



January 2022

Check out our  
Upcoming Events!  
(See article pages 5-6)



*Winter 2022 Ministry Guide (Back Cover Feature)*

Josiah Venture Welcomes  
FPC Mission Partners to  
Czech Republic  
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Christmas Pageant returns  
to Sanctuary in full  
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Introducing FPC Marriage  
Ministry!  
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## Pastor's Article



# New Year's Resolutions or New Habits

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller  
Senior Pastor

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.**

II Corinthians 5: 17

The Bible says that if you are a follower of Jesus Christ, you are a New Creation. As new creations, we would expect that our lives would be different. We expect a change. That change began when God, through the power of his grace and through the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, began to radically redirect your expectations, your joys, your relationships, your attitude's, your perceptions and, most importantly, your destiny.

Even though God could have chosen to remake us all on His own, God has not called us to be spectators to our own transformation. As new creations, God is challenging us to change our lives—and the world—by really taking hold of some new habits. The Apostle Paul, wrote:

12 ...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. (Philippians 2:13-14)

As New Creations, we need New Habits.

According to Wikipedia, "A habit is a routine of behavior that is repeated regularly and tends to occur subconsciously." It is a pattern of behavior that becomes so natural that it becomes "second-nature."

Habits are interesting things because they don't happen overnight, nor do they happen because you tell yourself you're going to do them. Habits only become habits by doing.

We are what we repeatedly do. I can tell myself (from now until the cows come home) that I'm going to get more exercise; but, until I actually get out of my chair and do it, exercise won't be a habit for me. If I continue in couch potato mode, I will continue to be a couch potato. It is the doing that makes the difference between excellence and failure.

There is no scientific consensus on the time required to establish a habit. I've heard that if you do something for a week, it becomes a habit. I've also heard it takes two or three weeks. I suppose it depends on the individual. The point is that we should figure out what standard of regularity constitutes a habit for us, set our goals, and then do it until it becomes habitual. Once we have mastered one habit, then we can take on another one.

Good habits are not acquired simply by making resolutions, though the thought must precede the action. Good habits are developed in the workshop of our daily lives. It is not in the great moments of test and trial that character is built. That is only when it is displayed. The habits that direct our lives and form our character are fashioned in the often uneventful, commonplace routine of life. In other words, practice makes perfect—or rather—practice makes permanent. Excellence comes from the practice of developing good habits. It comes from the doing; not just the thinking.

## Pastor's Article

One of the most important habits we can develop is the habit of daily study and prayer. The beginning of a new year is a great time to begin new habits or renew forgotten exercises. I hope that you will take a moment to read the 2022 Winter Guide and consider one of the many Sunday School groups or Bible study opportunities FPC offers. Also, pick up a "Read through the Bible Pamphlet" to begin a one-year Bible reading Program.

Finally, as we enter 2022, I want to share with you a new resource. As a final offering to close our 175th Anniversary Celebration, the 175th Committee is putting together a beautiful collection of prayers for use throughout the church year. It is called Prayers of the People. The collection is based on a cycle of two daily readings. The readings touch on each book of the Bible. Each daily passage is then paired with either a morning or evening prayer composed by members of the FPC family. The authors of the prayers are listed in the back, but each individual prayer is offered anonymously. The hope is that you will read through and pray through this book not just once, but many times (read, pray, repeat) building a habit of Bible daily devotion.

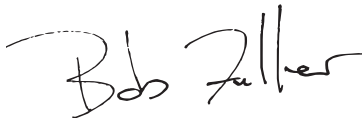
We do not have any idea what 2022 has in store for us. But, as we begin our 176th year, I know that our year, our lives, our families and church will be stronger, more energetic, more encouraging and more faithful if we develop the essential habits of the Christian life: worship, study, fellowship, stewardship, service, faith-sharing and prayer.

If we want to really enjoy the best of what the Lord has to offer in 2022, we would be wise to remember the words of Hebrews 5:14.

*"But solid food is for the mature, for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil."*

Happy New Habits!

Grace and Peace,



**Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller**  
Senior Pastor

FIRST PRESS - JANUARY 2022

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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 Ensley: **Graphic Designer**

Ross Brown: **Media Coordinator**

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



# Save the Date

## 7-11 YOUTH EVENT

**Friday, January 7 | 7:00 PM - 11:00 PM | Student Center**

All students grades 6-12 are invited to kick off 2022 with our favorite fun event of the year! Students are encouraged to bring friends and come spend the evening playing games, eating good food, and catching up after the holidays.

