



FIRST PRESS

OCTOBER 2017



JOIN US FOR THE REFORMATION BIG EVENTS



A FAITH WORTH LIVING (AND DYING) FOR

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

This October, First Presbyterian Church is joining Christians all over the world to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. It is a time for us to remember the courageous men and women who believed that the Gospel of grace is worth our lives. Even though Martin Luther will get a lot of attention this year, Patrick Hamilton is a person worth remembering.

In the 15th and 16th Centuries, the Christian religion was badly broken. The church that emerged from the Middle Ages looked more like the Roman Empire than the church of Jesus Christ and the Apostles. It was full of moral corruption—lust, perversion, violence, greed. It amassed wealth by scamming people out of their money in the name of piety, using tactics so shameful that it would make modern televangelists blush. It manipulated people through fear of everlasting hellfire, and conspired with the political powers to keep them afraid and in line.

In spite of the corruption of the church, historian A.M. Renwick writes, “In the church [of Scotland] there were good hearted priests and monks, and men of honest minds, who gladly accepted the truth when presented to them.^[1]”

One of those priests was Patrick Hamilton. He was a young Scottish nobleman from a powerful family. He was sent to the University of Paris to be trained as a priest and, while in Paris, Patrick was exposed to the writings of Martin Luther. He joined Luther’s protests against the corruption of the institutional church, and embraced Martin’s message of salvation based on faith in Jesus Christ and a simple, purer, Christianity grounded in the Bible.

Hamilton travelled back and forth from France to Germany and back to Scotland. By the time Patrick got to Germany, Luther was being denounced as a heretic, and had been excommunicated by Pope Leo X for challenging the authority of the church hierarchy. His good friend and mentor, William Tyndale, was burned at the stake for translating the Bible from Latin to English. Under Luther and Tyndale, this boy of books and privilege discovered ideas—Biblical ideas—worth living and dying for.

Hamilton’s troubles began when his preaching drew the attention of Scotland’s archbishop, David Beaton of St. Andrews. In Beaton’s view, Patrick was a dangerous heretic. He wrote: “A Lutheran missionary, with royal blood in his

veins, and all the power of the Hamiltons at his back, was a more formidable heretic in Scotland than Luther himself would have been.”

Hamilton was arrested, tried and sentenced to death by burning. Before a large crowd of witnesses he was given a last chance to deny his confessions and save his life. Rather than betray God’s word, he maintained his stand for the truth with calm and dignity.

His fiery torment lasted for six hours. As horrible as it was, Patrick Hamilton’s suffering ignited a revolution. He became the historical and spiritual link between Martin Luther and the Scottish Reformation,^[2] and prepared the soil in which the Presbyterian church would grow.

Patrick Hamilton gave his life for the gospel because He believed that the Gospel—the good news of Jesus Christ—is an idea worth living and dying for. He believed that the message of God’s Grace in Jesus Christ is a message that could set people free from ignorance, fear, manipulation and exploitation. He believed that the truth of God is for everybody—not just for the power brokers.

Today, all over the world, people are living and dying for this truth. In the Middle East—Christians are beheaded, kidnapped and burned for claiming that God is a God of love. In North Korea, 70,000 followers of Jesus are suffering in prison camps for “crimes” such as owning a Bible, going to church, or sharing their faith. In China, thousands of Christians are imprisoned, while church steeples and crosses are torn down.

In spite of intense persecution, the courage of the martyrs is changing the world. We must never forget the martyrs of the past, nor of the present. From Patrick Hamilton in the 16th century to Syrian Christians in the 21st, they have given their lives, and are giving their lives so that people will know that faith in Jesus Christ is worth living for and dying for. We must pray for them, give for them, work for them, and stand for them, because they are standing for Christ, and for us.

¹A.M. Renwick, *The Story of the Scottish Reformation*.

² On the same spot, 18 years and one day later, another reformer named George Wishart, one of Hamilton’s students, was burned for heresy. George Wishart was the friend, mentor and teacher of a young priest named John Knox—who became the leader of the Scottish Reformation.

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SAVE THE DATE



CROSSROADS BIBLE STUDY

MONDAYS

Monday nights young adults gather from all over the city in our FPC youth building for a time of fellowship and formation. We meet weekly at 7:00 PM and will continue to study the gospel of Luke this semester. For more information please contact mitchellm@fpcsat.org.

FLU SHOT CLINIC

OCTOBER 1 • GENEVA ROOM

Flu shots will be provided October 1 at 8:30 AM thanks to HEB for providing this service to our Church family. There is no charge for flu and pneumonia shots if you have Medicare Part B or selected insurance coverage. Vaccines are not provided for children less than four years of age, and children ages four through six must have a valid prescription. No sign-ups necessary.

