

THE Herald

PRESTON HOLLOW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | WINTER 2016

Advent & Christmas

*Worship, activities,
and opportunities
for giving*



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Rev. Matthew Ruffner



It is hard to believe that Advent is just around the corner. Our theme this year is: Prepare the Way. I believe it speaks to the season in which we find ourselves a community of faith.

Your Session has been *preparing*. Over the past six months, the Session has *prepared* and presented *Ministry Snapshots* which provided holistic reviews of our ministries at the church. Each *Ministry Snapshot* provided a 360 review of our ministry areas. The Snapshots assessed our councils, budgets, staffing, and reach of our ministries. The Session's work has *prepared* them in the coming year to begin to take the next steps to discern who and where God is calling us.

Your Associate Pastor Nominating Committee has been *preparing*. They have been working, praying and discerning who God is calling to join our family of faith as the new Associate Pastor for Mission and Outreach. They have *prepared* a Church Information Form outlining who we are as a community of faith for potential candidates. They have *prepared* interview questions. They have *prepared* to step into the holy space of discernment with candidates from across the country. As of this writing they are *preparing* to invite some candidates to Dallas for face-to-face interviews. They know a little about *preparing*.

The Generosity Team, which planned, coordinated and continues to execute our Commit Season has been *preparing*. They have *prepared* innovative ways for us to grow in faith through setting new commitment goals for this year. They have *prepared* letters, notes, meet and greets, and new avenues to help us grow in faith. They have *prepared* so that we can live more fully into God's vision for Preston Hollow.

The Youth Ministry has been *preparing*. They have worked diligently and faithfully with Youth Ministry Architects, and have *prepared* goals, values, and a vision for the future of the Youth Ministry. They have *prepared* new ministry plans. The Director of Youth Ministries Search Team is *preparing* to welcome new leadership in that ministry area for the first time in twenty years.

Preston Hollow has spent a great deal of time *preparing* this fall. During Advent we pause all of our meetings, all of our other *preparations*, to *prepare* for the arrival of the Christ child. For many of us that will mean we will begin to *prepare* for Christmas parties, *prepare* for final exams, for children to come home from college, *prepare* to take some time away from work, *prepare* to go out and get everything on our lists, *prepare* Christmas dinners, and *prepare* for Christmas morning.

In the midst of the noise, busyness, and chaos that leads up to Christmas, God is inviting us into a deeper *preparation*. God is seeking to *prepare* us through the Advent season for the coming Christ who will break into this world. The Christ who will fill every valley, and topple every high place. A Christ who will bring good news to all people. A Christ who will come to bring light in the midst of the darkness. A Christ who will come as child, and live on as Savior.

While Christmas songs are on the radio and in the mall, I want to invite you to take the journey of preparation this season. In the pages that follow, you will find many seasonal offering to help our community make this journey.

I look forward to journeying with you. I'm grateful to be your pastor, thank you for that privilege and great honor.

With great hope,

Matthew

Cover Image: Judson Watkins, Anthony Mitchell. Based on design by Jeff Wunrow.

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The Herald

The Herald is compiled and edited by the PHPC Communications Department. Thanks to the many volunteers who contribute to its production. For questions about this publication, please contact the PHPC Communications Department at communications@phpc.org or 214-368-6348, ext. 170. For address changes and updates, please contact Lisa White at lwhite@phpc.org or 214-368-6348, ext. 115.

Printing by ABCO Inc.
Design by Mendenhall Design

The Herald (USPS 013131) is published four times a year (January/Spring, April/Summer, August/Fall, November/Winter/Advent) by: Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church 9800 Preston Road Dallas, Texas 75230. Periodicals postage paid at Dallas, Texas 75260. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Herald (9800 Preston Road, Dallas, Texas 75230).

Join Us in Worship While You're Away
Our 9:30 and 11 a.m. services stream live every Sunday at www.phpc.org/livefeed.

Our 11 a.m. worship service is broadcast every Sunday on WRR 101.1 FM. This is made possible through grants from the PHPC Foundation and gifts from individuals.



Commit2017

Have you had an annual spiritual? Commitment season is a season in the life of our church when we all take an inventory of the matters of the soul, as we commit to grow as disciples in the coming year. We believe discipleship is lived out in five areas: worship, study/prayer, connection, giving, and serving. We invite you as part of your annual spiritual to reflect and pray on your faith in the days and weeks ahead and to set goals for the coming year. If you worship with Preston Hollow once a month, consider increasing that to worship twice a month. If you pray once a week, commit to praying twice a week next year. Perhaps serve outside the walls of the church once this coming year if you've never done so. If it is not your custom to stay for second Sunday lunch, commit to staying once or twice to enrich your faith by connecting with friends over a meal. Join us in committing to a new financial goal for the coming year: to fully fund the operating budget with same-year gifts so that we can meet the growing needs of today's discipleship. Join us in God's redemptive work in the world not by committing to a budget, but to Christ's vision for PHPC.

If you have not pledged yet, you can either mail your pledge card, drop it by the church office in person, or go online at www.phpc.org/commit.



