



# FIRST PRESS

MAY 2018



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



# YOUR GRADUATION PURPOSE

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

During May and June, our attention turns to an important rite of passage: graduation. To all those who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school and even military training, I want to say “congratulations!”

I also want you to think about a man named Simon.

We don’t know much about Simon’s life before 30 A.D. other than he was a Jewish Fisherman, who worked near his hometown in Galilee with his brother, Andrew. Every day, Simon and Andrew would cast their nets into the water, hoping that they would catch enough fish to eat and to sell. When they weren’t fishing, they were fixing their nets, or taking care of their boat.

Then, one day a wandering teacher appeared and said, “Come with me. I’ll make a new kind of fisherman out of you. I’ll show you how to catch men and women instead of perch and bass.” They didn’t ask questions. For some reason, they dropped their nets and followed. Maybe they were just bored, or maybe they thought that they’d be right back.

For the next three years, Simon, whom Jesus called Peter, saw things that no one had ever seen before. For three years Jesus taught Simon and his brother everything about the scriptures. He downloaded God’s truth into their minds, and on Easter Sunday proved that God’s power and love is real. He taught them more about God than the scribes and the Pharisees had learned in a lifetime of study. He had given them power to heal, to command over demons, and the authority to proclaim the coming of the messiah. Jesus had declared that Peter was the rock upon which Christ would build his church, and charged this fisherman to lead his people—to “feed my sheep.” On the day of his ascension, Jesus had even given Peter and the others a mission—

“<sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

He said:  
“<sup>8</sup> you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

And then  
“<sup>9</sup> ...when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”

What would have happened if, at that point, Peter had looked around at the others and said, “well, that was crazy. Guess it’s time to go home?” What if Peter had gone back to fishing?

Simon Peter had been given world-changing gifts and the most valuable and life-changing education the universe had to offer. What if He had said, “Meh, I’m going fishing.”?

It reminds me of a now legendary conversation between Apple Founder Steve Jobs and Pepsi CEO John Scully. In 1983, Jobs was trying to convince Scully to come and help him lead Apple. Finally after hours of presentations and discussion, Steve Jobs got frustrated and finally asked Scully, “Do you want to sell sugar-water for the rest of your life, or do you want to change the world?”

Jesus had challenged Peter with a similar calling—to be a man who catches fish, or to be a fisher of men who changes the world. “I will make you a fisher of men” said Jesus.

Graduation isn’t the end, it’s the beginning. Your purpose in life is not to graduate from High School, college, graduate school or basic training. God’s bigger plans for you are yet to come.

Don’t waste your gifts. Don’t waste your life. Use your education, experiences, your skills and your platform to make a difference and be a “fisher of men.”

1. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Mt 28:18–20). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
2. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Ac 1:8). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
3. The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Ac 1:9). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

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- 18-19 FIRST CUP

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# SAVE THE DATE



## LITERATURE CIRCLE

MAY 8 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

At age 24, Winston Churchill was convinced his destiny was to be the prime minister of England. Author, Candice Millard, takes us on an exciting journey in her book, "Hero of the Empire," which relates Churchill's entrance as a war correspondent to South Africa in 1899. Along with his valet and a crate of vintage wine, he is set to cover the brutal colonial war between the British and the Boer (descendants of early Dutch settlers) rebels. Two weeks later, taken prisoner, Winston manages a daring escape from the prison camp. Traveling hundreds of miles in enemy territory alone with only a wad of cash and four slabs of chocolate, Churchill, lost and unsure, knelt and prayed to God for help. The reviewer, our own Ron Baker, will relate this historical story of Winston Churchill's exciting escapade which led to the fulfillment and finally the achievement of greatness he always sought.

The FPC Literature Circle will meet Tuesday, May 8, in the McCullough Room at 1:00 PM for a social half hour before the review. This is our final review before our summer recess until we resume September 11.

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR GRIEF CLASS

WEDNESDAYS • MAY 16–AUGUST 8 • 1:00–2:00 PM • ROOM 224

Dealing with the death of a loved one is one of life's most difficult and stressful experiences. Grief, often the most profound form of sorrow, demands understanding and the support and compassion of our fellow human beings. This includes others who are dealing with the death of a loved one, and a trained bereavement specialist experienced in helping people work through their grief.

