



NOVEMBER 2021

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Pastor's Article



Now Thank We All Our God!



One of my Favorite hymns says

*"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today."*

I love November because November is a month for Thanksgiving. But Thanksgiving should not be limited to November. It should be a year-round, everyday habit.

2021 has been a year to give thanks. Over the last 11 months, we have celebrated 175 years of our Lord's abundant blessings to us and the city of San Antonio; and I want to add some important "Thank you's" to the list. Our 175th Celebration was the product of many hands, and would not have been possible without the Leadership of two groups.

The First group is the 175th Anniversary Committee. This is the group that dreamed, planned, and put together the events that brought us together over the course of 2020. The team was led by Katie Farrimond and Butch Gerfers. The committee was David West, Jim and Janie Worth, Buddy and Pat Johnson, Candy Wagner, Cheri Stith, Robin Hudnall, Sichan Siv, Sheila Figueroa, Betsy Zachry, and Jobe and Ashley Jackson.

We also want to thank our Louis H. Zbinden, Jr. Legacy Forum Committee for bringing Dr. Ligon Duncan and Anne Duncan. The group is led by David West and Fred Middleton. Serving in the committee are Chris Scruggs, Louis Zbinden III, Barbara Anne Stephens, Betsy Baker, Mitchell Moore, Buddy Johnson, Jean Rogers Winchell, and Boxy Hornberger. Special Thanks to Carol West and Mary Leslie and Bill Parsons for their wonderful hospitality for the team and Dr. Duncan.

No statement of gratitude would be complete without thanking the church staff and pastors. Thank you for your tireless dedication and for fulfilling some very complicated needs and expectations.

Finally, I want to thank Dr. Ligon Duncan and his wife Anne for sharing this event with us and inspiring us with God's word. His teaching was extraordinary: from the conversation with officers and leaders Saturday afternoon, to the pulpit, to the lecture Sunday Afternoon. Thank you, Dr. Duncan, for taking us to the book of Ephesians to discover what God wants for us. If you were not able to attend the events in person, they are now available through all FPC Media connections.

On the 100th anniversary of FPC, the Reverend Dr. Patrick D. Miller told the *San Antonio Express*,

"It is our hope that the entire year may be used as a period for giving special thanks to God and for doing some things in our church worthy of such an occasion."

In 1946, Dr. Miller hoped that FPC would not only celebrate God's faithfulness in the past but that the church would do something worth celebrating 100 years in the future.

As we begin our next 175 years, the Lord is leading us to do something worth celebrating through FPC. Our task, now and in the months to come, is to dedicate ourselves through the use of our resources, our time, and our opportunities. As we turn our eyes to the city, our neighborhoods, our families, and the nations, the Lord is challenging each of us to engage our relationships, our connections, our spiritual gifts, and our God-given talents for the sake of his compassion and truth. We may respond in faithfulness because God the Father is first faithful with us.

All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
The Son, and Him Who reigns with Them in highest Heaven—
The one eternal God, Whom earth and Heav'n adore;
For thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

Grace and Peace,



Bob Fuller
Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

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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

WESTMINSTER FLOORING REPLACEMENT

Beginning Tuesday, October 26 through mid-November, the flooring is being replaced in Westminster Hall. Please note the modified Sunday services schedule during that time:

Sunday, Nov. 7 and Nov. 14: 9:00 AM Traditional Service & 11:02 Contemporary Service in Sanctuary. No 11:00 AM Traditional Service.

Sunday, Nov. 21*: 9:00 AM Traditional Service & 11:02 Contemporary Service in Sanctuary. No 11:00 AM Traditional Service. *If necessary

THE HYMNS OF CHRISTMAS

Wednesdays, October 27 – December 1 | 6:30 PM | Sanctuary

Join us for this course on the history and stories behind the authors and composers of various Advent and Christmas hymns, presented by Tripp Stuart.

HYMNAL FESTIVAL

We will dedicate the new hymnals on Sunday, October 31 in both the 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM Traditional Services, with a celebration Hymn Festival to follow on the afternoon of Sunday, November 7, at 3:00 PM in the sanctuary. For additional information, fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/music/worship-rejoice-hymnal/

SHOEBOX MINISTRY

Bless children around the world with the gift of Christmas this year by participating in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Ministry. Pick up a box after service in the Narthex or Ave E entrance, follow instructions inside, and return it to the same place in the drop-off bin along with the \$9 for shipping, by November 14. For more information, please contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES

Join us as we send our college students a care package during this unique season! It's \$5 per student. All donations are due November 7. If you have a college-age student please send their mailing info to Alexs@fpcsat.org

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

IN THE WILDERNESS: MOSES AND THE DRAMA OF NUMBERS

Thursdays, November 4 – November 18 | 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Covenant Hall or Livestream via fpcsanantonio.org

Many people mistake the book of Numbers for a dry accounting of the tribes and census of Israel. The reality is that Numbers is a dramatic story of survival in the wilderness. The original (Hebrew) title of the book is Ba Midbar—"In the Wilderness," and the book of Numbers is an adventure that does not disappoint. This fall we join Moses and the people of Israel in the wilderness as they fight for their physical and spiritual survival.

UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES FRIENDSGIVING

Friday, November 19 | 6:30 PM-8:00 PM | FPC Student Center

Happy Friendsgiving!! Join us for a meal and fellowship before heading off for Thanksgiving with family.

ADVENT FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 28 | 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM | Westminster Hall

Free event for all ages! Come explore the sights and sounds of Christmas as FPC hosts the Annual Advent Festival. Childcare available by reservation, for babies through 3 years.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, November 9 | 1:00 PM | McCullough Room

"BUT HE DOESN'T KNOW THE TERRITORY": The story behind Meredith Willson's, *THE MUSIC MAN*. Composer, Meredith Willson, described *The Music Man* as "an Iowan's attempt to pay tribute to his home state." Join us for refreshments Tuesday, November 9, at 1 PM followed by the review at 1:30 PM in the McCullough Room, for circle member Bill Hensley's rendition of the story and music from this 1950 era. Dancing or marching is permitted!

Videos of reviews are available at www.fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle.

G R E A T I S T H Y

Faithfulness!

S T E W A R D S H I P 2 0 2 2

- ▶ **Pray.** Ask God to open the door for you to give generously to the ministry of First Presbyterian Church. Think about what the ministry of FPC means to you, and what it has meant to the people and history of our city. Pray that God's love would take over our lives, and challenge us to respond in this moment as never before.
- ▶ **Make a Faith Commitment.** A Faith Commitment is a plan to support the work of the church financially in 2022. Trust that God is at work in the church, and that the gifts that you give will not be wasted, but will be used to spread God's Word and His love.
- ▶ **Take the Spiritual Gifts Survey** (fpcsanantonio.org/gifts-survey) and **Get Involved in a Church Ministry.** Find a way to serve God by serving others and sharing your faith in a hands-on way. Work through the ministries and projects of the church. God wants to mobilize your passions and talents for His love and glory.

L O V E J E S U S C H R I S T

Our Mission is to Make Disciples who Love Jesus Christ. The great commission is to make disciples, and our mission as a church is to make disciples who love Jesus Christ, who love one another, and who love the city. Through our ministries of worship and discipleship, we turn people's attention to God, leading them to His glory and giving them a vision of light beyond the darkness and distress of the daily news. This is our moment to show the world *The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.*

L O V E O N E A N O T H E R

Our Mission is to Make Disciples who Love One Another. In 2021, our goal was to bring the church family back together physically. This year, we will deepen our relationships spiritually. As we build our own relationships, we want to make sure that we have the resources to enrich families, support marriages, comfort people who are grieving, and walk with people through crisis. This is a time for us to reconnect in care and concern. This is the year to show the world what it means to love one another as Christ has loved us.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY IS NOVEMBER 21

Commitments can be made by doing one of the following:

1. Visit our website at www.fpcsanantonio.org/give.
2. Download the FPC App and go to the "Give" section.
3. Fill out a commitment form and bring it to the service of dedication on Sunday, November 21. You may also mail it to the church office, drop it off, or bring it to church any Sunday.

LOVE JESUS CHRIST

LOVE ONE ANOTHER

LOVE THE CITY

LOVE THE CITY

Our Mission is to Make Disciples who Love the City. Many of the problems that haunted the world in 2020 followed us through 2021. Through our local partnerships and ministries of our church, we are addressing homelessness, domestic violence, mental health issues and family breakdown. Through our global mission partners, new and old, we are building up the church around the world and are carrying Christ's hope and truth to the nations. This is our moment to let the light of Jesus Christ rise and to show the world what it means to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Isaiah 58:10 says, *"Satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then your light will rise in the darkness."*

COMMITMENT CARD

In response to God's generous gift and by faith,

I/we _____

will support the ministry and mission of First Presbyterian Church of San Antonio by:

☐ Committing to the following gift for the 2022 budget

\$ _____ PER (Please check one)

☐ WEEK ☐ MONTH ☐ YEAR ☐ OTHER _____

FOR ANNUAL TOTAL OF: \$ _____

☐ Committing to pray for the missions and ministry of the church.

☐ Committing to take the Spiritual Gifts Survey and get involved in a Church Ministry.

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____



HISTORY: THE TEXAS REFORMATION BY JOBE S. JACKSON

Part 7: FPC from 1849 to 1879 – Establishing a Foundation in a Frontier City



Houston & Flores St. location exterior

After the Rev. John McCullough's departure from San Antonio in 1849, the then fledgling First Presbyterian Church entered into a period of stops, starts, and uncertainty that persisted through the conclusion of the United States Civil War and the Reconstruction Era. The chief concerns during this period were establishing a consistent congregation of believers and suitable place for worship.

