

# FIRSTWORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

ROOTED. REFORMED. RELEVANT.



January 2017

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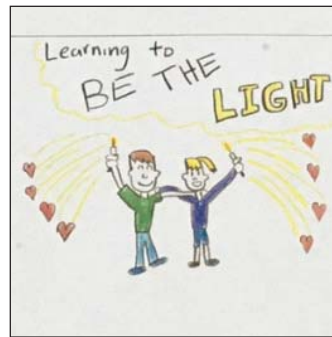
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## Education Teachers & Volunteers:

*Save the date!*

The Education/Nurture Committee  
would like to say

# Thank You!

February 12, 6:30 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall

Guest Speaker: Dr. Tom Currie



*Elijah Folsom (left) and Connor McClure cut David Lee Hulsey's hair after \$1,300 was raised for Christmas Angel Shopping. More people contributed to cut the hair than to keep it.*

## JANUARY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

**January 1: "These Three Gifts"**  
**One Worship Service Only, 11a.m.**  
Worship Center-Fellowship Hall  
David Lee Hulsey, Preaching  
Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

**January 8: "A Living Sacrifice"**  
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper  
Ordination/Installation of New Officers  
Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching  
Scripture: Romans 12:1-2

**January 15: "Gifts That Differ"**  
Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching  
Scripture: Romans 12:3-8

**January 22: "Healthy Churches"**  
Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching  
Scripture: Romans 12:9-21

**January 29: "Job—When Good People Suffer"**  
Dr. Michael Roberts, Preaching

## Congregational dinner, meeting set for Jan. 29

The Session has called the annual congregational meeting for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, January 29, in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum for this meeting is 61 members.

A potluck congregational dinner will precede the meeting at 5:30. Please bring a meat, salad or dessert to feed 10.

Items on the annual meeting agenda include:

- ♦ Annual Report of the Pastor, Dr. Michael Roberts
- ♦ Financial Reports for 2016
- ♦ Overview of Budget for 2017
- ♦ Change in Pastor's Terms of Call
- ♦ Review of Mission Involvement
- ♦ Report of the Trustees



**ANNIVERSARIES**

- 2 Jake & Pam Hines
- 3 Jesse & Nadia Mahannah  
Timothy & Anna Roberts
- 9 Jeff & Amy Pratt
- 11 Bob & Christina Bondesen
- 12 Jim & Janna Briggs
- 17 Robert & Joy Bedford
- 21 Gary & Kay Cox  
Morris & Jean Fisher
- 23 Doug & Sandie Kienitz  
Joe & Joyce Porch
- 25 Ira & Donna Kirby
- 28 Jay & Bonnie McNemar
- 31 Jack & Juanita Kirby

**BIRTHDAYS**

- 1 Hooper Lee
- 2 Donna Kirby
- 3 Anne-Mary Beck  
Michelle Dwyer  
Connor McClure
- 4 Courtney Mahannah
- 6 Gary Cox  
Hubert Syler
- 7 Geneva Berg  
Coila Sims
- 9 Jay Allen  
Daryll Gremillion  
Jim Hindman  
Tracie Rayburn  
Bill Stump
- 10 Bob Jones
- 11 Gladys Bannan  
Kathleen Wenzel
- 12 Michaela Lang
- 13 Cathy Rice
- 14 Erick Stenborg
- 15 Joyce Hinds
- 17 Micah Azuma-Hall  
Scarlett Gibson  
Alice Graham  
Maria Jenny
- 18 Miles Azuma-Hall  
Fred Cowen  
Peggy Currie  
Julia Johnson  
Jeff Pratt  
Mary Tobias
- 19 Mick Wagner
- 20 Henley Johnson  
Shirley Nash  
Paul Rayburn
- 21 Joy Bedford
- 22 Ben Andrusin  
Will Cosper  
Nadine Tanner
- 25 Misty Walden  
Paige Weisbrod

*(continued on next page)*

## Update on church practices for a new year

As we begin a new year together, we take this opportunity to remind you about certain practices that will make our life together go more smoothly:

