



RECOMMIT

First Press
COMMITMENT CAMPAIGN 2017

NOVEMBER 2016 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

If you're like me, I'm feeling like it will be a miracle if our country survives the current Presidential election...particularly its aftermath. Politics always produces winners and losers...but I'm having a hard time seeing how anyone comes out a winner on this one. Whoever is elected President, there has been so much mud-slinging, so many lies told, so many hollow promises made that everything looks quite uncertain post-November 8. "Scary" may be a better word.

This is where faith—robust faith in Christ—steps in. “Do not be afraid” is part of the Gospel message that weaves its way from Genesis through Revelation (and remember, Revelation can be summed-up in two words: God wins). One of the undercurrents running all the way through Scripture is that of God’s saving, redemptive grace working over, and under, and through, and around all kinds of scalawag political buffoonery, and even downright government-sanctioned evil.

Nearly all the great redemptive stories of the Bible occur amidst the darkness of governments gone awry and regimes gone sadistically crazy. Bottom line through it all: God is sovereign. Whoever next occupies the White House—the Lord still occupies THE Throne—and nothing can ever change that reality. Nothing can thwart God from working out His ultimate plan which culminates in the fulfilled Kingdom.

As the culture around us grows morally, and theologically, more dark...the opportunity for individual Christians, and Christ’s Church—FPC in particular—to shine actually grows brighter. Diamonds sparkle best the darker the background. The election of a new President is the perfect moment for you and me to claim our election as God’s men and women, boys and girls, of grace. It means being more intentional about pursuing Christ by bringing our lifestyles, more and more, under the authority of Scripture. When we do, the result is that the light of Christ shines more clearly through our everyday actions...and offers an alternative to the surrounding darkness. It seems counter-intuitive, but when the night is darkest, that’s actually when Jesus is most visible. It’s been that way since the first century—and that’s our greatest hope for, and contribution to, the 21st century.

Be strong in the Lord.

+ Ron

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LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes has found a new home!

Starting November 27th, Loaves and Fishes will welcome its guests into a new facility - right across the street! Grace Lutheran Church has been a long-time partner of FPC and we are excited to join hands with them in feeding the homeless community of San Antonio. Doors will open at 3PM and guests will be served a nutritious meal while being ministered to through song and an inspiring message.

We'll be needing food and volunteers, so please spread the word! Casseroles or pre-made items can be dropped off at FPC throughout the day, and volunteers can register by emailing Morgan Ford at morganf@fpcsat.org, or online at (registration page).

NOVEMBER 27 • 3:00 PM • GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

The "Gift of Christmas" is a mission project coordinated by the Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church. This Christmas Project is an opportunity for groups or individuals in our church to share Christ's love by giving food, clothing, and gifts to families in need. Each family is referred to us by the House of Neighborly Service. Some families are large, some multi-generational, while others are small family units. All are very appreciative of the gifts and the givers.

We encourage PW circles, Sunday school classes, small groups, various church organizations, families, and individuals to share in this effort to include these HNS families in your Christmas giving. Gift of Christmas Family Request Forms are available in the Mauze Lobby beginning in mid-October through December 4th.

Read more about this wonderful opportunity at www.fpcsanantonio.org/gift-of-christmas or watch for further information in upcoming First Pres issues.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

The joint meeting of the First Presbyterian Literature Circle and KEYS will be held Friday, November 11, at 11 AM (please be seated by 10:45 AM) in Westminster Hall. Church member & Elder-on-rotation, John Kerr, will review his 5th published novel, "The Silent Shore of Memory."

The novel presents James Barnhill and his life from being a confederate soldier (in the Texas Brigade) during the Civil War, through Reconstruction in his native Texas, to a career as a lawyer and judge. The story is a history of the south—slavery, dissolution of the Union, and the complexity that race plays following the war. John's books carry a theme of a character with a strong sense of faith that is tested often by a crisis.

John Kerr graduated from Stanford University where he studied history, literature and poetry. He also is a graduate of the U.T. Law School. John is married to Susan Kerr who also is a published author.

An optional luncheon will be held after the review. Reservations are required for the luncheon (\$8) by calling Stephanie at (210-226-0215) or Stephanieg@fpcsat.org by November 8th. Guests are encouraged.

NOVEMBER 11 • 11:00 AM

ORDER POINSETTIAS FOR CHRISTMAS

Each year during the Advent season, the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel by the Sanctuary Flower Committee. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 per poinsettia, the revenues of which have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make many special gifts to beautify the church over the years. Order Forms are now available in Mauze Lobby.

YOUTH SAVE THE DATES

HS Retreat - November 12-13
8TH-12TH graders are welcome to join us as we get away from it all, play games, make crafts, eat s'mores, and learn more about Jesus. \$50 per person. Contact Colton Willis (coltonw@fpcsat.org) or Emily Yergler (emilyy@fpcsat.org) to sign up or learn more.

Serving Saturday - December 3
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

All Youth Christmas Party - December 11
6:00-8:00 PM

Youth Group Sunday Nights:
6:00-8:00 PM

Bible Studies:
Wednesday night's
Middle School 6:00-7:30 PM at the Criders
High School Girls and Guys 8:00-9:00 PM. See social media for locations

Follow us on Instagram/Twitter/Facebook.

VETERANS DAY

Veterans Day is Friday, November 11, 2016. Be sure to take time to remember and give thanks to all veterans who have given of themselves in military service to our nation, from the Revolutionary War through the conflicts of today, for their courage and valor in times of world tension and times of peace.

NOVEMBER 11

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS!