It may be difficult to imagine now as we celebrate the 175th anniversary of our beloved church, but the beginnings of First Presbyterian Church were a relatively messy affair often on the verge of failure. The timing of Rev. McCullough's departure to Galveston coincided with the peak of the iconic California Gold Rush that attracted hundreds of thousands of fortune seekers to the West Coast in 1849. Among those seekers were two members of Rev. McCullough's early congregation – the Rev. Samuel Newton (who was received by letter into First Presbyterian Church in May of 1848) and Francis "Frank" McCarty Newton, who had convinced his father and extended family to move to San Antonio in 1847 – who would later take part in the formation of the "Second" and "Third" iterations of First Presbyterian Church. During the peak of the Gold Rush between 1849 and 1851, there was not an active congregation.



Houston & Flores St. location interior after completion in 1879.

The "Second" iteration of First Presbyterian Church was reorganized by the Rev. Daniel Baker on October 19, 1851, who would go on to be known as the "father of Austin College." Rev. Baker enrolled nine members in the church: John C. Atwater, Samuel Newton, Frank Newton, Mrs. John Vance, Mrs. Ann Walker, Miss Lucy Jane Newton, Mrs. Sibert, Mrs. Samuel Newton, and Miss Ellen M.J. Joselyn. Rev. Baker also installed and ordained Samuel Newton and John C. Atwater as the ruling elders of this congregation.

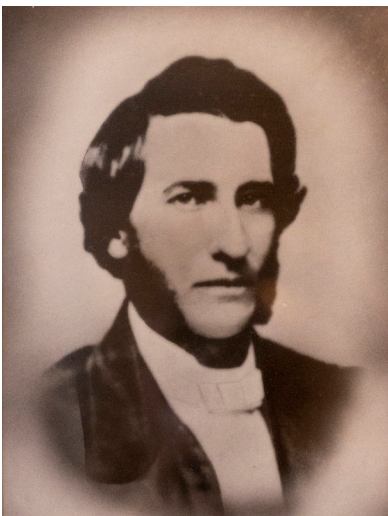
The "Second" First Presbyterian Church worshiped at the Old Adobe under the initial leadership of Rev. Baker; however, he left after a short stay. After his departure, the congregation went through a series of short-lived ministers from January 1852 through the end of 1853. Records indicate that no Presbyterian minister occupied the pulpit of the Old Adobe between 1854 and 1856. To make matters worse, the Old Adobe was subjected to a foreclosure judgment and sheriff's sale during the interlude without a permanent minister. By the grace of God, a group of newly elected ruling elders – Franklin L. Paschal, Asa Mitchell, Samuel G. Newton, and John L. McClelland – were able to save the building at auction on September 6, 1853.

The prospects of stability for First Presbyterian Church coincided with the arrival of a 27-year-old pastor – the Rev. Robert F. Bunting in 1856. Rev. Bunting reorganized the "Third" First Presbyterian Church around a small band of eleven communicants who were "deeply solicitous about the undertaking, for they had learned bitter lessons from the past."

175TH ANNIVERSARY

(Adobe Walls to Stone Edifice, by Donald E. Everett.)

As recollected in Adobe Walls – which is an incredible historical resource available in the FPC library – “Bunting had been in the pulpit only a few months before it became apparent to him, as well as to his communicants, that the adobe church provided inadequate accommodations as a house for God’s people. More than one local resident referred to it as a ‘Mud Temple’.” In October 1856, the Session resolved to appoint a committee to raise money and erect a “suitable” building for First Presbyterian Church. This committee, with the irreplaceable zeal and efforts of Rev. Bunting, embarked on a remarkable fundraising campaign. Roughly half of the construction funds were raised locally, while the other half came from donations from across the United States. Rev. Bunting travelled over 10,000 miles preaching in dozens of pulpits on the needs of his frontier congregation.



Rev. Robert F. Bunting

The cornerstone of the new church was laid on February 29, 1860, at the corner of Houston and Flores streets. Although

initial construction on the exterior of the church progressed rapidly in 1860, the structure would not be completed until nearly twenty years later in 1879. The onset of the Civil War halted construction on the church, and the economic difficulties of the post-war Reconstruction Era further hindered its completion.

In the interim, the congregation persevered as best it could. As recounted by Samuel Newton’s granddaughter decades later, “During the war, and until 1866, the adobe building on Commerce Street was still used, but twice the river came up and flooded the town causing one end of the building to crumble and fall in, so after this had happened a second time, it was considered unfit for further use, and one corner of the new building floored and canvassed over and around, [the] services were held there, the worshippers carrying their own lanterns and stools.” (My Mother’s Early Memories of the Church, by Edith Newton Jackson available in the FPC archives.) By 1867, “the building was roofed and floored and canvass tacked across the windows, and was used that way, the congregation still carrying their own lanterns and stools.” Construction on the new church proceeded incrementally through various fundraising efforts over the next decade to its completion.

Despite these trying conditions and the arrival and departure of several other pastors, the congregation continued to grow. The church completed in 1879 at the corner of Houston and Flores streets would serve as the home of First Presbyterian Church until it moved to its current location in 1910 under the leadership of the long-serving and influential Rev. Arthur Gray Jones.

