

THE penn street LETTER

MARCH 2017 | Volume 16, Number 3

The official monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

SEASON OF *Lent*

The forty days leading to Easter Sunday provide an opportunity for preparation, study, and meditation on Jesus' final days and the meaning of his ministry – then and now. Jesus challenged the powers of his day with God's eternal love for the world and God's people. As "Easter People" we celebrate the resurrection, and we remember all that led to it.

LENT

Ash Wednesday, March 1, marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 days, plus Sundays, leading to Easter Sunday. Below are ways you can observe Lent with the First Presbyterian community.

Ash Wednesday Worship Services

Wednesday, March 1
12 p.m. in the Chapel
5:30 p.m. at Community Crossroads
7 p.m. in the Great Hall

Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, March 1
5:30-6:45 p.m. in the Memorial Garden (see page 3)

Sermon Series in Lent

Sundays in Lent, Karl Travis will preach a special sermon series:

March 5: Confessing
March 12: Repenting
March 19: Josh Stewart preaches
March 26: Being Forgiveness
April 2: Being Forgiveness
April 9: The Lonesome Valley

Midday Prayer Services

Wednesdays, March 8-April 5
12-12:30 p.m. in the Chapel
These 30-minute services offer reflection on the season with prayer, music, and message.

HOLY WEEK

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

FPCFW.ORG/LENT

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

We are days away from the beginning of Lent, the time of intentional reflection and preparation for Holy Week and Easter. The liturgical season begins with Ash Wednesday, recalling our limitations as humans and remembering God's grace that covers us. "Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return."

Ash Wednesday is counter-cultural. While our society values new and trendy, ashes are an incredibly ancient symbol. While our culture endorses going to great extremes to stave off the effects of advancing age and death, ashes are a visible symbol that our bodies do not last; in fact, they return to dust. While people generally avoid personal and systemic culpability and complicity in sin (preferring to point fingers and judge others), ashes are a public declaration of an inward reality: "We are sinners in need of repentance and mercy."

Ash Wednesday reminds us that we belong to a world of death and sin, but we are not abandoned here. The very sign of the cross on our foreheads, though made with ashes to remind us of how we mortals miss the mark, is the same sign we use with water on the foreheads during baptisms. "Remember you are God's and to God you shall return." Ash Wednesday recalls our identity as people who belong, ultimately, to a gracious God, who abounds in steadfast love.

The contemplative season of Lent, then, is a time set aside space to dwell on that truth and to align our living and loving with that truth. Whatever ways you find to reflect, act, serve and pray in this season, may your practices and disciplines renew your identity in Christ and your trust in God's mercy. The world especially needs this counter-cultural announcement and actions in the time in which we now live. Humility and compassion are what our ashes look like when lived out in word and deed.

However we begin this Lent, may each of us "wear the ashes"--if not a smear on our foreheads--then the visible acts of discipleship that show we belong to God and are committed to the ways of humility and compassion that we know in Jesus Christ.

Peace,

Robyn



FPC Business Office Gets Renamed

Formerly the Business Office, the newly named Administrative Office provides First Presbyterian members, visitors, and community partners help related to giving, estate planning, facilities usage, Columbarium & Memorial Garden needs, and more. Dana Fickling's title has also changed to Church Administrator to better encompass her many duties and member relations. The office is still located across from the main church office and is open Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

SUBMISSIONS

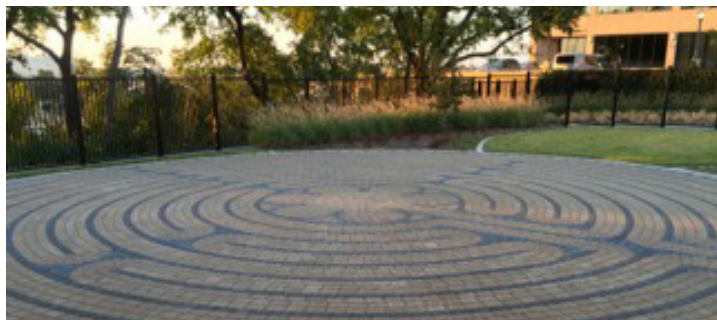
Submissions for the April issue of the *Penn Street Letter* is Wednesday, March 15. Please send to Teresa Tysinger at ttysinger@fpcfw.org or bring by the church office. The *Penn Street Online*, FPC's weekly email newsletter, is sent every Wednesday. Submissions for that are due to Teresa the Wednesday prior to when you'd like the information to run.

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.

