



FIRST PRESS

DECEMBER 2018



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL PJ'S AND PANCAKES!



GETTING THEIR ATTENTION

REV. DR. BOB FULLER

Somewhere outside of Bethlehem, late at night, a group of shepherds were watching their sheep. When suddenly—in the dark of night—out of nowhere appeared an Angel of the Lord, bright like the sun, terrifying as lightning, big, loud, beautiful and awesome to behold. Like nothing on earth and like nothing they had ever seen before.

The angels had come to deliver a message to these shepherds. The angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.”¹

And when the Angel of the Lord had delivered the announcement—on cue the armies of heaven sang-out

“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”²

The Angels put on quite a show that night. It was so “other-worldly—so weird—so supernatural—that Hollywood’s best special effects teams could not do it justice.

But for what purpose? It was not a performance. It was not about the angels. The angels had come to deliver a message to these shepherds (that’s what angel literally means—“messenger”). They did it to get their attention.

Here at First Presbyterian Church, we invest a lot of time and energy to make a big deal about Christmas, and we do it for one purpose: to get people’s attention. Not for ourselves, but to draw attention to Jesus Christ.

The Christmas story is not just a fable of faith, or a report of something that happened long, long ago in a country far, far away. In the clearest, most direct language, God is calling us to come to his son right now. Come and see what God has done, and come and find out what God can do—not just in the world, but in your life.

There is a God—the creator and ultimate power of the universe—He is real, and He cares about you so much that He gave his Son—He became one of us—so that we could finally get to know Him. What are you going to do with that information? Are you just going to enjoy

the show and nothing more, or are you going to seek him for yourself?” Are you going to tell people, or are you going to keep it to yourself?

Do you know anyone who needs Jesus Christ or who needs to know Him better? Christmas is one of those times of the year when the veil between right now and eternity, between the natural and the supernatural gets really thin. In the month of December we have so many opportunities to draw attention to Jesus Christ. Will you be an “angel?” Will you be a “messenger” and get their attention this Christmas?

Grace and Peace,
Bob Fuller

¹ The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Lk 2:10–11). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.
² The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. 2001 (Lk 2:14). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

CONTENTS

SAVE THE DATE

- 4 MIDDAY NOELS
- 4 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT
- 5 LITERATURE CIRCLE
- 5 LOAVES AND FISHES
- 5 SA FELLOWS PROGRAM
- 5 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES
- 5 MISSION 709
- 5 SPECIAL SERVICES

SPECIAL STORIES

- 6-7 PJ’S AND PANCAKES
- 8 RIGHTNOW MEDIA

UPDATES

- 9 YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS
- 9 POINSETTIA FORM
- 9 STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

