



FIRST PRESS

NOVEMBER 2017



THANKS IN GIVING STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN



THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY AIR FERN

REV. DR. RONALD W. SCATES

2018 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Have you ever wondered how air ferns can live on just air? If you have an air fern, you're probably thankful that you don't have to water or feed it. And you're probably grateful for the fact that it can never die. Why? Because it's already dead. Not only is an air fern not alive, it's not even a fern or a plant. Talk about "fake news." It's really an animal, or I should say a collection of dried-out dead colonies of hydrozoa, relatives of corals and jellyfish.

Contrary to some peoples' wishes, I'm thankful that the Church Of Jesus Christ—and FPC in particular—is not an "air fern." That she is alive, and needs and thrives on the real-life prayers, mission-flexed muscles, loving words and deeds, and financial investments and sacrifices of her covenant partners—men and women, boys and girls who are caught up in gratitude for the life, death, bodily resurrection, ascension, and sure return of the Living Lord Jesus Christ. I'm so thankful that FPC is not a collection of dried-out dead anything. It is a lively, joyful missionary society with 171 years of faithful ministry in her rearview mirror and a vibrantly bright future of what she does best: robust worship, sending missionaries all over the globe, fervent prayer, discipling people of all ages, and carrying out a variety of life-transforming ministries all over the city of San Antonio.

To do all that takes more than air. It takes the faithful financial investment of a joyful, thankful people who want to fuel Kingdom ministries as a way of saying, "I love you, Lord, and I am grateful that I belong to you." We head into 2018—as part of a new denomination (the Covenant Order Of Evangelical Presbyterians), with a new Sr. Pastor (oh, be so ever-grateful for the Lord's provision of Bob Fuller!), and strategically placed by God in the epicenter of San Antonio's tri-centennial renaissance. As we do, I hope you will—once again—shoot us over budget, by making a gratefully faithful financial investment in what the Lord is doing at Fourth and Alamo.

Air ferns are just for show. FPC is the real-deal. She needs more than air to be the functioning Body of Christ. I thank you in advance for your investment in making Jesus visible in San Antonio and around the world.

In gratitude—and Sola Dei gloria!

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SAVE THE DATE



SPECTRUM WINDS AND NIGHTWATCH

NOVEMBER 3 • 7:00 PM • FPC SANCTUARY

For their first appearance at FPC, we welcome the Spectrum Winds and Nightwatch Woodwind quintets drawn from the United States Air Force Band of the West based here in San Antonio. These ensembles are known for the highest standards of musical excellence, exploring the diverse world of chamber music for winds and percussion that include woodwind quintet literature, Latin, jazz, Celtic, and more.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOX SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 12

All are invited to fill a shoebox with gifts and hygiene items to send to children around the world for Operation Christmas Child through Samaritan's Purse. Please bring filled shoeboxes and \$9.00 (for shipping) to FPC on Sunday, November 12 and drop off at the front desk. For a list of approved items visit: www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SHOEBOX WRAPPING AND PJ'S AND PANCAKES

NOVEMBER 12 • 9:30–10:30 AM • NUTRITION CENTER

Children are invited to bring their packed shoeboxes and \$9.00 (for shipping) to FPC where we will wrap the boxes and pray over them before sending. Kids are invited to wear their Christmas PJ's to church, bring a friend, and come hungry for Pancakes and Bacon! Contact Julie Walthall at jgwalt@satx.rr.com for more information.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

NOVEMBER 14 • 1:00 PM • COVENANT HALL

With nearly 1500 Broadway performances, six Tony Awards, more than three million albums sold and five Academy Awards, "The Sound of Music" based on the lives of Maria Augusta Trapp, the baron and their singing children, is familiar to most of us. Bill and Patrice Hensley will present "The Story of the Trapp Family Singers," as Baroness Maria Trapp tells her own extraordinary story of her romance with the baron, their escape from Nazi-occupied Austria, and their life in America.

Join the Literature Circle on Tuesday, November 14 at 1:00 PM in Covenant Hall for refreshments followed by the review, plus the beautiful music of this special family.

