



FIRST PRESS

May 2022

Check out our
Upcoming Events!
(See pages 4-5)

Highlights of Easter 2022

*Holy Week for FPC Kids!
(see page 11)*

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

Josiah Venture brings
refuge and hope amidst
crisis in Europe
(see page 6)

The importance of
memorial receptions
(see page 16)

Pastor's Article



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

LOVING CHRIST. LOVING ONE ANOTHER. LOVING THE CITY.

Be Strong And Courageous!

Rev. Dr. Bob Fuller
Senior Pastor

During May and June, our attention turns to an important rite of passage: graduation. And in our family, we have two graduations coming up in May. First, my daughter El will be graduating from the University of Oklahoma. And my son, Bo, will be graduating from LEE High School and getting ready to head off to Austin to the University of Texas.

To all those who are graduating from high school, college, graduate school and even military training, I want to say "congratulations!" But, there is more that I would like to say as well.

In the book of Joshua, chapter 1, verse 6, God said to Joshua: ⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

When Joshua became the leader of Israel, the Lord told Joshua to be "strong and courageous." In fact, God told him twice. The first time, God was telling Joshua to be strong in the face of Israel's external enemies.

⁵ No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. (Joshua 1:5)

This was going to be a tough battle. Joshua and the people would be in real danger from real enemies in an actual war, and he was challenging Joshua to trust in the Lord and lean on Him for his very life and physical well-being.

But then, God said it again—this time with a different message in mind.

⁷ Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

This second encouragement has to do with the internal challenges the people of Israel would face.

As the people entered the land, they would be tempted to all kinds of moral sin—from

idolatry to fornication, and from human-sacrifice to blasphemy. God knew that His people would be tempted (and all too willing) to fall into the same sins practiced by the Canaanites they had defeated.

Why did the Lord warn and encourage Joshua twice to be strong and very courageous? He said it twice because the Lord wanted Joshua and his people to have both moral courage and physical courage.

There are two types of challenges we face: threats from external forces and temptations to stray from the highest and best will of God. One of the things we all learn at some point is that many challenges are just too big to handle on our own. Whether it happens in a classroom situation, in a social media context, or at a late night party, you are going to be tempted like you have never been tempted before. You are going to have to make decisions that will affect the rest of your life.

You are going to be under unexpected peer pressure, academic pressure, intellectual pressure, moral pressure, and financial pressure. People are going to have expectations for your work and for your life that you will never be able to meet. You are going to be challenged intellectually and philosophically and will be tempted to reject everything you have ever thought or believed.

You are going find yourself in moral, relationship and sexual situations with real life consequences. You will be forced to make choices that will affect the rest of your life.

These are not just adult problems—these are human problems. What are you going to do?

When you find yourself in those situations, FIRST, remember that you are not alone. God told Joshua,

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

These problems are way too big to handle on our own. We need help.

SECOND, find people who will walk beside you. Part of college is learning to live on your

own. But the devil would have you believe that growing up means isolating yourself and turning away from the people who love you. Sometimes the most courageous thing you can do is ask for help.

THIRD, don't forget to pack your Bible! In his own season of temptation, Jesus turned to God's word as the source of his strength. Quoting Deuteronomy 8:3, when he was tempted Jesus said, "man does not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God."

FINALLY, don't isolate yourself from the one who gave his life for you. It's not just about what you take to college. It's about whom you take to college. When you think that you have to do it alone, and that you can't call for help, the Word of God is written—right there in black and white—to remind you that the God of the word knows everything about you and loves you more than you can ever know.

Graduation is not the time to try to prove that you don't need anyone. It's a time to learn wisdom, to depend on God, and to ask for help. The Apostle Paul wrote that there is nothing that can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.^[1] That is Paul's way of reminding us that Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

Congratulations. Your Church family loves you!

Be Strong and Courageous!... Only, be strong and very courageous!"

Grace and peace,

Pastor Bob Fuller

[1] The Holy Bible: English Standard Version, 2016 (Ro 8:35-39). Wheaton: Standard Bible Society.

CONTENTS

SAVE THE DATE

4-5 Spring 2022 Ministry Guide, Literature Circle, Israel Trip, Prayer Training, May Coffee, Youth Missions Week, Virtual Prayer Room, National Day Of Prayer Walk, 5th Grade Graduation, Parent's Night Out, 7-11 Youth Event, Praying With The Ministers

MINISTRY ARTICLES

6-7 Josiah Venture Update

8-9 CAM Provides Vital, Diverse Partnership With KRL

10 Parenting Enrichment Seminar

11 Children's Ministry during Holy Week

12 VBS has monumental plans in June!

13-15 Easter Lily List 2022

16-17 The Importance of Memorial Receptions

18-19 WOC

20-21 KEYS

FIRST CUP

22-23 Readings and Prayer List

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

SPRING 2022 MINISTRY GUIDE

Now updated for spring! 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 winter at FPC! Visit fpcsanantonio.org/spring2022 to view or download the Spring 2022 Ministry Guide.

