

THE penn street LETTER

MAY 2017 | Volume 16, Number 5

The official monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth



Habitat For Humanity & FPC Partner Up!

Meet the Thang Family

The Habitat for Humanity Presbyterian House Build will work alongside the Thang Family in building their new home. Daniel Thang and his wife Vum Nyam are from Burma and have two children: Khrih Nun Uk, age 18, and Thian Nun Mawi, age 17. Daniel says, "Our family is very close and together we enjoy playing soccer, listening to praise music, reading the Bible, and attending church."

Lunch Blitz on Wednesday, 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@fpcf.w.org or 817-335-1231.

FPC Workday on Saturday, 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. There are many other days on the 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. RSVP for childcare with Alyssa Martin at amartin@fpcf.w.org or 817-335-1231 by May 5.

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

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

I love spring and the newness the season brings (except for the accompanying allergies!). I enjoy the colors of flowers blooming and trees becoming fuller and greener. In school, both of our children are learning about seeds and growth in their science class. They are fascinated with growth and the life cycles of living things. Our daughter's current science projects compares the growth of lima bean seeds planted in different types of soil: silt, sand, and potting soil. They know the ingredients for

growth – sun, water and soil – and they like to watch seeds grow into their potential.

In many ways, this planting and blooming is what we do in the church. We plant seeds of faith; we nourish them with key ingredients like prayer, reading the Bible, fellowship, worship and service; and we delight in signs of growth.

This spring, I see fruit of growth in our congregation. From Boomers to Beacons, from Young Adults to youth and children, ministry is blooming. I see the fruit of nurtured faith in Legacy Sunday (April 23, honoring those who've been members 50+ years), Youth Sunday (April 30), and Confirmation Sunday (May 7). Look at the blossoming faith of children who participate in summer camps and Vacation Bible School and service activities. Glimpse the burgeoning men's ministry and the long-standing ministry of music. See all ages engaged in Christian nurture through book studies and church school classes, through Presbyterian Women and prayer groups and congregational care. Rejoice in the fellowship of church picnics and socials and potlucks and the all-church retreat. Give thanks for compassion expressed in mission like our newly sprouting solar panel mission trip and our flourishing at Community Crossroads and Habitat. I think of the imagery of Psalm 1:

"They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither."

Ministry is blooming!

Yet, sometimes we see the fruit of the labor and sometimes the growth is not visible to us. And, still, we keep planting and nourishing, trusting the growth to God. However you are connected to Christ and the church, trust in God's growth, which God makes visible in God's time. Scripture says, "Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth...For we are God's servants, working together" (1 Corinthians 3.7, 9). Let us continue to work together, worship together and witness together of God's grace that causes growth and brings joy. May it be so among us and beyond us, for God's glory!

Keep growing,

Robyn

APRIL 30 REMINDERS

Youth Sunday, 11 a.m. Worship

Come support our Youth Program as they lead us in worship at the 11:00 service on April 30. Our youth have been hard at work preparing for this day by writing prayers, rehearsing music, preparing liturgy, choosing hymns, and writing senior sermons. The theme this year is "Salt and Light" (Matthew 5.13-16).

All Church Picnic, 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. outside the Great Hall

All are invited to this annual spring event with Cousin's BBQ, bounce house, face painting, Wellness Committee table, fellowship, and more! Cost is \$7 per person; \$25 family maximum. Don't miss this fun church-wide event, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee.

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the June issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, May 17**.

Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue (i.e. May 3 deadline for May 10 issue).

Please send to Teresa Tysinger at ttysinger@pfcfw.org or bring by the church office.

The Penn Street Letter is published monthly by First Presbyterian Church, 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3496. Periodicals postage is paid at Fort Worth, TX and at additional offices.

Editor: Teresa Tysinger; Managing Editor: Pam Burkholder

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Penn Street Letter at 1000 Penn Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-3496.

SEASON OF SIGN-UPS

Register NOW for Camps, Retreats, Mission Trips + More

Family Mission Trip

Dates: June 9-11

Time: 4 p.m. Friday - 3 p.m. Sunday

Ages: Elementary Children, Their Families and Siblings

Travel to the Waco area and serve together at Church Under the Bridge, World Hunger Relief, and more. Lodging at Gathering Oak Retreat Center. Get details and register at fpcf.org/familymissiontrip.