WORSHIP NIGHT

NOVEMBER 19 • 7:30 PM • WESTMINSTER HALL

Join us for an immersive worship experience that will prepare you for the Advent season. Hosted by our own 11:02 contemporary band and worship leader Kevin Dailey, we will contemplate Advent through songs, prayer, and interactive stations.

GIFT OF CHRISTMAS

SUNDAYS THROUGH DECEMBER 3

The "Gift of Christmas" is a mission project coordinated by the Women of the Church of First Presbyterian Church. This Christmas Project is an opportunity for groups or individuals in our church to share Christ's love by giving food, clothing, gifts, and gift cards to families in need. Each family is referred to us by the House of Neighborly Service. Some families are large, some multi-generational, while others are small family units. All are very appreciative of the gifts and the givers.

We encourage WOC Circles, Sunday School classes, small groups, House of Prayer groups, various church organizations, families, and individuals to share in this effort to include these HNS families in your Christmas giving. Gift of Christmas Family Request Forms are available in the Mauze Lobby through December 3.

Read more about this wonderful opportunity at www.fpcsanantonio.org/gift-of-christmas.

SUNDAY GREETERS NEEDED

Whether you come in to worship or just to rest, when you enter First Pres may you be blessed! That is my heartfelt desire for every person who walks in our doors! Each Sunday that is the job of greeters, stationed at our entrances, which include members of all ages. Please consider committing once a month in this way. Clayton and I enjoy serving in this capacity and think you will as well. If you are interested, contact Rev. Mitchell Moore at MitchellM@fpcsat.org, or David Youngquist at david@davidyoungquist.com.
— ROBIN HUDNALL

MIDDAY NOELS CONCERT SERIES

DECEMBER 7, 14, AND 21

Once again, FPC offers its holiday "gift to the city" through a variety of creative musical offerings. Each of these 30-40 minute concerts (beginning at 12:10 PM) is followed by your choice of either a "Grab and Go" lunch (\$3) or a full hot lunch served in Westminster Hall (\$9).

A RINGING DUO RETURNS

DECEMBER 7 • FPC SANCTUARY

Our highly skilled organist, Dr. Jae Ha, is again joined by St. Luke's Episcopal Church organist, Russell Jackson, to offer music composed for two pianos. Returning by popular demand from their first performance in 2015, these two gifted musicians will perform pieces that will dazzle and inspire all in attendance. Jae's musical offerings for Christmas are always a highlight of our series and not to be missed!

SHIMMERING SOUNDS AND SPARKLING SONGS

DECEMBER 14 • FPC SANCTUARY

Tom Dooling, Minister of Music, is joined by four other skilled singers and accompanist, Dr. Jae Ha, to form a "Christmas Vocal Quintet" for singing ensemble and solo pieces to celebrate Christmas. Surveying a broad range of musical styles, this performance will both inspire and entertain!

JAZZ JINGLES WITH SOUTH TEXAS JAZZ QUARTET

DECEMBER 21 • FPC SANCTUARY

In their first appearance in our Midday Noel series, we welcome Pierre Poree, saxophonist, and the South Texas Jazz Quartet as they perform foot tapping renditions of Christmas favorites. Don't miss this final performance of the series!

HOUSE OF PRAYER

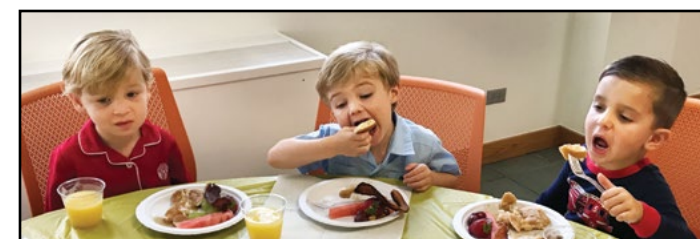
NOVEMBER 1 • 5:30–7:00 PM • WESTMINSTER HALL

As part of our ongoing House of Prayer activities, we will once again gather for dinner and prayer at FPC. This is your opportunity to get involved as we reconnect with the Lord. For more information, email houseofprayer@fpcsat.org.

