



*First Press*

**JOIN US FOR THE PATRIOTIC PICNIC!**

**JULY 2017 ISSUE • FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**





# WE THE PEOPLE

BY REV. DR. BOB FULLER • CO-PASTOR

In the summer of 1776, on July 4, something happened on this planet that had never happened before. The first enduring and self-sustaining democracy was born.

Eleven years later, having won our freedom from Great Britain, our Founding Fathers gathered in Philadelphia to craft a sustainable government and constitution for our new country. On the last day of the Constitutional Convention, on September 17, 1787, a woman of Philadelphia accosted Benjamin Franklin with a question as he came out of the meeting.

“Well, doctor,” she asked him, “what have we got? A republic or a monarchy?”

Franklin, who was rarely short of words or wit, shot back: “A republic, madam—if you can keep it.”<sup>(1)</sup>

What exactly did Dr. Franklin mean by that? “A republic, madam—if you can keep it.”

The Founding Fathers crafted the constitution because they knew that there is a difference between winning one’s freedom and maintaining it. Democracy’s greatest liability is that it is fragile. That is why the first words of the U.S. Constitution express a commitment made by those first Americans on behalf of all Americans. The Preamble of the Constitution reads:

“We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

The vitality of our country and our democracy depends on the enthusiastic participation and vigilance of the American people—*We the people*.

We could make a similar statement about the vitality of our church. The health and mission of our church depend on the enthusiastic participation and vigilance of our covenant partners (members): “We the People—” of FPC.

The protestant reformers often spoke of what they called the “priesthood of all believers.” It was an expression they used to describe the importance “We the People” have in the mission of the Kingdom of God. The apostle Paul wrote:

“Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”<sup>(2)</sup>

With these words, the apostle reminds us that while God works His grace in us, He has given us the important job of making His purposes visible (working out our salvation) in real ways in the real world.

Summer is a time for the celebration of freedom. Kids celebrate freedom from school. People declare their (temporary) freedom from work by taking vacations. And, during the hot and lazy summer months, many people declare their freedom from their everyday year-round routines.

As you return from your summer adventures, however, please remember that FPC needs you to jump back into the ministry, mission, fellowship and worship of the church with both feet. I hope that you will pray for the church over the summer. Pray for the revival of our congregation, the refreshment of our covenant partners, and the energy of our leaders. Most of all, pray that “We the people” of FPC will keep this gift and this mission moving forward.

—Bob

<sup>1</sup> (Metaxas, Eric (2016-06-14). If You Can Keep It: The Forgotten Promise of American Liberty (pp. 8-9). Penguin Publishing Group. Kindle Edition.)

<sup>2</sup> The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). (Php 2:12–13). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

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

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PATRIOTIC PICNIC!

Join us for a potluck-style picnic immediately following 11:00 AM worship on Sunday, July 2, in Westminster Hall. Hosted by the Sanctuary Choir and KEYS Ministry, this is a great opportunity to share food and fellowship. Start thinking about what dish you would like to bring and watch for more information! Just drop off a family-sized dish (salads, vegetables, casseroles, desserts—hot or cold) in the Mauze Lobby as you enter the building that morning—we will be sure to put it out for the picnic! We encourage you to bring your favorite dish. Here are some suggestions based on your last name: A-G salad/vegetables, H-R casserole/vegetables, S-Z fruit or dessert. We hope to see you there!

JULY 2

PRESBYTERIAN NIGHT AT THE MISSIONS

Support the mission and ministry of House of Neighborly Service while having fun at this annual baseball night out. The San Antonio Missions will host the Frisco Rough Riders at Wolff Stadium. Tickets are \$12.00, and \$5.00 of each ticket sold will go to House of Neighborly Service, if at least 300 tickets total are purchased by Presbyterian Churches citywide. Each year HNS takes at least 50 neighborhood kids and provides \$5.00 spending money to each. Order tickets, or make a donation for tickets, beginning July 2, in Mauze Lobby. The deadline for ordering tickets is July 14. Call Rosemary Engstrom at HNS for more information or tickets at (210) 699-0408.

