

# THE penn street LETTER

JULY 2017 | Volume 16, Number 7

The official monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth



Every December for the past few years, the Mission Outreach Committee of FPC hosts a Christmas Toy Store. At this special "store" parents and guardians may shop for Christmas gifts for their children. This year's event will be held on December 9 and will benefit people connected to FPC ministries through First HAND food and clothing, Formula and Diapers Ministry, and WOW.

December may seem like a long way away, but now is the time to start stocking up! So, you are asked to give generously to the Christmas in July Toy Drive held from Sunday, July 9 to 16. Please bring donations to the tables in the Narthex and outside the Great Hall.

#### ITEMS NEEDED:

Dolls (18" style is most popular)  
Planes, Trains and Trucks  
Gift Card & Money Donations\*

*\*Please make checks out to FPC with "Christmas Store" in the memo and bring to the main office anytime.*

If you have any questions, please contact Robyn Michalove at [robyn@fpcf.org](mailto:robyn@fpcf.org) or call the church office at 817-335-1231.

# PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

I long ago became fascinated with brain development, particularly after technology made it possible to film neural activity in real time. Researchers can now study the brain activity of newborn infants and toddlers right through childhood. What our grandparents knew instinctively we have now documented scientifically; the early years really

matter. Each human being is born with intellectual capabilities, but the possible range in ultimate IQ depends wildly upon a child's earliest experiences. If a child is nurtured and loved, is held and spoken to, her brain literally fashions more neural networks. Put simply, infants who are nourished early end up smarter than they would otherwise be.

When we baptize children, we do so on behalf of the church universal. We promise as a congregation to raise a child in the love of Jesus Christ so long as that child is a part of our church, and we do so as a gift not only to the child, and not only to the child's family, but also to the church universal. We are in the business of nurturing disciples, and that begins in the earliest months.

No wonder, then, that we spend so much time and money on our Early Education Center. Who can be surprised, then, by the mammoth efforts we make at our Sunday morning education efforts, or

our Youth Ministries? Just this last week our building was blessed by 130 Vacation Bible School students, and the 50 plus adults who volunteered to teach them.

Jesus Christ came that we might have life and have it abundantly. Sharing such a blessing engages our time and attention, our hearts and minds. My prayer is that every child who comes through our doors emerges well prepared to be a faithful disciples, happy and whole.

Thanks for helping to answer that prayer.

See you in church,



*See page three for more photos from Vacation Bible School.*

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

First Presbyterian offices will be closed in observance of Independence Day on Tuesday, July 4.

## 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 AUGUST issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, July 19**.

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](mailto:ttysinger@fpcf.org) or bring by the church office.

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# Vacation Bible School Photo Album

Vacation Bible School was held June 19-22. Children joined family groups and learned about Paul and the underground church in ancient Rome. The gym was transformed into a Roman marketplace, offering the chance to make crafts, learn artisan skills, enjoy snacks, and more. Families even had the chance to visit an "underground home church" like Paul and the church's earliest members did. Donations brought by children went to make blessing bags and coloring kits for those served at the Day Resource Center and at WOW! Special thanks goes to the many youth and adult volunteers, teachers, Marketplace helpers, staff, and more who helped make this week so wonderful. Join your prayers with ours that the Bible lessons and friendships made this week follow these kids for a lifetime.





# The Value of Togetherness

## BEACONS MINISTRY

Simply living life together can be priceless. In fact, Jesus sets a great example of the importance of togetherness through his relationship with his disciples. The Beacons ministry, serving older adults, at FPC aims to honor this principle of togetherness through monthly gatherings.

### BEACONS' BIRTHDAY BASH

(3rd Thursday; Next is July 20)

Beacons gather at a local eatery to celebrate those with birthdays that month. Call office for location.

### BEACONS' POTLUCK

(4th Wednesday; Next is July 26)

Bring your favorite dish to share at a potluck dinner, followed by program of guest speaker or entertainment.

## Elementary Music & Art Camp Still Open!



Spots still remain for Elementary Music & Art Camp at FPC, July 24-28. The theme is "Dig It" A Musical Tale of Ancient Civilizations and will provide kids (completed 1st-5th grades) with experience in singing, dance, art, drama, and more. Register at [fpcf.org/musicandartscamp](http://fpcf.org/musicandartscamp).