- ♦ Christina Bondesen prepares the weekly bulletin. All bulletin announcements should go to Christina. The Sunday bulletin deadline is Wednesday at 11 a.m. Time is needed to write, edit and reproduce the bulletins each week.
- ♦ Christina also prepares the information for *First Word*, the monthly newsletter, and sends it to Marty Curtis, who edits and designs the newsletter. The newsletter deadline is even more critical as we produce a large monthly publication. The next newsletter deadline is announced in each month's newsletter. Please honor both this deadline and the one for the weekly bulletin.
- ♦ If you or a family member is going to have surgery or be in the hospital, please let the church office know. Our members have hospital stays in at least nine area hospitals. We will not know that you are in the hospital unless you tell us! And please tell us the name the hospital will know you by. Your informing the staff can help us greatly in providing quality care while members are in the hospital.
- ♦ Any activity, event or group—no matter how small—needs to be cleared on the church calendar. Christina coordinates the church calendar. Outside

groups and activities must fill out a Building Use Form and obtain approval of the Property Committee.

- ♦ Checks are issued when a Check Requisition Form has been filled out and signed by an authorized person. A simple receipt is not sufficient for reimbursement. This ensures that expenses are disbursed from the appropriate place in a responsible manner. Check Requisition Forms are available in the church office.
- ♦ Appointments with the pastor, Dr. Michael Roberts, may be made with Christina.
- ♦ When the organist begins the prelude music, our worship of God has begun. As the prelude begins, please turn your focus from fellowship with one another to the worship and praise of God.
- ♦ Please turn off your cell phones and other electronic devices for worship. We have had some interference problems even when phones were on silence or vibrate settings.

**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 Sub-chapter 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.

**Income and Expense Report  
Year to Date - November 2016  
General Operating Fund**

	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges	\$747,478	\$860,109	87%
Other	99,534	96,520	103%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$847,012</b>	<b>\$956,629</b>	<b>89%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Validated Mission	51,592	57,700	89%
Local/Other Mission	26,432	29,035	91%
Ministry of the Word	138,497	158,355	87%
Program/Support Staff	376,583	410,339	92%
Christian Education	33,772	32,100	105%
Music and Worship	20,378	25,547	80%
Evangelism/Care	6,533	9,200	71%
Property	74,545	100,319	74%
Stewardship/Finance	18,308	20,200	91%
Other Oper Expenses	36,555	44,500	82%
Debt Retirement	82,840	90,370	92%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$866,035</b>	<b>\$977,665</b>	<b>89%</b>

## Among Our People



**Boldface** indicates  
a member of  
First Presbyterian Church

**In the hospital last month: Sally Fortney, Michelle Dwyer, Kenneth Gibbons and David Martin.**

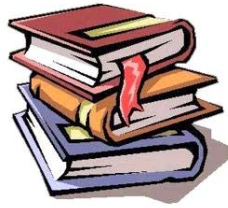
**Our sympathy to Sharon French** on the death of her mother, Gladys Biggs, November 23. Services were held in Kansas.

**Serving in the military:** Josh Benge, **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;** 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Paul Rayburn;** Lt Col. Margaret Sharpnack, **Phil & Cindy Sharpnack's** daughter; and Christian Winckel, grandson of Sandy Hayes.



First Presbyterian Church  
web page:

[www.fpcgeorgetown.org](http://www.fpcgeorgetown.org)



## Your church library

Elaine Eddings  
*Librarian*

Following a season of gift-giving, it is always nice to know there are gifts we can give that do not cost a thing! Time spent helping someone with his or her efforts to read is priceless...whether it is a young child or an older adult with sight problems. Everyone can find adventure and excitement in reading. As Jean Rhys once said, "Reading makes immigrants of us all. It takes us away from home, but more important, it finds homes for us everywhere."

When it comes to New Year's resolutions, the cliché is, of course, that everybody gives up after the first few weeks. But reading resolutions are awesome because they actually stick. Reading is fun, easy, cheap, accessible and rewarding.

Ready your glasses, if you need them, and your bookmarks. Let's make 2017 a year of fantastic reading. You can do it!

- ♦ Read more classics
- ♦ Finish a really long book
- ♦ Read more new releases
- ♦ Read more small/indie books (With much smaller staffs, indie presses are great opportunities for new voices and innovations to break into the literary scene.)
- ♦ Read one book a week
- ♦ Complete a reading challenge (Create a goal and log it into [goodreads.com](http://goodreads.com).)
- ♦ Dive into a new genre

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him and He will make your paths straight."