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, 11:30 a.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., Geneva 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

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies declare the work of His hands."

Psalms 19:1

Growing up in South Texas, the anticipation of fall signals a true message of hope. We live through hot, dry summers just to relish the first days of cool temperatures and needed rain. God's promises are constant and our beautiful fall deserves praise. So we praise you, dear God, for your glorious creation and weather!

The fall activities of The Women of the Church continue to be wonderful. Celebrating our 175th anniversary at First Presbyterian offers so many opportunities. On Sunday, October 24, we worshiped together at one service followed by a delicious reception. The following Monday, October 25, our Legacy Luncheon hosted our own Sichan Siv, who spoke and offered both of his books for sale. On Wednesday, October 27, we honored our stellar staff with an appreciation lunch.

Thoughts of Advent are coming soon and our Advent Festival is November 28 in Westminster Hall from 3:00-5:00 p.m. It will be a joy to prepare for the season of the birth of our Lord Jesus. The Women of the Church at First Presbyterian pray you will join us in the historic worship and ministry of our home at 4th and Alamo.

In Christ Alone,

Janet Wernli

SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST THROUGH

THE *Gift* OF Christmas



Gift of Christmas matches FPC covenant partners with needy families in San Antonio who are screened by House of Neighborly Services and Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services. Please prayerfully consider, either with a group or individually, "adopting" one of these families and sharing the joy of Christmas

with a less fortunate family. Information and Family Request Forms will be available at the Ave. E. porte-cochere entrance every Sunday in November. Completed forms are requested by December 2. Visit fpcsanantonio.org/christmas-giving or contact Jessica Young, jessica3@sbcglobal.net or Janet Pritchett, jejrpritchett@outlook.com

Mission South Partners



What they continue to teach us about how Jesus Christ is working in the lives of our brothers and sisters to the south.

As part of Hispanic Heritage Month and World Communion Sunday, FPC hosted two of our ministry partners—Josias Luna from Oaxaca, Mexico, and Hector Reynoso from Genesis Presbyterian Church in Mercedes, Texas. These visits to San Antonio were a wonderful reminder of the work that those who love Jesus continue to do in ways and places that we might not normally consider. It was also a reminder that we, as the family of Jesus Christ, need to pray fervently for our world Christian family. In many cases, they face financial and cultural challenges, among other challenges, that are not a part of our norm.

Josias Luna, a medical doctor who gave up his practice to become a minister in Oaxaca, Mexico, came to San Antonio for the weekend of September 24-26. He dined with FPC covenant partners, toured our beautiful church, (he was especially interested and impressed with our well-organized and resourced library), spent one-on-one time with Pastor Bob, and preached at the Contemporary Service, all with an interpreter. He also met with Pastor Mitchell and others, interested in church planting.

Pastor Josías planted one of four Presbyterian Churches in Oaxaca fourteen years ago, with the intention of planting additional churches. His church trains pastors, hosts marriage conferences, and does believer baptisms twice a year. When Covid hit, they were able to begin broadcasting services and Sunday school. One member, who bought a computer so his son could play video games, donated it to the church, thinking that he would rather his family be able to view worship and Bible study than play video games. In October 2020, the church resumed meeting in person, but continues to broadcast services. They have online classes and zoom meetings four days a week, with 3-5 teachers in all classes for children, youth and adults. Josias shared with us ways that his small church in Mexico is adapting, pivoting, reaching out to all ages of church members, and always striving to spread the gospel to the un-churched in their community.

Hector Reynoso arrived in San Antonio on October 1 for the weekend and was met and entertained by FPC covenant partners, toured our church, dined with Pastor Bob, and preached in both Traditional Services.

After leaving the PCUSA in 2012 and forfeiting their building, Hector and his congregation met for seven years in a local Lutheran church. "We wore out our welcome," he said. Hector tapes his bilingual sermon every week, posts it on YouTube, then he and his church members meet in their cars on Sunday at the vacant lot where their church is to be built. "We meet at our little Promised land, watch the sermon in our cars on our phones, then get out, wear masks, to visit and pray," he explained. Their devotion to celebrating Sunday together glorifies our Lord and allows them a time of fellowship.

A capital campaign has allowed them to purchase land and prepare for construction. They have always wanted to be able to host mission groups who come to serve in the Rio Grande Valley. The new church home will offer that capacity. Two of five approvals for permits have been received. Because of recent flooding in the valley, new construction requirements have resulted in expensive installations of the church site and parking lot to deal with water run off.

Both Josias and Hector gave us windows into a worship service, fellowship and disciple building that is beautiful, inspiring and humbling in its simplicity, dedication, perseverance and true love for one another and the Lord. As ministry partners, we can pray for health and financial security, that their efforts may continue to enlarge the Kingdom of God.

Please contact Cassie McMillan (cassiehager39@gmail.com) or Kathy Scruggs (kathyscruggs@me.com) if you wish to know more about helping either of these two churches, or to go on a mission trip to visit them in the future. God bless you!