MINISTRIES

- 10-11 WOC
- 12-13 KEYS

INSPIRATION

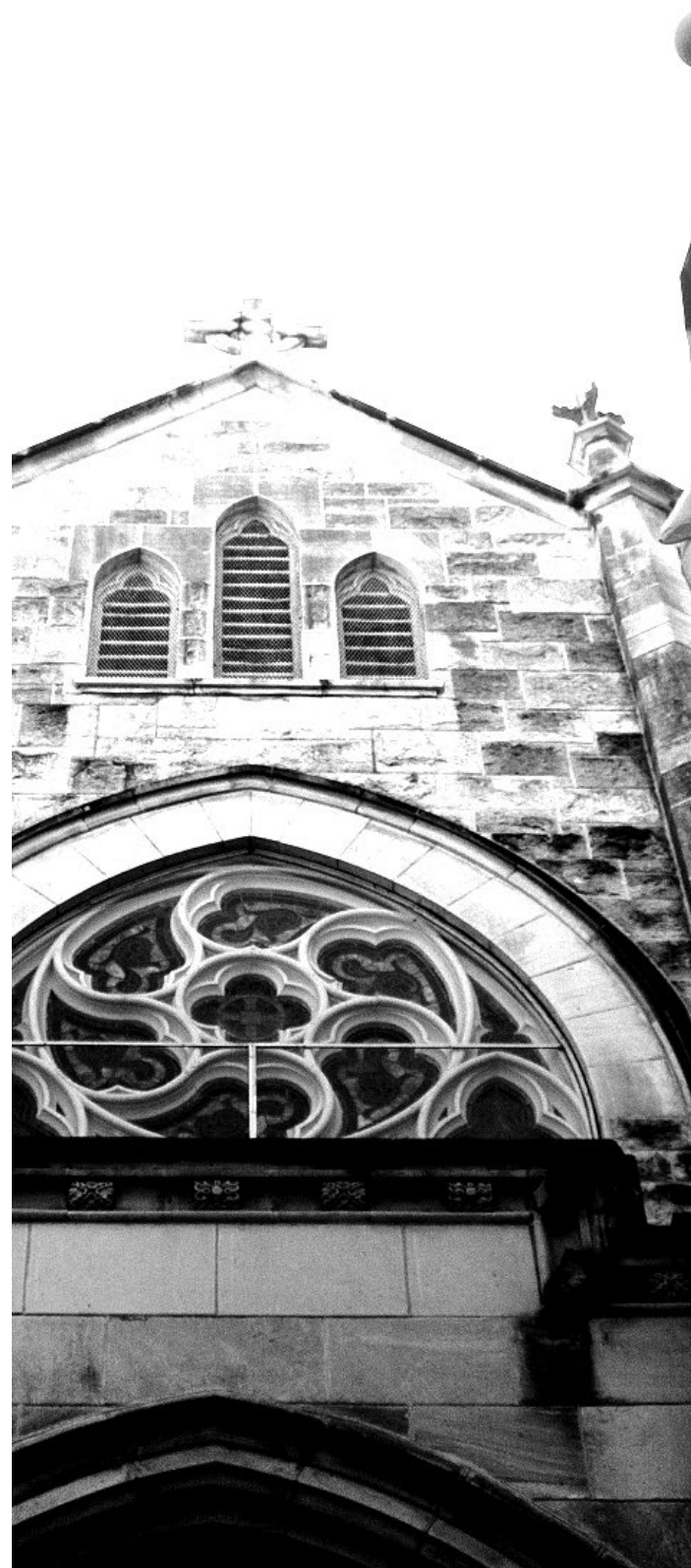
- 14-15 FIRST CUP

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SAVE THE DATE



MIDDAY NOELS

THURSDAYS, DECEMBER 6, 13, 20 • 12:10–12:45 PM

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

Thursday, December 6:

Keyboards Ring and Voices Sing

Our highly skilled organist, Dr. Jae Ha, and several of our outstanding singers combine to celebrate the season with great music. Using new recording and playback technology, Jae will perform several pieces playing both the organ and the piano together! Jae’s musical offerings for Christmas are always a highlight of our series and not to be missed!

Thursday, December 13:

Sparkling Songs with the Cox Family Singers

Join us as we welcome back the Cox Family Singers to FPC. Carl and Bernita share their love of music and their wonderful family of eight adult children – a tradition they have shared with the San Antonio community for over 15 years.

Thursday, December 20:

Brilliant Brass

We are pleased to welcome the Freedom Brass, a brass quintet drawn from the United States Air Force Band of the West stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas. The ensemble is comprised of two trumpets, French horn, trombone, tuba, and percussion and is dedicated to presenting to its audiences the total spectrum of today’s musical literature, including festive sounds of the holidays!

Childcare available by reservation. Please contact us at childcare@fpcsat.org by noon on the Wednesday prior to each concert.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 9 • 11:00 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE

Kids ages 4-5th grade are invited to participate in the pageant. Rehearsal for the pageant will be on Saturday, December 8, 9:00-11:00 AM. Please contact Jennie Brooks at jennieb@fpcsat.org for more details. Come join in the joyous celebration of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ!

LITERATURE CIRCLE

DECEMBER 11 • 1:00 PM • MCCULLOUGH ROOM

Rev. Scott Simpson will review the true historical book, “Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans,” by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yeager. During the War of 1812, General Andrew Jackson realized the importance of protecting the mouth of the Mississippi River. If the British captured New Orleans, the essential trade route up the river would be cut off and stopped. General Jackson rallied inhabitants of New Orleans including Frenchmen, Native Americans, freed slaves, pirates, and Kentucky woodsmen as his fighting men.

