

HAPPY NEW YEAR
2018

FIRSTWORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
GEORGETOWN, TEXAS
ROOTED. REFORMED. RELEVANT.



January 2018

Inside

- 2 January Celebrations
Shirley Nash Party
- 3 New Organist and
Pianist
Flowers in Worship
Head Deacon
- 4 Church Library
- 5 Gambell's Open House
Financial Report
- 10 Update on Church
Practices
- 12 January Calendar

Christian Education

- 4 Saying Goodbye to
Suzanne Gumpf
LOGOS
- 5 Adult Sunday School
Other Educational
Opportunities

Youth Ministry

- 6 DL's Column

Mission

- 7 The Caring Place
Hospice Austin
Mission Sewing
- 9 Friends in Deed
- 11 Mission Yearbook

Fellowship

- 8 Presbyterian Women
Men's Fellowship
Dinner

Compassionate Care

- 3 Among Our People
- 9 Points from Parish
Nurse Penny



Pastor Mike cuts the ribbon to the newly remodeled entrance to the Worship Center-Fellowship Hall on November 19. Babs Cape was chair of the entrance task force appointed in August 2016 to oversee the remodeling project. Serving with her were Mike Carson, Jerry Fine, Jerry Hammerlun, Becky Kennedy, Sam Matthews, Amy Pratt, Karen Rayburn and Jeff Willett.

Congregational dinner, meeting set for Jan. 28

The Session has called the annual congregational meeting for 6:30 p.m. Sunday, January 28, in the Fellowship Hall. A quorum for this meeting is 58 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 2017
- ♦ Overview of Budget for 2018
- ♦ Review of Mission Involvement
- ♦ Report of the Trustees

JANUARY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

Dr. Michael A. Roberts, preaching

January 7: "Developing Leaders"

Ordination & Installation of New Officers

Scripture: Exodus 18:13-27,

Ephesians 4:11-16

January 14: "Jesus the Teacher"

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Mark 1:21-28

January 21: "Nothing Like This Before"

Scripture: Mark 2:1-12

January 28: "Fresh Wineskins"

Scripture: Mark 2:13-22



Shirley Nash invites you to celebrate her birthday on Sunday, January 21, at the church and support a missionary couple in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in Africa!

See page 2 for more details about the party and see page 11 for info from the Mission Handbook.





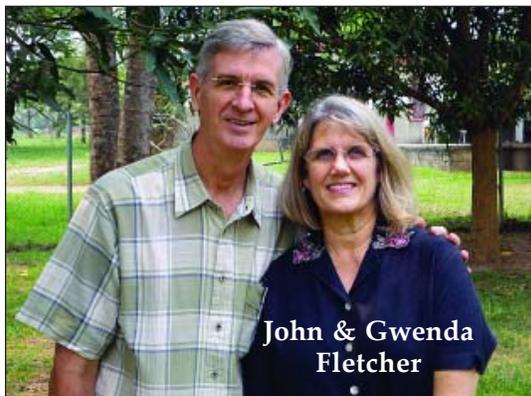
ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Jake & Pam Hines
- 3 Jesse & Nadia Mahannah
Timothy & Anna Roberts
Joe & Sherralyn St. Clair
- 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
- 27 Steven & Emily Kirkpatrick
- 28 Jay & Bonnie McNemar
- 31 Jack & Juanita Kirby

BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Hooper Lee
- 2 Donna Kirby
- 3 Michelle Dwyer
Connor McClure
- 4 Courtney Mahannah
- 6 Gary Cox
Hubert Syler
- 7 Geneva Berg
- 8 Beverly Jones
- 9 Daryll Gremillion
Jim Hindman
Tracie Rayburn
Bill Stump
- 10 Bob Jones
- 11 Linda Schellenberg
Kathleen Wenzel
- 12 Michaela Lang
- 13 Cathy Rice
- 14 Erick Stenborg
- 15 Joyce Hinds
- 16 Ainsley Mihacsi
- 17 Micah Azuma-Hall
Scarlett Gibson
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

(continued on next page)



John & Gwenda
Fletcher

Shirley invites you to her birthday party

Sixty-five years ago, in January 1953, FPC member Shirley Nash set out for Africa to serve God as a missionary of the Presbyterian Church. "I was young, 25 years old; short, 5 foot, 2 inches tall; and a woman, heading off on the greatest adventure of my life."