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

A Stephen Ministry Story A STEADY REMINDER OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Mark and I had been married 26 years. Our sons were 18 and 20. We loved being parents, but with our younger son graduating high school, we were eagerly anticipating the empty nest and having more time for each other.

In the fall, when our younger son started college, Mark began having stomach issues and back pain, which would linger for a few days and then disappear, only to reappear later. He also developed a cough. When his doctor ordered an MRI, the results were devastating—Stage IV pancreatic cancer, already in his liver and both lungs. Mark was only 53.

Our lives were turned upside down. I suddenly found myself trying to provide emotional support to Mark and our sons during the worst experience any of us had ever endured. I wanted and needed to keep myself together to focus on caring for Mark, but I was emotionally drained—full of sadness and terrified of what the future held. I had always been a “take responsibility for everything myself” kind of person. However, I knew I couldn’t do this alone.

I talked to my pastor about it, and she suggested matching me with a Stephen Minister. I agreed, and less than two weeks after Mark was diagnosed, my Stephen Minister came for the first of her weekly visits.

The time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

It’s difficult to convey how important this Stephen Ministry relationship was for me. Our pastor was wonderful, and we had an amazing amount of support from many other people, but the time I spent with my Stephen Minister was the only time in the week when I could truly focus on my own needs. She was there just for me.

My Stephen Minister let me know that, while she was very concerned for Mark, her role was to be my support—to listen and help me process what I was feeling and going through, without giving advice or telling me what to do. The consistency of our Stephen Ministry relationship was crucial in helping me cope. Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone.

Although Mark and I chose to talk publicly about his condition, my Stephen Ministry relationship was completely confidential. I knew I could share anything with her, and that’s where it would stay.

Her weekly visits became an anchor in my life—something I could rely on when everything else was so uncertain. She was a steady reminder of God’s presence, helping me know I was never alone.

Mark’s illness progressed rapidly—ten weeks of treatment, followed by six weeks of hospice, and then his passing. My needs changed as I went from being a wife to being a caregiver to being a grieving widow and dealing with everything that the loss of a spouse entails. Through it all, my Stephen Minister’s love and support continued. She was there for me at every stage of my journey. It was never easy, but my Stephen Minister helped me through the most difficult moments of my life.

I really can’t say enough about how much I appreciate my church’s Stephen Ministry. The compassionate, consistent, and confidential support of my Stephen Minister was so important in helping me cope—and then begin to heal.

Stephen Ministry is a lay caring ministry being used in over 12,000 congregations across the United States, Canada, and 29 other countries.

With Stephen Ministry, congregations can equip a team of lay caregivers—called Stephen Ministers—to provide one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people experiencing grief, divorce, major illness, loneliness, financial stress, and other life difficulties.

Learn more about participating in FPC’s Stephen Ministry by contacting Rev. Scott Simpson at scottsfpcsat.org and Stephen Ministry Leader Jim Carssow at jimcarssow@gmail.com.

LOVING ONE ANOTHER



Young Families Unite through RESET

When I was a new mom, I remember feeling like my whole world had just drastically changed, and I was utterly unprepared. People had warned me that life as I knew it would cease to exist, but until you experience it you cannot truly understand it. Needless to say, I did not foresee the depth of emotions I would feel (partially due to sleep deprivation and hormonal changes), the amount of anxiety I would grapple with, nor the guilt I would wrestle with as I grieved the “loss” of my old life, pre-kids. At the time, I was working part-time in ministry and did not have a lot of margin or opportunities to be with other families with little ones. However, occasionally when I would talk to another parent in a similar stage, it felt like a breath of fresh air! I didn’t realize how isolated I was until I got to be with someone who knew exactly what I was going through, and could relate to the strange mix of exhaustion, elation, and sheer terror you experience as a new parent.

Recently, our Young Families RESET groups organized a play date on a Saturday morning. Although my kids are older, I came out with my kids to support these families of little ones. It gave me such great joy to see babies crawling around on blankets, moms feeding newborns, and toddlers running around getting soaked at the splash pad, while their parents were able to get snippets of conversations in between feeding and consoling their little ones. This is community. We were not meant to parent all alone. We need one another in order to be the parents God calls us to be. Years ago in the U.S., and still today in many parts of the world, children were raised in community, with lots of “aunties” and “uncles” around to support the parents. In today’s world, parents feel like they have to go it alone. That is simply not true. We were not meant to parent in isolation.

I love seeing these families come together for play dates, Bible studies, and simply to be there for one another. They support one another with meals, prayers, and babysitting whenever someone needs a little extra help. Not only does this type of community encourage our new parents, but also it is laying a foundation of Christian community for their children. What a beautiful picture of life together as the Body of Christ.

