

THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

FEBRUARY 2018 | Volume 17, Number 2



CARING FOR YOU

A Four-Part Series on FPC's Parish Visitors

Part 1: Bridging the Gap Between Homebound Members and the Congregation

Congregational Care is a vital element of ministry here at First Presbyterian Church. So much so, in fact, that two part-time Parish Visitors are on staff to coordinate efforts to care for, love, and support members in a variety of ways. Both of these women, Jennifer Pettey and Jennifer Regen, are also members of the church, which provides a unique perspective and insight.

This is the first in a series of articles that will share more about the Congregational Care Ministry of FPC, the roles of its staff, and how you might become involved.

As in Romans 12:12-13, Christians are called to “Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer,” and



Top: Jennifer Pettey
Bottom: Jennifer Regen



other activities. These members might be recovering from long-term illnesses, be temporarily or permanently homebound, or are residents of care facilities. When Parish Visitors visit these members, they

to “Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”

One way FPC's Parish Visitors live out this scripture is by visiting members who are unable to fully participate in our church community by attending worship or

help keep a fresh connection between them and their congregation. Meaningful relationships and friendships are often developed.

During a typical visit, Parish Visitors informally observe the wellbeing of the member. On behalf of FPC, they can pass along care resources available in our community, share needs with family who are not nearby, and relay important updates to other church staff as needed.

For more information about visits from our Parish Visitors, please feel free to contact Jennifer Pettey (jpettey@fpcfw.org) or Jennifer Regen (jregen@fpcfw.org) in the church office at 817-335-1231.

Upcoming articles in this series will discuss ways our Parish Visitors support families of homebound members, coordinate Care Teams, facilitate funeral and memorial services, and more.

PASTORS' LETTER



Dear friends,

This month we gather for worship on Wednesday, February 14 at either noon or 7 p.m. to mark Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. For the first time both services will be held in the Great Hall, as the noon service has grown beyond the Chapel's capacity. Interestingly, Ash Wednesday is also Valentine's Day this year. Ashes, love, Lent...

Lent is my favorite liturgical season. I imagine for some the themes of repentance, humility, and mortality seem heavy and dark. And I admit, they can be. They also, for me, invite deep reflection on my humanity and what it means to understand my humanity as a child of God. They invite deep reflection on God's love. Henri Nouwen's *Life of the Beloved* is a spiritual classic that I return to each Lent. His words always call forth for me deep reflection. The following passage has done that for me often:

"Our brokenness is always lived and experienced as highly personal, intimate, and unique. I am deeply convinced that each human being suffers in a way no other human being suffers... Our brokenness is truly ours. Nobody else's. Our brokenness is as unique as our chosenness and our blessedness...Yes, fearsome as it may sound, as the Beloved ones, we are called to claim our unique brokenness, just as we have to claim our unique chosenness and our unique blessedness." (pp. 87-88)

I have always thought of Lent as such an honest season. Honest about who I am - who we are - and honest about the depth of God's love for us in Jesus Christ. As we journey through Lent and approach Holy Week, may you experience God's claim, God's blessing, and God's presence with you in your brokenness - as well as in your joy. You are Beloved. We are Beloved. God holds us all in the palm of God's hand. Today, tomorrow, and always. What a gift. Honestly.

God's Peace to Your Home,

Michael

SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the MARCH issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, February 14**. Submissions for the weekly Penn Street Online emailed newsletters are due the Wednesday prior to each week's issue.

Please send to Teresa Tysinger at ttysinger@fpcfw.org or bring by the church office.

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SEASON OF LENT AT FPC

The season of Lent is the 40 days (not counting Sundays) leading to Easter and our celebration of the resurrection of Christ. These forty days leading to Easter Sunday provide an opportunity for preparation, study, and meditation on Jesus' final days and the meaning of his ministry - then and now. Jesus challenged the powers of his day with God's eternal love for the world and God's people. As "Easter People" we celebrate the resurrection, and we remember all that led to it.

We invite you to these Lenten opportunities (at right). Watch for Holy Week worship schedule in the March issue of the Penn Street Letter.



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14
12 p.m. (Great Hall)
7 p.m. (Great Hall)
5:30 p.m. (Community Crossroads)

These services include imposition of ashes, the Lord's Supper, as well as prayer, music, and message.



MIDDAY PRAYER SERVICES

Wednesdays,
February 21-March 28
12-12:30 p.m. (Chapel)

These 30-minute services offer reflection on the season with prayer, music, and message.



LENTEN JOURNEY LABYRINTH

Wednesday, February 21
10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.
(Great Hall)

Come walk FPC's canvas labyrinth and engage your mind, body, and spirit. Come and go as you please.

