



First Presbyterian
MIDLAND

Life

news to grow on

Edition 19 - September 2011

FALL 2011 GOING DEEPER

PAGE 7

Worship PAGE 1

Equip PAGE 5

Serve PAGE 8

Invite PAGE 11



Dear Friends,



Cover:
Read more about
Fall KICK-OFF
events on page 7

It's been a long hot summer! Record high temperatures, dangerous drought, and for our church family, a number of difficult losses. If you have not been able to escape all summer, I know that you, like me, are aware as much as ever of how desperately in need we are of Living Water, of Jesus and Jesus' community.

Our theme this Fall is Going Deeper. On Sunday mornings in worship we'll be studying the Acts of the Apostles. Eugene Peterson has this to say in his introduction to Acts in *The Message*:

"Because the story of Jesus is so impressive-God among us! God speaking a language we can understand! God acting in ways that heal and help and save us! -there is a danger that we will be impressed, but only be impressed...we could easily become enthusiastic spectators, and then let it go at that."

Peterson goes on to say that it is Acts purpose to prevent us from becoming mere fans of Jesus and instead become people who are devoted followers of Jesus. The incredible works of God did not end with the Revelation, they continue in us. God is at work in us, still acting in ways that heal and help and save us.

I want to invite you as school gets back in session and our school year routine resumes at FPC, to connect in a meaningful way to your church family. Be regular in worship. Commit to a Koin Group or a Sunday school class. Find a way to serve others in big or small ways. Invite people to join you on your journey with Jesus. These are the time-tested proven ways to grow into deeper relationship with Jesus and each other. The pages of this newsletter (and lots of other information sure to arrive in your mailbox soon) are full of opportunities to find greater depth.

We don't know what the Fall will hold - hopefully rain, hopefully cooler temperatures, hopefully a lifting of some of the heavy grief we have borne together. But let's not let go of the lessons of the long hot summer. We are desperately in need of Jesus and each other. The only way we can be sure to weather whatever the future holds is to have roots that run deep. Let's not just be impressed by Jesus, let's do life with Jesus. Let's be bold enough to be the hands and feet of Jesus for each other and for the world around us so desperately in need of his healing, his help and his salvation.

Please call me if you'd like help getting connected at FPC this Fall!

Blessings,


Shannon Weisenfels

Prayers for...

Prayers of Intercession are requested for Jered Groner, Barbara Sledge, Carolyn Sawyer, Marcus Huffer, Liz Russell, Jess Parrish, Lee Campbell, Bob Boone, Alan Hewitt, Rebecca Unger-Currier, Frances Matthews, Frances Mills, Cris Kelly, Teresa Cain, Joyce Dellinger, Hilda Banister, Matt Sledge, Zach Klunick, Phil Carleton, Bob Bailey.

Please pray for military personnel deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom (Iraq) and Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan): Michael, Casey, Daniel, Carlos, Megan, Drew McKelwaith, Chris Miles, Aaron French, David Thornhill, Hank Hortenstine, Adam Graham, Tom Wolters, Mike Neu, Edwin Gaston, Jake Hall, Hunter D. Martin, Clayton Slover, Damon Darnell, Danny Wakefield, Dean Forest, Joe Banner, Stephen Clayman, Justin Galan, Stanley Najjar, Steven Castellon, Dr. David Shepherd, Mason Jennings, Kyle Humphries, Justin Robinson, Josh.

Congratulations to...

Laura and Jason South upon the birth of their daughter, Marjorie Kate "Margo" South, on July 3, 2011; great granddaughter of Dottie and Norm Barker; granddaughter of Barbara and David Koch and Susan and Jan South; great niece of Pat Hunter and Glen Ellis; cousin of Guy Ellis and Allison Ellis.

Jeni and John Anderson upon the birth of their daughter, Evelyn Grey Anderson, born July 6, 2011, in Denver; great granddaughter of Liz Russell and Peggy and Gene Hodge; granddaughter of Kris and Bob Hodge and Debbie and Stan Neujahr.

Stephanie Palacios (Family Life Center Staff) upon the birth of her daughter, Zitlaly Jimenez, born July 1, 2011; granddaughter of Norma Jaramillo (FPC Kitchen Staff).

Jennifer and Michael Fisette upon the birth of their son, Cayden Harold Fisette, born July 20, 2011; brother of Michael; grandson of Karen and Everett Gray (FPC Maintenance Staff) and Becky Gray and Margie and Harold Fisette.

Condolences to...

Bill, Patti, and Marci Watson upon the death of Bill's mother, Mary Watson, on June 25, 2011.

Faye and Laddie Long upon the loss of their nephew, Rick Levvis.

Charlie and Marilyn Polk upon the death of Charlie's uncle, Jack Polk, in Austin.

Karl Stanton upon the loss of his grandfather, Edward John Matchus, on June 29, 2011.

Holly Elliott and her family upon the loss of her husband, Roger Elliott, on July 14, 2011.

The family of Barbara Duke upon her death on July 15, 2011.

Lisa and Scott Steger upon the loss of Lisa's grandmother, Edith Nickel, in San Angelo on July 14, 2011; great grandmother of Mattie and Caroline Steger.

Pam and Dennis Sledge upon the loss of Pam's mother, Ruth Osthues, on July 16, 2011; grandmother of Zack and Matt Sledge.

Carole Symonette and her family upon the loss of her husband, Percy Symonette, on Friday, July 15, 2011.

Don and Ann Creamer upon the loss of Don's father, Bob Creamer, on July 25, 2011 in Tuscaloosa, Alabama; grandfather of Alyson Creamer McLane and Shannon Creamer.

Bill McIntire and his family upon the loss of his wife, Don Marie McIntire, on July 24, 2011.

John and Courtney Goodwin upon the loss of John's grandfather, Dr. Fredrick Gibson, in College Station on July 26, 2011; great grandfather of Sloan and Connor Goodwin.

The family of Paul Heyroth upon his death on July 24, 2011.

Rebecca Unger and Tomas Lynskey upon the loss of Peggy Lynskey, Rebecca's daughter and Tomas' wife, on August 1, 2011.

Connie Naumann and her family upon the death of her husband, Jack Naumann, on August 5, 2011.

Carole and David Wayland upon the loss of their son, Patrick Wayland on August 6, 2011; brother of Meagan and Lisa Wayland.

Bud Boles and his family upon the loss of his wife, Norma Jean Boles, on August 8, 2011.

