPC, (210) 226-0215 ext 226, or just show up on a Friday morning.

## THE PERMANENT LIST

At our last KEYS Committee meeting we discussed some kinks in the permanent list and decided to start fresh this fall. At our kick-off on September 9th, we will have an information card to collect current contact information, your birthday month, and your desire to be on the permanent list. This list will only be used for in-house lunches and events. When we go to a restaurant everyone will need to sign-up in advance. Your payment will be your registration. Any questions concerning this can be directed to Joe Moore.

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS

- 9th Kickoff with Bluegrass Band and BBQ Lunch
- 16th Doseum Tour  
Birthday Lunch at Earl Abel's
- 23rd Report from NAMI
- 30th Alamo Update

## SAVE THE DATES

- October 2 Flu Shot Clinic
- October 22 Picnic & Birthday Celebration at McNeel's Ranch
- November 17 AARP Safe Driving Class
- November 18 Sophienburg Museum Trip, New Braunfels
- November 28 Gift Wrapping for Elf Louise
- December 13 Austin Christmas Lights Trip



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS | BY BECKY PRICHARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



What does it mean to belong? What does it mean to be a “member” or a part of something bigger than you? As humans, we all have an innate need for belonging. We seek out things in our lives that make us feel like we are known and loved: places where we no longer feel like outsiders but instead like we belong.

At the age of 17 years old, I set off to Norman, Oklahoma to begin my college career as a Sooner at the University of Oklahoma. Before classes even started, I went through a process that some of you might be familiar with called “sorority rush.” I decided to go through rush because I wanted to belong somewhere. Instead of swimming alone in the enormous student body of OU, I wanted to be a part of something that was connectional and meaningful. I wanted to belong.

I ended up pledging the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority at OU which not only made me feel a sense of belonging to other Kappas on campus, but also to my mom, both my aunts, my grandmother and great aunts as I was the 13th Kappa legacy in my family. I had never felt more connected in my life. As the weeks and months went on, I learned all the secret songs and the handshake and I wore the KKG letters on my t-shirts around campus. People knew me as a “Kappa Girl” and I loved the feeling of belonging that gave me.

By the start of my second semester of my freshman year, I began to have an empty, lonely feeling and I could not figure out why. I was constantly surrounded by people and I had things to do at all times whether for school or with the sorority. But I started to feel like I was all alone. I soon came to realize that even though I was a member of the sorority, I was using it as my identity rather than seeking my identity in Christ. I was so proud to call myself a “Sooner”, or a “Kappa”, that I lost track of the One who gives us our true identity and invites us to belong to God’s Kingdom.

What I came to understand is that my deep need and desire for belonging was put there by God because God calls us into a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. We belong to our Father. We belong to something more than this world has to offer, but so often we seek belonging elsewhere.

Now that I work in church ministry, we talk a lot about belonging and what it means to be a member of the local church. But even more so, we talk about what it means to belong to the Body of Christ. Our hope is always that when people walk through the doors of FPC, they feel known and loved here. Although this is very important and we want visitors to feel like they are a part of this congregation so that they continue to worship here, we more importantly want to help people understand the incredible feeling of belonging to God. The great part about belonging to God is that all we have to do is accept the invitation that Christ offers us. There are no special songs or secret handshakes to learn. All we have to do is say “yes” and fall at the feet of our Savior.

My prayer for FPC is that we are a church that opens our doors and invites people to come in and belong to this place of fellowship and worship. And I hope even more that, through that, all will leave here knowing Christ in an intimate way, and trusting in Him as they feel a sweet sense of belonging to God as God’s own.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | YARD WORK | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



I am not mechanically inclined, not in the slightest. Just to turn the faucet on I continually have to chant righty tighty lefty loosey and at times I still get it wrong. My father on the other hand is a mechanical engineer and sent a man to the moon at NASA with only a slide rule to perform all the mathematical calculations, but for me changing a fluorescent light bulb is just as a challenging a task.

Some of my biggest frustrations manifest themselves when it is time for yard work. It seems the mower, weed eater, chain saw, etcetera never work appropriately or even start and thus I spend hours on YouTube videos attempting to diagnose the problem. Wasting hours, as anger sets in and I can almost see the grass continuing to grow as I have yet to even get the equipment running. In these mo-

ments I scream and my poor wife has to listen to me exclaim, “I don’t mind mowing the lawn. I just don’t want to have to work on getting the mower started.” But, here’s the thing, you cannot have a mowed lawn without the mower, it is a package deal. In other words I cannot pick and choose which parts of the process I like while ignoring the other aspects. The same is true with the word of God, it’s a package deal.

We are not at liberty to pick and choose the parts that appeal to us, while ignoring the others. If we want our spiritual lawn mowed, then we are going to have to fix the lawn mower as well and apply ourselves to all aspects of our Father’s will.

FLOWER VASE NOTICE

FPC is bursting with flower vases!

Thank you FPC for donating a bumper crop of flower vases this spring to the Flower Girl Ministry. Thanks to your generosity, our shelves are full!

Until further notice we will NO LONGER be accepting donated vases, so please recycle your vases at an alternate favorite donation station.

- The Flower Girls









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