NOVEMBER 6

CHRYSLIS MINISTRIES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Please join Chrysalis Ministries (formerly Bexar County Detention Ministries) as it celebrates 75 Years of New Beginnings! The 75th Anniversary Celebration will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 at 6:30 PM at the San Antonio Country Club. Chrysalis Ministries' mission is to facilitate the personal, emotional and spiritual transformation of incarcerated individuals, those formerly incarcerated and their families. Sheriff Susan Pamerleau is our Honorary Chair. District Attorney Nico LaHood will be our Master of Ceremonies. Former Executive Director, Brenda Schultz, will help us honor our history and the many places of worship that have been instrumental in supporting the ministry over the last 75 years. FPC, as a significant and steadfast contributor to Chrysalis Ministries, both monetarily and through its many wonderful volunteers and staff over the years, will, of course, be recognized as part of that group! Our Client Testimonials which will follow are always the high point of the event. Tickets are \$150/pp. Please contact Kim Smith at 210/771-4214 with any questions. We would be honored if you would join our celebration!!

NOVEMBER 16 • 6:00 PM

NOONDAY ADOPTION TRUNK SHOW

Please join us for our second annual Noonday Adoption Trunk Show on Thursday, November 3, from 5:00 to 7:00 PM at the home of Teresa McCaleb, 412 Canterbury Hill. Money raised will go towards South Texas Alliance for Orphans to help every foster child find a home. The Executive Director of STAO, Jennifer Smith, will share her personal journey of how she came to adopt two foster children. Hear her story while shopping to help bring a foster child to their forever family.

NOVEMBER 3 • 5:00-7:00 PM



RECOMMIT

For 170 years, First Presbyterian has been blessed with a rich legacy of leaders who moved forward boldly to build something bigger than themselves. Because of their vision, generosity and faithfulness, FPC is now blessed with a beautiful campus and a family of believers who are “living to make Jesus visible.” Those pioneers “planted trees under whose shade they never sat.”

Today, we are experiencing the “shade” of those trees, and we need to stand with those who have gone before us in a commitment to biblical stewardship and courageous generosity. These are exciting days for FPC. We are blessed with a gifted, committed, and visionary staff, and they need our prayers, encouragement, and financial support in order to accomplish the mission to which they have been called.

Since making a financial commitment is an act of faith, it is

important to begin the process with prayer. Ask God for an open mind and heart. Ask Him what He wants you to do, not what you think you can afford. We are all called to give back to God a portion of what He has given us. The biblical standard is a tithe (10% of your income). The tithe is evidence of your faith, and honors God by giving Him of your “first fruits.” Every commitment, regardless of the amount, is important. Remember, we are not called to equal giving but to equal sacrifice.

Sunday, November 13th is Commitment Sunday. I ask that you prayerfully “recommit” to our mission, and consider what God would have you do. Give out of God’s grace and love as you “excel in the grace of giving.”

By Dale Hendrix
Chair, FPC Stewardship
and Finance Committee



WORLD VISION

SHARES EXPERIENCE, CHALLENGES OF WORLD POVERTY



Last month, we had the honor of hosting the award-winning World Vision Experience at FPC. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families and their communities worldwide to reach their full potential by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice. FPC has partnered with World Vision for many years, supporting communities in Ethiopia and Malawi and was excited to share this special experience with our community. Hundreds of visitors came from all walks of life to take part in the virtual exhibit and walked away feeling moved and inspired. At the end of the tour, there is place for visitors to pause and write their thoughts on a wall. Here are a few of the emotional responses we received:

“There is a lot of brokenness and sometimes it’s difficult to understand. But God, in His unending grace has a plan for these communities and He calls us to GO—to love, to serve and to invest in these communities. I pray that He would open our hearts to every person, in every untouched corner of the world.”

“Thank you Lord for World Vision; For bringing their vision to the lost, the hungry, those in most need. Thank you for bringing their cause to FPC and to my family. We are so happy to help and so prayerful for other ways we can help too.”

“Father in Heaven. Forgive us for turning our backs on the multitudes who suffer in so many ways. Help us to—in our abundance—be generous with all that you give to us. Help me be more like Jesus in ways beyond my imagination. Make me more grateful for your love, and in turn, more loving, even in those so far away. Amen.”

“Thank you, World Vision for telling us about the people in the margins, for interrupting our easy lives with the truth of other people’s hard realities. Thank you for making it easy to give and make a difference. Your bridge connects unlikely places.”

And in a child’s handwriting, we found this note: “Dear God, please let these children have a home.”

If you were unable to visit the World Vision Exhibit, you’ll have another opportunity to learn more about this incredible ministry at our Hope Sunday, on November 13th. Earlier this year, we sent a team to Mutendere to experience first-hand how our support is impacting the people in these communities. The group will be sharing how you too can make a difference. To hear more, stop by the Geneva Room from 9:00-12:30 PM.

By Morgan Ford,
Director of Missions

FIRST PRES WELCOMES N.T. “TOM” WRIGHT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH



First Pres is excited and honored to welcome N.T. “Tom” Wright, a leading British New Testament scholar and retired Anglican bishop, to preach during our services this month on November 20th.

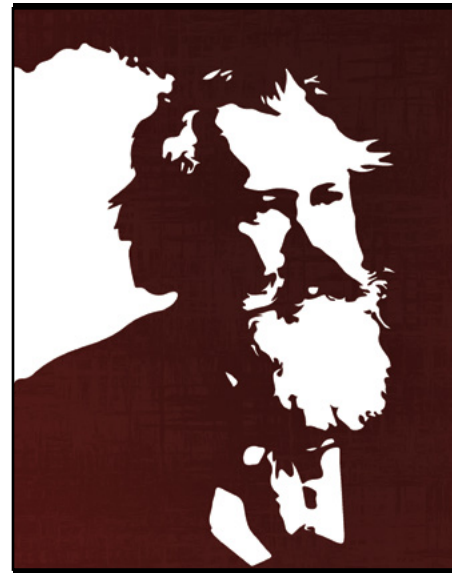
Called “the most prolific Biblical scholar in a generation” by Christianity Today in 2014, and respected author of numerous books and articles, Wright delivers a powerful, transformative message for Christ that you don’t want to miss.