After a year of training in Belgium, Shirley landed in the Kasai Province of what was then the Belgian Congo, now known as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. "Mama Mushia," as she was affectionately called, became head of the elementary school at Kasha Station, teaching the three R's (Reading, wRiting and aRithmetic) to hundreds of children, men and women, also helping them come to know Christ.

That was a long time ago, and Shirley said her "life"—which in Congolese is "muoyo" (pronounced like "boy-oh" but with an "m")—has changed. She now has white hair and will celebrate her 90th birthday this month, January 20. She plans to celebrate her birthday at a party in the church on Sunday, January 21, dedicating it to a Presbyterian missionary couple, Dr. John and Gwenda Fletcher, now serving in the Kasai Province. Shirley invites the entire church congregation to celebrate with her and, instead of cards and gifts, to donate to the Fletchers' work in the Congo.

"My heart is still in the Congo and always will be," Shirley said, "but now John, a medical doctor, and Gwenda, a teacher, represent us there. They are helping light up the Dark Continent through medicine and education, but most of all through God's word." In the mid-20th century,



when Shirley posted to Africa, it was called *the Dark Continent* because knowledge of its interior had been very limited.

In addition to his doctor duties in the hospitals and teaching medical personnel, John oversees the hydroelectric power facilities, and renovations to them, at two of the mission stations. Gwenda trains teachers in more than 700 elementary and secondary schools.

Shirley said, "We can support the Fletchers by praying for them and the Congolese people who are struggling to live as Christians in a country still torn by civil war. We can also give financially to keep them there and support their work with hospitals, schools and power plants."

The church's mission budget for the Fletchers is \$2,500, which Shirley said funds one week of the Fletchers' work. She hopes to double that amount and raise another \$2,500 through her birthday celebration.

You are invited to Shirley's 90th birthday party after church on Sunday, January 21. It will be held in the back of the Fellowship Hall following the 11 o'clock service. There will be chocolate cake with 90 candles and vanilla ice cream. Shirley requests no cards or presents but that people instead give the money to support the Fletchers.

"A child could consider giving 90 cents, one penny for each of my years, and perhaps an adult could give a dime, a quarter, a dollar or more for each of my years!" she said with a smile.

To donate, you are asked to make checks payable to First Presbyterian Church, and note "The Fletchers" on the "For" line.

"Come celebrate with me," Shirley invited, "on January 21—90 years plus one day of a wonderful life (muoyo)."

Among Our People



Boldface indicates
a member of First
Presbyterian Church

In the hospital last month: Mike Carson (surgery), Sally Fortney, Anne Gowdy (surgery), Pat Hilgeman, Luke Miller (surgery), Debbie Pilcher (surgery), Phil Smith (surgery), Herb Wilkins and Jeff Willett (surgery).

Thank you: "Dear friends, we thank God for the miracles of modern medicine and His loving, guiding oversight of the professionals who facilitated Jeff's recent kidney transplant. And, how blessed we are to be a part of the caring, Christian community of First Presbyterian Church. The experience has been somewhat overwhelming, and you have touched our hearts and lifted our spirits with your thoughts, prayers, cards and genuine concern. For the faithful leadership, care team and membership we are a part of, we thank you with hearts full of gratitude.

—Jeff & Judy Willett

Congratulations to Keith & Sue Renard on the births of their triplet great-grandchildren, Blair, Blake and Barrett, born December 10 in Durango, Colorado, to Julie & Ryan Sadler.

In memoriam:

♦ **Laura Butler** joined the Church Triumphant November 18. Services officiated by Dr. Michael Roberts were held November 25. Laura had been a member since October 2012.

♦ **Catherine Glenn** joined the Church Triumphant December 8. Private services were held in December. Catherine had been a member since June 2000.

♦ **Anita Lemmink** joined the Church Triumphant December 9. Pastor Mike officiated at services on December 19. She had been a member since January 1996.

Our sympathy to:

♦ **Rick & Shirley Galloway** on the death of Rick's brother, Jimmy, November 21. Services were held November 25 in Mississippi.

