

"Do not neglect to show hospitality to stranger, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." <sup>Hebrews 13:1-</sup> <sup>2</sup>The Kindness of Strangers

What a joy to celebrate Easter together! It has been a wonderful Holy Week and Easter Sunday and I thank the very active Worship and Faith Development teams and Music talent that put so much activity, creativity and time into planning such vibrant opportunities for worship.

During this time, we have been able to worship with friends, with visiting family and even with new visitors. All were invited back to join us in worship again for regular and special worship services such as Thursday's "Messy Church" and next Sunday's "Holy Humor Sunday."

As we extend invitations to new people, we have to be aware that someone's visiting friend or family member is, to someone else, a stranger. We are reminded—OFTEN—in scripture to be kind to strangers, to welcome them, and to make sure to show hospitality.

In an age where most people teach their children to watch out for strangers, hospitality can be counter-cultural. In most areas of life, we are concerned about strangers in a world that often seems to be a much more dangerous place than it used to be. The truth is, however, that the world has always been a dangerous place. We just know more about that danger, quicker than in the past, because of the 24-hour news cycle.

As an elementary school child growing up in Nashville, I usually walked to school with my best friend. After school, Katherine and I were often found bicycling around the neighborhood, playing with friends. I guess that in today's terms, I was a "free-range kid". Our mothers gave us a certain amount of free range latitude, as long as we followed certain safety rules and came home on time. Was there danger involved? Sure, there were some bike crashes and lots of scraped up knees, but we also got to know many of the neighbors. We figured out who was friendly and who was not.

Then, my family moved and I had experience of becoming the stranger in a new neighborhood. I remember and was much appreciative of the people who welcomed me, even in my awkwardness. I was used to being the hometown girl who knew my neighborhood, and my school inside and out. It's difficult being the newcomer and the stranger.

There's a resurrection story of Jesus meeting people as they're traveling to Emmaus. For most of the conversation, they don't recognize that they're traveling with Jesus. For some mysterious reason, they can't see who they are walking and talking with. But, they are hospitable and invite him in to share a meal. It is in the breaking of break, sharing that meal together, that they realize and recognize Jesus.

The book of Hebrews, which the Presbyterian Women are studying this year, reminds us: "Do not neglect to show hospitality to stranger, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." This is a reminder that God works through strangers. In one church I once served, they often reminded people that "Visitors come with gifts and leave with blessings." Let us continue to practice warm hospitality, inviting and greeting new people into this active community of Good News!

Shalom,

Kristin

Lev. Kristin



Please welcome Miguel Carlin, our new Ministries Coordinator. Miguel will coordinate activities and events among the Faith Development, Mission, Congregational Care and Fellowship teams. He will also work with our ministry team leaders to implement the Growth Initiative. Miguel will also be collaborating with the Spring Branch Academy to plan our weekly WOW (Worship on Wednesday) program.

Miguel brings a variety of experiences to Spring Branch from both the private and non-profit sectors. His most recent experience was with educational non-profit DiscoverU. His role at DiscoverU was to help plan and implement donor engagement events and activities.

Additionally, he helped build community partnerships on behalf DiscoverU around volunteerism and program engagement. He also has worked in the private sector where he was focused on creating programs that helped increase employee engagement and diversity.

Miguel is a lifelong Presbyterian and contributes his faith development to his home church in Kentucky Community of Faith Presbyterian Church. Community of Faith has provided him with a variety of leadership development opportunities over the years. He currently is completing a term on the Board of Trustees and has served on the Board of Deacons.

He also has been privileged to serve the national PCUSA by serving on the Presbyterians for Disabilities Concerns Network Leadership Team. PDC is a national network of Presbyterian Health, Education, Welfare Association (P.H.E.W.A). The role of PDC is to help congregations, middle governing bodies, and General Assembly with creating inclusive and welcoming places for individuals with disabilities.

Miguel holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education, Communications and Leadership from the University of Kentucky. He also has obtained a Master of Agriculture degree in Agricultural Development from Texas A&M University.

On a personal level Miguel is originally from Kentucky where his family currently resides. He has one brother and one sister who live in Kentucky and Chicago respectfully. He enjoys volunteering, Kentucky basketball, and Texas A&M football!! He also enjoys helping promote initiatives that help young adults grow in their faith such as the United Campus Ministry of Aggieland.

Miguel will be in the office and in worship most days. Please stop in to welcome him to SBPC!

# **COMMUNICATIONS CORNER**

Share your photos with us!



- Do you have pictures you'd like to share with the church?
- Would you like an image to be shared on the Church Facebook or Website?
- Have you taken a picture that you'd like added to the #SPRINGBRANCHPRES photo board?
- Do you have pictures that you'd like to add to the Church Archives for Reunions and special events?