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 K During FPC's Summer Fun Camps, preschoolers will learn through exploration, games, art, crafts and other fun activities. Get details and register at fpcf.org/summerfuncamps

Vacation Bible School

"Rome: Paul & the Underground Church"

Dates: June 19-22

Time: 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ages: Entering K - Entering 6th 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. Details and register at fpcf.org/vbs

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. Get details and register at fpcf.org/ecocamp2017.

Music & Art Camps

PRE-K & Kinder: 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: "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. Get details and register at fpcf.org/musicandartscamp.

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. Register at moranch.org/mo-ranch-summer-camp.

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

Don't Miss Out on FPC Fun! Deadlines Are Approaching...

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." Get details and register at fpcf.org/motm.



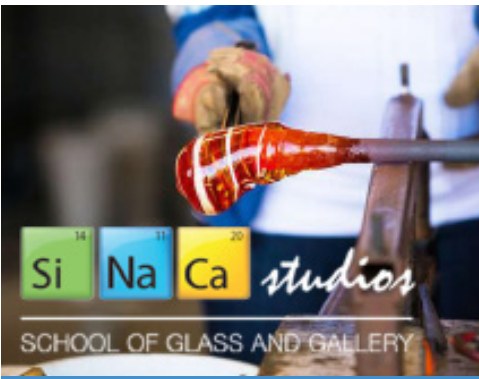
All-Church Retreat

Dates: September 1-4

Location: Mo-Ranch Retreat Center

Ages: All Ages

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. We will enjoy meals together, gather for evening reflections, and have 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! The deadline for guaranteed housing was April 30, but you may fill out a registration form at fpcf.org/all-churchretreat and someone will contact you about availability.



Boomers Visit SiNaCa Glass Studio

Tuesday May 9 6-9 p.m.

Come witness the art of glass blowing in a professional studio, and try your hand at it, too (optional)! Payment holds your spot; no refunds if unable to attend. Cost is \$30 per person for glass blowing & pizza; \$10 per person for watching only & pizza. Space is limited, so don't delay registering. Register by May 5 at fpcf.org/boomers.

ALSO COMING UP...

On June 25 Boomers will attend a Concert in the Garden. More soon!

NEW! Youth Trip Scholarship

In addition to internal FPC scholarships, there is now also a funding source now available to all Grace Presbytery youth through the Prairie Valley Legacy Committee.

Families may choose to apply for summer trip scholarships by May 1, and the Prairie Valley Legacy scholarship (depending upon how many people apply) may cover up to 50% of the cost for camps and conferences.

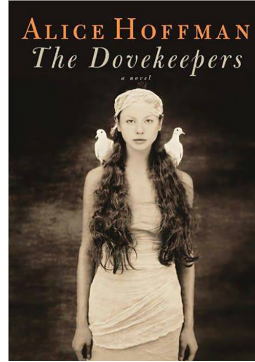
Contact Jayne McFarland or Josh Stewart in the church office for more information.

BE INSPIRED...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship through church events in the coming weeks.

Book People in May

Monday, May 8
12 p.m.



Book People will meet next to discuss *The Dovekeepers* by Alice Hoffman, an historical novel based on the events at Masada (in Israel) in 74 a.d. In days when religious fervor challenges what we believe and what we might do, this discussion promises to be lively and thoughtful. Available in the library and from Amazon in various formats. There is no meeting in June.

Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering & Install New Officers

Tuesday, May 16
10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall

FPC will have the Installation Service for the Presbyterian Women and will dedicate the Birthday Offering. The event begins at 10:30 a.m. followed by a delicious lunch. Please RSVP with Celeste Falter in the church office by May 8 (cfalter@fpcf.org or 817-335-1231).

SAVE THESE DATES:

Women, save the date of **August 29**. We will invite women from all over the Presbytery to learn about the fall study, "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Bane Sevier. Share with those in your circle!

Also, mark your calendars for **February 10-11, 2018** for the Women's Retreat at Camp Crusis in Granbury.

Grief Support Group

Six Weeks, Beginning Tuesday, May 2
5:30-7 p.m. in Room 305

Beginning Tuesday, May 2, FPC is offering a six-week Grief Support Group. Led by Travis Weber, this group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength.

Travis is a PhD candidate in Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care at Brite Divinity School. He received his Master of Divinity Degree from Yale Divinity School. Travis spent time serving as a hospital chaplain in California while earning Clinical Pastoral Education units accredited by the Association of Clinical Pastoral Education. In addition to his PhD studies at Brite, Travis serves as a Chaplain at Texas Health Southwest Hospital in Fort Worth. We are delighted to welcome him back to First Presbyterian Church.

