

First Press

ARE YOU READY FOR VBS?

JUNE 2017 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS OF 2017!





DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • CO-PASTOR

We call Jesus “The Great Physician,” but do you and I really believe that He can, and does, heal? We have a name for physicians who can’t—or won’t. It’s the sound a duck makes. If that’s Jesus, you and I need not just a second opinion, we need another physician. At FPC, we believe that Jesus can, and does, heal. That’s why we have a Healing Service every third Sunday of the month at 12:15 PM in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel. It lasts about 30 minutes, and includes personal prayer involving some of our elders and deacons, anointing with oil (see James 5:13-15), a brief exposition of God’s Word, and partaking of “the medicine of grace” (that’s what the Early Church Fathers called The Lord’s Supper). It’s a quiet service filled

with hope and encouragement.

All of us are broken and infirm to some extent, physically, spiritually, emotionally, and relationally. We will never be completely healed and whole until we are with the Lord in Glory, but the Bible exhorts us to seek the Lord’s healing touch as we navigate life in the here and now. In His providential plan for our lives, the Lord sometimes chooses to heal you and me along this journey from womb to tomb. We can’t manipulate Him, or force His Hand—but we can avail ourselves of His means of grace and call upon Him to heal in whatever ways might be in accordance with His will. If you are going through a particularly tough time, or facing upcoming surgery, or battling chronic illness, then the Healing Service is a great opportunity to have other believers help you lay whatever it is before the Lord. What we do in this service is never designed to take the place of adequate medical or psychological care, but for the believer in Christ, the right and proper place to begin to seek healing is amidst God’s people and in the context of worship.

Fine and good. But does Jesus REALLY heal? Still? Today? Well, I remember the distraught couple coming forward for prayer at one of our Healing Services awhile back. For years, to no avail, they had tried to have a child. Recent medical tests had now revealed that both of them were incapable of producing biological children. I have to admit that my prayers for them that day focused more on them being able to accept God’s will, than they did on expecting a miracle. O ye of little faith. We cried. We prayed. They left the service more expectant than I did. O ye of little faith. Somewhere around 12 months later I had the great privilege of baptizing their newborn daughter. O ye of little faith.

God still does miracles. God still heals. We cannot command God’s healing, but we are to avail ourselves of His means of grace when life is tumbling in. Who knows what He might choose to do? He knows. Our next monthly Healing Service will be on Sunday June 18, Father’s Day, at 12:15 PM in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel. Every father I know needs some kind of healing in their life. I know I do. Perhaps I’ll see you there. Who knows what the Great Physician might be up to that day?

- Ron

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

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URBAN PLUNGE

Come serve with us here in San Antonio. Those who are finishing 5th-8th grade are welcome to join! Each summer the middle school blocks out a week and dedicates it to serving others in the loving name of Jesus Christ. The week is filled with community service, fun, games, studying scripture, great speakers, and more fun and games. The 2017 trip will serve numerous mission organizations in San Antonio! The cost is \$150, and \$50 reserves your spot. Visit www.fpcsanantonio.org for more info.

JUNE 4-9

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Join us for a week at “Hero Central,” as we discover God’s strength and the power we gain through Him! Online registration is now open to all children from 4 years old to 5th grade at www.fpcsanantonio.org/vbs-17. Children ages 2-3 are also welcome, however, a parent or guardian must volunteer to assist at VBS.

If you would like to volunteer at VBS or have any questions, please contact Becky Prichard (beckyp@fpcsat.org).

JUNE 19-23 • 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes is always the last Sunday of the Month. We are picking up some momentum after our move to Grace Lutheran, However we are still looking for more food donations and volunteers from First Pres. You can visit the Loaves and Fishes sign-up page to let us know how you can get involved.

JUNE 25

LITERATURE CIRCLE SUMMER READING

FPC Literature Circle announces the book selections for 2017-2018:

SEPTEMBER 12: *A Dog’s Journey*
by W. Bruce Cameron (Rev. Scott Simpson)

OCTOBER 10: *Trapp Family Singers, ‘The Sound of Music’*
by Maria Augusta Trapp (Bill and Patrice Hensley)

NOVEMBER 14: *A Gentleman in Moscow*
by Amor Towles (Carlotta Dwyer and Pat Wood)

DECEMBER 12: *Circling the Sun*
by Paula McLain (Jane Hansen)

JANUARY 9: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*
by Mark Twain (TBA)

FEBRUARY 13: *The Last Days of Night*
by Graham Moore (Bill Hensley)

MARCH 13: *The Hamilton Affair*
by Elizabeth Cobb (Jane Hansen)

APRIL 10: *Commonwealth*
by Ann Patchett (Jan Clayton)

MAY 8: *Hero of the Empire*
by Candice Millard (Ron Baker)

PATHWAYS TO HOPE 2.0

After the tremendous response to the first annual PATHWAYS TO HOPE conference in 2016, conference organizers will host the second annual conference at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, August 11 and 12, 2017, focusing on mental health and including speakers from across the community and nation.

Once again, the goal of the conference is to continue to break the stigma of mental illness, and to discover how faith communities can provide support for people and families affected by mental illness. Last year, over 1,400 people from over 460 different churches and faith communities attended the conference.

Among the featured speakers this year will be Sheila Walsh, author, musician, recording artist, speaker, evangelist, television host, and encourager. Sheila will share her personal life experience with depression and how she has found healing and recovery. Along with Sheila, Pastor Brad Hoefs from Community of Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska, will share his own experience with Bipolar disorder and how it led him to develop a mental health ministry. Pastor Hoefs’ program, FRESH HOPE, is now used by groups throughout the U.S. as a way to help support families and individuals dealing with a mental illness.