Gerry and Shannon Weisenfels upon the death of Gerry's aunt, Dolores Herbers, on August 6, 2011 in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Aline Collins upon the death of her father, John Collins, on August 14, 2011 in Dallas.

Barbara and Rod Slaton upon the death of Barbara's sister, Mary Jo Doll, on August 13, 2011 in York, Pennsylvania.

Norma Jaramillo (FPC Kitchen Staff) upon the death of her father, Reymundo Jaramillo, on August 15, 2011.

Charlene and Doug Bunnell upon the death of Charlene's father, Walter Bugeski, on July 29, 2011 in St. Augustine, Florida.

Thank you for your nice letters...

Please stop by the information center at the Texas Street reception area to read the notes we received from Sarah Porter, Women's Evening Community Bible Study Group, and Midland Independent School District.

Worship



Traditional Worship Music Schedule for September

September 4

Trumpeter Michael Santorelli will play, and Carl Beery Moore will sing, at both services.

September 11

The Sanctuary Choir will share anthems by Clausen and Wilberg at 11:00 a.m. worship.

September 18

The Sanctuary Choir will sing anthems from our afternoon hymn festival (4:00) at both services, assisted by the Lone Star Brass.

September 25

The Sanctuary Choir will sing music by Poston and Stroope and 11:00 a.m. worship.

Don't forget these special music events:

September 18

4:00 pm Ecumenical Hymn Festival, featuring organist David Cherwien, in our Sanctuary

October 2

Guitarist Doyle Dykes will play at both services, and will present a free concert at 7:00 p.m.

FPC: Do You Know?

What year did we dedicate our Family Life Center?

Visit the FPC 125 Timeline in Lynn Hall to find the answer and more.



From Mee to You

Children's Ministry Newsbrief

"Teach them (Scriptures) to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates." Deuteronomy 11:19-20

"Rich in God's Word" was the name of our fifth and sixth grade retreat this year. The children who attended the Bible studies had the opportunity to write the Word in their hearts through memorizing verses, activities that were tied to verses, discussion and experiences throughout the three days. The adult sponsors made this an awesome and blessed time to share and continue our baptismal promise!

Every year, as I watch the children of our church grow, it becomes increasingly evident that our promise during baptisms is monumental! The promise we make as parents and as a congregation is that with love and through prayer, example, word and deed we will support and encourage the child to know and follow Christ, to be a faithful Christian and member of this church.

Each week I see this promise being acted out in so many ways: volunteering to host a Bible study, supplying a meal, teaching a Bible study, teaching a Sunday school class, sharing musical talents, volunteering in VBS, giving a child a hug, gathering to pray or reaching out to a child who is hurting. I see members of our church encouraging the reluctant one to attend Sunday school or Bible study so that he or she can continue to grow deeper in his relationship with Jesus Christ. I see them encouraging our kids to go out in their "My95" to share their faith with others. We, as Christians, have been given the best gift of all.

Help your child(ren) grow deeper in their faith by setting the precedent of making it to Sunday school early, teaching a class, attending a class and modeling how God wants us to be a part of the church community. Thank you for loving and leading the children every day!

His,
Chrissie Mee
Director of Children's Ministry



The Blessing of Drought?

- God blesses those people who depend only on God. They belong to the kingdom of heaven!*
- God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!*
- God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!*
- God blesses those people who want to obey God more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want!*
- God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!*
- God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see God!*
- God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called God's children!*
- God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.*

Matthew 5: 3-10, Contemporary English Version

For most of my adult life, I've thought that the word "blessing" meant "a gift from God" or "finding favor with God." I also considered the "blessed" to be those on whom God bestowed an abundance of good things, not necessarily material possessions though.

My definition of "blessing" was recently challenged after listening to the Beatitudes sermon series at First Presbyterian. Because of this eight part series, I started to consider "blessings" and the "blessed" from a very different perspective.

In Matthew 5:3-10, Jesus taught the disciples that those who were blessed were: the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger and thirst, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, the persecuted.

Really, Jesus? We're blessed when we're at the ends of our ropes? When we're grieving deeply? We're blessed when we're humble, merciful, caring, and peace promoting? We're blessed when we want to please God more than we want the basics in life? We're blessed when we're persecuted for doing the right thing? Seriously? Oh my...

This altered perspective has required my brain to blow the dust off of and activate the deep thinking mode, to revise my definitions, to challenge my long-held beliefs about blessings. Now I find myself examining experiences from a new angle, trying to understand why the hard things in life may be blessings.

Faces of Children...a ministry of prayer for children at risk
www.facesofchildren.net

Faces of Children prayer group meets at 11:30 a.m.
Wednesdays in the Bride's room at FPC Midland.



Take, for instance, water. It's been on my mind a great deal these days. (Not so much on my lawn though). If you're in West Texas, you'll know I'm not just referring to our hard water. As I write, we are into our eleventh month without measureable precipitation. There are babies in this community who've never smelled rain or heard the sound of it drumming on the roof. Over 300 days (since 9.26.2010) and we haven't had even enough rain to fill a "Texas rain gauge," a bottle cap.

Oh Merciful God, I'm so ready to watch thunderheads build on the horizon and catch the scent of rain carried on the wind. I want to hear thunder growing closer and then stand in a steady downpour and get soaking wet. For me, the blessing of drought is learning to give God thanks for the rain God will provide in God's time and gaining the patience to wait for it. The blessing of drought is a deeper connection to God as I pray daily for rain and for those affected by the lack of it. For me, the blessing of drought is a fuller understanding of the scriptural instruction to give God thanks in all circumstances.

And for me, the blessing of drought is learning to praise God for clean, running water wherever I encounter it, from the kitchen to the bathroom to the laundry room. The blessing of drought is learning gratitude for resources available to help me get through this season of withered grass and monster-sized dust devils. For me, the blessing of drought is my renewed appreciation for the treasure of life-sustaining water.

My gratitude for this precious resource began to develop a number of years ago under other drought conditions. In 1984, the aquifer below the small South Texas town in which we lived was so low our community observed austere water restrictions we haven't yet seen in the Permian Basin. No outdoor watering at all. We even saved our bath water so we could flush the toilet...but only when it really needed flushing, if you catch my drift. Similarly, in 1994, the water level in the well at our house in Jakarta, Indonesia was so low we expected it to dry up any day. We were lucky to have bottled water to drink and cook with, but we needed that well water to bathe, wash clothes and dishes, and flush toilets.