Born in Morpeth, Northumberland in 1948, his prolific career culminated with becoming Bishop of Durham in England in 2003, and being appointed to the Court of Ecclesiastical Causes Reversed in 2004. He retired in 2010 and was appointed Research Professor of New Testament and Early Christianity at St. Mary’s College, a seminary of the Church of Scotland, which enabled him to concentrate on his renowned academic and broadcasting work he continues to this day.

His books include *Simply Christian*, *Jesus and the Victory of God*, and *The Christian*

Origins and Question of God four-volume series.

A special after-worship luncheon will feature NT speaking in Westminster Hall at 12:30 PM that Sunday, and is open to the public by pre-registration on a first-come, first-served basis (256 seats available). For more information, visit fpcsanantonio.org.



EXPERIENCE THE BRAHMS “GERMAN (EIN DEUTSCHES) REQUIEM” ON NOVEMBER 6

BY TOM DOOLING, MINISTER OF MUSIC

On Sunday afternoon, November 6 at 4:00 PM, you have an opportunity to experience the profound convergence of Biblical texts and inspiring music in an intimate chamber performance of the ‘Ein Deutsches Requiem’ of Johannes Brahms. Our own FPC Chamber Singers will perform the work in German (translation provided) using the two piano edition of the accompaniment conceived by Brahms himself as a means of promoting performances when the work was originally premiered in 1868 with orchestra. In addition to the chamber choir, Dr. Jae Ha and Russell Jackson, choirmaster at St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, will accompany the choir on two pianos. Our soloists include Lindsay Selli, soprano and guest baritone, Matthew Arnold.

The origins and motivations for the composition of the German Requiem are not completely known, but they seem to relate to the death of Brahms’ close friend Robert Schumann in 1856 and the passing of his own mother in 1865. In fact, the composition of the work seems to have spanned over 14 years. Unlike the typical

Latin ‘Mass for the Dead’ or Requiem, Brahms wanted to compose a Requiem of consolation for the living. In order to do this, he departed from the standard Latin texts and drew his texts from various scripture passages in the Bible. The title ‘German’ Requiem refers simply to the language used for the piece. In fact it is very much a Requiem of consolation for the living. Those who have passed are not mentioned in his Requiem until the very last movement, drawing his text from the Book of Revelation. The majority of these Biblical texts in the German Requiem offer comfort to those who mourn and suffer as a result of loss.

Brahms created a piano four-hands version of the score in 1869, which was used for a private performance in London in 1871. It is our hope to ‘recreate’ this 1871 performance on Sunday afternoon, November 6 at 4:00 PM in our sanctuary. We hope you will join us for this rare opportunity to experience one of the greatest choral masterpieces ever conceived.

FPC TEAMS UP TO SUPPORT, GROW 2016 NAMI WALKS ANNUAL EVENT

On Saturday, Oct. 1, FPC's "Team Brick" walked to help support the annual NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) fundraiser at Morgan's Wonderland. Team Brick began in 2015 to help remember "Brick" Munroe, son of Chip Munroe and Karen Munroe. Brick Munroe was tragically shot by police on July 5, 2015, in Austin Texas after he called 911 for help. Remembering Brick Munroe helps us remember that too many people suffer from a mental illness and are unable to get help when they need it.

NAMI San Antonio Board President and FPC member Doug Beach helped kick off the 2016 NAMI Walk by recognizing FPC member and Grand Marshall for the Walk,

Sheriff Susan Pamerleau. Over 700 people participated in this year's Walk, a 40% increase over last year. As in the past, the theme for the Walk is "Stamp out Stigma," the number one reason why people suffering from a mental illness do not get help after their first episode of mental illness.

It's not too late to send a contribution for TEAM BRICK to NAMI San Antonio (510 Belknap Pl, SAT 78212, Attn: TEAM BRICK). 95% of the money donated stays in San Antonio to help fund educational classes provided by NAMI. Since beginning in 2010, over 400 people have taken NAMI classes held at FPC.



NEED A LIFT?

About three years ago I attended a "fly-in" in San Marcos for the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA). I took a non-pilot friend along for the experience and we both had a great day. The lasting part for me, however, was at a table in the exhibit hall, where I met with volunteers from Angel Flight South Central.

Angel Flight is a nonprofit agency made up of private pilots, like myself who volunteer to transport medical patients, mostly cancer patients who have to travel distances to receive their treatments. For example, my first mission was to pick up a lady in Burnet, TX and fly her to Houston where she was being treated for malignant melanoma. Her journey that day actually began in Colorado City, TX. She was transported by another pilot from her home town's small airstrip to Burnet. Then I did the second leg to Houston Hobby Airport. There, an Angel Ground volunteer picked her up in his car and drove her either to M.D. Anderson or to her hotel, where she would stay before receiving her treatment the next day. The next day, two other volunteer pilots made the two-leg journey to return her to Colorado City.

For me, it is a way to serve using the skills and resources I have trained for as a pilot. Frankly, to be a good and safe pilot, one should "exercise those privileges" at least a couple of times a month, every 10 days or once a week would be even better. Well, if I am going to be flying for something, why not do it with a purpose? Further, why not work to "make Jesus visible" through this activity?

Every one of us has been touched by cancer either personally, by a family member, or a close friend. The pain, the stress and the potential depression can be unbearable. Angel Flight offers a way for cancer patients to avoid long drives, which can be very beneficial for example when the patient has just received a dose of chemotherapy. It also avoids the stress of today's commercial airline environment. For some of these folks, the exposure to others in that crowded airport or full flight with weakened immune systems presents another set of risks.

