

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26 Joy Bedford on vacation thru 7/3 Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 7:30pm In-town Mission Trip	27 Summer office hours begin In-town Mission Trip Philip Smith on study leave thru 7/10 Kathi Davenport on vacation thru 7/15	28 In-town Mission Trip 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session	29 In-town Mission Trip Mike Roberts on vacation and study leave thru 8/2 Bill Poe on call thru 7/17 3:00pm Nana's Time Out	30 In-town Mission Trip	1 Mike Roberts on vacation thru 8/5	2
3 Youth Mission Trip to Costa Rica Dr. William Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am Worship-WCFH	4 Church Office closed for 4th of July holiday	5	6 3:00pm Nana's Time Out 6:00pm Youth WNL	7	8	9
10 Dr. William Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am Worship-WCFH	11 Christina Bondesen on vacation thru 7/15	12	13 3:00pm Nana's Time Out 6:00pm Youth WNL	14	15	16
17 Dr. William Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm Senior Solos Luncheon	18 Ken Peters on call thru 8/2 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	19 11:00am Staff Meeting 11:45am Stephen Leaders Meeting 4:30pm Newsletter Deadline	20 3:00pm Nana's Time Out 6:00pm Youth WNL	21 Joy Bedford on Vacation thru 7/23	22 Hulseys on vacation thru 8/5	23
24 Dr. Ken Peters Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am Worship-WCFH	25 Monica Koenig on vacation thru 8/21 8:30am Sister Act Theater Camp	26 8:30am Sister Act Theater Camp	27 8:30am Sister Act Theater Camp 3:00pm Nana's Time Out	28 8:30am Sister Act Theater Camp	29 8:30am Sister Act Theater Camp	30
31 Dr. Ken Peters Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 11:00am Worship-WCFH						

Ministerial Alliance plans community events

The Georgetown Ministerial Alliance is an association of local religious leaders who support one another through prayer, fellowship, orientation and sharing of resources. It also supports the ministries of religious, non-profit and service-based groups, many of which are supported by FPC's mission budget.

Two events

Two community-wide activities are planned in the coming months, and FPC members are invited to participate.

Prayer walks are planned around each of the campuses in Georgetown ISD at 2 p.m. Sunday, August 21, the Sunday before school starts. Participants will pray for students, teachers and school district employees and leaders. Those wishing to participate may contact Kathy Kerr Kubatzky at Kathy_kerr2001@yahoo.com or 512-705-7696.

November event

A pre-Thanksgiving Community Celebration is set for 4 p.m. November 6 at the Klett Performing Arts Center at Georgetown High School. More details to come.



July 2016

Georgetown, Texas

First Presbyterian Church

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From the Pastor

The following was shared by our pastor, Dr. Michael Roberts, in the June 5th worship services:

You will note in your bulletin this morning the public notice pertaining to gun laws. I'd like to speak briefly about this matter as your pastor. The elders of our church, known collectively as the Session, have been discussing these laws and their implications since January. On February 22, Session *voted to prohibit open carry and concealed carry of handguns at the church* and then, after significant input, reaffirmed their decision on April 26. The issue itself was dealt with extensively in a three-page article in the May issue of *First Word*. I would like to speak today about the process, a process that actually relates to any issue.

The decision of these elders, whom we have elected, trained and prayed for, becomes the policy of the church. As our members are well aware, matters related to programs, ministries, budgets and policy are decided by the elders. The word "Presbyterian" derives from the Greek word for "elder." Presbyterian, therefore, refers to our form of government; we are a government by elders. The congregation in a Presbyterian Church has a limited role. The congregation approves calls and changes calls of pastors, elects officers and approves matters related to buying, mortgaging or selling of real property.

Throughout this whole process, I can tell you that, as the Moderator of the Session, the elders discussed, researched, struggled, prayed and sought God's will in what they believed would be best for the whole congregation. We have discussed these matters at all five Session meetings this year.

The state law allows notification of our policy to take place in a variety of ways.

Session has decided that notification of our prohibition of open and concealed carry of handguns on church property will be by written notice in the worship bulletin, *First Word*, printed cards and portable signs. Notification *at our worship services* will be through the bulletin, not any permanent signage inside or outside the worship spaces. Portable signage will be used in the Education Building and for events other than worship.