Those were difficult times I don't care to repeat, but because of them, I learned to appreciate God's gift of water. Looking back, I now understand the blessing of those dry seasons. However, what I don't understand and what I want to ask God is this: What is the blessing of drought for 10 million Africans experiencing incredible suffering in one of the harshest droughts in six decades?

In a conversation with a mission team member from the Tanzania trip, I learned their group had visited a village that hadn't had rain in three years! And the village folks' idea of "running water" consisted of muddy water that flowed through an irrigation canal in which cattle drank and people bathed, washed, and collected water for cooking.

In the Horn of Africa, countries like Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Djibouti, and Eritrea are experiencing the worst drought they've seen in 60 years. And in Somalia alone, 20 years of conflict, a lack of effective government, and poor or no rainfall, have combined to cause unchecked devastation: Rising food prices, widespread crop failures, livestock deaths, severe malnutrition, the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, and access to humanitarian aid blocked by al-Shabaab militants. The lucky ones escape Somalia, seeking sanctuary in Kenya's massive refugee camps. But even life in refugee camps doesn't guarantee a supply of water, food, or medicine.

So God, I want to ask this: What is the blessing of drought for Somali mothers who have carried dying children for days, only to bury them along the route to Kenya? What is the blessing of drought for children so malnourished they are too weak to cry? What is the blessing of drought for fathers whose children starve because the parched land will not yield a crop to sustain them?

I have discovered many blessings of drought in my own experiences, but I'm really struggling to find the blessings of drought for the children and mothers and fathers of Eastern Africa. It is almost unbearable to see the photos and television images of dying children so thin you can see every bone and sinew. It grieves me deeply to read the stories about babies with dysentery, cholera, and measles (preventable diseases in our country), who lack medical care, clean water, or proper nutrition. I am haunted by the defeated look in one mother's eyes as she quietly told of the deaths of her children after their escape from Somalia.

And so I do the only thing I know to do. I go to God in prayer for these children and babies, for their brothers and sisters, their parents and caregivers, the aid workers and humanitarian groups serving them, the governments and lawmakers making decisions about them, and even for the militias who prey on them. I plead with the Holy Spirit to show me how to pray for those who endure so much. I beg God for the courage to enter into their pain so I might pray with compassion for the weak and broken. And I ask Jesus to show me how to find the blessings of drought in this kind of suffering.

Chris Laufer

The Bridge "sermon only" CDs are available

Order forms are available at the church reception area or call Rhondy at 684-7821 to place an order.

DVDs now available upon request

of 11:00 am worship in the Sanctuary.

Cost of each DVD is \$5.

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly". Matthew 6:6

(King James version)



The Prayer Closet is there for YOU. PLEASE feel free to step in and close the door and PRAY.



Worship

Hymn Festival: A Celebration of God's Unending Faithfulness



Come celebrate our heritage of singing praise hymns to our faithful God on Sunday, September 18 at 4 p.m. David Cherwien, music director of the National Lutheran Choir, will lead the festival, along with the Lone Star Brass, the Festival Choir and the Fredda Turner Durham Memorial Organ. Cherwien is a nationally known conductor, composer and organist. Recognized for his contributions to the field of church music and liturgy, he is in demand as a clinician and hymn festival leader across the country. David serves as Cantor at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, a parish known for its passion for creative high quality liturgy and music.

You are invited to join the Festival Choir in leading this service of praise by attending the rehearsal at 2:00 p.m. preceding the Festival.

Contact Gregory Pysh (gpysh@fpcmid.org) for more information.

Music Ministry Notes “We Are Family”....Indeed!

*We are family! I've got all my sisters (and brothers) with me!
We are family! Get up everybody and SING!*
Edwards and Rodgers

The 1970's disco group Sister Sledge could have easily sung this number one hit song about your music ministry! We are a family that not only gathers each week to sing, but who supports, comforts, laughs, cheers, and prays for each other, all to the GLORY OF GOD! What you see and hear on Sunday morning is the culmination of our working together in sharing of time and talent to joyfully praise and thank Almighty God for all he has given to each of us!

If you are looking for a friendly, loving place this fall to “plug in” and to share your gifts, we would love to have you join our musical family. We have many and varied opportunities to praise God, to give back to the Giver of Life. Here are a few:

For Adults

Sanctuary Choir, for grade 9-adult, Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the choir room (Room 224)
Agape Ringers, for grade 9-adult, Mondays at 11:30 am in the choir room (Room 224)
Jubilate Singers and Instrumentalist (NEW THIS FALL!), for Grade 8-adult Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. during the Gathering

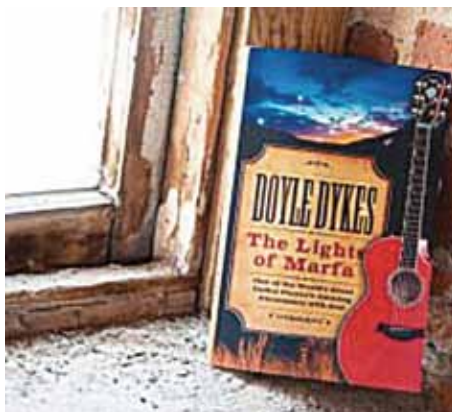
For Children

All Children's Choirs meet on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the CDC area

Preschool (Celestial) Choir
Kindergarten (Cherub) Choir
First Grade (Carol) Choir
Elementary Choir—Grades 2-3
Junior Choir—Grades 4-6

For more information about any of these opportunities to share your gifts, please contact Greg in the music office (gpysh@fpcmid.org, 684-7821, ext. 139), or visit the Music Page on our website, www.fpcmid.org.

Coming Musical Events: September 18, 4:00 p.m. An Ecumenical Hymn Festival



Doyle Dykes Concert

As part of our 125th anniversary celebration, we are most pleased to host internationally-known musician and author Doyle Dykes on Sunday, October 2. Doyle will play at both morning services, and will give a free concert in our Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. Please plan to join us for this most special event, as Doyle shares not only his musical gifts, but also his testimony, much which can be found in his newly-published autobiography “*The Lights of Marfa*.”

Watch your mailbox next week for complete details on all these equipping events...

Sunday School Kick-Off

is Sunday, August 28!
Join us for new classes for all ages at 9:30 a.m.

