

FIRSTWORD

2019

Happy New Year!

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

ROOTED. REFORMED. RELEVANT.



January 2019

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Emily Tolbert decorates her gingerbread house at LOGOS on December 5.

Church has presence at Georgetown's Christmas Stroll

Hundreds of people were introduced to First Presbyterian Church during the Nov. 30-Dec. 1 Christmas Stroll in downtown Georgetown, one of the largest community events in the city. This was the second year for FPC's diaconate Evangelism Committee to host the event and raise awareness of the church one block off the courthouse square. Committee members are Kathy Kerr Kubatzky, Ann Hindman and Minta McIntosh.

During the stroll, FPC volunteers gave away an estimated 800 bottles of water (with "compliments of First Presbyterian Church" labels) and about 200 cups of hot chocolate and coffee, as well as information about regular services and upcoming Advent activities at the church.

(continued on page 11)

JANUARY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

Dr. William C. Poe Preaching all month

January 6: "Ordained to Ministry"

Epiphany/Ordination & Installation of Officers

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-12

Ephesians 3:1-12

January 13: "More Than Meets the Eye"

Baptism of the Lord/Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 43:1-7; Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 20: "Water into Wine"

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Isaiah 62:1-5; John 2:1-11

January 27: "How Full Is Your Bucket?"

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Luke 4:14-21



Karen Jones helps two girls ring the bell during the Christmas Stroll on Saturday afternoon, December 1.



ANNIVERSARIES

- 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
- 20 David & Sharon Judkins
- 21 Gary & Kay Cox
Morris & Jean Fisher
- 8 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 Sylar
- 9 Beverly Jones
- 10 Daryll Gremillion
Jim Hindman
Bill Stump
- 11 Bob Jones
- 12 Linda Schellenberg
Kathleen Wenzel
- 13 Michaela Lang
- 14 Cathy Rice
- 15 Erick Stenborg
- 16 Joyce Hinds
- 17 Ainsley Mihacsi
- 18 Micah Azuma-Hall
Scarlett Gibson
Maria Jenny
- 19 Miles Azuma-Hall
Fred Cowen
Peggy Currie
Julia Johnson
Jeff Pratt
Mary Tobias
- 20 Mick Wagner
- 21 Henley Johnson
Shirley Nash
Paul Rayburn
- 22 Joy Bedford
- 23 Nadine Tanner
- 25 Misty Walden
Paige Weisbrod
- 26 Finn FitzGerald
Carolyn Gregory
Hope Smith

(continued on next page)

From the Pastor's Study

As I sit in my study writing this column, we are experiencing a cold, cloudy and misty day here in central Texas, as is often the case in December. How we long for the light, when it has left us for a little while!

In my work as your Transitional Pastor, I spend a good deal of time indoors. Whether I am here in my study preparing for a worship service or a class, in a hospital room, at the funeral home or in someone's living room, there are times when I really miss the outdoors. My grandfather, William C. Foulks, was an attorney, and he also spent a great deal of time indoors. But I remember how he used to love standing on the front porch of his home at sunset, to watch the play of colors in the western sky. It was a very special time of day for him, a time when he could revel in the light, even as it was leaving.



It is within the community of faith that we have the opportunity, in the company of others, to face the different darknesses that touch our lives. We face together the

darkness of change and the unknown, of grief and loss, of faith and doubt, of beginnings and endings. We also come face to face with our own sins, failures and shortcomings; with our fears and prejudices, our hidden lies and comfortable half-truths.

We are able to do this together because we are a people who affirm a belief in the Light, even in the midst of darkness. We follow one who experienced the darkness on our behalf, and whose light the darkness is unable to overcome. Even when the light appears to be leaving us, even in the midst of darkness, we can revel in the light, for we have been encountered and claimed by One who brings light to all of life, showing us what is of true and lasting value, pointing us toward the truly important aspects of life.

Our pilgrimage through life's brightnesses and darknesses is sustained, nourished and given deeper meaning by our times of worship together. Won't you make a commitment to regular and frequent worship, to experience along with the rest of us the light that shines in the midst of darkness? It just might make all the difference in the world to you.