♦ **Tim & Kathy Kerr Kubatzky** on the death of Kathy's aunt, Sondra Kerr Currie, November 27. Services were held December 1 in Amarillo.

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. Joeff Bartholomay, **Helen Douglass'** grandson; 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;** Lt. Ian Hines, grandson of **Dr. Jake Hines;** Brandon Keith, **Phil & Jeanne Smith's** son-in-law; **Nicolaas Leloux;** Tech. Sgt. Robert McClanahan, grandson of **Minta McIntosh** and nephew of **Lee McIntosh;** **Sgt. 1st Class Paul Rayburn;** and Nicholas Stamos, **Larry & Helen Burk's** grandson.

New organist and pianist to join staff January 1

Both the organist and pianist positions at FPC have been filled, according to Philip Smith, Music Director.

Beginning January 1, Chad Hansen will be organist, and Marianna Underwood will be pianist. "We are excited to welcome Chad and Marianna to the staff, and we will introduce them a little bit more in the coming weeks," Philip said.

Monica Koenig's last day as Organist/Pianist will be December 31. "Please join us in thanking her again for all that she has done, for her years of service and commitment to this church and its Music Ministry, and for her flexibility during this time of transition," Philip said. "We will miss her as our Organist/Pianist, but we are happy that she and her family will still be around as members of FPC."



First Presbyterian
Church web page:
www.fpcgeorgetown.org

BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

22	Nadine Tanner
25	Misty Walden Paige Weisbrod
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 Nelson Michael Wenzel

Flowers in Worship/ January

7	<i>This could be you!</i>
14	Jeff & Amy Pratt
21	<i>This could be you!</i>
28	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, remember to indicate whether you will 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	Suzy Taylor Mona Andersen
11:00	Mona Andersen Suzy Taylor

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Joy Bedford

Education Director

jbedford2321@gmail.com

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

Created by God! Built for a purpose!

Come join us as we seek to discover God's purpose for our lives through a variety of educational opportunities. If you're having trouble finding a place where you fit, contact Joy at 512-863-3381 or jbedford2321@gmail.com and together we will find a place for you.

Sunday School for Children & Youth:

9:40 - 10:40 a.m.

Sunday School is offered for all ages every Sunday.

Join us for a time of learning about our purpose as God's people through the stories in the Bible.

Saying goodbye to Suzanne Gumpl, who is retiring

It's hard to find the words to put in this letter—hard to find a way to say goodbye to someone you have worked beside for 17 years. Suzanne Gumpl is retiring after serving our church for 18½ years. She has been responsible for our nursery, toddler care, Sonshine Kids and Children's Church during this time. She has helped in the hiring of childcare workers. She has trained them. She has found curriculum to teach the stories of the Bible. She has taught infants through 3rd graders who

Jesus is and what it means to know him. She has cared for parents and staff, offering wisdom for all of us. She has done this while working a full-time job with Round Rock Independent School District and caring for her own grandchildren. Suzanne has done all of this with joy in her heart and praise on her lips. Well done, Mrs. Suzanne, well done. I (we) will miss her so very much. Please join us in celebrating Suzanne on Sunday, January 7, at 10:30 a.m. in Room 101. —*In Christ's Love, Joy*



FPC Children's Library to have a new home

Look for some changes coming to the church library. We are expanding! Soon we will have a library area dedicated to our younger readers. The Easy and Junior books will now be found in a cozy nook under the stairs in the hallway, across from the library. Youth and Adult books will remain in the library room. The best news: We will have plenty of room to grow our collection in every genre! Come check it out!

—*Monica Koenig, Librarian*

LOGOS starts a new year on January 10

We want to start the new year with a HUGE thank you to all of our amazing volunteers and parents who helped make 2017 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!

LOGOS' spring semester will start Wednesday, January 10. We will have a parent meeting that same night at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall to go over our calendar and any new information for the spring semester. We kindly request that at least one parent or representative from each family attend.

If you have any questions, contact me at jcowanfpc@gmail.com.

