

# FIRSTWORD

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

ROOTED. REFORMED. RELEVANT.



March 2018



Pastor Mike

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## Annual Report of the Pastor for 2017

January 28, 2018

Dr. Michael A. Roberts

This is my 30th annual report as your Pastor. My purpose is to report on my ministry and what was notable for the church generally in the previous year.

I am grateful once again for your generous Christmas gift to me and my family. You have been so gracious and thoughtful year after year in providing these Christmas gifts to us. We feel loved and appreciated by your kindness.

I am grateful for our officers who served so capably as our leaders over the past three years: Elders Adrienne Brandt, Morris Fisher, Jerry Hammerlun, Becky Kennedy, Bill McKenna, Amy Pratt, Phil Smith and Cliff Snyder; Deacons Barbara Caudle, Shirley Galloway, Guy Guidici and Janice Wallace; and Trustee Susan Poteete. They served us well, and I will miss their commitment and good ministry among us.

Our church received 37 new members in 2017. We continued our thorough review of the membership roll. We removed 43 individuals from the active roll. With this review, deaths and transfers to other churches, we lost a total of 63 members. At year-end, we had 573 members. At present, we are the 6<sup>th</sup> largest church among our Mission Presbytery's 145 churches.

We said goodbye in 2017 to 14 from our church who joined the church triumphant: Jack Joiner, Winston Spencer, Jack Stephenson, David Unger, Conny Curtis, Jerry Hammerlun, Jay Allen, Gladys Bannan, Alice Graham, Bill Roberts, Jennie Mann, Laura Butler, Catherine Glenn and Anita Lemmink. We have deep sadness for our loss but rejoice in the hope of the resurrection.

In 2017 I preached 38 sermons, including sermon series on Romans 12, Wisdom Literature, Genesis, Acts of the Apostles, and Exodus. I also preached individual sermons on the occasion of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation.

We completed the Fellowship Hall Entrance Project with a dedication in November. Those who served on the Entrance Task Force were Babs Cape (Chair), Mike Carson, Jerry Fine, Jerry

*(continued on next page)*

## MARCH WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

*Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching*

**March 4: "Psalms for Your Life"**

LOGOS Sunday

Scripture: Psalm 1 & 139

**March 11: "First of All"**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: Mark 12:28-34

**March 18: "Nothing Can Separate Us"**

Scripture: Romans 8:31-39

**March 25: "Gethsemane"**

Scripture: Luke 22:39-46

**March 29: Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service**

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Scripture: John 18:1-19, 42

**March 30: "Into Your Hands"**

Good Friday Service

Scripture: Luke 23:44-49



## ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Jim & Ann Hindman
- 7 Rod & Susan Gilbert  
Tim Smith & Becky Hesson-Smith
- 12 Charles & Cathy Shirley
- 14 Sid & Celeste Frost
- 26 Bob & Linda Becker
- 27 Roger & Barbara Nelson
- 28 Jim & Elaine Caskey
- 31 Mark & Denise Ferguson  
Sam & Helen Matthews

## BIRTHDAYS

- 1 David Ramsey  
Tim Smith
- 2 Doug Kienitz  
Susan Moreno
- 3 Inok Downing
- 4 Hudson Kennedy  
Emily Kirkpatrick  
Libbie Ragan  
Jim Wilhite
- 6 Addison Kozak
- 7 Jonathan Leloux  
Kelly Miller  
Sherralyn St. Clair
- 8 Jennifer Gunn  
Kim Peel  
Roscoe Seaman
- 9 Ruth Henning
- 10 Rita Snyder  
Steve Wilson
- 13 JoJo Hermann
- 15 Yvonne Beverly  
Rusty Bristow
- 16 Sherry Beattie
- 17 Zachary Kirkpatrick
- 18 Juliet Lee  
Marcia Ness  
Sydney Sorenson
- 19 Robert Gowdy  
Tricia Osborne
- 20 Joyce Joiner  
Travis Walden
- 21 John Eric Elder
- 22 Jean Allison
- 23 George Harwell  
David Martin  
Ethan Poe
- 24 Cade Basey  
Sophie Bedford  
Charles Dennis  
Judy Hindelang  
Kelly Seaman  
Jettie Sherrier
- 26 Cliff Snyder  
Ron Weaver

*(continued on next page)*

# Annual report

*(continued from front page)*

Hammerlun, Becky Kennedy, Sam Matthews, Amy Pratt, Karen Rayburn, and Jeff Willett. I see this project as completing a 20-year process of making the Fellowship Hall area a more welcoming, warm and settled worship space. We began worshipping here in 1994 out of necessity. The space was expanded in 1998; a thorough renovation of the space with new flooring, chairs, paint and wood trim was completed in 2007. In 2016 the parlor joined the lobby as a comfortable gathering space.

In addition to providing worship leadership throughout the year, our Music Ministry also presented its annual cantata Vivaldi's "Gloria" with selections from Handel's "Messiah." In March, our Music Ministry also created a professionally recorded CD, "In His Light." Sales of the CD went well throughout the last quarter of the year.

