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Sunday, December 4

Dinner at 5:30 p.m.

followed by program at 6:30

Fellowship Hall

*The meal will be provided.
Menu: BBQ pulled pork on a bun,
baked beans, cole slaw and
chocolate peppermint cake*

*RSVP to the church office
if you will attend the dinner.*

Christmas appreciation gifts will be given to pastor, staff

This year we continue the tradition of giving Christmas appreciation gifts to our hard-working, committed staff. For more than 30 years, the congregation has given a Christmas gift to the pastor and his family. Since 2001, we have also given a gift to each church staff member. On December 4, 11 and 18, two contribution boxes will be available after worship—one for the pastor and his family and one for staff.

We encourage you to give a gift to those who serve us throughout the year.

—Session Administrative Committee:
Karen Jones, Becky Kennedy & Jerry Hammerlun

DECEMBER WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

December 4: "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing"

Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching
Scripture: Luke 2:8-14

December 11: Cantata: "Christmas Canticles" by Benjamin Harlan

8:30 & 11 a.m., WC-FH

Presented by the FPC Cantata Chorus and Orchestra

December 18: "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice"

Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching
Scripture: Psalm 98

December 24: Christmas Eve Candle-light Services

5:30 p.m. Children's Service, WC-FH

7 p.m. "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching, WC-FH

10:30 p.m. "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching
Sanctuary

December 25: "Christmas Day"

One service, 11 a.m., WC-FH

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching

Scripture: Galatians 4:4-7

January 1

One service, 11 a.m., WC-FH

David Lee Hulsey, Preaching





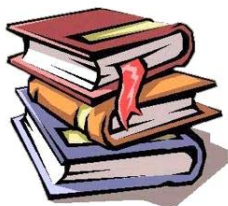
ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Nova & Mila Dowden
- 9 Bren & Chuck Helmka
- 18 Miriam & Bob Cockroft
- 20 Cindy & Dan Shaner
- 22 Kelly & Billy McLain
- 23 Marty & Conny Curtis
- Vivian & Lloyd Davis
- Judy & Jim Wilhite
- 26 Jean & George Biggs
- 27 Barbara & Bill Caudle
- 29 Barb & Steve Johnston
- Fran & Bernie Lovejoy
- 30 Amanda & Patrick Tolbert

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Mike Roberts
- Margaret Shirley
- 2 Sandy Hulshizer
- G-Ann Martin
- 3 David Holmes
- Greg Wallace
- 4 Eric Hoke
- Steve Johnston
- 5 Janna Briggs
- Jenny Carswell
- David Cowan
- 6 Sid Frost
- Courtney Hilgeman
- 7 Nicholaas Leloux
- 9 Linda Gambell
- 11 Katie Porter
- Cathy Ramsey
- David Stump
- 12 Claudia Ryner
- 13 Sally Fortney
- Alison Harrison
- 14 Noel Beck
- Ray Rayburn
- Emily Shaner
- 15 Jim Bishop
- Ruth DeRuyter
- Rod Gilbert
- Marilyn Peters
- 16 Chandler Sorensen
- 17 Shann Best
- 18 Bob Lutz
- Quincy Sorenson
- 19 Ellen Franklin
- Chuck Graham
- Preston Perkins
- 20 Keith Brainard
- Isabella Miller
- Evelyn Syler
- 21 Caitlynn Caskey
- Brody Weisbrod

(continued on next page)



Your church library

Elaine Eddings
Librarian

'Tis the season to gratefully celebrate the birth of our Christ! In doing so, we tell the world our Christian story and spread joy and love all around. As Norman Vincent Peale once wrote, *"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful."*

Lo, How a Rose

A Christmas Carol, translated
from 15th century German words

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem has sprung?
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The rose I had in mind;
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind,
To show God's love aright
She bore to [us] a Savior
When half spent was the night.

Softness and beauty abound in the written word, and your church library holds many Christmas tales and adventures for your holiday reading pleasure. Check 'em out!



*Merry Christmas from your
library volunteers:*

Elaine, Cherril, Lea Ann and Marietta

Early Newsletter Deadline for January *First Word*

Because of the Christmas holiday and vacation schedules, the *First Word* deadline for January will be 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, December 13. Submit your material to Christina no later than that time if you want your items in the January issue.

