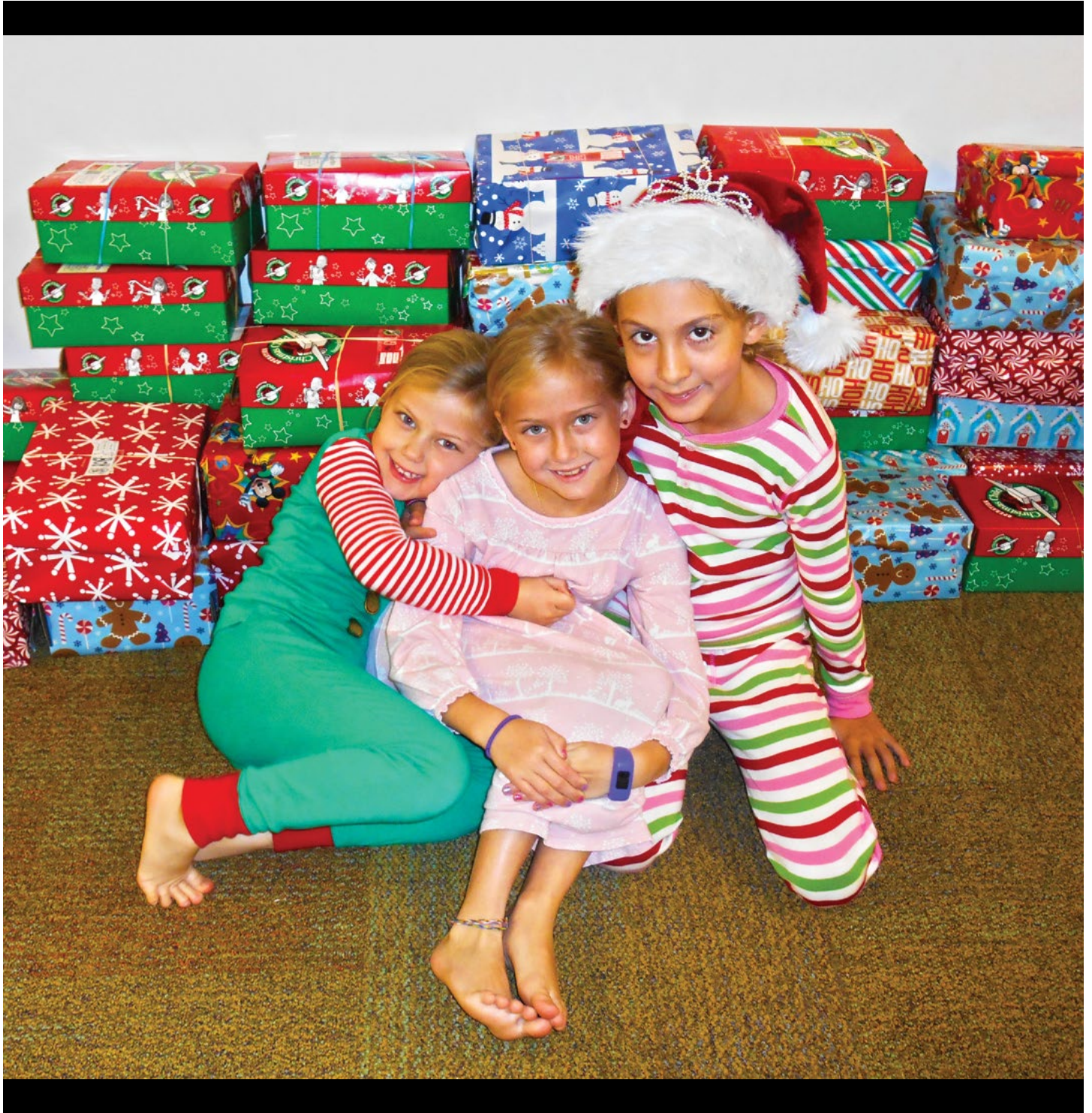




FIRST PRESS

DECEMBER 2017



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



PERSONAL FAITH AND PERSONAL MINISTRY

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

The Gospel of John announced the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ saying that “the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.” The theological term for the “word becoming flesh” is the word incarnation.

There is an old story about a little boy who was terrified during a thunderstorm, so he jumped out of bed and ran into his mother’s and father’s room. His father said “son, don’t be afraid, God will take care of you.” The little boy said, “I know, but I need someone with some skin on.”

