

FIRSTWORD

Happy Valentine's Day

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

GEORGETOWN, TEXAS

ROOTED. REFORMED. RELEVANT.



February 2019

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Flapjack fundraiser to benefit Meals on Meals



Enjoy a short stack for a tall cause! You are invited to an Applebee's Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast to support Meals on Wheels (MOW)!

8 - 10 a.m. Saturday, February 23
Applebee's Neighborhood Grill
350 S. IH 35

During the two-hour buffet event, members of 10 Georgetown churches, including ours, will volunteer their time to greet customers, sell tickets and bus tables. The tickets are \$10 each. Half of each ticket purchased goes directly to local MOW. Previous fundraisers like this at Applebee's have raised more \$3,000.

There are three ways to help.

- ♦ Buy a \$10 ticket and attend the breakfast (\$5 to Applebee's and \$5 to MOW)
- ♦ Buy a \$10 ticket and don't go to breakfast (\$5 to Applebee's and \$5 to MOW)
- ♦ Donate any amount to MOW and it all goes to MOW.

Let your friends and neighbors know about the breakfast. Better yet, bring them with you!

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

8:30 a.m., Sanctuary

11 a.m., Worship Center-Fellowship Hall

Dr. William C. Poe Preaching all month

February 3: "The Greatest of These"

Scripture: Jeremiah 1:4-10;

1 Corinthians 13:1-13

February 10: "Woe is Me!"

Communion/Home Communion

Scripture: Isaiah 6:1-8; Luke 5:1-11

February 17: "Whom Do You Trust?"

Scripture: Jeremiah 17:5-10; Luke 6:17-26

February 24: "Grace-Full Surprises"

Scripture: Luke 6:27-38; Genesis 45:1-28



February 4: *That's the deadline for completing the survey to provide input to the Pastor Nominating Committee about the life and ministry of our church and the qualities sought in our next pastor.*

See story on page 2.



Angel Appearing to Elijah,
Ferdinand Bol, ca. 1642

FPC's Music Ministry will present

Mendelssohn's "Elijah"

7 p.m. March 30 & 31
Fellowship Hall

(see related stories beginning on page 12)



ANNIVERSARIES

- 2 Katie Bradford & Keith Brainard
- 4 Radona & Jason Wagner
- 14 Karen & Ray Rayburn
- 18 Peggy & Tim Taylor
- 19 Jaime & David Cowan
D. Ann & Jay Shiffler
- 26 Carly Kenkel & David Stump
- 27 Nancy & Bill Stramler
- 28 Helen & Emory Douglass
- 29 Terri & Dennis Borocz

BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Cindy Shaner
David Siekmeier
Joyce Walden
- 3 Juanita Kirby
- 4 Collin Jones
Parker Littleton
Amy Pratt
Tanner Walden
- 5 Ramona Kissner
- 6 Keith Smith
Judy Thomson
- 8 Lou Brown
Elaine Caskey
- 10 Kathy Jones
- 11 Addison Castañon
Dana Hall
Anne Hoke
- 12 Carole Alsup
Ruth McEntire
Carolyn Stubblefield
- 13 Rob Fullinwider
Cheryl Jenkins
- 14 Jeanine Albers
Dave Harrison
Jack Smithwick
- 15 Vivian Davis
Willie Gibson
Sarah Hulse
Joe Porch
Christina Unger
Linda Walke
- 17 Margie Copsey
Mary A. McKenna
- 18 Chris Spruiell
- 20 Philip Smith
- 21 Marty Brown
- 22 Gail Butler
Chessa Rizzotto
- 23 Chrystal O'Rourke
Nancy Robohn
Judy Turnbull
- 24 Jeremy Bailey
Bridget Chapman

(continued on next page)

From the Transitional Pastor's Study

One of the things we do together as the church is to share the "milestones" of our lives. Milestones are those events we look back upon as being important, in some way or another. They tell where we have been, and they remind us of important changes.

We celebrate joyful milestones with each other—births, baptisms, confirmations, graduations, weddings, accomplishments and so on. We laugh and compare stories, and sometimes we cry, because these events shape who we are, and the remembering draws out deep feelings.

We also observe the more somber milestones—deaths, divorces, tragedies, illnesses, failures, losses of all kinds. We weep together, and we compare stories, and sometimes we laugh, because not all of the remembering is sad.

There are also milestones in our life together as a church. We make important decisions, turn significant corners, share gains and losses and consider the future God holds out to us. In all of these milestones, our faith affirms that God is with us. In Jesus Christ, we are encountered by One who shares all of life with us and, in



sharing it, redeems it and opens it up in new ways.

During this transitional year, both before Mike's retirement and since, we have looked back, sharing the stories, sometimes laughing and sometimes crying. We have also begun to look forward to the future God is holding out to us. Through study, prayer and discussion, we and our Pastor Nominating Committee are considering what God's next plan for us may be. We are completing questionnaires and dreaming about the person

whom God is preparing to be the next pastor of this church. As always, in all of it, our faith affirms that God is with us.

Because of where we live, spring sometimes makes its presence known long before the calendar tells us that spring is here. Spring is a milestone in the life of the earth every year. It is a fresh start, and the new greenness and warmth we experience beginning every year near this time reminds us of the amazing love and providence of God.

Look around you, at the milestones we share. Rejoice in the God who is constantly renewing, reforming and recreating God's people.

Yours in Christ, Bill

**Your thoughts matter!
PNC asks members
to complete survey**

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) seeks input about the life and ministry of our church and the qualities sought in our next pastor. This information is needed to complete the Ministry Information Form required as part of the job posting process of the PCUSA. The deadline to complete the survey is February 4.

