



# *First Press*

**REMEMBERING ADVENT SEASON**

**JANUARY 2017 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**





# DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR


Does it really matter what you and I believe as Christians? Yes. Theology—what you and I believe about God in Christ—matters. Indeed, it makes all the difference in the world...this one, and the next. Don't be seduced by the catchy, but erroneous, "Theology divides, mission unites" jingle of current liberal/progressive American Protestantism. What you and I believe defines and determines our mission and fuels the courage to carry it out no matter what the cost.

This is the major reason that FPC exited her former denomination and affiliated in 2016 with the Covenant Order Of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). In our former denomination, things had gotten fuzzy at best, twisted or absent at worst regarding what are essential Christian beliefs. Officers were required to assent to certain un-named "essential tenets" of the faith, but when asked to clarify what those "tenets" were, the denomination said it was not sure, and refused to name any. This left officers and pastors confused and frustrated. In practice, the denomination was saying that nothing was essential. That is not where FPC and her people have ever been, theologically, over the past 170 years.

One of the core values of ECO is the recovery of what has been, historically, essential to theology in the Presbyterian/Reformed tradition. Thus, ECO does not balk at distilling and then naming eight "essential tenets" that assert themselves upon the Church from our Presbyterian "Book of Confessions"—beliefs essential to what ECO believes constitutes a robust, healthy Biblical faith for a very demanding 21st century.

To celebrate what will be our first full year as an ECO congregation, I will begin a doctrinal sermon series on January 1, 2017 that will take us through all eight of our ECO "essential tenets." This will be a great opportunity to grow together, theologically, as a congregation that our lives might be truly anchored in the Person and Work of Christ as revealed in Scripture and illumined by our confessions. All of this to the end that God would be glorified and Jesus made visible as we seek to live for Him as the newest/oldest Presbyterian church in San Antonio.

May this be a truly Happy and Blessed New Year for everyone. Be strong in the Lord.

  
+ Ron

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>PG.</b>	<b>4-5</b>	<b>SAVE THE DATE</b>	<b>PG.</b>	<b>6-13</b>	<b>SPECIAL STORIES</b>
	4	LITERATURE CIRCLE		6-7	WEDNESDAY NIGHTS
	4	LOAVES AND FISHES		8-9	MUSIC MINISTRY FEATURED ON RADIO
	5	RICK CAVENDER BAND		10-11	ADVENT FESTIVAL
	5	MEDICAL MISSION TRIP		12-13	CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
<b>PG.</b>	<b>14-19</b>	<b>MINISTRIES</b>	<b>PG.</b>	<b>20-23</b>	<b>INSPIRATION</b>
	14-15	OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD		20	BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS
	16-17	WOMEN OF THE CHURCH		21	MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE
	18-19	KEYS		22-23	FIRST CUP
<b>PG.</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>CHURCH UPDATES</b>			
	21	FINANCIALS			

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 on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 1:00 PM in the McCullough Room, when Jane Hansen will review the book, “The Broken Circle.” Written by The Rev. David P. Bridges, an adjunct Professor of writing at the University of Richmond, VA, he served for 25 yrs. as a Presbyterian minister and is now Honorably Retired. The book relates the story of a morally sensitive young man, Dr./Major Breathed, who chose the cause of the Confederacy over medicine. Commander of a horse artillery, he fought in over 70 engagements and was awarded the Medal of Honor by the sons of Confederate Veterans. Broken Circle is full of historically accurate battle scenes and historical characters. It reveals how war causes shattered souls and lives and the ultimate search for redemption from God for their devotion to this cause.

JANUARY 10 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

LOAVES AND FISHES

On November 27th, Loaves and Fishes welcomed its guests into the fellowship hall of Grace Lutheran Church for the first time. It was a success! But we need your continued support through food and volunteers to keep things going, so please join us in bringing food, volunteering, and spreading the word! Doors open at 3:00 PM on the last Sunday of the month and guests are served a nutritious meal while being ministered to through song and an inspiring message. Visit [www.fpcsanantonio.org/laf](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/laf) to sign up/volunteer.

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP

Our annual Medical Mission trip to the Yucatan will be here before you know it, so if you are interested in participating, please let us know! Contact Emily Jordan at [emilyj@fpcsat.org](mailto:emilyj@fpcsat.org) for an application—we’ll be taking participants on a first-come, first-serve basis.