## DISCOVER, KNOW, JOINFPC!

Interested in learning more about FPC San Antonio or joining us as a Covenant Partner? Sign up for the Discover, Know, JoinFPC! Winter program begins Sunday, January 9. For more information or to register: <https://fpcsanantonio.org/how-to-join/>

## FPC LITERATURE CIRCLE

**Tuesday, January 11 | 1:00 PM | McCullough Room**

Join the FPC Literature Circle on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, in the McCullough Room when S.A. author, Rudy Ruiz, will review his novel, *THE RESURRECTION OF FULGENCIO RAMIREZ*. The story is set in the fictional border town of La Frontera. Fulgencio Ramirez is a first-generation norteamericano and an ambitious high school student who gets a job in a local pharmacy. There, he falls in love with the Anglo daughter of the pharmacist. The plot thickens as Rudy relates the story in the magical realism fashion.

Rudy Ruiz was born in Brownsville, Tx., the son and grandson of Mexican immigrants. He received his Bachelor and Master degrees at Harvard.

The circle will meet at 1:00 PM for a social and 1:30 PM for the review. Men & women of all faiths are invited.

## MEN'S MINISTRY QUARTERLY DINNER

**Sunday, January 16 | 5:30 PM | TBD**

Join us for fellowship and speaker testimony. For more information or to RSVP, contact Richard Peacock at [richard@dinewithduo.com](mailto:richard@dinewithduo.com), (210) 824-0511.

## UNIVERSITY MINISTRIES MLK FRISBEE DAY!

**Monday, January 17 | 10:00 AM through Lunch | Trinity Intramural Fields**

Contact Rev. Alex Solorio, [Alexs@fpcsat.org](mailto:Alexs@fpcsat.org) for more information.

## CONFIRMATION RETREAT

**Friday, January 21 - Sunday, January 23 |**

**Off Campus**

If your student is participating in Confirmation, come join us the weekend of January 21st-23rd for a fun overnight trip of study, games, and challenges to our faith. Contact Alex Clary at [alexc@fpcsat.org](mailto:alexc@fpcsat.org) for more information.

## MARRIAGE MINISTRY MENTOR TRAINING

**Saturday, January 22 | Time TBD | FPC**

FPC's newly formed Marriage Ministry Program will be equipping couples to faithfully minister to others using the Prepare and Renew Program. Join us as Nora and Carlos Rodriguez together with the San Antonio Marriage Initiative (SAMI) prepare us to lead through a great day of training. Contact Bobby and Downie Mickler at [rmickler@gmail.com](mailto:rmickler@gmail.com) or 210-284-1497 for more information.

## YOUNG ADULT LEADERSHIP GATHERING

**Monday, January 24 | 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM | Student Center**

Gather with other young adult leaders for a time of celebration, vision-casting, and equipping! This event is for all young adults who serve or are interested in serving in the church in any capacity. No experience, formal leadership title, or prior training required. Don't just be a pew warmer - come and see how you can be involved in God's Kingdom by offering your time and talents! Contact Mitchell Moore at [mitchellm@fpcsat.org](mailto:mitchellm@fpcsat.org) or Holly Youngquist at [youngquist.holly@gmail.com](mailto:youngquist.holly@gmail.com) for more information.

## WINTER LADIES NIGHT OUT

**Tuesday, January 25 | 6:30 PM | Paloma Blanca**

Join other women for a relaxing evening of delicious food and fellowship at Paloma Blanca. Contact Susan or Meredith to make reservations, or look for the signup table on Sunday. Bring a friend! Contact Susan DeKoch at [susandekoch@gmail.com](mailto:susandekoch@gmail.com) for more information.

## CHILDREN'S RODEO, BOOTS AND PANCAKES

**Sunday, January 30 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM | Nutrition Center**

Children and their families are invited to wear a Cowboy inspired outfit and bring a friend for breakfast, fellowship, and Bible stories! Contact: Rozlyn Miller at [rozlynm@fpcsat.org](mailto:rozlynm@fpcsat.org) for more information.

## DIVORCECARE

**Wednesdays | January 5 - March 30 | 6:00 PM**

DivorceCare is a video seminar series featuring some of the nation's foremost Christian experts on divorce and recovery topics as seen from a biblical perspective. The video seminars are combined with support group discussions of the materials presented during the video. Please feel free to connect with Butch Gerfers at 210-862-9998 or [gerfers@flash.net](mailto:gerfers@flash.net), if you have any questions or would like more information. <https://www.divorcecare.org/about> or <https://www.divorcecare.org/groups/142471>

