



January 25, 2011 [fpconline.org](http://fpconline.org)

### Worship at First Presbyterian

First Presbyterian Church offers four Sunday worship services: traditional worship in the Sanctuary at 8:30, 9:30 and 11:05 a.m., and contemporary worship in Westminster Hall at 10:45 a.m.

### Childcare at First Presbyterian

Provided for all regular worship services. All other events reserve by contacting April Kuper at 210.226.0216, ext. 232, or [aprilk@fpcsat.org](mailto:aprilk@fpcsat.org) no later than two days prior to the event or meeting. Drop-ins cannot be accommodated.



## *pastor's ponderings* Faith Lifts

BY THE REV. JIM CAPPS  
INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

On our journey through life, we as individuals and church families need “faith lifts.” “Faith lifts” are those events where we see God at work and are encouraged to trust God more in the future. Like the people of the Bible and our ancestors in the faith since biblical times, sometimes those “faith lifts” are viewed as miracles, that is, they seem like special activities from God as we view them through the eyes of faith.

I want to share an event which has happened here at FPC over the past several months which has been a “faith lift” for me. Before I share my impressions of what has happened in one area of our life together, I want to make a clarifying statement: Success for us as individuals or as a church family can never be measured by the dollar sign. Money is always a means to an end and not the end. It always comes with the responsibility of using it in a way that glorifies God, the Giver of all good gifts, and so that God’s Kingdom becomes more real and grows.

With that as a foundation, I have experienced a “faith lift” in this past year which will continue to go with me long after I leave FPC. For many very understandable reasons, FPC ended 2009 with more than a \$90,000 deficit. The Session, at this time last year, approved a budget which included a projected \$205,000 deficit. It was understood that we could only do this for one year and would need a balanced budget in 2011.

In the late summer of 2010, it appeared that we might have a deficit even greater than the projected \$205,000. Prayerfully, we sent a letter telling our church family exactly where we were, knowing that while the economy was still uncertain, people care about what happens to FPC and want to be faithful to God.

After that letter went out in the early fall, you, who were able, began to respond generously in faith. When the books were closed in early January, we were not in a deficit position as the budget had projected. Instead, we had a surplus of \$293,000, which, however you look at it, was truly amazing! We are talking about nearly a \$500,000 swing! I am grateful to God for you and your generosity! For all of us, this serves as a “faith lift.”

At our last Session meeting, we voted to designate 75% of that surplus for benevolences. We will be letting you know what we are able to do with that money to meet the needs of those beyond ourselves. Praise God!

At that same Session meeting a balanced budget for 2011 was proposed and approved. While, just as was true in 2010, it will take every one of us to meet it, this budget is realistic and attainable. Once again, I want to give thanks to God for what He is going to do in our midst in 2011. From what looked like some possible cuts in programs and staff, we believe we have the funds to continue on our current path. For me, this is another “faith lift!, Praise God!”

More than ever, when we experience God’s goodness and your generosity, it is important that we are good stewards or caretakers and handle these good gifts with discernment and care.

Dear friends, the bottom line will never be couched in dollar signs for us or any church. The bottom line will always be how well we fulfill the Great Commission and live out the Great Commandments! I pray that God will find us faithful so that all kinds of people experience “faith lifts” in ways beyond our fondest dreams as we journey into the future together.



## Session Minutes... in Seconds

Over the weekend of January 7 and 8, the Session went to MO Ranch for their annual retreat. Time was spent addressing the issues of unity and building relationships together.

January 10, 2011 the Session of First Presbyterian Church met. Some of the business they addressed included the following items:

- 2010 Budget Review – Surplus allocations will be divided between Benevolences (75%) and Basic Capital Reserves (25%).
- 2011 Budget – Approved (includes non-ordained staff salary increases.)
- FPC By-Laws



Wednesdays  
January 12–April 6

**I**ntersection is a time for our church family, young and old, singles and families, youth and leaders, to come together and explore ways our lives intersect with one another and with the good news of Jesus.

We listened to the feedback from those of you who attended our fall six week Intersection and have made the following changes to the schedule:

5:00-5:45 p.m.

NOTE: All Children's Choirs Rehearsal

5:00-5:30 p.m.

Youth Choir Rehearsal

These changes address the need to try to start a little later, to have all of the choirs at the same time, to continue with the fellowship aspect of serving dinner family style as well as the after dinner worship/devotional time for us to be all together as a church family. There is a place for you to serve either on a dinner serving team or sit with friends over a shared meal.

## Intersection Continues!

5:30–6:30 p.m.

Family Time Dinner Hour

Served family style

Dinner cost

\$4 per person, 4 yrs. and up  
\$20 cap per family

5:45 p.m.

Children return

from choirs join us for dinner

6:10 p.m.

