



FIRST PRESS

APRIL 2018



PROJECT 300 IS COMING!



APRIL FOOLS OR EASTER PROOF

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

As you were planning your Spring activities, you may have noticed that Easter fell on April Fool's day (April 1) this year. The earliest critics of Christianity would have loved this coincidence. In I Corinthians, the Apostle Paul reported that the followers of Jesus were being challenged on two fronts. He wrote:

"²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles" (1:22-23)

On the one hand, at that time the Jews believed that the earliest Christians were just a group of delusional heretics and con-artists trying to hijack their religion. To them Jesus' death on the cross proved that he was nothing more than a false messiah.

On the other hand, they were being challenged by the pagan Greeks, who thought that the earliest Christians were fools. They could not understand why people would follow a backwater fanatic, from a backwater town in a backwater province. His followers claimed that he did miracles, but mostly he was a wandering teacher who got in trouble with the Romans and was crucified like a common criminal. People like that were a dime-a-dozen in the Roman Empire. In their eyes Jesus was a loser. Why would you follow someone like that?

To both the Jews and the Greeks, the apostle Paul says, "you're right!" except for one thing: The Resurrection.

In Chapter 15 Paul wrote:
"¹⁴...if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God..."

But that is not all that happened. Paul declared, "²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

Jesus Christ died on the cross, but he is alive! God has raised him from the dead. And if Jesus is raised from the dead, it proves that everything Jesus claimed and everything the Bible says about him is true.

If Jesus is alive, it proves that **God is real**. We are not fools. God is who he says he is and he did what he said he was going to do.

If Jesus is alive, it proves that **God loves us**. Romans 8:32 says "³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?"

Whatever reasons or excuses we may have for thinking that God does not love us or that God does not care about us are washed away and invalidated by the Blood of Jesus Christ. The Cross is the proof of how much God loves us and how far he was willing to go to bring us home to him.

If Jesus is alive, it proves that **God can make a difference in our lives**. If God can raise Jesus from the dead, He can set us free from whatever fears paralyze us or temptations trap us. The son of God did not come to punish us. Jesus came to set us free from the sin and guilt that undermines our relationship with God, and our relationships with other people. "¹⁷ For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Finally, If Jesus is alive, it proves that **God is worth trusting**. The resurrection is historical fact. It was not a prank. It really happened. But God doesn't just want you to believe it really happened—he wants it to be real for you. He wants you to understand that all that love and all that power was unleashed for you.

The resurrection tells us that God is not dead, he is alive. And this living God loved you so much that he gave his life for you. He hears our prayers, he knows the number of hairs on our heads, and he has plans for you. You are not alone! God may have been dead to you but you have never been dead to God.

There are a million ways to die, but only one way to live. And Paul says that "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." (Romans 10:9)

The resurrection proves that we are not fools for trusting in Jesus Christ, even on April 1.

1. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2016 (1 Co 15:20). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
2. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Ro 8:32). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
3. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Jn 3:17). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
4. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Ro 10:9). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

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SAVE THE DATE



LITERATURE CIRCLE

APRIL 10 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

Wanted: Men and women to join the FPC Literature Circle on Tuesday, April 10, in the McCullough Room when Jan Clayton will review the novel, “Commonwealth,” written by author, Ann Patchett. Set in Southern California, the story relates how the lives of two families are changed forever after an unexpected romantic encounter at a christening party. With the dissolution of marriages and the families spending summers together in Virginia, the six children develop a lasting bond. They share the disillusionment with their parents, but an affection for each other that gradually ensues. Told with both humor & heartbreak, the novel is a tender tale of love & responsibility. Join us at 1:00 PM for a social half hour followed by the review.

MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

MAY 11-13

Join FPC in welcoming Scotty and Darlene Smith for our Marriage Conference as we grow together in learning how the gospel forms marriage for glorious fruitfulness. We will discover the power of the gospel for connection, commitment, graceful communication, and fruitful cultivation of marriage through sessions on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Sunday morning. There will be an optional swing dance lesson on Friday night after the session and dessert. Childcare is available upon request.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS COMING!

