



FIRST PRESS

JANUARY 2020

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2020: New Decade, Clear Vision



Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:38–39).

Over the last few months, I have noticed that I am having more trouble seeing things clearly—both at a distance and up close. I need glasses to drive and other glasses to read texts and see pictures on my smart phone. So, my New Year's resolution is to get my eyes checked and get new glasses so that I will have 20/20 vision in the year 2020.

As we enter the new decade of 2020, God is calling us to a new level of clarity in our church's vision. As we pursue our call to love Jesus Christ, love one another, and love the city, I believe that God is calling us to focus our attention and energy on loving and building healthy families. That's why, in 2020, FPC is joining a movement called *Decade of the Family*.

Decade of the Family is a collaborative partnership initiated by UnicitySA^[1] and designed to bring government, education, healthcare (including mental health), non-profits, businesses, churches/faith communities, foundations and individuals together for the sake of strengthening families. *The mission of Decade of the Family is to help every family thrive in a productive, positive manner by serving as a resource for connection, communication, restoration, and hope.* The Goal of DOF is to make San Antonio "The Best City to Raise a Family" by 2030. (Learn more at decadeoffamily.org)

The family is the system that God has provided for the growth and health of his people. It is woven into the fabric of creation. One of God's earliest statements about humanity is that "it is not good that man should be alone." God used the family of Noah to reset humanity after it fell into corruption and he used the family of Abraham to begin his process of restoration. In Genesis 1:3, God declared,

³ I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Finally, the son of God was born into a human family where he was nurtured, protected, encouraged and challenged.

The family should be the environment in which people learn the good news of Jesus Christ and experience the grace of God. This system, however, is in crisis. The data shows that rates of incarceration, addiction, human trafficking, educational imbalance, food insecurity, suicide, joblessness, mental illness and so many of our other problems begin with the breakdown of the family. We believe that by working together to fortify the family "upstream," we will provide a healthier city "downstream."

The Decade of the Family is not just a city vision. It is a vision for the FPC family as well. To be healthy

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(20/20), our vision must see the “up-close” needs of families in our congregation as well as the needs of families in our city. *“For the promise is for you and for your children [up-close] and for all who are far off [distance], everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.”*

We will begin 2020 by welcoming our new Director of Youth Ministries to our Family Ministry Team. Alex Clary is coming to us from Trenholm Road United Methodist Church in Columbia, South Carolina. He is a graduate of Columbia International University and majored in Youth Ministry. We are so excited about Alex and his wife Miranda. He is joining a great team, and we are looking forward to the vision he brings to this critical area of family ministry.

This vision for the family begins in our own house as we learn new ways to support marriages, parents, mental health, and intergenerational care. The family is God’s most important mission tool, and the family is our most important mission field. We need clear vision as we move forward into this new decade: *20/20 for 2020*. Let’s start with a vision for the family. How can we work with other partners in the City to make San Antonio a city for families? How are we going to be a church that provides *connection, communication, restoration, and hope?*

**SOLI DEO GLORIA,
- REV. DR. BOB FULLER**

[1] UnicitySA is a citywide partnership seeking to demonstrate Christ’s love for our city through partnership and service by uniting people, ideas, and resources to serve our community.

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SAVE THE DATE

Church Offices Closed

Dates: Wednesday, January 1 &
Monday, January 20
Time: All day

Please note that the church will be closed Wednesday, January 1 for New Year's Day and Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Sunday Schools & Bible Studies Resume

Sunday, Jan. 5 | 8:30 AM

First Class | Room 224
Pathways | Room 300

Sunday, Jan. 5 | 9:30 AM

Arthur Gray Jones | Room 312
Bridges | Covenant Hall
Connections | Room 224
Foundations Marriage Class | Room 302
The Uncomfortables | Room 228
Young Adults | Room 300

Monday, Jan. 6 | 7:00 PM

Young Adult Bible Study | Student Center

Wednesday, Jan. 8

10:30 AM | GriefShare | Room 228
5:00 PM | Middle School Bible Study
6:00 PM | DivorceCare | Room 226
6:30 PM | GriefShare | Room 228
6:30 PM | Women's Bible Study | Room 302
7 PM | Pastor's Bible Study | Covenant Hall
7 PM | HS Bible Studies | Various Locations

Thursday, Jan. 9

7:15 AM | Men's Prayer Breakfast
Geneva Room
9:30 AM | Pastor's Bible Study Lecture
Covenant Hall
10:15 AM | PBS Small Groups

Sunday, Jan. 12

9:30 AM | ABC | Room 310

Tuesday, Jan. 14 | 9:30 AM

Women's Bible Study | Covenant Hall

Young Adults Sunday School

Dates: Sundays, Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26

Time: 9:30 AM

Location: Room 300

"How to Study the Bible." The title says it all. In this four-week block, we will learn some tools for studying Scripture. Contact: Kevin Delano (kevin_delano@live.com)



Pastor's Bible

Study: "The Prayers of the King"

Join Dr. Bob Fuller for the Pastor's Bible Study (PBS) beginning in January 2020. In this new season, we will study the Psalms of David. David's story was one of triumph and tragedy worthy of Hollywood's best writers. This youngest, most unlikely son would ascend to greatness, only to fall and rise again and again. As a poet, David expressed the height of his joy and the depth of his calamities in the Psalms he composed. How did the blessings and tragedies of his life shape his soul?

Childcare is available. RSVP to childcare@fpcsat.org no later than two days prior to the class date. Unfortunately, drop-ins for childcare cannot be accommodated.