—Proverbs 3:5-6

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!  
2017**

## BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

- 26 Finn FitzGerald  
Carolyn Gregory  
Hope Smith
- 27 J.C. Johnson, Jr.  
Monica Koenig
- 28 Ollie Brabandt  
Mark Ferguson  
Theresa McKenna  
Haley Root
- 30 Cathy Leloux  
Ashley Riley
- 31 Ira Kirby  
Polly Nelon  
Michael Wenzel

## Flowers in Worship/ January

- 1 *Patrick & Amanda Tolbert*
- 8 *Bob & Christina Bondesen*
- 15 *This could be you!*
- 22 *This could be you!*
- 29 *Betty Smith*

*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, indicate whether you are willing to donate your arrangement after the service to be used in the Flower Ministry for re-gifting. Contact either Kathy Jones (512-863-3012) or Betty Smith (512-869-6925).*

## Head Deacon/ January

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

Joy Bedford  
Education Director  
jbedford2321@gmail.com

Office Hours:  
Tuesday - Friday  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.



**2016-17**

A year of "Learning  
to Be the Light"

Come be with us as  
we learn together to be  
the light in a world  
that so desperately needs  
light. Come to worship,  
come to Sunday School,  
join a weekly study, and  
bring your children to  
Sunday School, LOGOS  
and Youth Group.  
It's important.

**Sunday School  
for Children  
and Youth:  
9:40 - 10:40 a.m.**

Sunday School  
is offered for all ages  
every Sunday.  
Join us for a time  
of learning about  
who we are  
as God's people  
through the stories  
in the Bible.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### *Thank you!*

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generous gift at Christmas. Robert, Katy, Robby and I appreciate the support from such a generous and caring Church Family. Thank you for allowing me to continue to work for you!

—In Christ's love, Joy

### *Happy New Year!*

May this be a year of growing up in Christ for you and your family as you learn to be a light to the world!

### **Important Dates:**

■ **January 8, 9:40 - 10:40 a.m.**

**Sunday School begins the New Year**

■ **January 8, 12:00 noon - 2 p.m.**

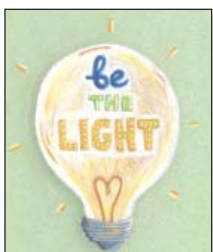
**LOGOS Jumpstart – Come one! Come all!**

This time is for **ALL LOGOS** parents and volunteers and those interested in becoming part of the LOGOS Family. This year the children will audition for the musical on LOGOS Sunday (February 26) so it is **very important** that all the children be here.

■ **January 11, 4:45 - 7:15, First LOGOS**

■ **February 12, 6:30 p.m., Biannual Education Banquet**

## LOGOS begins new semester January 11



We want to start the new year with a HUGE thank you to all of our amazing volunteers and parents who helped make 2016 a wonderful year at LOGOS!! What an amazing thing to see all the relationships formed at this church through the LOGOS program, and none of it would be possible without you!

The LOGOS spring semester will start back up on January 11. We will kick off 2017 with *Jumpstart on Sunday, January 8, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in Room 101*. This is a great time to reenergize and reconnect with our LOGOS family while we continue to "Learn to be the Light" through this amazing program. LOGOS kids will have **auditions** for LOGOS Sunday while we meet as well. This is a fun and important event for our families and hope that everyone can come! Please be on the lookout for an Evite in the coming weeks. If you have any questions about the program please contact me at [jcowanfpc@gmail.com](mailto:jcowanfpc@gmail.com).

—Jaime Cowan



4- and 5-year olds in Elaine Eddings' and Cherril Lemmink's Sunday School class learn about Advent.

### **And from the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School class. . .**

Those 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders are at it again, and this time the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders joined them! The full class present on November 27 memorized Isaiah 9:6 and recited it individually and corporately. Well done. Now, go and be the light!

Maddox Azuma-Hall, Micah Azuma-Hall, Charles Brainard, Sam Brainard, Dennie Decker, Johnny Decker, Mary Mac Decker, Alaina Guthrie, Allen Pratt &, Leila Ramsey

—Mrs. Sarah and Mrs. Demeree

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

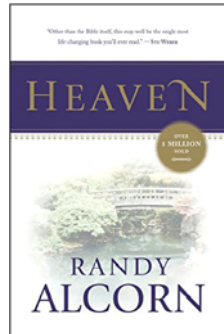
**Adult Elective**  
*To be announced*

**Surveyors**  
*"Heaven"*

**January 8 - February 19, Room 207**

**Phil Smith**

We all have questions about what Heaven will be like. This seven-session class will try to portray Heaven the way Scripture does—"a bright, vibrant and physical New Earth, free from sin, suffering and death, and brimming with Christ's presence, wondrous natural beauty and richness of human culture as God intended it." This study is based on scripture and Randy Alcorn's book titled *Heaven*.



