



January 11, 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

Reserve by contacting April Kuper at 210.226.0216, ext. 232, or [aprillk@fpcsat.org](mailto:aprillk@fpcsat.org) no later than two days prior to the event. Drop-ins cannot be accommodated.



## A New Day Dawning *pastor's ponderings*

BY THE REV. JIM CAPPS  
INTERIM SENIOR PASTOR

From our vantage point on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Alamo Plaza Residence Inn, the New Year's Eve fireworks were spectacular. Not only were they lighting up the sky around the Tower of the Americas, but the horizon—as far as I could see—was a many-splendored landscape of bright colors.

My mind went racing back to a year earlier, when Alice and I arrived in town in the late afternoon on New Year's Eve after having driven from Texarkana. Joyfully, we had dinner with a delightful couple whom we have come to appreciate and love. We were so tired that we were soundly asleep by 10:00 p.m.

It was exactly at midnight that I was awakened from my slumber with a loud bang which when I opened my eyes was accompanied by a bright light. All kinds of possibilities including a bad storm or a terrorist bombing came to mind. As I sprang to my

feet and looked out the window, it didn't take long to realize what was taking place. Fireworks were celebrating the coming of the Year 2010.

My imagination kicked in as I realized we were beginning a whole new adventure in a new city more than 1100 miles away from home. While I had served as the senior pastor of large churches, I had never been an interim. There might be many other kinds of fireworks in 2010. I might be run out on a rail. Since I had suffered a severed quad in July and I had just finished physical therapy, would my knee hold up? There were so many uncertainties.

What a difference a year makes. I felt a deep sense of peace and gratitude as I reflected on the Year 2010. First, I was thankful to God for His faithfulness to us in ways that were truly beyond my dreams. I think I can honestly say this year has been one of the most spiritually enriching that I have ever experienced. I have grown so much this year.

I have also been moved and blessed by your hospitality and love for Alice and me. While

we have been loved and cared for in wonderful ways in the three churches where we have been privileged to serve, there has been something special about our time here with you. Maybe it's this season of life when I find myself being mellow and less driven. Your open arms have far exceeded my expectations. Alice and I have often chuckled and said that we can't believe this is really happening. I praise God for each of you and for the ways in which you have made us feel so at home. We have been blessed!

As we walk together into the unknown of 2011, I am very hopeful about what God is going to do in our midst. Just as I had heard for years, you are a great congregation! I truly believe that this paraphrase of 1 Corinthians 2:9 is a fitting prognostication of the future of FPC—"Eye has not seen; ear has not heard; our minds can't even begin to dream of what God has prepared for them who love Him." While God has used this church to be a blessing to our community and the world in the past, we haven't seen anything yet!

When God wills it, our Pastor Nominating Committee will present you with a candidate to become your next senior pastor. Together, you have the potential to be used of God in ways beyond your dreams. Praise and glory be to our awesome God!

## Living the Christian Year...

BY THE REV. RUTHIE SEIDERS  
FAMILY AND STUDENT MINISTRY

We have completed the season of Advent, and are coming to the end of Christmastide with the celebration of Epiphany on January 2. While

the actual day of Epiphany is January 6<sup>th</sup> (traditionally 12 days after Christmas) in the church we celebrate it each year on the Sunday before the 6<sup>th</sup> day of January. And now we move into what is called "Ordinary Time."

"Ordinary Time" is a time when we look to a variety of texts in the Scriptures that would challenge us to grow in discipleship. The colors in our sanctuary and Westminster Hall will change to green—the color of growth.

These weeks of Ordinary Time lead us up to the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, which this year is March 9. During January and February we will explore Old Testament

texts in a sermon series entitled "Walking with the Prophets." This promises to be an excellent sermon series which will challenge us to think about the messages the prophets of old spoke to the Hebrew people and how those same messages need to be heard in the church and the world today.

As we dig into the Scriptures together you will notice a line added in the bulletin after the reading of God's word. The pastors will end the Bible reading with the statement, "This is the word of the Lord." After which the congregation will be invited to respond,

See *CHRISTIAN YEAR*, page 2



### Wednesdays January 12–April 6

Intersection 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 Resumes!