Wednesdays

Dates: Wednesdays, Jan. 8 - Apr. 1

(No study March 11)

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Covenant Hall

Thursdays

Dates: Thursdays, Jan. 9 - Apr. 2

(No study March 12)

Lecture Time: 9:30 AM

Lecture Location: Covenant Hall

Small Groups: 10:15 AM

Groups Locations: Various

Small Groups—Each Bible Study participant will be placed in a small, cohesive discussion group to allow time for answering Bible Study questions and personal sharing.

Sign up with Lellen Lane at 210-860-1395 or lellenlane@aol.com to be placed in a group.

GriefShare

Dates: Wednesdays | Jan. 8 – Apr. 1

Time: 10:30 AM & 6:30 PM

Location: Room 228

Two classes of this grief support group are being offered. GriefShare is a weekly grief recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of losing a loved one. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore (joem@fpcsat.org).

DivorceCare

Dates: Wednesdays | Jan. 8 – Apr. 1

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Room 226

DivorceCare is a divorce recovery support group where you can find help and healing for the hurt of separation and divorce. For more information contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore (joem@fpcsat.org).

Wednesday Evening Women's Bible Study

Dates: January 8 - February 19

Time: 6:30 PM - 8:15 PM

Location: Room 302

We begin our first of three different studies in our spring Bible Study line-up. From January 8 – February 19, join us as we learn to surrender to God's will and rest our hope in Him alone as we study "Jeremiah" by Melissa Spoelstra. Contact Sheila Figueroa at shefig@earthlink.net or 210-822-4082.

Loaves and Fishes

Date: Saturday, January 18

Time: 8:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: Student Center
Downstairs

Our next opportunity to serve our under-resourced neighbors is Saturday, January 18. Setup begins at 8:30 AM, doors open for guests at 10:00 AM, and serving begins at 11:00 AM. All are welcome. Please contact Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org) with questions or to volunteer.



KRL Volunteer Training

Date: Monday, January 13

Time: 9:00 - 11:30 AM

Location: KRL

The Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL) at FPC has been able to serve nearly 500 since it opened in January, and continues to bring hope and restoration to our homeless and under-resourced neighbors through wholistic, collaborative ministry partnerships. The KRL is currently opened 25 hours a week, and volunteers are needed! If you are interested in finding a way to serve in the KRL, please join us for a volunteer training on Monday, January 13, from 9:00 - 11:30 AM in the KRL (lunch will be provided). If you would like more information or to sign up for this training, please contact Karen McCulloch at mc2karen@yahoo.com.

Missions Day of Prayer & Fasting

Date: Wednesday, January 29

Time: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Location: Geneva Room

Join our FPC family for a day of prayer and fasting this coming Monday, an intentional time where we will prioritize our hunger and thirst for righteousness and seek the Lord's mercy to have His kingdom come, His will be done, in and through our church as it is in heaven. You are invited to pray wherever you are using the FPC day of prayer and fasting guide, located in Mauze Lobby. Join us for corporate prayer in the Geneva Room. For more info, email Lindsay Selli (lindsays@fpcsat.org), or Mitchell Moore (mitchellm@fpcsat.org).



Women at First FAITH GATHERING & IF:GROUPS POTLUCK

Women's Faith Gathering & IF Group Potluck

Date: Sunday, January 12

Time: 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Location: Diane Carssow Home, 28 Thornhurst in Oakwell Farms

Attention all ladies! Next month we will be combining the Women's Faith Gathering and the IF Groups Potluck into one big event. Please mark your calendars for January 12, 6:00-8:30 PM, for a night of food, fellowship, worship and testimonies from Sallie Guy and Ashley Willard. You won't want to miss it! Bring a dish or beverage to share, or just bring yourself.

Diane Carssow lives inside Oakwell Farms, please note instructions for reaching her home through the front gate: use 1807 Oakwell Farms Parkway in your GPS to get to the front gate, tell the guard that you are attending the Presbyterian Women's night, remain on Oakwell Farms Parkway until you reach Wolfton Way, turn left on Wolfton Way and then a right on Thornhurst. Diane's house is on the corner of Thornhurst and Wolfton Way. Contact Carrie Everson (carrie@fpcsat.org) or Maggie Burnett (tempburnett@sbcglobal.net) for more info.

Living Waters for the World

Yucatan, Mexico Mission Trips

February 15-22, 2020 & May 9-17

For information or to apply visit

www.fpcsanantonio.org/mission-trips



University

MLK Ultimate Frisbee

Dates: Monday, January 20

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Trinity Football Field

Ultimate Frisbee game along with FCA. For more info contact Alex Solorio at alexs@fpcsat.org.

The House Friday Bible Study

Dates: Friday, Jan. 31

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Student Center

College students from across San Antonio gather for dinner, fellowship and Bible Study. All are welcome. Check us out at [Facebook.com/2TenSATX](https://www.facebook.com/2TenSATX). For more info contact Alex Solorio at alexs@fpcsat.org.

KEYS Upcoming

Friday, Jan. 10

KEYS Kickoff, 11:00 AM, featuring Little Beverly & the Shades, a 50's cover band, Lunch \$10

Friday, Jan. 17

Birthday Lunch, 11:30 AM, Scuzzi's Italian Restaurant, Lunch \$12

Friday, Jan. 24

Fran Hutchins from Bat Conservation International, 11:00 AM, Lunch \$10

Friday, Jan. 31

Cindy Gidden, chairman of The Ambassador Committee San Antonio Rodeo, 11:00 AM, Lunch \$10

Make your reservations through Alice at the reception desk, (210) 226-0215 or alicem@fpcsat.org. More information on pages 24-25.

