



First Press

NAMI TO HONOR FIRST PRES

MARCH 2017 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • CO-PASTOR

I’m writing this on the morning after the Super Bowl (What a game!), which means that an annual “wilderness time” has set in for all of us hard-core baseball/football fans. I’m all for “Go Spurs!!” and all that, but I’m really not a basketball guy. This “wilderness time” will end on Opening Day when the first pitch is thrown, and all will be right with the world again.

Life is inevitably checkered with “wilderness times.” Spiritually, Lent is an annual “wilderness time” (the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter—excluding Sundays) when we remember Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness right

before He begins His public ministry. In the wilderness, you and I are particularly susceptible to hearing other voices than God’s voice. This was even true for Jesus. In the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11; Mark 1: 12-13; Luke 4: 1-12) Jesus is confronted by Satan who voices a series of temptations in an attempt to de-rail Jesus’ ministry before it even begins. When you and I are spiritually dry, or when we’re going through the “dark night of the soul” (and we all do), don’t be surprised at what Satan whispers in your ear—and how appealing it all sounds.

This Lenten season at FPC, our pulpits will hold forth with a sermon series having the overarching title of “Questions Satan Asks....” On each of the Sundays in Lent we’ll take on a different question that Satan raises in either the Old or New Testament and put it up against the mind of Christ. As an auxiliary to the series, and as a Lenten discipline, we’re also encouraging the congregation to read C.S. Lewis’ classic “The Screwtape Letters.” I believe this is Lewis’ most simply profound, provocatively creative, and humorously insightful work—an extremely healthy and faithful and convicting angle on spiritual warfare as only C.S. Lewis can do it. It is “must reading” for those wilderness times of life.

I hope you’ll join with us on this Lenten wilderness journey.

Looking forward to Opening Day—and even more so to Easter. Be strong in the Lord.



Ron

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PROJECT 240 IS COMING!

“Living to make Jesus visible.” What a simple, concise statement to define the path and priorities of First Pres! It’s a motto, goal, objective and mission statement all rolled into one—and it’s equally applicable to our congregation as a whole as well each individual worshiper. It is reflective of our past endeavors as well as a beacon to light the way forward. Powerful!!

There are many facets incorporated into that first word, Living. How we act, how we interact with others, how we tacitly and openly proclaim our faith in Jesus, and our personal level of commitment. That level of commitment is continually revealed through the wide array of projects and programs supported by the financial donations and incredible volunteerism of our members. From providing food, clothing, housing, tutoring and counseling, to medical and dental care, disaster relief and providing basic necessities to our adopted children in Malawi, the members and congregation of First Pres are awesome! By making one small letter change to the motto, we can summarize the works of our church, through the Missions Committees: “Giving to make Jesus visible.”

Most of us are familiar with the support First Pres provides to Habitat for Humanity-San Antonio through participation in Project 240. But did you know First Pres’ association with Habitat began shortly after they opened their doors in San Antonio over 40 years ago, even providing office space in our church for several years before they were able to procure their own offices?

Project 240 has become one of the most popular and supported mission events at First Pres. Last March saw over 350 volunteers make their way to the parking lot, allowing us to complete framing walls for five houses in under four hours! Many would attribute this tremendous response to the “whole family, whole congregation” nature of Project 240. Where many

continued...

of our church programs are targeted toward specific groups—Women of the Church, Men’s Breakfast, Youth Choir, KEYS—Project 240 welcomes volunteers of any age, gender and skill level.

Over the past five years our congregation has financed and constructed framing walls for 22 Habitat houses. This remarkable achievement represents over \$135,000 in financial donations as well as thousands of volunteer hours. The Local Missions Committee is pleased to announce First Pres has once again committed our support to HFH-SA for the framing of five more homes on Sunday, April 30th, 2017. SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 30

WEDNESDAY INTERSECTION

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

5:00 PM: Children’s Choirs
4:30 PM: “The Open Book” Bible Study (please note time change)
5:30 PM: Dinner
5:45 PM: Sanctuary Handbells
6:30 PM: Children’s Program
6:30 PM: “The Open Book” Bible Study
6:30 PM: Women’s Bible Study
6:30 PM: Spiritual Gifts Class
6:45 PM: Contemporary Music Rehearsal
7:00 PM: High School Guys
7:00 PM: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:15 PM: High School Girls Bible Study (Offsite)

