



FIRST PRESS

SEPTEMBER 2021

Check out our
Upcoming Events!
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GLOBAL MISSION TRIPS RETURN WITH YPM!

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175th History
Part 5: The Presbyterian
Church and Education

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Offers Opportunity
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KinMart Event Provides
School Supplies
to Orphans & Their
Families

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Pastor's Article



75 and 175

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Pierre Bernard Hill became the pastor of First Presbyterian Church in the year of its 75th anniversary, 100 years ago in 1921. When Dr. Hill and his family arrived in San Antonio, he found the leaders of First planning to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the completion of John McCullough's arrival and first church. As they were planning, it dawned on him that he and the congregation would be celebrating not only the anniversary of the church, but also the 75th anniversary of Protestantism in San Antonio. The Reformation movement in Europe sought to reform and invigorate Christianity by encouraging people to read and study the Bible for themselves. While this effort was welcomed by many people, there were many leaders in the medieval Roman Catholic Church who saw this "democratization" of Christianity as a threat. If the people read the scriptures for themselves, the Church would lose its spiritual leverage over the people. In empires like France and Spain, The Reformation was violently and vigorously put down. For this reason, the popular reading and study of the Bible was illegal in the Spanish empire of North and South America. Then, in 1810, Mexico won its independence from Spain, followed by Texas Independence in 1836. This newfound freedom opened the door for the reformation in Mexico and Texas.

In 1846, John McCullough and other Protestants used that open door to bring the Reformation and the open reading and study of the Bible to San Antonio. P.B. Hill realized that he and his committee were not just planning the birthday party for the church. They were about to mark the 75th anniversary of the year the Reformation came to San Antonio.



It was a celebration of the Bible and the incredible good news of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Hill reached out to the other protestant Pastors in town. His only stipulation was that this event be a celebration of Protestantism, and not an offensive condemnation of their Catholic neighbors. They called the celebration the diamond Jubilee of Protestantism. A certain amount of delicacy was necessary since they were saluting the advent of Protestantism in a Catholic fortress. The week was filled with special speakers and fellowship gatherings. According to Green Peyton, Hill's biographer, "The climax of the week's festivities was a mammoth parade. Starting at the Alamo, 30,000 protestants wound through the narrow downtown streets of San Antonio, marching eight abreast followed by 2,000 older people in cars. The line was so long that the first section of the parade returned to the Alamo before the last section left. Five full bands were massed in Alamo Plaza to play "the Star-Spangled Banner." Then the first band set off blaring "Onward Christian Soldiers." Behind the bands, leading the marchers in a white dress with a broad blue sash, bearing an open Bible with gold edges,

strode 10-year-old Martha Hill (P.B. Hill's daughter)." Observers estimated that there were 35-40 thousand participants in the parade, from all denominations and ethnic groups, and as many as 75,000 spectators lined the streets.

Why did Dr. Hill believe that the anniversary of FPC's founding should be a celebration of the reformation and the Bible? Well, here are some things he wrote about scripture and its importance in our lives.

As [man] contemplates the manifestations of God's power in the universe he is filled with holy awe. He gazes into the infinite space above him and marvels as innumerable, shining worlds move with mathematical precision across the plain of heaven. He stands mystified at both life and death. He contemplates the great crises of life in conscious helplessness. He feels the mighty conflicts in his own soul and cries to this Almighty God, "What is man (literally "frail man") that thou art mindful of him?"

Then he learns that this great God, who holds the destiny of men and nations in His hand, will be his Father and his Helper if he will let Him. He learns that by faith in Jesus Christ he can link his life to the life and purposes of this Invincible One.

To P.B. Hill and the members of FPC, the Bible was worth study and celebration. One hundred years later, I fear that we may take God's word for granted. Let's make this 175th Anniversary a celebration of the good news breaking into our city by welcoming the reformation and the study of His Word into our own hearts.

Grace and Peace,

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First Press is published monthly by the First Presbyterian Church San Antonio Communications Team.

Want to be featured in FIRST PRESS?
Deadline to submit content: the 15th of the previous month.

Hank Cherry: **Director of Communications**

Abigail Wroten: **Graphic Designer**

Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator**

Questions? Contact: Hank Cherry (210-271-2728/hankc@fpcsat.org)

Save the Date

FALL MINISTRY GUIDE

Check out our new Fall Ministry Guide with a complete lineup of activities, events and offerings for you to be a part of: <https://fpcsanantonio.org/fall2021>

YOUNGLIVES MINISTRY

Every Tuesday | 3:00 PM | FPC

Contact: Christina Via , christinavia@gmail.com

YoungLives, a ministry to teen moms and their babies, is excited to begin the new fall semester with a fresh start. We are currently in need of volunteers who can serve as a mentor, a leader on the Healy Murphy or Seton Home Teams, serving on the Committee, providing childcare. Other ways to serve are available if you are interested.

VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM

Wednesdays, September 1 and October 6 | 11:00 AM | Zoom

Meets Monthly on the first Wednesday of the month to pray together for our city and each other. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/virtual-prayer-room to sign up for the Zoom meeting details and to join the email list.

FRIDAY SINGERS RESUME

Fridays | 9:30 AM | Choir Room

Contact: Charlotte Hains, charlottehains@gmail.com

Friday Singers is an outreach ministry to retirement and rehabilitation communities around our area. All are welcome to our rehearsals. Come if you love to sing!

UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, September 3 | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM | Student Center

Contact: Alex Solorio, alexs@fpcsat.org, 832-455-8752

Join us for ice cream and fellowship as we kick-off the year for our college students!

CITYWIDE PRAYER SERVICE

Sunday, September 5 | 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM | Westminster Hall

Join us along with worshipers and pastors from more than 15 area churches, for a special evening of worship in Westminster Hall, and featuring music lead by Callan Brown.

RAMSEY+ AND FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

Wednesday, September 8 – November 3 | 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM | Zoom Online

Ramsey + is an online membership for every family in our congregation to access all of Dave Ramsey's best-selling resources and tools FREE for 1 year, including access to Financial Peace University, The Legacy Journey, Smart Money Smart Kids, premium membership of the Every-Dollar budgeting app, and a host of other resources. We are offering another Financial Peace University virtual class starting on September 8th! For more information: fpcsanantonio.org/ramsey.

GRIEF SHARE

Thursday, September 9 – December 9 | 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM | Zoom

Contact: Rev. Dr. Joe Moore, joem@fpcsat.org, 802-734-2329

GriefShare is a 13 week video based Grief Support Group. We watch a video together and take time to discuss what we have seen. Register online through Griefshare.org. You will be charged \$15 for the workbook which will be mailed directly to you. You can find an overview of the program at www.griefshare.org.

WOMEN OF FAITH RETREAT

Friday, September 10 – Saturday, September 11 | First Presbyterian Church

Contact: Rev. Becky Prichard, Beckyp@fpcsat.org, 210.271.2732

Join women of all ages for a time of connection, fun and

worship as together we look at our identity as beloved daughters of God and what it means to live our lives in response to God's love for us. Register online at fpcsanantonio.org/women. Cost is \$80 - scholarships are available.

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, September 17 | 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Assembly Room

Contact: Rozlyn Miller, rozlynm@fpcsat.org or Heather Beltrame, heatherb@fpcsat.org

Need a date night? Drop off your kids at FPC for some fun! All Babies through 5th graders welcome. We will provide popcorn and a movie. Please pack your child's dinner and send them in their PJ's! A medical release is required to be completed to attend. \$5.00 per child.

HERITAGE CONCERT WITH MAGGIE AMINI

Sunday, September 19 | 7:00 PM | Westminster Hall

Contact: Callan Brown, callanb@fpcsat.org

Join us for a night of music and fellowship from our own Maggie Amini!

STEPHEN MINISTRY TRAINING

September 20 – December 29 | TBD

Contact: Jim Carssow, jimcarssow@gmail.com

512-423-3424

A training course for lay persons to be part of a ministry that provides distinctive Christian care to those in need. This training will equip you with relationship skills to help you in everyday life as well as being present for those in need. The training will include ten weekday evening meetings and two Saturday meetings.

MEN'S MINISTRY DINNER

Sunday, September 26 | 5:30 PM | Chris Madrid's

Contact: Richard Peacock, richard@rmpeacock.com

Men of all ages are encouraged to join us to encourage and strengthen our relationship with the Lord and with each other. Contact Richard Peacock at richard@rmpeacock.com for more information.

RESET GATHERING - YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY

Mondays, September 27 | 7:00 PM – 8:15 PM | Student Center

Contact: Rev. Mitchell Moore, mitchellm@fpcsat.org

Join other Young Adults for a time of worship, Biblical teaching, fellowship, and prayer. The RESET Gathering is a chance for us to reset our hearts, minds, and lives on knowing Jesus personally, following Jesus wholly, worshipping Jesus corporately, and serving Jesus globally. Please come check it out and visit fpcsanantonio.org/reset for more information and to sign up for a small group.