After generations of law, prophecy and miracles, God determined that he needed to “put some skin on.” With the birth of Christ, God got involved in our lives directly, in a way we can understand. As Christians, we are at our best when we remember that our faith is a “people faith.” It is grounded in the person of Jesus Christ and experienced in relationship with other people. Faith is personal, and ministry is personal.

Over the last three years, God has blessed FPC with the personal ministry of Dr. Ron Scates. Ron has been your minister for the last three years, and my mentor for the last 18 months.

I did not know Ron before I came to San Antonio. We shared mutual friends but had never met face-to-face. Although I was unknown to him, he was definitely known to me. From a distance, I respected and admired Ron as an insightful theologian and a courageous churchman. From my friends, I also learned that he was also an excellent pastor.

Mentors are people that God puts in our lives to put “flesh and bones, heart and voice” on concepts that we must learn. We can read books we can take classes, but there’s nothing like learning your craft from a strong personal mentor.

Ron has been exceptionally generous with his time. Throughout this year he has not only kept his door open to me, he has been proactive in making sure that he and I were closely connected. He is a great encourager. I appreciate the fact that Ron and I shared a similar background in theological training. As graduates of the same seminary, we shared a common language. He is a role model for pastors when it comes to study and theological discipline. He is a true intellectual, a gentleman and a scholar.

People often assume that the job of a senior mentor is to moderate and refine the passions of his junior charge. While Ron has faithfully fulfilled that expectation, he has also stoked my enthusiasm. Ron is an “idea machine.” He is a pastor with vision and energy. He is an inspiration to me and I would love to have half of the creativity he enjoys day to day.

Although Ron has spent most of his career as a Senior Pastor, he never lost the energy and the sensitivities that he honed as a youth pastor here at FPC. He also has the toughness of a catcher. That toughness prepared him to lead central Presbyterian Church of Baltimore, Highland Park Presbyterian Church of Dallas and FPC through some difficult times. As a catcher for Trinity University, he learned the importance of staying in your position, enduring discomfort and springing into action at the right moment.

Ron’s boundless energy is well-matched with Anne’s kindness and grace. Together, they are a model of partnership, and their authentic love for one another is a great demonstration of a healthy marriage.

We know that the Lord has exciting things planned for Ron in Indonesia. Nevertheless, we look forward to his return and his continued fellowship with FPC in the years to come.

At Christmas, we declare that when the world needed God most, He sent his son, born of woman born under the law. From the beginning, God has used his servants to carry His word and lead His people.

Please join us on Sunday, December 31, as we thank God and celebrate the leadership and personal ministry of Dr. Ron Scates.

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SAVE THE DATE



GIFT OF CHRISTMAS SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 3

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

We encourage WOC Circles, Sunday School classes, small groups, House of Prayer groups, various church organizations, families, and individuals to share in this effort to include these HNS families in your Christmas giving. Gift of Christmas Family Request Forms are available in the Mauze Lobby through December 3.

Read more about this wonderful opportunity at www.fpcsanantonio.org/gift-of-christmas.

CONSTRUCTION MISSION TRIP PARTICIPATION COST DUE DECEMBER 3

First Presbyterian Church is excited to share an opportunity to make Jesus Visible in Quintana Roo, Mexico from February 14-20, 2018. FPC, in conjunction with other Texas ECO churches, will be sending construction volunteers to assist our long-term mission partner Yucatan Peninsula Ministries as they continue to expand their facilities. No construction experience is necessary, but you need to be able to support construction activities including lifting and other physical labor in a tropical environment. You do not have to be fluent in Spanish. The cost is \$500 per participant and is due by December 3. Please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org) with questions.

ADVENT FESTIVAL SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 3

Bring a friend and join us for the Annual Advent Festival at FPC. All are invited to celebrate the season of Advent by making an Advent Wreath as a family, taking photos at the manger, decorating delicious cookies, making fun Christmas crafts, supporting a local mission, and much more! We hope to see you there at this free event. For more information, contact Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org.

MIDDAY NOELS CONCERT SERIES DECEMBER 7, 14, AND 21

Once again, FPC offers its holiday “gift to the city” through a variety of creative musical offerings. Each of these 30-40 minute concerts (beginning at 12:10 PM) is followed by your choice of either a “Grab and Go” lunch (\$3) or a full hot lunch served in Westminster Hall (\$9).