LITERATURE CIRCLE

Tuesday, May 10 | 1:00 PM | McCullough Room or online

The FPC Literature Circle's final book review before our summer recess is, *THE EXILES*, by author Christina Baker Kline which will be reviewed by member, Ann Smith. This is a historical novel taking place in 19th century Australia. The British means of colonizing Australia was by convicting women with small infractions in England and sending them to a penal colony in Australia along with Aborigines moved off their own local land. The book explores the issues of social identity, fate & survival during this time in history when women were considered, "less than."

Join us Tuesday, May 10, at 1 PM for a social & 1:30 PM for the review in the McCullough Room or view at fpcsanantonio.org/lit-circle

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://mikefanning.com/first-pres-nov-7-16>).

MAY COFFEE

Wednesday, May 4 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM | 325 Terrell Rd.

Please join the Women of the Church at the home of Linda Whitacre, as we give Char An Witten special recognition for her extraordinary, loving and ongoing

service to FPC, hosting memorial receptions for more than 30 years. The event will benefit Presbyterian Children's Homes and Services.

YOUTH MISSIONS WEEK

Sunday, June 5 - 10, 2022 | Blueprint Ministries

Come join us the week of June 5th to serve with our local missions partner Blueprint Ministries! All 6th through 12th grade students are invited to come help those in need in our local community. Activities include home repair, painting, landscaping, and more! The cost will be \$300 with scholarships available. For more information contact Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org, or Kerri Napoli at kerrin@fpcsat.org.

VIRTUAL PRAYER ROOM

Wednesday, May 4 | 11:00 AM | Online

On Wednesday, May 4, we will have our very own FPC Virtual Prayer Room. Fill in the registration form below to receive the ZOOM meeting link & phone number you can call to receive and offer prayer. Please don't hesitate to ask for prayer. Prayer is effective, not because of the great men & women who pray well, but because of a great God who in Christ graciously hears his people. For more info: <https://fpcsanantonio.org/virtual-prayer-room/>

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WALK

Thursday, May 5 | 10:00 AM | FPC Parking Lot

Celebrate the The National Day Of Prayer at the Prayer Walk, Thursday, May 5th starting at 10:00 AM.

We will be walking from FPC to Main Plaza. Shuttles available for the walking impaired.

5TH GRADE GRADUATION

Sunday, May 15 | 9:45 AM - 10:45 AM | Assembly Room

It's time to celebrate our graduating 5th grade students! All 5th graders along with their families are invited to a special morning dedicated to our 5th graders. Graduates will receive a devotional, Certificate of Graduation, and a personal tour of the Youth Center as we look ahead to life in the Youth Group!! Refreshments will be served.

Contact Rozlyn Miller at rozlynm@fpcsat.org

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT

Friday, May 20 | 5:00 PM- 7:00 PM (drop-off starting at 4:45 pm) | Assembly Room

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

7-11 YOUTH EVENT

Friday, May 20 | 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. Contact Alex Clary at alexc@fpcsat.org or Kerri Napoli at kerrin@fpcsat.org

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 Robbing 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.signupgenius.com/go/904084AA5A-B22A46-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



