

FPC VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2022



MONDAY, JUNE 20 – FRIDAY, JUNE 24

VBS has Monumental
plans in June!
(see page 12)

A Prison Missionary
(see pages 18-19)

God gave us a free car!
(see pages 8-9)

FPC Hosts National Day of
Prayer
(see pages 14-15)

Pastor's Article



LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

Letter to the Congregation

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week, a mass shooting took place at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, taking the lives of innocent victims, including elementary school children and their teachers. Nineteen children and two teachers were killed. Seventeen others were wounded, and two officers were wounded.

This act of unspeakable violence has devastated an entire community and shaken our country, our state and our hearts. We must pray for the families of the victims, the staff of Robb Elementary School, the Uvalde Community and the first responders. We know that the trauma of this day has wounded their hearts and will take years of healing. May the Lord bring his peace in ways that pass our understanding and make His face to shine upon them.

What makes the situation even more horrible, and unbelievable, is that the shooter was a member of the community. Broken. Empty of compassion. Filled with rage.

The incident in Buffalo just a little over a week ago involved an outsider who for the most vile, racist, and hateful reasons sought out and drove to a distant community to kill people who were "not like him."

But this massacre, like so many of these shootings, was perpetrated by a person, a troubled teenager, with direct ties to the lives and community he destroyed. This one, like so many others, began with the shooting of a family member as a prelude to the mass slaughter to come.

I feel like my job is to know what to say in these situations. But the truth is, I have no words to express the grief over the violent murder of nineteen children and two teachers. So in times like this I turn to the Psalms.

Psalms 55, written by David, speaks to the pain of betrayal. David prays to the Lord for relief when he is attacked—not by enemies from the outside but from people close to him. Psalm 55:4-8 says:



4 My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death have fallen upon me.

5 Fear and trembling come upon me, and horror overwhelms me.

6 And I say, "Oh, that I had wings like a dove! I would fly away and be at rest;

7 Yes, I would wander far away; I would lodge in the wilderness;

8 I would hurry to find a shelter from the raging wind and tempest."

The sad reality is that this situation in our culture is not getting better. The isolation and fear that festered during the pandemic only amplified the hopelessness, fear and anger of troubled minds. The bitter fruit is only now beginning to show itself.

But, into this situation, we must speak words of light into darkness, words of life to the face of death. Into his darkness, David also said (Psalm 55:22)

22 Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.

Right now, many people are asking to know, demanding to know, "what we can do." I believe that if we have courage and compassion, there is much we can do to comfort, relieve and build up what has been torn down.

We need to love, hold close, and nurture the children under our care. We need to provide the resources we can make available (human and financial). But first, we must "cast our burden on the Lord," and acknowledge that we need him desperately.

Pray for Uvalde! All of the fatalities are heartbreaking, and each one is personal. We have many families in FPC with deep connections to Uvalde. Even though our grief is heavy, we remember the words of the Apostle Paul who said,

"you may not grieve as others do who have no hope, for since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. (I Thessalonians 4:13-14).

The great American Theologian Jonathan Edwards described it this way:

"Every Christian friend that goes before us from this world, is a ransomed spirit waiting to welcome us in heaven. There will be the infant of days that we have lost below, through grace to be found above; there the Christian father, and mother, and wife, and child, and friend, with whom we shall renew the holy fellowship of the saints.

And then, quoting Hebrews 11:38 he continued

... There we shall have company with the patriarchs and fathers and saints of the Old and New Testaments, and those of whom the world was not worthy, with whom on earth we were only conversant by faith."

There is so much left to learn about this situation. The church is mobilizing. Our Lord Jesus Christ said, "In the world you will have tribulation, but take heart; I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

Grace and peace. I love you. Soli Deo Gloria,

FIRST PRESS - JUNE 2022

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BACK COVER FEATURE

New Covenant Partners! joined us in May

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

SUMMER 2022 MINISTRY GUIDE

Now updated for summer! Check out all of our Sunday school classes, Bible Studies, programs and many more ways to get connected at FPC. We look forward to seeing you this summer at FPC! Visit fpcsanantonio.org/summer2022 to view or download the Summer 2022 Ministry Guide.

GOSPEL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Study the Bible in community with other young adults so that you can grow together in knowing God and His Word. These small groups meet at least twice a month for fellowship, study, and prayer together in homes. Don't miss out on this chance to go deeper in God's Word and in relationships with other believers! Contact Carrie Everson at carrie@fpcsat.org to sign up!

YOUNG ADULT COMMUNITY SUMMER KICK-OFF

Sunday, June 5 | 4:30 – 6:30 PM | Ray Family Farm

Start the summer with fun and fellowship at the Ray Farm! Young adults and young families are invited to come have dinner, games, and great conversation at the farm! Just a short drive from San Antonio. Kids welcome! Sign up to bring a side or drink if you can, or just bring yourself! Contact Carrie Everson at carrie@fpcsat.org to sign up.