A RINGING DUO RETURNS DECEMBER 7 • FPC SANCTUARY

Our highly skilled organist, Dr. Jae Ha, is again joined by St. Luke’s Episcopal Church organist, Russell Jackson, to offer music composed for two pianos. Returning by popular demand from their first performance in 2015, these two gifted musicians will perform pieces that will dazzle and inspire all in attendance. Jae’s musical offerings for Christmas are always a highlight of our series and not to be missed!

SHIMMERING SOUNDS AND SPARKLING SONGS DECEMBER 14 • FPC SANCTUARY

Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, is joined by four other skilled singers and accompanist, Dr. Jae Ha, to form a “Christmas Vocal Quintet” for singing ensemble and solo pieces to celebrate Christmas. Surveying a broad range of musical styles, this performance will both inspire and entertain!

JAZZ JINGLES WITH SOUTH TEXAS JAZZ QUARTET DECEMBER 21 • FPC SANCTUARY

In their first appearance in our Midday Noel series, we welcome Pierre Poree, saxophonist, and the South Texas Jazz Quartet as they perform foot-tapping renditions of Christmas favorites. Don’t miss this final performance of the series!

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

December 9: Rehearsal
(9:00-11:00 AM in Sanctuary)
December 10: Pageant
(11:00 AM Traditional Service)

Kids ages 4th-5th grades are invited to participate in the pageant as we tell the story of Christmas. The 5th graders will be featured, as well as the 8th grade confirmation students who will have the opportunity to read scripture. For more information, contact Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org.

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24

3:00 PM: Communion Service
5:00 PM: Family Service
7:00/9:00 PM: Candlelight Services with Brass and Choir
11:00 PM: Lessons and Carols Candlelight Service
Celebrate the birth of our Savior with family and friends at our five afternoon and evening services on Christmas Eve.

Note: There will only be one combined 11:00 AM service that Sunday morning in the Sanctuary.

HOSTING OPPORTUNITY

On Sunday, January 7, 2018, FPC will be hosting the Women’s Chorus from Cornell University in a concert performance here at the church. After the 7:00 PM concert concludes, we need approximately 20 host homes to lodge these ladies for one night. They will have dinner here at the church prior to the performance, so all you need to do is provide them a place to stay and breakfast on Monday morning prior to bringing them back to the church by 8:30 AM. If you would be willing to host, please contact either Tom Dooling (tomd@fpcsat.org) or Katie Shaw-Meadow (katiesm@fpcsat.org) so we can add you to our hosting list.

SUNDAY GREETERS NEEDED

Whether you come in to worship or just to rest, when you enter First Pres may you be blessed! That is my heartfelt desire for every person who walks in our doors! Each Sunday that is the job of greeters, stationed at our entrances, which include members of all ages. Please consider committing once a month in this way. Clayton and I enjoy serving in this capacity and think you will as well. If you are interested, contact Rev. Mitchell Moore at MitchellM@fpcsat.org, or David Youngquist at david@davidyoungquist.com.
— ROBIN HUDNALL

ALTERNATIVE GIFT MARKET DECEMBER 3, 10, 17 • 9:00 AM–12:30 PM

Shop for unique, fair-trade gifts that are sure to delight everyone on your Christmas list, while supporting missions and causes.

SHOEBOXES SPREAD JOY

THROUGH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Sunday, November 12, was a fun-filled day in FPC Children's Ministry. We wore our PJ's to church and ate delicious pancakes and bacon! But even better than that, we wrapped shoe boxes filled with toys, school supplies, hygiene products, socks and other useful items for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse.

We wrapped over 90 shoeboxes, prayed over them and then took them up to Westminster Hall where they were prayed over in the Contemporary Worship Service. The shoe boxes were then taken to a drop off location where they will be shipped to children around the world. This was a wonderful opportunity to make Jesus visible not only for our FPC children but also to those children who will receive a wrapped shoe box.



LOCAL MISSIONS

THE PORCH

November was a “Month of Gratitude” at The Porch Campus Ministry, St. Philip’s College. Because of the inspiration and financial support from First Presbyterian Church members, the students, faculty and staff at St. Philip’s learned valuable means of expressing gratitude.

