



# First Press

October 4, 2011

fpconline.org

## 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.

## Childcare

Reserve by calling the Childcare Hotline (210-226-0216, ext. 312) no later than two days prior to an event. Drop-ins for childcare cannot be accommodated.



## We want you back

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

"We want you back, Trey!" What a great message to read. It is so affirming to know you are wanted — to know you matter — to know that someone is thinking of you and misses you when you are absent.

Now, before you think my heartfelt message came from someone in the church or perhaps a long lost business acquaintance, you need to know the message came via email from TIME Magazine. You see, I canceled my subscription several months ago and well, they want me back.

The truth is we all like to be wanted. We all like to be missed when we aren't there. That's why I want you all to know that when you are not at First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio on Sundays or on Wednesdays or any other FPCSA events — you are missed.

Part of the beauty of being at church is to actually be together. To worship together; to study together; to grow together; to pray together; to fellowship together; to laugh and cry together; to serve together. But also, being church is the realization that, in the midst of our many differences, we have been brought together by God's amazing grace in Jesus Christ.

There are wonderful ministries happening here at FPCSA. If you have been absent — know you have been missed — know we want you back. If you have been less involved with the activities in the church — know you are needed, and we want you back. If you have missed a few Sunday school classes — know we want you back. However, most importantly, if you feel like

you have distanced yourself from Christ — know He wants you back.

One final thought: I recently read an email that said, "I asked God to give me happiness. God said, 'No, I give you blessings, happiness is up to you.' I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, 'No, I will give you life so you may enjoy all things.' I asked God to help me love others, as much as He loves me. God said, 'Ahh ... finally, you get the idea.'"

Perhaps it's TIME to come back.

Keep smiling and keep lovin'.



## The calling of a deacon: Walk with me

By Rachel Maurer

### DEACONS

We are all called to care for others and the greatest gift that we can give a friend in need is our time. The gift of time is to be present, to listen, to say a prayer and to give a hug just because we care about them.

Take a moment to walk with a Deacon as they care for others...

- I am about to enter the hospital room to visit a friend, but first I pray that God will guide my words and give the person I am visiting comfort...
- I am going to visit a friend who is walking through grief, but first I pray that they will feel God's love during these dark days...

- I am about to knock on the door to visit a friend who spends most of their days at home but first I pray that God will surround them with love and joy...
- I am sitting down to call a church member to ask how I can pray for them, but first I pray that God will be present in our conversation...
- I am waiting to pray with someone after a church service, but first I ask God to open their hearts to feel his grace...
- I am going to present a hurting friend with a beautiful prayer shawl, but first I pray for God to surround them with his peace...
- I am going to deliver beautiful Easter Lilies to a friend, but first I pray to God to

thank Him for giving us the greatest gift of all...

Actually the "I" is really "we" as God is with me on every visit and is the one who provides the comfort, peace and joy to others. I am humbled to be in His presence.

At the end of the Deacon visit, I hold my friend's hand, say a prayer and give them a hug. I have been so blessed by our time together and they have given me so much more than I can ever give them.

—The calling of a deacon ... continues on page 3

# Letters of thanks

Dear FPCSA Family,

For more than 16 years, I have had the pleasure of serving the body of Christ that meets in the building at 4th and Alamo Streets. After retiring from the Air Force chaplaincy, I moved to San Antonio and joined this church in 1992. One day Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden, former FPCSA senior pastor, called me into his office and asked if I would accept the position that Ed Walthall had vacated, ministering to our at-home members. God led me to accept the call, a decision I will never regret. I will always be grateful to Louis for opening this door of opportunity.

Though the at-home members were initially a large part of my ministry, my role in congregational care grew to encompass all ages, as well as working with our deacons. Because of shortages of pastors from time to time, I was also asked to participate in worship services. It has been my privilege to be with you in times of both joy and sadness, in sickness and challenging periods of recovery; in times of personal or family stress, and also times of celebration; to be with you at the bedside of a loved one as said your final goodbye, and to celebrate resurrection with you at the graveside and memorial service. Surely, there is no ministry more deeply moving and rewarding than this! Throughout all these years of service, you encouraged me and faithfully prayed for me, expressing your kindness, hospitality, acceptance, and your love. My heartfelt thanks go out to you for all the countless ways you have enriched my life.