WORSHIP



GROW



SERVE



GIVE



CONNECT

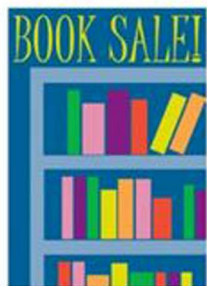


Upcoming Events

Book Sale Time at the PHPC Library

Everyone loves a sale, and we have a great one for you!

Readers of all ages will discover



bargains galore at February's annual PHPC Library Book Sale. Hardback books are \$2 each or three for \$5, oversized paperbacks are \$1 each or three for

\$2, and regular-sized paperbacks are 50 cents each or 3 for \$1. There are DVDs, CDs and audiobooks available as well. Payment can be made by cash or check.

This year's sale dates have changed, running from Sunday, **February 5 through Sunday, February 26**. As always, it will take place in the library during our open hours: 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sundays, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. Proceeds from the sale will be used to enhance the library.

Donations of materials for the sale will be accepted through Sunday, January 29 (no encyclopedias or magazines, please). Donation receipts are available upon request.

Good Books Book Club

Good Books, PHPC's book club, meets in the library at 2 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through May. Visitors are welcome, you are not required to have read the book under discussion. Ask the librarian for details.

2017 BOOK CHOICES

January 11: *The Pilot's Wife* by Anita Shreve, discussion leader: Claire Grant

February 8: *The Undertaker's Daughter* by Kate Mayfield, discussion leader: Jeri Bechly

March 8: *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes, discussion leader: Sally Shank

April 12: *The Train Now Departing* by Martha Grimes, discussion leader: Carolyn Fitzgerald

May 10: *Journey to Munich* by Jacqueline Winspear, discussion leader: Jo Lawrence



Faith & Grief

Faith and Grief Luncheons

PHPC hosts Faith and Grief Luncheons, held on the third Thursday of every month. These luncheons allow those going through the grieving process to circle together and be strengthened by food, Scripture, prayers, and reflection. If you are mourning the death of a loved one, we invite you to attend. The luncheons are free and open to the public; however, reservations are required by the third Monday of each month. Upcoming luncheons are **Nov. 17** and **Dec. 15**. To register, call 469-251-9612, or register online at www.phpc.org/grief. Luncheons are noon to 1 p.m. in Jubilee Hall.

Don't be late! Save the date!

PHPC Presbyterian Women announce The Mad Hatter's Tea, Saturday, **April 1, 2017**, from 2-4 p.m.



Cynthia Logan

Invitation to all PHPC Women

Presbyterian Women's Winter Retreat • Saturday, February 4

Would you like to retreat to a quiet, wooded haven for a day of worship, reflection, and fellowship? Presbyterian Women's Winter Retreat will be held on Saturday, February 4, at Springhill Retreat Center from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. All PHPC women and friends are invited.

Cynthia Logan, formerly Associate Pastor at First Presbyterian, Dallas, will be our leader. Her subject will be **Fear: A Matter of Heart and Soul**. We will reflect on the difference between helpful fear and damaging fear, and what divides one from the other. It will be an enlightening and enjoyable day for everyone who attends.

Springhill is located on Renner Rd. just east of Bush Tollway in Richardson. The fee of \$10 includes lunch.

Contact Edna Clemens for more information at eclemens@swbell.net or 214-414-2474.

Looking for a new class or a short term look at a special topic? Here are some of the Discipleship offerings this season!

November 27- December 18

Advent Pastor Series

Pastors will teach an Advent Series on *Prepare the Way* that will tie to the sermon series during this season of Advent. Explore together and dig a little deeper into the context and wonders of the scripture that is being proclaimed in worship. Join us for a study of scripture as we look toward the coming of Jesus.

November 27- December 18

Fellowship Class will be studying *A Season to Celebrate: Experience God's Grace in the Busyness of the Season* By Paul Chappell

January 8-29

You and Your Aging Parent.... Led by Church Gerontologist Dee Wadsworth

When you think of your aging parents or your own aging, is it a time of hopeful understanding or a time of anxious unease? Knowledge brings power and peace, so plan now to attend our January 8, 2017 kickoff class at 9:30 a.m. in Jubilee Hall B. Appropriate for adults of all ages, this four session series will include weekly handouts of the covered material.

Whether it's concern about retirement, housing, healthcare, transitions, or dementia; you will find answers to boost your awareness of 21st century aging. Don't miss this important series with concrete information on how we can age gracefully, interacting with other generations, in legacies of Christ's love.

January 22 and 29

New Member Class

Interested in joining our family of faith? We invite you to attend the two part PHPC New Member Class on Sunday, January 22 and Sunday, January 29. Get to know fellow new members and learn about the wonderful programs and opportunities that PHPC has to offer! For more information please contact Adrienne Nicholson at anicholson@phpc.org

February 5- 26

Paul: Evangelizer, Entrepreneur, and Theologian led by The Reverend Margaret Watkins

More than a quarter of the New Testament is associated with a man who was not a disciple of Jesus. In the Greek New Testament 217 of 895 pages are written by Paul, and this figure does not include Acts where Paul is a significant figure. Yet Paul does not dominate early Christianity the way he dominates the New Testament. At the time of the Apostles, he was considered an upstart and an outsider. After canonization his letters became tremendously formative in what Christianity believed, but at the time of composition they did not represent the majority view. What happened?

