



# First Press

November 2011

fpconline.org

## Renewing minds and redeeming lives with the steadfast love of Jesus Christ.

### Worship Times

First Presbyterian Church offers four Sunday worship services: Traditional worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30, 9:30 and 11 a.m. and Contemporary worship in Westminster Hall at 11 a.m.

## "TWEAK"

*Pastor's ponderings by Rev. Trey H. Little*

One of my greatest memories from childhood was sitting on the living room floor of my Dad's home while eating Shipley's Donuts, drinking chocolate milk and watching the Bugs Bunny Roadrunner Hour. What a classic!

My all time favorite characters are still Wylie Coyote and the Roadrunner. Each and every episode Wylie would wear himself out planning and chasing the Roadrunner. And even though I had seen countless episodes and I finally figured out that Wylie was never going to catch the Roadrunner, I still found myself filled with great joy and anticipation each Saturday which brought with it another opportunity to tune in to the relentless pursuit.

But if you have ever watched an episode of Wylie and the Roadrunner then you know that without fail, each time something didn't go as Wylie expected, he would not give up. Instead, his pursuit would lead him back to the drawing board to "tweak" the strategy. What dedication.

As I write this piece I can't help but wonder if we aren't much like Wylie and the Roadrunner. Like the Roadrunner, we are forever running from one place to the next, seemingly as a matter of survival. But also, like Wylie, in our pursuit of being

a vital church there are times when we may need to go back to the drawing board. Times when we might need to "TWEAK" our strategy and continue the pursuit of the Kingdom and do so with passionate dedication.

By definition, Tweak means: **"To adjust or modify slightly, so as to improve performance, efficiency, etc."**

As your pastor I am committed to doing all I can, in obedience to the leading of the Lord, to adjust or modify slightly so as to improve performance and efficiency of our ministry together. Will you join me? **T**ogether **W**e should **E**xpect **A**ccountability for the **K**ingdom.

It truly is a great privilege to be your pastor and I pray that, together, we will remain committed to whatever it takes to be the best we can be. Not to win for our sake—but instead, to win others to Christ.

Keep smilin' and keep lovin'.



## At-Home Visits

By Linda Ruhmann

### DEACONS

He sat on the third row every Sunday at the 8:30 service.  
She taught Sunday school for many years.  
He was a faithful usher.  
She regularly attended the 11:00 service.  
He served as a church officer.  
She was active in Presbyterian Women.

Now, however, for a variety of reasons, these members of First Presbyterian can no longer come to church on a regular basis. Because we do not want these dear members of our church family to become "out of sight, out of mind" the Deacons provide

a ministry to "at-home" members, whether that be their actual home, or an assisted living or nursing facility. Each Deacon is assigned at least one at home member to visit.

Visiting with an at-home member provides benefits for both the member and the Deacon. For the member it is an opportunity to still feel connected to the church and to share concerns and prayer requests that they may have. For the Deacon it provides an opportunity to learn about the rich history of another person, as well as often gaining insight into the living history of First Presbyterian Church.

Deacons often pray with and for at-home members and if requested can arrange to have communion brought to the person

—At-Home Visits continues on page 6

# Teaching Children about Stewardship

By Kathy Timberlake  
 Director of Children’s Ministry

As soon as our children are born, they begin to watch us and copy our sounds and actions. Their eyes begin to track our movements, they imitate our smiles and begin to learn to communicate. As they get older we teach them: words, manners, to ride a tricycle, and how to tie their shoes. So how do they learn about God’s love for them and giving back to God? In Sunday school? Yes, we can teach them the facts. We can share our love with them, **but parents have many more opportunities throughout the week to demonstrate God’s love and grace to their children and to teach them how to respond to God’s love by giving back. Stewardship is about sharing our time, our talents and our treasures.** A child will grow up with similar behaviors as their parents. If their parents are generous, they will be too. If parents give their time and talents by helping and serving in the church, the child will see the church as being an important place to share their time.

Teaching children about money is *hard work*. Many of us may not have had good training as children in handling money, saving or sharing. We were probably good spenders. For me, my parents handed me a coin (usually a dime) to drop in the offering plate as it came down the pew. I had no idea where that money went or how it was used, just that they always passed the plate in the middle of the service. It wasn’t until in college that I heard someone share about giving/tithing as a part of my commitment to Christ.

This year we hope each and every child in our children’s Sunday School classes, ages two years-fifth grade will have the opportunity to learn about good stewardship and how they can participate. We are not so concerned about the amount of money they share, but that they begin to learn the habit of giving. A two-year-old can be given a penny, shown the offering bowl in Sunday School class, and taught how to share that penny each week. It is never too early to begin and the earlier the better.

