

# THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

JUNE 2019 | Volume 19, Number 6

## NEW PNS MEN'S SHELTER TO BE NAMED "KARL TRAVIS MEN'S CENTER"

In April, the Session celebrated a \$1 million dollar gift that was approved in December 2018 to Presbyterian Night Shelter for renovations to its' men's shelter and for improvements and enhancements to the larger campus. This gift will be given over a 3 year period and is over and above our annual mission giving to PNS.

At the invitation of Presbyterian Night Shelter, FPC was given the opportunity of renaming the new men's building. The Session has requested that the building be renamed the "Karl Travis Men's Center."

The images at right show an architect's rendering of what the new men's building will look like. Karl continues to serve on the Board of PNS and as an advocate for the homeless in Tarrant County.



*Architect's renderings of the Karl Travis Men's Center*



### History of PNS

When a homeless man froze to death under a bridge in downtown Fort Worth in 1984, a group of Presbyterian ministers began to talk about a solution so that the same would not occur to other homeless people. From this grew the idea of a temporary shelter of refuge. Beginning first in the James. E. Guinn Elementary School as a "situp shelter", the need grew quickly enough to necessitate a larger building, which was built in 1984 at 2400 Cypress and was named "The Presbyterian Night Shelter."

Originally, it was conceived to be just another night shelter for the homeless and would be available at no cost – 24 hours, seven days a week.

Over time, additional care functions have been added, including comprehensive individual case management and housing assistance, with the goal of ending homelessness and positively impacting the Tarrant County community.

A warm place to sleep was a blessing for some 280 homeless people on a cold December night in 1987.

In 1997, Presbyterian Night Shelter was spun off from the founding churches as an independent legal entity. It was incorporated under the Texas Non-Profit Act and is recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization.

By 2013, PNS hosted 600+ guests every night of the year.

### PNS Today

Today, PNS supplies meals, beds and human care services to more than 5,000 individuals annually. The organization maintains an over 40,000-square-foot facility. Presbyterian Night Shelter offers counseling and case management services. It provides identification, permanent housing, employment, and financial assistance solutions. The organization serves adults with mental illnesses and conducts work therapy programs. It provides help in retrieving documentation, as well as life skills and parenting classes, health education, and goal planning assistance.

The organization works in partnership with the Veterans Administration.

- The PNS website lists these Emergency Shelter Facts:
- As a no-barrier facility, we welcome anyone who needs us.
- We're the only free shelter in our area without length-of-stay restrictions.
- We're open 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
- Our campus includes a shelter that houses homeless adults, with separate facilities for families (women and their children), veterans and those with behavioral disabilities.
- In addition to housing, our emergency shelter services include warm meals, access to bathroom and shower facilities, toiletries, emergency clothing and more.

For Tarrant County's homeless population, emergency shelter is just the first step. PNS is dedicated to helping guests move into their own homes, and helps them get there with housing assistance that includes job training, employment assistance, life-skills education and much more. Within the past 5 years, a large warehouse was built across the street which houses donations of clothing, household items, furniture, etc. When residents are ready to transition into permanent housing, their assigned case worker can come to the warehouse and choose furnishings and supplies to help an individual or a family get started in a new home.



# PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Summer is here, and that means glasses of cold beverages on hot days, insect repellent for those annoying mosquitos and the smell of sunscreen as we apply it to shield against the intensity of the sun's rays. Summer means longer (and sometimes lazier) days, and enjoying food off the grill and summertime produce. Summertime brings vacations for some of us or maybe the invitation to travel to new worlds through ample time to indulge in books and movies. For those of us not in school, summertime may be a continuation of our normal routines of work or retirement, or whatever it is we do each day, but there is a different rhyme and rhythm to summer days.

I love this reflection on summertime by Barbara Mahany: "It's the one time of year that begs us to savor the succulence. To consider the high art of nonchalance and lull without purpose. It's the deep-down knowing that if you're turning a page, staring into the distance, or keeping watching on a wren, you are more than doing your job. You're inhaling the whole of the blessing, the one that now is upon us: welcome to summer."

We welcome summer at First Presbyterian Church, too. While this season may have different routines, we continue each week with energetic worship and engaging service in the world. Each week we gather to pray, to sing, to worship; we join together in meaningful mission in our community and around the globe. We send youth and children to camps and trips and find ways to be intentional about renewal and respite. Come and savor the succulence of gathering as God's worshipping people and serving as Christ's faithful disciples. May this summer be one of energy and enjoyment as a congregation committed to community and service.