What do we make of the controversy surrounding Paul's letters today? Join us for a presentation of "Paul: Evangelizer, Entrepreneur, and Theologian."

Ongoing Classes

Other classes that meet regularly on Sunday mornings are: Couples in Faith, Covenant Couples, Faith Bible Discovery and Fellowship Class. For questions on these classes or updates on what they are studying, contact Laura Fitzgibbon at lfitzgibbon@phpc.org

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you enjoy cooking?
Does ministry through food inspire you?

The Board of Deacons is looking for volunteers to help with the trial of a potential new ministry at PHPC. "Cooking Angels" will be called on once or twice a month to prepare and deliver a home cooked meal for PHPC members who are in need of one time meal assistance due to hospitalization, illness or other circumstance. If you feel called to this ministry, please contact: Walter Barnes at walter.barnes@millimancom or 214-507-562 or Karen Wiese at tk3aw@sbcglobal.net or 214-352-8751.



Spring DivorceCare

DivorceCare is a weekly seminar and support group that will help you heal from the hurt of the divorce process. It's a warm, caring environment led by people who understand what you are going through and former participants of the DivorceCare program. You'll learn practical information that will help you deal with the challenges of divorce. Best of all, you will gain hope for the future. Sessions are held every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m., **January 10-April 4**. The cost of materials and snacks is \$30 total, with scholarships available. To register, visit www.phpc.org/divorce. Email Judson Watkins at jwatkins@phpc.org with any questions.



The Booth

The Booth is a brand new audio recording space in the PHPC Atrium. In **The Booth**, you can make an appointment to interview a family member or friend about any topic you wish. The recording of the interview is yours to keep! Made possible through the generosity of private donors, **The Booth** acts as an exciting new opportunity to grow in faith, share our unique stories, and grow closer together as followers of Jesus Christ.

To make an appointment to tell your story, to see a list of potential interview questions, and to learn more about **The Booth**, visit www.phpc.org/thebooth.

Tell your story.



Join the conversation!

We invite all guests of **The Booth** to use the hashtags #AGenerousLife and #TellYourStory on social media.



From the Pastors' Bookshelves

Books play an important role in every pastor's life, both professionally and personally. All of PHPC's pastors are readers, and they like to share their passion with others. Many of their favorites are available at the PHPC Library.



MATTHEW'S CURRENT READS

- *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson – Bernadette Baker has lived through every mother's worst nightmare. Her adopted sixteen-year-old daughter, Veronica, is brutally murdered in a shocking and random act of violence. Ten years later the murderer, Raelynn Blackwell, is facing execution for her crime, and despite being united in their grief over Veronica, the Baker family is deeply divided on the subject of the death penalty.



PAUL'S PICKS

- *Franklin Barbecue: A Meat Smoking Manifesto* by Aaron Franklin & Jordan Mackay – Franklin Barbecue in Austin has grown into the most popular, critically lauded, and obsessed-over barbecue joint in the country (if not the world)—and Franklin is the winner of every major barbecue award there is. Here, Franklin and coauthor Jordan Mackay unlock the secrets behind truly great barbecue, and share years' worth of hard-won knowledge.

LAURA'S READING LIST

- *Searching for Sunday* by Rachel Held Evans – The author embarks on a quest to find out what it really means to be part of the Church. Like millions of her millennial peers, Evans didn't want to go to church anymore. The hypocrisy, the politics, the gargantuan building budgets, the scandals—church culture seemed so far removed from Jesus. Yet, despite her cynicism and misgivings, something kept drawing her back to Church. And so she set out on a journey to understand Church and to find her place in it.
- *Surviving Through Faith* by Z. Zsohar – A book about the immigrant experience from a congregation member's perspective. Written by PHPC member Z. Zsohar, this is the story of his family. Left homeless by the chaos of World War II, they emigrated from Hungary to the United States. In spite of the fears and challenges of the journey, faith is the glue that held the family together.



SARAH'S BOOK STACK

- *Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times* by Soong-Chan Rah Soon – Chan Rah's prophetic exposition of the book of Lamentations provides a biblical and theological lens for examining the church's relationship with a suffering world. It critiques our success-centered triumphalism and calls us to repent of our hubris and it opens up new ways to encounter the other. Hear the prophet's lament as the necessary corrective for Christianity's future.



Advent & C

*Join us in celebration
throughout the season*

Advent Celebration

Carolfest

Sunday, December 4 • 5-6 p.m.

The Sanctuary will be filled with the sounds of Christmas during the free annual Carolfest. All the church's musical groups, including the children's choirs, will present Christmas music favorites.

Grilled Cheese and Hot Chocolate in the Grove

Sunday, December 4 • 6-7 p.m.