These pictures may be shared on the Church Website, the Church Facebook Page, or on the #SPRINGBRANCHPRES picture board in the entryway of the Education Building. Pictures will not be shared anywhere without written consent first.



#### Spring Cleaning of the Website Continues!

Minor changes have been happening on <u>springbranchpres.org.</u> If there is something that you see that needs to be updated/refined/added, please contact <u>communications@springbranchpres.org</u> or find Ethan Mitchell in person. *Take a look around the newly refreshed website!* 

Thursday, April 5th

# Come with a playful heart to

A Different Way to Do Church. Crafts. Games. Celebration. Fellowship **Spring Branch Presbyterian's** Fellowship Hall 1215 Campbell Road 1st Thursday each month 5:30 p.m. facebook.com/messychurchSBPC



#### Saturday, April 14, 2018 from 9:30am-2:00pm Breakfast and Lunch Included

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church 1215 Campbell Road Houston, Texas 77055 Office: 713-464-7659

Register by April 7<sup>th</sup> - \$16

Walk-in Registration - \$20

**Benefit Drawings** 

Presbyterian Women invite ALL WOMEN to

# New Covenant Presbytery Spring Gathering



#### Caring for All God's Children

#### **Speakers:**

**Keynote:** Candice Twyman, Better Business Bureau, "The Top Ten Scams and How to Avoid Them"

**Lunchtime:** Peter Crouch, Vice President of Development for Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

**Worship:** Rev. Kristin Galle, Spring Branch Presbyterian Church

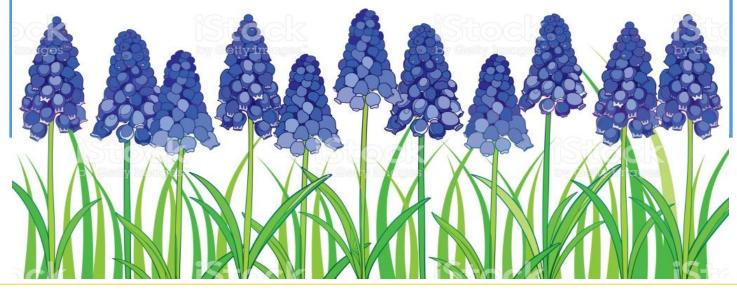
#### **Mission Opportunities:**

### Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services (PCHAS):

- toiletries (deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, combs, etc.)
- little washcloths
- backpacks
- cleaning supplies (swiffer sweeper and wipes, clorox wipes, all purpose cleaners, detergent, dish soap, etc.)
- Go to <u>www.pbynewcovenant.org</u> (under Ministries tab) for complete information and registration form.

## Presbyterían Women at a Glance

PW BIBLE MODERATORS meet <u>4/4</u>at 9:30 AM in Conference Room. (Every 1st Wed. of the month)
PW BOARD meets <u>4/4</u>at 10:15 AM in Conference Room. (Every 1st Wed. of the month)
PW BIBLE STUDY meets <u>4/11</u> at 9:30 AM at Patti Nanney's home, 538 Chelsea St, 77401
HAPPY HANDS meets <u>4/25</u> at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. (Every 4th Wed. of the month)
No ZIP trip in April. There will be a nice Ladies Luncheon at McHughes Tea Room,



#### Join us for food and fellowship—<u>6:00 PM every Wednesday</u>

4/4— Hot Dogs– Baseball Night



4/11— Chicken Pot Pie



#### 4/18— BBQ Brisket



4/25—Panko Crusted Baked Chicken







#### **Houston:** reVision

The Mission Team wants you to know about some of the benevolences our church supports. The "Mission of the Month" for April is Houston: reVision.

Houston: reVision leverages the power of community by connecting kids on the edge with mentors, positive peers, and life-changing resources.

reVision works to reintegrate gang-affected and adjudicated youth throughout Harris County into their neighborhoods, their schools, and their families. reVision's activities are focused on mentoring, case management, community support and education. reVision:

- recruits, trains and supports caring adults from over 12 churches in the Greater Houston community to mentor our youth who are adjudicated with the Harris County Juvenile Probation Department (HCJPD) or have severe discipline problems in our partner schools
- 2. partners with HCJPD's executive leadership and area probation officers to develop best practices in case management to serve the needs of its adjudicated youth
- 3. works with partner churches to organize special activities/outings for the youth and to host weekly gatherings to promote the development of life skills and community spirit
- advocates to keep its youth in their home schools, using trauma-based approaches to discipline and the development of school cultures that are open and welcoming to all students.

The reVision model provides troubled youth with the resources they need, and connects them to a support system that is nurturing and transformative.

Our church is donating \$400 to Houston: reVision this year.



#### Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services

invites all their heroes to join in a celebratory luncheon to raise money for PCHAS' Houston area programs. For over 100 years PCHAS' mission has been providing Christ-centered care to children and families in need. Come hear moving testimonies from Houston families, as they share how PCHAS has helped them accomplish their goals.

When: Thursday, April 19, Luncheon 12pm – 1pm, Registration opens at 11:30am

Junior League of Houston, Inc., 1811 Briar Oaks Lane

Where:

RSVP to Sarah Dikeman, Patti Nanney or Marguerite Priest.

If you would like to carpool, cars will be leaving SBPC at 11:15.

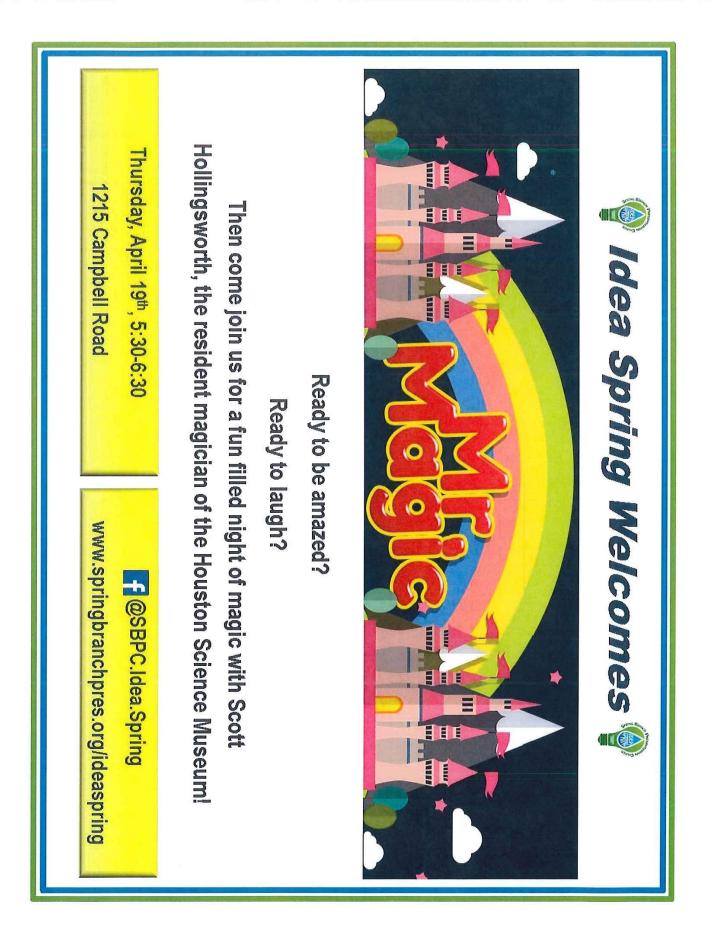




The Gathering Place(TGP) will meet again on Monday, April 16, 2018, at 10 am, in the Fellowship Hall. The Gathering Place is an ecumenical partnership with CarePartners<sup>®</sup>, which provides memory care activities, lunch and a respite for caregivers of people with dementia. For more information, please snag a brochure from the pews in the Sanctuary.

Our theme this month is April in Paris. We will have photos of the Eiffel Tower and French food for snacks and lunch. We will also have Faithful Paws therapy dogs visit for petting and hugging. There may be a French poodle, who knows?

More volunteers are always needed. If you can spare the third Monday of the month from 9ish to 1ish, we would love for you to join us. It is both a fun and rewarding experience!



## Hear My Prayer, Oh Lord



The Care Group has placed two prayer trees on the bulletin boards – one in the Narthex and one outside the main office. You may write your prayer request on a paper heart from the basket and hang it on the tree. You may request prayer anonymously or you can put names you feel appropriate. Someone may take your heart to pray, or they may just see your heart on the tree and pray for you. Some hearts may be added to our Prayers of the People during Sunday Worship. All hearts placed on the tree will be prayed for.

Gelebrate:

Since this year is the 30th. anniversary of Presbyterian Women, our theme will celebrate the history of PW, and before that---Women of the Church---at SBPC with honoring past women leaders, mission projects, fund-raisers, college scholarship winners, and other events in the history of women's involvement at SBPC. We will need volunteers to decorate tables, to create publicity, to organize the benefit drawings/silent auction items to raise money for college scholarships, to set-up the Gathering Place before the event, and to plan the food and recruit volunteers to bring the menu items for our *CELEBRATION*.

ALL WOMEN at SBPC will be invited to attend on August 12. If you are unable to come to the planning meeting on April 25, please contact Carol Davis at caroldavis@entouch.net or Doris Wright at doriswright66@gmail.com before the planning meeting with your suggestions and how you would like to be involved. We also need more ideas on "who and what" to use for a theme for the centerpieces. Thanks in advance for your interest and involvement!