MONDAY JUNE 18 – FRIDAY, JUNE 22

Join us from Monday, June 18-Friday, June 22 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for VBS at FPC! Registration is open to children four years old to fifth grade. Children ages two to three years old are also welcome; however, they must have a parent or guardian volunteer at VBS. To register please go to www.fpcsanantonio.org.

SPRING FLING

APRIL 7 • 6:00-10:00 PM

Spring Fling is a fun, grown-up evening of food, wine, music, and fellowship — all for a good cause. Enjoy a delicious dinner, and two drink tickets with your \$50 per person purchase. Additional drink tickets and wonderful auction items will be available for purchase at the event. All proceeds will benefit the FPC Children’s Center. Thank you for your support! This event will be held at the home of Rick and Lellen Lane. Go to www.fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-center and click on the “Spring Fling” tab to get your ticket!

PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

FPC will be teaming up with Lifetouch Directories in May and June for a new 2018 Pictorial Directory! Don’t miss this chance to be a visible part of our FPC family! Portrait Sessions will take place May 23-27, May 30-June 3, and June 13-17. Look for more information this month about the directory and making appointments.

URBAN PLUNGE

JUNE 10 – 15 | 5TH – 8TH GRADES

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 service, fun, games, studying scripture, great speakers, and more! Urban Plunge is open to current 5th-8th grade students. \$200 per student. Contact Colton Willis coltonw@fpcsat.org or Emily Yergler emilyy@fpcsat.org for more details.

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

JUNE 24 – 29 | INCOMING 9TH – 12TH GRADES

We will be spending the week on a Navajo Reservation in New Mexico. This week will be highly relational, with a few work projects mixed in. \$600 per student. Contact Colton Willis coltonw@fpcsat.org or Emily Yergler emilyy@fpcsat.org for more information.

CHILDREN’S DAY OUT

“Children’s Day Out is a community of believers filled with a love for young children and a desire to lead them to Jesus. Whether through Bible stories and crafts, songs, learned, or simple love and kindness shown, the theme of leading them to Jesus is preeminent. What a blessing it is to have others endeavoring alongside us in planting those first precious seeds of faith! We are forever grateful for its influence in our family’s life and for its ministry here in the city!” – Melissa Sherod. Enrollment is now open for next fall’s Children’s Day Out program! For more information or to register, contact Kitty Lange at kittylange@satx.rr.com.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you headed to or continuing college for the 2018-2019 school year? A native of Texas? In need of financial assistance? Then you may qualify for a Campbell, Jones, or Holland scholarship. To obtain an application and for more information, check out our website at www.fpcsanantonio.org/scholarships-2018. You may also contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org or 210-271-2758. The deadline to submit an application is April 15, 2018. The guidelines for eligibility and the required document submission is noted on the Scholarship form.

CHILDREN’S MINISTRY REQUEST

Children’s Ministry has a Request from FPC Members! Our Christmas Pageant Three Kings’ Robes have been returned to their owner and we are now in the process of rebuilding!

We have three versions of the same request:

1. We would love capes/robes from Fiesta that a member would like to permanently donate to Children’s Ministry, or
2. Donations of specific fabrics and decorative trim, or
3. Individuals with a gift for sewing who would be willing to donate their time to create new costumes. In the likely event that we must create from scratch, we would like to have materials purchased by the end of May with the hope of beginning sewing in June. Thank you!

Questions? Contact Betsy Zachry (betsyz@swbell.net) or Becky Prichard (beckyp@fpcsat.org).

PROJECT 300

THE NAME IS CHANGED—THE GAME’S STILL THE SAME
BY FRED WALL

We’re all familiar with the annual First Pres event supporting Habitat for Humanity San Antonio...Project 240. For the past six years we’ve gathered in our church parking lot to build the framing walls for Habitat homes. And our goal each year has been to complete the Project in four hours, 240 minutes.

This year’s event was selected by the 300SanAntonio Commission as an official community outreach event of the city’s year-long Tricentennial celebration. In that spirit the 2018 event, on Sunday May 6th, will be called Project 300. But our mission is the same...complete the framing walls for five houses in four hours!

