



August 23, 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 FPCSA Childcare Hotline (210-226-0216, ext. 312) no later than two days prior to an event. Drop-ins for childcare cannot be accommodated.

# Missionary family returns home to FPCSA

For the past three years, FPCSA members Derek and Claire Plantenga, along with their preschool-age daughter, Noelia, and their toddler son, Micah, have been living in Sucre, Bolivia, where they served as missionaries with Food for the Hungry (FH). Derek's role as regional manager of Research, Development and Innovation allowed him the opportunity to meet with and encourage Bolivian families, provide guidance and leadership for FH staff and participate in various aspects of mission work — from teaching kids the importance of developing a biblical worldview to designing policy related to mental health for the Child Development program. The Plantenga family has now returned to San Antonio where Derek will be continuing his career as a licensed clinical social worker.

“We feel honored to have been supported financially and through the prayers of our church family in order to be a part of the work that God is doing in Bolivia through FH to overcome poverty and transform lives,” said Derek. “Throughout our time living in South America, members of this church reached out to us despite the distance and let us know that we were loved. Thank you, FPCSA!”



Derek and Claire Plantenga, with children Noelia and Micah, back at FPCSA on Aug. 21.

For pictures and stories from their life in Bolivia, visit the Plantenga's website (<http://derekandclaire.blogspot.com/>).

And the church says, “Welcome home.”

## Financial snapshot

### Report from Stewardship and Finance Committee JULY 2011

<u>Operating Fund Budget</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Variance</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$2,327,749	\$2,287,164	\$40,584
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$1,719,711	\$1,816,782	(\$97,071)
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	\$367,665	\$366,316	— \$1,350
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	<b>\$240,372</b>	<b>\$104,067</b>	<b>(\$136,305)</b>

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](http://www.fpconline.org).

*We are over half way through our fiscal year and want to share our current financial position. We are grateful to be in positive cash position in the middle of August. As you can see, we are ahead of our budget plan Year-To-Date, and we have controlled expenses which has resulted in a positive cash flow.*

*Because of your faithful stewardship, we are in a strong financial position. Thank you in advance for keeping your giving current.*

# Let your light shine

By Candy Wagner

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

What an exciting time to be a part of Presbyterian Women (PW) and First Presbyterian Church as we welcome our new senior pastor, Trey Little, and his family to San Antonio and into our church family.

God has so richly blessed FPCSA and Presbyterian Women. And, we thank God that we, in turn, have been able to “let his light shine” in our church, our community and around the world. In May of this year, with the guidance and leadership of our 2010-2011 president, Lynn Thompson, we held our annual Birthday Offering Coffee. It was a great success and through the hard work and generosity of our members, we were able to make donations to spread God’s light and love to a school in New Mexico, an Interfaith Ministry in South Carolina and a Children’s Ministry in Jonglei, South Sudan.



In June, at the close of our fiscal year, we were hard at work on a contribution a little closer to home. We are most excited to report that PW was able to contribute to the FPCSA Children’s Center the lead donation to the Founder’s Memorial Scholarship Fund with an amount in excess of \$15,000. We are reminded of our blessings each time we see Christ’s love reflected in the faces of those children! Lynn’s gifted leadership was an inspiration to us all. Many thanks to her, to our treasurer, Bonnie Diehl, and all of our members for concluding our year in such a bright and shining way.

And now, with the kick-off of our 2011-2012 year, you will find that there are many activities where *your* light can shine. Our regular Circle meetings begin in September, and you will find a list of all of them in this issue of First Press, along with meeting times and locations. Our Bible study circles will be studying “The Beatitudes” this year with study notes written by our own Sandy Sturch, and Rev. Ruthie Seiders will be leading our moderators. We are so grateful to and thankful for both of these women. You will be “blessed” to be a part of this study.

The September Literary Circle selection is “Unbroken” by Laura Hillenbrand and will be reviewed by Roselyn Cogburn. If you choose to attend this Circle, you still have a little time for some summer reading. *(See page 3 for the complete 2011-2012 book list).*

If you are already in a Circle and involved in PW, welcome back. If you are not, we hope you will find one – Bible study, Young Moms, Sewing/Knitting/Crocheting, Literary or Service — and get involved today to experience the joy of fellowship and service with the women of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio.