The six sessions (May 2 – June 6) are free and open to members and friends of First Presbyterian and the community. To register for the Grief Support Group, please call Celeste in the church office or email her at: cfalter@fpcf.org.

New Member Brunch

Sunday, June 4
11 a.m. & 12 p.m. in the Great Hall

"Summer Fun" is the theme of FPC's next Sunday Brunch. All new members may sign in at a special table just for you. 11-1. No RSVP is necessary. New members and their families are guests of the Evangelism Committee. All others, cost is \$7 per person; \$25 family maximum.

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for engaging the world through church outreach mission efforts in the coming weeks.

CPR/AED Training & Recertification

The Wellness Committee is offering a CPR/AED training and recertification class for those interested or needing to renew their certification. The classes will be Tuesday, May 2 from 4-6 p.m. and Thursday, May 4 from 6-8 p.m. in Room 236. Please register with Patty O'Brien in the church office ASAP.

Serve Meals at WOW

We need volunteers to help serve the meal at WOW at 1516 Hemphill every Wednesday evening in May and June. This is a great service opportunity for individuals or families. To serve any Wednesday from about 5-6:45, please contact Robyn Michalove at robyn@fpcf.org or call the church office.

Donate to Formula & Diapers Ministry

Mothers and children in need can visit Community Crossroads on the third Monday of each month for free formula and diapers. Donations of powdered formula (Similac Advance Stage 1 Formula) and all size of diapers are always welcome and needed to keep this ministry going. You can also make a check payable to Salt and Light Together, Inc. and mark it in the memo line for FAD.

Peanut Butter Sunday

Please bring donations of regular sized jars of peanut butter (no oversized jars, please) to church on Sunday, May 21 to help stock the shelves at First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads.

Solar Under the Sun Mission Trip Info Meeting and Table

Sunday, April 30

10 a.m. Information Meeting, Rm 235

11 a.m. Table Near All Church Picnic

12:15 Information Meeting, Rm 235

WHAT IS IT?

Believing that Jesus Christ is the Light of the world, the vision of the Solar Under the Sun (SUTS) – a ministry of the Synod of the Sun, a governing body of the Presbyterian Church (USA) – is to illumine our fellow human beings with hope and life through solar energy. To do this, SUTS trains volunteers to design and install solar power systems with communities that lack reliable electrical power.

They train teams from congregations about partnership development, solar energy development and preparation of Initiating Partners to train Operating Partners to install, operate and maintain their solar energy system. Find out more about SOTS at <http://www.solarunderthesun.org/index.cfm>.

First Presbyterian hopes to send church members to Solar School I (**July 6-9** at Highlands Camp in Allenspark, CO) and Solar School II (**September 21-24** at Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock, Arkansas) this year. After our church members have been trained, we hope to take a team in 2018 to install a solar system in Haiti, working with PCUSA partners there.

Is God calling you to participate in this mission and ministry?

If so, please attend an information session on April 30 or contact Robyn Michalove.

WE CHOOSE WELCOME



Did you see the “We Choose Welcome” banner hanging outside the Great Hall recently? Borrowed briefly from the Presbytery, FPC was pleased to claim our commitment to answer refugee issues with an attitude of welcome. We’ve done this by:

- Training and creating a Welcome Team in partnership with Refugee Services of Texas who supported and assisted a Syrian family of 6. The family visited worship at FPC in December 2016
- Continuing to connect with the family through tutoring and personal relationships.
- Offering training at FPC on October 28, 2016 with Advocate for Refugees in Texas Workshop
- Pastoral staff public advocacy in the following ways: op-ed in the Fort Worth Star Telegram; signed Texas legislative petitions concerning refugees; participated in 2 separate meetings in Kay Granger’s office; spoke about refugee ministry at the February 25 presbytery meeting; participated and led the Fort Worth interfaith Refugee Vigil in February at University Christian Church
- Hosting of Mary Mikhael to speak about the Syrian crisis in October 2016

FPC Celebrates Fall 2017 Scholar Named at Schreiner University

First Presbyterian Church is honored to contribute to the PASA Scholarship through Schreiner University. The recipient for the scholarship for next fall is David Angulo.

This delightful young man is from Mexico where his father is a Presbyterian pastor and his mother is a Kindergarten teacher. He is 2nd in his class and very involved in campus activities, including their campus ministry program. Schreiner is excited to welcome David this fall. A big thank you to FPC for its ongoing support of this and other scholarship funds.