The patients I have flown have always been most grateful. Most of them want to tell their stories and provides a chance for them to maybe cry a little or maybe just be grateful for another day and getting to enjoy the beautiful view from 7,000 feet up. It is a chance for me to be a better listener and to grow in grace.

If you have a friend or relative who is in need of transportation for medical treatment, tell them about Angel Flight. Here is the website: www.angelflightsc.org. Locally, we are working with CTRC and START Clinics. I am working to expand knowledge of Angel Flight to all medical institutions in South Texas. There is a tab to "request a mission" with instructions and forms for doctors to fill out. There is a great tab with "patient stories" that will both illuminate and bring a tear to your eyes.

By Jim Daniell,
FPC Lifetime Member

SOUTH TEXAS ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS

WE HAVE A CRISIS IN OUR COMMUNITY!

Every year over 8,000 children are confirmed victims of abuse and neglect. Every year 4,800 of our areas' youngest victims become modern day orphans and thus need safe, loving foster homes. We know God calls all Christians to be part of His response to their needs. It's an undeniable mandate of Scripture on all of us who follow Jesus. While there are thousands of children in crisis, there are even more Christians in our local churches... all equally called by God to be part of His solution. We believe it takes a village – it takes The CHURCH – working together to fulfill God's plan for orphans to experience His love through us. That's why families, churches and local organizations have partnered together this year to form the South Texas Alliance for Orphans. We, at First Presbyterian, recently chose to be a substantial partner in the expansion of this Alliance and their mission to help support, equip and encourage the Church in fulfilling God's solution for abused and neglected children and their families.

THE CHURCH'S CALL TO STEP IN EXISTS BOTH UP AND DOWNSTREAM FROM THE CRISIS OF TOO FEW FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE HOMES.

Through the Alliance, churches and their families will be connected with great organizations working to prevent children from ever having to enter foster care through mentoring programs for biological families, youth in juvenile justice, young teen moms and at risk youth. Christians can also serve downstream through mentoring aged out youth and preventing them from becoming a statistic. Our inaction along this continuum has consequences:

- children in foster care for more than twenty-four months will move homes an average of six times

- 50% of aged out youth will be in prison or pregnant by age nineteen
- 40% of our homeless population spent time in foster care and 75% of all sex trafficked victims were foster children.

THE CRISIS IS SOLVABLE...we can have more than enough Christians gifting their families to children and families in need. A family's yes to a child in need initially leads to a chaotic new normal for foster families. Adding a new member to the home who has experienced such trauma is a challenging undertaking alone and therefore done best in a trained, educated and equipped local church ready to assist in numerous ways as families settle into serving a child and often their family.

WHILE EVERY CHRISTIAN IS CALLED TO DO SOMETHING, NOT EVERY FAMILY IS CALLED TO FOSTER OR ADOPT. The question is not if we should be involved but how should we be involved. The South Texas Alliance provides churches with a vetted, successful how!

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED PERSONALLY?

- Receive training and resources to become a foster and/or adopt home
- Join a Care Community and wrap around foster/adopt families at First Presbyterian
 - o Mentor family - seasoned foster/adopt families walk alongside new families
 - o Respite family - Receive training to provide childcare for families serving children in foster care
 - o Support family - Fill the gaps for foster/adopt families focused on helping children heal by cooking meals, running carpool, gathering supplies, grocery runs, faithful prayers
 - o Advocate as a CASA volunteer, mentor through Young Lives (teen moms), Thru Project (aged out youth), Mentoring Collaborative with Youth for Christ (at risk children in school)
 - o Donate - Provide resources for kids to attend camps or extracurricular activities, families to have a night out, tutoring, specialized trauma training for families, gift cards for clothes and school supplies or sponsor the development and launch of foster/adopt ministries in local Christian churches

HOW CAN YOU BE INVOLVED PROFESSIONALLY?

