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First Presbyterian Church

“Big City Bucks” Help Teach Kids About Missions

By Susan Dees



The fall 2012 semester brought one pretty big change in Big City Studio. In past years, a component of Big City was earning “Big City Bucks.” Grades 1-5 earned bucks by bringing a Bible, bringing a friend, scripture memorization, winning a game, or wearing a Big City T-shirt to school on Wednesdays.

Once per month, there was a “Big City Store” night. Kids could buy prizes with their bucks – prizes included toys, costume jewelry and arcade-type items. After visiting a church during a tour at a Children’s Pastor’s Conference last January, the vision drastically changed for First Pres Kids Director Susan Dees!

The vision was shared with the kids, and instead of receiving “junk” prizes, they voted to save their bucks to buy something with real and lasting value to needy families all over the world!

- \$20 buys clean water for one person in Africa (The Water Project).
- \$30 buys one pair of Tiny Tom’s shoes to be donated locally and one pair for world missions (Tom’s One for One Movement).
- \$50 buys a one-night stay in a hospital for a child having cleft palate surgery (Smile Train).
- \$75 buys a goat. This provides a family with milk, cheese, and more (World Vision Give a Goat).

Wednesday, November 28, First Pres kids at Big City Studio partnered together and combined their bucks to purchase clean water for eight people, new shoes for four kids, overnight hospital stays for four children and goats for two families! Parents were happy to have fewer bouncy balls and toys littering the landscape.

This fall, First Pres Missions is working with First Pres Kids Ministry to help turn Big City Bucks into “real dollars” that will be donated to these worthy causes. The mission project is included in the Big City budget for next year. God is working in the hearts of First Pres kids. What an amazing impact these kids are making as they choose to give rather than receive!

UPDATE ON THIS STORY...

After Susan shared this exciting story in the 1105 service, Hagan and Laney Montgomery and Kieran and Raine O’Brien decided that they wanted to help, too. They set up a stand in their driveway and sold duct tape jewelry, purses, and other accessories. The following week, they came in and met with Howard. After discussing their options with Howard, they ended up donating \$150 to The Water Project - enough to provide water for seven more people in Africa.

UPDATE ON 2013 PLEDGES

As you know, we’ve been able to increase our budget considerably because of your generous and faithful giving. We are now a tithing church and plan to give ONE MORE PERCENT to missions each year until we are giving 15%. Our proposed 2013 budget is \$2.3 million. At this time last year, 237 family units had turned in their pledges for the coming year. As of now, only 199 family units have made pledges for 2013. Of that 199, many are new families who have never pledged before. That means there is a significant number of families who pledged in the past but have not turned in their pledges this year.

Won’t you please pray about what God is calling you to give so that Kingdom work is done through First Pres in 2013?



We need everyone to participate. If you’ve never pledged, we need you. If you’re giving, but you’re not giving 10%, please faithfully pledge to give ONE MORE PERCENT.



Business Office Notice about Tax Deductible Contributions

To ensure the deductibility of your church contributions, do not file 2012 income tax return until you have received a written acknowledgment of your contributions from the church. Some of your contributions may not be tax-deductible if you file your tax return before receiving a written acknowledgement of your contributions from the church.

The business office will be open Christmas Eve until 5 p.m. The church office is closed Dec. 25 and 26, but will be open Dec. 31 until 5 p.m. The office is closed Jan. 1.

All 2012 giving must be turned into the office by 5 p.m. Dec 31, 2012 or postmarked at USPS Dec. 31, 2012 to be included in 2012 giving statements. Checks postmarked Jan. 1 or after will be on 2013 statements.

FIRST PRES WELCOMES LISA DIETZ, NEW BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR



We're pleased to welcome our new Business Administrator, Lisa Dietz. Lisa graduated from Happy High School and has an Accounting degree from West Texas A&M University. She has worked at WTAMU and several area churches. Lisa and her husband, Keith, have a daughter, Kedra, a son-in-law, Tory, and a son, Chad. They have four grandchildren, Abigail, Nathan, Luke, and Hannah. Lisa enjoys playing the piano and knitting in her spare time. Stop by the office and welcome Lisa!

COLLECTABLES FOR OTHERS

Please bring paper goods and cleaning supplies for those in our community who need them. You can leave your donations on the table in the Great Hall.

GAP AND COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN SERVE AT EVELINE RIVERS

by Dom Pinis



I am having a bad day. I am late. The last place I want to be is church, much less a church with which I am unfamiliar. I made a promise. I will be there. I sneak into dinner at Covenant Presbyterian with a few head nods and hand gestures to familiar faces, thankful I avoided the feigned interest introductions will inevitably require. Kim and Evan are where they feel most comfortable, speaking to the group. I am where I feel most comfortable tonight, watching, thinking. The floor is assumed by a woman from Covenant who is instructing us to the itinerary for the night, at present clean-up, followed by prompt departure to Eveline Rivers. The kitchen clean and organized, I am 60 yards from the solitary solace my car will provide. My escape is barred

by my best friend's father, Murray Gossett, who is speaking with a former A & O leader of mine. A clean get-a-way is not in the cards. I get to speak of my son, which invariably leads to Murray boasting on me as a father. His usually comforting encouragement rings hollow tonight. I don't feel like a good father today. Today is not one of the days I get to see my son. My cup is empty.

