

*First Press*

**JOIN US FOR THE HOON/BULLOCK LECTURE**  
**SEPTEMBER 2017 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**





# DO YOU BELIEVE IN MIRACLES?!

BY REV. DR. RONALD SCATES • CO-PASTOR

G.K. Chesterton once remarked that if a white fencepost is not continually re-painted, it will eventually turn black. That’s really a key principle behind Church renewal and reformation...including FPC. The year 2017 happens to be the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, when Augustinian monk Martin Luther nailed his “95 theses” to the Wittenberg castle door. “Reformation” will be a theme permeating the life of FPC this fall as we remember and honor our Reformation roots as a congregation in the “Reformed Tradition,” and as we do some of our own “re-painting”:

- + It will kick-off with my Thursday morning Covenant Hall Bible Study on September 14, where we will spend the fall looking at some key “reformational” Biblical texts.
- + Then Gordon-Conwell Seminary professor—and former FPC pastor—Jim Singleton will deliver the Hoon-Bullock Lectures on the weekend of September 23-24. He’ll be sharing some great insights on the Reformation.
- + World Communion Sunday, October 1, will begin a five-part sermon series at all October services of worship that will focus in on the “solas” of the Reformation: “sola gratia” (by grace alone), “sola fides” (by faith alone), sola Christus” (by Christ alone), and “sola Scriptura” (by Scripture alone).
- + Every Wednesday night in October we’ll gather for dinner in Westminster Hall at 5:30 PM. This will be followed by a presentation on some angle of the Reformation by a visiting Reformed theologian on the first three Wednesday nights (October 4, 11, and 18). Then a real treat will be having my friend Archbishop Gustav Garcia-Sillers of the San Antonio Archdiocese with us, on October 25, to give a Roman Catholic take on the Reformation.
- + And we will be re-painting our own FPC fencepost with the help of my dear friend Paul Borden (he’s a “church health” guy who helped me position the churches I served in Baltimore and Dallas where the winds of the Spirit could bring great renewal and reformation). That’s my prayer for FPC as well. Part of that endeavor will be a church survey that you will be asked to complete during September, along with some exercises he’s already put the staff and Session through, and then Paul will be on-site with us in January to help us formulate a prescription for maximizing our strengths and repairing our weaknesses. We’re a Reformed church that will be doing some reforming in order to answer Christ’s call to be a more intentional, disciple-making, center-city congregation.
- + If all of the above doesn’t quite fill your Reformation cup, then think about joining me in Wittenberg, Germany at the World Reformed Fellowship REFO/500 Conference with top speakers from around the world. I have the privilege of serving on the WRF Board, and I’d love to see some FPC folk join me at the place where it all began. Go to the WRF website and check it out: [wrf500wittenberg.org](http://wrf500wittenberg.org).

Bring the paint—and be strong in the Lord.

+Ron

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THURSDAY BIBLE STUDY  
“THE CHURCH REFORMED, ALWAYS REFORMING  
...ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD”

The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and FPC will be recognizing that anniversary in a number of ways. One of those venues will be our Thursday Morning Bible Study in Covenant Hall. For our fall semester, I’ve chosen a number of Biblical texts from both the Old and New Testaments that speak to the continual need for reformation and renewal in God’s Church, and in the lives of His people.

G. K. Chesterton once said that a white fence post – left to itself—will eventually turn black. To remain white, it must continually be re-painted. Left to ourselves, we, as individual Christians and as a church, will always tend to drift off-course and so need to continually re-align our faith and lives under the plumb line of the authority of Scripture. We’ll look at a number of examples of how this occurred in Biblical times, which will hopefully lead to our own personal reformation as faithful followers of Jesus Christ in a very un-reformed world.

+ Ron Scates

SEPTEMBER 14 • SIGN UP BY SEPTEMBER 7

LOAVES AND FISHES

Join us to help serve lunch to our special guests at Grace Lutheran Church. Preparations begin at 1:00 and the meal is served at 3:00, clean up follows and the day is usually wrapped up before 5:00. Come and stay as long as you can, we will find a place for you to jump in.

LIBRARY BOOKS REQUEST

The FPC Library is requesting that if you have any outstanding books, kindly return them at your earliest convenience. We’re trying to maintain inventories so everyone can benefit from what our library has to offer.

