



MARCH 2021

**Rick Cavender
Returns for
Online Concert.**

[See article pages 16-17]

**Rising to Support
Mission Partners in
February.**

[See article pages 6-7]

**WOC Spring
Luncheon to
feature Megan
Legacy of SA Hope
Center.**

[See article pages 13-14]

**Remember & honor
loved ones with
Easter Lilies.**

[See page 12]

**175th Anniversary:
Celebrating 50 years
hosting Bill Hall Pipe
Organ Competition**

[See article pages 8-11]

The Unexpected Plans of God



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

The first years of this church's life were rough for the small congregation and founding pastor, John McCullough. Three years into his ministry, a cholera pandemic took his beloved wife and John, broken by grief over her death, resigned his mission post and moved to Galveston.

According to our church Historian, Dr. Don Everett, "Protestantism had lain dormant for several years in San Antonio." The old adobe building was melting and in terrible disrepair. And the congregation had little money.

During the next few years' time, the church was served by occasional travelling preachers, but was really led by a very great, capable group of elders. Among them was Samuel Newton and members of the Newton family, who are still represented in this congregation today by the Jackson family.

Nevertheless, the congregation needed a pastor to preach and fulfill certain sacramental duties. The Elders sought assistance of Rev. Robert Bunting, pastor of the newly-founded church in La Grange, Texas. They wrote to Reverend Bunting and asked him to visit the San Antonio church to preach for two Sundays and to administer the Lord's supper.

Bunting's short visit was a great success. He arrived in San Antonio on Friday evening, January 4, 1856, planning to preach for two Sundays and return to La Grange. Reports say that he preached to strong crowds, morning and evening. The members of the San Antonio Church were so impressed that the morning after his final sermon, the congregation held a meeting and invited him to become their supply pastor for one year.

Bunting did not answer immediately and was stunned by the offer. He was 27 years old at the time, and came to Texas in 1852 to organize a congregation in La Grange, on the Colorado River. His efforts were successful and the La Grange congregation was growing

to the point that they could even afford to build a church building.

San Antonio was not part of Bunting's plan. Why would he leave? He loved La Grange and his flock, and it seems that he would not have considered leaving if not for health problems. At the time he wrote, "I consented (to go to San Antonio) ... trembling in fear to come and undertake my master's work in this neglected and wicked city."

San Antonio was growing quickly, and while Bunting served FPC the congregation grew—attracting new disciples from 17 states, from Maine to South Carolina. It boasted representatives from nine different nations and nationalities, including Scots-Irish, German, Hungarian and Cherokee. The church attracted both English and Spanish Speakers and, under Bunting, FPC's membership included African members and Elders.

Bunting even initiated a building campaign to replace the old Adobe structure, affectionately known by then as "the mud temple." He travelled all over Texas raising money. Unfortunately, he never saw the building finished. The building program he initiated was not completed for two decades.

Robert Bunting never planned to move to San Antonio. He was just trying to help out a small group of Christians and a church in trouble. In the end, however, he became one of the most consequential pastors in the history of First Presbyterian Church.

In Isaiah 55, God said,

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (Isaiah 55:8-9)

Jesus proved that when he explained God's plan for the redemption of his people. He told the disciples that

"The Son of Man must suffer many things and

CONTENTS

be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again.” (Mark 8:31)

This brutal and violent plan made the disciples, especially Peter, confused and upset. They thought God had other plans for Jesus. How could this possibly be God's plan? How could he allow such evil and tragedy?

But Jesus explained to them, plainly and forcefully, that God's ways were not the same as our ways. He said to Peter,

“Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” (Mark 8:33)

How many times have you had to change your plans in the last year? In a year when it seems that all of our plans have been changed beyond our control, are we willing to trust God and his plans for our lives?

Lent challenges us to trust the Lord even when his ways don't make sense to us and our plans seem to fall apart. Even though God does not always do what we expect Him to do or use us in ways we expect him to use us, the death and resurrection of Christ reminds us that our Heavenly Father knows what He is doing.

The story of Robert Bunting is a story reminding us that God's plans for us are not always the same as our plans. Even though Bunting was never offered the job permanently, he served as the “temporary supply pastor” for six years. He was willing to change his plans. He left the settled success of La Grange for the unsettled uncertainty of San Antonio because he understood that his plans were not God's plans for his life, and that God's ways are higher than our ways.

**GRACE AND PEACE,
- REV. DR. BOB FULLER**

4 Save the Date: New Financial Peace Online Class, Virtual Vacation Bible School, March Literature Circle, Virtual Children's Choir, Sunday Youth Fellowship, WOC Spring Luncheon, Spring Break Cancellations, Save the Dates for Holy Week, Easter Lilies, RESET Gathering, Ladies' Night Out, WOC 175th Anniversary Cookbook Preorders, KRL Support

5 Loving One Another: Greeter & Usher Thanks

6 Loving the City: FPC Rises to Support Mission Partners in February

7 Loving the City: Encouragement Card Project March 4 - 28

8 175th History: A Significant Milestone - The William C. "Bill" Hall Pipe Organ Competition 50th Offering

12 Loving One Another: Easter Lilies

13 Loving One Another: WOC & Circle Schedule

16 Loving One Another: KEYS

17 Loving One Another: Children's Ministry Celebrates New Babies!

18 Loving Christ: First Cup Readings

19 Loving Christ: First Cup Prayer List

20 Loving One Another: New Covenant Partners

First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team. Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**
Dorothy Hecimovich: **Graphic Designer**
Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator**

Questions? Contact:

Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org)

New Financial Peace Online Class

Starts March 1 | 6:30 PM | Zoom

Register at fpcsanantonio.org/fpu

Tell your money where to go instead of wondering where it went! Join our virtual Financial Peace University class online, so you won't even have to leave home. Start your 14-day free trial of Financial Peace. Contact Muffin Camp at muffincamp@gmail.com.

