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First Presbyterian Church

New Communications Plan for First Pres

An exciting new communications strategy for our First Pres family is being introduced beginning today. One of the early changes you will notice is that the eChimes will be published monthly instead of weekly. The reason for this change is to make the eChimes a vital piece of a larger plan instead of being the central focus for communication. The purpose of eChimes is to strengthen the connections of those who are already connected in their own part of the church to other parts and people within the church and to form a more cohesive, "all-church" attitude so that ALL of us can celebrate and encourage one another. To do that with greater depth and purpose, we've chosen to recast the eChimes with largely different content in a monthly publication. Instead of overwhelming everyone with all information, much of it being repetitive, communication is being streamlined to those who need and want it in a logical way. We ask for your prayers, patience, and support as the new marketing plan evolves. We desire to serve everyone at First Pres and let their voices be heard. Members of the Communications Team are happy to talk with you about your needs and questions as we reshape and improve communications in the church. Members of the Communications team are Diane Baker, Mark Barrow, Molly Davis, Blake Goldston, Jamie Graham, Amanda Kelleher, Courtney Milleson, and Rex Vermillion.

Mission Makes a Difference



Members of our First Pres family serving in Joplin, Missouri this summer.

SPOTLIGHT

Each month, we'll spotlight different ministries, staff members, deacons, and elders. We will also communicate highlights of what's loved about each service, how God is working, what we can pray for, and what we can celebrate with our church family.

A Look at Women's Ministry



By Sherrie Lovato

Director of Women's Ministry

Honesty is at the core of every deep and meaningful friendship -- including our relationship with God. One day as I was reading my *One Year Bible*, this scripture jumped off the page and into my brain, replaying like a song that I couldn't shake out of my head! For months!

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30)

Finally, one day as I was praying, I told God, I love You with my soul; I have entrusted my eternity to You. I love You with my mind; I have loved and studied Your Word for years. I love You with my strength; I have worked passionately for Your kingdom. But, I do not love You with my heart. When I think of You, even knowing all You have done for me, still I feel no real emotion of love for You. **But, I want to!** Please help me feel love for You from my heart! And I prayed this same prayer -- for months!

I cannot tell you *how* it happened, but one day I realized that I felt a deep, passionate emotion of love for God, for His Son, and for the Holy Spirit. Still, it is a mystery to me -- how could this have happened? God must have done a miracle in my heart!

This story is an illustration of how faith has grown recently in my life. Each of you has a beautiful testimony of how God has worked in your life, building faith in you. You are His creation and His workmanship! And that is the theme of our Gala and what our fall semester will be about -- our legacies of faith: ***Creating a Legacy of Faith!***

Each of us will be encouraged to allow God to work in our hearts, deepening, stretching, trying, and increasing our faith; and then we will be inspired to give that faith away, glorifying God by speaking and living out in front of others -- our children, grandchildren, family, friends, coworkers, and community -- all He has done and is doing in and for us!

It's funny that the world's definition of a "legacy" typically consists of saving up our fortunes, beautiful furniture, cherished family photos for our heirs for when we are gone; but in Christ's

kingdom, it is not what we save; it is what we give away that is our legacy! What a wonderful thought! And the stronger faith we have, the more we can give away to others.

For Women's Ministry this year, I have three prayers. Will you please join me in asking God for these blessings? First, that He will give us unity and deep love for each other. Our church is blessed with multiple generations -- tiny babies to those over 100! What a rare and wonderful thing! We have much to learn from each other. May God connect us, heart-to-heart, as only He can!

Second, I pray that God will work divinely to bring women we don't even know to our studies and programs where their faith can be nurtured alongside ours; and, that we will hear His voice

nudging us to invite others, extending our friendship to them. God, please bring us old and new friends!

Third, I pray that God will increase our faith and love for Him, so that we will have much to give away to those we love and to those we do not even know! *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.* (Ephesians 2:10)

Come. Join us!

Our Heavenly Father awaits us.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR LEADERS



Molly Davis, Elder

The creative process is probably one of my favorite things," states elder Molly Davis. Once the final product, whether an art piece or a marketing campaign for a client, is delivered I am always ready to begin again. Molly is a marketing and advertising consultant who has a handful of clients that keep her busy. She also enjoys the arts and likes to create altered art when she has the time.