I arrive at Eveline Rivers seeking work to occupy my mind. We receive instruction from Blake Goldston on how to fill, package, and organize boxes that will bring Christmas to kids that would otherwise have little or nothing. I see only the negative. We are at the receiving end of a blessing, too many Indians. The work seemed overwhelming and chaotic at first. I travel back in time to Cody Graham and Darrin Murphy repeating the mantra of our summer mission trip to Costa Rica, "Be, not do..." I didn't listen very well. I have nothing to lose now. I allow myself to be in

the moment. What we are doing pales in comparison to the light we are being. The woman next to me instinctively asks to which church I belong; I politely answer and reciprocate the question. She is not with a church but freely speaks to a time when she received help through Eveline Rivers. She and her family now help every year. My heart isn't as far away as before. My cup is half full.

Blake thanks Covenant Presbyterian and First Presbyterian GAP on our first collaborative effort in making Christmas possible for approximately 400 kids and makes a joke at the expense of Baptists everywhere. Presbyterians everywhere rejoice. As I follow Kim and Lisa Talley, we stop to thank Blake and receive a history lesson on how Eveline Rivers began. She started in her garage and now serves an astronomical amount of families. As we turn to leave, Kim remarks on how great it is they do what they do. Blake's simple response resonates, "I wish we didn't have to." My cup runneth over.

CANDLES AND CAROLS



This was the scene Sunday, Dec. 9 as the Sanctuary Choir, Praise Kidz 1 and 2 choirs, narrators, and a candlelighter led worship on the theme, "Candles and Carols."

NEW LIFEGROUPS ON SUNDAY MORNINGS

Starting January 6, three new LifeGroups will kick off a four-month study of *Romans*. Join us at 9:45 Sunday mornings. A Men's Group will meet in the Pastor's Conference Room. A Women's Group will meet in Room 204, and a Co-ed Group will meet in Room 203. If you're not currently in a Sunday morning or Wednesday Night study group, please join us!

SPRING ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL & LIFEGROUPS

Jan. 6 - May 19, 2013

DESIGN FOR LIVING

Bob Sanders, Jerry Shelby, and Tom Thatcher
Room 209

Our class will continue its study of *Second Peter* using Charles Swindoll's *Insight* text. We will begin a new study Jan. 27 -- *Friend of God, The Legacy of Abraham, Man of Faith* by Ray C. Stedman. Bible teacher Stedman, will take us on a rewarding and fascinating journey through the life of Abraham. His unique blend of insightful Bible teaching, story-telling, and conversational style will draw you into the mind, soul, and faith of this greatest of all Old Testament heroes.

NEW TESTAMENT DISCUSSION

Mark Morey and Susan Burnette

ROOM 202

We will continue our study of the Old Testament through *Genesis* and will get through *Exodus*, *Leviticus* and probably *Numbers*.

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

Bob Houchin and Kathy Jones

Room 210

We will be studying the book of *Hebrews*.

GAP

College/Young Adults

Kim Talley, Cole and Jennifer Camp, Cat Keller, Matt Kline, Brian Kelleher

Westminster Room

Overview of Old Testament plus discussion of applications and meaning.

SEEKERS' CLASS

Vicki Butterfield and Paul Hancock

Parlor

We will study the life and writings of the apostle John.

BSI CLASS

Richard McElreath and Richard Oliver

Room 207

We will begin studying *Romans*.

MEN'S STUDY GROUP

Murray Gossett

Room Pastor's Conference Room

In depth sermon-based study of *Romans*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Sherrie Lovato

Room 204

In depth sermon-based study of *Romans*

CO-ED STUDY GROUP

Howard Griffin

Room 203

In depth sermon-based study of *Romans*. If you are not already in a Sunday school class, please join us for this time of study.

KALEIDOSCOPE

David, Mary Mullin and Jay O'Brien

Room 206

We will be continuing our in depth, chapter-by-chapter study of *Genesis* and then *Exodus*. We have found that the lessons of the beginning are still very meaningful to our lives today.

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.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS RESUME JAN. 16**Adult Classes**

Adult Classes**January 16 – May 1, 2013****LifeGroups**

New LifeGroups will be forming as we gather in different rooms to do a sermon-based study of Romans, the most discussed and written about epistle in the New Testament. Each classroom will have a different discussion leader as we walk through the same study guide of Romans. Please join us as we seek to go deeper and become more like Christ together.

College/Career Group

Cody Kerby, Cat Keller, Jennifer Langley, Cole and Jennifer Camp
GAP Room/Westminster Room
In depth study of *Romans*

Five Days to a New Marriage

Susan & Hugh Hagen, Vicki & Rohn Butterfield
Room 202

Terry Hargrave's book and Sharon Hargrave's small group materials will be the basis 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.