Poinsettias in worship



Poinsettias will again decorate the Sanctuary and Worship Center-Fellowship Hall this Christmas. The poinsettias will be in the worship services December 18, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Look for an order form in the Sunday bulletin.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(Session voted May 24, 2016 to provide written notice of this policy in the newsletter rather than permanent signage.)

Pursuant to Section 30.06, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with a concealed handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a concealed handgun.

Pursuant to Section 30.07, Penal Code (trespass by license holder with an openly carried handgun), a person licensed under Subchapter H, Chapter 411, Government Code (handgun licensing law), may not enter this property with a handgun that is carried openly.



In the hospital last month: **Liz Keith** (surgery), **Bonnie McNemar** (surgery), **Don Mehaffey** (surgery) and **Bill Stanley** (surgery).

Congratulations:

- ♦ **David & Carly Stump** on the birth of their daughter, Phoebe Anne, October 27. Proud grandparents are **Bill & Bonnie Stump**.
- ♦ **Carolyn Pursley** on the birth of her great-granddaughter, Makenna Saunders, born November 4.

In memoriam: **Jim Dwyer** joined the Church Triumphant on October 28. A memorial service officiated by Pastor Roberts was November 4. Jim had been a member of our congregation since April 2010.

Our sympathy to:

- ♦ **Chuck Keith** on the death of his wife, Joan Keith, November 6. A celebration of life will be December 19.
- ♦ **Sturdy & Tammy Wanamaker** on the death of Tammy's mother, Vona Bengé, November 8. Services were held in Canadian, Texas.

Thank you:

"First Presbyterian Church is just filled with helpful people. I never realized it until this year when I needed so much help. From May through November countless people helped me with food; transportation to and from the grocery store, doctor's appointments, chemo and radiation treatments; cheerful cards; and telephone messages, even complimenting me on how well my wig looked when my real hair was AWOL.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! Thanksgiving this year has real meaning in ways it never has before. God bless all of you." —Sincerely, Shirley Nash

Serving in the military: Josh Bengé, **Sturdy & Tammy Wanamaker's** nephew; Maj. Brian Berlakovich, **Ouida Henderson's** grandson-in-law; Lt. Col. Brian Burk, **Larry Burk's** son; Maj. Kyle Burrow, **David Lee Hulsey's** cousin; Capt. Geoff Childs, **Helen Douglass's** grandson-in-law; **LeeAnne Cosper**; Maj. Josh Daleiden, **Betty Bradford's** grandson-in-law; **John Decker**; Jared A. Gross, **Robert Bedford's** nephew; **Brian Hall**; Capt. Daniel Hammond, **Keith & Sue Renard's** grandson-in-law; **Garrett Herbst**; Alex Hubka and Chris Vrba, Pat & **Penny Leone's** grandsons; Brandon Keith, **Phil & Jeanne Smith's** son-in-law; **Debra Knight**; **Nicholaas Leloux**; Tech. Sgt. Robert McClanahan, grandson of **Minta McIntosh** and nephew of **Lee McIntosh**; **Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rayburn**; Lt Col. Margaret Sharpnack, **Phil & Cindy Sharpnack's** daughter; and Christian Winckel, grandson of Sandy Hayes.

BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

- 22 Dordi Duncan
- 23 Morris Fisher
Lauren Red
Craig Riley
- 25 Aimee Stenborg
- 26 Bren Helmka
- 29 Donna Winter-Ewert
- 30 Jim Andersen
Rachel Bondesen
Babs Cape
Marty Curtis
Maddie Levsen
Suzy Taylor
Tucker Weisbrod
Bill Wilder
- 31 Marlene Watts
Judy Wilhite
Judy Willett



Flowers in Worship/ December

- 4 *Cathy & David Ramsey*
- 11 *Cantata*
- 18 *Poinsettias*
- 25 *Poinsettias*

Sign up to provide flowers in worship in 2017! A sign-up sheet is posted outside the church office. Contact either Kathy Jones, 512-863-3012 or Betty Smith, 512-869-6925, to let us know if you are willing to donate your arrangement after the service to be used in the Flower Ministry for re-gifting.