We had several key staff transitions in 2017. Jerri Jones departed in March after faithfully serving six years as our Financial Secretary. Jerri left to become the Williamson County Auditor. We were most fortunate to have Sue Bell, a current deacon and member since 1998, be interested in the position. Sue brings many gifts and experience in accounting to her new position. In December Monica Koenig completed a wonderful 13 years as our Organist/Pianist. In January 2018 Chad Hansen began as our Organist and Marianna Underwood as our Pianist. I am so grateful and amazed that God continues to provide wonderful individuals when we make a staff transition. We are thankful for God's care and guidance in these transitions.

Financially, our income for 2017 was \$993,644 and our expenses \$957,972. The adopted budget approved by the Session for 2018 is \$985,113.

I continued my organizational leadership for the church, moderating the Session as well as the Executive, Budget and Memorial Gifts committees. I served

as an advisory member to the Board of Deacons and the Church Officer Nominating Committee and continued supervising the staff, including nine staff members directly.

As we move into a new year, our congregation remains strong and vital. We have tremendous resources. Our Education Ministry, Youth Ministry and Music Ministry provide excellent quality and care. We continue to care deeply for one another through our Compassionate Care Ministry and the one-to-one care of our members. We remain committed to mission involvement and giving beyond ourselves. We continue to care for our facility and make the renovations that are needed. Our congregation continues generously to invest many, many hours and financial resources in the ministry of this congregation. Our staff is faithful and devoted. Our study groups and classes provide a forum to connect with one another and learn more about our faith in Christ. Our worship life is rich and meaningful.

I personally am grateful for the ways that God continues to work with us, supporting and sustaining our ministry. It is a wonderful gift for me to serve as your pastor for these many years.

*Mike*

### Income and Expense Report Year to Date - January 2018 General Operating Fund

	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Pledges	\$132,267	\$846,088	16%
Other	7,907	139,080	6%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$140,174</b>	<b>\$985,168</b>	<b>14%</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Validated Mission	4,646	58,346	8%
Local/Other Mission	0	31,134	0%
Ministry of the Word	10,819	158,942	7%
Program/Support Staff	36,307	435,981	8%
Christian Education	-645	34,700	-2%
Music and Worship	3,250	20,914	16%
Evangelism/Care	0	11,860	0%
Property	7,110	84,066	8%
Stewardship/Finance	1,589	18,200	9%
Other Oper Expenses	3,161	40,600	8%
Debt Retirement	7,531	90,370	8%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$73,768</b>	<b>\$985,113</b>	<b>7%</b>

## Among Our People



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

**In the hospital last month: Chuck Graham, Debbie Pilcher** (surgery), **Ray Rayburn** (surgery), **Cheryl Jenkins** (surgery) and **Sally Fortney**.

**In memoriam: Laura Sue Smith** joined the Church Triumphant Friday, February 16. Services were held at Ramsey Funeral Home February 23. Laura Sue originally became a member of our congregation in 1953, later being restored to full membership in September 2011.

### Thank you's:

♦ "Dear friends and family in First Presbyterian Church, My 'muoyo' (life) is full of thanks for your gifts in honor of my 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. 'Tuasakidila' (thanks) to more than 40 of you who gave a total of \$2,426.85 for our Congo missionaries, Dr. John and Gwenda Fletcher. Many more of you can have a part in their work by praying for them and for the Congolese people in their struggle to live as 'salt and light' in a country torn by civil war.

'Tuasakidila' to God for you and for your generosity to these faithful servants. Your gift will be added to our church's annual contribution and will fund another two weeks of work. You have warmed my heart beyond my wildest dreams!

Bill and Bonnie Stump, who have also served as missionaries in the Congo, report that Gwenda Fletcher has been ill and has had to be evacuated to California, the Fletchers' home in the United States. Please pray for her, especially at this time. God bless all of you!" — **Shirley Nash**

♦ "I attended the Crossroads Sunday School class February 11 and witnessed an experience of stewardship from **Amanda** and **Patrick Tolbert**. They took the current topic of "Flu Hits the Nation Hard." They used their Time and Talent to research

the subject matter with current and biblical references to deliver a Treasure of discussion within the class. After class I asked for a copy of their notes and for other subject notes they had used. As an elder of the Stewardship and Finance Committee, I was impressed with their class on the current topic of 'Tax Bill Raises Concerns about Charitable Giving.'

Joy suggested and will make their class notes available in the library for everyone to review. I suggest that you ask for copies to take home and use for family discussion. And, thank you, Amanda and Patrick, for showing us an example of the richness of God's love within our congregation."

— **Gary Cox**

(see *Stewardship* article on page 13)

**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; Major Joeff Bartholomay, **Helen Douglass's** 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. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Paul Rayburn**; Nicholas Stamos, **Larry & Helen Burk's** grandson; and Christian Winckel, grandson of Sandy Hayes.

## Volunteer ushers & greeters needed for both services

Ever thought about meeting new people, enjoying the camaraderie of others and being of service to your church? Ushers and greeters are needed for both services. If you didn't indicate on the annual service commitment form your wish to usher and greet, please let us know if you are interested. Contact Gail Butler (gail.butler@suddenlink.net, 512-869-0620) for the 8:30 service or Cathy Shirley (cathyhs@verizon.net, 512-863-0630) for the 11:00 service.

## BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

- 27 Tim Harris  
Cathy Tucker
- 28 Marilyn Mehaffey
- 29 Ron Becker  
Teri Helmig  
Terri Stubblefield
- 30 Dennie Decker  
Helen Matthews  
Don Mehaffey



## Flowers in Worship/ March

- 4 Karen Jones
- 11 Charles & Cathy Shirley
- 18 Bob & Linda Becker
- 25 Pat & Penny Leone

### Sign up to provide flowers in worship.

A sign-up sheet is posted outside the church office. As you sign up, remember to indicate whether you will donate your arrangement after the service to be used in the Flower Ministry. Contact either Kathy Jones (512-863-3012) or Betty Smith (512-869-6925).

## Head Deacon/March

- 8:30 Sid Frost  
Kathy Kerr Kubatzky
- 11:00 Kathy Kerr Kubatzky  
Sid Frost

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Joy Bedford  
Education Director  
jbedford2321@gmail.com



**One Great Hour of Sharing "Fish"** are to be brought back on March 25. Hope you are filling them up and using your placemat. What does the "fish" do? It rebuilds homes, communities and lives; feeds the hungry; provides disaster assistance; and teaches people to care for themselves. It is our money working to help others in need!

## Preparing for LOGOS Sunday

The LOGOS group has been quite busy these last couple of months preparing for a big event. On Sunday, March 4, LOGOS children will lead worship at both services for our annual LOGOS Sunday. The focus of the service will be selections from the book of Psalms.

We sincerely hope you can join us for worship to *praise God* with Psalm 150, *pray* with Psalm 13 and *be comforted* by Psalm 139. —Jaime Cowan

## RSVP for Seder meal on Palm Sunday

For more than 20 years the 3<sup>rd</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders have participated in a scripted Seder meal on Palm Sunday. This year we are trying something new. We invite our whole church family to come together for a Seder meal on Sunday, March 25, from 5 - 6:30 p.m. (Child-care will be provided for 4 years and younger.)

This special congregational meal is in place of our Maundy Thursday soup supper. The Education/Nurture Committee and Fellowship Committee will join forces and are asking for volunteers to ensure this night is one of learning and celebrating as we begin Holy Week together. The dinner menu consists of lamb, chicken nuggets (for children), roasted potatoes, glazed carrots, matza, salad and dessert.

RSVP by calling the church office (512-863-3381) or turn in a tear-off reservation form in the bulletin. We hope you will come. —Joy

## Child care news

Great news: Meredith Rodgers has accepted the position of Child Care Coordinator! Meredith has been a childcare worker for the last four years. She is the wife of Kyle and mother of Liam and Kaden. Meredith drives a school bus (she is very brave) and is taking classes at ACC. Since she has been with us for so long, the children, parents and other childcare workers already know and love her. She brings to our children's programming this experience and an innate knowledge of what children need. We are very excited to have her step up into this position. Please welcome her to her new position when you have a chance.

**PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 25:** Children will carry palms during the processional hymn at both services. Recruiters will ask to borrow your children before each service. They will return to you after the processional (save them a seat and let them know where you are sitting). Children will meet in Room 101 at 8:20 a.m. for the 8:30 service and in Room 112 at 10:50 a.m. for the 11:00 Service



**EASTER CROSS:** Every year on Easter morning there is an empty cross on the north lawn of the church. It is our tradition to place flowers on this cross in *celebration of our risen Lord*. Please help us fill this cross on April 1 with flowers that you bring and make it the fullest ever. We will take family pictures. We leave the cross up for a day or two for the rest of our community to enjoy.

—Nurture/Education Committee.

## LOGOS Themes for March

March	Theme	Attire	Game	Menu
*07	Spring Break Theme	Vacation/travel	Relay	Fried chicken
14	NO LOGOS – Spring Break			
*21	Tie-Dye Theme	Tie-dye	Tie-dying shirts	Boxed lunch
28	Easter Theme	Pastel	Easter craft	Ham

\* Youth join us at dinner

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

## Adult Elective

*"Sunday School Lessons from History (cont'd)"*

Through March 18, Room 101

Dr. Ken Peters

## Surveyors

*"Pleasing God"*

Through March 25, Room 207

Phil Smith

We all begin the Christian life with passion and intention of living in such a way as to please God. But we encounter obstacles that present conflicts between what pleases us and what pleases God. In a very real sense the Christian life is a struggle. This six-session class will use R.C. Sproul video clips to guide our study and discussions. The class is designed to provide help and encouragement for living a life that is pleasing to God.



## Homebuilders

*"Forgiveness: A Lenten Study"*

Through March 25, Room 112

Karen Jones

In February, Homebuilders began a study of *Forgiveness: A Lenten Study* by Marjorie J. Thompson. Using biblical examples and real-life situations, the author takes a close look at our understanding of forgiveness in this encouraging study.

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 welcomes all.



## Crossroads

*"Wired Word"*

Room 107

Amanda & Patrick Tolbert

(On page 2, see a thank you note written to Joy Bedford by Gary Cox, elder, after he attended this class in February. Thank you, Gary, for the insightful writing.)

The topic may change each week but not the quality of what is presented. The church's weekly email will have the topic for the next Sunday. If you are not receiving this email and would like to, please contact the church. We invite you to come and experience this class during the Sunday School hour.