**Crossroads**  
*"Wired Word"*

**Room 107**

**Amanda and Patrick Tolbert**

From Nobel Prize winners and government surveillance to rock and roll: No week is ever the same! The Crossroads

class uses stories in the headlines to make God's work in our lives more apparent. Each week brings a different discussion topic designed to confront the news with scripture and hope so that we may identify the intersection of faith in our daily lives. Whether you're at the crossroads of an expanding family, new career or just wondering what's next in God's plan for you, Crossroads is the place for you.

**Homebuilders**  
*"Reformation Roots"*  
**January 15, Room 112**

**Karen Jones**

Homebuilders will continue the DVD series, *Reformation Roots* by Select Learning, starting January 15.

Homebuilders is a discussion-oriented class for adults that covers topics in Christian living, scripture and church history. Formed to meet the needs of adults in the family-building stage of life, Homebuilders is open to all.



## 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 are studying 1 Corinthians, led by Sturdy Wanamaker.*

**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.*

## More Education Opportunities

**Ladies' Lunch Bible Study**

Bring a lunch and join us at noon on Wednesdays starting January 11 as we study Jessica LaGrone's *Broken and Blessed: How God Used One Imperfect Family to Change the World*. This is a six-week study tracing the story of the Genesis family from Adam and Eve through the generations to Joseph, bringing blessing from brokenness. We will see that, despite both good and bad traits that were passed down, God worked for good in every generation—determined to transform those within and outside the family bloodlines. The study ends with the story of Joseph, who decided to stop the cycle of previous generations, offering forgiveness and grace to his brothers.

Through these stories of Genesis, New Testament teaching about family, and sto-

ries of contemporary families changed and used by God, this study shows us how God can use our own imperfect families to bring blessing in a hurting and broken world.

**New Bible Study**

**From Beth Moore: *Entrusted—A Study of 2 Timothy***

Jeanne Smith and Joy Bedford will facilitate this six-session class on Thursdays beginning January 19. Beth will encourage you to guard what God has entrusted to you, further His kingdom by sharing Christ with others, and pour into future generations just as Paul once mentored Timothy. Because in this journey of joy and hardship, we need each other to stay the course and live lives of faithfulness.

Cost of the book is \$13.

◀ *For both the Ladies' Lunch Bible Study and the new Beth Moore Bible Study, call Joy (512-863-3381) and let her know you are coming so she will have enough books.*



## January Youth Calendar

- 8 - Youth Progressive Dinner
- 11 - Bible Study starts
- 15 - SNL & Parent Meeting
- 18 - Bible Study
- 20-22 - MidWinters
- 25 - Bible Study
- 29 - Souper Bowl I & SNL

## YOUTH MINISTRY

### *Ending the year on a positive note...*



Everyone wants to start a new year on a good note. It seems a helpful way to start the year off right is to finish the previous year on a positive note as well. We've certainly done that in Youth Ministry! The youth and some very generous members from our congregation raised over \$1,300 for our Christmas Angels (Williamson County foster children whom the youth went Christmas shopping for), and a few days after Christmas we delivered poinsettias to various church members who are ill or aren't able to attend church as often. It has all been a wonderful experience of how our youth are joyfully living out their faith by sharing what they have with others.

We look forward to many more opportunities to live out our faith in 2017. With events like MidWinters at Mo-Ranch in January and DNow in February, our youth are excited about worshiping God and serving His Kingdom. 2017 looks like it's going to be another full and faithful year in FPC Youth Ministry.

—God bless, David Lee Hulsey

## Shelby Brainard's Eagle Scout project rejuvenates church playgrounds

A new year brings an honor on January 16 for church member Shelby Brainard after successfully completing his Eagle Scout project in 2016. This past summer, Shelby, his team of scouts from Troop 155 and family members washed playground equipment, pulled weeds and raked pebbles to give the church's two playground areas a much needed facelift. He also built a bench for the Education Building playground. To earn the Eagle Scout rank, Shelby had to complete the project by his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, September 28, and he did. Shelby's parents are church members Keith Brainard and Katie Bradford.