LOAVES AND FISHES

DECEMBER 15 • STUDENT CENTER

Our next opportunity to serve our under-resourced neighbors is Saturday, December 10. Setup begins at 8:30 AM, training/preparation begins at 9:30 AM, doors open for our guests at 10:30 AM, and serving begins at 11:00 AM. All are welcome. Please contact Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org with questions/to volunteer.

SA FELLOWS PROGRAM

The SA Fellows Program trains young adult leaders through an excellent church-based, intense, nine-month spiritual and vocation leadership program that will prepare young men and women to lead a seamless life of faith and mission. Modeled after a national program, it is a September-May leadership development and training program for young adults recently out of college or graduate school. Fellows learn to discern how they can use their God-given faith, talents, education, influence, and resources to best steward all the gifts that have been put in their care by the Creator. The program is now accepting applications. For more information visit www.pcsanantonio.org/ministries/adults/young-adults/fellows-program/.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Celebrate the birth of our Savior with family and friends with any of our five services on Christmas Eve:

3:00 PM: Communion Service

5:00 PM: Family Service

7:00, 9:00, 11:00 PM: Candlelight Services

MISSION 709 MISSION TRIPS

We will be responding to God’s grace through faithful participation in God’s mission of redemptive restoration, through several mission trips in 2019:

February 5-10

Russian Speaking and Reformed Church Partnership in Warsaw, Poland

March 9-15:

High School Mission Trip with YPM (Yucatan)

June 21-July 1:

Alaska Mission Trip with Pastor Joe Moore

July 6-13:

Woman’s ministry and leadership training with Mission on the Move, Honduras

Dates TBD

YPM Medical Mission (Yucatan)

Dates TBD

Spain/North Africa Partner Visit

We are also prayerfully considering two more trips for the fall/winter 2019. For more information or if you are interested in joining us for one of our mission trips, contact Mitchell Moore at mitchellm@fpcsat.org, or Lindsay Selli at lindsays@fpcsat.org.

SPECIAL SERVICES NOTICE

The following special Sunday schedule will take place during the Christmas/New Year Holidays time period:

Sunday, December 30:

One Service Only: 11:00 AM Traditional

Sunday, January 6

One Service Only: Special 10:00 AM
Congregational Commissioning Service

Join us for this special service with a lunch reception afterwards featuring ministry partner exhibits throughout FPC to engage with and get involved!

FPC KIDS SUPPORT OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD WITH PJ'S AND PANCAKES

BY JENNIE BROOKS



What a fun morning the children had during our annual PJs and Pancakes party on November 11! Children arrived for the morning in their PJ-best carrying their boxes that they had packed for Operation Christmas Child. Children had previously shopped for a child and packed a box filled with goodies, toys, and essential items. During the Sunday school hour, these boxes were packed, wrapped, and prayed over before heading upstairs where they were on display during the Contemporary Service. These boxes will be shipped all over the world to children who may have never heard the good news of their Savior. The children and families from FPC were able to send out over 100 boxes! Over 100 children around the world will hear about Christ's love and sacrifice for them because of the children of our church! After their time wrapping the children were able to watch a video about what will happen to their boxes and where they will go.

After the time with the boxes it was time to eat! Children were treated to a delicious breakfast of pancakes and bacon prepared by our wonderful volunteers from the Children's Ministry Committee. Packing boxes is apparently hard work because they consumed nearly 30 pounds of bacon.

PJs and Pancakes Sunday is a great way to introduce children to sharing God's love in the world. Children loved telling us what they had picked out and put in their boxes. Several children included notes and pictures. While this is a fun and crazy morning, the message is that there is a greater world outside of San Antonio, and no matter their age, they can always help someone else.



RIGHTNOW MEDIA

OUR NEW CHRISTIAN EDUCATION RESOURCE!



any place for FREE! Many of us have a phone in our hands or in our pockets at every moment of the day. Whether we like it or not, technology is a vital part of our lives. So how can we use these technological tools to help us grow deeper in our faith? How can technology help us learn more about Scripture and grow in our understanding of who Christ is? How can our kids and youth engage in Christ-centered learning and entertainment through video and technology?

