



# *First Press*

**A SUCCESSFUL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**  
**AUGUST 2016 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**





# SABBATH: A PALACE IN TIME

BY REV. SCOTT SIMPSON • ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CONGREGATIONAL CARE

In Abraham Heschel’s poetic and powerful book, *Sabbath*, Heschel calls the Sabbath “a palace in time” (1979, Heschel, A., p. 15). That is, Sabbath is not connected with the continuous cycle of nature’s seasons (so how many seasons are there really in South Texas?) but with the specific events in historic time. The eighth commandment in Exodus 20:8 commands the people of God to “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” (Exodus 20:8, ESV). Remember the sabbath day because of the uniqueness of our God. God is the Creator and Redeemer who makes Himself known in the historic acts of time rather than in things or places (Heschel, p. 8). Sabbath is a time for

remembering what God has done, celebrating what God is doing, and looking forward in hope what God will do in the future.

Summer is a great time for vacations, for seeing family, reading that book we always wanted to read, and going to the ranch for a little rest and relaxation. In June, our family took a vacation to Canyon, Texas and spent most of our time together in Palo Duro Canyon. One of my favorite moments with my family was taking a long, hot hike in the middle of the afternoon to see one of Palo Duro Canyon’s greatest sites: the Lighthouse, a magnificent rock formation carved away by water and wind over time. No cell phones, no technology, nope, nada. And soon, our family will take another vacation to Port Aransas and cool off at the beach.

Yet the biblical understanding of sabbath goes much deeper than taking vacations or taking a day off; Sabbath is radical. Even more, taking a sabbath can be a visible way to make Jesus visible to a society and a world where it is almost unthinkable to stop working, spending, and worrying for one day a week. Sabbath then becomes “a palace in time” (Heschel, p. 15), a dedicated time for appreciating and not manipulating God’s good creation (Heschel, p. 18). So I challenge you to think about creating a Sabbath time in your weekly schedule. What would your “palace in time” (Heschel, p. 15) look like? Taking a regular Sabbath can be a great mental health tool, a way for calming down and saying to the world in your family, we come first to each other and to God, a time in our lives when no one makes demands on us and we experience the delight and joy of being followers of Jesus Christ.

Warmly in Christ,

*Scott Simpson*  
Scott

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

PG.

## 4-5 SAVE THE DATE

- 4 FOOD TRUCK
- 4 PATHWAYS TO HOPE
- 4 FALL LADIES' NIGHT OUT
- 4 DAVE RAMSEY'S FINANCIAL PEACE
- 5 ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD EVENT
- 5 MEN'S RETREAT
- 5 LUNCHEON HONORING REV. ZBINDEN
- 5 170TH ANNIVERSARY

PG.

## 6-9 SPECIAL STORIES

- 6-7 VBS RECAP
- 8-9 DREAM BIG

PG.

## 10-13 MINISTRIES

- 10-11 PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN
- 12-13 KEYS

PG.

## 14; 16-19 INSPIRATION

- 14 HISTORY CORNER
- 16 BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS
- 17 MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE
- 18-19 FIRST CUP

PG.

## 15; 17 CHURCH UPDATES

- 15 BAPTISMS, MARRIAGES, NEW MEMBERS
- 17 WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBER

First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team. Deadline to submit content: the 10th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: Director of Communications  
Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer  
Richard Flores: Press Manager & Production

Contact:  
Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org) or  
Sarah Clower (210-271-2777/sarahc@fpcsat.org)  
with any questions.

END OF FOOD TRUCK CELEBRATION

End of Food Truck Celebration at Chris Madrids—Appetizers provided by the Smith Family! (Martha, Gordon and Graham)

AUGUST 3 • 6:30 PM

PATHWAYS TO HOPE

Help FPC Local Missions meet the challenge to support a free major event on the role of the faith community in mental health.

FPC’s Mental Hope Ministry and the San Antonio faith community will facilitate a city-wide conference at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, to address mental health in our community. For the first time, the faith community will come together with the health care community and broader San Antonio community to discuss this issue.