Virtual Vacation Bible School

Date: Monday - Friday, June 21-25

Want to volunteer for VBS videos or prep? Please contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org. Kids' registration coming soon!

March Literature Circle

Date: Tuesday, March 9

Time: 1:30 PM

Location: Westminster Hall (In person, live) and fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle (recorded)

The FPC Literature Circle welcomes Jane Hansen when she reviews the book, *A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE*, by author Sonia Purnell, on Tuesday, March 9, at 1:30 PM in-person (Westminster Hall) or recorded (www.fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle). Virginia Hall is a young American woman, who was rejected from foreign service because she was a woman & had a prosthetic leg. Yet, she became a spy & was a heroine of the Second World War in France. An exciting story of her ability to coordinate blown bridges, report German troop movements, arrange equipment drops, etc. To prevent her capture, she escaped by a grueling hike over the Pyrenees Mts. into Spain. In-person masks are required along with social distancing. You may bring your own bottle of drinking water.

Virtual Children's Choir

Time: Wednesdays | 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Ages: Four years - 5th grade.

Register at fpcsanantonio.org/childrens-choir

Children's Choir will be recording a video to help celebrate on Palm Sunday. Children may still join this virtual group that strives to enrich children's lives in three core areas: spiritual formation and growth, musical skills and personal growth. Contact kathyj@fpcsat.org for more information.

Sunday Youth Fellowship

Dates: Sundays, March 21 and April 11

Times & Locations: TBD

Contact: Alex Clary, alexc@fpcsat.org, 210-777-2433

Join the fun on Sunday evenings with other youth for socially distanced outdoor gatherings, and other fun fellowship opportunities on Sundays. Check our Instagram or contact Alex for more information.

WOC Spring Luncheon

Date: Monday, March 22

Time: 11:30 AM

Location: Westminster Hall

Our guest speaker is Megan Legacy, executive director of SA Hope Center. \$20/person. Register in-person at the table outside the Ave. E entrance on Sundays (February 28, March 7, & March 14) or online at fpcsanantonio.org/woclunch. Checks & cards accepted. Contact Meg Culp at megculp@sbcglobal.net or 210-219-1577. Our guest speaker will be streamed FREE online at 12:00 PM at fpcsanantonio.org/event-video.

Spring Break Cancellations

Dates: March 7 - 13

Sunday, March 7

- No 30 Minutes of Theology Sunday School Class

- No Confirmation Class

Tuesday, March 9

- No Women's Bible Study

Wednesday, March 10

- No High School Bible Study
- No PBS

Thursday, March 11

- No PBS

Sunday, March 14

- No Confirmation Class

Save the Dates for Holy Week:

March 28 - Palm Sunday

April 1 - Maundy Thursday

April 2 - Good Friday

April 4 - Easter Sunday

Easter Lilies Due by March 21

Each year, the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one or honor an individual by purchasing an Easter lily (\$15), which is placed in the chancel for Easter Sunday. Form and more information on [page 12](#).

RESET Gathering

Dates: Mondays 3/22, 4/26, 5/24

Time: 7:00-8:15 PM

Location: Westminster Hall; Online at fpcsanantonio.org/media

Contact: Rev. Mitchell Moore, mitchellm@fpcsat.org

Join other Young Adults and University students for a time of worship, biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. The RESET Gathering is a chance for us to reset our hearts, minds, and lives on knowing Jesus personally, following Jesus wholly, worshipping Jesus corporately, and serving Jesus globally. Please come check it out and visit fpcsanantonio.org/reset for more information and to sign up for a small group.

Ladies' Night Out

Date: Tuesday, April 13

Time: 6:30 PM

Location: Multiple Host Homes
Outdoors

Let's celebrate spring! Safe and small multi-site outdoor gathering for women. Meeting in many places, but all joining together to enjoy food, wine, and friends. (Registration coming soon! Required by April 5 for seating purposes – you may request to sit with a specific person.) Please plan to bring your own meal, drink, and mask for COVID safety. Contact Nancy Scheifele at 210-315-1618 or bbnn.scheifele@gmail.com with any questions.

WOC 175th Anniversary Cookbook Preorders

We sold out of our last order of the WOC 175th Anniversary Cookbooks! Preorder online (\$25 each) for our next shipment in March at fpcsanantonio.org/cookbook. Once the next shipment arrives you may pick up your online Cookbook purchases by bringing your receipt email to the table on Sundays or coordinate with Judy Kruger at 210.857.0122 or judykruger@sbcglobal.net.

KRL Support

Thank you for your support of The Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL) at FPC. Help fill the food and clothing pantries with necessities for our under-resourced neighbors in their journey to becoming self-sufficient. You may donate by shopping the Amazon wish list at <http://tiny.cc/KRL-support> (link is case sensitive), created by our partner, SA Hope Center. All of the items that you purchase are shipped directly to the KRL. If you are interested in volunteering for our KRL ministries, contact Lindsay at lindsays@fpcsat.org.



Greeter and Usher Thanks!

Join us in giving a socially distanced High Five to everyone who has served as a Greeter or Usher during COVID! We so appreciate their welcoming presence each Sunday as they greet us with their masked covered smiles! FPC continues to provide exceptional hospitality to those God sends us because of their dedication and we are grateful.

We would love for you to join us on one of our Greeter or Usher Teams! Positions are available for the in-person Traditional and Contemporary Services as well as for our live-streamed worship services. Please contact Wendy Garcia, FPC Connections Ministry Coordinator, at wendyg@fpcsat.org for more information or to sign-up!

Job & Volunteer Opportunities

Sunday Audio/Visual Tech Volunteers Needed

Do you enjoy audio/video production or tech gadgets? Are you good with computers? We could use your help on Sunday mornings to support those worshipping the Lord, both in-person and online. Volunteers are welcome for all services. Please contact Ross Brown at rossb@fpcsat.org if you are interested and able to help.