Peace,

*Robyn*



Each month, children and youth participate in worship and generosity by dropping a dollar bill in the offering plate. Each month, we highlight a different ministry.

Children and youth, in June your \$1 bills go to the Young Adult Volunteer (YAV) program, an ecumenical, faith-based year of service for young people (ages 19-30) in sites across the United States and around the world. Curious? Visit [www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/yav).

Parents, teach generosity to your kids by sharing a \$1 bill for this valuable ministry.

## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the JULY issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, June 19**. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue. Please send to Kathryn Breitbarth at [kbreitbarth@fpcfw.org](mailto:kbreitbarth@fpcfw.org) or bring by the church office.

## FOLLOW US

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.



@firstpresfw



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## PUBLISHER INFO

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# Session Approves Contribution to Karl B. Travis Scholarship Fund

On April 28, 2019 the Session honored the Rev. Karl Travis by making a \$10,000 contribution to the Karl B. Travis Scholarship Fund of Grace Presbytery.

Grace Presbytery Council established this fund in honor of Karl Travis' ministry within Grace Presbytery upon the occasion of his unexpected medical disability in early 2019.

The Council has funded the account with an initial \$15,000 and invites other congregations and individuals, both in Grace Presbytery and beyond, to contribute as well. Karl had been a member of Presbytery Council, and had been elected moderator of the Council for 2019, and then had to resign from that position.

Karl has been known as a stalwart Presbyterian, a guru for stewardship strategies for multi-generations, a teacher of generational theory and its applicability in congregational life. Further, he is an outstanding preacher and a resilient and powerful colleague in ministry to many both at First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth, and beyond.

The purpose of this fund is to provide scholarship assistance to one or more seminarians who show promise for congregational ministry with excellence in preaching. Preference will be given to Grace Presbytery candidates for ministry from First Fort Worth, but also to the wider number of candidates in the presbytery. Guidelines for applications and the decision-making process are being developed by the Council.



## Travel Internationally with Trinity Habitat for Humanity

**Dominican Republic - August 3-10, 2019 (A few spots remain!)**

**Santa Cruz, Bolivia - June 13-20, 2020**

**Dominican Republic - July 4-11, 2020**

**Ethiopia or Kenya - August 2020**

The Youth Age Limit for Habitat mission trips is 16 years old. The Mission Committee of First Presbyterian will help subsidize the cost of these trips for church members who apply.

If you have interest in learning more about these trips, please contact Robyn Michalove (robynm@fpcf.org or 817.335.1231).



## Youth Partner Trip to Cuba: June 6-14, 2019

On June 6, twenty-one members of our church (14 youth and 7 adults) will travel to Cuba for nine days as part of our church partnership with three congregations in the province of Matanzas. They will participate in worship and ministries of the three churches, visit our two PC(USA) coworkers at the seminary (pictured above), see the new water filtration system at one of our partner churches that we helped fund through Living Waters for the World, attend an overnight youth retreat and visit a Presbyterian congregation in Havana. This is our fifth trip to Cuba since our partnership began in 2015.

The purpose of the partnership is to affirm and build on the unity of the Presbyterian Church under Jesus Christ through a mutual exchange of people, Christian education and Bible study, cultural understanding and, at times, financial support. Presbyterians have a historic connection to the church in Cuba, and over 50 US Presbyterian congregations and presbyteries have partnerships with Cuban congregations. One of our partner churches pastors, Liz Eleyne Capó Lima, will come to FPCFW in June, after attending the Cuba Partners Network conference with three of our church members (Jacqueline Bender, Rachel Garlington and Kristin Glass) at Loyola University in New Orleans. We look forward to welcoming Pastor Liz on her first trip to the United States.

Please keep these participants in your prayers: Lola Adams, Chris Bartley, Jeff Bledsoe, Lauren Dorough, Walker Gore, Connor Hadley, Emma Henry, Judd Jenkins, Allison Michalove, Robyn Michalove, Amy Parker, Will Parker, Michael Parsons, Leti Salazar, Alejandro Salazar, Bethany Sanders, Charlie Scott, Jessica Scott, Lil Scott, Lauren Sphar and Josh Stewart.

# BE INSPIRED...

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



**Saturday, June 22. Limited Tickets Available, so Sign Up Soon!**  
The Boomers Fellowship Group will meet on June 22 at the Botanic Gardens for a Classical Mystery Tour featuring the Fort Worth Symphony and music of the Beatles. Enjoy table seating and dinner from East Hampton Sandwich Shop. Limited tickets available, so sign up soon at [fpcfw.org/boomers](http://fpcfw.org/boomers).



