

THE penn street LETTER

AUGUST 2017 | Volume 16, Number 8

The official monthly newsletter of First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

KICKING OFF A NEW SEASON OF MINISTRY & MISSION

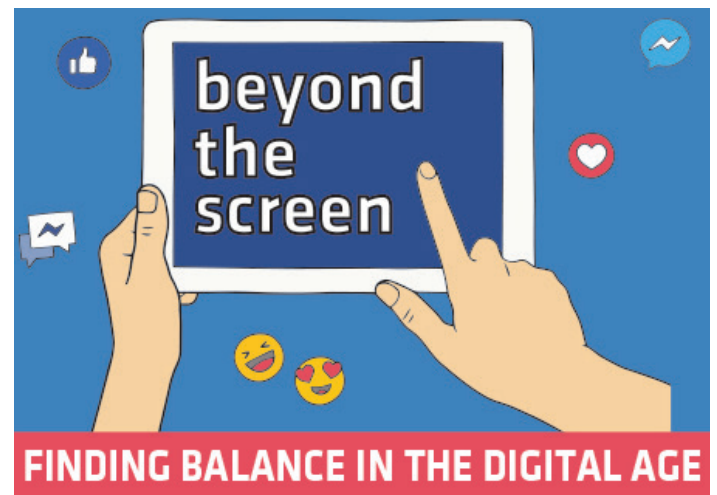


Sunday, August 27
10 - 11 a.m.
3rd Floor Concourse

Grab a nametag and connect with church friends new and old as we kick off a new season of ministry and mission together at First Presbyterian. You will also have the chance to enjoy tasty brunch items and pick up some information on fall opportunities for learning, playing, and serving together. Hosted by the Communications, Fellowship, and Evangelism Committees.

If you coordinate a ministry or mission opportunity being offered this fall and would like to have information available for members to pick up at the kickoff event, please speak with your staff liaison or contact Teresa Tysinger, Director of Communications, at ttysinger@fpcfw.org or call 817-335-1231.

See more fall opportunities mentioned in this issue!



Sunday, August 27
4-7 p.m.
Youth Center & Gym

These days, we not only go online, we live online. We use our phones, tablets, and laptops to shop, learn, read, watch shows, share photos, chat with friends and family, etc. Amidst the power to connect, it can distract and overtake our time. So, how do we find balance and live beyond the screen?

Join the discussion with others from the Fort Worth community at First Presbyterian Church this August. Together, we'll view the documentary *Screenagers*, talk about the challenges of today's digital culture, and share ways to find a rich and fulfilling life in and through it. All ages welcome; parents invited to watch with 3rd graders and up.

Seating is limited. A special program will be offered for elementary children. Discussion and pizza follows. Free childcare for children up to age 7. Register at fpcfw.org/screenagers.

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear Friends,

For many of us, summer affords a different rhythm of life, whether we travel or whether we find ways to enjoy the outdoors at home, from playing in swimming pools to working in yards. Kids and youth enjoy camps and mission trips, many times less connected to technology and more connected to their natural surroundings. I have had many opportunities to be outside this summer: working in a garden and attending an outdoor worship service on the

family mission trip; giving tours of East Lancaster with our Urban Gap mission groups; traveling with my family; and walking the dog early in the morning.

As I have been outdoors in a variety of settings this summer, I have been particularly aware of the language of the psalms. When I look at a lake, I think of Psalm 23's 'still waters.' When I am away from the city and see the stars, I think of Psalm 8's 'moon and stars.' When I am serving in outreach, I think of Psalm 9's "needy that are not forgotten." The psalms are descriptive and illustrative of God's creation and of our lives as human living out our faith.

The psalms are helpful in our spiritual journey as they function as not only as scripture but also as prayers, songs, and poetry for meditation. The psalms have been a part of church liturgy for centuries, and the Reformation encouraged the singing of psalms as congregational music in the language of the people. Some of our favorite hymns emerge from the words of a psalm. The psalms give voice to our prayers as they encompass thanksgiving and praise as well as express emotions of anger and sorrow. The psalms invite reflection on life and encourage conversation with God.

The psalms are excellent devotional material as they center us in praise and prayer and invite us to reflect how our lives and world intersect with these ancient words. If you read a psalm a day between the first of August and the end of the year, you can read through the Book of Psalms in its entirety. I plan to do this myself so that the language of the psalms may inform my own prayers and work and connect me to spiritual ancestors and the church universal. May God's Word be a 'lamp to your feet and a light to your path' wherever you may be this summer.

Peace be with you,

Robyn

P.S. Be sure to mark your calendar for the afternoon and evening of Sunday, August 27 for an event at FPC called "Beyond the Screen." This is for anyone who uses technology (kids, youth, adults). We will watch a documentary, and have conversation over dinner with one another. See page 1 for details. Please come and invite someone else to join you!