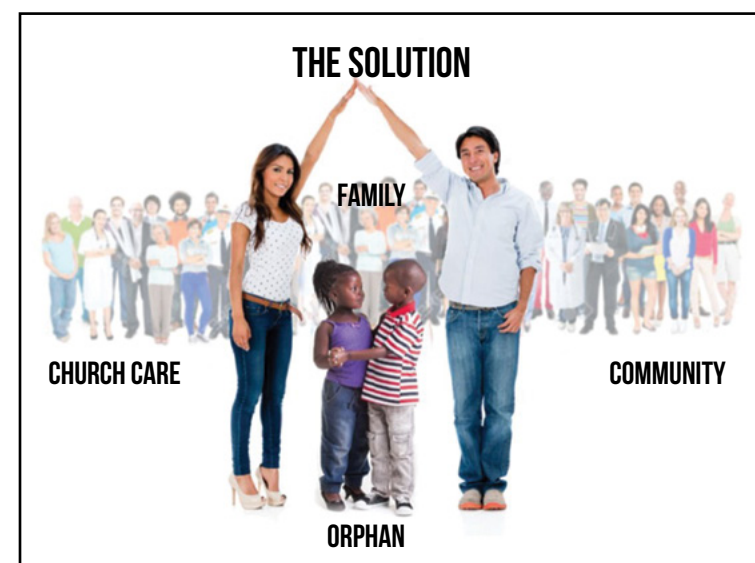
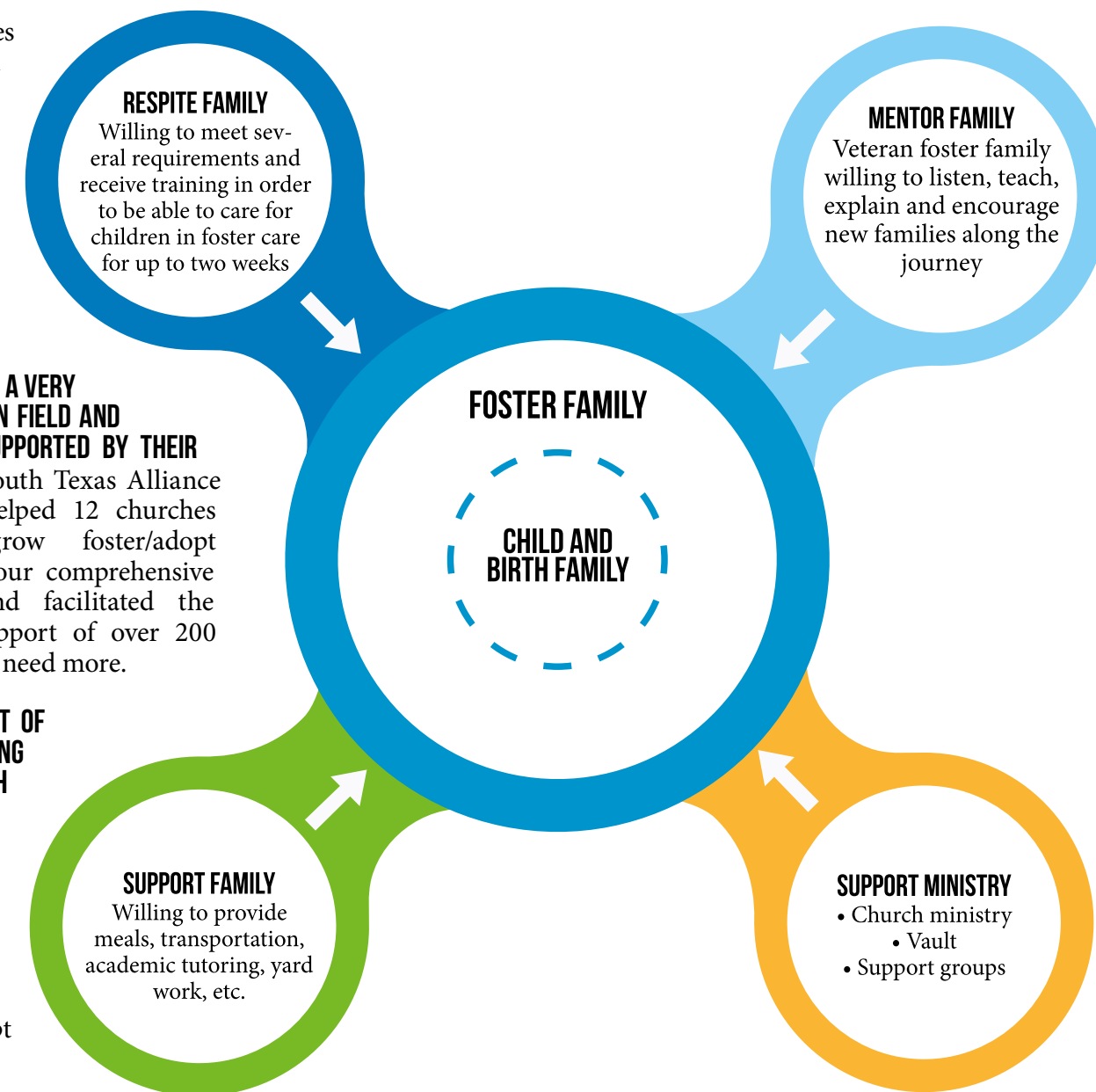
- Donate goods and services to foster/adopt families (yard work, house cleaning, handyman work, car repairs, area attraction tickets, tutoring)
- Donate a percentage of your business to caring for

foster/adopt families and children as a pediatrician, dentist, therapist, medical specialist, lawyer, car dealerships (more kids often require a larger vehicle), clothing stores, restaurants...

FOSTER FAMILIES ARE LOCAL MISSIONARIES ON A VERY UNPREDICTABLE MISSION FIELD AND ONLY THRIVE WHEN SUPPORTED BY THEIR LOCAL CHURCH. The South Texas Alliance for Orphans has helped 12 churches launch and/or grow foster/adopt ministries through our comprehensive ministry model and facilitated the recruitment and support of over 200 families...and yet we need more.

HOW WILL YOU BE PART OF GOD'S PLAN FOR PROVIDING MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR OUR COMMUNITY'S YOUNGEST VICTIMS?

By Teresa McCaleb,
Alliance Board
Member and First
Pres Foster and Adopt
Contact



NOONDAY ADOPTION TRUNK SHOW

Please join us for our second annual Noonday Adoption Trunk Show on Thursday November 3 from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at the home of Teresa McCaleb, 412 Canterbury Hill. The executive director of South Texas Alliance for Orphans, Jennifer Smith, will be there and will tell her story of adopting two foster children. Hear her story while shopping to help bring a foster child home to its forever family. Contact Teresa at (210) 632-3723 or Morgan Ford at (210) 226-0215 for additional information.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3 • 5:00-7:00 PM • AT THE HOME OF TERESA MCCALED, 412 CANTERYBURY HILL

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE, PRESIDENT

Fall is truly here as the air becomes cooler and the leaves begin to change color. Soon, we will be celebrating Thanksgiving with family and friends and giving thanks for our many blessings.

This time of year is also an exciting one for PW as the women of FPC come together for some very special fall events.