To help meet this need, Rev. Scott Simpson is offering a grief education class on understanding your grief to anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

The class will begin on Wednesday, May 16, 2018 from 1:00-2:00 PM in Room 224 at First Presbyterian Church. The class will conclude on Wednesday, August 8, 2018. Immediately following the conclusion of the class, Rev. Simpson will facilitate a support group for members of the class who are interested in participating.

\*Reservations for the class can be made by calling Rev. Scott Simpson at (210) 226-0215 ext. 212, or Lisa Snow at (210) 226-0215 ext. 260.

## 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. For more information about the conference and our speakers, visit [www.fpcsanantonio.org/marriage-conference](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/marriage-conference).

## 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 at [coltonw@fpcsat.org](mailto:coltonw@fpcsat.org) or Emily Yergler [emilyy@fpcsat.org](mailto: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. High School mission trip registration deadline is May 24. If we do not meet the required amount, the trip will be canceled. Go to [www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/students](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/students) to learn more/sign up. Contact Colton Willis at [coltonw@fpcsat.org](mailto:coltonw@fpcsat.org) or Emily Yergler [emilyy@fpcsat.org](mailto:emilyy@fpcsat.org) for more information.

## GET READY FOR VBS!

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/vbs2018](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/vbs2018).

## MEMORIAL RECEPTION TEAMS

Creating Teams for Memorial Service Receptions FPC will be creating six teams to offer memorial service receptions to grieving families. Teams will not be responsible for bringing food. Members will load the FPC silver trays, host the reception, and clean up after the reception. Training will be available. If you are interested in knowing more about possibly becoming a team leader or team member for only one day of the week, please contact Pat Brodeen at [pat@brodeen.com](mailto:pat@brodeen.com), 210-494-1534, 210-383-3083.

## 2018 PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

FPC is teaming up with Lifetouch Church 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. To make your appointment online, visit [www.fpcsanantonio.org/pictorial-directory](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/pictorial-directory). A sign-up table will also be available Sundays beginning April 29. We are in need of volunteers for greeting and registration. Please contact Stephanie Garcia at (210) 226-0215/[stephanieg@fpcsat.org](mailto:stephanieg@fpcsat.org).

## CHILDREN'S DAY OUT

Enrollment is open for next fall's Children's Day Out program! For more information or to register, contact Kitty Lange at [kittylange@satx.rr.com](mailto:kittylange@satx.rr.com).

# FRIDAY SINGERS PROFILED IN WOMEN'S DAY MAGAZINE

BY TOM DOOLING, MINISTER OF MUSIC

In March of this year, I was delighted to receive an email from our own Charlotte Hains with details about a magazine profile that would occur in the April issue of Women's Day Magazine, a nationally syndicated publication distributed in all major retail outlets. Found in their 'Inspire/kindness' section, the article (re-printed by permission below) profiles individuals and organizations whose generous deeds are an example of "when action follows heart."

The work of our Friday Singers certainly exemplifies both action and sharing of the love of Christ.

On more than 25 Fridays each season, the Friday

Singers perform for almost 50 distinct nursing, assisted living, and community center facilities in San Antonio, brightening the day for over 750 people across our city. Friday Singers are folks who enjoy singing and who view their musical offerings as a part of the FPC community outreach. Most of the singers are from our church, others are friends who join in the music.

On behalf of the congregation, we thank each member of the Friday Singers and their director, Charlotte Hains, for carrying "a message in song" out into our community! If you are interested in becoming involved in this inspiring ministry, contact Charlotte at charlotteh@fpcsat.org, or 210-828-2048.

# MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

BY KARIN GABRIELSON

If you see people wearing green ribbons, that means that May, Mental Health Awareness Month, is here.

One in five adults experience a mental health issue at some point in their lives. (That means that someone in your family, office, classroom, or even in your church pew may be suffering from depression, anxiety, a mood disorder, chemical imbalance, etc.)