This class uses stories from the day's 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. After they have been taught, we will make the lessons available in the church library.



First Presbyterian Church

web page:

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

## 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 Hulsey (512-863-3381, [dhulsey63@gmail.com](mailto:dhulsey63@gmail.com)) or Cliff Snyder (512-468-2877, [c\\_rsnyder@yahoo.com](mailto:c_rsnyder@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 the book of John, led by Sturdy Wanamaker.

### Ladies Lunch Bible Study

Meets each Wednesday at noon in Room 207 for a "brown bag" lunch and Bible study. In February the women began a study of John: The Gospel of Light and Life by Adam Hamilton.

Call Joy at 512-863-3381 if you would like a book.

## Humor

A teacher was testing the children in her Sunday school class to see if they understood the concept of getting to heaven.

She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big garage sale and gave all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"NO!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the yard, and kept everything neat and tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the answer was, "NO!"

Now she was smiling. Hey, they're getting it, she thought! She was just bursting with pride for them. "Well," she continued, "then how can I get into heaven?"

A five-year-old boy shouted out, "YOU GOTTA BE DEAD!"

The children were lined up in the Catholic school cafeteria for lunch. At a table was a large tray of apples. A nun lettered a note and posted it on the apple tray: "Take only ONE. God is watching."

Moving along the lunch line, at the other end was a large tray of chocolate chip cookies. A girl wrote a note and put it next to the cookies: "Take all you want. God is watching the apples."

## YOUTH MINISTRY

*Save the date!*

**APRIL 12 5:30-7:30PM**

\$8 adults, \$5 kids 5-12, under 5 free



## Observing the season of Lent

We're in the midst of the season of Lent, and it happens to be one of my favorite seasons when focusing on spiritual disciplines. I usually read through a specific devotional or two during Lent, and one passage from the app "d365" has stuck with me. I'd like to share what the contributing writer, Chris George, says about the passage in Mark 1:12-13 where the Spirit sends Jesus out into the wilderness where He is tempted by Satan.

"What is Jesus doing in the wilderness?"

Being. Human.

It has been said, 'We all have our crosses to bear...' But, I think equally true, we all have a wilderness to wander.

Faith is always a journey. It is not a moment. It is a marathon.

The wilderness may be a place of discouragement and desolation, but it often becomes the setting for the greatest growth in our faith journeys. We take pictures at the baptism so we will remember, but it is the wan-

dering in the wilderness that makes lasting impressions we can never forget.

Jesus emerged from the wilderness with a purpose. May we do the same."

Whether we emerge from this season of Lent or our own personal wildernesses, I pray that we may all find purpose in the will of God.

—God bless, David Lee Hulsey



## Youth March Calendar

11-14	PanAmerican trip
14	No Bible Studies
18	Bread Breakers
25	G2G: Need for Speed & Seder Meal

## MISSION

# Amplify Austin is March 1 & 2

The month of March is the month of Amplify Austin. For those of you who are unfamiliar with Amplify Austin, it is a fundraising event for nonprofits across the area. There are only two days connected with this, and they are March 1 and 2. If you get your newsletter in time, please go to Amplify Austin's website at <https://amplifyatx.ilivehereigivehere.org/> and beginning at 6 pm on March 1, you can make a donation to The Caring Place. It will be matched by Amplify Austin. It's a great way to raise funds.

When you donate goods to The Caring Place, occasionally the staff might feel that your donated items would sell better on e-Bay. You can shop there, too, and your money will go to The Caring Place. Another suggestion: If you haven't already, sign up online for an Amazon Smile account and designate The Caring Place as your charity. One last suggestion: If you shop at Randall's and you have a "Remarkable Card," 1% of your purchase will go to The Caring Place. All of this is easy and painless. Give it a try.

Thank you for all you do.

—Jenny Carswell



## Needs for this month in the Food pantry:

- ♦ Cereals and juices
- ♦ Baking mixes
- ♦ Ketchup
- ♦ Canned soups, chili & stew
- ♦ Canned pastas
- ♦ Toiletries



## Mission Sewing

At our meeting last month, we welcomed special guests Linda Schellenberg and Debbie Chase.

A big "thank you" to:

- ♦ Judy Willett for the 14 fleece cough pillows,
- ♦ Barbara Caudle for the afghan for a Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS) recipient.
- ♦ Linette Harwell for the prayer pillows.
- ♦ Debbie Chase, for the knitted baby hats.
- ♦ Alison Harrison, for the stuffed animals and blankets, and for "plarn."
- ♦ Demeree Jackson for the embroidered quilt and plush animals.
- ♦ Joyce Joiner for the comforter.
- ♦ Marlene Watts for assembling an afghan for a PCHAS recipient.
- ♦ Linda Schellenberg for taking cough pillows for St. David's Hospital patients.
- ♦ Lenice Smithwick for a crocheted hat and blanket, and for taking our donations to the Christ Child Society.

You ladies are a blessing to the church and to the community!

Next month's meeting is Friday, March 9, at 10 a.m. in Room 111.