## GRIEF SHARE'S LOSS OF A SPOUSE SEMINAR

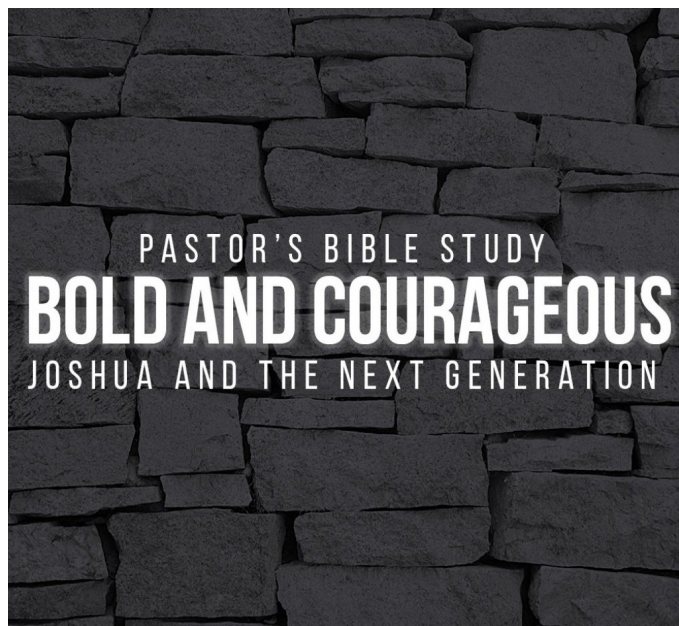
**Sunday, January 16 | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

We will be hosting Grief Share's Loss of a Spouse Seminar on January 16th following the 9:00 and 11:00 services. The Seminar is video based along with discussion. No one is required to share, however that is always helpful sharing in these groups. Call the church office to register or visit [GriefShare.com](http://GriefShare.com). A workbook will be available on January 16th.

## STEPHEN MINISTERS NEED YOU

**Tuesday, February 1 - April 12 | 6:30 PM | Room 226**

Since 1975, over 600,000 people from all walks of life have been trained as Stephen Ministers, lay caregivers who make a significant difference during a time of great need in someone's life, and in turn experience tremendous personal and spiritual growth themselves. If you desire to be part of this ministry, please contact Jim Carssow at (512) 423-3424, or Rev. Scott Simpson at the church office.



**Pastor's Bible Study: BOLD AND COURAGEOUS: JOSHUA AND THE NEXT GENERATION**

**January 5 | 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM | Covenant Hall**

**January 6 | 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM | Covenant Hall or Livestream via [www.fpcsanantonio.org](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org)**

After decades in the Wilderness, God fulfilled his covenant and sent the people into the land He had promised. But, it was not easy. There was work to do and they were opposed at every turn. The people learned that following the way of the Lord is always a challenge. So the Lord gave them a new leader to guide them, and charged him to be bold and courageous as they moved into their new home. This Winter the Pastor's Bible Study (PBS), led by Dr. Bob Fuller, will grapple with and join Joshua and the people of Israel as they move into the promised land and fight for their physical and spiritual survival. Contact: Lellen Lane: [lellenlane@aol.com](mailto:lellenlane@aol.com), (210) 860-1395 (to be placed in small groups for discussion following the general session)

# FPC Supports Ministry Partners through Outreach and Appreciation

The Lord has been faithful to bless FPC with collaborative ministry partnerships in San Antonio for generations. Over the last two years, our ministry partners have seen many challenges stemming from the effects of the Covid pandemic. They have been diligent in discerning God's will for their ongoing ministry in our city as they have navigated increased crises in homelessness, mental illness, foster and adoption, marriages, and more. They have been faithful in continuing to serve with excellence, trusting the Lord to provide and empower amid the challenges and changes so many have faced.

This year, our FPC Family was able to come alongside our FPC Ministry Partners to provide encouragement and care in a new way. Through the FPC Local Missions Encouragement Project, our Local Mission Champions discerned ways to share our deep gratitude for these ministry partners. Opportunities to serve these teams ranged from gift cards, to handwritten encouragement notes and delicious cookies from our FPC family, to sharing in meals and fellowship. Our FPC Family was able to come together to serve the staff of over 20 ministries and over 700 people in our city!

Thank you to all who wrote cards, baked treats, and shared in encouraging and caring for our FPC Local Mission Partners!



*We appreciate the support that FPC, and you folks in particular, lend to CAM. The coffee and candy was wonderful, but it was also a treat to get to see you! Thanks for partnering in ministry with CAM!*

*I wanted to thank you and your team so much for our staff surprise today from FPC, it was such a treat. The CAM fam works so hard on a daily basis to ensure the San Antonio community is well cared for, but when our staff sees the appreciation, it makes all the difference. So, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all you do for us, we appreciate it more than you know.*



*SA Hope Center: "What an incredible blessing today was!!! Thank you!! Merry Christmas!! You have blessed us so much."*

*The SA Christian Dental Clinic was very thankful for the treats that the staff was able to enjoy!*

*SAMI thanked FPC for their partnership and their surprising generosity for a meal and shared time in fellowship.*





## Josiah Venture Welcomes FPC Mission Partners to Czech Republic



After a long season of preparation and waiting, The Williams Family, FPC Global Mission Partners with Josiah Venture, were able to move to their new home in the Czech Republic. Paul and Molli shared an update recently highlighting all that the Lord has been doing in their lives and ministry since they moved in October. Here is a highlight from that update:

"Take nothing for your journey," he instructed them.

"Don't take a walking stick, a traveler's bag, food, money, or even a change of clothes."

Those were Jesus' words to his twelve disciples on one of their first solo missions, as recorded in Luke 9. There is something very simple, freeing and yet vulnerable about that command.