We know that not all in the congregation do agree or will agree. Not all the elders agree. Our votes at Session were 13 to ...continued on next page

JULY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

July 3: "Ordinary People"

Dr. Bill Poe, Preaching
Scripture: 2 Kings 5:1-14;
Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

July 10: "An All-Too-Familiar Story"

Dr. Bill Poe, Preaching
Scripture: Amos 7:7-17; Luke 10:25-37

July 17: "The Two-Faced Gospel"

Dr. Bill Poe, Preaching
Scripture: Luke 10:38-42

July 24: "Two Tickets to Spain. Must Sell. Best Offer"

Dr. Ken Peters, Preaching
Scripture: Jonah 1:1-10; Romans 15:22-33

July 31: "Two Ways of Looking at the Past"

Dr. Ken Peters, Preaching
Scripture: Job 29:1-7, 21-25;
Ecclesiastes 7:1-11

August 7: "Ventures Unknown"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching
Scripture: Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16



From the Pastor

(continued from front page)

3 and 12 to 4. But our elders do all agree concerning the process by which we make these decisions. Our constitution states it this way: “decisions shall be reached by vote following opportunity for discussion and discernment, and a majority shall govern” (F-3.0205). The Session has discussed thoroughly, voted, and the majority vote has determined the policy.

One more point I want to emphasize: Healthy churches express appreciation and respect for their leaders. Some of the correspondence the Session received from our members vigorously discussed the issues, which is always appropriate. But some of the correspondence went beyond this and criticized the wisdom, spirituality and motivation of our elders.

Our elders do not need me to defend them, but I do want to put in a good word for them. Our elders are elected by you, the congregation. They are ordained and installed to their office. They all participate in New Officers Training and Leader Retreats. They invest many hours; they commit to significant work and regular meetings for a three-year period. They seek God’s will together and have real love for our church.

We pose constitutional questions to our leaders when we ordain and install our elders and deacons. We know these questions well. We ask leaders to trust in Jesus Christ; accept the scriptures; be governed by our church’s polity; further the peace, unity and purity of the church; pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love; and to be a faithful ruling elder, watching over the people, providing for their worship, nurture and service. Many commitments are made by these elders to the congregation.

The congregation also makes commitments to the leaders. We respond to these constitutional questions at every ordination service. We ask the congregation: “Do we agree to pray for these ruling elders, to encourage them, to respect their decisions, and to follow as they guide us, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is Head of the Church?”

This policy printed in your bulletin does not change what is truly important for us as a church. This policy does not change our worship, our educational and youth ministries, our mission of making disciples and loving our neighbors. This does not change our shared belief in God as revealed in Jesus Christ. We continue in the words of Ephesians 4:3 to “maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”

I appreciate you listening today. I’m glad you are here. Let us come together as the people of God in worship.

Mike

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.



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

ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Bill & Joyce Hinds
- 6 Ken & Susan Poteete
- 8 Thomas & Susan Isenhour
Pat & Penny Leone
Jerry & Ann Pearson
- 11 Chris & Kimberly Poe
- 12 Michael & Lea Ann Hutton
- 14 Michael & Adana Gipson
Larry & Phyllis Perkins
- 19 Jack & Lenice Smithwick
- 20 J.C., Jr. & Linda Johnson
- 23 Claude & Joanne Folta
Richard & Maria Jenny
- 28 David & Cathy Ramsey
Travis & Sandra Walden

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Ollie Stenborg
Sam Stenborg
- 2 Gene Hunt
Chris Johnson
- 3 Travis Best
Phil Bookert
Nancy McCown
- 4 Rowan Guidici
Hayes Kennedy
Emily McEntire
- 5 Will Foster
Pat Miller
Suzanne Stallings
- 7 Carolyn Pursley
Jim Root
Micki Wiesner
- 9 Christina Bondesen
Landon Leloux
Kinsley Leloux
Mason Smith
Wilma Spencer
Nancy Spivey
- 10 Jacob Scavarelli
- 12 Keith Tucker
- 13 Dennis Borocz
Mark Lund
Cass Wheeler
- 15 Rick Galloway
Jason Wagner
- 16 Alex Mahannah
Nancy Stearns
- 17 Nicholas Bondesen
- 18 Kay Cox
Ben Schmalstieg
- 19 Brian Andrusin
Angie Harris
Betty Smith
Roger Taylor
Tim Taylor

(continued on next page)

A friendship at church and school

If Joey is close to anyone at church and school, it’s his best friend Robby Isenhour, who keeps an eye on him in both settings, as well as on the football field and baseball diamond. Sometimes after a Special Olympics event, Robby said, he would get a call from an excited Joey.

“He’d say, ‘I just got through running or competing!’ and I’d ask how he did. He would tell me how he finished, what place or medal he took.” Both Joey and Robby were at the area-wide Special Olympics banquet in June at Dell Diamond.

Joey had fun with the baseball team this year, Robby said. “He would fill water bottles and during games help the trainers. The team made him feel like he’s one of the guys. So if he tried to bring a cheeseburger into the dugout, we would make him go outside and eat because we aren’t allowed to eat.”

During football season, Robby also was on the field during the games, watching Joey and making sure he did what he was supposed to do in helping the trainers. “He also took water to the officials during timeouts and between quarters. He had a lot of fun but would get pretty anxious during games. But he’s always doing something to make me and others laugh, like poking us in the shoulder and blaming it on someone else—which he did every single game—or just saying something funny.”

