

THE penn street LETTER

JUNE 2017 | Volume 16, Number 6

The official monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

Closing the Gap Between Generational Ministry and Making New Connections



We often seek to connect with those with whom we most easily identify. We segregate ourselves into groups determined by our location (i.e. neighborhood), phase of life (i.e. parents of young children or empty nesters), or age. In the church, ministries are often offered by age group. In fact, FPC categorizes some ministries on our website into Adult, Young Adult, Youth, and Children. It makes sense and is culturally intuitive. We relate best to those most like us--and age is an easy indicator.

Great opportunity lies, however, in sometimes seeking opportunities to connect with people outside our own age demographic. First Pres aims to offer all-church events throughout the year to encourage intergenerational relationships. Events such as monthly Sunday brunches, church picnics, the all-church retreat, fall kickoff, and even weekly worship invite young and old to experience life and faith together.

Recently, two ministries structured specifically by their ages, came together and enjoyed the benefits of stepping outside their usual circles. The Boomers Fellowship group, for adults of the "Baby Boomer" generation, had space left on their visit to SiNaCa Glass Studio so they invited some of the church's young adults to join them. New connections were made at the fun evening (photo above)! Similarly, the Boomers church school class asked Eric Varnon, Director of Young Adult Ministries, to lead their class for two weeks. Instead of lining up a substitute teacher for the young adult class, Eric invited those class members to join the Boomers. Combining the two classes allowed for shared conversation between two age groups that might not otherwise connect weekly.

How might you engage fellow members outside of your usual circles at church?

Simply introducing yourself to someone of a different generation might open the door to new meaningful connections. Instead of sitting with your church school classmates at the next Sunday brunch, take a seat at a table with someone older or younger than yourself. Names are learned and familiar faces become friends. Age is, after all, just a number.

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

In our Book of Confessions, *A Brief Statement of Faith* begins with these words:

In life and in death we belong to God.
Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit,
we trust in the one triune God, the Holy One of
Israel,
whom alone we worship and serve.

The words which bring the Statement to its close are:

With believers in every time and place,
we rejoice that nothing in life or in death
can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

These words have been in the forefront of my mind over this last week. I have found myself saying them out loud, quietly meditating on them throughout the day, and grateful that they are settled deep in my heart and soul. They bring comfort, strength, assurance, and joy in the midst of ministry at First Presbyterian. And I don't mean that only in a personal sense of my ministry. I mean in the broader sense of our ministry and experience as a community of faith. A community that week in and week out is active, vibrant, joyful, and hopeful. Worship is experienced. Mission trips come and go. Classes are taught. Care is extended both within and beyond our church walls and campus. All of it and so much more held in God's love.

These past weeks have been marked with deep concern as we pray for so many in our congregation – including our Pastor - who are undergoing medical treatments, recovering from surgery, grieving, and facing any number of personal challenges in their lives or in the lives of their families and friends. Countless members, along with your church staff, have prayed with and for those in our community of faith who are struggling with difficult diagnosis, accompanied those in hospital and rehab, visited the homebound, grieved with those who grieve, and extended the compassion of Christ in the most tender of ways - known and unknown to one another. We indeed rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The last two summers I suggested committing the opening and closing lines from the *Brief Statement of Faith* to memory. I extend that invitation this summer as well. It is a worthy spiritual exercise. And it is a deep blessing as you live your life of faith. I promise. I am a witness.

God's Peace to Your Home,

Michael

MEMORIAL DAY

First Presbyterian offices will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 29.

SAVE THE DATE

Summer may just be getting started, but go ahead and pencil in Sunday, August 27 on your calendar. That morning from 10-11 a.m. we will be hosting the FPC annual Ministry & Mission Fall Kickoff. This event brings everyone back together after the summer to reconnect and engage with new faces as the program year gets back in swing. Watch for more details!

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the June issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, June 15**.

Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue.

If you have questions or submissions, please contact Teresa Tysinger, Director of Communications, at ttysinger@fpcf.org or bring by the church office.

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Presbyterian House Build Gets Off to Sunny Start!



The Thang Family was joined by many FPC members on May 13 at the site of their new home being built as part of the Trinity Habitat for Humanity Presbyterian House Build. Members of all ages came out with good weather and even sunnier spirits to work on framing. Volunteer Ralph Reece, not to be kept away, even worked wearing a rehabilitative boot (pictured above)! Thank you to those who gave of your time on this special day. To volunteer on this build visit fpcfww.org/habitat for more information and for a link to the Trinity Habitat website for signing up.