Ash Wednesday Group Labyrinth Walk



Wednesday, March 1
5:30-6:45 p.m.
FPC Memorial Garden Labyrinth

To observe the beginning of the season of Lent, the FPC Labyrinth Guild will lead a group labyrinth walk on Ash Wednesday, March 1. This is an opportunity to engage the body, mind and spirit with fellow pilgrims embarking on the forty day journey known as Lent. Come and go as you please during times listed.

Special Church School Class in Lent

Beginning Sunday, March 5, a special abbreviated adult Church School class will be offered in the Sanctuary at 10 a.m. This 20-minute gathering will feature the Chancel Choir and the music of the day for the 11 a.m. service as the curriculum for worship reflection. Dr. Michael Waschevski will offer insights about the music as the choir demonstrates and highlights the spiritual impact of the music being sung. Gather in the front row or two of the Sanctuary for this special time of reflection. Please contact Michael in the church office for more information.



Sunday, March 5
11 a.m. and 12 p.m.
Great Hall | FREE!

A huge thank you to the congregation from the Stewardship Committee for the superb response to the pledge drive for 2017. Your generous contributions are critically important to meeting the goals of our ministry and mission programs for this year.

The pledge total through the first of February is \$2,598,388.00. And, thanks to you, this is an increase of nearly 4% over the 2016 pledge total.

Please join us for the Celebration of Generosity Luncheon sponsored by the Stewardship Committee on March 5 to show our appreciation. Come at 11 a.m. or 12 p.m. to the Great Hall for this complimentary all-church buffet luncheon. The menu includes chicken and pork, roasted potatoes, a hot vegetable side, cold salad, and desserts.

A program by Karl Travis and Mary Kay Roberto (Stewardship Committee Chair) will be included. An activities table will be available for children, too.

Experiencing Holy Week and Easter Through Song

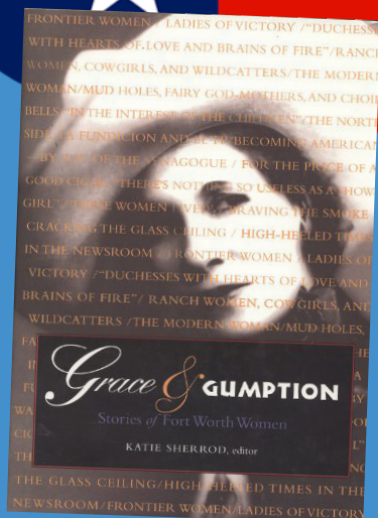
A powerful way to experience the worship of Holy Week and Easter is through singing in one of FPC's adult choirs.

The Chancel Choir sings Palm Sunday, April 9 (11 a.m.); Tenebrae Friday, April 14 (7 p.m.); and Easter Sunday, April 16 (11 a.m.).

The Fellowship Choir sings Maundy Thursday, April 13 (7 p.m.) and Easter Sunday, April 16 (9 a.m.).

Rehearsals begin in late February/early March and are a perfect time to join a choir for this season. The Fellowship Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 6–7 p.m. and the Chancel Choir rehearses Wednesdays from 7–8:30 p.m. Childcare is available during rehearsals. Please contact Michael Waschevski in the church office with questions.

Presbyterian Women's Next Tuesday Together



Tuesday, April 18
10:30 a.m.
FPC 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. Invite a friend. Lunch follows (\$7).

Please RSVP by April 10 to Celeste Falter in the church office at 817-335-1231 or cfalter@fpcfw.org.

CONNECT this Spring

Below are some opportunities to study and learn together this January at First Presbyterian Church.



Fellowship Dinner Groups: March 1 Sign-Up Deadline!

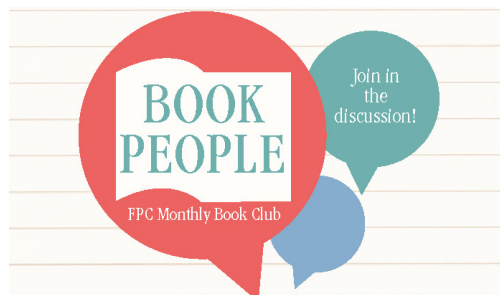
March 1 is the deadline to sign up to join a Fellowship Dinner Group for the March-June session. Groups of 6-10 adults/couples/families gather for dinner several times throughout the season. The meal and location is chosen by the group. Learn more and sign up at fpcfw.org/fellowshipdinnergroups/ or call Ruth Peterson in the church office at 817.335.1231.



First Connections Class Continues

The First Connections Class for new members and visitors continues on Sundays at 10 a.m. in the Parlor.

