

SPRING BRANCH Presbyterian Church

relationships matter
GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD



PRES PRESS *December 2018 Issue*

1215 Campbell Road • Houston, Texas 77055 • 713-464-7659

Dear Spring Branch Congregation,

Please let me take this opportunity to tell you how excited I am to be your pastor. Thank you for the very warm welcome you have shown to Carlette and me. For over 31 years I have served in Presbyterian churches of all sizes and in various locations. However, over half of my ministry has been in this area and this Presbytery.

We have now worshiped together a couple of times and I look forward to growing together into a smoothly flowing worshiping community. Likewise, I am excited by the many of you who have expressed interest in using your gifts in various ways. I hope we have the opportunity to explore many wonderful new avenues of service in our years together.

In the meantime, please know that we are working to make this transition as quickly as possible. We ask for your prayers as we sell our home and find a new one here. I am trying to keep those interruptions to a minimum, but thanks to all of you who have understood if I have to be on the road for a day or so tending to some of those details.

I look forward to getting to know each of you and hope you will have time for me. Even though we are in the midst of moving, please know that we are available! So if you have plans, don't be shy about including us.

Advent is the beginning of the church year. We wait excitedly for the coming of Christ. As we begin our time together, I am excited about what Christ will accomplish. I hope and pray that you are too!

In Christ's Service,





New Covenant Presbytery and SBPC Welcome Reverend Dr. Kevin Boyd

We are so happy to welcome Rev. Dr. Kevin Boyd to our church! On November 17, at the New Covenant Presbytery Meeting, three of the four pastors received into the Presbytery were welcomed and signed the Presbytery's official book. One of the four pastors was our own Kevin Boyd.

Each of the pastors were given a chance to speak. One of the things Rev. Boyd said as he addressed the group was that this was his fourth time to sign the registration book for this Presbytery.

The next day, Sunday, November 18, was Rev. Boyd's first sermon for Spring Branch Presbyterian Church. We are blessed to have him and his wife, Carlette.

Photos from top to bottom:

- 1. Reverends Kevin Boyd, Peter Lee, and Phyllis Jones being welcomed into the presbytery.*
- 2. Rev. Boyd saying a few words to the group.*
- 3. Rev. Boyd signing the presbytery's registration book.*
- 4. Rev. Boyd preaching his first sermon at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church.*





Reflections of Love

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church **Celebrate Advent and Christmas with Us!**

Sunday, December 2, 10:50 am
1st Sunday of Advent Worship

Thursday, December 6, 5:30 pm
Messy Church

Sunday, December 9, 10:50 am
2nd Sunday of Advent Worship

Sunday, December 9, 5:00-7:00 pm
Christmas-in-the-Park at Spring Valley Park

Wednesday, December 12, 6:00 pm
Spring Branch Presbyterian Academy Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 16, 10:50 am
3rd Sunday of Advent – Choir Cantata

Wednesday, December 19, 5:30 pm
Messy Church Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 23, 10:30 am
4th Sunday of Advent Worship

Monday, December 24, 6:00
Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship Service
5:30 Cookies and Hot Chocolate



Missions of the Month

Because December is such a wonderful time of giving, we have two "Missions of the Month" for December – The Angel Tree Program and the Presbyterian Children Homes and Services (PCHAS) Ornament Tree.

For 2.7 million children in the U.S. their lives may be filled with the abandonment, loneliness, and shame that come from having a mom or dad in prison. For many, it may also include following their parents down the same destructive road to incarceration. Angel Tree[®], a program of Prison Fellowship, reaches out to the children of prisoners and their families with the love of Christ. This unique program gives us an opportunity to share God's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners at Christmas time.



Every year, our church receives the names of about 20 children who live in the zip codes around our church. Through contact with each of the families, we determine items that the children need or want. In addition to two gifts designated from the parent, each child receives a gift from SBPC. Each family also receives a generous food basket. We will be collecting nonperishable foods for these baskets, so watch for collection bins outside the church office. Tags will be available beginning on Sunday, December 2, before and after worship, and also on Wednesday, December 5, at dinner. Be sure to pick up one or two! Here's what you do: select an angel tag (or two). Purchase the gift (*in the \$20 price range*). Wrap the gift, sticking the tag to the front of the package. Return the gift to the church office no later than Friday, December 14.