The conference will include many other speakers, workshops and—for the first time—a special evening for youth on Friday, August 11. You can read more about the conference at www.pathwaystohope.net, where you can also register. Once again, the PATHWAYS TO HOPE conference will be FREE to all attendees, thanks to the sponsorship of First Presbyterian Church, The Bexar County Health Collaborative, the Office of the Bexar County Judge, and a number of other churches, organizations and sponsors.

When hope doesn’t seem to be anywhere close by, come and be part of this amazing conference, where God’s love for each of us is expressed and shared with all those who are seeking hope and recovery.

AUGUST 11-12

HOLY LAND TOUR

Join Ron and Anne Scates, along with friends Jim Denison and Mike Fanning, as they lead a trip to the Holy Land in November. It will be an “In His Steps” tour of Israel that Mike and Jim are famous for. They are profound, great men of faith, with a tremendous sense of humor, and you will be thoroughly informed, encouraged, and blessed by their leadership. The dates of the trip are November 12-21, 2017.

The website where you can get all of the details is: www.mikefanning.com/ron-scates-israel-2017.html

This will be a truly life-transformational trip, and you’ll never read the Bible the same way again. Plus, you will be back in time for Thanksgiving with plenty to be thankful for!

NOVEMBER 12-21



CONFIRMATION

2016-2017



OWEN BAKER
MENTOR: REV. DR. LOUIS ZBINDEN
Owen is the son of Wally and Betsy Baker. He is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and his interests include basketball, tennis, hunting and fishing. He plans to continue his involvement at FPC through mission trips, attending Sunday School, and small groups.



SARA BETH BEASLEY
MENTOR: NINA JORDAN
Sara, the daughter of Shannon and Mike Beasley, attends Medina Valley Middle School and enjoys yoga, reading, music, photography, soccer, and volleyball. Sara would like to strengthen her faith while being surrounded by friends, a mentor, and lots of fun! Sara plans to be involved at FPC by attending church, going to youth group, and attending Bible study.



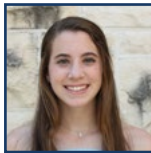
AUBREY CAMPBELL
MENTOR: AMY WHITE
Aubrey, daughter of Scott and Meredith Campbell, is a student at St. Luke's. Her hobbies include volleyball, tennis, track and hanging out with her friends. Aubrey is excited to be confirmed so that she can be involved at FPC through mission trips and by helping out younger students.



GRACE CARTER
MENTOR: KENDA CRIDER
Grace is the daughter of Ann and John Carter. She attends Alamo Heights Junior School and her hobbies include running, basketball, hanging out with her friends, and volunteering with animals. Grace was looking forward to confirmation so she could learn more about the church and become an official member, while making Jesus visible in her life.



JAKE CARTER
MENTOR: CARTER RAY
Jake, son of Dana and Will Carter, is a student at the San Antonio Christian School. He enjoys soccer, basketball, and running. Jake plans to be involved at FPC by attending mission trips, Sunday School, and attending worship.



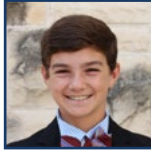
MATTIE CARTER
MENTOR: MARTHA MAYNARD
Mattie, daughter of Dana and Will Carter, is currently a student at San Antonio Christian School. Her hobbies include soccer and running. Mattie plans to continue her involvement at FPC through mission trips and attending Sunday School and worship.



MEREDITH CHARLTON
MENTOR: MARY HENDERSON
Meredith is the daughter of Mike and Jill Charlton. She is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys swimming, spending time with friends, golf, traveling, and reading. She plans to stay involved in the life of the church by participating in youth group, volunteering, and attending worship.



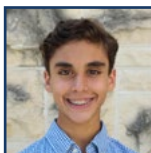
BO DEWEES
MENTOR: JEFF CARAWAN
Bo is the son of Robin and Edward DeWees. He attends Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys all sports, and hunting. Bo wanted to join confirmation to learn and strengthen his faith and relationship with God. He looks forward to being involved at FPC through involvement in youth groups, mission trips, ushering, and attending worship.



REILLY DOERR
MENTOR: GREG HILLER
John is the son of Tera and Jim Doerr. He is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and his interests include sports, fishing, and hunting. He is looking forward to confirmation so that he can learn more about God. He looks forward to being involved in the life of FPC by participating in Urban Plunge, mission trips, and youth groups.



COLE DUNN
MENTOR: MIKE WOOD
Cole, son of Danna Dunn, attends San Antonio Academy and looks forward to confirmation so that he can become a member of FPC. He plans to remain active in the life of the church by continuing to have involvement in mission trips and attending worship.



MAXWELL FELDMANN
MENTOR: BOB STEVENS
Max, son of Suzie and Kirk Feldmann, is a student at Great Hearts Monte Vista. His hobbies include tennis, Minecraft, and Star Wars. Max is excited to be confirmed so that he can grow in his faith, serve God, and make lasting friendships. He plans on being involved at FPC by participating in mission trips and community service.



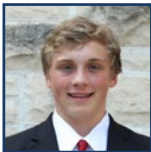
CODY LANE GEORGE
MENTOR: BARBARA WINSHIP
Cody Lane is the daughter of Mona and Perry George. She attends Geneva School of Boerne and her hobbies include ballet, cats, art, and reading. She is looking forward to confirmation so she can become a member at FPC. She plans on being involved at FPC through mission trips and worship.



"FANNY" GUNN
MENTOR: MEG CULP
Fanny, daughter of Shannon Gunn, is a student at Saint Mary's Hall. She enjoys pole vaulting, horseback riding, community service, basketball, watching Netflix, and track. Fanny wanted to join confirmation because she wants to further her connection with God. She will continue to be active at FPC by being involved in the Joy Children Program and mission trips.



MAX HART
MENTOR: KIRK ODEN
Max, son of Melinda and Ed Hart, is currently a student at San Antonio Academy. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, basketball, baseball, and geography. Max plans to continue his involvement at FPC in youth group and Sunday School.