NEW MEMBER/VISITOR DESSERT GATHERING



Tuesday, February 6
7 p.m.
FPC Parlor

The next Dessert Gathering for new members and visitors is an informal gathering that gives you the opportunity to learn more about ministries and mission at FPC and meet with pastors and staff. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Martha Zaborowski, Discipleship Coordinator, at marthaz@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231. This event is happily sponsored by the Evangelism Committee.

BOOK PEOPLE BOOK CLUB



Monday, February 12
12 Noon - 1 p.m.
Room 304

Book People will begin its fourth year of reading and discussing on Monday, February 12. The February book is *Skeleton in a Dead Space* by local writer Judy Alter. For those who have lived in Fort Worth a long time, this will be a fun book because it is set in the Fairmount part of our city. Can you solve the mystery and see how many local spots you can find in the story? Everyone is welcome. For information please contact Elizabeth Johnson Pense. On March 12, we will discuss *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick.

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP



Sundays, February 18 - March 25
5-6:30 p.m.
Room 305

FPC is offering a six-week Grief Support Group led by the Rev. Jen Bluestein. The group offers a supportive and encouraging space in which to experience God's presence, comfort, and strength.

Jen is a PC(USA) minister of Word and Sacrament, who serves as a chaplain at Cook Children's Medical Center in Fort Worth. Jen earned her M.Div. degree at Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, OK and is now a Ph.D. candidate in Pastoral Theology at Brite Divinity School. Prior to her relocation to Fort Worth, Jen served in children's ministry, chaplaincy and pulpit supply in churches and hospitals in Northwest Arkansas. We are delighted to welcome her to First Presbyterian Church.

This support group is free and open to members and friends of First Presbyterian and the community. To register for the Grief Support Group, please call Celeste in the church office at 817-335-1231 or email her at cfalter@fpcfw.org.



Watch for a special table following worship on **February 18** to get a chocolate treat in celebration of Valentine's Day, sponsored by the Fellowship Committee! You can also donate a dozen of your favorite chocolate creations (candies, truffles, cookies, etc.). Sign up at fpcfw.org/chocolate-fest.



2018 Ministry Schedule

The Beacons are an active group of adults age 55 and older who gather for fellowship, study, service, support and more. All are invited to participate in this fun and meaningful ministry. If you have questions, feel, free to contact the Beacons' staff liaison, Eric Varnon, at 817-335-1231.

QUARTERLY POTLUCKS

5 p.m. in the FPC Gym

Wednesday, March 28

Wednesday, June 27

Wednesday, September 26

Wednesday, December 5

MONTHLY BIRTHDAY BASH

1 p.m. each Third Thursday at Local Restaurants

Celebrating those with birthdays that month. We sometimes also tour a nearby site of interest. Transportation is available, if desired; simply let the church office know.

OTHER EVENTS

Watch church publications for announcement of other special events and trips planned this year!

BE INSPIRED...

Below are some upcoming opportunities for being inspired into a life of discipleship through church events in the coming weeks.

February Brunch

The All-Church Brunch for February will take place during the Kirkin' of the Tartans annual luncheon on February 4. Cost is \$7 per person or \$25 family maximum. No reservation required. Watch for the menu to be posted in worship bulletins or in weekly emails. Thank you.

Praying for Women's Retreat

Please join us in praying for those attending the Women's Retreat, February 10-11 in Granbury. May the time spent away for these retreats be great!

Join an Adult Choir as Preparations for Lent & Easter Begin

February is a perfect time to join one of FPC's adult choirs as we begin preparing special music for the season of Lent and Easter!

The Chancel Choir sings primarily for the 11 a.m. service and rehearses Wednesdays from 7-8:30 p.m. The Fellowship Choir sings primarily for the 9 a.m. service and rehearses Wednesdays from 6-7 p.m. (Childcare is provided during rehearsals.)

The choirs look forward to welcoming new singers into this joyful ministry of FPC where music and fellowship combine each week to inspire singers and congregation alike.

If you have any questions about the choirs, please contact Michael Waschevski in the church office.

PW's Tuesday Together Creating Community for Those Who Mourn

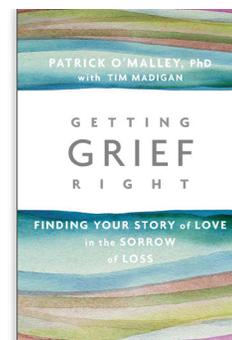


All women are invited to the Presbyterian Women's Tuesday Together on February 20 at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall.

FPC member and grief therapist Patrick O'Malley will be

our guest at the next Tuesday Together on February 13. For many years in our culture, grief has been viewed as a psychological condition to heal or an event from which to recover. Grief is a story of our unique attachment to those we have loved who have died.

Dr. O'Malley will discuss how as a community of faith we can more deeply understand our own stories of love and loss and how we can receive and honor the stories of others who mourn. Patrick O'Malley, Ph.D. has been providing grief counseling for over 38 years. He writes a grief blog at drpatrickomalley.com and he is the author of *Getting Grief Right: Finding Your Story of Love in the Sorrow of Loss*.