THE FIRST DAY OF NOVEMBER

Each person was given a Gratitude Journal and asked to begin each day, from November 1 until Thanksgiving, journaling expressions of gratitude. Positive discussions occurred around the lunch table as people shared various journal entries.

MONDAYS:

We watched the four week Veggie Tales Thankfulness series:

WEEK 1: “I’m So Blue” showed how a person’s outlook can either be “blue” and pessimistic, or positive and driven by gratitude and the desire to be God’s servant.

WEEK 2: “I Want, I Want” looked at how the uncontrollable desire to always have more can cause a person to have an ungrateful heart and hinder a thankful spirit. Madame Blueberry cautioned “Most of us have more than we need, yet still tend to focus on what we lack.”

WEEK 3: “Getting Lots of Stuff Doesn’t Satisfy” examined why having an abundance of material things doesn’t fill the hole in a person’s soul.

WEEK 4: “A Happy Heart” reinforced one of the greatest benefits of being a person of gratitude. In this Monday session, Madame Blueberry used 1 Corinthians 10:13 (No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.) Dialogue around the lunch table centered on what we can do to remain happy and be thankful for what God has provided. We dialogued on how to overcome the temptation to continuously want more and more.

TUESDAYS:

The Alpha series continued. Sessions for November were “How Can I Resist Evil?”, “Why and How Should I Tell Others?” and “What about the Church?”

WEDNESDAYS:

“Give-Thanks Days” involved handwritten gratitude cards.

EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS TO SPECIAL PEOPLE:

Cards and stamps were provided for Thanksgiving cards which were mailed as expressions of love and gratitude. We were amazed to find some of the students had never addressed an envelope because text or emails were the only means of “written” communication used. A student sent a gratitude card to her brother in Afghanistan; another student sent a gratitude card to the recent widow of a man who mentored him during his travels.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS OF APPRECIATION TO AIRMEN BASIC TRAINEES, JOINT BASE SAN ANTONIO - LACKLAND:

Following guidelines provided by the USAF, each day we hand-wrote notes in Christmas cards to men and women in Basic Training at Lackland. This reminded us to be thankful that we’re able to be home for the holidays.

THURSDAYS: Mass was held on Thursdays, followed by a Tamale or Taco lunch and time of sharing. On Thursday, November 16, a special Gratitude Worship and Feast was held. Students, faculty and staff provided live music, while we feasted on turkey and dressing—donated by Bill Miller’s—and pies—donated by Luby’s. We served around 250 and provided the kind of worship experience to foster reflections on the true meaning of the holiday season.

To end our “Month of Gratitude,” we had a Missions speaker. Our goal was to work with various churches and organizations to have students, faculty and staff go on at least 20 mission trips to:

1. be used as God’s servants and
2. grow each individual’s faith and, in turn, the faith of others on the St. Philip’s College campus.

At The Porch Campus Ministry, we are grateful for you! —Carolyn James, Executive Director

The Porch CMHE is a 501©3 charitable organization. For information about contributions to The Porch Campus Ministry contact Alex Solorio or Betty Stephens. Gifts to The Porch CMHE are deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Make your checks payable to The Porch CMHE.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

MISSION INDIA UPDATE



We hope you were one of the many who filled the Geneva Room to experience the virtual reality demonstration on November 5th. A participant who had been to India shared that “it was just like being there except for the smells.”

Mission India is one of FPC’s Global Missions partners. They are approaching 40 years of ministry and we celebrate what God has done through them over these years.

In 2017, 28,829 prayer groups have formed, resulting in 2,817,525 new disciples of Jesus who are part of 10,736 worshipping groups that have been plant-

ed. CEO Todd VanEk says, “We love celebrating these transformed lives with you, both in the measured details and the stories that bring the numbers to life. As much as we love to measure data, we have to trust that Jesus’ influence will one day be so great that it becomes immeasurable.”

Pray for the transformed lives, because when adults and children receive Jesus as their Savior in India, over 60% of Christians experience direct persecution.

Pray for the continuing ministry of Mission India and the many who are waiting eagerly to become a part of the programs that they offer.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT

Many of you have requested DVDs of our Fall Legacy Luncheon Keynote speaker, Jamie George. Her message was inspiring and humorous! You may request a DVD by completing a request card located by the receptionist desk. They are \$4 each and will be mailed to you.