I am also grateful for all of the pastors with whom I have served throughout these years, and especially the present team with whom I have had the privilege and pleasure of sharing ministry. And my heartfelt thanks to the whole staff — the warm greetings, the smiles and hugs, words of encouragement, the times of personal sharing and carrying each other's burdens in prayer.

There is no way I can adequately thank you for the gracious retirement celebration on July 31. The beautiful cards, notes, and the generous monetary gifts speak eloquently of who you are—Christ's family filled with loved and grace. Sandy and I look forward to continuing to serve alongside you, to share in the next chapter of the ongoing story of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio. Our prayers continue for our new senior pastor, Trey Little, and his family, and also with the leaders of our church, that they will be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit as we move forward in these challenging times. It is a privilege to continue serving Christ together in whatever way he leads. In Christ's love.

-George Sturch

My dear family in Christ,

I have often said, "If you have to have a crisis, have it at First Presbyterian Church!" In my 36 years here, I have found this to be consistently true. When my recent hip surgery did not go as planned, and I was faced with a long and difficult recovery, you were there for me with beautiful cards and notes, visits, delicious meals, and offers of help in every way we could imagine. George went immediately from retirement from congregational care to full-time caregiver, and I went from a busy and fulfilling life of service in our church to being virtually helpless, which was a new and unwelcomed experience for me. I don't know how we would have made it without your faithful prayers and daily support. You have outdone yourselves in showing your love to us. Thank you from the bottom of our heart! Blessings and love to you always.

-Sandy Sturch

**GIVE**  
Till It

Feels  
**GOOD**

Let Us Worship God  
with Our Very Lives

**COMMITMENT SUNDAY**  
**October 23**

At FPCSA, we want GIVING to be an act of WORSHIP throughout the year that is the natural response of transformed lives.

Giving acknowledges God's presence and provision in our lives. It is grateful hearts recognizing that all that we have and all that we are is from God.

To help with church planning, we set aside a day — Commitment Sunday — to commit our gifts to God for the work of the church for the coming year.

# Intersection welcomes 150 adults, youth and children each Wednesday night

By Rev. Ruthie Seiders  
FAMILY AND STUDENT MINISTRY

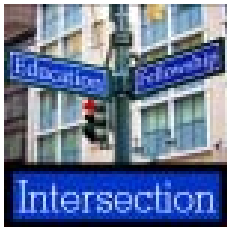
Westminster Hall is set with 20 tables, each decorated for the theme of the week and filled with conversation and laughter over a family-style meal. Adults, children, youth and leaders build relationships with one another and learn about the intersection of faith and life in “family devotions” after dinner each week.

Four adult classes are well attended:

- 15-plus learning to “Live Peacefully in an Angry World”
  - 25-30 taking a Bible 101 class
  - 10-15 ladies (some mothers and daughters) learning to knit and crochet while listening to heartfelt stories of our shawl ministry
- all the while four pews are filled in the Sanctuary or Chapel with folks listening to the history and stories surrounding the beautiful stained glass windows of our church building.

At the same time our preschool Tadpoles and elementary Master’s Hands classes have been so well attended, we have to split them into two classes each! The choirs are busy at work learning music and developing relationships with one another and their directors. The middle schoolers add energy to the far end of the dining room while high school girls slip in for dinner before heading off to their life group.

Not yet a part of the fun on Wednesday nights? Pick up an Intersection brochure and check out the upcoming classes for adults: Our Hebrew Roots, Cooking, Jewelry Making, Marriage Workshop, Photoshop and more to come next semester! Come on down and bring a friend — we’ll set another place for dinner!



**Upcoming Intersection themes and menus:**

- |          |                             |  |
|----------|-----------------------------|--|
| Oct. 5:  | Theme - Bronco              | Menu - King Ranch Chicken, cornbread, “veggie chicken fingers” and dessert |
| Oct. 12: | Theme - '60s                | Menu - Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, peas and dessert                         |
| Oct. 19: | Theme - World Series        | Menu - Hot dogs, Chili, fries and dessert                                  |
| Oct. 26: | Theme - Halloween           | Menu - "Ghoul-losh," green beans, rice, dinner rolls and dessert           |
| Nov. 2:  | Theme - South of the Border | Menu - Red enchiladas, rice, beans, cornbread and dessert                  |

## The calling of a deacon

—Continued from page 1



We have many wonderful Deacons in our church who care for others. I ask that you will pray this Fall about who God is calling to be in the next class of Deacons. Please think of those around you who have a strong faith and a caring heart for others. I pray that if God places someone on your heart that you will nominate them to be a Deacon.