Karl Travis Named Among Macedonian Ministry's Outstanding Faculty to Teach Pastors and Laity



First Presbyterian Church's own Rev. Karl Travis has been appointed to the Macedonian Ministry Faculty to teach pastors and laity. Since its founding in 2008, Macedonian Ministry has been privileged to work with an amazing line-

up of pastors, theologians, community leaders, and practitioners of the Gospel. In addition to its staff and Advisory Board, the newly appointed Ministry Faculty are gifted leaders now available to lead workshops and seminars for the ministry's cohorts and alumni.

"Forming a Faculty of outstanding practitioners in Christian pastoral ministry has been my dream since Macedonian Ministry's inception. So often when pastors hear gifted leaders in ministry, they hear them in a large setting with 100, 200, or 300 other pastors! But now, this new Macedonian Ministry Faculty will allow our pastors and alumni, small group access to some of the most gifted practitioners in America. This is a priceless treasure for our pastors and an exciting day for Macedonian Ministry!"

- Rev. Dr. Tom Tewell, Founder & Executive Director, Macedonian Ministry

Karl's duties will take him away from Fort Worth for 3-4 days each year. He will serve alongside the Rev. Dr. Tom Long (Bandy Professor of Preaching Emeritus at Candler School of Theology, Emory University), Dr. Willie Jennings (Associate Professor of Systematic Theology and Africana Studies, Yale Divinity School), the Rev. Dr. William H. Willimon (Professor of the Practice of Christian Ministry at the Divinity School, Duke University), and many others.

STEWARDSHIP

Engaging the World with Kids Hope USA

"What can churches do to make the greatest difference in the lives of America's at-risk children?" This question became the foundation of Dr. Virgil Gulker's vision to create an organization to provide reliable adult relationships to children within elementary schools. Ultimately, the "One" model was developed: One Child, One Hour, One Church, One School.

Through this model, one child struggling with friends, family or academics is paired with one adult member of one church that partners with one elementary school. They meet for one hour, every single week, for the entirety of the school year.

Two years ago, First Presbyterian Church joined Kids Hope USA's network of over 1000 other churches. To date, First Presbyterian accounts for 29 mentors accompanied by a supporting prayer partner. Patrick Sheppard became involved with Kids Hope USA after learning about it through an announcement at church. He recognizes the impact of his weekly meetings reiterating that "Being present is what's important in these kids' lives." Kids Hope USA mentors over 16,000 children in the United States.

Please contact Becky Jenkins at mbgjenkins@gmail.com to get further information about how to volunteer for this wonderful organization through First Presbyterian Church. Additional information about the organization can be viewed at www.kidshopeusa.org.

INSPIRING DISCIPLES...

There were 85 musicians involved on Easter morning!

ENGAGING THE WORLD...

Recently, 100 cross necklaces were made by the WOW classes for WOW dinner guests.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of April 19, 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...

FPC staff member Teresa Tysinger on the death of her grandfather, Graham Smith, on April 17 in Kissimmee, Florida.

Family and friends of **Charlie Martin**, who died April 6. Surviving FPC family includes wife, **Barbara Martin**.

Family and friends of **Margaret Lowdon**, who died April 2. Surviving family includes FPC members **Kathryn Schutts, Philip and Heidi Schutts, Suzy and Ray Rhodes, Emily and Sherman Jones, Katy and Sam Hobbs, and Molly Campa-Thompson.**

Becky and Rene Saldivar and Irene Torrez on the death of their mother, Lola Torrez, on March 28 in Dallas. Surviving family includes granddaughter **Cecilia Saldivar-Elizondo** and Tim Elizondo, great grandchildren **Adrienne Elizondo, Eden Elizondo, and Ian Rene Elizondo**, granddaughter **Olivia Saldivar-Romero** and Stefen Romero, grandson **Diego Saldivar** and Claudia Saldivar.

Family and Friends of **Keith Jennings**, who died March 24. Surviving FPC family includes wife, **Rose Marie Jennings.**

Chris and Dara Valdez on the death of her father, Charles Fairchild on March 22.

Mary Joe Reynolds-Montgomery on the death of her husband, Larry Montgomery March 21.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Martha Brooks, Marilyn Love, Marjorie Lewis, and Glynda Coffey, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Nona Cobden, 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.

Jane Watson, who is 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 **John 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 congratulations and best wishes to...