Go online to www.fpcsantonio.org/intersection for more information.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON

Please save the date for the Women of the Church Spring Luncheon! Susan Kerr, author of *Intersections of Grace: Reflections on a Life of Faith*, and a longtime member of FPC, will be our speaker. Reservations are required and your check for \$20 per person may be made payable to FPC with “Women of the Church Spring Luncheon” on the memo line. Also, please put your email address or phone number on the check and list separately the names of the guests who will be at your table. The deadline for reservations is March 20, and guest names may be emailed by this date. Tables of eight are available.

All checks are to be MAILED to Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Child-care is available at the church by reservation only by calling Sonya Wright at 210-271-2720 or emailing her at sonyaw@fpcsat.org. For any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Mauze at memauze@gmail.com or Rhae Chell Mauze at mauze@sbcglobal.net.

The event will take place on Monday, March 27 at 11:30 AM (doors open at 11:00 AM) in Westminster Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

MARCH 27

OFFICER NOMINATIONS

The Church Officer Nominating Committee is now seeking names to consider for Elders and Deacons. The Committee asks the congregation to suggest the names of persons who have been regular in worship, active in the life of First Pres, generous in support of our ministry and faithful in the life and witness to the gospel. Nomination forms are now available in Mauze Lobby or on the FPC website at www.fpcsantonio.org/nc. Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, March 12, and elections will be held on Sunday, April 9.

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED THROUGH MARCH 12

MISSIONARY, BETH ALLEN, SPEAKING AT FPC

Beth Allen, a long time friend of First Presbyterian Church, serves on staff with Food for the Hungry and her home base is in Arizona, but she is constantly traveling around the world to oversee and improve many of Food for the Hungry’s (FH) programs. Today, Beth is the Media Resource Manager. She helps bring stories of how God is working through FH in over 20 countries, to supporters worldwide. In August, Beth celebrated 20 years of ministering with FH—and 20 years of partnership with FPC. Beth will be with us on Sunday, March 5th, speaking during the 9:30 AM Sunday School hour, join us in Covenant Hall.

MARCH 5

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Do you enjoy reading really good books? If so, the FPC Literature Circle recommends you read the novel, “All the Light We Cannot See,” by author Anthony Doerr. The book is a beautifully written bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France during WWII. The novel won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for fiction and the 2015 Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction. Reviewer, Jan Clayton, will present the spellbinding story of the two main characters on Tuesday, March 14, in the McCullough Room. Attendees (men and women) are not required to be members of the Literature Circle so join us at 1:00 PM for our social half hour followed by the review.

MARCH 14 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

NAMI TO HONOR FIRST PRES AS 2017 OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER

On Wednesday, March 29, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) San Antonio will officially honor First Presbyterian Church as its 2017 Outstanding Community Partner Award recipient, for its commitment to Mental Health Ministry in San Antonio. What began in 2009 as one family's effort to minister to those impacted by mental illness, has grown into an entire congregation finding new ways to reach out and support others in our community that are similarly impacted.

"We continue to be amazed and blessed by what the church has meant to our mission of raising mental health awareness, and for providing a place to find support, reassurance, and resources," said Doug Beach, NAMI San Antonio President and FPC Member.

Through FPC's sponsoring NAMI classes for the mentally ill and family members affected by mental illness, as well as a faith-based Family Support Group, hundreds of families throughout Bexar County and South Texas have benefitted. FPC has also sponsored Mental Health Task Force meetings and provided training for other churches to establish their own mental health ministries.

In 2016, First Presbyterian Church became the lead sponsor of PATHWAYS TO HOPE: Breaking the Stigma of Mental Illness, a community-wide conference on how the faith community can respond to the mental health crisis in our city. The conference was attended by over 1,400 people from over 460 different churches, and has helped activate faith communities throughout the city to engage in mental health ministry. "Pathways was a tremendous success for the city and county in working to understand mental health, and we couldn't have done it without the support of partners like FPC," Beach said.

Kevin Moriarty, CEO of Methodist Healthcare Ministries, will also be honored for his long standing efforts to improve mental health care in San Antonio.