LOGOS themes for January,
by newsletter deadline:



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

Adult Elective

"Thinking Wisely before You Speak...or E-mail...or Text"

January 7 - 28

Penny Leone, Sanctuary

We all would like to be better communicators because that makes for better relationships. For four Sundays in January, Penny's class will focus on communicating in ways that help us know how to "self-audit" texts, "proof" e-mails, and "keep the foot out of the mouth a bit less." Goal of the class: learning to speak/write/text communication that is true, kind, necessary and clear and why that is so very hard to do.

Surveyors

"The Problem of Pain"

January 7 - February 11

Gary Nelson, Room 207

Surveyors class will begin a six week series led by Gary, using C.S. Lewis's book *The Problem of Pain*. It is well regarded as a Christian classic that deals with pain and a broad array of faith issues.

Homebuilders

"The Four Tendencies"

January 7 - February 4

Karen Jones, Room 112

Homebuilders will begin a study of *The Four Tendencies* by Gretchen Ruben. Are you an Upholder, Questioner, Obliger or Rebel? And how does that relate to your faith and your role in the church? Homebuilders is a discussion-oriented class for adults that covers topics in Christian living, scripture and church history.

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 from 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.

Other Educational Opportunities

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 Hulse (512-863-3381, dhulse63@gmail.com) or Cliff Snyder (512-468-2877, c_rsnnyder@yahoo.com). Time and place will be e-mailed to you.

Men's Lunch Bible Study

Meets at 12 noon each Wednesday in Room 107 to study scripture and eat lunch together. The men are studying 2nd Corinthians, led by Rod Burke.

Ladies Lunch Bible Study

Meets each Wednesday at noon in Room 207 for a "brown bag" lunch and Bible study. On January 10, the group will begin Answering God: The Psalms as Tools for Prayer by Eugene Peterson. The author speaks to Christians who realize the necessity for prayer and yearn for it but who find their prayer unconvincing and unsatisfying. Addressing the causes of this dissatisfaction, the author offers guidelines for using the Psalms as dynamic tools for prayer. Call Joy (512-863-3381) if you would like a book.



Everyone is cordially invited to the Gambell Family's

**New Year's Day
Open House**

Monday, January 1

2:00 - 8:00 p.m.

381 Logan Ranch Road

Income and Expense Report

Year to Date - November 2017

General Operating Fund

	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
Income			
Pledges	\$808,129	\$862,463	94%
Other	81,744	112,264	73%
TOTAL	\$889,873	\$974,727	91%
Expenses			
Validated Mission	56,812	59,100	96%
Local/Other Mission	23,944	30,600	78%
Ministry of the Word	140,932	159,581	88%
Program/Support Staff	384,953	421,444	91%
Christian Education	30,528	34,900	87%
Music and Worship	14,186	20,914	68%
Evangelism/Care	7,557	10,360	73%
Property	74,269	90,245	82%
Stewardship/Finance	17,931	21,600	83%
Other Oper Expenses	29,607	43,300	68%
Debt Retirement	82,840	90,370	92%
TOTAL	\$863,559	\$982,414	88%

Youth January Calendar

Parent Meeting TBD for January

7

Youth Progressive Dinner

10

Helping Hands & Bible Study

19 - 21

Mid-Winters @MoRanch

28

Super Bowl I

YOUTH MINISTRY

Beginning the new year with a prayer

I begin 2018 in prayer for our Youth Ministry at FPC. Would you please pray with me?

Lord, I pray that the youth of this church would glorify You, in word and action, at church and in their schools, with friends, family and strangers.

I pray for the Youth Ministry program at our church. May it be a place where Your Word is read, thought over, discussed, questioned and embedded in our hearts.

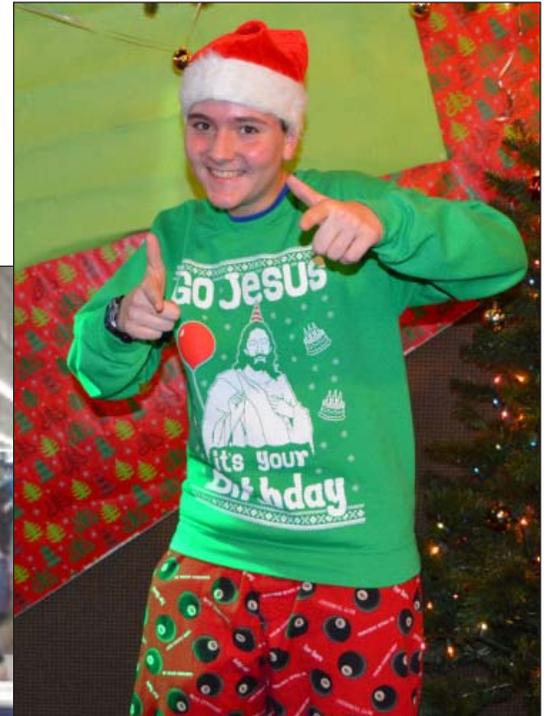
I pray for the opportunities to serve others, and in doing so, serve You. Press these moments of humbleness into our minds so that we may not think too much of the things we have, but of what God has given us that we might share with others.