PRAYING FOR A CURE FOR CANCER

As Anne and I drove through Arkansas on our vacation, we saw a billboard which invited everyone to “Pray for the Cure” regarding cancer. I thought to myself, “That’s exactly what FPC needs to do in a concerted intentional way.” We all know so many people — family and friends — who are battling this insidious disease, so we will be devoting our monthly Healing Service in September to praying for people with cancer, and praying for the cure. Anticipating a larger crowd than usual, we are moving the service from its regular location in the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel to the Sanctuary on September 17. The service will begin at its regular time of 12:15 PM, right after our two 11:00 AM services are over, and will last about 30 minutes. There will be communion (the “medicine of grace,” as the Early Church Fathers referred to it), Scripture and a brief homily, and prayer stations where people can come forward and be prayed for by some of FPC’s prayer warriors. I hope you’ll join us on the 17th in praying for the cure. When God’s people pray, God’s Hand moves. Be strong in Him.

+ Ron Scates

Read more on page 10.

SEPTEMBER 17

FPC LITERATURE CIRCLE

Love dogs? Then you need to attend the Literature Circle when Rev. Scott Simpson reviews “A Dog’s Journey,” by W. Bruce Cameron—sequel to the novel “A Dog’s Purpose.” It is a story of Buddy, the good dog that has lived through numerous reincarnations. Now, the task is to valiantly protect Clarity Jane from being a curious baby to a troubled teenager—a moving story of unwavering loyalty, filled with hope, love and unending devotion. Kleenex available! Bring a friend and join us at 1:00 PM for refreshments before the review!

SEPTEMBER 12 • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

CHURCH HEALTH SURVEY COMING

Beginning September 10, the congregation will be asked to participate in “Growing Healthy: Vital Signs for a Vital Church,” a comprehensive survey to help us assess our opportunities and challenges as an inner-city San Antonio, Christ-centered congregation. Surveys will be distributed by email. If you do not currently receive church emails, please contact the church office at (210) 226-0215, or email us at [communications@fpcsat.org](mailto:communications@fpcsat.org) to add or update your information. Hard copies of the survey will also be available in Mauze Lobby.

SEPTEMBER 10

WOC LADIES’ NIGHT OUT

Come join us for an evening of food, wine and friends as we celebrate Ladies’ Night Out! It takes place on Thursday, October 5 at 6:00 PM, in the home of Catherine Whitsett (203 Haskin Drive). Questions? Please call Betsy Zachry 210-262-1236

OCTOBER 5

FLU SHOT CLINIC

Flu shots will be provided October 1 at 8:30 AM, thanks to HEB for providing this service to our Church family. There is no charge for flu and pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Vaccines are not provided for children less than four years of age, and children ages four through six must have a valid prescription. No sign-ups necessary.

OCTOBER 1 • GENEVA ROOM

TEAM BRICK AT NAMI WALKS

NAMIWalks-SA will be Saturday, October 7, rain or shine, at Morgan’s Wonderland. FPC will once again sponsor Team Brick, in honor of Brick Munroe. Check-in starts at 6:30 AM. The walk begins at 7:30 AM. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Registration is free at [www.namiwalks.org/sanantonio](http://www.namiwalks.org/sanantonio). The purpose is to bring about awareness of mental health and help stomp out the stigma of mental illnesses.

OCTOBER 7

WOC FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON  
“THE LEGACY OF BIBLICAL WOMEN” JAMIE GEORGE

Monday, October 23, 2017 at 11:30 AM (Doors Open at 11:00 AM) in Westminster Hall. Lunch \$20. Your Check is your reservation.

Suzanne Thomas ([suzannethomas54@gmail.com](mailto:suzannethomas54@gmail.com) / 210-846-3240 / 209 Lamont Ave., SATX 78209

Jeanne Douglas ([garydoug@sbcglobal.net](mailto:garydoug@sbcglobal.net) / 210-414-2873 3214 / Falling Brk SATX 78258)

OCTOBER 23 • WESTMINSTER HALL



# HOON/BULLOCK LECTURE WELCOMES REV. DR. JIM SINGLETON



The 2017 Hoon/Bullock Lecture will take place Saturday and Sunday, September 23-24, and will feature Rev. Dr. Jim Singleton, Jr., former associate pastor of First Pres from 1983-1988. The title of his lecture will be “How Does Yesterday (Oct. 31, 1517) Relate to the Church Today?” focusing on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will also be a “primer” for our October Wednesday evening lectures at FPC, which also focus on this monumental period in the history of Christianity.