All confirmed members are asked to take 10 minutes to fill out the short survey so we can best describe our church and the position we are seeking to fill. The survey is online at <https://bit.ly/fpcsurvey19>.

If you don't wish to complete the survey online, you may pick up a paper copy in the narthex or the lobby. If you can't make it to church and would like a copy mailed to you, please call the church office.

Income and Expense Report Year to Date - December 2018 General Operating Fund			
	Actual	Annual Budget	YTD % Annual Budget
Income			
Pledges	\$862,603	\$846,088	102%
Other	93,202	139,080	67%
TOTAL	\$955,805	\$98,5168	97%
Expenses			
Validated Mission	58,344	58,346	100%
Local/Other Mission	28,053	31,134	90%
Ministry of the Word	159,033	158,942	100%
Program/Support Staff	422,910	435,981	97%
Christian Education	31,550	34,700	91%
Music and Worship	18,494	20,914	88%
Evangelism/Care	5,587	11,860	47%
Property	92,456	84,066	110%
Stewardship/Finance	19,310	18,200	106%
Other Oper Expenses	37,509	40,600	92%
Debt Retirement	90,370	90,370	100%
TOTAL	\$963,616	\$985,113	98%

Among Our People



Boldface indicates
a member of
First Presbyterian
Church

In the hospital last month: Rachel Bondesen (surgery), Lou Brown, Gary Nelson (surgery), Debbie Pilcher (surgery), Susan Poteete and Lois Stanley (surgery).

Congratulations: Roger & Cindee Molen-da on the birth of their grandson, Paxton Everett Porter, born January 15 in Austin. Proud parents are Tim & Katie Porter.

In memoriam: Jean Biggs joined the Church Triumphant January 16. Jean had been a member of our congregation since October 1989, serving as an elder from 1992-94, church librarian from 2000-12, and a Mission Advocate for many years. A memorial service officiated by Dr. William Poe will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, February 2, in the Sanctuary with a reception following in Fellowship Hall.

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; 1st Staff Sgt. Matthew L. Johnson, son of Glen & Ann Kaiser; 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 Georgetown ISD Board of Trustees has named its new building in honor of the late Jerry Hammerlun, FPC member who passed away in 2017. The facility is the "Georgetown ISD Administration and Hammerlun Center for Leadership and Learning."

A staff resignation:

As I sit here writing this letter, I can't believe it has been six years that I have served as your Membership Director. I have met and talked to many visitors in that time, and watched many of them become new members of our church. I have enjoyed standing in the lobby before the 11 o'clock service to greet the visitors as they come into our church. I have also shared many conversations with people that I have known for many years while standing out there. This time will always be cherished by me. I have always felt and witnessed the welcoming and loving presence that our congregation gives to all. With that said, it is time for me to step aside as your Membership Director and resign my position. With an ever-changing life and two growing children, I need to set focus on my family and our time together. Do not worry though; you will see us around the church.

As I resign from this position, I only ask that you as a church continue to be as welcoming to visitors and new members as you have in the past. I look forward to being able to still greet people as I always have, just from a different role.

I truly appreciate all the support through the years that this church has given me, both as a staff member and as a person who grew up in the congregation. I know that support will continue, and I look forward to what God has in store for me next.

*Blessings and love in Christ,
Elizabeth Bailey*

BIRTHDAYS

(continued from previous page)

- 25 Jerri Jones
Austin Moreno
Ben Pilcher
- 26 Lynn Azuma
John Ness
- 27 Nolan Pratt
Courtney Root
- 28 Bob Duncan
Jim Root, Sr.
Patrick Tolbert

Flowers in Worship/ February

- 3 Gayle Taylor
- 19 Kathy Jones
- 17 *This could be you!*
- 24 Nancy & Bill Stramler

Head Deacon/ February

- 8:30 Ann Hindman
Lea Ann Hutton
- 11:00 Betty Anne Poe
Minta McIntosh

Sign up to provide flowers for worship in 2019!

There are 12 open Sundays in 2019 for flowers in worship. The flower chart is on the wall outside the church office. Please stop by, choose a date and take a reminder. Flowers can be bought from one of two local florists that have an access code to our facility, or you may choose to bring your own arrangement.

For those new to our congregation or those unfamiliar with our procedure, here is a quick reference on what to do.

1. Sign your name by an open date on the calendar.
2. Note any special celebration and put a large "R" if you wish to re-gift your arrangement for our Flower Ministry.
3. Take a reminder for yourself since the date could be far in the future.

4. Buy flowers of your choice from either A Matter of Taste (512-863-0789) or The Flower Box (512-863-2023) and ask for them to be delivered to the church for worship the Saturday before your scheduled date.

5. You may also choose to bring your own arrangement as long as it arrives before the 8:30 a.m. worship service in the Sanctuary.

6. Let Christina Bondesen know what you would like to have printed in the bulletin about the flowers by 11 a.m. on Wednesday of the week before your scheduled Sunday.

You are welcome to contact Christina in the church office (512-863-3381) if you have questions about the process.

Joy Bedford
 Education Director
 jbedford2321@gmail.com



—Psalms 69:32

Save the dates

- ♦ **March 3**
LOGOS Sunday
- ♦ **April 10**
Congregational Seder Meal, 5:30 p.m. (*scripted*)
- ♦ **June 10-14**
Vacation Bible School
- ♦ **September 13-15**
All-Church Retreat



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A special invitation for education teachers and volunteers!

The Education/Nurture Committee would like to say thank you at the *Education Volunteer Banquet* 6 p.m. Sunday, February 10
 Guest Speaker: Dr. Bill Poe

Every two years the Education and Nurture Committee has a special night to honor our teachers and volunteers. You are invited to our Education Volunteer Banquet if you teach Sunday School for adults, youth or children; teach adult classes at anytime, e.g., circle Bible leaders, Men’s or Women’s Lunch Bible Study, etc.; volunteer for LOGOS; volunteer with our youth; help plan the retreat; etc. We hope you will come to enjoy dinner catered by Mona Andersen and served by our youth, and to hear Pastor Bill Poe speak.

