

# THE Penn Street LETTER

First Presbyterian Church, Fort Worth

MAY 2018 | Volume 17, Number 5



## Spots Are Filling Up, So Register Today!

Complete details and registration forms can be found in brochures at church and at [FPCFW.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS](http://FPCFW.ORG/SUMMER-CAMPS)

### ECO CAMP: June 17 - 22

Ferncliff Camp in Little Rock, AR  
For Children Entering 2nd - 6th Grades

At Eco Camp, children gain a summer camp experience in which they learn about the environment and how to be a friend to God's creation. The camp will include green themed activities, sustainable practices, and traditional camp fun.

### SUMMER FUN 1: June 18 - 22

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Theme: Out of the Box  
For Ages 2 (by 9-1-17) through Entering Kindergarten

During this fun week, pre-schoolers will use boxes of all shapes and sizes to explore their imagination!

### 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

Kids will learn about Daniel - torn from his home and forced into the king's service - and how he kept his faith. Explore sights and smells of a Babylonian bazaar!

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

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Theme: Baby Beluga (by Raffi/arr. Mark Brymer)  
For Ages 4 through Entering 1st Graders

Children will explore song, dance, drums, bells and bars, and hone their visual arts skills with some of the finest teachers in North Texas. Come watch a performance at the end of camp!

### MO-RANCH CAMP: July 15 - 21

Overnight camp at Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX  
For Ages 8+

This is the week most FPC children attend Mo-Ranch summer camp, a traditional overnight camp experience within a Christian environment. Includes exploration of God's creation, Bible study, small groups, and a wide variety of activities sure to be remembered for a lifetime!

### ELEMENTARY MUSIC & ART CAMP: July 23 - 27

9 a.m. - 3:15 p.m.  
Theme: It's a Hit! (musical by John Jacobson/John Higgins)  
For Entering 2nd through 6th Graders

Children will explore song, dance, drums, bells and bars, and hone their visual arts skills with some of the finest teachers in North Texas. Come watch a performance at the end of camp!

### SUMMER FUN 2: July 23 - 27

9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
Theme: Out of This World!  
For Ages 2 (by 9-1-17) through Entering Kindergarten

Summer Fun camps give pre-schoolers the chance to learn hands on about the world around them. This week we'll learn about outer space.

### MISSION ON THE MOVE: July 30 - August 3

9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
For Children & Youth Entering 4th-8th Graders

Children and youth will reflect on issues of hunger, both globally and in our own community, through service at area agencies and reflection through simulations and games.



# PASTORS' LETTER

Dear friends,

One of the perks of being a Cook Children's "preemie" (AKA: a baby born prematurely) is the uncommon care that goes into serving them even after they discharge from the hospital. Our twin preemies have had numerous follow-up appointments at the incredible NEST Clinic in Cook's beautiful Dodson building. Just this past December, our twins took a huge developmental test, which was hours long. Upon receiving the results from this test in the mail, Annie and I were amused to see that our 2-year-old son scored "superior" in the category of emotional development! This still makes me laugh for a couple reasons: One, thinking of a toddler's emotional intelligence as superior is simply a crack up! Two, I was the parent in the room for Shep's developmental test, and I remember at one point he hopped off my lap, ran to the door and while fiddling with the door knob, he told the doctor those honest-confident-unfiltered words of a toddler: "Bye bye!" In other words, "See ya later doc, I'm outta here!"

Well, after we put Shep's "superior" emotional test score on the fridge, we began to notice some of the possible signs. One sign was, perhaps, that Shep quickly reached the developmental stage of being afraid and, in turn, voicing his fear. "I'm scared" is something he was saying on a regular basis. Walking down a dark hallway in our home, "I'm scared." Hearing a loud noise, "I'm scared." Seeing his sister's face after stealing one of her toys, "I'm scared." (Kidding about that last one.) One story I'll never forget is being at the park down the street when Shep got on the climbing ladder of the jungle gym. He announced, "I'm scared." As usual, I approached him and thought about all the times Annie or I would hold him and boost him up the ladder while, at the same time, allowing him to feel like he was climbing and experience a sense of semi-accomplishment. This time, I tried something new. Instead of doing the climbing work for him, all I did was put my hand on his back. I just gently touched his back, enough pressure for him to know I was there but light enough not to be actually helping him climb up the ladder. The result? Something amazing happened: he scrambled up that ladder like a professional rock climber! Then I realized, in the moment, all this child needed was to know his father was there for him. Just a hand on his back was all it took to give him the trust in his father he needed to let go of his fear and engage the challenge set

before him. In a nutshell, this is what it means to trust God and fear less.