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the SEPTEMBER issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, August 16.**

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@fpcfw.org or bring by the church office.

BE SOCIAL...

Do you follow First Presbyterian on social media? If not, find us on the following sites and follow along for photos, reminders, encouragement, and more.



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.

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Choir as a Spiritual Practice

Singing engages the mind, the heart, and the body in ways that give energy and purpose to life! Breathing, relaxing the body, reflecting on texts, allowing music to touch our emotions, being part of a community ... that's all part of the experience of singing in a choir.



First Presbyterian Church offers two adult choirs that welcome new singers into this multi-sensory spiritual practice. You are invited to consider joining an adult choir this fall as an avenue for deepening your spiritual journey.

Rehearsals begin Wednesday, August 16

The **CHANCEL CHOIR** rehearses Wednesdays from 7 – 8.30 p.m. and sings primarily at the 11 a.m. service.

The **FELLOWSHIP CHOIR** rehearses Wednesdays from 6 – 7 p.m. and sings primarily at the 9 a.m. service.

Several times a year the two choirs combine for special worship offerings. Childcare is available for both choirs. For more information or to make plans to join a choir, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski in the church office (817.335.1231 or michaelw@fpcfw.org).

Intro to Bells Class

Wednesdays: August 16, 23, 30 and September 6
7-8 p.m.
Room 245

Intro to Bells is a 4-week class for all who have wanted to play bells or for those whose skills are rusty. Come work with Music Associate, Rebecca Sawyer, on basic playing skills and learn about the different techniques that FPC bell choirs sometimes use. The music notation that is specific to bells and chimes will also be covered. No prior experience is required. To sign up or get more information, contact Rebecca Sawyer at rsawyer@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231, ext. 253.

The Bible & Your Faith

Reading and Studying Scripture

FPC offers seminars, courses, workshops and small group experiences for reading and studying the Bible. Whether you've never studied or read the Bible or have been studying for years, opportunities exist for an ever growing and deepening encounter with scripture. In addition to on-going Church School classes, Presbyterian Women's circles, and men's Bible study groups, two opportunities this fall are described below. To register, visit fpcfw.org/adultstudies. You may also register by phone with Celeste in the church office at 817-335-1231, ext. 261.



READING THE BIBLE IN 9 MONTHS

Daily Bible readings enable participants to read through the entire Bible in 9 months. Led by Dr. Michael Waschevski, monthly gatherings of those committed to reading through the Bible enrich the individual experiences of scripture. The Reading through the Bible in 9 Months reading plan begins on Sunday, September 10.



BIBLE IN DEPTH

This popular course is offered twice a week (choose one):

Sundays, 10-10:45 a.m. led by the Rev. Robyn Michalove
Wednesdays, 10:45 - 11:45 a.m. led by Dr. Michael Waschevski

In the class, a book of the Bible is studied verse by verse. Throughout the study participants grow in their understanding of scripture and its application to their daily life of faith. The fall session begins on Sunday, September 10, or Wednesday, September 13 with a study of The Gospel According to Mark.

If you have questions about studying the Bible, the courses described above, or would like more information on these and other study opportunities, feel free to contact Michael Waschevski in the church office at 817-335-1231, ext. 229 or email michaelw@fpcfw.org.

BE INSPIRED...

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



YOUTH GROUP FALL SCHEDULE

Starting Sunday, September 10

For Incoming 6th-12th Graders

Church School classes are offered for youth Sundays from 10-10:45 a.m. The High School class meets in the Youth Center. The Middle School class meets in Room 105.

Sunday afternoon and evenings offer youth group gatherings for both high school and middle school students, as well as study and music opportunities. Watch for a confirmation of those meeting times soon!

STAY CONNECTED!

Stay connected with youth events and news using the *Remind app* for text/email.

You can sign up via text message, notifications to your smart phone/device, or email.

Visit fpcfw.org/youth and click on "Stay Connected" for simple instructions and get signed up today!

Questions? Contact Rev. Dr. Josh Stewart, Associate Pastor for Youth, 817.335.1231 or josh@fpcfw.org.

Next Men's Monthly Breakfast

Thursday, August 17 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.

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.

Beacons' Potluck

Adults 55+ are invited to the next Beacons' Potluck on **Wednesday, August 23 at 6 p.m. in the Gym**. The program will welcome "Those Crazy Girls from New York City," a local group of ladies who do an hilarious comedy act and model their patriotic outfits. Men and women both will not want to miss this night of fun, food, and friendship at First Presbyterian Church. Bring your favorite dish to share, too!