Head Deacon/ December

- 8:30 *Kathy Kerr Kubatzky
Sam Matthews*
- 11:00 *Sam Matthews
Kathy Jones*

Income and Expense Report			
Year to Date - October 2016			
General Operating Fund			
	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
Income			
Pledges	\$694,907	\$860,109	81%
Other	92,598	96,520	96%
TOTAL	\$787,505	\$956,629	82%
Expenses			
Validated Mission	48,119	57,700	83%
Local/Other Mission	23,140	29,035	80%
Ministry of the Word	128,295	158,355	81%
Program/Support Staff	342,143	410,339	83%
Christian Education	30,088	32,100	94%
Music and Worship	15,396	25,547	60%
Evangelism/Care	6,038	9,200	66%
Property	67,749	100,319	68%
Stewardship/Finance	16,335	20,200	81%
Other Oper Expenses	33,062	44,500	74%
Debt Retirement	75,309	90,370	83%
TOTAL	\$785,674	\$977,665	80%

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Christmas Night Together Sunday December 4

What a night it will be! At 5:15 out on the north lawn, LOGOS children will participate in the live nativity while we sing Christmas carols with Mrs. Amy and her helpers together, as one big family. Then we will go inside and have dinner. 7th - 12th graders will let us participate as we sing (yes, it is back!) "The Twelve Days of Christmas." They will then share "One Solitary Life" with us while the 2 year olds through 6th graders make themselves ready to present "The Christmas Story: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever."

Make sure you RSVP to the church office, 512-863-3381.

We hope you will all be here as we celebrate the coming of Jesus into the world and into our lives.

PARENTS: If your child wants to participate in the Christmas program during Christmas Night Together, please commit to bringing him or her to Sunday School that morning at 9:30 for our one and only group rehearsal.

This season of Advent

As we begin to prepare our hearts and minds during this season of Advent can we see with new eyes this love that was born in the shape of a human? Can we sense that this birth, this life, this death, this resurrection and this coming again is life-changing, life-giving? Can we be inspired to want everyone to hear the story so that they can experience the gift of love born so long ago? May we all "get it" anew as we prepare for and celebrate this season of Advent and Christmas!

Thank you for the many ways you share Christ's love with me, this church family and the world!

In Christ's Love,

—Mrs. Joy

Birthday Party for Jesus

It's our tradition for the Nurture Committee to sponsor a time—after the 5:30 Christmas Eve service—when the children gather at the back of Fellowship Hall and sing "Happy Birthday" to Jesus and enjoy cake and punch. Each child is encouraged to bring individual snacks for children and youth who seek the services of the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center.



LOGOS wraps up semester this month

LOGOS wraps up the fall semester with a couple of great activities and a final mission project, as well as our highly anticipated notecard fundraiser this month!

You're invited:

To **LOGOS Jumpstart** Sunday, January 8! Please plan to attend as we reenergize and gear up for our spring semester! *The kids will have auditions for the spring musical during Jumpstart*, so we'd like to have as many of our kids here as possible.

LOGOS Mission Project:

For our Christmas mission project, LOGOS is partnering with Presbyterian Women to support the Ronald McDonald

House in Temple. On December 17, LOGOS children will bake cookies and are invited to help deliver meals to the house in Temple. LOGOS children will also be asked to donate a gently used toy, game or puzzle for the house, encouraging a spirit of giving for the Advent season.



LOGOS Notecard Fundraiser:

Back by popular demand, the LOGOS Notecard Fundraiser will be happening this fall. We will take preorders as well as sell them after both services December 4 and at Christmas Night Together that evening. Proceeds will go towards scholarships for the LOGOS program, curriculum and future training for LOGOS volunteers.

—Jaime Cowan

LOGOS in December

December 7: U R Cooks Night

Menu: Tacos

Attire: Apron/Chef Hat

Activity: Gingerbread Houses

December 14: Christmas theme

Menu: Ham

Attire: Red & green

Activity: Decorate Table Parent

LOGOS Choir Schedule

- 4 Choir Rehearsal, 4:30 - 5:15 p.m.
- 11 LOGOS Choirs Pre-Cantata Music
- 24 LOGOS Choirs Lead 5:30 p.m. Service

If you have any questions about the program, please contact Jaime Cowan, jcowan fpc@gmail.com.

