



Pres Press

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Dear Friends,

Summer has always been my favorite season. Yes it's hot in Texas, but the sun stays in the sky longer, swimming can become an everyday activity, watermelon is ripe and in season... and there are fireflies (or what we used to call “lightning bugs” out at night!



Gratitude is the Open Door to Abundance...

When I was younger, after the sun would go down on those hot summer days, I would join all the other neighborhood kids as we ran around our front yards with mason jars. We would catch fireflies by hand and compare our loot to each other's. When our parents told us it was time to come inside, we would slowly release the fireflies—watching as they flew away in the night sky, one by one.

I would look forward to the fireflies all year long. I remember wishing I could watch them every night, and run around the neighborhood with my friends admiring their bright glow. But alas—fireflies only appear in one season.

As I grew older, I began to be grateful for those warm summer nights and the memories they created. This helped me recall other great memories about summer: time spent with family and friends, attending summer camp, having watermelon seed spitting contests and staying up later for family movie night!

The best way to reap the benefits of gratitude is to notice new things you are grateful for every day.

What “fireflies” in your life are you grateful for this summer?

Rev. Kristi Blankman

Vacation Bible School

Dear SBPC,

The focus verse for Vacation Bible School this summer was, "Remember that the Lord is great and awesome!" (*Nehemiah 4:14b*). The 130 children in attendance, as well as the volunteers, had an AWESOME and AMAZING week catching the wave of God's amazing love. The Gathering Place was full of smiles, laughter, singing, dancing, snacking, and creating. None of it would have been possible without the help of the amazing volunteers and donors. Thank you to the following people who donated their time to make it all happen (I apologize if I miss a name - there were so many of you!):

Megan Hogg
Marguerite Priest
Emily Mitchell
Doris Wright
Ethan Mitchell
Ben Dethloff
Riley Fairchild
Rachel Davis
Maria Paredes
Carol Davis
Lin Sabala
Ali Nix
Lisa Merritt
Ken Crawford

Patti Walsh
Kathleen Holder
Will Stockton
Sarah Dikeman
Jackie Nix
Josie Henry
Maurice Fayard
Skylar Rauen
Jeannie Stockton
Jeannie Stockton
Patti Nanney
Karen Dikeman
Margo Smith
Allan Corona

Laurie Mitchell
Carla Pace
Adam Tutt
Donald McDaniel
Luna Lassiter
Ethan Henry
Lane Rouse
Brienna Rauen
Jan Fitts
Margaret Rouse
Bill Laub
Alexandra Alvarado
Susan Heitshusen

Thank you, also, to all who donated supplies and money. We couldn't make it happen without your generosity!

And we can't forget our mission - so many generous donors filled the boat with supplies for Interfaith of the Woodlands to help local flood victims.

It really was an amazing week!

Patty Blome





"To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the gift of the common good..."

1 Corinthians 12:7

A huge THANK YOU to Patty Blome for all of her hard work at this year's VBS! It was a HUGE success and a wonderful time was had by all!! Thank you for sharing your gifts!



Save the Date for the SBPC Youth & Young Adult Summer 2016 Mission Trip: July 31st- August 5th!!

We will be staying at Christ church Cathedral in downtown Houston for their Cathedral Urban Service Experience program!
Cost is only \$25!



Organizations we will be volunteering with:



Fun things we will do during free time:

Miller outdoor Theatre: Much Ado About Nothing

Lawndale Art Museum

Market Square

ReVision @St.Martin's

2nd Cup Coffee

Tacos a Go Go

Niko Nikos Greek Food

Bombay Pizza

Stay tuned for more details!!

**PRESBYTERIAN
YOUTH**
Triennium
July 19-23

Riley Fairchild, Lane Rouse, Maurice Fayard, Elizabeth Bik and Kristi Blankman will be at Purdue University in Indiana for the 2016 PC (USA) Triennium! They will be traveling along with 76 other delegates from New Covenant Presbytery. This years theme is "GO:" Go- and see, Go- and do likewise, Teach me the way I should Go, Let my people Go, and the great Go- mission! Triennium is a life changing, faith-fulfilling, and inspiring time to spend a week with Presbyterians from all over the country, and even the world!

