



March 8, 2011 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 aprilk@fpsat.org no later than two days prior to the event. Drop-ins cannot be accommodated.



FPC faith lift *pastor's ponderings*

In the midst of a world where there is so much change, unrest and bad news, I want to share some great news. It all starts with the way in which we ended 2010 financially. As you will recall, instead of having a \$205,000 deficit, for which we had budgeted, we finished the year with a surplus of \$293,000. In a phenomenal way, you, as a church family, gave generously. It was a “faith lift” for all of us.

In January, when the Session saw that we had that kind of surplus, they voted joyfully to give 75 percent of it to our mission partners. What an exciting proposition to look carefully at where we could best use that overage in a way that would meet needs beyond ourselves.

The Benevolence Oversight Committee, which has been given the task of apportioning our mission monies, met at the end of February and decided to give \$50,000 to our Local Mission Committee and \$50,000 to our Global Mission Committee to prayerfully use among our

mission partners with whom they have a direct line of communication. Praise God!

In addition, we have been moved and blessed by the ministry of Louis and Kipp Zbinden at the Justo Mwale Seminary in Zambia over the past several years. When asked, Louis and Kipp said that there was a great need for scholarships for students there. With the economic crisis here in the United States, one of Justo Mwale’s major sources of scholarship support was no longer able to give. The Zbindens shared with us that \$5,000 a year would take care of the financial needs of a student. Working through the Presbyterian Church in Zambia, specifically with a missionary with whom we have a direct relationship, we will be giving four three-year scholarships at \$20,000 a year totaling \$60,000 over three years. Praise God!

With a deep desire to be faithful to God in using the monies which have been generously given in past years, the Benevolence Oversight Committee was made aware of a bequest which had been given specifically for the aid of “the poor,

needy, homeless and aged.” After careful and prayerful consideration, we voted unanimously to give \$50,000 to CAMM, a ministry right across the street from us, which meets daily emergency needs; \$50,000 to SAMM, which is now located at Haven for Hope and is meeting the needs of the homeless; \$50,000 to Morningside Ministries, to be used for their Internet educational program — mmLearn.org; \$50,000 to be used for some special targeted projects at Haven for Hope and \$34,000 to be used by Food for the Hungry.

One of the most serendipitous moments in that meeting of the Benevolence Oversight Meeting came when we were talking about the mmLearn.org initiative of Morningside Ministries. Morningside Ministries was founded several years ago by the Episcopal Diocese, the United Methodist District and First Presbyterian Church for the purpose of meeting the needs of older adults. Of course, it has

—FPC faith lift continues on page 2

Mental illness class begins March 23

A 12-week program on Wednesdays from 6:30-9 PM

National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI) - San Antonio is offering Family-to-Family, a free class for family, friends and caregivers of those who have schizophrenia, bipolar disorder and other severe mental illnesses. The 12-week course

will be held at FPC on Wednesdays from 6:30-9 p.m. beginning March 23. To register, please call NAMI - San Antonio at 210.734.3349. For more information, contact NAMI’S Ed Dickey at 210.602.2483.





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.

5-5:45 PM
Children's Choirs
Rehearsal

5-5:30 PM
Youth Choir Rehearsal

5:30-6:30 PM
Family Time Dinner Hour
Served family style

Dinner cost
\$4 per person (4 years and up)
\$20 cap per family

5:45 PM
Children return
from choirs and join us for dinner

6:10 PM
Worship/devotional time
followed by dismissal to classes

6:30-7:30 PM
Age-Appropriate Classes
and Activities
for Preschool, Elementary,
Middle School and Adults

March 16
Intersection is taking a
"Spring Break" and
will not be held.

March 23
Theme: '50s Night
Menu: Hamburgers with lettuce and
tomato (vegetarian: Veggie
burgers), french fries, ice
cream cups and cookies.

Note: Choir rehearsals will be held
before dinner, but no Intersection
classes will take place due to a special
program presented by "REVOLUTION,"
the youth worship arts ministry at
Cumberland Presbyterian Church from
Dyersburg, Tenn.

March 30
Intersection will resume
its regular schedule

FPC faith lift

-Continued from page 1

grown and has become one of the best in the city.

Eight years ago, Morningside Ministries asked and received funding from FPC for a new Internet education program for meeting the needs of older adults. The beauty of such a program is that it has the possibility of serving areas of the state and country where there are no resources. That program, mmLearn.org, is now being used in all 50 states and in 11 countries. Recently, the head of the Department of Aging came from Washington to look more closely at the program. There was great affirmation saying that no one else is doing this. As that report was being made, a member of the committee could no longer contain herself. She had been on the committee when the initial request was approved and now saw how it had developed and was meeting all kinds of needs. Her effusive joy told the whole story. Praise God!

Holy Land presentation at PW spring luncheon

Presbyterian Women (PW) will hold their spring luncheon on Monday, March 28, at 12 p.m. in Westminster Hall. Come hear Michael B. Fanning, Ph.D., M.Div. present "The Holy Land: Perspectives, Observations and Experiences in the ever-changing Middle East." Dr. Fanning returns from a recent trip to Israel with updates, stories and pictures to share. All women and men are welcome. Please RSVP (\$7) no later than Wednesday, March 23, to Melissa Gravelyn at melissag@fpcsat.org or 210.226.0215. Childcare is available, but must be made with April Kuper at 210.271.2732 or aprilk@fpcsat.org no later than Wednesday, March 23. To learn more about the speaker, visit his website at mikefanning.com.