PJ'S AND PANCAKES

ON SUNDAY MORNING

Once again, the children of FPC came to church in their pajamas, slippers, and robes for our PJs and Pancakes Sunday on September 17. Over 80 kids enjoyed pancakes, fruit, juice and lots and lots of bacon, while they hung out with their friends and Sunday School teachers, sang songs, and learned about God's promises. Bolner's Meat Company generously donated 20 POUNDS of bacon and the kids devoured every piece. We want to extend a huge THANK YOU to Bolner's Meat Company and all the FPC dads who cooked bacon in the courtyard in their PJ's! Thank you to the Children's Ministry Committee, Sunday School teachers and parents who helped to make this another memorable event for our kids. Our kids are such a special part of the FPC church family, and the Children's Ministry staff is so grateful for all who pour into our kids and walk with them on their faith journeys.



LOCAL MISSIONS

SOUTH TEXAS ALLIANCE FOR ORPHANS

The South Texas Alliance for Orphans was officially launched in September 2016 due directly to the generous support of the First Presbyterian Church family. Through the Alliance, our FPC family is supporting, equipping and educating the churches of San Antonio to reclaim our biblical call to care for orphans in our community. Currently, over 5,000 voiceless abused and neglected children are shuffled through the state foster system, where they are often talked about but rarely given a voice and each move compounds their trauma. Our investment in the Alliance is allowing all individuals in the church, especially those who aren't called to foster themselves, to find a role and be a part of the solution. Their proven ministry model has enabled 21 churches so far to have active foster/adopt ministries serving in prevention, building capacity and supporting foster/adoptive/kinship families. The Alliance has trained and educated over 500 church members in the foster system and all the ways to get involved. They also facilitated the first Babysitting Collaborative in our area yielding 70 new trained and verified individuals able to babysit children in foster care. With our continued support, we look forward to seeing the Alliance achieve their goal of 100 churches with foster/adopt ministries, while at the same time, having them help First Pres grow our own viable support network for foster care within our own church.

Foster Parents are generally unable to take time for themselves due to government regulations and restrictions that govern the foster care system. Churches are allowed to work with foster children, so FPC seeks to minister to these families by hosting a Parent's Day Out on Saturday, December 2. Volunteers will receive training from 9:00 - 10:00 AM that morning and programming will take place from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM. This time will be a blessing for the parents and a wonderful way for our church to be involved in outreach to these families. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpc-sat.org/210-271-2758) in the Missions Office.

GLOBAL MISSIONS

YWAM



Hello dear friends from First Presbyterian,

Greetings from Youth With A Mission—Tyler, TX. I am so grateful that we can be in partnership in building God's wonderful kingdom of Love.

Our ministry center has recently been engaged with countless ministry opportunities. With the devastating hurricanes that hit Texas, Florida and now Puerto Rico, we have been facilitating numerous reconstruction teams to each of these places. I will personally take a work team to Puerto Rico from October 19-25. If anyone at the church would be interested in going with me, please let me know. If you can't make this trip, I'm sure we will be taking follow-up teams over the next few months. Our contacts on the ground are telling us it will take over a year to rebuild this devastated island.

This past summer my family and I had a wonderful opportunity to travel to Europe. We were invited to come assist our YWAM – Latvia friends with their 2-week summer soccer camps. They use soccer as a medium for ministry. Latvians love soccer and hundreds of young people came out to join, especially now that Americans were coming to help.

Each day, rain or shine, we played and coached soccer games, skill clinics, and held tournaments. Along with this we did devotionals, shared our testimonies and had bible studies. We shared with many and it was wonderful to see so many Latvians open to hear about Christ.

More recently I just returned home from a trip through Asia. I visited our long-term ministry teams, that Evelyn and I trained and launched to Mongolia and Azerbaijan. My first stop was UlaanBaatar, Mongolia.

This is the city where Evie and I pioneered YWAM in the 90's. It was wonderful to see this city again. Much has changed and many of the young people that we led to Christ and discipled, are now church leaders and missionaries. I also had a special time of assisting in a wedding of a dear Mongol missionary friend of 22 years. Bayaraa has worked closely with Evie and I for most of this time. Recently God has brought a wonderful gal into his life. Mina, is a beautiful gal inside and out and she faithfully serves the Mongolian church.