—Kathy Jones

## Do you have an iPad you no longer use?



Do you have an iPad you no longer use? The church needs one that can be used to take credit card payments for youth events, LOGOS tuition, VBS tuition, etc. It would be so much easier to have a designated device for payments rather than having to use someone's personal phone or other device. Contact Joy (512-863-3381 or [jbedford2321@gmail.com](mailto:jbedford2321@gmail.com)) if you have one that you would like to donate. Thank you!



*The One Great Hour of Sharing Offering has a 69-year history as an ecumenical endeavor now involving nine denominations and Church World Service. Founded in 1946 by Episcopal Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, a goal was set to raise one million dollars in one hour for World Relief.*

*The first Presbyterian participation in this ecumenical offering was initiated in 1947 by the former United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America, followed in 1948 by the former Presbyterian Church in the United States. In 1949, church leaders from several denominations worked together to promote this effort.*

*Major networks broadcast a show, called "One Great Hour," on Saturday, March 26, at 10 p.m. EST. The broadcast, featuring President Truman and popular musicians and actors of the time, closed with the request to make a sacrificial contribution at their own place of worship the next morning. While there is no record of funds raised that day, it is estimated that more than 75,000 churches participated.*

## One Great Hour of Sharing offering

During this Lenten Season—February 14 to April 1—join with Presbyterians worldwide in sharing God's love with our neighbors in need around the world. You can help provide relief from natural and human-caused disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed. One Great Hour of Sharing currently supports projects in more than 100 countries through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Hunger Program and the Self Development of People.

If we all do a little, it adds up to a lot. One Great Hour of Sharing is the single, largest way that Presbyterians come together every year to work for a better world. We will take the offering on **Palm Sunday, March 25**, during both services. Look for special envelopes in the bulletin. If you choose to donate without an envelope, please designate One Great Hour of Sharing on the "For" line of your check. —Peggy Currie



## Meals on Wheels fundraiser March 3

Just a quick reminder to go to Applebee's at 350 South IH-35 in Georgetown and help raise funds for Meals on Wheels Saturday, March 3, from 8 - 10 a.m.. Tickets to this popular event are available at the door and sell for \$10 per person. Half of that \$10 goes to Meals on Wheels Georgetown, and half goes to Applebee's. Please bring some friends with you and all enjoy a delicious breakfast! —Dave Harrison



## 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 Friends in Deed

## March PW Circle Meetings

Circle	March	Time	Hostess	Phone	Address
ELIZABETH	6th	6:30 p.m.	Theresa McKenna	512-930-3751	3601 Brangus Road
ESTHER	7th	12 p.m.	Joyce Porch (luncheon)	512-864-3777	4105 Venada Trail
RUTH	12th	10 a.m.	Jean Fisher	512-868-2793	106 Village Drive
LYDIA	14th	1 p.m.	Helen Burk	254-793-3585	1801 Indian Springs Road
SARAH	19th	10 a.m.	Peggy Currie	704-281-6981	430 Village Commons Boulevard
MARTHA	21st	9:30 a.m.	Judy Thomson	512-240-4969	538 Deer Meadow Circle
RACHEL	21st	9:30 a.m.	Virginia Reid	512-868-5918	108 Nueces Trail
HANNAH	21st	11 a.m.	Cheryl Dorothy	512-591-7064	Room 112, Church

## FELLOWSHIP

## Sheriff to speak to men's fellowship

Robert Chody, sheriff of Williamson County, will be the guest speaker for the Men's Fellowship Dinner Monday, March 19, in the Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend. The meeting starts at 6 p.m. with conversation and fellowship, followed by a catered meal at 6:30 and Sheriff Chody's presentation at 7.

Sheriff Chody served two terms as constable of Williamson County, Precinct 1, before being elected sheriff. He took office January 1, 2007, and leads more than 530 employees in protecting the county's 545,000 residents.

In addition to describing general activities of his department, Sheriff Chody will talk about cold cases being worked on and the progress made. He will also speak to us about the recent church shootings and steps that churches can take to deter these types of activities.

Contact Marv Hulshizer (512-818-2094 or marv.mcf@suddenlink.net) no later than March 17 to make your meal reservation. Cost of dinner is \$10 per person.



*Sheriff Robert Chody*

## Domestic abuse/sexual violence services topic of PW Spring Gathering May 5

Focus of the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering in May will be domestic and sexual violence, including the county's agency that serves its victims and the challenges faced by those victims.

Save the date, Saturday, May 5, and plan to attend the event beginning at 12 noon in the Fellowship Hall. All women of the church are invited, and guests are welcome. There will be a potluck salad luncheon. PW circle members are asked to bring a salad or dessert to share. Drinks, rolls and crackers will be provided.

Speaker following lunch will be Suzanne Holsomback from Hope Alliance Crisis Center in Round Rock, who will bring with her a former client served by her agency. Hope Alliance is Williamson County's domestic and sexual violence support service and it was PW's 2017 Christmas project recipient.

Suzanne, the agency's Community Education Advocate, is an ordained pastor, having graduated from Baylor University and the George W. Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor. She works with Hope Alliance clients and engages community partners through education and training. She has been involved in faith communities, higher education institutions and social services in Texas as well as other countries.

Suzanne is concerned about the spiritual welfare of her clients as well as their physical and emotional well-being. The former client will share her story and how Hope Alliance helped her.