A special thanks to Casey Dickerson and Jason (a resident at Down Home Ranch) for delivering our Easter Lilies this year. Down Home Ranch in Elgin, Texas, has grown and delivered our Easter Lilies and Christmas Poinsettias for the past several years. Down Home Ranch is a 410 acre working farm that empowers the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities through social, educational, residential, and vocational opportunities http:// www.downhomeranch.org/.



SBPA has been granted the use of half of the Conference Room on a temporary basis, until August 31st. The Academy requested the space to use as an infant room for current Academy families that are expecting additions in the coming months. Various groups within the Church may be making changes related to their meeting places. On the weekends, the full Conference room will able available for use. During the week, the east end may be used by groups that elect not to relocate to another room in the Church. The Academy truly appreciates the Church's flexibility with the use of a shared space.

Unwind Dinner

Group

You are invited to gather with The Unwind Dinner Group for fellowship around the dinner table. Please contact Denise Wilborn to let her know if you are attending. Text. 713 725 2816 Email: dwilborn55@gmail.com Future dates; April 16 May 21 June 18 July 16

August 20

# GIVE BLOOD.

# Spring Branch Presbyterian

Blood Drive Sunday, April 15 8:30 am - 12:30 pm Fellowship Hall

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

Every donation saves 3 lives.



EAT. DRINK. BRING I.D.

Van, blood recipient



# We did it! We raised \$7426.00

We want to thank all our Academy Parents, Church Family, and Friends, who participated and helped at our Spring Fling Festival. It was a success! We raised enough to provide the Pre-K class with interactive laptops and supply the teachers with a computer and printer for our teachers lounge. This fundraiser would not be a success without generous parents and friends like you.

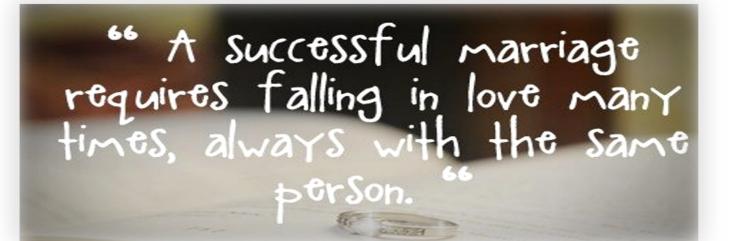




Dr. Eanju Davis	4/4	Kylie Marie Alderson	4/17
Elliot Rouse	4/9	Karen Dikeman	4/20
Carla Pace	4/9	Arletta Lees	4/23
Emma Pace	4/10	Alexandra "Alex" Napuri	4/25
Terry Austin	4/11	Parker Blome	4/27
Emily Mitchell	4/14	Laverne Coller	4/29
Dick Slover	4/14	Thomas Lepera	4/25
Donald McDaniel	4/16	•	

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Stephanie Premer and Thomas Lepera	4/1
Greg Browne and Harriet Riley	4/8
Sam and Rachel Wright	4/10
Dick and Dorothy Slover	4/18
Gerald and Jan Fitts	4/26
Ken and Terry Austin	4/28



#### Church Calendar

#### Apr 2018 (Central Time)

Church Calenda	r				Apr 201	8 (Central	rime)
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
1	2	3	4	5	6	_	7
Easter Sunday -	9:30am - Adult	9:15am - Cong.	9:30am - PW	10am - Flexercis			
9:30am - Easter	6pm - Yoga (CR)	10am - Flexercis	10:15am - PW	5:30pm - Messy			
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15	16	[17	18	19	20		21
8:30am - Blood	9:30am - Adult	10am - Flexercis	9:30am - Zip Trip	6:30am - Early	PresPress	8am - Presb	1
9:30am - Sunday	10am - The	6pm - Finance	4pm - WOW	10am - Flexercis			
10:50am - Worsh	6pm - Unwind		6 p m - W N S	5:30pm - Idea			
12:15pm - Handb	6pm - Yoga (CR)		7pm - Choir	6pm - Yoga (CR)			
5:30pm - Boy							
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22	23	24	25	26	27		28
9:30am - Sunday	9:30am - Adult	10am - Flexercis	9:30am - Happy	10am - Flexercis		11am - MOV	V
10:50am - Worsh	6pm - Yoga (CR)	7pm - Session	4pm - WOW	6pm - Yoga (CR)			
12:15pm - Handb			6pm - WNS				
4pm - Girl Scouts			7 pm - Choir				
5:30pm - Boy							
29	30	1	2	3	4		5
9:30am - Sunday	9:30am - Adult	9:15am - Cong.	9:30am - PW	10am - Flexercis			
10:50am - Worsh	6pm - Yoga (CR)	10am - Flexercis	10:15am - PW	5:30pm - Messy			
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relationships matter

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