My last stop was to Baku, Azerbaijan. I've never been to this nation before, but I've been quite involved in training and preparing numerous missionaries that presently serve there. It was a great joy to see our YWAMers in action and witness the many fruitful aspects of their ministries.

Years ago, when we first launched teams there we only knew of about five Christians in the whole nation. Now there are over 18,000 believers and hundreds of churches. God is doing many wonderful things across Asia.

Just last evening our YWAM center welcomed a new discipleship school with over 60 new students. We are very excited about this!! They will be with us for the next five months as we share with them how to grow and maintain their relationship with God. We will have three months of intensive classroom training followed by two months of outreach.

Thanks again for your love, prayers and concern for our ministry with Youth With A Mission. I am really looking forward to visiting with you in mid-November.

Until all have heard,
Ron Moyer

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT

In September members of Circle 20 provided a delicious pasta dinner for the women and children of Young Lives. Our sincere thanks go to Bunkie Shed, chairman of Circle 20, for organizing this meal, and to all of the women who provided food for this event. It is our privilege to support this organization.

I thoroughly enjoyed visiting some of the circles this fall. The Bible study circles are always taught by talented and knowledgeable moderators, the Literature Circle reviews great books, and the White Cross Circle rolls bandages for countries that do not have adequate disposal methods for soiled commercial bandages. It was a pleasure to join the Mom's Group in creating the Christmas ornaments that will be delivered to the residents of Morningside Manor and Chandler Home during their respective Christmas Parties in December.

The annual fall Ladies Night Out was celebrated at the lovely home of Catherine Whitsett. We truly appreciate Catherine and John for their generous hospitality, and Betsy Zachry for planning such a fun event. Betsy's committee, comprised of Catherine Whitsett, Mindy Daubert, Mary Henderson, Elizabeth Kreager, Stacia Morse, and Nancy Scheifele were instrumental in executing the perfect party. A plentiful and delicious

variety of foods and beverages were brought by many women for us all to enjoy while visiting with friends.

Our annual legacy luncheon, "The Legacy of Biblical Women," with speaker Jamie George, was truly a memorable event. Jamie encouraged the women of FPC to follow the legacy of several biblical women, to seek what God has entrusted to them personally, and to leave their own Godly legacy. We could not have had our beautiful church setting and delicious food without the help of our dedicated church staff, the women who helped plan the details for our luncheon, and those who volunteered to be waitresses. Marilyn Etheredge and Erica Picard created the gorgeous centerpieces, Suzanne Thomas and Jeanne Douglas took the reservations and arranged the seating, and Kathy Serrano organized the waitresses for whom we were all very grateful for their service.

I wish each of you a blessed Thanksgiving. As we show extreme kindness by sharing our blessings with others, may we continue to make Jesus visible to everyone we encounter this holiday season.

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, November 20 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Lunch (optional): \$8.00
Chairs: 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, November 20 • 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, November 17 • 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, November 21 • 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, "Knowing God," Ch. 10—Snapshots of the Savior; Ch.13—The Girl and the Elephants; Ch.34—Hallways of the Buckingham

CIRCLE 7 BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, November 14 • 11:30 AM
Hostess: Caren Redkey (327 E Sunset Rd. 78209)
Bring Sack Lunch
Chair: Caren Redkey (210-531-6366/clredkey@gmail.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 7
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, "Knowing God," Ch. 10—Snapshots of the Savior; Ch.13—The Girl and the Elephants; Ch.34—Hallways of the Buckingham

CIRCLE 8 MOMS' GROUP
No Daytime Meetings
Contact Circle Chairs for Moms' Night Out Information
Chairs: Sara Parish (210-394-0865/sara23sc@hotmail.com)
Lilly Gretzinger (210-601-0575/lilly@bunngroup.com)
Meg Walker (210-601-7745/meg@aladdin cleans.com)

CIRCLE 9 BIBLE CIRCLE
Tuesday, November 21 • 10:00 AM
Hostess: Ann Smith (2626 Country Hollow 78209)
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, "Knowing God," Ch. 10—Snapshots of the Savior; Ch.13—The Girl and the Elephants; Ch.34—Hallways of the Buckingham

