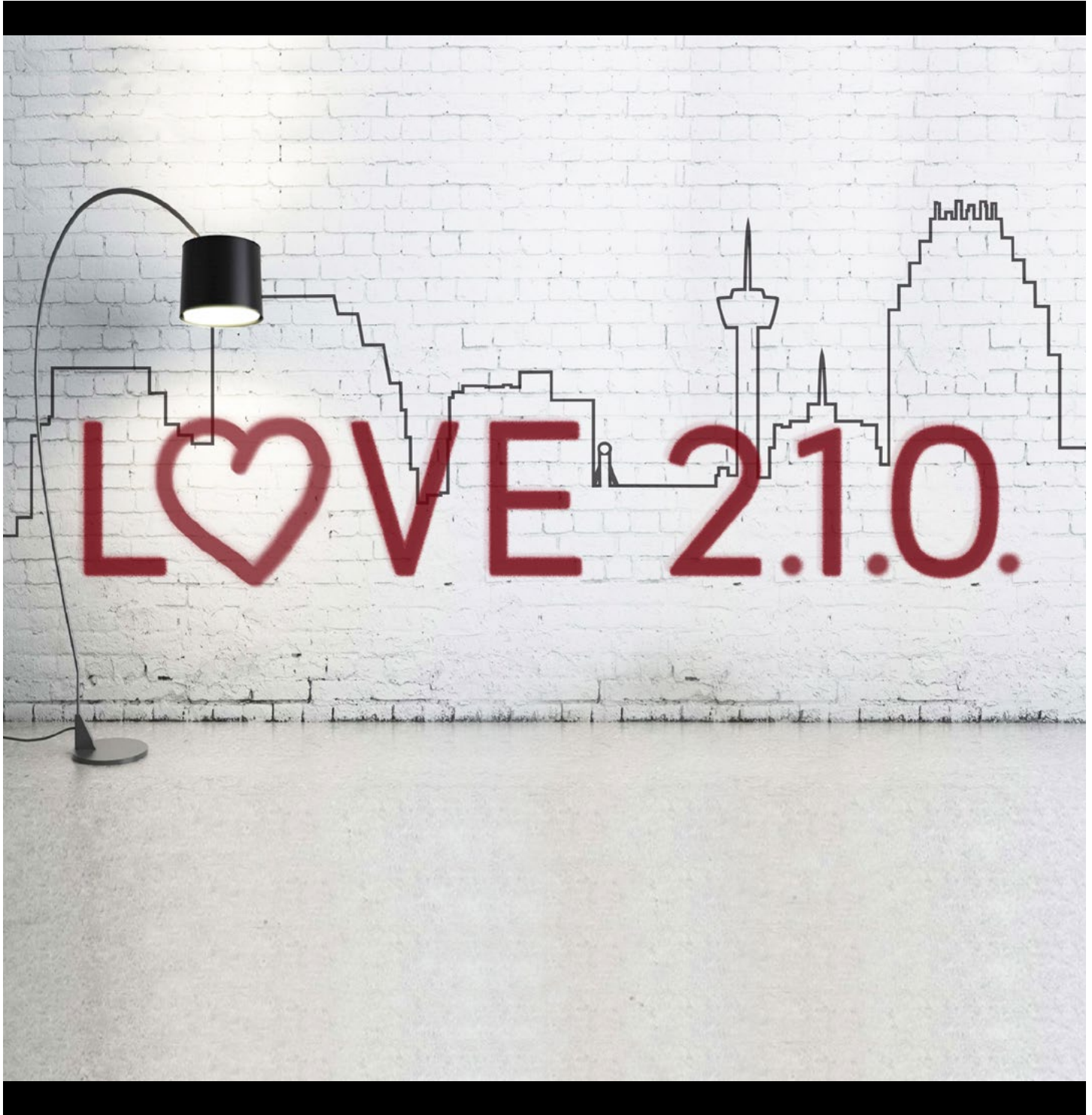




# FIRST PRESS

FEBRUARY 2018



...LOVING THE CITY



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## WHAT WOULD YOU LET GO FOR LOVE?

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REV. DR. BOB FULLER

**F**requently, in pre-marital counseling, I will ask each member of the couple two questions. They are:

Question 1: “Name one habit or one thing about you that scares or drives your fiancé crazy (Perhaps messiness, smoking, spending money, sarcasm, etc.)

Question 2: “Would it make your fiancé happier if you quit doing that? (see answer to question 1)”

Usually after some interesting discussions about money, or music preferences, or personal hygiene, I ask, “Why would you not change that? Why won’t you give up that habit for her sake? Is that (habit) more important to you than he is?”

The point of the exercise is to get the couple to ask “What, and who, is most important in my life? Is it this habit or my relationship with this person?

It’s important for us to ask ourselves those same questions about God. What is most important in my life? Some habit? Some perceived right? Some position? Some goal? Or my relationship with God?