Mental illness can affect anyone regardless of gender, age, race, ethnicity, or socio-economic status.

Half of all mental illnesses begin by the age of fourteen; 75% by the age of twenty-four.

A mental illness is a condition that is biological in nature and affects a person's thinking, feeling, or mood. Research suggests multiple causes such as genetics, environment, and lifestyle. With early treatment, recovery is possible.

Nearly sixty percent of adults with mental issues don't receive treatment because of anosognosia (lack of insight of being ill), lack of health insurance, shortage of mental health providers, shame, and STIGMA (disgrace, curse).

People with ailments in various parts of their bodies talk openly about the antibiotics, anti-histamines, antacids, and even chemo-therapies that are healing them. Stigma prevents people suffering from mental issues to admit taking anti-depressants, anti-anxiety medications, or mood stabilizers that may help cure conditions in one of the most important parts of their body—namely the brain.

Those with mental illnesses occupy more beds in hospitals than those with heart trouble and cancer combined.

Due to the shortage of beds devoted to psychiatric patients in hospitals, jails now house more people with psychological problems than hospitals.

Newspaper headlines make it seem like mentally ill people are dangerous. The vast majority are not violent and are more likely to be victims of violence.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for youth aged fifteen to twenty-four. However, the highest rate of suicide is among people between forty-five and sixty-four. Some years have recorded the highest rates for men over sixty-five. (It's okay to ask someone who is depressed if they are contemplating suicide. Talking about it does not increase the chances of suicide. Showing that you care by listening to the person actually prevents suicide. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is 1-800-273-8255 or call 911.)

Like any physical illness, mental illness may bring about terminal results. Please don't shy away from the grieving loved ones. Don't talk about them in hushed tones. Offer casseroles and loving support just as you would for others.

If someone was rubbing a sore knee, you might ask what is wrong. If someone has tears or an employee keeps missing work, it is okay to ask what is wrong and show empathy by listening.

FPC's Mental Health Ministry provides ongoing support through its close relationship with NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness), and weekly support groups. Please help stamp out stigma by being aware of more facts about mental health by going to nami.org.

Inspire / KINDNESS

» I'm the musical director of a group of seniors from the First Presbyterian Church, and for the past 14 years we have performed 30-minute programs of oldies but goodies at retirement and rehab centers. It's extra fun because we pass out the music so everyone can join in.

CHARLOTTE HAINS, San Antonio, TX



Musical director Charlotte (front, far left) with singers who raise their voices weekly.

56 APRIL 2018 WOMANSDAYMAGAZINE

# NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

THURSDAY, MAY 3, 2018

## SAN ANTONIO PRAYER BREAKFAST

Trinity Baptist Church, YMCA, Baptist Health Foundation, University of Incarnate Word

**LOCATION:** Rosenberg SkyRoom at Incarnate Word, 847 E. Hildebrand Ave, SATX 78212

**TIMES:** 6:30-7:20 AM Breakfast  
7:20-7:30 AM Pre-Service Music  
7:30-8:30 AM Program

**RESERVATIONS:** [www.dayofprayersa.com](http://www.dayofprayersa.com) or 210-733-6201

## SAN ANTONIO CITY HALL PRAYERS

**LOCATION:** City Hall Steps

**TIMES:** 11:30 AM Pre-Service Music  
12:00 PM Prayers for Unity within Our Nation

## SCRIPTURE:

**MATTHEW 22:37-40:** “Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

**GALATIANS 5:22-23:** “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

**PSALM 133:1:** “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

**2 CHRONICLES 7:14-15:** “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place.”

**1 TIMOTHY 2:1-6:** “I urge that entreaties and prayers,

petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, for kings and all who are in authority, in order that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life, in all godliness and dignity. This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Jesus Christ, who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony borne at the proper time.”

## NATIONAL PRAYER—DR. RONNIE FLOYD, NDP TASK FORCE PRESIDENT

“Our Dear Heavenly Father, while we come to You in complete humility, we also come to You with boldness in the authoritative name of Your One and Only Son, Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. In Jesus’ name, fill us now with Your Holy Spirit and lead us as we pray in Jesus’ name for America.