I am excited to share that our church now has access to an extensive, new video library called RightNow Media! You might hear this referred to as the “Netflix of Video Bible Studies” because it has a huge library of faith-based videos that you can access whenever and wherever you want – on your phone, iPad, computer, or at home on your TV.

We hope that RightNow Media will be a tool to serve you as you live out your faith at home, at work and in your neighborhood. There are videos for all ages – kids, youth, parents, married couples, college students, single adults, working professionals – all aimed at helping you grow.

On Sunday, December 2, you will receive an official invitation e-mail to give you FREE access to RightNow Media. Once you receive the e-mail, simply click the link, sign up for an account, and you’re all set to explore more than 20,000 videos. We pray that RightNow Media will be a blessing for you and your family!

Rev. Becky Prichard
Associate Pastor of Christian Education
and Discipleship

How many of you right now at this moment are reading this article on a computer, smart phone, iPad, or other electronic device? In our world today, we have instant access to so much information at our fingertips. We no longer have to wait for the newspaper to be dropped at our front door in the mornings to get the daily news because we get instantaneous alerts on our devices all throughout the day. We no longer have to wait for a letter to arrive in the mail from a friend who lives in another state or country because we can skype or FaceTime them any time or

IMPORTANT INFO FOR END-OF-YEAR CONTRIBUTIONS

The general rule is that a contribution is effective when delivered. This means that a check deposited in the church offering in January 2019 cannot be deducted in 2018, even if it is backdated to 2018. One exception - checks that are mailed and postmarked in 2018 are deductible in 2018 even though not received until 2019. If you have any questions regarding your contributions, please contact Christi Burrell in the Business Office at 210-271-2755 or Christib@fpcsat.org.

You can make end-of-year contributions in the following ways:

- Visiting our website at www.fpcsanantonio.org/give.
- Putting it in the offering plate at church on Sunday.
- Mailing it to the church office at: First Presbyterian Church San Antonio, 404 N. Alamo St., San Antonio, TX 78205.
- For stock account information, contact Christi Burrell at 210-271-2755 or Christib@fpcsat.org.

Order your

POINSETTIA

for Christmas

Each year during the Advent season the congregation has an opportunity to remember a loved one, honor an individual or recognize an occasion by purchasing a poinsettia to be placed in the Chancel by the Sanctuary Flower Committee. If you would like to participate, the cost is \$15 per loved one, the revenues of which have enabled the Sanctuary Flower Committee to make many special gifts to beautify the church over the years. Your check should be made payable to the Sanctuary Flower Committee. Mail to First Presbyterian Church, c/o Sanctuary Flower Committee, 404 North Alamo, San Antonio, 78205-1918, or placed in the Sanctuary Flower mailbox in the workroom.

Requests received later than Sunday, December 16, 2018 will miss the insert printing deadline

PLEASE RESERVE ONE PLANT

In honor of _____
OR
In memory of _____
Given by _____
Address _____
Email _____
Phone _____

STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN UPDATE

As of Monday, 11/26/2018 we have received 271 commitments in excess of \$1.8 million.

ADULT COMMITMENTS	270	\$1,873,715.00
YOUTH COMMITMENTS	1	\$99.12
CHILDREN'S COMMITMENTS	0	\$0
TOTALS	271	\$1,873,814.12

We have received 152 new commitments. In addition, over 18% of the commitments received have increased over last year. We are grateful for God's faithfulness and for your faithful support of His plans for this congregation. If you have not returned your commitment card to us, please do so at your earliest convenience. They are available at worship and in the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Director of Finance, Marie Nipp, (marien@fpcsat.org / 271-2756) in the Finance office.

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

BY HOLLY YOUNGQUIST, PRESIDENT

Many of you have requested DVD's of our Fall Legacy Luncheon Speaker, Jessica Honegger. Her message was inspiring, passionate and contagious. You may request a DVD by completing a request card located by the receptionist's desk. They are \$5.00 each and will be mailed to you.