Lent is a time for us to hit the reset button and declare that we live for God—not for the things that so often distract us. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 8:5-6:

“<sup>5</sup> For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”— <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.”

In preparation for Easter, the season of Lent reminds us that Jesus gave up everything for us. It reminds us that we cannot out-give God, and just when we think that God is asking too much or expecting too much of us, it reminds us that Jesus gave up everything for us. Philippians 2:6 says:

“...though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men and

humbling himself even to the point of death on a cross.”

Let Lent be a time for you to decide what is most important in your life, and for you to say, “there is nothing more important than the people in my life, and there is nothing more satisfying than God’s love for me.”

**P.S.** On Saturday, February 10, we have a special opportunity to demonstrate our love for Jesus Christ, our love for one another and our love for the city. “Love 2.1.0.” is an event to connect us with our neighbors and local mission partners for a day of service.

“Love 2.1.0.” is a way to say “I love you” to San Antonio, and nothing says “I love you” like giving your time. How about giving up some time to pray for the city? Please see the article on page 6 for details. We hope to see you. Bring a friend!

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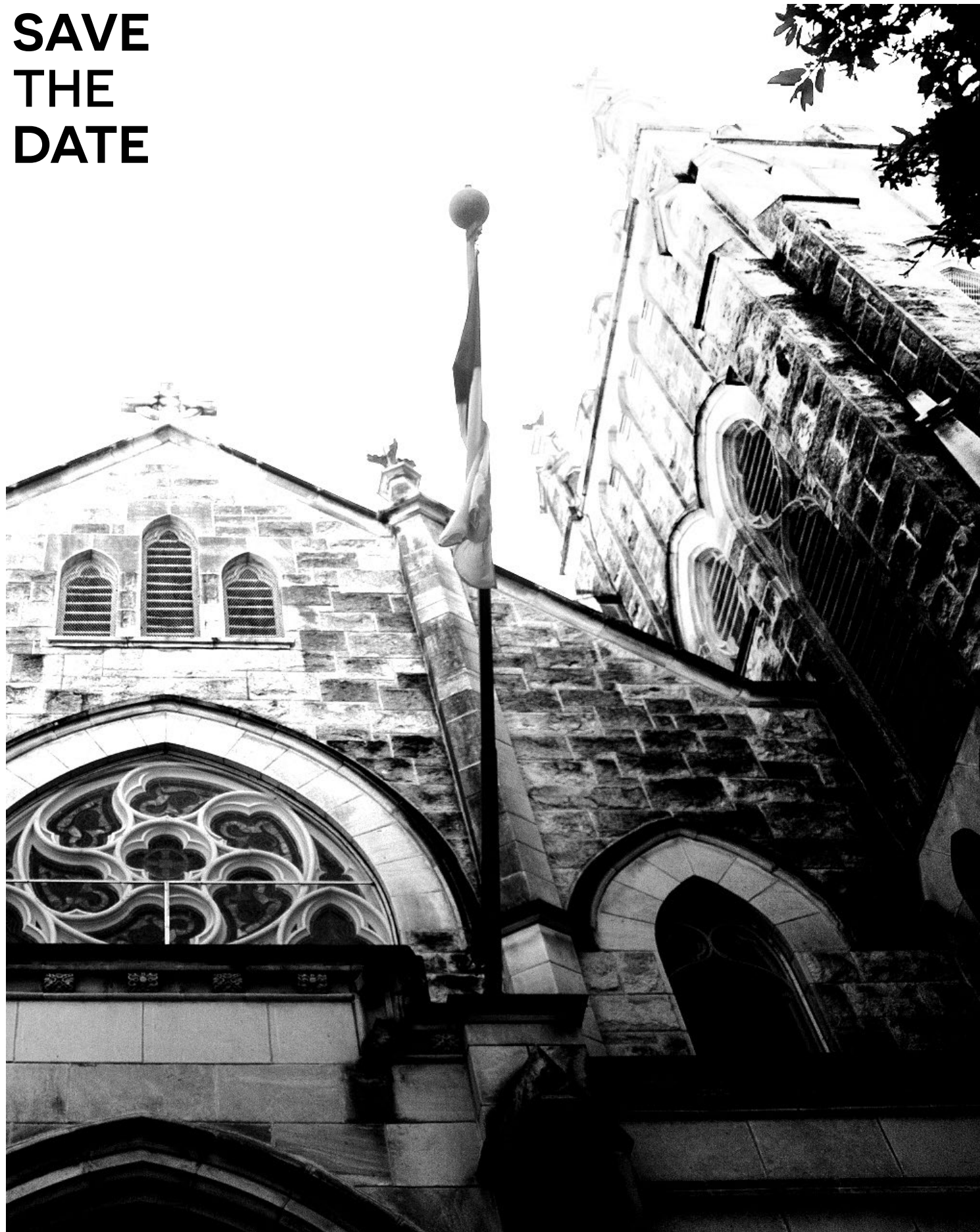
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Hank Cherry: Director of Communications  
Sarah Clower: Graphic Designer  
Richard Flores: Production Coordinator  
Lisa Salazar: Media Coordinator

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



# SAVE THE DATE



## LOVE 2.1.0. WEEKEND

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10-11

“Loved by God...serving our neighbors...loving the city.” Love 2.1.0. is a weekend for our FPC family to engage the city of San Antonio, being exposed to what the Lord is doing in our city by serving with ministry partners as we are educated through participation in their ministries. Read more on page 6 and join us!