“Oh God, we are burdened for our nation today. We turn from the sins that we have committed against your Word and your Name. We turn away from our contentious words and ways toward one another that has led us to division and polarization. We turn away from our disrespect and lack of dignity toward each other, and we turn away from our continual devaluation of all human life from the womb until death in this world. We also turn away from and refuse to participate in skepticism, criticism, and cynicism in our nation. We turn away from anything that divides us, and we run toward the gospel of Jesus Christ that is the only thing that has the power to unite us together.

“Lord, in this critical hour in our nation, we pray for unity in America. Only You can bring unity, harmony, and

oneness in America. As your Word calls us in Ephesians 4:3, ‘Making every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace,’ we ask You to empower us to make every effort to live in unity, to call for unity, and to forward unity in America continually.

“We pray for the churches in America to unify in Jesus Christ and to pray as one unified spiritual family for America. May Your Church pray for America passionately, perpetually, privately, and publicly.

“We pray for God’s power to unify families, workplaces, communities, and cities in America. By Your Spirit, lead us to forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, and unity.

“We pray for people of all ethnicities and races in America to come together as one, living in peace and unity together. Oh Lord, because each of us is created in Your image, please give us the courage to stand against all racial and ethnic division, denouncing it as evil and sinful, while simultaneously coming together in unity with all persons knowing this is God’s will for us.

“We pray in unity for the security of our nation. We ask You to preserve the United States of America from the forces of evil that are threatening our lives and our future. God, please guard all persons in public and private settings from anyone or anything that desires to harm us or take our lives. Our future is in Your hands.

“We agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray extraordinarily for the next Great Spiritual Awakening in America. Oh Lord, wake up Your church spiritually and convict Your people to agree clearly, unite visibly, and pray extraordinarily until the next Great Spiritual Awakening occurs in our generation.

“Oh God, we stand together upon Your words in Psalm 133:1, ‘How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in harmony.’ Through Jesus’ name and by the

Holy Spirit’s power, we pray for all Americans to unify and to live together in unity.

“In the mighty and majestic name of Jesus Christ who is the Only Savior and the Only Hope in this world, we pray. Amen.

## SPECIFIC PRAYER REQUESTS:

- Pray for our leaders: National leaders – the President and the Administration, the Congress, the Judicial and all departments; the State, County and City governments. Pray for God’s knowledge and wisdom to guide their decisions.
- Pray for the safety of the Military, the Police, the Fire and Medical responders.

Romans 8:18-27: “I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently. 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 through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.”



# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

BEAUTIFUL ENDINGS AND DELIGHTFUL BEGINNINGS

BY PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT



**A**t the April 9 Spring Luncheon, the 2017-2018 Officers, Program and Committee Chairmen, and Moderators were recognized for their service to the Women of the Church this year. The 2018-2019 Women of the Church Officers and Program Chairmen were elected and will be installed on May 20 at the 11:00 AM service.

On April 17 many women of the church and their guests attended a post-tax day/pre-Fiesta celebration in the lovely garden of Rhae Chell Mauze. Again our grateful thanks go to Rhae Chell, Betsy Zachry and her committee for planning such a casual, relaxing event and really great fellowship. Catherine Whitsett, Mindy Daubert, Mary Henderson, Elizabeth Kreager, Stacia Morse, and Nancy Scheifele are members of this delightful committee.

Special thanks to Maggie Burnett, Pat Johnson, and Judy Kruger for planning and hosting a delicious and festive FPC Staff Appreciation Luncheon on April 19. We can never thank all of our staff enough for everything they do for us, and always with a smile! Many thanks to all who contributed the food for this luncheon!

Pat Brodeen and Holly Youngquist will host the 2018-2019 officers, chairmen, and Bible moderators at the President's Luncheon following the last Women of the Church Council meeting on May 7. All past PW and WOC presidents will then be honored on May 9 with a lovely coffee in the home of Sallie Guy. The May Coffee will be held from 10:30-12:30 at 101 Paseo Encinal St. Valet parking will be available. All donations accepted at the coffee or sent to the church office will be given to the FPC Children's Center for Scholarships. 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."