MARCH 1-6

RICK CAVENDER BAND

The ever-popular Rick Cavender, known both for his musical abilities and his television presentations on behalf of the Cavender Auto Family, returns to offer songs from “A Tribute to George Strait.” Band members will be Rick Ramirez, Keith Harter, Tammy Frost and Tommy Meneses. Save the Date for this exciting performance.

FEBRUARY 3

THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY

“Forging A ‘Back-To-The-Future’ Faith”

As the last vestiges of “Christendom” vanish from the surrounding culture and as society appears to be getting more antithetical—even hostile—to Biblical Christianity, how are believers to faithfully follow Jesus? And how is the Church to navigate what seems to be an uncertain future? One thing for sure: we are neither to fear nor panic. The Church has actually been here before. It’s called the 1st century—a time when the Holy Spirit birthed the Church, and she learned to flourish despite a culture that mocked, marginalized, oppressed, then persecuted her. The 21st century is, arguably, more like the 1st century than any century since. To help us find our way in 2017—both in faithfulness and healthiness—we’re going back to two documents on Thursday mornings this coming Spring that show us the way forward: Acts and Revelation. Specifically, we’ll spend our first four weeks looking at the first four chapters of Acts, then spending the next seven weeks looking at Jesus’ analysis of “The Seven Churches Of Revelation”—a church a week—found in Revelation chapters two and three. What we’re going to discover may surprise you—and most certainly convict you—while igniting a spirit of great hope and confidence in our hearts, as we attempt to live lives that make Jesus visible before a watching world.

- Bible Study is from January 12 – April 6. Small groups meet from 9:30-10:30 AM. The lecture in Covenant Hall is from 10:30-11:15 AM. NOTE: this schedule will be reversed on the first meeting date, January 12; the lecture is at 9:30 and small groups at 10:30. If you need to register you may do so on-line at [www.fpcsanantonio.org/tbs2017](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/tbs2017).
- If you have questions you may contact Lellen Lane at 210-860-1395 or [lellenlane@aol.com](mailto:lellenlane@aol.com).
- Childcare available. RSVP to Sonya Wright at [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org) or at 210-271-2720 no later than two days prior to class date. Unfortunately, drop-ins for childcare cannot be accommodated.

JANUARY 12 - APRIL 6



# WEDNESDAY INTERSECTION: “CONNECTING PEOPLE TO PEOPLE AND PEOPLE TO CHRIST” BY BOB FULLER

## HOW MANY PEOPLE DO YOU KNOW AT CHURCH?

How many people do you know at Church? How well do you know them? Do you know their hopes, dreams, fears, and struggles? Do you feel connected to your church family?

Consider this, the New Testament challenges us to, “Be devoted to one another...Honor one another...Accept one another” (Romans 12:10; 15:7), “encourage one another” (2 Corinthians 13:11), “serve one another” (Galatians 5:13), “spur one another on toward love and good deeds” (Hebrews 10:24), and “love one another deeply, from the heart” (1 Peter 4:9). How can we fulfill these, and the many other “one another” passages of scripture, if we don’t know one another? Our fast-paced, stretched-thin lives leave little room to build the type of relationships that allow us to know and live out the scriptures above.

*Wednesday Intersection*, our mid-week ministry here at First Presbyterian Church, is designed to bring our church family together to build our faith and our relationships with one another. Our goal is to “connect people to people

## DESIGNED TO BRING OUR CHURCH FAMILY TOGETHER

## WEDNESDAY INTERSECTION CENTERS AROUND A FAMILY MEAL

and people to Christ,” and Wednesday night is a time for us to pause and recharge during the middle of the week.

*Wednesday Intersection* centers around a family meal. We are bringing our adults, youth and children together in West-

## THE EVENING WILL BEGIN WITH CHILDREN’S CHOIRS

The evening will begin with Children’s Choirs at 4:45. The Children’s Choir sings for Children’s Sunday, Christmas Pageant, Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and other worship services during the year.

After the family meal, our Children’s Program will introduce our kids to the Spiritual Gifts. In the program they will learn the meaning of faith, wisdom, healing, giving, mercy service and evangelism.

## CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS

## STUDENT SMALL GROUPS

For Grades 6-12, our midweek Student Small Groups are a time for our students to take stock of the week and grow in faith. Beginning in January, we are bringing our Middle School Small Groups back to the church campus so that we can join the rest of the church in growing together. Families may eat together before joining Emily and Colton in the Student Center. After the Middle School Bible Studies (7:30), the High School Women will meet at the Schiefele’s (140 Luther Drive in Olmos Park), and the High School Men will gather in the Student Center.

Adults may choose one of three studies at *Wednesday Intersection*. I will be leading an introductory Bible Study called The Open Book. This study will provide an overview of the Bible and show how the many little stories of the Bible fit together to tell

## THE OPEN BOOK

the one big story of God’s redemption. There will be a special “Early Bird” edition of the class at 4:45, and a second edition after the family meal at 6:30. No previous Bible Study experience is required. Just bring your Bible and be prepared find out how God has made us a part of His story. Come join us!

At 6:30, Sheila Figueroa will lead a Women’s Bible Study on Second Corin-

## ADULTS MAY CHOOSE ONE OF THREE STUDIES AT WEDNESDAY INTERSECTION

## WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY

## DISCOVERING GOD’S VISION FOR YOUR LIFE: YOU AND YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Ruth Ann Wood will offer a course titled Discovering God’s Vision for Your Life: You and your Spiritual Gifts. This study will explore biblically-based answers to questions like, “Who am I? Why am I here? What does God want me to do with my life?” Each session combines lecture, experiential exercises, and practical application. Course participants will discover their gifts and consider how those gifts can be used in our church and community, lay ministry, and grace.

## SANCTUARY HAND BELLS

*Wednesday Intersection* is also a big night for our Music Ministry. Dr. Jae Ha offers Sanctuary Hand Bells from 5:45-6:45. Bell ringing is fun, therapeutic and develops musicianship and teamwork, while adding an exhilarating dimension to worship services. Hand Bell ringers should have the ability to read music, as well as basic hand/eye coordination.

The Sanctuary Choir rehearses from 7:00-8:45. They prepare music for major liturgical observances and present periodic concerts as musical offerings to the larger community. The choir consists of singers at varying levels of musical ability, each of whom enjoys singing and leading in musical worship. The Choir is always open to new members including adults, college students, and advanced high-school students. No formal auditions are required, but the ability to read music and prior choral experience are helpful.

## THE SANCTUARY CHOIR

## THE CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP TEAM

The Contemporary Worship Team also rehearses on Wednesday evenings, from 6:45-8:30. This team of rotating volunteers provides passionate leadership for the contemporary worship service. It is made up of singers and instrumentalists, offering a mix of contemporary songs and hymns.

Come make a connection in the middle of the week, and don’t forget to bring a friend.





# FPC MUSIC MINISTRY FEATURED ON LOCAL RADIO

December 2016 was a significant month for the number of occasions our Music Ministry was featured on local radio.

Midday Noels, our Christmas gift to the city of San Antonio, continues to grow in attendance thanks to an effort to revitalize the programming and marketing of these concerts in recent years. This year, our Midday Noels series was featured in a story produced by Jack Morgan, Arts and Culture reporter with Texas Public Radio, airing the week of Thanksgiving on KSTX 89.1 FM. Additionally, Charlie Parker of WOAI 1200 and long-time supporter of Midday Noels, hosted Minister of Music Tom Dooling live on his morning broadcast to talk about the series.

In addition to media coverage of upcoming events, our Music Ministry was honored to be included in a classical broadcast as well. Nathan Cone, host of Performance Saturday on KPAC 88.3 FM classical radio for south Texas, featured our own FPC Chamber Singers in a complete broadcast of the Brahms ‘German Requiem.’ The concert was performed and recorded on Sunday, November 6, then broadcast on Saturday evening, December 3 during the 7:00 PM airing of the program. In addition to airing the entire concert, which was almost one hour in length, Nathan Cone also interviewed Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, discussing the unique aspects of this particular performance and details about the composition of the work.