YOUTH MINISTRY FALL RETREAT

Friday, October 15 – Sunday, October 17 | Camp Buckner

Contact: Alex Clary, alexc@fpcsat.org

All students and friends of students grades 6-12 are invited to join us for a fun weekend at Camp Buckner for our annual Fall Retreat! Activities will include team building exercises, good food and snacks, fellowship, and so much more. Contact Alex with any questions and to register go to fpcsanantonio.org/youth.

WORSHIP & REJOICE HYMNAL DONATIONS

Contact: Brittanie Salazar, brittanies@fpcsat.org

Remember & Honor Loved Ones with the gift of a "Worship and Rejoice Hymnal." We are now receiving donations to purchase the new "Worship and Rejoice Hymnal" for FPC. For details and donation forms, please see our hymnal brochure in the narthex or lobby. For additional information, please see the new hymnal webpage on our church fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/music/worship-rejoice-hymnal/.

175TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP AND FELLOWSHIP

Saturday, October 23 – Sunday, October 24 | FPC

Save the Date for a special celebration weekend, featuring guest speaker Dr. J. Ligon Duncan III, Chancellor of the Reformed Theological Seminary of Charlotte, North Carolina.



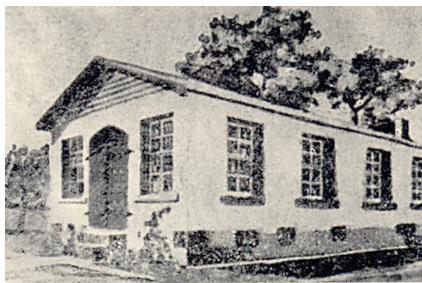
HISTORY: THE TEXAS REFORMATION BY DAVID B. WEST

Part 5: The Presbyterian Church, Hispanic Ministries and Education

Texas was now the 28th state of the United States—a country now at war with Mexico. The war and statehood swelled the military and civilian population of San Antonio, making it a very different place than John McCullough had seen in his prior trips.

Almost immediately upon his arrival in San Antonio, McCullough began distributing copies of the New Testament, a book previously banned by the Roman Church. If the people were to become a priesthood of believers, they had to learn to read the Bible for themselves. Because Texas was a state, rather than a foreign country, however, McCullough lost his commission from the Foreign Missions Board. He depended on income from a school he started.

Hispanic and American families alike were eager for their children to learn to read. During the first year of the school, McCullough had 30 Hispanic students and 20 Americans, making it difficult to find a place to conduct his school. Attendance grew too large for homes. Thus, in addition to preaching and teaching, Rev. McCullough raised funds to build a small adobe structure



The "Old Adobe," a small adobe structure at the time also known as "The Mud Temple," was FPC's first church building

adjacent to his house to serve as both a church and a school.

McCullough estimated that if he did not have to charge tuition, he could grow the school to 500 students. The Bible Society of New York supported the school, sending The Rev. Ramon Monsalvatge, a former Spanish monk, to help McCullough open a school for poor Hispanic children. Monsalvatge was a colorful figure. While a priest, he fought as a soldier in the Spanish Civil War. He denounced the Catholic Church for many practices, including banning Bibles. He became a colporteur, or Bible salesman, which was illegal in both France and Spain.

Image courtesy of UT Arlington Library (library.uta.edu)



1850 lithograph of Alamo based upon original watercolor made in 1846-1848 by Sgt. Edward Everett during the U.S. War with Mexico.

Persecuted by authorities, he moved to Switzerland and later London, where he was schooled in the Reformed Faith. In 1846, the Bible Society of New York commissioned him as a missionary to San Antonio.

Monsalvatge's presence in San Antonio greatly alarmed Catholic Bishop John Odin, who reported that "the Bible Society of New York is going to great lengths to poison the minds of the poor Mexicans still living in Texas." When he warned parents against the threat to Catholicism, they responded that he needed to provide alternative schools. Bishop Odin wanted to open schools, but he lacked funds. He plunged himself into debt and later traveled to France to raise funds for two Catholic schools, one for girls (the Ursuline Academy) and one for boys on St. Mary's Street.

In addition to education, ministry to the military occupied much of McCullough's time. He wrote:

The Mexican War commenced the Spring I went to San Antonio and the troops for the expedition to the Rio Grande were outfitted

175TH ANNIVERSARY

"...I was persecuted, slandered, and insulted. Every effort was made by ungodly Americans to induce me to leave. The town was overrun by a devilish set of men and gamblers..."