Hiring Assistant Director to Youth & their Families

First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio is accepting applications for an Assistant Director to Youth and their Families. Potential candidates should have a heart for family ministry and a desire to work with a team to see students grow in their walk with Christ. Resumes can be sent to Alex Clary, alexc@fpcsat.org, and visit the church website at fpcsanantonio.org/jobs for more information.

FPC Rises to Support Mission Partners in February

As we celebrate God's faithfulness through 175 years of ministry at FPC, we celebrate the ministry partnerships He has called us in to, and the fruit He is bearing through them.

This February, FPC was able to participate in serving SAMM and over 30 families in their Living and Learning Center, in response to the temporary closing of their kitchen due to Covid. Meals for these families were generously prepared and provided by our FPC Kitchen Team, and our Young Adult Communities (YAC). Several of our FPC Covenant Partners also helped to deliver the meals to the Center. We are grateful for this opportunity to serve with this Heritage Mission Partner as they continue to empower families to overcome homelessness in our city!

God has also been about the work of restoration and renewal in the lives of our neighbors in the KRL! Any Woman Can recently shared the story of Mary and Rico who discovered they were pregnant as they were forced out of their apartment due to economic impact from the Covid pandemic. As AWC provided support and offered hope, this couple was able to choose life for their child! They were connected with government help for housing and were offered mentorship and counseling as AWC deepened the impact of their expertise through leveraging church and organizational assets for Mary, Rico, and their child.

Another story was shared by a mentor from the SA Hope Center in the KRL as they received a referral for a client needing support in a great time of need. This KRL guest lost her employment during the lockdown in March, was helping her 10-year old son as he transitioned to online learning, and experienced the sudden loss of her husband. When the SA Hope mentor met this client, she was defeated, hopeless, and lost as she was walking through grief and was beginning to





struggle financially. As she met with her mentor, she began to recognize that she is not facing life's tough times

alone, and has grown empowered to take the necessary steps towards employment and financial security!

Just prior to the week of freezing temperatures, our Local Missions Committee, along with the KRL, were able to partner with CAM to donate fleece wraps, scarfs, gloves and warm socks to hand out to our neighbors and give them some warmth.

Lastly, God opened doors for our FPC Family to care for the full staff of three schools through the month of February; Washington Elementary, IDEA Ewing Halsell, and the FPC Children's Center. FPC Local Mission Partner, School Connect, had a vision to invite community partners, including FPC, to fill a care package to go to each staff member of these schools through "Love Our Teachers Month." The boxes were filled with resources and gifts along with notes of affirmation, acknowledging the important role these men and women play in the lives of students in our city. Together, our FPC Family was able to complete about 140 boxes to serve these schools!



We continue to pray for opportunities to respond to the grace we have received in Christ by seeking the welfare of our city, and give thanks to God for the fruitfulness we are celebrating!

Encouragement Card Project: March 4 - 28

The staff members at our local mission partners have risen to the challenges COVID-19 has brought; however, they need our prayers and encouragement to continue offering God's grace and love. The Encouragement Postcards Project is a simple and direct response where everyone at FPC can participate. You can serve by:

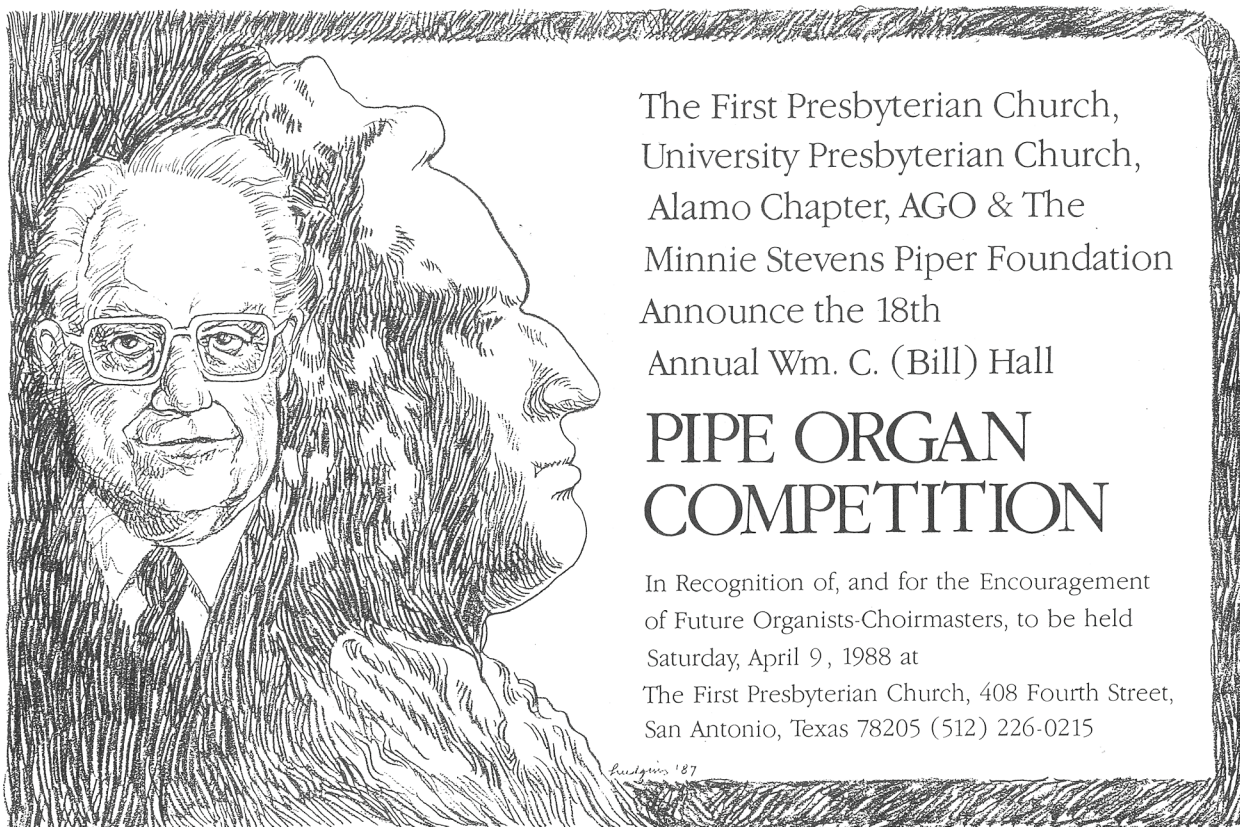
- Taking a bundle of five postcards, or several, and write a short note of encouragement, a prayer, and/or Scripture on the postcard, and pray for the staff member to whom the card is directed. All of this can be done within a couple of minutes before or after service, or during your Sunday school class or small group meeting.
- Once you have completed the cards, they should be returned to the designated drop box, located in the Mauzé Lobby by Sunday, March 28 so they can be sent to our partners.