Dr. Singleton joined Gordon-Conwell as Associate Professor of Pastoral Leadership and Evangelism in 2012, bringing with him many years of church leadership experience. He previously served on Gordon-Conwell’s faculty as adjunct professor in Presbyterian polity and history at the Hamilton campus in 1991.

The son of a Presbyterian pastor, Dr. Singleton’s call to ministry began early in his high school years and intensified in college. His particular interests lie in evangelism and the mission of the local church. He has a passion for helping equip congregations to better fulfill their global mission. Dr. Singleton served as senior pastor of churches in Texas, Washington, and most recently, First Presbyterian Church in Colorado Springs. He has taught at several seminaries around the world, including ones in Virginia, Texas, Washington, Moscow and Zambia. In addition to teaching and preaching, Dr. Singleton has participated in cross-cultural missions in places like Mongolia, Ecuador, Cuba, Mexico and India.

## SCHEDULE FOR 2017 HOON/BULLOCK LECTURE:

### Saturday, September 23

- 6:30 PM: Dinner followed by lecture

### Sunday, September 24

- 9:30 and 11:00 AM: At both traditional worship services
- 12:15 PM: Lunch followed by lecture (Westminster Hall)

### Registration:

Each meal will cost \$10 per person, pre-paid. Your check is your reservation, and must be received by the receptionist no later than September 15. Please note in the memo line of your check for Hoon/Bullock lunch or dinner.

### Childcare:

Childcare is available for all events by reservation. Call or email Sonya Wright at 210-271-2720 or [sonyaw@fpcsat.org](mailto:sonyaw@fpcsat.org) no later than September 15. Drop-ins cannot be accommodated.

## ABOUT THE HOON/BULLOCK LECTURE SERIES AT FPC:

Adele Phillips Hoon and Robert H. Bullock, Sr., for whom this lecture series is named, were two people whose lives were dedicated to Christ and to his people.

Adele P. Hoon came to San Antonio in the early 1920s. She was the widow of a Presbyterian minister and had two lit-

tle daughters. For almost 25 years she served this church as secretary, Director of Christian Education, counselor and friend to little children, as well as senior citizens. Although she officially retired in 1946, she kept busy. She knew all members of the congregation, she assisted in the office, but most important, she trained Bible teachers. For several years she taught a Bible study for a small group of young married women. In her later years she wrote Bible lessons for shut-in members of the church.

She was also a historian. In 1965 she wrote a book for the Sunday School children entitled *The Old Adobe, a story of the early history of this church*. (This book is available in the FPC Bookstore.)

A deeply dedicated person, she withstood many personal disappointments and tragedies in her life, but her love of Christ sustained her, and her faith was an inspiration to all who knew her. She died in October 1978 at the age of 95, leaving behind a rich heritage for her family, her students and her many friends.

Rev. Robert H. Bullock, Sr., a graduate of Austin College, Sherman, Texas, and Union Theological Seminary in Virginia, was ordained May 26, 1939, by Dallas Presbytery (PCUS). He served at Waddel Memorial Presbyterian Church, Rapidan, Va., Bellaire Presbyterian Church, Houston, and St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Houston. Dr. Bullock was an associate pastor at First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, from 1958–65 and served as pastor of Northwood Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, from 1966–76. He was a professor of Greek and Bible at Austin College for several years.

Dr. Bullock wrote Bible study helps for the Uniform Lesson Series for a number of years and was author of the Presbyterian adult curriculum books *Hammer on the Rock, a study of Jeremiah*, and *From Bondage to Freedom, Part 2, a study of Isaiah 2*.

In retirement, Bob Bullock taught an adult Bible class at First Presbyterian Church for a number of years before his death in June of 1993.

Funding for this series is provided by special gifts. Your contributions specifically designated “Hoon/Bullock Fund” are appreciated. Apart from your generous gifts, this series would not be possible.



# POWERFUL TOOLS FOR CAREGIVERS

## CAREGIVERS COURSE PROVIDES LEADERSHIP TRAINING



“I AM A MORE CONFIDENT CAREGIVER WITH A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF COMMUNICATION TECHNIQUES, ATTITUDES AND PROCESSES FOR GOOD CAREGIVING.”