Gathering begins Wednesday, September 7 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. in Lynn Hall followed by the 5:55 Bible Club for K4-6th graders, Children's Choirs at 6:30 p.m., and Classes, Choirs and Koin Groups for adults beginning at 6:30 p.m.



Koin Shop is coming September 18 at 9:15-11:00 a.m. and 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. in the lobby of the FLC, Lynn Hall and Texas Street.

The Koin Shop is a play on the Greek word Koinonia, meaning "fellowship" or "communion". The Koin Shop will be a fun morning designed to connect you to a small group with whom you can find rich fellowship

through study and prayer. You'll have a chance to meet the group facilitators and sign up for a group whose schedule works for you.

FPC offers a wide variety of Koin groups and studies. We have a place for you!

Education For Ministry (EFM) Bible Study and Certification Course from the UNIVERSITY OF THE SOUTH – SEWANEE BEGINNING FALL 2011 AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN!!* For more information, please access the website: <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm> or contact J'Lynn Wheeler, facilitator at 689-0382; Terry Jolliffe, facilitator at 210-6365.

**For those of you have already expressed an interest, we will be contacting you soon to let you know times and dates.*

Discover First classes will begin on Kick-Off Sunday, August 28 in the Parlor at 9:30 a.m. for anyone interested in membership at FPC.

Tapestry begins September 15 and will meet on Thursdays in the FPC Parlor



at 9:15. Come and grab some coffee and relax with other moms as we gather to study and encourage each other toward a deeper life in Jesus Christ. All moms are welcome! Contact Shannon at 694-7821 for more information.

Weekday Bible Studies will resume the week of September 12

Equip



Koin Shop Facilitators Needed

Do you value studying God's word and spending time in prayer?

Are there 6-12 people you'd like to know better and be closer to?

If you could choose the day, time and location that's best for you, would you be more likely to commit?

If you answered yes to all these questions, love the Lord and can commit to a two hour training session twice a year, you could be a Koin Group facilitator. As a facilitator, you would be making a significant contribution to helping FPC realize our vision to love and lead all people to deeper life in Jesus Christ by enabling more people to gather around God's word together in a small group. Ready to invest?

Contact Pastor Shannon Weisenfels at 684-7821 or sweisenfels@fpcmid.org.

Save the Date

The FPC Men's Retreat is back! Jim Houston-Hencken and Steve Wilkins will be our featured speakers March 2 - 4, 2012 at the Warren Ranch. Cost will be \$125 per person, scholarships available. Registration will begin later in the fall. If you would like be a part of the planning team, please contact Jamey Lucas.



You Go Nowhere by Accident

By LuAnn Lane



Art by Michael Leunig

I have found that Steve Schorr's weekly benediction, "You go nowhere by accident. Everywhere you go, God is sending you..." is true on so many levels. While we expect God to do great things in our lives when we are on a mission trip to Uganda, Tanzania, El Paso, New Orleans, or Houston, we are often caught by surprise when He shows up in our daily routines and blows us away with astounding opportunities to bless others and to experience a multitude of blessings in return. Unlike seeing and admiring the house built by the FPC youth and sponsors this spring in El Paso, we do not always walk away with a tangible result of our response to God's call; however, we know, without a doubt, that He has been present, even in the seemingly most insignificant moments of our day. I could not help but be charmed and moved by Carl Moore's recent experience of a child's calling him Santa Claus, and Carl's immediate, clever responses, which brought great delight to the child and his mother. While Carl did not whack the mother and child over their heads with a large-print King James Bible, preaching that Santa does not exist and that Jesus is the reason for the season of Christmas, he responded to God's call in that unexpected moment in line at a store, leaving the boy and his mother feeling blessed and joyful.

Grief Relief Class

Grief Relief is a four-week program where you will learn how to deal with grief and loss in a such a way that you will begin to experience God's healing through your grieving. Please join us as we share and care for another in a time of need. The instructor will be Ron Ellison, Communication Facilitator of Hospice of Midland. We will meet in the church parlor on Wednesdays, September 14 through October, 5. Lunch will be served for a fee of \$5. Everyone is invited to attend.

Last February, I had an unexpected experience as I walked in my usual entryway to the church on a very cold Sunday morning (remember cold?). I held the door for a couple who was entering the building also, and I noticed that they looked around as if they were new to the church. I asked if I could help them find their way, and it turned out that they were seeking assistance with bus passes for transportation to medical visits. I invited them to Lynn Hall and sought out Steve Schorr, who contacted Carl Moore about the necessary process to obtain the bus passes. In the meantime, the couple shared their story with me, and I invited them to eat breakfast while we waited for Steve to return. Steve returned with information, and I said goodbye to the couple as I headed to the 11:00 service. I was in the sanctuary very briefly, when the thought occurred to me that the couple had no transportation back to the Salvation Army, it was extremely cold, and the man could not walk long distances due to his medical condition. I hesitated, but as soon as the congregation stood up to greet one another, I made a beeline for the door. I went back to Lynn Hall, and looked around to see that the only two people left in the room were the man and his wife. I asked them if I could take them back to the Salvation Army. They replied that they did not want to make me



miss church, and it was at that point that I realized, this IS church. It was no accident that we had walked in the door at the same time that morning. I was called to be there to transport this couple. I took them back to the Salvation Army, enjoying a lively conversation about the man's family of musicians, and feeling so blessed that these people had come into my life, even if for a very brief moment in time. You go nowhere by accident...

Sometimes the experiences of God's presence are even more unexpected and much more poignant. One day this past December, I was leaving the Permian High School choir room after a rehearsal for the upcoming Christmas concert. Outside the door, there is a loading dock area that is partially enclosed by brick walls, making it an area that is slightly sheltered from the elements; thus, students will occasionally stand or sit there. As I headed for my van, I saw that a girl was sitting there, alone. I continued walking, but as I got into my van, I saw that her head was in her hands, and she was crying. What to do? I had students waiting on me at the college, and besides, I didn't want to interfere in the business of a stranger. But, well, I just could not walk away from this poor girl, sitting in the cold, sobbing. I walked over to her and said that I did not want to invade her privacy, but could I be of any help? She grabbed me and hugged me tightly. As it turned out, she was facing yet another Christmas without her father, who had died when she was younger. No one seemed to understand that she still ached over the loss of her father, and she was dreading Christmas and her upcoming graduation without her father there. Nothing I could have said would have brought her father back to life, but I held her and told her that I have a daughter and a son who are walking a similar path. I could not possibly know everything she was feeling, but I could understand that time does not heal all wounds, and while life does go on, there are times that the pain returns in a most excruciating way. About that time, a friend of hers appeared, and as he spoke words of comfort, the girl gravitated toward him. I rose to leave, telling her that I would pray for her and her family, and offering that if she ever wanted to talk to me or to my daughter, she could obtain my contact information from the choir director. I did not hear from her again, but I have prayed for her often, and I have also given more consideration to my own children's experiences and wondered what they are feeling deep inside. You go nowhere by accident...