The keynote speaker Kay Warren (wife of Pastor Rick Warren), who lost their son Matthew to suicide in 2013, will be joined by several national and local experts within mental health care, social services and supportive housing and employment, who will speak about how San Antonio is working to improve the mental health care system and the path to recovery for people living with a mental illness.

The conference will focus on building new partnerships with the faith community to break the stigma of mental illness and to provide hope. For more information or to register, visit the conference website at [www.pathwaystohope.net](http://www.pathwaystohope.net) or contact Doug Beach ([doug.beach@ymail.com](mailto:doug.beach@ymail.com)).

AUGUST 26-27

PW FALL LADIES’ NIGHT OUT!

Please join Presbyterian Women in Sallie Guy’s lovely home at 101 Paseo Encinal for a delightful evening of fellowship, food and fun at our annual Fall PW Ladies’ Night Out. The date is September 29, 2016, so mark your calendar. You do not have to be a circle member to participate. If you are a woman and a member of FPC, YOU ARE INVITED! Come join in the fun!

SEPTEMBER 29 • 7:00 PM

DAVE RAMSEY’S FPU IS COMING!

Learn God’s way of handling money with Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University.

This isn’t your typical “money class,” but a practical, entertaining and fun course. More than 1.5 million families have taken FPU, and results are life-changing. The average family completing the course pays off \$5,300 in debt and saves \$2,700 in just 90 days. That’s an \$8,000 change in financial position!

Whether you’re struggling to make ends meet or you’re a millionaire, FPU has something for you. Based on 800 verses of Scripture, the course is a proven plan that will work for you to change everything – your money, your story, your life.

The 10-week course will be Wednesday evenings starting September 14. There will also be a special promotional/informational introductory class on Wednesday, August 31 at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, email Walter Walthall at [FPCRamsey@gmail.com](mailto:FPCRamsey@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAYS 6:30 • SEPTEMBER 14 - NOVEMBER 16

ROSARIA BUTTERFIELD EVENT

Rosaria Champagne Butterfield, renowned author and speaker, will address issues facing the Church in today’s culture as well as point us to solutions based firmly in God’s Word—from the original design for marriage and sexuality to the call to the Church to minister to those bound in sin with the freedom that is found only in Christ. The event will be held at Christ Presbyterian in New Braunfels. For more information and to register: [www.togiveananswer.com](http://www.togiveananswer.com).

AUGUST 11-12

MEN’S RETREAT

October 21-22, 2016 at T Bar M Resort/Conference Center, 2549 Hwy 46 West, New Braunfels, Texas.

The men’s retreat is a time of fellowship, building up the body of Christ through large groups, small breakout groups for discussion, “downtime,” and worshipping together. The time away, the solitude, and the great setting for this special retreat will help renew you in a special way. The cost of the retreat will be \$120 per person (double occupancy). More details to come.

For more information or to register contact Stacie Rodriguez at 210-271-2759 or [stacier@fpcsat.org](mailto:stacier@fpcsat.org) by August 1, 2016.

OCTOBER 21-22

LUNCHEON TO HONOR REV. ZBINDEN, HEMINGWAY TO SPEAK!

The Ecumenical Center for Religion and Health, located at the Medical Center, will host their annual Legacy of Hope Luncheon to be held on Thursday, October 6, 2016.

The guest speaker will be actress and author Mariel Hemingway, and we are excited to announce that this year’s honoree is our very own Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden!

Many of you may have already received an invitation to this wonderful event, but if you haven’t and would like to join in celebrating Louis’ dedication to The Ecumenical Center, please e-mail Suzanne Terry with your name(s) and mailing address to [suzan-terry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:suzan-terry@sbcglobal.net), or call her at (210) 828-4518.

Either method of contact will ensure you’re placed on the invitation list.

Thank you!  
Suzanne and Ted Terry, Chairs  
Carol and Dave West, Co-Chairs

OCTOBER 6

170TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!

