



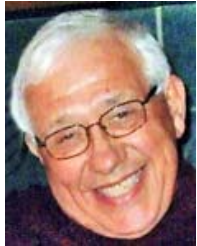
May 17, 2011 fpconline.org

### 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 contacting Carrie Jowers (210.396.9768 / carriej@fpcsat.org) no later than two days prior to the event. Drop-ins for childcare cannot be accommodated.



## God with us

### *Pastor's ponderings*

On Sunday, May 1, my wife, Alice, and I were in Orlando where we celebrated the first wedding anniversary of our daughter, Becky and her husband, Austin, as well as Becky's birthday. It was a wonderful few days of being present with each other. As always, it was difficult saying goodbye to Austin and Becky. We returned on Monday to San Antonio, and Alice returned to Indianapolis on Tuesday.

On that Sunday morning, we attended Becky and Austin's church, First Presbyterian Church of Maitland. The preacher that morning was a man who had left that church 30 years ago after having spent 20 years with them seeing the church grow from 100 to 1,800 members. He used Matthew 28:16-20 for his sermon text.

As we walked to our cars after the service, we did what most of you probably do after church on Sunday. We feasted on the delectable gourmet dish of "Preacher Under Glass." We were in full agreement that it was a very meaningful sermon which spoke to all four of us where we were. It speaks to me today as I think of my immediate family being in three different places in the country.

The savvy old pastor centered our attention on the last sentence of Jesus' last words to His disciples in Matthew's Gospel: "And surely I am with you always to the very end of the age." His title was "The Abiding Presence." He spoke about all of the special events in the life of a church — weddings, baptisms,

confirmations, holidays and memorial services. In all of these events, Jesus is present with us.

In the midst of all of the transitions and changes of our lives, Jesus has promised that He will be with us. One of the names given Jesus was Immanuel, which means "God with us." Think of how Jesus' words must have resounded in the minds and lives of His disciples once they were physically separated after His ascension, when they saw him no more.

I am also mindful of the great Shepherd Psalm of David, Psalm 23, when he passionately writes, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of death, I will fear no

*—Pastor's ponderings continues on page 4*

## Minutes in seconds

### *Highlights from the May 9 Session meeting*

- Session received 42 new members at the Confirmation Banquet.
- Session met with member Ashley Drake, who is currently under care and studying at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, and voted to recommend her to move from inquirer to candidate for ministry.
- Session elected Polly Spencer to serve as clerk and Frank Patton to serve as treasurer through May of 2012.
- Session voted to call a Special Meeting of the Congregation on June 12 to elect two members to fill unexpired terms for the deacons.
- Session said farewell to the Class of 2011 and honored each outgoing elder with the book, "Hole in the Gospel."



# A moment for music

BY TOM DOOLING  
MUSIC MINISTRY



Thanks to all of you who have told us — choir members and music staff — how much you were moved by the Easter season music, especially during

Holy Week. I can tell you that, without question, the members of Sanctuary Choir and our Chamber Singers worked long and hard to prepare for all of the services. And,

as you might have noticed at the 11:05 a.m. Palm Sunday service, our children's choirs have grown both in number and in their singing skills. We truly appreciate you taking the time to write, stop us in the hallways, send emails and affirm our efforts in so many ways. And we especially appreciated the many members and visitors who joined us in the choir loft to sing the "Hallelujah Chorus" from *The Messiah* by Handel. Please know that we'd love to have you as a "regular."

I wanted to share with everyone how the music impacted one church guest. A visitor from Norway took a cab to FPC for the 8 a.m. Easter worship service. He was warmly welcomed to the church by Loren and Louise Peters. At the end of the service, they noted that he was visibly moved by the closing "Hallelujah Chorus." He told them

that he and his family regularly attend church services in Norway. The Easter music at FPC was especially moving — the hymns were among his favorites, and he thought the anthems were sung better than he had ever heard. This visitor noted that our church family was welcoming, and he thought it to be one of the best Easter services he'd ever attended.

We're already preparing for a late-September concert presentation with orchestra, but in the interim months, we will be singing for 63 Sunday morning Traditional worship services. Come and join us.

