SPRING BRANCH PRESYBTERIAN CHURCH 1215 Campbell Road · Houston, Texas 77055 · 713-464-7659 PRESPRESS

We come to a crossroad when it is good to review our time together. I give thanks for the year and three quarters that I have served as Interim Pastor of SBPC. This is a special worshiping community that has availed itself of a variety of resources and ideas. I have been privileged to witness many new things occur in this place. We have seen the introduction of the "Prayground" that welcomes our young worshippers to remain in church. They are given activities while still being able to listen and learn about the rhythm and lessons of our regular worship service. The Worship committee in active and involved and continues to explore ways to keep worship vibrant and relevant by using old and new resources. It has been a joy to explore the new hymnal "Glory to God" as well as taking part in new worship styles. We had wonderful experiences with creative drama, special worship series for times such as Lent and Reformation. And, you have been daring enough to enjoy Holy Humor Sunday not once, but twice!

You have new and renewed leaders. Two "classes" of Elders have been trained, ordained and installed. There is a gifted, well rounded and capable Session serving SBPC with excellence. And, more people have stepped up to volunteer in activities that are important for the vitality and life of the church. There are new people serving on the SBP-Academy Board, people sharing gifts on the Property committee, heading Communications, leading Administration, inspiring Stewardship, supervising Nursery, guiding Worship, organizing Wednesday Night Suppers, Clerking for Session and more. Your Session, the people you chose, pray over and bless are prepared—with God's help—to lead this congregation into the coming times.

The Property of the church continues to need care and maintenance but has also seen significant improvements in its upkeep. There is a ramp into the Fellowship Hall allowing for better access to all, especially for our new ministry of "The Gathering Place" occurring every third Monday. That new ministry, now in place for a year and a half, provides loving, welcoming and fun environment for respite care for folks with mild to moderate memory loss and their caregivers through a trained and creative team of volunteers.

Continued work to provide better access for all has continued with railings being added for from the floor of the sanctuary up to the chancel, baby-changing stations, new signage for the Family and Handicapped accessible bathrooms in the narthex.

The new carpet in the sanctuary is not only beautiful, but it is also tight and comfortable, without wrinkles that might trip us up. There is an extra piece of carpet stored away to use as a protective mat for special services such as candle light worship, or other special services.

The Audio and Visual support systems have been improved in the Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Gathering Place. Some improvements were financed through Presbytery grant money acquired to assist "Idea Spring" speaker series. There is better equipment to for those hard of hearing, a new larger projection screen, speakers mounted in the Fellowship Hall, new wiring all around and more improvements designed by the Communications team. This is a place where we have been proud to bring in speakers ranging from NASA specialist to the Presbyterian Women's Spring Gathering. People from young to old have appreciated these upgrades.

Continued on next page.

There are improvements to our web site, increased use of social media, and digital marketing used to draw people in to new programs such as Idea Spring and Messy Church. These continue to be used to let neighbors and friends know about the wonderful community here at SBPC.

The Academy is running well and is re-organizing the library to encourage love of learning on different age levels. It will be a place well used and well loved. The WOW—Worship on Wednesdays—continued to welcome the Academy kids into the beautiful sanctuary and experience worship designed specifically for their age and understanding.

I give thanks for all that we have begun, all the we have accomplished and all that we have experienced together. My time with you will continue to shape my spiritual journey. I am grateful that this congregation has been daring enough to try new ministries. May you not be afraid to keep listening for God speaking in new and renewing ways.

I will continue to pray for God's guidance to be with Spring Branch Presbyterian Church as I move down the road to my next call. May God bless you with strength and daring, creativity and imagination, tenacity and endurance during the coming time. May God's wisdom and guidance continue to be with your Pastor Nominating Committee. And in all things, may Jesus Christ continue to be the head and the heart of SBPC.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Kristin

Rev. Kristin





Questions Answered

Doing Church Differently

Messy Church is a form of church that involves creativity, celebration, and hospitality and enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together. It is designed to be comfortable to those who haven't been to church ever before or who haven't been in a long time. Come with a playful heart!

When and Where is it?

Messy Church is at 5:30 p.m. on the First Thursday of every month in 2018. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at SBPC. This summer we are still having Messy Church!

Save the dates:

July 5th - Light of the World

August 2nd - Everyday Blessings

So... What is it?

Each month we choose a story from the Bible and a theme. For example in May we did "God's World" and it was all about the world and all of the wonderful things God has made.