On January 16, Shelby will be recognized as an Eagle Scout at Troop 155's Court of Honor. In December the East View High School senior appeared before a final Boy Scout Board of Review and proved he was ready to advance to the rank of Eagle Scout by answering questions. FPC Youth Director David Lee Hulsey was a member of that board.

"The playground bench is a welcome addition to our play area," Pastor Mike said. "We are grateful to Shelby for thinking of his church when he planned his Eagle Scout project."

Shelby's mother said, "I'm happy Shelby was able to complete his Eagle Scout project with a gift to our church. It was 16 years ago this past summer that I called Joy Bedford, looking for a children's program—a Mother's Day Out—for Shelby." Joy told her the church was starting Noah's Ark in fall 2000. "It was perfect timing. Noah's Ark was great for Shelby and for all of our boys," Katie added. "Now we have other church programs with children still enjoying the playground that Noah's Ark children used."



Shelby Brainard

## FELLOWSHIP

### Register for Tables of Eight in January to meet and get acquainted with other members

Tables of Eight has been part of our church fellowship for many years and is a great way to meet new friends. It enables members of our congregation to become acquainted with each other and to build unity and friendship within our church family. This fellowship consists of four meals a year in the homes of church members or in restaurants.

We encourage new and old members alike to take advantage of this great get-acquainted social time.

Registration forms will be available in the January Sunday bulletins. For questions or comments, contact Carol Siekmeier at 512-863-8601.



### PW Circle Meetings for January – Date, Time, Hostess and Place:

**Elizabeth:** TBA, 6:30pm  
Theresa McKenna  
512-930-3751  
3601 Brangus Road

**Esther:** 1/04, 1:30pm  
Dordi Duncan  
512-863-5348  
Church, Room 112

**Hannah:** 1/18, 11:00am  
Lenice Smithwick  
254-793-8039  
Church, Room 112

**Lydia:** 1/11, 1:00pm  
Olive Ozanus  
512-388-1812  
30104 Hamlet Circle

**Martha:** 1/18, 9:30am  
Mary Ann Fine  
512-863-7285  
328 Rio Grande Loop

**Rachel:** 1/18, 9:30am  
Virginia Reid  
512-868-5918  
108 Nueces Trail

**Ruth:** 1/09, 10:00am  
Gladys Brooking  
512-869-7302  
109 Estrella Crossing

**Sarah:** 1/16, 10:00am  
Sally Fortney  
512-863-6303  
1711 Shinnecock Hills Drive

## Men's Christian Fellowship to hear Rev. McQueen



*Rev. Malcolm McQueen*

Rev. Malcolm McQueen will speak at the Men's Christian Fellowship meeting on Monday, January 16, in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend. The meeting begins at 6 p.m. with general conversation and fellowship, followed by a dinner at 6:30 prepared by Mona Andersen and the guest speaker.

Rev. McQueen is an honorably retired member of Mission Presbytery and past chairman of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM). He will explain how the CPM manages the multi-year and multi-phase process through which those who feel a call to ordained ministry (pastor, chaplain, etc.) achieve their goal of ordination and call.

Reservations for dinner must be made no later than January 14 by contacting Marv Hulshizer at 512-818-2094 or [marv.mcf@suddenlink.net](mailto:marv.mcf@suddenlink.net). Cost of dinner is \$10 per person.

The congregation is cordially  
invited to the Gambell's

### Annual Open House



**January 1**

2:00 - 8:00 p.m.

381 Logan Ranch Road



*...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

## Mission Sewing

Thank you, Alison Harrison, for cleaning the donated stuffed animals. Thank you, Kathi Davenport, for designing our beautiful bulletin board.

We delivered 29 stuffed animals and blankets to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center.

Our next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Friday, January 13, in Room 111.



## Thank you!

Mission Sewing wishes to thank everyone who donated items for Su Casa de Esperanza during the holiday season. Your gifts of crochet-trimmed flannel blankets, fleece blankets, crocheted hats, layette items and children's books will be delivered by church members early next year.

Su Casa's mission is to improve the quality of children's lives through a faith-based family education program.