RSVP no later than February 3 by calling or emailing Joy (512-863-3381, jbedford2321@gmail.com).

LOGOS plans new mission projects for spring semester

We’ve started our spring semester in LOGOS with a bang! We’re having tons of fun during our regular Wednesday evening programming as well as planning for LOGOS Sunday coming up March 3.

LOGOS will also work on a few different mission projects this semester, which we are excited about. The first project will be assembling “Blessing Bags.” These are large Ziploc baggies containing basic necessities for those in need. We plan to keep these in the church office to be handed out to people who come to FPC looking for assistance.

With generous contributions from the Potato Dinner Fundraiser last fall, we are able to purchase enough supplies to prepare a bag from each LOGOS child. We also look forward to our ever-popular Talent Show this month, from 6 - 7:15 Wednesday, the 13th. You are welcome if you would like to attend. —Jaime Cowan, Director

LOGOS Themes for February

Date	Theme	Attire	Game/Activity	Menu
*6	Neon Night	Neon Clothing	Spoon Hanging Competition	Hot dogs
13	Talent Show (5 th Wednesday)	LOGOS T-shirt or Talent Show Attire	Talent Show	Spaghetti
*20	Mustache Night	Mustaches	Packing Blessing Bags	Chicken nuggets
27	Dr. Seuss Night	Favorite Dr. Seuss Character	LOGOS Sunday Rehearsal	Eggs & ham

*Youth eating with us



Scenes from Super Hero Night at LOGOS in January

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

All adult Sunday School classes will meet with representatives of the Pastor Nominating Committee on February 17 in the individual classes. Please be there to let your voice be heard.

Adult Elective, Room 113

♦ *"Reading the Bible as the Word of God"*
Through February 10

Dr. Cindy Rigby, APTS

Christians claim the Bible is "the Word of God." But what does that mean, exactly? Most of us find it challenging to interpret at least some passages of scripture, especially stories where God seems angry or violent. Are these passages really "the Word of God"? Many of us are trying to figure out how to respect the "authority" of the Bible, but we also want to get beyond literal ways of reading it. What are our options for reading the Bible well? We talk about these issues in this class and offer concrete suggestions and strategies for how to read the Bible as the Word of God in our individual devotional lives and how to lead Bible studies that allow people to ask hard questions and to find new meanings in difficult passages.

♦ *"Get Ready for Elijah"*

February 24 - March 17

Cynthia & Guy Guidici

It's happening! Choirs from FPC and Well-spring combine to sing Felix Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, with symphony in March. Get ready for the performances by joining us to review the stories of Elijah, learn

about Mendelssohn's composition process, and preview the oratorio.

Week 1: Elijah's Story in 1 Kings

Week 2: Elijah's Story in 2 Kings

Week 3: Mendelssohn's *Elijah*

Week 4: Get Ready to Listen

Read up before class: 1 Kings 17-19 and 2 Kings 1-2. (No, there won't be a test. Read anyway.)

Homebuilders, Room 112

"Enough: God's Blessings in Abundance"
February 10 - March 24

Karen Jones

In this six-session study, *Enough: God's Blessings in Abundance* by Laura Mendenhall, Homebuilders will explore dimensions of "enough" through the parables and other scripture.

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.

♦ *"TBD"*

February 10 - March 10

Bill Stanley

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.



**LOGOS
Sunday
is set for
March 3**

LOGOS children will lead in worship on Sunday, March 3, at both services. This year they will present the musical "We Like Sheep" by Kathie Hill.

This musical tells the story of the lost sheep from Luke 15.

Other Education 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) 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.

Ladies Lunch Bible Study

Bring your lunch and join us at noon on Wednesdays starting January 16 as we study, through February, **Elijah—Spiritual Stamina in Every Season** by Melissa Spoelstra.



**5K & Fun
Run on
March 3**

The family of Jerry Hammerlun invites you to participate in Georgetown's annual Chase the Chief 5K and Hammerlun Fun Run on March 3 at East View High School. Money raised benefits the PE departments of local schools. For more information, go to <https://helloworldgeorgetown.com/chase-the-chief-5k-and-fun-run/>.

YOUTH MINISTRY



Youth Calendar

- 3**
Souper Bowl II; Super Bowl Party @ Pratts'
- 10**
Education Volunteer Banquet
- 13**
LOGOS Talent Show
- 17**
Bread Breakers; DNOW Prayer Bracelets
- 20**
DNOW Kick-Off
- 22 - 24**
DNOW

Youth opportunities as the new year starts

I like family get-togethers. That includes church families. And I love the fact that we have two great opportunities for our youth at the beginning of the year. In January we had six boys from our youth group attend MidWinters Youth Retreat at Mo-Ranch where we explored God's Word, worshipped, sang, danced and had a lot of fun with other youth from Mission Presbytery. Later this month, our youth will participate in DNOW, a weekend event focusing on worshipping God, serving others and fellowship with other youth groups in the Georgetown/Round Rock area.

I think it's a great way to begin the year (regardless of how busy it keeps me). These opportunities offer students a chance to put some of the everyday distractions to the side

and allow space for God's Word to speak louder into their lives. It also sets an environment of open community, because the youth know that they will be meeting youth from other churches and a chance to bond with fellow believers.

I would ask anyone reading this article to pray that these experiences would create memorable moments of faith in the lives of our youth, and that the young church would strive to find and connect where we are similar to other brothers and sisters in Christ while celebrating our differences that make us unique. In all this, I pray that they continue to learn how to treat one another (and themselves) and beloved children of God.