Adult Sunday School: 9:40 - 10:40 a.m.

No Sunday School December 25 and January 1.

Adult Elective

"Christianity and Existential—What's Up with That?"

Through December 18, Room 101
Cynthia and Guy Guidici

"Ten Commandments"

January 8 - 29, Room 101

Dr. Bill Poe

This study will explore what each of the Ten Commandments meant in its original setting, in Jesus' teaching, and what they mean in our own day. Come and bring your Bible!

Surveyors,

"The Journey; Walking the Road to Bethlehem"

Through December 18, Room 207 (except December 11 in Sanctuary)

Bill Stanley

An Advent study featuring Adam Hamilton, this four-week study was filmed on location in the Holy Land and will take you on a journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

Homebuilders

"The Question That Never Goes Away"

December 4 - January 8, Room 112

Karen Jones

The Homebuilders begin a four-week study of Philip Yancey's *The Question That Never Goes Away*. In this revisit 35 years after his classic book, *Where Is God When It Hurts*, Yancey shows us how to look for comfort and hope in the midst of suffering.

Crossroads

"Wired Word"

Room 107

Amanda and Patrick Tolbert

This class seeks to find meaning in Jesus' teachings within the context of daily life. It is designed for those at the crossroads of embarking on a new career or growing a family, or those who want to think about their beliefs in the context of their fast-paced lives. We feature a new topic, ripped from the headlines, for discussion each week and focus on the issues at hand at the crossroads of scripture and current events.

News from 5th & 6th grade Sunday School class



On November 6, all of the students who were present in class finished memorizing and recited Hebrews 12:1. They are Micah Azuma-Hall, Sam

Brainard, Denny Decker, Mary Mac Decker, Alaina Guthrie, Rebekah Pilcher and Allen Pratt.

We'll review all the books of the OT and the Beatitudes for our next round of memory work. This sharp bunch of thinkers will be filling their hearts with truth they can run to and be encouraged by in trying times. Such a pleasure to teach!

—Teachers Sarah Hulsey
& Demeree Jackson

Ladies' Lunch Bible Study

Meets each Wednesday at noon in Room 207 for a "brown bag" lunch and Bible study. We are starting a study of *Finding Bethlehem in the Midst of Bedlam* by James W. Moore.

Christmas or confusion, Bethlehem or bedlam? Which will you choose this year? The truth is: We don't have to choose because Christmas always happens right in the midst of our chaos. God breaks into our noisy disorder and is made known in Jesus Christ. Christmas and confusion—weren't they intimately related at the first Christmas when Jesus was born? Sometimes we forget that. That's what this study is about—how Christ breaks into our chaos and confusion and brings Christmas, how Bethlehem always happens in the midst of bedlam.

Let Joy Bedford (512-863-3381) know you are coming so there'll be a book for you.

Other Education Opportunities

Men's Spiritual Growth Group

Meets at 12 noon each Wednesday in Room 101 to study scripture and eat lunch together. The men continue their study of *Judges* led by Ron Burke. Following this study, Sturdy Wanamaker will lead a study of 1 Corinthians.

Men's Breakfast Bible Study

Meets every third Friday to study and reflect on the scripture readings for the coming Sunday sermon. RSVP to David Lee Hulsey (512-863-3381, dhulsey63@gmail.com) or Cliff Snyder (512-468-2877, c_rsnyder@yahoo.com). Time and place will be e-mailed to you.

Advent calendars for children and Advent devotions for adults are available in the lobby



December Youth Calendar

- 4 - Christmas Night Together
- 7 - Bible Study
- 11 - Last SNL - Tacky Sweater Night
- 14 - Last Bible Study



First Presbyterian Church
web page:
www.fpcgeorgetown.org

FIRSTWORD

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YOUTH MINISTRY

Looking forward to December activities

November was a busy month of irregular Wednesdays for our youth. There was Youth Sunday to plan, college care packages to fill, Operation Christmas Child shoe boxes to build, and a Youth room to green. We plan to settle down a bit in December. . .but only a little bit.

