

First Press

NIGHT OF WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES

FEBRUARY 2017 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL

BY REV. DR. BOB FULLER • CO-PASTOR

In 1803, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned an expedition called the “Corps of Discovery” to explore the territory of North America west of the Mississippi. He assigned Captain Meriwether Lewis to lead the expedition. Knowing that he could not lead the expedition alone, Lewis contacted an old army buddy, William Clark, and asked Clark to be his co-commander. The captain knew that he needed a partner equally capable and, even more, who he could completely trust.

In his book, *Canoeing the Mountains*, Professor Tod Bolsinger uses the example of Lewis and Clark to highlight the importance of “partnership.” Partnership was the core of the “Corps of Discovery.” Together, these men opened the west and expanded the horizons of our fledgling nation. Together.

The Apostle Paul knew that partnership was critical to God’s work. In Romans 1, he wrote “...I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine” (Romans 1:11-12). The Apostle is saying, “You can learn from me and I can learn from you; we need one another to pursue God’s mission.”

In many ways, First Presbyterian Church is moving into unknown, uncharted territory and the best way for us to explore God’s opportunities is to explore them together. Bolsinger wants us to understand that the best way to navigate the unknown is to do it with people we trust.

In ECO, we are not just called “members,” we are called “covenant partners.” We are still “members” of the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12), but this new designation reminds us of the commitment we have made to serve the Lord together.

On January 29, Ron Scates and I were installed as Co-pastors of First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio. I can’t claim Ron’s faithfulness, experience or wisdom, but I am honored to be his partner. Even as we became partners in ministry, we also became partners with you—the members, elders, deacons, staff, and pastors of the church. We are so blessed by this calling, and as Professor Bolsinger says, “Perhaps the most unexpected, challenging and delightful work of transformational leadership is when it becomes the shared work of friends.”

In the months and years to come, let’s encourage one another as friends and share our spiritual gifts, learning from one another as we venture into this new chapter in the life of FPC!

- Bob

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WEDNESDAY INTERSECTION

Join us for our mid-week ministry designed to bring our church family together to build our faith and our relationships with one another. Our goal is to “connect people to people and people to Christ,” and Wednesday night is a time for us to pause and recharge during the middle of the week.

5:00 PM: Children’s Choirs
5:00 PM: “The Open Book” Bible Study
5:30 PM: Dinner
5:45 PM: Sanctuary Handbells
6:00 PM: Children’s Program
6:30 PM: “The Open Book” Bible Study
6:30 PM: Women’s Bible Study
6:30 PM: Spiritual Gifts Class
6:45 PM: Contemporary Music Rehearsal
7:00 PM: High School Guys
7:00 PM: Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
7:15 PM: High School Girls Bible Study (Offsite)

Go online to www.fpcsantonio.org/intersection for more information.

NIGHT OF WORSHIP AT FIRST PRES

I want to invite you to be a part of a beautiful worship experience on February 12. As we look towards lent, the scripture John 1:14 “And The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us” will be the the main focus of an interactive worship night. You will have the opportunity to sing, pray, and experience six different prayer stations that will help us focus on the Lenten season. I look forward to worshipping with you!

- Kevin Dailey, Contemporary Worship Leader

FEBRUARY 12

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Bring a friend for the FPC Literature Circle’s meeting when member, Robert Browning, will review, *The Summer Before the War* by author Helen Simonson. Beatrice Nash, is a newly arrived (and a FIRST FEMALE) Latin teacher in the English coastal village of Rye. Her scholarly father has died and Beatrice is now seeking independence from his family who controls what money she inherited. She has experienced the friendship of Agatha Kent (a force in the village) and her two nephews, but also the challenge of an unpleasant landlady, unscrupulous solicitors and reluctant pupils.

Germany invaded Belgium in 1914 which heralds England going to war, thus the last summer before the Great War. The novel is a delightful story about romantic relationships, class snobbery, the tragedy of war and the complications of living in a small community.

Join us in the McCullough Room on Tuesday, February 14, at 1:00 PM for a social half hour followed by the review.

FEBRUARY 14 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

BURSTING WITH FLOWER VASES

Thank you FPC for donating a bumper crop of flower vases this spring to the Flower Girl Ministry. Thanks to your generosity, our shelves are full! Until further notice, please recycle your vases at your favorite donation station.