CIRCLE 11 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, November 27 • 6:30 PM
Hostess: Laura Johnstone
(3806 Park Gate Street 78230/210-723-3700)
Chair: Karin Gabrielson
(210-843-2475/karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 11
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr, "Knowing God," Ch. 10—Snapshots of the Savior; Ch.13—The Girl and the Elephants; Ch.34—Hallways of the Buckingham

CIRCLE 13 CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE
Tuesday, November 14 • 1:00 PM • FPC Covenant Hall
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)
Book: *Trapp Family Singers*, "The Sound of Music"
by Maria Augusta Trapp
Musical Presentation by: Bill and Patrice Hensley
(rescheduled from October)

CIRCLE 14 BIBLE CIRCLE
Monday, November 13 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew's Room
Chair: Marilyn Etheredge
(210-862-4314/morris.etheredge@yahoo.com)
Study: *Women of the Bible* by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda

CIRCLE 16 MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, November 15 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228
Chair: Lee Pressley, 210-735-0978

CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE
Wednesday, November 8 • 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, November 1 • 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

We jumped into October by rolling up our sleeves for the Flu Shot Clinic. This has been successful partnership with HEB for many years and a welcomed service to all ages of our congregation. Joe Moore was joined by his daughter Lauren and Pat Fick, the Director of Can Do Missions, to introduce us to life in the small Alaskan village of Chevak. A big “Thank-You” to our own Rev. Mitchell Moore who challenged our thinking about Race, Redemption, and Reconciliation. Always a highlight of October was our picnic at Doug and Judith McNeel’s ranch where we enjoyed fun and fellowship. Ending the month, Lisa Senteno shared with us the reality of how abuse is affecting older adults.

November will be a shortened schedule leading into Thanksgiving and The Advent Season. Lynn Cox, the Solid Waste Director’s Executive Assistant, will provide answers to our recycling questions and a basic overview of what the Solid Waste Management Department is doing. LTC Robert Watson will be with us to share his experiences in Viet Nam and to honor our veterans. Our November birthday lunch will be at Scuzzi’s Italian restaurant.



NOVEMBER EVENTS:

NOVEMBER 3:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness
11:00 AM Lynn Cox from San Antonio Recycle
1:00 PM KEYS Leadership Committee Meeting

NOVEMBER 10:

9:30 AM Keep Moving Fitness
11:00 AM Veteran’s Day Speaker LTC Robert (Bob) Watson, Retired
1:00 PM Bridge and Mah Jongg

NOVEMBER 17:

11:30 AM Birthday Lunch at Scuzzi’s

NOVEMBER 24:

NO KEYS—Thanksgiving

LOOKING AHEAD:

DECEMBER 1:

Keep Moving Fitness
KEYS Christmas Party
KEYS Annual Christmas Party and December Birthday Celebration. FPC Friday Singers will be our musical guests.
Elf Louise Gift Wrapping (12:00-4:00 PM)
Elf Louise Gift Wrapping will be a bit later this year. We will provide a Van service from FPC at 11:00 and we can plan an early dinner for all who are interested.

DECEMBER 8:

Dinner at Casa Rio and Christmas Lights River Tour
Details are still in the works due to the changeover of Boat Companies. We have reserved the Veranda Room that overlooks the river walk for dinner at 5:00 PM and waiting for confirmation of a private boat for a Christmas Lights tour to begin at 6:30 PM. The Cost is \$20 for dinner, plus the cost of the boat which has not yet been determined. As soon as plans are firmed we will let you know.

JANUARY 6:

Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival
Join us for a trip to the Boar’s Head and Yule Log Festival and a celebration of the meaning of Christmas in music, drama, and dance. Over 180 people dressed in authentic Renaissance costumes play a part in the hour-long pageant that recreates the 12 days of Christmas and the victory of a boy over a boar in the middle Ages. Cost is \$75 per person which includes coach bus transportation leaving FPC at 10:00 AM returning at 7:00 PM, a noon lunch, and the Festival at 3:00 PM. Admission to the festival is one canned food item for the Corpus Christi Food Bank. We need a minimum of 30 participants.