After Carolfest, make your way to the southeast parking lot for grilled cheese sandwiches and hot chocolate. Come warm up before the Children's Manger Scene!

Children's Manger Scene

Sunday, December 4 • 7-7:30 p.m.

Join us at in the Pecan Grove (corner of Preston and Walnut Hill) for this reenactment of the Christmas story. All children are invited to participate. Questions? Contact Ann Nielsen, Director of Children's Ministry, at 214-368-6348 ext. 152 or at anielsen@phpc.org

Fireside Storytime

Sunday, December 18 • 5 p.m.

Parents and children, put on your coziest



PJs and come to the Youth House for Christmas carols, stories, milk and cookies.

hristmas

Worship Services



Blue Christmas Service – A Service of Healing and Hope

**Thursday, December 15
7 p.m.**

For many, Christmas is a time when we need reassurance and comfort in the face of grief, loss, illness and other times of sorrow and uncertainty. Join us for a Service of Healing and Hope, Thursday December 15 at 7 p.m. in Founders Hall. A time of quiet reflection, meaningful words, and music to seek comfort, hope, and wholeness in the good news of "God with Us: Emmanuel!"

Christmas Music Sunday

**Sunday, December 18
9:30 a.m. | 11 a.m.**

The Sanctuary Choir leads us in a morning of Christmas music. The services feature congregational carols, and choral anthems, all accompanied by a full orchestra! The service includes music by John Rutter, Mack Wilberg, J.S. Bach and more. Join us for this exciting Sunday of worship.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

**Saturday, December 24
7 p.m. | 9 p.m. | 11 p.m.**

PHPC celebrates Christmas Eve with three Sanctuary candlelight services. The 7 and 9 p.m. services are led by the Sanctuary Choir and the 11 p.m. communion service will be led by the Westminster Singers. All services feature organ, brass, harp and percussion. The Rev. Matthew Ruffner will preach for all three services. Childcare for infants to 18 months will be available at the 7 and 9 p.m. services.

Christmas Day Worship

**Sunday, December 25
11 a.m.**

Join us at PHPC for a very special Christmas Day worship service. There will be lessons and carols from the Christmas story for all ages and we invite everyone to come to church in their most festive sweater or pajamas!



Advent & Christmas *continued*

CHRISTMAS GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

November 20–December 18

Beginning the Sunday before Thanksgiving, two tables and two giving trees will be setup around the Atrium to provide an opportunity to be a blessing to somebody (locally and globally).

VMLC Preschoolers/McShan Elementary/North Dallas Ministries

The first table has 3 opportunities to give locally. First, you can pick up an angel tree ornament and adopt a preschooler at VMLC for their pre-Christmas holiday party. The ornaments will be out starting

the Sunday before Thanksgiving. The presents are due back at the church on December 3. Second, you can give a monetary gift to support our teachers and students at McShan Elementary, our adopted DISD school. Third, you may make a donation to North Dallas Shared Ministries to help those in need of emergency assistance.

Malawi Mission

The second table has an opportunity to support our long-standing outreach to Malawi. Our mission supports advanced

study students in medicine, nursing, teaching, and theology. We also support shallow water wells in rural villages, and scholarship and program support for the schools for the blind and hard of hearing.

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Christmas Decorating

Saturday, December 3 • 9 a.m.–12 noon

The PHPC Flower Committee will supervise the installation of poinsettias, fresh wreaths, garland, bows, and Christmas trees. We welcome willing members of the congregation to join us for this festive decorating activity. We are seeking volunteers, and if you would like to help, please email Ann O'Hara at eahara@gmail.com. You are welcome to come for some or all of the time; remember many hands make light work.

Presbyterian Women Invite you to Create Chrismons

As we anticipate Advent and the Christmas season, we can also look forward to having our sanctuary decorated for the entire month of December in celebration of our Lord's birth. Presbyterian Women embarked upon the Christmas Tree Initiative in the spring of 2014 to encourage and support the creation of handmade ornaments of heirloom quality. These ornaments were beautifully displayed upon matching trees placed on either side of the chancel during Advent last year. Chrismons and Christian Symbols were lovingly created by many ladies of PW. Chrismon is a copyrighted name derived from "Christ" and "monogram"

denoting the ornaments created using only white and gold. Christian Symbols describes the counted cross-stitch ornaments with an added touch of green and red. Designs include various styles of crosses and stars, the descending dove, manger, chalice, oil lamp, fish, angels, butterflies, and other images reflecting Jesus' ministry and teachings. All members of the church are invited to contribute stitching talents to this project. Contact Jennie Crays at jscrays@aol.com or Edna Clemens at eclemens@swbell.net for more information. Chrismon kits are available for \$10 and Christian Symbol kits are \$5. Donations are also accepted to continue this project.

Poinsettias and Wreaths

If you placed an order for poinsettias and wreaths, remember that your dedications will be included in the worship bulletin on Sunday, December 4 and poinsettias and wreaths will remain in place through Sunday, December 25. Donors are invited to take poinsettias home following the 11 a.m. worship service on Sunday, December 25. Thank you for your generous support of this long-honored tradition at PHPC and for helping us to make our church beautiful for the holiday season.