After 60 days of final packing, taping, purging, containing and disposing for our move and then 30 days now in country unpacking, untaping and placing, we can understand why Jesus sent them on their way with only their sandals on their feet and cloaks on their backs!

At the end of October we watched all of our remaining belongings squeeze into a 40 foot container to be driven to the Houston ship channel for overseas voyage.

Maybe that was Jesus' intent to the twelve. That is to remove all the things – stuff – that keeps us from relying completely on him. So often our security comes from our own abilities to get things done or our financial muscle or even our grit. But what does Jesus say?

In John 15:5b he says, "apart from me you can do nothing."

So, each day as we prepped for departure there was an entrusting and abiding with Jesus to get anything accomplished. Apart from him we could do nothing. In only his strength was everything accomplished before we left Texas. He did it all.

We have gotten texts and emails reminding us of your prayers for us at this time.

And we can say that the Lord has answered them with kindness and ease to get many things accomplished quickly.

Here are some of the highlights, and we simply say, "Praise God!"

\* About 110 of our JV missionaries were able to gather to celebrate Thanksgiving together. What a special blessing that was! Many traveled from Ukraine, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia to be here in Czech to fellowship and give thanks together.

\* Mae was able to deepen connections with some of her fellow JV Kids and new friends too.

\* Our container arrived on December 1st with almost nothing damaged or broken. We had a wonderful group of JV teammates who helped unload and move it into our house.

So far, most of our time has been focused on logistical matters and settling into place. We do this knowing that the work God has for us has already been planned by him. We eagerly look forward to what he has for us.

Please continue to pray for the Williams Family as they build relationships and begin their ministry work in the Czech Republic. Here are some specific prayer requests they shared:

- For health and safety for the Josiah Venture Staff as COVID cases have spiked again across Central Europe with threats of lockdown and deeper restrictions.
- For understanding in acquiring Czech language skills.
- For discernment in assessing school options for Mae in the spring semester.
- For continued courage and strength as the Williams Family remembers that God is faithful to complete what he has begun in their work and their lives.

For more information about Josiah Venture and the Williams Family, please contact

Don Ryan ([dryan@usph.com](mailto:dryan@usph.com)) or Danielle Couch ([daniellem.couch@gmail.com](mailto:daniellem.couch@gmail.com)).





## 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 am, in the home of Sheila Murray

#### Circle 8

Members of Circle Moderators and Co-Chairs  
Second Friday, 11:30 am, with lunch  
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., Breakfast Room

#### Circle 11

Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766)  
Members of Circle, Moderators  
Fourth Monday, 6:30 pm, in the home of  
Rosemary Bolte

#### 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  
January 31st, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room (with meal)

#### Circle 18

Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856)  
CIRCLE OF CONCERN  
Small home baked cookies always needed  
for receptions  
Volunteers for help with receptions needed

#### Circle 20

Muffin Camp, Chair (210-789-1808)  
CIRCLE OF SERVICE  
Volunteers to make/take meals needed

On a wonderful trip to Scotland one year, my husband and I found out many Gaelic phrases and meanings. My favorite is "Auld Lang Syne." It translates to "times long past." Americans sing it on New Year's Eve, but that's not the case in Scotland. It is sung at birthdays, weddings, memorials and many joyous occasions. They really take the connotative meaning to be "in honor of friendship." I love that use of this old saying because there are few participations so important to me as friendships - old ones, some from the cradle until now (nearly 74 years) and some brand new ones this year. I have always felt that God has given me gifts of friends just when I needed them or me them. I often couldn't see it at the time, but several of my best friends strengthened my faith. All of my affiliations with churches have led me to meaningful friendships and opportunities to serve God.

Music has meant so much in my life and I was honored to sing in our Sanctuary Choir for six years. One of my favorite hymns is "What a Friend I Have In Jesus." It was a turning point in my life when I realized that my relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ was a true and forever friendship. We speak of Him at Christmas as Mighty Counselor! My Christmas prayer for you this Advent season is to find and use Jesus as your best friend! The counselor and confidant that you go to first.

Happy New Year,

*Janet Wernli*

President  
Women of the Church





# Christmas Poinsettias 2021

## Given by... In honor of

Jenny and Vince Andermatt  
**Will, Jess and Violet Jette**  
The Koehler Andermatt Family

Janet and Greg Anderson  
**Elizabeth and William Anderson**  
Sheila Figueroa  
The Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller  
The Ministers of FPC

Michele and Jonathan Barker  
**Our parents**

Kay Beth and David Barr  
**Our children**  
**Our grandchildren**

Mary and Mike Benedum  
**Elaine Dunlap**  
**Our children and grandchildren**

Ann and Chuck Bunn  
**Lillian Ann Lehr**

Bill Burnett  
**Jane Burnett**

Jane and Bill Burnett  
**Amelia, Jackie and Drew Burnett**  
**Our past and present ministers**