Literature Circle

Dates: Tuesday, January 14

Time: 11:00 AM

Location: McCullough Room

Martha Smith will review the book, *"The Pioneers."* Written by Pulitzer Prize winning historian David McCullough, the story relates the settling of the Northwest Territory by dauntless pioneers. After the wilderness was ceded by Britain as part of the Treaty of Paris, the area that was to become the states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin were settled by veterans of the Revolutionary War and their families. They overcame incredible hardships to provide three remarkable conditions: freedom of religion, free universal education, and the prohibition of slavery - ideas that would come to define our country! If you are a "history buff," this book will either inform or refresh your knowledge of these events.

Men and women, church members and non-members are invited to attend.



Help Save a Life & Donate Blood

Date: Sunday, January 26

Time: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Location: Geneva Room

On Sunday, January 26, the SA Blood Bank will be at FPC from 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM. By committing 15 minutes of your time, you can be what saves a person's life. All presenting donors will receive a safe and secure donation experience and skilled care from the SA Blood Bank Staff.

Youth Ministry

Youth Wednesday Bible Studies Resume

Date: Wednesday, January 8

Time: MS at 5:00 PM, HS 7:00 PM

Location: Various Locations

Our Youth Bible studies may change location each week. In general middle school meets at 5:00 PM at 315 Devonshire Drive, 78209, the High School guys meet at 7:00 PM at 120 Claywell Drive, and the High School girls meet at 7:00 PM at 140 Luther Drive. Follow us on social media @fpcsayouth for the most up to date info.



Rampage Ice Hockey Game

Date: Thursday, January 16

Time: Leave church @ 6:00 PM

Location: AT&T Center

\$25/ticket. For more info or to reserve your tickets, contact Mac Taylor (mccalebtf@fpcsat.org)

Youth Upcoming

January Date TBD

Jr. High Guys Sunday Shenanigans

March 7-11, 2020

High School Big Bend Camping & Stargazing Trip | \$175 per student. Register at fpcsanantonio.org/hs-camping-trip2020.

Check us out at [Facebook.com/FPCSAyouth](https://www.facebook.com/FPCSAyouth). For more info contact Emily Yergler at emilly@fpcsat.org or Mac Taylor at McCalebT@fpcsat.org.



Women of the Church Ladies' Night Out

Date: Tuesday, January 28
Time: 6:00 - 8:00 PM
Location: Paloma Blanca (5800 Broadway)

Join us for a fun night at Paloma Blanca! All women are invited to attend. Dinner will be served at 6:45 PM. \$25 per person. Your payment is your reservation.

A reservation table will be in Mauze Lobby January 5, 12, & 19 or you can make your reservation online at fpcsanantonio.org/LNO beginning January 5.

Drivers available to pick-up and return non-drivers to and from Paloma Blanca. Gluten-free meals available upon request.

To reserve a driver or request a meal option, notify Shelley Bass by Friday, January 24 at Bass.Shelley6@gmail.com or 210-861-6996.



Women of the Church January Circle Schedule

Circle Number	Circle Theme	Meeting Info
Circle 1/12	Bible Circle	Monday, Jan. 27 10:30 AM FPC Geneva Room Optional Lunch: \$8
Circle 5	Shawl Ministry	Friday, Jan 17 10:00 AM FPC Room 228
Circle 6	Bible Circle	Tuesday, Jan. 21 1:30 PM FPC Geneva Room
Circle 7	Bible Circle	Tuesday, Jan. 21 11:30 AM Contact Candy Wagner for location
Circle 8	Mom's Group	Tuesday, Jan. 14 7:30 PM Battalion (604 S. Alamo)
Circle 9	Bible Circle	Tuesday, Jan. 21 10:30 AM FPC Geneva Room
Circle 11	Bible Circle	Monday, Jan. 27 6:30 PM Home of Sheila Figueroa (335 E. Melrose Drive)
Circle 13	Literature Circle	Tuesday, Jan. 14 1:00 PM FPC McCullough Room Open to women & men; January Book: <i>The Pioneers</i> by David McCullough
Circle 14	Bible Circle	Monday, Jan. 27 12:00 PM FPC St. Andrew's Room Optional Lunch: \$8
Circle 18	Circle of Concern	No formal meetings: Opportunities for service throughout the year
Circle 20	Circle of Service	No formal meetings: Opportunities for service throughout the year

LOVING
THE WORLD

Proyecto Amistad

Spreading Hope at the Border



(Below) Roberto Medina having a meal with migrants after a worship service. Faces have been blurred to protect their identities.



FPC provided a financial gift to renovate this building on the church property to give migrant families a safe place to stay.



This past November three members of FPC took the short, 2 ½-hour drive south to the city of Nuevo Laredo in the Mexican state of Tamaulipas. Here, the group met with Roberto Medina, a Presbyterian pastor at Puerta Del Cielo in Nuevo Laredo. Roberto is also the director of Proyecto Amistad, a program FPC supports through its global missions ministry.

In the past months, Nuevo Laredo and the entire US/Mexico border have been in the news with the faces of migrants at the forefront of these stories. Many of these people come from Central America, but others come from South America and even as far as Cameroon. The reasons people have for making these long journeys vary, with some based on false propaganda distributed by their home country's government. Regardless of the reason, once these travelers reach the

US/Mexico border, they generally are granted a hearing with a U.S. immigration judge. This hearing, though, can be months from their initial arrival date to the border. During this waiting period, the travelers have little to no resources, are often seen sleeping on the streets, and are at the mercy of their environment, which includes cartel violence.

Roberto and his church have sought to help these travelers. One way is by passing out gift bags containing soap, toothpaste, snacks, and Bible verses to those congregating at the Mexican immigration office near the international bridge. For many, this small gesture means a lot as they have not been able to shower or brush their teeth in days or weeks. This gesture also provides justification for Roberto to communicate with and love on these people face-to-face while they are staying in and around the immigration office. Another way Roberto is helping is by providing some travelers a safe place to stay. Using a gift from FPC, Roberto's church was able to renovate a building on their property, which now has a living area, kitchen, bathroom, and bedroom, as well as an improved fence for security.