Mark your calendars for Sunday, September 18, as First Pres will celebrate 170 years since its founding in San Antonio, as well as our new affiliation with ECO! In addition to a special luncheon that day, look for more information to come regarding worship and activities for the whole family.

As the “oldest, newest” Protestant church in San Antonio, we welcome everyone to join in this event as we continue to make Jesus visible to our community and to grow in His Word.

SEPTEMBER 18





# FIRST PRES VBS 2016

First Presbyterian Church hosted its annual Vacation Bible School in June where kids were able to Dive Deep into the Word of God. With the Texas heat rising outside, kids and volunteers were able to take a splash of adventure and fun while they explored the underwater voyage. It was a fantastic week full of singing, games, crafts, snacks, mission projects, and learning about God.

Over eighty kids from the ages of two years-old to eleven years-old “swam” the hallways of FPC as they wandered through the sea creature filled rooms to create multiple crafts, eat fish-themed snacks, play ocean games, and watch the skit of the day. Throughout the week, the kids learned that God would always have their back through any obstacle they encounter. Not only does God always have our back, but he also knows us, hears us, strengthens us, loves us, and sends us out to do great things in the world. Each day we discussed the five themes of the day through different Bible stories of Noah, Jonah, Peter, Jesus’ love for his disciples and all of his people, and Paul. Kids learned that God is with us wherever we go!

Throughout the week, kids brought money each day so that kids in Haiti can attend Children’s Bible Camps (much like VBS) in their own country through Mission Haiti! All the money raised helps the mission team from FPC provide materials to teach kids in Haiti more about God and the

Bible. Each day, for every dollar a child brought, they were given a balloon to blow up and put in our Mission Haiti kiddie pool. As the week progressed, we watched the balloons pile up and by the end of the week, we had balloons spilling out of the pool! The kids exceeded all expectations and generously raised \$180.00 for Mission Haiti by the end of the week.

In addition to that, the kids had a mission project they participated in each day which included putting together snack-packs for the Loaves and Fishes program, wrote motivational and inspirational notes for the mission group going to Haiti, made gospel bracelets, and learned more about our friends in Haiti.

The best part about VBS is watching the kids discover who God is and how to trust God with their own lives. It was such a joy to see FPC filled with rambunctious and joyful life and energy throughout the week as the kids celebrated God and God’s great power in our lives.

Many thanks to all who graciously volunteered to help during this year’s VBS. Whether it was teaching a class, decorating the church, singing and dancing, serving snacks, or helping behind the scenes, we could not have done it without you! On behalf of the Children’s Ministry Department at FPC, THANK YOU!





# DREAM BIG

Will Hensley grew up in the 80's playing video games and dreaming on the computer. "Hey Will, go out—get some fresh air. Throw a ball. Climb a tree."

He saw his mom molding young pianists and dad shaping buildings, and making up silly songs or lyrics about Will and Victoria at home. Dad started Will on guitar.

Will played guitar, bass and drums for our initial Sunday evening Contemporary Service band. Years before that, he was in our "Off Broadway Players" FPC productions of HMS Pinafore, Annie and Carnival—a great multi-generational family bonding activity.

At Alamo Heights schools, Will played viola in orchestra, drums in marching band, and bass guitar or drums in jazz band. He performed original songs in the high school talent shows, and was compared favorably to alumnus Christopher Cross.

"WHAT, COLLEGE? By then, one of my rock bands should be touring."

Sound Recording Technology at Texas State University in San Marcos blended his interests. An internship and early work with a famous New York City producer included mixing Coldplay and John Mayer albums.

Today, Will records and mixes albums with budding and established artists in NYC. One singer song writer told another, "I want your band for my next album."

Her answer? "My band was Will Hensley."

Will is living his dream, by helping others build and orchestrate theirs.

Hmmm. That sounds like something we should all do.

Will won a 2015 Grammy for mixing Tim Kubart's best children's album "HOME."

DREAM BIG!