PRISON MINISTRY VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Tuesday, June 7 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Room 302

FPC will be hosting Prison Ministry Volunteer Training this June. We are fortunate to have with us Mr. Christopher Carter, Director of Rehabilitation Division, and Mr. Carlton Hazlewood, Deputy Director for Religious Programs of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Please arrive before 8:00 AM so we can start on time. Coffee and pastries will be available. Contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for more information and registration.

FPC MONUMENTAL VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Monday, June 20 - Friday, June 24

Kids participate in memorable Bible-learning activities, sing catchy songs, play teamwork-building games, devour yummy treats, and more. In addition, kids will learn to look for evidence of God all around

them through something called God Sightings. Each day concludes with a Canyon Closing that gets everyone involved in living out what they have learned. Monumental VBS is for kids from 4 years through 5th grade. Registration is open at fpcsanantonio.org/children

NAMI

For family members that have loved ones that are suffering from mental illness, there is help and hope. The National Alliance for Mental Illness helps family members cope with mental illness in the family. You may contact Amy Joyce-Ponder at 210-734-3349 ext.102. Also NAMI is sponsoring classes for families coping with mental illness. These classes will be given at First Presbyterian Church. Amy can also give you information on the classes.

ISRAEL TRIP

In November of 2022, join Bob and Morgan Fuller on a pilgrimage of faith and adventure to Israel. The trip will be led by Dr. Mike Fanning. Those who have traveled with Mike know about his passion and expertise for introducing men and women of faith to the places where God met, challenged, and blessed his people. The group will leave San Antonio on November 7, 2022, and return on November 16, 2022. If you are interested, please check out the Detailed trip and registration information available through MBF Enterprises Inc. (<https://mike-fanning.com/first-pres-nov-7-16>).

PRAYING WITH THE MINISTERS

The Deacons, Elders, and Covenant Partners are encouraged to sign up to pray with the ministers before the Traditional Services. The person is to be in the Robing Room 10 minutes prior to the service (8:50 am and 10:50 am). A short prayer with the Pastors starts when all are present or the Pastor says - go ahead. To sign-up please go to this link for Praying with the Ministers: <https://www.signup-genius.com/go/904084AA5AB22A46-praying>.

PRAYER TRAINING

Join us for a three part Prayer Training! We will be having training from May – November! Prayer Ministry will pay for anyone to take this training from ONE Training. Please call 210-508-5714 or for more information, visit fpcsanantonio.org/prayer

BIG NEWS: SUNDAY SCHEDULE FOR FALL!

Beginning on August 21, 2022, FPC will have a New Worship schedule. After several months of careful study and deliberation, the Session has elected to adopt the following schedule for Fall of 2022:

9:30 a.m.: Traditional Worship and Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m.: Church-wide fellowship in the McCullough Room

11:00 a.m.: Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary and Contemporary Worship in Westminster Hall

There will also be several small groups and Sunday school classes meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings (more information to come). While the temptation may be to see the schedule simply as a return to the pre-Covid schedule, we want to approach this as an opportunity to re-engage and re-energize our congregation. Although the schedule will be familiar, the ministry leadership of the church is exploring ways to build-up and build-out this new schedule with new energy and opportunities for growth and discipleship.

It is important to remember that Sunday is not just a Sabbath, it is the Lord's day. That means that in addition to God's command to honor the Sabbath, as Christians we also recognize Sunday as the day of celebration of Christ's resurrection (not just on Easter, but year-round). Sunday is not simply a day to rest, or to fill our time with our own or family priorities, but to stand together as a witness for Jesus Christ while growing together, serving together and worshipping together. It is a time when we will bring children and adults together in the community of faith to give people a vision of the kingdom of God on Earth.

We will release more information about the fall schedule and offerings throughout the summer. Thank you for your patience and input as the Session discerned the Lord's will for our congregation. We are looking forward to a great summer, and a great fall.