PRAYER WALK

THURSDAY, MAY 5

10:00 AM FROM FPC TO MAIN PLAZA



FPC VBS 2022

MONUMENTAL

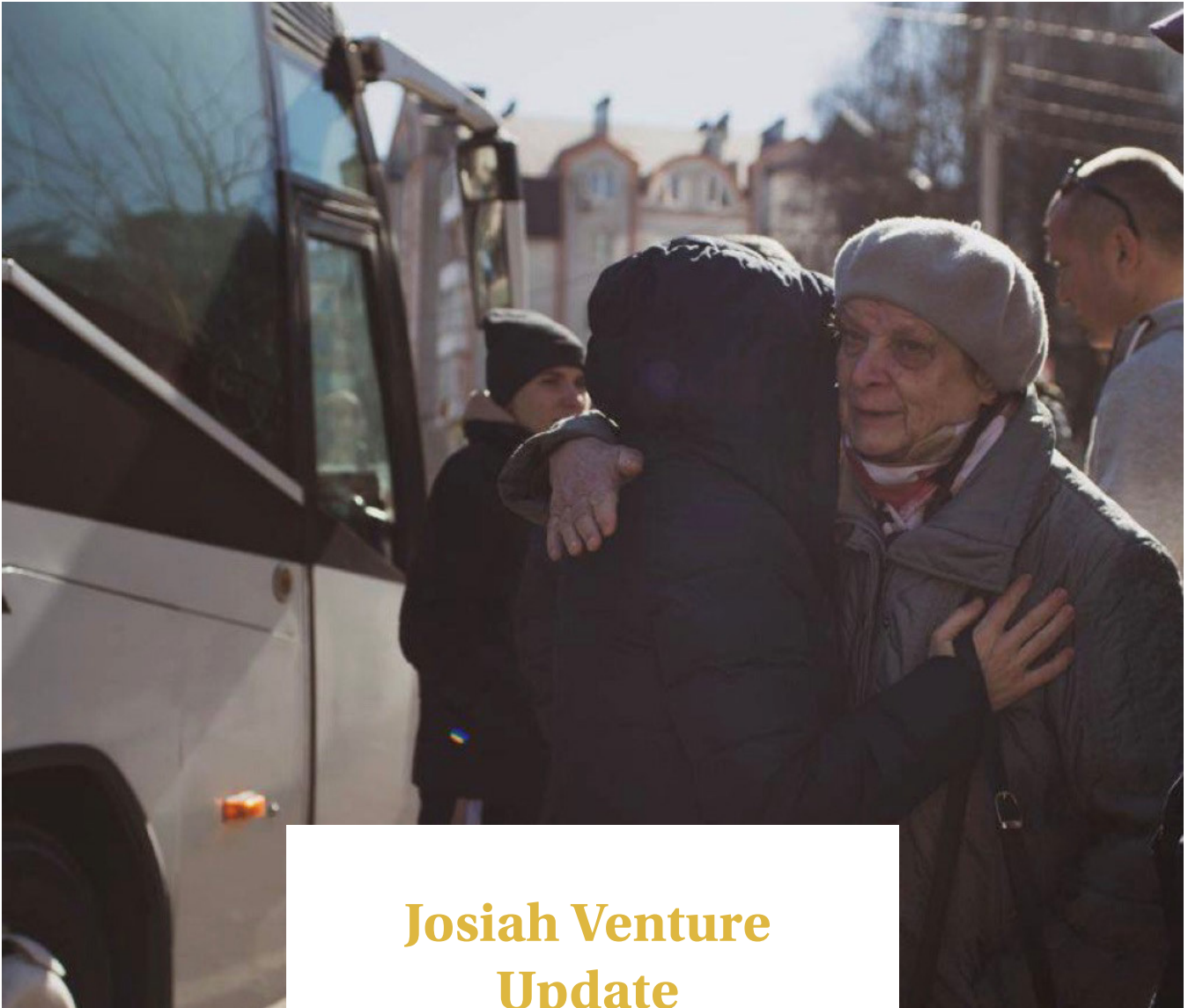
CELEBRATING GOD'S GREATNESS

MONDAY, JUNE 20 – FRIDAY, JUNE 24

SEE MORE DETAILS
ON PAGE 12!



LOVING THE WORLD



Josiah Venture Update

"The Lord is my light and my salvation—so why should I be afraid? The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger, so why should I tremble?"

When evil people come to devour me, when my enemies and foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

Though a mighty army surrounds me, my heart will not be afraid. Even if I am attacked, I will remain confident."

Those words, written by David, come from Psalm 27:1-3, and were recently shared by Paul and Molli Williams, Global Mission Partners in the Czech Republic. They noted that the words of the Psalms resound quite differently in the present day realities of the Ukrainian people; words of lament,

courage, and hope in the midst of a very real war.

In their most recent update, Paul and Molli reported that "about 4 million Ukrainians have poured over the borders of Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. All of these countries, including Ukraine, are where Josiah Venture (JV) has missionaries and local church networks. While there are still several missionaries from the JV team still in Ukraine, teams all over the region have been activated to care for those who are fleeing.

Josiah Venture is not a humanitarian and relief organization, but the Lord has uniquely placed them to be able to respond in several ways. Due to the teams and church networks, who have been building relationships in these countries for many

years, teams knew almost instantly how to begin helping from the start of the war. Teams were able to transform two training facilities into "Refugee Hubs" where they have helped over 1,800 Ukrainians move into other locations in Europe. They also reported that they have sent about 55 passenger busses and 120 metric tons of food (almost 300,000 meals) and medical aid into the western part of Ukraine. As the busses are unloaded at their church hubs by Josiah Venture missionaries who remain in the country, they are loaded back up with up to 55 refugees. These refugees are brought to the Josiah Venture hubs to receive a couple of days of rest, care, and to hear the gospel message of hope in Jesus.

Josiah Venture has developed and printed over 65,000 copies of a book called "22 Days of Encouragement," to share daily messages of hope through the Psalms and the gospel message. They were written and printed in Ukrainian, and copies are also available in English. These resources are being shared with each person the Josiah Venture team is able to connect with.

There is much heartache and pain the stories of those the Josiah Venture team is able to help, but there are also glimpses

of hope as new lives are encountering and clinging to the gospel, by the grace of God and the faithfulness of these missionary teams. Paul, Molli, and their daughter Mae are serving in the Czech Republic by caring for Josiah Venture missionary families as well as the humanitarian aid efforts through Josiah Venture.