We are looking forward to a wonderful evening with the rest of the church family during Christmas Night Together (a little teaser: the 12 Days of Christmas are back!). And we plan to wrap up Bible

studies for the year, and finish off the semester by breaking out the tacky sweaters at our last SNL.

It will be a fun season, and we want the joy of the season to be rooted in the true reason for this season: the birth of Jesus Christ. My prayer, not only for our youth, not only for myself, and not only for our church, but for all the world: to celebrate the joy of how God came to this world to save us through His Son Jesus Christ. God bless.
—David Lee

Youth leading in worship on Youth Sunday



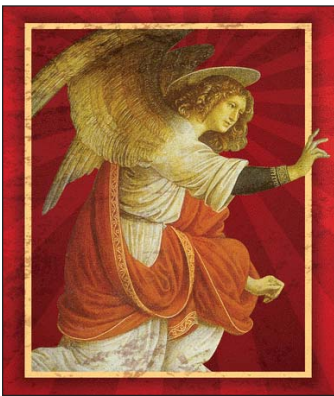
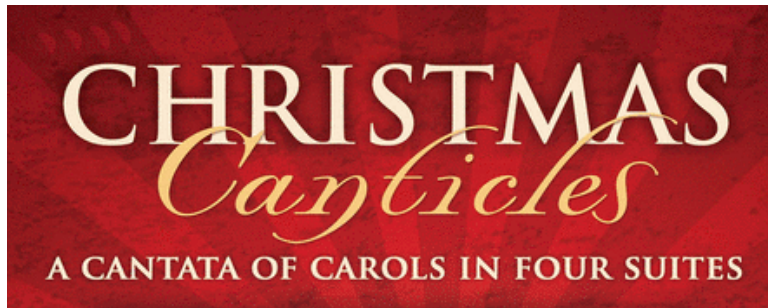
Participating in Youth Sunday on November 13 were: Front from left— Sarah Ferguson, Matthew Pilcher, Olivia Cowan, Carter Osborne, Miles Azuma-Hall, Nolan Pratt, Annabel McClure, Jacob Pilcher and David Lee Hulsey. Back— Kyle Chapman, Leanna Perkins, Hope Smith, Connor McClure, Elijah Folsom, Aidan Guidici, Nicholas Bondesen, Nicholas Brainard, Joey Mikel, Shelby Brainard, Emily Dublin and Erika Wenzel. (Not pictured: Rachel and Robby Isenhour)



It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth,
To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, goodwill to men
From heavens all gracious King!"
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

MUSIC MINISTRY

The FPC Cantata Chorus & Orchestra



Sunday, December 11

8:30 & 11 a.m.

(Children's Choir

pre-service music at 10:45)

Fellowship Hall-Worship Center



*...to notify
the church office
if...*

- You change your physical or mailing address
- You change your e-mail address or add e-mail
- You change your home or cell phone number
- You add a new phone number

Decorating the tree with Chrismon ornaments

As this newsletter was being printed and mailed, plans were—on Advent Sunday (November 27), as congregation members arrived for the 11 o'clock worship service—they were to be given handmade white and gold Chrismon ornaments to decorate the tree in the Worship Center-Fellowship Hall.

These ornaments were lovingly made with fabric, beads, glitter and ribbons by church members over the years. Chrismons are in the shape of Christian symbols that represent biblical and theological concepts.

The Worship Committee—Babs Cape, chair, and Amy Pratt and Susan Isenhour—were arranging for volunteers to hand out the ornaments and help members place their ornaments on the tree.

Symbols represented by the Chrismons include fish, angels, crown of thorns, crosses, stars, the manger, eternity, circles, Greek letters and palm branches. Space prohibits a complete listing of the Chrismons and their meaning, but the information can be found online at such web pages as <http://christian sym.com/tree.php>.



Left: Babs Cape, Worship Committee chair, holds a few of the Chrismons used to decorate the Christmas tree in the Worship Center-Fellowship Hall. More ornaments pictured above.