On November 12th, Nina Jordan and her team of "invisible angels" provided a delicious Thanksgiving Feast for the FPC Staff. Our sincere thanks to Bunkie Shed and all the members of Circle 20 as well as all of the other ladies who provided food and decorations for this event. It truly was a festive day.

We will begin our advent season with the Advent Festival on Sunday, December 2 in Westminster Hall from 3:00 – 5:00 PM. Again, food will be provided by members of Circle 20, Circle of Service, chaired by Bunkie Shed, and there will be other WOC members assisting with the Christmas Craft Booths at the Festival. This is an event for all ages and of course a great time to invite your neighbors and/or co-workers.

The Morningside Manor Christmas party will be held on Thursday, December 6 at 3:00 PM at the St. Cloud entrance. The following week, December 13th at 3:00 PM, will be the party at Morningside Meadows at the Babcock entrance. Please join us for an afternoon you won't want to miss. WOC members supply cookies and a small Christmas craft for each resident. The Friday Singers and the children of our FPC Children's Center perform a beautiful and inspiring program, and the Rev. Scott Simpson will read

the Christmas story. You don't want to miss this special and rewarding celebration of Christmas! Many thanks to Janet Wernli and Janice Wilson for their many years of leadership and service to this ministry.

Diane Carssow and Cassie McMillan are co-chairing our Gift of Christmas ministry this year. They have been working with House of Neighborly Service (HNS) since October and have received the names of 30 families for members of FPC to "adopt". Individuals, families, Sunday School classes, and small groups are encouraged to "adopt" a family to bless this season through various ways with the hope of Jesus Christ. Please consider adopting a family and making Jesus visible to these families in need. There is a sign-up table on Sunday morning, but you are also welcome to reach out to Diane at dianecarssow@gmail.com or Cassie at cassiehager39@gmail.com.

WOC will host the Christmas Eve Reception honoring our pastors, choir and staff. For many years Karin Gabrielson has chaired this committee of dedicated women that help her host this event with delicious refreshments provided by members of various circles. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Karin at Karin-gabrielson@hotmail.com.

My prayer is that we all create moments during this busy season to reflect on the birth of Jesus and how the Son of God became flesh: Emmanuel: God with us.

Live Big. Love Deeply. Serve Humbly.



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH MEETINGS

ALL CIRCLES AT FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH WELCOME VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS.
IF ONE OF THESE CIRCLES INTERESTS YOU, PLEASE COME!

CIRCLE 1/12 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, December 17 • 10:30 AM • FPC Geneva Room
Optional lunch \$8.00
Chairs: Suzanne Thomas (210-846-3240/ suzannethomas54@gmail.com); Lynn Thompson (210-824-2815/lynn@thompsondata.com)
Moderator: Grace Labatt (210-824-1320/ gblabatt@yahoo.com)
Study: 1 Peter

CIRCLE 5 SHAWL MINISTRY

Friday, December 14 • 12:00 PM • FPC Room 228
Chairs: Jane Ann Temple (210-828-7542/ 210-414-9956 (C)/jatemple@att.net); Kay Weber (210-288-5290/kayweber276@gmail.com)

CIRCLE 6 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, December 18 • 12:00 PM
Hostess: Joan Stratton (41 Bristol Green 78209)
Chair: Carolyn Walthall (210-828-9739/ ckwalthall4@aol.com)
Moderators: Jane Buchek (210-826-2966/ 210-685-4589 (C)/janebuchek@sbcglobal.net)
Kay Case (210-826-5811/210-861-7782 (C)/ kngcase@hotmail.com); June Eubank (210-829-8641/210-872-3060 (C)/ juneubank@yahoo.com); Barbara Winship (210-930-7093/210-862-5612 (C)/ barbarawinship@sbcglobal.net)
Study: "Just Open the Door" by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 7 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, December 18 • 11:30 AM
Hostess: Diane Carssow (28 Thornhurst 78218)
Co-Chairs: Cynthia Robinson (210-861-2520/ ccrobin@swbell.net); Candy Wagner (210-863-3623/ candywagner@sbcglobal.net)
Moderators: Members of Circle 7
Study: "Just Open the Door" by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 8 – MOMS' GROUP