Grace and peace,
Bob Fuller, Senior Pastor
Tripp Stuart, Clerk of Session

LITERATURE CIRCLE READING LIST 2022-2023

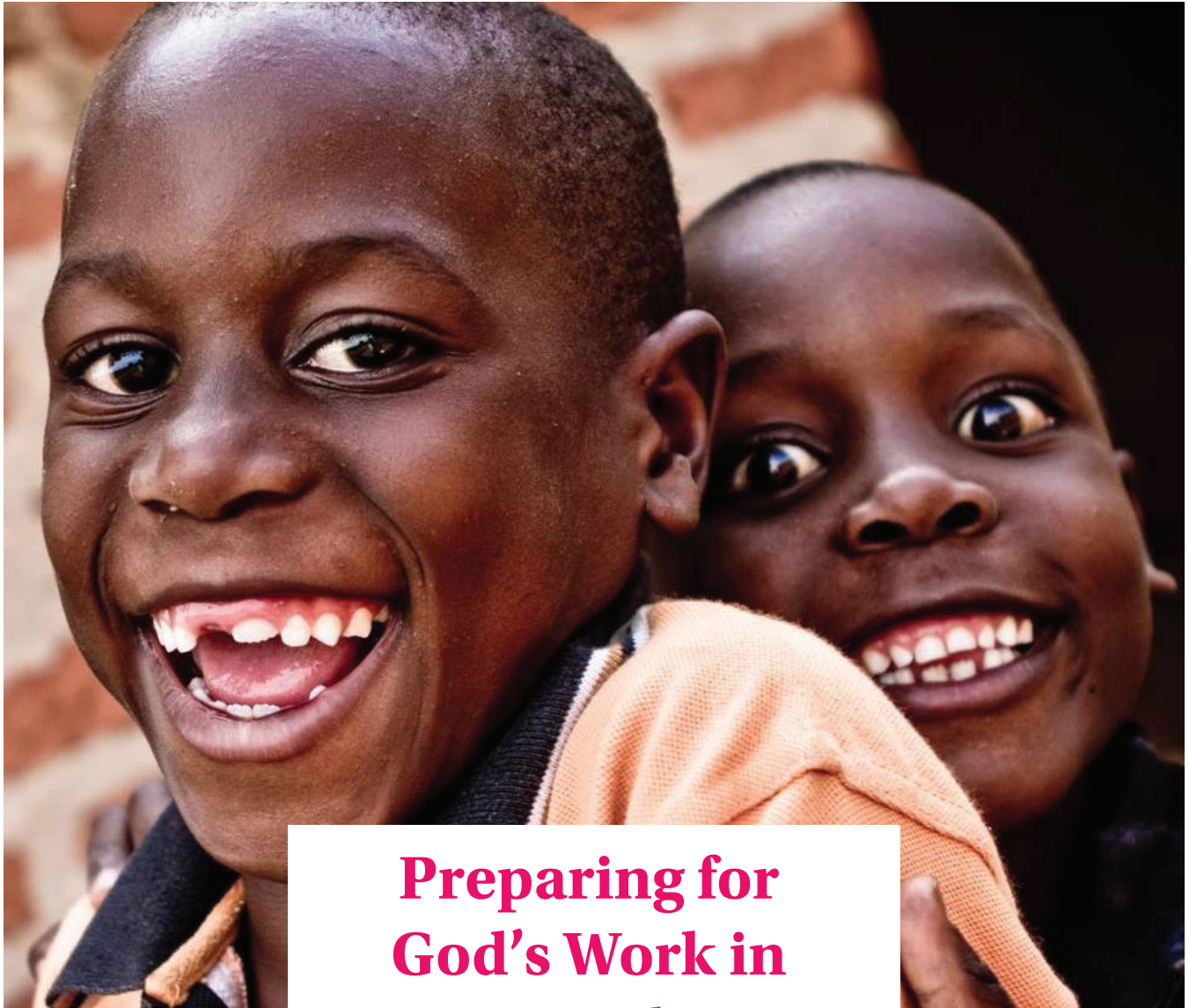
"I love books. I adore everything about them. I love the feel of the pages on my fingertips. They are light enough to carry, yet so heavy with worlds and ideas. I love the sound of the pages flicking against my fingers. Print against fingerprints. Books make people quiet, yet they are so loud."

Author: Nnedi Okorator

Date	Book	Reviewer
September 13	<i>The Resurrection of Fulgencio Ramirez</i> by Rudy Ruiz	Rudy Ruiz
October 11	<i>The President and The Freedom Fighter</i> by Brian Kilmeade	Martha Smith
November 8	TBD	Bill Hensley
December 13	<i>The Leopard is Loose</i> by Stephen Harrigan	Rev. Scott Simpson
January 10	<i>The Captured</i> by Scott Zesch	Janet Wernli
February 14	<i>The Tigers of Bastogne, Voices of the 10th Armored Division in The Battle of The Bulge</i> by Michael Collins and Martin King	Hank Cherry
March 14	<i>The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek</i> by Kim Michele Richardson	Jane Hanson
April 11	<i>The Honey Bus</i> by Meredith May	TBD
May 9	<i>These Precious Days</i> by Ann Patchett	Ann Smith

The circle meets the second Tuesday of each month Sept. through May and welcomes men and women of all faiths. Two copies of each book are available in the church library to be checked out. For more information please visit fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

LOVING THE WORLD



Preparing for God's Work in Uganda

In just a few weeks a team of nine covenant partners are headed to Uganda to meet with FPC's new Global Missions partner, Operation Uganda (OU). Our mission while there? In a word, it's Relationship. Our goals? Listening well, praying much and sharing encouragement (and some books, balls and craft/art supplies!). Building relationships with our new partner is key because we serve a God who created us for relationship with Him and with each other!