Muffin and Morris Camp  
**Our First Pres Family**

Laura A. Davis  
**Franklin C. Davis IV's son, Cole**

Susan DeKoch  
**The NOGS**

Susan and Dirk DeKoch  
**Mac, Thomas, Harper and James**

Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig  
**Our children and grandchildren**

Linda Gail and Robert Dullnig  
**Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig**  
**Frankie and Charles Dicke**

Elaine Dunlap  
**Barbara Anne and Ken Stephens**

The Fuhrmann Family  
**Jillian and James Moon**  
**Jenna Belle and Carly Fuhrmann**

Wendy and Eugene Garcia  
**Sally Hurd**  
**Carol Moore**  
**Eloy Garcia**  
**FPC Pastors**

Myna Gathers  
**Coach Dave Aranda**  
**Bears>Tigers**

Nancy and Butch Gerfers  
**Debbie and Syd King**

Joella Gordon and Giselle  
**Linda and Richard Delano**

Lilly and Alan Gretzinger  
**Janie and Jim Worth**

Charlotte Hains  
**Friday Singers**

Barry Hall  
**My wife, My Girlfriend, My BFF**

Nona and Barry Hall  
**Allison and Jeff Hall**  
**Kim and John Hill**  
**Pastor Joe and KEYS**

The Handbell Choir  
**Jae Ha**

Janet and Boxy Hornberger  
**Our children and grandchildren**

Elizabeth Kreager  
**Ned and Lillian Gretzinger**

Judy and Barry Kruger  
**Wesley, Elise and Janis**

Your Texas Family  
**Jeanne Lundgren**

Joyce and Jess Mayfield  
**Bob Fuller and our faithful pastors of FPC**

Diana Morehouse  
**My grandchildren**

Mary Leslie and Bill Parsons  
**Morgan and Rev. Bob Fuller**  
**Sidney and Kaye Wilkins**

Her Thursday Bible Study Group  
**Emily Peeples**

Blair Perry  
**Paige Perry**  
**Peyton Perry**

The Smiths  
**Laurel and Maarten Verheul**  
**Lacey Verheul**  
**Sammie and Hunter Verheul**

Martha and Gordon Smith  
**Bob Collins**  
**Helen and Graham Smith**  
**Shelly and Marshall Harrell**

Barbara Anne Stephens  
**Pastor's Bible Study Group**

The Ken Stephens Family  
**Our devoted Pastors and staff**

Debbie and Rick Taylor  
**Mrs. Doris Taylor**

Sidney and Kaye Wilkins  
**Our wonderful staff**

Heather and Reagan Williamson  
**Our parents and children**

Jean Rogers Winchell  
**Edwyna Yarbrough**

Your kids and Grandkids with love  
**Mary and Dan Wofford**

Anne, Louis III, Katie and Betsy  
**Kip Zbinden**

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## *Given by...In memory of*

Jenny and Vince Andermatt  
**Victoria and Alvin Koehler**  
**Rev. and Mrs. J. Kelly Neal**

Barbara and Dennis Anderson  
**Christopher Anderson**

Janet and Greg Anderson and Family  
**Dr. James E. Bauerle**  
**Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Anderson**  
**Mrs. Hazel Dyer**  
**Raymond Figueroa**  
**Bonnie Diehl**  
**Virginia Munroe**  
**The Rev. Dr. Louis H. Zbinden**

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

Michele and Jonathan Barker  
**Our grandparents**

Kay Beth and David Barr  
**Carrie Spencer**

His Family  
**Don Beeler**

Mary and Mike Benedum  
**Our Parents**

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

Laura Moore Brusenhan  
**Harry Hammet Brusenhan**  
**Estella and Charles Moore**

Jane Buchek  
**John Buchek**

Mills, Tres and Mary Louise Buchek  
**John Buchek**

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

Ann and Chuck Bunn  
**Mary and Charles Bunn**  
**Ralph Lehr**



Mattie, Jake and Dana  
**Will**

Bob Collins  
**My wife, Betty**

Lenna and Miller Culp  
**Our Pappa-we miss you everyday**

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

The Dirk DeKoch Family  
**Rev. John McCullough**

Jeanne Douglas  
**Gary Douglas**  
**George A. Knapp**

Jeannie and Bobby Dullnig  
**Our Parents**

Linda Gail and Robert Dullnig  
**Frank Weed, Jr.**

Eva and Jim Eckburg  
**Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Eckburg**  
**Mrs. and Mrs. Hans C. Wiedemann**

The Fuhrmann Family  
**Ginger and Dick Lord**  
**Skip Fuhrmann**  
**Corie Fuhrmann Boldt Hutt**

Debby Elson Neighbarger  
**My parents, Dean and Lois Elson**  
**My brother, Dean Elson II**

The Embs Daughters and Families  
**Lowell D. Embs**  
**Sallie W. Embs**

Kenneth Finch  
**Janet "Jenny" Finch**  
**Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Stolte**