I pray for our trips. Whether they serve the purpose of mission or retreat, shape these experiences into lifelong milestones of faith where we grew closer to God and closer to the image of Christ.

We give you thanks, Heavenly Father, for the mysterious ways that You interact with our youth and ourselves. As You walk alongside us through the struggles of teenagers, the laughter of misadventures, and the conversations that cause us to go deeper in our faith, we ask You to raise our expectation and ability to see Your hand in all we do and in all You are calling us to be. Amen. God bless.

—David Lee Hulsey

Below, Christmas Angel shoppers Hope Smith, Leanna Perkins and Annabel McClure check out with their purchases.



Above, Nolan Pratt shows off his sweater at the youth's Tacky Sweater night.

FIRSTWORD

published monthly by

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

MISSION

Nonprofit has innovative care programs

The month of January mission spotlight is on Hospice Austin. Check out the mission bulletin board in the hall off of the Fellowship Hall lobby for details. Gary Nelson and I have served on the board for a total of 18 years and we are both very impressed with the operation. Below is a pre-holiday message from Marjorie Mulanax, Chief Executive Officer for the agency.



"I often encounter people who assume that all hospices are nonprofit and interconnected, like various chapters of the Red Cross. In fact, most hospices in Central Texas are for-profit, with profits going to investors. I am proud of our independent, nonprofit sta-

tus. It not only allows us to care for anyone who needs us regardless of their financial situation (and that's huge), but it allows us to reinvest in programs that benefit patients and families. Our innovative care includes Hospice Austin's Christopher House, specialized pediatric care, Camp Braveheart and other grief support programs as well as our outpatient palliative care clinic for cancer patients. Hospice Austin is owned by you, the community, and we couldn't fulfill our mission without your support. As we head into the holiday season, please know how grateful we are. Thanks to you, everyone gets a piece of the pie."

—Jenny Carswell

Update on ways you can help at TCP

By the time you read this Christmas will be over and life will hopefully be settling down to a more even pace. It is amazing how much work we give ourselves, when the birth of Jesus is the reason for the season. I wonder how he would feel about all the mad rushing about that we bring on ourselves. Not to worry: There are many good things happening at Christmas, too, that do not happen the rest of the year.

A little update on some previously mentioned subjects: Did you remember that every \$1 you give buys 3.5 pounds of food from the food bank for the pantry?

Did you also remember: If you add just \$1 to your utility bill, that money will go to the Good Neighbor Fund, which helps pay for utilities of those in need? Those are two items that are so easy you will never notice how much you are helping. Try it sometime.

Did you know that when you shop at the E-Bay store or Amazon Smile, a donation will go to The Caring Place? I am not very computer-literate so there may be more to that than I am saying, but give it a try.



For more shopping, try the Shops at The Caring Place, 2000 Railroad Avenue, or Second Helping at 3700 Williams Drive, next to The Oaks. Both of these are worth a visit and you may find something you can't live without!

There is an urgent need for volunteers at The Caring Place, where you'll meet some of the best people in Georgetown. Please call Rita at 512-943-0702 and volunteer your time. There are many different jobs and times available.

Once again, thank you for all you do. I wish you a happy and healthy 2018.

—Jenny Carswell

Mission Sewing

Thank you to:

- ♦ Judy Willett, for the fleece blankets. They were delivered to the Christ Child Society along with knitted baby hats and blankets.
- ♦ Peggy Currie, for taking our stuffed pillows to St. David's Hospital.
- ♦ Alison Harrison and Barbara Caudle for the stuffed animals with blankets and books. They were delivered to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center.
- ♦ Lenice Smithwick, for sewing more than 20 pillows for the CUPS ministry.