ANCIENT PATHWAYS TO INTIMACY IN MARRIAGE

SUNDAYS • 8:30 AM • ROOM 301

Beginning Sunday, October 1, our FPC Young Adult Community Foundations is hosting a six-week module for young married couples and families with young children. The marriage module will meet at 8:30 AM in Room 301 and will cover God's design and desire for Spiritual, Emotional, and Physical intimacy in marriage. Questions? Email Pastor Mitchell at mitchellm@fpcsat.org.

WOC LADIES' NIGHT OUT

OCTOBER 5 • 6:00 PM • 203 HASKIN DR.

Ladies, if you are reading this, then you are invited! Save the date for Thursday, October 5, at 6:00 PM in the evening for our semi-annual "Ladies' Night Out" event! Held this year in the home of Catherine Whitsett, 203 Haskin Dr.

Twice a year, the Women of the Church organize a fun evening event just for us women to meet, catch-up and indulge in desert first ('cause there are no little eyes watching to make sure you eat your vegetables)! Oh, but we do have fruit of the vine and wonderful appetizers from the kitchens of many a fine cook! We Presbyterians do know a thing or two about good food! Most importantly we enjoy fellowship with the wonderful women of all ages who attend FPC. Come join a stress-free, schedule-free evening of girl-time! We look forward to seeing you!

Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call Betsy Zachry at 210-262-1236 or email her at betsyz@swbell.net.

TEAM BRICK AT NAMI WALKS

OCTOBER 7

NAMIWalks-SA will be Saturday, October 7, rain or shine, at Morgan's Wonderland. FPC will once again sponsor Team Brick, in honor of Brick Munroe. Check-in starts at 6:30 AM. The walk begins at 7:30 AM. Dogs on leashes are welcome. Registration is free at www.namiwalks.org/sanantonio. The purpose is to bring about awareness of mental health and help stomp out the stigma of mental illnesses. Read more on page 8.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

OCTOBER 10 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

Count Alexander Rostov is a "former person." Russia's new Soviet masters have sentenced the Count to house arrest in Moscow's luxurious Metropol Hotel. Ann Smith will review this novel, "A Gentleman in Moscow," by Amor Towles for the Literature Circle on Tuesday, October 10. This charming story reveals how a gentleman can spend decades in confinement and yet lead a rich and fulfilled life. Due to a conflict in scheduling, "The Sound of Music," will be reviewed at the November 14 meeting by the Hensleys.

DISCOVER FIRST! CLASS

OCTOBER 15 • GENEVA ROOM

Interested in discovering more about the faith, mission and people of FPC? Take the Next Step at First Pres by attending Discover First!, Sunday, October 15, directly after 11 AM services. Meet for a four-hour class to learn more about the joys of following Christ and of being a member of this family of God. Explore the mission and defining values of First Presbyterian. Get to know others who are new to the congregation, meet staff and members, learn ways to get involved, and realize how important you are to the church. Attendance at Discover First! does not obligate you to join, but it does prepare you to become a member should you choose to do so. For more information or to sign up for the class, contact Stacie Rodriguez at 210-271-2759 or stacier@fpcsat.org.

CHURCH HEALTH SURVEY

CLOSES OCTOBER 17 AT NOON

Make your voice heard for the future health of FPC. The congregation is asked to participate in "Growing Healthy: Vital Signs for a Vital Church," a comprehensive online survey to help us assess our opportunities and challenges as an inner-city San Antonio, Christ-centered congregation. Complete the survey online now at www.fpcsanantonio.org/congregational-survey. We encourage everyone to complete the survey online, but if you are unable to do so, a hard copy is available at the Mauze Lobby reception desk.

WOC FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON "THE LEGACY OF BIBLICAL WOMEN"

OCTOBER 23 • 11:30 AM • WESTMINSTER HALL

Monday, October 23, 2017 at 11:30 AM (Doors Open at 11:00 AM) in Westminster Hall. Lunch \$20. Your Check is your reservation.

Mail to either:

Suzanne Thomas

(suzannethomas54@gmail.com / 210-846-3240 / 209 Lamont Ave., SATX 78209

Jeanne Douglas

(garydoug@sbcglobal.net / 210-414-2873 / 3214 Falling Brk SATX 78258)

DISASTER RELIEF TEAMS

As events continue to unfold with flooding, damage and loss from Hurricane Harvey, please continue to pray for the well-being of our fellow neighbors in Houston and throughout the Coastal Bend.

FPC is looking to assemble volunteers to help with various clean up and repairs in the areas affected. If you would like to participate, please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org) with your availability and contact information. Please also continue to check our website at www.fpcsat.org for more information

WEDNESDAY EVENING REFORMATION BIG EVENTS

DINNER 5:30 PM | LECTURE 6:15 PM

WESTMINSTER HALL

In October 1517, a German Priest named Martin Luther, a professor at the University of Wittenburg in Germany, challenged the status quo of the church by daring to speak out about the scandals, abuses and errors propagated by those in power. His deepest desire was to draw the people of God back to the simple, pure message of God's grace in Jesus Christ.