Please pray for traveling mercies for our SBPC delegation and all others participating!



Come one, Come All
to the All Teams Potluck Dinner!



6:00 PM

Gathering Place

Sunday, July 10th

Meet your team/group mates for food, fellowship and fun as we learn about where and who God is calling us to be in the upcoming year!

Fellowship will provide drinks, Cane's chicken fingers, mac and cheese, rolls and dessert. Please bring a salad or vegetable side to feed 5!

See you there!

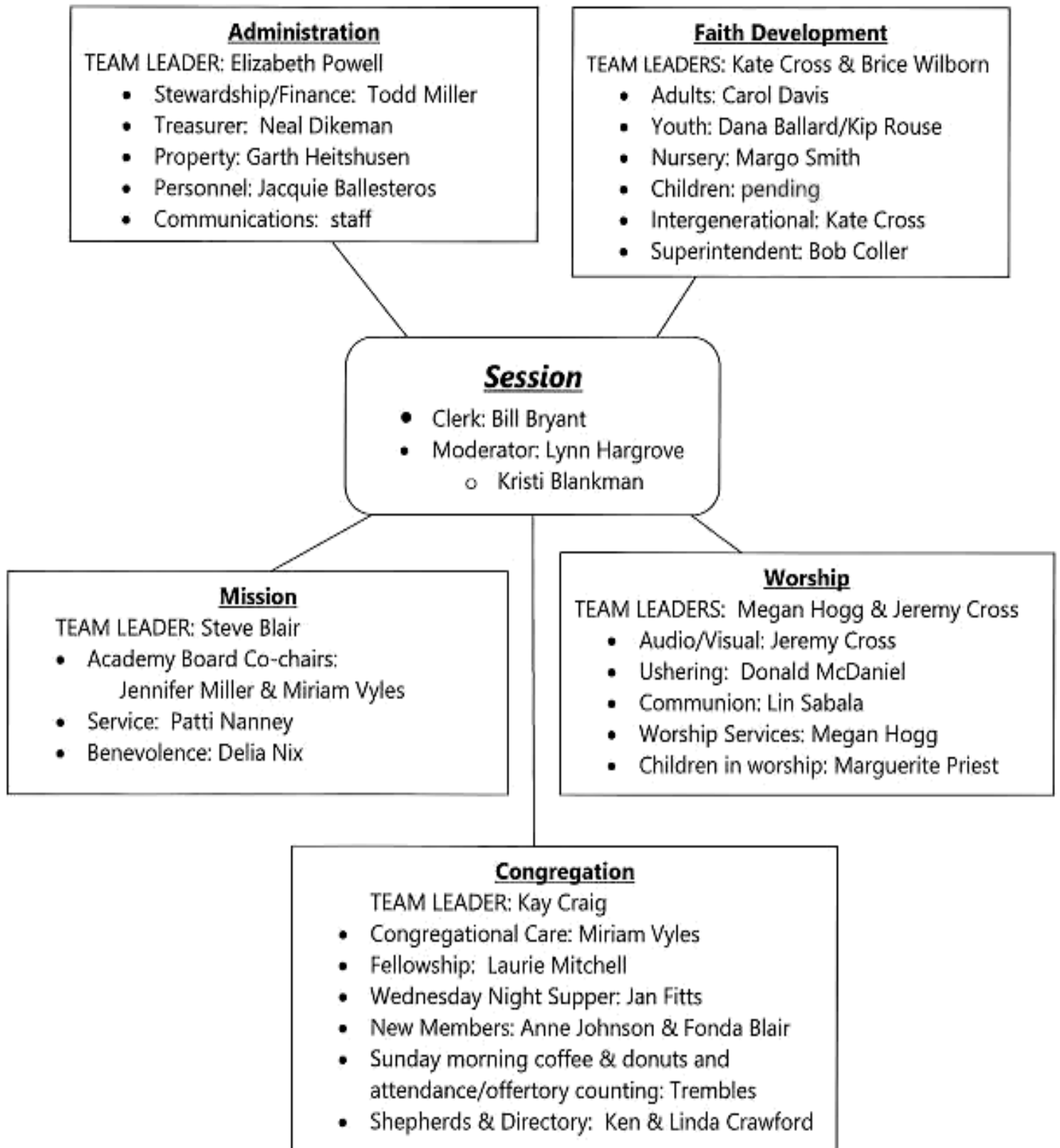


relationships matter



GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

2016-2017 Ministry Team Leadership



GOD IS TURNING THE WORLD:

THE 222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH (U.S.A.) » Portland, Oregon » June 18-25, 2016

BY LESLIE SCANLON, *Outlook* national reporter

Commissioners to the 2016 General Assembly sang “The Canticle of Turning” more than once while gathered in Portland to elect new leadership and consider business ranging from climate change to church confessions. They sang, “Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.”

After the assembly took several historic actions — choosing female co-moderators; adding the Confession of Belhar from South Africa to the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Book of Confessions; and electing the PC(USA)’s first African-American stated clerk — this felt to many like a time of turning for the church.

Themes of reconciliation and justice — particularly racial justice — were woven through the week. Plenary sessions began with personal testimonies — for example, Therese Taylor-Stinson, moderator of National Capital Presbytery, describing her rise in leadership in her church and then hearing someone say: “The little colored girl is in charge today.” Participants recited together almost as a litany sections from the Belhar confession, affirming the biblical mandate of unity won for us in Jesus Christ.

As the country struggled again in the wake of the violent massacre in Orlando, as floods devastated parts of the country, and as the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union, Presbyterians sang, “This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.” Prayerfully, the actions of the 222nd General Assembly are part of that transformation.

Some highlights of the assembly:

BELHAR. It took the PC(USA) two tries and more than six years to adopt Belhar — which was written in the heart of South Africa’s struggle against apartheid. It becomes the first PC(USA) confession from the global south. Godfrey Betha, vice moderator of the Uniting Reformed Church of Southern Africa, told the assembly: “Your decision affirms you say to your children, you say to all, ‘When you come to us looking for a glimmer of racism, don’t come to our church.’”

NEW AND DIVERSE LEADERSHIP. This assembly marked an historic change in leadership. On June 24, the assembly elected J. Herbert Nelson II, a third-generation Presbyterian pastor and the director of the denomination’s Office

of Public Witness, to a four-year term as stated clerk, replacing Gradye Parsons, who is retiring.

Nelson becomes the PC(USA)'s first African-American stated clerk. The assembly also made history in choosing T. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston, both teaching elders, as its co-moderators. It's the first time an assembly has elected co-moderators (rather than a moderator and vice moderator) and the first all-female moderatorial team; Anderson — who is African-American — is, at 37, the youngest moderator ever elected.

2020 VISION TEAM. Responding to an idea from its The Way Forward committee, the assembly voted to create a 15-person “2020 Vision Team” to set a new vision for the denomination by 2020. The vision team will draft a guiding statement to “help us to name and claim our denominational identity as we seek to follow the Spirit into the future.”

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION. Responding in part to concerns raised by review committees for the Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly, the assembly voted to create a 12-member administrative commission with the power to determine the structure and function of General Assembly agencies.

MIDDLE EAST. The assembly adopted an amended version of a report called “For Human Values in the Absence of a Just Peace” — which addresses Israel's violations of Palestinians' human rights. The assembly also reaffirmed the PC(USA)'s long-standing call for a two-state solution in Israel-Palestine.

FOSSIL FUELS. Choosing an approach some described as a “middle way,” the assembly voted 391-161 to pursue a process of trying to influence energy companies through stockholder engagement rather than divesting comprehensively from fossil fuel companies. Some commissioners contended Presbyterians have a moral obligation to act swiftly and boldly to reduce their carbon footprint.

APOLOGY. By a vote of 463-51, the assembly stopped short of issuing an outright apology to people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer or questioning — but voiced the church's deep “regret that, due to human failings, any person might find cause to doubt being loved by God” and the denomination's “deep sorrow” over members and congregations who have left over disagreements regarding sexual orientation.

HOPE. The new leaders both challenged the PC(USA) to become more diverse and engaged with a hurting world, and sounded a theological vision of hope. Edmiston called on Presbyterians to “look at what breaks God's heart in your neighborhood,” and then to act.