I look forward to seeing you in worship.
Yours in Christ, Bill

Everyone is cordially invited
to the Gambell Family

**New Year's Day
Open House**

Tuesday, January 1
1:00 - 6:00 p.m.
381 Logan Ranch Road

Income and Expense Report Year to Date - November 2018 General Operating Fund			
	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
Income			
Pledges	\$758,839	\$846,088	90%
Other	74,609	139,080	54%
TOTAL	\$833,448	\$985,168	85%
Expenses			
Validated Mission	51,077	58,346	88%
Local/Other Mission	21,226	31,134	68%
Ministry of the Word	143,200	158,942	90%
Program/Support Staff	389,518	435,981	89%
Christian Education	27,163	34,700	78%
Music and Worship	16,966	20,914	81%
Evangelism/Care	4,894	11,860	41%
Property	90,672	84,066	108%
Stewardship/Finance	17,507	18,200	96%
Other Oper Expenses	34,660	40,600	85%
Debt Retirement	82,840	90,370	92%
TOTAL	\$879,723	\$985,113	89%

Among Our People



Boldface indicates
a member of
First Presbyterian
Church

In the hospital last month: Marty Brown, Babs Cape, Ruth McEntire and Gary Nelson.

Our sympathy to:

♦ **Phil & Dawn Bookert** on the death of Phil's mother, Jessie Mae Bookert, November 24. Services were held in South Carolina.

♦ **Gary & Johnnie Kovar** on the death of Johnnie's brother, Lewis Preston Green, November 29. Services were held in Oklahoma.

♦ **Doug & Jamie Arnold** on the death of Doug's father, David Arnold, December 14. Services will be held January 6 in Seguin.

In memoriam: Jan Geiger joined the Church Triumphant December 13. She had been a member of our congregation since May 2006. At press time services were pending.

Serving in the military: Josh Bengé, **Sturdy & Tammy Wanamaker's** nephew; Maj. Brian Berlakovich, **Ouida Henderson's** grandson-in-law; Lt. Col. Brian Burk, **Larry Burk's** son; Col. Joeff Childs, **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**; 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**; Nicholas Stamos, **Larry & Helen Burk's** grandson; and Christian Winckel, grandson of Sandy Hayes.

The Pastor Nominating Committee needs input

Members and friends of First Presbyterian Church:

During the month of January, you will be invited to participate in a church-wide survey that is part of the process to call the next pastor to our church.

You will be receiving the survey via email or mailed to your house very soon. This survey is a part of how the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) intends to seek congregational input on areas such as the life of the church, our mission in the community, our vision for the future, and characteristics you desire in the next pastor.

Information gathered in this survey will be used to help guide the PNC in completing the PCUSA Ministry Information Form, which describes our church and its call for potential candidates.

PNC needs this input in January. You will hear announcements from the pulpit and see notices in the Sunday bulletin. Please share your feedback before the end of the month. Once the survey period is concluded, the PNC will hold listening sessions to gather additional input during the Sunday School hour on February 17.

Welcome,

NEW MEMBERS

Ron & Sharon Place joined as an Affiliate Member and by Reaffirmation of Faith, respectively. Ron enjoys hiking and photography while Sharon enjoys painting, card-making and hospitality. (526 Hereford Lane, Georgetown 78633; 719-247-9851)

Glen & Ann Kaiser joined by Transfer of Letter from Canyon Hills Presbyterian in Anaheim, California. Glen enjoys woodworking and hiking while Ann enjoys gardening and hiking. (1629 Highland Ridge Road, Georgetown 78628; 714-533-7082)

BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

- 27 J.C. Johnson
Monica Koenig
- 28 Ollie Brabandt
Mark Ferguson
Theresa McKenna
Haley Watkins
- 30 Cathy Leloux
Ashley Riley
- 31 Ira Kirby
Polly Nelson
Michael Wenzel



Flowers in Worship/ January

- 6 Jones/McClure/Staller
- 13 Jeff & Amy Pratt
- 20 Ray & Karen Rayburn
- 27 This could be you!

Sign up to provide flowers for worship in 2019!