She is married to Raylan Davis and has two grown children, Sarah Lyons and John Lyons who is married to Lauren. Molly and Raylan realized after watching how her brother's church in Lubbock embraced their family during her brother's death in 1999 that that was what they wanted in their lives. Soon after his death they joined First Pres and have appreciated the love and grace of the church ever since.

Molly shared that her walk with Jesus has been a little bumpy at times, but the best part of the journey has been the gift of faith and knowing that no matter what happens -- He is always there for her. She is honored to be a part of the Session and understands that being an elder is a huge responsibility. One of the most comforting things about the church to Molly is the large stained glass window in the Sanctuary. She shared, during my grieving time after the loss of my brother, the stained glass image of Jesus was just so comforting, it truly gave me

strength and has continued to do so when I've faced other challenges or sadness in my life." She also appreciates the love and support of her Monday morning Bible study group.

ONE CHURCH FAMILY - MANY DIFFERENT PARTS

8:30

I love this service because of the quiet reverence it provides. There are no distractions, and I am able to be fully immersed in worship."

Marilou Guinn

11:00

I serve as an usher at the 11 a.m. service once a month. Even though I also enjoy contemporary worship, I enjoy serving in the Sanctuary at 11. The traditional music reminds me of going to church as a kid."

Stephen Miller

1105

I serve at the coffee bar in 1105. I like being part of a family that serves every Sunday. It really feels like a family serving God."

Troy Vaughn

Comunidad el Camino

"I love being involved in The Road. The opportunity to play a small part in lives being transformed is very exciting! Pray that as lives are transformed and people grow up in Him that they grow deep in Him also."

Orlando Lopez

BUDGET UPDATE

2012 Financial Results

Year-To-Date as of June 30th

	Gifts & Offerings	Expenses
Actual Results	\$ 1,040,582	\$ 1,045,195
Budgeted / Expected	<u>932,608</u>	<u>1,091,465</u>
Actual Over / (Under) Budget	\$ <u>107,974</u>	\$ (<u>46,270</u>)

Please remember we need your giving to continue kingdom work!

"Refurbishing" Capital Campaign Gifts Received to Date \$1,155,098
Thank you for your continued generosity!

If you have any questions, please contact a member of your Finance Committee,
an Elder, or the Business Office at 373.4242; or noland@firstpres.com

ADULT FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

DESIGN FOR LIVING

Bob Sanders, Jerry Shelby, and Tom Thatcher

Room 209

Our class will continue its study of First Peter beginning with Chapter 3, vs. 1-7, "The Give and Take of Domestic Harmony." Resources are the Bible and Charles R. Swindoll's *New Testament Insights— James and 1 & 2 Peter*. Swindoll's major goal in life has been to communicate God's Word with accuracy, insight clarity and practicality. His use of real-life stories and examples with irony, poignancy, and humor make this exegesis especially rewarding. Join us!

NEW TESTAMENT DISCUSSION

Mark Morey and Susan Burnette
Room 202

We will continue our study of the Old Testament through Genesis and Exodus and probably to Leviticus. The emphasis, as always, is the historical setting and significance of the text.

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

Bob Houchin and Kathy Jones
Room 210

We will continue our study of II Corinthians.

GAP

College/Young Adults

Brian and Amanda Kelleher, Cole and Jennifer Camp, Cat Keller, Kim Talley, Dom Pinis, and Shawntae Stout

Westminster Room

The Reason for God

Belief in an Age of Skepticism

Why does God allow suffering in the world? How could a loving God send people to hell? Why have so many wars been fought in the name of God? These are just a few of the questions and doubts even ardent believers wrestle with today. In *The Reason for God*, Tim Keller single-handedly dismantles each of these questions.

SEEKERS CLASS

Vicki Butterfield and Kim Talley

Parlor

Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them

Normal? Who's normal? Not you, that's for sure! No one you've ever met, either. None of us are normal according to God's definition, and the closer we get to each other, the plainer that becomes. Yet for all our quirks, sins, and jagged edges, we need each other. Community is more than just a word -- it is one of our most fundamental requirements. So how do flawed, abnormal people such as ourselves master the forces that can drive us apart and come together in the life-changing relationships God designed us for? In *Everybody's Normal Till You Get to Know Them*, teacher and best-selling author John Ortberg zooms in on the things that make community tick. You'll get a thought-provoking look at God's heart, at others, and at yourself. Even better, you'll gain wisdom and tools for drawing closer to others in powerful, impactful ways.