Perhaps the most unexpected and unprepared moment I have ever faced occurred several years ago, when I was working at Amarillo College. It was a Sunday afternoon. I had just finished performing in a concert, and I had gone to put some things away in the music lab. I was heading for my car when I looked over the ledge above the basement-level concert hall and saw that an elderly woman had fallen on the icy brick ramp on the way out of the building. I had another concert that evening and did not have much time in between, but everyone had already left, and the woman appeared to be by herself. I worked my way down the steps and went over to her. As I spoke to her,

I realized that she was semi-conscious. She could not speak, but she could nod as I asked questions. I told her that I was going inside to call for help, and I raced for the nearest phone (Yes, Virginia, there was a time when cell phones did not exist.). I called 9-1-1, and as I described the situation to the dispatcher, I said, "I know this sounds crazy, but I think she might be dying." I went back out to the woman and held her across my lap as we waited for the EMTs to arrive. She became less and less responsive, and I began to pray. She gasped her last breath and went limp in my arms. The EMTs arrived quickly, but they were unable to revive her. I gave my report of the incident to them, and they took her away. I went, shell-shocked, to my next concert. I did not know this woman or her family, but I was grateful that God had not left her to die alone on an icy sidewalk on a Sunday afternoon. You go nowhere by accident...

Sometimes we are called upon by God in the most unlikely of moments, only to realize later that we had not been there by accident. Thank you, Steve, for that weekly reminder.

Cooking for One

Join us for a four-week course open to anyone interested in preparing simple foods. Class size will be limited to 30 people. Registration deadline is Friday, September 16.

September 21 to October 12, 2011
Wednesdays 10:30 a.m. to Noon
Koinonia Room

Session 1: Introduction and ice breaker with cinnamon rolls and omelet preparation.
Session 2: Cooking class with Angels in Aprons
Session 3: Lindy Tefteller, M.S. Counseling with Texas AgriLife Extension Service, will discuss nutrition, food safety and healthy snacks
Session 4: Social with speaker Ron Ellison, Communication Facilitator for Hospice Midland. Make and share your favorite casserole or salad. Bring a copy of your recipe.

This fun and informative workshop series is presented by HospiceMidland and First Presbyterian Church. Please call Susie Mauldin at HospiceMidland to reserve your spot, 686-6101.

*Presented by HospiceMidland and First Presbyterian Church
Please call Susie Mauldin at HospiceMidland to reserve your spot!
686-6101*



Serve



Tanzania's New Church

Is it pronounced “tan-zah-NEE-ah” or “tan - ZAHN - ee - ah”? Either way, it was a country of immense beauty and was truly a mission trip beyond words for thirty-four people from our church community. The mission team had the privilege of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the people of Newland, Tanzania, located at the base of Mt. Kilimanjaro, from June 17 through June 29. God’s hand was upon them as they walked through the streets of Newland, sharing the Good News with those they encountered along the way. Following are just a few glimpses into what God was up to this summer in Tanzania.

The team’s schedule in Tanzania was modeled after its past trips to Uganda. With just a few ‘tweaks’ here and there, they followed the same rigorous schedule planned out by Aidah and Morris Ogenga. After two days of flying, they arrived Saturday evening, June 19, and moved into their “home away from home,” the Lutheran Uhura Hostel, located in the town of Moshi. Early the next day, they were divided into teams and visited three local churches to teach and preach to enthusiastic congregations of believers, including the first church planted by the Eastern Presbytery last year by Grace Bible Church out of Houston. That afternoon, the team helped sort through supplies brought from home and began preparing for the week ahead.

Planting the church in the village of Newland was the goal of the team Monday through Friday. Each morning, the team would gather for morning devotionals and then set off for the 30-minute drive to Newland. The village was on the outskirts of town, located in the middle of a large sugar cane plantation. Upon arrival, they would join up with the local pastors and interpreters for praise and worship and then begin the long day on the road. It would have been impossible to do the work without the wonderful interpreters and pastors who came alongside the team members during this week of evangelism. This year, most of the interpreters traveled from Uganda and Kenya to be with the team.



Fluent in Swahili, they were the key ingredient to God's plan in witnessing to the people of Newland.

At the end of each day on the road, the team would participate in a crusade held outside the church. Praise and worship teams sang and danced on stage and invited all to come for the evening testimonies and sermon. The team enjoyed re-connecting with the people they had met during the days on the road, and many joined in with the crowd as they worshiped and sang together. Each evening, two to three members of the team shared their testimony, and one of the men gave a sermon to the attentive crowd, culminating with an altar call that left each team member grateful for the opportunity to see new people becoming sisters and brothers in Christ. They were also blessed to have the chance to share the Gospel through songs and Bible stories to the hundreds of children who attended children's church each evening during the sermon.



Also, during the week, several team members had the privilege of visiting private schools in the area to share the Gospel and encourage the children. Many days, they visited primary as well as secondary schools and shared with the students their personal stories of Christ's presence in their lives, and how they, too, could become followers of Christ.



As in the past, the team helped facilitate a free medical clinic for the community. This year, the clinic was extended to three full days of medical care with members of the team helping local government doctors and nurses with registration, triage (blood pressure and temperature), pharmaceutical work (pill counting), and distribution of eyeglasses and mosquito nets. Dr. Huston joined the doctors and worked tirelessly during the three days,



Serve

seeing patients continuously in a small bamboo exam room tucked in the corner of the church building. During the three days, it was estimated that the clinic treated 3,500 patients, distributed over 8,500 prescriptions, and handed out more than 500 pairs of eyeglasses and 3000 mosquito nets. Amazing!

On Wednesday, several members of the team conducted a Women's Health Seminar at the Grace Bible Church located in Moshi. The all-day seminar consisted of different sessions covering the topics of first aid, family planning, pregnancy care, and nutrition. More than 250 women participated in the event and were so thankful for the education, information, certificates, and gift bags provided to each one.