*“It is more blessed to give, than to receive.”*



## Report from Stewardship and Finance Committee SEPTEMBER 2011

<u>Operating Fund Budget</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$2,830,016	\$2,899,109	(\$69,093)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$2,292,910	\$2,417,095	(\$124,185)
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	\$496,377	\$494,302	____\$2,075
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$40,728</b>	<b>(\$12,288)</b>	<b>\$53,016</b>

Although our pledged giving for September was lower than anticipated, we are grateful to God that our giving has been strong in the previous months. Thank you for your generosity. As we enter into the last months of 2011 we are trusting God to meet our needs and commitments and relying on your continued faithful gifts.

*If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Office at 210-271-2755 or any member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.*

## Stewardship Campaign Update

As of Monday, October 24, 2011, we have a total of 408 commitments in excess of \$2.280 million.

Adult Commitments	367	2,278,234
Youth Commitments	8	637
<u>Childrens Commitments</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>1,853</u>
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>408</b>	<b>2,280,724</b>

In addition, over 37% of the adult commitments received have increased over last year. We have also received 75 new commitments. We are grateful for God’s faithfulness. If you not returned your commitment card to us, please do so at your earliest convenience. They are available at worship and in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Carolyn Tuley in the Finance Office.

## Global Missions

### La Meseta, Dominican Republic

Join us on one of our final trips to La Meseta, Dominican Republic! Next summer, we'll continue our partnership with Food for the Hungry on several Christian community development projects in the small village of La Meseta.

We have been visiting this small community for about seven years. It is important to note that our official partnership with this small village will be ending in 2013. Our visits and work in this community have been for the purpose of helping them to become self-sustaining. Each trip we help build latrines for the community to improve sanitation, host a Vacation Bible School to help educate the children, as well as participate in home visits to offer fellowship to the community.

Next year, we will host *two* trips to the DR, including our annual summer trip and our first University trip to the DR! The university trip is open to any college student that would like to attend and will be during Spring Break, March 12-18. Please contact Scott Fleming ([scottf@fpcsat.org](mailto:scottf@fpcsat.org)) if you would like more information or like to sign up.

As this is the first DR University trip, we are offering the trip at a reduced cost, and FPC will be helping with the fundraising needed for the trip.

The summer trip of 2012 will be June 16 – 23, and will be one of the last few trips that FPC will be making to La Meseta. This trip is open to anyone, and again, FPC is able to help with fundraising for this trip. Please contact Alyssa Payne ([alyssap@fpcsat.org](mailto:alyssap@fpcsat.org)) if you have any questions or would like to sign up. The deadline to sign up for each trip is December 15. Please pray about whether God is calling you to serve in this special way!



## "I Was Sick, and You Visited Me."

By Judi Trotti, Registered Nurse and Deacon

Matthew 25:36b

The first pink glow announcing the rising sun shone through the windows of the intensive care unit, as I watched from the nurses' station. I could see a tall woman carrying a box of donuts walking toward me. She glanced into a nearby patient room and then stopped and asked to speak to the nurse who was taking care of her friend. They met, talked briefly and the donut box changed hands. The nurse smiled and thanked the woman for her kindness, and then went with her to the patient's bedside. I met the woman later as we walked toward the elevator. I asked how she was and how the person that she came to visit was doing. She told me that things hadn't gone well with her friend during the night, that there were serious problems with her heart, and that she seemed to be lapsing in and out of consciousness. "I don't really know her that well, and I am not sure that she even knows who I am today, but I just had to come and see her. She doesn't have any family, and few friends. I'm concerned about her being so sick and being alone. These may be the last few days of her life. I pray that she will be all right."

Those words resonated in my mind as I realized that I had come face to face with a prayerful and compassionate ministering spirit. This woman did not identify herself as a

deacon, but she exemplifies what deacons do when they make visits to hospitals and rehabilitation centers to comfort members of our congregation. On some days the prognosis is good, and on others the minutes are counting down to the time for eternal rest. The visit is usually brief, and sometimes no acknowledgement is made to the visitor by those visited. Regardless, the sound of a comforting voice and a reassuring touch, are believed by members of the medical professions, to be the last things in life that most people comprehend.

Give prayerful consideration to becoming a deacon or nominating someone that you know for the office. We will walk you through how to get from the parking lot to the bedside. Christ will guide your words and your prayers once you get there. He never leaves the side of those who have exhausted their strength and their resources, and he always provides support to the servant as well as to those served.