— PARTICIPANT, FEBRUARY-MARCH 2016



**P**owerful Tools for Caregivers (PTC) is a series of classes designed to empower family caregivers of older adults, or those of any age with chronic illness, to take better care of themselves. It is the nationally-known, evidence-based educational program that emphasizes empowerment and self-care of the caregiver. PTC provides family caregivers with an array of tools to manage the emotions associated with anger, guilt, and depression, all of which are normal and expected companions of caregiving. Applying these tools enables caregivers to give the very best care they possibly can to their loved one. Caregivers learn how to survive and thrive during their caregiving.

Congregational Care Ministry is hosting a two-day Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class Leader Training at FPC on September 20-21, 2017. FPC needs additional trained Class Leaders in order to offer the free six-week Caregiver Class Series throughout the year. Applicants must pre-register, meet qualifications, be sponsored by FPC, and complete the interview process. If you are interested in becoming a Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class Leader at FPC, please contact Michele Hendrix at [tmichelehendrix@icloud.com](mailto:tmichelehendrix@icloud.com) or 832-731-6127, or Stephanie Garcia at [stephanieg@fpc.org](mailto:stephanieg@fpc.org) for the application.



Newly-trained PTC Class Leaders from Bexar AAA/ACOG, Village Incarnate Word, AGE/CaregiverU/Austin. Texas was one of the first to offer PTC Caregiver Classes in Spanish throughout the Central Texas Area.



# PRAYER MINISTRY

## SPECIAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR CANCER



First Presbyterian Church will be having a special prayer service with communion and anointing with oil on September 17 in the sanctuary at 12:15 PM. Prayers will be for all forms of healing but with a special emphasis on prayers for cancer; healing and strength for those fighting the battle with cancer, and the cure for cancer. Please begin praying for this service and those with

cancer—now. Lift your healing prayers up to the Father in the Name of Jesus.

In preparations for our prayers let us review the healing acts of Jesus during his ministry while here on earth. As you read some of the following scriptures, you might ask yourself questions like “what was the need? And how can we express faith like the woman with the issue of blood for over twelve years—or the four men who tore the roof off in order to lower the paralytic in front of Jesus?” Other questions might be “what did Jesus do; what was the evidence of the healing, and what was the reaction from the crowd?”

- Jesus heals the official’s son in John 4:46-54
- Jesus drives out an evil spirit in Mark 1:21-26 and Luke 4:31-37
- Peter’s mother-in-law in Matthew 8:14-15
- Man with leprosy in Matt. 8:1-4; Mark 1:40-45; Luke 5:12-16
- Centurion’s servant in Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7-10
- Woman with issue of blood in Matthew 9:20-22; Mark 5:24-34; Luke 8:42-48
- Two blind men in Matthew 9:27-31
- Man who was mute in Matthew 9:32-33
- The boy with epilepsy in Matthew 17:14-20; Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43
- Lazarus from death in John 11:1-46
- Demon possessed men in Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39
- Four men bring the paralytic in Matthew 9:1-8;

- Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:17-26
- Man at pool of Bethesda in John 5:1-17
- Man with withered hand in Matthew 12:9-14; Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:6-11
- Widow’s deceased son in Luke 7:11-17
- Faith of Canaanite woman in Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30
- Man possessed, blind and mute in Matthew 12:22-29; Mark 3:20-27; Luke 11:14-26
- Crippled woman in Luke 13:10-17
- Man who was deaf and mute in Mark 7:31-37
- Blind man at Bethsaida in Luke 8:22-26
- Ruler’s dead daughter in Matthew 9:18-26; Mark 5:21-34; Luke 8:40-56
- Man suffering from dropsy in Luke 14:1-6
- Ten Lepers healed in Luke 17:11-19
- Blind Bartimaeus in Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43
- Malchus’ ear in Luke 22:49-51; John 18:10

In James 5:13-16 we read, “Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup>Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup>And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup>Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”

In Isaiah 53: 4-5 we read of Jesus, “Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

# LOCAL MISSIONS

## AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

This is an opportunity to invest in something that is working and making a difference!!