TO JOIN US FOR ANY KEYS EVENT:

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

PAUL’S PRAYERS FOR THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST

BY CHUCK BEATTY

As we often read through the Bible, we usually read about “them,” but not thinking how the scripture applies directly to “me.” You should first read these prayers that Paul wrote in his letters to the churches as if he is writing to you personally; then read these prayers again for our church—First Presbyterian Church, San Antonio. Read slowly and let the Holy Spirit speak to you; stopping to pray for yourself, and then for the church—here at FPC, and then for the Body of Christ everywhere.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

— Philippians 1:3-11

I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has given me strength, that he considered me trustworthy, appointing me to his service. Even though I was once a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent man, I was shown mercy because I acted in ignorance and unbelief. The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

— 1 Timothy 1:12-14

We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. Therefore, among God’s churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.

— 2 Thessalonians 1:3-4

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all

circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt but test them all; hold on to what is good, reject every kind of evil. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it. Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Greet all God’s people with a holy kiss. I charge you before the Lord to have this letter read to all the brothers and sisters. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:16-28

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way - with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge - God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

— 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

— 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved. — 2 Corinthians 2:14-15

For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God’s people, I

have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

— Ephesians 1:14-19

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

— Ephesians 3:14-19

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

— Galatians 1:3-5

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do it.

— 1 Thessalonians 5:23

THE REST OF THE STORY ABOUT YOUR DEACONS

HOSPITAL VISITATION

One of the most important ways in which deacons provide spiritual care to our congregation is the hospital or rehabilitation facility visitation ministry. Deacons visit members who are either currently in the hospital or are in a facility for rehabilitation and who have requested visits from the church. When visiting our members, the deacons help our members to feel God’s presence and to experience the fellowship of our loving congregation. During the visits, deacons listen, pray, share scripture, and just spend a short time there with our members. On Sundays, we are often privileged to share an arrangement of sanctuary flowers, a worship bulletin, or maybe even a few thoughts from a Sunday School class or the sermon. These visits are a blessing for the deacons and for our members.

How do the deacons know which church members would benefit from a visit in a hospital or rehabilitation facility? The most important way is through the church’s “Care and Concern” line. The Care and Concern line is a recorded message that lists church members who are either in a hospital or a rehabilitation facility; it is updated as necessary as the information changes. The Care and Concern line also lists other members who have specific prayer requests—perhaps an upcoming surgery, mission trip, or other important life event. Of course, the Care and Concern line is for the entire church family, not just the deacons. To access it, just dial the number (210) 222-CARE (2273).

If you or a family member or friend is checking into a hospital or rehabilitation facility, please let us know. To be added to the Care and Concern list, it is possible to leave a message at (210) 222-CARE (2273), or if you prefer, you could email Stephanie Garcia at StephanieG@fpcsat.org. You can also pass along any other prayer request. Due to privacy regulations, it is difficult for the church to know which members are in medical facilities. Please help us know by leaving a message on the Care and Concern line or by emailing Stephanie.

The Care and Concern line also includes a verse from scripture, reminding us that God is present always, in the midst of whatever we may be experiencing or whatever concerns we have. What a blessing to have that assurance! A recent verse from the Care and Concern line: “Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God.” (Isaiah 41:10)

VETERAN'S DAY PRAYERS

BY CHUCK BEATTY

PRAYERS FOR ALL THE FALLEN VETERANS

There is no way we can know your names, or the war in which you served, or the place you called home, or the family that cried for you.

We cannot know the service uniform you wore, nor the final resting place whether close or far away.

We can only thank our Lord God, for your love of country and your sacrifice to keep us free.

We can only commit you into the eternal and loving arms of our Savior.

PRAYERS FOR THE WOUNDED, RETURNING VETERANS

I think about the wounded, returning veterans as I see you in the news or even at the store.

Sometimes your wound is very obvious and, other times, not visible at all, and yet my love and compassion goes out to you.

Many times the scars are never seen, but the trauma of war is forever sketched in your mind.

Yet it is our prayer for you that the Lord Jesus, will bring physical, mental and spiritual healing to you that the peace of Christ will be yours always and that you will know the love, respect and thanks of a grateful nation.

PRAYERS FOR ALL VETERANS

O Lord, we remember all veterans who have served, and those presently in the military, in grateful thanks for their courage and valor in times of world tension and times of peace.

We pray for their protection and that You would shield them from all harm.