Of course, all this would not be possible without the consistent support of our church community. Your attendance, invitation to others, and financial support make it possible for FPC to continue its long-standing tradition of excellence in musical offerings during worship, as well as our concert offerings to the broader San Antonio community. Thank you for your partnership to make ‘Jesus visible’ through the artistry and excellence of our Music Ministry!



# YOUTH FIND FUN AND SPIRIT OF THE SEASON AT THIS YEAR'S ADVENT FESTIVAL

If Jolly Old Saint Nick had wandered into Westminster Hall he might have easily mistaken it for Santa's Workshop and with good reason – it was all abuzz with boys and girls of all ages, preparing for Christmas. On Sunday afternoon, November 27, First Presbyterian's Annual Advent Festival kicked off the four weeks of celebration that culminated with Christmas. Participants created all manner of arts

and crafts designed to focus mind and heart on the truest meaning of Christmas. Many assembled a traditional Advent Wreath from fresh, fragrant winter greenery to take home. Decorating the gingerbread house was quite popular. And no child could resist the siren call of the cookie devouring, uh, decorating table. All the while, the sounds and smells of Christmas wafted overhead. A special lighting of

the Advent Wreath reminded us all of Christ's coming, both in the past, and in a time to come. Thank you to all of our volunteers for their enthusiastic and tireless work to make this year's festival a great success. Special thanks to the Women of the Church for the delicious snacks, as well as to our children's choir, Kathy Jameson and her music students for sharing their musical talents.







# CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SHOWCASES CHURCH YOUTH IN STORY OF THE SEASON

Our FPC children did a wonderful job with the Christmas Pageant on Sunday, December 4 during the combined 11:00 AM worship service. The children's choir opened the worship service with their enthusiastic voices. We then had 8th and 10th grade students read the Christmas story from scripture while the three year olds through fifth graders filled the chancel, playing the parts of mice, sheep, angels, stars, Magi and the Holy Family. We even had a four month old play the part of Baby Jesus.

This year's Christmas Pageant was a little different, as Pastor Ron Scates "dreamed" of what The Christmas Story would look like through the eyes of a child. This was a wonderful worship experience for everyone involved, and the children were so excited and proud to be a part of it.





# OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD DELIVERS PRESENTS FOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE

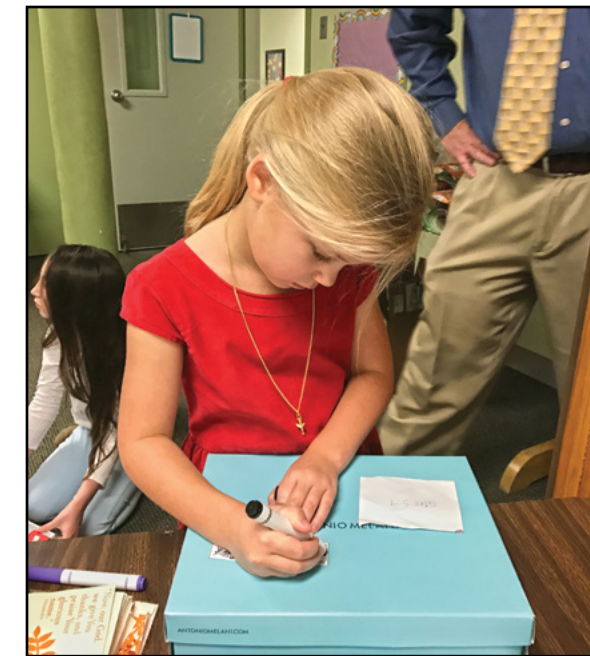
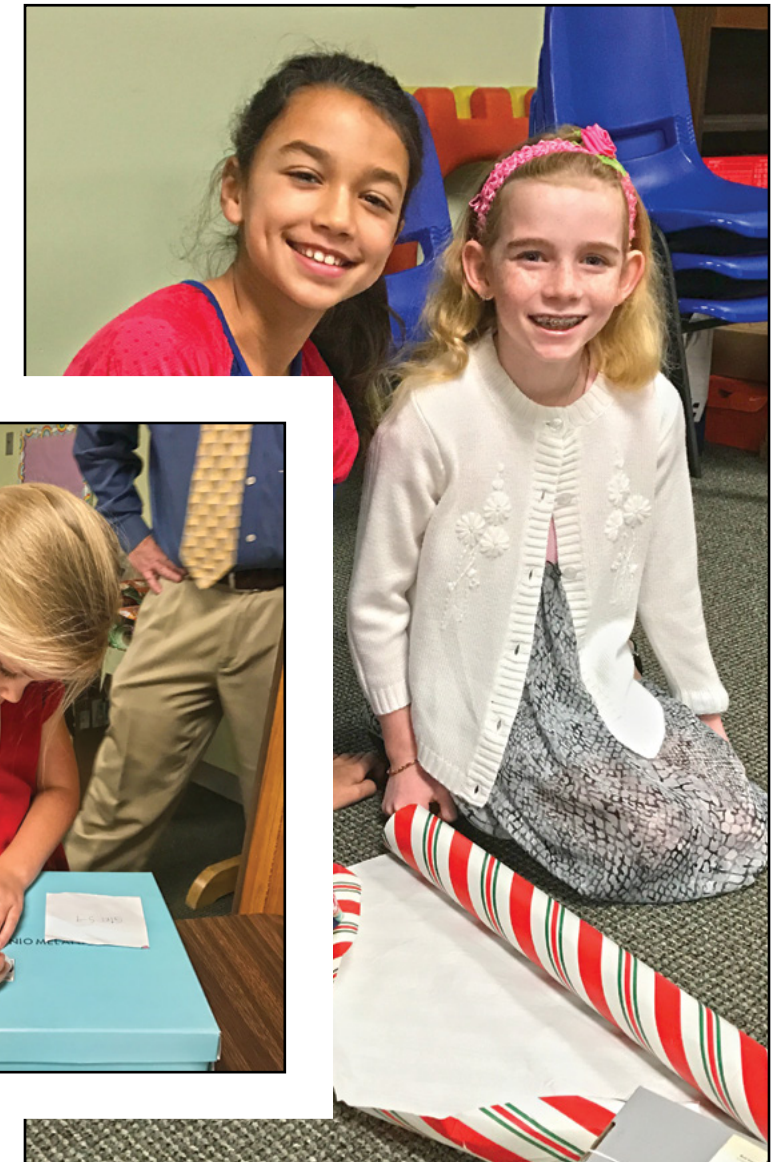
On November 13th, the Elementary Sunday School floor was covered with wrapping paper, tape, scissors, shoeboxes and children. Each child was wrapping, in colorful Christmas paper, a shoebox filled with gifts.

The shoeboxes will be sent to children in need through the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child project. The event was a joint activity between Children's Ministry and the Missions Ministry. The shoe-

boxes came from families, adults in the church, and Cub Scout Pack #504.

We collected 144 shoeboxes in total! The gifts were blessed in the Contemporary Worship Service. It was wonderful to see my car completely filled with so many colorful gifts. Thank you for your generosity that will make Jesus visible to these children!

— Morgan Ford







# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH | BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE, PRESIDENT

Joyous Greetings in this New Year!

The women of First Presbyterian Church are beginning 2017 with a new name! By unanimous vote at our December Council meeting, we are now called “Women of the Church.” This change is actually a return to a designation that was in effect for almost 40 years before the Presbyterian Women reference was used. It was decided to renew this commitment to a more inclusive, understandable name for our group that was used for a longer period of time than the recent PW one. We hope that everyone likes it as much as we do!

And now, it may be said that Women of the Church experienced many opportunities to serve our Lord throughout the Christmas Season.

Thirty families referred by House of Neighborly Service received the love of Christmas from the members, staff and choir of First Presbyterian Church, who generously and joyously brought gifts and cheer into these homes. Our deepest gratitude goes to Anne Scates and Judith McNeel for serving as our hard-working and dedicated chairmen who lovingly placed each family with church volunteers. We are very thankful for their thoughtful organizing skills and endless commitment that achieved so much happiness for those in need particularly at Christmas. They truly made Jesus visible in showing that, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” Matthew 25:40

Our annual Christmas parties at Morningside Manor and Chandler Home were festive and joyous occasions. Thank you to the devoted chairmen, Maggie Hardwick and Janet Wernli, as well as to members of our Circles, who provided delicious cookies and served as hostesses. The Friday Singers and the precious children from the FPC Children’s Center brightened the day with Christmas Carols for everyone, and the Reverend Scott Simpson read the beloved Christmas Story. Each resident was also given a handmade card from the adorable children wearing their Santa hats.

