



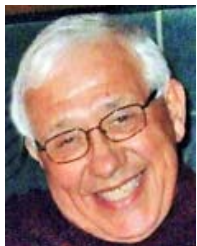
April 19, 2011 fpconline.org

New Worship Times at First Presbyterian

Beginning May 1, First Presbyterian Church will offer 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 at First Presbyterian

Reserve by contacting Carrie Jowers at 210.226.0216, ext. 220, or carriej@fpcsat.org no later than two days prior to the event. Drop-ins cannot be accommodated.



Processing a tough loss

Pastor's ponderings

In her college and seminary days, my daughter, Becky, was always “processing” issues, events and situations. When I first heard the word “processing,” I was greatly impressed and knew that she was a part of the “high-tech” generation. When she used the word, she was talking about “mulling it over,” “letting it marinate,” “cogitating” or “pondering” something important to her.

As I write these words to you, it's the morning after the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship Game, and I'm doing some introspective “processing.” I really let myself get hooked on the Butler team once again. Many of you know that I live about 10 miles from Butler's campus in Indianapolis. I attended several of their games since the time I was in college even though I did not attend there. They play in a marvelous old field house which is steeped in basketball folklore. For me, there is something magical about going to a Butler basketball game no

matter who they are playing. I feel like I am on hallowed ground.

Since they went to the final game last year, they have been on TV here in San Antonio more this year. When possible, I have often tried to plan my schedule around watching them. And these last three weeks, I have read everything I can get my hands on about Butler and their bright young coach, Brad Stevens. It's almost been an obsession for me.

As I “process” my passionate feelings about Butler's team, not only this year, but over the past several years, I ask myself, “Why am I so hooked?” The answer that is taking shape in my mind is that it has to do with the fact that they do things the “Butler Way,” that is they give a 100-percent effort on both offense and defense. They are a class act reflecting the ideals I embrace not just in sports but in life. They take the ethical high road in a day and age when sports seem to have lost their “true north.” They are not only “good losers,” but

also “gracious winners.” For Butler, academics are not a “necessary evil” but the primary reason for a student to be in an institution of higher learning.

As I further “process” my feelings of grief on this morning, while I feel good about my loyalty to Butler and their basketball program, I have to take myself to task. Why don't I care as passionately about some of the things which really matter in our world? Why am I not grieving for the violence and carnage taking place just a few miles south of San Antonio on the Mexican border? Why do I not feel as much sadness about the sheer devastation caused by an earthquake and tsunami in Japan? Why have I become calloused to the hunger and deprivation of so many in our country and around the world?

To go one step deeper, why am I not as passionate about growing in my faith as I am about a wonderful basketball team? Should I

—*Pastor's ponderings continues on page 2*

Session minutes... in seconds



- Reviewed changes in the Church Register as a result of making calls and sending letters to members who have become inactive and/or have moved away from San Antonio.
- Reviewed the first quarter finances noting that pledged giving is down about 17 percent for this quarter.
- Reviewed March worship attendance.

“Chip” in for Japan

First Presbyterian Church's 6th Annual “Guys Golf Gathering” is Friday, May 13, at the Quarry Golf Course. Tee time is 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$85, which includes green fee, cart and drink tickets. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Japan relief through the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and Food for the Hungry programs.

To register, contact Larry Smith at 210.277.3620 or Stacie Rodriguez at 210.271.2759 or stacier@fpcsat.org no later than Friday, May 6. Make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church with “men's golf” noted on the memo line.

FPC to celebrate older adults on May 1

BY PAT MCCLEARY
OLDER ADULT MINISTRY

Psalm 23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life.

Each year, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) sets aside the first Sunday in May to acknowledge older adults as one of the gifts with which God has blessed us. Older adults represent the gifts of wisdom gained through living life in faith, hope through hard times lived with perseverance and generosity in loving and stewardship.