March 5: History of the Presbyterian Church and FPC, presented by the Historical Committee
March 12: Breakfast with Karl Travis
March 19: Walking Tour of FPC
March 26: Spiritual Formation Opportunities at FPC
April 2: Bus tour of Community Crossroads Outreach Center



Book People Book Club: March 13

The Book People Book Club meets the second Monday of each month. Visit fpcfw.org/book-people for future titles. On March 13 we discuss *Grace and Grit: My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond* by Lily Ledbetter, Ledbetter's own story which led to the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act in 2009.

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.

Serve at WOW!

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

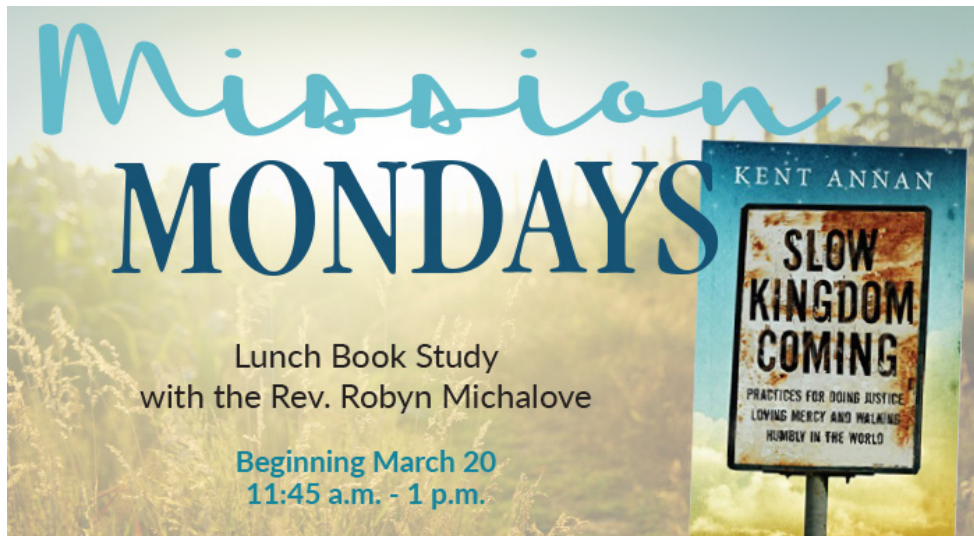
Additionally, WOW needs one or two adults to accompany half a dozen WOW youth to the Downtown Rehab Center to help with an outreach project one Wednesday evening in March or April (6:15-7:30).

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

Homeless Connect

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 Laminack at dlyn22@hotmail.com

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).



11:45 a.m. - 1 p.m. in Room 226
March 20, 27; April 3, 24; May 1, 8

Come study *Slow Kingdom Coming* by Kent Annan, led by Robyn Michalove. We are called to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly in the world. How can we stay committed to the journey when God's kingdom can seem so slow in coming? We will discuss the book as well as encourage and pray for one another in the ways we serve God in the world. Bring your own lunch. Coffee and water provided. Either purchase the book on your own or you may purchase a book for \$10 when RSVP'ing online at fpcfw.org/missionmondays.



Habitat 2017 Presbyterian Build

The next Presbyterian House Build with Habitat for Humanity will include members from Presbyterian churches in the county coming together to build a home for the Daniel Thang family at 1416 Stewart St, Fort Worth, 76104.

Sign-up info will be posted soon at fpcfw.org/habitat

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

About the Thang Family



Daniel Thang and his wife Vum Nyam with their children Khrih Nun Uk (18), and Thian Nun Mawi (17)

"Our family came to the United States in May of 2014 from Burma. Being [here] is very different for us, we have a lot more opportunities here. We came to Habitat because I believe and trust that Habitat will uplift my family. Owning our own home will be helpful for my family financially, it will also improve our health and allow us to be more social. Our family is very close and together we enjoy playing soccer, listening to praise music, reading the bible, and attending church."

Help Stock Shelves at Community Crossroads

The shelves at Community Crossroads, FPC's outreach center, both in the First HAND Food Pantry and Clothing Room, need restocking. First HAND provides necessities to our less fortunate neighbors in the Hemphill neighborhood. Can you help by donating some items?

Here are some specific items particularly needed:

- Men's Pants (waist size 32, in particular, and any length)
- Men's Shoes (any size)
- 1 lb. Jars of Peanut Butter (see Peanut Butter Sunday notice below)
- Diapers (any size)
- Baby Formula (Similac Advance Stage 1)

Other Items & a Reminder:

As a reminder, Community Crossroads can only accept clothing, shoes, belts, bedding, peanut butter (in 1 pound jars), diapers, and formula. We cannot accept other household items, furniture, appliances, or toys.