While we will visit with other ministries as well, the majority of our time will be spent with Operation Uganda. This amazing ministry is the product of a fire that destroyed Pastors Russell and Jenny Barton's family home in Australia. From that experience, the Barton's sensed God's call to relocate in Uganda. Upon arrival, they saw the extensive toll that war, conflict, and disease, especially AIDS had taken on the country, so the Barton family jumped in serving those who most desperately needed it, orphaned children. Today, they are a well-established ministry serving the Lord through community development as they live out their mission to "Rescue – Empower – Transform" both orphaned and highly vulnerable children and widowed or single, destitute mothers, while creating sustainable community development through worship, education, training and relationship!

We are excited about what God has in store for us, and realize, even now, that God is at work on and in us as much as He will be at work through us in Uganda! We've already clearly seen his hand in the building of our team! Please keep these ministries in your prayers as we prepare to spend time with them - that God will open doors, provide for their needs in his abundantly creative ways and that He will bless our time together. Please also keep our mission team in your prayers for travel safety and health. We look forward to building friendships and learning more about ways we can be a part of God's plan in Uganda!

Ellen Meadows

Covenant Partner



LOVING THE WORLD

God gave us a free car (in this market!)



Christ's body at work & First Presbyterian's part to play

James 1:27 calls us to "religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless... look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world."

From this calling, the FPC Love Initiative was created. The Love Initiative is devoted to loving and serving children and families in our city who are in a wide array of situations: the foster care system, at risk of separation, kinship guardians (like grandparents), and adoptive families.

Many are familiar with our church's care for foster families in our congregation: prayer, meal trains, babysitting, home repairs, and more. We also host events like KinMart that provide fun, free, back-to-school shopping for kin raising children. We love our foster and kinship families!

God has recently called us to expand our outreach to at-risk families in the communities surrounding First Pres. An at-risk family could be a single mother who has escaped from an abusive relationship and needs a crib for her child to sleep in to retain custody. It could be grandparents who have taken in their grandchild despite limited income and mobility. These families' needs are often great and the resources are few.

Thanks to connections from the South Texas Alliance for Orphans (STAFO), First Pres is now part of a network of churches in the city who are working together to serve at-risk families and, more importantly, connect them with the body of Christ to love and serve them as we do foster families.

That's where this story begins.

A request came in from a Child Protective Services (CPS) case worker about a single grandmother raising her young grandchildren. Her fixed, part-time income was enough to cover bills and food, but her car was in need of costly repairs. Since she had taken in her grandchildren, her part-time hours had been cut at work, reducing her income even further.

We responded to the request, offering to help cover the cost of the car repairs so she could safely transport her grandchildren

to and from school and activities. When she brought her car in, we learned that the damage was worse than anticipated – enough that the mechanic recommended finding another vehicle rather than the cost to repair this one. That’s when we were stumped. We didn’t have the budget to buy a whole new car!

Within just 24 hours (which consisted of prayers and a few slightly-panicked phone calls), the Lord connected us with STAFO, which connected us with a member of First Baptist Church just down the street who owns a used car lot. They figured he might be able to find us a deal on a used car. God had a slightly different surprise up his sleeve: a donated, used minivan with only 75,000 miles on it. A new set of tires and a cleaning later, it was ready to use.

We were all speechless. Within a few days, the title was transferred and the van was hers!

The Lord had that very car sitting in that very driveway for just that very moment for his beloved daughter and her grandchildren.

We had the chance to help be His hands and feet, connect with other believers, and build new relationships to further Christ’s kingdom. What an honor and a privilege.

This was just our second response to an at-risk family request after starting this new outreach program. We can’t wait to see what God has in store next!

If you want to be part of this outreach ministry, there are many ways to get involved.

We are in need of advocates for at-risk families: volunteers to build relationships and orchestrate the delivery of items or coordinate services to help families.

We’re in need of supporters: people to donate baby supplies, God-given talents and services, and funding when we meet families with varying needs.

As Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12, we’re all parts of Christ’s body with unique roles to play. Pray that God shows you how He is calling you.

If God is calling you, your family, or your Bible study group to connect with at-risk families through First Pres, please reach out by emailing Molly Schluter at mollymschluter@gmail.com.



High Five!

5th Grade Graduation



The children's ministry will say goodbye to 16 rising middle school students! However before they go, we wanted to honor our 5th grade class, otherwise known as High Five, with a special morning to conclude their 5th grade year! The 5th grade graduation was a special time for these students and their families. Each of them received a certificate of completion along with a devotional to take with them. Additionally during the event, Mrs. Rozlyn Miller, Ministry Director to Children and their Families issued a final challenge to the students about going into middle school with a prepared approach to share the gospel of Jesus with those who will watch them! The High Five teachers, Mrs. Mary Henderson and Mrs. Catherine Miller, were honored with roses and a group thank you for their dedication and love for the students and Jesus. Alex Clary, Ministry Director to Youth and their Families was also on hand to introduce himself to the incoming middle school students and complete the special hour with a tour of the Youth building! These students have made friends for a lifetime in their church community here at FPC. It is the Children's Ministry Team prayer that they find value in Christ and go on to become what the Lord has set them apart to accomplish!