You may attend the 2017 NAMI Visionary Awards Lunch and help honor FPC and Kevin Moriarty by registering on-line at www.nami-sa.com. The lunch will be held in FPC's Westminster Hall on March 29 at 11:30 AM. Proceeds from the event are used by NAMI San Antonio to fund its education programs which are free to the public. For more information, contact Doug Beach at doug.beach@ymail.com



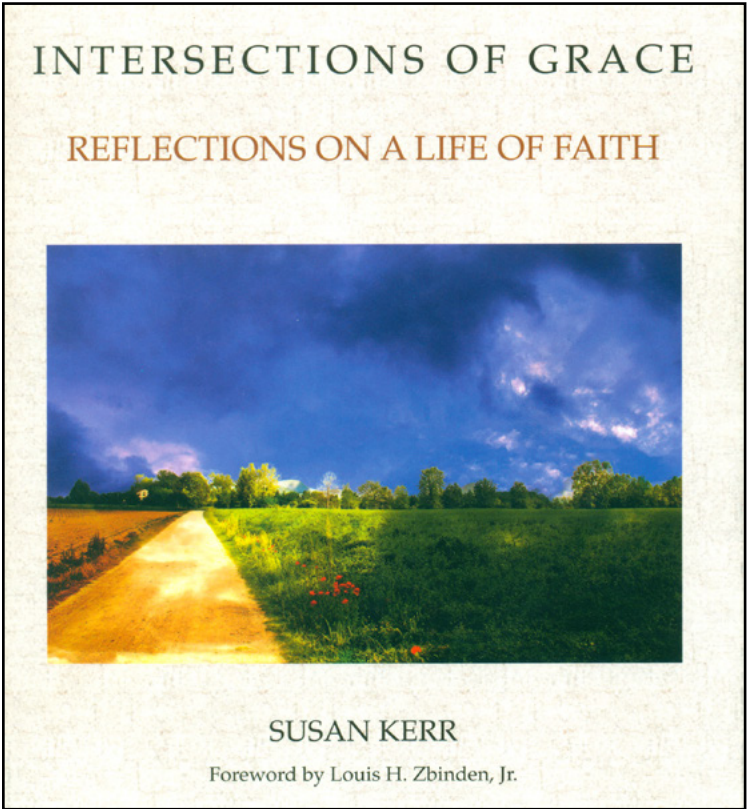
WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON

BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE, WOMEN OF THE CHURCH PRESIDENT



As we anticipate upcoming events for Women of the Church, we urge you to please note our annual Spring Luncheon. We are delighted that Susan Kerr, longtime member of FPC and author of *Intersections of Grace: Reflections on a Life of Faith*, will be our speaker. At our luncheon, Susan will be talking about her book and sharing thoughts about her own faith journey.

Susan has been a dedicated Bible study leader for many years and is an accomplished writer. Her book grew out of a series of devotional talks she delivered to her Bible study group. After receiving encouragement from many individuals, she turned the talks into a collection of essays and prayers. God's Word, nature, pets, travel and daily life inspired the writings. What makes them unique, is Susan's ability to take ordinary experiences and reflect on them in light of her faith and gain from them profound lessons for all of us. If we are attentive, she writes, we can see the intersections of God's grace at every step of our journey with the power to renew, restore and transform our lives. Susan's book will be available for purchase after the luncheon in the Mauze lobby and the author will be present to personalize and autograph it as requested.



We look forward to hearing from Susan and anticipate a beautiful and joyful day! Please join us on Monday, March 27 in Westminster Hall. The doors will open at 11:00 AM and the luncheon will begin at 11:30. Reservations are required and your check for \$20 per person may be made payable to FPC with "Women of the Church Spring Luncheon" on the memo line. Also, please put your email address or phone number on the check and list separately the names of the guests who will be at your table. The deadline for reservations is March 20 and guest names may be emailed by this date. Tables of 8 are available and the lovely table centerpieces will be for sale both before and after the luncheon. The handmade wares of Sus Hijas from House of Neighborly Service will also be available for purchase.

All checks are to be mailed to Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Childcare is available at the church by reservation only by calling Sonya Wright at 210-271-2720 or emailing her at sonyaw@fpcsat.org. For any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Mauze at memauze@gmail.com or Rhae Chell Mauze at mauze@sbcglobal.net. We do hope that you will be a part of this inspirational day at our church!