-Rev. John McCullough



The Battle of Palo Alto was the first major battle of the Mexican–American War, fought on May 8, 1846, near modern-day Brownsville. A force of some 3,700 Mexican troops engaged a force of approximately 2,300 United States troops led by General Zachary Taylor. (Source: Wikipedia)

there...During the stay, many had been sick. I visited them there and attended a funeral almost every day, sometimes two in a day. While the Army lay at San Antonio I preached once a day to the soldiers stationed about two miles up the river near the Springs.

McCullough's work was perhaps made more difficult by civilian hostilities. McCullough wrote:

You can have no idea at present of the difficulties of establishing or getting a foothold for the gospel in San Antonio in those early times.

I was persecuted, slandered, and insulted. Every effort was made by ungodly Americans to induce me to leave. The town was overrun by a devilish set of men and gamblers. I had occasion to rebuke them publicly in the pulpit and recommend a Vigilance Committee to execute law and keep order. For this and other causes I was threatened with violence and subjected to daily danger...Through manifest engagements, my nervous system suffered so much that I became excitable and sleepless...I took occasion to give them my

sentiments from the pulpit.

This gave them mortal offense and they threatened me with their vengeance for some time. I paid no attention to their threats except to keep on guard for any occurrence.

One of the notable "ungodly Americans" was John Glanton, who owned the lot adjacent to the adobe church and the "most ominous man" in McCullough's life. According to one report, he rode his horse into McCullough's house, then rode out and fired a shot into the house, the bullet passing through McCullough's hat.

McCullough persevered in spite of the attacks. He could not withstand personal tragedy, however. In 1849, his wife Lorena, died, as did the wife of The Rev. Monsalvatge. Both men left San Antonio and the first effort to form the first Protestant church in San Antonio ended. The ministry of the two men did not. McCullough returned to Galveston, where he started a school and helped the presbytery start Austin College, initially located in Huntsville, Texas. Sam Houston was on the first board of directors.

Monsalvatge went, first, to the Rio Grande Valley to teach and preach, and later, to Mexico to take the Protestant faith to the Mexican people.

Next: The Lingering Vision

This is a multi-part series written in connection with the 175th anniversary of First Presbyterian Church. Special thanks to Rick Lane for his knowledge and contributions on this important history.

LOVING THE WORLD



Short term

Mission Trips are Back at FPC!

By: Downie Mickler

This July, FPC sent a team of 12 people (ages 14-59) on the Southwest Airlines direct flight to Cancun (an easy 2.5 hour flight), to serve for one week with Yucatan Peninsula Missions (YPM). We were stationed at the YPM base in Leona Vicario, a small town 45 minutes inland. When we arrived there, memories of my previous mission trips to the Yucatan flooded in! As a teen, I had gone to work alongside YPM with our FPC youth group, lead by Ron Scates. I remembered working at a construction site setting concrete blocks during the day, and sleeping in a hammock at a local church with no air conditioning every night. We met for daily devotions, and near the end of the trip enjoyed the Mayan ruins in

Tulum and snorkeling in Xel-Ha. That was in the 80's! And my husband, Bobby, went on the same trip about 5 years before me with FPC! Many team members from previous FPC groups messaged me their fond memories of YPM when they saw our posts on social media this summer. But I want you to know that our partnership with YPM is not only significant because of our history in serving the needs of the Mayan/Mexican together, we are also helping to advance the Kingdom of God in tangible ways there today! In 2007 work to clear property for a school began under the new country director Wilian Armando Cen, and after 10 years of hard work by mission teams like ours, the school opened.

The YPM Instituto is now an accredited high school, and University offering degrees in business administration, education, and law. This year the YPM Instituto became a certified Christian Presbyterian Seminary, and plans to add six new degrees to its University offerings. This ministry is very tangible because education is rare and precious, necessary to furthering the gospel of Jesus Christ.

In the last few years, our church has worked closely with YPM to construct a clean water project one block from the Institute. YPM Instituto students work there now to help pay for their schooling. The water project is called Chen Ja, and it is a fully functioning



filtration and water bottling plant where people purchase clean drinking water at a discounted price. Chen Ja is distributed in small and large bottles individually and commercially. The idea is sustainability and, from what we could tell, the project is very successful. Living water!