# BE INSPIRED...

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

## Presbyterian Women Fall 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.

## Next Men's Monthly Breakfast

**Thursday, July 20 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.

## July Adult Church School Offerings

The Adult Christian Nurture Committee offers the following topics during the month of July from 10-10.45 a.m.

**Bible Study** (Room 237) led by Dr. Toni Craven on July 2 and 9, Gordon Van Amburgh on July 16, and Dr. Brandon Cline on July 23 and 30.

**Faith and Film Series** (Room 235) *Twilight Zone, Season 4: "On Thursday We Leave for Home"* with Dr. Steve Brotherton (July 2)

*Poverty, Inc.* with the Rev. Robyn Michalove (July 9 - 16)

*Spirituality & Star Wars (Star Wars); The Wisdom of Bagger Vance (The Legend of Bagger Vance);* and *Finding Inspiration in Viral Videos* with Eric Varnon (July 23 - August 6)

**Book Study** (Room 236)

Discuss and study *The Heart of Centering Prayer* with leader Barb Heptig. (Not meeting July 2.)

**Young Families (Room 230)**

Meets weekly, using Feasting on the Word materials to study each Sunday's lectionary text.



*On Tuesday, June 20, the Presbyterian Women of FPC hosted 86 ladies at its annual Summer Treat event. Fellowship, food, and fun was enjoyed at Blue Mesa Grill.*

# ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

## 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, July 16 to help stock the shelves at First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads.

## Serve at Community Crossroads

### WEDNESDAY HOSPITALITY

Wednesdays from 10:30 - 12:30, come make coffee, set up snack trays, greet neighbors as they enter for First HAND. 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 Worship on Wednesdays (WOW) VBS. We will have opportunities to serve in mission, crafts, recreation and Bible study. Volunteer one Wednesday or all month. Please contact Leah Wyckoff, WOW Coordinator, at leahw@fpcf.org for more information.

**Note: WOW does not meet in July.**

## Saturday, July 29 Globe Life Park

FPC's handbell players will join other Handbell Choir from Oklahoma and Texas in ringing the Star Spangled Banner during the Texas Rangers game! Non-bell choir members are welcome to play with us. Check with director, Rebecca Sawyer, for rehearsal times and more details at rsawyer@fpcf.org or 817-335-1231.



## Let Freedom Ring!

## Beyond Bible Study at WOW for Teens

At Worship on Wednesday, the weekly dinner/worship/study offering for all ages at Community Crossroads, teens go beyond Bible study. Tarrant Country College Community Outreach offers a program called Texas Reality Check. The program invites teens to select their expenses such as housing, utilities, food, transportation, health care, personal care, savings etc. They then discuss the annual salary required to meet the chosen expenses and how a college education can help obtain a high paying job.

This exercise in real-world living gets teens (and in some cases children) excited about planning for their futures.

## Room in the Inn

FPC hosts homeless men from the Day Resource Center overnight Mondays in July (except July 3). Learn about volunteering at [fpcf.org/riti](http://fpcf.org/riti).

## Vases & Volunteers

Vases (8-10" tall) as well as a few volunteers are needed for FPC's Flower Ministry. *Note: Please do not donate bud vases.* This ministry serves homebound members as well as those needing a little cheering up by breaking down the larger flower arrangements at worship into smaller bouquets and delivering them.

Can you serve in this way following the 11 a.m. worship service from time to time? If so, please contact coordinator Sally Parmelee at 817-927-8611.



# STEWARDSHIP

*Inspiring Disciples...*

## A Ministry of Openness

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.

Earlier this year, we asked Martha Zaborowski to talk with some of our new members and others she works with to answer the question: *How have you been inspired by the ministries of the church.*

Here is another story shared by Mike Bailey:

I am inspired by the wealth of opportunities to serve at FPCFW. There are so many ministries at FPCFW it is almost impossible for me to single any one out. To me it is not one ministry or ministries but the ministerial attitude that nurtures not only a plethora of ministries to our members but overflows into the entire Fort Worth community in ministries such as the Presbyterian Night Shelter, Community Crossroads, Room in the Inn, Homeless Connect, Refugee Resettlement, and that is just the tip of the iceberg.

As I am writing this, it strikes me there is another factor in all of this is the openness and warmth of the congregation that makes it easy for even an introvert like myself to feel free to step in and take on challenges and be rewarded by doing something for others. That openness and warmth may not be on a list of church ministries, but it has certainly ministered to me.