Ellen E. Frazier  
**My Parents**  
**My husband, Donald**

Nancy and Butch Gerfers  
**Our Parents**

Joella Gordon  
**John R. Gordon**

Lilly and Alan Gretzinger  
**Ralph Lehr**

Nona and Barry Hall  
**Our Parents**  
**Our Three Denver Ladies**

Christine and Glen Bob Hinkle  
**Louis Zbinden**

Patti and Harvey Howell  
**Caitlin Howell**

Martha and John James  
**Margaret and Dick Jackson**

Pat and Buddy Johnson  
**Becky and George W. Johnson, Jr.**  
**Ruth and Dr. Edwin P. Tottenham**

Georgia Khym-Heath  
**Mike Heath**  
**June and Frank Khym**

Simone Kabbe  
**Fred Kabbe**  
**Dominic Childs**

Judy and Barry Kruger  
**Marie Fisher**

Diane and Steve Ledford  
**Marie Ledford and Reenie Larson**

Lillian Ann Lehr  
**Ralph Lehr**

Joyce and Jess Mayfield  
**Jo and George Musselman**  
**Nellie and Jack Mayfield**

Patricia and Richard McCleary  
**Our Loving Parents**

Jo Lynne Meador and Family  
**All Our Loved Ones**

Ellen and Michael Meadows Family  
**Lucas Ramsey Warrick**  
**Frances and Joe Warrick**

Diana Morehouse  
**Loved ones**

The Clay Page Family  
**John Buchek**

David A. Peebles  
**Rev. Robert and Elizabeth Bullock**

Emily and David Peebles  
**Don Beeler**  
**Anne and Paul Smith**



The Peeples Family  
**Virginia and Clark Munroe**

Dolores Perrine  
**Robert E. Perrine**

Micki, Don and Kate Philbin  
**Donald Philbin III**

Martha Pigeon and Family  
**Brad Pigeon**

Lee Pressly  
**Henry Pressly, Jr.**  
**Ann Pressly**

Becca Price  
**Bob Price**  
**David Price**

Nancy Puckett  
**Glenn Puckett**

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

Linda and Bill Ruhmann  
**Brad Ruhmann**

Sanctuary Flower Committee  
**Maurilio Garza, Sr.**

John K. Saunders  
**Betty Brown Saunders**

Anne and Ron Scates  
**Anna Elizabeth Scates**

Sharon and Stuart Seal  
**Anne Kellam**  
**Anne and Bob Seal**

Sichan Siv  
**Martha Pattillo Siv**  
**Barbara and George Bush**

Dr. Donna E. Smith  
**Dr. and Mrs. W. Donald Smith**

The Gordon Smith Family  
**Betty Collins**

Marie and Paul Smith  
**Anne and Paul Smith**

Pat Stanley  
**William Stanley, III**  
**William Stanley, IV**

The Ken Stephens Family  
**Jack Sargent**

Linda Stevens  
**Kathy and Everett Lewis**

Linda Stultz  
**Mr. and Mrs. James R. Stultz, Jr.**

Debbie and Rick Taylor  
**Mr. and Mrs. Jiro Shimoda**

Suzanne and John Thomas  
**Thomas Burns**  
**Elaine and R.C. Thomas**

Jane, Robert, and Liam Warren  
**Spence Warren**  
**Bryan Warren**

Jane Watson  
**Laura Ohr Watson**

Carole Ross Weir  
**Ellen Buck**  
**Gussie Mae Dean**  
**Virginia F. Munroe**

Janet Wernli and Family  
**Fritz Wernli**

Carol and David West  
**Jack Sargent**  
**Anne and Paul Smith**

Joan Whiteley  
**Joyce and Robert Flaks**

Neil Williams  
**My mother, Helen Williams**

Willie Willming and Family  
**Ed Willming**

Edwyna Yarbrough and Family  
**Dr. Leroy Yarbrough**

Holly and David Youngquist  
**My dad, Jack Sargent**  
**Anne and Paul Smith**

Kip Zbinden and Family  
**Rev. Louis H. Zbinden, Jr.**

## LOVING ONE ANOTHER

# Christmas Pageant returns to Sanctuary in full restoration



On December 5, the children of FPC along with a host of volunteers came together to tell this story. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Children's Committee and the Pageant Director, Rachel Buster, for all your hard work.

Additionally, a big thank you to all of the parents that made sure their children participated! I felt the Lord's pleasure as we worshiped and it made me think of one of my favorite songs. Contemporary Christian artist, Chris Rice, sings a Christmas song called, "Welcome to our World." The last lyrics say, "So wrap our injured flesh around You, Breathe our air and walk our sod, Rob our sins and make us holy, Perfect Son of God, Welcome to our world."

You see, the story of Christmas explained in the Scripture of Luke 2 tells us about a Savior who would wrap our injured flesh around Himself, breathe our air and walk our sod, rob our sins and make us holy. He came to restore mankind to the Father. He came for us, something we could never do for ourselves or find no matter how long we looked, He came for us!