May it be that *every* member of the body of Christ never pass up an opportunity to minister to those who are sick or recovering from an illness. The care providers at all levels appreciate your prayers and words of encouragement as well. Donuts are optional.

## We Are Thankful ...

By Candy Wagner

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



In the month of November, our thoughts are of autumn leaves and cooler days, but most of all of thanksgiving and gratitude. With this in mind, PW will be holding our annual **Presbyterian Women's Fall Luncheon** where we will be honoring our First Presbyterian Church staff, to show our gratitude for their faithfulness and service to our congregation.

The luncheon, part of the Hoon/Bullock Lecture Series, will be held on **Monday, Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>** at 11:45 AM and will feature the Rev. Alan Torrance as our guest speaker. Rev. Torrance is the Professor of Systemic Theology at St. Mary's College of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Please join us as we welcome the Rev. Torrance and express our thanks to him and as we honor and thank our wonderful church staff.

Many thanks to Kathy Stringfellow and Judy Kruger, Co-Chairmen for this event, for their efforts in planning this very special day! Reservations are required so please sign up at your circle meeting, or you can send an email to Melissa Gravelyn (MelissaG@fpcsat.org) or Kathy Stringfellow (astringfellow@satx.rr.com). For phone reservations call Kathy at 210-821-6996. The cost of the luncheon is \$7 and is payable at the door. The deadline for reservations is Nov. 7

so make yours today. There will also be Sus Hijas merchandise available for your shopping pleasure!

Many other PW activities are in the works this month. The Young Mom's Circle and other willing volunteers will be putting the finishing touches on Christmas gifts for our Nursing Home Christmas Parties and preparations are under way for "The Gift of Christmas" adopt-a-family program. Our circles are meeting and continuing their study of the Beatitudes. The December book selection of the Literature Circle is "Roses" by Leila Meacham. It will be reviewed by the author herself on Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>. It is never too late to get involved! Contact Janet Wernli at 828-1043 or Ann Bunn at 828-9454 to find a circle that is just right for you.

As the holidays are quickly approaching and with our thoughts on thanksgiving, I would like to express my gratitude for the many ways that God has so richly blessed us all. I personally am so very thankful for the women of PW. They are truly shining lights, reflecting God's love and the risen Lord we serve - each and every one is a blessing in my life!

Wishing you and those you love a blessed and happy Thanksgiving!

"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations." Psalm 100:4-5

## KEYS News



KEYS Adults are looking forward to November's special programs and a time to reflect on our many blessings. Come and bring a friend to share our Friday fun and fellowship!

### Wounded Warriors Support Center

November 4 (Friday) 10:30 a.m.

We will visit the Wounded Warriors Support Center and then return to FPC for hamburgers and all the trimmings on the patio. A 12-passenger van has been reserved so please make your reservations early. Watch for all the details in the KEYS November Newsletter.

### Veterans' Day Program - *The Faith of a Soldier*

November 11 (Friday) 11:00 a.m.

Speaker: Chaplain (LTC) John W. Kaiser

Dept. of Ministry & Pastoral Care Brook Army Medical. This program honors all of our military personnel – past and present.

### November Birthdays

November 18 (Friday)

November birthdays will be celebrated in Boerne (restaurant to be announced). We just might work in a little shopping!! A 29-passenger bus has been reserved for a fun day. Watch for details in the KEYS November Newsletter.

December is fast approaching so please mark these special dates on your calendar and watch for further details.

December 2 – KEYS/ABC Annual Christmas Party

"Tis the season – A Musical Christmas Gift" with Tom, Jae & Josh

### FPC CHRISTMAS TRIP

"Cuero at Christmas"

December 5 (Monday) 3:30 – 10:00 p.m.

The first treat is a cooking demonstration by a professional chef at "The Cooking Depot," followed by a gourmet dinner. It is known as the "best little cook shop in South Texas."

View Victorian store fronts and the breathtaking lighted displays of Christmas in the Park, which has over 200 displays of Victorian, Western, Train, Gingerbread House and other scenes. Highlights are the 17-piece Nativity on the Lake Island, the 85-foot Paddlewheel Boat, Sea Serpent, "Peace on Earth" globe, the 30-foot U.S. flag and penguins.



For information, contact Pat McCleary, Director of Older Adult Ministry 226-0215, ext. 226. For reservations contact Melissa Gravelyn (210-226-0215).