Presbyterian Children's  
Homes and Services

## MISSION

# TCP receives 4 Star rating as a charity

By the time you read this article it will be January 2017. Hope you are ready for that. I want to report that The Caring Place has been given a 4 Star rating by Charity Navigator for the third year in a row. "This is an exceptional designation from Charity Navigator and sets The Caring Place apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness," said Michael Thatcher, President and CEO of Charity Navigator, in a letter to The Caring Place. Have you ever wondered how much of the money you donate to charitable organizations actually helps the people they purport to help? I often do, I confess, but I have no worries about The Caring Place. All kinds of goods and money are used to

help those in need, so you can feel confident that your donations will be used for the purpose they were intended.

The month's requests for food and other items include: canned peaches and pineapple, fruit cocktail, cereal, laundry & dish washing detergent, shampoo, toothpaste and egg boxes.

Remember: If you are traveling and spending time in hotels, the little soaps and shampoos, etc., you find in your rooms are a great way to bring a little toiletry to our people in need.

Again, our thanks for all you can do.

—Jenny Carswell

## New locations increase PCHAS' ability to assist birth mothers and adoptive families across the state

Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) is expanding its adoption services to new locations in Texas including Austin, Dallas and Wichita Falls, areas it hasn't served in decades.

Until now, PCHAS' Houston office coordinated adoption services. The expansion coincides with the launch of an educational awareness campaign focused on birth mothers.

"We will continue to serve those in need as we increase awareness of PCHAS' adoption services," said PCHAS president Ed Knight. "We will pay special attention to birth mothers because we want those going through a very emotional time to know there is somewhere they can turn for support and guidance."

The expansion paves the way for the "Silent No More—#BirthMomStrong" campaign, which aims to give strength and voice back to birth mothers across the state by telling their stories and by educating the public on the adoption process.

PCHAS leads the charge to give strength and support to a birth mother's most difficult decision: placing her child with a loving family.

The agency encourages birth mothers to tell their story through support groups, speaking opportunities and online conversations.

"I am pleased that PCHAS is focusing on adoption services across the state," says Celeste Ross, associate vice president for PCHAS Adoption Services. "At a time when non-agency adoptions are on the rise and birth moms are left without rights or due legal process, it is critical that they know they have an agency they can trust."

By offering additional adoption services in other Texas cities, PCHAS will concentrate on a larger population of birth parents and adoptive families. The agency has hired additional, experienced adoption specialists and program directors to implement the expansion.

The adoption program offers services such as counseling, guidance, adoption, help with proper legal process and education of all of the options available to birth parents and their adoptive families.

For more information about the services PCHAS offers birth parents, go to [adoption.pchas.org/how-we-can-help](http://adoption.pchas.org/how-we-can-help).



## CARE MINISTRY

## Points from Parish Nurse Penny

Many, many thanks to all of you who contributed to the church staff Christmas gifts. This Christmas gift is a "continuation" of your kindness and generosity that is evident in all you do for me through the year. Those gifts during the year are words of encouragement and allowing me to be with you in moments of joy and moments of pain, as well as all of the prayers you send up for me and for my family. I am truly grateful.

—Blessings, Penny

### Seniors Living Smarter Seminars

You may have noticed that during 2016 I let you know about seminars held at the library that are especially designed for seniors on subjects such as, "Are you prepared for aging in place?" and "Are you receiving all the benefits you deserve?" These are free and informative sessions that occur monthly on timely topics. In 2017, these seminars will continue, but the location has changed from the library to First Presbyterian Church!

The January seminar is "Maintaining Your Independence & Making the Right Move," which will give information on your options for independent living facilities in and around Georgetown. This powerful 90-minute session is Thursday, January 19, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. in Conference Room 101.

Hear what representatives from the area's foremost independent living communities have to say. This is not a sales presentation but an opportunity for attendees to gather information about independent living.

### Does Someone You Know Have Dementia?

My father died in 1999 of Alzheimer's disease, which is just one of several diseases that results in dementia. It was heartbreaking for me when I tried to interact with him. He was an old Illinois farmer and wasn't ever still a moment in his life. In his last years at the facility he stayed at (for safety sake), he was happiest when he was "painting a wall" —the facility he was

in gave him a bucket (of water instead of paint) and paintbrush to use.