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

*Family to Family*

Helping families deal with issues of mental health. Led by speaker Ed Dickey from the National Association of Mental Health

*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.**

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

January 19

Theme: Down on the Farm

Menu: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes,  
Green Beans. Rolls  
Vegetarian Alternative—Veggie  
Nuggets (provided by parents)  
Ice cream cups/cookies

January 26

Theme: Super Hero Night

Menu: Hero sandwiches,  
Vegetarian Alternative—Cheese  
Hero  
Ice cream cups/cookies

**AARP Safe Driving Course, Tuesday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. \$12/AARP Member, \$14/non-member.**  
Call Pat McCleary at 226-0216, ext. 226, by Tuesday, January 25, to register.

*CHRISTIAN YEAR continued from page 1*

"Thanks be to God." The phrase, "The word of the Lord" occurs over 200 times in the Old Testament. It is used to speak of the commanding word of God that brought creation into existence, destroyed that same world through the waters of the flood, God's announcements of impending judgment as well as God's promises of blessing.

"God's word is the primary means by which He is present and working in the world...He becomes personally known through his word...God's word has the power to penetrate all pretense and discern the thoughts and intents of the hearts." (New Bible Dictionary).

As we approach a study of the words of the prophets, it is a perfect time for us to institute this age-old practice of demonstrating our respect for and honor of

the word of the Lord. We do indeed give thanks that God has spoken throughout history and that the Living Word, Jesus Christ, has come into the world to fulfill all promises and prophecies.

May we "go green" during this season of "Ordinary Time," as we dig deeply into the rich soil of the scripture, and invite the Holy Spirit to bring about new growth through the reading and studying of the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

## Presbyterian Women Circle Meetings February 2011

**Circle 112**

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

**Circle 2**

Monday, February 21, 1:30 p.m.  
FPC, Room 226  
Chair: Char-An Witten, 341-1856

**Circle 3**

Monday, February 21, 1:30 p.m.  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Ann Fryburger, 490-3566

**Circle 4**

Monday, February 21, 1:30 p.m.  
Home of Julia Carlson  
Chair: Peggy Redman, 822-2966  
Co-chair: Amelie Shaw, 826-5512

**Circle 5**

Shawl Ministry  
Friday, February 18, Noon-1:00p.m.  
FPC, Room 228  
Chair: Caryl Gaubatz, 651-0208  
Co-chair: Jane Ann Temple, 828-7542

**Circle 6**

Tuesday, February 15, 1:30p.m.  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chairs: Vicky LePere, 824-1770  
Molly Lewis, 366-3941

**Circle 7**

Tuesday, February 15, 11:30 a.m.  
Home of Ann Maggart  
Chairs: Dorothy Hill, 826-4795  
Nancy Kosub, 828-2358  
Kathy Stringfellow, 821-6996

**Circle 8**

Moms' Group  
Monday, February 7 and 21, 9:30 a.m.  
FPC, Room 108  
Chair: Amy Renard, 999-5323  
Co-Chair: Julie Walthall, 829-8332  
Contact: April Kuper, 271-2732

**Circle 9**

Tuesday, February 15 10:00 a.m.  
Home of Carolyn Loizeaux  
Chairs: Lucille Lammert, 832-8414  
Margaret Gragg, 493-8119

**Circle 10**

Wednesday, February 9 1:30 p.m.  
Towers at Park Lane  
The Club (22nd Floor)  
Chair: Betty Hurt, 826-1155

**Circle 11**

Monday, February 28, 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Sheila Figueroa  
Chair: Pat Brodeen, 494-1534

**Circle 13**

Literature Circle  
Tuesday, February 8, 1:30p.m.  
FPC, McCullough Room  
Book: *Sarah's Key*  
Reviewer Fran Everfge  
Chair: Willie Willming, 495-2209  
Co-Chair: Pat Brannen, 735-4415

**Circle 14**

Monday, February 21, Noon-1:30 p.m.  
FPC, Geneva Room  
Chair: Suzie Simpson, 455-7410

**Circle 15**

Sunday, February 20, 11:00 a.m.  
(Talking, Sharing Circle)  
FPC, St. Andrew's Room  
Chair: Melody Hull, 821-5211