## *Engaging the World...*

First Presbyterian Church offers the Gym as a place to stay for out-of-town mission groups looking to perform outreach for the Lord in Fort Worth. The next group, coming on July 16, is composed of 36 adults and youngsters from several churches in Austin. A warm welcome to our church is something anyone can participate in: a sign, snacks, or other gesture of hospitality would be wonderful. Call Robyn Michalove at the church office 817-335-1231 to coordinate.

FPC also gives out food to needy families on Wednesdays and Thursdays of each week at Community Crossroads, the church's outreach center at 1516 Hemphill Street. Anyone interested in showing hospitality to these folks on one of those days beginning around noon can get details from Dori Davis, Community Crossroads Coordinator at 817-333-9461.

## SAVE THE DATE:

Mark your calendars now for this special event coming in August for children, youth, and adults. Watch for more, coming soon.

**FINDING BALANCE IN THE DIGITAL AGE**  
including a Viewing & Discussion of the Documentary

**SCREEN AGERS**  
GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

**Sunday, August 27 | 4-7 p.m. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FORT WORTH**

# JOYS & CONCERNS

*Following are the joys and concerns shared as of June 22 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 **Glenn Chochola**, who died June 20. Surviving FPC family includes his wife **Eve**, and son **Bob**.

Family and friends of **Rose Marie Jennings**, who died June 16.

Family and friends of **Linda Jovais**, who died June 10.

**Curtis and Lisa Priddy** on the death of his father, Kenneth Priddy, June 6 in Bowie, Texas.

Family and friends of **Jo Ann Walker**, who died June 4. Surviving FPC family includes sister, **Joy Begley**.

Family and friends of **Wes Stewart**, who died May 29. Surviving FPC family includes wife **Peggy**, daughter **Mary Stewart** and son-in-law **Ed Bewley**, and granddaughter **Elizabeth Goldsmith** and husband Brian.

Rob and **Liz Sisk** on the death of his mother, Joan Frances Sisk, on May 24.

**Diane Davidson** on the death of her sister, Margaret Adelia Davidson, on May 23 in Charleston, SC.

Family and friends of **Keith Holder**, who died May 17.

## **Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...**

**Emma Coley, Sara Swift, Martha Brooks, Marilyn Love, and Marjorie Lewis**, 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...**

**Heather and Charles Smith** on the birth of William McCullough Smith on May 30. Proud family includes grandparents, **Carol and Clif Smith**, great-grandfather **Jesse Boulware**, and great-aunt **Cindi Presley**.

Jordan and **Whitney Giancoli** on the birth of Isla Ann Giancoli on May 31. Proud grandparents are **Martha and Jim Cunningham**.

# CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

*Below are some **highlights** of special events happening in June. For a complete calendar, visit [fpcfw.org](http://fpcfw.org).*

## **SUNDAYS IN JULY**

- 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 JULY**

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

## **TUESDAY, JULY 4**

- All Day Independence Day, Church Offices Closed

## **JULY 9-16**

- All Day Christmas in July Toy Drive

## **MONDAY, JULY 10**

- 12 p.m. Book People Book Club

## **MONDAYS, JULY 10, 17, 24, 31**

- Evenings Room in the Inn Outreach

## **JULY 10-14**

- 9:30 a.m. Summer Fun 2 Preschool Camp

## **SUNDAY, JULY 16**

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship in Chapel

## **JULY 16-22**

- All Day Mo-Ranch Summer Camp

## **WEDNESDAY, JULY 19**

- 7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast

## **JULY 20-23**

- All Day JHaMS Conference at Austin College

## **JULY 24-28**

- 9 a.m. Elementary Music & Art Camp

## **JULY 29**

- Handbell Choir Rings at Texas Rangers Game

## **JULY 31 - AUGUST 4**

- 9 a.m. Mission on the Move Day Camp



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Fort Worth, TX 76102

**PERIODICALS  
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[WWW.FPCFW.ORG](http://WWW.FPCFW.ORG)



## FEATURED PHOTO:

Here's our Family Mission Trip team just before they departed on June 9 for their work over the weekend in Waco, TX. The team, made up of seven FPC families, served at Church Under the Bridge, World Hunger Relief, and to Talithkoun Center for children at risk.

For more photos of FPC in action, follow at...