JULY 28

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE

**Adults 8:30 AM:**  
First Class • Room 224 • Topic: Matthew • Teacher/Facilitator: Chuck Bunn and Pat Brodeen

**Adults 9:30 AM:**  
Above and Beyond (Ages 40-55) • Room 302 • Topic: Colossians • Teacher/Facilitator: Bob Fuller/Joe Moore  
Agape Bible Class/Bereans (Combined Classes) • Covenant Hall • Topic: James/1 and 2 Peter (Bring your Bible) • Teacher/Facilitator: Janet Anderson

Arthur Gray Jones • Room 312 • Topic: Verse-by-verse study of the Bible • Teacher/Facilitator: Harry Schwethelm

Lighthouse (Ages 25-40) • Room 304 • Topic: Apologetics, Teacher/Facilitator: Sheila Figueroa

New Covenant Class • Room 301 • Topic: Book of Acts • Teacher/Facilitator: Becky DeWees

The Uncomfortables • Room 228 • Topic: Study of the book *What’s So Amazing About Grace* • Teacher/Facilitator: Charlotte Hains and Gates Whiteley

**College and Youth 9:30 AM:**  
Renovate (College-20’s) • 9:30 AM • Room 300  
Youth (Grades 6-12) • 9:30 AM • Second floor, Student Center

**Children 9:30 AM:**  
Ages 2 through 5th grade will be studying how God’s Word applies to our lives in a powerful way this summer. Childcare will be provided for kids age 5 and under during 11:00 AM worship services.  
2’s-3’s • Room 116  
4’s, Kinder, and incoming 1st Grade • Room 115  
Incoming 2nd-5th Grade • Room 108

LITERATURE CIRCLE SUMMER READING

FPC Literature Circle announces the book selections for 2017-2018:

SEPTEMBER 12: *A Dog’s Journey*  
by W. Bruce Cameron (Rev. Scott Simpson)

OCTOBER 10: *Trapp Family Singers, ‘The Sound of Music’*  
by Maria Augusta Trapp (Bill and Patrice Hensley)

NOVEMBER 14: *A Gentleman in Moscow*  
by Amor Towles (Carlotta Dwyer and Pat Wood)

DECEMBER 12: *Circling the Sun*  
by Paula McLain (Jane Hansen)

JANUARY 9: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*  
by Mark Twain (TBA)

FEBRUARY 13: *The Last Days of Night*  
by Graham Moore (Bill Hensley)

MARCH 13: *The Hamilton Affair*  
by Elizabeth Cobb (Jane Hansen)

APRIL 10: *Commonwealth*  
by Ann Patchett (Jan Clayton)

MAY 8: *Hero of the Empire*  
by Candice Millard (Ron Baker)

LOAVES AND FISHES

Loaves and Fishes is always the last Sunday of the Month. We are picking up some momentum after our move to Grace Lutheran, however we are still looking for more food donations and volunteers from First Pres. Visit the Loaves and Fishes sign-up page to get involved at [www.fpcsanantonio/laf](http://www.fpcsanantonio/laf)!

JULY 30

KICK-OFF SUNDAY

Before you know it August will be here, and with it fall activities will start up at FPC again! Kick-off Sunday will be August 27th this year. Mark your calendars to get re-acquainted with your FPC family, and the many ways you can get plugged in and experience everything First Pres has to offer. Look for more information in the coming weeks!

AUGUST 27

HOLY LAND TOUR

Join Ron and Anne Scates, along with friends Jim Denison and Mike Fanning, as they lead a trip to the Holy Land in November. It will be an “In His Steps” tour of Israel that Mike and Jim are famous for. They are profound, great men of faith, with a tremendous sense of humor, and you will be thoroughly informed, encouraged, and blessed by their leadership. The dates of the trip are November 12-21, 2017.

The website where you can get all of the details is: [www.mikefanning.com/ron-scates-israel-2017.html](http://www.mikefanning.com/ron-scates-israel-2017.html)

This will be a truly life-transformational trip, and you’ll never read the Bible the same way again. Plus, you will be back in time for Thanksgiving with plenty to be thankful for!

NOVEMBER 12-21

CHURCH ARCHIVES COMPUTER NOW AVAILABLE

The FPC Archives Committee is excited to announce that church historical archives are now accessible through a new computer station in the pastors’ foyer adjacent to Mauze Lobby! Members and guests can sign in with the receptionist, who can furnish instructions to access the archives.