Most people donate their arrangement after the service to be used in our Flower Ministry, which divides the arrangement into bud bases and re-gifts them to our shut-ins and members in the hospital. If you plan to take your flowers home, please contact either Kathy Jones (512-863-3012) or Betty Smith (512-869-6925).

Head Deacon/ January

- 8:30 Suzy Taylor
Gail Butler
- 11:00 Lea Ann Hutton
Suzy Taylor

Joy Bedford
 Education Director
 jbedford2321@gmail.com

Seek  God*

* WE KNOW God is right here. We have faith in the promises.

We hope this image will remind us to Seek God's answers, God's direction, God's calling for our church and our individual lives, in all that we do.

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

—Jeremiah 29:13

**Sunday School
 for Children
 & Youth**
9:40-10:40 a.m.
*Join us for a time
 of learning about
 who we are as
 God's people
 through the stories
 in the Bible.*

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

LOGOS gears up for a new semester January 9!

We hope everyone had a wonderful and relaxing Christmas break! LOGOS is gearing up to start a new and exciting semester here at FPC in 2019—on **January 9!** We start by thanking all of our amazing volunteers who continue to give their time and talents to this program. If you love kids and would like to be a part of this exciting midweek program, we would love to have you! Please contact me at jcowanfpc@gmail.com. Please mark your calendars for the *parent information meeting to be held at 12 noon, January 13, in room 101*. We request that at least one parent or representative from each family attend.

—Jaime Cowan, LOGOS Director

January LOGOS Themes:

Date	Theme	Attire
January 9	Winter Wonderland	Hats & scarves
January 6	LEGO Superhero	Favorite super hero
January 23	Show & Tell	LOGOS T-shirt
January 30	Art Night	Old clothes/painting smock



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

Education Opportunity for Women: Ladies Lunch Bible Study

Bring your lunch and join us at noon on Wednesdays starting January 9, as we study *Elijah—Spiritual Stamina in Every Season* by Melissa Spoelstra. Life is like a roller coaster. This is a six-week study grounded in 1 and 2 Kings. We will examine the life of the prophet Elijah, an ordinary man who did extraordinary things for God in the midst of the highs and lows of life.

We'll learn some of the spiritual stamina secrets that helped him to hold on and persevere in faith, including practical habits related to making decisions, caring for the soul, accepting his circumstances, mentoring and finishing well—which was his ultimate legacy. Whether we are currently in a mountaintop season where we are experiencing God's power and blessing, a valley season where we feel like running away, or somewhere in between, Elijah's life will inspire us to go the distance in the life of faith.

Best of all, his story will challenge us but not shame us, because we'll discover that Elijah was just as human as we are. He doubted and struggled just as we do, but ultimately, he chose to believe God. As we study his life, we will grow in faith and develop spiritual stamina that will help us not only to survive but also actually thrive in every season.

Let Joy (512-868-7403) know if you are coming so we have enough books.

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

Adult Elective, Room 113

♦ *"Two 19th Century Christians with Continuing Influence in the 21st Century"*
January 6 - 13

Dr. Andy Dearman, former seminary professor and dean

Come meet David Livingstone, Scottish missionary explorer of southern and central Africa, and Samuel Crowther, African missionary and educator in west Africa.

♦ *"The GIFT Project"*

January 20

Shirley Price, Hospice Austin

For this class, we invite members of the Homebuilders, Crossroads and Adult Elective classes, as well as anyone who would like to learn about this project.

Shirley and her helpers came and conducted this class last August. Those who attended enjoyed their time in the class and suggested the information was valuable for others to hear—so we are repeating it. (Note from Joy: From very personal experience, I am painfully aware of how important this information is for all of us, no matter our age).

The GIFT Project is a new project, funded by St. David's Foundation, which Hospice Austin is sharing with the community. GIFT stands for "Giving Instructions for Tomorrow." The purpose of GIFT is to provide free education on what advance care planning is in an effort to get people thinking and communicating with their families and loved ones about what they would want if they could not speak for themselves due to a car accident or illness. There is NO expectation for class participants to complete their advance directives. The only goal is education.



♦ *Topic to be determined*
January 27 - February 10
Dr. Cindy Rigby,
Professor of Theology,
Austin Presbyterian
Theological Seminary

She's been here before and we look forward to having her back!