We recently celebrated our annual Fall Ladies' Night Out and wish to extend a sincere thank you to Sallie Guy who opened her lovely home to us with generous hospitality. On this occasion, we honored Morgan Fuller, the wife of Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, our church's new Associate Pastor for Christian Education. We also thank the Evening Events Committee comprised of Chairman Cynthia Robinson, Michele Barker, Darcy Collins, Katie Harper and Melissa McKenzie who organized this wonderful event with over 70 women in attendance. We are also very grateful to those who brought delicious food and beverages for us to enjoy. It was a memorable evening of fun and fellowship among old and new friends at this traditional fall gathering for PW.

Additionally, our Fall PW Luncheon was a very special time to celebrate as we heard a story of the power of God through the words of our speaker, Jonathan Sandys. We were enlightened by his narrative and owe him our deepest gratitude for sharing with us insights on the life of his illustrious relative as recorded in his book, *God and Churchill*. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Luncheon Committee of Chairman Pat Krueger, Manette Owen, Mary Frances Churchill, Mary Ellen Mauze, Rhae Chell Mauze, Karla Keahey, Sarah Quirk and Jan Fischer who with their creative and organizational talents ensured a perfect luncheon for all of us to remember. We also are extremely grateful to those ladies of the church

who volunteered as waitresses for the luncheon and to the dedicated staff of FPC without whom the event would not have been possible.

Also this fall, Circle 20 members provided a delicious Pasta Dinner for the women and children of Young Lives. Many sincere thanks go to Bunkie Shed who organized the meal and to all who brought food to support this meaningful event.

During the month of October, our Invisible Angels, under the capable leadership of Chairman Holly Youngquist with Barbara Dorsey, Judy Kruger and Suzanne Thomas, treated the ministers and staff to a fun and delicious BBQ feast at a Staff Appreciation Luncheon. Many thanks to all who made contributions to honor our wonderful FPC staff.

At this very special time in November, we also give thanks to the women of Circles 5, 16, 17 and 19 who through the gifts of their hands have made prayer shawls, precious pajamas, dresses, pillowcases, layettes, adult bibs, stuffed animals and rolled white cross bandages to share the love of Christ with the recipients. We also give thanks to the members of Circles 18 and 20 who extend their cooking talents and love to those that they serve.

As you gather together with your family and friends at Thanksgiving, please include members of FPC, our ministers and staff and their families in your prayers of gratitude. We are truly blessed to be part of this church family!

"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations."
Psalms 100:4-5 (King James Version)



PW CIRCLES

BIBLE CIRCLE 1/12

Monday, November 21 • 10:30 AM

Place: FPC Geneva Room

Lunch: (optional) \$8.00

Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 846-3240, suzannethomas54@gmail.com

Moderator: Grace Labatt

Study: Women of the Bible

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

Monday, November 21 • 1:30 PM

Place: FPC Room 226-Red Room

Chair: Char-An Witten, hm: 341-

1856, c: 602-7085

Study: Her Name is Woman, by Gien Karssen

SHAWL MINISTRY CIRCLE 5

Friday, November 18 • 12:00-1:00 PM

Place: FPC Room 228

Food: Members bring food to share

Chairs: Jane Ann Temple 414-9956, Kay Weber 288-5290

BIBLE CIRCLE 6

Tuesday, November 15 • 1:30 PM

Place: FPC Geneva Room

Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809

Study: Intersections of Grace, by Susan Kerr, chapters 7 & 8

Topic: A New Perspective: What is the Abundant Life?

BIBLE CIRCLE 7

Tuesday, November 15 • 11:30 AM

Place: The home of Nancy Kosub, hostess (302 Corona Ave 78209) 828-2358

Lunch: Bring sack lunch

Circle Chair: Alison Barker, 872-4484, barker.alison1@gmail.com

Moderator: Jeannie Dullnig

Study: Intersections of Grace, by Susan Kerr, chapters 7 & 8

Topic: A New Perspective: What is the Abundant Life?

CIRCLE 8 MOM'S GROUP

Tuesday, November 1 • 7:30 PM

Mom's Night Out – Meet at Barbaro

(2720 McCullough 78212)

Tuesday, November 15 • 9:30-11:30 AM

Place: FPC Student Center, 1st floor

Sewing 101: Jane Ann Temple to teach us everything from how to sew on a button to beginners crochet

Chairs: Sara Parish 394-0865

sara23sc@hotmail.com, Lilly Gretzinger 601-0575 lilly@bunngroup.

com, Meg Walker 601-7745

meg@aladdincleans.com

Childcare: RSVP 2 days prior to

Sonya Wright at sonyaw@fpcsat.org

BIBLE CIRCLE 9

Tuesday, November 15 • 10:00 AM

At the home of Ann Smith, hostess (2626 Country Hollow St. 78209)

Chairs: Jan Magnus 829-5866, Pat Brannen 735-4415

Moderator: Members of Circle 9

Study: Intersections of Grace, by Susan Kerr, chapters 7 & 8

Topic: A New Perspective: What is the Abundant Life?

BIBLE CIRCLE 11

Monday, November 28 • 6:30 PM

At the home of Suzanne Sturdivant, hostess (13503 Hollow View St. 78232)

Dinner: provided by various circle members

Chair: Karin Gabrielson 843-2475

Moderator: Karin Gabrielson

Study: Intersections of Grace, by Susan Kerr, chapters 7 & 8

Topic: A New Perspective: What is the Abundant Life?