The program will be followed by a brief PW business meeting to elect officers for the coming year. Look for more information in upcoming newsletters.

—Judy Bond, Co-moderator

## Spring Gathering set for Mo-Ranch

Registration has started for the 2018 PW of Mission Presbytery Spring Gathering April 6-8 at Mo-Ranch. All women of the church are invited to attend.

The theme is "Singing in the Rain" based on Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord Always!" Diana Whitley, pastor of Gonzales Presbyterian Church, is keynote speaker. A variety of workshops will be offered, including Holy Yoga, Prayer Journaling, Umbrella Painting, Helping the Hurting, Spiritual Rain Chain, and Joy and Sorrow in the Psalms. Craft-type workshops have a nominal fee.

Cost of registration and meals is \$130. There is an additional cost for lodging based on when you arrive, ranging from \$56.50 to \$237.00, also depending on the accommodations you select. Some scholarships are available, including two for younger women (ages 15-25). For information about registration, contact Judy Bond at 512-868-3487 or tazmaniandogs@hotmail.com.



*For more information about the Seder meal and how to make reservations for it, please see page 3.*



**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

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kathi.mal.dav@gmail.com

**Church Humor**

*After a church service on Sunday Morning, a young boy suddenly announced to his mother, "Mom, I've decided to become a minister when I grow up. I have to go to church on Sunday anyway, and I figure it will be more fun to stand up and talk than to sit and listen."*

*A Sunday School teacher challenged her children to take some time on Sunday afternoon to write a letter to God. They were to bring their letter back the following Sunday. One little boy wrote, "Dear God, we had a good time at church today. Wish you could have been there."*

## COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY

Points from Parish Nurse Penny:

### Learning to respond to aloneness



Do you ever feel alone? It's a common feeling and sometimes we can feel alone even in the midst of a crowd of people. Many well-meaning Christians miss or dismiss the loneliness in others. Let's look at this together.

Aloneness is an issue of the heart, not the mind, and relationship is the only true help for it. God calls us into relationship with Him and with others. Love, in a loose sense, *is* relationship, and love is the only thing that endures—nothing separates us from it, not life or death. Love really does make the world go 'round, as the old song says.

How do we as Christians learn to remove aloneness in others? Think of four steps: STOP, LOOK, LISTEN, RESPOND. Stop and notice people alone; look for the pain of aloneness; listen for words of aloneness; respond from the heart.

Focusing on the "respond" step: Take the initiative to care and come to deeply know the other person. Let the other know you appropriately—so, yes, you still need to maintain your personal boundaries but sometimes, YOUR story, said at the right time, is an encouragement to others.

Unhelpful responses to loneliness are neglect and minimizing. Also, facts, advice and pep talks aren't called for. What the other needs is your presence and care. What care can sound like is, "I feel...for you." "I'm so sad that you experienced that." "My heart breaks that you feel so alone." "I can understand how you can feel that way." Notice this last sentence; the wording is NOT "I know how you feel..." You really don't know how someone else feels, even if you have been through a similar experience. I've written this as looking for loneliness in another, but what if you are feeling lonely? Is it possible for you to use these ideas for yourself? I'd be interested to hear your thoughts on this.

### Senior Seminar

"Estate Liquidation Strategies: Getting Rid of your Stuff" is the topic for the March 15 Senior Seminar. It will meet from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. To continue the conversation from last month's seminar, we will this month focus on help to actually move out the stuff that's holding you back. This free, timely and helpful class is open to everyone in the community, so bring a friend. Please call 512-818-0988 for a reservation so we can have plenty of hand-outs.



Penny Leone, RN  
Parish Nurse  
pnurse5@aol.com

Office Hours:  
All day Tuesday

Other hours  
by appointment

### Save the Date: May Health Screenings

The Right Path health screening nonprofit will be at FPC on Saturday, May 19. They provide 11 different types of low-cost ultrasound testing for preventative screening: heart, atrial fibrillation, stroke, thyroid, peripheral arterial disease of the lower extremities, abdominal aortas, liver, kidney, gallbladder, pancreas and spleen.

Cost is \$200 for all 11 tests or \$75 for each individual test. Preregistration is essential at 800-770-0240. More information coming in April.



It's a New Day  
Your Day!

Georgetown TX Retirement Lifestyle

## Humor

More bloopers from church bulletins:

- *Next Sunday, a special collection will be taken to defray the cost of the new carpet. All those wishing to do something on the new carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.*

- *The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the church basement on Friday.*

- *A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.*

- *At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.*

- *Our youth basketball team is back in action Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. in the recreation hall. Come out and watch us kill Christ the King.*

## FIRSTWORD

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## EVANGELISM

### Georgetown Ministerial Alliance Report

This coalition of faith communities in Georgetown is working to create a beloved community of compassion.

At February's meeting, Preston Cox reported that plans to provide a "warming center" during cold weather for individuals who are homeless were replaced with a more cost-effective decision. The decision was to place Georgetown's homeless in motels rather than pay for security at a church. Efforts to address homelessness continue to involve working with The Caring Place, Helping Hands, law enforcement and other individuals and groups to ensure those without stable housing are safe, fed and warm. While some of the people who are sleeping and living in San Gabriel Park and other areas of Georgetown are transient, most are not chronically homeless. For information on how you can help, please contact Preston at pcox2124@gmail.com.