Did you know that San Antonio is the seventh largest city in the U.S., however it ranks 76th in literacy and has the second-highest illiteracy rating in the state of Texas. I have learned that there are two agencies in San Antonio that are making a difference in this area, SAReads and SAYL. Due to the work of both of these organizations, reading levels in our local schools are rising. Each agency approaches the literacy issues in different ways.

SAReads provides books for teachers and students, and connects college students training in teaching with children who need to improve their reading levels. Through book drives and donated books, SAReads provides the opportunity for children to actually own books of their own. All of these factors combined work together to bring children to higher reading levels and a heightened appreciation for books and reading. FPC KEYS partners with this program on the first Tuesday of every month by sorting, cleaning, and categorizing the donated books. You can help make a difference by joining them. You don’t have to be a KEYS member to get involved. Call Jane Warren at 493-5187 for details.

SAYL, San Antonio Youth Literacy provides volunteers who become reading buddies and invest their lives into children who need to raise their reading level. A reading buddy meets weekly with a student as a mentor and tutor. SAYL has also seen increased reading abilities in the children connected with reading buddies. FPC in the past has had as many as 42 volunteers as reading buddies. This year, that number has dropped in half to 21. I have learned that SAYL needs 200 reading buddies this year to fully reach all the children who qualify for this program. SAYL provides all the resources and the training necessary for your involvement as a reading buddy.

Both of these programs have measured, documented results in raising the reading levels of children in San Antonio schools. Children are at the heart of making a difference. FPC volunteers have supported both SAReads and SAYL for a long time. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Joe Moore, Director of Older Adults and Missions, at joem@fpcsat.org.

— Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

BY PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT

I want to express special thanks to Grace Labatt, Vice President for Directory, for her tireless efforts this summer revising our Women of the Church Directory. Directories were distributed during a Coffee in August honoring the Circle Chairmen, and all circle members may pick up their directory at the first circle meeting in September. We can't thank Sarah Clower enough for so graciously helping the WOC officers with the directory and other graphic designs and publications this summer. I would also like to recognize so many women who have been working this summer to see that WOC is ready to kick off the new year well prepared. The past and present treasurers, Debra Sirakos and Sue Cunningham were diligent in preparing the 2017-2018 Budget; the Vice-President of Circles began preparing the circle meeting dates and locations to be published in First Press; June Eubank and Susan Kerr prepared the Circle Bible study materials for the Circle Moderators; Elaine Dunlap continued after Barbara Wood as Corresponding Secretary to write comforting notes to FPC members; and to the program and committee chairmen who began preparations for Fall Ladies Night Out, Fall Legacy Luncheon, Gift of Christmas, and Presbyterian Children's Home and House of Neighborly Service support opportunities.

This summer under the direction of the PCHAS Program Chairman, Marilyn Morris Etheredge, members of circles and WOC officers provided school supplies for Presbyterian Children's Home and supplies for the Annual Back to School Barbecue. So many school supplies were collected that we were also able to donate to the all church school sup-

ply drive for the House of Neighborly Service.

WOC Circles will begin meeting in September and I hope that all FPC women will consider joining a circle. There are many from which to choose, and I promise you that all circles are warm and welcoming groups who look forward to including new faces. A list of circles is included in every First Press from September to May.

Fall calendars are filling up quickly, so I would like to extend a special invitation to all women of FPC to attend WOC Ladies Night Out on October 5th at the home of Catherine Whitsett. This is a time for fellowship with women we know, and time to get to know those who will become new friends. The 4th annual Legacy Luncheon on October 23, 2017 is another event you will not want to miss. Jamie George was a member of FPC from infancy until she married Rev. Jay George, an Episcopal priest. She and Rev. Ron Scates have shared memories about her years when he was pastor to the youth groups at FPC. Jamie was our Women's Retreat leader in 2007 at T Bar M early in her women's ministry. Since that time she has held many women's retreats, led Bible study groups, mentored high school youth, and assisted her husband in planting a new church. More about this young woman's ministry in the October newsletter!

May we always use the fruit of the spirit to make Jesus visible.

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

community shine through her teachings. Her greatest earthly privileges include being wife to Jay George, an Episcopal priest, and mother to three children, Adilyn, Jacob and Emily.



## WOMEN OF THE CHURCH FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON

"THE LEGACY OF BIBLICAL WOMEN" JAMIE GEORGE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 23 • 11:30 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL

An avid student of scripture and contemplative prayer, Jamie George, has been leading women into a deeper relationship with Christ for the last 23 years.