Now Accepting Pentecost Offering



Give toward a more promising future

"For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away . . ." —Acts 2:39

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency: Young Adult Volunteers, Ministries for Youth, Children-at-Risk, Pentecost Offering Financials.

Watch for more details and a chance to give to the Pentecost Offering in worship. Learn more at <http://specialofferings.pcusa.org/pentecost>.

NEXT SUNDAY BRUNCH

Sunday, June 4
11 a.m. and 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. Menu includes Brisket, Honey Lime Chicken, Rice, Grilled Vegetables, Heirloom Tomato and Watermelon Salad, Berry Shortcake, and Chocolate Mousse.

BE INSPIRED...

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

Presbyterian Women

SUMMER TREAT

Tuesday, June 20 from 6-8 p.m.
Blue Mesa Grill (612 Carroll Street)

The FPC Presbyterian Women invite all ladies to its annual Summer Treat gathering. The menu includes combo fajita dinner, chips, guacamole, sides and iced tea. Dine with friends in a private dining room! Cash bar available as well. Please RSVP by June 9, sending a \$21 check made out to PW to Celeste Falter in the church office. Questions? Contact Jennifer Regen at RJennifer85@aol.com.

FALL STUDY GATHERING

Tuesday, August 29 at 10:30 a.m.
FPC Great Hall

Women, save the date for August 29 as we gather with other women from around the Presbytery to learn about the fall study, "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews" by Melissa Bane Sevier. Melissa will be our guest speaker and will share with us about the year of study.

PW INSTALLS NEW OFFICERS

On Tuesday, May 16, the FPC Presbyterian Women installed new officers (below) for the 2017-2018 program year. The event also included the dedication of the annual Birthday Offering; see page 6 for more about the offering.

Next Men's Monthly Breakfast

Wednesday, June 15 at 7 a.m.
FPC Great Hall

All men are invited to participate in a monthly Men's Monthly Breakfast that aims to expand our network of sustaining friendships and to deepen our lives of discipleship. These monthly meetings will include a brief presentation that leads to shared conversation at your table group. You will have the chance share your thoughts, joys and concerns, and engage in other topics.

FPC Summer Choir

During the 11 a.m. worship services from June 18-July 16 the FPC Summer Choir will offer a variety of accessible and exciting anthems for worship. All high school students through adults who love singing or have always wanted to sing with a choir are welcome to join members of the Chancel Choir, Fellowship Choir, and other singers for this 5 week singing opportunity filled with fellowship, joy, and music! Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings from 7-8 p.m. June 14-July 12, and you are welcome any Wednesday/Sunday you are in town! Feel free to talk with the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office if you have questions.

JUNE ADULT SUMMER CHURCH SCHOOL

The Adult Christian Nurture Committee is excited to offer June Adult Summer Church School classes during the 10-10.45 a.m. church school hour!

Three options are offered each week include:

Bible Study (Room 237) led by Gordon Van Amburgh on June 4, 11 and Dr. Toni Craven on June 18 and 25.

Faith and Film Series (Room 235) led by Dr. Darren Middleton, TCU Faculty and consultant on the film *Silence* (June 4,11) and Rev. Robyn Michalove on the film *A Place at the Table* (June 18,25). The Adult Christian Nurture Committee will hold a screening of the film *Silence* in advance of the June 4 and 11 classes, details to be announced soon. Clips from *A Place at the Table* will be shown in the class.

Book Study (Room 236) Discuss and study *The Heart of Centering Prayer* with leader Barb Heptig.

FPC Rangers Game

The Fellowship Committee will host a day out at a Texas Rangers Game (discount tickets only \$20) on Sunday, June 4. To see if last-minute tickets remain, contact Eric Varnon in the church office ASAP at evarnon@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231.



ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

Stock the Dispensary at Presbyterian Night Shelter

Please bring the following donated items to the Narthex, Welcome Center desk near the Great Hall, or to the basket in the church office through Sunday, June 4:

- Aspirin, regular and low dose
- Benadryl
- Tylenol
- Advil
- Cough drops
- Travel size hand sanitizer
- Travel size mouthwash
- Travel size deodorant
- Disposable razors
- Vitamins
- Antacid tablets

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, June 18 to help stock the shelves at First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads.