We pray that you O Lord, will walk with them and keep away all loneliness and despair when separated from their families.

PRAYERS FOR THE FAMILIES OF VETERANS

Lord, we lift up the families of all veterans in whatever circumstances they may experience.

Especially in times of separation, be their comfort and companion.

Bless especially the children, provide love and support from relatives, church, friends and teachers.

We pray that their families may be joyously reunited after times of separation.

PRAYERS FOR NATIONAL LEADERS

Lord Jesus, we lift up in prayer our national leaders; the Commander-in-Chief, our Congress, our political and military leaders that You will give them gifts of wisdom and knowledge to guide the military in all situations; that they may be guided to seek peaceful resolutions to all conflicts.

PRAYERS OF A THANKFUL NATION

LORD, GOD, ALMIGHTY FATHER, we are ever mindful of the sacrifices made by our veterans throughout our history for the liberties we possess.

Thank you O Lord, for the inspiration that is our nation, for your blessings in the past and Your guidance into the future.

DON'T FORGET TO FLY THE FLAG ON VETERANS DAY, NOVEMBER 11!



BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS

MITCHELL MOORE, ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUNG ADULTS

Beyond our stained glass windows there is a heated national dialog about race stoked by debate over monuments and protests from professional athletes. We are all shaped by our context and cultures and contribute toward either further division or unity of our city and country.

Christians have a unique contribution to the discussion, and the church should be leading in both dialog and distinction of lives. I hope to encourage you by an experience I have had with the church as I share the power of the grace of God and His purposes revealed through His Word and for His people.

Recently our family returned from three years of serving in Jakarta, Indonesia. Indonesia is a beautifully diverse country composed of more than 17,000 islands and hundreds of different people groups and languages. While in Indonesia we had the privilege of helping plant a church in an internationally diverse area. How diverse? We normally had worshippers from over fifteen countries on a Sunday morning, not to mention the diversity of tribes and traditions represented by our Indonesian brothers and sisters. Participating in the Lord's work of building his church in such a diverse context meant I needed something greater than my favorite college football team, vocation, ethnic history, fraternity, family of origin, worship tradition, or socio-economic status, to find unity. In fact, to try and find unity with high fences around my preferences would have led to a lonely life! The Lord opened my eyes to the power of unity in Christ alone, under the authority of His word alone. The church in such a diverse context is no utopia—as there is a tribal mentality we all default toward, but the grace of God was made more powerful by the work of God in unifying a diverse people.

While discussion about race divides our country more today than it has in decades, we find the Bible does not say a lot about race: Acts 17:26 tells us all peoples are one race with all people coming from the same parents (Adam and Eve). 1 Peter 2:9 (citing Ex 19:6) calls the redeemed people of God a "chosen race," drawing a spiritual and not physical distinction. In fact, we see in scripture a focus on ethnicity and not race, who and where people are from rather than superficial qualities of what people

look like (color of skin, hair type, facial features...). Scripture undermines our cultural category of race by teaching that all people are created in the image of God (Gen 1:27) and are, therefore, to be treated with dignity.

The distinction of God's people as a chosen race is not portrayed in scripture as an exclusive club. In Genesis 12:1-3 we see Abraham chosen FOR the nations and in God's story of redemption we meet people like Rahab (Joshua 2:8-11) and Ruth in the genealogy of Jesus, teaching us God works through ethnic groups to reach all ethnic groups! John 4:4 displays the Divine necessity to reach across societal divisions, as Jesus reached a Samaritan woman with His love, and in the church we see Paul fighting for unity in Christ alone within the context of people wanting to unite only through national and traditional boundaries (see especially Galatians 2, Ephesians 3). The conclusion of God's story displays every "race," or ethnic group, within all tribes and tongues worshipping the Lamb who was slain for the church (Revelation 5:9; 6:12-17; 7:9-10). There is no segregation in heaven!

This powerful perspective from the word of God calls the people of God to contribute boldly to the discussion about race in our city and country. With security as God's chosen people, we can listen to all sides as we reclaim and demand the dignity of all involved in the dialog. We can repent for our personal contributions to a monolithic culture as we seek to intentionally relate to people from a different ethnic or socio-economic background than ourselves. Finally, we must pray for the Lord to have mercy as He brings His design to reality through His people, that His plans and priorities might be those of the church, and His chosen race to mediate His blessings to all peoples of the earth.