## BY BILL HENSLEY



# PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE, PRESIDENT

Welcome to a new year for the women of First Presbyterian Church! I am honored to serve in the capacity of your President for 2016-2017 and look forward to a joyful and productive time together. I follow a tremendous group of PW officers, chairmen and members under the very capable leadership last year of President Ann Dennis. Through the generosity and hard work of our members during 2015-2016, PW was able to donate funds to House of Neighborly Service Sus Hijas, Presbyterian Children's Home, Christian Dental Clinic, FPC Children's Center Scholarship Fund, World Vision and Young Lives.

In late June, many PW members showed their love and support for the children attending Vacation Bible School at our church. These women taught classes, provided snacks and helped wherever needed. A special note of gratitude goes to Bunkie Shed and the women of Service Circle 20 as well as other PW members who provided delicious nourishment to VBS volunteers throughout the week.

And now as we turn to the fall, we find many exciting and fulfilling opportunities for learning and service. We look forward to this year's study of Intersections of Grace: Reflections on a Life of Faith written by FPC member, Susan Kerr. Under the gifted leadership of Moderator Chairman, June Eubank, many talented and knowledgeable women will also contribute as Circle Moderators or teachers for our small circle groups. These ladies additionally coordinate with the Circle Chairmen who plan activities for growth, outreach and fellowship. We are very grateful for the time commitments and for the teaching and organizational abilities

of all of these women who serve our church in this very important way.

In addition to study groups, there are many and varied PW activities available for all. These include circle meetings, literature circle, young mom's group, sewing ministries, evening events, luncheons, prayer shawl ministry and other ways to both serve and enjoy fellowship. Please see our 2016-2017 Calendar for dates and a complete listing of PW functions. Also, please note our first PW event of the year, the Fall Ladies' Night Out, that will occur on Thursday, September 29 at 7:00 pm. This occasion will be at the lovely home of Sallie Guy at 101 Paseo Encinal and is a welcoming time of fellowship, food and fun for all the ladies of the church.

We would love to welcome each of you to our activities and as our PW brochure states, "If you are a woman and a member of this church, you are a member of Presbyterian Women." For further information, please feel free to contact me at [lindar@satx.rr.com](mailto:lindar@satx.rr.com); Vice-President for New Members, Georgia Heath, at [gkhymheath@earthlink.net](mailto:gkhymheath@earthlink.net); or Vice-President for Circles, Linda Delano, at [ldelano@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ldelano@sbcglobal.net).

I look forward to the coming year as we are led by God to do His Will at Fourth and Alamo and beyond. Women of the church, please join us in a joyful year of service, fellowship and study as we strive at our historic church to discern and fulfill God's plan for us.

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven." Matthew 5:1

# PW CALENDAR

**AUGUST 29 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council and Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council and Moderators' Meetings

**SEPTEMBER 29 • THURSDAY**  
7:00 PM: Fall Ladies' Night Out

**OCTOBER 3 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**OCTOBER 18 • TUESDAY**  
9:30 AM: Christmas Craft Project

**OCTOBER 24 • MONDAY**  
11:30 AM: Fall PW Luncheon

**NOVEMBER 7 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**NOVEMBER 27 • SUNDAY**  
2:00 - 4:00 PM: Advent Festival

**DECEMBER 1 • THURSDAY**  
3:00 PM: Morningside Manor Christmas Party  
Circles 6, 9, 11, 14, 21

**DECEMBER 5 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**DECEMBER 8 • THURSDAY**  
3:00 PM: Chandler Home Christmas Party  
Circles 112, 2/4, 7, 8, 20

**DECEMBER 24 • SATURDAY**  
7:00 - 9:00 PM: Christmas Eve Reception

**JANUARY 9 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**JANUARY 26 • THURSDAY**  
6:00 PM: Winter Ladies' Night Out

**FEBRUARY 6 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**MARCH 6 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**MARCH 27 • MONDAY**  
11:30 AM: Spring PW Luncheon

**APRIL 3 • MONDAY**  
9:45 AM: Refreshments - Council & Moderators  
10:00 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings

**APRIL 15 • SATURDAY**  
10:00 AM: Children's Easter Program

**MAY 1 • MONDAY**  
10:30 AM: Council & Moderators' Meetings  
11:30 AM: Presidents' Luncheon

**MAY 3 • WEDNESDAY**  
10:30 AM - 12:30 PM: May Coffee





# KEYS



## CELEBRATING JUNE KHYM

Can you imagine all of the inventions and world events that have occurred in the last one hundred years? Well, the newest centenarian at First Presbyterian has lived an interesting and fulfilling life during a century.