As you know, "Fear Less" was the theme of our Youth Group's recent Youth Sunday! I hope you were as moved as I was by the leadership of our congregation's young people. From writing prayers and liturgy to sharing their musical gifts to offering thoughtful sermons to picking all the hymns we sang, our youth reminded us of our common calling to trust God and fear less. While this doesn't mean we have no fear whatsoever in this life, as our senior preachers reminded us, it does mean that in the face of life's challenging tasks and difficult moments, we can put our trust in God and let go of fear. By trusting God, we find freedom from unhealthy fear and the courage to risk moving forward in faith. Then, by the grace of God, we discover ourselves doing what had once seemed impossible.

In the New Testament, the most common command of Jesus Christ is to let go of fear. Jesus said this in a number of ways: "do not fear," "do not be afraid," "take heart," "have courage." Of course, this message is scattered all over the Old Testament too. For example, Psalm 23 reminds us to fear no evil as we trust our Good Shepherd through the darkest valleys of life. If saying something repeatedly is any indicator of importance, we can be sure that God takes our fears seriously. So, the next time you find yourself going through a dark valley of life, take a moment. Close your eyes. Remember God is with you. Imagine the Good Shepherd's hand is gently placed on your back. Let go of your fear, and risk doing this one radical-countercultural-childlike thing: trust God.

Keep on keeping on,



## SUBMISSIONS

Submissions for the JUNE issue of the Penn Street Letter are due **Wednesday, May 16**. 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](mailto:ttysinger@fpcfw.org) or bring by the church office.

## PUBLISHER INFO

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# SANCTUARY RENOVATION UPDATES IN PICTURES

*Under Construction,  
Overwhelmed By Blessing*

The Sanctuary Renovation project has been underway since early April. Here are some photos of the progress thus far. We give thanks for those working hard on this exciting renovation!



Above: A worker places protective covering over the main organ pipes and chancel woodwork/stained glass (April 9). Above inset: smaller organ pipes packed up for safe keeping during renovation (April 9). Below: Pews on one side of the Sanctuary lay unassembled for careful removal (April 17).



## Next Team FPC Event: Joe's Run on June 2

"Team FPC" is sponsored by the FPC Wellness Ministry and is made up of anyone who wishes to participate with other church friends in walk/run events throughout Fort Worth. Walk or run at your own pace due to your individual ability. Join the team for only the events that fit your schedule and interest!



### Next Event: Joe's Run on June 2

Joe's Run will be at Magnolia Green on June 2. Run or walk the 5K/10K, enjoy breakfast tacos, family-friendly margaritas, music, activities, and more. The race is dog and stroller friendly. Participants will receive a t-shirt.

Cost for this race is \$28.25 (including handling fee). Price goes up by \$5 (\$10 for 10K) after May 1. Scholarships are also available; contact Mary Kay Roberto at [marykay.roberto@sbcglobal.net](mailto:marykay.roberto@sbcglobal.net) for information.

For instructions on how to register for Joe's Run, please visit [fpcfw.org/wellness](http://fpcfw.org/wellness).



Above: Team FPC participated in its inaugural event at the Victory Over Violence 5K/1K Walk/Run on April 22.



The annual FPC Church Retreat will be **August 31 - September 3** (Labor Day Weekend). We will once again return to Mo-Ranch in Hunt, TX to enjoy the beauty of the Hill Country.

This year our theme is "Gifted by God" and will encourage you to take notice of the gifts that God has given while slowing down and spending quality time with your family and friends, nature, and God.

We will enjoy meals together and gather for evening reflections and Sunday morning worship. This is truly a "retreat" format, meaning that there is plenty of time built into our schedule for rest, recreation and relaxation!

Activities include: swimming pools, riverfront activities, hiking, ropes course, paddle boards, fishing, canoeing, a prayer labyrinth, campfires, movies and games, line dancing, Critter Class, church dance, and much more.