Each evening the team would meet after dinner to share about the day's events. With all that goes into a day and all the different activities happening at the same time, it was a time to bear witness to all that God had been doing throughout the day, touching lives and opening hearts to His Word. Always a highlight for the team, it was a very special time of stories, praise, laughter, tears, and prayers. It was a perfect way to end each day – praising God.

On Saturday, the team had the rare opportunity to visit a Maasai tribe about an hour outside of Moshi. Driving through a barren landscape, they arrived at the site of a large tree where elders from the tribe waited. The team had thought they were going to share the Gospel hut to hut with the Maasia but, instead, were treated to a beautiful worship service of praise songs sung in perfect harmony by an amazing choir of Maasia men and women dressed in traditional tribal clothing under the meeting tree. It was truly a blessed event that the team members will not forget; another witness to God's grace and love.



On the last Sunday, the mission team joined the new pastor in holding the very first worship service in the new church. Men, women, and children's Sunday Schools were led by members of the team, and Walter Thompson preached one of the many sermons heard that day as the new congregation celebrated the beginning of a new community of faith in Newland. It was a beautiful way to conclude the time shared in Newland with these new believers. After the service, the congregation and team members enjoyed a wonderful meal together, and then it was time to leave our new family of faith. God will continue to work in the lives of the people of Newland, and the team asks that you continue to keep the new church in your thoughts and prayers as they grow in Christ and further His Kingdom in the fertile soil of Tanzania.



The 2011 Tanzania mission team would like to thank all the people who helped us and invite everyone to hear more stories and see the powerful images of God at work in Tanzania. Please join us for a luncheon to be held on Sunday, September 18th, in Lynn Hall immediately following the 11 o'clock service. God is truly at work in our church, our community, and throughout the world, and we are privileged to bear witness to all His glory.

Thank You! 2011 Tanzania Mission Team



Jim Alsop
Mary Beth Anton
Ramon Billhimer
Katie Bourland
Lucy Bourland
Carole Campbell
Elizabeth Darr
Jeff Darr
Robin Darr
Audrey Grimes
Missy Grimes
Ellie Hewett

Cynthia Howard
Pat Hunter
Jim Huston
Sandra Huston
Courtney Iverson
Wendell Iverson
Garrett Lang
Karen Lang
Vicki Miller
Connie Morrow
Laura Price
Melissa Rendall

Elizabeth Smith
Tammy Smith
Ben Spinks
Ben Strickling
Walter Thompson
Zureyma Thompson
Janice Vinson
Lisa Wayland
Karen Winkler
Robert Winkler

Youth Summer Trips Recap

Read comments from our students at the youth blog: fpcjourneys.wordpress.org or follow the link from the FPC website.

Wilderness – Ozark Mountains, MO

Ten high school juniors and seniors along with Todd Wyrick and Pat Hunter spent a week in the wilderness of the Ozark Mountains on an experience that was like none other---challenging, soul-searching, team building, “Night Ops,” river crossings and an experience that was deeper than they could have imagined. They learned a ton about themselves and each other. It was a week they will never forget!



The Great Escape – Gunnison, CO - June 18-24

Thirty-eight middle school students and 10 adults had a great time of fellowship, worship and fun in the fabulous Rocky Mountains. We heard great speakers who shared inspirational messages about God’s love with us and we worshiped with music from Daniel and his band again this year. We also got to spend some great time hiking and taking a dip in the freezing water of a mountain lake in Crested Butte, white water rafting in the Taylor River, and plastering each other with shaving cream during the 82nd Annual TGE Shaving Cream War. Through it all, our whole group learned more about what it means to engage and follow Jesus every day.



Fun in the Sun – South Padre Island, TX - July 9-15

Thirty-eight high school students and 8 adults traveled to South Padre Island looking forward to a week of fellowship, worship and their fair share of sunburns. What they found was a life-changing encounter with Christ. They joined 400 other students from all over the nation to worship God with great speakers and music from the Jason Johnson Band. Some of the most meaningful moments of the week came in our Family Time when we got to share together how the messages impacted us and how we follow Jesus into the life to which he’s called us. In the afternoons, we enjoyed volleyball, basketball and dodgeball tournaments and much more! Thanks so much to all the folks who were praying for us throughout the week...your prayers were heard and felt!



Mission: Houston – July 24-29

Nine middle school students, along with Todd Wyrick and Lisa Wayland, were blessed to spend the week together working in inner-city Houston. We worked with the Center for Student Missions in hands-on ministries that are making a difference in the city of Houston. We participated in Bible study and worship with the homeless and at-risk youth, made lunches and helped distribute clothing for the homeless, and played with children at an apartment complex outreach program. One day we even got to play Bingo at an adult daycare facility and share some music with them. And the fun didn’t stop there! We got to take in some of Houston’s best family-owned international restaurants: Vietnamese, Mexican and Middle Eastern food. On the last night, we even got to jump up, sing, clap and dance with the men of the Harbor Light Salvation Army Choir! The experience was like none we had ever had before...seriously. We were blessed to be a part of God’s work in Houston and have an incredible time in the process!



Be sure to check out the comments and pictures of all summer youth trips at fpcjourneys.wordpress.org

Invite



Mark your calendars:

Sunday School Kick-Off is August 28 Join us every Sunday at 9:30am SHARP for Sunday school! This is a great place to dig into Scripture and life and see how they intersect. Bring a friend...bring 10 friends...and join some awesome, loving adults who are crazy about Jesus and you!

Fall KICK-Off is August 31

Keep your calendar open for FKO on Wednesday, August 31! Jason Johnson is coming!!! The concert will be in the Chapel for all youth beginning at 7:00 p.m. Everyone come and bring your friends for a wonderful time of great music and inspirational worship led by Jason!!!!

Parents, join us in Lynn Hall from 7:00-7:30 to hear about the plans for the year. You will have an opportunity to volunteer to participate in various activities throughout the year. Remember, youth ministry cannot happen without the leadership and help of parents. The meeting will be about 30 minutes so that you can join the kids in the chapel for the remainder of the concert.

JOLT begins September 7

All youth meet together with guys or girls your own age in a small group environment where it is safe to share, ask questions, and simply “do life” as a family together. This is a great place to grow in your faith while growing in relationships with others.

Most groups will meet on Wednesdays from 6:30-7:30 – watch for more details from your group leader SOON!