—God bless, David Lee Hulsey

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 3

is the last day to help the youth of First Presbyterian Church by bringing donations of nonperishable food items for The Caring Place and monetary donations for the Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.



Attending Mid-Winters Youth Retreat at Mo-Ranch in January: (from left) Alvin Gusman, Nicholas Bondesen, Kyle Chapman, Allen Pratt, Nolan Pratt, Jay McEntire



MISSION



AUSTIN PRESBYTERIAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Austin Seminary: Preparing women and men for pastoral ministry

The unwavering commitment of Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary (APTS), one of FPC's supported missions, is to prepare women and men for pastoral ministry. It enjoys a strong reputation in theology and biblical studies, preaching, worship and practical experience for pastoral ministry.

A large percentage of APTS graduates serve in the parish, but the seminary recognizes that God calls people to a variety of ministries. In a recent survey of graduating students, the top three areas in which they felt stronger because of their seminary education were: 1) trust in God, 2) self-knowledge and 3) respect for their own religious tradition.

Outdoor grill parties, ice cream on the green, and a study group sharing successes and challenges are just a few examples of community at the seminary.

For generations, pastoral education and formation have taken place in and around the campus—in chapel, at table fellowship, in a pickup basketball game.

Students continually comment on the strong and caring support they received at seminary. The seminary encourages those who feel called to serve God, because education for pastoral ministry has to occur in community.

The diverse geographical, theological and age representation of seminary students translates into opportunities for them to engage in conversations that nurture and challenge deeply held beliefs.

Partnerships

Through partnerships with seminaries in Hungary and Zambia, the Austin seminary community is enhanced each year
(continued on next page)

Seminary Interns

Over the years, FPC has accepted interns from the APTS's Supervised Practice of Ministry program. After completing foundation courses, students are prepared to learn through actual ministry, under the supervision of an experienced pastor and mentor.

The interns who have served here include:

Ruth Hempel
Anne Cameron
Bill Willis
David Lee Hulsey
Eric Dittman
Desiree Youngblood
Courtney Root
Katy Bedford



APTS

(continued from previous page)

by students from those institutions who come as Ecumenical Fellows as the seminary strives for racial-ethnic

A commitment to cross-cultural diversity is seen in travel seminars. Domestic opportunities include an exploration of Jewish-Christian dialogue, a ministry in Sun City, Arizona, and an alternative context ministry in New Mexico. Scholarships help subsidize an international or cross-cultural experience, and recent destinations included Africa, India, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East.

Many places brag about their student-faculty ratios, an important factor, and APTS's is an intimate 10:1. Prospective students say the most important reason for attending APTS is the quality of the faculty and the academic reputation of the school. The 21 Christian scholars who make up the faculty integrate into their daily lives a spirit of devotion to the mission of God's church in the world.

Financial aid and housing

Need-based financial aid are available to help with tuition costs. Loans through a federal loan program also help students meet the costs of their education. Living on campus may be one of the better

bargains in theological education. APTS subsidizes on-campus housing by 50% or more compared to other apartments in the seminary/university area. In addition to need-based aid, entering Master of Divinity students may be awarded merit-based fellowships and merit-based scholarships.

Academics and worship

Corporate worship, the cornerstone of spiritual formation, is at the center of the seminary's community's life. Worship occurs in Shelton Chapel two mornings a week. Students, faculty, staff and dean of the chapel lead worship—preaching, singing and praying in a variety of settings and styles. Special services during the liturgical year and student-organized evening worship services offer diverse worship opportunities.

For thinkers in the Reformed tradition, Christian scholarship is considered one of the classic spiritual disciplines, and there is plenty of study at APTS. This attention to scholarship seeks to deepen one's faith, broaden one's knowledge of God, and bring all into conversation with the vast experience of Christians and their communities of faith throughout history.

For more information, visit www.austinseminary.edu, or contact Courtney Root, FPC's Mission Advocate for APTS.



First Presbyterian
Church

web page:

www.fpcgeorgetown.org



BiG sponsors annual art auction March 8

Save the date and buy a ticket for **BiG's 6th Annual Art Auction/ Showered with Grace** 7 p.m. Friday, March 8 **Sheraton Georgetown Hotel**
One of a kind art-food-drinks-music!

BiG (Brookwood in Georgetown) is an "out of the box," innovative community for adults with special needs where everything the "citizens" make is sold in a beautiful high-end gift shop, in the cafe or in the greenhouse. BIG citizens become artisans, bakers, gardeners, card makers, jewelry makers and more.

Buy tickets at \$100 each online (www.brookwoodingeorgetown.org) or in the shop at 905 N. Church St.



Mission Sewing takes on another project

Last month, special guest Jeanne Smith spoke to us about a need for warm hats/caps for patients at St. David's Cancer Center. She explained that many patients do not have a head covering to keep them warm while undergoing infusion. Our sewing group will provide knitted and crocheted hats for these very deserving individuals.

Thank you to:

- ♦ Lea Ann Hutton for the crocheted blanket
- ♦ Judy Willett for five weighted blankets for PCHAS
- ♦ Alison Harrison for the knitted baby hats
- ♦ Barbara Caudle for the stuffed animal and blanket
- ♦ The person who donated blue fabric

And thanks to Linette Harwell, Debbie Chase and Lenice Smithwick for the comfort pillows for St. David's.

Our next meeting will be at 10 a.m. Friday, February 8, in room 111.

—Kathy Jones

TCP food drive nets 317,998 lbs.

I hope you all had a wonderful and blessed Christmas. I spent three weeks in Scotland with my son and his family. I had forgotten how busy things are when there are young people around. It was lovely to see them all but it is also nice to come back home. So are you ready to get your life back to normal?