Carrie Everson

Director of Young Adults & Young Women’s Ministries

Music at
FIRST

CELEBRATION HYMN FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7
3 PM IN THE SANCTUARY

Happy
Thanksgiving

CHURCH OFFICES CLOSED
NOVEMBER 25 & 26

Christmas at FIRST

Friday, December 24
2:30 PM: Communion Service
5:00 PM: Family Service
7:30 & 10:00 PM: Candlelight Services



LOVING ONE ANOTHER

Our Fall Picnic at Gallagher Ranch with Judith McNeel was a great time of fellowship and food. By far, the best turn out of any of our recent in person events. It had been way too long since our last visit to the Ranch. Judith, as always, was a great host and we surprised her with a photobook of all the KEYS memories at the ranch.

It is hard to believe that we are quickly moving into the holiday season with Thanksgiving and Christmas coming quickly. Our November guests include Rev. Alex Solorio, the newest Assistant Pastor at FPC, and Donna Wright from the Army Nurse Alumni Association, who will help us to celebrate our Veterans. November Birthdays will be celebrated at the Comfort Café located at Los Patios. This Café is dedicated to helping support folks in recovery from addictions. Parking is limited so, it is recommended that you plan to use the shuttle.

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Minister for older adults and congregational care

Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow

Friday Fitness via zoom through the end of the year. This makes it easier for those who are not venturing out to continue participating and is easier for Jacqi to manage. She will send a reminder email each week with the link to the zoom room. There is also a room at the church set up with a computer that will be connected in so you don't have to rush to participate in KEYS.

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.

Mahjong and Bridge

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

Christmas Family

We are waiting to be assigned our Christmas Family for 2021. Details will be coming. Prepare to Bless a Family as we have every year.

*We now have a live streaming element so that you can watch the speaker on your computer.
Watch for the link via email.*

Nov. 5 **Rev. Alex Solorio**
Assistant Pastor FPC

Alex will be sharing his journey of faith and his ministry here at FPC.

Nov. 12 **Donna Wright**
Army Nurse Alumni
Association

Donna will be sharing the History of Army Nurses and the purpose of the Army Nurse Alumni Association. Our own Hazel Zachar is an Army Nurse alumni.

Nov. 19 **Birthday Lunch at**
Comfort Cafe

We are excited to support the Comfort Café in their efforts to give fresh starts and new beginnings. The Shuttle from FPC will leave at 10:15 AM for our lunch at 11:00. Due to limited parking, it is recommended that you use the shuttle. Cost is \$12 for lunch.

Nov. 26 **No KEYS**

Happy Thanksgiving

Dec. 3 **KEYS Christmas Party**

Mike Pike will be back with us for a Christmas Concert. He was with us for a live streaming event and we are excited to have him return in person. This will be our KEYS Christmas Party and December Birthday celebration.





MIDDAY NOELS

A Seasonal Celebration of Merry Melodies and Holiday Harmonies

Once again, FPC offers its holiday 'gift to the city' with a variety of creative musical offerings. In addition to in-person seating in our sanctuary, all three concerts will be streamed live at fpcsanantonio.org/noels and will be available for viewing on our YouTube.com channel after the concert. Following the concert, we will be offering a hot lunch (\$12) in Westminster Hall or 'Grab and Go' lunches (\$5), available on the sidewalk just outside our sanctuary doors.

Mark your calendars now for all our concerts. Better yet, invite a friend, neighbor, or co-worker to join you!

Thursday, December 2 - 'Merry Organ Pipes Celebrate the Season!'

Our highly skilled organist, Dr. Jae Ha, provides musical and seasonal inspiration from the mighty sanctuary organ of First Presbyterian Church. Jae will be performing the famous "Nutcracker Suite" by Tchaikovsky, a highlight you will not want to miss!

Thursday, December 9 - 'Shimmering Songs and Sparkling Singing'

Our FPC Chamber Singers present four beautiful choral pieces of the season, interspersed with captivating vocal solos that span diverse genres.

Thursday, December 16 - 'Christmas with the Castle Brass Quintet'

We are pleased to welcome the Castle Brass Quintet, a brass quintet featuring some of the finest freelance professional musicians in the San Antonio area. The ensemble is comprised of two trumpets, French horn, trombone, tuba, percussion, and is led by Jeff Castle.



FPC 2021 GOAL
300 BOXES



Annual Shoe Box Sunday

RETURN BY NOVEMBER 14

Pick up a box after service in the Narthex or Ave E entrance, follow instructions inside, and return it to the same place in the drop-off bin along with the \$9 for shipping by November 14.

For more information, please contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org



Advent Festival

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

to run booths for Advent Festival

Nov 28 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Contact Rozlyn Miller at
rozlynm@fpcsat.org for details



Antique Medical Masterpiece - “Intra-Uterine Life”

donated to KRL by Dr. Fred Brown



For his last six medical school presentations in 2019, Dr. Fred Brown traveled with the Intra-Uterine Life chart by Gustav Michel, MD, including at Oklahoma State University Medical School in Tulsa (pictured).

