

THE penn street LETTER

APRIL 2017 | Volume 16, Number 4

The official monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

April 5 Midday Prayer Welcomes Author/Speaker Danielle Shroyer

At the Midday Prayer Service on Wednesday, April 5, we welcome special guest preacher Danielle Shroyer. She will share on the topic "Original Blessing" at 12 p.m. in the Chapel. Following will be a lunch and discussion in the Parlor with Danielle. Cost for lunch is \$7 per person. Please RSVP for the lunch with Patty O'Brien at pobrien@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231.

Danielle Shroyer is an author, speaker, pastor, and founding member of the emerging church movement. She is the author of *Original Blessing: Putting Sin in Its Rightful Place* (Fortress Press, November 2016), *Where Jesus Prayed: Illuminations on the Lord's Prayer in the Holy Land* (Paraclete, 2015), and *The Boundary-Breaking God: An Unfolding Story of Hope and Promise* (Jossey-Bass, 2009). She holds a BA from Baylor University and an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. Danielle lives with her husband and two children in Dallas, Texas. You can find her at www.danielleshroyer.com.



Legacy Sunday Celebrates 50+ Year Membership

Sunday, April 23
11 a.m. Worship

The Congregational Care Committee will recognize all who have been members of FPC for at least 50 years at the 11 a.m. worship service on April 23. These "Legacy Members" are invited to come at 10:30 a.m. for photos in the Narthex and stay after worship for a reception at 12 p.m. on the 3rd Floor Concourse. Even if you are unable to attend, you will be close in our hearts and prayers as we celebrate your longevity in the church. Those who have them, be sure to wear your Legacy Member pin. Those welcomed as new Legacy Members will receive their pin at the service.



Continue observing Lent and Easter this month with the First Presbyterian community.

Sermon Series in Lent

For the remaining Sundays in Lent, Karl Travis will continue a special sermon series:
April 2: Being Forgiving
April 9: The Lonesome Valley

Midday Prayer Services

Wednesdays, through April 5
12-12:30 p.m. in the Chapel
These 30-minute services offer reflection on the season with prayer, music, and message.

Palm Sunday, April 9

8 a.m. in the Chapel
9 a.m. in the Great Hall
11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Monday-Wednesday, April 10-12

Midday Prayer Services at 12 p.m. in the Chapel

Maundy Thursday, April 13

12 p.m. in the Chapel
7 p.m. in the Great Hall

Good Friday, April 14

12 p.m. in the Chapel
7 p.m. Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary

Easter Sunday, April 16

7 a.m. Sunrise Service in the Memorial Garden
8 a.m. in the Chapel
9 a.m. in the Great Hall
11 a.m. in the Sanctuary

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

As this is Lent, let me offer an odd confession; there are parts of being a minister which I do not like.

Being a pastor sometimes feels like being a cop at the side of the road; suddenly aware of the possibility of being punished, people naturally slow down. Likewise, face to face with a minister, some people suddenly feel guilty, or defensive, or nervous. I've never enjoyed that part of my vocation, being a walking guilt-

magnet.

I ran into a parishioner in a grocery store once. I hadn't seen her for sometime. I had not seen her because the only place I would have seen this particular parishioner would have been in worship and, well, I suppose she hadn't been to worship in awhile. (At the expense of losing my minister's union card, I will tell you that we do not sit around and check the worship attendance roll!) So, when I saw her, I was delighted and excitedly asked how she was doing. She launched into a spirited explanation of her justified absences from church – again, which I hadn't even registered – and seemed horrified throughout her entire recitation. I assured her that my missing her was completely genuine, and that I understood, and that I would rejoice when circumstance again ushered her to the sanctuary door. Then, her confession complete, I asked her again, "Now, how are you?" We had a great conversation.

I love the sitcom, *The Big Bang Theory*. Here is one of my favorite all time exchanges, between Sheldon and Amy, scientists, on their first date.

Amy Farrah Fowler: I'm here because my mother and I have agreed that I will date at least once a year.

Sheldon Cooper: Interesting. My mother and I have the same agreement about church.

Amy Farrah Fowler: I don't object to the concept of a deity, but I'm baffled by the notion of one that takes attendance.

Worship attendance is hardly the issue, is it!

That Christianity is associated with guilt is a natural outgrowth of the faith's attention to what we most fear: guilt and death. The church has certainly, at times, dwelt on guilt in an unhealthy, unredeeming way, but dealing with guilt is hardly the faith's failure. It is the faith's job. And if facing guilt is necessarily uncomfortable, then I suppose that being a minister will sometimes be uncomfortable, too. It comes with the territory of leading within a community which seeks to nourish our spirits through thick and thin, through faith and sin.