## YoungLives looking for mentors

*Teen girls need someone alongside them — bringing compassion, advice and spiritual direction*

It's no secret that the teen years can be tough. And for some girls, the standard turbulent emotions and raging hormones are just a small part of the struggle.

YoungLives is a ministry geared to teens with children. It has been available in San Antonio since 2005, serving teen moms at the alternative school, Healy Murphy, and meeting at First Presbyterian Church. Because San Antonio has one of the highest teen pregnancy rates in the nation, the non-demoninational organization believes God is calling them to schools across the city. And in order to do this, they will need an army of volunteers.



"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest; therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."  
Matthew 9:37-38

If you are looking for an opportunity to serve, have a heart for girls, specifically teen moms, then YoungLives has a place for you. From mentoring to bringing meals to club meetings once a month, serving on committees and supporting leaders, to praying for girls, leaders and the ministry, or if you are computer savvy, good at event planning or have a knack for raising monies — they need you.

Please prayerfully consider serving the Lord through this ministry. Once you have prayed and heard His calling, please contact Chris Shipman, YoungLives' San Antonio coordinator (817.907.1233 / [shipmanchris1@gmail.com](mailto:shipmanchris1@gmail.com)) or Cathy Smith, committee chairman (210.325.6970 / [cathyoksmith@hotmail.com](mailto:cathyoksmith@hotmail.com)).

Thank you, First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio, for your continuous, faithful support of YoungLives. Because of true servants like you, this ministry is able to love teen moms into the kingdom of heaven.

# Vacation Bible School to be held July 17-21



BY KATHY TIMBERLAKE  
CHILDREN'S MINISTRY



What was it like for Jesus as a child? Imagine no bicycles, TV, Wii games, soccer teams, piano lessons or McDonald's chicken nuggets! So, what was his life like?

Did he have chores? Who were his friends? What kind of school or church did he attend? Who were his Sunday school teachers? This summer during Vacation Bible School, come explore Jesus' childhood through the eyes of his Mother, Mary. We will visit the Bible marketplace and all the different shopkeepers, experience some of the snacks Jesus would have eaten and play

games he would have played in the streets of Nazareth with his friends.

Join us during the week of July 17-21 for the experience your children will not forget! We will kick off things on Sunday with Family Day VBS. On this day, kids and their parents will experience worship, games, crafts and finish with a picnic lunch in the courtyard. Monday through Thursday will be the traditional time frame — 9 a.m. until noon. There is a \$10 per child supply fee that will cover costs for a music CD, a t-shirt and a VBS plate. Children ages 4 years (by Sept. 1)



through those entering fifth grade are eligible to attend. All youth in grades 6-12 may serve as teen helpers. Registration for all children, helpers and adult volunteers is now underway and can be found on the church website (home page). Contact Kathy Timberlake (kathyt@fpcsat.org / 210.271.2721) for more information.



## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

*April 2011*

<u>Operating Fund Budget</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>\$Variance</u>
<b>Total Revenues</b>	\$1,414,906	\$1,442,827	(\$27,915)
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$1,026,141	\$1,089,613	(\$63,473)
<b>Total Benevolences</b>	\$199,472	\$198,583	\$889
<b>Net Income / Loss</b>	<b>\$189,293</b>	<b>\$154,625</b>	<b>(\$65,881)</b>

If you have questions, contact the Finance Office at 210.271.2755 or any member of the Stewardship and Finance Committee.

*After four months, we are delighted that total revenues continue to exceed total expenses.*

The Stewardship and Finance Committee is grateful for the faithfulness of the congregation and hopeful that, together, we can "keep pace" with our budget as we come into the summer months of vacation.

# FPC bookstore sale May 22

BY PAT BRODEEN  
STEPHEN MINISTRY



The FPC Library is having a clearance sale on Sunday morning, May 22. Browse through audio tapes of our Sanctuary choir singing traditional hymns and other Christian artists' tapes and CDs at drastically reduced prices. There will also be decorative items, Bible study books and Christian titles on sale.