## LITERATURE CIRCLE

FEBRUARY 13 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

A thrilling historical fiction book, “The Last Days of Night” by Graham Moore, will be reviewed by member, Bill Hensley, for the FPC Literature Circle on Tuesday, February 13. Mr. Moore was the award winning screenwriter of the movie, The Imitation Game. Likewise, you will find this story to be a legal, thrilling novel between two geniuses locked in a brutal battle over light bulb patents. There are crimes, a mysterious woman, a mad genius—all taking place during the glittering N.Y.C. Gilded Age of the 1890s. It presents the question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right and the fortune to power the country?

## LENTEN REFLECTIONS BOOKLET

FEBRUARY 14

Lent begins February 14. The 2018 version of Lenten Reflections, our daily devotional booklet during the Lenten season, is now available on our website at [www.fpcsanantonio.org/grow/lenten-reflections](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/grow/lenten-reflections), for viewing or download. Our hope and prayer is that each reflection, and its associated scriptural passages and illustrations, will lead you closer to Christ who came that we might have life, and have it abundantly.

## YOUTH BBQ LUNCHEON, TALENT SHOW, AND SILENT AUCTION

FEBRUARY 25

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 25 for the FPC Youth’s BBQ Luncheon and Talent Show after services in Westminster Hall. Bid on Silent Auction items in the McCullough Room from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Questions? Contact Emily Yergler at [emilyy@fpcsat.org](mailto:emilyy@fpcsat.org) or Colton Willis [coltonw@fpcsat.org](mailto:coltonw@fpcsat.org).

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JUNE 18-22

Join us from Monday, June 18 through Friday, June 22 from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM for VBS at FPC! Registration is open to children 4 years old to 5th grade. Children ages 2-3 years old are also welcome; however, they must have a parent or guardian volunteer at VBS. To register, go to [www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/children](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/children) and click on the registration link under the “Children’s Ministry Events” Tab.

## FIRST PRES ARCHIVES

Please feel free to make use of First Pres’ archives for researching your family history or simply for general interest. Our precious historical records have been organized, scanned and digitized and are now available on a dedicated computer at the church. Just check in with the receptionist in the Mauze Lobby and you will be given a password and simple instructions. It’s totally user friendly! Questions? Contact Bill Cogburn at [bcogburn@satx.rr.com](mailto:bcogburn@satx.rr.com).



# LOVE 2.1.0. WEEKEND

SATURDAY AND SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10–11  
“LOVED BY GOD...SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS...LOVING THE CITY.”

**L**ove 2.1.0. is a weekend for our FPC family to engage the city of San Antonio, being exposed to what the Lord is doing in our city by serving with ministry partners as we are educated through participation in their ministries. The Service project on Saturday morning with our ministry partner will be for all ages! Sunday morning we will celebrate the heart of the Lord for San Antonio through a joint Sunday school class and sermons on the heart of God for the city. Saturday we will meet at FPC at 8:30 AM, travel to the work sites where projects will be from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, and return to FPC at 11:30 for a BBQ lunch in the church parking lot with our city neighbors! Sign up before our slots fill up!

## SATURDAY MORNING PROJECTS

- **Christian Assistance Ministries (CAM):**  
Volunteers will assist CAM as they offer our homeless neighbors with the opportunity to shower, receive haircuts, and new clothing.
- **Faith Based Institute (FBI):**  
The day will culminate in a lunch for our LOVE 2.1.0. participants and local homeless neighbors. Volunteers will have the opportunity to help with set-up, serving food, fellowship, or clean-up.
- **Haven for Hope:**  
Volunteers will play Bingo with the residents of the courtyard at Haven for Hope. All volunteers must be 18 years or older.
- **Mission Road Ministries:**  
Volunteers will host a Valentine's Party for the residents and guests at Mission Road Ministries.
- **The Porch:**  
Volunteers will work with college students from St. Phillip's College on a service project.