You've received this *Penn Street Letter* just in time for Holy Week and Easter. Pastor's columns that arrive just before Easter inevitably brag about the coming worship opportunities, the magnificent music being prepared, the joyous festivities already afoot. They might even mention the stark beauty and foreboding elegance of Holy Week services – Mandy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday. The skeptical parishioner can be excused, when reading such musings, for imagining a God who takes attendance.

But might you allow me the honesty to observe that we are family, you and I, called into the same communion by a subversively loving and outrageously forgiving God? Is it a welcome acknowledgement to observe just how remarkably blessed we are, that the same Deity which has created and called us to share life together actually pleasures – no, really; it's true! – actually pleasures in hearing our joint praise?

The next time I see you, I will be delighted. That's true in the Narthex and it's true at Krogers.

I'm certain of this, too; when God sees us together, and hears us sing, God is delighted also.

See you in church,

World Premier at Next Penn Street Arts Event



Friday, April 28, 7 p.m.
FPC Sanctuary
FREE and Open to All!

The Penn Street Arts Series welcomes back the Choral Artists of Fort Worth for a free concert premiering "CHRISTUS," a new work by S. Andrew Lloyd. A choral piece with organ, this world premier of Lloyd's masterful work promises to be the highlight of the season. A reception will follow the performance. Please visit fpcfw.org/concert-series for more details and a sneak peek/listen.

Above art by J. Kirk Richards

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the May issue of the Penn Street Letter is Wednesday, April 19. Please send to Teresa Tysinger at ttysinger@fpcfw.org or bring by the church office.

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REGISTER NOW!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

SUMMER FUN CAMPS

MUSIC & ARTS CAMPS

FAMILY MISSION TRIP

MISSION ON THE MOVE

NEW! ECO CAMP

Summer Fun Preschool Camps

Dates: June 12-16 (Around the World) and July 10-14 (Ooey Gooley)
Time: 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Ages: Age 2 (by 9-1-16) - entering Kinder

During FPC's Summer Fun Camps, pre-schoolers will learn through exploration, games, art, crafts and other fun activities.

Vacation Bible School

"Rome: Paul & the Underground Church"
Dates: June 19-22
Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Ages: Entering Kinder - Completed 5th Grade

Step back in time with the Apostle Paul and experience what life was like in first century Rome. Kids will meet Bible times heroes, visit the Roman marketplace and spend time exploring firsthand the unique culture of Paul's world.

ECO Camp

Dates: June 25-30
Time: Overnight, at Ferncliff Camp
Ages: 1st-5th Grd. of Grace Presbytery

Eco Camp gives children a summer camp experience in which to learn about the environment and how to be a friend to God's creation. Includes green themed activities, sustainable practices, and traditional camp fun.

Music & Art Camps

PRE-K & Kinder Camp: Carnival of Animals
Dates: June 26-30
Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Ages: 4 Years - Completed Kinder
Cost: \$100 per child (aftercare extra)

Elementary Camp: "Dig It"
Dates: July 24-28
Time: 9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.
Ages: Completed 1st - Completed 5th Grades

Your young artists will sing, dance, drum, play bells and bars, and hone their visual arts skills under the tutelage of outstanding local teachers.

Mo-Ranch Summer Camps

Dates: July 16-22*
Time: Overnight at Mo-Ranch
Ages: 8-12 Years Old

Our church has as long history of children attending Mo-Ranch

summer camps. In fact, the church pays a portion of camp costs for our members who attend. *Since the majority of FPC kids attend Session 6, we drive the church bus to Mo-Ranch for drop off. Parents pick up. Learn more on web.

Mission on the Move

Dates: July 31 - August 4
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Ages: Entering 4th - 8th Grades

This day camp for older elementary and middle school students allows participants to experience the daily circumstances of those in need in our Fort Worth community. The theme is "6.8 Challenge: Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly."

Family Mission Trip

Dates: June 9-11
Time: Overnight Camp
Ages: Families with Elementary & Middle School children, plus younger/older siblings

Families, consider attending this mission trip to Church Under the Bridge (Waco) and other area organizations. Led by Robyn Michalove & Amy Parker.

Register at fpcfw.org/camps2017

CONNECT this April

Below are some opportunities to connect, study, and learn together this month at First Presbyterian Church.