Please call me, Ann Bunn or Janet Wernli for more information or if we can answer any questions.

I encourage you to get involved today and “let your light shine!”

President – Candy Wagner (210-828-6714)

Vice-President/Circles – Janet Wernli (210-828-1043)

Vice-President/New Members – Ann Bunn (210-828-9454)

*“You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”*



## Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings SEPTEMBER 2011

### Circle 112

Monday, Sept. 19, 10:30 a.m.  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chair: Ann Nelson, 824-5182  
Co-chair: Suzanne Thomas, 820-3245

### Circle 2

Monday, Sept. 19, 1:30 p.m.  
FPC, Room 226  
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

### Circle 3

Monday, Sept. 19, 1:30 p.m.  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Ann Fryburger, 490-3566

### Circle 4

Monday, Sept. 19, 1:30 p.m.  
Home of Peggy Redman  
515 Calumet  
Chair: Peggy Redman, 822-2966  
Co-chair: Amelie Shaw, 826-5512

### Circle 5

Shawl Ministry  
Friday, Sept. 16, 12-1 p.m.  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208  
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

### Circle 6

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1:30 p.m.  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chairs: Patsy Johnson, 828-3852  
Joan Stratton, 826-0965  
Jane Warren, 493-5187  
Kip Zbinden, 826-7575

### Circle 7

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 11:30 a.m.  
Home of Ann Maggart  
411 Lazy Bluff  
Chairs: Darcy Collins, 830-755-4871  
Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

### Circle 8

Moms' Group  
Monday, Sept. 18, 9:30 a.m.  
FPC, Room 108  
Chair: Amy Renard, 999-5323  
Co-Chair: Julie Walthall, 829-8332

### Circle 9

Tuesday, Sept. 20, 10 a.m.  
FPC  
Chairs: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414  
Margaret Gragg, 493-8119

### Circle 10

Wednesday, Sept. 13, 1:30 p.m.  
Towers at Park Lane  
The Club (22nd Floor)  
Chair: Betty Hurt, 826-1155

### Circle 11

Monday, Sept. 25, 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Pat Brodeen  
2307 Oak Trace  
Chair: Pat Brodeen, 494-1534

### Circle 13

Literature Circle  
Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1:30 p.m.  
FPC, McCullough Room  
Chair: Willie Willming, 495-2209

### Circle 14

Monday, Sept. 19, 12-1:30 p.m.  
FPC, St. Andrews Room  
Chair: Jackie Rutledge, 416-8133

### Circle 15

Talking, Sharing Circle  
Sunday, Sept. 18, 11 a.m.  
FPC, St. Andrew's Room  
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

### Circle 16

Marjorie McLernon Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, Sept. 21, 9:30 a.m.  
FPC, Room 228  
Chairs: Lee Pressly, 735-0978  
Corie Barlow, 481-1337

### Circle 17

Edna Ralston Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, Sept. 14, 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  
Call Chair for meeting information  
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, Sept. 19, 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Frances Warrick  
Chair: Suzanne West, 525-1499  
Co-Chair: Cheryl Clark, 695-8868

## Literature Circle announces '11-'12 book review list

The Literature Circle meets the second Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. at the church from September through May. All men and women are welcome.

Sept. 13: "Unbroken"  
Author: Laura Hillenbrand  
Reviewer: Roselyn Cogburn

Oct. 11: "South Pacific," the musical based on James A. Michener's "Tales of the South Pacific"  
Reviewer: Bill Hensley

Nov. 8: "Scarlett Letter"  
Author: Nathaniel Hawthorne  
Reviewer: Carlota Dwyer

Dec. 13: "Roses"  
Author: Leila Meacham  
Reviewer: Leila Meacham

Jan. 10: "Highest Duty"  
Author: Chesley B. Sullenberger/  
Jeffrey Zoslow  
Reviewer: Ron Baker