Matthew 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'"



# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CIRCLE MEETINGS

## CIRCLE 1/12 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, May 21 • 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, May 21 • 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, May 18 • 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, May 15 • 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,  
"Find your way from Lament to Praise," Ch. 4  
"The Poetry of God," Ch. 26 "Praise God Anyway"

## CIRCLE 7 BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 15 • 11:30 AM • Hostess: Caren Redkey  
La Madeleine (4820 Broadway St. 78209)  
Chair: Caren Redkey (210-531-6366/clredkey@gmail.com)  
Moderators: Members of Circle 7  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,  
"Find your way from Lament to Praise," Ch. 4  
"The Poetry of God," Ch. 26 "Praise God Anyway"

## 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@aladdin cleans.com)

## CIRCLE 9 BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 15 • 10:00 AM • FPC Breakfast Room  
Chairs: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/  
jmagnus3@mac.com); Frances Warrick (210-408-1775/  
fwarrick@sbcglobal.net)

fwarrick@sbcglobal.net

Moderators: Members of Circle 9  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,  
"Find your way from Lament to Praise," Ch. 4  
"The Poetry of God," Ch. 26 "Praise God Anyway"

## CIRCLE 11 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, May 21 • 6:30 PM  
Hostess: Sonia Garcia (22255 Morin Road, Von Ormy TX)  
Chair: Karin Gabrielson (210-843-2475/  
karin\_gabrielson@hotmail.com)  
Moderators: Members of Circle 11  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,  
"Find your way from Lament to Praise," Ch. 4  
"The Poetry of God," Ch. 26 "Praise God Anyway"

## CIRCLE 13 CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 8 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room  
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)  
Book: "Hero of the Empire" by Candice Millard  
Reviewer: Ron Baker

## CIRCLE 14 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, May 14 • 6:00 PM  
Hostess: Amy Robinson (237 W. Huisache 78212)  
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, May 16 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228  
Chair: Lee Pressley (210-735-0978)

## CIRCLE 17 - EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, May 9 • 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, May 2 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309  
Chair: Janet Beauch (210-673-3251/tabeach@flash.net)

## CIRCLE 20 CIRCLE OF SERVICE

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

# KEYS

JOE MOORE, OLDER ADULTS DIRECTOR



In 1963 May was designated by President John F. Kennedy as Older Adult Month. The 2018 theme, Engage at Every Age, emphasizes that you are never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, emotional and spiritual well-being. It also celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in our lives. The flowers in the sanctuary on May 6 were presented by KEYS fellowship in honor of Older Adults at FPC.

Our first speaker in May is our newly elected Associate Pastor for Christian Education, Becky Prichard! This speaking event will be in tune with our mission and vision of Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit as Becky shares with us some insights on "Growing Young." We are excited to hear from the YPM Team which included a "favorite son," Harold Black, and frequent KEYS attendees, Bill and Susan Chandler. We will be trying out the new restaurant at the Botanical Gardens for our May Birthdays, and will end the month with a Memorial Day theme hearing from John D. Baines, Viet Nam Veteran and Founder of the San Antonio Viet Nam Veterans Memorial.

May brings our regular KEYS Luncheons to a close for the summer. In June, July, and August, Keep Moving Fitness, Bridge & Mah Jongg, and Birthday Lunches will continue. We are also planning a few special outings and service opportunities. As the KEYS Leadership Committee works hard over the summer to plan speakers, events and Birthday lunches, we welcome your input to help us bring a variety of programs that are helpful and informative.

**MAY 4:**  
**"GROWING YOUNG" WITH SPEAKER BECKY PRICHARD, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

## KEYS LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

**MAY 11**  
**YUCATAN MISSION TRIP REPORT**

**BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG**

**MAY 18**  
**MAY BIRTHDAY LUNCH**

**ROSELLA AT THE BOTANICAL GARDENS**

**MAY 25**  
**MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION WITH VIETNAM VETERAN AND FOUNDER OF THE SAN ANTONIO VIET NAM VETERANS MEMORIAL JOHN D. BAINES**

**BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG**

## SA READS

SA Reads needs your help to sort, categorize, and clean donated books that are used in local schools to provide reading material to children who may not have the opportunity to own books of their own.