Getting to our team trip...the reason we went was to participate in a new thing that God is doing thru YPM. In collaboration with the ministry called Amor, YPM is providing housing for people who need it. Through relationships built in and around the Leona Vicario community, YPM is able to identify people who own land but are unable to construct proper housing for their families. Amor builds the houses our teams paint them and bless them with prayer and heart connection. Our team completely painted two houses in three days - inside and out! It was so fun to work alongside one another and experience the joy of blessing a family with a freshly painted beautiful home! One of the homes was a two room, one bathroom building for a pastor and his family living next to an open-air church. The pastor came home from working a second job, with tears in his eyes when he saw his wife and kids excited about their new home!

Amor also has a fantastic, energetic sports ministry called Las Tortugas! We went prepared to lead a soccer clinic for their Summer camp one day with two members of the Alamo Heights Varsity Girls Soccer Team on the trip! Friday we spent the whole

morning on the field with Las Tortugas in Puerto Morelos, a small neighboring town. We had so much fun with the kids playing soccer and beyond that, learning how Amor trains up young adults to be Christian, certified professional coaches and caregivers.

The ministries of YPM and Amor are living, growing, and creatively expanding as the Lord leads them in new ways to work together, and we get to participate in these works. And God uses every member of the mission team! Our Sunday worship experience in the Mayan village "3 Reyes", was the icing on the cake for our group! Wilian preached in Spanish, and Amelia McGarraugh translated clearly the Word of God about making disciples. Amelia



had never been to Mexico. It was her first time to leave the United States, but she had been in the Spanish Immersion program all her years in school. Almost immediately God installed her as the team interpreter. Amelia was a bright shining star all week long!!

If you are interested in going on a team in the future, please reach out to Lindsay Selli or myself. We are planning to send teams during Thanksgiving break and Spring break this school year. Teens and adults are welcome! There is much work to be done. Jesus said, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." Matt 9:37-8.

Pray for new teams to form and prepare for the short trip that will change lives. God wants us to participate. Please pray for and/or go on a short term mission trip this coming year if you feel the Spirit's tug. Contact Lindsay Sell at lindsays@fpcsat.org for more information. May God bless our participation in His global mission.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Prayer

We believe that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. We do not believe that the Scriptures contain Babylonian and Chaldean myths, Jewish folk-tales and the personal opinions of fishermen, publicans and others. We believe that "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God" (2 Tim. 3:16)

As he contemplates the manifestations of God's power in the universe, he is filled with holy awe. He gazes into the *infinite space above him* and marvels as innumerable, shining worlds move with mathematical precision across the plain of heaven. He stands mystified at both life and death. He contemplates the great crises of life in conscious helplessness. He feels the mighty conflicts in his own soul and cries to this Almighty God, "What is man (literally "frail man") that thou art mindful of him?"

Then he learns that this great God, who holds the destiny of men and nations in His hand, will be his Father and his Helper if he will let Him. He learns that by faith in Jesus Christ he can link his life to the life and purposes of this Invincible One.

October 15-17

YOUTH RETREAT

2021



ALEX CLARY
ALEXC@FPCSAT.ORG

CAMP BUCKNER
BURNET, TX

JOIN US FOR OUR YOUTH RETREAT AT CAMP BUCKNER IN BURNET, TEXAS. WE WILL LEAVE FPC IN THE AFTERNOON ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15, AND RETURN ON SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 17. THE COST FOR THE TRIP IS \$150.00 PER CHILD. SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE!

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Back To School at the Flagpole



*"Bless the schools, O Lord we pray.
Make them safe both night and day.*

*Bless the walls so firm and stout
Keeping evil and trouble out.*

*Bless the roofs and chimneys tall
Let your peace lie over all.*

*Bless the classrooms, that they may be
A place to learn and to be free.*

*Bless all those who enter in
Let them feel your presence within."*

God was honored and local schools were lifted up in prayer on Sunday, August 15! These informal gatherings took place at the flagpole at 5:30 p.m., and several schools in our city were covered in prayer for safety and good health for all who enter them. As you may recall, there was a cloudburst over San Antonio the hour leading up to the prayer events, but at 5:30, God paused the rains and many came with umbrellas they didn't have to use! There were also many who prayed from their homes or from out of town!

The Prayer Ministry Committee would like to thank all of those who participated, and it is our hope that this important event will spread to all schools in San Antonio in the years to come. What better way to send our youth and faculty back to school than by prayers of protection from Covid 19 and other illnesses, bullying and violence! Please continue to pray for students, teachers, and staff as schools re-open all over the nation.