Her passion for depth in study, prayer and intentional

# WOC CIRCLE MEETINGS

## CIRCLE 1/12 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, September 25 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Room  
Lunch (optional): \$8.00  
Chairs: Suzanne Thomas 210-820-3245/  
suzannethomas54@gmail.com  
Lynn Thompson 210-824-2815/lynn@thompsondata.com  
Moderator: Grace Labatt  
Study: Women of the Bible

## CIRCLE 2/4 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, September 18 • 1:30 PM • FPC Room 226  
Chair: Char-An Witten 210-341-1856  
Moderator: Members of Circle 2/4  
Study: Women of the Bible

## CIRCLE 5 – SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, September 15 • 11:30 AM • FPC Room 228  
Chairs: Jane Ann Temple 210-828-7542/jatemple@att.net  
Kay Weber 210-288-5290/kayweber276@gmail.com

## CIRCLE 6 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 19 • 12:00 PM • FPC Geneva Room  
Chair: Mimi Hart, 210-822-0809, mimihart@me.com  
Moderators: Jane Bucek, Kay Case, June Eubank,  
Barbara Winship  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, Ch. 3 "Road Trip"

## CIRCLE 7 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 19 • 11:30 AM  
Hostess: Linda Delano (26 Inwood Bluff 78248)  
Bring Sack Lunch  
Chair: Caren Redkey 210-531-6366/clredkey@gmail.com  
Moderators: Members of Circle 7  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, Ch. 3 "Road Trip"

## CIRCLE 8 – MOMS' GROUP

No Daytime Meetings  
Thursday, September 21 • 7:30 PM •  
Dough Pizzeria (6989 Blanco Rd)  
Chairs: Sara Parish 210-394-0865/sara23sc@hotmail.com  
Lilly Gretzinger 210-601-0575/lilly@bunnngroup.com  
Meg Walker 210-601-7745/meg@aladdinleans.com

## CIRCLE 9 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 19 • 10:00 AM • FPC Geneva Room  
Chairs: Jan Magnus 210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com

Frances Warrick 210-408-1775/fwarrick@sbcglobal.net  
Moderators: Members of Circle 9  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, Ch. 3 "Road Trip"

## CIRCLE 11 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, September 25 • 6:30 PM  
Hostess: Linda Ruhmann (127 W. Elmview Place 78209)  
Chair: Karin Gabrielson 210-843-2475/  
karin\_gabrielson@hotmail.com  
Moderators: Members of Circle 11  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, Ch. 3 "Road Trip"

## CIRCLE 13 – CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, September 12 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room  
Chair: Jan Magnus 210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com  
Book: *A Dog's Journey* by W. Bruce Cameron  
Reviewer: Rev. Scott Simpson

## CIRCLE 14 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, September 18 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew's Room  
Chair: Marilyn Morris-Etheredge 210-862-4314/  
mmorris.etheredge@yahoo.com

## CIRCLE 16 – MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, September 20 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228  
Chair: Lee Pressley 210-735-0978

## CIRCLE 17 – EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, September 13 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309  
Chair: Jeanne Baker 210-494-0972/rbaker127@sbcglobal.net  
Gigi Duke 210-695-4363

## CIRCLE 18 – CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE

No meetings  
Chairs: Char-An Witten 210-341-1856  
Georgia Heath 210-695-9511/gkhymheath@earthlink.net

## CIRCLE 19 – WHITE CROSS CIRCLE

Wednesday, September 6 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309  
Chair: Janet Beauch 210-673-3251/tabeauch@flash.net

## CIRCLE 20 – CIRCLE OF SERVICE

No meetings  
Chair: Bunkie Shed 210-445-0724/bshed@grandecom.net



# KEYS OLDER ADULTS

BY JOE MOORE, DIRECTOR

As always, September begins a new cycle of activities and events. This summer we enjoyed the Witte Whale Exhibit, we were introduced to two new Birthday Lunch locations, we were inspired by the story of Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenburger, and we got a firsthand look and taste of Italian cuisine at the Central Market Cooking School. Thanks to Linda Osborne some of us actually worked at staying healthy as well.