Having someone, even someone you don't know, simply say thank you for what you are doing, provide some words of encouragement, and offer a prayer during these challenging times can have a profoundly positive impact. We hope you consider engaging with us on this project as we bring thanks and prayers directly to those working in our local missions partners.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Eugene Garcia at eugenegarcia@satx.rr.com. If you are unable to come to the church to pick up cards and would like them delivered to you, please contact lindsays@fpcsat.org.



A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE BY TOM DOOLING



The First Presbyterian Church,
University Presbyterian Church,
Alamo Chapter, AGO & The
Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation
Announce the 18th
Annual Wm. C. (Bill) Hall

PIPE ORGAN COMPETITION

In Recognition of, and for the Encouragement
of Future Organists-Choirmasters, to be held
Saturday, April 9, 1988 at
The First Presbyterian Church, 408 Fourth Street,
San Antonio, Texas 78205 (512) 226-0215

As we celebrate our 175th year of ministry at First Presbyterian, rich, meaningful worship comes immediately to mind as one of the blessings our church has experienced throughout the decades. An integral part of that worship experience is liturgy, preaching, and of course, music. In 2021, we celebrate a musical gift given by this congregation and city to over five decades of aspiring organists serving in churches and educational institutions across the United States and around the world.

The Organ Competition Experience:

The William C. "Bill" Hall Pipe Organ Competition began in 1971 to encourage undergraduate and graduate school students in their educational preparations as future organists. The organ competition, consisting of a competitive performance of congregational hymn playing, selected pieces by J.S. Bach, and a composition chosen by each competitor, are all meant to encourage both undergraduate and graduate students to include the pursuit of church music during and beyond their time of formal education. Each year, on the first Saturday in March, students gather from around the State of Texas to perform

THE WILLIAM C. "BILL" HALL PIPE ORGAN COMPETITION 50TH OFFERING

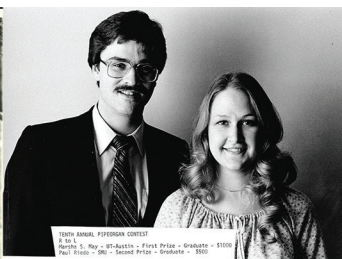
these three pieces in our sanctuary. Three judges, drawn from the ranks of professional church organists and nationally recognized college and university teachers, listen to the performance, provide valuable written feedback, and select winners in two separate divisions: undergraduate and graduate (the latter including both masters and doctoral level students).

music and was diligent in looking after every aspect of the competition as it developed year after year. The first nine competitions were held at University Presbyterian, then moved to First Presbyterian Church in 1980 to take advantage of the 3-manual Holtkamp organ the church owned at the time. In 1999, First Presbyterian installed the organ we use today which was constructed by Bob Sipe of Dallas, Texas. In

Methodist University, and Texas Christian University. Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, the competition continues in 2021, although our judges will listen to each competitor remotely this year using high-definition live-stream equipment installed by the church in May, 2020, to facilitate the broadcast of our church services over the internet.

Competition Statistics:

The real story of the Hall Pipe Organ Competition can be told in the profound support it has provided to aspiring organists over the last 50 plus years. Since 1971, the competition has awarded over \$164,000 in prize money to support the educational endeavors of over 183 students that



Left: Prizewinners 1975 - David Tidyman, John Tarver, Chris Hathaway, Le Williams, and Bruce Bengtson. Above: Tenth Annual Pipeorgan Contest winners - First Prize Marsha S. May, Second Prize Paul Riedo.

A Brief History:

The competition was begun by William C. "Bill" Hall in 1971 and hosted by University Presbyterian Church near the campus of Trinity University. In the early years, it was simply called "The Annual Pipe Organ Competition" and was later changed to bear the name of Bill Hall after his passing in 1985. Bill, described by those who knew him as "a tall, friendly insurance man" loved

the early years of the competition, participation levels included up to 20 students participating each year. While the number of students studying the organ has evolved from those early days, the competition continues with consistent participation drawing from institutions such as The University of North Texas, The University of Texas, Baylor University, Rice University, The University of Houston, Southern





Tenth Annual Pipeorgan Competition Judge, Professor William C. Teague, Organist Choirmaster of St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral and head of the Organ Dept. at Centenary College, Shreveport, Louisiana.



Seventeenth Annual Wm. C. (Bill) Hall Pipeorgan Competition '87 - Andrew Risinger, Baylor, 1st prize, Undergraduate. Rev. Walthall presenting.



Twenty-third Annual Wm. C. (Bill) Hall Pipeorgan Competition '93 - Joel Bacon, 1st prize, Undergraduate. Dr. Bess Hieronymus presenting.

have placed amongst the winners. In total, over 412 students have participated as competitors, all of which were afforded the opportunity to perform and receive detailed feedback from judges that rank amongst our nation's finest church organists and college/university teachers. Employing three judges each year, the competition has drawn from over 90 judges since 1971 including teachers from UCLA, Stetson, University of Oklahoma, University of Michigan, Arizona State, LSU, Indiana University, Oberlin Conservatory, University of Notre Dame, and the Eastman School of Music to name a few. While we have not been able to keep up with every contestant's career since 1971, our research shows that

over half the contestants have gone on to be church organists, as well as a sizeable number becoming recognized performers and teachers.