The bookstore also has many great items that one might want to own. There is "The Presbyterian Book of Order" and "The Book of Confessions," as well as "Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice" and "Christian Symbols," written by FPC members about our church history. Either of these books would be a nice Confirmation present for one of our newest church members! Also available is a gift boxed set of two books with some of Ed Walthall's beautiful prayers. There are watercolor prints, signed and numbered, of the front entrance of FPC painted by Beth Eidelberg along with watercolor prints by

church member, Stuart Seal. Also available are several different translations of the Bible and the Presbyterian Hymnal. Recently, the bookstore added three more titles of Bibles for young children, and there is one copy of a Bible translation for middle school students. All of these make great gifts and are always available.

Did you know that, just for our church members, the FPC bookstore will order any book from Amazon, usually at a discount and with no added shipping costs? Delivery usually arrives one week after ordering. Contact Librarian Nancy Johnson (210.655.1338) for more information.

#### FPC BOOKSTORE HOURS

Sunday: 9:15 - 9:40 AM

Sunday: 10:30 - 10:55 AM

Sunday: 12:00 - 12:30 PM

Tuesday and Thursday

by appointment with librarian

## Pastor's Ponderings

*-Continued from Page 1*

evil: for Thou art with me." Those words bring more comfort and peace to people than almost any words every written.

Then another wonderful Psalm also believed to be written by David, Psalm 139, verses 7-10 speaks of God's presence: "Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, you are there; If I make my bed in the depths, you are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, If I settle on the far side of the sea, Even there your hand will guide me, Your right hand will hold me fast."

Dear friends, do you hear the good news in all of these words? When we place our trust in this Jesus, He has promised to be an abiding presence in our lives regardless of the circumstances. He is with us on beautiful sunny days and days when storms bring destruction and chaos. He is with us when we see a baby breathe their first breath and with us when a loved one breathes his last breath. He is with us when we experience the heights of great accomplishment and the depths of utter failure. God has promised to be with us in all seasons, at all times.

Brother Lawrence, a lay Carmelite monk in France in the 1600s, took the abiding presence of God very seriously. He actively practiced the presence of God in everything he did, anywhere he went. His life had a great impact on many.

My dear friends, based on the promise of Christ's presence with us in all times and seasons, let us practice His presence, visualizing Him with us, beside us, wherever we go. Dream about the difference that this practice could make in your life.

*James A. Capps*

# Best of the rest



**Where Do You Fit? Ministry Fair**  
 Sunday, May 22  
 8:15 AM - 12:30 PM  
 Second floor  
 hallways around the courtyard

Our ministry fair is an opportunity for various church ministries (Welcoming and Belonging, Contemporary Worship, Prayer Ministry, etc.) to showcase what they do and to describe ways that members of the church community can be involved using their gifts and talents. On May 22, come explore what is happening at FPC and find a place to serve others and grow spiritually in the life of the church.

## Women's Bible study

"Lord, Teach Me to Pray" will be held May 18 through June 15 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in Room 302. The study, led by Kay Arthur, is about practicing a powerful pattern of prayer. It has weekly homework as well as videos. Cost of the workbook is \$12. Please contact Sheila Figueroa (210.822.4082) to reserve a workbook or for more information.

## First Presbyterian Church. How may I help you?

We are in need of a few more weekday and Saturday volunteer receptionists. What a wonderful way to keep busy, learn something new and meet more of your church family! If interested in this opportunity to serve the Lord, please contact Melissa Gravelyn (melissag@fpcsat.org / 210.226.0215).

## Children's Ministry news

Fifth Grade Graduation Prayer Service will be held Sunday, May 22, at 9:30 a.m. for all 5th graders and their parents followed by an introduction from our youth directors and information about Youth Ministry.

End of year Sunday school parties will take place Sunday, May 29, during Sunday school. All parents are encouraged to have their students write a handwritten, thank you note to their teachers to be presented to them on this day.

Move-up Day and summer Sunday school classes begin June 5 for all children. All parents are being asked to volunteer one Sunday with their child's class in order to provide our regular teachers a break. Please sign up on posters in the downstairs lobby.

A family swim day will be held for all children and families to meet our Children's Ministry summer intern. Join the fun on Monday, June 6, at the Alamo Heights Pool from 3-5 p.m. The snack bar will be available.