Please RSVP for this event (lunch \$7) with Celeste Falter in the church office at cfalter@fpcfw.org or 817-335-1231, ext. 261.

Busy Women's Bible Study

Calling all busy women! You're invited to join the current Busy Women's Bible Study, led by Karen Steffler and Lisa Waldron. The group meets on Mondays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Room 310 through April 30. Bring your lunch if you'd like!

Monthly Taize Worship

You're invited to FPC's monthly Taize Prayer Services on the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. These services are offered in the manner of the Taize community in France. The music of the Taizé Community are short songs, mostly scripture texts, that are easy to sing and easy to remember. Come and praise!

MOMS Meetings for 2018



**1st Thursdays & 3rd Wednesdays
11-12:30 p.m. in the Parlor**

MOMS (Mothers Offering Mothers Support) is a ministry of FPC for all mothers. Gather with other mothers for support, encouragement, Bible study, fellowship, and friendship. For working moms, stay-at-home-moms, and all moms in between! Come as your schedule allows, no need to attend every meeting or the whole meeting. We will be discussing a study on the book of Ruth and women in the Bible. You are welcome! Lunch included (\$7). Free childcare available. Please RSVP at fpcfww.org/moms.

When Words Fail:

A 3-Session Offering for Those Who Interact with or Visit a Person with Dementia



**February 18, 25, and March 4
12:45 - 2 p.m. in Room 235**

FPC will offer a 3-session video and discussion group designed to enhance an understanding of dementia and the ability to respond to the spiritual needs of congregants experiencing it.

The study will use the video and book "When Words Fail: A Practical Ministry to People with Dementia and Their Caregivers" written by Kathy Fogg Berry. The Rev. Fogg Berry is a chaplain for memory care at Westminster Canterbury Richmond where she provides spiritual care for residents with dementia, their families and the staff who care for them. These sessions are planned for those who are interacting with or visiting a person affected with dementia. The goal of these sessions is to equip you to offer valuable spiritual care to people living with dementia and their caregivers.

Please contact Jennifer Pettet or Martha Zaborowski with any questions (817-335-1231). Lunch will be served prior to the sessions from 12:15-12:45 p.m. across the hall in Room 236. You may RSVP for the sessions and lunch with Celeste Falter in the church office (cfalter@fpcfww.org).

Here is a schedule of session topics:
Session 1 (February 18): Introduction and Defining Dementia and Early-Stage Ministry
Session 2 (February 25): Middle Stage Ministry
Session 3 (March 4): Late Stage Care Giving, Caring for Caregivers, and Nurturing the Spirit

ENGAGE THE WORLD...

Here are a few ongoing ways to "engage the world" by service and outreach. Learn more about FPC outreach efforts at fpcfww.org/serve.

PEANUT BUTTER

Every 3rd Sunday of the month is Peanut Butter Sunday. Bring peanut butter to church to help stock the shelves of the First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads. Sizes needed include regular size (15-16 oz.) or the single-serving snack packs.

FORMULA AND DIAPERS

The Formula and Diapers Ministry (FAD) operates out of Community Crossroads on the 3rd Monday of each month and provides these items to mothers and children in need. All sizes of diapers and powdered formula (Similac Advance Stage 1 Formula) are appreciated.

FOOD & CLOTHING

The First HAND Food Pantry always needs non-perishable food items for grocery bags and sack lunches given out. The Clothing Room takes ready to wear, seasonal clothing and shoes that are gently worn or new. Donations can be left in collection bins throughout the church or at the following times at Community Crossroads (1516 Hemphill Street):

Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Wednesdays/Thursdays, 8:30-11 a.m.
Wednesdays/Thursdays, 1:30-3 p.m.

ROOM IN THE INN

The winter session of Room in the Inn, FPC's ministry that welcomes about 14 men experiencing homelessness each Monday night during the hottest and coldest months of the year, continues through February. For information about how you can serve, contact Robyn Michalove at robyn@fpcfww.org or 817-335-1231.

SAVE THESE SUMMER DATES!

It's time to pencil in the dates for FPC's summer camps! We are already busy at work planning fun, energetic, and creative camp opportunities for children. Mark your calendars now and watch for registration details soon.

ECO CAMP: June 17-22

Fernclyff Camp in Little Rock, AR
For Completed 1st-5th Graders

SUMMER FUN 1: June 18-22

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Theme: TBD

For Ages 2 (by 9-1-17) through entering Kindergarten

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL: June 25-28

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Theme: Babylon - Daniel's Courage in Captivity
For Entering Kindergarten through Completed 5th Graders

PRE-K MUSIC & ART CAMP: July 9-13

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Theme: Baby Beluga

For Ages 4 through Entering 1st Graders

MO-RANCH CAMP: July 15-21

Overnight Camp at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX
For Ages 8-12 Years

ELEMENTARY MUSIC & ART CAMP: July 23-27

9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.