LITERATURE CIRCLE 13 WITH KEYS

Friday, November 11 • 11:00 AM

Please be seated by 10:45 AM

Place: FPC McCullough Room

Chair: Jeanne Browning 824-3921

Book: The Silent Shore of Memory, by John Kerr

BIBLE CIRCLE 14

Monday, November 21 • 12:00-1:00 PM

Place: FPC St. Andrews Room

Lunch: By reservation

Chair: Marilyn Morris-Etheredge 861-4314, Marilyn.morris@optum.com

Moderator: Amy Robinson

Study: TBD

MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE 16

Wednesday, November 16 • 9:30 AM

Place: FPC Room 228

Chair: Lee Pressly 735-0978

EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE 17

Wednesday, November 9 • 9:30 AM

Place: 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, Georgia Heath 695-9511

CIRCLE 19 WHITE CROSS CIRCLE

Wednesday, November 2 • 9:30 AM

Place: 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, November 14 • 6:30 PM

Contact Chair for meeting location

Dinner: Members provide buffet dinner and dessert

Chair: Andrea Taylor 403-9442, paladianpl@aol.com

Moderator: Member rotation

Study: Intersections of Grace, by Susan Kerr, chapters 7 & 8

Topic: A New Perspective: What is the Abundant Life?

KEYS

BY JOE MOORE



*Give thanks to the LORD,
for he is good.
His love endures forever.
Psalm 136:1*

November is the month that we are reminded to be thankful. The most obvious is tied into our celebration of Thanksgiving. Families gather around a Thanksgiving meal and often talk about the blessings they have experienced throughout the year.

A little more obscure November holiday that should evoke our thankfulness is Veterans Day. World War I officially ended when the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919. However, fighting ceased seven months earlier when an armistice or temporary cessation of hostilities between the Allied nations and Germany, went into effect on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. For that reason, November 11, 1918, is generally regarded as the end of "the war to end all wars."

In November 1919, President Wilson proclaimed November 11 as the first commemoration of Armistice Day. An Act of Congress, approved May 13, 1938, made the 11th of November in each year a legal holiday; celebrated and known as "Armistice Day." In 1954, the 83rd Congress amended the Act of 1938 by striking out the word "Armistice" and inserting in its place the word "Veterans." With the approval of this legislation on June 1, 1954, November 11th became a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

The Uniform Holiday Bill was signed on June 28, 1968, and was intended to ensure three-day weekends for Federal employees by celebrating four national holidays on Mondays. On September 20th, 1975, President Gerald R. Ford signed Public Law 94-97, which returned the annual observance of Veterans Day to its original date of November 11, beginning in 1978.

KEYS will honor and celebrate our veterans on Nov. 4th, with our special guest, General Angela Selinas. Join us as we say "Thank-you" to our Veterans.

(information taken from the Department of Veteran's Affairs website)



NOVEMBER 11

The FPC Literary Circle and KEYS will host a joint meeting to hear from, John Kerr, author of "The Silent Shore". John Kerr is no stranger to FPC, KEYS, or The Literary Circle. His other works include, "Cardigan Bay", "A Rose in No Man's Land", "Fell the Angels", and "Hurricane Hole". Make your reservation for this Luncheon by calling Stephanie Garcia at 210-271-2753 or email at stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

NOVEMBER 17 - AARP SAFE DRIVING COURSE

9:00-1:30 Room 226

Get a discount on your automobile insurance by attending this class at FPC! Come and join our own Kay Kutchins as she instructs the AARP Driver Safety Course. For AARP members, the course fee is \$15. For non-members, it is \$20. For a reservation, please call Stephanie Garcia at 210-271-2753 or email stephanieg@fpcsat.org

NOVEMBER 18 - SOPHIENBURG MUSEUM TOUR

Take the journey with Prince Carl and his group of German colonists as they cross the ocean and make their way into central Texas. Admire their courage and determination to establish a new colony at the edge of Indian Territory. Live their dream of freedom, adventure and prosperity. Exhibits, rich in local artifacts, photographic images, maps and documents, walk through the history and cultural heritage of New Braunfels and Comal County. Our Strudel-do tour begins at 10:00 AM when we will divide in half, one group enjoying the museum and the other coffee and strudel—yes we will switch places. Cost is \$10 for the tour and the strudel. Van transportation will be available from FPC leaving at 9:00 AM. Make reservations by calling Stephanie at 210-271-2753 or email stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

NOVEMBER 18 - BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Following our tour of the Sophienburg Museum we will stop for lunch at Gennaro's Italian restaurant for our birthday lunch. Cost will be \$12. If it is your birthday month lunch is on us!! Make your reservation with Stephanie Garcia.

NOVEMBER 25

No KEYS Event
Enjoy Thanksgiving

NOVEMBER 28 - GIFT WRAPPING FOR ELF LOUISE

We will be wrapping gifts for Elf Louise from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM on Monday, November 28th. Wrapping headquarters is located at 201 N. Frank Luke Dr., San Antonio, TX 78226. You may bring an unwrapped toy or make a donation. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve and have fun for the benefit of children of our city! Join us for Lunch at Acadiana Restaurant (participants will buy their own lunches). Van transportation will be available leaving from the church, with check-in time at 9:15 AM. RSVP by calling Stephanie Garcia at 210-271-2753 or email stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

NOVEMBER 4TH, 11TH - KEEP MOVING FITNESS

NOVEMBER 11 - GAMES

1:00 PM

DECEMBER 2 - ANNUAL KEYS/ABC CHRISTMAS PARTY

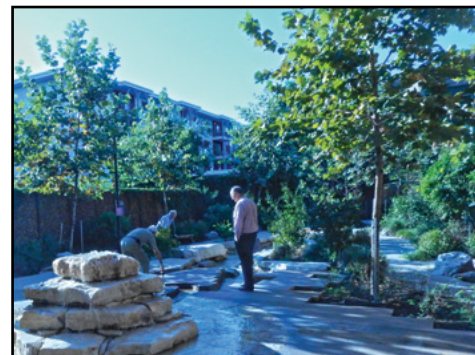
This is always a special day, filled with the holiday spirit! We're excited to welcome a choral group from the Alamo Heights High School under the direction of Angus McLeod. You can make your reservations with Stephanie Garcia.