Luther's challenge changed the face of Europe and the world. His ideas were championed from England to Hungary, and shaped the thinking of John Calvin and those who planted the seeds of the Presbyterian Church.

This fall, First Presbyterian Church is celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation by hosting a special series of big events on Wednesday Evenings in October:

OCTOBER 4

The series begins with Dr. Chris Scruggs, retired Pastor of Advent Presbyterian Church (EPC), Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Scruggs' presentation is titled, "How John Calvin Helped Create Our World." The movement that rose from Luther's "protest" (the "protestant" reformation) not only changed the practice of Christianity, it also changed the economic and political climate of the time and set the foundations for our modern world. Dinner reservation deadline: Monday October 2.

OCTOBER 11

Dr. David Green, Pastor, FPC Conroe, Texas will connect the reformation ideas to our own history in his presentation, "McCullough, Bunting and the Pioneer Presbyterians of Texas." Come and hear how the protestant reformation moved west. Dinner reservation deadline: Monday October 4.

OCTOBER 18

Tom Dooling and Jae Ha present "The Music of the Reformation." Join us for this opportunity to learn, sing, and hear some of the music that was inspired by the Protestant Reformation. In addition to singing some of the great hymns born of this movement, we will also hear a performance of selections of the J.S. Bach Cantata "Ein' feste Burg ist unser Gott—A Mighty Fortress is Our God." Dinner reservation deadline: Monday October 11.

OCTOBER 25

Our Wednesday Night series will conclude on October 25 as we welcome Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of the Archdiocese of San Antonio to give us a Roman Catholic View of the Reformation, 500 years later. Dinner reservation deadline: Monday October 18.

Please join us as we celebrate both the legacy and the future of this movement. Five Hundred years is just the beginning! Each meal is \$10 per person, pre-paid. Your check is your reservation, and must be received by the receptionist no later than the deadline. Please note in the memo line "Reformation Dinner" and the event date. Children's Programming and Childcare is available from 6:15-7:00 PM.

2017 MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WEEK

JOIN “TEAM BRICK” AT NAMI WALKS–SA SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7
REMEMBER “BRICK” MUNROE



The first week of October is Mental Health Awareness Week and members of FPC can participate in the following way:

On July 5, 2015, Richard “Brick” Munroe was tragically killed after calling 911 in Austin for help. Brick’s death is one more reason to support better mental health care and community education. Chip and Karen Munroe, Brick’s parents and members of this church, are asking that you remember Brick by participating in the 2017 NAMI Walks and by giving to NAMI San Antonio. This will be the third year that FPC will sponsor “Team Brick” to raise money for NAMI. This is an opportunity for FPC to remember Brick and support Chip, Karen and all of the Munroe family, as well as remember his grandparents, Elizabeth and Tom Munroe, who passed away earlier this year.

If you would like to participate as a walker at the event or by giving to NAMI San Antonio, simply go to <https://www.namiwalks.org/team/TeamBrick> for instructions on how to make your contribution to “Team Brick.” Or you can send a contribution to the church office by making a check out to NAMI San Antonio 2017 Walks.

If you’d like to walk with the FPC team, you can call Jim McCann at jim.mccann.iv@gmail.com, or Teresa McCaleb at tbmccaleb@gmail.com.

This year’s NAMI Walks will be held on Saturday, October 7 at Morgan’s Wonderland (5223 David Edward’s Drive) beginning at 6:30 AM, and will be over by 9:00 AM.



GLOBAL MISSIONS

YUCATAN PENINSULA MISSION

The Yucatan Peninsula Missions (YPM) is a ministry partner that is committed to serving the needs of the Mayan/Mexican people in the Zona Maya region of the Yucatan Peninsula. The organization has been working to make Jesus visible to the Mayan people through providing access to medical, educational, and spiritual resources.

First Presbyterian Church members have been participating in the ministry work of YPM for several years through medical and building mission trips. Work teams often return to share that they feel they received much more than they gave, and about the wonderful relationships they were able to build.

A large step in the possibilities for YPM were realized in early August when the doors for the YPM Institute were opened to students. This school, along with plans for a preparatory school, will allow for better social and economic position of the citizens of Leona Vicario. This education outreach will provide opportunities that the people in this area do not have today. As the doors to the University have opened, the staff of YPM are excited for the possibility of building a sort of binational exchange with the members of churches like FPC.

For more information and updates about the Yucatan Peninsula Mission, visit their website (www.ypmusa.org) or their Facebook page (Yucatan Peninsula Mission).