How to Donate:

It is preferable to take donations directly to Community Crossroads (1516 Hemphill). Drop off times are Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Enter on the north side of building where the mural is. Knock and if you need to, call 817-921-3955.

Questions?

If you have questions about donating to Community Crossroads, please contact Dori Davis, Community Crossroads Coordinator, at ddavis@fpcfw.org.



SAVE THESE DATES: SUMMER 2017 CAMPS

Parents, watch for the 2017 Summer Camps brochure to be coming in the mail soon full of details about the following camps offered by the Children's Ministry:

Be sure to add these dates to your calendars, now.

Summer Fun 1 Camp

("Around the World") June 12-16 for age 2 years - entering Kindergarteners.

Vacation Bible School

June 19-23 for entering Kindergarten - completed 5th graders.

ECO Camp

June 25-20 for completed 1st-5th graders.

Pre-K Music & Art Camp

("Carnival of Animals") June 26-30 for 4 year olds - entering Kindergarteners.

Summer Fun 2 Camp

("Ooey Gooey") July 10-14 for age 2 years - entering Kindergarteners.

Mo-Ranch Summer Camp:

July 17-23 for ages 8-15.

Elementary Music and Art Camp

("Dig It", A musical tale of Ancient Civilizations by John Jacobson and Roger Emerson) July 24-28 for completed Kindergarten - 5th graders.

Mission on the Move Camp

July 31 - August 4 for entering 4th-8th graders.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of February 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 **Scott Reed**, who died February 15. Surviving FPC family includes mother, **Carole Reed**.

Lori Logan on the death of her husband Frank, on Monday, February 13. Lori has been employed with the First Presbyterian EEC since 2014.

Family and friends of **Ben Mathias**, who died January 30. Surviving FPC family includes wife, **Reverend Maureen Mathias**.

Family and friends of **Aileen Stone**, who died on January 23. Surviving FPC family includes daughter, **Kathlynn Stone**.

Floyd and Dorothy Kinser on the death of his brother, **Reece Kinser**, who died January 19, in San Antonio.

Paula Robertson on the death of her aunt, **Zoe Robertson**, who died January 19, in Tennessee.

David and Corinna Nation on the death of her brother, **Sam Witherup**, who died January 12, in Kentucky.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Martha Letbetter, **Marjorie Lewis**, **Glynda Coffey**, **Bill Shaffer**, and **Chuck Sullivan**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

Keith Jennings, **Claude Scott**, **Bob Adcock**, **David Nation**, **Corinna Nation**, **Lisa Shiner**, **Jacquitta White**, **Clark Williams**, **Marge Shiner**, **Elizabeth Bean**, **Neil Zipp**, **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...

Margaret Davidson (sister of **Diane Davidson**), 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**), Bill Schmid, Sr. (father of **Bill Schmid, Jr.**), and 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**.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

*Below are some **highlights** of special events and meetings happening in March. For a complete calendar, please visit fpcf.org or pick one up at the church.*

WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS

- 8 a.m. Worship Service (Chapel)
- 9 a.m. Worship Service (Great Hall)
- 10 a.m. Church School for All Ages (Various Rooms)
- 11 a.m. Worship Service (Sanctuary)

SUNDAY IN MARCH

- 10 a.m. First Connections Class Meets (Parlor)

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

- 5:30 p.m. Worship on Wednesdays (Comm. Crossroads)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

- 12 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (Chapel)
- 5:30 Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk (Mem. Garden)
- 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (Great Hall)

SUNDAY, MARCH 5

- 10 a.m. Lent Church School Class Begins (Sanctuary)
- 11 a.m. Celebrating Generosity Brunch (Great Hall)
- 12 p.m. Celebrating Generosity Brunch (Great Hall)

WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 8, 15, 22, 29

- 12 p.m. Lent Midday Prayer Services (Chapel)

MONDAY, MARCH 13

- 12 p.m. Book People Book Club (Room 305)

SUNDAY, MARCH 19

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday
- 6 p.m. Taizé Wholeness & Healing Worship (Chapel)

MONDAY, MARCH 20

- 9-11 a.m. Formula And Diapers Ministry Distribution (Community Crossroads)
- 12 p.m. Mission Monday Book Lunch Study

VARIOUS DAYS IN MARCH

- Presbyterian Women's Circle Meetings
(See complete calendar for each circle's schedule)



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1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS

POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to
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THE
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LETTER

A LOOK AT CHURCH EVENTS...



Procession of tartans at Kirkin' of the Tartans on February 5.



Children's Sabbath on February 12.

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