No Daytime Meetings;
Occasional Evening Get Togethers
Contact Circle Chairs for Information
Chairs: Sara Parish (210-394-0865/ sara23sc@hotmail.com); Lilly Gretzinger (210-601-0575/lilly@bunnngroup.com); Meg Walker (210-601-7745/meg@aladdincleans.com)

CIRCLE 9 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Tuesday, December 18 • 10:00 AM
Hostess: Margaret Gragg (4 Inwood Ridge Dr. 78248)
Chairs: Lucille Lammert (210-832-8414/210-289-3580

(C)/lammert.lucille@gmail.com); Frances Warrick (210-408-1775/fwarrick@sbcglobal.net)
Moderators: Members of Circle 9
Study: "Just Open the Door" by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 11 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, December 17 • 6:30 PM
Hostess: Ginger Davenport (15 Garden Square 78209)
Chairs: Karin Gabrielson (210-843-2475/ karin_gabrielson@hotmail.com); Pat Brodeen (210-494-1534/pat@brodeen.com)
Moderators: Members of Circle 11
Study: "Just Open the Door" by Jen Schmidt

CIRCLE 13 – LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tue, December 11 • 1:00 PM • FPC McCullough Room
Chair: Jan Magnus (210-829-5866/jmagnus3@mac.com)
Book: "Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans" by Brian Kilmeade and Don Yeager
Reviewer: Rev. Scott Simpson

CIRCLE 14 – BIBLE CIRCLE

Monday, December 10 • 12:00 PM • FPC St. Andrew's
Optional lunch \$8.00
Chair: Karen Carawan (210-213-4589/karen@sarodeo.com)
Moderator: Amy Robinson (210-863-1035/ amy@robinsonvalue.com)
Study: "Devotional Classics" by Richard Foster and James Byron Smith

CIRCLE 16 – MARJORIE MCLERNON SEWING CIRCLE

No meeting in December
Chair: Lee Pressly (210-735-0978)

CIRCLE 17 – EDNA RALSTON SEWING CIRCLE

No meeting in December
Chairs: 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

No meeting in December
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

By Joe Moore, Older Adults Director



DECEMBER 13
CHRISTMAS LIGHTS RIVER CRUISE
We have reserved a 30-passenger boat this year for an opportunity to see the Lights on the River Walk. The trip is from 6:00-7:00 PM, and we have made dinner reservations for 30 at Casa Rio. Total cost for boat and dinner is \$26.

JANUARY 11
MAYOR RON NIRENBERG
Mayor Ron Nirenberg will be with us to share insights on what is happening in San Antonio and how we can be responsible citizens of the River City.

JANUARY 18
JANUARY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON
Join us at Fort Sam Golf Club. Begins at 11:30 AM, \$12 per person. Menu choice of Chicken Picatta or Sliced Roast Beef. Van Shuttle from FPC leaves at 10:45 AM.

JANUARY 25
SAN ANTONIO RIVER AUTHORITY
Lee Marlowe from the San Antonio River Authority wil join us. Lee is the SARA’s Sustainable Landscape Superintendent and oversees the care and placement of the landscaping along the River.

FEBRUARY 1
RICK CAVENDAR
Rick Cavender will be back with us again for a walk down memory lane of classic Rock and Roll!



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given and he shall be called wonderful counselor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” May the Peace of Christ rule in your and your family’s hearts as you Celebrate God’s love for us through the gift of his Son.

DECEMBER 5
ELF LOUISE GIFT WRAPPING
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
391 Industrial Park Drive, San Antonio 78226
Meet us there or catch the shuttle from FPC at 9:00 AM. Lunch after at Acadiana Cafe if you can join us (Separate checks for this one).

DECEMBER 7
CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH SPECIAL MUSICAL GUEST TOM DOOLING AND JAE HA
10:30 AM: Hor d’oevres
11:00 AM: Program
12:00 PM: Lunch (\$8 per person)



BRIDGE AND MAH JONGG
Bridge and Mah Jongg are played following our Keys Luncheon from 1:00-3:00 PM on the 2nd and 4th Fri-days of the month. You do not have to be a game master to play. If you have other games you enjoy please let us know and you might just find others to join you play.