“We are not dead. We are alive,” Nelson said of the PC(USA). Led by God, “we are transforming the world, one person at a time.” ●

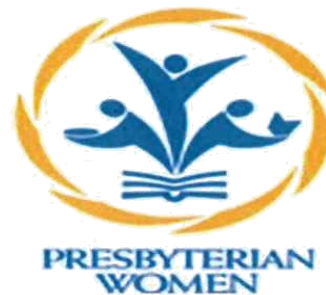
Visit pres-outlook.org for more.

Save The Date

PW Welcoming Gathering

Sunday, August 14, from 3 to 5pm

at The Gathering Place



All women are invited for refreshments while learning about the Missions and Fellowship of the Presbyterian Women, including this year's Bible study titled

Who Is Jesus?

What a Difference a Lens Makes

... expanding our understanding of who Jesus was and is.

There's something about sharing a meal. Great fellowship, the food, great conversations around the table, the food, great friendships built, the food...

Jesus loved sharing a meal.

But what foods did Jesus eat? Join us and find out.

Would you like to volunteer to bring food for the buffet?

Contact Jan Fitts.

We're also going to have door prizes.

Tickets for benefit drawing will be sold for \$1 each and will benefit the college scholarship fund.

Do you have something you would like to donate as a door prize?

Contact Carol Davis.

An EVITE (*an invitation by email*) will be sent out the last week of July. Just open e-mail, click on YES, MAYBE or NO, then click REPLY.

Invitations will be mailed to those without e-mail.

SummerFest



July 25th—July 28th

9:00am-11:30 am

Pines Presbyterian Church

12751 Kimberly Lane

713-467-2234 www.pinespc.org

SPEAKERS FOR THE WEEK:

Mon.- Mark Trotter of C.E.N.T.E.R. Ministries

Tue.-Andy Dearman

Wed.- Christina Finley MAM

Thurs.- Karen Porter

YOU are invited you to join us for a *free* program for **adults of all ages**, (childcare available with reservation) from **9:00 am to 11:30 am**. *SummerFest* is a fun week of morning coffee, chat time with some very interesting speakers, followed by activities, mission projects and fellowship. Whether you enjoy board games, discussion groups, woodworking, hands-on outreach projects, the art of knitting, Labyrinth walking, prayer bracelet making or hand bell ringing there is something for you.

To register, complete the form below and return to Carol Davis or to the Church Office by Sunday, July 17. **All Spring Branch Presbyterian Church adults are invited for this "Adult VBS" at Pines Presbyterian Church. Contact Carol Davis to car pool from SBPC.**

Name: _____

Email: _____

Please check the activities you are interested in participating in so that we can plan supplies.

- Discussion Group (Daily) Mission Trip Bracelets (Mon. & Tues.) Woodworking (Daily)
- Games (Daily) Have You Done This Yet? (Tues. & Wed.) Hand Bell workshop (Daily)
- "Christmas in a Jar" (Wed. & Thurs.) MAM Pantry Bags project (Thurs.)

Prayer Room will be open daily for knitting fellowship and Labyrinth is open for self-directed use.

**We will conclude the week with lunch and slideshow at 11:30 on Thursday.
Plan to join us for a joyful end to a wonderful week!**

*I will need childcare for _____ # child(ren) ages _____ on _____ days.

From General Assembly



Celebration and thanks are in order. The General Assembly just approved the two business items of Presbyterian Women. At the 223rd (2018) General Assembly, PW in the PC(USA), Inc., will be a corresponding member with voice and a seat at the assembly. The second piece of business includes PW in the Organization for Mission, which recognizes PW, Inc., as a corporation that relates to the PC(USA). Presbyterian Women has been affirmed over and over again this week as a valuable organization of passionate women who live out God's call to serve through the PW Purpose. Repeatedly, we have been reminded what the mission, advocacy, Bible study and magazine mean to the whole church. Building an inclusive caring of women that supports the PC (USA) is always in the work of PW. Thanks be to God, Presbyterian Women across the country, for your part in bringing us to this momentous day. Amen!

save
the
date®

Connect with Montreat

October 25-28, 2016

Plan to join **WOMEN** and **MEN** from churches across our Presbytery for a retreat at one of the national conference centers for the PC (USA). What a perfect time of year to encounter God through relationships, renewal, recreation, and rest in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina.