- **SA Heals:**  
Volunteers will assist with a landscaping project for the SA Heals' Recreation Center.
- **SA Heals:**  
Volunteers will participate in a packing party to make food bags for the SA Heals "Love One Feed One" program. This project is great for all ages, including families with young children. It will take place on the FPC campus.
- **Servant Partners:**  
Volunteers will assist with a project to help launch the new Mom's and Children's ministry at Servant Partners.
- **South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO):**  
Volunteers will assist with a home repair project for a grandmother raising three foster children.
- **Thrive Outreach:**  
Volunteers will spend time at Thrive Outreach to serve the homeless, those in need, and the lost thru a meal and ministry so they can find the true hope that Jesus offers.
- **Young Lives and Seton Home:**  
Volunteers will teach young mothers how to knit and/or sew with a fun project.
- **Young Lives and Young Life:**  
Volunteers will work alongside participants of Young Life and Young Lives on a graffiti abatement project for the city.

For more information or to sign up, visit [www.fpcsanantonio.org/love-210](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/love-210) or email [lindsays@fpcsat.org](mailto:lindsays@fpcsat.org).

## THE HISTORY CORNER

## STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

BY BILL COGBURN

The San Antonio Express-News has been running daily history articles leading up to our cities' Tricentennial year celebration. Their article appearing on Christmas Day was titled, "Church Windows Tell Story of Faith." It goes on to say that stained glass is an art form dating back more than a millennium abroad and almost two centuries in the United States. Stained glass windows were used as a teaching tool in the Middle Ages when most people could neither read nor write.

The newspaper article gives an interesting account of beautiful stained glass in churches throughout our city but I was disappointed that the magnificent windows in our own First Pres sanctuary were not mentioned.

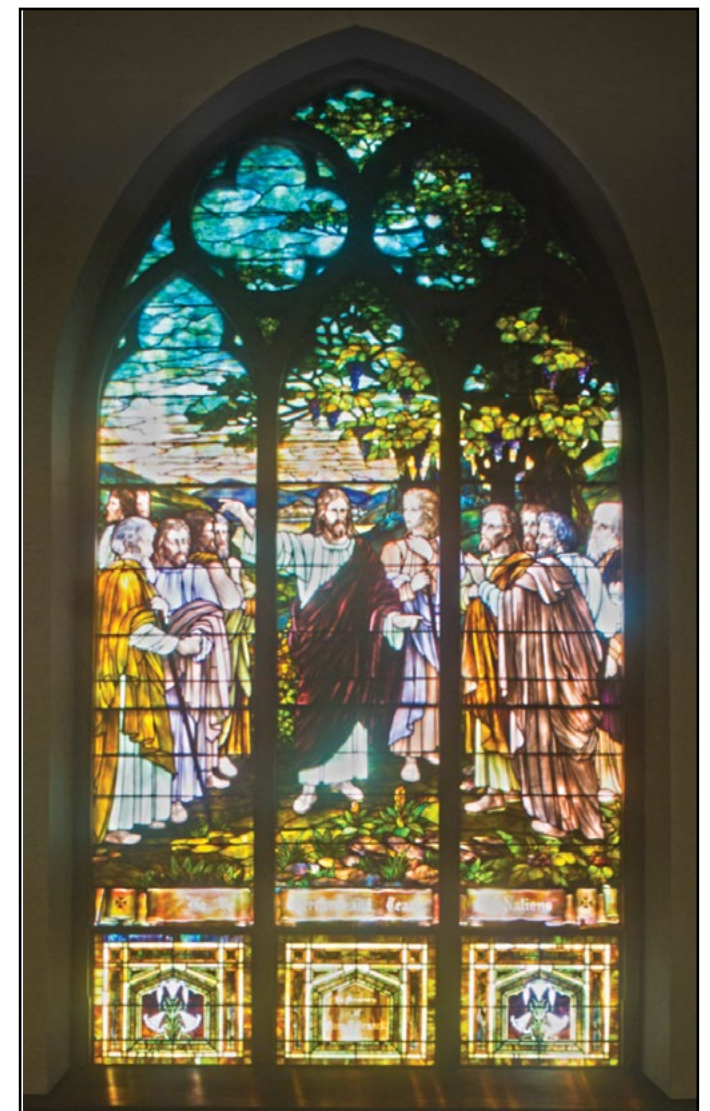
Of all our windows, my favorite is "The Great Commission" where Jesus is telling his disciples to "Go Ye Therefore and Teach All Nations." It's the big window in the middle on the south side of the sanctuary. It memorializes Mary Francis Bennett, a tireless worker in our church for over fifty years. She died in 1906.

The next time you enter the sanctuary, notice how the architect "framed" this window with carved timbers that appear to leap from the wall announcing the window's importance. It's an excellent example of drapery art glass. Shading and color harmony is produced when the glass artist varies the thickness of the molten glass. As many as four thicknesses or layers may be required to achieve the desired depth perception and realistic effect.