# URBAN PLUNGE 2017

## A YEAR TO REMEMBER



Two churches, 110 Students, 30 Leaders, 10 High School leaders, 20 Ministry Partners, over 70,000 Meals Packaged and over 30,000 Meals Served. One Faithful God.

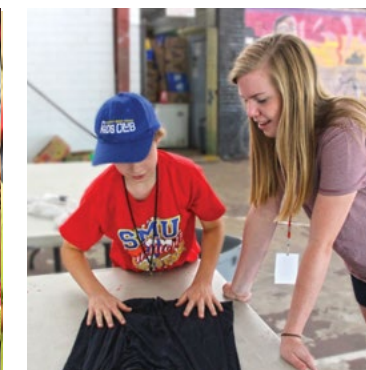
This sums up the fabulous experience for our students, church, partners, and city!

Each day, Urban Plunge participants had breakfast together, made their sandwiches for lunch and were dismissed off to numerous ministry sites. This year we served at: Servant Partners, San Antonio Pets Alive, Mission Road, New Braunfels Food Bank Kitchen Table, House of Neighborly Service, Washington Elementary, Kingdom Resources, Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM), GracePlace, San Antonio Metropolitan Ministries (SAMB), Agora Ministries, San Antonio Food Bank, Daily Bread Ministries, Strong Foundation, Church Under The Bridge, Catholic Worker House, Morningside Ministries, and Rise Against Hunger.

Students did everything from washing cars for ministry sites, to painting rooms, cleaning, folding clothes, orga-



nizing food pantries, working with the elderly, putting on a Vacation Bible School, and so much more! We organized and conducted two large group food events - one at the San Antonio Food Bank sorting through over 13,000 meals, and one at the church with Rise Against Hunger making around 20,000 different bags of meals.



This was a week to remember for everyone who served, and for the ministries we served alongside. Many organizations we partnered with had very positive responses to the groups who came and served them.

Each evening after returning from service sites, our band led our students in worship, one of the youth ministers gave a lesson, and then we divided up into small group time. On Thursday night the students got to experience prayer stations. This was a very powerful moment for

both the students and the leaders.

Thank you to all in the congregation who helped the week of the trip, made desserts and snacks, and prayed for us during our week of service in San Antonio!!







# FIRST PRES HONORS REV. SCOTT SIMPSON FOR TEN YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

# PATHWAYS TO HOPE 2.0 COMING AUGUST 11 AND 12

Scott grew up between Dimmitt and Hereford, Texas on a dairy farm where he learned about the love of Jesus Christ from his parents: Bob and Celia Simpson. He graduated with a B.S. from Texas Tech University, a M.Div. from Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, and a M.A. from Northcentral University in Prescott, AZ in marriage and family therapy. He loves gardening, gourmet cooking, reading, and bird feeding and watching. Scott has been joyfully married to his bride Suzanne for 21 years and together they have created a full house consisting of three children: Samuel, Zachary, and Joshua, two chocolate labs, Mel and Coda, and two cats, Socks and Toby.

Scott is grateful to God for the opportunity to serve First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio over the past ten years as the Associate Pastor for Congregational Care. Over the years, Scott has learned the following insights from serving the congregation:

First, FPC is a deeply caring congregation that makes Jesus visible in times of need. Whether a person is battling cancer, recovering from a surgery, looking for a job, celebrating the life of a loved one or a new marriage, Scott witnessed members share the transformational power of God's steadfast love in Jesus Christ with one another that

brought healing and hope to peoples' lives. Second, together with other members, Scott has deepened his connection to God and to members through the study of God's Word and through prayer. For Scott, getting to know God better through studying and praying with, and for, other members has been his greatest blessing. As a result, Scott passionately looks forward to helping the congregation deepen their connection with God and with one another in the future. Third, Jesus Christ is still in charge and is making all things new at FPC. Although FPC has seen many pastors come and go and a lot of change happen over the past ten years, Scott believes that God has been hard at work transforming FPC by His Living Word and preparing the congregation for the future. Not tossing out the old, but using it to be part and parcel of the new. Scott believes that God does not simply start over with us but recycles the past, our personalities, our successes and failures into His new being in Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our living hope. Under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, Scott sees a bright, hopeful future at First Presbyterian Church as we make Jesus Christ visible together in San Antonio and the world.