December PW Circle Meetings

Elizabeth:
12/15 6:30 pm
Theresa McKenna
512-930-3751
3601 Brangus Rd

Esther:
12/07 1 pm
Nadine Tanner, 512- 863-3714
Luncheon, Legacy Grille

Hannah:
12/14 11 am
Marty Curtis, 512-864-2094
Pot luck, Room 112, Church

Lydia:
12/14 1 pm
Alison Harrison
512-388-1812
506 Citrine Pl, Round Rock

Martha:
12/21 9:30 am
Marilyn Peters, 830-708-1237
100 Fox Hollow

Rachel:
12/21 10 am
Mary Jean Thorp
512-948-5460
115 Daisy Path

Ruth:
12/12 10 am
Janice Wallace, 512-863-0182
203 La Mesa Ln

Sarah:
No meeting



**Bible Study Leader
Training for January's
Horizons lesson
presented by
Cynthia Guidici
Friday, December 30
11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Room 101**

FELLOWSHIP

**Presbyterian Women of FPC
are partnering with LOGOS
on a Christmas mission project
to benefit residents of the Ronald
McDonald House of Temple.**



Circle members will prepare casseroles for dinner at the House on December 17, or to be frozen and eaten later. The House residents are families of sick children who stay there be near their loved ones in the hospital.

PW circles also will provide Christmas gifts for needy families staying at the House during the holidays. PW volunteers will deliver the food and gifts December 17.

For more information contact your circle leader or Bridget Chapman at chapmanbridget@yahoo.com



Keeping families with sick children close to each other and offering the care and resources they need.

The Ronald McDonald House of Temple was built in 1986 and celebrated its 30th birthday in October. Located just over a mile from the main Baylor Scott & White campus, the House has provided safe, comfortable lodging and support for more than 8,500 families from all over the world.

PW circle members: You may volunteer to prepare a casserole that will be delivered to the Ronald McDonald House of Temple on December 17. The casseroles may be eaten that day or frozen to eat at a later date.

You may also volunteer to shop for Christmas gifts for a family who will be staying at the Ronald McDonald House during the holidays.

Or you may volunteer to travel to Temple on December 17 to deliver the casseroles and gifts.



MISSION

Serving Rio Grande Valley families

Su Casa de Esperanza, “Your House of Hope,” is a ministry of Mission Presbytery as well as a FPC-supported mission.

Su Casa’s mission is to improve the spiritual, emotional, physical, economic, intellectual and social well-being of fami-



lies in the Rio Grande Valley. This includes the improvement of the quality of life of children through a faith-based family education program.

The agency began in 1981 in the rural community of Las Milpas, five miles south of Pharr, Texas, as a service of the Presbyterian Children’s Health and Service Agency. In 1990, a second unit was added about one mile from the Texas/Mexico border in Progreso, Texas. Many families in these communities are far-removed from mainstream activities. This isolation—coupled with a migratory lifestyle, a double-digit unemployment rate and a lack of basic education and language skills—limits these families in their struggle to succeed.

Su Casa responds to the many changing needs of families and children in these communities by offering programs that emphasize self-worth. Self-help is the cornerstone for all Su Casa de Esperanza’s

programs. Special emphasis is on early childhood development and is divided into three phases or programs:

♦ **Prenatal Instruction for New Mothers**—Home visitors from Su Casa provide mothers-to-be basic education on fetal development, nutrition, prenatal care and early childhood development instruction.

♦ **Infant Stimulation**—Home visitors continue their instruction with the new mother until her baby is 12 months old. They also monitor the child’s vision, hearing, language, motor skills and cognitive development.

♦ **Toddler Phase**—Mother and child attend classes together to learn age-appropriate activities that the mother can then do at home with the child. The

goal is to encourage proper growth and development, and to establish a bond between mother and child that is necessary as the child begins formal schooling.

Su Casa was restructured in 1991 as an independent, nonprofit agency with its own Board of Directors. Its funding comes from individuals, churches, corporations and foundations.

FPC budgeted \$2,000 in 2016 to help support these Su Casa services that extend the ministry of Christ to children and their families. The hope is that families will become motivated, learn to solve problems together and share a common vision and hope for the future.

Pat Miller is FPC’s mission advocate for Su Casa. To make a contribution, to volunteer or to view the Su Casa de Esperanza Wish List, check out the website at www.sucasadeesperanza.org. (And see the column at right for more info.)