Confirmation begins September 11

All 9th graders and above who have not yet been confirmed--confirmation classes will begin on September 11 at 6:00 and continue through the fall. For more information contact Shannon Weisenfels, 684-7821



Invite

Welcome New Members:

G. Pat Bolden

Dustin & Mande Gragg

How's Your Driving?

AARP's Driver Safety Program will be offered Thursday, September 22 from 12:45pm-5pm.

The class is a one-day, four-hour refresher course for experienced motorists age 50 and older. The fee is \$12 for AARP members (membership card required) or \$14 for non-members, and includes the cost of the manual given to each participant. The fee is payable by cash, check or money order at the beginning of the course. The fee is not refundable. Upon completion of the course each participant will be given a certificate that can be used to reduce one's car insurance for three years.

So come improve your driving skills and save money on your auto insurance. If you desire to take this course, please contact Mary Margaret Davis at the church office. You will need to fill out a registration form by noon on Tuesday, September 20 and return it to the office.

Primetimers Events

Scrapbooking and Jewelry-making/repair.

Thursday, September 8, 10 a.m. in the Koinonia Room.

Bring your photographs to organize, crop or just visit about them. Come and work until 2pm and we will pick up something for lunch. Joyce Watts will help with jewelry ideas and repair. Sharla Somers will show you fast and easy shortcuts to get your pictures in albums ready to enjoy. All ages are welcome.

Men's Lunch Out.

Tuesday, September 13, 11:30 a.m.

We will meet at Cotton Patch Cafe, next door to Outback Steakhouse on Loop 250. Come for the good food, fun and fellowship with good friends.

Primetimers Mission Project.

Wednesday, September 14 at 2 p.m. in the Koinonia Room.

The Primetimers have an ongoing mission project. The items we would like to include are: toothpaste, toothbrush, bar of soap, hair combs, small bottles of shampoo, conditioner and hand lotion. If you would like to contribute any of these items for this project, please drop them by the reception desk. Come help and plan to stay and watch the movie at 3 p.m.

Movie Matinee.

Wednesday, September 14 at 3 p.m. in the church parlor.

The movie this month is "Jane Eyre," adapted from the timeless romance novel. Set in England's North Country in the mid-nineteenth century, the scenery and costumes are gorgeous. Come get out of the heat, see a great movie and enjoy the fellowship.

Primetimers Monthly Meeting.

Tuesday, September 20 at 11:30 a.m., Lynn Hall.

Grace Griggs will teach us how to pack our suitcases. She will be sharing her tricks. Lunch cost is \$5.

Primetimers Lunch.

Sunday, September 25, 12:15 p.m. after worship service in Lynn Hall.

We offer a splendid spread at the Primetimers Sunday Pot Luck Luncheon. Your ticket for admission is a salad, vegetable or dessert to share. Or if you're not into heating up your kitchen, there's nothing wrong with something whipped up by your local grocery store. The church will provide the meat.

Ladies Lunch.

Tuesday, September 27 at 11:30 a.m. at Cotton Patch Cafe.

This will be a Dutch treat event with lots of opportunities for fellowship.

Angels in Apron ministry.

Place orders by Thursday, September 22.

The purpose of this ministry is to provide for a small fee ready to eat food in individual frozen servings. The October menu will be chicken spaghetti, Mexican lasagna, white bean soup, green bean casserole and snowball salad. Place your order by calling Rhondy at the church office. The small individual portions can be picked up and paid for on Thursday, October 6 from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Family Life Center area foyer.

The Deacon and the Pharisee.

Saturday, September 24, Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post, Texas.

This is a \$2 million facility that takes audiences to a first-century Jerusalem plaza. Enjoy a full hour of vibrant and uplifting southern gospel music featuring Chip Polk. It is the story of Stephen and

Saul. The cost will be \$20 paid in advance for the theater ticket, reserving your seat on the mini bus. You will need to bring money for your meals and any other purchases. We will leave from the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

The Deacon and the Pharisee at Ragtown Gospel Theater

We will see the matinee performance at the Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post, Texas on Saturday, September 24, 2011. This is a \$2 million facility that takes audiences to a first-century Jerusalem plaza. Enjoy a full hour of vibrant and uplifting southern gospel music featuring Chip Polk the production of The Deacon and the Pharisee which is the story of Stephen and Saul. The cost will be \$20 paid in advance for the theater ticket, reserving your seat on the mini bus. You will need to bring money for your meals and any other purchases. We will leave from the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

Get Your name on the list to see The Promise in Granbury on October 20 - 22.

Primetimers will be taking a two night trip in the mini bus. We will be checking out the sights of Granbury and Glen Rose, visiting Fossil Rim (the wildlife park), Historical Tour, a winery, attend The Promise production plus shopping and eating at some very interesting spots. The Promise is a musical passion play and Christian drama about the life of Jesus Christ. The cost for two nights will be \$260 for a single or \$185 per person for a double, plus your meals and extra things you would want to purchase. The cost includes two nights in motel and admission to Fossil Rim and The Promise. The trip is filling up fast so get your check, payable to First Presbyterian Church, to Mary Margaret at the church office no later than Monday, September 19. No refunds for cancellations after September 19. Come join the fun on the mini bus.

Come check out the fall foliage in Boerne on November 3-5!

Primetimers will be taking a two night trip in the mini van. We will be checking out the sights of Boerne and Comfort, visiting Kerrville plus do some shopping and eating at some very interesting spots. Come enjoy the small town atmosphere. The cost for two nights in a motel will be \$240 for a single or \$120 per person for a double, plus your meals and any extra things you would want to purchase. This trip is filling up fast so get your check, payable to First Presbyterian Church, to Mary Margaret at the church office no later than Monday, October 24. Receipt of your check is your reservation and is nonrefundable. Come join the fun on the mini van.

Bethlehem Production at Ragtown Gospel Theater

We will see the matinee performance at the Ragtown Gospel Theater in Post, Texas on Saturday, December 3, 2011. In a story that takes us from Heaven, before the throne of the Father, to a humble stable in Judea, the musical drama "Bethlehem" will forever change the way you look at the birth of the Savior. Enjoy a full hour of vibrant and uplifting southern gospel music featuring Chip Polk. This trip will be filled with lots of surprises. We will visit the OS Ranch Museum and you will be given the opportunity to check out a few Christmas gifts at the Post Trade Days activities. The cost will be \$20 paid in advance for the theater ticket, reserving your seat on the mini bus. You will need to bring money for your meals and any other purchases. We will leave from the church parking lot at 7:30 a.m.