Congregation Havarah Shalom, a Jewish congregation that meets at San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Church, is collaborating with Georgetown Public Library on an exhibit that celebrates the roles of Christians who helped save Jews during the Holocaust. The exhibit begins with a free reception at 4:30 p.m. March 18 at the library with Stanlee Stahl, executive vice president of the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous. The exhibit, "Whoever Saves a Single Life. . . Rescuers of Jews During the Holocaust," will be on display at the library through April 17.

—Kathy Kerr Kubatzky, Deacon, Evangelism Committee

*Below, An exhibit from the Jewish Foundation for the Righteous will be on display in the Georgetown Public Library from March 18 to April 17.*



## STEWARDSHIP

## Thanksgiving, Trust and Transformation

*I believe we might be well served by interpreting Amanda's and Patrick's Time, Talent and Treasure (see note in "Among Our People" on page 3) through the lens of Thanksgiving, Trust and Transformation.*

**Thanksgiving** for Time, Talent and Treasure begins with the acknowledgement that all three are God's gift and are not ours to possess. Thanksgiving begins with the notion that God is the subject of the active verbs and we are not. Thanksgiving invites us to take a good look at the time that has been given to us as we search for ways to use time wisely because it is such a precious, God-given gift. Thanksgiving changes the way we do the time we've spent with our children and grandchildren or the talents we have used in pursuing the gifts of vocation. Thanksgiving can't wait to tell God what we've done with the treasure we have received, and thanksgiving invites us to offer it all back to God as gift with a clear understanding of where it came from and what, in God's name, it is intended to do.

**Trust** is another rich faith-word that defines biblical stewardship. God has given time, talent and treasure as a Trust that we manage with Jesus Christ at the center. The Trust is something that God gives to us again and again and again. It involves all the material we will need to create community, to heal what is broken and to bring hope where there is despair. We affirm, in faith, that God's promises are true and we can trust them. Trust may even change the way we receive the offering on Sunday. We can say,

"Thank you for trusting us with these gifts of time, talent and treasure and we offer ourselves to you, O Lord, because your trust has given us eternal confidence to live in this world you so love."

**Transformation** is something that doesn't happen accidentally but because in Thanksgiving we have trusted God with our lives and it has changed everything. God has transformed the way we look at time, every precious day, and the way we look at the gifts we have received as talents with the affirmation that no one has been short-changed. Our relationship to our treasure is transformed because we now see it through God's eyes.

Transformation will change the way we do the offering on Sunday. We may honestly believe and trust as true the words of Paul in Romans 12: "Do not be conformed to the world but rather transformed by the renewing of your minds that you may know what is good and acceptable and perfect."

Thanksgiving, Trust and Transformation are three good words for Stewardship. And thank you, Amanda and Patrick for showing us an example of the richness of God's love within our congregation.

—Gary Cox, Elder, FPC Stewardship & Finance Committee



## Humor

*More bloopers from church bulletins:*

- *Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.*
- *Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.*
- *Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.*
- *The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.*





*Her crocheted doily won 1<sup>st</sup> place in a statewide contest and is now competing on the national level.*

## *Spotlight: Lenice Smithwick*



*Lenice holds her grandmother's framed doily, which has the same pineapple symbols as the oval doily crocheted by Lenice that took 1<sup>st</sup> place in a recent state contest.*

## **Serving with Mission Sewing**

FOR SOME 13 YEARS, LONG-TIME FPC member Lenice Smithwick has lent her considerable sewing, crocheting, tatting and knitting talents, as well as time, to projects undertaken by the women of Mission Sewing. This is in addition to her volunteer work with other missions supported by FPC, such as Meals on Wheels and Backpack Buddies, as well as having served two terms as elder.

This year she decided to work on a crochet project of her own, a crocheted doily for her breakfast room table. A member of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), she then decided to submit the finished doily in the fiber arts category of the DAR's American Heritage contest. The contest theme in 2017-18 is "Exploring America through the Arts."

Lenice was excited to be notified that her 11-by-18 inch doily, crocheted with

blue thread, had won 1<sup>st</sup> place in Texas and was entered in the national competition. The fiber arts category includes knitted, crocheted and quilted entries. Winners will be displayed at the DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C. in June.

She has placed several times before in the contest, "but the only time I won 1<sup>st</sup> was when I made a tatted bookmark," Lenice said. "I think it was because it was tatted and competed in the 'other' category instead of crochet."

### *Mission Sewing Involvement*

Lenice and her husband Jack joined the church in 1977, but she didn't join Mission Sewing until 2005, when she quit working outside the home. "My favorite project is making blankets to match stuffed animals that are donated to the Williamson County Children's Advocacy

Center to be given to the kids after they testify.”

She also has made an afghan for a high school graduate at the Presbyterian Children’s Homes and Services, “cough” pillows for surgery patients at St. David’s Hospital Georgetown, and numerous costumes for LOGOS musicals. Lately, she and other Mission Sewing members have been making baby blankets and matching caps for newborn layettes compiled by the Christ Child Society of Georgetown for residents of maternity homes.