Paul Williams noted that at the end of Psalm 27, David writes,

"Yet I am confident I will see the Lord's goodness while I am here in the land of the living. Wait patiently for the Lord. Be brave and courageous. Yes, wait patiently for the Lord."

Please pray that the Williams Family would be brave, courageous and wait patiently for the Lord, being confident that they will see the Lord's goodness at this time. Additionally, please pray with them that the war would end, and for the endurance and protection of the Josiah Venture missionaries and the Williams Family.

For more information or to connect with the Williams Family, please contact Don Ryan or Danielle Couch.



LOVING THE CITY

CAM Provides Vital, Diverse Partnership With KRL



In 1 Corinthians 12:12, Paul likens each member of God's family, the Church, to the body; each member having its own unique gifts and purpose for God's glory. First Presbyterian Church has been blessed with ministry partnerships that highlight how the body of Christ can truly work together as collaborators for restoration, renewal, and ultimately for God's glory. As ministry partnerships have grown in the Kingdom Restoration Lab (KRL) at FPC, we have seen the fruit of collaboration. Dawn White-Fosdick, the President/CEO of CAM, shared the following story about what collaboration looks like between CAM and the KRL in the important area of ID Recovery for our neighbors.

In many ways CAM is the emergency room and the SA Hope Center within KRL is like a specialist or a clinic that provides individual long-term intervention or care for people struggling with emergencies, poverty, and/or homelessness. CAM and the KRL do often serve the same clients at different points in their journey. Some may come to CAM first or others may call and right away we think they could benefit from the specialized intensive care KRL can provide.

Those we serve often have an array of obstacles preventing them from resolving systemic issues. CAM may be providing daily food, clothing, or a free place to receive mail while KRL is helping them with a job search or getting an ID in order to get a job. One of the really important ways that we serve clients together is through something we call ID recovery. If someone has lost an ID, let it expire too long ago, or had it stolen, the need to get it back is vital for a job, housing or even shelter. For someone who has lost everything, the process can take months. While CAM does help people like this, we can't help everyone in a timely fashion. It is simply a capacity issue.

When COVID hit, it became even harder as CAM couldn't bring a lot of people inside at the same time. Often helping someone reclaim this vital ID can take an hour to talk through and then longer to get each piece (months). Although the cost of the ID is not much, the actual time to help someone get each item can be lengthy. Often, people needed someone to speak with immediately and we couldn't always provide the help as quickly as they needed it. This is one way in which we started overtly partnering with KRL; not just through referrals, but also with the development of a financial system to help make this process easy for the clients and the KRL to help. CAM is able to make sure they have the financial resources so that they can do the leg work.

Through this kind of collaboration, nobody has to wait on a long appointment list for the help they need. It has resolved a staff, room, and volunteer capacity issue for CAM and it provided a process for KRL to have the checks needed to meet client needs immediately. It means clients can get the help they need to get into a shelter, sign up for housing, or get a job.

One such perfect example would be Peter. Peter requested help in February, 2021, needing ID Recovery. At one point in his life, he was a successful business owner but walked away from this life. Peter realized that many of the services that are provided are not able to be accessed without identification. After 6 months of work, the SA Hope Team in the KRL were able to obtain all of the needed documents, and with the help of CAM, pay for his ID. Within a month of obtaining his ID, Peter got a job with Centro. After obtaining the job, Peter was able to stay at the Salvation Army Men's Shelter and took advantage of their work program. As a result of the collaborative work of the KRL and CAM, Peter is now back at work and living in his own apartment!



cam
christian
assistance
ministry



**KINGDOM
RESTORATION
COLLABORATIVE**

Parenting Enrichment Seminar



After months of planning, praying and meeting with various church members and members of the greater San Antonio Christian community, the very first Mary's Children event was a hit! On March 25 and 26, FPC welcomed Dr. Chap Clark to speak to parents as he led them through 4 sessions on guiding parents discover the purpose and identity of their own children and grandchildren. Additionally FPC had the pleasure to welcome a panel of experts to give their best guidance on hot topics submitted by parents of the Youth and Children's committee. This wonderful, enriching weekend was led by Pastor Becky Prichard, members of the Christian Education team, and many wonderful volunteer parents who gave of their time to serve as parking lot greeters, door greeters, registration and various roles throughout the two day seminar. Much positive feedback from this weekend has been reported from parents and others who attended, about the impact it has made in the big and small ways within their families! I would like to offer a special thanks to Dr. George Gates and his family for all of their effort and background in making Mary's love for God known to live on! Way to go FPC, this is just the first of many Mary's Children's events to come!