The Caring Place had a busy holiday season and made a huge effort to get food enough for the population in need. The "Hunger Free Holidays" food drive was a huge success. The goal was to receive 225,000 pounds of food and the actual total received was 317,998 pounds. Thank you to all who did their part. It makes a great deal of difference to the families in need in our community. As our community grows, it is sad to say that the hunger problem grows with it.

Beginning again in 2019 are the "Chat and Chew" sessions. If you are interested in finding out exactly what The Caring Place does, this is a great way to learn and there is a free lunch to go with it. These take place usually on Thursday at lunch time. If you are even a little bit interested in volunteering, this is a great way to start. Just call The Caring Place at 512-943-0740 or visit at 2000 Railroad Ave.

The needs for this month are:

- ♦ Soups
- ♦ Any kind of beans except green beans
- ♦ Any kind of juice
- ♦ Baking mixes
- ♦ Cereals
- ♦ Diapers sizes 4, 5 and 6
- ♦ Deodorants, shampoo and all other types of personal care items.

As always, thanks for all you do.

—Jenny Carswell



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.

FIRSTWORD

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Dr. James Hindman

Humor

Poster found in a church in France, translated: When you enter this church, it may be possible that you hear "the call of God."

However, it is unlikely that He will call you on your mobile phone.

Thank you for turning off your phones. If you want to talk to God, choose a quiet place and talk to Him. If you want to see Him, send him a text while driving.

FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship Dinner

Dr. James Hindman to speak at men's meeting

"The Civil War, College Football and the American Pursuit of Masculinity" will be the topic of Dr. James Hindman when he speaks at the Men's Fellowship Dinner on Monday, February 18, in Fellowship Hall. All men of the church are invited to attend. The meeting begins with conversation and fellowship at 6 p.m., followed by a catered dinner at 6:30 and the guest speaker at 7.

Jim is a member of FPC. His talk to the men is one he presented at Angelo State University as part of the university's Civil War Sesquicentennial Commemoration Lecture Series. He has been professor of history at Eastern New Mexico University, the University of Northern Colorado, Middle Tennessee State University and Angelo State University. In 1995, he became president of Angelo State University and in 2007 was named president emeritus.

Contact me (512-818-2094 or marv.mcf@suddenlink.net) no later than February 16 to make your dinner reservation. Cost of dinner is \$10 per person.

—*Marv Hulshizer*

PW support seven mission projects in 2018

In 2018, Presbyterian Women's Circles gave a total of \$2,605.50 to seven mission projects: Presbyterian Women of Mission Presbytery, Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services, Su Casa de Esperanza, Williamson County Children's Advocacy Center, First Presbyterian Church Emergency Fund, The Georgetown Project and Hope Alliance of Williamson County. Thanks to all the PW circle members who gave so generously to these worthwhile missions in 2018!

It's never too late in 2018-19 to join a PW circle for Bible study and fellowship! All women of the church are invited to

participate in monthly circle meetings. Currently there are seven circles meeting at church or in homes. The table below provides meeting times and days circles are offered. 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 Presbyterian Women's organization, contact me at tazmaniandogs@hotmail.com, 512-868-3487 or Becky Hesson-Smith at becky_hesson_smith@msn.com, 512-635-2294.

—*Judy Bond*

February PW Circle Meetings

Circle	Date	Time	Hostess	Phone	Address
Elizabeth	2/5	6:30 p.m.	Theresa McKenna	512-930-3751	3601 Brangus Road
Esther	2/6	2:00 p.m.	Nadine Tanner	512-240-5005	FPC Room 107
Sarah-Ruth	2/11	10:00 a.m.	Marlene Watts	512-863-3735	212 Village Drive
Lydia	2/13	1:00 p.m.	Larian Carson	512-863-0407	204 W. Legend Oaks
Martha	2/20	9:30 a.m.	Judy Thomson	512-240-4969	538 Deer Meadow Circle
Rachel	2/20	9:30 a.m.	Ramona Kissner	512-863-6504	106 Saddle Trail
Hannah	2/20	11:00 a.m.	Judy Bond	512-868-3487	402 S. Ridge Circle

COMPASSIONATE CARE MINISTRY

Points from Parish Nurse Penny

What is a T-Coil?

Hearing loss? Are you aware that FPC has accomplished a major upgrade to its sound system, especially to help those with hearing loss? The Worship Center, the Sanctuary and Conference Room 101 all have the sound systems with "T-Coil Loop System" (telecoil) capability!

What does that mean? A t-coil is a small copper antenna inside some hearing aids. T-coils operate by receiving and converting electromagnetic energy into sound that can be heard by the hearing aid user. Sounds are delivered directly into the listener's hearing aid, which dramatically improves his or her ability to hear. The T-coil signals must be projected into the environment by a loop system.

T-coils have been around since 1938! At that time, the purpose was to provide people with hearing aids an enhanced ability to hear on the telephone! As with all new-fangled inventions, through the



years T-coils have been through many versions. Some were helpful to the user and some were just plain frustrating! With the advent of sound systems and electronics that are not used against the ear, more challenges to the T-coil feature have been presented and addressed.

Many people with hearing aids aren't aware if their hearing aids have the T-coil capability. Because there are so many different types, brands and styles of hearing aids, you should ask your audiologist about your personal hearing aids. About 65% of all hearing aids dispensed in the U.S. now have T-coils.

Save the Date: See the article below about "A Gift of Time" presentation February 18 in the Sanctuary. While Georgetown has several great adult care respite programs, by state mandate they are a few days a week only and a few hours a day. "A Gift of Time" will be open every weekday for 8-12 hours.