KEYS OLDER ADULTS

BY JOE MOORE, DIRECTOR



FEBRUARY WAS A GREAT MONTH FOR KEYS

We partnered with The Towers and Morningside Manor to bring together over 170 people who enjoyed our 12th year with The Rick Cavender Band. Co-Pastors Ron Scates and Bob Fuller brought us up-to-date with the vision and direction of FPC. We enjoyed a wonderful buffet luncheon at the Menger Hotel to celebrate Valentine's Day. We closed out Rodeo Month learning about Bullfighting from the National Champion Chuck Swisher.



MOVING INTO MARCH,

Reservations for all KEYS events are made through Stephanie Garcia, email stephanieg@fpcsat.org or phone 210-271-2753. All are welcome to join us at 11:00 AM for the speaker and if you can stay, lunch is served at noon (\$8 pp). Birthday Lunches begin at 11:30 at the restaurant and are \$12 pp.

MARCH 3

- **Fitness**
- **Police Chief McManus**

From the Chief, "Protecting the 'Alamo City' is more than just a slogan on our patrol cars. It is a philosophy we take to heart and practice it in everything we do. We do this in a variety of ways, one of the most important being our partnership with the citizens we serve." Chief McManus will help us better understand this partnership.

MARCH 10

- **Fitness**
- **Jim Daniell (Angel Flight)**

Jim was baptized at FPC and has been here his whole life. His grandparents Richard and Cora-Corell Wilson were also lifelong members of FPC. His Mother, Barbara Daniell, sang in the FPC choir. Jim, along with other private pilots, team up with Angel Flight to provide trans-

portation for those needing medical treatment outside of the San Antonio area.

- **Bridge and Mah Jongg**

MARCH 17

- **Birthday Lunch (Blanco BBQ)**
"About our Food: We start with the BEST ingredients, 100% Black Angus Brisket, homemade Polish sausage, hand-selected pork ribs, pork butt, hams, chicken, and turkey breast. And yes—we cook slow and low. Lower temperatures require more time, but the product is extra juicy!"

MARCH 24

- **Fitness**
- **Ambassador Sichan Siv**
Sichan Siv, Ambassador, Author, and member of First Presbyterian Church will be up close and personal with us concerning new developments in his life's journey.
- **Bridge and Mah Jongg**

MARCH 24

- **Fitness**
- **Hamburger and Movie (Florence Foster Jenkins)**
The Best Burger and Fries in San Antonio followed by a feature film. The Story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a New York heiress who dreamed of

becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice, starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant.

MONTH OF MARCH

- **Easter candy for Children's Ministry**
Throughout the month of March, we will be collecting individually wrapped Easter candy for filling approximately 1,500-2,000 Easter eggs. If you would like to donate candy or money to purchase candy, please bring it to KEYS meetings in March or leave at the receptionist's desk. We will be filling the eggs in April, look for details!

COMING UP

- **Fiesta Celebration on April 21**
The Annual Fiesta celebration on April 21 at 10:30 AM includes a visit by the Texas Cavaliers' King Antonio, mariachis, and birthdays. Watch for complete details in the April newsletter.
- **Spring Trip**
We are working with Holloway Tours to plan a Spring Trip. They have suggested a Painted Churches Tour and will be sending us possible dates. If you have suggestions of trips, speakers or any other future events please email Joe Moore, joem@fpcsat.org.





Welcome to Spring! As we look forward to our upcoming events, we encourage you to mark your calendars for the Women of the Church Spring Luncheon. We are delighted that Susan Kerr, member of First Presbyterian Church for many years, will be our speaker. Susan is the author of *Intersections of Grace: Reflections on a Life of Faith* and will talk about this book and her own journey of faith in her presentation. Susan's book will be available for purchase in the Mauze lobby after the luncheon, and the author will be present to personalize and autograph it as requested.



The event will be held on Monday, March 27 in Westminster Hall, and the luncheon will begin at 11:30 AM with doors opening at 11:00. Please note that reservations are required. Your check payable to FPC at \$20 per person with "Women of the Church Spring Luncheon" on the memo line may be mailed to Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Please place your telephone number or email address on the check. For further details, please see the article regarding the luncheon and the Save the Date notice in this edition of First Press. We anticipate a beautiful and joyful day and look forward to seeing you on March 27!