With Gratitude:

A competition with the success and longevity experienced by the Hall Pipe Organ Competition does not happen by accident. It is all the result of a commitment begun by Bill Hall, nurtured by two great congregations, University Presbyterian and First Presbyterian, and lovingly perpetuated by decades of volunteers, church staff, donors, organ professors, and students. As mentioned earlier, the enthusiasm and organizational skills of Bill Hall brought the competition into

March 30 '86 Express-News

Contest to honor patron

The annual pipe organ competition has been renamed in honor of arts patron William C. Hall who died in December.

Hall supported many arts organizations in San Antonio and had made the pipe organ competition one of his top priorities.

The competition is designed to encourage student organists and choirmasters attending music programs at Texas colleges and universities.

Hall initiated an annual organ competition in 1970 and nurtured it to national significance, said Allan R. Nowotny, member of the contest's executive committee.

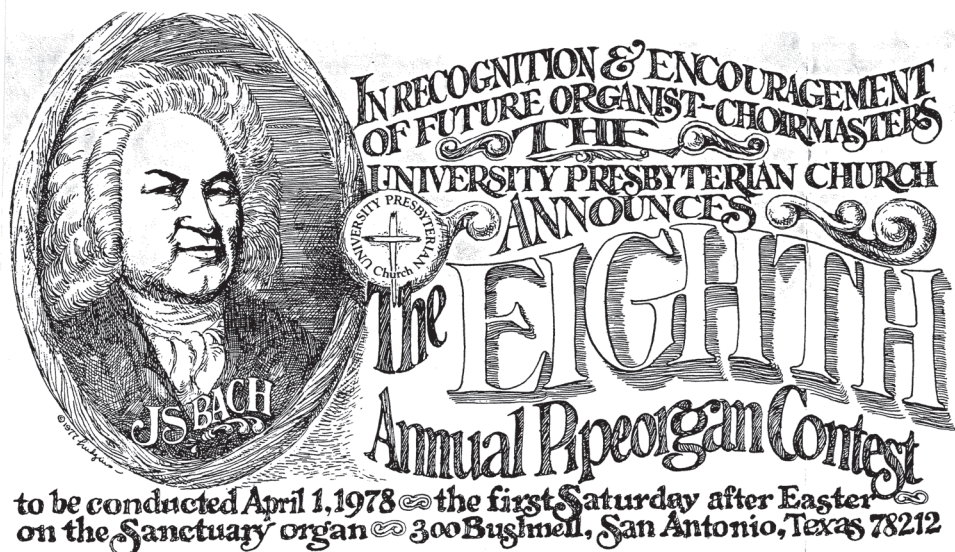
The 16th annual competition will be held April 12 in First Presbyterian Church. Organists



WILLIAM C. HALL
... contest to carry name

from throughout the state will vie for prizes amounting to \$4,250.

The event is sponsored by the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation, Alamo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, First Presbyterian and University Presbyterian churches.



being. Bill died in 1985, followed by his supportive wife Kay in 2003. Of their four children, Mary McKay followed their shared love for music, continuing to serve as a church musician at University United Methodist Church here in San Antonio. Many local organizations and individuals have provided a great deal of support over the years including Madolyn Fallis, our own Dr. Bess Hieronymus and Dr. Leroy Yarbrough, and the Alamo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. As the competition continues, we are especially grateful to our music staff, including Dr. Jae Ha and Brittanie Salazar, as well as the exceptional technical assistance and guidance received from Dr. David Heller of Trinity University.

Obviously, a prize competition requires financial support in order to secure judges and award the winners. In this category, we are especially grateful for the long-term support of the Minnie Stevens Piper Foundation here in San Antonio. Like Bill Hall, Minnie Stevens Piper also had a passion for the arts and a desire to support the education of deserving students. Notable Executive Directors

of the Piper Foundation that have encouraged the collaboration over the years include the late William C. Wiederhold and current Executive Director Joyce M. Ellis. To add to a long list of individual donors that have contributed funds over the years, the support of the Alamo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and Madolyn Fallis, who died in 2019, also help to underwrite specific prize awards.

A special note about our 50th:

Producing fifty occasions of the Hall Pipe Organ Competition is a significant milestone, especially as we celebrate 175 years of ministry

here at First Presbyterian Church. While many of the aspects remain unchanged since 1971, we continue to innovate and improve the ways we promote and conduct the competition each year. In recent years, we have collaborated with St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church here in San Antonio, as they have graciously hosted the first place winners in each division for a fall recital on their outstanding Buzard Opus 38 sanctuary organ. To celebrate our anniversary, we have also commissioned a hymn by composer Bryan Page, setting the familiar text "Hark Ten Thousand Harps and Voices" to a new hymn tune.

If the thrill of competition peaks your interest, come join us in the sanctuary on **Saturday, March 6 from 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM** to hear the contestants for yourself! As you listen to these talented students, consider their connection to the 50-year legacy of promoting education, music making, and worship in San Antonio, across our country, and around the world!

TOM DOOLING
Minister of Music



Twenty-third Annual Wm. C. (Bill) Hall Pipeorgan Competition '93 - Stefan Engels, Dr. Michele Johns, Ann Frohbieter, John David Dill, Michael Lindner, Wesley Beal, Martin Gemoets, and Wesley VanZile.

If you are considering giving flowers for the Sunday traditional services, the names of the flower committee are listed below. You may call them for information for the month you desire. Telephone numbers are in the church directory. It is never too early to reserve the Sunday you prefer, so please call as soon as possible. The listings must be available to the church staff one month prior to the committee member's designated month. We are extremely grateful for the many members who have given flowers to enhance our beautiful church. Thank you.