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and ServicesSM

Our other "Mission of the Month" is the PCHAS Ornament Tree. Instead of buying toys for the needy children at Christmas time, we opt to give monetary donations. These generous gifts allow PCHAS to serve approximately 5000 children and families each year.

During Advent time, we hang ornaments on a Christmas tree. Each of the ornaments has a PCHAS tag attached with a suggested donation amount. You take the ornament home with you and either leave the donation in the basket provided or give to Jorida in the church office. We will donate the entire amount to PCHAS at the end of the month. (*If you pay by check, please make checks payable to SBPC and put "PCHAS Ornament Tree" in the memo line.*)

December Mission Updates & Opportunities

November 11 Blood Drive – We had a total of 16 donors with 18 total units from our Blood Drive on November 11. *Thank you* to all that donated.

SBPC Hot Meals on Weekends – The 4th Saturday of each month we look for individuals to deliver meals to shut-ins. We have two routes with about 14 people on each route, so we usually need a total of four volunteers each month. Please contact Liz Earnest if you are interested in volunteering to deliver meals one month.

Messy Christmas

Join us for two Messy Churches this Christmas Season to prep for and celebrate Jesus' birthday! ALL ages are welcome to join in the celebration, activities, and meal!

Get Ready for Christmas!

Thursday, December 6th

For God So Loved the World

Wednesday, December 19th

5:30-7 pm

Spring Branch Presbyterian

1215 Campbell Road

Fellowship Hall



Poinsettias!

We will have poinsettias for purchase again this year! You can place your order today! They are a beautiful way to bring color and brightness to the Church throughout the Advent Season! What a lovely way to honor your loved ones, or to have a beautiful remembrance of those who are no longer with us. Don't forget to bring your poinsettia home after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. Please remember to indicate who you are honoring, and/or remembering, with your payment of \$10.00 to SBPC. You can drop off your payment in the Church Office or during Worship Service in the offering Plate. Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy for you and your family this Advent Season.

Bake an Extra Dozen or So Cookies This Season

As you are baking for family and friends this holiday season, please consider baking a few extra cookies or other baked goods for the Fellowship ministries' seasonal events. On Sunday, December 9, Fellowship will provide cookies and beverages for the choirs participating in the Spring Valley *Christmas in the Park*. Fellowship will again provide cookies and baked treats for Christmas Eve. Let Denise Wilborn (dwilborn55@gmail.com) know you are willing to help.



Join us for *Christmas In the Park*

Spring Valley Village Park

1025 Campbell Road, Houston, TX 77055

Sunday, December 9 | 5:00-7:00PM

Live Nativity, Children's Craft Center, School Choirs, Donkey and Camel Rides, Pony Carousels, Large Petting Zoo, Diamond Express Train, Face Painting, Homemade Cookies and Hot Cocoa, Movie Center and much more

AND IT'S ALL FREE!



Presbyterian Women at a Glance

PW BIBLE MODERATORS meets 12/5 at 9:30 AM. in the Conference Room.

PW BOARD meets 12/5 at 10:15 AM in Conference Room.
(Every 1st Wed. of the month)

PW CIRCLE meets 12/12 at 9:30 AM at Jan Fitts' home, 1253 Archely. A salad luncheon is schedule, so please bring a salad to share if you can. Soup will also be served. If you'd like to carpool from the church, please let Sarah Dikeman know.
(Every 2nd Wed. of the month)

NO ZIP TRIPS OR HAPPY HANDS are scheduled in December.

Next Zip Trip is in January to Katy Mills Mall. Details to be forthcoming.

Join us for food and fellowship



December 5 — Hamburgers

December 12 — Ham and Mac & Cheese

First seating for supper is at 5:30 p.m.; the Academy Christmas Pageant is at 6:00 p.m.; and second seating for supper is at 6:30 p.m.