Serve at Community Crossroads this Summer

SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM

We need volunteers to serve children the lunch that the Tarrant Area Food Bank provides and to engage the children in games, crafts and conversation. Volunteers of all ages are welcome to serve Wednesday and Thursdays between June 7 - August 17 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. When the school year ends, TAFB provides free summer meals to children who might otherwise go hungry. Any child under 18 may come to eat for free. No income requirements or registration necessary for a child to eat at a summer meal site.

SACK LUNCH DISTRIBUTION

Mondays from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., come help distribute sack lunches to those in the community.

WEDNESDAY HOSPITALITY

Wednesdays from 10:30 - 12:30, come make coffee, set up snack trays, greet neighbors as they enter for First HAND.

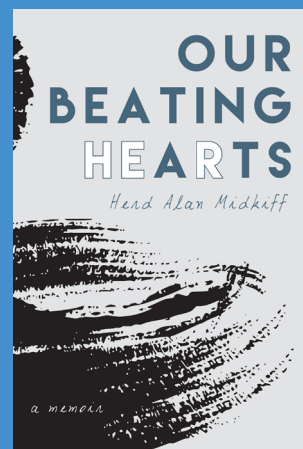
For the above three opportunities, if you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Dori Davis, Coordinator of Community Crossroads, or call 817-921-3955.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT WOW

Volunteers are needed Wednesdays, August 9, 16, 23, 30 from 6-7:30 p.m. for the WOW VBS. We will have opportunities to serve in mission, crafts, recreation and Bible study. Volunteer one Wednesday or all month. You can also help prep VBS projects at home in July. Please contact Leah Wyckoff, Worship on Wednesday Coordinator, at leahw@fpcf.org for more information.

BOOK SIGNING: *Our Beating Hearts*

by Herd Alan Midkiff



Thursday, June 1 at 6:30 p.m.

FPC's Fahrenkamp Lounge

**Books will be available for purchase.*

All are invited to a special book signing of *Our Beating Hearts* with author and FPC member Herd Midkiff who honors the memory of his wife Shannon, also a member, in this poignant memoir.

A few years into a happy marriage of Herd and Shannon "settling down" and "big dreams ahead," Shannon was diagnosed with congestive heart failure. The day altered the trajectory of their lives, their marriage, and their expectations.

In this touching love story, Herd chronicles their eighteen-year journey. He reflects as a single father, eager to keep the memory of his loving and spirited wife alive, and details the deep love they had for one another and his grief. *Our Beating Hearts* is about remembering and accepting that often our lives are changed forever in ways we wish they weren't. But as we put the broken pieces back together, healing does come, and we can begin to imagine a new journey that lies ahead. Learn more at OurBeatingHearts.com.

STEWARDSHIP

Engaging the World with Project Homeless Connect

by BJ Hoskins

Activity at 1000 Penn Street was buzzing and overflowing...parking space was non-existent...Matthew 25 was in action at FPC! Was it Easter Sunday? No, Thursday, April 27 was the date of the 10th annual Project Homeless Connect. The day began with over 70 vendors and service providers from all over north Texas setting up tables while the Salvation Army served coffee and the Fort Worth Police Department provided donuts to nearly 500 guests from the homeless community. These guests were offered transportation by buses provided by FPC, the Salvation Army, and others. In addition to the vendors, over 200 volunteers provided services during the event—from checking in guests, sweeping hair (from the free haircuts area), distributing backpacks, serving lunch, acting as guides, and many other necessary functions.



Some of the most amazing services provided included the making of over 100 custom-fitted eyeglasses, over 200 free haircuts, document services helping guests obtain birth certificates so that they could successfully apply for a Social Security number, the resolution of legal issues with two on-site judges, etc. One guest was even hired on the spot by Goodwill Industries. The list goes on and on. One of the most popular areas was the Women's Boutique, where lovely jewelry, scarves, and hand bags (all donated by PW members) were made available. FPC's Formula & Diapers ministry distributed diapers and toys and Community Crossroads distributed donated blankets.

Originally, Project Homeless Connect was designed to be a one-stop health and information fair. Over time, the vision has broadened to provide direct services. For the first time, a mobile vision lab was donated, allowing guests to receive new glasses with custom lenses within an hour! One man was overheard exclaiming, "I can see! I can see!" Isn't that what we are called to do – enabling others to see Christ?