- The Flower Girls

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON

Please save the date for the Women of the Church Spring Luncheon 2017! Susan Kerr, author of *Intersections of Grace: Reflections on a Life of Faith*, and a longtime member of FPC, will be our speaker. Reservations are required and your check for \$20 per person may be made out to FPC with WOC Spring Luncheon on the memo line. Please also put your email address or phone number on the check and list separately the names of your guests who will be at your table. The deadline for reservations is March 20 and guest names may be emailed by this date. Tables of 8 are available.

All checks are to be MAILED to Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Childcare is available at the church by reservation only by calling Sonya Wright at 210-271-2720 or emailing her at sonyaw@fpcsat.org. For any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Mauze at me-mauze@gmail.com or Rhae Chell Mauze at mauze@sbcglobal.net.

The event will take place on Monday, March 27 at 11:30 AM (doors open at 11:00 AM) in Westminster Hall. We look forward to seeing you there!

MARCH 27

MISSIONARY, BETH ALLEN, SPEAKING AT FPC

Beth Allen, a long time friend of First Presbyterian Church, serves on staff with Food for the Hungry and her home base is in Arizona, but she is constantly traveling around the world to oversee and improve many of Food for the Hungry’s (FH) programs. Today, Beth is the Media Resource Manager. She helps bring stories of how God is working through FH in over 20 countries, to supporters worldwide. In August, Beth celebrated 20 years of ministering with FH—and 20 years of partnership with FPC. Beth will be with us on Sunday, March 5th, speaking during the 9:30 AM Sunday School hour, join us in Covenant Hall.

MARCH 5

PROJECT 240 IS COMING!

This will be our sixth year to partner with Habitat for Humanity in our annual all church service event. On April 30th after worship, we’ll share lunch together then transform our FPC parking lot into a construction site filled with fellowship, framing materials, and fun. Our goal is to build the frames of five houses in 240 minutes (or less!). No construction expertise is necessary and everyone is welcome to participate. Children over age five are welcome to build alongside parents, and childcare is provided for the event if you register online. Look for more information soon to register for this important annual event!

APRIL 30

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS EXPERIENCE PASSION CONFERENCE



What is the Passion Conference? It is a conference for college students from ages 18-25, gathering to lift up one name above all others—Jesus.

Through Passion City Church and the leadership of Louie Giglio, Passion has changed and influenced lives of college students for the past decade. With prominent speakers like Francis Chan, John Piper, and Christine Caine, students are immersed in God's word and encouraged to walk in the calling God has for their lives. The bookends of the days involve family groups where students meet other students from different states as they process the sermons and apply it to their own lives, while building friendships that will last a lifetime.

This year, First Presbyterian Church San Antonio was able to take a group of 15 to the Georgia Dome in Atlanta for Passion! All returned cheerfully with phenomenal testimonies of how God moved them in a catalytic way!

"I think the entire trip was amazing! From the van ride to the conference itself, the relationships that were built and the wisdom that was given is priceless, to not only a college student but also to me as the College and Young Adult Associate. I'm excited to see our students continue to grow and participate where God has called them!"
-Alex Solorio

Special thanks to Hunter and Sammy Verheul and Emily Yergler for their willingness to be used by God and serve our college students!

If you would like more information about our College ministry and would like to be plugged in, please contact Alex Solorio at alexs@fpcsat.org.



GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

BY ANNE SCATES



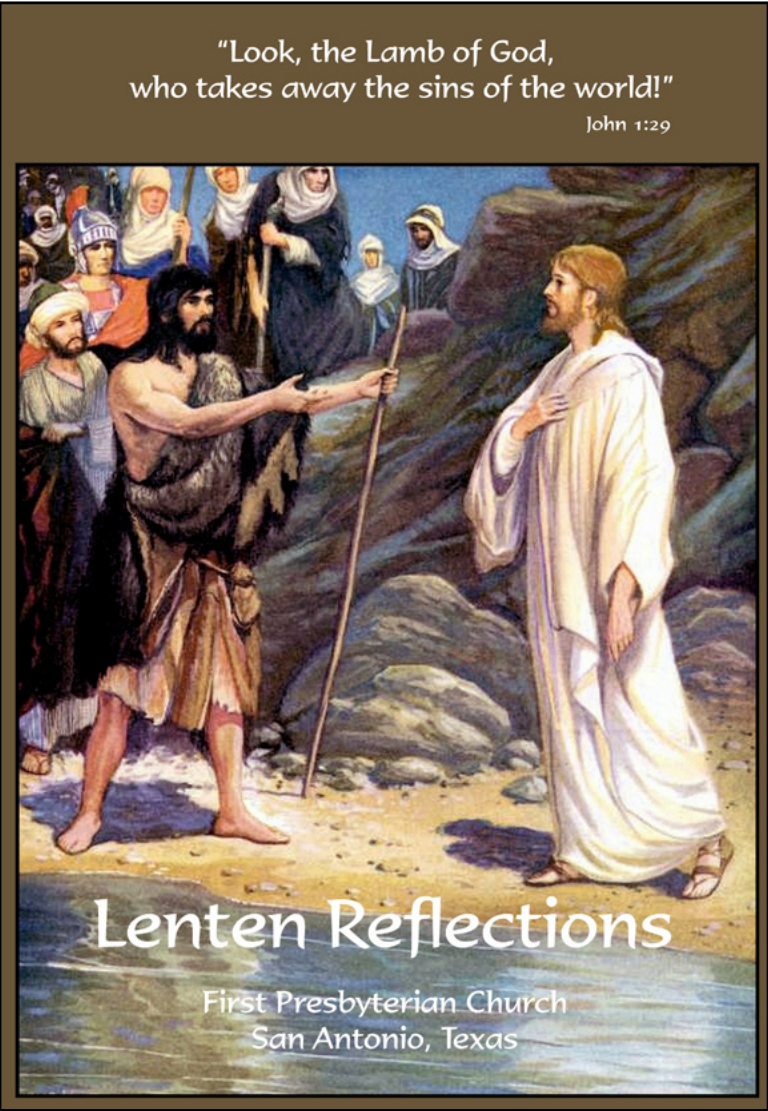
Once again, the congregation of First Presbyterian Church has risen to the occasion in making Jesus visible to many families in need across San Antonio's west side.

A total of 31 families received your love, compassion, and generosity this Christmas in Jesus' name. My co-chair, Judith McNeel, and I want to give our deepest thanks and gratitude to all of the Women of the Church circles, Sunday School classes, church ministries, small groups, church staff, and individual families who adopted one or more families and brought joy and hope to many grateful parents and children.

Christ's love was tangibly fleshed-out as gift and food deliveries were made. Those deliveries were met with tears of joy, many smiles, and words of thankfulness. In like manner, Judith and I are thankful for your faithfulness in being such a blessing to those whom Christ has given us to love.



LENTEN REFLECTIONS



Lent: A time of prayer and reflection on God's love and grace in Jesus Christ!

The Lenten season begins this year with Ash Wednesday on March 1 and culminates with Easter Sunday on April 16. To help us be ready, a joy-filled reminder of God's gracious gift of love in Jesus Christ is coming your way—a new *Lenten Reflections* booklet for 2017!

Preparations for the new booklet began when Prayer Ministry members sought a way to honor one of God's very special prayer warriors—Sissy Orsinger—and the goal of her generous bequest to encourage the study of God's Word and make First Presbyterian Church (FPC) a true house of prayer. While Sissy is now with her risen Lord and Savior, her Spirit-led example of an abundant life of prayer lives on.

From the beginning, this has been a Spirit-led collaborative effort across the congregation, undergirded by prayer and a sense of joy at every step. Before the Prayer Ministry Committee began calling members of the congregation to be authors, we prayed for the Lord's guidance. We prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide the decisions of potential authors. And for those who agreed to write, we prayed that the Holy Spirit would then guide and shape their writings. Finally, we now humbly praise God and thank each author for their wise, knowledgeable and inspiring words.

As in past years (1997 and 2011), this year's *Lenten Reflections* include 47 new writings by FPC members. The authors graciously agreed to reflect on Old and New Testament scriptures for a given day, and then share their personal understanding of the implications of God's

Word for life individually and together as a community of faith, worship and service. We believe you will be encouraged and inspired by their thoughts. The booklet also includes special artwork and associated scriptural texts which tell the story of Jesus from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday.

Fellow FPC members, as we read the daily reflections and ponder our own thoughts, may we as a congregation come together on Easter Day and celebrate with penitent hearts and minds filled with the joy of our risen Lord! And may we then go out each day that follows and humbly praise God as we seek to make Jesus known to all we encounter.