Glory knew Him, glory understood when He broke through this world with a cry as an innocent babe. No wonder the angels broke out in song that night saying, "Glory to God in the Highest and on earth, peace and goodwill to all men," Luke 2:14. Indeed what a glorious night it must have been, to welcome to our world, this perfect son of God!

*Rozlyn Miller*

Ministry Director to Children and their Families





# FPC MARRIAGE MINISTRY

This fall a new FPC committee was formed! The Marriage Ministry committee was created to specifically minister to all people married or engaged to be married, within our congregation and the community. The Marriage Ministry will have three components: Premarital, Marriage Enrichment, and Struggling in Marriage.

Using an amazing tool called the Prepare & Renew test, couples are able to receive encouragement and support at any stage in their marriage. Prepare & Renew is an online test you take individually, with assessment and follow up mentoring and counseling included. The committee covers the cost of your online individual test, and a private or group meeting to discuss how to interpret results.

Nora and Carlos Rodriguez from our ministry partner, San Antonio Marriage Initiative (SAMI), are committed to providing leadership and counseling as well as training for Covenant Partners who want to participate, and those who feel called to be FPC Marriage Ministry Mentor Couples. The first Mentor Couples training is scheduled for Saturday, January 22.

*“Let marriage be held  
in honor among all.”*

HEBREWS 13:4

If you would like more information, please call Bobby and Downie Mickler at (210)284-1497 or email [rmickler@gmail.com](mailto:rmickler@gmail.com). The Marriage Ministry Committee consists of the Micklers, Laura and Trebes Sasser, Muffin and Morris Camp, Joe and Sandy Moore, and Ryan and Emily McLoughlin.

There is a lot more to come...events, small groups, classes, and two-on-two opportunities.



# Earth Angels

## Stephen Ministers Offer Emotional and Spiritual Support in Times of Trouble

by Beth Francis



*"I'm stronger and I know how precious every day is," says Mary Larrabee, right, who was helped with a life crisis by her Stephen Minister Kathy Ames. "She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart. I call her my earth angel."*

Mary Larrabee's life was a mess. Her marriage had just ended in divorce, she underwent two major surgeries, and then her grown son was murdered.

"As a friend of mine put it, the manure truck just kept backing up and dumping on me," Larrabee said.

Then she heard about Stephen Ministry at her church.

The ministry matches specially trained members of a congregation with people going through a tough time. Nationwide, more than 10,000 churches representing more than 150 different Christian denominations offer Stephen Ministry.

*"It enriches the church to have this consistent outreach available to anyone in the community who needs help."*

Larrabee was matched with Stephen Minister Kathy Ames, a fellow member of North Naples United Methodist Church, and the two met once a week for more than a year.

"She would hold my hand and let me spill out my heart,"

Larrabee said of Ames. "I call her my earth angel. She really helped me through a hard time in my life. She didn't give me specific advice as much as she just listened to me and validated my pain."

Now that the formal Stephen Ministry relationship has ended, the two remain friends.

"I will always be grateful to her for all of her prayers and all that she did to help me," Larrabee said.

Stephen Ministry began in St. Louis in 1975 when the Rev. Kenneth Haugk, a pastor and clinical psychologist, found he was unable to meet the needs of all the people in his congregation. He trained nine laypeople in his church to assist him in providing Christian care to people who needed encouragement.

It went so well that Haugk began training Stephen Ministers in other congregations. That, in turn, led to the establishment of the Stephen Series Leader's Training Course, which trains pastors and lay leaders to go back to their congregations and train others to become Stephen Ministers.

"We train the trainers," said Joel Bretscher, Director of

Communications at the Stephen Ministries headquarters in St. Louis. "We train the Stephen Leaders who then go home to train the Stephen Ministers in the congregation." Stephen Ministers then provide one-to-one emotional and spiritual care to people in need.

The name Stephen comes from St. Stephen, who was the first layperson commissioned by the Apostles to provide caring ministry to those in need, Bretscher said.

"Ordained pastors often find there are more needs for care than they can provide, so Stephen Ministers are there to supplement, but not replace, pastoral care," Bretscher said.

In Stephen Ministry, women are matched with women, and men are matched with men. It is also important to note that Stephen Ministers are available to care for anyone in the community who is hurting, not just church members, said Becky Jarrell, Director of Congregational Care at North Naples United Methodist Church.

"We are here for anyone experiencing a life crisis, whether it's death, divorce, illness, relocation, financial difficulty, or whatever they need," Jarrell said. "It enriches the church to have this consistent outreach available to anyone in the community who needs help."

*"It's a wonderful thing to see God working in people's lives."*

Over the past eight years, North Naples United Methodist Church has trained more than 60 people to become Stephen Ministers, she said. At Community Congregational Church in Naples, there are more than 20 active Stephen Ministers, said Gini Reinhold, Director of Congregational Care.