On April 29th, the Sunday prior, we will be selling T-shirts and distributing waiver forms in the front lobby like we did last year. On May 6th there will be a single Traditional Service and a Contemporary Service, both starting at 9:30 a.m. After Service, you can drop off your completed waiver forms, buy a lunch and proceed to the build site! While many of our church programs are targeted

toward specific groups...Women of the Church, Men’s Breakfast, Youth Choir, KEYS...Project 300 welcomes volunteers of any age (almost!), gender and skill level. We’ll have a designated build area for kids five and older, as well as other activities for their enjoyment! Child care will be available for those under five.

Did you know First Pres’ commitment to Habitat for Humanity goes well beyond Project 300? Habitat for Humanity of San Antonio is the first Habitat affiliate established in the U.S., opening its doors and hearts in 1976. FPC provided office space to Habitat-SA in our church for several years before they were able to procure their own offices. Also, FPC is one of the 15-20 member churches making up the Presbyterian Cluster. The Cluster churches pool financial and volunteer resources to sponsor and build a Habitat home in the spring of each year. We are nearing completion of our 23rd Cluster house, which will be dedicated and turned over to the homeowner on April 21.



A Christian non-profit, HFH-SA has built over 1,000 homes in our community since their establishment, with a goal for this year of 50 new homes. Habitat’s build-schedule is amazingly fast and efficient! Once the infrastructure is in place (streets, water, electricity, foundation, etc.) a house is completed in 7 weeks, from erecting the framed walls (which we help build!!) to landscaping and dedication! It’s important to note these families are presented with an opportunity, not a giveaway. Habitat’s credo is to “provide a hand-up, not a hand-out” by making decent, affordable houses available and achievable to qualifying low-income families. Owners are provided a 20-25 year, no fee/no-interest mortgage, and approved families must invest a minimum of 300 volunteer hours working on their house.

Providing this opportunity for families to purchase an affordable Habitat home has a positive, multi-generational impact on our community. Most of these families have spent many years living in small apartments or rentals prior to purchasing their Habitat house, and statistics show that children of homeowners (vs. renters):

- Are 25% more likely to graduate from high school
- Are 116% more likely to graduate from college
- Are 20% less likely to become pregnant as a teen
- Are 59% more likely to own a home within 10 years of moving from parent’s household
- Are 50% less likely to rely on welfare at age 20

What a great return on investment!

If you’d like to participate in the event but aren’t comfortable swinging a hammer, volunteers are needed for t-shirt sales, registration and box lunch sales on both April 29th and May 6th. We also need help on the build site distributing drinks and snacks to the volunteers. If you’re interested in helping with any of these, please sign up on the website at www.fpcsanantonio.org/project300.

Also on the website you can sign up to be a Military Sponsor. The day of our event is 300SanAntonio’s Military Appreciation Day. We already have over 40 active duty military members committed to participating in Project 300 and we expect that number to reach 75-100. For a donation of \$25 you can sponsor one of these military volunteers to cover their cost of a T-shirt, lunch and snacks. What a great way to say “Thanks” to these young men and women who have already volunteered to serve our nation, yet on a day dedicated to honor them they have elected to serve a community which isn’t even their hometown! You can also become a Military Sponsor by making a \$25 donation during Sunday offerings with a check marked “Project 300” on the memo line.

Mark your calendars, and we look forward to seeing you there! Please keep Project 300, our volunteers and the future homeowners in your prayers.

OUR PARTNERS		
		

YOUTH BBQ AND TALENT SHOW

ENTERTAINS AND RAISES FUNDS FOR SUMMER OUTREACH

The annual youth fundraiser for summer mission trips that occurred on February 25 included the highly anticipated talent show, silent auction and of course, a delicious lunch prepared by our own Maurillio Jr.!

We had an exciting talent show hosted by Preston Miller and JT Garcia, featuring Ben Henderson singing while playing guitar and Annie Meadows and Chris Morse both singing. Annette Mickler, Chandler Simpson, Ava Gutierrez and Amelia McGarraugh did a dynamic and entertaining rendition of the “Hoedown Throwdown,” which fit in perfectly with the BBQ country western theme. Allie Byrd beautifully lent her vocals to the classic “Dream a Little Dream of Me,” and Carter and Clara Shute brought down the house with their magic show—sadly for the last time due to their imminent graduation in a few months.