Our Women of the Church Winter Evening Event held on January 26 at La Fonda on Main was its usual stunning success! The seventy-five ladies who attended were treated to a delicious dinner, great door prizes, and a wonderful time to visit with one another. Many thanks to the Ladies' Night Out Committee consisting of Chairman Cynthia Robinson, Michele Barker, Darcy Collins and Katie Harper. Also, we owe deep gratitude to Mr. Cappy Lawton for his generous hospitality, as well as to his staff for their excellent and cheerful service.



I would also like to call your attention to the Christianity and Literature Circle 13, at which members and guests are treated to an always wonderful book review on the second Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM in the McCullough Room. The Circle Chairman is Jeanne Browning and the three remaining studies for this year are as follows: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, reviewed by Jan Clayton on March 14; *News of the World* by Paulette Jiles on April 11; and *Delayed Legacy* by Conrad Netting on May 9. Visitors (men and women) are always welcome and delicious refreshments are served. I know that you will enjoy both the fellowship and the thought-provoking presentations of this group!



"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

BIBLE CIRCLE 1/12

Monday, March 20 • 10:30 AM •
FPC Geneva Room
Lunch (optional): \$8.00
Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 846-3240/
suzannethomas54@gmail.com
Moderator: Grace Labatt
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and Jean Syswerda

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

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

BIBLE CIRCLE 6

Tuesday, March 21 • 1:30 PM •
FPC Geneva Room
Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809
Study: *Intersections of Grace*
by Susan Kerr
Topic: Prayer, chapters 29 (Seeking the Face of God) and 33 (Listening for God)

BIBLE CIRCLE 7

Tuesday, March 21 • 11:30 AM •
Co-Hostesses: Candy Wagner and
Cynthia Robinson (7902 Woodridge
Dr. 78209, 861-2520)
Bring sack lunch
Chair: Alison Barker, 872-4484/
barker.alison1@gmail.com
Moderator: Pat O'Neill
Study: *Intersections of Grace*
by Susan Kerr
Topic: Prayer, chapters 29 (Seeking the Face of God) and 33 (Listening for God)

CIRCLE 8 MOM'S GROUP

Tuesday, March 7 • 7:30 PM •
Mom's Night Out Dinner at Down on

Grayson (303 E Grayson St., 78215)
Tuesday, March 21 • 9:30-11:30 AM •
FPC Room 108
Fiesta! Tips and pointers for celebrating San Antonio Fiesta
Chairs: Sara Parish 394-0865/
sara23sc@hotmail.com; Lilly Gretzinger 601-0575/lilly@bunn-group.com; Meg Walker 601-7745/
meg@aladdincleans.com
Childcare: RSVP two days prior to Sonya Wright at sonyaw@fpcsat.org

BIBLE CIRCLE 9

Tuesday, March 21 • 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: Prayer, chapters 29 (Seeking the Face of God) and 33 (Listening for God)

BIBLE CIRCLE 11

Monday, March 27 • 6:30 PM •
At the home of Pat Brodeen, hostess, (2307 Oak Terrace 78232)
Dinner provided by various members
Chair: Karin Gabrielson 843-2475
Moderator: Pat Brodeen
Study: *Intersections of Grace*
by Susan Kerr
Topic: Prayer, chapters 29 (Seeking the Face of God) and 33 (Listening for God)

LITERATURE CIRCLE 13

Tuesday, March 14 • 1:00 PM •
FPC McCullough Room
Chair: Jeanne Browning 824-3921
Book: *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr
Reviewer: Jan Clayton

BIBLE CIRCLE 14

Monday, March 20 • 12:00-1:00 PM •
FPC St. Andrew's Room
Lunch: By reservation
Chair: Marilyn Morris-Etheredge 861-4314/Marilyn.morris@optum.com

Moderator: Amy Robinson
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and Jean Syswerda

MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE 16

Wednesday, March 15 • 9:30 AM •
FPC Room 228
Chair: Lee Pressly 735-0978

EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE 17

Wednesday, March 8 • 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, March 1 • 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

Contact Circle Chair for meeting date and 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
Topic: Prayer, chapters 29 (Seeking the Face of God) and 33 (Listening for God)

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



Some of you have been following my journey of becoming a parent and in the December issue of First Press I wrote about the anticipation of expecting the wonderful gift of our first child. It was only days later that our baby girl, Cora Sage Prichard, entered this world on November 25, 2016. Colby and I are overjoyed with the arrival of our precious blessing and the past two plus months have been filled with sleepless nights, diaper changes, and the most love and joy we have ever experienced. I cannot put into words the feeling of my heart growing three sizes and feeling like it will burst out of my chest. Another parent said it perfectly, "It's like your heart is now walking around on the outside."