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT

The title “Presbyterian Women” was changed in the spring of 2017 to the former “Women of the Church.” “Women of the Church” was determined to be a more inclusive title that reflected our purpose of including all women members of FPC in all of the WOC activities. The focuses of our many circles are varied, but fellowship and care of members are always included. These are in full swing but one can always join at any time of the year.

We are very blessed to have three very special fall events occurring this month. Our fall fellowship opportunity for all women is “Ladies Night Out,” Thursday, October 5 at 6:00 PM, at the home of Catherine Whitsett, 203 Haskin Dr. Food and wine will be provided. If you need assistance parking your car, please drive to the end of the driveway. For more information please contact Betsy Zachry at 210-262-1236.

On October 17 at 9:30 AM we will meet in FPC Room #108 to create the Christmas gifts for the residents of Chandler House and Morningside Manor. The gifts will be distributed during their respective Christmas parties in December. Our “Moms Group” has been planning for this event all summer so the kits will be ready for us to put together. This is a really fun event where you really get to know women of different ages and “talents”.

Monday, October 23 is our fourth annual Fall Legacy Luncheon with guest speaker, Jamie George. Her topic is “The Legacy of Biblical Women.” This dynamic young woman grew up at FPC, participated in confirmation and youth group activities with Rev. Dr. Ron Scates, and was our 2017 women’s retreat leader. Her ministry includes conducting women’s retreats, Bible studies for varied age groups, and mentoring youth and adults. She states that she is “An avid student of scripture and contemplative prayer who has been leading women into a deeper relationship with Christ for the last 23 years. Her passion for depth in study, prayer and intentional community, shine through her teachings. Her greatest earthly privileges include being wife to Jay George, an Episcopal priest, and mother to three children, Adilyn, Jacob and Emily.” You don’t want to miss this event! Lunch reservations are due by Monday, October 16 by check for \$20 to Suzanne Thomas, 209 Lamont Ave., San Antonio, Texas 78209 or Jeanne Douglas, 3214 Falling Brk, San Antonio, Texas 78258. Doors open at 11:00 AM for seating and purchasing the lovely centerpieces. Lunch is served at 11:30 AM.

May we always use the fruit of the spirit to make Jesus truly visible. Galatians 5:22-23 “But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

CIRCLE MEETINGS

CIRCLE 1/12 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, October 16 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Lunch (optional): \$8.00
Chair: Suzanne Thomas (210-820-3245/
suzannethomas54@gmail.com)
Moderator: Grace Labatt
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and
Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 2/4 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, October 16 • 1:30 PM • FPC Room 226
Chair: Char-An Witten (210-341-1856)
Moderator: Members of Circle 2/4
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and
Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY
Friday, October 20 • 12:00 PM • FPC Room 228
Chairs: Jane Ann Temple (210-828-7542/
jatemple@att.net); Kay Weber (210-288-5290/
kayweber276@gmail.com)

CIRCLE 6 BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, October 17 • 1:30 PM • FPC Geneva Room
Chair: Mimi Hart (210-822-0809/mimihart@me.com)
Moderators: Jane Buchek, Kay Case, June Eubank,
Barbara Winship
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,
The Devil Wears Prada Ch. 21. God’s Biographies,
Ch. 30. A Spaniel’s Fall from Grace

CIRCLE 7 BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, October 17 • 11:30 AM • Meet in Mauze Lobby
for tour of San Antonio Threads Boutique (110 McCullough)
Bring Sack Lunch
Chair: Caren Redkey (210-531-6366/clredkey@gmail.com)

CIRCLE 8 MOMS’ GROUP
Christmas Craft Project
Tuesday, October 17 • 9:30-11:30 AM • FPC Room 108
Chairs: Sara Parish (210-394-0865/sara23sc@hotmail.com)
Lilly Gretzinger (210-601-0575/lilly@bunnngroup.com)
Meg Walker (210-601-7745/meg@aladdinleans.com)

CIRCLE 9 BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, October 17 • 10:00 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Chairs: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)
Frances Warrick (210-408-1775/fwarrick@sbcglobal.net)
Moderators: Members of Circle 9
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,

The Devil Wears Prada Ch. 21. God’s Biographies,
Ch. 30. A Spaniel’s Fall from Grace

CIRCLE 11 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, October 23 • 6:30 PM
Hostess: Sheila Figueroa (210-822-4082)
335 E. Melrose Drive, SA 78212
Chair: Karin Gabrielson (210-843-2475/
karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 11
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,
The Devil Wears Prada Ch. 21. God’s Biographies,
Ch. 30. A Spaniel’s Fall from Grace

CIRCLE 13 CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE
Tuesday, October 10 • 1:00 PM • FPC Covenant Hall
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)
Book: “A Gentleman in Moscow” by Amor Towles
Reviewer: Ann Smith