While our current church sanctuary dates to 1910, not all of the stained glass memorial windows are that old. The four pictorial windows on the south side of the sanctuary are original to the 1910 building; the ascension window behind the altar dates to c 1915. The two pictorial windows on the north wall were installed during the major 1924 building project which enlarged our sanctuary. The May 10, 1924 Express reads:

"The beautiful Gothic auditorium has been materially enlarged until it now has a seating capacity of about 1,200. The art glass windows contribute a generous measure to the mellow beauty of the auditorium. In design and coloring and workmanship, these windows are superb. The original windows on the south side of the

church are masterpieces of Bavarian art and they contribute much to the spirit of reverence that pervades the auditorium. There is no mistaking this atmosphere; the restful quiet, the rich color tones from the windows, the stately beauty of the Gothic lines breathe a spirit that is only experienced in the sanctuary of the House of God. With the enlargement of the auditorium, two new memorial windows were installed, both of them gifts from members of the congregation memorializing the parents of the donors. These were Dr. F. L. Thomson and P. G. Silber. The Silber memorial is a representation of the resurrection scene, an exquisite portrayal of the angel at the empty tomb."



Source: First Pres archives; SA Express, May 10, 1924; SA Express-News, December 25, 2017.



# GLOBAL MISSIONS: COMING ALONGSIDE CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS IN THE MIDDLE EAST

BY BEN MCCALED

Most of you will remember that in early 2015 I stepped over fear and traveled with The Outreach Foundation to Northern Iraq to try to bring encouragement and a sense of solidarity to those who have been displaced by the conflicts in the region. That trip was life changing for me...recalling the execution of 21 Egyptian Christians in orange jumpsuits on a Libyan beach about the time of my trip, I have worn an orange wristband since then to try to keep the Middle East faithful **on** my mind and **in** my heart. I believe that my trip was eye opening for First Pres, as well. Since then, our church here in San Antonio has actively supported the outreach to displaced Christians in Iraq and Syria, and the Session even funded two amazing bakery projects that ministered to the needs of the Yazidis forced to live in refugee camps.

**Fast forward 3 years...**ISIS had been largely destroyed, displaced families were beginning to return to their mostly devastated villages and The Outreach Foundation called me again, this time asking me to join them on an ambassadorial trip to Presbyterian churches in Baghdad (in central Iraq) and Basrah, in the south. We could not return to northern Iraq because of the political upheaval caused by the independence referendum. The trip to Baghdad would be the first time it was possible to visit the church there since 2003.



While I signed on for the trip, I did so with a heavy heart. I had learned much more about the Christians in this region during the interim and the news was mostly depressing...

- The overall Christian population in the Middle East has dropped from 10% in 1900 to 5% in 2010.
- Since the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, almost two-thirds of the Christian population has fled their homes...many first to the Kurdish northern region of Iraq and then to neighboring countries.

Even as I remembered all of the Old Testament stories that took place in Iraq (the Garden of Eden, Abraham, the Tower of Babel, Babylon) and that Christian villages on the Nineveh plain between the great Tigris and Euphrates Rivers trace their origins back to the Apostle Thomas...I wondered to myself **“How can Christianity survive in the place?”**

I learned during my time there that: **Yes, it can...**with much perseverance, an incredible faithfulness and a good bit of joy.

We were in Iraq and Lebanon for 10 days, meeting with leaders of various Christian denominations, visiting and worshiping with the church leaders and congregations of the Iraq Presbyterian Churches in



Baghdad, Basrah and Kirkirk and visiting schools run by the Presbyterian Church in these cities and in Lebanon. Everywhere there was much work to be done... yet great joy and hope.

## WHAT DID I LEARN IN IRAQ?

- My eyes were again opened as I became more knowledgeable about this unknown land, its people and politics.
- I was really proud to be Presbyterian (something I had not felt in a long, long time), as I witnessed this small Iraq denomination reaching out to other Christians and Muslims in amazing (and I might add effective, efficient, orderly...very Presbyterian) ways.
- The most significant outreach by these churches is through the very Presbyterian methodology of building and operating schools.
  - All three Presbyterian Churches in Iraq have established nursery, kindergartens and primary schools recognized for their quality and the Presbyterian Synod has done the same for Syrian refugees in Lebanon.
  - Most of the children are Muslim.
  - While they cannot evangelize, the teachers are Christian and they love on the kids and teach them Christian ethics....and, as we would say at First Pres, “Make Jesus Visible.”
  - The school in Baghdad is even called “the Good Shepherd School.”
- All in all, I was amazed by the hope and joy I saw over and over...in the church leaders, congregations and school children.