**Tuesday, June 25 from 6-8 p.m.**

**La Puertita at Joe T. Garcia's**

The annual Summer Treat is a fun-filled dinner gathering for all women from FPC at a local restaurant. This year, we will enjoy an enchilada dinner in a private dining room at Joe T. Garcia's. The menu will include cheese nacho appetizer, two cheese enchiladas, rice, beans, guacamole, two beef tacos, tortillas, chips and salsa. Cash bar available as well. Please RSVP by June 18, with a \$25 check made out to PW and mailed to Celeste Falter in the church office. Questions? Contact Sally Parmelee at [bs-parmelee@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bs-parmelee@sbcglobal.net).

## Join the Summer Choir!

Adults and Senior High Youth are invited to participate in the Summer Choir. Rehearsing from 6:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesdays June 5 – July 10, the Summer Choir sings for the 11 a.m. service through July 14. Whether you are in town for the summer, or just a few Sundays, Summer Choir is an opportunity for great fellowship and wonderful music making! A variety of anthems conducted by several members of the Chancel Choir who are outstanding music educators/conductors are sure to enrich your spiritual and musical life. Summer Choir is also a wonderful way to try out singing in a choir, or a great option for those who love to sing but are unable to during the school year. For more information, please contact the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski (817.335.1231 ext. 229 or [michaelw@fpcfw.org](mailto:michaelw@fpcfw.org)) in the church office.

## Men's Breakfast

The men of First Pres gather on the 3rd Thursday of each month, so mark your calendar for Thursday, June 20. They meet in the Great Hall at 7 a.m. for breakfast (\$5 per person), intentional conversation, and prayer. You'll find connection here!

For reservations (not required, but helpful for our chef!) or more information, visit [fpcfw.org/men](http://fpcfw.org/men).



# ENGAGE THE WORLD...

*Below are a few ways you are invited to serve others through First Presbyterian Church mission and outreach efforts in the coming weeks.*

## Be a Cuba Prayer Partner!

One of the most valuable things we can do for a person is to pray for them. Prayer has the power to move mountains and connect us to others even across an ocean. Establishing our Cuban Prayer Partner Group has been impactful for so many individuals in our partner churches in Unión de Reyes and Sabanilla, as well as many of us in our own church here in Fort Worth.

We are looking for individuals that would like to be involved in our Cuban Prayer Partnership. Our group of Spanish translators has made this so very easy for you to write a letter to your partner. All it takes is to write out a short letter a few times a year to your partner and email it to Sarah Haddock ([sarah@haddockfamily.com](mailto:sarah@haddockfamily.com)) and the Prayer Partner Team will take it from there.

We will translate your letter into Spanish and send it with a group in our church or with another Presbyterian church that is headed to Cuba for distribution among our partner Churches in Unión de Reyes and Sabanilla. Many partners have made new friends in another country this way and Facebook

friendened or emailed regularly.

Think of a "Pen Pal" from back in the day, but with a modern twist. Please contact Sarah Haddock if you are interested in connecting with someone in the beautiful country of Cuba. You never know when you might head out on one of our partnership trips and get to meet your friend.

*The following are testimonials from current members of the Cuban Prayer Partner Group:*

My Cuban prayer partner, Danely, and I immediately discovered that we had many things in common. We both have biology degrees; only children (boys); parents with memory loss; and love our respective churches and have travelling husbands. We have become more like sisters sharing our hopes, dreams and prayers in all aspects of life. Who knew that this would be such a wonderful and rewarding experience. - *Lesley McCoy*

It's so much more than simply putting something in a basket. It goes somewhere, to somebody. It's a real relationship. If you are lucky enough to visit Cuba, like I was twice, you will be

able to spend time with a real person. Until then, prayer is your connection. I've found God's grace and peace knowing that our worlds are bound by the Word and rooted in faith that we will be in each other's presence again someday, but now and forever more, we are partners and friends in Jesus Christ - *Bob Chochola*

Words are really not sufficient to tell you how excited our Cuban brothers and sisters in Christ are to have an FPC prayer partner. So many of them told us personally (during our trip in December) that it meant so much to them to have someone in another country/place praying for them. They said about the experience that it filled their hearts with the love of Christ and gave them hope. I couldn't summarize my own experience better or agree more! Thanks be to God! - *Kristin Glass*

Being a prayer partner to my neighbors in Cuba has enriched my daily prayer hours. I see a face, recall the sounds of laughter, a tear drop of joy and sadness appear and I know our prayers are truly and genuinely God's love beyond the ocean that separates us, we are joined in spirit of heart. - *Mary Salazar*

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT COMMUNITY CROSSROADS

Listed below are a few of the many volunteer opportunities available for serving at Community Crossroads. For information on these or other opportunities, or to volunteer, contact Dori Al Hammami at [dalhammami@fpcfw.org](mailto:dalhammami@fpcfw.org) (unless otherwise stated below.)