Feb. 14: "The sisters of Sinai: How Two Lady Adventurers Discovered the Hidden Gospels"  
Author: Janice Soskice  
Reviewer: Rev. Ruthie Seiders

Mar. 13: "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks"  
Author: Rebecca Skloot  
Reviewer: Jane Focht-Hansen

April 10: "Same Kind of Different as Me"  
Author: Ron Hall and Denver Moore with Lynn Vincent  
Reviewer: Dr. Ann Meyers

May 8: "Cutting for Stone"  
Author: Dr. Abraham Verghese  
Reviewer: Rev. Leslie Ellison

# Registration underway for Women's retreat, "Journeys of the Heart: Destination Known"



All FPCSA women and friends of all ages are invited to gather for the women's retreat, "Journeys of the Heart: Destination Known," on Oct. 14-16 at T-Bar M Resort and Conference Center in New Braunfels, Tex.

Speakers will be Rev. Ruthie Seiders and Kristy Smith, who will examine the journeys of Gabriel to Mary and Joseph, Mary to Elizabeth, Christ's journey from the manger to the cross and many others.

### About the Speakers

FPCSA pastor for Family and Student Ministries, Rev. Ruthie Seiders, will lead the event. Originally from Maine, Ruthie joined the church staff in 2008. Along with youth, her passions also include strong women's ministry. She has led and spoken at many Presbyterian Women events and other women's retreats at various churches. Ruthie believes in developing women's leadership and advocates for involvement and fellowship in the church. "This retreat is an opportunity to worship, grow and serve together while enjoying the Hill Country!"

### Worship Leader

Kristy Smith is a music educator of eight years and teaches elementary music at San Antonio Christian Schools. She is also blessed to serve in music ministry with her husband, Kyle, who leads worship at Community Bible Church in Boerne, Tex. Kristy holds a bachelors degree from Boston's Berklee College of Music in piano

performance. She is blessed to use her music education and experience to teach, lead and daily praise the Lord.

### Retreat Schedule

#### *Friday*

4 PM: Room check-in

7 PM: Dinner

8 PM: Program begins and includes music, ice-breakers, small group time and Session I

#### *Saturday*

9 AM-12 PM: Session II

12 -5:30 PM: Lunch, free time including the optional program time, prayer and fellowship through activities, games, swimming or whatever you wish using the T Bar M facilities

5:30 PM: Dinner

7 PM: Session III

#### *Sunday*

9 AM: Worship, including Lectio Divina, small group time and communion

10:45 AM: Closing and wrap up of event

### Retreat Costs

Price Per Person

(Each room has two full size beds, full bath and more)

1 per bedroom - \$270

2 per bedroom - \$210

3 per bedroom - \$190

4 per bedroom - \$170

All Day Saturday Only - \$50

### To Register

Please complete a registration form, found in Mauzé Lobby, and return it with a \$50 deposit

### Early Bird Special

Save \$30 when you register with deposit by Friday, Sept. 9

### Deadline

Deadline for registrations and final payments is Sunday, Sept. 25

### Scholarships Available

Please contact Ruthie Seiders (ruthies@fpcsat.org / 210-271-2714) to inquire

Women's Leadership Team includes Susan DeKoch, Sheila Figueroa, Kay Gerfers, Amy Higgins, Judy Kruger, Grace Labatt, Emily Peebles, Virginia Pender, Jen Quintero, Amy Renard, Ruthie Seiders, Suzanne Thomas, Lynn Thompson and Candy Wagner.

Christ's journey was one of the heart. It was a destination known. Come explore your journey in light of Christ's.



# Best of the rest

## FALL 2011

Connections, a brochure of our 2011 fall classes and events, can be found in the Mauzé Lobby and the Narthex — or view it on the home page of the church website. Learn how to get connected in the ways we worship, grow and serve at FPCSA.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Olan Mills church pictorial directories have arrived. If you were photographed this year, your household's free copy can be picked up in the second floor hallway near the workroom. Additional copies are available at the receptionist desk for those who did not have their portrait made. Cost is for \$5.