Surveyors, Room 207

"Jesus, The Joy of My Salvation: A Study of Colossians"

Through February 3

Phil Smith

This class encourages us to see Jesus as the center of all reality and the focus of our daily living. It includes short video clips from Dr. Randy Smith and class discussion. Come join us!

Homebuilders, Room 112

"Acts"

January 6 - 27

Karen Jones

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, Room 107

"Wired Word"

Amanda & Patrick Tolbert

From Nobel Prize winners and government surveillance to rock and roll, no week is ever the same. This 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.



Come to Adult Sunday School in the new year!



*FPC's
Biannual
Education
Banquet
Sunday,
February 10,
6:00 p.m.
Invitations
coming soon!*

Other Education Opportunities for Men

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.

Men's Lunch Bible Study

Meets at 12 noon each Wednesday in room 107 to study scripture and eat lunch together. The men are currently studying Genesis.

January

Youth Calendar

6

Youth Progressive
Dinner & White Elephant

9

Bible Studies begin
Parent Meeting
(5:00 or 6:30 p.m.)

18 - 20

MidWinters @Mo-Ranch

27

Souper Bowl of Caring I

YOUTH MINISTRY

A prayer, not a resolution, for FPC youth

I have a prayer for our Youth Ministry in 2019. Not a New Year's resolution (which requires an exorbitant amount of energy from me, only to fail and then wallow in my false expectations), but a prayer. As we know, prayer brings us into conversation with God (that's always a good start), and a prayer request is acknowledging that we need God's help to make something happen.

My prayer is simple: I pray that our youth would desire to know our Savior Jesus Christ more intimately. If I attempted to fulfill this prayer myself, it would end up like all those other bad New Year's resolutions...unrealistic expectations failing

miserably. But this is a prayer, and that means relying on God. Because of this, I can take heart and take hope. God answers prayers, and it is God who opens the hearts of His children to experience Him in new and deeper ways.

That takes all the pressure off me, and instead I can rely on the Redeemer of Creation. As we head into this New Year, I ask for you to join me in prayer for our youth to enrich their relationship with Jesus. And to wait and watch expectantly for how the Lord will move in their lives.

*Happy New Year & God bless,
David Lee Hulsey*

Youth Director David Lee Hulsey (right) gets to keep his hair! It was a close race that came down to the last hour with back and forth lead changes, DL said. "But at the end of the day I get to keep my hair!" The total raised was \$987, and the funds will benefit five foster kids in the county, the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, and a child from Compassion International.



Christmas Angel Shopping



From left: Bridget Chapman, Connor McClure, Jay McEntire and Allen Pratt.



From left, Joey Mikel, Minta McIntosh, Micah Azuma-Hall and Sam Brainard.



From left, Leila Ramsey, James Ramsey, Sarah Ferguson and Abigail Staller.

MISSION

Ways to support The Caring Place

This message is coming to you a little late for Christmas, but I think it is a good message anyway. If you hate Christmas shopping as much as I do, you may find this useful. It works at any time of year and I have used it a number of times.

Some years ago, a friend of mine wrote this letter to each of her family members: "Dear Friends and Family, We would appreciate it if you would not send us Christmas presents. We have everything we need and if there is something we want, we have enough money to buy it. So instead of gifts, please donate to one of the following charities in our name."

Then she listed her favorite charities. This will not work for the kids, but it works beautifully for friends and brothers and sisters. You don't need to wait for Christmas either. You can make a donation to The Caring Place in someone's name at any time of year.

Another idea is that if you place an order through Amazon Prime, and put The Caring Place as a recipient, a percentage of your order will go to The Caring Place.

One last thing: Consider adding a dollar to your utility bill for The Good Neighbor fund. It is so easy to do; just add it

when you pay your bill and note that it is for The Good Neighbor Fund. Also, if you notice, at the end of your Atmos gas bill, there is a form you can fill in that will send some money to their fund to help those in need. Can you imagine this weather without having heat in your home?

Hope you had a wonderful Christmas and will have a great 2019.