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

December 18-25

The Sundays surrounding Christmas Eve give yet another opportunity for you to bless those who struggle. All checks designated with "Joy Offering" will be apportioned between the following ministries:

PHPC Pastor's Fund

Assists in fulfilling requests for those whose needs fall through the cracks of sources of assistance.

PC(USA) Offering

This is used for dramatic health care needs of pastors, retired pastors, missionaries, and their families. It also supports the PC(USA) racial/ethnic schools.

Grace Presbyterian Village Caring Fund (Oak Cliff)

This helps pay for the care of those residents who have outlived their financial resources.

Presbyterian Pan-American School Scholarship Fund (Kingsville, Texas)

This scholarship fund grants aid to secondary school students from Latin America, Asia, and Africa.

How to Donate Donations made with "Joy Offering" written on the memo line will be put toward Christmas Joy initiatives. To designate an initiative, please indicate so in the memo line.

Ceremony "Unlocks" Cottages at Hickory Crossing

After ten years of planning, the Cottages at Hickory Crossing, built to provide permanent homes for 50 of Dallas' chronically homeless, and fueled in part by a grant from the Preston Hollow Presbyterian Foundation, opened its doors in early September. Our \$50,000 grant, made possible by the generosity of Foundation donors over the years, provided for one of the fully outfitted, 400-square-foot houses. More than \$4000 from "Every Dollar Counts" collections over the summer helped provide extras like sheets and towels, kitchen items, etc.

The Hickory Crossing project, spearheaded by Poverty Czar Larry James and CitySquare, reflects a growing "Housing First" trend across the country based on the premise that "the solution to homelessness is homes." Providing homes to some of the most vulnerable people, and the toughest cases, in Dallas County has strong humanitarian underpinnings, but the approach is practical as well. The 50 people chosen to live in the cottages are not only

some of the neediest, but also some of the most expensive to Dallas County taxpayers. Many have spent time in jail, or in the Parkland Health and Hospital System, or have needed emergency services.

The PHPC Foundation was founded more than two decades ago by a handful of far-sighted members who recognized the power of making legacy gifts that could sustain Preston Hollow's ministries within the church, in the community and beyond for generations to come. People make gifts to the Foundation out of appreciation for the role the Church has played in

their lives and the Foundation invests those gifts, endowing them permanently, using market appreciation to do good in the world. The Cottages at Hickory Crossing are an example of how legacy giving can extend Preston Hollow's discipleship into the darkest corners of our community.

For more information about making a legacy gift to the Foundation, contact Anne Smith at anne@lakeedge.net. ■



PHPC Foundation to offer two grant cycles a year

In a departure from its current policy of accepting grant applications every year in October, the Foundation's Board of Trustees recently voted to open the application process two times a year, in the fall and the spring. "Opening the process more than once a year gives us double the opportunities to communicate the power and promise of Foundation giving to every ministry of the church," said Foundation Board of Trustees

Chair Anne Smith. "We will be visiting all of the councils in advance of each grant cycle to ensure that church leaders are well informed about the various designated and unrestricted funds that are available for grants."

The next deadline for grants is April 1, 2017. For information about submitting a grant application, contact Dan Lorimer lorimerd@ctt.com.

LEADERSHIP

SESSION IN A NUTSHELL HIGHLIGHTS FROM AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER

AUGUST SESSION MEETING

Pastor's report: Rev. Matthew Ruffner spoke on a number of items regarding the upcoming fall season and 2017.

Worship Update: Much was learned in the reality of summer programming. It was great to see families worshipping together. Communication plans for every aspect of fall worship have been developed.

Commit Season: Commit Sunday will be October 30, which is also Kirkin o' the Tartans Sunday.

Transition Consultation Update: Our search for the right professional to work with PHPC leadership and the congregation as we move forward in our ministry continues. Matthew reported that the Clerk will be traveling to Seattle on September 14 to meet with a strong candidate to work with us.

2017 Personal Goals:

Matthew's goals include the following:

- Continue to grow in preaching
- Have conversations with Dallas religious leaders of all faiths
- Have PHPC staffed for our present and future

Financial highlights: Trey Angel reported, in part, the following on behalf of the Finance Committee:

- The June 2016 reports are skewed somewhat due to having three payrolls in the month.
- Net cash reserves continue to be ample, sufficient for 2.7 months of church operations.
- The 2017 operating budget contains a \$231K deficit.

Rev. Dr. Seelman reported that our objective is to grow receipts during 2017. The new Generosity Team is in place and working toward that objective. It is possible that we may need to renegotiate our fees with the Preston Hollow School. They pay us \$43,000 per year and this is unchanged over the last ten years. Rev. Seelman also pointed out that, if necessary, we have the ability to consolidate functions to reduce 2017 expenses.