Our next meeting is at 10 a.m. Friday, January 12, in Room 111. —Kathy Jones

Needs for this month in TCP food pantry:

- ♦ Canned soups and peas
- ♦ Baking mixes
- ♦ Chili and stew
- ♦ Canned pastas
- ♦ Ketchup
- ♦ Cereals
- ♦ Juices

Recipe for a Happy New Year

Take 12 whole months.
Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible.

Cut each month into 28, 30 or 31 different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare one day at a time with these ingredients:

Mix well into each day one part each of faith, patience, courage and work.

Also add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity and kindness.

Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play and a cupful of good humor.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile and serve with quietness, unselfishness and cheerfulness. You're bound to have a Happy New Year.

— Author Unknown



FELLOWSHIP



Veterans Court coordinator to speak at men's meeting

Attorney Joseph Marcee, Williamson County Veteran's Court Coordinator, will speak at the Men's Fellowship Dinner meeting at 6 p.m. Monday, January 15, in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend. The meeting begins with general conversation and fellowship, followed by a catered meal at 6:30.

Joe has served in the U.S. Army as a Judge Advocate General (JAG) officer. He will explain how he currently works with military veterans to help them through the court system so they can be rehabilitated rather than serve jail time.

Contact Marv Hulshizer at 512-818-2094 or marv.mcf@suddenlink.net to make your meal reservation. Cost of dinner is \$10 per person.

PW adopt three families for Christmas

Christmas gifts and food for three families were delivered to Hope Alliance Crisis Center in Williamson County by members of the Presbyterian Women's board on December 18. In addition to providing a variety of gifts for three mothers and their children, circle members donated money for use by Hope Alliance in the new year.

We delivered a bicycle, several skate boards, helmets, a doll house, an easy bake oven, science kits, jewelry, art sets, cookware, gift cards, clothing and more to make a Merry Christmas for our three adopted families. Food baskets included all the traditional fixings for a holiday meal, and a gift card to buy a main dish or meat.

Hope Alliance provides services to survivors of family and sexual violence, giving victims a safe haven where they can heal and a place where they can access resources and support as they start on a new, violence-free life.

Celeste and I want to thank all of our circles and circle leaders for the tremendous effort they made to shop for the gifts and food. We also thank members for donating money (above and beyond the gifts) to help Hope Alliance continue its programs in the new year. Our circle members lovingly planned and prepared everything for our three families. It is truly a joy to work with you all! —Judy Bond

January Circle Meetings

Circle	Date	Time	Hostess	Phone	Address
Elizabeth	1/2	6:30 p.m.	Theresa McKenna	512-930-3751	3601 Brangus Road
Esther	1/10	2:00 p.m.	Nadine Tanner	512-240-5005	Room 107, FPC
Hannah	1/17	11:00 a.m.	Marty Curtis	501-517-3503	Room 112, FPC
Lydia	1/11	1:00 p.m.	TBA	512-843-4288	TBA
Martha	1/17	9:30 a.m.	Terri Borocz	512-869-1715	307 Cassidy Drive
Rachel	1/17	9:30 a.m.	Celeste Frost	706-495-1812	153 Cattle Trail Way
Ruth	1/8	10:30 a.m.	Janice Wallace	512-863-0182	143 Melissa Court
Sarah	1/15	10:00 a.m.	Mary Martha Denham	512-869-0771	609 Spring Valley Road

COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY

Points from Parish Nurse Penny

It's a new year and many folks will make the resolution to eat healthier. Below are some foods that "sound healthy" but might sabotage your good intentions. **READ LABELS CAREFULLY.** Note the calories per serving. Some individually packaged foods have more than 1 serving, which makes that individual package very costly, calorie-wise, if you aren't paying attention to portion control. Also, stay away from white wheat flour and white sugar; they are addictive and your body will demand MORE!

♦ Ground Turkey. It is widely regarded as a healthy swap for ground beef in dishes but be sure to read your meat labels closely and opt for variations that are at least 93% lean and about a ½ gram of fat. Saturated fat is needed in our diets but not more than 16 grams a day.