# Report from the Church Relations Committee

The Church Relations Committee (CRC) is a committee of the Session, which studies and reports to the Session on matters related to our denomination, the Presbyterian Church of the United States of America (PCUSA). Members include Chuck Beatty, Don Crews, Sally Guy, Rick Jordan, David Peebles (Chairman), Tripp Stewart, David West, Sidney Wilkins and Amy Zesch. Trey Little is the staff representative, and John Seiders also meets with the committee.

This committee will study and report to the Session on issues affecting our denomination, including those raised by the recent adoption of Amendment 10-A (“Gifts and Qualifications”) to the Book of Order. The Book of Order, along with the Book of Confessions, is part of the Constitution of the PCUSA. The amendment governs the standards for ordination of ministers and church officers. It states:

Standards for ordained service reflect the church’s desire to submit joyfully to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in all aspects of life. The council responsible for ordination and/or installation shall examine each candidate’s calling, gifts, preparation, and suitability for the responsibilities of ordered ministry. The examination shall include, but not be limited to, a determination of the candidate’s ability and commitment to fulfill all requirements as expressed in the constitutional questions for ordination and installation. Councils shall be guided by Scripture and the confessions in applying standards to individual candidates.

The amendment replaces the old standard, which stated that deacons, elders and ministers must “live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness. Persons refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the confessions call sin shall not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders or ministers of the Word and Sacrament.” This was a national standard, which applied to all individual churches.

Under the new standard, each individual congregation will decide which persons to choose as its ministers, elders, and deacons; and each presbytery will decide which persons to approve and admit into the presbytery as ministers. The previous national standard will no longer apply to local churches.

The amendment to our denomination’s constitution was approved by a majority of the Presbyteries in the PCUSA (97 of 173 presbyteries voted in favor of 10-A). Mission Presbytery, of which our church is a member, voted in favor of the amendment by a narrow margin.

Churches and presbyteries throughout the denomination are considering the effects of this change. On August 25-26, nearly 2,000 Presbyterian pastors, leaders, and members met in Minneapolis for the inaugural meeting of the “Fellowship of Presbyterians.” The group discussed responses to 10-A and trends in the denomination. There will be another meeting of the Fellowship on January 18-20, 2012, in Orlando, Florida.

Within our own presbytery, there have been meetings, letters, and a variety of proposals in response to new changes in polity and ordination standards. In response, Mission Presbytery called a special meeting on September 17 and discussed four potential courses of action for churches:

1. Remain in the denomination and accept the new polity. The goal is to promote the unity of the church.
2. Remain in the denomination, but allow each presbytery and session to express individual views through documents such as church information forms (used in hiring new ministers), written standards and resolutions, and sexual misconduct policies.
3. Create a new “overlay Presbytery,” thereby creating two presbyteries within the same geographical area. A church could affiliate with either presbytery, allowing it to stay in the denomination while working with other churches that share common ordination standards and a common theology.
4. Mission Presbytery is developing a protocol for churches that may seek to leave the denomination, even though it hopes they will remain. This option has been referred to as “gracious separation.”

The CRC will host Town Hall meetings on Thursday, November 10 and Sunday, November 20 to update the Congregation on various meetings within the denomination and options that have been presented. Members will be given an opportunity to listen, ask questions, and express their views. You are encouraged to attend either or both of these gatherings. More details about the time and place will be provided at a later date.

The Session and CRC recognize there are many views within our own congregation on what the church should look like going forward. Different viewpoints are represented on the Session and the CRC. Whatever your view, we encourage all members to treat each other with Christian love, patience, and understanding. Senior Pastor Trey Little also reminds us that the most important objective during this time of discernment is to continue to be the church and to do the work of the church. We seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit in this process.

## Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord

### *A welcome to Josh Fenoglio*

By Elizabeth Tichy

I often dwell on the Biblical truth that we are called to make music to our living God. That we are invited to worship Him with singing and joyful noise! Scripture tells us that “Everything that has breath is to praise the Lord” (Psalm 150:6). I do not think I have grasped the enormity of the gift God has given us when He created our ability and desire to worship with music, voice and joyful noise!

Our musical heritage as a church is rich and remains an integral part of our worship as a church family. Each of us is deeply blessed by God in His instruction to our church to continue to develop our musical worship. It is tremendously unique to find a church that is able to provide outstanding “traditional” worship services as well as beautiful “contemporary” worship experiences. We have been guided by God to do just that.