No dinners scheduled for December 19 & 26, or January 2.

December Birthdays Celebration, Sunday, December 9th

Linger after worship on Sunday, December 9, to celebrate all those in the congregation who have birthdays in December. This is an opportunity to partake of light refreshments, as well as visit and enjoy each other's company. Location (inside or outside) will be dependent on the weather. See you then.



PW Unwind December 17 - Save the Date

All ladies of the church are invited to join the Unwind Dinner group on Monday, December 17, at 6:00. We are a fellowship group who meets each month throughout the year to celebrate friendship with lively conversation as we relax and enjoy good food together. This month we will dine at the Tipping Point located in Hotel Zaza at 9787 Katy Freeway (<https://www.hotelzaza.com/memorial-city/dining>). If you are not on the Unwind email group, you are always welcome to let Denise Wilborn know at dwilborn55@gmail.com, and she will add you to the group. Let Denise know by text to 713-725-2816 or by email if you are coming. See you on December 17 and invite a friend.



Unwind Meets on a New Day Beginning in January 2019

Beginning in January of 2019, the Unwind Dinner group will change the day it meets for food, fellowship, and relaxed conversation to the first Monday of each month. This change was made to find a less busy day in the church's ministries providing an opportunity for more ladies who might want to join us for dinner. Our first dinner for the new year will be on Monday, January 7, at 6:00. The time will remain the same. Watch your email for the restaurant for the month, as well as the church bulletin for details. If you have questions or would like your name added to the Unwind group, please contact Denise Wilborn at dwilborn55@gmail.com.



DECEMBER - SPRING BRANCH PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY - 2018

Christmas Pageant!



Come All Ye faithful to the
Academy Kids Christmas Pageant:
*"Christmas Around the World
from the Animals'
Point of View"*
Wednesday, December 12, at 6 pm.

Teachers Rule!



Two of our Academy's
teachers are expecting a
baby in December and January.
Keep moms and babies in your
prayers for good health and safe
deliveries.

*The Academy Welcomes
All Babies!*

Thumbs Up!



Ms. Aurora and Ms. Laura
are our longest working
teachers at the Academy. Thanks
ladies for "12 Years!" of dedication
and commitment to the Academy.

Honor Roll!



CONGRATULATIONS!
Monica, you scored the
highest grade on our
annual training - 100 %. Go Girl!



and





The Academy Board recently conducted an evaluation of the Spring Branch Presbyterian Academy.

It was so gratifying to read the evaluations from the parents who participated. They indicated how much they appreciate and value this place where their children come each day to grow and learn. Words used to describe the administrators and teachers included "loving," "compassionate,"

"respectful of both the children and parents," and "interested in the children's academic success." We'd like to share a couple of quotes that demonstrate what many felt about the Academy - "provides such personal care and attention to our kids - at drop off this morning, I think six people addressed my daughter by name before we got to her classroom (that does not count the current teachers!)" and "my kid is happy."

The Academy is committed to continuing the trust given by the families of the Academy. We are setting goals to continue to improve the relationships with the children and parents, the curriculum, and the facility.



**UNLEASH STRONG!
BE A GIRL SCOUT.**

Come Celebrate Girl Scouts!

Join us as we celebrate Girl Scouts in this fun, Field day-type event! Returning girl scouts and potential future girl scouts welcome! We'll have fun, engaging activities for girls in grades K-12, and girls will learn about teamwork, fitness, and friendships along the way! If you're not already a member, join today at girlscouts.org/join or [your MyGS on gssjc.org](http://yourMyGS.org) profile to renew! Girl Scouts invites you to join us in the Fellowship Hall at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church at 6:00 p.m., December 4th, 1215 Campbell Road Houston, TX 77055

Calling all runners and walkers to support PCHAS!