Generosity Process Update: Matthew reported the Generosity Team is working. Asks this fall will be tailored to specific age groups. There will be no minutes for mission, but there will be generosity stories. Seven groups have been formed to focus on different age groups.

Staff Reports: Paul reported that he has moved his office to the first floor. Adrienne Nicholson reported that ice cream and hot dogs will be available on Sunday, September 4. Laura Fitzgibbon related that the Discipleship Committee has been meeting all summer. This is Dana Moffatt's last Session meeting as he is retiring September 2. This is also Rubie Loman's last meeting. Linda Smith reported that a benefits report will be forthcoming in the September meeting. Sarah Johnson reported that her graduate school is beginning.

SEPTEMBER SESSION MEETING

Pastor's Report: Rev. Matthew Ruffner spoke about transitional planning and the upcoming fall season.

Transition Planning: One of Matthew's goals in 2017 is for PHPC to be staffed well. To that end, job descriptions for the Director of Senior High Ministry and Director of Communications have been prepared as the first step toward populating these positions. The APNC for the mission and outreach position are working well together. They have narrowed their search to six candidates. Matthew continues his work of building working relationships with community leaders. He is having lunch this week with the Rector at St Michaels and All Angels

Episcopal Church this week. The executive assistant position, vacant for six weeks has now been filled. Ann Halwas begins work next week.

Fall Worship: Commit Sunday is October 30. It is also Kirkin o' the Tartans Sunday.

Financial highlights: Trey Angel reported, in part, the following on behalf of the Finance Committee:

- Gifts and pledges were \$93,000 below forecast.
- Year to date revenue is \$458,000, compared to \$531,000 one year ago.
- Net cash reserves continue to be ample, sufficient for 2.4 months of church operations.

Generosity Process Update: Rev. Dr. Seelman updated the Session. The Generosity Team has been founded and a charter created. Generosity is a full year concept, not just during the traditional stewardship period. We are moving away from the word, "stewardship". The commit season begins with God, and the preaching series during this season is entitled, "Rooted in a Generous God."

A "thank you" plan has been created. Each Elder will hand write and sign thank you notes, also signed by Matthew, to be sent to members within two weeks of their commitment.

Revision to Child Protection Policy: A Motion from Staff Committee to approve a change in the Policy for Safeguarding the Well-Being of Children, Youth and At-Risk Adults was presented. Following questions and discussion, the MOTION passed unanimously.

Staff Reports: Rev. Sarah Johnson reminded that outreach communion is this coming Sunday. Rev. Laura Fitzgibbon reported that through the second week of adult Sunday School, response is very positive.



LESSONS LEARNED: NICARAGUA MISSION

BY AUDREY WHITE

Nicaragua can feel like a series of juxtapositions: impossibly beautiful beaches paired with inescapable poverty; political corruption of all stripes interrupted by a deep belief in the revolutionary power of the people; and in my case, a young white American working alongside Nicaraguan people to accomplish hard and important work.

I spent 2.5 years living in Managua and working across the country with PHPC mission partner CEPAD. Perhaps the most important truth I learned is that when you see two things that seem like they don't go together, you must look closer.

PHPC first connected with CEPAD, the Nicaraguan Council of Protestant Churches, in 2008. We formed a partnership — one of about 15 U.S. churches that has done so since the late 90s — and pledged to support the organization for at least five years. From 2013-2015, part of that support meant funding a stipend so I could serve CEPAD as a communications manager and jack-of-all-trades. Many at PHPC remember CEPAD as the organization with whom we did “the stove project” — but of course there is much more to the story.



CEPAD formed in 1972 as a response to an earthquake that devastated Managua. Today it operates small teams of Nicaraguan experts in six regions around the Central-American country to provide sustainable relief from the daily poverty and natural disasters that most impact people in rural villages. With a particular focus on training for farmers, women, and youth, CEPAD seeks to mobilize the existing resources of communities and guide them toward a better future.

Life in Nicaragua feels nothing like life in the U.S., and the daily reality is mostly unfathomable to anyone who has not seen it firsthand. Because it is so far away, because the challenges are so great, and because CEPAD has done such great work for so many years, we may struggle to understand how we fit in. What do we know about the needs of people in Nicaragua? What could we possibly provide besides money to support the programs?

The second most important thing I learned in Nicaragua is what you know is not nearly as important as the humility you need

to realize you don't know everything. Right when I arrived in Managua, I accompanied a group of PHPC youth on a delegation. CEPAD's delegation trips are more like education trips focused on building relationships with Nicaraguans than what you might usually think of as a mission trip, but there usually is a service component of some kind. In our case, we spent much of one afternoon in a village called El Ingenio hacking away at a large field of weeds with machetes. As we finished up, leaving an uneven field in our wake, one of the young women from PHPC had a moment of revelation: “The two men from the village who were helping us could have done this whole thing twice as well in half the time.”