- We had Oobelek (slime) for the primordial earth,
- Scratch art to remember light and dark,
- Bubble art to celebrate the sky and sea,
- Sun/moon/stars snowglobes,
- Fruit kabobs to taste God's plants,
- Birds and fish paper chains,
- Marshmallow animals and people to remember God made us too, and
- A worm colony to feed to remind us that God's world works in harmony (and kids love gross)

At about 6:10 we start our celebration for the evening. Extraordinary musician Ms. Kathleen leds us in some fun and possibly familiar songs and then we all—all ages– did a whoosh—an interactive story telling of the creation of the world. We sang more songs, blessed the food and ate and socialized.

5.8.2

What ages is it for?

Like Legos, Messy Church is for all ages and those both accompanied and unaccompanied by kids. Activities are intended for all and usually have multiple layers so that everyone can get something out of it. That said, it's probably most appropriate for 3-14 year olds and people that like doing things with 3 -14 year olds.

I already have a church, don't want to join a church, or well... am not so into the church thing at all

We get it. Messy Church is a chance to play and experience God with a childlike heart along side all ages, rather than separated by ages. It's a great opportunity to engage in an activity alongside our kids and experience it with them –a chance we don't often get. You can have a conversation with your kids about God if you feel like it or just to enjoy the time together. Messy Church stands alone and is low commitment, there's no pressure to join any of the other parts of SBPC or any church, though you might hear about them from people that participate in them, because they like those parts of church too.

so... baths and bedtime?

Messy Church is a little bit physically messy, but we don't dance in the mud every month (and we have super duty smocks for kids and aprons for grownups available for when we do). It's more about being in the messiness of life together. Each messy church ends with a dinner—salad and usually pizza or chicken nuggets—served by 6:30 p.m each week so you can get home. No shopping, no cooking, no dishes.

More questions?

messychurch@springbranchpres.org or facebook.com/messychurchsbpc

God Bless America Party



Wednesday, July 4, 6:00 рм

Fellowship Hall



Hamburgers, Watermelon,

Root Beer Floats

and much more!



Games



Patriotic Sing-a-Long





The Mission Team wants you to know about some of the benevolences our church supports. The "Mission of the Month" for July is The Mission of Yahweh, which is a faith-based, non-denominational emergency & transitional shelter that provides homeless women and children with food, clothing, shelter and services.

The Mission is one of only a few shelters for homeless women and their children and has served Northwest Houston since 1961. On average, The Mission has 40,224 stays (bed & 3 meals) a year with 40% of The Mission's residents being children under the age of 13.

About 61% of the women residents are working or enrolled in school. Through a collaboration with other local resources, classes and services are provided for a variety of subjects including: job readiness, computer training, money management, education, and health.

It costs The Mission \$37 per day to house, feed and clothe one homeless woman or child. The majority of The Mission's operating funds and in-kind donations come from individuals, churches and businesses. The Mission receives no government funds.

Our church is donating \$1000 to The Mission of Yahweh this year.

July Mission Opportunities

School Supplies – Once again during July, we will be collecting school supplies for both PCHAS and CUPS. Items can be placed in one of the bins in front of the church office, in the Fellowship Hall, or in the Narthex. Our VBS mission project also collected school supplies, so we don't need all items. Listed below are the items needed:

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• Zavičej živežičastav Gura	(asst colors)	folder (plastic w/ pocket & brads) (all colors)
Res Tandy Manager and Standy Manager and Standy	2-inch binders	folder (plastic) (all colors)
	composition books	
	construction paper (12x18 assorted)	Germ X
		glue bottle
	construction paper (12x18 manila)	glue stick (jumbo) (not smaller sticks)
	,	ink pens (blue)
	construction paper (9x12 assorted)	scissors
12 2		spiral notebook (all colors)
	dividers (5	
#2 pencils (D	vixon Oriole 12 count) subject)	

#2 pencils (Dixon Oriole 12 count) 1-inch binders

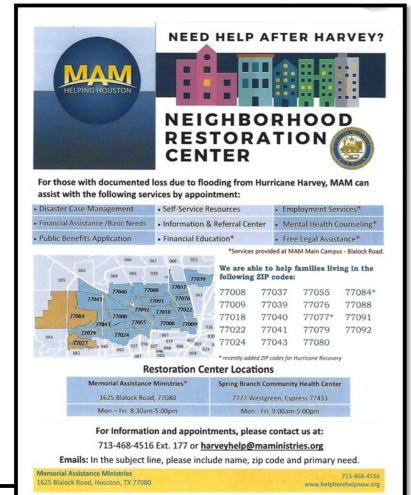
Information from MAM

(Memorial Assistance Ministries)

MAM is one of the mission organizations that Spring Branch Presbyterian Church has been supporting for many years. It is ranked the #1 charity in Houston by *Charity Navigator* with a perfect overall score and ranking.