—Jenny Carswell

Thanks for sporting CUPS mission project

Many thanks to all of you who donated school supplies, warm clothing and blankets (also making blankets) for our friends in Mexico through CUPS (Comunidades Unidas Pro Salud/Communities United for Health). Two van-loads of goods have gone to Mexico this year with another to go very soon. Your care and kindness are greatly appreciated by those who have so little. Blessings to you all. You can read CUPS newsletters at www.cupsmission.org and access the Facebook page at Apoyo CUPS VH.

—Cindy Bausch

Mission Sewing has high school student guest

Last month we welcomed special guest MaKayla Uhrig, a high school student in Georgetown who told us about her efforts to create and sew fabric dog beds she donates to the animal shelter. She uses all types of fabric for the cover and stuffing to make the beds warm and comfortable. We were pleased to donate fabric, thread and material to her project.

Thank you to:

- ♦ Lenice Smithwick and Judy Willett for the pillows for St. David's
- ♦ Alison Harrison and Lenice for stuffed animals with blankets and books
- ♦ Linda Gambell and Demeree Jackson for the stuffed animal and quilted blanket
- ♦ Virginia Reid for stuffed animals

- ♦ Debbie Chase for redesigning a quilted wall-hanging into comfort pillows

A special thank you to Joyce Hinds, who donated several afghans lovingly made by her mother. Next spring, these crocheted afghans will be given to the graduating high school seniors at the Presbyterian Children's Homes & Services.

The goal of Mission Sewing is to provide warmth and comfort to others by giving hand-crafted items. Please do not remove items from our closet before contacting Kathy Jones, advocate for Mission Sewing. Most items are created and designated for specific recipients and groups.

Our next meeting is at 10 a.m. Friday, January 11, in room 111.



*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.**

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.
Now cut each month into
twenty-eight, thirty,
Or thirty-one different
parts,
But don't make up the
whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a
time out of these
ingredients:
Mix well into each day
one part of faith,
One part of patience, one
part of courage,
And one part of work.

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 cheer-
fulness.

— Author Unknown

Meals on Wheels has new coordinators; 2019 schedule for FPC volunteers

More than 3,000. That's how many Meals on Wheels dinners the volunteers from FPC will serve in 2019! Here's the schedule in 2019 for our church's volunteers to deliver meals:

January 7 - 11
March 18 - 22
May 28 - 31 (closed on Monday)
August 5 - 9
October 15 - 18 (closed on Monday)
December 23 (one day only)

It takes a couple of hours each day for the volunteers to deliver the meals to recipients who are primarily homebound. Without our help, they would have a difficult time meeting daily nourishment needs. Their smiles are payment enough for those who deliver.

Meals on Wheels began in Georgetown in 1979, 40 years ago, and one of the program's founders was Rev. David Duncan, who was FPC pastor at the time. He was instrumental in getting it off the ground.

Thanks to Dave and Alison Harrison for managing FPC's participation in the program for more than five years. Great job; well done.

Many people have regularly delivered meals for several years, and they are greatly appreciated. But more volunteers are needed. Check your schedule and volunteer to help for one day a week, for

part of a week, or for a full week at a time. Let us know you are interested and when you would like to help so your paperwork can get done in time for you to participate. We welcome your help. Please contact us if you need more information.

Ben and Donna Nichols, Coordinators
512-792-9178 or 713-824-7727
Tom and Peggy Currie, Co-coordinators
704-281-6981

The Harrisons pass the MOW torch to the Nichols & Curries

Alison and I would like to thank the congregation and the Meals on Wheels volunteers for their dedicated support during the past 5½ years that we have been coordinators. We have enjoyed helping with the Meals on Wheels program, including the peanut butter and jelly collection campaign, the Vacation Bible School helpers, and breakfast fundraising events with Meals on Wheels volunteers at Applebee's. With excellent help from the Mission Committee, our replacement coordinators have been found and are ready to represent our church's Meals on Wheels mission. Now is a good time for us to pass the coordinators job to someone else.

Sincerely,
Dave & Alison Harrison



Please be aware that Meals on Wheels programs of other cities use direct mail to solicit donations from Georgetown residents. When you give to Meals on Wheels, be sure that your money is going to the Meals on Wheels program in Williamson & Burnet counties. Donate at: www.mealsonwheels-williamsonburnet.org/civicrm/contribute/

Meals on Wheels is a program of Opportunities for Williamson & Burnet counties. As the officially recognized senior nutrition program in Williamson County and Burnet County, this agency provides consistent and healthy meals to seniors in need each day.