**KEYS KICK-OFF EVENT SEPTEMBER 8**  
KEYS Kick-off event will feature San Antonio Native and American Idol Participant Haley Scarnato. We are privileged to get this up close and personal time with her. Haley will be singing some songs that reflect her journey from American Idol, to Las Vegas, and to the worldwide stage. There will be time for questions and answers and she will be joining us for lunch.

**SEPTEMBER 15**  
Join us for our Birthday Lunch at Paloma Blanca on Broadway at 11:30 AM. Menu Choices will be Enchiladas Verdes, Ensalada Esmeralda, or Fajitas de Pollo. Cost is \$13p/p except for September Birthday celebrants—lunch is on us!

**SEPTEMBER 22**  
Dr. Jeffery Addicott from the faculty of St. Mary’s University School of Law will be with us. Dr. Addicott is a retired U.S. Army Lt. Colonel and the Director of the Center for Terrorism Law. He will be sharing insights from his new book entitled: *Radical Islam, Why?*

**SEPTEMBER 29**  
Due to ECO Presbytery Meetings we will be hosted at the San Antonio Food bank by Kristin Cuellar whose topic will be “Aging Gracefully, Eating a Rainbow of Health.” The presentation includes a cooking demonstration. We will purchase a box lunch(cost to be determined) and eat together at the Food Bank. Van shuttles will be available from FPC.



**GRANDPARENTS’ DAY**  
**SEPTEMBER 17**  
In recognition of Grandparents’ Day, on September 17, KEYS will be presenting a special treat to all Grandparents or to Grandchildren to deliver to their Grandparents in honor of the special role that they play in our lives.

**FLU SHOT CLINIC**  
**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1 • 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM • GENEVA RM**  
Thanks to HEB for providing this service to our Church family. There is no charge for flu and pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Vaccines are not provided for children less than four years of age, and children ages four through six must have a valid prescription. This is a drop in clinic no sign-ups necessary.



SEPTEMBER EVENTS:			OCTOBER EVENTS:		
September 1	10:30 AM	KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting	October 1	8:30 AM	Flu Shot Clinic
September 8	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Keep Moving Fitness Kick-Off with Haley Scarnato Bridge / Mah Jongg	October 6	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Keep Moving Fitness Joe Moore sharing his Alaska Mission Trip KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting
September 15	11:30 AM	Birthday Luncheon at Paloma Blanca	October 13	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Keep Moving Fitness Clarence Thompson and The Buffalo Soldiers Bridge / Mah Jongg
September 17		Grandparents’ Day	October 20	9:30 AM	Keep Moving Fitness No KEYS Program
September 22	9:30 AM 11:00 AM 1:00 PM	Keep Moving Fitness Dr. Jeffery Addicott Bridge / Mah Jongg	October 21		KEYS Picnic at the Mcneel’s
September 29	11:00 AM	Kristin Cuellar (Meeting at the Food Bank)	October 27	9:30AM 11:00 AM	Keep Moving Fitness Lisa Senteno from TX Department of Family and Public Safety



## BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS

BY REV. A. MITCHELL MOORE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUNG ADULTS



Years ago a man I will call Julian (because that is his name) helped me see hidden biases and discrimination in my heart. Julian is from Barcelona, Spain, and we shared several significant conversations about the gospel. Julian decided to write me a note to

both thank me for our relationship and help me see a major blind spot. Pointedly, he closed the note by writing, “El Dios se habla Espanol tambien” (“God speaks Spanish, too”). Julian’s closing comment has stayed with me for years as his words landed their intended effect: I made God in my own image (white, middle class, and English speaking) and did not know fully the God whose love I was seeking to share.

There is an important dialog happening “beyond the stained glass” of our church, a conversation close to the heart of young adults about the issue of racism. Recent events have caused a needed national dialog about racism and intolerance, and the church must contribute to the conversation.

Racism is an ancient issue as humans have always sought to elevate their own status at the expense of others. A poverty of significance and security combined with a richness of fear and unfamiliarity leads to the temptation to dehumanize people who are different culturally, racially, economically, or physically. The gospel helps us see there is no place for racism or intolerance among believers because of our status in Christ, our security in Christ, and the significance we have through Christ. Jesus exemplified a life of breaking down racist barriers (read John 4 and note the Divine necessity of verse 4 as an amplifier for the entire chapter) and passages like Galatians 2 provide imperatives for Christians who find their status, significance, and security in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

In Galatians 2:11-21 Paul challenges Peter to bring his life “more in step with the gospel.” Peter had changed his behavior around certain people, treating Gentiles differently around “the circumcision party.” Paul calls Peter’s bigoted behavior “hypocritical” and notes the

negative influence his decision has on others, even Barnabas.