Rozlyn Miller

Ministry Director to Children and their Families

Congratulations Confirmands, 2022!



Joseph Beasley



Nate Bell



Searcy Campbell



Annabelle Charlton



Ben Moore



Sarita Sharpe



Marinell Thompson



Sophia Williams



MONDAY, JUNE 20 – FRIDAY, JUNE 24

REGISTER NOW AT
[FPCSANANTONIO.ORG/CHILDREN](https://fpcsanantonio.org/children)

KIDS PARTICIPATE IN MEMORABLE BIBLE-LEARNING ACTIVITIES. SING CATCHY SONGS. PLAY TEAMWORK-BUILDING GAMES. DEVOUR YUMMY TREATS. AND MORE. IN ADDITION, KIDS WILL LEARN TO LOOK FOR EVIDENCE OF GOD ALL AROUND THEM THROUGH SOMETHING CALLED GOD SIGHTINGS. EACH DAY CONCLUDES WITH A CANYON CLOSING THAT GETS EVERYONE INVOLVED IN LIVING OUT WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED. MONUMENTAL VBS IS FOR KIDS FROM 4 YEARS THROUGH 5TH GRADE COMPLETE.





Stephen Ministry

Find joy and God's presence in the Stephen Ministry Training Class in August!

Do you believe God is in your heart calling you to serve as his hands and feet?

Do you feel care and compassion for your fellow Christians at church?

Stephen Ministry calls you to be a friend to a covenant partner who needs someone to listen. Just listen. Just be a friend to someone in need.

Friends in need have said this about having a Stephen Minister:

"I began to feel God's love again".

"My Stephen Minister did a wonderful job of creating a warm, caring space for me to process my emotions and work through my issues."

"I'M SO GRATEFUL FOR STEPHEN MINISTRY!"

"I quickly realized I could trust my Stephen Minister. I needed someone who could see me objectively. That helped make it easier to share personal parts of my life with him."

"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."

"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."

If you feel a tug at your heart and can offer your hand as a friend, call Jim Carssow to inquire about the Stephen Ministry Training class at 512-423-3424. God Bless!



FPC Hosts National Day of Prayer

Thursday, May 5, was a special day for FPC and our involvement in the National Day of Prayer.

In addition to our Annual Prayer Walk, we were the designated alternate host site in the event of inclement weather.

Clergy and participants from all over the city enjoyed a packed worship event in Westminster Hall that day, which was also attended by the mayor and other dignitaries.

A special thanks to Ginny Porrata, Suzanne Dollar, and the entire FPC staff for coming together to make this happen!





WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

Circle Chairs & Bible Moderators 2022/2023

(Circles meet September through May, except for Circles 18 & 20, who provide service all year)

Circle 1/12	Suzanne Thomas, Chair (210-846-3240) Grace Labatt, Moderator Third Monday, 11:30 am, Geneva Room (with meal)
Circle 5	Kay Weber, Co-Chair (210-288-5290) Mary Fruge-Medford, Co-Chair (210-823-7054) SHAWL MINISTRY Third Wednesday, 1:00 pm, Room 228
Circle 6	Jean Parsons, Chair (210-240-7483) Members of Circle, Moderators Third Tuesday, 1:30 pm, McCullough Room
Circle 7	Mary Ellen Mauze, Chair & Moderator (210-844-5549) Third Tuesday, 11:30 am, in member homes
Circle 8	Nancy Turnbull, Chair (210-606-5420) Members of Circle, Moderators Circle for mothers of young children Fourth Friday, 11:45 am, St. Andrews Room (lunch optional)
Circle 9	Grace Clouse, Co-Chair (734-718-7057) Janice Wilson, Co-Chair (210-492-0333/210-260-4157) Ann Smith, Moderator Third Tuesday, 10:00 am, St. Andrews Room
Circle 11	Jean Swanson, Chair (210-826-0766) Members of Circle, Moderators Fourth Monday, 12:30 pm, in Member Homes (with meal)
Circle 13	Grace Clouse, Chair (734-718-7057) LITERATURE CIRCLE Second Tuesday, 1:00 pm, McCullough Room
Circle 14	Karen Carawan, Chair (210-213-4589) Suzie Simpson, Moderator Third Monday, 12:00 pm, St. Andrews Room (with meal)
Circle 18	Char-An Witten, Chair (210-341-1856) Pat Brodeen, Email Contact (pat@brodeen.com) 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 when needed

"The Lord your God is in your midst- a warrior bringing victory. He will create calm with his love; and rejoice over you with singing."