♦ Sushi. Healthy seafood is harmless and good for you, right? Yes, but some of the extra ingredients in the sauces can add up fast with fat, sodium, sugar and calories. Switch the white rice for brown rice and NO deep fried rolls!

♦ Couscous. This can be found on the same grocery shelf as quinoa but it doesn't have the same health punch. It is actually a type of refined white pasta, not an ancient grain. Leave the couscous on the shelf and grab quinoa or freekeh.

♦ Nut Butters. Many nut butters can contain not-so-good-for-you ingredients like palm oil, vegetable oil and added sugar, which means extra calories. Again, read the ingredient list on the jar. Don't buy it if it has much more than two or three ingredients total. Nuts have good fats so don't fall for the fat-free variations. Spreads that remove fat are probably compensating for flavor with lots of added sugar.

♦ Green Drinks. If it is green it has to be good for you, right? The problem is portion size. It is so easy to go for the larger size and that means more calories—sometimes as many as a cheeseburger! Make your own smoothies at home and keep them simple; use water or low-fat dairy,

fresh fruits and vegetables. You will avoid added sugar and syrups often hidden in purchased ones.

♦ Granola and Breakfast Bars. This is my number one pet peeve on "health foods." No commercial filmed in the great outdoors telling you how healthy you will be by eating a particular bar can make up for the fact that MOST are filled with processed sugars and flours. Read the label; the bar should have a balance of protein (5 grams at least) and carbohydrates, with at least 4 grams of those carbs being fiber. Fats should be low (around 5 grams) with NO trans fats. This *balance* of the protein, fiber, carbs and fats will leave you satisfied and not craving another bar!

Senior Seminar

"What's What in Senior Living"

On Thursday, January 18, from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary, we will sort through the differences between independent living, assisted living, memory care and continuing care retirement communities. The monthly Senior Seminars in 2018 will cover many interesting and helpful subjects, meeting on the third Thursday morning of the month. See you there!

Friends in Deed



An FPC mission project
helping members with routine
home maintenance

Call the Church Office to schedule
a visit from one of FPC's

Penny Leone, RN
Parish Nurse
pnurse5@aol.com

Office Hours:
All day Tuesday

Other hours
by appointment

Thank you!

I'm so grateful for all of you and I want to say thank you for the very nice Christmas gift. It touches my heart that you care so much! Blessings to you.

—Penny



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

Humor

Visiting his grandparents, a small boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out. He picked it up and found that it was an old leaf that had been pressed flat between the pages. "Mama, look what I found," he called out.

"What have you got there, dear?" his mother asked.

With astonishment in his voice, the boy answered, "I think it's Adam's underwear!"

The Sunday School teacher was telling the class that when Lot's wife looked back at Sodom, she turned into a pillar of salt. Bobby interrupted and said, "My mommy looked back once while she was driving," he announced, "and she turned into a telephone pole."

Lot again: A father was reading Bible stories to his young son. He read, "The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and was turned into a pillar of salt."

His son asked, "What happened to the flea?"

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 11 a.m. Wednesday. Time is needed to write, edit and reproduce the bulletins each week.
- ♦ Christina also receives and prepares the information for *First Word*, the monthly newsletter, and sends it to Marty Curtis, who writes, 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 coordi-

nates 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.
- ♦ In our worship services, 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.

Humor

A Sunday School teacher said to her children, "We have been learning about how powerful the kings and queens were in Biblical times. But there is a higher power. Who can tell me what it is?"

Tommy blurted out, "I know: aces."

After explaining the commandment to honor your father and mother, a Sunday School teacher asked her class if there was a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters.

One boy, the oldest in his family, immediately answered, "Thou shalt not kill."



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.

From the PC(USA) Mission Yearbook for Prayer and Study:
January 1: Call to action for the Democratic Republic of the Congo: Presbyterians asked to pray, advocate and give in response to crisis

January 1, 2018: Humanitarian conditions in the conflict-ridden Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been rapidly deteriorating. The hunger crisis there has deepened, and an estimated 3.2 million people are without reliable access to enough nutritious food.

Almost 1.4 million people have been displaced within the Kasai region or have fled to neighboring Angola to escape the fighting, resulting in a traumatized, vulnerable population.