Stephen Ministry presentation February 18 by founder of Georgetown adult day care

Josephine (Josie) Zamora, RN, founder and Executive Director of A Gift of Time Adult Day Care, will speak at 7 p.m. Monday, February 18, in the Sanctuary. Sponsored by the Stephen Ministry's Continuing Education program, her presentation is open to all interested persons.

In 2011 a Georgetown Aging Initiative identified the need for an adult day care center in Georgetown. A group of Georgetown residents were concerned about the growing senior population, the growing number of adults diagnosed with dementia and caregivers' need for this service.

The nonprofit organization to bring such a center to Georgetown was formed in December 2016, with Josie leading the way. The center's mission will be "to provide compassionate, holistic day care for

people with memory loss and to support their loved ones as they confront the challenges of caregiver." In December 2016, the Men's Steak Fry Group (including former Mayor Leo Wood) donated \$3,000 to help fund the project. The Georgetown Health Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant, the Communities Foundation of Texas \$2,500 and St. Helen Catholic Church \$3,000 to the organization in 2017.

Josie will share information about the progress toward opening of A Gift of Time Adult Day Care in Georgetown. For more information, go to the web page at <https://agiftoftimegeorgetown.org/>.



Penny Leone, RN
Parish Nurse
pnurse5@aol.com

Office Hours:
All day Tuesday
Other hours
by appointment

Senior Seminar

We had a great beginning in January for the Senior Seminars. "Choosing the Right Senior Community for You" will be the topic on Thursday, February 21, 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Even if you don't think you want this information or at least don't need it yet, come on out to hear the information. It's free and the only thing you need to do is register by calling 512-818-0988.

MUSIC MINISTRY



Choir rehearsal
for *Elijah*

SPOTLIGHT



**Elijah:
To be
presented
on two
evenings
in March**

Two church choirs and an orchestra combine to present Mendelsson's famous oratorio

From the time German-born composer Felix Mendelssohn began toying with the idea of a major work about the prophet Elijah, to the premiere performance of it in Birmingham, England, 10 years had passed. That premiere, which Mendelsson conducted at a well known music festival, featured a choir of 271 voices and an orchestra of 125 players.

In contrast, from the time FPC Music Director Philip Smith chose the famous oratorio for a spring 2019 performance, to the actual Georgetown premiere on two nights in late March, only about a year will have passed—a year during which the Music Ministry will have invested months of preparation. It is the most ambitious musical presentation undertaken by FPC's Music Ministry, which Philip has directed for 10 years. He joined the staff as he completed a Bachelor of Music degree in sacred music at Southwestern University.

Georgetown's *Elijah* is an ecumenical effort that brings together the choirs of two Georgetown churches, FPC and

Wellspring United Methodist Church, where Philip's father, Dr. Jeff Smith, is pastor. *Elijah* in its entirety will be presented on two nights, at 7 o'clock Saturday and Sunday, March 30 and 31, in Fellowship Hall. It is open to church members and the community at no charge. No tickets will be sold or reservations taken: Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a brief intermission during the concert.

Fitting an 80-person choir, four soloists, Philip as conductor and a 34-piece orchestra into the hall, while leaving room for an audience of about 300, will require an unusual configuration of that room. This seating arrangement will also be in effect for the 11 o'clock Sunday morning worship service between the concerts.

But before *Elijah* could become a reality, three things had to fall into place, Philip explained.

"*Elijah* is about two hours and 15 minutes, so it wouldn't work in an hour-long Sunday morning worship service.

I discussed with (pastor at the time) Mike Roberts and (transitional pastor) Bill Poe the idea of doing it as a formal concert instead. They were on board, so first we had to get a date on the church calendar.”

The second thing that needed to be nailed down was funding, which was approved—first by the Worship Committee, next by the Stewardship and Finance Committee, and then by the full Session. Monies are to come from both the Music Ministry planned giving fund administered by the Texas Presbyterian Foundation (TPF) and the church’s 2019 Music Ministry budget.

The concerts will be recorded as a live album. Donations will help with that cost. Total cost of the project is about \$25,000: \$15,000 for guest soloists and orchestra members, \$8,000 for the recording, and \$2,000 for music scores and parts. At the concerts, CDs of the FPC choir’s first album will be sold and pre-

orders taken for the *Elijah* album. Donations to the TPF Music Ministry fund also will be accepted.

“The third thing that needed to be confirmed was making sure Bruce Cain was available,” Philip said. “Bruce is a baritone and will perform the role of Elijah.” He is a member of the music faculty at Southwestern University and was Philip’s voice teacher while a student there.

Elijah is one of only two oratorios Mendelssohn wrote. Philip was a member of the choir that performed the other one, *St. Paul*, while a student at Southwestern.

For Philip and members of the FPC choirs, performing *Elijah* will demand more of a commitment than any of their previous cantatas, including Handel’s *Messiah*. It was presented in two parts in worship services at Christmas 2014 and Easter 2015.

(continued on next page)

Premiere in 1846 in England

After the 1836 premiere of his first oratorio, St. Paul, Felix Mendelssohn’s thoughts turned to the Old Testament prophet Elijah, who intrigued him and who he thought would be a perfect musical subject.

He was spurred on by a commission from the Birmingham Music Festival in England to write an oratorio for performance in 1846.

On August 26, 1846, 2,000 people gathered at Birmingham Town Hall for the premiere performance of Elijah, conducted by Mendelssohn.

The work was a resounding success. The critic for The London Times wrote, “The last note of Elijah was drowned in a long-continued unanimous volley of plaudits, vociferous and deafening.”

Although Mendelssohn died a year later, Elijah was played at every successive Birmingham Festival. And although the festival would commission many works by famous composers, the composer with the longest and most intense festival association was Felix Mendelssohn.