CULLEN INGERSOLL
MENTOR: EUGENE GARCIA
Cullen is the son of Stephanie and Michael Ingersoll. He is a student at Bradley Middle School and enjoys basketball, football, reading, and having fun. After confirmation, he plans to stay involved in the life of the church by participating in mission trips, volunteering, and attending worship.



KATE MAURER
MENTOR: BECKA BYRD
Kate is the daughter of Rachel and David Maurer. She attends Lopez Middle School and enjoys soccer, journaling, and running. Kate is looking forward to Confirmation because she wants to grow closer to God. She plans on being involved at FPC through mission trips, Sunday School, small group, youth group, and attending worship.



NANCY MICKLER
MENTOR: JODI WOOD
Nancy is the daughter of Downie and Bobby Mickler. She is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and her interests include swimming, music, and art. Nancy plans on continuing involvement at FPC through attending worship.



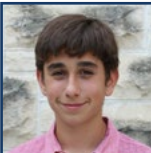
CALLIE ODEN
MENTOR: SANDY MOORE
Callie, daughter of Kasey and Kirk Oden, attends Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys reading, games, and socializing. She plans to remain active in the life of the church by helping younger students.



KATE RANEY
MENTOR: BETSY BAKER
Kathryn, daughter of Kelly and Lee Raney, is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School. Her hobbies include babysitting, music, and writing. Kathryn will continue to remain active in the church by helping younger students in class.



SAMUEL "SAM" RIGGS
MENTOR: EDWARD HART
Sam is the son of Tashya and Lane Riggs. He attends San Antonio Academy and his hobbies include football, lacrosse, and Xbox. Sam was looking forward to confirmation so he could reaffirm his faith in God and learn more about God and the Bible.



HENRY STEPHENS
MENTOR: REAGAN WILLIAMSON
Henry, son of Cory and Thomas Stephens, is currently a student at Alamo Heights Junior School. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, computers, and STEM. Henry joined confirmation to have a better understanding of the church's values and to grow his relationship with Jesus. He plans to continue his involvement at FPC through mission trips, Sunday school, youth group, and attending worship.



WAYLAND STEPHENS
MENTOR: BOB ESQUENAZI
Wayland is the son of Cory and Thomas Stephens. He is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys fishing, hunting, computers, and STEM. He was looking forward to confirmation so he could have a better understanding of the church's values and grow his relationship with Jesus. Wayland plans to stay active at FPC by going on mission trips, attending Sunday school and worship.



JENNINGS STUART
MENTOR: HOLLY YOUNGQUIST
Jennings is the daughter of Chaney and Tripp Stuart. She attends Saint Mary's Hall and enjoys volleyball, water coloring, and tennis. Jennings looks forward to being involved at FPC through small group, Sunday school, worship, and Bible study.



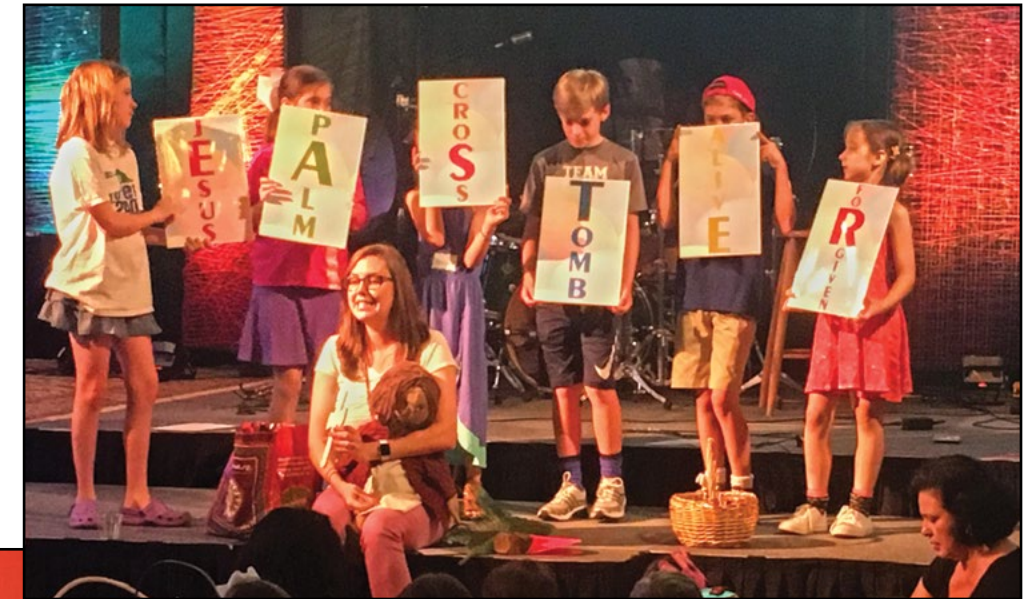
COLIN TROY
MENTOR: JOE MOORE
Colin is the son of Julia and Mike Troy. He is a student at Alamo Heights Junior School and his interests include soccer, videogames, and reading. Colin was looking forward to confirmation so he could accept Jesus into his life and find out what it means to be Presbyterian. Colin looks forward to being involved in the life of FPC by participating in mission trips, Sunday school, and retreats.



TREVOR WINTON
MENTOR: TRIPLE FUHRMANN
Trevor, son of Kim and Hunt Winton, attends Alamo Heights Junior School and enjoys hunting, fishing, golf, baseball, water sports, football, and basketball. Trevor plans to remain involved at FPC through youth group.

EASTER PROGRAM

2017



HE IS RISEN! HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Although Easter was a few months ago, we still celebrate the Risen Christ and the amazing impact He has on our lives. The children of FPC had the opportunity to celebrate Christ's Resurrection at the Children's Easter program on Saturday, April 15.