On Tuesday morning June 22, 2021, First Presbyterian Church covenant partner and retired OB/Gyn physician, Dr. Fred Brown, visited the Any Woman Can office in the Kingdom Restoration Lab with a gift - a 1916 medical illustration chart titled “Intra-Uterine Life,” showing the phenomenon of reproduction and the process of growth from conception to birth” by Gustav Michel, MD.

Fred is a member of the Christian Medical & Dental Associations, and is active in the leadership of the San Antonio Area Council for CMDA. He has lectured at the local, regional and national levels, on the spiritual aspects of medicine regarding the subjects of Sexual Health, Breast Cancer, Hormone Therapy, Life Expectancy, and The Sanctity of Life.

In 2018 and 2019, Fred travelled with the CMDA Southern Regional Director, and gave the presentation “Perspectives of a Christian Obstetrician Gynecologist” at eighteen medical schools. He shared in detail the remarkable scientific breakthroughs as well as controversies, regarding when life begins, that occurred during his 50-year career.

From 1967 to 1971, he was a medical student at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. The prevailing mantra from the culture was that an early pregnancy was “a clump of cells,” “just tissue,” or “nothing more than a blob of flesh.” Ultrasound was not available to demonstrate the truth that abortion stops a beating heart. The established science of embryology was ignored.

In the presentation he educates and equips the audience with information from the National Institutes of Health, and from medical

textbooks in the subjects of Reproductive Medicine and Embryology. He demonstrates that the science is firmly established that life begins at conception. He then proceeds to share ultrasound images of Intra-Uterine Life at each week in the first trimester.

In between the last two CMDA tours, Fred acquired the masterpiece chart. At the annual visit with his primary care doctor, who was aware of Fred’s activities affirming the sanctity of life with CMDA, Fred admired the art on the wall in the exam room. Fred’s physician said “You may have it as a gift. I am confident that you will put it to good use.”

For the last six medical school presentations in 2019, Fred travelled with the chart. He would hang the chart facing toward the blackboard. At the culmination of the lecture, when he repeated “The science is firmly established that life begins at conception. The science of embryology has long confirmed that life begins at conception,” he would flip the chart and explain the fine details, to the amazement of the students and faculty in the audience at the 1916 copyright date over 100 years ago!

Due to the limitations of the pandemic and a milestone birthday (75), Fred retired from the rigorous travel on the CMDA circuit.

He was inspired to find an appropriate home for the masterpiece with the donation to First Presbyterian Church, at the ‘Any Woman Can’ women’s health clinic located in the Kingdom Restoration Lab.



Children's Sunday!

A classic Sunday school nursery song declares, "Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world! Red, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight, Jesus loves the little children of the world!" Although we tend to think that this song is intended just for little ones, the truth of God's love is that Jesus loves us all, for we are all His children!

October 10 was our Annual Children's Sunday. To kick off the day, we had parents of our 2 year olds in a Bible workshop with Mrs. Caroline Becker, and students from 3rd grade along with their parents in a Bible workshop with myself. This conscious effort to sit with parents at these two critical ages is what continues to stir parents on to be the primary faith developers of their children from home. Seen here, 3rd grade parents are praying over the lives of their young disciple.

The morning was followed up by rejoicing in our Savior as we celebrated the goodness of God in all three services! This day was very special as FPC kids led in both Traditional Services and the 11:02 Service, featuring our wonderful Children's Choir in the 11:00 AM Traditional service. We thank both Ms. Kathy Jamison and Megan Martin! This service will continue to take place each year because we as a church, believe in taking time to intentionally give our youngest members an opportunity to lead.

As a collective body of believers, we know that our kids are also the church of today, having been baptized and sealed in the covenant of God's love. Allow me then to say thank you to all of the children who led in prayer, music, and liturgy. A special thank you to Finley Wier as he offered a beautiful prelude on the piano. Thank you to Pastor Becky, Pastor Bob and Pastor Mitchell for leading prayer over the children who received Bibles and their families. To all the parents, thank you for your commitment to not only keep your child invested in your church family, but also for your mission to see your children know and love Jesus. Well done boys and girls, Ms. Rozlyn loves you and is very proud of you all!

Rozlyn Miller

Ministry Director to Children & Their Families





FIRST CUP READINGS

NOVEMBER, 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 Acts 19:1-20; 20:13-38; Revelation 2:1-7;
1 John 4:1-6; 2 John 4-11

2 James 2:5; Revelation 2:8-11; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27;
Romans 5:3-5; James 1:1-12

3 Revelation 2:12-17 (see Num. 22-25); 2 Peter 2

4 1 Kings 16:29-34; 18:1-4, 17-21; 19:1-4; 21:5-23;
Revelation 2:18-29; 2 Peter 3:9

5 John 15:1-8; Luke 12:35-40; Revelation 3:1-6;
7:9-17; 2 Timothy 3:1-5

6 Revelation 3:7-13; Matthew 23:13-39;
1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Ephesians 2:19-22

7 Revelation 3:14-22; Matthew 19:16-30;
James 1:9-11; Hebrews 12:1-13

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Be
Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend. I shall
not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from
the pathway if Thou will be my Guide. O Jesus, Thou hast
promised to all who follow Thee that where Thou art in glory,
there shall Thy servant be. And Jesus, I have promised to
serve Thee to the end; Oh give me grace to follow my Master
and my Friend. (Hymns for the Family of God, #402)