August Adult Church School Offerings

The Adult Christian Nurture Committee offers exciting August Adult Summer Church School offerings during the 10-10:45 a.m. Church School hour!

Bible Study on August 6 and 13 with Dr. Brandon Cline (Room 237)

Faith and Film Series led by Eric Varnon on August 6, discussing finding inspiration in viral videos; led by Dr. Steve Brotherton on August 13, discussing *The Twilight Zone, Season 1: A Nice Place to Visit* (Room 235)

Special Seminar: Talking About Race on August 20 led by the Rev. Robyn Michalove (Room 235)

Young Families (Room 230)
Meets weekly, using Feasting on the Word materials to study each Sunday's lectionary text.

Ice Cream Social

New members and visitors are invited to save the date for an ice cream social on **September 18 at 7 p.m. in the Parlor**. This event offers you the chance to talk with pastors and staff and learn a little more about FPC.

First Connections

The next First Connections class for new members and visitors will meet for 6 weeks starting **Sunday, September 10 at 10 a.m. in the Parlor**. Watch for a detailed schedule of topics. Questions? Email Martha Zaborowski at marthaz@fpcfw.org or call 817-335-1231.

More ways to be inspired on page 6!

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

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

School Supply Drive for DeZavala Elem.

The Kids Hope USA ministry is sponsoring a School Supply Drive for students at DeZavala Elementary School. Please bring the following supplies to the red grocery carts outside of worship spaces on Sundays, August 6 and 13.

- Pencils
- Crayons
- Big Pencils for Pre-K Students
- Erasers
- Glue Sticks
- Color Pencils
- Large Manilla Paper
- Folders with Brads
- Composition Books
- Graph Paper
- Index Cards
- Dry Erase Markers & Erasers
- Paper Clips
- Hand Sanitizer
- Wipes
- Kleenex
- Colored Transparency Paper

A Big Thank You!

The Mission Outreach Committee would like to extend a big thank you to those of you who donated items and money gifts to the Christmas in July Toy Drive. Thanks to your generosity, we're off to a great start to stocking the store coming up in December.

Vases Needed

Vases (8-10" tall; please no bud vases) are needed for FPC's Flower Ministry to break down large worship arrangements into smaller ones taken to homebound members. You may drop vases by the church office. Thank you!

Urban Gaps Program at FPC

First Presbyterian Church invites youth groups to come work with established social agencies and faith based programs in our urban community. It's a program we call Urban Gaps.

Participants experience the daily circumstances of those in need, are exposed to the complex issues surrounding poverty, and will have opportunities to deepen their Christian understanding and responses.

Most recently, during the week of July 17, FPC welcomed a joint group made up of 35 youth and adult sponsored from three Austin, TX churches: Westminster, University, and First Presbyterian of Austin. In the photo below, you can see them enjoying dinner with our guests at Room in the Inn.

This is an exciting mission FPC is blessed to offer others. Learn more at fpcfw.org/urbangaps.



hos·pi·tal·i·ty

[,häspə'talədē]

NOUN

1. the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers.
synonyms: friendliness · hospitality · warm reception · welcome · helpfulness ·

Come and share the gift of hospitality with our ROOM IN THE INN guests. Monday evenings in August from 5-6:30, enjoy conversation, snacks and a meal with men experiencing homelessness who enjoy a respite in our church Gym. To volunteer, contact Robyn Michalove at robyn@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231, ext. 266.

Peanut Butter Sunday

The next Peanut Butter Sunday is August 20. Bring donations of peanut butter (regular sized jars only, please) to marked boxes outside worship spaces. These help stock the food pantry shelves at Community Crossroads and helps feed the hungry in the Hemphill community and beyond.

Stephen Ministry Is There For You

Stephen Ministry is the lay ministry of caring at First Presbyterian. We equip caregivers called Stephen Ministers to provide confidential, high-quality Christ-centered care to people who are going through tough times. All Stephen Ministers receive 50 hours of specialized training before beginning a caring relationship.

Stephen Ministers usually provide care for one person at a time, generally meeting once a week for an hour to provide compassionate companionship and emotional and spiritual support. Caregivers themselves gather twice a month as a team for prayer, supervision and continuing education on caring ministry topics.

Care receivers are those who are having a difficult time due to loss, grief, illness, relationship or job issues or other life crises. These important boundaries for caring relationships protect both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister:

- The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential.
- Men are matched with men, and women with women.
- If a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate mental health professional or other community resource.

Stephen Ministers caring for persons during tough times—this is one of many ways First Presbyterian people show our love for one another. Please contact a member of the pastoral staff if you, or someone you know, could benefit from this special ministry.