Do you feel sad or frustrated in your relationship with someone who has dementia? There is a free seminar, "Meaningful Activities for Persons with Dementia," on Saturday, January 21, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon at 3710 Cedar St., Austin, sponsored by AGE of Central Texas. Nancy Turco, Executive Director of Arden Courts Memory Care in Austin, will discuss activities that caregivers and care recipients can do together, with an emphasis on stimulating activities for persons with dementia. Registration is free, but space is limited. Call 512-451-4611 or 512-600-9275.

A limited amount of free respite care for older family members will also be available during the seminar through AGE's Austin Adult Day Health Center, by RSVP only. To RSVP, request the service by online registration or call Gailyn Trammell at 512-600-9275 no later than January 18.



Elizabeth Bailey reports that this year we collected, boxed and shipped a total of **1,927 shoeboxes** for Operation Christmas Child. Of those, **113** were donated by FPC members.

**Just One Request**

Dear Master for this  
coming year  
Just one request I  
bring:  
I do not pray for  
happiness,  
Or any earthly thing—  
I do not ask to  
understand  
The way Thou leadest  
me,  
But this I ask: Teach  
me to do  
The thing that pleaseth  
Thee.

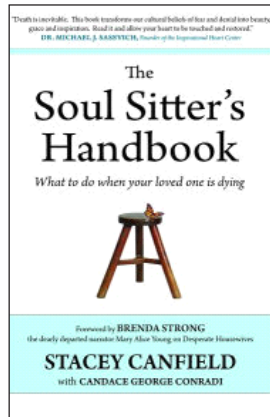
I want to know Thy  
guiding voice,  
To walk with Thee  
each day.

Dear Master make me  
swift to hear  
And ready to obey.  
And thus the year I  
now begin  
A happy year will be—  
If I am seeking just to  
do  
The thing that pleaseth  
Thee.

—Unknown Author

**Join the Stephen Ministers for a book review**

**Monday**  
**January 16**  
**7 p.m.**  
**Room 101**



Those dealing with hospice, death and dying are invited to join our Stephen Ministers on Monday, January 16, at 7 p.m. in Room 101 as we review *The Soul Sitter's Handbook: What to do when your loved one is dying*.

Our Stephen Ministry leaders considered this book as we looked at our role of sharing grief journeys and discussed the number of memorial or funeral services Pastor Mike held in our church this past year: 15. The authors of the book, Stacey Canfield and Candace Conrad, offer "purposeful and simple methodologies for anyone facing the death of a loved one. Because our relationship with and love for each person tends to be different, it is safe to say that the experience of death is unique in each instance." The authors guide you "each step of the way and provide you with simple yet effective ways to support your loved one, even in your own sorrow." The book "focuses on sensible issues such as when to call in Hospice and how to be a patient's advocate" while also reaching into the heart. It offers solutions and protocols that give the dying person the dignity we all deserve in the last moments of life.

*"When fear and uncertainty lie ahead, hope and strength are born in the love and support we receive from others who journey with us through life."*

—Craig Borehardt, PhD/CEO, Hospice Brazos Valley

Melissa Pilcher will lead this review, having made the hospice journey with her mom and remembering the care she, her sister and her mom received the last six months of her mom's life.

**Recipe for a Happy New Year**

Take 12 fine, full-grown months; see that they are thoroughly free from old memories of bitterness, rancor and hate, cleanse them completely from every clinging spite.

Pick off all specks of pettiness and littleness; in short, see that these months are freed from all the past—have them fresh and clean as when they first came from the great storehouse of Time.

Cut these months into 30 or 31 equal parts. Do not attempt to make up the whole batch at one time (so many persons spoil the entire lot this way) but prepare one day at a time.

Into each day put equal parts of faith, patience, courage, work (some people omit this ingredient and so spoil the flavor of the rest), hope, fidelity, liberality, kindness, rest (leaving this out is like leaving the oil out of the salad dressing—don't do it), prayer, meditation and one well-selected resolution.

Put in about one teaspoonful of good spirits, a dash of fun, a pinch of folly, a sprinkling of play, and a heaping cupful of good humor.