Jane Warren (210-493-5187) is the person to contact with any questions about this program. The work is done at Firstmark Credit Union, 10730 Gulfdale Drive, on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Join in on this great service project as well as the fellowship of working together.

## SUMMER BIRTHDAY LUNCHEONS:

**JUNE 15:** Blanco BBQ  
**JULY 20:** Lupe Tortilla  
**AUGUST 17:** Hyatt Pasta Bar



# GLOBAL MISSIONS: THE MAN WITH A MISSION

BY SUSAN CHANDLER



When I asked Pastor Wilian to spend some time with me to check my notes on the article I was going to write for our newsletter, I had no idea he would be giving me his testimony.

Wilian A. Cen grew up in a palapa, a small house made of wooden poles strapped together around a dirt floor

and topped with a palm-leafed roof. His father was a preacher, only making 12 pesos a month, so he supplemented his meager income by working as a tradesman: plumber, electrician, veterinarian and a salesman in his village. Sometimes he could not provide enough food for his family of 7 children. Literally, his wife would have to wait for their only hen to drop an egg in order to feed them.

One day, the elders of the church told his father it embarrassed them to see him selling things in the streets because it brought shame to the church. They ordered him to stop selling or to give up being pastor. That very day, he made his decision. He stopped his pastoral ministry in the church, but continued working as a salesman and continued pastoring the people in the community.

Wilian grew and in order to excel, he had to work and study. He went to one of the best schools in the state of the Yucatán, la Universidad Autónoma de Yucatán, where he studied law. But the second year, he had to leave school because his mother and father became ill, and he had to earn money to help with their expenses. He went to Cancún to work as a taxi driver. While there, he met Erly, the daughter of a pastor. Finally, they were able to marry and build and furnish a home. They were ready to start having their family.

The first mission trip First Presbyterian Church had for older adults was at La Iglesia Presbiteriana Evangélica in Cancún in 1983, and the second one in 1984. I knew Pastor Celís well, as I was on both of those mission trips. He was a great pastor, well-loved, and deeply involved in discipling Christians in outlying communities to start Bible studies in their homes.

That afternoon in Leona Vicario, I learned that Pastor

Celis was Wilian's mentor. He came to Wilian the year he married Erly and told him that there was a church in Cozumel that needed a pastor and asked if he would go. Wilian said he would think about it. When a year passed, Pastor Celís returned and asked him again if he would go because the church had no one who would pastor them.

Erly and Wilian decided to accept, and moved to the island of Cozumel, a place where they had no family. The house they were offered was little better than the palapa where Wilian was a small child. Life was very difficult for them. When they lived in Cancún, they had everything...a home, furniture, a car; and both of them had a good job.

Wilian served Puerta del Cielo for two years. The church grew so much that he didn't know what to do with so many people or how to guide them. He decided he needed to go to seminary. On Mondays, he would take a ferry from Cozumel to Playa del Carmen to catch the first of three busses to get to the Seminary. He took classes and studied until Friday when he would return to Cozumel to preach and teach in his church, and see Erly on the week-ends. This was his schedule for four years in order to obtain his certification.

When Wilian finished his studies, he was ordained pastor of Puerta del Cielo de Cozumel. That was when pastors Ramón Celís and Mark Lagree, coordinadores of YPM, Ministerios Presbiterianos de Yucatán, proposed to Wilian that he take the position of Coordinator of YPM.

He emphatically refused to accept because he had a moral agreement with his church, which had economically and spiritually supported him to study at the seminary. He also didn't consider himself competent for that position. But the coordinators were most insistent for two days, and he couldn't find any way to shake them off. So Wilian proposed he would let the church decide. If they said "yes," then he would accept. But if they said "no," that would be his position and they would have to accept it. He wrote a letter to his church explaining his proposal and the implications that a vote in favor would cause. He strived to write everything in detail, so that in the end, they wouldn't accept. But the church voted "yes." "That's how I became coordinator of YPM," he said.