Zephaniah 3:17

Many of you may not consider the ocean a calming place, but I do. I am at the beach right now and could essentially spend my day just looking and listening to the sea. I have included a beach view of where I am sitting and hope that it invokes to you the peace it brings to me. God's creation is supposed to be one of the ways we encounter Him and discover Him. But the ocean is also enormous and that may be what we see.

As I began my year as president of Women of the Church, I must admit that the enormity of the call was what I saw. As the year progressed God calmed the waves by giving me countless helpers to "row the boat". In planning our meetings, luncheons and projects there was always a person or group who accomplished what I could never have done alone. We enjoyed fellowship at dinners, entertained at nursing homes, visited our mission partners and served and prayed for each other and First Presbyterian. With each activity and challenge I was more than strengthened by my president elect, Linda Delano. She is going to be a wonderful president and we will be blessed with her leadership. As my year comes to a close, I am grateful to many but especially the staff at FPC who seriously "kept my boat afloat". I pray that God will bring peace and calm to you this summer and God bless your travels with safety and joy.

In Christ Alone,

Janet Wernli

President
Women of the Church



A Prison Missionary

BEYOND THE COMFORT ZONE

JESUS SAID TO THEM, "THOSE WHO ARE WELL HAVE NO NEED OF A PHYSICIAN, BUT THOSE WHO ARE SICK," - MARK 2:17



When people think of Sandy Sturch, they think of an instructor who taught the Adult Bible Class with excellence. They think of an elegant lady with perfectly coiffed hair wearing a Saint John dress. They probably don't think of a woman who's spent a decade in jail.

In the early 1980s, while reading her Bible, Sandy was struck by the words in Matthew 25:36-46, particularly the emphasis on those who are incarcerated, "I was in prison and you came to me," (Matthew 25:36b ESV). Sandy was thinking about that verse, and aware that FPC did not have an outreach to prisoners, as she walked by a room where the Local Mission Committee was meeting. They invited her in and when the discussion turned to prison ministry, the committee asked Sandy to go to the San Antonio jail and see how First Presbyterian

Church could help those in the prison system.

During her first visit, after waiting nearly three hours, Sandy was unable to meet with the chaplain. Returning the next day, she met Sister Margaret Carrew who welcomed the church's involvement with the inmates. Despite only being there to gather information, Sandy agreed to start a weekly Bible study that she continued for ten years.

Each week, inmates gathered in a large cell where Sandy taught, prayed for them, and reminded each one that Jesus loved her. Many of the women she met had effectively been discarded by society. They knew they needed a Savior. The message of Christ's love and forgiveness fell like water on their parched souls and many lives were changed.



Sandy developed relationships with many prisoners, one of whom was released but had no place to stay while she waited for her father to drive to San Antonio to pick her up. Sandy invited the woman to her home for those four days.

Looking back, Sandy laughed. "I woke in the middle of the night and thought, 'What am I doing?' I've got a drug dealer sharing a room with my daughter."