BSI CLASS

Richard McElreath and Richard Oliver

Room 207

Questions and answers. We look for both. We will continue our study in Matthew along with

Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book *The Cost of Discipleship* -- an interactive class with thought provoking conversations having fun and fellowship in God's Word. Discussion participation is encouraged but not mandatory.

MEN'S SMALL GROUP

Murray Gossett

Room 203

Looking for a place to hang out with the guys? Come to the "Man Cave," a small group discussion of a book of the Bible.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Sherrie Lovato

Room 204

Relating to God from an Honest Heart

Honesty is the foundation of every deep friendship; yet we often fear rejection if we are completely transparent or candid. God greatly desires a true and genuine friendship with us from an open and earnest heart. This class will challenge us to open our hearts completely and honestly to God -- even as His friend!

KALEIDOSCOPE

David, Mary Mullin and Jay O'Brien

Room 206

A chapter-by-chapter examination of lessons from Genesis.

FAMILY & ADULT MINISTRY

Room 304

Religion, as the default mode of our thinking and practices, is based upon performance: "I obey; therefore, I am accepted by God." The basic operating principle of the gospel, however, is, not surprisingly, an about-face, one of unmerited acceptance: "I am accepted by God through Christ; therefore, I obey." To truly understand this paradigm shift at a life-altering level requires that the gospel be explored. Come explore the "Good News." For more information, contact Cody Rogers, 679-0855

CALLING ALL SINGERS!



The Sanctuary Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the Choir Room. Please contact Norman at normang@firstpres.com if you're interested in joining us!

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Join us at 6:00 p.m. for dinner and 7:00 p.m. for studies.

KIDS WEDNESDAY INFO

PraiseKidz I & II Choir	5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. (Kids in Choir eat dinner from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
Critter Land	7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
Parent Pick Up	8:00 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.

STUDENTS WEDNESDAY INFO

Dinner	6:00 p.m.
Middle School Group	6:45 p.m. (A&O House)
High School Group	8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. (A&O House)

WEDNESDAY NIGHT MENU FOR SEPTEMBER

Dinner is served from 6:00 -6:45 p.m. in the Great Hall

Cost is \$4.00 per person with a max of \$15.00 per family of 4 or more.

Sept. 5 Brisket, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Salad and Rolls

Sept. 12 Chicken Spaghetti, Salad and Garlic Bread

Sept. 19 Pulled Pork Sandwiches, Beans and Potato Salad

Sept. 26 Meat Loaf, New Potatoes, Baked Beans, and Rolls

Reminder: *This year we will have the same menu for adults and children. We will do our best to post the menu for the month, so you will know ahead of time and if your child/children will eat what is being served. If your child does not care for what is being served, please feel free to bring dinner for them or feed them at home.*

WEDNESDAY NIGHT GROUPS

Experiencing God
Murray Gossett
Room 203

Over the years God has used the truths of Experiencing God to awaken believers to a radically God-centered way of life. As a result, millions have come to know God intimately, to recognize His voice, and to understand His will for their lives. When you recognize where God is working, you can join Him in what He is doing. Then you will experience God doing through you what only He can do.

Financial Peace

*Billy Hawkins**Room 209*

Financial Peace two words that don't go together! Although they don't fit in most people's lives, ***it is possible!*** The Dave Ramsey course is about how to get control of our money and not let our money control us. Come join this class beginning September 5 from 6:45 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. Cost is \$100 for materials, and scholarship money is available if needed. Contact Billy Hawkins (358-7088) for more information.

Five Days to a New Marriage

Molly & Raylan Davis, Susan & Hugh Hagen, Vicki & Rohn Butterfield

Room 202

Terry Hargrave's book and Sharon Hargrave's small group materials will be the basis for you to learn a step-by-step process that can help you and your spouse have a new marriage, a better marriage -- maybe even one you never imagined was possible! In this small group, you will learn scriptural truth can help change the negative pattern of your marital interactions. While we will take longer than five days (more like 10-12 weeks!) to explore this important topic, this class will help you discover with your spouse what God intends for the rest of your lives together.