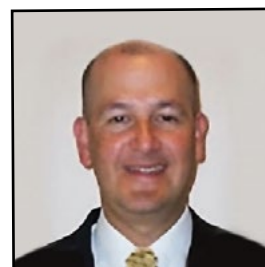
How does Paul speak gospel truth to Peter and other Christians tempted to live racially divided lives? In verses 15-21 Paul emphasizes the status, security, and significance we have in Christ. Paul declares our status is “justified!” not by our own works but by the work of Christ. This means we are secure children of God (see verse 20, something developed more fully in chapter 4) as we have significance of being the object of God’s love (2:20). In Christ all barriers are broken down (Galatians 3:28 and Colossians 3:11).

Because Christians find our security, status, and significance in the person and work of Christ, we must contribute to the national dialog about racism, remembering God accepts and loves all peoples through Christ—He even speaks their language. Through the work of Christ we are able to know God fully, and more fully show the love of God to all people.

I begin my contribution to the conversation with confession—I grew up more of a racist than I want to admit, going far beyond my example above. And I did not realize my bigoted biases until I embraced people who were different from me physically, racially, culturally, and economically. But I won’t stop with confession. In Christ there is real hope because there is real love based on His work and not our own. May all of our lives fall in step with all the gospel. More mercy.

## MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE REMOVE BEFORE FLIGHT

BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



My father worked as a NASA engineer in Mission Control for 32 years. In an act to honor his career, my mother has constructed a commemorative flight jacket bearing the

mission patches of the space flights he contributed towards. Flight missions during his tenure span from Gemini through Apollo and culminating with the space shuttle.

Amongst the patches adorning the jacket is a red keychain attached to the zipper with the words “Remove before flight.” It is a replica safety warning used on removable spacecraft components to indicate that a device is in place to prevent movement of mechanical parts while the craft is stationary.

Can you imagine, all the designs, man hours, planning, billions of dollars, and never getting off the ground due to a small pin not being removed? What a tragedy that would be. Unfortunately, quite often we too are ready to launch yet we forget to remove the pin that keeps us grounded.

I encourage you to seek out the red flags that may surround you preventing you from launching into a spiritual fellowship with your Heavenly Father and simply remove the pins of transgressions, so that you too can exclaim all systems go.

## THE REST OF THE STORY ABOUT YOUR OFFICERS

Newly elected FPC Elders and Deacons complete training before being ordained and installed for service as officers of the church. As you might expect, that training covers the roles and responsibilities of elders and deacons in the life of the church—everything from participation in worship to staffing the various committees of the church to hospital visitation and everything in between. This is the type of training you might expect in any similar leadership position. But the officer training also includes something you might not normally expect: a personal faith statement. You may not be aware that each new and returning officer completes a personal faith statement as part of the new officer training. That personal faith statement is a written response to a series of questions regarding the prescribed ordination vows for elders and deacons as well as a response to the following prompt: “Where I am in my Christian life, and the milestones along the way (persons, places, events that had a shaping effect).” Each faith statement is also reviewed by one of the pastors of the church.

But personal faith statements are not limited to church officers. We are all called to answer Jesus’ question in Matthew 16:13-16: “When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, ‘Who do people say the Son of Man is?’ They replied, ‘Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’ ‘But what about you?’ he asked. ‘Who do you say I am?’ Simon Peter answered, ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’”

Jesus asks each of us: “Who do you say I am?”

If it has been a while since you have taken the time to consider your faith, I would encourage you to do so now. Think about where you are in your Christian life and the “milestones along the way.” Think about who God is placing in your path so that He can have a “shaping effect” on them through you.

As you are considering your faith, you might find one or more of these resources helpful: Mere Christianity (C. S. Lewis), The Reason for God (Timothy Keller), The Case for Christ (Lee Strobel).

Church officers write a personal faith statement, and so can you! Writing down what you believe and why you believe can help prepare you to share the gospel with others. As Peter writes in his first epistle: “Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.” (1 Peter 3:15).









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