It was a fun morning filled with worship, Bible story time and lots and lots of Easter Eggs. Kids learned that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey while people waved palm branches while praising him and less than a week later he was crucified on a cross and then buried in a Tomb. Three days later the tomb was empty and Jesus was alive, which means that we are all forRgiven! By the end of the story, the kids had spelled out the word EASTER and the celebration continued as we worshiped together in song.

The Children's ministry would like to thank the KEYS group and the Mom's group for stuffing over 1,500 plastic eggs for the event!! The kids had a great time celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus and enjoying fellowship with one another.

REV. FULLER JOINS CITY'S FAITHFUL, OFFICIALS

FOR NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AT CITY HALL



On Thursday, May 4, our own Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, along with Mayor Ivy Taylor and other dignitaries and clergy, participated in a citywide downtown ceremony on the steps of City Hall, supporting the National Day of Prayer. Bob provided an inspiring prayer for the crowd of well over 1,000. Below is a transcript of his message in its entirety:

O Lord, through the tools like television, newspapers, books, radio, movies and the internet, you have given us the means to inform, investigate, and inspire one another. But how often have we chosen to use our God given creativity to mock you, or to glorify ourselves?

O Lord, your Word says that:
"Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
and on his law he meditates day and night."
(Psalm 1:1-2)

Even though we are more connected to one another, we seem less connected to you.

Your truth is not just one among many. In our haste to consume entertainment and news, make us discerning. Help us to see that which is holy, and virtuous.

The words we use, and the images we choose say a lot about us. Help us to use the tools of media to produce light as well as heat. Whether we use our tongues or the stroke of computer keys, Lord forgive us, for the way we communicate and miscommunicate with each other. Protect us from careless words, and contrived positions.

You gave us two ears and one mouth, suggesting that we should listen twice as much as we talk. Give us maturity—both as communicators and as consumers—when we talk as well as when we listen.

In an environment of often caustic rhetoric, give us the civility that allows for peace.

Be with reporters, producers, investigators, actors, spokespeople, technical workers and crews. Help them to understand the power of their influence. Give courage, compassion, and passion to speak the truth – even when it is not popular or politically correct.

Over the changing words of our generation, speak your eternal Word that does not change. Use your Word to direct and empower our public conversations, to shape our character, as well as entertain. Then we will indeed be like:

"a tree planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither."
(Psalm 1:3)

THE MINISTRY OF FRIDAY SINGERS

BY CHARLOTTE HAINS

Many of us have sung in school choirs, college choirs, and then we “grow up.” Our singing is then in the shower or perhaps listening to a favorite piece and suddenly breaking out with singing. Our joy in music is for a lifetime. Fourteen years ago, when Leroy Yarbrough was our Minister of Music, he had an idea for taking songs out to the community. He put out the word and our first group gathered and listened while Leroy talked about going to retirement communities and nursing /rehabilitation centers throughout San Antonio. He explained the power and joy in songs and how the music we grow up with remains with us throughout life. We were not to be a trained choir, but a group that loved to sing and wanted to share that with others. Since we were going to use our Friday mornings to sing, our name was to be the Friday Singers. So we have been.

We quickly embraced the Friday morning routine, gathering at the first place to sing and then traversing to the second site, singing at two locations each Friday. A regular program consists of a prayer followed by several songs familiar to the facility’s residents. These songs are so much fun; we often have skits or actions to accompany them. The second part of the program is a special number such as a solo, duet, ukulele player or whatever talent our group has. Following that, we pass out hymn sheets of songs so loved and familiar, beginning with ‘Jesus Loves Me,’ and ending with ‘The Battle Hymn of the Republic.’ During the hymn sing, we circulate among the residents encouraging them to sing along with us. We then end our visit having shared two more closing songs and the total time with them is about a half hour. Reactions to our programs are often “When can you come back”, “You’re wonderful!”, and “Yawl are so much fun.” One memorable reaction we often see is the very elderly rising to their feet, hands on heart when we sing a patriotic song as we always do. From September, 2016 until May, 2017, we visited and sang for 49 different groups.

After Leroy’s retirement, Charlotte Hains agreed to take on the leadership role and has been so for the past seven years. The group is accompanied on the piano by Dr. Jae Ha, our church organist and Associate Minister of Music. The end of May finds us finishing for the season. We start back in August with rehearsing and in September our visits to the community begin. Of course, we’re always eager to be done with practicing and getting on with the coming year! As



we visit various retirement and rehab communities, we are ever mindful of the importance of attention and companionship when someone relocates to a retirement or rehab facility. As we interact with the patients and residents, we often leave saying we are blessed as much as we hope our recipients have been. This world of music is the real world. This is our mission. It is difficult to describe the closeness we grow to feel for each other as together we try to spread the love of Christ in music.

The Friday Singers have no auditions; we welcome all who want to share in this deeply rewarding experience and have joy while doing it! Step forward if you think you want to find out more. Just call Charlotte Hains (710-7173) or get in touch. Rehearsals for the new year begin in August. We always welcome new members to come and be a part of the Friday Singers ministry!

LOCAL MISSIONS

PROJECT 240



Sunday, April 30, 2017 was a wonderful day in the missions department as FPC partnered with Habitat for Humanity for their 6th annual Project 240. Hundreds of members and visitors gathered in the FPC parking lot to hammer nails and join in fellowship, as the frames for five homes were built in 240 minutes. Children were able to participate as they helped to pass out snacks and refreshments, and decorate crosses that will be given to the families who will live in these homes. KLOVE-FM, came out to provide music for the entire afternoon as well.

FPC Missions owes a great deal of thanks to all of you who helped build, pass out refreshments, and man registration tables, t-shirt tables, and lunch tables. A special thank you also goes out to Fred Wall who coordinated the entire afternoon for the third year in a row!

Even more, FPC was recently able to join in celebration with Habitat as they reached a milestone of 1,000 homes built! Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio has been working for about 40 years to provide homes to hard-working, low-income families who would not ordinarily be able to afford a home. As homes are built and families move in, they are able to experience God's love in action.