June Khym was born on June 28, 1916. A reception with family and friends was held on June 25, 2016 at The Forum at Lincoln Heights in her honor. She attended the University of Illinois, where she was a member of Alpha Delta Pi. She sang in the Chicago Conservatory Chorus and met her future husband Frank, while both were members of their church choir. They married in 1940 and lived in various cities in the USA before residing in Mexico for thirty years where their daughter Georgia Khym-Heath was raised. They traveled extensively throughout the world. After settling in San Antonio, they became members of FPC in 1978. They were active members of the Adult Bible Class for years. Frank was an elder, and June was a deacon.

June and her husband, along with Margaret and Ed Walthall, and Millie and Howard Huber, were instrumental in starting a group at FPC which is known today as KEYS (Keep Everyone Young in Spirit). June is also an active member of the PEO, Chapter Y in San Antonio, and attends her monthly meeting. June is a certified International Flower Show judge. She was a member of the Whispering Oaks Garden Club and a former officer of the Garden Center. She used her expertise to teach flower arranging and also started the Flower Girls Committee that is still active at FPC. One of her techniques was to teach left-handed arrangers to use a mirror image in designing arrangements.

June has enjoyed doing the activities she loves, especially singing and dancing. That just may be the secret of her long and active life.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**AUGUST 3:** HEB Cooking School for a demonstration and lunch (seating limited)

**AUGUST 5:** Fitness at 9:45.

**AUGUST 12 AND 26:** Fitness at 9:45. Bridge and Mah Jongg at 11:00.

**AUGUST 19:** Birthday lunch at The Hyatt Regency Hotel

**SEPTEMBER 9:** KEYS Kick-Off program—Bluegrass and Barbecue (see following information).

## IN-A-JAM BLUEGRASS BAND

259 Verbena Hill, San Antonio, Texas 78258  
210-233-1929

The IN-A-JAM Band members met in 2014 playing the Monday Night Jam at The Barbecue Station. From there the group started a practice session at each others homes and then the BIG question came “Do we want to start a BAND?” Thus the band was formed and continues today having more fun with the bluegrass sounds, instruments and now playing favorite oldies songs ref. Beatles, Eagles, Everly Brothers to name a few. You got it, people DO sing along with us and join the fun.

The band has played for the Wounded Warrior Family Support Center Fort Sam Houston several times. On November 19th of last year, the band played for the HEB Headquarters Convention for the Diversity In Food and Music event. Hundreds of guests attended and enjoyed the food and music. The band played for The Barbecue Station, Loop 410, in February 2016 to a standing room only main dining room.

On May 7, 2016, the band played for the Pearl Brewery Market Days event here in San Antonio and is booked to play each month; also playing for the New Braunfels Farmers Market Days which started in May 2016.

We are a bluegrass band, that as you will “hear” plays, old bluegrass songs as well as a variety of songs from the past that, TRUST me, everyone sings along with and enjoys. As we say the band plays “Acoustic Music With A Bluegrass Attitude”.

Cheers! See you on September 9!

## FOURTH OF JULY PICNIC RECAP

From the smiles and laughter, it was obvious that those who attended this year’s All-Church Picnic were having a good time. A new serving arrangement allowed four lines to move through at one time, expediting the wait to get the food. Members of KEYS received pot luck items during the morning and arranged them for easy selection. Kay Kutchins provided an abundant amount of fried chicken, and many church members brought pot luck dishes to share. The KEYS provided the ice cream with toppings and set out the other desserts provided by members of the congregation. Members of the choir assisted as families and friends gathered around tables, enjoying the food and fellowship.