Rozlyn Miller

Ministry Director to Children and their Families

Children's Ministry during Holy Week

During Holy Week the Children's Ministry had a power packed celebration! It was kicked off by FPC kids marching through both of the 11:00 services on Palm Sunday! The children delighted the congregation with their proclamation of Hosanna as they waved palm branches! Throughout the week children were encouraged to engage the Savior with a Holy Week small book gifted to the children's ministry by Pastor Mitchell Moore (thanks Pastor, what a blessing these were)! On Saturday the children with their parents and many volunteers gathered in Westminster for the annual Easter Program! The children were treated to a skit starring two of our own FPC kids and Mr. Bob Esquenazi, who delivered a great message of going into the world to tell others about the risen Christ! The morning was topped off by a giant egg hunt around the property, and children were able to enjoy fun toys and candy to celebrate the weekend. Sunday morning was the final highlight as William and Catherine Grace Kridel inspired the theme of this year's Easter flower cross! Many church members and visitors were overjoyed to take part in this tradition and the beautiful cross of fragrant living flowers remind us that our Savior has risen indeed!

Rozlyn Miller

Ministry Director to Children and their Families





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.





Easter Lilies 2022

*Remembering & Honoring
those we love*





Easter Lilies

2022



Given by: In Memory of:

Vince and Jenny Andermatt	Alvin and Victoria Koehler
Janet, Greg, Elizabeth and William Anderson	Dr. James E. Bauerle Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Anderson Our Grandparents Virginia Munroe Raymond Figueroa
Shelley and John Bass and their children	Our fathers, parents and grandparents
His family	Don Beeler
Beth and Louis Benke	John E. Pickard
Grandsons, John and Zach Benke	The life of John E. Pickard
Debby and J.D. Bowen	Dr. and Mrs. Richard G. Ryan
Laura Brusenhan	Harry Brusenhan Estella and Charles Moore
Ann and Chuck Bunn	Mary and Charles Bunn Ralph Lehr
Mrs. George V. Burkholder	Dr. George V. Burkholder Dr. and Mrs. Theodore M. Burkholder Mr. and Mrs. Richard B. Schneider Mrs. Margaret Wetzel
Laura Davis	Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Davis, Jr.
Susan and Dirk DeKoch	Rev. John McCullough
Jeanne Douglas	Gary Douglas
Debby Elson Neighbarger	Mom, Dad and Dean II Elson Family
Ellen E. Frazier	My Husband Donald My parents

Given by: In Memory of:

Joella Gordon	John R. Gordon
Lilly and Alan Gretzinger	Ralph Lehr
Mimi Hart	T. Maxey Hart, Jr.
The Hornberger Family	Robert Matias Hornberger
Lauren and Thomas Klender	Our departed loved ones
Patricia and Richard McCleary	Our Loving Parents
Diana Morehouse	Loved ones
Dolores Perrine	Robert Perrine
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Peterson	Mr. and Mrs. Stanley L. Hines, parents Warner M. Hines, brother
Phyllis Pickard and Family	John E. Pickard
His loving family	Brad Pigeon
Linda and Mark Rittenhouse	Dr. and Mrs. Norman H. Jacob, Jr.
Nancy Puckett	Glenn Puckett Vi Sparks
Sharon and Stuart Seal	Mary Anne and Bob Seal Anne Armstrong Lewis Kellam
Gail and Bruce Smith	Mike McCann Isabel and George Smith Flo Pinson Patsy Hutchison



Easter Lilies

2022



Given by: In Memory of:

Marie and Paul Smith	Anne and Paul Smith
Suzanne and John Thomas	Thomas Burns Elaine and R.C. Thomas
Kathy Timberlake	Patricia and Martin Allday
Jane, Robert and Liam Warren	Spence Warren Bryan Warren
Carol and David West	Margarite and W.G. West
Amanda and Jim Williams	Janie and Jack Williams II
Nancy and Dean Williams	Our parents: Alyce and Dennis Burkholder Charlotte and Blake Williams
Neil Williams	My mother, Helen Williams
Willie Willming and Family	Ed Willming
Mrs. Jess Womack II	Mr. and Mrs. Clark Munroe

Given by: In Honor of:

Jenny and Vince Andermatt	Will, Jessica and Violet Jette The Koehler K. Andermatt Family
Janet and Greg Anderson	Elizabeth and William Anderson
Janet, Greg, Elizabeth and William Anderson	Sheila Figueroa
Circle 1/12	Grace Labatt, with love and gratitude
Ann and Chuck Bunn	Lillian Ann Lehr Our Sunday School Class
Susan and Dirk DeKoch	Our children and grandchildren
Myna Gathers	Texas Chihuahua Rescue League and their compassionate care
Joella Gordon and Giselle	Linda and Richard Delano
Mimi Hart	My grandchildren
Paula and Clyde Johnson III	Our children and grandchildren
Elizabeth Kreager	Ann Bunn
June and Rebecca	Kathy Pearce Pam and Roddy Clack
Joyce and Jess Mayfield	Our loving family
Sharon and Stuart Seal	Virginia and Michael Myers
Sidney and Kaye Wilkins	Our ministers and staff