**As I close, I ask you to take in this last photo...**as the armed guard was opening the gate for us to leave the Church compound in Baghdad for the trip home, I looked back through the barbed wire for one last glimpse of this sweet place. At a cross in the window at the front of the church stood three young Muslim women lighting candles and praying. When I inquired of the minister, he said he didn’t know them but that it happens all of the time...there was **always** melted wax at that window left by young Muslims who come to pray there. Now, as someone who left for Iraq three months ago wondering how Christianity could survive there, I had never considered how reaching Muslims might be a part of the answer. So, gazing at this photo, I ask myself....and you...a few questions:

- Why would these young Muslims do that? Is it the Holy Spirit perhaps “groaning” in them, causing them to question their world view and pulling them to Him?
- If so, what else might the Holy Spirit be doing in Iraq?
- What drives the small flock of Christians in Iraq (who would be perfectly justified in turning inward) to continue to reach out to Muslim children and their families through these exceptional schools?
- How can we here in our very, very safe place come alongside of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Middle East as they, with joy and hope, reach out to their Muslim neighbors?
- How might we reach out to our Muslim neighbors living right here in San Antonio?

My prayer is that you will pray about that.



# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

PAT BRODEEN, PRESIDENT



January was a month of new beginnings with Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller's installation as our senior pastor and renewing long-time friendships at the WOC Winter Ladies Night Out and the many different circle meetings. La Fonda on Main has become the favorite restaurant to hold our WOC Ladies' Night Out. The food was delicious, the door prizes plentiful, and the fellowship was as festive as the atmosphere. Many thanks go to Betsy Zachry and her wonderful committee.

If you are looking for a small group of women where you can be of service to our church or the community, please check out the schedule for Circles 5, 16, 17, 18, 19, and 20. Circles 16 and 17 sew small items for The Children's Shelter, Circle 19 rolls bandages for hospitals in countries where they must wash and reuse them, Circle 18 provides the help needed for receptions

following some memorial services, Circle 20 provides snacks for various FPC events, and Circle 5 knits or crochets shawls for those in need of emotional comforting. All of these circles look forward to gaining new members!

February will bring more detailed planning for our Spring Luncheon on April 9, 2018, featuring Emily Scates as our speaker. If you have met Emily you know that we are in for an enthusiastic, Christ-centered presentation. Mark your calendars now!

Galatians 5:22-23 "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control."

1 John 4:16 "We rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God and God in him."



# WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

## CIRCLE MEETINGS

### CIRCLE 1/12 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, February 19 • 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, February 19 • 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, February 16 • 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, February 20 • 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,  
"For All Have Sinned," Chapter 19: Failed Dog  
and Chapter 30: A Spaniel's Fall From Grace

### CIRCLE 7 BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, February 20 • 11:30 AM  
Hostess: Tina Lyons (720 Castano 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,  
"For All Have Sinned," Chapter 19: Failed Dog  
and Chapter 30: A Spaniel's Fall From Grace

### 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@bunnngroup.com)  
Meg Walker (210-601-7745/meg@aladdinleans.com)

### CIRCLE 9 BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, February 20 • 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,  
"For All Have Sinned," Chapter 19: Failed Dog  
and Chapter 30: A Spaniel's Fall From Grace

### CIRCLE 11 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, February 26 • 6:30 PM •  
Hostess: Jean Swanson (122 Medford Drive 78209)  
Chair: Karin Gabrielson  
(210-843-2475/karin\_gabrielson@hotmail.com)  
Moderators: Members of Circle 11  
Study: *Intersections of Grace* by Susan Kerr,  
"For All Have Sinned," Chapter 19: Failed Dog  
and Chapter 30: A Spaniel's Fall From Grace

### CIRCLE 13 CHRISTIANITY AND LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, February 13 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room  
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)  
Book: *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore  
Reviewer: Bill Hensley

### CIRCLE 14 BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, February 26 • 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, February 21 • 9:30 AM • FPC Room 228  
Chair: Lee Pressley (210-735-0978)

### CIRCLE 17 EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

Wednesday, February 14 • 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, February 7 • 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

Our trip to Corpus Christi in January for the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival was well received by all who attended. As always, the Holloways arranged a perfect trip. Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller, our new senior pastor, shared his vision and direction for our church. Our Birthday lunch at the Fort Sam Golf Course was a great celebration, and we learned that you can teach an old dog new tricks from the Guide Dogs of Texas.

February begins with an FPC favorite—Rick Cavender. We are thankful for his commitment to us over the years. We will also hear from Marcia Waldgeir concerning teen trafficking and raise our awareness of what can be done to prevent it. We will return to the Menger Hotel buffet for our Valentine and Birthday Celebration. Closing out the month, Clarence Thompson and his Buffalo Soldiers will share the history of their service to our country.

## FEBRUARY EVENTS

### FEBRUARY 2: Rick Cavender Tour

Get ready for the Rick Cavender Tour of the Greatest Hits of the 50s and 60s. Westminster Hall Doors open at 10:30 AM for the 11:00 AM Concert. Lunch will follow \$15 per person. Your check is your reservation. This is a great tradition at FPC.

### FEBRUARY 9: Teen Trafficking Speaker

Marcia Waldgeir, comes highly recommended and is an authority on the topic of Teen Trafficking. This would be a great speaker to invite your friends who are younger parents.