# HISTORY CORNER WOMEN AT WORK

BY BILL COGBURN

SOURCE: FIRST PRES ARCHIVES

This photo was taken on February 26, 1968 on the front steps of the church. The ladies were celebrating the 94th year anniversary of the founding of the Ladies Aid Society which was organized at First Pres on February 26, 1874. The women, in period costume, presented an entertaining program for their general meeting as a way to remember and honor those First Pres women who pioneered our women’s organizations.

On the left in the photo is Mrs. David McCullough portraying Mrs. Mary Means. Next is Mrs. Marion McCurdy as Miss Laura Mitchell, Mrs. J. Maxey Hart as Mrs. J. W. Culver and Mrs. Henry Stumberg, Jr., as Mrs. Floyd McGown. The program for their general meeting was written by Mrs. McCurdy who used historical notes left by Miss Laura Mitchell, who was an active member of the First Pres women’s group ninety-four years earlier.

The very first women’s organization at First Pres began in 1854 as a sewing circle of only five members. They



met regularly to sew for worthy causes but later added bible study. Church history tells us that they were able to raise enough money to buy permanent seats for the church. At that time, First Pres was just a small adobe building on Commerce Street where members had to bring their own chairs, crates and stools to sit on.

On February 26, 1874, at the home of Mrs. W. A. (Mary) Bennett, the Ladies Aid Society was organized with sixteen charter members. The “Aid” in their name meant exactly that. They were ready to lend a helping hand where it was needed. They paid off church debts, bought carpeting, paid the janitor, installed the organ, paid ministers’ back salaries, helped the poor, cared for the sick, taught Sunday School, entertained visiting ministers in their homes and all the while, preparing meals for church events.

In 1884, the Foreign Mission Society was organized, then the Home Missionary Society in 1896, followed by the Builders Aid Association in 1909 (a short-lived organization to raise funds for “extras” not included in the new

building’s budget).

Just prior to World War I, all these groups merged into one organization—The Women’s Auxiliary of First Presbyterian Church. In 1947, the name was changed again to Women of the Church and finally to Presbyterian Women in 1988 after First Pres merged with PCUSA.

# UPDATES

## BAPTISMS

## MARRIAGES

## NEW MEMBERS

### BAPTISMS

- Ella Kate Parish, child of Luke Parish and Sara Pritchett Parish, born on November 16, 2015. Baptized on February 21, 2016 in Traditional Worship Service by Rev. Dr. Ron Scates.
- John William Diggs, child of John Wesley Diggs and Victoria Salgado de Diggs, born on December 31, 2015. Baptized on February 28, 2016 in Contemporary Worship by Rev. Dr. Ron Scates.
- David William Summers, son of John and Rebecca Summers, born on March 4, 2015, baptized on April 17, 2016, in the traditional worship service, Rev. Ron Scates officiated.
- Isabelle Faith Bulen, baptized on May 15, 2016, in the traditional worship service, Rev. Ron Scates officiated. (Confirmand)
- Melchizedek Awinab Bukari, son of Martin Abasiba Bukari and Christiana Ayivoore, born on April 25, 2016, baptized on May 22, 2016 in the contemporary worship service, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates officiated.
- Six children and one adult from

Seton Home baptized in the contemporary worship service on May 22, 2016, Rev. Ron Scates officiated.

### MARRIAGES (MEMBERS & \*NON-MEMBERS)

- Ariece Ashley Marek and \*Tyler Anthony Flavin were married on May 21, 2016, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates officiated.
- Sarah Anne Hornberger and \*Kyle Brandon Palmer were married on May 28, 2016, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates officiated.
- Katherine Claire Corley and \*David Gilbert Leach were married on June 4, 2016, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates officiated.
- Alexandra Holdsworth Rogers and \*Patrick Cain Crawford, married on June 11, 2016, Rev. Dr. Ron Scates officiated.
- \*Ronald James Garcia Jr. and \*Therese Marie Payne were married on April 30, 2016 with Rev. Scott Simpson officiating.
- Alyssa Lauren Englehart and John Edward Baumann were married on April 9th 2016, with Rev. Scott Simpson officiating.