On November 1 the WOC “Invisible Angels” provided a delicious luncheon for the FPC staff. Tomato Basil Soup, Chili, Baked Potato Bar, various salads, breads, and desserts were offered. Our sincere thanks go to Maggie Burnett, Pat Johnson, Judy Kruger, Bunkie Shed and many other women who provided the food and decorated the St. Andrew’s Room with a fall theme. This was truly a festive appreciation lunch.

We will begin our advent season with the Advent Festival on Sunday, December 3 from 3:00-5:00 PM in Westminster Hall. Food is generously being provided by members of Circle 20, Circle of Service, chaired by Bunkie Shed, and other WOC members are assisting with the Christmas craft sessions. This is an event for all ages so come enjoy the fun.

The Morningside Manor Christmas Party will be held on Thursday, December 7 and the Chandler Home Party on December 14, both at 3:00 PM. Please join WOC members as we provide cookies and a Christmas Wreath ornament created by the “Mom’s Group” of Circle 8. Residents will also be treated with holiday music from the Friday Singers and the children of the FPC Childrens’ Center. The children will also give each resident a handmade Christmas card and a huge

smile. Many thanks to Janet Wernli, chairman of the Morningside Manor party and Janice Wilson, chairman of the Chandler Home Party for making all of the arrangements for these parties, and to Rev. Scott Simpson for reading the Christmas story at these events.

The Christmas Families Ministry chaired by Diane Carssow and Nancy Puckett have been working with the House of Neighborly Service since October, assisting members of FPC in adopting a family for the “Gift of Christmas” project. Individuals, groups and families are signing up to provide Christmas gifts and food for families in difficult circumstances. What a great way to make Jesus visible to others during this advent season!

WOC will host the Christmas Eve Reception honoring our pastors, choir, and staff. For many years Karin Gabrielson has chaired this committee of dedicated women that help her host this event with delicious refreshments provided by members of many of the WOC Circles. We all want to show our appreciation and a big “Thank You” to those who provide a beautiful and meaningful Christmas Eve for us all to enjoy! If you would like to help with this event, please contact Karin at karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com.

May the peace of Christ be with you and your family this Christmas season. Merry Christmas!

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



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CIRCLE MEETINGS

CIRCLE 1/12 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, December 18 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Lunch (optional): \$8.00
Chair: Suzanne Thomas (210-820-3245/
suzannethomas54@gmail.com)
Moderator: Grace Labatt
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and
Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 2/4 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, December 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* by Ann Spangler and
Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY
Friday, December 15 • 12:00 PM • 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, December 19 • 11:30 AM •
Hostess: Joan Stratton (41 Bristol Green 78209)
Chair: Mimi Hart (210-822-0809/mimihart@me.com)
Moderators: Jane Buchek, Kay Case, June Eubank,
Barbara Winship
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,
The Centrality of Christ, Ch 15 – Charing Cross,
Ch 20 – The Wise Guys

CIRCLE 7 BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, December 19 • 11:30 AM •
Hostess: Mary Ellen Mauze (203 Primrose 78209)
Bring Sack Lunch
Chair: Caren Redkey (210-531-6366/clredkey@gmail.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 7
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,
The Centrality of Christ, Ch 15 – Charing Cross,
Ch 20 – The Wise Guys

CIRCLE 8 MOMS’ GROUP
No Daytime Meetings
Contact Circle Chairs for Moms’ Night Out Information
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, December 19 • 10:00 AM
Hostess: Margaret Gragg (4 Inwood Ridge 78248)

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,
The Centrality of Christ, Ch 15 – Charing Cross,
Ch 20 – The Wise Guys

CIRCLE 11 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, December 18 • 6:30 PM
Hostess: Pat Brodeen (2307 Oak Trace Street 78232)
Chair: Karin Gabrielson (210-843-2475/
karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 11
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,
The Centrality of Christ, Ch 15 – Charing Cross,
Ch 20 – The Wise Guys

CIRCLE 13 CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE
Tuesday, December 12 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)
Book: *Circling the Sun* by Paula McLain
Reviewer: Jane Hansen

CIRCLE 14 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, December 18 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew’s Room
Chair: Marilyn Etheredge (210-862-4314/
mmorris.etheredge@yahoo.com)
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and
Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE
No meetings
Chair: Lee Pressley (210-735-0978)

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE
No meetings
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
No meetings
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

JOE MOORE, OLDER ADULTS DIRECTOR



You might say that December is everyone’s favorite month. Who doesn’t get excited with the celebration of Advent and the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ? It is also a month of reflection of a year gone and a New Year being ushered in. Thank you to everyone who made this Year a successful and Fun year for KEYS—especially our Kitchen Staff and our Household Staff, who work hard for us each week. On behalf of everyone at KEYS, “Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!”