PW Tuesday Together

Tuesday, April 18
10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall

The next Presbyterian Women's Tuesday Together welcomes Joyce Williams, historian and contributor to *Grace and Gumption, Stories of Fort Worth*, will present a fascinating lens into our city's history. All women are welcome. Lunch follows (\$7). Please RSVP by April 10 to Celeste Falter in the church office at 817-335-1231 or cfalter@fpcf.org.

Women, Mark Your Calendars for August 29, 2017!

Come and learn about our 2017-2018 Presbyterian Women's Bible Study, "Cloud of Witnesses" by author Melissa Bane Sevier. Watch for more details.

Crossing Borders: Migration, Theology, & the Human Journey

Sundays, April 23-June 11
4-6:30 p.m. in Stripling Conf. Room

This 8-week session on the subject of immigration is a focused module of the JustFaith program. It provides participants a chance to prayerfully find common ground regarding one of the most controversial issues of our time and to discover more about their values, our God, and the millions of people who are on the move in the world. The introductory study consists of eight 2.5 hour sessions (topics on website). Limited to 10 participants. Offered by the Spiritual Formation Subcommittee of the Adult Christian Nurture Committee. Books are \$65. Please register by April 14 at fpcf.org/crossingborders/ or call Celeste Falter at 817-335-1231.

Book People in April

Monday, April 10
1 p.m. (Note time change!)

This meeting of Book People will discuss *Britt-Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman. Perhaps you will not like her because she is overly controlling and has an obsessive need for order. Or perhaps you will become amazed at the ways she learns to deal with the challenges life throws at her. A discussion will ensue on our need to belong - somewhere, anywhere. Please note we meet at 1 p.m. (instead of noon), following Holy Week Monday worship in the chapel at noon.

The May 8 book is *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman.

Growing Toward God Through Prayer

Saturday, April 29
9 a.m. - 2 p.m. in Atrium

We can all stand to be more intentional about growing our relationship with God. And what is prayer if not intimate relationship with our Source, our Being, and our Ground. Using this formational work by Dr. Corrine Ware, the group will discover where their prayer life is currently strong and where they may need growth in order to be fully open to the Holy. After identifying their growing edges, participants will have an opportunity to explore various ways to pray that can expand their availability to and connection with God.

There is no cost other than \$8 for lunch. Please RSVP to Celeste Falter at 817-335-1231 by April 7.

All Church Picnic

Sunday, April 30
11 a.m. & Noon
Outside in
Great Hall Driveway*

Celebrate Spring
with Church Friends

\$7 per person
\$25 max per family
*Rain Location: Great Hall

INCLUDING:
Cousins BBQ
Bounce House
Face Painter
Balloonist
Ice Cream Truck
Music

Sponsored by the
Fellowship Committee

SERVE this Spring

Below are some opportunities to engage the world through FPC mission outreach efforts this month. For a complete list of ongoing opportunities, visit www.fpcfw.org/serve.

Homeless Connect: Calling All Volunteers!

The 2017 Homeless Connect will be Thursday, April 27 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at FPC. Volunteers are needed to assist 300+ people experiencing homelessness as they come to FPC for this annual event. Social service agencies will be on site to offer information and direct assistance with health, housing and other concerns. For more details or to sign up, please contact Donna Lamina at dlyn22@hotmail.com

Volunteers are needed for the following times:

- 8:30 - 11 a.m.
- 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
- Full Shift (8:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

FPC's Presbyterian Women is collecting the following items for the women attending the annual Homeless Connect. Please drop off donations of new bras, underwear, new/used scarves, perfume samples, feminine products, and canvas/cloth bags in the box in the Presbyterian Women's office (Room 312).

Serve as a Shepard at WOW!

WOW! (Worship on Wednesday) needs a few shepherds for our elementary students on Wednesdays from 6:15-7:30 p.m. at Community Crossroads (1516 Hemphill). A lead teacher is provided and volunteers assist as their schedule allows; serve as often as you like.

For questions or to sign up, please contact Leah Wyckoff at leahw@fpcfw.org.



Habitat for Humanity Lunch Blitz on May 10

If you don't want to swing a hammer or climb a ladder, come make a lunch for Habitat on May 10! FPC will provide lunch for the volunteers at the Habitat Blitz Build on Wednesday, May 10. Lunch supplies will be provided by the Mission Outreach Committee. We need volunteers to assemble about 200 lunches from 9:30-10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall. If you can help in this way, please RSVP with Marnie Meeks at mmeeks@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231.

Habitat Saturday Workday on May 13

On Saturday, May 13 all FPC folks are encouraged to participate in a Habitat workday for the Presbyterian House Build for the Thang family. Hours are 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tasks for everyone!