On our last day, Wilian showed us a PowerPoint presentation of his dream of the Instituto Universitario Yucatán Peninsula Misión. He took us into the property, twisting and turning the architect's drawing to show and tell us about the plans (see visual below). This man, from such a simple background, was mentored by Pastores Ramón Celís, Ismael Tun, Erly's father, and his father, Pastor Adalberto Cen.

"After all of the difficulties I have had in life," Wilian said, "the opportunity arose to present us with a project which in the end will help give young people the opportunities that I didn't have."

We at First Presbyterian Church are so fortunate to be working with Wilian and Erly, such fine Christians, who walk with God and have a huge heart for the people of the Zona Maya. As we traveled through various villages, miles from Leona Vicario, we witnessed people stopping our van just to say "hello" to Wilian and grasp his hand. Let's continue to help this couple complete their mission, to provide collegiate education for the students from the Mayan Zone.



## 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](mailto:scotts@fpcsat.org) or 210-226-0215, ext. 212, or Lisa Snow, at [lisas@fpcsat.org](mailto:lisas@fpcsat.org).

# LOCAL MISSIONS

## SA HEALS BRINGS PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL SUPPORT TO EAST SIDE

**L**ove 210 was a day of service and serving the neighbors of First Presbyterian Church. We did many things including cleaning up graffiti, playing bingo at Haven for Hope and sharing a meal with our neighbors. There was another place we served that day that is new to our church but, hopefully, a place we will all become more familiar with. It's called SA Heals.

Four years ago Jennifer and Charles Foltz moved from their comfortable life in Stone Oak to the east side of San Antonio, less than two miles from our church. This move happened after they were convicted of the lack of opportunities in many areas of our city. They weren't sure what they were going to do but they knew they wanted to help the children there.

Jennifer and Charles started by volunteering at Booker T. Washington Elementary School. They mentored kids, created a leadership program and started a weekend feeding program. From these first steps came SA Heals, a nonprofit funded through private, church and business donations. After gaining the trust of the neighborhood they started having a church service at their house. Eventually they were able to use an abandoned

church in the neighborhood for church services as well as a place to spend time with the kids in the neighborhood. With the help of their neighbors they have repaired the building into the inviting and fun place that it is today. It's called The Rec. The building is used for many things today including home-schooling neighborhood children and emergency housing.

On February 10, we did two things to help SA Heals. There was a team that went to The Rec and helped with a landscaping project. At the church, we had a team of people who filled 280 bags of food for their weekend feeding program. These will provide weekend snacks for needy children at Washington Elementary for two months. Local Missions is hoping to partner with Jennifer and Charles in the future to make Jesus visible in the eastside of San Antonio. We don't know what it will look like yet, but Jennifer and Charles didn't know what their ministry would look like when they moved into the neighborhood either. God knows.



# WELCOME NEW ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION, BECKY PRICHARD



**B**ecky was born to two Presbyterian pastors in northern California, but spent the majority of her childhood in San Antonio attending First Presbyterian Church as her mother, Kristin Huffman, served as an Associate Pastor. After middle school and high school in Houston, Becky became a Sooner and graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor's Degree in Public Relations and a minor in Spanish. After college she worked in youth ministry for several years and through that experience felt God's call to pursue theological education and to learn more about how to serve God's people. Becky attended Fuller Theological Seminary, where she completed a Master of Divinity degree. Becky married Colby in August 2013 and they lived in Augusta, Georgia, as Colby finished his service to the U.S. Navy. She and Colby are parents to their daughter Cora (16 months). Becky is an avid college football fan (Boomer Sooner!)

and enjoys warm weather, Tex-Mex food, movies, and sharing life with those around her.

For the last four years, Becky has served as the Director of Children's Ministry at FPC and she has loved walking with children and families as they come to know Christ. Becky's education and experience have made her a strong preacher, teacher and team leader. She is excited to be part of the church that had such a huge impact on her faith as a young child. As Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Discipleship, Becky looks forward to expanding her pastoral role to all ages, partnering with the congregation to serve children, students and adults and teach them about the love and grace of Christ.

Please join us in congratulating Becky in her new role with our FPC family!





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