DECEMBER EVENTS:

DECEMBER 1:
10:30 AM: Join us for light snacks and fellowship
11:00 AM KEYS Christmas Party in Westminster Hall with a program from the Friday Singers! Come join the celebration of Christmas and enjoy the fun! Bring your wrapped Gifts for our Christmas Family!!

DECEMBER 7:
12:10 PM: Join us for Midday Noels with lunch following the performance (\$9).
1:30 PM: Gift wrapping is a KEYS tradition to help the Elf Louise Christmas project. We’ll gather at 1:30 PM in the Mauze Lobby and ride in vans to the wrapping location. Sign up to participate. If you want to drive yourself, see Joe Moore for directions.

DECEMBER 8:
4:30 PM: Van service from FPC leaving
5:30 PM: Dinner at Casa Rio and Christmas Lights River Tour! We have reserved the Veranda Room that overlooks the river walk for dinner at 5:30 PM and our river boat Christmas Lights tour begins at 7:00 PM. The Cost is \$26.50 for dinner and the boat. (Dinner only is \$18.50; boat only is \$8).

LOOKING AHEAD:
JANUARY 6:
Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival Trip
This celebration of the holiday in music, drama and dance has been presented by the First Christian Church as a gift to the Corpus Christi community for many years. Presented at Queen’s College, Oxford since 1340, the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival is perhaps the oldest continuing festival of the Christmas season. The only admission requested is canned food for their Food Bank. Travel to Corpus Christi aboard Regent Coach arriving in time for lunch at the Glass Pavilion in the Omni Hotel. We’ll attend the 3:00 PM performance of the Festival. Then, after a coffee stop at Starbuck’s (not included) we’ll make our way back up I-37 and home. A great way to celebrate Epiphany. Cost is \$76.00 and includes transportation on charter Regent Coach, lunch at the Glass Pavilion in the Omni Hotel, driver tip and guides (Susan and Henry Holloway). Departing at 11:00 AM. Returning at approximately 7:30 PM

FEBRUARY 2:
Rick Cavender will be with us again!



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS

ALEX SOLORIO, DIRECTOR OF UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES



Wow. We have come to the last month of the year! Where did 2017 go?! What’s funny is that there are some that will look back at 2017 and rejoice, others cannot wait for 2018 to come sooner. Whichever way you feel, we know that time is inevitably moving forward. As we look back at this year there were definitely highs, LIKE MY ASTROS WINNING THE WORLD SERIES!!!! In the same way there have been many lows, and while we continue to press on, these events continue to leave an impression on our hearts and lives.

As we approach this Advent Season, I think it is highly important that we remember that this is the season we celebrate the birth of our Savior! As we look to scripture we are reminded that God has been on mission from the very beginning, he was on mission in sending his Son, and now as we live in this period of post-resurrection, we wait with eager expectation for his return. As we look at our lives, we must continue to look past the stained glass of our church and continue to be on the greatest commission given. Scripture reads, “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,

baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age” (Matt. 28:19-20).

I speak of this often, but so long as there is breath in your lungs and you are a part of a church body, your work is not done! Scripture says the harvest is plenty but the workers are few. I encourage you—First Presbyterian Church—that the best is yet to come! Let us gather together to be the light we know we can be! Let us enter into this New Year with a Godly boldness that has a sense of urgency! Our Savior changed the world when he first appeared to live the life we could not live, died the death we deserved to die, and he is coming back! Let our hands be at work, our legs moving forward on mission and our hearts willing to serve!

Never forget, Jesus won it all at the cross. Let us be instruments of mercy and grace to all we encounter to share this hope!

Grace and Peace,
Alex Solorio, Director of University Ministries

USE THIS FORM TO ORDER YOUR CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA

Order your
POINSETTIA'S
for Christmas

Each year during the Advent season the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel by the Sanctuary Flower Committee. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 per poinsettia, the revenues of which have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make many special gifts to beautify the church over the years. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Mail to First Presbyterian Church, c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, 78205-1918, or placed in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox in the workshop.