**REGISTER TODAY AT**  
**FPCFW.ORG/RETREAT**

*You must register by May 23 for guaranteed housing.*

# BE INSPIRED...

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

## Middle School Youth & JHaMS

JHaMS (Junior High and Middle School) at Austin College will be held July 19-22 for students in grades 6-8. Cost is \$175, scholarships are available. The theme this year is "Enough is Enough." A \$100 deposit is due by June 3 and can be given to Josh Stewart at Youth Group or Jayne McFarland in the office. Please remember that youth who register are asked to participate in at least 5 Youth Group activities in this Spring semester.

## Stephen Ministry: Sustaining Care

Stephen Ministry is doing a new thing. We have a long tradition at FPC of providing high-quality Christ-centered care to those who are going through tough times. We recently developed a new program that recognizes the value of companionship during times that are not marked by particular difficulty or crisis. We call it Sustaining Care. This ministry encourages care receivers to tell their stories.

Stephen Ministers receive comprehensive specialized training before beginning a caring relationship. Those in the Sustaining Care program have received additional preparation as active listeners. They meet regularly with care receivers and walk alongside them for the long term.

Stephen Ministry will continue to provide both the traditional model of caring during difficult times and the new Sustaining Care program, according to need.

Please contact a pastor if you or someone you know could benefit from Stephen Ministry -- or would just like to learn more. You may also visit [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org).

## Next PW Tuesday Together Event

On Tuesday, May 15 all women are invited to a special Presbyterian Women Tuesday Together gathering. On this day, starting at 10:30 a.m. in the Great Hall, the annual Birthday Offering will be celebrated, new officers will be installed, and we welcome Pam Grossman and her daughter Kristina as the speakers.

Pam and Kristina will present "Like Mother, Like Daughter, Like Daughter." Pam will share about her intrepid mother, and then about her own experiences as a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic. Then Kristina will tell us about her year working for International Justice Mission in Kampala, Uganda.

RSVP for this event with Celeste Falter in the church office ([cfalter@fpcfw.org](mailto:cfalter@fpcfw.org) or 817-335-1231, ext. 261). Lunch is \$7 per person.

## Other PW Events...

All women from FPC are invited to the following Presbyterian Women events. Mark your calendars and watch for more information, coming soon!

**Summer Treat:** Tuesday, June 26 from 6-8 p.m. at Joe T. Garcia's  
**Introduction of Fall Study Meeting & Lunch:** Tuesday, August 28 in the Great Hall; fellowship at 10 a.m., program at 10:30 a.m., and lunch at 12 p.m. Hear from the author of the 2018-2019 PW study, *God's Promise: I Am With You*.

## Men's Breakfast

The next Men's Monthly Breakfast will be Thursday, May 17 at 7 a.m. All men are invited to come for breakfast and conversations on faith. Please RSVP to Patty in the church office or at [fpcfw.org/men](http://fpcfw.org/men).



# ENGAGE THE WORLD...

*Below are some ways you are invited to serve others through First Presbyterian Church mission and outreach efforts in the coming weeks.*

## 2nd Sunday: SOS (Shoes on Sunday)

Our neighbors at FPC's Community Crossroads outreach center have a need for shoes. The CC Mission Sub-committee has designated the 2nd Sunday of the month as SOS - Shoes On Sunday. Please bring gently used and new tennis shoes, flats, and work boots for men and women in sizes 7 to 14 and place in the donation boxes throughout the church (you may also use Peanut Butter Sunday baskets). The next SOS is Sunday, May 13.

## 3rd Sunday: Peanut Butter Sunday

Every 3rd Sunday of the month is Peanut Butter Sunday. Please bring 15-16 oz. jars or single-serve snack packs to church to help stock the shelves of the First HAND Food Pantry at Community Crossroads. The next Peanut Butter Sunday is May 20.

## Can You Fill In?

Are you willing to volunteer occasionally? Community Crossroads is forming a list of "Floating Volunteers" who would be called when the regularly dedicated volunteers need someone to "fill in" when they need to be away on holiday or during illness. Let Dori Davis (ddavis@fpcfw.org) know if you can be available with little or no notice to "stand in" when needed.

## The Listening Post

Do you enjoy listening to others and have the gift of being that shoulder or ear when someone needs it? Then you would be perfect as a CC Listening Post volunteer. The listening post volunteer just listens, empathizes, and allows the person to talk through their feelings. Contact Dori at ddavis@fpcfw.org to volunteer.