"The Stephen Minister is there to walk with you throughout your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay," Reinhold said. Stephen Ministers go through 50 hours of training and commit to serving for two years. Most choose to serve much longer after they find they get as much out of the ministry as they give, Reinhold said.

"It's a wonderful thing to see God working in people's lives," she said. "There's something special about knowing that God has put you in a certain place at a certain time to help a certain person. Stephen Ministers grow a lot as a result."

Patty Lengemann knows what it's like to be on both sides of the fence. She had her own Stephen Minister about five years ago when she went through a divorce. "I know how wonderful it is to give and receive," Lengemann said.

"My Stephen Minister gave me the courage to start over again. Now I want to give something back."

*"The Stephen Minister is there to walk with you through your crisis and to help you see that, with God's love, you will be okay."*

Lengemann, a member at Community Congregational, has had two care receivers since she became a Stephen Minister.

"So far, I've been matched with people going through the same kind of pain I experienced, so I'm able to identify with what they're going through," she said. "I'm able to share my experience with them and help them to see that, when God closes one door, he opens another."

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 [scotts@fpcsat.org](mailto:scotts@fpcsat.org) and Stephen Ministry Leader Jim Carssow at [jimcarssow@gmail.com](mailto:jimcarssow@gmail.com).

This article is republished courtesy of Stephen Ministry ([stephenministry.org](http://stephenministry.org)).





## LOVING ONE ANOTHER



**Happy New Year!!** As we anticipate the New Year, we are thankful for God's continuing Faithfulness in our lives. He has directed us through some difficult times and we look forward to how He will work in and through us in the coming year.

We enjoyed an awesome concert with Miles Pike. He has assured us a place on his calendar in 2022. If you missed the concert, you can still view it on our FPC website. <https://fpcsanantonio.org/ministries/adults/olderadults-2/>

KEYS will kick off in 2022 on January 14, with a visit from Tim Morrow, CEO of the San Antonio Zoo. Mr. Morrow will share what is new at the Zoo. We will celebrate January Birthdays at Milano on Wurzbach. If your birthday is in December, lunch will be free for you, as well as January Birthdays.

*Rev. Dr. Joe Moore*

Minister for Older Adults and Congregational Care

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

**Jan. 7**

**No KEYS**

**Jan. 14**

**Tim Morrow, San Antonio Zoo**

**Jan. 21**

**Birthday Lunch at Milano on Wurzbach**

**Jan. 28**

**Dayne Sullivan, San Antonio Rodeo**

*Thank you for your generous contribution to our Christmas Family!!*

**Coming in February:**

### **Rick Cavender**

Rick and his band will be back with us on February 18. We look forward to enjoying him in person this year!

### **Birthday Lunch**

February Birthday Lunch will be at the Menger Hotel on February 15.

### **Mahjong and Bridge**

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.

### **Friday Fitness with Jacqi Crow**

Friday Fitness will continue via Zoom. 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.









# FIRST CUP READINGS

## JANUARY, 2022

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  | Ecclesiastes 1; Psalm 49  |    |   |
| 2  | Ecclesiastes 2; Matthew 6:19-34   |    |   |
|    | 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)   |    |   |
| 3  | Ecclesiastes 3; Matthew 16:24-28; 25:31-46; 1 Peter 4:1-11  |    |   |
| 4  | Ecclesiastes 4; Proverbs 15:16; 27:10   |    |   |
| 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  |    |   |
|    | 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) |    |   |
| 10 | Ecclesiastes 10; Proverbs 15; James 3   |    |   |
| 11 | Ecclesiastes 11; Proverbs 11:24; 1 Timothy 4:6-16   |    |   |
| 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   |    |   |
|    | 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)   |
|    |   | 17 | Psalm 5; 107  |
|    |   | 18 | Psalm 6; Hebrews 12:1-13  |
|    |   | 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  |
|    |   |    | 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)  |
|    |   | 24 | Psalm 12; James 3   |
|    |   | 25 | Psalm 13; Habakkuk 3  |
|    |   | 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  |
|    |   |    | The heavens declare Thy glory Lord; In every star Thy wisdom shines; But when our eyes behold thy Word, we read Thy name in fairer lines. The rolling sun, the changing light, And nights and days, Thy power confess; But the blest Volume Thou hast writ Reveals Thy justice and Thy Grace. Sun, moon, and stars convey Thy praise Round the whole earth, and never stand; so when Thy truth began its race, It touched and glanced on every land. Nor shall Thy spreading gospel rest till through the world Thy truth has run; Till Christ has all the nations blest that see the light, or feel the sun. (The Hymnbook, # 259) |
|    |   | 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]

# WELCOME HOME

New Classes!

New Events!

Weekly  
Events!

Summer  
Sneak Peak!



BOOKLETS AVAILABLE IN  
MAUZE LOBBY & THE NARTHEX

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[fpcsanantonio.org/winter2022](http://fpcsanantonio.org/winter2022)



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