Dreams of the 60's Live On Today

Midland saw a major economic downturn in the 1960s. Foreign oil was cheaper than domestic. Major oil companies moved out, leaving empty office buildings and many empty homes. The Mobil Building was demolished, but a new City Hall was dedicated in November of 1965. Sadness came to the nation in the assassination of President Kennedy, and later in the decade, his brother Bobby, as well as Martin Luther King. With the decade marked by the Vietnam War and the Bay of Pigs, it was also a decade of triumphs. Before John F. Kennedy died, he challenged the nation to put a man on the moon within the decade. What was science fiction in the 1950s, but became reality with the landing of the Eagle lunar module with Neil Armstrong and fellow Presbyterian, Buzz Aldrin walking on the surface July 20, 1969.

The civil rights movement brought positive changes for minorities and women. Martin Luther King had a dream, and his dream lives on today. These changes in attitude brought the Presbyterian churches from the north and south to initiate the process of unification, which would not be complete until 1983. Dr. Lynn and many members of our church were involved in area, state and national committees with the PCUS.

For children growing up in Midland, little seemed to affect the wonderful embrace this town gave and still gives to support families. First Presbyterian continued to provide opportunities in Midland. Mamie Martin first proposed helping shut-ins, the blind and hard of hearing to the session in 1963. The Tape Lending Library and Visual Aids News mobile were born. That same year, Mrs. Andrew Faskin's dream of a quality retirement center in Midland became a reality and the process to build Trinity Towers began. The Covenant Curriculum was adopted and Christian education remained at the forefront.

In Colorado, a baby boy was born to be our future pastor, Steve Schorr, and in Ohio, Mary Beth Anton came into this world with a destiny for ministry in Midland. This was the decade that women were elected into the session and diaconate. In 1966, Ora Etta Farlow and Mabel Tolbert Franz were elected as Elders; deacons were Margaret Cowden and Jane Ramsland.

Associate pastors John Rorex and James Berbiglia accepted calls as ministers for preaching, evangelism and assimilation and for Christian Education, respectively in 1963. Three years later, James Berbiglia asked to be dismissed to join the armed service as a Chaplain. That same year, we lost Irby Dyer, III in Vietnam on December 2, 1966. Chaplain Berbiglia continued to send letters and tapes of his experiences, and mission started at First Presbyterian in earnest. June McMullen served in Brazil as a missionary and Patricia Anderson joined the Peace Corp for service in Africa. The Boy Scout troop under the leadership of Forrest Muire, A.J. Betts, Bob Clark, Bob Grace and Raymond Nicholas earned \$250 to send to a church in Taiwan. That was a considerable amount since the minimum wage was \$1. This donation provided for 35 percent of the cost for building material. At home, our church undertook financial support for Casa de Amigos. With First church's support, Camp Chimney Springs was purchased by the presbytery and programs grew in the woods near Cloud Croft, New Mexico.

Ed Macgruder was Midland's Mayor in that decade, and Midlander Tom Craddick was first elected to the state senate in 1968. Richard Nixon became president and Matthew Lynn was nominated as Moderator of General Assembly PCUS.

On May 9, Midland experienced what many still refer to as "The Flood". My sister remembers giving up on mom picking her up at Midland High and walking only a few blocks north on "A" Street until a vast lake of water stopped her, not seeing dry land until Bowie Elementary! Thanks to staff and members at the church, water damage was held to a minimum by their hard work.

In 1969 Matthew Lynn was elected Moderator of the 109th General Assembly. The Session acted quickly to excuse Dr. Lynn from his duties to be able to serve his post for the next year. James Fletcher, a spring graduate of Austin Theological Seminary was called for one year to assist Forrest Whitworth in Dr. Lynn's absence.

With the seriousness of an ongoing war, civil rights issues and protests all around, we enjoyed the completion of the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Andy Warhol's modern art, Harper Lee's *"To Kill A Mockingbird"* and Truman Capote's *"In Cold Blood"*. Children read *"Where the Wild Things Are"* and *"Island of the Blue Dolphins"*. The television series, "Star Trek" aired along with "I Dream of Genie," "Laugh In," "Andy Griffith," and "My Favorite Martian" to name a few. And who could forget Ed Sullivan and the Beatles! James Bond, The Graduate, My Fair Lady, Sound of Music and 101 Dalmatians came to the silver screen. The world lost Walt Disney in 1966, but his dream lives on.

If the 1960s taught us anything, it is that dreams do live on. They live on in mission work, Casa de Amigos, Camp Chimney Springs, The Tape Lending Library and in Trinity Towers, now Manor Park.

FPC: Do You Know?

What year were woman first elected as church officers?

Visit the FPC 125 Timeline in Lynn Hall to find the answer and more.



Fall 2011 Art and Music Classes

**Fall Semester Begins September 12
Registration Deadline September 2**

Art with instructor Kathy Schorr

Art for Children

KinderArt
Art from A to Z
Adventures in Art

Art for Adults

Art 101
Art 102

Music

Musikgarten with instructor Becca Sawyer

Family Music for Toddlers
Cycles of the Seasons-Wind Dancers
Music Makers at Home
Music Makers at the Keyboard I

Piano Lessons all ages

Suzuki Violin

with instructor Aliza Bowcutt
violin lessons begin September 6

Artistic Excellence in a Christian Environment

Brochure and registration forms available online or at the church.

Call Kathy Schorr at 684-7821, ext.122 or 684-6392, email: katschorr@suddenlink.net

First Presbyterian Church • 800 West Texas, Midland • www.fpcmid.org

Thanks to the tireless “chain gang”

Martha Holton • Vera Osadchuk • Gladys Nickell • Carol Craig • Jackie Perry • The church staff

Proofers

Sue Kerr • Marilyn Hightower • Tammy Smith • Harold and Carol Hughes • The church staff

Life Deadline:

The deadline for submissions is the **second Thursday of the month** for publication in the next issue.

Life (USPS 004-430) is published free of charge monthly during the year by First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas, Midland, TX. Periodicals postage paid at Midland, TX. POSTMASTER: Send address change to First Presbyterian Church, 800 W. Texas, Midland, TX 79701, 432.684.7821, FAX 432.684.8424.