See below for information about volunteer opportunities available at MAM.

Information to the right highlights some of the services available at MAM for Hurricane Harvey victims.







Sunday afternoon found me opening and sorting through gifts and cards. I am delighted with the tea, lotions, spices, gifts cards and various personal gifts. The cards, especially all the cards from the kids, with the messages are so precious to me. Thank you so much for these gifts and the gifts of the past year and three quarters. You've shared so much with me--so much of your lives, your laughter, some tears, and your love. I will always value the collection of memories that you have shared with me. I thank you with all my heart. It has truly been a privilege to journey with you for a while. May God richly bless you as you continue on with your next chapter in ministry.

Many blessings,

Rev. Kristin Galle



Back to School Fashion Show & Pot Luck Dinner

When: Sunday August 5, 6 pm

Where: Fellowship Hall

What: Come dressed in your favorite outfit or maybe your school uniform! Anyone who wishes to may model their outfit on the runway after we all enjoy a Pot Luck Dinner! Be sure to bring a short description of your outfit – why you love it and where you would wear it (to be read by the commentator).

What to Bring: Families bring a main dish and side dish (such as vegetable or salad) or dessert. Singles bring one dish to share (main dish, salad, side or dessert).

What will be provided: Iced Tea, Lemonade, Water, Rolls and Butter

Sponsored by the Fellowship Group





This year at Vacation Bible School we made 94 loaves of bread in just 1 ½ hours!!!! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped the children with the measuring, mixing and kneading. Without you – well, who knows!!! And thanks to all of the children who have come to look forward to making the delicious Bible School Bread. The smiles of enthusiasm are such a reward!!! And thanks also, to so many who diligently collected to coffee cans throughout the year. Each can you brought for the bread reminds us of our connection to the next generation of children who are a vital part of our Christian education.

Bread making volunteers included:

Carol Davis, Miriam Vyles, Jan Fitts, Susan Heitshusen, Jeannie Stockton, Jacquie Ballesteros, Doris Wright, Donald McDaniel, Betty Magnusen, Sarah Dikeman, Patti Nanney, Silvia Argyriou, Anne Brewin, Ken Crawford, Linda Crawford, Karen Dikeman, Jackie Nix, Bunnie Lezon, and Lisa Merritt.

Thanks again to this crew!



Check your closets!!!

We're getting ready for the PW Celebration on Sunday, August 12.

Several have volunteered to create tablescapes featuring memories of the many activities of the Presbyterian Women and we need your help to complete the scenes.

Some of the items needed include:

- Pictures and souvenirs from Zip Trips (Marguerite Priest)
- Dress forms or mannequins (Lu Taylor and Doris Wright)
- Pictures from Cookies Galore (Laurie Mitchell)

Let me know if you have any of these items and will be willing to loan them to us or directly contact the hostess listed.

Thanks so much for checking your closets and sharing your memories, too.

Q: What's the PW Celebration??

A: We are celebrating the 30th Anniversary of Presbyterian Women when the women's organizations from the "North" (United Presbyterian Women) and from the "South" (Women of the Church) merged to form our current PW. On August 12, we will honor past SBPC history such as women leaders, mission projects, scholarship program for our college students, ZIP trips from the past, crismons, a fashion show, and our PW future!

Q: What are benefit drawings and the silent auction?

A: Our primary fundraiser this year will be the benefit drawings and silent auction items. All money will go toward college scholarships for SBPC men and women. You may donate new or gently used items, services, gift cards, themed baskets with collections of items, or come up with a creative idea! Tickets for the benefit drawings will be \$5 each or three tickets for \$10. You can pay cash or check (made to SBPC) for benefit drawings tickets or to pay for a winning silent auction item. Silent auction items will have a minimum bid with increments of at least \$5.

Q: I would like to join other women in pooling donations for a themed basket or collection. How can I do this?