May God's purposes be our priority as His people. By His grace and for His glory—more mercy.

FIRST CUP READINGS NOVEMBER, 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

- 1 Judges 1-2; Deuteronomy 4:1-14, 6:10-7:6;
2 Corinthians 6:14-18
- 2 Judges 3; Deuteronomy 8-9; Psalm 50
- 3 Judges 4-5; Psalm 89
- 4 Judges 6; Exodus 34:10-14; Ezekiel 13:13-23;
Colossians 3:5-11; Ephesians 5:3-6

Depth of mercy! can there be mercy still reserved for me? Can my God His wrath forbear? 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 Saviour 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)

- 5 Judges 7-8; Deuteronomy 20:8; Psalm 76;
2 Corinthians 4:7-18
- 6 Judges 9; Jeremiah 17: 9; Romans 6:15-23
- 7 Judges 10-12; Deuteronomy 20:1-4; Psalm 69
- 8 Judges 13-14; Proverbs 12:4; 16:9; 18:22; 20:24;
22:6; Jeremiah 10:23
- 9 Judges 15-16; Proverbs 6:20-26, 34; 14:1; 16:4, 9;
31:30; Ecclesiastes 7
- 10 Judges 17; Exodus 20:4, 23; Deuteronomy 4:16
- 11 Judges 18; Psalm 18

O Zion, haste, thy mission high fulfilling, To tell to all the world that God is Light; that He who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night. Proclaim to ev'ry people, tongue, and nation That God, in whom they live and move, is love. Tell how He stooped to save His lost creation, and died on earth that man might live above. Publish glad tidings, Tidings of peace; Tidings of Jesus, Redemption and release. (Worship in Song, No. 356)

- 12 Judges 19; Romans 1
13 Judges 20; Psalm 78
14 Judges 21; Deuteronomy 12:8-14
15 Deuteronomy 31:30-32:47; Isaiah 65
16 Psalm 103; Exodus 34:5-7; Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 150
17 Ruth 1; Psalm 88; 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

- 18 Ruth 2; Leviticus 19:9-10; Romans 12:9-21;
James 2:14-26

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done, in whom His world
rejoices; Who, from our mothers' arms, hath blessed us
on our way With countless gifts of love, and still is ours
today. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life
be near us, With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to
cheer us; And keep us in His grace, and guide us when
perplexed, And free us from all ills in this world and the
next. (Worship in Song, No. 88)*


- 19 Ruth 3; Proverbs 31:10; Psalm 37
20 Leviticus 25:23-25; Deuteronomy 25:5-10; Ruth 4;
Matthew 1:1-17; Psalm 56:3-4
21 Psalm 145; Matthew 6:19-34; Philippians 4:4-20
22 Psalm 107; 115
23 Psalm 100; Colossians 3:1-17
24 Psalm 84; Matthew 10:29-31; Proverbs 3;
Psalm 56:3
25 Psalm 106; Revelation 7:9-17

While passing thro' this world of sin, and others your life shall view, Be clean and pure without, within, let others see Jesus in you. Your life's a book before their eyes, they're reading it thro' and thro'; Say, does it point them to the skies, do others see Jesus in you? Let others see Jesus in you, let others see Jesus in you; Keep telling the story, be faithful and true, let others see Jesus in you. (The Baptist Hymnal, No. 348)

- 26 James 1:1-8; Romans 5:1-5; Job 28:20-28;
Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 1:7; 8; 21:30
- 27 James 1:9-11; Psalm 49; Mark 4:1-20;
Luke 18:18-30; 1Timothy 6:6-10; 17-19
- 28 James 1:12-18; Matthew 6:9-13;
1 Corinthians 9:24-27; 10:12-13; Galatians 6:1-16
- 29 James 1:19-27; Psalm 4:4; Ephesians 4:17-32;
Proverbs 15:1; 29:11
- 30 James 2:1-13; Leviticus 19:15; Proverbs 3; 14:21;
Luke 10:25-37

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. A silver spoon rests on the saucer. The background is white.

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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