Jeannie Dullnig

Prayer Ministry Committee

LOVING ONE ANOTHER



Stephen Ministers Bless Both Provider and Provided

Since 1975, people from all walks of life have been trained as Stephen Ministers. A Stephen Minister is a lay caregiver. Lay people are drawn to Stephen Ministry training and service by the desire to make a significant difference during a time of great need in someone's life. And the surprise is the tremendous personal and spiritual growth they themselves experience.



“Stephen Ministry has taught me the power of presence - being there for someone.”

6

THE PRINCIPLES OF STEPHEN MINISTRY ARE:

1. CONFIDENTIALITY
2. EMPATHY
3. TRUST
4. LISTENING
5. GRACE-BASED ACCEPTANCE
6. DISTINCTIVE CHRISTIAN CARING.

Here are some responses to the Stephen ministry training and on-going support.

- Charles, a teacher from New York, “Stephen Ministry has taught me the power of presence - being there for someone.”

- Gigi, an Executive Director from Colorado, “Stephen Ministry training has given me information and skills I needed to more effectively share Christ’s love with the world.”

- Abby, a stay-at-home Mom from Iowa, “Whoever your are or whatever experiences you bring, you can learn valuable caring skills through Stephen Ministry training.”

- Tasuku, an insurance agent from Japan, “Stephen Ministry training helped me understand how listening is more than just hearing the words someone says - it’s responding to their heart.”

We all go through tough times in life - turbulent, unsettling, challenging. It is extremely helpful to have someone come alongside us to give stability and hope, to help us through the storm. That is what the Stephen Minister is able to provide - a listening ear, a supportive perspective, and God’s Word to help us through the challenges of life.

If you desire to be part of this ministry at First Pres, our next training class begins the week of September 20th. The exact days and time will be determined after the enrollment has been completed. For more information, please call Jim Carsow at (512) 423-3424 or Rev. Scott Simpson at the church office.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER



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

Keeping EVERYONE Young in Spirit



We are looking forward to kicking off our in-person meetings on September 10. The Cox Family Singers will be joining us for a long-awaited celebration. We will continue to monitor the Covid-19 situation and I will keep you up to date with any changes in FPC's protocol.

As KEYS is the most vulnerable group during this time, I am committed to safe practices. I am working hard to provide options to participate online for anyone who does not feel comfortable with in-person meetings. If the need arises, we know how to use Zoom!

Important Dates!

September 10th	Cox Family Singers
September 17th	Birthday Lunch at La Hacienda de Los Barrios
September 24th	Sherman McDonald, Alzheimer's Caregiving
October 1st	Susan Pamerleau, U.S. Marshalls

Scheduled Birthday Lunches

September 17th	La Hacienda de Los Barrios
October 16th	McNeel's Ranch

Mahjong and Bridge are on the 2nd and 4th Fridays. Contact Nancy Black for Mahjong and Suzanne West for Bridge, if you want to be included to receive information.

We are looking forward to restarting our in person meetings in September. We are hoping to have a live streaming element so that you can watch the speaker on your computer. If you have recommendations for KEYS speakers, please don't hesitate to email joem@fpcsat.org, text or call 802-734-2329

Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow

Beginning September 10, Jacqi will be in person at FPC. I will keep you informed on how to connect if you do not come in person.

AARP Safe Driving Course

I have talked to our local representative and have learned that this course will not be offered in person until January. If you need to renew your discount you will have to go to AARP.org and take the class online.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

KinMart Event Provides School Supplies to Orphans & Families



First Presbyterian Church joyfully supports foster families and grand families through our L.O.V.E. initiative (Loving Orphans Via Everyone). We L.O.V.E. because we are loved by Christ, welcomed into the family of God through His work. We serve because every Christian has a role in loving children who are without families.

Years ago FPC gave seed money to ignite The South Texas Alliance for Orphans (<https://www.alliance4orphans.org/leadership/history-and-impact/>), a movement that now empowers more than fifty congregations to serve foster and grand families.

On Saturday, July 25, FPC partnered with STAFO to host a school supply day called KinMart. We were excited to have more than 25 volunteers from our FPC family show up to serve, ages ranging from high

school to senior adult. We served more than fifty families and over 150 children through the event!

Family participation necessitated a social worker reference because we were targeting families who do not receive government money to care for the children in their homes. Many grand parents raising grandkids or aunts raising nieces and nephews do not receive support to cover expenses. The result is financial stress and uncertainty, climaxing in seasons such as back-to-school when unplanned expenses can add up.