If you would like to participate in a Presbyterian Cluster Build or learn more about how you can work alongside them, please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org) in the Missions Department.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

YOUTH WITH A MISSION, HUNGARY

Recently Steve Johnson, from Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Hungary, visited FPC to talk about the incredible ministry work that is being done in Budapest and the surrounding areas. Steve and his wife Barbara have been with YWAM for 26 years and moved to Budapest in 1994. Since they've been there, they have focused on three pillars of ministry: Evangelism, Discipleship Training, and Mercy Ministry.

Steve noted that he loves YWAM because they allow their missionaries the freedom to be visionary in projects that really invest in the lives and culture of the local people. This is very evident in the many ministry projects that Steve, Barbara, and the YWAM team in Budapest have created. They facilitate a Discipleship Training School (DST) where college students and young adults spend five months discovering greater depth in their relationships with God, and learning how to be messengers of the gospel. After the initial training phase, the students are able to apply what they've learned in Hungary and other Central and Eastern European locations. These ministry experiences cultivate and strengthen individual walks with Christ, encourage students to return home and continue to spread the gospel in school and in a secular work environment, and even develop a call in some to be long-term missionaries. Other projects through YWAM include street outreach (evangelism), a coffee house where there is live music, conversation and fellowship that leads to deeper conversations about Christ, ministries for feeding the homeless, and work in a refugee camp.

If you'd like to know more about YWAM Hungary, please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org). They would also welcome your prayers for their team, future DTS students, and the work they're doing in Hungary.





WOMEN OF THE CHURCH | BY PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT

The 2016-2017 year for Women of the Church closed with its annual May Coffee on May 3, 2017 honoring past presidents of the organization and benefitting the FPC Children's Center and the FPC Children's Choir Program. We greatly appreciate Amanda Williams graciously opening her home to us. We also extend a warm thank you to the May Coffee Committee Chairmen Candy Wagner and Cynthia Robinson and their dedicated committee for the abundant and delicious food. Our kind valet parkers Bill Chandler, Bill Dennis, Kevin Doyle, Mike and Michael Heath always make us feel special.

As this year comes to a close, we thank Linda Rittenhouse for her wonderful leadership as President of the Women of the Church, and to all of the women who worked faithfully and tirelessly in so many capacities to serve and strengthen members within the church and beyond. It has been a very rewarding and active year of service, fellowship, Bible study, and prayer from which we have grown in faith and love for one another.

May 21, 2017 the new officers, program and committee chairmen, circle chairmen, and Bible moderators were installed at the 9:30 AM service. In 2017-2018, we look forward to another year of service and sharing our abundant blessings and Christ's love with each other and members of our community and world. President Brodeen would like for any woman who is a member of FPC to contact her (pat@brodeen.com) for more information about opportunities in Women of the Church for growth and service. There is a special place for all women of FPC!



Linda Rittenhouse has served this year as president of the WOC 2016-2017 and Pat Brodeen is the incoming president for 2017-2018. At the March 6 WOC Council meeting, Pat presented Linda with a beautiful, engraved, antique basket-tray as a gift from the Women of the Church. The WOC are most grateful for Linda's capable and gracious service and leadership at FPC.



In May, Bill Howland introduced us to the life-long learning programs of ALIR. We enjoyed hearing about “the joy of victory and the agony of defeat” from Spurs Chaplain Rich Garza. Our Birthday lunch at Milano’s was amazing. Captain Patrick Cobb, a chaplain from Fort Sam and son-in-law to Char-An Witten, closed out the month by leading us in a special remembrance of the men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.

June historically begins our shift to summer programing, however this year we will close out our year with a presentation from the Extended Run Players on June 2nd. For the rest of the summer, Keeping Moving Fitness, Bridge & Mah Jongg, and Birthday Lunches will continue. We are also planning a few special outings and service opportunities.

As the KEYS Leadership Committee works hard over the summer to plan speakers, events and Birthday lunches, we welcome your input to help us bring a variety of programs that are helpful and informative.

KEEP MOVING FITNESS

Keep Moving Fitness is offered every Friday except for the 3rd Friday when we celebrate birthdays. This is a program designed for 55 & Betters, often sitting in a chair.



Linda Osborne has been our instructor for years and designs our sessions to fit our needs. Most participants express how much better they feel after each week. Join us at 9:30 AM on the second floor of the Student Center, and you will not regret it. There is no charge for this class.

BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG

For the Bridge and Mah Jongg players, there is opportunity to play on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of the month from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Bring a lunch and join in on the fun!! New players are welcome and someone will help you learn the game. If you have other games that we could play, then let us know and we will see that you have a place to enjoy.

BIRTHDAY LUNCHES

Join us for your summer Birthday!!

- June 16: Good Time Charlies
- July 21: Alamo Quarry Golf Club
- August 18: Hyatt River Walk

JUNE 12: WITTE WHALE EXHIBIT

“Whales: Giants of the Deep” dives into San Antonio this summer! Explore the latest research about the marine animals, from their evolution and biology to the important role they play in human cultures. The exhibition uses an engaging blend of science, storytelling and innovative, interactive galleries that give visitors the opportunity to discover more about the world of whales and what lives in the oceans’ depths.