### NEW MEMBERS

- Beyer, Glenda Louise  
Joined by Reaffirmation 1/31/16
- Beyer, Paul K.  
Joined by Reaffirmation 1/31/16
- Curless, Miss Gianna  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Curless, Miss Mikala  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Curless, Mrs Vicki  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Hill, Mrs Kathleen  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Hooks, Mr Jeff J.  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Hooks, Shan  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Rine, Mr Gary W.  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Sims, Mrs Patricia (Patt)  
Joined by Transfer Letter 1/31/16
- Spence, Dr Ritchie C. (Ritchie)  
Joined by Reaffirmation 1/31/16
- Thomson, Mrs Ruth  
Joined by Reaffirmation 1/31/16
- Thomson, Mr Thomas A. (Tom)  
Joined by Reaffirmation 1/31/16
- Walker, Mr Justin Grant

- Joined by Reaffirmation 1/31/16
- Ayivoore, Christiana  
Joined by Transfer Letter 4/10/16
- Bukari, Martin Abasiba (Martin)  
Joined by Transfer Letter 4/10/16
- Cotton, Danyel Rose (Danny)  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Harper, Mr Chad Dwayne (Chad)  
Joined by Transfer Letter 4/10/16
- Harper, Mrs Katie Dabney  
Joined by Transfer Letter 4/10/16
- Lyon, Etura P. (ET)  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Narvaez, Dinaisi joined 4/10/16
- Narvaez, Sully Anali (Sully)  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Owenby, Bunny  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Owenby, Jazzmine  
Joined by Profess. Faith 4/10/16
- Owenby, Stacy  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Picard, Erika  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Redkey, Mrs Caren  
Joined by Transfer Letter 4/10/16
- Smith, Tinsley Cheatham  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Wilson, O'shieanna (O'shey)  
Joined by Reaffirmation 4/10/16
- Anthis, Mr Harrison  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Bulen, Isabelle Faith (Faith)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Byrd, Mr Travis Walker  
Joined by Reaffirmation 5/9/16
- Flesher, Mr Andrew Edward  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Johnson, Mr James McAllister (Jamie)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Mauze, Miss Josephine Brown  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- McGarraugh, Miss Josephine (Josie)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Meadows, Miss Anne Frances (Annie)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Northington, Mr Harrison McDermott (Mac)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Simpson, Mr Joshua Daniel (Josh)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Storm, Mr Samuel Banner (Sam)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16
- Williamson, Miss Lucinda Devereaux (Lucy)  
Joined by Profess. Faith 5/9/16



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS | BY ALEX SOLORIO, UNIVERSITY/YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY



Church! What an honor and a privilege it is to write to you on this day, I am thankful for you and all that you represent. A physical representation of a people group that is called to represent Christ in all that we do and wherever we go. A people group called to action, not of strife or in retaliation, but rather in righteous action that loves, is kind hearted and gracious. To stand for those that cannot stand for themselves, to be a voice to those that are voiceless and to be strong when the powers of injustice cause others to be weak. Being one of the oldest churches in San Antonio, we are not proud because of our historic name, but rather we stand strong due to the God that we serve here in this city. As I speak these words, is there a hint of conviction? Have we lived up to all that we have been called to be? Most of all, have we done the one single thing that Christ has asked us to do when he ascended into heaven, to go OUT and make disciples beyond our stained glass windows?

There is true beauty in conviction. I teach my college students that conviction is like someone is pulling on your shirt which causes discomfort. Not a painful discomfort but more of a reminder. Some would say that conviction makes you feel guilty. But rather, I am teaching my students to embrace conviction. Conviction is the slight tugging of the Holy Spirit reminding you who you are and what you represent as an ambassador of the Word, a son/daughter of the most high, and as a Christian. There is beauty in conviction because it means there is someone on the other side tugging at our hearts.