With that instruction in mind, a full time Contemporary Worship Leader and Associate Minister of Music has been selected. Josh Fenoglio is his name. Believe me when I tell you, the search committee is making a joyful noise!! Josh recognized while in college he was called to lead and play worship music. He received a Bachelors degree in Education from Texas A&M University and attended Bethel School of Worship in California. After college, Josh was the drummer for the Christian rock band *Grey Holiday*, whose recordings appeared on the Essential Records/Sony record label. After a few years, Grey Holiday disbanded, with the individual members returning to the stability of family life and the desire to serve God in one location. Since that time, Josh has served as a worship leader in several churches, most recently at Oak Hills Church here in San Antonio.

More important to him than his music is his wife, Morgan. Josh and Morgan have been married for five years. Morgan has a Masters degree in Counseling and works with The Children’s Bereavement Center here in San Antonio.



When not at church, Josh can be found on the basketball court, the softball field, or the heart pounding world of fantasy football. He is passionate about God, his family, and his music and he can’t wait to share all three in his ministry at First Presbyterian Church.

It is with anticipation and excitement that we can look forward to further artistic, spiritual and community development of the contemporary worship service. Josh, in partnership with a talented group of volunteer singers and musicians, will help us to build upon our musical heritage as we continue to strive for excellence in worship. It’s all to the Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Please join me in offering Josh and Morgan the warmest of welcomes to our church. In fact, come to the contemporary worship service Sundays at 11am in Westminster Hall. We would love to worship with you. Josh Fenoglio can be reached by phone at 210-226-0216, ext. 275 or by email at [joshf@fpcsat.org](mailto:joshf@fpcsat.org).

## At-Home Visits

—Continued from page 1

at their home. In addition, Deacons bring seasonal flowers as gifts from the congregation to their at-home members at Christmas and at Easter.

Most Deacons agree that the relationships that are formed with their at-home members are one of the most rewarding aspects of being a Deacon. Frequently these caring relationships last for many years, even after a Deacon has completed his or her term.

The church may not always be aware when someone has transitioned from being an attending member to being an “at-home” member. If you know of someone who is in this category and is not being visited by a Deacon, please contact Scott Simpson ([scottsf@fpcsat.org](mailto:scottsf@fpcsat.org)) so that a Deacon can be assigned.

In addition, if you know someone who has a heart for caring for the members of our church family in a variety of loving ways please prayerfully consider nominating them for the Office of Deacon. The nomination process will begin later this fall.

## PW Circle Meetings - November

### **Circle 2**

Monday, Nov. 21, 1:30 PM  
FPC, Room 226  
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

### **Circle 3**

Monday, Nov. 21, 1:30 PM  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Ann Fryburger, 490-3566

### **Circle 4**

Monday, Nov. 21, 1:00 PM  
Army Residence Center  
7400 Crestway (39)  
Chair: Julia Hays Carlson, 646-5452  
Co-chair: Amelie Shaw, 826-5512

### **Circle 5**

Shawl Ministry  
Friday, Nov. 18, 12-1 PM  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208  
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

### **Circle 6**

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 1:30 PM  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Hostess: Molly Lewis, Shirley Crews  
and Vicky LePere  
Chairs: Patsy Johnson, 828-3852  
Joan Stratton, 826-0965  
Jane Warren, 493-5187  
Kip Zbinden, 826-7575

### **Circle 7**

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 11:30 AM  
Home of Nancy Puckett  
3106 Iron Stone Lane (30)  
Chairs: Darcy Collins, 830-755-4871  
Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

### **Circle 8**

Moms' Group  
Monday, Nov. 14 & 28, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 108  
Chair: Amy Renard, 999-5323  
Co-chair: Julie Walthall, 829-8332  
Contact: April Kuper, 271-2732

### **Circle 9**

Tuesday, Nov. 15, 10:00 AM  
Home of Ann Smith  
2626 Country Hollow (09)  
Chairs: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414  
Margaret Gragg, 493-8119

### **Circle 10**

Wednesday, Nov. 9, 1:00 PM  
Towers at Park Ln.  
The Club (22nd Floor)  
Chair: Betty Hurt, 826-1155

### **Circle 11**

Monday, Nov. 28, 6:30 PM  
Home of Sheila Figueroa  
335 E. Melrose Dr. (12)  
Chair: Pat Brodeen, 494-1534

### **Circle 13**

Literature Circle  
Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1:30 PM  
FPC, McCullough Room  
Chair: Willie Willming, 495-2209

### **Circle 14**

Monday, Nov. 21, 12-1:30 PM  
FPC, St. Andrews Room  
Chair: Jackie Rutledge, 416-8133