Mendelssohn’s

Elijah

*The combined choirs of
First Presbyterian Church &
Wellspring United Methodist Church*

Philip Smith, Conductor

**7:00 p.m.
Saturday, March 30
& Sunday, March 31**

From William Blake, ‘The Blasphemer’



Felix Mendelssohn

“I imagined Elijah as a real prophet through and through, of the kind we could really do with today: strong, zealous and, yes, even bad-tempered, angry and brooding—in contrast to the riff-raff, whether of the court or the people, and indeed in contrast to almost the whole world—and yet borne aloft as if on angels’ wings.

—Felix Mendelssohn, 1838

The prophet Elijah

The prophet Elijah is one of the most interesting people in the Old Testament. You can find the stories about him in the last few chapters of 1 Kings and the first couple of chapters of 2 Kings. The stories have to do with his life and with the ways in which he embodied God’s desires for the faithfulness of the people of Israel. He was provided for by angels and ravens, and he provided sustenance for a Gentile widow and her family. He did battle with the priests of Baal and with Queen Jezebel. He humbled King Ahab and raised up a successor to continue his work, whose name was Elishah. He is one of only a few people in the Bible who are said not to have “died,” but to have been carried away in a whirlwind!

And yet, as his story makes clear in the end, it was not Elijah, but the God to whom he pointed, who was the active Agent in his stories.

Just as the stories of Elijah loom large in the Old Testament narrative, so Felix Mendelssohn’s *Elijah* looms large in the realm of sacred choral music. It is a monumental retelling of the stories of Elijah, and it is a monumental undertaking for the choirs of two Georgetown churches! I hope that you will plan to be present for one of the presentations of *Elijah*, and that you will re-visit the stories about him in the Bible.

—Dr. William C. Poe, Transitional Pastor

Elijah concert

(continued from previous page)

Philip explored several works while trying to decide on a major work for this spring. “I dove deep into a few different options. I considered *Elijah*, was hesitant about it and tried to avoid it, but kept being pulled back to it, feeling a strong sense of God’s call. *Elijah* is an incredible work, a story of faith in God, and it will create a strong sense of excitement in our Music Ministry, our church, and in the community—even greater, I believe, than Handel’s *Messiah* did.” Philip also believes these presentations of Mendelssohn’s famous oratorio will be uplifting for both churches.

Live recording at both performances

Plans call for the two public performances, as well as the dress rehearsal, to be recorded live for the professionally produced album. *Elijah* will also fulfill Philip’s recital requirement for the Master of Music degree in choral conducting at Texas State University, a degree he will complete this August.

“Since *Elijah* will be presented on a Saturday and Sunday evening, not dur-

ing Sunday morning worship, that opened up the possibility of inviting the Wellspring UMC choir to join us,” Philip said. Both his father and Choir Director Sallia Bandy agreed.

To facilitate choir practices for *Elijah*, since early January Wellspring’s choir has practiced at FPC on Wednesday at 6 p.m. and then joined the choirs of FPC in *Elijah* rehearsals at 7:15. Philip said, “It will be a great experience for their choir members and ours.”

The choir and orchestra will occupy the east wall space of Fellowship Hall, and seating will fill the remainder of the room, including the chancel area and the choir loft.

Joining Bruce as soloists for *Elijah* are Lori Fisher, soprano; Tai Collins, tenor; and Dr. Beth Everett, mezzo soprano, who conducts the Southwestern University Chorale and Southwestern University Singers. Each soloist has his or her own following in central Texas, Philip pointed out. Lori has a connection to our church: She is the granddaughter of FPC member Dot Riddle, who joined the Church Triumphant in November.

Symphony players from San Antonio, Austin, Round Rock, Temple and Waco, as well as music professors at several universities, will be in the orchestra.

There will be three full rehearsals of *Elijah*, one a dress rehearsal, for the March 30 and 31 concerts.

Getting the music score ready

Preparation for *Elijah* has consumed Philip's weekly schedule and his two study leaves, a week last October and a week in November. He began marking the choral parts last summer. Once completed, two FPC Scholarship Singers, Daniel Winkler and Clayton Arnold, spent many hours transferring them to a document printed in two parts for each choir member, who then transferred the notes at home to his or her 200-page copy of the choral score.

"This saves about 10 hours of rehearsal time," Philip explained, "which is essential since we have only about 15 hours of total chorus rehearsal time."

Philip spent some 100 hours in a single week last October doing "bowings and string markings."

"By the end of March, I will have likely invested more than 1,300 hours

in this project," Philip said. He has been working on it long enough that there are decisions and marks in his score he says he doesn't even recall making.

"Each time orchestral string players move their bows up or down, someone—the conductor, in this case—has made a decision about each motion," Philip said. "For oratorios like *Elijah*, where there is limited time for full rehearsals, those detailed decisions are made in advance, marked in the score and transferred to the individual string parts."

On a week-long leave in November, he did the brass and woodwind markings.