While Joey’s mom works this summer, he will hang out several days a week with Robby, who has plans to take him to the pool, maybe go fishing, play TopGolf, or just play Xbox games at the Isenhours. “When I took him with me to baseball camp he helped me with my camp station. And we gave him small jobs to do that kept him occupied and in the shade.”

While Joey is his “bud,” Robby also feels a sense of responsibility to take care of his friend. He’s learned the hard way the need to be familiar with what Joey likes to eat. “I learned you can’t asked him what he wants to order when we’re eating out. Until I caught on, half the time he would order something and then say he didn’t like it. So I had to learn fast what he likes to eat—and remember it!”

Robby is also there to remind Joey to say “thank you” and other socially appropriate remarks “just because he will forget sometimes.”

—Marty Curtis



Left: Joey and Robby indulge in a snack of Frito pies during a Georgetown football game.

Session highlights

At its June 28 meeting, FPC’s Session:

- ♦ Called a Congregational meeting for August 21 after the 11 a.m. service to elect the Church Officer Nominating Committee for 2016-17. Jim Root, Jr. (Chair) and Babs Cape (Vice Chair) will represent Session on the committee. Barbara Caudle represents the Deacons.

- ♦ Approved Amy Pratt as new Children’s Choir Director beginning August 1.

- ♦ Approved new flooring for the lobby to replace carpet that has come loose. Monies will come from the Property Fund.

- ♦ Heard a report of the Security Task Force. Its immediate focus is on locks, lighting and fencing. Development of emergency management plans are under way. A recommendation on the membership of the Security Committee was proposed.

- ♦ Received a report on the Presbytery meeting in Austin June 3-4.

Next Session meeting is August 23.

Photo right:
Joey and his
proud mom Terri

Joey Mikel

(continued from previous page)

and field events this spring: the 100-meter run, 4x100 relay and softball throw. He won a silver and two gold medals at the area track and field meet May 7 at Leander High School's Bible Stadium.

More than 800 athletes from the Central Texas area competed in a variety of track and field events in Leander: high jump, long jump, mini javelin, shot put, softball throw, standing long jump, tennis ball throw, wheelchair races, assisted walks, distance runs and distance walks.

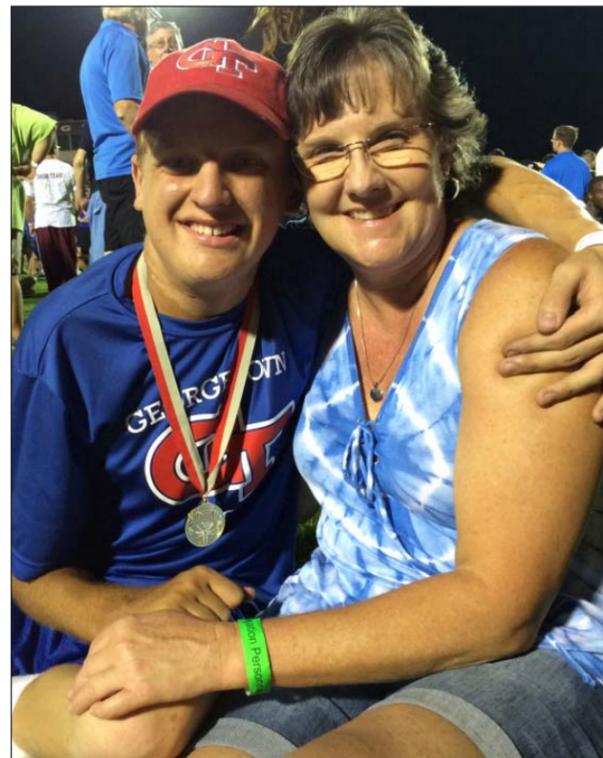
His wins there qualified Joey for the three-day Summer Games at the University of Texas-Arlington over Memorial Day weekend. There he won silver in the 100 meter, softball throw and 4x100. The track and field events were held in UTA's Maverick Stadium.

Joey was called on to compete with the adult CenTex Rockets relay team at state instead of his Georgetown ISD Rivals team. Terri said Joey is the fastest of the Georgetown ISD Rivals runners.

The state Summer Games drew some 3,000 athletes—1,388 of them track and field athletes. The weekend was modeled after the real summer Olympics, Terri said, with all the pomp and circumstance of the international games. There was a parade, opening and closing ceremonies, torch run, victory dance, Athletes' Village, Wellness Park and numerous activities for families. Preliminary events were rained out on that Friday of the games, but athletes competed Saturday and Sunday, Terri said.