As always, PW meet in Circles monthly for Bible study and fellowship. In March, they are discussing Revelation chapters 13, 15-16, 19. Please contact Lynn Thompson at if you would like to visit a circle and/or join a group.

Directory assistance, please

Imagine what it would be like to know all of our members and their families easily. Wouldn't you like a published keepsake of our church that will preserve our story, celebrate our members and remind us of significant times and activities?

That's why we're introducing a new pictorial church directory. The last one was issued in 2006 and much has happened since then.

By including portraits and information on all of our member families, we'll have a current-day history of our entire church family that we can share among ourselves and extend to new members from our community.

Our goal is 100 percent participation. Because we want to bring our church family closer together, we want you and your family to appear in a complete directory, one that includes everyone. As a church, we are always changing. There are births, marriages and new members joining with us. This is an excellent opportunity to update our membership.

Our directory is a valuable tool for our church. You'll use your directory over and over as a source for names, addresses, telephone numbers, e-mails and prayer lists. We will all use the directory as an outreach for future growth and friendships.

You'll receive many benefits from the process. Working together with other church members, new and old, adds vitality to the church. You will have the opportunity to update your family's portrait and be assured of the finest service and portrait quality available. The video image system used means that you will have your portrait made and then see your proofs on the spot. This important timesaver lets you choose your portrait pose for the directory during the same visit you're photographed — no need to come back another time.

Please remember that by having your portrait made, you will receive a free directory and a free 8x10 color portrait. Of course, if you have additional portrait needs, you will be able to choose from a variety of specially priced packages.

We will have a portrait appointment registration here at the church *every day* beginning Monday, March 28, including before and after worship services. There will also be an opportunity to register online, if you choose. Remember: we need your full participation to reach our goal. *Our directory will not be complete without you!*

2011 Pictorial Directory Dates

First Presbyterian Church has scheduled Olan Mills' photographic team to be at our church on the following dates:

Tuesday, May 3	2-9 PM	Wednesday, May 11	2-9 PM	Thursday, May 19	2-9 PM
Wednesday, May 4	2-9 PM	Thursday, May 12	2-9 PM	Friday, May 20	2-9 PM
Thursday, May 5	2-9 PM	Friday, May 13	2-9 PM	Saturday, May 21	9:30 AM-5 PM
Friday, May 6	2-9 PM	Saturday, May 14	9:30 AM-5 PM	Tuesday, May 24	2-9 PM
Saturday, May 7	9:30 AM-5 PM	Tuesday, May 17	2-9 PM	Wednesday, May 25	2-9 PM
Tuesday, May 10	2-9 PM	Wednesday, May 18	2-9 PM		

Welcome, Melissa Gravelyn

On Monday, February 28, Melissa Gravelyn began her work as our new receptionist. Melissa comes to First Presbyterian Church from the state of Michigan. She graduated from Grand Valley State University with a B.A. in advertising and public relations. While in college, Melissa worked at Covenant Village of the Great Lakes, a retirement community. Her responsibilities included working as a receptionist, serving meals, responding to resident needs and coordinating reservations, as well as doing some landscaping and serving as a wellness center intern. In addition, she has worked in various roles — as an administrative assistant, a marketing intern for a church, a caregiver for children and as a camp staffer for several summers.

Please take a moment when you are at the church to introduce yourself to Melissa and welcome her to First Presbyterian. She can be reached at 210.226.0215 or melissag@fpcsat.org.





Imagine life differently.

First Presbyterian
SAN ANTONIO

404 N. Alamo • San Antonio, Texas 78205-1918
Telephone: 210.226.0215 • Fax: 210.299.1986
www.fpconline.org • firstpres@fpcsat.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Subscribe Today to
eFirst Press
the electronic version of First Press
www.fpconline.org

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
PERMIT NO. 169

MISSION NEWS

Mission trip to Dominican Republic, June 11-18

Please join us as we travel to visit our friends in the village of La Meseta in the D.R.! We will host a Vacation Bible School for the neighborhood children, build much needed latrines that improve sanitation and overall health in the village, as well as participate in home visits with some families in the area. The trip will be June 11-18, and the deadline to sign up — March 15 — is almost here. The cost of the trip is \$1,450, but do not let the cost deter you, as we will help you fundraise. And finally, the FPC partnership with La Meseta ends in 2013, so this will be one of the last years we will travel there, so we hope many of you will participate. If interested in this trip or for questions, please e-mail Alyssa Payne, director of missions, at alyssap@fpcsat.org.

Habitat for Humanity: The house that FPC built

The Presbyterian Cluster House with Habitat for Humanity is coming along and will be completed by the end of March. Thanks to those who have helped build, paint, provide food and offer other means of support. FPC has one last official build day on Saturday, March 19, and welcomes adults, as well as teenagers, to take part. Please arrive by 7:45 a.m., as all work will be completed around 3:30 p.m. Also, lunch will be provided. If interested in the build date, please contact Alyssa Payne at alyssap@fpcsat.org.



Also, there will be a dedication ceremony of the Cluster House on Saturday, March 26, at 10 a.m. This celebration of success is open to anyone who helped participate in the build in any way, as well as those not able to participate, but who would still like to offer prayers and warm wishes to the new homeowners. The ceremony will take place at the site of the completed home, 3530 Coconino, in the Palo Alto neighborhood, 78211. Please join in as we give thanks to God for the blessing of helping to provide a family with their very own home.