Family Serve Day is Sunday, June 26, from 3-5 p.m. Children in first grade and above are invited to join the team to help serve dinner at Loaves and Fishes while serving with their family. Childcare is available for those under first grade by contacting Carrie Jowers (carriej@fpcsat.org / 210.396.9768).

## Really want to lend a hand? Lend an arm.

On June 5, a blood drive will be held in the Geneva and St. Andrews Rooms during all worship services. Every minute of every day someone needs blood, but unfortunately, only three out of every 100 people in America currently give. If you have questions or would like to donate, please stop by either location.



## FPC employee news

After eight-plus years as assistant cook, Maurilo Garza Jr. recently was promoted to chef, replacing Frank Lynn, who retired in April after 22 years of service. Congratulations, Maurilo! We look forward to many delicious meals.



## Men's Ministry news

The men's monthly breakfast meetings will break for the summer, but they will resume come this fall. Contact Doug Beach (doug.beach@ymail.com) with a speaker suggestion. Also, look for an upcoming announcement regarding the men's discipling program that will begin in September with leader Dr. John Tolson.

## Looking for a slides operator

The Contemporary Worship Service Team is looking for willing servants to assist with the slides during worship. We are looking to develop a team of folks who will work once or twice a month for a couple of hours on Sunday. No special skills necessary. Really. We show you which button to push and when to push it! Contact Bob Esquenazi (bob@systemsengaged.com / 210.387.3117) for information.

## Presbyterian Mo-Ranch board of trustees names new president/CEO

The Board of Trustees of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly has announced Richard H. Powell Jr. (Dick) as the new president and CEO. Powell will succeed David W. Jordan, who will retire this fall, concluding 12 years of highly successful and capable leadership.



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## First Presbyterian Church staff - who we are and how to contact us

To reach a staff member, call 210.226.0216 plus their extension or send an email (first name and first letter of last name @ fpcsat.org).

**Rev. Jim Capps**, interim senior pastor, **x211**

**Rev. John Seiders**, executive associate pastor, **x215**

**Rev. Ruthie Seiders**, associate pastor-Family and Student Ministry, **x214**

**The Rev. Scott Simpson**, associate pastor-congregational care, **x212**

**The Rev. George Sturch**, congregational associate

**Tom Dooling**, minister of music, **x217**

**Dr. Jae Ha**, organist, **x229**

**Sandy Blanco**, Children's Center director, **x281**

**Mike Boursier**, facility manager, **x254**

**Coby Cagle**, Youth Ministries director, **x224**

**Elaine Dunlap**, administrative assistant / director of weddings, **x253**

**Susan Emfinger**, communications director, **x228**

**Katy Evans**, Youth Ministries assistant director, **x222**

**Scott Fleming**, University Ministries director, **x223**

**Anthony Garant**, music administrative assistant, **x230**

**Maurilo Garza Jr.**, chef, **x263**

**Melissa Gravelyn**, receptionist, **x278**

**Tracy Hair**, director of facility reservations, **x257**

**Margaret Henderson**, technology coordinator, **x277**

**Kathy Jamison**, children's choir director

**Nancy Johnson**, librarian, **x231**

**Carrie Jowers**, Children's Ministry asst. director, **x220**

**April Kuper**, Children's Ministry asst. director, **x232**

**Kitty Lange**, Children's Day Out director, **x233**

**Pat McCleary**, Older Adult Ministry director, **x226**

**Lana McMains**, children's choir coordinator, **x338**

**Carlos Morales**, workroom / pressroom assistant, **x284**

**Alyssa Payne**, Missions director, **x242**

**Jennifer Quintero**, administrative assistant to Family and Student Ministry, **x258**

**Lupe Reyes**, printer, **x262**

**Stacie Rodriguez**, admin. asst. to exec. assoc. pastor, **x259**

**Lisa Snow**, administrative asst. to senior pastor, **x260**

**Sue Steed**, financial assistant, **x256**

**Kathy Timberlake**, Children's Ministry director, **x221**

**Yvonne Torres**, administrative assistant, **x252**

**Carolyn Tuley**, director of finance and HR, **x255**