## Serve with Habitat for Humanity

Trinity Habitat for Humanity and the Mission Outreach Committee of FPC invite you to serve on several upcoming projects. For more details, visit [fpcfw.org/habitat](http://fpcfw.org/habitat) or call Robyn Michalove at 817-335-1231.

### Presbyterian Build

Build dates run May 1-19 for this project that brings together area Presbyterians to build a home for the Khum family from Myanmar/Burma. Jung and his wife Hkawn Ja have three children, Ah Meng (5), Kang Sar (4), and Deenong Zithung (2). The home site is 925 Irma Street, Fort Worth. Your help is needed!

### Habitat Mission Trips

There's room for you on the following 2018 Habitat for Humanity trips:

- **Out of Africa Build**  
September 7-16, 2018  
COST - \$2,500 (estimated)  
Includes flight, in-country transport, hotel and food. Price will firm up when the flight is confirmed. Four to five days will be spent building a home.
- **Thanksgiving Build**  
Dates: November 17-24, 2018  
Cost: \$1,630 (estimated)  
Includes flight, in-country transport, hotel and food. Again, cost will firm up once the flight is booked. Four to five days will be spent building a home.

If you are interested in a trip or would like more information, please contact Jeremy Byrd at [jeremy.byrd@trinityhabitat.org](mailto:jeremy.byrd@trinityhabitat.org) or call 817-926-9219 ext. 132.

Check your calendar for these trip dates coming up next year:

El Salvador: March 2019  
Kenya: June 2019  
Dominican Republic: August 2019  
El Salvador: November 2019

## Mission Trip Outtakes...

Here are a few snapshots from the recent FPC mission trips to Haiti and Cuba. We give thanks for their important work!

### HAITI MISSION TRIP: April 2-9

A team of 8 FPC members traveled to Cheridant, Haiti and installed a solar panel system for a newly-constructed high school alongside Solar for the Sun -- Solar's biggest project to date!



### CUBA MISSION TRIP: April 10-16

A team of FPC members traveled to Cuba to nurture our partnership with two mission co-workers David and Josey at the seminary in Matanzas and meet with local Presbyterians.



# Tour Scotland with FPC in 2019!

You will have the opportunity to travel to Scotland next fall with other members and friends of First Presbyterian Church! Working with Church of Scotland minister the Rev. Jim Wallace of Scotus Tours, the Rev. Dr. Michael Waschevski has secured a 9 day (8 nights) land package\* at a very favorable rate. The tour includes visits to: Glasgow, Mull, Iona, Glen Coe, Inverness, Perth, St. Andrews, and Edinburgh.

**Included in the Early Bird tour price of \$3195 - \$3495 (based on group size):**

- Full use of coach and driver during tour
- 8 hotel nights (double occupancy\*\*) with full Scottish breakfast
- 6 dinners (including a special farewell dinner) and 1 lunch
- Ferries and tolls
- Professional guides in St. Andrews and Edinburgh
- Tour manager travelling with group
- All entrance fees to historic sights on the itinerary
- VAT tax, portage at hotels where available, tipping for wait staff, etc.
- Scheduled entertainment

*Not included in the tour package: flights to and from Scotland\*, optional travel insurance, airport transfers, most lunches, 2 dinners, small tip for bus driver, and personal items.*



**Trip Information Meeting:** Come to learn more about the trip, get answers to any questions, and discover the daily itineraries at an informational meeting on **Tuesday, May 1, 5:30 p.m. in Room 237**. The meeting will also include reservation/deposit information in order to secure a place on the tour. (The trip is limited to a maximum of 42 participants.) Early Bird pricing will be in effect until June 24, 2018. After June 24, 2018 regular rates of \$3395-3695 (depending on group size) will be in effect.

**Questions?** If you have questions prior to the Informational Meetings, please feel free to contact Michael in the church office (817.335.1231 ext. 229) or email him.

*\*Michael will help tour participants arrange their own flights so as to accommodate personal travel desires (airlines, desire to use frequent flyer miles, additional travel before or after Scotland)*

*\*\*single supplement of \$670, subject to availability*

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## Presbyterian Women's Work Gains National Attention

The Presbyterian Women of First Presbyterian Church and their ongoing work with providing clean water to the people of Haiti gained national attention in the March/April 2018 issue of *Horizons*, the publication for the national organization of Presbyterian Women.