In its most recent report on the situation in the DRC, the World Food Program stated, "Most internally displaced families have now missed two consecutive planting seasons. Many of the most vulnerable now eat little more than a meal a day—typically just cassava root and leaves—that is lacking in protein, vitamins and minerals. Survival measures adopted by the displaced include begging, prostitution and the eating of seeds that should be planted."

The United Nations launched a special humanitarian appeal for the Kasai region this past year, but it remains less than 50% funded. The U.N. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Stephen O'Brien, recently said, "The humanitarian community has been working with significantly insufficient financial resources to deliver at the scale required. This is not just insufficient—it is unacceptable for the global community to leave this very real suffering of the Congolese people unaddressed—just because of a shortage of money."

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) partners in Congo are asking us to accompany them in addressing this crisis. The complexity of the situation requires a comprehensive response. PC(USA) is providing opportunities for members to:

ADVOCATE: In a call to action the PC(USA) Office of Public Witness and Presbyterian Ministry at the U.N. asks Presbyterians to contact Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and urge him to provide leadership in the international community and press for the global community to fully fund the special humanitarian appeal for the Kasai region.

GIVE: Presbyterian Disaster Assistance is working with Congolese partners to provide farming implements, such as hoes, and open-pollinated seeds to farmers who lost both during the conflict.

Presbyterian World Mission is supporting partners that are training facilitators for Bible-based children's trauma healing to help children recover from their exposure to extreme violence and escape the cycle of violence.

PRAY: Please lift up the crisis in the Congo in your personal prayers and in your congregation.

Another Year Is Dawning

*Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.*

*Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.*

*Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.*

*Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.*

*Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.*

—Francis Ridley Havergal
(1874)



Congolese women and children arrive at a border point in Angola after fleeing militia attacks in the Kasai region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JANUARY 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
31 David Lee Hulsey Preaching 11:00am Worship – WCFH	1 Church Office closed – New Year's Day Amy Pratt on vacation through 1/8	2 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm LOGOS Board 6:30pm Elizabeth Circle	3 1:00pm Grief Group 2:00pm Esther Circle	4	5 11:00am Administrative Committee	6
7 Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching Ordination/Installation of Officers 8:30am Worship – Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 10:30am Celebration for Suzanne Gumpf 11:00am Worship – WCFH 12:00pm LOGOS Board Meeting 5:00pm Youth Progressive Dinner	8 10:30am Ruth Circle	9 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Planning 6:45pm Executive Comm 7:30pm Committees	10 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief Group 2:00pm Esther Circle 4:45pm LOGOS 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 6:30pm LOGOS Parent Meeting 7:15pm Chancel Choir	11 9:00am Treehouse Learning 9:00am P.E.O. Meeting 11:45am Stephen Leaders' Meeting 1:00pm Lydia Circle 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	12 10:00am Mission Sewing 6:00pm Leader Retreat	13 9:00am Leader Retreat
14 Communion Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship – Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship – WCFH	15 GISD out for Martin Luther King Day 10:00am Sarah Circle 6:00pm Men's Fellow- ship Dinner 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	16 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Newsletter Deadline 7:00pm Diaconate	17 9:30am Rachel Circle 9:30am Martha Circle 11:00am Hannah Circle 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief Group 4:45pm LOGOS 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	18 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:00am Senior Seminar 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	19 5:00pm Youth to Mid- Winters 6:00pm Hollingsworth Vow Renewal	20 Youth at Mid-Winters 9:00am French/ Judkins Rehearsal 3:00pm French/ Judkins Wedding
21 Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching Youth at Mid-Winters 8:30am Worship – Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship – WCFH 12:00pm Celebration for Shirley Nash	22	23 9:30am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	24 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief Group 4:45pm LOGOS 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	25 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	26 11:00am PW Bible Study	27
28 Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching Souper Bowl of Caring I 8:30am Worship – Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship – WCFH 5:30pm Annual Congregational Dinner & Meeting 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	29 Dr. Michael Roberts on study leave through 2/5	30 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting	31 Penny Leone on vacation through 2/6 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief Group 4:45pm LOGOS 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	1 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	2	3 9:00am City-wide Stephen Ministry Meeting