Worship/devotional time  
followed by dismissal to classes

February 2

Theme: Rodeo Night

Menu: BBQ Brisket, Potato Salad, Beans,  
Cornbread  
Ice cream cups/cookies

February 9

Theme: Duct Tape Night

Menu: Vegetable Lasagna, Tossed Salad,  
Garlic Bread  
Ice cream cups/cookies

February 16

Theme: Valentine's Day

Menu: Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed  
Veggies, Rolls  
Vegetarian Alternative: Salad  
Ice cream cups/cookies

6:30–7:30 p.m.

Age Appropriate Classes  
and Activities

Preschool

Tadpoles

Elementary

Masters Hands

Middle School

LOGOS

Adults

*Good Sense Seminar*

Christian approach to financial  
planning. Led by Bobby and  
Becka Byrd and John Carter

*Jonah*

Come join us as we take a new  
look at the ancient words about  
Jonah and God's grace. It's a  
whale of a tale! Led by  
Rev. John Seiders

*The LIVING Word*

Discover Jesus as "The Living  
Word" and who makes the  
impossible, POSSIBLE! Led by  
speaker Kathleen Whitten

Come to Intersection!

A place where our church  
family comes together.

*Pick up a GROW brochure in the Mauze Lobby to find out about Christian education opportunities on Sundays and throughout the week.*

## February KEYS Events ~ Jim Capps, Birthdays and Teddy Roosevelt!

**Friday, February 4, 11 a.m.**

Rev. Jim Capps

Come & hear the annual "*State of the Church Address*". This is the only meeting where it will be presented.

**Friday, February 11, 11:30 a.m.**

February Birthday Celebration

Oak Hills Country Club. Reservations limited.  
Deadline February 7. Cost \$14/pp.

**Friday, February 18, 11 a.m.**

President's Day Program

Life and Times of Teddy Roosevelt portrayed by Tom Jackson, an internationally-known living historian.

Lunch (\$7) follows the programs and reservation deadline is Tuesday before the program, unless otherwise specified. Call the church office at 210-226-0215 to R.S.V.P. Questions or information, call Pat McCleary at 210-226-0216, ext. 226.

# The William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition

BY KAY KUTCHINS

On Saturday, March 5, First Presbyterian Church's Music Ministries will again host The Annual William C. Hall Pipe Organ Competition now in its 40<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

The competition attracts both undergraduate and graduate students from around Texas. It is open to the public, and FPC members who enjoy organ performance are especially welcomed. Coordinating the event for FPC will be Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, with assistance from our own church organist, Dr. Jae Ha. Also assisting are a number of members of our Sanctuary Choir, members of the local Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, and members from our congregation at large.

A jury of music educators and organists from around the country listens to each student play a selection of their choice and one from a pre-selected performance repertoire. Since their anticipated careers as church organists require them to be proficient in playing for congregational singing, each organist chooses two hymns and directs Sanctuary Choir members as they sing.

Students arrive during the week prior to the competition to practice on the sanctuary organ, often with the assistance of their college or university organ teacher. Undergraduate students perform on Saturday morning (March 5, this year), and graduate students perform that afternoon. Students, their college professors, judges, and volunteers take a welcome lunch break, and

competition winners are announced on Saturday afternoon.

The competition was founded as the "San Antonio Pipe Organ Competition" in 1970 at University Presbyterian Church, largely through the efforts of William C. (Bill) Hall. Mr. Hall conceived the competition because of his great love of church music. By providing a venue to encourage students of organ music, his goal was to ensure the future of organ music through talented musicians who would later become professional organists in churches. Following his death, as a tribute to him, the title of the Competition was officially changed in 1986 to reflect his name.

For the first 16 years Mr. Hall almost singlehandedly oversaw the competition, organizing the many necessary volunteers, raising money for cash prizes and securing prominent organists from across the country to serve as judges.

Competitors will perform on FPC's Robert L. Sipe organ, completed in March 1999, an instrument of 55 ranks of pipes, many of which came from the preexisting 1968 Holtkamp instrument, then rescaled and revoiced. Each pipe is hand-made to specific requirements, some of metal, some of wood, and the instrument contains a number of special features.

The Hall Organ Competition has been an active component of FPC's Music Ministries since at least 1975.



Dr. Joby Bell in concert,  
Sunday, March 6 at 4 p.m.,  
in the Sanctuary at FPC

As has been the custom in the past, one of the three competition judges will present an organ recital on Sunday afternoon following the competition. At 4 p.m. on Sunday afternoon, March 6, Dr. Joby Bell, University Organist and Assistant Professor of Music at Appalachian State University, will present an eclectic program of great organ works. Joby is an active and sought-after recitalist, clinician, teacher, and collaborative organist that "delights in the chance to play interesting and diverse instruments. He places the art and an engaged, delighted audience on equal footing." Speaking about Joby, George Ritchie says that "His technical mastery of the organ is always at the service of a refined musicality that makes his concerts memorable experiences for both the casual and the most discerning listeners."