### **Circle 15**

Talking, Sharing Circle  
Sunday, Nov. 20, 11 AM  
FPC, St. Andrews Room  
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

### **Circle 16**

Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, Nov. 16, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 228  
Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978  
Corie Barlow, 481-1337

### **Circle 17**

Edna Ralston Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, Nov. 9, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 309  
Chair: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972

### **Circle 18**

Circle of Concern  
Meets as needed  
Chairs: Paula Bondurant, 736-6632  
Georgia Heath, 695-9511  
Char-An Witten, 341-1856

### **Circle 19**

White Cross Circle  
Monday, Nov. 7, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 309  
Chair: Janet Beauch, 673-3251

### **Circle 20**

Circle of Service  
Meets as needed  
Chairs: Sabrina Rios, 822-5707  
Leah Butler, 804-1934

### **Circle 21**

Monday, Nov. 21, 6:30 PM  
Home of Rosemary Engstrom  
3630 Sugarhill Dr. (30)  
Chair: Suzanne West, 525-1499  
Co-chair: Karin Gabrielson, 333-4239

### **Circle 112**

Monday, Nov. 21, 10:30 AM  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182  
Co-chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245



*Happy Thanksgiving!*

## All Saints Day

In loving memory of those in the congregation who have died  
October 26, 2010 to October 27, 2011

### 2010

Marty Totten  
Ruth Fuhrmann Caldwell  
Charles Dulaney Schutz  
John F Ready  
Mary Ann Miller



### 2011

Janet Wilma (Stolte) Finch  
Raymon Clay Barlow  
Nancy Letitia (Isbell) Sien  
John Creighton Webbles  
Lelar J Phoenix  
Johnye Ray Sirotiak  
Louis Herbert Stumberg  
G Lindsay Crump  
Ruth Campbell  
Charles Gunther Orsinger  
Frances Heard Billups  
Betty Herpel Matteson  
Mary Goodrich Baskin  
Charles Edward Foster  
Patricia J Maxson  
Jeffrey Morgan Morehouse  
Kathryn Louise Praeger

## Give thanks with your church family

Celebrate Thanksgiving one day early with a traditional, plated buffet-style Thanksgiving Eve turkey dinner with dressing, sweet potatoes and other delectables at 5:30 p.m. in Westminster Hall.

This is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and family who might be visiting you from out of town. The dinner is followed by our annual traditional worship service in the Sanctuary at 6:45 p.m. The Rev. Ruthie Seiders preaches. Dinner is \$7. To be good stewards, we ask that your prepaid check secures your reservation, no refunds, please. Please call Melissa Gravelyn at 210-226-0215 to confirm your reservation.



## Honoring our staff

Staff Recognition Day, Sunday, November 20

On Sunday, November 20, at the 11:00 a.m. Traditional worship service, the Personnel and Property Committee will publicly recognize and thank the church staff who work so hard to serve the congregation and the larger Body of Christ. The committee recognizes all staff members, both full and part-time, on significant anniversaries of their service to the church. Recognition begins on their fifth anniversary and additional recognition takes place on each five-year anniversary following. We encourage you to come to this celebration in the Sanctuary, and please feel free to drop the following staff members a note of encouragement and thanks for the work they do.

Ed Crump, Sanctuary Choir—30 years

Dino Campos, Household Staff—15 years

Maria Hernandez, Caregiver —10 years

Pat McCleary, Older Adults' Ministry Director —10 years

Holly Youngquist, Children's Day Out Teacher—10 years

Stacie Rodriguez, Administrative Assistant —5 years

John Garza, Soundboard Technician —5 years

Jennifer Cortez, Caregiver—5 years

April Kuper, Asst. Children's Ministry Director —5 years

Laura Ortiz, Children's Center Teacher —5 years



**Advent Festival**  
 Sunday, November 27 3-5 p.m.  
 Westminster Hall

Join us for a wonderful time of fun and fellowship as we joyfully ring-in the Christian New Year and prepare our hearts for the coming of the King.



## Order Poinsettias 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. **No checks will be accepted after Sunday, December 11.** 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.