A: Invite other SBPC women to join you for a combined donation (e.g., a birthday party, holiday event, collection of gift cards, services like homemade meal, child care, handyman services by husbands or teens, pet sitting, etc.), or let Carol Davis know what you want to donate so she could combine yours with other donations.

Q: Where do I bring my donations?

A: Arrange with Carol Davis to bring your donations to church on Sundays during July to give to her---or call her to make other arrangements. Baskets or other collections need to have a list of all items displayed in a visible place. If you know the value of the donations, please give them to Carol---important for minimum bids on silent auction items. **If possible, all donations should be made by August 1**

Q: I would like to buy benefit drawing tickets and/or bid on silent auction items, but I can't come on August 12. How do I do this?

A: A list of all benefit drawing items and silent auction items will be sent in e-mail to all SBPC women during the first week of August. If you cannot attend, you could choose a friend to take your place! Give her your money/check to bring on Aug. 12, and let her know what you are interested in winning!

Q: I would like to contribute to the SBPC college scholarship fund in addition or in lieu of participating in benefit drawings/silent auction items. How do I do this?

A: You can contribute money or a check while you are at the PW Celebration on August 12---OR---you can mail a check, made to SBPC, designated for SBPC college scholarships, to Jorida Vakiari in the church office. Your donations will be appreciated!

Other questions or suggestions: Contact Carol Davis at <u>caroldavis@entouch.net</u>



The focus verse for Vacation Bible School this summer was, "When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." *(Isaiah 43:2)*. The 130 children in attendance, as well as the volunteers, experienced the ride of a lifetime with God. The Gathering Place was full of smiles, laughter, singing, dancing, experimenting, 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)!

Leaders: Megan Hogg (Music and Assembly); Marguerite Priest (Bible Storytime); Carla Pace (Science); Will Stockton (Recreation); Jackie Nix (Crafts); Laurie Mitchell (Snacks); Jan Fitts (Closing Dinner); Doris Wright (Breadmaking); Emily Mitchell (Audio Visual)

Helpers:

- Camille Asmus Kay Craig Ben Dethloff Delilah Holder Betty Magnuson Patti Nanney Brielle Rauen Hasti Soleimani Donia Valkiari Denise Wilborn
- Miguel Carlin Charlie Craig Sarah Dikeman Luna Lassiter Donald McDaniel Ali Nix Melody Rendon Jeannie Stockton Juan Villegas
- Amena Chehade Carol Davis Susan Heitshusen Robert Liberato Ethan Mitchell Skylar Rauen Holley Russell Don Tremble Patti Walsh

Thank you, also, to everyone who donated supplies. 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 CUPS and for PCHAS.

It truly was an amazing week!

Patty Blome VBS Director



You may remember last fall our congregation received about \$4400 of donations for the Harvey Hurricane Relief Fund. At that time, the Missions Team allocated the majority of that money for immediate needs, which included providing cleaning supply kits plus financial support for church members, Academy teachers, friends of church members, a Katy Presbyterian church, Spring Valley police and staffers, SBISD, and Houston Food Bank.

Knowing this disaster would take a long time from which to

recover, the Missions Team decided to hold back some of those funds. Furthermore, our church received additional funds that were allocated to the Hurricane Relief Fund. The majority of these additional funds came from a friend of the Nix family, Jim "Reverend Horton" Heath, who had sold Astros-themed band t-shirts at his show last fall for the Harvey Hurricane victims.

The Missions Team decided to split the last of these funds among five groups.

- 1. A teacher friend of one of our church members whose family is still living in the upstairs of their twostory, hurricane-flooded home because they did not have flood insurance and unable to pay for repairs.
- 2. **Memorial Assistance Ministries (MAM),** who is helping Harvey victims with financial support, furniture, clothing, emotional support, and other services.
- 3. **Baker-Ripley**, the largest community-based nonprofit in Houston, is dedicated to the long-term recovery effort after the storm. Initially, they ran the emergency shelter at NRG Center and distributed millions in financial assistance for victims' housing, transportation, clothing and food needs. They also provide a home restoration program, with 48 homes completed and an additional 400 applications approved to date.
- **4.** All Hands & Hearts originally helped with debris removal and mold sanitization of homes. They are now rebuilding approximately four homes each month with about 50 volunteers on base at one time.
- 5. Week of Compassion is providing funds and volunteer teams of 5-25 people for home and church repairs. Most of the teams are based out of First Christian Church, Texas City, working through Galveston County Recovers.