### FEBRUARY 16: Valentine's Day Luncheon

We enjoyed a great time and a good meal last year



at the Menger Hotel, so we are returning for our celebration of Valentine's Day and February Birthdays, however we will not be able to offer a free lunch, but will give those celebrating February Birthdays the option to choose another venue for their Free Birthday Lunch. Cost will be \$15 per person, your check is your reservation.

### FEBRUARY 23: Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers

The members of the Bexar County Buffalo Soldiers' Association are a multicultural organization dedicated to educating the general public about the history of the Buffalo Soldiers and Black Indian Scouts and their contributions in settling the Western Sector of the United States during the 1800s.

### UPCOMING BIRTHDAY LUNCHES:

**MARCH: The Barn Door Restaurant**

**APRIL: Fiesta Lunch at FPC**

**MAY: Botanical Garden Carriage House Restaurant**

### VOLUNTEER WITH SA READS

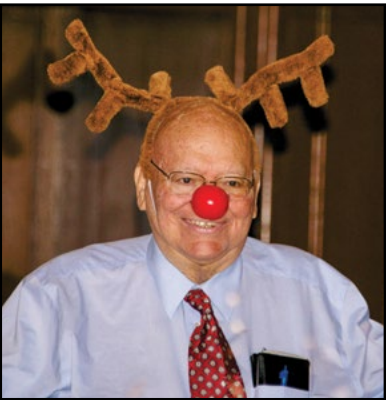
SA Reads serves Students and Techers in San Antonio by providing the resources to have access to books. On the First Tuesday of the month KEYS members volunteer to sort and clean books. A large supply of books are expected for February. To get more information on volunteering contact Jane Warren.

### SAVE THE DATE

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 14: Rain to Drain Tour

San Antonio Water System ensures you always have a safe, reliable and quality supply of water at every turn of the tap. If you're interested in learning more about the source of your drinking water and where it goes—well—"after the flush," join SAWS Education for The Rain to Drain Experience field trip for adults. During this day-long expedition, you will travel to places few people have ever visited. You will explore an Edwards Aquifer recharge cave, experience the inner workings of a SAWS water production facility and tour a water recycling plant. The field trip, lasting from 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM, is free to Bexar County residents 18 years and older. Lunch is provided. We have 20 reservations made for this trip. Reserve your spot by calling Stephanie Garcia at 210-271-2753

**Good News!! We have confirmation that King Antonio will visit our Fiesta Celebration again this year!**



# BEYOND THE STAINED GLASS

MITCHELL MOORE,  
ASSOCIATE PASTOR FOR YOUNG ADULTS



Years ago, Rev. Dr. Louis Zbinden shared with me one of the prayers he used to pray as he helped to pioneer the ministries of CAM and SAMM. As a young pastor Rev. Zbinden prayed, "Lord, I know you are working in this city—please use us for your work. Please use me." The pointed prayer is challenging to us today as God is continuing to work in San Antonio - building His church, re-

storing the broken, liberating captives, feeding the hungry, and redeeming the lost.

Will God use FPC for His work in the city?

Love 2.1.0. is a response to the love of Christ who stepped out of the throne room of heaven to take the nature of a servant, to give His life as a ransom for many. As Christ has loved the church so we want to love the city where He has placed us, stepping out of the parking lot and into the neighborhoods we often pass by without thought or prayer.

Love 2.1.0. is an opportunity for our FPC family to *participate* in the Lord's work in San Antonio AND to *participate* in relationship with our ministry partners. Love 2.1.0. is about caring for *people*, connecting with *people*, and praying the Holy Spirit touches the hearts of *people* as we serve. Why participate in Love 2.1.0.? In Christ we are citizens of the Heavenly City (Philippians 3:20) called to shine our lights as a city on a hill (Matthew 5:14) so the world will see and give glory to God (1 Peter 2:12). This is real *purpose* for the people of God, the Bride of Christ, and this "program" is a vehicle to these ends—may the glory of the Lord fill this city as the waters cover the sea (Habakkuk 2:14).

Love 2.1.0. will have ten ministry projects for individuals and families on Saturday morning, February 10, as well as a combined Sunday school and targeted sermons on Sunday morning. But the prayer is that our Love 2.1.0. weekend is more than a program as we hope it is a springboard for more active participation in the work the Lord is doing in San Antonio, and more active participation in the work our ministry partners are doing, as we serve people with people, inhabiting the purposes of God for His church.

Love 2.1.0. will be more than a program, as it is a step towards transformation of our congregation for a more holistic participation in the Lord's work in and through San Antonio. May He be pleased to have mercy on us all as we seek to love the city where He has placed us!