A heartfelt thank you must go out to everyone who helped this event take place and be a success at the same time: the FPC household staff, Maurillio Jr., all those who helped in the kitchen, the youth committee (especially Stacia Morse for leading the charge with our silent auction), all the students and parents who served tables, students who participated in the talent show, and last—but certainly not least—our seniors (JT Garcia, Ben Henderson, Allie Byrd, Carter Shute, Clara Shute and Natalie Scheifele)! Each one has contributed throughout the years to the success of this fundraiser, and we will all miss your talents.

Each summer, the middle school and high school departments spend a week of the summer serving others, building relationships, and learning more about what it means to follow Jesus. Since these trips cost large amounts of money, one of the major ways we help make

the prices more affordable—as well as provide financial aid to students and families who otherwise could not participate—is through the money we raise with this luncheon and silent auction. Thank you to everyone who contributed this year! Students all over San Antonio will have the opportunity to go on a mission trip because of your generosity.

The middle school students will spend a week serving in and around our own city on June 10th – 15th, 2018. Our high school students will travel to New Mexico on June 24th – 29th and live life with the locals, building relationships and completing small construction projects as needed. Please be in prayer as the teams form and prepare to be sent out over the next few months.

FPC AND NAMI-SA PARTNER

TO PROVIDE SUPPORT EVENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

BY KARIN GABRIELSON

Now is the time to have a conversation about mental health. The National Alliance on Mental Illness is working hard to combat stigma, which is a major reason why people don’t seek help for mental problems. NAMI is the largest grassroots mental health organization in the nation.

Besides offering classes and support groups to the those with a mental illness and their families, various presentations to educate others about mental illness are available to schools, organizations, and businesses. Last year alone, NAMI-San Antonio answered 6,000 calls from those seeking support and resources. Volunteers are needed to advocate for better legislation for healthcare, housing, and employment for the mentally ill. First Presbyterian Church is one of the foremost leaders in our city to help eradicate the stigma of mental illness. In the last seven years, hundreds of family members with a loved one coping with a mental disorder have participated in free evidence-based NAMI Basics and Family-to-Family classes. Those living with mental issues attend the Peer-to-Peer classes. All of these classes plus a faith-based support group for families affected by mental illness are offered right here at FPC.

FPC was instrumental in encouraging members of the clergy and mental health professionals to work together. The first Pathways to Hope Conference in San Antonio was sponsored by FPC and the Health Collaborative of Bexar County in 2016. Approximately 1,400 people attended and 400 churches were represented. The public is again invited to the third free Pathways to Hope Conference at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, on August 24-25, 2018.

Because of its outstanding commitment to mental

health ministry, FPC was recognized by NAMI-San Antonio with the Community Partner Award in 2017.

The annual fundraising event for NAMI-San Antonio, The Visionary Award Luncheon, is to be held at FPC on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. This year The Honorable Joe Straus III, the Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, will be honored for being an advocate for better healthcare in Bexar County and Texas. In November 2015, he appointed a Select Committee on Mental Health for the 85th Legislature. Several bills were passed to improve mental healthcare, including a bill to build a new San Antonio State Hospital (SASH).

Please help NAMI and FPC continue to promote understanding of mental illness and to send out the message that resources are available for the mentally ill and their families. Visit www.nami-sat.org or call 210-734-3349 to learn more so that you can help spread the word that mental illness is not shameful and that recovery is possible.

FPC ADULT MISSION TRIP

LEONARA VICARIO, QUINTANA ROO, MEXICO
BY SUSAN CHANDLER



On February 14th, ten members of First Presbyterian Church and one member of Grace Presbyterian Church in Houston flew to Cancún, México to serve with the Yucatán Peninsula Mission (YPM). Our project...to help pour the third floor of the second building at Instituto Universitario Yucatán Península Misión.

Our hosts were Pastor Wilian Cen and his wife, Erly, natives of the Mayan Zone in the state of Quintana Roo. Immediately, we felt welcome as they introduced us to su casa, our home for the next six days.

We stayed in a beautifully designed center, built for groups such as ours, with three bedrooms, two bathrooms and a family dining area. We gathered together for prayer at 6:30 AM, breakfast, work on site, stopping for a break followed by work, lunch and a couple more hours of working before cleaning up and rest.