Meals are also offered at several Opportunities for WBC neighborhood centers as well as home-delivered meals to those whose mobility is limited— thanks in large part to faithful community and church volunteers like those at First Presbyterian.

FELLOWSHIP



Judy Bond delivers food baskets and gifts for three Hope Alliance families to Matthew Mossman, Community Development Manager for the agency.

Plan to attend Spring Gathering at Mo-Ranch

Make plans to attend the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women, Mission Presbytery, March 22-24 at Mo-Ranch.

Covenant Presbyterian in Austin will be the host and Beth McDaniel will be keynote speaker. Theme this year is "The Gift of Friendship" from John 15:14. Lodging arrangements are to be made directly with Mo-Ranch, so you are encouraged to make your reservations early.

For more information and registration forms, go to presbyterianwomenofmissionpresbytery.org/spring-gathering.

Gifts, food delivered to Hope Alliance

Christmas gifts and food baskets were delivered to Hope Alliance December 12 by members of FPC's Presbyterian Women circles. Hope Alliance of Williamson County provides services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

This Christmas, PW again adopted three Hope Alliance families, each with a mother and her children ranging from 4 to 15 years old. Circle members purchased gifts from wish lists and gave each family a holiday meal. The gifts included bicycles with helmets, toys, clothing and gift cards. The gifts and food baskets make Christmas brighter for these families as they cope with separation and the stress of living in a temporary shelter.

It's never too late to join a PW circle for Bible study and fellowship! All women of the church are invited to participate in monthly meetings of one of the seven circles that meet at church or in homes.

Below are circle meeting times and days. If you are interested, contact the hostess and let her know you will be joining the meeting.

If you would like more information about joining a circle or about the Spring Gathering at Mo-Ranch (see sidebar at left), contact me (tazmaniandogs@hotmail.com, 512-868-3487) or Becky Hesson-Smith (becky_hesson_smith@msn.com, 512-635-2294).

—Judy Bond

January PW Circle Meetings

Circle	Date	Time	Hostess	Phone	Address
Esther	1/2	2:00pm	Nadine Tanner	512-240-5005	FPC Room 107
Elizabeth	1/8	6:30pm	Theresa McKenna	512-930-3751	3601 Brangus Road
Lydia	1/9	1:00pm	Nancy Dudley	512-869-7753	138 Ruellia Drive
Sarah-Ruth	1/14	10:00am	Marlene Watts	512-863-3735	212 Village Drive
Martha	1/16	9:30am	Cindy Bausch	512-240-5625	142 Camp Drive
Rachel	1/16	9:30am	Ruth DeRuyter	512-869-1420	714 Armstrong Drive
Hannah	1/16	11:00am	Lenice Smithwick	512-639-0078	FPC Room 111-112

Men's Fellowship Dinner

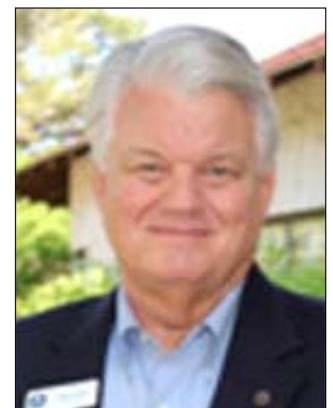
Mo-Ranch CEO to speak

Richard (Dick) Powell, President and Chief Executive Officer of Presbyterian Mo-Ranch Assembly, is speaker for the first Men's Fellowship Dinner meeting in 2019. It will be at 6 p.m. Monday, January 21, in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend. The catered dinner begins at 6:30 and the program at 7.

Mr. Powell has worked as a corporate officer in several international corporations specializing in strategic planning and turnaround situations. After earning a Master of Divinity degree from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary in 2007, he served as pastor of Forest Hills Presbyterian Church in Helotes, Texas.

He will address where we are in Mo-Ranch's strategic plan, with a focus on growth in the youth camping program.