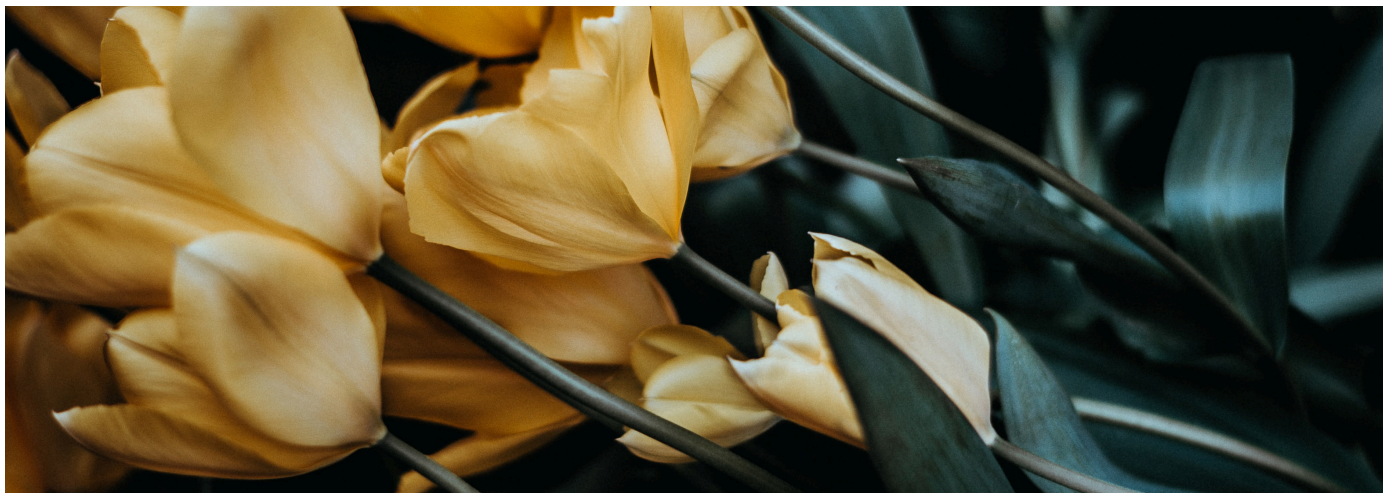
The Importance of Memorial Receptions

By Char An Witten

The church plays an important role in the circle of life. The celebrations of weddings, holidays, births and baptisms are all significant events in our lives. The fellowship and friendship of belonging to the church are invaluable as well. What is not often considered are funerals. Funerals are an important part of our lives even though they only occur once. The funeral of a loved one can be one of the most difficult and challenging times we must face. We are emotionally fragile as we deal with the present, the past memories, and the future without the deceased in it. Let us consider for a moment the important role the church plays.

We need to hear the reassurance that our beloved is in a better place. That their life was well lived, and their memory will go on in our hearts and minds; gone but never forgotten. The emptiness will one day lessen, and the grief will fade. The service serves this purpose as well.

The reception afterwards plays an equally important role in the closure of coming to grips with the end of life. The gathering of people is an amazing phenomenon. Talking to others who have shared in the loss, no matter how unequal, brings comfort to those left behind. Connecting with those who knew the deceased, sharing fond memories, funny stories and outrageous tales helps us all feel comforted with a common bond. Gathering promotes the closure of the finality of what has happened.



This is especially important for those who are suffering the most.

Food plays a critical role in this comforting process. The sharing of food and beverage is practiced at all major events of our lives and its role is equally important at this time. We may never give any thought to the effort, organization and work that goes into serving food for a reception of this kind.

One of the first steps for a successful event is to determine the number of people who will attend. Having plenty is important; having too much is wasteful. Calculating how many people may attend a funeral on any given day sounds like any impossible task; but there is a formula that can be followed with surprisingly accurate results.

One thing to consider is the person's age. Have they outlived many of their friends, or is this a younger person whose life has ended too soon? The size of the immediate family must be factored in. Are there many children and grandchildren? How many siblings are there?

The time of the funeral impacts what kinds of food and how much will possibly be consumed. The middle of the day will see more people eating than later or earlier. Calculating the number of attendees, preparing the right kinds of food for the guests, serving in an organized manner and presentation, are all critical to the success of a reception during this difficult time. Emotions run high and people are fragile. A flawlessly run reception is expected. The complicated effort that goes into this event is taken for granted.

The next time you attend a funeral reception you will now have some insight into the special care that is required for this specific gathering. The important role the church plays in this final, distressing life event is extremely valuable. The workers behind the scenes who make it happen serve others in a meaningful and critical way. To help others be comforted and come together for solace is a calling for a few gifted people willing to give their time and heart to this endeavor.