Church, I pray that as our church moves forward to a new chapter in our history we embrace our identity in Christ and respond to the convictions which tug on our hearts today. As I walk into church on Sundays I am excited and thrilled to see each and every one of you. Though I don't have the privilege of having a conversation with you all, I know each of you has personally responded to Christ. Life is filled with opportunities to respond. So as we look beyond the beautiful stained glass windows of our church,

we must remind ourselves that our church is not the building but the people! And we as the people of God respond in love to issues and problems. Whether it is in simple conversation or in rebuking someone you love out of love, let us be active in our faith.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, today is the day to be what God has called you to be, and God willing when new members join our church and walk through our doors, from whatever race, culture, language, or socioeconomic background, I ask you to respond in love, grace, and mercy. Jesus said, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." Everyday there are opportunities to be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around us. Take some time to ask the Lord who He wants you to respond to, in or out of church. Who can you love on today the way Jesus would have loved them?

I leave you with what I tell our college students every week, "You are blessed and highly favored. You are beautifully and wonderfully made, and so long as there is breath in your lungs, God has a plan and purpose for your life."

Grace and Peace.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | BRING THE HEAT | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



We have had to devote the last several weekends to landscaping, and when manicuring five acres that equates to many burn piles. I could not help but witness first hand why so many biblical references are made to compare the Holy Spirit and our faith to fire. With very green leaves and limbs, it seemed as though the fire would never really ignite, much in the same way that a nonbeliever can seem resistant to accepting Christ. Or in other instances I would burn piles of dry grass, the slightest of effort would create a huge fire but it would burn out as quickly as it began, just like a faith without real substance will sing God's praises in the light of day but will fade quickly in the face of adversity. Then you have the fire that slowly builds, establishing a foundation of coals producing such heat that it equally consumes and lights other fires with anything in which it comes into contact, the same can be said

with those devout in their faith, which has existed for years and has such a glow that just being exposed to their presence you feel the warm embrace of Christ and are consumed by His Spirit. At times it seems as though these fires will never cease, yet after being constantly exposed to the elements of rain, depletion of oxygen, and lack of fuel, (corruption, hypocrisy, injustice) even these flames can be beaten down and extinguished. But I found something unique with this brand of fire, although it seems gone forever, embers are still raging beneath the surface and if just a little stoking and attention is properly provided, they return to their previous state of rapid oxidation. So what stage is your fire currently in? Are you resistant and need a little time? Do you need a better foundation? Are you so consumed that the warmth of the Holy Spirit is constantly with you? Or are you in need of being stoked? Determine what you need to keep your fire burning and provide it the fuel that it so desperately wants and needs.

WELCOME NEW STAFF | BOB FULLER | ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION



Bob is a 1991 graduate of Washington and Lee University, and a 1996 graduate of Union Seminary. He received his doctorate from Union Seminary in 2006. He was ordained in August of 1996, and began his ministry as Associate Pastor for Service and Young Adults at First Presbyterian Church of Charlotte, North Carolina. He then served as the Pastor of Hebron Presbyterian Church of Manakin-Sabot, Virginia, for four years. Bob was currently the Senior Pastor of Fairview Presbyterian Church in North Augusta, South Carolina, where he has served faithfully for the past 13 years. He is married to Morgan (college sweetheart who grew up in Odessa, Texas) and they have two children. Ellie

will be a junior in high school and Bo will be entering the 7th grade. Bob is very relational, a gifted preacher, and has a wonderful sense of humor. He takes seriously both the Bible and the theology of the reformed tradition. He fully believes that "the local church is the hope of the world." Bob has been blessed by multiple mentors in his life and hopes to be a mentor/pastor to others on our staff here at FPC San Antonio. His family loves the outdoors and especially spending time on the water. They are anxious and excited about this new call on their lives and look forward to serving among us. He and his family plan to be on board later this month.









# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SAN ANTONIO

LIVING TO MAKE JESUS VISIBLE

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

NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS  
PERMIT NO. 169

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



210-226-0215 • [www.fpcsanantonio.org](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org)