His run toward silver and gold actually began for Joey in early spring as he and his teammates traveled to Round Rock and Taylor in April for track meets and hosted one here in Georgetown that month as well. Special Olympics athletes commit to training at least eight weeks before competition with the help of volunteer coaches.

The spring events had to be worked around Joey's duties as a student trainer for the Georgetown High School baseball team, on which his friend and fellow FPC youth, Robby Isenhour, competed as



catcher. (You might recall seeing Joey perform his team duties at a regular season game or on the Round Rock Express' Dell Diamond field when Georgetown was eliminated in the regional quarterfinal play-off game.) Joey and Robby both helped with the GHS baseball camp in June the first week after the spring semester ended. Joey also was a student trainer for the GHS football team.

"Joey loves being a part of a team and enjoys socializing with his teammates," Terri said. "He also really likes getting medals. He loves sports and enjoys feeling like he is a part of a team. Special Olympics gives him that opportunity since he doesn't have the skills to play team sports with kids his age."

Marty Curtis



Among Our People



Boldface indicates
a member of
First Presbyterian Church

In the hospital last month: **Milo Dowden**, **Rick Galloway** (surgery), **Jan Geiger**, **Don Mehaffey** (surgery), **Annabel McClure**, **Cathy Rice** (surgery) and **David Unger**.

Sympathy to:

- ♦ **Ben & Laura Butler & Joan Shrader** on the death of their son and grandson, Allen Butler, May 24.
- ♦ **Bobby Weisbrod** on the death of his grandfather June 14.
- ♦ **Jesse & Nadia Mahannah** on the death of Nadia's mother, Wini Barrick, June 15.
- ♦ **Sam & Helen Matthews** on the death of Helen's sister, Elizabeth Gibson, in Nashville, Tennessee.

Congratulations to:

- ♦ **Randa Toungate** on the birth of her grandson, Abel Jorge Granados, May 22. Proud great-grandmother is **Wanda Wallace**.
- ♦ **Carolyn Pursley** on the birth of her great-grandson, Benjamin Rainor Carr, May 24.
- ♦ **Aaron & Lindsey Kozak** on the birth of their son, Chester Truett, May 28. Proud grandparents are **Jerry & Vickie Hammerlun**.
- ♦ **Jerry & Vickie Hammerlun** on the birth of their grandchildren, Molly Jean and Blair Mae Hammerlun, born June 16 to Greg & Lacey Hammerlun.

Serving in the military: Josh Benge, **Sturdy & Tammy Wanamaker's** nephew; Maj. Brian Berlakovich, grandson-in-law of **Ouida Henderson**; Capt. Ronald Royd, Chaplain; Lt. Col. Brian Burk, **Larry Burk's** son; Maj. Kyle Burrow, **David Lee Hulse's** cousin; Capt. Geoff Childs, **Helen Douglass's** grandson-in-law; **LeeAnne Coper**; Capt. Josh Daleiden, husband of Lisa Foster; Chaplain Douglas Fenton; Jared A. Gross, **Robert Bedford's** nephew; **Brian Hall**; Capt. Daniel Hammond, **Keith & Sue Renard's** grandson-in-law; **Garrett Herbst**; Jeremy Hord; 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**; David Penney; **Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rayburn**; Rev. Louis Rosa; Lt. Col. Margaret Sharpnack, **Phil & Cindy Sharpnack's** daughter; Steven T. Watson; and Christian Winckel, grandson of Sandy Hayes.

Thank you's:

Thank you to all my church brothers and sisters who, during my recovery from knee surgery, took the time to send a card, called to wish me a speedy recovery, brought food, and expressed support at church. First Presbyterian truly is a loving church. A special THANK YOU to my bride of 40 years who dropped everything and took care of me 24/7 for the first four weeks of recovery. Karen, I could not have done it without you!

Ray Rayburn

Thanks to all the many friends from FPC who sent cards, made phone calls and sent prayers for healing during my recovery from my accident at R.O.C.K.! I now have a brand new total shoulder that is healing well. I hope to be back among you within another month! R.O.C.K. says I am their toughest ol' cowgirl!

Marcia Ness

On behalf of Becky, Hope, my brothers, Bryan and Kevin, and my sister, Wendy, and their respective families, I want to express a sincere thank you for all the love, encouragement and prayers offered following my Mom's passing in May. While we were initially distressed that her passing was sudden and unexpected, we realize, and are thankful, that it was peaceful and without suffering. We take comfort in the knowledge that Mom is now with Dad in the Church Triumphant, and that we will one day see each other again according to God's plan. With deep appreciation for all this church means to me and my family, I remain, in Christ, *Tim Smith*

Summer hours for the church office began Monday, June 27, and will end Friday, August 5. Summer hours are 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. Regular hours will resume on Monday, August 8.

BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

- 21 John Decker
Grayson Kennedy
Ardith Lane
- 22 Isabel Krause
Roger Molenda
- 23 Janet Byram
Elaine Eddings
Matthew Pilcher
Phil Smith
- 24 Bill Baechtel
Richard Beach
Wanda Wallace
- 25 Rachel Isenhour
Shawn Levens
Nadia Mahannah
- 26 Joanne Folta
Billy McLain
- 27 Chris Poe
- 28 Thom Bausch
Jonathan Shaner
- 29 Howard Dudding
Walt Ragan
- 30 Carter Osborne
Avery Rayburn
Magen Smith

Flowers in Worship/July

- 3 Herb Wilkins
- 10 Nelson Barrett
- 17 Jack & Lenice Smithwick
- 24 Sam & Helen Matthews
- 31 Marv & Sandy
Hulshizer

Sign up to provide flowers in worship

A sign-up sheet is posted outside the church office. As you sign up for a certain Sunday, remember to indicate whether you are willing to donate your arrangement after the service to be used in the Flower Ministry for re-gifting. Or contact Kathy Jones (512-863-3012) or Betty Smith (512-869-6925).

Head Deacon/July

- 8:30 Janice Wallace
Mona Andersen
- 11:00 Mona Andersen
Barbara Caudle

Statewide Events

Special Olympics Texas holds more than 300 competitions year-round at the area, regional and state level.

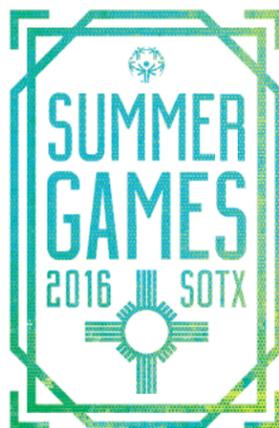
Participation in the events is based on age, gender and ability level to give athletes an equal chance to win. Each participant is awarded a medal or ribbon following his or her event.

Texas holds six statewide events annually:

- ♦ Summer Games
- ♦ Equestrian
- ♦ Sailing/Kayaking
- ♦ Fall Classic
- ♦ Winter Games
- ♦ Flag Football

Training

Special Olympics Texas athletes must train for a minimum of eight weeks before each competition. Volunteer coaches are responsible for training the athletes.



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Camp BLAST

Camp BLAST (Best Little Adventure of the Summer Time)—from 9 a.m. to 12 noon August 10-12—is a program to reunite FPC kids after a summer apart. It is for rising 1st - 6th graders. Registration began May 1 and is limited to 30 kids.



If at least 10 do not register, Camp BLAST will be cancelled. We have only seven registered as of the newsletter deadline. Registration forms are available in the church office or online at www.fpcgeorgetown.org.



“Take-out Church”

Nolan (left) and Alan (right) Pratt took their “Flat Jesus” with them in June to the The Wizarding World of Harry Potter at Universal Orlando Resort. For those who took the boxes: Remember to color the “Flat Jesus” in your box and take him with you everywhere you go this summer. Snap pictures and e-mail to the church so we can see all the places that Jesus vacations this summer!

Save these dates!

July 3 - 16
Mission Trip to Costa Rica

July 24 - 30
FPC Week at JKR

August 7
Preparation for Communion Class
(Dr. Mike Roberts)

August 10 - 12, 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Camp BLAST; Register now!

August 14
General Assembly Report
(Dr. Mike Roberts)

September 11
“All Together” Family Night Dinner,
Recognition of Costa Rica Stockholders

September 16 - 18
All-Church Retreat, Mo-Ranch
(We can add a room if you would like to go; contact Joy Bedford)



Sunday School will be on sabbatical until Promotion Sunday, August 21. Our teachers plan and teach every Sunday for nine months; we need for them to rest up for the new year!

“Follow Him!”

If you were here during VBS week you might have heard this phrase repeated often. Every time someone said the Bible Point for the day, the campers said, “Follow Him” and pointed up.

It was a great week: 76+ campers and 61+ volunteers with Mrs. Jaime leading us all through the cave as we learned about Jesus, the light of the world. Thank you, thank you, thank you, to all of our station leaders and their helpers, our crew leaders, and to each and every one of you who donated an item or money or time. We could not do this week without you!!



Planning for fall

As you plan for your fall I encourage you to consider the amount of time you spend growing your relationship with Jesus Christ and your church family. With everything that is worth learning and doing there is a time commitment. **Connections** are made with others by spending time with them. **Connections** are made and strengthened with God by spending time with Him. My challenge for you is to commit to strengthening your relationship with God and other believers by spending time reading and studying the Bible (alone and in classes), by being involved in the mission and fellowship opportunities at this church, and by participating in worship. Our children and youth learn from our example. They learn that what is important to us we spend time doing...

—Joy Bedford



Joey competing in the softball throw and the 4x100 relay.