## Friday Singers – Joyful Music Ministry

BY CHARLOTTE HAINS

The Friday Singers continue to take the ministry of joyful music to San Antonio's extended community. Singing in the north quadrant on January 14, they brought a program to the retirement communities of Emeritus at Amber Oaks and The Waterford at Thousand Oaks.

Later in January they will be in the south quadrant of our city singing on a Friday morning at Mission Oaks Manor and at La Estrella, one located on Roosevelt St. and the other on S. Flores.

Early February will find the Friday Singers taking their messages in song to Timberhill Villa on Timberhill and Silver Creek Manor

on Timber Path, both in the Northwest section of the city.

The programs are planned to bring smiles to the residents of various retirement and rehab facilities. The residents are also given the opportunity to join in the singing of familiar hymns such as *Jesus Loves Me* and *Amazing Grace*.

## Hammer Away at Habitat for Humanity Presbyterian Cluster House Build

It's time to start building a Presbyterian Cluster House with Habitat for Humanity! FPC partners with other San Antonio Presbyterian Churches to build a home, and the specific build days for FPC are Friday, January 28; Saturday, February 12; and Saturday, February 26. The build officially begins on January 28, and runs most Fridays and Saturdays through March 19. You are welcome to serve on any of those days, but we especially need and would appreciate volunteers on our three scheduled days. If you would like to serve, please contact Phyllis Griffin at 226-0215 or emailing [phyllisg@fpcsat.org](mailto:phyllisg@fpcsat.org) or Missions Director Alyssa Payne at 271-27242 or [alysap@fpcsat.org](mailto:alysap@fpcsat.org).

### Loaves and Fishes

Outreach, fellowship and sharing a meal with our less fortunate neighbors. Sunday, January 30. Volunteers help feed our guests by bringing a dish to serve potluck style. According to your last name bring: A-I main dish, J-Q veggie/salad, R-Z dessert. Volunteers meet in the first floor kitchen area at 3 p.m., serve at 3:30 and stay until about 5:30 to clean up. If you are unable to attend, you may still help feed the our guests by dropping off a dish in the first floor kitchen. Contact Coordinators Linda or Robert O'Nave at 822-7389 or Missions Director Alyssa Payne at 271-2742.

### New Prayer Team

Praying for our Nation, Military and Government. Beginning in March, this prayer team will meet once monthly. Together we will pray for our Lord's guidance—for our nation, our military and our government leaders. Will you consider joining us? The date and time will be scheduled as the Prayer Team is formed. To join the team, volunteer to pray, questions or suggestions, call Kathy Stringfellow at 821-6996.



### FPC Family Kirk Register

#### Marriage

John Bradford Flanagan and Carmen Lisa Ortiz  
January 22, at FPC  
Rev. John Seiders officated.

*"Achieving balance in all things is the truest measure of success. It's not letting what you don't do well interfere with what you do best." ~ Dr. John Tolson*

## Men's Breakfast

7–8 a.m., The Quarry Golf Club, 444 E. Basse Rd (78209)  
R.S.V.P. for breakfast (\$10 pay at the door) to Phyllis Griffin at 226-0215  
Contact: Doug Beach 247-4616

The February Men's Breakfast, Tuesday, February 15 features Dr. John Tolson. Dr. Tolson will speak on "Bottom Line Living"—based on the question: "If you could live your life over again, how would you live it differently?"

Dr. John Tolson's calling in life is to "make disciples" (Matthew 28:19), and he pursues that calling with fierce determination and unparalleled tenacity. To that end, John founded *The Gathering USA, Inc.* more than twenty-five years ago. As a relevant and effective discipleship and outreach ministry to men, *The Gathering* has spread across the country to reach more than one million men with the resources and motivation to disciple one another in Christ.

In 2003, John and his wife Punky Leonard Tolson began to extend the work of *The Gathering* through a new discipleship ministry called *High Impact Life™*. Designed to equip men and women to become and mentor disciples of Jesus Christ, John speaks, teaches, and consults at churches across the country. He co-authored *The Four Priorities*, which challenges believers to mature in their faith and reproduce that maturity in others.

As an avid basketball player and fan—*holding a personal best record of 127 straight free throws*—John serves as a spiritual coach for some of the nation's leading executives, celebrities, and athletes. John started the first team chaplain program in the NBA, and he has served multiple sports teams including the Orlando Magic, Houston Rockets, Houston Astros, Houston Oilers and most currently, the Dallas Cowboys.