We have secured group rate tickets for Monday, June 12. Arrive for a brief orientation to the Witte at 10:30 AM and enjoy the Whale Exhibit at 11:00 AM. Tickets for the Whales and the Witte are \$16 senior/group rate. Make your reservations with Stephanie Garcia at stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

JUNE 30: HAMBURGER AND A MOVIE

Hamburger and a Movie, featuring the movie “Sully” starring Tom Hanks. On January 15, 2009, US Airways pilots Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger and First Officer Jeff Skiles board US Airways Flight 1549 from LaGuardia Airport to Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Three minutes into the flight, at an approximate altitude of 2,800 feet (approx. 850 m), the Airbus A320 strikes a flock of birds, disabling both engines. Without engine power and judging themselves unable to reach nearby airports (Teterboro Airport being the closest), Sully ditches the aircraft on the Hudson River. The crew and passengers evacuate without casualty. The press and public hail Sullenberger a hero, but the incident leaves him with symptoms of PTSD, and he has a dream in which the plane crashes into a building.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR SA READS

SA Reads and other local literacy programs have learned that at least half of the youngsters in needy school districts have NO books in their homes. So, the joy of reading, in addition to the necessity for reading for learning, is not being encouraged or facilitated.

SA Reads secures books from many local resources and distributes them to schools, then through the schools to children. Books need to be cleaned, labeled, and sorted before they are distributed.

The work for our volunteers is not demanding – we thoroughly enjoy the fellowship around the tables – but it is so needed and worthwhile. Come and join us at Firstmark Credit Union on Gulfdale, the first Tuesday of each month, from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM. For more information please contact Jane Warren at 493-5187.



PERMANENT LIST

Please remember that if you are on the permanent list you need to call by the Tuesday prior to our Friday program to cancel. We give the count for our meals to the kitchen on Tuesday afternoon. If you are on the permanent list and you do not call to cancel we assume you are planning to attend. Recently we have had to pay for meals for permanent list folks who have not called in or who have waited until Thursday to cancel. Help us be good stewards of our Luncheon Funds and let us know by Tuesday if you are not able to attend.

FIRST PRES' HISTORICAL ARCHIVES

NOW AVAILABLE ON COMPUTER!



Above: Pat Brodeen (nee Roberts) looks at the names of childhood friends who were baptized here at FPC. "Those are the ones in my Communicants class."

At right: Julie Walthall searches through the names of Walthalls in the database, while Walter and their two daughters Abigail and Grace look on. Walter points out the name of his grandfather's brother, Frank Paschal Walthall.

The First Pres Archive Committee is excited to announce that our church archive records are now computer accessible, and a new dedicated computer station has been set up in the pastors' foyer for our members and guests to access archives going back as far as the early years of the church!

About ten years ago, a small group of First Pres members, most of them affiliated with the Church Library—Nancy and Jim Johnson, Janet Beauch, and Mary Pat Stumberg—decided that something must be done to preserve First Pres' growing body of historical records.

This fledgling committee met intermittently for several years gathering and organizing materials as best they could, but at some point they needed help from a professional archivist. When they approached the church staff for financial support, the response was lukewarm. The church was going through uncertain times and archive building was not a high priority.

The project was left to simmer for a few years but eventually Rev. John Seiders became the archival committee's champion. With his support and encouragement, plus a generous, anonymous and purpose-dedicated monetary gift, a resurrected committee was organized in 2012 made up of Willie Willming, Nancy Black, Joe Rust, Nancy Johnson, Olive Davis, Mary Pat Stumberg, Suzanne West and chair, Bill Cogburn.

For years, the Heritage Room next to the library was the depository for our historical records. While it is a lovely room, it lacked work space and utility storage cabinets. It was not climate controlled and perhaps the biggest disadvantage, it could not be made secure.

Room 305, an unused classroom, became the committee's work space. The committee soon realized that it was well suited as a space for our permanent archives. The room has

now been dedicated for that purpose and has been outfitted with climate control equipment, light blocking window inserts, fire proof cabinets, storage shelves and work tables.

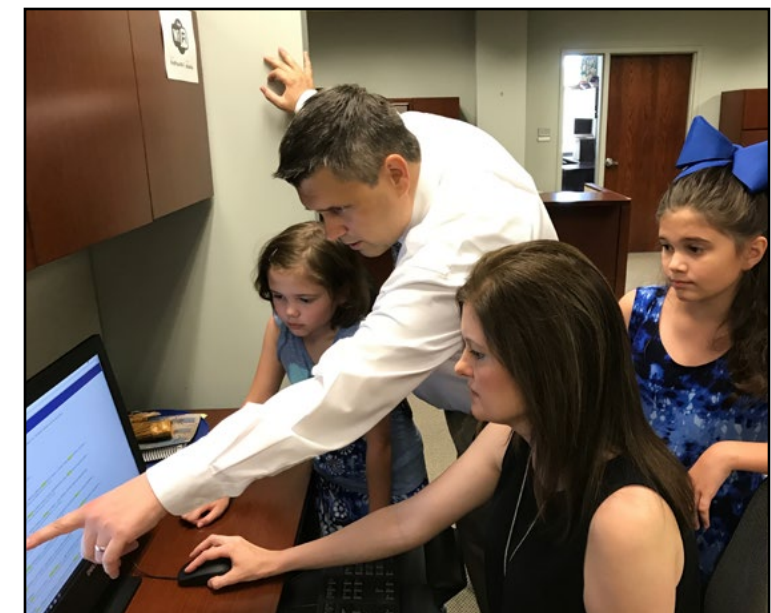
Soon after, the committee was reorganized, and over a period of the next several months, we visited with other churches and local museums who had long established archives. We needed to see first-hand what constituted a proper archive and gain from their experience. All the while, the committee was continuing to gather, sort and organize our own records, but we could only go so far. We needed professional help to organize and prepare the materials for scanning and digitizing.

After a comprehensive search for an archivist, the committee had the good fortune to find Melissa Gohlke (UTSA Libraries Special Collections) who did a remarkable job of indexing, organizing and shepherding our records through the scanning, digitizing and microfilming process.

The next step was to make these records available to the church members. With the help of our Communications Staff, the archives are available on a user-friendly data base. For privacy purposes, the Session asked that we not post the digitized records on the church's website at this time, but rather to make them available on a dedicated computer located at the church.