GAP

Jennifer & Cole Camp, Cody Kerby, Cat Keller, Shawntae Stout

Westminster Room

We will use *Jesus Calling* as a guide in our time of prayer and sharing.

Assuming Love

Sherrie Lovato and Cara Hunt

Room 204

It's easy for us to feel like life isn't fair. We're over-burdened and carrying too much of the load in relationships. This class will look at God's perspective to women's healthy relationships of all kinds: marriage, family, work, and friendships. We'll look at what God calls us to give to these relationships and how to navigate them.

The Life You've Always Wanted

Howard Griffin

Room 207

What keeps you from living such a life? What can you do to pursue it? If you're tired of the status quo -- if you suspect that there's more to Christianity than what you've experienced -- John Ortberg points to a road of transformation and spiritual vigor that anyone can take, one that leads to *The Life You've Always Wanted*.

Family & Adult Ministry

Teacher Darrin Murphy

Room 304

Just Do Something: A Liberating Approach to Finding God's Will or How to Make a Decision Without Dreams, Visions, Fleeces, Impressions, Open Doors, Random ... Liver Shivers, Writing in the Sky, etc.

SALT

Teacher Kim Talley

Room 205/206

Divorce Recovery Class

If you are like most of us, you are probably uncomfortable coming to your first Divorce Care session. You probably don't like the circumstances you are in; you may be deeply hurt by what has happened, and it's likely you are feeling angry about your situation. These feelings are normal. But after the first few sessions, you'll begin to notice that you look forward to coming, that you find it helpful to be around people who understand how you feel and that you have a place to talk about what is going on in your life.

Alzheimer's Support/Awareness Group for Caregivers

Wilkins Parlor

Do you or someone you know care for a family member or loved one who has Alzheimer's? If so, we're starting an Alzheimer's support/awareness group for those who do. It will not be an educational class per se; however, a video or printed material may be available from time to time. The focus will be more on sharing with one another the struggles and challenges of caring for a loved one with this tragic disease. Facilitators will be Kathy Morris and Paul Frederiksen.

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Ed Morris

Given by

Melody & Chuck Alexander

Pattilou Dawkins
Carol & Bill Harper
Kay Stargel
Darla & Douglas White

Jack Duncan Rhodes
Given by
Charles Sellers

Charles Arthur "Art" SoRelle
Given by
Ken and Richard Hamburger

Ray and Richard Hamburger

Tracy Hayhurst

Norma & Bob Lee

Virginia Maynard

Jay R. Taylor

Given by

Amarillo Tri-State Exposition Cindy Backus

John R. Buckthal

W.P. Buckthal

Pattilou Dawkins

Elaine & Gene Edwards

Nita & Bill Griffin

Ed Harrell

Betty & Joe Howell

Wendy & Stanley Marsh 3

Virginia Maynard

Penny Taylor Rembe

J. Malcom Shelton IV

James N. Shelton

John M. Shelton III

Sally E. Taylor Young

Helen Vahue

Given by

Melody & Chuck Alexander

John R. Buckthal

Leanne & David Byrd

Martha Collaer

Pattilou Dawkins

Elaine & Gene Edwards

Nita & Bill Griffin

Joy Nicholson

Virginia P. Schneider

Gay & Jerry Shelby

Joe Bill Sherrod

Kathryn Snell

Kay Stargel

**GIFT IN HONOR OF
Murray Gossett**

Given by

Mary Ann & Noble Roberts

Upcoming Special Events

- August 19 Adult Sunday Schools and Promotion for Children
- August 19-21 First Pres representatives travel to Colorado Springs
for a Fellowship of Prebyterians event
- September 3 Labor Day -- Church Office Closed
- September 5 Wednesday Nights at First Pres begin
(6 p.m. dinner; 7 p.m. study groups)
- September 6 Women's Fall Gala "Creating a Legacy of Faith"
- September 30 Congregational Meeting (Electing Elders, Deacons,
and CNC members-at-large)
- September 30 Annual Fall Roundup at Gilmore Ranch

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