His recent medals: 2 gold, 4 silver

While some Georgetown High School athletic teams have garnered a lot of publicity for their playoff runs this spring, there’s another Georgetown team (and individual athletes) who have competed on the area and state level, while staying under the publicity radar.

FPC youth Joey Mikel, 17, an 11th grader at Georgetown High School, is one such athlete. This spring, he competed as a Georgetown ISD Rivals team member in Special Olympics Texas’ Central Texas area track and field events, where he qualified for the statewide 2016 Summer Games. He proudly displays six medals for his recent wins: three silver medals from the state competition and one silver and two gold from the area competition.



For Joey, competing is old hat: He’s been involved in Special Olympics competition since the 6th grade while living in Roanoke (near Fort Worth). Just this past school year, he has earned a number of medals not only in track and field but also in bowling and bocce. His mom, Terri Stubblefield Cemper, is a Special Olympics volunteer coach, Joey’s chauffeur and his biggest fan. She and Joey moved to Georgetown, her hometown, two years ago and she rejoined FPC, where Joey is active in the Youth Ministry and once again helped with Vacation Bible School last month.

The first sports Joey competed in when he was younger were Special Olympics bowling, basketball, track and field and golf. But he specialized in track (continued on next page)



Joey Mikel
Georgetown Olympic Medalist



Special Olympics provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

Pastoral care during July

While Pastor Mike is away on vacation and study leave, Pastoral Care Assistant Jenny Carswell and Parish Nurse Penny Leone will provide pastoral care and visitation.

In addition, honorably retired pastors Dr. Ken Peters and Dr. Bill Poe will provide pastoral ministry as needed. You are encouraged to contact the church office for any pastoral care needs, 512-863-3381 or fpcgeorgetownchurchoffice@gmail.com.

Stephen Ministry Training, 2016-17

It will be held Monday nights, 6 - 8:30 p.m., beginning September 12 and continuing through January 23. (Exception: retreat on Friday, September 30, 6 - 8:30 p.m., and Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.) This training will be facilitated by members of the Georgetown Stephen Ministry Alliance at the Nazarene church. Call or visit with one of your Stephen Leaders for more information: Jenny Carswell, Sandie Kienitz, Penny Leone, Melissa Pilcher or Karen Rayburn. Applications are due in the church office by July 31.

CARE MINISTRY

Points from Parish Nurse Penny: Alcoholism is a progressive illness

Recently the Stephen Ministers were blessed to have a person come to speak about Alcoholics Anonymous at their continuing education program. She gave an excellent overview and left two sets of pamphlets with me: "Frequently Asked Questions about A.A." and "Is There an Alcoholic in Your Life?" I will leave the pamphlets in the brochure display rack across from my office door. I just want to highlight a couple of points she made:

- Alcoholism is a progressive illness that can never be cured, but, like other diseases, can be arrested. The person is not morally weak or mentally unbalanced. At the point when alcoholism sets in, no free will is involved, because the sufferer has lost the power of choice over alcohol. Help and remission are possible when the sufferer takes advantage of help.
- How do you know if you are an alcoholic? It is not the amount or frequency. It is whether drinking alcohol (beer, wine, spirits) has become unmanageable for you. Can you stop? If your family or friends

are concerned, you need to look seriously at yourself, but the drinker is the one who can decide and take action. I liked Debra's statement that she realized she chose to take the first drink, and then the drink chose to take the next drink and, after that, the drink chose her. That's why she knew she could not take the first drink. She realized for herself that if she took the first drink she was choosing to live her life on "Chaos Boulevard" instead of "Harmony Lane."

- Do you have to stop drinking if you go to AA? No, you only have to have the *desire* to stop drinking.
- Membership in AA involves NO financial obligation of any kind.
- There are several AA meetings every week in Georgetown and many more in the surrounding areas.
- No one "joins" AA; they simply attend meetings. If a person wants to go to an AA meeting but first wants to know more, he or she can call the local number, 512-863-9938, to talk to a member before attending the first meeting.

—Penny Leone

Need more information before you make a commitment to Stephen Ministry training?

Stephen Ministry training is thorough—2½ hours every Monday night for 21 weeks. It includes listening, dealing with feelings, assertiveness, confidentiality, maintaining boundaries, how to care for people who are grieving, dying, aging, divorcing and experiencing other life crises. The goal of training is to prepare Stephen Ministers for whatever they might encounter when working with care receivers.

Through reading, lectures, questions and answers and skill practice, trainees learn how to succeed as a Stephen Minister. Training is facilitated by leaders from Stephen Ministry Alliance churches, and all training materials are provided by the trainee's church. Once commissioned, Stephen Ministers are expected to honor a two-year commitment, participating in continuing education and supervision group sessions where they care for and support one another and sharpen their caregiving skills.