Each family received some KinMart money to purchase supplies for school. Every child could pick their back pack, supplies, and other school necessities. All families were connected to information about our FPC family and services in the Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL). The

atmosphere was full of joy and hope.

Every Christian is called to care for the orphan (James 1:27). The current foster care crisis in our county compels us to show the L.O.V.E. of Jesus, getting involved in some capacity (To hear an interview that will inspire you, please take 20 minutes to listen to Ariel Kraft: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/children-family-the-church-and-the-city-with-ariel-kraft/id1458639220?i=1000520314776>). All of us should be proud of the success of our KinMart event, eagerly awaiting the next opportunity God gives us to make Jesus visible.

To Him be the Glory!

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Circle Chairs & Bible Moderators

Circle 1/12

Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240)
Grace Labatt, Moderator
Third Monday, 11:30 a.m., Geneva Room (with meal)
Fourth Monday in January

Circle 5

Kay Weber, Co-Chair
(210-288-5290)
Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair
(210-823-7054)
SHAWL MINISTRY
Third Wednesday, 1:00 p.m., Room 228

Circle 6

Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483)
Members of Circle, Moderators
Third Tuesday, 1:30 p.m., McCullough Room

Circle 7

Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair (210-844-5549)
Pat O'Neill, Moderator
Third Tuesday, 11:30a.m., Members' Homes

Circle 8

Under Construction
YOUNG MOTHERS
Time and Place to be decided.
Call Nona Hall for information. (210-274-2643)

Circle 9

Ann Smith, Chair (210-822-2440)
Members of Circle, Moderators
Third Tuesday, 10:00 a.m., St. Andrews Room

Circle 11

Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)
Members of Circle, Moderators
Fourth Monday, 6:30 p.m., Members' Homes

Circle 13

Grace Clouse, Chair, Moderator (734-718-7057)
LITERATURE CIRCLE
Second Tuesday, 1:00 p.m., McCullough Room

Circle 14

Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589)
Suzie Simpson, Moderator
Third Monday, 12:00 p.m., St. Andrews Room
(with meal)

Circle 18

Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)
CIRCLE OF CONCERN

Circle 20

Muffin Camp, Chair (210-789-1808)
CIRCLE OF SERVICE

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Gathering has become such a precious word and activity for us this year. As we missed being together last year, we have realized the treasure of fellowship. At church, it takes so many forms. We gather for worship, study, to share a meal, to sing together and to pray. We know that where two or more are gathered there shall our Lord be also. This year has taught us to be grateful for that special gift of the Holy Spirit among us.

A wonderful gathering awaits all women of FPC on September 10 and 11, at the Women of Faith Retreat. It will be held at FPC and will be a time of connection, fun and worship. We will be looking at our identities as beloved daughters of God and what it means to live our lives in response to God's love for us.

Contact Rev. Becky Prichard at beckyp@fpcsat.org for more information. Women of the Church has a prayer request: Please keep students, teachers, administrators and parents in your daily prayers as school begins. I will be praying for joyful anticipation, safe conditions and supportive families.

In Christ Alone,

Janet Wernli



WOMEN OF FAITH RETREAT 2021
 From Friday, September 10 at 6:00 p.m. to
 Saturday, September 11, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
 Location: First Presbyterian Church

fpcsanantonio.org/women

Contact Becky Prichard at
beckyp@fpcsat.org





FIRST CUP READINGS

SEPTEMBER, 2021

Blessings and love in Christ,

Sandy Sturch

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.

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 Luke 8:22-25; 2 Samuel 22; Jonah 2; Psalm 3:5;
4:8; 73:23-26

"Take up thy cross," the Savior said, "If thou wouldst My disciple be; Take up thy cross with willing heart And humbly follow after Me." Take up thy cross; let not its weight Fill thy weak spirit with alarm; His strength shall bear thy spirit up, And brace thy heart, and nerve thy arm. Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame; Nor let thy foolish pride rebel; Thy Lord for thee the cross endured, To save thy soul from death and hell. Take up thy cross and follow Christ, Nor think till death to lay it down; For only he who bears the cross May hope to wear the glorious crown. (The Hymnbook, #293)