Starting on February 12, the Lenten Reflections booklet will be available for pickup on Sundays in the Mauze Lobby and the Narthex. A copy of the booklet will also be mailed to at-home members and others who currently receive the FPC Newsletter by mail. In addition, so you may share with family and friends, the booklet will be available for viewing and download at the FPC website (fpcsanantonio.org).



I understand that Rodeo is a big event in San Antonio, I look forward to my first experience. This month we will kick off Rodeo month with KEYS Favorite, Rick Cavender and his band. Afterwards, we look forward to closing out our Rodeo Experience with Chuck Swisher, National Champion Bull Fighter. In between will be our Co-Pastors, Ron Scates and Bob Fuller, bringing us up to speed on what God's directions is for us in the coming year and beyond. We hope to see you at KEYS in February!



FROM OUR CHRISTMAS FAMILY:

"Merry Christmas! Thank you so much for what y'all [have] done for my family this year it was truly a blessing and the kids loved everything! Hope y'all have a great Christmas as well!"

BIRTHDAY LUNCH

Thinking about Starting with KEYS?? Why not on your Birthday? Every third Friday KEYS visits a local restaurant to celebrate Birthdays. Come join us for yours—lunch is on us!

February 17: The Menger Hotel (Birthday and Valentines Day Lunch)

March 17: Blanco BBQ

April 21: Fiesta and Birthday Celebration at FPC

May 19: The Carriage House

UPCOMING KEYS EVENTS:

February 10: Join us to hear from our Co-Pastors, Rev Dr. Ron Scates and Rev Dr. Bob Fuller, for their "State of The Church" address. Hear their hearts on the vision of where God is leading us in 2017 and the future of FPC. Lunch will follow (cost is \$8.00 per person).

February 17: Join us for our KEYS Valentine's Day Luncheon at The Menger Hotel, \$15 per person includes full buffet with a fish, meat and pasta entree, shrimp and carved roast beef, dessert, and beverages. If February is your birthday month, we will celebrate and sing to you, but this month's lunch is not complimentary, however you can choose another month to receive your free birthday lunch.

February 24: We will be closing out Rodeo Month with Chuck Swisher – National Champion Bull Fighter and participant in the San Antonio Rodeo. Chuck will be sharing with us how he got involved as a Bull Fighter and his Journey of Faith on the Rodeo Circuit.

Keep Moving Fitness in February, 3, 10, and 24. Bridge and Mah Jongg on the 2nd and 4th Fridays

Coming up: Our next Hamburger and Movie Lunch will be March 31, featuring the movie *Florence Foster Jenkins*, starring Meryl Streep.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

BY LINDA RITTENHOUSE, PRESIDENT

I have observed God’s love in the members of Women of the Church as they have generously and selflessly devoted their lives to service, prayer and the study of God’s word. As I write this article in early January, I continue to appreciate those who made Jesus visible in December. A special and heartfelt thank you is extended to all Women of the Church, far too many to name, who “adopted” families for Christmas, staffed and contributed to the Advent Festival,

organized and attended nursing home Christmas parties, mentored and supported young moms from our Presbyterian ministries, planned and carried out the Christmas Eve Reception for ministers and their families, choir and staff, donated food and made monetary contributions when needed, and so much more. We are especially grateful to the following WOC Chairmen for their leadership during the Christmas season:



Anne Scates
Christmas Families Ministry



Judith McNeel
Christmas Families Ministry



Maggie Hardwick
Morningside Manor Christmas Party



Janet Wernli
Chandler Home Christmas Party



Karin Gabrielson, Bonnie Diehl, Suzanne Norton, Sheila Figueroa
Christmas Eve Reception



Bunkie Shed
Circle 20 Service Circle



Lellen Lane
Presbyterian Children’s Home



Lilly Gretzinger
Christmas Crafts Project



Sara Parish
Christmas Crafts Project



Meg Walker
Christmas Crafts Project



Rhae Chell Mauze
Advent Festival

“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 5:16

BIBLE CIRCLE 1/12

Monday, February 20 • 10:30 AM
FPC Geneva Room
Lunch (optional): \$8.00
Chair: Suzanne Thomas, 846-3240, suzannethomas54@gmail.com
Moderator: Grace Labatt
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler/Jean Syswerda
Topic: Ruth