The next morning, we were introduced to Instituto Universitario YPM, about a block from our compound. A beautiful entrance with a large open cross greeted us along with a bright yellow building containing the administration office, two classrooms and bathrooms. On the far side of a colorful landscaped courtyard stood the cement frame of a two story building, our work site. We walked up cement steps to the second floor, where the workers were removing and lowering the framing for the cured concrete beams of the third story. The second story cement floor was covered with framing, nails, wire and pieces of rebar. Our men began to work, removing five inch nails from the lumber supports. The used nails, wire and pieces of rebar were placed in separate ten-gallon buckets to be sold. All the reusable wood was carried downstairs where the women sorted and stacked it by size in the unfinished first floor classrooms. When the second floor was cleared of all the debris, it was swept clean.

In the first floor breezeway, our women began scraping the wooden forms, used to create the concrete beams, of any concrete residue, which attracts termites. Then

they painted the forms with diesel and stacked the preserved forms inside a first floor classroom, swept clean of cement dust. We also picked up any unusable lumber and litter in or around the building and threw it onto a burn pile. We were the hands and feet of the operation.

Early on the third morning, a concrete truck arrived and pumped the material up to the third floor. After it left, hired workers hand-mixed cement on the ground before carrying it up a two story ladder in a ten-gallon bucket, to add the last amount needed to complete a section of the third story floor.

That afternoon, Pastor Wilian presented a Powerpoint program to share his vision of YPM's Ministry at the Instituto Universitario. Wilian explained that he chose the town of Leona Vicario as the location for the University and the compound because it is in the center of the Mayan population in Quintana Roo. This population has a sustained demographic growth.

Instituto Universitario YPM is the first higher-level institution in the municipality of Puerto Morelos. It will provide the young people with the opportunity to obtain a professional career. Students of the Mayan Zone are presently studying for three years and four months in order to earn a Certificate in one of three programs: Teaching, Law or Administration. These classes are now offered in the Administration Building. When the building we worked on is completed, those classes will be moved to that building and more programs will be offered.

The architectural plans are for five three-story educational buildings. Additional buildings will include an auditorium and student center as well as an area for soccer fields, a swimming pool and parking. This project is projected to take ten years to complete. Adjacent land has already been purchased for growth.



As we sat in the church van to return to the airport, Wilian turned to us and said, "I want you to be the first to know. I just received notification from the State of Quintana Roo that my application for the University to be certified by the state has been approved! This is a great honor. Many schools that have applied have waited several years and are still not certified." We were ecstatic for Wilian and Erly's commitment and hard work.

We returned to First Presbyterian and Grace Presbyterian Churches changed and committed to supporting Pastor Wilian and Erly in reaching their goal, to provide certification programs for the youth of the Mayan Zone of Quintana Roo through The Instituto Universitario Yucatán Misión.

This summer, Alex Solorio will be leading a group of college students and young adults to Leona Vicario on a mission trip. There is also a medical mission trip planned at the same compound this fall. If you have never been on one of our FPC mission trips, we strongly recommend you speak with one of our members who have participated. It just might change your life.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT



Christ is Risen!

We now enjoy Eastertide, when we reflect on Christ's love and sacrifice for all of us on the cross, and how to live lives full of love for one another. Our Spring Luncheon speaker beams with enthusiasm and expresses the love of Christ daily. I know you will enjoy getting to know her as much as I have! Emily Scates, our keynote speaker, is the daughter of Rev. Dr. Ron Scates and his wife Anne, and her topic is "Abiding in His Love." Deadline for reservations to Suzanne Thomas is April 2nd. All women of the church and friends are invited to another delightful Ladies Night Out on April 17th, "Post Tax Day and Pre-Fiesta Celebration in the Garden". We will meet in the beautiful garden of Rhae Chell Mauze to relax and enjoy great fellowship. The details are in this newsletter. Please join us!

Maggie Burnett and Pat Johnson are preparing for another wonderful staff appreciation event on April 19th. If you would like to be involved in this appreciation, please contact either of these women.