There are many other opportunities to volunteer for this build, but this day we hope to have a huge turn out of FPC folks and will offer childcare for those volunteers with children. Childcare offered for children up to age 7 from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at FPC. To reserve a spot in childcare, contact Alyssa Martin at amartin@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231, ext. 254 by May 5.

Sign-up and Get More Details
at fpcfw.org/habitat

Other Presbyterian Build Workdays:
May 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 19, 20, 26,
27; and June 2, 3



HAT'S OFF!

CELEBRATING FPC
MISSION VOLUNTEERS



We "Mustache"
You to Attend



Thursday, April 20
6:30 p.m.
in the Great Hall

The FPC Mission Outreach Committee invites Mission Volunteers and their families to celebrate all of the outreach ministries of our congregation with a fun, casual (and complimentary) dinner.

Wear one of your favorite hats!

PLEASE RSVP at
FPCFW.ORG/HATSOFF

Questions?

Contact Robyn Michalove
at robynm@fpcfw.org
or 817.335.1231

ALL-CHURCH RETREAT

reconnect

Labor Day Weekend 2017
September 1-4
Mo-Ranch Retreat Center

**REGISTER BY APRIL 30 FOR GUARANTEED HOUSING
AT FPCFW.ORG/ALLCHURCHRETREAT**

The annual FPC All-Church Retreat is a time set aside for folks together for fun, fellowship, and to reconnect. In fact, Reconnect is our theme for this year's event. Reconnect to each other, to our families, to God. **Sign up with deposit equal to 50% total due by April 30 for guaranteed housing** using brochures at the church or online form at fpcfw.org/allchurchretreat. Brochure and website also detail lodging and meal plan choices. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Robyn Michalove or call 817-335-1231.

We will meet together as a large group on Saturday morning to kick off our theme, "Reconnect." We will also enjoy meals together and gather for evening reflections and Sunday morning worship. This is truly a retreat format, meaning that there is plenty of time built into our schedule for rest, recreation and relaxation!

Optional Activities Include:

High Ropes Course (ages 10 and up; \$20 per person)
Rock climbing wall (ages 5 and up; \$10 per person)
Critters Class (\$5 per person)
Swimming pool (including toddler pool)
Riverfront activities: Mo slide, rope swing, rapids, floating the river
Stand Up Paddleboards, fishing and canoeing
Day trips to Kerrville or Fredericksburg
River's Voice concert
Movie and Game night
Line Dancing Lessons and All-Church Dance
+ much more!



A gift or bequest to the Living Assistance Fund will help FPC members in need of rental assistance.

For more information on this or other Planned Giving opportunities through the church, please contact Church Administrator, Dana Fickling, at 817-335-1231.

STEWARDSHIP

Inspiring Disciples

As the Stewardship Committee looks at the future needs of the church, we find it helpful to reflect on how and why sharing our time, talent and resources is so important. We asked Martha Zaborowski to talk with some of our new members and others she works with to answer the questions: (1) How have you been inspired by the ministries of the church and (2) What has the church done for you personally? Over the next few months, we'll share some of these responses. Jim Parr shares his thoughts on these two questions, saying:

"One of the many things which inspires me about FPC is our commitment to bring God's love into the world through outreach ministries. One shining example of this is the Community Crossroads project. It is bricks and mortar, rescued and rehabbed by members of our church. It is a food pantry, a clothing closet, a dental clinic and a wonderful Worship on Wednesdays bringing God's love directly to a community in need. Thanks be to God!

What has FPC done for me? It provides a place where my faith is supported and restored. Its members show me love through friendly greetings on Sunday and share outreach ministries with me through the week. Its pastors challenge me to think deeper and find God in the events of every day. And it provides chances for fellowship with members of His flock. In short, FPC provides my church home."

Perhaps, Jim's thoughts will inspire you as you ponder what FPC does for you and what you feel called to do for FPC.

SAVE THE DATE: Women's Retreat

February 17-18, 2018
Camp Crusis in Granbury
Watch for more details!

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of March 15, 2017 (due to printing deadlines). To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Family and friends of **Neil Zipp**, who died March 4. Surviving FPC family includes wife, **Hope Zipp**.