### LISTENING POST:

- Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 11:15 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Wednesday 5 – 5:30 p.m. & 6 – 7:30 p.m. Contact Janet Ragsdale ([janet@janetragsdale.com](mailto:janet@janetragsdale.com)) to volunteer.

### ESL, ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE CLASSES:

- Every Wednesday during the school year 8:30 – 10:30 a.m. Contact Nikki Mildren ([nmildren@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nmildren@sbcglobal.net)) to volunteer.

### SUMMER FEEDING SERVICE PROGRAM

- Serve hot meals to school aged children. Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., June 3 - August 15. For more information or to volunteer, contact Pam Grossman ([pam.grossman@outlook.com](mailto:pam.grossman@outlook.com)).

### FAD, FORMULA AND DIAPERS:

- 3rd Monday of the month 8:30 – 11:30 a.m. Contact Kay Mitchell ([kaymitchell0609@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kaymitchell0609@sbcglobal.net)) to volunteer.

### WOW, WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAYS

- Every Wednesday 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Contact Mary Kay Roberto ([marykay.roberto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marykay.roberto@sbcglobal.net)) or Leah Wyckoff ([leahw@fpcfw.org](mailto:leahw@fpcfw.org)) to volunteer to teach or assist with classes for children.
- Contact Leah Wyckoff to join the WOW Worship Band, assist with worship, or serve dinner.
- Contact Kathy Parr ([parr.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:parr.kathy@gmail.com)) to assist with delivery of dinner from the Church to Crossroads or to volunteer to provide dessert.



## Exciting Summer Adult Church School Classes begin June 2

The Adult Christian Nurture Committee is pleased to offer 4 exciting and unique adult studies for summer church school, beginning June 2. Classes meet from 10 – 10:45 a.m., with refreshments available on the second floor concourse.

### Bible Study

**June 2 - August 18, Room 237**

The Rev. Mona Bailey will lead the following Bible studies this summer: June - Psalms: Back to the Future; July - Ezekiel; August - Making of the Gospel of Luke.

### Film Series

**June 2 - August 18, Room 235**

This course features a variety of films which explore theological and faith themes. TCU Professor Dr. Darren Middleton returns to begin the series for three weeks in June. Dr. Steve Brotherton and Eric Varnon will be leading the remainder of the series.

*(For a more in-depth look at this class, see article at right.)*

### Spiritual Formation Series: Non-Violent Communication

**June 2 - August 18, Room 236**

Led by church members Martha Newman and Carol Toombs, this rich series from Just Faith will challenge and engage participants as they explore communication and the power of speech and action exercised on behalf of our faith.

*(For a more in-depth look at this class, see article at right.)*

### Book Study

**June 2 - July 21, Room 238**

Church member Barb Heptig will lead a seven-week study of the book *7: A Mutiny Against Excess* by Jen Hatmaker. Books are available through Amazon.

For more information about the Summer Adult Classes, please contact Michael Waschevski in the church office. (817.335.1231; michaelw@fpcfw.org)



The Faith & Film Series is returning as a summer education offering at FPC. To kick off the program we are pleased to welcome back Dr. Darren Middleton, John F. Weatherly Professor of Religion at TCU. In recent years, Dr. Middleton has led conversations based on the movie *Silence* and topics such as Christ in film. Join Dr. Middleton for the first three Sundays in June as he guides us in a conversation on Cinematic Wisdom Literature using the works of Terrence Malick.

Films to be used:

Sunday, June 2 – *Tree of Life*

Sunday, June 9 – *To the Wonder*

Sunday, June 16 – *Song to Song*

## Nonviolent COMMUNICATION

### Learn the Language of Love

#### A Summer Offering from the Spiritual Formation Committee

Marshall B. Rosenberg, PhD, the founder and world-wide teacher and practitioner of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) states: "If violence means acting in ways that result in hurt or harm, then much of how we communicate – judging, bullying, blaming, discriminating, speaking without listening, diagnosing, criticizing, correcting, name-calling, reacting when angry, using political rhetoric, becoming defensive – could indeed be called 'violent communication.'"