During FPC's November visit, the team met a young woman and her toddler son who had journeyed from Honduras and were currently staying in the building. Roberto first met the woman at the immigration office when he saw that her son was very sick. Roberto was able to take the boy to a doctor and he is now well, smiling and playing with his mother. The young woman and her son will be staying in the building until their immigration hearing in February.

Roberto's other focus, Proyecto Amistad, concentrates on a program called Club Amistad, which reaches out to children by teaching them the gospel and the love of Jesus Christ. During the visit, the team was



able to see a small neighborhood church where a Club Amistad gathering was going on. The team was able to spend time with the fifteen children and watch them create bookmarks with "Psalm 119:103" written on them which reads, "How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!"

How to Get Involved

In the coming months, FPC hopes to send a mission team to Nuevo Laredo. There are many tasks that can be done, such as renovating buildings used by the neighborhood churches and Club Amistad groups. In the meantime, we can be praying. Having someone such as Roberto on the front lines to help the travelers at the US/Mexico border is truly the work of the Holy Spirit. Please pray for Roberto, his wife Kassumy, his church Puerta Del Cielo, the children who are part of Club Amistad, and all the travelers who are currently homeless on the US/Mexico border.



Club Amistad mural

LOVING THE CITY

LOVE 210: Loving our Neighbors in 2019



2019 has been a wonderful year at FPC, as we have been able to serve our homeless and under-resourced neighbors in a variety of ways. Our neighbors are invited in to the Student Center on the third Saturday of each month for a hot meal, showers, haircuts, worship and fellowship around tables. Churches and school groups around the city have joined with FPC to serve, and relationships are being built between volunteers and guests. In the last 12 months at Loaves and Fishes, there have been an average of 114 guests, with as many as 200 in May and June! There are about 60 volunteers each month, half of which come from FPC. Our partnership with the Faith Based Institute has provided us with invaluable help as we learn how to build relationships with our guests

through times of prayer and preparation, and leading worship and sharing testimony. God continues to provide the people and resources needed each month as we faithfully serve our community.

Our neighbors are also invited into FPC each week at Monday Night Community Bible Study, for a meal and to dive deeper into Scripture and relationship. Each week, about 40 of our neighbors join volunteers from FPC and the Faith Based Institute to learn more about the hope and transformation that is provided, only through the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. They share their lives and stories, and the community is able to celebrate how the Lord is working and moving to bring light into places of darkness, and direction to those



who are lost. What a blessing to be able to serve these men and women, as we see our own hearts transform as we all grow together in community!

Another incredible story of collaboration and God's faithful provision is seen in the Kingdom Restoration Lab. Since the KRL's doors opened in 2019, nearly 500 of our neighbors have been served through over 1,600 appointments with our collaborative ministry partners, SA Hope Center (formerly the San Antonio Christian Hope Resource Center), CAM, Any Woman Can, and the Faith Based Institute. The volunteers from FPC have embraced our neighbors as they enter the KRL each day.

We enjoy celebrating stories of transformation and hope with our neighbors through these incredible ministries at FPC. God's love is evident in the good work that is being done through Loaves and Fishes, Community Bible Study, and the KRL, and we wait with anticipation for the many ways the Lord will use FPC to love 2.1.0.!

If you would like more information about how to serve with any of these ministries, please contact Lindsay Selli lindsays@fpcsat.org.



The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

ROZLYN MILLER

Ministry Director to Children and their Families



In 1963 Eddie Pola and George Wyle wrote the words to a beloved Christmas song, “The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!” I wonder if these two men had the birth of the Savior in mind when they penned the words. Christmas is often filled with scrumptious foods and sweet delectable treats to enjoy, the air seems to carry happiness in it and families find an excuse to gather together and celebrate one another

through gifts and fellowship.

The sweet baby Jesus wrapped in cloths and laid in a manger came to our world, defenseless and utterly dependent on those around Him. The Christ child came to earth out of His love for mankind! It is my prayer that this past Christmas in the Children’s Department all activities reflected the love and mission of Christ. I’m so proud of the entire cast of the Children’s Pageant, as I told them before we went on,

their performance was an act of worship and a birthday gift to Jesus! May He alone receive all the glory!

A special thank you to the eighth-grade speakers and the adult volunteers who were seen and unseen. This day couldn’t have been pulled off smoother nor done without you.

Finally, thanks to our incredible Director and Co-Director of the Christmas pageant, Gabi Wier and Sara Parish!





The Advent Festival

Children and parents from FPC gathered on December 1 in Westminster Hall to celebrate the start of the Advent season! This fun-filled, two-hour program was packed with craft booths, cookie decorating and wreath making. We even had a takeout box of pet food to bring home to your dog! I would like to thank all the table volunteers and helpers for giving their valuable time to attend the festival and work a shift, so that families could enjoy themselves. These table leaders and helpers consisted of members of the Children's Committee, various parents and/or covenant partners of FPC. I heard many sweet giggles and saw precious smiles from the children who attended.



I must take a moment to offer a tremendous thank you to the wonderful ladies from the Children's Committee who chaired this event - Betsy Zachry and Terri Huddleston. These two ladies worked for weeks in advance on this project, doing tasks such as organizing crafts, shopping for supplies, finding volunteers to help, countless emails and texts, and giving much of their personal time. I'm honored to know you both and couldn't be more proud of their work on this family event. Finally to the FPC family, the Children's Ministry is grateful for your support through the year in giving and serving. Finally, on Dec. 15 the third

and fourth grade class, along with their Sunday School teachers, took an off-campus field trip to Retama Nursing home and delivered fuzzy socks to the residents. The children gathered in the dining hall and sang "We wish you a merry Christmas" while the residents received their gifts. It was a special morning of mission for our boys and girls.