As I gaze at this tiny creation and look at her itty-bitty toes and fingers, listen to her breathing and heavy sighs, laugh at her hiccups and baby sneezes, I am in awe of her innocence and newness. Her skin has never experienced sunburn or a scratch. She has never broken a bone or fallen down (of course she would have to learn how to walk first to do that...). She has never been called a name or been excluded or rejected by a friend. In the short three months of her life, she has been mostly protected from the hurts and pains of the world. But, she is still human. She will not be able to avoid the bumps and bruises of life either externally or internally because of her innate nature as a sinful human being.

Every single one of us, whether three months old, 33 years old, or 93 years old, are all the same—we are all humans. Unfortunately, our humanness is completely broken. Our physical bodies do not last forever and they can become ill and damaged. Internally, our humanness leads us to


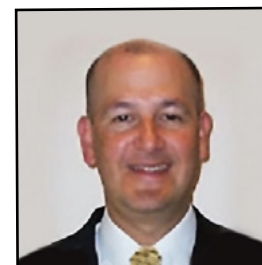
make poor decisions and fall into temptation,
living in a sinful way that is separate from God.

As we enter the season of Lent, we have the opportunity to reflect on our humanness. On Ash Wednesday, the pastors will impose ashes on our foreheads to signify our humanity. The ashes represent the dust from the earth from which we as humans have come. In Genesis 3:19 after Adam and Eve eat the forbidden fruit initiating the fall of humanity, God reminds Adam, “for dust you are and to dust you will return.” Because of sin, we are separated from our Creator and reminded of our mortality.

This is a blaring example of our humanness and separation from God. Thankfully this is not the end of the story. Throughout Lent we acknowledge the things in our lives that keep us apart from God and we look to Christ. We reflect on this separation as we anticipate the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation, which brings us together with God for eternity. God had a plan in mind for our salvation. Despite our humanness, God sent Christ to die for our salvation. Amazing Grace.

So this Lent, I encourage you to seek the love and grace of Christ that is offered so freely. As you prepare for the celebration of our Lord's resurrection on Easter, remember that your sinful human nature is only temporary. The Lord has come and is coming again and this is something we can celebrate!

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | SPIRITUAL WORKOUT | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



Recently Stacie and I embarked upon a new workout routine. As the cliché goes, the hardest part is getting started. However, once I made it through the initial soreness and fatigue, I have found myself invigorated and full of renewed energy. I actually look forward to each workout as I can see a positive impact on my daily life. It's gotten to the point that I am remorseful if I miss a workout because I see it as a wasted opportunity to make

myself better. I think the same can be said of our walk with Christ. It is so easy to fall away from our spiritual workout of organized worship, prayer and Bible study. Sometimes it has been so long, we fear the soreness and awkwardness of returning to our family of faith. But I assure you, the spirit is indeed willing, and once you get started down the path of heavenly fellowship you will look forward to the prospect each day of a renewed relationship with Christ, where every spiritual workout not only makes you better, but brings you more in tune exponentially with your Father and His will.

Easter Lilies

Each year, the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one or honor an individual by purchasing a lily in the amount of \$15. These plants are placed in the chancel for Easter Sunday. Participate by sending a check made payable to The Sanctuary Flower Committee and mailed to First Presbyterian Church, c/o The Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 N. Alamo, 78205-1918. You may also place completed forms and checks in the Sanctuary Flower Committee mailbox in the workshop.

Requests received later than April 2, 2017, will miss the insert printing deadline.

PLEASE RESERVE ONE PLANT

In honor of: _____

OR

In memory of: _____

Given by: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAN ANTONIO

LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE

404 N ALAMO STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205-1918
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Presbyterians

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