After the tremendous response to the first annual "Pathways to Hope" conference in 2016, conference organizers will host the second annual conference at the Tobin Center for the Performing Arts, August 11 and 12, 2017, focusing on mental health and including speakers from across the community and nation. Once again, the goal of the conference is to continue to break the stigma of mental illness, and to discover how faith communities can provide support for people and families affected by mental illness. Last year, over 1,400 people from over 460 different churches and faith communities attended the conference. "We're building on last year's event, which was very successful in breaking new ground for the awareness of mental health issues," said Doug Beach, FPC Mental Health Ministries Leader, and President of the San Antonio Chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). "This year we have excellent expert speakers, and already have significant interest from the community." Among the featured speakers this year will be Sheila Walsh, author, musician, recording artist, speaker, evangelist, television host, and encourager. Sheila will share

her personal life experience with depression and how she has found healing and recovery. Along with Sheila, Pastor Brad Hoefs from Community of Grace Lutheran Church in Elkhorn, Nebraska, will share his own experience with Bipolar disorder and how it led him to develop a mental health ministry. Pastor Hoefs' program, FRESH HOPE, is now used by groups throughout the U.S. as a way to help support families and individuals dealing with a mental illness. The conference will include many other speakers, workshops and—for the first time—a special evening for youth on Friday, August 11. You can read more about the conference at [www.pathwaystohope.net](http://www.pathwaystohope.net), where you can also register. Once again, "Pathways to Hope" will be FREE to all attendees, thanks to presenting sponsors First Presbyterian Church, The Bexar County Health Collaborative, and the Office of the Bexar County Judge, as well as a number of other churches, organizations and sponsors. "When hope doesn't seem to be anywhere close by, come and be part of this amazing conference, where God's love for each of us is expressed and shared with all those who are seeking hope and recovery," Beach said.



# MISSIONS



## LOCAL MISSIONS MAY STAFF SERVE DAY

First Presbyterian Church's staff have had a long-standing tradition of going out to serve with local mission partners whenever there is a month with a fifth Tuesday. Historically, this has been a wonderful way for the staff to get involved in the ministry life of FPC as a team. Approximately ten staff members recently participated in serving at CAM in May. We took a short walk across McCullough Street and met with Mary Henderson, who assigned various tasks. One group was assigned to pack bags for 75 lunches. This group worked a bit too quickly and ended up packing

150 bags instead! A second group, which was later joined by the first group, was assigned first to remove palm tree clippings from a side yard, then assigned to the warehouse where they sorted shoes and winter clothes, and re-stocked shoes in the women's and men's pantries in the main building. The staff team had a great morning at CAM, and looks forward to their next service opportunity!

(Photos to left)

## GLOBAL MISSIONS THE BASKIN BRIGADE

Darrell and Becky Baskin answered God's call to serve as missionaries in Burundi through Serge Global Inc., a non-denominational foreign mission agency. Burundi is an African country that is considered the poorest in the world, and topped the international list for hunger and food insufficiency for the past three years. The Baskins are one of the many missionaries that you help support through our Global Missions. They have seven children and the youngest, Trinity, was born in France last year as they attended a French Language school, a necessity for serving in Burundi. They are also learning the local dialect.

Darrell is a Retina Specialist and is working at Kibuye Hope Hospital, and also teaching at Hope University there. Since 2013 the Serge team has partnered with Hope University to bring high quality compassionate medical care in the name of Jesus to the rural poor. The teaching and training Darrell and the rest of the team are doing will equip the next generation of Burundian physicians to do the same as a new medical class graduates every year. Every week patients are given their sight back. Every day patients hear the good news of Jesus Christ. Every day children, women and men are fed who might not otherwise have a meal that day. Throughout the year, Darrell will be taking portable

eye clinics throughout Burundi to serve those who cannot come to the hospital.

The challenges of serving on the mission field are many, especially in such a poor country. Electrical power frequently goes out. Running water can also be erratic. It has not been easy helping seven children transition from life in the U.S. to living in France for almost a year, coping with a new language, and then moving to Burundi with even more new challenges. Yet they have found joy in the struggles and hard places through God's faithfulness in providing for their every need. They do manage to fill their free time with fun such as homemade pizza and a movie on Friday nights, family games such as nerf gun wars, and even a trip to the beach at Lake Tanganyika with soft-serve ice cream afterwards. They will be coming home to Houston soon and will be staying through most of the summer. Please pray for a time of rest and refreshment for the family. Also please pray for the children at the eye clinic who have Retinoblastoma and will be receiving chemotherapy this summer, as well as for the people in Burundi who have such great needs. You can read the Baskins' blog at [www.baskinbrigade.wordpress.com](http://www.baskinbrigade.wordpress.com).