On Christmas Eve, it was with great joy and gratitude that Women the Church provided dinner for our pastors, choir and staff. The beautiful Christmas Eve services at FPC are a

blessing not only for church members and guests, but also for the entire San Antonio community. It is a privilege for us to honor those who provide the Christmas message on this Holy Night. A deep appreciation is extended to Karin Gabrielson and her committee for so graciously once again hosting this Christmas Eve ministry. Thank you, also, to the Circles that provided the delicious food for this important annual tradition.

Circle 20, under the faithful leadership of Bunkie Shed, generously and joyfully provided food for many occasions this year, including the recent Advent Festival and College Care Packages Event. Additionally, numerous members of our group helped the University Ministry Team fill 80 care packages which were lovingly sent to our college students for both nourishment and encouragement from their church family. Many thanks to all of the women who contributed to these ministries.

As we enter the New Year, we look forward to our Winter “Ladies’ Night Out” that will occur on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at La Fonda on Main at 6:00 pm. This event, chaired by Cynthia Robinson, is always highly anticipated as a delightful time of fellowship, fun and delicious food. Please see additional details that may be found in this issue of First Press.

Women of the church, as we begin a new year with a new name, please consider becoming an active participant in Women of the Church. There is a wonderful place for you with us right now! Please contact Linda Rittenhouse at [lin-dar@satx.rr.com](mailto:lin-dar@satx.rr.com), Linda Delano at [ldelano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ldelano@sbcglobal.net) or Georgia Heath at [gkyhmheath@earthlink.net](mailto:gkyhmheath@earthlink.net) to discover one or more of the many opportunities for service, fellowship and learning as we strive to make Jesus visible at FPC, San Antonio and beyond. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

“I am the door; if any one enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.” John 10: 9

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!”  
2 Corinthians 5:17

## BIBLE CIRCLE 1/12

Monday, January 23 • 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*  
by Ann Spangler and Jean Syswerda

## BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

Tuesday, January 17 • 1:30 PM  
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, January 20 • 12:00 - 1:00 PM  
FPC Room 228  
Members bring food to share  
Circle Chairs: Jane Ann Temple  
414-9956, Kay Weber 288-5290

## BIBLE CIRCLE 6

Tuesday, January 17 • 1:30 PM  
FPC Geneva Room  
Chair: Mimi Hart 822-0809  
Study: *Intersections of Grace*  
by Susan Kerr  
Topic: *Serve the Opportune Time*,  
Ch. 23: Coffee with the Nativity

## BIBLE CIRCLE 7

Tuesday, January 17 • 11:30 AM  
At the home of Ann Dennis, hostess  
(227 Mulberry 78212), 365-8045  
Lunch: Bring sack lunch  
Circle Chair: Alison Barker,  
[barker.alison1@gmail.com](mailto:barker.alison1@gmail.com)/ 872-4484  
Moderator: Barbara Baldrige  
Study: *Intersections of Grace*  
by Susan Kerr  
Topic: *Serve the Opportune Time*,  
Ch. 23: Coffee with the Nativity

## CIRCLE 8 MOM’S GROUP

PW Ladies Night Out  
Thursday, January 26 • 6:00 PM  
La Fonda on Main  
Tuesday, January 17 • 9:30 - 11:30 AM  
FPC Room 108  
Professional Organization 101: California Closets or professional organizer to talk to group  
Chairs: Sara Parish, 394-0865/  
[sara23sc@hotmail.com](mailto:sara23sc@hotmail.com), Lilly Gretzinger 601-0575/  
[lilly@bunngroup.com](mailto:lilly@bunngroup.com), Meg Walker 601-7745/  
[meg@aladdincleans.com](mailto:meg@aladdincleans.com)  
Childcare: RSVP two days prior to Sonya Wright at [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org)

## BIBLE CIRCLE 9

Tuesday, January 17 • 10:00 AM  
FPC Breakfast Room  
Chairs: Jan Magnus 829-5866,  
Pat Brannen 735-4415  
Moderator: Members of Circle 9  
Study: *Intersections of Grace*  
by Susan Kerr  
Topic: *Serve the Opportune Time*,  
Ch. 23: Coffee with the Nativity