Not only will we learn about Montreat Conference Center, we will have the opportunity for Bible study using the St. John's Illuminated Bible ("I am" sayings from John). A caravan along the Blue Ridge Parkway has also been scheduled. Everyone will be responsible for his or her own transportation to Montreat (Houston to either Asheville, NC, Greenville/Spartanburg, SC, or Charlotte, NC and rental car transportation to Montreat). Housing and meals will be in the newly renovated Assembly Inn. Costs and registration information will be available soon. Questions? Contact Carol Davis at 281-778-9654.



MONTREAT®
CONFERENCE CENTER

Sign up for our CHURCH NEWS

Would you like to be added to our church news email list?

Feel free to sign up via our Church website at www.springbranchpres.org and click on the box titled "sign up for our Mailing List".



Would you like to be added to the Church's Prayer Chain List?

Whenever our church gets word about someone in need of prayers, a Prayer Chain Email is sent to our "prayer warriors." If you would like your name to be added to the list please contact the Church Office or Sarah Dikeman!

Have something you'd like featured in the next PresPress? Please email Shelley at secretary@springbranchpres.org no later than the 20th of each month!

Fi

Have something you'd like featured in the next Bulletin? Please email Shelley at secretary@springbranchpres.org no later than the Wednesday before service.



Joys & Concerns

Our Congregation **WELCOMES** the
ALBERT and **PACE** family!



We are so delighted to have them join us!

The Albert Family



Matthew and Jessica have been married for 7 years and have two children, Nathan (4) and Lincoln (2). They are both engineers and met at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Indiana. The abundance of jobs and the thrill of year round humidity brought them to Houston! They were looking for a new church and decided to visit SBPC when making the decision to put their boys in the Academy. They have been very happy and feel part of the family. They feel there is a lot of love here! Jessica grew up in the Methodist church and Matthew grew up Lutheran, but Matthew's grandfather was a Presbyterian minister! They look forward to their kids growing up in the church with such a wonderful group of people.

The Pace Family



Carla is a native Houstonian who grew up on the west side of Houston, graduating from Alief Elsik High School. She attended and earned a degree from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH. She now teaches seventh grade science here in Houston. She has a daughter named Emma who is born into a multicultural family (Greek, German and Spanish) and is excited that she will be starting pre-k in the fall as part of a dual language program. Carla's spiritual journey started with being baptized in the Greek Orthodox Church. Her parents were not regular attendees but encouraged her to learn about God through a Children's book of bible stories and Sunday school classes for a few years. She became more involved in high school and college through Young Life and other Christian youth groups. Once Emma was born she wanted to be a part of a positive Christian community and slowly started looking for a place of worship. Emma really enjoyed the Wednesday chapel time while attending the academy which led her to try SBPC. She is excited to be a part of this community and grow in faith together.

BEAUTIFY the CHURCH

INTERESTED in beautifying the sanctuary on Sunday mornings while honoring a loved one or commemorating a special occasion? The Sign-Up Sheet is located in the Narthex! The cost per arrangement is \$65.00. Contact **Jorida** in the church office for details!

Special Thank You...

The Property committee of SBPC would like to thank Craig and Heidt for the recent stripping of the parking lots. Special thanks to Kay Craig and Charles Craig!

INTERESTED IN SOMETHING DIFFERENT?

On July 17th, anthems will be sung by representatives of the Statesmen Chorus of which Dick Slover is a member. Singing in Barbershop harmony, they perform out of Spring, Texas where they practice on Thursday evenings. If you enjoy singing and would like to try something different, ask Dick for practice details.

dorthyanddick@sbcglobal.net

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all strength—and love your neighbor as yourself.” - Mark 12:30-31



A special **THANK YOU** to our SBPC Members who delivered Meals on Wheels during the months of May and June: Donald McDaniel, Charlie Fairchild and Melissa Rendon!