Run in the **Chevron Houston Marathon** or the **Aramco Houston Half Marathon** (Sunday, January 20, 2019) or the **We Are Houston 5K Race** (Saturday, January 19, 2019) and support our PCHAS children and families! Those runners interested in the marathon or half marathon will fundraise \$500 to support PCHAS clients, while 5K runners will fundraise \$175 to support PCHAS clients. All runners will be invited to a pasta dinner on Saturday evening to celebrate their 5K finish or to get carb-loaded for their half or full marathon. Contact Lisa Johnson at lisa.johnson@pchas.org or 252-207-3567 for more information.



Presbyterian Children's
Homes and Services

The Gathering Place Some of the Fun We Have Had Lately



These photos are from the last two months. We had a super Halloween/Octoberfest party in October and celebrated Mickey Mouse's 90th birthday in November. Some of our guests are actually older than Mickey!!

The Gathering Place will meet again on Monday, December 17, 2018, in the Fellowship Hall. The Gathering Place is an ecumenical partnership with CarePartners[®], 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 Christmas. Come volunteer and wear your favorite Christmas sweater! More volunteers are always needed. If you can spare one Monday of the month (third Monday) from 10 AM to 1 PM, we would love for you to join us. It is a fun and rewarding experience!



SAVE THE DATE! February 23 is the date of the Women's Retreat, sponsored by the Faith Development Team. Rev. Pat Clark will be our retreat leader. We will need a large supply of magazines for a project at the retreat, e.g. *National Geographic, Oprah, Texas Highways, Southwest Art*, or any magazine with lots of pictures. You may drop them off at the Church office for Carol Davis anytime between now and the retreat.

More information will be coming; registration starts in January. You don't want to miss this retreat!



A great big THANK YOU to all who attended the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary Partner Luncheon on November 15 at The Briar Club. We had a great time seeing so many of our Presbyterian friends, enjoying fellowship with each other as we savored a delicious meal, and hearing some inspiring stories and facts about Austin Seminary and some of the Seminary graduates.

The annual tuition for the master's-level degree at Austin Seminary is approximately \$13,800. Donations help the Seminary provide need-based financial aid for approximately 75% of the students, paying up to 85% of their tuition cost. Funds from the Presbyterian Church (USA) support less than 1% of the total Seminary budget. Most operating costs are met through gifts from individuals and churches and from endowment income. Luncheons like the one we attended at The Briar Club help the Seminary meet those needs.



A special group of 14 SBPC members attended the luncheon: left to right are Doris Wright, Lisa Merritt, Patti Nanney, Patty Walsh, Kay Craig, Jan Fitts, Chris Powell, Beverly Cook, Charlie Craig, Marguerite Priest, Carol Davis, Steve Nanney, and Miguel Carlin.

Also, a big THANK YOU to Kay Craig. Instead of using money from our Missions budget, Kay volunteered to “buy” with her Amazon points the 200 bags needed for the Mission of Yahweh to distribute Thanksgiving dinner items to low-income area families. Pictured here is Miguel Carlin giving the boxes with the 200 bags to Kirsten Beasley, Volunteer Coordinator.





Live Generously
TAKE HOLD OF THE LIFE THAT REALLY IS LIFE
1 THIMOTHY 6:18-19

Friendly Reminder

Please don't forget to turn in your Pledge Card.
You can find one in the Narthex or stop by the church office.
Peace and Thanks—Stewardship Committee



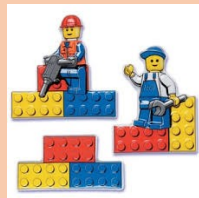
REIMBURSEMENTS DEADLINE APPROACHING...

Please turn in your personal reimbursements no later than December 15th.
Contact Jorida in the Church Office at 713-464-7659 if you have any questions.

IMPORTANT PRESSESS & BULLETIN REMINDER

ALL PRESSESS articles are DUE no later than the 20th of this month! Please email your articles to churchoffice@springbranchpres.org no later than the 20th. **BULLETIN** information is DUE no later than the Wednesday before the service.