AUSTIN CHRISTMAS LIGHTS TOUR

Travel with us to Austin and dinner at the 1886 Café in the Historic Driskill Hotel. Visit the tall, tall Christmas Tree in the columned lobby with its stained glass dome. On our way to the Zilker Park Trail of Lights, we'll drive up Congress Avenue for a view of the State Christmas Tree in front of the capitol and the nearby Governor's Mansion. We'll also see Willis Littlefield's annual display of lights at his home on W. 12th Street. Top the evening off with Hot Chocolate at Mozart's on Lake Austin. Truly a Capital Christmas!

Cost \$75.00. Includes charter Regent Coach, dinner, Austin lights tour, hot chocolate at Mozart's, driver tip and escorts Susan & Henry Holloway.

Depart 4:00 PM from First Presbyterian Church
Return 10:00 PM



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS | BY ALEX SOLORIO, UNIVERSITY/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY ASSOCIATE



Greetings, brothers and sisters in Christ. I write you today from a Hotel room in Atlanta Georgia! We, as a Family Ministry team, are at the Catalyst Leadership Conference learning with other church leaders as we engage in the teaching, fellowship, and worship. The encouragement and wisdom that we are receiving from this conference is not only refreshing but rejuvenating to our spirits. The experience of this rejuvenation compels us to return to First Presbyterian Church with new thoughts and ideas to better the ministries we serve in. It is because of this I am compelled to write about this word: “rejuvenation.”

I remember moments when playing football, how we as players would labor and grind in multiple places like the weight room, the bleachers, and the field. I remember how our coach would put us through rigorous training and conditioning, only to wrap it all up with an ice bath or ice cold water to give us a moment to hear his words and plans for our team. This was rejuvenating. Some weeks our coach would see our low demeanor and would surprise us with a casual practice of flag football game where the big boys played skill positions! Have you ever seen a 315 pound lineman run a slant route? It’s like watching the slow-mo camera in actual time! Regardless, we had our moments when the coach would take time to let us be “Rejuvenated,” because coach knew that when it was game day, and whistle blew, we were called to go full speed. All that we trained for and all that we learned was for a purpose and it was all going to come together in a beautiful harmony, as the sounds of pads and pride clashed.

Dear Church, how long have we been hard at work? How many moments have we felt tired and in desperate need for something refreshing? How many times have we looked in the eyes of our opponent, knowing that the battle we fight is not of flesh and blood but against the powers of this present darkness that thrives in the brokenness of our world (Eph 6:15). As we return as your family ministry team, we hope to return from our present rejuvenation to diligently lace up our boots (or heels), to get back into the battle with you all.

I pray that you who read this finds your own rejuvenation and remind yourself why we congregate! Remind yourself of the grace, love, and hope that was given to you. As our church celebrates life in this city for 170 years, remember how in the very streets that we drive in and the neighborhoods we reside in are full of individuals that are desperate for a savior! Church, let us encourage one another and not waste a single moment on an average Christian lifestyle.

I spoke to our Young Adults a few months back at the Youngquist home and told them that as we move forward “Average is NO LONGER in our vocabulary.” A coach doesn’t train his players for average, he trains them for excellence. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, did not die for average! God the Father knew the challenge of sin and faced it head on through Jesus dying on the old rugged cross in the perfect demonstration of His love so that we may be considered righteous.

Church let us now go out Beyond The Stained Glass of our windows to love others and face our opponent head on in whatever ministry God has equipped you in! Are you in a book club? Good. Love on someone different. Are you in a country club? Good. Love on someone different. Are you in a working environment with unbelievers? Good! Love on someone different! God is more than a coach, he has molded and formed you uniquely to be excellent not only in your circles but in places that might make you uncomfortable. So I now challenge you to flex your gifts, talents, and abilities so that the love of God can shine through your life and actions. Let God continue to rejuvenate your spirit to radically serve Him.

Grace and Peace.

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



If you have not had the pleasure to experience some of my wife’s cooking, I encourage you to do so at your earliest convenience, because she is the best. And it’s not relegated to only one area of expertise, she can do it all. Well wanting to be a good spouse and partner I recently volunteered to cook the meal. Just sit back and relax dear, I have it covered. I had envisioned a romantic stay at home date night, mashed potatoes from scratch, grilled sausage over an open flame, and candlelight. What I created was a disaster. The mashed potatoes were solid liquid, but don’t worry, I balanced it out by creating a sausage so dry that beef jerky seems like a moist steak by comparison. Have you ever wanted to make something perfect, you did all that you knew how, and things turned out so badly you just wanted to cry? You just wanted to throw your hands up and quit? How do you proceed when you reach that point? You go to an expert. My wife stepped in—it doesn’t look all that bad she said. She placed the potato paste into a pan, cut up the sausage and sautéed them in the potato, added onion, tomato and I don’t know what all from the refrigerator. And before my eyes an amazing meal had materialized. I had created a meal fit for the dog, yet she transformed it into a meal fit for a king. What

my wife does in the kitchen, our Heavenly Father is doing in our own lives. When things seem ruined beyond repair, He transforms it into the greatest of victories. So if you have reached a point in your life that the meal seems ruined, I encourage you to go to the expertise of your Heavenly Chef and allow Him to create something wonderful for you.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY SEPTEMBER 2016			
OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
REVENUES			
CONTRIBUTIONS	2,479,526	2,884,378	(404,852)
TOTAL REVENUES	2,479,526	2,884,378	(404,852)
EXPENDITURES			
OPERATING	2,305,698	2,595,265	(289,567)
BENEVOLENCES	399,019	418,996	(19,977)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,704,717	3,014,262	(309,544)
NET INCOME/LOSS	(225,191)	(129,883)	(95,307)



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