*Help Prepare for Next Year's Project Homeless Connect:
If you have large-print Bibles, please consider donating!*



PW Birthday Offering Recipients

On Tuesday, May 16, the FPC Presbyterian Women dedicated its contribution to the Presbyterian Women of the PC(USA) Birthday Offering. Monies collected from FPC women have met the goal of the FPC PW gift! This year's recipients of the Presbyterian Women PC(USA) include:

Navajo Water Project (New Mexico)

The offering will provide a running water system for 40 families who do not have access to running water in their homes. The grant will provide each household with a cistern, pump, sink, shower, and all pipes for the installation of their water system.

Family Justice Center (South Carolina)

The offering will assist FJC in constructing a new domestic violence shelter with greater capacity for victims of abuse living in Georgetown and Horry Counties.

First Hand Aid (Cuba)

The First Hand Aid Rural Clinic Development Initiative exists to diminish the suffering of the most marginalized Cuban citizens by providing hope, dignity, and the basic necessities of life and health. The program is establishing clinics in partnership with, and located at, Presbyterian Churches in rural Cuba that will provide medicine and care.

Thanks be to God! For more details, please visit www.presbyterianwomen.org.

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of May 17, 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...

Cheri and Kent Bruxvoort on the death of her father, Norman Van Wyk, on May 13 in Iowa.

The family and friends of **Beaufort Cash**, who died May 9. Surviving family includes FPC member **Steve Cash**.

Rinda and Stanley Thomas on the death of her father, James Franklin Pattee, on May 9.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Sara Swift, Linda Jovais, 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...

Evan Wilson (grandson of **Henrietta Bailey**), Glenda Burger (sister of **Vance Laminack**), Janet Laminack (cousin of **Julie Sphar** and **Vance 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 congratulations and best wishes to...

Weston and Katie Eidson on the birth of Caroline Grace on April 16. Caroline joins big brother Charles.

CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAYS IN JUNE

- 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 JUNE

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

THURSDAY, JUNE 1

- 6:30 p.m. *Our Beating Hearts* Book Signing

SUNDAY, JUNE 4

- 11 & 12 Sunday Brunch
- 12:45 p.m. Carpool Leaves for Rangers Game

JUNE 9-11

Family Mission Trip

JUNE 12-16

Summer Fun Preschool Camp 1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15

- 7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast

SUNDAY, JUNE 18

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 11 a.m. Summer Choir Begins Singing in Worship
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship in Chapel

JUNE 19-23

Vacation Bible School

TUESDAY, JUNE 20

- 6-8 p.m. Presbyterian Women's Summer Treat

JUNE 25-30

ECO Camp

JUNE 26-30

Pre-K Music & Art Camp



THE
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LETTER

First Presbyterian Church
1000 Penn Street
Fort Worth, TX 76102

PERIODICALS

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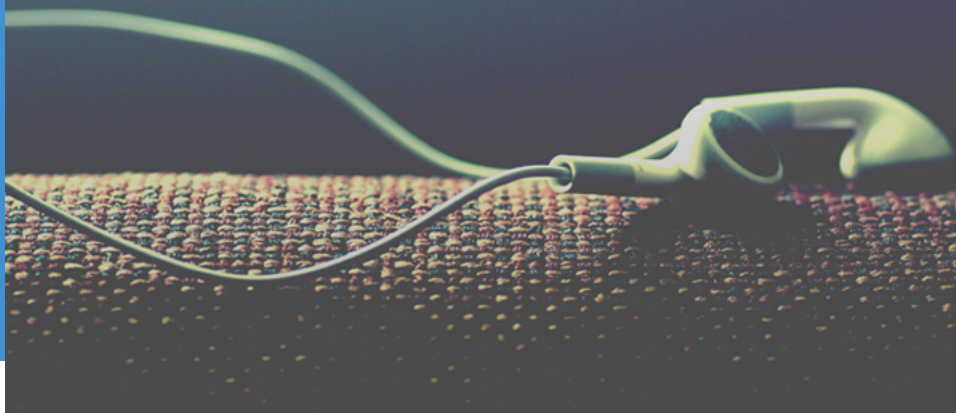
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