CIRCLE 14 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, October 16 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew’s Room
Chair: Marilyn Etheredge (210-862-4314/
mmorris.etheredge@yahoo.com)
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and
Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, October 18 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228
Chair: Lee Pressly (210-735-0978)

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, October 11 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309
Chair: Jeanne Baker (210-494-0972/
rbaker127@sbcglobal.net); Gigi Duke (210-695-4363)

CIRCLE 18 CARE AND CONCERN CIRCLE
No meetings
Chairs: Char-An Witten (210-341-1856)
Georgia Heath (210-695-9511/gkhymheath@earthlink.net)

CIRCLE 19 WHITE CROSS CIRCLE
Wednesday, October 4 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 309
Chair: Janet Beauch (210-673-3251/tabeauch@flash.net)

CIRCLE 20 - CIRCLE OF SERVICE
No meetings
Chair: Bunkie Shed (210-445-0724/
bshed@grandecom.net)

KEYS

JOE MOORE, OLDER ADULTS DIRECTOR

Haley Scarnato was a welcome start to our new KEYS year. She gave us an inside look at reality TV and to her life as well. We enjoyed a lunch together at Paloma Blanca and heard from Jeffery Addicott on terrorism. Yielding to the Texas Presbytery meetings we were hosted at the Food Bank where we learned about Aging Gracefully.

October begins with our Church wide Flu Shot Clinic sponsored by HEB, this is a great service to our congregation. Our Director Joe Moore has been to Chevak, Alaska on mission trips the last four summers and will be sharing his experience with us. We are also looking forward to having Clarence Thomas and his team from the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers Association.

Our picnic at the McNeel’s Ranch is always an October highlight, and we will end the month with a visit from Lisa Senteno from the Department of Family and Protective Services sharing with us concerning Adult Abuse.

OCTOBER EVENTS:

OCTOBER 1:

Flu Shot Clinic

OCTOBER 6:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness

11:00 AM Joe Moore sharing his Alaska Mission Trip

1:00 PM KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting

OCTOBER 13:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness

11:00 AM Clarence Thompson and The Buffalo Soldiers

1:00 PM Bridge and Mah Jongg

OCTOBER 20:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness

No KEYS Program

OCTOBER 21:

KEYS Picnic at the McNeel’s

OCTOBER 27:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness

11:00AM Lisa Senteno from Texas Department of Family and Public Safety



NOVEMBER EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 3:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness

11:00AM Speaker from San Antonio Recycle

1:00 PM KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER 10:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness

11:00AM Veterans Day Speaker LTC Robert (Bob) Watson, Retired

1:00 PM Bridge and Mah Jongg

NOVEMBER 17:

11:30AM Birthday Lunch at Scuzzi’s

NOVEMBER 24:

No KEYS due to Thanksgiving

COMING EVENTS:

DECEMBER 8:

A Holiday Lights Dinner on a River Barge served by Casa Rio

JANUARY 6:

A trip to the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival

APRIL 14:

“Rain to Drain Tour” with SAWS

TO JOIN US FOR ANY KEYS EVENT:

Contact Stephanie Garcia at 210-271-2753 or stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

AARP “WE NEED TO TALK” SEMINAR

AARP has developed a non-threatening approach to address a very sensitive and difficult question, “Do I need to turn in my keys and stop driving?” The developers of the seminar hope to make this an easier topic to approach for both 55 and better parents and their adult children. Too often this decision is forced on a family due to a close call while driving or a full blown injury related accident. If you would be interested in FPC hosting the “We Need To Talk” seminar, email or call Stephanie at 210-271-2753 or Stephanieg@fpcsat.org.

THE HISTORY CORNER

REV. JOHN MCCULLOUGH— LIFE AFTER FIRST PRES

BY BILL COGBURN

San Antonio in the 1840s was a lawless outpost on the edge of the western frontier. John McCullough, a visionary with missionary zeal, accepted the challenge to establish the first protestant church in a town that many thought was beyond redemption.

McCullough did not shrink from publicly rebuking owners and patrons of saloons and brothels. He faced threats and actual danger every day, barely surviving at least one assassination attempt. Still, he was intent on carrying on his ministry until he was struck by personal tragedy when his young wife, Lorena, contracted yellow fever and died. Heartsick and suffering health problems of his own, McCullough moved back to Galveston in 1849 where he had organized a church ten years earlier. In 1851, 46-year-old McCullough married 20-year-old Margaret Jane Riddell. The difference in age initially caused concern to Margaret's family, but they soon came to realize that theirs was truly a love match.

After the 1854 yellow fever epidemic forced the closure of the Galveston Seminary, which McCullough had founded upon his return to Galveston, the couple moved to Dresden, Ohio, where John spent the next several years as stated supply for three churches near Zanesville.