TWO NEW OFFERINGS
Two New Offerings following KEYS luncheons: An intercessory prayer for the church and mission, and a group for Conversational Spanish.

SA READS
SA Reads needs your help to sort, categorize, and clean donated used books in local schools to provide reading material to children who may not have the opportunity to own books of their own. Jane Warren (210-493-5187) is the person to contact with any questions about this program. The work is organized at Firstmark Credit Union, 10730, Gulfdale Drive, on the 1st Tuesday of each month. Join in on this great service project as well as the fellowship of working together.

CONTACT
Please contact Rosie Brown at Rosieb@fpcsat.org or (210) 271-2753 for more information or to reserve a spot for any of the FPC KEYS events.




FIRST CUP READINGS DECEMBER, 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



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

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 Isaiah 40; Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:4

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates, behold, the King of Glory waits; The King of Kings is drawing near; the Savior of the world is here! Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart from earthly use for heaven's employ, adorned with prayer, and love, and joy. Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide. Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal. (The Hymnbook, No. 152)

2 Matthew 24
3 1 Thessalonians 4-5
4 2 Peter 3
5 2 Thessalonians 2; 1 Corinthians 1:18; John 3:16-18
6 Luke 1:37-80, 3:1-6
7 Matthew 3, 11:1-19
8 Mark 6:6b-29; Luke 14:26-27; Matthew 10:17-23

“Thy Kingdom come,” on bended knee the passing ages pray; And faithful souls have yearned to see on earth that Kingdom’s day. And lo! already on the hills the flags of dawn appear; Gird up your loins, ye prophet souls, proclaim the day is near: The day in whose clear-shining light all wrong shall stand revealed; When justice shall be clothed with might and every hurt be healed. When knowledge, hand in hand with peace, shall walk the earth abroad; The day of perfect righteousness, the promised day of God. (The Hymnbook, No. 484)

9 Isaiah 9:1-7; 11-12; Micah 5:2-5
10 Psalm 23, 28:6-9; Ezekiel 34:1-16;
Zechariah 13:1-7; John 10:1-18
11 Psalm 46; Psalm 91
12 Psalm 143, 121
13 Isaiah 7:13-14; Matthew 1:18-25; Luke 1:26-38;
Hebrews 11:6
14 Psalm 89
15 Hebrews 1-2

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy people free; From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee. Israel's Strength and Consolation, Hope of all the earth Thou art; Dear Desire of every nation, Joy of every longing heart. Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, Born to reign in

us forever, now Thy gracious Kingdom bring. By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; By Thine all-sufficient merit raise us to Thy glorious throne. (The Hymnbook, No. 151)

16 Hebrews 3-5:10
17 Hebrews 5:11-7
18 Hebrews 8-9
19 Hebrews 10
20 Luke 1:38-56; Psalm 138
21 Luke 1:57-80; Joel 2:28-32; Jeremiah 31:27-34
22 Romans 10-11

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go
by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee
tonight. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we
pray; Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel. (The
Hymnbook, No. 171)


23 Romans 12
24 Luke 2:1-20; Colossians 1:15-23
25 Psalm 47; Colossians 1:24-2:5
26 Isaiah 55
27 Isaiah 9:2, 6-7; Luke 2:21-40
28 Luke 2:41-52; Proverbs 3:1-6
29 John 1:1-34; Ephesians 1:1-14

Rejoice, the Lord is King: Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing, and triumph evermore:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say,
rejoice! His Kingdom cannot fail, He rules o'er earth and
heaven; The keys of death and hell are to our Jesus given:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I
say, rejoice! He all His foes shall quell, shall all our sins
destroy, And every bosom swell with pure seraphic joy:
Lift up your heart, lift up your voice! Rejoice, again I say,
rejoice! (The Hymnbook, No. 140)

30 John 3; 5:24; 1 John 3
31 Psalm 90; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

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).



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[illegible]



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