January	Betty Anderson
February	Elizabeth Kreager
March	Diana Morehouse
April	Lilly Gretzinger
May	Paula Johnson
June	Mary Wilde
July	Joyce Mayfield
August	Martha Pigeon
September	Janet Hornberger
October	Chaney Stuart
November	Ann Bunn
December	Special Events Committee

\$15 PER PLANT - PLEASE PRINT WHEN FILLING OUT FORM

(CHECK ONE) ☐ IN HONOR OF ☐ IN MEMORY OF (30 Character Limit)

[illegible]

Each year the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one or honor an individual by purchasing an Easter lily to be placed in the Chancel. If you would like to participate, then cost is \$15 to reserve a plant for one individual or one couple. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Completed forms & payment may be mailed to: First Presbyterian Church, c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, TX 78205-1918, or placed in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox in the workroom. **Requests received later than March 21, 2021 will miss the insert printing deadline.**

EMAIL

PHONE

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH WELCOME TO SPRING

BESTY ZACHRY

President, Women of the Church

Greetings sweet members—as I write this, I am sequestered at my in-laws attempting to stay warm and enjoying the benefits of running water—something my neighborhood has not had either of for the last few days. I pray you are not going through this as well! Surely by the time you read this article, March 1, will bring a change of weather and hopefully the winter of 2021 will be the stuff of tales of individual perseverance and trusting in God's provisions.

If I had any illusions that living in historical times would be interesting—I've changed my thinking—I'm not the pioneering spirit after all!

To keep you up to date on plans for Women of the Church, I am happy to report we are moving forward with our Spring Luncheon scheduled for Monday, March 22, at 11:30 a.m. We are honored to have as our guest speaker, Megan Legacy, of SA Hope Center. FPC is fortunate to work with Megan and SA Hope as one of our mission partners. Socially distanced reservations are \$20 available online and in-person on Sundays

WOC Spring Luncheon Guest Speaker:

Megan Legacy,
Executive Director of SA Hope Center



continuing through Monday, March 15. You may also contact Reservations Co-Chair Meg Culp at: megculp@sbcglobal.net. Childcare reservations may be made with Rozlyn Miller-Cline at: rozlynm@fpcsat.org by March 15 as well. As with our Fall Legacy Luncheon, you will have an opportunity to support the work of the SA Hope Center through financial donations with a direct link found on our website or at the luncheon.

Shelley Bass, Vice President of Circles, has asked our circle chairs to continue collecting stories of shared memories among their members. We hope to publish some of the sweet recollections these ladies have

Continued...

experienced within their group. Please send these stories to Shelley or if you have questions about circle membership, she can easily be reached at 210-861-6996.

Looking to the future, we are excited to offer another Ladies Night Out event on Tuesday, April 13. As with our Fall event, Nancy Scheifele and her committee will help host small group gatherings in multiple backyard locations around San Antonio. Details and

sign-ups will be available beginning mid-March. Please mark your calendar for April 13!

If you have any questions or recommendations, please contact Betsy Zachry at: betsyz@swbell.net or 210-262-1236. Women of the Church seeks to support and encourage all women of FPC. You may be the link to change and growth—come make a difference!



women of the church

Spring Luncheon

monday, march 22, 2021
11:30 am (doors open at 11:00 am)

westminster hall
first presbyterian church

tickets \$20
(reservation required)

contact meg culp
210.219.1577 or megculp@sbcglobal.net

register online at
fpcsanantonio.org/woclunch

guest speaker: megan legacy
executive director of
sa hope center

SA hope center
Nurture. Empower. Transform.



FIESTA OF FAITH

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH
SPRING LADIES' NIGHT OUT

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 | 6:30 PM
MULTIPLE HOST HOME LOCATIONS

CONTACT NANCY SCHEIFELE
210.315.1618 OR
BBNN.SCHEIFELE@GMAIL.COM

FREE REGISTRATION
VISIT THE TABLE OUTSIDE FPC'S AVE. E ENTRANCE OR
REGISTER ONLINE

WWW.FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/LNO

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

March Circle Schedule

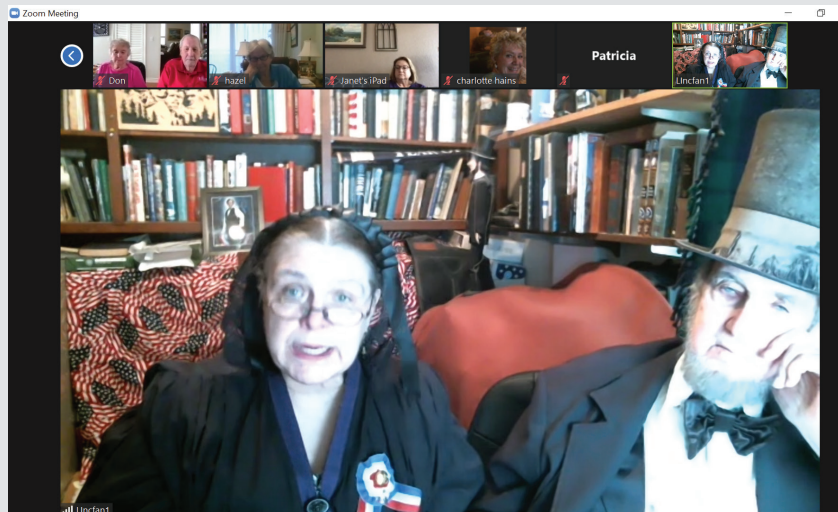
Circle Number	Circle Theme	Regular Meeting Info	Additional Info
Circle 1/12	Bible Circle	Monday, March 15 10:30 AM FPC Geneva Room	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 5	Shawl Ministry	Friday, March 19 10:00 AM FPC Room 228	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 6	Bible Circle	Tuesday, March 16 1:30 PM FPC Geneva Room	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 7	Bible Circle	Tuesday, March 16 11:30 AM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 8	Mom's Group	No formal meeting planned this month.	
Circle 9	Bible Circle	Tuesday, March 16 10:30 AM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 11	Bible Circle	Monday, March 22 6:30 PM	Will be meeting by Zoom until further notice.
Circle 13	Literature Circle	Tuesday, March 9 1:30 PM Westminster Hall & fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle	Open to women & men; March Book: <i>A Woman of No Importance</i> by Sonia Purnell
Circle 14	Bible Circle	Monday, March 15 12:00 PM FPC St. Andrew's Room	Circle chairs will be in contact with details.
Circle 18	Circle of Concern	No formal meetings: Opportunity for service throughout the year	
Circle 20	Circle of Service	No formal meetings: Opportunity for service throughout the year	



KEYS

REV. DR. JOE MOORE

Minister for older adults and congregational care.



Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit

Remember, KEYS is not an exclusive club for older adults. Everyone is welcome to attend on Fridays and to join us in other activities as well, "Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit."



March 13, 2020 was the first Friday that we cancelled our KEYS Luncheon due to Covid-19. The thinking that day was to keep our older adults safe and that we would be cancelled for two weeks. One year later we find ourselves still protecting our health, but happily connected to each other. I am so proud of how we have been able to master Zoom and continue meeting on Fridays with a variety of speakers. Thank you all for your perseverance during this time and your willingness to learn new skills in order to Keep Everyone Young in Spirit.

In February, Pastor Mitchell Moore gave us highlights of what is happening in local missions to reach out to our neighbors, we enjoyed a visit with Max and Donna Daniels as President & Mrs. Lincoln in honor of his birthday. Max and Donna have been portraying Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln since 1988. Lorie Hess lead us on a journey of the Appalachian Trail through her story and pictures. It was like we were on

the trail with her.

We are looking forward to a virtual concert with Rick Cavender coming on **March 5** at fpcsanantonio.org/keys-concert.



Other Guests in March will be Irina Villastrigo (**March 19**) who is connected with our global mission partners in Poland, and Hector Cardenas (**March 26**) from the San Antonio Fireman's museum.

If you have recommendations for KEYS speakers please don't hesitate to email joem@fpcsat.org, text or call 802-734-2329.

We meet on Fridays at 11:00 AM
Zoom meeting ID 570 618 8075
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5706188075>

No Password Necessary.

If you need help with Zoom feel free to contact me @ 802-734-2329 or joem@fpcsat.org.

Join the Email Mailing List

Receive a weekly email update on who is speaking and a link to connect directly to Zoom by sending me, Joe Moore (joem@fpcsat.org), your email address to be added to our list.

AARP Safe Driving Class

If your AARP Safe Driving Class insurance discount is expiring, you can take the class online at www.aarpdriversafety.org.

Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow

We were fortunate to find Jacqueline Crow to conduct a Zoom fitness program for us. We received her contact information through Morningside Manor. All reviews of Jacqi's class have been glowing. Someone said, "she does such a good job online, I can't wait until we can continue in person."

Topic: Friday Fitness

Time: Fridays at 9:30 AM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6199532743?pwd=aHRoaWNZdWtpMXJFa3dHSWVCYk1lUT09>

Meeting ID: 619 953 2743

Passcode: Strength



Children's Ministry New Babies!



Above: Enzo Hart Collins
son of Eric & Bailey Collins
born 1/28/2021 | 6 lbs. 8 oz.



Right: Hans Alan Hassenflu
son of Jaca & Stephen Hassenflu
born 7/16/20 | 8 lbs., 3.5 ounces



Above left: Walker Hardin Owens, son of Travis & Jade Owens,
born 1/24/2021 | 8 lbs. 15 oz. Above Right: James McCullough Vita,
son of Elizabeth and Brian Vita, born 11/6/20 | 8 lbs., 5 oz.



Above left: Pearce Brunner
Jackson, son of Jobe & Ashley
Jackson, born 10/14/20 | 6 lbs. 7
oz. Above Right: Jude Thomas



Damrow, son of Thomas and Briana Damrow, born 12/29/20 | 7 lbs.

FIRST CUP READINGS MARCH, 2021

Dear Family in Christ,

First Cup is designed to assist you in the habit of daily Bible reading and prayer. The name is to remind you that as you reach for your first cup of morning coffee or tea, reach also for your Bible and prayer list. The prayers at the beginning of each week are taken from hymns, sometimes found in obscure hymnals in my library. They are intended to be read as your beginning prayer, to focus your mind on the daily readings that follow. May this spiritual discipline strengthen you as you face each day.

Blessings and love in Christ, Sandy Sturch



Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.— Psalm 143:8

Cast thy burden on the Lord, Lean thou only on His word; Ever will He be thy stay, Tho' the heavens shall melt away. Ever in the raging storm, Thou shalt see His cheering form; hear his pledge of coming aid: "It is I; be not afraid." Cast thy burdens at His feet; linger near His mercy seat; He will lead thee by the hand gently to the better land. He will gird thee by His power, in the weary, fainting hour; Lean thou strong upon His Word; Cast thy burden to the Lord. (Baptist Hymnal, #254)

- 1 Deuteronomy 6:4-8; Psalm 119:89-112;
2 Timothy 2:10-19
- 2 Mark 4:35-41; 2 Samuel 22; Psalm 65
- 3 Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16-17;
Acts 19:11-20; Revelation 20:1-10
- 4 Mark 5:21-43; Psalm 103
- 5 Mark 6:1-29; Luke 9:7-9; 14:25-33; Acts 21:10-14
- 6 Mark 6:30-56; Ephesians 3:20-21; Psalm 37
- 7 Mark 7:1-23; Jeremiah 17:9; Micah 6;
James 1:21-27

*Savior, like a Shepherd lead us, much we need thy tender care;
In thy pleasant pastures feed us, for Thy use our folds prepare.
Thou hast promised to receive us, poor and sinful though we be;
Thou hast mercy to relieve us, grace to cleanse and power to free.
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us loved us still;
Blessed Jesus, Blessed Jesus, Thou hast loved us, loved us still.
(The Hymnbook, #380)*