May 9 we will all gather at the lovely home of Sallie Guy to honor all past PW and WOC presidents. The May Coffee will be held from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at 101 Paseo Encinal St. Valet parking will be available. Again, all women members of the church are invited to all WOC events!

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

Philemon 4: "Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near."



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CIRCLE MEETINGS

CIRCLE 1/12 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, April 16 • 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, April 16 • 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, April 20 • 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, April 17 • 1:30 PM • FPC Geneva Room
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, "Suffering," Ch. 14 – "Windblown"; Ch. 31 – "Quilts of Gee's Bend"

CIRCLE 7 BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, April 17 • 11:30 AM
Hostess: Judy Spencer (227 Abiso Ave. 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, "Suffering," Ch. 14 – "Windblown"; Ch. 31 – "Quilts of Gee's Bend"

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@bunngroup.com)
Meg Walker (210-601-7745/meg@aladdincleans.com)

CIRCLE 9 BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, April 17 • 10:00 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Chairs: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/
jmagmus3@mac.com); Frances Warrick (210-408-1775/
fwarrick@sbcglobal.net)

Moderators: Members of Circle 9
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, "Suffering," Ch. 14 – "Windblown"; Ch. 31 – "Quilts of Gee's Bend"

CIRCLE 11 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, April 23 • 6:30 PM
Hostess: Suzanne Norton (608 Antler Drive 78213)
Chair: Karin Gabrielson
(210-843-2475/karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 11
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, "Suffering," Ch. 14 – "Windblown"; Ch. 31 – "Quilts of Gee's Bend"

CIRCLE 13 CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, April 10 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagmus3@mac.com)
Book: *Commonwealth* by Ann Patchett
Reviewer: Jan Clayton

CIRCLE 14 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, April 16 • 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

Wednesday, April 18 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228
Chair: Lee Pressley (210-735-0978)

CIRCLE 17 - EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, April 11 • 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, April 4 • 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

JOE MOORE, OLDER ADULTS DIRECTOR



Of course, April is Fiesta month and we will celebrate in the courtyard with Margaritas and Mariachis and a visit from King Antonio and members of his court. We will also celebrate April birthdays. All on April 20th. But first we will begin with a new adventure; by taking KEYS on the road to meet with our friends at the Forum. We will hear from Mobility Worldwide, an organization that provides pull, push and hand propelled carts to individuals in third world countries who need help getting around. Bill Cogburn and Jack Wright will team up to give us a glimpse into the History and Art-work at FPC. On Saturday, April 14, we will learn from San Antonio Water Service where our water comes from and where it goes after we use it.

APRIL EVENTS

APRIL 6:
MOBILITY WORLDWIDE will tell us how they are helping mobility needs around the world. The Forum

will be hosting us in their dining room. No charge for lunch, but please make your reservations with Stephanie.

KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

APRIL 13:
BILL COGBURN AND JACK WRIGHT will team up to share with us the Art and History of FPC

BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG

APRIL 14:
RAIN TO DRAIN TOUR: The Rain to Drain Experience field is a trip for adults. During this day-long expedition, you will travel to places few people have ever visited. You will explore an Edwards Aquifer recharge cave, experience the inner workings of a SAWS water production facility and tour a water

recycling plant. The field trip, lasting from 7:30 AM -5:00 PM, is free to Bexar County residents 18 years and older. A shuttle van will be available leaving from FPC parking lot at 6:45 AM. Lunch is provided. There are 2 spots left.

APRIL 20:
FIESTA CELEBRATION begins at 10:30 AM with Snacks, margaritas, and mariachis in the Courtyard. The King and his Court will visit between 11:00 AM and 11:30 AM. Lunch will be served at noon.

APRIL 27:
NO KEYS—FIESTA PARADE

KEEP MOVING FITNESS
Linda Osborne is our own personal trainer and provides an ability appropriate class on Fridays before KEYS meetings. These classes begin at 9:35 AM and are free—all you have to do is show up.