Requests received later than Sunday, December 10, 2017 will miss the insert printing deadline

PLEASE RESERVE ONE PLANT


In honor of _____
OR
In memory of _____
Given by _____
Address _____
Email _____
Phone _____

FIRST CUP READINGS DECEMBER, 2017

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in our libraries. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch and Claire Averyt



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Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch and Claire Averyt

Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.— Psalm 143:8

- 1 1 Thessalonians 4; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58
2 1 Thessalonians 5; Ephesians 6:10-20; 1 Corinthians 1:8

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." When the shadows come and darkness falls, He giveth inward peace. Oh He is the only perfect Resting Place, He giveth perfect peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee." 'Tis the promise of the Holy One, "My peace I give to thee." Tho' the storms of life in fury rage, thy Refuge sure is He. Oh, He is the only perfect Resting Place! He giveth perfect peace. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee. (Worship in Song, No. 418)

- 3 Isaiah 5:18-19; 2 Peter 3; Ezekiel 12:21-28;
Isaiah 14:24; 45:18-25
- 4 2 Thessalonians 1-2
- 5 Isaiah 9:6; 11; Micah 5:2-5; Romans 15:1-13
- 6 Psalm 62; 4
- 7 Luke 12:13-34; Philippians 4:6-7
- 8 Psalm 46; 9:7-10; 100:3; 4:8; John 14:26-27
- 9 Psalm 143; 27:11; John 14:23-27; Romans 5:1-5; 8:6;
12:17-21; 14:19

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth
come down! Fix in us Thy humble dwelling; all Thy faith-
ful mercies crown. Jesus, Thou art all compassion; pure,
unbounded love Thou art. Visit us with Thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart. Come, Almighty, to Deliver;
let us all Thy life receive. Suddenly return, and never,
never-more Thy temples leave. Thee we would be al-
ways blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above, Pray, and
praise Thee without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.
(Worship in Song, No. 16)*

- 10 Proverbs 29:17; Hebrews 12:1-14; James 3:17-18;
Ephesians 4:3; 6:14-15
- 11 Matthew 10; Ephesians 2:14-22; Romans 5:1-11
- 12 Psalm 25; Jeremiah 3:25; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 32
- 13 Psalm 86; Exodus 34:6; Joel 2:13; John 15:8-17
- 14 John 13:1-17; 1 John 1; 2
- 15 1 John 3; John 13:34-35
- 16 John 3:16-18; Romans 5:8; 1 John 4; 2:3-4, 9-11

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His
heav'n. No ear may hear His coming; but in this world
of sin, Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear
Christ enters in. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend on
us, we pray. Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in
us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad
tidings tell. Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Em-
manuel. (Worship in Song, No. 174)*


- 17 1 John 5; Psalm 36; 106:1
18 1 Corinthians 13; Psalm 118:1; 1 Corinthians 10:24;
Romans 15:1-2
19 Psalm 96; Hebrews 1:1-12
20 Isaiah 52; Psalm 98; Psalm 126
21 Psalm 2; 24; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Psalm 89:35-36
22 Isaiah 7:14; 8:5-10; 9:2-6; 11:1-5; 53
23 Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-56; Genesis 17:19;
Psalm 132:11-18; Galatians 3:16

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, Leading onward, beam-
ing bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be
led to thee. As with joyous steps they sped to that lowly
manger bed, There to bend the knee before Him whom
heaven and earth adore, so may we with willing feet ever
seek Thy mercy seat. As they offered gifts most rare at
that manger rude and bare, So may we with holy joy,
Pure, and free from sin's alloy, all our costliest treasures
bring, Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King. (Worship in
Song, No. 173)*

- 24 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23; Isaiah 43:1-3;
45:22
- 25 John 1:1-34; 3:14-21, 36; 6:35-51; 12:44-45
- 26 Leviticus 12; Luke 2:21-40; Isaiah 42:1-9; 8:13-17;
40:1-11; John 10:11; Psalm 23
- 27 Micah 5:1-5; Matthew 2
- 28 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
- 29 Luke 3:1-23a; John 1:1-34
- 30 Matthew 11:1-15; Mark 6:6b-29; Matthew 10:32-42
- 31 Psalm 90; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).



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