Char An Witten has been the chair of Circle 18, the FPC Women of the Church Circle that is responsible for preparing and hosting the memorial receptions for over 30 years- a huge commitment. Char An coordinates with the family to provide for their wishes, orders, and shops for the supplies, and arrives at least an hour before the service begins to guide the women who have come to assist. The women of Circle 18 assist with decorating the McCullough room, prepare some of the appetizers, and arrange cookies and sandwiches on the silver trays donated to the church for this purpose. Char An and the women who are assisting may serve the punch, refill trays as needed, and visit with the family and attendees during the reception following the service. They will remain after the family has departed to clean and put everything back in the kitchen cabinets. Char An does all of this with grace and the commitment to provide every grieving family with a beautiful reception to honor their loved one.

Note: Any woman in the church who would like to assist with the ministry of providing memorial receptions should call Char An Witten at 210-341-1856 or Pat Brodeen at 210-383-3083. Your help would be greatly appreciated!

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 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 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

Young Mothers
Members of Circle, Chairs and Moderators
Fourth Friday, 11:45 am, St. Andrews Room
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. Andrew's Room

Circle 11

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

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 pm, St. Andrew's 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

²⁸ So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, ²⁹ but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. ³¹ And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?" ³³ And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, ³⁴ saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Jesus Appears to His Disciple³⁶ As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "Peace to you!" ³⁷ But they were startled and frightened and thought they saw a spirit. ³⁸ And he said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ See my hands and my feet, that it is I myself. Touch me, and see. For a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ And while they still disbelieved for joy and were marveling, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate before them.

⁴⁴ Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶ and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷ and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰ And he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Luke 24: 28-53

A story of resurrection and redemption on the road to Emmaus. My family has always loved outdoor, active vacations. We traveled all over the beautiful western United States. Many national parks and geographic wonders beckoned us to hike and wonder at God's creation. My personal favorite is Glacier National Park and my husband's was The Grand Canyon. We always met wonderful other hikers along these travels; some still friends today. Somewhat of a walking adventure occurs in Luke 24 as two of Jesus' disciples walk to Emmaus. They talk of the recent crucifixion, resurrection and even earthly appearances of Jesus. They do not recognize Jesus and finally arrive at Emmaus where they invite this "stranger" to join them for a meal. It occurs to me that Jesus is always waiting for us to invite Him into our lives- to walk with him, work with him, pray with him, serve with him and ultimately keep him in our hearts not as a guest but as the permanent resident. As we cling to the joy of this Easter season help us to recognize Jesus on all of our daily roads. May he walk with us as our Savior and constant companion. I can't imagine a more perfect hike.

In Christ Alone,

Janet Wernli

President
Women of the Church

LOVING ONE ANOTHER

If April Showers bring May Flowers, What do May Flowers Bring??

We are excited to start off May with a visit from Carrie Everson who is on staff here at FPC, followed by a report on our local missions partner, Morningside Ministries. Our Birthday Lunch will be on the patio at Blanco BBQ, one of our favorite places. In honor and memory of those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom, we will host WindSong, a group from the Air force Band of the West. We are excited to have this group joining us in person!



KEEPING EVERYONE YOUNG IN SPIRIT

Rev. Dr. Joe Moore

Assistant Pastor for Older Adults and Congregational Care

May Events

May 6 **Carrie Everson Director of Young Adults and Young Women. Carrie will be sharing about her journey of faith and her work here at FPC.**

May 13 **Morningside Ministries. Morningside has been a local missions partner for many years. We will hear about what is taking place in their ministry.**

May 20 **May Birthday Lunch at Blanco BBQ**

May 27 **Memorial Day tribute featuring WindSong from the Air Force Band of the West. We are excited to have this group back with us and in person.**

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.

Live Streaming

We are now live streaming the KEYS speakers. Watch for the link via email.