## Why do we celebrate Advent?

By Kathy Timberlake  
 Director of Children's Ministry

### *What is Advent and why do we participate?*

Advent is the beginning of the New Year in the church calendar. The liturgical year is celebrated in almost all Christian denominations. The word Advent is derived from the Latin word for "coming." It originated in the fourth century as a period of penance and preparation for baptisms at Epiphany on January 6. During the sixth century, it was moved to the four weeks before Christmas Day. During the ninth and tenth centuries, Advent's meaning was broadened to include the expectation of the Second Coming of Christ. *Advent is a time to reflect on our lives, to deepen our commitment to follow Jesus Christ, and live in hope of Christ's return.*

One of the most popular ways to mark the weeks of Advent is with an Advent wreath. They are usually round wreaths, with greenery and four royal blue or purple candles. The circle of the wreath signifies the continuing presence of God, and the evergreens symbolize everlasting life. The four candles represent the four weeks before Christmas and the color royal blue or purple signifies royalty. Families are encouraged to light a new candle each Sunday at mealtime and include scripture readings or other Advent devotionals and prayer time. Come make your wreath at the Advent Festival, Sunday, November 27, 3:00-5:00 p.m. in Westminster Hall.

## Order Poinsettias for Christmas

In honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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## Thank You!

Hello FPC! My name is Wilson Nicholson. I am a 7th grade Sunday School teacher, former youth intern, and member here at First Presbyterian Church. FPC has meant so much to me through the years, and has had a huge impact on both my life and my faith. I was baptized in this church, grew up coming to youth group and learned what it really meant to walk with Jesus. This church raised me to be the follower of Christ that I am today.



When I interned here, during the summer of 2010, I was trying to discern whether God was calling me into full-time youth ministry. I also met my fiancée (Adrienne Stanley) who was interning with the Children's ministry (she is now interning there again!). Working at FPC was a true blessing! By the end of that summer, I felt that youth ministry was the direction in which God was pointing me.

Recently, after graduating from college, I was hired by Youth For Christ to jumpstart and direct their middle school Campus Life program in Alamo Heights. Essentially, Campus Life exists to share Christ with the students, families, and community in Alamo Heights. I will be working alongside churches (like FPC) as a missionary specifically with junior high students. It is an awesome opportunity for me to go out into the community, and share with others what I learned growing up here at FPC, the love of Christ.

I write this article to thank all of you at FPC for being a part of my faith journey and my call to ministry. If you would like to find out more about me or this ministry, please email [wilson4nicholson@gmail.com](mailto:wilson4nicholson@gmail.com). Thanks and God bless!

## The "Gift of Christmas"

Presbyterian Women is happy to once again coordinate the Church's annual Christmas project. The "Gift of Christmas" is an opportunity to share God's love with others by giving Christmas gifts and food to families in need. This year First Presbyterian Church will be working with the House of Neighborly Service to fulfill Christmas wishes of families who need support.



The House of Neighborly Service (HNS) is a non-profit, multi-service, neighborhood center founded in 1917 by Presbyterian missionaries, which serves 900 families from San Antonio's Westside. HNS has provided a wide range of social, educational and health related programs throughout its ninety year history with an emphasis on helping families move toward independence and self-sufficiency.

This year our goal is to join with area Presbyterian Churches to provide the "Gift of Christmas" to over 100 participating HNS families. We encourage PW Circles, Sunday School classes, church organizations, families and friends to share the joy of giving by adopting a family. We will provide all pertinent information on the family. Funds are available for families who have special needs.

Remember the words of Christ, "I tell you truly, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me." Pick up your Christmas Gift request form in the Mauze Lobby or call Mary Ellen Mauze (210-826-1312) or Kay Laird (210-824-2459). Return the completed form to the Christmas Gift mailbox in the church workroom, fax to 210-824-2446, or mail to Kay Laird, 725 Canterbury Hill, 78209.

## Intersection



## Intersection Continues

- |         |   |
|---------|---|
| Nov. 16 | Classes end   |
| Nov. 23 | Thanksgiving Eve Service  |
| Nov. 30 | The Intersection Big Event  |
| Dec. 7  | Christmas Carol sing-a-long and<br>cookie decorating for all ages<br>(Westminster Hall) |

## More ....

### CHURCH REGISTER

#### Marriage

John Andrew Heymann and Jennifer Faye Sien - October 15

James Steven Chapman and Melissa Cochran Baird - October 22

#### Death

Kathryn Louise Praeger - October 6

### TOWNHALL MEETINGS

The Church Relations Committee will host Town Hall meetings on Thursday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, November 20 at 12:00 p.m. in Covenant Hall to update the Congregation on various meetings within the denomination and options that have been presented. Members will be given an opportunity to listen, ask questions, and express their views. You are encouraged to attend either or both gatherings.