**Circle 16**

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

**Circle 17**

Edna Ralston Sewing Circle  
Wednesday, February 9, 9:30 a.m.  
FPC, Room 309  
Chair: Jeanne Baker, 494-0972

**Circle 18**

Circle of Concern  
(No Date)  
Chairs: Paula Bondurant, 736-6632  
Georgia Heath, 695-9511  
Char-An Witten, 341-1856

**Circle 19**

White Cross Circle  
Monday, February 7, 9:30 a.m.  
FPC, Room 309  
Chair: Janet Beach, 673-3251

**Circle 20**

Circle of Service  
(No Date)  
Chairs: Sabrina Rios, 822-5707  
Leah Butler, 804-1934

**Circle 21**

Monday, February 21, 6:30 p.m.  
Home of Kay Gefers  
Chair: Suzanne West, 525-1499  
Co-Chair: Cheryl Clark, 695-8868

*"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." Revelation 7:9-10*

Presbyterian Women have more fun during the Christmas holidays than almost anyone else! I mean it. Adopting families, matching families for adopting, collecting donations for the Boutique where those adopting families may "shop", decorating the hallways and stairwells of FPC, food for the Advent Festival, beautiful parties for 50 residents each at Morningside Manor and Chandler Home – including party favors made by our Young Moms Group—and Christmas Eve dinner for our ministers and their families, our choir and our staff—who all work faithfully so we are doubly blessed in worship. We also do a little celebrating together. Twenty Circles each having Christmas Parties and studying God's word. It was a great Holy-day season. I hope yours was too.

If your New Year can use a little boost, check out our Circles and special events. Mark your calendars:

- ❖ **PW Night Out  
La Fonda Oak Hills**  
Thursday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.  
Enjoy some delicious Mexican food and lively conversation.
- ❖ **PW Spring Luncheon  
with Michael B. Fanning, PhD.**  
Monday, March 28, Noon.  
Dr. Fanning will have returned from a month in Israel just prior to our luncheon. He will have stories and pictures to share. Men are welcome.

- ❖ **PW Birthday Coffee**  
Thursday, May 5, 10:30 a.m.  
at the home of Kelly Daniell,  
601 Terrell Rd (09).

We wish you a most inspiring new year. We hope it begins with joy, peace, worship and immersion in the Word of God. Remember—Circles meet monthly and all women are welcome. Our study for January is Revelation 7–8:5.



Lynn Thompson  
President



Imagine life differently.

First Presbyterian  
SAN ANTONIO

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## Is this your church home?

### Make it official at the next *Discover First!* Sunday, January 23

**F**ind out ways to get involved, learn about our church and get to know others who are new and meet staff and church leaders. Church officers and the Rev. John Seiders, Executive Associate Pastor, host the class. Noon–3 p.m. in the Geneva Room. Attendance at *Discover First!* does not obligate you to join, but does prepare you to become a member if you choose to join. Register by contacting Stacie Rodriguez at 226-0216, ext. 259, or stacier@fpcsat.org.

## Yucatan Medical Mission Trip, March 21

**T**his spring, we will travel to San Cosme, to offer free medical care to our brothers and sisters in the Yucatan. There are about 17 open spots on the trip, and we are especially in need of doctors, dentists, nurses, and pharmacists. We also need Spanish speakers to help translate and other non-medical volunteers to help take care of other details. The trip will leave Monday, March 21, and return Saturday, March 26. The cost to participate is \$600, but there are opportunities to fundraise, so please don't let the cost prevent you from going! If you have any other questions or would like an application, you may email Alyssa Payne at alyssap@fpcsat.org or call 210.271.2742. We hope you will join us as we seek to offer compassion, medical care, and friendship in the name of Jesus Christ.

## College Scholarships Available!

**A**ll college-bound students, who are residents of Texas, and have a need for financial assistance for the 2011–2012 academic year qualify for a Campbell or Jones scholarship. Students with a focus in the mission field qualify for the Holland scholarship. Applications now being accepted through Friday, March 18 and can be obtained by contacting Jennifer Quintero at 271-2758 or jenniferq@fpcsat.org.