BIBLE CIRCLE 2/4

Monday, February 20 • 1:30 PM
FPC Room 226 (Red Room)
Chair: Char-An Witten, hm: 341-1856, c: 602-7085
Study: *Her Name is Woman* by Gien Karssen

SHAWL MINISTRY CIRCLE 5

Friday, February 17 • 12:00-1:00 PM
FPC Room 228
Members bring food to share
Chairs: Jane Ann Temple 414-9956, Kay Weber 288-5290

BIBLE CIRCLE 6

Tuesday, February 21 • 1:30 PM
FPC Geneva Room
Chair: Mimi Hart, 822-0809
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr (ch. 18 & 37)
Topic: Transformation: Cultivating Christian Virtues

BIBLE CIRCLE 7

Tuesday, February 21 • 11:30 AM
At the home of Tina Lyons (720 Castano Ave)
Bring sack lunch
Chair: Alison Barker, 872-4484/barker.alison1@gmail.com
Moderator: Pat O’Neill
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr (ch. 18 & 37)
Topic: Transformation: Cultivating Christian Virtues

CIRCLE 8 MOM’S GROUP

Tuesday, February 7 • 7:30 PM
Mom’s Night Out Dinner at 20Nine Wine Bar (255 E Basse Rd)

Tuesday, February 21 • 9:30-11:30 AM
FPC First Floor Student Center
Topic: Valentine’s Day theme
Chairs: Sara Parish 394-0865/sara23sc@hotmail.com,
Lilly Gretzinger 601-0575/lilly@bunngroup.com,
Meg Walker 601-7745/meg@aladdincleans.com
Childcare: RSVP 2 days prior to sonyaw@fpcsat.org

BIBLE CIRCLE 9

Tuesday, February 21 • 10:00 AM
FPC Breakfast Room
Chairs Jan Magnus 829-5866, Pat Brannen 735-4415
Moderator: Members of Circle 9
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr (ch. 18 & 37)
Topic: Transformation: Cultivating Christian Virtues

BIBLE CIRCLE 11

Monday, February 27 • 6:30 PM
At the home of Jean Swanson, hostess (122 Medford Dr 78209). Dinner provided by various circle members
Chair: Karin Gabrielson 843-2475
Moderator: Jean Swanson
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr (ch. 18 & 37)
Topic: Transformation: Cultivating Christian Virtues

LITERATURE CIRCLE 13

Tuesday, February 14 • 1:00 PM
FPC McCullough Room
Chair: Jeanne Browning 824-3921
Book: *The Summer Before The War* by Helen Simonson
Reviewer: Robert Browning

BIBLE CIRCLE 14

Monday, February 20 • 12:00-1:00 PM
FPC St. Andrews Room
Lunch: By reservation
Chair: Marilyn Morris-Etheredge 861-4314/
Marilyn.morris@optum.com
Moderator: Amy Robinson
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler/Jean Syswerda

MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE 16

Wednesday, February 15 • 9:30 AM
FPC: Room 228
Chair: Lee Pressly 735-0978

EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE 17

Wednesday, February 8 • 9:30 AM
FPC: Room 309
Lunch: Bring \$1 for soup provided by kitchen, members bring dessert
Chair: Jeanne Baker 494-0972
Vice Chair: Gigi Duke 695-4363

CIRCLE 18 CARE AND CONCERN

No meeting date
Chairs: Char-An Witten 341-1856,
Georgia Heath 695-9511

CIRCLE 19 WHITE CROSS CIRCLE

Wednesday, February 1 • 9:30 AM
FPC: Room 309
Lunch: The kitchen makes soup (bring \$1) and provides water and coffee, a member will provide dessert
Chair: Janet Beauch 673-3251

CIRCLE 20 CIRCLE OF SERVICE

No meeting date
Chair: Bunkie Shed 824-6690

CIRCLE 21 – EVENING BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Contact Circle Chair for meeting date and location
Dinner: Members provide buffet dinner and dessert
Chair: Andrea Taylor 403-9442, paladianpl@aol.com
Moderator: Member rotation
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr (ch. 18 & 37)
Topic: Transformation: Cultivating Christian Virtues

POINSETTIAS



IN HONOR OF

Field and Lynnnda Barnes
Our Pastoral Staff
Blaire and Brandon Brimer

Kay Beth and David Barr
Kyle, Rhianon, Lane and Poppy Barr
Ashley and Jobe Jackson