In the event you are cleaning out closets and come across gently used toys, such as puzzles, blocks, large Legos or other stacking blocks or toys, cars, trucks, animals too large to be swallowed, or other manipulative play toys, please donate them in the box at the Church office for use in either the Prayground or Free Play Zone (Wednesday Night Suppers). Thank You!!



FRIDAY EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Would you like to receive our weekly announcements via email every Friday? Sign-up by visiting our Church website, www.springbranchpres.org.

Church's Prayer Chain List?
A Prayer Chain Email is sent to our "prayer warriors" when we receive word about someone in need. Contact the Church Office or Sarah Dikeman if you'd like to be added.



Happy
Birthday
To you

Lin Sabala	12/3
Robert Bear	12/5
Kay Nichols	12/5
Jeremy Cross	12/11
Christopher Powell	12/11
Anna Belle Anderson	12/12
Kathryn Dethloff	12/12
Maurice Fayard, II	12/14
Sonya Bear	12/14
Laurie Mitchell	12/14
Bryan Evenson	12/15
Glenn Lanan	12/20
Jerry Bigelow	12/26
Yevie Bain	12/29
Scott Lassiter	12/29
Anna Austin	12/30
Michael Lassiter	12/30



Joel and Rebeca Alegria	12/15
Lisa Merritt and Ron Fake	12/16
James and Grace Daley	12/19

Spring Branch Presbyterian Church, Church Calendar, Holidays in United States, Idea Spring, Outside SBPC Reservations Dec 2018 (Central Time - Chicago)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
<p>First Sunday of Advent</p> <p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Handbells</p> <p>5:30pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Community</p> <p>4:30pm - SBGC Winter</p> <p>6pm - Basketball - Todd</p> <p>9pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9:15am - Cong. Care</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>5:30pm - Volleyball</p> <p>6pm - Girl Scouts (FH)</p> <p>7pm - Session (CR)</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Moderator</p> <p>10:15am - PW Board</p> <p>6pm - WNS @ Fellowship</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>5:30pm - Messy Church @</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees Square</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>9am - PDA - Houston</p> <p>4:30pm - Baby Shower</p>	<p>8am - Soccer Shots @</p> <p>6pm - Nazanin Amiri Piano</p>
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
<p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Handbells</p> <p>5pm - Christmas in the</p> <p>5:30pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Community</p> <p>4pm - WOW</p> <p>5pm - Academy Board</p> <p>6pm - Property Team Mtg</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>5:30pm - Volleyball</p> <p>6pm - Fellowship Team Mtg</p>	<p>9:30am - PW Circle (Jan</p> <p>5:30pm - WNS @</p> <p>6pm - Academy Christmas</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees Square</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>8am - Presb. Men</p> <p>4pm - Fairbees Christmas</p> <p>6pm - HSDRC - Parking Lot</p>	<p>15</p>
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
<p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:50am - Church Cantata</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Handbells</p> <p>5:30pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>9:30am - Adult Community</p> <p>10am - The Gathering Place</p> <p>4pm - WOW</p> <p>6pm - Unwind Circle</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>5:30pm - Pop-Up Messy</p> <p>7pm - Choir</p>	<p>PresPress Articles DUE</p> <p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees Square</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>11am - MOW</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>21</p>
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
<p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Handbells</p> <p>5:30pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>Church Office & Academy</p>	<p>Christmas Day</p> <p>Church Office & Academy</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees Square</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>10am - Flexercise (GP)</p> <p>6pm - Fairbees Square</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>27</p>
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
<p>9:30am - Sunday School</p> <p>10:50am - Worship</p> <p>12:15pm - Handbells</p> <p>5:30pm - Boy Scouts</p>	<p>New Year's Eve</p> <p>9:30am - Adult Community</p> <p>4pm - WOW</p> <p>6pm - Yoga (CR)</p>	<p>1</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>
30	31	1	2	3	4	5



Sponsored By:

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Houston, Texas 77055
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www.springbranchpres.org

relationships matter 

GOD • ONE ANOTHER • WORLD

The Staff at Spring Branch Presbyterian Church would like to wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



“Look the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.”

Matthew 1:23