A Big "Thank You" to



For 34 years Pappy's Restaurant has been a favorite for SBPC members to congregate after worship service or meetings. But for many years Pappy's has also been providing our church 29 delicious meals, which we deliver to shut-ins on the fourth Saturday of the month. What is even more phenomenal is Pappy's only charged us \$100/month for those meals.

As you might have heard, at the end of March Pappy's moved their restaurant from their old location at 9401 Katy Freeway to a location five miles west at 12313 Katy Freeway near Dairy Ashford Road. But even though they have moved, Pappy's has not forgotten SBPC. Pappy's has agreed to continue providing our church the 29 meals for the same price.

Our Missions Team wanted to recognize Pappy's Restaurant for "Exceptional Community Service and Outstanding Contributions" by presenting to them a certificate of appreciation from Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. We hope you visit Pappy's soon, and ask them to show you the plaque.



April's Meals-on-Wheels deliverers, Miguel Carlin and Donald McDaniel, present plaque to Pappy's owner, Paul Braden.

Lisa Rowland Schultz 7/18 Luke Fuller 7/6 Dr. Mark Turney 7/19 Tad Mizwa 7/6 7/22 **Riley Fairchild** Maggie Wright 7/6 Dana Ballard 7/23 7/7 Joseph Wilborn Thomas Vyles 7/23 Cathie Robinson 7/8 Sandy Chehade 7/26

7/10

7/10

7/11

7/13

7/16

Нарру.	Anniversary!

Daniel and Sarah Powell

Don Tremble

Miriam Vyles

Jeannie Stockton

Connor William Fake

Elizabeth "Liz" Earnest

7/13

Luna Lassiter

Gabriel Perez

Bethany Balli

Margo Smith

Ben Lois Bowers

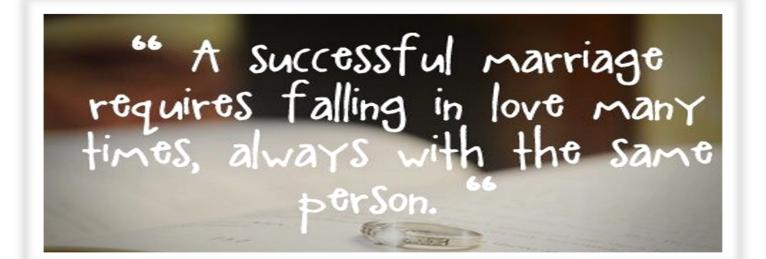
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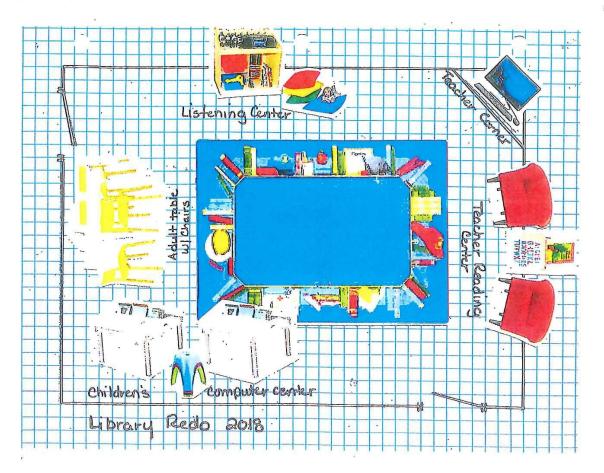




"A library is like a garden full of knowledge and dreams.

It grows readers, learners, and do-errs."

We are so excited about the new library renovation. We have thought really hard about the design and function. As children enter in the library they will see the "Teacher Reading Center" with a nice comfy rug for them to sit. This is where teachers can interact with their class, reading books to them and discussing the topic of the day. In the corner you will find the "Teacher Corner" where teachers can utilize a computer and a printer for use in creating and implementing their curriculum. Further back in the the library there will be a "Children's Listening Center" providing basic books on CD with cozy pillows to relax and listen. The library will also provide an adult size table for adults to read a book or need some table time. Completing this "Library Garden" is the "Children's Computer. Center" where our Pre- K classes can use the new iPads to enhance our curriculum. This library has been possible because of the fundraising efforts made during the school year. We have been so blessed. A special thanks to all our parents, church members and Staff.



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relationships matter

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