If you are experiencing challenging relationships at home or work and are looking for a better way to relate, or if you are concerned about the level of violence in our country and our seeming inability to converse with someone who holds very different political, religious, or social viewpoints - without falling into 'violent communication' patterns ourselves - join Martha Newman and Carol Toombs this summer to become part of the solution.

Using Rosenberg's book, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life*, we will learn the basics of his process and will spend a lot of time practicing it. As Rosenberg admits NVC is deceptively simple, but difficult to do, since we have been so well taught in the ways of verbal violence. To register and get a copy of the book, contact Celeste in the church office (817.335.1231 or cfaller@fpcfw.org).

# JOYS & CONCERNS

*Following are the joys and concerns shared as of May 23, 2019. 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 **John Witt**, who died May 17. Surviving family includes his wife, **Mary Jane Witt**.

**Randy and Carol Toombs** on the death of his father, Nick Toombs, on May 2 in Overland Park Kansas.

**Larry and Bettye Kinard** on the death of their daughter-in-law, Dr. Marty J. Kinard, on May 7 in Waco. Other FPC family includes **John Kinard**.

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

**Diane Satterlee, Jaci Travis, Brent Comstock, Jerry Brownlee, David Nation, Paula Robertson, Dick Coffey, and Judy Gasch**, who are recovering from surgery or injury.

**Nancy Gillis, Marilyn Love, Karl Travis, Rush Hart, Marilyn Wilson, Vera Kendall, Phyllis Propes, Emma Coley, Marjorie Lewis, Corinna Nation, Lisa Shiner, Marge Shiner, Elizabeth Bean, Frances Blake, and Nancy Nelson**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

## *Our caring prayers for extended family include...*

Jean Ramsay (mother of **Nancy Ramsay**); Lynn Prater (daughter of **Harlene Satterfield**); Bill Neil (brother of **Marilyn Love**), Janet Laminack (cousin of **Julie Sphar** and **Vance Laminack**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Lisa Koenig (niece of **Wanda Williams**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), 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**. And for the safety of **Thomas Shelby**, who is serving in the US Navy, deployed in Japan. Thomas is the son of **Ellen Buck** and the grandson of **Vance and Donna Laminack**.

Prayers for Cindy Corell, our mission co-worker in Haiti. Prayers for peace and resolution for political strife, unsafe conditions, and people unable to get food and basic necessities due to riots.

## *Our congratulations and best wishes to...*

**John and Michelle Stevenson** on the birth of Elizabeth Suzanne on April 12.



# CALENDAR

*Below are a few highlighted events in May.  
More at [fpcfw.org/calendar](http://fpcfw.org/calendar).*

## SUNDAYS IN JUNE

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Summer Church School
- 11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary
- 4 p.m. Grief Group

## WEDNESDAYS IN JUNE

- 5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes) at Community Crossroads
- 6:30 p.m. Summer Choir rehearsals

## SATURDAY, JUNE 1

- 7:15 a.m. FPC Day @ Habitat Build

## THURSDAY, JUNE 6

- 7 p.m. Summer MOMS Event @ Gloria's

## SUNDAY, JUNE 9

- All Day SOS: Shoes on Sunday (donations collected)

## MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 10-14

- 9 a.m. Pre-K Music & Arts Camp

## SUNDAY, JUNE 16

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

## THURSDAY, JUNE 20

- 7 a.m. Men's Breakfast

## SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- 8:15 p.m. Boomers @ Concerts in the Garden

## TUESDAY, JUNE 25

- 6 p.m. PW Summer Treat @ Joe T. Garcia's





# THE penn street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church  
1000 Penn Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76102

## PERIODICALS

### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to  
The Penn Street Letter,  
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Church Office  
Ph: 817.335.1231  
Fax: 817.335.5663

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

Care  Prepare presents:



## A Community Conversation about Advance Care Planning

Friday, June 21, 2019 | 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
at the James L. West Center, 1111 Summit Avenue

Join us for an informative and invaluable discussion about all aspects of Advance Care Planning, including medical directives, funeral pre-planning, estate planning, and how to have a productive conversation with family to ensure that your medical decisions will be honored.

There is NO COST for attending this half-day seminar, which also includes breakfast and lunch. To RSVP, text CAPE to 515-55 by June 14, or visit [careandprepare.org](http://careandprepare.org).