In 1859, the McCullough family moved back to Texas by covered wagon and settled on a ranch near Double Horn in Burnet County, a few miles east of Marble Falls, where Double Horn Creek empties into the Colorado River. The ranch consisted of nearly 1,000 acres of land for which McCullough paid from \$1.50 to \$2.00 per acre depending upon its access to water. The land was generally rich and the tillable acreage easily watered from the great springs. Frequent droughts, however, made crops uncertain so cattle and sheep were their mainstay.

Neighboring ranching families, accustomed to the harsh conditions of frontier life, were amazed that Margaret McCullough brought with her a piano and a silver tea service as well as other refinements rarely seen in homes of early Texas pioneers. The

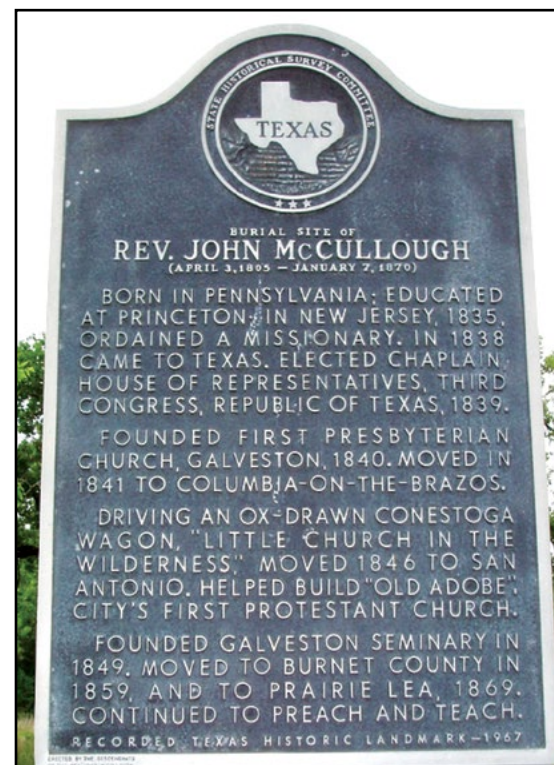
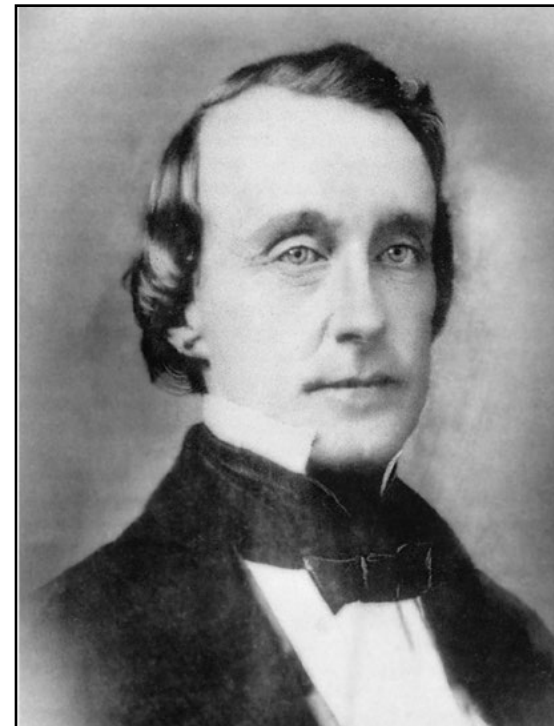
Chickering grand piano had been a gift from her brother-in-law, James McCullough, while in Ohio.

The ravages of the Civil War and the collapse of the currency left many people in Texas in dire straits. Looking forward to nothing more than a marginal existence on their ranch, the McCulloughs moved to Caldwell County in 1869 to the town of Prairie Lea, which is about eight miles northwest of Luling. In Prairie Lea, McCullough agreed to undertake the building of a new church and school. He was preaching almost every Sunday and teaching during the week until he suddenly became ill, most likely from pneumonia, and died on January 9, 1870 at age sixty-five. He is buried in the Prairie Lea town cemetery where a historic marker commemorating his life is mounted at the cemetery gate.

Margaret, a widow at thirty-nine, and their nine children moved back to Galveston to be near her brother, John Riddell. With the help of her older children and her brother, she was able to establish a successful boarding house accommodating fifteen boarders. She also taught Sunday school and served as president of the Ladies Aid Society, dedicated to relieving the city's poor. She served in that organization until her death in 1910.

John McCullough spent only three years in San Antonio, but his legacy lives on in First Pres, its numerous "daughter churches," and its influence for good in the city.

Source: Texas State Historical Association; Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice by Donald Everett; early photo (Philadelphia, 1850) negative, courtesy of Dr. and Mrs. David McCullough; John McCullough, Pioneer Presbyterian Missionary & Teacher in the Republic of Texas, by William Wallace McCullough, Jr.