Consider **Stephen Ministry** training. It is a true spiritual journey, followed by vast rewards as you take God's love to hurting people.

—Melissa Pilcher



Summer reading awaits at the Church Library

Hot summer days invite us to either spend the day at the beach or indoors reading a good book. Several of our members have offered written reviews of a couple of books that might pique your interest:

Penny enjoyed *The Butternut Creek* series by Jane Myers Perrine because it is "set in the hill country of Texas...light enough for an easy read, but with enough real problems to not feel 'too sugary'...characters are 'real' people."

A Shiver of Wonder by Derick Bingham is "an awesome biography and interpretation of the life of C.S. Lewis. It is an amazing account of God's work with the brilliant mind of this genius to His Glory. The reader discovers the incidents and circumstances that led to his faith and his writings." Linette recommends this book because "C.S. Lewis is so often quoted in many books [and so] it is good to know more about his life."

New and fun books for the children will be highlighted in *Nana's Time Out* on



Wednesday afternoons. Some examples of new reading for our pre-teens are *Mary Patten's Voyage* by Richard Berleth about the young wife of Captain Joshua Patten who took charge of the clipper ship *Neptune's Car* during a race from New York to San Francisco in 1856, and Books 1-3 of the *Guardians of Ga'Hooole* series about a young owl who is abducted by an evil owl army and must escape with new-found friends to seek help in stopping the evil ones.

A friend of mine shared this:

How to Read More

- Throw your phone in the ocean.
- Carry a book at all times.
- Have another book ready before you finish the one you're reading.
- If you aren't enjoying a book, stop reading it immediately.
- Schedule one hour a day on your calendar for reading like you would an important meeting.
- Keep a reading log and share it.

—Elaine Eddings

Income and Expense Report Year to Date - May 2016

General Operating Fund

	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
Income			
Pledges	\$380,813	\$860,109	44%
Other	54,818	96,520	57%
TOTAL	\$435,631	\$956,629	46%
Expenses			
Validated Mission	22,604	57,700	39%
Local/Other Mission	14,461	29,035	51%
Ministry of the Word	67,067	158,355	42%
Program/Support Staff	174,374	410,339	42%
Christian Education	19,356	32,100	60%
Music and Worship	11,612	25,547	45%
Evangelism/Care	1,604	9,200	17%
Property	29,269	100,319	29%
Stewardship/Finance	8,567	20,200	42%
Other Oper Expenses	14,667	44,500	33%
Debt Retirement	37,654	90,370	42%
TOTAL	\$401,235	\$977,665	41%

VBS Fun



Jacob Pilcher helps four year olds do creative things with Play-Doh during "Cave Quest" VBS June 13 - 17.

Nana's Time Out



Calling all kids
ages 4 - 6!

3 - 3:45 p.m.,
Wednesdays,
through
August 17

Bring your summer caregivers—Nana, Grandad, Mom, Dad, Big Brother or Big Sister—for lots of fun stories and crafts each week.

Pastor to report on General Assembly

The 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church met June 18-25 in Portland, Oregon. Pastor Mike will present a report on the proceedings of the assembly on **Sunday August 14, 9:40-10:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary.** Come hear about how decisions are made, a review of the highlights, and the implications for our congregation.

YOUTH MINISTRY

July Youth Calendar

July 3-16
Costa Rica Mission Trip

July 6
WNL Game Night (at
Bridget Chapman's)

July 13
WNL: Neon Night

July 19
Serve at Manos De
Cristo

July 20
Cardboard Night

July 22 - August 5
Hulseys on vacation!

Summer slow-down?

Much of the church programming slows down in the summer, and of course we all want summer to slow down and not trickle away too quickly. In the case of Youth Ministry, our youth—with all their individual activities—and our own summer plans are *all but slow*.

Here are some highlights so far:

Rising 7th Graders—They joined our group at the unSNL May 29. They bring a ton of energy and are already showing themselves to be thoughtful and caring! We are so glad to have them!

WNL Fun—Our second annual **FPC Obstacle Course Race** around the church campus was a fun success with FPC and FUMC participants and parent volunteers, making it a great time!

VBS Week—Many of our *fantastic* youth led crews or served at various stations. We have some high-caliber young photographers, game engineers, child specialists, Pre-K heroes and sound guys in our church!

In-town Mission—At the end of June, nine FPC youth and seven adults from area churches made some significant improvements on homes of community members. Thank you for your service, In-town Mission Team!

Join us in praying for those on the Costa Rica Mission Trip

Each day: The message of the Gospel would be fresh and clear!