## BIBLE CIRCLE 11

Monday, January 23 • 6:30 PM  
At the home of Linda Ruhmann,  
hostess (127 W Elmview Pl. 78209)  
Dinner: Provided by various members  
Chair: Karin Gabrielson 843-2475  
Moderator: Vija McDill  
Study: *Intersections of Grace*  
by Susan Kerr  
Topic: *Serve the Opportune Time*,  
Ch. 23: Coffee with the Nativity

## LITERATURE CIRCLE 13

Tuesday, January 10 • 1:00 PM  
FPC McCullough Room  
Chair: Jeanne Browning 824-3921  
Book: *The Broken Circle*  
by Daniel Bridges  
Reviewer: Jane Hansen

## BIBLE CIRCLE 14

Monday, January 16 • 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: *Women of the Bible*  
by Ann Spangler and Jean Syswerda

## MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE 16

Wednesday, January 18 • 9:30 AM  
FPC Room 228  
Chair: Lee Pressly 735-0978

## EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE 17

Wednesday, January 11 • 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,  
Georgia Heath 695-9511

## CIRCLE 19 WHITE CROSS CIRCLE

Wednesday, January 4 • 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

Contact Circle Chair for meeting information  
Chair: Andrea Taylor 403-9442/  
[paladianpl@aol.com](mailto:paladianpl@aol.com)  
Study: *Intersections of Grace*  
by Susan Kerr  
Topic: *Serve the Opportune Time*,  
Ch. 23: Coffee with the Nativity





DECEMBER RE-CAP:

On December 2nd we enjoyed a choral program presented by students from the music department of Alamo Heights High School under the direction of Angus McLeod. The choir was wonderful and the director interacted with us as if he had known us for a long time. What a great Christmas Party for our KEYS fellowship. (Pictures in Drop Box)

Thirty-one of our KEYS members traveled with Hollaway Tours to Austin on December 13th to enjoy dinner at the Driscoll Hotel and the Christmas Lights around the Capital City. Topping off the night with Hot Chocolate and a Light show set to music at Mozart's on the Colorado River. Look for pictures on the screen in the hallway.

JANUARY AT A GLANCE:

- 6 Tom Jackson presenting "Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War"  
Keep Moving Fitness 9:30 AM on second floor of Student Center
- 13 San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood  
Bridge and Mah Jong after lunch
- 20 Birthday Lunch at Fort Sam Houston  
Keep Moving Fitness 9:30 AM on second floor of Student Center
- 27 Michele Hendrix "Engaging in Aging that is Changing"  
Bridge and Mah Jong after lunch  
Keep Moving Fitness 9:30 AM on second floor of Student Center

January begins a New Year and we have great things planned. On January 6th we will have a KEYS favorite Tom Jackson bringing history to life, dressed in period costume and giving us a citizen's view of Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War. We are looking forward to an entertaining history lesson.

On January 13th, San Antonio fire chief Charles Hood will be our guest. He has been described as the first "outsider" to hold his position. We will be hearing how we can best support the efforts of those who protect us in many ways.

January 20th is our Birthday Lunch at Fort Sam Houston. We will be celebrating both December and January Birthdays as explained at our Christmas Party. Fort Sam always provides a good meal in an environment that we will enjoy.

January 27th, We are excited to have Michele Hendrix, President of Presbyterian Older Adult Ministry Network

and member of First Presbyterian Church. Michele has worked for over 25 years to advocate, educate, involve, and motivate people in the process of aging and self-care. Her topic will be, "Engaging in Aging that is Changing", touching on Elder Abuse, Elder Fraud, Care giving, and her work with POAM.