THE REST OF THE STORY ABOUT YOUR DEACONS

HOME COMMUNION

"Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." John 6:54

Unknown to many members, First Presbyterian Church provides Home Communion services to members who desire to receive communion but are unable to attend worship services at the church. With training and oversight by Reverend Scott Simpson, Elders and Deacons, serving in teams of two, offer the service of the Lord's Supper four times a year in members' homes.

The service is a simple, personalized worship of Home Communion offered on the first Sunday of January, May, August and October. A Home Communion Order of Worship is used as a guideline for the service. A blessing of the communion elements by one of the pastors occurs before the team leaves the church.

Prior to the date of visitation, members are contacted by the Home Communion Team to establish a convenient time for our members at home. The service may be for only one, but often family members, neighbors, or other members of the church participate in these home celebrations.

FPC Officers report the joy and blessing they receive, expressing comments such as these: "It was a joyous day!" "The lady was so appreciative that we brought the Lord's Supper to her!" "The husband and wife were able to take communion together!" And, the members at home report the blessing they feel to have the fellowship and oneness with their congregation by sharing in this sacred event.

For anyone interested in arranging a Home Communion visitation, please contact:
Leslie Walter (210) 805-8986
Jane Blackburn (210) 493-8283
Janice Wilson (210) 260-4157



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS

BECKY PRICHARD, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

In the Children's Ministry program at FPC, we talk a lot about stories. We all have our favorite

stories from childhood that teach us about good and bad, and enliven and enrich our imagination. We remember stories like Charlotte's Web, Rumpelstiltskin, and the Chronicles of Narnia; the characters and plot lines stick with us for years.

We also teach the children that the Bible is God's story about God's people. As we read the stories that span from the Old Testament to the New Testament, we see God's love for His people and the amazing things that God has done in this world as a part of His plan for the salvation of humankind. We hold this story close to our hearts as we grow deeper in faith and walk through the challenges that come with life on this broken earth. God's story continues to be written in our own lives as we live and grow and walk with God on our journeys of faith.

Even in Scripture, there are good stories and bad stories. We read about all kinds of people, good and evil, and how God worked in their midst despite their humanity. Some of the stories do not have a happy ending and they leave us feeling sad and empty as we see how sin has led to evil and destruction in this world. But there is one story that matters more than any of the others. One story full of grace and hope: the story of Christ's death on the cross and bodily resurrection from the grave for our eternal salvation.

As I reflect on the hurricanes that have ravaged our country over the past weeks, I cannot help but think of the story that God continues to unfold. It is hard not to wonder, "Where is God in all of this?" as we watch homes and schools and workplaces destroyed by winds, rain, and rising floodwaters. It is hard not to feel angry or bitter as we see possessions lost and lives upturned, or to feel guilty as we sit in our dry homes watching the devastation on the television or through social media.

As I watched many of my friends in Houston gut their houses and pile everything they own onto the front lawn, my stomach ached for them. One of our good family friends looked up at my mom as she was trying to salvage her water-logged kitchen dishes and said, "Is it ok to cry now?"

The truth is that we must lament the loss, grieve through the pain, and ask the Holy Spirit for comfort and peace in the midst of the storm. The story we read through Scripture does not promise a life free of suffering, but the promise is in Christ Jesus and his sacrifice made so that the suffering would not last forever.

The story of these hurricanes is a heartbreaking story and it is one that we will tell for years to come, to our kids and grandkids, as we weep in remembrance of all that was lost. But we will also tell of the grace and hope found in the wreckage. We will tell the stories of neighbors helping one another, cities coming together to clean up and provide shelter and food for those in need, churches linking arms across the country to pray and serve as God is leading. We will tell of the selflessness of those who gave money, boats, supplies, and meals to help in the relief effort. We will tell of God's grace that shines through at every turn even when we feel that all hope is gone.

In the darkness of despair, there is light of hope that comes from Jesus Christ. As it is written in 2 Corinthians 4:6, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

The story is not over yet. God continues to draw us closer to Him even in the midst of doubt, fear, and loss. Let us continue to pray for the light of Christ to shine brightly in this dark world. Let us continue to love one another and walk with one another as we put the pieces back together in the coming weeks, months, and years. Let us cling to the promises of life abundant through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.