## Come join us on the 2011 Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic!

Come join us on the 2011 Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic! June 11–18. The team will build latrines, run a VBS program, and spend time visiting and ministering to local families in their homes. Our long-running partnership with the community we work with there called La Meseta will be officially closing in a few years, so this is one of the last few opportunities to participate in this trip! Why not make this your year to go?! The deadline to sign up is March 1, a \$200, non-refundable, deposit will secure your spot. The total cost of the trip is \$1450, but there are plenty of opportunities to fundraise to cover the balance. Mandatory preparation meetings prior to the trip are required. If you are interested in getting more information or an application, contact Alyssa Payne with questions at [alysap@fpcsat.org](mailto:alysap@fpcsat.org).

### What is La Meseta like?

In the rolling hills, on the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, 150 families live by farming little plots of land behind their homes. The trees are full of mangoes, the ground is full of yucca, yet the groan of a hungry stomach is never far. The dilapidated and unfinished elementary school building serves as a reminder to the village that they are forgotten by their government. The broken well down the road reminds them of the children they have lost from diseases in the river. Yet since Food for the Hungry and FPC started coming, the local government has started repairing the school and new latrines have reduced the number of deaths from diseases in the river. Hope is being restored, the local church is growing, love is changing lives.

First Presbyterian adopted the community of La Meseta in a commitment that joins in the work of Food for the Hungry (FH) to expand the kingdom of God through transformational development. This commitment entails promoting the sponsorship of children from this community, sending mission trip teams every year, financially supporting special projects, and keeping La Meseta and FH staff in prayer through the year 2011. FPC's adoption of La Meseta is a way for our entire church community to bless and love a community in the Dominican Republic. We do this so that—through the love and care of FPC—a village in the DR may know the transforming power of Jesus Christ.

### Report from Stewardship and Finance Committee December 2010

<u>Operating Fund Budget</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>\$Variance</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$4,468,926	\$4,203,000	\$265,926
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$3,208,953	\$3,357,000	(\$148,047)
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	\$ <u>966,510</u>	\$ <u>1,051,000</u>	<u>(\$ 84,490)</u>
<b>Net Income/Loss</b>	\$ <b>293,463</b>	<b>(\$ 205,000)</b>	<b>\$498,463</b>

We are grateful to God that we ended the year with a positive balance of \$293,463! The Session voted to split these funds between benevolences (75%) and basic capital reserves (25%). Thank you so much for your generosity and faithfulness.

In addition, the Session voted on January 10, to pass a balanced budget for 2011 in the amount of \$4,341,592.

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



~ Farewell Phyllis! ~

Phyllis Griffin, Receptionist and Guest Services Coordinator is leaving First Presbyterian Church. Phyllis will join her husband, Morris, in Cincinnati where he has accepted a position with Pratt Whitney. Phyllis has faithfully served FPC for ten years and will be deeply missed! Her last day at FPC will be Sunday, February 27.

If you are interested, or know someone who may be, in applying for the receptionist position, please contact Yvonne Torres at [yvonnnet@fpcsat.org](mailto:yvonnnet@fpcsat.org) for a position description and/or to forward your resume by Monday, February 14.



Special Guest  
**Rev. Dr. K.C. Ptomey**  
The Louis H. and Katherine S. Zbinden Chair  
Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary

guest preacher at all four morning worship services.

Rev. Ptomey received a Bachelor's degree from Rhodes College, a Master of Divinity degree from Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, a Doctor of Ministry degree from McCormick Theological Seminary, and an honorary doctorate from Rhodes College.

He has served churches in Tennessee and Texas and in various presbyteries where he was a member. He has also served on the Boards of Trustees of Rhodes and Schreiner Colleges.

Rev. Ptomey's sermons and articles have appeared in *Presbyterian Survey*, *Journal for Preachers*, *Weavings*, *Pulpit Digest*, and *Reformed Liturgy and Worship*.

**O**n January 30, we welcome the Rev. Dr. K. C. Ptomey, the Louis H. and Katherine S. Zbinden Professor of Pastoral Ministry and Leadership at the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary as our



**Pardon  
Our Dust...**

**Y**ou may have noticed some changes over the past few months in Westminster Hall. The room dividers have been removed, as well as the glass above

the divider which separated each half of the hall. Additional work was done to refinish the walls and floor.

A sound booth, with technology upgrades, will be constructed in the next month or so. This project is funded by capitalized undesignated gifts.

Work will begin in the next few weeks on renovations between the Narthex and the Guthrie-Bryant Chapel area. The stairs

leading down to the Narthex will be widened and adjusted and a 'lift with doors' will be installed to replace the current chair lift. This project will take several months, but the result will allow better access to the Narthex and the Sanctuary. This project will be funded by the church's Basic Capital Reserve Fund.

Thanks in advance for your patience and flexibility as access is improved to the Narthex and Sanctuary.