- 8 Mark 7:24-8:10; Colossians 1:15-23;
Ephesians 1:2-23
- 9 Mark 8:11-38; John 10
- 10 Mark 9:1-13; Malachi 4:5-6; Matthew 11:7-15;
17:1-13
- 11 Mark 9:14-29; James 5:13-20; Philippians 4:6-7;
Ephesians 6:18
- 12 Mark 9:30-41; Numbers 11:26-30; Matthew 18:1-9
- 13 Mark 9:42-50; 1 Corinthians 5; 1 Peter 1:13-25
- 14 Genesis 2:18-25; Mark 10:1-16; 1 Corinthians 7;
1 John 1:9-10

*Work, for the night is coming, Work through the morning hours;
Work while the dew is sparkling, Work mid springing flowers; Work
when the day grows brighter, Work in the glowing sun; Work, for
the night is coming, when man's work is done. Work for the night
is coming, under the sunset skies; while their bright tints are
glowing, work for the daylight flies. Work till the last beam fadeth,*

*fadeth to shine no more; Work while the night is darkening, when
man's work is o'er. (The Hymnbook, #297)*

- 15 Mark 10:17-31; 2 Chronicles 1:1-12;
Proverbs 11:24-28; 1 Timothy 6:17
- 16 Mark 10:32-45; Philippians 2:1-18; John 13:1-17
- 17 Mark 10:46-52; Hebrews 11:6; Matthew 7:7-12;
Luke 19:1-10; Psalm 27
- 18 Mark 11:1-19; Jeremiah 7; Romans 12:12;
Colossians 4:2
- 19 Mark 11:20-33; Luke 17:1-4; Matthew 5:21-24;
Matthew 18:21-35
- 20 Mark 12; Proverbs 25:14; Matthew 6:1-4;
Psalm 37:25-26; 112; Proverbs 11:25
- 21 Matthew 23; Proverbs 6:16-19; Micah 6:8

*Saviour, teach me day by day Love's sweet lesson to obey;
Sweeter lesson cannot be, Loving Him who first loved me. With
a child's glad heart of love, at Thy bidding may I move. Prompt
to serve and follow Thee, Loving Him who first loved me. Teach
me thus Thy steps to trace, strong to follow in thy grace, Learning
how to love from Thee, Loving Him who first loved me. (The
Hymnbook, #457)*

- 22 Mark 13; Isaiah 13:9-11; Revelation 6:12-17
- 23 Matthew 24; Revelation 16:15
- 24 Matthew 25
- 25 1 Thessalonians 4-5:11
- 26 John 10
- 27 John 11
- 28 John 12:1-11; Deuteronomy 15:1-11

*All glory, laud, and honor, To Thee, Redeemer, King. To whom
the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! The people of the
Hebrews with palms before Thee went; Our praise and prayer
and anthems before Thee we present. Thou art the king of Israel,
Thou David's royal Son, Who in the Lord's name comest, The
King and blessed One! To Thee, before Thy Passion, they sang
their hymns of praise; To Thee, now high exalted, our melody
we raise. All glory, laud and honor to Thee, Redeemer, King,
To whom the lips of children made sweet hosannas ring! (The
Hymnbook, #187)*

- 29 Matthew 21:1-17; John 12:12-19
- 30 John 12:20-50; 3:16-21; Romans 10:9-13
- 31 Mark 14:10-42; John 17; Mark 14:43-72

FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).

[illegible]



Connie Arambula

Connie joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is General Counsel for Kairoi. She is looking forward to Bible study class for her son and serving the homeless population through various initiatives.



Marisol Jackson

Marisol joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a Supervisor for Marriott's Call Center. Marisol is looking forward to serving as a greeter and receiving her new nametag.



Christina Awad and Michael Montgomery

Christina and Michael both join by Reaffirmation of Faith. Michael is a Patrol Officer with the San Antonio Police Department and Christina is a Physician with the United States Air Force. They have a 10 month old little girl named Norah. As members, they are both looking forward to being involved with First Presbyterian Church.



Connie Jones

Connie joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a Retired College Instructor. She adopted an 8 year old girl from China. Now her daughter is 25, married and has two children. She has been ordained twice as an Elder at Uvalde Presbyterian and Genesis Presbyterian Church. Connie is looking forward to Presbyterian-based programs for herself and her grandchildren, as well as playing in the Bell Choir.



Emily Gerwels

Emily joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is an Assistant Administrator with Metropolitan Methodist Hospital. Emily is engaged to Cody Heffron and is looking forward to growing in the young adult/new married community through God.



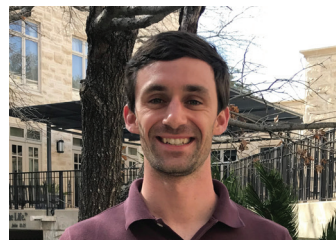
Robert Kailing

Robert joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. He is married to Debra Salge and is interested in Stephen Ministry



Cody Heffron

Cody joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. He is an Analyst with HEB. Cody is engaged to Emily Gerwels and will be married on Sept. 25, 2021.



Thomas Ochs

Thomas joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. He is a Senior Associate, Process Improvement with USAA Real Estate. He looks forward to being involved in Young Adult Ministry & Local Missions.



Phyllis Griffin

Phyllis joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is retired and enjoys her family. She has been ordained a Deacon at FPC USA and served as an Elder at Carmel Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati, OH. Phyllis is looking forward to the community, Bible Study and Serving.

Interested in receiving the First Press magazine digitally? Want to get the weekly newsletter email?

Connect with Us! Sign-Up at:
www.fpcsanantonio.org/comm-connect



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

404 N ALAMO STREET, SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205-1918
OFFICES LOCATED AT AVENUE E NEAREST MCCULLOUGH

210-226-0215 • www.fpcsanantonio.org



@fpcsanantonio