I also pray that when you see a friend in need that you will stop and take a moment to be with them. Your time with them will be a priceless gift that will fill their heart with comfort, peace and joy. If you hesitate because you don’t have the time, remember to ask God to make the time. If you hesitate because you don’t know what to say, remember to pray and know that God will always provide the perfect balance of what to say, when to listen and when it’s okay to be in sacred silence with your dear friend.

*“The LORD gives strength to His people; the LORD blesses His people with peace.”  
Psalms 29:11*



# Ladies night out: An evening with Frances Strange

By Candy Wagner

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



Please join Presbyterian Women for our fall **Ladies Night Out** event as we welcome our special guest, Frances Strange, author of *Don Strange of Texas: His Life and Recipes*. Frances, a long-time resident of San Antonio, and Don were married for 48 years. After the full-time job of raising their three sons, being active in many civic organizations and community groups and writing this book, she now heads the Don Strange Marketplace where she markets sauces, desserts and other products that have long been associated with Don Strange of Texas events. It is from these many years of life with “the boss,” as she calls him, and their many experiences together that she has such a unique insight and so many stories and anecdotes to share. Frances will also be sharing thoughts about how she wrote the cookbook, some entertaining tips and will be available to sign your copy of her book. She will also have a few copies with her for purchase. Some of the recipes from the cookbook will be available for

sampling along with “Café Mystique,” Don’s famous signature “end-of-the-evening” drink.

Open to all women of the church, the event will be held on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7 p.m. in the home of Suzanne Thomas (209 Lamont Ave., 78209). Co-Chairmen Pat Brodeen and Kathy Serrano have a very special fall evening package all wrapped up with food, fun and fellowship just waiting for you. Come and enjoy! To RSVP, please contact Pat Brodeen (210-494-1534 / pat@brodeen.com).

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”  
Colossians 3:17

## PW Circle Meetings - October

### Circle 112

Monday, Oct. 17, 10:30 AM  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182

### Circle 2

Monday, Oct. 17, 1:30 PM  
FPC, Room 226  
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

### Circle 3

Monday, Oct. 17, 1:30 PM  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Ann Fryburger, 490-3566

### Circle 4

Monday, Oct. 17, 1:30 PM  
Home of Peggy Redman  
515 Calumet Pl.  
Chair: Peggy Redman, 822-2966  
Co-chair: Amelie Shaw, 826-5512

### Circle 5

Shawl Ministry  
Friday, Oct. 21, 12-1 PM  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208  
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

### Circle 6

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 1:30 PM  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chairs: Patsy Johnson, 828-3852  
Joan Stratton, 826-0965  
Jane Warren, 493-5187  
Kip Zbinden, 826-7575

### Circle 7

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 11:30 AM  
Home of Jeanne Browning  
175 Primrose Pl.  
Chairs: Darcy Collins, 830-755-4871  
Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

### Circle 8

Moms' Group  
Monday, Oct. 3 & 17, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 108  
Chair: Amy Renard, 999-5323  
Co-chair: Julie Walthall, 829-8332

### Circle 9

Tuesday, Oct. 18, 10 AM  
FPC - Hostess Betty Carpenter  
Chairs: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414  
Margaret Gragg, 493-8119

### Circle 10

Wednesday, Oct. 12, 1:30 PM  
Towers at Park Ln.  
The Club (22nd Floor)  
Chair: Betty Hurt, 826-1155

### Circle 11

Monday, Oct. 24, 6:30 PM  
Home of Linda Ruhmann  
127 W. Elmview Rd.  
Chair: Pat Brodeen, 494-1534

### Circle 13

Literature Circle  
Tuesday, Oct. 11, 1:30 PM  
FPC, McCullough Room  
Chair: Willie Willming, 495-2209  
Co-chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

### Circle 14

Monday, Oct. 17, 12-1:30 PM  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chair: Jackie Rutledge, 416-8133