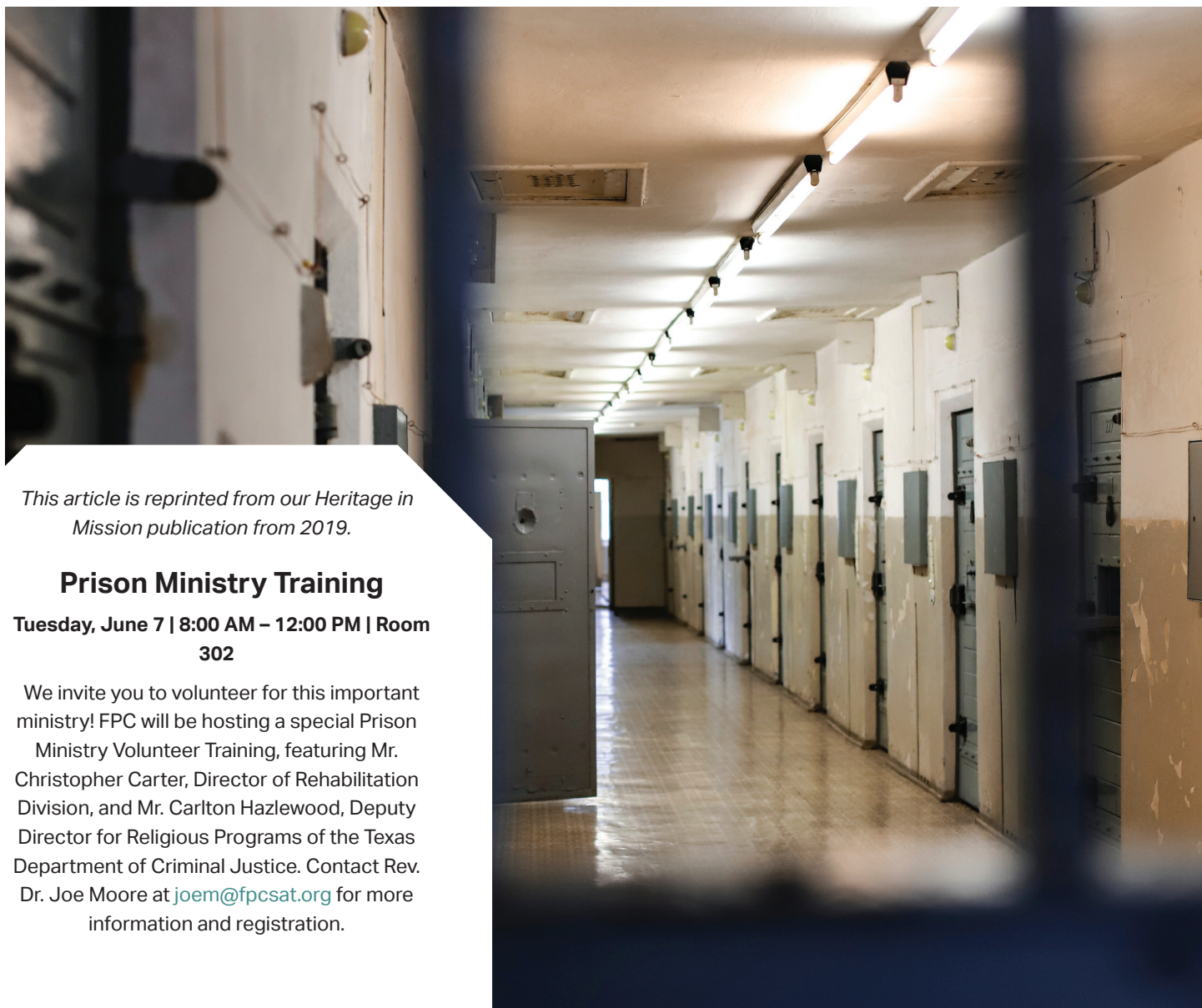
Sandy never felt fearful when she heard the doors lock behind her during her weekly time inside the jail. Finding herself in a conversation where she didn't know how to respond, she was amazed at the words God gave in the moment to share. She saw grace soften hearts and the good news of Christ change lives.

When Sandy had to be away for three weeks, she coaxed Anne

Smith into covering for her at the jail. Sandy laughingly referred to Anne as "Miss Charity Ball" as she recalled how out of her comfort zone prison ministry would be for Anne. When Sandy returned from her travels, she told Anne she was ready to go back to teaching the Bible studies at the jail.

Anne replied, "You're not getting your class back." Anne carried on with the jail ministry for the next ten years.

Is God calling you to serve in a ministry outside your comfort zone? Would you be willing to follow him if he did? Is there a need that could be filled? Is there a baton you can take from another so you may bring fresh vision to a ministry that needs to continue?



This article is reprinted from our Heritage in Mission publication from 2019.

Prison Ministry Training

Tuesday, June 7 | 8:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Room 302

We invite you to volunteer for this important ministry! FPC will be hosting a special Prison Ministry Volunteer Training, featuring Mr. Christopher Carter, Director of Rehabilitation Division, and Mr. Carlton Hazlewood, Deputy Director for Religious Programs of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Contact Rev. Dr. Joe Moore at joem@fpcsat.org for more information and registration.



KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

We have had a great year in spite of the challenges of Covid!! We began in September with the Cox Family Singers. In October we enjoyed a great turn out for our picnic at Gallagher Ranch and we heard from Alex Solorio in November. Miles Pike was with us in person for a Christmas Celebration. We learned about what is new at the San Antonio Zoo from CEO Tim Morrow. Rick Cavender returned in February and we enjoyed a Birthday Lunch at the Menger Hotel. Nancy Gerfers awakened our creativity and King Antonio set the stage for Fiesta. Our May Birthday Lunch was a continuation of our connection with Tim Morrow and the San Antonio Zoo. Although the dog days of summer came early this year 20 die hard KEYS folks enjoyed our first exploratory trip to the Zoo. Memorial Day with members from the Air Force Band of the West closed out our regular KEYS activities for this year.

June begins our summer schedule with Birthday Lunches, Mahjong Playing, and special activities. Details will follow.

Your KEYS Leadership and Planning Committee Members are Joe Moore. Jim and Grace Clouse, Suzanne West, Stanley and Mary Medford, Gary and Dari Ann Hoffman, Gary Rine, Nona Hall, Candy Wagner and our newest member Ellen Frazier. Please let us know your ideas for future events and thank them for the great year that we have had.