Contact Marv Hulshizer (512-818-2094 or marv.mcf@suddenlink.net) by January 19 to make a dinner reservation at \$10 per person.



Richard (Dick) Powell



Penny Leone, RN
Parish Nurse
 pnurse5@aol.com

Office Hours:
 All day Tuesday
 Other hours
 by appointment

Senior Seminars resume in January

Virginia Lazenby is recovering well from her surgeries, so on Thursday, January 17, the Senior Seminars start again.

The topic that day, from 10-11:30 a.m. in FPC Sanctuary, is the one that was canceled in November: "What does 'Ready' look like? How Do I Know I Am Ready (to Make a Change)?"

Call 512-818-0988 for a reservation and so we will have plenty of handouts.

This presentation is open to everyone in the community, so bring a friend!

COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY

Points from Parish Nurse Penny

Thank you. It is with gratefulness to God that I thank Him for you, the people of FPC. As I look back on 2018, I think of the privilege I feel for all of your love and opportunity to be your parish nurse. Thank you for allowing me to be in your joys and in your pain and sorrows. Each of you is holy, and to be allowed into your holy moments is an honor I cherish. Thank you for your gift.

Psychiatrist's talk to focus on depression, suicide prevention

The Stephen Ministry is sponsoring a talk here on "Mental Health Issues for a Healthy Mind" by Elizabeth Truong, MD,



co-founder and chief clinical officer at Cloud 9, Austin, on Monday, January 21. The psychiatrist and member of Leadership Austin's 2019 class will speak at 7 p.m. in room 113. All are wel-

come to attend. Her talk will focus on depression and suicide prevention in youth and adults.

Dr. Truong is a member of the Austin Psychiatric Association and Texas Medical Association, and is an affiliate of the Austin chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

The mission of Cloud 9 is to make mental healthcare more accessible to existing patients and the vast numbers of people who remain underserved.

In the U.S., 20% of adults experience mental illness and only 8% receive care. Only half of Americans experiencing major depression receive treatment, and suicide is the 2nd leading cause of death for persons 10-34 years old. —Sandie Kienitz

The year 1976, forty-two years ago, saw the start of the first Nurses' Health Study, and more than 280,000 nurses have participated or are participating in this national study about risk factors for major chronic diseases in women. Nurses were singled out as participants because of their unique medical knowledge as well as their understanding of the importance in accurate assessment and regular follow-up. Nurses respond to brief, technically worded questionnaires about lifestyle factors, diet, behaviors, personal characteristics and more than 30 diseases. (Read more on-line about this at www.nurseshealthstudy.org or call me.)

Many of our health recommendations have come from the results of this study. The one factor that positively impacts every area of health is physical activity! The study shows that physical activity even lowers your risk of hearing loss and vision damage by age-related macular degeneration.



So please: Add steps to your life! Of course, any other physical activity works but walking is the easiest to maintain every day. Start by going for a walk, noticing how much time you walked. The next day, add 5 minutes to that time. Keep adding 5-10 minutes every week until you are walking an hour a day. I know, you are thinking, "A WHOLE HOUR? Are you crazy? I don't have that kind of time to spare in my day." You can break up the hour into smaller sections. Let me know what kind of creative ideas you came up with to get your hour in. With your permission, I'll share with the congregation!

FPC at the stroll

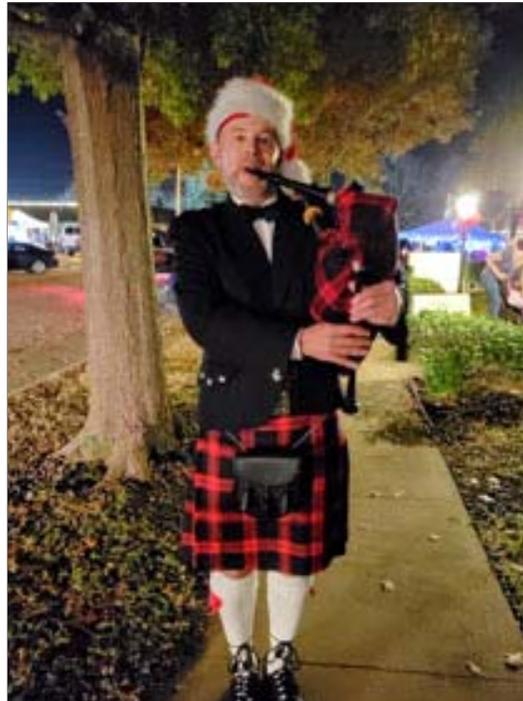
(continued from first page)