### *Choosing the Pineapple Image*

The busy Mission Sewing and DAR member said she has always loved crocheted doilies and chose to incorporate in hers the symbol of a pineapple. The choice was made after she did some research and learned that since Colonial times the pineapple symbol has represented hospitality.

Crocheting is thought to have begun in the mid-1800s, Lenice said. Young ladies were expected to have in their hope chests a supply of doilies to be used to serve food and protect furniture.

Lenice said her grandmother crocheted beautifully. “She had a lot of doilies around her small home, but I never



really looked at them closely until she was no longer with us. I have several of her creations, including one framed above a chest of drawers.”

When she found the pattern “Pineapple Oval” for her doily in a book, Lenice chose it for its oval shape—the same shape as her table. About half way through her crocheting, she looked closer at her grandmother’s framed doily and “got cold chills” when she saw it, too, was a pineapple pattern.

The crocheter relied on YouTube videos to help her with the at-times difficult-to-understand pattern. She said she found it rewarding to learn and master new stitches. “And I feel more connected now to my grandmother and earlier generations by learning to make this doily as well as learning about why they had a need to make them for their homes.”

### **DAR Membership**

Lenice has been in DAR since 2011. “My mother and aunt were members so I just piggybacked my proof on their documents.” DAR members must prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who helped achieve American independence, providing, among other documents, a record of “the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor.”

“Our family’s Revolutionary War patriot, Stephen Williams, is actually one of only two buried in the Texas State Cemetery in Austin,” Lenice said. “He fought in that war, the War of 1812 and the Siege of Bexar when he came to Texas in 1830 at the old age of 75 with his four grandsons. He must have been a pretty tough guy!”

She is a member of the Robert Gilbert Livingston DAR Chapter in Georgetown, which meets monthly at San Gabriel Presbyterian Church.

—Marty Curtis

*Lenice incorporated in her prize-winning doily (left) the symbol of a pineapple, after she did some research and learned that since Colonial times the pineapple has represented hospitality.*

Blankets crocheted by Lenice for stuffed animals donated by Mission Sewing for children served by the Williamson County Children’s Advocacy Center:



*Floppy-eared tan dog with matching blanket*



*Gray and white cat with matching blanket*



*Pink and gray elephant with matching blanket*

# MARCH 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>25</b> Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Youth DNOW Brunch 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm LOGOS Set-up 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	<b>26</b> Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Youth DNOW Brunch 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm LOGOS Set-up 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	<b>27</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	<b>28</b> 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief Group 4:45pm LOGOS 5:15pm Youth Choir 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>1</b> Philip Smith on vacation thru 3/5 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>2</b> <b>Church Office Closes at Noon</b> Presbytery Meeting, Austin	<b>3</b> Presbytery Meeting, Austin 8:00am Meals on Wheels 9:00am Fundraiser LOGOS Rehearsal
<b>4</b> LOGOS Sunday 8:30am Worship-WCFH 9:40am LOGOS Brunch 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm Youth PanAm Trip Meeting	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Meeting 8:00pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	<b>6</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm LOGOS Board 5:30pm Evangelism 6:30pm Elizabeth Circle	<b>7</b> 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Esther Circle 1:00pm Grief Group 4:45pm LOGOS 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>8</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 9:00am P.E.O. Meeting 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>9</b> <b>Church Office Closes at Noon</b> 10:00am Mission Sewing 10:30am Administrative Committee Meeting	<b>10</b> 9:00am City-wide Stephen Ministry Meeting
<b>11</b> Communion <b>Daylight Saving Time begins/ move clocks forward</b> Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Youth Bread Breakers 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm Youth Mission to PanAm School	<b>12</b> GISD Spring Break begins Vacations: Sue Bell thru 3/14 Kaihi Davenport thru 3/16 Jaime Cowan thru 3/17 Amy Pratt thru 3/18 10:00am Ruth Circle	<b>13</b> 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:45pm Executive Committee 7:30pm Committee Meetings	<b>14</b> 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief Group 1:00pm Lydia Circle 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>15</b> 10:00am Senior Seminar 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>16</b> <b>Church Office Closes at Noon</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Dr. Michael Roberts Preaching 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am Youth Bread Breakers 12:00pm Maundy Thursday Choir Practice	<b>19</b> Sarah Hulsey on vacation thru 3/23 10:00am Sarah Circle 6:00pm Men's Fellowship Dinner 7:00pm Stephen Ministry	<b>20</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting <b>4:30pm Newsletter Deadline</b> 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	<b>21</b> 9:30am Martha Circle 9:30am Rachel 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 5:15pm Youth Choir 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Bible Study 7:15pm Chancel Choir	<b>22</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	<b>23</b> <b>Church Office Closes at Noon</b> 11:00am PW Bible Study	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Palm/Passion Sunday One Great Hour of Sharing 8:30am Worship-Sanctuary 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship-WCFH 12:00pm Maundy Thursday Choir Practice 4:00pm Youth G2G 5:00pm Congregational Seder Meal 6:30pm Service of Wholeness	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	<b>28</b> 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	<b>29</b> 9:00am Treehouse Learning 7:30pm Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service	<b>30</b> <b>Church Office Closed: Good Friday</b> 12:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>31</b>