FPC staff member Jayne McFarland on the birth of a grandson, William James Hudson, on April 19. Proud parents are Sam and Jake Hudson.

Christian and Ben Davis on the birth of Nolan James on April 8. Nolan joins big brother, Luke.

Melanie Rogers on the birth of Wesley Joel on April 3. Wesley joins big brother, Alex, and big sister, Madelyn.

CB and Lauren Team on the birth of Charles Bailey Team V on March 20.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAYS IN MAY

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School for All Ages
- 11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

- 5:30 p.m. Worship on Wednesdays & Dinner/Classes at Community Crossroads

TUESDAY, MAY 2

- 5:30 p.m. Grief Support Group Begins

TUESDAY, MAY 2

- CPR/AED Training & Recertification (see page 5)

THURSDAY, MAY 4

- CPR/AED Training & Recertification (see page 5)

MONDAY, MAY 8

- 12 p.m. Book People Book Club Meeting

TUESDAY, MAY 9

- 6 p.m. Boomers Fellowship Trip to SiNaCa Glass Studio

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10

- 9:30 a.m. Habitat for Humanity Lunch Crew at FPC

SATURDAY, MAY 13

- 7:30 a.m. Habitat for Humanity FPC Build Team Day

TUESDAY, MAY 16

- 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Installation of Officers & Birthday Offering Celebration

SUNDAY, MAY 21

- 6:30 p.m. Taize / Wholeness & Healing Worship in Chapel

MONDAY, MAY 29

- Church Offices Closed for Memorial Day



THE
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LETTER

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PERIODICALS

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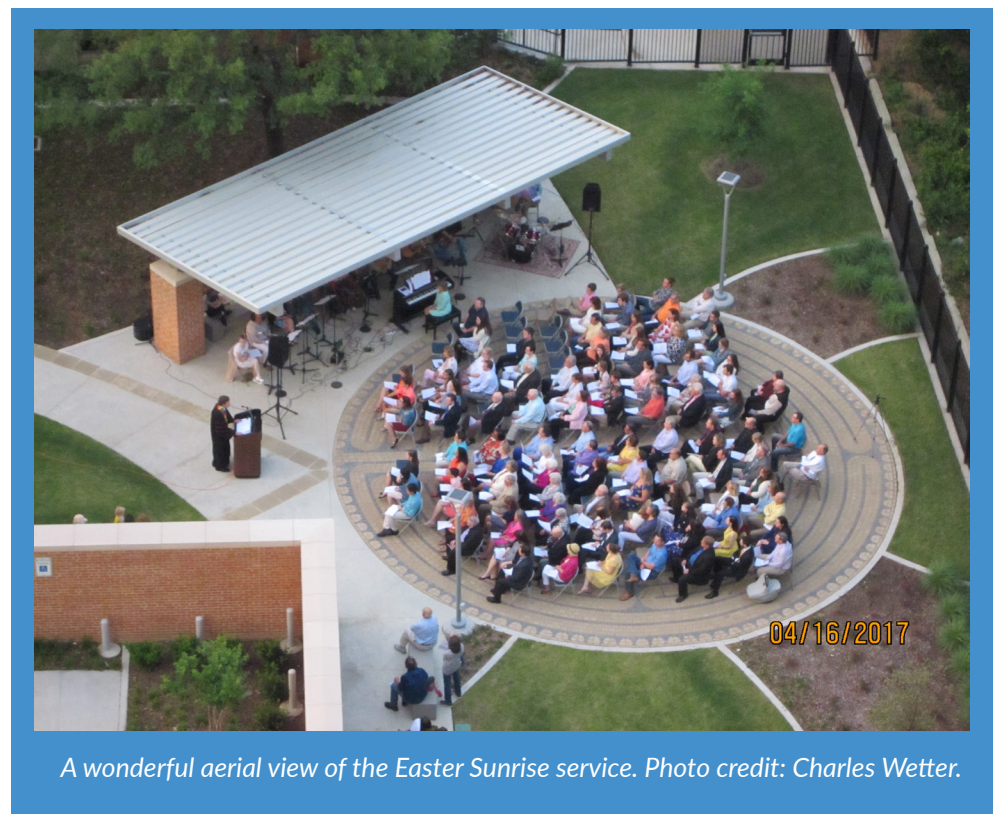
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JOURNEYS

Spiritual Formation Quarterly
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH
SPRING 2017



AVAILABLE AT CHURCH OR at
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A wonderful aerial view of the Easter Sunrise service. Photo credit: Charles Wetter.

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