Bring your donations for Su Casa

It’s time to help support our friends at Su Casa de Esperanza, “Your House of Hope.” Su Casa is an independent, nonprofit agency partially supported by Presbyterian churches.

Gifts donated by members of FPC during the Christmas season are delivered to Su Casa along with items handmade by Mission Sewing. Items that are needed by SuCasa include baby clothing, receiving blankets, shoes and socks, hats and caps.

Please put your donations in the Mission Sewing barrel next to the church office.

Contact Pat Miller or Kathy Jones for more information.



Joy Offering benefits Board of Pensions, schools and colleges



The Christmas Joy Offering will be collected Sunday, December 18. It is one of two denomination-wide offerings collected by FPC. The other is the One Great Hour of Sharing during Lent.

During this Advent season, Presbyterians reflect on the promise of salvation God made to us—a promise kept with the birth of Jesus. With the Christmas Joy Offering, we make two enduring promises for our faith: to assist church workers in their time of need, and to educate and develop the future racial/ethnic leadership of our church. Half of the offering goes to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions, and the other half goes to Presbyterian-related, racial/ethnic schools and colleges.

You may contribute any Sunday during December. Remember to designate your donation for “Christmas Joy Offering.”



Mission Sewing

Thank you, Tricia Osborne, for the colorful afghan. Thank you to the individual(s) who donated knitted prayer shawls and skeins of fashion yarn. Our group donated 77 hats and scarves to The Caring Place for the “Coats for Kids” project.

Our next meeting is at 10 a.m. Friday, December 9, in Room 111. We will deliver stuffed animals with blankets to the Williamson County Children’s Advocacy Center.

Holiday food drive goal is 200,000 pounds

Did you make it to the “Sweets, Treats and Trees” event last month? I went with a friend and, as always, was truly amazed at how beautiful the whole place looks. It’s like a fairy land. The people who set up the hall are gifted decorators. You can buy all your Christmas decorations at a fraction of the cost of buying them new, and they look just as good as new.

I mentioned last month that the “Hunger Free Holidays” food drive goal is 200,000 pounds of food to feed those in need over the holidays. Please consider what you can do to help. There is an urgent need and as this county grows there are more and more people in need. As of October 31 we have 53,281 pounds donated, so we have a way to go. The supplies needed are: cereal, ketchup, mus-

tard and mayo, soups all kinds (except chicken soup and cream of mushroom), fruit juices, toothpaste and brushes, and personal care items such as soap, shampoo and deodorant.

TCP also needs empty jewelry boxes because staff repair jewelry and at Christmas time would like to sell it in little boxes to give as Christmas presents.

If you’ve never gone to a “Lunch and Learn” day please consider doing that. It will be December 8 from 11.30 a.m. till 1 p.m. You’ll learn things you never knew about The Caring Place and how they help clients. Added to this: There’s a free lunch!

I pray for a blessed Christmas season for each of you, and please remember the reason for the season. —Jenny Carswell

*Delivering 77 hats
and scarves to
The Caring Place
for the “Coats for
Kids” project are
Mission Sewing
representatives
Linette Harwell,
Kathy Jones,
Barbara Caudle and
Alison Harrison.*



CARE MINISTRY

Points from Parish Nurse Penny

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Or is it a struggle to keep your "merry" and your "happy" in place during this season? Andrea Henderson, MA, LPC, EMDR Therapy Certified, will be in Room 101 on Monday, December 5, at 7 p.m. for a program on "Surviving the Holidays: Thriving Mentally, Emotionally, Physically and Spiritually."

Chris Kingsbury and Andrea, both with The Center for Relational Care, have been with us each month since September to give us information and ideas on negotiating this crazy world we live in. Please

plan to attend this last in the series to see what you can do to recover from Thanksgiving and put the "merry" back in Christmas and New Year's.

Do you have expired or unused medications at home? Pouring or flushing unwanted or expired drugs affects the water quality of all of us, so drop them off across the street from H-E-B on Williams Drive at the Public Safety Operations and Training Center, 3500 D.B. Wood Rd. Lobby hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Fletchers return to service last May in the Democratic Republic of Congo in Africa

Last May our Presbyterian missionaries, John and Gwenda Fletcher, concluded their Interpretation Assignment in the U.S. and returned to the Democratic Republic of Congo. John is primarily a surgeon working with the Presbyterian Community of Congo (CPC) and the Christian Medical Institution of the Kasai (IMCK). He provides direct patient care and also trains residents, medical students and nursing students.