Virginia and Don Beeler
Kip and Louis Zbinden

Pat and Ken Brodeen
First Class Adult Sunday School

Ann and Chuck Bunn
The Wonderful Ministers and Staff
at FPC

Susan and Bill Chandler
Our children and grandchildren

Peggy Foote
Jim and Mary Falconer,
Their 66th wedding anniversary

Diane and Tom Gates
In thanksgiving for our family

Karen Herrmann
The birthday of Ronald Joseph
Herrmann

Karen and Ronald J. Herrmann
The birthday of Emilie Herrmann
Petty

Karen and Ronald J. Herrmann
The staff of First Presbyterian Church

Janet and Boxy Hornberger
Our children and grandchildren

Paula and Clyde Johnson
Dorothy Johnson

From her Thursday morning Bible Study group
Susan Kerr

Amelita and David Mauzé
Our son, George, and our parents

Martha McCulloch
My son Ritchie McCulloch and his wife Karen
My daughter Marti Taylor and her husband Richard

Diana Morehouse
Bible Study Leader, Susan Kerr

From her Thursday morning Bible Study group
Emily Peeples

Emily Peeples
My Thursday Morning Bible Study Group

Emily and David Peeples
Anne and Paul Smith

Kris and Bruce Petersen
Our Children:
Caroline and Bryce Petersen
Morgan and Dane Petersen

Nancy Puckett
Morgan and Bob Fuller and family
Ann and Burton Kidd
Linda Rittenhouse, PW President
Suzie and Scott Simpson

Ginger Snapp, Our lifelong friendship
Myna Gathers

Polly and George Spencer
Our Many Beloved Friends at FPC

Marti and Richard Taylor
Martha McCulloch
Karen and Ritchie McCulloch

The Matt Terry Family
The Pastors and Staff

Suzanne and Ted Terry
Our children and grandchildren

Westminster Handbell Choir
Dr. Jae Ha

Sidney and Kaye Wilkins
Our Ministers and Staff for their service

Barbara Winship
My wonderful family-
The Brienzis, The Edwards and The Winships

Mrs. Jess Womack, III
Mrs. Clark Munroe
My Grandchildren

Janie and Jim Worth
Anne and Paul Smith

IN MEMORY OF

Oralia Alcalá
My husband, Hazale ‘Chalo’ Alcalá

The Archer Family
Robert R. Archer
Anita N. Lindsay
Pearl N. Nordan

Field and Lynnnda Barnes
Our fathers:
Judge Robert F. Barnes
Forrest H. Sparks

Field and Lynnnda Barnes
Helen Buescher

Virginia and Don Beeler
Arthur G. Fischer
Virginia Fischer Martin

Glenda and Paul Beyer
Loved ones

Debby and J.D. Bowen
Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Ryan

Robert, Jeanne, Eloise and Catherine
Betty and C.L. Browning
Jeanne and Buddy Amacker

James D. Bruton
My wife, Helen
And sons: Mark & Peter

Jane and John Buchek
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Buchek
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Coker

Ann and Chuck Bunn
Mary and Charles Bunn
Ralph Lehr

Mrs. George Burkholder
Dr. George Veeder Burkholder
Dr. and Mrs. Theodore M. Burkholder
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Bell Schneider
Mrs. Margaret Ann Wetzel

Betty Carpenter
Ann Nelson
Ann Pressly

Circle 2/4
Betty Smith

Karen and Tony Coe
Karen’s parents: Fern and Hugh Straw

Bob Collins
My wife, Elizabeth “Betty” Attwood
Collins

The Culp Family
E. Barger Miller (Poppa)

Laura A. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Davis, Jr.