- 2 Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Psalm 106; Luke 8:26-39;
James 4:7
3 Luke 8:40-48; Leviticus 15:25-27; Mark 3:10; 6:56;
Luke 8:49-55; Hebrews 11:6
4 Luke 9:1-9; Matthew 14:1-12; 17:9-13; Matthew 10:17-31
5 Exodus 16; Luke 9:10-17; Mark 11:22-25;
Proverbs 30:7-9; John 6:48-51
6 Luke 9:18-27; Matthew 10:32-33; 16:24-28; Philippians 1
7 Luke 9:28-36; Isaiah 42:1-9; Matthew 3:16-17; 5:17;
2 Peter 1; Psalm 119:105
8 Luke 9:37-45; Mark 9:14-29; Matthew 21:21-22;
James 5:15-16

Our Father in heaven, we hallow Thy name; May Thy kingdom holy on earth be the same; O give to us daily our portion of bread; It is from Thy bounty that all must be fed. Forgive our transgressions, and teach us to know that humble compassion which pardons each foe; Keep us from temptation, from evil and sin, And Thine be the glory forever! Amen. (Baptist Hymnal, #343)

- 9 1 Kings 19:19-21; Luke 9:46-62; Matthew 4:18-22;
Mark 10:17-31; Matthew 6:33
10 Luke 10:1-24; Matthew 4:10; Revelation 9:1-11; 12:7-12;
13:5-10; Daniel 12:1-4
11 Luke 10:25-37; Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18;
Matthew 19:16-30
12 Luke 10:38-42; Matthew 6:25-34; Romans 12:1-13;
Psalm 27:4; 119:97-112
13 Luke 11:1-13; Matthew 26:31-46; 69-75;
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
14 Luke 11:14-28; 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6
15 Luke 11:29-32; Jonah 3; 2 Chronicles 9:1-12;
Matthew 12:38-45; John 3:18-21

Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ, Wealth that can never be told! Riches exhaustless of mercy and grace, Precious, more precious than gold! Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ! Who shall their greatness declare? Jewels whose luster our lives may adorn, Pearls that the poorest may wear! Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ! Who would not gladly endure Trials, afflictions, and crosses on earth, Riches like these to secure! Precious, more precious, Wealth that can never be told! Oh, the unsearchable riches of Christ! Precious, more precious than gold. (Worship in Song, #52)

- 16 Luke 11:33-36; Psalm 101; Psalm 18:25-29; Titus 1:15-16
17 Luke 11:37-54; Genesis 4:1-16; 2 Chronicles 24:17-22;
Acts 13; Romans 2
18 Luke 12:1-12; Acts 6:8-7:60
19 Luke 12:13-34; Ecclesiastes 5:10; Isaiah 57:14-21;
Ephesians 5:1-20
20 Luke 12:33-48; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11; 2
Thessalonians 2:1-16
21 Luke 12:49-53; Mark 10:28-31; 13:3-13;
Matthew 10:17-42
22 Luke 12:54-59; Matthew 16:1-4; 2 Timothy 3:1-5;
2 Peter 3; 1 John 2:18-27

There were ninety and nine that safely lay in the shelter of the fold, but the one was out on the hills far away, far off in the dark and cold. Away on the mountains, wild and bare. Away from the tender Shepherd's care. "Lord, Thou hast here Thy ninety and nine; are they not enough for Thee?" But the Shepherd made answer: "This of mine has wandered away from Me; and although the road be rough and steep, I'll go to the desert to find My sheep." And all through the mountains, thunder driven, and up from the rocky steep, there arose a cry up to the gate of heaven, "Rejoice, I have found My sheep!" And the angels echoed around the Throne, "Rejoice, for the Lord brings back His own!" (Trinity Hymnal, #187)

- 23 Luke 13:1-9; Isaiah 5:1-10; John 15:1-17
24 Exodus 20:8-11; Matthew 4:23-25; 12:1-14;
Luke 13:10-35
25 Luke 14:1-24; Matthew 22:1-14; Zechariah 3
26 Luke 14:25-35; Philippians 3:7-4:1
27 Luke 15; Proverbs 20:9; 21:17, 25, 26; 22:6; Psalm 51;
Hebrews 12:4-13
28 Luke 16:1-18; 12:33-34; Matthew 6:19-34
29 Luke 16:19-31; 6:17-26; Matthew 25:31-46
30 Luke 17:1-10; Matthew 6:9-15; 18:21-35



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]



Last year, the SA Hope Center received a grant to help with providing housing for our neighbors in the KRL. Recently, our FPC family has an opportunity to grant help to one (of many) KRL clients who has been working with a mentor from the SA Hope Center and now has housing! FPC was able to provide a Welcome Home basket, providing some much needed items. If you would like to help love our neighbors by providing items for Welcome Home baskets, please contact Karen McCulloch at mc2karen@yahoo.com.



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