8 Isaiah 6:1-5; Ezekiel 1; Revelation 4; 1:4-6;
Genesis 1:1; Colossians 1:15-23

9 John 1:29-39; Revelation 5; Psalm 33;
Philippians 2:1-11

10 Zechariah 1:8-17; 6:1-8; Revelation 6;
Hebrews 11; Matthew 10:17-42

11 Revelation 7:1-8:5; 21:3-5; Psalm 23:1;
John 10:11-18; Colossians 2:2-4, 12

12 Revelation 8:6 - 9:21; Romans 1:18-32;
2 Timothy 3:1-5; 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

13 Revelation 10-11; Daniel 2:44; 7:14, 27; Psalm 2

14 Matthew 2; 3:13-4:11; Revelation 12-13:1a;
Job 1:9-11; Luke 10:18; 1 Peter 5:8-11

Work for the night is coming, work through the morning
hours; work while the dew is sparkling, work 'mid the
springing flowers. Work when the day grows brighter, work
in the glowing sun; work for the night is coming, when man's
work is done. Work till the last beam fadeth, fadeth to shine
no more; work while the night is dark'ning, when man's work
is o'er. (The Hymnbook, #297)

15 Revelation 13:1b-18; Luke 21:8-19; Romans 5:1-5; 15:4-6;

2 Corinthians 6:3-10

16 Revelation 14; Jeremiah 25:15-38;
Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43; Galatians 6:7-8

17 Revelation 15-16; Luke 12:35-40; Joel 2:13-14;
Hebrews 12:14-29

18 Revelation 13:1-9; 17; John 16:33; Psalm 33; 37

19 Revelation 18; 6:9-11; Hebrews 11

20 Revelation 19; Matthew 22:1-14; 25:1-13;
2 Thessalonians 2; John 3:16-21, 36

21 Revelation 20; Matthew 25:31-46; Romans 2:1-16;
2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Crown Him with many crowns, the Lamb upon His throne:
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its
own. Awake my soul and sing of Him who died for thee; and
hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity. Crown
Him the Lord of life: who triumphed o'er the grave, who rose
victorious to the strife for those He came to save; His glories
now we sing, who died and rose on high, who died eternal
life to bring, and lives that death may die! (Hymns for the
Family of God, #345)

22 Isaiah 60; 62; John 14:1-6; Revelation 21

23 Genesis 3:21-24; Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-29; 3:5, 11-13,
21; 7:1-3; 22:1-21

24 Joel 1; Psalm 80:8-19; Zechariah 14; Matthew 24

25 Joel 2:1-27; Jeremiah 31

26 Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21; Romans 10:5-13

27 Joel 3

28 Amos 1-2; Leviticus 20:11-12

O Master, let me walk with Thee in lowly paths of service
free. Tell me Thy secret; help me bear the strain of toil, the
fret of care. Help me the slow of heart to move by some
clear, winning word of love. Teach me the wayward feet to
stay, and guide them in the homeward way. Teach me Thy
patience! Still with Thee in closer, dearer company, In work
that keeps faith sweet and strong, In trust that triumphs over
wrong. In hope that sends a shining ray far down the future's
broadening way, in peace that only Thou canst give, With
Thee, O Master, let me live. (Worship in Song, #43)

29 Amos 3-4; Deuteronomy 11:8-32

30 Amos 5:6-6:7; 9:8; Jeremiah 44:24-28; Matthew 7:21-27;
Revelation 3:14-22



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]

OUR NEW MEMBERS!



Ellen Frazier

Ellen joins FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Ellen chose San Antonio as her final city to live in after a career in information technology that took her and her late husband across America. She loves San Antonio! Ellen is looking forward to becoming an active member while serving her spiritual needs.



Paul and Pam Kacsur

Paul and Pam both join by Reaffirmation of Faith. Paul is a semi retired Pastor and has been a Pastor for 38 years. Pam enjoys bowling and fishing. Paul is looking forward to being all in and involved to serve where needed, and to be a good shepherd for as long as he has left. Pam is looking forward to fellowship and freedom of worship and the chance to help others.



Jonathan & Sharm King

Sharmala and Jonathan join FPC by Reaffirmation of Faith. Sharmala is a Finance Technical Advisor with YICF and Jonathan is an International Pastoral Outreach Director with Family Discipleship Ministries. Sharmala and Jonathan met in San Antonio at a theology conference. They have a 3-year-old son named Liam. Sharmala is looking forward to serving the church community.



Michael McNeil

Michael joins by Reaffirmation of Faith. Michael is an Educational Diagnostician with the communities of Schertz, Cibolo, and Universal City. He is looking forward to growing in faith and theology.



**LOVING
CHRIST.**

**LOVING ONE
ANOTHER.**

**LOVING THE
CITY.**

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