Jeanne and Gary Douglas
George A. Knapp

Lois and Dean Elson
Our parents:
Mr. and Mrs. George F. Howe
Mr. and Mrs. Lee Roy Elson

Lois and Dean Elson
Anita Ramirez

Her family
Sallie W. Embs

His family
Lowell D. Embs

Ken Finch
Jeannette “Jenny” Finch
Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Stolte

Peggy Foote
My parents, J.B. & Dorothy Foote

Mr. and Mrs. Henry G. Hadigian
Our Parents

Sally and Hank Hadigian
Dr. Thomas Burns

Nora and Barry Hall
Barbara Jennings

Marshall and Shelly Smith Harrell
Our parents

Randall and Steven Hays
Karen Franklin

Karen and Ronald J. Herrmann
Helen and Albert Herrmann
Doris and James H. Heizer

Patsy Johnson
Dan Johnson
Jean and Frank Stamp
Helen and Bill Johnson

Paula and Clyde Johnson
Clyde Johnson, Jr.
Paula and William Rainey

Ruth Kutnic
My mother and father
My brothers and nephew
Pat and Richard McCleary
Our loved ones
Joe Rust

Martha McCulloch
Jim McCulloch

The John McGarraugh Family
Dorothy McGarraugh

Charlotte and Martha Milner
Martha and Dick Bell

Sally Mitchell
Vaughan Mitchell

Diana Morehouse
Loved Ones

Alice and John Nichols
Dr. and Mrs. B. L. Nichols
Mr. and Mrs. L. A. McCollister

Dolores Perrine
Robert E. Perrine
Ruth and John Stiehler
Ann and Everett Perrine

Kris and Bruce Petersen
Kris’s Mom, Pat Wiese

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hines, parents
Mr. Scotty Hines, brother

Martha Pigeon
Brad Pigeon

Nancy and Courtenay Puckett
Glenn Puckett, loving husband
and dad

Patricia Roberts and Ronald Redpath
Our parents: Mary and Donald Redpath

Sallie Riester
Albert Riester
Eric Riester

Linda and Mark Rittenhouse and family
Dr. and Mrs. Norman H. Jacob, Jr.

Bill and Linda Ruhmann
Our son, Brad Ruhmann
Jean Smith

Marian Rutledge
Maitland Rutledge, Sr.

Ron and Anne Scates
Anna Elizabeth Scates

The Tripp Stuart Family
Madelon and Joe Harrison
Harold Sullivan and Sue Stuart
Bradley Pigeon

Lynn and Ernest Swan
Curtis Swan

Helen R. Tafel
Victor Tafel, Jr.
Emma Louise and Joe Ruck

Marti and Richard Taylor
Jim McCulloch

The Matt Terry Family
Olive Davis

Suzanne and John Thomas
Thomas Burns

Bette C. Turner
John W. Turner

Barbara S. Warren
My sister, Becky Jo Patton
Beloved parents, Jean and Harvey
Smith, Jr.

Jane, Robert and Liam Spence Warren
Spence Warren
Bryan Warren

Carol and David West
Olive and Bond Davis
W. G. West

Mary and Steve Wilde
Walter Wilde
Olive and Bond Davis
Sara Martinez

Amanda, Jim, James and Charles Williams
Jack T. Williams, II

Neil E. Williams
My mother, Helen Williams
My friend, Janell Walker

The Williams Family
Walter H. Williams
Steven J. Williams

Willie and Ed Willming
Jess Hilliard

Rosemary Engstrom, Frances Warrick and Janice Wilson
Jeaneen Close

Peggy Wimpres
Dr. Duncan Wimpres

Jean Rogers Winchell
My parents, Napier and Mary Jean
Rogers

Char-An, Eric and Melani
Jim M. Witten

Justin, Cody, Tyler, Soren
Our Grandfather, Jim M. Witten

Mrs. Jess Womack, II
Clark Munroe
Helen Williamson
Jess Womack, II
Edward Stumberg
Henry Stumberg
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Stumberg, Sr.

Edwyna Yarbrough
Dr. Leroy Yarbrough

Ciara, Lindsay, Arden, Jake, Grant
Dr. Leroy Yarbrough (Opa)

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH SPRING LUNCHEON



As we look forward to our upcoming events, we encourage you to mark your calendars for the annual Women of the Church Spring Luncheon. We are delighted that Susan Kerr, longtime member of FPC and author of *Intersections of Grace: Reflections on a Life of Faith*, will be our speaker.

Susan has been a dedicated Bible study leader for many years and is an accomplished writer. Her book grew out of a series of devotional talks she delivered to her Bible study group. After receiving encouragement from many individuals, she turned the talks into a collection of essays and prayers. God’s Word, nature, pets, travel and daily life inspired the writings. What makes them unique, is Susan’s ability to take ordinary experiences and reflect on them in light of her faith and attain from them profound lessons for all of us. If we are attentive, she writes, we can see the intersections of God’s grace at every step of our journey with the power to renew, restore and transform our lives.