THANK YOU



PENTECOST
SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Thank you for Pentecost offering— Last month, we collected a total of \$1,505.00! \$903 of this will go to the PC (USA) to encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children through the Young Adult Volunteer Program, and Ministries for Youth. \$602 of this will be retained by our congregation to go towards programs that make an impact in the lives of young people within our own community (to be designated by the mission team). THANK YOU for your generosity!

Dear SBPC,

We appreciate and thank you for your continued pledge contributions; your dedicated support ensures the viability of our church and we could not do it without your gifts! As a gentle reminder, we ask that you please turn in your pledges at the times you designated when you initially pledged. This ensures that our ministries can run smoothly and SBPC can continue to equip the saints for God's work in the world!

In His Love,

The Finance Group

“He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season; And its leaf does not wither; and whatever he does, he prospers.” —Psalm 1:3



GIVE BLOOD

ORG

Spring Branch Presbyterian

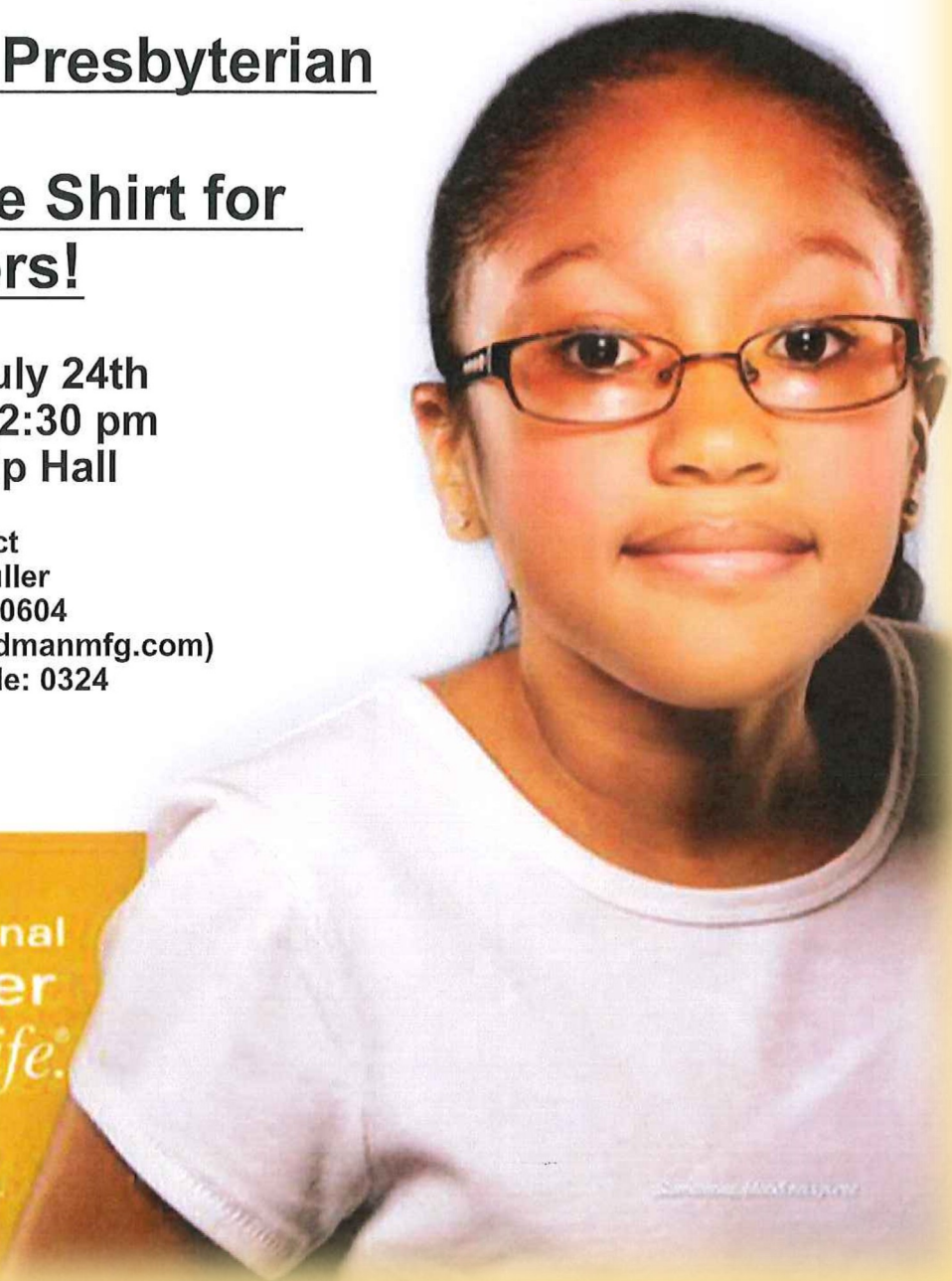
Free CFL Tee Shirt for
donors!