# SA CHRISTIAN DENTAL CLINIC HEROES HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE



Since 1979, when members of First Presbyterian Church founded the San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic, and its eventual incorporation in 1986, the clinic has been a beacon for providing quality dental support for those in need. The model originally envisioned by its founders—100% privately-funded, charitable dental care delivered by volunteers and supported by administrative volunteers—exists to this day. In fact, in 2016 alone it provided over 63,289 procedures to 2,401 unduplicated, low-income and homeless Bexar County adults.

This past May proved to be a month of much-deserved awards and honors for staff and volunteers of San Antonio Christian Dental Clinic:



**DAVID N. RICKEY, DDS,** volunteer and former dental director, was awarded the 2017 Health Care Heroes award in the Outstanding Health Care Practitioner – Non-Physician category by The San Antonio Business Journal. We are incredibly honored to have one of our long-time volunteers selected for this prestigious honor.



**GLORIA Z. CANSECO,** Executive Director, received the first American Legion Texas Department, 3rd Division award for service to low-income and homeless veterans. The award is in honor of her leadership

in partnering with Greater San Antonio Hispanic Dental Association to host the 2nd annual Serving Our Heroes community clinic, in which 335 low-income and homeless Bexar County veterans received free cleanings, fillings and extractions over a two-day period, for a retail service value of \$116,978. In addition, Ms. Canseco was one of 21 nonprofit executives who completed the Tesoro Leadership Fellows Program, an intensive nine-month program created by San Antonio Area Foundation and sponsored by Tesoro Foundation.

Upcoming events include the 6th annual Smiles of Hope community clinic in partnership with San Antonio District Dental Society and San Antonio District Dental Hygienists' Society, and the 3rd annual Serving Our Heroes community clinic in partnership with Greater San Antonio Hispanic Dental Association and San Antonio District Dental Hygienists' Society.

Smiles of Hope, serving low-income and homeless Bexar County adults, will be held from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, October 13th and Saturday, October 14th. Serving Our Heroes, serving low-income and homeless Bexar County veterans, will be held from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM on Friday, November 10th and Saturday, November 11th.

Volunteer dentists, hygienists, and dental assistants are needed for both events. Hygiene cleanings will be provided on Friday and dental procedures will be provided on Saturday during both events. Contact Sarah Martinez, Chief Operations Director, at 210-220-2307 or [sarah@sachristiandental.org](mailto:sarah@sachristiandental.org) if you are interested in volunteering. Private donations and/or business sponsorships to help offset the cost of consumable dental supplies are most welcome!



# KEYS OLDER ADULTS

BY JOE MOORE, DIRECTOR

The Extended Run Players closed out our regular Friday Luncheon programming with the reading of three enjoyable O Henry short stories. June 9th began our Summer Program Schedule. The Witte Whale exhibit delivered on its promise to provide “an engaging blend of science, storytelling and innovative interactive galleries that give visitors the opportunity to discover more about the world of whales and what lives in the oceans’ depths”. Good Time Charlie’s is exactly that—Good Food, Good Friends, Good Fun!! We closed out June with hamburgers and the movie “Sulley.” Could not imagine being on a plane and landing in the Hudson River!!



**KEEP MOVING FITNESS**  
JULY 7, 14, AND 28 • 9:30 AM • SECOND FLOOR OF STUDENT CENTER

**GAME DAYS**  
JULY 14 AND 28 • 11:00 AM  
Mah Jongg ends at 3:30 PM  
Bridge ends when everyone decides to call it a day  
Bring your lunch!

**BIRTHDAY LUNCH**  
JULY 21 • 11:30 AM • ALAMO QUARRY GOLF CLUB  
Meet us at the Alamo Quarry Golf Club at 11:30 AM. There is ample parking and it is very accessible.