"Love one another as I have loved you." John 15:12

Health Class This Fall for Chronic Disease

This September and October, the Wellness Committee will offer a series of classes on Chronic Disease Management for those who suffer from or care for someone with a chronic health concern. Classes will begin September 21 and will be free. This HealthForMe class is supported by United Way of Tarrant County and its Area Agency on Aging. Watch for more information, coming soon.

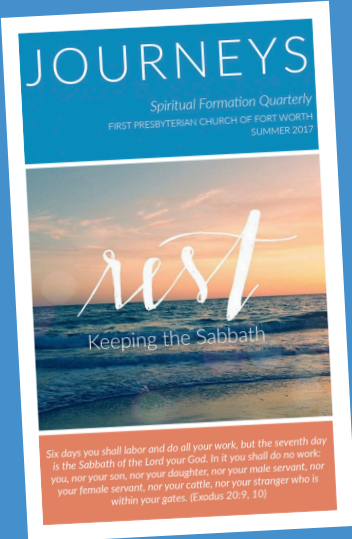
September "Be Well" Brunch

The September all church brunch will be on **Sunday, September 10** at 11 a.m. and 12 p.m. in the Great Hall. This complimentary brunch, courtesy of the Wellness Committee, will include a cooking demonstration with FPC's Director of Hospitality and Food Service, Katie Seelye.

Session Goes to Community Crossroads



The Session's July meeting was held at Community Crossroads for discussions about future possible opportunities for the mission outreach center. Located at 1516 Hemphill Street, the facility houses FPC's First HAND food pantry and clothing room, Formula and Diapers (FAD) ministry, Salt and Light Dental Clinic, Worship on Wednesdays (WOW!), Bible studies and other classes, and special events for the community. Learn more about Community Crossroads and how you can become involved by contacting Robyn Michalove at 817-335-1231, ext. 266 or robynm@fpcfw.org.



JOURNEYS

Spiritual Formation Quarterly
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT WORTH
SUMMER 2017

rest

Keeping the Sabbath

Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord your God. In it you shall do no work; you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. (Exodus 20:9, 10)

JOURNEYS

Summer 2017 Issue
NOW AVAILABLE!

Pick up a copy of the newest issue of FPC's quarterly spiritual formation publication -- in print at church or download at fpcfw.org/journeys. The Summer 2017 theme is *Rest: Keeping the Sabbath*.

Continue the discussion on the new Journeys Blog at fpcfw.org/journeys-blog.



JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of July 20, 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...

Amelia Haltom on the death of her cousin, Suzanne Coleman (former FPC member) on July 14 in Austin, Texas. Surviving FPC family includes **Kerby Haltom, Melinda Lary-Smith, Lee Ann O'Loughlin, Anna Lee Swan, Amanda Chidgey, John-Luke Chidgey,** and **Tex Lee Chidgey.**

Keith Pugh on the death of his sister-in-law, Roberta Pugh on June 29 in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Family and friends of **Bob Adcock**, who died July 4. Surviving FPC family includes wife, **Carol.**

Sheila and Craig Hungerford on the death of his stepmother, Susan Hungerford on July 2.

Clark and Wanda Williams on the death of her sister, Mary Krueger on June 27 in Jacksonville, Florida.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Lisa Priddy, Jennifer Regen, Emma Coley, Sara Swift, Martha Brooks, Marilyn Love, and Marjorie Lewis, who are recovering from surgery or injury. **Rev. Floyd Kinser, Dorothy Kinser, Indi Butler, Nona Cobden, David Nation, Corinna Nation, Lisa Shiner, Jacquitta White, 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.**



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

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

SUNDAYS IN AUGUST

- 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

MONDAYS IN AUGUST

- Evenings Room in the Inn Outreach

WEDNESDAYS IN AUGUST

- 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Vacation Bible School at Worship on Wednesdays at Community Crossroads

MONDAY, AUGUST 14

- 12 p.m. Book People Book Club

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

- 6 p.m. Fellowship Choir Fall Rehearsals Begin
- 7 p.m. Chancel Choir Fall Rehearsals Begin
- 7 p.m. Intro to Bells Class Begins

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17

- 7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27

- 10 a.m. Fall Ministry & Mission Kickoff (see page 1)
- 4 p.m. Beyond the Screen: *Screenagers* Viewing & Discussion (see page 1)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 29

- 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Fall Gathering



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WWW.FPCFW.ORG



SUMMER AT MO RANCH

During the week of July 16, 27 First Presbyterian children and youth experienced summer camp at Mo Ranch. This location is a Presbyterian tradition many FPC young people have spent time learning about God's love in the middle of God's wondrous creation while building meaningful relationship. We're thankful for their time at Mo Ranch and for the facility that makes their experience so memorable.

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