To truly enter into partnership, we must relinquish the conceit of what we know or what we have to offer and instead meet our partners as friends and equals. It is only then that in the fullness of God we can do the hard, important work of sharing our gifts and talents to live out the blessings we have — whether we are in Dallas or in the small village of El Ingenio. ■

The Nicaragua Mission Committee is planning a delegation trip to work with CEPAD for June 17-24, 2017. This is a great opportunity for active adults of all ages as well as families with older children. PHPC senior high youth will also be in Nicaragua during the same dates for their annual mission trip. For more information, visit www.cepadnica.org or write to Audrey at afwhite91@gmail.com to learn more about opportunities to visit Nicaragua and get involved with our partnership!

PHPC Member News

NEW MEMBERS

Ric & Chris Berger



Ric is a semi-retired attorney, and Chris is a retired legal assistant. In his spare time, Ric enjoys setting up trains and gardening. Chris enjoys the music and pastors at PHPC.

Curtis & Stephanie Davenport



Curtis is a general contractor with Spec-Built, Inc., and Stephanie is a realtor with Virginia Cook Realtors. They have four daughters: Brooke, Megan, Morgan, and Nicole.

Jeff & Cindy Davis



Jeff and Cindy moved to Dallas from South Carolina so they could be closer to their son and his family. Cindy is a former decorator. Jeff is retired, a Georgia Tech fan, and enjoys playing golf.

Robert & Betty Dohoney



Robert is a senior judge for the State of Texas, and Betty is a retired attorney. They have three children and seven grandchildren.

Joy Ellis



Joy is an attorney with Norton Rose Fulbright, and her husband's name is Billie. She enjoys hiking and walking outside.

Chinedu Ikeme



Chinedu is a student and joined with his mother, Monica Oranugo. He is involved with the youth group.

Fred Komlosi



Fred is a mechanical technician with Beard Integrated Systems and, in his spare time, enjoys vacationing. His wife is PHPC member Courtney Komlosi, and they have a daughter, Taylor.

Charlene Koonce



Charlene is an attorney with Scheef & Stone, LLP. Her husband's name is Ken, and they have two daughters, Natalie and Nicole. They have attended PHPC for the past five years.

Bill & Juanita Magnuson



Bill and Juanita are both retired and moved here from Alabama to be closer to their son.

Jim McLean



Jim is a teacher at Hillier School (upper grade math) and sings in the Sanctuary Choir. He is an avid Baylor sports fan.

Jonathan & Courtney Miller



Jonathan is a software executive with GT Nexus, and Courtney is a contract specialist with DeGolyer & MacNaughton. They have two children, Eleanor and Jon David. They are former PHPC members who have come back home!

Shirley Montagna



Shirley is retired and has been in Dallas for two years. At her former church, she sang in the choir and played the piano and organ. She is looking forward to getting involved at PHPC!

Emily Nault



Emily moved from Atlanta a year ago and is in marketing with PepsiCo – Frito Lay. She enjoys trying new restaurants around Dallas and exercising.

Monica Oranugo



Monica and her son, Chinedu Ikeme, are related to PHPC members Uzo and Juliana Nwagbara.

Marsha Parchment



Marsha moved to Dallas two years ago from the Cayman Islands. She has a daughter, Kayla, who is currently in the youth group.

Bo & Bianca Watson



Bo is a manager at Utility Trailer of Dallas, Inc., and Bianca owns a children's clothing shop called "Little Bean." They have two children, Arden and Peter. Bianca's parents are PHPC members Jimmy and Patti Elliott.

Michael & Lindsey Wisenbaker



Michael is an executive with Peregrine, and Lindsey is a homemaker. They recently moved to the neighborhood and have a son, Whitt.

Stay connected with PHPC through our social media

You can stay current on all the latest happenings at Preston Hollow Presbyterian Church through our website at www.phpc.org and our social media channels on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and through video offerings on our Vimeo page.

We encourage you to share PHPC news with your Facebook friends and retweet PHPC tweets on Twitter.



BAPTISMS



Suzanne Roper Dakil and Tim Dakil with **Connor Matthew Dakil**



Chip Saye and Melissa Pritchard Saye with **Sara Vivian Saye**



Alison Fuqua White and Sidney White with **Emily Jane White**

Wellness at PHPC

Through yoga and tai chi, we facilitate the connection between God and ourselves by creating an environment within ourselves where well-being can thrive.

Yoga

Mondays
5:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Jubilee Hall B

Tai Chi

Thursdays
12:30 p.m. (advanced)
1:30 p.m. (beginner)
Jubilee Hall



For details and pricing, visit www.phpc.org/wellness

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

BIRTHS

- 12/24/15 Eleanor Kay Kondziela
daughter of Jenny and James Kondziela
- 4/21/16 Penny Rose Coutu
daughter of Taylor and Brandon Coutu
- 7/14/16 Emilia Grace Snyder
daughter of Sarah and David Snyder
- 7/19/16 David Patrick Rae, son of Corrie and Sean Rae
- 8/15/16 Marjorie Knox Yager
daughter of Leslie and Matt Yager
- 9/4/16 Duncan Oliver Idom, son of Jill and Patrick Idom
- 9/8/16 Dawson Vernon Prescott
son of Lauren and Lance Prescott
- 9/11/16 Sophie Ann Skattum
daughter of Katy and Randy Skattum
- 9/22/16 Stewart Miller Comeaux
son of Shelby and Matt Comeaux
- 9/27/16 Tucker Jett Brodnax
son of Allison and Brett Brodnax
- 10/3/16 Audrey Mae Fullrich
daughter of Leigh and Jon Fullrich
- 10/19/16 Audrey Ware Haley
daughter of Lindsey and Carl Haley