Help with transferring markings

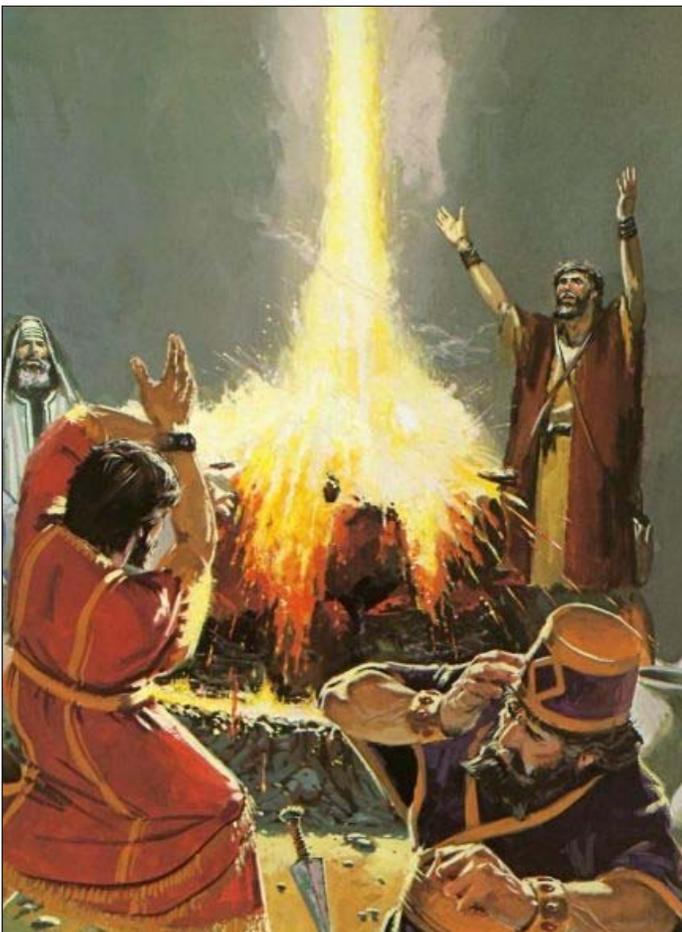
Philip is grateful to Daniel, Clayton, Nick Winkle, Sandy Hayes, Beverly Jones and Betty Smith for their help in transferring markings to scores and parts. FPC's Sandy (cello) and Magen Smith (flute), Philip's wife, are in the orchestra.

Philip said he prays that God might use the efforts invested by the choir and orchestra in *Elijah* "to inspire not only the musicians' lives but also the lives of all who come to experience it with us. I believe that we have been called to do this piece. The prophet Elijah lived by faith, and we are stepping out in faith as well."

—Marty Curtis

Elijah challenged King Ahab and the prophets of Baal to a contest to determine whose god was the true god by praying for each to send down fire and accept a sacrifice. The prophets of Baal were unable to get him to send down fire and accept their sacrifice. But in answer to Elijah's prayer, "The Lord sent fire down, and it burned up the sacrifice, the wood, and the stones, scorched the earth and dried up the water in the trench."

—1 Kings 18:38



“
I dove deep into a few different options. I considered Elijah, was hesitant about it and tried to avoid it, but kept being pulled back to it, feeling a strong sense of God's call. Elijah is an incredible work, a story of faith in God, and it will create a strong sense of excitement in our Music Ministry, our church, and in the community—even greater, I believe, than Handel's Messiah did.”

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—Philip Smith
FPC Music Director

FEBRUARY 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching Souper Bowl of Caring I 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Youth Bread Breakers 5:30pm Congregational Meeting	28 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training	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 1:00pm Grief group 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	31 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:00pm Elijah Sectional	1 Church office closes at noon	2 2:00pm Jean Biggs Memorial Service
3 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching Souper Bowl of Caring II 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 4:30pm Youth @ Pratts' home	4 11:00am PW Board Meeting 6:30pm Stephen Ministry Supervision	5 Joy Bedford at APCE thru 2/9 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm LOGOS Board 6:30pm Elizabeth Circle	6 Jaime Cowan at APCE thru 2/9 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief group 2:00pm Esther Circle 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm Youth Bible Study 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	7 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:00pm Elijah Sectional	8 10:00am Mission Sewing Church office closes at noon	9
10 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching Communion/Home Communion 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 6:00pm Education Banquet	11 9:00am P.E.O. Meeting 10:00am Sarah-Ruth Circle 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training	12 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 6:45pm Safety & Security 6:45pm Executive Comm 7:30pm Committee Meetings	13 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief group 1:00pm Lydia Circle 4:00pm Youth Helping Hands 5:00pm LOGOS Talent Show 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	14 Jaime Cowan on vacation thru 2/17 9:00am P.E.O. Meeting 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Administrative Comm 6:00pm Elijah Sectional	15 Penny Leone out of town thru 2/16 Church office closes at noon	16
17 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 11:00am Worship 12:00pm Youth Bread Breakers	18 Church office closed: President's Day 6:00pm Men's Fellowship Dinner 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training 7:00pm Stephen Ministry Continuing Ed	19 Kathi Davenport on vacation 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 12:00pm Stephen Leader Mtg 4:30pm Newsletter Deadline 6:00pm Evangelism Comm 7:00pm Diaconate Meeting	20 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 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm DNOW Kick-off 6:30pm Sanctuary Choir 7:15pm Chancel/Cantata Choir	21 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:00am Senior Seminar 6:00pm Elijah Sectional	22 Church office closes at noon 6:00pm DNOW Weekend begins	23 9:00am LOGOS Staging Rehearsal
24 Dr. William C. Poe Preaching 8:30am Worship 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am DNOW Brunch 11:00am Worship	25 David Lee out of town thru 2/27 6:00pm ACR Planning Meeting 6:00pm Stephen Ministry Training	26 9:00am Treehouse Learning 10:30am Pastoral Care 11:00am Staff Meeting 7:00pm Session Meeting	27 12:00pm Ladies' Lunch Bible Study 12:00pm Men's Lunch Bible Study 1:00pm Grief group 5:00pm LOGOS 5:40pm PNC with Youth group 7:15pm Cantata Choir	28 9:00am Treehouse Learning 6:00pm Elijah Sectional	1 Church office closes at noon Presbytery Meeting, Austin	2 Presbytery Meeting, Austin 9:00am LOGOS Dress Rehearsal 9:00am Elijah Rehearsal
3 LOGOS Sunday Stephen Ministry Commissioning 8:30am Worship – WCFH 9:40am Sunday School 9:40am LOGOS Brunch 11:00am Worship – WCFH						