**TO JOIN US**  
To join us for any KEYS Event contact Stephanie at 210-271-2753 or stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

**FOOD BANK SERVING OPPORTUNITY**  
JULY 7 • 1:30-4:00 PM  
Join us if you are able to sort food at the Food Bank Warehouse. Meet at the Food Bank at 1:30 PM or sign up for van service from FPC leaving at 12:30 PM. RSVP to Stephanie so that we can have an idea of how large our group will be.



**COMING UP**  
AUGUST 2 • 12:00-1:00 PM • HEB CENTRAL MARKET  
Join us for cooking school at HEB Central Market! The menu will be: Pasta alla Norcina (Pasta with Sausage, Mushrooms, and Cream); Braciolette di Maiale alla Spoleatina (Pork Chops Spoleto Style with Olives); and for desert, Perugia Baci-Blondie Bars. \$25 per person. All the ingredients for this meal can be purchased at HEB and reproduced in your own kitchen. This is a great lunch outing!

**TO BE ANNOUNCED**  
Your Leadership Team is working on:  
• Lunch trip to Camp Verde General Store  
• Holiday Lights Dinner on a River Barge served by Casa Rio  
• Trip to the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival on Jan. 6  
• “Rain to Drain Tour” with SAWS

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO ARE HELPING TO MAKE THE CHURCH-WIDE, JULY 2, PATRIOTIC PICNIC A SUCCESS!!



Join us on the first Tuesday of the Month at SA Reads. Contact Jane Warren for more information.



# THE REST OF THE STORY ABOUT YOUR DEACONS

## ECO POLITY AND DISCIPLINE 2.03 THE MINISTRY OF THE DEACONS

“Ordinarily, the biblical office of Deacon shall be utilized by the congregation. Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons may also be asked to preach and teach. The congregation shall determine the manner in which they are selected for service. The session shall oversee and direct the ministry of the deacons.”

The definition of “Deacon” as defined by our denomination is above.

But who, what, when and why?

**WHO:** Each year the congregation elects 17 Deacons to serve a three-year term. There are currently 51 Active Deacons. See the list below.

**WHAT:** What does an Active Deacon do? Deacons seek to ensure an expression of Christian compassion for all our members. They are specifically charged with caring for and ministering to those who are sick, in need, friendless or in distress. The Deacons’ office is one of sympathy, concern and compassion for those members who need such attention.

Each Deacon is assigned three months a year when they are “On Call” to visit our members in the hospitals and rehab facilities, bringing them flowers from the Worship service beautifully broken down into smaller arrangements.

When there’s a death in one’s immediate family, a Deacon is assigned to them for a year—to visit, check in, listen, cry,

give them a smile and encouraging words as they deal with the grief.

Deacons are also assigned to visit our “at-home members” who can no longer get out. Communion is also taken to them several times a year. Each December, and before Easter, our Deacons deliver over 125 Poinsettias and Easter Lillies to our at-home members, members experiencing grief, and members over 90.

Deacons also are available after each worship service to listen and pray. Deacons share “Praying with the Ministers” prior to each of the three worship services, serving communion and assisting with worship, with the Elders.

**WHEN:** The Deacons are always available to pray and visit you. Due to HIPAA Privacy laws the medical facilities cannot tell us (or the Church) anything. Please be sure to notify Stephanie (210-226-0215/stephanieg@fpcsat.org), or let a Deacon know when you are going to be in a hospital/rehab facility and call with updates so you can be prayed for and visited in your time of need. You can also request to have no visitors, but we will still pray for you. The Care and Concern Prayer list is updated twice a day.

**WHY:** First Presbyterian Church is a family that is connected to one another and connected to Christ. Serving our members in their times of need is the way we honor and serve our Lord.

— Charlotte Milner,  
Moderator of the Diaconate 2017-18

### YOUR ACTIVE DEACONS FOR 2017-2018

CLASS OF 2018		CLASS OF 2019		CLASS OF 2020	
Benke, Tom	Walthall, Carolyn	Barker, Jonathan	Moore, Trudy	Barr, Kay Beth	Schwethelm, Harry
Brodeen, Ken	West, Carol	Blackburn, Jane	Peters, Louise	Dullnig, Robert	Taylor, Andrea
Burnett, Bill	West, Suzanne	Carter, John	Sharpe, Adam	Durbin, Townsend	Valdez, Joyce
Cannon, Craig	Whitsett, John	Cross, Ed	Smith, Gordon	Fischer, Larry	Valenti, Nick
Case, George	Wilson, Janice	Dorsey, Barbara	Sparks Jr, Forrest (Sonny)	Folkes, Lee	Walter, Leslie
Custer, Christy	Yarbrough, Edwyna	Fruge-Medford, Mary	Verheul, Sammy	Fuhrmann, Triple	Wolff, Jim
Dennis, Bill		Hiller, Anne	Youngquist, Holly	Guy, Sallie	
McCaleb, Teresa		Jordan, Nina		Picard, Erika	
McCann, Sherry		Lange, Rich		Quirk, Sarah	
Meador, Mark		Milner, Charlotte		Ray, Carter	
Patton, Jacque				Sasser, Laura	

## BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS | BY KEVIN DAILEY, CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP LEADER



When I was a kid in England there was a song that came on a butter commercial or something like that, but it was the first time I had heard it and I loved this song! It’s called Summer-time, by Mungo Jerry. Now, it doesn’t have the best lyrics. I googled them and was a bit embarrassed that I didn’t remember the lyrics, just the groove and the movement, the feel. I loved it. It made me remember how much I love the summer, how rest and vacation and family and food are on my mind.

What’s on your mind during the summer? Are you anxious to spend long weekends away at the beach? Maybe you like to go tubing down a river slowly with a group of friends on a lazy summer day? Perhaps you are filling up each day with activities for you and your kids in hopes to never hear the dreaded word “bored.”

Let’s think about maybe what we forget during the summer. I know my kids like to forget school! We maybe forget to shave a few days while we are vacationing. Down here on 4th and Alamo, I see a lot of forgotten people. I see the homeless and transient of San Antonio who are oblivious to the seasons of life. Well, some of them. There are families that are food insecure who’s kids rely on school meals to be able to have nourishment. Those without kids are still going through their routines of finding a way to take care of themselves. They don’t have time to think through their summer schedule, they are trying their best to see the day through.

I don’t say this to elicit guilt, there’s no Jesus Juke here. I want to encourage you to remember them. I want you to have them on your mind. Continue to give, continue to serve, continue to pray. As we go through our seasons, there are others that have just one, and that is survival. We need to be the hands and feet of Jesus in every season.

## MOMENTS TO HOLD CLOSE | GET A REBOOT | BY MANNY RODRIGUEZ



In today’s society, can you imagine not having a cellular telephone? No texting, no internet? I don’t have to wonder, I did not have one for over two weeks. I simply woke up one morning, and my cellular phone would turn on but it was simply stuck, wouldn’t do anything. After taking it to the Apple store, then to my network provider, back to the Apple store, return to my network provider, back to the Apple store two more times it was determined I needed a new phone. I made yet another appointment and met with my Apple representative. “What seems to be the problem sir?” Well, basically I have zero communication of any kind with my phone, and I need a new one. “I see, do you mind if I take a look?” Sure chief, knock yourself out, everyone under the sun has looked at

this thing and informed me it’s dead. I just want a new phone to be able to communicate with the world again. Now, I am no tech wiz, but in two seconds he had my phone come to life, complete with a list of all my contacts and restored some of my photos. I was in utter disbelief. What is it that you did differently than everyone else? “I guess you finally came to the right person, have a good day.” I asked a friend of mine what he could have done, he said every now and then we all simply need a reboot. And my friend is exactly right. Have you ever felt completely cut off, unable to communicate with anyone, and all you hear is that you’re broken and can’t be fixed? Well, they are wrong, all you need is a reboot and going to the right person. Fortunately this time I have the answer, his name is Jesus and no appointment is needed. He can fix anything despite everyone assuring you it cannot be done. He will completely restore you, and give you the reboot you so desperately need.



# First Cup Readings – July, 2017

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 our libraries. 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 & Claire Averyt



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

1 Job 1; 1 Peter 5:8-11; Psalm: 37:23-40; Revelation 12:10-12

O God of earth and altar, Bow down and hear our cry; Our earthly rulers falter, Our people drift and die; The walls of gold entomb us, The swords of scorn divide; Take not Thy thunder from us, But take away our pride. From all that terror teaches, From lies of tongue and pen; From all the easy speeches That comfort cruel men; From sale and profanation Of honor and the sword; From sleep and from damnation, Deliver us, good Lord! Tie in a living tether The prince and priest and thrall; Bind all our lives together, Smite us and save us all; In ire and exultation Aflame with faith, and free, Lift up a living nation, A single sword to Thee. (The Hymnbook, No. 511)