We look forward to hearing from Susan and anticipate a beautiful and joyful day! Please join us on Monday, March 27 in Westminster Hall. The doors will open at 11:00 AM and the luncheon will begin at 11:30. Reservations are required and your check for \$20 per person may be made payable to FPC with WOC Spring Luncheon on the memo line. Also, please put your email address or phone number on the check and list separately the names of the guests who will be at your table. The deadline for reservations is March 20, and guest names may be emailed by this date. Tables of 8 are available.

All checks are to be mailed to Mary Ellen Mauze, 203 Primrose Place, San Antonio, Texas 78209. Childcare is available at the church by reservation only by calling Sonya Wright at 210-271-2720 or emailing her at sonyaw@fpcsat.org. For any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Mauze at memauze@gmail.com or Rhae Chell Mauze at mauze@sbcglobal.net. We do hope that you will be a part of this inspirational day at our church!

INTERSECTIONS OF GRACE

REFLECTIONS ON A LIFE OF FAITH



SUSAN KERR

Foreword by Louis H. Zbinden, Jr.

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



The first step to becoming better is addressing the things that lack. Now as you read that last sentence, I’m sure there can be moments that you look back to 2016 and might be reminded of something that you either didn’t complete, or didn’t see through. That is the beauty of a new year. It is a fresh start, a new beginning. And now as we enter the second month we look to consistency and the will to endure. It is this word that I want to speak on—endure.

As we look back at 2016 we have had highs and lows, joy and sorrow, peace and tribulation. It is in this process of enduring that we are broken, restored, and refined. Ultimately being shaped into the men and women God has called us to be.

Throughout the Bible we see how the Lord has looked to those that were broken. When David fought the Amalikites in 1 Samuel 30, he was completely broken in a moment where even his own men wanted to turn on him. The text says, “David found strength in the Lord...” One translation puts it that David encouraged himself. Friends, to endure through brokenness might mean that there will be moments when nobody in your community or fellowship understands your situation. But take heart!! You are not alone! Look up to God and encourage yourself, remembering the promises made

to you while allowing the church body to affirm you through trial.

In restoration we see the story of Job, a man that endured the trials of the Devil. His perseverance is an example to all that read scripture. Knowing that even in the darkest moments where you feel you cannot come back, God will restore your strength and bless you abundantly through obedience.

Lastly, we look to refinement. It is during our trials that we are made stronger. How can you as a reader become a better follower of Jesus and a disciple of the Gospel if you never put yourself in positions that cause you to be uncomfortable? As we look Beyond the Stained Glass of our church, we see a city filled with opportunities to love and serve. Let us ask God to refine us just as he refined Peter! At this moment we are going through Acts for our Young Adult Bible Study, and we see Peter being refined more and more throughout the chapter. It is no wonder that Jesus called him out and said, “Upon this Rock I will Build my Church...” It was Peter’s faith that made him who he is, and it is in his testimony that we can see that the fruit of endurance is refinement to become better men and women of faith.

I pray this encourages you, and you are reminded that God is not done with you yet. It is 2017, and greater things have yet to come and until our Savior’s return.... we must endure.

Grace and Peace.

MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | GET CONNECTED | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



We reside in a rural area and as a result internet and cellular service can be extremely temperamental. It’s amazing to watch when people come to visit us and in an instant service is unavailable. “Oh no, I can’t Snapchat!!! How will I post on Facebook?? I’m expecting an important email!!! None of my APPs will upload!!! I can’t even send or receive a text!!! How will the rest of the world know what I’m doing without access to social media??”

I’m not immune to panic when I cannot receive service either, “I can’t find the scores to any of my games!!! I’m unable to get onto my college website—I want to know

what is going on with my school. What is the status of my Ebay bid??” The reality is that we have not had smart phones or this type of technology for that long—prior to Apple we really did not miss anything. But once you have been exposed to it, if it is taken from you, the feeling is that of complete isolation and being cut off from everything we know, we feel blind and vulnerable.

Isn’t the same true through the act of sin, and we become separated from God?? During the moments of our transgressions, we are cut off from our Heavenly signal, and we are certainly traversing through this world in extreme darkness. Find the spot where you receive the strongest spiritual signal, don’t stray from it, and remain connected so that you are never in a position to be without service.



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