From the Children's Department, Committee and Team, thank you for all of your support in 2019, and onward to 2020!

ROZLYN MILLER
Ministry Director to Children and their Families





CHRISTMAS AT MORNINGSIDE

Following long-standing tradition, FPC members alighted the campus of Morningside Ministries to bring a little feel of Christmas for the residents of the Manor and Kaulbach Assisted Living, with a special visit and Christmas party.

Morningside Ministries was established in 1960 by a board of managers of the Southwest Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church, and in 1967, FPC, along with the West Texas Diocese of the Episcopal Church, joined the faith-based foundation to undertake its mission of enhancing the dignity and quality of life with compassionate care for older adults.

Prior to party time, members of Circle 8 Moms' Group created brightly colored Cardinal decorations for the residents' rooms, with a direction on the joy and hope Jesus spread across the earth.



To kick off the mid-afternoon party, Miss Anna of the Children's Center presented a concert by 19 young boys and girls who entertained with animated versions of Christmas songs, before circulating among the residents with their own handmade gifts of Christmas cards.

Then came the Friday Singers directed by Charlotte Hains and accompanied by Dr. Jae Ha. During the

singing, stately Wisemen in handsome gowns presented gifts, a playful Frosty the Snowman danced around, a trio sang Silent Night in English, Spanish and German (in which some of the residents sang along in each of the languages), and lastly, everyone joined in a Sing-a-Long with lots of smiles and even a few happy tears.

Scott Simpson arrived at the Manor with a plate

of his special home-baked Snickerdoodles to read the Christmas story; and the following week Joe Moore had visited and encouraged the residents of Kaulbach to recite the Christmas narrative by memory with him. And they did!

Women from many FPC'S Circles finished the afternoon with homemade cookies and

punch, making sure each resident had a few extra cookies to take back to their room.

One of them summed up the day's events: "This really does make it feel like Christmas!"

Our thanks to everyone who provided this day of joy to our Morningside community.



Friday Singers Share Cheer Year Round

The Friday Singers from FPC visit nursing homes, retirement communities, rehab centers and Alzheimer day care centers from September through May each year. Donning blue shirts embossed with the Friday Singers logo, combined with khaki slacks, inclement weather or not, this group has been following a similar schedule since June, 1999.

The program always begins with a prayer. After the group songs there are some special solos or duets. The Singers then go into the audience, passing out song sheets for others to join in singing some old hymns or carols depending on the season.

In November of this year we visited Normandy Terrace, two locations of Brookdale, and Meridian at Grayson Square. December brought our yearly outreach at Morningside Ministries. We enjoyed joining with the Women of the Church and the Children's Center to bring Christmas cheer to the residents.

Invariably, those who are able, come to shake hands and ask, "When can you come back?" This is God at work through

us as we pray to be His ambassadors to those away from their familiar homes. We always want to leave our listeners with a smile on their face and a song in their heart. If for only a short time, we have brightened the day for someone who may be lonely or discouraged, then we have achieved our goal.

New members are always welcomed! There are no try-outs, just come to enjoy singing together and carrying the love of Christ to others. You are invited to call Charlotte Hains at 210-710-7173 for more information.



Christmas **POINSETTIAS** *2019*

Given by... In honor of

Michele and Jonathan Barker
**Our parents and grandmother
Our Sunday School Class,
Marriage and The Bible**

Lynnda and Field Barnes
**Blaire, Brandon & Bevyn Brimer
Rob Shelton**

Kay Beth and David Barr
**Kyle, Rhianon, Lane & Poppy Barr
Jobe, Ashley & J. W. Jackson**

Mary and Mike Benedum
Our children and grandchildren

The BRIDGES Sunday School class
With gratitude
Rob Shelton

Ann and Chuck Bunn
Lillian Ann Lehr

Their small group
The Byrd Family

Jill and Mike Charlton
Ethel and Tom Charlton

Pam and Roddy Clack
**Rebecca Andujar and June Eubank
Rosemary Marmon
Barbara Anne Stephens**

Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig
Our children & grandchildren

Sheila Figueroa
**My husband, Raymond Figueroa
Circle 11
Wednesday Evening Ladies Bible Study
Thursday Evening Ladies Bible Study -
Wayside Chapel**

Myna Gathers
**My interweb friend,
Hilda Hardcastle**

Barry Hall
My wife

Nona and Barry Hall
**Our children and their spouses
The KEYS Ministry
The Sanctuary Flower Committee**

Karen Herrmann, Emilie Petty and
Austin Herrmann
Ronald Joseph Herrmann

Karen and Ronald J. Herrmann
**Emilie Herrmann Petty and Christo-
pher Petty
Karah and Austin Alexander Herrmann**

Paula and Clyde Johnson
**Our grandchildren:
Bennett, Shelton, Vaughn,
Elle and Oakley**

Judy and Barry Kruger
Our children, Wesley and Janis

Cindy and Chip Lutz
Our ministers and staff

Janice and Watt Magnus
Rev. Dr. Louis and Kip Zbinden

Joyce and Jess Mayfield
Our beautiful church family

The Meadows Family
Kelly Watts

Their PBS small group
**Lellen Lane
Lynn Thompson**

Her Thursday morning Bible Study Group
With love
Emily Peebles

Phyllis and John Pickard
**Thanksgiving for our family
The Music Department
Jae Ha
Friday Singers**

The Sanctuary Handbell Choir
Dr. Jae Ha

Donna Smith
Richard Ward

Barbara Anne and Ken Stephens
Pastors and staff of FPC
Pastor's Bible Study Group