### MEN'S BREAKFAST AT THE QUARRY

All men are invited to join us from 7-8 a.m. at the Quarry Golf Club Tuesday, Nov. 15. As part of our observance of Veteran's Day and in honor of those who serve, we have John Kaiser to be the speaker. The title of his talk will be "The Cost of Being A Veteran". Lt. Col. John Kaiser is a member of our congregation and currently serves the military at Ft. Sam Houston. Cost for breakfast is \$10, which is payable at the door, but please RSVP with **Melissa Gravelyn** ([melissag@fpcsat.org](mailto:melissag@fpcsat.org)/210-226-0215).

### HOON-BULLOCK LECTURE SERIES

FPCSA welcomes Dr. Alan Torrance, professor of Systemic Theology at St. Mary's College of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. **Nov. 13:** Dr. Torrance will preach at all Traditional Sunday worship services and then present lectures Sunday evening at 5:00 and 7:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in the Geneva Room. **Nov. 14:** Dr. Torrance will present a lecture at the PW Luncheon at 11:45 a.m. Please RSVP with Melissa Gravelyn ([melissag@fpcsat.org](mailto:melissag@fpcsat.org)/210-226-0215) by Nov. 10.

### FIRST PRESS GOING MONTHLY

Beginning with this issue, our church newsletter will become a monthly publication. All submissions are due no later than the 10th of each month. Send content to [communications@fpcsat.org](mailto:communications@fpcsat.org). For more information, contact the church at 210-226-0215.

### LOST & FOUND

Please come and retrieve your lost items from the collection site in the work room. We are cleaning house. Any item not claimed by Nov. 18 will be donated to the needy.

### FRIDAY SINGERS

We're spreading joy in music to Grace Place on Nacogdoches, Clair Bridge San Antonio, Emeritus at Amber Oaks, Waterford at Thousand Oaks, Mission Oaks Manor and La Estrella on S. Flores. All these locations have asked for us to return and it's our pleasure to do so, as followers of Jesus.

### CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

The FPC Christmas Boutique will soon begin receiving donations of items appropriate for gifts to HNS families. In November, the Boutique will be open to FPC shoppers who have adopted a family.

### PRAYER MINISTRY

The Prayer Ministry committee needs new members. The purpose of Prayer Ministry is "To ignite a passion for prayer within the congregational life and ministries of First Presbyterian so that the power of Christ's love is made manifest in all we are and do!" Prayerfully consider if God is calling you to join this ministry. Currently, Prayer Ministry meets on the third Thursday of each month at 11:45 following the Thursday Bible study; however, we are open to changing the scheduled meeting time to accommodate new members. For more information, please contact Chuck Beatty, phone: 210-826-3386 or by email: [cbeatty3@satx.rr.com](mailto:cbeatty3@satx.rr.com).

Please continue to pray for all of those that have lost their homes, land and businesses in the recent wildfires around Texas, especially the Bastrop area. FPCSA is going to be working with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to offer relief. We hope to plan several trips to Bastrop soon to help with cleanup and rebuilding. Many basic items have already been donated. Look for details about upcoming service trips to the affected areas and consider going and serving.

### LAITY LODGE RETREAT

Make plans now to attend the FPCSA annual Laity Lodge retreat Feb. 3-5, 2012, led by Dave Peterson, senior pastor of Houston's Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church. Set in the Hill Country's most spectacular canyon, Laity Lodge provides an extraordinary confluence of creativity and faith-building. Incredibly effective relational speakers, theologians and artists converge here to empower lay people from various denominations in a setting that is safe, serene and challenging. Registration forms can be found on the church website (home page) or in Mauze Lobby. Contact **Stacie Rodriguez** ([stacier@fpcsat.org](mailto:stacier@fpcsat.org)/210-271-2759) for more information.



### Session Minutes ... in Seconds



At Session on Monday, Oct. 10, the elders:

- Reviewed minutes of previous meetings
- Approved changes in the Church Register
- Heard reports from Personnel and Property, as well as Stewardship and Finance.



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# November Events

Full calendar online —  
[www.fpconline.org](http://www.fpconline.org)

- Nov 4-6: Middle School Breakaway
- Nov 6: Daylight Savings Time Ends (Fall Back)
- Nov 6: Discover First!
- Nov 10: Town Hall
- Nov 11: Veteran's Day Program (KEYS)
- Nov 13: Hoon-Bullock
- Nov 14: PW Fall Luncheon
- Nov 20: Town Hall
- Nov 23: Thanksgiving Dinner and Worship
- Nov 24-25: Church Closed
- Nov 27: Advent Festival, Alternative Gift Market  
and Loaves & Fishes