# FIRST CUP READINGS FEBRUARY, 2018

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 James 4:13-17; Matthew 6:34; Proverbs 3:27-28; 16:9; 19:21; 27:1; Psalm 139
- 2 James 5:1-6; Leviticus 19:9-13; 24:14-15; Matthew 6:19-21; Hebrews 11:24-26
- 3 James 5:7-12; Job 1:1-2:10; 42; Romans 12:6-21

*Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, that calls me  
from a world of care And bids me at my Father's throne,  
make all my wants and wishes known! In seasons of distress  
and grief my soul has often found relief, And oft escaped  
the tempter's snare, by thy return, sweet hour of prayer.  
Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer, Thy wings shall  
my petition bear to Him whose truth and faithfulness en-  
gage the waiting soul to bless; And since He bids me seek  
His face, believe His Word, and trust His grace, I'll cast on  
Him my ev'ry care, and wait for thee, sweet hour or prayer.  
(Worship in Song, No. 475)*

- 4 James 5:13-20; 1 Kings 17; 2 Kings 4:1-37;  
Acts 9:36-43; Romans 8:26-28
- 5 1 Peter 1; 1 Chronicles 29:15; Psalm 39:12;  
Hebrews 13:13-16; Ephesians 2:1-13
- 6 1 Peter 2:1-12; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; Psalm 65:1-4
- 7 1 Peter 2:13-3:22; Ephesians 5:22-6:9; Romans 13
- 8 1 Peter 4; Philippians 1:27-30; Revelation 2:10
- 9 Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-4; Matthew 9:36; John 10:1-18;  
1 Peter 5
- 10 Matthew 17:1-8; 2 Peter 1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;  
Psalm 119:105; 2 Corinthians 4:6

*The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin; The Light of the world is Jesus. Like sunshine at noonday His glory shone in; the Light of the world is Jesus. No darkness have we who in Jesus abide; The Light of the world is Jesus. We walk in the Light when we follow our Guide; the Light of the world is Jesus. Come to the Light; 'tis shining for thee. Sweetly the Light has dawned upon me. Once I was blind, but now I can see. The Light of the world is Jesus. (Worship in Song, No. 96)*

- 11 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6  
12 Ezekiel 12:21-28; 2 Peter 3; 2 Corinthians 6:1-2  
13 1 John 1-2:14; Matthew 5:14-16; John 3:19-21; 8:12;  
2:35-50  
14 1 John 2:15-27; John 15:1-17; Titus 2:11-14

- 15 1 John 2:28-3:24; Psalm 119:1-16; 66:16-20; Romans 8:1-17  
16 1 John 4:1- 6; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25;  
Matthew 7:15-20; 2 Peter 2:1-3  
17 1 John 4:7-21; Romans 12:9-21; 1 Corinthians 13

*My Father is rich in houses and lands; He holdeth the wealth of the world in His hands! Of rubies and diamonds, of silver and gold, His coffers are full—He has riches untold. I once was an outcast stranger on earth, a sinner by choice, an alien by birth! But I've been adopted; my name's written down. I'm heir to a mansion, a robe, and a crown! I'm a child of the King! A child of the King! With Jesus, my Saviour, I'm a child of the King! (Worship in Song, No. 377)*


- 18 1 John 5; Jeremiah 7:1-29; 1 Corinthians 11:23-32;  
James 5:13-20
- 19 2 John; Romans 16:17-20; Colossians 1:21-23; 2:6-8;  
Hebrews 10:35-38
- 20 3 John; Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 5:9-10; 1 Peter 4:8-10;  
Philemon 8-22
- 21 Jude; John 10:1-18; Psalm 23
- 22 Mark 1:1-13; Matthew 4:1-11; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15;  
1 Peter 5:8; Romans 16:20
- 23 Mark 1:14-20; Luke 4:43; 17:20-21; Luke 5:1-11;  
John 1:35-51; Matthew 10:37-39
- 24 Mark 1:21-45; Luke 4:14-44; John 20:29-31; 1 Peter 1:3-16

*Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word; Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard. Tell how the angels, in chorus, sang as they welcomed His birth, "Glory to God in the highest! Peace and good tidings to earth." Fasting alone in the desert, tell of the days that are past, How for our sins He was tempted, yet was triumphant at last. Tell of the years of His labor, tell of the sorrow He bore, He was despised and afflicted, homeless, rejected and poor. Tell me the story of Jesus, write on my heart every word. Tell me the story most precious, sweetest that ever was heard. (Baptist Hymnal, No. 211)*

- 25 Mark 2:1-17; Jeremiah 29:13; Matthew 11:28-30;  
1 Timothy 1:12-17; Psalm 91
- 26 Mark 2:18-3:6; Exodus 20:8-10; Jeremiah 17:19-27;  
Matthew 5:17-20
- 27 Mark 3:7-34; Matthew 12:22-37; Romans 8:12-17;  
Galatians 3:26-29
- 28 Mark 4:1-34; Matthew 13:24-30

# 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 a latte, featuring a heart-shaped latte art design on the surface. The cup sits on a matching white saucer, and a silver spoon is placed horizontally on the saucer. The entire set is centered on the right side of the slide.

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