The Matt Terry Family
Our pastors and staff

Suzanne and Ted Terry
The Glory of God

Kathy Timberlake
My grandchildren:
Evan, Annabelle, Ladd
and Camilla

Hattie and Holt West
Rebecca Andujar
Leah Butler

Barbara Winship
Elaine Dunlap

Mrs. Jess Y. Womack II
Virginia (Mrs. Clark) Munroe
Mrs. George Kampmann

Janie and Jim Worth
Paul H. Smith

Given by...In memory of

The Alcala Family
Hazael "Chalo" Alcala

Linda and Warren Alexander
Jana Alexander Boyle

The Archer Family
Robert R. Archer
Anita N. Lindsay
Pearl N. Nordan

Michele and Jonathan Barker
Our grandparents

Lynnda and Field Barnes
Robert F. Barnes
Forrest H. Sparks

Chuck Beatty
Beth Beatty

Mary and Mike Benedum
Our parents

Elizabeth and Carter
Shelley and Steve
Suzanne and Malcolm
Jane and Tom Benesch

Debby & J.D. Bowen
Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Ryan

Jane Buchek
John Buchek

Ann and Chuck Bunn
Ralph Lehr
Mary and Charles Bunn

Mrs. George Burkholder
Dr. George V. Burkholder
Dr. & Mrs. Theodore M. Burkholder
Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. Schneider
Mrs. Margaret Burkholder Wetzel

Karen and Tony Coe
Fern and Hugh Straw, Karen's parents

Bob Collins
My wife, Elizabeth "Betty" Attwood Collins

The Crider Family
Edith Huebner
Cherlyn Crider

Lenna and Miller Culp
Barger Miller (our Papa)

Kelly and Jim Daniell
Barbara W. Daniell
Barbara E. Stieren
Arthur T. Stieren
Cora Correll
and Richard Wilson

The Darnell Family
Richard Darnell

Ginger and Bud Davenport
Col. And Mrs. C.P. Chapman
Col. And Mrs. H.A. Davenport

Laura A. Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Davis, Jr.

Jeanne Douglas
Gary E. Douglas
George Knapp

Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig
Our parents

Eva and Jim Eckburg
Jane and Bob Eckburg
Maria and Hans Wiedemann

Their children and grandchildren
Sallie W. Embs
Lowell D. Embs

Marilyn and Will Etheredge
Our fathers

Ken Finch
Jeannette "Jenny" Finch
Mr. & Mrs. L.C. Stolte

Nancy and Butch Gerfers
Our parents

Charlotte Hains
Beloved, Peter Hains

Nona and Barry Hall
Our parents
The Denver Ladies

Shelly and Marshall Harrell
Our parents

Her Thursday Bible Study Group
Mrs. Houston Harte (Carolyn)

Georgia and Mike Heath
Our loved ones

Karen Herrmann and Ronald J. Herrmann
Helen and Albert Herrmann
Doris and James Howard Heizer

Janet and Charles Hornberger and family
Robert Matias Hornberger

Robin Clark Hudnall
I.E., Lila and Candace Clark

Pat and Buddy Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. G.W. Johnson, Jr.
Dr. and Mrs. E.P. Tottenham

His Family
George A. Kampmann

Christine and Kevin Kelly
Bill McCrae

Janice and Watt Magnus
Our beloved parents and grandparents

JoLynne Meador and family
All of our loved ones

The Meadows and Warrick Families
Frances Warrick

Patricia and Richard McCleary
Our beloved parents

Geri and Don McCorkindale
Our son, Donn K. McCorkindale

Helen McCrae and Family
Bill McCrae

Madge and Jeff Arnold and family
Our grandmother, Emily Mickler

Diana Morehouse
Loved ones

Julie Norton-Keidel
Mr. Jess and Ms. Nell Norton

Daren and Josie Page
John Buchek (Grandy)

David A. Peeples
Rev. Robert H. and Elizabeth Bullock

Emily and David Peeples
Our parents
Sarah and Bob Bullock
Ada and Homer Peeples

Dolores Perrine
Robert Perrine

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Peterson
Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Hines, parents
Mr. and Mrs. Warner M. Hines,
brother & sister-in-law
Miss Beverly Black, dear friend

Micki, Don and Kate Philbin
Donald R. Philbin III

His loving family
Brad Pigeon

Lee Pressly
Ann Pressly
Henry Pressly, Jr.

Becca Price and family
Bob Price
David Price

Nancy and Courtenay Puckett
Glenn Puckett

Linda and Mark Rittenhouse and family
Dr. & Mrs. Norman H. Jacob, Jr.

Bill & Linda Ruhmann
Our son, Brad

Anne and Ron Scates
Anna Elizabeth Scates

Suzanne Shive
Helen Hall Shive
James Wendell Shive

Donna Smith
Lois and Don Smith
Roberta Ward

Martha Smith
Chupa Scott

Her Thursday Bible Study Group
Mrs. Paul Smith (Anne)

Barbara Anne and Ken Stephens
Anne (Mrs. Paul) Smith
Carolyn and Houston Harte

Cathleen Culin Spector
Carol Campbell Culin, my mother

Pat Stanley,
Patrice and Jason Pryor,
and Loren and Jacob
William A. Stanley III
William A. Stanley IV

Chaney and Tripp Stuart
Brad Pigeon
Madelon and Joe Harrison
Sue Stuart

Lynn and Ernie Swan
Curtis Swan

Helen Tafel
Louise and Joe Ruck
Victor Tafel, Jr.