Written by FPC's Carol Long, the article opens with, "Clean water from recently drilled wells flows steadily in Haiti thanks to the new 'Presbyterian drill rig.' In 2016, Presbyterian Women of [FPC] received a \$40,250 Thank Offering grant to help fund a portable water well drill rig to be used with their partner, Living Water International." As you may remember from previous *Penn Street Letter* articles on this exciting mission, the grant was supplemented by gifts from FPC, four other Presbyterian churches, and two Texas families that made it possible to purchase a \$100,000 trailer-mounted drill rig.

Between February 2017 and February 2018, 27 new water wells have been funded, drilled, and completed. Each well serves 300-500 people, equalling convenient access to safe

water for approximately 11,500 Haitians.

The article goes on to tell of FPC's water well drill team that will travel to El Salvador in August of this year with Living Water International to continue the mission of providing clean water started by efforts of our Presbyterian Women.

If you would like to read the entire article as printed in *Horizons* (a subscription-based publication), you may contact Carol Long at [carol-long@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carol-long@sbcglobal.net) or Pam Burkholder in the church office at [pamb@fpcfw.org](mailto:pamb@fpcfw.org).





# JOYS & CONCERNS

*Following are the joys and concerns shared as of April 19, 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 **Indi Butler**, who died on April 15. Surviving family includes: husband, Chris Butler; daughter, **Bailey Jones**; and father, **Dalton Hoffman**.

Family and friends of **Carolyn Lischio**, who died on April 16.

Family and friends of **Fon McKenzie**, who died on March 19.

**John and Brynda McNey** and **Bob and Julie Hannan** on the death of their mother, Joyce McNey, on March 19. Other surviving FPC family: grandchildren, **Kellie Hannan** and **Megan Hannan**.

**Joanne Sarsgard** on the death of her son, Mark Bryant, March 23.

## *Our loving thoughts and prayers are with...*

**Judy Gasch**, who is in hospital or recovering from surgery or injury. **Jane Watson**, **Rush Hart**, **Marilyn Wilson**, **Vera Kendall**, **Dwight Mason**, **Phyllis Propes**, **Emma Coley**, **Marjorie Lewis**, **Rev. Floyd Kinser**, **Dorothy Kinser**, **Nona Cobden**, **Corinna Nation**, **Lisa Shiner**, **Jacquitta White**, **Marge Shiner**, **Elizabeth Bean**, **Frances Blake**, **Nancy Nelson**, and **Dalia Scott**, who are dealing with illness or undergoing treatment.

## *Our caring prayers for extended family include...*

Bill and Susan Neill (brother and sister-in-law of **Marilyn Love**), Warren Brown (son-in-law of **Betty Tefft**), 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), 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...*

**Daniel and Katie Dodd** on the birth of a daughter, Davis Marie Dodd, on December 29. She joins big sister, Pate. Proud grandparents are **Danny and Anne Simpson**. Great-grandmother is **Jean Davis**.



# CALENDAR

*Below are a few highlighted events in May.  
More at [fpcf.org/calendar](http://fpcf.org/calendar).*

## SUNDAYS IN MAY

- 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 Great Hall

## WEDNESDAYS IN MAY

- 5:30 p.m. Worship On Wednesdays (+ dinner, classes) at Community Crossroads

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

- 5:30 p.m. Scotland Trip Information Meeting

## SUNDAY, MAY 6

- 9 a.m. Confirmation Sunday for Youth

## TUESDAY, MAY 15

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

## THURSDAY, MAY 17

- 7 a.m. Men's Monthly Breakfast
- 1 p.m. Beacons' Birthday Bash

## SUNDAY, MAY 20

- All Day Peanut Butter Sunday (donations collected)
- 6:30 p.m. Taize/Wholeness & Healing Worship in Chapel

## WEDNESDAY, MAY 23

- All Day Deadline to Register for Guaranteed Housing for the All Church Retreat

## MONDAY, MAY 28

- All Day Church Offices Closed for Memorial Day



# THE penn street LETTER

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## EASTER AT A GLANCE...