Church members are encouraged to make use of the archives by checking in with the receptionist in the Mauze Lobby, who will furnish instructions and a password to access the archives. The dedicated computer is located in the pastors' foyer adjacent to the Mauze Lobby.

— Bill Cogburn



EASTER LILIES

2017

| IN HONOR OF | | IN MEMORY OF | |
|---|--|---|---|
| Field and Lynnda Barnes Mr. and Mrs. Brandon Brimer (Blaire) Tom Dooling, Ja Hae and the choir Our Pastors: Ron, Bob and Scott | Laura Johnson Honor and Jamie Johnson Helen Kleberg Groves | Annie Meadows Ranita B. Adams | Mary Frances Churchill Manette and David Owen Our mother: Clara May Gootee |
| David and Kay Beth Barr Frank and Jacque Patton, Our Gleneagles Small Group Leaders Our grandchildren: Lane, Poppy and J.W. | Tuesday Morning Bible Study Judy Kruger | Oralia Alcala Hazael Alcala | Robert “Bob” Collins My wife: Elizabeth “Betty” Collins |
| Mary and Mike Benedum Our children and grandchildren | Lillian Ann Lehr Our Wonderful Ministers My dear children and Grandchildren: Lehrs, Bunns, Kreager and Gretzingers | Greg and Janet Anderson Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Anderson Dr. James E. Bauerle Mrs. Hazel Dyer | Laura A. Davis Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Davis, Jr. |
| Ann and Chuck Bunn Lillian Ann Lehr | Walt W. and Janice C. Magnus Rev. Dr. Louis H. Zbinden, Jr. | Jonathan, Michele and Caroline Barker Faye and Art Barker Dorothy and Richard Beach | The Dirk DeKoch Family The Rev. John McCullough |
| His loving family William B. Burnett | Charlotte and Martha Milner Bob, Morgan, Ellie and Bo Fuller | Field and Lynnda Barnes Our fathers: Judge Robert F. Barnes Mr. Forrest H. Sparks | Becky, Kady, Robin and Edward and Robin DeWees Edward E. DeWees, Jr. |
| Jane and Bill Burnett Our Blessed Children and Grandchildren | Gary and Debe Palmer Roma Poole and Rosemary Palmer | David and Kay Beth Barr Our Brothers: Philip Barr and William Brunner Our Parents: Herschel and Joan Barr William and Louise Brunner | Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig Our parents |
| Circle 1/12 Grace Labatt, our Moderator | Emily Peeples My Thursday Group | Mary and Mike Benedum Our parents | Their Family Sallie W. Embs Lowell D. Embs |
| John and Darcy Collins Our grandchildren Corine, Cole, Fiona, Linda, Lincoln, Hugo and Potter | Her Thursday Morning Bible Study Group Emily Peeples | Debby and J.D. Bowen Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Ryan | Will and Marilyn Etheredge Rev. Bill and Helen Etheredge Paul Morris |
| Susan and Dirk DeKoch Our children and grandchildren | Jennings Stuart Holly Youngquist | John and Jane Buchek Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Buchek Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Coker | Ken Finch Jeannette “Jenny” Finch Brent and Clifford Stolte |
| Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig Our children and grandchildren | The Matt Terry Family Our Pastors and Staff | Ann and Chuck Bunn Mary and Charles Bunn Ralph E. Lehr | Jan and Larry Fischer Marian and Bill Gibson |
| Myna Gathers The Happy Cowboys High School District Championships at Football and Basketball State Championship Golf | | Mrs. George V. Burkholder Dr. George V. Burkholder Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Schneider Dr. and Mrs. Theodore M. Burkholder Mrs. Margaret Ann Wetzel | Butch and Nancy Gerfers Connie Clare Gerfers Emmick |
| Karen and Ronald Herrmann Our Children Our Grandchildren | | Jane and Bill Burnett Our siblings: Linda Burnett McNea and Marcus Zaborowski | Sally and Hank Hadigian Our parents Dr. Thomas Burns |
| | | | Diane Hanrahan Jim Stoffer |
| | | | Marshall and Shelly Smith Harrell Our parents |
| | | | Friends Ella Hawkins |
| | | | Karen and Ronald J. Herrmann Helen and Albert Herrmann Doris and James H. Heizer |
| | | | Laura Johnson Belton Kleberg Johnson |
| | | | Nancy Knapp Kocurek and Carolyn Knapp Meyer Our parents: George and Carolyn Knapp |
| | | | Lillian Ann Lehr My dear husband: Ralph E. Lehr |
| | | | Wanda Lydon Mrs. Theodore O’Connor (Sandy) |
| | | | Walt and Janice Magnus F. George Gosling Our parents and grandparents |
| | | | Jo Lynne Meador and family All our loved ones |
| | | | Rinda and Ken Miller Dr. and Mrs. B. E. Atkinson, Jr. |
| | | | Charlotte and Martha Milner Dick and Martha Bell |
| | | | Diana Morehouse Loved Ones |
| | | | Mrs. B. J. Neal Ronald David Neal |
| | | | Anne Newton My parents |
| | | | Patricia Norwood Mac Clinton Norwood |
| | | | Susan Norwood, Robyn Baham, Sara Hurley and Mary Norwood Our father: Mac Norwood |
| | | | David and Manette Owen Our parents: Pat and Sam Owen |
| | | | David A. Peeples Rev. Robert H. Bullock Elizabeth Bullock |
| | | | Dolores Perrine Robert E. Perrine |
| | | | Ron and Heather Peterson Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hines, parents Mr. and Mrs. Scotty Hines, brother |
| | | | Becca and Bob Price David Coles Price |
| | | | Sallie Riester Al Riester Eric Riester |
| | | | Linda and Mark Rittenhouse and family Dr. and Mrs. Norman H. Jacob, Jr. |
| | | | Bill and Linda Ruhmann Brad Ruhmann |
| | | | Ron and Anne Scates Anna Elizabeth Scates Ella R. Scates William Maxwell |
| | | | Donna and Jimmy Shafer Skeeter Masters Schneiderman |
| | | | Fred and Kathy Shussler Richard Shussler Jean and Jack Durkee |
| | | | The Tripp Stuart Family Joe and Madelon Harrison Hal Sullivan and Sue Stuart |
| | | | Ernest and Lynn Swan Curtis Swan |
| | | | Jim and Andrea Taylor John Duve Marie Pry Donald Taylor |
| | | | The Matt Terry Family Olive Davis |
| | | | Suzanne and John Thomas Our fathers: Thomas Baldwin Burns Robert Carroll Thomas |
| | | | Julia and Mike Troy Col. And Mrs. Malcolm Norton |
| | | | Barbara S. Warren My Parents: Jean and Harvey P. Smith My sister, Becky Patton |
| | | | Jane, Robert and Liam Spence Warren Bryan C. Warren Spence Warren |
| | | | Neil E. Williams My mother: Helen Williams |
| | | | The Williams Family Walter H. Williams Steven J. Williams |
| | | | Ed and Willie Willming Bev Swanson, a dear friend |
| | | | Jean Rogers Winchell My parents: Napier and Mary Jean Rogers Dr. Leroy Yarbrough |
| | | | Edwyna Yarbrough Dr. Leroy Yarbrough |
| | | | Ciara, Lindsay, Arden, Jake and Grant Dr. Leroy Yarbrough (Opa) |
| | | | Patti Sue Young My father: Wallace E. Graham. Sr. |
| | | | Holly, David, Lucy and Hunt Youngquist Jerry Youngquist |