Bill and Claire Schmid on the death of his father, Bill Schmid, Sr. who died March 1 in Mississippi. Surviving FPC family also includes Ben and **Katie Coffee**, Toby and **Mary Mergler**, and **Andrew and Becky Schmid**.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Marilyn Love, **George Pepper**, **Marjorie Lewis**, and **Glynda Coffey**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Bob Adcock, **David Nation**, **Corinna Nation**, **Lisa Shiner**, **Jacquitta White**, **Clark Williams**, **Marge Shiner**, **Elizabeth Bean**, **Frances Blake**, **Bill O'Grady**, **Gene James**, **Carolyn Lischio**, **Jane Drew**, **Mac McCoy**, **Nancy Nelson**, **Ed Martin**, and **Dalia Scott**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

Keith Jennings, **Claude Scott**, and **Jane Watson**, who are on hospice.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Lauren Mueller (daughter of **Vance and Donna Laminack**), Susan Williams (cousin of **Pat Gordon**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Mary Krueger (sister of **Wanda Williams**), Lisa Koenig (niece of **Clark Williams**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), Marty Kinard (**Larry and Bettye Kinard's** daughter-in-law), Mark Bryant (**Joanne Sarsgard's** son), and Susan Chenault (**Frances Chenault's** daughter).

Prayers for peace in our world, for the safety of Nathan Gunter (**Russell and Vivian Norment's** nephew) who is stationed in Korea. Also for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar**, who is serving in the US Navy; Diego is the son of **Becky and Rene Saldivar**.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Justin and **Heather McCarthy** on the birth of Autumn Jane McCarthy on February 24.

Dan and Lindsay Koss on the birth of Maris Lucille Koss on February 28. Maris joins proud big sister Thea.

Emily and **Andrew Hudgens** on the birth of a son, Alexander Coleman on March 4. Other proud FPC family members include grandparents, **Steve and Suzie Hudgens**; great grandparents, **Herb and Kathy Hudgens**; and aunts and uncle, **Adrienne Hudgens** and **Meredith and Brian Cunningham**.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some **highlights** of special events happening in March. For a complete calendar, visit fpcfww.org.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

12 p.m. Lent Midday Prayer Service (Chapel)

MONDAY, APRIL 10

TUESDAY, APRIL 11

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12

12 p.m. Midday Prayer Service (Chapel)

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 13

12 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service (Chapel)

7 p.m. Maundy Thursday Service (Great Hall)

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 14

12 p.m. Good Friday Service (Chapel)

7 p.m. Tenebrae Service (Sanctuary)

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 16

7 a.m. Sunrise Service (Memorial Garden)

8 a.m. Worship Service (Chapel)

9 a.m. Worship Service (Great Hall)

11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

MONDAY, APRIL 17

Church Offices Closed

THURSDAY, APRIL 20

6:30 p.m. "Hats Off!" Mission Volunteer Appreciation

SUNDAY, APRIL 23

11 a.m. Legacy Sunday Observed in Worship (Sanctuary)

12 p.m. Legacy Sunday Reception

THURSDAY, APRIL 27

9 a.m. Homeless Connect (see page 5 for details)

FRIDAY, APRIL 28

7 p.m. Penn Street Arts Concert (see page 2 for details)

SUNDAY, APRIL 30

11 & Noon All-Church Picnic (Outside Great Hall)



THE
penn street
LETTER

First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS

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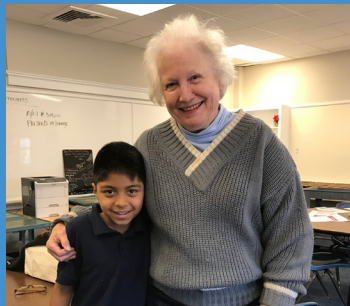
JOURNEYS

Spiritual Formation Quarterly
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH
SPRING 2017



AVAILABLE AT CHURCH OR at
FPCFW.ORG/JOURNEYS

KidsHope Makes a Difference



For over a year and a half, for one hour of each week that the DeZavala Elementary School doors are open, I have had the honor of keeping company with a boy named Michael. Michael is now 8 years old and has reintroduced me to basketball, soccer and Old Maid. Most importantly, he has gifted me with his joys and concerns.

None of this would be happening without the organization, training, and ongoing support of the Kids Hope program. I volunteered because I hoped to make a positive difference for a child. How was I to know that a young boy would bring so much love and joy into my life?! Making this commitment and experience one of the most meaningful ever!

-- Mary Margaret Floyd

More volunteers are needed to walk with and encourage the many children who will welcome a mentor into their lives! If you'd like to volunteer as a mentor or prayer partner (or a prayer partner coordinator), please contact Robyn Michalove at robym@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231.

For daily photos of FPC in action, FOLLOW at...