## CALLING ALL MOMS

Mom's Group starts back up on Monday, Sept. 12. Please join us in Room 108 at 9:30 a.m. For more information, please contact **Carrie Jowers** ([carrie.jowers@gmail.com](mailto:carrie.jowers@gmail.com)).

## PENS. PENCILS. PAPER. APPRECIATION!

Your generosity toward House of Neighborly Service's "Back to School Supplies" Project was overwhelming! These children are now well prepared to start school with everything they need. "It was wonderful to see the look of excitement and eagerness as they received their bright blue canvas bags filled with everything on the list from their school in the San Antonio Independent School District," said FPCSA member **Rosemary Engstom**. "What a privilege it is to share our blessings with those in need. From the parents and the children, please know that your gifts are greatly appreciated."



## HELLO, CHILDCARE?

Needing childcare for an FPCSA event? Call the Childcare Hotline (210-226-0216, ext. 312) and leave a message for Nursery Coordinator **Carrie Jowers**. The church has set up this hotline for all childcare needs, to streamline requests and to ensure we are meeting your childcare needs. When calling the hotline, please leave a slow, clear message with your name, the event you are attending, the names of the children needing care and a contact phone number. Our well trained Childcare staff will be waiting!



## DO YOU PRAY?

The Prayer Ministry committee needs new members. The purpose of this 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 a.m. following the Thursday Bible study; however, the group is open to changing the scheduled meeting time to accommodate new members. For more information, please contact **Chuck Beatty** (210-826-3386 / [cbeatty3@satx.rr.com](mailto:cbeatty3@satx.rr.com)).

## CHILI COOK OFF AUG. 28

Join us at 12:15 p.m. in Westminster Hall for some amazing chili while welcoming back our university students. Anyone interested in entering their famous recipe are welcome to bring their chili to the kitchen Sunday morning. Winners, chosen by the crowd, will go to best tasting, hottest and most unique. Cornbread and drinks will be furnished. Contact University Ministries Director **Scott Fleming** (210-271-2723) for details.

## KEYS EVENTS

Check out the schedule below of the Older Adult Ministry, KEYS (Keeping Everyone Young in Spirit). For information about any of the events, contact **Pat McCleary** ([patm@fpcsat.org](mailto:patm@fpcsat.org) / 210-271-2726).

### Fridays, 9:45 AM – Room 108

"Step & Stretch," our fitness class, continues during the summer. Want to have fun while you exercise? It's possible if you join in each Friday. The summer months are a great time to give it a try. Dress comfortably and bring a friend, as there is no cost and no reservations are necessary. Gale Buchanan from Spectrum Fitness Center leads the class.

### Friday, Aug. 26: 11 a.m. – Covenant Hall

Spend a cool afternoon watching the movie "Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House," starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy. "Ad man Jim Blandings is ready to say goodbye to his cramped city apartment and build a Conn. home with room for his growing family and dreams. All it will cost him is his time and money ... and perhaps his job, marriage, happiness and what's left of his sanity." No reservation necessary.

### Friday, Sept. 9: 11 AM – Westminster Hall

There's still time to hear acclaimed classical crossover tenor Donald Braswell perform live at our fall kickoff program. Braswell, who performs a variety of musical genres, ranging from classical repertoire to soul to mainstream pop, engages people of many cultures by singing in various languages outside of English — including Spanish, Italian, Neapolitan, French and Russian. Cost is \$20 per person for the concert and lunch (\$15 for concert only — limited seating). Wednesday, Aug. 31, is the last day to purchase a ticket. Send checks, made payable to FPCSA and marked "concert," to the attention of **Pat McCleary**. Cash cannot be accepted.





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# AUG. / SEPT. EVENTS

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

- Aug. 24: INTERSECTION
- Aug. 26: KEYS movie
- Aug. 28: University Ministries chili cook off
- Aug. 28: Loaves & Fishes
- Aug. 29: Mom's Group
- Aug. 31: Intersection
- Sept. 1: Men's Bible Studies
- Sept. 4: Communion Sunday
- Sept. 5: Church Closed for Labor Day

Goodbye Summer!