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



Summer is here! It is time for sunshine, swimming pools, and no school. Every year at the beginning of June I find myself excited and ready for summer: for a change of pace, for vacation and relaxation, and for warmer temperatures. But it never fails that by the end of June I am complaining about the heat, longing for routine, and ready for fall leaves and pumpkin spice lattes. Unfortunately, I still have to endure the MONTHS of summer that remain.

When I think about my life as a follower of Christ, I often feel this same way. A new season brings with it excitement about diving into Scripture or spending more time in prayer, but after a few weeks or a month, I find myself worn out, bored and ready for the next big thing to happen. If only every season were as exciting as Christmas or Easter, maybe I would be a more consistent and passionate follower of Christ.

But, because I am human, and because life is the way it is, I have to constantly pray that the Holy Spirit would draw me closer to God and ignite a fire inside that is sustainable and powerful. But I cannot do this on my own. We are called to live in community with one another so that we can live lives of discipleship, growing deeper in God's Word and living the way that Jesus taught us to live while sharing the gospel message with the world.

Discipleship is one of those big "church" words that can seem vague and is often misunderstood. The word discipleship actually never appears in the Bible, but we hear this word thrown around all the time in church. The Greek verb that we see in Scripture is *mathetuo* or "to make disciples." One of the verses we hear quoted most

often is when Jesus tells the disciples in Matthew 28:19: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." So what does that mean? Well if we keep reading it says, "baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you." Making disciples is not only converting people to Christianity but it is also a lifelong transformation of learning how to live as a Christian.

We are to encourage one another along this journey as disciples, reaching out to make more disciples along the way. When the excitement wears off and we feel tired and bored, we are to encourage one another to keep following in the ways of Christ and living differently even in the long, hot days of summer.

There are many great ways to grow deeper in our own faith and serve and encourage others at FPC during the summer. One great way to make disciples is through Vacation Bible School (VBS). VBS is not just a fun week for kids to eat silly snacks, make crafts and have fun with their friends (although all of that happens too). VBS is a weeklong Bible study focused on teaching kids about Jesus and God's love for us. When adults and teens volunteer to help with VBS, they are not just chaperones or party planners; they are disciple-makers who are serving with the strength and power of the Holy Spirit to share Christ with kids. The amazing (and sometimes surprising) part is how our lives as adults even change when we serve kids in this way!

I encourage you to check out all of the opportunities to serve at FPC over the summer, from mission trips to VBS to Sunday school and much more. I hope the excitement we feel at the beginning of summer spans all the way until fall and beyond!

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | WHAT DOES YOUR BITMOJI LOOK LIKE? | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



I am always a little behind when it comes to technology. I have recently been introduced to the world of Bitmoji on my iPhone. Although I don't receive a commission, if you do not have the app I would highly encourage you to download it to your mobile device. It is simply amazing. Basically it's a program that allows you to create a cartoon version of yourself, complete with hundreds of images to fit every occasion to properly give someone a greeting or message using your own computer animated image. Awhile back our two college kids were home for the weekend and we all created them on our cell phones together. Here is the interesting thing, when our son Matthew showed us his Bitmoji, it looked nothing like him. No, no, we said, your face is more oval. Your hair doesn't look like that, and your eyes, that's not even the right color for your eyes. In frustration, he simply put his phone down and

elected not to finish. Matthew is unable to see himself, the way the rest of us see him. The same can be said with many of us and how we see ourselves versus how God sees us. What we see as failures, and tribulations, He sees as training and preparation. When we see someone covered in sin, He sees someone washed clean from the sacrifice of His Son. Or even if we see a lowly shepherd, He sees someone fit to be king. I would encourage everyone to visualize what eternal Bitmoji God has created for you and attempt to view things through His eyes. I think the image that is revealed will be far more favorable than anything you could possibly imagine.

WELCOME NEW STAFF | MICHELLE LOPEZ, ADMIN. ASSISTANT FOR FAMILY MINISTRY



Michelle Lopez was born and raised in McAllen, Texas and moved to San Antonio in 2007 to attend college at The University of Texas at San Antonio, where she studied Fine

Art. Her hobbies include, graphic design, photography, painting, drawing, and crocheting.



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