Theme: It's a Hit!

For Entering 2nd Through 6th Graders

SUMMER FUN 2: July 23-27

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Theme: TBD

For Ages 2 (by 9-1-17) through entering Kindergarten

THERE'S MORE!

Watch for dates for other children's summer events, such as Mission on the Move, the Family Mission Trip, and more!

JOYS & CONCERNS

Following are the joys and concerns shared as of January 18, 2018 (due to printing deadlines). To respect the privacy of those listed, names are included only when the individuals grant their permission.

Our loving sympathy to...

Family and friends of **Maurine Wilson**, who died January 13.

Family and friends of **Emily O'Grady**, who died on January 2. Surviving FPC family members include daughter, **Kathy Guymon**; and grandchildren **Lily Guymon** and **Flint Guymon**.

Family and friends of **Samuel Latta**, who died on January 9 in Cincinnati, Ohio. Surviving FPC members are son and daughter-in-law, **Scot and Patti Latta**. Sympathy is also extended to Scot and Patti on the death of her mother, Verneva Jo Melton, who died January 3 in Houston.

Family and friends of Barbara Corey, former receptionist at FPC, who died on December 26.

Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...

Marjorie Gordon, Merilys Corning, Rush Hart, Donald Deshauters, and Lisa Priddy, who are recovering from surgery or injury. **Vera Kendall, Dwight Mason, Phyllis Propes, Emma Coley, Marjorie Lewis, Rev. Floyd Kinser, Dorothy Kinser, Indi Butler, Nona Cobden, David Nation, Corinna Nation, Lisa Shiner, Jacquitta White, Marge Shiner, Elizabeth Bean, Frances Blake, Gene James, Carolyn Lischio, Mac McCoy, Nancy Nelson, Ed Martin, and Dalia Scott**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment. **Jane Watson**, who is on hospice.

Our caring prayers for extended family include...

Jim Corning (brother of **Bruce Corning**), Don Laminack (brother of **Vance Laminack**), Warren Brown (son-in-law of **Betty Tefft**), Bess Hunt (mother of **Martha Zaborowski**), Evan Wilson (grandson of **Henrietta Bailey**), Glenda Burger (sister of **Vance Laminack**), Janet Laminack (cousin of **Julie Sphar and Vance Laminack**), John DeMore (son-in-law of **June Sprott**), Lisa Koenig (niece of **Clark Williams**), Kathy Kline (**Maxine Kruse's** daughter), Marty Kinard (**Larry and Bettye Kinard's** daughter-in-law), Mark Bryant (**Joanne Sarsgard's** son), and Susan Chenault (**Frances Chenault's** daughter).

Prayers for peace in our world, for the safety of Nathan Gunter (**Russell and Vivian Norment's** nephew) who is stationed in Korea. Also for the safety of **Diego A. Saldivar**, who is serving in the US Navy; Diego is the son of **Becky and Rene Saldivar**.

Our congratulations and best wishes to...

Barbie and Leland Clemons on the birth of granddaughter, Annabelle Beggs Clemons, January 9. Proud parents are Mimi and Townes Clemons.

Bob Chochola and Wil'Lwin Wallace Chochola, who were married on December 31 in the Great Hall.



CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

Below are some **highlights** of special events happening in February. For a complete calendar, visit fpcf.org.

SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- 8 a.m. Worship in Chapel
- 9 a.m. Worship in Great Hall
- 10 a.m. Church School for All Ages
- 11 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

WEDNESDAYS IN FEBRUARY

- 5:30 p.m. Dinner & Worship on Wednesdays at Community Crossroads
- 12 p.m. Midday Prayer Services (February 21-March 28)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4

- 11 a.m. Kirkin' of the Tartans Service
- 12 p.m. Kirkin' of the Tartans Lunch

SATURDAY-SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10-11

Women's Retreat in Granbury

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

- 10:30 a.m. Presbyterian Women's Tuesday Together

ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

- 12 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (Great Hall)
- 7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship (Great Hall)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15

- 7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- After Each Service "Chocolate Fest" (see page 3)
- 6:30 p.m. Taize Worship in Chapel

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

- 10:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Lenten Journey Labyrinth Walk



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WWW.FPCFW.ORG

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS...



Thanks to the ladies of the **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**. They work tirelessly to knit and crochet special shawls that are then blessed and given to members and friends of FPC who find themselves in a season of grief, illness, or other hardship.



Many FPC youth and adult sponsors had a great time on their recent **SKI TRIP** to the Wolf Creek area of Pagosa Springs, Colorado. We're thankful for both their safety and the wonderful memories and relationships built during their time together!