The Matt Terry Family
Charles Wayne Turner

Deborah and Rusty Thomas
Bill McCrae

Suzanne and John Thomas
Thomas B. Burns
Mr. and Mrs. R.C. Thomas

The Troy, Keidel and Thompson families
Dr. Werner Ned Keidel

Julia and Mike Troy
Colin, Malcolm and Emily
Col. And Mrs. Malcolm Norton

Jane Warren and Robert Warren
Spence Warren
Bryan Warren

Carol and David West
Olive and Bond Davis
Margarite and W.G. West

Neil Williams
My parents, Paul & Helen Williams
"Auntie Kay" Kutchins

Willie Willming and family
Ed Willming

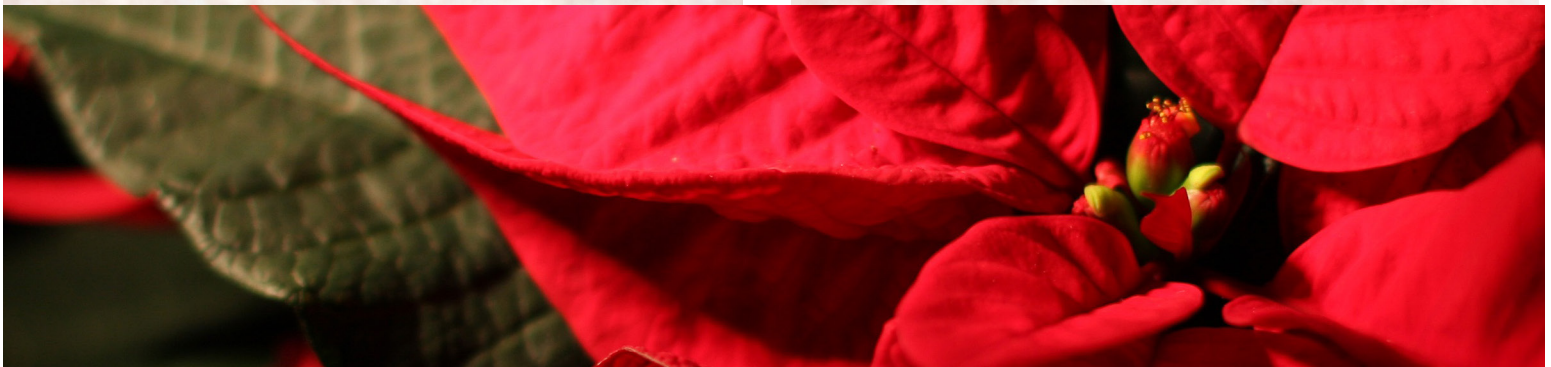
Barbara Winship
G. Eldon Winship

Mrs. Jess Y. Womack,
Mr. Jess Y. Womack II
Mrs. Helen Morris Williamson
Mr. Clark Munroe

Lisa, Jim, Barrett and Carson Wolff
Beverly and John Carson

Janie and Jim Worth
Anne Bruce Smith

Edwyna Yarbrough and family
Dr. Leroy Yarbrough



WOMEN OF THE CHURCH CROWN THE YEAR WITH HIS GOODNESS

JUDY KRUGER

President, Women of the Church



Joyful greetings to you in this New Year! The Lord gave Women of the Church many opportunities to joyfully serve Him during the Christmas season:

- **Advent Festival** - thanks to Bunkie Shed for organizing food donations and to all Circle members who assisted at the project tables
- **Gift of Christmas** - thanks to Cassie McMillan, Chairman, who helped groups in our church “adopt” 15 San Antonio families in need and generously bless them with Christmas gifts
- **PCHAS Christmas party** - thanks to Diane Carssow, Marilyn Etheredge, and Nancy Puckett and all Circle members who donated items for the children
- **Two Morningside Manor Christmas parties** - thanks to: Janet Wernli and Janice Wilson, Committee Chairmen; Circle members who baked cookies and attended the parties; Dr. Jae Ha, children from the FPC Children’s Center, and the Friday Singers for the entertainment; Rev. Scott Simpson and Rev. Dr. Joe Moore for telling the Christmas story; Circle 8 for the beautiful craft gifts
- **Sus Hijas Sale** - thanks to Suzanne Thomas for hosting
- **Christmas Eve Dinner** for our pastors, choir, and staff - thanks to Karin Gabrielson for hosting again this year and to all Circle members who contributed food and served as hostesses at the event

As we begin the New Year, we eagerly look forward to two women's events in January:

- **Women's Faith Gathering** will be held on Sunday, January 12 from 6-8:30 pm. Ladies of all ages are invited to meet for food, fellowship, and worship at the home of Diane Carsow (29 Thornhurst in Oakwell Farms.)
- **Winter "Ladies Night Out"** will be on Tuesday, January 28. Please plan to join us for a fun evening at Paloma Blanca at 6-8pm. Cost is \$25 per person, and your check is your reservation. All women are invited.

Blessings to you in 2020!

"You crown the year with your goodness, and richness overflows wherever you are." - Psalm 65:11



KEYS

REV. DR. JOE MOORE
Minister for older adults and
congregational care.



Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit

To make your
reservation
for all KEYS
events contact
Alice Morales at
alicem@fpcsat.org
or 210-226-0215.

The cost for
meals at FPC is
\$10. Birthday
luncheons
are \$12 unless
otherwise noted.

Looking back over several years of January issues of First Pres Magazine, my goal was to say something new and different in my recap of 2019. What I have learned is that every year KEYS has provided informational and inspirational programs that have facilitated sweet times of fellowship. That fellowship has grown into meaningful and lasting relationships that continue to teach us how to Love Christ, Love One Another, and Love Our City. It is a challenge and a privilege to work with the Leadership

Committee to keep KEYS moving forward into a New Year. 2020 here we come!

We are excited to kick things off January 10th with Little Beverly & The Shades, A 50's & 60's era band that will lead us in a musical walk down memory lane, celebrating the past as we look forward to the future.

Remember, KEYS is not an exclusive club for older adults. Everyone is welcome to attend on Fridays and to join us on other activities as well, "Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit."