DEATHS

- 8/3/16 Virginia Lee Smith Dobson Harris
- 8/24/16 David Emerson "Dave" Streitmatter
- 10/3/16 Anna Lois Taylor Steele
- 10/9/16 Cynthia Close Larkin
- 10/15/16 Sharon Patricia Brown

MARRIAGES

- 7/3/16 **Caroline Collins** to Tyler Hoff

The PHPC Columbarium

The PHPC Columbarium allows our members and their families the opportunity to have their final resting place within the shadow of the church that has been a central part of their lives. This sacred site of beauty and dignity is a place where loved ones can visit and meditate any time. If you are interested in purchasing a niche, please contact Debbie Tunnell at Debbietunnell4@gmail.com or Sarah Johnson at sjohnson@phpc.org.



Preston Hollow
Presbyterian Church

9800 Preston Rd.
Dallas, TX 75230

214-368-6348
www.phpc.org

Service Times

8:15 a.m. Chapel
9:30 and 11 a.m. Sanctuary

Christian Education

9:30 a.m. for all ages

Join Us in Worship While You're Away

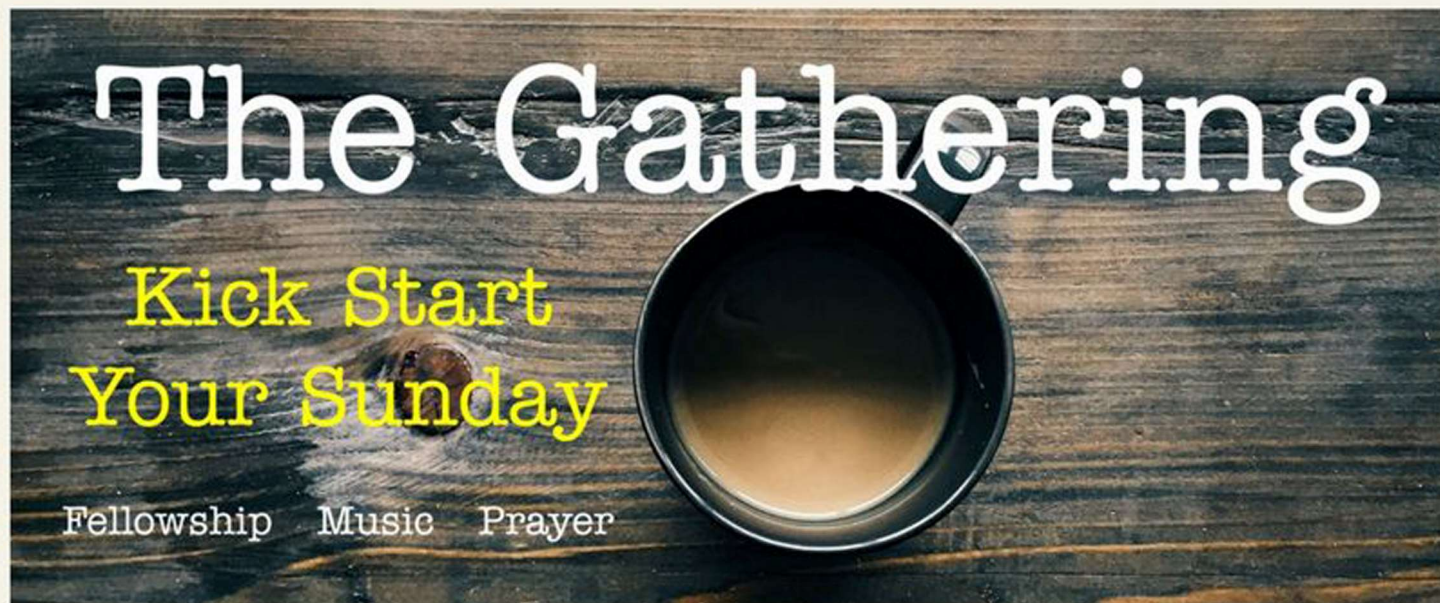
Our 9:30 and 11 a.m. services stream live every Sunday at www.phpc.org/livefeed.

Our 11 a.m. worship service is broadcast every Sunday on WRR 101.1 FM. This is made possible through grants from the PHPC Foundation and gifts from individuals.



PERIODICALS
POSTAGE

Postmaster: Please deliver before November 23



Kick start your Sunday morning each week from 9-9:20 a.m.
in Founders Hall for The Gathering, an intergenerational time of fellowship, prayer, and music.
Connect with family and friends over coffee and donuts as we begin our morning together.

Join us and bring a friend!