Do you know who FPC Older Adults are and what we do? Included in this ministry is KEYS Adults Fellowship that serves members and non-members of First Presbyterian Church in their second half of life. First, we are not all 100 years old — the youngest members are actually in their 60s and the oldest are 90-plus-years young. Regardless of age, we all gather each Friday in a loving atmosphere to celebrate life and the goodness of God. Fridays are KEYS days when we gather for fitness, fun, food and sharing. Programs feature speakers on current affairs, education, humor, religion, health, book reviews and interactive programs. KEYS seek to foster the spiritual, intellectual and social needs of older members and provide resources to enrich their lives.



KEYS members are vital, active FPC volunteers and can be found participating with the Care & Concern Committee, Church Library, Sanctuary Choir, Hospital Flower Committee and Loaves & Fishes, as well as serving as deacons and elders and preparing the First Press newsletter for mailing.

Come and join us for our upcoming Friday programs:

May 6, 11 a.m. – Come hear Fernando A. Guerra, MD, MPH, FAAP, clinical professor of pediatrics at the University of Texas Health Science Center in San Antonio, present “Meeting the Needs of a Diverse Aging Society.” Dr. Guerra recently retired as director of health for the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District after 23 years of service. His many initiatives have raised the stature of San Antonio as a center of public health excellence and the Metropolitan Health District as one of the top local public health departments in the country.

May 13, 11 a.m. – Debbie James, RN/MSN, senior instructor in the nursing education department at Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, will discuss near-death experiences. She, along with two scientists, authored “Handbook of Near-Death Experiences” and will discuss patients’ reactions and stories. You won’t want to miss this interesting program, but in case you do, a DVD will be made of the presentation and available in our church library.



Luncheon reservations may be made by calling the church office at 210. 226.0215.

Pastor’s ponderings

-Continued from Page 1

not be me more obsessed about reading the Bible than I am about reading the latest article about Butler?

As we approach Easter and Holy Week, we will have the opportunity to once again remember Jesus’ triumphal entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday; his Last Supper with his disciples on Maundy Thursday; and his betrayal, trial and crucifixion on Good Friday. I have to ask myself, will I be as deeply excited about the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus, the young Galilean Rabbi, as I am about a championship basketball game?

Thanks for letting me “process” my thoughts and feelings on a bleak “morning after.”

James A. Caffo

Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings May 2011

Circle 112

Monday, May 16, 10:30 a.m.
FPC, Geneva Room
Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182
Co-chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

Circle 2

Monday, May 16, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 226
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

Circle 3

Monday, May 16, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chair: Ann Fryburger, 490-3566

Circle 4

Monday, May 16, 1:30 p.m.
Home of Peggy Redman
Chair: Peggy Redman, 822-2966
Co-chair: Amelie Shaw, 826-5512

Circle 5

Shawl Ministry
Friday, May 20, 12-1 p.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

Circle 6

Tuesday, May 17, 12 p.m.
FPC, Geneva Room (RSVP required)
Chairs: Vicky LePere, 824-1770
Molly Lewis, 366-3941

Circle 7

Tuesday, May 17, 11:30 a.m.
Home of Pat Johnson (potluck salad)
Chairs: Dorothy Hill, 824-1377
Nancy Kosub, 828-2358
Kathy Stringfellow, 821-6996

Circle 8

Moms' Group
Monday, May 9, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
Brunch (Madhatter's Tea House)
Chair: Amy Renard, 999-5323
Co-Chair: Julie Walthall, 829-8332
Contact: April Kuper, 271-2732

Circle 9

Tuesday, May 17, 10 a.m.
Joyce Clark, Oakwell Farms
Clubhouse
Chairs: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414
Margaret Gragg, 493-8119

Circle 10

Wednesday, May 11, 1:30 p.m.
Towers at Park Lane
The Club (22nd Floor)
Chair: Betty Hurt, 826-1155

Circle 11

Monday, May 23, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Pat Brodeen
Chair: Pat Brodeen, 494-1534