2 Job 2:1-10; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10;  
Psalm 88

3 Job 2:11-13; Psalm 22:1-11; Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; 27:6-10

4 Job 3; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Psalm 63

5 Job 4-5; 1 Corinthians 3:18-20; Hebrews 12:1-13

6 Job 6-7; Lamentations 3:1-26; Psalm 38

7 Job 8; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Psalm 25

8 Job 9-10; James 5:7-20

*O gracious God, forsake me not when I am old and gray, that unto those that follow me I may Thy might display. Thou who has sent me many griefs wilt yet my soul restore, and out of sorrow's lowest depths wilt bring me forth once more. O turn again and comfort me, my waning strength increase, and for Thy faithfulness, O God, my praise shall never cease. (The Hymnbook, No. 396)*

9 Job 11; Proverbs 3:5-8; Psalm 23

10 Job 12-13; Jeremiah 32:17-19; Hebrews 9:27-28

11 Job 14-15; Psalm 37; 116

12 Job 16-17; Psalm 31

13 Job 18-19; Psalm 41

14 Job 20-21; Proverbs 11:28, 23:5, 20:7-9; 1Timothy  
6:6-10; Luke 18:18-30

15 Job 22-23; Psalm 116; Proverbs 8:17

*He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught! What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me. Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bow-ers bloom, by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis His hand that leadeth me. Lord, I would clasp Thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine; content, what-ever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. (The Hymnbook, No. 338)*

16 Job 24-25; Psalm 139:11-12; John 8:12; Ephesians 5:8-14

17 Job 26-28; Psalm 51:6; Proverbs 2; James 1:2-8

18 Job 29-31; James 1:9-26; Ephesians 2:8-10

19 Job 32-33; 1 Timothy 4:12; 2 Corinthians 10:12;  
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

20 Job 34-35; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Romans 2:5-11;  
Psalm 103:8-18

21 Job 36:37; Jeremiah 46:27-28; Hebrews 12:4-11;  
Isaiah 40:17-31

22 Job 38-39; John 1:3; Colossians 1:15-17;  
Isaiah 29:13-16; Isaiah 49:9-14

*God of our life, through all the circling years, We trust in Thee;  
In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, Thy hand we  
see. With each new day, when morning lifts the veil, We own  
Thy mercies, Lord, which never fail. God of the past, our times  
are in Thy hand; With us abide. Lead us by faith to hope's true  
Promised Land; Be Thou our guide. With Thee to bless, the  
darkness shines as light, And Faith's fair vision changes into sight.  
God of the coming years, though paths unknown we follow Thee;  
When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone; Our refuge be. Be  
Thou for us in life our Daily Bread, Our heart's true Home when  
all our years have sped. (The Hymnbook, No. 108)*

23 Job 40-42:6; Romans 14:4; Matthew 7:1-6;  
Proverbs 20:27; Psalm 139:23-24

24 Job 42:7-17; Matthew 5:21-24; Colossians 3:12-17;  
1 Peter 5:6-11

25 John 17; 1 Corinthians 1:1-17; Galatians 5:16-26;  
James 3:13-18

26 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:5; Isaiah 29:13-14; Psalm 111:10;  
Colossians 1:9-14

27 1 Corinthians 2:6-16; John 14:15-31; Romans 16:25-27

28 1 Corinthians 3; Hebrews 5:11-6:3; Luke 6:46-49

29 1 Corinthians 4; Luke 12:42-48; Hebrews 3:1-6;  
2 Timothy 3:10-17

*Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin. Each victory will help you some other to win. Fight manfully onward; dark passions subdue, look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through. To him that o'er cometh, God giveth a crown. Through faith we shall conquer, tho' often cast down. He, who is our Savior, our strength will renew. Look ever to Jesus: He will carry you through. Ask the Savior to help you, comfort, strengthen and keep you. He is willing to aid you, He will carry you through. (Worship in Song, No. 436)*

30 1 Corinthians 5; Leviticus 18; 1Thessalonians 4:1-12;  
Ephesians 5:1-17

31 1 Corinthians 6:1-11; Matthew 18:15-20; Jude 4-25;  
Revelation 20:11-15

## 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]





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