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and Congregational Care

**June, July, and August, we will only meet on the 3rd Friday to celebrate Birthdays.
If you have a suggestion for a restaurant please connect with Joe Moore.**







FIRST CUP READINGS

JUNE, 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

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| 1 | Luke 11:29-32; Jonah 1; Psalm 89:9; 107:29 | 18 | Exodus 20:1-21; Deuteronomy 12-13; Jeremiah 13 |
| 2 | Jonah 2; Jeremiah 10:1-16; Psalm 88 | 19 | Jeremiah 14; 17:1-10; Deuteronomy 28:15-24; Ezekiel 34:20-31 |
| 3 | Jonah 3; Jeremiah 18:1-11; Isaiah 29:16; Romans 9:19-26 | 20 | Jeremiah 16:10-21; 1 Kings 9:6-9; Psalm 106:40-45; Psalm 107 |
| 4 | Jonah 4; Joel 2:12-14; Psalm 72 | | Before the Lord we bow, the God who reigns above, And rules the world below, boundless in power and love. Our thanks we bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to heaven's high king. Earth, hear thy Maker's voice, thy great Redeemer own. Believe, obey, rejoice, and worship Him alone. Cast down thy pride, thy sin deplore, and bow before the Crucified. (Lutheran Worship, No. 500) |
| 5 | Jeremiah 1:1-10; 5:14; Exodus 4:10-12; Isaiah 51:12-16; Mark 10:17-20; John 12:47-50 | 21 | Jeremiah 17:19-27; Exodus 20:2-17; Isaiah 56; Matthew 12:1-14; Hebrews 4:1-13 |
| 6 | Jeremiah 1:11-19; Micah 4:1-7; Romans 2:5-16; John 4:27-42; Matthew 9:35-38 | 22 | Jeremiah 18:1-11; Isaiah 29:13-16; 64:8-12; Romans 9:14-21 |
| | If my people's hearts are humbled, if they pray and seek my face; if they turn away from evil, I will not withhold my grace. I will hear their prayers from heaven; I will pardon every sin. If my people's hearts are humbled, I will surely heal their land. Then my eyes will see their sorrow, then my ears will hear their plea. If my people's hearts are humbled, I will set their nation free. (Australian Hymn, No. 278) | 23 | Jeremiah 22:13-23; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Zechariah 9:9-17; Matthew 7:15-25 |
| 7 | Jeremiah 2:1-13; 2 Kings 17:1-23; Isaiah 44:6-23; Romans 1:18-22; Psalm 51:1-17 | 24 | Jeremiah 23:1-8; Isaiah 53:1-7; Acts 7:51-53; Psalm 43 |
| 8 | Jeremiah 3:6-25; Psalm 16; Colossians 1:9-23; Romans 1:28-2:16; 1 Peter 1:3-9 | 25 | Jeremiah 23:9-15; Micah 2:6-11; Ezekiel 13; 1 John 4:1-6; 2 Peter 2:1-3 |
| 9 | Jeremiah 4; Amos 5; Malachi 4:1-6 | 26 | Jeremiah 23:16-40; 2 Timothy 4:1-5; 2 Peter 2; James 3:1 |
| 10 | Genesis 6:1-8; Genesis 18:16-33; Jeremiah 5:1-19; 1 Peter 3:8-22 | 27 | Jeremiah 24; Romans 9; James 2:14-26 |
| 11 | Jeremiah 5:20-31; Isaiah 59:1-15; Ecclesiastes 7:27-29; Psalm 94; Hebrews 10:26-31 | | Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Thou art the Potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me After Thy will, While I am waiting, Yielded and still. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own way! Search me and try me, Master, today. Whiter than snow, Lord, Wash me just now, As in Thy presence Humbly I bow. Have Thine own way, Lord! Have Thine own Way! Fill with Thy Spirit Till all shall see Christ only, always Living in me! (The Hymnbook, No. 302) |
| 12 | Jeremiah 6; Deuteronomy 32:1-47; Isaiah 42:18-25; 2 Timothy 4:1-5 | 28 | Jeremiah 25:1-14; Psalm 28; 94 |
| 13 | 1 Kings 9:1-9; Jeremiah 7:1-20; Ezekiel 18:29-32; Romans 7:1-8:4 | 29 | Jeremiah 25:15-38; Psalm 44; 71 |
| | O God, our Help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our Shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal Home: Under the shadow of Thy throne, still may we dwell secure; Sufficient is Thine arm alone and our defense is sure. Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received her frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same. O God, our Help in ages past, our hope for years to come, Be Thou our Guide while life shall last, And our eternal Home. (Worship in Song, No. 14) | 30 | Jeremiah 29:1-14; Romans 10 |
| 14 | Jeremiah 7:21-8:3; 2 Kings 21:1-15; 2 Kings 23:1-25; 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 | | |
| 15 | Jeremiah 8:4-9:6; Isaiah 1:1-20; Matthew 21:18-22; Mark 11:12-17; Matthew 7:15-20 | | |
| 16 | Jeremiah 10:1-16; Isaiah 40:21-31; John 1:1-14; Colossians 1:15-23 | | |
| 17 | Deuteronomy 29-30; Jeremiah 11:1-17 | | |

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

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404 N. Alamo Street

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