GOLD STAR TEEN ADVENTURES
In March, we learned from Eleanor Halff how Gold Star Teen Adventures serves children of members of our armed services who have lost their lives in battle. Our hearts were tugged by the testimonies of teens whose lives have been changed through these adventures. If you would like to sponsor Gold Star Teens, go to GSTAdventures.org



COMING IN MAY:
MAY 4:
GROWING YOUNG—SPEAKER BECKY PRICHARD
DIRECTOR OF CHILDRENS MINISTRY AT FPC

KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

MAY 11:
YUCATAN MISSION TRIP REPORT

BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG

MAY 18:
MAY BIRTHDAY LUNCH

ROSELLA AT THE GARDEN

MAY 25:
MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION
Celebration with Vietnam Veteran and Founder of the San Antonio Vietnam Veterans' Memorial, John D. Bains.

BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG



FPC DEACONS

According to the ECO Polity document, “Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons may also be asked to preach and teach. The congregation shall determine the manner in which they are selected for service. The session shall oversee and direct the ministry of the deacons.”

Deacons nurture fellowship and caregiving in several ways:

- **Hospital and Rehabilitation Facility Visitation.** Deacons visit members in medical facilities, when requested by the members or members’ families through the Care and Concern Line.
- **Home Visitation.** Deacons visit members at home, when requested by members, to help all members to feel a part of our congregation.
- **Grief Ministry.** Deacons walk alongside members who have experienced a death of a close loved one by following up with them with contacts and visits.
- **After Worship Prayer.** Deacons are available to pray with members after each worship service.
- **Seasonal Flower Delivery.** Deacons deliver seasonal flowers (Poinsettias and Easter Lilies) to certain members, including those who have experienced a recent loss, those being visited at home, and members over 90 years old.
- **Prayer.** Deacons pray for members, as requested in the Care and Concern Line and as other concerns are shared with them.

If you or someone you know could benefit from our deacon ministry, please contact Rev. Scott Simpson Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at scotts@fpcsat.org or 210-226-0215, ext. 212, or Lisa Snow, at lisas@fpcsat.org.



Please join us for the Women of the Church

MAY COFFEE

honoring our Past Presidents and benefitting the FPC Children’s Center

Wednesday, May 9, 2018
10:30 AM -12:30 PM
at the home of Sallie Guy
101 Paseo Encinal St. 78212

RSVP to jodipwood@icloud.com or 210-844-4724
Valet parking

FPC CARE AND CONCERN LINE

This 24-hour line provides the congregation with daily updates about members and their loved ones who are hospitalized, who have died, or have a prayer request. Call 210-222-CARE (2273) to listen to the daily recording. At the end, you may leave a message after the beep, which will be reviewed and then posted the following day.

To notify the church of hospitalizations and/or other pastoral care needs, contact Rev. Scott Simpson Associate Pastor for Congregational Care, at scotts@fpcsat.org or 210-226-0215, ext. 212, or Lisa Snow, at lisas@fpcsat.org.

For your pastoral care needs outside of normal business hours, or in an emergency, please call Rev. Simpson at 210-837-0228.



Please join us for the Women of the Church

SPRING LUNCHEON “ABIDING IN HIS LOVE” EMILY SCATES

Monday, April 9, 2018
11:30 AM (Doors Open at 11:00)
Westminster Hall • Lunch \$20

Your Check is Your Reservation
Deadline is April 2

Suzanne Thomas: suzannethomas54@gmail.com
209 Lamont, SATX 78209 • (210) 846-3240



Please join us for the Women of the Church

POST TAX DAY/PRE-FIESTA CELEBRATION IN THE GARDEN

Come enjoy your FPC sisters in Christ for a fun and relaxing evening in Rhae Chell Mauze’s beautiful garden and outdoor kitchen! No sign-up required—Just come!

The date and time: Tuesday, April 17 | 6:00 – 8:00 PM

Location: 531 Arcadia Place, San Antonio, 78209

The attire is simple: Something comfortable!

Ladies’ Night Out Committee will provide beverage and service-ware. Feel free to bring your beverage of choice (if you prefer something other than water and tea) and an hors d’oeuvre to share.


Questions? Contact Betsy Zachry at betsyz@swbell.net/210-262-1236.

FIRST CUP READINGS APRIL, 2018

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

A white ceramic cup filled with a latte, featuring a heart-shaped latte art design on the surface. The cup sits on a matching white saucer, and a small silver spoon is placed on the saucer next to the cup.