COMING IN FEBRUARY:

- 3 Rick Cavendar Band "A Tribute to George Strait"  
Rodeo Kick Off (see details below)
- 10 Reverend Doctors Ron Scates and Bob Fuller  
"State of the Church"
- 17 Birthday Lunch
- 24 Chuck Swisher National Champion Bull Fighter and Alamo Rodeo Participant

FEBRUARY 3, 2017  
RICK CAVENDER AND HIS BAND WILL PRESENT  
"A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE STRAIT"

KEYS invites everyone to join us for Rick Cavender and his band that will once again kick off Rodeo week with us. Rodeo attire is encouraged!! This event always draws a crowd, so don't wait to make your reservation. Rick Cavender is known to many as the voice and personality behind the Cavender Auto Family of dealerships. True, he works his day job as President of Cavender Audi and he has developed a solid reputation as a successful businessman and a caring community leader. But when the lights are turned off in his showrooms, the stage lights come up on his stage, and he becomes an energized and talented band leader.

Your check is your reservation and should be made payable to First Presbyterian Church with "Rick Cavender" notation on the memo line. \$15/per person includes the performance and lunch—what a deal. Make your reservation by Friday, January 27. No refunds after that date! Call Stephanie Garcia at 210-271-2753 to RSVP. Contact Joe Moore at 210-226-0215 ext. 226 for more information. Friday, February 3 • 10:45 AM • Westminster Hall



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS | BY KEVIN DAILEY, CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER



Ahh. 2017 is here! I have to say that I am overwhelmingly happy about that. I imagine many people are glad to see 2016 in the rearview mirror. 2016 was a pretty troubling year for country and our world. We have seen the deaths of prominent musicians, actors, activists and inventors.

Our globe has been privy to some of the most heinous acts of terrorism and violence with tens of thousands of people losing their lives and ten times as many set adrift, needing homes and help. And in a year of a presidential election, our country has found itself heavily divided, fighting within family and friends over political views and spewing hatred over social media. It is a time of uncertainty with students graduating college with massive debt and little hope of a lasting career. I think it is safe to say that 2016 was not our best and brightest.

That is why for 2017 I am excited. Why? We all know that these types of things could happen in 2017. Even worse things could! I am aware of this, and my hope for the new year is not just in the “new beginning” that January 1 brings us, but it is a recommitment to hope. A recommitment to being the kingdom of God here on earth. In being the mustard seed, the smallest of the seeds that when it grows becomes a mighty tree that even the birds will find safe haven.

This is who we are to be as Christians! People overflowing with hope! Reaching out to the suffering. Holding out a hand to the marginalized. Rising above the rhetoric of politics and bigotry and loving the unlovely, showing grace to the merciless and being salt and light in the city of San Antonio, and not because we are the best and brightest with untold talents and treasures. WE must be vessels, fully pouring out the goodness and love that has so benevolently been planted in us, so that it grows so large people will flock to us because of the strength and shelter of our God!

Happy New Year!

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | JUST ASK | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



I was speaking to a dear friend of mine the other day. He was discussing his relationship with his girlfriend’s parents. “I absolutely love them” he said. “They are so nice, extremely polite, sometimes too much so.” I asked him what he meant by that.

begin the New Year, don’t shoulder all these burdens on our own, we have someone with a Heavenly Pickup eager to make the haul for us, Just Ask.

He explained that there are times they might need help, perhaps if he could haul something for them two miles up the road in his truck, or talk them through a problem they are experiencing with their computer. He stated, “I am happy to do these things for them, in fact I enjoy it and it comes easy to me. The problem is that they are too concerned about placing an inconvenience upon me (which doesn’t exist) that by the time I extract from them exactly what it is they are needing—I’m exhausted. The task is no issue—it’s getting them to inform me what they need that’s the real problem. I want to scream at them, “JUST ASK!”

Honestly, I envision it’s exactly the same for our Heavenly Father. There He is, able to perform any task and quite happy to do it, wanting to do it. But the most challenging part is waiting for us to ask. I had never really contemplated it until I witnessed my friend’s frustration. It certainly served as great reminder as we

FINANCIAL SUMMARY   NOVEMBER 2016			
OPERATING FUND BUDGET	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	OVER/(UNDER)
REVENUES			
CONTRIBUTIONS	3,352,343	3,542,968	(190,625)
TOTAL REVENUES	3,352,343	3,542,968	(190,625)
EXPENDITURES			
OPERATING	2,824,422	3,120,914	(296,491)
BENEVOLENCES	538,357	537,623	734
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	3,362,779	3,658,536	(295,757)
NET INCOME/LOSS	(10,436)	(115,569)	105,132)









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