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

MAY, 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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 Colossians 1:1-14; Ephesians 5:1-20</p> <p>2 Genesis 1; John 1:1-4; Colossians 1:15-23
Living for Jesus a life that is true, striving to please Him in all that I do, Yielding allegiance, glad-hearted and free, This is the pathway of blessing for me. Living for Jesus wherever I am, Doing each duty in His holy name, Willing to suffer affliction or loss, Deeming each trial a part of my cross! Living for Jesus thro' earth's little while, My dearest treasure, the light of His smile, Seeking the lost ones He died to redeem, Bringing the weary to find rest in Him! I own no other Master; My heart shall be Thy throne. My life I give, henceforth to live, O Christ, for Thee alone. (Worship in Song, No. 333)</p> <p>3 Colossians 1:24-29; Romans 16:25-27;
Ephesians 3:2-6</p> <p>4 Colossians 2:1-23; Ephesians 2</p> <p>5 Colossians 3:1-17; Ephesians 4:17-5:20</p> <p>6 Colossians 3:18-4:18; Ephesians 5:21-6:20</p> <p>7 Romans 1; Leviticus 18; Psalm 106</p> <p>8 Romans 2; James 1:19-25; Matthew 7:1-5</p> <p>9 Romans 3; Psalm 14; 5; Ephesians 1:3-14
Holy Spirit, truth divine, dawn upon this soul of mine;
Word of God, and inward light, wake my spirit, clear my sight. Holy Spirit, love divine, glow within this heart of mine; Kindle every high desire; perish self in Thy pure fire. Holy Spirit, power divine, fill and nerve this will of mine; By Thee may I strongly live, bravely bear, and nobly strive. Holy Spirit, right divine, make my conscience wholly Thine; Be my law, and I shall be firmly bound, forever free. (The Presbyterian Hymnal, No. 321)</p> <p>10 Romans 4; Ephesians 2:8-9; John 6:28-40</p> <p>11 Romans 5:1-11; Colossians 1:21-23;
1 Peter 4:12-19; James 5:10-11</p> <p>12 Romans 5:12-6:23; 1 Thessalonians 3:11-4:8</p> <p>13 Romans 7; 2 Samuel 11; Mark 14:26-38; 51-72; Psalm 32</p> <p>14 Romans 8:1-17; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10;
Isaiah 25:6-9; 1 Corinthians 15:35-58</p> <p>15 Romans 8:18-39; Deuteronomy 31:6; Joshua 1:5; Psalm 118</p> <p>16 Romans 9; Jeremiah 18; Isaiah 29:13-16; 64:5-9
A charge to keep I have, A God to glorify; A never dying soul to save, And fit it for the sky. To serve the present age, My calling to fulfill; Oh, may it all my pow'rs engage To do my Master's will! Arm me with jealous care, As in Thy sight to live; And, oh, Thy servant, Lord, prepare A strict account to give! Help me to watch and pray, And on Thyself rely, Assured if I my trust betray I shall forever die. (Worship in</p> | <p>Song, No. 190)</p> <p>17 Isaiah 65; Romans 10</p> <p>18 Romans 11; Psalm 139</p> <p>19 Romans 12; Leviticus 19:18; Proverbs 20:22;
1 Peter 2:11-25</p> <p>20 Romans 13; Ephesians 5:11-13; 6:10-18</p> <p>21 Romans 14; Psalm 34:14; Hebrews 12:14-15;
1 Corinthians 8:9-13</p> <p>22 Romans 15-16; Romans 12:10; 1 Peter 1:22;
1 John 4:7-21</p> <p>23 1 Peter 1; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:17-5:21
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 wilt be my Guide. O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, The tempting sounds I hear; My foes are ever near me, Around me and within; But, Jesus, draw Thou nearer, And shield my soul from sin. O let me hear Thee speaking In accents clear and still, Above the storms of passion, The murmurs of self-will! O speak to reassure me, To hasten or control! O speak, and make me listen, Thou Guardian of my soul! (The Hymnbook, No. 307)</p> <p>24 1 Peter 2:1-12; Romans 13:8-14;
1 Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19; Psalm 65:1-4</p> <p>25 1 Peter 2:13-3:22; Ephesians 5:22-6:9;
1 Thessalonians 5</p> <p>26 1 Peter 4; Philippians 1:27-30; Revelation 2:10</p> <p>27 Jeremiah 10:21; 23:1-4; Matthew 9:36;
John 10:1-18; 1 Peter 5</p> <p>28 Matthew 17:1-8; 2 Peter 1; 2 Timothy 3:16-17;
Psalm 119:105; 2 Corinthians 4:6</p> <p>29 2 Peter 2; Hebrews 6:4-6; Jude</p> <p>30 Matthew 24; 2 Peter 3; 2 Thessalonians 1:3-12
O Lord, my inmost heart and thought Thy searching eye doth see; Wher-e'er I rest, wher-e'er I go, My ways are known to Thee. Each spoken word, each silent thought, Thou, Lord, dost understand; Before me and behind art Thou, Restraining by Thy hand. From Thee, O Lord, I cannot hide, Though darkness cover me; The darkness and the light of day Are both alike to Thee. Search me, O God, and know my heart, Try me, my thoughts to know; O lead me, if in sin I stray, In paths of life to go. (The Hymnbook, No. 129)</p> <p>31 1 Corinthians 10:1-13; 1 Timothy 6:6-10;
1 John 2:15-17; James 1:13-15</p> |
|---|---|

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]



First Presbyterian
CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO

**LOVING CHRIST.
LOVING ONE ANOTHER.
LOVING THE CITY.**

404 N. Alamo Street

San Antonio, Texas 78205

210-226-0215

fpcsanantonio.org



@fpcsanantonio



CONNECT WITH US!

Interested in receiving the First Press magazine digitally? Want to get the weekly newsletter email?

Sign-Up at:
[www.fpcsanantonio.org/
comm-connect](http://www.fpcsanantonio.org/comm-connect)

DOWNLOAD THE FREE FPC APP!



Connect and engage with our community through our app!

Download to discover church ministries, activities and events; give a donation conveniently, or learn more about how we are loving Christ, loving one another, and loving the city.