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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

I know that my Redeemer lives! What joy the blest assurance gives! He lives, He lives, who once was dead; He lives, my everlasting Head! He lives to bless me with His love; He lives, to plead for me above; He lives, my hungry soul to feed; He lives, to help in time of need. He lives, all glory to His name; He lives, my Savior, still the same; What joy, the blest assurance gives; I know that my Redeemer lives! (The Methodist Hymnal, No. 445)

- 1 Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-35
- 2 John 20:1-31
- 3 John 21
- 4 Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 1:1-11; John 14
- 5 Psalm 109:1-8; Acts 1:12-26
- 6 Leviticus 23:15-22; Deuteronomy 16:10;
Exodus 23:16
- 7 Malachi 3; 2 Corinthians 9

Holy Spirit, breathe on me until my heart is clean. Let sunshine fill its inmost part, with not a cloud between. Holy Spirit, breathe on me; my stubborn will subdue. Teach me in words of living flame what Christ would have me do. Holy Spirit, breathe on me; fill me with power divine. Kindle a flame of love and zeal within this heart of mine. Breathe on me, breathe on me, Holy Spirit, breathe on me. Take Thou my heart; cleanse every part. Holy Spirit, breathe on me. (Worship in Song, No. 272)

- 8 Acts 2
9 Acts 3; Deuteronomy 19:15, 18-19; Romans 1:16
10 Acts 4:1-5:11; 10:43; 1 Timothy 2:5
11 Acts 5:12-6:7; John 15:20-21; Ephesians 6:12;
1 Peter 5:8; Revelation 20:10
12 Acts 6:8-8:3; Luke 21:10-19; Psalm 31
13 Acts 8:4-40; Acts 10:32-11:18; Romans 10:1-13
14 Acts 9:1-43; Jeremiah 20:11-13; Proverbs 12:7

And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Savior's blood! Died He for me, who caused His pain? For me to Him to death pursued? Amazing love! How can it be that Thou, my God, should die for me? He left His Fa-

*ther's throne above, so free, so infinite His grace! Emp-
tied Himself of all but love, and bled for Adam's helpless
race. 'Tis mercy all, immense and free! For, O my God,
it found out me. Amazing love! How can it be that Thou,
my God should die for me? (Worship in Song, No. 221)*

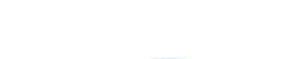
- 15 Acts 10:1-11:30; 1 Peter 4:12-19
16 Acts 12:1-14:28; Acts 9:15-16; 2 Timothy 3;
Job 36:15
17 Acts 15:1-35; Romans 1:1-6; 3:21-31
18 Acts 15:36-16:40; 2 Corinthians 11;
Hebrews 10:32-39;
13:3; Revelation 2:10
19 Acts 17; 1 Thessalonians 2-3
20 Acts 18; Romans 16:3-5a; 1 Corinthians 16:20;
1 Peter 1:22
21 Acts 19; Exodus 34:10-17; Leviticus 19:4; Psalm 135

"Almost persuaded" now to believe; "Almost persuaded" Christ to receive; Seems now some soul to say, "Go, Spirit, go Thy way. Some more convenient day on Thee I'll call." "Almost persuaded," come, come today. "Almost persuaded," turn not away. Jesus invites you here; Angels are lin-g'ling near; Prayers rise from hearts so dear. O wanderer come! "Almost persuaded," harvest is past! "Almost persuaded," doom comes at last! "Almost" cannot avail; "Almost" is but to fail! Sad, sad, that bitter wail, "Almost," but lost! (Worship in Song, No. 233)

- 22 Acts 20; 2 Timothy 2:1-13; 4:1-5
23 Acts 21-23:11; Matthew 5:10-12; Psalm 119:153-160
24 Acts 23:12-24:27; Psalm 91
25 Acts 25-26; Psalm 7
26 Acts 27-28:10; Psalm 69
27 Acts 28:11-31; 2 Corinthians 11:21b-12:10;
Romans 5:1-5; 2 Timothy 1:8-2:13
28 Colossians 1:1-14; John 3:16-21; 8:12; 12:44-46
29 Colossians 1:15-23; Ephesians 5:8-20; Psalm 112
30 Genesis 1; John 1:1-4

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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