—Anonymous

**FIRSTWORD**

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First Presbyterian Church  
Dr. Michael Roberts, *Pastor*  
703 S. Church Street  
Georgetown, TX 78626

Phone: 512-863-3381

Fax: 512-868-1226

E-mail:

fpcgeorgetownchurchoffice@gmail.com

Website:

www.fpcgeorgetown.org

## SERVING YOU IN OUR CHURCH IN 2017

### Church Officers

#### The Session\*

Administrative  
Education & Nurture  
Mission  
Property  
Stewardship & Finance  
Worship

*\*Meets 4th Tuesday of the month*

#### Class of 2017

Becky Kennedy  
Adrienne Brandt  
Bill McKenna  
Morris Fisher  
Cliff Snyder  
Amy Pratt

#### Class of 2018

Jerry Hammerlun  
Bridget Chapman  
Rick Galloway  
Jeff Willett  
Charles Shirley  
Susan Isenhour

#### Class of 2019

Gary Nelon  
Demeree Jackson  
Phil Smith  
Kevin McCown  
Tim Smith  
Judy Thomson

#### The Board of Deacons\*

Evangelism  
Fellowship  
Service  
Ushers & Greeters

*\*Meets 3rd Tuesday of the month*

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Barbara Caudle  
Janice Wallace

Kathy Kerr Kubatzky  
Mona Andersen  
Susan Bell  
Sid Frost

Ann Hindman  
Lea Ann Hutton  
Suzy Taylor  
Cathy Shirley

#### The Trustees

Susan Poteete

Jerry Fine

Bill Stanley

### Church Staff

Dr. Michael A. Roberts, Pastor  
marfpcgt@aol.com

Penny Leone, Parish Nurse  
pnurse5@aol.com

Jenny Carswell, Pastoral Care Assistant  
jdcars125@gmail.com

Christina Bondesen, Administrative Assistant/Pastor  
cbondesen@fpcgeorgetown.org

Jerri Jones, Financial Secretary  
fpcfiance@gmail.com

Joy Bedford, Education Director  
jbedford2321@gmail.com

David Lee Hulsey, Youth Ministry Director  
dhulsey63@gmail.com

Sarah Hulsey, Youth Ministry Director/  
Communications Assistant  
sarah.a.hulsey@gmail.com

Jaime Cowan, Education Program Assistant  
jcowanfpc@gmail.com

Suzanne Gumpl, Child Care Coordinator  
gumpls@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Bailey, Membership Director  
elizabethbailey17@yahoo.com

Philip Smith, Music Director  
philip.fpcg@me.com

Amy Pratt, Children's Choir Director  
agcpratt@live.com

Monica Koenig, Organist/Pianist  
monica.koenig@yahoo.com

Sandy Hayes, Assistant Organist/Pianist  
hayesend@gmail.com

Kathi Davenport, Custodian  
kathi.dav@aol.com

# JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>1</b> David Lee Hulsey Preaching Joy Bedford on vacation thru 1/7 11:00am Worship-WCFH	<b>2</b> Church Office Closed	<b>3</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 4:00pm Administrative Comm 7:00pm LOGOS Board Meeting	<b>4</b> 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>5</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning	<b>6</b> 11:00am PW Bible Study	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> Communion Ordination/Installation of Officers Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-WCFH 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm LOGOS Jump Start 5:00pm Youth Progressive Dinner	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Planning Meeting 6:45pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Committee Meetings	<b>11</b> 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group 4:45pm LOGOS 5:45pm Youth Dinner 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>12</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 9:00am P.E.O. Meeting	<b>13</b> 10:00am Mission Sewing 6:00pm Leader Retreat	<b>14</b> 9:00am Leader Retreat
<b>15</b> Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 4:30pm Youth Parent Meeting 4:30pm Youth SNL	<b>16</b> 6:00pm Men's Christian Fellowship 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Book Review	<b>17</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 11:45am Stephen Leader Meeting 4:30pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	<b>18</b> 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 Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>19</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:00am Senior Seminar 6:30pm Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>20</b> 5:00pm Youth to MidWinters	<b>21</b> Youth @ MidWinters
<b>22</b> Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	<b>25</b> 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Spiritual Growth Group 4:45pm LOGOS 5:45pm Youth Dinner 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>26</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:30pm Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>27</b> Joy Bedford out of office thru 1/29 11:00am PW Bible Study	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> Stephen Minister Commissioning Souper Bowl Sunday I Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 4:30pm Youth SNL 5:30pm Congregational Meeting/Dinner	<b>30</b> Dr. Michael Roberts on study leave thru 2/5	<b>31</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:30pm Beth Moore Bible Study 7:00pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>