Circle 13

Literature Circle
Tuesday, May 10, 1:30 p.m.
FPC, McCullough Room
Book: "The Eagle and the Raven"
Reviewer: Ann Smith
Chair: Willie Willming, 495-2209
Co-Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

Circle 14

Monday, May 16, 12-1:30 p.m.
FPC, St. Andrews Room
Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

Circle 15

Talking, Sharing Circle
Sunday, May 15, 11 a.m.
FPC, St. Andrew's Room
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

Circle 16

Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle
Wednesday, May 18, 9:30 a.m.
FPC, Room 228
Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978
Corie Barlow, 481-1337

Circle 17

Edna Ralston Sewing Circle
Wednesday, May 11, 9:30 a.m.
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, May 2, 9:30 a.m.
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, May 16, 6:30 p.m.
Home of Frances Warrick
Chair: Suzanne West, 525-1499
Co-Chair: Cheryl Clark, 695-8868



Report from Stewardship and Finance Committee MARCH 2011

Operating Fund Budget	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Variance
Total Revenues	\$967,831	\$1,118,374	(\$150,543)
Total Operating Expenses	\$793,947	\$849,072	(\$55,125)
Total Benevolences	<u>\$96,427</u>	<u>\$71,251</u>	<u>\$25,176</u>
Net Income/Loss	\$77,457	\$198,051	(\$120,594)

If you have any questions, please contact the Finance Office at 210.271.2755 or any member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee. As a reminder, you may access your contribution information through your secure member account via the church website — www.fpconline.org.

After the first quarter (Jan. - March), we are delighted that total "revenues have exceeded total expenses." It may be helpful to note that the pledged portion of our budgeted revenues has been sluggish so far.

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is grateful for the faithfulness of its members and hopeful that we as a congregation can "catch up" in this area before we come into the summer months of vacation.



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What was Jesus doing this time of year?

BY GAYLE TIMBERLAKE FREY

Ever pondered the question “What would Jesus do?” or wondered what Jesus was doing at this time each year? The answer leads to insights into why we use bread and wine to signify his greatest sacrifice and how the message of Easter holds the key to an ancient secret. If these things peak your interest then you probably joined us on April 20 for dinner, entertainment and the retelling of perhaps the most definitive accounts of the Bible — Passover.

Why recount such an old story? On this night, we remembered the roughly 3,500- year-old story told in the book of Exodus when God heard the cries of His people and acted miraculously to rescue them. God saved his people from physical slavery in the Exodus from Egypt; later Jesus’ death on the cross saved humanity from spiritual slavery. The Last Supper was a Passover meal where Jesus said, “When you celebrate this feast do it in remembrance of me!” Through this shocking statement he hinted that his life, and death, would soon represent an act even more astounding than the Exodus, the most miraculous historical act in God’s history. Jesus’ shocking statement turned into the truth upon which we base our faith.

Passover is inherently linked with other spring feasts of the Bible, a series of seven weeks in all, remembered by the Early Church. The Lord’s instructions to Moses surrounding this time was to count each day of the week, 49 days in all, and then hold a huge celebration at the end called the Feast of Weeks (called Shavuot in Hebrew; later renamed Pentecost in Greek indicating the 50th day). As a way of imitating Jesus, we’ll count these days together this spring.

If you were able to join us for our Passover Seder dinner you have stalks of wheat and “harvest cards” to keep up with the counting. If you weren’t able to be there, it’s not too late! The first day of counting begins Saturday, April 23. Find anything you have at home to keep track — spools of thread, marbles, dried beans, ribbons tied around your fence post — just about anything will do. The last day of counting is June 11; Pentecost, the 50th day, is June 12. Designed by the Lord himself, the Ancient of Days, the idea of counting is new to us but reaches back into history to tell us just a bit about what Jesus was doing this time each year. It’s part of our rich heritage as Christians. Enjoy!