Family & Adult Ministry

Darrin Murphy, Cody Rogers
Room 304
In depth study of *Romans*

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.

Salt/Singles

Brian and Shari Kloos' Home

Study of *Romans*

Contact Kim Talley for more information, 584-9523.

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES**Children infant – 5th grade Evening Schedule**

5:30—6:15	PraiseKidz I & II	Drop off in GH
6:00—7:00	Dinner \$4 per person	In the Great Hall
6:15—7:00	Choir Kids Dinner	With families
7:00—8:00	Big City & MERGE	2nd Floor CE Building
8:00—8:15	Parent Pick Up In Person	2nd Floor CE Building

Critter Land for infants – Kindergarten 7:00 on the first floor CE building

All elementary meets in Big City Studio for games, praise and worship, then go to lessons afterward.

Big City Studio is for 1st – 3rd grades.

Merge is 4th & 5th grades.

Middle School and High School

Meet at the A&O House

Middle School – 6:45-8:00 – Parables and Miracles

High School – 8:00-10:00 – Parables and Miracles

Menu for January

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 four or more. Reservations must be made by noon Monday, Nov. 26 with Charlotte Kinch, 373-4288, charlottek@firstpres.com.

January 16 – Chicken Spaghetti, Salad and Garlic Bread

January 23 – Pork Loins, Cream Corn, Salad and Rolls

January 30 – Fajitas – Beef and Chicken, Sour cream, Guacamole and Tortillas – Chips and Salsa

Reminder: **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 if your child/children will eat what is being served.

NEED HELP PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Need work done around your house? Yard work? Babysitting? A&O students are volunteering their services to raise funds to build a house in Guatemala over Spring Break. They will be available on Saturday, Dec. 15 to help you out! Please set up your time with Michael Bankhead by calling 350-5210. Checks can be made out to First Presbyterian Church and mailed to the office or given to Michael or Alana in the Student Ministries Office.

YOUTH RAISING FUNDS FOR GUATEMALA MISSION TRIP

A&O Students are selling blue and grey hoodies for \$20 to raise funds to build a house in Guatemala. Also, starting in January, A&O Student Ministries will be selling tickets for an opportunity to win fabulous prizes! All money raised will go directly toward our students going on the mission trip with Casas por Cristo to build a home for a family that has none in Guatemala. More information will follow soon!

COMING UP IN WOMEN'S MINISTRY

What is He Really Thinking?

Join us for a Women's Ministry event "When Real Men Will Answer Our Questions!"

Hosted by Orlando Lopez

Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013

11:45 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

More details to follow.

Strong Women, Soft Hearts

City-wide Women's Conference

Hosted by Women's Ministry of First Presbyterian Church

February 22 and 23, 2013

More details to follow.

ADVENT LUNCH A SUCCESS





First Pres Women recently hosted their annual Advent Lunch honoring the staff with a full house in the Parlor. Here, women register for the event.

MEMORIAL & HONORARY GIFTS

GIFTS IN MEMORY OF

Natalie Buckthal

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Ed Morris

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Simeon "Simmie" Callahan

Given by
Susan & Roger Cox
Gaile Scott Fowler
Kay Stargel
Sandra & Jack Waller

Tom McClellan

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Jack Duncan Rhodes

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Darrell Cameron

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Virginia Saucier

Given by

Judge & Mrs. Tom Ramey, Jr.

Lawton Clark

Given by
Norma & Tom Cambridge
Susan & Roger Cox
Betty & Joe Howell
EA & Rex Vermillion

Charles Arthur "Art" SoRelle

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Jay Taylor

Given by
Sheri & Scott Brosier

Jerre Esler

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Helen Vahue

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Cyrus Fields

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Edna & Olen Wilson

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Abbie Madden

Given by
Susan & Roger Cox
George W. Morris, Jr. Family
Judge & Mrs. Tom Ramey, Jr.
EA & Rex Vermillion

GIFTS GIVEN IN HONOR OF

Frank Saucier

Judge & Mrs. Tom Ramey, Jr.

John Maynard

Given by
EA & Rex Vermillion

Wales Madden, Jr.

Given by
Judge & Mrs. Tom Ramey, Jr.

Upcoming Events

- Dec. 15 Angel Tree Party, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve services at 4, 8, and 11 p.m.
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
- Dec. 26 Church Office is Closed
- Dec. 27-30 Middle School Ski Trip
- Dec. 30 ONE combined service at 10:00 a.m. in Sanctuary
(childcare for infants only)
- Dec. 30-Jan. 3 High School Ski Trip
- Jan. 4-7 GAP Ski Trip
- Jan. 6 New Sermon Series on *Romans* begins
- Jan. 6 New LifeGroups begin on Sunday mornings at 9:45 a.m.
- Jan. 14 Men's Bible Studies begin
- Jan. 16 Wednesday Night dinners and studies begin
- Jan. 23 Spring Confirmation Classes begin (Wednesday Nights for six weeks)

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