Come join us for an evening of food, wine and friends as we celebrate:

Ladies' Night Out

Thursday, October 5 at 6:00 PM
In the home of Catherine Whitsett
203 Haskin Drive

Questions? Please call
Betsy Zachry 210-262-1236



Women of the Church

FALL LEGACY LUNCHEON

"The Legacy of Biblical Women" Jamie George

Monday, October 23, 2017
11:30 AM (Doors Open at 11:00 AM)
Westminster Hall • Lunch \$20
Your Check is Your Reservation


Suzanne Thomas (suzannethomas54@gmail.com / 210-846-3240 / 209 Lamont Ave., SATX 78209)
Jeanne Douglas (garydoug@sbcglobal.net / 210-414-2873 / 3214 Falling Brk SATX 78258)

FIRST CUP READINGS OCTOBER, 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 and Claire Averyt



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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

Depth of mercy! Can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forebear? Me, the chief of sinners, spare? I have long withstood His grace, long provoked Him to His face; would not hearken to His calls, grieved Him by a thousand falls. Still for me the Savior stands, shows His wounds, and spreads His hands. God is love! I know, I feel; Jesus weeps, and loves me still. (The Hymnbook, No. 273)

- 1 Leviticus 17; Hebrews 9:15-28
- 2 Leviticus 18; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11
- 3 Leviticus 19; Matthew 5:17-20
- 4 Leviticus 20; Hebrews 12
- 5 Leviticus 26; 1 John 1
- 6 Numbers 6; Judges 13; Luke 1:5-55;
- 7 Numbers 8-9; Psalm 85

Guide me O Thou great Jehovah, Pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but Thou art mighty; Hold me with Thy powerful hand. Bread of Heaven, Bread of Heaven, Feed me till I want no more. Feed me till I want no more. Open now the crystal Fountain, Whence the healing stream doth flow. Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong Deliverer. Strong Deliverer, Be thou still my strength and shield, Strong Deliverer, Strong Deliverer, Be Thou still my strength and Shield. (Worship in Song, No. 64)

- 8 Numbers 10-12; Hebrews 13:7; Romans 12:12;
James 5:13-16
- 9 Numbers 13-14; Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 20
- 10 Numbers 15; Leviticus 4:13-14, 5:14-19
- 11 Numbers 16-17; Proverbs 17:11; Hebrews 9:1-15
- 12 Numbers 20; Psalm 95; Hebrews 12:1-13
- 13 Numbers 21, 25; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13
- 14 Deuteronomy 1-2; 2 Corinthians 6:3-10, 10:4-6

*O God, beneath Thy guiding hand, our exiled fathers
crossed the sea; And when they trod the wintry strand
with prayer and psalm they worshipped Thee. Laws,
freedom, truth, and faith in God, came with those exiles
over the waves; and, where their pilgrim feet have trod,
the God they trusted guards their graves. And here
thy name, O God of love, their children's children shall
adore, till these eternal hills remove, and spring adorns
the earth no more. (The Hymnbook, No. 523)*

- 15 Deuteronomy 4, 6, 8; Romans 1:18-2:29;
Proverbs 3:11-12
- 16 Deuteronomy 9-11; John 14:23-24
- 17 Deuteronomy 29-30; Psalm 1
- 18 Deuteronomy 31; Psalm 14:2-3
- 19 Psalm 107, 116
- 20 Deuteronomy 32; Galatians 6:7-10
- 21 Deuteronomy 33-34; Psalm 116:15;
2 Corinthians 5:8-10

*Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known.
Join in a song with sweet accord, join in a song with
sweet accord, and thus surround the throne, and thus
surround the throne. The hill of Zion yields a thousand
sacred sweets before we reach the heavenly fields, be-
fore we reach the heavenly fields, Or walk the golden
streets, or walk the golden streets. We're marching to
Zion, beautiful, beautiful Zion. We're marching upward
to Zion, the beautiful city of God. (Worship in Song,
No. 75)*


- 22 Joshua 1; Psalm 119:89-112; Hebrews 4:12-13
23 Joshua 2; Matthew 1:1-6; Ephesians 2:11-22;
James 2:25-26
24 Deuteronomy 11:26-32; Joshua 3-4; Psalm 42
25 Joshua 5-6; Hebrews 11:30; 1 Corinthians 1:25,
3:18-23
26 Joshua 7; Deuteronomy 17:2-7; Acts 5:1-11
27 Joshua 8; Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6, 8:1;
2 Timothy 3:14-17
28 Joshua 9; Psalm 15

*Lead on O King Eternal, the day of march has come;
Henceforth in fields of conquest Thy tents shall be
our home: Through days of preparation Thy grace has
made us strong, and now, O King Eternal, we lift our
battle song. Lead on O King Eternal, We follow, not with
fears, for gladness breaks like morning where-e'er Thy
face appears; Thy cross is lifted o'er us; We journey in
its light; The crown awaits the conquest; Lead on, O
God of might. (Baptist Hymnal, No. 417)*

- 29 Joshua 10-11; Psalm 56
30 Joshua 14, 20:1-22:34; Psalm 78:1-8
31 Joshua 23-24; Psalm 91; Psalm 116:15

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).

A white ceramic cup filled with coffee and latte art, sitting on a matching white saucer with a silver spoon. The cup is positioned on the right side of the slide.

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).

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