- ♦ Sunday, July 3—Safe travel; host church: Iglesia Presbiteriana Nueva Guácima
- ♦ Monday, July 4—Practice VBS day; people in La Guácima
- ♦ Tuesday, July 5—VBS 1st day; VBS children
- ♦ Wednesday, July 6—VBS; station leaders
- ♦ Thursday, July 7—VBS; crew leaders and helpers
- ♦ Friday, July 8—VBS final day; seeds planted will continue to grow
- ♦ Saturday, July 9—Trip guides: J.G. & Reed

Costa Rica—As you read this, nearly a year's worth of planning and preparation is coming to fruition in La Guácima outside of San José, Costa Rica. The team of 12 youth and six adults are seeking what God will teach them through this international mission and leadership opportunity. The youth are leading a VBS and construction project while the adults on the trip are helpers and consultants, offering guidance when asked and helping students grow from their experiences. Please take a moment to pray for the good work these youth are doing, the people—especially children—they are serving, and the community they are engaging with. And pray that the message of the Gospel will pervade their actions and words!

"So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up. ¹⁰ Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith."

—Galatians 6:9-10

Beyond the Mission Trips—We will continue with a few WNLs before the Hulseys take a vacation. You can look forward to more pictures and a report of the missions in the August *First Word* as well as at the September 11 Family Night Supper.

We cannot say it enough, thank you for all of your support & many prayers!

—Love, Sarah & David Lee Hulseys

- ♦ Sunday, July 10—Fresh energy and encouragement for the team
- ♦ Monday, July 11—Construction project in Las Palmas
- ♦ Tuesday, July 12—Growth in challenges
- ♦ Wednesday, July 13—Sustained hearts of service
- ♦ Thursday, July 14—Energy to finish strong
- ♦ Friday, July 15—Relationships and bonds made
- ♦ Saturday, July 16—Safe travel home

Team leaves at 5:30 a.m. July 3 and returns to Austin at 10:59 p.m. July 16.

MISSION

Volunteers always needed at The Caring Place

Here's an example of how you are helping people in need:

A young woman says, "I guess you could call me 'working poor'. I just can't seem to get ahead. Then I got sick and couldn't work. My car died. Without The Caring Place I would have been evicted. With a hand up from The Caring Place now I feel cared for and have hope. I am back at work and things are starting to stabilize. Thank you for everything."

She is one of many assisted in this way.

So what can you do for The Caring Place? During the holiday season it would be really helpful if you could volunteer your time. There are many different areas in which you can volunteer—from the food bank to helping at the front desk to assisting with sorting and hanging clothes—and in so many more areas. Just call The Caring Place at 512-943-0700, and talk to Rita Turner, Director of Volunteer Services. Your time, talent and treasure are all welcome and can help improve people's lives. Already this year 1,085 people have been assisted.

The new outreach centers are in Florence, Jarrell and Granger. I inadvertently told you last month that the third one was in Taylor. Sorry about that.

The wish list for this month is all about personal care items: shampoo and conditioner, deodorant, toothpaste and toothbrushes and bar soap.

As you may recall, I have encouraged you to bring the little items you get in hotel bathrooms, which are yours, and if you don't use them, they are very welcome at The Caring Place. Some of you have done a great job with that and we are so very grateful. If you have no money for food, the last thing on your shopping list will be personal care items.

Last but not least, please try to add your monthly dollar to "The Good



Neighbor Fund." This is organized by Georgetown's Utilities Department. All you need to do is add \$1 per month to your utility bill. There is a space for it at the bottom right of your bill. It is so easy and quite painless to do. We now have well over 50,000 people in Georgetown, and if each household contributed \$1 per month, we could wipe out the heating/cooling problems for the needy in our town.

As always, thanks for all you do.

—Jenny Carswell

Support Meals on Wheels with peanut butter & jelly to add to VBS collection

Many thank you's to our Vacation Bible School kids, crew leaders and organizers for kicking off our collection of peanut butter and jelly for Meals on Wheels - Georgetown!

The goal for our church-supported MOW mission is 175 jars of peanut butter and 175 jars of jelly for a total of 350 jars. Last year, we met the goal plus a few extra jars.

Our VBS brought in 75 jars of peanut butter and 70 jars of jelly as part of their VBS mission project—for a total of 145 jars! **That is equal to 41% of our goal.**

The challenge now is for the congregation to bring the remaining PB&J items—**100 peanut butter and 105 jelly jars!**

Please place your jars in the red boxes found in the church narthex, the office area, or the entry to the sanctuary. Contact Dave or Alison Harrison with any questions.

Mission Sewing

Last month we enjoyed seeing handcrafted items made by our members. Barbara Caudle, Lenice Smithwick, Judy Willett and Alison Harrison brought samples of their knitting, sewing and crocheting skills. Thank you, ladies, for sharing your talents with Mission Sewing.

We will NOT meet in July. Our next meeting is set for Friday, August 12, at 10 a.m. in Room 111.

—Kathy Jones