Sunday, July 24th
8:30 am - 12:30 pm
Fellowship Hall

Contact
David Fuller
(832) 360-0604
(David.Fuller@goodmanmfg.com)
sponsor code: 0324

Gulf Coast Regional
Blood Center
Commit for Life.

EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.





Sarah Burns 7/1
 Shirley Gray 7/4
 John Heath 7/5
 Taq Mizwa 7/6
 Lucas Eric Fuller 7/6
 Gene Summers 7/7
 Joseph Wilborn 7/7
 Cathie Robinson 7/8
 Gerald Bacus 7/8
 Don Tremble 7/10
 Miriam Vyles 7/10
 Jeannie Stockton 7/11
 Connor William Fake 7/13
 Amy Rupp 7/13
 Elizabeth "Liz" Earnest 7/16
 Keith Bee 7/18
 Lisa Rowland Schultz 7/18
 Samantha Essing 7/19
 Carmen Reyer 7/19
 Dr. Mark Turney 7/19
 Virginia Morrison 7/20
 Riley Fairchild 7/22
 Daniel Greeley 7/22
 Dana Ballard 7/23

Nicki Laverty 7/24
 Sandy Chehade 7/26
 Luna Lassiter 7/26
 Ben Lois Bowers 7/27
 Gabriel Perez 7/27
 Bethany Balli 7/29
 Margo Smith 7/29
 Nelda Johnson 7/30



Bruce & Darlene Wendt 7/2
 Daniel & Sarah Powell 7/13
 Harold & Virginia Miller 7/14
 Bethany Robinson & Jeffrey Cassidy 7/24
 Derick & Margaret Covington 7/24
 Rev. Mark & Jeanne Plunkett 7/30

July 2016

July 2016

August 2016

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	1	2	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30	31			
31													

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>3</p> <p>9:30am SS</p> <p>10:15am Choir</p> <p>10:50am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>JULY 4TH HOLIDAY</p> <p>OFFICE & ACADEMY</p> <p>CLOSED</p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p>	<p>7</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>8</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Pensacola Youth Group</p> <p>Trinity Pres Church (GP)</p>
<p>10</p> <p>9:30am SS</p> <p>10:15am Choir</p> <p>10:50am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm Boy Scouts</p> <p>6:00pm All Teams Dinner</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Bridge</p> <p>10:00am WOW</p> <p>6:00pm Academy Board Meeting -</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p>	<p>14</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>15</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>16</p> <p>8:00am Presb. Men</p> <p>9:00am Presbytery Meeting</p>
<p>17</p> <p>9:30am SS</p> <p>10:15am Choir</p> <p>10:50am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:30am Bridge</p> <p>10:00am WOW</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p> <p>6:00pm Unwind Circle (TBD)</p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Finance Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Triennium</p> <p>6:30am Early Bird</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>21</p> <p>11:00am MOW</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p> <p>9:00am Blood Drive</p> <p>9:30am SS</p> <p>10:15am Choir</p> <p>10:50am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm Boy Scouts</p>	<p>25</p> <p>9:30am Bridge</p> <p>10:00am WOW</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Summerfest (Adult VBS) (Pines Presbyterian Church)</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30am Happy Hands</p> <p>(Conference Room)</p>	<p>28</p> <p>10:00am Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6:00pm Yoga</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p>31</p> <p>9:30am SS</p> <p>10:15am Choir</p> <p>10:50am Worship</p> <p>5:00pm Boy Scouts</p>						



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relationships matter



GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

God Bless

A M E R I C A

...land that I love.