At times, a line of children and adults snaked down the church steps as people waited in line to ring the church bell. It got such a workout that Thomas Isenhour was pressed into service to get out a ladder and retie the bell rope when it broke. Presbyterian Women circles and other volunteers baked and donated 75 dozen cookies, according to Ann. The bags of cookies were handed out to those visiting the Sanctuary.

FPC member Shawn Levsen entertained stroll-goers Friday evening as he played the bagpipes while strolling up and down the sidewalk in front of the church.

Children and their parents visited the booth at the corner of the church to custom decorate Christmas ornaments. The craft activity was organized by committee volunteer Beverly Dennis. She estimates about 150 ornaments were decorated.

Two weeks before the event, students and parents from Minta's 5th and 6th grade Sunday School class distributed door hangers to residents in the immediate neighborhood, inviting them to church and to the stroll.



Shawn Levsen entertained Christmas Stroll visitors in front of the Sanctuary with his bagpipe on Friday night, November 30.

"Several people were surprised and delighted that we were giving away drinks as FPC's gift to the community," said Kathy, head deacon of the Evangelism Committee. "Others were surprised to discover this wonderful faith community near downtown and expressed appreciation for information about our upcoming Christmas Cantata and Christmas Eve services."

A father said his daughter had been looking forward all year to ringing the bell again after doing it last year. He declared it his family's new tradition.

The Evangelism Committee thanks all the volunteers who helped this year. More volunteers are needed if this tradition keeps going in the future. Please mark the first weekend in December 2019 on your calendar and plan to help!



Evangelism Committee volunteer Beverly Dennis watches as three children decorate Christmas ornaments at the church's booth during the Christmas Stroll.

**THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU...**

to all FPC volunteers at the Christmas Stroll who gave of their time and talents—making cookies, providing music and working in the Sanctuary or under the tent outside during the weekend. The Evangelism Committee is so grateful for everyone's help. —Ann Hindman



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JANUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30 David Lee Hulsey Preaching 11:00am Worship – WCFH	31	1 New Year's Day Church office closed	2 2:00pm Esther Circle 7:15pm Elijah Choir Rehearsal	3 6:00pm Choir Sectional	4 Church Office closes at noon	5
6 New Officer Ordination/Installation Dr. William C. Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Youth Progressive Dinner	7 11:00am PW Board Meeting 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training	8 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Staff Planning Meeting 6:30pm Elizabeth Circle	9 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Lydia Circle 5:00pm LOGOS 5:00pm Youth Parent Meeting I 5:40pm Youth Bible Study 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 6:30pm Youth Parent Meeting II 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	10 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Administrative Committee 6:00pm Choir Sectional 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	11 Church Office closes at noon 10:00am Mission Sewing 6:00pm Leader Retreat	12 9:00am Leader Retreat
13 Communion Dr. William C. Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm LOGOS Parent Meeting	14 10:00am Sarah-Ruth Circle 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training	15 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Stephen Leader Mtg 12:00pm LOGOS Board 6:45pm Executive Comm 7:30pm Committee Meetings	16 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 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm Youth Bible Study 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	17 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:00am Senior Seminar 6:00pm Choir Sectional 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	18 Church Office closes at noon 7:45am Men's Breakfast 5:30pm Youth to Mid- Winters @Mo-Ranch	19
20 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship	21 6:00pm Men's Fellowship Dinner 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Cont Ed	22 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Evangelism Comm 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	23 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm Youth Bible Study 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	24 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:00pm Choir Sectional 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	25 Church Office closes at noon	26
27 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 5:30pm Annual Congregational Meeting	28	29 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	30 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm Youth Bible Study 6:15pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	31 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:00pm Choir Sectional 7:15pm Jubilation Ringers	1 Church Office closed	2