January Events

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Jan. 10 | Little Beverly & The Shades |
| Jan. 17 | Birthday Lunch at Scuzzi's Italian Restaurant |
| Jan. 24 | Fran Hutchins from Bat Conservation International |
| Jan. 31 | San Antonio Rodeo |

February Upcoming

- | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Feb. 7 | Rick Cavender Band |
| Feb. 14 | Magician Doug Gorman |
| Feb. 21 | Birthday Lunch At The Menger Hotel |
| Feb. 28 | Hamburger & Movie |

Bridge and Mah Jongg

Bridge and Mah Jongg players meet immediately following lunch on the second and fourth Fridays of the month. Join in on the fun!! New players are welcome and someone will help you learn the game. If you have other games that we could play, then let us know and we will see that you have a place to play.

SA READS

SA Reads needs your help to sort, categorize, and clean donated books that are used 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 done at Firstmark Credit Union, 10730 Gulfdale Drive, on the first Tuesday of each month. Join in on this great service project, as well as the fellowship of working together.



FIRST CUP READINGS JANUARY, 2020

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 my library. 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



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 Ecclesiastes 1; Psalm 49
- 2 Ecclesiastes 2; Matthew 6:19-34
- 3 Ecclesiastes 3; Matthew 16:24-28; 25:31-46;
1 Peter 4:1-11
- 4 Ecclesiastes 4; Proverbs 15:16; 27:10

When I survey the wondrous cross, on which the Prince of glory died, my riches gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God; All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to His blood. Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all. (The Baptist Hymnal, #99)

- 5 Ecclesiastes 5; Psalm 66:13-14; Proverbs 20:25;
1 Timothy 6:6-10; James 1:9-11
- 6 Ecclesiastes 6; Philippians 1:3-30
- 7 Ecclesiastes 7; Proverbs 7:6-27; Romans 3:10-20;
Psalm 119:9-11
- 8 Ecclesiastes 8; Psalm 92; Romans 11:33-36
- 9 Ecclesiastes 9; Psalm 34; Philippians 1:21
- 10 Ecclesiastes 10; Proverbs 15; James 3
- 11 Ecclesiastes 11; Proverbs 11:24; 1 Timothy 4:6-16

Give of your best to the Master; Give him first place in your heart; Give him first place in your service; consecrate every part. Give, and to you shall be given. God His beloved Son gave. Gratefully seeking to serve Him, give Him the best that you have. Give of your best to the Master; naught else is worthy His love. He gave Himself for your ransom, gave up His glory above; laid down His life without murmur, you from sin's ruin to save. Give Him your heart's adoration; Give Him the best that you have. (Worship in Song, #340)

- 12 Ecclesiastes 12; Psalm 146
- 13 Psalm 1; 2 Timothy 3
- 14 Psalm 2; Proverbs 1:20-33
- 15 Psalm 3; Proverbs 3
- 16 Psalm 4; Ephesians 4:26-27; James 1:19-27
- 17 Psalm 5; 107
- 18 Psalm 6; Hebrews 12:1-13

Soldiers of Christ, arise, And put your armor on, strong in strength which God supplies through His eternal Son. Strong in the Lord of Hosts and in His mighty power, Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror. Leave no unguarded place, No weakness of the soul; Take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole. From strength to strength go on; wrestle, and fight, and pray; Tread all the powers of darkness down, and win the well-fought day. (The Hymnbook, # 362)

- 19 Psalm 7; Jeremiah 12
- 20 Psalm 8; Genesis 1-2:3; Hebrews 2;
Philippians 2:1-11
- 21 Psalm 9; Proverbs 23:17-18; Revelation 6:9-11
- 22 Psalm 10; Romans 3:9-20
- 23 Psalm 11; Jeremiah 17:5-18 James 1:12
- 24 Psalm 12; James 3
- 25 Psalm 13; Habakkuk 3

I love the Lord, His strength is mine; He is my God, I trust His grace; My fortress high, my shield divine, My Saviour and my hiding place. From God the victory I receive; Most perfect is His holy way; His word is tried, they who believe Will find the Lord their shield and stay. For who is God, and strong to save, Beside the Lord, our God of might? 'Tis He that makes me strong and brave, The Lord who guides my steps aright. (The Hymnbook, #370)

- 26 Psalm 14; Romans 3:9-4:8
- 27 Psalm 15; Ephesians 4:17-5:21
- 28 Psalm 16; 73
- 29 Psalm 17; Job 23:10-12
- 30 Psalm 18
- 31 Psalm 19; Psalm 119:97-112

FIRST CUP PRAYER LIST

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. (Romans 8:26).

[illegible]



Jessica Worth

Jessica joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is an Advisory Board Member with Lewis Energy Group. Jessica is an avid aviator, enthusiastic philanthropist and motivated growth seeker. Jessica is looking forward to joining the FPC community and serving Christ faithfully. She joins her husband Clint Worth (a member from childhood) and their three children.



Meredith Hinchey

Meredith joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is a Program Manager for Step Up for Students and has been a vegetarian for 29 years. George and Meredith have a 7-month-old son named Will who was baptized at FPC. Meredith is looking forward to the FPC community.



George Hinchey

George is a Partner with Haynes and Boone, LLP. George is looking forward to the FPC Community.

Lisa Moore

Lisa is a Charge Nurse at Health by Design. Her husband is FPC pastor Rev. A. Mitchell Moore, and they have four children: Lauren, Cora, Tucker and Ben. She and her family have a pig, two chickens and two dogs as pets. She is looking forward to being an active member worshipping with the FPC.

Cora Moore

Cora, daughter of Mitchell and Lisa Moore, joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. She is looking forward to participating as a member in the activities the church does to spread the love and word of the Lord.

CONNECT WITH US!

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