### Circle 15

Talking, Sharing Circle  
Sunday, Oct. 16, 11 AM  
FPC, St. Andrew's Room  
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

### Circle 16

Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, Oct. 19, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 228  
Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978  
Corie Barlow, 481-1337

### Circle 17

Edna Ralston Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, Oct. 12, 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, Oct. 3, 9:30 AM  
FPC, Room 309  
Chair: Janet Beach, 673-3251

### Circle 20

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

### Circle 21

Monday, Oct. 17, 6:30 PM  
Home of Kay Gerfers  
2514 Wilderness Hill  
Chair: Karin Gabrielson, 333-4239

# Best of the rest

## CHURCH REGISTER

Marriage

**Canda Corie Boldt** and Frederick Gene Hutt - September 24

## MEMBER NEWS

**(David) Bond West**, a May 2011 Baylor University graduate, has been picked to receive a Fullbright Scholarship to study at the University of Iceland.



## STAFF NEWS

On Sept. 19, **Josh Fenoglio** was named Associate Minister of Music / Contemporary

Worship Leader. Josh graduated from Texas A&M University and has most recently been leading worship at San Antonio's Oak Hills Church. Please welcome Josh to FPCSA.

## FOOD BANK'S COOPER TO PRESENT AT MEN'S OCT. BREAKFAST MEETING

All men are invited to come hear San Antonio Food Bank's president and CEO Eric Cooper at the Men's Breakfast Meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 11, from 7-8 a.m. at the Quarry Golf Club. Cost for the 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) no later than Monday, Oct. 10.

## HOON-BULLOCK LECTURE SERIES

Mark your calendar for Nov. 13 & 14 as FPCSA will welcome Dr. Alan Torrance, professor of Systematic Theology at St. Mary's College of the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. Dr. Torrance will preach at all four Sunday worship services and then present lectures on Sunday evening and Monday. Look for more details soon.



## PRAYERS NEEDED

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, and while we are now just taking donations, we hope to plan several trips to Bastrop soon to help with cleanup and rebuilding. Many basic items have already been donated, but financial donations will be accepted through Sunday, Oct. 9, by way of the offering plate or directly to the Administration mailbox in the second floor workroom. If interested in helping, please make a check payable to FPC (memo line "PDA wildfire relief"). Look for details about upcoming service trips to the affected areas and consider going and serve.

## 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.



## KEYS NEWS

Summer sped by and fall is here! Mark your calendars for these wonderful opportunities:

Annual flu clinic, sponsored by KEYS Adults, is Sunday, Oct. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Geneva Room. Don't suffer through the flu season — protect yourself and your family by receiving a flu shot. There is no charge for flu or pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Cost without coverage: Flu shots: \$26; Pneumonia: \$56.99, Tetanus Td: \$39.99 and Tetanus Tdap: \$59.99. Shingle shots also available. Children under seven years need a prescription from their doctor. Special thanks to H-E-B for providing the serum and giving the shots.

Annual fall picnic at the Gallagher Ranch (Judith & Doug McNeel's Home-La Casita) will be held Saturday, Oct. 15, from 12-3:30 p.m. This is the perfect place to spend a fall day in the country. A barbeque lunch will be served on the beautiful patio. The group will celebrate birthdays, play some games, listen to Doug entertain us and have a wonderful time! Cost is \$10 per person (those celebrating an Oct. birthday are complimentary). For reservations, call the church no later than Monday, Oct. 10, and mail a check (payable to FPC with "picnic" in the memo line) to **Pat McCleary**. Please indicate if you need a ride, as van transportation will be available.

## FIRST PRESS GOING MONTHLY

Beginning in November, 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 **Susan Emfinger** ([susane@fpcsat.org](mailto:susane@fpcsat.org) / 210-271-2728).



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# OCT. EVENTS

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

- Oct. 9: Flu shot clinic
- Oct. 10: Officers' meetings
- Oct. 10: Submissions due for Nov. newsletter
- Oct. 14-16: Women's retreat
- Oct. 18: Open house - Children's Center
- Oct. 20: Presbyterian Women's Ladies Night Out
- Oct. 23: Commitment Sunday
- Oct. 29-30: High school retreat
- Oct. 30: Children's Sunday
- Oct. 30: Loaves & Fishes