For the past two years John has also been serving as the project manager for the hydroelectric plant for the IMCK. This 30-year-old plant is undergoing extensive renovations so it can provide at least 30 more years of reliable service. New regulators for the plant were built in Germany and were due to be installed during the past summer. The electricity this plant produces and the water it pumps enables the IMCK to provide a level of medical care not found anywhere else in central Congo.

Gwenda is an education consultant to the CPC and the Presbyterian Church of Kinshasa. She helps enhance the quality of education in the 787 elementary and secondary schools operated by the CPC. A typical school is one whose principal, Pastor Jonas, walks six miles to get to. There are seats for only 80 of the 330 students. The other 250 students sit on the floor. Neither Pastor Jonas nor his students have textbooks.

He teaches from notes he took when he was a student.

Both John and Gwenda, and other missionaries like them, recognize that their influence on the lives of these future leaders of the Democratic Republic of Congo will last long after they have finished their terms of service. They are showing God's love for all of his children, a love that will continue to bear fruit long into the future.

— Shirley Nash, FPC Mission Advocate for the Fletchers

Penny Leone
Parish Nurse
pnurse5@aol.com

Office Hours:
All day Tuesday
Other hours
by appointment



The Compassionate Friends' 20th Annual Worldwide Candle Lighting
6 p.m. Sunday
December 11
Embree Group Bldg.
4747 Williams Drive

Come light a candle in memory of a son, daughter, brother, sister or grandchild of any age who left too soon at any time by any cause.

Bring: A picture of your loved one in a frame & your loved one's favorite food (enough to share with 10)

A program of music and readings will culminate in the lighting of a candle for each loved one. (Candles provided)

Host:
The Compassionate Friends Brushy Creek Chapter
512-348-7885

DECEMBER 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 1 st Sunday of Advent Communion/Home Communion Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 4:30pm Youth SNL 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	28 Monica Koenig on study leave thru 12/4	29 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting	30 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group 4:45pm LOGOS 5:30pm Youth Dinner 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Christmas Angel Shopping 7:15pm Cantata Chorus	1 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	2 Georgetown Christmas Stroll	3 Georgetown Christmas Stroll
4 Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:30am CNT Rehearsal 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am New Officer Training 11:00am Worship-WCFH 5:30pm Christmas Night Together 7:30pm Cantata Set-up	5 11:00am PW Board Meeting 6:00pm Christ Lutheran Stephen Leaders 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed	6 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Administrative Committee 5:30pm New Officers Meeting 6:00pm LOGOS Board Meeting 7:30pm Called Session Meeting	7 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group 4:45pm LOGOS 5:30pm Youth Dinner 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Cantata Chorus	8 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:00pm Cantata Rehearsal	9 10:00am Mission Sewing	10 9:00am Cantata Rehearsal
11 Cantata: Christmas Canticles 8:30am Worship-WCFH 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am New Officer Training 10:45am LOGOS Choir sings 11:00am Worship-WCFH 4:30pm Youth SNL 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	12 11:00am P.E.O. Meeting 7:30pm Cen Tex Master Singers	13 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Newsletter Deadline 6:45pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Committee Meetings	14 11:00am Hannah Circle 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group 4:45pm LOGOS 5:30pm Youth Dinner 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	15 9:00am Treehouse Learning 9:00am Sewing Group 6:30pm Budget Committee	16 5:00pm Creech/MacClean Rehearsal	17 9:00am LOGOS Service @ Chapmans' 2:00pm Creech/MacClean Wedding
18 Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching Christmas Joy Offering 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 6:00pm Youth Alumni Gathering	19	20 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	21 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group	22	23 Church Office Closed	24 Christmas Eve Candlelight Services: 5:30pm Children's Service, WCFH 6:15pm Birthday Party for Jesus 7:00pm Worship-WCFH 10:30pm Worship-Sanctuary
25 Communion Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 11:00am Worship-WCFH	26 Church Office Closed	27	28	29	30 11:00am PW Bible Study	31